



Remembering those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice

These Louisa County Veterans gave their lives to protect the freedoms we enjoy today. May all of our Veterans be remembered this Memorial Day

CIVIL WAR:

George B. Livingston, Columbus City; Theodore Pallett, Port Louisa; Joshua B. Sullivan, Grandview; William Butler, Fredonia; Alexander E. McConnell, Morning Sun; Alexander Britt, Fredonia; Levi M. Roberts, Columbus City; Franklin A. Royer, Columbus City; Joseph Neal, Columbus City; George Easton, Columbus City; William W. Edmondson, Columbus City; Leslie Gambell, Columbus City; Cicero H. Shephard, Columbus City; Justis L. Stauber, Columbus City; John J. Ellis, Fredonia; John A. Matthews, Columbus City; Aaron M. Ashford, Columbus City; Wesley Smice, Fredonia; James M. Duncan, Columbus City; Thomas Littleton, William Littleton, George Littleton, Noah Littleton, Kendall Littleton, John Littleton, Toolesboro.

WORLD WAR I:

William Bazil, Harold Cochran, Leo Cochran, Franklin Gaylord Darrow, Friend L. Glidden, Allen Wright Hanft, Milton Hardman, Fred Hays, Fred Lieberknecht, Joseph McAvoy, James O'Toole, Robert W. Salladay, Leland Scott, Carl Stone, Garland Teel, Luther Vollmer, Robert Weber, Clifford White.

WORLD WAR II:

John J. Arihood, Phillip W. Bailey, Arthur Bass, Dean Bisher, Robert Alan Blair, Donald T. Blake, Roy E. Bond, Robert Keith Buffington, David W. Cassabaum, John W. Cassabaum, Hugh Carroll Davis, Ted Davis, Royce Dickerson Jr., Thomas Eland, Hershel L. Finke, Ben Finley, Forrest R. French, Kenneth Gerling, Eugene R. Gookin, Raymond Gunnells, Joe Harris, Harold F. Harter, Sam Herr, Lawrence Herrick, Everette C. Holliday, John Isom, Lee Jones, Maurice J. Kerr Jr., James M. Mickey, James Mitchell, Thomas

Alan Moore, Jakie P. Moran, Rex Richard Orris, Lawrence L. Owen, Roy E. Pendell, George W. Person, Merle E. Scott, Kenneth Shellabarger, Vernon Shellabarger, Robert Smith, Walter Smoger, Wayne Sutton, John William Swan, Glenn Teel, John N. Thompson, Theodore R. Tucker, Charles Baker Venard, Perry D. Venard, Philip M. Walsh, Frank Richard Williams, William Robert Williams, Claude (Billy) Wolford, Walter Wyss.

WWII MIA:

Glen Lewis Alan, Cyril Cline, John Tedford Duncan, Charles Thomas Odle, John Henry Springer, Roy S. Swan, John Walker, Glen L. Winder

KOREAN WAR:

Raymond Chapman, Gerald Faber, Fred Goss, Merlin McKeever, Wayne Nicewanner, Lawrence H. Stigge, Don Austin

VIETNAM WAR-KIA OR MIA:

James D. Johnson, Craig B. Wolford, Brian D. McConahay, David L. Siverly, Burton E. Small, Dean A. Jackson, Max Lukenbach, Manzelle Alan Ford, Bruce Hankins.

DESERT STORM:

Eloy Angel Rodriguez Jr.

IRAQ WAR:

Bruce A. Smith, Trace Dossett

Briefly -

Columbus City Memorial Day services

Memorial Day Services in Columbus City will be at 10:00 a.m. with the Allen Wright Hanft American Legion Post 100 Chaplain Rev. James Braden as the speaker. Memorial Day Services will follow at 11:00 a.m. in Conesville with American Legion Post 100 participating.

Sons of Legion to place grave markers

The Sons of the American Legion will be placing grave markers at the Columbus City Cemetery on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

CCIC to place flags at Columbus City Cemetery

On Saturday, May 26, C.C.I.C. will be putting up the flags at Columbus City Cemetery at 7 a.m. They will be taking them down on Wednesday, May 30th at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Mike Lowe at 319-212-1358.

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold two public hearings and a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, May 23, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Lions Club Breakfast

The Columbus Junction Lions Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 26th and 27th, from 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Senior Center. Tickets can be purchased in advance from Lions members for \$5 - Adults and \$3 - Children under 12 or at the door for \$6 - Adults and \$4 - Children. All-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage and drinks. Come one, come all! Bikers welcome!

United Methodist Women to meet

The United Methodist Women will meet in the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church for a 12:30 p.m. salad luncheon on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. Devotions - Marilyn Thomas. Guest speaker - Shirley Samuels, District Shepherdess. Hostesses - Marlys Austin, Carla Harris and Florence Harbison. Everyone bring a salad to share.

Colonial Manor Remembrance

You are invited to attend a Remembrance Service today, Wednesday, May 23rd, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in the Colonial Manor Activity Room. We will be remembering: Roberta Bell, Jack Best, Marge Davis, Barb Hauenstein, Marge Heindel, Pat Howell, Maggie Meeker, Frank Mincer, Charles Nelson, Madge Orr, Lee Still and Tommy Thomas. The service will be officiated by Pastor Al Coffin.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 9, 2012. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1962) class and the 25-year (1987) class. Put the date on your calendar now! Tickets are available at both Columbus Junction Banks.

Vacancy on Columbus City Council

The City of Columbus City will be accepting names to fill a vacancy for City Council Member. If you are interested in serving as a council member, please submit your name to City of Columbus City, 2703 Columbus Street, Columbus City, IA 52737 by June 1, 2012.

Vacancy on Fredonia City Council

The City of Fredonia will be accepting names to fill a vacancy for City Council Member. If you are interested please submit your name to the City of Fredonia at PO Box 169, Columbus Junction by June 1st.

Columbus Pool now open

The Columbus Community Pool is open on for the summer and will close Sunday, August 12, 2012. The admission rates will remain the same as last year. Arrangements can be made for swimming lessons by calling the swimming pool office (319-728-2233). For more information, contact Sue O'Donnell at the high school.

This week at the Farmers' Market

The Farmer's Market will be at the American Legion parking lot every Friday until October 12. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, and plants. Some vendors accept Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition, WIC and Senior Program coupons. Buy fresh and local and taste the difference. For more information, including how to participate as a vendor contact Mallory at 319-728-7971.

Louisa County Fair dates

The Louisa County Fair dates for 2012 are a July 22 kick off and the fair is July 23-28.

Head Start taking applications

Head Start in Louisa County is looking for children to attend classes starting in September. Head Start not only works with children to get them ready for Kindergarten but also works closely with families to help them reach their personal goals. Children must be at least 3 years old by September 15, 2012. Head Start is a free preschool program. Transportation is provided. Applications will be taken in Wapello on June 5 and 19 at the Methodist Church and in Columbus Junction on June 12 and 26 at the Community Action office from 9-3. To schedule and appointment please call Jeanette Brockert at 319-752-5692 ext. 107.

Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be doing blood checks at the Columbus Junction Senior Center today, **Wednesday, May 23, 2012** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come by and have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol checked... We hope to see you there!

Winfield Lions Memorial Day Fly in Breakfast

The Winfield Lions Club will be serving the 34th annual Memorial Day Fly-In breakfast hosted by Sheldon and Sandy Kongable on their farm two miles northeast of Winfield at 1038 Quaker Ave. on Monday, May 28th. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a breakfast of biscuits with sausage gravy, egg casserole, fruit, juice, rolls, donuts, milk and coffee, all for a free-will donation. Serving begins at 7:00 a.m. and goes until 11:00 a.m. You do not have to be a pilot to come and enjoy the good food, fun and fellowship. Everyone is invited to attend. The proceeds go to support local projects sponsored by the Winfield Lions Club.

A Memorial Letter to the Citizens of Letts, Iowa

Dear Lettsvillians,
Did you know that for a little over two decades (1920-1944) you had a hero living among your midst? I certainly did not know it, and this man was with me my whole life—at least his "presence" was. His name was Lawrence Herrick. He grew up and was educated in Letts, went to Iowa Wesleyan College, entered the military, was trained as a pilot, and left for World War II where he died over France.

You see, I "knew" this man because he was my mother's first husband. Of course, I never met him, and neither did my two older brothers, Lan and Richard Herrick, even though he was their father. We just knew of Lawrence's life and death—but we didn't know very much. It took a trip to France this month for us to discover that in a small village there, Lawrence Herrick was a hero and is still remembered.

Jeanette Helmick (who later became my mother) went to Iowa Wesleyan College where she met Lawrence Herrick. He was called to war; she graduated, and accepted a teaching position as a Home Economics teacher in Letts. At the semester, she resigned, and went to Pensacola, Florida, where Lawrence had been in flight training. They were married and she stayed there with him until he was to go overseas.

Upon his leaving Florida, she came back to Columbus Junction to live with her parents, James D. and Anna Helmick, and during this time Larry Lanning Herrick was born. For some reason, Lawrence was still on the east coast and had not been sent overseas. In a few months she went to see him and took their baby, Lan, for his father to see him. Lan slept in a drawer during the visit. Upon Lawrence's leave to the war, Jeanette came home, and little did

she know she would never see him again. She also came home from the east coast pregnant again, and Richard James Herrick was born on September 1, 1944. She did not know that three weeks earlier Lawrence had been killed. Lawrence was killed on August 5, 1944; Richard was born on September 1, 1944; and Jeanette was first told Lawrence was "missing in action", and it was in January of 1945 that she learned he was gone.

This is the background to a story that unfolds like a movie. Let us fast-forward to May 6th of this year when Rich Herrick and his two sons and Mary Masonholder Wilson (Rich's half sister), plus a cousin of Rich's—Bruce Lewis and his wife and two children of Colorado—traveled to a little village in France named Reugny. It is located a few miles from Tours, and this is where Lawrence Herrick died in a plane crash after bombing a train and railroad bringing in German supplies.

Our family had no clue of the esteem these villagers held Lawrence until we got there. My brother, Richard Herrick, started to research the death of his father a year ago. He found out a man, Daniel Sellier of this small French village, had been researching the death of Lawrence. Daniel had heard the stories of Lawrence since he was a child and decided to look into them more. However my brother learned of Daniel Sellier by chance after getting connected with Daniel by a sixteen-year-old Internet blogger who linked them together. (This part of the story is a movie in itself; I'll tell more about this later.)

Daniel Sellier, after emailing several times to Richard Herrick in Columbus Junction, invited all family members of Lawrence's to come to Reugny for a celebration that their

town and all French towns have on May 8th, much like our Memorial Day celebration. To our surprise, we were included in part of their ceremony and the real surprise was a memorial plaque, which was unveiled in the town square to pay "Homage to Major Lawrence Herrick." It was such a moving moment, and their band played the "Star Spangled Banner", that I stood at attention with tears in my eyes.

Lawrence had been labeled a hero by these townspeople. I have to say I was very

proud and also happy for my brothers that they were able to find so much information on his death and the days following the crash. (I shall write more details on this at another time.)

However, we all asked ourselves, "What is a hero?" Yes, I think Lawrence deserved that label after talking with the French people who witnessed this horrific event. However, how many other soldiers are also heroes? Doing their job, fighting for others and fighting for freedom—and these soldiers never get recognized nor do their families ever know of the heroic deeds of their loved one. Our family knows that we were very fortunate to learn this information and have such a wonderful moment at this ceremony. We can't thank Daniel Sellier and the people of Reugny enough for all they have done.

As Memorial Day approaches this next Monday, we say to all sol-



Jeanette and Lawrence Herrick 1/2/42

diery be you man or woman: "Thank you for protecting us, thank you for our freedom, and thank you for all the sacrifices that you and your families have made for us. In our hearts, you are all heroes."

To the people of Letts and the surrounding community area: The people of Reugny are wonderful and would gladly welcome you to see the plaque dedicated to Lawrence Herrick in the town square. They can show you the crash site, parts of his plane that they have saved, and much more. Again, as time and space permits, I shall write more of this memorable and emotional trip.

I find it very fitting that on the morning after the ceremony, a poppy was drooping over the memorial plaque for Lawrence. A few hours later the poppy was straight at attention in the morning sunshine. The poppy is a symbol of our lost veterans and perhaps Lawrence is a symbol for all those who have fought in the wars. Thank you to each and every veteran who, in my eyes, is a hero.

Sincerely, Mary Masonholder Wilson

Littleton Brothers to be remembered at Wapello VFW Memorial Day Program

Speaker - State Representative Tom Sands

State Representative Tom Sands will be the guest speaker for the VFW Memorial Day Ceremony at the Wapello Cemetery at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 28. During his remarks, Rep. Sands will present the Louisa County Historical Society with a "Littleton Brothers Recognition Certificate" from the Iowa House of Rep-

resentatives. James and Martha Littleton came to Louisa County from the east coast in the 1840's. Their family included six sons and three daughters. The six Littleton brothers all volunteered to serve in the Union army in the Civil War. At the time of their enlistment, five of the brothers were living in the Toolesboro, Iowa community and one was living nearby in New Boston, Illinois.

Five of the Littleton brother lost their lives while serving in the army and one died of disease shortly after leaving service—a disease that hit him while serving.

The remarkable story of the

Littleton brothers and their family was lost in the shadows of history until recently. It is a story of heroism and sacrifice that reminds us of all the men and women who have given their lives in the service of our country.

The VFW Memorial Day program will get underway at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, May 28 with a short service on the Highway 99 Iowa River Bridge. The Wapello Cemetery program will follow at 9 a.m. Following that ceremony, the Wapello VFW will serve a free-will donation breakfast in the Briggs Center in Wapello starting at 10 a.m.

See pages 5-8 for the Gazette's 125th Anniversary Feature. And don't forget to stop by on Thursday from 7:30 -? for our Anniversary Party. We will be in the Gazette Office and also the former Simply Soothing Building next door.

