

Raymond Whittaker Papers

Collection Summary

Title: Raymond Whittaker Papers

Summary: A collection mostly of correspondence, the bulk of which is between William Raymond Whittaker and Jane Dean Whittaker between 1942 and 1943.

Physical Description: 2 boxes; 0.834 linear feet.

Language: English

Stack Location: S2-39

Repository: Metropolitan Government Archives of Nashville-Davidson County, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Biographical Note:

William Raymond ("Ray") Whittaker was born 26 May 1908 in Worcester, Massachusetts to William Jackson Whittaker and Viola Elizabeth ("Eliza") Radcliffe, later Eliza Harris. He grew up in New Rochelle, New York, and was later a medical student at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he met Jane Dean. The two were romantically involved for a period of time, and then lost touch for two years. After Whittaker's enlistment in the Army in June of 1942, however, he reconnected with Jane Dean, now a lab technician at Vanderbilt University, via correspondence while he was stationed at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. He was soon transferred to Fort McClellan in Alabama, where he was to help organize the 92nd Infantry Negro Division. The couple soon became engaged and married in Alabama on 7 November 1942.

Ray Whittaker was later discharged from the Army for medical reasons in March of 1943. Shortly after his discharge, he and Jane Whittaker moved to New Rochelle, New York where they lived before later returning to Nashville. Ray Whittaker died in Nashville on 12 June 1989, and Jane Dean Whittaker died in Nashville on 18 July 1999.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Raymond Whittaker Papers consist largely of correspondence written between 1942 and 1943, while Whittaker was in the United States Army. The majority of the correspondence is between Raymond Whittaker and Jane Dean (later Jane Whittaker), and records the progress of their relationship as well as life at Fort Huachuca in Arizona and Fort McClellan in Alabama, where Whittaker was stationed. Other correspondence includes letters between Raymond and his mother, Eliza Harris, Raymond and his sister Viola Francis, and between Jane and Raymond's family. A small amount of correspondence comes from friends or unknown senders.

Also included in this collection are calendars, miscellaneous items such as ephemera, writings, and notes, and several black and white photographs. The materials in this collection give a unique perspective of Nashville and military history during

World War II, as well as some observations on army life within the 92nd Infantry Division.

Index Terms:

Subjects:

African Americans--Tennessee--Nashville
Correspondence.
Fort Huachaca (Ariz.)
Fort McClellan (Ala.)
New Rochelle (N.Y.)
World War II (1939-1945)

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into four series, including calendars, correspondence, miscellaneous items, and photographs. Series are arranged alphabetically.

The *calendars* series consists of generated 1942-1943 calendars tracking the activities of Raymond and Jane Whittaker.

The *correspondence* series consists of letters between Raymond Whittaker and his family, friends, and wife between 1942 and 1943.

Miscellaneous items consist of ephemera including a fraternity badge, a travel itinerary, and knitting instructions. This series also includes notes and writings possibly by Jane Dean Whittaker.

The *photographs* series consists of seven black and white photographs, within most of which the subjects are unidentified. One photograph of the sixth annual dinner of the Thomas E. Taylor Chapter of the Emblem Club is oversized.

Contents Listing:

Box 1:

Folder 1: Calendars, 1942-1943

Folder 2: Correspondence--Incoming, Carrie Christy (1942-1943)

Folder 3: Correspondence--Incoming Jane Dean Whittaker (Jul.-Sep. 1942)

Folder 4: Correspondence--Incoming, Jane Dean Whittaker (Oct. 1942)

Folder 5: Correspondence--Incoming, Jane Dean Whittaker (Nov. 1942)

Folder 6: Correspondence--Incoming, Jane Dean Whittaker (Dec. 1942)

Folder 7: Correspondence--Incoming, Julia F. Owens (1942)

Folder 8: Correspondence--Incoming, Misc. (1942-1943)

Folder 9: Correspondence--Incoming, Mother (c.1942-1943)

Folder 10: Correspondence--Incoming, Sue (1943)

Folder 11: Correspondence--Incoming, Viola (1942)

Folder 12: Correspondence--Incoming, W.O. Godbold (1943)

Folder 13: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Aug. 1942)

Folder 14: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Sep. 1942)

Folder 15: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Oct. 1942)
Folder 16: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Nov. 1942)
Folder 17: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Dec. 1942)
Folder 18: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Jan. 1943)
Folder 19: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Feb. 1943)
Folder 20: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Mar. 1943)

Box 2:

Folder 1: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Apr. 1943)
Folder 2: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (May 1943)
Folder 3: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Jun. 1943)
Folder 4: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Jul. 1943)
Folder 5: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Aug. 1943)
Folder 6: Correspondence--Outgoing, Jane Dean Whittaker (Sep. 1943)
Folder 7: Correspondence--Outgoing, Mother (c.1942-1943)
Folder 8: Correspondence--Outgoing, Viola (1942)
Folder 9: Miscellaneous Items--Ephemera (c.1943)
Folder 10: Miscellaneous Items--Notes (c.1943)
Folder 11: Miscellaneous Items--Writings (c.1942)
Folder 12: Photographs

Restrictions:

Restrictions on Access: In-library use only.

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Administrative Information:

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Provenance: Donated to the Metro Archives by Beverly Madron.

Processing Information: Processed by Kelley Sirko, Program Coordinator, January 2017.

Accruals: No further accruals expected.