

Homer White, 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 Homer White, 42nd Rainbow Division. White died on February 3, 1919 in Koblenz, Germany from wounds he received in a motorcycle accident.

Date: 1919

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

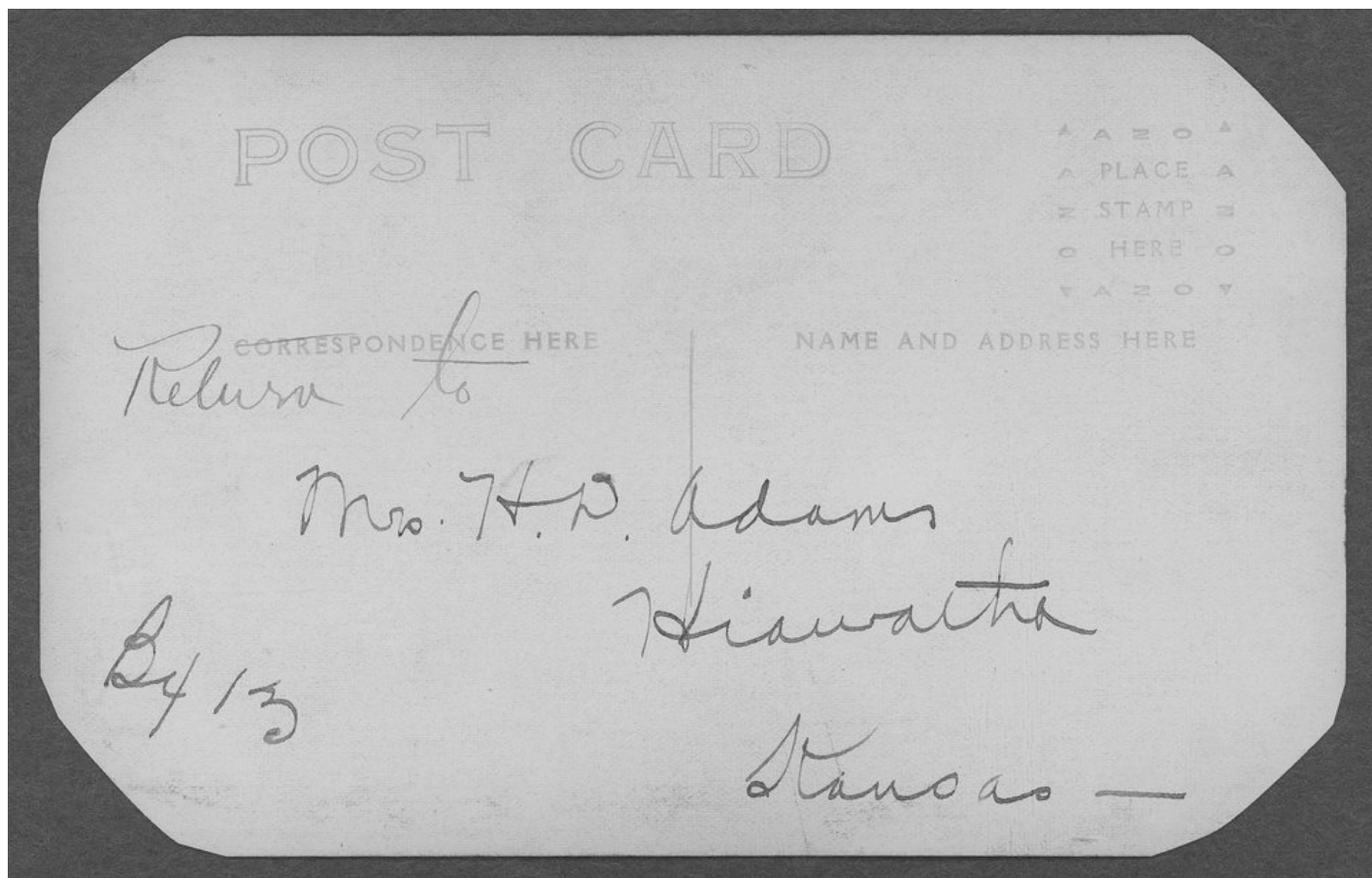
KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 224413

Item Identifier: 224413

www.kansasmemory.org/item/224413

KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY





Homer White, World War I soldier

To the Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary, Memorial Bldg., Topeka, Ks.

For Vol. 3 Publications of the Kansas State Historical Society.

Name:

Homer White, Wagoner. Hedq. Det. Truck Sec., 117 Am. Tn., 42d (Rainbow) Div.
Born in Hiawatha, Kansas May 13-1896. Enlisted at Hiawatha July 10-1917.
Died Feb. 3-1919 Coblenz, Germany in Evacuation Hospital #6 from GasGangrene
which resulted from a broken leg sustained in an accident through the
carelessness of a truck driver while on duty riding his motorcycle Feb. 1 1919
near Altenahr, Germany while with the Army of Occupation.

Homer White was Dispatch Bearer and Truck Driver in Truck Co. 4. He was
considered the best motorcycle currier in his regiment. He was twice
sighted for bravery while riding motorcycle over shell swept roads with
messages. He was entitled to wear three gold service stripes.
His Captain said of him "I have ridden with Homer over roads on which the
Germans seemed to have all their artillery concentrated, and I have taken
those rides knowing that the man who steered the machine would stick to the
last. He was the acme of perfection in performing his duties. He possessed
all the instincts of the ideal soldier and man. He was brave to a fault
and possessed the nerve and courage of one scarcely human. He died like he
lived, an honest-to-goodness man". "Sprout" as Homer was familiarly
known by everyone who knew him, was very popular with all the boys of the
117 Am. Tn., and everywhere he went he was surrounded with friends for he rode
his motorcycle on the different fronts and become acquainted with everyone.
He served on the Luneville and Baccorate Sector, Champagne-Marne Defensive,
Aisne-Marne Offensive, Toul Sector, St. Meihel Offensive, Toul Sector,
Marne-Argonne Offensive and with the Army of Occupation located at Altenahr
Germany.

The American Legion Post at Hiawatha, Kansas is named in his honor,
Homer White Post No. 66

His father, ~~xxxxx~~ Wm. S. White was born in Clark County Kentucky, 1849.
and he served with the First Kentucky Artillery in the Civil War.
His mother Alice M. Hobbs White was born in Pike County Illinois, 1857.

His grandfather, Scott Hobbs served with the 3d Missouri Vol. Cavalry during
the Civil War.

We do not have a newspaper cut, but I am enclosing a picture which I hope you
will be able to use. Kindly return it to me, as we do not have many pictures
of him. Return to Mrs. H. D. Adams,
Hiawatha, Kansas.

Box 13.

I would like to become a member of the Golden star, please send blanks.

I am Homer White's sister.