



Fairfield Museum and History Center Library  
370 Beach Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

### **Manuscript Finding Aid**

Title: Hart, Ernest, ca. 1899-1995. Papers

Collection #: Ms B57

Dates: 1980-ca. 1970

Size of Collection: 1 linear ft. (2 boxes)

Accession Number: 95 June 14; L1998.14

Donor: Estate of Ernest Hart, via Joan C. Homa

Restrictions: None

Processed by: Barbara Austen

Date: June 1995; additional processing May 1998

#### Biographical/ historical note:

Ernest Royal Hart, the son of James T. Hart of Bridgeport, was born about 1899. His father worked for the railroad from about 1910-1920. Ernest volunteered for the army and was stationed at Fort H. G. Wright in New York about 1917 with Battalion D, 68th Artillery. In August 1918 his regiment was transferred to France; he returned to the U.S. in February 1919. His sisters were Marion and Bertha (who married Edward Beck in 1918). Ernest married Gertrude (Meyer?) after the war. They resided in Bridgeport until about 1955 when they moved to a house at 111 Old Dam Road in Fairfield. He worked for the railroad until his retirement in 1973. He was also active in the Pine Creek Village association and its lobbying for flood control at Pine Creek Beach.

#### Scope and content note:

The collection primarily consists of letters and photographs representing various phases of Ernest Hart's life. Series A consists of letters from Ernest to his mother while

he served in the 68th Artillery at Fort Wright, NY and in France, 1908-1919, 1942, arranged chronologically in sub-series 1; and letters to and from other family members, 1909-1920, in sub-series 2 and 3. Series C encompasses photographs and postcards, dated 1917-1919, taken or collected by Ernest. These include images of military subjects, some of which were undoubtedly taken in Europe; family photographs, most of which are unidentified; a series of images from an envelope entitled "Bear Mountain," which might be of a family vacation; and personal photographs and memorabilia related to Ernest, including trains on which he probably worked.

Series C consists of letters, scrapbooks, and photographs dating 1956-ca. 1970, relating to Ernest and Gertrude's house at 111 Old Dam Road and his activities with the Pine Creek Village association to protect the residents' property from vandalism and flooding. The scrapbook particularly concerns the need for and the work done by the town on a dike to reduce flooding in the Pine Creek area while the photographs document the construction of the house, the gardens, and floods.

Two watercolor paintings of a dredge off Pine Creek, painted by Kim Gleckler of Fairfield, which accompanied this gift, were transferred to the museum.

Series A.	Correspondence, 1908-1919, 1942	Box 1
Series B.	Photographs and Postcards, 1917-1919, n.d.	Box 1
Series C.	Pine Creek Village Photographs and Records, 1956-ca. 1970	Box 2

HART, ERNEST, ca. 1899-1995  
Papers, 1908-ca. 1970

Box 1

Series A. Correspondence, 1908-1919, 1942

Sub-series 1. Ernest Hart correspondence, 1908-1919, 1942

- Folder 1. Outgoing, August - September 1917
- “ 2. Outgoing, October - December 1917
- “ 3. Outgoing, January - March 1918
- “ 4. Outgoing, April - May 1918
- “ 5. Outgoing, June - August 1918
- “ 6. Outgoing, September - October 1918
- “ 7. Outgoing, November - December 1918
- “ 8. Outgoing, January - March 1919
- “ 9. Incoming, 1908, 1942

Sub-series 2. Edward and Bertha Beck correspondence, 1918-1920

- Folder 1. Edward to Mrs. Hart, February 1918
- “ 2. Postcards from Pierre Peyret, France, to Edward and Bertha Beck, Bridgeport, Conn., 1919-1920

Sub-series 3. Mrs. Hart correspondence, n.d., 1909

- Folder 1. Letter to May, n.d.; letter from unidentified correspondent, 1909

Series B. Photographs and postcards, 1917-1919, n.d.

- Folder 1. Photograph album, military subjects
- “ 2. Loose photographs, military subjects
- “ 3. Postcards, military subjects
- “ 4. Photograph album, family subjects
- “ 5. Loose photographs, family subjects
- “ 6. “Bear Mountain” photographs
- “ 7. Baby photographs; soldier portraits (Ernest); pay
- “ 8. Ernest as an engineer, and train engines

HART, ERNEST, ca. 1899-1995  
Papers, 1908-ca. 1970

Box 2

Series C. Pine Creek Village Photographs and Records, 1957-ca. 1970

- Folder 1. Correspondence, 1957-1959
- Folder 2. Scrapbook of articles and photographs, 1956-1959
- Folder 3. Newspaper clippings from scrapbook, 1959
- Folder 4-10. Photographs of Old Dam Road and Pine Creek,  
ca. 1955-ca. 1970
- Folder 11. Miscellaneous photographs, n.d.

Subject headings:

Fairfield (Conn.)--Buildings--111 Old Dam Road  
Flood control--Conn.--Fairfield  
Hart family  
Hurricane protection--Conn.--Fairfield  
Photographs  
Pine Creek Village (Fairfield, Conn.)  
United States. Army--Artillery  
World War, 1914-1918