



**Lawrence Leroy O'Kelley Diary  
(SP0020)**

**Collection Number:** SP0020

**Collection Title:** Lawrence Leroy O'Kelley Diary

**Dates:** 1918

**Creator:** O'Kelley, Lawrence Leroy, 1894-1968

**Abstract:** The Lawrence O'Kelley Diary records O'Kelley's experiences in France during WWI from April 1918 to October 1918.

**Collection Size:** .2 cubic foot  
(2 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [springfield@shsmo.org](mailto:springfield@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Lawrence Leroy O'Kelley Diary* (SP0020); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Lawrence M. O'Kelley on September 6, 2017 (Accession No. SP0027).

**Processed by:** Processed by Erin Smither, September 22, 2017

**Historical Note:**

Lawrence Leroy O'Kelley was born May 30, 1894, in Mount Vernon, Missouri, the son of Charles W. O'Kelley (1859-1936) and Nellie M. Bearden (1875- ?). As a child, his family relocated to Ash Grove, Missouri, where he spent his childhood. In 1918, he served as an officer in Company M of the 139<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He went through basic training at Camp Doniphan in Oklahoma and served in France from May, 1918 until he was wounded at the Battle of the Argonne Forest in September 1918. After the war, he married Inez Delores Hazen (1902-1977). They married between 1917, in which he is listed as single on his draft registration card, and 1923 with the birth of their first child Betty J. O'Kelley. The family resided for a time in Pueblo, Colorado, before settling in Denver. In 1928, the family celebrated the birth of son Lawrence Alan O'Kelley (1928-2010). On census records, O'Kelley reported that he worked in the lumber industry as a salesman. By 1948, O'Kelley had relocated to Seattle, Washington, where he lived until his death on August 23, 1968, at the age of 74. He is buried in Willamette National Cemetery in Section K Site 1269 in Portland, Oregon.

**Arrangement:**

The collection consists of several postcards and one diary. It has been arranged by document type in two folders.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Lawrence O'Kelley Diary records his experiences in France during WWI from April 1918 to October 1918.

**Container List:**

Box 001	f. 1	Diary, 1918
	f. 2	Postcards, 1918

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
Argonne, Battle of the, 1918	1	Yes
Ash Grove (Mo.)	1-2	Yes
Greene County (Mo.)	1-2	Yes
O'Kelley, Lawrence Leroy, 1894-1968	1-2	Yes