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## Adams County History 2018

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# Adams County History 2018

## **Keywords**

Adams County, World War One, anniversary, soldiers, Great War, Gettysburg, Gettysburg College

# ADAMS COUNTY HISTORY



Published by the  
Adams County Historical Society



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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the First World War, we are pleased to present the work of one of our very own ACHS members, Valerie J. Young. *The World War One Gold Star Soldiers From Adams County* focuses on the 53 men listed on the Adams County Courthouse tablet who perished during the Great War. In her article, Young presents biographical and genealogical information on each of the fallen soldiers, with exhaustive research on the families they left behind. Supplementing the article are photographs of many of the soldiers, several of which have never appeared in print before.

One Adams County veteran of the Great War remembered, “At times when one gazed on the scenes of desolation and carnage, and realized that on the other side of the line there was similar destruction, questions like these would arise: ‘Is war ever justified? Can a principle of right or wrong be decided by the killing of men?’” In many cases, the Adams Countians who went off to war were no more than boys, some as young as 18 or 19. Those who survived grappled with questions like these for the rest of their lives, and many did not live to tell their stories.

We hope you enjoy this year’s journal, and we look forward to future submissions for our upcoming 2019 and 2020 publications.

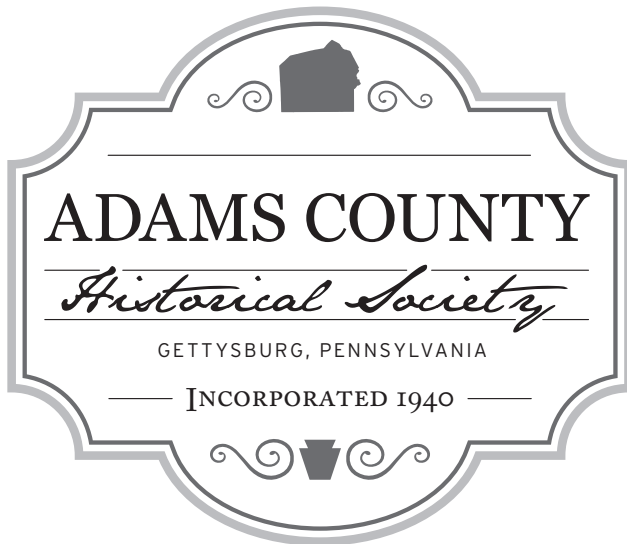
Timothy H. Smith and Andrew I. Dalton, Editors.

*Cover photograph: The grave of Joseph A. Williams at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in France (Valerie J. Young, May 2007).*

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## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Adams County Historical Society is committed to the preservation of the social, political, and religious history of the county and to the promotion of the study of history. Expressing its commitment, the society maintains a valuable library of publications and manuscript material which includes estate papers, deed books, land surveys, and newspapers. In addition, it publishes important historical studies on Adams County, a newsletter, and a journal.

The editorial board of *Adams County History* encourages and invites the submission of essays and notices reflecting the rich history of Adams County. Generally, authors should follow the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. They should submit the typescript in both hard-copy and electronic format, using a commonly employed word-processing system. The manuscript should be typed and double-spaced including endnotes and block quotations. Please use Times Roman font, 12-point type, with one-inch margins. Number pages consecutively, using Arabic numerals in the upper right-hand corner of the page. Please carefully proof-read your text several times before submitting, and pay special attention to quotations.

A small publication with a limited budget, *Adams County History* must normally limit the number of illustrations to no more than seven or eight per article. Please indicate where each illustration is to go, both within the text and on a note attached to the picture caption. Image caption-lists should be compiled and submitted separately from the article. Please double-space and include both descriptive text

and credit lines. Be sure to note where each illustration comes from; for example, “Courtesy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Manuscript Commission.”

Submissions and inquiries should be addressed to:

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# THE WORLD WAR ONE GOLD STAR SOLDIERS FROM ADAMS COUNTY

*Valerie J. Young*

## INTRODUCTION

Adams County had 1,074 men and 12 women in the military in World War I, 53 of whom died while in service, becoming Gold Star soldiers. During this war, the practice of displaying a flag with a blue star was begun to signify that a family member was fighting in the war; when a soldier died, the blue star was changed to a gold star. The term “Gold Star” soldier came to represent a member of the service who died during a time of conflict, and is still in use today.

Adams County’s Gold Star soldiers were described in a book published in 1921 by Percy S. Eichelberger and Paul L. Foulk entitled *Adams County in the World War: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918*. A copy of this book came to my possession from my mother, Rena Bower Young, a niece of Paul Foulk and his wife Mary Bower Foulk, whose families were from Adams County (Foulk from Mt. Pleasant Township and Bower from New Oxford). Mary was the younger sister of my mother’s father, Chester Allen Bower. They also had an older brother, two older sisters, and a younger brother, Charles Edward Bower (called Charlie). Both Chester and Charlie served in the Great War; Chester with the Army’s 79<sup>th</sup> Division at the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in France (September to November 1918), and Charlie with Medical Supply Depots at Camp Merritt (New Jersey) and Camp Mills (New York). Chester survived the war and returned to New Oxford in 1919. Charlie perished from the influenza pandemic while stationed at Camp

Mills in October 1918. Thus, the Bowers of New Oxford were a Gold Star family.

Of the 53 Adams County men who died in service, 16 died stateside while preparing for foreign duty, and 37 died overseas. Of the 37 who died overseas, 13 soldiers were buried permanently in U.S. military cemeteries in France; 11 of these perished in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and their remains were buried at the two cemeteries dedicated to soldiers who died during that battle, the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne and the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt. One soldier was buried at the Suresnes American Cemetery near Paris, and one Navy sailor, lost at sea, was memorialized at a U.S. military cemetery in England. The remains of 23 soldiers were eventually returned to the U.S. after the war.

The authors of *Adams County in the World War*, Percy Eichelberger and Paul Foulk, were cousins, both of whom served in the Great War. Eichelberger was born in 1894 and was a teacher at the Perkiomen Preparatory School when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg and was originally assigned to the 316th Infantry 79th Division at Camp Meade, Maryland. He was then transferred to Headquarters Company, 3rd Division in Virginia and volunteered for immediate duty in France. He went overseas in April 1918 and served in several campaigns; he was gassed and slightly wounded in July 1918. He also received a commission as Lieutenant by attending Officers Candidate School while in France. He was discharged from Camp Dix in May 1919, attended Gettysburg College, and then married and continued working in education in New Jersey. He died in 1968 at age 74 and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg; his cousin, Paul Foulk, performed the church service. Foulk was born in 1896, and worked for the American International Ship-

building Company at Hog Island in Philadelphia when he registered for the draft in June 1918. He entered the Navy in July 1918 and served at Puget Sound, New Orleans and Philadelphia, where he was stationed at the time of the Armistice. He received his honorable discharge in September 1921 at the rank of Machinist Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Foulk attended Gettysburg College and Seminary, married and had a long career as a minister in the Lutheran Church. He died in Hanover in 1983 at age 86 and was buried at New Oxford Cemetery.

The purpose of this article is to “complete the story” for each of the Adams County Gold Star men that was so eloquently presented in the Eichelberger-Foulk book. As I researched the WWI service of my own grandfather and great uncle, I became interested in the other Gold Star families from Adams County. The Foreword of the Eichelberger-Foulk book states that their endeavor for the book was *“to make the work of the individual as complete as possible; our ambition was to show portraits of all our fallen heroes.”* For that time, the book was as complete and inclusive as it could have been. However, since its publication in 1921, more history and information about these men and their families has become known and available, particularly through the advent of the internet and genealogy-related websites. When I learned that the Gold Star biographies in the Eichelberger-Foulk book had not been updated since its original publication, I decided to share the results of my research in this essay. The 53 Gold Star soldier histories in this document represent my research to date, using the Eichelberger-Foulk book as my starting point. I hope this essay will generate renewed interest in the local community about the lives of so many families who were touched by the Great War.

### *A NOTE ON THE SOURCES*

My sources for each biography include military service records, Veterans benefit applications, newspaper articles, U.S. Census records, marriage and death certificates, and travel and burial records available through Ancestry.com; other war-related books, documents and web-sites; and my own travel to France, England, and Adams County. All of these soldiers are listed on the Adams County World War Memorial in Gettysburg. This memorial plaque is mounted on the front of the Adams County Courthouse and lists the names of all Adams County soldiers who died in World War I. A portion of the Gettysburg battlefield was used by the U.S. War Department in 1917-18 as a military recruitment and training center. Many Adams County men entered service through Camp Gettysburg and had their initial training there. In 1918, a portion of the site was named Camp Colt and was an early training location for soldiers in the use of tanks in WWI.

Unless otherwise indicated, all photographs herein are from *Adams County in the World War* (1921).

## PART I: ADAMS COUNTY SOLDIERS BURIED OVERSEAS

### *ALBERT DANIEL BELL*

Reverend Albert D. Bell was born December 27, 1885 in Newton, Iowa, one of four children of Reverend Albert Daniel and Elizabeth Cashman Bell, later of York and Gettysburg. Bell graduated from York High School in 1903; from Pennsylvania College (now called Gettysburg College) in 1908; and from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in May 1911. He married Cora Myrtle Drum at her parents' home



in Burbank, Florida on June 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. She was originally from Wilkes-Barre and was working as a teacher in Gettysburg at the time of the 1910 Census. They had two children, a son Albert Daniel born 1913, and daughter Mary Elizabeth born 1915. Bell entered military service at Gettysburg in January 1918, as a chaplain with the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He was assigned to Camp Dix, New Jersey, with the 309<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, 78<sup>th</sup> Division, and sailed to France from Brooklyn with this unit on May 27,

1918 on board the *Tolosa*. He identified his wife, Mrs. Albert D. Bell of Center Square, Gettysburg, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. He was then transferred to the 310<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 78<sup>th</sup> Division, and was with this unit in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Weakened through gas and exposure, Bell died on October 10, 1918 of pneumonia at Base Hospital No. 45 in Toul. This hospital was located in converted

infantry barracks eight miles from the Front. It had the distinction of being the first base hospital located in the zone of U.S. Army advance, and was staffed primarily by the Medical College of Virginia Unit from Richmond, Virginia. Reverend Bell was originally buried in a temporary American military cemetery near Toul on October 14, 1918 and then moved for permanent interment at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery (Plot D, Row 27, Grave 13).

Bell was 32 years old when he died, and left behind his wife, two children and his parents; his father died in early 1930 at age 74. Both his mother and his wife visited his grave in 1930 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. Bell's wife, Myrtle, did not remarry and died in 1960 in Lancaster at age 73; she was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, where both Bell's parents were buried. Bell's son, Albert, was married in 1937 to Dorothy Kauffman of Gettysburg, and divorced from her in 1948. He remarried Edith Bell, had a son (Albert Bell, Jr. in 1949), and died in 1987 in Lancaster; all three were buried at Evergreen Cemetery. Bell's daughter, Mary, was married in 1937 to George Naylor of Harrisburg, had a daughter and died in 1978 at age 63 in Florida.

#### *CHARLES THOMAS CASSATT*

Charles Cassatt was born July 15, 1893 near Gettysburg in Cumberland Township, one of nine children of Jefferson Thomas and Margaret Schrum Cassatt. His father served with Company F, 87<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry in the Civil War and had died at age 77 in 1913. Cassatt was working as a farm laborer in Bordentown, New Jersey when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He entered service in March 1918 and was stationed at Camp Dix, New Jersey. Cassatt served as a Private in the Medical Detachment of the 309<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 78<sup>th</sup> Division, and sailed for France on May 19, 1918 from Brooklyn on board the

*Mentor*. He fought in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns.



Cassatt contracted influenza after the Armistice, in late December 1918. He was sent from his outfit to Camp Hospital No. 65 at Semur, where he died from pneumonia on December 28, 1918 at age 25. He was buried at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery (Plot A, Row 15, Grave 30). Cassatt's mother eventually moved to Texas, where one of her sons lived; she died and was buried there in 1926 at age 65.

### *GEORGE EDGAR NELSON CRIST*

George Crist was born February 28, 1900 in the community of Hampton in Reading Township, one of five children of James Buchanan and Mary Yohn Crist. His father was an auctioneer at the time of his death in 1913, at age 54 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Crist enlisted in the Army at Columbus Barracks, Ohio in November 1917 and was assigned as a Private with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division Headquarters Company at Camp Greene, North Carolina. His unit moved to Camp Stuart at Newport News, Virginia in January 1918 and he sailed from there to France on April 5, 1918 on board the *Great Northern*. He listed his mother, Mary Crist of Hampton, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Crist served in several engagements at the Front: Aisne defense June 1-5; Chateau-Thierry June 6-

July 14; Champagne Marne defense July 15-18, Aisne-Marne offensive July 18-27; St. Mihiel offensive September 12-16; and Meuse-Argonne offensive September 30-October 12. He was killed in action in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on October 12, 1918 at the age of 18. Crist was cited for gallantry in action on October 4, 1918 when he and seven other soldiers fended off a German patrol of 50 men. Crist was buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (Plot F, Row 23, Grave 35). He also has a grave marker at the Hampton Cemetery in Adams County. Crist's mother visited her son's grave in France in 1930 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. She died in 1938 at age 73 and was buried at Hampton Cemetery.



### *JOHN ADRIAN DEKKER*

John Dekker was born June 26, 1885 in Scheveningen, Holland. He emigrated to the U.S. in 1911 at age 25, on board the *S.S. Rijndam* from Rotterdam. He came through New York to Windsor, Canada and entered the U.S. at Detroit, Michigan at age 27. He identified his work as furniture/upholsterer. Dekker became a naturalized citizen in April 1917 in Detroit. He enlisted into the Army from there and came to the camp at Gettysburg in 1917. He gave Gettysburg as his home address and became well liked in the community through his activities with the local Presbyterian Church. He served as a Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry Medical Detachment, 5<sup>th</sup> Division. Dekker sailed





from New York to France on April 16, 1918 aboard the *Canopic*. He identified a friend, David Stucky of Detroit, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Stucky was a Reverend in Detroit who founded a faith-based rescue mission there. Dekker was wounded in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on October 20, 1918; he died from his wounds on October 27, 1918 at the hospital in Tours, age 33. He was buried at the Suresnes Amer-

ican Cemetery near Paris (Plot A, Row 15, Grave 5).

#### *WILLIAM FRANCIS GEHRING*

William Gehring was born June 20, 1895 in New Oxford, one of six children of John David and Rosemary Leonard Gehring. Before entering military service, Gehring worked at shoe factories in both New Oxford and Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He enlisted with the Pennsylvania National Guard (Company I, 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment) on June 6, 1916 and served for seven months at the Mexican border. He was called to the U.S. Ar-



my in July 1917 and served as a Corporal in Company A, 149<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Division was known as the "Rainbow Division" because it was made up of National Guard units from 26 states across the U.S. and the District of Columbia.

Gehring went to France from New York aboard the S.S. *Cedric* on No-

vember 14, 1917. He identified his mother, Mrs. John Gehring of Hanover, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Gehring was killed by shrapnel on March 9, 1918 east of Domjevin in Meurthe-et-Moselle. He was 22 years old and the first soldier from Adams County to die in service overseas. His WWI service record indicates he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre. Gehring was buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (Plot H, Row 30, Grave 23). His personal effects were returned to his parents in late October 1918, and in 1920 his family moved to Baltimore, his mother's birthplace. His mother visited her son's grave in 1930 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. Gehring's mother died in 1944 at age 77, and his father died in 1956 at age 92. They were buried at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore.

Gehring's younger brother, Edward Thomas Gehring, registered for the WWI draft in June 1918, a few months after his brother was killed in France. He was born in 1896 and was inducted into the Army in Baltimore in September 1918. He was stationed at Fort Washington, Maryland and was honorably discharged in December 1918. Edward was married to Margaret Burke; he died in 1954 and was buried at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore. *Photograph Courtesy of the Adams County Historical Society.*

#### *ALLEN STEWART HARTMAN*

Allen Hartman was born in Harrisburg on May 17, 1893, one of eight children of Reverend Jacob Stewart and Ella Flickinger Hartman, who later moved to Littlestown in Adams County. The family was well known for its church work in the area, including the Hoffman Orphanage. Hartman was working in Harrisburg as a clerk for the Pennsylvania Railroad when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was still at that employment when inducted into the Army at Harrisburg on April

29, 1918. He went to Camp Lee, Virginia, where he was assigned as a Private with the 314<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment, Headquarters Company, 80<sup>th</sup> Division. He sailed for France from Norfolk, Virginia on board the *America* on May 26, 1918. He identified his father, Jacob Hartman of



Cavetown, Maryland, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Hartman was mortally wounded in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive at Nantillois on October 10, while carrying a wounded infantryman to a first aid station. He died on October 14, 1918 at age 25, while being removed from the field of battle to Béthincourt. He was buried there in a temporary military cemetery, then interred permanently at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (Plot E, Row 7, Grave 9). Hartman's mother died in 1925 at age 58; his father died in 1934 at age 69. They

were both buried at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Littlestown.

Allen's younger brother, Ezra Flickinger Hartman, also served in the Great War. He was born in 1896 and enlisted in the newly formed American Aviation Section of the U.S. Signal Corps in 1917. He shipped to France in August 1918 and served as a chauffeur with the 282<sup>nd</sup> Aero Squadron; he was honorably discharged in December 1918. He was married in 1922 to Jane Crouse; they had one son, named for his brother, Allen Stewart Hartman (who also served in the Army in Korea). Ezra died tragically of suicide in 1957 at age 60. He and his wife were buried at the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

## ANDREW EMANUEL MICKLEY

Andrew Mickley was born March 14, 1894 in Gettysburg, eldest of three sons of Robert C. and Lenora (Lena) Baker Mickley. Mickley was a mill worker at a furniture company when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He went to Camp Meade, Maryland in September 1917 and was assigned as a Corporal with Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division. Mickley sailed to France from Hoboken on July 9, 1918 on board the *Agamemnon*. He identified his father, Mr. Robert Mickley, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Mickley was killed in action during the drive to capture Montfaucon in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was originally reported as missing in action, but it was later determined that he died on September 30, 1918. He was 24 years old. Mickley was buried at the



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (Plot E, Row 11, Grave 21). Mickley's father died in 1926 at age 57. His mother visited her son's grave in 1930 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. She died at Gettysburg in 1936 at age 60. They were both buried at Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery in Gettysburg.

Mickley's younger brother, Owen Cletus Mickley, also served in the Great War. He was born in 1897, registered for the draft in May 1918, and was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on September 3, 1918. He received his training at Camp Greenleaf, South Carolina, and served most of his time in France with Evacuation Hospital No. 49 in

southeastern France (October 1918 to August 1919). He was honorably discharged at Fort Dix, New Jersey on September 3, 1919 and returned to Gettysburg. Owen Mickley married Edna Kuhn and died in 1967 at age 70. They were also buried at Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery.

### CLAIR RICHWINE

Clair Richwine was born February 27, 1896 in Hunter's Run (Cumberland County), youngest son of eleven children of Jacob Mervin and Sarah Elizabeth Waggoner (also spelled Wagner) Richwine, later of Gardners in Adams County. Richwine was working as a farm laborer in Boiling Springs when he enlisted in the Army in June 1917. He went to



Camp Hancock near Augusta, Georgia and was assigned as a Private with Company G, 112<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 28<sup>th</sup> Division. The 28<sup>th</sup> Division was originally named the "Keystone Division," as it was formed from units of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Richwine sailed for France from New York on May 7, 1918 on board the *Aquitania*. He identified his father, Jacob M. Richwine of Gardners, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. The 28<sup>th</sup> Division went into the line at the Front on July 4, 1918. Richwine fought in the Second Battle of the Marne at Cha-

teau-Thierry. He was then captured by the Germans in late August 1918 after being wounded while fighting near Fismes. He died from wounds and influenza at a hospital in Berne, Switzerland on August 31, 1918, at age 22. Richwine was buried at the Oise-Aisne American Cem-

etery (Plot A, Row 7, Grave 25). His father died in 1923 at age 70. His mother visited her son's grave in 1930 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. She died in 1958 at age 93; both parents were buried at Mount Victory Church Cemetery in Cumberland County.

*FRANCIS E. RIDER*

Francis Rider was born July 21, 1898 in East Berlin, the only child of John Mervin and Mary Kuhn Rider. His mother died the following year, in November 1899. His father then married Grace Ethel Strausbaugh in 1903, and they had one daughter, Lois. Rider enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard at Mt. Gretna on August 28, 1916, and served at the Mexican border later that year and in the early months of 1917. He returned to Pennsylvania in March 1917 and served as a railroad guard until August 22 of that year, when he traveled to Camp Hancock near Augusta, Georgia, as a member of the advance guard for that camp. He was then assigned as a Corporal with Company L, 109<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 28<sup>th</sup> Division. Rider sailed to France from Brooklyn on board the *Anchises* on May 3, 1918. He was



killed in action from sniper fire during fighting along the Marne on July 15, 1918; he was 20 years old. He had originally been reported missing in action, and his family did not receive news of his death until January 2, 1919. Rider was buried at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery (Plot B, Row 9, Grave 13). Rider's father registered for the WWI draft in

September 1918, at age 38; he also registered for the WWII draft in 1942 at age 62. He was not called for service for either war, and he died in 1952 at age 72. Rider's stepmother visited his grave in 1932 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. She died in 1960 at age 77. John and Grace Rider were both buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg.

### *WILFERT HENRY RUPPRECHT*

Wilfert Rupprecht was born March 15, 1898 in Spring Grove (York County), the oldest of three children of John Henry and Emma Leonard Rupprecht, who later moved to McSherrystown in Adams County. His father died at age 39 in 1909 when he was accidentally run over by a farm wagon. Rupprecht enlisted in the Army on July 18, 1917



and was sent to Gettysburg, where he was assigned as a Private with Company L, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. He was transferred in October 1917 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trench Mortar Battery, 2<sup>nd</sup> Artillery Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, and shipped overseas on board the S.S. *Canada* from Portland, Maine on December 24, 1917. The passenger list identified Miss Emma Rupprecht, his sister of Hanover, as his emergency contact; however his sister's name was Edna and his mother's name was Emma and it was she who was living in Han-

over in 1918. Rupprecht was killed in action in the Verdun Sector on April 3, 1918, at age 19. He was buried at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery (Plot D, Row 7, Grave 24). His mother visited her son's grave in 1930 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. She did not remarry and died in 1943 at age 68; she was buried at St. Joseph Cath-



olic Cemetery in Hanover. Her husband had been buried at Saint Peters Church Cemetery in Spring Grove. *Photograph Courtesy of the Adams County Historical Society.*

### *HARRY MILFORD TAYLOR*

Harry Taylor was born November 14, 1891 in Aspers (near Bendersville), oldest of eight children of John Grant and Ida Florence Tuckey Taylor. The Taylors were a farming family in Menallen Township. Harry Taylor was a student at the Cumberland Valley State Normal School in Shippensburg when he registered for the draft and then enlisted in the Army in June 1917; he had been a school teacher for three years in Adams County by that time. He went into service in summer 1917 in Gettysburg, as a Musician 3<sup>rd</sup> Class in the band of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry; he was promoted to Private with Headquarters Company of that unit in January 1918. Taylor sailed to France in spring 1918 and was transferred to the Sanitary Detachment, 7<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. He was killed in action on October 25,



1918 in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, age 26. Taylor was buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (Plot H, Row 9, Grave 32). His mother visited her son's grave in 1930 on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage. Taylor's father died in 1947 at age 82; his mother died in 1955 at age 80. They were buried in the Greenmount Cemetery in Arendtsville under the same headstone; their son Harry's name is also engraved on their stone.



## JOSEPH ALBERT WILLIAMS

Joseph Williams was born November 23, 1892 at Emmitsburg, Maryland, one of nine surviving children of William Alfred and Emma Clara Cook Williams. The Williams family had moved from Maryland to Adams County by the 1900 Census, which identified Williams' father as a farmer. The Williams family was still in Adams County at the 1910 Census; Williams' father was a widower by then and still a farmer, and Joseph Williams' occupation was identified as a farm laborer. He gave Gettysburg as his home address when he registered for the draft in



June 1917; he was working near there in Cumberland Township as a caretaker of horses. Williams was the only black soldier from Adams County to die in the war. He entered service at Gettysburg on October 29, 1917 and went to Camp Meade, Maryland where he was first assigned with the 368<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and then transferred as a Private in Company F, 372<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 93<sup>rd</sup> "Colored" Division. The 93<sup>rd</sup> Division was formed as a segregated unit of the U.S. Army

for World War I. The 372<sup>nd</sup> Infantry was made up of men from Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Tennessee. Williams sailed for France from Hoboken on April 23, 1918 on board the *H.R. Mallory*. The passenger list identified the men on this ship as being with Company #2 of the Camp Meade Replacement Draft (April), and Williams was identified as a Private with the 368<sup>th</sup> In-

fantry. He identified his father, Mr. William A. Williams of Gettysburg, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. The 372<sup>nd</sup> Infantry served with the 157<sup>th</sup> French (Colonial) Division from August 1 to October 23, 1918, and took part in the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in its sector west of the Argonne Forest. Williams was killed by Germany artillery fire on September 28, 1918. That day, the 372<sup>nd</sup> Infantry captured the western part of Bellevue Signal Ridge and advanced to a position south of Bussy Farm. Williams was buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (Plot G, Row 32, Grave 18).

Williams' father did not remarry and died in 1935 at age 82. Although his death certificate indicates that he was buried at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Gettysburg, his newspaper obituary indicates that his requiem mass was held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and that he was buried at the "colored cemetery." This cemetery was established in 1867 by the Sons of Goodwill, a society of black men for the burial of the colored citizens of Gettysburg. The cemetery is now known as Lincoln Cemetery. No records of Williams' mother's death or burial were found.

Joseph Williams' younger brother, John Sylvester Williams, also served in the Great War. He was born in 1895 in Cumberland County, and married Anna L. Butler of Maryland in 1916. He was working as a driver for the U.S. Government in Gettysburg when he registered for the draft in June 1917; he was inducted into the Army in Gettysburg in October 1917 and went to Camp Meade. He was first assigned as a Private in Company C, 368<sup>th</sup> Infantry, then was transferred to Company F, 372<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. He sailed to France from Hoboken on board the same ship as his brother; he identified his wife, Mrs. Anna L. Williams of Emmitsburg, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Since he was in the same unit as his brother, it is likely that he also fought in the

Meuse-Argonne Offensive; his 1934 Veterans Benefit Application indicates he was in action from September 27 to October 7, 1918. John Williams left France in February 1919 on board the *Leviathan* and arrived at Camp Upton, New York. He was honorably discharged on March 3, 1919 and returned to live in Gettysburg with his wife and two daughters. At the 1930 and 1940 Censuses, he was working at the Gettysburg National Military Park. He registered for the draft in 1942 but was not called to serve. His wife Anna died at age 78 in 1968, and he died in 1974 also at age 78. They were buried at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

### *DUPONT LAMOTTE WOLF*

DuPont Wolf was born in 1897 in Gettysburg, the oldest of three children and only son of David Malancthon and Ella Alice LaMotte Wolf. David Wolf was born in Abbottstown and had first married Estella McCullough in 1888; she died in 1892, and he then married Ella LaMotte (from Maryland) in 1896. They had moved to Baltimore by the 1910 Census where he was a lumber merchant. DuPont Wolf enlisted in the Army's Coast Artillery Corps (CAC) in spring 1917. The CAC was an administrative corps responsible for coastal, harbor, and anti-aircraft defense of the U.S. between 1901 and 1950. In World War I, many coast artillery companies were withdrawn from stateside coast defenses to serve in the new artillery regiments. In fall 1917, Wolf was transferred to the 117<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Battery 42<sup>nd</sup> Division where he served as a Corporal. He sailed to France from Hoboken on October 18, 1917 aboard the *Tenadores*. He identified his father, D. M. Wolf of Baltimore, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Wolf served in several offensives in France, including Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne. He was wounded slightly and briefly hospitalized in May 1918, and returned to duty. He was killed

by an explosive shell on October 31, 1918 in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Wolf was buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (Plot C, Row 3, Grave 11). His mother died at Atlantic City, New Jersey of pneumonia in February 1920 at age 48. She was buried at the Druid Ridge Cemetery in Baltimore. Wolf's father made a passport application in September 1920 for travel to France on October 7 that year on board the *Imperator*, to visit his son's grave; both of his daughters accompanied him. He returned from that visit sailing from Southampton to New York on November 24, 1920 on board the *Olympic*. David Wolf did not remarry and died in 1936 in Baltimore at age 72.

## ADAMS COUNTY SAILOR MEMORIALIZED IN ENGLAND

### ROYAL ALLEN LEESE

Royal Leese was born February 1, 1894 in Littlestown, one of about six children of John Henry and Mary Lightner Leese. At the 1910 Census, he was age 16 and living with the Kendig family in Union Township as a hired hand, working as a farm laborer. Leese first enlisted in the U.S. Navy as an Apprentice Seaman in Baltimore, in 1911 at age 17. He then re-enlisted through San Francisco on March 23, 1915. There is a record that he was hospitalized for a month while serving in the Philippines in 1912; his illness was related to dengue fever. A newspaper article and the Eichelberger-Foulk book also identified that he served for two years in the Philippines and for nearly



two years in Shanghai, China. He returned from there to Boston, where he was assigned to the U.S. Submarine L-10 as a Gunner's Mate First Class on April 6, 1917. U.S. submarines were used in WWI to protect the shipping lanes used by the Allied forces. The U.S.S. L-10 departed Newport, Rhode Island on December 4, 1917 and patrolled the Azores for a month before joining Submarine Division 5 in the British Isles in January 1918. The ship was based in Britain for the rest of the war and conducted anti-U-boat patrols. Leese fell overboard and was drowned when the vessel was off the coast of Ireland, on January 24, 1918, one week before his 24<sup>th</sup> birthday. His body was not recovered. His name is listed on the Navy Tablet of the Missing at the Brookwood American Cemetery in Surrey, England (southwest of London).

Leese's parents and at least one of their sons, Earl John Leese, moved to Iowa about 1923, and then returned to Adams County after the death of this son; he died in Iowa of spinal meningitis in 1929 at age 26. Leese's mother traveled to France on a U.S.-sponsored Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage in May 1931. She died in 1937 at age 67; his father died in 1947 at age 76. Both died in New Oxford, and were buried under the same headstone, along with their son, Earl, at the Christ Church Cemetery in Littlestown. Although the death year for Earl Leese was engraved as 1927, his death certificate from Carroll County, Iowa, stated the year of death as 1929 and his year of birth as 1902. Royal Leese's name is also engraved on this family marker.

## PART II: SOLDIERS BURIED IN ADAMS COUNTY

### *JOHN MARTIN BATTERMAN*

John Batterman was born November 28, 1894 near Gettysburg, one of seven surviving children of David F. and Amanda Reiff Wisler Batterman of Mummasburg. The Battermans were a farming family, and the 1910 Census showed John working on the family farm at age 15. He was working as a machinist in his own shop in Gettysburg when he registered for the draft in June 1917. Batterman was inducted into the Army in Gettysburg on August 28, 1918 and went to Camp Lee, Virginia, where he was assigned as a Private with a casual detachment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 155<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade. A casual detachment was part of a unit separated from its main organization for duty elsewhere. He had been in camp about six weeks when he contracted influenza; he died on October 19, 1918, age 23. Batterman identified himself as a member of the Mennonite Church on his draft registration card, and he was buried in the Mummasburg Mennonite Cemetery. Batterman's father had died of a stroke in early July 1918 at age 52, and his mother died in 1924 at age 66. She did not remarry and continued the farming business with her children until her death. Both were also buried at the Mummasburg Mennonite Cemetery.

### *GEORGE EDWARD BLACK*

George Black was born September 12, 1894 in Bendersville, one of six surviving children of Samuel H. and Anna Mary Penner Black. He was working as a farm laborer in Aspers when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was employed by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad when inducted into the



Army at Gettysburg on September 6, 1918. Black was sent to Camp Meade, Maryland where he was assigned as a Private with 30<sup>th</sup> Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 153<sup>rd</sup> Depot Brigade; he was then transferred to Camp Dix, New Jersey. He died there on October 8, 1918 from pneumonia at age 24. Black was buried at the Wenksville Cemetery. His mother died in 1927 at age 66, and his father died in 1930 at age 74. They were both also buried at Wenksville Cemetery.

### *CHARLES EDWARD BOWER*

Charles Bower was born April 11, 1898 in New Oxford, youngest son of six children of Thomas Edwin and Rebecca Julian Feiser Bower. Bower enlisted at age 20 in the U.S. Army's hospital unit at Takoma Park, Maryland on March 26, 1918 and was assigned as a Private to the Medical Supply Depot at Camp Merritt, New Jersey. Sometime prior to



his enlistment, Bower had been an assistant to his cousin, the New Oxford undertaker, William Feiser. Bower was transferred to the Base Hospital at Camp Mills, New York on June 28, 1918, and was promoted to Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class on July 19, 1918. He was then promoted to Sergeant on September 26, 1918. Bower succumbed to influenza on October 20, 1918 at age 20½; his oldest brother, Willis, was by his side and notified the family of his death. His next older brother, Chester Bower, was serving in France with the U.S. Army's 79<sup>th</sup> Division in the Meuse-

Argonne Offensive at the time of his death. Charles Bower was buried at New Oxford Cemetery, as were his parents, his brothers, and his sis-

ters. Bower's father died in 1922 at age 84, and his mother died in 1947 at age 90. Bower's brother, Chester Allen Bower, was gassed during the last days of the war but survived and returned to New Oxford in 1919. He married Goldie Bentzel, raised three children (including the author's mother), and served as postmaster for five years before his death in December 1939 at age 45. His early death was attributed, in part, to gas exposure during his military service overseas. *Photograph from author's collection.*

### *RALPH EMERSON BRAME*

Ralph Brame was born May 12, 1896 in Butler Township, Adams County, youngest of two sons of Mervin Oscar and Annie Amelia March Brame. The spelling of "Brame" is used in the Eichelberger-Foult book and in Adams County newspaper articles and on his grave marker, but many of the military records use the spelling of Brehm, including the Veteran's Compensation Application filed by his mother in February 1934. Brame's father had died in 1913 at age 41 from complications of a stomach operation; he had been a rural mail carrier in Idaville. Brame enlisted with the U.S. Navy Reserves in Philadelphia on April 12, 1917 and was stationed at Cape May, New Jersey. He was a Pharmacist's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class with the Naval Railway Battery #1. He sailed from New York to St. Nazaire in June 1918 on board the *George Washington*, and moved to the Front at Soissons where he assisted both French and American units against German artillery units. Brame was weakened





by exposure and fatigue and removed to the Glorieux Field Hospital (U.S. Field Hospital #136) near Verdun, where he died from pneumonia on October 25, 1918 at age 22. He was initially buried at the American Cemetery at Souilly; his remains were returned to the U.S. in July 1921 and he was reinterred at St. John's United Church of Christ Cemetery in the village of New Chester. Brame's mother remarried Ulysses Grant Mace, who preceded her in death in 1942. She died in Gettysburg in 1950 at age 77. Both Brame's parents were buried at St. John's United Church of Christ Cemetery.

Brame's brother, Charles Arthur Brame, also served in the Great War. He was born in 1895 and was attending Temple University in Philadelphia when he registered for the draft in May 1917. He was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg in July 1918, achieving the rank of Corporal in Company E, 5th Battalion Replacement Training Center at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was honorably discharged from Camp Lee in December 1918. Charles Brame married Mary Kready in 1919 and had two sons. He died in 1953 from a stroke while working as an Adams County probation officer, a position he had held for three years. Charles Brame was buried at Gettysburg National Cemetery.

#### *WALTER SYLVESTER BRAME*

Walter Brame was born on February 11, 1898 near Aspers, son of Albert Zug and Mabel Lilley Brame. Brame's mother died shortly after he was born (see discussion of her below), and the baby was given by his father to be raised by Elmer H. and Laura Brame Miller. Elmer and Laura were married in 1895 in Gettysburg and had one daughter, Mary, born that year. Both the 1900 and 1910 Census forms identified Walter Brame as a boarder living with the Millers, age two in 1900 and age 12 in 1910. The 1910 Census showed his occupation as a farm laborer on the Miller home farm.

Walter Brame enlisted in the Army at Columbus Barracks, Ohio on June 28, 1918 at age 20. He was sent to Ft. Monroe, Virginia and assigned as a Private with Battery F, 74<sup>th</sup> Artillery of the Coast Artillery Corps. In September 1918, he was transferred from Virginia to Camp Upton, New York, and shipped to France from Hoboken on September 23, 1918 on board the *President*

*Grant*. He identified his guardian, Elmer Miller of Aspers, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. While on board ship, he contracted influenza and was taken to St. Nazaire Base Hospital upon arrival there on October 7, 1918. He developed pneumonia and died on October 13, 1918, age 20. Brame's body was returned to the U.S. after the war, departing St. Nazaire on August 24, 1920 on board the *Princess Ma-*



*toika*, a transport carrying the overseas dead, and arriving in Hoboken on September 4, 1920. His remains arrived in Adams County on September 27, 1920 and he was buried in Upper Bermudian Church Cemetery near Gardners. Brame's guardian father, Elmer Miller, died in 1929, and his guardian mother, Laura Miller, died in 1960. They were also buried at Upper Bermudian Church Cemetery.

Brame's birth father, Albert, remarried in 1899 to Catherine (Katie) Floyd of Bendersville. Albert and Katie Brame went on to have 11 children. Albert died in 1942 at age 71 and was buried at Upper Bermudian Church Cemetery; his wife did not remarry and died in 1975 at age 93. She was buried under the same headstone as her daughter,

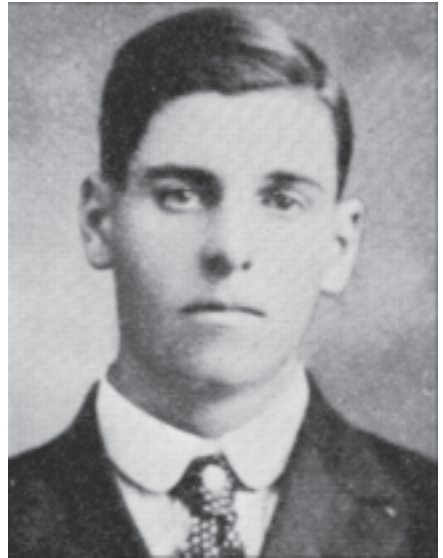
Mabel Brame Johnson, and her daughter's husband at Westminster Memorial Gardens in Carlisle. Of note is that the 1899 marriage license of Albert Brame and Katie Floyd identifies the "date of death of the man's former wife" (which would be Mabel Brame's mother) as February 11, 1896. That date does not match Walter Brame's birth year of 1898, when it was reported that his mother, Mabel, had died. It is also noteworthy that none of the Ancestry family trees or other records for Albert Brame show that he had a first wife named Mabel, or that he had a son named Walter. His second wife, Catherine, and their children are all that appear for his marriage and children records. The only record that shows Albert Brame's connection to his son was his filing of a Veterans Compensation Benefit Application in 1934; that form identified Walter's mother as "Mabel May Lilly Brame." Albert Brame was the only living next of kin to Walter Brame at that time; Walter's guardian father, Elmer Miller, had died in 1929.

Brame's birth mother, Mabel May Lilley, was the daughter of John Alfred and Priscilla Shetron Lilley (also spelled Lilly). Mabel's date of birth can be deduced as 1875 from two sources: 1) the 1880 Census of Carroll Township in Perry County, which identified her name as "Margaret" and her age as five, and 2) the certificate of her marriage to Albert Brame in 1892, which stated her age as 17. That certificate also confirmed her parents as John and Priscilla Lilley, and that she resided in West Fairview, Cumberland County, at the time of her marriage. No death records for Mabel Lilley Brame were found. The Lilleys had five other children, born between 1869 and 1880; Mabel was in the middle. Her father died in 1917 at age 70, and her mother died in 1928 at age 82. They were both buried, along with their daughter Anna, at the Camp Hill Cemetery in Cumberland County. Of note is that their daughter Anna has the middle initial of "M" and that she did not ap-

pear in the 1880 Census with the other children, so she must have been born later that year. It is not possible to track her or others in the 1890 Census because most of the census forms for that year were lost in a fire. Then Anna died in 1898, before the 1900 Census, and there was no death record for her. Much about the sisters remains unknown.

### *CHARLES CLARENCE BUCHER*

Charles Bucher was born January 31, 1894 in Bonneauville, one of six surviving children of Charles Woodward and Mary Matilda (Tillie) Smith Bucher. He was working in farming in Mt. Pleasant Township when he registered for the draft in June 1917. Bucher was inducted into the Army in Gettysburg on September 19, 1917 and went to Camp Meade, Maryland, where he was initially assigned as a Private in the 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, Depot Brigade. A few weeks later, he was transferred to Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division and sailed to France from Hoboken on July 9, 1918 on board the *Agamemnon*. He identified his father, Mr. Charles Bucher, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Bucher was promoted to Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class on August 1, 1918. He was originally reported as missing in action on September 30, 1918; he was subsequently identified as killed in action that day by artillery fire near Montfaucon in the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was 24 years old. His remains were returned to Adams County in December 1921, and he was buried at St. Joseph the



Worker Catholic Church Cemetery in Bonneauville. Bucher's younger brother, Dewey William Bucher, registered for the draft at age 19 in mid-September 1918, but he was not called up. Bucher's father died in 1921 at age 57 of typhoid fever; his youngest sister, Cecelia, had died of the same disease in 1911 at age 11. His mother died in 1940 at age 73. These family members were also buried at St. Joseph Cemetery, under the same headstone.

### *SAMUEL DAVID CLAPSADLE*

Samuel Clapsadle was born March 8, 1892 in Orrtanna, one of 11 children of John William and Sarah Anna Irvin Clapsadle. He was working for his father on the family farm when he registered for the draft in June 1917. Clapsadle was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on November 5, 1917 and went to Camp Meade, Maryland where he was assigned as a Private with Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry 79<sup>th</sup> Divi-



sion. He was transferred to Company C, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 5<sup>th</sup> Division on February 1, 1918 and sailed to France from Hoboken on April 24, 1918 on board the *Leviathan*. He identified his father, William Clapsadle, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Clapsadle saw front line action during the St. Mihiel Offensive September 12-16 and again in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive from October 14-22. He was severely wounded in action October

22, 1918 and died from his wounds the next day, October 23, at age 26. Clapsadle's body was returned to Gettysburg on July 21, 1921 along with the remains of another Adams County Gold Star soldier, Ira

E. Lady. He was buried at the St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Cemetery in Orrtanna. Clapsadle's mother died in 1923 at age 52, and his father died in 1935 at age 75. They were also buried at St. Ignatius Catholic Cemetery.

*PAUL FRANCIS COLE*

Paul Cole was born March 18, 1895 in Buchanan Valley, one of 10 children of George Edward and Rose Cecelia Brady Cole. He was working as a fireman for the Cumberland Valley Railroad in Chambersburg (Franklin County) when he registered for the draft in June 1917; he identified his home address on his registration form as Martinsburg, West Virginia. Cole's father was a farmer, and the 1910 Census

showed the family living and farming on the Chambersburg/Gettysburg Pike in Adams County. The 1920 Census showed the family living in Berkeley County in West Virginia, where Martinsburg is the County seat. Sometime between 1910 and 1920 the family had moved from Pennsylvania to West Virginia, and Cole was living in Martinsburg when he was inducted into the Army there on June 26, 1918. He received preliminary training at Camp Lee, Virgin-



ia with the 31<sup>st</sup> Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, 155<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade. He was sent overseas in mid-August 1918 and was assigned as a Private with Company D, 127<sup>th</sup> Infantry 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. Cole was wounded in the leg by a high explosive shell during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on October 9, 1918. He died of his wounds on November 11, 1918 at Base

Hospital No. 23 in Vittel, Département Vosges, at age 23. Cole's remains were returned to Adams County and he was buried in the Corpus Christi Cemetery in Chambersburg. The 1930 and 1940 Censuses showed that Cole's parents had returned to Greene Township in Franklin County. Cole's mother died in 1953 at age 85, and his father died in 1957 at age 90. They were both also buried at Corpus Christi Cemetery in Chambersburg.

### *CHARLES LESTER DIEHL*

Charles Diehl was born October 29, 1896 in Gettysburg, one of five children of Levi Jacob and Mary Lillian Kerper Diehl. He was working in the express business when he enlisted in the Army in Harrisburg



on April 17, 1918. Diehl was first sent to Columbus Barracks, Ohio and then to Chattanooga, Tennessee where he was assigned as a Private with the Medical Department at the Base Hospital. He was later transferred to Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, where he attended the Non-Commissioned Officers School and was promoted to Corporal on September 15, 1918. Diehl fell ill in October 1918 and was transferred to the hospital at Camp Oglethorpe in Macon, Georgia. He was able to travel home to Gettysburg in February 1919 to see his family, but when his father visited him

in Georgia in March he sent word home that his son's prognosis for recovery was poor. Diehl died on March 29, 1919 of meningitis, age 22. He was buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg. Diehl's father

died in 1944 at age 77, and his mother died in 1951 at age 79. Both were also buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

*WILBUR VINCENT FINK*

Wilbur Fink was born April 19, 1892 in Irishtown, youngest of four children born to Vincent Ambrose and Rebecca Jane Timmons Fink. He was working as a painter in New Oxford when he registered for the draft in June 1917. Fink was married to Georgianna Elizabeth Miller on June 26, 1917; they had no children.

He was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on August 28, 1918 and went to Camp Lee, Virginia. He trained as a Private with Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Replacement and Training Battalion until September 19, 1918, when he was transferred to Company L, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Replacement and Training Battalion. He died at the Base Hospital at Camp Lee on October 4, 1918 from influenza-caused pneumonia,



age 26. Fink was buried at Conewago Chapel Basilica Cemetery in Edgegrove. Fink's wife did not remarry and worked for many years at the Farmers and Merchants Bank in New Oxford. She died there on August 29, 1946, age 50. She was also buried at Conewago Chapel Cemetery. Fink's parents both preceded him in death; his mother died in 1913 at age 58, and his father died in 1918 at age 67. Both were buried at Conewago Chapel Cemetery.

*FRANK EDWARD GARDNER*

Frank Gardner was born October 23, 1892 in Idaville, oldest of six children of John Willis and Mary Jane Castner Gardner. He was working at the American Chair Company in York when he registered for



the draft in June 1917. Gardner had been married in August 1913 to Ora Rhetta Bush from Bendersville, and had two children (Elda May born 1914 and Dean Richard born 1916) by the time he was inducted into the Army. His induction occurred at York on June 15, 1918 and he was first assigned to the Pennsylvania State College Training Detachment until August 12, 1918. He was then transferred to Camp Han-



cock, Georgia where he was assigned as a Private with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Company, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Provisional Ordinance Detachment. Gardner then went to Camp Upton, New York, from where he sailed for France on October 6, 1918 on board the *Cedric*. He identified his mother, Mrs. Mary Gardner of Idaville, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Gardner was taken ill with influenza on board ship. He was removed to hospital in Manchester, England where he died from pneu-

monia on October 20, 1918. He was originally buried in Southern Cemetery in Manchester; his remains were eventually returned to Adams County and he was buried at Idaville United Methodist Church Cemetery. Gardner's wife did not remarry and died at age 46 in October 1933; she was buried at Bendersville Cemetery. Gardner's Veterans Benefit Application was filed in March 1934 by the First National Bank of Gettysburg, which was the guardian of his children who were still minors at the time. Gardner's father died in 1942 at age 80, and his mother died in 1957 at age 90. Both were also buried at Idaville Cemetery. Gardner's daughter, Elda May, died in 2010 in Gettysburg a week

before her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. She had been married to Cecil Bean and had three sons. Gardner's son, Richard Dean Gardner, died in 2002 at age 86 in Gettysburg; he had been married to Anna Sanders and also had three sons.

### *HARRY MAHLION GISE*

Harry Gise was born January 3, 1889 in East Berlin, the older of two sons of Charles Calvin and Lillian Ann Spangler Gise. He was working as a farm laborer in York County when he registered for the draft in June 1917, and was then working in East Berlin at Brandt Warehouse when he was inducted into the Army

at Gettysburg on June 27, 1918. He went to Camp Lee, Virginia and was assigned as a Private to two Infantry Training and Replacement Battalions before his transfer to the Automatic Replacement Battalion 65<sup>th</sup> Provisional Company in mid-August 1918. Gise's name is on two 1918 transport lists to France. One identifies him as with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Provisional Company departing on the *Princess Matoika* on August 22, 1918 from Norfolk, Virginia.



On that passenger list, however, his name is struck through in red pen, as are many names on that list. The other list identifies him as with the 65<sup>th</sup> Provisional Company sailing from Newport News, Virginia, but there is no ship name and no date on that passenger manifest. He identified his father, Calvin C. Gise, as his emergency contact on both passenger lists. After arriving in France, Gise became ill and died from pneumonia on October 9, 1918 at age 29 in Saint-Amand-Montrond (in

the Département Cher, south of Bourges), and was buried near there. Gise's remains, along with about 320 other deceased soldiers, were returned to the U.S. on board the *Pocahontas*, a ship carrying the remains of overseas dead. The ship sailed from St. Nazaire on October 1 and arrived in Hoboken on October 18, 1920. His remains were returned to his family in East Berlin on November 3, 1920 and he was buried at the East Berlin Union Cemetery. Gise's father died in 1926 at age 62. His mother, Lillian, had moved to West York borough in York County (where her other son lived) by the 1930 Census. She did not remarry and died there in 1952 at age 90. Both Gise's parents were buried at East Berlin Union Cemetery.

#### WILLIAM BAKER HOKE

William Hoke was born September 11, 1891 in Abbottstown, oldest of seven children of Martin Luther and Annie Ellen Baker Hoke. He was working as a bookkeeper for the Driscoll Auto Company in Har-



risburg when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army in Gettysburg on April 2, 1918 and went to Camp Meade, Maryland where he was assigned for a month as a Private with the 8<sup>th</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 154<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade. From there he went to Camp Upton, New York, and was assigned to Company G, 109<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 28<sup>th</sup> Division. He sailed overseas with this unit from Brooklyn on May 3, 1918 on board the *Alsatian*. He identified his

mother, Mrs. Annie E. Hoke, as his emergency contact on the passen-

ger list; his father had died in 1915 at age 52. Hoke landed at Falkstone, England on May 18, 1918 and crossed over to France, where he took part in the Second Battle of the Marne, July 14-25, 1918. The 28<sup>th</sup> Division served in several more battles, and Hoke was killed in action during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on October 1, 1918, age 27. Hoke was first buried in Montblainville-sur-Meuse. His remains were later returned to Adams County and he was buried at Mummert's Meetinghouse Cemetery near East Berlin. Hoke's mother did not remarry, and she died in 1943 at age 78. His parents were also both buried at Mummert's Meetinghouse Cemetery.

*ELMER GEORGE JACOBS*

Elmer Jacobs was born April 15, 1894 in East Berlin, one of six children of Aaron O. and Mary Elizabeth Firestone Jacobs. Jacobs' father had served in the Union Army during the Civil War and died in 1900 at age 52. His father's first wife, Elizabeth Eisenhart, died in 1891; he married Mary Firestone in 1893. At the 1910 Census when Jacobs was 16 years old, he was living away from home and working on a farm in Reading Township that was owned by the Chriswell family. He moved to Southern California sometime after that, and was living and working there as a farmer in Huntington Park when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He entered the Army at Camp Lewis near Tacoma, Washington as a Private with Company D, 316<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Train, 91<sup>st</sup> Division. Jacobs contracted pneumonia while at camp



and died there on March 6, 1918, age 23. His body was returned to East Berlin and he was buried on March 18, 1918 at Mummert's Meetinghouse Cemetery. There are two grave markers for Jacobs; one shared with his mother (who did not remarry and died in 1929 at age 64), and a second indicating his military service. The military marker identifies him as from California, likely because he entered military service from there.

### *GEORGE ANDREW JACOBY*

George Jacoby was born August 19, 1888 in Conewago Township, one of seven children of Andrew Edmond and Madaline Noel Jacoby. At the 1910 Census, Jacoby was 22 years old and living in Mt. Pleasant Township with the Housor family and working as a farm laborer.



He was then working as a day laborer in Centennial when he registered for the draft in June 1917. Jacoby was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on August 28, 1918 and went to Camp Lee, Virginia on September 5, 1918. He was assigned as a Private with Company C, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Training and Replacement Battalion. Jacoby died at the Camp Hospital from influenza on October 5, 1918 at age 29. He was buried at Conewago Chapel Basilica Cemetery in Edgegrove.

Jacoby's father had died tragically in a lime kiln fire in 1894 at age 38, leaving his widow and seven young children. His mother was remarried by the 1910 Census to Claude Kuhn. She died in 1936 at age 74. Jacoby's father and mother were also buried at Conewago Chapel Cemetery.

Jacoby's younger brother, John Francis Jacoby, also served in the Great War. He was born in 1890 and was working as a cigar maker in Centennial when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He entered service at Camp Meade, Maryland, where he was assigned to Company C , 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 5<sup>th</sup> Division. He sailed to France in April 1918. Jacoby's infantry unit fought at the St. Mihiel Offensive September 12-16; he received a gunshot wound in that battle on September 12, 1918 and received the Purple Heart medal. He returned to the U.S. in January 1919 and was discharged at Camp Lee, Virginia. He was married to Irene Harman, and died in 1959 at age 69; he was buried at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery in McSherrystown.

#### *CHARLES JOHN KRAL*

Charles Kral was born October 18, 1889 in Chicago, Illinois, son of John (also called Jan) and Mary (also called Marie) Kral who immigrated to Chicago in the early 1870s from Bohemia. Bohemia was a region of central Europe that became part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It became a province of Czechoslovakia in 1918 as part of the peace treaty negotiations at the end of WWI.

Kral first enlisted in the Army in 1908 at age 18 in Jefferson Barracks, Missouri and served at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois for three years; he was enumerated there at the 1910 Census.



He enlisted again in February 1911 at age 21 and served with Company I, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry for another three years. He was discharged at Galveston, Texas in 1914. At some point between 1914 and 1917, Kral either re-

enlisted or his unit was transferred to the 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which was organized for WWI service in June 1917 in Gettysburg. The 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry joined the Army's 4<sup>th</sup> Division in November 1917, which was organized at Camp Greene, North Carolina in December 1917. Kral was married to Daisy M. Miller, of York Springs, in Charlotte, North Carolina on December 22, 1917. It is likely that Kral and Miller met when he was stationed at Gettysburg, and then they married in North Carolina while he was stationed at Camp Greene. Kral was appointed Mess Sergeant in spring 1918, and sailed for France from Camp Mills, New York aboard the *City of Brisbane* on May 17, 1918. He gave York Springs as his home address and identified his wife, Daisy Kral, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. As part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, Kral took part in several battles in France, including Chateau-Thierry, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne. It was during this last Offensive that he was killed in action on October 6, 1918, just before his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. At the time of his death, it was announced in the *Gettysburg Times* that, because he married a local woman and identified York Springs as his home, he would be placed on the Adams County WWI honor roll. Kral was first buried at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery; his remains were returned to Harrisburg in September 1921, where his wife Daisy was then living. His final burial place was not found. Kral's father died in 1900 at age 46, and his mother died in 1934 at age 78. They were buried at Saint Adalbert Catholic Cemetery near Chicago.

Daisy Miller was born in 1885 in Adams County, one of nine children of George Franklin and Elvina Lipp Miller. At the 1900 Census, she was 15 years old and living with her family in Huntington Township; her father was a farm laborer. At the 1910 Census, she was not living with her family, but she was not found on any other Census record for that year; news items from the *Gettysburg Times* in 1909-10 indicate

that she was likely living there. At the 1920 Census, she was enumerated as Daisy Kral in Harrisburg; she was a widow of age 35, a renter, and working as a servant in a private household. After that date, the spelling of her last name changed to Krall. She appeared with that spelling in the Harrisburg City Directory from 1921 to 1947 (a period of 26 years), as the widow of Charles J. Kral and often working as a domestic. She appeared in the 1930 and 1940 Harrisburg Census records with that same spelling. At the 1940 Census, her occupation was given as sewing for a private family. She never remarried and died in 1967 at age 82 in Harrisburg. She was buried at Sunnyside Cemetery in York Springs where her parents were also buried.

#### *IRA ELLSWORTH LADY*

Ira Lady was born April 15, 1891 in Arendtsville, one of six children of Hiram Clegit and Anna Mary Hartman Lady. Lady's father was a teacher and several of his children became teachers, including Ira who was a teacher of age 19 at the 1910 Census. He was then an instructor at the State Normal School in West Chester, where he graduated in 1913, when he enlisted in the Army on November 5, 1917. Lady went to Camp Meade, Maryland where he was assigned as a Private with Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division. He volunteered for immediate service in France, and in January 1918 was transferred to Camp Stuart, Virginia and assigned to the Machine Gun Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. He was promoted to Sergeant on February 1, 1918 and sailed for France from Newport News, Virginia on April 6, 1918 on board the *Great Northern*. He identified his father, Hiram C. Lady, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Lady fought in several engagements in June and July 1918, including the German offensive between Reims and Soissons, the Aisne defense, Chateau-Thierry, and the Champagne-Marne defense. He was then appointed



to attend Army candidate school at Langres and, having completed the course in less than the required time, he received a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on September 25, 1918. He returned to the 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry,



79<sup>th</sup> Division and led his company through the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on October 31, 1918. Lady was severely wounded by shrapnel fire around November 4, 1918 while leading a charge on the Borne de Cornouiller on the east side of the Meuse River; he later died of his wounds on November 22, 1918, age 27. He was buried at what was then called the Glorieux Meuse Cemetery near Verdun, which later became the Verdun-Glorieux French War Cemetery. His remains were returned to Adams County on

September 20, 1921 and he was reinterred at the Greenmount Cemetery in Arendtsville. The American Legion Post 262 in Biglerville, which was originally at Arendtsville, is named for him. Lady's father died in 1932 at age 70, and his mother died in 1956 at age 91. They were both also buried at Greenmount Cemetery.

Lady's younger brother, Luther Monroe Lady, also served during the Great War. He was born in 1893 and entered service in April 1918 at Camp Meade, Maryland. He attended Officers Training School at Camp Taylor in Kentucky, and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant after the Armistice, on November 15, 1918. He was discharged from there the next day. Luther Lady was married to Ethel Pennypacker and

had two sons; he died at the age of 101 years in 1995 in Biglerville and was buried at Greenmount Cemetery.

*ALBERT JACOB LENTZ*

Albert Lentz was born October 11, 1890 on a farm near Mummasburg, one of eight children of Israel Calvin and Susanna Lovina Guise Lentz, who later moved to Gettysburg. Lentz enlisted in the Army at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri on April 5, 1917 and served at the Mexican border. He went to France in June 1917 with a provisional battalion, and was then assigned as a Private to Headquarters Company, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Division. He was with this unit when he was killed in action on April 20, 1918 at Cantigny in the Villers Tournelles Sector of the Somme; he was 26 years old. Lentz was originally buried there at the American military cemetery. His remains were returned to Adams County in March 1921, and he was buried in April 1921 at Gettysburg National Cemetery. His grave marker states that he was the “first Gettysburg boy to make the supreme



sacrifice in the Great War.” The American Legion Post in Gettysburg is named for Lentz. Lentz’s father died in 1935 at age 71, and his mother died in 1942 at age 75. They were both buried at Friends Grove Cemetery north of Gettysburg in Butler Township.

Lentz’s younger brother, William Edward Lentz, also served in the Great War. He was born in August 1899 and enlisted in the Regular

Army at Columbus Barracks in April 1918, at age 18. William Lentz was assigned to two Aero Squadrons from April to June 1918, then shipped to France with the 258<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron. He remained with this unit until his discharge in August 1919, having seen action in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was married in 1925 to Zula Irene Brady and they had one daughter, Marcette. William Lentz worked as a printer in Baltimore and Philadelphia; he died in 1982 at age 83 and was buried at Shoops Cemetery in Harrisburg, along with his wife and daughter.

### SYLVESTER GUY MILLER

Sylvester Miller (known as Guy) was born October 25, 1894 in Mount Pleasant, only son and youngest of three children of John Henry and Elmira Rebecca Miller (his mother's maiden name was also Miller). The 1900 Census indicated that the Miller's had nine children, three of



whom were surviving at that census. Miller was a self-employed carpenter in Bonneauville when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army in Gettysburg on September 17, 1917 and went to Camp Meade, Maryland. He was assigned as a Private to Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division. He was promoted to Mechanic/Machinist in January 1918, to Chief Mechanic in May 1918, and to Sergeant on July 3, 1918. Miller sailed to France from

Hoboken on July 9, 1918 on board the *Agamemnon*. He identified his father, Mr. John H. Miller, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Miller was killed in action on November 5, 1918 during the final

days of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. His remains were transported to the U.S. with other deceased soldiers on board the U.S. Army Transport *Cantigny*, which left Antwerp on October 21, 1921 and arrived in Hoboken a few weeks later. He was reinterred at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church Cemetery in Bonneauville on November 7, 1921. His mother had died earlier that year, age 66. His father died in 1932 at age 79; both were buried at the Bonneauville Cemetery. Although Miller's grave marker gives his birth year as 1898, all census records and most military records give his birth year as 1894.

### *EARL JOSEPH MYERS*

Earl Myers was born August 17, 1898 in Brushtown, one of eight children of John Frederick and Ida Jane Elisha Storm Myers. Myers enlisted in the United States Regular Army at Harrisburg on July 10, 1917. He first served as a Private with Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division at Camp Colt, and then was transferred to Company H, 8<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion at Camp Greene near Charlotte, North Carolina. Myers died at age 19; his death occurred on January 19, 1918 and was originally reported by the Army as due to drowning, since his body was found in a creek near Charlotte. However, according to a *New Oxford Item* article dated January 31, 1918, when the body was returned to the family in Adams County it exhibited signs of severe trauma, including a fractured skull and substantial bruising and cuts. According to the article, the death certificate that arrived with the body



identified the cause of death as “abdominal hemorrhage from a ruptured kidney, due to a serious wound.” Myers’ death certificate confirms this information. The Veterans Benefit Application filed in 1934 by Myers’ father also identified that his son’s cause of death was “murder.” Myers was buried at Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery (also known as St. Mary’s Catholic Church Cemetery) in McSherrystown. Myers’ mother died in 1932 at age 69, and his father died in 1963 at age 99; they were buried under the same marker as their son.

Myers’ older brother, Clarence Edward Myers, also served during the Great War, and was stationed at Camp Greene at the same time as his brother. The above-referenced news article stated that he did not have any knowledge of his brother’s death while there, as they were stationed about 4 to 5 miles apart. Clarence Myers was born in 1895 and entered military service at Gettysburg in 1917. He was assigned to the Headquarters Company of the 59<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 4<sup>th</sup> Division, and achieved the rank of Corporal. He served overseas from May 1918 to August 1919, and fought in several engagements in France including Chateau-Thierry, St. Mihiel, and Meuse-Argonne. He was discharged in August 1919 and returned to live in York County. He was married to Lillie Ford and had nine children. He died in 1952 at age 56 and was buried at Holy Saviour Cemetery in York County.

#### *GEORGE EDWARD NAYLOR*

George Naylor was born November 19, 1895 in Zora, second oldest of seven children of Harry Albert and Susannah Mary Black Naylor. Naylor was working as a plumber at an amusement park at Vandercook Lake in Jackson County, Michigan when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was then with the Goodrich Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio when called for military service on February 7, 1918.

He came back to Adams County to be inducted into the Army at Gettysburg, and went to Camp Meade, Maryland where he was assigned as a Private with the Supply Company, 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry. He took ill with influenza, followed by pneumonia, and died October 7, 1918 at age 22. Naylor was buried at Wenksville Cemetery. Naylor's mother died in 1940 at age 70, and his father died in 1957 at the age of 87. Both were also buried at Wenksville Cemetery.



Naylor's older brother, Guy Henry Naylor, also served during the Great War. He was born in 1892 and entered service on September 6, 1918 at Camp Dix, New Jersey, where he was assigned as a Corporal to the 153<sup>rd</sup> Depot Brigade. He sailed for France from Hoboken on Armistice Day (November 11, 1918) on board the *Cedric*. He served in France in the Army's Service of Supply unit until July 6, 1919, when he returned to New York on board the *South Dakota*. He was discharged at Camp Mills, New York on July 26, 1919. Guy Naylor was first married to Esther Viola Showers with whom he had one son. Esther died in 1931 at age 39. He then married Rosie Cassatt with whom he had one daughter; Rosie died in 1965 at age 87. They lived in both Hanover and Carroll County, Maryland. Guy Naylor died in 1969 at age 76 and was buried at Baltimore National Cemetery.

### JOHN WILLIAM OCKER

John Ocker was born November 18, 1889 in Littlestown, youngest of three children of James William and Martha Jane Flieger Ocker. His father was a hotel keeper there. Ocker enlisted with the Maryland

National Guard at Baltimore on April 3, 1917; he had been working in the automobile business there when the U.S. entered the war. He was deployed to Camp McClellan, Alabama and assigned as a Private with the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the Maryland National Guard until October 1, 1917, when he was transferred to the Army's Sanitary Detachment (104<sup>th</sup> Sanitary Train). Ocker was promoted to Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class on January 13,



1918, and to Sergeant on May 1, 1918. Sanitary Trains were an essential part of medical service to soldiers during WWI; they typically were assigned to an entire Division and performed care and removal of soldiers from the battlefield, medical care at dressing stations, transport to hospitals behind the Front, and similar medical duties. The 104<sup>th</sup> Sanitary Train served with the 29<sup>th</sup> Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which was sent to France in mid-June 1918. Ocker sailed to France from Hoboken on June 15, 1918 on board the *George Washington*. He participated in

the second phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive from October 5 to 30, 1918. Ocker was killed in action during this campaign on October 11, 1918, age 28. He was hit by a high explosive shell while removing a wounded soldier from the front line. Ocker and other soldiers of the 29<sup>th</sup> Division were buried in a small cemetery at the edge of the Consenvoye Woods about 10 miles north of Verdun. His remains were returned to Adams County in July 1921, and he was reinterred at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Littlestown. The Littlestown American Legion Post is named partly for Ocker. Ocker's father had died in 1902 at age 57, and his mother died in 1934 at age 75; both were also buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Ocker's older brother, James Edward Ocker, registered for

the draft in September 1918 but was not called for service. He died in 1942 at age 59, and his name shares the cemetery headstone with his brother.

*FABIAN JOHN ORNDORFF*

Fabian Orndorff was born July 29, 1895 in Bonneauville, one of eleven children born to Vincent Bernard and Alice Christine Topper Orndorff. He was employed in carpenter work at Camp Colt when he registered for the draft in June 1918. He was inducted into the Army on September 4, 1918 and went to Camp Greenleaf, Georgia where he was assigned as a Private in the 4<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion Replacement Group. He was then transferred to Camp Merritt, New Jersey and assigned to Evacuation Hospital #49 located at that camp. He contracted influenza, which developed into pneumonia and led to his death on October 12, 1918 at age 21.



Orndorff was buried at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church Cemetery in Bonneauville where he has two grave markers. Orndorff's mother died in 1928 at age 59, and his father died in 1934 at age 69. Both were also buried at St. Joseph Cemetery.

*GEORGE RUPP PRETZ*

Dr. George Pretz was born May 16, 1880 in Shiremanstown, Cumberland County, the only son of four children of Samuel L. and Mary Rupp Pretz. Although not from Adams County, he was well known here as he graduated from Gettysburg College in 1905. He went on to Johns Hopkins University for medical school, graduating in



1909. He was married to Caroline (Carrie) Mae Tawney of Gettysburg that same year, and practiced medicine in Lebanon as a specialist in



eye, ear, nose and throat. Their daughter, Mary Lois Pretz, was born in 1917. Dr. Pretz entered military service on August 5, 1918 as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant with Company 10, Third Battalion, Medical Corps and was sent to Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia. He served there until transferred to Syracuse, New York to help fight the influenza epidemic at a training camp there. Dr. Pretz himself fell victim to the disease and died on October 5, 1918 at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. Pretz was buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg. His wife did not remarry and

worked for many years as a church organist in Gettysburg. She died in 1972 at age 90; she shares the cemetery headstone with her husband. Their daughter also attended Gettysburg College and married Joseph Jacob Baker of Gettysburg in 1943. She died in Baltimore in 1970 at age 53. Pretz's father died in 1909 in Steelton (Dauphin County) at age 63, and his mother died there in 1921 at age 75. They were both buried at Baldwin Cemetery in Steelton.

### *JOHN FRANCIS RICE*

John Rice was born in April 1891 at McSherrystown; although some sources give Rice's date of birth as April 1892, research indicates the most likely year was 1891. He was the only child of Dr. George Lawrence and Maria Catherine Klunk Rice, who was his father's second wife. Rice was a medical student at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was a well-

known football player there and graduated before being called for service on July 26, 1918. He was assigned as a Private to the 6<sup>th</sup> Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Syracuse Recruiting Camp in Syracuse, New York, where he served in the Personnel Department. He contracted influenza and died at Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York on September 28, 1918, age 27. Rice was buried at Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery in McSherrystown. Rice's father, George, was originally from Baltimore, became a prominent McSherrystown physician, and was engaged in many civic activities, including one 2-year term in the Pennsylvania State legislature. He was married three times. His first wife was Anna (Annie) M. Brooks of Baltimore; they married in 1875 and had five children. She died in 1888 at age 36. His second wife, John Rice's mother, was Maria Klunk of Irishtown; they married in 1890 and had the one son. She died in 1895 at age 28, just four years after her son was born. His third wife was Sarah C. (Sallie) Krise of McSherrystown; they married in 1896 and had four children. She died in 1931 at age 59. George Rice died in 1935 at age 85. He and his wife Sallie were buried at Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery in McSherrystown.



### *HARRY JACOB RIDER*

Harry Rider was born August 8, 1892 in Union Mills, Maryland, one of four children of William Henry and Annie E. Yingling Rider who were originally from Carroll County, Maryland and had moved to Littlestown by the 1910 Census. His father's first wife, Sarah, died in the late 1880s. Rider left Littlestown before the 1910 Census was taken, and was working in New York City as a machinist/tool maker when he regis-



tered for the draft in June 1917. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves in May 1918, and was assigned as a Machinist's Mate 1<sup>st</sup> Class at the Naval Air Station, Bay Shore Long Island, New York. He became ill with pneumonia and died on October 13, 1918 at age 26. Rider was buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Littlestown. Rider's father died in 1935 at age 81, and his mother died in 1937 at age 77. They were also both buried at

Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Harry's younger brother, Maurice Francis Rider, also registered for the WWI draft in June 1917, but he was not called to serve.

### *DENNIS CHARLES ROBINSON*

Dennis Robinson was born February 3, 1891 in New Oxford, one of six children born to Charles Henry and Mary Jane Breighner Robinson. Robinson was working at the Livingston Shoe Factory in New Ox-



ford when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on June 27, 1918. He went to Camp Lee, Virginia and initially served with several Provisional and Training/Replacement units there. Robinson sailed for France with the 53<sup>rd</sup> Provisional Company (August Infantry Replacement Draft) from Norfolk, Virginia on August 22, 1918 on board the *Princess Matoika*. He was then assigned as a Private to Com-

pany A, 303<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, 76<sup>th</sup> Division on September 13, 1918. He became ill with influenza and was removed to Base Hospital No. 1 at Chateaufneuf-sur-Cher; he died on October 2, 1918 at age 27.

Robinson's remains departed from St. Nazaire on October 1, 1920 on board the *Pocahontas*, a transport for the overseas dead, and arrived in Hoboken on October 20, 1920. His remains were returned to Adams County in early November 1920, and he was buried at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Cemetery in New Oxford. Both Robinson's parents died in 1930, his mother in February at age 70, and his father in October at age 71. They were also both buried at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Cemetery.

### *HOMER WILLIAM ROBINSON*

Homer Robinson was born December 3, 1893 in Port Royal (Juniata County), one of seven children of William Roberts and Leah Stoner Robinson, later of Littlestown. Robinson was working as a banker at the Littlestown National Bank when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was still working at that bank when he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves a year later in July 1918. He was married to Margaret Elizabeth Alleman of Littlestown on December 29, 1917; they had no children. Robinson was first sent to Philadelphia at the rank of Apprentice Seaman, then ordered to report to the Naval Training Station at Bremerton in Puget Sound, Washington. While crossing the continent, he caught a heavy cold which turned into influenza. He was hospitalized in Washington when he arrived, and died of pneumonia on October 1, 1918. Robinson was buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Littlestown, under the same grave marker as his wife's parents, David Brainerd and Elizabeth Ferg Alleman. David Brainerd Alleman



was the founder and publisher of the *Adams County Independent* newspaper; he died in 1917 at age 59 and his wife died in 1914 at age 55. Robinson's father died in 1921 at age 60, and his mother died in 1933 at age 71; both were also buried at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Robinson's wife married Forest Alexander Robertson of Orlando, Florida, in November 1935. He died in 1945, and she died in 1956; both were buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando.

### LUTHER HEIM SCOTT

Luther Scott was born August 7, 1894 in Loysville (Perry County), one of nine children of Reverend William Dosh Earnshaw and Laura Edwards Pfeffer Scott, later of Bendersville and Gettysburg. Scott's father attended the Lutheran Theological



Seminary at Gettysburg and had a long career in the ministry. Scott was working as a typewriter repairman for the Elliott-Fisher Company in Dayton, Ohio when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army on June 19, 1918 in Dayton as a Private with the 158<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade. He was then assigned to Company M, 336<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 84<sup>th</sup> Division, and trained at Camp Sherman near Chillicothe, Ohio. Scott was promoted to the rank of Mechanic on July 23, 1918. He sailed to Bordeaux (via

England) from Hoboken on September 8, 1918. He identified his father, Rev. William D. Scott, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Scott contracted pneumonia a short time after landing in France, and was sent to Base Hospital No. 3 in Vauclaire, about 40 miles east of

Bordeaux. He died there on October 14, 1918 at age 24, and was buried at the military cemetery in Ménéstérol. His remains departed Bordeaux on board the U.S. Army Transport *Wheaton* on November 29, 1920 and arrived in Hoboken on December 15 and then in Gettysburg on December 31, 1920. Scott was buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg on January 1, 1921. Scott's father died in December 1930 at age 74, due to a heart attack which resulted in an automobile accident; the newspaper article indicated that he had been on his way to deliver funeral services for one of his parishioners in Maryland. His mother died in 1941 at age 79. Both parents were buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

Scott's older brother, Paul Edwards Scott, also served during the Great War. He was born in Bendersville in July 1890 and was living and working as a printer in Philadelphia when he enlisted in the Army's Reserve Engineers Corps on June 2, 1917. He went to Camp Devens, Massachusetts where he was assigned as a Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class to Company A, 29<sup>th</sup> Engineers. He was promoted to Sergeant on December 8, 1917. He sailed to France from Hoboken on October 28, 1917 on board the *Agamemnon*. Paul Scott was in charge of a detail of men sent to Paris to work in the French Geographic Office, which was affiliated with the AEF's Intelligence Division. He was cited for extraordinary and conspicuous service in this work. He was able to visit his brother's temporary grave in Ménéstérol and sent photographs home for his family. Paul Scott returned to the U.S. on board the *Mercury* from St. Nazaire to Newport News, Virginia on July 5, 1919 and was honorably discharged on July 12, 1919 at Camp Dix, New Jersey. He returned to live and work in Philadelphia. He was married to Ethel Hewson in 1924 and they had one daughter; his wife died in 1951 at

age 53. He died in 1980 at age 90 while living with his daughter in Fairfax County, Virginia, and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

### CHARLES ALBERT SHUYLER

Charles Shuyler was born December 26, 1895 in Orrtanna, youngest son of ten children born to Aaron Benjamin and Sarah Ann Funt Shuyler. Shuyler was working as a clerk in the Kready Store in Orrtanna when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He had married



Viola Mae Herring earlier that year, and the couple suffered the death of premature twin daughters in late November-early December that year. Shuyler was inducted into the Army in Gettysburg on April 30, 1918. He went to Camp Lee, Virginia, where he was assigned as a Private with the 39<sup>th</sup> Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion, 155<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade. He was transferred to Company M, 145<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 37<sup>th</sup> Division in late May 1918. He sailed to France from Hoboken on June 15, 1918 on board the *Leviathan*; he listed his wife, Mrs.

Viola Shuyler of Orrtanna, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. With the 37<sup>th</sup> Division, Shuyler saw action at the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in September-October 1918, and was promoted to Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class on October 25, 1918. The Division then moved north to fight at the Belgian Front in the Ypres-Lys Offensive at the end of the war. Shuyler was killed in action in Flanders on November 5, 1918. He was originally buried at Flanders Field American Cemetery. His remains were transported with other war dead on board the U.S. Army Transport *Somme* from Antwerp on April 22, 1921, arriving in Hoboken on May 6, 1921. He was buried later that month at

Gettysburg National Cemetery. Shuyler's wife, Viola, died in 1978 in York at age 77 years. She had remarried in 1922 to Cleon Nary of Franklin Township in Adams County. Both were buried at Flohrs Lutheran Church Cemetery near McKnightstown. Shuyler's father had died in 1915 at age 55, and his mother died in 1930 at age 75. Both were also buried at Flohrs Lutheran Church Cemetery.

### *GEORGE EMERSON SNYDER*

George Snyder was born August 17, 1894 in New Oxford, oldest son of four children of John Jacob and Louisa Ann (Annie) Wantz Snyder. Snyder was attending Pennsylvania College in Gettysburg when he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves on April 25, 1917; he was classified as Hospital Apprentice 1<sup>st</sup> Class. His father was an officer and surgeon in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps during the Great War; he also served in the Spanish-American War and had 30 years of continuous military service. Two of Snyder's uncles also served in medical units during the war. Snyder was sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Philadelphia, and achieved the rank of Pharmacists Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class on September 13, 1917.



He sailed for France on board the *U.S.S. Henderson* on September 15, 1917 as a member of the U.S. Navy Base Hospital No. 5, which was headquartered at Brest. He served with the Marines at Chateau-Thierry and other battles, after which he returned to Brest. Snyder contracted influenza and died on September 20, 1918 at age 24. He was first interred at Kerfautras Cemetery in Brest, and then his remains were returned to Adams County in May 1920, where he was



buried at New Oxford Cemetery. The American Legion Post in New Oxford was named for Snyder, as he was the first soldier from New Oxford to die in the war. Snyder's family lived in Philadelphia at the time of the 1920 Census, but had returned to New Oxford by the 1930 Census. Snyder's father died in 1928, at a hospital in Gettysburg, while still in active Navy service. His mother died in New Oxford in 1944 at age 74. Both were buried at New Oxford Cemetery.

### *CLARENCE JOSEPH STRAUSBAUGH*

Clarence Strausbaugh was born January 11, 1894 in McSherrystown, one of nine children of James Peter and Sarah Jane (Jennie) Fink Strausbaugh. Strausbaugh was working as a laborer for the Hanover



Heel & Innersole Company when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on September 19, 1917 and went to Camp Meade, Maryland. He served in a training battalion until he was assigned as a Private to Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division. Strausbaugh was taken ill in November 1917 and removed to the camp hospital. Due to his worsening condition, he was taken to Walter Reed Military Hospital in Washing-

ton, D.C., where he died from nephritis and uremia on November 20, 1917 at age 23. Strausbaugh was buried at Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery in McSherrystown. His mother had died in 1913 at age 45, and his father died in 1943 at age 79; they were also buried at Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery.

Strausbaugh's younger brother, Charles Lloyd (who also went by Lloyd or Loyd Charles) Strausbaugh, also served briefly in the Army

during the Great War. He was born in September 1895 and was working at the Hanover Shoe Factory when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on November 5, 1917 and went to Camp Meade, Maryland, where he was assigned as a Private to Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division. He was discharged on December 28, 1917 due to physical disability. He died in February 1923, age 27.

*JOSEPH EDWIN WEAVER*

Joseph Weaver was born May 15, 1897 in McSherrystown, oldest of eight sons born to Charles Augustus and Minerva Blanche DeGroft Weaver. He enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserves on May 31, 1918 and was sent to the Naval Training Station in San Diego. His rank was Seaman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and he was assigned to Battalion B, Company 2. He was on his way back to Philadelphia when he fell ill with influenza. He was removed to St. Mary's Infirmary in St. Louis, Missouri on September 24, 1918 and died there ten days later on October 4, 1918 at age 21. Weaver was buried at Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery in McSherrystown, under the same grave marker as his parents. Weaver's father was of draft registration age (44) near the end of the war; he registered on September 12, 1918 but was not called up. He died in 1951 at age 77. Weaver's mother died in 1955 at age 78. They were both buried at Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Cemetery.



### PART III: ADAMS COUNTY SOLDIERS BURIED ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES

#### BERNARD PRESTON ALTHOFF

Bernard Althoff was born May 10, 1891 in Gettysburg, one of thirteen children born to William J. and Sarah Agnes Collins Althoff, who later moved to Hanover. He received his education at Gettysburg Parochial School and worked at the family farm. Althoff moved to Elyria, Ohio sometime after the 1910 Census, and was working there in the insurance business when he enlisted with the Army on July 14,



1917. He was assigned as a Private to Company B, 145<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 37<sup>th</sup> Division, and trained at Camp Sheridan, Alabama. He was promoted to Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class on February 16, 1918; to Corporal on May 26, 1918; and to Sergeant on June 20, 1918. Althoff sailed for France from Hoboken on board the *Leviathan* on June 15, 1918. He identified his mother, Mrs. Sarah A. Althoff of Hanover, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Althoff commanded a platoon at the Baccarat Sector

in the Vosges Mountains from August 4 to September 16, 1918. The 37<sup>th</sup> Division then moved west to take part in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Althoff was killed in action on September 28, 1918 while directing operations against a German machine gun nest; he was 27 years old. He was originally buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne. His remains were returned to the U.S. from Antwerp in July 1921 on board the U.S. Army Transport *Cantigny*, a ship carrying overseas dead to Hoboken. He was

then reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Althoff's father died in 1923 at age 74, and his mother died in 1926 at age 76. They were both buried at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Gettysburg. Althoff's name is also inscribed on his parents' grave marker, along with other family members.

### JOHN BENJAMIN DUCKSTAD

John Duckstad was born August 31, 1890 in Fertile, Minnesota, one of four children of Brown and Berthe Litsheim Duckstad who both immigrated to Minnesota from Norway in the mid-1880s. Duckstad graduated from West Point in June 1915 (alongside General Dwight D. Eisenhower); he was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry as a Lieutenant and went to Brownsville, Texas. He was commissioned a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in 1916, and a Captain on May 15, 1917. Although not from Adams County, he served at Camp Gettysburg in 1917 and married a local woman, Miss Ida Dorothy Zane, on December 26, 1917; they had one son, Eric Edward Duckstad, born in June 1918. Duckstad also served in the camp at Charlotte, North Carolina and attended the Infantry School of Arms at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. He returned to Camp Mills, New York in early May 1918, and was assigned to the Machine Gun Company, 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He sailed to France from New York with this unit on May 11, 1918 aboard the *Themistocles*, and identified his wife, Mrs. J. B. Duckstad, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Duckstad served in the Marne battle July 18-20 and the Vesles battle August 4-13, 1918. He was promoted to Major on July 30, 1918. He was then



transferred to the 12<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion as Brigade Machine Gun Officer of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade 4<sup>th</sup> Division, and was subsequently detailed to the staff of Major General George Cameron, commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Offensives. Duckstad was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. The driver was killed instantly, and Duckstad died at age 28 the next day, September 6, 1918, at an evacuation hospital near Souilly. He was first buried at the Mont d'Osches military cemetery near Souilly, then returned to the U.S. in 1921 and reinterred in the cemetery at West Point, New York. Duckstad's name is also engraved on a monument at the Fertile Veterans Memorial Plaza in Minnesota. Duckstad's mother had died in 1901 at age 36; she was buried at the First Evanger Lutheran Church Cemetery in Fertile. Duckstad's father remarried Anna Sophia Skeim from Iowa later in 1901 and they had six children. He died in 1935 at age 68. Anna Duckstad did not remarry and died in Fertile in 1975 at age 96. They were both buried at Concordia Cemetery in Fertile.

Duckstad's widow married Kenderton Lynch in June 1920, and died at age 61 in 1959; her second husband preceded her in death in 1937. Both were buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg. Duckstad's son, Eric, also served in the Army during World War II and Korea, attaining the rank of Major. He was based at the Ft. Howard Military Reservation in Maryland at the 1940 Census, and served in World War II. He lived and worked in the San Francisco Bay Area after retiring from his military service in 1945, and died in Palo Alto, California in 1982 at age 64. He was buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery near San Francisco; his second wife, Joyce E. Campau, shares the grave.

John Duckstad's younger brother, Bennie (born 1895), registered for the WWI draft in June 1917, and also for the WWII draft in 1942, but no further records for military service were found on Ancestry.

try. His grave in Fertile has a military marker indicating he served as a Captain in the Army during WWII; a Veterans Administration BIRLS file (Beneficiary Identification and Records Locator System) indicates that he enlisted in February 1944 and was released from service in June 1946. The 1930 and 1940 Censuses indicate he was living with his wife, Lila Thoe (whom he married in 1925), and two children in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bennie died in 1977 at age 82 and was buried at Concordia Cemetery in Fertile; his wife died in 1989 at age 93 and was also buried there.

### *JOHN WILLIAM JOBE*

John Jobe was born January 14, 1900 in the town of California in Moniteau County, Missouri, the youngest son of four children of Presley Abraham and Doretha Isabelle (also known as Dora Bell) Lawson Jobe. Jobe enlisted in the Army on November 25, 1916 at the age of 16, was sent to Jefferson Barracks near St. Louis, and from there to Brownsville, Texas. Jobe served as a Private in Company H, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry from time of enlistment until June 1917; he came to Camp Gettysburg in early 1917 from Texas, where he was assigned to Company H, 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry and promoted to Corporal. It was there that he met and married his wife, Mabel Agnes Galbraith



(age 16) of Gettysburg, that same year. Jobe was transferred to Company I, 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Division at Camp Upton, New York, and appointed Sergeant on September 7, 1918. He sailed for France from

New York on April 7, 1918 aboard the *Justicia*, and gave his father, Mr. Press Jobe of California, Missouri, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. The 77<sup>th</sup> Division was one of the first units of the National Army to take front line positions in France. The Division first fought at Badonviller through August 1918, then moved to the Vesle Front in the area near Fismes. Jobe was killed in action on September 5, 1918 at age 18 while serving on the front line near Fismes. He was originally buried in Fismes, then was returned to the U.S. and buried at the Old City Cemetery (also known as the Burke/Crown Hill Cemetery) at the eastern edge of California, Missouri.

Jobe's mother had died in 1904 at age 30 and he and his siblings were raised by his father. His mother was buried at the California Masonic Cemetery in Moniteau County. Jobe's wife, Mabel, had moved from Gettysburg to her husband's home town in Missouri by the time she received notice of his death in September 1918. She appears in the 1920 Census there as living in the same house and daughter-in-law of Press Jobe, age 18 and a widow; he was 52 and a widower. Mabel and Press Jobe were then married on June 26, 1920. She had two daughters with him (Lorene born 1921 and Anna born 1923). He died in October 1931 at age 63, and was buried at the same cemetery as his son. Mabel was married to Daniel George Sturm by 1935; he was living in Moniteau County where they met, but may have originally been from Utah. They lived in Moniteau County through 1935, then moved to the Chicago area. The 1940 Census for Chicago shows her married to Sturm and living with her daughter, Anna, from her marriage to Press Jobe and four more children from Sturm. Mabel died in Chicago in 1964 at age 63, and was buried at the Acacia Park Cemetery; Sturm died in 1978 at age 79 and was also buried there.

Jobe's older brother, Undrel Luther Jobe (born 1896 in Moniteau County) also served during the Great War. He was married in 1914 in Moniteau County to his first wife, Lola May Crawford. They had one son, James William Jobe, born in 1914. Undrel Jobe registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 and served as a Private with Battery E 342<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery in France; he returned to Camp Upton, New York on board the *U.S.S. Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm*, sailing from Brest on May 18, 1919. He identified his first wife as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Undrel Jobe also registered for the WWII draft in 1941 when he was 45 years old; by then he was married to his second wife, Velda Shank, and not called up for service. He and Velda did not have children, and he died in Indiana in 1956 at age 52. He was buried at Reames-Norton Cemetery in Cass County, Michigan. His son, James, died in 1971 in Wabash County, Indiana, and was buried there along with his wife.

*JACOB M. MARKLINE, JR.*

Jacob Markline was born March 3, 1888 in York County, one of eight children of Jacob M. and Emeline Sipling Markline, later of Abbottstown. Markline was working as a laborer in New Oxford when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was inducted into the Army at Gettysburg on November 5, 1917 and was sent to Camp Meade, Maryland. He was first assigned as a Private with Company A, 316<sup>th</sup> Infantry 79<sup>th</sup> Division through February 1, 1918. He was then transferred to Company C, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry and sailed to France from Hoboken on April 24, 1918 on board the *Leviathan*. He identified his father, Jacob Markline of Abbottstown, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. Markline's unit joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Division near Chaumont. He fought in the St. Mihiel Offensive and then in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, where he was killed in action on October 31, 1918, age 30. His remains



were returned to the U.S. in January 1922, and he was buried at York Road Cemetery in Hanover under the same grave marker as his parents. Markline's mother died in 1925 at age 67, and his father died in 1932 at age 70. Because both of Markline's parents were deceased by 1934 when Veterans benefits became available, his sister, Ida Markline Albright, filed for benefits on behalf of the family in 1934; the application form indicates that the request was disapproved in 1937.

### *CYPRIAN WILLIAM MCSHERRY*

Cyprian McSherry was born October 10, 1889 in Littlestown, one of seven children of William M. and Sarah Buddy McSherry, his father's second wife. McSherry received a degree from Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg in 1908 and then received a law degree from the University of Maryland. He was admitted to the bar in the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Mexico, and practiced law in Gettysburg and New Mexico. He was living and practicing law in Silver City, New Mexico when he joined the New Mexico National Guard in April 1917. He served for 11 months at the Mexican border as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. Before his unit was mustered out, McSherry was transferred into federal service and went to Camp Kearney in San Diego. He was commissioned a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant and later a Captain. It was at Camp Kearney that he joined the 40<sup>th</sup> Division, which was created there in September 1917 from National Guard units of the states of California, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah. It was known as the "Sunshine Division." He was married to Mary R. Steffy of Baltimore in August 1917. McSherry sailed to France from Brooklyn on August 11, 1918 on board the *Port Dennison*; he identified his wife, Mrs. Mary R. McSherry of Baltimore, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. He served as Adjutant with the Military Police to the end of the war. The 40<sup>th</sup> Division had arrived at Castres-Gironde, south of Bordeaux, by

mid-January 1919 for transport back to the U.S. It was here that McSherry died on January 27, 1919 from an acute heart attack brought on by scarlet fever. He was originally buried in what was known as American Cemetery #25 in Talence. McSherry's remains then were returned to Hoboken on October 18, 1920 on board the U.S. Army Transport *Pocahontas*, which departed Bordeaux on October 5, 1920. He was reinterred at New Cathedral Cemetery in Baltimore, the birthplace of his wife. Mary McSherry continued to live with her family in Baltimore until her death in 1980 at age 91. She did not remarry and was buried near her husband. They had no children.

McSherry's father had died in 1899 at age 77, when Cyprian was ten years old. His first wife was Eliza Thompson McSherry, with whom he had ten children. She died in 1868 at age 41. Both were buried at St. Aloysius Cemetery in Littlestown. His second wife, Cyprian's mother, did not remarry and died in 1932 at age 75 in Baltimore; she was also buried at St. Aloysius Cemetery.

Two of McSherry's brothers (by his birth mother) also served during the Great War. Thomas Cletus McSherry was born in 1894. He was living in New Mexico and working as a law clerk for his brother when he registered for the draft in June 1917. Some records appear to indicate that he was affiliated with his brother's position as Adjutant there for the war years; but the only WWI military record document found was a Pennsylvanian Veterans burial record. This record stated that he served from September 1917 to June 1918 at the rank of Sergeant with the 41<sup>st</sup> Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry, and received an honorable discharge. The Eichelberger-Foulk book indicates that he entered service on September 1, 1917 at Camp Funston in Kansas. He attended Officers' Training School and was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant and then promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant; he served at a Depot Brigade and was

discharged about March 1919. The 1920 Census placed him in New Mexico, and the 1930 Census placed him in Denver, Colorado, married with three daughters. He died in 1975 at age 82 and was buried at St. Aloysius Cemetery in Littlestown.

Norbert Cletus McSherry was born in 1896. He was working as a clerk in Chicago when he registered for the draft in June 1917. He was a graduate of Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg. He was inducted into the Army in September 1917 at Camp Grant, Illinois. He was appointed Corporal and then Sergeant in June 1918 with Battery C 333<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Field Artillery 86<sup>th</sup> Division. Norbert McSherry sailed to Glasgow, Scotland from Hoboken on July 13, 1918 on board the *Metagama*, and returned January 3, 1919 on the *Siboney* from Bordeaux to Hoboken; he was discharged at Camp Grant on January 19, 1919. He was invalided to the Perry Point Hospital in Baltimore due to illness from his war service. He remained in hospital until his death in 1926 at age 30. He was also buried at St. Aloysius Cemetery.

#### JOSEPH PETER SOCIA

Joseph Socia was born in December 1896 in Houston, Texas, one of five children of John Francis and Catherine (known also as Kate) Adelaide Wilson Socia. His parents were married in Houston in 1889. The military records found for Socia found were limited; this narrative for him is inferred from those few records and other sources (4<sup>th</sup> Infantry history, other Ancestry documents, newspaper items, and the Eich-berger-Foult book). The 1910 Census showed Socia in Houston at age 13, working as a helper in a mattress and spring factory. Socia may have entered military service in 1916 because it is known that he fought in the Mexican border campaign which began in that year. Socia's obituary news items indicated he was detailed to Camp Gettysburg in June 1917 directly after the Border campaign ended. He was

transferred or reassigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry later that year; the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry was created in December 1917 at Camp Greene, North Carolina. Socia served at Camp Greene and then Camp Stuart near Newport News, Virginia. He sailed from there on April 6, 1918 as a Private with Company E, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry on board the *Great Northern*. He identified a friend, Margaret Eckenrode of South Washington Street in Gettysburg, as his emergency contact on the passenger list. The 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry was originally assigned to the U.S. Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, which was one of the earliest units to serve at the Front in France. Socia was killed in action on June 16, 1918 in the Aisne-Marne Sector; he was 21 years old. His remains were returned to Texas in 1921, and he was reinterred at Washington Cemetery in Houston, where his parents were also buried. Socia's father had died in Houston in 1900 at age 39. His mother remarried Alonzo C. Wilson by the 1910 Census and had one daughter with him; Wilson died in 1916 at age 60. Socia's mother did not marry again, continued to live in Houston with her children, and died in 1950 at age 82; Socia's parents were buried together at Washington Cemetery in Houston.

Socia's older brother, John Eden Socia (born 1893) also served during the Great War. He registered for the draft in June 1917 and entered the U.S. Navy Reserve Forces in June 1918; he achieved the rank of Fireman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class and was discharged in January 1919. He died in 1958 at age 65 and was also buried at Washington Cemetery in Houston.

Margaret Agnes Eckenrode, the woman Socia listed as his emergency contact on the *Great Northern* passenger list, was from a large family in Gettysburg. She was born in January 1902, and the 1910 Census showed her as the seventh of nine children (and youngest daughter) of Joseph and Annie Eckenrode; her father was a carpenter.

She would have been 15 years old when she met the 20-year old Socia in the summer of 1917. It is not known how they became acquainted, but the announcement of his death in the July 18, 1918 edition of the *New Oxford Item* confirmed that the telegram notification was addressed and delivered to Miss Eckenrode. Margaret was married the following year, in May 1919 at age 17, to Charles Davison McConnell, who was identified on their marriage certificate as a moving picture exhibitor from Birmingham, Alabama. McConnell had also served in the Army during the war, and had been stationed at Gettysburg in the summer of 1918. Margaret lived in Birmingham until her death in 1991 at the age of 89; her husband died in 1950 and they had three children. Margaret and her husband were buried in Birmingham.

In addition to Margaret Eckenrode, there are records indicating that Joseph Peter Socia may have known another young Gettysburg woman, Faith Lauver, when he was stationed there in 1917. Faith was born in August 1896 in the Adams County township of Hamiltonban, east of Gettysburg; she was one of seven children born to John and Clara Lauver, a farming family. Her mother had died in 1908 at age 34; her father remarried and then died in 1925. At the 1910 Census, Faith was 14 years old and lived with her widowed father and siblings at their family farm. At the 1920 Census, Faith was living with her sister's family (the Shealers) in Gettysburg. She was 23 years old and had a son, Marvin Wayne Lauver, age 1½, and her occupation was a polisher in a furniture factory. Marvin Lauver was born April 9, 1918 in Gettysburg, which means he was conceived in July 1917, when Joseph Socia was a soldier stationed there; he and Faith were 20 years old in 1917. On the 1920 Census form, the birthplace of Marvin's father was identified as Pennsylvania. At the 1930 Census, Faith was still living with the Shealers and still working at the furniture factory. She was now 33 years old

and her son, Marvin, was 12; however, this Census form now identified his father's birthplace as Texas. And sometime in the 1920s, Marvin started using the last name of Socia, and then continued to use this last name for the rest of his life. A small item in the August 5, 1929 *Gettysburg Times* identified them as Miss Faith Lauver and Marvin Socia, and he was identified as Marvin Wayne Socia in his 1935 Gettysburg High School yearbook, which is likely the year he graduated. A news article in the March 7, 1936 *Gettysburg Compiler* identified that Marvin Socia had visited his mother, Mrs. Faith Socia; at some point, she too began using Socia as her last name. The 1936 article stated that Marvin was visiting from Fort Holabird, which was a U.S. Army post in Baltimore, so it can be assumed that he entered military service after he graduated from high school. The 1940 Census placed him as a Corporal in the Army at Fort Clayton in the Panama Canal Zone at age 22; this census also placed Faith in Gettysburg still working as a polisher in the furniture factory, but using the last name of Lauver.

Marvin Wayne Socia was married to Ann V. Dreschler around 1941-42; they had no children. He saw active duty in both the Pacific and Eastern Theaters of Operations during World War II, and was discharged on December 31, 1945 with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer, returning to live in Gettysburg with his wife. He was elected Commander of the Albert J. Lentz American Legion Post in Gettysburg in 1947, and remained at that position for about 10 years. He and his wife moved to Lebanon, Pennsylvania in the late 1950s and lived there until his death in 1976 at age 58. He was buried at Grand View Memorial Park in Lebanon County. His obituary noted that he was survived by his wife and his mother, Faith E. Socia, who was also now living in Lebanon, having moved at some point from Gettysburg. Faith died in 1978 at age 82 and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg;

her headstone identifies her as Faith E. Lauver. Marvin's wife, Ann, died in 1983 and she was buried next to her husband at Grand View Memorial Park.

Based on records found, it appears probable that Joseph Socia was the father of Marvin Wayne Socia; he may not have known he had a child when he was killed in action in France in June 1918, a few months after Marvin was born. Marvin's mother, Faith, used two last names in her adult life, her maiden name of Lauver and the name of her son's probable father. The relationship between Margaret Eckenrode and Socia is not known, nor if she and Faith Lauver knew each other in 1917-18; but Gettysburg was a small town at the time of the Great War, so it is possible that they might have at least been aware of each other. And certainly Faith would have heard the news of Joseph Socia being killed in the war, even though the telegram was delivered to Margaret.

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*In addition to the above specific references, general source materials for soldiers include the following:*

- United States Federal Census Records
- Marriage and death certificates
- Military records
- Newspaper articles
- Burial records
- Gold Star Mothers' Pilgrimage records



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Valerie Young is the granddaughter of Chester and Goldie (Bentzel) Bower, whose families have resided in Adams County and environs from the early 1800s. Her mother, Rena Bower Young, grew up in New Oxford and graduated from University of Pennsylvania in 1948;



she moved to California, met her husband, and raised their family in the San Francisco Bay Area. Valerie has a BA in History and an MA in Geography. She retired in 2016 after a long career in urban and environmental planning and now resides in New York City. She has an abiding interest in the stories of ordinary people and everyday life, and began researching her grandfather's WWI history in mid-2016. She thanks her two Meuse-Argonne guides, Randal

Gaulke and Markus Klauer, for helping her visit locations where many Adams County Gold Star soldiers served and are buried. And she also thanks Tim Smith, Andrew Dalton, and the volunteers at ACHS for their tremendous assistance and enthusiasm for bringing this essay to publication.

*Opposite: Poster printed in Gettysburg by the Executive Committee of Adams County to encourage the purchasing of war bonds.*

# THINK! HAVE YOU DONE ENOUGH?

These Adams County Boys Have Given Their Lives for YOU.



**ROYAL ALLEN LEARE**  
Soldier, Co. B, 1st Regt. U.S. Inf., 104th Div. (C.A. 104th Div.),  
Camp Cooke, Calif.



**EARL J. MYERS**  
Infantryman, Company D, 38th Inf. Division (C.A. 38th Div.),  
Camp Cooke, Calif.



**GEO. ELMER JACOBS**  
Soldier, Co. B, 1st Regt. U.S. Inf., 104th Div. (C.A. 104th Div.),  
Camp Cooke, Calif.



**WILFORD RUPPEL**  
Infantryman, Company D, 38th Inf. Division (C.A. 38th Div.),  
Camp Cooke, Calif.



**CLARENCE J. STRAUBACH**  
Infantryman, Company D, 38th Inf. Division (C.A. 38th Div.),  
Camp Cooke, Calif.



**JOHN F. HILL**  
Infantryman, Company D, 38th Inf. Division (C.A. 38th Div.),  
Camp Cooke, Calif.

**JOSEPH P. BOYD**, Gettysburg, Pa.  
Soldier of the 104th U.S. Infantry. Killed in action about July 1918.

**EDWARD W. ROBINSON**, Gettysburg, Pa.  
U.S. Marine. Died October 1st, 1918, at Camp Cooke, California.

**JOSEPH E. WELTER**, Gettysburg, Pa.  
U.S. Army. Died October 1st, 1918, at Camp Cooke, California.

**GEORGE E. SMYTH**, New Oxford, Pa.  
Infantryman of the 104th U.S. Infantry. Killed in action about July 1918.



**WILLIE GERING**  
Infantryman of the 104th U.S. Infantry. Killed in action about July 1918.

**ALBERT J. LENTZ**, Gettysburg, Pa.  
Infantryman of the 104th U.S. Infantry. Killed in action about July 1918.

**GEORGE A. JACOBY**, Gettysburg, Pa.  
Soldier of the 104th U.S. Infantry. Killed in action about July 1918.

**GEORGE E. BLACK**, Gettysburg, Pa.  
Infantryman of the 104th U.S. Infantry. Killed in action about July 1918.

**GEORGE E. NATION**, Gettysburg, Pa.  
Infantryman of the 104th U.S. Infantry. Killed in action about July 1918.

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