

Kibbe/Sipple Correspondence

Finding aid

Windsor Historical Society
96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095

Creator: Frederick S. Kibbe, 1891-1951
Dates: April 1917 – August 1919
Extent: .5 linear feet
Accession #: 1986.14

Biographical Note

Frederick Sidney Kibbe was born March 6, 1891 in Hartford, Connecticut. For much of his life he lived in the family home at 88 Westland St., Hartford, CT with his mother Ella J. Hanford, wife Florence G. Kibbe, and brother and sister-in-law Marlin G. and Emily P. Kibbe. He worked as a driver for a variety of concerns and passed away in September 1951.

Kibbe enlisted in the US Army in the spring of 1917 and received basic training at Fort Totten on Long Island, New York. Private Kibbe served in Company H of the 102nd US Infantry and was stationed in France for much of the next two years. In early 1919 he transferred to the Military Police Corps of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. By August 1919 he had returned to the United States and was discharged at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

The exact relationship between Kibbe and his correspondent Mrs. Jessie Sipple (1878-1963) of Windsor, CT, is unknown, but she may have been a friend of his sister Fannie Kibbe Carter (Mrs. Benjamin S.) who also lived in Windsor for many years.

Scope and Contents

This collection of 27 letters and 3 postcards was written by Private Fred S. Kibbe to Jessie Taylor Sipple. Mrs. Sipple lived at 28 Pleasant St., Windsor, CT with her husband Charles and teenaged son John. The letters cover the span of two and a half years in which Kibbe served in the US Army infantry during World War I. He describes his experiences during basic training, in the trenches and at camp behind the lines in France, and while serving several months in the military police after the armistice in 1918. Kibbe describes his initial enthusiasm for military service and then his emerging disillusionment and discouragement about the life of an infantryman and the realities of warfare. When he gets "blue" he looks for some fun with the local French girls or for a place to have a few drinks. Transcripts have been prepared for most of the letters.

Arrangement

The correspondence is arranged chronologically followed by the transcripts and other supporting documentation.

Folder Lists

Folder 1

[April] 1917
September 28, 1917
October 22, 1917

Folder 2

January 26, 1918
January 31, 1918

- April 6, 1918
- Folder 3
 - May 12, 1918
 - June 13, 1918
 - June 24, 1918
 - July 15, 1918
- Folder 4
 - August 25, 1918
 - September 11, 1918
 - October 15, 1918
- Folder 5
 - November 27, 1918
 - December 9, 1918
 - December 14, 1918
- Folder 6
 - January 2, 1919
 - January 16, 1919
 - January 20, 1919
 - January 21, 1919
- Folder 7
 - February 19, 1919
 - March 4, 1919
 - March 14, 1919
- Folder 8
 - May 14, 1919
 - June 6, 1919
 - June 27, 1919
 - August 20, 1919
- Folder 9
 - Postcards
- Folder 10
 - Transcripts
- Folder 11
 - Supporting documentation

Related Materials at Windsor Historical Society

Postcard Collection

Museum Collections contain uniforms, greatcoat, boots, and other items of official issue

Posters issued for recruiting, propaganda, and boosting home front morale

Subject files: Wars – World War I

Subject Terms

World War, 1914-1918 – Personal narratives

Kibbe, Frederick S., 1891-1951 -- Correspondence

Custodial History

The collection was arranged and transcribed by Windsor Historical Society volunteer Kevin McCullough in 2002. He wrote an article about the collection which was published in the May 2002 issue of the *Windsor Historical Society News*. The finding aid was prepared by WHS Librarian Barbara Goodwin in April 2012.