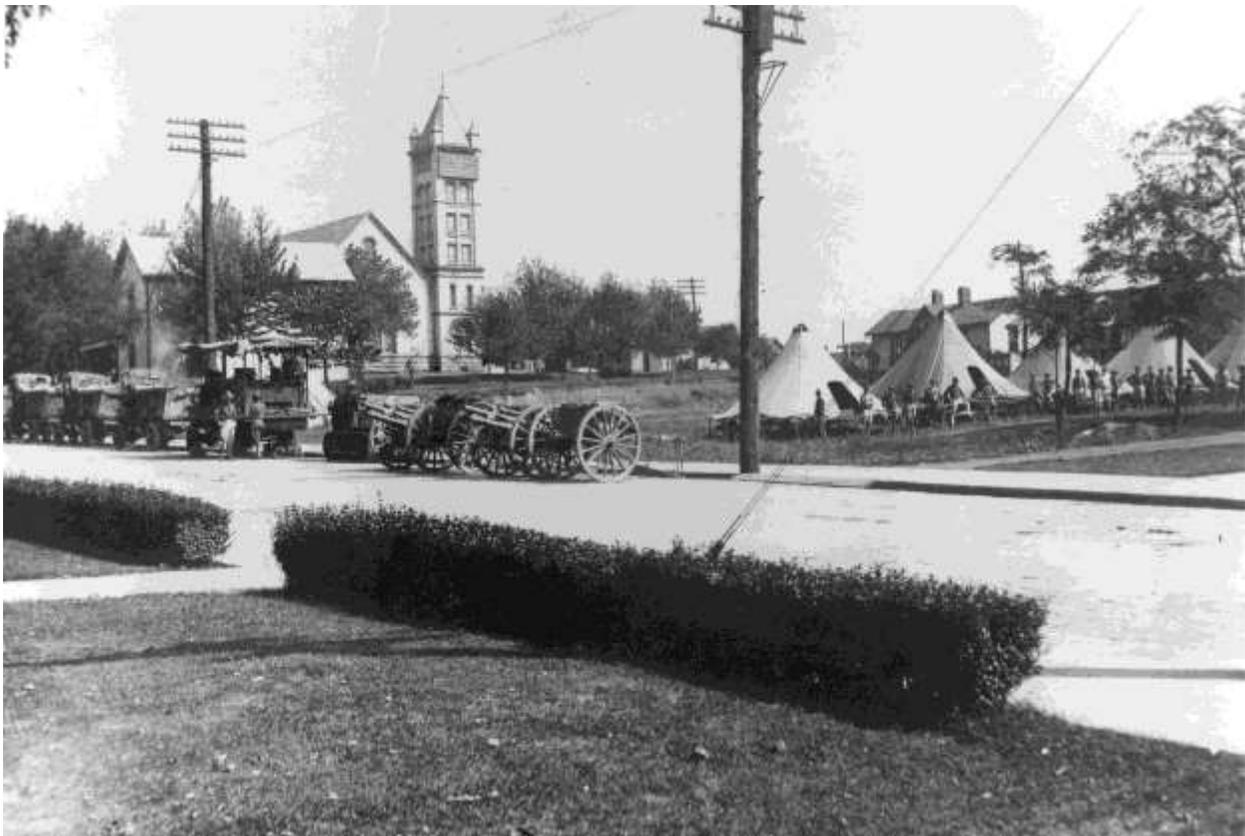


**“I have been in the front line trenches under fire in No Man’s Land . . .”:
Washington County During World War One**

This exhibit resource book consists of newspaper articles, letters, and pictures that help tell the experience of Washington County citizens during World War One, whether they served their country in the Armed Forces, or worked to support the war effort from home.



Doughboys camped near the First Christian Church in Johnson City, circa 1917. Photo courtesy of the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Burr Harrison Photographs.

Herald and Tribune

E. S. DEPEW, EDITOR

Entered at the postoffice in Jonesboro as second class mail matter.

A MEDIUM OF PROFANITY

"Here's to the Kaiser,
The Limburger Cheese,
May the swell in his head
Go down to his knees,
May he break his d—— neck
On the Hindenburg line
And go to h——croaking
The Watch on the Rhine."

If you will supply in the above, the two awfulest words in the English language, you will have what appeared in the Johnson City Staff in its issue of January 30. We're afraid to print the words. We might be prosecuted for public profanity. And we might have our paper debarred from the mails, and especially from the decent homes of East Tennessee.

The Staff has become one of the most profane publications we know of. It "cusses" nearly every time it appears. We're afraid its editor is going to be lost. But maybe he will not, if he can quote poetry like the above to St. Peter.

The Staff has been cross and peevish ever since county court met the first Monday in January. Nearly every issue for the past month has spit forth copious volumes of calumny condemning the court for what it did do and cursing it for what it didn't do. The above little piece of poetic sublimity was "dedicated to the county chairman."

The Herald and Tribune doesn't approve of **everything** the county

The following article appeared in the *Herald & Tribune* on February 7, 1918. Editor E.S. Depew took an issue with a poem that had appeared in *The Johnson City Comet* on January 30, 1918. In Mr. Depew's opinion, even in times of war, civility should be encouraged

"dedicated to the county chairman."

The Herald and Tribune doesn't approve of **everything** the county court does. Its judgement sometimes conflicts with ours. We believe, with the Staff, that the Child's Rescue Association is a worthy cause and deserves ample support. The individual members of the court believed the same thing and deep down in their hearts throbbed a desire to help the cause, and when it was made clear to the court that it **couldn't** appropriate public funds for that purpose, the members of the court did go down into their own pockets and hand out to the Rescue Association, the nice little sum of \$70. Some of the members of the court paid \$10, some \$5, others less; and Esq. Murray of Jonesboro, proposed to give \$50 if any other man would give as much. Wasn't that nice of the men who constitute the much cursed county court?

The county court is made up of men who want to do right—men who for the most part are making an honest effort to guard the county's interests.

The county chairman, as the Staff has left the impression all over East Tennessee is not a German. He, like many of us, is of German descent, but a true American citizen.

A great daily like the Staff should have more interest in our people—the people who have made the Staff a financial success—than to belch out upon the unwary public, at a time when Americanism is at the test, the erroneous idea that Washington county has for its chairman a real cohort of the Kaiser.

We hope the Staff will repent for the use, in its columns, of language that isn't very nice to go into respectable homes where little boys and girls are being taught by their parents that its wrong to "cuss"; get out of its imagination the idea that there is hatred between Johnson City and the rest of the county; and go forth on a mission of scattering roses instead of thorns.

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PHELMIM'S PHILOSOPHY

"Meatless" days, and "wheatless" days are necessary and it is proper that they should be observed so far as possible, but there is a certain class in the country that are more given to "worthless" days than any other sort. Of what use is it if the patriotic Americans observe the days designated by the government for the conservation of food, if worthless, idle loafers hang around street corners and stores and depots in the rural districts and consume that which others produce? What right has the government to draft the flower of the land and send them to the front, and permit a lot of drones, worthless, no account barnacles of society who happen to be over the draft age, to remain at home in perfect security, not only refusing to help fight the battles of their country, but imposing their worthless presence a burden upon the efforts of others?

There is no need for idleness, nor is there any need of under production. We have the land in abundance and plenty of idle slackers. The problem to be solved is to get the landless man and the manless land together working in double harness, and both poverty and pure cussedness will disappear.

The preachers, the papers and the people of the country seem very much afraid that the boys in khaki will get into devilment while in France from which they should be protected. The trouble is we are thinking too much about what May happen and too little about what is happening. The boys in uniform are not dreading the dangers of what is ahead of them but what is behind.

Assure them that the loafers at home will be put to work producing something for them to fight with, and there need be no fear of what will happen when they are strung out in France.

If these loafers, of which every town and every rural district has its share, are too old to draft, surely there should be some law on our statute books that would compel them to assist in paying the fight while others fight. We hope our Uncle Samuel will find a way to put such suggestions into execution.

It is the duty of the nation to give the farmer a fair chance to raise food the nation has asked him to produce just as it is the duty of the farmer on his part to leave no stone or effort unturned or untried to succeed in the task.

There will soon be another like...

945 MILLI FOR RA

Recommendation o
mittee Gives \$
5.32 Per Cen

U. S. CONTROL M

President May Relinqu
fore July, or Hold T
—Improvements &
ment to \$

Washington, Feb. 14.—Smith of the senate finance committee is unable to the senate the railroad bill, estimates measure's provisions will guarantee annual roads \$945,000,000 with a return of 5.32 per cent, "reflects net worth," but the comm majority of the railro "these terms as a just ure of their constitu

Minority reports are by Senators Cummins Administration leaders the bill for considera day.

"Your committee is that this is the time- gency legislation, and settle controversial qu ing our future transp Chairman Smith said l report. He then took sation section and add

Stockholders Pay

"About 75 great ope do over 10 per cent business. The commit most of these great n will accept these term fair measure of their rights. Section 1 furth ordinary taxes, nation shall, as now, be paid revenue; but war taxes the act of October 3, paid by the companies funds, or charged aga ard return. In other v ers of railroad securt their own just portio den. Section 1 also req agreement shall contai appropriate provisions tenance and depreciati erty and the creation that the properties may federal control be retur ers in a condition shab lent to their condition the government.

Phelim's Philosophy was a regular column in the *Herald & Tribune*. The author was unknown. Despite the passage of the Sedition Act, which greatly censored criticism of the United States' government, "Phelim" criticized the draft in this edition of his column, which ran in the *Herald & Tribune* on February 14, 1918.

"What right has the government to draft the flower of the land and send them to the front, and permit a lot of drones, worthless no account barnacles of society who happen to be over the draft age to remain home in perfect security . . . imposing their worthless presence as a burden upon the efforts of others?"

The column follows on the next page.

... bids fair

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It is the duty of the nation to give the farmer a fair chance to raise food the nation has asked him to produce just as it is the duty of the farmer on his part to leave no stone or effort unturned or untried to succeed in the task.

There will soon be another liberty loan offered to the public, and we predict it will be more readily and speedily taken up than the two previous ones, as the people of the nation better realize the necessity of carrying the war to a successful finish. The farming and country class were unjustly criticized by the unthinking few not rallying and over subscribing for their prorata part of the loan. This was very unjust and uncalled for, as every thinking farmer will know. This class was not organized and appealed to personally as the cities and villages were. Neither was the educational matter spread in a very large percentage of the rural sections. It is much easier to enthrone people when they can be reached in groups or personal contact. There is no more patriotic class of people on earth than the farmers. If the country could be organized like the cities and villages doubtless more money in proportion to wealth and population would come from the rural sections than from cities and towns. Uncle Sam's bonds are absolutely safe and a fine investment for those who have the wherewithal and should be taken advantage of to the fullest extent, and will be. Besides there is a patriotic side to it. If we cannot fight, many of us can "do our bit" by rallying and supporting those who can.

W. H. Jones, candidate for circuit court clerk, is well and favorably known here, having been mostly raised here. He is well qualified for the position and will, if nominated and elected, give general satisfaction to those with whom he has to deal. That he will be heard from in the primary or convention, is a foregone conclusion. It is unnecessary to say he will carry the 4th and 8th, (where he now resides) districts by an overwhelming majority.

Chas. E. Eutsler, on route 2, on account of high water one day recently

"About 75 great open do over 50 per cent business. The committee most of these great n will accept these term fair measure of their rights. Section 1 furth ordinary taxes, natio shall, as now, be paid revenue; but war taxes the act of October 3, paid by the companies a funds, or charged agn and return. In other v ers of railroad securi their own just portion den. Section 1 also req agreement shall contain appropriate provisions tenance and depreciati erty and the creation that the properties may federal control be return ers in a condition subst lent to their condition the government.

Improvements to

The committee recom port says, that improve the government while t under government contr the railroads when the to the security holders.

This should be arran agreement between the the president.

Discussing the provis the committee, provi termination of governm months after the war, t

"It is possible that cer may arise from federal will need adjustment be erties are returned to and a reasonable perio vene in which these com met and adjusted. If n nation will be unwill the conditions obtaini assumption of federal e lation may be deman changing the relation c ment to the railroads f existing in the interst act as amended. Your suggested a period of 11 they believe it will be f for that purpose.

May Return Roads B

"There is also a provi fact that the president July 1, next, relinquish o transportation systems deem not needful or c may, thereafter on agr quish all or any part of transportation.

The section also conts provision that the presi relinquish all railroads at s he shall deem such act desirable.

ROAD BOND CA IS

BUT FEW ALIEN ENEMIES TO BE REGISTERED HERE

**MOST OF THESE ARE EXPECTED
TO BE FOUND AT THE
SOLDIERS' HOME**

According to the announcement by the government, and through United States Marshal J. R. Thompson of Knoxville, Chief of Police D. J. Hickman has been named to register all German alien enemies in this city and section, the date of registration being from February 4 to 9, inclusive. Blanks and all necessary papers have been forwarded to Chief Hickman by Marshal Thompson and all officers and citizens are working to the end that all German alien enemies may be registered.

A German alien enemy is designated by the government as follows: "All natives, citizens, denizens or subjects of the German empire or imperial German government, being males of the age of 14 and upwards, who are within the United States, and not actually naturalized as American citizens."

It is generally believed that the number of such persons in this section will be small, and that the majority of those coming under the above provisions will be found among the membership of the mountain branch soldiers' home, where quite a number of the veterans are of foreign birth. Several members there, it is stated, have never been naturalized. However, several of foreign birth have taken out naturalization papers. The officers of the home are working at this and all the unnaturalized citizens will be asked to register at the office of Chief Hickman on the dates set apart.

This article appeared in the *Johnson City Comet* on January 31, 1918. During times of war, people from opposing nations are often identified and targeted, however unjustly.

A German alien was described as any male from Germany who was 14 years of age or older and was not a naturalized citizen. As this article suggested, there were probably few in the Johnson City area, and most of them were probably veterans who had retired to the Old Soldiers' Home.



Red Cross workers Mrs. Lyle, Mrs. W.B. Harrison, Mrs. Jones, and two unidentified ladies with two, local Doughboys pose in front of a Red Cross station in Johnson City. Photo courtesy of the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Burr Harrison Photographs.

The Pig Club as Regards Girls

Several girls have mentioned to us that they felt like they had as much right to have one of the pigs as the boys, especially where there was no boy in the family, and we agree with them.

It is our plan that in putting a pig in the hands of a boy to raise and become his property as soon as he had returned us two sow pigs, that we require him to cultivate an acre of corn.

The girls who have telephoned for pigs tell me that the corn item will be cared for in their cases by virtue of the fact that corn is being raised by someone on their place. Therefore I have extended the proposition to the girls as well as boys.

JNO. D. COX, President

THE BANKING & TRUST CO.

During the war, the women of Washington County stepped up and assumed roles that had typically been assigned to men. This included the Pig Club, which girls were allowed to join for the first time in 1918. This advertisement for the club ran on February 14, 1918, in *the Herald & Tribune*.



**Your Bond May Bring
Him Home in Safety**



"I Want the help
of every woman
in the country"
Uncle Sam



Before You Prepare
Another Meal Ask
Yourself These Questions:

- "How can I reduce the wastage of food in my kitchen?"
- "How can I save an hour a day to do knitting or Red Cross work for Uncle Sam?"
- "How can I save my energy so as to be better able to help Uncle Sam?"

The Napanee Dutch Kitchenet is one answer.

The Napanee Dutch Kitchenet enables you to place every kitchen utensil so that it is within easy reach while seated at the sliding table of the kitchenet. It enables you to prepare an entire meal without having to walk backward and forward from one place to another in your kitchen as is ordinarily necessary.

These two factors alone will enable you to save hours a day in doing kitchen work. Because all the food can be prepared and kept at one place. It reduces the wastage of food. This is another big item to be considered. The Dutch Kitchenet should be in every kitchen because it conserves food, time, and energy. It makes the kitchen look more attractive and transforms kitchen drudgery into a pleasure.



Have a Dutch Kitchenet Delivered to Your Home on Our Easy Payment Plan.

We want to help every housewife to conserve her food, time and energy. For that reason we are selling Dutch Kitchenets on terms so easy that every housewife can afford to buy one.

Come to our store and select yours today. We will place it in your home and allow you to pay for it at the rate of **\$1.00 Down and \$1.00 a Week.**

Help Uncle Sam by placing a Napanee Dutch Kitchenet in Your Home.

"Food will help win the war, don't waste it" — Hoover

NAPANEE DUTCH KITCHENET SPECIAL FEATURES
 Selected Oak Exterior, white inside
 White Maple Interior in Upper Cupboard
 Rounded Corners and Edges
 Aluminum or Porcelain Sliding Table
 Large Removable Board
 Hooks for Food Chopper
 Light Glass Partitioned "Pie Tray" Floor etc.
 Ventilated, Non-rusting Metal Bread Box
 Sliding Bottom in Soap Dish
 Mosaic Dust-proof Cabinet
 Close-fitting Doors and Drawers
 Will not warp, swell or shrink
 Absolutely sanitary and easy to clean

SHIPLEY HARDWARE CO.

Patriotic ads encouraged people to buy war bonds, war savings stamps, and to shop local.

This ad from Shipley's Hardware (the Antique Store on Main St today) appeared in the *Herald & Tribune* on May 2, 1918.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE RED CROSS
THE PLAY,
"The Call of the Flag"

Will be presented at the
HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Friday Night, Feb. 22,

BY THE
BOONE'S CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

This play is one of the best of modern times, and thrills the audience that hears it. It will interest, entertain and instruct. If you fail to hear it, you will miss a great deal.

Proceeds go Entirely to Red Cross.

THIS SPACE DONATED BY
L. M. BROYLES FURNITURE CO.
FOR THE BOYS AT THE FRONT

IDLERS WILL BE PUT TO WORK

Enforcement of Tennessee Vagrancy Law Will Relieve Labor Scarcity

Steps are being taken to rigidly enforce the vagrancy law of the state with a view to solving the problem of farm and factory help.

Tennessee has a complete and perfect law covering vagrancy, and the enforcement will doubtless relieve the shortage of farm and factory laborers all over the state.

Any peace officer of the state, sheriffs, constables and policemen who fail to prefer charges against persons they know to be guilty of vagrancy, is liable to a fine of \$100.

Anyone falling within any of the classes below is a vagrant:

Tramps; able bodied persons leading idle, immoral or profligate lives; persons without visible and lawful means of support; habitual loafers, loiters and idlers in towns, cities, or neighborhoods, or about railroad stations or other public places; persons trading in stolen property, or in any alcoholic liquors; every common gambler; operators and employees of gambling devices; persons engaged in obtaining money fraudulently, by trick, device or occupation; persons loitering about the premises of others after sunset; able bodied persons subsisting upon the charity of others; prostitutes; keepers of houses of prostitution; keepers of gambling houses; persons living on wages of minor children; persons from 16 to 21 years of age, not at work nor in school, and whose parents are not able to support them.

From every side comes the cry for more help. If every man will do his duty in this matter vagrancy can be stamped out. Let us make the slogan "Work, Workhouse, or War," really effective.

Tennessee's Vagrancy Law had a wide definition of "vagrant," including "tramps, able bodied persons leading idle, immoral or profligate lives; persons without visible and lawful means of support; habitual loafers, loiters and idlers in towns, cities, or neighborhoods, or about railroad stations or other public places; persons trading in stolen property, or in any alcoholic liquors; every common gambler." The list went on from there. Under the law, people meeting this description could be placed in work camps for the war effort.



Members of the Rhudy family of Johnson City pictured in their uniforms.

Photo courtesy of the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, James Agee Film Project Photographs.

**The Boys at the Front
Are Trusting
IN YOU!**



On the Western Front where the grim visaged monster of War is raging, our American boys are facing Danger and Death.

To defeat the lethal forces of the bloodthirsty Hun, they must have food, clothing and the munitions of war.

At the call of God and Humanity, they went, risking their lives, but Trusting in **You** to help furnish these things.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 28
NATIONAL WAR SAVINGS DAY**

You are asked to pledge yourself to **SAVE** and **INVEST** your savings in War Savings Stamps to back up the boys over there.

Will You Be True to the Trust?

THIS PAGE FINANCIALLY CONTRIBUTED BY

<small>GEY DRUG CO. H. C. MOTYER H. E. KERRIGAN WINS & McCALL</small>	<small>K. M. MAY & SON L. W. BRIDGES CO. H. A. HARTIN C. H. HARRIS</small>	<small>F. E. BRITTON J. E. SHANK E. S. COOK</small>
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This War Bond advertisement ran in the *Herald & Tribune* on June 27, 1918.

Our Part in Feeding the Nation

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)

GETTING ALONG WITH LESS SUGAR



The Pulp Left After the Juice Has Been Extracted May Be Made Into Pastes and Sauces.

How the War is Hitting The Newspapers

Steps Taken to Prevent Paper Shortage

Under an order issued by the War Industrial Board all weekly newspapers are required to reduce the amount of paper used 15 per cent, beginning Sept. 15.

To meet this requirement of the government, the Herald and Tribune must either reduce the number of pages or cut its circulation. We do not find it practicable to reduce the size of the paper at this time, so we are forced to accept the alternative of reducing our circulation. We appreciate the large list of readers we have, and would be glad to continue carrying those who do not find it convenient to pay up at the expiration of their subscription, but we must meet the demands of the War Board. In view of this fact, we cannot continue those who are as much as **THREE MONTHS BEHIND** unless paid up by September 15. Those whose subscription have been due for some time need not be surprised when the Herald and Tribune ceases to reach them after Sept. 15. **BETTER PAY UP TODAY BEFORE THE KNIFE IS APPLIED.**

We also have a large number of exchanges, practically all of which we are compelled to discontinue. This we regret to do as we get much inspiration and many ideas from our contemporaries, but we must all save, sacrifice, and serve in order to win the war and crush the power of the world's blackest criminal.

EDITOR.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

RANKS SEVENTH

A report compiled in the office of State War Savings Director T. R. Preston, Ghattanooga, shows that Washington county ranks seventh among the 96 counties of the state in the sale of War Savings Stamps up to Sept. 1. The sales for the county amounted to \$360,525.75, or a per capita of \$10.73 for each of its 33,611 inhabitants.

Of the upper East Tennessee counties, Washington leads them all, the per capita of some of her sister counties falling as low as \$2.75.

The total face value of stamps sold in the State to Sept. 1, amounted to \$17,401,587.33.

FORD AND EDISON SPEND NIGHT HERE

Thos. A. Edison, the inventor, Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, John Burroughs, the great naturalist, H. E. Fairstone and S. A. Belwalch, spent Monday night at W. M. Lee's a mile south of town, where they set up camp for the night. They traveled in two large Packard cars accompanied by two large trucks carrying their camping outfit.

They were en route to Asheville, N. C., on a sight seeing expedition.

The camping party was visited by some of the citizens of the town who did much to augment the comfort and convenience of the noted visitors.

Mr. Edison, in his enthusiasm, named the place where they spent the night camp Robert E. Lee.

The people of the town proper feel congratulated on having this distinguished party spend the night here, especially after they had passed thru Johnson City, one of the principal suburbs of Jonesboro. However, they desired to stop in the main part of the old town so rich in history and so replete with all that goes to make a stranger feel at home.

In the midst of the First World War, Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and John Burroughs, among others, stopped in Washington County on their way through the area. This article appeared in the *Herald & Tribune* on August 29, 1918.

To learn more about this moment, check out the exhibit near the front door of the museum under the large painting.

IS HELD FOR MAKING SEDITIONARY REMARKS

Bill Martin Sent. to Federal Court for Abusive Lan- guage Against President

United States Deputy Marshall J. D. Brown of Greene county yesterday arrested "Bill" Martin of Claiborn street, this city, on a government warrant charging him with making seditious remarks against President Wilson. Martin was yesterday given a hearing before United States Commissioner E. J. Vaught and bound over to federal court, in the sum of \$1,000 for his appearance before Judge Sanford at Greeneville the first Monday in March.

It was brought out in the testimony, that Martin had made the statement that he would like to shoot about two gallons of ground glass into President Wilson, and a number of seditious remarks. He was alleged to have made the remarks, adding a number of vile oaths, while discussing the food regulations.

The penalty for the crime with which Martin is charged provides that upon conviction the guilty party shall be fined not exceeding \$10,000 and imprisoned not to exceed five years, or both.

This article appeared in the *Johnson City Comet*, a precursor to the *Johnson City Press*, on February 14, 1918.

WILL GIVE MONEY BUT WILL NOT LOAN

Washington County Man Presents Difficult Problem to War Savings Committee

One man has been found in Tennessee who is apparently perfectly agreeable to giving of his money to the government to help finance the war, but he is adamant on the principle that he will not collect interest on loans. He seems to have a conscience that revolts at the idea of receiving interest on his money, consequently he does not lend on such terms.

This man is named Artie Isenberg and he lives near Gray's Station, Washington county. He has absolutely refused to purchase war savings stamps and has also probably refused to invest in liberty bonds. He has been classified as a slacker under the standard of the war savings campaign and has been reported to the state director as such. Mr. Preston caused to be written to him one of the letters that are being sent to all persons reported as either refusing to buy at all or decline to buy as many stamps as their means would justify, and Isenberg answered in the following language:

"I beg to say that I do not loan money at interest. So you see why I have not bought any stamps, they bear interest. But I can give and hereby pledge to give to the United States treasury \$10 a month till the close of the war."

Attached to this letter was a \$10 bill,

This article appeared in the *Herald & Tribune* on October 17, 1918.

It is odd for us to think of today, but in 1918, a person had to buy war bonds or war savings stamps in order to contribute to the war effort. There really was no other way.

YOU CAN HELP SUFFERING BELGIANS

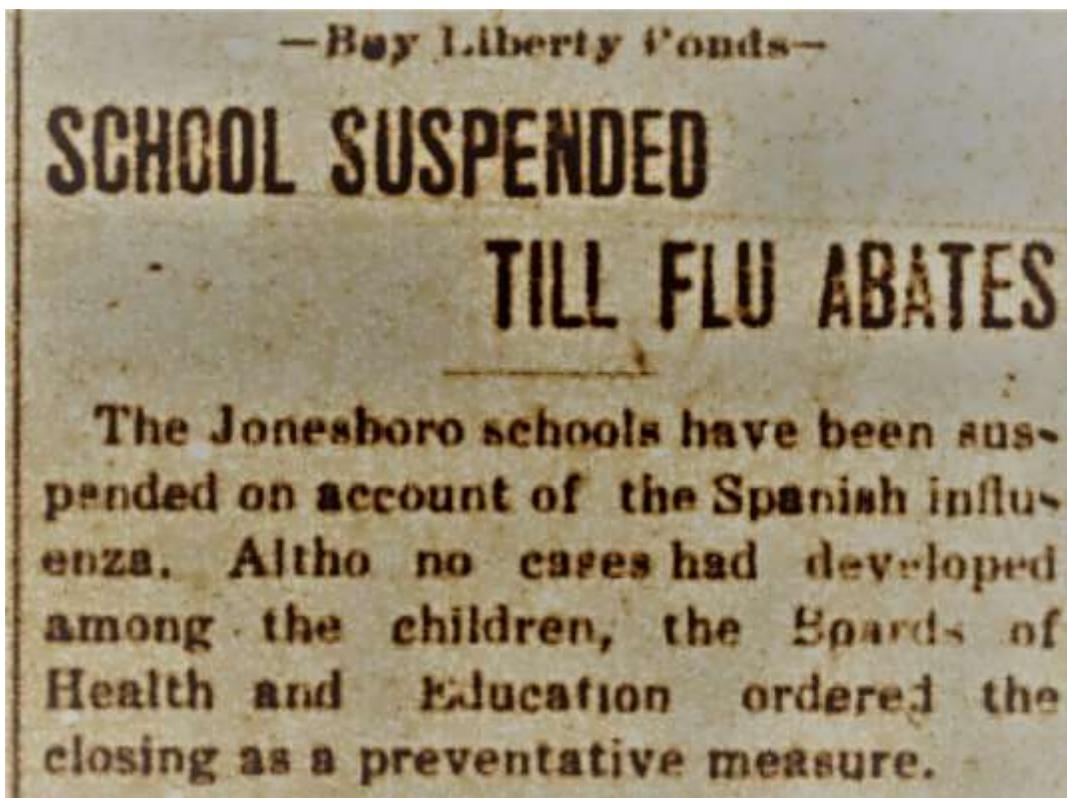
The Jonesboro Chapter of the Red Cross has been asked to collect 5,205 pounds of clothing for Belgian sufferers.

Any kind of clothing—shoes, caps, hats, clothing for men women, babies and children of all ages is needed. Any kind of

clothing that is usable will be accepted.

The campaign for the collection of this clothing is open from Sept. 23 to 30. All Auxiliaries and all persons in the county are earnestly appealed to for help in this campaign. Look up all castaway clothing that could be used by the unfortunate, homeless, hungry, naked Belgians and bring or send them at once to Mrs. Gus Btodrick at the Jonesboro Inn.

American citizens had been sending aid to “suffering Belgians” long before the United States officially entered the war in 1917.



School was suspended for many months in late 1918 during the Spanish influenza pandemic.

JONESBORO CELEBRATES

Monday, Nov. 11, will never be forgotten by the people of Jonesboro and surrounding country. When the news that Germany had signed the armistice terms, reached the quiet old town, the whole populace became astir. Church bells rang out the glad tidings, whistles blew, guns were fired, boys yelled, strong men wept and loyal women shouted.

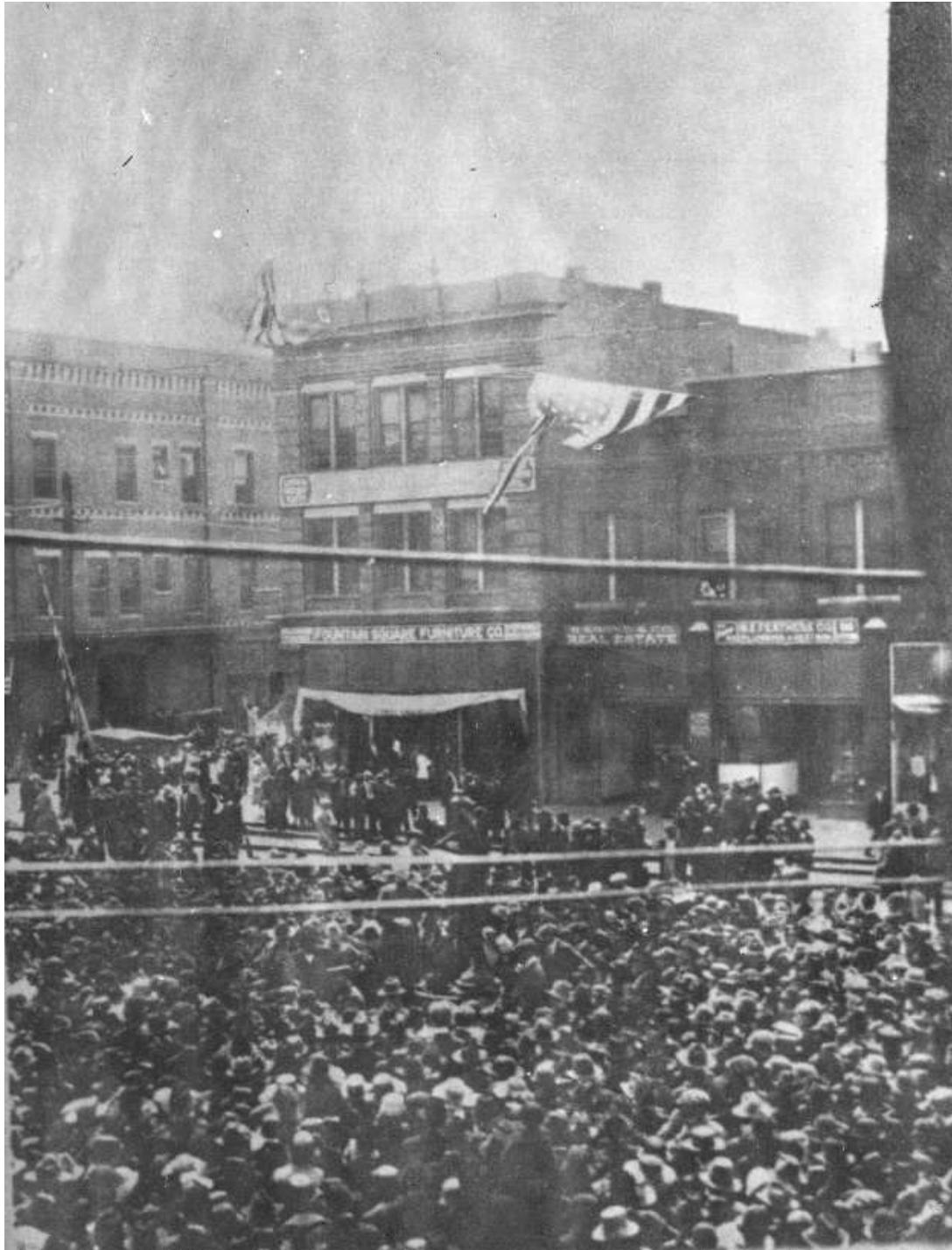
Men, women and children from the country left their pigs unfed, their stock untended, and rushed from the busy activities of life to hear details of the good news. By noon several hundred people had gathered in the town, shaking one another's hands and reading one another's hearts as if touched by some magic spell from heights sublime.

The band, directed by J. T. Whitlock played the inspiring strains of the national anthem, S. L. Tucker and J. G. Potter closed their shops, transported their anvils to the summit of the Greene hill, and with powder that had been saved to shoot Huns with, thundered forth to all the world the message that the war was won.

At one o'clock 115 automobiles gaily decorated with flags and bunting formed a line headed with W. P. Shipley's hardware truck carrying the Jonesboro band. The procession marched thru Johnson City and back to the National Soldiers' Home where 1200 veterans of bygone days with a unit of the American Red Cross and Boy Scouts marched to the music of the Soldiers' Home band.

Far into the night the bells chimed on and the celebrities continued, until at last, the weary crowds dispersed to slumber sweetly and to dream of peace.

World War I officially ended on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month in 1918.



Another shot at the end of WWI celebration in downtown Johnson City. Photo courtesy of the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, James Agee Film Project Photographs.

BERNIE DANIELS WRITES FROM FRANCE

Somewhere in France, Sept. 18, 1918.

Dear Father and Mother:

This leaves Ira and I enjoying fine health and getting along just fine. We are still in the same company.

I truly hope this will find all at home well and enjoying life. I have been through some pretty exciting times since I wrote you last. We were in the big all American drive which I am sure you have already read with joy.

We beat the Huns at their own game and started them well on their way to Berlin, that is the best and fastest runners, the others we brought back with us which isn't a few.

We are now back in a quiet little village for a much needed rest. The papers are giving a pretty straight story of the drive, and instead of over estimating the German losses it seems they must be under estimating them judging them from what I saw with my own eyes.

You ask what kind of weather we are having over here. The days are very pleasant but a little cool at night. That is because we use the ground for floor and bed and the sky for our roof, that is when we are visiting the Huns, but that isn't because we are not well supplied. Uncle Sam gives his soldiers every comfort that can be had but every time the Yanks goes over the top they leave everything behind except arms, ammunition, water and rations, but when we get relieved and go back for rest we get everything we need issued to us including tobacco of all kinds, chewing gum and candy, papers writing and reading. The Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. gives us most of the latter, so you see it is useless for you to send anything, but we thank you a thousand times for the offer.

Your loving son,
BERNIE DANIELS,
Sergt. Co. K, 6th Inf.

JONESBORO BOYS KILLED IN FRANCE

Sergt. Bernia Daniels

A telegram received by Jno. Daniels last week bore the sad news that his son, Serg. Bernie Daniels, had been killed in action Oct. 14.

Serg. Daniels was a member of Co. K., 6th Infantry. He volunteered in May 1917, took training at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., and went across in January of this year. He was 28 years of age, was a young man of splendid qualities, and had a good record, both as a citizen and as a soldier.

Sergt. Virgil C. Mottern

To the great sorrow of the people of the town, Geo C. Mottern received a telegram Nov. 21, officially notifying him that his son, Sergt. Virgil C. Mottern was killed in action on Oct. 19.

Sergt. Mottern belonged to the Field Signal Battalion of the famous 30th Division which fought so furiously during the last days of the war. While holding a splendid position as operator for the Southern Railway, he was called to service on Sept. 19, 1917. He went into training at camp Gordon, was transferred to camp Sevier and went overseas in May, 1918.

He was 28 years of age and one of the town's most highly respected young men. The sympathies of the people go out to the family in their dark hour of trial.

Srgt Bernie Daniels sent a letter home to his parents in September of 1918.

That November, they learned of his death in combat.

WOULDN'T EXCHANGE PLACES WITH BANK PRESIDENT

A. E. F., Sept. 15th, 1918.
Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Sherfey,
Jonesboro, Tenn.

Dear Parents:

Just a few lines today to let you know that I am well and trust you both are the same.

Since I wrote you last, I have been continually on the move, riding some hundred twenty-five miles in a truck. This was one of the largest truck trains I ever saw. In fact there were more trucks in the train than there are people in Jonesboro.

You remember I purchased a large amount of equipment when I left the States, this being required before I sailed, and it is interesting to note that I have now only the amount I am able to carry, the remainder being scattered from Liverpool to—. I will be able to run foot races up mountains. Have hiked thirty miles over mountains with pack. I cannot tell you where I am but I can say that I have seen the beauties of the Rockies surpassed.

I can honestly say that I would not exchange places with the president of the Bank and Trust company, for I have been in the front line trenches under fire and in No Man's land, and I feel good about it because the purpose of my mission over here is that of service, and when I see the terrible havoc wrought by the Germans upon the French people, it gives me new courage to know I am fighting for right against might.

Since writing you last, I have been in the front line trenches under fire and I led the first patrol from Company B, across No Man's land and succeeded in cutting the Boche's wire entanglements.

I have been appointed Battalion Scout officer and leader of large patrols. This is very nery work but it is exciting. We operate at night and sleep in day time. Lieutenant Hugh Hoss, of Johnson City, is my fellow officer.

I appreciate the job and am willing to make the supreme sacrifice if necessary. I do hope you are getting along fine and that everything is O. K. Don't worry about me.

With much love and best wishes, I am,

Your son,
WALTER LEE SHERFEY,
Lt. 53rd Inf. U. S. Army.

BOWMANTOWN BOY DIES ON TRANSPORT

The following letter was received by Frank Phillips, of Bowmantown, relative to the death of his brother William, who died on a transport en route to France on October 3rd.

Mr. Frank Phillips,
Limestone, Tenn.,

Dear Mr. Phillips:

I happen to be the Y. M. C. A. Sec. on the transport when your brother, William died. He had good care and put up a game fight, but it was too much for him. I was with him quite a good deal, taking him oranges, candy, etc., while he was able to eat them and he enjoyed them very much. We all liked him and we were sorry to see him go.

Your brother was a good soldier, a fine man and you can well be proud of him. I know there is nothing I can say to help you, but thought a few words from one who knew him and was with him might help you.

Sincerely yours,

R. F. MARSHALL, Sec'y.
Army and Navy Y. M. C. A.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOYS MAKE SUPREME SACRIFICE

Recent casualty lists contain the names of the following Washington county boys killed in action in France:

Serg. Virgil Mottern, Jonesboro.

Serg. Bernie Daniels, Jonesboro.

Corp. Roby Hendrix, Johnson City.

Prvt. Wm. Holmes, Jonesboro.

Wesley Furchess, Embreeville, died of disease.

Emmet Cole, Johnson City.

Serg. Hobart B. Jones, Johnson City.

civilization against barbarism.

It is almost a reflection upon the army of the Confederacy and the superb heroes of that struggle to use the utter poverty of the South in 1865 and the fearful losses incurred, even for the purpose of contrasting the conditions prevailing then with those in Germany, as a reason why Germany could bear the burden of financial indemnity which we have suggested, and which we insist is only a reasonable price to make Germany pay for its crimes.

Unpunished crime begets new crime, and an unbeaten, unpunished Germany would soon beget new wars and more horrors through the years to come. Germany should be penalized into financial and military weakness for at least fifty years to come, and then its punishment would be all too mild.

This is a snippet from Editor E.S. Depew's column following the Armistice calling for the swift and irrevocable punishment of Germany and its citizens.

"Phelim" argued that the peace proposed by the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh and tarnished all those who had fought for the cause.

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Throughout the war, women would write letters to soldiers overseas, whether they knew them or not. Jonesborough resident Mary Lucy Epps, known by the nickname of "Cute," had shared several letters with a soldier by the name of Edward Healey out of Chicago. After the war was over, Mrs. V.P. Jensen wrote to Mary hoping against hope that the girl had heard from her son Edward.

Dear Miss Epps,

I am Edward Healey's mother (Mrs. V.P. Jensen.) I am writing to tell you I have taken the liberty of opening your last letter to him – hoping to learn he had gone south. I received a telegram June 18th saying he had arrived in New York safely and would be home within a week. I have had no other word from him, but Thursday a.m. I received his honorable discharge certificate from the Gov. dated June 20th – Will you kindly let me have the letter he wrote you, you spoke of receiving June 25th? I will consider it a lasting favor, and will return it to you as I have nothing in his writing to verify his being in the States – we have telegraphed and made every inquiry but it's like working in the dark as we cannot trace him after June 20th. Unless I have something by tomorrow morning, I shall put it in the hands of the Secret Service. Edward was always so thoughtful about my worrying that he never planned a trip no matter how insignificant without telling me where I could reach him, and through this entire war – he has never missed writing from one to 3 times a week, he was so anxious to reach home. I can't account for this silence unless – the strain has been too much this past year, or foul play – as I'm sure he had quite a large sum of money with him. So girlie if you will send his letter right away I'll take care of it and return it with several others I am holding intact, hoping against hope for his return. Thanking you in advance. I am his worried mother.

Unfortunately, Edward Healey fell prey to a gang that would rob and sometimes murder returning soldiers as they stepped off the train or boat.

To whom it may concern: Jan. 7, 1918.

In case of my death I wish all of my property to be transferred to my mother, Ida Patten Harris. In case of my mother's death before mine, I wish my property divided equally between Florence Harris Wofford and Allen Harris, my sister and brother, respectively. In case of my mother's death after mine I wish the property which she has received from me [including all insurance taken out in my name] to be divided equally between Florence Harris Wofford and Allen Harris, the above-mentioned parties.

Lester P. Harris.

Letter 17
S. S. U. 648
Convois (Auto)
Par B. S. 36
A. E. F. 9
France

Mrs. Allen Harris
Orchard Place
Johnson City
Tennessee
U. S. A.

This will was written in France by Lester P. Harris as he was serving overseas. He addressed it to his mother, with strict instructions about what was to happen to his possessions should he perish in the war. Unfortunately, Lester died in July of 1918, a few months after he drafted this will. His family lived at 824 East Myrtle Street in Johnson City in a home known as "Orchard Place." The Harris family was a very prominent family, and there is a street in Johnson City named in honor of Lester Harris. This will is held in the Washington County, Tennessee, Department of Records Management and Archives.



Army tank at Science Hill Academy in Johnson City in 1919. Photo courtesy of the Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, Burr Harrison Photographs.