

Harry Warner's Letter to Leonard Kephart
September 25, 1927

Manuscript: HL_MSS22-04_10_61_03

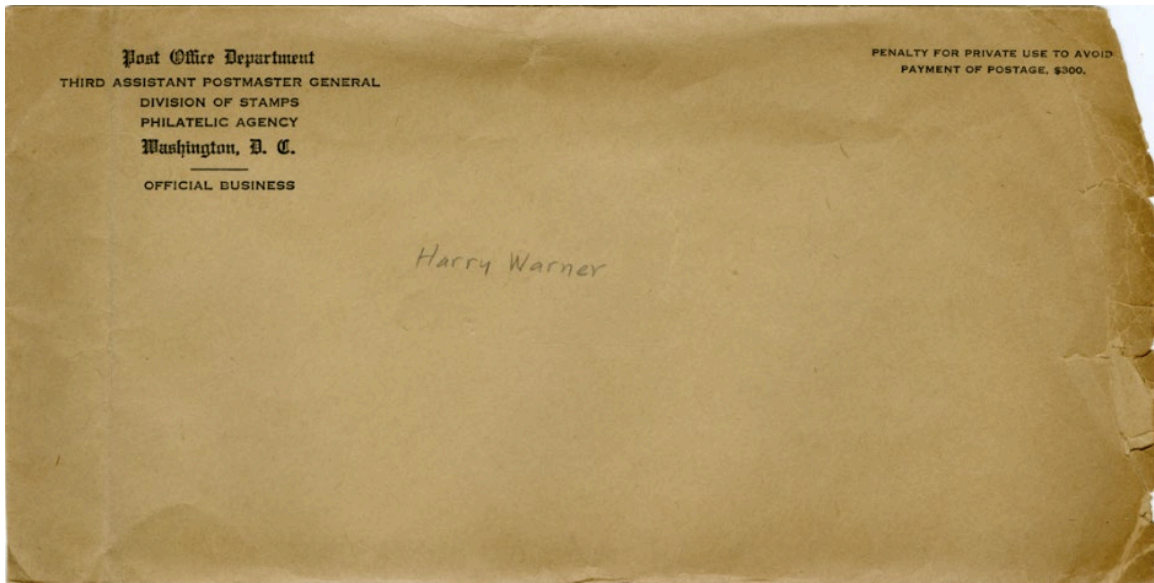


Figure 1: Envelope in which the manuscript and additional contents were enclosed.

Transcribed by L. Danzis

For English 618: Research Methods in English

Instructor: Dr. Brian Gastle

December 9, 2024

Introduction to the Series

This transcription and its attendant annotations, explanatory material, and bibliography was prepared by students in ENGL 618: Research Methods in English, the required gateway class for the MA in English degree program at Western Carolina University (WCU). 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 the editorial work of others.

All work is presented as submitted by the graduate students. While they take great care with their transcriptions and annotations, errors are possible. As they learn throughout this class, good scholarship requires meticulous research and corroboration by authoritative sources. Our objective is to provide transcriptions and annotations of WCU's Special Collections materials that will be useful to the institution, students, scholars, patrons, and all users of our library's resources.

If you wish to submit an emendation or correction for this document, please email Dr. Brian Gastle (bgastle@wcu.edu).

Introduction to the Document

This manuscript is a letter from Harry William Warner, friend and colleague of agronomist and botanist Leonard Kephart (son of writer Horace Kephart). At the time, Kephart was away on a research expedition for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, gathering samples of grasses used for forage in eastern Africa (present day Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda) in a trip that would span a total of nine months (May 4, 1927 – February 14, 1928).

Harry William Warner was born May 16, 1894 in De Smet, South Dakota to William Ellsworth Warner and Harriett Warner (née Morrison). He was the third eldest of seven children. Harry and his wife, Nellie Warner (née Rowe; later Remsen), had two surviving sons, Robert and John. Though Harry did not go with Leonard on the voyage to Africa, he lived an exciting life of his own. The South Dakota Historical Society describes him as “the member of his [high school] class who went the furthest professionally and geographically” (Miller 204). In WWI he served as an officer in the balloon division of the U.S. Air Service. After the war, during his studies at Iowa State University, he “oversaw production of *Pay Dirt*, the first complete film ever produced at the college” (Miller 204). Harry would continue dabbling in film during his time with the National Fertilizer Association and would later go on to experiment with television in 1931. In 1932, at only 38 years of age, he took his own life.

In the letter, Harry tells “Kep” the goings-on at home in the Takoma Park, M.D. / Washington, D.C. area where both men resided. He discusses some orders of business for the Presbyterian Brotherhood club (expressing derogatory and racist views of the time, offering Leonard participation in “the next annual Minstrel Show” following his return from Africa). He then gives Leonard an update on both of their gardens, mentions his own recent trip to Iowa and South Dakota, and exchanges USDA gossip that Secretary of Agriculture Jardine may soon resign. Harry mentions two events of particular excitement: listening to the radio broadcast of the notorious boxing rematch between Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, and attending one of the first performances at the Fox Theater in the National Press Club building in D.C. In the last section of his letter, Harry provides updates on the health of mutual friends and acquaintances, concluding by reflecting on the one-year anniversary of his firstborn son’s untimely death. He says the anniversary “has been a blue one,” and confides in Leonard that while “it all seems so useless, at times” and he feels he can’t share these bleak thoughts with anyone, he can “write them to a few – and only a few.” He concludes the letter abruptly after this, wishing Leonard and the rest of the expedition well, and implores him to return home safely. The letter ends here, but in a separate short note he asks Leonard for enlargements of some enclosed exposures, requesting the negatives as well as the printed photos. However, it is doubtful Harry ever received these photos or negatives, as the letter was unsent, the note “This letter written but not read by anyone” handwritten along the side of the first page.

Contemporary readers can only guess why Harry did not send the letter after all the time he spent writing it (at least over the span of two days, indicated by his “Tues. A.M.” annotation when he shifts to handwriting). On one hand, perhaps Harry decided to save his updates and request for images until Leonard’s return (though it would not be for several months), or perhaps he simply forgot to mail it. Another theory is that he *never* intended to send the letter, writing it instead as a

way of processing troubled feelings that he felt he could not share aloud with anyone. However, I speculate that Harry initially wrote the letter with every intention of mailing it (expressly stating that he is going to the trouble of writing the letter on a typewriter so Leonard “may find time to read it”), but after such a vulnerable disclosure of his depressed state, ultimately decided against it. Though it is not for modern readers to speculate on why Harry ended his life, the knowledge that it happened only five years after the time of writing hangs heavy over this letter, making it an emotionally complex document.

For this reason, the letter would be a fascinating object of study for anyone interested in historical friendships, particularly those between men. While at first glance the letter appears to be *about* nothing in particular—simply providing updates and gossip for a friend away from home—the final pages reveal the depth of Harry’s friendship with Leonard, calling him one of “only a few” people in whom he can confide his grief. In Western societies—particularly in the 21st and late 20th centuries—sociologists have remarked that “many men’s social support systems are romantically centered, with fewer men than women reporting regular emotional disclosure and intimacy outside of heterosexual romantic bonds” (Ferrara & Vergara 391). It would be interesting for scholars to compare and juxtapose Harry’s letter to Leonard within that context. How was their friendship and the emotions disclosed (or not disclosed) different or similar from modern male friendships?

It would also be interesting for those studying the USDA, NFA, and other national agricultural associations of the early twentieth century. The history of the National Fertilizer Association is a bit convoluted, with various precedent organizations forming, disbanding, and reforming between 1883-1894. In a 1948 article for *The Scientific Monthly*, former Executive Secretary and Treasurer Charles Brand provides a detailed timeline of the Association’s evolution from 1894 forward, noting its origins as “a voluntary, unincorporated body,” and its eventual change to a corporation “under the laws of Maryland” (35). He also provides details on the Association’s activities, noting “one of its earliest activities in 1925 and 1926 was to redraft the model state fertilizer law ... and to assist states in adapting it to their individual needs” (37). The Association was never large—at its largest, in the years between 1930-1940, it had 525 active and 44 associate members nationally (46). The NFA’s activities at the time of Harry’s letter—primarily educating farmers on the benefits of fertilizer—are especially interesting when considering the looming Dust Bowl of the 1930s. The speculation in Harry’s letter that Jardine may soon resign is a humorous tidbit, particularly his relief on behalf of farmers, and his joking encouragement that Leonard apply if the Secretary position were to become available.

Lastly, this letter may be of interest to scholars of the Kephart family, detailing their neighbors and lives from a third-party perspective, or to scholars studying the history of the Takoma Park, M.D. neighborhood (or the broader D.C. area). Harry’s accounts of cultural touchstones of the time, such as attending a Roxy show at the Fox and listening to the broadcast of the Dempsey-Tunney fight, may add to the document’s intrigue for scholars interested in the 1920s.

Editorial Statement

This is a fascinating manuscript for several reasons. The first is that it is both typed and handwritten. The first 1 ½ pages are typewritten with marginal handwritten notes; the remaining 2 ½ pages are handwritten. The second is that the full letter is on National Fertilizer Association letterhead. I have included Harry's post-script request for prints and negatives, along with the exposures themselves, in "Appendix B: Enclosed Request & Images" (note, the request is handwritten and not on NFA letterhead). The third item that makes this letter so fascinating is that, as mentioned above, the letter was not mailed. All contents were enclosed in the "Official Business" envelope displayed in Figure 1; the "Harry Warner" written in the center is not in Harry Warner's hand, and seems anachronistic to other penmanship of the period, indicating that it was likely added at a later date. (The "1927" in the letter's date appears to be handwritten in the same hand.)

On the subject of Harry's penmanship, it is fairly neat and has stood the test of time well, in that the ink has not faded. This was a boon when verifying the authorship of the note on page 1 ("This letter written but not read by anyone"). Harry has a distinctive way of forming the lowercase letter *b*; comparing the word "but" in the note on page 1 with the word "better" in the first sentence of page 3 shows the handwriting is identical. He was also meticulous, correcting most spelling errors and adding marginal notations that, if Leonard were to read it, would provide clarity. This made transcribing the document diplomatically—in other words, preserving spelling or grammatical errors, as well as the NFA letterhead—challenging. I approached this as follows:

- The full letter is written on NFA letterhead (showing on odd numbered pages, with even numbered pages written on the blank backs of the pages). However, for ease of reading, I have not replicated it, instead providing an image of the letterhead in "Appendix A: NFA Letterhead." Note that "H.W. Warner, Editorial Agronomist" is in red ink, while the rest of the letterhead is in black ink. Though the letterhead is typed, I have provided a list of referenced personnel in "Appendix A."
- I have replicated the letter's line breaks.
- Marginalia is written where appropriate in parenthetical italics, with notation of where on the original page it appeared.
- There are two spelling errors Harry meant to correct. I have corrected them in the transcription for the reader's ease, and since the intention was made clear:
 - Page 1, paragraph 3, line 2: "We palm" includes the handwritten stenographer's mark to swap the *a* and *l* to "plan".
 - Page 2, paragraph 1, line 5: The second *a* in "studiously avavoided" includes the handwritten stenographer's mark to be removed.
 - There is also a word that Harry second-guessed, "peonies" (page 1, paragraph 4, line 3), typed correctly but with the *i* later struck through. I have included this strikethrough.
- There are also a handful of words in the typed section that appear to have been typed over to correct misspellings (for example, "offensive" in page 1, paragraph 2, line 7, appears to

initially have been typed “offensice,” with the corrected *v* typed over the initial *c*). In these cases, I have used the intended correct spelling for ease of reading.

- On page 2, paragraph 3, line 6, the word “the” before “Phillip Carlin” is struck through. I have included this, but this was likely meant to be underlined to emphasize the stakes of the historic fight.
- I have included a note in bold to indicate when Harry switched from typing to handwriting.

One last note: I was able to identify most individuals Harry mentions through Ancestry Library Edition with relative certainty (especially those with connections to the USDA). However, there are some I was not able to identify, or to identify with any degree of certainty (particularly those with only a first, last, or nickname given.) These individuals are denoted with the footnote “Unknown.”

Transcription

[MS page 1]

Sunday September 25, 1927

(Handwritten along the left side of the page: "This letter written but not read by anyone.")

Dear Kep:

My only purpose in writing this on the machine¹ is that you may find time to read it.

Just got home from taking your wife, Jane and Buddy² to the church³ to a special musical service put on by David Roberts of the Lib. Of Cong.⁴ who is quite a musician and has composed a number of hymns. We had a fine supper over to your house and I only want to say that Frances has lost none of her culinary traits so you'd better cut short that African offensive – I can only approximate how offensive some of it must be – and come back to Takoma⁵ where you can find 'em just as wild and savage as darkest Africa could ever hope to make 'em.

Have had a big kick from your letters and the pictures. We plan to take excerpts from them and piece them together into a big letter to be read to the Brotherhood⁶ when we have a big opening dinner on October 26,⁷ as if it were addressed to the club itself. Hank Allanson is president,⁸ the undersigned is v.p.⁹ Thomas is secretary,¹⁰ and Simmons is treasurer.¹¹ Have discovered a pianist in the organization – Mr. Boyer¹² – and hope to give them

¹ Referring to the use of the typewriter.

² Leonard Kephart's family: wife Frances Frazer Kephart, daughter Jane, and son George (known familiarly as "Bud" or "Buddy").

³ Likely Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, of which Leonard was a member.

⁴ Likely Library of Congress employee David E. Roberts ("U.S. City Directories"). The hymnal *The Voice of Thanksgiving No. 3* (published 1921) attributes David E. Roberts as the composer (and, as of 1915, copyright holder) of the hymn "God Holds the Key."

⁵ Takoma Park, Maryland; suburb of Washington, D.C. where Harry and Leonard resided.

⁶ The Presbyterian Brotherhood (*Washington Post*, 1927).

⁷ From the *Washington Post*, 1927: "...a 'Kick Off' dinner and evening of song would inaugurate the winter activities of the brotherhood ... H.W. Warner is chairman of the committee an [sic] arrangements, assisted by Peter Remsen [who would later marry Harry's widow], J. Oscar Foulk, and F. Joy Hopkins, who will have charge of tickets, and H. C. Metcalf, in charge of the program. Short snappy talks and lively songs will supplement a song festival presented by the brotherhood male chorus."

⁸ Henry C. Allanson (*Washington Post*, 1927).

⁹ Harry Warner was, in fact, the club's Vice President (*Washington Post*, 1927).

¹⁰ C.C. Thomas (*Washington Post*, 1927).

¹¹ Winn T. Simmons (*Washington Post*, 1927).

¹² Unknown.

[MS page 1]

much song during the coming sessions. Just give me the word and I'll grease the skids so that the next annual Minstrel Show¹ will be dated one month after your arrival home – just long enough for you to take charge, do most of the work, and referee one oral joust between myself and Huff.² Don't let memories of the last show keep you from coming back to face the paid admissions of that nightmare.³

Went over your garden this evening. Things are doing well and that includes the weeds. Nothing is suffering as it has been a cool and moist summer. There will be a lot of mums, the peonies are looking fine and everthing else is O.K.⁴ Have pulled the weeds around things that might be injured otherwise. My 7 weeks trip was rather hard on two gardens – your and mine. Hired a young fellow to look after my place which he did. The place was still here and the lawn well cared for, but he understood me to say that I wanted to kill the weeds in the garden by over-feeding, too much water and general pampering. Seldom have weeds done so well without some special encouragement or fertilizer treatment.

Our trip was a very good one but rather long and at times tiresome. It afforded an opportunity to get 2 weeks vacation in Iowa and S.D. by making a business trip out of it going and coming.

¹ "A ... band of entertainers, typically white performers with blackened faces, performing songs and music associated with the black communities of the southern United States. Although such performances were formerly a popular form of entertainment, they are now generally regarded as offensive" (*Oxford English Dictionary*, "minstrel"). Harry's implication that Leonard will be well-suited to stage a minstrel show after his experiences in Africa reflects racist (and unfortunately widespread) views towards Black Americans and culture predominant of this era (as does his earlier comment on the "wild and savage" people of "darkest Africa").

² Unknown.

³ Possibly referring to the Brotherhood's November 1926 program, featuring the Lyric Mandolin and Guitar orchestra, along with "a talk by Prof. U. S. S. Dunbar, who, while molding racial types in clay, told about the fundamentals of the art of sculpturing. Other attractive features were two songs by a double mixed quartet and communal singing of war and old-time songs" (*Washington Post*, 1926).

⁴ Leonard most likely would have been relieved to hear this, as he was a member of the Takoma Horticultural Club and the American Peony Society.

under separate cover

The enclosed ^ Fert. Reviews¹ will recount my narrow escapes from road-hogs, speed-reptiles and foot-pads (alias garagemen).

There are rumors that Jardine² may resign to become the “Landis”³ of the Florida Citrus Coops.⁴ at something like \$35,000 per.⁵ I hope he takes it in order to make room for a secretary who can and will think and get a grasp of the farm problem which he has so far studiously avoided. Kind of rough on your chief, n’est-ce-pas? He’s alright I guess but doesn’t savvy what it’s all about.

Cal⁶ says he doesn’t “choose” to run and he doesn’t seem to choo ‘is words⁷ when he says it. Shall I mention your name and for what party, or do you want your own party? Can go no farther until I hear from you.

Our radio that you helped uncrate is a fine one and it has brot us some fine programs with a good winetr schedule promised. The Dempsey-Tunney disturbance⁸ was about the most thrilling thing ever put on the air. Suppose you have heard all about it by this time Ten people over the country died of heart failure when they heard

¹ While no reviews were enclosed in the envelope, the handwritten note (added after typing, perhaps at the same time Harry wrote his note on page 1 that the letter was “not read by anyone”) implies the reviews could have been mailed in a separate letter (“separate cover”).

² William Marion Jardine (1879-1955). Secretary of Agriculture from 1925-1929, and U.S. Minister to Egypt from 1930-1933.

³ Likely refers to Benson Y. Landis, Secretary of the “rural committee” of the Department of Research and Education, a division of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. In 1927 Landis (through the Department) published *Social Aspects of Agricultural Credit*, an “educational bulletin” examining “the interest of religious bodies in agricultural credit” from 1920-1927. Unclear what “[becoming] the ‘Landis’ of the Florida Citrus Coops.” implies, as Jardine was rumored to have been offered a managership position.

⁴ Florida Citrus Cooperative Marketing Association. As it happens, Harry’s “rumors” had been disproven on September 14, with the *Washington Post* reporting that Earl Wirt (president of the Association) and C. C. Commander (general manager) “had interviewed the Agricultural Secretary relative to the citrus industry, but with no authorization to represent the Florida industry as a whole, and denied that any offer had been made to Mr. Jardine.”

⁵ Nearly \$635,000 in 2024.

⁶ Unknown.

⁷ Likely “chew his words” (“chew” in this instance meaning “to consider”).

⁸ The infamous September 22, 1927 boxing match between Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, referred to as “Dempsey-Tunney II” as it was their second match (the first was September 23, 1926). Also referred to as “the Long Count Fight” for the delayed count when Dempsey knocked Tunney out in the seventh round but refused to go to a neutral corner; Tunney rose at the official count of 9, but because of the “long count” his eventual victory was hotly contested.

[MS page 2]

~~the~~ Phillip Carlin¹ describe the 7th round when Tunney took 9 counts.

We and the Palethorpes² took in the show at the new Fox theatre in the Press Club Building.³ Roxy's gang⁴ was there in a number of wonderful and beautiful musical, singing, and dancing acts. Very high class – much more so than you would expect after hearing them over radio.

[shift from typed to handwritten]

Tues. A.M. At that point I was interrupted + am finishing this while marking time before a meeting of our Soil Improvement Committee⁵ + then leave tonight for 3 days in Louisville at a joint meeting of farm paper editors, fertilizer people + agronomists.⁶ Trying to get things rolling for a big campaign to educate farmers to advantage of fertilizer.⁷

Had a nice visit with David Wilkins⁸ when in Ames. He is feeling pretty well but is still on a diet + probably always will be. That's pretty tough on a young fellow of ambition + ability. I hope he can get out of such strenuous work sometime soon.

Everybody around here is well, I believe.

¹ Broadcaster Phillips Carlin (1894-1971) of WNBC (formerly WEAf). Carlin was one of two broadcasters of the match, the other being his "radio twin" and fellow WNBC broadcaster Graham McNamee.

² Likely Raymond R. Pailthorp (and wife, Isabel Pailthorp), fellow employee of the USDA.

³ "Movie palace," part of a theater chain owned by William Fox, located in the National Press Club building in Washington, D.C. Opened September 19, 1927, so less than a week old when Harry wrote this letter.

⁴ Impresario Samuel "Roxy" Rothafel (1882-1936). Rothafel found stardom in the early days of radio (and would go on to find it, to a lesser extent, in vaudeville and film as well), and worked so closely with William Fox that Fox changed the D.C. theater's name to "the Fox-Roxy."

⁵ "The function of the Committee is to aid in the extension of research and the spread of the knowledge of agronomy and the use of fertilizer" (Shelton 125).

⁶ Referring to the September 1927 conference sponsored by the NFA. Of this, Charles Brand wrote in 1948: "Not only did the NFA bring about the hearty cooperation of the [fertilizer] industry, but it coordinated efforts of all other affected agencies in these matters," praising the conference as an example of such collaboration (38).

⁷ Brand stated in 1948 that "too little is known by the public and farmers about the removal of plant food by crops and erosion" (33). The mission of the NFA was to educate farmers on the role of fertilizer in healthy soil, and in turn healthy crops.

⁸ Unknown.

You know Mrs. Remsen¹ had been ill but is now much better. Mr. Samson,² Pinks³ boss, died in July as you probably have heard. Bonney's lost their nine year-old boy.⁴ I know what he is going through and I only hope he may find more consolation at the end of a year than I have found.⁵ The only thing that helps is work and at times I have little heart for that. It all seems so useless, at times, to think that we can have them long enough to feel that we can't give them up, and then they are taken. If it weren't for that spark of hope and faith that we will have him again someday there would be little desire to stay on + suffer the anguish that nobody can know until it has broken their family circle. I could not say these things to anyone, but I can write them to a few – and only a few.

¹ After Harry's death in 1932, his widow, Nellie Rowe Warner, married Peter Remsen in 1934. "Mrs. Remsen" likely refers to Peter's mother, Kitty Remsen (née Konwenhoven; 1861-1930).

² Likely Harold W. Samson (1888-1927), employed in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (a division of the USDA).

³ Nickname for an unknown mutual acquaintance of Harry and Leonard, referred to in some of Leonard Kephart's letters home.

⁴ Victor Bonney (wife Rose Bonney), employee of the U.S. FDA. His son, William Robert Bonney, passed away July 11, 1927.

⁵ Harry's firstborn son, William Rowe Warner (1922-1926), passed away only a year before at the age of 4.

[MS page 4]

This month marks the first anniversary¹ +
it has been a blue one. I hope
another year may find the wound a
little more healed – time is all that
can do it, they say.

Well, Kep, you are having the experience
of a lifetime, + we all know you are
making the most of it. Your letters are
fine but it will be better to hear of
it from you in person. Take care
of yourself – you have a world of your
own to come back to and it's up to
you to come back in health + all
together.

Give my regards + best wishes to
Piemeisel.² With sincerest best wishes
+ good luck to yourself I am ever

Yours sincerely
Harry Warner

¹ Of William Rowe Warner's death (September 5, 1926).

² Robert L. Piemeisel (1889-1972). USDA plant physiologist who accompanied Kephart on his expedition to Africa.

Annotated Bibliography

Ancestry Library Edition. Ancestry.com.

I was able to locate many of Harry's fellow USDA employees and Takoma Park neighbors in census and draft records available through Ancestry.

Brand, Charles J. "The National Fertilizer Association." *The Scientific Monthly*, vol. 66, no. 1 (January 1948), pp. 33-46. *JSTOR*.

This overview by the former NFA Executive Secretary and Treasurer was instrumental in understanding the Association's history and mission.

"Certificate of Death, Harry W. Warnier." *Delaware, U.S., Death Records, 1861-1933*. Delaware Public Archives. *Ancestry.com*. Accessed 3 December 2024.

It took me some time to locate the details of Harry's untimely passing. Despite the misspelled last name in Ancestry's catalogue, the personal information recorded on the certificate—place of birth, parentage, spouse, age, date of death, and occupation—are all a perfect match for Harry Warner.

Ferrara, Angelica P., and Dylan P. Vergara. "Theorizing Mankeeping: The Male Friendship Recession and Women's Associated Labor as a Structural Component of Gender Inequality." *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, vol. 25, no. 4 (2024), pp. 391-401.

This article was cited to provide context for modern readers on emotion in male friendships, specifically regarding speculation on why Harry may not have sent his letter after being emotionally vulnerable with Lenoard.

Gustkey, Earl. "Dempsey-Tunney II: The Long Count Fight: On This Night, Time Stood Still." *Los Angeles Times*. 22 September 1987.

This article provided a detailed account of the Dempsey-Tunney rematch, the context leading up to it, and its legacy.

"In the Capital Suburbs." *The Washington Post*, 28 November 1926. *ProQuest Historical Newspaper Collection*. Accessed 2 December 2024.

This column provided the overview of the Presbyterian Brotherhood's 1926 festivities.

"In the Capital Suburbs." *The Washington Post*, 23 October 1927. *ProQuest Historical Newspaper Collection*. Accessed 2 December 2024.

This column provided the overview of the Presbyterian Brotherhood's 1927 festivities and leadership (and confirmed that Peter Remsen and Harry Warner were acquaintances or friends.)

Landis, Benson Y. *Social Aspects of Agricultural Credit*. Department of Research and Education (Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America), 1927. *New York Public Library Online*. Accessed 27 November 2024.

This book explained Harry's reference to "Landis," and demonstrated the kind of work Landis did.

"Leonard Wheeler Kephart Obituary." *The Washington Post*, 12 February 1988. *FindAGrave.com*. Accessed 24 November 2024.

Provided biographical information on Leonard Kephart and his family.

Melnick, Ross. "'It's the Roxy and I'm Roxy': Building the Brand and the Roxy Theatre (1925–1927)." *American Showman: Samuel "Roxy" Rothafel and the Birth of the Entertainment Industry, 1908-1935*, Columbia University Press, 2012, pp. 251–305. *JSTOR*. Accessed 26 November 2024.

This source provided valuable context on who "Roxy" was, Rothafel's relationship to William Fox, and the Fox Theater in the Press Club building.

Miller, John E. "End of an Era: De Smet High School Class of 1912," *South Dakota History*. South Dakota State Historical Society, 1990.

This chapter on De Smet High School provided a surprising amount of information on Harry, including where he was born, who his parents were, when he died, and a brief account of his life before and during his time with the NFA.

National Agricultural Library. U.S. Department of Agriculture. *NAL.usda.gov*.

Used to locate information on USDA employees mentioned in the letter, including William Jardine, Leonard Kephart, Robert Piemeisel, and Harold Samson.

"NPC Timeline." National Press Club. *Press.org*. Accessed 25 November 2024.

This timeline clarified how new the Fox Theater was at the time of Harry and the Pailthorps' visit.

"Offer of Citrus Post To Jardine is Denied." *The Washington Post*, 15 September 1927. *ProQuest Historical Newspaper Collection*. Accessed 2 December 2024.

This snippet clarified what the "Florida Citrus Coops." was, and dispelled Harry's rumors (and hopes) that Jardine had accepted the position.

Oxford English Dictionary. Oxford University Press, 2024. *OED.com*.

Used to provide definition and context for the Brotherhood's proposed minstrel show.

“Phillips Carlin, Broadcaster, 77.” Obituary in *The New York Times*. 28 August 1971.

Context for “the Phillip [sic] Carlin” Harry mentions, detailing Carlin’s impact and legacy on the broadcasting industry.

Shelton, W. Arthur. “The Activities of the National Fertilizer Association.” *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, vol. 24, no. 165 (March 1929), pp. 125-129. *JSTOR*.

This source provided further information on the Soil Improvement Committee.

The Voice of Thanksgiving No. 3. The Moody Bible Institute, 1921. *Hymnary.org*. Accessed 3 December 2024.

This source provided confirmation that a “David E. Roberts” composed hymns during this period.

“Tunney-Dempsey Match Tonight at 10 O’Clock.” *The Boston Globe*. 22 September 1927, p. 22.

Primary source providing context for the excitement leading up to the Dempsey-Tunney rematch.

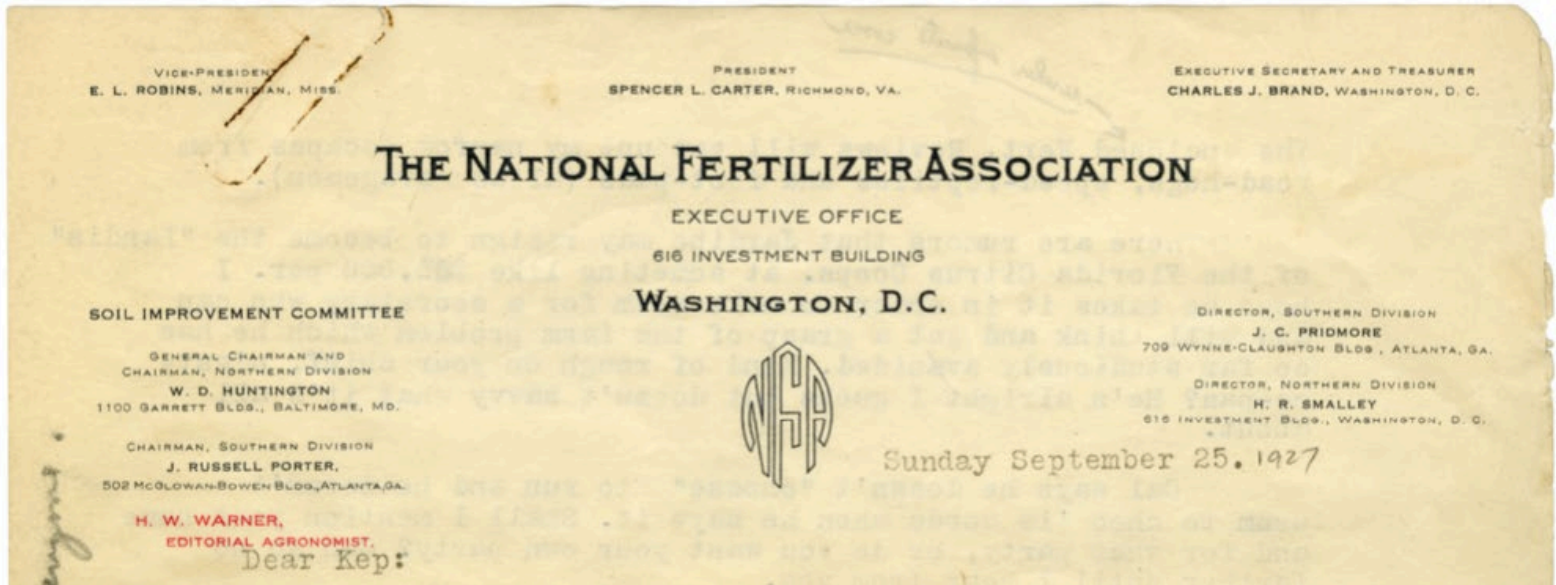
“U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995.” *Ancestry.com*. Accessed 3 December 2024.

In the 1927 Washington, D.C. entry, I was able to identify a David E. Roberts employed by the Library of Congress. While I cannot be certain this was the same David Roberts who performed at Harry’s church, it seems likely.

U.S. Inflation Calculator. *USInflationCalculator.com*. Accessed 24 November 2024.

Used to put Jardine’s alleged offer to join the Florida Citrus Cooperative Association into perspective for contemporary readers.

Appendix A: NFA Letterhead



NFA Executive Office: 616 Investment Building, Washington, D.C.

NFA Personnel:

- President: Spencer L. Carter
 - Richmond, V.A.
- Vice President: E. L. Robins
 - Meridian, M.S.
- Executive Secretary and Treasurer: Charles J. Brand
 - Washington, D.C.

Soil Improvement Committee Personnel:

- General Chairman and Chairman, Northern Division: W. D. Huntington
 - 1100 Garrett Bldg., Baltimore, M.D.
- Director, Northern Division: H. R. Smalley
 - 616 Investment Bldg., Washington, D.C.
- Chairman, Southern Division: J. Russell Porter
 - 502 McGlowan-Bowen Bldg., Atlanta, G.A.
- Director, Southern Division: J.C. Pridmore
 - 709 Wynne-Claughton Bldg., Atlanta, G.A.

Appendix B: Enclosed Request & Images

Kep-

Can I get 2
enlargements each
of the exposures marked
(also edge-marked to help
locate on film)?

Also would like the
negatives when prints are
sent to me

HWW

