

Town of Ossian Historical Society Newsletter

26th Edition

December 2017

World War I

By Rhea Walker, Historian

One hundred years ago, on April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War One which had started on July 28, 1914. The United States Senate passed a resolution accepting the state of war thrust on our country by Germany and directed President Wilson to employ the military and the naval forces to carry on war. The House then voted on and passed the resolution. The country applauded President Wilson for the position that he took in regards to Germany's barbaric methods of dealing with humanity and also applauded the members of both houses of Congress for the united support given the President. Entering into war affected our whole country but looking to three newspapers, The Dansville Express, The Canaseraga Times and The Nunda News, I was able to see what the effects were on Ossian and the surrounding area. When the resolution of declaring a state of war, signed by President Wilson on April 1, 1917, a little after one o'clock, word was sent by wireless to stations, vessels and every part of the world. This caused a feeling of joy to the allies and a feeling of hatred on the part of the Germans and following it came reports that other nations had declared war against Germany.

Following the announcement universities and colleges started making plans. Niagara University in New York made plans to introduce a course in military training, three hundred students of Elmira College, the oldest women's college in the United States, offered their services to the country,

President Schurman of Cornell University announced plans to raise at once a Cornell Unit of troops and Syracuse University went on record as favoring military training for its students.

The April 19, 1917 edition of the Dansville Express contained an article titled "For the Farmer". The article stated that next Saturday is to be designated as Agricultural Mobilization Day by Gov. Whitman and that farmers are urged to assemble in their respective communities to make plans for meeting the greatest food production problems they have yet been called upon to serve. In Livingston County the mobilization office has been established in Mt. Morris and John H. Barron of the state agricultural college is in charge.

In the spring of 1917 the young men who were enrolled in the cadet corps of the State of New York worked on farms in the neighborhood. For this service they will receive full credit for each subject that they maintain a passing grade this year. They also will get a button from the State showing they enlisted and later a chevron indicating work has been well done. Harold Linzy of Ossian was one of these cadets.

In May of 1917 the Election Commissioners published a list of places where men between the ages of 21 and 30 must appear and be registered for the Army and Navy. The registration place for the Town of Ossian, Election District No. 1 was at the town hall located in the center of town.

In late June of 1917 the list of men from Ossian who must register for the military was published in the Dansville Express.

Military Registration Ossian
Bonner, Rowe Fred
Bonner, Dorr Jay
Bush, Charles Henry
Carney, Cecil Henry
Christian, Arthur Peter
Cook, Ernest Henry
Coombs, Frank Herbert
Coombs, Ralph Marshall
Denton, Frederick Bonner
Denton, Jonas Chester
Englert, Henry Fred
Englert, Joseph Raymond
Fenton, Clyde Lewellyn
Fenton, Harry Lewis
Fontaine, Zepher Joseph
Gary, Floyd Anderson
Gibson, Dana Joseph
Gilman, Harry Clarence
Hinds, Lewis Vincent
Knapp, Dwight Hess
Linzy, Ward Mitchell
Luce, Wade Willis
Luce, George Wesley
Mahus, William Henry
Marble, Arthur Anderson
Mitchell, Marshall Bradley
McCollister, Meade LeRoy
McCollister, Nathaniel A.
Nash, William Grant
Neetz, Max
Neu, Walter Adam
Porter, Isaac
Redmond, Byron Lamont
Prosser, Frederick LeRoy
Rawleigh, Harry Pierce
Rawlings, Bernard Keen
Sample, Ernest
Sanford, Grant Charles
Kenney, Basil
Kenney, Clyde
Kennedy, Isaac Donald
Scott, Henry Earl
Scott, John Earl

Scott, Evan Reginald
Scott, Edwin Marion
Shay, Bonner
Sleggs, John Clayton
Topolski, Jacob
Tracy, John James
Tracy, John Stephen
Utter, Milton
Vogt, Leonard Conrad
Walker, Katon
Wadsworth, Frank Jay
Wampole, Jesse
Wampole, Jacob
Wilkins, Victor
Wilson, Gordon Conrad

In August of 1917 the District Draft Board for Division No. 2 accepted appeals from the decisions of Livingston County's draft board. Among the claims allowed as one from Marshall Bradley Mitchell, an Ossian farmer.

On Thursday, November 22, 1917 two well-known Ossian boys left for Camp Dix where they will go in training to serve their country when the call comes. They are Frank Herbert Coombs and Bryon Lamont Redmond.

The pay for privates in the service in January 1918 was \$30 a month while in the United States and an extra 20% per month or \$39.60 plus food, clothing and medical attention. They also were paid an allotment for a wife and children up to an extra \$50 depending on the number of children.

In January of 1918 notice was given that all subjects of the German Empire, who are males and fourteen years of age and upwards and who have not received their final naturalization papers, must register. The registrars in communities under five thousand in population are the postmasters and the place of registration is the post office. The registrants will receive a

registration card with his photograph upon it and will be required to carry it upon his person. As of February 7, 1918 only two German aliens have been registered in Dansville.

The Jackson Health Resort was leased by the United States government for a hospital. It will be used for sick and wounded soldiers. Dansville Hospital No. 18 was the name given to the Jackson Health Resort. In March the name changed to No. 13 and it was said that 50 more soldiers were to come here to be added to the force of 40 now at the hospital. They will come from a southern camp and will be welcome as heartily as was the first contingent.

In January Katon Walker's name was listed as one of the men whose questionnaires have been returned to the office unclaimed and who will be classified as deserters.

In the January 15, 1918 newspaper it was stated that Mr. Charles Bush and Mr. Grant Nash were in Geneseo in regard to military examination. On February 22, 1918 was reported that ninety young men from Livingston County will leave next week for Camp Dix.

The Dansville Red Cross was congratulated in February on the amount of work turned out by the various departments of Southern Livingston Chapter. There were 3075 hospital garments made by the women of Dansville, Scottsburg, West Sparta, Groveland, Springwater and Ossian, 4876 surgical dressings by three classes and 554 knitted articles have been sent to the headquarters of the Atlantic Divisions. The citizens of the area have given their time freely for this cause and various organizations and individuals have given donations to add to the effort.

Major Hutchinson, chief of the draft bureau of the adjutant general's office, has

issued a warning to members of local boards in reference to classifying men skilled to do farm work. This action was taken as a result of conviction on the part of Governor Whitman that the large percentage of farm labors placed in class one threatens the food production of the state.

Our soldiers and sailors are eager for reading material and thanks to the activity of the American Library Association they are supplied with every kind of reading material. The drive to secure books for them started in March and is still going on and Dansville is doing its part. Books may be dropped off at the library and at Lieb's and Delong's bookstores and the American Library Association sees that they are placed in the hands of the soldiers and sailors. The library reported that the people of Dansville contributed 500 books during the past week and that more books are coming.

In April 1918 the whole country was engaged in the great Liberty Loan drive to raise three billion dollars for the war and every city and village is actively at work to secure its share of the amount. The allotment for the Dansville District, which includes Ossian and the two Sparta's, is \$135,000. The towns which exceed their amount will be awarded an Honor Flag. Those people who desire to purchase bonds and do not have ready money to do so will find the banks ready to cooperate and make loans which will be carried under very favorable special terms. F.A. Owens, chairman of the Third Liberty Loan Committee is expected to announce that the quota for the Dansville District is oversubscribed. It was reported in the April 25, 1918 edition of the newspaper that the amount raised was \$165,000, something like \$30,000 in excess of what was expected. The Dansville District received the honor flag.

On April 18, 1918 the Dansville Express reported that Monty Redmond is home from Camp Dix on a six-week furlough as he is needed on the farm to help put in the spring crops.

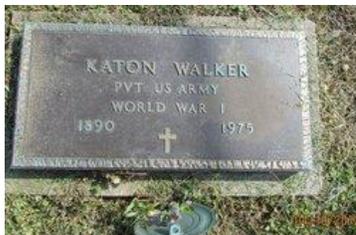
Ossian stood first in sales of War Saving Stamps, June 3 to 15, and Dansville eighth. Not a very good showing for the larger town. Sparta and West Sparta, exceeded the amount of their quota for the Fourth Liberty Loan drive by quite a little sum.

The headlines in the Nunda News November 16, 1918 – PEACE, Germany's surrender is complete. The World War I, the war to end all wars ended November 11, 1918 Monday morning, 11 AM. The draft boards are out of fashion and now the boys will be sent home. Soldiers back from war are eager to become farmers, say the officials at Camp Dix, who are surprised to learn of the men's agricultural bent.

World War One Veterans from Ossian. The list is probably not complete but this is what I found.

Charles Henry Bush
Frank Herbert Coombs
Harry Clarence Gilman
Basil Kenney
Bryon Lamont Redmond
Walter Moore
Roland George Scott
Katon Walker

NOTE: Katon Walker was noted above in the newspaper article but that is what they considered the men who didn't respond as deserters. Katon Walker must have responded to the notice later because his grave marker reads: Katon Walker, PVT US Army World War I 1890 – 1975



Charles Henry Bush, Ossian boy, passed away January 9, 1919, while in service to our country. He was born in Ossian on October 14, 1895 and he was inducted into the service on May 25, 1918 in Geneseo, New York.

A newspaper clipping with a black and white photograph of a man. The text is as follows:

**Another Military
Funeral Sunday**

Ossian to Hold Funeral
Services of Corporal
Charles Bush

REMAINS OF CHARLES BUSH AR-
RIVED IN DANVILLE THIS
MORNING

The remains of Charles Bush, the
Ossian boy, whose death occurred in
France while in service, arrived in
Dansville this morning.

Corporal Bush is a son of Mr. and
Mrs. Isaac Bush of Ossian and serv-
ed in Co. G 378 ammunition train,
and died in France in January, 1919,
death being due to pneumonia.

The funeral with full military hon-
ors will be held Sunday afternoon at
three o'clock from the Presbyterian
church in Ossian, the Rev. Charles
M. Karg, pastor of St. Paul's United
Lutheran church of this village, as-
sisted by the Rev. F. B. Finzer of
the Ossian Presbyterian church will
officiate. Interment in the Wood cem-
eter, Ossian.

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY OSSIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

By Cathy Moulton Saunders

The Ossian Presbyterian Church was formed in 1818 by Rev. Robert Hubbard, pastor of the church of Angelica, who attended by invitation. The following names were the first to be candidates for membership in the church when it was formed: James Haynes, Mary Haynes, William Boyles, Samuel McCray, Jane McCray, Catherine W. Porter, Catherine N. Porter, Nancy Vorhees, John Shay, Jeremiah Flynn, Jonathan Haynes, Jane Haynes, Anna Conkright, John Perine, Polly Perine, Jacob Clendennin, Lucy Hurlburt, and Rhoda Clendennin. A few others were Addison Sill, Thomas Lemen, Timothy Osborne and his wife. After acceptance, the first ruling elders, Jacob Clendennin and James Haynes, were chosen November 21st, 1818. Jacob Clendeninn was appointed clerk.

Peter Shay, Sr., his wife and eight children arrived in Ossian Center in about 1812. His children, John, Lewis and Elizabeth (Betsy) were early members of the Presbyterian Church. When the church was built sometime later, John and Lewis are reported to have been among those who helped in building it.

A document was found signed by John Shay, Thomas Lemon, and Addison Sill on March 12, 1834 that stated that the school house will be the future place of holding religious meetings and will be known as the First Presbyterian Church in the Town of Ossian.

The above was entered into the record on April 15, 1834 by Judge Andrew Hull.

Oscar and Charles Shay, attacked, reported by the Canaseraga Times September 1905.

Last week Thursday, Frank Valentine, who works for Charles Shay of Ossian, drove his employer's team to this place to get a load of phosphate. While here it is reported that he became intoxicated and did not return to Mr. Shay's as soon he ought have, saying when he did return on time as the train carrying the phosphate was delayed. Oscar L. Shay was here that day and told his brother, Charles, the real reason why Valentine did not return. This enraged Valentine and that evening he drove to Oscar Shay's residence and called for him. As Shay came to the door, Valentine attacked him on the head with a large wooden stake, knocking him down and cutting a gash in his head. Valentine then tried to reach the horse and buggy in which he came with and which belonged to Charles Shay, and make his escape but his victim arose and gave chase and took after him so quickly that he was forced to escape on foot, leaving the conveyance. Oscar Shay then went to Dr. T.H. Lamont's house at Ossian and had the wound dressed. When Valentine struck Shay the wooden stake hit the screen door, thus breaking the force of the blow before striking Shay's head. Friday morning Officers began searching for Valentine and on Sunday he was found and arrested by Constable Huley Phelps on the farm of Leon Karns in this town. The prisoner was turned over to the Livingston county Officials and taken to jail at Geneseo to await the action of the Grand Jury.

Four uses for phosphate:

1. It is the red tip on the end of your striker match.
2. It is used with fertilizers on grasses to grow and get GREEN.
3. Used in pesticides to kill bugs.
4. Used to make glow sticks!

From the Rochester D&C, December 1934

Dansville Youth Jailed as Chicken Thief

Dansville November 30 (special dispatch)
Paul Pickard, 20, pleaded guilty to stealing chickens from the farm of Rowe Bonner in Ossian when arraigned before Justice of the Peace John Sleggs. He was given a fine of \$30 or 30 days. Unable to pay the fine, Pickard was taken to the Livingston County Jail in Geneseo. He will be given the opportunity to lessen his sentence if he can raise the money for the fine. The arrest was made by Deputy Sheriff John L. Owens, who said today he expected to arrest Pickard's accomplices soon.

Ossian Cheese Factory

By Paul and Lyle Moore

Recently the subject of the cheese factory in West View was being discussed. To start, the cheese factory was first built in Ossian Center about 1907 on a plot that as far as we can determine, was directly behind what is now Mike Duffy's garage (formerly Russ Vrooman's).

We cannot tell when the cheese factory in West View was built but it must have been shortly after 1900, on a plot just east of Sugar Creek on the south side of Telegraph Road. On April 8, 1921, it was reported in the Nunda News, that the Cheese Factory in West View had burned to the ground along with a shed that belonged to Henry Pike. At about this time, the Cheese Factory in Ossian Center was being affected by the

market for fluid milk. The milk was now going to milk plants by truck and the cheese factory production in Ossian Center came to an end.

With the need of a cheese factory in West View to replace the one that burned, the Ossian Cheese Factory was dismantled and then reassembled on the Sugar Creek site in West View. By 1928, the cheese industry in West View was dormant, it too being affected by the fluid milk market, and so Clyde Kenney, who was president of the West View Cheese Factory, called a meeting of the directors to determine what they wanted to do. They decided at the meeting to sell the building on bid. John Hann purchased the building and by 1930, with the help of Ed Hann, Otto Derrenbacher, and Walter Moore, had dismantled the West View Cheese Factory and reassembled it in John Hann's barnyard. The old cheese factory had a new mission! John Hann's cow barn.

And now in 2017, as one drives on Route 436 past Lyle Moore's place in West View, the big cow barn can still be seen. That is the old cheese factory still standing and in use every day.

New York State Symbols.....Did you know about all of these?

By Cathy Moulton Saunders

By action of the State Legislature, the bluebird, beaver, brook trout, sugar maple, rose, nine spotted lady beetle, bay scallop, eurypterid, and garnet officially represent the state birds, mammals, fish, insects, mollusks, trees, wildflowers, fossils and minerals. In the summer of 2006, the New York State legislature adopted the snapping turtle as the official state reptile and the striped bass as the official state saltwater fish, moving the brook trout to the official freshwater fish.