

**Collection #**  
**M 1165**

**HOLCOMB FAMILY  
LETTERS, CA. 1916-2003**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION  
DATES: ca. 1916-2003

PROVENANCE: James H. Holcombe, Atlanta, GA

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NUMBER: 2004.0054

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

The letters in this collection were written or received by members of the Detamore, Holcomb, and Bird families of Grant County, Indiana.

Volney Olaff Detamore (August 24, 1893-December 9, 1952) was one of eleven children born to Deloss and Nora Rust Detamore. Detamore served as a Private First Class in the 139<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Battalion C from 1917-19. After serving in the military, he lived in Marion and Converse Indiana and worked as a mechanic. He never married or had children.

Cecil Otellia Holcomb (April 18, 1895-February 15, 1994) was the younger sister of Volney Detamore. Cecil married J. Robert Holcomb, the son of William and Lenora Holcomb, and had two children, Lenora and James. It appears that she later divorced Robert Holcomb and worked as a seamstress.

James E. Holcomb (June 8, 1922-November 8, 1942) was born to J. Robert and Cecil Holcomb. James worked odd jobs until joining the Army at Fort Knox in 1940. James served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division. During the time of his service, James was promoted to Staff Sergeant and his unit was sent overseas, first to Northern Ireland and then to North Africa, where he was killed in action.

Lenora Holcomb Bird (March 18, 1920-October 3, 2001) was James Holcomb's older sister. Lenora married Reed Bird on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1939 and the couple had three children, Dora Lee, James (named for her deceased brother) and Judy Ann, who died in infancy.

Sources:

Materials in the collection, Ancestry.com

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains mostly letters from the Detamore, Holcomb and Bird families. There are also two newspaper clippings, one graduation announcement for James Holcomb and one compact disc with digital copies of Volney Detamore's military correspondence and pages of the William Holcomb family Bible. The bulk of the correspondence falls into three categories: letters written by Volney Detamore to his younger sister Cecil during his time serving in the Army from 1917-19, letters written by James Holcomb to his sister Lenora and brother-in-law Reed Bird while he was serving in the Army from 1940-42, and sympathy cards, notes, and some letters from family members serving in the military that were received by Cecil Holcomb.

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Correspondence, Volney Detamore to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holcomb, 1918	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, Mrs. Cecil Holcomb, 1923-44 (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 3
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Compact Disc containing scans of Volney Detamore letters and pages of Holcomb family Bible, 2003	Box 1, Folder 12
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