

# The Mount Airy News.

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## LETTERS OF INTEREST FROM OUR SOLDIERS

Letter from Lt. Vance Haynes, describing something of the battle of St. Mihiel, written Sept. 15 to his father, Mr. C. H. Haynes, of Mount Airy.

Dear Papa:  
If only I could be with you all tonight. I am sure I have many interesting things to tell and show you. Two nights ago I was planning to take a night off and go to the city, as I was about to leave the officer in charge said "Haynes don't leave, we will need you tonight or early in the morning." He was right. Our offensive had just begun and they wanted all the pilots and machines possible. It is about two hundred and fifty miles to the front. The clouds were dark and low, also it was stormy and rainy in places. My mechanic had my "Spad" ready and after a careful study of my map, I undertook this journey, which was altogether unfamiliar to me. When my voyage was about half completed, I landed for gas and oil, after which I resumed my journey and shortly I was nearing the lines. My luck was to run into a heavy fog and rain, immediately I began climbing until I was above clouds, rain and all, here I had my difficulties just the same. I had my map but what good is a map when you can't see the ground. The first clear spot I saw I dived below the clouds, only to find myself over the trenches. I wouldn't have minded so badly had I plenty of gas and if I had known where I was. However, later I found my landing field with only one hole in my wing.

There are many of us here and we are giving the Boches more than their share in the air. Very well if you are in formation over the lines, but when caught over alone it is best to look for support from your formation. When night falls most of our work is over, especially in the chase game, having nothing else to do, I decided to take a trip to the trenches. Our fellows as you know are advancing very rapidly, so I went to the hospital and told one of the ambulance drivers that I wanted to go with him. It was then about 7:00 P. M. He said "Lieut. it's a long ride and we won't return until morning, but, if you wish, you certainly can go." You bet I went, for I have always wanted to see the scrap from the ground and the inside. It was a long dark ride, dodging shell holes without a ray of light. We reached the first aid station right in the gun fire. Light from the big guns reminded one very much of flashes of lightning. In these wounded stations, you could see slight wounds, serious and fatal ones. Here let me say I have never seen such high spirited men in my life. The morale of our troops is superb. Not a grumble, not a complaint. Every one eager to do his part and more to the last. Papa it is just this spirit that makes one realize that we are right, also that we can't lose.

In the midst of it all, I came to a little low hut and when I peeped in a ladies voice said "come in." When I entered two Y. M. C. A. men and women were giving out hot chocolate, bread, coffee and tobacco to our soldiers. On entering, I asked "how are you all." The girl answered, "well thanks, what part of the South are you from?" After telling her I asked how she knew I was from the South. "How are you all," she said was a southern expression. These girls are very brave and are standing right with the fighting men, enduring hardships and are serving the cause as much as any one.

I have collected many souvenirs on this trip. Have a Boch gas mask, a trench watch I found in one of their dugouts, a gun and other relics of the American drive. I will send some soon with full details how and when I found them.

I was with the men until 2:00 o'clock next morning, when we loaded our ambulance and returned to the hospital behind the lines. My ears rang for sometime afterwards may not be used to the noise of the big guns at so close a range. As you know, everyone but those actually engaged in the trenches, is forbidden to enter the trench zone, but when they saw I was an aviator, they more than welcomed my aid and visit. All think lots of us air men, and I am always answering questions about my experience. For instance, when I left for the front I carried some morning papers. Made the 250 miles in less than two hours. However, was flying with the wind. They could hardly believe when I gave them a morning paper in fact before they thought it was published.

I am enclosing a Boch coin taken while I was in the trenches, will send more relics later, some from dead Boch, some from prisoners.

Write often. With love,  
Your son,  
VANCE.

Letter from Clyde Shelton to his father, W. M. Shelton, Mount Airy. Somewhere in France, Sept. 10, 1918.

Dear Father:  
I will write you a few lines to let you know I am still living. Well I have been up the line again to see Jerry and was lucky enough to get well I think. The boys are doing better I think. I don't think I ever saw a better bunch of boys for fight-

ing in my life, they are doing their bit.

I would like to be there to help you eat all those good things you will have this winter, but I guess I will have to feed with Uncle Sam this winter if we don't finish with Jerry before then. Well I haven't very much news for you this time, for I have written about all I can think of this time.

I have written Inog so I guess she will give you all the news. We are having some rough weather here for the past few days. There is some beautiful land here, just as level and nice, and they raise more small grain here than any place I have seen in the States. I will finish after I eat.

Well I have finished my supper so I will finish my letter. I have written about all I can think for this time. I started telling you about what pretty farms they have here and the best cattle and horses and the largest. I never saw such stock until I came over here. Well you must not worry about me, for I don't think the war can go on very much longer the U. S. boys are making it to hot for the Jerrys.

Letter from Owen Redwine to his mother, Mrs. D. C. Redwine, of Park Mountain, N. C.

Somewhere in France.  
Dear Mother:  
For some time I have been very busy. I have been in the front lines and would like to tell you about the shells, gas, and other excitement, but I can't do too much of that, but will say I haven't got even a blister on me from being there. I will not be able to mail you another letter possibly for two weeks, however if I can I will write you again Tuesday. This is Saturday. Tell all the kids to write some time, it is impossible to write for several days, however things are as handy and convenient here as one can expect. I would like to get an American paper to read the war dope. Well in a short time it will all be over any way, then we will all be surprised to know some of the things that will be revealed. I received your letters yesterday, August 16, that was written in Columbia, S. C., so you can see how slow mail travels.

Letter from Vestal Taylor, now in France to his mother, Mrs. A. J. Taylor, of Ararat, N. C.

Somewhere in France  
Sept. 22, 1918.  
Dear Mother:  
We arrived here safely, it really seems good to sleep in bed without being rocked to sleep. Tho I was disappointed in not getting to see a submarine, however there were several lurking around, they did not appear to be where I was looking.

I am well and enjoying life fine, was not seasick but very little; "fed the fish" only once. I enjoyed the trip most of the time, we had but very little rough sea.

To my surprise I met two Surry boys this morning, Lonnie Wilmoth and Dixon Snow. I find that there are several boys from Surry here, also some from Winston-Salem, Arthur Falk, a Hatt boy, and Roy Edman from Pilot Mountain are here. I have not seen them yet, but they are coming over this afternoon.

There are several of us boys that left the 29 of July together yet, Snow, Mann, Shackelford and Shelton are with me, so you see we don't get lone some.

It certainly is amusing to see the French as their customs are so different from our own. It makes me laugh to see two horses hitched, one in front of the other pulling a cart. I had seen pictures of it but didn't think I would ever get to see such.

There are lots of other interesting things but I can't write them all this time.

Write me real soon for I haven't heard from home in a month.

Letter from Edgar Welch to his father Mr. G. C. Welch of Mt. Airy. Somewhere in France, Sunday, Sept. 1, 1918.

Dear Mama and Papa:  
I have been expecting a letter from you for the last week, but so far none has come, but we have been on the move for the last week and I don't guess our mail has had time to catch up with us yet.

We are near the front, but not in real action yet. I can't see much difference in the front and any other place in France. Of course we can hear the big guns, but you know we don't have any dealings with them.

Now Mother don't be the least bit uneasy about me, because I'm at the front, for I am not in any more danger here than I was back, for you know I have a good place to work and am not in any danger at all.

I don't think it will be very long before we will all be back together. I guess you read in the papers about the war and you all know just about as much about it as we do.

We are having beautiful weather altho the nights are cool. Just about like they are in Mount Airy.

Now Mother if you don't hear from me as often as you think you ought to let me know and I will write more often. Of course my letters will be

short for you know that I don't know any news to write, but so long as you can hear from me and know that I am well I guess you are satisfied.

Well I will be having another birthday before very long, and when I think about it, I'm getting pretty old, too. Don't the years fly.

Mother, you all write me real often now cause I'm always so glad to hear from you. This leaves me well and I truly hope it will find you all well. Supper is ready so I guess I will stop. With oceans of love to everyone of you. I am, etc.

### Support the President.

New York World.  
Twenty years ago, when there was a republican administration in power, and the United States was at war, the republican leaders had positive and definite opinions as to the evil that would necessarily result from a republican defeat in the congressional elections and the choice of a democratic congress.

Theodore Roosevelt, then a candidate for governor of New York, expressed the issue in this fashion:  
"Remember that whether you will or will not, your vote this year will be viewed by the nations of Europe from one standpoint only. They will draw no fine distinctions. A refusal to sustain the president this year will, in their eyes, be read as a refusal to sustain the war and to sustain the efforts of our peace commission to secure the fruits of war."

Benjamin Harrison, former president of the United States, was even more emphatic:

"If the word goes forth that the people of the United States are standing solidly behind the president, the task of the peace commissioners will be easy, but if there is a break in the ranks—if the democrats score a telling victory, if democratic congressmen, senators, and governors, are elected—Spain will see in it a gleam of hope; she will take fresh hope and a renewal of hostilities, more war, may be necessary to secure to us what we have already won."

If these arguments were valid in 1898, they must be a thousand times valid in 1918 when the fate of the world rests upon the United States and its government. Neither Mr. Harrison nor Mr. Roosevelt in 1898 raised any question as to the patriotism of a democratic congress. That was not an issue. It is not an issue now. What they were concerned about was the effect in Europe of a repudiation at the polls of the McKinley administration—for that is what the election of a democratic congress in 1898 would have meant, just as the election of a republican congress in 1918 will be interpreted as a repudiation of the Wilson administration.

### PRESIDENT GRAHAM DIES FROM PNEUMONIA

One of the State's Finest Characters and Youngest Presidents of University.

Chapel Hill, Oct. 25.—Edward Kilder Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, prominent leader in state, southern and national educational affairs, died at his home here tonight at 8:15 with pneumonia, following influenza. His death, although not unexpected by those who were acquainted with the serious nature of his illness overwhelms the university community with grief and will bring sadness to thousands of former students and friends throughout the state and nation. The funeral will be held here Monday at 2 o'clock.

In the death of President Graham the university loses a leader who in the brief period during which he had been at its head had brought it into intimate touch with the people in a steadily increasing service and at the same time had focused the attention of the nation upon it as an institution keenly sensitive to the educational needs of the present day.

Since America's entry into the war Graham's qualities as a director in all fields of educational endeavor had been constantly sought and at the time of his death he was serving as director of the students' army training corps of the south Atlantic states, as trustee of the American University union in Europe, as a member of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A. and as a member of the educational committee of the council of national defense.

Within the university circle President Graham was the intimate, inspiring friend of every member of the faculty and student body. His personality was of the uplifting, stimulating sort that gave new ideals to men and as a result his death will be felt as a deeply personal spiritual loss to thousands of university men.

### MRS. BICKETT IS BACK FROM BATTLE FRONTS.

Much of Her Time in France Was Spent in St. Mihiel Battle Sector.

Raleigh, Oct. 26.—Mrs. Thomas W. Bickett, who has been since late August away studying Y. M. C. A. conditions for the government, returned from France today and instead of going immediately into the government work for which she had qualified, she plunged into the influenza nursing in which the women are serving as 10 to one man.

Mrs. Bickett spent from September 4 to October 16 in France. She had the joy of occupying the territory which but lately had been abandoned by the kaiser on his grand reverse march to Paris. A great deal of her time has been in the St. Mihiel sector, where the Americans fought so well.

She returned with a party in which was General Ferguson, he of raising-the-Maine fame. The general declared that these troops, picked from the good states of North and South Carolina in large part with Tennessee and others liberally represented are the best men in the service. In the terrific fighting the casualties have been amazingly small, large as they are. Mrs. Bickett seeing many of the wounded boys whose spirit thrilled her.

"The feeling throughout the camps over there is that the war is almost over," Mrs. Bickett said, "so nearly over that many of our troops do not hope to have the chance to give Germany some of the punishment sustained by our allies. In France everybody is confident that the war has been won, but there is so much of sorrow throughout France that you could hardly say the French are overjoyed. They have suffered so much that they are not even in position to be jubilant.

"Their spirit is wonderful of course and they are willing to fight on until Germany is brought to her knees. But even that would not make France joyful. The French soldiers are just as sure of our early victory as are the Americans, at least, as well as I could keep up with them in talking with them I gathered that.

"Both French and American boys tell of the atrocities just as we have read them. I heard one of the men tell how several of his comrades went out to bring back to the lines a wounded soldier. When they found him he was tied down with a hand behind him. As they released him a hand grenade burst, killing them all. I heard another doctor tell how a wounded German who had been nursed back to health was leaving the hospital and asked to see the man in charge. Failing to see him, as the German said, to thank him, he called for the nurse, took her by the hand, twisted her arm and broke it. The soldiers say the stories of brutality have not been exaggerated.

"The devastation attending the victorious march of the Germans has been correctly told. I went over many of the villages and some of these are towns say of the size of Louisburg, 2,000 or more people. In these villages often not a house is left standing. And the Germans who blew up the buildings would take the materials and put them on the system of roads built behind the lines.

"The boys from our state, a great many of them, are right in the heart of the fighting and they were where I could not see them. We were close enough to hear the guns and to experience the sensation of screaming shells. The presence of war was brought near to us, too, by the large number of German prisoners who had been taken and were at that time being employed on the roads of the allies. The allies treat the wounded German prisoners as well as they do our own. Of course we saw thousands of both kinds."

Mrs. Bickett came back and went over under escort of fighting boats. They saw only one submarine on the trip, and it hadn't a chance to do anything but to drive the passengers once to their belts and to get ready for attack. Mrs. Bickett came back at the call of the government, whose work is interrupted by the epidemic.

The state law and many local ordinances forbid crowding theaters and public halls and require that aisles must be kept clear. Furthermore, that no more tickets must be sold than there are seats. Safety First and accident prevention should impel authorities in all towns to rigidly enforce these laws and ordinances.

### AMERICA'S STRENGTH IN AIR IS GETTING RESULTS

How a Bombing Squadron is Started on a Raid Into Enemy Territory.

With American Aviators in France Oct. 23.—The start of an American bombing squadron on a raid into German territory is a spectacle to stir the enthusiasm of an American and inspire him with an appreciation of America's growing strength in the air.

The squadron already had been over the German lines twice that day with fair success and the aviators lounged in shady spots, jibing one another or idly commenting upon the evolutions of practice aeroplanes overhead, when the correspondent of the Associated Press visited the flying field.

Out of a concealed and camouflaged office out there stepped suddenly the fight leader, Lieutenant Gunderlach, who already has been named in the official America communique for progress in the air.

The aviators sprang to their feet and gathered around their leader for the final instructions. He had not been at all satisfied with the two performances of the day. They had shown a tendency to straggle overmuch and had not kept sufficiently "bunched."

Hot criticism poured from his lips and the youngsters were silent in embarrassment. The leader did not spare them, but iterated and reiterated that "the formation is the thing the squadron is the thing," and finally "God help a straggler."

Then, the ordeal over, the aviators went silently to their quarters for that great, heavy, Arctic clothing. In the turn of a hand they were back on the field swathing and swaddling themselves to the eyes, tucking chocolate into their pockets (for they get hungry up in the air,) or breaking open a fresh package of chewing gum, which helps to alleviate nervousness and has a steady-ing effect.

The last machine gun had been tested, the last propeller had been twirled until it revolved at lightning speed. The commander gave an almost imperceptible wave of his hand.

Airplane number one, bearing the flight leader, threw off its restraining mechanics and swept in a big curve across the field with its weight of bombs to a position from which it could rise at the head of the group.

One by one the others followed suit, taking up position just behind and to the right and left of the lead until they were spread out like a huge covey of ungainly but marvelously colored birds. As they waited they tossed out rockets which, despite the brilliant sunlight, flared a blinding red and white. The test was complete. They were ready for the start.

Again the commander gave a signal. The noise of the motors rose to deafening proportions. The great covey began to move, gained speed as they sped northward across the field, then one after another "took off" the ground. All the clumsiness of the "taxi-ing" was gone. The machines had become graceful birds in fact.

Swiftly they rose, while still within sight, to a great height, looking for all the world like a flock of geese with the leader at the neck of the formation. Later on when about to cross the line, they would draw closer together into a compact tightly-knit group, but always following, whether to left or right, the two little white pennants streaming out from the leader's machine.

### Wilson's Latest Note Is Praised in Japan.

Tokio, Friday Oct. 25.—Unqualified administration of Pres. Wilson's attitude toward Germany is expressed in official circles. The reply is praised highly as deserving the most profound attention of all the belligerent nations fighting a common enemy, who is a deliberate transgressor of the cause of peace, justice and humanity.

President Wilson's note is considered to be fully comprehensive. His refusal to treat with the Prussian rulers of Germany, according to opinion here, is so explicitly and unmistakably expressed as to arouse admiration worthy of the leading champion of international justice, at the same time inspiring the confidence of all who stand for right and justice.

### BREVITY OF GERMANY'S REPLY IS SIGNIFICANT.

Some London Papers Think That Present German Posture Really Means Peace.

London, Oct. 28.—"The brevity of the reply to President Wilson's last note is a measure of its significance," says the Daily News. "President Wilson's note put an end to further argument. It is due to Dr. Solf, the German foreign secretary, to say that his note is precisely what the occasion demanded."

"If peace, as the new posture of Germany warrants us in believing is coming within reach," the newspaper continues, "there must be no delay in taking steps to end hostilities. There is no justification in fighting on for what can be had for the asking. The terms for an armistice must be rigorous but must not be needlessly so."

The Express enumerating the latest occurrences in Germany, including the reply to the President, exclaims: "The signs portend enough, pointing to a speedy end of the nightmare and indicating an acceptance of the terms soon to be dictated."

The Chronicle says: "The German reply is, in effect, an unqualified acceptance. Nothing remains but for the associated powers to announce without delay the program of naval and military measures which the armistice necessitates. It is unlikely that Germany will object to the details after agreeing to the principle. If her situation were not desperate she would never have gone so far as she has. If any confirmation were needed as to the significance of Dr. Solf's reply, it would be found in General Ludendorff's resignation."

The Daily Mail hopes and believes the allies "will not do anything so foolish as to immediately disclose the terms upon which they are willing to grant an armistice. The paper says the German reply does not meet President Wilson's questions and, after summarizing the most recent happenings in Germany declares, in effect nothing is altered there.

"The sword is still in the hands of autocracy" the paper says. "It will be time enough for Marshal Foch to state the terms when that sword has been broken or surrendered."

"The promptitude of the reply may be accepted as convincing evidence at least of Germany's desire and need of an armistice," says the Post. "Dr. Solf's assurance regarding far-reaching changes are not very satisfying, however. Nothing has happened as yet to suggest that anything fundamental has been changed in Germany except the expectation of victory. \* \* \* The first condition of any armistice is that Germany shall be unable to break it or refuse the conditions the allies dictate. If the German government means business it will send plenipotentiaries to Marshal Foch but from present indications Germany's rulers are intent only on gaining time."

The Times says: "There is no new viewpoint in the German reply except that it seeks rather crudely to impose upon President Wilson and the allies the initiation of proposals for an armistice. It is for the Germans to approach the naval and military commanders with their formal petition for a cessation of war."

### General Run on Banks in The German Empire.

Amsterdam, Oct. 25.—Public anxiety over the solvency of the empire apparently is becoming acute in Germany. The hoarding of money has become so rampant as to cause great inconvenience. There has been a general run on banks to close accounts, and the theft of hidden funds is of daily occurrence.

With its depleted by the war and grip, the German treasury is turning out new currency at top speed but, according to The Lokal Anzeiger, of Berlin, it melts like snow when the sun shines and the customary backflow into the state coffers has ceased completely. The reichsbank in the third quarter of the year issued the unprecedented amount of four billion marks in new money, or nearly twice the amount issued in the same period last year.

The government has been compelled to make war loan coupons legal tender. Fears are growing that if the official appears to refrain from hoarding are not heeded the whole economic structure of Germany may collapse.