

The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not responsible for the loss of or damage to any submitted material so please keep a copy for your records. Please include a note authorizing Anderson Historical Society to publish the material. We need two things from all members or those interested in local history: please be sure the Society has an updated email address and please spread the word to friends and neighbors about the Newsletter. Please contact us at: www.andersonhistorical.com.

Middletown Post Office

Middletown was located about six miles southwest of current Redding in what is generally known as Centerville today. The post office was the first of four in the immediate area: Middletown, Brincard, Dolde and Larkin. One of the early roads crossed Clear Creek at the Landrum & Briggs Toll Bridge then connected to a road from Horsetown before proceeding north to Shasta. Middletown was located midway between Briggsville and Shasta at the top of the climb up from Clear Creek. Middletown was an early stop on the Hall & Crandall Stage Line as well as a site of early placer mining. In 1855 Middletown was the site of one of the main reservoirs on the Clear Creek Canal that allowed the surrounding dry diggings to be worked year around. The Middletown Post Office was established in 1856 and operated until 1858 when much of the placer mining began to fade and alternative routes to Shasta were established.



All that remains of Middletown are a few scattered headstones in the cemetery. Author's collection.

Parkville Post Office

Two of the earliest settlers of the Parkville area were Stephen Park and John W. Park. John was often given credit for the naming of Parkville although it is Stephen Parks that was still present in 1860. The area is centered along Bear Creek about a mile northeast of Ball's Ferry. The town became a popular stopping place because it was at a junction of Noble's Trail established 1852 that led to the Emigrant Ferry at the mouth of Cow Creek, the southern road from Shingletown and the eastern branch of the California-Oregon Trail. The town quickly flourished in support of teamsters and immigrants. The Parkville Post Office was established in 1871.

Just as transportation caused the bloom at Parkville it also was a cause for its decline. In 1869 the Central Pacific Railroad completed the transcontinental rail line lessening the need for Noble's Trail and in 1872 the California & Oregon Railroad completed the rail line on the west side of the Sacramento River to Redding. The California and Oregon Stage Company restructured its routes leaving only the lumber traffic from Shingletown to support the town. After 1872 the town began a steady decline and in 1875 the post office was moved one mile south and renamed Ball's Ferry.



Logan's Ferry at Parkville. Courtesy Shasta Historical Society.

Pitthree Post Office

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company acquired the Northern California Power Company in 1919 as well as the water rights to Hat Creek from the California Power and Manufacturing Company, and the water rights to Fall River from the Red River Lumber Company. In 1921 PG&E began construction on seven hydroelectric power plants, numerous reservoirs, and diversion dams as well as miles of tunnels. The two power plants on Hat Creek were completed in 1921. On the Pit River Pit One was completed in 1922. Work on Pit Three began in 1923 and the Pitthree Post Office was established at the PG&E work camp. Pit Three required the construction of a curved gravity dam one hundred and forty feet tall to create the Pit Three Reservoir now Lake Britton. The post office was rescinded in 1924 although work on the site continued until 1925. The remainder of the system was not completed until 1939. The location of the Pitthree Post Office was about twelve miles north of Burney.



Construction of the dam at Pit #3. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



Post card of Camp Pit #3. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.



Lake Britton. Author's collection

Zinn Post Office

The Zinn Post Office was located ten miles northeast of Shingletown near present day Viola. The post office was named for John Lafayette Zinn (1825-1909) a local lumberman who purchased 640 acres of timber nearby. The post office was established in August 1889 and operations were closed by May 1890 and moved to Shingletown.



Early logging using oxen. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Articles for the month of February 2023 are: 1) George Washington Zinn, 2) Isaac and Louise Zinn, 3) Oscar and Martha Brauer, 4) John and Meleta Brauer, 5) Henry Butzback, 6) Walter Scott Criss, and 7) History Challenge: Michel Weill.

George Washington Zinn



Portrait of George Washington Zinn reportedly taken at Buckeye. Courtesy of Ralph Holibaugh.

George Washington Zinn was born in 1869 in Missouri. George was the son of John Lafayette Zinn born about 1825 in Virginia and Catherine S. White born about 1834. John had moved to Missouri well before the Civil War and in 1860 was working as a boot and shoemaker. John moved his family to Shasta about 1876 where he registered to vote as a shoemaker at Buckeye. In 1880 John was listed as a miner at Buckeye. John received a patent for 160-acre homestead in 1894 in Section 22, Township 31 North Range 2 East, MDM. John died in 1909 and Catherine survived until 1924.

George was always associated with mining in the Buckeye area along with his older brothers Robert and Isaac. In the 1880 U.S. Census, George was eleven years old and already listed as a miner. George attended school longer than many children of the age, later listing his education as 8th grade. George was not known to have ever married and in 1910 was listed as a placer miner in Buckeye living with his mother Catherine. George was known to have had a claim at Spring Creek, but no patents were issued in his name. In 1940 George was still listed as a prospector and died in 1950.



Bob Hiatt holding Peter, a mountain lion captured by the three while hunting. George Zinn is to the right and Johnnie Kemble is to the left. Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.



Postcard made from a William Valentine photograph: Johnnie Kemble on the left, Catherine Hiatt with Peter the mountain lion, and George Zinn. The two men with Bob Hiatt had been hunting in the Trinity Mountains in the fall of 1907 and Johnnie had shot a female lion near a cave. The hunters secured a Russian Wolfhound to search the cave for the male lion and two kittens were discovered. George took the pair home where the female quickly died. George took the remaining kitten, Peter, to the Hiatt home where Catherine Hiatt assumed the duties of bottle feeding the kitten. Peter slept in the spare bedroom until spring when he was moved into the smoke house. Peter would play with the Hiatt children, but this quickly became dangerous as Peter had grown to six feet nose to tail. It was decided that Peter would have to go to a zoo and the Redding Photographer William Valentine was called for a photograph. The photograph was taken in May 1908 and at the time William Valentine warned Catherine that if she put Peter down, he was "going over the fence." Peter never was sent to the zoo as he became sick and died shortly after the photograph was taken. Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.

Isaac Zinn and Louise Zinn



Portrait of Louise and Isaac Zinn taken by B. Middlemiss who worked in Redding from 1897 to 1898.
Courtesy of Ralph Hollibaugh.

Isaac Zinn was born in 1855 in Missouri. Isaac was the son of John Lafayette Zinn born about 1825 in Virginia and Catherine S. White born about 1834. The couple's marriage was solemnized in 1860 when Isaac was age four. John had moved to Missouri well before the Civil War and in 1860 was working as a boot and shoemaker. John moved his family to Shasta County about 1876 where he registered to vote as a shoemaker at Buckeye. In 1880 John was listed as a miner at Buckeye and Isaac was a laborer at Big Valley, Lassen County. John received a patent for 160-acre homestead in 1894 in Section 22, Township 31 North Range 2 East, MDM. In 1894 Isaac married Louise Viola Benoit (Benoight) born about 1866 in California. Louise had previously been married Edward Fowler Stone in 1885 in Placer County, but the couple divorced in 1893. In 1900 Isaac registered as a laborer at Buckeye and in 1910 as a quartz miner at Buckeye. In 1920 Isaac and Louise were living in Santa Cruz County where Isaac was working as a laborer. In 1930 Louise was boarding in Placer County while Isaac was in Agnew State Hospital. Isaac would die at Agnew in 1938 and Louise would die in Placer County in 1939.



Zinn home. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

Oscar and Martha Brauer



Oscar and Martha Brauer. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.

In a casual conversation a question came up about Oscar Brewer's sawmill on Eagle Creek. I'd never heard of the Brewer's but then remembered Oscar Brauer worked at a sawmill

on Eagle Creek. His family was born near Prussian Danzig (now Gdansk in Poland) and came to Toledo, Ohio in 1852. The family came with the Philipuffsksys who changed their name to Phillips, but Oscar's father Michael Ernest Brauer (born 1823) left the family name unchanged but changed the pronunciation to "Brewer." Michael had been apprenticed to a tailor and in 1845 after he was a journeyman he married a Polish girl, Charlotte Rotike who was born in 1825 or 1826. At the time of departure Michael and Charlotte had three children but only Gustav and John Lewis lived to adulthood. Once in America the family had three more children: Henry 1860 born in Iowa, Mary Ann (1861-1948; married Emil Wickert in 1885) born in California, and Walter (1866-1931) born in California. The family moved to Des Moines, Iowa where Michael caught the bug for new lands opening in California. In April 1860 the family started to California by ox-drawn wagon from Council Bluffs, Iowa. At the time of departure Oscar's legal name was Gustav and had been since his birth about 1851 in Prussia. The family took the north bank of the Platte River where Gustav acquired another name. One of the accompanying horse riders that had forgotten his name call. "Here Oscar, will you hold my horse!" Children started calling him Oscar and soon the adults followed. Gustav's name was expanded to Oscar Gustav Brauer from then onward. The family followed the Humboldt River and down the Noble's trail to the Sacramento River. Oscar's father wanted to settle in Humboldt County but due to the lack of a wagon road purchased land and sheep in Ono. Once the family had enough money Michael sent for his brother-in-law Carl Voss (Charlotte's half-brother) who settled in Ono and repaid the passage money by herding sheep for Oscar.

After about ten years on the sheep ranch Michael sold out and bought a store at Roaring River. Michael operated the store while Oscar drove the stage that connected the mines below in the steep canyon as well as from Shasta to Red Bluff. In 1872 the store was traded for a sawmill on Eagle Creek that was worked by Oscar and his brother Henry until he drowned in the mill pond. In 1877 the mill was traded for a 480-acre ranch at the lower end of Burney Valley. In 1883 Oscar married Martha Susan Crews and his brother John married her sister Meleta Crews. Oscar worked on his father's ranch in addition to his own and purchased eighteen acres just south of the Cornaz Store and built a family house. Marth Susan Crews was born in 1864 in Missouri and was the daughter of Robert Crews 1837-1919 and Mary Elizabeth Emmons 1842-1915. Martha's parents moved from Missouri to California in the 1870's and opened a succession of stores at Bunker Hill, Burney, and Hat Creek but fell back on ranching. In 1892 the family moved to Old Cow Creek where Mary Elizabeth was postmaster at Pawnee.

Oscar and Martha had four children born in Burney Valley, but conditions were tough for Martha who suffered from asthma. Of the four children, M. Elaine born in 1885 and Roswell born in 1886 both died within a year of birth. Only Lloyd Irving (1888-1963) and Oscar Leo (1884-1978) survived to adulthood. Due to his wife's asthma Oscar traded the Burney ranch for 320 acres on Cow Creek about 13 miles east of Millville. At the Cow Creek ranch three more children joined the family: Robert Ernest (1890-1977), Mary (May) Eleanora Belle (1893-1972), and Vivian Eva (1895-1989). About 1890 Michael traded his ranch in Burney for 320 acres on Oak Run about three miles north of Millville where he died in 1902 and Charlotte died in 1907.

For the work Oscar did for his father in Burney he was given the south 160 acres and the family moved again. At Oak Run two additional children were added to the family Sidney Emmons (1898-1979) and Hazel Irma (1903-1987). Tragedy struck in 1905 when Martha died of asthma complications at age forty while visiting her brother at Pawnee.

Prior to Martha's death Oscar had purchased five hundred sheep and began to increase his land holdings. In 1907 Oscar purchased the 240 acre Tracy ranch (Section 26, Township 33 North, Range 2 West, MDM) and an additional 197 acres in Section 3, Township 31 North Range 3 West, MDM. In 1911 Oscar purchased 80 acres from the government in Section 28, Township 32 North Range 3 West, MDM. In 1910 Oscar was living on the Oak Run ranch with his seven children: Oscar age 25, Lloyd age 21, Ernest (Robert) age 20, Mary age 16, Vivian age 14, Sidney age 11, and Hazel Irma age 7. Educational opportunities were desperately limited and by family history, prior to 1920 all the children went to live with their aunt and uncle, John Lewis and Maleta Brauer in Chico, Butte County. John had moved to Chico to provide educational advantages for his children in 1908. In the 1920 U.S. Census only Oscar and his son Sidney were living on the Oak Run ranch. There is an alternate account that has the three girls, Mary, Vivian, and Hazel Irma, moving to Chico to live with John and Maleta as Lloyd and Robert Ernest had attended Chico Normal School in 1906 while Oscar Leo was at the University of California. The latter story appears to fit the data but what is remarkable is that of Oscar's children and John and Maleta's children nine became teachers (one later changing to be a dentist).

Oscar left Shasta County in 1923 and shortly afterwards a marriage license was issued in Sacramento to Oscar Gustave Brauer age 71 of Millville and Nina Emonla Brown age 56 of Venice, California. In the directory for Santa Monica in 1927, Oscar was listed as a carpenter married to Nannie E. Brauer. In 1928 Oscar returned to the Oak Run ranch for a visit. Sidney had remained on the ranch and Mary was living there and teaching locally. They were joined by Oscar Leo who was teaching at San Jose. Robert who was teaching in Tulare County and Lloyd who was teaching in Los Angeles County did not attend.

Nothing was found about how the relationship with Nina Brown ended, but in 1930 Oscar was living with Vivian's family in Los Angeles County. In 1940 Oscar was living with Robert's family in Dinuba, Tulare County. Oscar died in 1943 at the home of his daughter Mary Eleanora Belle Bean in Millville.

John and Maleta Brauer

This article falls under the category of "Things You Never Knew About Shasta County," and was initiated by Marilyn Rountree's research assistance on Oscar Brauer. I knew that frog gigging was a common way of adding food to the table and was even commercialized at Falk's Lake (now Mary Lake) during the Great Depression, but I'd never heard of a turtle ranch in Shasta County. In the December 2nd, 1899, edition of the *Record Searchlight* was "Tale of a Turtle Ranch, Mr. Brauer's profitable experiment, Feeds and Pampers Terrapins and then ships the fat rascals to market." The article had some

objectionable social material that was indicative of the status of Native Americans at the time, but it is worth citing as written. "This is the tale of a turtle ranch where the ugly denizens of the mud are fattened for metropolitan epicures."

"The name of this terrapin farmer is John Brauer. He has 160 broad acres in the Whitmore country on which to exercise and condition his steady-going stock. In the vicinity are the great tule swamps reaching to Fall River. A number of brown-legged Indians (there are no red Indians in Shasta County) wade about in the mud and capture turtles on their breeding ground. They are sold to Brauer, who begins to fatten them and shape them to the toothsome point."

"Brauer has many queer looking pens in which his pets are kept. They are given a wholesome diet of bran, vegetables and meat, and a well selected menu it is."

"It is stated that the usual herd on the ranch before shipping time numbered 10,000 turtles. In the fall and the spring the heavier, juicer hardshells are culled out and shipped to San Francisco where they are worth \$3.50 to \$4 per dozen. The turtles are shipped by Redding, and recently a Fall River pot hunter tried to ship out a big consignment of wild ducks under the innocent label of turtles."

"John Brauer hasn't any special competition in his business and his neighbors never bother him with advice as to how they raise their own crop." The craze for turtles in San Francisco began with the Gold Rush when sea turtles were an important source of food. At one point sea turtle meat sold for \$18.00 a pound in San Francisco. The trend almost wiped out the giant Galapagos' Island turtles and restaurants were soon relying on mock turtle soup and using western pond turtles. In the late 1800s to early 1900s, an estimated 18,000 pond turtles were consumed per year, as the featured ingredient in turtle soup, a delicacy of high-end San Francisco restaurants. The craze started to decline about the time of John's turtle ranch as pond turtles themselves became endangered.

John would follow another economic craze in 1907 when he raised 375 Angora goats following the example of J. M. Wimmer, a successful breeder in Shasta County who raised a flock of 1,700 Angora goats. The Angora goat is sheared twice a year and produces about four pounds of mohair each shearing. The mohair sells for about 24 to 43 cents per pound, but the market is subject to fluctuations. By July 1907 John was selling his 375 Angora goats "whose hair this year brought 42 cents per pound," The advertisement continued "will sell cheap." In 1907 60,000 pounds of mohair was shipped from Anderson at 24 to 43 cents per pound. It appears like most of John's other endeavors he was successful, but the family was preparing to move to Chico to promote the younger children's education.

John was the younger brother of Oscar Brauer and was the son of Michael Ernest Brauer 1823-1902 and Charlotte Rotike 1825-1907. John Lewis was born while the family was in Toledo, Ohio in 1856 and made the move to Iowa then California with his family. John was known to work as a teamster hauling lumber when his father owned a lumber mill on Eagle Creek and made the move to Burney Valley with his parents. In 1884 John married fifteen-year-old Maleta Belle Crews and the first home appears to have been at Burney on a small cattle operation. The winters were so bad that John took up a homestead in the Montgomery Creek area (a patent was issued in 1897 for 170 acres in Section 2, Township 34 North Range 1 West, MDM). At Burney daughter Maude Ann was born in 1884, followed by Leslie Earl in 1886, and Easton Beryl in 1889. At the new homestead there was an old cabin too small for the growing family so John purchased another cheap old house and had it hauled to the homestead. Once combined the new house welcomed two more children: Carroll Vern in 1893 and Clyde John in

1895. As with most ranchers of the time John's was almost self-sufficient raising cattle, hogs, and turkeys along with peach trees, vegetables, and hay. When John's brother moved to Oak Run, he rented Oscar's ranch and sold the homestead. The new owner was unable to make payments so it was taken back, but as John managed to trade the old homestead for a 360 acre farm on Oak Run near his brother Oscar's ranch it was a good thing and the children were close to a good school. John served on the school board throughout his time at Oak Run and some years the combined Brauer families supplied half the students. In 1906 Leslie and Maude was attending Chico Normal School along with Oscar's children Lloyd and Robert Ernest (Oscar Leo was at the University of California). In 1908 John and Maleta moved to Chico to provide educational support for their younger children and Oscar's three daughters. Maleta took in boarders while John took a job at a furniture store. In 1912 John sold the Oak Run ranch to Vint Stevenson and came to Shasta County to finalize the sale. Upon his return to Chico John had a heart attack and died.

Maleta sold the Chico house and moved to Oakland as the University of California at Berkeley was now the educational focal point for some of the children. Maleta started a boarding house renting primarily to students from Berkeley. In either 1917 or 1919 Maleta married one of the boarders George Riley Hill and the couple moved to Willets to raise hogs. The ranch wasn't a success and the couple soon moved back to Oakland. The couple retired to Santa Cruz where Riley died in 1951 and Maleta died in 1954. Of the children Maude Ann became a teacher and lived until 1964, while Leslie Earl became a teacher and lived until 1986. The middle child Easton Buryl became a teacher and lived until 1987. Carroll Vern became a teacher but then took a different course. After serving in France during World War I, Carroll changed his vocation to dentistry and lived until 1937. The youngest child Clyde also became a teacher and lived until 1986. Even for the current time John and Maleta's family would be considered exceptional with all the children graduating from college.



John and Meleta Brauer. Courtesy of Shasta Historical Society.



The Millville Hotel was owned by John in 1898.

Henry Butzback



Henry Herman Butzback was born in 1856 in Michigan. Henry's father Philip Henry Butzback was born in 1828 in the Duchy of Nassau in Germany. By family history Philip left at age twenty-one to avoid Prussian military service. Nassau was not annexed by Prussia until 1866 after Nassau took Austria's side in the Austro-Prussian War. After the 1848 revolutions across Europe, Nassau supported the Prussians and began passing restrictive laws similar to

those of Prussia. In 1849 Nassau had troops in Baden, Schleswig-Holstein, and the Palatinate so Philip was avoiding Nassau's military service. In about 1849 Philip sailed from Le Havre in France to live with his aunt in Bainbridge, Michigan. In 1852 Philip married Amanda Blandine Herman (1832-1920) who was born in Wittenberg in the Prussian province of Saxony. The couple had thirteen children.

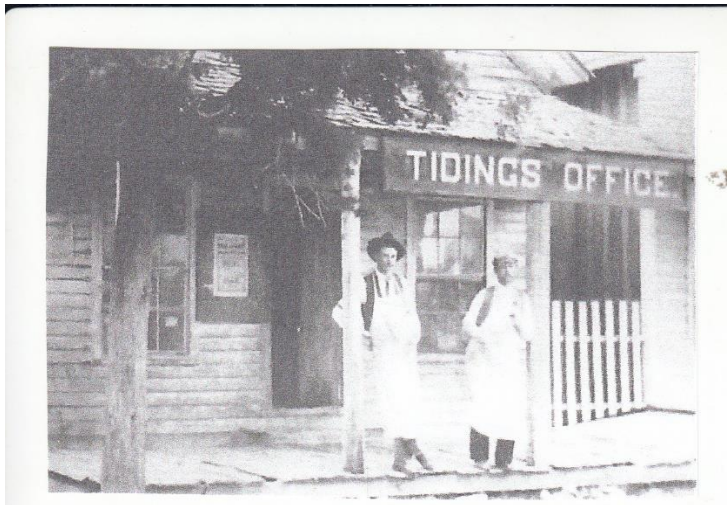
The third child born in Berrien County, Michigan was Henry Herman. Henry took up the blacksmith trade and for a period apprenticed at Studebaker Company in Indiana as a wagon-maker. After about eleven years in the trade Henry decided to move west. Henry first settled in Oregon but after six months moved to California where he worked at San Jose, Pleasanton, and San Francisco before returning to Michigan. In Michigan Henry married Amanda A. Arny (Arney) who was born in 1865 in Ohio. In April 1888 the new couple settled in Millville. Family history cites that Henry picked Millville as he had heard there was a gold strike. Henry quickly established a blacksmith shop and became active in the community. Henry was master of the Northern Lights Lodge #190 F.& A.M. from 1912 to 1914 and from 1916 to 1917. Henry also became a stock raiser and purchased 160 acres from the government in 1907 in Section 22, Township 33 North, Range 1 East, MDM. Amanda died of tuberculosis in 1907. Henry and Amanda had five children: Raymond H. about 1889, Edwin H. about 1890, Lester A. about 1895, Edith E. about 1897, and Clarence B. 1903. In 1908 or 1909 Henry married Constance Caroline "Choctaw" Middleton who was born in 1876 in the Indian Territory of Oklahoma. Constance's father George Thomas Middleton (1843-1917) and mother Caroline Elizabeth Huff (1842-1923) had settled in Millville about 1880 to farm. In 1900 Constance was listed as a schoolteacher in Millville. In 1911 Henry purchased an additional 160 acres in Section 28, Township 32 North, Range 3 West, MDM. In 1920 and 1930 Henry was listed as a stock raiser in Millville. Henry died in November 1939 and was buried in the Millville Masonic Cemetery. Constance was still a teacher at Wilkinson School in 1911 and again taught for the Millville School District from 1938 until her death in 1940.



Walter Scott Criss



Walter Scott Criss was born in 1863 in Carson City, Nevada. He was the son of Jacob H. Criss (1826-1908) and Martha P. Auld (1840-1908). By 1870 the family was living in Humboldt County and in 1886 in Placer County. In 1888 the family moved to Shasta County. In 1890 Walter registered to vote as a printer in Redding. He was believed to have worked for the Free Press and Democrat in Redding. In 1890 Walter married Harriet Ortense "Hattie" Comer (1872-1947) and about the same time moved to Millville and took over the *Millville Tidings*. Walter was editor of the *Millville Tidings* for fourteen years. In addition to being a Notary Public, Walter was elected Justice of the Peace for Millville in 1902, and was an agent for the Home Insurance Company. Walter died in 1904 and was buried in the Redding Memorial Cemetery. In 1910 Hattie was living with her sister at Paynes Creek in Tehama County and working as a private nurse. About 1926 Hattie moved to Chico where she married Edward Ferguson (1877-1954). Walter and Hattie had two children: Martha Irene 1891-1969 who married Walter Allen Kite (born about 1878 in California) and Gladys Aileen 1895-1991 who married John Rodney Dobbins (1891-1944). Walter was the brother of Lincoln H. Criss of Shasta County.



Note: In Millville and Beyond Walter is cited as starting the *Millville Tidings* in 1891 but in 1892 Leroy Hill took over publication which lasted to about 1919. Leroy Johnson Hill born about 1851 in Iowa registered in Millville in 1890 as a painter. Attached is an advertisement for the *Millville Tidings* clearly showing Criss was still the publisher in September 1902.

MILLVILLE TIDINGS.

Published every Wednesday by
WALTER S. CRISS.

WEDNESDAY.. September 17, 1902.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER IN THE
POSTOFFICE AT MILLVILLE.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One year (in advance).....	\$1 50
(if not in advance).....	2 00
Six months.....	1 00
Three months.....	50

COUNTY OFFICERS.

Superior Judge.....	EDWARD SWEENEY
Sheriff.....	CHARLES H. BEHRENS
Clerk.....	W. O. BLODGETT
District Attorney.....	THOS. B. DOZIER
Treasurer.....	L. M. DENNIS
Recorder.....	J. R. LOWDON
Coroner.....	THOMAS GREENE
Surveyor.....	ALFRED BALTZELL
School Supt.....	MARGARET I. POORE
Assessor.....	ALEXANDER LUDWIG

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS.

Justice of the Peace.....	CRAS. DUNHAM
Constable.....	J. R. FOURASE



Gladys Criss. Courtesy of Find A Grave.

History Challenge: Michel D. Weill

While waiting for any finishing data on Matilda Maranda a member brought in a photograph collection from World War I. The collection centers on Michel D. Weill born December 29, 1887, in Paris France. Michel was the son of Jules Weill and Louise Cahn and immigrated July 20, 1904, to San Francisco where his uncle Raphael Weill had settled in 1853. Raphael joined J.W. Davidson & Lane Company (opened June 1854) in 1855; when Rien Lane retired in 1858, Raphael became a partner. In 1860 the name was changed to J. W. Davidson & Company. The store was located on Sacramento Street but the dry-goods company outgrew the building and moved Montgomery Street in 1863. The company continued to expand and in 1870 constructed a new building on Post and Kearny Street that was known as the "White House." In 1885 John Davidson retired and Raphael became senior partner. Henry Weill (Raphael's brother), Eugene Gallvis, and Albert Roullier (the buyer in Paris), all French, were the other partners. The name was changed to Raphael Weill & Company. The company was known for its quality of goods and progressive employment practices. The company was among the first to adapt a six o'clock closing, closing on holidays, annual vacations, sick leave, and clerks received a percentage of their sales. The store burned in the 1906 earthquake but was rebuilt at Sutter and Grant where it operated until 1965. Raphael died in 1920 and was a prominent member of the Bohemian Club and known for his philanthropy, having founded the French Library and supported the French Hospital (La Societe Francaise de Bienfaisance Mutuelle (founded in 1851). Raphael was appointed a knight of the French Legion of Honor in 1908. Raphael was uncle to the three brothers (Alexandre, Lazare, and Simon Lazard) who founded the international banking firm of Lazard Freres (brothers) & Company. (The company was founded in New Orleans. In 1851 Simon had opened offices in San Francisco, while Alexander opened offices in New York and later Paris and London. The company now operates in 26 countries.)

In 1940 Michel D. Weill was President of the "White House" Department Store. Michel appears to have resigned in 1960 and died in San Francisco in 1974. Michel married Miss Evelyn Palmer of San

Francisco (born 5 November 1892 in Portland, Oregon) on July 18, 1921, in Paris. The bride was given away by her aunt Mrs. J.J. Palmer who resided in France. Evelyn was the daughter of Ellen (born about 1878 in California) and Ernest H. Palmer (born about 1862 in England; immigrated in 1879) who in 1920 was the western manager of a printing company in San Francisco). Miss Palmer was a Red Cross volunteer that went to France with the first unit from San Francisco immediately after the U.S. entered the war in April 1917. And served in hospitals for two years.



Post and Grant Avenue after the 1906 Earthquake in San Francisco.

The collection consists of 28 photographs with inscriptions in French dating from 1916 to 1918, 2 post cards dated about 1922 and 1935, 25 unidentified photographs (2 stuck over additional photographs), and copies of a presentation, a collage of photographs, and two drawings. The challenge is to recreate a history for Michel D. Weill. Does anyone speak French? Does anyone have a newspaper history of Michel D. Weill or his wife Evelyn Palmer?



A presentation to "Adjutant Weill" during World War I and photograph in French uniform. Adjutant is a French rank similar to the American Warrant Officer. The collar insignia is 46th but the type of unit is not identified, while the medal is the French War Cross (Croix de Guerre) instituted in 1915. The award is for being mentioned in dispatches by the commanding officers of regiments or higher units. The photograph shows two stars representing the level of citation: bronze star for regiment or brigade, silver star for division, gold star for corps, and bronze palm for army. By history Michel was in a volunteer ambulance unit and the names indicate that Company A was made-up of American Volunteers. Since at least one of the photographs is dated 1916 his service probably pre-dates America's entry into the war.

By history Michel Weill joined a volunteer ambulance company. Between 1914 and 1917 over 3500 American volunteers served in France with the French army. The question is which ambulance corps? The very first volunteers were associated with the American Hospital founded at Neuilly in Paris in 1906. In order to treat battlefield wounded a second institution, the American Ambulance Hospital was founded in August 1914 at the Lycee Pasteur also in Neuilly. Three distinct ambulance corps emerged: the Harjes Formation or Morgan-Harjes Ambulance Corps, the American Volunteer Motor Ambulance Corps or "Anglo-American Corps" founded by Richard Norton, and third the American Ambulance Field Service (later American Field Service or AFS after 1916). The first two organizations merged at the end of 1916. Michel was not on an August 1915 AFS membership list, but the AFS was organized into units of 25-30 men with about 20 ambulances per section. Each unit was assigned to a French Division. After America entered the war the AFS was incorporated in the U.S. Army Medical Department but continued

to serve French units. By the summer of 1919 the AFS was disbanded. From the little information in the photographs Michel probably was in the AFS possibly joining at the end of 1916 and serving until 1918. Company "A" with 25 men appears to be consistent with AFS policy. Michel appears to be part of the 1st French Army in 1917-1918 which was composed of the 1st, 2nd, 51st, and 162nd Infantry Division (nothing was found to explain the 46 in his portrait above).



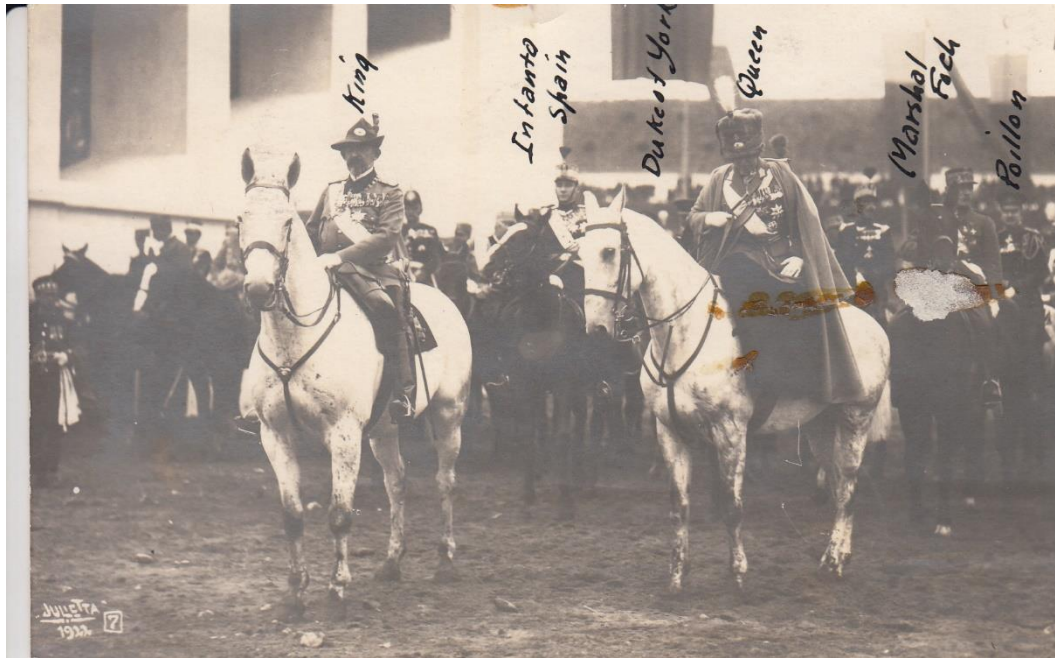
Collage of the Michel Weill family: on the top left is Michel Weill in French uniform and on the lower left is a drawing of Evelyn Weill. Center right is an identification card for Evelyn from the American Theatre Wing War Service, Stage Door Canteen identifying her as a Senior Hostess. The American Theatre Wing was founded in 1917 but the card seems to date from the World War II period. The San Francisco Stage Door Canteen was the sixth to open behind New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Cleveland, and Hollywood. The general manager was Harry Etting, stage manager of the Golden Gate Theatre while the American Guild of Variety Artists and the Musicians and Stage Hands Unions provided workers.



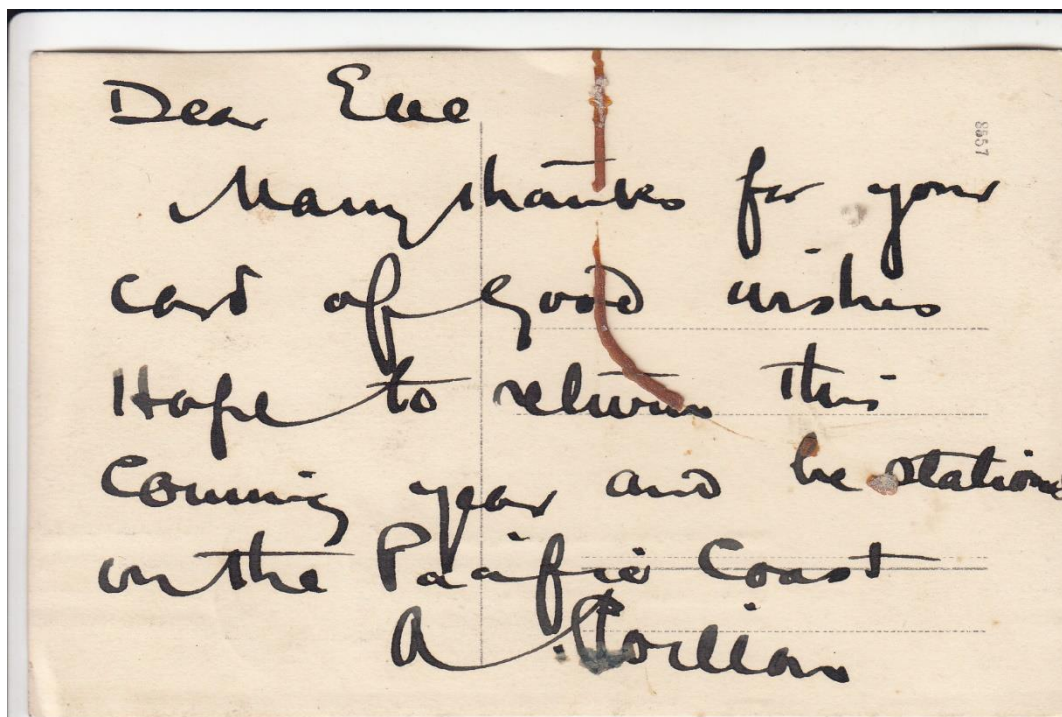
What appears to be a watercolor of a truce during World War I. It does not appear to be the Christmas Truce of 1914 where both side gathered in no mans land to jointly celebrate Christmas. This appears to be nearer to the armistice when the French were much better supplied than the hungry German Army.



What appears to be a watercolor of a French soldier checking bodies in no man's land. The work appears signed by Ugién Lantiers and titled Alsace 1915.



Postcard #1 dated 1922 appears to be the King of Italy Victor Emmanuel III which would make the queen riding sidesaddle Princess Elena of Montenegro. The Duke of York would be later King George VI of England and the Infanta of Spain would be Jaime, Duke of Segovia and Anjou, second son of Alfonso XIII. Marshal Ferdinand Foch was commander-in-chief of the French forces. Poillon is probably Colonel Arthur Poillon, U.S. Army who served on the staff of General Tasker H. Bliss who was one of the signers of the Treaty of Versailles. Poillon was also on the staff of General Foch. Poillon was in Paris in 1921 where he was engaged to Lena Riley Curtis, who had served with the Red Cross.

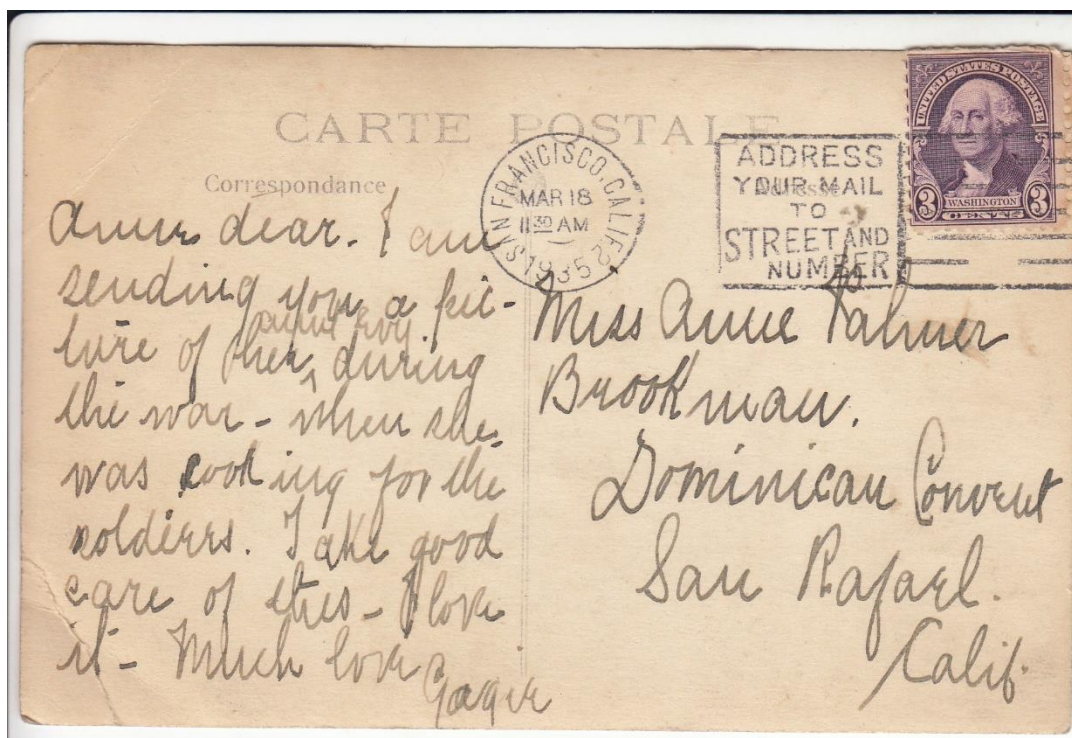


Postcard #1 reverse: "Dear Eve: Many thanks for your card of good wishes. Hope to return this coming year and be stationed on the Pacific Coast. A. Poillon"



Postcard #2

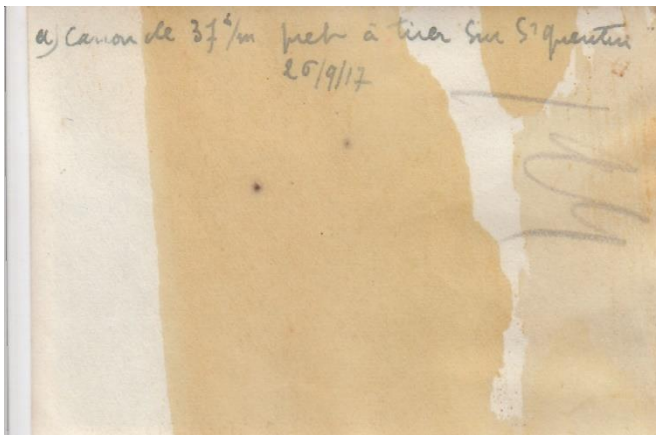
The photograph is of a mobile kitchen.



The card was mailed on March 18, 1935, in San Francisco and addressed to Miss Annie Palmer, Brookman, Dominican Convent, San Rafael, California. The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael founded the Dominican College of San Rafael in 1889 (now university). "Annie dear: I am sending you a picture of her (insertion ?) during the war when she was cooking for the soldiers. Take good care of this – I love it - much love. (signature ?)"



#1

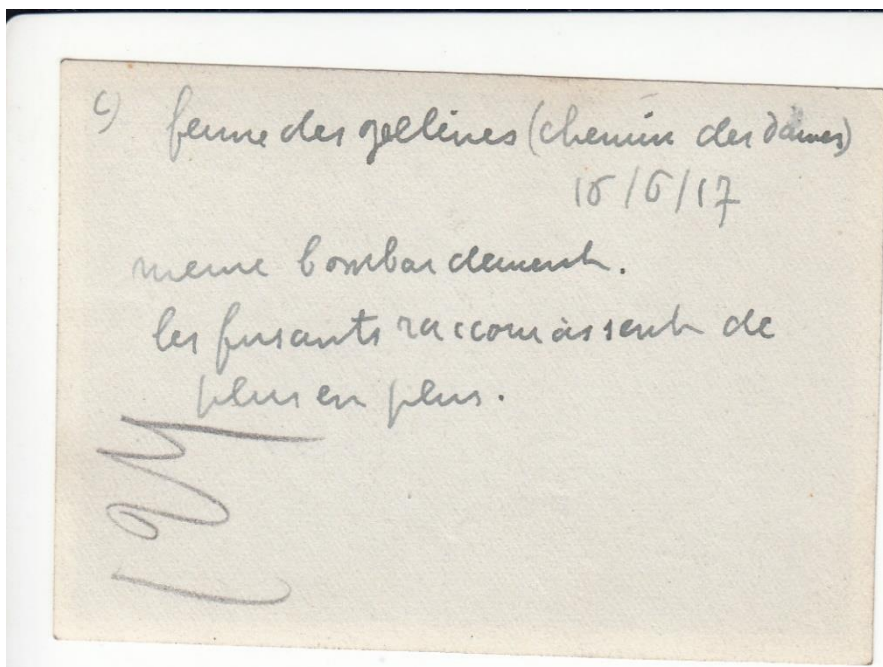


#1 reverse

The inscription appears to say 37mm infantry canon firing on Saint Quentin on 26 September 1917. The small canon was primarily used to destroy machinegun nests and later developed into an anti-tank weapon. Saint Quentin had been overrun by the German forces in September 1914 and integrated into the Hindenburg Line. The town was the site of heavy fighting in 1914, 1917 and twice during 1918. Saint Quentin was not recaptured until October 1918.



#2

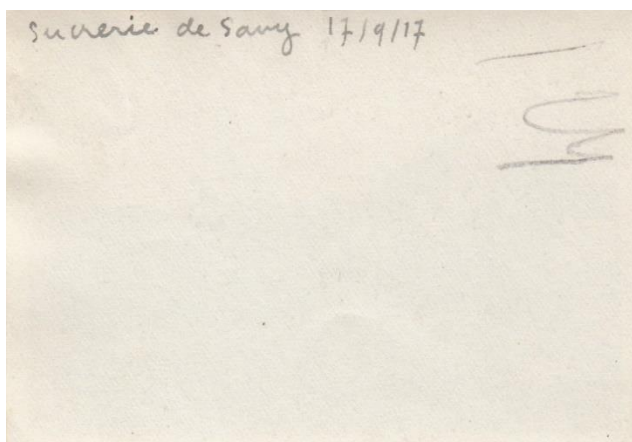


#2 reverse

Appears to be a gun blast seen over a roof top and appears to read Chemin (?). Chemin de fer is railroad in French and the French were the largest producer of railroad guns including a "Fort Buster" throwing a 20-inch shell (520mm).



#3

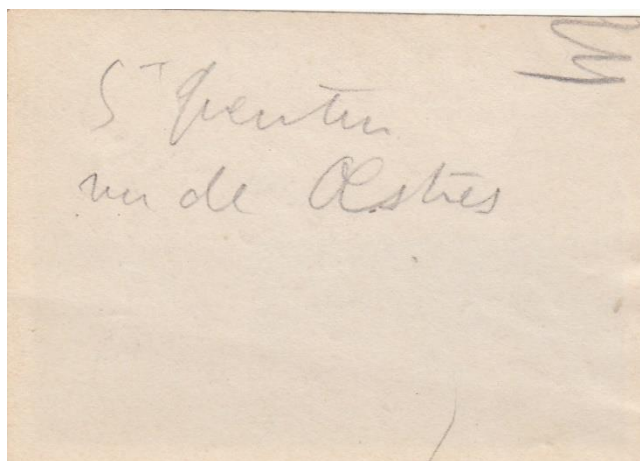


#3 reverse

The inscription indicated this is the remains of Savy on 17/19/17. Savy is a small town southwest of Saint Quentin.



#4



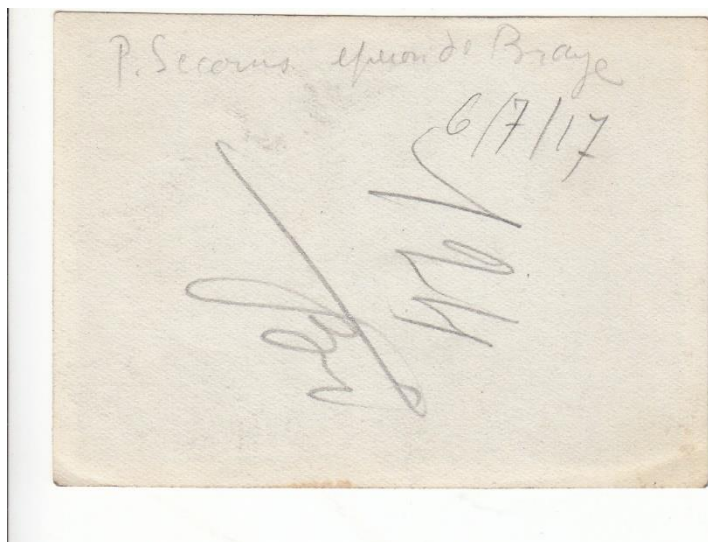
#4 reverse

The inscription seems to read view of Saint Quentin from Castres a small town southwest of Saint Quentin. The photograph is looking through damaged barbed wire but is undated.



#5

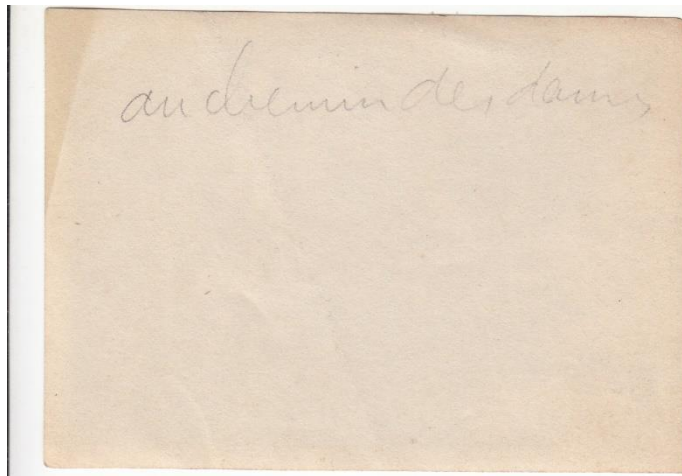
French medic station in the trenches.



#5 reverse



#6

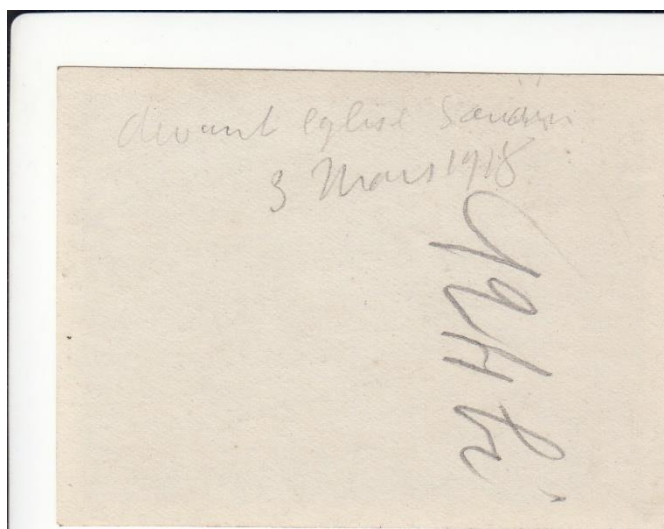


#6 reverse



#7

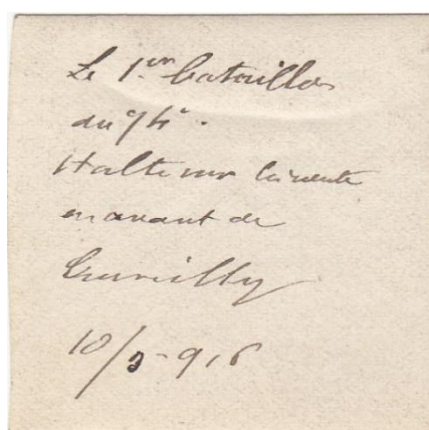
Access trenches to the front line in the winter of 1917-1918. Note the snow.



#7 reverse



#8

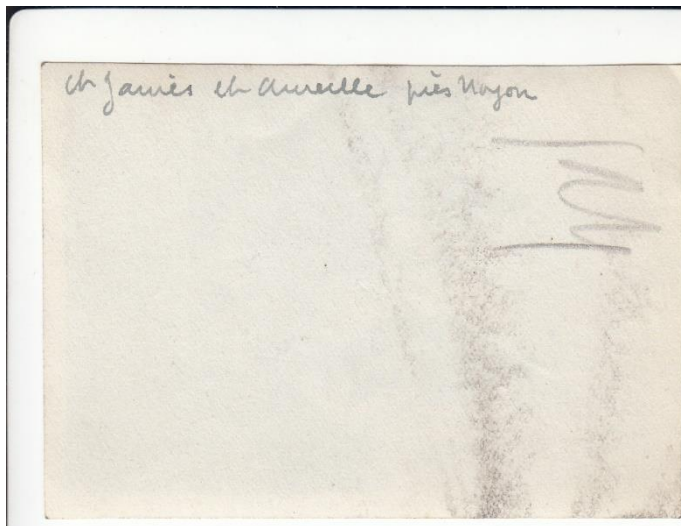


#8 reverse

Appears to read "the first battalion of the 9th regiment halting in the advance on Crunilly October 3, 1916." The town is near the canal that connects to the Saint Quentin Canal.



#9

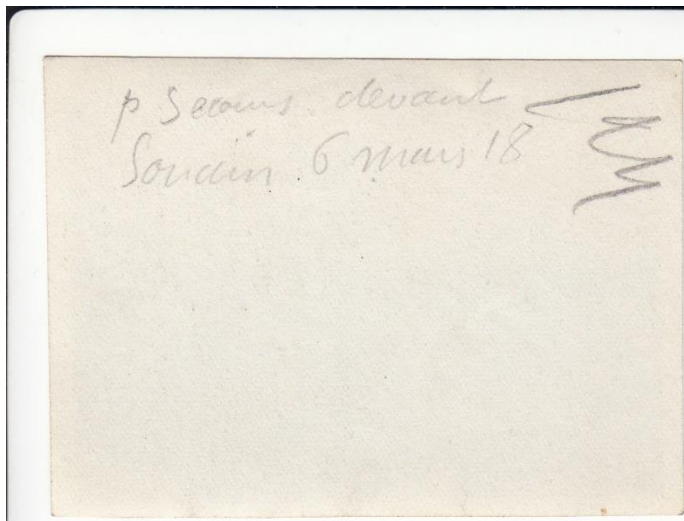


#9 reverse



#10

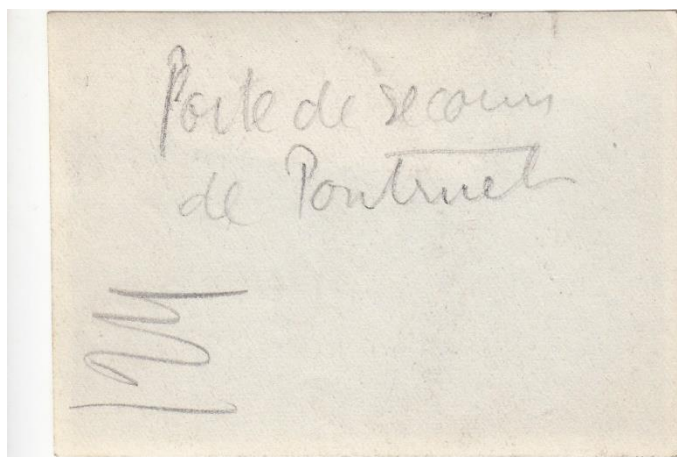
The device appears to be a French stretcher carrier.



#10 reverse



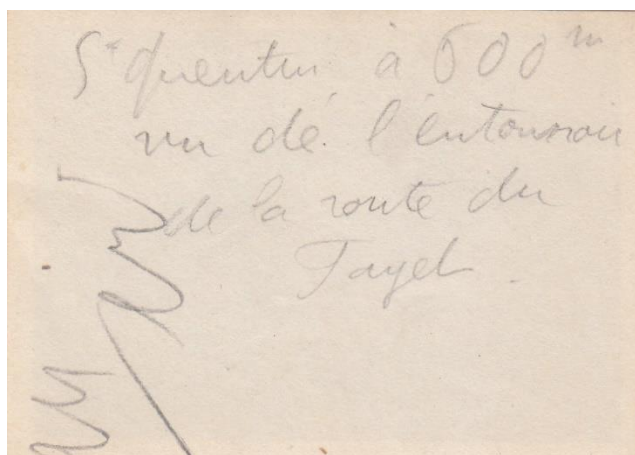
#11



#11 reverse



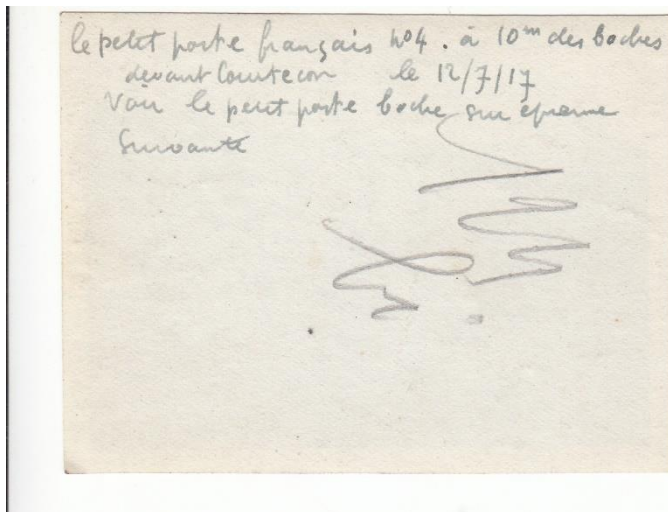
#12



#12 reverse



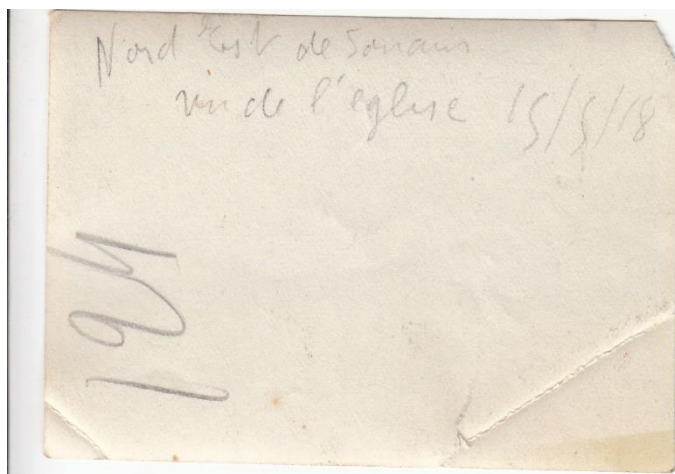
#13



#13 reverse



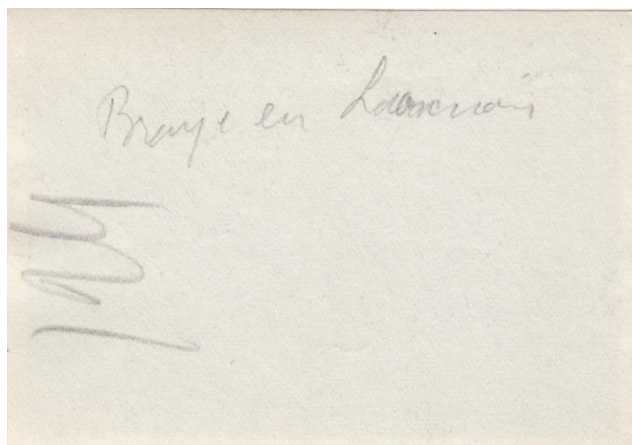
#14



#14 reverse



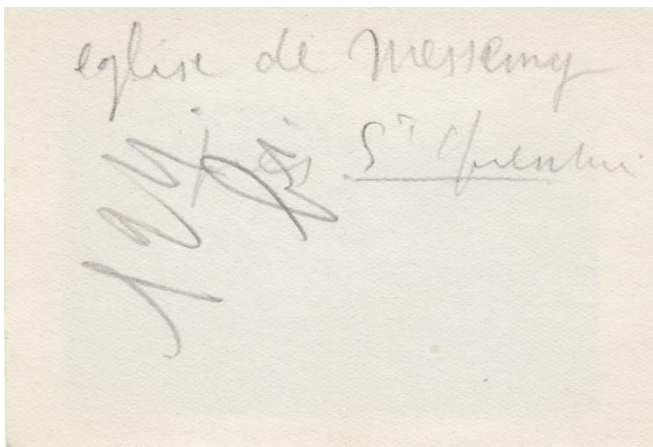
#15



#15 reverse



#16



#16 reverse

"Church of Messigny, Saint Quentin."



#17

devant Soudain, vers
ferme Navarin
7 mai 1918
1918

#17 reverse



#18

Church of
Etreillers
1918

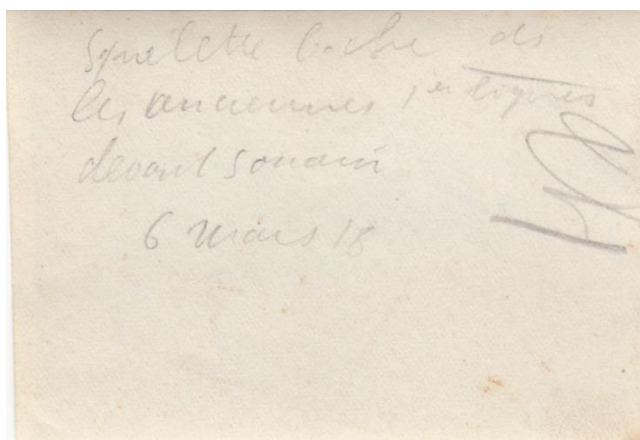
#18 reverse

"Church of Etreillers." Etreillers is a town in the St. Quentin canton.



#19

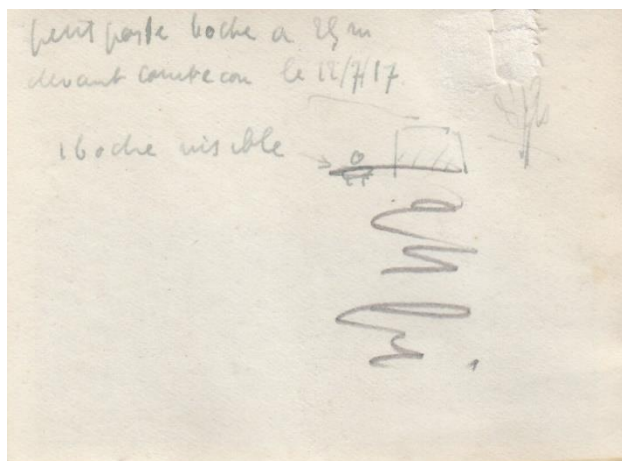
Inspecting human remains.



#19 reverse



#20

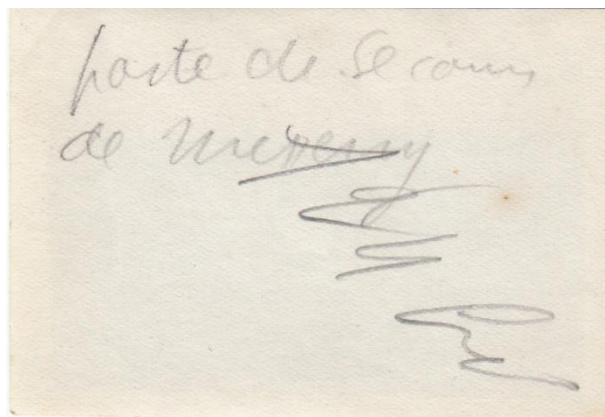


#20 reverse

"One German (Boche) visible." Boche means cabbage.



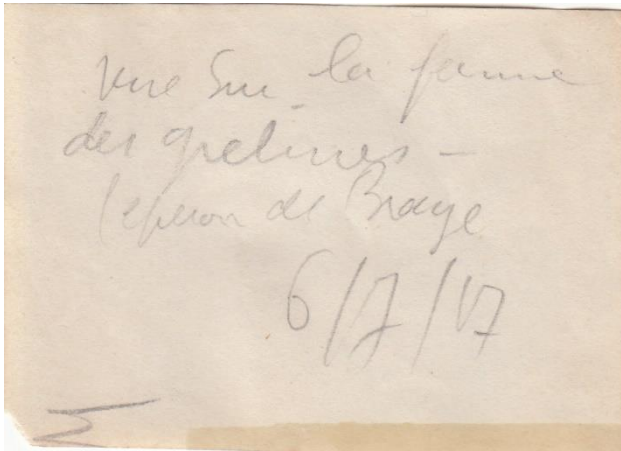
#21



#21 reverse



#22



#22 reverse



#23

une sur finc navan
Mars 1918

191

#23 reverse



#24

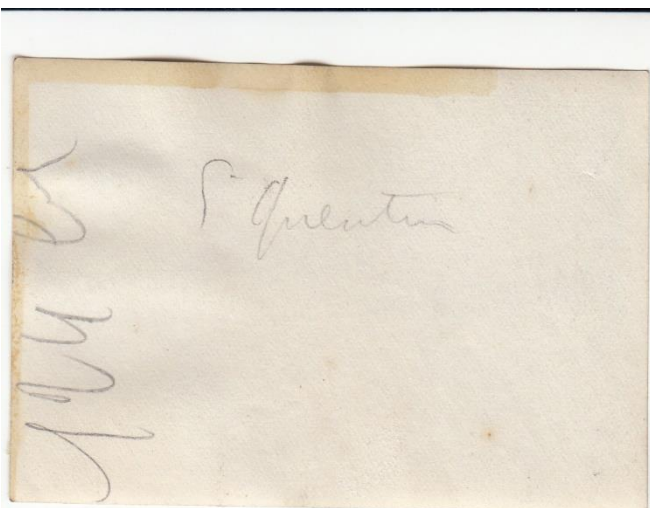
German barbed wire with two Germans visible about ten meters out (in center of photograph).

petit poste boche sur des p.p. n°4.
devant Courtcon le 12/7/17.
deux boches sont visibles à 10 m.

#24 reverse



#25



#25 reverse

San Quentin in the background.



#26

un entonnoir de mine
devant Braye 5/7/17
LM

#26 reverse



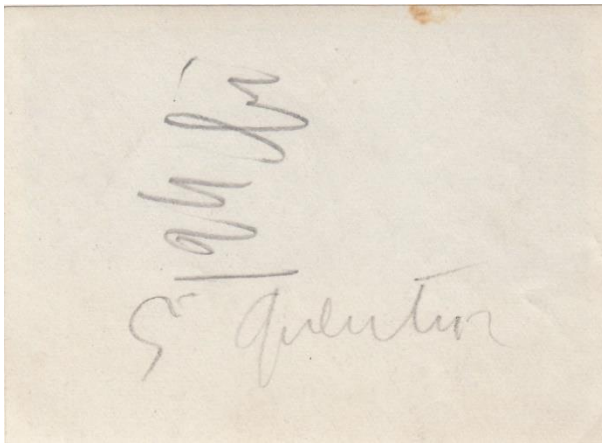
#27

une saucisse brule près des saissous 27/5/17
LM

#27 reverse



#28



#28 reverse

Saint Quentin in the distance.

Unidentified photographs:



Unidentified #1

The tank is clearly marked as German but appears to be a captured British Mark IV.



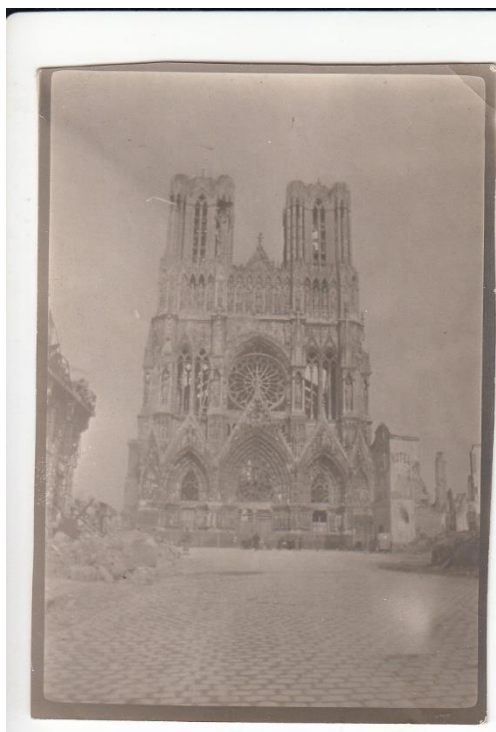
Unidentified #2

The tank clearly has German markings but appears to be a captured British tank. The tank appears to have overturned in an old trench line and thrown a tread.



Unidentified #3

Damage to an unidentified church (it does not appear to be San Quentin).



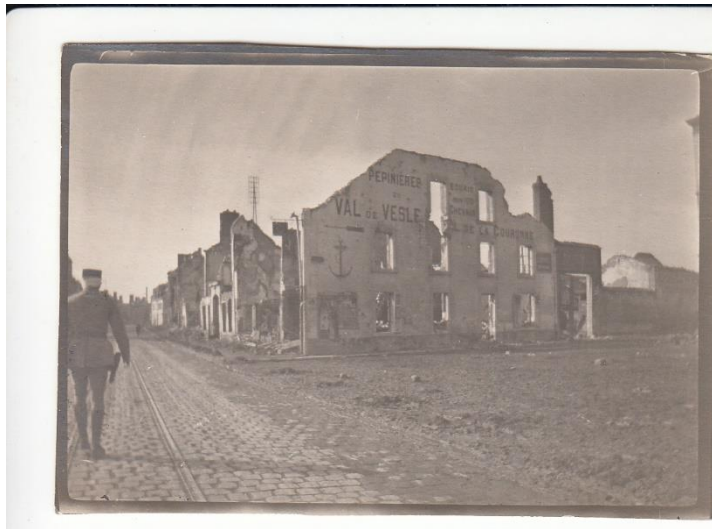
Unidentified #4

Damage to a church (does not appear to be San Quentin).



Unidentified #5

Destruction in an unidentified town.



Unidentified #6

Appears to be a French officer with side arm walking down a destroyed street.



Unidentified #7

Appears to be a single grave in an open field.



Unidentified #8

Appears to be an unexploded large artillery shell in an open field.



Unidentified #9

Possible battle debris and possible human remains.



Unidentified #10 (3 stuck together)

Appears to be an old trench line. The whole area appears destroyed by fighting.



Unidentified #11

Appears to be debris left in a shell hole after the fighting.



Unidentified #12

Appears to be the entrance to a bunker in an old trench line.



Unidentified #13

Debris left on the battlefield with the destruction of all large vegetation.



Unidentified #14/15

Overtaken tank.



Unidentified #16

Appears to be a French street scene with soldier to the right.

#17 to #25 maybe after WWI



Unidentified #17/18 Woman drinking from water fountain dated 1867



Unidentified #19



Unidentified #20



Unidentified #21



Unidentified #22



Unidentified #23



Unidentified #24. Dog and trophy



Unidentified #25

Any help would be appreciated!

