

Way We Were  
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World War I Centennial: Part III

Thank you for joining us for the third of a four-part series detailing Parkites' roles in World War I.

Seven local men paid the ultimate price in the war. The first Summit County man killed in action was Marine Pvt Frank Peterson, late June 1918 at Chateau-Thierry; he died holding his position after taking out numerous enemy with a light machine gun. Frank enlisted on April 11, 1917 and was among the first to go to France in July 1917. In July 1919, the local American Legion Post was named after him. David Ivie died in June also, in Siberia with the American Expeditionary Force intervening in the Russian Civil War. James Murphy, Joshua Bates, and Henry T. Smith were all killed on October 4. Several others died not in combat but from health-related issues. Elwood Garvin, the first Parkite to die in service, died of pneumonia at Camp Kearney, California, October 1917. Ray Peterson, who had been injured overseas, died in a Salt Lake military hospital after surgery for appendicitis, March 1919. Tony Volus also died in service but details are unknown.

While the Summit County men in uniform paid the highest price, much was demanded of Parkites who remained behind. Citizens were asked to loan money to the Government, donate to charitable organizations supporting the troops, and conserve resources that could be used in the war effort instead of at home.

One of the most basic acts to support the Summit County soldiers was to bid them a patriotic farewell. Unfortunately, the first contingent, in early September 1918, left with no fanfare. A letter from Alex McDonald in *The Record* says "outside of the local board, Winnie Jennings was the only one at the Park City depot to bid us goodbye. Mayor Ridge didn't even shake hands with us [and he even gave us the wrong tickets]. I hope the next bunch... will get along better than we did." After that, for every departing contingent, a farewell ball was held and crowds of Parkites came to the depot to say goodbye and to distribute among the soldiers "tobacco fund" money.

Governor Bamberger wrote in a letter dated April 11, 1917 that it was necessary for all Americans to dedicate their lives, energies and means to the war effort. A State Council of Defense was created and a sub-council in each county "to provide an opportunity for every man, woman and child in the state to perform important service for the nation during this war". One responsibility of the Council was to support fundraising efforts on behalf of the War Savings Stamps, Liberty Loans, YMCA, Soldiers' Library Fund, Soldiers' Welfare Fund, and local and national Red Cross.

In recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War I, next Wednesday's *Way We Were* article will continue, and conclude, the series highlighting the war-time sacrifices and experiences of Park City and Summit County residents. See you here next week!

*The Park City Historical Society & Museum is celebrating 30 years of preserving, protecting, and promoting Park City's history and heritage.*



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Credit: Park City Historical Society & Museum

Caption: Crowd at the train depot to bid farewell to departing soldiers drafted in 1918 for World War I.