

SPECIAL EDITION

The Denton County Historical Commission

Commemorating
100 Years
the End of
World War I

Retrospect

November
2018

100 Years Ago, 'The Great War' Came to an End Denton's Rejoicing was Epic

A Word from Denton County Judge Mary Horn:

Whether sending off the Denton County Army inductees or celebrating the end of World War I, Denton County has always known what it means to support the troops and care for those left at home to worry, support, and plan for those abroad. When the *UNT Campus Chat* published "Patriotism" on October 4, 1917, the article outlined what men, women, boys, and girls could do to help. The author noted that, "Unselfish service is the greatest act you can do for your flag and your country...it is your great work in the world war."

Of course, not all men served in the military even after the start of the military draft, as Denton County was still primarily rural and the country relied on Denton's farmers and their crops of peanuts, cotton, and orchards. Women volunteered in the Red Cross and made sure that their families made sacrifices so their boys in Khaki did not. Edna Trigg, the state's home demonstration agent from 1916, launched a drive towards making the county self-sufficient in foodstuffs. She persuaded farmers to plant less cotton and more vegetables and held regular canning schools so families could preserve those vegetables. Young men and women continued to flock to North Texas State Normal College (now UNT) and the College of Industrial Arts (now TWU). And, boys and girls across the county continued to save their dimes and help their parents make do with less throughout the war years.

By the end, the people of Denton County were ready to shout for joy and celebrate with the rest of the world on November 11, 1918. It was no wonder that Mayor Beyette of the City of Denton declared a holiday, schools and businesses closed, and fireworks were shot off the balconies of the Courthouse.



The Denton County Courthouse celebrates with fireworks, November 11, 1918.

Source: *The Portal to Texas History/unt.edu/Denton Public Library*

With so many stories and so much history to preserve, it is only fitting that the Denton County Historical Commission present this online special edition of the *Retrospect* to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. Please join me and the other elected officials across Denton County in recognizing and celebrating this legacy.

A Prelude to War...

A European War

The news from Europe in the last days of June 1914 barely caused a ripple in the United States; much less in Denton, Texas.

Archduke Franz Joseph, heir to the Austria-Hungary empire, and his wife Sofia were killed by a Serbian separatist in Sarajevo on June 28. A month later, the empire declared war on Serbia and within days, Germany had declared war on Russia while France, Belgium and Great Britain declared war on Germany. In the states, it became simply, "the European war."

On August 4, 1914, as his beloved wife lay dying in the White House, President Woodrow Wilson issued a declaration that the United States would remain neutral in the evolving hostilities on the European continent. Two days later, the president's wife, Ellen, succumbed to Bright's Disease.

Americans Trapped

With the outbreak of fighting on the continent, there were 120,000 Americans traveling Europe. The shipping industry came to a near halt as nations assessed the danger of sea travel. In effect, the Americans were trapped with very few avenues for a return to the states. Further complicating the problem was the decision by the British government to declare a bank holiday; there was no way to access funds or convert currency.

In the United States, many schools considered delaying openings because 30,000 of the Americans trapped in Europe were teachers.

In London, where he maintained a home, wealthy mining executive Herbert Hoover received a call from the American consulate, asking his help. The consulate was besieged by Americans seeking funds to buy tickets home. Hoover used his own funds, and along with nine other businessmen, loaned hundreds of Americans over \$1,000,000 to buy passage. The travelers each signed only a promise to repay when they reached home. According to Hoover's account, only \$300 was not repaid. By September, over 100,000 of the trapped Americans were safely back in the States.

Meanwhile, in Denton County

The first news that the European war might affect the lives of Denton County residents was noted in the August 20, 1914 edition of the local paper. Grocerymen were undecided on how the war would affect prices. There had been recent unexpected rises in some products, mostly hogs, sugar and coffee.

By November, the children of the Denton schools had collected several boxes bearing gifts for the children of the war, so that they would not be forgotten at Christmas. Several Denton men were serving active duty with the National Guard, but their activities were mainly restricted to the Mexican border to keep revolutionaries led by Pancho Villa from spilling Mexico's war onto American soil.

Lusitania

On May 1, 1916 the British liner *Lusitania* set sail from New York bound for Liverpool, England. With Britain and Germany at war, the sinking of merchant vessels by German U-boats (submarines) had become regular news. Few pas-

senger ships had been endangered but the Cunard Line, owners of the *Lusitania*, chose to print warnings on board-passes that the state of war prevented any guarantees of safe passage.

On May 7, a German U-boat torpedoed the *Lusitania* and it sank off the southern coast of Ireland. Of the 1,962 passengers and crew, 1,198 died, including 128 Americans. The uproar and calls for war were pronounced.

Despite the calls for war, President Wilson managed to tamp it down in measured diplomatic tones. Among those vehemently in favor of war was Theodore Roosevelt.

Election of 1916

Recently remarried, Woodrow Wilson wasn't particularly inclined to run for reelection. But he considered it his duty and accepted the nomination of the Democratic Party. His Republican opponent was Supreme Court Justice Charles Hughes, who resigned to run for the oval office.

At the Democratic convention, a cry of "He kept us out of the war!" was repeated often in response to a speech. This became the unofficial campaign battle cry.

The close election was in doubt from election night, Tuesday, November 7, until Friday morning, November 10, when California finally was placed in the Wilson column.

Denton Celebrates Wilson's Reelection

A majority of Denton County voted Democratic for many years, and 1916 was no different. A crowd the newspaper estimated at 10,000 gathered on the night of November 10, 1916 to celebrate Wilson's reelection. While the celebration was in full swing, a white bird, a Dove of Peace according to the crowd, flew over the top of the courthouse, heading east. The crowd cheered as the "message of peace" flew off in the direction of Washington D. C.

Zimmerman + U-boats = War

Neutrality advocates suffered two tremendous blows in the early days of 1917. First, Germany announced that it would no longer spare American vessels from attacks by German U-boats. As ships flying the stars and stripes began to be attacked, tensions mounted.

Then, on February 28, an Associated Press story brought word that a telegram had been intercepted by British agents. The telegram, from German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmerman to the German minister to Mexico, contained an offer to the Mexican government: If Mexico sided with Germany and declared war on the United States, Mexico could have the lands of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona *IF* Germany won the war.

The citizenry were outraged; war was imminent.

WAR! Denton County All In

On April 2, 1917 President Wilson spoke to a joint session of Congress and asked for a declaration of war. The Senate voted for war by a count of 82-6 on April 4. The next day the House voted 373-50 in favor of war. On Friday, April 6, Woodrow Wilson signed the document and the United States finally entered what was now termed, "The Great War."

In Denton, American flags of all sizes were suddenly in great demand. Most of the 7,000 or more Denton County residents who descended on the courthouse square the night of April 6, managed to have a flag to wave. From that moment forward, the county's support for the war was strong.

—DJ Taylor

William Jennings Bryan Visits Denton; Champions Neutrality

Famed statesman and three-time Presidential candidate (1896; 1900; 1908) William Jennings Bryan paid a visit to Denton on March 17, 1916. It wasn't his first visit to the town; he toured the town on December 14, 1909 and spoke about the benefits of education at Denton High School and North Texas State Normal College.

Bryan's support of Woodrow Wilson's 1912 Presidential campaign led to his appointment as Secretary of State, a position that he held until June 8, 1915. A staunch proponent of neutrality in the ongoing war in Europe, Bryan resigned his post following Wilson's response to Germany after the sinking of the British liner, *Lusitania*. Bryan believed the response should *ALSO* have been directed at Great Britain since the liner carried a secret shipment of munitions and was equipped with cannons. He argued that American passengers on British passenger ships were being used as hostages to protect cargoes of arms destined for the Allies.

A noted orator, Bryan had several acquaintances in Denton, including attorney and equally persuasive speaker, Alvin C. Owsley, who led the local delegation that met him at the train depot that Friday morning. Bryan immediately proceeded to the campus of the College for Industrial Arts (C.I.A., now TWU) where he spoke briefly in the chapel, extolling the benefits of service, before heading for the Normal College for another talk. On the route, he stopped briefly to call at the home of Robert G. Wright, a longtime admirer and friend.

At the Normal, Bryan was introduced by County Attorney Alvin M. Owsley, son of Alvin C. The younger Owsley called Bryan "the greatest living American."

In his paid-admission speech at the C.I.A., Bryan railed against the false philosophy of "might makes right" that he said brought on the European War. He talked of the cost of war and how expenditures already undertaken by, as well as those proposed by, the United States could be better used to benefit America and its citizens. Among the benefits he advocated the money could be used to assist



North Texas State Normal College president Dr. W. H. Bruce, William Jennings Bryan and Alvin C. Owsley walk on the school's campus, March 17, 1916.
The Portal to Texas History/unt.edu

with providing homes for all and macadam paved roads from coast to coast.

After the sinking of the *Lusitania*, "preparedness" became a movement as the nation strengthened its military and began to build up reserves. Bryan contended that if America had been prepared earlier, we would already be in the war. "Preparedness makes other people afraid of you—a doctrine of terrorism—the same false philosophy which has brought war to Europe." He blamed the preparedness movement on what he called "the jingo press" that divided the American public.

Bryan summed up his view of the nation going to war by calling for a nationwide referendum on war that included allowing women to vote (this was pre-19th amendment time), saying, "I want the women to vote...for upon them will fall a major burden." Wanting a public ballot on the matter of war, Bryan advocated that if a majority voted for war, "I would have the referendum so arranged that those that voted for war would be called on first to serve."

After Congress declared war in 1917, William Jennings Bryan set aside his lifelong pacifism and sent a telegram to President Wilson offering to join the army as a private. The 57-year-old politician's offer was declined, but he supported the war effort through his speeches and his newspaper articles.

—DJ Taylor

COLLEGE OF INDUSTRIAL ARTS

WILLIAM J. BRYAN

WILL LECTURE IN THE COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, AT 2 P. M.

Mr. Bryan is frequently referred to as the Gladstone of American public life and as the greatest Commoner and Tribune of the masses of the people.

As a lecturer and orator he is regarded as the most unique, attractive and forceful on the American platform. He always delivers a message worthy of the attention and the consideration of the people.

Mr. Bryan on his present trip to Texas will lecture in only four cities of the State: Denton, Fort Worth, Austin and Dallas and at only two of the leading educational institutions: The College of Industrial Arts and the University of Texas. To fail to hear him is to miss one of the big opportunities of the year.

ADMISSION 50 CENTS.

Tickets on sale at Curtis' Drug Store and at the College Office.

Denton County

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Retrospect

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Of Boiled Radishes, Canned Beans and Wheatless Wednesdays— Fighting the War on the Home Front

By Laura Douglas

“Loafer has been having some more troubles” wrote columnist H.F. Browder, otherwise known as The Loafer, in the April 17, 1917 edition of the *Denton Record Chronicle (DRC)*. He continued, “Now it all happened after this: When the war began to look like real tribulation all the fellows who knew commenced to cry out that grub was going to be scarce. The Boss hired himself home and hoed up his garden and proceeded to plant various and sundry things calculated to cheat the grocery man out of some of his high-handed profits. The boys all talked about having something planted and ‘Gardens’ was all that Loafer heard until he became obsessed with the idea that he had to get very busy and save the country by planting a garden.” In this light-hearted column, and in others written over the next few years, he recounted his struggles with cut worms, unpredictable Texas weather, Mrs. Loafer, and the occasional overabundance of collard greens and radishes. The Loafer’s column must have provided a little comic relief to the citizens of Denton who faced hard times but did their part to “Sow the Seeds for Victory”.

By the time the United States entered World War I in April 1917, Europe was already decimated. Much of the land had been rendered unusable for agricultural production and supply lines were disrupted. The United States had to find a way to get food supplies to the Allied troops



Source: underconsideration.com

fighting on the battlefields as well as the citizens of the nations affected by the War, while continuing to provide supplies to the citizens remaining on the Home Front.

In August 1917 Congress passed the Food and Fuel Control Act, also known as the Lever Act. With the authority granted by Congress in the legislation, President Woodrow Wilson issued an executive order establishing the U. S. Food Administration with the purpose of:

- Assuring adequate food supply, distribution, and conservation of food during the war,
- Facilitating transportation of food and prevent monopolies and hoarding, and
- Maintaining governmental power over foods by using voluntary agreements and a licensing system.

Herbert Hoover was appointed as head of the new administration. He believed that the strict food rationing that had been established in Europe would not be necessary in the United States. His food strategies would appeal to the

volunteerism and national pride of the people. When Hoover wrote his memoirs he stated that he had asked the Citizens of the United States to “Go back to simple food, simple clothes, and simple pleasures. Pray hard, work hard, sleep hard and play hard. Do it all courageously and cheerfully.” Hoover echoed this sentiment by using the simple statement “Food Will Win the War” as the center of the nationwide publicity campaign in which newspapers played the pivotal role of disseminating the informational and educational materials to the people.

Americans were asked to decrease their consumption of meat, wheat, sugar and fat - items that were desperately needed in Europe. Meatless Mondays, Wheatless Wednesdays, and Flourless Fridays became the new norm. A schedule for the week was published in the *Corsicana Daily Sun* on March 1, 1918. In addition to the information about what not to eat on each day, the advertisement also suggests substitute foods that could be used instead of the regular staples:

THE NEW KITCHEN CARD

United States Food Administration.

REMEMBER THE DAYS.

SUNDAY	—One Meal Wheatless; one meal Meatless.
MONDAY	—All meals Wheatless; one meal Meatless.
TUESDAY	—All meals Meatless; one meal Wheatless
WEDNESDAY	—All meals Wheatless; one meal Meatless.
THURSDAY	—One meal Wheatless; one meal Meatless.
FRIDAY	—One meal Wheatless; one meal Meatless.
SATURDAY	—All meals Porkless; one meal Wheatless and one meal Meatless

ON WHEATLESS DAYS

Use no bread, crackers, pastry or breakfast foods containing wheat. Use no wheat flour in cooking except the smallest amount necessary for thickening soups and gravies, or as a binder in corn or other cereal breads. If you buy bread, pastry or cakes from baker or grocer, buy only wheatless products or Victory Bread (containing at least one-fifth other cereals than wheat) or Victory pastry, etc., (containing at least one-third other cereals than wheat).

ON MEATLESS DAYS

Use no beef, pork or sheep products.

ON PORKLESS DAYS

Use no pork, bacon, ham, lard or other pork products, fresh or preserved

ON ALL DAYS

With each purchase of wheat flour for home use you must buy also an equal amount of other cereals (corn meal, corn starch, corn flour, hominy, corn grits, barley flour, rice, rice flour, oatmeal, rolled oats, buckwheat flour, potato flour, sweet potato flour, etc.) The housewife or cook may use these non-wheat products separately in making bread, cakes and pastry, or may mix them with wheat flour, except for wheatless meals.

—Continued on next page, “Gardening”

Gardening on the Home Front

Continued from previous page

There were times when Americans were asked to forgo using certain items totally. In the article "All Citizens Urged to Fall in Line with Move Not to Use Any Flour at Present" published in the *DRC* on April 19, 1918, F.F. Hill, the Federal Food Administrator for Denton County, stated "From a telegram received a few days ago from Mr. Hoover I can assure you that this action on the part of Texas will be most welcome ... (and) will materially aid the Administration at Washington in accomplishing that conservation in wheat flour which is now so extremely urgent and the importance of which the great battle raging in France emphasizes so strongly."

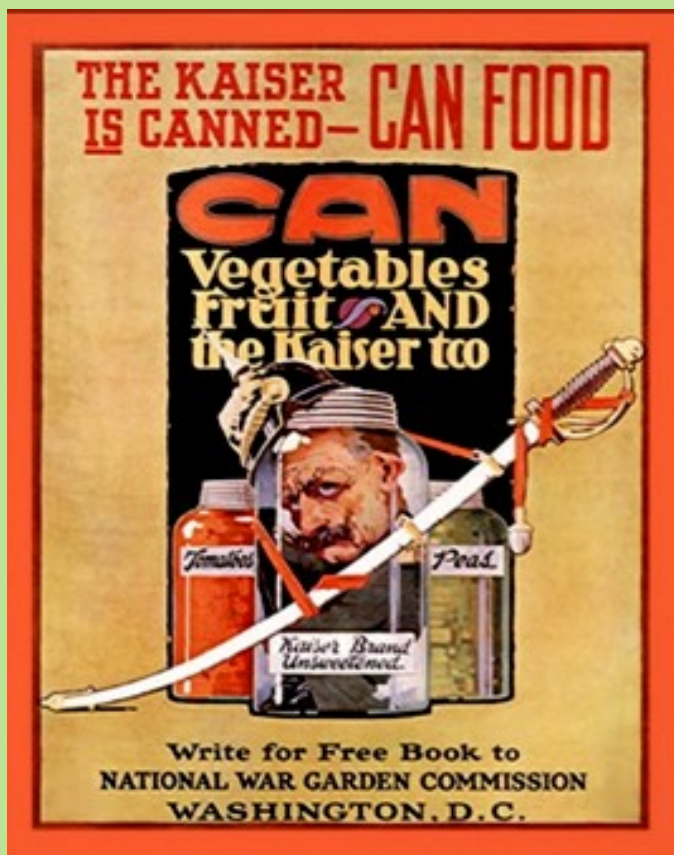
In addition to the rationing of foods, citizens were asked to plant "war gardens," later known as "liberty gardens," to grow more fruits and vegetables locally. Charles Lathrop Pack organized the U.S. National War Garden Commission which encouraged individuals to create gardens in their yards, in vacant lots, and in public spaces all over the country. Denton was quick to join the movement. A short article from the *DRC* on May 3, 1917 encourages owners of vacant lots in the city to allow them to be cultivated in a campaign spearheaded by the Young Men's Business League. In an article from May 11, 1917 a local grocer states that in a short time "Local markets will be glutted with home-produced edibles like potatoes, etc.,..." and that this "... brings again to the fore the question of preserving the surplus."

Mrs. Edna Westbrook Trigg provided the answer to the question of preservation. Mrs. Trigg was the first home demonstration agent appointed by the State of Texas and she was to serve Denton County. It was her goal to make Denton County self-sufficient. Her work ranged from convincing local farmers to use a portion of their land to grow fruits and vegetables, to collaborating with the county commissioners and the Chamber of Commerce to secure funding to purchase five sets of canning equipment for each precinct of the County. Ms. Trigg held demonstrations on how to use the equipment and recruited others to help with the community canning project to preserve locally-grown produce. The endeavor was a success; a *DRC*



Mrs. Edna W. Trigg

Source: Denton County Office of History & Culture



Source: www.pchswi.org

headline from August 16, 1919 states **that** the "Canner at C.I.A. has put up 2,711 Gallons This Year."

The students in Denton's public schools also participated in the war effort. The United States School Garden Army was created to make agricultural education a part of the curriculum. The program encouraged children to raise food through school-based war gardens. A report from the production of the garden at West Ward School was published in the *DRC* on April 18, 1918. It reads, in part, "Products for the war garden being cultivated this year by the pupils of West Ward School are now being placed on the market, and already a quantity of mustard radish and onions have [sic] been disposed of. A good sliced track of land near the school building is being cultivated, the seed for the garden being donated by the pupils from what was left over at home, and the work is being done by the boys and girls under the direction of the teacher."

All in all, it appears that the War Garden effort in Denton was successful. A Local Market Report from May 2, 1919 indicates that, in fact, it may have been a bit too successful - "With almost every family having its own home garden, the vegetable market is rather druggish with a big supply and little demand. Most of the vegetables offered for sale are of the home grown variety."

Speaking of overabundance of vegetables, The Loafer, in desperation, after one plentiful crop of radishes was so tired of eating them he even resorted to boiling them. Can you imagine? If you would like to learn more about the war garden effort, the book *The War Garden Victorious* by Charles Lathrop Pack can be found online in its entirety.

—Laura Douglas

Denton & Those Daring Young Men in Their Flying Machines

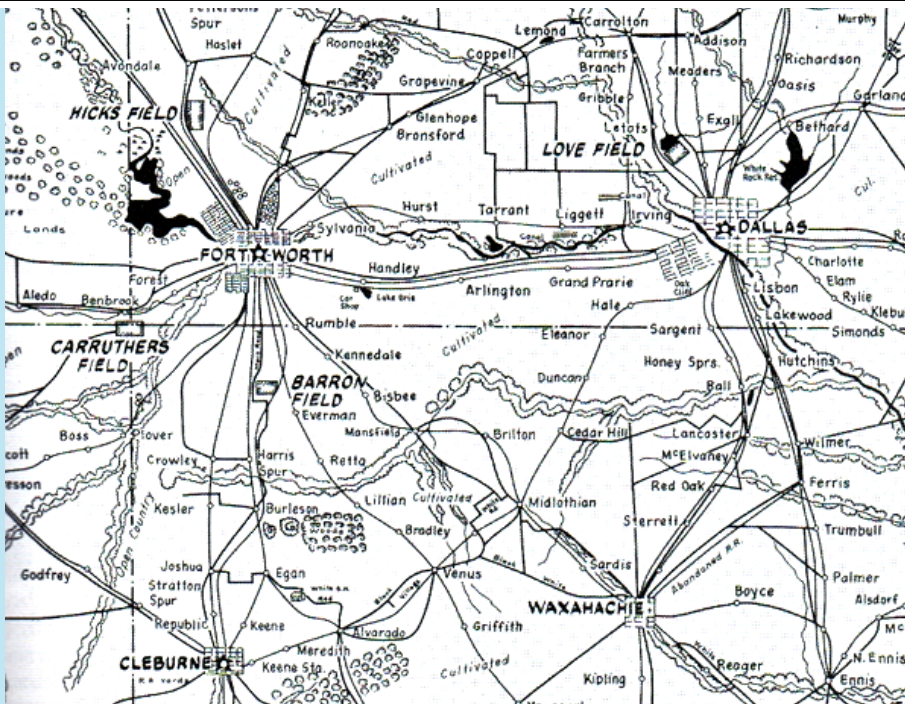
From the time the Wright Brothers first flew at Kitty Hawk, the residents of Denton County were curious about this new thing called an aeroplane. But it would be a long wait before they witnessed flight in Denton.

Two local men, W. E. Brown and Clifford Day, built a glider that they managed to get airborne at Denton on Christmas Day 1909. Later, they would use the Denton Traction Co.'s street car as propulsion for flight. They had dreams of motorized flight, but a crash destroyed the glider and the plan never reached fulfillment.

In September 1910, five youngsters, ages eleven to fifteen, managed to build their own glider and got it to fly at a height of 30 feet with young Robert Storrie aboard using a horse to pull the craft. The brief flight came to an abrupt end when the horse's rider, John Storrie, reined in to watch his brother. Luckily, the resulting injuries were minor. The oldest of the boys, Walker Jagoe, went on to become an ace pilot in World War I, winning a Silver Star for gallantry flying alongside famed ace Eddie Rickenbacker and Gen. Benjamin Foulois, head of the American air corps.

Denton County's first motorized flight took place in June 1912, when a flying exhibition by the Moisant International Birdmen was held at Highland Park (Apogee Stadium).

When the United States entered World War I, three flying fields in Fort Worth (Hicks, Carruthers, Barron) were part of Camp Taliaferro, and another in Dallas (Love) opened in the late summer of 1917 to train pilots. Soon, aeroplanes became airplanes in the common lexicon, and the Denton area saw them on a frequent basis, especially after Canada designated Fort Worth as their winter fight training headquarters.



ABOVE: Map from 1918 showing the Fort Worth and Dallas landing fields.

Source: *Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas TX*

By early 1918, Denton was designated an official landing ground for the pilot trainees. The site chosen was just west of Carroll Boulevard and north of Egan Street, an area now encompassing part of the Denton High School grounds.

Locals came out to witness the flights and often managed to "hitch a ride" with some of the trainees. One such ride ended in tragedy when a crash claimed the life of Silas Grant, younger brother of local army pilot Alfred Grant who deployed to France a few days earlier.

Mishaps were common. A plane got lost and crashed at Justin; a car driven by a C.I.A. student drove too close to the landing strip and was hit by a plane (only minor injuries); a plane crashed onto the grounds of the C.I.A. campus. By May 1918, the Fort Worth fields issued an edict that stunts were only to be attempted over Lake Worth, where the army stationed a boat with medical personnel, in hopes of minimizing injuries and deaths.

In July 1918, Love Field placed Denton off limits after a pilot reported he was treated poorly at Denton. Local officials scammed to assure that this was an isolated incident and in August hosted a big picnic and fete honoring 20 of the Love Field pilots at the home of prominent local leader and businessman, J. N. Rayzor on West Oak Street. Their efforts were likely aided by the fact that one of the newly minted Love Field pilots was Sam "Preach" Rayzor, J. N. Rayzor's son.

After the war, the landing field still saw a plane or two on an irregular basis until 1928 when the old landing field became Denton's first municipal airport, until it closed in the late 1930s.



ABOVE: Photo taken of Curtiss Jennie at Carruthers Field, Fort Worth.
Source: *aerodrome.com*

—DJ Taylor

Glory and Tragedy: Denton's Grant Brothers

By Judy Clements

During World War I, there was no other branch of the American Army that gained greater interest than the air service. Its wide field of adventures attracted one young man from Denton County, Captain Alfred A. Grant Jr. He trained with the Royal Flying Corps at Toronto, Canada, and served overseas with the 27th Aero Squadron. Two other Grant boys joined the fight for their country. Cramer Grant served with the Texas Infantry for 11 months before being transferred to Camp Bowie, to train with the 142nd Infantry, 36th Division. Lieutenant Brooks Grant was stationed at the Base Hospital at Fort Sam Houston and with the radio school at College Station.

Like his brother Alfred, Silas Grant also wanted to become an aviator. The Army rejected his application due to an injury he received. On June 22, 1911, a fire broke out in the Rich Blacksmith Shop located on Mulberry Street and quickly spread to the Craddock Building. A brick wall collapsed, burying Silas and two firemen, Joseph J. Turpin and Ernest Bushey. Although injured badly, Silas was pulled to safety and survived. Unfortunately, both firemen were killed.

Silas never gave up his dream of becoming a "Flyboy" like his brother. The young aviators from the training school in Fort Worth began to fly to Denton and land at Carroll Park that was located just north of Cottonwood Creek and the high school building on Congress Street. Alfred began doing practice flights to the family's farmhouse, landing just in time for dinner. He brought along other officers who would put on a short show of acrobatics and mock dogfights for the town to enjoy. Alfred and some of the other pilots, knowing how Silas longed to become a pilot, would take him up with them.

On Monday, February 4, 1918, his dream ended in tragedy. While visiting the Grant family, Robert M. Foote of the 182nd Squadron offered to take Silas up in his Jenny. After the plane climbed to an altitude of 200 to 300 feet, the plane stalled and began diving straight for the ground. Ca-

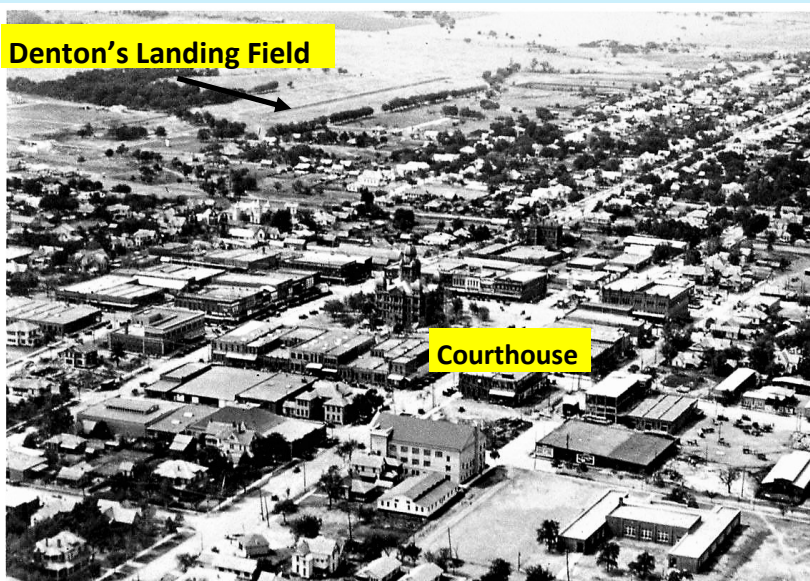


Lieut. Alfred Grant
27th U.S. Aero Squadron

det Foote was badly injured, but Silas was crushed in the cockpit. After being pulled from the wreckage, Silas only lived for a few minutes.

Devastated by the death, Alfred Grant Sr. voiced his sorrow at the grave of his son. He said, "the Kaiser indirectly murdered this son and will murder my other boys and your boys if we do not join in and help destroy Kaiserism." Nine months later Denton celebrated the ending of the war. In April 1919, Alfred A. Grant returned home from overseas, wearing the French Croix de Guerre and the American Distinguished Service Cross in recognition for his services with the U.S. Aerial Service in France. Grant was the only Denton commissioned officer to receive the crosses of valor.

BELOW: Lt. Brook Grant (seated,) L-R, standing, Cramer Grant & Capt. Alfred Grant
Source: *Denton Record-Chronicle*, July 30, 1919



The World War I landing field at Denton, near today's Denton High
Source: *Denton Public Library*



Fear and Hysteria in World War I

By Chuck Voellinger

In response to the declaration of war against Germany, Congress passed the Espionage Act in June of 1917 censoring speech, behavior and publication of information that intended to undermine the US war effort or aid her enemies. This was followed a year later by the Sedition Act which included a section which forbid the utterance or publication of “disloyal, scurrilous or abusive language regarding the US, her flag, her military or her government.” Not surprisingly, these Acts were in direct conflict with the First Amendment right to free speech while also providing citizens with less-than-precise definitions of what constituted violations of the laws and a guise by which Americans could spy on and question their neighbor’s patriotism. Without clear instructions or definitions, local authorities had to grapple with how to define and enforce these Acts.

Unsurprisingly, the group that felt the brunt of these Acts were Americans of German descent and German immigrants who became suspect to both their neighbors and their elected representatives. Although Texans of German descent or birth accounted for only about 5% of the population and had been considered a group that was assimilating successfully, they were subjected to an outsized paranoia relative to their numbers. A concerted effort was made to suppress the free German-language press in spite of the editorial support of the war by the vast majority of these newspapers. German names of towns, streets, buildings, etc. were Americanized or changed entirely.

An example of guilt by association and planting a seed of doubt is this piece from Austin in the January 15, 1918 *Denton Record-Chronicle*, “charges that mute children in The State School for the Deaf were brutally beaten were made by the investigating committee. While no charge of disloyalty was filed against Gus F. Urbantke, the superintendent, *the committee said that the number of Germans employed about the place was noticeable.*”



Annie Webb Blanton

Source: Denton County office of History & Culture

Denton Record-Chronicle that the German language would not be taught the following year at Denton High and,

No less than influential local educator at North Texas State Normal College (UNT) and first female President of the Texas State Teachers Association Annie Webb Blanton fell victim to this paranoia by supporting the elimination of the teaching of the German language in primary and secondary schools and the Thirty-fifth Legislature passed the Blanton-supported English-Only Law in 1918 codifying that questionable practice. At the local level, Denton Public Schools Superintendent J.W. Beaty announced in the April 25, 1918

“although no formal action had been taken by the school board, it had been discussed and was generally agreed upon.” According to Mr. Beaty, “while I do not think the study of the language here would bring any harm, still I regard it as my patriotic duty to do away with

it for the duration of the war at least.” Ironically, this was a year after the German Language course at Denton High School was granted two units of affiliation with the University of Texas which was expected to increase enrollment in that area of study.

Councils of Defense were created nationally to aid in the war effort and Texas followed suit by creating divisions of them at the state and county level. Chillingly, in the April 10, 1918 *Denton Record-Chronicle*, Denton County Council of Defense member H. R. Wilson was quoted as saying, “the Council is going to use every power it has to get a line on every disloyal man whose patriotism is even lukewarm.” What was perhaps the most disturbing effort by the Council, questionnaire cards were sent out to every citizen of Denton County asking for any information or knowledge of disloyal acts in deed or word. Quoting the rest of the *Record-Chronicle* article, “It was decided that the returns from all the cards sent out will be tabulated and kept on record. The chairman of the county liberty bond campaign will be asked to furnish a list of all purchasers of bonds throughout the county in order that an exact line can be secured on the support of the government in the recent work”.



This may happen to us if we do not win the war.

The war is not 3,000 miles away, but one week away, for that is the length of time it would take the German Fleet to reach New York and Galveston Harbors.

BUY LIBERTY BONDS TODAY

Buy Just as Many as You Can Afford to

This advertisement is Contributed to the Interest of Liberty Bond Sales by the following

Business Firms:

First National Bank

W. B. McClurkin & Co.

Abney B. Ivey

Arkansas Milling Co.

G. E. Carruth

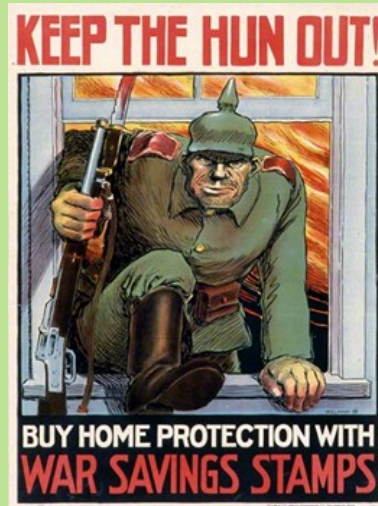
L. L. Puckett Grocery

J. T. Moore

Dodge Dealer.

N. A. Watkins

Photographer.



Continued on next page, “Fear & Hysteria”

Fear & Hysteria

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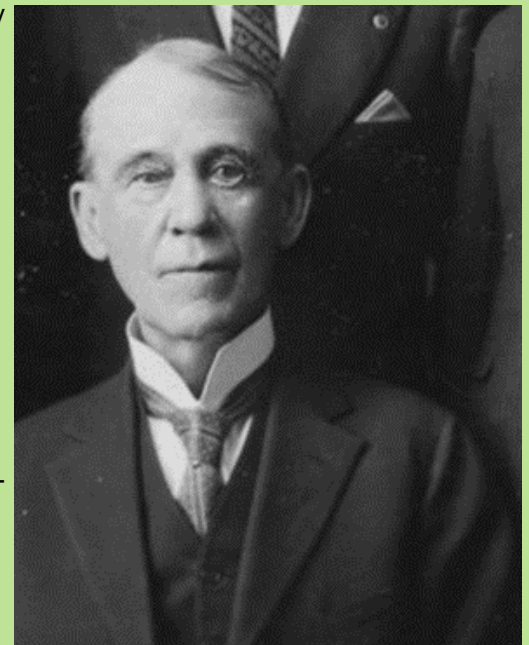
Hysteria over the German language extended deeply into the private affairs of Dentonites, reaching into their religious practices. The rule of using only the English language in public meetings was challenged by the German Baptist Church in a request to the Council of Defense because “half of our membership is old people who would get very little out of a service held in English and for that reason we are asking that we may continue to hold our services in the German language as we have done for years”. One service spoken in German per week was granted by the Council.

Not only Americans of German descent were subject to ambiguous enforcement of the Sedition Act, as exhibited in an article from the Frisco, Texas *Tribune* of July 17, 1918, “Constable W.F. Bishop arrested a transient local negro Sunday, and after a preliminary trial before Mayor Shrader, took him to the bastille at McKinney. The negro made several remarks concerning the negroes’ part in the war and the negroes’ share after the war, so it was said, and made other remarks considered to be very disloyal. This is the first disloyalty case handled in our local court.” Despite thousands of African-Americans loyally serving in the armed forces in France and stateside, in response to the Camp Logan Riots in Houston in July of 1917, prominent Denton resident Alvin C. Owsley and member of the State Council of Defense was quoted as saying, “the nation makes soldiers out of a Negro and puts a gun in his hand, it ruins the Negro, and he becomes a dangerous element in

any community in which he may be stationed.” Furthermore, in that same speech in Wichita Falls, Owsley promised that, “all negro troops would be removed from the state as soon as possible.” African-American communities felt pressure to prove their loyalty as they were seen as especially susceptible to agitators.

Countless similar instances can be found across the country and a great many studies have been undertaken in the succeeding years about this dark period in American history.

—Chuck Voellinger



Alvin C. Owsley

Source: Portal to TexasHistory/unt.edu

Germans in County Faced Difficulties

At the time the war commenced in Europe in the summer of 1914, the United States had a population of approximately 96,000,000. About 30,000,000 were foreign-born, including 15,000,000 that were European-born; two-thirds of which were from eastern Europe. The American government may have chosen neutrality, but many residing here had strong feelings for taking sides in the fight, and a large number supported Germany and its alliances.

Sentiment for war and which side to ally with smoldered. Distrust of those favoring a view opposite of yours grew in intensity in the almost two years before America entered the fight.

When war was officially declared, prejudices came into the open. Rumors flew regarding foreign-born residents; most expressed distrust for those of German heritage. In Denton County, the rumors and suspicions were no different.

The county had substantial German populations at Pilot Point, the Round Grove area south of Lewisville, and at Blue Mound, between Denton and Sanger. In Denton, one of the larger churches was the German Baptist Church on East McKinney Street at Bell Avenue. That church, the Methodist Church at Blue Mound and the Round Grove Church conducted their services in German, such was the more familiar and native language of the church families.

On the day President Wilson asked for a declaration of war, the *Denton Record-Chronicle* reported a “wild rumor” that a German flag had been raised at Blue Mound. Diedrick Winkelman, a German-born resident of that community, strongly disputed the re-

port, saying, “I believe a man would be a fool to raise a flag of the kind here.” He added that he knew of no German flag existing in the community.

Ten days later, Fredrich Trietsch of Blue Mound contacted the paper to state the German immigrants were loyal to the United States. He expressed regret that Germany and the United States were at war, but added, “I believe every German in Denton County expects to be loyal to the country of their adoption. I am an American and my children are Americans and we expect to be law-abiding citizens.”

Yet, more rumors flew and talk of confiscating the property of German-born citizens led to concerns in the German communities that their property—and their freedom—might be at risk. Pat Gallagher, Denton County Sheriff, did his best to allay the fears by reassuring everyone that the United States “...has never, in any war, confiscated the property of any foreign resident unless by his own hostile acts he made it necessary.” Gallagher urged “...that all our people refrain from public discussion of questions involved in the present crisis and maintain a calm and considerate attitude toward all without regard to their nationality.”

It wasn’t easy being German in Denton County. Registrations for those not yet on the citizenship path brought fear of incarceration and by April 1918, the concerns reached a fever-pitch when Denton High School barred German from its curriculum and the county Defense Council announced its effort to stamp out what it called “Kaiserism.” It didn’t ease worries when the local theater screened a movie called, *The Kaiser—the Beast of Berlin*.

The end of the war brought relief for everyone. Many Denton County Germans either enlisted or were drafted, including Philip and Gottlieb Trietsch of the Blue Mound community. As family patriarch Fredrich Trietsch had said, they were loyal Americans.

1918 Influenza Pandemic Claimed Lives of Both Soldiers and Civilians

Denton County Was Not Spared

By Leslie Couture

Editor's Note: approximately 53,000 United States Soldiers died in combat in World War I; 63,000 more died of disease—mostly from influenza. The disease claimed far more civilians than soldiers. It has been estimated that 1% of the world's population died from the disease in 1918-1919. Denton County suffered along with the rest of the world.

Regarding the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 author John Barry said, "In 1918, a new pandemic influenza virus spread through the human population." The word "new" is very significant because although influenza was not new to the world, this strain was, and it killed more people than those killed in World War I.

The disease took the world by surprise.

This influenza, also called "Spanish Influenza," or often referred to as "flu" or "la grippe," came in three waves. The first, showed up in military camps in the spring of 1918, where it was overshadowed by the war and went virtually ignored. It wasn't until the end of September that the second wave hit. And as more men enlisted, their movement allowed the virus to spread across the United States. In the month of October, more than 100,000 Americans died. The second wave lasted through December and everyone was uncertain when it would end. A third wave came in the spring of 1919 and although it was not as deadly, the cost was still high. The exact number of deaths varies; at least 20 million people worldwide, possibly 100 million, of which, some 675,000 (estimated) deaths were in the U.S.

On October 2, 1918, a message from U. S. Surgeon General Rupert Blue of the Public Health Service ran in the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, "Drastic Means Urged for Stopping Spread of Spanish Influenza," and recommended that the only way to stop the spread was to close the churches, schools, theaters, and public institutions in every community.

The seriousness of the situation took a while to be heard in Denton County as the newspaper reported that few doctors believed those who were sick actually had influenza: On October 5, city health officer Dr. E. F. Piner reported in an article headlined, "*Probably 75 Cases of Spanish Influenza Here; Persons with Colds Asked to Stay at Home*"—"there are hundreds of cases of "la grippe" and colds in the city and surrounding county, but physicians believe a great number of these cases are not influenza...Dr. Piner estimates that about seventy-five persons really have the Spanish Influenza and they are suffering considerably. However, the disease is said not to be especially dangerous and there is little reason to be alarmed." And while he asked people who were sick to stay at home, and advised picture shows, churches, and schools not to admit anyone who was sick, he did not yet advise the schools to close.

The Red Cross sent out information on how to combat the spread. Surgeon General Blue, compared the similarities to the La Grippe Epidemic of 1889-90, but added the difference now was that, "All ages are attacked, young, active adults being especially susceptible."

The first notice of closure was made on Monday, October 7, by the First Baptist Church, who postponed services in-

definitely. On Tuesday, Dr. Piner announced that all schools would be closed and would not reopen until things improved. He also suspended all public gatherings which went into effect that night. All movie theaters were closed. Pastors announced that there would be no church services until the order was suspended. The town became quiet.

Denton Mayor P. J. Beyette, after receiving a health report, encouraged all citizens of Denton do a "thorough cleaning during the present emergency when the school and other gathering places have been closed. Nothing is more conducive to health than a thoroughly clean city." He asked for all children to be "kept off the streets while the schools were closed" and suggested they be employed picking up weeds, trash and gathering tin cans to keep them busy.

On October 8, the *DRC* reported that, "a physician with a very large practice said he made more calls on Saturday than he ever made before in his life, and all but one of them was for influenza."

The city disinfected and washed the sidewalks in the business section on October 16. Mayor Beyette brought the city's Anti-Spitting Ordinance to the public's attention, warning them it was a misdemeanor to spit on sidewalks, stairways and public buildings in the city, resulting in a fine not to exceed \$100.

On October 17, Dr. Piner reported that the County's influenza epidemic was improving and, "In most sections of the county the disease is not serious and many of the cases are mild." However, the situation was still uncertain, and the city took a wait and see attitude to lifting closures.

The world seemed to come to a halt; the Barnum & Bailey Circus cancelled the rest of their tour for the year owing to small crowds and protests by communities. A scarcity of labor was affecting construction, especially at the College of Industrial Arts (now Texas Woman's University). The schools, theaters, and churches remained closed.

Dallas, overwhelmed by cases of influenza, put in a plea from doctors, asking Denton nurses for help, but none were available. By mid-October there were daily reports of deaths and funerals. Whole families were sick and some lost multiple members. Hasty burials followed, often with no one well enough to attend the funeral. There were reports of local boys who died from influenza at military camps, whose bodies were being shipped home. A letter from a

—Continued on Next Page, "Influenza"



Source: <http://digital.library.temple.edu/cdm/>

Influenza Pandemic

(cont'd from previous page)

soldier received just before his death said that he was unable to receive "proper attention" because the hospitals were overwhelmed with the sick.

The ban was lifted on Sunday, October 27. Dr. Piner announced that he believed the disease had passed the "epidemic stage," but predicted it might hang on all winter. He said the greatest danger from the influenza was developing pneumonia due to a weakened immune system. Of course, he could not foresee that the disease was not over; that people would continue to die, or that there would be a third wave.

At the end of October, Dr. Piner reported there were 1,000 cases of influenza in the city of Denton and hundreds more in the county. The percentage of deaths, he said, was 1.07% for the population of Denton with a death rate of .6% for the county. President Bralley of the College of Industrial Arts reported that the school had 400 cases in

October with 1 death.

As to the number of people who died in Denton County from the influenza pandemic, the true number will never be known because of poor record-keeping and numerous errors made while writing out certificates, something noted by the state department in Austin and the County Clerk. On October 26, Dr. J. E. Stover, the County Health Officer publicly asked all physicians to make a report of the number of influenza cases and deaths in Denton County. He had received complaints of poor filing records for both birth and death records over the last year and since the beginning of the influenza pandemic, only 25 percent of the physicians in the county reported influenza deaths.

The number of deaths was gathered from Texas Death Certificates and newspaper notices. It represents only a snapshot, so one can only make a hesitant count of a little over 200 people who died. The numbers for Denton County in October 1918: 42; November: 26; December: 33; and in January 1919: 35; February 1919: 13.

—Leslie Couture

The Draft

When the "European War" broke out in the summer of 1914, the United States had a standing Army of only 127,500 men. Measures to increase the force over the intervening years until war was officially declared brought the total to near 400,000.

But it was evident in the weeks leading up to the war that the number of enlisted men was woefully short of the need. Conscription began to be debated and a Selective Service Act was finally passed. Although press releases emphasized patriotism, many Americans opposed and openly resisted being drafted into the military, some groups of draft resisters organized and engaged in shoot-outs with federal authorities. In sternly worded articles, newspapers warned of the stiff penalty for failing to register.

In Denton County, rumors of resistance and refusals to register caused a particular concern. By registration day, there were few no-shows at the registration offices in the county. On June 5, 1917 men between the ages of 21 and 35 reported to register. The number registered was 3,042. Another 4,000 would register in September when the age range was expanded to include all men 18 to 45.

On July 20, 1917 the first draft numbers in the lottery were drawn from a big glass bowl in Washington D.C. by Secretary of War Newton Baker. The first drawn was number 258—***the first Denton County man drafted being Orice Marvin Beck of Pilot Point.***

Theodore Roosevelt vs. Woodrow Wilson

Former President Theodore Roosevelt and President Woodrow Wilson clashed famously on how the United States should respond to the war in Europe. From the onset of hostilities, Roosevelt favored a military intervention; Wilson stood firm on neutrality. The sinking of the ocean liner *Lusitania* exacerbated the friction and Roosevelt loudly and publicly complained that war should be waged and rebuked Wilson for his perceived tepid response to Germany.

When the United States finally entered the war in 1917, Roosevelt, sightless in one eye and suffering ill health, offered to raise a division of volunteers that he proposed to take to France. He wrote William Allen White, "I think I could do this country most good by dying in a reasonably honorable fashion, at the head of my division in the European War."

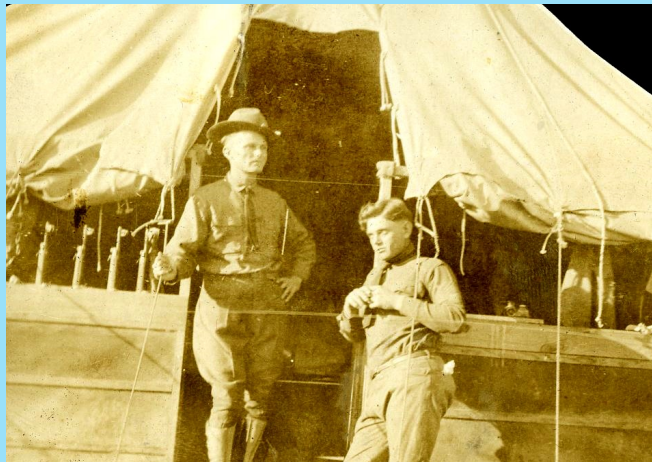
Meeting with President Wilson at the White House to pitch his plan, Roosevelt, who had publicly called Wilson many derisive and profane names, sensed perhaps the President believed that such a move might leverage another Roosevelt presidential run. He jested that if he were allowed to take troops into war, he promised not to come home alive. Wilson heard him out, and in diplomatic terms that Roosevelt fully understood, declined the offer.

Establishing Camps and Training New Troops a Major Task

Gearing up for a sudden entry into a war is no easy task; in fact it is a monumental one. Thus was the problem facing the nation when we entered the war in April 1917.

Handshake contracts with builders meant construction on training camps began even before Congress passed bills authorizing and funding facilities. In all, 16 facilities would be constructed throughout the United States to train the new soldiers; 16 more would accommodate the National Guard troops. One 2,186 acre base was located in west Fort Worth, named Camp Bowie. In Denton, Camp Beyette was built for the National Guard. The local guardsmen were later mustered into the regular army as Co. M, 7th Texas Infantry.

The barracks were built of wood in the colder northern states; wood and tents in the south. The canvas-covered Camp Bowie saw as many as 30,000 soldiers in some months. Supplying uniforms and weapons lagged behind



inductions and many men had to hone their “trench warfare and bayonet fighting” with wooden sticks. Measles and respiratory diseases took their toll on men thrown together in close quarters, as did influenza.

When the camp opened in August 1917, it lacked blankets and heaters. Northers in late September and October left many men sick. By year’s end, 8,000 soldiers had been hospitalized; 205 died at Camp Bowie.

NOTE: Photos of tent camps courtesy of Denton Public Library, Grace Minter Collection

Student Army Training Corps at The Normal

By Judy Clements

The North Texas State Normal College organized the Students’ Army Training Corps on October 1, 1918. Better known as the S. A. T. C., it was sometimes called “The Saturday Afternoon Tea Club” by the students. Its purpose was to supply officer material for the United States Army and at the same time give the young men a chance to continue their college education. The unit consisted of about 120 men.

First, the men were quartered in four large boarding houses while waiting on the Mess Hall and Barracks to be complete. Two things immediately started and continued until the last man was discharged. They were the “flu” and the bugle calls that began at 6:25 am each morning.

To serve as an emergency hospital for the student soldiers, the federal government opened a sanitarium, located on 194 W. Mulberry Street. Within ten days, the sanitarium was expanded into another building at 196 W. Mulberry. The hospital, under the supervision of Nurse Adolphine Grabbe, saw five patients the first day.

The boys worked with enthusiasm while conducting their military training, but when the armistice was signed and the prospects of being sent to the battlefield were removed, they lost interest in it. On the afternoon of December 20, 1918, the Students’ Army Training Corps were given an honorable discharge in one hand and a month’s salary in the other. Some of the boys returned to their former vocation while others continued their studies in school.

A memorial service was held at the college on April 26,

1919, for the eleven former students of the college who made the supreme sacrifice during the war. Honored were T. H. Aiken, J. A. Cagle, D. B. Cunningham, Isham M. Daniel, J. O. Duke, Fred C. Hirschi, Theodore J. Howell, J. H. McClendon, George W. Splawn, J. P. Walker, and J. G. Carruth.



ABOVE: SATC Barracks; BELOW: SATC Cadets



War Is Over

The wailing of sirens and steam whistles shattered the wee morning hours, punctuated by the occasional firework. Denton residents, along with young men housed in a hotel, scheduled for military induction the next morning, were roused from their sleep.

Rumors of a possible cessation of hostilities had been at the forefront in news reports and conversations for the past few days; most had an inkling of what the noise meant: The Great War at long last was at an end.

The news had been anticipated as civil unrest and a naval mutiny in Germany overshadowed the battlefield. On November 10, news came that the German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, had abdicated and fled to The Netherlands, a neutral country. In a time before radio, the wire services at the newspaper brought news to the public. The *Denton Record-Chronicle* held the announcement of an armistice for a short time to allow the town folk more sleep, anticipating that Monday, November 11, 1918 would bring a celebration lasting late into the night. It would prove a solid bet. At 3:30 a.m., thirty minutes before the armistice became effective, the paper released the news and the presses began rolling out an EXTRA edition.

Following the initial noise and a run through the neighborhoods by the fire truck, sirens at full blast, the streets of downtown Denton immediately began to fill with people. Before dawn an effigy of the Kaiser was burned in a bonfire on the courthouse lawn.

Denton mayor P. J. Beyette declared the day a holiday, closing the schools and urging businesses to close in support of the occasion. All complied with the request. For the morning, there were no coordinated speeches or organized celebrations; everything was spontaneous and, for want of a better term, free-form.

By the afternoon, J. O. Bell began to organize a parade on East Hickory Street. By 2:30, the hastily formed celebration was underway.

The parade headed west on West Hickory to Denton Street and returned to the square via West Oak Street. The Denton Fire Department led the way, followed by a truck with a coffin in its bed, adorned with a sign that read, "Kaiserism is Dead!"

A truckload of "Victory Girls" passed by, with Uncle Sam nearby. The SATC boys from North Texas Normal marching in perfect step, just ahead of a truck bearing Lady Liberty, Joan of Arc and a lady wrapped

Extra DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE, Extra
 VOLUME XIX DENTON, TEXAS, MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 11, 1918. No. 76

WAR IS OVER
 Armistice Signed at Midnight, Fighting Cease at 11 o'clock French Time Today—Terms Include Demobilization of German Army and Navy and Allied Occupation of Strategic Points.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 11.—2:50 o'clock a. m.—The world war will end this morning at 6 o'clock Washington time or 11 o'clock Paris time. The armistice was signed by the German representatives at midnight. This announcement was made by the State department at 2:50 o'clock this morning.

TERMS NOT MADE PUBLIC.
 The terms of the armistice will not be made public until later. Military men, however, are very certain that it includes:

The immediate retirement of the German armies from France and Belgium, and Alsace-Lorraine.

The disarmament and demobilization of the German service.

Occupation by allied and American forces of such strategic points in Germany as will make impossible a renewal of hostilities.

Delivery of part of the German high seas fleet and of a certain number of submarines to the allied and American naval forces.

The occupation of all other German warships under the supervision of the allied and American navies, which will guard them.

The release of allied and American soldiers, sailors and civilians held in prison in Germany without reciprocal release of the associated government.

There was news information as to the circumstances under which the armistice was signed, but since the German censor did not publish German military headquarters until 10 o'clock yesterday morning, French time, it was generally assumed here that the German envoys within the French lines had been instructed by wireless to sign the terms.

Forty-seven hours had been required for the courier to reach German headquarters and unqualified approval had been necessary for the examination of the terms and a decision. It was regarded as possible, however, that the decision may have been made at Berlin on instructions transmitted from there by the new government.

Germany had been given until 11 o'clock this morning, French time, 6 o'clock Washington time, to accept or refuse the terms. The armistice had been signed and telephoned to the White House for transmission to Berlin at the hour set by Marshal Foch for a decision by Germany for peace or the continuation of the war.

The armistice news that the armistice had been signed was telephoned to the White House for transmission to Berlin at the hour set by Marshal Foch for a decision by Germany for peace or the continuation of the war.

Later it was said that there would be no statement from the White House at this time.

ESSEN NOW IN HANDS OF REBELS; KRUPP VON BOHLEN AND WIFE ARE ARRESTED
 LONDON, Nov. 10.—Essen, where the great Krupp steel works are located, is reported in the hands of the revolutionists. Lieutenant Krupp von Bohlen, head of the works, and his wife (the Krupps) have been arrested.

GERMANY IS SHOWN OF HER MILITARY POWER ON THE LAND, SEA AND IN THE AIR
 LONDON, Nov. 10.—The German armistice terms, the London Express says it understands, are even stronger than forecast on Oct. 31. They will, the Express says, deprive Germany from further military power on land and sea and in the air.

LEIPZIG JOINS REVOLUTIONISTS AND COUNCIL PROCLAIMS A GERMAN REPUBLIC
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THE BERLIN GARRISON GOES OVER TO THE GERMAN PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT
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FORMER KAISER WILHELM REACHES THE DUTCH FRONTIER ON WAY TO DESTROY
 LONDON, Nov. 10.—The German armistice terms, the London Express says it understands, are even stronger than forecast on Oct. 31. They will, the Express says, deprive Germany from further military power on land and sea and in the air.

DETON GOES WILD WITH CELEBRATION MONDAY A HOLIDAY
 DENVER, Nov. 11.—The German armistice terms, the London Express says it understands, are even stronger than forecast on Oct. 31. They will, the Express says, deprive Germany from further military power on land and sea and in the air.

DOESN'T WANT TO BUY PRODUCTS ON ACCOUNT OF DROPPING FROM PAID
 DENVER, Nov. 11.—The German armistice terms, the London Express says it understands, are even stronger than forecast on Oct. 31. They will, the Express says, deprive Germany from further military power on land and sea and in the air.

TO HELP WIN THE WAR
 When buying clothes, your greatest interest should be that of securing only what will serve you to the best advantage, leaving you money for the purchase of those things which are essential to patriotic support of our country.

Read This Unusual Economy Guarantee

Wilson-Hann Company

SAVE IN SHOES
 The greatest saving to be made in shoes is to buy solid leather shoes substantially built for service. All all shoes on the market these days are solid leather even though the price label would suggest that they are not.

WE ARE PREPARED TO FURNISH
 Solid Leather Shoes for the Whole Family.

TAKE MILLIONS TO DO IT
 It took millions of dollars to take them over and it will take millions to bring them back. You should do your part by buying American-made shoes. Germany must be beaten though before any of them come home. Buy U. S. and help the boys put on the finishing touch.

MAKE SAFE INVESTMENTS.
 DENVER TRUST COMPANY

MONEY TO LOAN
 On farm lands and city property. Buy and sell real estate. Our rates payable in Denton. No need to pay anything a loan from us. Get our rates and terms.

LAND MORTGAGE BANK
 JOE L. BUEWETT, Manager.

TO HELP WIN THE WAR
 Wilson-Hann Company

THE WILLIAMS STORE
 There's a picture of you in your soldier's memory. But he is expecting a new one, so you are today, to make his life.

THE SHAW STUDIO
 NEW WORK WILL PLEASE YOU TOO

FOR SALE
 One large Jewell Cook Range. Also some Refrigerators. You can get these worth the money.

JOHN T. MOORE

COUSINS BOOTS AND SHOES FOR WOMEN
 Morrison's Shoe Store, 212 West Oak Street, Denton, Texas. We have a large stock of women's shoes, and we will make you a pair of shoes to order, in any color and style you desire. We will also make you a pair of shoes to order, in any color and style you desire. We will also make you a pair of shoes to order, in any color and style you desire.

Murphy's Shoe Store
 212 West Oak Street, Denton, Texas.

RELIABLE ABSTRACTS
 The Denton Record-Chronicle is a reliable authority for all the news of the day.

DURHAM ABSTRACT COMPANY
 CORNER OF 10th AND 11th STS. DENTON, TEXAS.

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING NOW
 W. B. MORGAN & COMPANY

The Denton Record-Chronicle's EXTRA, November 11, 1918

in the red, white and blue. The College of Industrial Arts had a large ensemble represented, with college president F. M. Bralley and his wife in a car followed by the school's student body and faculty. The local Boy Scouts brought up the rear of the parade.

At the Square, the C.I.A. girls led the singing of *The Star-Spangled Banner* followed by wild cheers of celebration. Those cheers were surpassed when two French girls attending the C.I.A. sang *La Marseillaise*, the French national anthem.

In the afternoon, word came that the induction of the draftees waiting at the station had been cancelled; the would-be soldiers joined the celebration before heading home to welcoming, relieved and happy families.

As darkness fell, the celebration continued, highlighted by fireworks lit from all corners of the Denton County Courthouse (see photo on page 1). The words repeated thousands of time in Denton on that day were, this was "the greatest day the world has ever known." Not a soul in Denton disputed the observation.

—DJ Taylor

Not All County Soldiers Returned From the War

Approximately 1,500 Denton County men entered the military in "The Great War" either as volunteers or draftees. Many made it to the front in France during the final months of the war and saw fighting up close and personal; several perished on the battlefields.

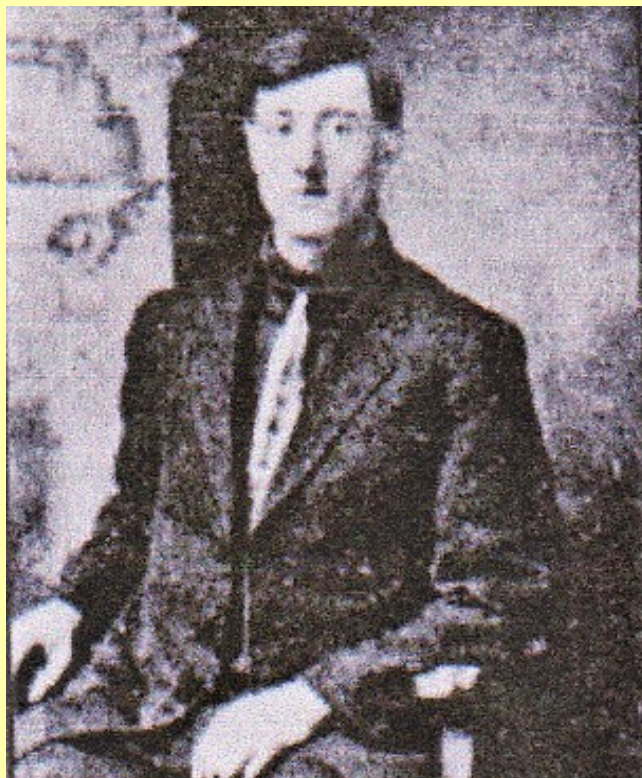
Tillman Guinn of Sanger was the first county soldier to die in the war, on September 13, 1918. In a letter to the young man's wife, his commander, Lt. John C. Patterson, wrote that Guinn was killed "going over the top" in the American drive at St. Mihiel when the troops encountered German machine gun fire. Lt. Patterson reported Pvt. Guinn was hit and died instantly of his wounds.

The following 19 names are the men killed in battle:

- George B. Johnson, Roanoke
- Alfred K. Young, Green Valley
- Lair Buster, Lewisville
- Vasco V. Layfield, Justin
- Ollie S. Calvert, Waketon
- Frank Elliott, Pilot Point
- Ray Stallings, Denton
- Arthur O. McNitzky, Denton
- Jeff B. Davis, Corinth
- Tillman J. Guinn, Sanger
- Wm. M. Fleming, Sanger
- Wm. Clyde Curtis, Krum
- A. J. Mays, Lewisville.
- Oscar J. Spraggins, Pilot Point.
- Henry Anthony, Denton
- Silas S. Loter, Slidell
- Burle H. Davidson, Pilot Point
- Roy C. King, Lewisville
- Jim C. Cogdell, Argyle

Another 16 died in camp, due to injuries or illness, some victims of the influenza pandemic of 1918:

- Curtis Heath, Lewisville
- Junius Dugger, Justin
- Hulburt Cudd, Oak Grove
- J. B. Crouch, Krum
- Leonard Worley, Denton



Tillman J. Guinn of Sanger. First Denton County soldier to die in The Great War.
Source: Denton Record-Chronicle, Jul 30, 1919

- Howard Dodson, Sanger
- Joseph C. Riney, Pilot Point
- Charley Holeyfield, Denton
- Charles Morris, Little Elm
- Veunie Maxwell, Lewisville

—DJ Taylor

Information for these articles was gathered from the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, July 30, 1919 special supplement

The wounded:

The following are the Denton County military men wounded in action during World War I, sorted by their hometowns.

Argyle: Frank Whitten; Homer Fehleison; Ray A. Crawford.

Aubrey: Everett C. Hickson; Marvin Bostick; Isom C. Rue; Raymond J. Brockett; Stanford Moore; Thos. C. Packett; Wm. B. Isbell.

Denton: Ben H. Taliaferro; Carl Hoffman; Don E. West; Earl Durham; Ector Roberts; Edwin M. Fulton; Emory Smith; Ernest A. Bell; Fred Hopkins; Geo. Wooldridge; Haskell E. Dishman; John F. Thompson; John R. Adams; Jos. E. Blakemore; Leonard White; Levy Wilson; Lewis M. Price; Lewis W. Harrell; Lloyd W. Price; Orville Klepper; Robert Earl Smith; Robert Lee Hickey; Sam T. Williams.

Frisco: Walter S. Jones.

Garza (town name changed to Lake Dallas in 1920s): Homer Chastain; Wm. A. Carlisle.

Hebron: Lonnie T. Hoskins.

Justin: Lewis E. Robinson; Miller Vaughn.

Krum: Frank Johnston.

Lewisville: Arthur A. Harper; Bob Coker; Joe Cobb; Oscar E. Carlisle; Will Wright; Wm. Carlisle Harris.

Little Elm: John Springer.

Oak Grove: Lee Roy Fuqua.

Pilot Point: Ernest H. Boggs; Fletcher Brown; Harry J. Schoepner; Jesse J. Moody; Milton Brown; Wm. H. Braswell.

Ponder: John M, Boyle.

Sanger: Charles Trickey; Dallas Marshall; Frank M. Collins; Mars King.

On Armistice Day, a Soldier in France Pens a Letter of Hope to a Sanger Girl

Tona Batis, President of the Sanger Historical Society, has a collection of letters written in 1918-1919 to Beulah Batis Lambe, her great-aunt. Most of the letters are from Beulah's former Sanger classmate, Edna Wheeler, then a student at North Texas State Normal College. The letters were discovered in recent years at the Sanger ancestral home of Mrs. Lambe's father (Tona's great-grandfather), Noah Batis, a former county commissioner.

Among the letters is one written to Edna Wheeler, and passed on to Beulah, from Corporal James LeBow, a soldier in France and a friend of both young ladies. The letter is dated November 11, 1918, the day the armistice ending hostilities was signed and reflects a soldier's relief that the fighting is over:

Somewhere in Happiness
Nov. 11th—18

Dearest Little Friend

This is certainly some happy bunch of boys this morning. Hostilities ceased at eleven o'clock this morning until further notice and here's hoping the "further notice" never comes. I believe I've seen about all the foreign service I crave. How are the people in "God's Country" taking it? Gee! But I'd sure like to get back there in time for Christmas. But if peace should be declared today I doubt whether I would get back then or not, but some of the boys would, that have been "Over Here" so long.

I was sorry to hear that you had been one of the "Spanish Flu" victims but am glad to hear that you have fully recovered. There are so many people dying with it. Have you heard from Beulah lately? I haven't gotten a letter from her in over a week. I just can't keep from being uneasy about her. I'm afraid she will fall victim to that awful disease.

Have I found me a French girl yet? Well I should say not. And that isn't the half of it. I'm not looking for one. Wouldn't that be nice of me to get a French girl while the sweetest girl in all the world is patiently waiting for me back in the states? Not Jimmie.

Guess I'd better ring off now little friend and get to work. Mr. Scott sends his love to you—

Your Best Friend

James

Corp. Jas. W. LeBow

Postal Detachment A.P.O. 796

American E. F.

Censored

R. L. Marshall

2nd Lt. U. S. A.

Somewhere In Happiness
Dearest Little Friend Nov. 11th - 18

This is certainly some happy bunch of soldiers this morning. Hostilities ceased at eleven o'clock this morning until further notice and here's hoping the "further notice" never comes. I believe I've seen about all of the foreign service I crave. How are the people in "God's Country" taking it? Gee! But I'd sure like to get back there in time for Christmas. But if peace should be declared today I doubt whether I would get back by then or not, but some of the boys would that have been "Over Here" so long.

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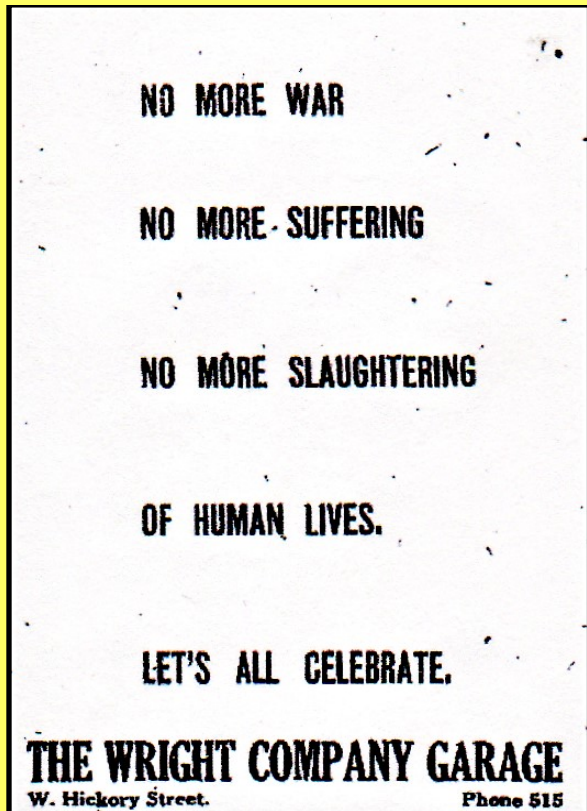
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Censored
R. L. Marshall
2nd Lt. U. S. A.

Aftermath of the War: Hope and Reality



Source: *Denton Record-Chronicle*, November 11, 1918

The guns went silent, the celebrations faded, as life following November 11, 1918 began to slowly return to the normalcy of the pre-war days.

The great joy of Armistice Day gave way to a peaceful optimism that better days were ahead.

The movie ads for the Princess and Dreamland theatres touting films such as *The Kaiser: The Beast of Berlin* and *The Prussian Cur*, were replaced with ones of a more tranquil nature, like *Mrs. Leffingwell's Boots* and *Cleopatra*.

Getting all the soldiers back home was a major logistical problem. With a million "Doughboys" in Europe, just obtaining enough ships to transport them home was difficult. Along with available American naval ships and leased liners, confiscated German ships and vessels leased or loaned from Brazil, England, Greece and Italy were hastily retrofitted to transport the American soldiers back to the United States. A few made it back by the end of 1918, but it would take several months into 1919 to get the soldiers home.

In Denton, a "Victory Picnic" was held on August 2, 1919 at Lipscomb Park in Denton. The newspaper reported an attendance of 10,000 gathered to honor the returned Denton County boys. A parade assembled on West Hickory Street and proceeded around the Courthouse Square and west on Oak Street to the picnic grounds. Residents were encouraged to bring "well-filled baskets" with enough food for their family and at least one soldier.

The day-long event featured speeches, keynoted by Lt. Col. Alvin M. Owsley, the former county attorney and highest ranking county man who served; a memorial service honoring the memory of Denton County boys who died in

the war; a Wild West Show; rodeo competitions; a baseball game between teams from Ponder and Denton; and a Victory Ball late into the night. It was at this event that Denton's American Legion Post No. 71 was organized by the returning soldiers.

Getting back to "normal" would prove to be more difficult. The reality was that it would be a struggle. An article in the February 8, 1919 edition of the *Denton Record-Chronicle* contained extensive advise on dealing with the returned soldiers coming to terms with the traumas of war.

On the national front, President Woodrow Wilson campaigned vigorously, but unsuccessfully, for approval of the Treaty of Versailles and the entry of the United States in the League of Nations. His relentless speaking campaign ended abruptly when he suffered a stroke. The Senate never ratified the Treaty and the nation did not join the League.

The dismantling of the industrial war machine at war's end, and the influx of returning soldiers led to widespread unemployment and unlike later wars, there was no national plan in place to assist the returned soldiers. The turmoil led to the victory of Republican Warren G. Harding in the 1920 presidential election.



Source:zazzle.ca

During the coming years the county, like the nation, recovered and prospered as new roads were built in response to the ever-increasing number of automobiles, and eventually the factories from the war years were retrofitted to produce consumer goods that now seemed available to all.

But progress brings growing pains. A new law brought Prohibition, creating new challenges and new alliances. Careless financial practices brought sudden riches but set the stage for the stock market crash on October 29, 1929.

The "Roaring '20s" came to a sudden halt, replaced by the "Great Depression" that would last a decade. In Germany, a new menace would rise from the ashes and peace would prove non-lasting as the world found itself entering another World War.

—DJ Taylor



The August 2 1919 parade turns north on Locust at the Square.
Source: WeDentonDolt.com