

SLONAKER FAMILY COLLECTION

ACCESSION NUMBER 281

Processed November 2005

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

COLLECTION SUMMARY SHEET

COLLECTION: Slonaker Family Collection

ACCESSION NUMBER: 281

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1918 – 1945

DONOR: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

DATE OF GIFT: Unknown

LOCATION: Small manuscripts

SIZE: 1 folder

COLLECTION GUIDE

AVAILABLE: No

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES: Joshua Davis Slonaker was born in 1886 in West Virginia. He served as a corporal with the 55th Engineers in World War I and was killed in action in France on July 31, 1918. He was buried in an American cemetery in France but was later re-interred in Quaker Cemetery near his hometown of Dillon's Run, West Virginia. The Graves Registration Service was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Pierce who established the process of body identification in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. While readying the American Expeditionary Force during World War I, General Pershing requested the establishment of a Graves Registration Service assigned to the Western Front. Major Pierce was recalled to active duty to command the Service. Eight permanent cemeteries were established in Europe by war's end where 30,000 veterans were laid to rest. Another 47,000 bodies were returned to the United States.

Raymond Odell Slonaker was born in 1914 in West Virginia but resided in Winchester, Virginia at the outbreak of war. He enlisted in 1942 at Fort Myer, Virginia. His branch is unknown. Selective Service classified Slonaker in class 1-B in 1941 and upgraded him to 1-A in March 1942. Category 1-A indicated his availability for immediate service. Raymond Slonaker's enlistment was for the duration of the war plus six months. (See Donor File-Slonaker for more biographical information)

SUBJECT: Burial policies and overseas cemetery care for World War I soldiers; Selective Service notification procedures during World War II.

FORMS OF MATERIAL: The collection consists of one letter from the Graves Registration Service to George Slonaker notifying the family of the burial site of their son, Joshua D. Slonaker; one leaflet from the Graves Registration Service giving rules and regulations on the care of overseas graves; two "notice of classification cards" from the Selective Service to Raymond O. Slonaker during World War II.

ARRANGEMENT: 1 folder

SLONAKER FAMILY COLLECTION #281
CONTAINER LIST

- Folder 1 Letter, Chief, Graves Registration Service, American Expeditionary Force,
Lieutenant Colonel Charles C. Pierce to George W. Slonaker, informing
him of his son's (Joshua D. Slonaker) place of burial, November 13, 1918
Leaflet, "Information for the Friends of our Dead," Office of the Chief
Quartermast, A.E.F., Graves Registration Service, France
Envelope, postmarked November 14, 1918
Card, "Notice of Classification" for Raymond Slonaker, May 20, 1941
Card, "Notice of Classification" for Raymond Slonaker, March 10, 1942