

Townsend, Charles A., Letter

Charles A. Townsend Letter

1898



Title Statement

Townsend, Charles A., LetterCharles A. Townsend Letter, 1898 Ms.2022.009

Author: Kiana Wilkerson, Graduate Assistant

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specref@vt.edu
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2022.009

Unit Date

1898

Language

The materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains a short letter from Charles A. Townsend, chief clerk of the United States of America, while at Guantánamo, Cuba, on August 14, 1898, during the Spanish American War, to his brother, Joseph Townsend. The letter discusses events during the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico, including racist remarks about the "colored" troops fighting in the war.

Creator

Townsend, Charles A.

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

This collection was acquired by Special Collections and University Archives prior to 2012.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Charles A. Townsend Letter was completed in April 2022.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Charles A. Townsend Letter, 1898, Ms2022-009, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

There is not much information to identify Charles A. Townsend. A Charles A. Townsend enlisted as a private in the U. S. Army's 9th Infantry, Company C, enlisting on December 7, 1897. A Charles A. Townsend served in the 8th Infantry.

Sources:

"Charles A. Townsend" entry in the database "U.S., Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, 1821-1916", Ancestry.com, from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)'s "Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, June 1821 - December 1916", Microfilm Serial: M665; Roll: 106, <https://www-ancestrylibrary-com.ezproxy.lib.vt.edu/discoveryui-content/view/13066435:2229>

"Charles A Townsend" entry in the U.S., Returns from Regular Army Infantry Regiments, 1821-1916, Ancestry.com, <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/13407928:2229>

Scope and Content

This collection contains a short letter from Charles A. Townsend, Chief Clerk of the United States, while at Guantánamo, Cuba, on August 14, 1898, to his brother, Joseph Townsend in Colorado City, Texas, detailing events about the Spanish American War with remarks about the casualties during the "invasion of Puerto Rico" and the actions of Theodore Roosevelt at San Juan Hill. Charles hopes to reunite with his brother soon. The end of the letter contains racist remarks about the "colored" troops participating in the war.

N.B.: The document contains offensive and racist language.

Keywords

Correspondence

Letters

Spanish-American War, 1898

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Letter from Charles A. Townsend to Joseph Townsend with typed transcription

Unit Date 1898-08-14

folder 1