Millersville State Normal School and World War I

1914-1919
When War Broke Out Sarah Gilbert was in England

She wrote of her experience in the November 1914 Normal Journal
Sarah Gilbert’s Experience

In part she wrote:

“When Germany did not reply to England’s demand that the neutrality of Belgium should be respected, at the expiration of the time limit, midnight in Berlin, eleven o’clock in London, England too was involved in the war. Crowds of anxious men were massed about the Parliament Buildings and in Trafalgar Square, and a mighty shout went up that sounded like the multiplied and magnified roar of an enraged lion. …

“We saw many soldiers by day and we heard of many more moved quietly at night. One evening we saw an endless procession of supply wagons pass which were said to contain a million rounds of ammunition. …

“The small American Line boat on which I had passage engaged finally sailed on August 12, as scheduled … When taken on board after long waiting, we were not allowed to visit our staterooms till the passenger list had been examined and all Germans put off the boat. …

“The peaceful shores of the Delaware looked more than usually attractive as we passed up the river on the morning of August twenty-third. One of our Millersville men in the United States Customs Service, Mr. S.W. Minnich, ’89, came to the dock and kindly assisted me in getting through the Custom House formalities with expedition. …

“It was an experience to be even on the edge of the terrible war.”
War

Though the United States did not enter the war until 1917, the possibility was ever present in the lives of our students. In 1915 the Rev. John Ellery Tuttle, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, York, delivered the baccalaureate sermon. Part of his closing remarks included the following: “Some day, when this war across the seas is ended, as thank God it will be ended, men will better understand the manhood of men they once despised, and the whole world will come to a new basis. The great guides of the nation will be service and sacrifice. You will be called on to solve these problems, and you will be called, as no other class, to finish your lives so that you may have a part in finishing that half-finished life of the age. You are called on to solve the greater problems of the world civilization. Go forth in this spirit.”
War!

Oh, cruel day, when men first learned
The art of war, and in them burned
A passion for the cause of strife.
To spend their lives in taking life.

Oh, cruel thought—the wild contagion spread,
And down through years and centuries has sped—
To fill men’s hearts with mad desire
To trample a nation’s blood in mine.

But crueler yet that mortal fame
Should seek this vilest and grossest shame
To make a glory, grand, and meet
For memories of men treasured and sweet.

Oh, and the error of such pretense
To exalt a madness so intense,
And place grim murder in high esteem,
When death and destruction reign supreme.

M. T. B.
The Keepers of the Treasure*

Benjamin A. Heydrick

In days like these, when all the world seems burning,
And on our border sounds the note of war,
It rests us, for a moment to be turning
To other scenes, and other thoughts by far.

To a fair region, blest with peace and plenty,
Where now a thousand young folk gathered are,
Drawn thither by a light serenely burning,
The lamp of knowledge, not the torch of war.

They come from pleasant farm or quiet village—
Not like this maelstrom, roaring to the skies—
Their quest is not for gold, and far from pillage,
Their is a higher, nobler enterprise.

Long is the way, and high the steeps of learning,
They are but at the foot of dizzy heights,
Yet see them throng, their eager faces turning
To their stern task, they greet it with delight.

In that long climb which mankind in past ages
Have made from levels of the beast and slime,
From cave-man, tool-man, fire-man—all the stages
Of that slow progress through undated time,

* This poem was read by the author at the meeting of the New York branch of the Millersville Alumni Association, March 18, 1916. The author was head of the English Department at Millersville from September, 1896, to June, 1902. He is now head of the English Department, High School of Commerce, New York.
April 6, 1917 the United States declared war on Germany.
Report on the Red Cross Work at Millersville in the Normal Journal, August 1917

Red Cross Work at Millersville

Mr. Kraybill and Miss Landes

The response to the call for Red Cross work which came with the opening of the war with Germany found the Normal School ready to respond as the gallant boys of '61 and '98 responded to their country's call. A Red Cross organization was soon formed in the village and a branch of this organization began work in the school. Three “First Aid” classes were soon started and excellent work was done, about sixty-four persons completed the course conducted by Doctors Witmer, Boger, and Farmer of Lancaster. Among these First Aid students there were eight or nine members of the Faculty.

The school organization at once began work on Red Cross articles. A committee was appointed to canvass the halls for money and members. The Y. W. C. T. U. of the school started the subscription by giving ten dollars. The students held a sale of ice cream and sandwiches, and in all $68.95 was raised for materials for work, besides thirty-seven membership subscriptions. Work committees were appointed, and recreation time on Monday evening was devoted to working for the Red Cross with many an hour in between. About eight hundred bandages of various kinds were made, fourteen dozen face cloths, a dozen invalid shirts, and a number of knitted articles.

In the Model School the proceeds of the Senior Class’ Lawn Fete were given to the local Red Cross work and a tablet to this effect was placed on the walls of the Model School as a class memorial. A part of the receipts of the entertainment was also given to the cause, so that a total of more than seventy-six dollars was given by the Model School.

During Red Cross week Principal Harbold was made captain of the Millersville district and under his able leadership more than three thousand dollars was raised. Of this amount the Normal School—faculty, students, and working people—gave more than five hundred dollars. The Senior Class made a contribution of one hundred dollars. In addition to this more than a hundred dollars was given early in the year to the War Prisoners’ Fund and the Y. M. C. A. gave twenty-one dollars to Lancaster’s War Hut Fund.
The Faculty minutes for 22 October 1917 reported: “A partial list was made of the Normal Students now in the U.S. Service – 30 were named. It was decided to secure a service flag upon which should be placed a star for each student now in the service.”

The Faculty minutes for 3 December 1917 reported: “The service flag was completed by the ladies and presented to the faculty this evening. It has 72 stars on and 3 additional are to be put on making 75. It was decided to have some public exercises when the flag is formally presented to the school. ... The flag cost $6.08. It will be paid for by the gentlemen of the faculty.”
Faculty That Served

- Charles D. Cooper, former teacher of physical culture
- Ira Kraybill, Superintendent of Model School
- Lawrence J. Motyca, taught Chemistry and Agriculture
- F. Russell Shenton, taught Violin
- Samuel B. Stayer, taught Mathematics
Eventually 187 answered the call to service, 4 of whom died. 13 women answered the call through nursing or work directly connected to the war.
Class of 1879

- Lieutenant J. Howard Neely
- Lieutenant William H. Neely
- Captain Stanley Simpson
- Deems Taylor served as a war correspondent
Bertha Collins Herbert was the Treasurer of the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society
Classes from the 1890s

- Howard Wickert (1890)
- Quintin Arner (1893)
- William B. Noble (1893)
- Edna Albert worked at the Department of the War Risk Bureau in Washington (1895)
- J. Lincoln Hertz (1895)
- Dr. Elsie R. Treichler resumed her medical practice during the war (1897)
Joseph Laurence
Lieutenant C.M. McCoy
Bessie Pontz, a graduate dietitian of Columbia University, went to Camp Dix for service in the fall of 1918
Grace Frantz Balloch was part of the canteen service in France for the YMCA
Minnie A. Bausman performed Red Cross work and Woman’s War Relief Work in Millersville
Philip Frantz
John McGurl
Classes from the early 1900s

- Grover Chandlee (1903)
- G. Reed Alexander (1904)
- H.S. Brinser (1904)
Lieutenant J. Clarence Gable
Robert Heim
Lieutenant Gilbert H. Lyte
Captain Dr. George E. McGinnis
Classes of 1906 and 1907

- Estelle High worked as a nurse (1906)
- H. Earl Long (1906)
- Allen Guthrie (1907)
- Sara E. Habecker served as a Red Cross nurse (1907)
- Fred T. Lau (1907)
Class of 1908

- Roy Bortzfield
- Howard Franklin
- Lewis G. Gatchell
- Jonas Hoover
- Aldus Kegerreis
- E. Mark Stine
Class of 1909

- Dr. John D. Boger
- Lieutenant Robert B.F. Hummer
- Clair Keen
- Herbert Murr
- Joseph F. Noonan
- Wayne R. Parmer
- David Pruist
Class of 1910

- Jonas W. Bucher
- Miles Hummer
- Norman Huntsinger
- D. Harper Quaill
- George S. Stewart
- Duncan Strawbridge
- Harry Strickler
Class of 1911

- J. R. Drumm
- Irvin Hoffer
- Sidney Weller
- Pauline Whitteker worked as a nurse
Class of 1912

- Harold Barr
- Courtland Manifold
- Stanley Richmond
## Class of 1913

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilmot Adams</td>
<td>Roy Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guy K. Bard</td>
<td>Emory Mumma</td>
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<td>G.F. Beckmyer</td>
<td>Clarence Myers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ira S. Brinser</td>
<td>William Powell</td>
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<td>Alvin Chilcoat</td>
<td>Thomas Edward Purcell</td>
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<td>David Ellerman</td>
<td>Harry Ranck</td>
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<td>Howard Fitzgerald</td>
<td>M. Miller Ressler</td>
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<td>William Hall</td>
<td>Samuel W.H. Shuss</td>
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<td>Frank R. Kerlin</td>
<td>Francis Smith</td>
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<td>Lieutenant Russell B. Kohr</td>
<td>Scott Smith</td>
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<td>John J. Merrick</td>
<td>Samuel B. Stayer</td>
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<td>Roy Winters</td>
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Robert Engle
Joseph Y. Gross
Henry Heisey
G. Myron Krall
John P. Krick
Allen Snader Reddig
Class of 1915

Harry Baughey
Paul R. Carl
Sylvester B. Fry
John L. Hain
D. Ralph Hostetter
W. Charles Leib
J. Ross Miller
Herman J. Osman
B. Miles Shertz
### Class of 1916

- Raymond L. Abel
- Walter I. Anderson
- J. Albright Baddort
- Raymond J. Coleman
- Benjamin H. Eshelman
- Everett L. Fasold
- Harold Gehman
- Warren F. Gish
- Leander H. Hoke
- Lieutenant Charles W. Hull
- Ira J. Kreider
- John J. McGinty
- Lieutenant Carl Rees
## Class of 1917

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold A. Batdorf</td>
<td>D. Luke Biemesderfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>William B. Brossman</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>John G. Brubaker (died at Camp Meade, 15 April 1918)†</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Baxter Cramer</td>
<td>G. Nevin Dively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul J. Erb</td>
<td>Walter S. Gladfelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Hess</td>
<td>Frank S. Keith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilbert Leib</td>
<td>James Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>George M. May</td>
<td>Sanders McComsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles A. Miller</td>
<td>William Porter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul G. Shenberger</td>
<td>Allen Shoffstall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.H. Showalter</td>
<td>Lester H. Weikel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar Yingling (died 18 October 1918 in Pittsburgh)†</td>
<td>Arthur Zimmerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Young (severely gassed)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Classes of 1918 and 1919

- Charles Messner (1918)
- Benjamin Morton (1918)
- Bruce Nebinger (1918)
- John Roath (1918)
- Frank Godfrey (1919)
95 men and 2 women who attended Millersville also served. These included Fay Fulton and Nettie Kahler who served as nurses; Officers: Lieutenant Ward V. Evans, Lieutenant Hiram W. Hummer, Captain Allen Kilheffer, Lieutenant Cameron E. Lane, Major Quinton O. Reitzel and Lieutenant George Young; Chaplain Joseph Newgard; Oram Ritchey, who died from his wounds 8 August 1918†; William D. Wade, who died at Verdun 4-6 November 1918†
To the Boys

You, sons of liberty, have gone
  In answer to your country’s call,
You’ve swords of valor buckled on
  Our nation never more shall fall.

You’ll fight for honor, truth and right
  For crushing of the despot’s power
You’ll free the trammled by your might
  In this, the world’s stupendous hour.

You’ll fight that Truth may rise again
  That the Race may see its Error
That man’s ear to God shall hearken
  And the world be free from terror.

So here is a sweet “God Bless You”
’Till nation’s struggles shall cease
Bless you and keep and protect you
’Till the World has perfect peace.

In January 1918, the faculty agreed to collect money to purchase “Smileage Books” for all students in the Army that had left the school within the last 2 or 3 years. A “Smileage Book” was printed for the War Department by the Globe Ticket Company in Philadelphia and were used for admission into live shows. Each book had 20 five cent coupons that were “Good for the duration of the war.”
The USAAC was created by executive order and was the predecessor of the United States Air Force. In the Spring of 1918 a company of USAACs were encamped on the campus. During the 8 April 1918 Faculty meeting, it was agreed to purchased chocolate bars for the members of the USAAC that would be paid for by the faculty.
The November 1918 Normal Journal reported the following on Red Cross Work done at the Normal School:

“Early in the term a call came to the school from the Millersville auxiliary for two thousand gauze sponges, and the Monday evening meetings in Room R were resumed in order to meet the demand. With the exception of a few evenings while the influenza epidemic was at its height, the hour from supper to study has found a busy group in Room R, working on the little pads of gauze so helpful in the healing of wounds of war. While the girls work they often sing – generally the songs the soldiers love, or that the war has brought out.

“There are also a number of knitters among our teachers and students, and spare moments are used in making helmets, socks, and sweaters for the Red Cross to distribute.”

Those Who Stayed Stateside Did Their Part
The Student Training Army Corps comes to Millersville

Reported in the Board of Trustee Minutes on 5 October 1918:

“The Committee [on Household] read the preliminary contract which had been entered into with the Committee on educational and special training of the Students Army Training Corps which was approved.”
The Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) was created in the Fall of 1918, upon approval of the Faculty. The SATC was administered by the Committee on Education and Special Training of the War Department in Washington. According to the official brochure: “The primary purpose of the Students Army Training Corps is to utilize the executive and teaching personnel and the physical equipment of the educational institutions to assist in the training of our new armies.”
Lieutenant Frank Godfrey

Lieutenant Frank Godfrey was born in Stanton, Illinois, February 14, 1893. While he was a student at the University of Illinois he went into the First Officers’ Training Camp at Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

At the end of three months he was assigned, first to Camp Grant, and then to a camp at Ann Arbor, Mich. As an officer in a United States Army detachment he was sent to a camp in Iowa. From there he came to Millersville and while here he was promoted from Second to First Lieutenant. With him came Mrs. Godfrey and together they occupied apartments in Lincoln Hall. As commanding officer of our S. A. T. C. he won the highest esteem of all the boys, as was shown by their presenting him with a valuable set of silver upon their disbanding. Mrs. Godfrey, thinking her husband would soon be discharged, left for her home in Illinois during the Christmas season. However, Lieutenant Godfrey was not discharged until early in the spring, but upon returning from a trip to Illinois one day in February he told us of the goodness of St. Valentine, in that that good Saint had given him first choice of all his gifts and that on February 15, 1919, his gift came in the form of a little Frank Godfrey, Jr.

May this little fellow follow the footsteps of his father, who is held in the highest esteem by all who know him, and as a class we wish that he will always remember us as do the boys who were under his charge while in Millersville.
In August 1918, a report was given in the Normal Journal by the Food Conservation Committee on how the school planned to follow the guidelines being put forth by the National Food Administration, headed by Herbert Hoover. Those at home were asked to sacrifice their food needs so that those serving overseas could be well provided for. This included using less wheat and sugar and substituting corn and potatoes where possible.
SATC Disbanded at the end of the war

It officially disbanded 14 December 1918 at Millersville but was fondly remembered in the 1919 Touchstone.
The Normal Journal from February 1919 had the following report written by Amanda Landes:

“With the opening of the fall term the Red Cross Auxiliary in the school resumed its work and its weekly meetings. The meetings were interrupted by the influenza epidemic, but were resumed as soon as possible when the ban on such gatherings was lifted. We were working on an order for two thousand gauze sponges when the armistice was signed and the order came for all work on hospital dressings to cease. We had completed over fifteen hundred of these pathetic little pads of mercy and were very happy to think the need for them would soon be over. We had also completed one hundred and eighteen bandages.

“Our knitting was continued with many more workers than last year, until the order came in January for us to “stack needles.” We produced one pair of wristlets, four helmets, twenty-one sweaters, and fifty-four pair of socks. We think that a pretty good output for a group of busy students and teachers.

“The Red Cross Membership Roll Call was marked by appearance of twenty four-minute speakers, who spoke in chapel, prayer meeting, Model School, public school, and some of the village churches. The drive resulted in a membership of ninety-four in the school. Of course, a number of the students had their membership paid at home by their parents, but the Roll Call in the Faculty and their families was one hundred percent.”
Red Cross Report in the 1919 Touchstone

Yes, indeed, we worked for the Red Cross at the Normal School! We knit, and made surgical dressings, and squares for quilts, and participated in the Red Cross Christmas Roll Call. On Monday evenings after supper. Room R was the meeting place for a crowd of busy workers. The long tables were carefully washed, and then the girls in aprons and head-dresses with deft fingers, under direction of teachers, made gauze dressings and sponges. Often the room rang with the voices of the girls singing war songs as they worked. We were in the midst of making up an order for two thousand gauze sponges when the armistice was signed, and the work was stopped. The pieces of knitting already started were finished, and the knitters “stacked needles.” We had knitted up to that time fifty-six pairs of socks, four helmets, and twenty-two sweaters.

In November the school marched, as a whole, in the big Peace Parade in Lancaster, and one of the features was a section made up of our girls in Red Cross uniform.

Then came the membership drive, and from the Public Speaking class a Four Minute Squad was recruited, consisting of Misses Allegra Baker, Lottie Cooper, Ellen Gault, Elizabeth Long, Emily Marley, Ruth Mueller and Kathryn Myers. They spoke in the Normal School, the Model School, the public schools and a number of churches. The school was thoroughly canvassed for members, and one hundred per cent. of the faculty, many of the students, and most of the household department donned the membership button.

In March came the call for clothing for the refugees of the war-torn countries of Europe, and we took up our needles again to knit for the women and children of France and Belgium, hoping that next winter the work of our fingers may add to the comfort of many of those desolate and impoverished people.

God bless the Red Cross, and a blessing upon all who deny themselves luxury or ease to help in the work.
The Students’ Army Training Corps was an organization formed by the government in the summer of 1918, in order that young men might take up the work which they so anxiously craved, and at the same time continue their education. Any boy between the ages of 18 and 21 who could present thirteen units of college preparatory work could enroll at any college or normal school which offered to take up the work.

In the summer Dr. Harbold took up the matter with the Department at Washington, in order that a unit might be established at Millersville. No definite arrangements could be made. When Dr. Gordinier became principal, he further investigated the matter, but without any better results at first. Finally, after many fruitless efforts, a unit was promised on a guarantee on a minimum of fifty men.

By October 15, it was started and by October 30 there were seventy-five men in the S.A.T.C. at Millersville. Each student was required to take up at least four studies, and he was permitted to take more if he could carry them. The mornings and a few hours of the afternoon were given to school work. Drill took place in the afternoon.

These men, besides their daily routine, entered into the life of the school in more ways than one. Both societies found them eager to join, and each claimed quite a large number of them. Their voices in the choir added much to the quality of the music, and their singing was greatly appreciated by all. The athletics were also greatly improved by them.

On December 6, they were tendered an entertainment and dance at the Y.M.C.A. building in Lancaster. On December 14 they were officially disbanded. The sound of reveille and taps and the drills are missed by every one at school, and especially are the boys missed by some of the girls with whom they became acquainted during their brief stay.

The programs were attended to by Mr. Dilworth and they were so successfully arranged that the boys who were Juniors last year could enter the Senior class and finish the work this year. Thus we have quite a number of boys in our midst, whereas in the beginning of the year we had scarcely any.

While their short stay broke up much of the systematic school life in the fall term and added confusion and trouble in arrangement in programs on the part of both teachers and pupils, yet we know that there were also good results. As all army life is wont to do, the principle of obedience was deeper instilled into the hearts of the boys. For certain offenses digging in the lake was required, which the boys enjoyed(?) very much; for other offenses, guard duty. On the part of both teachers and students, these boys added life and energy to the school.

In as busy a life as these boys led, it is at least desirous, if not necessary, to have a lieutenant whom they could admire and respect. Lieutenant Godfrey proved to be a man of this nature. Just before the boys left they tendered him a beautiful surprise in the form of a gift, which was a silver tea set. This showed a mutual interest and appreciation between Lieutenant and soldiers which everyone here could not help but notice.

We miss the boys in our midst. Although many of them have left Millersville, their memories will still live one.
Remembering Those Who Died

In Memoriam

John Brubaker, '17
Apr. 13, '18, Camp Meade

Oram Ritchey
Aug. 8-11, '18, France

Wm. Wade
Nov. 4-6, '18, France

Edgar Yingling, '17
Oct. 18, '18, Pittsburgh

How Sleep the Brave

How sleep the brave who sink to rest
By all their country's wishes blest!
When Spring with dewy fingers cold
Returns to deck their hallowed mold.
She there shall dress a sweeter sod
Than Fancy's feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands their knoll is rung,
By forms unseen their dirge is sung:
There Homer comes, a pilgrim gray
To bless the turf that wraps their clay.
And Freedom shall a while repair
To dwell a weeping hermit there.

William Collins.
Like a lightning bolt from a clear blue sky
   Came the awful tidings of war one day,
And the sound of the Old Worlds’ battlecry
   Startled the New, as it peaceful lay.
The youth of mankind knew naught of the dread
   And terror of battle, for ne’er had they seen
Save in pictures, fields strewn with the gruesome dead,
   And fire-scorched ruins where homesteads had been.
But soon they were gathered from shop and field,
   They were called by a spirit as old as the earth,
And their muscle and sinew were pitted to yield
   A victory o’er sin and oppression at birth.
In the home of the brave we were sheltered, and prayed
   To the great God above, for the gift of our land;
Protected by Liberty, by Freedom made
   A refuge for all, guided there by His hand.
Weary months passed along and hellish war reigned
   In the Old World, the land of our forefathers bold,
And suddenly down from our eyes fell the veil,
   And we saw that they battled for what we uphold.
For Democracy true, and man’s right as God’s own,
For those principles which we had tended and blessed
In the heart of America; then to atone,
We called to our youth, the earth’s finest and best.
They answered that call, from all corners they came,
And were sent in full glory of manhood’s blest power
To instill in sad hearts a new courage – the same
As was brought to this land in our first darkened hour.
Then backward they fled, the vast hordes of the wicked,
Pursued by the boys who had come o’er the sea,
Until clean was the earth once again, and the story
Of “Peace and Good Will” could, with through, spoken be.
And though many are gone and will ne’er return to us,
They lie in lone graves where the war god held sway
They’ve played their great part in the struggle victorious
And have led us again to a safe, peaceful way.
O Peace! dove of soft hue, with brooding eyes tender,
Keep us e’er in the shadow of thy soft, sweet wings,
Make the lives they have given be but a surrender
Of something earth lowly, for Heaven’s greater things.