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CARY, Maryann Shadd

MSRC Staff

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MARY ANN SHADD CARY PAPERS  
Collection 13-1

Prepared & Revised by:  
Greta Wilson  
June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

## Scope Note

The Mary Ann Shadd Cary Papers are contained in one box measuring ½ linear feet and cover the period between 1844 to 1884.

Included in the papers are correspondence, articles, speeches, editorials, reports, documents, printed material, and programs relating to Mary Ann Shadd Cary's activities in the U.S. and Canada as editor of the *Provincial Freeman*, as a strong supporter of Women's Suffrage and as an army recruiter.

Transcripts have been provided throughout the collection for many of the items that are in poor condition or otherwise illegible. There are also some incomplete and unidentified papers in this collection.

These papers were donated to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center by Vanetta Willis in 1971.

## Biographical Data

Cary, Mary Ann Shadd

- 1823            October 9, Born in Wilmington, De., the first of the 13 children of Abraham and Harriet Shadd.
- 1833-39        Educated in a Quaker School, West Chester, Penn.
- 1839-50        Taught in various schools for colored children in Wilmington, West Chester, New York City, and Norristown, Penn.
- 1850            The Fugitive Slave Law was passed and Cary moved to Canada West.
- 1850            Lectured in the U.S. convincing colored Americans to emigrate to Canada.
- 1854            Established The Provincial Freeman, the first anti-slavery organ in Canada West.
- 1856 Jan. 3     Married Thomas F. Cary of Toronto and settled in Chatham, Canada West.
- 1861            Because of her interest in the John Brown movement she compiled and published the notes of Osborne P. Anderson, a member of John Brown's company at Harper's Ferry, October 1859.
- 1863            Appointed Recruiting Army Officer by special order to enlist colored volunteers in the Union Army in Indiana.
- 1865            Moved to Washington, D.C.
- 1867            Entered Howard University Law Department.
- 1870            Received her LL.B. degree from the Howard University Law Department.
- 1881            Became a member of the National Women's Suffrage Association.
- 1893            Died.

\*According to the Directory of Howard U. Graduates, Cary is listed as graduating in 1883.

## Series Description

- Series A**  
Box 13-1     **Biographical**  
A history titled Mary Ann Shadd Cary 823-1893. The Foremost Colored Canadian Pioneer in 1850; and, an article from Crisis by Clifton H. Johnson about Mrs. Cary's achievements
- Series B**  
Box 13-1     **Correspondence**  
Family, personal and business letters. Includes unsigned materials and a torn envelope stamped 1885. Correspondence includes two letters from Frederick Douglass
- Series C**  
Box 13-1     **Other Correspondence**  
A letter addressed to Issac D. Shadd (her brother) to Charles H. A. Clayton dated February 23, 1855
- Series D**  
Box 13-1     **Articles, Editorials, Reports**  
Papers covering such topics as abolition, laws, mankind, woman's rights, economy, civilization, temperance, etc.
- Series E**  
Box 13-1     **Certificates and Statements**  
Official documents issued to M. A. S. Cary and others, include teaching certificate, free papers agreements, oath of residence, and letters of recommendation
- Series F**  
Box 13-1     **Speeches**  
A handwritten speech on the right of women to vote, plus a speech by A. G. Riddle on the rights of women
- Series G**  
Box 13-1     **Songs**  
Two songs about temperance and one entitled "Who is my neighbor"
- Series H**  
Box 13-1     **Organizations**  
Minutes of first meeting and statement of purpose of the Colored Women's Professional Franchise Associate
- Series I**  
Box 13-1     **Printed Material**  
Includes clippings, circular, a fruit and vegetable canning chart, and a broadside of the letters of John A. Copeland

## Series Description

**Series J      Programs**

Box 13-1      Howard University commencement program of 1871 and program of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the women's suffrage movement

**Series K      Unidentified and Incomplete Material**

Box 13-1      Untitled manuscripts: some with missing pages, others illegible; drawings; notes; excerpts from poetry primarily concerned with Blacks; temperance; women and politics.

## Container List

- Series A      Biographical**  
**Box            Folder**  
13-1            1 Biography - Mary Ann Shadd Cary
- Series B      Correspondence**  
2 Correspondence - C  
3 Correspondence - D  
4 Correspondence - P  
5 Correspondence - S  
6 Correspondence - W  
7 Correspondence - cover - stamped carrier 8, Dec. 6, 9:00 am, carrier 9, Dec. 6:00 pm; Washington, Rec'd Dec. 6, 1:00 am, 1885, 5  
8 Correspondence - unsigned to M.A.S. Cary
- Series C      Other Correspondence**  
9 Clayton, Charles H. A. to Isaac D. Shadd, Feb. 23, 1855
- Series D      Articles, Editorials, Reports**  
10 Abolition lecture 2  
11 Brief, Resolved that too much Importance ...  
12 Circular, "Addressed to the people who can feel..."  
13 Debate, "Reasons in favor of favoring the scheme of African civilization  
14 Diversified Industries, a Necessity  
15 The Influence of Woman in the Introduction of Christianity. . .  
16 The Last Day of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress  
17 Letter no. 1  
18 Letter no. 2  
19 Letter no. 3  
20 Letter no. 4  
21 Letter no. 5  
22 May We Wisely Improve Every Talent  
23 "Modern Civilization, Our Relations and Duty"  
24 The Origin and Necessity of Corporations  
25 Report, "State of Affairs in the Provincial Freeman Association"  
26 "Resolved that the Principle that a marriage is valid"  
27 Should We Economize?  
28 Temperance  
29 "To the Friends of the Oppressed - by Still, Wm.

## Container List

- Series E**      **Certificates and Statements**  
**Box**          **Folder**
- 13-1          30 Cary, M.A.S. - Albany, Ind., Feb. 24, 1864. Authorization to obtain men for Connecticut volunteers  
31 Cary, M.A.S. - Detroit Teaching Certificate, July 1, 1868  
32 Cary, M.A.S. - Detroit, July 29, 1870. Letter of recommendation  
33 Cary, M.A.S. - State of Ind., Aug. 15, 1864. Re.: Appoint. as recruiting officer to enlist colored volunteers  
34 Cary, M.A.S. - Wash., D.C. April 1871. Oath of residence  
35 Cary, M.A.S. - Wash., D.C., Sept. 1, 1874. Teaching certificate  
36 Chatham, Canada West, March 14, 1858. Petition  
37 Comer, Martha, State of Va., March 22, 1853. Free papers  
38 Delany, Martin R. State of Ind., Feb. 19, 1864. Statement of Custody..  
39 Shadd, M. A. Toronto, Aug. 29, 1854. Agreement between M.A. Shadd...  
40 Shadd, W. G. - New Albany, Aug. 17, 1863. Authorization by M.A.S. Cary as recruiting agent  
41 Washington Case
- Series F**      **Speeches**
- 42 The Right of Women to Exercise the elective franchise under the 14<sup>th</sup> Article of the Constitution - speech of A. G. Riddle  
43 Speech, to Judiciary Committee, Re.: The Right of Women
- Series G**      **Songs**
- 44 Temperance Songs  
45 "Who Is My Neighbor?" - Song
- Series H**      **Organizations**
- 46 Colored Women's Professional Franchise Association
- Series I**      **Printed Material**
- 47 Anti-slavery tracts - clipping  
48 "The Bondsman's Hope"  
49 Copeland, John A. "Letters of John A. Copeland"... - Broadside, 1859  
50 The Ladies Home Journal. Fruit and Vegetable Canning Chart  
51 Slavery and humanity - circular, 1857  
52 ("Washington Star") (1888) - clipping xerox -A(urene) L(enore) Shadd



## Container List

<b>Series J</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
13-1	53 International Council of Women
	54 Annual Commencement of H. U. Law Department

<b>Series K</b>	<b>Unidentified and Incomplete Material</b>
	55 Incomplete and unidentified materials - folder 1
	56 Incomplete and unidentified materials - folder 2