

Walt McCaslin Papers

MS – 198

Wright State University
Department of Special Collections and Archives

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Introduction

The Walter McCaslin Collection was donated to Wright State University's Special Collections and Archives in March of 1990. It was donated by George A. Schooley of Zanesville, Ohio. The deed of gift imposes no restrictions on the use of materials in the collection. The collection consists of two series: newspaper Clippings and Correspondence, and is contained in three files. Span dates for the collection are 1945-1981.

Brief Biographical Sketch

Walt McCaslin was baptized Walter Wright McCaslin Jr. He was born in Zanesville, Ohio, June of 1923, and went to high school there.

Walter McCaslin had a multifaceted career beginning with his three-year army service in World War II, including nine months billeted near Paris. He received his higher education at the Ohio State University where he obtained a bachelor degree in English and History (1947) and a master degree in Theater with an emphasis on dramatic literature (1950). McCaslin spent a year at Hampton Institute in Virginia teaching Freshman English and Speech. Although he wrote reviews for the Saturday Review, most of his journalistic work took place at the Dayton newspapers, the *Dayton Daily News*, and the *Journal Herald*, as a book editor and art critic.

On April 17, 1981, Walter McCaslin was killed by his son, Walter "Wally" McCaslin, as local authorities arrived to accompany Wally to a psychiatric unit for observation and diagnosis.

Scope and Content

The collection is a chronicle of Walter McCaslin's life and death as recorded by his correspondence with his old high school history teacher, Mr. George Schooley, and newspaper clippings. The letters and newspaper clippings span the period from 1945 through 1981.

The McCaslin Collection includes newspaper clippings representative of Walter McCaslin's journalistic writings and they also document his death. Correspondence with George Schooley covers his army career as well as the time that he spent at Hampton Institute in Virginia as an instructor. The major part of the collection deals with McCaslin's newspaper work.

The Walter McCaslin Collection is divided into two series and three files. Files two and three comprise the McCaslin correspondence and are arranged chronologically as follows:

File 2 from 1945 to 1960

File 3 from 1961 to 1981

File one is made up of newspaper clippings and photocopies illustrating McCaslin's work as a journalist and some also from the *Journal Herald*. One, dated April 18, 1981, contains a short biographical sketch of McCaslin and the other, dated September 19, 1973, is an article praising George Schooley. Most clippings are incorporated in file one, but a few, which are attached to the appropriate letters, can be found throughout the collection. Several clippings have been annotated by McCaslin while latter clippings record his death and funeral.

Container Listing

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Newspaper Clippings	1951-1981
	2	Correspondence	1945-1960
	3	Correspondence	1961-1981