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.

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.


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
   Kikwoyo 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
   Loraine 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


Added Entries

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