

# Martin Luther Brown, Warden, Moundsville Penitentiary Records, ca. 1910-1920 A&M 3786

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## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

A&M 3786

**Unit ID**

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/2237

**Unit Date**

ca. 1910-1920

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Records of Warden Martin Luther Brown of Moundsville Penitentiary. Includes series of historical information, incoming letters (mostly from inmates to Warden Brown), and photographs (related to Moundsville Penitentiary). The date range of the series of incoming letters (1911-1914) corresponds to Martin Brown's tenure as Warden.

**Creator**

Brown, Martin Luther

**Creator**

Moundsville, Penitentiary

**Extent**

0.5 Linear Feet Summary: 5 1/2 in. (1 document case, 2 1/2 in.; 2 flat storage boxes, 1 1/2 in. each)

**Physical Location**

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/>

**Repository**

West Virginia and Regional History Center

## Administrative Information

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[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Martin Luther Brown, Warden, Moundsville Penitentiary Records, A&M 3786, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

## Scope and Contents

Records of Warden Martin Luther Brown of Moundsville Penitentiary. This collection apparently consists of Brown's records, since his tenure (1911-1914) corresponds to the date range of the series of his incoming letters (1911-1914).

The collection is organized into five series, including:

Series 1. Historical Records; 1914, undated (box 1, folder 1)

Series 2. Miscellaneous; 1908, 1912, undated (box 1, folder 2)

Series 3. Manuscript; ca. 1911 (box 1, folder 3)

Series 4. Incoming Letters; ca. 1910-1914 (box 1, folders 4-9)

Series 5. Photographs; ca. 1900-1920 (box 1, folders 10-14; boxes 2-3)

## Keywords

Moundsville (W. Va.)

Poetry.

West Virginia University. President (Hodges, Thomas)

West Virginia. State Penitentiary

Brown, Martin Luther

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Series 1. Historical Records (box 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156583

Unit Date 1914, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

#### Scope and Contents

This series includes clippings from the "Wheeling Sunday News" reporting some of the reforms accomplished in the state prison at Moundsville under Warden M. L. Brown, as well as his reactions to allegations of brutal treatment of inmates during his administration.

### Series 2. Miscellaneous (box 1)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156584

Unit Date 1908, 1912, undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

#### Scope and Contents

This series includes assorted pamphlets, poems, and other material, mainly regarding the Moundsville Penitentiary.

#### "A Guide to Future Happiness" by Warden Brown (pamphlet)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156588

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

#### "Rules Governing the Convicts in the West Va. Penitentiary," adopted by Warden Brown (pamphlet)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156589

Unit Date 1912

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

**"Song of Tom Wayne" (poem printed as handbill regarding an outlaw) by Coy Reedy of Rugby, VA**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156590

**Unit Date** ca. 1908

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**"The Effect of Strong Drink" (poem in typescript)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156591

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Manuscript of suggested program for 4th of July entertainment at Penitentiary**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156592

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Series 3. Manuscript (box 1)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156585

**Unit Date** ca. 1911

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Scope and Contents**

This series includes a manuscript article written by J.H. Graham on 1911 May 27 describing what might happen in the conscience not only of a guilty person, but also of an innocent one (such as himself) held unjustly.

**Series 4. Incoming Letters (box 1)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156586

**Unit Date** ca. 1910-1914

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4-9 (Folder)

**Scope and Contents**

The letters and notes in this series are mostly addressed to Warden Brown, many of which are petitions by inmates reporting abuses and corruption, calling for resignations, threatening bodily harm, or thanking the Warden for improvements to living conditions. Among the letters is one by a prisoner facing death containing a statement that he would like made public. Several include poetry or opinion pieces, and one letter to the Board of Control ending with signatures of 39 female prisoners asks that their matron be kept on.

**Letters**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156593

**Unit Date** April 1910-June 1911

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Letters**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156594

**Unit Date** March-August 1912

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Letters**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156595

**Unit Date** January-November 1913

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

**Letters**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156596

**Unit Date** December 1913-July 1914

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

**Letters**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156597

**Unit Date** ca. 1910-1914

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

**Letters**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156598

**Unit Date** ca. 1910-1914

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Folder)

**Series 5. Photographs (boxes 1-3)**

**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156587

**Unit Date** ca. 1900-1920

**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 10-14 (Folder)

**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)

## Scope and Contents

Subjects of photos in box 1 include group portraits of inmates and staff, facilities, grounds, Citizens National Bank, and Bank of Morgantown. Subjects of oversize photos in boxes 2 and 3 include group portraits of inmates and staff, interior shots, facilities, and grounds (which appear to be the farm where some of the prisoners worked); there is also a group portrait including US President Taft at inauguration of WVU President Hodges (1911).

### Photographs -- Inmates and staff with Warden (2 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156599

Unit Date ca. 1900-1920

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

### Photographs -- Interior (1 item)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156600

Unit Date ca. 1900-1920

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

### Photographs -- Facilities (3 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156601

Unit Date ca. 1900-1920

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

### Photographs -- Grounds (3 items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156602

Unit Date ca. 1900-1920

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

### Photographs -- Citizens National Bank (1 item) and Bank of Morgantown (1 item)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156603

Unit Date ca. 1900-1920

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

### Oversize photographs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156604

Unit Date ca. 1900-1920

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

### Oversize photographs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/156605

**Unit Date** ca. 1900-1920

**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)