

McLean County Museum of History

Horace E. Woodward Collection

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	Primarily 1899-1901
PROVENANCE:	Gift
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:	None

Brief History

Woodward, known by his friends as “Hod,” was born on August 21, 1878 to Walter M. and Ellen N. Woodward in Franklin, New Hampshire. At the time these letters were written, Woodward’s family lived in or near Benton Harbor, Michigan. Most of the letters are addressed to his mother, but were meant for the entire family.

Woodward’s letters traced his military career from training in Minnesota to the Philippines to his return journey to San Francisco. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands from late 1899 until early 1901, serving as a corporal in Company C of the 45th Regiment U.S. Volunteer Infantry from Michigan.

In the Philippines, Woodward’s company was first assigned the dangerous task of combating the insurgency. He counted himself and his company lucky to have very few combat casualties. American soldiers also faced a threat of death from tropical diseases such as malaria. During the Insurrection, as many U.S. soldiers died from disease as from enemy fire. Woodward considered himself fortunate that he did not become ill, even while others in his company were ailing.

During the second half of Woodward's duty in the Philippines, his company was given garrison duty. Judging by the letters, garrison duty consisted of controlling their assigned town and quelling any nearby village uprisings. Several times, Woodward detailed his company rounding up groups of Filipino guerillas. Woodward's company seemed to have more casualties during garrison duty than when his company was on the front lines. Small groups of Filipinos were harder to spot and could blend in easily with the civilian population.

Woodward moved to Bloomington in 1913 and married city resident Bertha C. Swaim. Woodward and his wife Bertha had four children, all girls. Woodward worked as a master decorative painter and gilded many buildings from the 1920s through the 1940s, including some in Chicago. According to his granddaughter, Woodward was quiet, gentle, and easygoing. He enjoyed fishing and playing poker.

Horace Woodward passed away on June 9, 1956 in Dwight, Illinois and Bertha died on February 8, 1958 in Bloomington.

Scope Note

The collection consists of thirty-two letters written by a U.S. soldier during the Philippine Insurrection. The letters—the first dated September 28, 1899 and the last March 17, 1901—detail a soldier's life in the Philippine's during the bloody guerrilla war. This collection also contains biographical information, including obituaries of Woodward and his wife Bertha.

Inventory

Folder 1: Biographical Information

- An immediate family tree for Woodward, his wife Bertha, and his four daughters
- A brief biography of Woodward as remembered by his granddaughter
- June 10, 1956: Obituary for Horace E. Woodward from the *Daily Pantagraph*
- February 9, 1958: Obituary for Mrs. Bertha C. Woodward, Horace's wife, from the *Daily Pantagraph*
- Discharge certificate, June 3, 1901.

Folder 2: Letters 1 through 6

Letter 1: September 28, 1899 from Woodward at Fort Snelling, Minnesota to his Mother Nellie

Letter 2: October 16, 1899 at Fort Snelling to his mother

Letter 3: October 29, 1899 at Camp Presido, California to his mother

Letter 4: November 11, 1899 at Camp Presido to his mother

Letter 5: November 11, 1899 at Camp Presido to his sister Lena, his brother Guy, and his sister Halo

Letter 6: November 26, 1899 at Honolulu, Hawaii to his mother

Folder 3: Letters 7 through 12

Letter 7: December 20, 1899 at Manila, Philippine Islands to his mother
Letter 8: January 1, 1900 at Manila to his mother
Letter 9: January 28, 1900 at Naic, Philippine Islands to his mother
Letter 10: February 8, 1900 at Iriga, Philippine Islands to his parents
Letter 11: February 19, 1900 at Tamernas, Philippine Islands to his mother
Letter 12: March 18, 1900 at the Philippine Islands to his mother

Folder 4: Letters 13 through 17

Letter 13: March 31, 1900 at Buhi, Philippine Islands to his mother
Letter 14: May 6, 1900 at Uriga, Philippine Islands to his mother
Letter 15: May 17, 1900 at Uriga to his parents
Letter 16: June 3, 1900 at Uriga to his parents
Letter 17: June 15, 1900 at Uriga to his mother

Folder 5: Letters 18 through 22

Letter 18: June 20, 1900 at Manilla to his mother
Letter 19: June 28, 1900 at Iriga to his parents
Letter 20: July 23, 1900 at Iriga to his parents
Letter 21: July 29, 1900 at Iriga to his sister Ida
Letter 22: August 13, 1900 at Iriga to his parents

Folder 6: Letters 23 through 26

Letter 23: August 29, 1900 at Iriga to his parents
Letter 24: September 25, 1900 at Iriga to his parents
Letter 25: October 7, 1900 at Iriga to his parents
Letter 26: December 2, 1900 at Iriga to his sister Ida

Folder 7: Letters 27 through 32

Letter 27: December 28, 1900 at Iriga to his mother
Letter 28: December 31, 1900 at Iriga to his sister Ida
Letter 29: January 20, 1901 at Iriga to his parents
Letter 30: February 26, 1901 at Iriga to his brother Guy
Letter 31: February 27, 1901 at Iriga to his mother
Letter 32: March 13, 1901 at Iriga to his parents

Folder 8: Letters 33 through 36

Letter 33: March 17, 1901 at San Francisco, California to his parents
Letter 34: June 27, No Year, not postmarked, to Bertha, Christmas card
Letter 35: No date, no envelope, at Iriga to his parents
Letter 36: October 22, 1912 at Chicago to Bertha
Two photographs
Note Jan. 13, 1909 to Miss Bertha Swains regarding teaching position

Folder 9: Transcriptions of the some (but not all letters)

Folder also includes twelve empty envelopes addressed to Mrs. Nellie Woodward