

Title: Papenthien Family Collection

Reference Code: Mss-2643

Inclusive Dates: ca. 1903 – 1932

Quantity: 000.03 cu. ft.

Location: Sm Mss

Abstract: Richard W. Papenthien's parents immigrated to the U.S. from Berlin, Germany, ca. 1867, when Richard was six weeks old. Richard eventually established a grocery in Chicago, but he and his wife Olive (d. November 1, 1959) moved to Milwaukee ca. 1898 and operated a confection/ice cream shop at 2517 Walnut Street until 1904. Thereafter, Richard worked as a commercial agent and grocer until his death in November 1935. His son, Roy Oliver Papenthien, served as a master engineer with the 107th Engineers, 32nd Division, during World War I. After the war, he became a well-known architect in the area.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of postcards Richard sent to Olive during his travels as a commercial agent as well as postcards and correspondence Roy sent during the war to his parents and sister Ruby. Also included is a 1909 placard from Milwaukee Sentinel Carriers, a "Welcome Home" Boston Store Sign, ca. 1919, a wrapper from Papenthien's Candy Store, an advertisement for Papenthien's Grocery in Chicago, and a Depression-era prescription form for medicinal liquor (1932).

Access and Use: No restrictions

Language: English

Notes: The collection was donated by Lynda Monahan, May 2021.