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The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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Winter 2018

Where Honor Is Due Fairfax County Casualties of World War I: A Requiem

by William Page Johnson, II

"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

— General John J. Pershing



Thirty-one men from Fairfax County were killed or died while in the service of the United States during World War I; known also as the Great War, the World War, or the War to End All Wars. More than half of these men, eighteen, died of disease. Of this number, ten died of disease in training camp and were never deployed to France. Of the twenty men

who were sent to France, twelve were killed in action or died later as a result of their wounds, eight died of disease, and one was killed in an accident. Of the Fairfax County men sent to France, the bodies of nineteen were later returned to the United States. Of those whose bodies were repatriated, twelve are now interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Two men remain interred in American Military Cemeteries in France.

The first to succumb was Clarence Dawson who died of disease at Camp Lee January 14, 1918. Pvt. Frank Cook also died of disease on September 28, 1918 while onboard the *U.S.S. Powhatan* enroute to France and his body was returned on the same transport ship.

The first battle causality was Stephen McGroarty, who died June 13, 1918 of wounds he received at Belleau Wood. The final causality was Robert Kendall who died April 17, 1919 in France as the result of an accident, just one month before he was scheduled to return home. In 1921, the names of four men from Fairfax County

In Flanders Fields²

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses; row on row
 That mark our places; while in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Unheard amid the guns,*

*We are the dead. Short days ago,
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunsets glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe
 To you from falling hands we throw
 The torch. Be yours to bear it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die,
 We shall not sleep, though poppies blow
 In Flanders fields.*



From the Desk of the President-

Winter 2018

It is hard for me to believe that George Mason University had its beginnings in Fairfax 60 years ago! In one way 1958 seems a long time ago, and yet I remember pretty well the small cluster of low lying buildings that appeared at the end of University Drive. Which came first – the buildings or University Drive? I do not remember that, but I know that what had begun as an extension of the University of Virginia moved to Fairfax after the Town of Fairfax purchased and donated 150 acres for the college's new site. I wish I knew more about the history of the school that has become the largest public research university in Virginia.

We all have an opportunity to learn much more about the beginnings and history of GMU at HFCI's Annual Meeting, which will be held May 2, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Old Town Hall (Upstairs). We will be enlightened by three fantastic speakers: Dr. Angel Cabrera, the President of the University; David Meyer, Mayor of the City of Fairfax; and Robert Vay the GMU Digital Collections and Exhibitions Archivist.

Please join me at this year's Annual Meeting to learn a bit about what Historic Fairfax City Inc. has been up to over the past year and to hear a fascinating presentation about the history of George Mason University. I look forward to seeing you there.

John A. C. Keith

Visit us on the web:
HFCI Website!

<http://www.historicfairfax.org>

At the Fairfax Museum and Historic Blenheim...

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center

The Fairfax Story - Hamill Gallery. Permanent Fairfax history exhibition.

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center "Second Sunday" Programs

Programs are held at **2 p.m.** on the second Sunday of each month. Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street. Free (unless noted). Check back to find out about additional programs planned throughout the year. Information: **703-385-8414**.

Sunday, March 11, 2 p.m. - CITY HALL 10455
Armstrong Street

"Women Back to the Future—Nevertheless She Persisted!"

A historical performance by Kate Campbell Stevenson portraying Bessie Coleman, African American aviator; Louise Arner Boyd, Arctic explorer, and Rachel Carson, scientist and conservationist. Stevenson will conclude the performance by highlighting contemporary women rolemodels in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Free. All ages are welcome. This special Women's History Month Program is sponsored by the Commission for Women and Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center.

Sunday, April 8, 2 p.m.

Program is not confirmed. Call 703-385-8414 after February 14 for an update.

Sunday, May 6, 2 p.m.

The General in the Garden: George Washington's Landscape at Mount Vernon

Adam Erby, Assistant Curator at Mount Vernon, will explore Washington's influence over the gardens at Mount Vernon and the preservation of the landscapes by the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Book signing and sale will follow the talk.

Sunday, June 10, 2 p.m.

“The Yanks are Coming (Eventually): Hearing America Change, 1914-1919”

Historical performer and music historian Michael Lasser will discuss songs from World War 1 and how the era’s popular music traced the changes in American attitudes toward the war.

Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

“Blenheim’s Civil War Soldier Signatures: A Diary on Walls”. Explores the local Fairfax Court House history and the experiences of soldiers who wrote on the walls of the Willcoxon home (Historic Blenheim.) The replica attic is a life-sized replica of the house attic that shows the clearest graffiti in the house.

Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center Program Series Programs are free and held at 2 p.m. on Saturdays (unless otherwise noted) at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Information: 703-591-0560.

Saturday, January 27, 2 p.m.

“Binding Wounds, Pushing Boundaries: African-Americans in Civil War Medicine.”

Jill Newmark, Exhibition Specialist of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health, will discuss the contributions of African-American medical personnel during the Civil War.

Saturday, February 24, 2 p.m.

“Music in the Life of President Lincoln”

“Music in the Life of President Lincoln” is a 40-minute video recording of a music program documenting Lincoln’s musical preferences and experiences. The film is interwoven with narration by WETA’s Robert Aubry Davis. Davis and Lincoln author Elizabeth Brownstein will discuss the program research and answer questions from the audience. Limited to 80 people.

Saturday, March 24, 2 p.m.

“Patrick & Me: A Family Saga of The Underground Railroad.”

Anthony Cohen, of the Menare Foundation and Button Hill Farm In Germantown, MD, will relate his tales of discovery and self-discovery from his two re-created travels on the Underground Railroad. Family research led him to Patrick, an ancestor who escaped from slavery on the Underground Railroad. His film, “Patrick and Me” will be released nationwide in 2019.

Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. * NEW EVENT *

Fairfax History Day-more information to follow soon.

Saturday, May 19, 2 p.m.

“Graffiti Symposium”

Speakers and topics include: Kim O’Connell, the history of Civil War Graffiti; Conservator Chris Mills, the technical side of graffiti conservation, and Conservator Kirsten Moffitt, graffiti investigation and conservation at Historic Blenheim. Sponsored by “The Northern Virginia Civil War Graffiti Trail.” Call 703-591-6728 for fee/registration

Saturday, June 23, 2 p.m.

“Midnight in America: Darkness, Sleep, and Dreams during the Civil War.”

Christopher Newport University Professor Jonathan W. White, PhD, will discuss how the horrors and rigors of war for both Union and Confederate soldiers penetrated their lives at night through sleeplessness and dreams.

Exhibition at Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House

Location: 10386 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22030
Open Saturdays from 11am-2pm May-October for free tours; or call 703.385.8414 for tour appointment.

“Dr. Kate Waller Barrett: Mother to Many” - Exhibition examines the life of this prominent social reformer

of the Progressive Era, who saved the early 19th-century Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House from *demolition in 1923*.

Volunteers and Docents are sought for the city's historic buildings: Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center and Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Additionally, volunteers may be interested in assisting with walking tours and special events. For information email Susan.Gray@fairfaxva.gov, or call **703-385-8415**.

Select historic buildings are open during city special events, including the Chocolate Lovers Festival, Civil War Weekend, Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival and Festival of Lights and Carols. To arrange group tours of city-owned historic buildings email Susan.Gray@fairfaxva.gov or call **703-385-8414**.

The city has published a free self-guided walking tour brochure that provides a brief history of the city and noteworthy buildings in the Old Town Fairfax Historic District. This brochure is available from the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, or call **703-385-8414**.

Endnotes (continued from page 33)

⁵⁶ Virginia Births and Christenings, 1684-1917.

⁵⁷ U.S.A.T.S., Incoming, Wheaton, 1920 Dec 15– 1920 Aug 7, N.A.R.A.

⁵⁸ *Fairfax Herald*, October 18, 1918, p. 2, c. 2.

⁵⁹ Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia, 1915, R.L. Polk & Co., Wash., D.C.

⁶⁰ Parsons, William B., *The American Engineers in France*, © 1922, D. Appleton & Co., New York, NY.

⁶¹ U.S.A.T.S., Incoming, Duca D'Aosta, 1918 Jun 30– 1918 Jul 11, N.A.R.A.

⁶² 54th Pioneer Infantry with the Army of Occupation, Third U.S. Army, © 1919, Germany.

⁶³ *Regimental Biography of the Twenty First Engineers, Light Railway*, © 1919, McConnell Printing Co., New York, NY

⁶⁴ U.S.A.T.S., Incoming, Wheaton, 1920 Dec 15– 1921 Aug 7, N.A.R.A.

⁶⁵ *Evening Star*, September 29, 1920, p. 7, c. 8.

⁶⁶ The "Automatic Replacement Drafts", devised by the War Department, were intended to furnish each month the equivalent of the estimated casualties for the following month.

⁶⁷ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Leviathan, 1918 Sep 29 – 1919 Aug 13, N.A.R.A.

⁶⁸ U.S.A.T.S., Incoming, Princess Matoika, 1920 Jun 2 - 1920 Aug 2, N.A.R.A.

⁶⁹ *Fairfax Herald*, August 24, 1918, p. 2, c. 3.

⁷⁰ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Susquehanna, 1918 Mar 30 – 1918 Nov 30, N.A.R.A.

⁷¹ Black, Lowell D., *The Negro Volunteer Militia National Guard, 1870-1954*, PhD Diss., Ohio State University, 1976, I.D. # 76-24, 563.

⁷² *Ibid* 71.

⁷³ Mason, Monroe and Furr, Arthur Franklin, *The American Negro Soldier with the Red Hand of France*, © 1920, Cornhill Co., Boston, MA.

⁷⁴ Barbeau, Arthur E. and Florette Henri, *The Unknown Soldiers: Black American Troops in World War I*, © 1974, Temple University Press, Philadelphia, PA.

⁷⁵ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Leviathan, 1918 May 22, N.A.R.A.

⁷⁶ Pennsylvania WWI Veterans Service and Compensation Files, 1917-1919 & 1934-1948, Morris Lucas.

⁷⁷ Fairfax County DB D-7, Pg. 577, October 9, 1909, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

⁷⁸ *Evening Star*, July 6, 1918, p. 1, c. 5.

⁷⁹ *Evening Star*, August 31, 1917, p. 14, c. 2.

⁸⁰ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, New York, 1918 July 22 – 1918 Nov 10, N.A.R.A.

⁸¹ Thomason, John W., *Fix Bayonets!* © 1927, C. Scribner & Sons, New York, NY

⁸² Mitchell, William A., *The Official History of the Second Regiment of Engineers and Second Engineer Train, United States Army in the World War*, © 1920, San Antonio Printing Co., San Antonio, TX.

⁸³ *Washington Times*, July 10, 1918, p. 8, c. 3 & 4.

⁸⁴ Death Certificate #9579, South Carolina Department of Archives and History; Columbia, SC.

⁸⁵ *Evening Star*, December 6, 1914, p. 10, c. 5.

⁸⁶ Death Certificate #009579, South Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Board of Health.

⁸⁷ *Fairfax Herald*, November 29, 1918, p. 3, c. 1.

⁸⁸ *Evening Star*, September 16, 1917, p. 17, c. 6.

⁸⁹ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Finland, 1917 Nov 26 – 1918 June 15, N.A.R.A.

⁹⁰ *Ibid* 43.

⁹¹ *Ibid* 43.

⁹² Virginia Military Organizations in the World War, v. V, © 1927, Virginia War History Commission, Richmond, VA.

⁹³ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Cantigny, 1921 Aug 1 – 1921 Sep 12, N.A.R.A.

⁹⁴ Report of the Chief of Engineers U.S. Army, 1919, part 1, U.S. Government Printing Office, Wash., D.C.

⁹⁵ *Washington Bee*, January 18, 1919, p. 5, c. 3.

⁹⁶ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Leviathan, 1917 Dec 15 - 1918 Mar 4, N.A.R.A.

⁹⁷ De Chardin, Pierre Teilhard, *The Making of a Mind, Letters From a Soldier Priest, 1914-1919*, Harper & Row, New York, NY.

⁹⁸ First Division Summary of Operations in the World War, © 1944, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

⁹⁹ U.S.A.T.S., Incoming, Cantigny, 1921 Oct 14 - 1921 Dec 7, N.A.R.A.

¹⁰⁰ A "casual" was an officer of soldier who was temporarily separated from his organization.

¹⁰¹ Death Certificate #104, Bureau of Vital Statistic, North Carolina State Board of Health.

¹⁰² U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Leviathan, 1918 May 22, N.A.R.A.

¹⁰³ History of the 318th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division, 1917-1919, William Byrd Press, Richmond, VA.

¹⁰⁴ *Fairfax Herald*, October 18, 1918, p. 3.

¹⁰⁵ Fairfax County Will Book, 15, Pg. 274, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

¹⁰⁶ *Washington Post*, September 22, 1918, p. 16, c. 7.

¹⁰⁷ *Washington Post*, September 22, 1918, p. 16, c. 7.

¹⁰⁸ *Washington Herald*, October 29, 1921, p. 14, c. 7.

¹⁰⁹ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, President Lincoln, 1918 Feb 9 – 1918 May 10, N.A.R.A.

¹¹⁰ A creeping barrage was an artillery battlefield tactic developed during WWI designed to place a curtain of artillery fire just ahead of advancing infantry. The barrage would constantly shift, or creep, forward directly ahead of attacking troops.

¹¹¹ Harper's Pictorial Library of the World War, Volume 5, © 1920, Harper & Brothers, New York, NY

¹¹² 3rd Division Summary of Operation in the World War, American Battle Monuments Commission, © 1944, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.

¹¹³ Fairfax County Will Book 13, Pg. 68, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

¹¹⁴ Death Certificate #24429, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, State of North Carolina.

¹¹⁵ Fairfax County Will Book 10, Pg. 504, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

¹¹⁶ Fairfax County Will Book 11, Pg. 323, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

¹¹⁷ U.S. Census 1910, Fairfax County, Virginia. Enumerated with Philip G. Shafer.

were inscribed on a bronze memorial plaque at Pohick Church, Alexandria, VA.¹ The plaque was dedicated by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1926, the Fairfax County chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a granite memorial on the lawn of the Fairfax County Courthouse to thirty men from Fairfax who perished during the war.

The marker was dedicated on June 26, 1926. The program was opened by Rev. William P. Marshall of Zion Episcopal Church and the Holy Comforter Church. Addresses were made by Frank Williams and Alfred Mickelson representing the American Legion. State Senator John W. Rust and Congressman R. Walton Moore also spoke. Music was provided by the U.S. Army Band from Fort Myer, VA.³

The courthouse marker does not include the name of John E. Reed, of McLean, Fairfax County who was a native of Baltimore, MD. The names of the men on the courthouse marker are, regrettably, segregated by race.

Unfortunately, the service records of nearly all of those who served in both World War I and II were destroyed by fire in 1973. What follows are the stories of each man from Fairfax based on other available sources.

Thomas Lemuel Brady, Sgt., Company B, 65th Engineers, Heavy Tank Section (i.e. Co. B, 301st Tank Corps.) Serial No. 1803370.

Tom was born June 6, 1890, Wellington, Prince William Co., VA. He was the son of Edward Thomas Brady and Ann *Alice* C. Mayhugh. In 1910, Thomas resided at Dranesville, Fairfax Co., VA, where he worked as a laborer in a saw mill.

Thomas registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a carpenter employed by Matthew Dickie in Fairfax Co. He resided at Great Falls, VA. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was recorded as tall and of slender build with grey eyes and brown hair.

Thomas Brady was inducted into the army on September 18, 1917 and was sent to Camp Lee, VA.

In February 1918, the War Department activated the 65th Engineers at Camp Meade, MD and authorized the formation of a Tank Service in the United States Army. A call went out for "high quality" volunteers who were of "daring and adventurous spirit...unafraid in any dilemma...cool calculating and willing to take the long chance."⁴

The original tank battalions were formed from the 65th Engineers, Heavy Tank and Light Tank Sections. In April 1918 these units became numbered battalions and were separated from the Engineers. The Tank Service was also re-designated the Tank Corps at the same time. A total of eight heavy battalions (the 301st to 308th) and 21 light



World War One Recruitment poster, c. 1917
Source: Library of Congress, Wash., D.C.



A Training Tank, c. 1917. The United States Tank Corps had no actual tanks to train with at Camp Meade. So they improvised. Source: Great War Postcards <http://greatwarpostcards.blogspot.com/2012/06/rustic-baby-tank.html#comment-form>

battalions (the 326th to 346th) were raised, but only the 301st, 331st, 344th and 345th saw combat.⁵

Thomas Brady initially trained at Camp Meade, MD under the direction of a young Captain Dwight D. Eisenhower. The training was primarily physical as the United States had no actual tanks. On March 28, 1918, the 65th Engineers departed New York Harbor, NY for Brest, France onboard the luxury steamship *R.M.S. Olympic*, sister ship of the *R.M.S. Titanic*, with 5,811 officers, enlisted men and civilians.⁶ The *Olympic* had been seized by the British Admiralty in 1915 and designated *H.M.T.* (Hired Military Transport) *Olympic*. The ship was used as a troop transport for the remainder of the war. After stopping at Brest, the *Olympic* sailed to Southampton, England. The 65th Engineers disembarked for Wareham, England where they received extensive basic training by the British Army.

In June 1918, the 65th Engineers, Heavy Tank Section were re-designated the 301st Tank Corps. In May, the men were moved to Bovington Camp, near Wool, Dorset, England to receive advanced training on the twenty-six foot British Mark V tank. A young soldier recalled the thrilling experience:

“...of pulling a monster out of a deep trench, nose pointing to the sky with the engine’s deafening roar, the acrid, never-to-be-forgotten smell of exploded gas, scorching oil and grease, and hot steel, the quick shutting down of the

throttle, the gentle swing to earth, and then triumphant roaring answer of the engine to the opening of the throttle and the more-the-merry clanking of the tank plates.”⁷

The 301st completed their training and deployed to France on August 23, 1918 attached to the British Expeditionary Forces. On August 30th they were issued British Mark V tanks and were attached to the British 4th Tank Brigade. On September 29th they participated in the Battle of St. Quentin Canal and suffered heavy casualties.⁸ Some tanks were destroyed by shellfire before advancing. Others were destroyed crossing a minefield.

The 301st then seized the village of Brancourt on October 8th. They fought in the Battle of the Selle on October 18th, and participated in a night attack in the vicinity of the Sambre Canal October 22nd – 23rd.⁹

During this time Thomas Brady wrote a letter home to his sister, Sadye, about his surroundings. A portion of the letter was published in the *Fairfax Herald* newspaper. He wrote:

“I have a dug out home underground with all modern conveniences, such as a fireplace, straw for a bed, a candle for light, and an old gas can with the side cut out for a wash basin.



Sgt. Thomas Brady in a letter to his sister described the destruction of a German bomber similar to the one above, an R.XIV, or *Riesenflugzeug* (“Giant Aircraft”) produced by Zeppelin-Staaken, c. 1918. Note the crew of “eight Germans” on the plane as indicated by Brady.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeppelin-Staaken_R.XIV



The 301st Battalion, Tank Corps were supplied with British Mark V tanks with "unditching beams" similar to the one above.

Photo source: <https://landships.activeboard.com/t63840250/aef-tanks/>

It is a great sight to see an aeroplane come down. They usually catch on fire as soon as they are struck, and of course come down in a hurry. A few nights ago one was brought down in this section with eight Germans in it besides a number of large bombs.¹⁰

This was once a beautiful place, but now is nothing but destruction; reminds me more of a large junk pile than anything I can think of.

Tell mother not to worry about me, for I am O.K., and truly, sis, this is the life."¹¹

Thomas Brady died of pneumonia on November 30, 1918.¹² His body was initially interred in the British Military Cemetery, Awoingt-Nord, France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Somme*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on June 23, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on July 5, 1921. The *Somme* carried 1,362 deceased officers and enlisted men. Thomas Brady was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on August 8, 1921 with full military honors. That same day the body of James F. Carper was also reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery.¹³

James Frederick Carper, Sgt., Company A, 23rd Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division. Serial No. 3165803.

James was b. April 3, 1893, Prospect Hill (McLean), Fairfax Co., VA, son of Philip Frederick Grant Carper (1855-1933) and Roberta Virginia *Jenny* Carper (1865-1949)

James Carper was a graduate of Strayer Business College in Washington, D.C.¹⁴

James Carper registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed by his father the owner of a dairy farm in McLean, VA. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was recorded as tall and of medium build with blue eyes and black hair.

James was inducted into the army on May 24, 1918 and likely sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA. He trained with 10th Co., 2nd Provisional Infantry. On July 18, 1918, he departed Newport News, VA onboard the *U.S.A.T. Pastores*, with 1,735 officers and enlisted men. As a provisional, or replacement soldier, James was assigned to Co A, 23rd Inf. Regt., 2nd Inf. Div. after arriving in France.

James participated in the St. Mihiel Offensive which began on September 12, 1918. At 5:00 a.m. on September 12, 1918, the 23rd Infantry, 2nd Division began a coordinated attack north from the village of Limey, France. Under a creeping artillery barrage, the men advanced into *no man's land* toward the village of Thiaucourt. They captured a large stockpile of supplies and significant numbers of German prisoners in the Bois d'Heiche (Heiche Woods) to the right of the Limey-Thiaucourt Road. Pressing the attack at about 3:00 p.m. they captured the village of Thiaucourt with only slight casualties. Thiaucourt was the first French village captured by troops of the American 2nd Division. The French citizens, who had been under German occupation for four years were overjoyed at the arrival of the Americans.

The 23rd Infantry then passed through Thiaucourt and took up defensive positions just beyond the village to the northeast.

Lt. James Adams recalled:

"The people of this town had been prisoners of the Germans since the early days of the Great War. Their sudden and unexpected release from captivity gave them cause for jubilation."¹⁵



"A Thiaucourt: troupes Americaines traversant le Rupt-de-Mad." At Thiaucourt: American troops crossing the Rivière Rupt-de-Mad, September 12, 1918. Note the relatively good conditions of the buildings in the background indicating the German counterattack, which destroyed Thiaucourt, had not yet started. *Rivière du Rupt-de-Mad* translates to Broken or Ragged River. Photo source: *L'Illustration*, Issue 76, No. 3942, September 18, 1918.



Thiaucourt, France under German artillery attack after being liberated by the American 2nd Infantry Division, September 13, 1918. Source: *A History of the Three Hundred Tenth Infantry, Seventy-eighth Division, U. S. A., 1917-1919*, c. 1919. Photo credit: U.S. Army Signal Corps.

When the Americans entered the Thiaucourt there was relatively little damage caused by their own artillery. However, the retreating Germans immediately began to shell the town with high explosive and gas artillery. Over the course of several days the town was set on fire and virtually destroyed by German artillery.

“The 23rd Infantry was about 1000 yards behind the Army line and was subjected to heavy direct artillery fire.”¹⁶

James Carper was killed in action near Thiaucourt on September 13, 1918, presumably by shell fire. The majority of the casualties of the 23rd Infantry also occurred on September 13th, likely from shellfire.

When the news of the engagement reached Fairfax it was reported that Fred was simply missing in action.¹⁷ Sadly, he was not.

James was initially buried in the American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France. His body was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Wheaton*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on June 19, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on July 2, 1921. The *Wheaton* carried the remains of 5,827 officers and enlisted personnel. James was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 18, Grave 3262, on August 8, 1921 with full military honors. That same day the body of Thomas L. Brady was also reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery.



Stone bridge over the Rivière du Rupt-de-Mad, Thiaucourt after the American occupation. Note the destruction caused by German artillery. As of 2018 this bridge still standing.

Source: A History of the Three Hundred Tenth Infantry, c. 1919.

Charles Henry Conic Pvt., Company H, 808th Pioneer Infantry, United States Army. Serial No. 4015422.

Charles was b. September 1, 1894, in Virginia, son of William Henry Conic (1869-1943) and Carrie Lee Hunter (1876-1956). He married Helen E. Weaver (1894-1969), dau. of George and Annie (Brown) Weaver, December 3, 1914, in Washington, D.C.

Charles registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed by Stephen R. Donohoe, Editor of the *Fairfax Herald* newspaper. He further stated he was married and negro. His physical description was recorded as tall and of medium build with brown eyes and black hair. He claimed exemption on account of support of his wife. The exemption was disallowed.

Charles was inducted into the army on July 29, 1918 and was sent to Camp Meade, MD for training.¹⁸ He departed Hoboken, NJ August 31, 1918 onboard the *U.S.A.T. Leviathan* with 8,478 officers and enlisted men for France, arriving at Brest, September 7, 1918.¹⁹

The following account has been written of the 808th Pioneer Infantry:

“These men were called to help the 12th Engineers in the construction of a narrow gauge railway at the front. As they worked, shot and shell rained over them. In their dugouts they were tortured by rats and ‘cooties.’ Small wonder that an officer who had observed it all should have remarked: “We cannot understand their make-up, for under hardest conditions they hold themselves together and are able to raise a song. ‘It seems after all that only black folk can interpret the ‘Souls of Black Folk.’”²⁰

A black soldier of the 813th Pioneer Infantry wrote of his experience:

“We endured all the hardships of the front but missed the thing we wanted most some real whacks at the enemy.”²¹



African-American Stevedore Battalion, on board the "S.S. Momus", at sea, June 20, 1917, enroute to Saint Nazaire, France. This Stevedore Battalion, composed of 185 Stevedore's, Laborers and Dockmen, left New York Harbor on June 17, 1917 under the command of Captain George Luberoff, Quartermaster Reserve Corps. They were among the American troops sent to France.

Photo credit U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Photo source: Library of Congress.

Charles Conic died of disease on October 31, 1918. He was initially buried in the America Cemetery, Nantes, Departement de la Loire-Atlantique, Pays de la Loire, France. His body was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Sherman*, which sailed from St. Nazaire, France on August 31, 1920 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on September 11, 1920. The Sherman carried 492 civilian, military and deceased military passengers.²² Conic was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Of the 240,000 African Americans that served in the American Expeditionary Force, approximately 180,000, or 75 percent, served in labor battalions, pioneer battalions, stevedore battalions, butchery companies.²³ They were among the very first American troops to arrive in France in June 1917.

These noncombatant soldiers laid the foundation for everything the A.E.F accomplished in World War I. They were responsible for the loading and unloading of cargo ships and the supplies of everything used by the army in the field. They built roads, laid railroad tracks, constructed barracks, ammunition dumps and warehouses. They built piers, dug trenches, filled in trenches. They served as barbers, cooks, and hostlers – feeding and caring for millions of men and thousands of horses and mules. They salvaged all materials from the theater of war, including unexploded artillery shells and bombs. They had the gruesome task of burying the bloated, decomposing and often mutilated bodies of allied and enemy soldiers killed in action. Without them the war, quite literally, could not have been won.

Frank Cook, Pvt., Company B, 330th Labor Battalion, Quartermaster Corps. Serial No. 4075139.

Frank was born June 24, 1887, Fairfax Co., VA, son of John Henry Cook (1835-????) and Mary Jane Stafford (1855-????).²⁴ In 1910, Frank resided in Clifton Station, Fairfax, VA. His occupation was listed as a laborer on a railway track.

Frank registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed as a laborer on his own account. He further stated he was single and negro. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and build with black eyes and black hair.

Frank was inducted into the army on July 31, 1918 and was likely sent to Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, SC. On September 15, 1918, he departed Hoboken, NJ onboard the *U.S.S. Powhatan*, with 2,509 officers and enlisted men for France.²⁵ He died of disease September 28, 1918. His body was returned to the United States onboard *U.S.S. Powhatan*. The *Powhatan* arrived at Newport News, VA on October 16, 1918 with 10 dead, and 104 sick enlisted men.²⁶ His older sister, Anna Cook, was identified on the manifest as his next-of-kin. *Annie* Cook was Frank Cook's oldest sister, born July 17, 1870. She died August 22, 1966 after falling down a flight of stairs. She is buried in Bethel Cemetery, Alexandria, VA²⁷

Frank Cook's burial location is unknown.

Clarence Millican Dawson, Pvt., Company A, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division. Serial No. not found.

Clarence was born April 20, 1892, Fairfax Co., VA, son of James L. Dawson (1854-????) and Roberta L. Dawson (1866-????) They resided in Lorton, VA.

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed as a section hand on the railroad at Lorton, VA. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and build with blue eyes and blonde hair.

Clarence was inducted into the army on September 18, 1917 and sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA for training.

He died of pneumonia on January 14, 1918 at the Camp Lee Hospital.²⁸ He is buried in Cranford United Methodist Church Cemetery, Lorton, VA.

William Isaac Deardorff, Wagoner, Battery A, 315th Field Artillery Regiment, 155th Brigade, 80th Division. Serial No. 1,835,989.

William was born March 18, 1896 in Dover, OH. He was the son of George Albert Deardorff (1871-1958) and Iva. Jane Mitchell (1869-1950).

In 1910, the Deardorff family was residing in Washington, D.C. By 1917 they were living in Fairfax County.

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a



William Isaac Deardorff, Wagoner, Battery A, 315th Field Artillery, 155th Brigade, 80th Division, A.E.F. Mortally wounded in action, October 6, 1918, Montfaucon, France.



“Regimental Street at Camp Lee” of the 313th Field Artillery.
Photo Source: A History of the 313th Field Artillery © 1920.

preparatory student for the Lutheran ministry at Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College, Gettysburg, PA. He resided at Occoquan, VA. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was recorded as tall and of medium build with light brown eyes and dark brown hair. He claimed exemption “on grounds of weak eyes.” The exemption was disallowed.

William was inducted into the army on November 6, 1917 and sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA for training. On May 26, 1918, he departed Norfolk, VA on board the *U.S.A.C.T. Tenadores* with 1,247 officers and enlisted men for France.²⁹

The 80th Division attacked and captured the Bois de Ogons on the evening of October 6, 1918. For several days they attempted to capture the Madeleine Farm. The 315th Field Artillery supported this action with artillery from high ground near Montfaucon. They were subjected to German counterfire. William Deardorff was mortally wounded, likely by shell fire, in this action on October 6, 1918.

On the day William was wounded 1st Lt. John Lee McElroy of Battery B, 315th Field Artillery recorded the following in his diary:

“Sunday, October 6 – Things always happen on Sunday. We were shelled badly all day with three casualties. ...I have been keeping everybody possible under cover, but about thirty

of us had to walk around in the open as usual. My overcoat and stretchers are very much bloodied up. Gerry has been using both 77's and 150's on us. No guns damaged yet, but we were, and are constantly showered with dirt and mud thrown up by bursting shells.”³⁰

“The Second Battalion has some sort of Spanish Influenza, so we are not allowed to associate with them.”³¹

After being wounded, William Deardorff was transported by ambulance train to Base Hospital No. 116 in Bazoilles-Sur-Meuse, Vosges, France where he died as a result of his wounds on October 25th. Base Hospital No. 116 was a “Special Hospital” established for “fractures.”³²

After his death William's body was interred in the temporary American Cemetery (No. 6), Bazoilles, Vosges, France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Wheaton*, which sailed from Cherbourg, France on May 1, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on May 18, 1921. The *Wheaton* carried the remains of 2,794 officers and enlisted personnel. William was reinterred at Pohick Episcopal Church Cemetery, June 4, 1921.³³

Howard Lee Derr, Served in the regular U.S. Army for ten months on the Texas-Mexican border.³⁴ Serial No. not found.

Howard was born July 16, 1896 in Chicago, IL. He was the son of Harry B. Derr (1867-1953) and Isabella Lee (1868-1937).

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he worked for his father. He resided at Fairfax, VA. His physical description was recorded as tall and of stout build with hazel eyes and light hair.

In November 1917 Howard was reported to be recovering from an operation in an army hospital in Texas.³⁵

Howard was inducted into the army on July 22, 1918, but was medically discharged on August 10, 1918 and sent home. The *Fairfax Herald* reported:

'Mr. Derr has made three attempts to enter the army. If necessary he intends to go to Canada and join the army there.' ³⁶

Howard Derr died October 3, 1918, in St. Anthony's Sanitarium, Amarillo, Potter Co., TX, of pneumonia, brought on by Influenza. His occupation was listed as Demonstrator, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.³⁷ He is buried in the City of Fairfax Cemetery.

Percy Jennings³⁸ Dove PFC, Company L, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. Serial No. 1289596.

Percy was b. 1900 in Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of George W. Dove (1865-1925) and Rosetta Grimsly (1869-1961). They resided at Accotink, VA.

Percy enlisted in the 116th Infantry Regiment on July 25, 1917. The 116th Regiment was part of the 29th Infantry Division, which called itself the Blue and Gray Division, because their ranks were composed of Delaware and New Jersey National Guardsmen and Virginia and Maryland guard units. New Jersey and Delaware were part of the Union (i.e. Blue) during the Civil War, while Virginia and parts of Maryland were part of the Confederacy (i.e. Gray).

In the fall of 1917, the 116th was sent to Camp McClellan in Anniston, Alabama for eight months of intensive infantry training. On June 15, 1918, they departed Hoboken, NJ on board the *U.S.A.T. Finland* with 3,527 officers and enlisted men for St. Nazaire, France, arriving there on June 27th.³⁹ Also onboard the *Finland* was Fairfax native John R. Mitchell, Co. A, 116th Infantry. The *Finland*, was part of a twelve ship convoy that included the *U.S.A.T. George Washington* carrying Fairfax County native Willie R. Fairfax.

The 116th Regiment was initially sent to Haute-Marne Sector in France in July 1918. In September they moved to Samogneux, east of the Meuse River. From here the regiment fought in the Meuse-Argonne offensive their only major engagement of the war. On October 8, 1918 they went *over the top*⁴⁰ at Samogneux and attacked the



PFC Percy Jennings Dove, Co. L, 116th Inf., 29th Div., U.S.A. Percy, a resident of Accotink, Fairfax Co., VA, was killed-in-action on October 27, 1918 in the Bois d'Etrayes, Molleville, Consenvoye, France.

Photo courtesy: Deborah Edwards Demaree

German positions to the northeast near the Molleville Farm and on the heights of the Bois d'Etrayes.

The Germans were waiting and slowed the American advance with concentrated machine gun fire and artillery. That morning at Malbrouck Hill north of Samogneux, Percy Dove participated in a bayonet charge. Captain Ewart Johnson, led the company ("L") in a charge against the flank of an enemy strong point. An enemy battalion commander, his staff, along with over 200 other prisoners, and several machine guns were captured.⁴¹

One source estimated that over the course of ten days the Germans used 12,000 blue, green and yellow cross (i.e. diphenylchloroarsine, phosgene, and mustard gas) artillery



German machine gun nest at Molleville Farm, October 1918. The body of a dead American infantryman is blocking one of the firing ports. Source: History of the 315th U.S. Infantry, © 1920.

shells in a desperate attempt to thwart the attack, resulting in “an almost constant presence of gas in many ravines and selected places in the woods.”⁴²

Captain Ewart Johnston, Co. L, 116th Infantry, of Clarke County, Virginia, confirmed this in his report of operations:

“The enemy was shelling our position heavily and using a lot of gas....”⁴³

By October 16th the 116th regiment had fought its way to the Molleville Farm and Molleville Ravine. The Molleville Farm stood in the center of a clearing and at the bottom of a ravine or small valley. It was surrounded by dense woods occupied by hidden German machine gun nests. The American soldiers christened the farm *Death Valley*. The 116th regiment established a line, roughly north-south, through the farm facing the heavily defended Bois d’Etrayes. For the next several days the men held their line against enemy counterattacks.

The concentration of enemy machine guns around the Molleville Farm within the Bois d’Etrayes was formidable, but the Americans had learned from experience:

“It was found that frequently machine guns could be captured by a sudden rush just after a

long burst of fire, while the belts were being changed.”⁴⁴

On October 23rd the regiment was ordered to take the ridge in the Bois d’Etrayes. Specifically, their objective was the Pylone Observatory on Hill 361 and the high point in the Bois d’Etrayes (Woods of Etrayes) from which the Germans had a clear view of the allied front. The regiment gained the ridge that evening with heavy casualties. Fighting continued for a week as the Germans counterattacked and infiltrated the American lines in the thick woods raising havoc with the exhausted troops. At the end of the fighting some 60 German machine guns had been captured.

Percy Dove was killed in action here on October 27, 1918.

The Operations Report, Fourth Platoon, Co. L, 116th Inf. states:

“Oct. 24 – Moved in behind B Co., where we stayed until night and then went up on the line, relieving E and F Cos., which position we held until night of Oct. 27th. During the day we lost one man killed, three wounded by artillery. We were relieved by the 115th Infantry. – Sgt. John T. Creegan.[of 211 S. Royal St., Alexandria, Virginia]^{45,46}

Percy was initially buried in the American Cemetery Romagne-sous Montaucon-Meuse, France. He was later



Pylone Observation Tower, Hill 361, Bois d’Etrayes, October 1918. Source: History of the Twenty-Ninth Division, 1917-1919, © 1921

disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Cantigny*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on September 1, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on September 12, 1921. The *Cantigny* carried the remains of a total of 1,199 officers and enlisted personnel. Percy was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 18, Grave 3591, on September 29, 1921 with full military honors.

Percy was one of the few soldiers from Fairfax County who died during World War I who had a child. Percy was married to Ruth Mildred Terry (1899-1934) of Dallas, Texas in July 1917.⁴⁷ They had one daughter, Rosa Lee Dove b. April 14, 1918.⁴⁸

Percy's widow, Ruth M. Dove was remarried to Edmund T. Allen (1896-1986), December 20, 1920 at Pohick Church.⁴⁹ They are both buried at Pohick Church. Percy's daughter, Rose Lee Dove, married James Angelo DiSalvo (1916-1985) on June 3, 1935, Hyattsville, MD. They were divorced January 10, 1963. She died April 3, 1985 and is buried in Calverton National Cemetery, Suffolk, New York. They had a daughter, Barbara, born in 1938.

George Bryant Dyer, Corp., Company F, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division. Serial No. 1821446.

George was born November 19, 1895. He was the only son of John Asa Dyer (1872-1954) and Minnie Bryant (1866-1949).

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed as a powder factory attendant for the U.S. Government at Indian Head, MD. He resided at Vienna, VA. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was recorded as tall and of slender build with brown eyes and dark hair. George claimed exemption as a Navy Yard employee. The exemption was denied.⁵⁰

George was inducted into the army on November 6, 1917 and sent to training at Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA. He was promoted to Corporal shortly thereafter. On May 22, 1918, he departed Hoboken, NJ onboard the *U.S.A.T.*



Corporal George Brent Dyer, c. 1918.

Source: *Evening Star*, December 3, 1918, p. 15, c. 1.

Leviathan with 10,583 officers, enlisted men and nurses for Brest, France.⁵¹

“On October 5th... Shortly after dawn another attack was launched under cover of a heavy artillery concentration on the Ferme de la Madeleine and the entrenched position north of the Bois de Ogons. This attack was to be supported by tank, which, however, found it impossible to go forward in the face of the heavy hostile fire.”⁵²

Today the area around the Ferme de la Madeleine (Madeleine Farm) and the Bois de Ogons (Ogons Wood) is pastoral and serene. It is difficult to imagine the men of the



Ferme de la Madeleine, October 1918

Photo credit: History of the 315th Field Artillery, c. 1922

Ferme de la Madeleine, 2018

Photo credit: Google Earth

2nd Battalion, 318th Infantry advancing over open ground to Bois de Ogons, the *no man's land*,⁵³ between the village of Nantillois and the Madeleine Farm. Pushing their way forward, through knee-deep mud and a veritable rain of high explosive artillery shells, they advanced directly into the face of German machine gunners positioned in the woods ahead.

At some point in this engagement, George Dyer, age 23, was killed in action along with his entire machine gun squad. In the aftermath the Madeleine Farm was destroyed. The ground in front for a mile was littered with shell holes, burned out Renault tanks, blankets, helmets, caps, bayonets, rifles, cartridge belts, mess kits, canteens, trench spades, boots, parts of clothing, and, of course, bodies.

George was initially buried in the American Cemetery Romagne-sous Montaucon-Meuse, France less than a mile-and-a-half from the Madeleine Farm. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the

U.S.A.T. Wheaton, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on August 6, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ August 20, 1921. The *Wheaton* carried the remains of a total of 5,759 officers and enlisted personnel.⁵⁴ George was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 18, Grave 3591, on September 29, 1921 with full military honors.

George's parents were notified by the War Department six weeks after he was killed.

"The last letter received from him stated that he was in command of a machine gun squad, and that his regiment was then engaged in the region of the Argonne forest. From reports received from members of his regiment who survived it is believed that his entire squad, with two others, was destroyed in the engagement in which he met his death."⁵⁵

The Dyer-Gunnell Post # 180 of the American Legion



Destroyed French Renault tank used in the Battle of Madeline Farm, October 1918.

Source: History of the 315th Infantry Regiment.

Ruin of the Madeline Farm, October 1918.

Source: History of the 315th Infantry Regiment.

in Vienna, Fairfax County, is named in honor of George Brent Dyer and Clarence Leith Gunnell.

William “Willie” Randolph Fairfax, Pvt., Company F, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. Serial No. 1285123.

Willie was born June 24, 1893 at Farr P.O., Fairfax Co., VA, son of John Henry Fairfax (1873-1947) and Mary Alice Reid (1867-1950).⁵⁶

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board in June 1917. In his draft registration he stated was a laborer in a stave mill at Catlett, VA. He resided at Swetnam, VA. He further stated that he was single and caucasian and that he had previously served 5 months of military service as a PFC in Co. F, 1st Maryland National Guard. His physical description was recorded as tall and of slender build with brown eyes and dark brown hair. During his service with the Maryland Guard he received the Order of St. Sava (Serbian).

The 1st Maryland National Guard was called into service in June 1916 and saw duty at and Wind Mill Ranch, Texas, forty miles south of Eagle Pass following Pancho Villa’s attack on Columbus, NM in March 1916. They were mustered out of service in November 1916.

Willie volunteered and was sent to basic training at Camp McClellan in Anniston, AL. The 1st Maryland Infantry, to which he was assigned, was subsequently consolidated with other Maryland guard regiments to form the 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division.

On June 15, 1918, he departed Hoboken, NJ on board the *U.S.A.T. George Washington* with 5,373 officers, enlisted men for France. The *George Washington*, was part of a twelve ship convoy that included the *U.S.A.T. Finland* carrying Fairfax native Percy Jennings Dove.

Willie died of pandemic influenza (aka Spanish Flu) on October 1, 1918.

Willie was initially buried in the American Cemetery Romagne-sous Montaucon-Meuse, France less than a mile-and-a-half from the Madeleine Farm. He was later

disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Wheaton*, which sailed from Cherbourg, France on May 1, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ. The *Wheaton* carried the remains of a total of 2,794 officers and enlisted personnel.⁵⁷ Willie was reinterred in the family plot in the Lacy/Fairfax Cemetery, Fairfax Station, VA.

Corliss Montgomery Fox, Pvt., Company K, 18th Battalion, Infantry Recruitment & Training Center.

Corliss was born September 11, 1890 at Vale, Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of George Montgomery Fox (1856-1933) and Sarah Frances *Fanny* Taylor (1854-1921).

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a farmer for himself and his father. He resided at Vale, Fairfax Co., VA. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and build with blue eyes and light hair.

Corliss, “being a farmer, was not called until after the harvest...”⁵⁸ was inducted into the army on August 6, 1918. He was sent to basic training at Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA. He died September 29, 1918 at the Camp Lee Base Hospital of pneumonia brought on by the pandemic influenza. He is buried at Andrew Chapel Cemetery, Vienna, VA.

Clarence Leith Gunnell, Pvt., Company D, 54th Pioneer Infantry Regiment. Serial No. 3353698.

Clarence was born June 24, 1892 at Vienna, Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of John Henry Gunnell (1858-1923) and Annie Rebecca Wiley (1861-1939).

In 1915, Clarence was residing at 802 11th St., NW, Washington, D.C. He was employed as a waiter.⁵⁹

He registered with the Philadelphia Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated worked in the Lunch Room of “Mrs. Lenning.” He resided at 628 Otis St., NW, Washington, DC. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was recorded as 5’ 5” tall and of medium build with gray eyes and brown hair.

Rather than wait to be drafted, Clarence enlisted with the 54th Pioneer Infantry. According to a regimental history Pioneers were:

“...armed, and drilled as infantry, and equipped and trained to fight in an emergency, they were intended primarily to act as assisting forces to other arms... and were used chiefly in constructing railways and roads in the advanced area.”⁶⁰

Clarence was sent to Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, SC for training. Most of the men from this regiment were from Minnesota or Philadelphia. He was one of only ten men in the regiment from Virginia and the only man in his company from his native state.

On August 30, 1918, he departed Newport News, VA on board the *U.S.A.T. Duca D'Aosta*, an Italian ocean liner chartered as a troop transport, with 2,028 officers, enlisted men for Brest, France arriving September 12, 1918.⁶¹

On September 25, 1918, the 54th Pioneer Infantry left Fleury Woods at 1:00 a.m. and marched 12 miles to Clermont Woods, arriving there at 5:30 a.m. They were now well within the fighting zone. Near Varennes while repairing the road damaged by a mine the regiment worked under a German artillery barrage and were bombed and strafed by German “aeroplanes.”

On September 26th Company “D” and “M” were ordered to Aubreville to assist the 14th and 21st U.S. Engineers in extending the light railway lines toward the front. Camp was established near Parios. The remainder of the 54th left Clermont Woods at noon and marched 8 miles to Boureville, arriving there at 4:00 p.m.⁶²

Clarence's company, “D”, was detached and sent north of Aubreville to assist the 21st U.S. Engineers in establishing and repairing light railway connections with the damaged French and German lines from Dombasle through Cheppy, France⁶³

Clarence Gunnell was mortally wounded in action

near Boureilles, France. He was transported to the Base Hospital at Mesves, Nievre, France, where he died on September 29, 1918.

He was initially buried in the American Cemetery, Mesves, Nievre, France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Wheaton*, which sailed from St. Nazaire, France on November 22, 1920 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on December 15, 1920. The *Wheaton* carried the remains of a total of 2,468 officers and enlisted personnel.⁶⁴ Clarence was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 18, Grave 780, on January 14, 1921 with full military honors.

In 1920, his family published a loving tribute in the *Evening Star* newspaper:

“In sad but loving remembrance of our dear son and brother, Private Clarence Leith Gunnell, who was wounded and died in the hospital in France two years ago today, September 29, 1918
The loss is bitter, the pain severe,
To part with one loved so dear;
The trial is hard, we will not complain
But trust in God, to meet again.
His devoted parents, sisters and brothers.”⁶⁵

The Dyer-Gunnell Post # 180 of the American Legion in Vienna, Fairfax County, is named in honor of Clarence Leith Gunnell and George Brent Dyer.

Caleb Walton Hall “Walton”, Pvt., Battery C, 28th Field Artillery, 10th Infantry Division.

Walton was born January 7, 1892 in Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of John Quincy Hall (1851-1921) and Emeline Hall (1856-1945).

He registered with the St. Louis, Missouri Draft Board in June 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a laborer for the Curtis Manufacturing Co. which built saw blades, pneumatic tools and machinery. He resided at 4120 Blaine Avenue, St. Louis, MO. He further stated that he was single and caucasian. His physical description was

recorded as short in height and slender with blue eyes and dark brown hair and slightly bald.

He was sent to basic training at Camp Funston on the Fort Riley Military Reservation, Kansas. He died there September 29, 1918 of pandemic influenza (aka Spanish Flu). The origins of the Spanish Flu are unknown, however, some of the first cases of Spanish Flu were reported from Camp Funston.

The 28th Field Artillery was never sent to France and consequently never saw combat in World War I.

He is buried at Sydentricker Methodist Cemetery, Vienna, VA.

John W. Harris, Pvt., Camp Hancock, September Automatic Replacement Draft (S.A.R.D.),⁶⁶ Co. #1, Infantry (Colored). Serial No. 407844.

John was born September 10, 1881 in North Carolina. He was the son of James C. Harris (1846-aft. 1930) and Alice V. Pope (1859-1923) of China Grove, North Carolina. His occupation in 1910 was listed as laborer at odd jobs. He resided at 1323 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA.

He registered with the Alexandria County Draft Board on September 10, 1918. In his draft registration he stated he was a laborer in Alexandria, VA. He resided at 1323 Queen Street. He further stated that he was single and negro. His physical description was recorded as short in height and slender with black eyes and black hair.

John was sent to Camp Hancock, Augusta, GA for infantry training. He departed Hoboken, NJ on September 29, 1918 onboard the *U.S.A.T. Leviathan* with 9,326 officers and enlisted men from France. He listed as his next of kin "Thomas Robinson, Uncle, RFD #3, Fairfax Court House, VA."⁶⁷

John died of disease October 7, 1918. He was initially buried in France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Princess Matoika*, which sailed from Brest, France on June 20, 1920 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ, June 29, 1920. The *Princess*

Matoika carried the remains of a total of 837 officers and enlisted personnel. John's next of kin was his uncle, "Thomas Robinson, Clifton Station, Fairfax County, VA."⁶⁸

John Cook's burial location is unknown. His mother, Alice Harris, is known to be interred in Landis, NC.

Harry W. Hatcher, Pvt., Company E., 372nd Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division. Serial No. 2464428.

Harry was born April 24, 1893 at Waterfall, Loudoun Co., VA, the eldest son of George Franklin (1869-1940) and Mary Ann (Napper) Hatcher (1873-1972). He married Bertha Roy (1897-1970), daughter of James and Harriett (Wanzer) Roy of Arlington Co., VA, on March 3, 1915 in Washington, D.C.

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a laborer at Potomac Yards in Alexandria, VA. He resided at the Theological Seminary, Fairfax County. He further stated that he was married and that his race was African. His physical description was recorded as tall and of medium build with brown eyes and black hair. Harry Claimed exemption because he had a wife to support. His exemption claim was disallowed.⁶⁹

Harry was inducted into the army on October 26, 1917 and sent to Camp Stewart, Newport News, VA for



French steel *Adrian* helmet worn by African-American soldiers of the U.S. 371st and 372nd Infantry. A.E.F. World War I, c. 1918. Source: Bertrand-Malvaux, Antiquaire Expert, France.

training. He departed Newport News, VA on March 30, 1918 onboard the *U.S.A.T. Susquehana* with 2,199 officers, enlisted men arriving in St. Nazaire, France on April 14th.⁷⁰

Harry was a member of the all-black 93rd Infantry Division, one of only two such Division's which were deployed to France, the other being the 92nd Infantry Division. Harry was one of a small percentage of African-American combat soldiers. Approximately 200,000 African-Americans served in the American Expeditionary Force, however, only about 40,000, or 20 percent, participated in direct combat.

The 372nd Infantry Regiment was composed of all-black National Guard units from Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, Tennessee and Washington, D.C.

The men were sent to Camp Stuart in Newport News, VA in January 1918. The 372nd ("Bloody Red Hands") Infantry was combined with the 369th ("Harlem Hellraisers"), 370st ("Black Devils") and 371th Regiments to form the Provisional 93rd Infantry Division.

After arriving in France, the men of the 93rd Division worked as stevedores unloading ships at Montoir, France until the end of April. After which were sent by train to Conde-en-Barrois, Meuse where they spent a month training under the direction of French officers. After a month of intensive training, the men of 93rd Division were placed under the command of the 157th French Division (aka Red Hand or Bloody Red Hand Division). As the United States Army was officially segregated all African-American combat units had to fight with the French. The men exchanged their American equipment and were issued French equipment including the distinctive Blue *Adrian* helmet worn by the French. Fighting with the French, they participated in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, the final decisive offensive of the war.

In July, Colonel Herschel Tupes assumed command of the 372nd and began to purge the remaining African American officers from the ranks. In a letter to General Pershing he wrote "racial distinctions which are recognized in civilian life continue to be recognized in the military life

and present a formidable barrier to that feeling of comradeship which is essential to mutual confidence and esprit de corps."⁷¹

In spite of overt discrimination the men of the 372nd were happy to be in France. As one soldier recalled: "We were proud that the 372nd did not suffer the fate of most of the other Negro units in France. We did not come overseas to unload supplies or clean barracks. We were trained infantrymen - nothing else - and we conducted ourselves like soldiers."⁷²

On October 2, 1918 the 372nd Infantry attacked the direction of Monthois, an important German railhead and supply base. The regiment crossed the Sechault-Monthois Road and established offensive positions one half mile of



Monument to the 372nd Infantry Regiment, Monthois, France.

Source: American Legion website <https://www.legion.org/memorials/237065/372nd-us-infantry-memorial>

the village. By October 3rd Monthois was partly surrounded. German counterattacks and resistance were strong as they sought to withdraw the bulk of their supplies. They entered Monthois but were driven out by German counterattacks. The fighting around Monthois was fierce and often hand-to-hand. The 372nd remained in position outside Monthois until relieved on October 8, 1918.⁷³ For their action the regiment earned the Croix de Guerre, the highest honor afforded by the French Army. In addition, 173 officers and men earned individual Croix de Guerre or Distinguished Service Crosses.⁷⁴

Harry Hatcher was mortally wounded in action during this engagement. He died on October 8, 1918. He is the only African-American soldier from Fairfax County to have been killed in combat.

He is interred in the American Cemetery, (aka Meuse-Argonne Cemetery), Romagne-sous Montaucon-Meuse, France, (Plot A, Row 27, Grave 10).

Robert N. Kendall, Pvt., Company E, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division. Serial No. 1821271.

Robert was born January 26, 1895 in Fauquier Co., VA. He was the son of Amos Fenton Kendall (1854-1929) and Martha Jane *Mattie* Gordon (1847-1935).

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was engaged in farming for Lehman H. Young, Sr. at Fairfax Court House. He indicated his residence was Herndon, Fairfax Co., VA. He further stated that he was single and that his race was caucasian. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and stout build with blue eyes and brown hair.

Robert was inducted into the army on September 4, 1917 and sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA for training. On May 22, 1918, he departed Hoboken, NJ onboard the *U.S.A.T. Leviathan* with 10,583 officers, enlisted men and nurses for Brest, France. His next of kin listed was his mother, Martha Rodgers, of Herndon, VA.⁷⁵

Robert survived the war but died as the result of an

accident in France on April 17, 1919, just one month before he was scheduled to return home. He is interred at Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial, Seringes-et-Nesles, France.

Morris Lucas, Pvt., Company L, 368th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division. Serial No. unknown.

Morris was born December 25, 1894 in Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of David Lucas (1846-1920) and Lucy A. Welford (1857-1944). They resided at 918 Pendleton St., Alexandria, VA in 1910.

He registered with the Dauphin County (PA) Draft Board in June 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a laborer for in the Bethlehem Steel Co. at Steelton, PA. He indicated his residence was 141 Adams St., Steelton, PA (one block across the railroad tracks from the steel mill.) He further stated that he was single and that his race was negro. His physical description was recorded as 5'6" and medium build with brown eyes and black hair.

See Harry Hatcher for further description of all-black infantry regiments and divisions.

In the fall of 1917 Morris was sent by train to Camp Meade, MD for infantry training with the 368th Infantry. Morris died of Lobar Pneumonia, February 16, 1918, at Camp Meade, MD.^{76, 77}

Morris Lucas' burial location is unknown. Morris' parents, David and Lucy Lucas, are both buried in Union Cemetery, Alexandria, VA.

Stephen Patrick McGroarty, 2nd Lt., Engineer Reserve Corps, Attached to 2nd Regiment Engineers. Serial No. Unknown.

Stephen was b. December 30, 1894 in Washington, D.C. He was the youngest son of Charles Neil McGroarty (1851-1930) and Eva Tweed (1853-1953). Stephen was baptized July 7, 1895 at Metropolitan Presbyterian Church (now Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church) in Washington, D.C.

The McGroarty's moved to Falls Church, VA in 1909 when they purchased a lot at the intersection of Columbia



2nd Lt. Stephen Patrick McGroarty, Engineer Reserve Corps, c. 1917 Photo source: *Washington Times*, July 10, 1918, p. 8, c. 4.

Street and Cherry Street.

Stephen attended Western High School in Washington, D.C., where he was in the cadet regiment. After graduating from Western in 1913, Stephen attended the University of Virginia. He was a member of the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society (1914); and an Assistant Instructor (1916). He graduated in 1917 with a degree in Civil Engineering.⁷⁸

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated was a civil engineer for the George T. Fuller Co., Quantico, VA. He indicated his residence was Falls Church, Fairfax Co., VA. He further stated that he was single and that his race was caucasian. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and build with blue eyes and blonde hair.

He claimed exemption from the draft on account of his work in the government mobilization camps. This exemption was denied.

Stephen was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Engineer Reserve Corps. In August 1917 he was sent to the Engineer Training Camp at American University, DC.⁷⁹ Shortly thereafter he was sent to Camp Gordon, Atlanta, GA for engineer training. In December 1917 he was assigned to temporary duty with the 307th Engineers.

Stephen departed New York Harbor, NY on February 8, 1918 onboard the *U.S.A.T. #530*, aka the *S.S. New York*, with just 142 officers and enlisted men arriving in Liverpool, England on February 17th.⁸⁰

On June 6, 1918 the 2nd Btl., 2nd Engineer Regiment is ordered to support the 2nd Btl., 5th Marines in the attack on Bois de Belleau (Belleau Wood). John Thomason a member of the 5th Marines, who was present during the battle, would later write:

“There was always good feeling between the Marines of the 2d Division and the Regular Army units that formed it, but the Marines and the 2d Engineers — “Say, if I ever got a drink, a 2d Engineer can have half of it!” — Boy, they dig trenches and mend roads all night, and they fight all day!”⁸¹

On June 11, 1918 the 2nd Btl., 5th Marines, supported by the 23rd and 77th companies of the 6th Machine Gun Btl., and elements of the 2nd Btl., 2nd Engineers, occupy a portion of Belleau Wood, but with heavy casualties. On June 13th the Germans launch a counterattack preceeded by a massive artillery barrage. One source indicated that 8,000 shells were fired by three German Divisions in just four hours. The German couterattack failed.⁸²

Stephen McGroarty was mortally wounded June 13, 1918, during the Battle of Belleau Wood, near Lucy le Bocage, France. During the intense artillery barrage both of Stephen’s legs were blown off by shellfire. In spite of Stephen’s protests that he could not recover, Corporal Joseph Daniel Sanders (1894-1987), Co. D, 2nd Engineers,

carried the stricken officer through the intense artillery barrage back to a dressing station. McGroarty died two days later on June 15th. Corp. Sanders was subsequently cited for gallantry and received the Distinguished Service Cross.

In his last letter home to his mother Stephen wrote:

“It is all right to feel that war is wrong and that this war ought to be stopped, but the person who actually talks peace now is a traitor. Peace will not come until one side or the other is beaten – absolutely beaten. When you don’t hear from me, don’t worry. In the army, no news is good news. If anything happens you will hear soon enough.”⁸³

Stephen McGroarty was initially buried in a French Civilian Cemetery in La Ferte Sous Jouarre, Seine et Marne, France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Wheaton*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on June 19, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ, July 2, 1921. The *Wheaton* carried the remains of a total of 5,827 officers and enlisted personnel. Stephen was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 3, Grave 4472-EH, on July 20, 1921 with full military honors.

Stephen McGroarty is the third cousin of Confederate Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner (1823-1914) and fourth cousin to Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr. (1886-1945), who was KIA during WWII.

In 1920, the American Legion, McGroarty-Stambaugh Post No. 124, at 7118 Shreve Road, Falls Church, VA was co-dedicated in his memory. The Stephen P. McGroarty, Post No. 27 of the American Legion in Washington, DC is also named for him.

In June 1921, a plaque with the names of 80 alumni of the University of Virginia who died during World War I was unveiled at the Rotunda in Charlottesville, VA. On Armistice Day, November 11, 1931, President Herbert Hoover dedicated the World War I Memorial for Washingtonians who lost their lives during the war. In April

1934, a marker and an elm tree were planted in the yard of the Falls Church Presbyterian Church by the members of the Stephen P. McGroarty Post of the American Legion. In 1936, a tree was also planted in memory of Stephen McGroarty and Ralph Stambaugh on the grounds of the Madison School in Falls Church by the American War Mothers.

Warnie Vernon McIntosh, Pvt., Medical Department, Base Hospital Detachment, Camp Jackson, South Carolina.⁸⁴

Warnie was born February 25, 1891 in Washington, D.C. He was the son of Luther Lee McIntosh (1866-1917) and Katherine M. Peyton (1864-1896).

He was employed as a messenger in the Indian Office, U.S. Department of the Interior in 1914. He was promoted to clerk that same year.⁸⁵

He registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board in June 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a clerk for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. He indicated his residence was Chesterbrook, Fairfax Co., VA. He further stated that he was single and that his race was caucasian. His physical description was recorded as tall and medium build with brown eyes and black hair.

Warnie volunteered for army service on December 10, 1917. He was sent to basic training at Camp Jackson, Columbia, SC. He died there May 10, 1918 of non-epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, with pandemic influenza (aka Spanish Flu) as a contributing cause of death.⁸⁶

Warnie was the older half-brother of Carl Rogers McIntosh (1900-1957), the first Chief of the Fairfax County Police Department (1940-1957).

He is interred at Oakwood Cemetery, Falls Church, VA

John Russell Mitchell, Cpl., Company A, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. Serial No. 1286998.

John was born October 6, 1895 at Ruckersville, Greene Co., VA. He was the son of John Russell Mitchell

(1874-1903) and Elizabeth Aeria Deane (1877-1930) [m/2 Samuel A. Moore in 1910].

John Mitchell had previously served in the Virginia National Guard, the Alexandria Light Infantry, and had served on the Mexican Border before being sent to France.⁸⁷

John Mitchell registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated was an assistant shipper for the Armor Co., Alexandria, VA. He indicated his residence was 117 S. Henry Street, Alexandria, VA. He further stated that he was single and that his race was caucasian. He indicated that he had previous military experience in the Virginia National Guard, Co. G, 1st Virginia Infantry. His physical description was recorded as medium height and slender build with blue eyes and black hair.

He volunteered for army service on July 25, 1917. His guard unit was nationalized and sent to Camp McClellan, Anniston, AL in September 1917 for infantry training.⁸⁸

He departed Hoboken, NJ on June 15, 1918 onboard the *U.S.A.T. Finland*, with 3,527 officers and enlisted men for St. Nazaire, France, arriving there on June 27th. His next of kin listed was his mother, Elizabeth Mitchell of Burke, VA.⁸⁹ Also onboard the *Finland* was Fairfax native Percy Dove, Co. L, 116th Infantry. The *Finland*, was part of a twelve ship convoy that included the *U.S.A.T. George Washington* carrying Fairfax native Willie R. Fairfax.

Lt. Colonel Charles C. Bankhead, 116th Infantry, reported activity of the regiment from October 15th – 17th:

“October 15th – ...Regiment attacked at 7:50 o'clock. Objective MOLLEVILLE FARM and the heights of BOIS DE LA GRANDE MONTAGNE. ...The enemy machine gun fire was very heavy and enfilading, making the advance very slow. The undergrowth in the BOIS DE LA GRANDE MONTAGNE was so thick that it was impossible to locate these machine gun nests which were pits about four feet deep, well camouflaged, and enfilading the numerous pits running through the woods.

October 16th – ...The objective [heights of BOIS DE LA GRANDE MONTAGNE] was reached at 15:35 o'clock...line consolidated and strengthened against counterattack.

17th – Regiment holding position in BOIS DE LA GRANDE MONTAGNE. Resisted enemy counterattack at 19:30 o'clock. Enemy seemed to be unable to locate our lines, one entire German ration party captured by our troops, numerous other incidents of captures and casualties inflicted due to enemy's uncertainty reported.”⁹⁰

The Operations Report of 1st Platoon, Company A states:

“On the morning of the 16th our company relieved Co. L, 116th Infantry, my platoon being on the line, here we dug in meeting with stubborn resistance from machine gunners and snipers. On the morning of the 17th changed our position on the line. Many casualties from machine guns and snipers, killed a good number of Boche during the day. Relieved night of 17th by Company of 2d Bn, 116th Infantry, and went into reserve. Here we rested and policed up equipment and dead bodies.”⁹¹

John Mitchell was killed in action by a sniper at Bois de Grand Montagne (Grande Montagne Wood), France October 17, 1918.⁹² The site is just a short distance from Molleville Farm where Percy Dove, Co. L, 116th Infantry, was KIA.

See Percy Jennings Dove for further description of the actions of the 116th Infantry.

John was initially buried in the American Cemetery Romagne-sous Montaucon-Meuse, France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Cantigny*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on July 21, 1921 and arrived at Brooklyn, NY on August 1, 1921. The *Cantigny* carried the remains of 1,400 officers



Death Valley, Molleville Farm and Ravine, c. October 1918.
Photo source: History of the 315th Infantry © 1920.



Molleville Farm, 2018.
Photo source: Google Earth



Aid Station near Molleville Farm, October 1918.
Source: History of the 315th Infantry © 1920.



Aid Station near Molleville Farm c. 2018
Source: Google Earth



Aid Station near Molleville Farm. Note the narrow gauge railway track. Source: History of the 315th Infantry © 1920.



Narrow guage raliway near Molleville Farm c. 2018.
Source: Google Earth.

and enlisted personnel.⁹³ John was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 18, Grave 2771, in August 1921 with full military honors.

Arthur C. Morgan, Pvt., Company A, 550th Engineers Service Battalion. Serial No. 4639994.

Arthur was born June 28, 1887 at Langley, Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of George W. (1862-1920) and Martha Morgan (1865-????).

Arthur was married to Mary A. Simmons (1886-????), June 22, 1910, Washington, DC.

Arthur Morgan registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a farm laborer for the U.S. Government at the Agricultural Experimental Farm (U.S. Department of Agriculture) in VA. He indicated his residence was Halls Hill, Alexandria Co., VA. He further stated that he was married and that his race was Negro. His physical description was recorded as medium height and build, with black eyes and black hair, slightly bald.

The 550th Engineers Service Battalion trained at Camp A.A. Humphrey's (now Fort Belvoir), VA and were assigned to Service of Supply, in army slang *S.O.S.*, and general construction duties in France.⁹⁴

Arthur departed from Brooklyn, NY November 12, 1918 onboard the *U.S.A.T. Patria* with 1,055 officers and enlisted men for France. His next of kin listed was his mother, Helen Morgan of McLean, VA.

Arthur died of disease December 3, 1918. His obituary appeared in the *Evening Star* newspaper"

"Mr. Arthur Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Morgan of Langley, Va., died in a hospital in France, and our service flag will bear a gold star for him. We extend our sympathy to the stricken family."⁹⁵

Arthur was initially buried in the American Cemetery Lambazellec, Finistere Commune, France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the

U.S.A.T. Princess Matoika, which sailed from Brest, France on June 19, 1920 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on July 21, 1920. The *Princess Matoika* carried the remains of 915 officers and enlisted personnel. Arthur reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 19, Grave 58, on August 3, 1920 with full military honors.

John E. Reed, Cpl., Company C, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. Serial No. 42314.

John was b. 1898 in Washington, D.C. He resided 2537 Fairmount Avenue, Baltimore, MD and McLean, Fairfax Co., VA.

Enlisted July 14, 1917 as a Pvt., Co. I, 3rd District of Columbia Inf., National Guard. Pvt. Co. E, 163rd Inf.; promoted Cpl. Co. C, 16th Inf., 1st Div. On December 17, 1917, Pvt. John E. Reed, Co. E, 163rd Inf., departed Hoboken, NJ onboard the *U.S.A.T. Leviathan* with 3,673 officers and enlisted men for France. His next of kin listed Morris Thompson, "friend."⁹⁶ Transferred to Co. C. 16th Inf., January 18, 1918.

On July 18, 1918, the 16th Infantry Regiment, began its first offensive action of the war attempting to reduce the St. Mihiel Salient. For three days the regiment met stiff resistance and enemy counterattacks. Casualties were heavy.

In a letter home, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French priest and stretcher-bearer in the 8th Moroccan Rifles, wrote of the Americans and the action:

"We had the Americans as neighbors and I had a close-up view of them. Everyone says the same: They're first-rate troops, fighting with intense individual passion (concentrated on the enemy) and wonderful. They only complaint one would make about them is that they don't take sufficient care; they're too apt to get themselves killed. When they're wounded, they make their way back holding themselves upright, almost stiff, impassive, and uncomplaining. I don't think I've ever seen such pride and dignity in suffering. There's

complete comradeship among them and us, born fully-fledged under fire.

...I must tell you that during the night of the 21st and 22nd, I spent some minutes that were among the most dramatic of my life. Crossing the huge fields of corn in 'no man's land' ... we came upon two wounded men ... with no stretcher; meanwhile the Boches hearing the noise (for the wounded men were talking and groaning) began to spray the field with shell and machine-gun fire ... we managed to carry them on our backs, to the shelter of a stranded tank, while, to crown everything, an artillery barrage was in full swing and aircraft were dropping bombs. Before daybreak I was able to collect two complete teams, who finally

brought them in. yet how many other casualties were left lying, lost in the middle of those great corn fields between the lines." ⁹⁷

On the morning of July 21, 1918 the 16th Infantry pushed through the corn fields south of Soissons, cut the Soissons-Paris Railroad and the Chateau-Thierry-Soisson Road, key German supply lines. Their objective, Buzancy, was in sight when they were halted by ferocious enemy machine gun and artillery fire. On the night of July 22nd/23rd they were relieved by the 15th Scottish Division. The first task of the Scots was to bury the many American dead still lying in swathes in the corn fields where they had fallen.

John Reed was mortally wounded in this action, July 22, 1918, near Buzancy (Rozieres-sur-Crise), Soissons, France and hospitalized. ⁹⁸ He was promoted to Corporal October 4, 1918. He died of his wounds on October 11, 1918 and was cited for Gallantry in Action.

John was originally interred in the American Military Cemetery (#577), Brizeaux, Meuse, France. His body was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Cantigny*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium November 26, 1921 and arrived at Brooklyn, New York, December 7, 1921. The *Cantigny* carried the remains of 806 officers and enlisted men. ⁹⁹

John was reinterred January 5, 1922 at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 18, Grave 4074, with full military honors.

Perry Robinson, Pvt., Headquarters Company, Casual ¹⁰⁰ Detachment, 155th Depot Brigade (Notation indicates 35th Co., 9th Training Battalion, 155th Depot Brigade).

Perry was born March 14, 1894 in Fairfax Co., VA, son of Charlotte *Lottie* Robinson (1870-aft. 1945). He resided at Barcroft, Fairfax Co., VA.

Perry Robinson registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board in June 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a laborer for D.O. Munson, Fairfax County, VA. He indicated his residence was Barcroft, Fairfax Co., VA. He further stated that he was single and that his race was



1st U.S. Infantry Division Memorial at Buzancy, France to the 2,200 divisional soldiers who died during the Battle of Soissons (2nd Battle of the Marne), July 18-23, 1918.



U.S. Army General Hospital No. 12 (aka Kenilworth Inn, Biltmore Hospital) , Asheville, NC, c. 1918.

Source: D.H. Ramsey Library Special Collections, UNC, Asheville.

African. His physical description was recorded as tall and of medium build with dark brown eyes and black hair. He claimed exemption due to support provided for his mother and grandmother, (i.e. Lottie Robinson and Mary Gaskins Robinson). The exemption was denied.

Perry was inducted into the army on October 26, 1917. He was sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA where he was assigned to the “care of animals” – likely horses. He contracted a secondary lung condition, pleurisy, as a result of bacterial infection. He was transferred to the U.S. Army Hospital #12, (a.k.a. Kenilworth Inn, Appalachian Hall, or Biltmore Hospital) Asheville, Buncombe Co., NC. This hospital treated patients primarily with lung diseases such as tuberculosis. Perry died here October 23, 1918. The cause of death was listed as pleurisy suppurative with cardiac failure as a secondary cause.¹⁰¹

Perry Robinson is interred at the Second Baptist Church Cemetery, Falls Church, VA.

Raymond Rogers, Pvt., Company H, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division. Serial No. 1821770.

Ray was born March 20, 1893. He was the son of Richard L. Dick Rogers (1872-????) and Emma Devers (1870-bef. 1902). They resided at Accotink, Mt. Vernon, Fairfax Co., VA.

Raymond Rogers registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board in June 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was a farm laborer for the Mount Vernon Ladies Memorial Association. This indicates that he worked at Mount Vernon, the home of President George Washington. He stated that his residence was “Mt. Vernon on the Potomac, Va.” He further stated that he was single and that his race was caucasian. His physical description was recorded as tall and of medium build with gray eyes and light brown hair.

Ray was inducted into the army on November 6, 1917. He was sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA. On May 22, 1918, Ray departed Hoboken, NJ onboard the *U.S.A.T. Leviathan* with 10,583 officers, enlisted men and nurses for Brest, France. His next of kin listed was his father, Dick Rogers, of Accotink, VA.¹⁰²

Ray was killed in action on October 5, 1918:

“On October 5th... Shortly after dawn another attack was launched under cover of a heavy artillery concentration on the Ferme de la Madeleine and the entrenched position north of the Bois de Ogons. This attack was to be supported by tank, which, however, found it impossible to go forward in the face of the heavy hostile fire.”¹⁰³

See George Bryant Dyer for a further description of the engagements of the 318th Infantry.

Ray was originally interred in the American Cemetery, Senoncourt, Meuse, France. His body was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. St. Mihiel*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on December 4, 1921 and arrived at New York, NY on December 16, 1921. The *St. Mihiel* carried the remains of 687 officers and enlisted personnel.

Raymond Rogers was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery on January 12, 1922, Section 18, Grave 3936, with full military honors.

William “Willie” Joseph Sampson, Pvt., 9th Battalion, Quartermasters Corps. Serial No. not found.

Willie was born August 1, 1894 in Washington, D.C. He was an orphan by 1900. The census of 1900 records the Willie, was “inmate” at Saint Ann’s Infant Asylum, Washington, D.C. His sisters, Maud and Mary Sampson, were also inmates in the St. Vincent’s Female Orphan Asylum in Washington, D.C.

In 1910, William Sampson was employed as a “Hired Man” for William and Sanderson Cogen, at Centreville, Fairfax Co., VA.

Willie Sampson registered with the District of Columbia Draft Board in June 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed as an attendant at St. Elizabeth’s [Hospital], Washington, DC. He indicated his residence was St. Elizabeth’s, Washington, DC. He further stated that he was single and that his race was Caucasian. His physical description was recorded as short and of medium build with blue grey eyes and brown hair.

Willie died of pneumonia October 9, 1918 at Camp Joseph E. Johnston, Jacksonville, Florida. He is interred at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church Cemetery, Fairfax Station, VA.¹⁰⁴

In 1935, his sisters Maud E. Medley, resided in Brooklyn, NY and Mary T. Cadigan, resided in Dorchester, MA.¹⁰⁵

Ralph Stambaugh, Pvt., Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, United States Army. Serial No. 552452.

Ralph was born January 19, 1894 in Washington, D.C. He was the son of George Stambaugh (1850-1939) and Alice R. Spitsnaugle (1862-1951). He was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D. C.¹⁰⁶

The Stambuagh’s were from Ohio. When George Stambaugh took a job with the United States Postal Department he moved his family to Washington, D.C. By 1896, they had relocated to Falls Church.

Ralph registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. He stated he was unemployed. He further stated he had served three years previously as a Corporal with the District of Columbia National Guard. He had enlisted in “High School Cadets” at the McKinley Manual Training School in 1915.¹⁰⁷ He claimed exemption from the draft on account of deafness. The exemption was denied. He was described as tall and of slender build, with blue eyes and dark brown hair.

Ralph was inducted into the army on October 26, 1917. He was sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA. From there he was assigned to the 38th Infantry and sent to Camp Green, NC for additional training. On March 30, 1918, he



Ralph Stambaugh, c. 1918
Evening Star, September 24, 1918, p. 9, c. 4.

departed Hoboken, NJ onboard the *U.S.A.T. President Lincoln* with 4,645 officers and enlisted men for France.

See Walter Lewis Tavenner for a further description of the engagements of the 38th Infantry.

Ralph was killed in action on July 15, 1918. According to a history of McGroarty-Stambaugh Post No. 124 of the American Legion, Ralph Stambaugh was killed by a shell fragment a short distance from his company headquarters while working on some defenses. He apparently died from loss of blood, due to lack of attention. After his death, he was initially buried in the American Cemetery, Oise-Aisne, France. His body was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Wheaton*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on June 19, 1921 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on July 2, 1921. The *Wheaton* carried the remains of 5,827 officers and enlisted personnel. Ralph was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 18, Grave 2518, September 1, 1921 with full military honors.

On April 8, 1920 the McGroarty-Stambaugh Post No. 124 was organized in Falls Church, VA and co-named for Ralph Stambaugh. The Post is located at 7118 Shreve Road in Falls Church.

On November 11, 1921, Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day, a tree was planted in front of the Falls Church Episcopal Church in memory of Lt. Stephen McGroarty and Pvt. Ralph Stambaugh by the Falls Church Woman's Club and local school children.¹⁰⁸ Ralph's name is also listed on the Washington, D.C. World War I Memorial.

Walter Lewis Tavenner, Pvt., Company L, 38th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Division, United States Army. Serial No. 552459.

Walter was born December 16, 1889 at Unison, Loudoun Co., VA. He was the son of Mason Del Tavenner (1860-1938) and Sarah *Sallie* Ann Polen (1870-1947), of Falls Church, VA.

Walter registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated

he was employed as a truck driver for the Texas Oil Co. (Texaco), in South Washington, D.C. He indicated his residence was West Falls Church, VA. He further stated that he was single and that his race was caucasian. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and weight, brown eyes and dark brown hair.

Walter was inducted into the army on September 18, 1917. He was sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA. From there he was assigned to the 38th Infantry and sent to Camp Green, NC for additional training. On March 30, 1918, he departed Hoboken, NJ onboard the *U.S.A.T. President Lincoln* with 4,645 officers and enlisted men for France.¹⁰⁹

At around midnight on July 15, 1918, the German Army initiated a massive artillery barrage of poison gas, high explosive, shrapnel and thermite shells, against French and American troops stationed near the French village of Chateau-Thierry. The Germans had created a salient at Chateau-Thierry and were intent on driving across the Marne River, breaking the allied line, and capturing Paris. The artillery barrage ended at 3:30 a.m. immediately followed by a "creeping barrage"¹¹⁰ to cover the German advance. The 38th Regiment, 3rd Division, to which Walter Tavenner belonged, was positioned in an arc along the west side of the Surmelin River, which flows directly into the Marne east of Chateau-Thierry, to village of Connigis. The German plan was to cross the Marne, which is only 50 yards wide at this point, and capture the two roads which ran north-south along the Surmelin River. The Germans intended on establishing a bridgehead across the Marne utilizing pontoon boats over which their artillery could be transported. With a bridgehead across the Marne they could then use the two roads in the Surmelin valley to drive for Paris.

As the German attack unfolded, American and French forces on both flanks of the 38th Regiment withdrew south to higher ground, leaving the 38th regiment alone and surrounded on three sides by the advancing Germans. The companies of the 38th were deployed in a defensive arc from the Marne River along the east side of Surmelin River. Walter's company, "L", was positioned near the hamlet of



Pontoon bridge across the Marne River, near Chateau Thierry. Built by U.S. Engineers, July 1918.

Source: Boy's Book of Battles © 1919.

Launay, France. During fourteen hours of fighting, the 38th regiment absorbed attacks from all three sides for two German Divisions. The defensive line of the Americans bent but did not break. They prevented the Germans from crossing the Marne in force and establishing a bridgehead. In the process they earned the sobriquet the *Rock of the Marne*.

In his report, U.S. Major General John J. Pershing wrote of the event:

“A single regiment of the 3rd wrote one of the most brilliant pages in our military annals on this occasion. It prevented the crossing at certain points on its front, while on either flank the Germans who had gained a foothold, pressing forward. Our men, firing in three directions, met the German attacks with counterattacks at critical points, which succeeded in throwing two German divisions into complete confusion capturing 600 prisoners.”¹¹¹

Following the failed German offensive, the Americans with their French allies counterattacked forcing a German retreat across the entire front. On July 21st the 38th regiment crossed the Marne and established a bridgehead using the same pontoon boats the Germans had intended to use. During the remainder of July and August 1918 the allies pushed northeast repeatedly contacting and engaging the retreating Germans. On July 24, 1918, the



Village of Le Charmel, France, c. 1919. Note the Ruin of the Chateau du Charmel in the distant background. Source: Postcard

38th Regiment and 3rd Division had pursued the Germans thru Argentole to the southern outskirts of the village and chateau of Le Charmel. The Germans made a determined stand here in order to evacuate their artillery, ammunition and the huge quantity of supplies they had brought up to the front but had not used in their failed Marne offensive.¹¹² The same day, twenty-nine-year-old Walter Lewis Tavenner was killed in action near Le Charmel.

After his death, Walter Tavenner was initially buried in the American Cemetery, Oise-Aisne, France. His body was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Cantigny*, which sailed from Antwerp, Belgium on June 20, 1922 and arrived at Brooklyn, NY on June 30, 1922. The *Cantigny* carried the remains of 182 enlisted personnel and 4 officers. Walter Lewis Tavenner was reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery on July 20, 1922 with honors.

Joseph Thompson, Pvt., 10th Provisional Replacement Company. Serial No. 3165349.

Joe was b. May 30, 1886 in Arcola, Loudoun Co. VA. He was the son of John F. Thompson and Gertrude Lanham Humphries (1856-1942), stepmother.

Joe registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated that he was employed as a laborer for C.J. Costello, near Leesburg, VA. He indicated his residence was Herndon, VA. He further stated that he was single and that his race

was caucasian. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and build with brown eyes and brown hair. He also indicated that he provided support for his mother and claimed exemption from service base on this. His exemption was denied.

Joe was inducted into the army on May 24, 1918 and was likely sent to Camp Stewart, Newport News, VA for training. On July 18, 1918, he departed Newport News, VA onboard the *U.S.A.T. Pastores* with 1,735 officers and enlisted men for France.

Joe Thompson died of disease on February 7, 1919.

On February 26, 1919, his body was shipped from St. Nazaire, France onboard the *U.S.A.T. Rijndam*, arriving in Newport News, VA on March 9, 1919. His next of kin was listed as Gertrude Thompson, stepmother. Joseph was reinterred in Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon, VA.

Richard Weaver, Pvt., Company E, 810th Pioneer Infantry Regiment. Serial No. not known.

Dick was born May 1895 in Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of Lulu (Lola) Weaver, nephew of Washington & Lavinia Weaver.¹¹³

Richard registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed as a laborer for Frank Peck at Herndon, VA. He indicated his residence was Herndon, VA. He indicated that he was single and that his race was negro. His physical description was recorded as short and of medium build with black eyes and black hair.

Richard was inducted into the army June 18, 1918 and sent to Camp Greene, Charlotte, Mecklenberg Co., NC for training. Richard died September 18, 1918, of acute pneumonia, at the Camp Greene Base Hospital.

He is buried in Herndon, Fairfax Co., VA, the exact location is unknown.¹¹⁴

George L. White, military unit is unknown. Serial No. 4015403.

George was born December 3, 1895 at Floris, Fairfax Co., VA. He was the son of Henry Richard White (1866-1956) and LeBertha Ann Stuart (1873-1925). George was one of at least fifteen children, several of whom died in infancy.

George White registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated was employed as a wood chopper for “Mr. Beach, (His boss)” at “Bellview, Va.” He indicated his residence was Herndon, VA. He indicated that he provided partial support for his father and mother. He further stated that he was single and that his race was negro. His physical description was recorded as of medium height and build with dark brown eyes and black hair, with the index finger of his right hand missing.

George was inducted into the army on July 16, 1918 and sent to Camp Meade, MD for training. George died at Camp Meade, MD on November 17, 1918.¹¹⁵ His mother was the beneficiary of a \$3,731.00 U.S. Veterans Bureau life insurance policy.¹¹⁶

George’s burial location is unknown. His parents, Henry and LeBertha White, are interred at Chantilly Baptist Church Cemetery.

Daniel Webster “Webb”¹¹⁷ Williams, Pvt., Company B, 510th Engineers Service Battalion. Serial No. 1843968.

Webb was born March 30, 1887 in Washington Co., MD. He was the son of Zachariah Williams (1855-????). Zachariah Williams owned a small farm at Seneca Bottom, Fairfax Co., VA. Webb married Elizabeth Jackson (1883-????), September 25, 1917, in Washington, D.C.

Webb Williams registered with the Fairfax County Draft Board on June 5, 1917. In his draft registration he stated he was employed as a laborer in farming by S.F. Reid, Fairfax Co., VA. He indicated his residence was Herndon, VA. He also indicated that he provided for his mother. He further stated that he was single and that his race was negro. His physical description was recorded as tall and of medium build with black eyes and black hair.

Webb was inducted into the army on November 6, 1917 and sent to Camp Lee, Petersburg, VA. He departed from Hoboken, NJ, March 22, 1918 onboard the *U.S.A.T. Powhatan* with 1,712 officers and enlisted men for France. His next of kin listed was his wife, Elizabeth *Lizzie* Williams of Herndon, VA.

Webb died of disease October 31, 1918.

He was initially buried in France. He was later disinterred and returned to the United States onboard the *U.S.A.T. Princess Matoika*, which sailed from Southampton, England on May 11, 1920 and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on May 23, 1920. The *Princess Matoika* carried the remains of several thousand officers and enlisted personnel.

Webb's burial location is unknown.

Epilogue

Each of these men from Fairfax County, VA did their duty when called on to do so. Each died alone far from home. Each deserve the honor and respect now due them in death, as well as the thanks of generations to come.

(Endnotes)

¹ The name of 1st Lt. Arthur Thompson Elmore is listed on this plaque. However, he was a resident of the District of Columbia.

² McCrae, Joel, In Flanders Fields, © 1915.

³ *Evening Star*, June 26, 1926, p. 3, c. 2

⁴ A Company, 301st Tank Battalion History, © 1919, E.A. Wright Company, Philadelphia, PA. As appears in: Wilson, Dale, The American Expeditionary Forces Tank Corps in World War I: From Creation to Combat, © 1988, Manuscript Thesis.

⁵ Rinaldi, Richard A., The United States Army in World War I, Orders of Battle, Ground Units, 1917-1919, © 2005, Privately published.

⁶ U.S. Army Transport Service, (U.S.A.T.S.), Passenger Lists, 1910-1939, Outgoing, Olympic, 1918 Feb 25– 1918 May 5, N.A.R.A.

⁷ Ibid 4.

⁸ Rockenbach, Samuel, The Rockenbach Report, pp. 175–181, © 2016, Dale Street Books, Silver Spring, Maryland.

⁹ Ibid 4.

¹⁰ The Zeppelin-Staaken Riesenflugzeug ("Giant Aircraft") Bomber was introduced by the Luftstreitkräfte (German Imperial Air Service) in September 1917. The Giant, as it was known, had a bomb capacity of 4,400 lbs. and normally a crew of seven: commander, pilot, co-pilot, radio operator, fuel attendant and two mechanics.

¹¹ *Fairfax Herald*, November 8, 1918, p. 3, c. 3.

¹² *Fairfax Herald*, January 17, 1919, p. 3, c. 2.

¹³ *Fairfax Herald*, August 19, 1921, p. 3, c. 4.

¹⁴ *Evening Star*, August 7, 1921, p. 7, c. 2. "photo."

¹⁵ History of the Sixth Regiment United States Marines, © 1928, Tientsin Press, Ltd. Tientsin, China.

¹⁶ Ibid 15.

¹⁷ *Fairfax Herald*, November 8, 1918, p. 3.

¹⁸ *Fairfax Herald*, August 2, 1918, p. 3, c. 2.

¹⁹ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Leviathan, 1918 Aug 2 – 1918 Aug 31, N.A.R.A.

²⁰ Hunton, Addie W. and Johnson, Kathryn M., Two Colored Women with the American Expeditionary Forces, © 1920, Brooklyn Eagle Press, Brooklyn, NY.

²¹ Hunton, Addie W. and Johnson, Kathryn M., Two Colored Women with the American Expeditionary Forces, © 1920, Brooklyn Eagle Press, Brooklyn, NY.

²² U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Sherman, 1919 Nov 7– 1921 Mar 7, N.A.R.A.

²³ Scott, Emmett J., Scott's Official History of the American Negro in the World War, © 1919, Homewood Press, Chicago, IL.

²⁴ Fairfax County Marriage Book 1, page 68, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

²⁵ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Powhatan, 1918 Feb 17–1918 Jul 10, N.A.R.A.

²⁶ U.S.A.T.S., Incoming, Pocahontas, 1919 Apr 11– 1920 Oct 18, N.A.R.A.

²⁷ Death Cert. of Annie Cook, Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014.

²⁸ *Fairfax Herald*, January 25, 1918, p. 3, c. 4.

²⁹ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Tenadores, 1917 Sep 7 – 1918 Jul 31, N.A.R.A.

³⁰ McElroy, John Lee, War Diary of John Lee McElroy, 1st Lieut., 315th Field Artillery, 155th Brigade, © 1929, Haddon Press, Camden, NJ.

³¹ Ibid 30.

³² Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1918, © 1919, US Govt. Printing Office, Wash., DC.

³³ *Washington Post*, June 4, 1921, p. 7, c. 5.

³⁴ *Fairfax Herald*, October 11, 1918, p. 3, c. 1.

³⁵ *Fairfax Herald*, November 9, 1917, p. 3, c. 1.

³⁶ *Fairfax Herald*, August 19, 1918, p. 3, c. 1.

³⁷ Death Certificate #44492, Texas Department of State Health Services; Austin, TX

³⁸ *Washington Herald*, May 29, 1921, p. 8, c. 4.

³⁹ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Finland, 1917 Nov 26– 1918 Jun 15, N.A.R.A.

⁴⁰ The idiomatic phrase "over the top" or "going over the top" was used by WWI allied soldiers to describe the moment when they emerged over the parapet of their trenches and charged out over open land to attack the enemy. Soldiers likely regarded this moment as foolhardy and dangerous. Today the phrase is used to describe someone making an effort that is excessive or more than is required to accomplish a task. It is also still used to describe an action that is judged to be foolhardy or needlessly dangerous.

⁴¹ Cuthins, John A., History of the Twenty-Ninth Division, 1917-1919, © 1921, MacCalls & Co., Philadelphia, PA.

⁴² Cochrane, Rexmond C., The 29th Division in the Cotes de Meuse, October 1918, © 1959, U.S. Army Chemical Corps Historical Office, Maryland.

⁴³ Source Book: Operation of the 29th Division East of the Meuse River, October 8th to 30th, 1918, © 1922, Printing Plant Coast Artillery School, Fort Monroe, VA.

⁴⁴ Cochrane, Rexmond, U.S. Army Chemical Corps Historical Studies Gas Warfare in WORLD WAR I, 29th Division in the Cotes de Meuse, October 1918, U.S. Army Chemical Corps Historical Office, Wash., D.C. Original source citing: Ltr, Col. Palmer, CO 58th Brig to CG 29th Div., 23 Dec. 1918, sub: Report of Operations North of Verdun (Supplemental Reports, 29th Div. Box 4, 33.6).

⁴⁵ Ibid 43.

⁴⁶ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Finland, 1917 Nov 26 – 1918 Jun 15, N.A.R.A.

⁴⁷ *Evening Star*, July 31, 1917, p. 16, c. 1.

⁴⁸ *Evening Star*, October 29, 1920, p. 7, c. 8.

⁴⁹ Fairfax County Marriage Book 2, Page 157, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk.

⁵⁰ *Fairfax Herald*, August 10, 1917, p. 2.

⁵¹ U.S.A.T.S., Outgoing, Leviathan, 1918 May 22, N.A.R.A.

⁵² History of the 318th Infantry Regiment of the 80th Division, 1917-1919, William Byrd Press, Richmond, VA.

⁵³ The idiomatic phrase "no man's land" refers to the disputed land, or ground, between the front lines or trenches of two opposing armies.

⁵⁴ U.S.A.T.S., Incoming, Wheaton, 1921 Aug 20 – 1921 Nov 16, N.A.R.A.

⁵⁵ *Evening Star*, December 3, 1918, p. 15, c. 1. Obituary of George Bryant Dyer with photo.

In the Next Issue...

The Locomotive *Fairfax*: A brief History

The locomotives produced for the Orange & Alexandria Railroad were all named after counties (or places) through which the line passed.

Fairfax News of 50 Years Ago

Retarded Center Plans to Be Aired

A proposed architectural plan for the Northern Virginia Regional Training Center and Hospital for the Mentally Retarded will be displayed at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the hospitality room of the Coca-Cola bottling plant at 5401 Seminary Rd., Alexandria.

The 500-bed facility will be built on a 95-acre tract east of Fairfax City. A \$7.3 million request for construction has been made to the General Assembly for the hospital that will serve Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun and Fauquier Counties, along with the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church and Alexandria.

The meeting will be sponsored by the Northern Virginia Association for Retarded Children.

Evening Star, January 21, 1968, p. B-5, c. 8.

The Northern Virginia Training Center was closed in 2016. The facility will be demolished and replaced with an age restricted senior living facility designed to allow seniors to age in place.

School Plan Rejected in Fairfax City

Fairfax City voters, turning out in light numbers yesterday, rejected a \$4.5 million proposal by the Fairfax County school system to convert Sidney Lanier Intermediate School into a 2,000-pupil, 4-year high school, and to make Fairfax High School an intermediate school.

Evening Star, April 12, 1968, p. B-5, c. 3.

100 Years Ago

TO OUST OIL LAMPS.

Fairfax Court House Yields to Modern Ideas and Electricity.

FAIRFAX, Va., January 17.—Within a short time the old courthouse and other buildings on the courthouse green here will be lighted by electricity in place of the coal oil lamps that have been used since coal oil was discovered.

At the last meeting of the county board of supervisors a contract was made with an electrical lighting concern for the installation of a plant to light the courthouse, jail and clerk's office. About two weeks will be required to install the plant and wire the buildings. Many homes in this section have had private lighting plants installed in them in the past year.

Evening Star, January 17, 1917, p. 10, c. 3.

100 Years Ago

ELECTION OF OFFICERS BY RED CROSS CHAPTER

Fairfax County Organization Fills Positions Made Vacant by Resignations.

At a recent meeting of Fairfax Chapter of the Red Cross, at Fairfax Court House, the following officers were elected to take the places made vacant by the resignation of their predecessors: Chairman, R. Walton Moore; vice chairman, Mrs. M. D. Hall; treasurer, Dr. Frank Huddleston; secretary, Mrs. J. S. Barbour.

The new chairman's home being at Fairfax Court House, headquarters of the chapter have been established there.

The election was made necessary by the resignation of Mrs. Mary M. North, organizer and chairman of the chapter, who was compelled to give up the position because of pressure of other war work in which she is engaged. The other officers resigned for the same reason.

The chapter has about 600 members, including three life members, and since its organization a few years ago has established auxiliaries at Vienna, Fairfax Court House, Clifton, Herndon, McLean, Great Falls, Franklin Park, Floris, Oakton and in Mount Vernon district.

It has given a fully equipped ambulance and a motor cycle to the Red Cross field service, these now being in use by the ambulance section in France commanded by Maj. Ryan Devereux.

Evening Star, March 19, 1917, p. 24, c. 4.

For many years the Fairfax Red Cross was located in the former homes of John S. Barbour on Chain Bridge Road. It is home commercial office space and the location of Good Times Restaurant.

150 Years Ago

A letter from Fairfax Courthouse, dated 22d, says: An old bed-ridden colored man named Lewis Cutis, was consumed by fire, on Friday last, on the late Dr. Hunter's farm, near here, together with his cabin. A man who stayed with him had left the cabin, and it is supposed his bed caught from a spark.

Richmond Whig, January 28, 1868, p. 4, c. 2.

JOHN GRAY, of Hirambsburg, Ohio, who is in his 105th year, and the youngest of the Revolutionary soldiers living, was born at Fairfax Courthouse, Va., January 6th, 1764. During the Revolution he worked on the Mount Vernon estate for Washington, with the slaves of the general. Mr. Gray's father fell at White Plains, in 1780, and soon after, the son enlisted at the early age of 16. He served till the close of the war, and was mustered out at Richmond, Va. He states that he was engaged in several battles, and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. He says he was "mighty tough" when a boy, and outmarched big, heavy men; that he has voted at every Presidential election, and hopes to vote once more, and that his last vote will be given for the great soldier, General Grant.

Frank Leslie's Illustrated, February 22, 1868, p. 12, c. 1.

200 Years Ago

I wish to employ immediately one or two good boot workmen, who may find constant employment. ELIJAH OGDEN.
Fairfax Court House, Jan. 8.

Alexandria Herald, January 22, 1818, p. 3, c. 2.

During the first quarter of the 19th c. Richard Ratcliffe encourage merchant and tradesmen to relocate to Fairfax C.H., also known as Providence.

"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."

Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
John A.C. Keith, President
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Fairfax, VA 22030



The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

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