

## **Ed Roland McWilliams, 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 Ed Roland McWilliams, Ambulance Company No. 24. Ed died of pneumonia on November 19, 1918 in the Base Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Date: 1918-1920

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

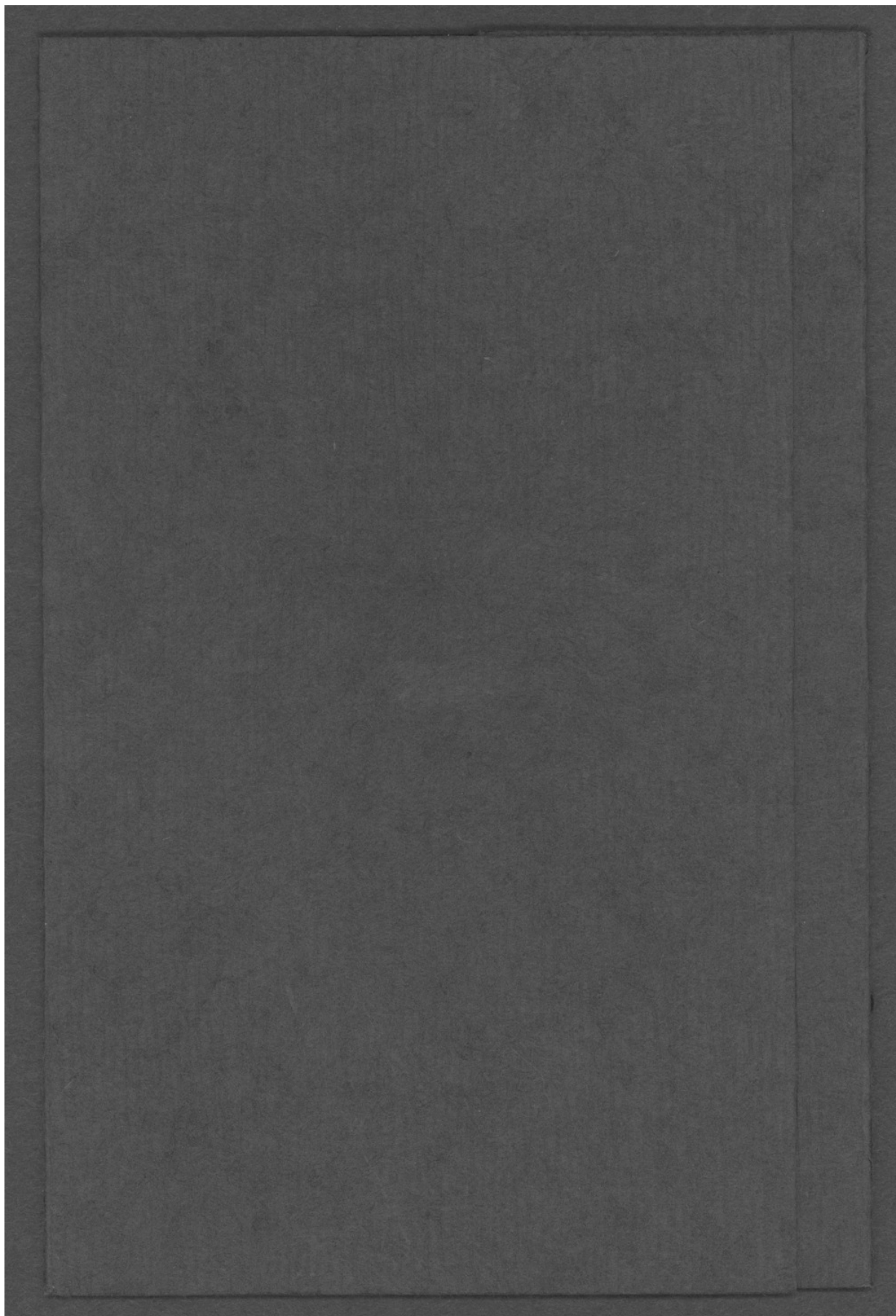
KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225089

Item Identifier: 225089

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/225089](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/225089)

KANSAS  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

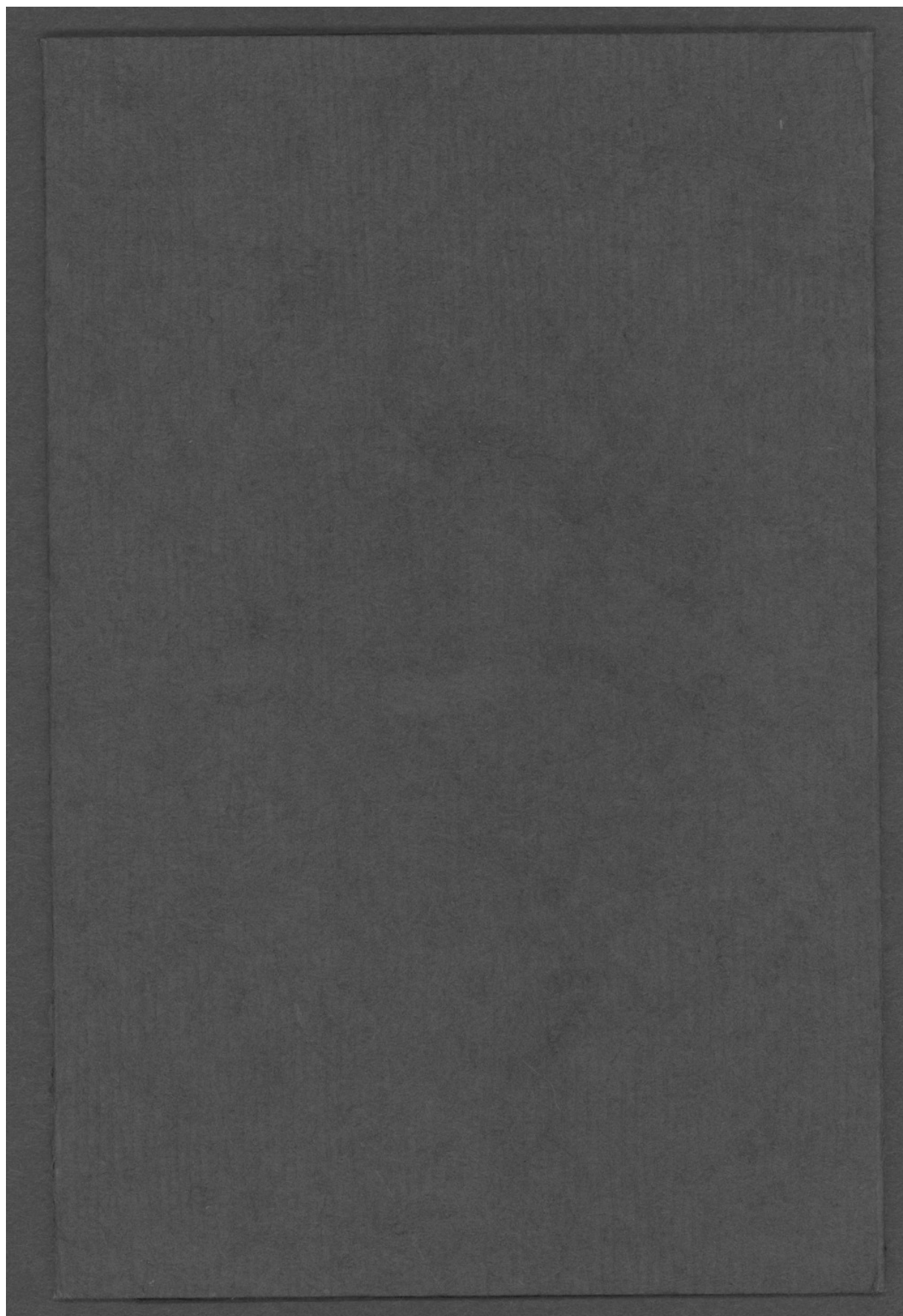


**Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier**





## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier



## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

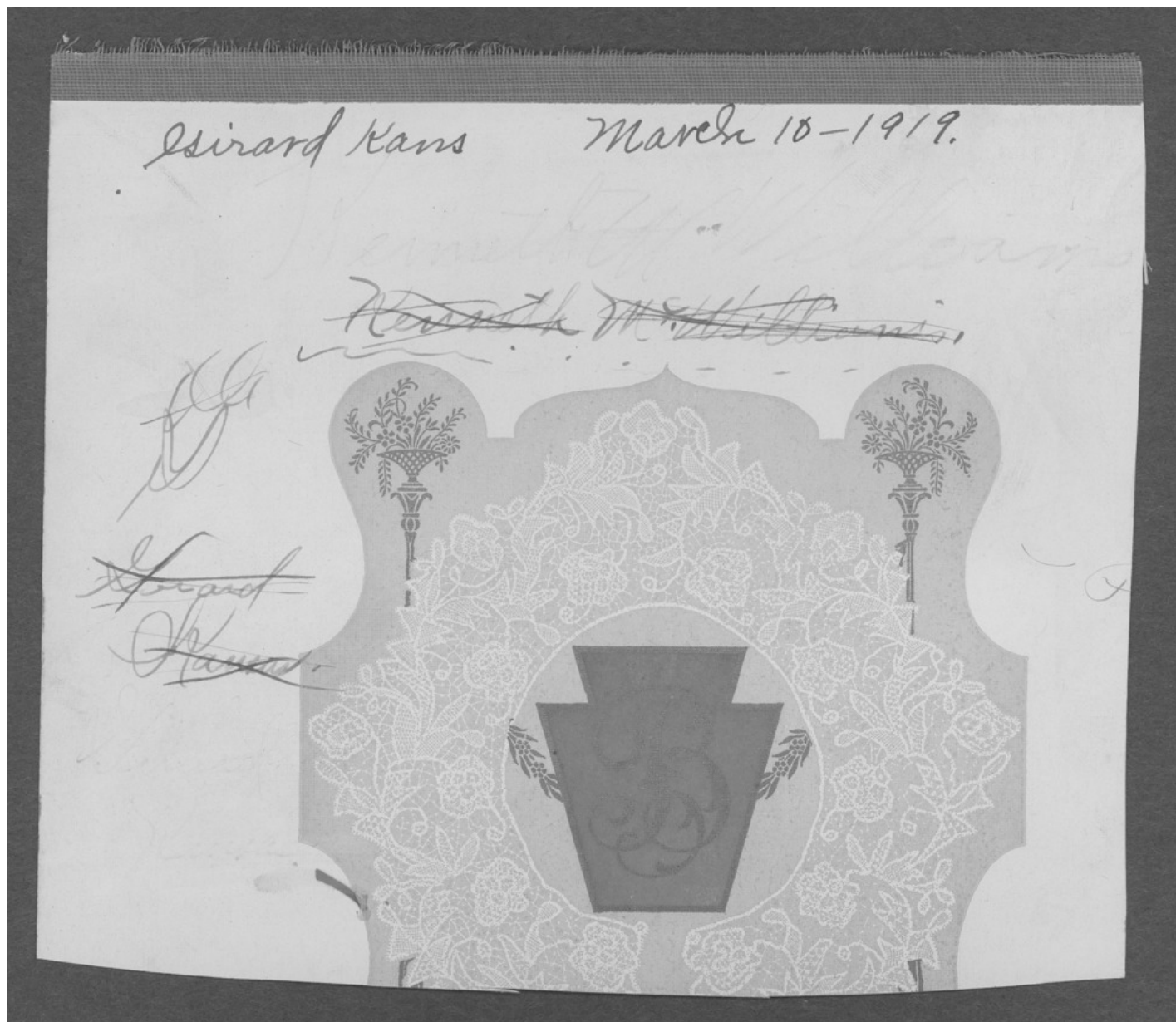
O.S. This is Photograph of Soldier  
Ed Roland M<sup>c</sup>. Williams. will you  
Pleas Return Same to me.

I will Prepare an article on what  
was going on in The Hospital + the  
care our boys were getting in the  
near future

Resp Mrs O.R. M<sup>c</sup>. Williams.  
Girard

O.R. 4 \ Kans.

## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier





## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

Ed Roland McWilliams was born near  
Cato Kansas March 21, 1897 at the age of  
Ten years he moved with his parents  
to the farm near Girard Kans where he <sup>collared</sup>  
made his home untill he was called to this  
August 29-1918 he went to Fort Riley & was  
later transferred to Fort Douglas Arizona there  
he served with Ambulance Co # 24 of the  
Medical Corps later he was transferred to  
the Base Hospital Fort Sam Houston Tex where  
he served on detached service with his Co  
working in the officers ward of the hospital  
while in active service there he was  
stricken with the dreaded disease Influenza  
he made a brave fight for his life but  
Pneumonia developed & he passed to rest  
on November 19-1918

he attended the public schools of Girard  
& also the Christian Church & Sunday S.  
was reared in a Christian home was  
& industrious & obedient. if there is any more  
questions you would like to ask I will  
be glad to ~~ask~~ answer them for you  
I am very Resp. yours

Mrs E. R. McWilliams

## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

Esirard Kans 2/26-1919-

Mr William E. Connelley

Dear Sir I am in  
Reciept of your request in regard to the  
Death of our Soldier boy Ed Roland McWilliams  
who made the sacrifice in defense of his  
country and will furnish you with a  
Photograph providing you will return it  
to me as it is the only one I have & hold it  
very dear & sacred to me and I will furnish  
you with a sketch of his life also. but for  
his letters he has written after he entered  
the service I dont think you would  
want to publish them as they are & I wont  
have them changed & flowered over for  
I can say this much if that history is  
printed in the plain truths & facts it would be  
of no credits & honor to the state & our government  
had they taken better care of those dear boys in  
camps there would not have been so much for  
you to make a history from. now I am a  
Mother who went to the Base Hospital & stayed by  
this Dear Soldier's bed & know how he was treated  
& can tell you many thing I observed while there  
now why dont you make a history of the wronged  
mothers & tell the truths about things as well  
as how Brave & noble the boys layed down  
their lives for there is not one of them that over.





**Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier**

would stay a minute if they could get away.  
please notify me if you get this & I will  
send the Photograph by return mail.

## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

February 28, 1919

Mrs. P. R. McWilliams,  
Girard, Kansas.

Dear Madam-

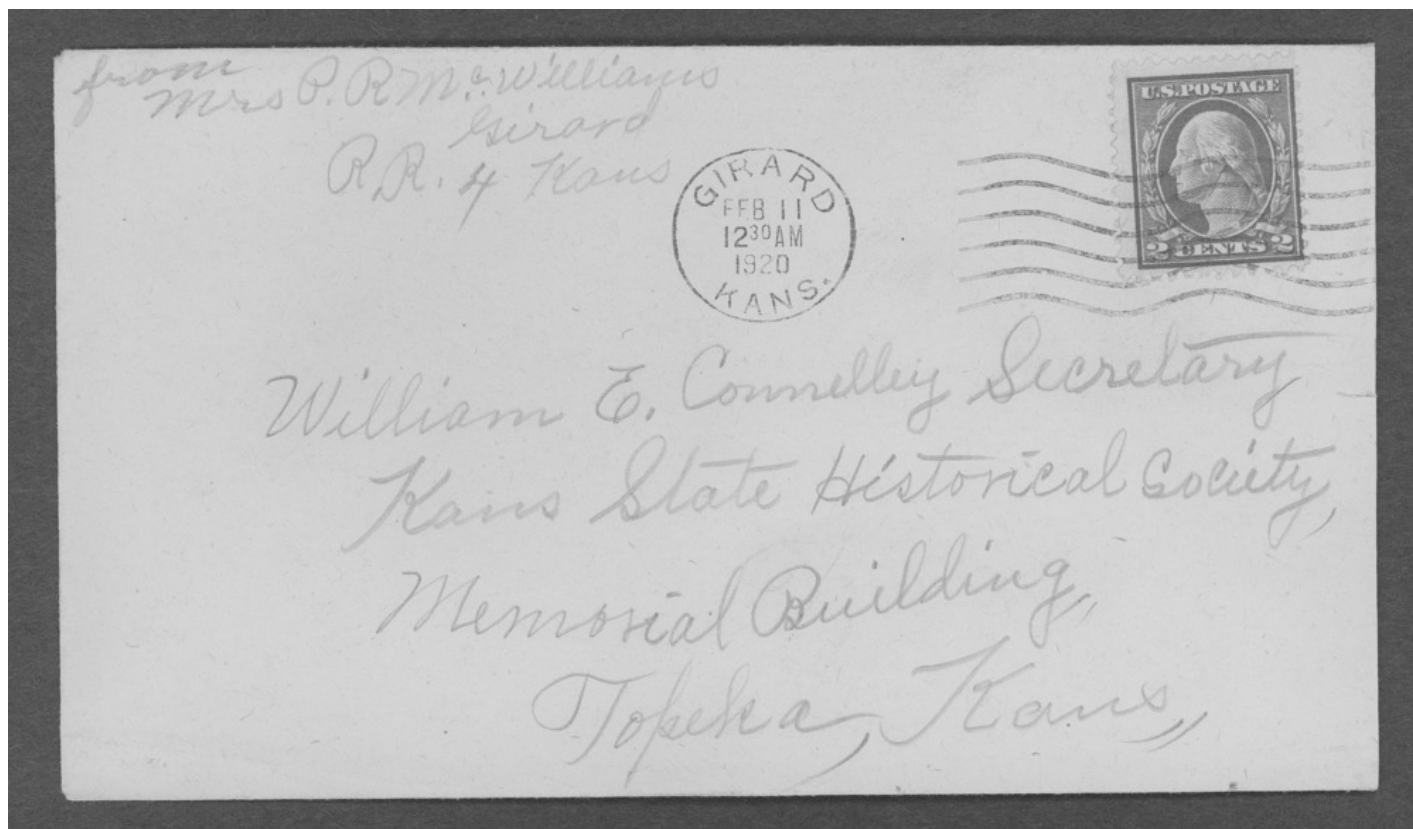
I received your favor of the 26" inst., enclosing me sketch of the life of the soldier Ed Roland McWilliams. I thank you for sending me this. Please send me a photograph of the soldier. The material we are collecting will be published at some time in the future. I cannot tell you just when. That will depend on when the legislature furnishes the money. Nothing will be published for two years in any event. I would be glad for you to write me a plain statement of facts of what you saw in the hospital. As I said above, it is uncertain when this material will be published, but it will be published some time.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary



## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier



## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

Osirard Kans  
Mr Wm. E. Connelley Sect- Feb 10-1920  
Kans Historical Society

Dear Sir I am writing you  
in regard to a Photograph I sent to  
you almost a year ago and I have  
been expecting its return for some  
time as you assured me you would  
return it to me and I have not  
received it yet would you please  
send it by return mail it is the  
Photograph of the Soldier

Ed Roland McWilliams.

Very Resp —

Mrs O. R. McWilliams.





## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

February 12, 1920

Mrs. P. R. McWilliams,  
Girard, Kansas.

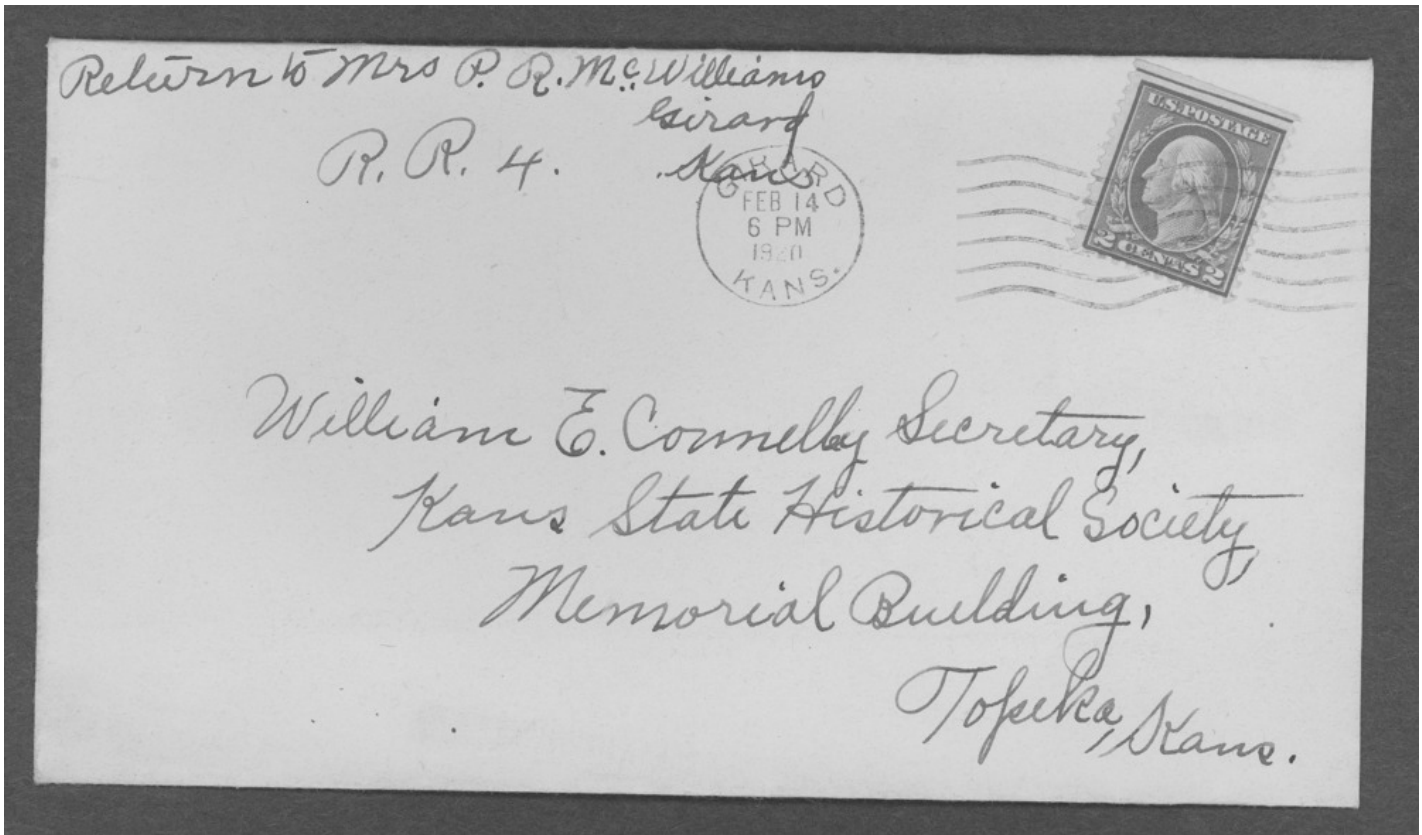
Dear Madam-

We have not returned the photograph of the soldier Ed. Roland McWilliams for the reason that the legislature has made no provision to copy the photographs of the soldiers. We have the photograph here in a fireproof building which has recently been erected by the state at a cost of more than \$600,000, and it is absolutely safe. I feel sure that you would not want the state to have pictures of the other soldier boys and not the picture of your boy, for the state will sooner or later want to publish the records and pictures of these soldier boys. To make a copy of all these photographs would cost from \$2,500 to \$3000 and the state has made no provision for that. I should like to retain the picture until such provision is made.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier





Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

Yerard Kans  
Feb 14 1920  
William E. Connelley

Sir-

That will be alright to  
retain the picture & just  
wanted to know what had  
become of it, as I never heard  
if you recieved it or not.  
& just wanted to know it  
was taken care of as it is  
the only one I had & of course  
it is very sacred & dear to me  
& thought it might possibly  
get lost all I ask is that it  
be taken care of.

~~Your very truly~~ Resp.  
Mrs P. R. McWilliams.

## Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

February 16, 1920

Mrs. P. R. MacWilliams,  
Girard, Kansas.

Dear Madam-

I thank you for your favor of the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., saying that we might retain here permanently the photograph of your son. we are making every effort to secure photographs of all these fine young soldiers and intend to try to have the state begin the publication of information about them and their work in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Ed Roland McWilliams, World War I soldier

