

McLean County Museum of History

**Elias W. Rolley Collection**

Processed by Aingeal Stone  
Summer 2013

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1917-1920; 1957-1965
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

**Historical Sketch**

Elias William Rolley was drafted into the U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps (CAC), became a commissioned officer, and was stationed throughout the eastern U.S. He was born on 5 September 1892 in Magnolia, Illinois, and the eldest child of Talasco H. Rolley and Harriett 'Hettie' Bouton. He had three siblings: Minnie, John, and Bessie. Minnie died of influenza during the Great Pandemic of 1918-1919, which is mentioned in his letters. Also mentioned is the Boston Police Strike of October 1919, which occurred while he was stationed in Massachusetts.

He was engaged to a woman named Ada throughout most of his career in the CAC, though according to the 1940 US Census, his wife's name was Hortense E. His residence in 1940 was at 2007 E. Jackson Street, Bloomington where he lived with his wife, Hortense, mother Harriett, and two children: Elias W. (known as William) and Edmundo (known as Bud).

Before joining the military in 1918 he was a school teacher at El Paso, Illinois. In 1940 he was an accountant. In 1942 he was self-employed and his place of business was at 203 W.

Washington, Bloomington. In the 1960s he was a consultant for Funk Brothers Seed Company in Bloomington.

## Scope Note

This collection contains the personal correspondence from Elias Rolley of Normal to his family during and after World War I. They date between 3 April 1918 and 18 June 1920. The collection dated 1957 to 1965 are business correspondence. Included in this collection is a book, *The Heavy (Coast) Artillerymans Field Pocketbook*.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### **Folder 1: Correspondence 1918** – all correspondence from E. Rolley unless noted

- 1.1.1 Chicago, Ill., 3 April 1918 to Mr. T.H. Rolley, Magnolia, Ill., 1 postcard
- 1.1.2 Buffalo, N.Y., 4 April 1918 (?) to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.3 Syracuse, N.Y., 5 April 1918 to Miss Bessie Rolley, Magnolia, Ill., 1 postcard
- 1.1.4 Willimantic, Conn., 5 April 1918 (?) to Mr. T.H. Rolley, Magnolia, Ill., 1 postcard
- 1.1.5 New London, Conn., 5 April 1918 (?) to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold + 1 p.
- 1.1.6 Fort Terry, N.Y., 9 April 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.1.7 Fort Terry, N.Y., 11 April 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.8 Fort Terry, N.Y., 14 April 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.9 Fort Terry, N.Y., 18 April 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.10 Fort Terry, N.Y., 20 April 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 4 p.
- 1.1.11 Mackinaw, Ill., 21 April 1918 to “Bessie, Minnie, and all”, from Ada, 1 bifold
- 1.1.12 Fort Terry, N.Y., 24 April 1918 to Miss Bessie Rolley, 1 postcard
- 1.1.13 Fort Terry, N.Y., 28 April 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 4 p.
- 1.1.14 Fort Terry, N.Y., 30 April 1918 to Mr. T.H. Rolley, 1 postcard
- 1.1.15 Fort Terry, N.Y., 1 May 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.16 Fort Terry, N.Y., 11 May 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 5 p.
- 1.1.17 Fort Terry, N.Y., 19 May 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.18 Fort Terry, N.Y., 27 May 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.19 Fort Terry, N.Y., 30 May 1918 to Mrs. T.H. Rolley, 1 postcard
- 1.1.20 Fort Terry, N.Y., 30 May 1918 to the brother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.21 Fort Terry, N.Y., 2 June 1918, to the sister of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.22 Fort Terry, N.Y., 4 June 1918 to Mr. T.H. Rolley, 1 postcard
- 1.1.23 Fort Terry, N.Y., 5 June 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.24 Fort Terry, N.Y., 9 June 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.1.25 Fort Terry, N.Y., 13 June 1918 (?), to the father of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.1.26 Fort Terry, N.Y., 17 June 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.27 Fort Terry, N.Y., 19 June 1918 to the parents of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.28 Fort Terry, N.Y., 23 June 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.29 Fort Terry, N.Y., 28 June 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.

- 1.1.30 Fort Terry, N.Y., 30 June 1918 addressed to the “Sister, Aunt & Cousins” of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.31 Fort Terry, N.Y., 1 July 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.1.32 Fort Terry, N.Y., 3 July 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.1.33 NYC, 5 July 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 postcard
- 1.1.34 Fort Monroe, Va., 6 July 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 3p.
- 1.1.35 Fort Monroe, Va., 13 July 1918 (?) to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 bifolds
- 1.1.36 Fort Monroe, Va., 16 July 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1p.
- 1.1.37 Fort Monroe, Va., 21 July 1918 to the mother E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.38 Fort Monroe, Va., 23 July 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.39 Fort Monroe, Va., 27 July 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.40 Fort Monroe, Va., 4 August 1918 to “Mother and folks”, 3 p. (includes the lyrics of the Coast Artillery Marching Song)
- 1.1.41 Fort Monroe, Va., 6 August 1918 to the brother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.42 Fort Monroe, Va., 11 August 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.43 Fort Monroe, Va., 17 August 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.44 Fort Monroe, Va. (?), 28 August 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.1.45 Fort Monroe, Va., 1 September 1918 to Mrs. T.H. Rolley, 2 bifolds
- 1.1.46 Fort Monroe, Va., 5 September 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.1.47 Fort Monroe, Va., 9 September 1918 to the Mr. John Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.48 Fort Monroe, Va., 12 September 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p. + newspaper clipping
- 1.1.49 Fort Monroe, Va., 16 September 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.50 Fort Monroe, Va., 17 September 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.51 Fort Monroe, Va., 20 September 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.52 Fort Monroe, Va., 21 September 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p. The second page is written on the back of a letter dated 17 September 1918 to E. Rolley from his mother
- 1.1.53 Fort Monroe, Va., 25 September 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.1.54 New London, Conn., 7 October 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.55 Fort Terry, N.Y., 14 October 1918 (?) to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 bifolds
- 1.1.56 Fort Terry, N.Y., 15 October 1918 to the brother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.1.57 Union Theological Seminary, NYC, 27 October 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.58 NYC, 31 October 1918 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.59 NYC, 4 November 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.60 New York, N.Y., 16 November 1918(?) to T.H. Rolley, Magnolia, Ill., 1 p.
- 1.1.61 Washington, D.C., 17 November 1918 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.62 Camp Eustis, Va., 20 November 1918 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.63 Camp Eustis, Va., 28 November 1918, to the mother of E. Rolley, 4 p., includes portion of a letter from “Annetta”.
- 1.1.64 Camp Eustis, Va., 4 December 1918, to the brother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.65 Camp Eustis, Va., 7 December 1918, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.66 Camp Eustis, Va., 12 December 1918, to the father and mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.1.67 Camp Eustis, Va., 15 December 1918, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.1.68 Camp Eustis, Va., 18 December 1918, to the brother of E. Rolley, 1p.

**Folder 2: Correspondence 1919** – all correspondence from E. Rolley unless noted

- 1.2.1 Twin Mountain, N.H., (?) 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, postpostcard
- 1.2.2 Camp Eustis, Va., 1 January 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.3 Camp Eustis, Va., 12 January 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.4 Camp Eustis, Va., 14 January 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.5 Camp Eustis, Va., 19 January 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.6 Camp Eustis, Va., 21 January 1919, to the father of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.7 Newport News, Va., 24, January 1919, to T.H. Rolley, Magnolia, Ill. via telegram
- 1.2.8 Fort Rodman, Mass., 28 January 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.9 Fort Rodman, Mass., 30 January 1919 (?), to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.10 Fort Rodman, Mass., 31 January 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.11 Fort Rodman, Mass., 23 February 1919 to the sister of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.12 Fort Rodman, Mass., 27 February 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.13 Fort Rodman, Mass., 7 March 1919 to the brother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.14 Fort Rodman, Mass., 8 March 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.15 Fort Rodman, Mass., 11 March 1919 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.16 Fort Rodman, Mass., 13 March 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.2.17 Fort Rodman, Mass., 28 March 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.18 Fort Rodman, Mass., 31 March 1919 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.19 Fort Rodman, Mass., 2 April 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.20 Fort Rodman, Mass., 7 April 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.21 Fort Rodman, Mass., 9 April 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.22 Fort Rodman, Mass., 14 April 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.2.23 New Bedford, Mass., 17 April 1919, to T.H. Rolley, Magnolia, IL via telegram
- 1.2.24 Camp Devens, Mass., 20 April 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.25 Camp Devens, Mass., 25 April 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.26 Camp Devens, Mass., 1 May 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.27 Camp Devens, Mass., 2 May 1919, to the brother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.2.28 Camp Devens, Mass., 8 May 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.29 Camp Devens, Mass., 20 May 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.30 Camp Devens, Mass., 26 May 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1p.
- 1.2.31 Camp Devens, Mass., 2 June 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.32 Camp Devens, Mass., 9 June 1919 to the sister of E. Rolley, 1 bifold + 1 p.
- 1.2.33 Camp Devens, Mass., 13 June 1919 to the father of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.34 Camp Devens, Mass., 17 June 1919, to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.35 Camp Devens, Mass., 18 June 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.36 Camp Devens, Mass., 23 June 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.37 Camp Devens, Mass., 1 July 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.38 Camp Devens, Mass., 7 July 1919 (?), to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.39 Camp Devens, Mass., 10 July 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 4 p.
- 1.2.40 Groton, Mass., 25 July 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.2.41 Camp Devens, Mass., 30 July 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.42 Camp Devens, Mass., 31 July 1919 to the sister of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.43 New Bedford, Mass., 2 August 1919 to Mr. T.H. Rolley, 1 postcard
- 1.2.44 Camp Devens, Mass., 4 August 1919, to the father of E. Rolley, 1 p.

- 1.2.45 Camp Devens, Mass., 6 August 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.46 Camp Devens, Mass., 13 August 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.47 Camp Devens, Mass., 20 August 1919, to the brother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.2.48 Camp Devens, Mass., 27 August 1919 to the brother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.49 Bos. Troy & Albany, 6 September 1919 to Miss Bessie Rolley from E. Rolley (signed "Rouser"), 1 post card
- 1.2.50 Camp Devens, Mass., 9 Sept 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.51 Camp Devens, Mass., 10 September 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.52 Camp Devens, Mass., 12 September 1919, to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.53 Camp Devens, Mass., 16 September 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.54 Camp Devens, Mass., 22 September 1919, to the father of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.55 Camp Devens, Mass., 25 September 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.2.56 Camp Devens, Mass., 2 October 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.57 Camp Devens, Mass., 3 October 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.58 Camp Devens, Mass., 9 October 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.59 Camp Devens, Mass., 10 October 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.60 Camp Devens, Mass., 14 October 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.2.61 Camp Devens, Mass., 20 October 1919 to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.62 Camp Devens, Mass., 24 October 1919 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.63 Fitchburg, Mass., 28 October 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 postcard
- 1.2.64 Camp Devens, Mass., 29 October 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley 2 p.
- 1.2.65 Camp Devens, Mass., 20 November 1919 to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.
- 1.2.66 Camp Devens, Mass., 26 November 1919 to the sister of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.2.67 Camp Devens, Mass., 1 December 1919, to the mother of E. Rolley, 3 p.

**Folder 3: Correspondence 1920** – all correspondence from E. Rolley unless noted

- 1.3.1 Boston, Mass., 1 February 1920, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.3.2 Camp Devens, Mass., 12 February 1920, to the father of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.3.3 Camp Devens, Mass., 16 February 1920, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.3.4 Camp Devens, Mass., 19 February 1920, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.3.5 Camp Devens, Mass., 25 February 1920, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.
- 1.3.6 Camp Devens, Mass., 1 March 1920, to the brother of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.3.7 Camp Devens, Mass., 3 March 1920, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1p.
- 1.3.8 Camp Devens, Mass., 9 March 1920, to the mother of E. Rolley, 1 bifold
- 1.3.9 Camp Devens, Mass., 8 June 1920, to the father of E. Rolley, 1 p.
- 1.3.10 ?, ?, 18 June 1920, to the mother of E. Rolley, 2 p.

**Folder 4: Correspondence 1957—1965** – all correspondence from E. Rolley unless noted

- 1.4.1 List of names, 1 p.; 1 page of typed business questions with answers (draft); New York, N.Y., 2 July 1957 from Seth S. Faison to E. Rolley, 1 p.; New York, N.Y., 19 July 1957 from Seth S. Faison to E. Rolley, 1 p.; 22 July 1957 "Questionnaire Replies", 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to Herman Eckhoff, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to L.E. Whisnant, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to John Needham, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to D. W. Covey, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 Mr. R.D. Guernsey, 1 p.;

- Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to Mr. R.G. Tucker, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to Edward C. Roark, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to Richard Flanders, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to William C. Rodgers, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to Carl J. Hutchins, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 6 August 1957 to Mr. F.G. Sutherland, 1 p.
- 1.4.2 Bloomington, Ill., 20 May 1959 to Dr. Robert G. Bone, 2 p.
- 1.4.3 New York, N.Y., 18 April 1961 to E. Rolley from Arthur J. Polkowski, 1 p.
- 1.4.4 4 June 1961 Baccalaureate and Commencement Faculty Rank Order, 2 p.
- 1.4.5 New York, N.Y., 23 June 1961 to E. Rolley from David J. Secunda, 1 p.
- 1.4.6 New York, N.Y., 28 July 1961 to E. Rolley from Virginia B. Fraher, 1 p.
- 1.4.7 New York, N.Y., 10 January 1962 to E. Rolley from David J. Secunda, 2 p. + enclosure of 2 p.
- 1.4.8 New York, N.Y., 11 July 1962 to E. Rolley from David J. Secunda, 2 p. + enclosure
- 1.4.9 Peoria, Ill., 24 May 1963 to Mr. A.A. Baker from H.G. Petersen, 1 telefax; 27 May 1963 to the Hon. L.C. Arends, 1 p.; Washington, D.C., 29 May 1963 to E. Rolley from L.C. Arends, 2 p + enclosure
- 1.4.10 Bloomington, Ill., 4 May 1964 to Sheldon B. Ackerman, 1 p.; Lima, Ohio, 30 March 1964, to E. Rolley from Sheldon B. Ackerman, 1p.; Bloomington, Ill., 4 May 1964 to Earl Cohn, 1 p.; Chicago, Ill., 19 March 1964, to E. Rolley from Earl Cohn, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 4 May 1964, to John G. Symons, 1 p.; Des Plaines, Ill., 18 March 1964 to E. Rolley from John G. Symons, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 4 May 1964 to Frank J. Prochaska, 1 p.; Muscatine, Iowa, 23 March 1964 to E. Rolley from Frank J. Prochaska, 1 p.; Bloomington, Ill., 4 May 1964 to John S. Mueller, 1 p.; Peoria, Ill., 20 March 1964 to E. Rolley from John S. Mueller, 1 p.
- 1.4.11 New York, N.Y., 8 January 1965 from David J. Secunda to E. Rolley, 3 p.

**Loose Items:**

*The Heavy (Coast) Artilleryman's Field Pocketbook*, various pagination, July 1914, published by Lefax, Inc., Philadelphia, PA, leather bound.