Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Title: Captain William H. Fowler papers
creator: Fowler, William H., Captain
Identifier/Call Number: M2098
Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet (3 boxes, 1 flat box)
Date (inclusive): circa 1917-1931
Abstract: Collection of correspondence and photographs from William H. Fowler, who worked with the railroad in Russia and Northern China around the time of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
This collection was purchased by Stanford University, Special Collections in 2015.

Preferred Citation
[identification of item], Captain William H. Fowler Papers (M2098). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Conditions Governing Access
Open for research. Note that material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use.

Conditions Governing Use
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Content Description
The materials consist of 185 handwritten letters and approximately 150-180 photographs taken by Fowler, as well as a few items of ephemera, including postcards, telegrams, War Department letters, and material related to the railway. The letters are largely sent from Harbin, China and Siberia, as well as a few from the United States. They are mostly to Fowler's wife, with whom he corresponded from 1917 to 1920, detailing for her his life in China and Russia. He describes the local populations, the conditions of the towns, cultural traits, politics, and the American forces in the areas. The Bolshevik revolution is mentioned, as well as a railroad strike in 1919. Most of the photographs are annotated with comments, and subjects include the conditions in Manchuria and Siberia, trains in Manchuria, Russian refugees, Chinese railroad workers, prisoners of war, breadlines, Russian soldiers marching shortly after the revolution, and American soldiers.

Biographical / Historical
William H. Fowler was a civilian recruited to serve with the American Engineering Corps division of The Russian Railroad Service Corps (RRSC) American Expeditionary Force Siberia (in this case Manchuria). The American Expeditionary Forces were involved in the Russian Civil War in Vladivostok during World War I, and after the October Revolution from 1918 to 1920. The RRSC consisted of former U.S. civilian railway workers who were organized into a military-style unit with appropriate rank to operate railroads in support of Allied forces. This force supported the Russian Provisional Government in northwestern Russia. American Transportation Corps troops maintained the railways, but in Siberia, the RRSC carried out railway operations as well as maintenance. [Information from dealer description.]

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Harbin (China) -- Description and travel
Siberia (Russia) -- Description and travel
Fowler, William H., Captain

| box 1, folder 1 | Correspondence 1917 |
| box 1, folder 2 | Correspondence February - May 1918 |
| box 1, folder 3 | Correspondence June 1918 |
| box 1, folder 4 | Correspondence July 1918 |
| box 1, folder 5 | Correspondence August 1918 |
| box 1, folder 6 | Correspondence September 1918 |
| box 1, folder 7 | Correspondence October 1918 |
| box 1, folder 8 | Correspondence November 1918 |
box 1, folder 9  Correspondence December 1918
box 1, folder 10 Correspondence January 1919
box 1, folder 11 Correspondence February 1919
box 1, folder 12 Correspondence March 1919
box 2, folder 1  Correspondence April 1919
box 2, folder 2  Correspondence May 1919
box 2, folder 3  Correspondence June 1919
box 2, folder 4  Correspondence July 1919
box 2, folder 5  Correspondence August 1919
box 2, folder 6  Correspondence September 1919
box 2, folder 7  Correspondence October 1919
box 2, folder 8  Correspondence November 1919
box 2, folder 9  Correspondence December 1919
box 2, folder 10 Correspondence 1920
box 2, folder 11 Correspondence 1931
box 2, folder 12 Correspondence undated
box 3, folder 1-5 Correspondence undated
box 3, folder 6 Photographs
box 3, folder 7 Clippings
box 3, folder 8 Railway Mechanical Engineer November, 1924
Box 4 Photo album

Physical Description: Please note this album is extremely fragile and many of the prints are almost loose. Also, due to prior water exposure many of the prints are faded or otherwise damaged.