

**Men of L Newsletter**  
**Issue Number Four – Memorial Day - May 31, 2022**



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. <https://company-l.com/newsletters/>

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### **1 – Outreach to organizations**

**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.

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

We contacted organizations who could possibly publicize *Men of L* seeking descendants: Illinois National Guard, Jewish War Veterans, Catholic War Veterans, Order of 1<sup>st</sup> World War, Italian War Veterans, Greek organization, Pritzker Military Museum, American Legion.

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## 2 – Find-A-Grave Memorial Project

The Find-A-Grave website (<https://www.findagrave.com/>) lists burial information and memorial comments. It was founded in 1995 and now is a subsidiary of Ancestry.com. We found 292 of 465 *Men of L* soldiers who had a listing on Find-A-Grave; 173 soldier names were not found. As of 28 May, 2022, 162 Memorials have added this comment:

*This soldier served during WWI with Company L. A website has details of his wartime service and the history of Company L, and is dedicated to the memory and sacrifices of members of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 132nd Infantry Regiment, 66th Brigade of the 33rd Division "The Prairie Division". <https://Company-L.com>*

### **New Descendant Registrations due to adding the *Company L* Find-A-Grave Comment:**

Grandfather of Private Robert PIERCE

Son of Private Jacob SIWEK.

Grandson of Private Armondo Plamondon

### **Find-A-Grave Feedback received (extracts):**

#### **ROBINSON, William**

*I am so appreciative of the additional information on the service of PFC William S. Robinson. it would be! I hope that one of his family historians reaches out to me for maintaining his memorial.*

**KOZIELSKI, Joseph.** *I hope more people discover your site. It's so phenomenal! I was watching the film footage last night. Brought tears to my eyes seeing all those men aboard the ship - knowing the outcome for many of them and knowing my relative was one of them. Having that footage of the men in the trenches, the cat sleeping with the soldier, all of that was so interesting. . . .my father who died in 1994, would have really loved your website! I was reading your website and just realized that the ship that took Co. L to France ("the USS Mount Vernon. It formerly was the German Kronprinzessin Cecilie built by Germany in 1906") was the exact same ship that Joseph Kozielski immigrated to the US on from Bremen (from his hometown of Dobczyce, Poland) in 1913! I wonder how that felt for him to be on the same ship that he immigrated to the US on! Wow. Interesting!"*

**SHEA, Patrick.** *Thank you for your contribution to another one of our great Veterans. I have added your bio information.*

**KURATKO, Ralph.** *Thank you so kindly for the info concerning Mr Kuratko and the other noble soldiers that were part of Company L in WWI. I am well acquainted with Mr Kuratko's now deceased grandson, his still*

*living great-grandson and the living women folk that are part of their lives. I see the women folk more frequently and I will share with them the website.*

**RENKEN, John.** *I have added your suggested update to Find a Grave Memorial 216472374. Thanks for the suggestion.*

**WALLACE, Royce.** *Thanks for the information. I added it to his memorial. So many of the World War I boys have been forgotten - glad to call attention to one of our heroes. Thank you for all you do to see that they are not forgotten.*

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### **3. Men of L Descendants identified:**

Descendants of **20 Men of L 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 descendants of soldiers who served with other units. They appreciated the website's content that presents information on similar wartime experiences that their ancestors shared.

### **Descendants of these *Men of L* soldiers have been identified:**

- 1. AMERLAN, Oscar, Private.** Enlisted 16 August 1917. Bugler. Took part in the attack on Hamel, Chipilly Ridge and Gressaire Wood, Meuse-Argonne Mihiel front. Was wounded and received the Purple Heart.
- 2. ARDAGH, John (Joe), Private First Class.** Enlisted 20 August 1917. Name changed from John to Joe 21 February 1918. Was hospitalized and on release was assigned to American Camps, Winchester Area, Winchester, England.
- 3. BISSELL, Charles, Private First Class.** Enlisted 28 June 1917, Illinois National Guard. Reported for WWI duty with Company L on 25 July 1917. Transferred on 2 February to HQ Company A, 108<sup>th</sup> Military Police.
- 4. COLBY, George, Sergeant.** Served with Illinois National Guard. Reported for WWI duty 25 July 1917 and medically discharged 23 January 1918.
- 5. HEALY, Paul, Sergeant.** Enlisted November 1917. Received the Silver Star medal for gallantry during combat.
- 6. FOSTER, Wesley, Sergeant. Regular Army.** Prior Army service. Killed in Action October 11th, 1918 during the Battle of Bois de Fays. Awarded the Silver Star medal for gallantry during combat.
- 7. KOZIELSKI, Josehp V, Private.** Immigrated from Poland in 1913. Enlisted 5 September 1917. Died of gunshot wounds received in action at Verdun, October 10, 1918. October 11, 1918, Reinterred at Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. Company L Muster Roll Nov-Dec 1917

Camp Logan, Houston Tx: Enlisted 5 Sep 1917. Listed as Private. Transferred from 108th Supply Train to 33rd DIV 8 Dec 1917 and Joined Company L on 8 Dec 1917. See Find-A-Grave comment from descendant (above).

**8. KURATKO, Rudolph.** Corporal. Assigned Company L November 1917 from Hq Co 333rd Infantry.

**9. MARES, Frank.** Private First Class. Third Platoon. Enlisted 1917 ILNG, served with Company L until war over. *PFC Frank C. Mares was rated as a sniper. He suffered from respiratory issues due to being gassed. It was believed that his being gassed contributed to his death in 1958. When he returned from the war he married. They had two children. He never talked about his time in service; and no relatives ever asked him. He kept a wartime journal that documented the travels of Company L throughout their European service. His journal is also located on the Combat Operations page. Information courtesy of Gregory Ziomek, grandson of PFC Mares.*

**11. HALVERSON, Harold, Sergeant.** ILNG then 132<sup>nd</sup>. Company Roster December 1918 A.E.F. Junglinster, Luxembourg: Listed as Sergeant. Company L Morning Report January 1918: Transferred to Company 'I' 6 January per Regimental Special Order (R.S.O.) #1 para 6. Date unknown; Transferred to Company K, 132nd Infantry.

**12. MILLER, Earl Private.** Enlisted 19 Sep 1917. Listed as Private. Transferred to 132nd INF 20 Apr 1918. Assigned to Co L, 23 Apr 1918. August 1918 Sick-in-Hospital. - Company Roster November 1918 A.E.F.: Listed as Private. Rejoined Nov. 4th 1918. Note: This supports comment by his granddaughter that he was wounded in action.

*I was looking at the pictures and in panel 5 #116. The man in the picture looks a lot like my father, so I am guessing this could be a match. When I showed it to my father he also feels that man could be him. More than any other man in any of the other panels. I have been working on the Family Genealogy and this led me to this site. Thank you for having this available. I never knew my grandfather. I am trying to find out if grandpa did get the purple heart. My father remember a metal and it does state in his discharge paper he sustained a right shoulder wound Aug 2, 1918 at the Army of Occupation of Vader Lines in the 3rd Corps, Amiens Sector Attack at Hamel, July 4, 1918.*

**13. Private Jacob SIWEK.** Enlisted Aug 1917; transferred from the 108<sup>th</sup> Supply Train and assigned Co L 8 December 1917. Sick in Hospital August 1918; returned to U.S.

*My name is Marcia Dion. My brother-in-law John Siwek is the son of Jacob Siwek. Presently, he is 87 years young and is the only surviving child of Jacob Siwek. I discovered your website and bio of Jacob through an email sent to me through findagrave. I was the one who originally submitted the photo of Jacob's grave. Thank you for sharing this as I know this will mean so much to my brother-in-law. I cannot wait to show him this.*

**14. Private Armond Plamondon.** Enlisted, under-age on 9 Aug 1917. Listed as Private. Transferred from Supply Company 132nd INF on 24 Apr

1918. Transferred to Base Hospital, Camp Logan, 28 May 1918, dropped from Company L. Assigned in France to Company M, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

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

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

**17. RIPLEY, Luther, Private.** Enlisted 26 May 1917. Assigned to Company L 2 October 1918. Descendants provided information that Private Ripley was assigned as a runner (carrying messages), and was gassed during battles at Verdun and in the Meuse-Argonne. A monument with his name and nine other soldiers was erected in France.

**18. SHANKMAN, Harry, Private First Class.** Immigrated from Russia in 1910. Enlisted 20 September 1917. Fourth Platoon. Special duty post-war with Regimental Headquarters, Luxembourg.

**19. YOUNG, Sam T., Private.** Arrived France August 1918 and Joined Company L on 2 October 1918. Fourth Platoon.

**20. VAN LERBERGHE, Camiel, Private.** Enlisted 23 February 1918; Assigned Company L on 23 April 1918. Second Platoon. Gassed in battle.

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#### **4. How descendants found Men of L website:**

- *My daughter has been doing Genealogy trying to find any information about my father her grandfather she never met.*
- *Contacted thru Find-A-Grave.*
- *Google research.*
- *Jackson county historical Facebook page.*
- *I was notified through Ancestry.com*
- *Doing genealogical research and came across this site.*
- *Googled after finding a copy of my Great-Grandfather's promotion document.*
- *Research off of military grave marker.*

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#### **5. PHOTO Identifications made.** Private Earl Miller.

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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 | \(company-l.com\)](#)

## 7. Noted Company L Soldiers:

### Underage soldiers:

**Oscar John Amerlan, Sr., Private.** Enlisted in to the Army of United States August 16th 1917 in Chicago, Illinois for Illinois National Guard Organization in Federal Service. He told them he was 19 years old, but was only 16 years old, soon to be 17 years old. The army found out he was underage so his mother signed for him to go into the service.

<https://company-l.com/database/comments/comment-1390815.html>

**Ambrose D. Plamondon, Private.** Joined the army at 17. To enlist he lied about his age claiming to have been born in 1898 (false) rather than 1900 (true), leading to a discrepancy in government records that followed him all his life. <https://company-l.com/database/comments/comment-1389843.html>

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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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