Wayne R. Berry, 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 Wayne R. Berry, Company B, 140th Infantry, 35th Division.

Date: 1918-1919

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 4 Kansas Soldiers

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 224966

Item Identifier: 224966

www.kansasmemory.org/item/224966

Boonville, Mo.
Dec. 26th. 1918.

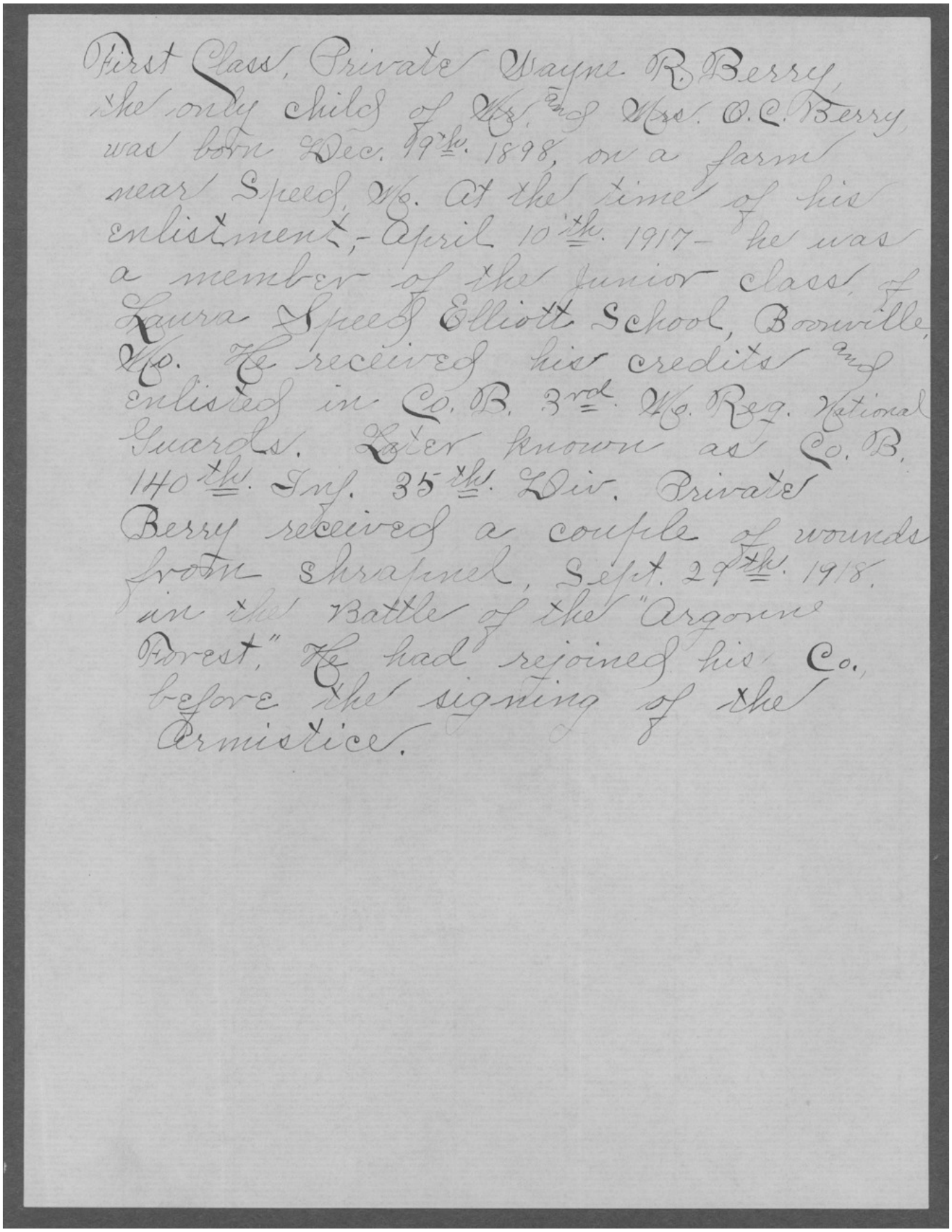
Mr. Wm. E. Connelly,
Topeka, Kan.

Dear Sir:-

Am sending yor a couple of pictures of Private Wayne R. Berry, Co. B. 140th. Inf. 35th. Div. The one in civilian clothes is the better picture, I think, but thot perhaps the one in uniform, would be more appropriate. Please use your judgment in regard to the matter. Am also sending return postage for photo's and a brief biography of Private Berry. I want one of the Histories of the 35th. Div. I am proud of America's part in this war and especially proud of "our boys" of the 35th. Div. whose record - I think - is wonderful.

Wishing yor success, I am

Yours respectfully,
Mrs. Oliver C. Berry,
R. #4. Boonville,
Mo.



First Class, Private Wayne R. Berry, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Berry, was born Dec. 19th. 1898, on a farm near Speed, Mo. At the time of his enlistment, - April 10th. 1917 - he was a member of the Junior class of Laura Speed Elliott School, Boonville, Mo. He received his credits and enlisted in Co. B. 3rd. Mo. Reg. National Guards. Later known as Co. B. 140th. Inf. 35th. Div. Private Berry received a couple of wounds from Shrapnel, Sept. 29th. 1918. in the Battle of the "Argonne Forest." He had rejoined his Co. before the signing of the Armistice.

Boonville Mo.
Apr. 21st. 1919.

Mr. Wm. E. Connelley,
Topeka, Kan.

My dear Sir:—

Since sending you the 2 photos with a brief biography of Private Wayne R. Berry, Co. B. 140th. Inf., 35th. Div. when you began the compilation of the "History of the 35th. Div." am in receipt of the inclosed citation, also he qualified for a marksman, in March, 1919. Would like to have this information added to biography, and please do not fail to return photos, for which I sent postage.

Thanking you in advance, I am,

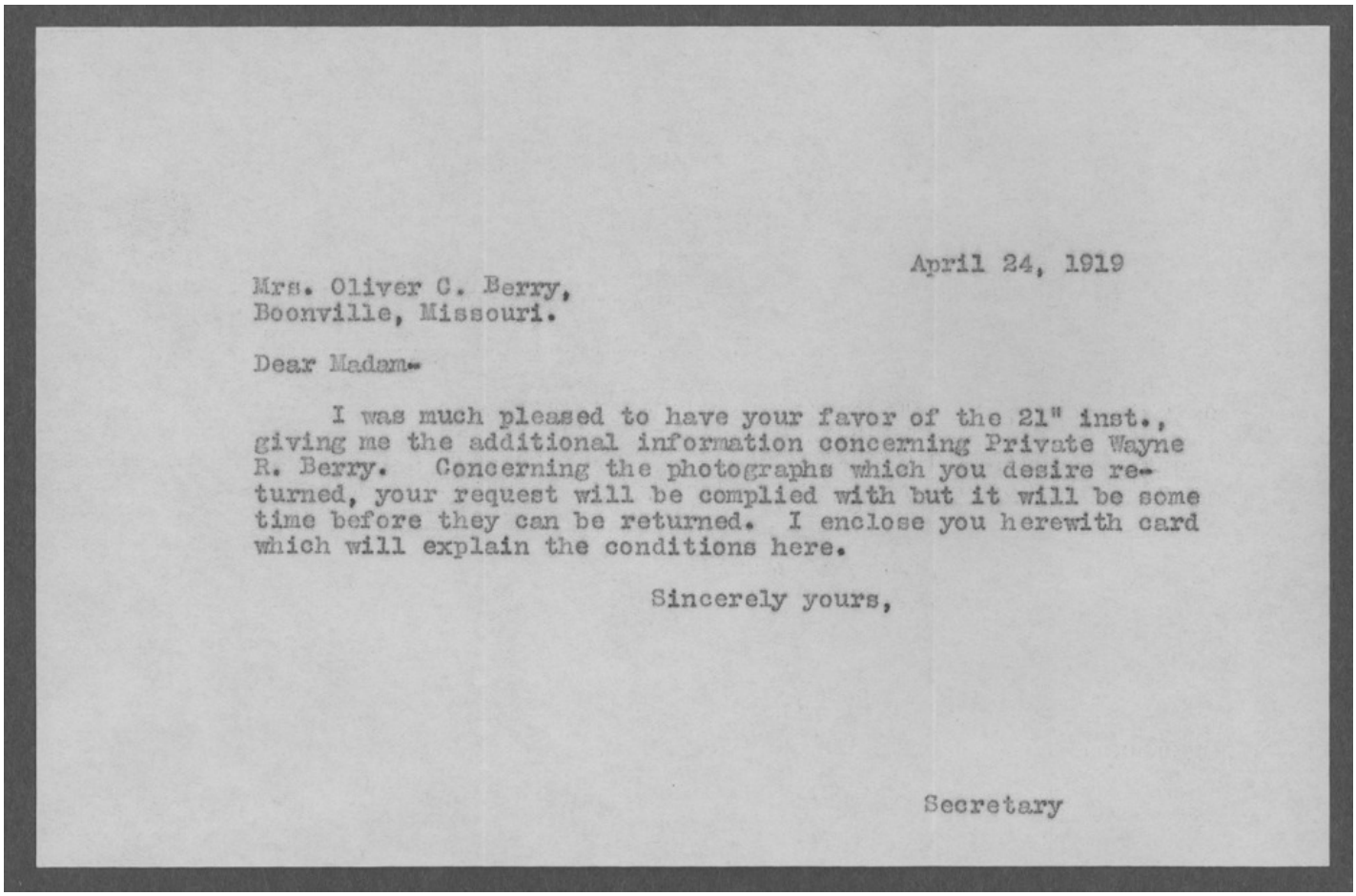
Yours respectfully,
Mrs. Oliver C. Berry,
Boonville,
R. F. D. #4. Mo.

France, Mch. 26th. 1919.

From: Commanding Officer, Co. B, 140th. Inf.
To: Commanding General, 35th. Division.
Subject: Recommendation for the award of the distinguished Service cross.

1. Private Wayne R. Berry, Co. B. 140th. Inf.
(2) Serial Number 1459841. (2) Date and place of action. Sept. 29th. 1918, near Epvermont France.
2. Recital of act and what soldier performed:—
On the 29th. of Sept. 1918, this soldier while seriously wounded advanced alone voluntarily on reconnaissance and brought back important information of the enemy, while under heavy machine gun fire. He had an utter disregard to any personal danger.
3. Next of kin;
Mr. Oliver C. Berry, Boonville, Mo. R.F.D. 20 #4.
Fred Gordon
1st. Lieut. 140th. Inf.
Condg. Co. B.

Wayne R. Berry, World War I soldier



April 24, 1919

Mrs. Oliver C. Berry,
Boonville, Missouri.

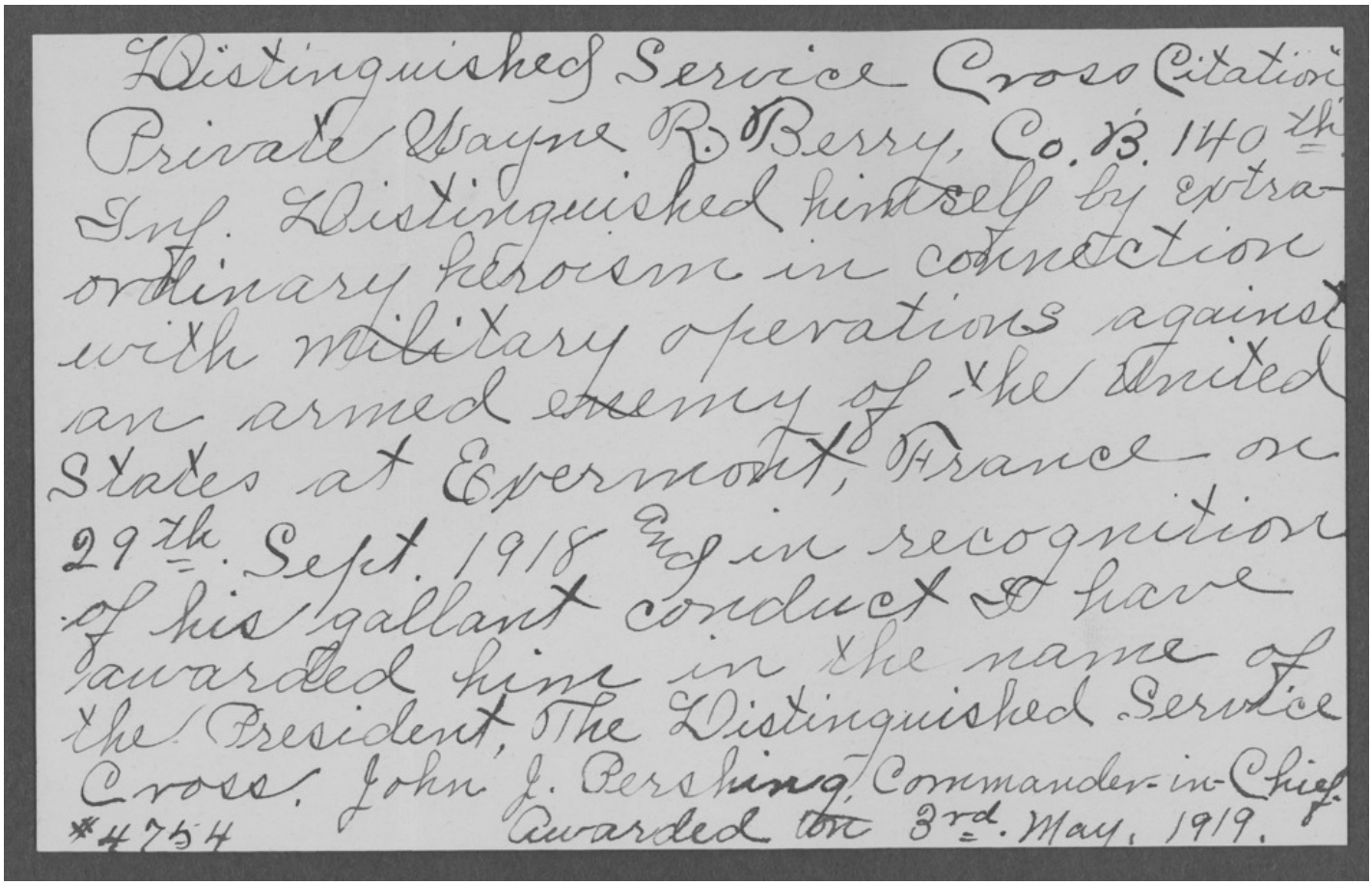
Dear Madam-

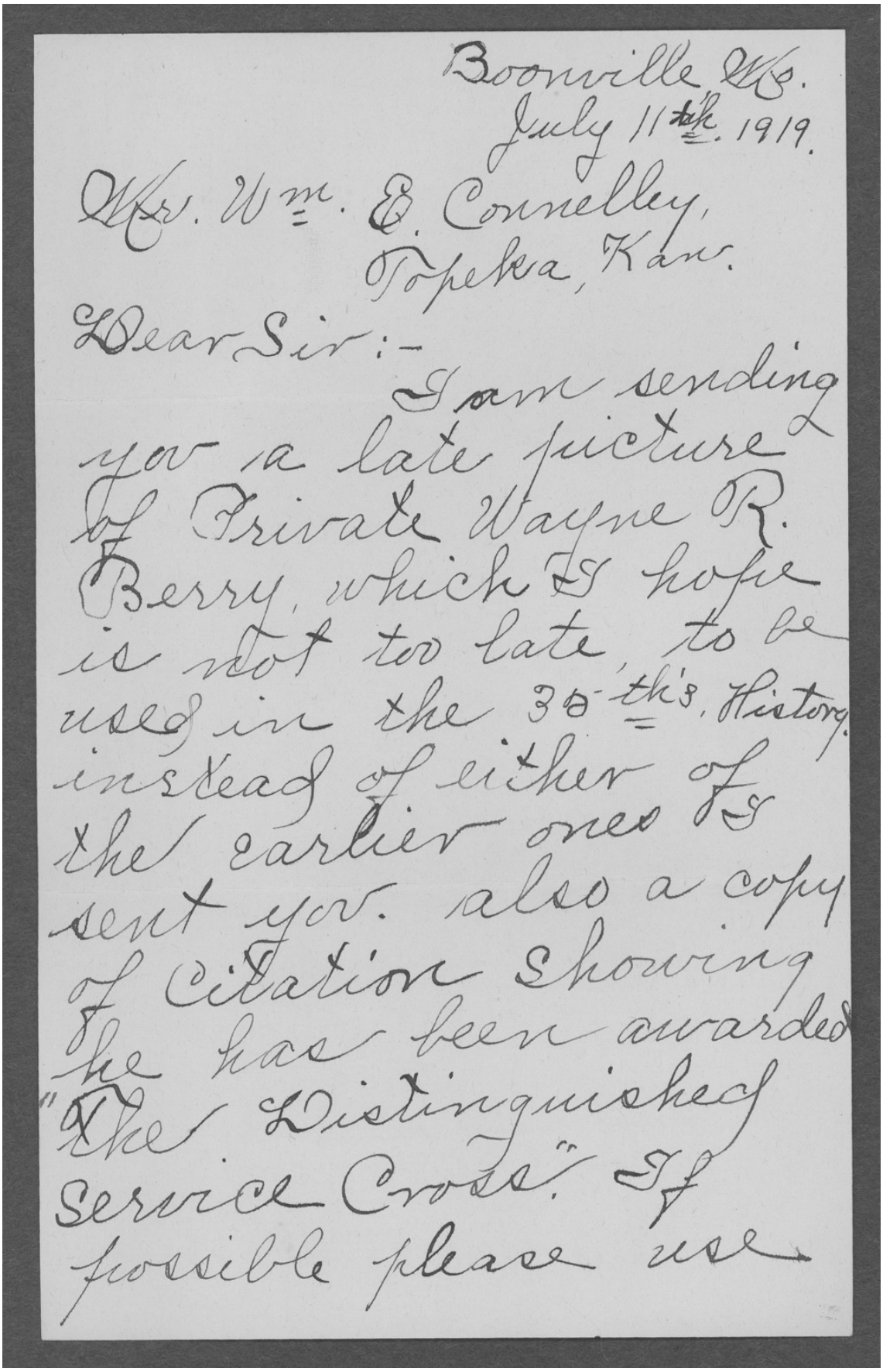
I was much pleased to have your favor of the 21" inst., giving me the additional information concerning Private Wayne R. Berry. Concerning the photographs which you desire returned, your request will be complied with but it will be some time before they can be returned. I enclose you herewith card which will explain the conditions here.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Wayne R. Berry, World War I soldier


Distinguished Service Cross Citation
Private Wayne R. Berry, Co. B. 140th Inf. Distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States at Epermont, France on 29th Sept. 1918 and in recognition of his gallant conduct I have awarded him in the name of the President, The Distinguished Service Cross. John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief.
#4754 Awarded on 3rd. May, 1919.

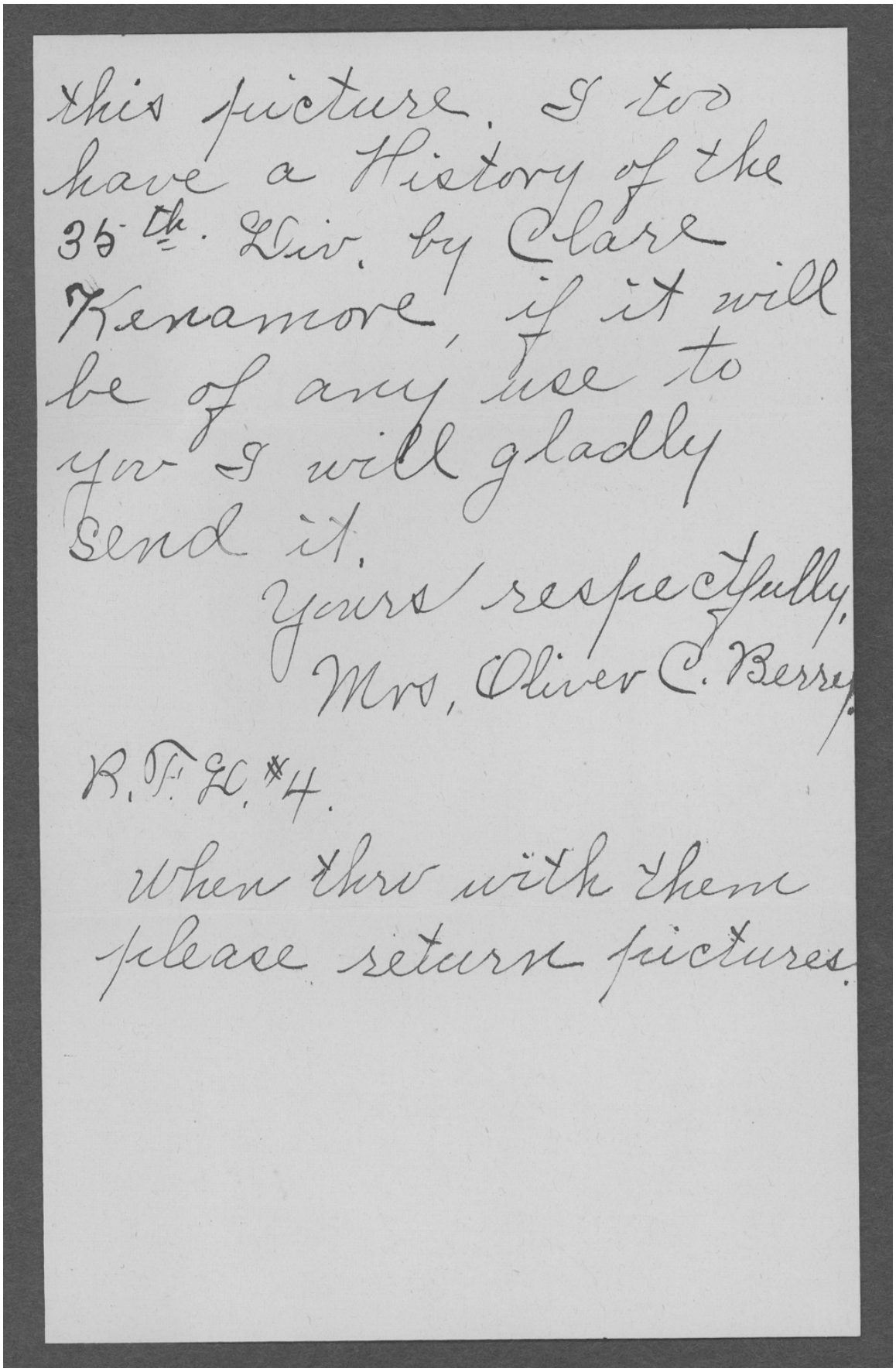


Boonville Mo.
July 11th. 1919.

Mr. Wm. E. Connelley,
Topeka, Kan.

Dear Sir:-

I am sending you a late picture of Private Wayne R. Berry, which I hope is not too late, to be used in the 35th's. History instead of either of the earlier ones I sent you. also a copy of citation showing he has been awarded "The Distinguished Service Cross". If possible please use



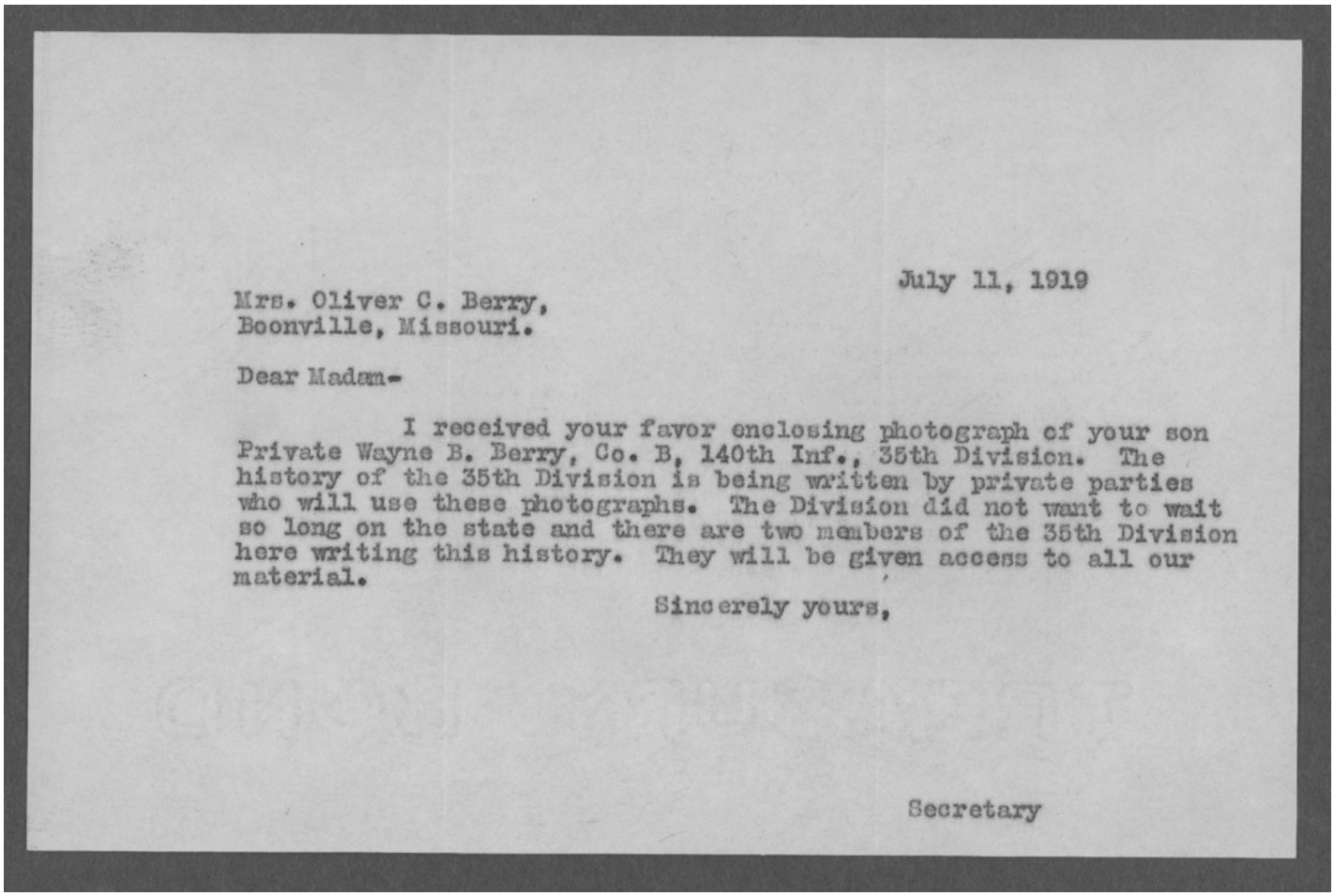
this picture. I too
have a History of the
35th. Div. by Clare
Kenamore, if it will
be of any use to
yu I will gladly
send it.

Yours respectfully,
Mrs. Oliver C. Berry.

R. F. D. #4.

When thru with them
please return pictures.

Wayne R. Berry, World War I soldier



July 11, 1919

Mrs. Oliver C. Berry,
Boonville, Missouri.

Dear Madam-

I received your favor enclosing photograph of your son Private Wayne B. Berry, Co. B, 140th Inf., 35th Division. The history of the 35th Division is being written by private parties who will use these photographs. The Division did not want to wait so long on the state and there are two members of the 35th Division here writing this history. They will be given access to all our material.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary