

TO DAN TOMPKINS FROM MARVIN [A. GERALD?]

August 27, 1941

Hunter Library MSS 80-14-folder4

Transcribed and Edited by Yustin Riopko
for ENGL 618: Research Methods in English

Western Carolina University

Instructor and General Editor:

Dr. Brian Gastle

12 December 2018

SERIES INTRO

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography were prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English at Western Carolina University. The learning outcomes for this class include the following:

1. Conduct appropriate, effective, and ethical scholarship
 - a. Effectively find and use advanced research tools (handbooks, databases, guides, bibliographies, etc.) appropriate to a subject.
 - Students will be able to use a wide variety of such tools and evaluate those tools.
 - b. Find appropriate advanced research (print and electronic scholarship) and apply that research to specific disciplinary questions or issues.
 - Students will be able to find a variety of scholarship, evaluate both the appropriateness and rigor of that scholarship, and incorporate that scholarship correctly and effectively.
 - c. Develop accurate bibliographies and reference citations.
 - Students will be able to annotate, abstract, and cite materials following standard MLA format.
2. Understand the process by which the texts we use are made available.
 - Students will be able to conduct basic editorial work and evaluate them editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the students. While these students take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are always possible. As these students learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires checking of sources and corroboration by authoritative sources.

It is hoped that the transcription and annotation of WCU Special Collections materials will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, and other patrons and users of WCU's Special Collections materials.

INTRODUCTION

Dan Tompkins was born in Webster, NC in 1890. He graduated from high school in Waynesville and studied law at Wake Forest College. The Jackson County Journal started up in 1906, and Tompkins became its editor in chief in 1912. He served in the military in 1917 and 1918 during World War I (“Special Collections”), during which time he was part of the offensive that broke the Hindenburg line at Ballicourt, France (Jackson County Genealogical Society). After his honorable discharge, Tompkins returned to his job at the Journal and was elected Mayor of Sylva (Austin). He was Jackson County’s representative to the General Assembly in 1933, 1939, and 1943.

This letter is a request of Tompkins to sign his name on behalf of someone seeking a loan. I don’t know who the sender is. It appears to me that his or her name is something like “Marvin A. Gerald.” At this point in Tompkins’ life, he is very involved in state government and has been across seas for the war, so this Marvin person could be from anywhere. I couldn’t find anything looking at for “Harold” or “Gerald,” and I spent over an hour looking online and in books for any Jackson County names that start with L and end in a D, or some other tall letter. I searched Ancestry’s database for countless possible names in both Sylva and Norfolk, where the letter is sent from. The person would have to be relatively young compared to Tompkins, who would probably be too young to want to return to school at this point in his life. For the sake of this edition, I have no choice but to treat the sender as a mystery person.

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

- The handwriting of this letter is dense and sometimes illegible. For ambiguous or illegible words/phrases I have used brackets around what I think the proper reading might be. I received assistance deciphering certain passages from friends, WCU Special Collections staff, and Dr. Brian Gastle.
- I entered onto a new line whenever the body of the letter reached a new line, because I wanted to stay true to its original form.

7300 [Hampton] Blvd.
Norfolk, Va.
August 27, 1941

Dear Mr. Tompkins,¹

Enclosed you will find \$10.00² for which please credit it to the bill of the N.C.P.³

Mr. Tompkins, in order for me to return to school I have had to make an application to the Knights Templar Educational [Loan Fund]⁴ for \$75.00.⁵ They will grant it to me if I can get 2 friends to go on my note. I wonder if you would be one. I promise you faithfully that you wont have to make it good.⁶

If you will do this for me, let me know

¹ At this point in Dan Tompkins' life, he was an influential man not only in the reason, but also in the whole state. He was serving as a representative in the N.C. general assembly and had accrued some wealth (Austin). His name would've meant a lot on the sender's behalf.

² Calculating for inflation, \$10 in 1941 is roughly the equivalent of \$175 in 2018 USD (DollarTimes).

³ Unknown. Possibly a reference to the "Norfolk Chesapeake Portsmouth" region around Norfolk, where the sender was writing from. N.C.P. might be a credit union for the region.

⁴ The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar is a The Knights Templar Educational Foundation was launched in 1922 by the Grand Encampment. Starting in 1924, each Sir Knight of the Encampment paid \$1 per year over the course of nine years. The point of the fund was to help pay for students' higher education (The Knights Templar).

⁵ \$75 in 1941 is roughly the equivalent of \$1300 in 2018 USD (DollarTimes).

⁶ Compensate or atone for ("to make good"). The sender is assuring Tompkins he won't actually have to pay for him, because he won't default.

immediately so I can send your name in.

I hope to hear from you soon. Also send me the receipt for the \$10.00.

a friend,
Marvin [A Gerald]

Works Cited

Austin, Suelle Reece. "Dan Tompkins: Mountain Editor." MA Thesis, Western Carolina U. 1966.

Dollar Times. H Brothers, 2018, www.dollartimes.com.

Jackson County Genealogical Society. *Jackson County Heritage*. Wallsworth Publishing, 1992.

Special Collections Accession Form. Western Carolina University Special and Digital Collections, Hunter Library MSS 80-14.

"to make good, (b)." OED Online, Oxford University Press, December 2018, www.oed.com/viewdictionaryentry. Accessed 12 December 2018.

The Knights Templar Educational Foundation. "The Knights Templar Educational Foundation Supports Higher Education Through Grants and Scholarships." n.d.