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Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Mamie Casey and William Dye Smith letters

1899-1920

Sc MG 675

Compiled by Janice Quinter, 2009.

Summary

Creator: Casey, Mamie

Title: Mamie Casey and William Dye Smith letters

Date: 1899-1920

Size: .42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Marie Evans, 1991.

Abstract: The Mamie Casey letters consist primarily of letters written by William Dye Smith to his cousin, Mamie Casey, during the period he served in the army. The letters principally discuss his romantic relationship with Casey. As there are no letters from Casey to Smith, it is not clear what her feelings were, although in Smith's letters he sometimes chided her for not writing more often, and being rather cold in her responses. Also, in the letters he indicates that he is married and, by 1914, had four children. At various times his family joined him in the Philippines. Smith's discussions of military life are very limited; however, there is a hand-drawn map of a section of the Philippines where the Battle of Castillejos took place. There is very little information about Casey in the collection.

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Preferred citation: [Item], Mamie Casey and William Dye Smith letters, Sc MG 675, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Janice Quinter, 2009. Finding aid edited and adapted to digital form by Kay Menick in 2016.

Creator History

Mamie Casey of St. Louis, Missouri, was the cousin of William Dye Smith, a soldier in Company B, 25th Infantry of the United States Army from his enlistment in November 1898 until circa 1917. He served in various clerical posts and circa 1914 was promoted to Quartermaster Sergeant. Following the Spanish-American War, Smith served in the Philippines from approximately 1900 until 1908 and then again from 1912-1914, and in Mexico during the American expedition in 1916 to quell the raids by the Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa.

Custodial History

The collection was salvaged from a dumpster after subject's death.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American families
African American soldiers -- Mexico
African American soldiers -- Philippines
Love-letters
Philippines -- Maps, Manuscript
Spanish-American War, 1898 -- Participation, African American
United States. Army -- African American troops

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Smith, William Dye, 1881-1951

Container List

Letters from William Dye Smith to Mamie Casey

- | | |
|------------|--|
| b. 1 f. 1 | 1899-1900 |
| b. 1 f. 2 | 1901, 1905 |
| b. 1 f. 3 | 1906 |
| b. 1 f. 4 | 1907 |
| b. 1 f. 5 | 1908 |
| b. 1 f. 6 | 1909 |
| b. 1 f. 7 | 1910 |
| b. 1 f. 8 | 1911 |
| b. 1 f. 9 | 1912-1914 |
| b. 1 f. 10 | 1915 |
| b. 1 f. 11 | 1916 |
| b. 1 f. 12 | 1917 |
| b. 1 f. 13 | Letters to Dr. Howard and Mrs. Maymie Huffman 1920 |
| b. 1 f. 14 | Miscellaneous 1906-1912 |