

# Thomas Ray Family Collection

Yellowstone Gateway Museum of Park County

118 West Chinook Street

Livingston Montana 59047

# Guide to Tommy Ray Family Collection 1887-1941

## Overview of the Collection

**Creators:** Tommy Ray

Francis Ray

Celia Ray

Margaret Ray

Joseph Ray

James Miles Ray

Katherine Ray

Ben F. Dixon

**Title:** Tommy Ray Family Collection

**Dates:** 1987-1941 Inclusive

**Quantity:** 2 Linear Feet (1 Bankers Sized Box, One .5 Linear Ft Box, 2 Oversized Documents, 1 Photo Album)

**Collection No.:** YGM 2001.004

**Repository:** Yellowstone Gateway Museum

118 W. Chinook St.

Livingston, MT 59047

(406)222-4184

[museum@parkcounty.org](mailto:museum@parkcounty.org)

[www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org](http://www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org)

**Prepared by:** Anneliese Warhank, July 2012

**Languages:** Collection materials are in English and French.

**Provenance:**

Donated to Yellowstone Gateway Museum by Dorothy Hunt. Ms. Hunt has no relation to the family and found the collection in her house, the former house of Celia Ray. Ms. Ray donated the house and its contents to the church after her death.

**Biographical Note:**

Sergeant Thomas "Tommy" Ray was the first soldier from Livingston, MT to be killed in action during the First World War on September 12, 1918 while fighting with Company M of

the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. Tommy had volunteer to fight in the trenches, an extremely dangerous position to take in the war, and died “while going over the top” during the first big American drive at St. Mihiel in France. The American Legion Park Post 23 was named after him to honor and withhold his legacy. Tommy’s body was originally buried in the American cemetery at Thiaccourt, St. Mihiel sector. His body was later returned to Livingston where it was buried in the Mount Calvary Cemetery on August 12, 1921.

Tommy grew up with his six brothers and sisters in Livingston and attended Park County High School where he was active in sports and other high school activities. While his brother Francis also fought in the First World War, he was assigned to serve at a military installation in France and returned home in 1919. Many members of the Ray family remained in the Livingston area following the war as made apparent through their correspondence and family photos.

### **Scope & Content Description:**

Includes correspondence between family on the Home Front and Tommy or Francis during the war; correspondence following the war; various documents including news clippings highlighting Tommy’s activities in high school and while fighting overseas; WWI Victory Medals most likely earned by Tommy for his participation in the Battle of Saint-Mihiel; WWI ammunition cartridges; family photographs and negatives, various documents from Tommy’s family members including post cards and prayer books; and a large collection of newspapers highlighting pre-Second World War events both in the U.S. and overseas.

### **Use of Collection**

**Restriction on Access:** none.

**Preferred Citation:** Yellowstone Gateway Museum Permanent Collection, [collection name], [collection number], [item description]

### **Administrative Notes**

The Collection is divided into five series. I. Correspondence, II. Miscellany, III. Photographs, IV. Objects, and V. Oversized Documents.

Original collector of items: Celia Ray

### **Processing Notes**

Original order was preserved in regards to newspapers. All other material was placed in chronological order according to creator.

## Container List

### Box 1

#### Correspondence

##### YGM Fonds Folder Number

YGM 2001.004.0001 Tommy – Letters to Family during War - 1917-1918; Government Correspondence to Family after Death – 1918-1930

YGM 2001.004.0002 Francis – Letters to Family during War -1918-1919

YGM 2001.004.0003 Ray Family – General Correspondence - 1902-1938

YGM 2001.004.0004 Ray Family - Traveling Correspondence – ca. 1910s-1940s

#### Miscellany

YGM 2001.004.0005 Tommy – High School and Local News Articles on Tommy – 1916-1918; Transportation Body Order, 1918; Miscellaneous Item

YGM 2001.004.0006 Francis – Event Programs, Rations Book, News Clipping – 1918; Government Issued Items

YGM 2001.004.0007 Ray Family – Miscellaneous Documents including dance cards, report cards, journals, notebooks and family tree 1887-1908

YGM 2001.004.0008 Ray Family #2 – Miscellaneous Documents including dance cards and military related documents, 1908-1941

YGM 2001.004.0009 Prayer Books – 1911-1937

YGM 2001.004.0010 Other Documents – including 2 1929 High School Graduation Invitations, 1929 Wedding Invitation, Diet Advertisement (n.d.), 1939 Diary

Photographs – Includes photographs of Ray family around the house and while on family trips

YGM 2001.004.0011 Photos of Tommy

YGM 2001.004.0012 Other Photos – Miscellaneous Photos n.d.

YGM 2001.004.0013 Negatives – ca. 1890s

YGM 2001.004.0014 Negatives – ca. 1900s

- YGM 2001.004.0015 Negatives – ca. 1900s
- YGM 2001.004.0016 Negatives – ca. 1900s-1910s
- YGM 2001.004.0017 Negatives – ca. mid-1910s
- YGM 2001.004.0018 Negatives – ca. 1910s-1920s
- YGM 2001.004.0019 Negatives – ca. 1920s
- YGM 2001.004.0020 Negatives – Envelop States Developed 1922 \*four negatives found in this envelop appear to be ca. 1900s
- YGM 2001.004.0021 Negatives – Envelop States Developed 1922
- YGM 2001.004.0022 Negatives – Envelop States Developed 1923
- YGM 2001.004.0023 Negatives – Envelop States Developed 1928
- YGM 2001.004.0024 Negatives – ca. 1930s
- YGM 2001.004.0025 Negatives – Envelop States Developed 1932
- YGM 2001.004.0026 Negatives – Envelop States Developed 1933

#### Box 2

- YGM 2001.004.0027-37 Newspapers – Montana and Regional Newspapers spanning 1919 to 1941 with articles mainly focusing on domestic and foreign events leading to WWII.

#### Objects

#### Box 3

- YGM 2001.004.0038 Bullet Casings
- YGM 2001.004.0039 Eye Glasses Case
- YGM 2001.004.0040 Flat Piece of Stone
- YGM 2001.004.0041 2 WWI Victory Medals in box with ID slip and pressed plant (ID slip and pressed plant placed in plastic sleeve by museum archivist)

## Oversized Documents

### Box 4

YGM 2001.004.0042 Photo Album – Ray Family Photos ca. 1900s-1920s

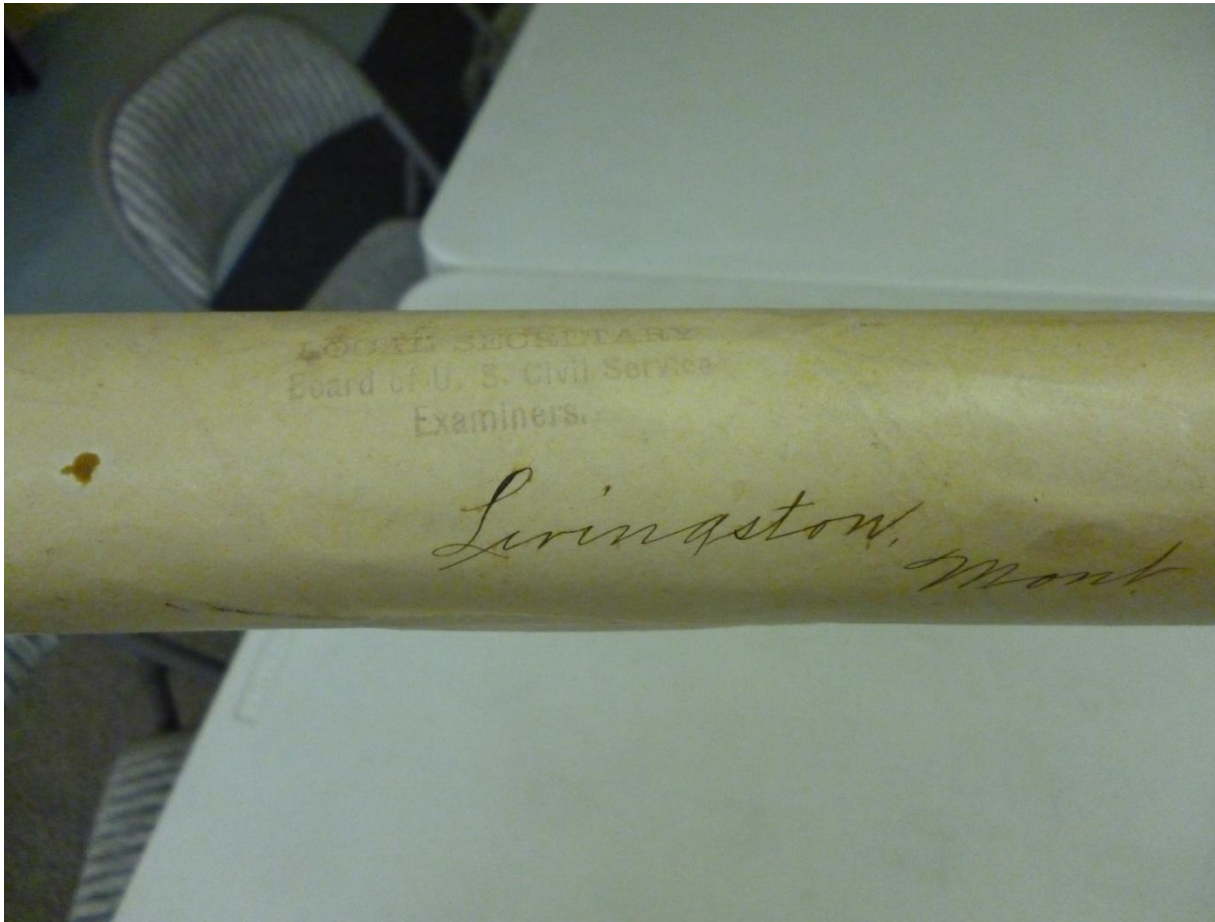
YGM 2001.004.0043 Photo Board Class photo of East Side School ca. 1900s

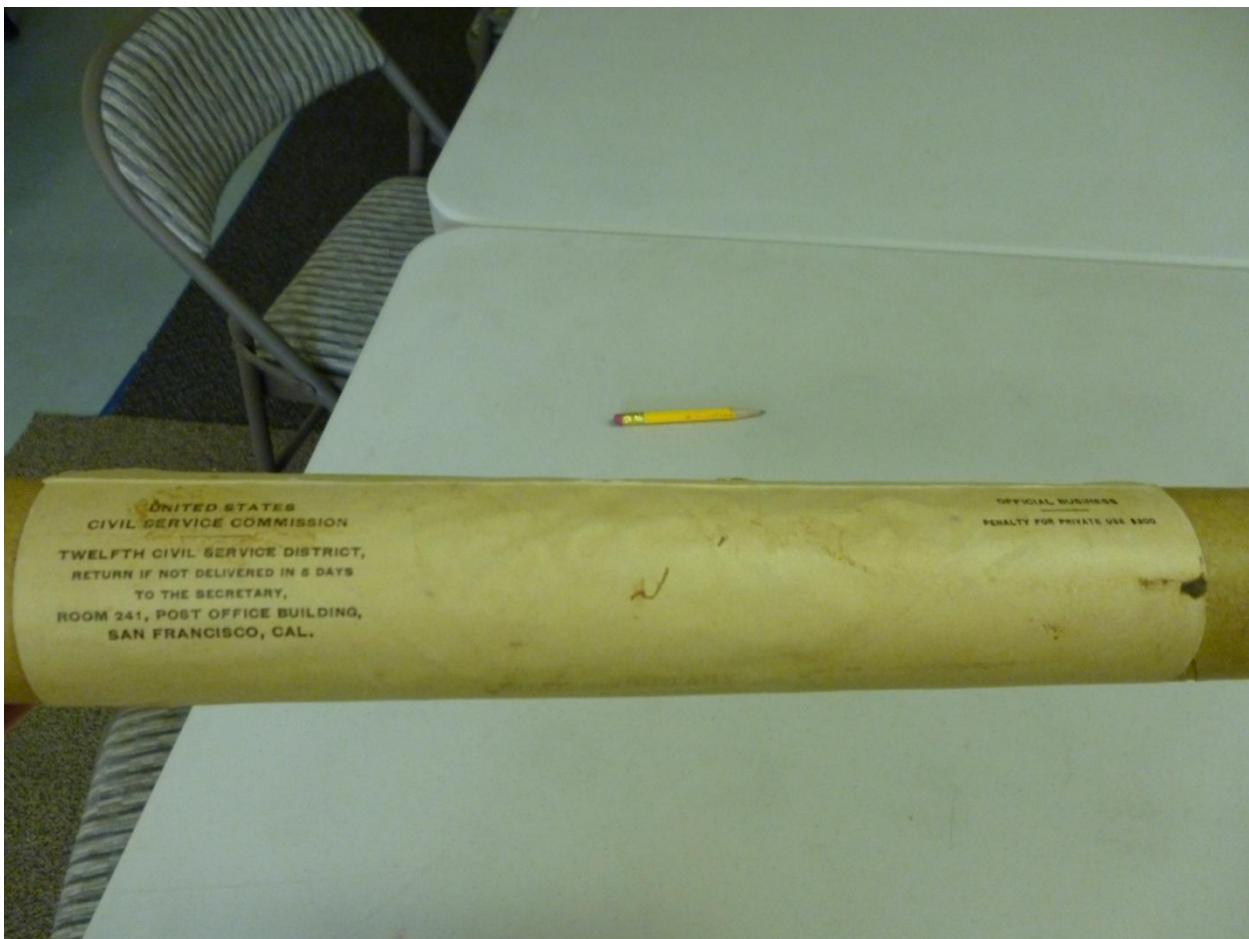
YGM 2001.004.0046 Collage

### Removed to general Oversized Box 6

YGM 2001.004.0044 Membership Certificates – US Civil Service Commission; Confraternity of the Precious Blood (Stored in Unframed Art Box 3)

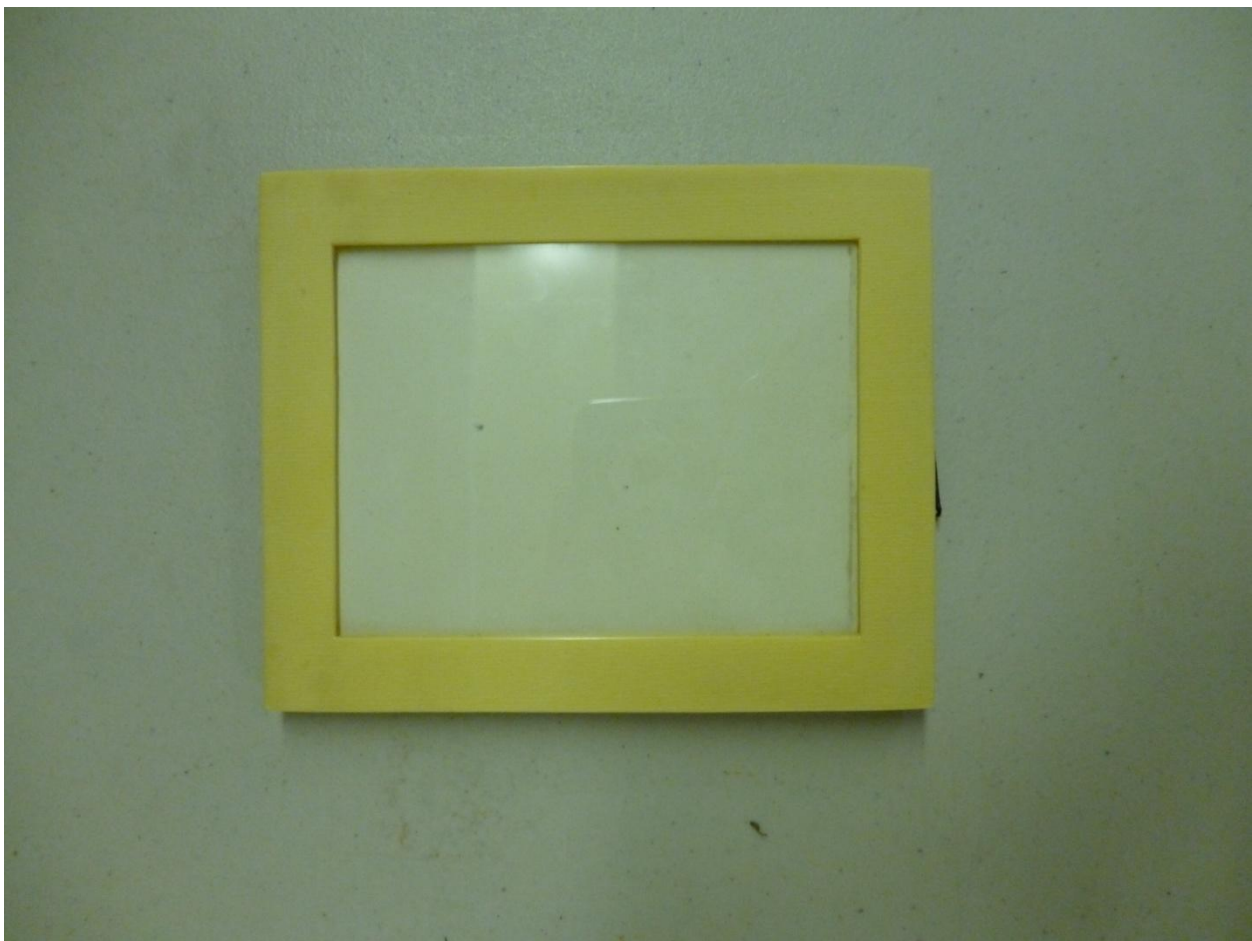
### Discarded Items





UNITED STATES  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
TWELFTH CIVIL SERVICE DISTRICT,  
RETURN IF NOT DELIVERED IN 8 DAYS  
TO THE SECRETARY,  
ROOM 241, POST OFFICE BUILDING,  
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300









**MERCHANDISE:** This parcel may be opened  
for postal inspection if necessary.  
Return postage guaranteed.

Miss Margaret C. Ray  
Box 38  
Livingston, Montana

**FROM**  
**CONFRATERNITY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD**  
FORT HAMILTON PARKWAY and 53rd ST. BROOKLYN, N. Y.