

ON ACTIVE SERVICE  
WITH THE  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

AMERICAN RED CROSS



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Toul, France.  
Feb. 7th 1919

Dear Vera;

Things begin to look like I shall soon be home-ward bound. I swapped places with Lt. Brothers who wants to stay in the regular army, so he is now in the 85th and I am in the 135th Sqdn. We are now relieved from duty with the 2nd Army and ordered to Colombey Les Belles again. We go over there on the 16th. After that it is a question of luck and red tape. I might get stuck some place in an office job, or sent to some camp and languish for weeks before getting a ship. I hope to avoid all this I though and come home my pronto.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

= 2 =

I sent a little box of trinkets  
to you and the kids, and later  
sent a briquet (breech) to W. <sup>19</sup>  
It is made from two German  
belt buckles. Please let me  
know if these reach you. Do  
not stop writing to me, ad-  
dress me A.P.O. 731-A.

I hope to get home in a very  
few weeks, I do not know how  
I shall earn my living, but guess  
I can find something. Gene is  
talking of going to Tennessee  
soon to visit Mrs. Bratton at  
Watertown and then our parents.  
Mrs. Bratton is the wife of a  
Lt. who lived in the same house  
with us at Chattanooga. Her  
husband was killed over here.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
= 9 =

It would be keen if you move back to Tenn and we could all get together this spring. Gene thinks lots of you and she is wild about little kids so she would enjoy seeing the Pique family almost as much as I would. Tell Alonzo I mean these letters for him too. I am not fond of writing letters. My life over here is very monotonous; most people have the idea that we see very many exciting things, etc, etc. The fact is that we are cooped up like convicts and not allowed to go anywhere without a pass. Tell Alonzo to steer clear of the army or navy.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

= 4 =

I am glad you could make out  
my <sup>10</sup> D.G. letter - it was  
not doubt full of mistakes  
but I just went at it slam  
bang. I can juggle the  
jargon of M'soo Crapand (fry)  
pretty fast and even pu  
ate it with shrugs and ges  
ulations. Remember my pun,  
joke about the deaf and dumb  
comedian who was a failure  
before large crowds because  
he could only just tickle &

Good night

Edgar.

Edgar Fernando Hudkins to his sister Vera Hudkins

Edgar Fernando Hudkins grew up in German-speaking community in Missouri (his mother was a Sellers from Sellersburg, IN).

Graduated from Swanee University, majored in languages, taught for one year in North Carolina.

On return from WWI served as translator for immigration services.

Brought to Louisville by B. Bingham (one of his North Carolina students or school mates);  
taught at Manual High School for 46 years.

John C. Hudkins - born Dec. 25, 1829. Birth place Phillipi, West Virginia, died Dec. 22, 1896

Dorcas Marteney (Martini) - born Dec. 25, 1830 - birth place Phillipi, West Virginia, died Sept. 7, 1892

They were married Sept. 27, 1849. Unto this union twelve children were born, among them Alonzo Huff Hudkins. He was born Feb. 8, 1858 in Phillipi, West Virginia - died Aug. 8, 1941 in Martin, Tennessee. On Sept. 1, 1858 the family moved to Kewanna, Indiana.

On April 14, 1881, Alonzo Huff Hudkins married Martha Ann Sellers, who was born at Fulton, Indiana, May 8, 1861. They were married by a preacher named Roberts in a double wedding with a Hugh Perehy, Alonzo's cousin (name of bride unknown to me). Martha Ann Hudkins died in Martin, Tennessee, on Oct. 6, 1941. My grandmother's maiden name was Sarah M. Cannon, born in Alices, Indiana, on Jan. 23, 1835. Her mother was a Dempsey who came from Maryland to Indiana. I do not know the date of her birth. Sarah M. Cannon married Samuel E. Sellers, who was born April 1, 1831, in Logansport, Indiana. He died July 5, 1869 at Fulton, Indiana. She died Dec. 11, 1911, in Martin, Tennessee, at the home of my parents. She was buried in Martin, as were my parents and my sister, Vera.

My mother had two sisters, Irene and Clara, and one brother, Morris.

Irene (date of birth unknown to me) married George Heimberger at Kewanna, Indiana. They moved to St. Louis, Mo. about 1880. He became city architect of the City of St. Louis. He died about 1914. Irene became millinery buyer for Famous - Barr dDry Goods Co. and held this position for many years. She died in St. Louis about 1924. She had no children.

Clara married Dave McCoy at Kewanna, Indiana, They moved to Aberdeen, Kansas, where he became a wealthy wheat farmer. The only kith and kin that I know of that I have in that territory are his sons, Guy and Orrin who are wheat farmers. They have a sister named Vera, whose surname and location I do not know.

Morris married Gussie ----- and moved to St. Louis, Mo. They had one child, Gladys, who married ----- and continued to live in St. Louis.

Martha Ann Sellers married Alonzo Huff Hudkins. Unto this union five children were born: - Leondo Height, (named after his father's twin brother who died in infancy) - born Aug. 14, 1888 at Kewanna, Indiana, married to Amelia Rose Becherer on Aug. 17, 1903, -- Vera Ethel Hudkins, born Oct. 30, 1885, in Kewanna, Indiana, married Wm. W. Pigue in 1903 in Dresden, Tennessee, -- Phoebe Hudkins, born Jan. 28, 1890, in Michigan City, Indiana, , married Mabel Marteney ( I do not know the date ) -- Edgar Fernando Hudkins, born Sept. 23, 1893, in Michigan City, Indiana, -- Alonzo H. Hudkins, born in Martin, Tennessee, on March 5, 1901.

Leondo's wife, Amelia Rose, was born in Belleville, Illinois, on Feb. 20, 1885. The first child of Leondo and Amelia was Virgil Neil Hudkins, born July 6, 1902, He married Emma Mae Hopkins in 1936.

The second child of Leondo and Amelia was Virginia Louise, born Sept. 1, 1913. She did not marry.

The third child of Leondo and Amelia was Jack Reynolds Hudkins, born Aug. 8, 1920. He married Hallie Smith in 1943, unto them was born Lazelle Ann in Dec. 1943.

Morris Sellers, living in St. Louis, Mo. was my mother's only brother. He is in the 70's and is the only one of the Sellers family now living. In Knox, Indiana, I have a cousin named John Hudkins. He was four years old the day I was born. He is the only cousin I know of on the Hudkins side of the house. He was the son of Art and Ella Hudkins. Art was Aunt Ella's second cousin. Both died and were buried in Kewanna, Indiana. Several years ago before my father died, he wrote all he knew and could find out about both the Hudkins and Martini families. He gave this history to my youngest brother, now living in Ft. Worth. This information was lost or misplaced. This could give us a lot of information if we could find it.

Of Amelia's family I know but little. Her father came to America as a young man and was a soldier in the Federal army during the War Between the States. He died some twenty-eight years ago in the Soldiers' Home in Danville, Illinois, where he had made his home for several years, living with us at Campbell, Mo, for several years. dividing the time between Campbell and Danville. He was born at or in Blackforest, Germany. --- Her mother came to America from Germany at the age of eight years. I do not know her mother's or her father's given names. Her mother was born on the Rhine in Germany and died some thirty years ago and was buried in St. Louis, Mo.

Unto this union were born three children. The first was Louise, who married Will Hellings. She died or was buried the day Jack was born. Unto this union were born three children. One died quite young. I believe his name was Willie. The second son, Lambert, was killed in a cyclone in St. Louis on one Easter Sunday. A brick cornice blew off of building ( I believe on Olive Street ) on him. It killed him instantly/. A daughter, Vernetta, married Glen Clark and now lives in Festus, Mo. She is the mother of seven or eight children, one son, Bob, in the army. The rest of the children are at their home.

Amelia had one half-sister, named Anna Smith and one half-brother, named John Stread/. Both are now dead. Amelia knows a little about their children. I know nothing. There was a full brother, named Jake, who was a miner. He disappeared several years ago and has never been heard from. I do not know whether he is living or dead.

My sister, Vera, was the mother of five children: William, now in the navy; Paul, a graduate of West Point, now a captain in the Coast Artillery; James, a doctor's orderly, at the head of the first aid Dep't. of aircraft people in Nashville, Tennessee; Ruth, married to Norman Mansfield, Traffic manager for the M. K. & T. Railway, lives in Dallas, Texas. Ruth was born at our house on May 23, 1904, in Hope, Ark.; Aelia, married to Frank Fisher, lives in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Then lives in Detroit, Michigan. He has three children, two boys in the army and one girl all married.

Edgar lives in Louisville, Ky. He married twice. He has two children, Jack and Gloria, by his first wife. In 1933 he married a widow, who had four children. Jack is a Major in the Air Force. His two step-sons, Charles and John McClain are in the navy. Gloria and her two step-sisters, Martha and Charlotte are married and have several children. Edgar has been a teacher of various languages for many years in the big duPont Manual High School in Louisville, Ky.

Alenzo H. Hudkins, Jr. lives in Ft. Worth, Texas. He is married and has two children, a son named Alenzo H. Hudkins, III, and a daughter named Consuelo. He is a wild-catter and at the same time at the head of the line-o-type in the advertising department of the Fort Worth Press.

There is probably a lot more I can tell but I can't think of it at present. Any other information as to Amelia's side of the house can probably be given by her.

This is not exactly a copy of some material written by Lee at the time of World War II, but it is fairly close to what he wrote. I have taken the liberty of rearranging some of this and have filled in some dates which he omitted. Some errors have been corrected.

Edgar F. Hudkins