

Harrison Cummins McHenry

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NOTABLE DEATHS

CAPTAIN HARRISON CUMMINS MCHENRY was born in Des Moines, Iowa, May 21, 1890, and died on the Baccarat sector of the battle line in France, March 5, 1918. He attended the McHenry grade school, the West Des Moines High School, and the Law Department of Drake University, being graduated from the latter in 1914. For the next two years he engaged in the practice of law in Des Moines with his father's firm, McHenry, De Ford & McHenry. In 1912, while still in high school, he enlisted in the National Guard, becoming a member of the sanitary detachment under Dr. Wilbur Conkling, but in 1913 was transferred to Company B, Third Iowa Infantry, under Captain W. A. Graham. He was made a corporal, then a sergeant, and was second lieutenant in Mexican border service in 1916. In February, 1917, the captain and first lieutenant being detailed to other duties, Lieutenant McHenry was in command on their home-coming trip. He was promoted to captain of the company in March, 1917. He had laid off his uniform but about a month when he was called into recruiting service. He left Iowa September 9, 1917, with the One hundred and sixty-eighth United States Infantry, formerly the Third Iowa, and sailed October 4. The vessel returned for repairs, but finally sailed November 14 and landed at Liverpool December 1. They reached France December 12 and by February 21, 1918, were in the front line trenches. This regiment was part of the Forty-second Division which was the first division of the American Army to take over a sector. Company B, which Captain McHenry commanded, was occupying a portion of this sector at No. 6 (Malgrejean Farm) when, on the morning of March 5, at about 4:30 o'clock the Germans first opened up a raid on American lines. Captain McHenry had just left his post of command and gone to another position to order a rocket sent up as a signal for a more general barrage, when a German shell made a direct hit where he stood and killed him instantly. He was the first officer among Iowa troops to be killed in action. The body was brought home, reaching Des Moines November 4, 1921. It lay in state in the rotunda of the State Capitol Saturday afternoon and Sunday forenoon, and Sunday afternoon public funeral services were held in front of the capitol in the presence of many thousands, and burial was made in the Gold Star plot of the Woodland Cemetery. He was an able and gallant young officer and popular with his command.

ABIGAIL GARDNER SHARP was born in Seneca County, New York, in 1843, and died at the Victoria Sanitarium, Colfax, Iowa, January 21, 1921. Burial was at Arnolds Park. Her father was Rowland Gardner. She was taken when only a child by her parents to Steuben County, New York. In 1853 the family migrated to Ohio, and in 1854 they located at Shell Rock, Iowa. In 1855 they removed to Clear Lake, and on July 16, 1856, they located on the shore of West Okoboji

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