

MUSCOGIANA

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On the cover: Lena Ensley of Columbus, ca. 1918. Ensley Family Photograph Collection (SMC 91), Columbus State University Archives.

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From the Editor

As many places across the nation will be commemorating the centennial anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I this year, we have made a special effort to dedicate this edition of *Muscogiana* to an exploration of the era of "The Great War" in Columbus. Judging from the relative dearth of available scholarship on the topic locally, it strikes me as an event and a time period about which we still know relatively little. I believe the diverse variety of articles we present here will help shed light on this somewhat understudied time in Columbus area history.

Our opening article, by Rebecca Bush of the Columbus Museum, is a fascinating look at how local people supported the war effort which provides us with a timeline of important events in World War I Columbus and Phenix City heretofore missing from local historiography. The result of her intensive research for a special exhibit on view this spring at the Museum, the article makes a major contribution to our understanding of the war era. Next, retired Columbus State University professor Dr. Craig Lloyd offers a summary biography of Eugene Bullard, one of the most celebrated figures in all of Columbus history. Bullard grew up in Columbus and later won international fame as the world's first black combat aviator for his exploits in the skies of Europe during World War I as part of the French Foreign Legion. Lloyd's biographical sketch is drawn from his acclaimed book on this remarkable man, *Eugene Bullard: Black Expatriate in Jazz-Age Paris*. Following Lloyd's article is a contribution from Columbus State University archivist David Owings bringing to light a unique and little-known collection of war-time correspondence illuminating local support of international efforts to help French orphans. Owings' careful analysis of the letters reveals that they contain layers of information about life during the war on both sides of the Atlantic. Next, we include another article by independent historian Daniel Bellware addressing one of the most persistently misidentified images of Columbus during the World War I era. He tracks the fascinating, and largely forgotten, circumstances behind the creation of a photograph long credited as being part of a homecoming for the city's World War I veterans. We round out our articles with a timely list of tips and suggestions for researching World War I ancestors provided by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. In this issue we also feature our first installment of a new feature, "Focus on the Archives." This short piece will showcase the many intriguing acquisitions and exciting activities taking place at Columbus State University Archives. As always, we conclude with a review of a recent book significant to Columbus area history.

I hope you enjoy this special issue and encourage you to contact me at any time with your ideas for articles.

Mike Bunn, Editor
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"An Ultimate Higher Duty"

Patriotism and Service on the Columbus Home Front during World War I

By Rebecca Bush

The United States' entry into World War I on the side of the Allied Powers in April 1917 set off a flurry of activity across the country as citizens prepared themselves for war. In Columbus, Georgia, men rushed to enlist or register for the draft, while women led fundraising and first aid efforts at home to support those serving overseas. Men, women, and children of all ages, both white and African American, participated in home front efforts that showed how quickly the community could mobilize in time of war even before the presence of a large Army post.¹

Enlistment Efforts

On March 18, 1916, a U.S. Army recruiting station opened in Columbus. Reflecting increasing preparations for the possibility of war, even a full year before America officially entered the conflict, the Columbus recruiting station was staffed by an Army sergeant tasked with evaluating men who were interested in military service. After one year, 192 men had been accepted, an average of sixteen per month. These men, who came from many surrounding Georgia and Alabama cities as well as Columbus, met the legal age requirement (18), and were in good physical health, unmarried and without children. Without the immediate threat of war, 313 other white men had been rejected, most often for "extreme youth" or for being married.² This number also probably does not fully account for the African American men who tried to enlist, only to be informed that the United States was not currently accepting black recruits. A newspaper account from March of 1917 tells of one such encounter, using a derogatory term of the time: "Frank S. Benning, a large 'dinge,' revealed the fact that he was ready to fight, bleed and die for his country, by making application for enlistment, but by reason of the fact that he was not formerly attached to a colored regiment, and the further fact that at this time the government does not contemplate new negro regiments, he was refused."³

On March 23, 1917, four days after local headlines screamed that a "STATE OF WAR VIRTUALLY EXISTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GERMANY," Army Sergeant Charlie Walker reported, "For the past two weeks a marked interest has been displayed locally in the service and hardly a day has passed without one to five being examined for acceptance." Increasingly, this included boys as young as fifteen and

¹ Research for this article was compiled by Rebecca Bush, Curator of History/Exhibitions Manager, at The Columbus Museum in preparation for the temporary exhibition *From Flying Aces to Army Boots: World War I and the Chattahoochee Valley*, on view from March 15 to August 27, 2017.

² *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, April 1, 1917. Unless otherwise noted, all newspaper citations are from the *Enquirer-Sun*.

³ March 20, 1917.

sixteen, who could receive an age waiver with signed parental consent.⁴ Addresses published with the names of those enlisted reveal that these young recruits overwhelmingly came from mill villages and other working-class neighborhoods within Columbus, a trend mirrored across the country. Lacking easy access to higher education or social connections that might lead to work outside the mills, many of these men viewed military service as a chance to serve their country and seek glory and honor while seeing the world and serving with friends from home. In late March, the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun* reported that a Navy recruiting station might soon be opened in the area as men traveled to Montgomery, Alabama, to enlist.⁵ Such a station came into existence in the area in mid-April when a naval recruiter took over a desk in the Phenix City post office.⁶ Pointed newspaper and magazine editorials added to the growing clamor for men to enlist voluntarily, with one photo from a training station captioned: "Why didn't you raise your son to be a soldier just like one of these?"⁷

The day after the United States formally joined the war, a short article with the headline "Negro shows his patriotism but is disappointed" appeared in the *Enquirer-Sun*. An African American man named Roy Talbot, "appearing physically perfect, was visibly disappointed" when he was rejected for military service on the basis of his race. The anonymous reporter went on to note that "Talbot is only one of several negroes who have applied at the local recruiting station recently for army enlistment, and in the event the war department creates a negro division, it is believed that a large number can be secured from this city and section."⁸ This consistent expression of patriotism from Columbus' African American residents, even when it was not accepted, might explain why the announcement soon after that the Army would begin accepting black recruits warranted front-page news on April 11. Three days later, Sgt. Walker officially accepted the city's first African American applicant, Nick Nickens, who was accepted to join a cavalry regiment and sent to Fort McPherson near Atlanta for training.⁹ Only two combat units of African Americans (the 92nd and 93rd Infantry Divisions) were actually formed during the war, with those in the Navy and other Army units relegated to manual labor.

⁴ *Enquirer-Sun*, March 23, 1917.

⁵ March 26 and 27, 1917.

⁶ April 14, 1917.

⁷ March 19, 1917.

⁸ April 7, 1917.

⁹ April 14, 1917.



This photograph of an African American soldier in a World War I-era U.S. Army uniform was found in 2011 in the attic of a house in Midland, Georgia. Collection of The Columbus Museum, G.2011.51, Gift of Max Hutson.

In mid-May, to increase the ranks of America's relatively small military, Congress passed the Selective Service Act of 1917, which required all men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty to register for military service, regardless of race or where they were born. Some residents of the North Highlands area in Columbus opposed this mandatory registration, but when questioned, they stated that they would still enroll, despite their reservations. The Muscogee County board of registrars planned a county-wide registration event on June 5, envisioning patriotic gatherings with thirty-three tables set up at more than a dozen locations to register young men. Local women's clubs also joined in, making 2,000 arm bands of khaki-colored cloth to be pinned on the arms of those registering as a symbol of recognition. African American men would use the same stations but register at segregated tables staffed

by black teachers designated by William H. Spencer, who oversaw all of the city's African American schools. Business leaders volunteered their automobiles to be used by those who had registered themselves, as well as by men and women working at the registration tables, and placards denoting "At Your Service" were placed on each car. These vehicles were driven by "club women of the city and county," who worked seven-hour shifts from 7:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night.¹⁰ Members of the Musicians' Union of Columbus formed a band for the day, "as the music will add inspiration to the day's expression of patriotism and loyalty."¹¹ On the day of the event itself, members of the Columbus Guards demonstrated military maneuvers at the county courthouse and fired salutes with their Red Jacket cannon first used during the Civil War. Boy Scouts acted as messengers around the city and served Coca-Cola to those waiting in line.¹² When the final tallies arrived, 3,800 men had registered, with two-thirds registering before noon. These scenes of registration played out throughout the area. In Girard (present-day Phenix City), Alabama, clerks assigned birthdays "whenever necessary" to African Americans who did not know their precise date of birth.¹³

For the first time, the American military draft during World War I expressly forbade the use of paid substitutes. Throughout the nineteenth century, a wealthy man who was requested to appear for military service could pay another man to take his place, resulting in armies that were disproportionately filled by the middle and working classes. Though this seemed likely to be the case again with voluntary enlistment, the newly egalitarian draft soon caused society columns in newspapers across the country to shift from news of visiting relatives and engagement parties to countless amounts of ink devoted to news of local soldiers' promotions, visits home, and the collection efforts of women's clubs. The Columbus League of War Service, whose membership was comprised of "society women," proudly announced their intention to knit sweaters, wristlets, and head coverings known as helmets for 126 Columbus men who had been drafted.¹⁴ The *Enquirer-Sun's* society column of April 6, 1917, included space for Miss Anna Caroline Benning to publicly advise Red Cross members to use fourteen inches of khaki cloth to make small bags, "which will be very convenient and inconspicuous hanging from the belt of the soldiers' uniforms." Notably, these efforts were not necessarily directed toward specific loved ones, with women gathering and crafting goods for anonymous men of all social classes.

One group that became caught up in the uncertainty of the spring of 1917 was the Columbus Guards, a militia unit primarily composed of sons of the city's leading families. Absorbed into the Georgia National Guard as Company D, 2nd Regiment, the Guards had participated in a large federal effort to combat Mexican Revolution leader Pancho Villa's incursion into American territory. The unit, more than 100 strong, had left on June 24, 1916, to journey first to Macon's Camp Harris for training, and was then

¹⁰ *Enquirer-Sun*, June 3, 1917.

¹¹ June 4, 1917.

¹² June 5, 1917.

¹³ June 6, 1917.

¹⁴ February 8, 1918.

sent to the Mexican border on October 27. Stationed in El Paso, Texas, for nearly five months, Company D was finally due to return in March 1917 after numerous postponements. The city council proposed the purchase of "a handsome bronze medal" for each member of Company D, and civic leaders made breathless plans of a parade and "young ladies" of the town to meet the group at the train depot once the Guards were mustered out.¹⁵ A barbecue to be sponsored and attended by the city council, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, the Columbus chapter of the Red Cross, and the Camp Benning chapter of the United Confederate Veterans was nearly finalized when the Georgia National Guard's "muster out" orders were suspended in response to national events.¹⁶

A rather ingenious solution to this problem presented itself on April 3 when local businessman Frank U. Garrard officially requested that National Guardsmen be stationed in the city for "patrols at important industrial plants and the power plants of Columbus...The importance of power dams on the Chattahoochee [R]iver, railroad bridges and manufacturing plants of the city" was stressed in the correspondence.¹⁷ The Central of Georgia railroad, the Columbus Power Company, the Columbus Textile Association representing the city's mills, and other organizations all signed off on the request. Word arrived the following day that the Columbus Guards would finally return to Columbus, albeit still on active military duty to guard bridges, dams, and industrial plants. On April 5, sixty-five "sun-tanned and hardened" members of the Columbus Guards arrived to a crowd of 15,000 people, led by a brass band, and bottles of Columbus' own Chero-Cola. As the company marched down Twelfth Avenue from the train depot to its armory on Mott's Green near the intersection of First Avenue and Fifteenth Street, sidewalks were "practically impassable." The *Enquirer-Sun* reporter stressed in this article that a permanent camp would be established on Mott's Green for the duration of this patrol, and even though they had returned to their hometown, the men were still on duty and had to request leave to visit their houses.¹⁸ Soon a "nifty looking camp" sprang up with fourteen tents stretching from the foot of Fifteenth Street to behind the public library, less than ten feet from the riverbank.¹⁹ The city also requested units from nearby cities be stationed in Columbus for patrols, including groups from Albany, Americus, and Milledgeville. The last company had several transfers from Company D to make the minimum enrollment, meaning that more Columbus residents could have the chance to return to their hometown.²⁰ Across the Chattahoochee, an Opelika-based militia unit reached Phenix City for a similar National Guard assignment to guard bridges for the Central of Georgia. With most members' homes in the Phenix City and Columbus area, the company was happy to make its encampment at Summerville Hill after ten months of duty away.²¹ World

¹⁵ *Enquirer-Sun*, March 22, 1917.

¹⁶ March 27 and 28, 1917.

¹⁷ April 4, 1917.

¹⁸ April 6, 1917.

¹⁹ April 8, 1917.

²⁰ April 7, 1917.

²¹ April 8, 1917.

War I proved to be the final military engagement for the Columbus Guards, which dissolved its ranks as members joined active service in federal units. Temporary groups like the Columbus Liberty Guards and the Muscogee Home Guards took over these industrial guard duties for the remainder of the war.²²



Frank F. Hamburger was a member of the Columbus Guards who traveled to the Mexican border in 1916 and later served in the 42nd Infantry Division, known as the Rainbow Division, during World War I. Hamburger was part of Company B, 151st Machine Gun Battalion. Collection of The Columbus Museum, G.2007.29.3, Gift of Flournoy Hamburger, Jr.

Loyalty through Flags and Finances

Two weeks before the United States officially entered World War I, T. Hicks Fort of the Columbus city court spoke at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. Fort presented "a brief, yet highly interesting address on patriotism and our flag, in which he urged us all to cultivate patriotism and be ready to make sacrifices for the country."²³ Two days later an *Enquirer-Sun* editorial entitled "Unfurl the Flag Today" instructed readers that "[t]imes when true patriotism may be exhibited have arrived," and a shortage of

²² *Enquirer-Sun*, August 27 and 29, 1918.

²³ March 21, 1917.

American flags for purchase in Columbus was reported the next day.²⁴ With the winds of war reaching Columbus' doorstep, civic leaders made concerted efforts to rally the city around American service and entering the war on the side of the Allied Powers, led by the so-called Triple Entente of Great Britain, France, and Russia, against the Central Powers, led by Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Turkey.

One of the outward markers of patriotism encouraged by officials was prominent display of the Stars and Stripes. Nationally, the war created "unprecedented demand and [a] runaway market" for American flags, and displays of the flag at public buildings increased during this time as well.²⁵ Columbus school superintendent Roland B. Daniel purchased several for city schools, with the first one being raised at Tenth Street School on March 23, 1917. A few days later, Trinity Episcopal Church announced its intention to hoist the U.S. flag on its tower, and the choir began carrying an American flag during its procession at the beginning of services.²⁶ A Patriotic Prayer League also formed and met regularly at local churches.²⁷



Lena Ensley of Columbus, ca. 1918.
Ensley Family Photograph Collection (SMC 91), Columbus State University Archives.

²⁴ *Enquirer-Sun*, March 23 and 24, 1917.

²⁵ Marc Leepson, *Flag: An American Biography* (New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2007), 185.

²⁶ March 27, 1917.

²⁷ August 30, 1918.

Suspicion of outsiders, especially those of German or Austrian descent, fueled much of the fervor for these conspicuous displays of patriotism. In words similar to those printed across the country, the *Enquirer-Sun* editorial board acknowledged that it was natural for foreigners or those of foreign descent to have sympathies with their home country, "[b]ut as between the United States and any other country on the globe there should be no question concerning the feeling of any American, be he naturalized or native born. He is either American in his sympathies or he is not. He cannot take any middle ground."²⁸ In Talbotton, men created a makeshift militia for home defense while publicly asking all residents to be "on the alert for any expressions of disloyalty."²⁹ Even late in the war, when Columbus Power Company employees captured an alleged deserter near the Goat Rock power plant on the Chattahoochee, newspaper accounts made sure to specify that the man was "an illiterate foreigner, Austrian, in half-starved condition." The fact that the man had changed into civilian clothes except for his identification tags and military hat cord hidden in his clothes further contributed to an image of a shifty immigrant who would shirk his duty and attempt to hide in the woods rather than fight.³⁰

Other community organization efforts took a gentler, if still somewhat militaristic, tone. At the beginning of the war, the Columbus Chamber of Commerce organized a committee "to mobilize the resources, material and men of counties adjacent to the city...to properly guard and control our separate communities and to give such assistance to our glorious, general government as shall indicate to our president, the nation and the world that these communities will not choose the path of submission."³¹ A Committee on Public Safety soon formed and affiliated itself with the board of national defense, with the local executive board consisting of R.C. Jordan, H.M. Hardin, Frank U. Garrard, J.W. Woodruff, and T.F. Cook.³² The passage of a state compulsory work law for all able-bodied men between the ages of sixteen and fifty-five in 1918 led to the creation of a Muscogee County Self-Preservation Loyalty League to enforce the law, with the announcement noting that "possession of money or property [is] no defense."³³

Perhaps the most emphasized acts of patriotism during World War I came from Americans' pocketbooks, as citizens of all social classes were urged to purchase war bonds in denominations large and small to finance the war. Organizations like the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and War Work Community Service raised tens of thousands of dollars, with each community expected to fill a quota based on its population. Liberty Loan campaigns became vital fundraising efforts, with leading citizens drumming support for the purchase of federal war bonds and savings stamps. As the war continued, fundraising incentives became more creative. Cities that fulfilled their quota during the Third

²⁸ *Enquirer-Sun*, March 27, 1917.

²⁹ April 11, 1917.

³⁰ August 30, 1918.

³¹ April 4, 1917.

³² April 14, 1917.

³³ September 3 and October 2, 1918.

Liberty Loan campaign, including Columbus, received a specially designed Honor Flag.³⁴ During the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, locals booked special screenings of wartime propaganda films such as *The Kaiser Himself* and *Crashing Through to Berlin* to stimulate interest and enthusiasm for bond sales.³⁵ Though businessmen often led these fundraising efforts, women played key roles later in the war after proving their persuasiveness in earlier campaigns. Edith Kyle was named chairman of the war savings stamps effort in Muscogee County, taking over from J.S. Bleecker. Mrs. Rhodes Browne became a member of the Georgia state press committee for the Fourth Liberty Loan drive, and five Columbus women (Mrs. Minnie Flournoy, Mrs. J. Nunnally Johnson, Mrs. C.I. Groover, Mrs. Mamie Harris Burts and Mrs. J.A. Thomas) were appointed as statewide speakers in the United War Work campaign.³⁶ As with other expressions of patriotism, African Americans were expected to contribute while participating in segregated campaigns. In Columbus, Dr. M.L. Taylor organized patriotic rallies at the Beallwood Colored Baptist Church and the Dream Theatre on First Avenue, featuring addresses by respected teachers like S.R. Marshall and musical performances.³⁷ Black campaign leaders for the Fourth Liberty Loan organized a rare non-segregated parade featuring Rotarians, school children, mill and railroad workers, pastors of the First African Baptist and St. James AME churches, and the solicitor of city court.³⁸

The Red Cross in Columbus

With headlines urging that preparations at the national level were “not for a short war,” those on the home front throughout the country quickly formed and mobilized a stunning array of organizations to aid American soldiers overseas. Perhaps the most vibrant of these was the American Red Cross. Founded in 1881 by pioneering nurse Clara Barton, the American Red Cross supported the U.S. military during the Spanish-American War in 1898-99, but its greatest contribution in American towns was the introduction of first aid and water safety classes. Entry into World War I spurred the organization to a new level of growth and national reach, with the number of local chapters jumping from 107 in 1914 to 3,864 in 1918 and membership growing from 17,000 to more than twenty million adults in the same time period.³⁹ In Muscogee County, Red Cross efforts for the Great War began in earnest on March 23, 1917, at an “important” called meeting at the YMCA. The meeting announcement noted, “Since receiving instructions to place the society on a war basis and appointing the necessary committees, Red Cross affairs here have been status quo, but it is expected that an active program is to be adopted this afternoon and put into effect at once, in order that the country, in event of its need therefore, may have at Columbus a well-

³⁴ The Bradley Memorial Library Collection I (MC 47) at the Columbus State University Archives contains the city’s Honor Flag and certificate for this campaign.

³⁵ *Enquirer-Sun*, September 28 and 29, 1918.

³⁶ August 27, September 9, and November 9, 1918.

³⁷ September 30, 1918.

³⁸ October 11, 1918.

³⁹ “A Brief History of the American Red Cross,” <http://www.redcross.org/about-us/who-we-are/history>, accessed February 6, 2017.

established and organized branch of the society."⁴⁰ During the meeting, chapter president Mrs. John T. Fletcher stated that "it now appeared that the time for real action on the part of the Muscogee [C]ounty society had come," and attendees "discussed the situation that now confronts the American nation, and it was the opinion of these, as it is of the American people as a whole, that a state of preparedness should, if never before, exist now in every line subject to be drawn upon in case of an emergency such as a state of war would provide." Of the many goals the chapter committed to, increasing its membership rolls from the current roster of sixty-five to as many as 2,000 men and women took precedence. Numerous committees were established, including Membership, Finance, Garment and Surgical Supplies and Comfort Bags, First Aid, Cooperation with All Other Organizations, Red Cross Instructions, and Publicity.⁴¹ The chapter soon rented its own headquarters building for meetings and supply storage on Broad Street between Tenth and Eleventh streets.⁴² On May 15, female members of the Red Cross stationed themselves at every downtown street corner and movie theater, including the Dream Theatre frequented by African Americans, to ask passersby to join the organization for \$1.44 per year, with fifty cents of each membership staying in Columbus.⁴³ In January 1918, the adult membership drive ended with a total of 5,659, nearly tripling the chapter's initial goal nine months earlier.⁴⁴ In many Red Cross chapters, doctors took a leading role, as in Russell County where doctors from Seale, Pittsview, Hurtsboro, and Cottonton agreed to serve on a local Red Cross committee "subject to call in time of stress in Russell County or elsewhere."⁴⁵



Josephine Banks Dimon (right) and friends in Red Cross nurses' uniforms with ambulance, likely outside Columbus city hospital, ca. 1918. Courtesy of John and Lucy Sheftall from the collections of The Cedars.

⁴⁰ *Enquirer-Sun*, March 23, 1917.

⁴¹ March 25, 1917.

⁴² April 6, 1917.

⁴³ May 16, 1917.

⁴⁴ January 12, 1918.

⁴⁵ March 24, 1917. The doctors named to the group were R.B. McCann of Seale, W.T. Joiner of Pittsview, and F.T. Hendrick of Hurtsboro as active members, with R.F. Elrod of Cottonton and John Prather of Seale as ex-officio members.

Not to be outdone, Muscogee County schoolchildren soon had the opportunity to join the Junior Red Cross. This membership drive, led by Miss Helen Dudley, focused on schools, with each school aiming to raise twenty-five cents for each of its students, which qualified the school to become a Junior Red Cross auxiliary. Organizers planned a giant parade of schoolchildren in downtown Columbus once the membership goal of 3,000 students was met, which was reached and surpassed ten days after the campaign's kick-off.⁴⁶ By the day of the parade on February 14, 1918, the Muscogee County Junior Red Cross tallied 5,666 members and eleven of twenty-three schools had attained auxiliary status, with the remainder expected to hit the mark soon.⁴⁷ Students from kindergarten through 12th grade wore Red Cross badges on their arms or full Red Cross regalia and marched to the sounds of a band from Phenix City.⁴⁸ The Columbus Seminary earned the honor of leading the procession by enrolling the greatest number of new members in proportion to school enrollment, while East Highlands came second for turning in the greatest amount of money in one day, \$104.⁴⁹ Junior Red Cross auxiliaries conducted several supply drives, such as one in the fall of 1918 to collect 1,000 pounds of tinfoil.⁵⁰



Junior Red Cross parade in downtown Columbus, February 1918. Loretto Chappell Collection (MC 29), Columbus State University Archives.

⁴⁶ *Enquirer-Sun*, February 5, 1918.

⁴⁷ February 10 and 15, 1918.

⁴⁸ February 7, 1918.

⁴⁹ February 14, 1918.

⁵⁰ October 6, 1918.

Women's Work

Red Cross membership was open to both men and women, but Chattahoochee Valley women took it upon themselves to form several home front organizations, heeding the words of an editorial reprinted in the Columbus *Enquirer-Sun* from the *Macon Telegraph*: "This is not time for women to waste their time in the useless and frivolous things of life, for they have an ultimate higher duty to perform for their country."⁵¹ A group called the "First Aid to Injured Society" attracted a "large and enthusiastic body of women" and joined forces with the National Red Cross eleven days after its inception.⁵² The Girl's Friendly Society of Trinity Episcopal also organized its own first aid class to be taught by Dr. H. Stockes Munroe, before agreeing to join forces with the local Red Cross Chapter.⁵³ The Public Health Nurses Fund, created to bring public nurses to Columbus "to handle disease patients, to aid in proper fumigation, to instruct in the care of patients, to instruct on sanitary matters, etc." was lauded as both "patriotic and humanitarian."⁵⁴ A chapter of the National League for Woman's Service formed in Opelika, and the female employees of a local manufacturing company offered their services at the Army recruiting station as clerks and stenographers.⁵⁵ In August of 1918, Mrs. Thomas B. Sauls was lauded as the first Columbus resident "to make guns for Uncle Sam" when she worked in a Remington plant while visiting her sister in Chester, Pennsylvania.⁵⁶ Even in the war's closing months, the Columbus Woman's War Service Corps formed, ordered uniforms, and held regular drills for "patriotic young ladies."⁵⁷

Fitting with the traditional view that the creation and mending of textiles was feminine work, women organized most of the Chattahoochee Valley's knitting efforts and clothing drives. Red Cross members distributed official knitting and sewing patterns for gloves, bags, wristlets, and "helmets," woolen head coverings that soldiers could wear underneath their field helmets.⁵⁸ The national Red Cross office assigned quotas for clothing items to be sent overseas based on local chapters' membership levels. In August of 1918, the Columbus Red Cross sent 63,615 surgical dressings, 829 sweaters, 463 pairs of socks, and 683 hospital shirts to Europe.⁵⁹ The following month, the Muscogee County chapter's quota for a linen drive to benefit French hospitals consisted of 686 bath towels, 1,374 hand towels, 960 handkerchiefs, sixty-five napkins, and 309 sheets. Each item had to meet precise requirements for size and material; for example, bedsheets had to be made of heavy, unbleached muslin and measure 64" by 102" with a two inch hem at the bottom. Red Cross chapters on both sides of the Chattahoochee

⁵¹ *Enquirer-Sun*, March 25, 1917.

⁵² April 1 and 11, 1917.

⁵³ March 30, 1917.

⁵⁴ March 23, 1917.

⁵⁵ April 9 and 13, 1917.

⁵⁶ August 27, 1918.

⁵⁷ August 30, 1918.

⁵⁸ The Edith Kyle Crawford Collection (MC 73) at the Columbus State University Archives has a wealth of these patterns and instructions.

⁵⁹ August 27, 1918.

participated in clothing drives for Belgian and French refugees; in Columbus, members were expected to collect 1,128 pounds of clothing.⁶⁰

As the war wore on, demand for women to serve with the Red Cross near the battlefield increased. The Columbus chapter announced on October 3, 1918 that "[a]n urgent call for attractive women for service in France in canteen [cafeteria] and hospital hut service has been received by the American Red Cross." Columbus was expected to provide at least three applicants, with age requirements of 25-35 for women working in the canteen and 25-40 for women assisting in makeshift hospitals.⁶¹ Columbus nurses Kate Farries, Nell Rammage, and N. W. Few left for France after working at the city hospital, and Mary Slade was accepted for Red Cross motor corps service in the same country.⁶²

Though not common, scattered news items indicate that some women expressed interest in military service. The Army recruiting station in Columbus reported an inquiry by mail from a woman interested in enlisting. One anecdote from the *Enquirer-Sun*, reprinted here in its entirety, tells of an incident at the station in March 1917:

Obliging in every sense of the word at all times, it was the painful duty of Sergeant Chas. L. Walker, recruiting officer for the Columbus district to acquaint a duo of attractive young ladies who called at the recruiting station yesterday morning with the fact that Uncle Sam had not as yet issued a call for the feminine to flock to the colors of the infantry, although such an order had been issued from the navy department. The young ladies, whose names are withheld, were really seeking to enlist in the Red Cross society, one of them having had service as a nurse, while both were eager to give their services in staunching wounds and giving cheer to the "flower of the land" in the event of war. It was first explained to the applicants that they were in the wrong pew, and this brought on queries about the army and the Sarge was forced to relate the fact that he couldn't enlist them.⁶³

Victory gardens and food rationing, now associated with World War II in the American imagination, actually originated during the Great War. Propaganda posters encouraged women to "Can the Kaiser" by preserving and canning their own fruits and vegetables. This effort began early in the war, with the *Enquirer-Sun* summarizing the situation thusly: "Not only should there be a diversification of crops, but the intensive plan of farming should be adopted. We don't know what is going to happen. The situation may grow infinitely more serious than it is at present. But if it should not we shall all be that much better off if we have supplies of our own."⁶⁴ The Red Cross held frequent demonstrations and classes at its conservation kitchen, but it was not the only organization to join this effort. The Muscogee Equal Franchise League, a group committed to the cause of women's suffrage, expanded its mission to recognize the best kitchen gardens in the suburban neighborhoods of Wynnton, Bibb City, East

⁶⁰ *Enquirer-Sun*, September 22, 1918.

⁶¹ October 3, 1918.

⁶² August 27 and November 9, 1918.

⁶³ March 30, 1917.

⁶⁴ March 26, 1917.

Highlands, North Highlands, and Rose Hill. Led by president Mrs. Dozier Pou, the club offered \$20 in cash prizes with categories for high school student, grammar school student, private garden, and vacant lot "to further the interest in the production of food crops in Columbus."⁶⁵ City school superintendent Roland B. Daniel convinced businesses and individuals to donate vacant lots for one year so that children could grow vegetables to be used in their own homes or sold.⁶⁶ Citizens could produce their own food to ease some of the pain of food rationing, but daily industrial supplies proved more difficult to replace. An August 27, 1918 *Enquirer-Sun* editorial entitled "How to have coal" simultaneously acknowledged residents' frustration and chastised their slip-ups by noting, "The fuel administration has not been perfect. Have you?" The county fuel administrator frequently chastised merchant violators of "lightless nights," meant to conserve electricity, and citizens were encouraged to walk to church on Sundays to conserve gasoline.⁶⁷



"Can the Kaiser" patch. Courtesy of John and Lucy Sheftall, from the collections of The Cedars.

⁶⁵ *Enquirer-Sun*, April 10, 1917.

⁶⁶ April 14, 1917.

⁶⁷ September 3, 1918.

A Grand Jollification

As it became apparent that the war was nearing its end, Columbus Mayor D.L. Parmer called for a "Peace Jubilee" when the news arrived, encouraging residents to ring bells, blow whistles, and gather on the courthouse lawn. Officials especially invited the military band and other soldiers from Camp Benning, who had arrived in Columbus just a month earlier, to attend.⁶⁸ The announcement of the armistice signing on November 11, 1918, led the *Enquirer-Sun* to proclaim the "greatest day in [the] history of nations has dawned after four years of war," again reflecting the belief that this was truly a war to end all wars. A jubilant "jollification" ensued as the "entire city gave itself over to a day of joy and spontaneous merriment" with a "monster parade with flags waving, bands playing and people shouting."⁶⁹ In the following years, remembrance of the Great War continued in monumental form, as the city of Columbus built Memorial Stadium and Fort Benning constructed Doughboy Stadium, structures that functioned as both football venues and war memorials.

The "war to end all wars" proved to be only the first of many global conflicts in the twentieth century, and peace in Europe proved short-lived. However, Columbus' home front efforts reflected well on the city, distinguishing it as one that could mobilize large amounts of money and (wo)manpower quickly. After more than a year of lobbying by local business and political leaders, the welcome arrival of the Infantry School of Arms at the newly established Camp Benning a month before the war's end meant the community would now be supporting the military in new ways on a more permanent basis. Though the United States' four-year battle during World War II came to overshadow its twenty-month involvement in the First World War, 1917 and 1918 in Columbus and other American cities set the tone for what would become known as the American Century.

⁶⁸ *Enquirer-Sun*, November 10, 1918.

⁶⁹ November 12, 1918.

Columbus' Amazing Eugene Bullard, 1895-1961

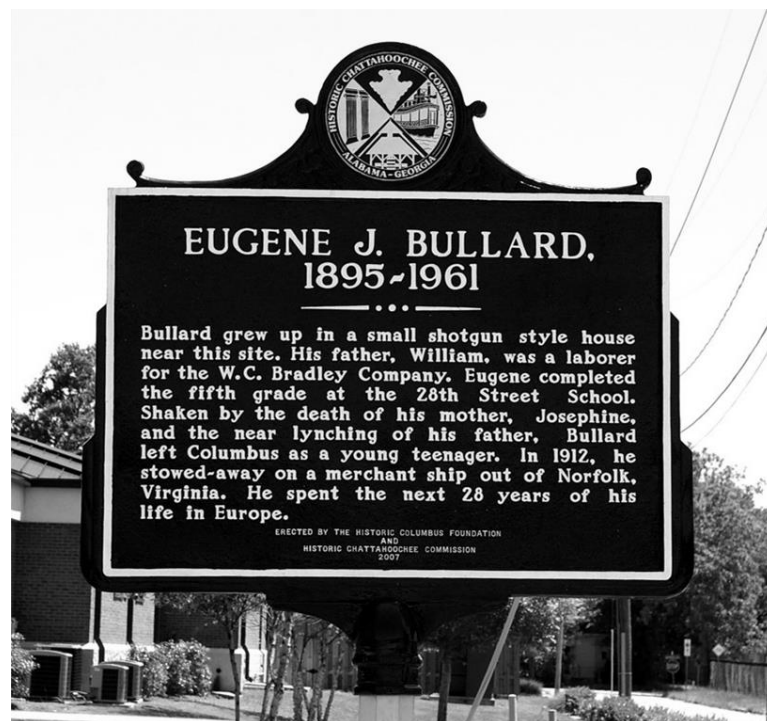
By Craig Lloyd

This article is based on Lloyd's book, *Eugene Bullard: Black Expatriate in Jazz Age Paris*, originally published by the University of Georgia Press in 2000 and reprinted in paperback in 2006.



Eugene Bullard. Courtesy of the United States Air Force.

Eugene Bullard, the world's first African American combat aviator, was the seventh child of William and Josephine Bullard, born in Columbus, Georgia, on October 3, 1895. He learned to read and write attending the segregated 28th Street School between 1902 and 1906. His father was a warehouse worker and stevedore for the W.C. Bradley Company who taught all his children to maintain their dignity in the face of the often vicious racism in the era in which they grew up. Bullard took this teaching to heart. Angry at William's retaliation against the physical abuse of a white foreman, a mob arrived at the door of his shotgun-style house on Talbotton Avenue planning to lynch him. Unable to gain entry, they rode off into the night. Local businessman W.C. Bradley saw that William found work out of town until the matter quieted down. As Josephine had died by this time, Bradley personally saw to it that the Bullard children were fed in William's absence. While always remembering the kindness of Bradley, the attempt on his father's life caused Eugene to run away from home at twelve years of age. He left out of fear but also in a spirit of adventure. Even as a pre-teen, he longed to see the world beyond Columbus.



Historic Chattahoochee Commission marker at the site of Bullard's Columbus home.

Young Bullard made his way to Atlanta where he met gypsies with whom he would travel the back roads of Georgia. He left them near Dawson, Georgia, where he began working for the Zack Turner family, tending to their horses as he had the gypsies' steeds. Friendly and extroverted, Eugene was invited by the Turners to live in their home. In horse races during a Terrell County fair, he rode a Turner horse to victory. Happy as he was with the Turners, the youthful vagabond left them and eventually

found his way to Norfolk, Virginia, where he stowed away on a German merchant ship, the *Marta Russ*, bound for Europe. By this time, he fully subscribed to the American success ethic, that through hard work and careful saving of earnings, he could get ahead in life. He had come to realize, however, that for an African American, these virtues did not apply in the United States.

When he came out of hiding in a life boat on the *Marta Russ*, the captain put him to work hauling cinders and ashes up out of the boiler room to the deck where he threw them overboard. In interacting with the crew, Bullard gained a rudimentary knowledge of the German language, something that would prove useful later in his life. When the ship reached Aberdeen, Scotland, the captain paid him five English pounds and sent him ashore. During the years, 1912-1914, Eugene made his way through Scotland and England earning money in a number of jobs. The most important of these were with Belle Davis' Pickaninnies, a vaudeville troupe, and as a boxer alongside of other African American pugilists. Both employments found him traveling to continental Europe. Coming to love Paris, he decided to stay there in early 1914. Quickly learning to speak French, he became a translator and facilitator for other American boxers there. In August 1914, World War I began. Germany invaded France and occupied the northeastern section of the country. Eugene decided to fight for his adopted land and joined the French Foreign Legion.

In the Foreign Legion and then with a French infantry regiment, Bullard experienced all the horrors of the combatants on the Western Front. Facing murderous artillery, machine gun fire, and poisonous gas, soldiers left their trenches attempting to move toward the enemy through the barbed wire of "no man's land." Tens of thousands died in a single day with survivors suffering grievous, disfiguring wounds. Many men were blown away leaving no trace and became therefore "unknown soldiers." In 1915, Bullard was lightly wounded several times and at the beginning of the Battle of Verdun in February 1916, a fragment of artillery shell opened a hole in his thigh. This wound knocked him out of ground combat. He was transported to a hospital in Lyons, France, where he convalesced for several months. In June 1916, the French government awarded him the prestigious Croix de Guerre for his bravery at Verdun. Upon leaving the hospital, he recuperated further in the home of a wealthy family in Lyons. There in the fall of 1916, he met an officer in the French air service. With the aid of this man, Bullard was able to begin flight training in the French Air Corps in late 1916. After learning to handle various biplanes of the era, he was certified to fly in May 1917.



Bullard in the uniform of the Foreign Legion. Courtesy of the United States Air Force.

Bullard with his Nieuport fighter plane in 1917.
Courtesy of the United States Air Force.



In the fall of 1917, Bullard began flying in a squadron of the Lafayette Flying Corps with other American pilots flying under French command. He shot down several enemy planes and once was shot down himself but luckily was able to land his plane safely. His engaging personality gained him friendships with remarkable people. In the Foreign Legion, he had become friends with Moise Kisling, a celebrated painter in Paris who had received wounds that had forced him out of combat. Bullard even temporarily resided at the artist's studio-apartment in the Montparnasse section of the French capital. On leaves from the Air Corps, he visited Parisian nightclubs in the company of his friend Jean Navarre, an acclaimed French combat aviator. In April 1917, the United States entered the war. American pilots in the Lafayette Flying Corps were readily accepted into the U. S. Air Force. Bullard applied for such service too but was rejected because he was black. An American expatriate doctor in Paris, Edmund Gros, had been in charge of the transfer of pilots from French to U. S. service. He now pressured the French government to remove Bullard from its Air Corps. Gros felt that if Bullard became widely known as a successful pilot, he would undermine the assumption of black inferiority underlying the American racial caste system. His presence would thus be demoralizing to the thousands of strictly segregated American soldiers then entering France. Badly needing American military support, the French complied and Eugene was sent to a remote infantry base far away from Paris.

At war's end Bullard returned to Paris, his characteristic exuberance undiminished. American jazz had entered France during the war and a number of nightclubs playing the music opened in Montmartre, a district in north central Paris. Bullard settled there and learned to play drums. He performed with a band at Zelli's, a famous bar and dance hall, becoming friends with other African American entertainers such as Josephine Baker, Ada Louise Smith, "Bricktop," and Langston Hughes, destined to be a celebrated poet. With the aid of French patriots for whom he was a war hero, Eugene opened his own club, Le Grand Duc, the first establishment in Montmartre licensed to remain open all night, from evening to dawn. There he became acquainted with customers such as Edward Windsor, the Prince of Wales, American movie stars Gloria Swanson and Edward D. Robinson, and dancers Fred and Adele Astaire. A close friend, Mistinguett, a French music hall star, often frequented Le Grand Duc. A major figure in the nightlife of Montmartre, Eugene earned a mention in Ernest Hemingway's 1929 novel, *The Sun Also Rises*. He was light years away from the impoverished youth growing up on dusty Talbotton Avenue.

In July 1923, Bullard married a Parisian woman, Marcelle Straumann, whom he had been dating for several years. After the wedding, Marcelle's father invited Straumann relatives and Bullard's acquaintances from military, boxing, and entertainment circles to a banquet at the famous Parisian restaurant, the Brasserie Universelle. The couple then spent a two-week honeymoon at the resort town of Biarritz near the border between France and Spain. Bullard and Marcelle had two daughters, Jacqueline and Josephine Lolita. The Bullards divorced in 1935. According to Eugene, the differences in their backgrounds had finally been too great to overcome. He gained custody of Jacqueline and Josephine, eleven and eight years old, then attending a convent school near Orleans, France.

By the late 1920s, Bullard had sold Le Grand Duc and opened an American-style bar, L'Escadrille, in the same neighborhood (The name in English meant "the squadron," a reference to his days as an aviator). Nearby, he also owned Bullard's Athletic Club, a gymnasium in which boxers could train for fights and others could exercise. While performing in Paris, American pianist Fats Waller and trumpeter Louis Armstrong patronized the gym, Armstrong becoming a lifelong friend. Eugene remained a facilitator for African American entertainers when they needed assistance. In 1928, when clarinetist Sidney Bechet fell afoul of French law, Bullard came to the rescue. According to Bechet:

"Eugene was a real man about Paris....He had no meanness in him. If someone needed help, he did more than any Salvation Army could; and what he wanted to do for himself, he could do in a smooth, smart way. He'd made himself the kind of man people had a need for. The cabarets, the clubs, the musicians--when there was some trouble they couldn't straighten by themselves, they called on Gene. He was a man you could count on."¹

In addition to income from his bar and gym, Bullard made money assembling his friends in the entertainment world to perform at parties in the homes of wealthy Parisians and American expatriates.



Bullard became close friends with noted American musician Louis Armstrong. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

¹ Sidney Bechet, *Treat it Gentle* (London: Twayne, 1960), 149.



Ca. 1925 postcard of street in Montmartre section of Paris. Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, fewer Americans frequented the clubs of Montmartre. Europeans continued as clientele among them Germans. Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party came to power in 1933 and with their military conquest of Poland in 1939, France and England, allied with the Poles, declared war on Germany. In the months before the declaration of war, people in French intelligence circles, knowing of Bullard's ability to understand the German language, asked him to listen in on conversations of German military men on leave in Paris. Bullard and scores of other intelligence agents reported that Hitler was preparing to attack France. The French government and its unprepared military were unable to benefit from this knowledge. In May and June, 1940, the German blitzkrieg conquered Paris and western France, leaving eastern France in the hands of a French puppet government headquartered in the town of Vichy.

When Bullard learned of the German invasion, he placed his daughters in the care of an associate in the intelligence network, and left Paris with other former combatants to try to stop the enemy east of the city. Swept aside, they retreated south and attempted, again unsuccessfully, to block German forces on the south bank of the Loire River near Orleans. There Bullard was struck in the back by a fragment of an artillery shell. The wound did not prevent him from walking and riding a bike alongside thousands of French civilians fleeing southward. German warplanes strafed the routes along which these people were trying to escape. Bullard did what he could to help people bury the dead and care for the wounded. Along with others, he assisted women forced to give birth in roadside ditches. Eventually, he was able to escape this nightmare into Spain and make his way to Lisbon, Portugal, where with seven hundred other refugees, he boarded a ship, the *Manhattan*, sent by the U.S. government to bring them to New York City.

In New York, he recuperated from his back wound in a hospital and then sought to bring his daughters out of Nazi-occupied Paris. In the late 1930s, his stature in Paris was such that he had become acquainted with the US. Ambassador to France, William C. Bullitt, before President Franklin D. Roosevelt had recalled Bullitt to Washington as an advisor. In the fall of 1940, Bullard took a train to the capital to gain Bullitt's assistance in bringing his daughters out of France. Bullitt promised he would take up their case. In January 1941, Eugene received telegrams from Secretary of State Cordell Hull assuring him that American officials still in Paris were issuing papers and advancing funds to transport his youngsters along the escape route that Eugene and so many others had taken from Paris to Lisbon. Later that month, Hull telegraphed the news that Jacqueline and Josephine were in Lisbon and ready to be repatriated on the passenger ship, the *Exeter*. On February 3, Bullard gathered them in his arms at the dock in Jersey City in New York harbor.



U.S. Ambassador to France William C. Bullitt helped bring Bullard's daughters out of France in 1941. Courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Bullard had settled in Harlem and, in spite of his bad back, was working loading ships during the war. In the postwar period, he sold French perfume in the New York City area. He became reacquainted with American racism. In 1942, he was told not to attend a dinner for French war veterans because "your extended sojourn abroad has perhaps made you forget that in the states white and coloreds don't mix at social functions." In Westchester County just north of Manhattan, he refused a bus driver's command to move to the back of the vehicle. A fist fight ensued, resulting in damage to his right eye. In 1949, racists in Peekskill, New York shut down a benefit concert by Paul Robeson, the famed African American singer and actor, on behalf of civil rights. The event was rescheduled and took place a week later. Again,

racists, now backed by law officers, gathered to insult people entering the concert grounds. Bullard was among them. When he turned to respond, a Westchester County sheriff's deputy and two New York state police troopers clubbed him to the ground. He calmly got up, dusted himself off, and went into the concert. Two New York newspapers published photos of his beating the next day. New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey refused to take action against the anti-Robeson rioters or the police.

In the early 1950s, Bullard went to Paris in an unsuccessful attempt to reopen a nightclub in Montmartre. Back in New York, he enjoyed the company of his daughters and their families. Richard, Jacqueline's son, remembered his grandfather as "a gentle, soft-spoken man" who "slept like a baby" when the two shared a bedroom. He also recalled visits to the home of "Uncle Louie" Armstrong on Long Island. Bullard was a translator for Armstrong on some of his overseas tours in the mid-1950s. Few people in New York knew of his military and commercial successes in France until 1959 when, as an elevator operator at Rockefeller Center, someone noticed the medals he wore on his working uniform. As a result, Dave Garroway, host of NBC's Today Show, had him appear on the program to discuss his exploits in France.

The French government never forgot Bullard. On Bastille Day, July 14, 1954, he was invited with all expenses paid to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier beneath the Arc de Triomphe. In October, 1959, authorities made him a member of the Legion of Honor, a governmental body dating back to Napoleon, recognizing distinguished military and civilian service to France. In a ceremony at the French consulate on 5th Avenue, Consul Raymond Laporte pinned the Legion of Honor medal on the lapel of Eugene's suit coat, the fifteenth decoration bestowed on him by France. In attendance were his daughters and many friends in New York's French community including actor Charles Boyer. In April, 1960, French President Charles De Gaulle visited New York and spoke at the Seventh Regiment Armory before a crowd of some 5,000 French locals and other invitees notable for their service to France. After his speech, De Gaulle recognized Bullard in his Legionnaire's uniform sitting at table near the podium. Remarking "here is a real French hero," De Gaulle gave him a warm embrace.

At the beginning of August, 1961, Eugene was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Experimental drugs and infusions of blood donated by friends failed to arrest the spread of the disease. He died on October 12 at Metropolitan Hospital. A frequent visitor to his ward, noting the grace with which he talked to friends in his painful final days, wrote: "He died as he had lived—just as game as hell." Attended by hundreds of his French friends and associates, a requiem mass was celebrated for him at St. Vincent de Paul Church in lower Manhattan. He is buried in a cemetery in Flushing, New York, in the borough of Queens.



Bullard in his later years, wearing the French Croix de Guerre on his shoulder.
Courtesy of the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall.

The Orphans of G. Gunby Jordan

By David M. Owings

World War I is often forgotten by Americans. It is easily overshadowed by larger conflicts in American history, such as the Civil War and World War II. In comparison to these momentous challenges faced by the United States, World War I was both shorter in length and lesser in intensity. American casualties were just over 100,000 due to the late entry of the U.S. and its limited involvement in the war. The nations of Europe, on the other hand, with over seventeen million deaths and over twenty million wounded, had never experienced a tragedy of this magnitude before. A whole generation had been taken away leaving many behind in grief. Beset by sorrow, nations came together in collective bereavement to honor the fallen and care for those who were left without husbands and fathers. Many Americans united with their allies in Europe and offered their support. One way Americans helped was by making financial gifts to international charities. An example of this can be seen in Columbus, Georgia, where the Jordan family supported French widows and their children. Evidence of their involvement survives in the G. Gunby Jordan Collection at the Columbus State University Archives.

In 1917, G. Gunby Jordan responded to an advertisement in *Life* magazine calling for American support of French orphans.¹ *Life* solicited and collected donations but was not the operating charity; it forwarded the funds to Paris via the Fatherless Children of France. Founded in 1915, this organization was originally part of the American Society for the Relief of French War Orphans. However, by 1918 it had been reorganized and merged with the *Fraternité Franco-Américaine*. Its mission was to provide funds to keep orphaned children at home with family instead of being sent to orphanages, and, as a secondary goal, to establish relationships between French and American families giving moral support and generating comradeship. Other organizations existed with similar purposes including *Caisse des Victimes du Devoir*, *Association d'aide aux veuves de militaires de la Grande Guerre*, *Assistance mutuelle des veuves de guerre*, and the *Oeuvre des bons-enfants*.² Collectively, these organizations distributed millions to war-torn France. The *Fraternité Franco-Américaine* alone gave over 150 million francs between 1916 and 1921.³ Activity declined after 1921, with only seventeen million francs given between 1921 and 1926.⁴ In 1927, the organization ceased operations and distributed its remaining funds totaling over three

¹ It must be noted that the contemporary usage of the word orphan by these organizations did not necessarily apply in the same sense as modern usage. It applied generally to fatherless children. This is true in the case of the Jordans as both French families they corresponded with consisted of a widow with several children.

² For more information on these organizations or the general support of widows and orphans in France see: Michael Lantier, "Women Alone: Widows in Third Republic France, 1870-1940" (doctoral dissertation, Simon Fraser University, 2004).

³ Lantier, "Women Alone: Widows in Third Republic France, 1870-1940," 121.

⁴ Ibid.

million dollars.⁵ The impact Americans made in postwar France was certainly considerable and Columbus' own G. Gunby Jordan ranked as an important part of this honorable cause. However, while the elder G. Gunby Jordan actually provided the funding, his grandchildren, George Gunby Jordan II and Ralph Curtis Jordan Jr., were the individuals who corresponded with the orphans in France.⁶

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· LIFE ·



PAULETTE TOPENOT,
BABY 1355



MAURICE DENIS,
BABY 1772



ULYSSE HUGUET,
BABY 1350



JEANNE TRONEL, BABY 1451, AND
HER BROTHER

For the Orphans of Our Ally



YVONNE DARGENT,
BABY 2200

IN a work of the magnitude which our Babies' Fund has attained and which involves much detail, it is only human that there should be occasional mistakes. We are happy to say that, so far, these have been almost negligible in number. To help continue the good record we would ask contributors, past and prospective, to read carefully the "plan" which appears below, so as to avoid any misunderstanding.

LIFE has received, in all, \$178,295.73, from which have been remitted to Paris 985,009.95 francs.

We gratefully acknowledge from

Mary Janet Plum, Rahway, N. J., for Baby No. 2365	\$73
Mrs. Chas. W. Bates, Ontario, Canada, for Baby No. 2367	73
Frances Anna Fedden, New York City, for Baby No. 2369	73
Frederick W. Ellis, Milwaukee, Wis., for Baby No. 2370	73
Ralph Curtis Jordan, Jr., Columbus, Ga., for Baby No. 2372	73
Anna J. Valentine and Caroline M. Valentine, Bellefonte, Pa., for Baby No. 2372	73
Clinton French War Orphan LIFE Circle, Clinton, Iowa, for Babies Nos. 2373 and 2374	146
Miss Dorothy D. Hitchings, Northampton, Mass., for Baby No. 2375	73
Boys of Cahuenga Tribe, Hollywood, Cal., through Messrs. Glass, Coverley, Parnell, Cameron, Beecher, Vorse, Larsen, Dent, Duncan and James, for Baby No. 2376	73
Marian Hallock Foote, Grass Valley, Cal., for Baby No. 2377	73
"In memory of Armand Pierret, killed in action, April 1915," for Baby No. 2378	73
"In memory of Charles Boucharde," for Baby No. 2379	73
The Sunday-School Class of the Methodist Church of Winnipeg, Canada, through Mrs. P. D. Harris, on account of Baby No. 2380	18.25
Carol Daube, Northampton, Mass., on account of Baby No. 2381	10

FOR BABY NUMBER 2361

Already acknowledged	\$47.56
"A. H. T., Syracuse, N. Y."	5

Lieut. John Philip Sousa, U. S. N.	5
Nelson P. Benney, Norwich, N. Y.	6
Sterling B. Hubbell, Shelton, Conn.	1
Mrs. Chas. W. Bates, Ontario, Canada	1
Mrs. Julian L. d'Este, Washington, Pa.	5
Proceeds of a musical concert given by Mme. W. Wells Durand at the First Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.	2.44

\$73

FOR BABY NUMBER 2368

Proceeds of a musical concert given by Mme. W. Wells Durand at the First Baptist Church, Tampa, Fla.	\$6.93
Bay View Club, Windber, Pa.	5
E. G. McGrane, Lewiston, Idaho	10
Private N. C. Nielsen, A. O. B. D. F., Detachment Division, Camp Dodge, Iowa	8
Axel T. Johnson, Belcourt, N. D.	5
Nancy, John and Ned Campbell, Harrisburg, Pa.	3
Boys of the Cahuenga Tribe, Hollywood, Cal., through Messrs. Glass, Coverley, Parnell, Cameron, Beecher, Vorse, Larsen, Dent, Duncan and James	7
Lancaster Presbyterian Church War Fund, Lancaster, N. Y.	10

\$54.93

THE PLAN OF THE FRENCH BABIES' FUND

A contribution of seventy-three dollars provides that for two years a destitute French child, orphaned by the war, will be kept with its mother or relatives instead of being sent to a public institution, where its chances of survival are less than in a family environment. During this critical period in the child's life its welfare is looked after and the funds disbursed by the *Fraternité Franco-Américaine*, an organization officered by eminent French men and women. The *Fraternité* has committees in every part of France, who keep in touch with the children and supervise details of management.

Contributions of less than seventy-three dollars are combined until they amount to the larger sum. To those who are unable to contribute the whole seventy-three dollars at one time a child will be assigned under a pledge to complete this amount.

As fast as received from the *Fraternité* the names and addresses of the children and their mothers, with other information, are communicated directly to the contributors for the care of each child.

The payments are made to the mothers in quarterly instalments. Contributors wishing to correspond with the mothers should address them as "Mme. Veuve" (surname of the child) "at the town and department given. A self-addressed envelope should be enclosed for reply.

Contributors will be notified at the expiration of the two years, and be given opportunity to continue the support, if they so desire.

The full amount of the funds received by LIFE is put into French exchange at the most favorable rate and remitted to the *Fraternité* with no deduction whatever for expenses. Under the present regulations of the American Red Cross LIFE is unable to forward packages to the children. Gifts of money we can remit with other funds.

Checks should be made payable to the order of LIFE Publishing Company. Owing to the large amount of detail work connected with the fund, contributions are acknowledged only through LIFE.

Article from *Life* magazine, March 7, 1918, concerning the French Orphans. Courtesy of Google Books.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Paulette Etienne to Little Friend, April 29, 1919. G. Gunby Jordan Collection, MC 12, Box 1, Folder 17, Columbus State University Archives. Unless otherwise noted, all letters cited are found in MC 12, Box 1, Folder 17, Columbus State University Archives.

For the Orphans of Our Ally



YVONNE DARGENT,
BABY 2200

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Frederick W. Ells, Milwaukee, Wis., for Baby No. 2370	73
Ralph Curtis Jordan, Jr., Columbus, Ga., for Baby No. 2371 ..	73

Detail of article above showing Ralph Curtis Jordan Jr. as a contributor. Courtesy of Google Books.

The Jordan collection contains an assemblage of correspondence between the Jordans and two French families. G. Gunby, II wrote to the Etienne family, mostly to the daughter Paulette, but occasionally to the mother, Marie, as well. Ralph Curtis, Jr. wrote to the Plandé family including the son, Denis, and the mother—who signed her name only as "Widow Plandé." Denis and Paulette each had a brother, named Paul, who both occasionally sent letters as well. There are also a few surviving letters to Ralph Curtis, Sr. and the "Godfather"—who must be G. Gunby Senior, since he provided the funding. The Etienne family lived in Dole in eastern France near Switzerland while the Plandé family lived in Vidouze in southern France near the Pyrennes mountain range.⁷

Over time, a relationship developed between the two families. In early 1917, their letters mostly consist of generic greetings and thank-you messages for sending money, especially the ones from the French families. By 1918, there are deeper conversations with descriptions of daily activities and living conditions such as Denis Plandé stating "If you were here at this moment, we would take a horseback ride and roll around on the grass. Just now it is very hot and they are bringing in wheat from the fields, and I look on from the shade. My brother Paul is now in school, so that I have to play alone and am boss

⁷ The French letters have been translated through the work of several individuals, most of whom remain anonymous. Some of the letters in the collection have been translated by Archives volunteer Véronique Lambilliotte.

of the whole business.”⁸ However, life was not all play, as Denis describes the troubles and worries of everyday life. “This frightful war causes everything to be sold at extremely high prices, and as we are one of those who by toiling scarcely gain our bread, Mamma economizes all she possibly can to keep up payments on a house which my poor father bought just before the war.”⁹ In addition to daily life, there is often broad commentary about the war such as “The Huns were badly whipped – Alsace and Lorraine have returned home again – the Kaiser is chopping wood and his rabbit faced son is fishing in Holland.”¹⁰ There is also a note from Paulette, “At last, dear little friend, we see this accursed war almost finished. What thanks we owe! Our hearts go out to the noble Americans, who so well rushed to the rescue of our dear France. Thanks to your aid we have seen that horde of barbarians leave our homeland. Their crimes have found their end, at last they will no longer massacre our women and children—but what blood already falls on their heads.”¹¹ Health is also a recurring theme. Many letters report on wellness with incidents of diphtheria, pneumonia, and bronchitis. The Spanish Flu that was sweeping the world at the time had affected all three families as well, with several letters commenting on how sickly different family members had been. Luckily, no deaths were ever reported in any of the letters.



Each family spoke often about sending and receiving photographs.
This New Year's greetings photo-postcard found in the collection, sent from Denis Plandé to Ralph Curtis Jordan, Jr., may show Plandé.

⁸ Denis Plandé to Ralph Curtis, July 29, 1918.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ G. Gunby II to Paulette, no date.

¹¹ Paulette to "Little Friend," December 25, 1918.

The letters written by the Jordan boys are perhaps the most interesting, as they are full of tales about life in Columbus. One letter recalls the Jordan family home burning and the construction of its replacement: "Our new home is going to be fire-proof this time. It will be larger and more convenient. Among the things we like is a rainy day nursery and gymnasium."¹² They also often talk about their goats, chickens, and calves, as well as other pets with regular updates such as this one: "My two little dogs are growing rapidly, and I get a great deal of amusement out of them. One of my friends presented me with a fine kitten the other day. She is not afraid of the dogs and they all play together. We have quite a lot of squirrels in our park. They are not afraid at all and I feed them."¹³ Gardening and horticultural pursuits are occasionally mentioned, especially peaches. G. Gunby II loved them, as he states, "The peach crop was particularly good and the quality and quantity are both extra – Our peaches are so good, I run down to my Grandfather's room every morning and have a large ripe one before I dress."¹⁴ They also talk about family trips, including one to New York with their grandfather, leaving one wondering if this was strictly a leisure vacation or if there was some business venture Gunby Sr. was pursuing.

By the 1920s, the program was ending and the letters became less frequent. There are letters from both the Etienne and the Plandé families acknowledging their notifications of the impending end. The Etienne letter was short and impersonal with its contents consisting mainly of a plea for continued funding. However, this is not surprising as the Etienne letters as a whole were never as expressive or intimate and there never seemed to be as much of a connection or relationship as that revealed in the correspondence with the Plandés. The Plandés responded to the program's end with a long and thoughtful letter in part stating, "We have recently received a card from the Society for the Relief of Fatherless Children giving notice of the termination of its work. Pray therefore accept, my dear and good Godfather, our most sincere thanks for all the benefits which we have received from you. I would request, however, if such be possible, the honor of still receiving news of you."¹⁵ Touchingly, rather than request continued funding, Denis only wanted to continue hearing news from his friends in America. Both families did receive subsequent funding from the Jordans, but it is not clear whether these were sent directly to the families or through a charitable organization. What is clear is the bonding and friendship that developed through a simple act of kindness that undoubtedly resonated through all of France. In addition to the remarkable stories these letters tell and the insights they reveal, there is a fascinating mystery surrounding them. Who were the ones writing them? Was it really the children?

¹² Ralph Curtis, Jr. to "Little Friend," no date.

¹³ Letter to Paulette, no date.

¹⁴ G. Gunby II to Paulette, no date.

¹⁵ Denis Plandé to "Godfather," December, 18, 1921. MC 12, Box 1, Folder 14, Columbus State University Archives.

Denis Plandé was born "six days before the declaration of war" meaning he would have been born on July 28, 1914.¹⁶ Paulette Etienne was born on November 4, 1916.¹⁷ Their brothers Paul Plandé and Paul Etienne were born in 1912 and 1914 respectively. As for the Jordan boys, according to the 1920 census, G. Gunby II was born in 1915 and Ralph Curtis Jr. was born in 1917.¹⁸ Due to their age it is impossible that any of these children wrote these letters, at least the earliest ones. It is also not likely that they dictated them either, as they are far too expressive and the language used is not what one would expect from a child. In most cases, they are flowing paragraphs that are grammatically correct with advanced vocabulary. One instance of this is from Paulette stating, "On this day, Christmas, how happy you must surely be, in mingling with your dear relatives, while I, poor little orphan, have only my distressed mother to load me with caresses. But I am still too young fully to comprehend my sorrow, in the loss of my poor papa... one must be resigned to one's fate. One cannot evade one's destiny."¹⁹ Children this young would have no understanding of what they could or could not comprehend, much less any concept of destiny. Furthermore, several letters discuss how small they are such as, "My mother asked me in what way I preferred using the money order. I am so little that I cannot know that it is of which I have the greatest need."²⁰ Others even include comments on attempts at walking for the first time. Obviously, if they are just learning to walk they would not be able to write or dictate.

There are two possibilities for who might be the real authors; either the parents or the charitable organization. It is unlikely that the charitable organization would forge these letters, so the most likely scenario is the parents, at least for the French families. Even though the letters are meant to represent the children, there are moments in the correspondence from the French families where the mother's voice seemingly bleeds through. There are mentions of difficulties caring for the children, expenses for food, as well as longings for kisses and caresses from the father (or husband as it might be). The most convincing evidence supporting the case for the mothers as authors comes from their handwriting. When comparing the letters from the mothers to those of the children, it becomes clear that it is indeed the mothers writing both sets of French letters. In addition to being neat and well-formed cursive rather than the messy scrawlings of an adolescent first learning to write, both sets are a near-perfect match. In the examples below, notice the general formation of letters, the way they set on the paper, the pressure of the pen and amount of ink used, but also in particular the words Paulette, Etienne, and Plandé. As hinted at previously though, while this is certainly the case in the early letters by the 1920s, there is a handwriting change, at least for the Plandé family, indicating that Paul and Denis were now writing their

¹⁶ Denis Plandé to Ralph Curtis Jordan, Jr., June 2, 1919.

¹⁷ Marie Etienne to G. Gunby Jordan, II, March 29, 1917.

¹⁸ 1920 United States Census.

¹⁹ Paulette Etienne to "Little Friend," December 25, 1918.

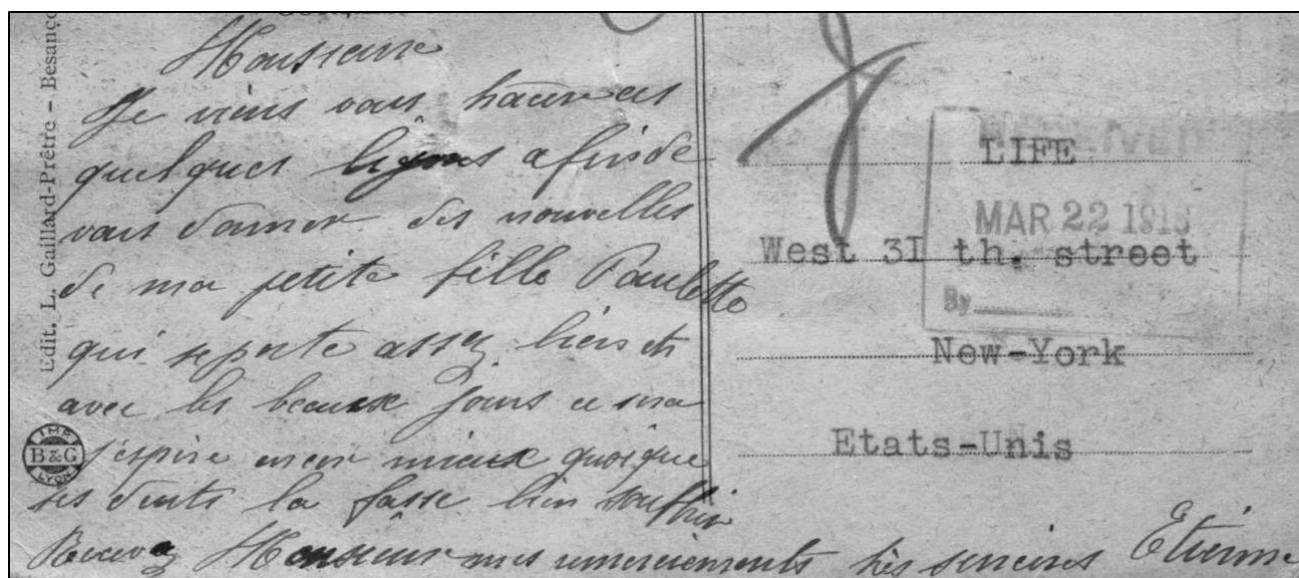
²⁰ Denis Plandé to Ralph Curtis, July 29, 1918.

own letters. There is no visible change in handwriting for the Etienne family. This again points to a deeper connection between the Jordans and Plandés.

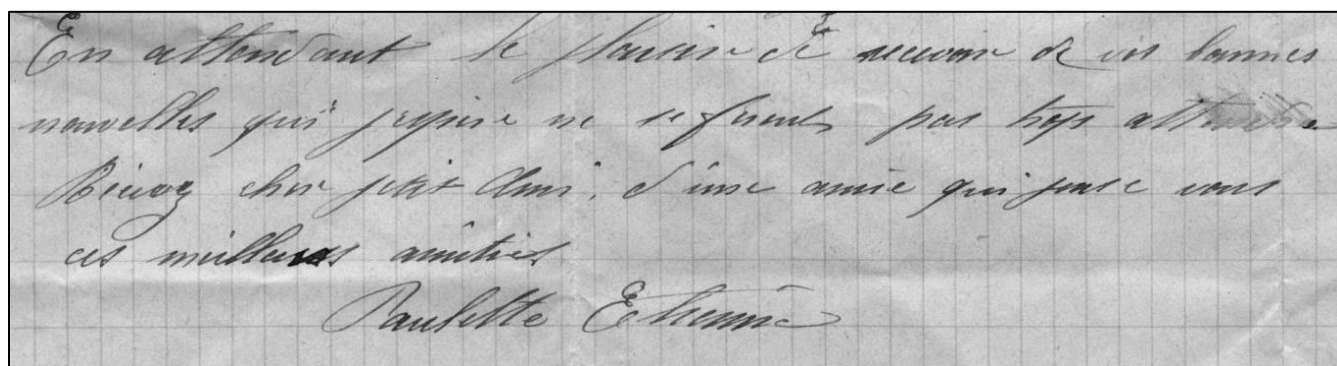
Jordan	G G	Head	1	4	M	W	73
_____	R C	Son			M	W	38
_____	Louise	Daughter in Law			F	W	37
_____	G Gunby	Grand son			M	W	4 $\frac{0}{12}$
_____	R Curtis	Grand son			M	W	2 $\frac{6}{12}$
_____	R M	Grand son			M	W	1 $\frac{5}{12}$
Williams	Kate	Housekeeper			F	W	68

Jordan, Gunby	Head	12	75,000	R	20	M	W	83
_____ Ralph C.	Son				✓	M	W	45
_____ Louise M	Daughter in Law				✓	F	W	40
_____ George G.	Gr. - son				✓	M	W	14
_____ Ralph P. Jr.	Gr. - son				✓	M	W	12
_____ Randolph M.	Gr. - son				✓	M	W	11
_____ Louise J.	Gr. - daughter				✓	F	W	9

1920 (above) and 1930 (below) United States Census excerpts showing the Jordan family. Note the ages of Ralph Curtis Jr. and G. Gunby II. Also note the error in Louise's age; according to the census, she managed to age only three years between 1920 and 1930.



Letter in the collection from Marie Etienne, the mother, to "Sir," May 15, 1917. Note the word "Paulette" near center of the postcard.

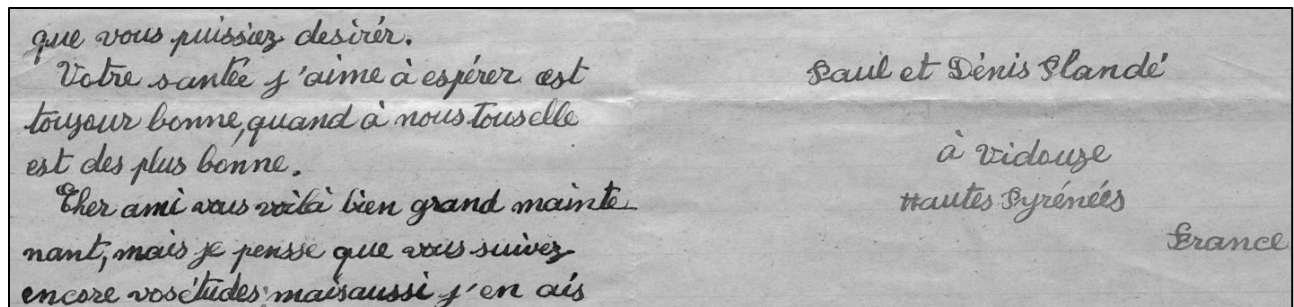


This letter found in the collection, from Paulette to "Little Friend," April 29, 1919, shows similarities to the mother's above.

remerciements d'auger agréer,
 Monsieur le Directeur
 l'hommage de mes
 sentiments reconnaissants.
 Ave Plandé a
 ViboURG H^{te} P^{er}

Examples taken from the collection comparing the widow Plandé's handwriting (above) to that of Denis' (below), taken from her letter to "Monsieur the Director," April 2, 1918.

en espérant que peut-
 être un jour, nous
 pourrons vous prouver
 par nos sentiments
 notre reconnaissance,
 Votre petit ami
 tout service.
 Denis Plandé
 ViboURG H^{te} P^{er}



Example of handwriting from the collection showing the change from the writing of Plandés, taken from a letter from Paul and Denis to "sir and Good Friend," December 15, 1922.

Authorship of the Jordan letters is harder to determine. It could have easily been a family member, a secretary, or some other assistant at the Jordan estate. Unfortunately, the surviving letters from the Jordans appear to be copies and not the originals, the originals of course being sent to France. Most are handwritten, with no visible changes in handwriting. Later letters are typed, so this change may indicate a new author with the boys now old enough to compose their own letters. Even though it may not be possible to determine the true author, as shown above based on their age, it is still unlikely much if any of the words were those of the Jordan children.

It may not be possible to prove who wrote the Jordan letters, but that does not diminish their importance. As a whole, this enthralling set of letters has many stories to tell, providing insights on international affairs and illuminating European society and culture as well as offering a unique lens through which to view Columbus' past. The Jordan letters give an intimate look at one of the most prominent Columbus families of all time. They touch on leisure activities, agriculture, architecture, and even hint at business acumen. Overall though, it is perhaps the heartwarming nature and the relationships that developed, ultimately culminating in years of friendship, that is the most captivating element of these letters. Through one family's generosity and emotional support, two widows and their children had it a little easier, during what was most likely the most challenging years of their lives.

Columbus Throws a Party – Homecoming 1915

By Daniel A. Bellware



Homecoming arch April 14-17, 1915. Courtesy of Columbus State University Archives.

The photograph above shows a Homecoming arch placed in the median of the 1100 block of Broad Street in front of Wheat Drug Company (1116) and Ed Cohen Clothiers (1114). The image is part of the Howard-Odom-LiFrange Collection and has resided at the Columbus State University Archives since 1989. Its description currently reads "World War I Homecoming" and additional detail indicates it as "Decorated buildings on Broadway, Columbus, Ga., with an Arch de Triumph and message 'Welcome Homecoming.' Greetings are meant for returning World War I veterans. (April 14-17, 1919)." Unfortunately, no record of an arch like this dating to 1919 exists. It appears that this photograph has been misidentified for decades. The arch actually matches one described in the April 4, 1915, edition of the *Columbus Ledger* as:

"On Broad street between Eleventh and Twelfth a large arch has been erected on which a number of the merchants have had signs placed. It is constructed in such a manner as to be attractive and when lighted up with the lights which are planned, will add much to the appearance of the street."

But, what is the purpose of the arch, if not to welcome home veterans of World War I?

Back in 1915 the business community of Columbus, represented by the Board of Trade and Chamber of Commerce, threw a massive multi-day, city-wide party. Their aim was to kick-start the local economy by bringing back anyone who had ever been associated with the city. They invited everyone "home" to participate in the festivities.

It began on July 15, 1914 when the directors of the Board of Trade met and adopted resolutions to throw the bash from August 24 to the 29. This was to be preceded by a "Brightening-Up Week" to prepare the town for all of its intended visitors. Both would be in conjunction with a Woodman of the World encampment that was to take place at the same time.¹ The Board of Trade hoped to piggyback on the arrangements already made for the encampment which included half-priced railroad fares for attendees from the states of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama and a week-long program of entertainment. Executives from the state Chamber of Commerce were invited to Columbus and locals planned to decorate the city in the colors of the Woodmen and with enough lights installed in the downtown trees to provide "little perceptible difference between night and day."² The tab for all of this was to be picked up by the local businesses.

Organizers encountered a few problems getting the party started, however. The mayor issued a proclamation in August.³ Citizens were at that time urged to invite their relatives.⁴ In the meantime, the Woodmen of the World came and went. The Chamber of Commerce continued pushing for the event, though. They even upped the ante, saying that Columbus needed five such annual events to attract more out-of-towners. The party was rescheduled for the first three days of December 1914 with the name "Homecoming Day."⁵

By mid-November, the event had been postponed and rescheduled for the spring of 1915, specifically February 10 to 13.⁶ The new plan would draw visitors en route to New Orleans for Mardi Gras.⁷ Unfortunately, that timetable fell through as well. By the end of 1914 the party had been pushed to the following April 14, 15, 16, and 17.⁸

After so many false starts, the planning for the celebration was ready to begin in earnest. One of the first manifestations of the event was a large arch erected between Eleventh and Twelfth streets that included advertisements for local businesses.⁹ The newly organized Columbus Historical

¹ *Columbus Daily Enquirer*, July 16, 1914, 10.

² *Columbus Enquirer*, July 21, 1914, 10.

³ "Mayor Issues Proclamation," *Columbus Ledger*, August 11, 1914, 8.

⁴ *Columbus Enquirer*, August 11, 1914, 10.

⁵ *Columbus Enquirer*, October 28, 1914, 8.

⁶ *Columbus Enquirer*, November 18, 1914, 5.

⁷ *Columbus Enquirer*, December 4, 1914.

⁸ *Columbus Enquirer*, December 30, 1914, 6.

⁹ *Columbus Ledger*, April 4, 1915, 3.

Society took a leading role in getting the event off the ground. It was more than coincidence that the Homecoming would take place during the fiftieth anniversary of the so-called "Last Battle of the Civil War." The Historical Society and its members had been advocating for national recognition of the last major military engagement of the Civil War, which took place in the city on April 16, 1865. The use of the word "battle" proved to be problematic for decades to come, but that's another story.¹⁰ An indication of the extent of the Historical Society's influence is found in the request by the Homecoming committee chairman's request of Lucius H. Chappell, president of the society and former mayor of Columbus. The executive committee chairman asked him "just what he expected for his day of the celebration and how much it would cost." Chappell planned for every department of the city to be represented in the parade, led by a band and the Columbus Guards. He suggested that school children be asked to join in and for there to be floats from every organization from the Shriners to the Women's Christian Temperance Union. He also envisioned a mounted troupe of ladies and gentlemen representing the flags of different nations, the original thirteen states and various different American flags. All of this, he said, would be without cost to the Chamber.¹¹

The organization for the Homecoming event consisted of three committees: executive, finance and "fun makers." The executive committee included James M. Crawford, chairman, Will Beach, William A. Patton, James Johnson, William D. Fraser, Dr. Frank Louis Rosenthal, John T. Davis, Frank. J. Dudley, Henry I. Struppa, and Robert E. Bize. The Finance committee consisted of a Dr. Rosenthal, James Crawford, Richard P. Spencer, Sr. William D. Fraser, Howard Bickerstaff, Leo Loewenherz, Albert F. Kunze, James C. Alexander and James Johnson. The "Fun Makers" consisted of John A. Betjeman as chairman with Roy W. Swope, Charles J. Meredith, Robert M. Stanley, Frank D. Foley, Edgar Chancellor, Howell Hollis, Reynolds M. Harding, George Woodruff, William A. Patton, Ocie Cook, Lemuel Hill, Cary Thompson, and John S. Bleecker.¹²



Front page of the *Enquirer-Sun* during the Homecoming event.

¹⁰ Daniel Bellware, "How Columbus Lost the Last Battle of the Civil War," *Muscogiana*, Spring 2015, Vol. 26, No.1, 30.

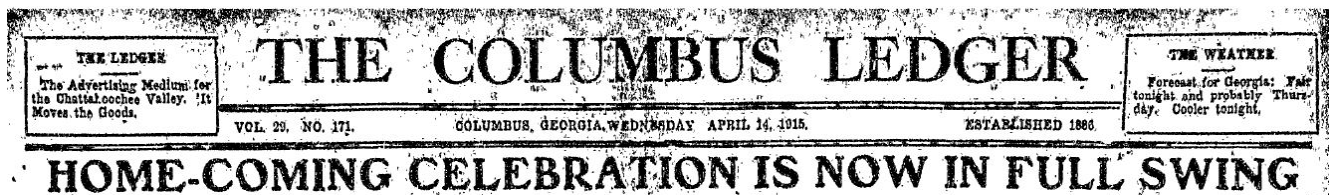
¹¹ *Columbus Enquirer*, February 23, 1915, 5.

¹² *Ibid.*

Dr. Rosenthal, a local rabbi, was put in charge of an event called the "baby parade." While he was a very active member of the community, not only as rabbi at Temple B'Nai Israel but also within the Board of Trade and other civic endeavors, he seems an odd pick to oversee the event involving babies. He and his wife Tillie had remained childless throughout their marriage. In the end, the winning baby was Jane Kaufman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Simon M. Kaufman. Somehow her achievement was overlooked and the announcement was not made until after Homecoming was over.¹³

An interesting headline found among the announced plans for the event declared "NO 'MASHING' TO BE ALLOWED." The story went on to explain that the police commission had put a ban on sticks, whips, talcum powder, perfume throwing and mashing. They wanted to avoid personal injuries from the sticks and whips and property damage from perfume and talcum powder. The story explained that "as to 'mashing,' it does not mean that a man has to keep his eyes glued to the front, but it does mean that the proper respect must be paid to all of the gentle sex."¹⁴

With talcum powder and sticks out of the equation, some other form of entertainment was required. The task of finding it fell to John Betjeman and his Fun Makers Committee. Their goal of tomfoolery became apparent when the committee warned that they might need more than twenty four hours in a day, they might arrest the mayor, and they might do the opposite of what is announced.¹⁵



On opening day, the headlines in the *Enquirer* and *Ledger* proclaimed a welcome to all visitors. But the true nature of the party was obvious. Tucked away at the bottom of the front page story were instructions for all participants:

"To help Home-Coming committees swell the financial purse, buy a button and sell one to somebody else; buy a ticket to the society circus, also one for your friends; buy also, lots of confetti, as a bet has been made that this commodity will bring forth much coin; patronize the movies of Columbus and help bring a little coin to the chamber of commerce. Always try to send a little money where it will do the most good, for the Home-Coming committee responsible for the occasion."¹⁶

¹³ *Columbus Enquirer*, April 18, 1915, 5.

¹⁴ *Columbus Ledger*, April 9, 1915, 8.

¹⁵ *Columbus Ledger*, March 8, 1915, 8; *Columbus Ledger*, March 1, 1915, 5; *Columbus Enquirer*, March 10, 1915, 6.

¹⁶ *Columbus Enquirer*, April 14, 1915, 1.

Commerce was the order of the day. The Homecoming Queen was to be chosen by votes costing a penny a piece. The candidates were issued stacks of twenty-five, fifty, and 100 ballots which they then sold to the general citizenry.¹⁷ Organizers set up ballot boxes at various locations around town for collection on Saturdays for counting afterwards. Anyone buying \$1.00 worth of ballots was entitled to a Homecoming button. In the end the winning candidate proved to be none other than Ophelia Davis, the daughter of Chamber of Commerce president John T. Davis. She received her crown Friday morning from G. Gunby Jordan, and was attended by fourteen maids—the runners up in the vote-buying scheme. The queen's ball followed that night at the Hotel Ralston.¹⁸

During Home-Coming Week
The same prices which prevailed during our recent
"First Sale in Thirty Years" will again be in force
This is for Home-Coming Week Only
We have decided to do this mainly because many out-of-town people have expressed themselves as having been unable to take advantage at the time set for the previous "Sale."
We Keep Faith with the Public before---We will Keep Faith with the Public now
We have been receiving Shoes and Slippers daily to replenish our stock---and during the present week every single pair of them will be placed on sale at
FACTORY COST and LESS
This is enuf said, as the public knows we do what we advertise
To insure choice in selection we would earnestly suggest immediate inspection as these Shoes cannot last long at these prices

OUR SCALE OF PRICES					
\$6.50 Oxfords now \$4.95	\$5.00 Oxfords now \$3.75	\$4.50 Oxfords now \$3.10	\$4.00 Oxfords now \$2.90	\$3.50 Oxfords now \$2.35	\$3.00 Oxfords now \$1.90
					\$2.50 Oxfords now \$1.75

—GARRETT SHOE STORE—

**A Cordial Invitation to All During
Home-Coming Week to Visit
CASTELLAW-PERKINS CO.**

Make Our Store Your Headquarters
**All the Newest Models in Everything
Ready-to-Wear for Ladies and Misses**

New Suits, New Dresses, New Skirts, New Blouses, New Coats, New Neck-
wear, New Hosiery, New Rain Coats, the Latest Novelties in Belts and Girdles.
NEW GARMENTS ARRIVING VIA EVERY EXPRESS
Meet Your Friends this Week at

Castellaw-Perkins Co.
8 Twelfth Street Phone 1817

Advertisements from the *Enquirer*, April 11, 1915

¹⁷ *Columbus Ledger*, March 9, 1915, 5.

¹⁸ *Columbus Enquirer*, April 17, 1915, 1.

In keeping with the commercial aspect of the event, special advertisements tied to the homecoming can be found throughout the newspapers published before and during Homecoming. They ranged from simply noting the Homecoming to a rather strange offer by Justice Henry Gammon to perform marriages free of charge until Sunday, April 18.¹⁹ A review of the marriages that took place between April 15-18 shows that of the eleven marriages recorded during that time, only one was performed by Justice Gammon. He joined John Bean and Vella Boon in matrimony on April 17, presumably at no expense.

Street dancing was a major part of the festivities. It was to take place daily, and as the name implies, outdoors, in addition to the more formal dances and balls planned for the Ralston Hotel. Merchants vied for the chance to have the dances take place on their blocks by offering to sponsor the events. One unnamed merchant was keen to have one of the dances between 12th and 13th Streets and was willing to put \$50 up for the privilege.²⁰

Along with commerce, politics found its way into the party. Some of the most prominent men of the day were invited to speak at the festivities. The Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce invited every governor of the United States! Apparently, the request for a state flag accompanied each invitation to help defer the cost of procuring them. Eighteen responded with regrets but wished the city great success and four more had their secretaries write notes.²¹ North Dakota's governor was glad to send a flag but the New Hampshire and Michigan governors were not able to do the same. The governor of Wisconsin had his letter published in its entirety, though he was not able to attend either.²² Georgia's governor, John M. Slaton, did attend, as well as William C. Adamson, who represented Columbus in Congress. Both addressed the crowd at the opening ceremony. Congressman Adamson also gave a speech entitled "The Star of Bethlehem" at the First Baptist Church. Senator T. W. Hardwick also spoke on Thursday at the Springer Opera House on the topic of the Ship Purchase bill and Congressman T. J. Heflin gave an address at the courthouse on Friday. The Equal Franchise League of Muscogee County, an organization promoting women's voting rights, proved popular, at least as far as their float was concerned. They not only won the silver loving cup for their entry in the Civic Parade, they were asked to ride in the floral parade and won that cup as well. Feeling it was unfair to win in a parade they didn't intend to enter, they requested the cup for the floral parade go to the runner up.²³

¹⁹ *Columbus Enquirer*, April 15, 1915, 6.

²⁰ *Columbus Ledger*, March 8, 1915, 8.

²¹ *Columbus Ledger*, March 22, 1915, 5.

²² *Columbus Ledger*, March 23, 1915, 6.

²³ *Columbus Ledger*, April 18, 1915, 8.

Official Program Columbus Home-Coming

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14.

- 12:00 noon—Public reception to visitors at courthouse grounds. Addresses by Governor John M. Slaton, Congressman Wm. C. Adamson, Mayor John C. Cook, President John T. Davis.
 2:00 P. M.—Baby parade, Broad street.
 4:00 P. M.—Field events on Broad Street.
 5:00 to 7:00 P. M.—Tea-dansant Hotel Ralston.
 8:00 P. M.—Address, "Star of Bethlehem," by Congressman Wm. C. Adamson at First Baptist church.
 8:00 P. M.—Minstrel on Broad street.
 9:00 P. M.—Dancing on Broad street.
 Columbus motion pictures at Springer opera house, and Dixie Pigeon show in Murrah building all day.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15.

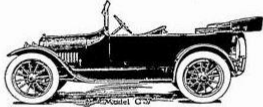
- 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M.—Conference of farmers and business men at courthouse under direction of Georgia Chamber of Commerce.
 12:15 P. M.—Address by Senator T. W. Hardwick at Springer opera house on the Ship Purchase bill.
 3:30 P. M.—Baseball at Driving park.
 5:00 to 7:00 P. M.—Tea-dansant, Hotel Ralston.
 8:00 P. M.—Society Circus, Springer opera house. (Admission 25c, 50c, 75c.)
 8:00 P. M.—Minstrel on Broad street.
 9:00 P. M.—Dancing on Broad street.
 Dixie Pigeon show, Murrah building, all day.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16.

- 11:00 A. M.—Civic pageant. Celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the last battle of the war between the States.
 11:30 A. M.—Crowning of Queen at arch on Broad street.
 2:00 P. M.—Address by Congressman T. J. Heflin at courthouse.
 3:30 P. M.—Baseball at Driving park.
 5:00 to 7:00 P. M.—Tea-dansant at Hotel Ralston.
 7:45 P. M.—D. O. K. K. Parade on Broad street.
 8:00 P. M.—Minstrel on Broad street.
 9:00 P. M.—Dancing on Broad street.
 9:00 P. M.—Queen's ball at Hotel Ralston. (Admission \$1.00.)
 Motion pictures of Columbus, Springer opera house and Dixie Pigeon show in Murrah building, all day.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17.

- 11:00 A. M.—Floral parade.
 3:30 P. M.—Baseball at Driving park.
 5:00 to 7:00 P. M.—Tea-dansant at Hotel Ralston.
 8:00 P. M.—Minstrel on Broad street.
 9:00 P. M.—Dancing on Broad street.
 Columbus motion pictures at Springer opera house and Dixie Pigeon show, Murrah building, all day.

<p>LET McCOLLUM PHOTOGRAPH YOUR BABY In Its Decorated Carriage YOUR AUTOMOBILE. Decorated for the Parade YOUR FAMILY GROUP AT HOME You All May Never be Together Again. This is the Time and You Will Always be Glad, and Treasure a McCollum Print. PHONE FOR AN ENGAGEMENT McCollum's Studio PHONE 424</p>	<p>BUICK DODGE</p> <p>GEORGIA AUTOMOBILE EXCHANGE "High Grade Motor Vehicles and Their Accessories" Thirteenth Street at First Avenue Columbus, Georgia</p>  <p>During "Home-Coming" Don't Forget to Investigate the Latest Models in the BUICK and DODGE. Make Our Salesroom Your Headquarters.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="760 552 933 619"> TIRE DEPARTMENT We carry the tire you want in stock at the price you want to pay. </td> <td data-bbox="966 552 1161 619"> SERVICE To the Automobile Owner <small>We are members of the Chamber of Commerce.</small> </td> <td data-bbox="1193 552 1367 619"> Gasoline Filling Station Free Air Repair Department Vulcanizing </td> </tr> </table>	TIRE DEPARTMENT We carry the tire you want in stock at the price you want to pay.	SERVICE To the Automobile Owner <small>We are members of the Chamber of Commerce.</small>	Gasoline Filling Station Free Air Repair Department Vulcanizing
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Advertisements in the *Columbus Enquirer*, April 15, 1915 and April 11, 1915.

The parades were some of the biggest events staged during the week. The Civic Parade took place on April 16, the day set aside for the Historical Society. The Fun Makers entry in the parade lampooned a recent request made of the city council by the Historical Society. The Society had asked for permission to take over an island in the Chattahoochee River opposite the library to erect a monument to the last battle of the Civil War. The Fun Maker's float consisted of a monument chained to the bottom of a river marked "Bound for a Watery Grave."²⁴ Other entrants included the Dixie Ship of Peace and the float of the United Daughters of the Confederacy that had the Red Jacket cannon with the ladies following behind in cars. One entry entitled "The Tenth Street Crossing, Hell's Half Acre," a float showing the dangerous crossing of railroad tracks at Tenth Street. It was accompanied by another following behind with a model of how the crossing should be altered by a viaduct passing over the track keeping people and street cars safely out of harm's way. The sign on this float read "This looks good to me, but I can't get it – Mayor Cook."²⁵ As mentioned, the parade also included a car decorated by the Equal Franchise League that won top prize.

In addition to the Civic Parade, the Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce also teamed up to produce the film *The Spirit of Columbus 1865-1915*. They planned to show the film during the festivities. It is believed to be the first film ever shot in the city. While meant to showcase the city of Columbus and all the commercial opportunities it had to offer, the movie featured a love story in the plot and also included a re-enactment of the last major military engagement of the Civil War in flashbacks.²⁶ Locals made up the entirety of the cast, with hundreds of Columbus citizens appearing in the film. The film was shown daily throughout the Homecoming at the Springer Opera House except Thursday when it hosted the Society Circus.

²⁴ *Columbus Enquirer*, April 17, 1915, 1.

²⁵ *Columbus Ledger*, April 16, 1915, 1.

²⁶ Daniel Bellware, "Movie Makers Come to Columbus," *Muscogiana*, Spring 2016, Vol. 27, No. 1, 1.

The Society Circus was an annual event put on by the YMCA that included music, dance and acrobatics. The 1915 rendition included vocal selections by a Mrs. A. Strauss and the Misses Tewksbury and Mildred Willis and an instrumental piece by Miss Mary Pickett. The pupils of the Chase Conservatory of Music performed a piece on piano. Miss Mary Slade gave a demonstration of the latest dance steps while her students executed several beautiful dance numbers. The acrobatic portion of the show included routines on the horizontal bars among other performances. The show closed with a bass solo by Wyatt Chapman and a series of routines by nine members of the YMCA.

Other events during Homecoming included afternoon dances, athletic contests, baseball, minstrel shows, street dancing, and a pigeon show. The afternoon dances or "tea dansants" were held each evening from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the Ralston Hotel. The events held on Wednesday included several "athletic" field events with prizes donated by local businesses. Some of the fifteen events were more athletic than others. Along with the shot put, standing broad jump and fifty-yard dash, contests were staged recognizing the ugliest man, thinnest man, and most red-headed girl.²⁷ Baseball games were played at Driving Park south of downtown at 3:30 every afternoon from Thursday through Saturday. The games pitted a team from the Columbus YMCA and the "outlaw" team from Auburn College, as it was known at the time. The Auburn team consisted of men from the school and town of Auburn ineligible to play for the college team, including professionals and semi-professionals.²⁸ The minstrel shows took place on Broad Street every evening at 8:00 and followed by street dancing on Broad at 9:00. Some of the street dancing was filmed by film companies Pathé and Mutual Weeklies to be shown in movie theaters around the country in the newsreels of the following weeks.²⁹ The Dixie Pigeon Show operated all day every day at the Murrah Building on the corner of 12th Street and 1st Avenue. The pigeon show included over four hundred entrants and proved to be tremendously popular.³⁰

The Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan (also known as the DOKK or dokeys), a subgroup of the Knights of Pythias, held their parade on Friday night. It was marked by red lights, fancy costumes, and headed by a brass band.³¹ The Floral Parade occurred on Saturday and served as the closing feature of the Homecoming festival. It included at least fifty artistically decorated automobiles and floats and perhaps twenty motorcycles and bicycles. The floats included efforts by the Chero-Cola Company, Columbus Auto Company, the Studebaker Agency, and the Atlantic Ice and Coal Company. The entrants spared no expense in their submissions. The winning entry of the Equal Franchise League was decorated by J. F. Gastoff of Danville Illinois, said to be "a leader in this kind of work."³² One of the most beautiful floats was the Dixie Ship of Peace, placed in both the Civic and Floral parades by Miss Minnie

²⁷ *Columbus Ledger*, April 15, 1915, 8.

²⁸ *Columbus Enquirer*, April 15, 1915, 1.

²⁹ *Columbus Ledger*, April 18, 1915, 1.

³⁰ *Columbus Ledger*, April 12, 1915, 1.

³¹ *Columbus Ledger*, April 18, 1915, 1.

³² *Columbus Enquirer*, April 18, 1915, 8.

Battle Allyn of Sharon, Georgia. Her peace-themed entries were seen in several pageants around that time. She won a silver cup for her effort, presumably the one given up by the Equal Franchise League.³³

The Homecoming was a huge project and a resounding success. Local businessmen responded positively to inquiries from the *Columbus Ledger*. Dave Greentree of the firm of Hofflin and Greentree said it succeeded beyond his expectations. J.A. Kirven said his store stayed crowded during the festivities and he wanted to see another Homecoming in the fall. Joe Brown was too busy waiting on customers to be interviewed but said that everything he hoped for came true. Frank Schomburg said the city and community were greatly helped by the homecoming and Leo Loewenhers said he could not say enough.³⁴ The town of Bellefontaine, Ohio, even contacted the organizers to find out how to put on their own homecoming.³⁵

Officials repeated the event in 1916, this time in November. Just as before, however, organizers had trouble getting it off the ground. It was originally scheduled for April when Simon Kaufman took the lead in raising money but the funds necessary to stage an event as large as the 1915 extravaganza never materialized.³⁶ The autumn version of Homecoming proved to be a smaller affair with fewer scheduled activities. The motion picture, *The Spirit of Columbus 1865-1915*, was screened at the Majestic Theater for ten cents admission for what appears to be its last-ever public showing.³⁷ There was an automobile parade and an Industrial and Agricultural parade, dances and a children's festival, as well. This time, C. M. Young took the chairmanship of the event.³⁸ Former chairman James Crawford had died the previous May, from causes many associated with severe setbacks in his business ventures.³⁹ Dr. Rosenthal and John Betjeman also were not mentioned as participating. While the event managed to come in on budget, the idea of a city-wide homecoming withered and was not repeated the next year.⁴⁰

³³ Ibid.; *Columbus Ledger* April 18, 1915, 1.

³⁴ *Columbus Ledger*, April 18, 1915, 1.

³⁵ *Columbus Enquirer*, June 13, 1916, 8.

³⁶ *Columbus Enquirer*, February 15, 1916, 5.

³⁷ *Columbus Enquirer*, November 16, 1916, 8 (This is last reference to the film the author could locate.)

³⁸ *Columbus Enquirer*, October 18, 1916, 2.

³⁹ *Columbus Ledger*, May 17, 1916, 1.

⁴⁰ *Columbus Ledger*, November 20, 1916, 8.

HOME-COMING PROGRAM BRIEFED.
WEDNESDAY—GOOD ROADS DAY.
 Automobile parade, including local motorists and parties from ten highways centering at Columbus. 12 o'clock
 Automobile tournament on Broad street, 12:30 p. m.
 Dixie Overland Highway Committee meeting 3 o'clock.
THURSDAY—FARMER'S DAY.
 "Boll Weevil," Civil, Industrial, Allegorical parade, 11:30 a. m.
 Farmer's Congress at Springer opera house, to be addressed by leading men of Georgia, 2 p. m.
FRIDAY—COLUMBUS DAY.
 Fete, Twelfth street, reception by Federated clubs, 3 p. m.
 Merchants' convention.
SATURDAY—GEORGIA PRODUCTS DAY.
 Georgia Products dinner at Ralston Hotel, 1 p. m.

Columbus Enquirer, November 15, 1916, page 2.

Instead, the Chamber of Commerce found another springtime project in 1917 on which to focus. The situation in Europe was getting worse as the Great War dragged on. American shipping was now coming under fire by the Germans. On April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany and the Chamber of Commerce met the very next day to organize an effort to locate an army camp at Columbus.⁴¹ As anyone who has been to Columbus or Fort Benning in the last hundred years can tell you, that is another project that was also a resounding success.



1916 Homecoming Dance trophy. Courtesy of The Columbus Museum.

⁴¹ *Columbus Enquirer*, April 4, 1917, 2.

Tips for Researching World War I Ancestors from the Columbus/Muscogee County Area

By Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

The centennial anniversary of the United States' entrance into World War I, in April of 1917, is here. While I am no expert on WWI resources, I thought it important that this special issue of *Muscogiana* contain an article on how to find information on the men who registered for the three WWI Drafts, and the men and women who served during the war, and especially for those who died due to the war.

1. WORLD WAR ONE DRAFT RECORDS. Available online at Ancestry.com (a subscription site available at many public libraries) and other sites. On Ancestry.com, go to the "Search" feature, then the Card Catalog and the record group to access is: U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Scanned copies of the original draft cards from the National Archives can be viewed there. There were three draft dates: June 5, 1917 (for men aged 21 to 31 by that date), June 5, 1918 (for men who had become 21 by that date), and September 12, 1918 (for men aged 18 to 45). Don't think just because someone was "too old" that they did not register. In my case, the records include a grandfather and a great-grandfather.

The value of these records is that they provide, in most cases, full name including middle name and date of birth as well as place of birth, occupation, family status if married, or supporting their mother. The date the individual signed the card and their physical description is often included as well.

2. SERVICE RECORDS.

A. **STATE RECORDS.** For Georgia, these are available on microfilm at the Georgia Archives and digitized online at Ancestry.com.

The Card Catalog listings at the Georgia Archives are described below and show how the originals were arranged when microfilmed. The cards include white and black, men and women.

Drawer Heading: Georgia Official Records: inside: Adjutant General, "WWI Service Summary Cards." [All lists are arranged alphabetically]

Army Enlisted Personnel (microfilm reels 320-1 through 80, and 321-1 through 13.)

Army Officers (321-13 through 20)

Army Nurses (321-21)

Deceased Army Enlisted Men (321-21 through 24)

Deceased Army Officers (321-21)

Navy Officers and Seamen [enlisted men] (321-23 through 28)

Deceased Navy Officers and Seamen (321-28)

If searching these on Ancestry.com, go to "Search," then the Card Catalog section, and search for: "Georgia, World War I Service Cards, 1917-1919."

You can search for place of birth using "Columbus" or "Muscogee" or anywhere else, and that turns up a lot of people. Of course you can search by surname, or first name and surname. If you cannot find someone you think was in the war, and don't find them the first time you search, try variations in the spelling of their name. The information could have been typed incorrectly on the original card, or it could have been indexed incorrectly when digitized.

Once you find a person of interest, you can then open up the record, view it, and print a copy of the original card summarizing their military record.

B. COUNTY RECORDS.

Many Georgia counties (I cannot vouch for other states, including Alabama) allowed returning service men to record their discharge papers or other materials at the county courthouse. At the Georgia Archives I checked Muscogee and neighboring counties, and below is what I found on microfilm there. The originals remain at the county courthouses.

Chattahoochee County: Superior Court. Service Records, WWI (MF 144-64)

[A list appears in N. K. Rogers, *History of Chattahoochee County, Georgia* (1933, reprinted with index Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1976), pp. 241-242]

Harris County: Superior Court. WWI Service Records, 1917-1919, Vol. 1 (MF 169-41)

[A list appears in Louise C. Barfield, *History of Harris County, Georgia, 1827-1961* (Columbus, GA, 1961), pp. 309-313.]

Marion County: Superior Court. Discharge Records, WWI, Book A. (MF 143-55)

Muscogee County: found no reference to any records for WWI on microfilm. A book containing discharge records was recorded in a 1941 inventory but was not microfilmed and may have been lost, see reference to the "Army and Navy Discharge Record, 1922—" as cited on pages 140-141 of *Inventory of the County Archives of Georgia, No. 106 Muscogee County (Columbus)* (WPA, 1941), 400 pages as of 1941.

Talbot County: nothing found on microfilm. The county could have had a very small number of men involved in the war, not necessitating an entire book.

3. DECEASED MILITARY AND MEMORIALS. After the end of World War I, on November 11, 1918, various efforts were made to honor the war dead. These included publishing lists of the dead and their photographs in memorial volumes (see below), putting up plaques in their honor at courthouses and churches, erecting civic memorials, or creating other types of memorials.

A. **BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS.** The following three books include Georgia men who died due to the war. They did not all die in battle or from wounds; many had accidents. Many are buried overseas.

Soldiers of the Great War (Washington, D.C.: Solders Record Publishing Association, 1920) is a three-volume set found at the Georgia Archives and online at Google Books for free. Each volume contains the list of the dead and photographs of some of the soldiers, state by state. The Georgia dead are listed in Volume 1, with photographs of the men on pages 195-209, and the listing of men, by categories, on pages 211-216. To determine the Columbus men for the list at the end of this article, I searched in the volume online for "Columbus." There is a list of Alabama men as well in the same volume.

The Georgia State Memorial Book, adopted as the Official Record by the Military Department, State of Georgia (American Memorial Publishing Co., 1921) is arranged county by county and contains only nine Columbus men, eight with photographs, but of these, four do not appear in *Soldiers of the Great War*.

Georgia's Participation in the World War and the History of the Department of Georgia, The American Legion, by Joseph M. Toomey (Macon: J. W. Burke Co., 1936) contains good data on most of the men found in the two previous books.

The Georgia Archives catalogs the "World War I Casualties Scrapbooks" as a manuscript collection. These seventeen scrapbooks contain information compiled ca. 1918-1920 by Mrs. Lucian L. Knight, wife of the founder and first director of the Georgia Archives. For most of the Columbus men listed below, these records contain good information, including obituaries and references to next of kin. A few men do not appear at all in this collection.

B. **CIVIC MEMORIALS.** I found that the Muscogee County government did not erect a plaque in the courthouse after the war, as some counties did, but formed a committee that apparently dragged its feet for a number of years until they settled on building the Memorial Stadium at Golden Park on the South Commons of Columbus. This was nearing completion in the fall of 1925. They considered the entrance to the facility to be the memorial, but as of this writing, I could not find in the Columbus newspapers online at GenealogyBank.com (a subscription database) any reference to a list of deceased military men being honored there, although one would suspect there was some type of list. The stadium has been renovated several times, and renamed, and it appears that only the original entrance area (not the current entrance area) remains largely unaltered from its original dedication as a memorial to World War I soldiers from Columbus/Muscogee County who died due to the war.

Some churches also honored those who served in the war and included those who died. Such a plaque can be found at Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus. A photograph of the plaque can be found in the book by Lynn Willoughby, *A Power for Good : The History of Trinity Parish, Columbus, GA* (Macon: Smyth and Helwys, 1999), p. 158. The plaque includes three names of men who died but are not found on previous lists in the above books. First Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, and St. Luke Methodist Church all have plaques honoring those who served and indicating those who died.

The American Legion Post No. 35 in Columbus was named in 1919 for Lt. Charles S. Harrison, who died during the war. See their Facebook page (Charles S. Harrison American Legion Post 35) for current information.

The State of Georgia has a World War I memorial at the Georgia War Veterans Memorial Complex commemorating the Georgians who died in World War I. The memorial list the names of all the Georgians killed during WWI in alphabetical order, with no reference to hometown. Dedicated in 1998, it stands northeast of the State Capitol in front of the Floyd Towers.

APPENDIX

Columbus Men Who Died Due to World War I

This list has been compiled from several sources, as no one authoritative list was found by the author. The sources are abbreviated below. The causes of death are abbreviated: Action (Killed in Action); Disease (Died of Disease); Wounds (Died of Wounds); Accident (Died due to an Accident). All of these men were enlisted in the Army with the exception of four marked "Navy" whose names come from the 1920 article. This list is limited to men who left for war from Columbus, Georgia, not from Alabama or elsewhere. Not all sources are given for each man.

If you have further information on tracking World War I soldiers from Columbus, please contact the author of this article.

Key for Sources:

AmLeg: in *Georgia American Legion* book

CSB: Casualty Scrapbooks found at Georgia Archives

GAM: in *Georgia State Memorial* book

SerRec: Georgia Service Record Cards found on Ancestry.com and at Georgia Archives

SGW: *Soldiers in the Great War* book

TRI: Trinity Church book

1920: Next of kin honored at American Legion Memorial Certificate Ceremony on February 22, 1920.

Cemeteries, if known, are listed: Girard (Phenix City), Linwood, Porterdale, Riverdale, or other.

* equals African American

Ball, Robert E. 1st Lt., Wounds TRI Obit (also of Wollaston, Mass.)

Boss, Otis. Pvt., Action SGW

Brown[e], Jennings. Bugler, Action SGW GAM

Bullard, Lee. Pvt., Accident SGW CSB [Also Robert Lee Bullard] Girard

Butts, Gene. Pvt., Disease SGW CSB

Carter, son of Mrs. Mandilla -next of kin- 1920*

Clapp, LeRoy Sgt., Disease TRI 1920 Obit
Linwood

Coots, Edgar. Pvt., Action/Wounds SGW Obit

David, Alfred Carlton Landsman, Disease [Navy]
CSB 1920 Moon-David Cem.

Eckman, Larry Cpl., Accident 1920

Fields, Lewis S. Pvt., Action SGW 1920

Fincher, Homer. Pvt., Action SGW GAM 1920

Ford, Charles A. Pvt., Action CSB Linwood

Goodman, Jake Sgt., Disease CSB 1920
Riverdale

Griffin, George Pvt., Disease 1920 Porterdale*

Harrison, Charles S. 1st Lt., Action SGW CSB

Hawk, Evans. Pvt., Disease SGW CSB 1920*

Henry, Ernest Pvt., Disease 1920 Porterdale*

Hill, John D., Pvt., Disease SGW CSB

Hughes, Henry. Pvt., Accident SGW CSB 1920*

Lackey, Bert B. Pvt., Action SGW CSB 1920
[buried Clay Co., Al.]

Lake, Eldridge. Pvt., Wounds SGW

Martin, Cecil D. Cpl., Action AmLeg CSB 1920
Girard

Massey, Clarence L. Pvt., Wounds SGW CSB
1920

McKinnon, Mary -next of kin- on 1920 list,
soldier not identified

Miller, Eralbert T. 2nd Lt., Accident GAM CSB
Linwood

Musick, Edgar Nathaniel. Seaman, Accident
[NAVY] 1920

Niblett, William Thomas. Pvt., Action GAM
AmLeg CSB

Nugent, Laney E. Pvt., Action/Wounds SGW CSB
Riverdale

O'Neal, Henry Pvt., Disease CSB 1920
Porterdale*

Rowe, Horace Decker. Pvt., Action SGW CSB
1920

Russell, James Pvt., Disease SerRec 1920

Scott, Albert N. Pvt., Wounds SGW GAM CSB

Slade, William 2nd Lt., Accident TRI Linwood

Smith, Walter Young Fireman, Accident [Navy]
1920

Stallings, Arthur PFC, Disease SerRec 1920*

Talbot, John. Sgt., Accident SGW GAM

Taylor, Arthur H. Sgt., Disease GAM CSB

Thompson, Carl. Pvt., Action SGW CSB

Whitten, Emmet R. Horseshoer, Disease SGW

Williams, Louie [Louis] R. Pvt., Action SGW CSB
Linwood

Wyatt, Homer. Pvt., Wounds GAM CSB

Wynn, Frank C. Pvt., Wounds SGW GAM CSB

Focus on Columbus State University Archives



Over the past several years, the collections at the CSU Archives have increased dramatically. More than a handful of these recent acquisitions have been major additions in terms of both volume and significance. Most have already been processed with online finding aids generating broad interest nationally and internationally. Scholars from around the world conduct research here with recent international researchers hailing from Japan, Singapore, France, Belgium, and Germany. Due to the importance of our collections, we are increasingly recognized as an international center for research and scholarship. We are always interested in adding to our collection, and to do so we are reliant on your donations. Please consider donating any material you may have that documents the Chattahoochee Valley, so that we can preserve it for future generations and make it accessible to other researchers. As we continue to grow, however, providing appropriate storage for our collections are ongoing challenges. Any financial gifts given would be helpful in this regard.

Below are a few details highlighting some of our recent acquisitions.

Carson McCullers

A substantial collection of material from the estate of McCuller's longtime friend, Mary Mercer, it includes original correspondence, manuscripts, notes from therapy sessions, photographs, along with textiles, artwork, furniture, and other artifacts all belonging or relating to Carson McCullers. Other recent acquisitions from McCullers scholars Margaret Sullivan and Carlos Dews further bolster our collections on this famous Columbus resident.

J. Kyle Spencer Map Collection

A collection of nearly two hundred maps documenting the emergence and evolution of the American colonies, specifically Georgia, and the formation of the United States as a whole, ranging from the late 1500s to the late 1800s.



The Carolina or "Azilia" map by Herman Moll, 1729, showing the first concept of Georgia within territory then known as Azilia

Columbus Public Library Archival Collection

The Columbus Public Library closed its archives in the fall of 2013 and transferred its holdings to the CSU Archives. The collections consist of material critical to understanding the history of Columbus and the surrounding area.

Temple Israel Archives

In the fall of 2013 the Temple Israel transferred its archival collection to the CSU Archives. The collection documents Jewish life in Columbus with detailed information on local Jewish society including families, activities, and organizational histories.

International Trumpet Guild and International Trombone Association

As the Archives supports the academic needs of the Columbus State University School of Music, in 2014 it acquired the records of the International Trumpet Guild, and in 2015 the International Trombone Association donated their records to the Archives. The collection includes volumes of recordings and sheet music including the personal library of Vincent Bach with manuscripts written in Bach's own hand.

Nuckolls Family Papers

Letters from the Nuckolls family show their life in Columbus during the mid-19th century. Their business activities as well as the family's experience during the Civil War are both large parts of the collection.

Pasaquan Collection

In addition to records documenting the visionary folk art site of Pasaquan, this collection includes the personal material of creator St. EOM including drawings and sketches along as well as correspondence, photographs, and slides.



Page from St. EOM's sketchbook

Litho-Krome Company Records

Litho-Krome, a locally founded company that revolutionized the printing industry, closed in 2015. Before closing, the company donated their records to CSU. In the collection are a number of artifacts and art prints showcasing the lithographic printing techniques pioneered by the company.

Historic Westville Records

CSU Archives has formed a partnership with Historic Westville to care for its records. The organization has already transferred a large portion of its material, with more to come after the move to Columbus, currently underway, is completed.

Gloria Sampson's Historic Churches and Temples Artwork

Gloria Sampson's watercolor paintings document architecture and religion throughout Georgia showcasing some of the state's oldest and most interesting churches and temples. In addition to her paintings, sketches showing her process and methods are also part of the collection.

Taproots

The CSU Archives now has a full run of *Taproots*, a local history and genealogy journal similar to *Muscogiana*, published by the Genealogical Society of East Alabama.

Garrett Photography Studio

Over a hundred boxes of negatives from the Garrett Photography Studio showing local culture and society dating back to the 1950s.

St. Francis Auxiliary Collection

Numerous scrapbooks document the activities of this organization including their annual fundraising Mardi Gras gala.

Jon Craig Papers

This collection of papers primarily documents Columbus native Jon Craig's experience during World War II. The bulk of material consists of letters, photographs, and sketches. Craig used his time abroad as an opportunity to study local cultures with many of his photographs and sketches documenting local life in the Pacific theater.

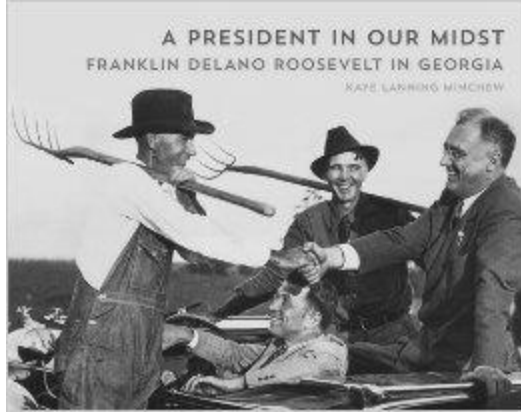


Sample of Jon Craig's artwork depicting local life in Fiji. The caption reads: "Women selling shell necklaces, Fiji Islands," May 26, 1943.

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Owings_David@columbusstate.edu
706-507-8674

Book Reviews

***A President in Our Midst: Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Georgia.* By Kaye Lanning Minchew. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2016.**



Franklin D. Roosevelt had a deep, abiding relationship with Georgia and its people. He visited the state twenty-one times between 1924 and 1945, forging social, economic, and political bonds that, in some cases, seem as strong today as they were at the time of his death seventy-two years ago. "He is remembered fondly, even reverently, by locals, to whom he was part friend, part father figure, and, because of the role he played in pulling the South out of the depression, part savior as

well," wrote journalist William Winn (p. 234). Roosevelt was first drawn to Georgia in 1924, three years after contracting polio, hoping to rest and rebuild a body that had been ravaged and disabled by disease. In 1926, he used a substantial portion of his wealth to purchase a resort near the town of Warm Springs and its legendary healing waters. A year later, he established the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation (now the Roosevelt Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center) to help others suffering from polio. In 1932, the year he was first elected to the Presidency, Roosevelt built the "Little White House" on his new Georgia estate. It would become a refuge of sorts, a place where the President could escape the rigors and strains of his office. He died there in 1945.

There has been very little written specifically about Roosevelt and his many ties to Georgia. This is surprising, as the state played a significant role in shaping New Deal policy and providing the President an up-close view of living conditions in the South. In *A President in Our Midst: Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Georgia*, author Kaye Lanning Minchew lovingly and painstakingly chronicles Roosevelt's time in the Peach State and, consequently, helps fill in a critical gap in the historiography of the Great Depression and Second World War. She uses nearly two hundred photographs and captions to explain how the state influenced, aided, and inspired the President. She argues that Roosevelt's experience in the Deep South helped mold him into an effective and determined advocate for the poor and downtrodden. "Roosevelt benefited immeasurably from his time in Georgia," Minchew writes. "The waters at Warm Springs greatly helped his recovery from polio and gave him reason to believe he could overcome its physical damage...He had spent years in Georgia meeting regular people who had been suffering from the hurting economy. Had he not contracted polio and dealt with the consequences of the disease, Roosevelt would have been a much less attractive candidate to many voters" (p. 6).

Minchew, who served as the executive director of the Troup County Historical Society and Archives from 1985 to 2015, culled photographs from numerous repositories, including the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, the Little White House, the Georgia Department of Archives and History, and the Troup County Archives. She also employed a wide variety of oral history sources and interviews she conducted herself to fill out the portrait of Roosevelt in Georgia.

The photographs reveal both the public and private lives of the thirty-second president. Many of them are clearly publicity shots, designed to show the President's strength and vitality as he led the country through depression and war. There are images of Roosevelt on horseback, standing alongside golfers at a course in Warm Springs, delivering speeches, and sawing limbs from trees at the Little White House. Other photos show the President in more relaxed settings – swimming in the pool, picnicking in the Georgia woods, and enjoying the company of friends and family. By far, the most poignant images are of Roosevelt interacting with local residents at the pool, in the dining hall at the Warm Springs Foundation, and during his famous drives through the country. "Citizens welcomed him as their adopted son," Minchew writes. "They saw him at play, at work, and at the steering wheel on drives down local roads. They quickly grew to think of the New Yorker as a friend and hero and one of their own" (p. 1). His extended sojourns in the South clearly made an impression on Roosevelt, influencing how he would govern during the Great Depression and the Second World War. Witnessing firsthand the effects of the depression on the rural population of Georgia, for instance, likely inspired FDR to champion the Rural Electrification Administration and other New Deal initiatives.

A President in Our Midst is a valuable addition to the ever-expanding body of literature on the Roosevelt era. It's the best kind of pictorial history, brimming with colorful anecdotes, touching remembrances, valuable insights, and vivid images. It should appeal to general and academic readers alike, and it should take its place alongside Theo Lippman's *The Squire of Warm Springs: FDR in Georgia, 1924-45* as the definitive account of Roosevelt's time in Georgia.

Gary Sprayberry, Columbus State University

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