



**Men of L**

**Newsletter Issue Number SIX**

## **Veteran's Day November 11, 2023**

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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- 6. Descendant Membership Certificates**

**1. There have been 24 descendants of Company L soldiers identified (not all have registered).** They represent the following soldiers. But every registration actually represents many more descendants. For example, there are currently 62 known descendants of Private Harry Shankman. While the number of descendants who have registered may seem like a small number, they represent a much larger number. If each soldier had 50 descendants **there would be at least 1,200 descendants who have the opportunity to know details of their ancestor's WWI valor.** Please share our website with your relatives. Details of each Company L soldier is accessed from the Biography Page.  
<https://company-l.com/biographies/>

**AMERIAN, Oscar            Great Grandfather**

AMERLAN, Oscar, Private. Enlisted 16 August 1917. Bugler. Took part in the attack on Hamel, Chipilly Ridge and Gressaire Wood, Meuse-Argonne battle, and St. Mihiel front. Was wounded and received the Purple Heart

**ARDAGH, John C            Grandfather**

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.

**BISSELL, Charles            Grandson**

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, 108th Military Police.

**COLBY, George            Uncle**

Sergeant. Served with Illinois National Guard. Reported for

WWI duty 25 July 1917 and medically discharged 23 January 1918.

**FOSTER, Wesley                      Great-uncle**

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.

**HALVERSON, Harold                Relative**

Sergeant. ILNG then 132nd. Company L Roster December 1918 A.E.F. Junglinster, Luxembourg: Listed as Sergeant. Company L Morning Report January 1918: Transferred to Company L January 1918. Transferred to Company K, 132nd Infantry.

**HEALY, Paul.**

Sergeant. Enlisted November 1917. Received the Silver Star medal for gallantry during combat.

**KEATING, Arthur                    Grandfather**

First Lieutenant. Enlisted 14 May 1917. Listed as Private First Class- Company L Muster Roll Nov-Dec 1917 Camp Logan, Houston Tx: Transferred to Headquarter Company 132nd INF per RSO#118 dtd 20 Dec 1917. Returned to US April 1919 as 1st Lt, Company C, 305th Infantry, 77th Division.

**KOZIELSKI, Joseph V              Great Uncle**

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 MeuseArgonne 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.

**KURATKO, Rudolph J**                      **Grandfather**  
Corporal. Assigned Company L November 1917 from  
Headquarter Company 333rd Infantry.

**LeBEAU, Walter E.**                      **Grandfather**  
Private. Enlisted May 1918. Assigned Company L April and  
dropped from roll July 1918 due to combat wounds. 1919 was  
assigned to Headquarters Company, 132<sup>nd</sup> Infantry.

**MARES, Frank C**                      **Grandfather**  
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.

**MILLER, Earl**                      **Father**  
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.

**NESBITT, Robert E.**                      **Grandfather**  
Private. Enlisted 27 Feb 1918. Listed as Private. Transferred to  
132nd INF per SO#108 Hdq 33rd DIV dtd 20 Apr 1918.  
Assigned to Co L, 132nd INF. Wounded 13 October 1918; in  
Hospital.

**PALLIN, Gustaf Carl Grand Father**

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

**PIERCE, Robert Grandfather**

Private. Enlisted 22 Feb 1918. Transferred to 132nd INF Apr 1918. Assigned to Co L, 132nd INF April 23, 1918.

**PLAMONDON, Ambrose Grandfather**

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, 7th Infantry.

**REUTER, Lee W Father & Grandfather**

Corporal. Prior service Company L, Illinois National Guard. Company Clerk and founding member of the original Men of L postwar organization.

**RIPLEY, Luther Great Grandfather**

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.

**SCHWARTZ, Arnold Father**

Private . Enlisted 23 April 1917. Company L November, 1917. Transferred to Headquarters Company 132nd INF Feb 1918. No record of service overseas.

**SHANKMAN, Harry Grandfather (3) & Great Grandfather**

(3) Private First Class. Fourth Platoon. Drafted. He suffered

respiratory issues due to being gassed and died at age 55 as a result. Arrived U.S. in 1910 and naturalized 1919.

**SIWEK, Jacob                      Father**

Private. Enlisted Aug 1917; transferred from the 108th Supply Train and assigned Co L 8 December 1917. Sick in Hospital August 1918; returned to U.S.

**Van LERBERGHE, Camiel.    Great Grandfather**

Private. Enlisted 23 February 1918; Assigned Company L on 23 April 1918. Second Platoon. Gassed in battle.

**YOUNG, Samuel T              Great Uncle**

Private. Drafted. Fourth Platoon. Arrived France August 1918 and Joined Company L October 1918.

**2. Our outreach efforts have included** adding our organization's information to the Veteran's Legacy Memorial (VLM): <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/> and [Find-A-Grave](#). We have contacted many American Legion and Veteran of Foreign War posts. While most of Company L soldiers were from the Chicago area, many were from many other states. Where location information is available, we contacted local history and civic organizations. Descendants have indicated they discovered our website from Find-A-Grave (5), Internet searches (8), Ancestry (2), Grave Marker (1), Obituary page (1), County History Facebook page (1), and relatives (6).

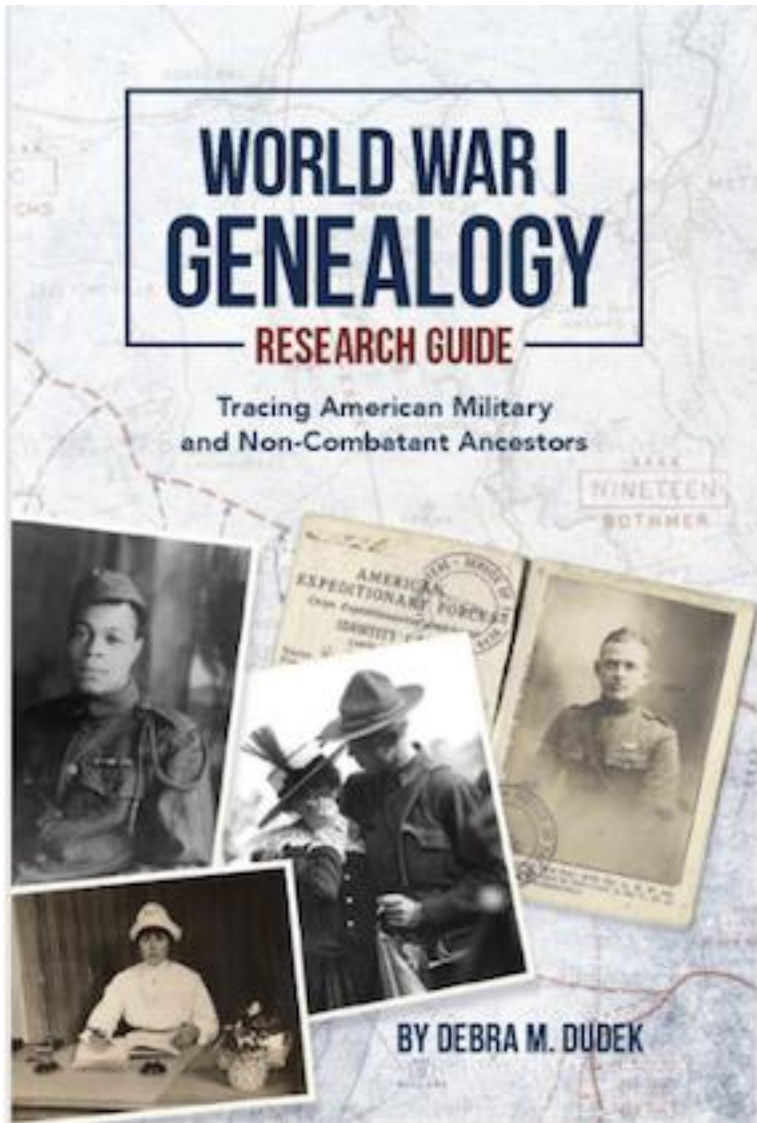
**A 100 page WWI genealogy research guide PDF has been provided by the WWI Doughboy Foundation.**

Follow this link to request your free copy:

<https://doughboy.org/education/wwi-genealogy-research-guide/>

We hope you discover additional information about your Company L ancestor that is not already on his Company L's

biography page. If you do, please let us know so we may add it and preserve their history for future generations.



**3. ARTIFACTS: Wound certificate from Company L descendant.** We have been honored to have received photos of WWI artifacts that are in the collections of descendants of Company L soldiers. Most recently a descendant provided a copy of Private Walter E. LeBeau's wound certificate. Details are on the Artifacts page: <https://company-l.com/artifacts/>



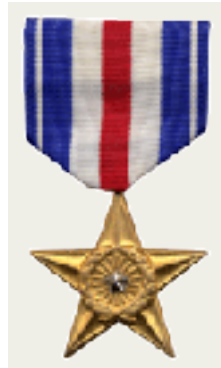


We encourage you to visit the artifacts page for information on this and other artifacts. Artifacts include a combat helmet, campaign hat, propaganda flyer, and a trench periscope . . . and more! Also of interest are photos in our media collection: <https://company-l.com/wwi-photo-collection/> Descendants of PFC Frank C. MARES have shared photos of soldiers in groups; can you can identify your ancestor?

4. Soldier's Story: This issue highlights Sgt. James Reynolds of Company L's 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon who had the special mission assigned to him of mopping up enemy positions. He ran into three machine guns which were still in operation. He captured the crews and brought them in as prisoners. He cleaned out 3 machine gun nests Battle of Bois de Fays. He captured the crews and brought them in as prisoners. He was cited for gallantry in action by General Pershing and General Bell and was eligible for the Silver Star Medal. The Silver Star Medal is the United States' third



highest award exclusively for combat valor. The Silver Star was not established as an individual medal until July 19, 1932. At that time, veterans of World War I who had been cited for “gallantry in action” and awarded the “Citation Star” were, based upon specific criteria, authorized to request issuance of the Silver Star Medal in lieu of the earlier ribbon device.



**5. A *Men of L* Commemorative Pin is a unique way to honor your ancestor.**



Each one-inch pin is made from a zinc alloy with gold plating.

Your ten dollar donation includes shipping and handling to U.S. postal addresses.

<https://company-l.com/commemorative-pin/>

**6. Descendant Membership certificates** make great heirloom gifts for your children, grandchildren, and other descendant relatives.

<https://company-l.com/men-of-l-certificate/>



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