

E. W. Bosworth letter to his Nephew

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1945 January 21

Title Statement

E. W. Bosworth letter to his Nephew E. W. Bosworth letter to his Nephew WLU.Coll.0133

Publication Statement

Publisher: Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives
April 2025

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-02-19 07:02:00 -0500.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0133

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/1253

Unit Date

1945 January 21

Language

English

Creator

Bosworth, Elam Withrow, 1867-1955

Extent

0.01 Linear Feet 1 folder

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Purchased March 2025

Preferred Citation

E. W. Bosworth Letter to his Nephew (WLU Coll. 0133), Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.

Biographical Note

Both men were known as "Tom."

The elder Tom was born on December 11, 1867 to Elam and Margaret Bosworth in Rockbridge County, Virginia. He taught Latin at McGuire's University School in Richmond, Va. from 1891 until it closed in 1942. Afterwards, he moved to Brownsburg, Va. and taught Latin at a girls' school. He died on March 19, 1955 in Lexington, Va.

The younger Tom was born on April 22, 1921 in Brownsburg, Va. to James and Grace Bosworth. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1943 and soon attended Columbia University for officer's training in the U. S. Navy. He served in the Pacific on the USS Windsor and was honorably discharged in 1945. He graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in 1952 and practiced general medicine in Lexington, Va. for many years. He died on January 10, 2008.

Content Description

This collection consists of a letter written by E. W. Bosworth of Brownsburg, Va. to his nephew and namesake, E. W. Bosworth. Both men were known as "Tom" to their friends and family. The letter begins by updating the younger Tom on property news and how the younger Tom's mother has been granted his power of attorney. The elder Tom then mentions attending the funeral of a local African American man named Sam Franklin (1855-1945). He wrote, "A good many white people were there, but not many colored people. The fact is there are not many left here." The elder Tom continues to describe the weather (snow on the ground) and shares family news. He mentions that Billy Sterrett has been missing for 3 weeks and that he belonged to the air service on the Western Front. Says he hasn't heard anything from the "old McGuire boys for a long time." He continues the letter by commenting about the Russians on the Eastern Front and says "Those Nazi heads will hold out as long as they can find troops to die for them." Tom finishes his letter by mentioning the girls he's teaching, "The girls are scared, but I'd rather have them that way than over confident," and noting the location of the Big and Little Dipper and other stars. The letter is dated January 21, 1945.

Keywords

Virginia -- Brownsburg

Bosworth, Elam Withrow, 1921-2008

Description of Subordinate Components

Letter

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/29109

Unit Date 1945 January 21

Mixed Materials [35101206592375] Manuscripts Small Collections Box 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)