

Harry Earnest Gray, 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 Harry Earnest Gray, Company H, 353rd Infantry, 89th Division. Gray was killed in action during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on November 2, 1918.

Date: 1918

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 18 Kansas Soldiers

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 224591

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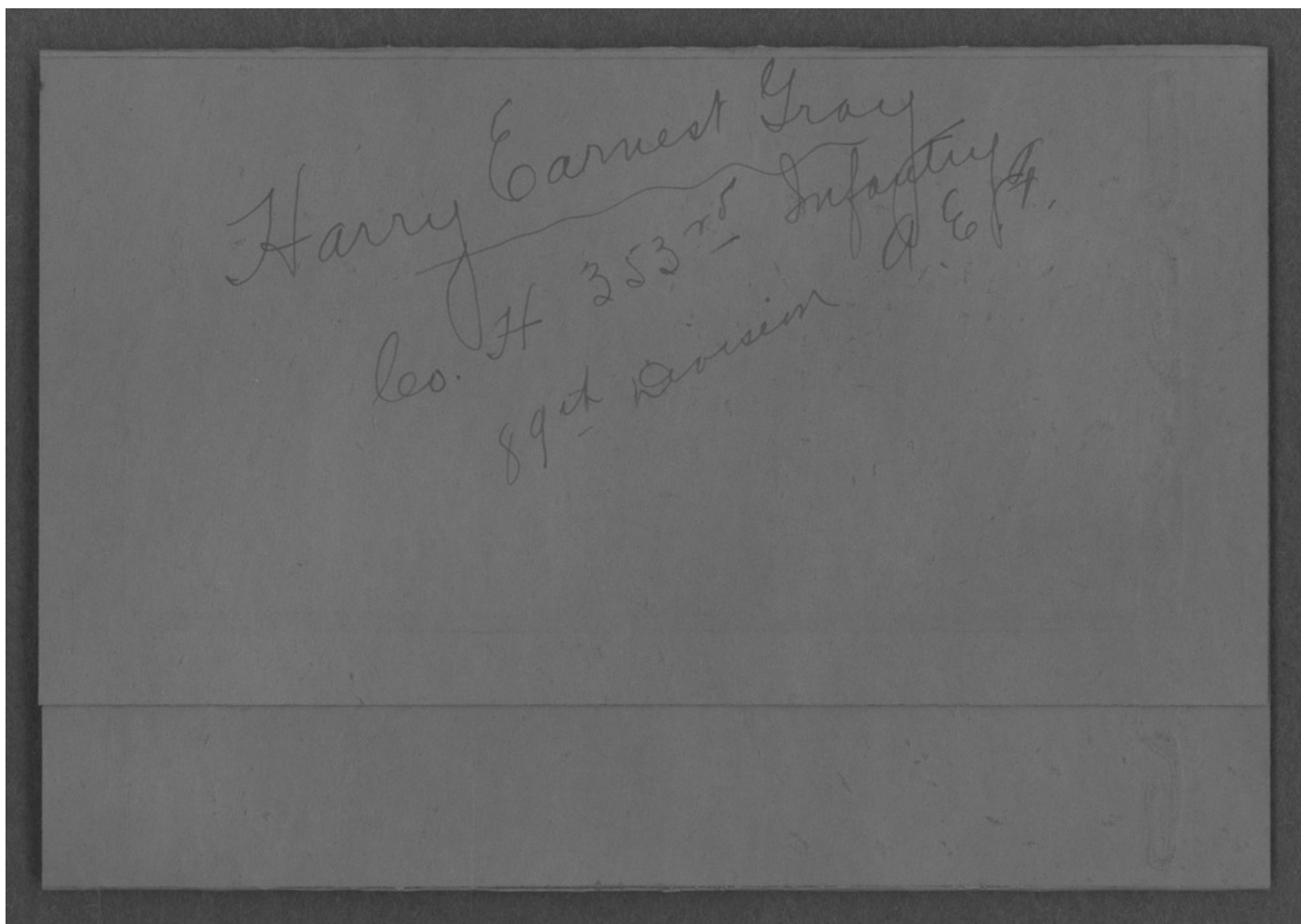
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Harry Earnest Gray, World War I soldier

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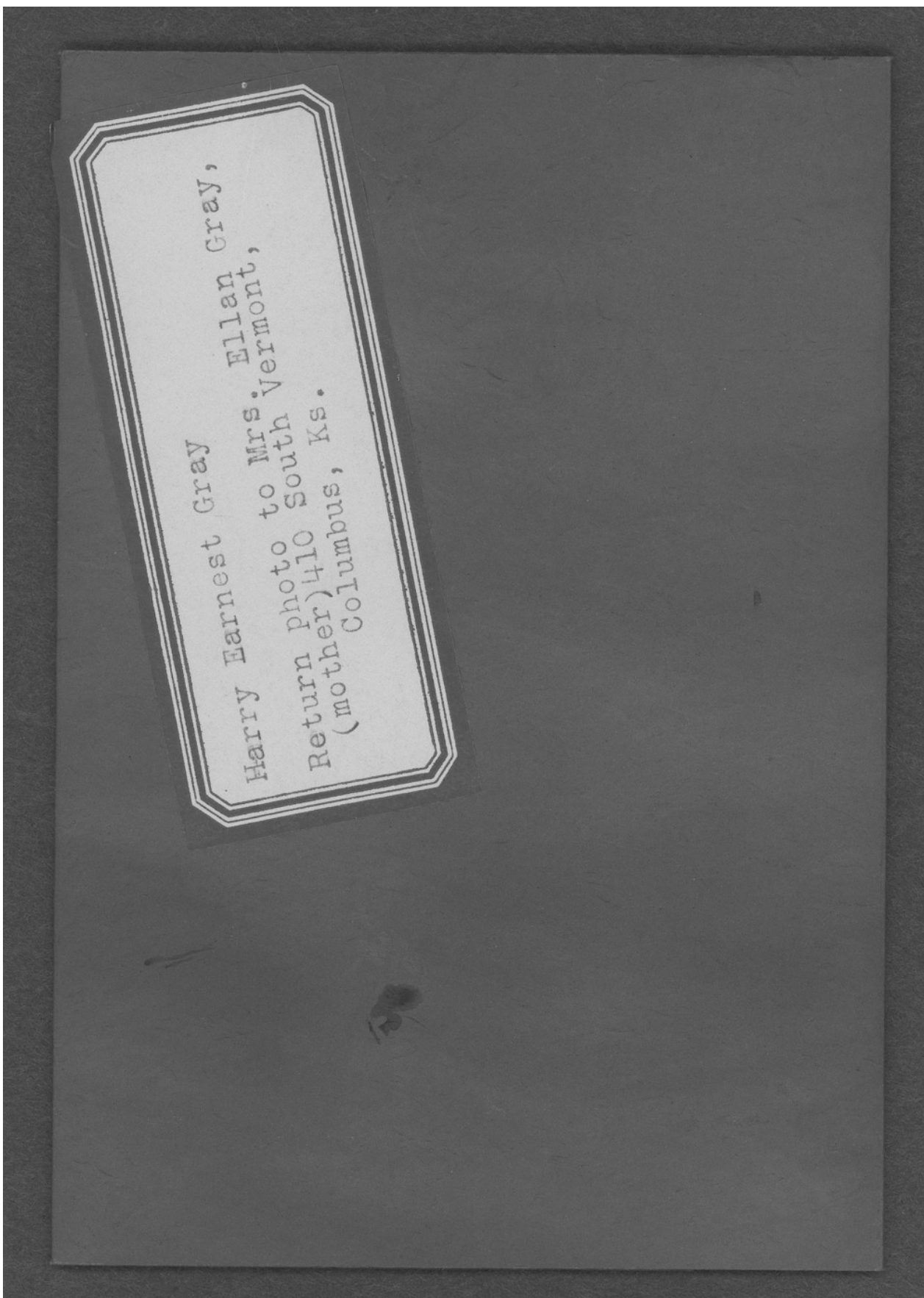
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Harry Earnest Gray I

Harry Earnest Gray, 1st Class Private, Co. H. 353rd Infantry, 89th Division A.E.F. was born on a farm near Columbus Cherokee County, Kansas, Nov. 4, 1893.

He served with honor in the World War and was killed in action in the service of his country, in the Argonne, November 2, 1918.

He was sworn in service October 3, 1917, at Columbus, Kansas, and left the following morning for Camp Funston, Kansas, and was in training there until May 26, 1918, when he left for overseas arriving sometime in June. After getting into action in September he was under shell fire all the time either driving or holding the line.

His first battle was St. Mihiel, September 12, 1918, The last big battle began on the night of October 31st, on the Bois de Bauterville a heavy forest. At dawn they went forward and took the German positions. It was all open war fare and no trenches. On the night of November 1st, 1918 they had reached the Bois de Barrcourt, another heavy woods about four miles away. Drove the Germans out of the woods and at two o'clock in the afternoon (November 2nd) were ordered to charge out of the woods across open country to a low ridge. As soon as they came out of the woods into the open the Germans turned loose with machine guns and Harry was hit by a bullet in the arm, but kept on going until he was hit again in the stomach by a machine bullet. First aid man dressed his wounds, he was placed on a stretcher and carried to the rear, but died on the way back. He was with the same Company and regiment all through his soldier days.

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Harry Earnest Gray II

Place of burial, Disinterred and re-buried in Grave
#173, Section #88, Plot #4, City 1232 Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne-Sons-
Montfaucon, Meuse.

His father, John Gray was born in Massachusetts April 18,
1845, and Mother Ellen Gray was born in Indiana Oct. 26, 1851.

His father, was enrolled as a private of the
15th Battery Massachusetts ,Light Artillery on the 10th day of
December 1863 and was honorably discharged August 20th, A.D. 1865,
His complete "Record of Service" and a copy of his discharge can be found in
Carnahan's Manual of the Civil War.

His Great Grandfather, Jonathan Gray served
as a private in the War of the Revolution, his record can be found
"Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the war of the Revolution" --
Vol. 6, page 775. Parents American Nationality.

Mrs. Ellen Gray,
410 South Vermont,
Columbus, Kansas.