

#### Daniel James McGrath, 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 Daniel James McGrath, Company E, 314th Engineers, 89th Division.

Date: 1918

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 29 Kansas Soldiers

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# KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Mrs. M. Maberly is in receipt of a letter from her son, Daniel J. Mc-Grath, dated November 15, in which he says that he is getting along fine. He is in a Red Cross hospital, and says it is great the way the boys are treated there. He says the nurses are simply fine, and the patients get the best of food. They also get free tobacco and have the pleasure of seeing moving picture shows.

Continuing, Private McGrath says in part: I was here when the armistice was signed, and, believe me, we were a happy bunch. It meant a great deal to us to know that we were going to see the good old U. S. A. again and that when we went back to our company we would not have to be dodging G. I. cans (big shells) all the time. Don't worry about me. I am only here for a few days longer and then I will be O. K. again. I came here for a minor operation and am nearly well now.

The French people nearly went wild when the armistice was signed. I don't blame them, and one who is over here and can see the devastation the Boches have caused can understand how they feel.

I have seen some wonderful sights, but the greatest was the crucifix of our Saviour in a church. The walls and windows and even the altar was torn up by big shells, but not a scratch on the crucifix.

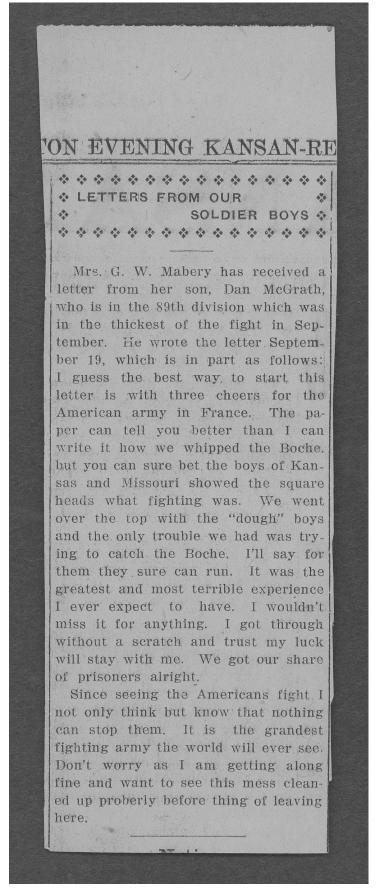
I sure consider myself lucky getting out of the war O.K. and attribute it mostly to prayer. Being so close to death most of the time and seeing so much of it certainly makes a fellow think of the hereafter, and I have heard fellows say that they had not prayed for years, but when they got up on the lines they started again. As one fellow said: "One of those big G. I. cans will make a Christian out of a fellow quicker than Billy Sunday." I sure agree with him.

Now, mother, don't expect me home in a few days, as there are lots of things to be settled up here before we will get back. However, I hope it will be by spring anyway. Tell John that I could have gotten lots of helmets on the battlefield, but was entirely too busy at the time to even think of them. Besides a soldier has all he can carry in his own pack. Don't worry about me; I am getting along fine. The war is about good as over, so you don't have to worry about me getting bumped off any more.

PVT. DANIEL J. McGRATH, Co. E, 314 Engrs., A. E. F.



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neuton Kans Dec 1819
Daniel James melorath was born in hewton
Korns July 2 4 2 9 years ago Son of Margaret & Joseph Me Grath. his father died in 1890. his mother
Joseph Me Brath. his father died in 1840. his mother must have resides in heuton, Kanses.
Daniel . Left here for camp Junston Offer 29
Went over seas about the At week in June following
letters you can use what ever there is in the
letters that will suit. you folks at home don't
realize what this war is or what it has done or
and saving stamps to keep the Germans from
treating america as the how done in different
parts of Europe Tell the folks they better buy all they can las an investment to safe guard your away
property and get haid interest for it is about the
is about the best proposition I ever heard of "
Dear mother don't warry as I am getting along fine and ful better than love & did. This was can't y
last much longer and if the Germans dout give
In will just kill them all, then we will know
set one later & will hend it to you
get one lated & build Lend it to you I have making
227 East 2 st O newton Kans