

John Ruben Westling, 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 John Ruben Westling, Company G, 353rd Infantry, 89th Division. John was killed in action on September 23, 1918.

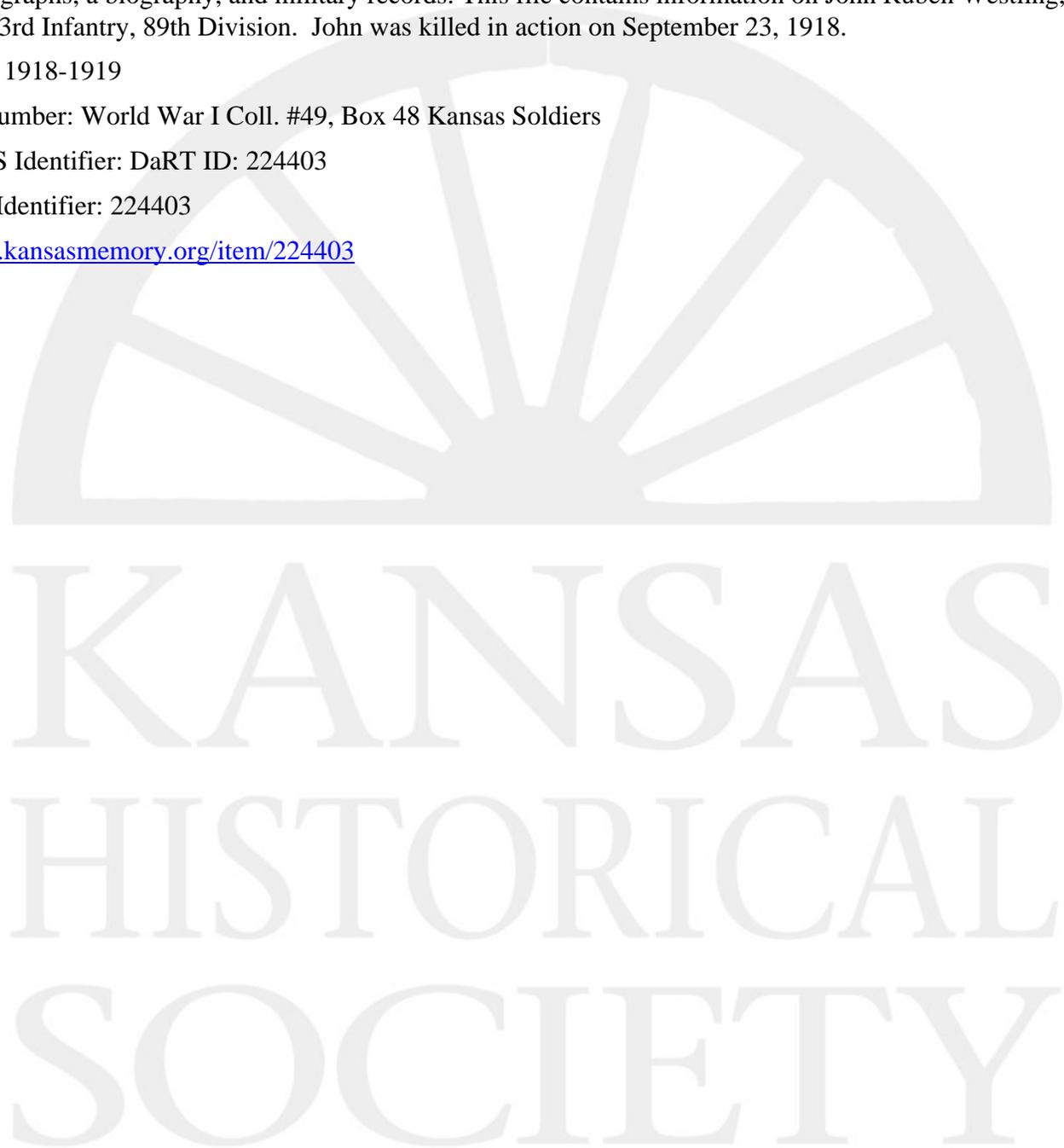
Date: 1918-1919

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 48 Kansas Soldiers

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KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

Topeka Kansas.

Oct. 26th 1918.

Major General Leonard. Woods.
Camp Funston.
Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

I am sending you a biography of my husband who is a member of the 35th Infantry who was trained by you last spring.

John Ruben Westling was one of twin brothers born at Genoa Kansas January 28th 1895, Both brothers now being in France.

Ruben having been in active

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

service for some time.

John Ruben Westling spent his boyhood with his parents Mr. & Mrs John Westling, 3 brothers and 3 sisters at Green Kansas.

Previous to his entering the service he was employed as foreman of a 1200 acre ranch at Osburg Kansas.

Earnest honest and sincere, he is an example of America's finest specimens of clean young manhood.

Shortly after entering the service he was promoted as Corporal which position he now holds.

He entered the service

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

September 19th 1917, and left
Camp Funston the later part of
May 1918, and left New York
June 4th 1918, being trained in
the meantime under Major General
Wood.

September 3rd 1917 he was
married to Miss Naomi Rebecca Benson
at Topeka Kansas.

Corporal Westling is one of the
most enthusiastic boys to whip
the Kaiser and bring righteousness
and peace to the world.

I am sending a picture of him.

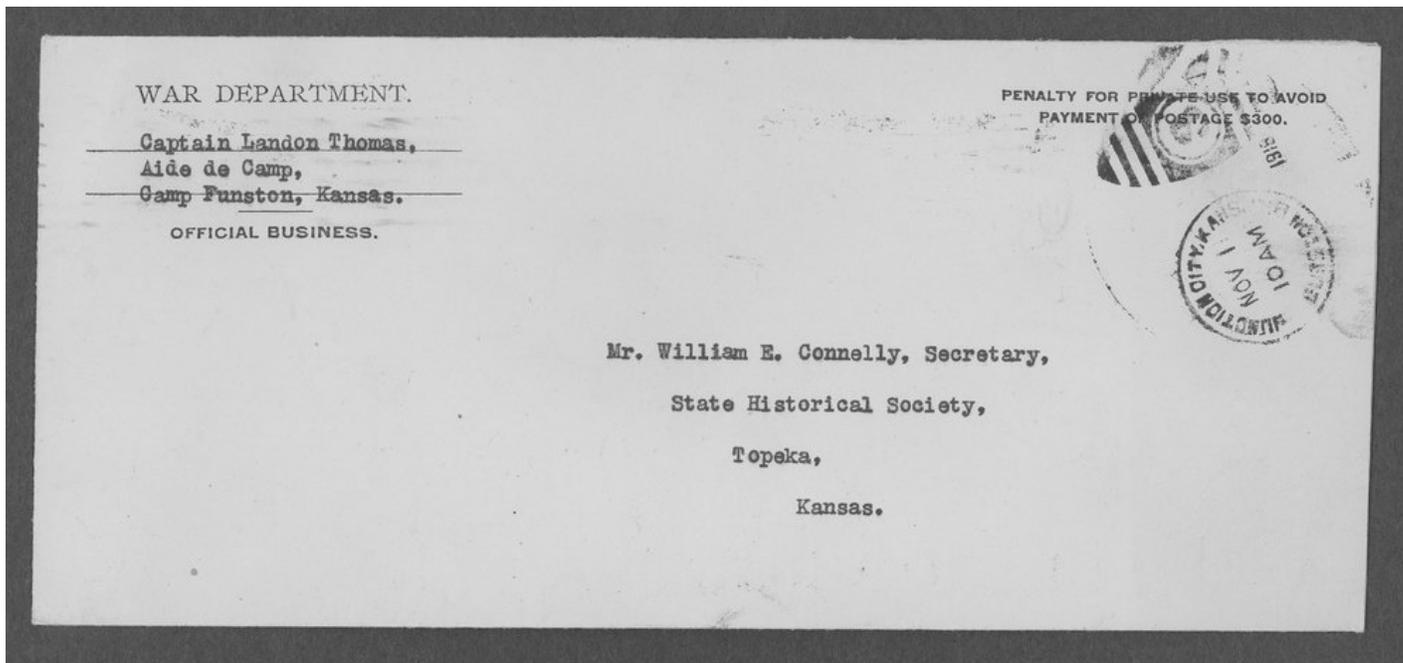
Yours Respectfully

Mrs Ruben Westling
70 Mrs M. J. Zacharias, 26 x Union Ave.
Topeka Kansas.

Kansas Memory



John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier



John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

In reply
refer to

HEADQUARTERS
CAMP FUNSTON
KANSAS

October 30, 1918.

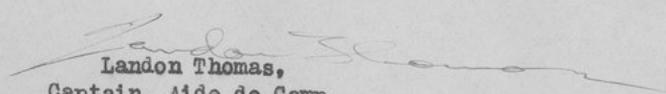
Mr. William E. Connelly, Secretary,
State Historical Society,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed find a picture and information in regard to a
member of 89th Division.

Yours truly,

LT:DEH



Landon Thomas,
Captain, Aide de Camp.

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November 2, 1918

Mrs. Reuben Westling,
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Madam:-

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th of October to Major General Leonard Wood. I am glad to have the photograph of John Reuben Westling a soldier now in France. You say that his twin brother is also in France. Please send me his picture if you have it, also send me any letters that these soldiers may have written you since they have been in the service, or copies of them, omitting of course, any private or family affairs.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

Topeka Kansas.

Jan 2nd 1919.

Major General Leonard Wood.
Camp Funston
Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

Sometime ago I sent in
the history of my husband
Corp. John R. Westling to be
entered in the Biography of
the 89th Division. Since then
I have recieved official word that
he was killed in action on
Sept 23rd 1918. I have not learned
the particulars but would like
to have this entered. He was
Corporal John Ruben Westling

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Co. G. 353 Inf. 89 Division am
sending photo of his twin brother
and would be glad to have it
published in the above mentioned
Biography.

Robert Carl Westling, was
born Jan 28th 1895 at Green Kansas
He is the son of Mr. & Mrs John Westling
of Green Kansas. and a twin
brother to John Ruben Westling
of Co. G. 353 Inf. 89th Div and who
was killed in action Sept 23rd 1918
He has worked the greater part of
his life on a farm, and is well
known in Riley and Pottawatomie
Counties. Pvt. Robert Carl Westling

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

was married to Agnes Elvora Foreberg
Feb 14. 1918, He entered service at
Camp Funston May 24. 1918,
There he recieved training until
June 27th when he was
transferred to Camp Dodge Iowa,
He sailed for France in August.
and fought with company D.
839 machine Gun Battalion,
American Expeditionary Forces
A. P. O 795. He is known to
have been gassed and suffered
a severe attack of Pneumonia.
Hoping that this will not be too
late for the issue. I am
Respectfully yours,
over Mr Ruben Westling

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

to Mrs M. J. Zacharias
26 & Union ave
Topeka Kansas.

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

John Ruben Westling

Camp Funston, Kansas,
January 4, 1919.

PERSONAL

My dear Madam:

Your letter of the 2nd instant has been duly received. I have turned the photograph with your letter over to the proper officer. I regret exceedingly to learn of the death of your husband. The 69th Division has made a fine record, but I am afraid it has lost many good and brave men.

With renewed expressions of sympathy, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Reuben Westling,
c/o Mrs. M. J. Zacharias,
26th & Union Avenue,
Topeka, Kansas.

*To Kansas State
Historical Society*

John Ruben Westling, World War I soldier

