

Knox College in the Great War

During World War I patriotic fervor swept through Knox College unabated. Soon after the United States declared war, Knox's faculty and students leapt into the war effort with enthusiasm, expressing support for France and "suffering humanity" and pride in the American military, "responding promptly and generously to the call of the country for men for service." Students and alumni both responded to the call, with Knox well represented at "nearly all of the first officers' training camps, the largest delegation being at Fort Sheridan upwards of 40 men were enrolled." The December 1917 issue of *The Knox Alumnus* reported that "Knox is somewhat above the average in the number of men in the government service. More than a fourth of the men registered last year are on the honor roll."

P.M.G.O. Form No. 68

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE.

To whom it may concern, Greetings:

THESE PRESENTS ATTEST, That in accordance with the proclamation of the President of the United States, and in compliance with law

George *Steele* *Seymour*
(First name.) (Middle name.) (Last name.)

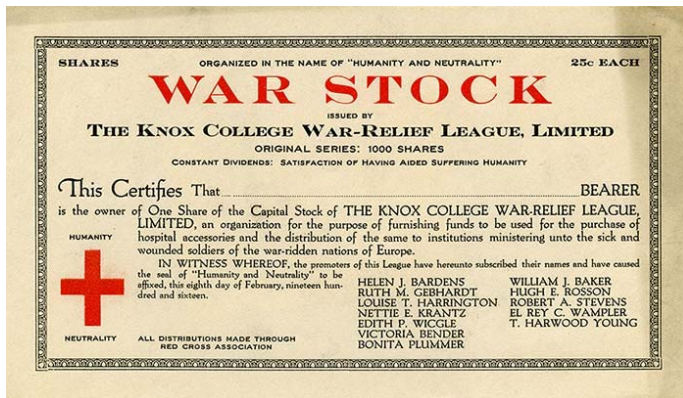
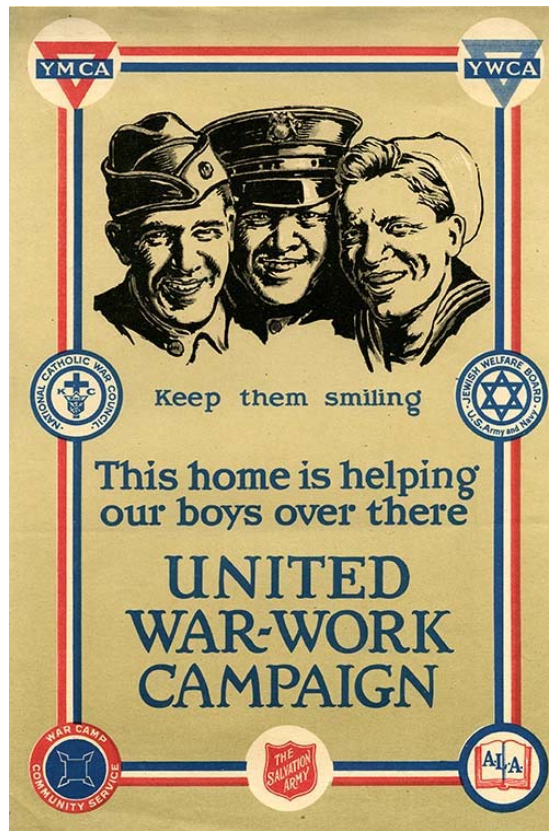
5320 *Kumbarh Av* *Chicago* *Cook* *Ill*
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town.) (County.) (State.)

has submitted himself to registration and has by me been duly registered this *12* day of *September*, 1918, under the supervision of the Local Board designated on the back hereof.

John L. Breen, Registrar.
(Place stamp of Local Board on back of this card.)

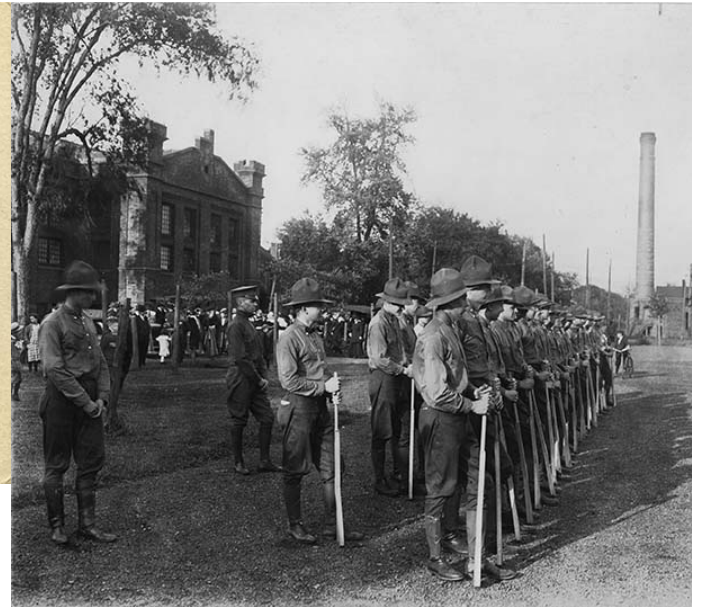
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In the pages of a wartime Knox College yearbook, it is noted that "Each week saw some Knox man lay down his books and depart for service in the Army or Navy..." And women to the nation's aid and "responded to the call in a body and worked zealously at all kinds of Red Cross work." *The Knox Alumnus* magazine reported in December 1917 that "Knox College was the first '100 percent college' in the American Red Cross membership drive Christmas week. Every student and faculty member had joined the Red Cross by Tuesday a day before the canvas started in Galesburg." Knox College and Galesburg residents participated zealously in the war bond campaigns as well.



Academic pursuits at Knox were impacted by the war, as students' interests were shaped by the ongoing philosophical and intellectual questions raised by the conflict. College took on war-related topics and as German culture and philosophies began to be regarded as suspect, the number of students studying the German language fell and the number of students studying French surged.

The most visible changes brought by the crisis were those that physically transformed the campus, seemingly overnight. In Illinois, 30 institutions of higher education established the Students' Army Training Corps, and Knox College was one of those, training about 230 men over the course of the war.



For more information on Knox College history:

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