

## **World War I Papers of Thomas, James, and Victor Kegel, 1917-2014**

**Object ID: MG0798**

1 box 62 folders, 92 items, 281 pages to scan .5 cubic feet

Repository: LancasterHistory (Organization); PV7

Shelving Location: Archives South, Side 15

Scope and Content Note: The World War I Papers of Thomas, James, and Victor Kegel collection contains materials written and collected by three brothers who fought during World War I in the 109th Machine Gun Battalion. The collection contains letters written by the brothers to their families while in the service, and some other letters from their loved ones. There are also newspaper articles, literature on the battalion they fought in, post cards, military paperwork, and photographs.

Creators: Kegel, Thomas, 1895-1958; Kegel, James, 1891-1927; Kegel, Victor, 1898-1923.

Conditions for Access: Restrictions are noted at the item level. The documents in Folders 24, 33, and 47 are fragile and require staff supervision. Please contact [research@lancasterhistory.org](mailto:research@lancasterhistory.org) at least two weeks prior to visit.

Conditions Governing Reproductions: Collection may not be photocopied. Please direct questions to Research Center Staff at [research@lancasterhistory.org](mailto:research@lancasterhistory.org). Permission for reproduction and/or publication must be obtained in writing from LancasterHistory.

Language: English

Biographical and Historical Note: Thomas Kegel (1895-1958), James Kegel (1891-1927), Victor Kegel (1898-1923) were three brothers who served together in the 109<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion during World War I. Their parents were Charles and Mary Rogers Kegel, and they had eleven children. Their family home was on 59 Locust Street in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They were all drafted in 1917, and were trained in Camp Hancock in Augusta, Georgia. After their extensive training, they were sent to fight in the trenches in France. On separate occasions, each brother was wounded during the war, but they all survived and came home to Lancaster after the war in 1919.

James L. Kegel was born on August 10, 1891. He was a poultry dresser and dealer and was married to Arabella E. Raymond Kegel (1884-1966) on August 27, 1911. They had three children: Charles, James, and Mary Annabelle. James passed away at the age of 35 on February 9, 1927, due to pneumonia.

Thomas Kegel was born on January 18, 1895. He married Veronica R. "Fannie" Karch Kegel. Together, they had four children: Thomas, Helen, Doris Anne, and John. He was



LancasterHistory

a watchmaker, in addition to other various occupations. By a doctor's recommendation in 1939, Thomas and his family moved to Miami, Florida, due to his injuries and struggles with PTSD. He passed away on February 18, 1958.

Victor A. Kegel was born on March 29, 1898. He was a poultry dresser after coming back to Lancaster from the war in 1919. He was married to Ellen F. Kegel. He passed away on December 26, 1923, due to inflammation of the brain. He was 25 years old.

Source of Acquisition: Gift of John A. Kegel, in memory of his father, Thomas, and his uncles, James and Victor, 18 October 2018, with the assistance of Charles and Mary Brill.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Preferred Citation: World War I Papers of Thomas, James, and Victor Kegel (MG0798), Folder #, Insert #, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Subject Headings:

World War, 1914-1918. (LHo-LOC sh 85148236)

Letters. (LHo-LOC sh 85076240)

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces. (LHo-LOC n 84077783)

Machine Gun Training Center (Camp Hancock, Ga.) (LHo-LOC no2012040631)

Trench warfare. (LHo-LOC sh 85137284)

Photographs. (LHo-LOC sh 85101195)

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.) (LHo-LOC sh 85027084)

Search Terms:

United States Army, American Expeditionary Forces

Machine Gun Training Center

Camp Hancock

Trench warfare

Photographs

Letters

Correspondence

Newspaper clippings

Manuscript groups

Finding aids

Related Materials:

Photographs in the Photograph Collection.

[World War I Collection, 1916-1972, MG-45](#)

World War I Papers for Frank Schober, MG-797

Charles E. Schuler Papers, MG-780

William Barlow Papers, MG-781

William Raymond Elbert Papers, MG-784

Military Records for Charles A. Meisenberger, MG-782



LancasterHistory

[Diary Collection, 1836-1978, MG-247](#)  
[William J. Buch Papers, 1917-1958, MG-658](#)

**Processing History:** Processed and finding aid prepared by EM, January/February 2019. This collection has been documented, preserved and managed according to professional museum and archives standards. The collection was cataloged using DACS conventions.

**Box 1**

**Folder 1** *The Lancaster Intelligencer* article “Warriors of Mercy’ Off for the Front.” September 10, 1917. (1 item, 1 pages)

**Folder 2** Letter from Tom Kegel, regarding money his mother sent him. No date. (1 item, 3 pages, 2 pieces)

**Folder 3** Letter from Tom Kegel to his mother. Regarding digging trenches, being overcharged while shopping in town because he is a soldier, enjoying hiking, “this is the life is everything goes right,” coming home for Christmas, thanking his sister for looking after his things while he is away, taking out Liberty Bonds after being paid, “gunning” with friends on their days off on Wednesdays and Saturdays, fishing after church on Sunday and “tending to Church duties.” Camp Hancock, October 11<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 4** Letter from Tom and Victor to their sister Jennie. Regarding not receiving all of their mail and not having gotten any of her letters since they got to camp, receiving devil’s food cake she sent them, dinner supplied for the soldiers by the Sacred Heart Church, field inspections and pitching shelter tents, George Grim falling and breaking his arm while setting up the tents, souvenirs he’s sending home, moving camp, meeting “chickens” (or girls) and calling them up on the telephone. 1917. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 5** Letter from Tom to his mother. Regarding his morning exercises, “parading” with 3,000 troops, getting the paper every night, missing the gun he has at home, how the Southern countryside he is in is deserted, and how “you know that’s what I like when I am down in the sticks for the city life don’t agree with me anymore,” asking for more cakes to be sent to him, deciding not to take out Liberty Bonds, asking to have Prince Albert tobacco sent to him because it is too expensive where he is. Camp Hancock, October 12<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 4 pieces, 8 pages)

**Folder 6** Letter from Tom to his mother. Regarding sending her \$25 to put away for him, coming home for Christmas, one of the bath houses catching fire, walking around the countryside, watching trainloads of troops pass him by while walking past train



LancasterHistory

tracks and Company K joining their camp. Camp Hancock, October 14<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 7** Letter from Tom to his mother. Regarding sending his mom and sister a cactus plant and film to be developed, getting a different captain, and how their old Captain Rehm got promoted to major. Camp Hancock, October 15<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 8** Letter from Tom to his mother and sister. Regarding having the cake and tobacco they sent to him, moving to new quarters, losing Captain Reahm because he got to be promoted to major in their battalion, and all of the soldiers pitching in a dollar to get him a gift, going from being in the 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment to the 109<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion. No date. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 9** Letter from Tom to his mother and sister. Regarding not being able to find much news to write when his mother complained about not receiving bigger letters from him, confusion as to whether a book of stamps that were sent to Victor were actually for him or not, heading further down south soon, having no news from town, playing football and seeing friends, going to retreat and mess, losing their captain, having ice cream for supper. Names briefly mentioned: Red Delmarra, Joe Fillinger, George and Harvey Metzger, Hen Heidig, Ted Hersh, Earl Eickert. Camp Hancock, October 21<sup>st</sup> 1917. (1 item, 3 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 10** Letter from Victor to his mother. Regarding receiving the “eats” from his mother, sending \$70 home for her to put in the Lancaster Trust Co. for him on interest, moving closer to town, losing their captain who was to be promoted. Camp Hancock, October 18<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 11** Letter from Victor to his sister. Regarding receiving the letter and box she had sent to him, how he and Tom are getting along, “Tom writes to Edna pretty often but don’t let on I told you.” Camp Hancock, October 18<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 12** Letter from Victor to his mother. Regarding the money he sent home, the gifts sent to him from his mother and sister, how he hasn’t heard if he will be granted furlough or not, how his father said he thinks of him each time he eats from the tomato plant Victor planted, thanking his uncle for the stamps he sent to him, the weather at camp. Camp Hancock, October 21<sup>st</sup> 1917. (1 item, 2 pieces, 3 pages)

**Folder 13** Letter from Tom and Vick to their mother. Regarding Harry Seachrist from Plum street’s illness in their camp after a fifteen mile hike, enjoying walking and hiking, getting one hundred more men in their company and how some are a “rough looking bunch,” getting Captain Reahm back and how he’ll sort out the new recruits, having to



be in bed by 9:15, how it costs them three cents to send letters now “after [a] while we will have to pay to walk,” and deeding to write in candle light. Camp Hancock, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1917. (1 item, 3 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 14** Letter from Tom to his mother and sister. Regarding getting to eat some “Good old Lancaster County rabbit” another man had been sent from home, hiking, “we sure have a bunch of nuts in our company,” giving advice to his brother for hunting season, moving further south, Victor going to town to get his teeth fixed. Camp Hancock, November 10<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 3 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 15** Letter from Tom to his mother and sister. Regarding getting a new overcoat, the warmer weather in the south, enjoying a fifteen mile hike, not being granted furlough for Christmas and the possibility of moving at any time, going to get schooled on new machine guns and signal work, missing “gunning” at home and how different the game is in Georgia versus in Pennsylvania. Envelope included. Camp Hancock, November 21<sup>st</sup> 1917. (1 item, 4 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 16** Letter from Tom and Vick to their mother and sister. Regarding receiving a care package from home and sharing the loot with their friends in their tent, eating well in the army and getting a little stouter in the process, “so you can easily see the army life agrees with me [...]”, changing tents, not being able to come home for Christmas, their friend Frank Keller’s furlough falling through, having a thirty-two mile hike called off, the weather getting cooler, hoping to get rid of the “rough necks” so they won’t ruin their company’s good record, sending a roster of the company home, having a field inspection soon, asking mother and sister what they want for Christmas and if they would rather just have money. Camp Hancock, November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1917. (1 item, three pieces, six pages)

**Folder 17** Letter from Tom to his mother and sister. Regarding writing to family friends at home, being sent on a new job and drilling with mules, having “real machine gun drills,” practicing on a rifle range, having practice cancelled due to a rainy day, practicing with “dummy bombs,” being happy “as a bumble bee” in their tent with their friends, expecting to be paid “almost any day now,” asking for a ‘box full of your good eats” from his mother for Christmas, including her mince pies. Camp Hancock, December 6<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 18** Letter from Tom and Victor to their mother and sister. Regarding receiving their Christmas care package from home and making “short work” of eating everything, feeling excited whenever the Kegel brothers are called for mail call, receiving a Christmas greeting in the mail from a family friend, a friend Jim receiving a better pay in the war effort and being able to send \$30 to his wife and \$45 overall, and getting more money per child as well, not being able to send his usual \$20 home because he spent it on Christmas presents, going to church and seeing the “little hut” decorated and



LancasterHistory

decorating the camp, having off until Thursday and sleeping in the meantime, experiencing Spring-like weather, not having any snow since being at camp, "it only flurried one night." Envelope included. Camp Hancock, December 23<sup>rd</sup> 1917. (1 item, 4 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 19** Letter from Tom, Vick, and Jim to their mother and sister. Regarding "Living in the sticks" and wishing they were "down in the woods," going fishing when they have no work, "I think we will move somewhere on our own country when we leave this camp, I don't think we will go across the pond so quick [...]", reassuring their mother that Vick isn't homesick, going to the rifle range on Saturday, taking pictures at the camp, "We had broke the main spring in our Victrola..." and needing to get parts for it, taking money out of their "insurance" (?), going on an unsuccessful hunting trip for rabbits in the countryside. Envelope included. Camp Hancock, February 9<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 4 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 20** Letter from Tom, Vick, and Jim, to their mother and sister. Regarding one of the brothers getting better from having the measles, having "fine weather" at the camp, a friend from their tent on furlough will be coming to visit their mother soon and asking her to give him some of her "good old home made wine," "living like Kings" in the "sticks" until they need to be back with their company on Thursday. Camp Hancock, February 11<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 21** Letter from Tom, Vick, and Jim to their mother and sister. Regarding parading with the whole 28<sup>th</sup> Division with about 33,000 troops on Washington's Birthday, hiking for fourteen miles, being kept very busy at camp, sharing some wine their mother had sent to them with their tent-mates, marching and playing in a band as a company with each of their friends playing different instruments, even playing for the officers. Camp Hancock, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1918. (1 item, 3 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 22** Letter from Tom, Vick, and Jim to their mother and sister. Regarding receiving a letter from "Brother Speb," missing springtime at home and wishing he was home to fish, moving up with the company within three weeks' time, making Easter Communion, asking mother to thank Mrs. Haversham (?) for the handkerchiefs she sent them, "tell Father if business is dull up there he should run a jitney and he will make a barrel of money," keeping score at the pistol range. Camp Hancock, March 28<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 3 pieces, 6 pages)

**Folder 23** Postcard with "Men of the Camp" poem, and a note from Victor to his mother on the back. No date. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 24a Restricted. Please use photocopy in folder 24B**

Book, *The 28th Division In France*, sketches by Eugene Gilbert, 103rd Engineers, A.E.F. Published in 1919. Book opens to an introduction by Eugene Gilbert. Includes a



LancasterHistory

map of the route of the 28th Division in France, a brief history of the 28th (Keystone) Division, and citations received by the 28th Division from Army and Corps Headquarters and from the French Commanders. "When the 28<sup>th</sup> Division, man by man tells its battle history to the folks at home a little scenery to illustrate the high spots will help the story greatly." The book was a gift from Victor Kegel to his mother, and he wrote notes to her on many of the pages. (1 item, 2 pieces, 57 pages)

**Folder 24b** Photocopy of book and letters in Folder 24a, *The 28th Division In France*, sketches by Eugene Gilbert, 103rd Engineers, A.E.F. Published in 1919. (1 item, 50 pieces, 50 pages)

**Folder 25** "The ship on which I sailed has arrived safely overseas" cards for Thomas, Jim and Vick Kegel. No date. (2 items, 2 piece, 2 page)

**Folder 26** Letter from Fred Kimmel. Regarding missing home, wanting to read a newspaper, and not being told much in the way of news, a "dandy band" playing at retreat. Somewhere in France, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 27** Letter from Tom, Vick, and Jim, to their mother, father, and sister. Regarding asking for magazines to be sent to them because they don't hear much of the news where they are, asking how the boys who were drafted were liking camp, sending money home, missing camp and Lancaster life, liking some of the places they saw in London and seeing lots of the French country, sleeping in a hole him and Jim dug out, getting "plenty" of tobacco where they are in France, not being able to write much because all of the news they get is about the military and not being able to share that information without the letter getting intercepted. Envelope included. Somewhere in France, July 16<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 28** Letter from Tom, Vick, and Jim, to their mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding being in the trenches, the experience of being a machine gunner in the trenches, not having lost any men at the time with the help of Captain Rehm, running into "Houckie Harry Rodgers" and other boys from Lancaster. Somewhere in the trenches in France, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1918. (1 item, 2 pieces, 3 pages)

**Folder 29** Letter from Tom, Vick and Jim to their mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding fighting the "Dutchmen" in a small town, not expecting the war to take much longer, rescuing a group of people from a cave they had been penned into by the Germans. Envelope included. "Just returned from the front," August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1918. (1 Item, 2 pieces, 2 pages)

**Folder 30** Letter from Tom to parents, sister, and brothers. The letter is written presumably on French paper, and has a blue ink drawing of a French soldier in his trench coat, along with the line "Le Foyer du Soldat, Union Franco-Americaine" printed



LancasterHistory

at the top. Regarding his arm healing fast and expecting to be back with his company soon (letter was probably written in the hospital as he was recuperating), expecting the war to be over soon because they are outnumbering the Germans so much that they aren't able to hold their lines anymore, sleeping in a "nice soft bed" at the hospital and how nice it is, telling his sister she should have been a "red corps nurse," expecting the warm weather in France to go away as autumn approaches, hoping that the war will end before wintertime because he isn't "anxious to live out doors this winter." Envelope included. September 6<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 31** Letter from Victor to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding being happy that the war is over and hoping to be able to get home soon, staying in a German training camp and what it was like there. November 20<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 32** Letter from Victor to his mother, sister, father, and brothers. Regarding the difference between the French and American money, and how the French "keeps on thinking the American Soldiers are millionaires," not being able to have his picture taken anywhere in France where he is stationed, marking on a post card where "Harry K Though lost over one million dollars while gambling in a hotel named Kesenia, and how they're now using it as a place to stay. December 24, 1918. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 33 Restricted. Requires staff supervision.**

Map of battles and front lines, entitled "The seven hundred mile battle line on which the war must end." Also seems to have write ups or stories within, but is folded up and is extremely fragile. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Folder 34**

**Insert 1** Card, USA Debarkation Hospital No 5 in New York City, dated April 17<sup>th</sup> 1919. Card is admitting Thomas Kegel for treatment for the injury in his right arm, saying he is "cured" and in "excellent condition." (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Insert 2** Card, USA Base hospital in Camp Dix. NJ from April 24<sup>th</sup> 1919. The card is admitting Thomas Kegel for the injury in his right arm. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Insert 3** Card, USA Debarkation Hospital No 5 in New York City, dated April 24<sup>th</sup> 1919. The card is noting Thomas Kegel's transfer from this hospital to the Base Hospital in Camp Dix. Also states that he is in excellent condition. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Insert 4 Temporarily with the Photographs.** Newspaper clipping, "The soldier Kegels See action in France." Not dated. About Thomas Kegel. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Insert 5 Temporarily with the Photographs.** Newspaper clipping, "Wounded soldier writes parents," Not dated. About Thomas Kegel. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Insert 6 Temporarily with the Photographs.** Newspaper article, titled "Turtle soup supper for Rehm's men: 109<sup>th</sup> Machine Battalion Entertained last night." Is about Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kegel hosting a supper for the soldiers to celebrate their safe return home. Not dated. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)



**Insert 7** Newspaper article, undated, titled “A Pro-German Remark Started a Near-Riot.” (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page.)

**Folder 35** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding how well he is healing, having his stitches taken out, how he will have to stay at the hospital for a few more weeks, how he's staying in a large town, asking how many boys left home since the last draft, apologizing for the short letter. Base Hospital, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1918. (1 item, 2 pieces, 3 pages)

**Folder 36** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding the war very soon finishing, doing light work in the hospital as he heals and isn't able to work very hard, saying he doesn't think he'll end up going back with his company because he is good at working in the hospital, and coming home. Base Hospital, November 8<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 37** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding the war's end, not knowing whether he'll be sent back to his company after he's healed or not, cooler weather coming to France, wanting to come home since the war is over, missing “gunning” at home, his sister having the Spanish Influenza and how the only cure is to “send me a pack of real Cammel Cigarettes,” a joke, asking how everyone is at home. Envelope included. Base Hospital, November 15<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 38** Letter from Tom to his mother and father. Regarding his arm healing well, hoping to be home by January, possibly being sent home instead of going back with his company, cold weather, working in the hospital and helping to dress wounded men, the bigger city of Orleans where the hospital is based, being glad the war is over because he was “fed up” with it, a conversation with a nurse and joking about falling in love with her. Including envelope. Base Hospital, November 20<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 39** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding receiving the Christmas box they sent him, asking for cigarettes to be sent to him, liking his “mother nurse” and the rest of the “family” in the hospital, and he lists the names of those in the hospital, asking about his friends and family. Envelope included. Base Hospital, January 6<sup>th</sup> 1919. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 40** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding being in the south of France in Cannes, staying in “one of Uncle Sam's hotels one of the buildings of King Edward,” being able to look out over the sea where they are, visiting one of the oldest Cathedrals in the country and how beautiful it was, not being with his division and possibly coming home as a convalescent, celebrating his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday in Marcelles, and wanting to travel more to Africa because he “will never have this chance



again." Including envelope. Cannes, France, January 19<sup>th</sup> 1919. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 41** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding waiting sailing orders to go back home, not hearing from his brothers because he has been moving around France so much, and a dream that he had where he was finally home from the war and told his family everything he experienced. Including envelope. Bordeaux, France, February 22<sup>nd</sup> 1919. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 42** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding waiting for the boat to come for them, thinking they'll be home in two weeks, longing to go rabbit hunting with his brothers, asking his siblings to do some favors for him in anticipation for his return. Including envelope. Bordeaux, France, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1919. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 43** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding longing to come home, the South of France being the "most beautiful country my eyes ever laid upon," moving around a lot, taking a boat ride on the Mediterranean sea, his brother Archie back at home losing his toe and missing "gunning" season, turning twenty four on the 18<sup>th</sup> of that month. Envelope included. No address, January 24<sup>th</sup> 1919. (1 item, 2 pieces, 2 pages)

**Folder 44** Letter from Tom to his mother, father, sister and brothers. Regarding finding out he will be leaving for home from the hospital, and hoping that means he will be leaving soon, hating to leave the army hospital he was staying in, which was the base hospital 202, the small cars in France, meeting a girl from Harrisburg at the YMCA in France and having lunch and tea with her, sending condolences to his sister for the "sad news about poor Fritz," sending money home for his mother to keep for him, having to get used to the cold once he gets home. Envelope included. Cannes, France, January 29<sup>th</sup> 1919. (1 item, 4 pieces, 4 pages)

#### **Folder 45**

**Insert 1** Thomas Kegel's honorable discharge from the National Guard after being drafted into the Army, dates August 5<sup>th</sup> 1917. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Insert 2** Thomas Kegel's honorable discharge from the Army, following the end of the war, April 29<sup>th</sup> 1919. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 46** Letter from James Kegel, to his mother. Regarding not getting some of his mail, hearing that a neighborhood boy shot himself in the throat after being drafted, seeing a friend from Lancaster. Envelope included. Attached to the back of the last page of the letter is an undated newspaper clipping, "James Kegel of 109h M.G. Battalion, wounded. The letter is written from Columbus Barracks, Columbus, Ohio. January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1917. (1 item, 4 pieces, 3 pages)



**Folder 47 Restricted. Requires staff supervision.**

Page from *The New Era—Lancaster*, with the article “Lancaster Soldiers Saw Hun Peace Party.” Very fragile. November 29, 1918. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 48** Letter from Victor Kegel to his mother, father, sister, and brothers. Regarding spending Christmas day in a box car, teaching his brothers about gunning when he gets back home, their exercises. Somewhere in France, December 25 1918. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 49** Letter from Victor Kegel to his mother. Regarding Brother Jim being sent to the hospital for tonsillitis. Envelope included. January 14, 1919. (1 item, 2 pieces, 1 page)

**Folder 50** Letter from Victor Kegel to his mother. Regarding how the part of France he's in is a “dump,” brother Jim beating him home, asking about his brothers at home. January 21 1919. (1 item, 1 piece, 2 pages)

**Folder 51** Letter from Victor to his mother. Regarding getting snow where he is, hoping to come home soon, asking how his sister is doing following having the Spanish Flu. Envelope included. January 28<sup>th</sup> 1919. (1 item, 3 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 52** Letter from Victor to his mother. Regarding having to wait an extraordinarily long time before getting mail from each other, sending his money orders home, wishing he were in “brother Tom’s shoes” because he may not be able to get home so soon. February 21 1919. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 53** Letter from Victor to his mother. Regarding letting his family know both him and brother Jim are in the best of health, moving to a new camp, being able to sail home soon, bunking with brother Jim. March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1919. (1 item, 2 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 54** Letter from Victor to his mother. Regarding Tom still being at the base hospital, feeling sorry to hear bad news from home, asking his mother to give a certain letter (not included) to “Bell.” No date. (1 item, 2 pieces, 3 pages)

**Folder 55**

**Insert 1** Safe arrival card announcing Victor Kegel’s safe arrival to Camp Dix hospital. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Insert 2** Envelopes, not dated. (4 items, 4 pieces, 4 pages)

**Folder 56** Letter from Mary Kegel to her son Victor. Regarding sailing in May, being anxious to see her boys, receiving more letters from them, visiting with friends of their



LancasterHistory

boys, seeing their family pastor, talking about Brother John wanting a new car.  
Envelope included. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, no year. (1 item, 4 pieces, 3 pages)

**Folder 57** *The Daily New* newspaper, with front page documenting the end of the war, “The War is Ended, Hostilities Cease.” November 11<sup>th</sup> 1918. (1 item, 2 pieces, 1 page)

**Folder 58** Newspaper article, title of periodical not visible. Article on front page, “War is hell All Right.” No date. (1 item. 1 piece, 1 page.)

**Folder 59** Unknown newspaper in insert. Most of the titles revolving around the war. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**Folder 60** Essay written on the battalion the Kegel brothers were in, titled “The Twenty-Eighth Division Pennsylvania Guard in the World War: One Hundred Ninth Machine Gun Battalion 1917.” Essay about the works and the history of the battalion, as well as some of the people that were in it. Somebody seems to have highlighted certain names and sections. Bibliography at the end. No date. (1 item, 10 pieces, 20 pages)

**Folder 61** Travel section from the *Miami Herald* from front page story is “In Flanders Fields.” January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014. (1 item, 1 piece, 1 page)

**In photograph collection:**

- Photograph Thomas and Victor Kegel
- Photograph, three Kegel brothers in their uniforms
- Photograph Thomas Kegel, Charlie Rutter
- Photograph, captioned “Party before going to camp”
- Photograph, “Camp Hancock” group of men
- Photograph, “Camp Hancock” three men swimming
- Photograph, group of men gathered around barrel for drink
- Photograph, group of men posing
- Photograph, Joe Sabinarch
- Photograph, captioned Rocky Mount, South Carolina
- Photograph “Camp Hancock” two men washing their clothes, in front of tents
- Photograph, Joe [George?] Grimm and Barney
- Photograph, “Camp Hancock” group of men sitting together amongst tents (torn)
- Photograph, Sargent McEvoy
- Photograph, caption cut off, group of men posing around “I want YOU for the US Army” poster, men are mimicking the pose of Uncle Sam
  - 2 pieces, picture is torn
- Photograph, “Camp Hancock” Karry Kest--- (writing is cut off)
- Photograph, Barney McKellifs, Camp Hancock



- Photograph, men logging and working
- Picture of a nurse and two soldiers. The nurse is standing, and her uniform is clearly visible. Two soldiers sit on a bench behind her. Has “Miss Madden Orleans France” written on the picture.
  - 1 item, 1 piece, 1 page
- Picture of four men in uniform, captioned “their lieutenants,” and has “Orleans France” written on the picture.
  - 1 item, 1 piece, 1 page



LancasterHistory