

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Sharp, William Howard (1891-1958)** **MC 2009.2**

Material: Papers (1906-1961)

Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 Document Box and 13 Photograph Folders)

Donation: Unknown

Usage: There are no usage restrictions on these materials.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

William Howard Sharp was born to Ira Porch Sharp and Anna D. Clark Sharp in Vineland, New Jersey in 1891. He attended Vineland High School before enrolling at Dickinson College. He was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Skull and Key, and the Comus Club. Sharp was also manager-in-chief and business manager for the Microcosm, treasurer of the Y.M.C.A. press club, treasurer of the Athletic Association, and a member of the track team. He graduated with the Dickinson College class of 1913

After college Sharp returned to New Jersey and worked in the insurance business until enlisting in the Army in 1917, where he served with the Quartermaster Corps, as well as the Artillery. Sharp then returned to his work in insurance until getting admitted to the New Jersey Bar as an attorney in 1933. In 1937 he became a counselor-at-law, and two years later he was appointed judge of the Common Pleas Court of Cumberland County, New Jersey. In 1941 he married Thelma Parkinson; the two never had children. Sharp was elected as assemblyman of Cumberland County in 1947 and went on to being elected to the New Jersey State Senate in 1949, a position he held until his death in 1958 at the age of sixty-seven.

Throughout his political career Sharp represented New Jersey at the National Legislative Service Conference and served on numerous vital Senate committees for Cumberland County. He helped to establish the Vineland Rotary Club, and served as that organization's President and Secretary. For over thirty years Sharp held the role of Treasurer for the Cumberland County Council Boy Scouts and for twelve years served as Treasurer of the Newcomb Hospital in Vineland. Sharp also served as President of the Cumberland County Bar Association, his local Y.M.C.A., and the Vineland Democratic Club. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Vineland National Bank and Trust Company, of the New Jersey Bar Association and American Bar Association, and of the Cumberland County Salem Association of Insurance Agents. In his Methodist church he served as lay-delegate to a New Jersey conference, as well as

a steward of the church. Sharp was also an assessor in the Borough of Vineland as well as a Chairman of the Democratic Club of Cumberland County. In the late 1940s Sharp was recognized for his civic efforts and named Outstanding Citizen of Vineland.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The W. Howard Sharp papers are organized into the following series: Correspondence, Ephemera, Newspaper Clippings, Professional and Miscellaneous Papers, and Photographs. The contents of the collection date from the early twentieth century, with the bulk of the materials dating from the 1940s and 1950s when Sharp was a New Jersey legislator. The collection primarily documents his political career and civic activities, while containing very little of a personal nature, excepting a few letters to his wife.

The Correspondence Series contains letters received by Sharp and his wife, dating from 1941 to 1961. Included are a few letters from Howard to his wife at the time of their marriage. The correspondence are organized alphabetically by author.

The Ephemera portion of the collection is arranged chronologically. It includes Sharp's high school diploma, invitations and programs from events, and NJ State Senate resolutions passed upon Sharp's death.

Included in the Newspaper Clippings series are items about Sharp from the *Atlantic City Press*, *Bridgeton Booster*, *Bridgeton Evening News*, *Daily Republican*, *The Eastern Underwriter*, *The Jersey Journal*, *New York Times*, *Penns Grove Record*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Sentinel-Ledger*, *Sunday Eagle*, *Sunday News*, *Sunday (Newark, NJ) Star-Ledger*, *Vineland Evening Times*, *The Vineland News*, and the *Vineland Times-Journal*. These clippings are organized chronologically.

Miscellaneous Papers include papers regarding Sharp's legislative campaigns and service, *Rotary News*, a YMCA report, a Vineland Country Club booklet, a Dickinson College receipt and postcard, a New Jersey Welfare Council bulletin, a Veterans Service Council booklet, and office stationery.

The Photographs have been designated as PC 2009.2 and have been housed separately within the Dickinson Photograph Collection. The majority of the photographs depict Sharp in his professional life. In addition, this series includes photographs of Sharp's parents Ira and Anna, his wife Thelma, and a number of unidentified individuals.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2009.2

CORRESPONDENCE

Folder 01) Gray, Gordon to W. Howard and Thelma Sharp - Aug. 19, 1949
Herbert, J. Stanley to W. Howard Sharp - Jun. 27, 1950
Herbert, J. Stanley to W. Howard Sharp - Jul. 26, 1950
Love, Eulalia J. to Thelma Sharp - Jan. 11, 1950
Reigner, Lewis E. to W. Howard Sharp - May 9, 1929

BOX 1 - MC 2009.2 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 02) Sharp, W. Howard to Thelma Sharp - Jun. 19, 1941
- Sharp, W. Howard to Thelma Sharp - Jul. 8, 1941
- Unknown to Thelma Sharp - Jun. 5, 1950
- Unknown to W. Howard to Thelma Sharp - Jan. 9

EPHEMERA

- Folder 03) 1908-1949
- Folder 04) 1950-1958

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

- Folder 05) 1939-1944
- Folder 06) 1945-1948
- Folder 07) 1949
- Folder 08) 1950
- Folder 09) 1951-1957
- Folder 10) 1958-1959 (Obituaries and Tributes)

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

- Folder 11) Items regarding Dickinson College, YMCA, and Rotary Club
- Folder 12) Items regarding Sharp's legislative service
- Folder 13) Items regarding Veterans Service Council, Vineland Country Club, Salem County Courts, and the New Jersey Welfare Council
- Folder 14) Insurance policy receipt for payment to Ira P. Sharp - 1906

PC 2009.2

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Folder 01) Sharp, Ira Porch (4)
- Folder 02) Sharp, Ira Porch and Anna D. Clark Sharp (1)
- Folder 03) Sharp, W. Howard - circa 1910 (1)
- Folder 04) Sharp, W. Howard - circa 1940 (2)
- Folder 05) Sharp, W. Howard and Thelma at home (1)
- Sharp, W. Howard and Thelma at Sebasco Beach with friends, 1950
- Folder 06) Sharp, W. Howard in office (5)
- Folder 07) Sharp, W. Howard and Thelma at swearing in ceremony, c1945 (18)
- Folder 08) Sharp, W. Howard, professional activities (6)
- Folder 09) Sharp, W. Howard, professional activities (5)
- Folder 10) Sharp, W. Howard at unidentified event (1)
- 2Sharp, W. Howard in circus master costume (1)
- Folder 11) Office of W. Howard Sharp (1)
- Fishing Boat named the *Senator W. Howard Sharp* (1)
- Folder 12) Sharp, Thelma Parkinson at luncheon (1)

PC 2009.2 (cont.)

PHOTOGRAPHS (cont.)

- Folder 13) Unidentified man (1)
- Unidentified man and woman in costume (1)
- Tennis match (1)
- Church children's choir (1)
- House (1)

This collection register was prepared by Jake Kauffman, July 2009.