

**Collection #  
SC3668**

**OSCAR C. SHULL  
DIARY, 1899-1901**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1899-1901

PROVENANCE: Gift of Jack L. Arthur, Spencer, IN

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NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Oscar C. Shull (January 1, 1878-May 7, 1970) was born to Jephtha and Isabelle Shull in Burnettsville, White County, Indiana. Shull enlisted in the United States Army in 1899 and was sent to Ft. Thomas with the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment. From there, he was sent with the regiment overseas to the Philippines during the Philippine-American War, which began February 4, 1899 and ended in 1902. After his military service, Shull held various jobs in trades around Burnettsville and Idaville before moving his family to Indianapolis around 1910 or 1911. In Indianapolis, Shull worked for Nordyke & Marmon as painter and as a house painter. He was married to Maud J. Welker (1883-1924) on July 24, 1901 and the couple had one daughter, Emma Leota (1904-1914), together. Later, Shull married Bertha Eunice Sloan (1873-1970). Shull was a member of the Lawrence Christian Church and the Oaklandon Odd Fellows Lodge.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Ancestry.com

“Oscar C. Shull”, *The Indianapolis News*, 8 May 1970, pg. 36.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a diary kept by Oscar C. Shull while he was part of the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment of United States Volunteers sent to the Philippines during the Philippine-American War. He set sail from San Francisco on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1899 on the ship *City of Sydney* and kept track of each day of the ship's mileage, speed, and course in his diary until the ship arrived in Manila on December 14<sup>th</sup>. He lists other transports and locations he was sent in the Philippines through January 1900. Shull also lists purchases and prices at the commissary, the contents of some meals he had aboard the ship, and includes sketches of a volcano he spotted at sea, the ship, and the men in their uniforms. He also lists names and addresses of other men he met during his time in the Philippines and women back in Indiana that he sent letters to. Another soldier, Fred E. Clark, also part of the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Company L., writes an account in the diary and gives a more detailed accounting of his experience at sea on the ship *Mananeuse* as they sailed from San Francisco, to Honolulu, and then on to the Philippines. He mentions sailing through a typhoon off the coast of Peking [Beijing] and rationing fresh water for the ship during the journey before arriving in Manila on November 28, 1899.

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