

Joseph Royston Gathings, I, Collection

AFC 2001/001/57155

Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project



**Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

May 2008

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017655245>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh017011>

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Finding aid encoded by Justina Moloney, June 2017

Collection Summary

Title: Joseph Royston Gathings, I: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Inclusive Dates: 1894-1978

Call No.: AFC 2001/001/57155

creator: Gathings, Joseph Royston, I, 1894-1978

Extent (manuscripts): manuscripts: 181 items.

Extent (graphic images): graphic images: 43 photographs : black and white ; various sizes.

Language: Collection material in in English.

Location: Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017655245>

Summary: The Joseph Royston Gathings, I, collection includes clippings, correspondence, military papers and photographs relating to Joseph Royston Gathings' service in the United States Army in France during World War I

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Gathings, Joseph Royston, I, 1894-1978--Correspondence.

Gathings, Joseph Royston, I, 1894-1978.

Gathings, Joseph, donor.

Organizations

American Folklife Center

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces

Veterans History Project (U.S.)

Subjects

World War, 1914-1918--Personal narratives, American.

World War, 1914-1918--Veterans--Mississippi.

Form/Genre

Correspondence.

Manuscripts.

Photographs.

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: Manuscripts and Photographs.

Acquisition

Accessioned, 2008.

Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Preferred Citation

Joseph Royston Gathings, I, Collection (AFC/2001/001/57155), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

Biographical Notes

Joseph Royston Gathings, I, was born July 17, 1894, in Dundee, Mississippi. The son of a doctor, J.C. Gathings, he entered the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in 1913 to study law. Graduating with a Bachelor of Laws from Ole Miss in 1916, he finished his studies shortly before the United States entered World War I in April 1917. Enlisting in the Army on August 27, 1917, Gathings was assigned to Camp Funston, later known as Camp Stanley, in Leon Springs, Texas. Stationed at Camp Stanley for over a year, Gathings was assigned to Battery B of the 13th Field Artillery, 4th Division. Earning the highest rank of 2nd Lieutenant, Gathings actively pushed to receive a commission during his service with the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France and Germany. Deployed with the American Expeditionary Forces in the summer of 1918, he was involved in the Battles of Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive which ended the war on November 11, 1918. Gathings remained stationed in France following the Armistice, returning to the United States in 1919. He was discharged from the Army at Camp Pike, Arkansas, on August 20, 1919. He died on June 13, 1978.

Scope and Content

The collection includes clippings, correspondence, military papers and photographs relating to Joseph Royston Gathings' service in the United States Army in France, and the United States during World War I. The bulk of the collection consists of letters written between Gathings and his family and friends, during his civilian life prior to the war, during his service, and after his discharge.

Description of Series

Container	Series
	<u>Series I: Manuscripts</u>
	<u>Series II: Photographs</u>

Container List

Container	Contents
Series I: Manuscripts	
BOX-FOLDER OVZ107	Clippings, 07/04/1919 1 folder MS01: Page from newspaper Ivy Leaves with article "New York Paper Features Work of 'Forgotten' Fourth Division" (7/4/1919).
BOX-FOLDER MSS1740/1-7	Correspondence, 1914-1924 7 folders MS02: Letter collection from before, during, and after WWI (1914-1924). Letters written by the veteran are to his father and one to a girlfriend named Nina. The veteran received letters from a number of people including several serious girlfriends (Gertrude, Kathryne, Nina, and a woman identified only as "Sissums"), his sister Madge, a business associate Edward Albin, and various notes from other women the veteran befriended in his travels. From veteran to his father, 7 letters (10/7/1918 - 6/13/1919). Letters written when the veteran was deployed with the AEF in France. Includes veteran's discussion of his war experience and physical destruction of France, comments on his status of rank, and his future career once the war concludes. From veteran to his sister Eddie, 1 letter (1/20/1919). Letter from Gathings to his young sister. Includes letter from Billie (Eddie's friend) to Eddie. From veteran to Nina, 1 letter (6/2/1918). Letter written by veteran to Nina while with AEF in France. Letter appears to not have been sent as there is no postmark stamp. From Madge Pake (veteran's sister) to veteran, 2 letters (9/22/1917, 10/5/1917). Letters discuss life in Dundee, Mississippi, while veteran is at Camp Stanley. From Edward R. Albin to veteran, 2 letters (10/15/1917, 2/9/1918). Letters discuss the return of the veteran's belongings from his shared space with Albin. From Gertrude to veteran, 17 letters (5/13/1915 - 5/18/1921, several with no date). Letters sent to veteran primarily during period prior to war experience, while veteran and Gertrude were students at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss). Letters include wedding announcement for Gertrude Lassiter. From Kathryne/Katrina Harper to veteran, 15 letters (11/3/1914 - 5/17/1917). Letters written to veteran prior to his war experience from Washington D.C., discussing their courtship and daily activities. From Nina Uzzelle to veteran, 41 letters (5/2/1917 - 1/12/1925). Letters discuss daily activities for Nina in Pecan Point, their courtship, the death of father William Tipton Uzzelle (10/2/1917). Nina's letters are directed to him predominately at Camp Stanley prior to 1918. A wedding announcement for Nina's sister Helen Semmes Uzzelle is included announcing her wedding to Jesse Patrick Farrell (1/12/1925), as well as a letter ending Nina's relationship with the veteran (3/31/1920). From Sissums to veteran, 14 letters (9/17/1914 - 7/27/1917) Letters to veteran sent prior to his war service while he was attending Ole Miss. They discuss daily activities for Sissums while in Jackson, Tennessee, and her courtship with Gathings. From Stella McCoy to veteran, 2 letters (3/13/1916 - 4/13/1916). Topics covered include her opinions of Jackson, Tennessee, and of baseball. From various friends to veteran, 10 letters (5/12/1917 - 12/24/1924). Letters from Martha Blair, Julia, Iada, Jeanelle, Louise Vian, Ohas Schraenen, Jack, and Anna.

Series I: Manuscripts

Container	Contents
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BOX-FOLDER MSS1741/1-5	Correspondence, 1914-1924
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5 folders

MS02 continued

BOX-FOLDER MSS1741/6	Military Papers, 1917 - 1936
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1 folder

MS03: Elks membership card (11/18/1922); Officer's Identity Card with original photo; Officer's Record Book (1918) including receipt from the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) (11/18/1918), application for transfer of money (6/16/1918), correspondence from the American Express Company regarding money transfer (11/9/1918), calling cards for Edward M. Salomon, Leon Geerinckx, Alfred Vian and Joseph R. Gathings including various notes of other people's names and addresses, vaccination register (1917-1919), clipping with notes written by veteran, clipping with units and their states, notes with various names written down.

Portrait of veteran, blank photo (see photograph folder for originals); discharge orders (4/16/1919); clearance certificate (8/19/1919); special orders for honorable discharge (8/20/1919); correspondence regarding eligibility lists to Clayton Erskine (2/21/1919); certificate of honorable discharge (8/20/1919) with military record and certificate of record (2/6/1936); list of 4th Division photo descriptions with identification numbers [from] the Signal Corps Office's Photographic Department.

BOX-FOLDER MSS1741/7	Regimental/Unit Histories, 1927
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1 folder

MS04: History of Battery "B", 13th Field Artillery (8/4/1927).

Series II: Photographs

BOX-FOLDER MSS1741/8	Photographic prints, 1917 - 1919
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1 folder

PH01: Veteran in uniform (center) with two women in doorway.

PH02: Veteran in uniform (left) with two other servicemen.

PH03-PH09: Portraits of Veteran's girlfriend Nina

PH09: Veteran's girlfriend Nina, photo originally included with letter dated 9/1/1917 from Nina to veteran.

PH10-PH43: Photos of World War I scenes in France and Belgium. Scenes include the damage of the war in civilian areas, newly erected statues as a result of the outcome of war, First Lieutenant, Quentin Roosevelt's grave marker, and a number of photos that document dead soldiers throughout unidentified battlefields of World War I.