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

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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

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<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Fred J. Gorham</th>
<th>1896-1956</th>
<th>119 items</th>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Fred J. Gorham – Correspondence</td>
<td>1911-1918</td>
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<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Fred J. Gorham – Miscellaneous papers</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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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.

½ box. 7 folders. 119 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2016.3.11

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

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 07/21/2016