

## COLLECTION SUMMARY

**Collection number:** M

**Collection title:** Simmons Collection

**Dates:** 1918-1988

**Size:** 1 Archival Box

**Creator/Collector:** James Simmons

**Acquisition info.:** Donated by Mickie Jearline Simmons in 2022

**Accruals:** No accruals are expected

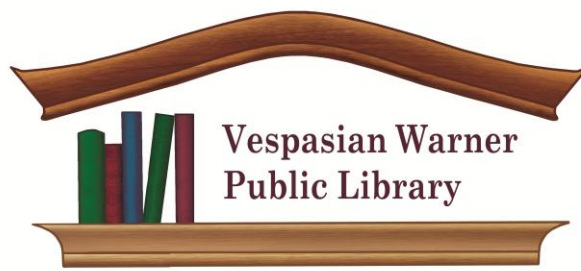
**Custodial history:** Unknown

**Language(s):** Collection materials are in English

**Repository:** Vespasian Warner Public Library District

**Processed by:** Bobbi Perryman, 2022

**Conservation notes:** None



## **RIGHTS AND ACCESS**

### **Access restrictions**

Collection is open for research. The collection or parts of the collection may not leave the library building.

### **Physical access restrictions**

None

### **Technical access restrictions**

None

### **Publication rights**

The Vespasian Warner Public Library does not establish copyright for items.

## **INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS**

### **Preferred citation** [DACS 7.1; MARC 524]

[item identification], **Simmons Collection**, Vespasian Warner Public Library District, Clinton, Illinois

### **Related collections**

World War I Collection

### **Separated material**

None

### **Published descriptions**

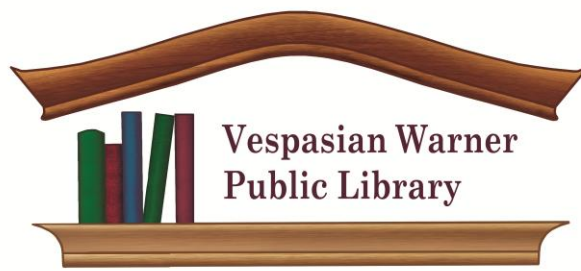
Not applicable

### **Location of originals**

Not applicable

### **Location of copies**

Not applicable



### **Publication note**

Not applicable

### **Subject headings**

Clinton (Ill.) – History.  
Soldiers – Biography  
Prisoners of War – Biography  
World War, 1914-1918 – Biography  
World War, 1939-1945 – Biography

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION/ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

Charles Alfred Simmons was born 30 Jan 1890 in Franklin County, Illinois, to William and Emma (Scott) Simmons. He served in the United States Navy and then worked in Clinton for the Illinois Central Railroad. He married Iva Emma Brunner on 25 May 1912 in Clinton. Together they had two children, James William and Charles Robert. Charles Simmons enlisted in the US Army in 1918 and was sent to France. He was killed in battle on 11 Oct 1918. Iva Simmons died in 1920, leaving their children to be raised by their grandparents. Charles Simmons war records are in the World War I collection 6-2\_WWI-6-wrph-2010-92\_001 and 6-4\_WWI-6-2010-69\_015.

James William Simmons was born 6 Sept 1915 in Lane, Illinois. He married Nellie Jean Rich 28 May 1939 in Indiana. They had two children, David Simmons and Dixie Herman. James Simmons worked various jobs. He enlisted in the US Army in 1944 and served in the European theater. He was wounded and then captured by the German army. He was imprisoned at Stalag VIIA. He was released in May 1945.

Simmons stayed in Clinton. He was very active in the First Baptist Church until his death 18 Jun 2001.

More information on the Simmons family is available in the collections of the DeWitt County Genealogical Society.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

Documents, photographs, and memorabilia related to Charles Simmons and James Simmons.



<b><u>Simmons Collection Inventory</u></b>	<b><u>Box Number</u></b>	<b><u>Folder Number</u></b>
Marriage certificate for Charles Simmons and Iva Brunner, 1912	1	1
Photograph of Charles Simmons, undated	1	2
Memorial Certificate for Charles Simmons, 1918	1	3
Photographs of James Simmons, 1944 (2)	1	4
Certificate of marriage for James Simmons and Jean Rich, 1936	1	5
Newspaper clipping about James Simmons, ca. 1945	1	6
Prisoner of war medal application, 1988	1	7
DD Form 2168, 1988	1	8
Certificate of honorable discharge for James Simmons, 1945	1	9
POW medal, 1988	1	10
GSA form 6923, 1980	1	11
James Simmons dog tags, 1944	1	12
German medallion, ca 1919. Translation: "In peace and unity through work and love, Germany wants to prosper again"; "To remember forever"; "Honor the brave"; "Peace"	1	13
Sharpshooter badge with rifle clasp	1	14
World War II victory medal, 1945	1	15