

For Immediate RELEASE – November 9, 2018

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McLean County WWI Soldiers That Never Came Home Update on the Adopt-a-WWI Grave Project 2018

The 2018 “Adopt-a-Grave” Program has been a successful endeavor focused on locating, cleaning, decorating and honoring McLean County’s WWI fatalities during the Centennial of WWI and the Armistice. The John H. Kraus VFW Post #454, the “All Present and Accounted For” Project, and the Lexington Genealogical and Historical Society sponsored and continue to work on finding where our men, really boys are buried. “McLean County and the World War” by Pierson has been used as the original source book for developing these records. However many inaccuracies are in the book, which were the main impetus for the development of this entire research project.

The “All Present and Accounted For” Project has been working to identify where all of McLean County region WWI soldiers who died during the war are buried. Thirty-five cemeteries in the region have the graves of 110 of our soldiers. An additional 14 soldiers are scattered around Illinois. And the remaining 26 are buried across the USA, including one at Arlington National, one at Chattanooga National, and one at Mill Spring National in KY. Four have yet to be found. Research continues to identify all of their final resting places.

At this time of remembrance of the Centennial of the Armistice, it is appropriate to also remember our soldiers from the McLean County region who never came home. Attached is a list detailing who they are and where they are buried in Europe. Two are listed on MIA Tablets. One was a civilian, a Red Cross Interpreter, who is buried at an American Cemetery in France. The lead researcher on this project anticipates at least one of the four soldiers who cannot be found, will eventually be identified as MIA.

The project is seeking the descendants of the soldiers still buried in Belgium and France. More details about their lives will be released and may help to locate relatives. A trip to visit these graves in the Spring of 2019 is being developed. Contact Suzanne Kraus suzkraus@gmail.com if you are interested and for more details.

“As Long As We Remember, They Will Not Be Forgotten”

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McLean County WWI Soldiers Still Buried in Europe

Aisne Marne American Cemetery/Belleau, France

1. Pvt. Harry Campbell Myers
2. . Pvt. Erwin P. Martensen
3. Lt Clarence W. Smith (Marines)

Flanders Field American Cemetery/Waregem, Belgium

1. Isaiah Deckard

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery/ Romagne-sons, Montfaucon, France

1. 1st Lt. Hugh Broomfield
2. Corp. Chester Daniels
3. Pvt. Warren Fletcher
4. Wagoner Ervin Grant
5. Pvt. Grant E. Metcalf
6. Pvt. Bernard F. Davis

Oise-Aisne American Cemetery/Seringes-et-Nesles, France

1. Pvt. Benedict J. Roth
2. Pvt. John M. Redd

Roclincourt Military Cemetery/Depar-duPas-Calais, Nord-Pas-deCalais, France

1. Gordon Dooley Blue

St Mihiel American Cemetery/Thiaucourt, France

1. Pvt. Van Todd (MIA Tablet)
2. Pvt. Roy F. Crutchley
3. Pvt. Eugene J. Conley

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McLean County Soldiers Still Buried in Europe (cont)

Suresnes American Cemetery/Suresnes, France

1. 1st Lt. Joel F. McDavid
2. Pvt. Charlie Schawader (MIA Tablet)
3. Lt. George H. Edwards
4. George Read Carlock (Civilian Red Cross)

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