

## **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

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Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

From H. C. Chancellor  
Minden mines, Mo.

35 U

Kansas Historical Society  
Topeka,  
Kansas

Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

France  
July - 31-1918

Dear Sister's Father: Will  
write you a few lines today.  
John & Roy are both here in  
camps now. I have not heard  
from you for about two weeks  
but John showed me a  
letter 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 such a  
long distance. I rec'd a letter  
from Mrs. Williams & Lavon





Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

also one from Fred & H.C.  
a few days ago. Don't be dissa-  
pointed if you don't receive  
letters from me often and  
at regular intervals for there  
will probably be times when  
you won't get them for several  
days. I have, at times, gone  
a month without a letter  
from home. The weather  
here is ideal, 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, <sup>usually</sup> but sometimes it is  
two weeks between them.  
She wrote in her last  
letter about being out  
to see you. Has miss



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Brondell at woolworths been  
out to the farm yet. Harry  
gets a big bunch of letters  
quite often. Is Father as  
strong as when I left?  
I have regretted that  
I did not leave the  
car 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 by not  
coming with us. When  
you write to me just  
leave off the "Chief". Since



Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

being here we have  
had some changes  
made in the routine  
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  
with love

Your Bro:

Wm. Chester A. Chancellor

130 Reg. F. A. Bat D.

American Expeditionary Forces,  
France.

Hughes  
Capt.

Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier



"WITH THE COLORS"




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 don't 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 he belongs. As my experience continues I become more interested

HELP YOUR COUNTRY BY  WRITE ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS PAPER



## Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier



"WITH THE COLORS"

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in our branch of the service  
and it is surely wonderful what  
modern artillery can do. I  
am not afraid to risk my  
self anywhere with the  
American artillery against the  
Germans with all their power-  
ful Ordnance which they had  
so superior. You folks back  
home are sure making good  
in 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 isn't 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 trouble with your  
eye. I sincerely hope that it

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



## Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier



"WITH THE COLORS"



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.  
Am soon.

Your Bro;

Med. Chester A. Chancellor,  
Bat D. 130 F.A.  
American E. F.

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

Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

France -

Oct 8 - 1918

Dear Bro:- I rec'd a letter from you a few days ago and will ans. now. 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, etc., but I am told that the N.Y. Herald of Oct 2 contains 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 continually 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 dugout occupied by some of our boys. I figured that another would not be apt to hit in the same place so I moved in. Of course we did not make all our gains without losses, but we made it a



## Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

darin sight better for them than they 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 was what clothes we had on, 1 blanket & a mess kit, and our shooting Irons. We couldnt be bothered with excess baggage. We are receiving a new issue now. You asked what I thought about the Y.M.C.A. While I have derived very little benefit from it I do not care to knock upon an institution whose intentions are the best, but fault in their fulfillment, perhaps only on acct 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 have 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

## Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

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to a line of very appreciative boys at the front. Well Lum I know things must be a whole lot different at home now. We all realize more than ever before that the U.S. is the only country in the world. If we wish to buy any thing at a french store it costs us about 5 times 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:

Wegh Chester A. Chancellor.

Bat D. 130 F.A.

American Expeditionary Forces  
France.





Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

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 you 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 & nights 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

Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

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 Loyd Bartlett





Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

and think I shall have to  
write to him. 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 rec'd heavy wool  
underwear already and are  
to receive a new outfit of  
clothes soon I am told. Do  
you still live on the Farm?  
If you move to town I would  
keep that farm if I see you  
for a farm is the best thing  
I know of. If we choose to  
buy any thing at these  
French stores it usually  
costs us about five times as  
much as in the states when

Chester Arthur Chancellor, World War I soldier

we left. The Y M. C. A.  
helps us lots and we are  
issued tobacco. Practically all  
the boys here are feeling fine  
and we are in good spirits &  
ready to return to the front  
at any time the order comes &  
send the Boche some more of our  
96 lb. shells. Hoping you are  
all O.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 Ant.  
Mech. Chester A. Chancellor  
Bat D. 130 Reg. F. A.  
American Expeditionary Forces,  
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 Expeditionary Forces, in France.

November 24th, 1918.

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 Sommedienne. You can find this place upon the map, near Verdun. Sommedienne 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 11:00'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 Germans 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 is that battery "D" did not have a man killed. That may sound like we were not in any hard 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 over in Alsace. You can find the city of Odin somewhere south of Metz. Later we gradually came northwest up behind the lines taking up positions where we were needed. Then up thru Toul and Nancy to our present location near Verdun. We were equipped 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 is concerned and I am anxious to get back home and go to work again. There have been many privations and tests of 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 know one 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 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.  
American Expeditionary 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.

Gentlemen:-

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., is a Civil War Veteran, being a member of Co "C" 123th Ill Vol Infty. My brother also volunteered, registration 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 Shrine, 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,

*H C Chancellor*

*We will also want a copy of  
your history.*



## 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 such a long distance. I rec'd a letter from Mrs. Williams & Laron also one from Fred & H. C. a few days ago. Dont be dissappointed 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 come 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. She wrote in her last letter about being out to see you. Has Miss 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. When 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 Ordnance which they thought 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 trouble 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. Chancellor,  
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. now. 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 contains 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 continually 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 figured that another would not be apt to hit in the same place so I moped in. 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. We couldnt be bothered with excess baggage. We are receiving a new issue now. You asked what I thot about the Y. M. C. A. While I have derived very little benefit from it I dont care to knock upon an institution whose intentions are the best, but fail in their fulfillment, perhaps only on acc'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 have 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 wish to do anything as a strength 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 you 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 to him. 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 underwear already and are to receive a new outfit 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. Practically 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 O. 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.