Collection #
M 0958,
OM 0469

WENDELL WILLKIE AND THE 1940 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN COLLECTION, 1939–1946

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

David Pfeiffer
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Manuscript Materials: 1 oversize folder Visual Materials: 2 photograph folders, 2 OVC Photograph folders, 1 OVC Graphics folder, and 1 Oversize Graphic in Flat File storage
COLLECTION DATES:	1939–1946
PROVENANCE:	Ellen Mitchell Reston, VA February 2008, Jeffrey Frank

	Davis, CA December 2006, John McIlwraith Carmel, IN July 2001, Historical Collectible Auctions Burlington, NC, Mrs. J.A. Greenland
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Robert Hunter Papers (M0415); Arch N. Bobbitt Papers (M0512); numerous Willkie artifacts, pamphlets, and books
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2007.0034, 2006.0500, 2001.0842, 1999.0043, 1964.0036
NOTES:	This is an artificial collection with additions expected.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Wendell Willkie was born on 18 February 1892 in Elwood, Indiana. He attended Indiana University and obtained a law degree. After serving in the Army during World War I, he moved to Akron, Ohio to practice law. In 1933, he became president of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation, a large utilities company. He became a critic of some aspects of the New Deal and became the surprise winner of the Republican nomination for president in 1940, even though he had previously been a Democrat. Although he was defeated by Franklin Roosevelt, he went on to play an important role during World War II as a goodwill ambassador to many of the war-torn countries of the world. His actions after his defeat, such as softening his stance on some New Deal topics and admitting some of his claims about Roosevelt were "campaign oratory," distanced him from many supporters in the Republican Party. However, other people applauded his bipartisan support of the president during the war. His bid for the nomination as the Republican presidential candidate in 1944 failed and he was laying the groundwork to form a third national party when he died on 8 October 1944 of heart failure.

Sources:

Dillon, Mary. *Wendell Willkie*. Philadelphia: J. P. Lippincott, 1952. General Collection: E748.W7.D5 1952.

Material from the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection covers the politician Wendell Willkie, mainly during his presidential campaign in 1940. The dates range from 1939–1946, but the majority of the material is from the 1940 campaign. The materials are divided into two series Manuscript and Visual and the materials are stored according to their different formats and sizes.

The oversize manuscript folder for Series 1 contains newspaper clippings and a few campaign souvenirs. The

clippings came from a scrapbook created by G.E "Bert" Carpenter, a candidate for the Republican National Committee from Nebraska. The clippings show the rise of Willkie as a candidate from a Nebraska perspective. Since Carpenter went to the National Convention, there are souvenirs such as his tickets and a Willkie campaign hat. After the nomination, the clippings provide coverage of Willkie's campaign stops in Nebraska. Finally, the results of the election in Nebraska are covered, with some post-election coverage and editorials commenting on Willkie's behavior after the election.

This collection also has a large visual element in Series 2. There is a 3x5 black and white picture showing Willkie with several prominent Nebraskan politicians. Seated on the couch left to right are Carpenter, Willkie, Hugh Butler, and Kenneth Wherry. Two 8x10 black and white photographs show Willkie during the 1940 campaign, one gesturing and one making a speech. A larger black and white photograph shows Willkie during his "Whistle Stop Campaign." He is standing on the rear of a train and according to the donor the picture was taken in western Pennsylvania. This photo is pasted on a cardboard mount. Two election posters for Willkie have the slogan "For Peace, Preparedness, and Prosperity" with his portrait underneath. The posters are stamped "issued by Willkie Club of Marion County K of P Building Indianapolis, Ind." There is one poster in flat file storage titled "Work With Willkie" and has a depiction of Willkie on the left, with a factory worker in the center, and a factory on the right in the background. Another banquet sized photograph shows a group shot of the final meeting of the National Committee at the Republican National Convention on 29 June 1940. The photograph was taken in the Bellevue Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia and was made by the Weintraub Company of Philadelphia.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Manuscript Clippings, 1939–1943, n.d.

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Willkie newspaper clippings from Nebraska, including convention souvenirs and printed ephemera, 1939–1943, n.d.	OM 0469: Folder 1

Series 2: Visual Materials, 1940, n.d.

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Willkie and Nebraskan politicians, n.d. Size: 3x5 inches	Photographs: Folder 1
Willkie campaigning in 1940 (2 photographs) Size: 8x10 inches	Photographs: Folder 2
Willkie on his "Whistle Stop Campaign," n.d. 1 black and white photograph Size: 14 x 11 inches, on 20 x 16 board	OVC Photographs: Folder 1
"Final Meeting National Committee National Republican Convention Bellevue Stratford Hotel June 29, 1940 Philadelphia, Pa." group picture	OVC Photographs: Folder 2
Campaign posters (2 copies) Title: "For Peace, Preparedness, and Prosperity,	OVC Graphics: Folder 1

Wendell Willkie for President”
Size: 17 ½ x 13 inches

Poster
Title: “Work With Willkie”
Size: 25 x 38 inches

Oversize Graphics:
Folder 1
Flat File 2-h

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0958).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.