

1918 – 2018

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

Sunday, November 11, 2018, 11:00 AM

Dedication of the Monument  
Dedication of the Fort Caswell Rifle Range World War I Memorial



Welcome	Norma Eckard, FFCRR* President	Deborah Ahlers	Roll Call Readers Mayor of Caswell Beach Town
Invocation	Kathy Miller, NSDAR* Chaplain	Pat Gooding	NSDAR* Vice Regent Brunswick Town
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag		Henry Tonn	Former Caswell Dunes owner, Wilmington Counselor, FFCRR* Supporter
Special Reading	Kathy Miller	Connie Hendrix	President Moore's Creek Nat'l Battlefield Assoc.
In Flanders Fields By John McCrae, 1915	Martha Koletar, NSDAR* Public Relations/Media	Connie Silverstein	Caswell Dunes BOD
Roll Call, 23 who gave their lives in WWI	Gwen Causey, NSDAR* Jim McKee, Mgr Brunswick Town/Ft Anderson Historic Site	Marvin Johnson	Brunswick Town /Ft Andersen Board Member, SHS*
Firing of the Cannon	Marvin Johnson, SHS*	Dave Lewis	Brunswick County Historical Society
Dedication of Monument	Ron Eckard, FFCRR* Advisor	Phyllis Wilson	NSDAR* Historian
Doughboy Defined	Norman Sprinthall, FFCRR* Advisor	Dana Majernik	NSDAR* member
Dedication of Rifle Range Certificate Awarded	Ron Eckard	Carl Mauney	World War I Re-enactor
Roll Call Brunswick County World War I Veterans			Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range
Firing of the Cannon	Marvin Johnson, SHS*	Norma Eckard	President
Taps	Thank you Greg White	Ron Eckard	Board Member/Administrator
Benediction	Diane Price, War of 1812, Chaplain	Russ Barlowe	Vice President
		Amy Eckard	Website Manager/Researcher
		Lorraine Eckard	Advisor, Supporter
		Helen Radcliffe	Special Projects Assistant
		Jayne Rankin	Special Projects Assistant
		Mary Earp	Communication Assistant
		Gwen Causey	Special Assistant
		Norman & Lois Sprinthall	Advisors & Supporters

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range members  
are all who contributed to the Derby fund raiser and the  
Honor a Brunswick County World War I Project.

Special thanks to Carl Mauney.

SHS\* Southport Historical Society  
BCHS\* Brunswick County Historical Society  
FFCRR\* Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range

Sunday, Armistice Day, November 11, 2018, 11:00 AM

*Dedication of the Monument and the Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial*

**Welcome:**

**Norma Eckard, Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range President**

Let us bow our heads in a moment of silence to honor the men and women who never returned from World War I and those who suffered throughout their lives from the effects of the war.

Welcome to all of you on this Centennial Commemoration of WWI. It is an honor to be here and we thank you for coming.

Before we start the program let me introduce you to some family members of the 724 men from Brunswick County who served their country in WWI.

1. I would like to introduce **Lt Col (Ret) Duane Perry and his wife Denise** who is a niece of **Pvt Harvey T. Chadwick** who was killed in action during the Hindenburg Line offense September 29<sup>th</sup> 1918. They have the American flag that covered his casket and a government citation thanking the family for his service.
2. **Kathryn Kalmanson** is another family member that is here to honor **Pvt Craven Ledrew Sellers**, her grandfather.
3. I understand that **Mary Earp** brought family members that are related to the **Willetts**. Mary is a direct descendant.
4. Then a couple days ago I received a phone call from **Glenn Kye** that informed me that his Dad was **1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Lee Kye**.
5. Then we received an email from **Annie Bond** from New Jersey whose father was **Pvt Govner Gore** and that she would like very much to honor him.
6. Finally, it is great to see that the FFCRR Secretary -Treasurer, **Tom Luken and wife Linda** made it to Caswell Beach from Kentucky. And our former FFCRR VP **Russ Barlowe** made it from GA.

The Friends of Ft Caswell Rifle Range started the Honor a BC WW I veteran a year ago on veterans day 2017. By donating any amount that you wish we would place your name beside your ancestor on the website and send a certificate and NC Service Card with information about their service.

We hope in the future to connect with many more desendants of the men who fought in WW I.

*Here's our future to do list:*

1. Continue writing the profiles and encourage more folks to honor Brunswick County WWI veterans.
2. Conduct another event April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to Roll Call more Brunswick County WWI veterans.
3. Hold another fund raiser in May but not sure what our focus will be.
4. Encourage more folks to honor their Brunswick County ancestors who served in WWI.
5. Publish the book with all the profiles and history of the rifle range, hopefully by Veterans Day 2019.
6. Roll Call more veterans of Brunswick County who served their country until all 724 names are called.

A lite lunch will be served after today's event.

**Invocation:**

**Kathy Miller, NSDAR Chaplain**

*Our Gracious Father, You have cautioned us that You will require much of those to whom much is given: Grant that we, whose lot is cast in such goodly circumstances and so rich a heritage, may strive together through generosity, diligence, and our earnest labors, complete the tasks to which we have set our hands and the programs we have pledged to undertake. May the dedication of this monument be a symbol and a reminder of our dedication to serve God, our Country, our Community, our State, our Nation and the veterans of this great land in their need as we are able.*

*Gracious Father as we gather here today at this 11<sup>th</sup> hour of Veteran's Day, Remembrance Day, Armistice Day - these terms sound so quaint and unfamiliar to many.*

*Let us remember that 100 years ago WW I raged across 3 continents about 9 million gave their all, and 27 million were wounded. An entire generation was crippled.*

*We ask for Your continual blessing upon the souls for all those who fought in war. Let us give thanks in solemn prayer. All this we ask of You our Heavenly Father. Amen*

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: All**

**Special Reading:**

**Kathy Miller**

Kathy read the November 11<sup>th</sup> daily devotional from a book issued in 1941 to the troops. It once belonged to her uncle who served in WWII. The book was signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## *The Christian Soldier*

*Watch, stand fast in the faith, act like men, be strengthened in the Lord and in the might of his power. Put on the armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the Principalities and the Powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness on high.*

*Therefore, take up the armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and stand in all things perfect. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of justice, and having your feet shod with the readiness of the gospel of peace, in all things taking up the shield of faith, with which you may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the most wicked one. And take unto you the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, that is, the word of God.*

### **In Flanders Fields:**

**read by Martha Koletar, NSDAR PR/Media**

In Flanders Fields  
By John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### **Roll Call: 23 who gave their lives in WWI**

**Gwen Causey, NSDAR;**

**Jim McKee, Manager, Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson Historic Site**

**23 Brunswick County WWI Dead (by date fallen)**

	Name	Fallen	Date of Death	Age	Location of Death	Cemetery
1	PVT Carl Jefferson Danford	DD	December 8, 1917	23	Camp Sevier, SC	Bolivia, NC
2	Seaman James Coy Edwards	DD	December 24, 1917	32	Norfolk, VA	Ash, NC
3	PVT Samuel Claudius Swain	DD	January 7, 1918	27	Camp Sevier, SC	Bolivia, NC
4	PVT Cecil Smith Pierce	DD	March 5, 1918	21	Fort Caswell	Hallsboro, NC
5	PVT Fred Wilson	DD	May 26, 1918	22	overseas	unknown
6	PVT William Frederick Brooks	DD	June 13, 1918	26	US – unknown	Sunset Beach, NC
7	PVT Manning Hall	DD	July 11, 1918	30	Camp Grant, IL	Navassa, NC
8	PFC Erastus Iredell Nelson	KIA	August 22, 1918	23	Belgium	Leland, NC
9	PVT Jimmie Griffin	KIA	September 11, 1918	18	France	France
10	CPL Herbert Burnell Ward	KIA	September 12, 1918	23	France	Longwood, NC
11	PVT Harvey T Chadwick	KIA	September 29, 1918	24	France	Shallotte, NC
12	PVT Harry Langdon Pigott	KIA	September 29, 1918	23	France	Shallotte, NC
13	PVT Kendrick Whiteleaf Outlaw	DD	October 5, 1918	26	France	Winnabow, NC
14	SGT Robert Guy Farmer	DD	October 9, 1918	27	Fort Caswell	Southport, NC
15	PVT Benjamin Bantie Smith	DW	October 17, 1918	24	France	Brunswick County
	Awarded Distinguished Silver Cross and British Military Medal					
16	PVT Guy Ellis Watson	DD	October 21, 1918	22	Camp Stuart, VA	Maco, NC
17	PVT William Cross Hewett	DW	October 25, 1918	22	France	Supply, NC
18	PFC Walter Stephen Brock	KIA	November 10, 1918	21	France	Airlie, NC
19	PVT Elijah Milliken	DD	December 11, 1918	21	France	France
20	Cook David Lafayette Doshier	DD	February 9, 1919	25	France	France
21	PFC John W Carlisle	DD	February 13, 1919	31	France	Ash, NC
22	PVT David Williams	DD	March 18, 1919	24	overseas	unknown
23	PVT Claudie Hall McCall	DD	April 13, 1919	29	France	France

### **Firing of the Cannon:**

**Marvin Johnson and team members, Sandy Toth, Jim Crum, Phil Fravel, Bruce Hackett, Rhodes Messick of the Southport Historic Society**

### **Dedication of Monument:**

**Ron Eckard, Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range Advisor**

The front of the granite obelisk is inscribed with the following:

*This monument is Dedicated to the men and women of Brunswick County, NC, who served their country during World War I with honor courage and commitment.*

On the back of the monument are the names of our 23 Veterans of WWI who never came home to their families. Today we show their families that Brunswick County has not forgotten them.

This monument also contains a bronze plaque designating the Rifle Range structure as a listee on **The National Register of Historic Places**. The plaque was funded by **First Bank and FFCRR Director Dave Kesterson**.

The monument also contains a second bronze plaque, a short copy of the certificate awarded to us by the United States WWI Centennial Commission and was donated by **Amy Eckard, Webmaster for Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range and her husband, Sam**.

Additionally, the NSDAR local Brunswick Town chapter received funds in honor of **Harriet Barlowe**, a member of Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the DAR.

Harriet passed away long before her time and left a huge hole among NC proponents of Historic Preservation. Money from the Harriet Barlowe Memorial was contributed to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range by the **Brunswick Town NSDAR Chapter** and these funds were used to help pay for the monument.

Other funds for the monument came from descendants of WWI veterans, individual donations throughout the community through the Honor a Brunswick County World War I Veteran project sponsored by Friends of Ft Caswell.

*With that being said we remove the tarp...*

<Jim McKee removed the tarp to reveal the monment.>

## **Changing gears here:**

There is an insert in your program that answers some of the questions you might have about WWI.

Norman Sprinthall graciously agreed to put to paper some of the many things he has learned about his father and the 26<sup>th</sup> Division.

He provides a snapshot of what our boys went through as they entered military service and why they were called Doughboys.

He explains how after almost four years of stalemate and trench warfare the American Expeditionary Force changed the pace of the war. After the AEF arrived the Allies movement was out of the trenches and Eastward into the enemy territory.

Even an enthusiast of WWI history will find information of interest in Norman's narrative. Please take the time to read the insert and he will be glad to elaborate on his narrative if you have questions.

Thank you Norman for your narrative and all that you and Lois have done for the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range!

### **Dedication of Rifle Range Certificate Awarded:** **Ron Eckard**

We at Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range are honored to be one of two sites in NC along with the Bell Tower on North Carolina State University campus to be designated as a United States World War I Centennial Memorial.

Also, being one of 100 sites to be so honored across the United States ain't bad for little ole Caswell Beach!

Thanks to the many Brunswick County residents and others who helped in more ways than I can articulate today.

The United States WWI Centennial Commission along with the \$2000 dollars also awarded a certificate to their designees. We will be presenting one of those framed documents to the Town of Caswell Beach and one to the Caswell Dunes HOA.

The document states:

*This Certificate hereby makes known that 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial Caswell Beach, NC is an official United States World War I Centennial Memorial.*

It goes on to remind us of those who worked to keep the United States and Europe

free and why we should memorialize those men and women for the sacrifices they made.

<Framed certificate is presented to Deborah Ahlers, Mayor of Caswell Beach>

### **Roll Call: Brunswick County WWI Veterans**

*The Roll Call resumes for all WWI Brunswick County veterans. The first list of 153 names were called at the April 6, 2018 Commemoration. The list today consists of 135 names called by the following participants. See the Supplemental Material for the called names.*

Deborah Ahlers	Mayor of Caswell Beach
Pat Gooding	NSDAR Vice Regent Brunswick Town
Connie Hendrix	President Moore's Creek National Battlefield Association
Connie Silverstein	Caswell Dunes BOD
Marvin Johnson	Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson Board Member; Southport Historic Society
Dave Lewis	Brunswick County Historic Society
Phyllis Wilson	NSDAR Historian
Dana Majernik	NSDAR member
Carl Mauney	WWI Re-enactor

### **Firing of the Cannon**

#### **Taps:**

<Recording provided by Greg White>

#### **Benediction:**

**Diane Price, War of 1812, Chaplain**

*Almighty and Loving God,*

*As we leave this place let us not forget the men honored here today. Thank you for their sacrifices and thank you for the blessings of this Country. Freedom is as fragile as the lives of those who fight to maintain it.*

*Bless those willing to continue paying the price and keep us mindful of those who serve today. Our Country will remain free only so long as there are those with the courage to ensure it. Grant us both the will and the courage necessary to preserve this blessing for future generations. Make us worthy of all those who sacrificed their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, so we too can say I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith, all is well, we can safely rest.*



*In your name we pray*  
*Amen*

**Supplemental Material**  
**Letter from Caswell Beach Mayor Deborah Ahlers**  
**WWI Brunswick County Fallen – Short biographies**  
**World War I Highlights**  
**Roll Call: WWI Brunswick County veterans**



## Town of Caswell Beach

1100 Caswell Beach Road • Caswell Beach, NC 28465  
(910) 278-5471 • Fax: 1-866-271-3641 • Website: [www.caswellbeach.org](http://www.caswellbeach.org)

November 11, 2018

Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range  
5 Foxfire Trace  
Caswell Beach, NC 28465

Dear Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range,

On behalf of the Town of Caswell Beach I would like to thank Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range for presenting the Town with a framed certificate honoring the Fort Caswell Rifle Range, as an Official United States World War I Centennial Memorial.

It was a proud moment to watch the dedication and unveiling of the Fort Caswell Rifle Range World War I Memorial, at Sundays, World War I Centennial Commemoration Ceremony.

The dedication and hard work of Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range will forever be represented by your achievement of obtaining national recognition of *Fort Caswell Rifle Range* as one of only 100 national sites to be honored as a *United States World War I Centennial Memorial* by the United States Centennial Commission and the Pritzker Military Museum & Library on November 11, 2018.

It was an honor and a privilege to represent the Town of Caswell Beach at the World War I Centennial Commemoration on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at the Fort Caswell Rifle Range.

Through your achievement we all stand a little taller today.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Deborah Ahlers'.

Deborah Ahlers, Mayor  
Town of Caswell Beach, NC

# Pfc Walter Stephen Brock

1895-1918



In 1914, when he was 18 years old, he enlisted in the Regular Army at Fort Caswell.

During WWI, he served with Company B, 2nd Engineers, 2nd Division, in every battle until he was killed in action on **November 10, 1918**, in the Argonne.

His death was not reported to his parents. For five months, they were unaware. On **March 6, 1919**, they learned of his death when his name appeared on the casualty lists published in newspapers across the country.

Wrightsville, New Hanover County

Served:

**July 16, 1914 – November 10, 1918**

Overseas:

**May 22, 1918 – November 10, 1918**

Cemetery: Mount Lebanon Chapel Cemetery in Airlie, New Hanover County, NC.

**\*\*No military honors shown\*\***

**KIA: November 10, 1918**

# Pvt William Frederick Brooks

1892-1918



He was one of only nine Brunswick County African American men chosen for combat positions in WWI.

He served with Company H, 365<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Division "Buffalo Soldiers," training at Camp Grant, Illinois.

Between the time the 92<sup>nd</sup> left Camp Grant and boarded at Hoboken, NJ, for travel overseas, Pvt Brooks died of meningitis. The exact location of his death is unknown.

Shalotte, Brunswick County

Served:

**March 29, 1918 – June 13, 1918**

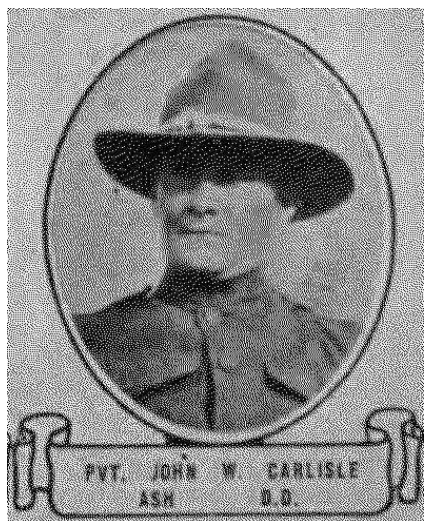
Cemetery: Pleasant View Cemetery in Sunset Beach.

**\*\*No military honors shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: June 13, 1918**

## Pfc John W. Carlisle

1887-1919



He served with Company K, 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Division broke the "impenetrable" Hindenburg Line on September 29, 1918.

He died of pneumonia as the division began marching to Le Mans to return home.

He left behind three sons and a wife. One son died three months later. His youngest son fought in the Italian campaign in WWII and received a Purple Heart.

**Mill Branch, Brunswick County**

Served:

**September 19, 1917 – February 13, 1919**

Overseas:

**May 12, 1918 – February 13, 1919**

Cemetery: Griffin Cemetery in Ash.

**\*\*Military service shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: February 13, 1919**

## Pvt Carl Jefferson Danford

1893-1917

**SOUTHERN CAMPS  
BREED EPIDEMICS**

Measles and Kindred Diseases  
Are Worse Among  
Southern Troops

He served with Company D, 105<sup>th</sup> Engineers, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

The winter was uncommonly cold for the South, proper winter clothing and supplies were scarce, and Camp Sevier was under quarantine due to a measles epidemic.

He died of pneumonia from measles, leaving behind a wife and young daughter.

**Southport, Brunswick County, NC**

Served:

**September 18, 1917 – December 8, 1917**

Cemetery: Reynolds Arnold Cemetery in Bolivia.

**\*\*No military honors shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: December 8, 1917**

# Pvt Harvey T. Chadwick

1893-1918



He served with Company D, 105<sup>th</sup> Engineers, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC. The insignia (left) was worn incorrectly throughout the war. *It should be vertical.*

The 105<sup>th</sup> Engineers often joined in combat or performed engineering tasks while under artillery fire.

He gave his life on the day the 30<sup>th</sup> Division broke the famous Hindenburg Line. It was the deadliest day of the war for North Carolina and Brunswick County.

Cemetery: Gurganus Cemetery in Shallotte.

**\*\*Military service shown\*\***

Shallotte, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

March 21, 1918 – September 29, 1918

Overseas:

May 26, 1918 – September 29, 1918

**Killed in Action: September 29, 1918**

# Cook David Lafayette Doshier

1893-1919



He was born and raised in Southport, but living and working in Toledo when the war began.

He served with the 87<sup>th</sup> Division, a combat division temporarily reassigned for labor in France.

Before his division could return home, he died of pneumonia from influenza. He was buried in France (no photo is available) but a flat marker is in place in Toledo as shown.

Toledo, OH

Served:

October 4, 1917 – February 9, 1919

Overseas:

August 26, 1918 – February 9, 1919

Cemetery: Suresnes American Cemetery in France.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: February 9, 1919**

# Seaman James Coy Edwards

1885-1917



Exum, Brunswick County, NC  
Served:  
June 4, 1918 – December 24, 1917

He enlisted in the Navy the day before the first WWI Draft Registration in 1917.

No Navy in the world had ever created a larger force or as quickly.

He served in the Naval Hospital at Norfolk.

He passed away from pneumonia on Christmas Eve.

He is the only known Brunswick County casualty from the Navy or Coast Guard.

Cemetery: New Life Baptist Church Cemetery in Ash.

**\*\*No military honors shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: December 24, 1917**

# Sgt Robert Guy Farmer

1886-1918



Southport, Brunswick County, NC  
Served:  
July 13, 1914 – October 9, 1918

He enlisted in the US Army in 1907. He served in the Coastal Artillery Corps at Fort Caswell from at least 1914 until his death. He likely used the Fort Caswell Rifle Range for training.

He died of pneumonia during the influenza pandemic at Fort Caswell, leaving behind a wife and three children.

Five months later, his son Robert Guy Farmer Jr died of pneumonia/influenza. His oldest son was a war hero during WWII, receiving a Silver Star.

Cemetery: Old Smithville Cemetery in Southport.

**\*\*Military honors shown on flat marker\*\***

**Died of Disease: October 9, 1918**

# Pvt Jimmie Griffin

1899-1918



In 1918, at age 18, he enlisted at Fort Caswell. He served in the Coastal Artillery Corps, which then formed Battery B, 2nd Trench Mortar Battalion (2nd Division).

The division was commanded by US Marine Corps generals twice during WWI, the only time in US military history when Marine Corps officers commanded an Army division.

He participated in several defensive and offensive operations until he was shot and killed by a sentry. He was only 19 years old.

**Lillington, Harnett County, NC**

Served:

**January 5, 1918 – September 11, 1918**

Overseas:

**May 29, 1918 – September 11, 1918**

Cemetery: Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Killed in Action: September 11, 1918**

# Pvt Manning Hall

1887-1918



After reporting for duty, he was sent to Camp Grant, Illinois, for training. Less than three months later, he had died of tuberculosis.

The US Army misunderstood tuberculosis, not restricting infected soldiers from serving. He was one of two soldiers from Brunswick County who died of tuberculosis while serving.

He left behind a wife, who died a few years later from a tuberculosis related illness.

**Navassa, Brunswick County, NC**

Served:

**April 27, 1918 – July 11, 1918**

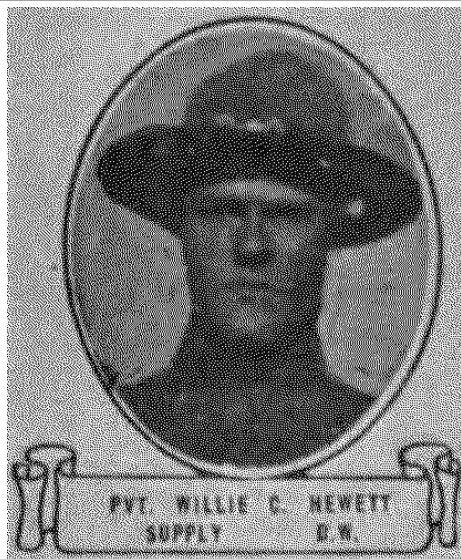
Cemetery: Mount Calvary Cemetery in Navassa.

**\*\*Military service shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: July 11, 1918**

# Pvt William Cross Hewett

1895-1918



He served with Company C, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

He participated in the famous breaking of the Hindenburg Line, likely receiving his wounds during that offensive.

His half brother, Claudie Hall McCall, served with him in the 120<sup>th</sup> and also died during his service.

Supply, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

September 19, 1917 – October 25, 1918

Overseas:

May 12, 1918 – October 25, 1918

Cemetery: Silent Grove Cemetery in Supply.

**\*\*Military service shown\*\***

**Died of Wounds: October 25, 1918**

# Pvt Claudie Hall McCall

1888-1919



He served in Supply Company, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

His half brother, William Cross Hewett, died while they were serving together in the 120<sup>th</sup> in France.

He nearly made it home, dying of an abscess of the lung weeks before his division returned.

He left behind a wife as well as a son he never met.

Supply, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

April 1, 1918 – April 13, 1919

Overseas:

May 12, 1918 – April 13, 1919

Cemetery: Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in France.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: April 13, 1919**



# Pvt Elijah Milliken

1896-1918



Born in Southport and raised in Shallotte, he was working in Rocky Mount when he registered for the second WWI draft in 1918. *He was not yet 21 when the first draft registration (1917) took place.*

He served in the 55<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Infantry, trained and armed for construction **or** combat, instantly available in any emergency.

The 55<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Infantry assisted in combat or engineering work as needed, making their movements difficult to track.

He died of pneumonia one month after the war ended.

Cemetery: Saint Mihiel American Cemetery in France.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Rocky Mount, Nash County, NC**

Served:

**August 5, 1918 – December 11, 1918**

Overseas:

**September 15, 1918 – December 11, 1918**

**Died of Disease: December 11, 1918**

# Pfc Erastus Iredell Nelson

1893-1918



He served with Company C, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

He was the first known soldier to be killed in action from Brunswick County.

The letter from the company chaplain to his family was published in the local newspaper. "Your son met death instantly yesterday afternoon by a direct hit."

**Leland, Brunswick County, NC**

Served:

**September 19, 1917 – August 22, 1918**

Overseas:

**May 12, 1918 – August 22, 1918**

Cemetery: Nelson Cemetery in Leland.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Killed in Action: August 22, 1918**

# Pvt Kendrick Whiteleaf Outlaw

1892-1918



After reporting to duty, he and eleven other men from Brunswick County trained at Camp Wadsworth, SC, a camp which was established in 1917 and abandoned in 1919.

He served in the 55<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Infantry, trained and armed for construction **or** combat, instantly available in any emergency.

He died of pneumonia soon after arriving in France.

His sister requested a military headstone in 1950, which remains in Winnabow today.

Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

August 7, 1918 – October 5, 1918

Overseas:

September 15, 1918 – October 5, 1918

Cemetery: Lebanon Baptist Church Cemetery in Winnabow.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: October 5, 1918**

# Pvt Cecil Smith Pierce

1896-1918



In 1918, at age 21, he enlisted at Fort Caswell. He served in the Coastal Artillery Corps, which then formed Battery B, 2nd Trench Mortar Battalion (2nd Division).

Two months later, he died at Fort Caswell of tuberculosis.

The US Army misunderstood tuberculosis, not restricting infected soldiers from serving. He was one of two soldiers from Brunswick County who died of tuberculosis while serving.

Hallsboro, Columbus County, NC

Served:

January 23, 1918 – March 5, 1918

Cemetery: Elbow-Pierce Cemetery in Hallsboro.

**\*\*Military service shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: March 5, 1918**

## Pvt Harry Langdon Piggott

1895-1918



He served with Company M, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

After departing for France, his only child died of whooping cough. She was 5 months old.

He gave his life on the day the 30<sup>th</sup> Division broke the famous Hindenburg Line. It was the deadliest day of the war for North Carolina and Brunswick County and described as **one of the most desperate single conflicts of the war.**

Shalotte, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

September 18, 1917 – September 29, 1918

Overseas:

June 5, 1918 – September 29, 1918

Cemetery: Gurganus Cemetery in Shalotte.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Killed in Action: September 29, 1918**

## Pvt Samuel Claudius Swain

1890-1918



He served with Company C, 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

The winter was uncommonly cold for the South, proper winter clothing and supplies were scarce, and Camp Sevier was under quarantine due to a measles epidemic.

He died of pneumonia three months after he began his service, leaving behind a wife.

Bolivia, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

October 7, 1917 – January 7, 1918

Cemetery: Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery in Bolivia.

**\*\*No military honors shown\*\***

**Died of Disease: January 7, 1918**

# Pvt Benjamin Bante Smith

1893-1918



He served with Company A, 119<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in the 30<sup>th</sup> Division "Old Hickory," training at Camp Sevier, SC.

He died of wounds received during the famous breaking of the Hindenburg Line, North Carolina's deadliest day in the war.

He was posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and **British Military Medal** for extraordinary heroism.

"After being wounded twice in making attacks with his own organization, he joined Australian troops and attacked with them, being wounded a third time before he consented to be evacuated."

Cemetery: Smith Family Cemetery near Ocean Isle Beach.

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

Ash, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

September 19, 1917 – October 17, 1918

Overseas:

May 11, 1918 – October 17, 1918

**Died of Wounds: October 17, 1918**

# Pvt Guy Ellis Watson

1895-1918



He served in the Medical Detachment, Embarkation Hospital, at Camp Stuart, VA. His exact duties were unknown.

The swampy area of Camp Stuart created many difficulties, with mosquitoes, flies, fleas, horses and their manure.

He died of pneumonia during the influenza pandemic around the same time his brother suffered the same fate in Southport.

Cemetery: Benton Cemetery in Maco.

**\*\*No military honors shown\*\***

Leland, Brunswick County, NC

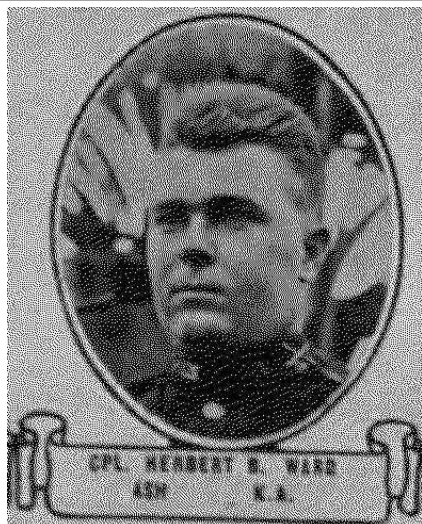
Served:

March 21, 1918 – October 21, 1918

**Died of Disease: October 21, 1918**

# Cpl Herbert Burnell Ward

1894-1918



He served with Company M, 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. He had previously served in the Regular Army a year earlier.

He was killed in action during the St. Mihiel Offensive, the first all-American operation of the war. Absolute secrecy was maintained, catching the Germans by surprise.

It was a major victory for the Americans but not won easily with a total of 1,612 casualties from his division.

Ash, Brunswick County, NC

Served:

October 4, 1917 – September 12, 1918

Overseas:

April 24, 1918 – September 12, 1918

Cemetery: Ward Cemetery in Longwood (Brunswick Co).

**\*\*Military honors shown\*\***

**Killed in Action: September 12, 1918**

# Pvt Fred Wilson

1895-1918

Died of disease—Corp. A. R. Canady, Bug Hill; Privates Fred Wilson, Fairmont; J. C. Brown, Kannapolis; John Evans, New Bern; Henry Grier, Charlotte.

Born in Brunswick County, he was drafted while working in Robeson County.

He trained at Camp Grant, IL, assigned to 10<sup>th</sup> Company, Labor Battalion, Camp Grant Reinforcement Draft. The soldiers would be assigned where needed after arriving overseas.

Almost immediately after arriving overseas, he passed away from pneumonia.

There is no record of his remains being returned and no cemetery known. Fairmont Cemetery in Robeson County is the most likely possibility.

Fairmont, Robeson County, NC

Served:

April 1, 1918 – May 26, 1918

Overseas:

May 8, 1918 – May 26, 1918

Cemetery: Unknown

**Died of Disease: May 26, 1918**

# Pvt David Williams

1894-1919

## North Carolina Casualties.

Casualties among North Carolina troops overseas recently reported by the war department, are as follows:

Died of wounds—Privates Jas. A. Cook, Winston-Salem; H. C. Huffman, Reepsville.

Died of disease—Privates David William, Bolivia; P. S. Wilson, Morganton; H. L. Martin, Harris; G. W. Rhyne, Castoria.

Slightly wounded—Sergt. M. Pickett, Mineapolis; Privates E. R. Gaither, Lenoir; Vivian L. Vail, High Point; Jno. L. Meekins, Sumy; N. B. Thompson, Jackson Springs; J. S. Rimer, Concord; Sergt. Jas. E. Graham, China Grove.

Total casualties, 273,105.

He served with Company D, 545th Engineer Service Battalion, training at Camp A. A. Humphreys, in VA.

The 545th Engineers provided the services for road and quarry, otherwise known as Division Light Railways and Roads (D.L.R. and R.).

A month before he would have returned home, he died of "pulmonary oedema, secondary to pleurisy." He left behind a wife and a son he never met. Records show his remains were returned but the cemetery is unknown. Greer Cemetery in Bolivia is the most likely possibility.

His widow became a teacher at Brunswick County Training School in Southport, the only African American high school in the county. His son later served overseas in WWII.

**Bolivia, Brunswick County, NC**

Served:

**August 6, 1918 – March 18, 1919**

Overseas:

**September 23, 1918 – March 18, 1919**

**Cemetery: Unknown**

**Died of Disease: March 18, 1919**

# World War I Highlights

## Definition of Doughboy

### **The Doughboys**

1. Training: The Rifle Pit
2. Combat: The Stop
3. The Hinge of Fate: July 18, 1918, 4:35 A.M.
4. Victory March on the “Via Sacra”

### **Coda: The Costs of War**

by Norman A. Sprinthal, November 2018

# Definition of Doughboy

The term “doughboy” was derived from the American soldiers’ appearance during training marches. They would return covered with mud and dust, looking as if rolled in bread dough.

## The Doughboys

### 1. Training: The Rifle Pit

President Wilson and Congress declared war in April 1917 for two reasons: the German subs were sinking our ships to England; and the almost unbelievable attempt by the Kaiser to form an alliance with Mexico – the infamous “Zimmerman Telegram” intercepted by our intelligence group. The major problem for us at the time was that aside from a few Regular Army divisions and some National Guard divisions (including my dad’s division, the 26<sup>th</sup>) we were almost totally unprepared.<sup>1</sup> As a result from April 1917 to January 1918 the country drafted (for the first time) and then needed to train an army from scratch. World War I in Europe created a completely new and destructive method of war with rapid fire machine guns, mustard gas, artillery shells with devastating long-range accuracy, armor plate, and bolt-action infantry rifles.

An army whose last activity was either chasing a Mexican bandit, Pancho Villa, or riding horseback up San Juan Hill now had to get ready to go up against the best trained and equipped modern army in the world – Ludendorff’s Prussian-led German-Austrians. Our training site here, where targets could be raised and lowered,<sup>2</sup> was typical of those up and down the coast. Our rifle pit-trained “Doughboys” would face the ultimate final exam in the trenches of France.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Combat: The Stop

As millions of our troops landed in France they were shipped to the crucial section of the Western Front, the Marne River, just twenty-three miles from Paris. Our troops were positioned as the blocking unit. Remember the war started with the “Guns of August” in 1914. After an initial few months the Central Powers advanced on a line from the English Channel to Switzerland (about as long as North Carolina) and occupied about one-quarter of France. That Western Front basically remained the same for four years. Casualties were enormous with almost no gains. Two examples: one French town changed hands twelve times; and the English had 15,000 casualties in 20 minutes at the Battle of the Somme. Ludendorff now went all in. He added the entire German Army from Russia after November 1917, and decided to take a straight shot at the new American Expeditionary Force (AEF). From July 8-18, 1918, he attacked. My dad’s division along with four other U.S. and French divisions stopped the Germans without a backward step.

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1

We had 125,000 Regular Army troops and 75,000 National Guard.

2

See the film “Sergeant York”

3

Also it should be noted that our French allies were very deliberate in continuing to train the Doughboys in the modern equipment. One of my dad’s trainers was the famous Captain Alfred Dreyfus.



### 3. The Hinge of Fate: July 18, 4:35 A.M.

Then on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:35 A.M. Supreme Commander Marshall Foch sent a one word message: “Attack.” A reporter from the Boston Globe embedded with the 26<sup>th</sup> Division wired the lead story on that day:

*“They rose from the soil sewn with Dragons Teeth<sup>4</sup>: Out of night as black as the mouth of hell they came”*

At this point Foch launched everything he had. My dad’s artillery was lined up hub-to-hub for over a mile, e.g. the distance between our area and the Oak Island Light House. He said they fired with every 75 mm shell they had, in a rolling barrage, backed up by 155 Howitzers and naval guns on railroad cars. Such a barrage gave our infantry the ability to race across the Marne and literally break the back of Ludendorff’s forces.

### 4. Victory March on the “Via Sacra”

Pershing decided not to let up on the attack one bit. As a result the AEF and French kept going. They closed the salient, launched the Meuse-Argonne offensive and re-took Verdun. In the latter case my dad’s unit marched arm-in-arm on the “Via Sacra” with a French division from Senegal, Africa while the massed bands played “The Stars and Stripes” and “The Marseillaise”. By November 11, at 11 A.M. one hundred years ago, the final artillery shell was fired.

Today our Rifle Pit monument stands quietly in the shadows of our wonderful area as a sentinel and reminder of sacrifice, heroism, and what we can do when we work together as a nation.

## Coda: The Costs of War

The 26<sup>th</sup> Division, known as the “Yankee Division,” first went into action in February 1918 and finished on November 11; just over 8 months or about 240 days total. Their number of actual combat days in this relatively short period was an amazing 210. This was far more than any other division in the AEF. Their casualty rate, 12,000 in a division of 15,000, was so high that replacements came from all over the country, changing the Yankee Division (YD) into a true “United States Division” by Armistice Day, though the YD remained headquartered in New England. Unfortunately during the reunions in the 1930’s it was obvious that “Post Traumatic Shock” had taken its toll. My dad often had nightmares. As a result there was a more careful and systematic rotation of combat troops in WWII; one positive outcome for the GI’s that the Doughboys missed.

Also it should be noted that once President Wilson and Congress voted for war the entire country was unified. All citizens joined the effort. It took me a long time to learn of my mother’s efforts. She was a teacher (algebra and Latin), yet volunteered on Saturdays in the Brown & Sharpe munitions factory in Providence, RI.

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Sibley, F.P. With the Yankee Division in France (1919)

Boston, Little Brown (He was the Boston Globe reporter)

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (1-15)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Seaman 2nd Class Will Gay Adams	Leland
PVT Harry Andrews	Navassa
SGT Lewis W Anthony	Shallotte
Surfman Owen West Austin	Inducted: Southport
CPL Lawson Devaun Ballard      **Wounded**	Suburb
PVT William H Ballard	Phoenix
PVT Oliver Banks	Southport
PVT Albert Caster Beck	Shallotte
PVT David D Beck	Winnabow
Pharmacists Mate 3rd Class Leroy Albert Beck	Winnabow
PVT Weaver Beck	Ash
PVT Charlie Bellamy	Bolivia
PVT Hiram V Bellamy	Southport
PVT Jasper Bellamy	Supply
PVT Robert Bellamy	Ash

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (16-30)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Mess Attendant 2nd Class Freddie C Brown	Southport
PVT Guy Brown	Brunswick County
PVT Henry Clayton Brown	Bolivia
PVT Jackson Brown	Town Creek
PVT Joseph N Brown	Supply
PVT Marion Brown	Supply
PVT Sam Brown	Southport
PVT Arthur Bryant	Born: Southport
PFC Jack L Bryant	Supply
PVT Joseph Rinestein Burney	Supply
PVT Thomas J Butler	Phoenix
PVT James Cline Caison	Supply
Sdlr Lewis Caison	Born: Brunswick Co.
PVT Henry Walker Cannon	Town Creek
PVT Perry Green Carlisle	Ash

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (31-45)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Yeoman 3rd Class James Edward Carr	Southport
SFC Ernest D Cavenaugh	Southport
PVT Harry S Chadwick	Shalotte
Seaman 2nd Class Calvin Alonza Chinnis	Leland
PVT Commodore Clarence Chinnis	Phoenix
PFC Harry Clayton Chinnis	Winnabow
PFC Horace Lee Chinnis	Leland
CPL Joseph Wheeler Sr Chinnis	Winnabow
Seaman 2nd Class Michael Burriss Chinnis	Phoenix
CPL Roy Mayzon Chinnis	Born: Phoenix
Mech Durward B Clemmons	Inducted: Southport
Cook James Clemmons	Southport
PVT Joseph Leverit Clemmons	Supply
PVT Julius Harvey Clemmons	Bolivia
PVT Lennox Walker Clemmons	Supply

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (46-60)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
PVT Walter Coleman	Born: Brunswick Co.
Fireman 1st Class Charles McKeithen Cox	Southport
SGT Allen L Davis	Southport
PFC Dossie P Dinwiddie	Fort Caswell
SGT Caleb Dixon	Southport
PFC Charles Edward Doshier	Southport
PVT Harry Lee Doshier	Southport
Mech John P Doshier	Southport
1LT Julius A Doshier	Southport
2LT Wilbur Randall Doshier	Born: Southport
CPL Charles Byron Drew	Southport
PVT Oliver Evans	Southport
PVT James W Fair	Inducted: Southport
PVT Ulmot Ford	Southport
PVT David Bertram Frink	Shalotte

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (61-75)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
PVT Marshall A Frink	Shallotte
PVT George A Gibson	Sandy Creek
PFC Harvey Winfield Gray	Shallotte
PVT Willie M Gray	Shallotte
Cook George W Grissett	Shallotte
PVT Wendell V Jenrette	Ash
PFC Murdic Jones	Mill Branch
1SG Lee Kye	Fort Caswell
CPL Raleigh Thompson Lewis	Town Creek
PFC Barfie Randel Long	**Wounded** Born: Brunswick Co.
PVT Archibald C McKee	Born: Bolivia
CPL George P McKeithan	Born: Brunswick Co.
SGT William G McKeithan	Leland
CPL G Gladstone Merritt	Fort Caswell
Surfman George Bright Midgett	Inducted: Southport

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (76-90)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
Surfman Samuel Edward Midgett	Inducted: Southport
PVT William A Miller	Bolivia
CPL Bryant Mintz	Mill Branch
SFC Van Grissett Mintz <b>**Wounded**</b>	Born: Shallotte
SGT Andrew J Morris	Southport
PVT John S Moses	Fort Caswell
Apprentice Seaman John Norris	Brunswick County
Fireman Sherly Gray Pake	Inducted: Southport
PVT Herbert Parker	Born: Southport
CPL Clarence F Peterson	Fort Caswell
SGT Richard S Pinner	Born: Southport
SGT Harold J Pope	Born: Brunswick Co.
Wag Jackson Berry Potter	Winnabow
Cook Frank R Proffitt	Fort Caswell
PVT Luther R Randall	Inducted: Southport



**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (91-105)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
PVT James Reaves	Bolivia
SGT Charles F Rich	Born: Winnabow
SGT Harvey J Richardson	Fort Caswell
PVT James Alonzo Robbins	Phoenix
Seaman 2nd Class Burriss Lee Russ	Makotoka
PFC Hardy W Russ	Born: Brunswick Co.
PVT Hiram R Russ	Born: Brunswick Co.
PFC Henry Selectman	Brunswick County
PVT Benjamin H Sellers	Born: Shallotte
PFC Nash M Sellers	Born: Winnabow
PFC Ervin V Shelton	Fort Caswell
PFC Robert W Sholar	Fort Caswell
CPL Vander L Simmons	Born: Brunswick Co.
Seaman 2nd Class Walter Leon Simmons	Shallotte
1SG Joe S Simpson	Fort Caswell

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (106-120)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
PVT Forest Sipe	Fort Caswell
PVT Thomas L Skipper	Born: Brunswick Co.
PVT Lawrence Boyington Smith	Bolivia
PFC Robert Fulton Smith	Bolivia
PFC Trafton Smith	Fort Caswell
PVT Willie W Smith	Fort Caswell
Wag Joseph A Sneed	Fort Caswell
PVT Fenner Satterthwaite Stickney	Phoenix
PVT Waverly Randolph Sydnor	Inducted: Southport
Surfman Harvey Taylor	Inducted: Southport
CPL William H Taylor	Fort Caswell
CPL Archie F Thompson	Southport
SGT James W Thompson	Southport
SGT Jesse B Triplett	Fort Caswell
PVT John H Troy	Born: Phoenix

**Brunswick County WWI Veterans (121-135)**

<b>Brunswick County WWI Veteran</b>	<b>Residence</b>
PFC William King Usher	Shallotte
Seaman Jack Vereen	Exum
SGT Pearl P Vereen	Born: Exum
PFC Ashley Vick	Born: Brunswick Co.
PFC Daniel R Walker	Town Creek
Surfman John Westcott	Inducted: Southport
COL Harry Kidder White	Southport
Blacksmith 2nd Class Joseph Mariman Williams	Leland
Surfman Bertie Willis	Inducted: Southport
Surfman Charles Grover Willis	Inducted: Southport
PVT Martin Ross Willis	Southport
CPL German Wilson	Inducted: Southport
PVT Guss Wooten	Fort Caswell
Cook Charlie T Wrenn	Fort Caswell
PVT William Wright	Inducted: Southport