

**William Styron Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80041855>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013075>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2013  
Revised 2023 May

## Collection Summary

**Title:** William Styron Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1951-1968

**ID No.:** MSS41855

**Creator:** Styron, William, 1925-2006

**Extent:** 40 items

**Extent:** 14 containers

**Extent:** 5.0 linear feet

**Extent:** 5 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm80041855>

**Summary:** Author and novelist. Correspondence, holograph drafts and corrected galleys of books and articles, research material, clippings, and photographs pertaining to Styron's life and literary works.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Styron, William, 1925-2006.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Confessions of Nat Turner. 1967.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Lie down in darkness. 1951.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Long march. 1955.

Styron, William, 1925-2006. Set this house on fire. 1960.

### Subjects

American fiction.

American literature.

Fiction.

Literature.

### Occupations

Authors.

Novelists.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of William Styron, author and novelist, were given to the Library of Congress by his father, William C. Styron Sr., and by the author, 1964-1968. An addition was given by Thomas F. Gossett in 1966.

## Processing History

The papers of William Styron were housed and described in 1991 by Martha Hopkins. The finding aid was revised in 2013. In 2023, the finding aid was revised by Matthew Darby and material rehoused and consolidated to promote preservation.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Styron is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of William Styron are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on five reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.*

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, William Styron Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1925, June 11	Born, Newport News, Va.
1938	Mother died; sent to Christchurch School, Christchurch, Va.
1943-1945	Served in marines in World War II.
1947	Graduated, Duke University, Durham, N.C.
1947-1950	Worked briefly for McGraw-Hill, book publishers Studied writing, New School for Social Research, New York, N.Y. Published first short stories and began writing first novel
1951	Published <i>Lie Down in Darkness</i> . Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Briefly recalled into marines during Korean War.
1952	Received fellowship in literature, American Academy, Rome Italy; spent time in France and Italy; helped found Paris Review
1953	Married Rose Burgunder
1954	Settled in Roxbury, Conn.
1955	Published <i>The Long March</i> . New York: Vintage Books
1960	Published <i>Set This House on Fire</i> . New York: Random House
1964	Fellow, Stillman College, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1967	Published <i>The Confessions of Nat Turner</i> . New York: Random House, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize
1972	Play <i>In the Clap Shack</i> , produced at Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, Conn.; became honorary consultant in letters, Library of Congress
1979	Published <i>Sophie's Choice</i> . New York: Random House
1982	Published <i>This Quiet Dust</i> . New York: Random House
1984	Received Connecticut Arts Award
1990	Published <i>Darkness Visible: A Memoir of Madness</i> . New York: Random House
1993	Awarded National Medal of Arts
2006, Nov. 1	Died, Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Styron (1925-2006) span the years 1951-1968 and consist chiefly of holograph drafts and corrected galleys of books and articles by Styron including his novels titled *Lie Down in Darkness* (1951), *The Long March* (1955), *Set This House on Fire* (1960), and *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967). Also includes correspondence, speeches, reviews, research material, clippings, and photographs pertaining to his life and literary works.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is organized by title of work or type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1*	<i>Lie Down in Darkness</i> *Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,519
BOX 1 REEL 1	Holograph draft in pencil
BOX 1 REEL 1	Chapters 1-6 (part 1) (6 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 1	Chapters 6 (part 1) and 7 (part 2) (10 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	Working typescript with corrections and annotations
BOX 2 REEL 2	pp. 1-229 (7 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	pp. 230-618 (6 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	Editorial typescript, with corrections and emendations made by Bobbs-Merrill editor, Hiram Haydn, with author's consent
BOX 3 REEL 2	pp. 1-245 (5 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 2	pp. 246-330 (5 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 2	<i>The Long March</i> Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 13,519
BOX 4 REEL 2	Holograph draft in pencil (sheet at end referring reader to "Writers at Work," <i>Paris Review Interviews</i> , Malcolm Cowley, editor (New York 1958, p. 268.)
BOX 4 REEL 2	Introduction to Norwegian edition
BOX 4 REEL 2	Published in <i>Mississippi Quarterly</i>
BOX 4 REEL 2	Holograph draft in pencil
BOX 5 not filmed	<i>Set This House on Fire</i>
BOX 5 not filmed	Holograph draft in pencil (9 folders)
BOX 5A not filmed	(4 folders)
BOX 5B not filmed	Tentative beginning
BOX 5B not filmed	Discards and fragments (8 folders)
BOX 6 not filmed	Typescript with emendations and corrections
BOX 6 not filmed	pp. 1- 353 (6 folders)
BOX 7 not filmed	pp. 354-964 (13 folders)
BOX 7 not filmed	Author's corrected galleys
BOX 7 not filmed	Beginning of short novel, published as "Blankenship" in special 1991 Styron issue of <i>Papers in Language &amp; Literature</i>
BOX 8 not filmed	Letter to Marilyn Peterson, Aug.17, 1964

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 8 not filmed	"The Achievement of William Styron," by Marilyn Peterson, paper written at Trinity University, San Antonio, Tex., with comments by Styron, circa 1963
BOX 8 not filmed	Review of <i>The Letters of F. Scott Fitzgerald</i> , edited by Andrew Turnbull, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 not filmed	Article on death and burial of William Faulkner, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 not filmed	Beginning of article on capital punishment, unpublished, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 not filmed	Review of <i>Slave and Citizen: The Negro in the Americas</i> by Frank Tannenbaum, published in first issue of New York Review of Books, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 not filmed	"Guide to Exhibition of Manuscripts, Scores and Books by Newly Elected Members of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and the Recipients of Literary Honors and Awards," May 1952 Styron listed as recipient of fellowship in literature at American Academy in Rome; two of his manuscripts were in the exhibition.
BOX 8 not filmed	Review of <i>The Consumers Union Report on Smoking and the Public Interest</i>
BOX 8 not filmed	Review of <i>A Southern Prophecy</i> , by Lewis H. Blair, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 not filmed	Review of <i>The Big Love</i> by Florence Aadland, holograph in pencil and typescript
BOX 8 not filmed	Review of <i>Candy</i> by Terry Southern and Mason Hoffenberg, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 not filmed	Article called "The Death in Life of Benjamin Reid," holograph in pencil and typescript Includes letter to Styron from Neva Jones, a nurse who corresponded with Reid, and photostat of a letter from Reid to Jones; also contains newspaper clippings relating to Reid case.
BOX 8 not filmed	Biography of Styron by A. H. Cheyer, <i>Wilson Library Bulletin</i> , p. 691, Apr. 1962
BOX 8 not filmed	Photo of woman and child, unidentified
BOX 8 not filmed	Beginnings of review of <i>The Fire Next Time</i> by James Baldwin, unpublished, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 not filmed	Article on "State of Writers in America," unpublished, holograph in pencil
BOX 8 REEL 1**	<i>The Confessions of Nat Turner</i> **Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,600
BOX 8 REEL 1**	Holograph in pencil
BOX 8 REEL 1**	Preliminary pages
BOX 8 REEL 1**	Part I, pp. 1-89
BOX 9 REEL 1**	Part II, pp. 90-395 (3 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 1**	Part III, pp. 386-647 (2 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 2**	Printer's typesetting original typescript, including book designer's specifications and layouts (20 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 3**	Galley and page proofs (5 folders)
BOX 12 not filmed	Advertisement for SS <i>United States</i> , featuring Styron and his wife
BOX 12 not filmed	Reviews from newspapers, mainly of <i>Set This House on Fire</i> and one of <i>Confessions of Nat Turner</i>
BOX 12 not filmed	Newspaper interview with Styron's father, William C. Styron Sr.
BOX 12 not filmed	Review of <i>Reminiscence</i> by Douglas MacArthur, holograph in pencil
BOX 12 not filmed	Review of <i>Thomas Wolfe</i> by Andrew Turnbull, holograph and typescript, <i>Harper's</i> , Apr. 1968
BOX 12 not filmed	Review of <i>Light on Dark Corners</i> by Benjamin Grant Jefferis, holograph in pencil and typescript, <i>Harper's</i> , Feb. 1968
BOX 12 not filmed	"My Generation," holograph in pencil, <i>Esquire</i> , Oct. 1968
BOX 12 not filmed	"In the Jungle," holograph in pencil, <i>New York Review of Books</i> , Sept. 1968
BOX 12 not filmed	"The Oldest America," holograph in pencil and typescript, <i>McCalls</i> , July 1968

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 12 not filmed	"This Quiet Dust," holograph in pencil and typescript, <i>Harper's</i> , 1965 (2 folders) Draft of article, not later book of same name that includes article and other writing.
BOX 12 not filmed	Letter to the editor, <i>Nation</i> , holograph in pencil, Mar. 1968
BOX 12 not filmed	Speech, Smith College, Northampton, Mass., Feb. 1968
BOX 12 not filmed	Speech, Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, typescript, Nov. 1967