



WEEKEND HAPPENINGS:
 Blues concert to benefit Safe Harbors ... p 11
 Sirens of South Austin in Beacon ... p 14
 Tom Jones to play Bardavon Gala ... p 16
 Harlem Quartet returns to Howland Center ... p 19



NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

Volume 10, Issue 17 • April 25-May 1, 2018 • 50¢

A division of The Southern Dutchess News ~ Entirely produced and printed in Dutchess County since 1959 ~ www.sdutchessnews.com

17th annual Autism Walk and Expo set at Fairgrounds

by Stacey van den Thoon

The Hudson Valley Autism Society will hold its 17th annual Autism Walk and Expo on Sunday, April 29, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in Rhinebeck. The event, sponsored in part by Anderson Center for Autism, was created to raise awareness and help raise funds for local programs; it's also an opportunity for families affected by autism to learn more about the many available local services and programs. The event will feature children's games, music, food and a community information tent.

Autism affects 1 in every 68 children in the United States and is referred to as a spectrum disorder, as individuals with autism can have a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication in varying degrees of severity and symptoms. Autism affects people of all races, religions and economic levels. Those diagnosed with autism face a lifetime of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral difficulties. However, with behavioral intervention programs and therapy, individuals can experience significant improvements.

The Hudson Valley Autism Society is dedicated to helping people on the autism spectrum and their families by providing resources and connections with supportive and caring communities throughout Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster counties. Its mission is "to promote lifelong access and opportunities for people on the autism spectrum and

continued on page 2

Historic FDR photo emerges in massive traveling exhibit



A portion of a 10-panel exhibit by the Dutchess County Historical Society is pictured above. Entitled, "Over Here: The Yet-to-be-told Stories of Dutchess County's Men, Women and Children During the World War 1917-1919," the massive exhibit will begin its run at the Wallace Center at the FDR site on May 1. Photo courtesy of Bill Jeffway

by Curtis Schmidt

An immense exhibit, which even includes a never-before-published photo of Franklin D. Roosevelt, is being prepared for a momentous unveiling by the members of the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS).

Entitled "Over Here: The Yet-to-be-told Stories of Dutchess County's Men, Women and Children During the World War 1917-1919," the 10-panel exhibit, taken largely from more than 330 glass plate negatives, will be on display beginning on May 1 at the Wallace Center at the FDR site in Hyde Park.

The opening event is set for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, at the Wallace Center, following an annual DCHS meeting and special presentation. To attend, RSVP at (845) 293-7711 or bill.jeffway@dchsn.org.

It is also a traveling exhibit. Once it leaves the Wallace Center in early June, it will be available for display at town halls, libraries, schools and community centers throughout the county. It will also be displayed at the Dutchess County Fair, Aug. 21-26.

It's all part of the DCHS' salute entitled "Year of the Veteran" in this, the 100th anniversary year of the end of fighting in

World War I.

Program chairperson Melodye Moore said historians from all over Dutchess County have contributed to the effort.

"The glass plate negatives form the backbone of the exhibit; however, we have also included images from period newspapers, posters of the time, draft cards and a wide range of graphics and illustrated scenes," she said.

One of the most important artifacts to emerge in the search is the never-before published photograph of then Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Delano

continued on page 3

INDEX

Community Calendar	9
Creative Living	11-20
Movie Review	12
That's Italian!	13
Nightlife	14
Exhibitions	15
A&E Calendar	16
Horoscopes	20
Crossword Puzzle	20
Sudoku	20
Obituaries	23,25
Public Notices	29-30
Classifieds	26-28

Local Caddy restorer puts a shine on the American Dream

by Don Rosendale

In the middle of a scrum of news reporters and photographers and even a cable news cameraman surrounding the car, Frank Nicodemus was putting a sticker on the oil intake and Chris Semke doing a last check for loose bolts on a Cadillac that looked like one which just rolled off the assembly line last week. Only the tail fins gave away that it was a 1963 Fleetwood that had been lovingly restored by Frank and Chris down to the last upholstery stitch.

Therein lies a tale.

Fifty years ago, Sherlock Cascella fled a revolution in his native Argentina to come to Los Angeles. He was then 37 with \$20 in his pocket and a work ethic. He found employment as an iron worker and watched his pennies. In 1963, when he felt he'd "arrived," Sherlock purchased what he saw as the symbol of success in this country: a Cadillac. He paid \$9,000 for it, which is about \$70,000 in today's dollars.

Sherlock had a son, Americo, born in California. But Sherlock never gave up the Fleetwood; it was a daily driver



Frank Nicodemus and Chris Semke of Castle Cadillac, left, join owner Americo Cascella with his restored 1963 Cadillac Fleetwood. Photo by

continued on page 5 Curtis Schmidt



Roosevelt. He is leading and marching in the September 1919 "Welcome Home" Parade on Main Street in Poughkeepsie.

Moore said the photo is quite ironic as Roosevelt is "marching briskly with purpose and pride two years before he was stricken with polio." She said it is further ironic in that he was also "unknowingly marching into an uncertain future. World War I was hailed as the 'War to end all wars' and Roosevelt had no way of knowing that 20 years later, he would be leading the U.S. in World War II."

Each panel revolves around a different subject of World War I and conveys how preparations for the war and the war itself affected the lives of all Americans in a variety of ways.

The exhibit, consisting of six-foot-high panels, begins with an introduction with a quote from President Woodrow Wilson: "The Supreme Test of the nation has come. We must all speak, act and serve together."

The following is a short synopsis of each panel.

(2) War is declared on April 6, 1917: The U.S. went from no mobilization to training and shipping soldiers overseas. More than 200 men from Dutchess County joined the effort.

(3) Women Respond: Women are called into non-traditional roles, such as mechanics, ambulance drivers and working in factories and farms.

(4) Persons of Color: The men enlisted separately. The country was still segregated. They served in units that were highly decorated, but they were not treated equally. They served with confidence and hoped to return on equal footing, but that did not happen.

(5) Boys and Girls find roles: Children helped in farm cadet programs, shaping public opinion and raising funds.

(6) Home Front Mobilization: There was no war budget. Money was raised with liberty bond drives. Food and other items were rationed and there were coal shortages – all to provide more for our soldiers.

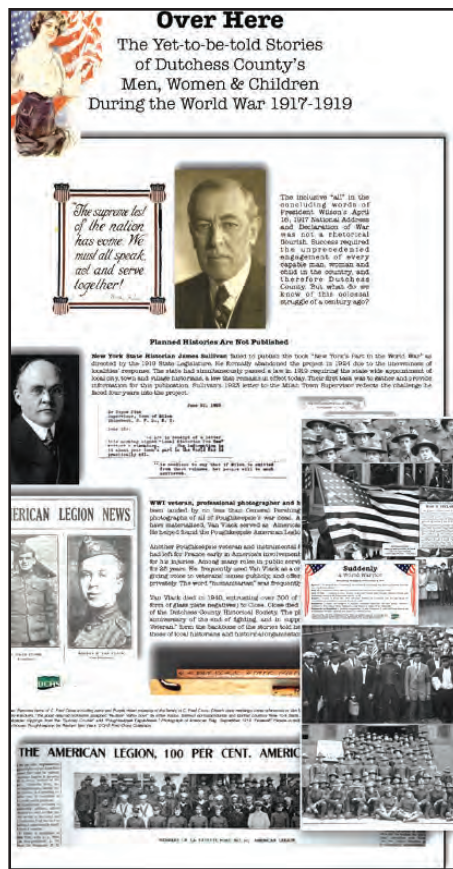
(7) American Identity: It was about being 100 percent American. There was backlash against Eastern Europeans. Examples included not teaching German in schools and music by Bach and Beethoven was not allowed.

(8) Welcome Home: Troops returned from fighting in France and Belgium to a country in transition. America did not sign the Treaty of Versailles and did not join the League of Nations. Americans fought to save democracy, but ironically turned to isolationism.

(9) Supreme Sacrifice: We take a look at soldiers who lost their lives and were buried in France.

(10) A Brief Shining Moment: This panel features the historic photo of Roosevelt. This was the "Great War" and no one anticipated World War II.

Moore and Justin Kemp will start off the program on May 1 at 6 p.m. with a presentation entitled, "Getting to Know My Great-great-grandfather Fred: His Coming of Age on a Pine Plains Farm via Honolulu." It is the story of a young man from Pine Plains who heads off to fight in the Spanish-American War. The talk is drawn from Fred Knickerbocker's letters home, his journals and the photographs he took while stationed in Hawaii. County Historian William P. Tatum will put Knickerbocker's personal experience in a larger historical context.



Above are two panels from the Dutchess County Historical Society's exhibit on World War I with contributions by historians from all across Dutchess County. Photos courtesy of Bill Jeffway



SEND US YOUR NEWS
northerndutchess@s Dutchessnews.com

Salisbury Bank announces Time to Shine Scholarship

Salisbury Bank announces its 2018 Annual Time to Shine Scholarship Program. The Bank created its Scholarship Program in 2009 to assist students who have a proven financial need and who are already making a difference in their communities. Multiple scholarships may be awarded in the amount of \$2,500.00 each to assist eligible students seeking a college degree in a variety of programs. Ideal candidates will be students of academic achievement, who possess a variety of interests and leadership experience, show consistent community involvement, and the desire to make their world a better place.

Eligible students must be residents of Litchfield, Berkshire, Columbia, Dutchess, Orange or Ulster counties, and must be currently enrolled in a public high school, vocational, technical, or private school; be a homeschool student affiliated with such a

school; or be a graduate or GED recipient entering their first year of college.

Applicants must be planning to enter an accredited college or university as a first year undergraduate student for the 2018/2019 academic year. Applicants will be evaluated according to a 100-point system that takes into account financial need; academic achievement; community service; volunteerism; and leadership. The top scorers will also be interviewed by the Bank's Scholarship Committee.

The Scholarship Committee must receive completed applications and transcripts by 5 p.m. on May 8. For application packets and detailed information about the scholarship program, visit the Bank's website at salisburybank.com/scholarship or visit one of the Bank's fourteen branch locations.

Roadwork closures on Route 376 announced

Motorists are advised that construction activities are expected to occur on the portion of Route 376 (Raymond Avenue) between College Avenue and Main Campus Drive (the main entrance to Vassar College) beginning Wednesday, April 25, and continue through Wednesday, May 9, weather permitting.

Trucks will not be permitted to drive on this portion of Route 376 beginning Monday, April 30, through Wednesday, May 9. A signed detour utilizing Grand Avenue will be in place for all trucks.

A full detour for all vehicles is currently expected for Thursday, May 3, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Motorists should anticipate some delays, and plan accordingly.

Drivers are asked to use caution when traveling through the work zone area and pay attention to all traffic control devices, including signs and flaggers.

Motorists are reminded that fines are doubled for speeding in a work zone. In accordance with the Work Zone Safety Act of 2005, convictions of two or more speeding violations in a work zone could result in the suspension of an individual's driver license.

For up-to-date travel information, call 511 or visit www.511NY.org.

Follow New York State DOT's Hudson Valley Region on Twitter: @NYSDOH.V. Find NYSDOT on Facebook at facebook.com/NYSDOT.

**COME SEE THE DIFFERENCE!
OVER 75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
IN SALES & SERVICE**

**NOW Is The Time To Schedule Your
Spring Maintenance Appointment For Your Vehicle.**

CHEVROLET
Ruge's Chevrolet
3692 US-44
Millbrook NY 12545
845-677-3406

SUBARU
Ruge's Subaru
6444 Montgomery St
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
845-876-2087

**Ruge's
Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM**
6882 Route 9
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
845-876-1057

RUGESAUTO.COM



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

Amenia went above and beyond to rally behind cause

by Betsy Strauss

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War 1 era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. The articles will appear every other week. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

When America entered the Great War in April 1917, Amenia responded wholeheartedly to the call to arms.

On April 18, 1917, the Amenia Home Guard was organized at a meeting called with less than a 24-hour notice. William B. Smith of Wassaic and Joel E. Spingarn of Amenia initiated the meeting. Fifty-six men responded, enrolling as charter members of the Home Guard.

Mr. Spingarn was at that time already a member of the Home Defense Committee of Dutchess County, which had been holding daily meetings in Poughkeepsie. He explained to the Amenia men the plans of the Home Defense Committee, which involved the taking of the census, the increase and conservation of food supply, and the defense of life and property.

Joel Spingarn was Amenia's "mover and shaker" on many issues and was in the forefront of the preparedness movement. As a former professor at Columbia University and as the owner of the Harlem Valley Times, Mr. Spingarn had contact with county and national leaders, including men such as Teddy Roosevelt and Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was well informed on the crisis of the hour.

Parenthetically, it is also important to note that Joel Spingarn was a man of ideas and ideals. His "Amenia Idea" was the Amenia Field Day, "an experiment in rural recreation," which he sponsored during the summer of 1910. At that time, he and his family were new residents at the historic



Troutbeck estate. Spingarn organized, with the help of others in the community, the field day each year for five years, through the summer of 1914, when the War broke out in Europe.

As for being a man of ideals, Mr. Spingarn has been credited as one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He and his brother Arthur Spingarn organized the first NAACP Conference at Troutbeck in 1916.

Of equal importance is the fact that Mrs. Amy Spingarn was a strong supporter of the Women's Suffrage Movement, a movement which was at its peak during the same decade as the War. She, too, was active as a speaker, a writer and a motivator.

It is not surprising that Joel Spingarn, though already 42 years old, would sign on for the first class of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), at Madison Barracks, NY. By August 1917, Mr. Spingarn had received a commission as Major of Infantry and was ready for assignment.

Until he was sent overseas, and even after the Armistice, Maj. Joel Spingarn continued to give himself 100 percent toward The Cause, by rallying for the Liberty Loans, by encouraging Amenia residents to practice patriotism and thrift, by boasting of the accomplishments of the Red Cross and of the efforts made by school children, as well as by giving praise to our young men in uniform.

Another Amenia man who entered an early ROTC program, this one at Plattsburg, NY, was Roland S. Palmer, age 40. Mr. Palmer was a farmer and lawyer. He practiced law in both Amenia and New York City. In March 1917, Mr. Palmer auctioned off his cows and his farm equipment before heading north to Plattsburg. Upon the completion of his training, First Lt. Palmer was commissioned to the Ordnance Department and stationed in France.

In July 1917, 147 young men of Amenia were called by the federal draft board for examination for military service. By November

Above: Welcome Home is a close-up of one portion of a panoramic photo taken on Memorial Day 1919 in Amenia. Right: A photo of Joel E. Spingarn taken at the 1914 Amenia Field Day. Below: An American Red Cross poster encouraging those back home to help soldiers. *Courtesy of the Amenia Historical Society*

of that year, 23 men were listed in the "Roll of Honor." By the end of the War, a year later, 25 men were recorded as having served among the U.S. troops.

On the home front, Red Cross chapters were established during July 1917 in Amenia and in South Amenia (and later in Smithfield). The busy fingers of scores of women began knitting hundreds of socks and caps and began making yards and yards of bandaging material, among other items, for the boys "over there." These women surely did Knit their Bit!

Amenia was "over the top" in its contributions to the five Liberty Loan campaigns, collecting above and beyond the quota. The Yankee Trophy Train came through Amenia for the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, exhibiting guns and other items captured from the Germans. A veteran Whippet tank was on display in Amenia for the Victory Liberty Loan campaign in May 1919, once more inspiring citizens to give. In total, for the War effort, Amenia subscribed to \$475,000 worth of bonds. Additional funds were contributed through the Red Cross, the YMCA and other community organizations.

The sad statistics at war's end, however, included seven fallen warriors.

Three were killed in action, Charles A.



Fowler, Russel G. Fulton, Walter Reynolds.

Four died of illness, Leon Fink, Arthur Merritt, Frederick Reynolds, Thomas Sheehy.

On Memorial Day 1919, a grand parade of children, dressed in white and carrying flowers and flags, processed with the townspeople to the cemeteries to honor the fallen. Afterward, all the citizens, including Red Cross nurses, Civil War veterans, returning soldiers and special speakers, gathered at Fountain Square to hear the words "Welcome Home!" as well as words of praise for those who served in the war, and for those who supported the war effort here at home. A panoramic photo was taken to commemorate the event. A close-up of one portion of the photo is shown here.



Betsy Strauss is a member of the Amenia Historical Society



NORTHERN
DUTCHESS NEWS
 ALL LOCAL ~ ALL THE TIME
www.sdutchessnews.com



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

Camp Whitman in Beekman was training ground for WWI troops

by Thom Usher

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War I era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

In early 1916 The United States government needed places to train large numbers of troops, following President Wilson's call for 17,000 National Guard troops to safeguard the border with Mexico, where frequent border raids were taking place during the Mexican Revolution. Camp Whitman in Beekman, a short trip from New York City, was established on the State Industrial Farm (prison farm) on Route 216, for the mobilization training of New York State Troops. The camp also was in use during the First World War. More than 500,000 troops were trained at the camp, which was closed by 1920.

The 825-acre site was named for then-Gov. Charles Seymour Whitman. New York State appropriated \$500,000 for the camp water and sewer systems, buildings, latrines, baths and more.

The first troops arrived only six weeks

after construction of the camp had begun. Most of the men who were sent to Camp Whitman came from New England and the Eastern states. Troops from New York accounted for the largest number. The camp was a melting pot of nationalities, and most of the first troops were recent Irish immigrants. Few people had expected any black troops to be sent to camp, but came they did from New York City to be known as the "Harlem Hell Fighters."

Troops living in tents on wooden platforms had difficulties staying dry in the spring rains, cool in the hot summer and warm in the crispy fall.

British and French personnel came to the United States to help train the doughboys in gas and trench warfare, but it was mostly marching, target practice and small unit movement.

It was a remarkable achievement to build the camp; even as soldiers were reporting for training, equipment became a logjam. The first troops showed up and trained with wooden rifles. There were delays in receiving uniforms and boots. The camp needed roads, sewage, barracks, mess halls, headquarters buildings, hospitals and a post office—all the things needed to function—and they needed to build them all at once.

There were, oddly, few disciplinary

problems, considering the thousands of men who passed through Camp Whitman. Records indicate less than 1,000 charges for minor offenses and very few court-martials. The most serious problem the camp faced was the influenza epidemic of 1918 and 1919.

As we researched Camp Whitman, we came across information jotted down in bibles, letters and postcards from camp to loved ones, giving us an inside view of life at the camp. Some are funny or heartbreaking and others terrifying, but all are informative.

The day started at 5:30 a.m., when the bugler blew reveille, and ended at 11 p.m. with "Taps." Weekends provided time for strolling about town and recreation including baseball, football, boxing and volleyball.

During World War I, the government established a commission to aid dealings between Army camps and nearby towns and cities, to develop a recreational morale program for the American military and to act as a system of attack on the evils customarily associated with camps. Local businesses were checked to avoid price-gouging and the transaction of liquor carefully

organized.

The folks from town provided picnics, socials and band concerts; and local church organizations joined together to make everyone feel at home. On Sundays, as many as 500 soldiers went to local church services and were invited to individual households for dinner after.

Of course, not everyone followed the rules.

Investigating the different experiences of the Beekman boys at camp on the home front during the war, I've had more than my fair share of "wow" moments of encounter. From tears to deeply moving, these World War I notes are full of amazing and forgotten tales just waiting to be told. "The Button War" is one of my favorite stories I've discovered so far:

In a letter from Peter Mulligan to his brother Patrick (Paddy) we learned of the "Button War." In February 1918 they began forming the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" from National Guardsmen of 26 states. New York's contribution was the 165th Infantry, previously known as the Fighting 69th Irish Regiment, totally made up of Irish immigrants, and what vacancies they had were

continued on page 21



Above: This photo shows Headquarters Hill at Camp Whitman in Beekman, where large numbers of troops were trained during World War I. Right: Private Harry Mallen and Private Paddy Mulligan of the all-Irish 69th Infantry were part of a rebellion known as The Button War, prompted by having to wear British uniforms in the early days of the mobilization. Below: Troops gargle salt water to avoid influenza, one of the biggest problems the camp faced in 1918-1919. *Courtesy photos*



No Boat? No Problem

Become part of our Hudson River Boating Family!

- You don't need to own a boat to be a member
- Club House Rental
- Accommodate a large range of boat sizes
- Check our Website for Upcoming Events



"Fellowship on the Hudson"



ROGERS POINT BOATING ASS'N.
EST. 1953

190 River Road, Hyde Park ~ 845-229-2236

www.RogersPoint.com



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

Harlem Hellfighters trained in Beekman, went on to fight with French troops in WWI

by Thom Usher

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War 1 era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

In 1916, a few leaders of New York City society, like public service commissioner William Hayward and state assemblyman Hamilton Fish, joined the effort to help organize the Colored 15th Infantry Regiment. Bandleader James (Reese) Europe became interested and entered as a Private and trained in a machine gunner unit. When interviewed by a reporter from the Daily Herald as to why a famous bandleader like himself enlisted, he stated, "I have been in New York for 16 years ... I believe this organization of negro men will bring together the best of us for the common good. Our race will never sum up to anything unless there is a solid group of determined men whose outlook is for progress in the community."

William Hayward, who secured the rank of colonel, promoted the idea that Jim Europe as a band leader would be a tremendous help in using the band's marching parades to recruit the African-American community.

Jim Europe, now promoted to Lieutenant, did his part and swelled the ranks of the 15th. Col. Hayward did his part by calling on friends at the NRA to donate rifles to his "Rifle Club" needed to enlist and train the men, to officially bring them up to Regiment regulations.

At Camp Whitman, where both The Irish 69th New York and the 15th trained, Gen. John F. O'Ryan was forming the "Rainbow Division," and Col. Hayward anticipated the 15th could come to be part of it as well; unfortunately, he was told directly that "the color black is not in the rainbow."

Training at Camp Whitman had its problems; as they formed the Rainbow Division from other states, those units brought their discrimination, fears and hatred of blacks with them. What set the 15th apart was its active management of itself, their unsurpassed love of music and the lucky draw of determined white officers who believed in them.

From the beginning, they had an uphill battle of cruel discrimination, everyday degradation and disappointments. But they

had something nobody else had: "a rhythm in close drill marching"; when they marched as a unit, they dazzled spectators. They were so talented and entertaining that at times it cut through some of the racism that encircled them, and eventually won them somewhat of a sense of peace at camp.

After Americans joined in the war, Hayward persuaded the authorities to have the regiment pulled from guard duty in sites around the state and sent for advanced training to South Carolina. When racial dealings produced tensions with the local residents and authorities, Hayward contacted Washington, D.C. and was told the War Department had three ways to handle it: Remove them and have them look like cowards; stay and have them arrested and possibly lynched; or deploy the unit overseas. The last course was chosen. Shipped to France, the division worked as stevedores in a shipyard. Excluded from fighting through Gen. John J. Pershing, the French recognized them and taught them; the unit was in the battle for 191 continuous days. The fighting ended when there was a lack of men capable of continuing.

The Harlem Hellfighters, a National Guard regiment that was known by many names: the 15th New York, the 369th Infantry and the Harlem Rattlers. But it's a name that has lived for a hundred years after the Great War. What a story, what a reversal for this unit!

In its early days, it used poles instead of guns for training. It met opposition by local white residents. Ready to sail out, the influential members of the New York City parade committee denied them the opportunity to march with other groups that were preparing to ship out. The Hell Fighters returned as decorated heroes, with more medals than any other American unit, and marched as victors in a parade in New York City which they shared with no other group.

Most that has been written about the Harlem Hellfighters has been from the viewpoint of newspapers and officers that were in charge of them; but like everything else, there's another story, perhaps the side that needs to be told is the other side. From notes and letters from Pvt. Warner Jackson that we are now researching, maybe we will hear a different view.

Most of the young African Americans serving were taken out of their secured controlling and closed element and put into terrifying situations. All their lives they were abused and treated as third-class citizens, so they were used to taking orders from those



State Assemblyman Hamilton Fish was one of the few leaders of New York society who joined the effort to help organize the Colored 15th Infantry Regiment, which trained at Camp Whitman in the Town of Beekman. Right: Pvt. Warner Jackson, who lived on Negro Hill in Beekman, trained at Camp Whitman with the 15th, which later was known as the Harlem Hellfighters. Photos courtesy of DCHS



in authority, and because of their race they followed those orders to the letter or bore the price.

Pvt. Warner Jackson lived in Beekman on Negro Hill and traveled for 18 months down to Harlem on weekends and in the summer to train with the all-black 15th National Guard for two years, with little help from the government. They drilled at Camp Whitman and later on became the 369th regiment and nicknamed the Harlem Hellfighters.

When they shipped out to France the following month, Pvt. Jackson and his unit were totally expecting to be a part of a militant group; and instead they were thrown into service at train stations, shipyards and supply units. The high-ranking white officers did not feel that a black soldier had the intellect or nerve to fight, so they were put in as support roles. In fact, less than 10 percent of all African Americans who served in the war actually fought.

Pvt. Jackson and his buddies did actually see the trenches and combat in Northern France, but not with the American troops. They were given over to the French army and were teamed up with a French buddy, one on one. They spent more time on the front line than any American unit. They served 191 days, and they never lost ground

to the Germans and never had a man captured.

The French government honored them with Medals of Valor, but the U.S. Military didn't recognize them until many decades later.

Please join us next time in reading more of Pvt. Jackson as we research letters, postcards and a personal Bible that his grandchildren have.

Nearly one hundred years later, with great pride, America says "Thank you for your service."

Thom Usher authored a book, "Beekman," published by Arcadia Publishing House. His background in writing the history of the town consisted of being a community activist, and over 10 years as a past town historian and president of the town's historical society.



Gov. Charles Whitman and Gen. John F. O'Ryan inspect the troops at Camp Whitman in Beekman. Photo courtesy of DCHS

NORTHERN DUTCHESS NEWS & Creative Living

84 E. Main St., Wappingers Falls, NY 12590 845.297.3723

NEWS northerndutchess@sdutchessnews.com

A&E / Lifestyle

creativeliving@sdutchessnews.com

ADVERTISING sdnadvertising@aol.com



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

The life and work of Hopewell Junction WWI Veteran Daniel Chase reflect shifts in the county

by Bill Jeffway

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War 1 era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

Moving from the care of horses to ordnance repair in a military role that spanned Mexico, then Belgium and France in World War I; and moving from the declining railroad industry in his civilian life, like many Dutchess County residents in the first half of the 20th century, Daniel H. Chase was buoyed by IBM's arrival in the 1940s. He became one of IBM's earliest employees and enjoyed a successful career of almost two decades. He lived most of his adult, post-service life in Hopewell Junction, the hometown of his wife Florence (Vermilya) Chase, a long-time teacher in the Wappingers schools.

The current exhibition of many of Chase's World War I personal effects in two glass cases on the first floor of the County Office Building on Market Street, Poughkeepsie, offer very personal insights into his war service. Images of these items,

and more, are also on display at www.DCHSNY.org/WWI-East-Fishkill, courtesy of the East Fishkill Historical Society and Dutchess County Historical Society.

Chase was born in 1894 in Vermont. He enlisted in the NY National Guard in June 1916 in Albany (100 miles west of his hometown), serving almost three years, until April 1919. He was active as a veteran. In 1942 he was a founder and commander of the Hopewell Junction post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Prior to this, Chase was an active member of the "27th Division Association," reflecting his interest in the company of those who served under division commander General Major John F. O'Ryan. One of the items in the exhibition is a ribbon he wore: It reads, "27th Division Association of the World War Re-union, Saratoga, NY, September 27-28-29, 1929" (see photo). You'll see the graphic on the divisions' badge is of the Orion star constellation, playing on the name O'Ryan.

O'Ryan became commander of the NY National Guard in 1912. In 1916 he led his troops in the battles of the Mexican Expedition at the Mexican border. Chase's military service and role in 1916 was as a "saddler," no doubt using skills he learned growing up on a Vermont farm. As the

name suggests, his work focused on horses and horse equipment. One of the frequent roles of a saddler in combat was to adjust a horse saddle to accommodate the animal's wasting state under the stress of battle, with too little food and water.

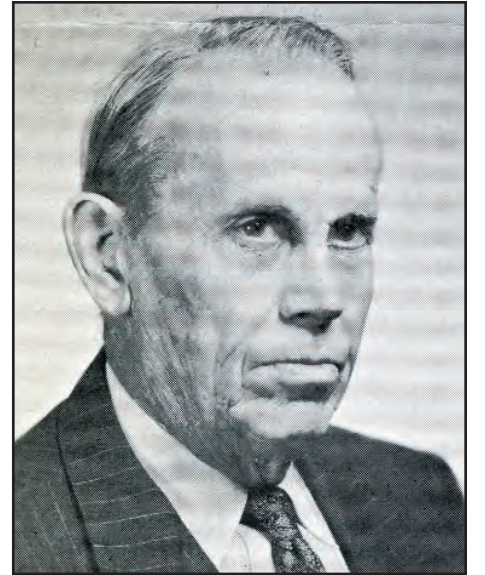
The April 1917 declaration of war against Germany saw the United States federalize state national guard units, making them part of the too-small US Army. O'Ryan, and Chase, under the new federalized name of the "27th Division" would go to Europe in the thick of the battles in Belgium and France. O'Ryan was the Army's youngest division commander when he arrived in Europe. He was the only National Guard general to remain in command in transition from state troop to federal troop command, through to the end of the war.

Chase's role changed from saddler to technical engineer, mobile ordnance repair. The symbol of the group was a bomb with a fuse. On display (see photos) are a number of ways that image is used, including a variety of designs used as uniform insignia. In September the division engaged in the Somme Offensive and provided a break in the formidable "Hindenburg Line," forcing the Germans to retreat. A major turning point leading to the Armistice on Nov. 11 of that year.

In his return to civilian life, Chase started out in railroad work, a "signalman." Although Hopewell Junction was a major railroad hub, this was a period of decline for that industry. Fortunately for Chase, he was among the earliest IBM employees. He joined in 1944, just three years after IBM bought the old Delapenha Canning Factory and converted it into headquarters of the IBM Munitions Manufacturing Company).

Objects, photos, information courtesy of IBM, East Fishkill Historical Society and Dutchess County Historical Society

Bill Jeffway is Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society, a Trustee of Historic Red Hook and Town Board Liaison to the Milan Bicentennial Committee.



Daniel H. Chase. Below: Chase's ribbon memorializing the 27th Division Association reunion is part of an exhibition on view in the County Office Building. *Courtesy photos*



Gen. Maj. John F. O'Ryan. *Photo by Reuben Van Vlack*

No Boat? No Problem

Become part of our Hudson River Boating Family!

- You don't need to own a boat to be a member
- Club House Rental
- Accommodate a large range of boat sizes
- Check our Website for Upcoming Events



"Fellowship on the Hudson"



ROGERS POINT BOATING ASS'N.
EST. 1953

190 River Road, Hyde Park ~ 845-229-2236
www.RogersPoint.com



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

The long, hazy road to recognizing WWI Veterans from Town of Milan

Editor's note: This is the first in a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War 1 era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of The Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. The articles will appear every other week. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

by Bill Jeffway

The search to identify and recognize veterans of Milan who served in World War I exposes challenges that are typical to the general task, and a few that are particular to the Town of Milan.

The 1919 to 1924 state-wide effort by New York State Historian James Sullivan to document and publish "New York's Part in the World War" failed due to an uneven response, at best. Particular to Milan, we find people then tended to have a stronger identity tie to their hamlet than the town of Milan. And hamlets like Rock City, Jackson Corners and Lafayetteville spread across adjacent towns, causing confusion. Furthermore, many draft-age men were itinerant farm workers, moving from town to town. The haziness is part of the story.

The official Milan response of June 22, 1923 to NYS Historian Sullivan was revealing. An un-named "local historian pro-tem" replied to Sullivan's request saying, "Rowland Sharp[e] and Clarence Swartz are the only two I know of who went ... Our boys who went from Milan don't seem to know much about it, and I can't find anyone who can give us much if

any information."

While the war was at its peak on May 18, 1918, the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News published two full pages (in small type) of all the men serving from Dutchess County. Two were shown to be from Milan: John A. Cole and Gilbert Gubler - a different two than noted by the Milan "historian pro-tem."

A week later, the same paper ran a kind of "correction." Someone local to Milan, remaining anonymous, estimated that there were "ten boys" from Milan. In addition to Sharpe, Swartz, Cole and Gubler just mentioned, an additional six individuals were mentioned: Philip Althiser, Dr. Lawrence E. Cotter, Webster Bathrick, William Ostrander, Robert H Holsapple, and a person of color "whose name we do not know." That person was David A. Clark. His enlistment papers and newspapers at the time tie him to Milan where he was working on the 80-acre Taylor farm on what is North Road in Lafayetteville. He was killed in service and is buried in France.

So what is our best understanding today? In addition to the list of "ten boys" published in the 1918 newspaper, we can add six more: C. Edwin Battenfeld, William Briggs, Harold Case, Robert Lincoln Coons, Ralph Lydecker Fulton and Thomas Remsberger. This totals 16. Fulton is found filed under Red Hook in NYS Archives, in a file with a photo labeled "unidentified photo." It was not until the extended Fulton family provided the photo to accompany this article that the connection and clarification was made.

Beyond that, there are at least six addi-



Ralph L. Fulton (left) was born in the Fulton Farmhouse, Turkey Hill, Milan. Dr. Lawrence E. Cotter was born in Milan on the Cotter Farm along what is today Route 199. Norton family photo and photo of the Dutchess County Historical Society



tional "World War" veterans who were born outside of Milan, did not reside here at war-time, but had prominent lives in Milan after the war. All are buried locally (birthplace and burial shown in parenthesis). Brings the total to 22.

They are James Bromiley (New York City/Milan Union Cemetery). Conrad Dittman, poultry farmer on Milan Hill Road (Poland/Rock City); Eugene Ohlson, elected Milan Town Assessor (Texas/Rhinebeck); Chelsey Thompson, served in British Navy (Canada/Milan Union); Jimmy Ward, popular dance hall owner in Lafayetteville (Nevada/Yeoman's); Angelo Rossi, lived at Case's Corners (Italy/Rhinecliff). In the case of

Rossi we are in good conversation with his extended family on clarifying particulars.

Profiles of these veterans are evolving (emphasize evolving!) at the Dutchess County Historical Website's online World War I "local" pages at www.dchsny.org/WWI-Milan (not case-sensitive).

A former Milan Town Historian, Bill Jeffway is currently Milan Town Board member liaison to the Milan Bicentennial Committee and Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society.



SEND US YOUR EVENTS

creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

The Moviehouse needs a lift

Go Fund Me campaign established to install elevator in historic building

Robert and Carol Sadlon have operated The Moviehouse for almost four decades in a two-story 1903 historic Grange Hall that has been showing movies in the Village of Millerton since 1915. The place has morphed from a boarded-up, single-screen porno house in 1977 with a "For Sale due to the Lack of Customers" sign on the front door, into a state-of-the-art, four-screen digital theater which has become a regional destination point for entertainment, culture and learning experiences.

Technology has always been the driving force in the growth and innovation of The Moviehouse but, though their film equipment is state-of-the-art, for many years the Sadlons have been accommodating their

guests by moving films and events downstairs on different days and show times for those who find negotiating the stairs to the second floor too difficult.

With the installation of a new LULA commercial elevator they will be able to offer all films and events, to all people, at all times. An elevator to the second floor will also allow the creation of an accessible restroom for those with disabilities, serving the entire theater.

Installing an elevator in an historic listed building is no mean feat and not without expense, so the Sadlons have turned to the public for help to raise the \$140,850 needed to complete the project. With the community's help the elevator construction could start as early as this spring.

In gratitude, The Moviehouse is offering gifts, depending on the level of commitment, to project donors.

Visit themoviehouselift.com for more information and to make a donation. ❖

Victim of An Accident? I Can Help!



- ◆ Auto Accidents
- ◆ Brain Injuries
- ◆ Wrongful Death
- ◆ Medical Malpractice
- ◆ Construction Accidents
- ◆ Dog Bites
- ◆ Slip and Fall Accidents

Free Consultation

Serving the Hudson Valley for 40 Years

IANELLI LAW  The Law Office of John Ianelli, P.C.

www.IanelliLaw.com

845-896-7900

804 Route 9 Suite 2, Fishkill, NY 12524



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

One community's sacrifice in the Great War

by Sean Klay

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War 1 era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

2017 marked the centennial of the start of the United States' involvement in what we know today as the First World War. Young men and women from Millerton had a part to play in this global drama unfolding an ocean and a world away. Into this inferno stepped two men from Millerton: a U.S. Marine, William J. McLaughlin Jr. and a US Army soldier, John Kyle Smith.

William J. McLaughlin Jr. was born Aug. 21, 1888 to William and Mary McLaughlin. Young William's maternal grandfather, Joseph McGhee, progenitor of the McGhee family in Millerton, had emigrated from Scotland in the 1850s. He served with the 150th NYV Infantry Regiment, taking part in some of the fiercest battles of the war, including Gettysburg, Chattanooga, Look-out Mountain, Atlanta and Sherman's March to the Sea.

Little is known about William Jr.'s early years. He was born in Jersey City, N.J., and had an older sister Agnus. His mother Mary died when William was 1 1/2 years old. The record is silent until 1916 when William, at age 28, enlisted into the Marine Corps and was initially assigned to the USS North Dakota. Things changed for William and the nation on April 6, 1917 when Congress declared war on Imperial Germany. Within a week he was reassigned to 77th Company of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, then being formed at Quantico VA. The 6th Machine Gun Battalion would constitute part of the 4th Marine Brigade, attached to the US Army's 2nd Division. By the end of the year, William with his brigade and the rest of 2nd Division would join Gen. John J. Pershing and the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in France.

From March 1918 onward, William spent the war on the front lines taking part in every major battle and campaign the AEF participated in. By October 1918 William, now a corporal and responsible for a machine gun squad, took part in what would prove to be the last great American offensive of the war, the Meuse-Argonne.

John Kyle Smith was born to Frank and Mary Smith in Tivoli on Dec. 3, 1888, and was the oldest of six children. From the state and federal census records we know that John went to school in Red Hook, following which he worked to support his family. Sometime between 1910 and 1915 John moved to Millerton to live with his Uncle Fredrick Smith, who owned a shoe store on Main Street.

This is where John was working in 1917 when the United States entered the Great War. On June 5, 1917, John, along with young men from all over the United States, reported to their local draft boards to register. On John's draft registration card, it's his uncle's signature as the certifying official.

A year later, John received his draft notice. On May 25, 1918, he reported with other young men to Millbrook, where he enlisted into the U.S. Army. By June 30 John, along with Millerton residents Santa Anna Finkle, William G. Simmons and George A. Evans, were on the troop ship S.S. Mercury with other Dutchess County residents going to France. After three months of training, John found himself assigned in October 1918 to the 320th Infantry Regiment, part of the 80th Division, as a replacement soldier. On the night of Oct. 31, the 80th Division relieved elements of the 82nd Division to take their place on the line immediately adjacent to the 2nd Division and the 4th Marine Brigade.

The morning of Nov. 1, 1918 found Corp. McLaughlin and Pvt. Smith within 10 miles of each other. At 0430 (4:30 a.m.), American artillery opened on the German positions. At 6:30 a.m., the infantry assault began. For Corp. McLaughlin this experience of "going over the top" was nothing new. For Pvt. John Smith it was his first time. For both it would be their last.

What exactly happened to John, we may never know. The only indication is a notation on his service record that he was killed "North of St. Juvin."

For William we have an account from a letter written to his sister Agnus by Guy Moore and was published on March 6, 1919 in the Millerton Telegram:

*Dear Mrs. Diegman,
Am writing you as a friend of your brother. We promised to write for each other. He was killed Nov. 1, at 6:30 a.m. just as he went over the top, on the Meuse and Argonne front. He had just fired a machine gun barrage for the infantry to advance and then we started forward. He was leading us through a storm of German shells when he was hit. I was only 30 feet behind him and when I got to him it was all over.*

So thank God he didn't suffer and was not mangled like so many.

He had charge of my squad since the St. Mihiel drive. After all he went through it seems hard to think that there were but 10 days more, and this his fate.

I have a remembrance which he got in Chateau Thierry and will mail it to you. He carried it till he went into the last drive, and gave it to a teamster to keep for him but I have it now.

*His friend,
Guy E. Moore
77 Co., 6 Mach. Gun Batt.
U.S. Marine Corps*

P.S. Please accept deepest regards from 77th Company. Mrs. Diegman, many have paid the price but none more brave than he. He was loved by his company.

Following the war, the families of both William and John received correspondence from the War Department regarding the disposition of their loved ones' remains. Corp. William J. McLaughlin Jr. lies at rest in Irondale Cemetery in Millerton.

John's remains were returned to the United States in July 1921. Where he was finally laid to rest in Red Hook is now a mystery.



The gavel and meeting bell of Legion Auxiliary Unit 178 of Millerton were presented by Agnus Diegman in memory of her brother William McLaughlin in 1934. Corp. McLaughlin was killed in action Nov. 1, 1918, on the Meuse-Argonne front. Photo courtesy of Sean Klay

After the war these men were not forgotten. William's sister Agnus kept his memory alive as a part of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 178 in Millerton. In 1934, as noted in the April 19, 1934 edition of the Harlem Valley Times, she presented a "beautiful gavel and bell to the unit in memory of her brother Corporal W. J. McLaughlin."

The World War veterans of Tivoli and Red Hook would not let the memory of their native son pass away, naming their new Legion Post in his honor.

Sean Klay is a 15-year member of the American Legion and has been the Historian of American Legion Post 178 since 2007. He is a graduate of Westfield State University with a B.A. in History.



SEND US YOUR EVENTS

creativeliving@sutchesnews.com



Pleasant Valley
DEPARTMENT STORE

*Comfortable Clothing Inspired
by the Great Outdoors*

Summer Sale!

*Enjoy savings on your favorite brands
Dresses-Shorts-Capris-Shirts*




1585 Main Street • Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 • (845) 635-2220
www.pleasantvalleydepartmentstore.com • email: PVMill2@aol.com



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

Bathrick's story underscores changing times ushered in by World War I

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War I era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

I came upon the story of Henry Bathrick quite accidentally, while pouring over old local newspapers on the Fultonhistory.com website looking for information on Pine Plains during World War I for the Dutchess County Year of the Veteran project. In The Pine Plains Register of Thursday, Aug. 14, 1919, there was a nice article about a homecoming celebration for the Pine Plains veterans being planned for September of that year.

But then a headline about a fatal car crash caught my eye, and like most people, my morbid curiosity drew me to it. As I read on, I realized that the victim had been one of our returned veterans. Henry Bathrick, age 24 and back from the war for only a few months, had been killed in an automobile accident in New York City. Like that of a fallen soldier, his was a life of unfulfilled promise, his sudden death just as heartbreaking and senseless. I was incredibly moved after reading about him and set out to learn more.

The Bathricks were ordinary farmers who had moved to the Mount Ross hamlet in the Town of Pine Plains from the Town of Stanford sometime after Henry Melvin Bathrick was born in 1895. However, as it turns out, Henry Bathrick was no ordinary farm boy, because at around the age of 20, before entering the military, he got a job in New York City as a fire patrolman. Patrolmen were different from firemen in that they didn't work for the fire department, they worked in partnership with it. Patrolmen were civilians underwritten by the insurance industry (in New York City this was the New York Board of Fire Underwriters), working alongside firemen and taking orders from the commanding officer of the fire department. While firemen put out fires, a patrolman's job was to prevent loss of life and property, especially in commercial structures, but it could be just as dangerous.

The New York City Fire Patrol was organized in 1839, predating the paid New York City Fire Department. Henry worked

for New York City Fire Patrol No. 5 at 307 West 121st Street in upper Manhattan. The newspaper says that he drove the fire truck for the patrol. Henry had moved in with New York City Deputy Fire Chief John F. King. Perhaps because of his youth and being so far from home, Chief King took him under his wing. One can almost imagine the chief promising Henry's mother not to worry, they would take good care of her boy. King's son Hugh visited the Bathrick home in Mount Ross on at least once occasion, as well.

As required by law, Henry registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He was 22. On his registration card he claimed an exemption to help run the family farm. According to the local paper he had already enlisted in New York's Naval Militia in May. On July 16, 1917 he enlisted in the NNV (National Navy Volunteers), which allowed him to be mobilized into the federal Naval Reserves.

Henry did his training at Kingsland Point in North Tarrytown, Westchester County. During the spring target practice of the Atlantic fleet, Henry scored the record for gun pointer of the entire fleet, an accomplishment that his family must have been very proud of since "expert gunner" was engraved on his gravestone. After his training was completed, he was assigned to a transport convoy, the U.S.S. Seattle, Armored Cruiser No. 11.

The Seattle started out in June 1917 as an escort for the first American convoy to Europe and the flagship of Rear Admiral Albert Cleaves. On June 22 she encountered enemy submarines, but her helm jammed. She sounded a warning whistle for the other ships in the formation, which was followed by several tense moments, but the U-boats did not attack. It was later thought that the Seattle's warning whistle had scared them off. The remainder of her service in the war was uneventful.

Henry Bathrick was relieved from active duty in February 1919 and was probably anxious to get back to civilian life and his job with the fire patrol. In early August he visited home and informed his folks he had been transferred downtown, but we don't know if this was something he was happy about or not. On Aug. 12, right after returning to the city, he was involved in a fatal head-on collision while touring around Manhattan with his fiancé and her friend in his new Overland car. According to the Aug. 13 article in The New York Herald,



Pine Plains veteran Henry Bathrick is buried in Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery. Right: The detail of his headstone shows him in his Navy uniform. During World War I, Bathrick served on the cruiser Seattle, pictured below in a news clipping following its return from France. *Courtesy photos*



Henry's car flipped twice, the second time pinning him beneath it and killing him instantly. He was in his fire patrolman's uniform at the time of the crash. His two passengers and the other driver survived.

Henry was given full military honors at his funeral, with members of the 3rd Division Naval Militia in attendance dressed in their regulation blue uniforms and white hats. He was buried in Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

It is said that World War I ushered in the modern era, not just in terms of how wars are fought but also with significant developments in the fields of technology and science. Society and culture were transformed, and new systems of government emerged while others perished. Like the young soldiers who died from any of several advances in deadly weaponry, including the first large-scale use of poison gas in wartime, Henry's death in an automobile accident, before the benefit of traffic laws and safety regulations we now take for granted, can perhaps be seen as an equally

adverse consequence of this new world order. One hundred years later, we are still trying to come to terms with it.

Dyan Wapnick has lived most of her life in Dutchess County, growing up in Hyde Park and making Pine Plains her home for the last 30-plus years. She has a BA in history from Clarion University and in 2009 she retired after a 30-year career with IBM. She is a former president of the Little Nine Partners Historical Society in Pine Plains and has authored several publications on local history for the society.



“Do You Have an
Idea for
an **Invention?**”

We help everyday inventors patent and submit their ideas to companies.
Put our 30 years of experience to work for you!

For FREE Information Call
844-342-9021

INVENTHELP
HELPING INVENTORS SINCE 1984
Copyright © 2018 InventHelp®





Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

Red Hook and the 'War to End All Wars'

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War I era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

by Christopher Klose,
Historic Red Hook
Contribution by jim donick

"From the beginning of the United States ... the citizens of Red Hook have ever been loyal and patriotic, and always ready to respond ... in times of national peril. Hence, the entry of the country into the World War, April 6, 1917, found our citizens responsive to the nation's needs," reported Frances E. Crouse in her meticulous "Red Hook, New York in the World War."

Indeed, Red Hook was proud to make a difference "over there." Answering Uncle Sam's call to arms, 161 townsmen eventually served in the Armed Forces. Eight of them paid the ultimate price: either killed in action or succumbed to disease. Gone but not forgotten, each Memorial Day we honor their sacrifice: Victor Chapman, Charles Brizzie, Richard M. Coons, Fred Harris,

Bertram E. Lown, Harry A. Rhynders, William M. Sistare Jr. and John K. Smith.

Chapman, of Barrytown, was the first-ever American aviator to be killed in war. At the war's outbreak in August 1914, he joined the French Foreign Legion, spent a year in the trenches, then transferred to the French Aviation Service in late-1915. Earning his "wings," he helped found the famed Lafayette Escadrille (The Lafayette Flying Corps) of American volunteers, and was shot down in a dog fight near Verdun on July 23, 1916, while flying to a rear area on a mission of mercy. Chapman was carrying oranges to a hospital-bound comrade who had been badly shot up a few days previously.

Rhynders was one of the last Americans to die in action. A private in Company A, 327th Infantry, 82nd Division, he was killed on Oct. 10, 1918, in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. On the 10th of October Rhynders' division, having just relieved the 1st Division, was in action along the river Aire, just north of Fléville. Private First Class Harry Rhynders likely fell there. The war was over a month and a day later.

Both Chapman and Rhynders are buried in France.

On the home front, Red Hook turned in a mighty effort, as well. For example, Crouse recorded that the 291 members of the Red Hook circle of the Red Cross made "14,264 surgical dressings, 5 comfort kits, 199 pairs of socks, 99 sweaters and 28 scarfs [sic]." And that the 'Victor Chapman' Red Cross Circle had responded overwhelmingly to the Tivoli Times-Journal appeal to "You housewives who can put up those tempting delicious jellies ... send a few jars to France ... daily the wounded beg for jams, for chocolate, for jelly, for plain sugar ... it is a fact that wounds will not heal unless there is a certain amount of sugar in their systems." The Circle had produced at least "90 knitted garments, 225 [other] garments, 7 hot water bottles" and hundreds of surgical dressings "for the cause."

Astonishingly, our small farming town of some 3,800 people contributed a total of \$444,740 – just more than \$8 million in today's dollars – to the nation's five "Liberty Bond" drives between 1917 and 1919 to finance our participation in the war. Like the rest of the country, Red Hookers were responding to the government's



Red Hook's own Victor Chapman was the first American aviator to be killed in the war. Fellow townsman Harry A. Rhynders (see cross, below) was one of the last Americans to die in action in World War I. Bottom: The local Red Cross chapter was busy on the home front making sure the soldiers received necessary supplies, as well as sweet treats. *Courtesy photos and photo by jim donick*

patriotic call, but also to the promise of substantial returns when the bonds matured. Altogether, Americans raised a staggering \$20 billion, practically \$360 billion now, to equip our "doughboys" with the tanks, guns, planes, mules and horses, uniforms, boots, bayonets and helmets they needed for victory in Europe.

On June 1, 1919, Red Hook demonstrated its finest in a grand "welcome home!" celebration for our boys. The festivities began with a 1 p.m. ballgame between the "DePeyster team, of Madalin, and the Subway Giants, of New York, in Chanler park..." followed by a "3:30 parade headed by the Griffing Band ... 60 of the returned service men in uniform ... and a long line of flag and bunting trimmed automobiles containing veterans of the Civil War..." and, for the guests of honor, a "clam bake ... moving picture show at the Lyceum ... and dance with which the joyful activities of the

day ended."

A retired reporter and magazine editor, Chris Klose is a member of the board of Historic Red Hook.



SEND US YOUR EVENTS

creativeliving@s Dutchessnews.com

Deadline: Thursday at noon the week before publication
Calendar runs Thursday to Wednesday

No Boat? No Problem

Become part of our Hudson River Boating Family!

- You don't need to own a boat to be a member
 - Community Events • Club House Rental
 - Private Boating Club
 - Accommodate a large range of boat sizes
- "Fellowship on the Hudson"



ROGERS POINT BOATING ASS'N.

EST. 1953

190 River Road, Hyde Park ~ 845-229-2236

www.RogersPoint.com



Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

Rhinebeck residents had vital roles in 'The Great War'

Editor's note: This is the second in a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War 1 era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of The Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. The articles will appear every other week. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org. View the following installment online at dchsny.org/wwi-rhinebeck .

by David Miller

One hundred years ago the world was entering the last year of "The Great War," the war to end all wars. Many events are happening this year commemorating the 100th anniversary of our county's part in the war. This article is about what life was like in Rhinebeck during the War.

The Doughboy statue in the village lists 200 Rhinebeck veterans. Eight men died in the war: Edward J. Bell, Roy T. Crusius, Edward A. Fitzpatrick, Arthur Haen, Alfred W. Lane, George N. Miller Jr., Guy Pindar and Henry M. Suckley. Henry left for France in January 1915, served for more than two years as a French ambulance driver and was killed by a bomb from a German

airship in March 1917.

In April 1917, a Dutchess County home defense committee was formed, headed by the editor of the Rhinebeck Gazette, Jacob Strong. The committee located land that could be put into service growing food for the war effort. The members asked that the growing of food be added to the curriculum of each school and that the newspaper create a weekly column to teach the public "agricultural preparedness."

In May 1917, a three-man committee was formed — A. Lee Stickle, Rhinebeck High School Principle E. C. Pullen and Rev. Francis Little — to build Rhinebeck's corps. The charge was "to find men between the ages of 16 and 64 who were of good moral character and were physically fit." This group could be called upon for a "breach of the peace, tumult, riot or resistance of process of the state or eminent danger thereof." They were to serve as an auxiliary to the National Guard. By the end of the month, 71 men had signed up for the defense corps and held their first meeting at the Starr Institute.

Paying for the war

The U.S. Government had to figure out a way to pay for the war and in June began selling the first liberty loan bonds. Bonds were sold at banks and at the Gazette office. The bonds paid 3.5 percent and were exempt from taxes.

There were five Liberty Bond drives during the war and Rhinebeck exceeded its quota in all of them. You could buy a \$50 bond by making five \$10 payments. The third drive consisted of volunteers rolling a liberty ball from Buffalo to New York City, 422 miles.

At the end of the year, the government came up with another idea to raise \$2 billion in 1918. They decided that Liberty Bonds might be too expensive for some people coming in denominations of \$10 and \$50, so they came up with a budget plan: War Savings Stamps, costing just 25 cents. Individuals were given "thrift cards" with slots for 16 stamps. The completed card would be worth \$5.

As the holidays approached, the Red Cross started a Christmas Seal campaign for 1918. By January 1918,

Rhinebeck residents had joined the Red Cross and Mrs. Vincent Astor was made chair of the newly created Rhinebeck chapter.

Building an army

Plans for the regular army continued. By mid-July, all eligible men in Rhinebeck were assigned draft numbers and the rules for exemption from the Army were announced.

Dutchess County was divided into two districts totaling 396 men. Rhinebeck was part of District 2, from which 215 men were required. Notices were sent out to 430 men to appear before the exemption board. The men were to appear in Millbrook and the town worked out transportation for the men.

They had to have a second call of men to be examined because too many filed for exemptions. Because so many men were getting exemptions, the government revoked all exemptions in November. In March 1918, the Draft Board moved to Rhinebeck. Tracy Dows and Benson Frost were members of the board.

Food preparation

Herbert Hoover, head of the U.S. Food Administration, was placed in charge of increasing food production and preservation to support the war. Since women could not serve as soldiers in the Army or Home Defense corps, they helped with food preservation for the public and our troops abroad.

The important foods for the troops were wheat and meat. So, the public was encouraged to eat vegetables, fruit and fish. The Beekman Arms was recruited to be the Food Administration headquarters and conducted classes to teach women cooking and food preservation.

Backyards, school grounds and ball fields were used to grow food. As the winter began, the country experienced coal shortages and the public was asked to help. The country began mining more coal and people were encouraged to use wood to heat their houses and save the coal for the war effort.

Dying of disease

In 1918, letters from the front and obituaries were printed in the Gazette. Millions died during the war from disease. You have to remember that this was 1918. Most of the soldiers were from small towns and farms,



who were now put into close contact with thousands of men under terrible conditions. They were exposed to diseases and they died.

If you got a scratch, let alone a bullet wound, there were no antibiotics and you died. More men died from diseases than being shot. Roy Crusius died from measles in a camp in the United States. Edward J. Bell and Guy Pindar died of pneumonia. Edward Fitzpatrick was actually killed in action.

On Oct. 4, Germany asked for an armistice; the Kaiser resigned and left for the Netherlands, where he spent the rest of his life. Everyone knew that the armistice would be signed at 11 a.m. on 11/11, so Rhinebeck had a victory parade.

This was not the end of the war. It took eight more months for the allies to draft the Treaty of Versailles, which was signed on June 28, 1919. Some historians believe that the crippling terms of the treaty are what lead to the rise of Hitler and next war. So, the next week, on July 4, 1919, Rhinebeck had a second victory party with a parade through the village welcoming home the troops from Europe.

A retired IT manager, David Miller is the chairman of the Rhinebeck Historical Society and chairman of the Village of Rhinebeck Planning Board.



Above: The Rhinebeck Defense Corps in 1917. Right: A Liberty Bond Drive in 1917 involved rolling a Liberty Ball from Buffalo to New York City. It was rolled through Rhinebeck on the way. Courtesy photos





Year of the Veteran

1917-1919

Stanford's citizens stood together before and during World War I

Editor's note: This is part of a year-long series of articles by town, village and city historians about the World War I era as Dutchess County recognizes "The Year of the Veteran" with the Dutchess County Historical Society. If you have information relating to the time around WWI in Dutchess County, call (845) 471-1630 or visit dchsny.org.

by Kathie Spiers

In early April 1917, the United States entered World War I after President Wilson had previously declared neutrality at its onset in 1914. The sinking of U.S. merchant ships and the Lusitania compelled the United States to enter the conflict. The Town of Stanford answered the call to war with citizen soldiers, numbering 54, to form its own defense league on April 13, 1917.

According to the Poughkeepsie Eagle News, "Bangall and Stanfordville were in the vanguard of preparedness."

The purpose of the defense league was to provide safety to the townspeople. It was a forerunner of Civil Defense. Its members participated in drills, held meetings, paraded, raised funds all the while showing support of the United States in the war.

William P. Talbot provided the league with his building as the armory, along with a cannon. Town Supervisor Thomas C. Devlin, acted as the head of the league while Van Ness Lawless served as Captain with Frank Broad, 1st Lt., Lee Husted, 2nd Lt. and Rev. Robert J. Harrison as Chaplain.

Honorary members of the league were G.A.R. veterans George C. Payne, William H. Whaley, Sherman Williams, Albert Knapp, Egbert Hallock and Theodore Davis. Other members included Harry D. Knickerbocker, Richard Hillman, Eugene Allen, Percy Dewell, Albert Payne, Grant Boyce, Charles Dillinger, Elmer R.S. Husted, Charles E. Mead, Frank Haight, Freeman Marshall, L.A. Broad, Harry Hults, George Dillinger Jr., William B. Ogden, George Campbell, Jay Knickerbocker, George Merritt, Adelbert Decker, Harvey R. Losee, James J. Dixon, Edward Jucket, Charles Velie, Lee C. Bundy, John B. Whalen, B. Wheeler, H.A. Kemp, Charles G. Post, Thomas J. Whalen, M.G. Seaman, Lucian Taylor, Dr. Newton Boyce, H.W. Marshall, Jackson Butts, C.

Vermillyan, Harris Knickerbocker, William Barratt Jr., William P. Talbot, Ray Devine, Arlie Knickerbocker, H.S. Broad and Richard Seaman.

One of their first activities as a league was to participate in the town's annual Memorial Day exercises. League members, marching in khaki uniforms, paid for almost entirely by themselves, marched from the armory with Chaplain Rev. Harrison leading the way.

Buglers, drummers, Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts and school students followed in the procession. Older veterans gathered at the cemetery were waiting for their arrival along with many townspeople.

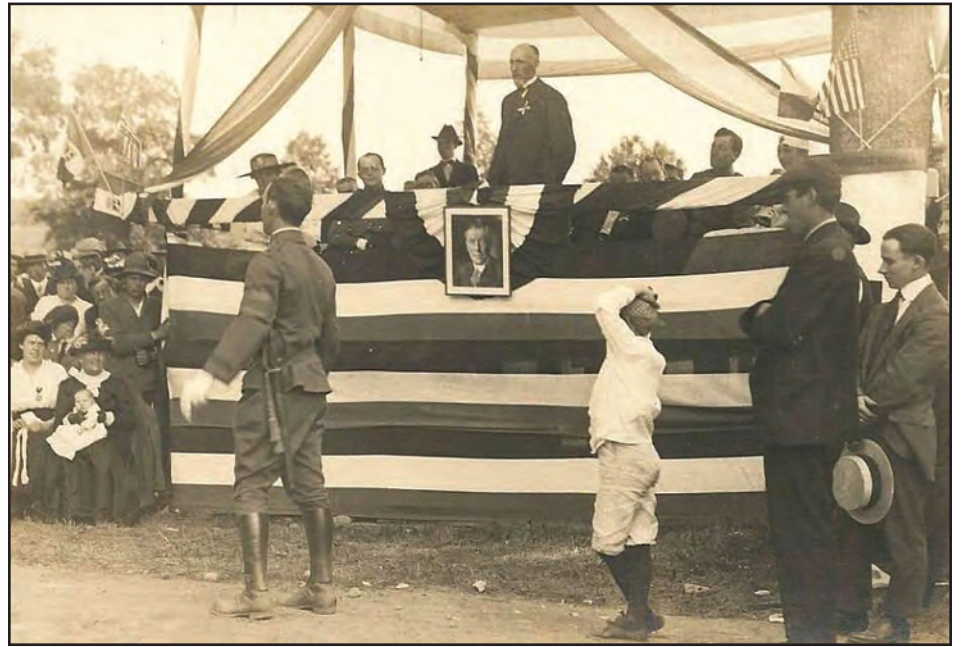
There was a scripture reading and remarks from Rev. Harrison, as well as remarks made by both Supervisor Devlin and G.A.R. veteran Albert Knapp. Flags and flowers carried by the students were placed on soldiers' graves. The patriotic service, it was thought, "would teach the boys and girls the lesson that, in years to come, it would be an honor and privilege to honor those who fought for the dear old flag."

The league then moved forward preparing for a "July 4th celebration that would be the grandest and largest the town had ever seen. There would be something happening throughout the entire day from nine o'clock in the morning until midnight."

Thelma Haight, a long-time citizen of the town (now deceased), provided to Donald Spiers news clippings from the Poughkeepsie Eagle News that painted a picture of the day. The description of the day from his book "Stanford's Memories" follows.

"The saloons are absolutely to be closed and on no condition will intoxicating drinks be sold in Stanfordville or Bangall on Independence Day. Also, the shooting of firecrackers or fireworks of any kind will not be allowed along the line of march, thereby assuring an enjoyable and peaceful day.

"William B. Talbot, one of the most distinguished citizens, through whose patriotic generosity the League has its new armory, cannons, etc., is to present the company with a 6 X 10 foot American flag and two pennant flags – one of the company's pennant and the other the Red Cross pennant – to fly from the armory's flag staff.



Above: A large canopied bandstand was erected for Stanford's July 4th celebration in 1917. Below: A variety of patriotic floats appeared in the July 4th parade. Photos courtesy of the Stanford Historical Society

"A large canopied band stand, beautifully draped has been erected in front of the new armory building. Peabody's Band will play. A large plot of shaded ground with grass closely cut has been generously loaned by Enoch W. Moody in order that conditions would be pleasant and easy for access for lunching parties, etc. Also, a large covered shed to park automobiles, carriages, etc., has been prepared on the Grange grounds for those who desire to use it. It is free to all.

"Ben Wheeler, for 20 years station agent for the CNE Railroad at Stanfordville, has generously loaned his seven-passenger car to the reception committee, as have many others, in order that everyone present may be properly and courteously cared for. H.W. Marshall, agent at Bangall, has had the station and buildings painted a pleasing color and is hanging bunting everywhere to make that part of the line of march attractive.

"William B. Talbot has also bought over \$100 worth of fireworks purchased under the direction of the Superintendent of Fireworks of New York City to be used in the grand display which is to close the events of Independence Day. The fireworks will begin at 8 p.m. and will be on the hill by the armory. Mr. Talbot has also made a great many waterproof signs, black lettering on a yellow background, which read, 'This way to Stanford and Bangall.' The signs are being placed at every crossroad and lane within a radius of twenty miles in order that no one need miss the way to Stanford on this Fourth of July.

"Harry Knickerbocker, who is very modest of praise, but who has been indefatigable in faithful work for the upbuild of the Home Defense League, has the placing of these signs in charge, and he and Lee Bundy can be seen along the roads at any time putting up placards and tacking up directions for the Stanford celebration.

"Several beautiful floats are being prepared and among them an excellent one by Mrs. Bessie B. Meade, who is principal of the Hendrick Hudson School in Stanford.

"The line of march is decorated with

flags and bunting and every child in Stanfordville will be presented with an American flag free.

"Mrs. George C. Payne, who served as county president of the W.C.T.U. for thirteen years, has great plans for receiving and entertaining and feeding the many persons who will come to Stanford. Harry S. Broad manager of the Borden's dairy plant has received a large ice box and has donated ice and milk, so that ice cold milk and soft drinks can be purchased at a very small price. Mrs. G. Badgley, wife of one of the largest fruit growers in Dutchess County and prominent Granger, is assisting in preparing a beautiful Grange float. Do not under any circumstances miss this excellent parade. There are many surprises promised.

"Mrs. William P. Talbot, whose beautiful Venetian gardens and tea house is one of the local showplaces, is a Stanfordville and Bangall native and has always maintained a residence there with her mother, the late Mrs. John Tripp, until married in 1911 to her distinguished husband. She is always willing and anxious to be of service in any way that will help in the betterment of the community.

The program for the Fourth of July follows:

- 9:00 Assemble at the ball grounds
- 9:30 Band Concert
- 10:00 Ball Game
- 11:00 Athletic Sports
- 12:00 Dinner at Armory
- 1:00 Band Concert at Armory
- 2:00 Flag Raising at Armory
- 2:30 Parade, Armory to Bangall
- 3:30 Parade, Bangall to Stanfordville
- 4:00 Address at Grange Hall
- 5:00 Parade, Grange Hall to Armory
- 5:30 Band Concert at Armory
- 6:00 Supper at Armory
- 7:00 Band Concert
- 8:00 Fireworks

"Get up early, rain or shine, and come prepared to spend the day. You will be made comfortable and at ease. There are plenty of places to rest in the shade. Hear the band,

continued on page 19

