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Gorham, Fred Jaynes, 1878-1918 (MSS 583)

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Descriptive Inventory

MSS 583 GORHAM, Fred Jaynes, 1878-1918

½ box. 7 folders. 119 items. 1896-1956. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2016.3.11

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Fred Jaynes Gorham, the son of George Bernaugh Gorham and Mary Newton Faris, was born in Paris, Kentucky on 3 March 1878. He enlisted in the Army in 1897 and served in the Spanish-American War as an officer in the Second Cavalry. After the war, he held a federal position in Cuba until December 1900. On 29 June 1903 he married Ethelyn May Keller, and they were parents of a daughter, Mildred V. Gorham.

Gorham worked as a circulation manager for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, in retail sales, in eastern Oregon as a farmer and teamster, and as a field representative for the *Louisville Herald*. He was manager of the Henderson, Kentucky office of the Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company, but resigned in October 1915 to become a trust officer at the Ohio Valley Banking & Trust Company in Henderson. A Mason and member of the Knights of Pythias, he was also active in civic affairs as secretary of the Henderson Commercial Club.

On 11 July 1918, after securing special permission, the forty-year-old Gorham re-enlisted in the U.S. Cavalry as a private in order to serve in World War I. He trained at Fort Thomas, Kentucky, and in September 1918 was transferred to Columbus, New Mexico, where he became a well-respected instructor. On 18 October 1918, Gorham died at the base hospital in Columbus of pneumonia following an attack of influenza. Gorham was interred in Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky.

COLLECTION NOTE

This collection contains correspondence and papers of Fred J. Gorham and his wife Ethelyn (Keller) Gorham. Of principal interest are letters, papers and clippings relating to Fred's re-enlistment in the U.S. Cavalry at age 40 to serve in World War I, and his subsequent death in camp from pneumonia. An inventory is in Folder 1. Correspondence of Fred J. Gorham (Folder 2) relates to his civilian work and to his World War I military service. Included are letters to his wife Ethelyn from Oregon, where he is attempting to sell his farm; congratulatory letters on his management of the Henderson telephone exchange; correspondence relating to his resignation to become a trust officer; his application for permission to re-enlist in the U.S. Army; and his letters to his aunt and brother announcing his decision. He also discloses to his brother that he

has worked for a year as a “secret service agent” for the Department of Justice. While at Fort Thomas, Kentucky, Gorham writes of his training responsibilities, his success derived from previous military experience, and his eagerness to embark for France. From New Mexico, he describes target practice and his proficiency in marksmanship; writing less than two weeks before his death, he assures both his wife and mother that no outbreaks of influenza have occurred. Miscellaneous papers of Fred J. Gorham (Folder 3) relate mostly to his membership in fraternal and Spanish-American War veteran’s organizations and to his World War I service and death; also included are business cards, his War Risk Insurance certificate, and Ethelyn’s memo giving details of his military service. Correspondence of Ethelyn Gorham (Folder 4) includes childhood letters from her brother, letters of sympathy on Fred’s death, and correspondence related to insurance and veterans’ benefits payable to her and her daughter; also included is a letter from the Henderson soldier who escorted Fred’s body home from Columbus, New Mexico, and Ethelyn’s letter of thanks to the base at Columbus for the escort. Other papers of Ethelyn Gorham (Folder 5) include various membership and student cards, and a visitor’s brochure and map for the 1939 New York World’s Fair. Clippings (Folder 6) concern relatives of Ethelyn and Fred, Fred’s civilian career, military enlistment and death, Ethelyn’s activities, and Gorham genealogy; also included are two clippings listing Henderson County casualties of World War I. Photographs (Folder 7) are unidentified, but one may be of Fred in military uniform and another of Ethelyn made at the New York World’s Fair.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	Fred J. Gorham	1896-1956	119 items
Folder 1	Inventory		
Folder 2	Fred J. Gorham – Correspondence	1911-1918	25 items
Folder 3	Fred J. Gorham – Miscellaneous papers	1898-1918	16 items
Folder 4	Ethelyn Gorham – Correspondence	1903-1952	41 items
Folder 5	Ethelyn Gorham – Miscellaneous papers	1896-1956	8 items
Folder 6	Clippings	1907-1945	22 items
Folder 7	Photographs	1939, n.d.	7 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS GORHAM, Fred Jaynes, 1896-1956
583 1878-1918

Correspondence and papers of Fred J. Gorham and wife Ethelyn Gorham of Henderson, Kentucky, chiefly regarding Fred's Spanish-American War and World War I service, his death, and Ethelyn's receipt of military benefits thereafter. Some family correspondence and data is included.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

American Legion – Relating to B1,F4
Camp Furlong – Columbus, New Mexico – Relating to B1,F3,4
Cooksey, Lucille (Taylor), 1896-1918 – Relating to B1,F2
Eblen, Charles Dewey, b. 1898 B1,F4
Eblen, Charles Dewey, b. 1898 – Relating to B1,F6
Exhibitions and fairs – New York World's Fair, 1939 – Relating to B1,F5
Fort Thomas, Kentucky, 1918 – Relating to B1,F3
Gorham, Ethelyn May (Keller), 1878-1956 – Correspondence B1,F2,4
Gorham, Ethelyn May (Keller), 1878-1956 – Relating to B1,F5,6
Gorham family – Relating to B1,F6
Gorham, Fred Jaynes, 1878-1918 – Correspondence B1,F2
Gorham, Fred Jaynes, 1878-1918 – Relating to B1,F3,4,6
Gorham, Mary Newton (Faris), 1852-1939 – Letter to B1,F2
Gorham, Thornton T., 1874-1945 – Correspondence B1,F2,4
Gorham, Thornton T., 1874-1945 – Relating to B1,F6
Influenza, 1918 B1,F2,4
Keller, George Russell, d. 1907 B1,F4
Keller, George Russell, d. 1907 – Relating to B1,F6
Keller, Martin, 1849-1918 – Relating to B1,F6
Knights of Pythias – Relating to B1,F3
Lipman, Mildred V. Caplan (Gorham), 1908-2003 – Correspondence B1,F2,4
Masons (Fraternal organization) – Relating to B1,F3,5
Pensions, Military – Spanish-American War, 1898 B1,F4
Pensions, Military – World War I, 1914-1918 B1,F4
Quinn, Zilpah Maude, 1882-1963 – Relating to B1,F2
Spanish-American War, 1898 – Relating to B1,F3,6
Steamboat disasters, 1904 B1,F4
Taylor, Laura G., b. 1843? – Letter to B1,F2

Telephone companies – Henderson B1,F2,6
Vaccinations, 1901 B1,F3
Veterans of Foreign Wars – Relating to B1,F5
World War I, 1914-1918 – Military life, 1918 B1,F2,3
World War I, 1914-1918 – Patriotism B1,F2
World War I, 1914-1918 – Soldiers from – Henderson County

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