

**JAMES O. EASTLAND COLLECTION**  
**FILE SERIES 1: PERSONAL/POLITICAL**  
**SUBSERIES 9: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/VIRGINIA SIMMERMAN**

At one time, Virginia Simmerman was a secretary in U.S. Senator Theodore G. Bilbo's office. She then briefly worked at the War Department before taking a position as Eastland's secretary in 1943. Simmerman remained with the senator until 1951. Most of the correspondence is personal in nature, with some requests for assistance with the government or discussions of Mississippi politics. Of particular note is one folder devoted to the christening of the steamship "Victory Pontotoc" in January 1945 at the Bethlehem-Fairfield Shipyard in Baltimore, Maryland. A native of Pontotoc, Simmerman was chosen as the "Sponsor" for the occasion and thus assisted with the arrangements for the christening ceremony.

**BOX 1: 1942 – NO DATE**

Folder 1-1. 1942

Folder 1-2. 1943

Folder 1-3. 1944

Folder 1-4. 1944-1945 -- Christening of Steamship "Victory Pontotoc"

Folder 1-5. 1945

Folder 1-6. 1946

Folder 1-7. 1947

Folder 1-8. 1948

Folder 1-9. 1949

Folder 1-10. 1950

Folder 1-11. 1951

Folder 1-12. 1952

Folder 1-13. 1953

Folder 1-14. 1954

Folder 1-15. 1955

Folder 1-16. 1956

Folder 1-17. 1957

Folder 1-18. 1958

Folder 1-19. 1959

Folder 1-20. 1960

Folder 1-21. 1961

Folder 1-22. 1962

Folder 1-23. 1978

Folder 1-24. No date