

The Great War and a Pennsylvanian Town

Robert W. Reynolds Penn State York, rpr5156@psu.edu

Journey Into The Past

-The concept of this research is to glance back 100 years into the past of our nation at the year 1918. America had been pulled into the Great War in Europe, and everyday lives of its citizens of small towns, like Ephrata, Pennsylvania, were irrevocably changed.

-A monument erected in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, has twenty-five names embossed on it from the local area in memoriam of WWI soldiers. This research briefly looks into their service to country and ultimate sacrifice.

-Research was conducted on these individuals and Ephrata utilizing Cocalico Valley Historical Society records, local newspaper microfiche of the era, online ancestry documents, and Lee R. Glatfelter library research of era specific documents.

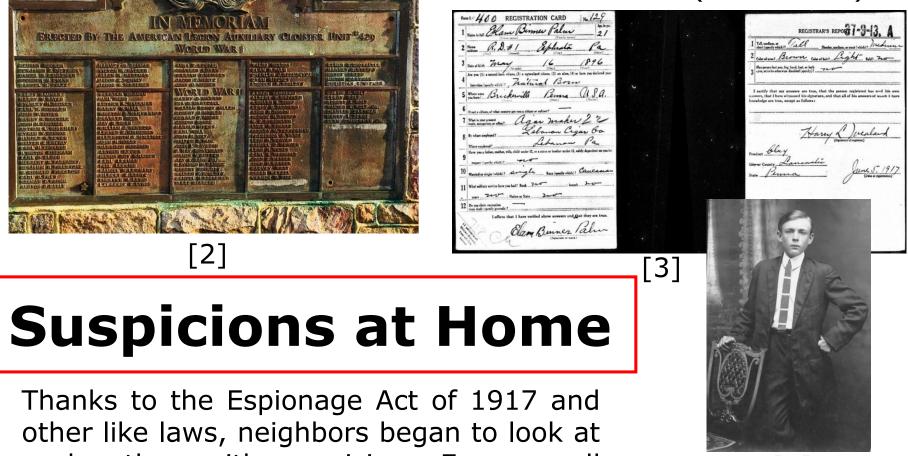
Service to country

Despite the strong pacifist movement in Ephrata's past and religious sentiment, many registered for selective service



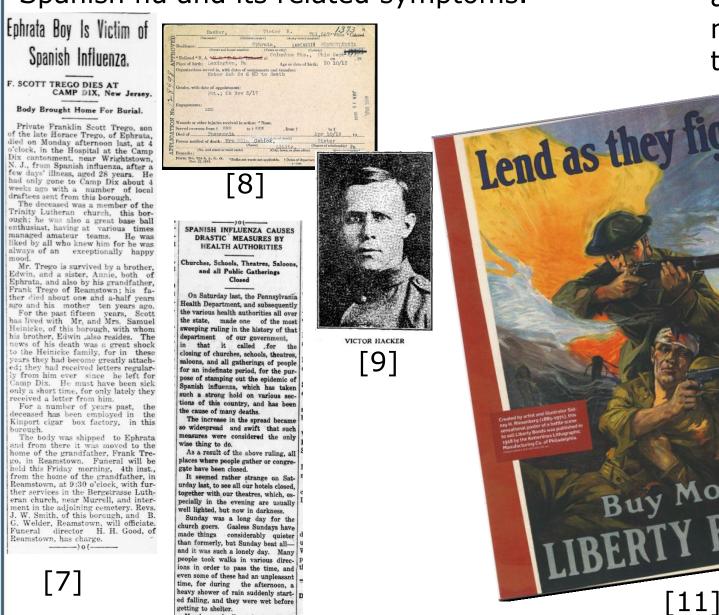
The Cost of War in Lives

Men from the ages of 18 to 45 were required to submit a registration card to the Selective Service. Seen below are examples of the card and the information required. Years after their death in service, family members could file a claim form (seen below) and collect \$200.



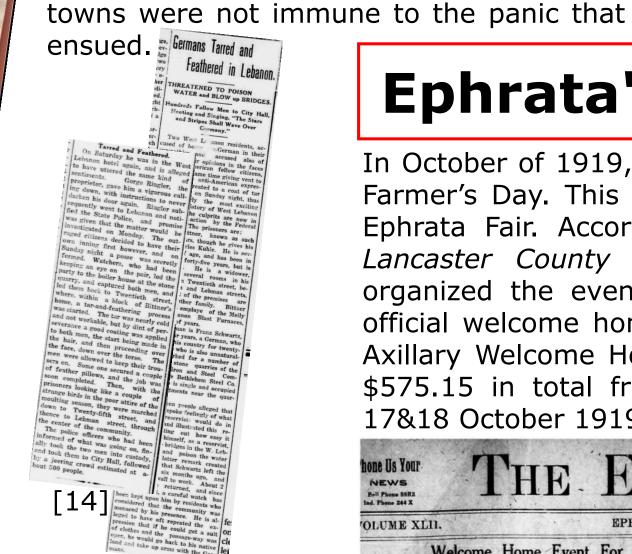
Diseases Claim Many

Nearly half of the names on the Post #429 WWI monument in Ephrata died of disease, such as Spanish flu and its related symptoms.



George Creel and the Committee for Public Information brought support to the war through an extensive publicity campaign involving local newspapers and publishing posters supporting the war.

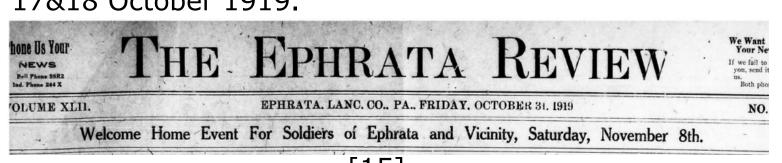
Support of the War



each other with suspicion. Even small

Ephrata's Welcome Home

In October of 1919, Ephrata celebrated what was known as Farmer's Day. This celebration eventually evolved into The Ephrata Fair. According to the September 1993 issue of Lancaster County Magazine, pp 20, local businessmen organized the event for returning soldiers. Money for an official welcome home ceremony was raised by The Ladies Axillary Welcome Home Committee at the fair. They raised \$575.15 in total from booths at The Farmers Day Event 17&18 October 1919.



Women's Service

Women during World War I were also called to service. Many volunteered with organizations while others became nurses to the wounded and sick. Anna Kemper lost her life to illness as a result of treating infected soldiers and is memorialized on the Ephrata monument.

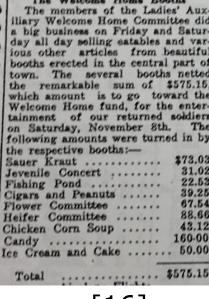
Makes The Supreme Sacrifice Private Charles Reemsnyder Reported Killed.

Family Ties

Ephrata Native, Charles Reemsnyder, gave his life in the service to his Nation Sept. 12, 1918. His cousin's son, also an Ephrata native, is the famed "Easy Company" commander Major Dick Winters of WWII.

[20]

THE GREAT WAR AND A PENNSYLVANIA TOWN



[16]