

Iron County in World War I, 1917-1918



Honoring Iron County men drafted, Sept. 3, 1917



CEDAR SAMMIE SEES FRONT LINE SERVICE

Harvey Rosenberg Writes Letter Describing Experiences in Trench Fighting, France.

FRANCE, June 18, 1918.

Mrs. Lottie Rosenberg
Cedar City, Utah;

Dear Mother, Brothers and Sisters,

No doubt this last long spell of silence will make you feel that I have been rather careless of my duty at home and correspondence, but I was just relieved from the front today and I guess that you realize that that is one place where we don't get much time to write.

I guess there is no use telling you what we did to the Germans, for you more than likely will see that in the papers – about how we U.S. Marines halted the kaiser's mad rush on Paris and drove them back before you get this letter.

But I want to say that I got back after 16 days hard fighting without one scratch on

me, only my clothes were badly torn. I was knocked down by the shell from a big German gun and was shell-shocked, but not so bad but what I could get up, and managed to get to the line, where we could see the Germans falling back like they were scared to death of us.

Me and three other marines captured four German prisoners out in "no man's land" and brought them back to our lines with us. Each one of us was recommended for a cross of war, besides our regiment honors with the rest of the Marines. I don't suppose I had better tell you all we did now for I can tell you better when I get home again.

So I will just say that I am well and feeling fine and hope this finds all of you in good health, with plenty I to eat and plenty to do with. I will try and send you fifty dollars as soon as I get my pay, to pay the

field taxes which will soon be due again.

Have the boys got in plenty of wheat this spring for winter's flour? I hope you have better luck with it this winter than last.

Well, mother, I can't think of any more to write about for you will hear more about the war over there than I can tell you, so I will close for this time, hoping to hear from you.

With love and best wishes, I remain as ever your true son and brother,

HARVEY ROSENBERG.

66 Co. 5th Reg.,
United States Marine Corps,
American Ex. Force.

CORPORAL HEIST WOUNDED IN FRAY

Another Iron County Man Received Gunshot While Participating in a Recent Great Offensive

The following letter from Claude L. Heist, a resident of this county in the service "over there" is sent to The Record for publication by M. D. Heist, of Heist, Utah, to whom it was addressed. It tells of the participation of the writer in one of the big drives, and of his being wounded near the heart with a machine gun bullet, which he will carry as a souvenir the rest of his life, and from the effects of which he is recovering in a base hospital in France.

Dear Home Folks,

Well, I am still in the hospital, but am getting along fine. Am now able to be up and walk around in the daytime, although am still very weak and short-winded.

From the looks of things now, I guess our work over here will soon be over, although the Huns are so treacherous that they will have to be watched for some time yet. So if peace is signed we would be held for some time yet. I think it will be a month or six weeks before I can rejoin my regiment. I am at Base Hospital 14, and we sure get fine treatment here. They have the very best of nurses here, also doctors, and if they once get a man

to this place his chances of recovery are very good.

I was hit in the left side with a machine gun bullet, and the doctor said I was very lucky for it barely missed my heart. It hit my lung, but that will heal up alright, and I shall be as good as ever, although I shall always carry a souvenir in the form of a bullet, for they didn't take it out, because they figured it wouldn't hurt anything where it was.

I was unlucky enough to get hit the first day of our drive, so I don't know how our company came out of it, but up to the time I got hit we were doing fine and had advanced about three miles and taken several hundred prisoners.

There was no fight to the boche that day, for they came right out of their dugouts and yelled "kamerad," when they saw us coming. We had a dandy barrage ahead of us, though, and that helped a lot.

We crossed the famous Hindenburg line where they had concrete trenches, with elaborate rooms in them even down to electric lights, and running water in

them, but our artillery made powder out of all of it.

The weather here is still fine, although it is getting cool at nights. It is much the same as Ontario weather, and we are quite a ways back of the line.

From the looks of things now the Huns admit they are licked, but even if they didn't admit it they are whipped anyway, for they are no match for the Americans in open warfare, such as we fight. Their long suit is trenches, but we chase them out as fast as they get in them.

Must close, as we are only allowed a sheet of paper at a time. Will write again soon, for I shall soon be able to be up and around all day.

Yours with love,

"CLAUDE"

Corporal Claude L. Heist,
Co. F, 47th Infantry,
American Expeditionary Force, France.

Spruce Camp

Harvesting Sitka Spruce in the Pacific Northwest used for WWI Airplanes.



Recognition of Iron County Servicemen

- Lawrence Haslam, artillery marksmanship
- Edwin Webb, rifle marksmanship
- Marion Wilkinson, rescue of comrad
- Harvey Rosenberg, French citation
- Corlett Simkins, French Croix de Guerre

Soldiers returning from military service parade up Cedar City Main Street, 1919



??, Mont Hunter, Junior McConnell, Gower Rosenberg, Alfred Olson, Perry Mackelprang



Evan Bayles, Jess Guymon, Loyal Corry, Elias Leigh, Harvey Rosenberg, Arthur Haight, Pratt Tollestrup

Albert Kaze, Elved Williams, Morton Thorley, Bill Roche, Erwin Bauer, Osroe Webb, Wm. Pendleton, Erwin Walker



George Corry, Arthur Parry, Edgar Jones, Orley Stapley, Corlett Simkins, Ether Perry, Vergene Simkins

Dan Bryant, Virgil Tollestrup, Leon Leigh, Milo Heyborne, ?, George Stapley, Ebbie Eddards, Wallace Smith



Del Smith, George Hunter, Mont McDonough, Arthur Stapley, Bill Davis, Oliver Jenson, Milton Clark, Mont Sawyer, Bill Mulliner

Ex-Service Men Tendered Banquet By Cedar Ladies
Covers Laid for Over Fifty, and Profitable Evening Spent Last Monday
American Legion Presides and Elects New Officers
Ladies of Relief Society and Red Cross Serve Sumptuous Meal to Soldier Boys

The banquet served by the Relief Society and Red Cross ladies at the Relief Society Hall to the ex-service men of Cedar City and a few invited guests last Monday night was a veritable love feast, as well a feast of good things for the inner man.

The affair was under the auspices of the local post of the American Legion, and included a business meeting for the permanent organization of that body.

Covers were laid for more than fifty, and a banquet well worth one dollar a plate was served by the good women. So bounteous was the display of viands that after the soldiers had been satisfied, enough remained to "feed a multitude" and a great number of customers were served meals Tuesday evening.

The meal finished, the business of the organization was taken up and a drive made for new members.

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. It seemed to be established by common consent that the seconding of a nomi-

nation was not only necessary, but that it was also tantamount to an election and a vote was not even called for on some of the nominees, but there was no objection raised, and the following officers were declared duly elected:

- President – Lehi M. Jones
- Secretary – Ray Forbes
- Treasurer – Pratt Tollestrup

Additional members of the Executive Committee – Stanley S. Ivins, Virgil Tollestrup, Vergean Simkins. Employment Officer – Walter K. Granger.

Arrangements were made for the participation of the Legion in the parade on Armistice day, it being decided, upon the earnest request of citizens present, to wear uniforms as far as possible.

It was also decided to look into the matter of a home for the Legion in Cedar City and to promote an athletic club in connection, and committees were appointed on these activities. The election of officers disposed of, each person present was given an opportunity to be heard from with a story, a few remarks or a statement of where they were one year ago.

The response was unanimous, and very entertaining, there being enough witticism to keep every one in good humor, and enough variety and romance to awaken deeper thoughts. It appeared from the statements of the boys assembled that Cedar City had men in almost every corner of the world when the Armistice was signed.

Following is a list of those present:

A. V. Tollestrup, M. L. Heyborne, Herbert Milne, George M. Hunter, James C. Simkins, Ether Perry, W. K. Granger, Vergean Simkins, C. L. Corry, Wilford Leigh, William Jones, Stanley H. Parry, J. C. Root, Rulon S. Dalley, Lee Renshaw, Eldon L. Schmutz, O. C. Jenson, W. G. Walker, W. U. Webster, J. E. Walker, Mont Sawyer, Junior McConnell, Arthur W. Haight, L. M. Jones, E. M. Corry, C. S. Wilkinson, S. J. Foster, Lorin Reber, U. A. Jones, Lawrence T. Haslam, W. M. L. Melling, Joseph L. Bauer, Harvey G. Rosenberg, W. R. Palmer, Claude Edwards, Arthur W. Urie, Wilford Begstrom, Willard Perkins, Glen Macfarlane, Elias W. Leigh, Hyrum Perry, George W. Grimshaw, George W. Jones, Gordon Hunter, Austin O. Merryweather, Mont Hunter, Arthur Perry, Pratt Tollestrup.

**World War I
Fallen Soldiers
From Iron County**

Elmer V. Jespersen



Born: May 8, 1896, St. Johns, AZ.

Family moved to Colonia Chuichupa in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Northern Mexico in 1897.

During the Mexican Civil War in 1912, the family took refuge in El Paso, Texas.

Family found temporary work in Thatcher and Tucson, AZ and later in Cedar City, UT.

Elmer volunteered in 1917, serving with the 53rd Company of the 5th Marines.

Killed in action at Chateau-Thierry, France, June 13, 1918.

Buried in Tucson, AZ

Henry Melling Jones



Born: July 15, 1889 – Enoch, UT

Inducted: Oct. 3, 1917

Arrived in France: May 7, 1918

**Served in Company C, 58th Infantry,
4th Division**

Died: Aug 6, 1918 from combat wounds

Buried: Enoch, UT

One Cedar Boy Killed, One Dies in Hospital

(Special Correspondence.)

CEDAR CITY, Dec. 2.—A wire has been received here by John E. Dover announcing the death of his son Lionel Charles Dover, "killed in action" in France Sept. 19.

Young Mr. Dover was in the first company of drafted men called from



LIONEL C. DOVER

Iron county. Leaving here Oct. 3, 1917, he went to Camp Lewis where he received his training. On June 24, 1918, he was transferred to Camp Merritt, N. J., and went overseas sometime in July. He married Miss Josephine Harris, of Cedar City June 4, 1917. Mr. Dover had been writing home daily and when his letters stopped, the family felt concerned, and after a time made inquiry as to his whereabouts through the Red Cross but no answer was received until the above word came. Besides the stricken widow Mr. Dover is survived by his parents, John E. Dover and Margaret, and a large family of brothers and sisters.

Deseret News, 3 Dec. 1918

Lionel Charles Dover

Born: June 4, 1895, Cedar City, UT

Married: Josephine Harris

Inducted: Oct. 3, 1917

Co. D, 362 Infantry, 91st Division

Died: Sept. 29, 1918.

Buried: Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, France.

Memorial marker at Cedar City Cemetery.



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, France

Harry D. Keith

Born: Feb. 10, 1895, Indiana

Inducted: April 26, 1918

Arrived in France: July 21, 1918 Co. D, 38th Inf., 3rd Division

Died: Oct. 8, 1918 in Battle of St. Mihiel near Verdun, France

Buried: Carlisle, Indiana

From the Beaver County News, 19 Feb. 1919:

The following letter has been received by Mrs. Keith from one of her son's comrades on the battlefield:

[Harry] was killed on the **8th day of October, 1918** on the Verdun front. We were in reserve just back of the lines and were dug in. Every man had a small hole dug deep enough to protect him from the shrapnel.

At about ten o'clock in the forenoon the Germans commenced shelling us. One shell struck in the edge of Harry's dugout and threw him out, killing him instantly. I was within a few feet of him and ran over to him but he was dead when I got there.

His body lies there in a small enclosed place, with a number of other American boys who met death in the fighting at that point. It is located a short distance north of the city of Verdun.

John Freeman Clark

- **Born: Sept. 14, 1896, Henrieville, UT**
- **Parents: James L. and Lucinda Caroline Clark**
- **Married: Elsie Mosdell Clark**
- **Inducted: Sept. 6, 1918**
- **Contracted influenza at Camp Kearney, CA**
- **Died Oct. 27, 1918 of pneumonia at Camp Kearney, CA.**
- **Buried: Cedar City Cemetery.**



Logan H. Bryant Dead.

On Nov. 23, Jon. Bryant received a message from Camp Wheeler, Or., advising him that his son, Logan H. Bryant, was dangerously ill from pneumonia following influenza, and in less than an hour later, another message announcing his death. His body was brought home, arriving at midnight of the 29th. Funeral services were conducted at the home, by the bishopric of the Cedar West ward Saturday. Prof. H. Claude Lewis delivered a patriotic sermon and other speakers extolled the life of the deceased.

Private Bryant entered the service Feb. 13, 1918, and was sent to Vancouver, Wash., to the spruce camps. He was later transferred to Garibaldi, Or., from which place he was sent to the hospital at Wheeler, where he died on his 27th birthday. He was the son of Joseph and Rachel Harris Bryant and was born and reared in Cedar City. He was the eldest in a large family and his brother Dan, next to him, is in the expeditionary forces in France.

Cedar City has given five stalwart sons, two were killed in action and three died from influenza. They are as follows: Killed in France: Elmer V. Jespersen and Lionel Charles Dover; died in camps, Harold McConnell, John C. Clark and Logan H. Bryant. The bodies of the latter three have been buried at home.

Logan Harris Bryant

- Born: Nov. 23, 1891
- Father: Joseph Bryant
- Mother: Rachel Harris Bryant
- Inducted: Feb. 13, 1918
- Served in 149th Spruce Squadron, Garibaldi, OR. The Spruce Squadron cut Sitka Spruce trees critical for airplane production to support the war effort.
- Died: Nov. 23, 1918, pneumonia
- Buried: Cedar City Cemetery.
- *"Logan was a jolly young chap, a natural wit and was greatly liked by everyone."*

— Iron County Record, 29 Nov. 1918

Frank Harold McConnell



Born: April 24, 1895

Inducted: Sept. 6, 1918

**Contracted influenza at Camp
Kearney, California.**

**Died of pneumonia Oct. 25,
1918 at Camp Kearney.**

Buried: Cedar City Cemetery.

Arthur Openshaw

- **Born: Sept. 18, 1888, Paragonah, UT**
- **Inducted: July 23, 1918**
- **Co. E 62nd Inf. 8th Division**
- **Died: Nov. 8, 1918 at Camp Fremont CA**
- **Buried: Paragonah Cemetery**

Amos Williamson Robinson



Born: April 23, 1895, Paragonah, UT

Died: Aug. 19, 1918, Paragonah, UT

Mr. Amos Robinson who has been so sorely afflicted for several months passed away on the evening of the 19th. He was one of the first to volunteer to serve his country. While at the training camp he contracted some affliction from which he never recovered.

-- Parowan Times, 28 Aug 1918

One young man, Amos Robinson of Paragonah, died a lingering death last Monday at his home as a result of vaccinations received in the training camps. -- Iron County Record, 28 Aug 1918

Karl John Carpenter

Born: June 30, 1898, Glendale, UT

Educated: B.A.C. and U. of Utah

Inducted: Oct. 7, 1918 SATC U of U

Died Oct. 27, 1922 in Cedar City

Buried: Cedar City, UT

Died as the result of Flu, followed with Brights Disease, which was contracted while in training at the U. of Utah



List of Sources and References

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- www.history.army.mil
- National Archive Photos (NARA)
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