

1975

0108: Ira Napier Papers, 1945-1946

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**REGISTER
OF THE
IRA E. NAPIER PAPERS**

Accession Number: 1975/07.0108



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
1975

IRA E. NAPIER PAPERS, 1945-1946

Accession: 108

Processed by: Keith M. Brown

Date Completed: October 2008

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library, Room 217

Date: 1945-1946

Extent: 13 items in 4 folders

System of Arrangement: The records are exchanged into four folders: 1.; 2.

“Dedication”: Letter to Carl Richard Spears, June 3, 1945; 3. “Vocational Printing”, Jan. 1946; 4. Judge [Evermont] Ward’s Death Sentences, 1946.

Named Persons:

John Chapman

Lieutenant. Thomas F. Joyce

Delbert S. Napier

Ira E. Napier

Carl Richard Spears

Walter J. Spears

Arch Tullidge

Mrs. G.B. Tullidge

Tommy Tullidge

Named Corp.:

United States. Department of Justice. Federal Reformatory, Chillicothe, Ohio.

United States. Engineers Office. Huntington, West Virginia

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The Ira E. Napier Papers consists of photo-reproductions of nine letters, two unpublished manuscripts, and two historical accounts. The collection is contained in a single box and are separated into four folders. The first folder, entitled: "Correspondence, July 1945-January 1946," contains five typed-letters from Napier to his superior officer at the Federal Reformatory at Chillicothe, Ohio, Thomas F. Joyce; John Chapman of Huntington, West Virginia, Mrs. Walter J. Spears; and members of the Tullidge Family of Staunton, Virginia. These letters contain information on Napier's opinions on the Huntington Police Department, prison reform, and his experiences working with the inmates. Folder #2 contains Napier's letter to a boy, Carl Richard Spears, entitled "Dedication" in which Napier explains sex and his ideas about adolescent sexuality and the importance of boys' controlling their sexual desires. Folder #3 contains Napier's unpublished manuscript, "Vocational Printing" – a guide that explains how to start a printing press and vocational printing program to be used at the Federal Reformatory in Chillicothe. Folder #4, "Judge [Evermont] Ward's Death Sentences, 1946" contains typed-copies of the judge's sentences of Laban Walker (1879) in Wayne County, WV; and, Matilda Meehling in Cabell County, WV (1890s).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF IRA E. NAPIER

Ira E. Napier worked as a correctional officer at the Federal Reformatory in Chillicothe, Ohio under the administration of Allen L. Shank. While there, Napier proposed a vocational printing program for the inmates and wrote a booklet detailing the necessary supplies, printers' jargon, and instructions on how to set up and run a printing press. Prior to working at the Chillicothe Reformatory, Napier worked for the U.S. Engineers Office in Huntington, West Virginia. Though Napier claimed that he was not a prison reformist, several of his letters contained in this collection, focus on preventing boys from developing into criminals through proper training and obedience as a means of preventing crime in addition to the letters and booklet on the benefits of vocational training for inmates.

<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Items</u>
Fd 1. Correspondence, July 1945- Jan. 1946, n.d.	9 items
Fd 2. "Dedication": Letter to Carl Richard Spears, June 3, 1945	1 item
Fd 3. "Vocational Printing", Jan. 1946	1 item
Fd 4. Judge [Evermont] Ward's Death Sentences, 1946	2 items