

Savage, Lon Collection

Lon Savage Collection,
[1919]-1994



Title Statement

Savage, Lon Collection A Guide to the Lon Savage Collection, 1919-1994 Ms.2014.009

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2014.009

Unit Date

[1919]-1994

Language

English .

Abstract

Typescript drafts and research materials--including photocopies of interview transcripts, court documents, and printed materials--for Lon Savage's book, *Thunder in the Mountains: the West Virginia Mine War, 1920-21*.

Creator

Savage, Lon, 1928-2004

Extent

1.7 Cubic Feet 5 boxes

Physical Characteristics

1.7 cu. ft. 5 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish material from the Lon Savage Collection must be obtained from Special Collections, Virginia Tech. **Materials in Box 3, Folder 4 may not be copied without the written permission of the Eastern Regional Coal Archives**

Acquisition Information

The Lon Savage Collection was donated to Special Collections in 2008.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Lon Savage Collection commenced and was completed in August, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Lon Savage Collection, Ms2014-009, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

The son of Joseph W. and Janet Kelly Savage, Lon Kelly Savage was born in Charleston, West Virginia, on December 17, 1928. After graduating from Cornell University, Savage spent a year at the University of Grenoble in France, then worked as a reporter at the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*. From 1955 to 1960, he served as chief of United Press International's Richmond, Virginia bureau, then worked for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* as a night city editor, columnist, feature writer and reporter. In 1965, Savage became executive assistant to Virginia Tech President T. Marshall Hahn. Savage retained that position through the presidency of William E. Lavery (1975-1988), then became director of the university's Scholarly Communications Project, pioneering the online publication of academic journals. 1986 saw the initial publication of Savage's book *Thunder in the Mountains: The West Virginia Mine War, 1920-21*. Following the publisher's demise, Savage founded his own publishing enterprise, Northcross Publishers, operating from the basement of his home in Elliston, Virginia.

Savage's first wife, Ellen French McCann Savage, died in 1980. In 1985, he met and married Virginia "Ginny" Moomaw, president of World Travel Service of Blacksburg and Roanoke. After his 1993 retirement, Savage moved to Salem, Virginia. He remained active, serving as chairman of Virginia Tech's Friends of the Library group and editing the *Smithfield Review*. He also served as president of the Salem Historical Society and as a board member for the Art Museum of Western Virginia. Father of four, Lon K. Savage died at his home in Salem on July 27, 2004.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains materials compiled by Lon K. Savage in researching the West Virginia Mine Wars of 1920-1921. Much of the material was used for Savage's book, *Thunder in the Mountains: The West Virginia Mine War, 1920-21*.

Included in the collection are two typescript drafts, titled "March on Mingo" and "The Battle of Blair Mountain," written by Savage. "The Battle of Blair Mountain," apparently the earlier of the two manuscripts, includes many details omitted from the published book.

Also included in the collection are photocopies of interview transcripts, court documents, and newspaper articles. The court documents relate to the Albert Felts and Sid Hatfield/Ed Chambers murder cases and include witness statements and courtroom testimony. Another set of "documents" in the collection consists largely of photocopied newspaper and magazine articles (as well as book chapters) relating to the Mine Wars and individuals involved in the incidents. The documents were numbered and arranged by Savage, probably for his ease in referring to them throughout his research. Also included within this set are a few pieces of correspondence. (Note: A few of the numbered documents are missing and were not received with the collection.) The collection is completed by Savage's index cards, including bibliographical entries, a subject file, a chronology of events, and index entries for the 1990 edition of *Thunder in the Mountains*.

Keywords

Strikes and lockouts -- Coal mining -- West Virginia
Coal Strike, W. Va., 1920-1921
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Coal mines and mining

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type.

Description of Subordinate Components

"March on Mingo" typescript draft,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Extent [3 folders]

"Battle of Blair Mountain" typescript draft,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Extent [5 folders]

Interview notes and transcripts,

Unit Date 1989-1994, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Sid Hatfield / Ed Chambers murder - witness statements,

Unit Date 1920-1921

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

Ed Chambers murder trial documents,

Unit Date 1921, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Albert Felts murder trial transcript (partial),

Unit Date 1921

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Extent [4 folders]

Documents,

Unit Date 1919-1960, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Extent [8 folders]

New York Times articles,

Unit Date 1922, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Other newspaper articles,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Other printed material,

Unit Date 1923-1992, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Documents copied from the Eastern Regional Coal Archives,

Unit Date 1920-1921, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Extent [2 folders]

Bibliographic entry index cards,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Subject file index cards,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Chronology index cards,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Index entry index cards,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 2 (folder)