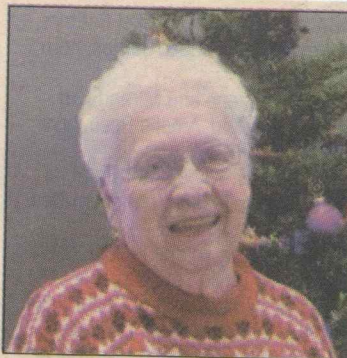


Happy 85th Birthday, Arvilla!

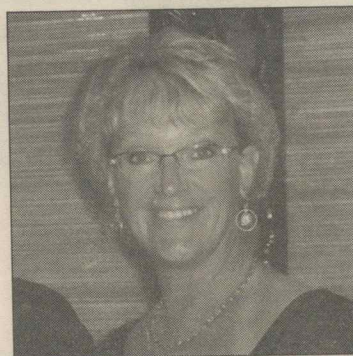
Born Jan. 4, 1926.
Cards may be sent to Arvilla
Gerloff, 28661 Westbrook St.,
New Hartford 50660.

*Love,
LeeRoy and Mary and family
Henry and Janice and family
Dennis and Bonnie and family
Kay and family*

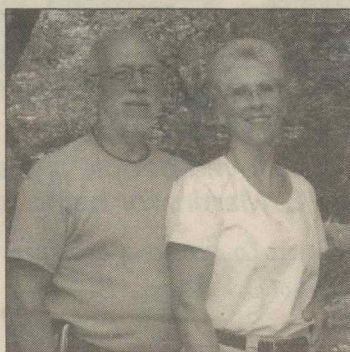


Happy 50th Birthday, Bonnie!

Love Ya!
Dennis
Suzanne, Kirk, April, Matt,
Guy, Tessa and Sam
Connor, Malea, Nick, Jaxon,
Cayden, Derek and Bryer



**Mr. and Mrs. Gerloff
1961**



**Mr. and Mrs. Gerloff
2010**

Gerloff/50

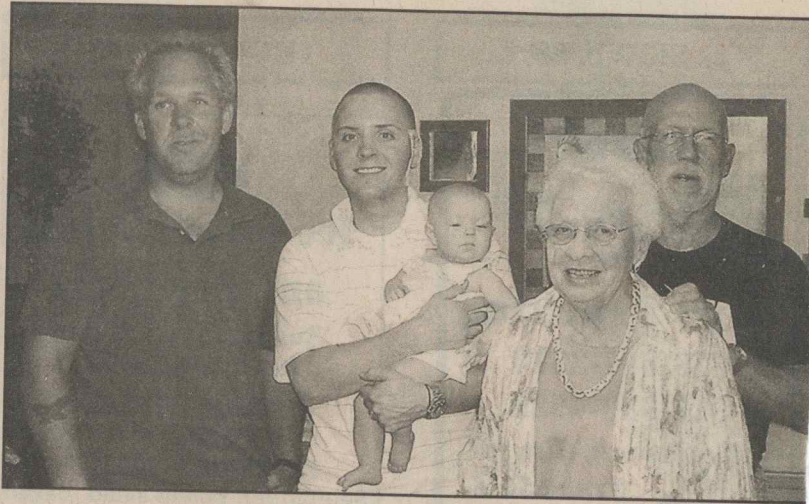
NEW HARTFORD — LeeRoy and Mary Gerloff will observe their 50th wedding anniversary Friday.

LeeRoy Gerloff and Mary Schlamp were married Jan. 7, 1961, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Parkersburg.

Mr. Gerloff is retired from Manatts, and Mrs. Gerloff is retired

from Sartori Hospital.

Their children and spouses are Greg and Wendy of New Hartford and Perry and Denise of Belton, Mo., along with grandchildren Blake and Erin of Belton, Austin of New Hartford and Shaun and Kimberly of Raleigh, N.C., and great-granddaughter Adalynn of Raleigh.



Gerloff 5 Generations

Pictured are members of the Gerloff Family 5 Generations. Arvilla, LeeRoy, Shawn, Greg, Adalynn (great-great granddaughter)

Grain theft case has buyers thinking about customers

By **MATTHEW WILDE**
matt.wilde@wvcourier.com

NEW HARTFORD — Asking questions, filling out appropriate paperwork and verifying sales is the best way to guard against grain theft, local elevator officials say.

A recent case regarding the alleged theft of an estimated \$140,000 worth of corn and possibly soybeans has local grain buyers thinking about how to protect farmers. While there's no guarantee another grain heist — though rare — won't happen again, buyers said they do their best to prevent it.

Dennis Gerloff of rural New Hartford is accused of stealing around 40,000 bushels of grain from his employer, Brad Feckers, over a five-year period. He sold the grain at Farmers Cooperative Co. in New Hartford, Feckers said.

Both Gerloff and Farmers

Cooperative have declined to comment.

Gerloff is charged with ongoing criminal conduct and first-degree theft, both felonies. Last week Judge Bryan McKinley set an April 5 trial date.

Dean Ohrt, central and east region origination director for Heartland Co-op, said its members are protected.

"We have procedures in place to insure integrity of contracts. Producers have to give authority in writing who can buy and sell (grain), Ohrt said.

"When someone comes across the scale with a load of corn, you ask who's it for," he added. "It comes down to knowing your customers."

Heartland conducts millions of dollars worth of grain transactions every day, Ohrt said. The co-op doesn't buy grain from someone unless they fill out proper paperwork.

If a recognized farm employee brings in corn and soybeans, the co-op follows written orders of the owner. If a stranger showed up with a load to sell, a check wouldn't be issued until ownership is verified, Ohrt said. When a co-op member arrives with grain, it's assumed that the grain belongs to them.

Though rare, it's not uncommon for a farmer to pay an employee with grain. Even then, Ohrt said, the farmer needs to fill out a form stating the amount allowed.

"We hope our procedures in place, that are reviewed constantly, will give some protection," Ohrt said.

According to Feckers, who lives near New Hartford and farms in Butler and Black Hawk counties, Gerloff was a full-time employee for seven years and a trusted friend. He helped with harvest and hauled grain.

Feckers said Gerloff stole eight to

10 semi loads of mostly corn a year when Feckers and his family were on vacation or away from the farm.

Wil Manweiler, grain merchandiser at Dunkerton Co-op, said anyone who sells grain needs to open up an account. Farmers need to authorize employees to sell grain, he said. While the business wants new customers, employees would ask several questions of someone they didn't know attempting to sell grain.

"You ask questions and see if any red flags come up. We're going to protect our customers," Manweiler said.

At Voorhies Grain, manager Nolan Dewall said employees know their customers so well that someone illegally selling grain would be easy to catch.

"You would really question people off the street," he said. "If someone new (tried to sell) we wouldn't take their word on it, we would verify."

be out there 24 hours," he said.
Crews in Grundy County worked

portation battled the state high-
ways. At least a few were still
Grundy and Black Hawk counties
was impassable most of Wednes-

See **SNOW**, page A12

ing could be adjusted following
the 2011 legislative session.

Butler County farmhand allegedly stole semi loads of grain

By **MATTHEW WILDE**
matt.wilde@wfcourier.com

NEW HARTFORD — A farm worker over the course of several years allegedly stole about \$140,000 in grain from his employer in Butler County, a unique crime, according to law enforcement officials.

Dennis Gerloff, 28629 Westbrook St., was arrested last week for ongoing criminal conduct and first-degree theft, class B and C felonies, respectively. If convicted, he faces up to 35 years in prison. He

"I can't recall we've ever investigated disappearing crops. It's generally not a problem and probably not one of the easiest things to steal."

Jason Johnson
Butler County sheriff

was released from jail Jan. 27 in lieu of \$55,000 bond or cash surety.

Brad Feckers of rural New Hartford is trying to piece together why Gerloff, an employee and longtime friend, allegedly took about 40,000 bushels of corn and

possibly soybeans.

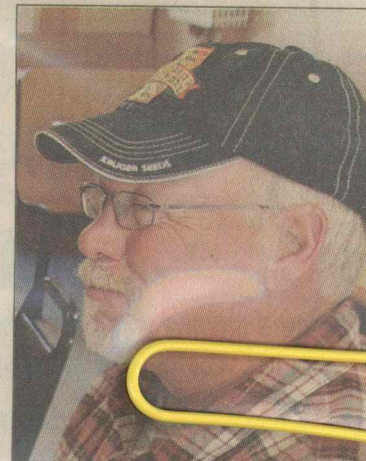
"I trusted him just like my wife," Feckers said. "He was my main employee ... he was that trusted. I knew him all my life."

Feckers described the situation as "a real bad deal."

"We were camping in the summer and sitting right across from each other at the campfire and he knew he was stealing from us. Whoever tipped the law off, thank God for them," Feckers said.

According to court, Gerloff, 56, allegedly started to pilfer grain in January 2005 and continued until last month. Gerloff declined to discuss the charges.

"I just don't have no comment right now. I'm sorry," Gerloff said.



Dennis Gerloff

See **CORN THEFT**, page A2



TONIGHT'S LOW: 1
TOMORROW'S HIGH: 22

Ask Amy A9
Business&Farm B7
Bridge A6

Classified B8
Come Alive A7
Comics B5

Horoscopes B10
Iowa B6
Markets B6

Nation&World A4
Obituaries A10
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Sudoku B9

Theaters A8
TV A6
Weather A6



OBITUARY OF MARTIN GERSEMA

Martin John Gersema, was born on December 1st, 1894, son of John and Bena Gersema at Aplington Ia. His childhood was spent in Aplington.

At an early age he started working with his father, learning the trade which he followed the rest of his life. Until two years ago when he came to Waterloo, he had made his home in the vicinity of New Hartford, where he made many friends who will always remember his ready smile. Since moving to Waterloo he has been employed by the George Realty Company.

In 1917, he was called to the colors and served his country faithfully in the 90th Division, 215 Engineers. He saw active service in the World War, spending 81 days at the battle front and was awarded a purple heart for being wounded in action.

On December 6, 1919, he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Annetta Nissen. This union was blessed with three children: Irving LeRoy, who died in infancy, Vivian, aged 19 of Des Moines and Donald 13 at home. He is survived by his widow and children, by five sisters, Mrs. Margaret Fecht, 215 Baltimore Street, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. Reka Nelson, Ceylon, Minn.; Mrs. Theo Schultz, Ackley, Iowa; Mrs. Hattie Heerts, Ackley and Mrs. Jenn Heerts, New Hartford.

Preceding him in death were his parents, one sister, Mrs. Bena Catchpool and his brothers George and John.

At the time of his death Mr. Gersema was an active member of the Disabled American Veterans, Eagle Lodge and until recently, the American Legion. Prior to a year ago he had enjoyed good health.

He was severely stricken last Monday four days before his death.

On Thursday, September 11th, he was taken to the Veterans hospital in Des Moines where he died early Friday morning, September 12, 1941 at the age of 47 years.

The memory of his generosity and willingness to help will be remembered not only by his relatives but by his many friends.

At times like these, God knows best,

He's just taken Dad for a rest:
So no more tears or no more weeping,

For Dad's not gone—he is just sleeping,

And some day soon, just we four,
Will be together, forever more.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p. m. Sunday in the Methodist church in charge of Rev. F. L. Hinshaw, pastor. Military rites were conducted at the grave in Oak Hill cemetery by members of the Disabled Veterans organization.

Cedar Falls Nurse, Korean "Vet," Finds Army Unusual Career

(Courier Special Service)

MT. CLEMENS, Mich. — Careers and women these days are conversation pieces, good copy and heated arguments, but one young Cedar Falls woman who made her career choice some time ago has no ax to grind.

She's Captain Vivian M. Gersema, daughter of Mrs. Jennie A. Gersema, 722 West Seventh St., Cedar Falls, and now chief nurse for the 10th Air Force at Selfridge Air Force Base.

Vivian, after her graduation from New Hartford High School, decided in favor of a nursing career and took her training at Broadlawn School of Nursing in Des Moines. The cap and cape of nursing represented an investment of time, money and pounds of energy, but Vivian wasn't content to let it go at that.

Pearl Harbor had rocked the world so, by the time she graduated in 1943, she became Second Lieutenant Gersema of the Army Nurse Corps and spent three years in England and France.

Hitch in Puerto Rico

Then, after only a year back in the States, this time at Ft. Sheridan, Ill., she had a two-year "hitch" in San Juan and Ramey



Air Force Base in Puerto Rico, building up her experience and her knowledge of far away places.

Then something new was added — Air Evacuation nursing during the early days

Capt. Gersema of the Korean campaign and Vivian was one of the first graduates of the Flight School for Nurses at Gunter, Ala., and it began the most exciting yet compassionate phase of her life as an air force nurse.

"I think there is nothing like our American boys," she says. "It's their humor, their patience, that carries them through when they're wounded. They deserve the best of nursing care."

Assigned to Texas

After a year of the excitement and hard work in returning Korean casualties to their homes, Vivian was assigned to Wolters AFB in Texas to add dependent and outpatient care to her career. Now she's chief nurse for the 10th Air Force.

Right now she is telling the story of her career to eligible and interested young nurse graduates and registered nurse in 13 midwestern states and also plans to visit Iowa.

But her midwest junket is no Cook's tour. She has visited and worked with the Englishman and his England, the Frenchman's France and global neighbors across thousands of miles.

Eclipse, Wed., Jan. 5, 1994

Word has been received here of the death of Vivian Gersema in San Antonio, TX on December 17, 1993. She was a graduate of the New Hartford High School in 1937. She was the daughter of Martin and Jennie Nissen Gersema. Burial services will be here at a later date.

Obituary of the Late George Gersema

George Gersema, age 44 years, six months, 21 days passed away Thursday, August 30, at his home in New Hartford, Iowa. The cause of his death was paralysis from which he had suffered the last three years.

George was born in Aplington, Feb. 9, 1890 and spent his boyhood days in Aplington, having moved to Janesville, when he was 21 years old. In 1916 he moved to New Hartford and for the last 20 years he had been engaged as builder and contractor in New Hartford.

Mr. Gersema was married to Miss Elsie Moeller February 8, 1914. He is survived by his widow and six children: George, Marjorie, Merlyn, Delos, James and Helen, all at home; also five sisters: Mrs. C. G. Nelson, Ceylon, Minn.; Mrs. Kobus Fecht, Waterloo; Mrs. F. S. Shultz and Mrs. John Heerts, both of Ackley, Iowa; and Mrs. Fred Heerts of New Hartford; Two brothers Martin of New Hartford and John of Geneva. With these he leaves other relatives and a host of friends who mourn his loss. His father, mother and one sister preceded him in death.

Mr. Gersema was a loyal and active member of the Masonic fraternity and had been a member of Beaver Lodge, No. 472, A. F. & A. M., of New Hartford for over 15 years. George was well known thru out Masonic circles, having attended many Masonic meetings as well as sessions of the Grand Lodge. He was well known in the community where he lived and was loved by all. A man of solid character, a dependable and conscientious workman, a loving, devoted husband and father. He will be greatly missed.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, Sept. 2 from the home at 1:30 and at 2 o'clock at the Methodist church in charge of Rev. H. C. Travis of Grace M. E. church of Waterloo assisted by Rev. J. E. Pritchard, local pastor. Roy Van Deest of Cedar Falls sang two numbers. The Masonic ritualistic service was given at the grave by John Ames of Traer.

Card Of Thanks

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for their kindness and sympathy during the illness and death of our husband and father, and for the beautiful floral offerings.

Mrs. Geo. Gersema and Children

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Mrs. Geo. Gersema and Children

1982

Mrs. Elsie M. Rasmussen, 86, of New Hartford, died early Thursday evening, October 28, at the Cedar Falls Lutheran Home where she had been a resident since last February.

Elsie Marie Moeller was born on January 27, 1896, in Fordland, Missouri, the daughter of George and Lena (Ehlerding) Moeller. When she was two years old, she moved with her family to Iowa and to the Denver area where she attended country school and church school at the Lutheran Church in Denver. On February 8, 1914, she was married to George Gersema in Denver. They lived in Janesville about a year and then moved to New Hartford where she has lived since that time. Her husband died on August 30, 1934, and in May of 1937, she was married to Ras. Rasmussen.

Elsie was a member of the New Hartford United Methodist Church, was a 50 year member of the Order of Eastern Star, New Hartford Chapter #120, in which she held various offices, was a member of Anchor Rebekah Lodge #46 in New Hartford, and was a member of the Bethany White Shrine #9.

Elsie is survived by four sons; George Gersema of rural Cedar Falls, Merlyn Gersema of Boise, Idaho, Delos Gersema of Chariton, Iowa, and James Gersema of Cedar Falls, two daughters, Marjorie, Mrs. Kenneth Hoy of Cedar Falls and Helen, Mrs. James Reardon of Belton, Texas. Also surviving are 20 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren, and 2 great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands, two sisters, three brothers, and two grandsons.

Following the graveside services, relatives and friends are invited to return to the church for fellowship with the family.



*George and Marjorie
Gersema*



George

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1994

George Gersema

CEDAR FALLS — George R. Gersema will celebrate his 80th birthday Saturday with a dinner at Bishop's Buffet. Friends may join the family.

Mr. Gersema was born Nov. 7, 1914, in Janesville to Elsie and George Gersema. He retired from the chemical laboratory at John Deere after 38 years.

His daughters are Gwen Hayes, Gean Durbin, Janae Diefke and Georgene Arthur. There are 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to 7100 N. Union Road, Cedar Falls, 50613.



**George
Gersema**

PAGE A6 WATERLOO COURIER, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 1993

METRO DEATHS

CEDAR FALLS — **Mavis L. Gersema**, 76, of the Cedar Falls Lutheran Home, formerly of 7100 N. Union Road, died at the home Tuesday, Aug. 24, after a lengthy illness.

She was born Jan. 25, 1917, in Minneapolis, Minn., daughter of William J. and Lily Douhan Mitchell. She married Glenn M. Hauge in Waterloo. He died in 1960. She married George R. Gersema on April 7, 1962, in Cedar Falls.

Mr. Gersema was a secretary in the library at Deere & Co., for 20 years, retiring in 1980.

Survivors include her husband; four stepdaughters; 14 stepgrandchildren; and nine stepgreat-grandchildren; she was preceded in death by a sister, Mona L. Place.

Services will be 10 a.m. Thursday at Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home, with burial in Waterloo Memorial Park Cemetery. Friends may call until 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Cedar Valley Hospice, Cedar Heights Presbyterian Church or Cedar Falls Lutheran Home.



Mavis Gersema

CEDAR FALLS — **Kenneth Heaver Hoy**, 71, of 806 W. Ninth St., died Friday, July 9, at Sartori Memorial Hospital of natural causes.

He was born Nov. 30, 1921, son of Cyrus and Ada Heaver Hoy in Charles City. He married Marjorie E. Gersema April 26, 1947, in Cedar Falls.

Mr. Hoy was employed by Viking Pump from 1947 until his retirement in 1986. He is a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Ken of California, Dennis of Waterloo, and Darrell of Washburn; a daughter, JoAnn Hoy of Cedar Falls; and three grandchildren; he was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert in infancy, and Earl; and two sisters, Edith Corwin and Cora Ryan.

Services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Cedar Falls, with burial in Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens Cemetery; friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home, where the family will be present from 6 to 8 p.m.

Memorials may be directed to the family.



Kenneth Hoy



Marjorie Gersema

Vows Revealed



MRS. RAYMOND CHRISTENSEN.

(Courier Special Service)

New Hartford—Mrs. R. J. Rasmussen announces the marriage of her daughter, Miss Helen Gersema, to Raymond C. Christensen, son of Hans Christensen, 116 Lindale avenue, Waterloo.

The wedding occurred June 5, 1948, in Grace Lutheran church, Davenport. Rev. Ronald Johnson read the double ring vows and Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Renn, Davenport, attended the couple.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Rasmussen will entertain at a reception for Mr. and Mrs. Christensen June 5 in the Methodist church. Mrs. Christensen's chosen colors of pink, aqua and white will be carried out in decorations and the wedding vows will be read again.

Following the reception, the couple will leave on a belated wedding trip to Kentucky. Mrs. Christensen is employed by Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. and her husband has a barber shop in New Hartford.

The couple is at home here.

Gersema/50

CEDAR FALLS — Mr. and Mrs. Delos Gersema will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next Sunday with a family dinner and card shower.

Mr. Gersema and Nellie McCready were married July 18, 1947, in Waterloo.

Their children are William of Jefferson, David of Santa Maria, Calif., Susan Duncon of Round Rock, Texas, and Vicki Kamienski. There are 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to them at 611 Park Blvd., Cedar Falls 50613.



Mr. and Mrs. Gersema

Delos M. Gersema (1925-2004)

CEDAR FALLS — Delos M. Gersema, 78, of Cedar Falls, died Sunday, Feb. 8, at Sartori Memorial Hospital of natural causes.

He was born July 15, 1925, in New Hartford, son of George and Elsie Moeller Gersema. He married Nellie McCready on July 18, 1947, in Waterloo.

Mr. Gersema served in the Navy Air Corps in the Pacific Theater. He worked at Carnation Dairy, Waterloo, from 1947 to 1956; from 1956 to 1961 worked at Larson Construction Co. (Cedar Falls Construction) as project supervisor; from 1961 to 1975 he worked at Curbmaster of America as sales and service coordinator; and from 1977 to 1994 he and his wife owned and operated Royal Rest Hotel, Chariton.

Survivors include: his wife; two sons, David (Kathy) of Santa Monica, Calif., and William of Cedar Falls; two daughters, Vicki (Kevin) Kamienski of Cedar Falls and Susan (James) Duncan of Round Rock, Texas; 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and a great-great-granddaughter; and two sisters, Helen (James) Reardon of Belton, Texas, and Marjorie Hoy of Cedar Falls.

Preceded in death by: three brothers, Merlyn, George and James.

Services: 11 a.m. Saturday at Dahl-Van Hove-Schoof Funeral Home, with burial in Fairview Cemetery. Military rites will be conducted by Cedar Falls AMVETS Post 49. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday and for an hour before services Saturday at the funeral home.



Delos Gersema

Nellie R. Gersema (1919-2005)

CEDAR FALLS — Nellie R. Gersema, 86, of Cedar Falls, died Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo.

She was born April 18, 1919, in Waterloo, daughter of Charles E. and Hazel Bowman McCready. She married Delos M. Gersema on July 18, 1947, in Waterloo. He died Feb. 8, 2004.

Mrs. Gersema graduated from Waterloo West High School in 1938 and was a full-time homemaker for many years. From 1977 until retiring in 1994, she and her husband owned and operated the Royal Rest Hotel, Chariton.



Nellie Gersema

Survivors include: two sons, David (Kathy) of Santa Monica, Calif., and William of Cedar Rapids; two daughters, Susan (Jim) Duncan of Round Rock, Texas, and Vicki (Kevin) Kamienski of Cedar Falls; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; a sister, Phyllis DeVore of Des Moines; and a brother, Charles (Joan) McCready of Denver, Iowa.

Preceded in death by: three brothers, Forrest, Eddy and Delbert McCready; and two sisters, Delores Bartz and Verda Mae Zajacka.

Services: 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Dahl-Van Hove-Schoof Funeral Home, with burial in Fairview Cemetery. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. today and for an hour before services Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials: may be directed to Western Home Communities.

Gersema/50

NEW HARTFORD — Joe and Carol Gersema will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at New Hartford's First Baptist Church.

Mr. Gersema and Carol Sells were married Oct. 29, 1948, in Cedar Falls.

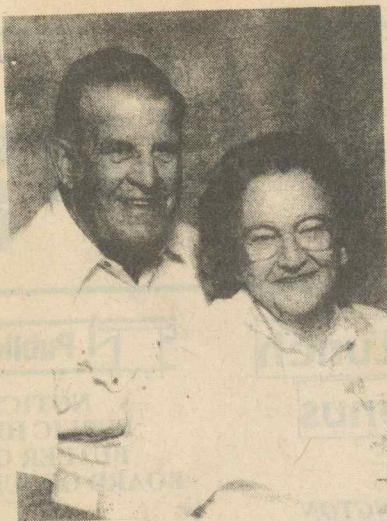
Mr. Gersema worked at Clay Equipment in Cedar Falls, farmed in Allison and Shell Rock and was employed by the Waverly Municipal Hospital before retiring in 1990.

Hosting the event will be their family, Terry and Linda Arends of Shell Rock, Jim and Gina Ackerson of Horton, Dave and Carolyn LeBahn of New Hartford, Joel and Teresa Gerse-



Mr. and Mrs. Gersema

ma of Oran, and James Gersema of Chicago. There are four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Jan 2000

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

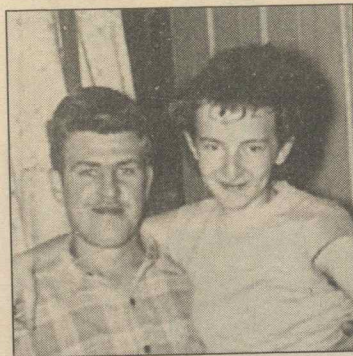
Chris and Viola Davis Gersema of New Hartford will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, January 15th with an Open House at the Community Building in New Hartford from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. They were married January 14, 1950 in Clarksville.

Chris is retired from the Dike-New Hartford Co-op and Viola is retired from the Cedar Falls Wal-Mart.

Their children are Chris and Hattie Gersema and family of Marshalltown, Vicky and Steve Smith-Elliott of Waterloo, Sheryl, Duane and Josh Faas of Ames, Rose Davis and family of Overland Park, Kansas, Sgt Duane, Carol and boys of Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and Scott, Shelley and boys of Lee's Summit, Missouri.

There are 13 grandchildren, 2 step granddaughters and 5 great grandchildren.

ANNIVERSARIES



Mr. and Mrs. Gersema

Gersema/60

NEW HARTFORD — Chris and Viola Gersema will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a card shower.

Chris Gersema and Viola Davis were married Jan. 14, 1950, in Clarksville.

Mr. Gersema is retired from the New Hartford Elevator, and Mrs. Gersema is retired from Wal-Mart.

Their family includes Chris and Hattie Gersema of Marshalltown, Vicky Smith of Overland Park, Kan., Sheryl and Duane Faas of Ames, Rose Davis, also of Overland Park, Duane and Carol Gersema of Leavenworth, Kan., and Scott Gersema of Lee's Summit, Mo. They have 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to them at 517 York, New Hartford 50660.

VIOLA GERSEMA

Viola Vern "Vi" Gersema, age 78, of New Hartford, died Tuesday, June 29, 2010, at the Cedar Valley Hospice Home in Waterloo.

Viola was born on May 22, 1932, in Butler County, Iowa, the daughter of John and Nellie (Murphy) Davis. She attended the Clarksville School and in 1987 graduated from New Hartford High School. On January 13, 1950 Viola was united in marriage to Chris Gersema in Clarksville, Iowa. During her life she worked as a domestic engineer, at Kwik Star, and as a cashier at Wal-Mart where she later retired. Viola was a member of the New Hartford Baptist Church and she also volunteered at the New Hartford Elementary. Her enjoyments included quilting, crocheting, knitting, sewing, and using the computer.

Viola's memory is honored by her husband, Chris Gersema Sr. of New Hartford, Iowa, six children; Chris E. (Hattie) Gersema Jr. of Marshalltown, Iowa, Vicky Smith of Overland Park, Kansas, Sheryl (Duane) Faas of Ames, Iowa, Rose A. Davis of Overland Park, Kansas, Duane (Carol) Gersema of Leavenworth, Kansas, and Scott Gersema of Lee's Summit, Missouri, thirteen grandchildren, twenty two great grandchildren, and a brother, Ronald Roberts of Sierra Vista, Arizona. She was preceded in



death by her parents, seven sisters; Wilma Jurgens, Mavis Doty, Verda League, Clara Klebs, Dorothy Wade, Pauline Wheelan, and Lucille Haber, and five brothers; Fred, Verlan "Bud", Jerry, and Victor Davis and Paul Roberts.

Funeral services were held at 2 P.M. on Friday, July 2, 2010, at the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home in Waverly with Reverends Ben Epley and Richard Johnson officiating. Private burial was at the Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Cedar Falls. Memorials may be directed to the Cedar Valley Hospice and online condolences may be made at www.kaisercorson.com.



Approaching Marriage

*Mar 26
1986*

Mr. and Mrs. David E. Moore of Kansas City, Kansas announce the engagement of their daughter Carol Lynn to Duane A. Gersema, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Gersema of New Hartford, Iowa. The bride-to-be is a student at

Kansas City, Kansas Community College and works at AMC theatres. The prospective groom is a corporal stationed at Fort Leavenworth. A June 6 wedding is planned at Haven Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas.

Mashek-Smith 1987

CEDAR FALLS — Announcement is being made of the Aug. 8 wedding of Vicky Mashek and Cameron Smith.

Parents of the couple are Chris and Viola Gersema of New Hartford, Dr. Audrey Smith, and Newton and Camilla Smith of Alexandria, Ind.

Vows were exchanged at 7 p.m. at the Elk's Club, with Judge Jim Bauch officiating.

Attending the bride as matron of honor was Rose Davis of Olathe, Kan., sister. Bridesmaids were Linda Larsen, Jill Nielsen, and Nancy Magee. Junior bridesmaid was Keoni Mashek, daughter of the bride.

The groom chose Tod Hess of Santa Cruz, Calif., as best man. Groomsmen were Phil Smith of San Francisco, Calif., brother, Mike Wilkinson, and Dave Decker. Junior groomsman was Carlos Mashek of Ankeny, son of the bride.

Guests were seated by Tracy Rokes, John Larsen and Tim Kopriva.

The bride is a teacher for Waterloo Schools, and the groom is a delivery driver for United Parcel Service.

The couple will reside at 821 Col-



Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

lege St.

A reception took place at the Elks Club Ballroom, with 250 guests attending. Music was provided by the Dreams Band.

A wine shower was hosted July 18 at the home of John and Linda Larsen. Forty guests attended.

Sunday, November 26, 1989
Waterloo, Iowa Page D9

Chris Gersema

NEW HARTFORD — Chris Gersema will be honored at a retirement open house next Sunday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at 927 Main St.

He is retiring after 42 years of employment at the New Hartford-Dike Co-op.

Hosts will be his wife Viola and six children: Chris and Hattie Gersema of Marshalltown; Vicki and Cam Smith of Cedar Falls; Sheryl and Duane Faas of Ames; Rose and Lyndon Brown of Pella; Duane and Carol Gersema, currently stationed in Germany; and Scott and Shelly Gersema of Kansas City.

Obituaries



DAVID W. GEERTSEMA

David W. Geertsema, 53, was born in Aplington, Iowa on April 18, 1950, the son of William and Marie (Thrasher) Geertsema. David moved to Dubuque from Shell Rock, Iowa in 1972 to begin his teaching career. He and the former Janet Lawler were married on June 8, 1974 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Key West. He was a graduate of Wartburg College in 1972 and received his Masters Degree from Clarke College in 1978. He was a teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School for 26 years teaching in grades 4, 5, and 6th. He retired from teaching in 1997 for health reasons. He was a member of Resurrection Parish where he was active in music ministry. He was also a member of the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association. He was committed to his music ministry and sang at many weddings and funerals in the Dubuque area. His sense of humor, his voice and his commitment to service will be dearly missed. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, teacher and friend.

Survivors include his wife: Janet (Lawler) Geertsema; daughters Amy (Charlie) Beach of Waverly, Iowa, and Elizabeth Geertsema of Dubuque; grandson: Grant David Beach; mother Marie Geertsema of Marion, Iowa; sisters: Dolly (Jerry) Kreger of Waverly, Iowa, and Donna Eager of Marion, Iowa; brother: Donald Geertsema of Conover, N.C. He was preceded in death by his father William Geertsema on July 21, 1969.

David died Sunday, July 20, 2003 at Mercy Medical Center. Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 23, 2003 at the Church of the Resurrection. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Egelhof, Siegert and Casper Westview Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Meyers Death.

On last Thursday Mrs. Ellen Myers, another one of the older residents of our city, passed away at her home where she lived with her daughter, Mrs. Ella Geyer.

Elenora Fickes was born in Adams county, Pa., October 2nd 1833, and parted this life at her home in this city January 16, 1913, aged 79 years, 3 months and 14 days.

She was married to T. J. Roush December 1st, 1853. Soon after their marriage they moved to Michawauke, Ind., where they remained until the beginning of the war, when they returned to Pennsylvania. While in Indiana their two, and only children were taken from them in death: later another infant passed to the beyond. In all there were born to them eight children; four of whom remain.

On January 16, 1876, she was married the second time to A. W. Myers of Rock Grove, Ill., Mr. Myers died November 1896. Since that time she and her daughter, Ella Geyer, lived together in this place.

Mrs. Myers was confirmed and united with the Lutheran church at Bermudian, Adams Co., Pa. And although moving from place to place, she never united with any other denomination.

She leaves four children, three step-children, twelve grand children and seven great grand children. One daughter, Orpha F. Kline, died at Orangeville, Ill., November 1, 1891. The living children are Eldora Reisinger, of Lisbon, Iowa, Annie P. Sansenbach of this place, W. N. Roush of Vinton, Iowa, Ella B. Geyer also of New Hartford. The step children are: G. A. Meyers, Anna Kramer and Cora Spillman.

She last sickness which resulted in death came upon her about Christmas. Since then she has for the most part, been confined to her bed. She was conscious of the end being near, and had the children all called to her side on Tuesday of this week. At this time she selected the text that is being used today, and some other matters in which she was interested were arranged. She told the friends she was going to be with the Savior, whom she had loved so long, and exhorted all to meet her There.

The funeral services were held at two o'clock Saturday afternoon in the Methodist church, conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. A. Faris. Many and beautiful were the flowers, expressing love and respect for the departed one.

Appropriate hymns were sung by Mrs. Kate Ranney, Mrs. Faris, Mrs. J. D. Ramsay and W. C. Cummings.

The pall bearers were: A. T. H. J. Wood, James Fifield, John J. C. Struntze, and D. L. Ranney. Interment was made in Oak Hill.

Obituary.

Emma Vine was born November 6, 1854, at Titusville, Penn., and died December 18, 1917. She came to Iowa with her parents in 1858, and about 1862 they moved to Hinsdale, Ill. About 1866 they returned to Iowa and the deceased was a continuous resident of Butler county until the time of her death. She was united in marriage to Robt. H. Ward January 23, 1881, by Elwood Wilson, a justice of the peace. She was the last of her family.

Funeral service were conducted from the home at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, Rev. W. A. Faris of Mitchell officiating, assisted by Rev. Shepple of the local M. E. church. Interment was made in Oak Hill cemetery.

SUDDEN DEATH.—S. R. Geyer died very suddenly at his home two miles south of town last Saturday morning of what the physician pronounced neuralgia of the heart. He had felt quite badly the day before while working in the field, and was obliged to lie down on the grass for a time, but he recovered and was in town till quite late the same evening. The next morning he performed his work as usual and when his wife started for town he was getting his corn marker ready. That done he crossed the road to talk with Enoch Hurlbut, and was there but a moment when he told Enoch he guessed he was going to die, that everything was black around him, and with that he fell to the ground. Hastily calling help Mr. Hurlbut took him into the house and started for the doctor, but Sam died just as his wife arrived at the house. He lived about twenty minutes after being stricken down and was conscious till the last. The funeral services were held Monday, Rev. Foote having charge, and the remains buried in Oak Hill cemetery. The large number who attended the obsequies attested the esteem of his friends and neighbors, and all sympathize with the bereaved ones in their loss. Sam carried a \$2,000 policy with Modern Woodmen. He was 63 years of age.

Wedding Bells

Fort Dodge Daily Chronicle: On Wednesday, July 10th, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Black of Johnson township occurred the marriage of Mr. Carl Geyer and Miss Margaret Kathryn Black. Promptly at noon the couple took their places under the decorated arch in the parlor of the house. Miss Hazel Black of Knierim played the wedding march. The marriage vows were taken in the presence of a large company of assembled relatives, friends and neighbors. Dr. Edward Hastings of the First Presbyterian church of Ft. Dodge officiated.

After the congratulations following the ceremony, the bride and groom with their host of friends sat down to the tables at which a bountiful dinner was served.

Late in the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Geyer went by automobile to Fort Dodge and from there took a train for the west for an extended wedding trip. On their return they will make their home in Fort Dodge where Mr. Geyer is employed by the Illinois Central railway in the capacity of train dispatcher. Besides the large number of neighbors and friends of Ft. Dodge and the immediate community there were a number present from a distance, among whom were the groom's mother, Mrs. Ella Geyer of New Hartford, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Will Reisinger of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Geyer, besides bearing with them the felicitations of an exceptionally large number of friends, were the recipients of many beautiful gifts.

THOMAS S. GUYER.

Thomas S. Guyer, 79, farmer near Dunkerton for the past 73 years, died of diabetes at 7 a. m. Tuesday at his home following an illness of a year.

Born in Pennsylvania June 23, 1865, son of Elizabeth and Samuel Guyer, he moved with his family to Dunkerton when he was six years of age, and he spent the rest of his life there.

On Feb. 9, 1890, he married Evelyn Mar Van Etten, who survives with eight sons, Deane, specialist third class in the navy at Oakland, Cal.; Glenn, boatswain's mate, U. S. coast guard, Santa Cruz, Cal.; Samuel, Portland, Ore.; Bert E., 211 South street; Max N., city policeman, 148 Williston avenue; Charles, Atkins, Ia.; P. W. (Jack), 1103 Main street; Cedar Falls, and Ross, 2618 Rainbow drive, Cedar Falls; and two daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Clute, 213 Moir street, and Mrs. Elizabeth Carroll, Portland, Ore.

Also living are 11 grandchildren. The body is at Kearns Garden chapel.

Carrie F. Geyer, 78, of New Hartford, Iowa, passed away early Monday afternoon, October 22, at the Ahren's Rest Home in Clarksville where she had been a resident for one week.

Carrie was born on September 19, 1895, near New Hartford, the daughter of Chris and Hattie (Olmstead) Geyer. She attended country school in the New Hartford area. Later she went to Chicago where she worked for a number of years and then returned to New Hartford and was employed by the Western Home in Cedar Falls. Carrie moved to Perrin's Nursing Home in New Hartford in February of 1971 where she had resided until one week ago when she was transferred to Clarksville. She was a member of the New Hartford United Methodist Church. Carrie was preceded in death by her parents, one brother Chris and a sister, Lucy. She is survived by a number of nieces, nephews and cousins.

1973

FAMILY GROUP No.

Husband's Full Name

Christian (Hike) Geyer

This Information Obtained From:

Husband's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth	7 June 1868				
Chr'nd					
Mar.	4 Apr 1893				
Death	26 July 1942				
Burial					

Places of Residence	New Hartford, Iowa
Occupation	Church Affiliation
Other wives, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each mar.	Military Rec.

His Father	Mother's Maiden Name
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Wife's Full Maiden Name

Hattie Olmstead

Wife's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	9 Apr 1868				
Chr'nd					
Death	23 July 1951				
Burial					

Compiler

Places of Residence

Address

Occupation if other than Housewife

Church Affiliation

City, State

Other husbands, if any. No. (1) (2) etc.
Make separate sheet for each mar.

Date

Her Father

Aaron Olmstead

Mother's Maiden Name

Hulda Bagley

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Children
1	Lucy Minnie Full Name of Spouse* Jacob H. Holm	Birth	1894				See Holm
2	Carrie Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	1895				
		Mar.					
		Death	1873				
		Burial		Beaver Grove New Hartford			
3	Christian Full Name of Spouse* Marlys Curran	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death	1968				
		Burial		Beaver Grove			
4	Ellen Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	1870				
		Mar.					
		Death	1872				
		Burial					
5	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
6	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
7	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
8	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
9	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
10	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					

Chrissy
married
Mildred
Ackerson first

METRO DEATHS

EVANSDALE — **Marlys E. Johnson**, 70, of 3930 Lafayette Road, died Saturday, March 23, at home of natural causes.

She was born Oct. 25, 1920, in Waterloo, daughter of James A. and Anna Jane Harrison Curran. She married Harold Snyder on Sept. 15, 1940, in Waterloo, and they were later divorced. She married Christian Geyer on Aug. 15, 1942, in Akin, Minn. He died in June 1968. She married Russell W. Johnson on Nov. 22, 1968, in Cedar Falls. He died Oct. 9, 1985.

Mrs. Johnson worked for 29 years in the hog dressing department at Rath Packing Co., retiring in 1977.

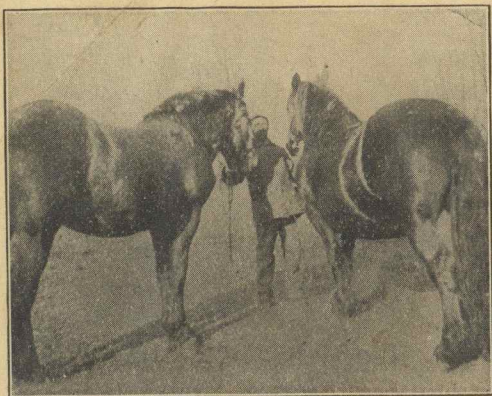
Survivors include a son, David H. Snyder of Evansdale; a daughter, Marlys M. Gosse of Waterloo; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and a sister, Bertha Smiley of Waterloo; she was preceded in death by two brothers, Thomas and Vernon Curran; and two sisters, Dorothy Robison and Emma Rogowski.

Services will be 1 p.m. Tuesday at Garden View Chapel, Waterloo, with burial in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Waterloo. Friends may call from 3 to 8 p.m. today and from 9 a.m. until services Tuesday at the chapel. The family will be present from 3 to 5 and 7 to 8 p.m. today.

Memorials may be directed to the family.



Marlys Johnson



Enterprise Stock Farm

G. H. BLUM, Proprietor

BREEDER OF

PURE BRED PERCHERON HORSES

—AND—

DUROC JERSEY HOGS

Cedar Falls, Iowa, R. F. D. No. 2, *June 23rd* 191*6*

Dear Hattie,

As it is impossible for us to come up. to-morrow, will send you a few lines & Enclose a couple of birthday cards for Grandpa. wish we could have come. will tell you reason why we couldn't when I see you. Paul is quite sick, troubling - I guess. Tell Hattie, write & tell us all about the party, & who was there. Eat a dish of Ice-cream for me. We are canning cherries I couldn't get 10¢ a qt. for mine so am putting them up for winter. will close love to all.

Your sister

L. M. Blum.

In haste.

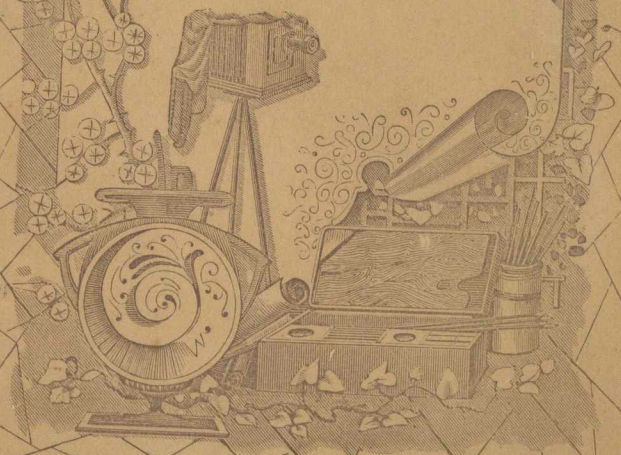
Lilly Geyer Bloom.
Wrote to his sister.

C. Sorensen.

Photographer,

Cedar Falls, Iowa.

GROUND FLOOR GALLERY.

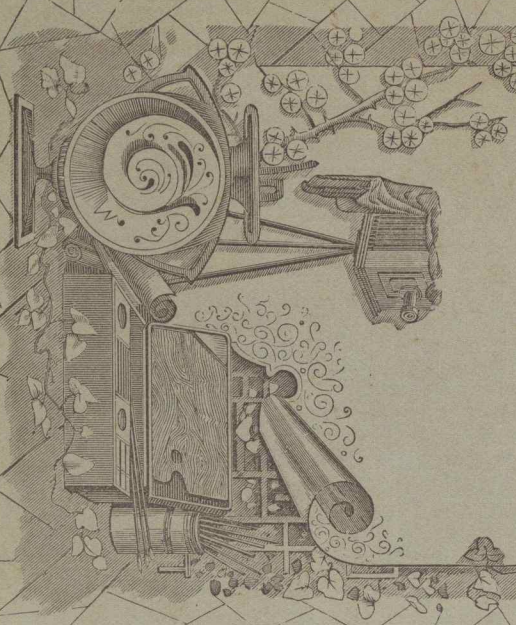


C. Sorensen,

Photographer,

Cedar Falls, Iowa.

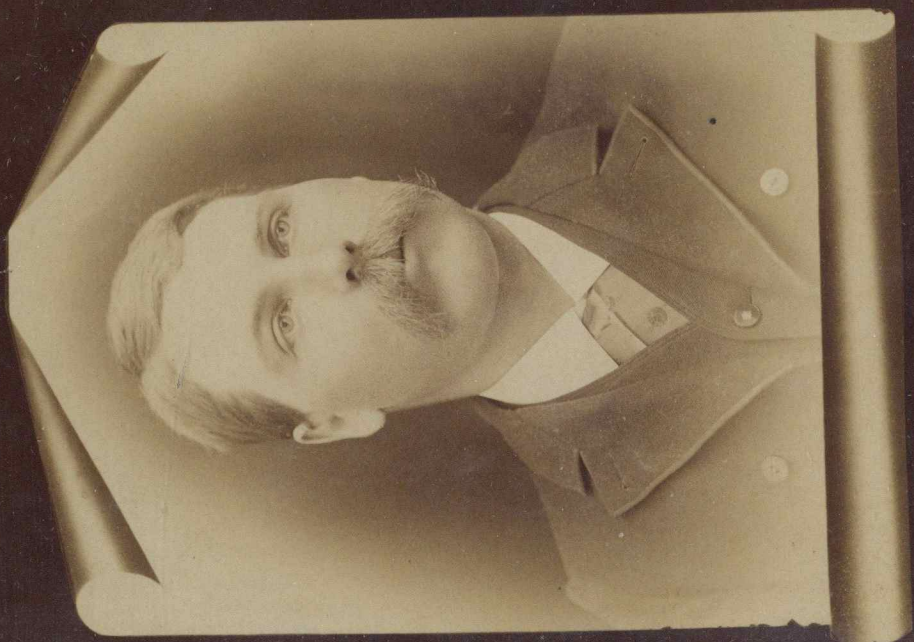
GROUND FLOOR GALLERY.





C. Sorensen,

Cedar Falls, Iowa.



C. Sorensen,

Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Christian (Mike) Sorensen sister

Certificate of Marriage

This Certifies, that on the 30th day of

November A. D. 1892, at

in Blackhawk County, State of

Iowa, according to law and by authority, I duly

Joined in Marriage

J. J. Boyer

Blackhawk County Iowa

Martha Phares

Blackhawk County Iowa

Given under my hand, the 30th day of November, A. D. 1892

J. W. Whitson

Justice of the Peace

John Frank Geyer

This Information Obtained From:

Husband's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Husband
Birth	17 July 1863		Stephenson Co	Ill	
Chr'nd					
Mar.	30 Nov-1892				
Death	3 Jan 1933				
Burial					

Places of Residence

Occupation

Church Affiliation

Military Rec.

Other wives, if any. No. (1) (2) etc.
Make separate sheet for each mar.

His Father	Joseph Geyer	Mother's Maiden Name	Martha Bene
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Wife's Full Maiden Name Martha Thomas

Wife's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Wife
Birth	14 Aug 1869		Barton	Kansas	
Chr'nd					
Death					
Burial					

Compiler

Places of Residence

Address

Occupation if other than Housewife

Church Affiliation

City, State

Other husbands, if any. No. (1) (2) etc.
Make separate sheet for each mar.

Date _____

Her Father Henry Thomas Mother's Maiden Name

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. Info. on Child
1	Harold O Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	14 May 1894				
		Mar.					
		Death	1986				
		Burial					
2	Nona Fionne Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	12 Nov 1897				
		Mar.					
		Death	16 Feb 1939				
		Burial					
3	Leon Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	20 Sept 1899				
		Mar.					
		Death	6 June 1918				
		Burial					
4	Lela Marie Full Name of Spouse*	Birth	1901				
		Mar.					
		Death	1976				
		Burial					
5	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
6	Full Name of Spouse*	Birth					
		Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					
7	Miss Nona Geyer of New Hartford Dead	Birth					
	(Courier Special Service)	Mar.					
	New Hartford, Ia.—Miss Nona Fi-	Death					
8	one Geyer, 41, died at the home of	Burial					
	her mother, Mrs. Franklin Geyer,	Birth					
	here Thursday morning of pneu-	Mar.					
	monia.	Death					
	Surviving, besides the mother,	Burial					
9	are a sister, Lela, of Allison, and a	Birth					
	brother, Harold, of New Hartford.	Mar.					
	Her father died in 1933 and a	Death					
	brother lost his life in the world	Burial					
	war.	Birth					
10	The body was taken to Dahl fune-	Mar.					
	ral home in Cedar Falls.	Death					
	Private services will be from the	Burial					
	residence at 2 p. m. Saturday with	Birth					
	burial in Oak Hill cemetery.	Mar.					
		Death					
		Burial					

PRIVATE LEON F. GEYER.



PRIVATE LEON F. GEYER.

TURDAY, JULY 21, 1917

G "SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE"



13, 1921

OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM BORN IN BATTLE SMOKE 107 YEARS AGO TODAY

Today is the birthday of our national anthem. Like that other stirring patriotic hymn, "The Marseillaise," which it resembles so much in majesty of tone and stirring martial spirit, "The Star Spangled Banner" was born under the stress of battle. During the bombardment of Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, Md., during the war of 1812, Sept. 13, 1814, Francis Scott Key was on board a vessel in the harbor that was rocked by the cannonade. On arising in the morning and peering anxiously thru the black battle smoke he saw Old Glory still waving proudly over the embattled fort. Taking an old letter out of his pocket, Mr. Key wrote on the back of it the song that later came to be recognized as America's national hymn, beginning:

Oh, say, can you see
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Thru the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming.
And the rockets' red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thru the night
That our flag was still there:
Oh, say does that Star
Spangled Banner yet wave?
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave!

OCT 14 1940 LEGION — AUXILIARY MEETING

The American Legion and Auxiliary held a joint meeting Monday night at which Mrs. Martha Geyer and Harold were honored guests.

After the business meeting, Mrs. Geyer was presented by her son, Harold, to the organization as our only gold star mother. The social hour was full of pleasant surprises.

The Geyers presented to each the Legion and Auxiliary framed photos of their son and brother, Leon Geyer, who was killed in battle at Catigny, France when but eighteen years of age. His obituary which will be filed in the history book was read by Mrs. Towsley.

Mrs. Alice Perrin, auxiliary

president, presented a birthday cake, beautifully decorated with tiny candles to the honoree. A box of handkerchiefs were also given her.

After a joyous evening lunch was served.

A Mother's Plea for Her Boy.

(Anonymous.)
(One of "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Patriotic Songs" which was published by the Loyal Publication society, New York, May, 1864.)

He's my own boy, and this is my plea;
Perhaps it is foolish and weak;
But mothers I'm sure will have pity on me,
And some word will tenderly speak.
The light of my home—my tears fall like rain—
Is it wonder I shrink from the blow—
That my heart is crushed by its weight of pain?
But I've kissed him, and let him go.

There are some, I know, who feel a strange pride
In giving their country their all—
Who count it a glory that boys from their side
In the strife are ready to fall.
But I, sitting here, have no pride in my heart;
(God forgive me that this should be so!)
For the boy that I love the tears will start,
Yet I've kissed him, and let him go.

Last night, with soft steps, I stole to his bed,
As oft in childhood I'd done;
On his pillow I bowed my poor, stricken head
Till out of the east rose the sun.
His dreams were of me; for he turned in his sleep,
And murmured "Dear mother!" so low:
I bit my pale lips lest they'd cowardly speak;
"Oh, my darling! I can't let you go!"

This morning I blessed him; I stifled my pain;
I bade him be true to his trust;
To stand by the flag till his country again
Should raise its proud head from the dust.
I knew by the light in his beautiful eyes—
By his face with true courage aglow—
He'd fight to the last. I choked back my sighs,
While I kissed him, and let him go.

But, oh! sitting here, this desolate day,
Still there comes no feeling of pride;
But one knows my need, and to Him will I pray—
I can trust Him whatever betide.
And if he shall fall—(oh, faint heart, be still!)
I know he will soften the blow.
And I yet may feel a patriot's thrill
That I kissed him, and let him go.

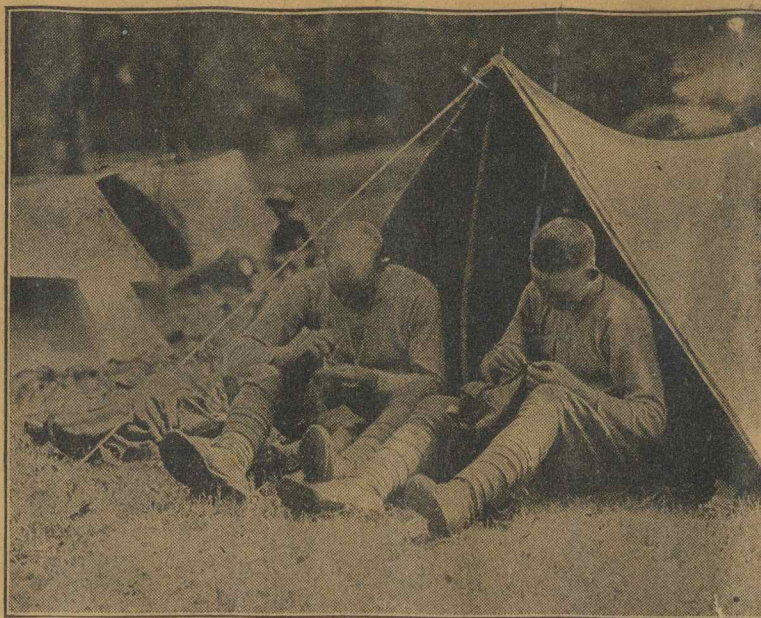
Yankee Yesterdays

By Hudson Hawley
V. A MOPPING-UP PARTY

See the soldiers reading!
Listen while they call,
"Trade ya two big gray ones
For six black ones, small!"
Such preoccupation
Never was in schools;
Now it is *the* fashion
That transcends all rules.

Here be two buck privates
But they're not alone;
Yonder in the *chateau*
Pipe the Gen'ral groan:
"Lord, if I could reach 'em!
Haven't time to change;
Wish my arms were longer—
I might get their range!"

Onward, hunting soldiers,
Picking of 'em off!
Let the tame civilian
Shudder, squirm or scoff
When he sees this picture;
Let him nightmares dream!
War's found sometimes in a trench
But always in a seam!

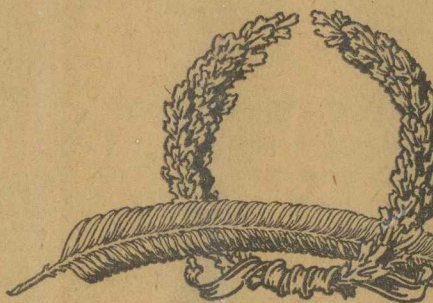


Men of the First Division in front of pup tents, Petit Froissy, France. May 16, 1918.
Signal Corps Photo No. 13140.

THIS first time, was written by Lieut. J. Hunter Wickersham, 353rd Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division, on the eve of the St. Mihiel attack, and was enclosed in his last letter to his mother, Mrs. Mary E. Damon, of Denver, Col. Lieutenant Wickersham was killed on the following day, September 12, 1918, near Limey, in an exploit which won for him the posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

"Advancing with his platoon during the St. Mihiel offensive, he was severely wounded in four places by the bursting of a high-explosive shell. Before receiving any aid for himself he dressed the wounds of his orderly, who was wounded at the same time. He then ordered and accompanied the further advance of his platoon, although weakened by the loss of blood. His right hand and arm being disabled by wounds, he continued to fire his revolver with his left hand until, exhausted by loss of blood, he fell and died from his wounds before aid could be administered."

And, fellows, she's the hero of this great big up
And her prayer is on the wind across the fl
And don't you reckon maybe it's her tears, a
That's keeping up the patter on your old t



Forgotten

To the Editor:

I'm home with a silver button stuck in my coat lapel.
And selling cigars at the counter—after I've laughed in hell.
Fat men with beautiful women, jolly and care-free and gay.
With never a thought for the war that's past—or the beggar who had to pay.
Pass, or stop for Havanas, nice and polite as can be,
But I'm just a part of the fixtures—they don't give a damn for me.

Two years ago, it was different. We were up with the "Tommies" then.
Holding the line along the Somme, and that was a job for men;
Raiding parties and night patrols, gas and shells and blood,
With Jerry wailing general hell, and we stuck there in the mud—
The fat men buying bonds at home, at four and a half percent—
And I'm earning an honest living, the same as before I went.

They called me a "gallant hero," the day that we marched ashore,
While our fat friends stood on the sidewalk and cheered till their throats were sore,
But that's all done and forgotten. Funny, how quick they forget,
And they wonder that we, who saw it, are dreaming about it yet.
That was the Hour of Romance. That was our taste of Fame.
"Yes, sir. A Corona Perfecto." God, it's a glorious game.

F. C. T.

MBER 10, 1920

years ago,
since then.
ancient farm
ne is high
cling,
my hopes

place,
cruise?
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CON

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AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE

stretched out as far as the eye can see, line

Leon Geyer writes as follows from France: "Somewhere in France, July 15, 1917. Dear Folks---Will write and let you know how things are. ^{Don't} got more mail arrived today and I got five letters. Four from you folks and one from Dorothy Thomas. I was sure glad to get them. They were from June 12 to June 23. I am feeling fine and dandy. The only paper I got was in one of the letters. If you mail them second class the wrappers are liable to get torn off and I'll not get them. The best way is to put the news part in the letter like you have. Am glad to hear you are doing a good business and hope it continues. I have not got paid yet, but think I will tomorrow, as most of the other companies have been. I think the reason is the battalions have been separated. There are four companies in a battalion and three battalions in a regiment. The paymaster has been with the other battalions. Was out of smoking tobacco until yesterday when the supply company arrived and issued tobacco and jam. Say, I am going to ask a favor of you folks. Will you try and send me about a dozen packages of Bull Durham? The French tobacco is so strong it fairly puts a person to the mat. You might put in a few almond Hersey bars. We had a heavy rain here last night, but you would not notice it by the roads at 10 o'clock this morning. All the roads are crushed rock and are certainly fine. Archie Roosevelt is a lieutenant in this company and Theodore Jr. the major, is also over here, but not in the 16th. Our platoon leader's name is Comfort. He is certainly a prince of a fellow. Yesterday was the French Fourth of July. They certainly celebrated. They even had a few fire crackers and sky rockets. I have been on patrol duty the last twenty-four hours. Had to see that every American soldier was off the streets at 9 p. m. There are about a dozen cafes or wine shops in this little town. They are doing a good business since the troops arrived. Am glad you folks are well and wish I could have had some of the strawberry short cake. Maybe you could have sent some by wireless. Ha! Ha! Well, it is so dark I can hardly see to write, so must close. Tell everybody to write as I am surely glad to get letters. Tell the Wolfs I appreciate their thinking of me and tell them to write. Will close now and write again in a couple of days. With love, your son and brother, Leon Geyer. Monday morning, 6:30. Will add a few lines this morning before drill. It is a fine morning. It does not get quite as warm here in the day time as it does in Iowa. What was the trouble with the car the night it bucked? When we get paid we will get a little over 180 francs. I am getting so I can understand a little of this lingo. They certainly put up a lot of hay around here. They raise no corn, some barley, rye, and wheat is

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Leon Geyer went to Waterloo Monday and enlisted in the infantry. He will leave Friday for the training camp in St. Louis.

1917

El Paso, Tex May 20, 1917
Dear Folks,
Well I arrived this morn.
Auto trucks took us
out to the barracks. They are
about 4 1/2 miles from the
main part of town. It was
sure a long, tiresome ride
down here. There are certainly
a bunch of soldiers here.
Both cavalry & infantry.
It looks two days & nights
to come thru Texas. It is
not very warm here today.
There is certainly a bunch
of Mexicans around here.
I have been feeling fine
all the time. Well, write
soon and I may have time
to write a letter this
evening. With love
Leon F. Geyer
34th Inf.
Fort Bliss
El Paso Texas

A card was received Tuesday by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer from their son Leon, who is with Co. F, 16th Infantry, that they were at Norfolk Virginia, on the ship Havana and in company with about fifteen boats would soon go to France. Leon is one of the boys who enlisted from New Hartford and has had many experiences in the weeks that he has been away.

Leon Geyer writes the following to his parents from Hoboken, N. J., under date of June 10: Dear Folks-- Well we arrived last night at 12:30 and came immediately aboard the transport. The ship's name is Havana. Cannot tell when we will leave. Our bunks are clear down in the hold. No very good quarters but they will do. We go to Norfolk, W. Va. to pick up the rest of the fleet. I think there will be about fifteen ships with the battleship and destroyers. Must close. May God bless you. With love.---Private Leon F. Geyer. Address any mail to Company F, 16th Inf., U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

Leon Geyer writes from Jefferson Barrack under date of May 13, 1917. Well I took my examination this forenoon and passed fine, also was sworn in, but will not get my suit until tomorrow morning. This is sure fine weather here only the nights are very cold. Last night I slept in a tent but it was pretty cold before morning. We have to get up at 5 a. m. We

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer are in receipt of a letter from their son Leon under date of June 13, stating that he was on his way to France. The letter was held up at Washington while the troops were crossing. The fleet consisted of a number of battleships and destroyers.

then wash and go down to mess. This morning we had boiled potatoes, two boiled eggs, rice, bread, butter and coffee. We had a fine dinner, roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas, bread, butter and water. Today 1700 soldiers left for various parts of the United States. I will probably be here a week and expect to get some hard training. Last night we had a five-reel movie show given by the Y. M. C. A. Most all the soldiers hang out at the Y. M. C. A. They have a piano, checker-board, newspapers and magazines. There are quite a bunch in the guard house. They are put to work every day in the week, even Sundays. A soldier with a fixed bayonet follows them all the time. One man was shot here Saturday trying to escape from the guard house and another for trying to desert, so I guess I will not get in the jug. They are building a big bunch of buildings here so I guess they are fixing for universal training. This is certainly a nice view of the Mississippi river here. I saw a balloon sailing over St. Louis today. Have not been over to St. Louis yet. The other morning we just got off one train on to another. They certainly have a fine depot there but lots of noise.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer are in receipt of a letter from their son Leon, who is stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas, at present stating he will leave for the battle front in France in about ten days. The letter in part follows: Well, I have finally got assigned to a company. I am in Company F, 16th infantry. The 16th is detailed for foreign service and we leave here soon for New York. We will probably stay there a couple of weeks and then sail for France. There are four regiments to go, some motor truck companies, a battery of artillery and a hospital corps. The bulletin says we will leave El Paso June 1, and we should communicate with our folks at once because you may not hear from me for a couple of weeks and maybe a month after we sail for France. It must be cold over there as they going to give us wool suits and overcoats, sweaters, heavy underwear, heavy socks and gloves. It is sure going to be a fine trip and I will be able to tell some fine experiences when I get back. I will have two or three months training in France. It was awful windy here yesterday afternoon. The dirt blew so that we did not drill. There is a ball game this afternoon. I am feeling fine.---Leon F. Geyer.

Leon Geyer writes as follows from Hoboken, N. J., under date of June 11: "Dear Folks: Received your most welcome letter this morning. Was the first I had since I got the one at Jefferson Barracks. I was glad to hear that you are all well. I am feeling fine now. It was foggy and rained this forenoon, but the sun came out this afternoon. The German ship Vaterland is just across the pier. I went by it this morning when we went out to drill on the wharf. It is some ship. From here all we can see is the funnels and wireless masts. I don't know when we will get out of here. We have four 6-inch guns mounted on the deck. Two are on the prow and two on the stern. I was surprised to hear that Howard and Gertrude were married. I was glad to hear that the town gave Hayes and Ofa a good send off. I am positive they won't get in this company, let alone the regiment. This regiment is chuck full. I understand there is to be a fleet of 15 or twenty ships going over, eight transports, 2 battleships, some destroyers and two or three submarines. If so, there is not much chance of our getting hurt. We will have to learn French drills when we get over there. They will drill us for six months before we will go into battle. I think the war will be over by that time, at least I hope so. There is certainly a fine bunch of fellows in our company. We can't even leave the boat. The chow is not very good now. When our company cooks cook the food we have good chow. I would give a nickel for a piece of candy right now. We are going to get a raise in wages this month. We will get \$30. When we get to France we will get \$36 per month. That won't be so bad. Well, I hope we get out of here, it is so tiresome. We can see New York City across the river. Well it is just chow time, so must close.—Leon.

Private Leon Geyer writes as follows from France to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer: "Somewhere in France, June, 1917. Dear Folks: Well, I have arrived and am feeling fine. This is a fine country. It looks like Iowa except the houses. I am not allowed to tell where we are, what we are doing, or anything about the trip. The crops here are good. Wheat is about ready to cut. It doesn't seem as though it is only ~~until~~ until the Fourth of July. I wish I could be there for the celebration. We have hard trouble understanding the people here. It has been raining all forenoon. As there is nothing more I can write, will close. Hoping you are all well, With Love, Leon Geyer.

Leon Geyer, who is in France, writes as follows to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer: "Somewhere in France, July 8, 1917. Dear Folks: I received your most welcome letter sent June 8 (the registered one) night before last and was sure glad to hear from you. I am sorry that I cannot have my picture taken here, but there is no photographer here. There was one at the first village I was at, but did not know you wanted another one. I have moved to three different places since I have been in France. I have been well all the time and have a good appetite. I am not any fatter than I was, have got a little thinner if anything, but am feeling fine. I suppose there were from two to three thousand in town the Fourth of July. I had a good time that day. Wish I could tell you about it, but can't even tell you where I have been or what I am doing. This is on account of there being so many spies all around, so if you wonder why I do not tell my experiences you will know. We have not been paid yet and the money you sent was most welcome. We hear every day that we are to be paid but when night comes it is the same old graft. The weather has been fine, just about like it is in Iowa. I thought Irving was going to enlist so fast. If I had waited for him I would probably have been waiting yet. You ought to have received the other letter I sent about a week ago. You will probably not get over three or four letters a month, but you will understand why. One thing I cannot write everything that happens like they do in the states, another thing the mail does not go across as often as it used to. Suppose the school house is going up fast. Well, as it is getting dark I must close. With love, —Leon Geyer.

2

Leon Geyer writes as follows from France: "Somewhere in France, July 15, 1917. Dear Folks:--Will write and let you know how things are. A lot more mail arrived today and I got five letters. Four from you folks and one from Dorothy Thomas. I was sure glad to get them. They were from June 12 to June 23. I am feeling fine and dandy. The only paper I got was in one of the letters. If you mail them second class the wrappers are liable to get torn off and I'll not get them. The best way is to put the news part in the letter like you have. Am glad to hear you are doing a good business and hope it continues. I have not got paid yet, but think I will tomorrow, as most of the other companies have been. I think the reason is the battalions have been separated. There are four companies in a battalion and three battalions in a regiment. The paymaster has been with the other battalions. Was out of smoking tobacco until yesterday when the supply company arrived and issued tobacco and jam. Say, I am going to ask a favor of you folks. Will you try and send me about a dozen packages of Bull Durham? The French tobacco is so strong it fairly puts a person to the mat. You might put in a few almond Hersey bars. We had a heavy rain here last night, but you would not notice it by the roads at 10 o'clock this morning. All the roads are crushed rock and are certainly fine. Archie Roosevelt is a lieutenant in this company and Theodore Jr. the major, is also over here, but not in the 16th. Our platoon leader's name is Comfort. He is certainly a prince of a fellow. Yesterday was the French Fourth of July. They certainly celebrated. They even had a few fire crackers and sky rockets. I have been on patrol duty the last twenty-four hours. Had to see that every American soldier was off the streets at 9 p. m. There are about a dozen cafes or wine shops in this little town. They are doing a good business since the troops arrived. Am glad you folks are well and wish I could have had some of the strawberry short cake. Maybe you could have sent some by wireless. Ha! Ha! Well, it is so dark I can hardly see to write, so must close. Tell everybody to write as I am surely glad to get letters. Tell the Wolfs I appreciate their thinking of me and tell them to write. Will close now and write again in a couple of days. With love, your son and brother, Leon Geyer. Monday morning, 6:30. Will add a few lines this morning before drill. It is a fine morning. It does not get quite as warm here in the day time as it does in Iowa. What was the trouble with the car the night it bucked? When we get paid we will get a little over 180 francs. I am getting so I can understand a little of this lingo. They certainly put up a lot of hay around here. They raise no corn, some barley, rye, and wheat is raised and lots of vegetables and fruit. It is most drill time so must close ---Leon.

2

Leon Geyer writes as follows:
"Somewhere in France, July 26, 1917,
Dear Folks; Have been so busy the
past week I have neglected to write so
will tell you what I can of last week's
happenings. We got paid last Fri-
day. I received 180 1-2 francs for
June. They were a little late in pay-
ing, but I guess they did not get the
money from the States. Even some
of the officers were broke I guess. I
think we will get paid on time this
month. I received another letter the
other day dated June 27. I was sure
glad to get it. The weather here sure
has been warm this week. The people
were put up more hay than any place
I ever saw. I am feeling fine and
"raring" to go. Be sure and send
me that Bull Durham and Hersey Bars.

Tell as it is getting dark must close
and will write a longer letter in a day
or two. With love, Leon.... Aug. 2,
1917, Dear Folk. Will write you a
few line this evening as it is about
time I wrote again. I meant to write
before but was busy so failed. It has
been raining the last couple of days
quite a bit. Have been on fatigue
duty the last two days. I am keeping
well all the time. Have not even felt
mean since we arrived. The hard
drilling makes a fellow sleep at night.
I wake up every morning when the
bugle blows at 5:30. I would'nt know
what it meant to stay up and work
until 2:30 a. m. and then get up at 10
a. m., any more. The Y. M. C. A.
have a large tent here with writing
tables, free paper and envelopes, two
small billiard tables, magazines and
cigaretts. I wish you would send
that Bull Durham and Hersey Bars
about every two weeks, as the French
stores have tobacco about half the
time. Have been out all day, had to
buy some cigaretts this evening.
The stores are not allowed to sell candy
and pastries on Tuesday and Wednes-
day. When I first came over here I
wondered why there were so many
stone fences and houses but now I
know why. The first eight or ten
inches of soil is fairly good, but is
mixed with stones the size of marbles
up to the size of potatoes. Down be-
low this it is solid rock. No wonder
the stone houses. I see by the
papers that the British and French
have started the big battle of this
year. When we get there, there will
be "Boches" flying in every direction.
I wish you would send me Hayes John-
son's address for I would like to write
and find out how he is enjoying army
life. If he has started over here, tell
me what regiment he belongs to. I
received a New Hartford Review dated
July 5, last Monday, but it did not
say much about the celebration. The
last letter I received was dated June
27. In it you said the papers said we
had arrived. That was the day we
arrived, but the New York Herald
edition that is printed in Paris did not
print the news for a couple of days

which is very strict in this country.
You folks ought to have received a
couple of letters from France by this
time. I don't know what I will write
in my next letter as everything is the
same and you are not allowed to write
news that would be published in the
States. Will try and write a couple of
times a week. Must close for this
evening. With love, Private Leon F.
Geyer, Co. F, 16th Infantry, A. E. F.
Via. New York.

2+

Leon Geyer writes as follows to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer: "Somewhere in France, Oct. 19, 1917. Dear Folks—After a lapse of 10 days will write again. The time flies so fast one doesn't realize that the week is past. (Taken out by censor.) Well, I finally received the two packages. They were certainly appreciated, especially the Hersey bars. I wish now I had told you to send P. A. or Velvet instead of Bull Durham. I have about 35 packages of Durham now. I got some at the commissary a few days before I received the packages. They have tobacco only about half the time. When you send again send P. A. or some can tobacco. If I have any Durham left I can get rid of it. Well, we have a new company commander, Lieut. Comfort. He is the third since our arrival in France. Captain Graves is provost officer in France. Lieut. Weidenbach, who succeeded him, has transferred to the aviation corps. I have not been paid yet this month, but expect it soon. I expect Harold has gone by this time if he was not rejected. The ice cream season must be almost over now. I am well as usual. Will write again soon. Hoping you are all well, I remain as ever, with love, Leon F. Geyer, O. K. W. E. Comfort, 1st Lieut. 16th Infantry.

Leon Geyer writes as follows from France: October 26, 1917 Dear Folks: Will write again and tell you the little news I can write. The weather has still been rainy. This makes it a little disagreeable. We got paid a week ago yesterday. Still have about 60 francs left. With what I had loaned out last month I have loaned 149 francs. I will only draw 102 francs next pay day, as I bought three Liberty bonds on the installment plan. I pay \$5 on each for nine months and the tenth month I pay \$6.75 on each. The extra \$1.75 is for interest. I believe it is a good investment. We had a Liberty loan day last week in the American expeditionary forces? Our regiment subscribed \$252,300.00 for bonds, leading the next highest regiment in this division by over \$48,000. That is pretty good, isn't it. That ought to show some of the people up and make them realize that if a soldier can take from one to five of these bonds on \$33.60 per month they ought at least take that many. I see by the paper that the French have made another haul this week, taking over 11,000 prisoners and 120 guns in three days. That is certainly fine. How are the drafted men getting along there? I suppose it is pretty hard on some of them, but they ought to harden in. We have had no mail for fifteen days. I have been waiting to hear from you before I wrote. I have meant to write to Dorothy Thomas, but have been busy. Tell her I will write soon, and tell her to write. I am keeping well and fine. Hope you are all the same. I probably will not get a chance to write for a couple of weeks as I will be extremely

busy. When a week or two elapses and you do not hear from me, you may know it is because I am too busy to write and am thinking of all of you. Hoping you have a happy Thanksgiving and that you are all well and happy I remain Your loving son and brother, Leon F. Geyer.

Letter from Leon Geyer

We print a letter from Leon Geyer to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank

Geyer. The letter was received Saturday last. Leon is the first boy from New Hartford to land in France with Pershing's troops, and has been in the trenches.

"December 27, 1917.

Dear Folks:

Received your most welcome letter of November 25th about a week ago, but have been so busy I have failed to answer it. I have been working on the officers' mess; it keeps a fellow kind of busy. I received the box with the helmet, etc., before I got the letter saying you

had sent it, but have not received the other boxes yet. Was glad to hear that the Red Cross sale turned out so good. I have had quite a cold the past few days; am feeling better now. It has been snowing quite a bit the last few days; there is about six inches on the ground. There was a big celebration here for the poor French kids; they gave them all presents. All of the companies received some new recruits; they are most all wops. I got a letter from Marguerite Saul about a week ago. Was surprised to hear from her.

You wanted to know about whether we had to pay postage on packages after we receive them. We do not. Who spreads that kind of stuff over there! We have not been paid yet for November. We expected to get our pay before Christmas, but didn't. Don't know when we will be paid now. The helmet is certainly a fine thing; also the comfort kit. I am going to have my picture taken after pay day. We can send them across now. I hope you received the handkerchief I sent you for Christmas. Well, I must close. Hoping you are

all well. Received the book of cartoons and a letter from Kate Barton this afternoon. Was glad to get the cartoons; they sure are interesting.

Your affectionate son,
Leon Geyer."

24

Letter from France

France, Jan. 13, 1918.

Dear Folks:—

I suppose you folks think I am forgetting to write, but don't think I am. I have been so damned busy that I have no had time. We leave for——; guess it's going to be——this time. I hope so any way. The sooner done the better. I am feeling fine; have not received the big Xmas box yet. I received a box of cigars from Henry Peterson, (traveling man for Martin Cigar Co., Waterloo) and a box of home made candy from C. J. Philo and wife. As I haven't had time to write, I want you to thank them for me. I certainly appreciate the gifts and was also glad to get the letters, in fact I appreciate them as much as the gifts. In your last letter you asked me if your letters were censored; they are not. I had my picture taken New Years and was supposed to get them last Sunday, but have not got them yet. I had to go to another town to have them taken. Will send them as soon as I receive them. You asked me to describe the towns; well, most of the streets are narrow with no alleys. The houses are of stone and are from 100 to 400 years old. The houses, barn, hoghouse, chicken house, etc., are all built together like that farm house that is on the road to Clarksville, only made of stone. There are very few farm houses in this part of the country. The reason is that many years ago brigands would ride through the country stealing or killing all the stock and destroying. So they all live in towns with a high stone wall around the houses, unless the house is set practically on the curb. And they go out in the country to work their land. They hook their horses to the wagons in single file. I have seen as many as five horses on one wagon in single file. The weather has been disagreeable of late; a blizzard one day and rain the next, but we have drilled every week day and three Sundays. Today was clear and warm; yesterday snow melting away fast. Well, it is getting late; I must close. I think I will get that box before long. I think the reason I have not received it before is because it is so large. Next time send more smoking. I am taking out \$10,000 insurance. It costs about \$7.00 per month. By the way, I also received a box from Aunt Ella. Give her my best wishes and thanks. Will write her, Philos and Peterson the first chance. Hoping this finds you all well and business good, I remain your loving son,

Leon F. Geyer,

Co. F 16th Inf.

Letter from Leon Geyer

Somewhere in France,

Feb. 8, 1918.

Dear Folks:

Well, as I have a few minutes time I will write a few lines. I received a letter from you and one from Lela both dated Dec. 18. I have also received two letters from Dorothy during the past week; the last one from her was dated Dec. 28. I have never received the Xmas box yet. It ought to turn up most any day. I received Harold's picture about a week ago; it is a pretty fine picture. I had some taken New Years day and just received them today. It was pretty dark in the studio so the picture is kind of dark; still it isn't so bad. I am going to send you three in this letter and four in one I will send in about a week. This is in case one gets lost. I want you to distribute them around as follows: One to Aunt Ella, one to Aunt Mag, one to Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Philo and one to Henry Peterson of Martin Cigar Co. Tell the Philos and Peterson that I don't have time to write and that I certainly appreciate the boxes. I am sending a picture to Dorothy and one to Kate Barton; I had another letter from her a couple of weeks ago. This will leave three pictures for you; I think that ought to be plenty for you folks. I was glad to hear that you had received the handkerchief; I was afraid you might not get it. The weather has been warm lately; there is no snow and there has been no rain for a couple of weeks. I am surprised to hear that you have meatless and wheatless days now; well, it is a pretty good idea at that. Say, the last time I went to the trenches I lost that comfort kit that you sent me. I put it in the squad roll and the roll got lost. Well, I must write a letter to Dorothy and one to Harry Bartons, so will close for this time. With lots of love,

Leon F. Geyer.

P. S. Am feeling fine and glad to hear that you are the same and that business is good. Pardon the writing as I am sitting on the floor with a board across my knees. L. F. G.

A few days later: I received the Xmas box tonight and it came just at a time when a fellow needs something to cheer him up, having just returned from the trenches. The cookies and cake were still nice and fresh.

On Active Service

A letter received from Leon Geyer by his people April 26th.

France, March 27, 1918.

Dear Folks:—Well, as I have a few spare moments will write to you. I am feeling fine. The weather over here is great. All the farmers are nearly through plowing. The days are quite warm and the nights cold. I received the box from Harold a few days ago. I also received a letter from Ora Fredericks; he said he had a letter saying that Harold, John

Young and several others had gone. I would like to get Percy's address. Was glad to hear that you are all well and that business is good. You certainly had a lot of sale lunches this last winter. Well, the Boche is sure at it now but I don't think he can get through the British or Canadian lines. We go back to the trenches soon. Well, they aren't so bad as some persons think they are, and as the Canadians say, if a German bullet has got your name written on it, it takes a pretty sly neck to dodge it. The only thing that bothers a fellow is standing on post, in the trenches, at night, and the wire entanglement post shake, do the hulu, hulu, squad right, etc. I'll bet more than one has six or more bullet holes in it caused by some sentry who, while not scared, was a little nervous and took the post for Boches. Standing and looking over entanglements for 18 to 12 hours, it certainly looks as if the posts were moving. I have been made a first-class private now so I draw \$3.00 extra; that certainly will help, as I drew only 66 francs before that. The liberty loan of 86 fr. (\$1500) and \$10,000 insurance of 36 fr. (\$640) each leaves only 66 fr. Don't leave any too much at the price things are over here, although I guess it is enough. Well, I must close for this time; with lots of love, and hoping you are all well.

Your loving son,

Leon F. Geyer, Co. F 16th Inf.

In a letter of March 17th Leon tells of going over the top and into the German trenches, but did not find any Germans, and got back without a scratch. Had just left the trenches for a short rest when the letter was written.

5

Dear Folks:

Well, as I have a little time, will write and let you know I am alive and kicking. I received a bunch of mail the other day; was glad to hear that you are all well and that business is good. I also received a letter from Harold. The weather has been fine over here. The farmers are planting lots of grain. Was sorry to hear of so many deaths around home. There certainly are a bunch of people dropping off. I received a letter from Percy (Geyer) a few weeks ago. He says he is now a corporal; his address is Wagon Co. 117th Ammunition Train.

(About one-half page censored out. This is what was left.)
probably not for a couple of years. I have not received any boxes for some time. When sending again, send more tobacco, as we have a crisis every once in a while. Also send some good hand soap and some matches. I was going to write to Harold but haven't time, so write and tell him that I am alright. We haven't been paid since January so have been quite poverty stricken for some time. Some of fellows have been writing out checks on their deposits in the U. S. banks. Well, as there isn't any more news, will close; hoping you are all well and happy.

Your loving son,

Leon F. Geyer.

P. S. Write as often as you can.

France, May 6, 1918.

Dear Folks:

As I have a few minutes spare time I will write. I have received several letters from you lately. Am glad to hear that you are all well and business is good. Have received a few letters from Harold, one from Ora Fredricks and one from Percy Geyer. Well, I have not got hit by the Boche yet, but will say that we are on (censored) been quite a (censored) but have not been fortunate to run into any Huns. We sure have a plucky Captain. The last time we were in the front line he crawled out in "No Man's Land" part of which was in a woods and killed a man at a machine gun post with his pistol in broad daylight.

We have not been paid for over three months. I wrote a check on my account on the New Hartford Bank for \$20. I do not know why we are not paid. I will have \$40 coming when we do get it. The weather is fine over here now except for a few disagreeable rains. It don't get dark over here until 9 or

9:30 in the evening. Well as I can't think of any more will close. Will write again as soon as I get the chance.

With lots of love,

Leon F. Geyer,
Co. F. 16th Inf.

Dear Brother:—As I have a little time will answer your letter. Would have answered before but have not had time. Well, how do you like the army by this time? I am back in a rest camp now. Don't know how long I'll stay. The Germans are liable to commence a big drive at any time, as the papers state they are massing troops behind the lines. The Boche avions come over and visit us on nice clear moonlight nights, but very seldom hit anybody. All civilians and soldiers have to be out of town at 9:00 p. m. unless it is cloudy and rainy. My Pal, Wm. B. Thomas, and I are working in the officers mess at one of the French peoples home. They are sure a fine pair, but it certainly makes us laugh to see them going to the tall timber in the evening. The old gentleman isn't so scared of the avions, but the madam like all women sure gets excited along about dark. She has the old gent pack a suit case about the size of a trunk and out they go to the tall weeds, she on the trot and the old gent with the suit case coming behind, trying to keep up with her. I had begun to think there were no farm houses in France, but up around this sector there are some real farms and nice houses. The chautaus that the French have sure would make some Americans big houses look like a wood shed. I have got so I can understand most anything that is said in French and parley quite a bit.

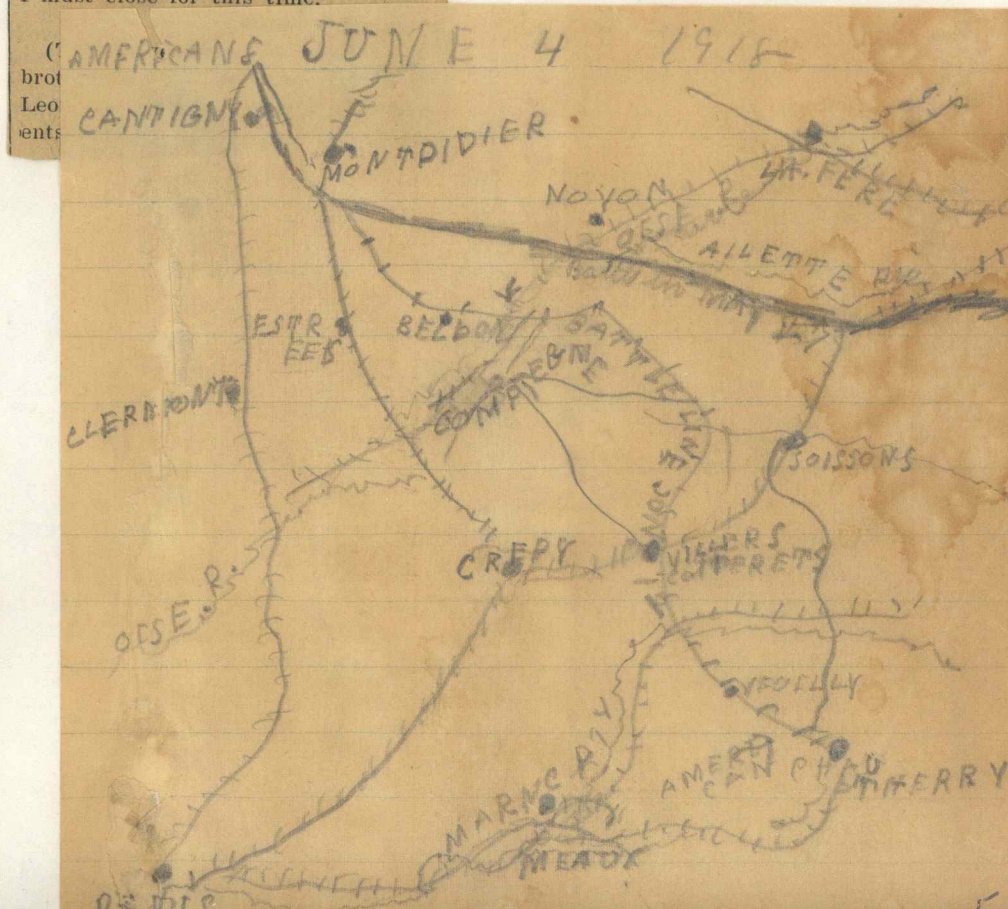
Well, as it is almost dinner time I must close for this time.

France, May 30, 1918.

Dear Folks: Recieved your letter of May 19th with the bouquets, was glad to hear that business is good and that you are all well. I suppose you have seen by the papers what the Americans have done in the last few days. I think America will be a deciding factor in this war yet. I was glad to hear that Orrin had joined. I think the recruiting officer was mistaken when he told him he would receive \$66 per month. The Quarter Master truck drivers over here only receive \$33 unless they are a Non Commissioned officer or a first class private.

A little incident occurred the other day in which a large cave was found under this town. It is claimed to have been built in the time of Caesar. An old Frenchman had the blue prints of it. The cave is said to have over four hundred rooms in it and the tunnels lead all over the town. The entrances were all filled up so they are digging them out. It goes down about twenty feet and then runs level. The sides are bricked up lime rocks. I may get a chance to explore it when they get the entrances cleared.

Well as there is no more news will close. This leaves me feeling fine. I suppose there will be a big parade etc., over there today. Ycur affectionate son.—Leon F. Geyer.



Last Friday morning Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer received a letter which they had written to their son Leon who is in France marked, "Return to sender." In addition to this the word "deceased" had been stamped on the letter in a number of places and also written once in pencil. No other post marks on the letter except New Hartford. It had been 52 days since the letter was written and sent and in that time no official word has been received from the war department at Washington in regard to Leon. A dispatch was sent to Washington asking for information. Monday a dispatch was received from Carl Geyer, train dispatcher at Fort Dodge, who had seen Senator Kenyon, saying he had received word from the war department that they would get official word from his commanding officer in France as soon as possible. Leon's family and many friends here anxiously await further word and hope that some error has been made and that he is alright. Leon enlisted over a year ago and was among the first American troops to land in France and has been in active service on the firing line for several months.

Mr. and Mrs. Geyer and family wish in this way to thank their many friends who have so freely shown their sympathy and interest in the welfare of their son Leon, in the time he has been away and also at this trying time.

First intimation that his son, Leon Geyer, had died in the service of his country while fighting the Hun in France, came to Frank Geyer, New Hartford restaurant keeper, when a letter he had written his son some weeks previous was returned to him yesterday with the word "deceased" stamped across the address. Geyer immediately wired Washington for confirmation but at an early hour today had received no answer.

IOWA BOY REPORTED DEAD.

Leon Geyer, of Cedar Falls, May Be Among Victims of Hun Attack. Special to Times-Republican.

Cedar Falls, July 16.—Frank Geyer, restaurant keeper at New Hartford, ten miles west of here, is anxiously awaiting confirmation or denial from Washington of his son's death in service overseas.

First intimation that his son, Leon Geyer, fighting the Hun in France, was dead came Sunday when a letter he had written his son some weeks before was returned. Across the address was stamped the word "deceased".

The father forthwith wired Washington for confirmation of his fears, but was still awaiting a reply today.

Leon Geyer's name has not appeared on any of General Pershing's casualty lists published here. He had been in France for several months.

LEON GEYER WAS KILLED IN ACTION

Fate of New Hartford Boy in
France Made Known to Par-
ents, Relieving Stress.

Uncertainty concerning the fate of Leon Geyer, a youthful soldier in France, reported killed in action in June, later reported alive and still later reported "deceased" by his comrades, was cleared away last night by the receipt of a message from the war department to the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, at New Hartford, that Leon was killed June 6.

Leon enlisted in June, 1917, at the age of 17. He had been in France for several months and had written letters home at intervals of two or three weeks. His last letter was received about the middle of June. It passed the letter mailed to him at his command in France, and it was recently returned with the word "deceased" written on the envelope.

The young hero was a cousin of Mrs. Harry Barton.

The parents have felt that their son was still living. They had hoped the reports concerning his death were untrue, and yet they felt he might as well be dead as be a prisoner in the hands of such an unprincipled foe. The report from the war department, tho causing sadness and sorrow, in reality tends to stabilize their disquieting emotions, for now the near relatives realize he fell while doing his full duty to himself and his country.

PAYS THE SUPREME PRICE.

Cedar Falls, July 15.—Leo Geyes, aged 20 years, born and reared on a farm near New Hartford, made the supreme sacrifice in behalf of the country and humanity, according to official advice received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyes. Leo lost his life a few days ago in a battle on the French front. The news came as a crushing blow to the parents and many friends of the young hero in this immediate vicinity. He enlisted about one year ago and has been in France since early last fall. No details as to how or the exact time when he met his death was contained in the message. The young man was well and favorably known in this city when he visited friends at many times prior to his departure for the army.

Letter Received by Mrs. Geyer

Mrs. Geyer sent a request to Lieut. Col. Cooper, for particulars of the death of her son Leon. This letter was referred to the American Red Cross which located a friend of Leon who sent the following letter home: American Red Cross Camp Service, U. S. Army Hospital, Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

October 26, 1918.

Mrs. Martha Geyer:

Received a letter this evening through the Red Cross which I suppose was handed from Lieut. Col. Cooper in charge here, asking about your son Leon. I can and will give you some information in regard to your son. He was a very close friend of mine while we were in France. The report was true, he was killed on the morning of the 6th of June. Leon and I were in charge of a machine gun at Cantigny at the time he was hit. The Lieut. sent Leon and I to the captain's quarters one night, but we were not able to get there on account of gas and bombardments, so we returned and told our lieutenant. So the next

morning the lieutenant sent Leon with a fellow named Parks. They delivered the message all o. k. and were returning out of the dug out. The town was being bombarded and he and Parks were killed instantly in the door of the dugout. They never knew what hit them. As to the report I got at the time, I was over at Cantigny that eve and saw the two, Leon and also Parks. They were buried there at Cantigny that night. Leon was liked by all of the officers and boys as well. He was not the shirking kind and always ready to do his little bit wherever he was, and that way he had quite a reputation and was liked by everyone. I went over the same time your son left the states and was with him every day, so I got to be a friend to him and he to me. He never was in any kind of trouble the whole time that I knew him. He was ready to do anything that came along. He was hit in the stomach and nearly cut in two, so you see that he did not suffer any at all. I was wounded in Cantigny the 9th when we were getting relieved, but have recovered considerable up to now. Suppose your papers never have the full details of anything, as there is so much that the government could not give all as a fellow could out of one's company, that has been hit. If there is anything that I can tell you people in regard to your son would do it with pleasure, as most mothers are anxious to know of their boys. My address is

Geo. F. Holifield,
General Hospital 26, Ward 15,
Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

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Leon Geyer Killed in Action---First from Butler County

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer Makes Great Sacrifice for His Country June 6.

A gloom was cast over this community Thursday evening when the sad intelligence reached this city from the war department at Washington, that Leon F. Geyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, had been killed in action on the battlefields of France on June 6. The telegram, which was addressed to his mother, brought intense sorrow to the Geyer family, as on July 10, a letter which they had written to the young hero, was returned to them marked "deceased" in several places, and the matter was taken up with the war department

who assured them that no news of his death had been received in Washington.

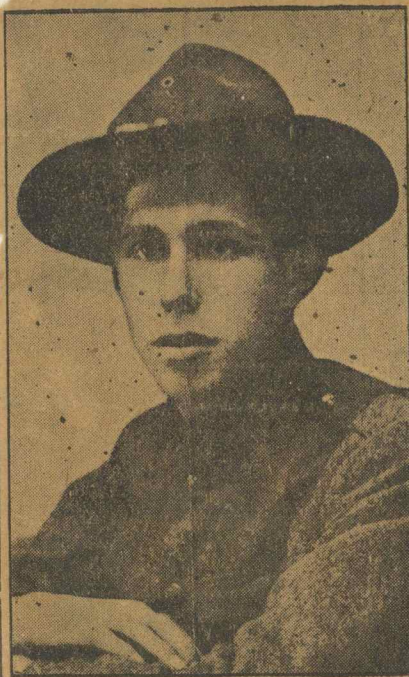
This word gave the grief-stricken family renewed encouragement and their every thought was again turned to the part Leon was playing in helping make his country and the world ~~safe for democracy~~ and looked forward with pride ~~to the day~~ when their brave soldier son and brother would come marching home to them.

Leon enlisted on the 10th day of May, 1917, at the age of seventeen years, and was the first boy to answer his country's call from Beaver township, who took the infantry as his choice. He left this city on the evening of May 10, for Jefferson Barracks, Mo., where he was assigned to Company F, 16th infantry. He remained in the United States a short time and on June 26, of the same year he enlisted, landed in France, where he received his training before going into action.

Several letters which he had written to his parents showed him to always be in the best of spirits and stated that the game of hunting the ~~game~~ sport. The last letter

received from him was written May 30, six days before his death, and stated he had been night raiding for some months.

Leon was the first from this place to enlist; he was the first from Butler county to give his life for his country's sake and today beside the stars and stripes hanging in the main street of his old home town flies a service flag with a gold star in the center in honor of the sacrifice he has made. Leon F. Geyer was born at New Hartford, Iowa, September 20, 1899, and was killed in the service of his country June 6, 1918, at the age of eighteen years. He grew up to young manhood in this vicinity and received his education in the New Hartford public schools. He assisted his father in the restaurant until his enlistment on May 10, 1918. Leon was held in high esteem in this city and was very popular among his associates. Besides his parents, he leaves



LEON F. GEYER.
Company F, 16th Infantry.

two sisters, one brother and a number of relatives to mourn his death, all of whom have the sympathy of the entire community.

Memorial services were conducted from the Baptist church in this city Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. H. A. Essex officiating, the church being packed to capacity. Rev. Essex spoke comforting words to the family and relatives, and gave comfort to the mothers and fathers of the boys who are now serving on the field of battle. The G. A. R. and the W. R. C. attended the services in a body.

LEON GEYER WAS KILLED AT CANTIGNY

Comrade Writes Giving Details
of How Leon Met Death.

The first news of how Private Leon Geyer was killed was received by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer Monday morning when they received the following letter from George T. Holfield, who was a member of Leon's company, and who is now in the hospital at Ft. Des Moines. The letter follows:

Fort Des Moines, Iowa,
October 26, 1918.

Mrs. Martha Geyer:

Received a letter this evening thru the Red Cross which I suppose was handed from Lieut. Col. Cooper in



LEON F. GEYER.
Company F, 16th Infantry.
Enlisted May 10, 1917, and was killed
in action June 6, 1918.

charge here, asking about your son
Leon.

I can and will give you some information in regard to your son. He was a very close friend of mine while we were in France. The report was true that he was killed on the morning of June 6. I and Leon were in charge of a machine gun at Cantigny at the time he was hit. The lieutenant sent me and Leon to the captain's quarters one night, but we were not able to get there on account of gas and bombardment, so we returned and told the lieutenant. So the next morning the lieutenant sent Leon with a fellow named Parks. They delivered the message all O. K. and were returning out of the dugout and the town was being bombarded. Leon and Parks were killed instantly in the door of the dugout. They never knew what hit them, as to the report I got at the time. I was over at Cantigny that night and seen the two, Leon and Parks. They were buried there at Cantigny that night.

Leon was liked by all his officers and the boys as well. Leon was not the shirking kind and always ready to do his little bit wherever he was and that way he had quite a reputation and was very well liked by everyone.

I went over the same time your son left the States and was with him every day, so I got to be a friend to him and him to me. Leo was never in any kind of trouble the whole time I knew him and was always ready to do anything that came along. He was hit in the stomach and nearly cut in two, so you see he did not suffer any at all.

I was wounded at Cantigny the ninth when we were getting relieved, but have recovered considerably up until now. Suppose your paper never had the full details of anything, as there is so much that the government could not give all a fellow could out of one's company that he's been hit.

If there is anything more that I can tell you people in regard to your son, would do it with pleasure, as most mothers are anxious to know of their sons.

Respectfully,
GEORGE T. HOLFIELD.

It was through the Red Cross that Mr. and Mrs. Geyer located members of Leon's company which shows that this grand organization is giving comfort in this country as well as on the battlefields.



Oct 1918
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MEMORIAL FOR LEON GEYER

Confirmation of Leon's death has been received from the war department by the parents here.

Memorial services were held last Sunday for Leon Geyer, New Hartford's first soldier boy to make the supreme sacrifice upon the altar of his country. They were held Sunday afternoon at the Baptist church, in honor of Leon Geyer, of Co. F, 16th Infantry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, who was killed in action in France June 6th.

Leon Frank Geyer was born in New Hartford, Iowa, Sept. 20, 1899, where he lived until March 1, 1902, when his parents moved to a farm about two miles south of town. He attended the Fairfield school, graduating in May, 1912, at the age of 13 years. October 31 his parents moved back to New Hartford, where he attended school until May, 1916. He worked in his father's cafe until May 7, 1917, when with his parents consent he enlisted and on the 11th day of that month he was sent to Jefferson Barracks. A week later he was sent to El Paso, Texas, and from there to Hoboken, N. J. June 14th of 1917, he left Hoboken for overseas, landing in France on June 26th.

Leon received his first training with French soldiers and early in the fall went into the trenches, going over the top several times. He was 17 years old at the time of his enlistment and had been promoted to first class private, which honor he had received by strict attention to his work and obedience to his officers. Leon Geyer made many friends and to know him was to be counted as a friend.

His letters home were always cheerful, never complaining of his lot. He always spoke well of his officers and was in their confidence. His last letter home, which was written May 30th, said he was at a rest camp and was enjoying good health. A letter written May 20th by his mother was returned after being gone 62 days marked deceased. This was the first word his parents had received that all was not well with their son and later news confirmed their fears of his death.

He leaves to mourn his loss his father, mother, two sisters and one brother, Harold, who is receiving military training at Camp Dodge. Rev. Essex, a long time friend of the family, delivered a stirring memorial and patriotic address which was listened to by a very large crowd. The

G. A. R. and W. R. C. attended the services in a body. At the close of the service a flower was given to each mother having a son in the U. S. army at this time.

The following relatives were in attendance at the memorial services Sunday: A. L. Olmstead and family and Bert Mapes and family of Ackley; Carl Geyer and family of Fort Dodge; Harry Cortright and wife of Horton; Walt Miller and family of Shell Rock; Harry Conlin and wife of Cedar Falls; Harry Saul and family, Mrs. E. S. Cortright, and Mrs. Robert Hardy and sons, and Harry Barton and family of Waterloo.

Card of Thanks

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer and family wish in this way to thank their many friends for the love and sympathy shown them at this time, and for the beautiful flowers which were given showing the high esteem in which their son was held by the community.

*Memorial
Services
Aug 11, 1918*



LEON F. GEYER.
Company F, 16th Infantry.
Enlisted May 10, 1917, and was killed
in action June 6, 1918.

When a Yank Gets the Drop on a Hun

Kamarad! Kamarin! hell you say—
Don't "Kamarad" me if on earth
you want to stay.
Think I'd Pal with a skunk like you?
Your place is with the vipers and
hyenas, too.
You cowardly, low-browed canine, I
ought to be ashamed
To hold my automatic when you're so
nicely tamed;
For one o' Willie's Super-Men you
certainly are a bird—
If there's any lower down than you,
of them I've never heard.
You've violated altars, old as Chris-
tianity's lore,
And bombed dressiag stations with a
Red Cross on the door;
You bayonet the wounded who can-
not lift a hand,
And now you tremble like a leaf, as
a prisoner you stand.
You've crucified your captives to
make us "scared" of you—
You've mutilated babies' hands; des-
poiled our women, too.
But when it comes to a test of nerve
the world sees what you are;
A kaiser lovin' idiot, a brute that
snakes would bar.
A vicious whelp, for blood gone mad.
Hell's very worst not half as bad.
An iron cross-wearin' murderer's tool,
A friendless wretch—the world's prize
fool.—E. G. W.



THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

BUTLER COUNTY CHAPTER

HEADQUARTERS: PARKERSBURG, IOWA

4/19/20

Mrs. J. F. Geyer,
New Hartford, Iowa.

Dear Mrs. Geyer:-

I received, this morning, the following communication from Sergeant Paul M. Carver, Mayen, Germany, to whom I wrote 2/16/20.

"Dear Sir, In answer to your recent letter. I am only too glad to give you the information that you desire in regard to the death of Private Geyer, Co.F, 16th Inf. This man was a member of Co-F, 16th Inf. when I joined the outfit in October, 1917. I became very well acquainted with the man for he worked in our Officer's mess for the greater part of the time when we were behind the lines and served as a Company runner at the front.

He was a very quiet, sober, conscientious sort of lad and we all liked him. He was in the Platoon of one of my best Officer friends, who was later killed at St Mihiel. This officer used to speak very highly of Pvt. Geyer. This officer's name was Lieut. Munroe and his people live at Marion, Georgia.

Pvt. Geyer's death occurred during one of our hardest sojourns in the front lines at Cantigny. We relieved the 28th Inf. the night of the 30th of May after their successful assault of the town two days previous. Of course we were shelled very heavily all the ten days that we held that position.

Our Company Post of Command was in an old cellar in the village and all of a sudden about the 8th day the Boche opened up with all they had on the town. Pvt. Geyer was standing near the entrance to this P. C. when a big one made a direct hit and poor Geyer with two other comrades "went home".

Captain Sidney Graves, son of the Major General who had command of our troops in Siberia was our Company Commander at this time and was in the cellar at the time that Pvt. Geyer met his untimely but honorable end.

He was a boy for a mother to be proud of, for he sure did his duty without a murmur and was always ready with a smile. I lost my mother when but a mere boy and it was the greatest loss of my life, but I find comfort in the fact that she was a good woman and the mother's loss of her boy must have a similar place in her heart.

I went through it all and came out with many wounds, but one of the greatest longings of my heart is to meet the mothers of these wonderful men who died fighting by my side, who died with a smile on their faces, trying to show me although their race was run they knew they were dying nobly.

Hoping that this helps to fill in that big gap between a mother's heart and that of her hero son now lying at rest on the field of valor, I remain ever at your service, Paul M. Carver."

The above leaves nothing for me to add at this time, and if this communication furnishes you information not heretofore obtained from other sources, I certainly feel amply paid for any efforts which have been made through this department of the Red Cross.

Very truly yours,

G. D. Lute

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The First American Soldier Killed in Action

Mrs. Frank Geyer received the following letter from Mrs. H. D. Hay of Glidden, Iowa, whose son Merle was the first American boy to be killed on the western front:

Glidden, Iowa, January 5, 1919.

Dear Mrs. Geyer—Received your letter today and assure you I feel for you and all the bereaved mothers of this land of ours, as I so well know what you are passing through, for I too am passing that way.

I am sorry for what I am going to tell you, but judge you by myself and think you would rather know the truth. Yes, one of Merle's comrades has got home and gave me the details of my boy's death and burial, and as Merle was the first killed they gave him a funeral and christian burial, and his grave is kept covered with flowers by the women of Bethelnont, but Mrs. Geyer, Walter says when boys fall in battle there are so very many that they cannot be buried separately but that burial details are sent out after each battle as soon as they can and the field has to be cleared and our brave boys are buried in the easiest way and fifteen and twenty in a bunch, either in an old trench or shell hole and he further said that while some of the boys would not have a mark on their bodies, others would all be blown to pieces, and I fear too from what he said that there is small chances of ever getting their personal belongings. I have not as yet received any of Merle's, as the Germans robbed his body. Walter said they took everything excepting his pistol and his dead hand was clinched around that with his finger on the trigger with every shell exploded but two. He was shot below the right eye, throat cut and five or six bayonet wounds in his body. They judged he had been wounded and downed and kept shooting from the ground, as his arm was badly trampled in the mud, until the fiends cut his throat. Oh. I wish the dear lad could have found targets for those two remaining bullets, but he did his best and died a soldier true.

Of the eight boys who went from Glidden when the first call for volunteers came, I guess that Walter will be the only one to ever come back, and his escape has been wonderful, as he has been wounded three times and is now in a reconstruction hospital in Indiana.

The other mothers here are just like you, can't find out anything from the government except the bare facts, but this boy happened to know how a couple of them met their death and buried in a shell hole with fifteen others. He says they do try to bury Americans separate from Germans, but that they have to be buried, so you see, dear mother, it is going to be impossible to ever send those bodies home, but it matters not at all to the brave lad who has left his house of clay where they leave it lay. He is alright, of that we can be sure, so let us be brave even as they were brave and bear our burden the best we can.

I will see Walter personally and ask him any questions you may want.

Hoping you may be given needed strength to carry on as our boys say, I will close. Yours in sympathy,

Mrs. H. D. Day.

THE RED CROSS

By HENRY VAN DYKE.

Sign of the Love Divine

That bends to bear the load
Of all who suffer, all who bleed,
Along life's thorny road.

Sign of the Heart Humane,

That through the darkest fight
Would bring to wounded friend and
foe

A ministry of light.

Oh dear and holy sign,

Lead onward like a star!
The armies of the just are thine,
And all we have and are.

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Remains of Private Leon F. Geyer Buried in Oak Hill Sunday Afternoon.

The remains of Private 1st Class Leon F. Geyer, who was killed in the battle of Cantigny, on the morning of June 6, 1918, arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey on March 18, and arrived in New Hartford at 1:30 a. m. on March 25, in charge of Private Roy Beaver,



PRIVATE LEON F. GEYER.

Battery E, 3rd Field Artillery, of Camp Grant, who acted as military escort from Chicago.

Leon enlisted on the 10th day of May 1917, at the age of 17 years and was the first boy to answer his country's call from Beaver township, who took the infantry as his choice. He left this city on the evening of May 10 for Jefferson Barracks, Mo., from there he was sent to El Paso, Texas, where he was assigned to Company F, 16th Infantry, 1st Division. He remained in the United States a short time and on June 26, 1917, landed in France, where he received his training before going into action. Several letters, which he had written his parents showed him to be always in the best of spirits and stated the game of hunting Huns to be some sport. The last letter received from him was written on Memorial day, 1918, six days before his death, and stated he had been night raiding for some months.

Leon was the first to enlist from this place to take the army as his choice of service and was the first from Butler county to give his life for his country's sake on the field of battle, and in the center of the city's service flag is one gold star in honor of the sacrifice he has made.

Leon F. Geyer, son of Frank and Martha Geyer, was born at New Hartford, Iowa, Sept. 20, 1899 and was killed in the service of his country June 6, 1918, at the age of 18 years. He grew to young manhood in this vicinity and received his education in the New Hartford public school. He assisted his father in the restaurant until his enlistment May 10, 1917. Leon was held in high esteem in this city and was very popular among his associates. Besides his

parents, he leaves to mourn his death, two sisters, one brother and numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Memorial services were conducted on Aug. 11, 1918, from the Baptist church at 2:00 o'clock, Rev. Essex officiating. The church was packed to capacity.

The funeral was conducted Sunday afternoon, March 27, 1921, from the Baptist church at 2:00 o'clock in charge of Becker-Chapman Post No. 138, American Legion of Waterloo and Rev. Essex of this city. After the Legion ritual was given, Rev. Essex spoke from the text "They shall beat their spears into pruning hooks and their swords into plow shares, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." The church was filled with friends and many were turned away.

Mrs. D. H. Pelletier rendered Near-er My God to Thee, Beautiful Isle of Somewhere, and America with the Post standing at attention. The pall bearers were selected from ex-service men, who saw duty over seas, and were Percy Geyer, Alfred Barrett, Orrin Wolfensperger, Corley Pennington, Harry Petersen and Robert Reid. The remains were borne to Oak Hill cemetery on a caisson drawn by four beautiful black horses. They were laid to rest in the family plot with honors, the last salute and taps being given by a firing squad and bugler from Becker-Chapman Post 138 American Legion. The remains were not without a military escort from the time they left France until they were laid to rest in Oak Hill.

The floral tributes were very beautiful and told in their silent way the high esteem in which the young hero was held.

The following article was prepared at the time of Leon's death by Miss L. A. Larkin of Shell Rock, a cousin of Mrs. Frank Geyer:

Leon F. Geyer has just closed a wonderful twentieth century adventure. He has made his rise to glory by the greatest of all sacrifices. Truly, "the path of glory leads but to the grave." His an honored grave of a true soldier at the early age of 18 years. Leon comes from a truly patriotic family, his grandfather, Henry Thomas was numbered with the dead in the sixties, his great grandfather, Adno Thomas Sr., fought in the war of 1812, a great uncle, Royce Beckwith, served in the Mexican war; his other great grandfather, Nathan Olmstead, was also a veteran of the sixties; as were also his great uncles, T. G. and Orrin Olmstead, another step farther back, Silas Olmstead marched with Col. Mead's brigade to the relief of Fort William Henry in 1775 and still another step farther, Capt. James Olmstead in 1731 struggled with the problem of the colonies as town clerk, selectman, deputy general and court selectman, helped with the foundation that has made this glorious United States the honored and worthy nation, which Leon has laid down his life for. Another great uncle, Samuel Geyer served in the Civil war.

Card of Thanks.

We cannot express to the business men, people of this vicinity, fraternal orders, and all of our friends, our heartfelt thanks for the beautiful flowers and sympathy that has been ours to receive in the sad hours we have just passed through and we are especially thankful to Rev. Essex for the sympathy expressed in the beautiful prayer invoked on the arrival of our loved one home. May you all never grow weary of bringing garlands of love and gratitude to the resting place of the noble unselfish spirits, who so nobly lay down their lives for Our Home, Our Country and Our Flag. —Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer and children.

13

**LEGION TO PAY FULL
MILITARY HONORS TO
FALLEN CANTIGNY HERO**

Becker-Chapman post, American Legion, will pay full military honors to Leon F. Geyer, hero of Cantigny, who fell on the third day of that historic battle, June 5, 1918, when his body is laid to its last resting place in the family plot in New Hartford cemetery. The body arrived at Hoboken recently and is expected to reach New Hartford shortly. A guard of honor of 50 men will be furnished by the local post.

**LEON GEYER, HERO OF
CANTIGNY, TO REST IN
CEMETERY AT HOME**

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, New Hartford, have received word that the body of their son, Leon, who was killed in battle at Cantigny, France, in June, 1918, was expected to arrive in New York yesterday. Leon enlisted within a few days after the United States entered the war. He was only 18 years old. In June, 1917, he went overseas to take his part at the front.

In his letters home Leon never uttered a word of complaint. He never found fault with army life and never expressed a regret that he had placed his life at the disposal of his country. He had acted as messenger under the hail of bullets and among bursting shells at Cantigny and came off two days without a scratch. Just as he left his dugout on the third day of this perilous dispatch-bearing he was killed by a shell.

**LEGION HONORS
CANTIGNY HERO**

Mar 27 1921
**Leon F. Geyer Laid to Final Rest
With Touching Tributes at
New Hartford.**

Seventy-five members of Becker-Chapman post, American Legion, in 24 automobiles, attended the funeral of Leon F. Geyer, who was killed while on duty as a dispatch bearer at Cantigny, France, in June, 1917. The services, in the Baptist church at New Hartford, were conducted by the post. Four black horses drawing the caisson upon which the casket was borne to its last resting place, were driven from Waterloo.

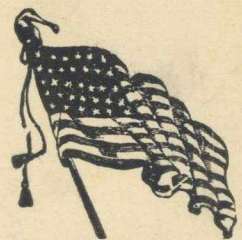
Leon Geyer, who enlisted at 17 and was the first from New Hartford to offer his life for his country, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Geyer.

Rev. Mr. Essex, the pastor, spoke eloquently of the manly traits of the soldier boy. The floral offerings were very numerous and beautiful. The church was crowded with friends.

"Nearer, My God, to Thee" and "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" were rendered. "America" was sung with the soldiers at attention. The casket of the departed hero was never for a moment without an escort from the time it left the burial plot in France until it was turned

over to the father. A young soldier named Beaver, age 19, on duty at Camp Grant, escorted the body from Chicago to New Hartford.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Barton and daughter, Katherine, and Miss Marguerite Saul, relatives of the deceased, attended the funeral from Waterloo.



TO

Leon Geyer

From the following
EX-SERVICE MEN

Harry Thomas	Harold Johnson
Orrin Wolfensperger	
Clarence Shannon	Corbett Cook
Leon Grandon	Harry Peterson
Mark Peterson	Robert Deitrick
Erney Luck	Fred Luck
Orian Luck	Howard Wright
Alfred Barrett	John Grady
Scotty Schmitt	Howard Jones
Glen Harmon	Martin Gersema
Allen Smith	Ed Moore
Hal Bronson	O'iver Townsend
Art Maxwell	L. A. Camp
Clarence Wallace	

Mar 1921

14

Had no opportunity to
ascertain your address.

Besides a complete
report was forwarded
back by me from the
lines and I can't
understand why you
were not notified by
the War Dept. as was
usual in such cases
except that the 1st Div.
was doing strenuous
work, being moved
rapidly and
consequently reports

1734 NEW HAMPSHIRE

Post marked
Washington D.C.

May 20

1921

Dear Mrs Geyer -

I was glad to
receive your letter and
of course will tell
you all that I know
of your son's death.
I would have written
you at the time
but upon leaving
the Cantigny Sector
I was ordered to the
United States and

I was about twelve feet from
our son when he was killed and
the shock of the explosion as a
shell caved in our cellar nearly
killed for all of us. After getting
up some of us unhurt and the
wounded who could walk out
the debris I personally returned
to what was left of the cellar
to see if anything could be
done for your son and
another man who was lying
with him. The body of your boy
was not mutilated except that his
left shoulder was broken and almost
disjointed and pierced by a shell
splinter which had caused his death.
You may be assured that he
died instantly and the shock of
the explosion would have been
fatal even if he were untouched.

I am writing the Company to let
you know about this matter.

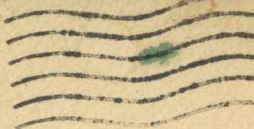
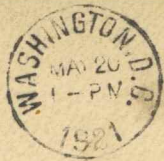
I have always felt that I
could do anything for the men
with me in France and particu-
lar for those who did such excellent
work - among these I number your
son.

The evening of the day he was
killed we buried him near our
front line, where he would have
preferred to lie. His personal
effects were forwarded back to the
bureau of effects and should have
been sent you. However in the
confusion of Modern War so many
things miscarry that these effects
will be difficult to trace.

Hoping that I have answered your
questions.
Sincerely A.C. TROVER - Capt. Co.

If you have the
 certificate you mention
 I should suggest you
 send it to the
 Adj. Genl in order to
 have a silver star
 placed on his Victory
 Medal. I am under
 the impression that
 your son was awarded
 a Croix de guerre
 when F Co was raided
 in the Lunéville sector
 in the Fall of 1917 but

Your son was an
 excellent soldier, fearless
 in the lines and
 dependable at all times.
 His comrades both
 officers and men sincerely
 regretted his death
 but you may be proud
 of his record and the
 fact that he lost his
 life for his country
 with the first American
 troops to get into action
 and bear the brunt



Mrs Martha Geyer
Box 98
New Hartford
Iowa

Charter Oak. Ia.

June 26. 20

Mr H. O. Meyer.

New Hartford. Ia.

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter of June 20 at hand and in regards to your brother will say, I did know him personally because he was in the same Co. as I was. and him and I were in the same billet for several months.

I do not know for sure how he was killed but am quite sure he was hit with a piece of shrapnel. yes, I knew all the men you named and knew them all. Although I never had much to do for Holifield, I think his word could be relied upon. I do not know where Parks and Thomas live, but Parks was killed later on. Captain Graves was a real man and he is the only real officer in the whole 1st Div. He would never send a man ahead of him because he would always take the lead himself. There was no man in our outfit

I could say anything about
Mr. Graves, because he was a
good man. I am sorry I do
not happen to know more about
his brother's death so I could tell
you more but unfortunately I do
not. Hoping this may help you
some. I will close, with best wishes.
Yours Truly

Wm F. Groth.



Mr H. O. Seyer.
New Hartford.
Ia.

Leon F. Geyer

First Butler County Resident Killed In Action In W.W. I

This is a first in a series about Leon F. Geyer who was killed in action in World War I at the age of 18. This series will contain news clippings as well as letters written home. Geyer was the first from Butler County killed in action in W.W. I. *The excerpts were submitted by Opal Youngberg of New Hartford.*

1917

Leon Geyer went to Waterloo Monday and enlisted in the infantry. He will leave Friday for the training camp in St. Louis.

Leon Geyer writes from Jefferson Barrack under the date of May 13, 1917. Well I took my examination this forenoon and passed fine, also was sworn in, but will not get my suit until tomorrow morning. This is sure fine weather here only the nights are very cold. Last night I slept in a tent but it was pretty cold before morning. We have to get up at 5 a.m. We then wash and go down to mess. This morning we had boiled potatoes, two boiled eggs, rice, bread, butter and coffee. We had a fine dinner, roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas, bread, butter and water. Today 1700 soldiers left for various parts of the United States. I will probably be here a week and expect to get some hard training. Last night we had a five-reel movie show given by the Y.M.C.A. Most all the soldiers hang out at the Y.M.C.A. They have a piano, checker-board, newspapers and magazines. There are quite a bunch in the guard house. They are put to work every day in the week, even Sundays. A soldier with a fixed bayonet follows them all the time. One man was shot here Saturday trying to escape from the guard house and another for trying to desert, so I guess I will not get in the jug. They are building a big bunch of buildings here so I guess they are fixing for universal training. This is certainly a nice view of the

Mississippi river here. I saw a balloon sailing over St. Louis today. Have not been over to St. Louis yet. The other morning we just got off one train on to another. They certainly have a fine depot there but lots of noise.

El Paso Texas, May 20, 1917

Dear Folks,

Well I arrived this morning. Auto trucks took us out to the barracks. They are about 4 1/2 miles from the main part of town. It was sure a long tiresome ride down here. There are certainly a bunch of soldiers here. Both Calvary and infantry. It took us two days and nights to come thru Texas. It is not very warm here today. There is certainly a bunch of Mexicans around here. I have been feeling fine all the time. Well, write soon and I may have time to write a letter this evening.

With Love,

Leon F. Geyer

34 Inst.

Fort Bliss

El Paso, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer are in receipt of a letter from their son Leon, who is stationed at Ft. Bliss Texas, at present stating he will leave for the battle front in France in about ten days. The letter in part follows:

Well, I have finally got assigned to a company. I am in Company F, 16th infantry. The 16th is detailed for foreign service and we leave here soon for New York. We will probably stay there a couple of weeks and then sail for France. There are four regiments to go, some motor truck companies, a battery of artillery and a hospital corps. The bulletin says we will leave El Paso June 1, and we should communicate with our folks at once because you may not hear from me for a couple of weeks and maybe a month after we sail for France. It must be cold over there as they are going to give us wool suits and overcoats, sweaters, heavy underwear, heavy socks and

gloves. It is sure going to be a fine trip and I will be able to tell some fine experiences when I get back. I will have two or three months of training in France. It was awful windy here yesterday afternoon. The dirt blew so that we did not drill. There is a ball game this afternoon. I am feeling fine.

Leon F. Geyer.

A card was received Tuesday by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer from their son Leon, who is with Co. F. 16th Infantry, that they were at Norfolk, Virginia, on the ship Havana and in company with about fifteen boats would soon go to France. Leon is one of the boys who enlisted from New Hartford and has had many experiences in the weeks that he has been away.

Leon Geyer writes the following to his parents from Hoboken, N.J. under date of June 10:

Dear Folks,

Well we arrived last night at 12:30 and came immediately aboard the transport. The ships name is Havana. Cannot tell when we will leave. Our bunks are clear down in the hold. Not very good quarters but they will do. We go to Norfolk, W.Va. to pick up the rest of the fleet. I think there will be about fifteen ships with the battleship and destroyers. Must close. May God bless you.

With Love,

Private Leon F. Geyer.

Address any mail to Company F., 16th Inf. U.S.A. Washington, D.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer are in receipt of a letter from their son under the date of June 13, stating that he was on his way to France. The letter was held up at Washington while the troops were crossing. The fleet consisted of a number of battleships and destroyers.

Leon F. Geyer

First Butler County Resident Killed In Action In W.W. I

This is a second in a series about Leon F. Geyer who was killed in action in World War I at the age of 18. This series will contain news clippings as well as letters written home. Geyer was the first from Butler County killed in action in W.W. I. The excerpts were submitted by Vopal Youngberg of New Hartford.

Leon Geyer, writes as follows from Hoboken, N.J., under date of June 11:

Dear Folks:

Received your most welcomed letter this morning. Was the first I had since I got the one at Jefferson Barracks. I was glad to hear that you are all well. I am feeling fine now. It was foggy and rained this forenoon, but the sun came out this afternoon. The German ship Vaterland is just across the pier. I went by it this morning when we went out to drill on the wharf. It is some ship. From here all we can see is the funnels and wireless masts. I don't know when we will get out of here. We have four 6-inch guns mounted on the deck. Two are on the prow and two on the stern. I was surprised to hear that Howard and Gertrude were married. I was glad to hear that the town gave Hayes and Ofa a good send off. I am positive they won't get in this company, let alone the regiment. This regiment is chuck full. I understand there is to be a fleet of 15 or twenty ships going over, eight transports, 2 battleships, some destroyers and two or three submarines. If so, there is not much chance of our getting hurt. We will have to learn French drills when we get over there. They will drill us for six months before we will go into battle. I think the war will be over by that time, at least I hope so. There is certainly a fine bunch of fellows in our company. We can't even leave the boat. The chow is not very good now. When our

we have good chow. I would give a nickel for a piece of candy right now. We are going to get a raise in wages this month. We will get \$30. When we get to France we will get \$36 per month. That won't be so bad. Well, I hope we get out of her, it is so tiresome. We can see New York City across the river. Well it is just chow time, so must close.

Leon.

Private Leon Geyer writes as follows from France to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer: "Somewhere in France, June, 1917:

Dear Folks:

Well, I have arrived and am feeling fine. This is a fine country. It looks like Iowa except the houses. I am not allowed to tell where we are, what we are doing, or anything about the trip. The crops here are good. Wheat is about ready to cut. It doesn't seem as though it is only.....until the Fourth of July. I wish I could be there, for the celebration. We have hard trouble understanding the people here. It has been raining all forenoon. As there is nothing more I can write, will close. Hoping you are all well.

With Love,
Leon Geyer.

Leon Geyer, who is in France, writes as follows to his parents, "Somewhere in France July 8, 1917.

Dear Folks:

I received your most welcome letter sent June 8 (the registered one) night before last and was sure glad to hear from you. I am sorry that I cannot have my picture taken here, but there is no photographer here. There was one at the first village I was at, but did not know you wanted another one. I have moved to three different places since I have been in France. I have been well all the time and have a good appetite. I am not any fatter than I was, have got a little thinner if

I suppose there were from two to three thousand in town the Fourth of July. I had a good time that day. Wish I could tell you about it, but can't even tell you where I have been or what I am doing. This is on account of there being so many spies all around, so if you wonder why I do not tell my experiences you will know. We have not been paid yet and the money you sent was most welcome. We hear every day that we are to be paid but when night comes it is the same old graft. The weather has been fine, just about like it is in Iowa. I thought Irving was going to enlist so fast. If I had waited for him I would probably have been waiting yet. You ought to have received the other letter I sent about a week ago. You will probably not get over three or four letters a month, but you will understand why. One thing, I cannot write everything that happens like they do in the states, another thing the mail does not go across as often as it used to. Suppose the school house is going up fast. Well, as it is getting dark I must close.

With Love,
Leon Geyer.

Leon Geyer writes as follows from France: July 15, 1917.

Dear Folks:

Will write and let you know how things are. A lot more mail arrived today and I got five letters. Four from you folks and one from Dorothy Thomas. I was sure glad to get them. They were from June 12 to June 23. I am feeling fine and dandy. The only paper I got was in one of the letters. If you mail them second class the wrappers are liable to get torn off and I'll not get them. The best way is to put the news part in the letter like you have. Am glad to hear you are doing a good

First Butler County Resident Killed In Action In W.W. I

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Leon Geyer, writes as follows from somewhere in France, July 26, 1917.

Dear Folks:

Have been so busy the past week I have neglected to write so will tell you what I can of last week's happenings. We got paid last Friday. I received 180 1-2 francs for June. They were a little late in paying, but I guess they did not get the money from the States. Even some of the officers were broke I guess. I think we will get paid on time this month. I received another letter the other day dated June 27. I was sure glad to get it. The weather here sure has been warm this week. The people here put up more hay than any place I ever saw. I am feeling fine and "raring" to go. Be sure and send me that Bull Durham and Hersey Bars.

Well as it is getting dark must close and will write longer letter in a day or two.

With Love,

Leon

AUGUST 2

Dear Folks,

Will write you a few lines this evening as it is about time I wrote again. I meant to write before but was busy so failed. It has been raining the last couple of days quite a bit. Have been on fatigue duty the last two days. I am keeping well all the time. Have not even felt mean since we arrived. The hard drilling makes a fellow sleep at night. I wake up every morning when the bugle blows at 5:30. I wouldn't know what it meant to stay up and work until 2:30 a.m. and then get up at 10 a.m. any more. The Y.M.C.A. have a large tent here with writing tables, free

paper and envelopes, two small billiard tables, magazines and cigarettes. I wish you would send that Bull Durham and Hersey Bars about every two weeks, as the French stores have tobacco about half the time. Have been out all day, had to buy some cigarettes this evening. The stores are not allowed to sell candy and pastries on Tuesday and Wednesday. When I first came over here I wondered why there were so many stone fences and houses but now I know why. The first eight or ten inches of soil is fairly good, but is mixed with stones the size of marbles up to the size of potatoes. Down below this it is solid rock. No wonder the stone houses. I see by the papers that the British and French have started the big battle of this year. When we get there, there will be "Boches" flying in every direction. I wish you would send me Hayes Johnson's address for I would like to write and find out how he is enjoying army life. If he has started over here, tell me what regiment he belongs to. I received a New Hartford Review dated July 5, last Monday, but it did not say much about the celebration. The last letter I received was dated June 27. In it you said the papers said we had arrived. That was the day we arrived, but the New York Herald edition that is printed in Paris did not print the news for a couple of days.

You folks ought to have received a couple of letters from France by this time. I don't know what I will write in my next letter as everything is the same and you are not allowed to write news that would be published in the States. Will try and write a couple of times a week. Must close for this evening.

With Love,

Private Leon F. Geyer
Co. F. 16th Infantry,

A.E.F.

Via, New York.

October 19, 1917

Dear Folks,

After a lapse of 10 days will write again. The time flies so fast, one doesn't realize that the week is past. (Taken out by censor.) Well, I finally received the two packages. They were certainly appreciated, especially the Hersey bars. I wish now I had told you to send P.A. or Velvet instead of Bull Durham. I have about 35 packages of Bull Durham now. I got some at the commissary a few days before I received the packages. They have tobacco only about half the time. When you send again send P.A. or some can tobacco. If I have any Durham left I can get rid of it. Well, we have a new company commander, Lieut. Comfort. He is the third since our arrival in France. Captain Graves is provost officer in France. Lieut. Weidenbach, who succeeded him, has transferred to the aviation corps. I have not been paid yet this month, but expect it soon. I expect Harold has gone by this time if he was not rejected. The ice cream season must be almost over now. I am well as usual. Will write again soon. Hoping you are all well. I remain as ever.

With Love,

Leon F. Geyer

O.K. W.E. Comfort

1st Lieut. 16th Infantry.

October 26, 1917

Dear Folks,

Will write again and tell you the little news I can write. The weather has still been rainy. This makes it a little disagreeable. We got paid a week ago yesterday. Still have about 60 francs left. With what I had loaned out last month I have loaned 149 francs. I will only dray 102 francs next pay day, as I bought three Liberty bonds on the installment plan. I pay \$5 on each nine months and the tenth month I pay \$6.75 on each. The extra \$1.75 is

Letters Sent Home By

Leon F. Geyer

First Butler County Resident

Killed In Action In W.W. I

Continued from page one

for interest. I believe it is a good investment. We had a Liberty loan day last week in the American expeditionary forces? Our regiment subscribed \$252,300.00 for bonds, leading the next highest regiment in this division by over \$48,000. That is pretty good, isn't it. That ought to show some of the people up and make them realize that if a soldier can take from one to five of these bonds on \$33.60 per month they ought at least take that many. I see by the paper that the French have made another haul this week, taking over 11,000 prisoners and 120 guns in three days. That is certainly fine. How are the drafted men getting along there? I suppose it is pretty hard on some of them, but they ought to harden in. We have had no mail for fifteen days. I have been waiting to hear from you before I wrote. I have meant to write to Dorothy Thomas, but have been busy. Tell her I will write soon, and tell her to write. I am keeping well and fine. Hope you are all the same. I probably will not get a chance to write for a couple of weeks as I will be extremely busy. When a week or two elapses and you do not hear from me, you may know it is because I am too busy to write and am thinking of all of you. Hoping you have a happy Thanksgiving and that you are all well and happy. I remain Your loving son and brother,

Leon F. Geyer.

December 27, 1917

Dear Folks,

Received your most welcomed letter of November 25th about a week ago, but

have been so busy I have failed to answer it. Have been working on the officers' mess; it keeps a fellow kind of busy. I received the box with the helmet, etc., before I got the letter saying you had sent it, but have not received the other boxes yet. Was glad to hear that the Red Cross sale turned out so good. I have had quite a cold the past few days; am feeling better now. It has been snowing quite a bit the last few days; there is about six inches on the ground. There was a big celebration here for the poor French kids; they gave them all presents. All of the companies received some new recruits; they are most all wops. I got a letter from Marguerite Saul about a week ago. Was surprised to hear from her. You wanted to know about whether we had to pay postage on packages after we receive them. We do not. Who spread that kinds of stuff over there! We have not been paid yet for November. We expected to get our pay before Christmas, but didn't. Don't know when we will be paid now. The helmet is certainly a fine thing; also the comfort kit. I am going to have my picture taken after pay day. We can send them across now. I hope you received the handkerchief I sent you for Christmas. Well I must close. Hoping you are all well. Received the book of cartoons and a letter from Kate Barton this afternoon. Was glad to get the cartoons; they sure are interesting.

Your affectionate son,
Leon Geyer.

**Next Week
Final Letters From France**

Leon F. Geyer

First Butler County Resident

Killed In Action In W.W. I

This is a fourth in a series about Leon F. Geyer who was killed in action in World War I at the age of 18. This series will contain news clippings as well as letters written home. Geyer was the first from Butler County killed in action in W.W. I. *The excerpts were submitted by Vopal Youngberg of New Hartford.*

Jan. 13, 1918

Dear Folks:

I suppose you folks think I am forgetting to write, but don't think I am. I have been so damned busy that I have had no time. We leave for guess it's going to be.....this time. I hope so any way. The sooner done the better, I am feeling fine; have not received the big Xmas box yet. I received a box of cigars from Henry Peterson, (traveling man for Martin Cigar Co., Waterloo) and a box of home made candy from C.J. Philo and wife. As I haven't had time to write, I want you to thank them for me. I certainly appreciate the gifts and was also glad to get the letters, in fact I appreciate them as much as the gifts. In your last letter you asked me if your letters were censored; they are not. I had my picture taken New Years and was supposed to get them last Sunday, but have not got them yet. I had to go to another town to have them taken. Will send them as soon as I receive them. You asked me to describe the towns; well, most of the streets are narrow with no alleys. The houses are of stone and are from 100 to 400 years old. The houses, barn, hog house, chicken house, etc. are all built together like that farm house that is on the road to Clarksville, only made of stone. There are very few farm houses in this part of the country. The reason is that man years ago brigands would ride through the country stealing or killing all the stock and destroying. So they

all live in towns with a high stone wall around the houses, unless the house is set practically on the curb. And they go out in the country to work their land. They hook their horses to the wagons in single file. I have seen as many as five horses on one wagon in single file. The weather has been disagreeable of late; a blizzard one day and rain the next, but we have drilled every week day and three Sundays. Today was clear and warm; yesterday snow melting away fast. Well, it is getting late; I must close. I think I will get that box before long. I think the reason I have not received it before is because it is so large. Next time send more smoking. I am taking out \$10,000 insurance. It cost about \$7.00 per month. By the way, I also received a box from Aunt Ella. Give her my best wishes and thanks. Will write her, Philos and Peterson the first chance. Hoping this finds you all well and business good, I remain your loving son,
Leon F. Geyer
Co. F 16th Inf.

Feb. 8, 1918

Dear Folks,

Well, as I have a few minutes time I will write a few lines. I received a letter from you and one from Lela both dated Dec. 18th. I have also received two letters from Dorothy during the past week; the last one from her was dated Dec. 28. I have never received the Xmas box yet. It ought to turn up most any day. I received Harold's picture about a week ago; it is a pretty fine picture. I had some taken New Years day and just received them today. It was pretty dark in the studio so the picture is kind of dark; still it isn't so bad. I am going to send you three in this letter and four in one I will send in about a week. This is in case one gets lost. I want you to distribute them around as follows: one to Aunt Ella, one to Aunt Mag, one to Mr. and Mrs. C.J.

Philo and one to Henry Peterson of Martin Cigar Co. Tell the Philos and Peterson that I don't have time to write and that I certainly appreciate the boxes. I am sending a picture to Dorothy and one to Kate Barton; I had another letter from her a couple of weeks ago. This will leave three pictures for you; I think that ought to be plenty for you folks. I was glad to hear that you had received the handkerchief; I was afraid you might not get it. The weather has been warm lately; there is no snow and there has been no rain for a couple of weeks. I am surprised to hear that you have meatless and wheatless days now; well, it is a pretty good idea at that. Say, the last time I went to the trenches I lost that comfort kit that you sent me. I put it in the squad roll and the roll got lost. Well, I must write a letter to Dorothy and one to Harry Bartons, so will close for this time. With lots of love,

Leon F. Geyer

P.S. Am feeling fine and glad to hear that you are the same and that business is good. Pardon the writing as I am sitting on the floor with a board across my knees. L.F.G.

A few days later: I received the Xmas box tonight and it came just at a time when a fellow needs something to cheer him up, having just returned from the trenches. The cookies and cake were still nice and fresh.

March 27, 1918

Dear Folks,

Well, as I have a few spare moments will write to you. I am feeling fine. The weather over here is great. All the farmers are nearly through plowing. The days are quite warm and the nights cold. I received the box from Harold a few days ago. I also received a letter from Ora Fredericks; he said he had a

John Young and several others had gone. I would like to get Percy's address. Was glad to hear that you are all well and that business is good. You certainly had a lot of sale lunches this last winter. Well, the Boche is sure at it now but I don't think he can get through the British or Canadian lines. We go back to the trenches soon. Well, they aren't so bad as some persons think they are, and as the Canadians say, if a German bullet has got your name written on it, it takes a pretty spry neck to dodge it. The only thing that bothers a fellow is standing on post, in the trenches, at night, and the wire entanglement post shake, do the hulu, hulu, squad right, etc. I'll bet more than one has six or more bullet holes in it caused by some sentry who, while not scared, was a little nervous and took the post for Boches. Standing and looking over entanglements for 18 to 12 hours, it certainly looks as if the posts were moving. I have been made a first-class private now so I draw \$3.00 extra; that certainly will help as I drew only 66 francs before that. The liberty loan of 86 fr (\$1500) and \$10,000 insurance of 36 fr. (\$640) each leaves only 66 fr. Don't leave any too much at the price things are over here, although I guess it is enough. Well, I must close for this time; with lots of love, and hoping you are all well.

Your loving son,

Leon F. Geyer

Co. F 16 inf.

In a letter of March 17 Leon tells of going over the top and into the German trenches, but did not find any Germans, and got back without a scratch. Had just left the trenches for a short rest when the letter was written.

April 21, 1918

Dear Folks,

Well, as I have a little time, will write and let you know I am alive and kicking. I received a bunch of mail the other day, was glad to hear that you are all well and that business is good. I also received a letter from Harold. The weather has been fine over here. The farmers are planting lots of grain. Was sorry to hear of so many deaths around home. There certainly are a bunch of people dropping off. I received a letter from Percy (Geyer) a few weeks ago. He says he is now a corporal; his address is

Cont. Page 3

(About one-half page censored out, this is what was left)

probably not for a couple of years. I have not received any boxes for some time. When sending again, send more tobacco, as we have a crisis every once in a while. Also send some good hand soap and some matches. I was going to write to Harold but haven't time, so write and tell him that I am alright. We haven't been paid since January so have been quite poverty stricken for some time. Some of the fellows have been writing out checks on their deposits in the U.S. banks. Well, as there isn't anymore news, will close; hoping you are all well and happy.

Your loving son,
Leon F. Geyer.

P.S. Write as often as you can.

May 6, 1918

Dear Folks,

As I have a few minutes spare time I will write. I have received several letters from you lately. Am glad to hear that you are all well and business is good. Have received a few letters from Harold, one from Ora Fredricks and one from Percy Geyer. Well, I have not got hit by the Boche yet, but will say that we are on (censored) been quite a (censored) but have not been fortunate to run into any Huns. We sure have a plucky Captain. The last time we were in the front line he crawled out in "No

Man's Land" part of which was in a woods and killed a man at a machine gun post with his pistol in broad daylight.

We have not been paid for over three months, I wrote a check on my account on the New Hartford Bank for \$20. I do not know why we are not paid. I will have \$40 coming when we do get it. The weather is fine over here now except for a few disagreeable rains. It don't get dark over here until 9 or 9:30 in the evening. Well as I can't think of any more will close. Will write again as soon as I get the chance.

With lots of love,
Leon F. Geyer
CO. F. 16th Inf.

May 20, 1918

Dear Brother,

As I have a little time will answer your letter. Would have answered before but have not had time. Well, how do you like the army by this time? I am back in a rest camp now. Don't know how long I'll stay. The Germans are liable to commence a big drive, at any time, as the papers state they are massing troops behind the lines. The Boche avions come over and visit us on nice clear moonlight nights, but very seldom hit anybody. All civilians and soldiers have to be out of town at 9:00 p.m. unless it is cloudy and rainy. My Pal, Wm. B. Thomas, and I are working in the officers mess at one of the French peoples home. They are sure a fine pair, but it certainly makes us laugh to see them going to the tall timber in the evening. The old gentleman isn't so scared of the avions, but the madam like all women sure gets excited along about dark. She has the old gent pack a suit case about the size of a trunk and out they go to the tall weeds, she on the trot and the old gent with the suit case coming behind, trying to keep up with her. I had begun to think there were no farm houses in France, but up around this sector there are some real farms and nice houses. The chautaus that the French have sure would make some Americans big houses look like a wood shed. I have got so I can understand most anything that is said in French and parley quite a bit.

Well, as it is almost dinner time I must close for this time,
Leon Geyer.

May 30, 1918

Dear Folks,

Received your letter of May 19th with the bouquets, was glad to hear that business is good and that you are all well. I suppose you have seen by the papers what the Americans have done in the last few days. I think America will be a deciding factor in this war yet. I was glad to hear that Orrin had joined. I think the recruiting officer was mistaken when he told him he would receive \$66 per month. The Quarter Master truck drivers over here only receive \$33 unless they are a Non Commissioned officer or a first class private.

A little incident occurred the other day in which a large cave was found under this town. It is claimed to have been built in the time of Caesar. An old Frenchman had the blue prints of it. The cave is said to have over four hundred rooms in it and the tunnels lead all over the town. The entrances were all filled up so they are digging them out. It goes down about twenty feet and then runs level. The sides are bricked up lime rocks. I may get a chance to explore it when they get the entrances cleared.

Well as there is no more news will close. This leaves me feeling fine. I suppose there will be a big parade etc. over there today. Your affectionate son.

Leon F. Geyer.

Next Week:
Notification Of The Death
Of Leon F. Geyer

Letters Sent Home By

Leon F. Geyer

First Butler County Resident Killed In Action In W.W. I

This is a fifth in a series about Leon F. Geyer who was killed in action in World War I at the age of 18. This series will contain news clippings as well as letters written home. Geyer was the first from Butler County killed in action in W.W. I: *The exerts were submitted by Vopal Youngberg of New Hartford.*

Following are news releases and other information on the death of Leon F. Geyer

Last Friday morning Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer received a letter which they had written to their son, Leon who is in France marked, "Return to sender". In addition to this the word "deceased" had been stamped on the letter in a number of places and also written once in pencil. No other post marks on the letter except New Hartford. It had been 52 days since the letter was written and sent and in that time no official word has been received from the war department at Washington in regard to Leon. A dispatch was sent to Washington asking for information. Monday a dispatch was received from Carl Geyer, train dispatcher at Fort Dodge, who had seen Senator Kenyon, saying he had received word from the war department, that they would get official word from his commanding officer in France as soon as possible. Leon's family and many friends here anxiously await further word and hope that some error has been made and that he is alright. Leon enlisted over a year ago and was among the first Ameri-

can troops to land in France and has been in active service on the firing line for several months.

Mr. and Mrs. Geyer and family wish in this way to thank their many friends who have so freely shown their sympathy and interest in the welfare of their son Leon in the time he has been away and also at this trying time.

**Iowa Boy Reported Dead
Leon Geyer, of Cedar Falls,
May be Among Victims of
Hun Attack.**

Special to Times-Republican
Cedar Falls, July 16 - Frank Geyer, restaurant keeper at New Hartford, ten miles west of here, is anxiously awaiting confirmation or denial from Washington of his son's death in service overseas.

First intimation that his son, Leon Geyer, fighting the Hun in France, was dead came Sunday when a letter he had written his son some weeks before was returned. Across the address was stamped the word "deceased".

The father forthwith wired Washington for confirmation of his fears, but was still awaiting a reply today.

Leon Geyer's name has not appeared on any of General Pershing's casualty lists published here. He had been in France for several months.

**Leon Geyer Was
Killed In Action
Fate of New Hartford Boy
In France Made Known To
Parents, Relieving Stress**

Uncertainty concerning the fate of Leon Geyer, a youthful soldier in France, reported killed in action in June, later reported alive and still later

reported "deceased" by his comrades, was cleared away last night by the receipt of a message from the war department to the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, at New Hartford, that Leon was killed June 6.

Leon enlisted in June, 1917, at the age of 17. He had been in France for several months and had written letters home at intervals of two or three weeks. His last letter was received about the middle of June. It passed the letter mailed to him at his command in France, and it was recently returned with the word "deceased" written on the envelope.

The young hero was a cousin of Mrs. Harry Barton.

The parents have felt that their son was still living. They had hoped the reports concerning his death were untrue, and yet they felt he might as well be dead as be a prisoner in the hands of such an unprincipled foe. The report from the war department, tho causing sadness and sorrow, in reality tends to stabilize their disquieting emotions, for now the near relatives realize he fell while doing his full duty to himself and his country.

**Letter Received
by Mrs. Geyer**

Mrs. Geyer sent a request to Lieut. Col. Cooper, for particulars of the death of her son Leon. This letter was referred to the American Red Cross which located a friend of Leon who sent the following letter home:

Cont. Page 3

Leon F. Geyer

First Butler County Resident

Killed In Action In W.W. I

Continued from page one

American Red Cross
Camp Service

U.S. Army Hospital
Fort Des Moines, Iowa
October 26, 1918.

Mrs. Martha Geyer

Received a letter this evening through the Red Cross which I suppose was handed from Lieut. Col. Cooper in charge here, asking about your son Leon. I can and will give you some information in regard to your son. He was a very close friend of mine while we were in France. The report was true, he was killed on the morning of the 6th of June. Leon and I were in charge of a machine gun at Catigny at the time he was hit. The Lieut. sent Leon and I to the captain's quarters one night, but we were not able to get there on account of gas and bombardments, so we returned and told our lieutenant. So the next morning the lieutenant sent Leon with a fellow named Parks. They delivered the message all o.k. and were returning out of the dug out. The town was being bombarded and he and Parks were killed instantly in the door of the dugout. They never knew what hit them. As to the report I got at the time, I was over at Cantigny that eve and saw the two, Leon and also Parks. They were buried there at Cantigny that night. Leon was liked by all of the officers and boys as well. He was not the shirking kind and always ready to do his little bit wherever he was, and that way he had quite a reputation and was like by everyone. I went over the same time your son left the states and was with him every day, so I got to be a friend to him and he to me. He never was in any kind of trouble the whole time that I knew him. He was ready to do anything that came along. He was hit in the stomach and nearly cut in two, so you see that he did not suffer any at all. I was wounded in Cantigny the 9th when we were getting relieved, but have recovered considerable in to

now. Suppose your papers never have the full details of anything, as there is so much that the government could not give all as a fellow could out of one's company, that has been hit. If there is anything that I can tell you people in regard to your son would do it with pleasure, as most mothers are anxious to know of their boys. My address is.

Geo. Holifield

General Hospital 26,
Ward 15

Fort Des Moines, Iowa

Leon Geyer Killed In

Action - First From Butler County

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer Makes Great Sacrifice For His Country June 6.

Gloom was cast over this community Thursday evening when the sad intelligence reached this city from the war department at Washington, that Leon F. Geyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, had been killed in action on the battlefields of France on June 6. The telegram, which was addressed to his mother, brought intense sorrow to the Geyer family, as on July 10, a letter which they had written to the young hero, was returned to them marked "deceased" in several places, and the matter was taken up with the war department who assured them that no news of his death had been received in Washington.

This word gave the grief-stricken family renewed encouragement and their every thought was again turned to the part Leon was playing in helping make his country and the world safe for democracy, and looked forward with pride when the brave soldier son and brother would come marching home to them.

Leon enlisted on the 10th

day of May, 1917, at the age of seventeen years, and was the first boy to answer his country's call from Beaver township, who took the infantry as his choice. He left this city on the evening of May 10, for Jefferson Barracks, MO., where he was assigned to Company F, 16th infantry. He remained in the United States a short time and on June 26, of the same year he enlisted, landed in France, where he received his training before going into action.

Several letters which he had written to his parents showed him to always be in the best of spirits. The last letter received from him was written May 30, six days before his death, and stated he had been night raiding for some months.

Leon was the first from this place to enlist; he was the first from Butler County to give his life for his country's sake and today beside the stars and stripes hanging in the main street of his old home town flies a service flag with a gold star in the center in honor of the sacrifice he has made. Leon F. Geyer was born at New Hartford, Iowa, September 20, 1899, and was killed in the service of his country June 6, 1918, at the age of eighteen years. He grew up to young manhood in this vicinity and received his education in the New Hartford Public Schools. He assisted his father in the restaurant until his enlistment on May 10, 1918. Leon was held in high esteem in this city and was very popular among his associates. Besides, his parents, he leaves two sisters, one brother, and a number of relatives to mourn his death, all of whom have the sympathy of the entire community.

Memorial services were conducted from the Baptist Church in this city Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. H. A. Essex officiating, the church being packed to capacity. Rev. Essex spoke comforting words to the family and relatives and gave comfort to the mothers and fathers of the boys who are now serving on the field of battle. The G. A. R. and the W.R.C. attended the services in a body.

the following letter from Mrs. H.D. Hay of Glidden, Iowa, whose son Merle was the first American boy to be killed on the western front.

Glidden, Iowa, Jan. 5, 1919

Dear Mrs. Geyer,

Received your letter today and assure you I feel for you and all the bereaved mothers of this land of ours, as I so well know what you are passing through for I too am passing that way.

I am sorry for what I am going to tell you, but judge you by myself and think you would rather know the truth. Yes, one of Merle's comrades has got home and gave me the details of my boy's death and burial, and as Merle was the first killed they gave him a funeral and Christian burial and his grave is kept covered with flowers by the women of Bethelmont, but Mrs. Geyer. Walter says when boys fall in battle there are so very many that they cannot be buried separately but that burial details are sent out after each battle as soon as they can and the field has to be cleared and our brave boys are buried in the easiest way and fifteen and twenty in a bunch, either in an old trench or, shell hole and he further said that while some of the boys would not have a mark on their bodies, others would all be blown to pieces, and I fear too from what he said that there is small chances of ever getting their personal belongings. I

have not as yet received any of Mertle's, as the Germans robbed his body. Walter said they took everything excepting his pistol and his dead hand was clinched around that with his finger on the trigger with every shell exploded but two. He was shot below the right eye, throat cut and five or six bayonet wounds in his body. They judged he had been wounded and downed and kept shooting from the ground, as his arm was badly trampled in the mud, until the friends cut his throat. Oh, I wish the dear lad could have found targets for those two remaining bullets, but he did his best and died a soldier true.

Of the eight boys who went from Glidden when the first call for volunteers came, I guess that Walter will be the only one to ever come back, and his escape has been wonderful, as he has been wounded three times and is now in a reconstruction hospital in Indiana.

The other mothers here are just like you, can't find out anything from the government except the bare facts, but this boy happened to know how a couple of them met their death and buried in a shell hole with fifteen others. He says they do try to bury Americans separate from Germans, but that they have to be buried, so you see, dear mother, it is going to be impossible to ever send those bodies home, but it matters not at all to the brave lad who has left his house of clay where they leave it lay. He is alright, of that we can be sure, so let us be brave even as they were brave and bear our burden the best we can. I will see Walter personally and ask him any questions you may want.

Hoping you may be given needed strength to carry on as our boys say, I will close.

Mrs. H.D. Day.
Yours in sympathy.

Next Week
Memorial Services Held

This is a last in a series about Leon F. Geyer who was killed in action in World War I at the age of 18. This series will contain news clippings as well as letters written home. Geyer was the first from Butler County killed in action in W.W. I. *The excerpts were submitted by Vopal Youngberg of New Hartford.*

Following are news clips on the funeral of Leon F. Geyer

**Remains Of Private
Leon F. Geyer
Buried
In Oak Hill
Sunday Afternoon**

The remains of Private 1st Class Leon F. Geyer, who was killed in the battle of Cantigny, on the morning of June 6, 1918, arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey on March 18, and arrived in New Hartford at 1:30 a.m. on March 25, in charge of Private Roy Beaver, Battery E, 3rd Field Artillery, of Camp Grant, who acted as military escort from Chicago.

Leon enlisted on the 10th day of May 1917, at the age of 17 years and was the first boy to answer his country's call from Beaver township, who took the infantry as his choice. He left this city on the evening of May 10 for Jefferson Barracks, Mo., from there he was sent to El Paso, Texas, where he was assigned to Company F, 16th Infantry, 1st Division. He remained in the United States a short time and on June 26, 1917, landed in France, where he received his training before going into action. Several letters, which he had written his parents showed him to be always in the best of spirits and stated the game of hunting Huns to be some sport. The last letter received from him was written on Memorial Day, 1918, six days before his death, and stated he had been night raiding for some months.

Leon was the first to enlist from this place to take the army as his choice of service and was the first from Butler County to give his life for his country's sake on the field of battle, and in the center of the city's service flag is one gold star in honor of the sacrifice

he has made.

Leon F. Geyer, son of Frank and Martha Geyer, was born at New Hartford, Iowa, September 20, 1899 and was killed in the service of his country June 6, 1918, at the age of 18 years. He grew to young manhood in this vicinity and received his education in the New Hartford public school. He assisted his father in the restaurant until his enlistment, May 10, 1917. Leon was held in high esteem in this city and was very popular among his associates. Besides his parents, he leaves to mourn his death, two sisters, one brother and numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Memorial services were conducted on August 11, 1918, from the Baptist church at 2:00 o'clock, Rev. Essex officiating. The church was packed to capacity.

The funeral was conducted Sunday afternoon, March 27, 1921, from the Baptist church at 2:00 o'clock in charge of Becker-Chapman Post No. 138, American Legion of Waterloo and Rev. Essex of this city. After the Legion ritual was given, Rev. Essex spoke from the text "They shall beat their spears into pruning hooks and their swords into plow shares, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." The church was filled with



friends and many were turned away.

Mrs. D.H. Pelletier rendered Nearer My God To Thee, Beautiful Isle of Somewhere, and America with the Post standing at attention. The pall bearers were selected from ex-service men, who saw duty over seas, and were Percy Geyer, Alfred Barrett, Orin Wolfensperger, Corley Pennington, Harry Petersen and Robert Reid. The remains were borne to Oak Hill Cemetery on a caisson drawn by four beautiful black horses. They were laid to rest in the family plot with honors, the last salute and taps being given by a firing squad and bugler from Becker Chapman Post 138 American Legion. The remains were not without a military escort from the time they left France until they were laid to rest in Oak Hill. The floral tributes were very beautiful and told in their silent way the high esteem in which the young hero was held.

The following article was prepared at the time of Leon's death by Miss L. A. Larkin of Shell Rock, a cousin of Mrs. Frank Geyer:

Leon F. Geyer has just closed a wonderful twentieth century adventure. He has

made his rise to glory by the greatest of all sacrifices. Truly, "the path of glory leads but to the grave." His an honored grave of a true soldier at the early age of 18 years. Leon comes from a truly patriotic family, his grandfather, Henry Thomas was numbered with the dead in the sixties, his great grandfather, Adno Thomas Sr., fought in the war of 1812, a great uncle, Royce Beckwith, served in the Mexican war; his other great grandfather, Nathan Olmstead, was also a veteran of the sixties; as were also his great uncles, T. G. and Orrin Olmstead, another step farther back, Silas Olmstead marched with Col. Mead's brigade to the relief of Fort William Henry in 1775 and still another step farther, Capt. James Olmstead in 1731 struggled with the problem of the colonies as town clerk, selectman, deputy general and court selectman, helped with the foundation that has made this glorious United States the honored and worthy nation, which Leon has laid down his life for; Another great uncle, Samuel Geyer served in the Civil War.

**Legion Honors
Cantigny Hero
Mrs. F. Geyer Laid To
Final Rest With
Touching Tributes
At New Hartford**

Seventy-five members of Becker-Chapman post, American Legion, in 24 automobiles, attended the funeral of Leon F. Geyer, who was killed while on duty as a dispatch bearer at Cantigny, France, in June 1917. The services in the Baptist church at New Hartford, were conducted by the post. Four black horses drawing the caisson upon which the casket was borne to its last resting place, were driven from Waterloo.

Leon Geyer, who enlisted at 17 and was the first from New Hartford to offer his life for his country, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. J.F. Geyer.

Rev. Mr. Essex, the pastor, spoke eloquently of the manly traits of the soldier boy. The floral offerings were very numerous and beautiful. The church was crowded with friends.

"Nearer, My God, to Thee", and "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" were rendered. "America" was sung with soldiers at attention. The casket of the departed hero was never for a moment without an escort from the time it left the burial plot in France until it was turned over to the father. A young soldier named Beaver, age 19, on duty at Camp Grant, escorted the body from Chicago to New Hartford.

Mr. and Mrs. H.O. Barton and daughter, Katherine, and Miss Marquerite Saul, relatives of the departed, attended the funeral from Watertloo.

Leon Geyer, Hero Of Cantigny, To Rest In Cemetery At Home

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Geyer, New Hartford, have received word that the body of their son, Leon, who was killed in battle at Cantigny, France, in June 1918 was expected to arrive in New York yesterday. Leon enlisted within a few days after the United States entered the war. He was only 18 years old. In June, 1917, he went overseas to take his part at the front.

In his letters home Leon never uttered a word of complaint. He never found fault with army life and never expressed a regret that he had placed his life at the disposal of his country. He had acted as messenger under the hail of bullets and among bursting shells at Cantigny and came off two days without a scratch. Just as he left his dugout on the third day of his perilous dispatch-bearing he was killed by a shell.

Following was a letter Postmarked on May 20, 1921 from Washington:

Dear Mrs. Geyer,

I was glad to receive your letter and of course will tell you all that I know of your son's death. I would have written you at the time but upon leaving the Cantigny Sector, I was ordered to the United States and then to Siberia so you can see I had no opportunity to ascertain your address. Besides a complete report was forwarded back by me from the lines and I can't understand why you were not notified by the

such cases, except that the 1st Div. was doing strenuous work, being moved rapidly and consequently reports were difficult to transmit properly until after divisions came to France.

If you have the certificate you mention I should suggest you send it to the Adj. General in order to have a silver star placed on his Victory Medal. I am under the impression that your son was awarded a croix de guerre when F. Co. was raided in the Funneville sector in the fall of 1917 but your son was an excellent soldier, zealous in the lines and dependable at all times. His comrades both officers and non sincerely regretted his death but you may be proud of his record and the fact that he lost his life for his country with the first American troops to get into action and bear the brunt.

I was about twelve feet from your son when he was killed and the shock of the explosion as a shell caved in our cellar nearly did for all of us. After getting those of us unhurt and the wounded who could walk out of the debris I personally returned to what was left of the cellar to see if anything could be done for your son and another man who was lying with him. The body of your boy was not mutilated except that his left shoulder was broken and almost disjointed and pierced by a shell splinter which had caused his death. You may be assured that he died instantly and the shock of the explosion should have been fatal even if he were untouched.

I am writing the company to let you know about this matter.

I have always felt that I would do anything for the men with me in France and particularly for those who did such excellent work - among these I number your son.

The evening of the day he was killed we buried him near our front line, where he would have preferred to lie. His personal effects were forwarded back to the bureau of effects and should have been sent you. However in the confusion of Modern war so many things miscarry that these effects will be difficult to trace.

Hoping that I have answered your questions.

Sincerely

A.C. Traves

Apt. Co. F 16 Inf.

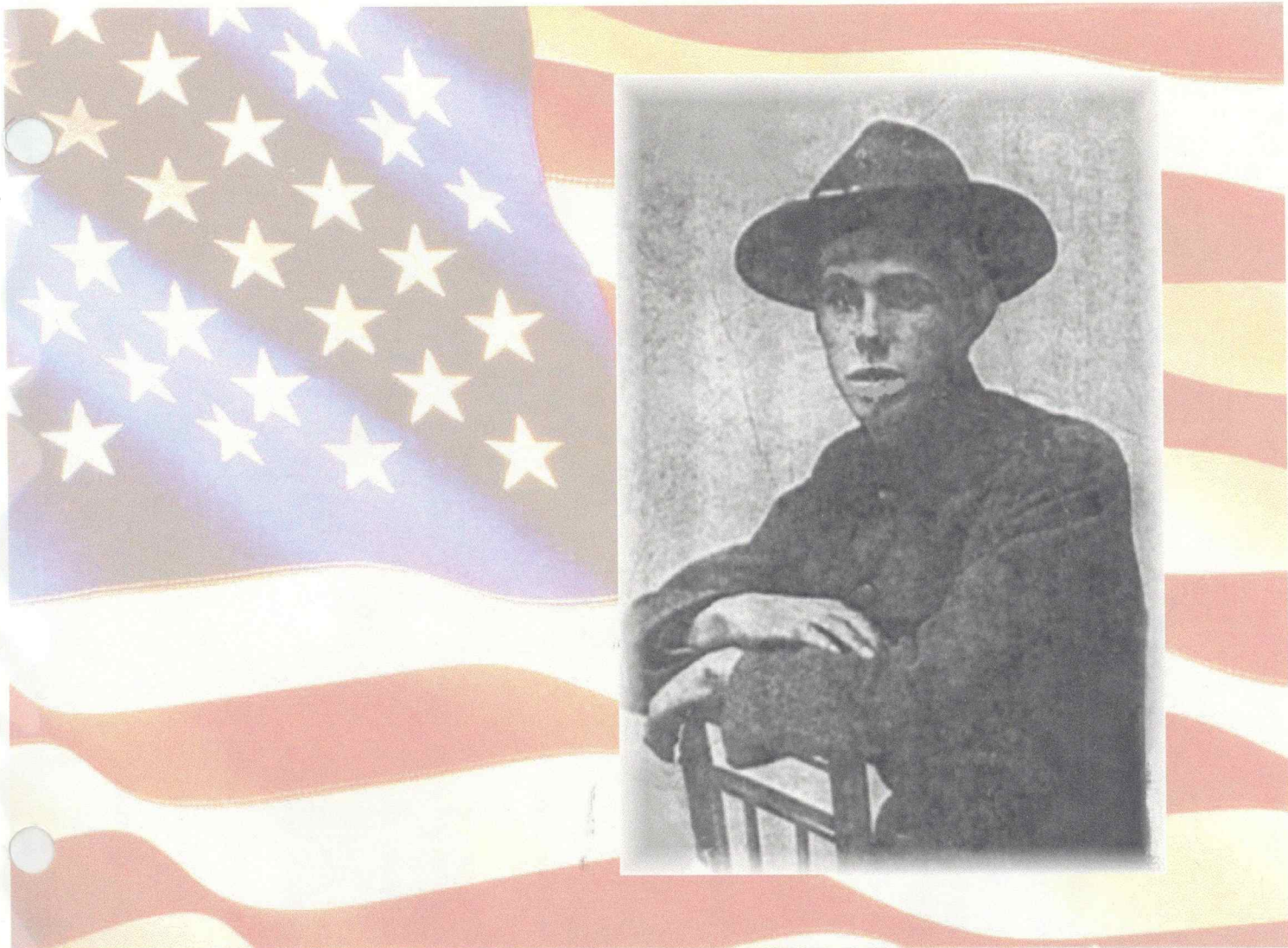


TO

Leon Geyer

From the following
EX-SERVICE MEN

Harry Thomas	Harold Johnson
Orrin Woltensperger	
Clarerce Shannon	Corbett Cook
Leon Grandon	Harry Peterson
Mark Peterson	Robert Deitrick
Erney Luck	Fred Luck
Orian Luck	Howard Wright
Alfred Barrett	John Grady
Scotty Schmitt	Howard Jones
Glen Harmon	Martin Gersema
Allen Smith	Ed Moore
Hal Bronson	O'iver Townsend
Art Maxwell	L. A. Camp
Clarence Wallace	



Leon Geyer

A collection of letters and articles of his life in the military and death in the service of our country



Date of Birth: September 20, 1899

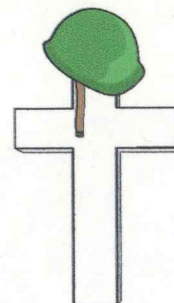
Date of Death: June 6, 1918

Branch of Service: Army

Company F, 16th Infantry

May 10, 1917 to June 6, 1918

Rank at Death: Private First Class





Leon Geyer

Date of Birth: September 20, 1899

Date of Death: June 6, 1918

Branch of Service: Army

Company F, 16th Infantry

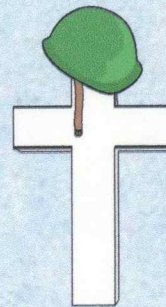
May 10, 1917 to June 6, 1918

Rank at Death: Private First Class



Military Service:

- **Jefferson Barracks, Missouri**
 - Processing, physicals, etc.
- **Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas**
 - Arrived May 20, 1917
 - 34th Infantry
 - Assigned to Company F, 16th Infantry
 - Left on June 1, 1917
- **Hoboken, New Jersey**
 - Arrived June 9, 1917
 - Went straight on board the ship Havana for transport
 - The ship went to Norfolk, Virginia to meet with 15 other ships (battleships & destroyers) for the trip to France on June 14
- **France**
 - Arrived June 26, 1917
 - By July 8 had been in three different places
 - Spent the first few months in training with French forces
 - In the fall went into the battle trenches
- **Cantigny, France**
 - Spent two days acting as a messenger under a hail of bullets and shell fire.
 - Just as he left his dugout on the third day with a dispatch, he was killed by a shell
 - Buried in Grave No. 6, Section A, American Cemetery #176 near Sommes
- *On March 27, 1921, Leon's body buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in New Hartford with full military honors.*



*Grave # 6, Section A
Initial Grave of Leon Geyer*



Martha Thomas Geyer



NAME

Leon J. Geyer

RANK

First Class Private

SERVICE

*May 10 - 1918 to
June 6 1918*

CEMETERY

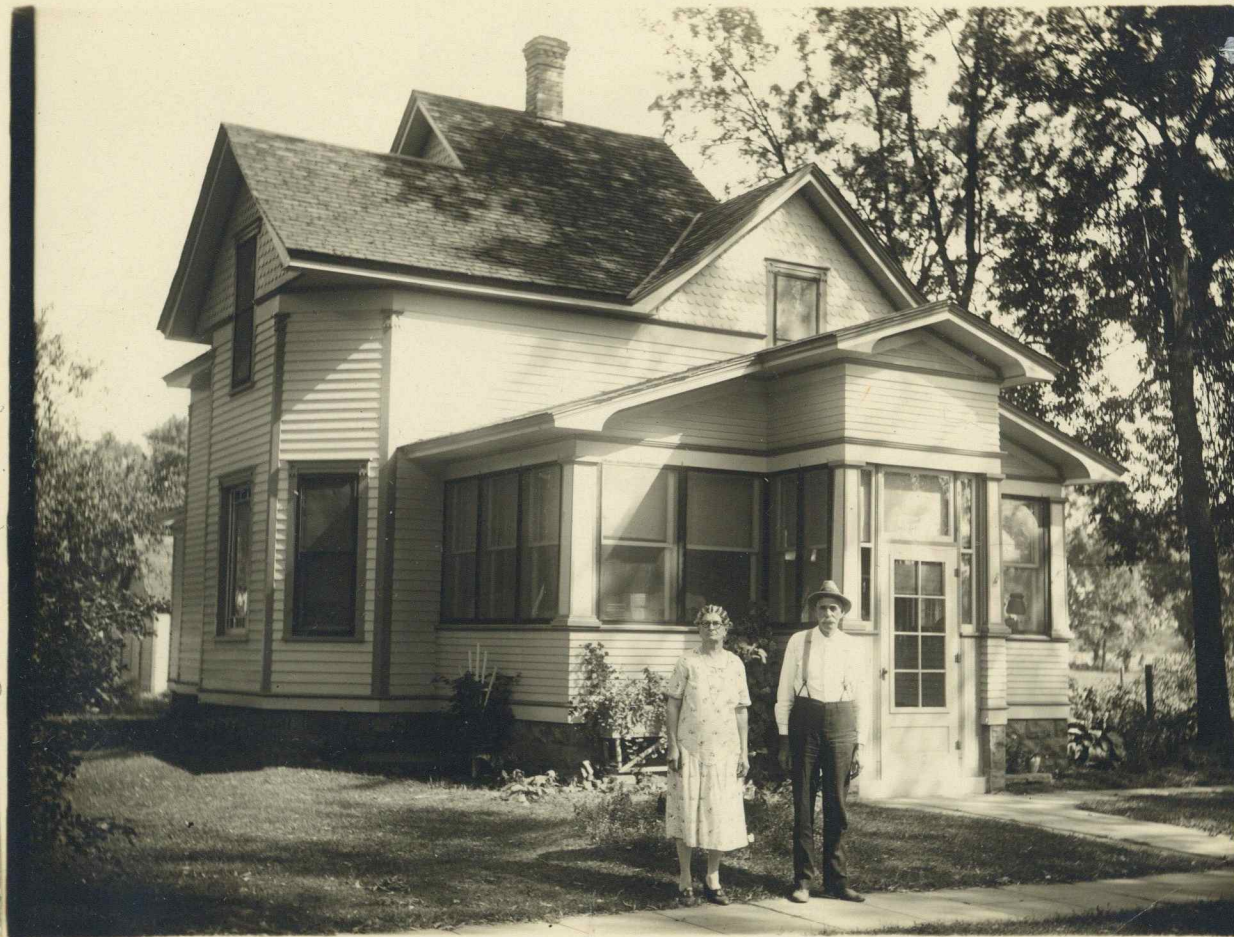
Graves no 6, Section A

*American Cemetery #176
Willow Island
(Somme)*









Geyer Funeral to be Held on Friday at New Hartford 1938

(Courier Special Service)

Cedar Falls—John Frank Geyer, 69, retired business man of New Hartford, and a brother of Mrs. Margaret Cortright, Cedar Falls, died at his home there Tuesday evening, Jan. 3, after an illness of 26 months, due to a paralytic stroke suffered on Nov. 9, 1930.

Mr. Geyer, son of Joseph and Martha Benage-Geyer, was born in Stephenson county, Illinois, July 17, 1869. He came with his parents to Iowa in 1869 and in 1879 to Butler county. He had since resided in Butler and Grundy counties.

He was married to Mary E. Meyers at Rock Grove, Ill., Feb. 23, 1887. She died in October of 1889. On Nov. 30, 1892, he was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Thomas who with three children, survives. They are Nona and Harold Geyer, New Hartford, and Lela M. Geyer, deputy clerk of court at Allison. One son, Leon F. Geyer, was killed in the world war at Cantigny, France, on June 6, 1918. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

He was a member of Modern Woodmen of America and of Beaver Lodge, No. 472, A. F. & A. M.

Funeral services are to be private for the relatives and close friends of the family and will be at the home at 2 p. m. Saturday. The family requests that no flowers be sent.

Martha and Frank Geyer
608 Water St., New Hartford

New Hartford — Mrs. Martha A. Geyer, 87, at 4:30 a. m. Monday at her home here; suffered a stroke 10 months ago and several heart attacks since; born Aug. 14, 1860, at Barrett, Marshall county, Kansas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thomas; came to Iowa with her parents by ox team at the age of three weeks; lived in Butler county until 1902, then moved to a Grundy county farm; returned to Butler county in 1912; married to John Frank Geyer Nov. 30, 1892, at Waterloo, and he preceded her Jan. 3, 1933; member of New Hartford chapter No. 120, Order of the Eastern Star; member of Becker - Chapman Legion auxiliary No. 138 at Waterloo and its oldest Gold Star mother; member of Cedar camp No. 621, Royal Neighbors, at Cedar Falls; treasurer of the New Hartford consolidated school district 13 years; only Gold Star mother in New Hartford from World war I; leaves one son, Harold O. Geyer, New Hartford; one daughter, Lela M. Geyer, Allison; also preceded by parents, one sister, two brothers; one son, Leon, June 6, 1918, in France during World war I, and a daughter, Nona, Feb. 16, 1939.

Mar. 1948



Obituary of the Late John Frank Geyer

John Frank Geyer, son of Joseph and Martha Benage-Geyer, was born in Stephenson County, Ill., July 17, 1863 and departed this life Jan. 3, 1933 at the age of 69 years, 5 months and 16 days.

He came with his parents to Iowa in 1869 and settled in Lester Twp., Black Hawk County and in 1879 they moved to Butler County. He had since resided in both Butler and Grundy Counties.

He was married to Mary E. Meyers at Rock Grove, Ill., on Feb. 23, 1887. She passed away in October of 1889. Nov. 20th, 1892 he was united in marriage to Martha A. Thomas, who with three of their four children survive. They are Harold and Nona Geyer of New Hartford and Lela M. Geyer, deputy chief clerk of court at Allison. One son, Leon F. Geyer, was killed in the world war at Cantigny, France on June 6th, 1918. One sister, Mrs. Margaret Cortright of Cedar Falls, and several nephews and nieces also survive.

He was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of Beaver Lodge No. 472 A. F. and A. M.

Today, the journey is ended;
They have worked out the mandates of fate

Naked, alone, undefended
They knock at the Uttermost Gate.
Lo, the gate swings wide at their knocking;

Across endless reaches behold
Lost friends, with laughter, come flocking

To give them glad welcome untold.
Farewell! The maze has been threaded

This is the ending of strife
Say not that death should be dreaded

'Tis but the beginning of life.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon, Jan. 7th, 1933 from the home in charge of Rev. H. A. Essex of Morenci, Mich., former pastor of the local Baptist church and personal friend of Mr. Geyer and family. Music was by Miss Wava Harris and Miss Leona Brouhard. Casket escorts were nephews of Mr. Geyer and were: J. F. Hoffman, L. A. Hoffman, Harry Cortright, Earl Cortright, Carl Geyer and Clyde Hoffman.

The following out of town relatives and friends attended the funeral. Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Bronson, Rochester, Minn., Tom Geyer and son, Sam, and Mansell Geyer of Dunkerton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cortright, Plainfield; Mrs. Genevieve Hardy and two sons, Mrs. J. H. Shanks, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hoffman, Chas. and Clyde Hoffman, Cary Geyer and son, Donald and Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Miller, all of Waterloo; Mr. and Mrs. Alden Quimby, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Conlin, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Rockey and mother of Cedar Falls; Ed Conlin, Austin, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. Glen Saul, Mason City; Lee L. Parks, C. L. Schellinger and Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Trager of Allison.

* * *

Card Of Thanks

We desire in this manner to express our heartfelt thanks to any and all who in any way assisted during the sickness, death and burial of our husband, father and brother.

Mrs. J. F. Geyer
Harold, Nona, Lela M. Geyer
Mrs. Margaret Cortright.



Nona Fione Geyer

—Nona Fione Geyer—

Nona Fione Geyer was born in New Hartford on November 12, 1897, daughter of John Geyer and Martha Thomas Geyer and passed away at the family home February 16, 1939 at the age of 41 years, 3 months and 4 days, the

immediate cause of death being pulmonary tuberculosis.

Since birth Nona had been an invalid unable to speak or wait upon herself but despite all of these handicaps she had a sign language of her own and was able to make her wants known to her loved ones and friends.

All through the span of her life she has been a patient sufferer from many ailments due to her invalid condition. For the last seven weeks of her life she had been bedfast. All that loving and tender care could do was done to alleviate her pain and suffering and bring a little cheer and gladness into her life.

She leaves to mourn her passing, a devoted and loving mother, Mrs. Martha Geyer, one brother, Harold, one sister Lela Allison, and a number of cousins. One brother, Leon was killed in action in the World War and her father died in January 1933.

Funeral services were held on Saturday at 2 p. m. at the home in charge of Rev. Chas. Martin of Dike assisted by Rev. F. L. Hinshaw of New Hartford. Burial was on the family lot in Oak Hill cemetery. 1939

**Legion, Auxiliary
at New Hartford
Honor Mrs. Beyer**

OCT 14 1940

(Courier Special Service)

New Hampton, Ia.—At a joint meeting of Geyer Bickner American Legion post and auxiliary Monday evening Mrs. Martha Geyer and her son Harold, were honor guests.

They presented the post and auxiliary with framed photographs of their son and brother, Leon, who was killed in battle at Catigny, France, on June 6, 1918.

A birthday cake was presented to Mrs. Geyer, New Hartford's only Gold Star mother, by Mrs. Lloyd Perrin, unit president. The auxiliary also presented Mrs. Geyer with a gift.

Laid To Rest

Leon Deeming Good, was born on his parents farm near Plainfield, Iowa; December 29, 1919. He was born on his Grandfather Deeming's birthday and was his first grandson. Leon died at his home in New Hartford Sunday afternoon, Oct. 29, 1933.

He came with his parents to New Hartford ten years ago this fall and has made a host of friends during his short life here. His sunny, happy disposition was an inspiration to all. He was always interested in the best things and gave his heart to God early in life. He joined the Church a year ago last Easter and was a real help during the meetings this fall. He was in his freshman year in high school, but will finish his schooling in God's Glory.

He leaves to mourn his passing his parents, six sisters, Mr. three grandparents, several uncles, aunts, cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon from the Methodist church in charge of the pastor, Rev. J. E. Pritchard. Leon's class in school, the Hi-Y boys and other special groups attended in a body. The church was filled to capacity, many friends being unable to gain entrance showing the high esteem in which Leon and the family are held in this and other communities.

Casket bearers were Wayne Ballhagen, Robert Moore, Arnold Johnson, George Gersema, Jr., Forrest Brouhard and Don Carson.

Mrs. W. Harmon and Mrs. Ed Moore with Miss Winifred Dodd as accompanist, sang "No Not One," "The Lord Knows Why" and "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery.

The clock of Life is wound but once

And no man hath the power
To tell just when the hand will stop

At late or early hour.

Now is the only time your own;
Live, love, toil with a will
Place no faith in Tomorrow, for
The clock may then be still.

Card Of Thanks

We wish to thank all who so kindly ministered to us in our great sorrow and loss of our only son and brother, also for the beautiful floral offerings and tender comforting words of sympathy.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Good
and Daughters.

NASHUA—George Clinton Clement, 63, Wednesday at his home here; born Nov. 27, 1870, in Jasper county; came to Nashua 14 years ago; married Alice Emanuel June

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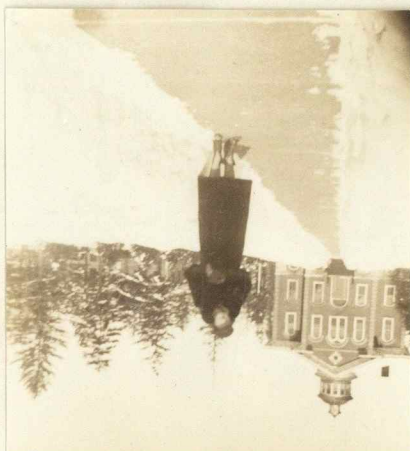


Lela Geyer Feb. 1931



*House of
Honor*





The sad and very sudden death of Samuel Guyer, which occurred at his late residence, two miles south of town, on Saturday morning, May 13th 1893, cast a gloom over the entire community. The deceased was only 25 years old and leaves a wife and child to deeply mourn his untimely death. He was an honest, honorable young man, much loved and highly respected by a wide circle of relatives and a host of friends. The funeral occurred at 2 o'clock p. m. at the M. E. church, conducted by Rev. Foote, and the remains were tenderly borne to their last resting place in Oak Hill cemetery. May God comfort the grief stricken ones who have the sympathy of the entire community in their bereavement. Mr. Guyer was a Modern Woodman and insured for \$2,000.