

Finding Aid to the Richard Critchfield Papers

Critchfield, Richard, 1931-1994

Richard Critchfield Papers, 1953-1986

2.8 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 156

Tapes 255-330

[Biography](#)

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OVERVIEW

Links: Finding aid to the [Critchfield Family Papers](#)
Finding aid to a later accession (Mss 206) of [Richard Critchfield Papers](#)
Finding aid to the [Richard Critchfield Photograph Collection](#)

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

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BIOGRAPHY

Richard Patrick Critchfield was born on March 23, 1931 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the son of Ralph James and Anne Louise (Williams) Critchfield. The family lived at Fessenden, North Dakota at the time and until 1932 when they moved to Fargo, North Dakota. Richard Critchfield received his B.A. in Far Eastern studies in 1953 from the University of Washington, Seattle. In 1957 he received his M.S. from Columbia University, and did additional graduate work at universities in Austria and at Northwestern University.

In his career as a journalist, Richard Critchfield has reported from all over the world, concentrating for a large part of his career on Third World countries and the effects of technological change on culture. He has written for *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Reader's Digest*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the *Washington Post*. His books include *Lore and Legend of Nepal*; *The Long Charade*; *Political Subversion in the Vietnam War*; *The Golden Bowl be Broken*; *Peasant Life in Four Cultures*; *Shahhat, an Egyptian*; *Villages*; and *Those Days: An American Album*. In 1981, Mr. Critchfield received the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. He died December 10, 1994 and is buried at Hunter, N.D.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **Richard Critchfield Papers** consist mainly of the papers pertaining to Mr. Critchfield's book, *Those Days: An American Album*. There are also some other articles written by, and about him.

The biographical material contains personal information on Mr. Critchfield, his career, and references. In addition, there are some items concerning other members of his family; his mother, Anne Critchfield, and his brothers James, and William Critchfield, as well as some family obituaries.

The [Articles Series](#) contains articles written about Mr. Critchfield or mentioning him, and articles written by him for newspapers, magazines, and reports on his research. There are also folders concerning a lecture given by Mr. Critchfield at North Dakota State University in 1983 on Third World and North Dakota Villages, and information pertaining to a 1986 lecture and promotional tour for the book *Those Days*.

The largest series in the Richard Critchfield Collection is [Those Days: An American Album Series](#). The book chronicles the lives of the Critchfield family and focuses on the cultural changes occurring between the 1880s and 1940s that were beyond each family member's control. The series is divided into six subseries: Preliminary work, First draft, Third draft, Fourth draft, Copyedited draft, and Galley proof. The original second draft was never included in the papers. The preliminary work consists of a project outline dated May 10, 1986 which lists the documents used and research done, as well as the basic storyline. The preliminary work also contains notes pertaining to each town in which the family lived and also two coroner reports by Mr. Critchfield's father, James, who was Wells County Coroner at the time. Each draft of the book is broken down into three parts. The first draft is entitled, by Mr. Critchfield, "Work in Progress, A Family Documentary, 1880-1940". The third draft is entitled *Those Days*, and the fourth draft assumes the book's final title, *Those Days: An American Album*. The copyedited draft has extensive

changes made by the editor at Doubleday, the publisher. The galley proof has a number of corrections and changes made by Mr. Critchfield. The series ends with reviews of *Those Days*, and a mock-up of the book which has a few corrections.

The [Oral History Series](#) includes seventy-five cassette tapes of interviews done by Mr. Critchfield with people who knew his parents and family. Many of them are transcribed, although some only partially. The tapes are located in the Institute tape collection (numbers 255-330). Any transcripts or summaries are included in the collection and numbered under the "folder" column. The tapes have been organized alphabetically by interviewee. Also given in the finding aid, if known, is the interviewee's home town and the date of the interview. The collection concludes with a taped interview with Richard Critchfield by Harry Ellis for the radio series, Focus.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Biographical material, and Finding aid
	Articles Series
1/2	Articles about Critchfield, 1966, 1979-1986
	Articles by Critchfield -
1/3	1953, 1972, 1978-1980
1/4	1981-1982
1/5	1982-1984
1/6	1985-1986
1/7	Not dated
1/8	Lecture at North Dakota State University, November 15, 1983
1/9	Lecture tour, 1986
1/10	Forum feature, May 18, 1986
	<i>Those Days: An American Album Series</i>
1/11	Correspondence, 1986
	Preliminary Work
1/12	Project outline, May 10, 1982
1/13	Preliminary chronology, April 1, 1982
1/14	Interim working chronology, June 10, 1982
1/15	Family Album, 1880's-1940's, by Richard Critchfield-
1/16	pp. 1-34

1/17	pp. 35-69
1/18	pp. 70-104
	Iowa notes
	Fessenden chronology and notes, 1925-1932-
1/19	pp. 1-50
1/20	pp. 51-100
1/21	pp. 151-219
2/1	pp. 151-219
2/2	Additional notes
2/3	Hunter chronology
	Hunter notes -
2/4	pp. 1-50
2/5	pp. 51-100
2/6	pp. 101-160
2/7	Maddock notes, pp. 1-41
2/8	Coroner reports, 1927, 1931
2/9	Music lyrics
2/10	Notes on nursing home scene, April 7, 1980
2/11	Miscellaneous notes

**First Draft: Work in Progress, by Richard Critchfield - A Family
Documentary, 1880-1940**

2/12	Contents, acknowledgments, titles under consideration
	Part One: Preacher's Daughter, Iowa, 1884-1920 -
2/13	Saints...
2/14	Hadwen and Jessie
2/15	Anne
2/16	Hadwen
2/17	Anne
2/18	Anne
2/19	Anne
2/20	Hadwen
2/21	Narrator
2/22	Narrator
2/23	Part Two: North Dakota Boy...and Sinners, 1901-1938 - Hunter, 1910-1918
2/24	Jim
2/25	Jim
2/26	Anne
2/27	Anne
2/28	Jim
2/29	Narrator
2/30	Narrator

2/31	Narrator
3/1	Narrator
	Maddock, 1922-1925
3/2	Anne
3/3	Narrator
3/4	Jim
3/5	Jimmy
3/6	Sports (Jim)
3/7	Narrator
	Fessenden, 1925-1932
3/8	Narrator
3/9	Jimmy
3/10	Betty
3/11	Betty
3/12	Betty
3/13	Jim
3/14	Narrator
3/15	Narrator
3/16	Narrator
3/17	Narrator (movies and sports)
3/18	Narrator, notes on Lucille Hanson
	Fargo, 1932-1938
3/19	Jimmy
3/20	Betty
3/21	Billy
3/22	Narrator
	Part Three: Five Little Peppers
	Fargo, 1938-1940's
3/23	Anne
3/24	Billy
3/25	Betty
3/26	Narrator
	Sirmione, Italy, 1950
3/27	Peggy
	Berkeley, California and Viola, Iowa, 1982
3/28	Pat
	Third Draft: <i>Those Days</i>
3/29	Contents, Introduction
	Part One: Preacher's Daughter
3/30	Saints...
3/31	Hadwen and Jessie

3/32	Anne
3/33	Hadwen
3/34	Anne
3/35	Anne
3/36	Anne
3/37	Hadwen
3/38	Anne
3/39	Anne
3/40	Anne
3/41	Part Two: The North Dakota Boy...and Sinners
4/1	Jim
4/2	Jim
4/3	Anne
4/4	Jim
4/5	Anne and Jim
4/6	Anne
4/7	Anne
4/8	Hadwen
4/9	Anne and Jim
4/10	Jim
4/11	Jim
4/12	Jim
4/13	Jimmy
4/14	Jessie
4/15	Betty
4/16	Betty
4/17	Betty
4/18	Jim
4/19	Anne
4/20	Jim
4/21	Jim
	Part Three: Five Little Peppers
4/22	Jimmy
4/23	Betty
4/24	Billy
4/25	Anne
4/26	Anne
4/27	Anne
4/28	Billy
4/29	Betty
4/30	Peggy
4/31	Pat
4/32	Acknowledgments

Fourth Draft: *Those Days: An American Album*

4/33	Contents, Prologue, pp. 1-2
4/34	Part One: Preacher's Daughter, Saints..., pp. 13-25
4/35	Chapters 1-2, pp. 26-50
4/36	Chapters 3-5, pp. 51-87
4/37	Chapters 6-10, pp. 88-125
4/38	Part Two: The North Dakota Boy...and Sinners, pp. 126-133
5/1	Chapters 1-2, pp. 134-170
5/2	Chapters 3-5, pp. 171-206
5/3	Chapters 6-9, pp. 207-248
5/4	Chapters 10-13, pp. 249-293
5/5	Chapters 14-16, pp. 294-329
5/6	Chapters 17-19, pp. 330-369
5/7	Chapters 20-21, pp. 370-403
5/8	Part Three: An Open Place, Chapters 1-2, pp. 404-432
5/9	Chapters 3-5, pp. 433-487
5/10	Epilogue and Acknowledgments, pp. 488-512

Copyedited Draft

5/11	Author's memos
5/12	Title page, preliminaries and Prologue
5/13	Part One: Preacher's Daughter, Saints..., pp. 13-25
5/14	Chapters 1-2, pp. 26-50
5/15	Chapters 3-5, pp. 51-87
5/16	Chapters 6-10, pp. 88-125
5/17	Part Two: The North Dakota Boy...and Sinners, pp. 126-133
5/18	Chapters 1-2, pp. 134-170
5/19	Chapters 3-5, pp. 171-206
5/20	Chapters 6-9, pp. 207-248
5/21	Chapters 10-13, pp. 249-293
5/22	Chapters 14-16, pp. 294-329
5/23	Chapters 17-19, pp. 330-369
5/24	Chapters 20-21, pp. 370-403
6/1	Part Three: An Open Place, Chapters 1-2, pp. 404-432
6/2	Chapters 3-5, pp. 433-487
6/3	Epilogue and Acknowledgments, pp. 488-512

Galley Proof

6/4	Title page, preliminaries, and Prologue
6/5	Part One: Preacher's Daughter pp. 25-36

6/6	pp. 37-120
	Part Two: The North Dakota Boy
6/7	pp. 121-240
6/8	pp. 241-338
6/9	Part Three: An Open Place
6/10	Book mock-up
6/11	Photocopied photographs and captions
6/12	Dust jacket
	Reviews
6/13	January-March, 1986
6/14	April-September, 1986
6/15	Undated reviews and paperback press release

Oral History Series

Box/Folder	Tape	Contents
7/1		Anderson, Edwin, Maddock-
		Interview transcript
	255	1 July 1982
	257B	7 July 1982
7/2	256	Battagler, Bill, Hunter, 28 July 1982
7/3	257A	Bergsgaardt, Agneta Nielsen, South Viking, 7 July 1982
	307B	7 July 1982
	258A	Blanich, Beverly Halbeisen, Fargo, 28 June 1982
	259	Borlaug, Dr. Norman, Texas A&M, 24 February 1985
	260	27 February 1985
	261	28 February 1985
7/4	262	Brekke, Ed, Fargo, November 1983
		Carr, Merland, Hunter-
7/5		Interview transcript
	263B	28 July 1982
	264	28 July 1982
	265	28 July 1982
	266	6 October 1984
7/6	313B	Carter, Mary Olslager, Fessenden, 11 July 1982
7/7	267	Clark, Irving, Fessenden, 22 June 1982
7/8	268A	Collins, Fay, Iowa, May 1982
	269	May 1982
	270	May 1982
		Collins, Helen, Viola, Iowa-
7/9		Interview transcript
	268B	May 1982
	271	11 June 1982

	272	November 1984
	273	November 1984
		Critchfield, Anne, Long Beach, California-
	274	1972
	275	16 February 1980, Berkeley, California
	276	Easter, 1980
	277	7 April 1980 (nursing home scene)
	278	Fall 1980
		Critchfield, Harry, St. Helena, California
7/10		Interview transcript, 9 March 1983
7/11		20 September 1983
	279	29 March 1983
	280	19 September 1983
	281	20 September 1983
	282	20 September 1983
	283	1983
		Critchfield, James, McLean, Virginia-
7/12		Interview transcript
	285	25 August 1982
	290B	3 September 1982
	286	4 September 1982
7/13	287	Dunn, Barbara, Des Moines, Iowa, 6 June 1982
		Edwards, Kathryn Critchfield, Livermore, California-
8/1		Interview transcript
	288	31 December 1983
	289	1 January 1984
8/2	290A	Garrett, Kathryn, Fargo, 4 August 1982
	291	4 August 1982
8/3	292	Gronlund, E. Louise, Fargo, 20 November 1983
	293	20 November 1983
8/4	294	Graves, Helen Hope, Seattle, Washington, December 1983
	295	December 1983
8/5	296	Kieper, Elsie Engbrecht, Fessenden, 2 July 1982
8/6	258B	Kotchian, Helen, Fargo, 26 June 1983
		Mietz, Fred, Fessenden-
8/7		Interview transcript, 9 July 1982
	297	8 July 1982
	299A	8 July 1982
	298	9 July 1982
		Moen, Emil, Hunter-
8/8		Interview transcript, 27 July 1982
	300	27 July 1982
	301	27 July 1982
	263A	28 July 1982

	303	Moffett, Peggy Critchfield, Berkeley, California, 14 August 1983
	304A	9 October
	305	Mohr, Alvin, Fessenden
8/9		Interview transcript, 7 July 1982
	306	6 July 1982
	307A	7 July 1982
8/10	308	Musha, Helen Litke, Harvey, 8 July 1982
	299B	8 July 1982
	309A	8 July 1982
		Old World Wisconsin-
	310	Spring 1982
	311	Summer 1982
8/11	326B	Olson, G.C., Maddock, 7 July 1982
	327B	7 July 1982
8/12	312	Olson, Myrtle Legreid, Esmond, 10 July 1982
	313A	10 July 1982
8/13		Oser, Ben, Fessenden, June 1983
8/14	309B	Oser, Jess, Fessenden, 9 July 1982
8/15	314	Parsons, James, Fargo, 16, June 1983
	315A	16, June 1983
8/16	316	Paulsrud, Marjorie, Fargo, 1983
8/17	317	Price, Rees, Fessenden, 3 July 1982
	318A	3 July 1982
8/18	319	Pritchard, Lois, Hunter, 6 July 1982
8/19	320A	Rasmussen, Harry and Ella, Hunter, 27 July 1982
8/20	320B	Rasmussen, Rose Winistofer, Hunter, 27, July 1982
	322B	27 July 1982
8/21	321	Rock, Irene and Don, St. Paul, Minnesota, 15 August 1982
		Sayer, Beatrice Carr, Hunter-
8/22		Interview transcript
	322A	22 July 1982
	323	27 July 1982
8/23	324	Solberg, Mac, Fessenden, 28 June 1982
	304B	Strauss and Lebar, New York City Ballet
		Swanson, Mabel Esmond
8/24		Interview transcript, 7 July 1982
	325	7 July 1982
	326A	7 July 1982
	327B	21 June 1983
	328	21 June 1983
8/25	318B	Zumpf, Chester L., Fessenden, 5 July 1982
	329	5 July 1982
	330	Richard Critchfield interview, on <i>Focus</i> radio series by Harry Ellis

