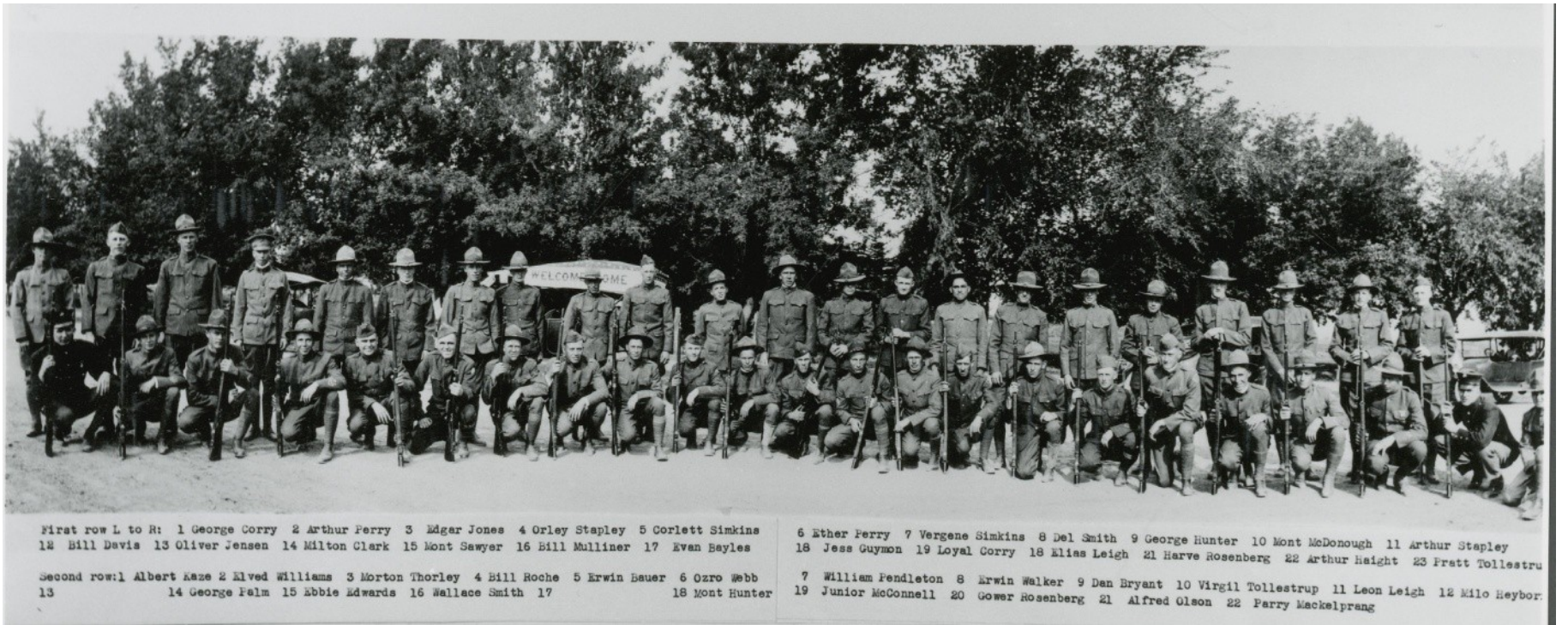


Cedar City American Legion Post Celebrates 100 Years



**Photo of some of the men from Iron County who served during World War I.
 Photo courtesy of SUU Special Collections and the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.**

Nearly one year after the armistice was signed ending World War I, a banquet was held in Cedar City on November 10, 1919 honoring the men who had served in the military during the war. About 50 men attended the feast.

Afterwards, focus shifted to the organization of a post of the American Legion. It was reported that “the boys appeared to be better posted on war tactics than on parliamentary laws and usages, and the proceedings were, to say the least, very informal.” Some of the officers were declared duly elected following a nomination and a second, if there were no objections.

The officers were: Lehi M. Jones, President; Ray Forbes, Secretary; Pratt Tollestrup, Treasurer; and Walter K. Granger, Employment Officer. Additional members of the Executive Committee were Stanley S. Ivins, Virgil Tollestrup and Virgean Simkins.

It took a few months for the proceedings to become official. The Cedar City Post No. 74 of the American Legion Department of Utah was granted a charter on September 8, 1920.

Listed as charter members of the organization are: Junior McConnell, Walter K. Granger, Stanley Ivins, F. C. Braithwaite, Claude Edwards, Lewis R. Fife, Gerald Wilkinson, Pratt Tollestrup, Gordon Hunter, Rulon Dalley, A. Virgil Tollestrup, R. T. Forbes, Erastus L. Jones, Lehi Jones, Randolph Grimshaw, Fernleigh Gardner, Ether Perry, Glenn Macfarlane, George Smith and Parry Mackelprang.

The founding documents for the American Legion organization in the state of Utah include the following phrases: “To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; . . . to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.”

The Cedar City American Legion Post is still active in promoting patriotism and honoring those who have served our country. Veterans interested in local American Legion activities can call Dennis Robison at 435-586-8852 for more information.