



Palestine and the Great War

Presented to Palestine Lodge No. 357 - September 5, 2019

Bro. Douglas Mooney, Historian

Worshipful Master,

We stand here today, just over 100 years since the conclusion of World War I. The innovations in weaponry and tactics from the U.S. Civil War spilled across Europe. This was combined with even newer inventions, as men fought in trenches amid shelling and toxic gas in a sprawling conflict. Men took to the air in combat for the first time, capturing the public imagination with dogfights and Aces.

Palestine, being a large and growing Lodge, sent her share of men to the fight. During the war, it is reported that Palestine made special efforts to keep in touch with our Brothers and mailed Christmas packages to them.

100 years ago on September 21, 1919, Palestine Lodge held a banquet to honor our 500 brothers who were called into service. Nearly 400 members were expected to attend in uniform. Those veterans were presented with a lithograph from the lodge, and a special gold pin bearing our emblem and the words "Veteran, World War."

The dinner was to be a lively celebration of the end of the war, but it had an especially solemn purpose. Our Chaplain, Bertram Pullinger, delivered a memorial address in remembrance of the Palestine men lost during the war.

Brother Roy H. Knell



Cavalryman Roy H. Knell was the Manager of King Auto Sales in Detroit. He was a member of Troop B of the First Michigan Cavalry. He died of pneumonia at Camp Grayling on September 13, 1917. He was 27 years old and his funeral was performed by this lodge. Brother Knell is buried at Woodlawn in Detroit.

Brother Thomas O. Jones

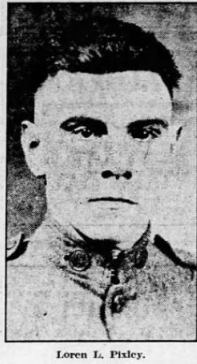


Lt Thomas O. Jones was a naval aviator. He was killed September 24, 1918 when the seaplane he was in crashed into Pensacola bay in Florida. He died twelve days before his 31st birthday. Bro Jones had been the Sporting Editor of the Detroit Free Press, later joined Hupmobile for the first automotive



around-the-world tour, and then became a full time auto publicist for several manufacturers. [His round-the-world Hupmobile is on display at the Crawford Auto Aviation Collection in Cleveland.](#)

Brother Loren Ernest Pixley



Private Loren Pixley was born December 11, 1890. He grew up in Lansing, but moved to Detroit when he was 17. He died at age 26, when he was killed in action on August 6, 1918. Brother Pixley was also mourned by Detroit Plumbers Local 98. He is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Lansing.



Brother Harvey F Smith



2nd Lieutenant Harvey Francis Smith was born November 7, 1895 in Houston, Texas. He was a member of Company K, 125th Infantry. He was killed by enemy fire in Meuse-Argonne offensive on October 12, 1918. It was part of the final allied offensive of the war, which was the largest and deadliest. 26,277 Americans were lost in this effort, including our brother. He was 23 years old. [Brother Smith is buried at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France.](#)

Brother David C McKay



Chief Boatswain's Mate David Carter McKay was serving with the United States Naval Reserve at the time of his death. He worked as a salesman for the Michigan Electric Welding Company in Detroit. Brother McKay died October 4, 1918 of Pneumonia in Harper Hospital. He received a Masonic funeral and was buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

Brother William F. Boldt



Second Lieutenant William Boldt was born in Detroit on July 27, 1893 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Transport Corps. He died of pneumonia at Camp Holabird, Maryland on October 7, 1918. Before the war Brother Boldt was in the cigar wholesaling business with his father Charles on

Michigan Avenue. His brother Lieutenant Hazen Boldt was in France at the time of his death.

Brother Hurst V. Campbell



Brother Hurst Vincent Campbell was born in Columbus, Ohio to Dr. and Mrs T.H. Campbell. He served in the Army's quartermaster corps. He died of pneumonia October 6, 1918 in Baltimore. Brother Campbell had also served in France.

Brother Edward E. Porsch



Sgt. Edward Edward Porsch was born February 13, 1891 and was a foreman at the S. S. Kresge Corporation. He served with the 310th Ammunition Train, 85th Division. It was noted that he died of disease on October 10, 1918. [He is buried at the Somme American Cemetery in France.](#)

Brother Edward A. Hoffman



LIEUTENANT E. A. HOFFMAN.

Lieutenant Edward Aubrey Hoffman was a graduate of the Detroit College of Law. He had an office in the Hammond Building, specializing in real estate. He was also active in politics, winning election to the office of Estimator in Detroit's first ward. His father, Joseph Hoffman, then President of the Manufacturer's Association, told the Free Press that they received notice on December 12, 1918 that their son had died on October 12 in France. They refused to believe it because they had received another letter around the same time indicating that he was still alive in the hospital on November 20. Eventually they received a letter from a Red Cross nurse named Rose Peabody, who had cared for their son. The letter, dated October 14, told of the Lieutenant's death. Brother Hoffman was a volunteer in the first officer's training camp and was

assigned to the Second Battalion, 125th Infantry, 32nd Division. He died of wounds sustained in battle. He is buried at the Maplewood Historic Cemetery in Lake County Indiana. The Hoffman Schmidt American Legion Post in Crown Point Indiana was named in his honor. Rose Peabody Parsons wrote an article for the Atlantic Monthly in August 1923 detailing her time as a war nurse. She wrote about caring for men near the front, and writing letters to their families so they would know what happened to their sons and husbands.

Brother William H. Graham



Dr. William Henley Graham was a lifelong Detroit resident and practicing dentist. He was commissioned into the U.S. Army and died a week later at Fort Wayne of pneumonia. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan Dental School, and was buried with full military honors and the assistance of Palestine Lodge. At the time of his death, his brother Douglas Graham was fighting in France.

Brother Bartlett L. Hinkley



2nd Lt Bartlett Hinkley was a contractor prior to the war, and was attached to the 16th Engineer Regiment. On November 1, 1918 in Romagne, France they were attempting to repair and hold a narrow gauge railroad crucial to moving supplies. From time to time German shells would hit the track and cause damage. Around 10 AM German guns started shelling American artillery positions nearby. The Platoon Hinkley was leading fixed a section of track and attempted to move farther up the line. They were caught in artillery fire and Brother Hinkley was killed immediately. Five of his men suffered shrapnel wounds and one died before he could be moved. [He is buried in Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France.](#)

Brother Ralph C. Russell



2nd Lt Ralph C. Russell was born in Nebraska. On April 27, 1917. He married Esta Christensen in Detroit and gave his occupation as Secret Service. He drove a police patrol wagon in Elyria, Ohio before joining the Pinkerton Detective Agency in 1914. He left Pinkerton to become the owner and general manager of the Central Union Detective Agency in Cleveland, before joining the U.S. Identification Department, which handled fingerprint records. He left that position to enlist. Brother

Russell died at Walter Reed hospital in Washington D.C. of disease the week ending November 29, 1918. He was 25 years old. He was stationed at Langley Field with the U.S. Army Air Service, and is buried at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland.

Brother Hiram C. Prather



1st Lieutenant Hiram Clark Prather died of pneumonia on February 21, 1918, in St. Luke's Hospital, Davenport, Iowa. He was stationed at the Ordnance Department of the Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Illinois. A thousand people attended his funeral with full military honors. Brother Prather was exempt from the draft because of his age, 27, and because he had a family. He felt called to serve and enlisted, leaving his position at the Peter Smith Heater Company in Detroit. As news of his condition reached Detroit, his wife rushed to Iowa with his two young sons and several friends, but they did not arrive before Brother Prather had laid down his working tools. He is buried in the Rock Island National Cemetery.

Brother Frank H. Thom



Pvt. Frank Holt Thom was an order clerk with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company when he filled out his draft card on June 5, 1917. He was born July 10, 1891 in Detroit. He served in the Company F of the 23rd Engineer Regiment. The Detroit Times reported the death of his mother, on April 5, 1919 saying she'd been spared the subsequent arrival of the news of his death in France on March 8, 1919. Frank Thom was being sent home due to his ailing mother, and was killed in a transport accident in Bordeaux. His obituary was published in the Free Press next to his mother's. [He is buried in St. Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France.](#)

Brother Charles W. Thom

Brother Charles Walter Thom, the fraternal *and* biological brother of Frank Thom, was not mourned by this lodge on that night 100 years ago, because he was still alive. Brother Charles, or Chuck as his friends called him, enlisted in Troop B of the Michigan Cavalry. He became a Private in Battery D, 119th field artillery and was sent overseas in 1918. In Argonne, France, he was severely injured by a shell that smashed his foot and damaged his legs. When the armistice was signed he was sent home and spent several months at Camp Custer hospital. It was during his time in the hospital that his mother and brother died. He never recovered from his wounds,

but he did enroll in school at the University of Michigan. While in Detroit for a funeral he fell ill and his cousin Charles A. H. Thom Jr. gave his blood to try to save his life. He died of his wounds on May 9, 1921, and was mourned by Palestine Lodge. His funeral was held at the home of his uncle, Worshipful Brother Charles A. H. Thom, 33rd and former Grand Commander of the Knights Templar, who was the Master of Palestine Lodge in 1905.

Brothers Frank and Chuck Thom were the sons of John H. Thom, who was Vice President of Standard Accident Insurance company and a member of this lodge.

These brothers answered a call to duty, and were mourned by our lodge 100 years ago. Tonight we remember their service and sacrifice and ensure that they are still remembered here in their Fraternal home. During the dinner honoring the lodge's war service, Palestine Chaplain Reverend Bertram V. Pullinger, gave a memorial address and, one presumes, offered a prayer. With the permission of the Worshipful Master, I now invite our Chaplain to offer a prayer in honor of those who have, or still, serve.

PALESTINE LODGE MEMBERS WHO LOST LIVES IN WAR.



Top row, left to right: Lieutenant Harvey F. Smith, Lieutenant W. F. Boldt, Frank H. Thom, Loren E. Pixley, Lieutenant Hiram C. Prather and Sergeant Edward E. Porsch.

Middle row: Lieutenant Hurst V. Campbell, Lieutenant Edward A. Hoffman, Lieutenant W. H. Graham, Lieutenant Ralph C. Russell, Lieutenant Bartlett L. Hinkley and Lieutenant T. O. Jones.

Bottom: David C. McKay and Roy H. Knell.

MASONS IN WAR TO BE HONORED

Palestine Lodge Plans Great Celebration to 500 Veterans Sept. 25.

Tribute to Be Paid to 14 Dead; Chaplain to Deliver Memorial Address.

To welcome home her more than 500 sons who saw service in the World war, Palestine Lodge No. 157, F. & A. M., will set the table for 1,300 in the great ball room of the Masonic temple, Thursday evening, September 25, and feasting and song and speeches will mark one of the gladiolus of Detroit's post-war celebrations.

At the very close of the evening, which is planned for a season where the old time Palestine spirit of good fellowship and fun shall rule, Rev. William V. Follinger, one of the chaplains of the lodge, and formerly a chaplain in the Canadian army, with the rank of captain, will deliver a memorial address for Palestine's 14 dead, army, navy and air service men, for whom a solemn memorial has already been held.

EVERY RAILROAD MAN SHOULD READ THIS

PERSONAL OBITUARY, C. H. Inc., Buffalo, N. Y., Jan. 27th. I was affected with what the doctors said were various tumors, and up until about two weeks ago I have been suffering from for about a year and six months.

With all the treatments that were prescribed to me by several doctors I evolved little benefit, and they kept spreading and gave me much distress and caused me to quit my work.

I was induced by a brother brotherman to try Peterson's ointment, and after I had used two boxes I saw the wonderful results. You can tell suffering men troubled with such painful and horrid sores that such treatment is a cure for them when everything else fails, as I have tried about everything.

Thinking and talking, I have never I am your happy friend, Chas. J. Peterson, 1212 E. 12th, Mich., 12, Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 12, 1919.

"I know and dozens of people write me," says Peterson, of Buffalo, "that Peterson's ointment is a

Canadian army, with the rank of captain, will deliver a memorial address for Palestine's 14 dead, army, navy and air service men, for whom a solemn memorial has already been held.

2 Aviators Killed.
Two were aviators, killed by their falling machines in this country. Four were killed in France by artillery fire; seven died of influenza pneumonia in army hospitals, and the other met his death in a motor truck accident in France.

The list of Palestine's hero dead is as follows: Roy H. Knell, Lieutenant Hiram C. Prather, Lieutenant Thomas G. Jones, Loren E. Pixley, Lieutenant Harvey F. Smith, David C. McKay, Lieutenant William F. Boldt, Lieutenant Hurst V. Campbell, Sergeant Edward E. Porsch, Lieutenant Edward A. Hoffman, Lieutenant William H. Graham, Lieutenant Bartlett L. Hinkley, Lieutenant Ralph C. Russell, Frank H. Thom.

But in addition to paying tribute to her glorious dead, Palestine lodge wants to show the pride she feels in her fighting sons who have returned from service, and every arrangement has been made to make the September dinner the crowning feature of the lodge's war work, which allowed no service man to "get out of reach" during all the long months of separation.

Lodge Kept in Touch.
During the whole war-time period, Palestine kept in touch with her service men, by means of a list, corrected and revised from time to time, which brought the fighting men letters from home, little remembrances of various sorts, Christmas boxes—which were mailed from London, England—for the blue Christmas of 1917, and a hundred and one other little attentions.

The September dinner is to be the final triumph of it all. The hall room of the Masonic temple will seat only 1,300, and as it is expected fully 400 Palestine lodge men will be present, as the lodge's agenda, only 500 tickets will be placed on sale to members. Secretary A. G. Batts announced that nearly all the reservations have already been taken.

The service men are expected to attend in uniform.

Lubitz Will Preside.
Worshipful Master August W. Lubitz will preside, and addresses of the evening will be made by Rev. Chester H. Emerson and George Denby, besides the memorial address by Chaplain Follinger.

Memorial features will be furnished by Mrs. Helen Fitzgerald, and the Palestine quartette and the singing band.

Each of the service men will be presented with a photograph certificate issued by the lodge, and a gold button, bearing the Palestine emblem with the words: "Veteran World War."



STATE TO PROBE COST OF MILK

Groesbeck to Heed Pleas of Producers to Investigate Profits in Their Industry.

Farmers Allege Condenseries Are Not Giving Them a Square Deal.

Special to The Free Press.
LANSING, Mich., Sept. 20.—Thorough inquiry into the cost of milk production will be made by Attorney General Groesbeck and his assistants when the investigation into the high cost of living is again resumed before Judge Howard West in the Michigan circuit court here.

Milk producers of the state are asserting that in view of the prices fixed by manufacturers for evaporated milk, the operators of that industry are not giving the farmer his fair share of the profit. This complaint was laid before Colonel S. L. Palmer, assistant attorney general, by C. P. Hull, of Ligonier, and other representatives of the Michigan Milk Producers' association Saturday.

It is also understood here by officials that a federal investigation into the cost of producing milk is well under way by the federal authorities and the Michigan association desires it to be followed up as part of the state's investigation of high prices.

Colonel Palmer assured the representatives of the Milk Producers' association that a thorough investigation into every part of the cost of producing milk by the farmer would be made. In fact, plans of the attorney general's department have always included that item as foodstuffs along with others. Producers from various parts of the state will be given an opportunity to testify and furnish evidence.

MERCIER TO SPEAK TO NAVAL CADETS

Will Visit Annapolis Academy With Gibbons Monday.

Baltimore, Sept. 20.—Cardinal Mercier arrived here from New York this afternoon. He was driven to the residence of Cardinal Gibbons, where he will stay until Monday. The Belgian prelate will participate at the 11 o'clock mass in the cathedral tomorrow morning, and on Monday will go to Annapolis with Cardinal Gibbons, where the two prelates will be the guests of Governor Harrington for the day.

Cardinal Mercier will address the people of Annapolis at the state house, and after luncheon at the governor's mansion he and Cardinal Gibbons will visit the Naval academy.

Later Cardinal Mercier will go to Washington direct from Annapolis.

ASKS WHEAT BONUS TO HELP FARMERS

Lord James Blyth Thinks It Will Aid Production.

London Times Cable.
August 19th, by Cable. Lord James Blyth, an authority on agricultural topics, says: "The British government's decision to continue for another year the present price of wheat and the certainty that considerable time must elapse before this support to agriculturists can be altogether withdrawn make me anxious that the prime minister should not find time to examine the alternative."