

**MARY E. CUNNINGHAM
PAPERS, 1940-1983****SC18830**

QUANTITY: 28 boxes (14 cu.ft.)
ACCESS: Open to Research
ACQUISITION: Donated to the New York State Library by Anna C. Cunningham, 1987
PROCESSED BY: Fred Bassett, Assistant Librarian, Manuscripts and Special Collections,
November 1989

Biographical Note:

Mary E. Cunningham was born April 25, 1917 in Mamaroneck, New York. In 1939 she joined the staff of the State Historical Association of New York. During her tenure with that organization she served in a number of capacities, including editor of *The Yorker* and *New York History*, assistant to the director, associate director, director of school services, and librarian. In 1957, she began her career in government service as deputy director for the Division of Public Information, New York State Department of Commerce. In 1959, she became editorial director for Ingham & Co., where, in consultation with State Education Department, she developed social studies curricula for New York State schools. She continued this kind of work as editorial director at Follett Publishing Company (1960-1962). She served the administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), first as chief of the Consumer Information Branch, then, after reorganization, as deputy director of the Division of Consumer Education. Following her government service, she worked as an editorial director of social studies for Rand McNally & Company. She was author of "New York State Story," a syndicated column about the State's history, and founder of *American Heritage* magazine, serving as its first editor. She was actively involved in the Democratic Party. She died in Cooperstown, N. Y., June 6, 1986.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains a variety of material that relates to the personal and professional life of Mary E. Cunningham. Included are papers relating to her service at the New York Historical Association. These include correspondence, printed material, and memoranda concerning program development and the editing of *New York History* and *The Yorker*. Also included are materials relating to her syndicated column, "New York State Story," and other publications. These materials include typescripts of articles, news clippings of these articles, notes, and drafts.

Mary Cunningham's work in developing social studies curricula is well documented in this collection, especially the filmstrip series "Our York State." There are letters, memoranda, printed brochures, and news clippings relating to its development, as well as the illustrations used in the film.

A large portion of these papers is comprised of personal material relating to her career in state and federal government. These include correspondence, memoranda, and reports. These papers document her efforts to establish a promotional magazine about New York State while at the

Department of Commerce, and her role in getting the federal government more actively involved in consumer affairs while serving in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Closely related to these papers are those documenting her activities on behalf of the Democratic Party, which undoubtedly helped propel her into government service.

Finally, this collection contains personal resumes, correspondence with family members and friends, news clippings, publications, and photographs. The correspondence provides some insight into her personal life. Of special interest are her candid and witty remarks about the world around her. In essence this collection would be invaluable for the study of the role of women in education, government, and politics.

Box and Folder List

Box	Folder	Description
1		Personal Correspondence, 1940-1983
2		New York Historical Association, 1940-1957 Subject Files, 1940-1957
3		New York State Story, typescripts, 1951-1955
4		Drafts, notes and memoranda, ca. 1950-1957
5		American Sequence newsletter "This Very Week" newspaper column <i>American Heritage Magazine</i> correspondence file, 1954-56 <i>Lamb's Sectional History of New York</i>
6		Democratic Party of New York State, 1957-1962
7		New York State Department of Commerce Division of Public Information, Deputy Director, 1957-1959 Correspondence, 1957-1958
8		Subject Files, 1957-1959
	1-6	New York State Magazine project
	7	Mohawk-Hudson Educational Television, 1958
	8-9	Hudson-Champlain celebration, 1959
	10	New York State Radio Bureau
9		Ingham & Company, editorial director, 1959-1960 "Our York State" filmstrip series
10	1-3	Follett Publishing Co., editorial director, 1960-1962 Food and Drug Administration, 1962-1969
	4-8	Appointment and Personal, 1962
	9-10	Financial Reports, 1966
	11	Statistical Reports, 1966
11	1-7	Correspondence, 1963, 1964
	8	Speeches, ca. 1964
	9-10	Typescripts of Publications, ca. 1963-1965
12		Subject Files, 1963-1969
	1	Advertising
	2-4	Aging
	5	Consumer Education

Box	Folder	Description
	6-7	Drugs and Narcotic Abuse
	8	Public Television
	9	Health Care
	10	Poison Prevention
13		Publications and Printed Material Social Studies Curriculum Manuals, ca. 1970
14		Social Studies Curriculum Manuals, ca. 1970
15		Brochures and news clippings
16		Brochures and news clippings
17		Greeting Cards, Invitations
18		Photographs
19		“Our York State” filmstrip illustrations, ca. 1960 Geography of the Hudson Valley
20		Hudson's Voyage and the Dutch
21		English in the Hudson Valley
22		Revolution in the Hudson Valley
23		The Middle Years (Hudson Valley)
24		Card File: Directory of Names Health Science Social Studies Home Economics
25		Honoraria, Certificates and Diplomas
26-28		Unprocessed accretion

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