

Finding Aid

Summary Information

Title and Dates:

Edward C. Webster Papers and Military Records, 1898-1944 (1898-1916)

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org>

Collection Number:

M2012-043

Author of Finding Aid:

Steve Leavenworth

Creator:

Edward C. Webster

Language:

All the materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes.

Abstract:

The collection contains personal letters and other correspondence, photographs, and military records of Edward Clinton Webster of Framingham, Massachusetts. Webster was born in Derry, New Hampshire in 1879. He enlisted in the US Volunteer Army in 1898 and served during the Spanish-American War. He died in an automobile/railroad train accident in 1916.

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

This collection was a gift of the John E. Webster family and the Chester and Marilyn Webster Ham family. The donation included library and museum materials including the Spanish-American War uniform of Edward C. Webster.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed and the finding aid written by Volunteer Steve Leavenworth in June and July 2012.

Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for research use. However, permission to publish potentially private information must be granted on an item-by item basis. Please speak to the librarian for more information.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

Most of the collection may be handled without gloves although at least one letter has been sleeved to protect it. Newspaper clippings have been photocopied but may need to be pieced together as the originals were not in chronological order

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

All rights, title, and interest, including all copyright, trademark, and related interests are included in the gift to the Society. For permission to reproduce or publish material from this collection, please speak to the Library Director or Librarian. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Citation:

Edward Webster Papers, 1898-1944, M2012-043, New Hampshire Historical Society

Biographical Information:

Edward Clinton Webster was born in Derry, NH on April 9, 1879 of John E. Webster, a farmer, and Cornelia Case of Mineville, ME. He had a sister Nellie and an Aunt Fannie who he wrote letters to while serving in the U.S. Volunteers of Massachusetts during and after the Spanish-American War.

Upon his discharge, he lived in Framingham, MA where he operated an automobile dealership, repair shop, and gasoline station. On May 17, 1916, while in one of his trucks in Northboro, MA, he was killed when a Boston and Maine train struck him.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains personal letters from Edward to his mother, sister, and aunt as well as personal photographs. There are copies of newspaper clippings mostly regarding his untimely death in Northboro, MA. Many of the photographs were taken by Webster while in the Army therefore, they contain images from the Philippines, Cuba, and a troop train through Georgia. There are also copies of his military records and of government records relating to his military service including Veterans Affairs, General Accounting Office, Interior Department, and the Massachusetts State Government.

There are five photo albums included in this collection. The albums are constructed of black paper, the photos glued onto the pages and thus unable to be removed without damage. The photos were labeled with a black or blue pen and are, therefore, difficult to read. Many of the captions include the Spanish place names.

An index of the photo captions has been created and included at the end of this finding aid. Please note that spelling of places, names, and other titles have not been corrected. They are listed in the index as they appear in the photo album.

Arrangement:

The collection has been organized with like items being grouped together in folders and two boxes. Box 1 Folder 10 contains miscellaneous materials that were included in the collection, but did not fit into one of the categories. It contains largely background materials related to the Spanish-American War, the Battleship "Maine," and Theodore Roosevelt at San Juan Hill, Cuba. Also included, for reasons unknown, are two copies of the same note or speech signed by President U.S. Grant related to a tree planting in Nagasaki, Japan.

Contents List: Two boxes containing 10 folders and 5 photo albums

BOX 1

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Folder 1 | Letters to Nellie, 1900-1901 |
| Folder 2 | Letters to Aunt Fannie (Mrs. Harvey Ray), 1898-1901 (Plus one undated post card from his childhood) |
| Folder 3 | Letters to Aunt Fannie, 1910-1916 |

- Folder 4 Letters to his mother 1901, 1912-1916, plus a memorial letter to her from the Order of Eastern Star
- Folder 5 Webster's military records and official correspondence, 1899-1908
- Folder 6 Official papers of the State of Massachusetts and the Federal Government, 1909-1944
- Folder 7 Copies of newspaper clippings, mostly about the accident that caused his death and one about the return of the soldiers of the 8th Massachusetts to Boston, 1898.
- Folder 8 Photographs in sleeves while in service, four of Webster himself, and six snapshots taken in the Philippines while he was in service. Also included in this folder are four pieces of paper money and a copy of the "Manual of Arms."
- Folder 9 Sleeved photos of a young Webster, Ethel Tuttle, Ethel Webster and her son John, and a copy of a photo of Webster's Garage in Framingham, Massachusetts, 1901
- Folder 10 Miscellaneous background materials related to the Spanish-American War, the Maine, and Cuba. Also contains two copies of a document signed by President U.S. Grant.

BOX 2

- ALBUM 1 Handwritten labels are illegible or not visible enough to read but may be legible with technical aid.
- ALBUM 2 Handwritten labels are illegible or not visible enough to read as above.
- ALBUM 3 Photographs by Edward Clinton Webster taken when he served in the Spanish American War in Philippines and Cuba (around 1898) Born Derry, N.H. Son of John Edward Webster b. 1902, Dec 12, Framingham, Massachusetts
- 8/91 Spanish American War Uniform of Edward now owned by his granddaughter, Marilyn Webster Ham of Londonderry, NH (The uniform is part of the donation to the Society)
 - Mooro [Morro] Castle, Havana Cuba
 - Mock Guard Mount, Matanza Cuba

- Insurgent Barracks, work of American Caucico San Pedro Macanti Laguna de Bay Province, Luzon Island Philippines
- View of Corregidor Hospital, Corregidor
- Q.M.D. [Quartermaster's Department], Manila P.I.
- Naic, Cavite Province, barracks and church
- Naic church and convent
- Company "K" boys, Bogueno [Baguio], P.I.
- Guard with prisoners at work. Private Benjamin Johnson Killed in Action.
- Plaza de Bacoor
- Chinese Catholic Church, Manila, P.I.
- Group of insurgent officers shipped to Guam Island from Manila
- General Lawton's funeral, Manila
- Paco Cemetery for American soldiers
- Non-Commissioned officers, Company "K" 46th Infantry U.S.V. [United States Volunteers]. (front row, second from left, Edward Clinton Webster)
- Carabao carts, horseless carriages
- Boulders, Corregidor Island entrance, Manila Bay
- Philippino [Filipino] Caecoe [caracoa] in tow
- The King's Monument, Manila
- Magellan's Monument, Manila
- No caption [copy of image 6]
- Anda Monument where U.S. troops disembark from transports
- Bridge at Buena Vista, Cavite Province
- Carabaos drawing a cannon captured from insurgents, Amadao [Amadeo]
- Filipino wagon train near Pasig, Laguna de Bay Province

- Filipino wagon train fording Taguig River
- Altar in Catholic church, Dasmariñas
- Altar in Catholic church, Cavite Viego [Viego]
- Grinding ice
- Interior garden, Malate
- Funeral mourners
- Filipino canoes
- Corregidor Island
- Ward 1, 1st Reserve Hospital, Manila
- Infanta Maria Cristina, sunk by Dewey
- Army and Navy
- Hospital at Naic
- Making Manila hemp rope
- Oriental hotel, Manila (Board \$10 per day)
- Empty page
- Empty page
- Company “K” 46th Infantry, U.S.V [United States Volunteers] at Naic
- Vaults at La Loma Cemetery
- Cathedral, Walled City, Manila
- Prisoners at work
- First public hanging at Manila
- Group of Filipinos
- Pounding rice
- Harvesting rice

- Fishermen
- Insurgent Officers
- Spanish prisoners recaptured from insurgents and sent to [Old?] Madrid, Spain
- Body of General Lawton lying in state in church at San Mateo
- The Luneta, Manila
- Igorito [Igorot, Igorrote] family
- Igorito [Igorot, Igorrote] belle
- Insurgents barracks which have seen better days
- Baubau Bridge destroyed by insurgents where Gen.[?] [?] swam the river
- Guard mount at Naic
- A dead traitor shot by Americans
- Plowing in a rice paddy
- Aguinaldo's house, Cavite Veijjo
- Guard house at Naic
- Pumping station, Manila
- Hiking over dam at Malabou
- Hiking through ravines
- Hiking through jungle
- Big Bend, Imus River
- Bringing in prisoners
- Ferrying prisoners across Naic River
- Prisoners
- Bringing in prisoners
- Water pots at Imus

- Water front, Manila
- Filipino restaurant, Naic
- Plaza de Naic
- Corregidor Island
- Tree lookout
- San Sebastian Church, Manila
- Largest stack of “hard tack” in the world, Commissary Depot, Manila
- Spanish hospital, Matanzas, Cuba
- Colon Cemetery, Havana, Cuba
- Fort San Antonio
- Bone Yard, Paco Cemetery
- Suspension bridge over Pasig River
- “Weeding them out”

ALBUM 4 Photographs by Edward Clinton Webster, Sergeant in Company F. [Taken while serving in Spanish American War.]

Photos are identified on each page in clockwise order with the first one being at the upper left

1. Cuban hut, Mocha, Cuba, Southern engine, Americus, Georgia, Graves of the victims of the “Maine,” Havana, Wreck of the “Maine”
2. U.S. Transport “Obdam,” Matanzas Bay, Natural growth of palms, U.S. troop train, onto Savannah, GA, Lt. Barrows, Major Thomas, Matanzas,
3. Wreck of the Battleship “Maine”, banana trees, Cuban pack pony, Cuban cemetery, Florido Campo, Cuba
4. Street in Matanzas, Dunnels, Bisbee, and Bartlett, Co. F, Cuban hut, Spanish hospital Wm. E. Hall, Chef, Officers Regt mess
5. U.S.S. Texas, Street in Matanzas, Cuban engine, Moorro [Morro] Castle

6. Blanket tossing, Edgie Law, Co[mpany] F, victim, Bridge over San Juan River, Edw[ard] C. Webster, Ferry boat, Havana, Cabanas Fortress
7. Guard passing in review, Matanzas, Gen[eral] Sanger's Headquarters, Matanzas Shipp family, Americus, GA, Cuban Arch, Bartlett, Dunnels, Bisbee
8. Southern style, Savannah, GA, U.S.S. Chicago Cuban booro [wagon] at Camp Maiche [Michie], Matanzas
Ruins of sugar cane mill, Aideo [?], Cuba
9. Southern wagon, loading teams for Cuba from Americus, Georgia unloading mules from ship's hole [hull?], Deck of the U.S. Transport Michigan
10. Entrance to Fort San Saverino, Cuban Soldier, Sergeant Gage, Co. B Fort Mooro [Morro], Priv. Edw C. Webster
11. Spanish Hospital, Corp. Geo. Nason and Tent Crew, Water Tower and City Hall, Americus, GA, Reagle [?], Cuba
12. Company F Street, Matanzas, Cuba, Ration car of troop train, U.S.S. Brooklyn Mooro [Morro] Castle
- 12a Dunnels and Bartlett guarding Cuban milk train, Log cabin, down south Sweet Emma Menter, Americus, GA, San Juan River
- 12b Southern engine, Cabanas Fortress, Havana, Cuba, U.S.S. Texas, Havana, Cuba Bridge at Fort San Saverino, Matanzas, Cuba
- 13 Snap shot at 40 miles per hour, Entrance to Fort San Saverino Guard mount, Matanzas, Cuba, Priv. Lyders with Co. F Mascots
- 14 Laundry team, Americus, GA, Lt. Robinson, Co. F, H.E. Bartlett with mascot saluting the Colors, Americus, GA
- 15 USA wagon, Cotton mill, Americus, GA, Mule train, Matanzas, Cuba Corral
16. Booro [wagon], Cuban kids, Sailing in the Bay of Havana far away troop train, Savannah, GA
17. Chicken and kids, Cook house, Spanish hospital, Color guards and banners
18. Cotton mill, Ration car, View of San Juan River, Mule team, Frank Smith, Co. M
19. Dos Cubano pickannie [?], Major Thomas and band at guard mount Cuban Booro [wagon], Sergeant Woodes (wash-day)

20. Bone yard, Colon Cemetery, Havana, Spanish hospital view of camp at Matanzas, Cuba, View of Ft. San Saverino
21. Cotton mill, Plaza, Matanzas, Funeral procession, Block house, Cuba
22. Mooro [Morro] Castle, Gen. Gomez Arch, Priv. J.G. Walker, Guard at Fort Cogswell Mooro [Morro] Castle, View of camp at night
23. Bone yard, Colon Cemetery, Havana, Colon Cemetery, bone yard
24. Entrance to Colon Cemetery, Herse [hearse] in Havana, pile of human bones, Monument in Colon Cemetery
25. Fort San Saverino, Matanzas, Cabanas Fortress, Fort Mooro [Morro], Fort opposite Mooro [Morro] Castle
26. U.S.S. Texas, In memory of the victims of the U.S.S. Maine Cabanas Fortress, Guns in Cabanas Fortress
27. View of Havana, Havana, Cuba, U.S.S. Brooklyn, Sand fort at Matanzas
28. Edward Webster? [Group of 4 people with Webster labeled]
 Wreck of the Maine – washer- [washer was added in pencil, different handwriting]
 French Man O War (wash day)
29. Bone yard, Havana, Colon Cemetery
30. Officer's tents, Chickamauga Park, Soldiers relief [outhouse]
31. Blanket tossing, Guard mount
32. Cuban parade, Evacuation of the Spanish, Jan. 1899, Cuban huts
33. Deformed fingers, Altar of church, lit by candles
34. No. 11 block house, Band stand, Luneta
35. Firemen's monument, Havana, Manila and Dugupan Railroad station, Manila
36. Santa Anna, Hospital, Spanish residence
37. J.G. Brierley, Co. A, 4th U.S. Infty [infantry], Telegraph office, Gen Bates' Hdqtrrs [headquarters]
38. Gun carriage on Old Walled City, Manila, Walled City, Manila

39. Plowing rice paddies, Wreck of the Villalobos, Sunk by Dewey
40. Street in rainy season, cooking rice
41. Co. K, 46th Inftry [infantry] [Two images on one photo, top image is of a woman, bottom image is of a house], House moving, destroying an old convent, inspection
42. Drawing logs, Arrival of wagon trains
43. Government Service Building, Pan-American, Lowneys Building
44. Electric Tower (2)
45. Electric Tower, Triumphal Bridge
46. "She has troubles of her own"

ALBUM 5 Photographs of the Derry Homestead, about 1900

11 photos

Handwritten labels are difficult to read