

## Summary Information:

**Collection Title:** Bertie Clair Wellman, WWI Collection

**Collection Number:** MSS.17

**Date Range:** 1917-1919, 1923, 1936

**Size:** 1 Linear Foot

**Location:** RR.9.3, CO.OS.6, CO.OS.12

**Creator:** Bertie Clair Wellman, United States Army

**Abstract:** Bertie Clair Wellman, a Joliet native, served in France during WWI from 1918 to 1919. This collection contains documents and records Wellman saved from his deployment including publications, soldier records, correspondence, and photographs.

**Acquisition Information:** All materials were donated to the museum by Wellman's granddaughter, Kathleen Jordan under accession number 2022.75

**Separated Materials:** None

**Citation:** Item Description. MSS.17 Bertie Clair Wellman, WWI Collection, Joliet Area Historical Museum. Box #, Folder #. Date Accessed.

**Restrictions:** None

**Processed by:** Kailee Lowry

## Background Information:

### History:

Bertie Clair Wellman was born in Joliet on October 11, 1891 to Lloyd and Katie Wellman. The family resided at 1000 Cass St. in Joliet. Wellman worked with his father as a painter until he enlisted in the army on April 11, 1918, during the First World War. Wellman joined the 68th Artillery, CAC Battery B regiment. U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps (CAC) was an administrative corps responsible for coastal, harbor, and anti-aircraft defense of the United States and its possessions between 1901 and 1950. Wellman trained at Fort Terry in New York before being deployed to France. Wellman's regiment joined the First Army upon arrival in France, which is the oldest and longest-established field army of the United States Army. The First Army was established in August of 1918 as a field army when sufficient military has arrived on the Western Front during the final months of World War I. The First Army was the first of three armies established under the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). Wellman was honorably discharged less than a year later, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1919.

Wellman returned to live with his parents on Cass St. and took up work at a local railroad. In November of 1921 he married Dorothy Lyons, and they moved to 3703 Washington St. in Joliet. Together they had a daughter, Della. Wellman passed away in December of 1973.

**Scope and Content Arrangement:**

This collection includes correspondence from Wellman during his deployment, photographs, souvenir postcard books, army publications handed out to WWI soldiers, veteran documents, newspaper articles, and various permission passes. Of note is a pocket planner Wellman carried with him during his time at war in which he recorded his day-to-day training and activities. Materials have been arranged into logical groupings and folders are ordered alphabetically.

**Related Materials:**

Bertie Clair Wellman, WWI Artifact Collection

**Content Listing:**

**Location:** RR.9.3

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Folder #:</b>	<b>Box #:</b>
Calling Cards, 1918	1	1
Correspondence, 1918	2	1
French Postcard Souvenir Books, 1918	3	1
Photographs, 1918	4	1
Planner, 1918	5	1
Soldier Permission Passes, 1918	6	1
U.S. Army Publications, 1917-1918	7	1
Veteran Documents, 1923, 1936	8	1

**Location:** CO.OS.6, CO.OS.12

<b>Folder Title:</b>	<b>Box #</b>
Newspaper Articles, Oversized Materials, 1918	OS.06
WWI Scrapbook, 1918-1919	OS.12