John Robert Hume Papers  
(R0357)

Collection Number: R0357

Collection Title: John Robert Hume Papers

Dates: 1898-1919

Creator: Hume, John Robert, 1862-1943


Collection Size: 0.02 cubic foot  
(2 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] John Robert Hume Papers (R0357); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by City of Naylor Missouri on October 11, 1984 (Accession No. RA0247).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the John Robert Hume Papers can be found in the following collections:

John Robert World War I Diary (C2084)  
Walter Shafer, World War I Diary (S1080)
Biographical Note:

John R. Hume was born August 10, 1862 to Joseph Conley and Rebecca (Benefiel) Hume in Sullivan County, Indiana. He married Eugenia Williams in April 1899 in St. Louis; she died in October of the same year. Hume had attended school at Barnes Medical College after which he was a professor of chemical physiology. Hume remarried in September 1908 to Nelle Ethel Springer and together they had three children, John R., Joseph, and Virginia.

John R. Hume moved to Doniphan, Ripley County, Missouri and worked as a physician after serving in the United States Army. Hume entered the United States Army before World War I. He was surgeon of the 7th U.S. Infantry Regiment, serving with Pershing’s expeditionary force in Texas and Mexico in 1916-1917. He was captain with a field hospital detachment which landed in France in September 1917. The unit served at Bourmont, Goncourt, and in the Verdun sector, attached to the French 77th Infantry Regiment, the 23rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, and the 1st and 2nd U.S. Infantry Divisions.

Hume lived in Doniphan along the Current River after the war. He opened his land to disabled veterans and advertised as far as St. Louis. He was commander of the American Legion and active in local politics. He died at the veteran administration facility in Little Rock, Arkansas on May 15, 1943. He was buried at New Hope Cemetery in Ripley County, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

These are typescript copies of a World War I diary and poetry of John R. Hume. Some of his poetry, dated 1898 at Jacksonville, Florida, and 1900 at Asheville, North Carolina, suggests that he may have received some education in those places.

Hume’s diary and most of his poetry concern his military experience in Europe. The diary entries begin on September 8, 1917, as the medical detachment sailed for France, and continue through February 14, 1918. The entries concern the movements of his field hospital unit and Hume's own hospitalization twice in four months. He was wounded while visiting British forces at Cambrai in November 1917 and developed pneumonia after prolonged exposure to chlorine gas in January 1918. Hume’s narrative ends during his second hospitalization, but the dateline of his poetry indicates he recovered and served in France through the summer of 1918. By November 1918, Hume was in Genoa, Italy.

Hume was particularly sensitive to the health and well-being of the troops he served. He was exceedingly disaffected with the quality of American leadership, especially that of General Omar Bundy, who led the 2nd Division. He accused Bundy of precipitating many cases of exposure and death among soldiers who had fallen out of forced marches and who were ordered left along the roadside. The “Joseph Boyce Incident,” narrated in the diary, was a particularly disturbing example. Hume’s poetry describes the plight of the common soldier and the motives which sustained the troops in combat.
Container List:

Box 001  
  f. 1  Diary, 1917-1918  
  f. 2  Poems, circa 1898-1919

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