

## **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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Mrs. M. Maberly is in receipt of a letter from her son, Daniel J. McGrath, 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.

## Daniel James McGrath, World War I soldier

### TON EVENING KANSAN-RE

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Mrs. G. W. Mabery has received a letter from her son, Dan McGrath, who is in the 89th division which was in the thickest of the fight in September. He wrote the letter September 19, which is in part as follows: I guess the best way to start this letter is with three cheers for the American army in France. The paper can tell you better than I can write it how we whipped the Boche. but you can sure bet the boys of Kansas and Missouri showed the square heads what fighting was. We went over the top with the "dough" boys and the only trouble we had was trying to catch the Boche. I'll say for them they sure can run. It was the greatest and most terrible experience I ever expect to have. I wouldn't miss it for anything. I got through without a scratch and trust my luck will stay with me. We got our share of prisoners alright.

Since seeing the Americans fight I not only think but know that nothing can stop them. It is the grandest fighting army the world will ever see. Don't worry as I am getting along fine and want to see this mess cleaned up properly before thing of leaving here.



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Newton Kans Dec 1819

Daniel James McGrath was born in Newton  
Kans July 24<sup>th</sup>. -- 29 years ago son of Margaret &  
Joseph McGrath. his father died in 1890. his mother  
Mrs Margaret Mabery resides in Newton Kansas.  
Daniel J. left here for Camp Funston Apr 29<sup>th</sup>  
Went over seas about the 1<sup>st</sup> week in June following  
enclosed find extracts from some of his  
letters you can use what ever there is in the  
letters that will suit. "you folks at home dont  
realize what this war is or what it has done. or  
they would be running over each other to buy Bonds  
and saving stamps to keep the Germans from  
treating America as she has done in different  
parts of Europe Tell the folks they better buy all they  
can as an investment to safe guard your own  
property and get paid interest for it ~~is about the~~  
is about the best proposition ever heard of."  
"Dear Mother dont worry as I am getting along  
fine and feel better than ever did. This war cant  
last much longer and if the Germans dont give  
up we will just kill them all, then we will know  
it is over for good." I have no picture if I should  
get one later I will send it to you

Mrs Margaret Mabery  
227 East 2<sup>nd</sup> St  
Newton Kans