



Herbert Kleyboecker Papers (SP0039)

Collection Number: SP0039

Collection Title: Herbert Kleyboecker Papers

Dates: 1918-1919

Creator: Kleyboecker, Herbert, 1896-1983

Abstract: The Herbert Kleyboecker Papers contain his World War I correspondence from 1918 to 1919. His letters, written to his family in St. Louis, Missouri, contains detailed descriptions of basic training in Kansas, life in camp, opinions on the participation of African-American troops, conscientious objectors, trench warfare, and the treatment of the wounded in allied hospitals.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic foot
(6 folders, 5 photographs)

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-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Herbert Kleyboecker Papers* (SP0039); 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 Dennis Kruse on January 25, 2020 (Accession No. SPA0070).

Processed by: Processed by Erin Smither, March 12, 2020

Biographical Note:

Herbert "Herb" Kleyboecker was born March 7, 1896, the sixth child of Henry and Amelia Kleyboecker. Herb served in World War I from April 1, 1918, to April 12, 1919, in Company L, 354th Infantry Regiment, 89th Division. He participated in basic training at Camp Funston, Kansas, and served stateside from April 1 to May 27, 1918, when he left for France. Herb was wounded by shrapnel at the Meuse-Argonne Offensive October 28, 1918, and was hospitalized for several months before returning home in April 1919. Following the war, Herb lived with his sister, Clara Clendenin, and her family for many years. He worked as a claim clerk for a hardware company, and married Adele Hehrlein in the early 1930s. Together they had two children: Herb Jr. and William. He died in 1983, at the age of 87, and was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Jennings, Missouri.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged by document type and is organized chronologically in six folders.

Scope and Content Note:

The Herbert Kleyboecker papers contain the World War I correspondence of Private Herb Kleyboecker, who served in Kansas for several months before going to France. Herb's letters discuss race relations, religious conscientious objectors, and jobs he worked in camp. Herb arrived in France on June 29, 1918, and was wounded by shrapnel in the Battle of the Argonne forest on October 28, 1918. He spent five months in the hospital. Of particular interest is a letter that mentions Medal of Honor winner Corporal Jesse Funk, who received the honor with Charles Barger for saving the lives of two men trapped in no-man's land on October 31, 1918. Both men served with Herb. Barger was the most decorated American soldier of World War I. The collection contains five photographs of Herb and several friends, as well as maps and articles Herb collected to document some of the stories his letters discuss.

Container List:

Box 001	f. 1	Photographs, 1918
	f. 2	Stateside correspondence, 1918
	f. 3	France correspondence, 1918
	f. 4	Hospital correspondence, 1918-1919
	f. 5	Post-war correspondence, 1927-1929
	f. 6	Maps and supporting documentation, no date

Index:

Index Term	Folder	Image
Argonne, Battle of the, France, 1918	3-4	
Barger, Charles, 1892-1936	5	Yes

Index Term	Folder	Image
Camp Funston (Kan.)	2	
Camp Albert L. Mills (N.Y.)	2	
Camp Pawnee (Kan.)	2	
Camp Wood (Kan.)	2	
Decker, Edwin	1	Yes
Fort Riley (Kan.)	2	
Funk, Jesse N., 1888-1933	5	
Gerding, Oscar	1	Yes
Hawks, John Quincy Adams	2	
Kleyboecker, Amanda, 1891-1936	2-4	
Kleyboecker, Amelia	2-4	
Kleyboecker, Clara, 1895-	2-4	
Kleyboecker, Helen, 1899-	2-4	
Kleyboecker, Herbert G., 1896-1983	1-5	Yes
Kleyboecker, Hilda	1-5	
Sims, Kid	2	
Wipf, John	1	Yes
World War I, 1914-1918	1-4, 6	Yes