

Kansas Memory



Glenn N. Gray, World War I soldier

Section 1, Pages 1 - 30

Around 1919, the Kansas State Historical Society and the American Legion solicited biographical information from returning veterans (primarily members of the 35th and 89th infantry divisions) and the families of those who died in service, notably from the Gold Star Mothers. Each veteran or family member was asked to provide letters, photographs, a biography, and military records. This file contains original letters and their transcriptions from Glenn N. Gray, Battery F, 130th Field Artillery, 35th Division. He was from Protection, Comanche County, Kansas. WWI letters from his brother Lyle Gray are also available on Kansas Memory.

Creator: Gray, Glenn N.

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Kansas Memory

Glenn N. Gray, World War I soldier



Residence Phone No. 146

Store Phone No. 17

City Pharmacy

Drugs, Chemicals, Sundries, Cigars and Tobacco
E. E. GRAY, Proprietor

PROTECTION, KANSAS

Jan. 20th. 1919

Wm. E. Connelley

Sec. Hist. Soc.

Topeka Kans.

Dear Sir;

I am encloseing herewith letters from my sons in compliance with your request, which we read in the Wichita Eagle, for material from which to write a history of Battery F.

Also photographs of each which we would like to have returned with the letters as soon as you get thru with them.

If we have left out anything of interest in making their Biography complete, please advise us and we will gladly furnish you with anything you want in order to make a good write up. for the Yanks are deserving of all the honor we can give them and we are proud our sons didnt wait to be drafted, but felt it their duty to volunteer their service in defense of our country

Yours Fraternally,

E. E. Gray

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Jan. 22nd. 1919

Glenn N. Gray second son of Elmer E. and Lula M. Gray was born Dec. 17th. 1910 in Pawnee Co. Neb. and in 1910 he came with his parents to Protection Comanche Co Kans. where they lived on the farm for two yrs. or until the older children had finished the district school, when his parents sold the farm and moved to Protection that they might give the children better educational advantages, his father buying a drug business and resuming his old profession, Aug. 12-1912, Glenn enters high school ^{here} and graduates in the spring of 1916, the following fall he enters the State University at Lawrence Kans., was doing office work for the Firestone Tire Co. when he felt his country's call, although only 18 yrs old, and with the promise of a promotion, he gave it all up, and volunteered his service to Uncle Sam in defense of the greatest cause ever fought for, Democracy and World wide Freedom. But his sacrifice of a good position and it's bright future touched the heart of his proprietor, and he said Glenn, I congratulate you for the manly stand you have taken in this matter, it brings out the finer and nobler qualities of the man. There will be a Firestone Job waiting for you when you return to America. He volunteered June 17th. 1917, and on Aug. 5th. 1917 was drafted in to the Federal Service, and shortly afterward was taken to Camp Doniphan Ft. Still Okla. as a private in Bat. F. 130 Field Artillery, and the rest of his army life and promotion you will get in the letters enclosed,

Respectfully, *EE Gray*

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Sat night.

Battery F, 1st K.F.A.
Camp Wompham

Fort Sill, Okla.

Dear Mother and all:

Just received your letter and
as our days work is over will
answer and try to tell you our
regular line of duty at present.

Starting in the morning we
fall out at 5:00 o'clock at the
Bugle call. we have 15 minutes
to dress and when the Bugle
plays assembly we line up
out in front of our tents in
two ranks according to our
sections. Mine is the 3rd
section and my no is 4. The

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a jovial man and have to call the commands to my squad when the Battery is drilling as a whole. Well I sort a got off my line. To continue when we are lined up the sergeants call roll and we private answer here. Then the chief of sections take charge and march us off and give us calisthenics exercises which consist of leg arm, finger and trunk exercises when they get this your appetite is somewhat sharp we are then dismissed for

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mess at 6 o'clock. Then we grab our mess kits and run for the bread line. The men line up in single file and wait until mess call is sounded and then wait until their turn comes. If you happen to be at the end you are out of luck and have to wait about 30 minutes.

Our breakfast consists of oatmeal, sausages and army bread and usually some kind of canned fruit. The oatmeal is not seasoned

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and no sugar to put on it.
The cream they use is canned
milk and you are usually
so hungry you don't notice
it at all. The coffee is
either black or ^{with} canned milk
used for cream.

At 6:45 sick call is sounded
and we are lined up, that
is the sick and guys with
bad arms, and marched up
to the medical corps mess
hall and tended to.

My arm is doing nicely
at present, and I feel 150%
better than when I was

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in Wichita. I can eat
and sleep most of the
night. My arm has a hole
in it about $\frac{1}{2}$ in deep and
the old raw muscle shows
when when I contract my
arm you can see the muscle
move under the skin
The hole is about the size
of a dollar and hasn't had
to do any duty except drill.
We took another shot in
the arm yesterday. It didn't
hurt the boys very much
you know they wouldn't
let me take the last

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one in Wichita. So consequently since my time had run out I have to start in all over again. That makes it nice.

Just got back from the mess hall. They issued us our uniforms this morning. We got a bath, hot cord, two pair socks, two suits of underwear, one pair trousers, leggings, and one wool shirt. This certainly is a clean looking bunch and a good looking one also. They all feel pretty keen.

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were to continue our line
of duty. we fall in for
drill at 8 o'clock and
drill until 11:30. This
drill consists of squad
drill, 8 men, section drill
of 4 squads each, and
finisly Battley drill as a
whole.

At 12 o'clock we have
meat again and then
start to drill again at
1 o'clock and drill until
3 o'clock. At 5:30 we are
lined up again and
stand at ~~parade~~ parade

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rest while the Bugler
plays retreat and the
colors are hauled down
we are then dismissed
and can go to town or
any where else if we
have a pass. We have
to be in at 10:30 and
all lights out. mess
again at 6 o'clock and
that completes one days
work

Then there is a detail
selected every day for
kitchen police. In the help
get the chuck ready

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and another for guard duty to guard our camp during the night.

Our mess hall is at the end of an strip of tents and is just a wooden structure with a kitchen in the rear and a long table on each side and planks to sit on.

Our mess kits consist of a cup which holds about a pint and a half and a knife, fork & spoon and a plate which can be

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opened and used the
lid for another plate

These all fold up to-
gether and are inspected
once a week. Our tents
hold 3 privates and a corporal.
We sleep on folding canvas
cots with a canvas tick
filled with hay. We have
two wool blankets and roll
up your clothes for a
pillow.

The bunch I am in
with are all nice fellow
but strangers to me.

We have to buy our step

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and tents in a sanitary condition and everything are inspected each week

We have a canteen now and you can get pop, suetram cones candy tobacco, cigarette, and everything one would want. The profits are turned into the mess fund and used for the good of the bunch.

Lyle and another fellow are running the canteen. He is well and his arm is almost healed.

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I was made a 1st class private. There are only 35 in the Battery we get \$3 more a month and have no guard or kitchen duty.

Jack is well and all the rest of the boys from Protection. They seem to enjoy this life and I want to state I'm crazy about it. If my own every gets well I'd be perfectly contented.

Our camp is in the valley of the Wichita Mts

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They are not very large
but make you awful tired
to walk to the tops. There
are wells as the deer too.

There are camps like ours
about over 10 rods and
the hills and hollows
are just full of them

There are about 15000

soldiers here now and
more coming every day

The reservation is about
5 mi from Lawton and
bus lines and street
cars run in from
the entrance which

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is about 3 mi from here
we have not been
issued our horses or
guns yet.

Just got back from
dinner. We had roast pork
corn & peas butter & bread
roast spuds and ice
cream & ice tea. - Not so
bad is it? They always
give us more on Sunday
tho.

There is a bugle in
our tent and he & his
wife so our we rugged
Red Sparks who was

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with Auto Supply & Fire
Co at Wichita, ~~had~~ Firestone's
largest dealer, was married
just before he came
down here and his wife
writes him every day
and he has received
several boxes of fried
chicken & cake & fruit
since we came. He always
shares with the bunch
bag I'm about out of
tooth paste & shaving
soap and I never have
had any trouble. Corp
and I always went in

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together before on that
kind of jink.

I expect I will be
wearing some jink home
most my day because
I think they will order
all civilian cloths
set home. I expect
Dad to wear those
suits I sent out and
the shirts to, will
send him that blue
suege when I get orders
to ship my stuff.

Well mother I have
told you all I can

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think of this time. &
our family fine and am
happy.

You ask me if I
wanted any thing any-
thing in the ent line
will be appreciated but
the dues of it is I must
divide with 9 fellows

Will write you every
week most close and
get this mailed

With love
Glenn

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Friday Morning
March 29, 18

Dear Mother:

Have a few spare moments so will drop you a line. Received your letter the same day I mailed one to you so I really don't owe you one but your last one was such a nice letter with "posies" and everything so I will just have to do it.

Now I don't think very much of those pictures and I

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don't think you should be very proud
of a son who resembles, so much a
few. I shall have some more taken
some day which I hope will be
more of a success.

We surely miss the boys who have
gone over. They are at Camp Perry N.J.
now so I hear altho' I've never
received a word from any of them, and
don't suppose I shall.

We've had another shake-up in
the kitchen, and our old mess-servant
has come back up and the newly
made one is back in reasces. Bob
don't want to continue with it, and
yesterday ask me if I wanted the
job. I told him "yes" and he said
he would speak to the Capt. about
it. The only reason I would like
to have the job because it is a
promotion but one get some awful
raggings from the inspectors but
I can stand them. Then I can say
I started in as a buck-private then

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was proudest in this manner.
1st class private, 1st class,
second class, first class, then
mess, sang. That would show
quite a little burst of ambition
wouldnt it? I would have
it on any of the other guys
from Pro. too. But I havent
the job yet but can almost
see the three stripes ~~at~~ on my
arm. Wouldnt you be proud
to say you have two sons
in the army and both of
them are non-commissioned
officers, one a corporal and the

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[3-29-1918]



younger, a military genius,
a sergeant, I'm sure building
air castles, am I not? But I've
got the "Punch" and can not
help but dream of my ambitions.

Yesterday I washed my shift
all by my self, got breakfast
& dinner dinner for 200 men, The
mess - say. complimented me
and ask me if I ever had
had any experience cooking

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before I joined the army. I said, "yeo
I used to go over "wenny roost" most
every week. But, mother, laying all
gooses aside, I've learned odds since
I've been in this army that I would
never have known, had I stayed
in civil life. and its worth money
to me. You never imagined your
wayward son being able to get
out a meal for 200 hungry men
did you? Were going to have mince-pie
boiled Egg and meat for Easter Sunday.

Warm weather brings the usual
stink to the water down here and
the accompanying amount of sickness.
in the form of Kidney trouble, fever
etc. It's a fright. Every body is commencing
to feel punk. Will you tell dad to
send me some fever med. also of
the kidney soap he makes. I don't want
to be caught with my pants down if
I get it next. Say is there little rule
still out in that red grip in the

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engine house that I ~~wanted~~ once
made a medicine kill up of
if it is I wish you would
have and fix me up with
some little rolls of stuff like
I'd be liable to use down here.
Please know what would be wanted
tell him too, please, and ship
it down C.O.D., because you
earns right on these veterans
down here at all. But I can't
use no great big bundle of stuff
because it would take up too
much room. just a package about
the size of a razor roll or knife
ass't roll. Must close and go to work
Your friend for ever

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Return to port X.A.M.D.
Canteen Glenn N. Gray
Batt. A. 130 Regt. 4th Div.
a 6th Inf.



Some where in England

June - 2 - 1918

Dear Mother:

I missed out on the cards at the Port of Embarkation, which are left there and mailed when we reach out destination, and this is my first chance to drop you a line since we landed.

It has always been my desire to take a trip on the ocean and my trip has surely surpassed all my expectations and ideas of what a large body^{of water} it is. Its

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beauty both in color and motions, is beautiful and emotional not only to the sight but the digestive organs as well. But I never was sick a minute. I regret now that I did not enlist in the navy while I had the chance.

We had a fine voyage. no bad storms at all. It was full of excitement for me, at least. I stayed on deck most of the time and never got tired of looking at the waves. I do not know of a more beautiful sight than a sunset on the ocean. It beats the Kansas sunsets all to pieces.

Altho a little warm at the start we had beautiful weather all the way. I never saw such long days. The sun comes up about 4 o'clock and does not set until until 9:30. English farmers could sure make hay while the sun shines.

Altho America has England beat in advancement and improvements in the way of buildings and machinery. They certainly have it on us in beauty. A little English hamlet set away in a little valley with its houses all in long rows, each and every one the same, with no space between, on either side of a crooked

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state has a Kansas town sprawled out on the bare prairie beat a mile. all the roads are narrow and are as smooth as pavements. They do not go by direction because the roads run like a net work. little signs at the forks and crosses tell the direction to different towns. all the buildings are made of brick and just as even and alike as a bunch of bunches. They all have peculiar chimneys and many of them to each village.

all the streets of the towns are paved with stones and all the houses land by the way they

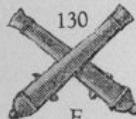
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[6 - 2 - 1918]



Glen N. Gray
U. S. N. G.

have fine large horses. The bairns with the shaggy fetlocks are the more common) are shod and hitched to a high wheeled cart, with all the weight on the horses back. If they use two horses they are hitched in a strings and the driver usually walks.

The English people are very peculiar altho interesting I love to hear them talk. This accent is interesting. I have not talked to very many

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Tommys except the sailors and children.

The children are very small for their age and very curious and healthy little fellows. The place of them at the docks were a dirty lot and seemed to think in it tho.

I have began to get familiar with the English money. It is confusing at first, but very simple after, one get over to it. The way in which the shop keepers say there price etc, is very confusing because they say it so fast. Every kind of a store is called a shop.

I have seen so much since I left the U.S.A. that I can't write it in order to write you and there is ~~so~~ much more that I can't write you, it makes it discouraging. In fact the censorships is so strict that one can hardly get by with anything except this here well and safe. and I must add satisfied.

I don't know how often I will be allowed to write or how often I will have a chance, because we have certainly been busy. I shall try to