



*Archival and Manuscript Collections Finding Aid*

**ACCESSION No.:** HRHS - 131

**COLLECTION TITLE:** Rockingham County Selective Service Board Records, 1940-1950

**DATES:** 1940-1950

**SIZE:** 11 folders.

**DONOR:** Pricilla Blosser-Rainey

**PROCESSED:** Processed 09/10/2014

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

These papers belonged to J. O. Beard and when he died, his daughter and donor, Priscilla Blosser-Rainey came by the papers. The following excerpt is from her memories of her father regarding the draft board:

“Mr. Beard did not want to serve on the draft board, but often stated someone had to do it. His friend Mr. Harpine from Broadway talked him into it. Daddy was a duty-bound person and civic minded always. Mother later said he was never the same after the War. Our cousin Mary Lee Keller wondered why he was not a fun loving cut-up like he used to be as a younger person. My sister, Mary Beard Mehegan and I remember there was always a line of cars in front of our house during the war. People came to visit him asking (begging) not to send their son. He lamented he could not do a thing outside the draft board office, but they came anyway. He was always polite as they sat in the living room talking. It was very solemn and sad time. I can remember conversations about who had two sons or who had men working on the farm and who had no one. There were some who cheated about where they lived and what they did at that time. Most farmers were very honest and hard working. Farm work was considered essential war work providing food for the military service men. Mr. Beard ran for Rockingham County Treasurer in 1951-52 ‘to see if someone who served on the draft board for ten years could run for public office’. The answer was no. He was not elected. He had been in the VA House of Delegates two terms 1930-34.”

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

This collection contains records of the Rockingham County Selective Service Board during World War II, 1940s-1950s, specifically the activities of the “Draft Board”. Included is a Governor’s certificate appointing J. O. Beard to the Selective Service Board on October 10, 1940, correspondences, local board member directory and booklets.

**COLLECTION INVENTORY:**

**Folder 1:** Governor's certificate appointing J. O. Beard to the Selective Service Board of Rockingham County, October 10, 1940;  
Registration of classes for the selective service.

**Folder 2:** Amendment 1-402 (p.3) (2 copies) dated April 29, 1942;  
Resignation from Selective Service Board due to ill health, January 4, 1945;  
Letter re: John Funkhouser replacing Mr. Beard (2 copies), January 15, 1945;  
Resignation letter of board members, February 15, 1945;  
Letter to J. O. Beard re: resignation, March 17, 1945;  
Letter to J. O. Beard re: resignation, May 16, 1945;  
Appointment for J.O. Beard to Selective Service from Governor, Oct 10, 1940;  
Local board members directory October 16, 1940 – May 16, 1947;  
Booklet- Rights and benefits of veterans;  
Envelope- registration/duties of selective service.

**Folder 3:** Memorandum to state directors, March 16, 1942;  
The Great Game of Politics by Frank Kent, 1942;  
Copy of Selective Service regulations, April 23, 1942;  
Copy of volunteer officer candidates;  
Memo 430, May 4, 1942, Selective Service Board;  
Memo I- 419, April 29, 1942, Classification of aliens;  
Memo 429, May 4, 1942, Volunteer officer candidates;  
Amendment 46 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), April 23, 1942, Selective Service regulations;  
Memo I-416, April 21, 1942, Dependency classifications classes IV A Classes B;  
Occupational certificate for registrants deferred by reason of dependency;  
Memo 431, Amendment 46, memo to all state directors;  
Memo 1-29, Aliens registration of and conditions governing acceptance by Army;  
Letter from Lewis Hershey to members of Selective Service, December 20, 1943;  
Classifications as of February 28, 1943, confidential, 3 sheets;  
Report to members of local boards, August 7, 1943, confidential;  
Analysis of classification reports, letter 1, October 20, 1943;  
Questionnaire Occupational Selective Service End of Envelope materials.

**Folder 4:** Book (no cover). August 17, 1942, National Headquarters, D.C.;

**Folder 5:** Index master list 2<sup>nd</sup> (July 1, 1941) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (February 16, 1942).

**Folder 6:** Envelope Selective Service Local Board Memo March 11, 1946, visit March 28, 1946 re: luncheon, for Governor.

**Folder 7:** Index of opinions 1-23;  
Letter to add index of opinions;  
Numbered memos.

**Folder 8:** Memos to state directors No. 167-436 (some gaps in dates)

**Folder 9:** Memos to local board No. 30-625 (some gaps in dates).

**Folder 10:** Occupational bulletins No. 1-15.

**Folder 11:** Miscellaneous Selective service information.