



## Fenton Family Correspondence (SP0127)

**Collection Number:** SP0127

**Collection Title:** Fenton Family Correspondence

**Dates:** 1918

**Creator:** Fenton, Jeremiah “Jerry” B., 1889-1958

**Abstract:** The Fenton Family Correspondence contains a letter from Jeremiah B. Fenton to his mother, Nancy Jane Fenton, while he was serving in France during World War I. The letter, dated 1918, details his life at camp and his work during the war. This collection also includes one unidentified photograph of two men.

**Collection Size:** 0.02 cubic foot  
(1 folder, 1 photograph)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [springfield@shsmo.org](mailto:springfield@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Fenton Family Correspondence* (SP0127); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by the Ozarks Genealogical Society on October 2, 2024 (Accession No. SPA0143).

**Processed by:** Processed by Elayna Eastin, June 4, 2026

**Historical Note:**

Jeremiah “Jerry” B. Fenton was born August 6, 1889, to parents Jeremiah and Nancy Jane Mendenhall Fenton. His father, Jeremiah, was an immigrant from Ireland who also served as one of Springfield, Missouri’s first mayors and postmasters. Jerry attended Springfield schools before graduating from University of Missouri’s law school and establishing his practice in Springfield. With the advent of World War I, he was drafted into the military in 1917 and served as second lieutenant in the United States Army. Following his discharge, he began working as the assistant prosecuting attorney in Springfield about 1920 and by the 1940s was the police judge. He married Mildred Lyle Ellis, and two children were born of the union: Betty Fenton Kennedy and Nancy Jane Fenton Norris. Jerry was an attorney for forty-six years and was one of the first people to petition the United States Congress for a bonus for veterans of World War I. He passed in 1958 and is buried alongside both his wife and parents in Hazelwood Cemetery in Springfield.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into one folder.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This series contains one letter written by Jeremiah “Jerry” B. Fenton to his mother, Nancy Jane Fenton, while he was stationed in France during World War I. The letter is dated September 2, 1918, and includes descriptions of the work Jerry was doing, the downing of a hot air balloon, and a recount of when the camp was shelled. A small, unidentified photograph of two men accompanies the letter. This series was kept in its original order.

**Container List:**

Box 001 f. 1 Correspondence, 1918

**Index:**

Index Terms	Folder
Correspondence	1
Fenton, Jeremiah “Jerry” B., 1889-1958	1
Fenton, Nancy Jane Mendenhall, 1852-1918	1
Greene County (Mo.)	1
Springfield (Mo.)	1
World War, 1914-1918	1
World War, 1914-1918--France	1
World War, 1914-1918--Germany	1
World War, 1914-1918--Soldiers	1