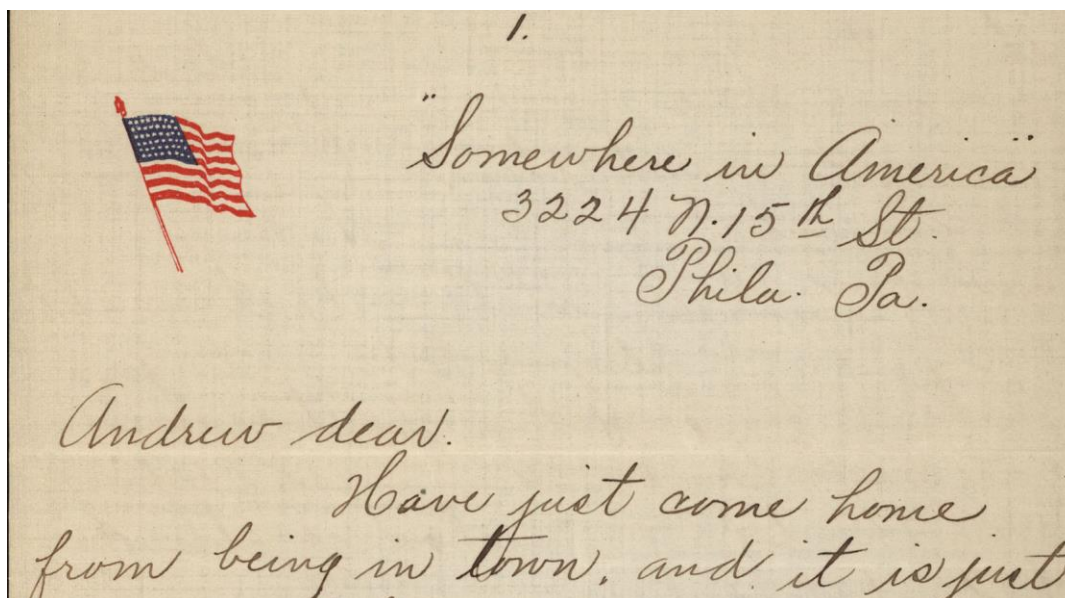


Guide to the Lieutenant Andrew R. Kane Letters



**Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections & College Archives**

**Processed by Amy Lucadamo
July 2013**

MS – 147: Lieutenant Andrew R. Kane Letters

(1 box, .25 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: May 31, 1918-July 15, 1918

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Provenance

Purchased from Between the Covers, 112 Nicholson Rd., Gloucester City, NJ 08030, 2013

Biography

Andrew R. Kane was born in December of 1895 or 1896 to Andrew and Mary Kane of Philadelphia. He was one of ten children – five boys and five girls. He was sent to France in May 1918 as part of the 16th Pennsylvania Regiment 112th Infantry Company C.

The 112th Infantry were involved in the Second Battle of the Marne in July of 1918. Andrew was reported as having been “killed in action” in a September 19, 1918 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article and as wounded in an article from December 9, 1918 also in the *Inquirer*. His name appears in the 1920 census, where he is listed as 23 years old and a lieutenant in the army living with his parents, three brothers, and sister Frances at 2023 N. 12th Street in Philadelphia, PA. Additionally, there is a Pennsylvania Veterans Burial Card record of Andrew being buried in St. Denis Cemetery in Delaware County, PA. The record lists his birth year as 1896 and his death date as August 10, 1920.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection is made up of 28 letters sent to Andrew R. Kane of Philadelphia, PA from May 31-July 15, 1918 while he was serving with the 112th Infantry, Company C in France. They were sent by the women in his family: his mother, two sisters, his sister-in-law, and girlfriend. His younger sister, Frances, and girlfriend, Marie wrote most often. Letters reference family and friends in Philadelphia, their pride in Andrew’s service, and their worries about his safety. They express patriotic and religious sentiments. Letters from Andrew’s mother, Mary, contain the most spelling and grammatical errors and letters from his sister-in-law, Margaret have the most challenging handwriting.

Letters written by Andrew’s sister, Frances, contain news of friends and social gatherings as do letters from another sister, Nanie [Elizabeth?]. Letters from his girlfriend, Marie express how much she misses Andrew and cautions about the allure of French women. Some letters touch on home front topics like sugar and meat rationing, censorship of mail, and a feeling of emptiness in the city of Philadelphia. Several letters refer to family members seeing Andrew’s name or photograph in the newspaper and one letter included a clipping, which is not part of this collection. These mentions in the newspaper were not located upon an internet search.

Letters written to and from Andrew could take up to a month to reach him and his family members. Letters written by Andrew seem to have arrived in bundles, several at a time. His sisters and girlfriend comment on how interesting they are, but do not reference any specific names or locations.

Arrangement

All 28 letters are arranged in one series and are organized chronologically. Dates from postmarks were used when the letters themselves were not dated.

Series 1 - Letters

Box 1

1918 May 8-15

1918 May 17-31

1918 June 6-12

1918 June 17-27

1918 July 5-15