



Edward L. Wells papers, 1904-1939
SCHS 1111.00
Containers 11/452-452A and 33/125-08

Creator: Wells, Edward L.

Description: 1 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: U.S. Army officer and engineer. A native of Charleston, S.C., he was the son of Edward Laight Wells. Before World War I he served on the Mexican border as 1st lieutenant of the Charleston Light Dragoons. In August 1917 Wells was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant at the First Officers Training Camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. and the following month sailed for France. He served with the 2nd Machine Gun Battalion, First Division, American Expeditionary Force. He was promoted to the rank of captain but died before receiving the commission, which was awarded posthumously. Captain Wells died as a result of wounds received in action in the Argonne (France) in October 1918. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action near Exermont, France.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of correspondence, military records, clippings, photographs, and other items. Some material pertains to Wells' service in the U.S. Army's punitive expedition into Mexico, 1916-1917.

Wells' correspondence (1908-1918) with family, friends, and others concerns his work as an engineer, the Charleston Light Dragoons, his efforts to secure a commission in the U.S. Army despite his age, military training in Tennessee, family matters, and military service in France. Later correspondence (1918-1939) of family members, military officials, and others concerns the death of Edward L. Wells, his grave in France, his military record and honors, and his memorial tablet in St. Philip's Church (Charleston, S.C.).

Other items include a diary of Edward L. Wells (1908-1909) with brief entries about work, family, and social life; a "diary" (1897) of [Julian L. Wells] containing quotations and a list of active members of the Charleston Light Dragoons; notebooks recording letters received and sent by Edward L. Wells; clippings; and memorabilia, including a souvenir medal, programs, and other printed material concerning the First Division (A.E.F.); and Edward L. Wells' hatbands. Military records (originals and photostats) include Wells' commissions, citations, transcriptions of his service record, orders, and official correspondence.

Photographs (ca. 1917-1932) are of Edward L. Wells, other officers and soldiers, Wells' grave marker, a monument to those killed in action at Soissons (France), and other subjects.

Preferred Citation: Wells, Edward Lawrence, 1886-1918. Edward L. Wells papers, 1904-1939. (1111.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Wells, Edward Lawrence, 1886-1918.

Confederate States of America. Army. South Carolina Cavalry Regiment, 4th. Company K.

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.

United States. Army. Expeditionary Division, 1st.

United States. Army -- History -- Punitive Expedition into Mexico, 1916.
Croix de guerre (France)
Distinguished Service Cross (U.S.)
World War, 1914-1918 -- France.
Charleston (S.C.)
South Carolina -- History.
Clippings.
Diaries.
Letters (correspondence)
Memorabilia.
Military records.
Photographs.
Engineers.
Officers (military officers)

11/452-452A/1-16 and 42/224A
Wells, Edward L. Jr. 1886-1918
Papers, 1904-1939. 1 ft

Charlestonian and Captain in American Expeditionary force to France (1917-1918). Letters of E.L. Wells, Jr. to his family regarding training in the US and the war in France. Correspondence of E.L. Wells, Jr. 's many Rutledge-Wells family members, including Sabina E. Wells with General Frank Parker, the Red Cross, and many other public officials and servicemen regarding death, burial, military action, and honors of ELW Jr. in the Argonne (Oct. 1918). Also E.L. Wells, Jr.'s service record of his many certificates of valor and diaries. New clippings regarding Charleston Light Dragoons in Mexico (1916-1917), E.L. Wells, Jr.'s war service, death, memorials, and honors accorded him by visiting dignitaries. Photographs of E.L. Wells, Jr. and others. E.L. Wells, Jr.'s dog tags, hatband, and uniform pins. Oversize certificates located in 33/125-08.