

The Filson Historical Society

**Henry L. Underwood
Papers, 1924-1955**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these letters, see the Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg.

Size of Collection:

.33 cubic feet

Locator Number:

Mss./A/U55

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Scope and Content Note

Collection includes 42 letters, most of which were written by relatives and acquaintances to Henry Underwood, 374th Engineer Battalion (Separate) while he was stationed at Camp Gordon, GA, and Camp Hood, TX, in 1942 and 1943. Some of the letters were written by female admirers. The letters from his mother and sisters provide some insight regarding the hardships experienced by African American families during World War II and of the wartime economic conditions in Cincinnati, OH.

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Biographical Note

Henry L. Underwood was born ca. 1913, the only son of Carrie Louise Underwood. He and his four sisters grew up in Cincinnati, OH. Although this close African American family was of modest means, Henry and his sisters achieved some degree of success. He was employed at Transcontinental & Western Air, Inc., in Indianapolis, IN, in the early 1940s. He entered the U.S. Army , 374th Engineer Battalion (Separate), in the spring of 1942 and was stationed initially at Camp Gordon, GA, and then at Camp Hood, TX, in August, 1942.

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Folder List

- Folder 1: Correspondence, September 1924; April – July 1942
- Folder 2: Correspondence, August – December 1942
- Folder 3: Correspondence, February – April 1943
- Folder 4: Correspondence, May – August 1943
- Folder 5: Miscellaneous

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Subject Headings

American National Red Cross
Business enterprises, Black
Camp Gordon (Richmond County, Ga.)
Cincinnati Tennis Club
Fort Hood (Tex.)
Love-letters
Underwood, Henry L. ca. 1913-
United States. Army – African American troops
United States. Army. Engineer Battalion, 374th (Separate)
Wilberforce University
World War, 1939-1945 – Economic aspects – Ohio – Cincinnati
World War, 1939-1945 – Participation, African American – History – Sources
World War, 1939-1945 – War work – American Red Cross