

Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

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 information on Chester Arthur Chancellor, Battery D, 130th Field Artillery, 35th Division.

Creator: Chancellor, Chester Arthur

Date: 1918-1919

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 8 Kansas Soldiers

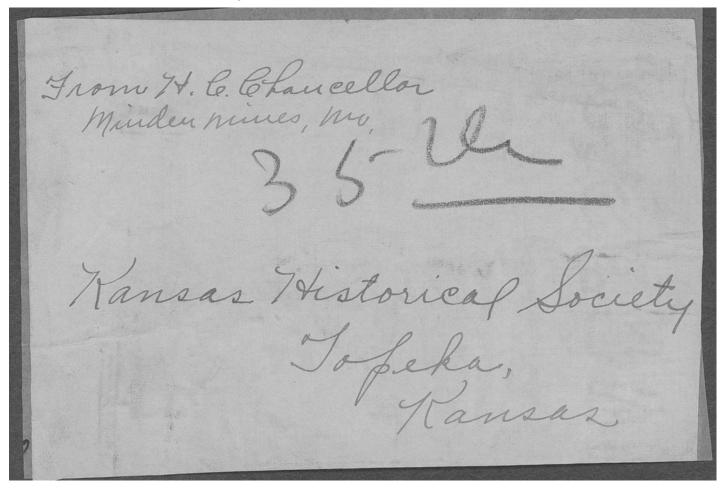
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KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY







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	July - 31-1918
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Dear Sisters Fath	
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at regular intervals for there	
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you won't get them for several	
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	France.
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"WITH THE COLORS" YMCA
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HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SA WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER



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HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING. WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER



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"WITH THE COLORS" YMCA
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ans Soon.
Your Bro:
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Mech, Chester a. Chancellot, Baf D. 130 F.A.
Bat V. 130 F. A.
anerion E. T.
HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY SAVING. WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER



France- Oct-8-1918
· O Cet-8-1918
dear Bro: I recid a letter from you
a few days ago and will alis. now like
ark in al rest camp and have just
returned from the front. We did some
good business up there, pushed the
Levery back several Rilometers & acc
onystiked all of our objectives. I connot
give a detailed account of casualities
prisonery taken sectient, but I am total
that the n.y. Herald of Oct 2 contains
a good account of out operations. Perhan
whe can get one when I say it was
That up there I am not spedling about
the weather Our position was disited
by every airplanes daily & we were shelled
by artillery almost continually but the
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to be coming from but a few gons.
One shell Exploded within threnty feet of
a dig out occupied by some of low bys.
I fighted that brother would not be apt
Toldhot in the same place so I moved
in Of course we did not make all our
gains without losses, but we made it a



darn sight botter for them they
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did for his, John & Thoy are all OK, and
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as I eiter ditt in my life. In fact of
find my clothes beginning to small.
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took with us was what clother me
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a new Issue now, you asked what I that
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whose intentions are the lest; but fait
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Trying of by a bomb from and every
any start of second



3-1
to a line of very appreciative boys at
the front Well Luin I ferrow things,
must be a whole lot different at home
now, We all realize more than ever
before that the US is the only country
in the world of me wish to Hong
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in the States when we left. I am not
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regards to acc of remain
your Bro!
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Migh Chester a, Chanceller.
Bof O, 130 F.A.
american expeditionary buces
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France	
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Oct-9-1918.	
0 71004	
Dear Father & Lister: We are	
in a rest camp for a while	
having just returned from the	
front, and will drop you a few	
Hines to let you know that I	
came thru tall O.K. never felt	
better in my life. Tis brud that	
were in my rige. as now man	
me have undergone some ex-	
posure and many days o nights	
were far from confortable, but	
that could not be avoided of	
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muy for a sing of the	
a day and find my clothes	
becoming too small. It was	
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(2000) The first of the first o	



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ha, ha, But med made it a greatdeal
hotter for the Germans than
they did forms, When me
mode relatived they were still
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in détail as casualities, prisoners
taken vete etc. Johns Roy are
all O.K. and both botteries
gave us considerable trouble
and also occasional artitlery fire.
Housever that was small
compared to what we sent
them. I have not seen or
sheard from Loyd Bartlett



232
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all With, & assuring you that
am getting along as well as
could be expected I will close
I look for a letter from you
soon your Sout Out.
mech. Chester a. Chancellor
Bat D. 130 Reg. F.A.
american Expeditionary Fores,
France.



Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

Below is a copy of a letter received a few days ago by H. C. Chancellor, Sr., from his son Chester Arthur Chancellor, now serving with the American Expeditionery Forces, in France.

November 24th, 1913.

Dear Father:
In accordance with the A. E. F. custom I address to you my Christmas Greeting. The great war is finished. The American army is on its way upon its great march to the Rhine. I would like to be with them but as we had been upon the front almost continually since August we were relieved when hostilities ceased and since that time have been living in the city of Sommediene. I. You can find this place upon the map, near Verdun. Sommediene is a deserted city except for soldiers. It has been pretty well shot up. I and the other three mechanics have found a good room in a partly destroyed building. We have a good bed, a nice fire place and plenty of furniture so we are making ourselves at home. Now and then a few civilians walk into town and begin to clear out the mass of stone and rubbish that was once their home or place of business. When the order Cease Firing came down November 11th, at 11co'clock it was an event which will not soon be forgotten. We were firing that morning and the infantry went over. Also artillery, machine guns and everything were busy. Within two minutes not a shot could be heard. The Cormans began to stack arms and beat it for home leaving their artillery and destroying mines and ammunition dumps as they went. I have some pretty good souvenirs. There is much I could write about but the best thing I can think of it that battery "p" did not have a man killed. That may sound like we were not in any hord fights but such is not the case. We were simply lucky. No doubt you have read of Varennes. We had some close calls there. We occupied the city which was a German strong point held by the Prussian guard. Not a building was left standing so intense had been the artillery fire upon it. We were daily visited by flocks of German airplanes and were fired upon constantly by their artillery until our own put them out of business. Shells would fall in front of us and behind us, upon the right and then the left of us and I have often wondered if the next one had my number on it. We were also o with six inch Howitzers at Quer in the northwestern part of France. So you can see that we have been over much of the country. I will tell you more of my experiences when I get home. John is up to visit me this Sunday morning and Roy is O. K. I heard a short time ago that Loyd was all O. K. but I have never been able to find him since we came over. Germany is reduced to nothing as far as military power isconcerned and I am anxious to get back home and go to work again. There have been many privations and tests od endurance to go through but I have never been sick a day. As a professional soldier in page time I would be many privations and tests od endurance to go through but I have never been sick a day. As a professional soldier in peace time I would be a failure, but if the United States gets into another war I know that I will do the same thing I did this time. I am thankful that I have that feeling of patriotism. I guess it must have been born in me, or it was the way I was raised. I knowne thing I will never be a slacker. I can say with truth also that since coming over I have lived like a man and faced whatever proposition came before me as I thought you would face it if you were in mysplace. I do not know where we will be home but I have if you were in my place. I do not know where we will be home but I hope soon. Will close for this time with best wishes for A Merry Christmas. Yours Son, Chester A. Chancellor.

> Battery "D" 130 Reg. F. A.
> Amarican Expeditionery Forces, France.



Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

H. C. CHANCELLOR, JR., PRESIDENT

THOS. LAPPING. VICE PRESIDENT

JAS. H. BUNCE, CASHIER

BANK OF MINDEN

(STATE BANK)

MINDENMINES, MO. 1/6/1919

Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

At the request of my father, H. C. Chancellor Sr., I am sending you a photograph of my baby brother, who is now with the colors in France, together with a few of his letters from which you may take extracts for your history of the 35th Division. CHESTER ARTHUR CHANCELLOR is the youngest child of a large family. His father, H.C.Chancellor Sr., a Civil War Veteran, being a member of Co "C" 123th Ill Vol Infty. My brother also volunteered, registeration day, but before he registered. He is prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of Signal Lodge #304 A.F.& A. M., at this place and a member of Jolin, Mo., Consistory, A.A.S.R, and of Abou Ben Adhem Temple Nobles of the Mystic Schrine, Springfield, Mo. He is Chief Machinist in Battery "D" 130 Field Artillery, 35th Division. If not asking too much I would like to have the proof of anything you say submitted to me for correction, before your work is published, and would like to have the Photo returned.

Yours truly.

We will also want a copy of



Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

France. July-31-1918

Dear Sister Father:-Will write you a few lines today. John and Roy are both here in camp now. I have not heard from you in about two weeks but John showed me a letter that he rec'd from you yesterday. I have not seen Loyd or the other boys from home since leaving Ft. Sill. I have been writing home regular and you will get the letters some time. I suppose the mail is delayed quite a bit in transportation for sugh a long distance. I rec'd a letter from Mrs. Williams & Laron also one from Fred & H. C. a few days ago. Dont be dissapointed if you dont receive letters from me oftern and at regular intervals for there will probably be times when you wont get them for several days. I have, at times gome a month withput a letter from home. The weather here is idea; not too hot or not too cool, there is usually plenty of rain. Do you see Anna often? I get a letter from her quite often, usually but sometimes it is twoo weeks between them. wrote in her last letter about being out to see you. Broudell at Woolworths been out to the farm yet. Harry gets a bunch of letters quite oftem. Is Father as strong as when I left I have regretted that I did not leave the cat at home for him and you. I suppose it is real inconvenient without it, but when I get back home we shall have another. Has Fred Gathman been called yet. He missed a big thing bu not coming with us. you write me just leave off the "Chief". Since being here we have had some changes made in the motive power and have horses now as horse artillery has but one "Chief" this automatically reduces me to the rank of Mechanic. Will close this time Write soon With love

Your Bro: Mech. Chester A. Chancellor

130 Reg. F. A. Bat D.

American Expeditionary Forces.
France.

Y.M.C.A.

France Aug-5-1918

Mr. H. C. Chancellor

Dear Bro: It has been some time since I wrote you but will try and do better in the future. It has been raining, slow but almost continually here for the past week. We are comfortably situated as regards protection from the weather, and we dont mind a little rain any way as we had it dry enough at Fort Sill to last us quite a while. John & Roy are both drivers and are O. K. As for Loyd I have not seen him since leaving the States and am not informed as to the location of the unit to which



Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

he belongs. As my experience continues I become more interested in our branch of the service and it is surely wonderful what modern Artillery can do. I am not afraid to risk myself anywhere with the American artillery against the Germans with all their powerful Ordnace which they that so superior. You folks back home are sure making good raising so much money for the Red Cross. We knew you were "there with the goods" tho and you will find us the same way at this end of the line. And it isent going to take us as long as the Boches' used to think it would to finish up the job. Anna wrote in her last letter that you were having trou ble with your eye. I sincerely hope that it has improved much. In regard to that money you can deposit it to my credit. I have all the money I need here. Will close this time. Tell all the folks that I am O,K. & some time when you folks are going out for a drive take my girl along.

Ans Soon.

Your Bro.
Mech. Chester A. Chamcellor,
Bat. D. 130 F. A.
American E. F.

France-Oct-8-1918

Dear Bro:-I rec'd a letter from you a few days ago and will ans. We are in a rest camp and have just returned from the front. We did some good business up there, pushed the enemy back several Kilometers & accomplished all of our objectives. I cannot give a detailed account of casualties prisoners taken & ect, ect, but I am told that the N. Y. Herald of Oct. 2 containes a good account of our operations. Perhaps you can get one. When I say it was hot up there I am not speaking about the weather. Our position was visited by enemy airplanes daily & we were shelled by artillery almost continuallu but the shells were not very thick and seemed to be coming from but a few guns. One shell exploded within twenty feet of a dug out occupied by some of our boys. I fugured that another would not be apt to hit in the same place so Of course we did not make all gains without losses but we made it a dam sight hotter for them than the did for us. John & Roy are all O. K. and I am feeling as strong and healthy as I ever did in my life. In fact I find my clothes becoming too small. When we started the drive all we took with us what clothes we had on, 1 blanket & a mess kit, and our shooting Irons. couldent be bothered with excess baggage. We are receiving a new issue now. You asked what I that about the Y. M. C. A. While I have derived very little benefit from it I dont care to knock upon an instution whose intentions are the best, but fail in their fullgillment, perhaps only an asc't of the enormity of the task before it. Where I have been the Y. has been inadequate to meet the demand upon it. Whose fault it is I cannot say. For my part I appreciate what benefit I have had from it. At times I hav seen large bunches of men wishing in vain for a Y to open up. Again I have seen a Y. M. C. A. man Injured by a bomb from an enemy airplane while dipping out hot chocolate to a line of very appreciative boys at the front. Well Lum I know things must be a whole lot different at home now. Well all realize more than ever before that the U.S. is the only country in the world. If we wishuth asyithathing the astarnsh Store it costs us about 5 times



Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

as much as it did in the States when we left. I am not exaggerating 1 cent. Well I will close this time and write again soon. Hoping you are all getting along well and asking you to give my regards to all I remain

Your Bro:

Mech Chester A. Chancellor
Bat D. 130 F. A.
American Expeditionary Forces
France.

France

Oct-9-1918

Dear Father & Sister:

We are in a rest camp for a while having just returned from the front and will drop y ou a few lines to let you know that I came thru all O. K. & never felt better in my life. tis true that we have undergone some exposure and many days were far from comfortable, but that could not be avoided & I guess it is not hurting yours truly for I eat three squares a day and find my clothes becoming too small. It was pretty hot for a while on the front, & when I say hot I am not speaking about the weather. ha, ha. But we made it a great deal hotter for the Germans than they did for us. When we were relieved they were still giving way before the American Forces. I cannot give the results in detail as casualties, prisoners taken & etc, etc. John & Roy are all O. K. and both batteries got thru lucky. Enemy aircraft gave us considerable trouble and also occasional artillery fire. However that was small compared to what we sent them. I have not seen or heard from Lyod Bartlett and think I shall have to write Grace wanted me to send a German helmet to her. I could have had several if I had just carried them, They seemed too common for a Souvenir. We have received heavy wool underware already and are to receive a new outfir of clothes soon I am told. Do you still live on the Farm? If you mofe to town I would keep that farm if I were you for a farm is the best thing I know of. If we choose to buy anything at these french stores it usually cost us about five times as much as in the states when we left. The Y. M. C. A. helps us lots and we are issued tobacco. ically all the boys here are feeling fine and we are in good spirit & ready to return to the front at any time the order comes & send t the Boche some more of our 96 lb. shells. Hoping you are all 0. K. & assuring you that I am getting along as well as could be expected I will close & look for a letter from you soon.

> Your Son Mech. Chester A. Chancellor

Bat D. 130 Reg. F. A.
American Expeditionary Forces.
France.