

## IRIS Record

### Key Information

Main: KEESLER SAMUEL R., JR

Document Type: **Personal Papers Calend**

Call Number: **168.7567 Box 1**

IRIS Number: **01156159**

Accessions Notes:

Old Accession Nbr:

Title:

Beginning Date: **1906/07/30**

End Date: **1917/12/31**

Publication Date:

Classification: **Unclassif**

Media Roll #:

First Frame:

Last Frame:

Linear Feet: **0.41**

Old MFlm Roll #

Audio Rec:

NUMPAGE

Title Extensions: **Box 1 of 4**

**Abstract** Contains personal correspondence from 2Lt Samuel R. Keesler to parents and other relatives. Discusses college experience, social life, entry into military service, military training courses, Reserve Training Camp, experience on board ship enroute to France, arrival in Europe and subsequent combat experience.

**Descriptive Notes:** Personal papers collection of 2Lt Samuel R. Keesler, Jr., World War I (WW I) aerial observer killed in action 8 Oct 1918. Collection contains correspondence, itineraries, speeches, press releases, and newspaper clippings from Keesler Air Force Bases's dedication of the Spirit of Keesler Center in 1978. Remainder of collection is comprised of miscellaneous documents, including Samuel Keesler's Salutatorian speech from Jefferson Davis High School in 1913, GHQ (General Headquarters) citation orders for gallantry in action, and various newspaper clippings. Electronic copy of collection received on seven (7) each disks indexed under IRIS Number 01156165. Donation received from Ella Fountain Keesler Pratt (sister). Some documents fragile. This box contains personal papers calendar. Total of eighty (80) each folders. DOCUMENT AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORM VIA UNCLASSIFIED NETWORK.

**Title Added Entries** Correspondence, William Keesler to Mrs. S. R. Keesler (Mother), Folder 34, Folder 62, 4 May 1971, 13 Aug 1917

**Subject:** Davidson College \*\* Camp Jackson \*\* Chickamauga Park \*\* Royal Flying Squadron \*\* Camp Warren McClain Catoosa Rifle Range \*\* Gryphon Medal \*\* American Expeditionary Force

Major Command:

Doc Link [https://hrais2/g\\$/AFHRA/Personal Papers/Keesler Samuel R Jr/7567 Box 1.pdf](https://hrais2/g$/AFHRA/Personal%20Papers/Keesler%20Samuel%20R%20Jr/7567%20Box%201.pdf)

### Administrative Markings

No Administrative Markings Listed

Security Review Information:

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Indexer ID: 89	Entered Date:	2007/05/09	
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No. 7567-0	
Folder 1	
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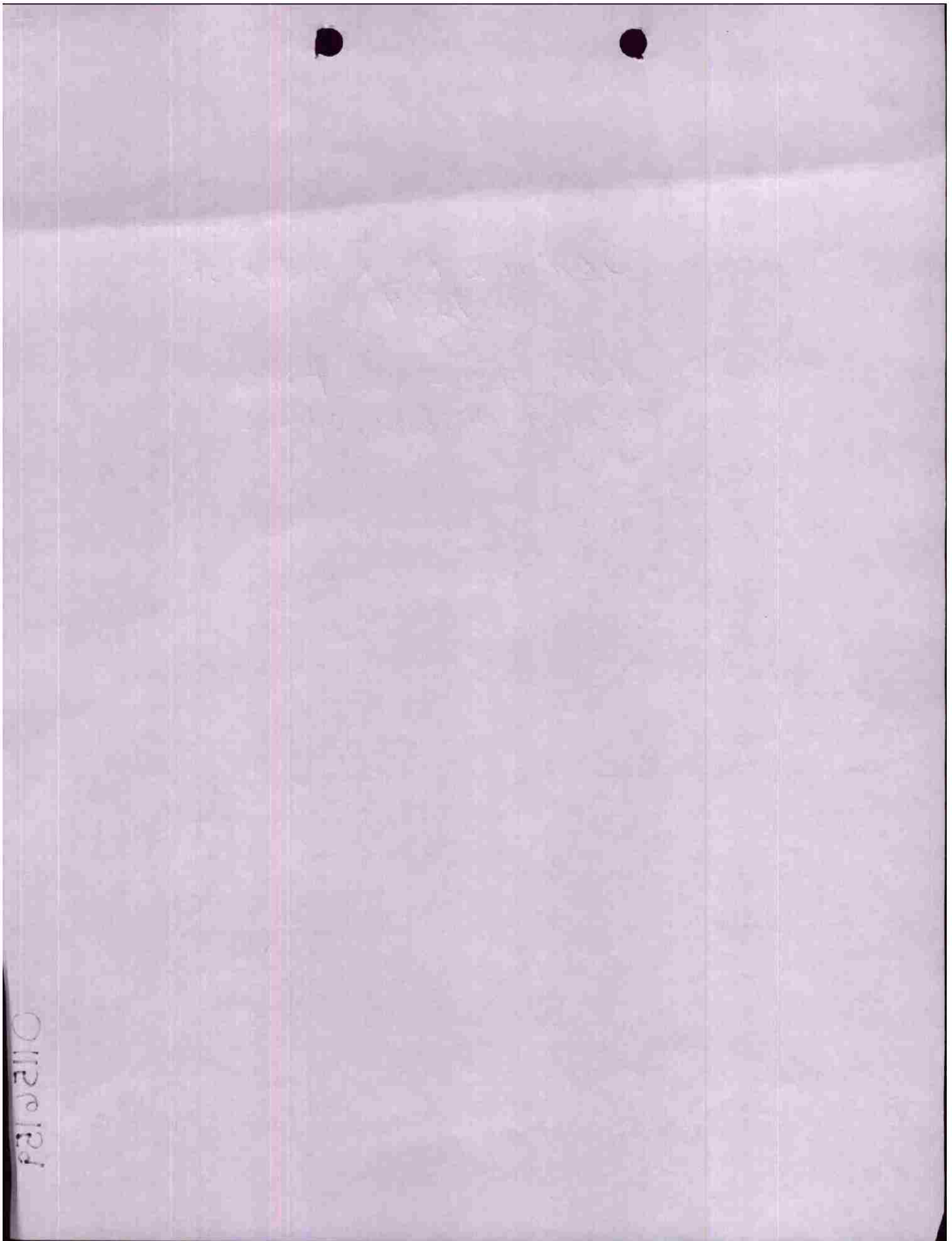
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PERSONAL PAPERS OF

Date Received

Samuel R. Keesler  
30 Apr 07

1. Where did they come from? HQ USAF/CHO

Other?

Mrs. Ella Fountain Keesler Pratt (sister)

2. How long can we keep?

Days

Weeks

Months

Always

Return to:

NO

3. Do we make an extra copy?

NO

How Many?

What Kind?

Notified HD  
of Request

4. May we rearrange it?

Yes

Must it be filmed "as is"?

No

5. What type material should we look for?

Classified?

✓

Remove it?

Yes

Personal?

✓

Remove it?

Yes

Duplicates?

✓

Remove it?

Yes

## KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, Ellen Fountain Keesler Pratt, have this day donated 1st Samuel R. Keesler, Jr. Papers to the Air Force Historical Research Agency.

Understanding that this donation will be accessioned into the Archives of the Air Force to be used, as the security classification permits, by qualified historical researchers whose access has been determined to be in the best interests of the United States Air Force, I do hereby voluntarily give, transfer, convey, and assign all rights, title, and interest in the memoirs and remembrances contained in the aforementioned donation to the Air Force History Office, acting on behalf of the United States of America, to have and to hold the same forever, hereby relinquishing for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, and assigns all ownership, right, title, and interest therein to the donee subject only to the following restrictions:

- None -

Accession #1 (2005)

Ellen Fountain Keesler Pratt DONOR

DATED: 14 August 2006

Accepted on behalf of the  
United States Air Force  
by:

Carlton Jordan II  
Chief, Archives Branch

DATED: 14 August 2006

## KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, Ella Fountain Kessler Pratt, have this day donated 4 Samuel R. Kessler, Jr. Papers to the Air Force Historical Research Agency.

Understanding that this donation will be accessioned into the Archives of the Air Force to be used, as the security classification permits, by qualified historical researchers whose access has been determined to be in the best interests of the United States Air Force, I do hereby voluntarily give, transfer, convey, and assign all rights, title, and interest in the memoirs and remembrances contained in the aforementioned donation to the Air Force History Office, acting on behalf of the United States of America, to have and to hold the same forever, hereby relinquishing for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, and assigns all ownership, right, title, and interest therein to the donee subject only to the following restrictions:

- None -

Accession #2 (2006)

Ella Fountain Kessler Pratt DONOR

DATED: 14 August 2006

Accepted on behalf of the  
United States Air Force  
by:

Donna Anderson  
Chief, Archives Branch

DATED: 14 August 2006





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE HISTORICAL RESEARCH AGENCY  
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA

12 December 2006

AFHRA/RSA  
600 Chennault Circle  
Maxwell AFB AL 36112-6424

Mrs Ella Fountain Keesler Pratt  
89 Harrison Hill Road  
Swannanoa, NC 28778

Dear Mrs Pratt

On behalf of the United States Air Force, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for donating the papers of your brother, Lt Samuel R. Keesler, Jr, to the Air Force Historical Research Agency. We are pleased and honored that you have entrusted them to us. I can assure you that we will exercise the utmost care in their preservation and will make them available to current and future generations of scholars. These documents, in particular the letters and photographs, tell the remarkable story of a genuine American hero and recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross who gave his life in the service of his country. I am certain that those who conduct research in this collection in the years to come will encounter not only a stirring account of a gallant and brave World War I aviator, but also will become acquainted with Sam's early life and times as he grew up in a prominent southern family during the first two decades of the last century.

It also was a pleasure to meet your son, Sam, a few months ago in Swannanoa. His tour of Montreat was a wonderful experience for me, and his continuing assistance has greatly facilitated our initial efforts in arranging and describing the papers. In addition, I would like to thank you for sharing your unique and irreplaceable knowledge in identifying people who appear in the photographs and in answering other questions we have posed. We all look forward to achieving the goal of digitizing the collection, placing it on the internet, and thereby greatly enhancing it's availability for research.

We have attached copies of the signed deed of gifts, as well as separate inventories for the 2005 and 2006 donations. If you have any questions about the collection, please do not hesitate to contact me (334) 953-2964.

Sincerely

*RSJ*  
ROBERT M. JOHNSON, II  
Chief, Archives Branch

- 2 Attachments  
1. Deed of Gift(s)  
2. Inventories

3/06

DR. ROB,

FINALLY GETTING THE PICS BACK YOU,  
 WAS WAITING ON MY WIFE TO GET CONFIRMATION  
 THAT MOTHER TOOK THE FIRST BATCH OF LETTERS  
 ETC. OFF HER '05 TAXES - AND SHE DID. SO  
 WE'LL NEED ONE LETTER WITH TWO (2)  
 THANK YOU'S - ITEMIZED OR OTHERWISE - OR  
 2 LETTERS WITH THANK YOUS -

HOPE I DIDN'T TOTALLY MESS UP THE PICS  
 WITH THE WRITING ON THE BACKS -  
 ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS - CALL 828 686 0333  
 OR EMAIL SCPRATT@CHARTER.NET

PLEASE KEEP ME UPDATED ON THE ACCESSION  
 AND LET ME KNOW WHEN THE MATERIALS GO  
 ON LINE -

NICE OF YOU TO COME UP FOR THE LETTERS -  
 THANKS AGAIN -

Adam Pratt

To: Flying  
Team: Doctor  
undated

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FOLDER-2

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FOLDER-2

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tell us the same. I told  
 to the Dargers would give  
 her something as Santa  
 would not have so  
 much to bring. She  
 said she wanted me  
 to give her a <sup>Christmas</sup> doll.  
 She will be satisfied  
 with the knitting needles  
 she said if he could not  
 bring the dog. Please tell  
 me some thing you had  
 & Mary Ann's letter to  
 me. Lovingly Dargers.

My Dear Friend:  
 We have had  
 such a good time this  
 morning. I read such  
 a good letter from Sam  
 and will have two sep  
 made at once. The baby  
 is fine. Sept. 11th I  
 and I are fine. We  
 with but he slept  
 until seven. He is asked  
 now ~~and~~ is the baby.  
 I made the children

70. 600 200 200 200  
Fees: 100 100 100 100  
Unstated

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FOLDER - 3

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Montgomery, Alabama 36111-5000

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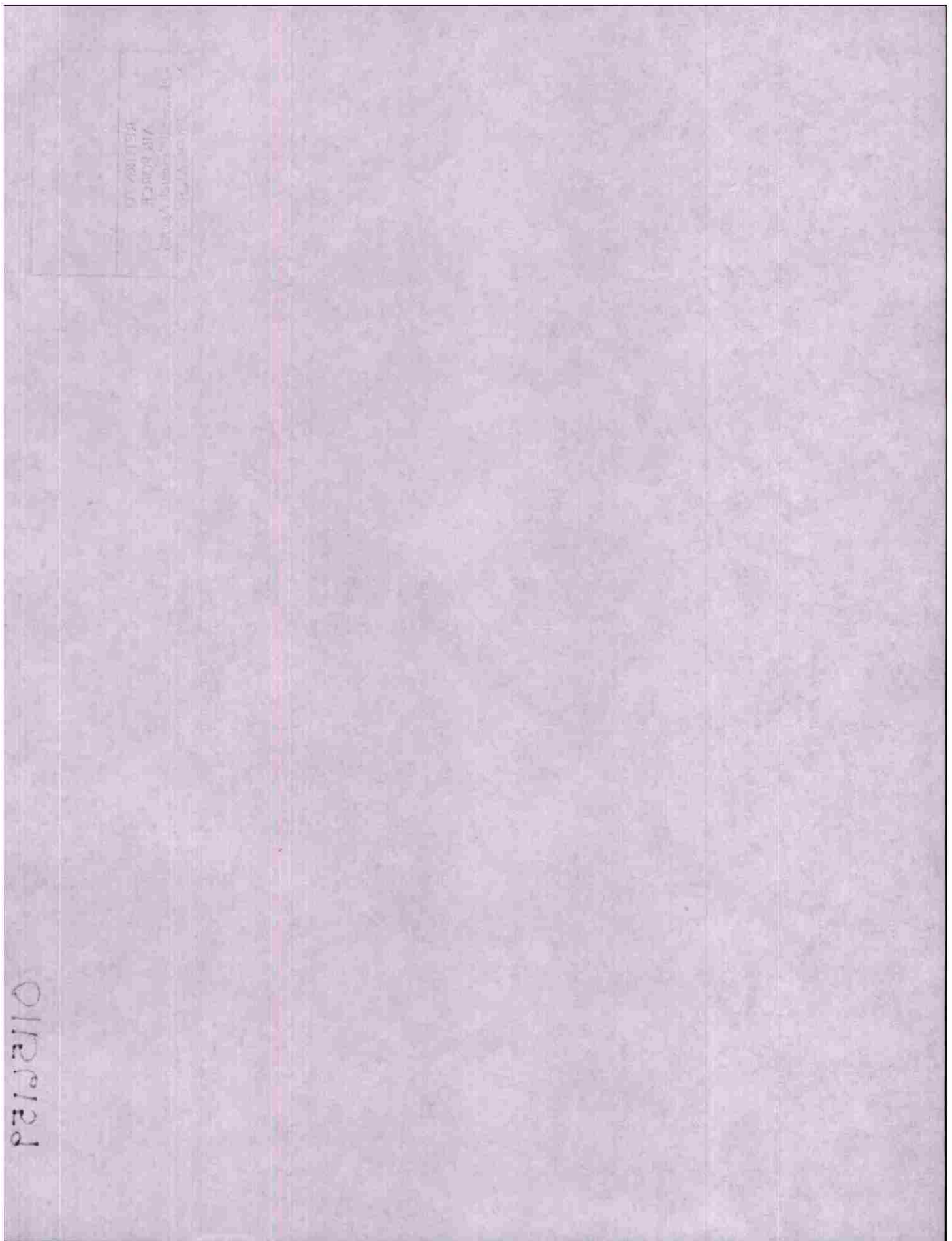


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FEBRU 3

Bat E 316<sup>th</sup> F. A.

Sunday

Dear Father

I have been busy this week. Last Sunday I was on duty at the Mustering office for twenty-four hours straight. I did not even come to my room until Monday morning. Ever since then it has been drill all day and study at night. I had intended writing and will not let another week pass. I enjoyed Mother's & your letters very much. First news I had had in over a week. I believe there is mail for me but it has never been brought over to the regiment. Sam and I do not get to see each other often as we are so far apart. Mother asked about the pillows, Blankets & etc. If they have been sent I have never received them. Sam had not up to last Wed. If they have not been sent please send them as I need my bathrobe & pillow. I have my room fixed up in good shape now



I bought a cot, pad, a blanket and one sheet besides a chair & shelves & etc. When it gets colder we will put in an oil heater. The room is just twelve feet square. Two 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut are in one room. My bunk mate is a fellow named Moore. He and I were together in the 2 Troop at Agletthorpe.

Sam, Joe R. & I went out to the Club Wed for a game of tennis. That was the first time I had seen Sam in a week, altho he is in Banacks opposite ours. We are going to meet every Sat & Wed after this in town.

This whole week has been drill from 7<sup>30</sup> to 10<sup>30</sup> & from 1<sup>30</sup> to 3<sup>30</sup> with one hour for setting up drill & an hour of games. I have been put in charge of the athletic & exercises of our Battery. I have a regular class to attend at 7<sup>30</sup> to 8 every morning. There we talk over the men and what advances are being made & etc. The work is

very interesting.

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FOLIO 3

The men have made wonderful improvement. In one week we have taught them all the squad drill and are ready to begin work on the school of the company. Soon we will start standing gun drill and then go from one to the other so as not to make the men lose interest. The improvement

of the men has been wonderful. From homesick, lonely fellows, they have turned out to be men who are on the jump and who just eat up work. Of course there are some unwilling and grumbly ones but these are soon taught to "pack up their troubles + smile smile smile." The percentage of discharges have been very high. If this bunch were supposed to be the best, who knows what the next will be like. Why 33 out of every 100 are discharged. Sickness, permanent diseases, low mental ability, and deformity. Some of the Dr. on the Local Boards are certainly going to get some-



thing done to them. One of them  
 sent eight men and all were  
 turned down. One had only one  
 eye. The percentage of Morons are  
 around 20% of those discharged it  
 seems like. It certainly is a shame  
 that so many good men  
 can't read or write. Why we are  
 hard pressed for sergeants & corporals  
 because most of the ones who would  
 be non-coms can't read or write. The  
 appearance of the men is get-  
 ting to be fine. They are right on  
 the job and are working hard  
 to be soldiers.

I must stop now and go see  
 about some part of one of the  
 pieces. In studying the guns by  
 book, then going out & looking for the  
 part on the piece. Will write sure  
 this week.

Your affectionate son  
 William

Saw where the Navy beat D.C.  
 96 to 0. That is not so bad. Am  
 going to write for the Davidsonian. Do  
 you want to take it W.P.H.

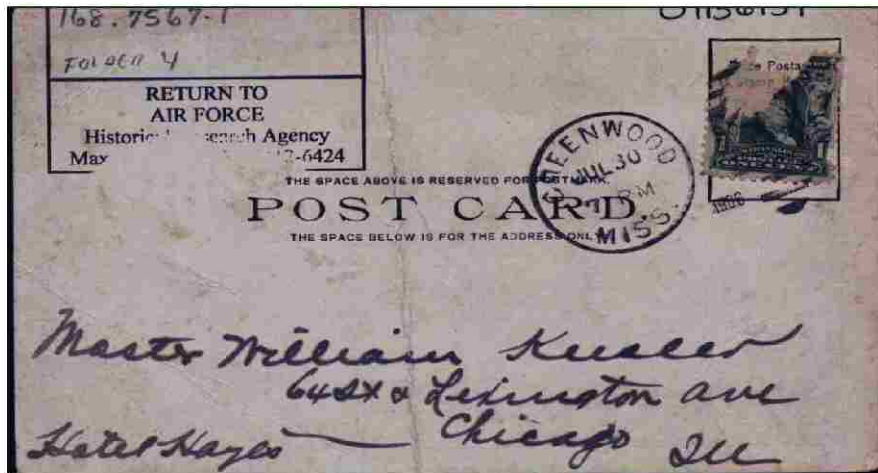


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From: UNIDOC  
1906

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To: W. J. 1000  
From: G. Humphrey  
June 23, 1966

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New York, NY  
June 26, 1906

My dear William,

I have neglected my my writing. Got her safe. It snowed after we got here. Have been to school here, school it out to-morrow. Am well. How are you? Is school out yet? The roses are beginning to bloom up here. I am glad will be soon play with you next year. Uncle Will and Auntie Fred are spending the summer up to the lake. Uncle Morn and Aunt Sally are coming too. I wish you and Sam was up here. We have two-hundred chickens. I would like to be down there this minute. I will be glad to get back next fall. Write soon. With best wishes,  
Good-bye.

Your friend

Isaac Humphreys

Mother sends her love to Mrs. Kibler

To: Son Section  
From: P. H. H. H. H. H.  
Serial number 71 1926

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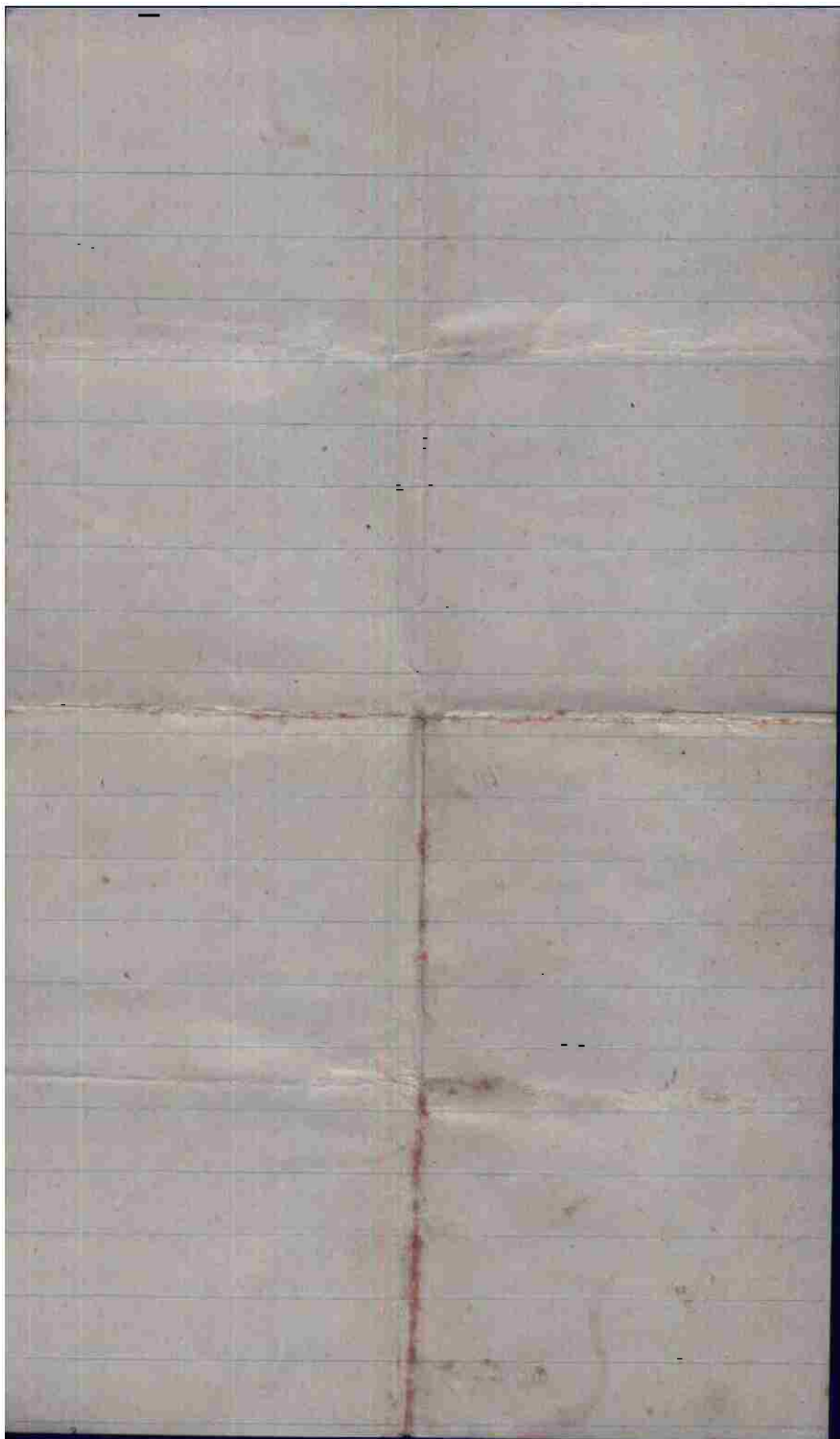
Chicago Ill.  
September 5. 06

Dear Sam,

Just received your letter about 3. hours ago. I am glad you got home bright. Sorry your mother was sick on the train.

Hope you are having a good time at home. I am going to school now and I am going through 6<sup>th</sup> grade work now. I am in room 7. and my teachers name is Miss Dail. she is a pesky creature. it is 8 o'clock now. I would like to go bare footed but it is getting

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pretty chilly now in  
 Chicago + winter is com-  
 ming on. I haven't  
 gone to White City since  
 that after noon so I don't  
 know what that new  
 thing is.

I will write you soon  
 + tell you. The balloon  
 has stoped going up.

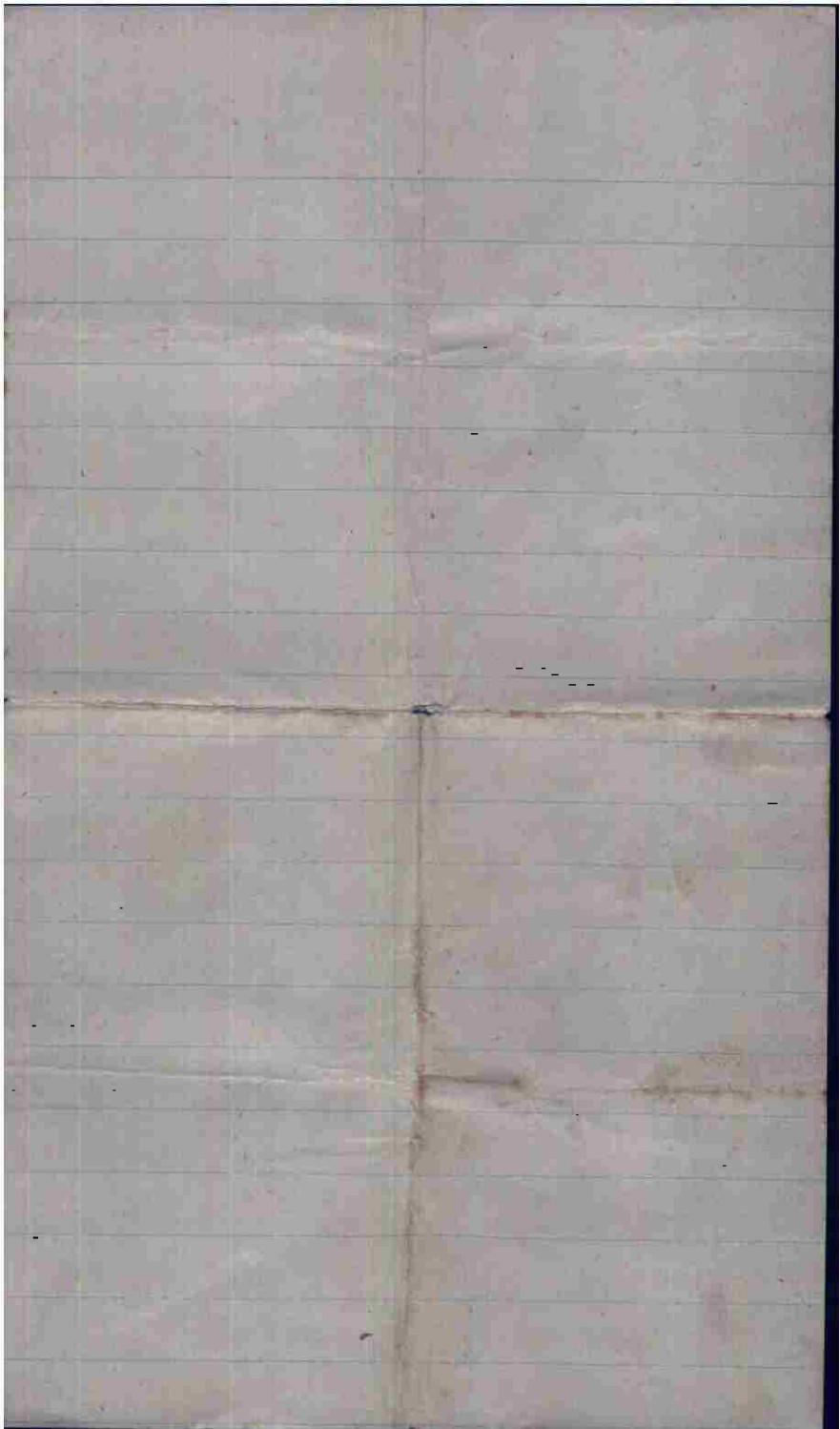
I guess I will have to  
 stop now. It is just  
 about 8 o'clock so good  
 by. Your Friend

P.asser + uddleston

 SKIDOO W.

SKIDOO  
 73

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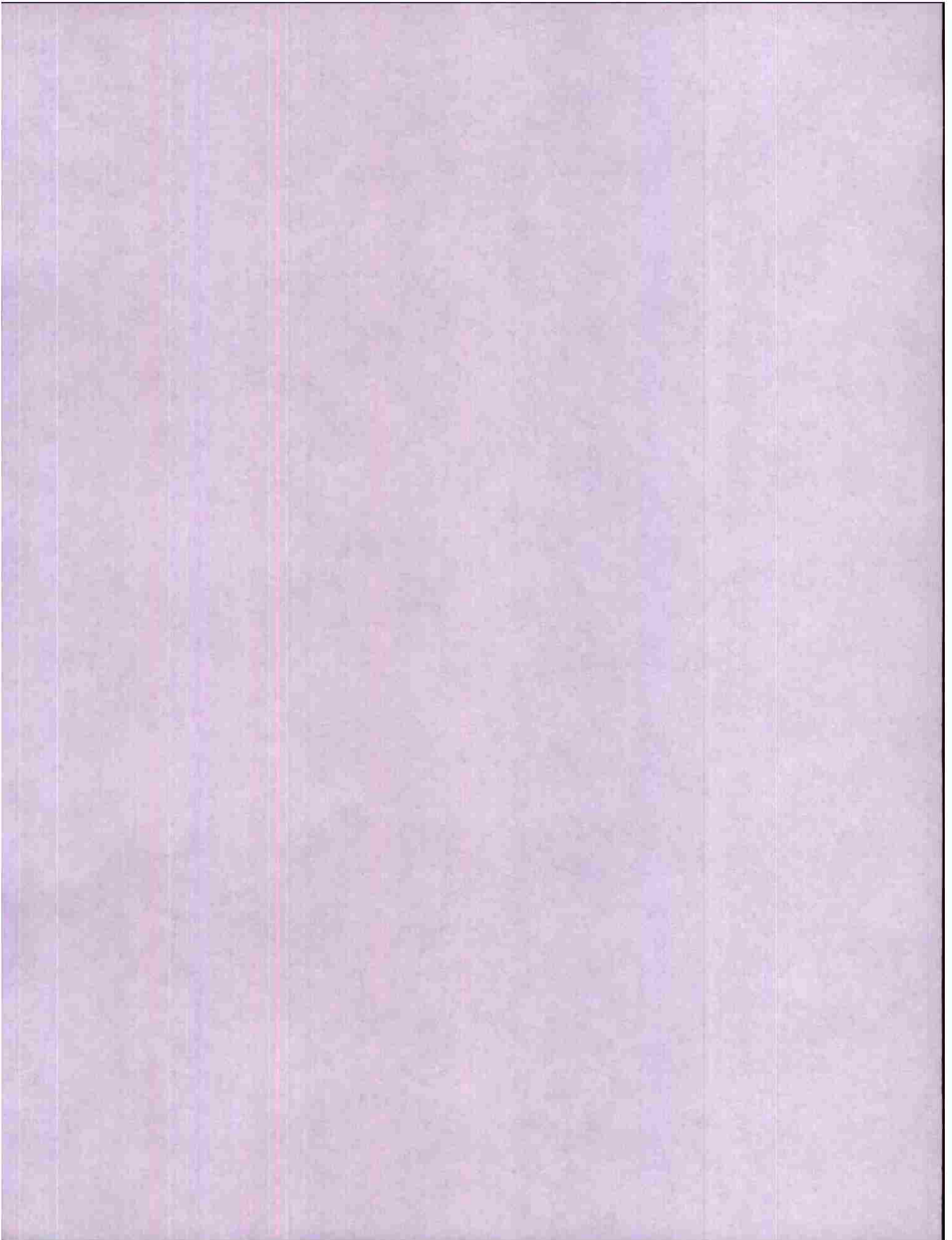
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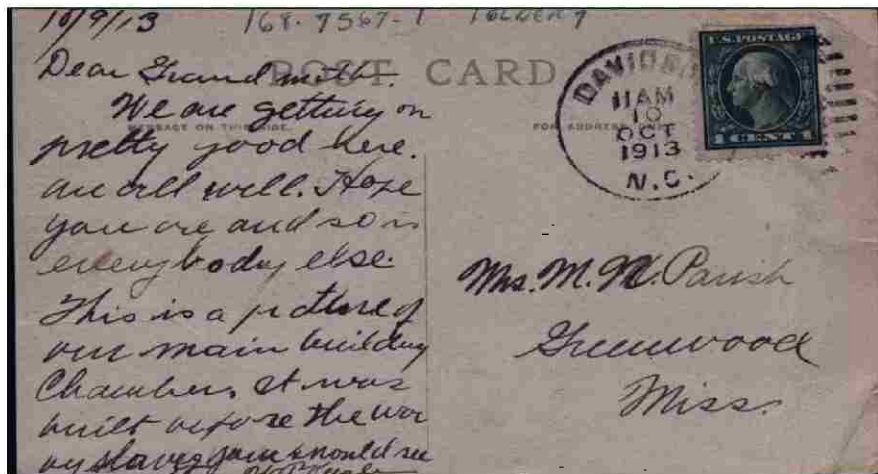
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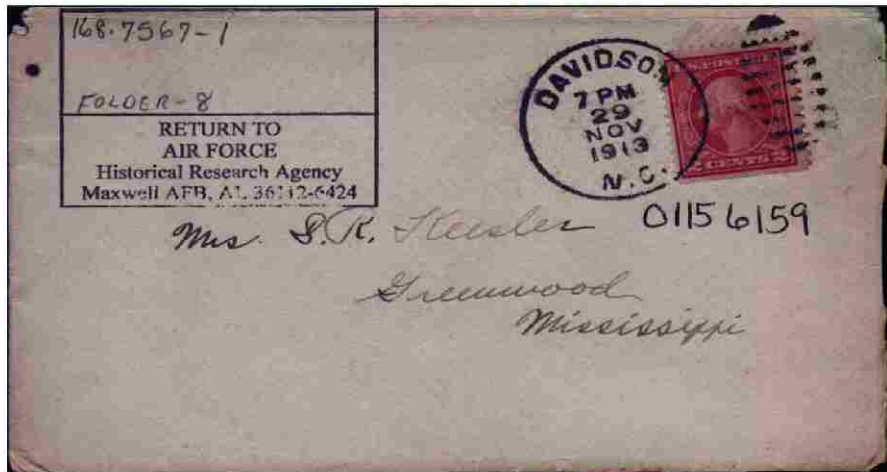
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T.O. Brig S.A. Hagler  
F.O. Brig S.A. Hagler  
November 1913

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FOLDER 8

Davidson NC  
11/29/13

Dear Mother

Your letter came yesterday we were awfully glad to get it. We don't notice that in letter came, we are never too busy for that. I intended to write a letter from Charlotte but did not get time. We sure did have a delightful time there. We left Davidson early Thursday morning and got there at 10. Frank <sup>to wife Ed</sup> met us at the train and to me up town. Sam had to go with the train. That morning I did not go much except walk around town with Frank. We had dinner at 1 and it sure was some dinner. We had turkey fried oyster and everything that goes with them. After dinner we went to the game. We won of course and did some great repairing. It was a hard fought game. Wake Forest would have been beaten worse that she was but our fellows we penalized so much. Sam did not get to play much to any disappointment and every body else. He was a little light for game.

We did not see but two ads in the  
 whole game. What I want put in  
 about a dozen at a time. That  
 Miami should have been pointed  
 in not seeing some day. After the  
 game we made the my town  
 and took the game in progress  
 by reaching all over town and  
 giving all our gifts. We were all  
 make a noise. Saw one of the  
 players at last Miami that night and  
 right after supper went out to  
 see what game and that Miami for  
 a little while but we could not  
 stay longer we were going to the  
 debate at Miami College between  
 Richardson & S. C. It was very some  
 debate. Every body in the house thought  
 that Richardson ought to have won  
 but the judges gave it to S. C. The S. C.  
 fellows themselves said that they  
 were awfully surprised Miami  
 At once and took like something  
 was wrong. Our fellow made the  
 S. C. very thing random over twice  
 and out of the three was to one.  
 After the debate the college gave



gave us a reception. I did not go but Sam did and said he had a fairly good time. We left Charlotte at 12.30 after the day a lots of fun. We got home about 2.00. The next day we slept until 8.00 for there was no chapel. Senior speaking has been going on and nearly every one has spoke. The best speech so far was made I think by a fellow name Luther. It was great. I am sending you a invitation to it and have under scored his name. There are a lot of girls on the list and Sam and I have a few date with them. but I wish I was at home instead. The girls are sure having a good time. I have a date tonight to take over to the Lyceum. I had a little hard lunch the other day, I lost my pocket book with my Lyceum ticket in it also my athletic ticket and a dollar bill. I need them all to but I think I can get my athletic <sup>ticket</sup> back.

We sure will be glad to get the boys and will sure make short work of it. There have been lots of

box lately. I have helped lat up  
several and when ours comes the  
fellows will help us. Mrs Martin  
told me Thanksgiving that the pecans  
had come and that they were the  
larges she had nearly every sent.  
The boys here will sure enjoy them.  
I will write Mary a card as soon  
as it comes. I know it will be fine.  
A good piece of her cake will make  
it seem al most like home.

We got the telegram telling of Mr  
M<sup>r</sup> Math death. I sure am sorry. What  
will Wats do now? Who will manage  
the place now?

How is every body? Is Buck getting  
along alright. I wish I could have  
him up here. Several of the boys have  
pan tumors. I must close and go  
to dinner. By the way Sam has gone  
back to Mrs Virsons. With love  
to all. Your loving son  
William

To Gen S. H. Kester  
From Sam Kester  
December 7, 1918

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Fairfax, N.C.,

Dec. 7-1918.

Dear Father,

You should have seen the dinner we had last Thursday. I never saw anything like it. Mrs. Vernon gave us our Thanksgiving dinner there. She told us to eat as much as we could, because she wasn't going to have any supper. We had a mighty good dinner today, in fact we have one every day. I have been gaining in weight since foot ball stopped. I weighed the other day and weigh about 136 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

I stood three reviews last week. Bible, Algebra and Latin. I think I made good marks on all of them. I will have a Greek and Geometry review next week, also the exams start Thursday. We have Bible first.

Mrs. Martin invited Mr. + I and  
 "Red" Nesbit and about six other  
 boys to come over to her house  
 about 8:30 last night. We made  
 a "Melch Rabbit" and had chocolate  
 and cake. The cake was covered  
 with the pecans you sent her.  
 The I. t. was very good indeed.  
 She made it her self. We had  
 to leave about 10:00 P.M. because  
 we had been asked by the  
 Beta Theta Pi's to a feed. We were  
 already full when we left Mrs.  
 Martin and when we left the  
 "Row" we were sure enough full.  
 They had turkey, ham, cake, candy  
 and all the rest of the things.  
 My appetite has diminished since I  
 have taken such strenuous exer-  
 cise as fast ball.



The fall track meet was held yesterday. They had all of the events except the shot put and the pole vault. They haven't any standards for vaulting. I guess they will get some in the Spring. I didn't enter anything. I was scared of my knee. It has been giving me trouble ever since the first foot ball game. The coach says I have water on it, but he may be mistaken. It is a bit larger than ~~the~~ my other knee yet. I think I had better be careful with it for awhile. Stewart won the 100 yd. dash and 220 yd dash. Gilbert Morrison came in right behind him in both races. A Freshman won the broad jump - 19 ft 2 inches. Walter Demas, one of the boys who

Let's down at Mrs. Wilson's, now  
 the milk, and that milk was  
 David McChapman a Turk who was  
 on our floor came out second in the  
 220 pounds race. After he came out  
 a little while (Christie) saying he had  
 three or four years. The week  
 said he had found our man, the  
 fellow who was the third prize.  
 you and the Henderson must out  
 hunting the other day. Mr. Wells  
 are partners. He took it to the restaurant  
 and had it cooked. They are a  
 good many birds around this  
 part of the country, but all of  
 the birds are good.  
 this was coming to hear of  
 Mr. McChapman's death. I don't suppose  
 you had a very pleasant time.  
 saying. I think Chapman had a  
 lovely dinner.  
 Mr. Chapman has told the  
 position of Business Manager



of Davidson come now. I think he is going to build soon. I haven't gotten to talk with him yet.

We may have a holiday next Wednesday, it being the day before Exams. I am not sure of this though.

W<sup>m</sup> is going to Charlotte tomorrow. He wants to get his hair cut and don't want the barbers here to cut it. I sure got "stung" last Thanksgiving, speaking of barber shops. I didn't shave or get a haircut before I went to Charlotte, expecting to get go to the barber shop when I got there. Every shop was closed so I had to borrow Frank's razor. I had to do without the hair cut.

Has Dr. Martin answered your letter? I sure hope we can leave before the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

What do you think we had better do about getting Mrs. Vunson something for Christmas?

I sure hope the roads will be good when we get home. I haven't ridden in a decent auto in a long time.

We enjoyed mother letter as always. Tell every body hello again. We sure are looking forward to our trip home.

your loving son,  
Sam Rucker Jr.

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1914

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FOLDER - 10

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Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6000

Friday - March. 13<sup>th</sup> 1914  
294 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St. New York City

01156159

My dear Mrs Parish.

Enclosed please find your  
D A R. papers. Thank you so

much for your kindness in sending  
them to me. Hope your daughter

will be able to fill out some data  
names at least in the letter you  
sent her. In return for your kindness

If you will make out on a slip of  
paper & send it to me your

Momis love. from Elizabeth Morris

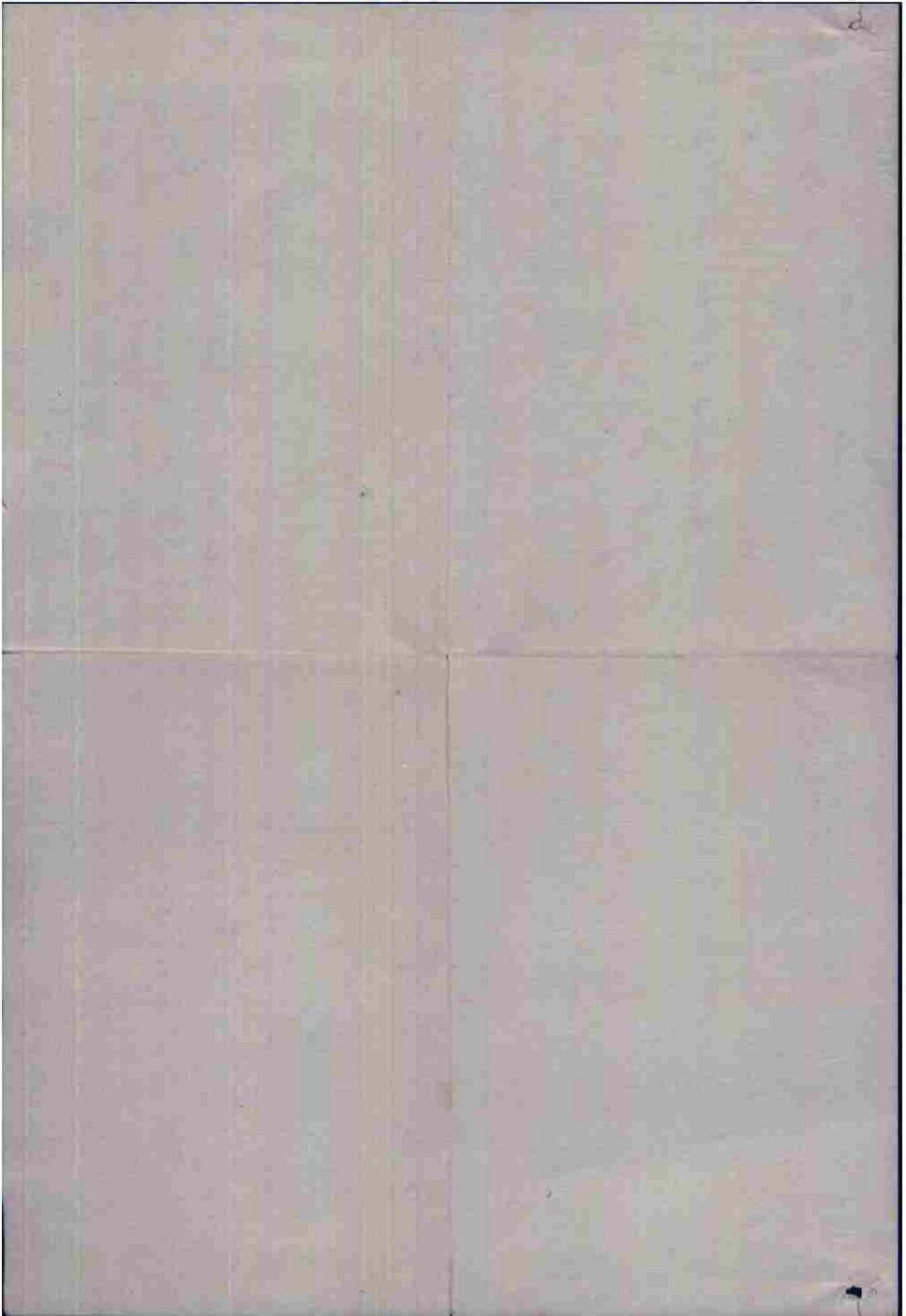
as far back as you have it if it is  
my her letter. I will see if I can

keep you. & it will give me great  
pleasure. Thanking you again I

am very truly. Annie Morris Cairns

(Mrs Reed Cairns)

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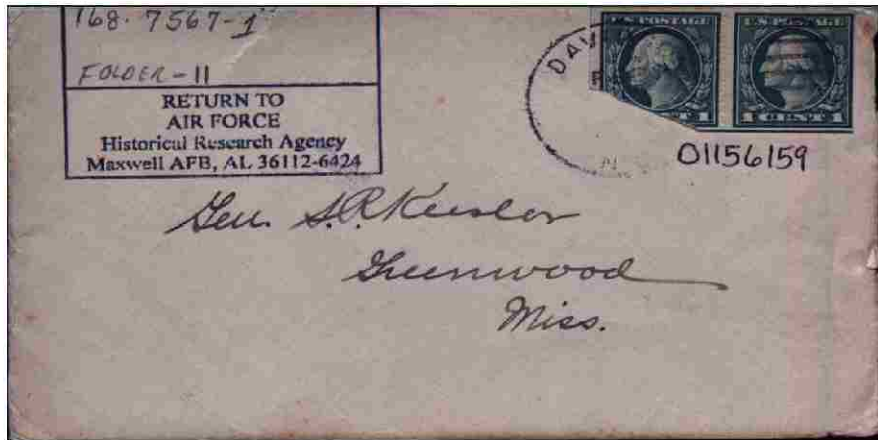
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me ready to start to. I guess  
 I feel like all others the for  
 I feel like I don't know any-  
 thing to do. One doesn't really  
 know little he does know  
 until he wants to do some-  
 thing with what he knows.

As yet I have not heard  
 from Princeton but expect  
 to soon. I'm on the lookout  
 for a place for the sum-  
 mer too. Of course I'd like  
 to work in a lab. but if  
 I can't get work on some  
 engineering job I'd be sat.

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 Folder 11

A.E. Sunday

Dear Father  
 Saturday I was

22 years old but I can't really  
 it. It seems only yesterday  
 that I was 10. I am glad and  
 sorrow. I'm glad for I want  
 to be out and doing a man's  
 work in this world and I'm  
 sorry for while a boy is young  
 he is happy. I don't mean I  
 expect to be much happy for  
 I don't. Every day now some-  
 thing comes up which shows  
 to me that it is time I quit  
 playing and began to work

asked in a few weeks now?  
 are to select some special study  
 in chemistry to pursue. I had  
 thought of an analysis of hydrogen  
 peroxide as a beginning of this to do so  
 believe I can begin in the first  
 of March.  
 The last week has been a  
 real busy one for me. I don't believe  
 I spent over two hours a day away  
 from the lab except on Tues. I  
 had to do the work. The freshmen  
 keep me behind as they are so  
 slow and I hate to grade it when  
 by a little time I can help them.  
 But I can't do it any longer. They  
 have got to learn how to work quickly  
 and surely. In getting a lot faster -  
 since from them. They keep  
 me busy sorting up questions  
 which they bring up.  
 Sam had quite an experience  
 this Friday. The great storm to see



would make it all the more delightful for me. Elizabeth had already told me that if I came I was to stay with her. She had asked Maynard also but his speech is keeping him from going. He is very sorry too. On planning to take advantage of the low rate at that time. I have decided to go I don't miss any work. I have been looking for work to go and am hoping

that Uncle Sam may "Intolerance". He said it was "good" but had not the griping power of "the Bill of Rights". I advised what great things can be done with money and out. Donald go because Jim try to save us I can go to Washington and Richmond.

Miss Cornelia wrote me a mighty nice note asking me to stay with them if I started to Washington. That

I can go.  
 Dear - Karl practices starts before  
 any long. We have great hopes  
 this year. We will have a picking  
 stuff which will be hard to beat. I am  
 , Kemptel & a fresh named West.  
 Work is said to be as good as the  
 other two if not better. The only place  
 we are very weak in is at cutting.  
 Some were try for it & guess could be  
 can catch well too but he can't  
 but like afford. The pickup will be  
 the same & surprise. The fresh  
 will have to pick up the cut field.  
 Some should make good at cutting  
 or outside this year as his dog  
 is not hunting him at all.  
 I must stop. Love & all  
 your affectionate son  
 William

D C Sunday

Dear Father

Yesterday I was 22 years old but I can't realize it. It seems only yesterday that I was 15. I am glad and sorrow. I'm glad for I want to be out and doing a man's work in this work and I'm sorry for while a boy is young he is happy. I don't mean I expect to be much happy for I don't. Everyday now something comes up which shows to me that it is time I quit playing and began to work. I'm ready to start too. I guess I feel like all others tho for I feel like I don't know anything to do. One doesn't realize how little he does know until he wants to do something with what he knows.

As yet I have not heard from Princeton but expect to soon. I'm on the lookout for a place for the summer too. Of course I'd like to work in a bank but if I can get work on some engineering job I'd be satisfied. In a few weeks now I am to select some special study in chemistry to pursue. I had thought of soil analysis and fertilizers. Dr. Arbuckle approved of this too so I believe I can begin in the first of March.

The last week has been a real busy one for me. I don't believe I spent over two hours a day away from the lab except on Tuesday I had to do the work. The Freshmere keep me behind as they are so slow and I hate to grade if where by a little time I can help them. But I can't do it any longer. They have got to learn how and work quickly and surely. I'm getting a lot of experience from them tho they keep one busy looking up questions which they hang up.

Sam had quite an enjoyable twice Friday. He went down to see that wonderful play "Intolerance". He said it was "grand" but had not the gripping power of "The Birth of a Nation." It showed what great things can be done with money and art. I couldn't because I'm trying to save so I can go to Washington and Richmond.

Miss Cornelia wrote me a mighty nice note asking me to stay with them if I started to Washington. That I can go.

Base-ball practice starts before very long. We have great hopes this year. We will have a pitching staff which will be hart to heat. Lawson Hengereld and a friend named Worth. Worth is said to be as good ad the other two if not better. The only place we are very weak is at catcher. Sam will try for it I guess and he can catch well too but he can't but like afford. The infield will be the same I suppose. The French will have to fill up the out field. Sam should make good at catcher at outfield this year as his leg is not hurting him at all.

Must stop. Love to all  
Your affectionate Son  
William



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Your affectionate Son  
William



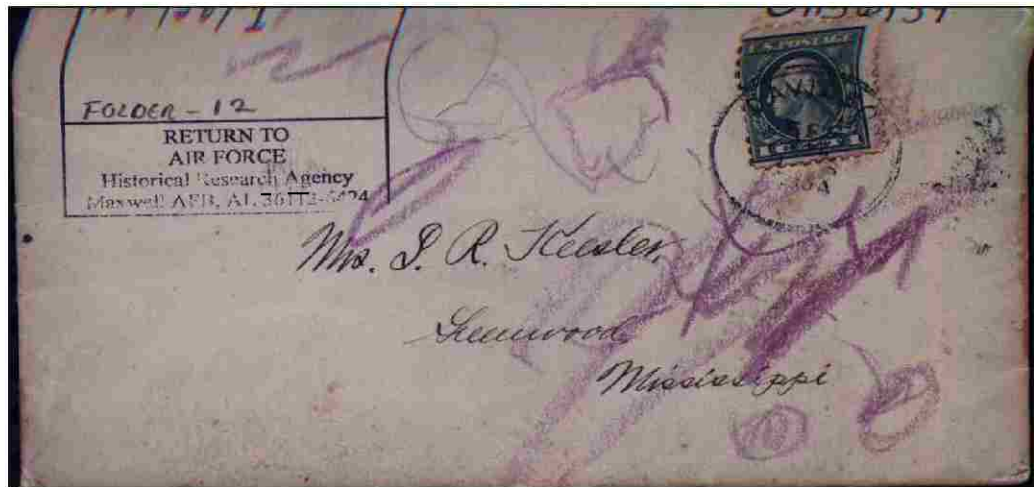
TO: Mrs. S. R. Kessler  
From: William Kessler  
Received 16 11 1968

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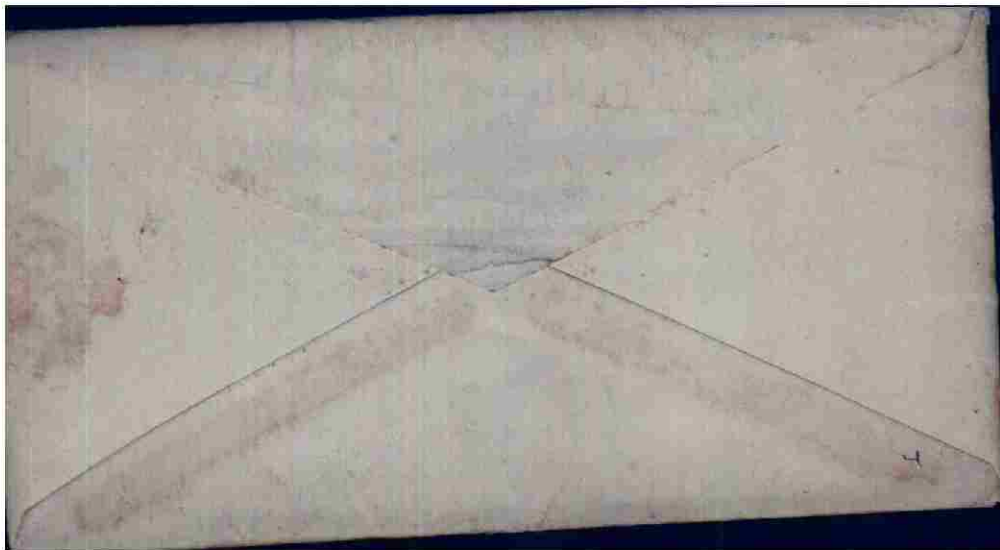
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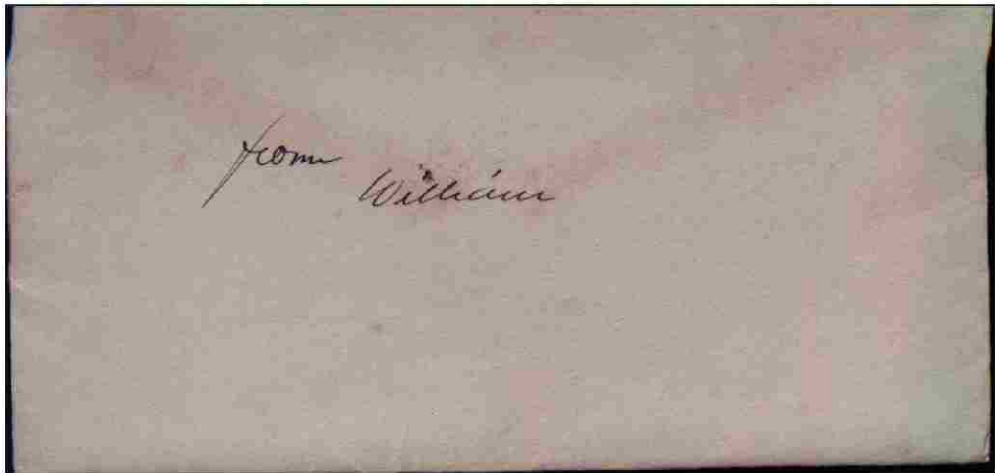
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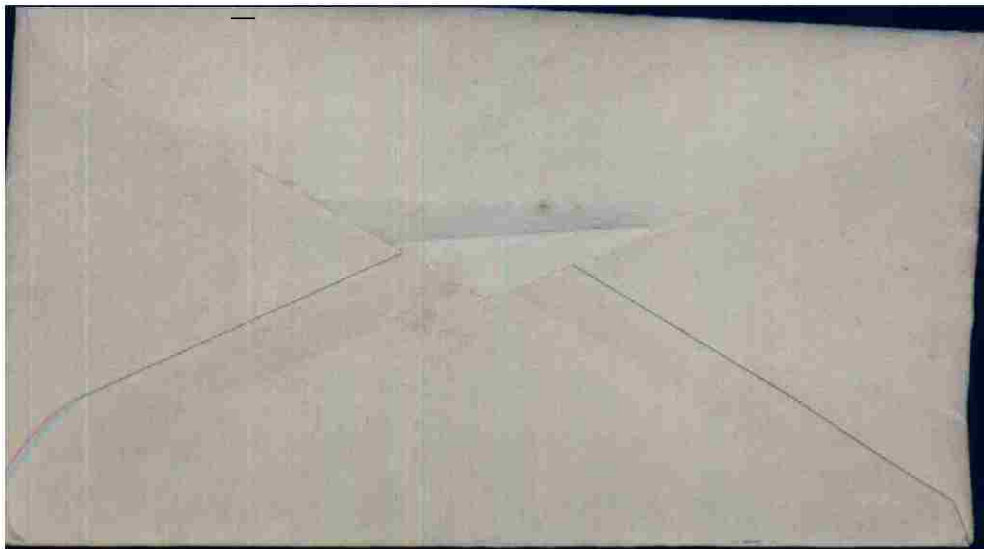
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FOLDER - 12



The Junior Class

of

Davidson College

requests the honor of your presence

at its

Oratorical Exercises

February twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth

nineteen hundred and sixteen

Shearer Hall

Davidson, North Carolina

Verity Printing Co.

**Program****Friday Afternoon, February 25, 3:00 o'clock**

Music

INVOCATION

Music

F. H. BAKER (Eu), Savannah, Ga. *Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*  
 N. B. BONEY, Wallace, N. C. *Our South American Policy*  
 A. BROWN (Eu), Cornth, Miss. *American Sea Power*  
 J. W. BRIDOCK (Phi), Badcock, N. C. *Our Duty to the Philippines*  
 H. A. CAMPBELL (Phi), Aberdeen, N. C. *The Proposed Tariff Commission*  
 G. L. COOPER (Phi), Graham, N. C. *Universal Peace*

Music

A. R. CRAIG (Phi), Pendleton, S. C. *Child Labor Prohibition*  
 L. H. EIKER, (Eu), Port White, Fla. *The True American*  
 T. A. FINLEY (Phi), North Wilkesboro, N. C. *Prepared Citizenship*  
 J. T. GILLESPIE (Eu), Florence, S. C. *The Price of Success*  
 S. C. HARRIS, Albemarle, N. C. *Immigration After the War*  
 S. T. HENDERSON (Phi), Charlotte, N. C. *The South's Crown of Glory*

Music

**Friday Evening, February 25, 7:30 o'clock**

Music

INVOCATION

Music

J. K. HOBSON (Eu), Cornelius, N. C. *What Do They Receive at Our Hands?*  
 R. HOWARD, Tarboro, N. C. *The Child of Europe*  
 D. V. HUDSON (Eu), Davidson, N. C. *Medicine in China*  
 C. R. JENKINS (Eu), Charleston, S. C. *Pan-Americanism, Possible or Impossible?*  
 S. R. KEESLER (Eu), Greenwood, Miss. *One for All: All for One*  
 W. P. KEESLER, Greenwood, Miss. *The Enemy of the Cotton States*

Music

J. P. LAIRD, Decatur, Ga. *Prospects for Prosperity*  
 D. W. LANE, Palmetto, Fla. *The Supplanter of the "Hay-Burner"*  
 I. W. MANS (Phi), Mebane, N. C. *The Present Forces*  
 W. E. MATTHEWS (Eu), Anderson, S. C. *The Federal Reserve System*  
 H. F. MAYFIELD, Anderson, S. C. *The Demand for Rural Credit*  
 J. W. MILLER, Sherrills Ford, N. C. *Supersatiation, Signs, and Omens*

Music

**Saturday Morning, February 26, 10:00 o'clock**

Music

INVOCATION

Music

F. M. MITCHELL (Eu), Edisto Island, S. C. *Back to the Farm*  
 T. J. MITCHELL (Eu), Thomasville, Ga. *The Goal of the Centuries*  
 H. S. MORGAN (Eu), Atlanta, Ga. *The Cry of the Children*  
 I. R. MORFON (Eu), Savannah, Ga. *L'Animal Sert L'Homme*  
 R. L. MURRAY (Phi), Greensboro, N. C. *The Possibilities of the Negro*  
 D. I. MCKEITHAN (Phi), Aberdeen, N. C. *The Scandal of our Federal Appropriation Bills*

Music

L. D. MCKINNON, Laurinburg, N. C. *Common Sense About Preparedness*  
 M. MCKINNON (Phi), Laurinburg, N. C. *Society First*  
 Z. V. McMIHAN, Red Springs, N. C. *Preparedness*  
 I. P. McNEILL (Eu), Florence, S. C. *The Passing of a Dictator*  
 W. H. NEAL (Phi), Charlotte, N. C. *The Man of the Hour*  
 E. E. NISBET (Phi), Charlotte, N. C. *Was It Necessary?*

Music

**Saturday Afternoon, February 26, 2:30 o'clock**

Music

INVOCATION

Music

J. C. PAISLEY (Phi), Greensboro, N. C. *National Prohibition*  
 P. B. PRATER (Eu), Nanping China *Through the Eyes of a Chinaman*  
 C. E. RANKIN (Phi), Gibsonville, N. C. *What of Our Neutrality?*  
 R. H. RATHERFORD (Phi), Gastonia, N. C. *The Force of an Ideal*  
 A. B. REESE (Phi), Charlotte, N. C. *The Educational Possibilities of the Moving Pictures*  
 B. D. RODNEY (Eu), Rock Hill, S. C. *The Advantage of a Liberal Education to the Modern Business Man*  
 A. S. TOMPKINS, Edgeland, S. C. *A Foremost Statesman*

Music

W. Y. SAYAD (Eu), Urumiah, Persia. *Islam in the Great War*  
 R. W. SHAYE, Columbia, S. C. *The Federal Pension System*  
 J. D. SMITH, Red Springs, N. C. *The Decline of Spain*  
 C. WALKER, Andrews, N. C. *The Greek Athletic Art*  
 B. N. WHITE, Danielsville, Ga. *The Greek Athletic Art*  
 T. L. WHITE, Danielsville, Ga. *Automobiles in War Service*  
 A. L. YOUNG (Phi), Davidson, N. C. *Opportunity Plus Purpose*

Music

To: Mrs S.R. Keester  
From: Samuel Keester  
February 29, 1916

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THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
THE PHI ALPHA OF  
BETA THETA PI,  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

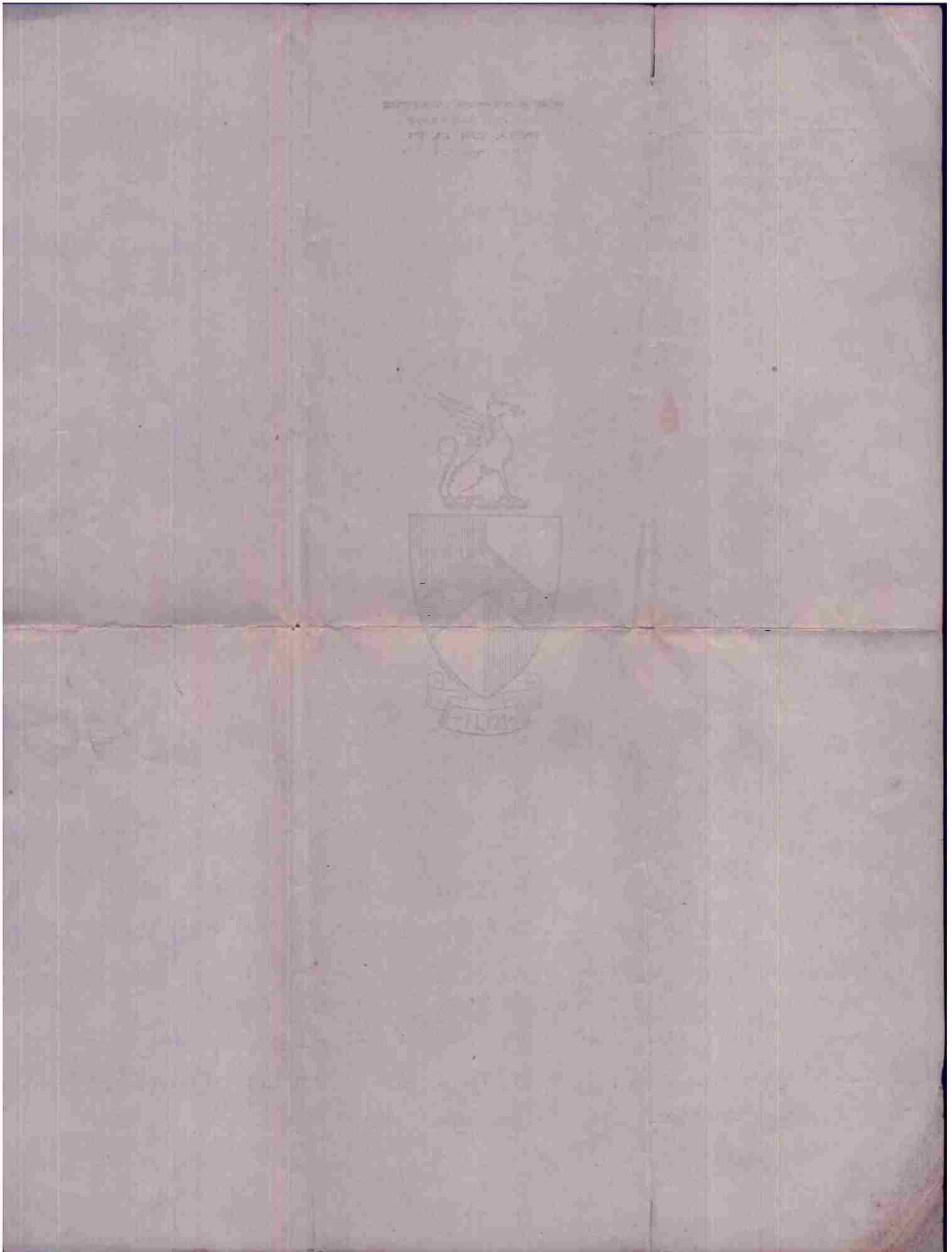
Feb. 29th. 1916.

Dear mother:-

Well the festivities are over and "all is peaceful on the Potomac once more." The girls left yesterday morning on the first train most of them and went to Charlotte to a dance, which the boys got up for them. Every body seemed to have a good time, and I know I did, altho I did have to make a speech. Elizabeth and Janet were looking mighty well, Especially Janet. I never saw her so pretty before. ( This is Maynard's opinion too. ) William went as far as Salisbury with them, Maynard only to Charlotte. " The girls ", as Maynard calls them, sent Mrs. Vinson a dozen carnations. They were beautiful too. Mrs. Vinson seemed to appreciate them so much. I think that it was mighty thoughtful of them to do it, don't you?

I got the decorations thru Friday evening in time for the speaking. Every body said that it was mighty pretty, in fact the best that we have had. I sure worked on it, but of course not alone.

To come to our speeches: Wm. and I got thru with them all right. William did better than I had expected. I was scared to death that he was going to forget some of it. I got one line of mine mixed up a little. I couldn't think of the end of a sentence, so my mind went ahead and got the end of another sentence that would fit the occasion and put it on. Then when I came to the place where the part I had borrowed belonged, I repeated it. Now if I had left out this line it would have been all right, but I didn't



THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
THE PHI ALPHA OF  
BETA THETA PI.  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

think of that at the time. With this exception I got thru all right. I didn't get a "rep" however, and I don't know who got the alternates. To be perfectly frank, I wouldn't have been surprised to have gotten a "rep ". I'll try to get one next time.

Miss Jordan was here for the Speaking. She was visiting the Lingles. Mrs. Bauman sent the fraternity a box of candy by her, which I think was just as sweet of her as could be. The box of candy which Aunt Ethel sent was a " peach ".

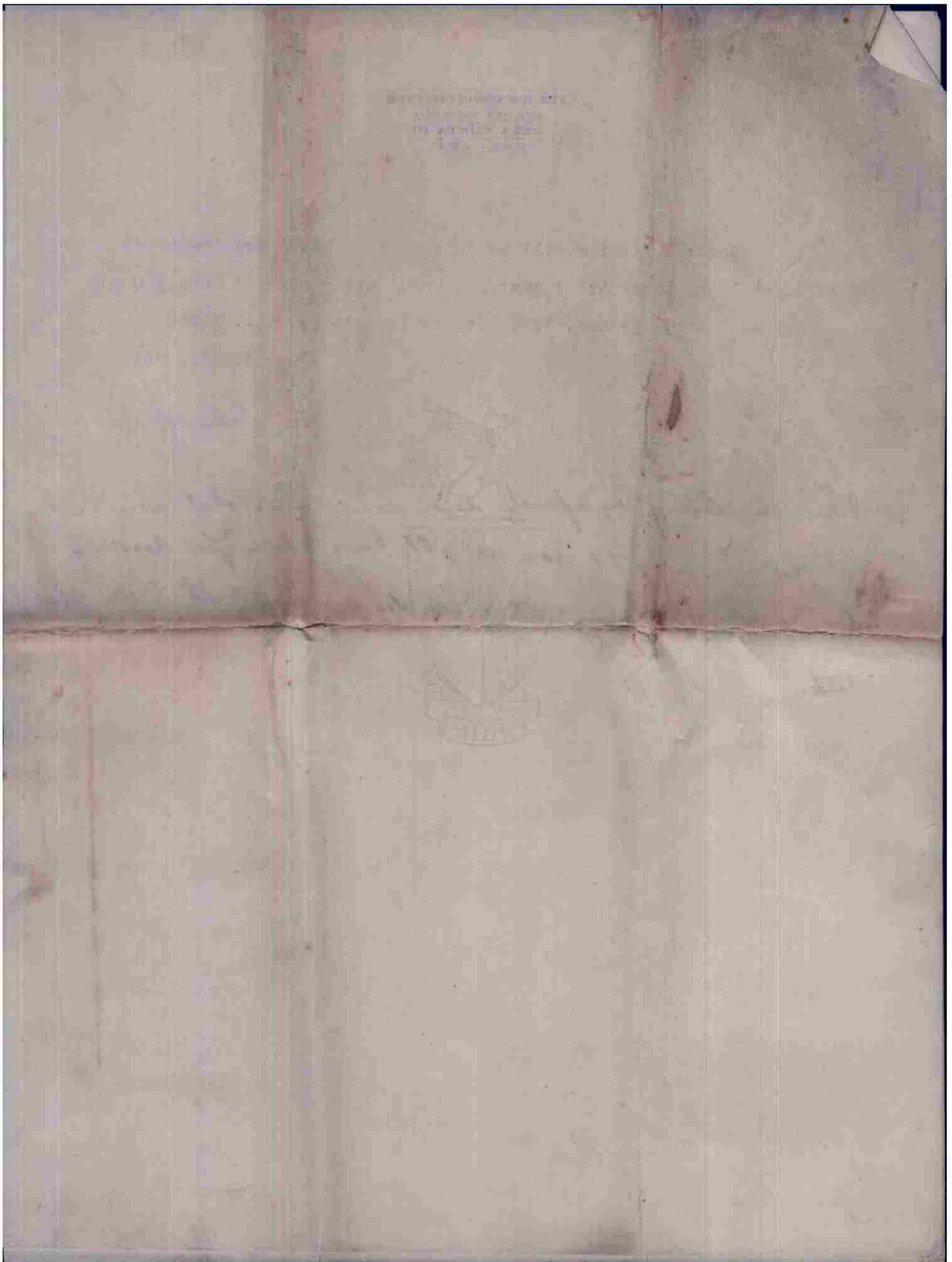
You should have seen me in a dress suit! I was some dressed up. I felt a little awkward at first, but soon overcame that. I would have let the girls know that it was my first time for any thing.

We got the letters and check all O.K. sure was glad to get the check, for I was dead broke.

I have a bottle of Glover's Mange Cure to work on my head with. I used it the first time this evening. Altho it smells a little strong, I expect that it is the best medicine that can be gotten.

We had a snow storm yesterday. The ground was covered about two inches deep. The sun has melted it tho now. Was mighty pretty for a while. There has been no snow falling, strange to say. The new rule is seeming to work.

I had the pleasure of cutting up a cat yesterday. I sure did hate to kill the poor thing but it was necessary. Chloroformed it. I had kept the thing in my room for several days, prior to the execution which made it harder to kill the cat.





The Davidson Chapter  
 The Phi Alpha of  
 Beta Theta Pi,  
 Davidson, N.C.  
 To: Mrs S.R. Keesler

Feb. 29th. 1916.

Dear Mother:-

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Several reviews will be this week. I have one to-morrow in Psychology, therefore I must stop and study some. I hope you are all well etc.- we are. With lots of love to you all. I am

Your devoted son,  
Sam Jr.

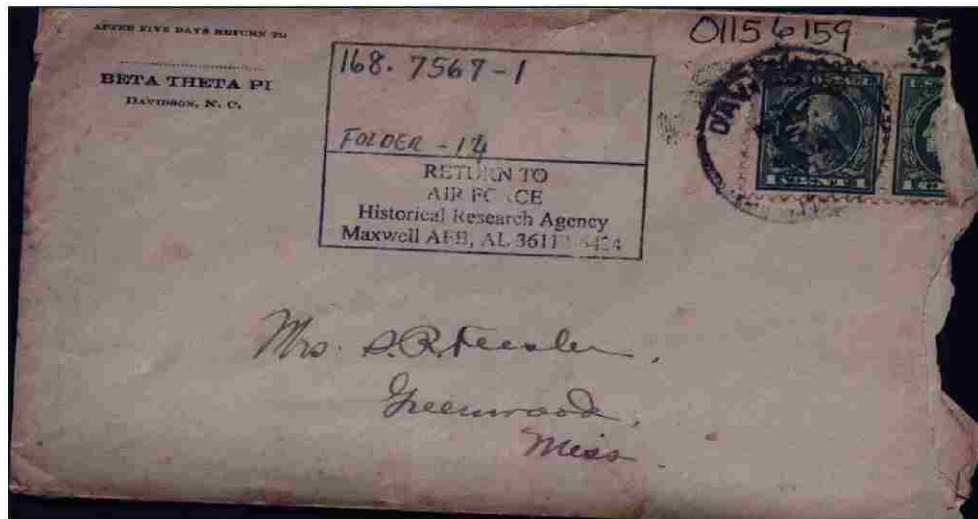
I am enclosing my speech and some notes that were sent to me. Thought you might have some fun looking at them, altho you may not understand some of the latter.

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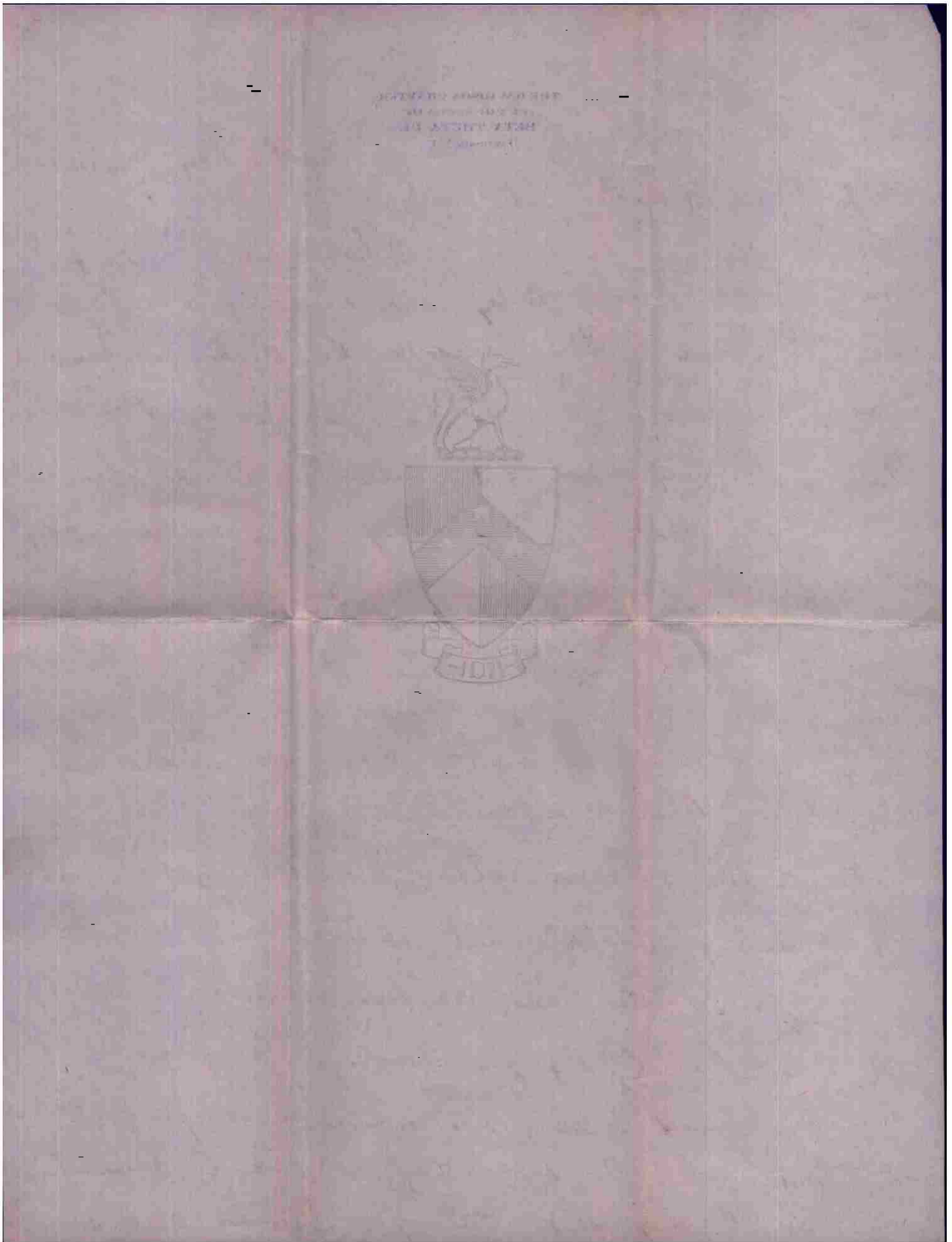
THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
THE PHI ALPHA OF  
BETA THETA PI,  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

Mother's Day - May 14, 1916

To the Dearest Mother in the world,

I have been thinking about you especially to-day - and wearing a white rose in honor of this occasion. Mr. Richards preached a very impressive sermon on "Mother's Day" this morning. I certainly enjoyed it. Don't you think this is a beautiful custom - celebrating setting aside a day each year to honor our mothers. - Of course we should honor them all the time, but to have a special day makes the occasion more impressive. At the white roses. The boys were wearing, outnumbered the red roses - still there were a number of the red ones - showing that they were not only honoring "mother" - but it <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ a memorial to her also. Miss Shaw, as usual, had a lot of roses in the library for the boys to wear.

My first exam is to-morrow evening - at 20:00 hrs. Latin Exam. Then I skip a day and have four straight. Time is flying and college will be over soon.



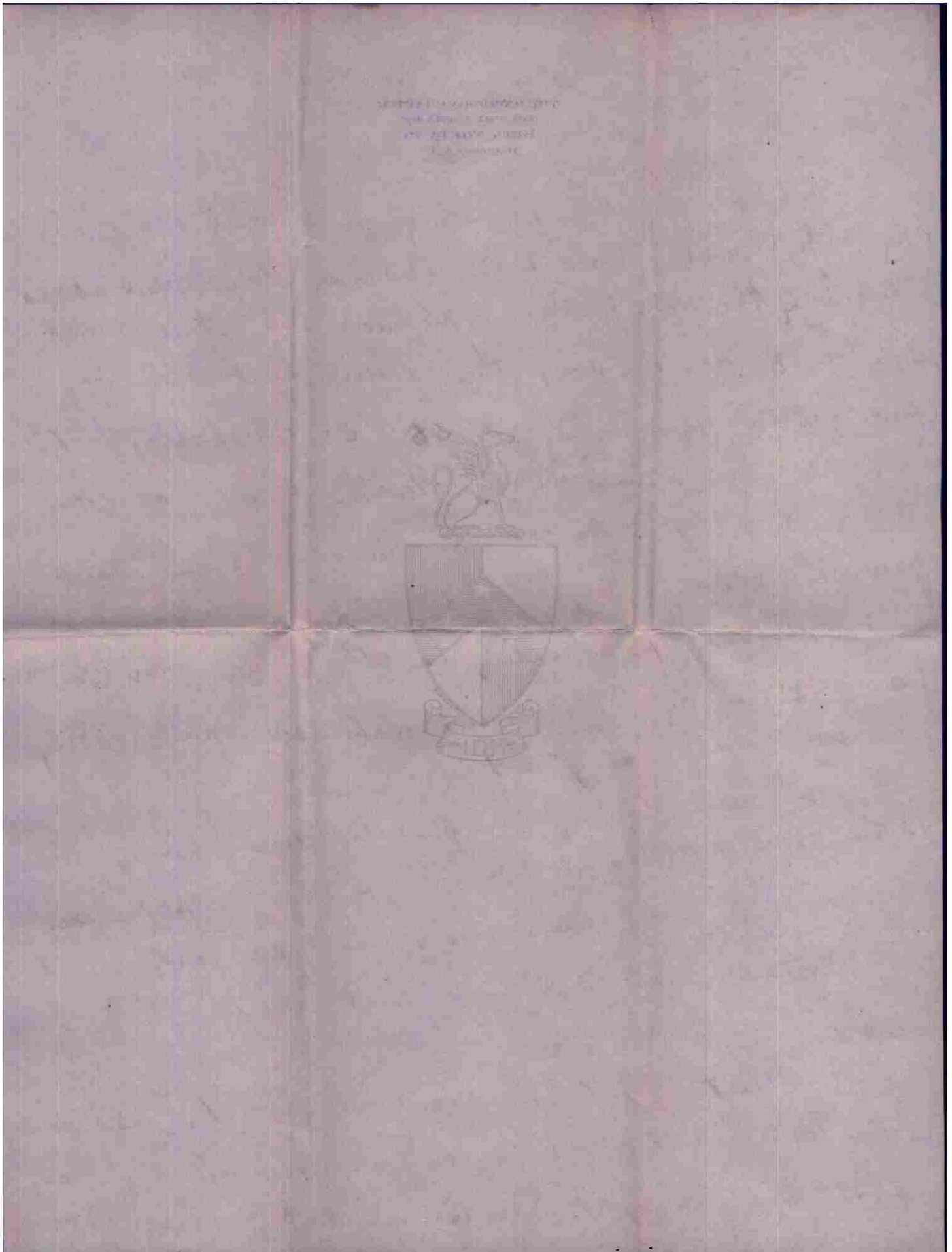
THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
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BETA THETA PI.  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

we had a very interesting track meet here yesterday with Clemson. There were several beautiful races - especially the low hurdles, half mile & 220. It was nip and tuck all the way thru - we beat them by two points finally - score 56 to 53. Hugh Gray broke the College Record for the Decuss Throw - 109 ft. 11 in. Brand broke the mile record. Time: - 4:48  $\frac{3}{4}$  min. "Mont" Younger won the high jump - 5 ft. 6 in. By this feat he succeeded in making his 4<sup>th</sup> "D" this year. He has a "D" in all of the major sports now. You rarely see one man doing that.

We won the Washington & Lee game easily - score 13 to 2. We outclassed them every where. Mill Milligan knocked another home run. So did Black. I did not go out for base ball last meet at all. Had too much to do.

Last night before last we had the last meeting of the Blue Pencils Club for the year. I presided for my first time. A right peculiar incident is this: That





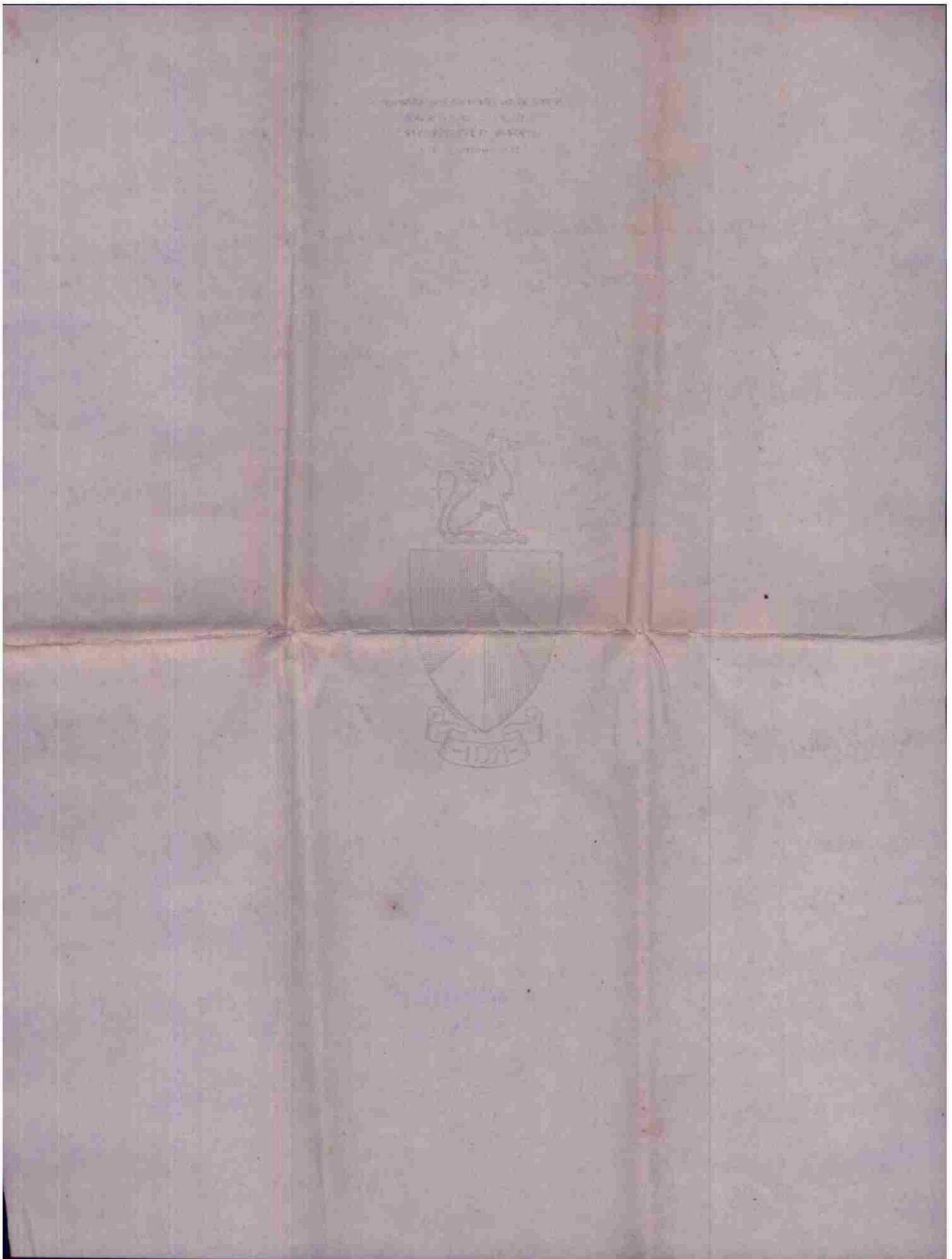
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DAVIDSON, N. C.

"Shorty" Williamson was President of Student Body - and also, the Blue Genie Club - and now I am both. at the meeting Tom Mitchell read a paper on the chief prose writers of to-day & I read a wonderful treatise on "Some of our Present-Day Poets and some of their works". It was a masterpiece, surely. I certainly was glad Dr. Fulton didn't come to the meeting - altho I did have some terribly deep "stuff" in the paper. Did you know your son was fixing to become a Literary Genie?

Why don't it rain? we are all but parched. Mrs. Thomson's roses are lovely - but they are awfully in need of rain.

I must stop and write to - eh - some body else - so good night. Love to you all.

Loveingly your son,  
Sam J.



To: 6001 S.A. Kestler  
From: 5001 S.A. Kestler  
Serial: 6.2

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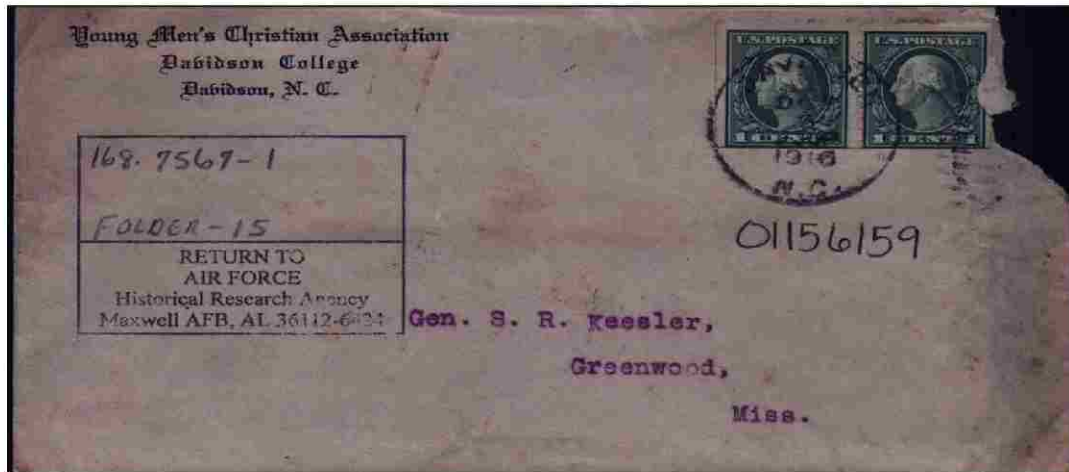
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THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
THE PHI ALPHA OF  
BETA THETA PI,  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

Sept. 6, 1916.

Dear father :-

We play A & M in Charlotte to-morrow, as you know. The team is in better condition physically than we were last week. We have been working hard this last week and I believe will make a good showing. George King is still out of the game. He'll be missed too. I have been playing as much as half back as I have as quarter. I think that the coach will play this game as he played the one last week. That is play a defensive game for the first half then put in all he had got and try to score. I figure I'll play quarter the first three periods and half the last. We have got to beat this game, if it rakes the skin off in doing it. The team will leave on the noon train to-morrow. The Student Body will come down on a special train, which leaves just after the last class and comes back at 11 P. M. that night. I think that about two hundred will go down.

The Annuals have come at last. I will send mine home when I get it and let you see it. It does very well. The pictures are poor in some instances.

You know the Fresh have lectures given to them every two weeks now. Dr. Martin made the first of these several weeks ago. This morning I gave them a talk on the Honor System. You should have heard me. I am getting to be some orator. Nit. I have certainly had no time to waste here lately. I guess it is a good thing tho. I came out pretty well in my Philosophy review yesterday. I believe I made about a ten-perfect. To-day, however, I didn't do so well in Spanish, for the simple reason that I have n't been putting the time on it that I should. I think that I passed it tho.

William was elected to some office this morning by acclamation. I ought to know what it was, but at the time I was doing some thing else in connection with a student body meeting.

The tennis tournament will start Monday. William will enter this I presume, and I know my room mate will. He is a pretty good player. Basket Ball has started too., both the class teams and the Varsity. The latter practices at night.

Must stop and go to dinner. Will write you an account of the game Sunday. Hope you are all well. Lots of love to you all.

Your devoted son,

*Sam*

168.7567-1  
Folio 15

Sept. 8, 1918.

Dear father :-

We play A & B in basketball to-morrow, as you know. The team is in better condition & yesterday when we were last out. We have been working hard this last week and I believe will make a good showing. George King is still out of the game. He'll be all right. I have been playing as much as half back as I have as a quarter. I think that the coach will play me as a half-back on the one last week. What is a defensive team for the first half then but in all he had not yet to score. I think I'll play quarter the first three periods and half the last. We have not to beat this team, it is rather the aim of it. The team will leave on the train to-morrow. The "stars" will come down on a special train, which leaves a half hour after the last class and comes back at 11 P. M. that night. I think that about two hours will go down.

The Annals have come at last. I will send mine home when I get it and let you see it. It does very well. The pictures are not in such bad shape.

You know the Fresh have lectures given to them every two weeks now. Dr. Martin made the first of these several weeks ago. It is morning I gave them a talk on the "New System". You know I have heard me. I am getting to be some orator. It is a good thing I have had no time to waste lately. I mean it is a good thing I have out pretty well in my philosophy class yesterday. I believe I made about a few hundred. To-day, however, I didn't do so well in English, for the simple reason that I have not been out long the time on it that I should. I think that I passed it 80.

William was elected to some office this morning by nomination. I ought to know what it was but at the time I was doing some thing else in connection with a student body meeting.

The tennis tournament will start today. William will enter it. I have not, and I know by your note. It is a pretty good game. Bartel Hall has started too. Both the class team and the Varsity. The latter practices at night.

Must stop and go to dinner. Will write you an account of the game Sunday. Hope you are all well. Love to you all.

Your devoted son,



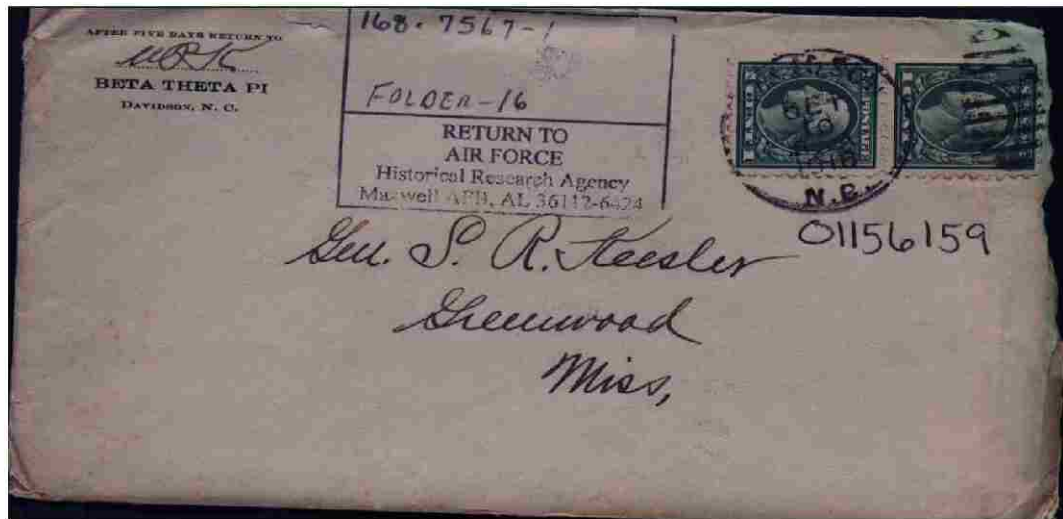
10. Gen. S. M. Kentner  
from: William Kentner  
October 10, 1916

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FOLOER - 16

THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
THE PHI ALPHA OF  
BETA THETA PI.  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

Monday.

Dear Father;

I certainly do deserve what you think of me but don't judge me entirely too harshly. I do seem unappreciative but believe when I say that I think of you and mother in everything I do here in college. I have never been able to do anything or say anything that will express my feeling. I may seem cool but I'm not, I may seem indifferent but I'm not. I'd do anything in my power to be able to stop being what I am and be something better and I'm working to that end. You may think that this is due to what you wrote Sam, well it is and it isn't. That letter hurt but like it should have and it made me think but I've been thinking a long time on just the same lines. You know I've never been able to confide or ~~the~~ rather never been able to open my self to anyone not even you and mother and Sam. I don't know why but I can't I've tried time & time and again to do so. I'm trying to pit my self to be a man and yet seem to be pulling against myself but I'm going to succeed yet. The ticket I'm taking this year is Chem. 4 which is in Fall term, Quantitative Chem. in



The Spring on going to take up - rise & putting work,  
 down this is elementary law, dealing with death, and  
 out & etc, Public Speaking which is the easiest &  
 get a good ticket, Economics & Social Science. On  
 the last on doing well, on putting more time  
 on it than any other excepting my lab work. On  
 the two 7 week. chem. lab. I have six hours work  
 a week. They keep me busy reviewing all the chemical  
 work in the lab. library & answer. It is interesting  
 work and helps me in many ways. We had several  
 long talks with Dr. Lucke about chem. and have  
 asked his advice about taking up chemistry as a  
 life work and to what branch. He has told me to  
 wait and see how I like the different works as I  
 come to them this year. Of course tho I will not  
 get a lot of them here at D.C. if we were near  
 a large city where they had chemical work and  
 Dr. Lucke could give his industrial chemistry it  
 would be easy work. I tried to carry two chemical  
 lab was unable to stand the work. It would mean  
 going to five hours in the lab each day. One  
 day broke down under it last year but if it would  
 for my German I'd take it. He got to pass German  
 and on going to more than pass it.  
 We had a lovely trip to Charlotte Saturday. The  
 weather was better and that was the only drawback.  
 I never enjoyed a day more. In the game on follow



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THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
THE PHI ALPHA OF  
BETA THETA PI,  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

out played any thing I had ever seen. The A & M team was heavy & fast & good fighters but were poorly coached. From the very first we had the best of them. When they came out on the field we in the bleachers felt kinder blue because they were so big and when they elected to kick off to us with the sun in our faces it looked bad. But we ran the ball back to the middle of the field and all danger was over. Sam never stared before as he did that day. Everybody in the stands were saying "Watch that little Keesler go" and he would go for eight, ten & fifteen yards at a time. I never saw such running, he looked like a bullet. He would go thru the center for a gain, then thru tackle for a gain, they could not hold him where they got their hands on him. Time & time and again two men would get him, almost and everytime he would jump through their arms. One time it looked as tho he jumped over their heads. He had two line backs going ahead of him in all his plays Black, Walker & Burns. All of them stared. Especially Black & Burns. They would make gains where there were no holes to go thru. It was great

"Billy" Sayad, White, & Watson B & Stan played great line ball. "Billy" was always there with his man on his back. It was funny to see him spike a team almost a foot taller than himself. One of their men tried to get him out of the game but could not. "Back" is sure proud of his boys and we are too. "Back" told me about the game. He said that our boys just entered them after the first quarter. He said nothing could stop Black & Sam, especially Black. I hope we give Georgia Tech a good scare next Saturday. We can hardly hope for a victory.

On the class athletic we are outstanding clear back hall. We expect to put out a better team than last year but can't say yet. The varsity back hall team is working now and expect to have some games before Kansas & Thanksgiving. The after noon the tennis tournament started. On it with Edward Tilly and we have won one set. The rain put an end to things before we could play another. We hope to go up to the second round then. There is sure a big difference between tennis here & at Northwest & home. There are some real good players here. Father is sure to thank you for allowing me to return to Northwest for this tennis wedding. We never enjoyed myself more and I know I'll



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THE DAVIDSON CHAPTER  
THE PHI ALPHA OF  
BETA THETA PI,  
DAVIDSON, N. C.

never forget it. I heard from Elizabeth this morning that Mr & Mrs Whittet have returned after a real delightful trip thru Canada. I know they must have enjoyed it. The Magiels have returned to Richmond now. They said that Moncton is beautiful. The leaves are beginning to turn and the chestnuts are ripe and the chipmunks are every where. Wouldn't Buck enjoy that.

In Charlotte Sat. we took supper with Uncle Ed & Aunt Mamie. We had a very enjoyable time. My Magnard & Nathan, Sam & I were there. I wish I could go to Charlotte more but I can't. Uncle Mel & Aunt Janie are in Atlanta city. I didn't see Frank or any of Durham's as we were rushed for time.

Our suits should be in at any time now & I'm sure they will be O.K. In Charlotte I got a pair of shoes. \$8.00. I hated to do it but it was the only pair I could find that would fit me. I must have tried on six pairs. I believe I can go to X-mas on my Mackinaw and can then get a coat at home if I need it. I use my Mackinaw very little, a sweater is far more useful.



