

# PRITZKER MILITARY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

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## Matthew J. Cramer Family Collection

**Creator:** Matthew Cramer, Matthew J. Cramer, Norbert Cramer, Thomas Edward Cramer, Winifred Cramer, Charles Lewis, Clarence F. Myszak, Amos B. Stevenson, Eli C. Stevenson, Charles Williams, Jessie Williams, and John Williams

**Dates:** 1865 - 2005

**Quantity:** .25 linear feet, 1 box

**Acquisition:** Matthew J. Cramer, December 2, 2014

**Identification:** PMML ID # 800280, OCLC # 1121080974, Call # PAPERS 00259

**Citation:** [Document Title]. The Matthew J. Cramer Family Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.

**Language:** English

**Finding Aid:** Kelly Schulz, 2019

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## Biographical Note

Matthew Cramer served as the company mechanic for Company A, 7th Division, 55th Infantry in the United States Army from May 2, 1918 to June 28, 1919. He was stationed overseas as part of the American Expeditionary Forces (A. E. F.) in France from August 3, 1918 until June 20, 1919.

Specialist 3rd Class Matthew Joseph Cramer was born in Chicago, Illinois on March 19, 1932. He was in active duty in the U.S. Army Reserve from September 26, 1952 to September 9, 1954 and was honorably discharged on September 3, 1960. From December 1952 to February 1953, he was a member of the Special Training Regiment of the 3rd Armored Division. For his service in the Korean War, he received a National Defense Service Medal.

Yeoman First Class Norbert Cramer entered the U. S. Naval Reserve on September 30, 1942 as a Seaman Apprentice. He completed training at the Great Lakes Naval

Training Center and Camp Perry. He attended the Yeoman School in Boston, Massachusetts from November 1942 to March 1943. Following Yeoman School, he was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Naval District Headquarters in New Orleans, Louisiana and then in December 1943, he was assigned to CUB-12, Division H in San Bruno, California. In February 1944, he was stationed overseas where he spent 18 months at various advanced bases in the South Pacific. He arrived back in the United States in September 1945 and was honorably discharged on April 1, 1946.

Technician fifth grade Thomas Edward Cramer was born in Chicago, Illinois on August 19, 1933. He was inducted into the U. S. Army on October 17, 1952. During the Korean War, he served as a Medical Aidman in the Medical Company of the 9th Infantry Regiment. He received the following awards and citations of his service in the Korean War: Korean Service Ribbon with 1 Bronze Service Star, Combat Infantry Badge, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. He was honorably discharged on August 10, 1954.

Charles Lewis was born in Missouri in 1915. He enlisted in the U. S. Army in 1942 and served during World War II.

During the Civil War, 1st Sergeant Amos B. Stevenson served in the U. S. Army. From 1864 to 1865, he was in Company C of the 130th Indiana Infantry Regiment.

During the Civil War, Eli C. Stevenson served in the U. S. Army in Company A of the 40th Indiana Infantry.

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## **Scope and Content of the Collection**

The Matthew J. Cramer Family Collection contains military records, special orders, correspondence, typed histories, and photocopies of original documents and photographs relating to Matthew J. Cramer and various members of his family.

Family members present in the collection include his father, Matthew Cramer; his mother, Winifred Cramer; his brother, Thomas Edward Cramer; cousins Charles Lewis and Norbert Cramer; and his great-grandfather Amos B. Stevenson. Others included in the collection are Clarence F. Myszak, Eli C. Stevenson, and Charles, Jessie, and John Williams. The relationship between these people and Matthew J. Cramer is unclear, though they are potentially family members or friends of family members. Individuals represented in this collection participated in the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Korean War and were members of the U. S. Army, Army Reserve, and Navy. The materials date from 1865 to 2005.

Photographs and artifacts have been separated out.

## Arrangement

The collection arrived in no discernable order. PMML staff have organized the collection first alphabetically by last name and then chronologically there within where applicable with undated materials at the end.

## Rights

Copyrights held by Matthew J. Cramer were transferred to the Pritzker Military Museum & Library. All other rights are held by the author or publisher. Users assume responsibility for following copyright laws as established by US Code Title 17.

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## Separations

Item ID	Call Number	Description	Location
<b>Photographs</b>			
800280058	PHOTO 04922	Black and white photo of Thomas Edward Cramer in uniform from about shoulders up. Handwritten note on upper left corner of front: "Thomas Ed Cramer, 19 Au 1933, Chi IL, US 55295695" Handwritten note on the back: "I was drunk it looks like someone bashed me up ride (?) to (?) head (?) but no one did HA HA"	
800280059	PHOTO 04923	Black and white photo of Matthew J. Cramer in uniform from about shoulders up. Handwritten note on bottom: "Matthew J. Cramer, US 55294294, 1942-1954" includes additional illegible writing. Handwritten note on the back: "Matthew J. Cramer, 1952-1954, US-55-294 294"	
<b>Artifacts</b>			
800280060		3rd Armored Division patch attached to paper with handwritten note: "Matthew J. Cramer, 55 294 294, 1952-1954"	
800280061		Dog Tag for Matthew J. Cramer	

800280062 Gold bracelet with blue charms that spell "Camp Forrest" Based on photocopied material (Item # 800280046) from the collection with annotations from the donor, this bracelet (and the pin - Item # 800280063) was given to Winifred Cramer

800280063 Gold pin, missing back clasp, for 33rd Division, Camp Forrest, Tenn. Based on photocopied material (Item # 800280046) from the collection with annotations from the donor, this pin (and the bracelet - Item # 800280062) was given to Winifred Cramer

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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

United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865  
World War, 1914-1918  
World War, 1939-1945  
Korean War, 1950-1953  
United States – Army  
United States – Army Reserve  
United States – Navy – Yeoman  
United States – Army – American Expeditionary Forces

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## Container List

Box	Folder	Item ID #	Title	Dates
<b>Matthew Cramer</b>				
1	1	800280001	Honorable Discharge from U. S. Army and Enlistment Record (reverse side) for Matthew Cramer	6/28/1919

1	1	800280002	Photocopy of Honorable Discharge from U. S. Army and Enlistment Record for Matthew Cramer	6/28/1919
1	1	800280003	Application of Veteran for Hospitalization under Section 202 (10), World War Veterans' Act, 1924, As Amended (United States Veterans Bureau Form No. 2597) for Matthew Cramer. Handwritten note was originally with record stating "ILL. Archives, 14 June 1991, World War I Bonus (?) Records, Cook Co., Microfilm, Cramer, Matthew, 137, 048, 423 days, \$211.50, ST # 2268, Nov. 5, 1923" though their relationship is not immediately clear. They were kept together to maintain original order.	2/5/1930
1	1	800280004	Roster of Co. A, 55th Infantry, 7th Division, A. E. F., France. "Published in conjunction with Photograph # 1297, June 1919, by Ewing. Incorporated, Baton Rough Louisiana." Additional typed note: "I don't have picture" (Copy 1 of 2 - This copy includes a handwritten note "A copy of this picture was loaned to one of the other men on this roster and wasn't returned", in addition Matthew Cramer's name is highlighted. Includes copied date.)	2/9/1995
1	1	800280005	Roster of Co. A, 55th Infantry, 7th Division, A. E. F., France. "Published in conjunction with Photograph # 1297, June 1919, by Ewing. Incorporated, Baton Rough Louisiana." Additional typed note: "I don't have picture" (Copy 2 of 2 - this copy does not include any handwritten notes or highlights, no copy date is included, and the pages are not separated but rather connected in one long sheet. Also includes envelope which roster was found in with note by seal "I, Matthew J. Cramer, made this copy to the best I could make out.")	u.d.
1	1	800280006	Typed "History of 'A' Company, 55th.	u.d.

Infantry since Leaving the U. S. A." written by Cpl. James D. Berry, including poem (or potentially a song) "The Funeral" by 1st Lt. Newton Gale Bush (Copy 1 of 2)

1	1	800280007	Copy of "History of 'A' Company, 55th Infantry since Leaving the U. S. A." written by Cpl. James D. Berry, including poem (or potentially a song) "The Funeral" by 1st Lt. Newton Gale Bush. (Copy 2 of 2)	u.d.
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**Matthew Cramer – Books and Booklets**

1	2	800280008	Pray Book belonging to Matthew Cramer, cover has faded text but "A Handy Companion for Soldiers and Sailors" can be made out. From title page: "A Handy Companion Dedicated to Our Soldiers and Sailors and to the Honor and Glory of the Cross and Flag by a Vincentian Father, Permissu Superioris". First page has handwritten notes from 2 distinct sets of handwriting: "Matthew Cramer, World War (?) 1918 - " and "1989, If Lost Please Return to or Call Matthew J. Cramer, 11601 So Kenneth, Alsip IL. 60803, 708-388-0119". Back cover includes handwritten note: "My Dad's Army Prayer Book"	c. 1917-1918
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1	2	800280009	Booklet for National Headquarters, Buck Privates Society, A. E. F. with handwritten note on cover: "Property of Matthew Cramer & (?) son, Matthew J. Cramer, Alsip, IL, 20 Au 2014" Booklet contains information and sections on the formation of Bucks Privates Society A. E. F., General Orders, membership application forms, Notable Days in War's History (World War I), Data of Divisions, showing the number of ships and troops for months in 1917 and 1918, and casualties	u.d.
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## Matthew J. Cramer

1	3	800280010	Selective Service System Registration Certificate for Matthew Joseph Cramer	3/20/1950
			Photocopy of "Btry. A 57th A. A. A. - A. W. - Bn. Reserve Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Matthew J. Cramer is in 1st Platoon, pictured on 2nd page, 3rd row (middle), far left photo. Name is indicated.	
1	3	800280011	Selective Service System Notice of Classification card for Matthew Joseph Cramer	1952; u.d.
1	3	800280012	Certificate of Acceptability (DD Form No. 62) for Matthew Joseph Cramer	1/22/1952
1	3	800280013	Selective Service System Order to Report for Induction (SSS Form No. 252) for Matthew J. Cramer	3/13/1952
1	3	800280014	Immunization Register (WD AGO Form No. 8-117) for Matthew J. Cramer	9/2/1952
1	3	800280015	Immunization Register (WD AGO Form No. 8-117) for Matthew J. Cramer	September - October 1952
1	3	800280016	Immunization Register (WD AGO Form No. 8-117) for Matthew J. Cramer	September - October 1952; February 27, 1954
1	3	800280017	Triplicate copy, Authorization of Class B Allotment for Purchase of War Savings Bonds (WD AGO Form No. 29-6)	November 1952
1	3	800280018	Certificate of Proficiency from Headquarters, 3D Armored Division, Fort Knox, Kentucky for completing Wheel Vehicle Mechanic MOS 4014	2/13/1953
1	3	800280019	Notice to Veteran and Application for Insurance (VA Form No. 9-4356 a), mostly blank	c. March 1954

1	3	800280020	Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States (DD Form No. 214) for Matthew J. Cramer with attached supplemental page of Veterans' Rights and Benefits (DD Form No. 214-1)	9/9/1954
1	3	800280021	Small, highly reduced laminated copy of Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States for Matthew J. Cramer	9/9/1954
1	3	800280022	Copy of Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States (DD Form No. 214) for Matthew J. Cramer	9/9/1954
1	3	800280023	Special Orders No. 40: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men that are assigned to RC at Fort Sheridan and instructed to report to commanding officer upon arrival for disp.	9/26/1952
1	3	800280024	Special Orders No. 234: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men that are relieved from assignment RC at Fort Sheridan and are instructed to travel in 3rd Armored Division group to Fort Knox, Kentucky	10/3/1952
1	3	800280025	Special Orders No. 44: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men relieved from assignment and transferred to 9224th TSU The Trans Cen Ft. Eustis, VA for reassignment	2/19/1953
1	3	800280026	Special Orders No. 79: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men that are relieved from their assignment and transferred in grade to 373rd T Major Port Ft. Eustis, VA now at indeterminate TDY Sta in NEAC	4/4/1953
1	3	800280027	Special Orders No. 147: listing enlisted men that are granted 30 days ordinary leave	11/3/1953
1	3	800280028	Special Orders No. 58: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men being promoted to	4/26/1954



			temporary grade of Corporal (Copy 1 of 2)	
1	3	800280029	Special Orders No. 58: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men being promoted to temporary grade of Corporal (Copy 2 of 2)	4/26/1954
1	3	800280030	Installation Clearance Certificate (DA Form No. 137) for Matthew J. Cramer	9/7/1954
1	3	800280031	Letter of Transfer from Roy E. Wirrick, CWO, USA, Supply Officer to Matthew J. Cramer: indicating his transfer to ERC and regarding his personal clothing	9/8/1954
1	3	800280032	Special Orders No. 2: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men who are relieved from assignment and transferred to the Army Reserve (Copy 1 of 2)	9/9/1954
1	3	800280033	Special Orders No. 2: Matthew J. Cramer included in list of men who are relieved from assignment and transferred to the Army Reserve (Copy 2 of 2)	9/9/1954
1	3	800280034	Letter of Transfer to Reserve Component from Headquarters, 5043rd SU, Personnel Center at Fort Sheridan, IL to Matthew J. Cramer: indicating his transfer to Army Reserve after 8 years of service, the address where to mail a copy of this letter to, and listing his various reserve obligations	9/9/1954
1	3	800280035	Grade Conversion Memo to Matthew J. Cramer informing him that his rank of Corporal will be known as Specialist 3rd Class (IMD Form No. 325)	11/14/1954
1	3	800280036	Selective Service System Notice of Classification card for Matthew Joseph Cramer	4/20/1956
1	3	800280037	Typed memo (XI Corps Form 18) instructing that Reserve Identifications cards must be surrendered upon discharge from US Army Reserve	1/17/1958

1	3	800280038	Letter from Melvin M. Vuksich, Lt. Colonel, AGC, Adjutant General to Matthew J. Cramer: removing him from the Standby Reserve and honorably discharging him from the U. S. Army Reserve	9/3/1960
1	3	800280039	Honorable Discharge Certificate from Army of the United States for Matthew J. Cramer	9/3/1960
1	3	800280040	Letter to "Dad Cramer" from Sul (?) Cramer: about his feelings toward and thoughts on his father. Based on names and addresses included in other documents, "Dad Cramer" is potentially Matthew J. Cramer.	7/18(?)/1987
1	3	800280041	Certificate of Service for the Armed Forces of the United States card for Matthew J. Cramer indicating active duty from September 26, 1952 to September 9, 1954	u.d.
1	3	800280042	Address Referral Sheet for Veterans with list of matters that the Veterans Administration Regional Office has more information on	u.d.

### **Norbert Cramer**

1	4	800280043	Spiral Bound written history "One of Thousands, or More" by Nobert Cramer describing his experience in WWII through boot camp, Yeoman School, and other various assignments in the U. S. Navy. Cover includes handwritten note: "My cousin - Matthew J. Cramer, 11601 So Kenneth, Alsip, Ill., as of Nov. 11, 2014" another note written on inside of front cover: " 2014 address, 2300 Portage St, Apt 347, Portage, MI, 49001, Norbert Cramer"	2003
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### **Thomas Edward Cramer**

1	5	800280044	Report of Separation from Armed Forces of the United States (D. D. Form No. 214) for Thomas Edward Cramer	8/10/1954
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## Winifred Cramer

Photocopy of newspaper clippings: Left - "Caught in Squeeze" with photo of Winifred Cramer and great grandchildren.

1	6	800280045	Handwritten note indicating clipping might be from Dec/Jan 1988. Right - "District Officer Named" with photo of Jack Cramer and Second District Commander of the American Legion Department of Indiana, C. W. Hoff	1988 (?), u.d.
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Photocopy of Camp Forrest bracelet and pin (Items # 800280062 and # 800280063 respectively that have been separated out)

1	6	800280046	with note on reverse side indicating these items were given to donor's mother, Winifred Cramer. Potentially given to her by Charles E. (?) Lewis.	u.d.
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## Charles Lewis

Photocopy of page: Top Left: photo of Charles Lewis potentially in uniform with caption "Charles Lewis, Jan 11 1944, U. S. Army, 3801 (?) So Union, Chi ILL"; Top Right: photo of group of men in front of statue with caption "Charles Lewis, 3 F-R (?) Top Row"; Bottom Left: U. S. Tank Destroyer Forces patch with note "Charles Lewis ? patch WWII"; Bottom Right: post it note with birth and death dates. Notes from Matthew J. Cramer indicating he isn't sure of death date and looking for more information on his death and burial

1	7	800280047		1944, u.d.
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Photocopy of page: Top Right: photo of Charles Lewis outside, potentially in river with caption "Charles Lewis"; Bottom right: photo of two men in uniform holding guns in fox hole with caption "Charles Lewis, Jan 1944, Nashville Tenn."

1	7	800280048		1944, u.d.
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1	7	800280049	Family Group Record - 381 prepared by Matthew J. Cramer with information on: Husband Frederick Lewis, wife Susan Cramer, and children Charles Lewis and Frederick Lewis. Reverse side includes more detailed information on family members.	1/30/2005
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1	7	800280050	Ancestry.com print out with information from World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946 for Charles F. Lewis. Includes handwritten notes (potentially from donor, Matthew J. Cramer) of information about Charles Lewis from other sources. Includes note asking for more information on "my cousin"	u.d.
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#### **Clarence F. Myszak**

1	8	800280051	New Testament, Roman Catholic Version presented by the Army of the United States and presented to Clarence F. Myszak. Information from title page: "My Daily Reading from the Four Gospels and the New Testament"	c. 1941-1943
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#### **Amos B. Stevenson**

1	9	800280052	Photocopies of records regarding Amos B. Stevenson that Matthew J. Cramer obtained from National Archives. Originally all clipped in singular folder. Photocopies include a discharge from service form dated May 1865 and various forms, letters, and documents relating to pensions from 1866 to 1899. All pages include stamp "Matthew J. Cramer, 11601 SO. Kenneth, Alsip, IL. 60658, with handwritten note My Great Grandfather"	1865-1899
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#### **Eli C. Stevenson**

1	10	800280053	Order for Copies of Veteran Records (NATF Form No. 80): Matthew J. Cramer seeking records of Eli C. Stephenson (Stevenson) at National Archives	9/4/1987
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**Williams Family – Charles, Jessie, and John**

1	11	800280054	<p>Photocopy of page: Top left: photo of Charles Williams in uniform with caption "Charles Williams, WWI, Dec 1918, To J Williams at 5012 S Elizabeth, Chi ILL" Top right: news clipping from "Chi Trib" with handwritten date 14 Oc 1987 with funeral information for Jessie M. "Sue" Williams; Top Right: reduced copy of Registration card for Charles Williams with note "Charles Henry Williams b. Dec 1889 ?"; Bottom left: photo of group of 5 people in dressy clothes with arrows indicating Jessie (Spellman) Williams?, Winifred Stevenson, and Addie Stevenson; Bottom left: photo of 2 girls hugging with arrows indicating Jessie Williams? and Addie Stevenson</p>	1918, 1987, u.d.
1	11	800280055	<p>Photocopy of page: Top left: photo of John Williams in uniform with caption "John Williams Sr. WWI"; Top right: very reduced copies of Registration card and Registrar's Report for John Williams (Copy 1 or 2)</p>	u.d.
1	11	800280056	<p>Photocopy of page: Top left: photo of John Williams in uniform with caption "John Williams Sr. WWI"; Top right: very reduced copies of Registration card and Registrar's Report for John Williams (Copy 2 or 2)</p>	u.d.
<b>Oversize Material - Matthew Cramer</b>				
OS 1		800280057	<p>2 pages (missing first page, only pages 2-3 present) of the Roster of Co. A, 55th Infantry, 7th Division, A. E. F., France. Includes handwritten notes indicating what the pages are from Matthew J. Cramer. Pages match reprinted/reconstructed copies present in collection (Items # 800280004 and # 800280005) Papers were originally placed and sealed in between 2 pieces of glass.</p>	u.d.