Finding Aid for the Richard W. Burgemeister correspondence collection 2017.110.w.r

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Center for American War Letters Archives
08/03/2017
Leatherby Libraries
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URL: http://www1.chapman.edu/library/archives/
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Center for American War Letters Archives
Title: Richard W. Burgemeister Philippine-American War Era correspondence
Source: Burgemeister, Richard W.
Identifier/Call Number: 2017.110.w.r
Physical Description: .16 Linear feet (3 folders)
Date (inclusive): 1895-1912
Date (bulk): 1895-1899
Abstract: This collection was donated by Richard W. Burgemeister and contains Spanish American War-era correspondence and correspondence from the Philippine-American War in 1899. The letters were written by James G. Miller, whom the donor notes was part of Company G of the Second South Carolina Volunteers during the time of the Spanish-American war, and Lynton E. Athey, a bugler with Company H. of the Idaho Volunteer Infantry who was stationed in the Philippines at the start of the Philippine-American war.

Leatherby Libraries, Special Collections, CAWL Archives.
Storage Unit: Burgemeister 1
Storage Unit: 1-3

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Richard W. Burgemeister.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged by material type, author, and date. Series 1: Correspondence from Lynton E. Athey - Series 2: Correspondence to Lynton E. Athey - Series 3: Other materials

Biographical / Historical
Lynton Athey was a bugler with Company H. of the Idaho Volunteer Infantry. His birth and death date are not known but records suggest he may have been born in Oregon on July 28, 1878. A World War II draft card from a Lynton E. Athey appears to contain the same signature as on the letters.

Preferred Citation
[Item title, Box number, Folder number], Richard W. Burgemeister Spanish-American War correspondence (2017.110.w.r), Center for American War Letters Archives, Chapman University, CA.

Content Description
This collection contains 27 letters, including Spanish American War-era correspondence and correspondence from the Philippine-American War in 1899. The letters were a gift from Richard Burgemeister, who purchased them. There are some orphan pages of letters and blank envelopes in the collection.

One of the letters was written by James G. Miller at Camp George H. Thomas in Georgia. The donor notes that there was a James G. Miller who was part of Company G of the Second South Carolina Volunteers. The rest of the collection was written by Lynton E. Athey and his family. Athey was a bugler with Company H. of the Idaho Volunteer Infantry and was stationed in Manila in the Philippines at the start of the Philippine-American war. Athey was also stationed at Camp Merritt in San Francisco.

The letters from Athey mention the Philippines and the letters to Athey from family members mention life at home in Idaho. One item of interest is an orphan page from a letter in which the sender is unclear. The sender writes: “How I wish I could hear from you, and how you came out at Santa Ana.” The letter also mentions how Governors were petitioning the President to send home the volunteers.

There are also some materials that date to the early 1900s.

Conditions Governing Use
There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions. For further copyright information, please contact the archivist.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Philippines -- History -- Philippine American War, 1899-1902
Spanish-American War, 1898
Series 1. Correspondence from Lynton E. Athey 1898-1899

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet (1 folder)
Some of the letters are fragile and enclosed in polyester covers.

Scope and Contents
This series contains five letters written by Lynton E. Athey, a bugler with Company H. of the Idaho Volunteer Infantry. Athey wrote the letters while at Camp Merritt in San Francisco and while stationed in the Philippines before the Philippine-American War.

In one letter from June 4, 1898, Athey refers to camp songs at Camp Merritt. One is "Hang Gen. W. on Sour Apple Tree." It may refer to General Weyler of Spain. A search retrieved a few references in books to Weyler’s name being mentioned in the song in the late 1890s.

In other letters, Athey writes about being in the Philippines. One letter from January 22, 1899 mentions a sentry shooting and killing an insurgent captain. In another letter from October 21, 1898, Athey writes that "Idaho has lost two men since arriving here."

The October 21, 1898 letter contains an original poem.

Series 2. Correspondence to Lynton E. Athey 1895-1912 1895-1899

Physical Description: .07 Linear Feet (1 folder)
Some of the letters are fragile and enclosed in polyester covers.

Scope and Contents
This series contains 20 pieces of correspondence, including some partial correspondence, to Lynton Athey from family members and friends. Some orphan pages of letters are in the back of the folder. There are also several blank envelopes assorted by postmark date.

In the letters, the family members describe life at home in Idaho. In one letter in which the sender is unclear, the person writes: "How I wish I could hear from you, and how you came out at Santa Ana." The letter also mentions how Governors were petitioning the President to send home the volunteers.

Series 3. Other materials 1898-1910

Physical Description: .025 Linear Feet (1 folder)

Scope and Contents
This series contains two letters and other items. One of the letters was written by James G. Miller, who was stationed at Camp George H. Thomas in Georgia. It was written during the Spanish-American war. The letter appears to be unrelated to the correspondence to and from Lynton Athey.

The other letter is from Athey's sister to her mom.

Other items in this series include a blank envelope from D.W. Figgins to the Atheys' address in Boise, a paper filled with writing and drawings. The date of the item is unclear and it is also unclear if this was related to the Athey correspondence. The paper mentions purchasing a grafonola, an early 20th century music device from Columbia.

There is also a paper containing an apparent script for a performance. The paper has the template date "191_." The author is not clear. Finally, there is a small, undated paper with one side listing time zones and currency values on the other side.