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*Ann's Choice Residents and Guests are invited to attend Veterans Group Programs and Events- (Meetings are open to ALL with no charge)*

## NEXT MEETING: February 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm, Ann's Choice PAC

The February meeting of the Ann's Choice Veterans Group will be at 7:30 pm in the PAC on Tuesday, February 19, 2019.



Noah Lewis will present a program on the invaluable contributions of African Americans during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Lewis portrays a Continental Army soldier named Edward "Ned" Hector, an African-American teamster /

artilleryman who fought in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown.

### Volunteer and Service Opportunities

There is a continuing need for help with the program to drive veterans to the Horsham VA Center. Volunteers do not have to be veterans themselves in order to assist veterans getting to their appointments. Call Judy Wright at 215-674-2328 for information about the program or to schedule a ride.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the Deployable Flags Program to line our streets with flags. For more information or to volunteer call Jerry Wright at 215-674-2328.

### Ann's Choice Veterans Group Website

Save this link as a favorite to access previous issues of the newsletter:  
<https://www.anns-choice-resident-activity.org/all-other-sections/service-groups/veterans-group/>

## Veterans Group Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2019 in the PAC

The March program will be about the upcoming Bucks County Tour of Honor for Vietnam Era veterans. More info will be in the next issue of *The Bugle Call*.

### New Members

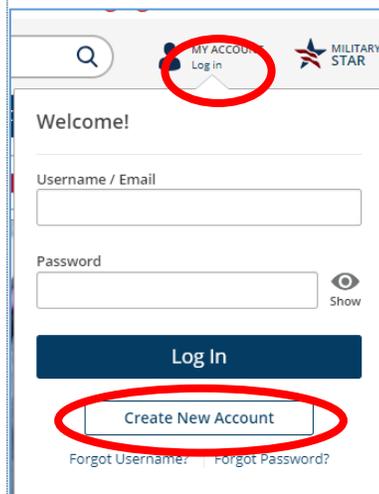
A big welcome to Robert Edelson (US Army, 1940 – 1946, CONUS) and Cyrus Suter (US Marines, 1950 – 1953, CONUS) who recently joined the Ann's Choice Veterans Group.

### ShopMyExchange.com for US Military Veterans

Two years ago, the Department of Defense announced that limited online military exchange shopping privileges would be open to all honorably discharged veterans of the all United States Armed Forces and Reserves.

While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families.

<https://www.shopmyexchange.com/>



Click the url above to launch the website in your browser. Then click the "Login" icon as shown, and then click "Create New Account" to begin the process.

Follow the steps and after you are approved so you can check out the deals!

## Correspondence from a WWI Army Training Camp in Alabama

[Editor's note: This article is adapted from an article by Jeff Stage, Editorial Associate, and originally published in the February 2018 issue of the *American Philatelist*, monthly journal of the American Philatelic Society (America's Stamp Club), in Bellefonte, PA. This article was inspired by its connection to Valentine's Day.]

A bundle of envelopes in the headquarters of the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte revealed an interesting World War I love story. The covers [as they are called by collectors] were mailed from a military training camp in Alabama, and all are addressed to the same person in East

Liverpool, Ohio – Miss Florence Haynes. The covers were all post-marked between



August 26, 1917 and March 12, 1918. All were cancelled at Montgomery, Alabama or Camp Sheridan, Alabama.

Camp Sheridan, named for Civil War Union cavalry General Phil Sheridan, was established after the United States entered World War I in April 1917. It was one of 16 U.S. Army National Guard mobilization and training camps established to train and integrate National Guard units for service in a U.S. Army division. (All National Guard units were activated.)

Camp Sheridan was built between July and November 1917. Buildings included 313 mess halls, 314 bathhouses and latrines, 40 warehouses, and 4,000 wooden-floored tents occupying 4,000 acres just northeast of downtown Montgomery. It was designed to hold 41,000 troops and quickly became home as the training ground for about 20,000 Ohio National Guardsmen who arrived between August and October 1917.

All contain letters from a soldier in his late 20s who called himself "Dick." Essentially, it's a packet of love letters from a soldier, a member of the Ohio National Guard who was called up to train for active duty. The unit mostly filled what

became the 135th Machine Gun Battalion, Company D, of the 37th Infantry Division – the Buckeye Division, which had an insignia of a red circle within a white border – and was sent overseas in June 1918. Our letter-writer, Dick, was part of that division's 135th Machine Gun Battalion.

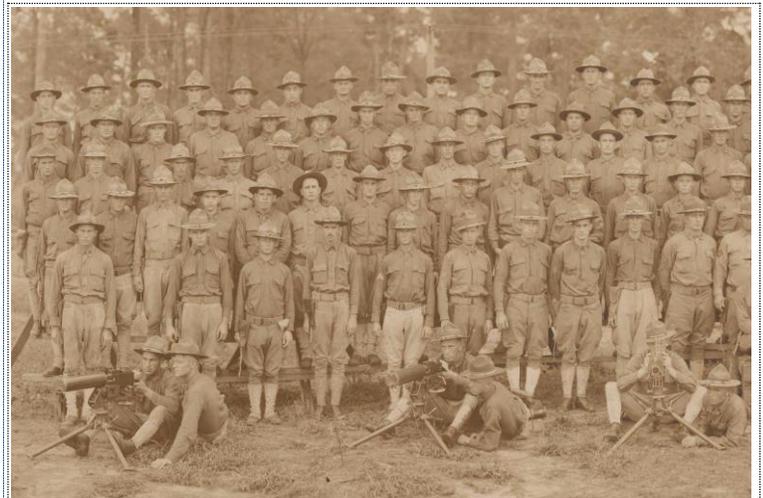


The letters truly are of the sort that are heavy on the writer's emotions of love and lonesomeness for his sweetheart – he always signs "I am forever yours" – and offers sparse facts about Montgomery or camp life. But there are a few snippets.

The first letter, postmarked August 26, 1917, talks about a relatively uneventful train trip to the camp. Dick, clearly among the first arrivals, offers some sense of the new camp and its surroundings:

"...Can't tell you anything about the city or county here as I have not seen any of it yet and are camped in the center of a large cotton field and it looks nice to see the white cotton on the stalks. The Alabama troops are camped here at present but they are all going to be moved out of here the first of the week and then the whole camp will be occupied by Ohio troops."

Most letters were signed with scribbled initials, this being the only one in which "Dick" can be fully deciphered along with his only mention of being a member of the 135th Machine Gun Battalion.

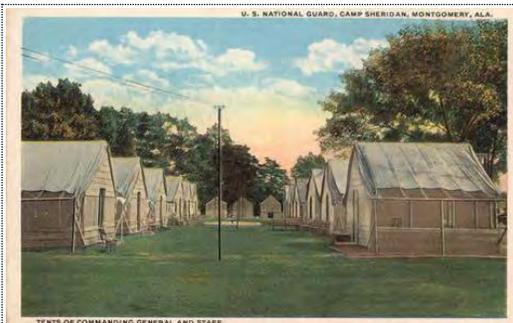


26<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion, 37<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division – Camp Sheridan, Alabama  
Photo from *the Alabama Department of Archives and History*.

[continued on page 3](#)

## Correspondence, continued from page 2

Dick notes in a letter dated October 4 that "today is my birthday and I must celebrate in some way as today is one of the big times in my life. I am twenty-nine years young today," but goes on to say, "the news here is scarce and what there is uninteresting to you as it is all military and you would not understand what I was trying to tell you if I were to write about them." Clearly, a woman would not be able to understand soldiers' training, Dick implies. [sic]



Postcard depicting the "Tents of Commanding General and Staff. U.S. National Guard, Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Ala." Photo from the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History.

A letter postmarked Nov. 7, 1917 again refers to his training. "...I have just come in from school and am tired as can be. The days are getting quite strenuous and a person is ready for bed when they say the day is finished. They call it intensive training and I guess it is as if you can stand it you should be able to stand most anything."

The final letter is postmarked March 12, 1918 and finally references the war raging in Europe.

"...The fellow that said he was going to France is talking thru his hat as no one knows anything about how long we are going to be here or when we are going if we do move. Some of these men when they get home start rumors just to make themselves popular for the time being."

Just before his amorous signoff, he does add an "au revoir." Perhaps our soldier knew a bit more than he was allowed to say.

Most of the division moved two months later to Camp Lee, Virginia before embarking a month later from New Jersey to France.

[The original article includes at this point a detailed investigation of the 1-cent, 2-cent and 3-cent stamps used on the envelopes, and of the different cancellations and markings on the envelopes.]

The Ohio soldiers, now making up the 37th Infantry Division, including Dick's machine gun

battalion, arrived in June in France, where they trained with French soldiers.

The division took part in the battle of Ypres-Lys to free Belgium and Northern France in August before joining the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, also known as the Battle of the Argonne Forest. This was the largest battle of the war and lasted from September 26 to November 11, 1918, when the Armistice was signed. More than 1.2 million Americans were in the battle with more than 26,000 killed and nearly 96,000 wounded.

During action, 794 soldiers from the 37th Infantry Division were killed; another 4,593 were wounded. A report about the Machine Gun battalion on the East Liverpool, Ohio, historical society website notes that at least five members of the group were killed, none of them named Dick or Richard. The division returned to the United States in March 1919.

"The return of Co. D to East Liverpool on April 3, 1919 was wildly celebrated," reports the historical website.

In a somewhat strange side note, the 37th U.S. Infantry Division was later praised as one of the top five American divisions by the German general staff, according to the "Order of Battle" section of the New River Notes (a historical and genealogical source) website, and had the honor of escorting the king of Belgium back into his country after years of German control.

But most importantly, what happened to our two lovers, Dick and Florence? Did Dick make it home? Did he get back together with Florence? Without knowing his last name, it's unknown.

Jeff Stage could find very few records for Florence Haynes, but did find an online obituary in which she is likely mentioned. An obituary from a Youngstown, Ohio news site dated November 17, 2016 is for a man named Haynes who died at age 86. The obituary says he was survived by a brother with the last name of Haynes and predeceased by two brothers named Haynes, along with two sisters, including Florence Haynes.

Readers can draw their own conclusions, though it is unlikely that a woman from that era would have kept her maiden name if she had married.

[Editor's comments: Doing the math says that the brother was born in 1930. If his sister is indeed the Florence Haynes of the article, then he was a much, much younger brother!]

## Salem Poor (1747 – 1802)

Salem Poor (1747–1802) was an African-American slave who purchased his freedom, became a soldier, and rose to fame as a war hero during the American Revolutionary War.

### Early life

Poor was born in 1747 into slavery on a farm in Andover, Massachusetts owned by John Poor and his son John Poor Jr. He bought his freedom on July 10, 1769 from John Poor Jr. for £27, a year's salary for an average working man at the time. Before joining the Revolutionary Army in 1775, Poor lived in Andover with his wife, Nancy, a free African American woman, and their son.

### Military career



US postage stamp issued in 1975.

In May 1775, Poor enlisted in the militia, serving under Captain Benjamin Ames in Colonel James Frye's regiment, opposing the

British troops occupying besieged Boston. He is best remembered today for his actions during the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, where he is credited with mortally wounding British Lieutenant Colonel James Abercrombie.

Poor's valor and gallantry at the Battle of Bunker Hill prompted 14 officers, including Colonel William Prescott, to cite him for heroism and petition the General Court of Massachusetts with the following statement:

The Reward due to so great and Distinguished a Character. The Subscribers beg leave to Report to your Honorable. House (Which We do in justice to the Character of so Brave a man) that under Our Own observation, we declare that A Negro Man Called Salem Poor of Col. Fryes Regiment, Capt. Ames. Company in the late Battle of Charleston, behaved like an Experienced Officer, as Well as an Excellent Soldier, to Set forth Particulars of his Conduct would be Tedious, We Would Only beg leave to say in the Person of this Negro Centers a Brave & gallant Soldier. (*"Salem Poor, an original patriot!"*, *African American Registry*. Retrieved January 29, 2013.)

On July 10, 1775, George Washington ended the recruitment of African Americans. On November 12, he issued orders prohibiting all black men from serving in the Continental Army. (Despite the ban on recruitment, those who had already been serving for some time were allowed to stay until this point.) On hearing of this, Lord Dunmore, who at the time was Governor of Virginia, offered freedom to all slaves willing to serve with the British. Washington, sensing the disaster that would almost surely result, immediately changed his position, at once ordering all recruiters to enlist any black men who wanted to fight.

Poor immediately re-enlisted in the militia and fought with the Patriot forces until March 20, 1780, when he was apparently discharged. He is known to have retreated to the winter camp at Valley Forge and fought in the Battle of White Plains.

### Personal life

In August 1771, Poor married Nancy Parker, "a half breed Indian servant in the family of Capt. James Parker", according to papers in the Charlotte Helen Abbot Collection of the Andover Historical Society; they had a son, Jonas, who was baptized on September 29, 1776. In 1780, he married his second wife, Mary Twing, a free African American. The couple moved to Providence; however, they were ordered to leave that city, presumably because they could not support themselves. In 1785, he placed an advertisement in the Boston Gazette to disown Mary's debts and "forewarn all Persons from trusting MARY, the Wife of the Subscriber". Poor then married Sarah Stevens, a white woman, in 1787, and in 1793 he spent several weeks in the Boston Almshouse. He was briefly jailed for "breach of peace" in 1799, married for the fourth and final time in 1801, and died in 1802. Details of his life after the Revolutionary War were not widely known until research by genealogist David Lambert, a descendant of Poor's former owners; an article about this research appeared in The Boston Globe in 2007.

### Honors

In 1975, Poor was honored with a stamp in the "Contributors to the Cause" series commemorating the United States Bicentennial. Poor Street in Andover MA was named after him.

From an article on Wikipedia.