

**ESTES, FRED
VETERANS PAPERS
1898-[1960-1969]-1969**

Processed by:
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Archival Technical Services

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MICROFILMED

INTRODUCTION:

The Fred Estes Veterans Papers span the years 1898 to 1969, but primarily cover 1960-1969. The processing of this collection initially began several years ago, but was temporarily interrupted. Processing work resumed in early 2002 and was completed in June 2002. Some of the papers were reorganized but there were no major changes made to the organization of the collection.

Fred Estes served as the state and local historian for the American Legion for several decades, and while serving in this role amassed a considerable number of newspaper clippings, photographs, membership cards, bulletins, newsletters, pamphlets, and other papers pertinent to the American Legion and Tennessee war veterans. Although the majority of the papers relate to the American Legion and World War I, there are a few items that pertain to earlier conflicts. Additionally, some information about the Veterans of World War I organization is also included in this collection.

It is likely, but not certain, that Fred Estes donated the papers to TSLA. The collection is unrestricted, and measures 2 cubic feet. The papers are in good condition. Related collections of possible interest to researchers include:

- (1) The Luke Lea Papers, 1826-1993, accession number THS 741, microfilm accession number 1541
- (2) Ellsworth Brown Papers, 1918-1962, accession number 92-075 and THS 723, microfilm accession number 1465
- (3) David Fryar McGinnis Papers, 1893-1964, accession number 89-026
- (4) 114th Field Artillery, Battery 'C' Reunion Association Papers, 1959-1975, accession number 92-074
- (5) the 114th Field Artillery Scrapbooks, accession number 1989.70

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH:

Fred Estes, a native of Sharon, Tennessee, served as director of the Tennessee State Museum for 14 years and was an active member of the American Legion Post #5, and post historian from 1928-1953. Estes graduated from West Tennessee State Normal School and earned his B.A. in 1916. He then attended Peabody College. After working for the Postal Transportation Service, Estes enlisted in the Army on June 5, 1917 and left for France on May 26, 1918. He served in Battery E, 114th Field Artillery, 30th Division in World War I. He fought at Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel, and was a part of the Woevre Offensive. Estes suffered from a mustard gas attack in 1918 in France, and was sent to a hospital in France to recover. He returned to America in 1919 and was discharged from the army April 9, 1919. Estes earned the Purple Heart for wounds received in action.

As the state and local historian of the American Legion, Estes published two books on the history of the American Legion in Tennessee. One of his books received third place in the 1935 National History Contest. Estes was also active in the downtown Lions Club and the McKendree Methodist Church. He died on December 6, 1969.

Bibliography:

Estes, Fred, Ed. *History of American Legion: Department of Tennessee 1919-1950*. Nashville: The American Legion, The Department of Tennessee, 1953.

Estes, Fred & Guy H. May, Eds. *History of the American Legion: Department of Tennessee 1919-1933*. Nashville: The American Legion, The Department of Tennessee, 1933.

“Fred Douglas Estes, Museum Director, Dies.” *Nashville Banner*, December 6, 1969

“Fred D. Estes Rites Tomorrow.” *The Tennessean*, December 7, 1969.

Rumer, Thomas A. *The American Legion: An Official History 1919-1989*. New York: M. Evans & Company, Inc., 1990.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Fred Estes Veterans Papers span the years 1898 to 1969, but papers from the 1960s comprise the majority of the collection. As the state and local historian of the American Legion, Estes collected a variety of items that relate to Tennessee veterans. Most of the collection covers World War I veterans and the local and state activities of the American Legion. The papers include American Legion newsletters, pamphlets, programs, reunion photographs, and newspapers. There are also newspaper clippings concerning sundry veterans' affairs, and a draft manuscript copy of "Iodine and Gasoline," a book authored by numerous veterans documenting the history of the 42nd Infantry Division in World War I. Newsletters, rosters, applications, and other documents from the Veterans of World War I organization are also included in the Estes papers. This organization is separate from the American Legion, and was chartered by Congress on July 18, 1958. The group was organized to help veterans receive optimal pension plans at a time when many veterans were dissatisfied with the American Legion's attempts to secure appropriate veterans' pensions.

While most of the collection covers Tennessee American Legion veterans who fought in the Great War, there are also portions of the collection seemingly unrelated to this subject. There are a number of photographs of special interest, such as a posed group of American troops from the Spanish-American War, and a panoramic view of Port Arthur, China, taken during the Russo-Japanese War. Of relevance to Tennessee history is a photograph of Spanish-American War (and other) veterans taken in front of the War Memorial Building in downtown Nashville. Most of the other photographs show Tennessee veterans in the 1960s during various reunions, but several images show soldiers in battle.

The collection's strengths are its coverage of the 114th Field Artillery in particular. Many documents are quite specific about the events that the men in this World War I unit experienced. Their lives after the war are covered to an extent in the scrapbooks that were probably compiled by fellow veterans. The collection will also give the researcher a good sense of the activities of the American Legion in the 1960s, for many of their published documents are included in the Fred Estes Veterans Papers.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1:

- Folder 1: Veterans of World War I, USA, Inc., newsletters, 1965-1967, and benefits letter
- Folder 2: Veterans of World War I annual convention information, 1964-1965
- Folder 3: Veterans of World War I, roster from Colonel Luke Lea's Barracks No. 3214, 1965
- Folder 4: Veterans of World War I, application for membership & 1969 meeting announcement
- Folder 5: Veterans of World War I, General Orders 1 & 2, 1964-1965, Jackson, Tennessee
- Folder 6: Reunion and attendance information, location cards, lists, and notes concerning Tennessee war veterans
- Folder 7: Veterans Day Program, 1966, and Armistice Day Program, 1963
- Folder 8: Reunion information, 114th Field Artillery, 1960-1965
- Folder 9: American Legion committee meetings, bulletins, newsletters, reports, essay contest, 1963-1968
- Folder 10: American Legion conferences, conventions, and related correspondence, 1953-1969
- Folder 11: American Legion Information Releases, 1964-1965
- Folder 12: American Legion Pamphlets and Publications
- Folder 13: Correspondence concerning press coverage of events of World War I, 1932-1940
- Folder 14: American Legion, various lists, 1965-1966
- Folder 15: American Legion band information, 1932
- Folder 16: Information on Luke Lea and Tennessee's role in World War I
- Folder 17: Verdun Monument Fund information
- Folder 18: Draft manuscript copy of "Iodine and Gasoline," a history of the 42nd Infantry Division in World War I
- Folder 19: Draft manuscript copy of "Iodine and Gasoline," continued

Box 2:

- Folder 1: Fred Estes American Legion Membership Cards, 1925-1953
- Folder 2: American Legion newspaper clippings, 1965-1967
- Folder 3: World War I veterans' obituaries
- Folder 4: American Legion newspaper clippings, reunion information, 1961-1965
- Folder 5: Fred Estes World War I scrapbook
- Folder 6: American Legion 'Citation for Meritorious Service Certificate' for Fred Estes, 1957
- Folder 7: Fred Estes' incoming correspondence, 1962-1968
- Folder 8: Veteran's Scrapbook (composition book), newspaper clippings
- Folder 9: Veteran's Scrapbook (composition book) continued, newspaper clippings and lists
- Folder 10: Veteran's Scrapbook (composition book) continued, miscellaneous papers
- Folder 11: Veteran's Scrapbook (composition book) continued, two "S.G. T. Guest York" ribbons
- Folder 12: from Veteran's Scrapbook (composition book) continued, *The Mississippi Dragon* newspaper, published by and for the 114th Field Artillery, Dec. 9, 1940 issue

Box 3: Photographs

Sleeve 1: Photographic negative: Miller and Estes at Ozone

Sleeve 2: Postcard: Texas Army Camp

Sleeve 3: Photograph: Fred Estes and Charles Knight with World War I field telephones, 1962

Sleeve 4: Photograph: William Boardman, Charles Knight, Fred Galligan, Bernard Evers, Fred Estes, and Syd Groom, January 1963

Sleeve 5: Printing overlay: seal template

Sleeve 6: Photograph: marked "1st Tenn. Inf. 1898" on back

Sleeve 7: Drawing: marked "COF. First Tennessee Inf. 1898 Philippines" on back

Sleeve 8: Photograph: Two soldiers firing from porch

Sleeve 9: Photograph: Dead soldiers

Sleeve 10: Photograph: Fred Estes, William Boardman, & Charlie Knight with uniforms, 1962

Sleeve 11: Photograph: Fred Estes, William Boardman, & Charlie Knight with World War I mine-thrower, 1962

Sleeve 12: Photograph: Semaphore and Wigway flags used by 114th F.A. in World War I, 1919

Sleeve 13: Photograph: Department of Veterans Affairs, State of Tennessee, "Dept. Executive Com. 1953-1954, Dept. Hdqtrs. Nov. 18, 1953

Sleeve 14: Photograph: American Legion war veterans from Tennessee with their wives (?)

Sleeve 15: Photograph: American Legion war veterans from Tennessee

Sleeve 16: Two Photographs and one hand-written note: Photograph of large building with "Post 52, Photographed by James Gratz PH – 1172 Morristown, Tenn." written on the back; photograph of large group next to American Legion Auxiliary Nursery building with "To be placed on Johnson City Display" written on the back; hand-written note states that the two pictures described above were found in the late Mrs. Conley's home

Folder 1: (oversized photographs)

Photograph: Posed group of American troops from 1898 Spanish-American War; "[Print by:] B.F. Rahmeyer No. 2750 Greenwich St. San Francisco CAL" written on the back

Photograph: 1905 Russo-Japanese War, "Port Arthur, China Captured by Japs & [?] Russia" written on back

Photograph: First State Reunion, Spanish-American War Veterans (and others), posed in front of The War Memorial Building in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, circa 1928

Folder 2: (oversized newspapers)

The Tennessee Legionnaire, November 1965, Volume 36, Number 11

The Tennessee Legionnaire, January 1966, Volume 37, Number 1

Post 5 Legionnaire, January 1966, Volume XI, No. 6

Post 5 Legionnaire, November 1957, Volume III, No. 4

Post 5 Legionnaire, November 1965, Volume XI, No. 4

Post 5 Legionnaire, July 1964, Volume IX, No. 12

Post 5 Legionnaire, April 1966, Volume XI, No. 9

Post 5 Legionnaire, January 1967, Volume XII, No. 6