

What's In the Scrapbook?

1. News about servicemen from throughout Indiana, but primarily from North Central and Northwestern Indiana. Goshen, Elkhart, South Bend, LaPorte, Lagrange, Warsaw, Middlebury, Bristol, and many other towns and cities. A few news items cover soldiers from Southern Michigan as well. Enlistments, draft notifications, experiences in training camps, injury notifications, death notices, and letters to their families.
2. News about men from northern Indiana who didn't wait for the US to enter the war but who instead volunteered to serve with Canadian, British, and French forces, either as combat troops or as ambulance drivers.
3. News about how people on the home front supported the war. Liberty Bond drives, sugar rationing, wheat rationing, peach pit collections (used to make activated charcoal for gas mask filters), meatless days, wheatless days, and heatless days.
4. Expansion of government rules and regulations. Food administrator rulings (no additional sugar for canning without a permit, no additional wheat for harvest crews, no sugar for lemonade sales at church and social fundraisers, no serving of ice cream at afternoon or evening social events), permit needed to drive an automobile on Sunday, farmers had to tell Liberty bond salemen how much land they owned and how much debt they had so their "fair share" could be determined. The Indiana National Guard was called out to stop all automobiles driving on Sunday without a permit, and a farmer who was caught lost his draft exemption.
5. Harsh treatment of conscientious objectors. Individuals had to register for draft and be inducted into service before declaring status. Refusal to work on military base meant imprisonment in Leavenworth. Farming initially considered proof that individual was not a conscientious objector since food supported the war. Federal investigation of over 200 Mennonite leaders and lay persons. Yellow paint splashed on Mennonite church. County employee fired for refusing to buy war bonds because of religious objections.
6. The German Methodist Episcopal church in Goshen disbanded in 1918 because the Indiana state council of defense took action against religious services being held in the German language and it was not advisable for the minister to preach in English.
7. Notices about servicemen who were ill and/or died of the flu or pneumonia, a common complication of the flu. These notices illustrate how devastating the "Spanish Flu" pandemic of 1917 – 1919 was. An Oct. 12th, 1918, clipping reported that 60 soldiers died within 24 hours at Camp Zachary Taylor, KY, compared to 50 the day before. The same clipping reported 878 cases under treatment at Camp Sheridan AL, and 43 deaths within 12 hours at Camp Sherman Ohio.
8. News items about or written by men and women from Northern Indiana who served in the war. In some ways, a home town newspaper served as the "social media" of the day. Instead of, say, posting a letter from a son or daughter on a Facebook page, they would have the letter printed in the newspaper to share it with their friends and neighbors. Examples from this scrapbook include:
 - a. Bertha Wallgren-Cosbey of Goshen earned the rank of Chief Yeoman in the Navy, the highest rank open to Navy women at that time.
 - b. Assignment and training of civilian workers to critical war support jobs, including training at "Camp Purdue."
 - c. Letters home from Goshen and nearby soldiers: "I have been on the front for eight weeks and am still on the go. By the way, we engineers have done great work. Our

regiment has suffered some casualties. I have come mighty close being killed, but have always pulled out O. K. There is a small wound on my stomach, just below my heart, caused by a Boche jab. It only penetrated the muscles of my stomach, so I didn't even require hospital treatment. However, I was very lucky in getting my man as quickly as I did. Had it not been for the collar on my blouse having a heavy canvas lining, I might not be here to write this letter, for the first jab missed my throat and cut through my blouse collar, barely scratching my neck. I am carrying the mark. My stomach wound is about healed." Other letters are less harrowing, but still interesting, such as "I am learning to talk French fine but the only trouble is that the 'Frogs' don't understand it."

- d. Goshen, along with much of the world, celebrated a "false armistice" on November 7th, 1918 with flags, parades, and blaring horns. The news story that triggered this celebration proved to be false.
- e. At least one Goshen soldier, Pvt. Frank G. Teeters, was sent to Russia during the war. Allied troops were originally sent there to safeguard military supplies shipped to Russia before the Revolution, but became entangled in the civil war between "White" Russians and "Red" Russians. Fighting on the Western front ceased on November 11, 1918, but troops in Russia were still fighting and dying until they were withdrawn in 1920.

And much more. Most clippings are from the Goshen Democrat. The "loose materials" sections includes letters, special "Armistice Anniversary" newspapers, and clippings from other newspapers. The formation of the Goshen Post of the American Legion is described in several articles, and there are occasional articles about GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) reunions of Indiana's Civil War veterans. There's even a very brief history of "Old Bullion," the canon on the Elkhart County Courthouse lawn.