Thank you all for coming out today to learn a little bit more about the Filson collections on campus, Zachary Taylor. The idea for this lecture actually, sorry, Jim came to me in February, thinking about the centennial. I really wanted to know more about what levels involvement in the First World War was. And I was also very interested in the influenza pandemic. So I was trying to find a way to combine my own questions and research interests into something that would be hopefully also interesting to a larger audience here. I know that since then, there have been several exhibits and lectures that have happened around town, marking the centennial of the Great War and also discussing camp Taylor and the Spanish flu, such as the exhibits and lectures at the Conrad Caldwell house in conjunction with the camp Zachary Taylor Historical Society, as well as Dr. Oberst lecture at the Google Book Club on the influenza epidemic in camp Taylor. And I hope you all will be generous with me as I go over the topic again today, but today, we do have a specific focus on the Philistines holdings here. While our holdings related to camp Zachary Taylor are not voluminous, I do believe they present an accurate picture of the camp during its construction, active service, and dismantling. And I'm excited to be sharing a portion of our images and stories related to this important World War One cantonment. Although World War One outbreak dates to 1914, the United States involvement did not officially begin until April of 1917. In fact, this past Monday was the centennial of the US declaration of neutrality regarding the conflict. Why did the US get involved in 1917, I think that would probably be an entire summer series of Filson Fridays to go over. So I'll just say very, very oversimplifying it, that when Germany announced unrestricted U-boat warfare, the public opinion in the United States was such that President Wilson was able to take a declaration of war to joint session of Congress and have it approved. So after the April 1917 declaration, there was an immediate need to expand the United States Army and to build new training facilities. The War Department announced intentions to build 16 of these new army cantonments. Louisville businessmen and leaders actively sought one for here in Louisville, a committee from the Louisville Board of Trade, and one of the US congressman from Kentucky, Joseph swager. Surely led the campaign surely was the house with the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and as such worked as a close ally with President Woodrow Wilson to equip the US military for entrance into World War One. The Louisville Board of Trade
regularly worked to promote and advance the commercial and industrial interests of Louisville. Factors such as a good water supply, existing rail lines, and readily available land led to the Oval selection, which was announced on the 11th of June 1917. After Louisville selection and pasture land was quickly acquired by the United States government, making a total of 2700 acres of open field and farmlands. This area was located six miles south of downtown Louisville, between the current Preston highway and Newburgh roads. The Filson holds an amazing photo collection of the houses, barns, outbuildings, and other lands acquired by the government for the construction of the cantonment. And you can see several of the images here on the screen at the top of the homes of CB Semple and Lorena Bailey. Below are the outbuildings of Catherine Doolin and Lewis Camber. And at the bottom right the home and outbuilding of Anton Reichmuth. An article I read, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the camp in 1937, stated that some people actually donated their land and their homes, while others who said they needed they couldn’t do it because of financial difficulties. Were paid a fair price for their properties. I’m not sure if this was journalism, Romancing the government acquisition of lands or if people actually did out of patriotic sentiment donate their homes and their lands to the camp Taylor. But regardless, I think that having such a photo album is this one is great because we have the names of the property owners plus images of their property, really documenting what came before the camp. My thanks to Rachel Kennedy for bringing this to my attention last year, and to Filson volunteer chip our biggest for scanning these and many most actually of the images that you will see here during my talk. What to name this warded camp became the focus of an editorial blitz from the courier journal as soon as the site was selected. Readers wrote in suggesting camp surely for the Congress Men can’t George Rogers Clark for the founder of Louisville camp Abraham Lincoln, Camp George de Prentice for the famous editor camp Kane tuck for Pioneer memories camp boon for Daniel Boone and my personal favorite camp Lincoln Davis for Kentucky’s two great war heroes. That’s a direct quote, direct quote from the paper. Of course, as we all know, the selection was camp Zachary Taylor, for the Mexican War hero and president who was raised and is buried here in Jefferson County. The courier journal continued to editorialize about the camp’s name, and they very firmly insisted and actually got the word DEP backing on this so that the name be fully camp Zachary Taylor, not camp Taylor, and the end of an editorial from the seventh of September 1917 reads, If any soldier calls it less bring him to court martial if any civilians send him to a camp of detention and if any newspaper reporter shoot him on the spot. Yes. After the land and the all important name, were acquired construction on the camp began. It ran from June through late August 1917. It employed 10,000 men, and it costs $7.2 million 45 point 3 million feet of lumber was used in creating around 2000 buildings. In total camp, Zachary Taylor cost about $10 million to build and maintain these images which are from the holder of Schoening photograph collection and the film since World War One subject File photo files, you can see the destruction of previous structures and the construction of new buildings especially I think these two are both barracks. I do want to note that not all of the buildings acquired from the individuals so those pictures you saw earlier, they were not all destroyed. Some of them were actually updated and became officers quarters and things like that. But for the most part, those 2000 buildings that were camped out camp, Zachary Taylor were new construction. And the facility was supposed to be ready to hold 47,500 men. And to give some context to that number that was 1/5 of Google’s population at the time of 47,500 men. Camp Taylor officially opened on the fifth of September 1917 and was the home of the 84th division, which was known as the Lincoln division because it was comprised of men from the home states of Lincoln, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. The camp also houses the 150/9 depo brigade, the field artillery central Officers Training School and various other units. By the summer of 1918 64,000 soldiers were stationed there. And at that point camp Zachary Taylor was designated as a field artillery replacement depot and was to date the largest artillery training camp in the United States. And these images you can see processing the new recruits the one at tops is Indiana it’s called the Indiana
chute. So the men are going through there as new recruits and they're getting their clothing allotment in the bottom picture. Major General Harry Hale took command of Camp Zachary Taylor in October of 1917. And I like these other two images on the right side because I think they do a good job of showing how very vast the camp was. Barrick after Beric warehouse after warehouse over 250,000 men were in and out of the camp during its lifetime, so to speak. And that means that they were fed, they were clothed, they were housed there. That was amazing operation. The top image is another one from the Hoda Schoening Photograph Collection. Miss Jennings family had a small farm on the south edge of Camp Zachary Taylor on Poplar level road, and it was very close to the camp headquarters. These images from her collection really add to our visual knowledge of the camp from a civilian neighbors point of view. So as you can see from these images and the ones that have come before, we have a great photograph collection of Camp Taylor, including our World War One subject photos, the sharing and collection and a postcard collection to along with these visual depictions of camp life comes the words of the soldiers themselves, found in various family and personal collections held here at the Filson Hiram Shoemaker of Ohio describes his arrival at Camp Zachary Taylor and a May 2 1918 letter to his friend Miss Dallas disc. We arrived here at 1215 Wednesday night after a 12 hour journey winding through the green clad hills and along the beautiful Ohio River. All through the journey the soldiers were singing songs like keep the home fires burning over there, and the sunshine of your smile. On arriving at the grounds and Officer marched us to a medical examiner and then we registered and did other duties and did not retire until 2:35am. But I couldn't sleep a wink due to a new environment and a tramp of soldiers around the camp. In a later letter Hiram explains that while the first week in camp was slow, the pace had really picked up. He wrote we are kept busy marching and drilling nearly all the time. evenings are spent in the YMCA or writing so lonesome is crowded out. Hiram describes starting his day in another letter, and fight, excuse me at 5:40am the bugle blows and everyone jumps out and must dress in three to five minutes. He continues the description saying, just now the sun is rising in the east and we've already eaten breakfast. I've also made my bunk and swept under it, you can see some sort of romanticized images of men at war. In the two color paintings by Sidney Rosenberg which were reproduced in a magazine and included in one of our collections here. You can also see the inside of the barracks at Camp Taylor and an inspection. Hiram and other new recruits slowly learned the culture of Camp Zachary Taylor and he wrote, military courtesy is one of the first rules here. If any private or non commissioned officer does not salute the commissioned officers when passing or going into the orderly room, he must stand at attention for a long time, or probably he will get many days as a KP. Hi, Ron was assigned to the medical department at the base camp hospital. He explained the beginning of his medical work and the letter of the 16th of August 1918, in which he notes that he's helping with a group of six soldiers who got to Maine poisoning from canned meat. Some of his hospital work consisted of guard duty there, it was my duty to report any fires that might occur in the hospital. Also, I had to hold officers and salute them and send out everyone not on duty. Another part of his duty was sanitary duties, which included disposing of sewage and waste, disinfecting different areas and make excuse me taking other preventative care measures both at the hospital and around the entire camp. I'll be sharing a little bit more about shoemakers work in the hospital later during the discussion of the influenza pandemic. Along with his military in hospital, where Cairo newsletters also described his leisure time. This morning I attended YMCA services and played the piano for them in my estimation, the why is doing more to help the soldiers than any other Association. He mentions meeting up with other soldiers from his hometown at the Y and just generally spending a lot of his free time there. The Filson holds a pamphlet entitled the red triangle at Camp Zachary Taylor and red triangle was the emblem for the Y at that time. The pamphlet outlines the services provided for the enlisted men describes the 17 green YMCA huts or buildings around the camp and the secretaries and physical directors who are there to help sort of director or provide information on the men's
leisure time. Each had showed movies two times a week and each had a wrestling or boxing mat. The pamphlet notes this is the army sport. It is part of training of the modern soldier learn the manly art of self defense. You can see two gentlemen learning the manly art of self defense over there on the right. The white also offered educational classes for example, reading writing, American history, European history, and Hiram our our hospital worker notes that he might take typing classes to attempt to get an administrative position. The YMCA also sponsored a host this house which was a safe and respectable place for soldiers to meet female relations, or fiance's or girlfriends, and in addition provided religious services, discussions and singing. Another thing that ye provided to a lot of soldiers was stationery. I cannot tell you how many letters coming from soldiers in our collection are written on the Y stationery or they're talking about how they were at the Y when they wrote it. This letter in particular is part of the Johnson family papers and was written by James Williams banks of Scott County here in Kentucky. He was in Company D of the 800 and First Infantry Regiment. He had been a driver for Dr. Kaufman of Scott County before enlisting in the army, and he wrote a letter back to the family after he arrived at Camp Taylor enclosing his image. After noting that he was well and asking you about the family's health he writes, I liked the camp so far, we have plenty to eat and it's well cooked. More than 350,000 African Americans served in segregated units during World War 116 of the 27 new regiments created for the war were called the Pioneer infantry regiments, one of which James was a member of they mostly served overseas and they were non combatant units. So that means they dug trenches, graves latrines, built hospitals, built roads, bridges, railroad lines, etc. Another collection that we have here includes the letters of John Neblett. He was one of the white officers of the 800 and first pioneer infantry. He wrote a few letters to his family outside of Bardstown, Kentucky, while he was stationed here at Camp Taylor before being sent overseas to France. He was very disappointed at only getting a second lieutenant ship for a labor unit. And he complained about his night office duties and not having anything to do fairly regularly. His brother Lamar, who was also part of the collection here at the Filson was a doctor and at this point he had already been sent it overseas to France with the Medical Corps. He also wrote him and often was saying how happy he was that his brother was in a labor unit because as a doctor he saw how cut up the the fighting men were coming back from the front and he felt his brother would be protected from that by being in a labor unit. Those men do end up in France and both survive and return home after the war discharging through camp Taylor. Sorry, I'm just going to take a second. So I've discussed hospital work and labor unit work at Camp Taylor. Another soldier riding home gives details about another kind of work at the camp cooking. And James banks letter mentioned the food and he specifically gave a quote about the bread they're saying we have the real light white bread. Why does snow baked right here at the camp, and Hiram our hospital employee writes of his enjoyment of the camp Tiller food, saying good meals are served in the army. I'll tell you what we had for dinner, roast beef, corn gravy, Strawberry Shortcake bread and ice tea. The Frank Raymond Lane papers here at the Felson document the duties of a man who was actually training and working in these kitchens. He notes in a letter of the fifth of August 18 18th. It certainly has been hot in the kitchen today, but I just have to stand it. On the seventh of August. He's actually writing from the cooks and bakers school at Camp Zachary Taylor. And he describes his training timeline. We will have to go two months before we've completed our studies and then we are graduates. I will get to be a chef or a mess. Sargent, who gets $60 and that is really what I want. You also begins to talk about some of his culinary accomplishments. He writes to his his fiancee, I made another batch of cornbread for dinner, it was pretty fair enough for 180 men. So you see it is different from what you make at home in the little pan. He goes on to talk about some different stews and things that he's making and says when I come home, I will show you how to make some of these dishes. So Elaine is writing to his fiancee as I said her name was Nellie ra Hey at home and myelin, Indiana and he gives an outline of the time like the time of day he's spending on all these different food duties. You asked what I did?
Well, we get up at half past three in the morning. When I'm on duty, we help get breakfast and serve it. And just as soon as it's over, we get the table ready, scrub it with Dutch dry it good, scrub the floor, clean out the icebox and also the storeroom and the bread box. Then the meat comes in and we have meat class meats hung in the icebox. So you see we have some little to do, then it'll be time to get dinner and we proceed to put on potatoes, beans, make cornbread or whatever has to be done. We've inspection every morning so we have to have everything ready by nine o'clock. Then when I'm not on duty, I wash clothes, write letters, attend meet class, or go to the YMCA and walk around some so that I can get some outdoor exercise. So it's really interesting contrast to see someone who's working in a hospital or working on kitchen duty who is not outside drilling every day. They definitely would take some of their time to do that. But he really had a very regimented indoor training at least during his training time. At the camp Taylor. Frank explains that while his leisure time activities were pure, the temptation and camp was great. He states to Nelly since you have come into my life I have been different and will continue to do so from now on. But if you knew what we had to contend with, by the way of temptations, you would be shocked to the utmost that such as I can hardly name but just a few our vice swearing and vulgar talking. These are the most we have here but the boys will go to town at least once a week. But remember when I come back to you I'll be just as good as when I left so help me God. Along with attending to vices in Louisville soldiers from Camp Zachary Taylor the enlisted men anyway could go to the soldiers club pictured here. It was at 1619 South Fourth Street. And I like the top says if good times here in the club. Soldiers we get a pass as you see here and it would be filled out by their commander and they'd get permission to leave the camp and take the railway or a private car into town. And another collection the reverence papers Florence Jobson writes to her brother Richard Evans, who's in Dayton, on October of 1917, saying most of the drafted boys are out at Camp Taylor in this town has certainly taken on a military look, Soldier boys everywhere. An indicator of how soldier focus Louisville was comes from looking at advertisements. These particular advertisements were in a show given at Camp Taylor so they were of course going to be more directed to the soldiers. But you can see that many stores and outfitters were interested in garnering the attention and the money of soldiers from the camp. These are all familiar Louisville retailers, Stark's leveses, Jenny Benedict, I actually saw in another letter and it's not one of the collections I talked about here because the man was not ever at Camp Taylor but it was Dr. Irvin April is writing him and his wife after he gets a promotion and says As you need to go to Robert De Vaughn and get me the new material for my new stripes on my jacket, and that was particularly interesting to me, because it's my husband's great grandfather. So I thought that was a really neat thing to see in there and that people were actually going riding home and saying I needed to get these different things from him. It wasn't just automatically supplied. Soldiers also made friends and visited family in Louisville. Frank Lane writes about rights to Nellie about visiting a cousin of a friend of his from my island, who lives in Louisville with her daughters and granddaughters. Magdalena Roemer, the daughter of a truck farmer who lives south of the camp, wrote in her journal on the sixth of October 1918 Mr. Britt Higginbottom here for his camera, we took 16 pictures, he took French leave at a camp hospital. The soldiers did not have to leave camp to receive visitors. Many of the films since World War One era collections contain letters from the local women writing to loved ones away at training or away at war or just living in different cities mentioning visits that they paid to the camp on Sundays. A woman named William who was the girlfriend of the aforementioned Richard Evans, from that collection writes again to him describing her visit to camp Taylor. And the afternoon we went out to the camp to full machines of us it was quite interesting. Camp Taylor is just like a little country town as large as New Albany and Jeffersonville together. They have their own clothing stores post office YMCA Knights of Columbus buildings. We went through one barracks which affords enough room for 180 men we saw ever so many of the drafted men and they sure have my sympathy. Clara Disher another woman from here in Louisville, whose family lived off of Taylorsville road and
they were truck farmers were at her brother who was away training at a different camp about visiting camp Taylor. In the afternoon. We went out to the camp and took Aunt Lou with us things are beginning to look nice. The tennis courts are all dandy and fenced in with benches around the sides. Knights of Columbus buildings two and three have porch swings, lots of siding has been done. The headquarters of 334 infantry looks nice, we did not see 336 This time, and the depot brigade they have a very pretty rustic Summer House With rustic fence all around it and benches to match. So Clara was very interested in the aesthetics of Camp Taylor, and spent plenty of time telling her brother who I'm sure did not particularly care about them. Franklin who was our chef right back to his fiancee about all of the families and women visiting the camp, wishing that he could be one of the ones receiving such visitors. And on the 11th of September, he instructs Nellie visit. He drew her a map you can see it on the back of his letter there and explain where she get off of the railroad how she transferred from Louisville out to the railcar by the camp, where the host is house was how she come across the railroad tracks. He could really not wait to see her and he writes in a later letter. When the war is over and I hold you in my arms again. I will be so happy and I look forward to that day from day to day with a longing no one can describe it Have you picked from the new bunch of fellows that camp Taylor the one you like real well yet? How does it feel in Louisville with all the old fellows of Camp Taylor away? I wouldn't give anything if it were so that I could get back to camp Taylor for sure want to get out of this place and not only me, but all the other fellows are in the same condition. Those are the words of AC Kliff carbery, a native of Covington, Kentucky, who was training in a machine gun unit, and he wrote the above to Miss Clara Gibson in June of 1918 after being transferred from Camp Taylor to camp Sherman in Ohio. Through the summer Clifford declares, weakly calling her wonderful girl dear sweetheart, and noting my happiest moments are when I receive your letters. The top image on this slide of the man in uniform is Cliff and on the back is written somewhere in France. So you can see he was transferred overseas in August, and his letters continued to Claire, although with less frequency just because of the way the mail service worked, and I think probably the amount of time he had to write. At the same time. Clara was also getting correspondence from another former resident of Camp Zachary Taylor, Richard Dick Harris, who was in a different machine gun unit, who was also transferred to camp Sherman. He also wrote about missing being near the excitement of Louisville and missing her wondered if she was missing him. And he also wrote regularly until his transfer overseas. All in all Claire's collection of papers contains correspondence from 13 Different soldiers most of whom she knew through visiting and attending dances at Camp Taylor. She lived in West Louisville and was a student at Girls High School during this time, and her papers are mainly composed of the soldiers letters to her but they also include ephemera from her school attendance. You can see the image of her in the suit. She's the one on the left. She was in some of the plays at Girls High School, and that one was Captain Jenks with the horse Marines. She also was most likely a Red Cross volunteer. And she completed a form that was part of the collection that was from the National Council of defense a women's committee. And on that she checked off that she wanted to receive training on how to operate a wireless and how to be an Aviatrix. But unfortunately, the war ended before she could fulfill any of these dreams. Visits to and from Camp Zachary Taylor came to an abrupt halt in September of 1918 upon the outbreak of a large number of cases of influenza. Hiram Shoemaker still on hospital duty writes the following did his friend Miss Ciske on September 28, owing to the rapid spread of influenza around the camp orders came out from headquarters this evening that the entire camp will be under quarantine for 30 days, and maybe more. This was not the first quarantine destroyed camp Taylor, in April of the same year in 1918. Clara Disher had written to her brother Louis, noting, Joe is still at Camp Taylor and depot brigade, but they're talking about putting them in quarantine again, on account of so much pneumonia. Pneumonia had followed hard on the heels of influenza in the spring of 1918. And that's when the first wave of the influenza pandemic began. At that time, the disease shot around the world and for months,
killing off 10s of 1000s of people. Wartime censorship largely, excuse me largely contained the news of the crisis and led to its nickname Spanish flu. The Spanish were not combatants at the time, it did not have any censorship on their news. So they were the first country that was really reporting on the flu and thus, people assumed it had started in Spain, and we're calling it the Spanish flu. On September 7 1918, the first case of a stronger more deadly flu epidemic hit camp Devins, Massachusetts, which was another one of the army training facilities. The sick were stricken with headaches, fever, prostration, upper respiratory problems, and this time, the influenza definitely had a propensity for pneumonic complications, which led to lung failure and then death, there was absolutely no cure. The only recommendations were for breast warmth and fresh air by the end of the month by the end of September 1918. The disease is spread all the way across the country, so from Massachusetts directly across. It first appeared in Kentucky in late September courtesy of the Elenin railroad. The rapid spread of this highly contagious respiratory disease was heightened by crowding men into army transports. They'd put three men in a two seater they'd have two men sleeping in the same bunk on a train and it just spread rapidly across the country. That was one of the one of the reasons Hiram Shoemaker describes the scene at Camp Taylor in late September, over 1000 cases arrived within the last five days in the hospital. The entire medical detachment over 900 men were pulled out of the detachment barracks into tents to make room for the sick people. In all 15 barracks were converted into hospital wards. I'm sorry that is no longer a quote in all 15 barracks were converted into hospital wards. 20 physicians came from Connecticut to assist nurses were recruited from throughout the Midwest. And organizations like the YMCA, the Knights of Columbus, the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary all spent sent volunteers to help keep medical records that was one of the big things going on and they just could not keep up with a number of cases coming in. People dying and the records were really important for the public health departments to try to figure out what was going on. The Red Cross issue please for bed linens, residents and wagon loads of garden produce soup jellies, students at girls high school prepared chicken broth and other young people fixed food trays. So really the whole community got very involved with will experience three crests during the epidemic October and December of 1918 and then March of 1919. The Disher family girls writing to their brother in France from their home on Taylorsville Road, commented on the effect of the flu on the city and on their social lives during the first crest in October. Clara writes Monday morning the following announcement was made and all of the papers. All churches, schools, theaters picture shows porins gymnasiums, and swimming pools must close. All public meetings, dances and parties are canceled. All funerals and weddings must be private. All car windows must remain open and houses shall be tagged where there are cases of influenza. She also wrote about a soldier from the camp who wanted to come out to their house for dinner, saying Papa got very much excited and said if we had a soldier to come out, we would all get the flu. That Mr. Disher was right to be concerned Hiram Shoemaker is still reporting on that same time there was a quarantine in place still on Camp Taylor he writes new meetings despite it being Sunday due to the 52 day quarantine from the Spanish flu, high room comments on the camps and ability to manage their dead writing. Both the morgue and the chapel floors were covered with dead bodies so they had to be put outside. The very next day in another collection, I read a letter from Mary Frances Disher writing to her brother. She's writing about the cessation of her social life. If you were in Louisville, I wonder what you would think of it I call it a hack. Have a place the Spanish flu is closing almost everything. I am so anxious for the flu to leave so the dancers can start again so I can meet some more boys. I wish I had more illustrations to go along with the segment of my top. On this screen you can see some 10 images, potentially where the men could have been transferred to after the barracks, the bottom or the middle, I should say 10 images is what was set up for relatives who were coming in to check on the soldiers who were ill from the flu. The other two items on here I got out of the Rogers Clark Ballard through certain papers through stun was one of the heads of the Red Cross in Kentucky and as such he was in
correspondence with the administrators at Camp Taylor about the influenza epidemic in
Louisville and Kentucky in general. He received a notice on the 18th of October that as of 8am.
That morning, the hospital at Camp Taylor had admitted 11,241 patients with the flu, and they
had 656 deaths. They were also very closely tracking pneumonia, which would make those
numbers rise significantly. By mid November, the flu effects were lessening and the
quarantine was lifted. The district rolls at Maggie writes to Louis in early November upon
learning that he is wounded on the front and consulted with the following note which is full of
exaggerations. Of course even if you had been at home you might have been stricken with the
flu out at your old camping ground. 9000 died out there. Over 100 School sisters went out to
the camp to help wait on six soldiers and all of the barracks were turned into hospitals that well
boys were all put into tents. I saw the camp on Sunday tents on both sides of Preston Street as
far as you can see. The quarantine was actually lifted right around when she was writing that
letter on the 10th of November. But there was a second crest that hit Louisville in December.
And we have some documentation of that from the camp Frank lane. Our soldier at Cook school
at the camp Taylor describes the company home the body of one of his fellow kitchen workers.
Lewis Maxi was one of our KPS and when he died of the flu, I was asked to take his body home
and I could not refuse as he was a friend of mine. His father and two sons met me. That was the
saddest family I ever saw and it was almost too much for me. The third crest hit in March of
1919. In Clara Gibson's collection, we find two letters written by her newest camp Zachary
Taylor Bo Ed. And she was missing dances and the officers graduation at Camp due to being
sick with the flu. A letter from her old favorite Clif carbery, dated the 29th of March 1919
confirms the worst as it was written to Clara's mother offering condolences on the death of her
daughter, who had passed away just days after her 19th birthday. One question that's raised
and all over the works that I read about the flu epidemic is why is it not more widely a part of
our public memory here in the United States, some writers credited to the timing around the
war and to the end of the war as making it kind of a second rate story, or believe that given all
the death and destruction from the war, the people wanted to put all that behind them and just
move forward and the Progressive Era was coming on and everything. Sociologists say that
there was no great social upheaval caused by it, everyone actually maintained order and kind
of went along with things and dealt with it, so that it did not become part of our public memory.
But everyone agrees that well, it's not maybe publicly recognized. It is definitely ingrained in
personal and family stories. As I've been delving into this research. It's amazing how many
people I meet, that have family stories about the flu, their great uncle passed away from it,
their mother had a cousin who had it, you know, a family member was was, was stricken with
it. And it's not hard to believe when you consider the figures. 500 million people at least are
infected and more than 50 million people died in this pandemic. It actually lowered statistical
life expectancy by 12 years. And it can't tailor the flu hospitalized 1/6 of the population of the
camp, and 1500 died. Louisville reported 6400 cases and 500 deaths and 16,000 Kentuckians
died. By the time the pandemic ended, influenza had actually killed twice as many people in
the world as the War killed on all of its friends during the entire period of it. So it was a it was a
pretty serious epidemic or pandemic rather. But just as the flu epidemic quieted down that first
wave in the quarantine was lifted. The announcement of our mistress reached Louisville on the
11th of November 1918 Magdalena Roma records in her journal Germany signs are missed this
war is over whistles starting last night at two o'clock blue almost all day, everything closed in
town all celebrating peace. Willian the girlfriend of Richard Evans writes about Google's
response also in a letter of November 11. This is one glorious day war is over how thrilled I am I
don't believe there's a happier girl in this world than myself. That's wonderful news came
around came across about two o'clock this morning whistles and bells are ringing out the glad
tidings. It is nearly noon and they're still ringing. Everyone has flags out to welcome the good
news. I was at Brighton early this morning and went to church to give thanks. You should see
the bright smiling faces the whole world is rejoicing. People have absolutely gone wild.
So what did this piece mean for camp Zachary Taylor. Some men were discharged quickly. Frank Lane writes on the 19th of November we're expecting our discharges any day now.

I only wish that all who left him might be able to come back but that cannot be so we must make the best of it and hope that there will never be another cause to cause us to leave home and loved ones again. However late November He's still at Camp Taylor writing I want to go this week so bad I can hardly stand it. If the war was still on. I would not say much but now it is over and I want to come home. Frank does eventually get sent him in late December and he married his his fiancee, Nellie. Not everyone was released immediately though we have continued letters throughout 1919 of soldiers writing home for example. One is John B. Alexander, writing to a friend at home in Indiana, and it really shows his frustration. I feel like a fool down here when I have needed so badly at home. Throughout 1919 Camp Zachary Taylor was used as a demo, demobilization Center and the hospital. As I already noted, John Neblett, who was the lieutenant of the 800 and first pioneer infantry unit was discharged through camp Taylor, Norman cool hip, a little villian, who was in the Reserves mallet, which was a transport unit created as part of the French army, but was later transferred over to the US Army. He documents his demobilization left Brest, France on the 10th of June 1919. onboard the USS Prince Frederick Wilhelm, arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey June 19 1919, and was at Camp Mills Long Island and then can't opt in Long Island until June 24. passed through Washington DC and on June 26, arrived at Camp Taylor camp, Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky, July 15 1919 D mobilized during the United States Army. So these images which are from a very extensive photograph collection of cool helps document his ship voyage back to the United States and his his demobilization. After the demobilization was completed, the field artillery training school in the artillery range were all that remained active at Camp Zachary Taylor, the Google's Board of Trade attempted to keep the camp up and running as a permanent military fixture for these activities. But the house military affairs committee after visiting in September of 1919, recommended abandoning the site due to insufficient space. The school and the range of the artillery were transferred to camp Henry Knox, which we know today is Fort Knox. On April 25 1921, the land the buildings and the equipment of Camp Zachary Taylor went up for auction. movil real estate and development company acting as a sales agent for the War Department began an auction that continued until quote, we have liquidated a city built to accommodate 60,000 people. In reality, the auction continued through the mandated closed date of the 21st of June. The company advertised the different types of buildings and materials that would be sold, including the camp laundry, the motor transport garage, the bakery warehouses, refrigeration plants, heating plants, stoves, electrical equipment, lumber, plumbing, railroad equipment, some of the houses that had been purchased by the government but not actually demolished, were also sold. So you can see here, there's one of the auction pictures or auction pamphlets and aren't in it, you see the same picture that was taken in that US government photo album of the documenting the space that the government was going to buy. So some of the houses were maybe updated or released, kept as they were and were sold off that way. I'd really hope to be able to drive around the neighborhood and find it still standing today and get another picture of it. But I was not successful in that quest. So I hope it's still standing somewhere because it looks like a great house. This is the home of Leo Schneider which photographed before the construction of Camp Taylor and also included in the auction. So in all
the auction realized about only about $1 million from the sale. So if you consider it was 7.2 million to build it. That was a pretty big loss for the government. Although it did find out just today that apparently a lot of I think maybe it was what didn't sell or maybe it was before the sale a lot of equipment was actually shipped up to Fort Dix so it looks like not everything went to waste it wasn't sold off to was was transferred over to another another fort on the 13th of May 1921. During the auction time A ceremony was held at the camp Flagstaff of Camp Zachary Taylor, the lieutenant governor of Kentucky as Thurston Ballard gave an address, as did Mr. Rogers Clark Ballard Thurston, a band played My Old Kentucky Home and other Steven foster selections to mark the passing of Camp Taylor. After the sales were complete camp, Zachary Taylor, the largest containment of the World War One And partially reverted back to pasture and farmland and partially became more residential. The property was very affordable for soldiers returning from war and for working class people. Houses were often built on former camp bathrooms and showers is the existing concrete flooring served as a ready made foundation. Wood was reused to build one story wood frame houses and camp Tiller Park is now where the camp headquarters was located. The entire area became known as the camp Tiller neighborhood and it was annexed by the city of Louisville in 1950. Whenever I give these lectures, I always feel like I've been talking for ages. And yet there's still so much that I've left out. There's so many other stories that can be told images letters to from an about camp Taylor, I'd specifically like to note a few things there are several pamphlets and books on Camp Zachary Taylor and some of the different units. They're here in our library collection at the Filson also attended to focus a little bit on the YMCA. But there are many other worthy organizations operating at the camp assisting the men such as the Knights of Columbus, the Red Cross the American Library Association, just to name a few. There are more names from the camp, more statistics, more commanders, I feel like you could just go on and on. And if you have an interest, I'd recommend that you come in to do some hands on research here for the day, take a look at our online catalog or in house catalogs and look up camp Zachary Taylor. And they're also very many complimentary collections at the Archives and Special Collections at the University of Louisville as well specifically, they have a great American Library Association collection on the their work at World War One that I know their head Kerry Daniels has written some published articles about that are very good. And they also have I think, some oral histories, one of which was conducted by my fearless leader Jim Holmberg, on someone who grew up I believe, right around camp Taylor and as a boy was working at one of the camps stores are right outside the camp stores and had memories of it. So there's all sorts of ways that this is documented that people who have an interest should reach out to and look for so thank you for spending your early afternoon with me and I will be happy to attempt to answer any questions that anyone has. You and then I'll go You go ahead.