PHOTO ALBUM, 1914, 1916–1917

Collection Information

Historical / Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Barry Slivka and Dorothy A. Nicholson May 15, 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department William Henry Smith Memorial Library Indiana Historical Society 450 West Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF 1 box of photographs COLLECTION:

COLLECTION 1914, 1916–1917 DATES:

PROVENANCE: Nor'Wester Partners, Canada, 1993

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED Lieutenant Claude N. Settles Photo Album (P0013) HOLDINGS: Captain Emile F. Martin Photo Album (P0144)

ACCESSION 1993.0511

NUMBER:

NOTES:

HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

During the Mexican Punitive Expedition Lieutenant Joseph Earl McCurdy served in Company A, of the 1st Indiana National Guard Infantry Regiment. According to census and draft registration records McCurdy (September 26, 1888–July 17, 1974) was born in Wanatah, LaPorte County, Indiana. His parents were a Mr. and Mrs. J.N. McCurdy.

McCurdy was married to a musician, Myrtle T. Center. She was born September 21, 1889 in Niles, Michigan. It is assumed that the couple lived in LaPorte, Indiana before McCurdy left for Texas. After McCurdy returned to LaPorte, Indiana, he worked as a traveling salesman for a paper company. Myrtle's mother, Mary Center lived with the couple as did her brother Harold Center.

Mexican Punitive Expedition:

In 1916 trouble escalated on the American/Mexican border when rival political factions struggled for control of Mexico. National Guard units of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona were federalized to protect American border towns. Other state guards, including Indiana, were also called to active duty. They assembled at Fort Harrison for induction into federal service and began departing in July 1916. Indiana Governor Ralston appointed Lieutenant Colonel Edward M. Lewis, as brigade commander. Colonel Leslie R. Naftzger, commanded the First Regiment, Thomas R. Coulter commanded the Second Regiment, and Aubrey D. Kuhlman commanded of the Third Regiment.

After traveling by train to camps in the Brownsville, Texas area the militiamen wrote home with tales of the snake and scorpion infested area and their work to make it livable. The units trained extensively during their time in Texas, culminating with 12 days of field maneuvers in November 1916 between Camp Llano Grande and Port Isabel. On November 24 the dispute was settled and the Hoosiers began returning to Fort Harrison in December 1916.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

United States Census Records

*Indiana's citizen soldiers : the militia and National Guard in Indiana history /*Indianapolis : Indiana State Armory Board, 1980. General Collection: UA180 .I53 1980

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The photographs in the album follow Indiana National guardsman, Lieutenant Joseph E. McCurdy and the men of Company A, 1st Indiana National Guard Infantry during the Mexican Punitive Expedition. Most images are of the soldiers training in Texas and their last days there in February and March 1917. They show McCurdy and his fellow soldiers, some civilians visiting the soldiers in Texas, and local Mexican children and workers. Most locations and individuals are identified.

The photographs are pasted onto black paper album pages and are not arranged in strict chronological order. Scattered among the Texas images are the earliest military images showing recruits in Indiana in 1916. He also includes personal friends and family photographs near the end of the album, a photo of New Orleans, and the Alamo.

Each image in the album is described by the processors in this collection guide. The captions taken from the images are in quotation marks. The processor's descriptions and comments are in square brackets. Because of its fragile condition the photo album was disbound and placed in five folders. The pages are numbered in pencil on the black paper.

McCurdy's image appears several times in the collection. He identifies himself, his wife, his parents, and his mother-in-law in the photo where they are seeing him off to Mexico on June 26, 1916. It is a poignant image of a smiling soldier looking a bit nervous and a worried family. McCurdy identifies himself on the following pages: 1B, 7B, 17B, 20A, 22B, and 34B. Recognizing his image the processors were able to identify him in several other images and these are noted in the descriptions. His wife Myrtle also appears several times as does her mother Mary Center.

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"J.E. McCurdy" Photographs:

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Box 1, Folder 1

"January, at Progresso, Tex." [a burro]

"At Progresso Texas. Feb. 1917. Serg. Kreger, G. Co." [two soldiers seated on burros]

Page 1B: Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

"Capt. Middleton's & Lts. Chaney & McCurdy. Home Sweet Home. Llano Grande, Texas. Feb. 1917." [wooden barracks with canvas roof]

"Lt. J.E. McCurdy, Mar. 2, 1917. Llano Grande, Tex." [soldier with bags standing in doorway to barrack]

Page 2A: Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

"Lt. C.G. Chaney, Mar 2, 1917. Going Home, Llano Grande, Tex." [soldier with bags in doorway to barrack]

"Mexican Boys. Llano, Grande, Tex. Jan. 1917" [three boys smiling for camera]

Page 2B: Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

"Mercedes Pump, Texas. Feb. 1917" [view of buildings and fence along river]

"My Texas Girl. Geraldine. Mercedes Pump, Tex. Feb. 1917" [little girl in white dress and straw hat]

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"C. Co. Man, Llano Grande, Tex Aug. 1917" [shirtless man holding shovel]

"Looking east from Triangle Tower. Progresso, Texas, Feb. 1917." [aerial view]

Page 3B:

"Kitchen - San Juan, Texas Outpost Jan 29, 1917 – 95° in shade" [5 soldiers in front of mess tent]

"Muchachos, Progresso, Texas Feb, 1917" [2 boys, smiling]

Page 4A:

"Jan, 1917" [McCurdy wearing great coat in snow]

"Rio Grande River – South of Progresso, Texas, February, 1917" [McCurdy next to river with rifle balanced on his leg]

Page 4B:

"Giant Cactus, Progresso, Tex. Feb. 1917 Capt. Richards, M.D." [officer dwarfed by giant cactus]

"Capt. Richards, Progresso, Tex. Feb. 1917" [officer standing in front of yucca plant]

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"Geraldine, Mercedes Pump, Tex. Feb. 1917" [little girl pulling on large hat]

"Giant Cactus, Progresso, Tex. Feb. 1917"

Photographs: Box 1, Folder1

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs: Box 1, Folder1

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Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1

"Pontoon Outfit near river. Progresso, Texas. Feb, 1917"

"Pontoon Boat on lake, Progresso, Texas, February 1917" [McCurdy with rifle standing in pontoon boat]

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"F. Co. on way to river Jan. 1917 – Llano Grande" [trucks carrying soldiers]

"Mexican Village, Progresso, Texas Feb. 1917" [street scene of buildings]

Page 6B:

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"Progresso Texas. February 1917 [street with church]

"Progresso, Texas. Two of a kind" [smiling McCurdy sitting on burro]

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"From top of tower looking down. Progresso, Texas February 1917"

"Rio Grande River.
Direct South of Progresso, Texas Feb. 1917"

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"Capt. Richards – Capt. & Mrs. Hill – G. Co. Progresso, Tex. Feb 1917" [three soldiers and one woman sitting on porch]

"Serg. Kreiger – G. Co. Lt. McCurdy. Feb. 1917. Progresso, Texas – Up Triangleation Tower." [two soldiers on tower McCurdy with case]

Page 8A:

"Triangle Tower, Progresso, Tex. Feb. 1917" [tower next to building]

"Near – Progresso, Texas. In the Jungles – Feb. 1917" [soldier with rifle]

Page 8B:

"From top of Smoke Stack, Mercedes Pump, Tex. Feb. 1917" [looking down at circular road]

"Feb. 1917. Mercedes Pump – Texas." [McCurdy sitting on horse]

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"6:15 A.M." [soldier getting dressed putting on pants]

"Allen Chambers. Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [boy in soldier uniform sitting on horse]

Page 9B:

"Lts. Liebby – McCurdy – Nickels – Sept. 1916. Brownville, Tex." [officers sitting on grass in front of palm tree]

"1917" [Mexican worker with shovel]

Page 10A:

"1917" [two soldiers with artillery piece, breach open]

"Capt. Middleton – Some bass Jan. 1917–Llano Grande–Tex." [officer with fish]

Page 10B:

"Mexican Muchachos, Llano Grande, Tex. Jan. 1917." [three young boys with rifle and pistols]

"Cook Moist, Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [soldier holding and standing near pile of dead birds]

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Page 11A:

Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

"Chief Musician Saloman, Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [soldier holding cup]

"Guard Mount. Jan. 1917 – Llano Grande, Tex." [band playing in formation]

Page 11B:

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"San Juan, Tex. Outpost: Jan, 29-1917, 95° in shade" [field with fence and tents in background]

"Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [soldier in front of building flanked by two palm trees]

Page 12A:

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"Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [McCurdy next to yucca plant]

[message unreadable] [three officers at attention, McCurdy on right]

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"At the guard house, Jan. 1917-Llano Grande, Tex." [McCurdy standing at entrance to tent]

"Lt. Chaney. Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [officer shaving]

Page 13A:

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"Pay Day, Feb. 28, 1917. Llano Grande, Texas" [group marching and playing bugles]

"Lt. Goodrich & Family, Capt. & Mrs. Hill, Orderly Selle. Mercedes Pump, Tex. Feb. 1917" [soldiers and civilians with wagon and horses]

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"The Quartermasters Tent. Sergt. Gray. Llano Texas, Jan. 1917" [man standing in doorway of tent]

"At Mercedes Pump, Dec. 1917 [soldiers and civilians in front of building]

"Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [two soldiers in campaign hats, McCurdy on right]

Page 14A:

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"Progresso, Tex Feb. 1917" [field with church and buildings in background]

"Mercedes Pump, Tex. January 1917" [soldiers forming pyramid] [top row] Kasbaum-Marks-McCurdy-Taylor-Kachura [bottom row] Schultz-Gershon-Hermon-Zeisig-Whalh[?]"

"Lts. Chaney & Hickman. January 1917." [officers in front of palm trees]

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"Lt. Col. Freyermuth, 3rd Ind. Inf. 1916, Llano Grande, Tex. Co. L mascots" [officer kneeling and feeding two pigs]

"Capt. Henley – Lt. Norcross – Capt. Turner. Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [three officers]

"Mexican Boys. Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [three boys with rifles, pistols and ammo belts]

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"Our company street. Llano Grande, Tex. Jan. 1917" [street with tents on either side]

"Capt. Middleton & Capt Richards. Lts. Chaney & Hickman. Jan. 1917" [four officers in front of building]

"Lt. Barlet. 1st Bn. Adj. Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917" [two soldiers holding papers]

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"A. B. & C. Company Officers Quarters. Llano Grande, Tex. Feb. 1917"

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"Zeisig – Campbell – Gershon – McAlpine" [four soldiers in tent with equipment]

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"1917" [building on riverbank with sign "Cold Milk, - Ice Cream-Lemonade"]

"Goss-Parker-Moist, Nov. 1916, Llano Grande, Texas" [three soldiers in front of mess tent]

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"Leaving Llano Grande, Tex. Mar. 2, 1917" [soldiers marching out of camp]

"Loading-Going home-Feb. 1917. Llano Grande, Tex." [line of caissons loaded onto train.]

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"Co. B. looking North from A. Co. Mess Shack. Llano Grande. Tex. Jan. 1917" [line of tents labeled A. Co. and B. Co.]

"1st Ind. Camp Llano Grande, Texas. Jan. 1917" ["B. Co." line of tents]

"Looking N.W. Camp Llano Grande, Tex. Jan. 1917" [line of tents labeled in order B. to H. Co.]

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"McCurdy, Chaney" [smiling officers on train]

"Capt. Turner Knox"

"Zieke – McCurdy" [civilian and McCurdy on train]

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"B. Co. last assemble, at Llano Grande, Tex. Mar. 2, 1917." [soldiers in formation, full packs waiting to leave]

"Farewell number" Llano Grande, Tex. Mar. 2, 1917." [band playing tune in camp]

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[Lt. McCurdy in uniform, his parents, wife, and mother-in-law seeing him off at train station]

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"Horned Toad, One of our pets, Llano Grande, Texas 1916"

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"Supply wagon, Llano Grande, Tex. 1916" [Covered wagon pulled by four mules]

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"Generals Funston, Parker and Lewis. Camp Llano Grande Texas, Oct. 1916" [officers in open touring car]

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"On the maneuver, Nov. 1916, Battlefield of Palo Alto, Texas." [formation of cavalry and wagons in background and scrub in foreground]

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"On the maneuver Nov. 1916, near Lomax, Tex." [long line of soldiers crossing railroad bridge]

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"Lt. Col. Toffey. 1st Ind. Inf., Llano Grande, Texas 1916" [officer with pipe at entrance to tent]

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"First Indiana Infantry Corrall. Llano Grande Texas 1916" [horses gathered inside corral]

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"Preparing for inspection. Llano Grande, Texas. Sept. 1916" [soldiers preparing pup tents for inspection with stacked rifles in foreground]

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Battle Field of Palo Alto, Texas."

[cavalry in background, scrub brush in foreground]

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"Getting ready for inspection, Llano Grande, Texas, 1916" [soldiers at wash tables and tubs doing laundry]

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"After the storm, Llano Grande, Texas 1916" [soldiers around wreckage of collapsed building]

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"Kurt Ullrich, Owen Curtis. Camp Ralston, Fort Ben Harrison 6/27/1916" [soldiers standing in front of tent]

"Camp Ralston at Fort Ben Harrison. Robt. Unger, E.O. Droege. 6/27/1916" [Two soldiers standing in front of tent]

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"Capt. Raymond P. Chambers Regimental Adjutant 1st. Ind. Inf. Llano Grande, Texas 1916" [officer on horse]

"Opal Kilmer" [soldier in dark shirt and white pants with riding crop]

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"Killed in Camp Llano Grande, Texas 1916 A "Rattler" Over 7 ft. long – 14 Rattles." [soldier holding up snake]

"Kurt Ullrich, 6/27/1916.

Camp Ralston, Fort Harrison" [soldier in front of tent]

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"Llano Grande, Texas, Sergt. Bradley Aug. 1916" [soldier on horse]

"J.E. McCurdy Dec. 1916 La Porte" [McCurdy in overcoat in snow in front of building]

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"Armidillos, Llano Grande, Tex. 1916-17" [soldier kneeling holding two armadillos]

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"Llano Grande Tex. 1916-17" [two mules and wagon]

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"Llano Grande, Tex. 1916-17" [soldiers in front of two commercial establishments: "The Big 4" & "The Western Queen"]

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"Supply Truck Llano Grande Tex 1916-17" [soldiers standing in back of large truck]

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"Station – Llano Grande, Tex. 1916-17" [railroad station with box cars]

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"Mexican Doube House, Progresso, Tex. 1916-17" [soldier standing in front of wooden shack]

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"Fortifications – Progresso, Tex. 1916-17" [soldiers in front of log fortifications]

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"Mexicans – Llano Grande, Tex. 1916-17" [7 men in line, box cars in background]

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"3 inch gun – Llano Grande, Tex. 1916-17" [artillery piece on large caisson]

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"Llano Grande, Tex. 1916-17" [coyote on chain]

Page 46A: Photographs
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"A Co. Wildcat – Llano Grande Tex. 1917" [cat chained to wooden box]

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Photographs
Box 1 Folder 5

[man with trumpet in overcoat, and in band uniform in front of circus wagon, 3 views]

"June 1916"

[4 soldiers with stacked rifles, probably Ft. Harrison]

"June 1916"

[3 soldiers marching with rifles, probably Ft. Harrison]

"Orr, C. Palen, Jenson, A. Palen, June 1916" [4 soldiers side-by-side, probably Ft. Harrison]

Page 47A:

Photographs
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"Irene Dankowski" [baby in carriage, 2 views]

[young girl in front of tree]

"Irene Dankowski" [sitting next to teddy bear]

"Aug. 31-16" [Mary Center with flowers]

"Bob Dankowski" [baby sitting in grass]

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Photographs
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"Fred & Donald McCurdy" [two boys]

"Esther and Eveleen Wells" [two girls]

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[man in band uniform with trumpet in front of circus wagon, same view on page 46B]

[5 head shots of J.E. McCurdy in different poses]

[piano with sheet music and table]

"Kurt Ullrich January 1917" [man on horse in snow]

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"Moose Picnic, Fox Park June 11, 1916" [musicians in front of band stand]

"June 11, 1916, Stanley Jackel, Baer "Bill" Morgan, Chas. Kalenbeck" [4 musicians]

"June 1916" [four soldiers sitting on a stone wall]

"June 1916" [four soldiers aiming rifles]

"Chaney-Ullrich-Orr, June 1916" [men in front of store wearing straw hats]

[two women seated, appears to be McCurdy's mother-in-law Mary Center, and his wife Myrtle McCurdy]

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Photographs
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[three women in white dresses, appears to be Mary Center crocheting, Myrtle McCurdy with a garden hose, and another unidentified woman crocheting]

[woman in hat and dress, Mary Center]

[brick school building in snow at LaPorte]

"Miss Lynda Brust now Mrs. Wm. Augustine–1914" [woman in front of store]

[man and woman in front of car, the man yawning and the woman saying "Oh, Carl"]

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Photographs
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[toddler in large straw hat]

[boy and girl in front of corn plants]

[smiling woman in front of house, appears to be Myrtle McCurdy]

[McCurdy and woman holding hands in front of "Meisner Drugs"]

[man standing in front of "Meisner Drugs"]

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Photographs Box 1 Folder 5

[Myrtle McCurdy in hat and fur coat]

[Myrtle McCurdy smiling in blouse and necklace]

"Aug. 31, 1916" [Mary Center and Myrtle McCurdy sitting on grass beside flowers]

"1917"

[J.E. McCurdy in uniform holding camera and smiling]

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

- 1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/
- 2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
- 3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
- 4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0259).
- 5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.