



Special Collections and University Archives

**Effie L. Shields Collection
Manuscript Group 1**

**For Scholarly Use Only
Last Modified September 26, 2024**

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Effie L. Shields Collection, Manuscript Group 1
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
1 box; 1 linear foot

Biographical Note



Effie Leota Shields (March 25, 1888-November 17, 1921) was the daughter of John Wilson Shields and Cora Jane Edden Shields of Leatherwood in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Effie Shields was born in Horatio, Pennsylvania in Jefferson County, and her family later moved to 335 North Sixth Street in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Effie Shields graduated from the Indiana State Normal School (ISNS) on June 27, 1906. During commencement, Shields presented her essay on Charles Dickens' *Pickwick Papers* (see page 2 of the [1906 ISNS Commencement program](#)). After graduating from ISNS, Effie Shields taught high school in Sykesville for one year, Punxsutawney for five years, and at the Horace Mann School in Pittsburgh for one year.

At the onset of World War One, Effie Shields was working as a secretary for the YMCA in Pittsburgh, and she volunteered for canteen duty with the YMCA and the American Expeditionary Forces in France from October 1918 to June 1919. She was a [canteen worker](#) in Rennes, Ballon, Le Mans, and Paris. From October 18 to November 25, 1918, she was stationed at Camp Coetquidan near the areas of Rennes and Ballon.

From November 25 to March 3, 1919, Shields was stationed at Le Mans, France.

While in France, Shields severely sprained her knee, and she spent March-June 1919 undergoing treatment at hospitals in Paris. She returned to the United States in June 1919, and she returned to teaching briefly at the Horace Mann School in Pittsburgh. She began to feel ill and took a leave of absence from teaching. She returned to her family home at 335 North Sixth Street in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where she lived with her parents and sister Ida Shields (1888-1972). Effie Shields was later diagnosed with [multiple sclerosis](#) (MS), and after a long illness, she passed away at her family's home on November 17, 1921. She is interred at the [Oakland Cemetery](#) in Indiana.

Scope and Content

The Effie L. Shields Collection is housed in one archival box, and it consists of correspondence, newspaper articles, passport, photographs, and memorabilia from her time training in New York, service in France (October 1918 to June 1919) and a correspondence and related items to the

period after her return to the United States in 1919 until her death in 1921. Correspondence discusses daily activities and home life during World War I including Armistice Day (November 11, 1918) and [General “Black Jack” John Joseph Pershing](#) (September 13, 1860-July 15, 1948) reviewing the troops. The oversized photograph of Effie Shields in her YMCA uniform on page two is stored separately. The Effie Shields Collection is available in a digital format.

Provenance

This collection was donated by Effie Shields’ sister Ida Shields who was head librarian at the Indiana Free Library on Philadelphia Street from 1932 to 1960. The papers of Effie Shields became the first manuscript collection created by the IUP Special Collections & University Archives (MG 1) in 1983.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).

Processor

The collection was first organized by Phillip J. Zorich in 1983. The collection was re-housed and the finding aid was updated by Dr. Harrison Wick and Kaylee George-Becker on September 26, 2024.

Container List

Box 1 (11 folders)

1. Correspondence from Effie Shields during her training period in New York and transport to France, 1918
 - a. Dear Mother (Mrs. John W. Shields), no date (4)
 - b. Dear Mother, July 31, 1918
 - c. Dear Mother, August 6, 1918 (postcard)
 - d. Dear Mother, August 8, 1918
 - e. Dear Mother, August 12, 1918
 - f. Ida Shields (sister), August 18, 1918
 - g. Dear Mother, August 19, 1918
 - h. Dear Mother, August 22, 1918
 - i. Ida Shields, August 26, 1918
 - j. Dear Mother, August 28, 1918
 - k. Ida Shields, August 30, 1918
 - l. Ida Shields, September 6, 1918
 - m. Mr. and Mrs. John W. Shields (mother & father), September 10, 1918
 - n. Dear Mother, September 18, 1918
 - o. Dear Mother, September 20, 1918 (postcard)
 - p. Ida Shields, September 20, 1918
 - q. Dear Mother, October 2, 1918 (postcard from France)
 - r. Dear Mother, October 4, 1918 (2)
2. Correspondence from Effie Shields at Camp Rennes and Camp Coetquidan, Paris, France, October 9-28, 1918

- a. Christmas Greeting Card from France, Sergeant William M. Brown (no date)
 - b. Four envelopes
 - c. Ida Shields, October 9, 1918
 - d. Dear Mother, October 14, 1918
 - e. Ida Shields, October 15, 1918
 - f. Dear Family, October 20, 1918
 - g. Dear Mother, October 24, 1918
 - h. Dear Mother, October 28, 1918
3. Correspondence from Effie Shields in France, 1918
- a. Envelopes, no letters, 1918-1919
 - b. Miss Effie Shields, Telegram (no date)
 - c. Letter from Effie Shield, missing first half (no date)
 - d. To Mrs. John W. Shields, Paris, France (no date)
 - e. Miss Ida Shields, A.E.F, France (no date)
 - f. Mrs. John W. Shields (mother), Paris, October 4, 1918
 - c. Ida Shields (sister), Paris, no date (written in French)
 - d. Dear Sis (Ida Shields), Camp Coetquidan, November 3, 1918
 - e. Dear Mother, Camp Coetquidan, November 9, 1918
 - f. Mrs. John W. Shields, November 15, 1918
 - g. Dear Ida, November 23, 1918
 - h. Mrs. John W. Shields (Dear Dad), November 24, 1918
 - i. Miss Effie Shields, War Camp Community Serve, November 17, 1918
 - j. Dear Mother, November 27, 1918
 - k. Dear Ida, November 29, 1918
 - l. Dear Mother, December 2, 1918
 - m. Dear Miss Shields, December 4th, 1918
 - n. Dear Mother, December 9, 1918
 - o. Dear Ida, Ballon, France, December 12, 1918
 - p. Dear Mother, Ballon, December 21, 1918
4. Correspondence from Effie Shields in France, 1919
- a. Dear Ida, January 4, 1919
 - b. Dear Mother, Ballon, January 19, 1919
 - c. Dear Emily and girls, Ballon, January 21, 1919 (typed)
 - d. Dear Father, Ballon, January 26, 1919
 - e. Dear Mother, Ballon, January 31, 1919
 - f. Dear Mother, February 1, 1919
 - g. Dear Mother, February 4, 1919
 - h. Dear Mother, Ballon, February 10, 1919
 - i. Dear Mother, Le Mans, France, February 19, 1919
 - j. Dear Mother, Le Mans, February 23, 1919 (written in French)
 - k. Dear Mother, Le Mans, February 27, 1919
 - l. Catherine (unknown), Le Mans, February 28, 1919 (written in French)
 - m. Dear Mother, Paris, March 9, 1919
 - n. Dear Sis (Ida Shields), Paris, March 11, 1919 (in hospital)
 - o. Dear Mother, Paris, March 13, 1919
 - p. Dear Family, Paris, March 21, 1919

- q. Dear Americans (Family), Paris, March 26, 1919
 - r. Emilie (unknown), Paris, March 30, 1919 (written in French) (2)
 - s. My Dear Sister, Paris, March 31, 1919 (typed)
 - t. Dear Father, Paris, April 1, 1919 (humorous cartoons)
 - u. Dear Mother, Paris, April 5, 1919
 - v. Dead Ida, YMCA, April 14, 1919
 - w. Dear Mother, Paris, April 16, 1919
 - x. Dear Ida, April 22, 1919
 - y. Dear Mother, April 30, 1919
 - z. Dear Mother, May 11, 1919
 - aa. Dear Mother, May 14, 1919
 - bb. Dear Ida, Paris, May 16, 1919
 - cc. Dear Mother, Paris, May 21, 1919 (going home)
 - dd. Dear Sis (Ida Shields), Paris, May 24, 1919
 - ee. Dear Mother, Paris, May 31, 1919
 - ff. Dear Sis, Paris, June 5, 1919
 - gg. Dear Mother, Paris, postmarked June 21, 1919
 - hh. Dear Mother, June 19, 1919
5. Correspondence to Effie Shields, 1918-1919
- a. Postcards, no date
 - b. Letters to Effie Shields, no date
 - c. Anne Clarke Miller, Lake Placid Club, New York, no date
 - d. Leona (unknown), no date
 - e. Tom McMurray, no date (after 1918)
 - f. Emma Bailey, Pittsburgh, June 29, 1918
 - g. Thomas Aikees Smith, New Hampshire, August 21, 1918
 - h. E. R. Meves, AEF-YMCA, October 9, 1918
 - i. G. A. Anderson, France, November 16, 1918
 - j. Frank C. Cusimana, November 21, 1918
 - k. Tom McMurray, November 21, 1918
 - l. Catherine Hersart, France, November 26, 1918
 - m. Jane Ogle, War Camp Community Service, November 27, 1918
 - n. SGT William Brown, November 30, 1918 (Christmas Card) (missing)
 - o. PVT Ferdinand Beechler, France, December 4, 1918 (missing)
 - p. Catherine Hersart, France, postmarked December 5, 1918 (missing)
 - q. Robert Badham, December 24, 1918
 - r. George E. Shaw, Pittsburgh, December 28, 1918
 - s. Emma Hutchinson, Easter, 1919
 - t. SGT Lloyd Fleming, Marseille, France, January 10, 1919
 - u. Catherine Hersart, France, January 14, 1919
 - v. Mrs. G. A. Anderson, Illinois, January 17, 1919 (2 U. S. badges)
 - w. Dear Cousin, SGT Lloyd Fleming, Marseille, January 26, 1919
 - x. Dear Ida, L.M.M.G and M.T. Leo, January 28, 1919
 - y. Leo H. Kelly, February 4, 1919
 - z. Catherine Hersart, France, February 21, 1919
 - aa. Marie Duchermy, Ballon, France, March 2, 1919

- bb. Jessie Atkinson, March 3, 1919 (her former Sunday School Class students write to Effie Shields, letters aa-rr)
 - cc. Elvera (unknown), March 3, 1919
 - dd. Gertrude (unknown), March 3, 1919
 - ee. Bob Hamilton (unknown), March 3, 1919
 - ff. Marie Harkins, Pittsburgh, March 3, 1919
 - gg. Elsie Hill, Pittsburgh, March 3, 1919
 - hh. Ray Bryson, Pittsburgh, March 3, 1919 (mentions class writing to her)
 - ii. "Skinny" Mildren (unknown), March 3, 1919
 - jj. Ada Richardson, Pittsburgh, March 3, 1919
 - kk. Maurice S. Robinson, Pittsburgh, March 3, 1919
 - ll. Hannah Richardson, March 3, 1919
 - mm. Anna Moll, March 3, 1919
 - nn. Doris and Amelia Parker, Pittsburgh, March 3, 1919
 - oo. "Red," March 3, 1919
 - pp. "Scherdy," March 3, 1919
 - qq. Mrs. L. B. Smith, March 3, 1919
 - rr. Florence Yost, Pittsburgh, March 3, 1919
 - ss. "Dutch," Pittsburgh, March 5, 1919
 - tt. Isabel P. Lane, March 5, 1919
 - uu. Tom McMurray, March 17, 1919
 - vv. Catherine Hersart, France, March 23, 1919
 - ww. G. A. Anderson, Germany, April 7, 1919
 - xx. SGT Lloyd Fleming, April 13, 1919
 - yy. Mrs. Maud McDowell Koyle, AEF-YMCA, Le Mans, May 8, 1919
 - zz. G. A. Anderson, Germany, May 1, 1919
 - aaa. Florence A. Rees, Punxsutawney, May 11, 1919
 - bbb. Effie Shields, Red Worker's Permit, June 6, 1919
 - ccc. Dear Angel, "Your old Lieutenant," Sandfield, Canada, postmarked August 28, 1919
 - ddd. R. R. Long, Tennessee, October 20, 1919
 - eee. Catherine Hersart, France, December 25, 1919
 - fff. Catherine Hersart, France, December 26, 1919
6. Correspondence to Effie Shields, 1920-1921
- a. Charles H. Sahmel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 6-7, 1920
 - b. Katie Aluano, Louisiana, January 29, 1921
 - c. "Dizzy," Penn Run, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1921
 - d. John H. Gillmann, Cartmell-Gillmann Drug Company, Tennessee, August 23, 1921
 - e. Fritz Smith, New Bern, North Carolina, August 24, 1921
 - f. "Juice" B. W. Wayland, Knoxville, August 24, 1921
 - g. Ernest Cavanaugh, Wilmington, North Carolina, August 25, 1921
 - h. C. A. Painsdexter, Dareington, South Carolina, August 25, 1921
 - i. G. A. Anderson, Illinois, September 13, 1921
 - j. A. C. Gordon, Pittsburgh Public Schools, September 15, 1921
 - k. G. A. Anderson, Illinois, October 20, 1921
 - l. G. A. Anderson, Illinois, November 15, 1921

7. Personal Effects: documents, maps, and newspaper articles related to France and World War One, 1917-1918
 - a. Photograph of the American Generals made Commanders of the Legion of Honor with partial map of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive
 - b. "Pantheon de la Guerre"-Booklet containing images of the panoramic artwork in Paris, France commemorating World War One
 - c. United State Passport issued to Effie L. Shields on September 17,1918 stamped in England, France, and United States between 1918 and 1919
 - d. "Frenzies from France of the Nightmares of a Doughboy," Cartoons and Jingles by Frank L. Armstrong
 - e. Thirtieth Division Old Hickory Operations Booklet-Given to Effie Shields in Ballon, France
 - f. Newspaper Clipping- "Y" Workers Use Flivver at the Front: Pittsburg Young Women Tell of Their Hardy Experiences in French Woods-no date
 - g. U.S.A War Map (World War One)-Showing the Western Battle Front, also Outline Map indicating Training Camps & Cantonments in the United States
 - h. Paris Monumental Metropolitan- Map of Paris
 - i. Notecard with "My English Creed" written by Harriette Taylor Treadwell
 - j. Greeting Card from United States, image of stork carrying the American flag, no date
 - k. Note with poem, pressed flower enclosed in the envelope
 - l. The Oasis business card, note written on back
 - m. Note to Effie from Eliza, no date
 - n. Chorus to Popular Song Sung in High-Class Circles, no date
 - o. Opera Program- Le Programme des Theatres de Paris, "Le Roi D'Ys"
 - p. Program-The 88th Division Performing "Who Can Tell?", Directed by Dinnie Mac Donald
 - q. "America Salutes You" Poem, no author, no date
 - r. "A Token of Esteem" Poem, Addressed to Mena Gutknecht, Pittsburgh, PA, no date
 - s. "Somewhere in France," Pvt. C. J. Byrne of Co., K 165th Infantry, Dedicated to Francis I. Kelly of Co. K. 165th Infantry
 - t. Map of France, list of French locations on the back
 - u. Fashion Article, Chaussures Pour Dames (Ladies Shoes) and Vetements Pour Hommes (Men's Clothes), no date
 - v. Newspaper Articles, (2)
 - w. 1903, June 5-Program of the Fifth Annual Commencement of the Homewood Sub-District Public School in Pittsburgh, PA
 - x. 1905, January 5-Effie L. Shields Certificate from the American National Red Cross
 - y. 1917, June-The American Hospital of Paris Business Card
 - z. 1918-Effie L. Shields, Statement of Condition of Health, Health Section-Department of Athletics, Hygiene, and Health, Y.M.C.A. Headquarters, Paris, France

- aa. 1918, October 15-Recepisse Demande de Carte D'identite (National Identity Card), Issued to Effie L. Shields
 - bb. 1918-October 17-E.C. Carter, Chief Y.M.C.A. American E.F., Issuing Christmas Coupons to all Secretaries
 - cc. 1918-Christmas Coupon
 - dd. 1918, November-Page 7-8 of the Service News Bulletin with photograph of Miss Effie L. Shields
 - ee. 1918, December 25-Christmas Address at Old Hickory Theatre, Father Calandini, Parish Priest of Ballon, France, Translated by E. J. Abadie
8. Personal Effects: photographs and newspaper articles related to France, the United States, and World War One, 1918-1921
- a. Postcards and photographs
 - b. First Presbyterian Church Homecoming Services
 - c. Photograph of Effie Shields
 - d. Typed communication, September 25
 - e. Handwritten invite to Miss Shields and Miss Carr January 23, 1919
 - f. Bulletin of the National Council; March, 1919
 - g. "Harriet Dunn is Smilingly Doing Bit Overthere" March 20, 1919 (cut out and scanned copy)
 - h. *Red Triangle Overseas* Vol. 1, No. 34 (March 29, 1919)
 - i. *Red Triangle Overseas* Vol. 1, No. 35 (April 5, 1919)
 - j. *Comrades in Service* Vol 1, No. 7 (April 19, 1919)
 - k. "G.H.Q American Expeditionary Forces, General Orders No. 73 (April 30, 1919)
 - l. "Voice of the A.E.F" (May 19, 1919) scanned pages (2)
 - m. Newspaper clipping (May 19, 1919)
 - n. *New York Herald* Newspaper Clipping (May 31, 1919)
 - o. Report No. 828 ¾ Death of Miss Effie Shields (November 22, 1921)
 - p. Newspaper Clipping
 - q. *Red Triangle Overseas*, "Miss Gertrude Ely Gives Valuable Hints to Y.M.C.A Woman Workers"
 - r. Scanned newspaper clippings
 - s. Sixth Bernard Conference for Overseas Workers July 31-Aug 7
 - t. Newspaper photograph page
 - u. Overview photograph of Bellicourt
 - v. Newspaper clipping on collapse of German Defense
 - w. French newspaper clipping about "Le 'Memorial Day'"
 - x. Three newspaper clippings
 - y. Three newspaper clippings
 - z. Au Printemps Paris "Robes" advertisement
 - aa. "Miss Ely Gives Some Valuable Hints to Our Women Workers"
 - bb. National War Work Council Certificate of Identification for Ellie Shields
 - cc. Rost of the members of the Eleventh Conference of Overseas War Work Secretaries of the Y.M.C.A July 31 to August 17, 1918
 - dd. "How it Happened" booklet
 - ee. Booklet with soldier holding gun on front
 - ff. Y.M.C.A Menu, written in French

- gg. Letter from Mrs. Mead to Women's Workers of the Y.M.C.A, January 13, 1919
 - hh. Letter from Mrs. Mead to Women's Workers of the Y.M.C.A, January 16, 1919
 - ii. Copy of letter from Commanding General, 37th Division to American Y.M.C.A, March 1, 1919
 - jj. Copy of letter from E. C. Carter to Commander General, 37th Division, March 8, 1919
 - kk. Movement Order for Effie Shields
 - ll. Printed letter from Capt. G. H. Weems to Mr. G. A. Anderson, with handwritten addition to Effie Shields from G. A. Anderson
 - mm. Letter from John Hershing to E. C. Carter, April 28, 1919
 - nn. *Plaster of Paris* May 1919
 - oo. Automobile Tours of the Battle Fields and of Alsace Lorraine
 - pp. Certificate of Release for Effie Shields
 - qq. Record of Service in France for Effie Shields
 - rr. Movement Order for Effie Shields, June 11, 1919
 - ss. Comic panel "After Us, The Tourists", scanned
 - tt. Comic panel "So This Is Paris", scanned
9. Postcards from France collected by Effie Shields, 1918-1919
10. Memorials to Effie Shields: obituary from the *Indiana Evening Gazette*, November 21, 1921, and memorials from Pittsburgh Public Schools and a printed tribute in the Indiana State Normal School alumni publication *Normal Herald*, February 1922
11. Correspondence to her sister Ida Shields
- a. George W. Gerwig, Board of Public Education, Pittsburgh, December 7, 1921 (about the death of Effie Shields)
 - b. USF Private John Tolley, stationed in China during World War Two, January 26, 1945

Vault Cabinet (1 item)

- 1. Legal-size photograph of Effie Shields in her YMCA Uniform (as seen on page 2 of this document, the collection finding aid), no date (1918-1919)

Note: see Record Group 87 Box 1 for her Erodolphian Literary Society, State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Diploma, Effie Leota Shields, June 16, 1906