INTRODUCTION

The papers of Henderson Aley contain personal correspondence between himself and his parents during and immediately following World War I. The collection also contains a variety of postcards from 1906-1930.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Michael H. Aley on 23 October 2010 (Accession No. 6324).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Henderson Aley was born August 8, 1893, in Maryville, Missouri, to George and Rosetta Aley. Aley enlisted in August 1918 and served as a private with the 301st and 326th United States infantry. He was deployed to Chalancey, France, towards the end of the war and for several months after. He was discharged June 12, 1919. Throughout his deployment and subsequent medical internment, Henderson maintained a robust correspondence with his parents and siblings. In 1923, he married Harriet Toomay. Henderson Aley died on December 8, 1970, in Illinois.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the papers consist of letters written home from Henderson Aley between 1918 and 1922. These letters mostly concern the day to day conditions Henderson endured during training camp and deployment. The most frequent subjects of discussion are camp foods, life stationed in Chalancey, France, directly following the war, and the prolonged promise of a return to the United States. The collection also contains postcards, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other correspondence.

FOLDER LIST

f. 1-7 Correspondence
  f. 1 Camp McArthur, Texas, 1918
  f. 2-3 Chalancey, France, 1918-1919
  f. 4 Camp Merritt, New York/ Camp Taylor, Kentucky, 1919
  f. 5 Johnson City National Sanatorium, 1922
  f. 6 Postcards, 1906-1929
  f. 7 Miscellaneous, 1899-1968
f. 8 Collected postcards and images from France, New York, California, n.d.