

World War I Veterans
Remembered
but not
Forgotten

Inadvertently left off Memorial



Willard Deschamp Walter Howard

Willard Deschamp's name was omitted from the Memorial Stone. He was inducted Sept. 6, 1918, in Marshalltown, Iowa. Willard was married to Pearl Howard, sister of Walter A. Howard. They lived about 4 miles east of LaMoille, north of Hwy. 30, in the red brick house. Later they moved into LaMoille. They had two daughters: Dorothy (Deschamp) Bartholomew and Irene (Deschamp) Polley. They later moved to the Conrad and then to the Eldora area where he farmed for many years. Dorothy is deceased and Irene married Charles Polley and they reside in Marshalltown.

Walter Howard was married to Iona Harrison and they lived about 3½ miles east of LaMoille on a farm. Their three children, James, Janet and Hazel all graduated from the LaMoille School. Walter drove the school bus for 11 years (many times on muddy roads using the old Horse-Bus.) In 1942 they moved to Marshalltown where he was employed at Fishers for many years.

SOLDIER'S DISCHARGE RECORD

SOLDIER'S FORM

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MATT PARROTT & SONS CO., WATERLOO, IOWA 51334

HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that Willard F. DeSchamp

4819591 Private 1st Class Company M 88th Infantry

THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a Testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the UNITED STATES by reason of Industrial Needs per Cir. 77 W. D. Nov. 21, 1918

3rd Ind. Hq. 19th Div. Camp Dodge Iowa Dec. 16, 1918

Said Willard F. DeSchamp was born in New Amsterdam
in the State of Indiana When enlisted he was 27 years of age,

and by occupation a Farmer

He had Brown eyes, Dk. Brown hair, Ruddy complexion, and was 5 feet 10 1/2 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Camp Dodge Iowa
this 19th day of December, one thousand nine hundred and eighteen

J. E. McDonald

Lt. Colonel 88th Infantry

Commanding.

ENLISTMENT RECORD

Name Willard F. DeSchamp #4819591 Grade Private 1st Class

~~Enlisted~~ or Inducted, September 6, 1918, at Marshalltown Iowa

Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.

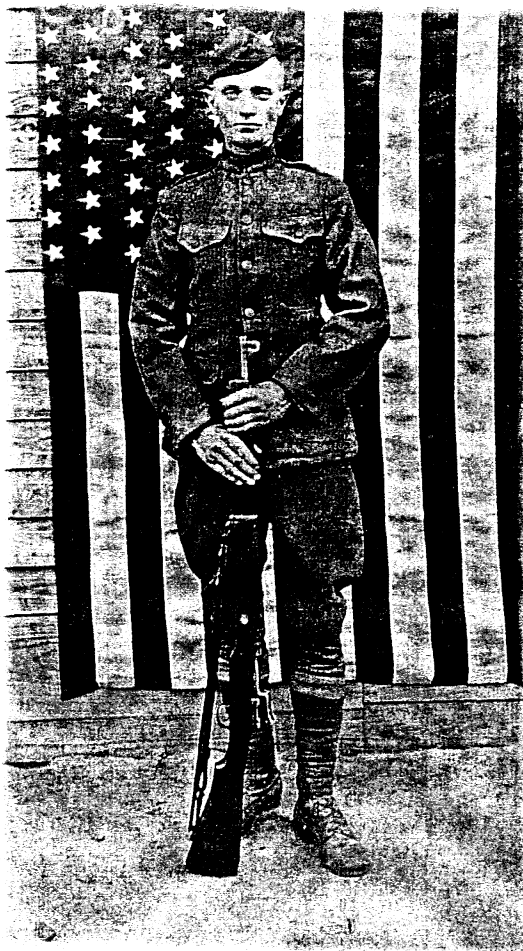
Prior service None

Noncommissioned officer Never

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating Not qualified

Horsemanship Not mounted

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions None



Corporal John Wyatt

Corporal John Elliott Wyatt's name was inadvertently omitted from the memorial.

He was inducted into the Army Sept. 18, 1917, at the age of 27. He trained at Camp Cody in Denning, N.M. and later served in France.

He married Mary Lena Zeisness on February 23, 1921, and they farmed southeast of LaMoille. From this union two sons were born: Frederick John, now living in Melbourne, Iowa, and Herbert Elliott, deceased. John died in May of 1933.

He was discharged on November 15, 1918.

SOLDIER'S DISCHARGE RECORD

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SOLDIER'S FORM

Form 104-10 WATT PATENT & SON CO., WATERLOO, IOWA D29957

not 3

HONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that John E. Wyatt 1415953 Corporal, Casual Det. #877 Dem.
Group Last Assg'd Casual Det. 877 D. C.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY, as a Testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service, is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED from the military service of the UNITED STATES by reason of Tel. W.D. Nov. 15, 18, Letter A.G.A. Nov. 30, 18,

Said John E. Wyatt was born in La Moille
in the state of Iowa When enlisted he was 27 3/12 years of age,
and by occupation a Farmer
He had Blue eyes, Brown hair, Fair complexion, and was 5 feet 10 inches in height.

Given under my hand at Camp Dodge, Iowa
this 26 day of June, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen

Louis Causler

Major Signal Corps. U.S.A.

Commanding.

ENLISTMENT RECORD

Name John E. Wyatt Grade Corporal
Enlisted, or Inducted, Sept. 18, 1917, at Marshalltown, Ia.
Serving in First enlistment period at date of discharge.
Prior service None

Noncommissioned officer Corporal ft Private April 6, 1918

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating Not qualified

Horsemanship Not mounted

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions A. E. F.

INTER-URBAN RAILWAY
Ticket from Camp Dodge to
Marshalltown, Ia.
Form If 1 No. 80448
Date issued 6/26/1919
H. H. LAVINE, Agent

FORWARDED OCT 20 1920

Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations: None

APPROVED BY K. W. Thom

FOR VICTORY MEDAL WITH

K. W. THOM



Emmett C. Wickersham was born April 4, 1899, in Marshall County, to Clarence and Cora Wickersham. He attended Central Iowa Business College before enlisting in the Army at age 18 on January 10, 1918. He served as a Clerk in the 84th Air Squadron Air Service at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas. He was discharged as a Sergeant on April 3, 1919.

Emmett married Mabel Jentzen on October 12, 1920. To this union two daughters, Dorothy and Joan, were born. He farmed the family farm until retiring when he began painting houses and farm buildings in the area.

Late World War I veteran put memories



Contributed Photos

Even in his late 80s, Emmett Wickersham could still put on and fit in his World War I uniform. Wickersham, who passed away in October at 102 years old, was believed to be the county's last surviving World War I veteran.

By **BRYAN SCHULTZ**
T-R Staff Writer

On Oct. 20, Marshall County lost Emmett Wickersham, 102, who was believed to be the county's last surviving World War I veteran. Fortunately for his family, Emmett wrote many of his memories from the early 1900s down, providing a rare first-hand glimpse into Iowa's past.

"He loved to write, he wrote down notes and he kept track of everything," said his daughter, Dorothy Ryder, who still lives in a house built by her father on a Marshall County farmstead.

Emmett was born in April of 1899, in either the family living room or dining room and started school when he was six, at Hayne Grove School (a country school in the county). He even remembered, more than nine decades later, his first day of school and kept his first-grade script book all of those years.

"Our local Hayne Grove School was closed due to the small number of students, so brother and I walked the two miles south to the Starry Grove School #1," Emmett wrote years later. "It was sometimes called the Walnut Grove School — named for the rows of walnut trees that had been set out by my grandfather's brother, Tom Wickersham."

Another major adventure in Emmett's life was a trip from Montana to Iowa — in a covered wagon. Coyotes and rattlesnakes were just a few of the exciting observations from traveling all those miles with his family. He recalled it took five days to travel 100 miles through Yellowstone Park — a trip he retraced in 1981 in two hours.

"Roads were extremely scarce at that time," he wrote. "Our stove was no larger than 12-by-18 inches and sat on the

in writing

Memories/From 1A

ground. Mother even baked bread in it. She would mix corn meal and water for those hounds (three greyhounds that followed their wagon train). They would try to eat it while it was cooking if we didn't keep them away."

Emmett skipped a few years in his narrative of his schooling, but did include what it was like for a farm boy educated in a country school to try his luck in the much-larger Marshalltown High School: "Seven miles on a saddle pony" just to get there. In addition to riding a pony to school each day, Emmett had to contend with a larger system, and he eventually quit.

"At age 14, I plowed 18 acres of land with three horses and a walking plow," he recalled. "That summer I also worked for Don McLean, cultivating corn.

I would walk the 1 1/4 miles to his farm by 7 a.m., cultivate until 6 p.m. with dinner at their place, then walk home. Wages were one dollar per day."

He did eventually educate himself through the 10th grade before attending the Central Iowa Business College, where he learned bookkeeping.

That experience served him well when he enlisted in the Army in 1918 during World War I, serving in the Air Service Supply Office at Kelly Field (now Kelly Air Field). It was during this time he faced an enemy as horrific as any found in war:

"I enjoyed the first flu epidemic along with most of the rest," he wrote. "I laid on the floor with plenty of others for three weeks I believe only one R.N. to our building."

After he left the service in 1919, Emmett began helping on his parents farm, which was to be a life-long love of conservation and the outdoors.

Emmett's father offered him \$500 to stay and help work the farm throughout the year, a deal Emmett said was a "good start."

By 1935, Emmett was an established farmer and offered some prices from Iowa's past:

Fat hogs to Chicago: \$3.80 per hundredweight

Fat cattle to Chicago: \$5.60 per hundredweight

Corn at a low of 23 cents per bushel

Eggs at six cents per dozen.

The world had begun to change and he bought his first tractor in 1936 for \$635. Cars were changing, as well. Emmett went from owning two different Model Ts to a used Model A: "It cost \$450. A good car — drove it innumerable miles."

Agriculture also changed dramatically during those years for Emmett and he eventually became the first farmer to practice contour farming.

"He was so proud of that," said Dorothy. "He really loved conservation and farming."

Emmett was a past president of the Farm Bureau and a long time member of the Kiwan making him well-known throughout the area.

"As he got older, he was sometimes sad because all his friends were gone," Dorothy said. "He always worried there wouldn't be anyone at his funeral."

Even with the wisdom earned by more than 102 years, one of Emmett's final predictions was wrong: "There were more people there than he would have believed," Dorothy said, with tears in her eyes. "I know I would have loved that."

Monday
December 24,
2001

Memories ...
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