

Harris World War II Letters
Tennessee Room
Jackson Madison County Library

Donated by: Rosie Robinson
Date of Donation: March 12, 2019

Processing

The collection was processed by Ricky Long, Tennessee Room volunteer.

Preferred Citation

Harris World War II Letters, Jackson – Madison County Library, Tennessee Room.

Scope and Content

The collection primarily consists of 65 letters and v-mail correspondences written between Vernon and Taylor Harris, soldiers in active service during World War II, and their sister Jennie (also called Jane) Harris Spencer. All of the letters referring to her as Jane are from her brother Vernon. In letter #4, he refers to her by both names in the same letter. The collection also contains newspaper clippings and other papers.

Jennie, Vernon, and Taylor Harris were siblings, three of the eight children born to Lindsay and Nancy Harris of the Potts Chapel community in Madison County. Both Vernon and Taylor Harris left Jackson for active military duty in August of 1940 with the 117th Infantry Regiment. Their sister Jennie had, in 1933, married Walter Spencer and remained in Jackson, where she worked for Marks Brothers Clothing stores. These letters were written back and forth between the two brothers and their sister from January 1941-February 1945.

In October of 1943, Vernon Harris was killed in action in Italy, and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in battle. Taylor Harris would return home to the United States after the war, marry, and move to Clarksville, Tennessee. He died there in 1995. Jennie Harris Spencer would live out her life in Jackson, Tennessee, dying there in 1994.

This group of letters was found many decades later (poss. 1990s) discarded in a house at 415 E. Lafayette Street, which was once owned by Jennie Harris Spencer.

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Contents List

Box 1

Folder

1. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(8 Jan 1941)
2. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(17 Nov 1941)
3. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(3 Dec 1941)
4. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(5 Jan 1942)
5. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(11 Mar 1942)
6. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(8 April 1942)
7. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(20 Apr 1942)
8. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(7 May 1942)
9. Letter from Vernon "Bucky" Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(28 May 1942)
10. Letter from Vernon "Bucky" Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(14 Jun 1942)
11. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(25 Aug 1942)
12. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(23 Sep 1942)

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Box 1, continued

Folder

13. Letter from H. Mae Weinbaum
to Jennie Spencer
(30 Sep 1942)
14. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(16 Dec 11942)
15. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(12 Jan 1943)
16. Letter from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(20 Jan 1943)
17. V mail from Vernon Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(18 Mar 1943)
18. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(31 Mar 1943)
19. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(9 Apr 1943)
20. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(12 Apr 1943)
21. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(22 Apr 1943)
22. Letter from Vernon Harris
to his Mom
(20 May 1943)
23. Letter from Vernon "Bucky" Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(27 May 1943)
24. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(22 May 1943)

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25. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(29 May 1943)
26. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(4 Jun 1943)
27. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(9 Jun 1943)
28. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(13 Jun 1943)
29. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(22 Jun 1943)
30. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(28 Jun 1943)
31. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(5 Jul 1943)
32. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon "Bucky" Harris [brother]
(7 Jul 1943)
33. Letter from Vernon "Bucky" Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(9 Jul 1943)
34. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(13 Jul 1943)
35. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(17 Jul 1943)
36. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(24 Jul 1943)

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37. V mail from Vernon "Bucky" Harris
to Jane Spencer [sister]
(28 Jul 1943)
38. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(29 Jul 1943)
39. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(5 Aug 1943)
40. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(13 Aug 1943)
41. V mail from Jennie Spencer
to Vernon Harris [brother]
(15 Sep 1943)
42. Letter from Nancy Harris
to Senior Intelligence Officer
(21 Sep 1943)
43. Envelope from T.J. Harris
to W.R. Spencer, no letter
(30 Sep 1943)
44. V mail from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(15 Mar 1944)
45. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(28 Mar 1944)
46. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(19 May 1944)
47. V mail from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(31 May 1944)
48. V mail from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(25 Jun 1944)

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49. V mail from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(30 Jun 1944)
50. V mail from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(6 Aug 1944)
51. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(3 Sep 1944)
52. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(28 Sep 1944)
53. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(29 Sep 1944)
54. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(19 Oct 1944)
55. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(21 Oct 1944)
56. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(2 Dec 1944)
57. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(6 Dec 1944)
58. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(16 Dec 1944)
59. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(23 Dec 1944)
60. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(1 Jan 1945)

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Box 1, continued

Folder

61. V mail from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(8 Jan 1945)
62. Envelope from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister], no letter
(11 Jan 1945)
63. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(15 Jan 1945)
64. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(25 Jan 1945)
65. Letter from Taylor Harris
to Jennie Spencer [sister]
(22 Feb 1945)
66. Application of Nancy Harris for financial support
(n.d.)
67. Note for Jackson Sun press release re. Taylor Harris bio.
(n.d.)
68. B & PW Club endorses USO
(n.d.)
69. National HQ of DAV activities form for 1961-62
(n.d.)
70. Collection of news clippings re. John Alfred Bennett and USS Boxer
and re. Jimmy Atterbury of Jackson, TN.
(n.d.)