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Stafford and Claire correspondence, 1969-1978

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Stafford and Claire Correspondence, MS 326

Stafford and Claire Correspondence

Collection Number	MS 326
Title	Stafford and Claire Correspondence
Name and Location of Repository	Pittsburg State University, Special Collections & University Archives, Pittsburg, Kansas
Dates	September 16, 1969 – May 14, 1978
Collection Size	0.25 Linear Foot
Creator	Unknown
Scope and Content	The Stafford and Claire Letters includes one newspaper clipping, an invitation, two thank-you cards, and five letters of correspondence between William Stafford and William Clair regarding the publication of an interview between Claire, Stafford, and Primus St. John that would be featured in the National Literary Magazine's book, <i>The Voyage</i> .
Access Restrictions	This collection is open for access
Languages	English

Biographical Note William Stafford was born in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1914 to Earl and Ruby Stafford. During the Great Depression he held a variety of jobs including work in beet fields, an oil refinery, and plowing. He received his B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1937. During World War II, he was drafted into the military while finishing his masters degree (University of Kansas), which led him to declare himself a conscientious objector. He was allowed to perform alternative service for several years. After the war, he married Dorothy Frantz, and completed his M.A. in 1946. In 1947, he was recruited by Morgan Ordell, the president of Lewis & Clark College. In 1954, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. In 1962, Stafford published his first book, *Traveling through the Dark*, which won the National Book Award. In 1964, he was awarded the Poetry Society of America's most prestigious award, the Shelly Memorial Award. In 1970 he was named the Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress (today's Poet Laureate). During his life, Stafford published over 50 collections of poetry and today is considered a major American poet. William Stafford died on August 28, 1993.

William Claire was born in 1935 in North Hampton, Massachusetts and is a graduate of the Deerfield Academy, Georgetown University, and Columbia University. After serving in the military, Claire moved to Washington D.C. where he was the chief editor for the *National*

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Literary Magazine from 1967 until 1973, winning five national awards as well as a National Endowment for Arts award. Afterwards, he became a poet and an essayist, getting published in *The American Scholar* and *The New York Times*. He received a Yaddo fellowship, a McDowell fellowship, and a Rockefeller Foundation grant winner.

Series The collection contains primary sources and secondary sources and is arranged into the following series:

1. News clipping
2. Photograph
3. Correspondence between Stafford and Claire
4. Poetry
5. Miscellaneous

Folder List

Series 1: Photographs

F.1

P.1

Photograph of William Stafford (date [1969?] and location unknown)

Two photographs of William Stafford and Primus St. John (date [1969?], location unknown)

Series 1: News clipping

A Poet and his Family: Living the Way Nature Intended, The Washington Post, Nov. 15, 1970 (Oversize)

Series 2: Letters

Letter from William Stafford to William Claire, September 16, 1969, ALS; Letter from William Stafford to William Claire, August 1, 1970, ALS; Letter from William Stafford to William Claire, April 5, 1971, ALS; Letter from William Stafford to William Claire, June 13, 1972; Letter from William Stafford to William Claire, January 2, 1975, ALS; Letter from William Stafford to William Claire, May 14, 1978, ALS

Series 3: Other Correspondence

Letter from William Stafford to Primus St. John, July 7, 1971; Letter from Nancy to William Claire, June 2, 1972; Letter to William Stafford from Anonymous detailing photo negative (date unknown)

Series 3: Poetry

The Un-National Monument along the Canadian Border (inscribed)

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Series 4: Miscellaneous

Thank-you card featuring a poem by William Stafford (date unknown, includes envelope and picture of his daughter Kit Stafford)

Thank you card from the Stafford Family (date unknown, includes envelope and picture of his daughter Kit Stafford)

United States Information Agency Form, Request for Permission for Republication: "A Conversation between William Stafford and Primus St. John," from Frances G. Robinson to William F. Claire, June 13, 1972

Library of Congress Invitation to William Stafford Presentation: *Leftovers: A Care Package* (date unknown [1970 or 1971?])