

**REGISTER**  
**OF THE**  
**HARRY EDMUND DANFORD PAPERS**

Manuscript Collection (Ms 39)

Special Collections Department  
James E. Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia  
1977

James E. Morrow Library  
Marshall University

**HARRY EDMUND DANFORD PAPERS, 1902-1969**

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This collection was the gift of Mr. Harry E. Danford, Jr., and was received in March, 1974.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3 ½

Literary rights: not assigned to Marshall University.

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Explanatory notes:

“Bx” refers to box in which papers are filed.

“Fd” refers to folder.

“SBk” refers to scrapbook.

## CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION

The Harry E. Danford papers consist primarily of the original manuscripts of his books *Soakum* (1910), *The West Virginian* (1926), *Trail of the Gray Dragoon* (1928), *Ohio Valley Pioneers* (1931), *Builders of the West* (1959), and *Paths of Glory* (1969). Also included are resource material related to his books and his personal comments and criticism of the books.

Correspondence about the publication of the books, papers concerning his political interests and career as an educator, printed material, and a small number of photographs are also a part of the collection.

### **HARRY EDMUND DANFORD, 1879-1972**

Harry Edmund Danford was born in Noble County, Ohio, on August 31, 1879, the son of John and Margaret Kappel Danford. He was educated in local schools and began teaching at the age of eighteen. He later moved to Caldwell, Ohio, where he taught school and served as manager and editor of the *Republican Journal*, a weekly newspaper. During this period his first novel, *Soakum*, was privately printed.

In 1917 he moved to Huntington, West Virginia, where he served as principal of Ensign School, Simms School, Lincoln School, and Enslow Junior High School. He also operated a retail business store, campaigned unsuccessfully for mayor on the Republican ballot in 1936, and served as chairman of the Cabell County Republican Executive Committee. He was elected president of the Cabell County Board of Education in 1952. Through his efforts, the music departments in Cabell County schools were established and the first local high school band was formed.

He published two school reference books, *Ohio Valley Pioneers* and *Builders of the West*, and three novels: *The West Virginian*, *The Trail of the Gray Dragoon*, and *Paths of Glory*.

In 1921, Mr. Danford married Emma Belle Turney of Huntington; they were the parents of one son, Harry E. Danford, Jr. Mrs. Danford died in 1971; Mr. Danford died soon after on May 5, 1972. He was survived by his son, two grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a brother, H. C. Danford of Dexter City, Ohio.

## HARRY EDMUND DANFORD PAPERS, 1902-1969

### I. Personal and Professional Papers

|             |  |                        |
|-------------|--|------------------------|
| <b>Bx 1</b> | <b>Personal Papers, 1902-1953</b>  | <b>26 Fd<br/>1 SBk</b> |
| Fd 1        | Letter sent, April 30, 1934<br><br>Huntington, WV: requesting Smoot Advertising Company to remove signboards from a lot on which Mr. Danford intends to begin construction.                          | 1 item                 |
| Fd 2        | Letters received, 1934-1953<br><br>Sept. 6, 1949 - New York, NY: letter from A. L. Feirst, literary agent, stating fee for manuscript appraisal and expressing interest in Mr. Danford's manuscript. | 10 items               |
| Fd 3        | Letters received, undated.<br><br>Charleston, WV: letter from Roy Bird Cook commenting on his article about the Battle of Scary and inquiring about Mr. Danford's next writing project.              | 2 items                |
| Fd 4        | Academic awards and records, 1913-1918   | 3 items                |
| Fd 5        | Teaching contracts, 1921-1924  | 3 items                |
| Fd 6        | Income tax return, 1928  | 1 item                 |
| Fd 7        | Receipts, 1927   | 6 items                |
| Fd 8        | Robert W. Turney papers, 1905-1927   | 12 items               |
| Fd 9-20     | English assignments V-XII, XVII-XXIV; 1925, undated<br><br>Includes an autobiographical sketch (Fd 13).  | 1 item per Fd          |
| Fd 21       | The Keith concert band, ca. 1916   | 1 item                 |
| Fd 22       | Chapters from an unidentified work   | 4 items                |

|       |  |         |
|-------|--|---------|
| Fd 23 | Notations                                    | 1 item  |
| Fd 24 | Calling Cards                                | 4 items |
| Fd 25 | Scrapbook of letters and newsclippings, 1926 | 1 item  |

Includes letters from Morris Shawkey, president of Marshall College; Robert Armstrong of the Department of English at West Virginia University; George M. Ford, state superintendent of schools; and Walter Barnes of the Fairmont State Normal School Department of English.

|       |                            |          |
|-------|----------------------------|----------|
| Fd 26 | Photographs, 1902; undated | 10 items |
|-------|----------------------------|----------|

SBk 1

**Bx 2 Professional and Personal Papers, 1925-1936 13 Fd**

|       |   |          |
|-------|---|----------|
| Fd 1  | List: Enslow Junior High School 9-A class, 1927               | 1 item   |
| Fd 2  | Assembly programs, 1930-1934                                  | 3 items  |
| Fd 3  | Assembly programs, undated                                    | 2 items  |
| Fd 4  | Assembly schedules, 1925-1933                                 | 12 items |
| Fd 5  | Assembly schedules, undated                                   | 5 items  |
| Fd 6  | Principal's term report, 1928                                 | 2 items  |
| Fd 7  | Principal's term report, 1928-1929                            | 2 items  |
| Fd 8  | Enslow Junior High School annual report, 1927-1928; 1933-1934 | 2 items  |
| Fd 9  | Enslow Junior High School financial statement, 1933-1934      | 2 items  |
| Fd 10 | Junior High School course of study                            | 5 items  |
| Fd 11 | County and state educational material                         | 8 items  |
| Fd 12 | School board election campaign material, 1931                 | 3 items  |
| Fd 13 | Mayoral campaign, 1936  | 3 items  |

**Bx 3 Printed Material, 1911-1934****19 Fd**

|       |   |         |
|-------|---|---------|
| Fd 1  | Programs, 1917, 1937  | 2 items |
| Fd 2  | Directory: Huntington public schools, 1921-1927   | 6 items |
| Fd 3  | Educational publications, 1934; undated   | 3 items |
| Fd 4  | Brochures and catalogues  | 6 items |
| Fd 5  | Magazine and magazine articles, 1926-1934   | 2 items |
| Fd 6  | Brooks, A. B. "Gauley River Camp School for Boys," <i>West Virginia Review</i> , v. 4, n. 3 (December, 1926), p. 82.    |         |
| Fd 7  | Watt, Edna "'Sunset', a Summer Home in the Mountains," <i>West Virginia Review</i> , v. 4, n. 2 (November, 1926), p. 42 |         |
| Fd 8  | Broadsides  | 3 items |
| Fd 9  | Newsclipping: family history, undated   | 1 item  |
| Fd 10 | Newsclipping: Huntington history, 1927  | 1 item  |
| Fd 11 | Newsclipping: Enslow Junior High School art exhibit, 1929   | 1 item  |
| Fd 12 | Newsclipping: political, 1938   | 7 items |
| Fd 13 | Newsclipping: political, 1940   | 1 item  |
| Fd 14 | Newsclippings: general  | 3 items |
| Fd 15 | Newsclippings: parks and forests, 1926-1932   | 5 items |
| Fd 16 | Newsclippings: floods, 1926   | 1 item  |
| Fd 17 | Newsclippings: Civil War  | 2 items |
| Fd 18 | Miscellaneous newspapers  | 2 items |
| Fd 19 | Buck, Philo Melvin. <i>Milton's 'L'Allegro il pensoso, Comus and Lycidas'</i> . New York, American Book Company, 1911.  |         |

## II. Manuscript Material

|   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
| <b>Bx 4</b>   | <b><i>Soakum, 1910</i></b>  | <b>2 Fd</b>  |
| Fd 1  | Newspaper clippings, undated  | 3 items      |
| Fd 2  | Typescript manuscript   | 1 item       |
| This box also contains a galley proof and five copper plate etchings. |   |              |
| <b>Bx 5</b>   | <b><i>The West Virginian, 1926</i></b>  | <b>29 Fd</b> |
| Fd 1  | Letter received, August 17, 1926  | 1 item       |
|   | Charleston, WV: Letter from Governor Howard Gore thanking Mr. Danford for sending him a copy of <i>The West Virginian</i> . |              |
| Fd 2  | Critiques of <i>The West Virginian</i>  | 5 items      |
| These are Mr. Danford's own critical remarks regarding his work.      |   |              |
| Fd 3-27   | <i>The West Virginian</i> : title page through chapter twenty-five.   |              |
|   | These folders contain the typescript manuscript, with holograph corrections.  |              |
| Fd 28   | <i>The West Virginian</i> : book cover and advertisement  | 4 items      |
| Fd 29   | <i>The West Virginian</i> : newspaper clippings   | 7 items      |
| <b>Bx 6</b>   | <b><i>The Trail of the Gray Dragoon, 1928</i></b>   | <b>47 Fd</b> |
| Fd 1-23   | Holograph chapters  |              |
| Fd 24   | Typescript chapters   | 2 items      |
| Fd 25-46  | Holograph chapters  |              |
| Fd 47   | Miscellaneous holograph pages   | 7 items      |

|             |   |              |
|-------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Bx 7</b> | <b><i>The Trail of the Gray Dragoon: Related Papers, 1928-1929</i></b>  | <b>7 Fd</b>  |
| Fd 1        | Letters received, 1929  | 3 items      |
|             | 20 February 1929 - Ironton, Ohio: letter from Daisy Cook of the Ironton Bookstore explaining the disposition of two of the twelve copies of Mr. Danford's book, enclosing a check for the remaining ten copies, and requesting three more copies. |              |
| Fd 2        | Letter received, unsigned and undated   | 1 item       |
|             | A typescript note identifies this letter as being written by Thomas J. Arnold, nephew of Stonewall Jackson. Mr. Arnold comments on the review he has read of <i>The Trail of Gray Dragoon</i> .   |              |
| Fd 3        | <i>The Trail of the Gray Dragoon</i> : critiques  | 2 items      |
| Fd 4        | <i>The Trail of the Gray Dragoon</i> : newspaper clippings  | 15 items     |
| Fd 5        | <i>The Trail of the Gray Dragoon</i> : newspaper clippings  | 15 items     |
| Fd 6        | <i>The Trail of the Gray Dragoon</i> : advertisements   | 5 items      |
| Fd 7        | Photographs   | 10 items     |
| <b>Bx 8</b> | <b><i>Ohio Valley Pioneers, 1929-1931</i></b>   | <b>19 Fd</b> |
| Fd 1        | Letters received, 1929-1931   | 4 items      |
|             | 20 July 1929 - Charleston, WV: letter from Clifford Myers, the state historian and archivist, informing Mr. Danford about the best sources for information about the life of Daniel Boone.  |              |
| Fd 2        | Outlines  | 9 items      |
| Fd 3-16     | Holograph chapters  |              |
| Fd 17       | Bibliography  | 2 items      |
| Fd 18       | Illustrative material   | 15 items     |
| Fd 19       | Newspaper clippings   | 1 item       |

|              |   |                             |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Bx 9</b>  | <b><i>Builders of the West, 1946-1959</i></b>   | <b>20 Fd</b><br><b>1 Bk</b> |
| Fd 1         | Letter received, 26 September 1946  | 1 item                      |
|              | New York, NY: letter from James A. Michener, associate editor of the Macmillan Company, informing Mr. Danford that the company cannot offer him a publishing contract at this time because of the “difficult paper and manufacturing conditions.” |                             |
| Fd 2-17      | Holograph chapters  |                             |
| Fd 18        | Bibliography  | 1 item                      |
| Fd 19        | Maps  | 3 items                     |
| Fd 20        | Research material   | 10 items                    |
| Bk 2         | <i>Builders of the West</i> . New York, Vantage Press, 1959.  |                             |
| <b>Bx 10</b> | <b><i>Foxfire, 1949</i></b>   | <b>33 Fd</b>                |
| Fd 1         | Letter received, 3 August 1949  | 1 item                      |
|              | Bright Waters, New York: letter from Myrtle Graffagnino of C. V. Parkinson Associates, Inc., Authors Representation Division, providing Mr. Danford with a detailed critique of his novel.  |                             |
| Fd 2-33      | Typescript chapters   |                             |

**Bx 11 *Paths of Glory*, 1966-1969****28 Fd**  
1 Bk

Fd 1 Letters received, 1966

4 items

29 August 1966 - New York, NY: letter from Daniel Mead of Mead Company recommending a professional analysis in order to prepare Mr. Danford's manuscript for the professional market.

Fd 2 Letter received, undated

1 item

Fd 3-27 Holograph and typescript chapters

Fd 28 Notations

5 items

Bk 3 *Paths of Glory*. New York, Carlton Press, 1969.