

# ***Men of L* Newsletter**

## **Issue Number 3 November 11, 2021**



This *Men of L* newsletter provides information of interest to the descendants of Company L soldiers, and the public. It honors the soldier's sacrifices and service during WWI. Our mission also includes identifying descendants of the soldiers assigned to Company L. We also desire to keep descendants, and the public, informed of Company L's participation during WWI, and our continuing research of the soldier's military and related information. Newsletters are emailed to registered descendants and others who may find the information interesting. Newsletters are archived on the Company L website. [company-l.com/newsletters/](http://company-l.com/newsletters/)

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**1. Descendants identified:** To date, descendants of **15 Soldiers** have been identified. See their Comments page for more details. Add to your ancestor's story - view their Comments page from the Database of *Men of L* soldiers. We have also received communications from visitors to the Men of L website who are descendant's of soldiers who served with other units. They appreciated the website's content that presents information on similar wartime experiences that their ancestors shared.

### **Descendant's *Men of L* ancestor's identified:**

**AMERLAN, Oscar. ARDAGH, John (Joe).**

**BISSELL, Charles.**

**COLBY, George**

**HEALY, Paul.** Sergeant. Enlisted November 1917. Received the Silver Star medal for gallantry during combat.

**FOSTER, Wesley.** Sergeant. Regular Army. Prior service. Killed in Action October 11th, 1918 during the Battle of Bois de Fays. Awarded the Silver Star medal for gallantry during combat.

**KOZIELSKI, Josehp V.**

**KURATKO, Rudolph.** Corporal. Assigned Company L November 1917

from Hq Co 333rd Infantry..

**MARES, Frank.** Private First Class. Third Platoon.

**PALLIN, Gustav.** Private. Enlisted April 1917 and Joined Company L in December 1917 from the 108th Supply Train.

**REUTER, Lee.** Corporal. Prior service Company L, Illinois National Guard. Company Clerk and founding member of the original *Men of L* post-war organization.

**RIPLEY, Luther**

**SHANKMAN, Harry.** Private First Class. Fourth Platoon. Drafted.

**YOUNG, Sam T.** Private. Drafted. Fourth Platoon. Arrived France August 1918 and Joined Company L October 1918.

**Van LERBERGHE,** Camiel. Private. Assigned Company L April 1918. Gassed in battle.

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**2. A Biographies page** of Company L soldiers have replaced the Database page. Soldiers are listed alphabetical by surname. Each soldier's listing has a Comments link that contains information compiled from multiple sources including military documents, Census, burial, and other information.

**3. PHOTO Identifications:** Possible ID of ancestor by Craig Ardagh descendant of John Ardagh.

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**4. Outreach efforts by *Men of L* and request for more descendants to register:** *Men of L* is conducting outreach to organizations that may have contact with descendants, or those interested in WWI. Our goal is reaching descendants who may benefit from knowing details of their ancestors WWI service and postwar activities. We are using social media like Facebook, and old-fashioned genealogy searching for descendants.

Descendants of soldiers not assigned to Company L have visited our website and contacted us. We provided research information and suggestions. In June 2021 a great nephew of a 33rd Division, 130th Infantry soldier, found a link to our website on a county genealogy society website. In April 2021 a great niece of a 33rd Division soldier who found a WWI uniform in the attic but not sure to whom it belonged. In November 2020 received Email: *I restore antiques & I just acquired a footlocker/trunk which has the name & town painted on it as follows: John A. Gilmore, Company L Infantry, Essex, Illinois. I am trying to figure when & where he served, any awards, died in service etc.*

We encourage you to ask your relatives who are descendants of Company L soldiers and have not registered to do so.

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**5. WWI Doughboy statue at Hines VA Hospital, Hines, Illinois.** Cast in 1941, and on display at the entrance to the main entrance, the statue was sculpted by Guido Rebechini who was a neighbor of Corporal Lee Reuter of Company L. Corporal Reuter's WWI uniform was used by the sculptor.



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**6. Artifact's provided by descendant's have been added to the website.**

Uniform chevrons, buttons, and insignia worn by Corporal Lee Reuter and in possession of Barbara Metzger were added to the Artifacts page. A detailed explanation (PDF) of these artifacts was also added. [Artifacts | \(company-l.com\)](#)

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**7. Roster of awards of the Purple Heart Medal that soldiers should have been qualified to receive, based on current criteria, has been added to the website.** Many men who would have qualified did not have being gassing during battles entered into official records or did not receive a medical diagnosis from a doctor.

<https://company-l.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Purple-Heart-Company-L.pdf>

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**8. The monument for a Company L soldier** who was killed in action was discovered by *Men of L* to have an error. Private George Anagnostopoulos is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Departement de la Meuse, Lorraine, France. The American Battle Monuments Commission is having the monument corrected. It is good knowing our hero's graves in National cemeteries are being maintained. The error was inscribing and listing 33rd INFANTRY instead of 33rd DIVISION.



*“Thank you for bringing this to our attention. The ABMC is continually working to ensure that the information on the headstones and inscriptions on the Walls of the Missing are correct.*

*Your observation is correct, the 132d Infantry was part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Division. When headstones are weathered and the inscriptions become less clear, they are replaced by new ones. It is possible that in a previous replacement, a mistake was made, and the error was carved into the new stone as the records*

*clearly support 33<sup>rd</sup> Division. We will request a new corrected headstone to be made and installed. “*

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**9. The Men of L website has added biographical information** for each soldier assigned to Company L. This includes photos, draft registrations from WWI & WWII, Census data, burial data, and other documents relating to their life. While an ongoing project, to date it has highlighted the diversity of the soldiers. Some are young, some older. Many had little formal education. Many were recent immigrants to America. Many spoke German and other foreign languages. Some did not become American citizens until the war was over. Some died young, some very old. This project has been completed subject to ongoing research findings. This biographical information could be helpful for the soldier’s descendants.

**NOTES:**

**A. Soldier’s individual biographic data. - Completed Nov 2020, and on Comments pages.**

**B. Analysis of soldier's demographic data - Charts online. Completed Dec 2020.**

**C. Sergeant Wolfson Autobiography - added to website (Memories) Nov 2020.**

[WOLFSON-David-S-Page-1.jpg \(company-l.com\)](#)

**D. Addition of Corporal Reuter's Memories, a compilation. Nov 2020**  
[War\\_Journal\\_Corporal\\_Lee\\_Reuter.pdf \(company-l.com\)](#)

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## **10. Noted Company L Soldiers:**

**Henry DARGER assigned to Company L from 11 November to 18 December 1917.**

**Although only assigned to Company L for a short period of time, Henry Darger became a noted novelist and artist.**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry\\_Darger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Darger)

*Excerpts:*

*Henry Joseph Darger Jr.; (April 12, 1892 – April 13, 1973) was an American writer, novelist and artist who worked as a hospital custodian in Chicago, Illinois. He has become famous for his posthumously discovered 15,145-page, single-spaced fantasy manuscript called *The Story of the Vivian Girls, in What Is Known as the Realms of the Unreal, of the Glandeco- Angelinian War Storm, Caused by the Child Slave Rebellion*, along with several hundred drawings and watercolor paintings illustrating the story.*

*The visual subject matter of his work ranges from idyllic scenes in Edwardian interiors and tranquil flowered landscapes populated by children and fantastical creatures, to scenes of horrific terror and carnage depicting young children being tortured and massacred. Much of his artwork is mixed media with collage elements. Darger's artwork has become one of the most celebrated examples of outsider art.*

**Sergeant David S. Wolfson immigrated from Russia in 1904. He joined the Illinois National Guard in 1916 and served on the Mexican border, and during the East St. Louis race riots. He was activated for WWI active duty with Company L in July 1917. As a sergeant he fought in all their battles – Somme, Amiens, Hamel, Argonne Forest, Bois du Forges, Bois du Fays, and Trayon Sur Meuse. He was wounded in the Forges**



Woods battle (Bois du Forges). As squad leader he captured 17 German soldiers. He recorded his life events for the Office of War Records of the American Jewish Committee as a permanent memorial of Jewish Service in the World War.

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**11. Veteran's Legacy Memorial (VLM):** <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/>

*VLM is an online memorial space managed by the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). NCA manages more than 140 national cemeteries as shrine spaces to honor our Nation's Veterans and extends memorialization of the 3.7 million Veterans interred in those cemeteries to this digital memorial space by providing a VLM profile page for each Veteran. The Men of L organization entered a comment for Company L soldiers buried at National Cemeteries.*

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***Men of L* Descendant Membership certificates make great heirloom gifts. Register your children, grandchildren, and other descendant relatives.**

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**DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION CHANGES:**

*Men of L* newsletter distribution is based on requests for updated information on Company-L, and others who may be interested. **If you no longer desire to receive newsletters** please visit [company-l.com/newsletters/](http://company-l.com/newsletters/) to unsubscribe or contact [RonMiller@Company-L.com](mailto:RonMiller@Company-L.com).