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## Carl Freese Collection

**Creator:** Dr. Bruce Hunter  
**Dates:** 1911-1919  
**Quantity:** .25 linear feet, 1 box  
**Acquisition:** Purchased as part of the World War I Hunter Collection  
**Identification:** PMML ID# 800214, OCLC# 949767919, Call# PAPERS 00206  
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## Biographical Note

Carl Gates Freese was born to John and Grace Freese in Framingham, Massachusetts on December 23, 1892. Following his time at Harvard University, he enlisted in the army and was sent to France, first as a member of Section 10, U.S. Army Ambulance Service, and later with the French Army as a part of Service Sanitaire U LX. Finally, Freese was reassigned to the American Army Intelligence Service, where he served until the signing of the final peace treaty.

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## Scope and Content of the Collection

The Carl Freese Collection contains five folders of letters from Carl Freese to family members, one folder of miscellaneous documents, and one folder containing a photograph. The bulk of the collection relates to Freese's time serving in France during World War I.

## Arrangement

The collection arrived in no discernible order. Staff has arranged the collection by item type and chronologically.

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## Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

## Subjects

World War, 1914-1918  
World War, 1914-1918—Personal narratives, American.  
United States. Army—Transport of sick and wounded.

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
1	1		<b>Letters to Grace Freese (mother), Folder 1</b>	1911-1916
		800214001	Coming to visit from Harvard	n.d.
		800214002	Weather, family news, accepted to Harvard based upon exam results, includes text from Harvard entrance official	7/6/1911
		800214003	Writing from USMS St. Louis - preparing to dock in Cherbourg, France and Southampton, UK, appointed mess cadet, cadet duties	8/18/1911

800214004	From Southampton UK - cadet work after arrival	8/20/1911
800214005	From Harvard Delegation, East Northfield, MA, delegation activities, bible studies, outdoor sporting activities	6/23/1912
800214006	Back from overseas trip, Dr.'s visits, sports and arts	n.d.
800214007	From Framingham, MA - Apologies to mother	n.d.
800214008	From Cambridge, MA - student activities, YMCA Immigration talk, working in library, expenses	n.d.
800214009	From Kearsarge, NH - after two Harvard exams	1/30/1914
800214010	From Kearsarge, NH - weather, hiking	Feb-14
800214011	From Kearsarge, NH - hiking, snowshoeing, exams	2/3/1914
800214012	From NYC - Ivy League conference, sightseeing, church, considering the ministry	3/29/1914
800214013	From Lake Sunapee, NH - singing hymns, sports	n.d.
800214014	From Cambridge, MA - referencing mail from potential employer,	n.d.
800214015	From Washington D.C. - working on info for Argentine Railway	n.d.
800214016	From Augusta, GA - working with Riverside Cotton Mill, working with traffic manager for competition in Argentina, notes segregation	6/16/1914
800214017	From Matanzas, Cuba - received commissions for other work while in Argentina, about life on the ship	6/26/1914

800214018	From Montevideo, Uruguay - Impending WWI is of interest in South America, working for Riverside Mills, in election season	7/31/1914
800214019	From Buenos Aires, Argentina - business is bad, preparing to return home	8/5/1914
800214020	From Buenos Aires, Argentina - begun trip home, decided to prefer to find a job in US rather than Argentina, business depression and war has made things uncertain,	8/23/1914
800214021	From Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - ship stopped by German cruiser and made to sign a promise to not fight Germany	8/30/1914
800214022	Sending semester grades	May-15
800214023	Debating war in classes, sports, diploma to be mailed	7/2/1915
800214024	From Cambridge, MA - weather, school notes	n.d.
800214025	visiting family	n.d.
800214026	From Co. 9, 7th Reg., Training Camp, Plattsburg - company hike, trip to Montreal (incomplete letter)	1916

1	2	<b>Letters to Grace Freese (mother), Folder 2</b>	<b>1917-1918</b>
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800214027	From Allentown, PA - training course, US Ambulance Corps, banking	6/6/1917
800214028	Appointed to camp police, patrolling town saloons, rumored to be at camp until September	6/10/1917
800214029	Weather, two hours military marching drill every day plus fatigue duty, no uniforms yet, clothing requests	6/14/1917
800214030	Weather, track meet, "practice" battle	6/17/1917

800214031	At sea - family health talk, hoping to accomplish something worthwhile	Aug-17
800214032	On transport to France - transport surrounded by armed ships, time passes fast due to companionship, ship exercise	n.d.
800214033	France - French dinner, sightseeing, money exchange rates	9/4/1917
800214034	France - weather, family news, unreliable news of war	9/29/1917
800214035	France - now part of the French Army (Service Sanitaire U [United States] 60), weather, see many stretcher bearers	10/21/1917
800214036	France - lucky in regard to quarters, French cooking	11/5/1917
800214037	France - repair work on cars, on French Army system of leave	11/11/1917
800214038	France - Family news, about French house staying in	11/19/1917
800214039	France - light work, back on driving duty after a month in charge of quarters, giving instruction on asking questions in a manner that he can answer	12/4/1917
800214040	France - pay and insurance deductions, car maintenance, can't discuss actual duties	12/11/1917
800214041	France - Only drive ambulances, unless there are too few stretcher bearers, description of shelled country, aviation battles	12/21/1917
800214042	France - Detailing duties in general way	1/20/1918
800214043	Paris - Received 10 day pass, also going to Nice and the Riviera	2/8/1918
800214044	Touring paris	2/16/1918
800214045	Cable from Paris	2/24/1918

800214046	Detailing his time in Nice	3/2/1918
800214047	Gifts received, weather	3/9/1918
800214048	Very busy, too many warm clothing gifts	3/29/1918
800214049	American entertainers, quiet time with occasional alarms	n.d.
800214050	Weather, books read	4/10/1918
800214051	Plan to bring French driver and family to America to serve as workers for family	4/22/1918
800214052	Sent helmet of German shelling victim, weather, details of hard work at a post below ground	4/29/1918
800214053	family, weather, discouraging news about war and figure to be there for awhile	5/4/1918
800214054	Mother's Day, rather be in the war helping the Allies than anywhere else	5/12/1918
800214055	Liberty Loan advice	5/19/1918
800214056	Weather, comfortable post in former stable	5/26/1918
800214057	Follow communiques on maps, seemingly leading to the "final big battle", very heavy artillery, now quiet tension	6/2/1918
800214058	Long stretch without receiving mail from US, assumed 1st sergeant work, attending lectures on diplomatic relations leading up to war	6/24/1918
800214059	Quiet time, driving to posts to inspect	6/30/1918
800214060	Discussing the next possible offensive	7/7/1918
800214061	received film in the mail, Bastille Day, in charge of auto maintenance	7/14/1918
800214062	Seeing "interesting things", life much less quiet	7/23/1918

800214063	12 hour shifts at a front post, hard work and sights to 'make you hate war', crucial time and fighting is 'bitter and desperate'	8/1/1918
800214064	Some terrible sights, troops are doing well as reported in the news	8/6/1918
800214065	Heavy work is letting up, can sleep nights	8/18/1918
800214066	Paris - Decorated with Croix de Guerre, transferred to American Army Intelligence Service, work will likely be confidential, out of Ambulance Service	8/21/1918
800214067	news from Yanks is encouraging, Bulgaria and Turkey getting hit hard, wishes to still be in old section on the front	8/29/1918
800214068	Former unit cited for bravery in attack, good news from the front	9/2/1918
800214069	Cable from Paris - "Well"	9/4/1918
800214070	New job is more mental in nature, news of American cutting off the St. Mihiel salient	9/22/1918
800214071	Wishes to be on front with old unit, news improves with every communique, Liberty Loans	10/7/1918
800214072	Good news from the front, talk of citation - volunteered for work which saved 35 lives, request for civilian clothes	10/14/1918
800214073	Working in counter-espionage, poor time to sell railroad stocks	10/20/1918
800214074	Germans being driven out of Belgium, Wilson's notes to the German people to revolt	10/27/1918
800214075	Telegram - "All Right"	11/10/1918
800214076	News of impending armistice, plenty of work to come, supervising many men	11/10/1918

800214077	Things have changed much, Americans did well at St. Mihiel and Verdun, not to return home for a long time	11/17/1918
800214078	draftees in camp being demobilized, armistice in effect and Germans handing in weapons, weeding out Prussian autocracy and making Germany military future an impossibility	11/24/1918
800214079	Full detail of war activities thus far: St. Nazaire, Chartres, Argonne Forest, La Grange aux Bois, "Verdun Sector", attached to French 25th division, Fort Douaumont and daily shelling, Thiaucourt, Rarecourt, Campiegne woods, Cuiry-Housse (shelling and gas)	11/24/1918
800214080	Hopeful for better conditions, especially food, may get change of station soon	12/1/1918
800214081	Established in Paris now and expect to be there for awhile, captured cannons line the streets, new League Souvenez-Vous (do not forget!) took remember German misdeeds	12/8/1918
800214082	President Wilson arrived in Paris, attached to Peace Mission and sees many famous people	12/15/1918
800214083	Work is steady but less busy, Paris is very expensive	12/29/1918

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**Letters to Grace Freese (mother),  
Folder 3**

800214084	Preliminaries of peace conference, conference will be long and involving economic factors	1/12/1919
800214085	Transferred to Corps Intelligence Police for reduced pay, Peace Conference started	1/19/1919
800214086	Long trip over weekend to visit former unit	1/28/1919



800214087	Peace Conference working hard, defining projected League of Nations to decide territorial questions (incomplete letter)	2/2/1919
800214088	Writing to former employer to possibly line up employment upon return, 3rd gold service stripe in works, Peace Committee finishing plan	2/8/1919
800214089	Pres. Wilson left upon completion of League of nations plan, International Harbors and Waterways Committee under way	2/17/1919
800214090	Considering future work and enlisted/federal pay comparison	2/23/1919
800214091	French beginning to come around on idea of League of Nations, difficult for American's to realize the threat to France from Germany, League not a threat to Monroe Doctrine but an extension	3/2/1919
800214092	Work has been directing and administration, former boss saving his position, poem by Thomas Edward Brown	3/9/1919
800214093	Reminiscing to a year before, describing quarters, Pres. Wilson back in paris to finalize peace deal, deciding on future work	3/16/1919
800214094	Rumored return home in June, spread of Bolshevism is a threat	3/23/1919
800214095	Sending souvenirs and letters home, residents coming home, work is called Negative Intelligence of the Peace Commission	3/31/1919
800214096	Sightseeing, work involves obtaining information through interviews	4/8/1919
800214097	Travel through Paris on public transportation, maybe be sent home by June, but still processes left to do stateside (incomplete letter)	4/14/1919

800214098	Work trip to the Somme, train trip to Arra through shelled town of Albert, only a few walls to show that it was once inhabited	4/21/1919
800214099	All preparing to return home, signing of treaty is near, but for Italian claims on Fiume, Germans have arrived to sign	4/29/1919
800214100	Discussing working for French firms who need American capital, opera viewing, expect to leave middle of May	5/5/1919
800214101	Expect to leave Paris this week, home in about a month, French women are keen to talk about international relations	5/11/1919
800214102	Business offer from bank in Philadelphia, negotiating salary	10/21/1919

<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Letters to Mary Freese (sister)</b>	<b>1916-1918</b>
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800214103	Shooting practice on the range, swimming, hiking, trip to Montreal	7/30/1916
800214104	Mother's eye injury	6/19/1917
800214105	Drilling with troops, 6 day hike coming up, planning to leave for France by middle of August	7/24/1917
800214106	Sending suitcase and clothes home, received orders for shipping out, glad to be among first 20 out of 120 sections to be going	7/27/1917
800214107	May leave in 1-10 days, won't be able to cable for at least 10 days after arrival, happy to be going	7/31/1917
800214108	Transport delayed by repairs, trip to Philadelphia while waiting	8/5/1917
800214109	Preparing to leave, final inoculations, asking for regular packages	8/6/1917
800214110	Interesting scenery, scraping by with French and Spanish language, ancient	8/29/1917

	transportation	
800214111	Working much harder, a relief after endless drilling, staying in a French Inn	9/17/1917
800214112	Very much at the front, nearest shell so far has been shrapnel about 15 ft, hard to carry the severely wounded, awakned by heavy bombardment	10/17/1917
800214113	requesting good chocolate, socks, books, details of quarters	11/5/1917
800214114	Cleaning the autos, difficult to be optimistic about the end of the war, end seems interminable from current progress, best hope seems to be the Russian front if the Anti-Bolsheviks and Japanese can mount an offensive	12/13/1917
800214115	Weather, supervising the service for a three-day shift, Pres. Wilson's speech good but the Germans still need some hammering to appreciate it	1/14/1918
800214116	Passes have been restricted to 7 days every 4 months and only to one area	3/10/1918

1	5	<b>Letters to Grace and John Freese (sister and brother)</b>	<b>1917</b>
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800214117	Slow mail, French speak English well, similar to movie depictions	10/14/1917
800214118	Getting along with French army well, news from the front is encouraging, "temptation" on the side is always available for the weak man	10/24/1917
800214119	Rather quiet duty, learning much about auto repair, life is different than for most Americans due to serving as part of French army	12/13/1917

<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Miscellaneous documents</b>	<b>1912-1914</b>
		800214120 Harvard University entrance exam results	7/3/1912
		800214121 Collegiate Baptist Church of the Covenant bulletin	Jun-14
		800214122 Letter of thanks/commendation for Freese's work in Argentina	8/8/1914
<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Photograph</b>	<b>n.d.</b>
		800214123 Photograph of Don A. Eaves	n.d.