

## NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG1541.AM: Varney, Charles B., 1916-2008

Correspondence, etc: 1939-1945

Culbertson, Hitchcock County, Neb.: World War II Navy man,  
Prisoner-of-war

Size: 0.2 cu.ft.; 1 box

### BACKGROUND NOTE

Charles B. Varney was born on November 19, 1916 in Bennet, Lancaster County, Nebraska. He later moved with his family to a farm near Culbertson, Hitchcock County, Nebraska, where he lived until 1933. He pursued a college education three times, but was unable to continue due to financial difficulties. After receiving his "Diesel Engineer" title and moving to Los Angeles, Varney joined the Navy. He was sent to Pearl Harbor and eventually ended up at Wake island. On December 8, 1941, the Japanese attacked Wake Island. In January 1942, Varney was taken to a Prisoner-of-War camp at Woosung, China, northeast of Shanghai. For the next four years, he spent time in POW camps near Shanghai and in Japan. Varney was returned to the United States forces in September of 1945 and he returned to home in October of that same year. Charles B. Varney died in Wisconsin on January 31, 2008.

### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection of personal records of Charles B. Varney is arranged in two series:

SERIES 1: Correspondence

SERIES 2: Autobiographical Note

The first series, Correspondence, consists mostly of letters mailed from friends and family to Charles B. Varney while he was a POW. There are a few letters pre-dating the war, as well as a few mailed from Charles to his parents. Also, there are letters written to Charles's father, Ralph, from other people in the United States who had information about Charles.

The second series is a brief autobiographical sketch of Charles B. Varney. It covers his life from birth (1916) through 1992.

This collection details the lifestyles of those in the United States during World War II. Most letters consist of personal news of Charles's friends and family - including marriages, births, career changes, weather and crop updates, and many encouraging words. The collection also gives some clue as to how news was carried between different countries during World War II, whether it be by mail or through radio broadcast.

## DESCRIPTION

### Series 1: Correspondence

#### Box 1

#### Folder

1. 1939, March, Charles B. Varney to Ralph Varney
2. 1941, July, Charles B. Varney to Ella L. Varney
3. 1941, November, Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
4. 1942, May, Ralph and Ella L. Varney to Charles B. Varney
5. 1942, July
  - Kikwyo Okabe to Charles B. Varney
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney
  - Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
  - Frank S. Scudder to Charles B. Varney
  - Janet to Charles B. Varney
  - Sgt. Elbert G. Arahawa to Charles B. Varney
  - Bulletin from the Order for the Common Worship of God to Charles B. Varney
  - Catherine E. B. Cop to Charles B. Varney
  - Galen Weaver to Charles B. Varney
  - Members of the Church of the Crossroads to Charles B. Varney
  - Lillian Ching to Charles B. Varney (includes photo)
  - Evangeline Mori to Charles B. Varney
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney
6. 1942, August
  - Musawa Tanaka to Charles B. Varney
  - Blanche Faulkner to Charles B. Varney
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney
  - Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
  - Laura Lai to Charles B. Varney
  - Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
  - Ralph and Ella Varney to Charles B. Varney
7. 1942, September
  - Richard and Flora to Charles B. Varney
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney
  - Galen Weaver to Charles B. Varney
8. 1942, October
  - Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
  - Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Eisenhart to Charles B. Varney
9. 1942, November
  - Lucy Steffey to Charles B. Varney
  - Mrs. Luther McPheeters to Charles B. Varney
  - Ella and Ralph Varney to Charles B. Varney
  - Gilbert Loo to Charles B. Varney
  - Lucy Steffey to Charles B. Varney
  - Lyda Varney to Charles B. Varney

- Laura Lai to Charles B. Varney
- Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
- 10. 1942, December
  - Evangeline Mori to Charles B. Varney
- 11. 1943, March
  - Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
  - Lorraine E. Peek to Charles B. Varney
- 12. 1943, May
  - Peggy Oregon Cuddebock to Charles B. Varney
- 13. 1943, June
  - Church of the Crossroads with Mr. David Makaoi to Charles B. Varney
  - Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
  - Church of the Crossroads with Galen Weaver to Charles B. Varney
- 14. 1943, July
  - Kikuyo Okabe to Charles B. Varney
  - Cora C. Varney to Charles B. Varney
- 15. 1943, November
  - Evangeline Mori to Charles B. Varney
- 16. 1943, December
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney
- 17. 1944, May
  - Laura Lai to Charles B. Varney
- 18. 1944, June
  - Ralph Varney to Charles B. Varney
- 19. 1944, August
  - Ella Varney to Charles B. Varney
- 20. 1944, October
  - Lyda Varney to Charles B. Varney
- 21. 1945, January
  - Dean Adamson to Mr. Ralph Varney
  - Charles C. and Mrs. L. M. Fike to Charles B. Varney
  - Charles C. Fike to Charles B. Varney
  - Thomas A. Smith to Mr. Ralph Varney
- 22. 1945, July
  - Ella Varney to Charles B. Varney
- 23. 1945, October
  - Crossroads News Bulletin to Charles B. Varney
- 24. Not Dated
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney
  - Nami Tokimasa to Charles B. Varney

Series 2: Autobiographical Sketch

- 25. Autobiographical sketch of Charles B. Varney (1916-1992)

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Added Entries

Prisoners of War -- American  
Varney, Charles B., 1916-2008  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Prisoners and prisons