

HERKIMER COUNTY
IN
THE WORLD WAR

Herkimer County
in
THE WORLD WAR
1916 to 1918

Compiled by
Hon. Franklin W. Cristman, Chairman
of
Herkimer County Home Defense Committee

Press of THE JOURNAL & COURIER CO.
Little Falls, N. Y.
1927

DEDICATION

TO the patriotic citizens and soldiers of Herkimer County who gave of their time, substance and lives, that democracies might be safeguarded and freedom preserved, this volume is dedicated

Part I

*Activities of the Home
Defense Committee*



Frank A. Schmidt.
- VICE CHAIRMAN -



James G. Burney



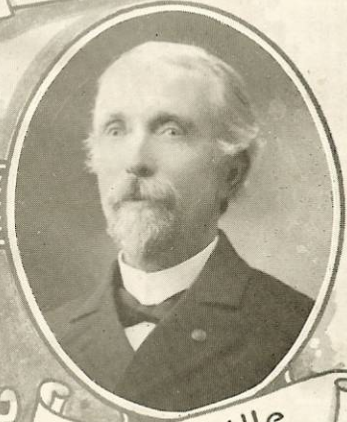
Roger E. Burgess
- TREASURER -



Hon. Theodore Douglas
Robinson



Hon. F.W. Cristman
- CHAIRMAN -



Frank Faville



Nelson R. Gilbert



Lillian C. Waterbury
- SECRETARY -
July 3 1918 to 1919



Mrs. Rosa A. Thomas



HERKIMER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1917

The Herkimer County Home Defense Committee

The Herkimer County Home Defense Committee was organized, pursuant to Chapter 103, Laws of 1917, to take a Military Census and Inventory of the Resources of the State of New York, available for use in the event of war. The committee was appointed upon the request of Governor Charles S. Whitman, by Hon. Charles Bell, County Judge; Hon. Abram Zoller, Mayor of the City of Little Falls, and by Park M. Barden, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, during the early part of April, 1917. The committee appointed consisted of the following members: Hon. Franklin W. Cristman, of Herkimer, N. Y., chairman; Frank A. Schmidt, of Ilion, N. Y., vice-chairman; Chaillie W. Evans, of Newport, N. Y., secretary; Roger E. Burgess, of Frankfort, N. Y., treasurer. The other members of the committee were, Hon. Theodore Douglas Robinson, Mohawk, N. Y.; James G. Burney, Little Falls, N. Y., and Captain Frank Faville, Dolgeville, N. Y.

The first meeting of the committee was held April 15, 1917, at the office of the chairman, at Herkimer, N. Y. One of the first duties of the committee was to select a director for the military census and inventory. Mr. N. E. Ransom of Little Falls, N. Y., was selected as such director. He opened headquarters at Herkimer, N. Y., and proceeded to make a military census of the County of Herkimer, which started June 11, 1917, and was completed the 25th of June, 1917. The total registration in the county between the ages of 16 and 50, male and female, was as follows: Male, 19,831; female, 16,800, making a total of 36,631. The field work of this census was taken entirely by volunteers. The compiling of the report of this census was completed July 24, 1917, and sent to Albany and Washington, and one report was filed in the office of the Clerk of Herkimer County.

Mr. Charles A. Taylor, of Herkimer, N. Y., head of the Farm Bureau, was appointed chairman of Food Production and Conservation.

Mr. Arthur T. Smith, of Herkimer, N. Y., was elected chairman of Finance.

Mr. Harlan P. Hamlin, of Ilion, N. Y., was elected chairman of Defense and Security, with Mr. Chaillie W. Evans as vice-chairman.

Mr. Charles M. Rich, of Frankfort, N. Y., was elected chairman of Transportation.

Mr. Edward M. Brown, of Herkimer, N. Y., was elected chairman of Publicity and Information.

HERKIMER COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

Hon. Abram Zoller, of Little Falls, N. Y., was elected chairman of Aliens.

Mrs. Clara Coe Loomis, of Mohawk, N. Y., was elected chairman of Co-operative Agencies.

Mrs. C. S. Thompson, of Herkimer, N. Y., was elected chairman of Health and Hospitals.

Rev. Frank O. Hokerk, of Middleville, N. Y., was elected chairman of Instructions.

Mr. A. B. Russell, of Ilion, N. Y., was elected chairman of Industrial.

Captain Guy R. Beardslee, of East Creek, N. Y., was elected chairman of Military Intelligence.

At the request of the Womans' League, Mrs. Rosa Thomas was appointed a member of the Home Defense Committee. Miss Cornelia Fonda, of Fonda, N. Y., a trained worker, was placed in charge of the co-operative extension work and Home Economics, on July 3, 1918. Mr. Nelson R. Gilbert, of Little Falls, N. Y., in charge of Food Administration for Herkimer County, was made a member of the Home Defense Committee at the same time. Mr. C. H. Evans resigned from said committee to accept a position in the office of the Adjutant General of the State of Colorado and Miss Lillian C. Waterbury, of Herkimer, N. Y., was elected as secretary in his place.

It is quite impossible on account of space to give an extensive report of the activities of the work of the Home Defense Committee. Meetings were regularly held covering a period of nearly two years. All the members of the committee served without compensation. To give the names of persons who rendered sacrificial service in the World War and assisted the Herkimer County Home Defense Committee in its work would be to name a large majority of all the citizens in Herkimer County.

The Finance Committee, under the chairmanship of A. T. Smith, had charge of raising funds by subscription, which was liberally subscribed to by the various towns and War Chests of the community, to the amount of about \$5,000.00, which was expended for services and expenses of Home Economics work, rent of headquarters, services of clerks and stenographers, stationery, postage, supplies, etc.

The Publicity and Information Committee, of which Mr. Edward M. Brown was chairman, had charge of official community statements for the press; co-operating with churches, schools, motion picture theatres, chambers of commerce, clubs and various women's organizations.

The Defense and Securities Committee, under charge of Harlan P. Hamlin, organized various units throughout the county for the purpose of

HERKIMER COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

home defense. This was important on account of railroad property, the State dams at Hinckley and Delta, the electric light plants and dam at East Creek and Trenton, N. Y.; for the protection of Remington Arms plant at Ilion, N. Y., and Savage Arms plant at Utica, N. Y. There were about five hundred men enlisted for service in these units.

The Board of Supervisors of Herkimer County, under Chapter 235, Laws of 1917, appropriated \$10,000 for uniforming and equipping these organizations, the State Government furnishing the arms. The money used in this appropriation was paid out under the direction of Mr. George W. Boyle, of Little Falls, N. Y., County Purchasing Agent, who gave valuable assistance in co-operating with the committee. Many of the men thus trained entered the military service during the World War. There was also an inventory made of all automobiles and motor trucks in the county for the purpose of transportation.

Much information was disseminated by the committee to individuals and their families relative to recruiting for the Army and Navy forces.

Transportation, under the chairmanship of M. Rich, had to do with keeping the roads open for the Army transportation and trucks that were constantly moving through Herkimer County; also enumeration of available drivers and chauffeurs for mobilization purposes, and keeping a record of all steam and electric railways together with their equipment, for quick service in the mobilization of troops and equipment. On this committee Mr. William E. Corey, of Salisbury Center, County Engineer, together with Warren J. Carder of Frankfort, N. Y.; Fred W. Sauer, of Herkimer, N. Y.; William J. Eaton, of Little Falls, N. Y., and Frank M. Pierce, of Dolgeville, N. Y., did splendid service in keeping the roads open for Army trucks and Federal motor truck convoys, during the winter of 1917 and 1918.

The Food Production and Conservation Committee, under charge of Charles A. Taylor, will illustrate briefly the organization of various departments, working in conjunction with the Farm Bureau, New York State Food Supplies Commission, The Grangers, The Dairymen's League, The Board of Trade and various farm clubs.

Mr. Taylor appointed the following members on his committee:

Lester E. Young, Warren, N. Y., Loans and Farm Lands; Charles A. Shepard, Herkimer, N. Y., in charge of Prices and Markets; W. H. Farber, Poland, N. Y., in charge of Storage and Transportation; Dewey J. Carter, Herkimer, N. Y., in charge of Farm Labor; F. A. Tinker, Salisbury Center, N. Y., in charge of Tractors and Farm Machinery; D. A. Van Allen, Little Falls, N. Y., in charge of Insect and Plant Disease Control; W. F. Rasbach, Herkimer, N. Y., in charge of Seeds and Supplies.

HERKIMER COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

The various departments in this organization endeavored to co-ordinate their efforts and prevent duplication. A census was taken the latter part of April, 1917, by the Farm Bureau, assisted by rural school teachers, showing the amount of stock, crop products in storage, crop planting; reporting all additional help required on farms; the amount and kind of seed desired; products for sale and the names and addresses of farmers concerned. This census covered and furnished a complete registry of all residents on farms of three acres or more in the county.

This census was very productive in showing the increased percentage in acreage crop planting for 1917 over 1916 of 73.4 per cent.

The expenditures of the Department for Farm Loans, under charge of Mr. Lester E. Young, for the purpose of assisting the farmer to purchase seed, fertilizer, and for additional labor, etc., amounted to \$4,013 on forty-one different farms. It was found that there was a large area of unoccupied land in Herkimer County, much of which would not pay the cost of tilling. The committee made arrangements for the cultivation of at least one thousand acres more of this abandoned land to be cultivated in 1918 than in 1917. The major food product of Herkimer County is milk and milk products. A continued supply of this important food material necessitates a fair remunerative price which will enable farmers to produce milk and dispose of it at such prices as will guarantee them a fair living and guard them against disastrous financial losses. The Dairymen's League has done much to maintain the price of milk and seems in the best position to direct the regulation of milk prices, and it was with this in mind that Mr. C. A. Shepherd, president of the Dairymen's League Branches, was made a member of the committee.

It is of interest at the present time and will perhaps be more so in the future to give some of Mr. Shepherd's figures as to the sales price for milk per cwt. for the summer months of 1917.

	3% Milk	3.5% Milk	4% Milk
April -----	\$1.95	\$2.125	\$2.30
May -----	1.90	2.075	2.25
June -----	1.80	1.975	2.15
July -----	2.00	2.175	2.35
August -----	2.45	2.625	2.80
September -----	2.45	2.625	2.80

(This price is for milk containing 3 per cent butterfat and of B grade. An additional 3½ cents paid for each 1-10 per cent of butterfat above 3 per cent.)

This price is lower in proportion to the cost of production than the price of any other food product. An immediate adjustment is absolutely

HERKIMER COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

necessary to protect the dairymen against ruinous financial losses which would result in great decrease in milk production during the coming winter and in the summer of 1918. In our strife for large production of farm crops the milk, cheese and butter supply should not be overlooked, but should be carefully fostered as being the greatest agricultural contribution of Herkimer County. Present high prices for feeds, labor and equipment will prevent Herkimer County making a proper contribution of the food supply unless immediate readjustment is made in the price of dairy products.

Transportation, under the chairmanship of W. F. Farber, shows excellent transportation facilities were afforded by the N. Y. C. R. R. Co., Oneonta & Herkimer R. R., D. L. & W., Mohawk & Malone, and Mohawk Valley Railways, together with the improved main line highways through the county.

Storage: This county has a very small amount of storage facilities and it might be advantageous, after careful investigation, to install storage plants for fruits and vegetables.

Labor: The labor situation in Herkimer County is extremely serious. The prime cause of the unoccupied farms in the county is lack of labor to run these farms. Through the efforts of the Herkimer County Farm Bureau, co-operating with the New York State Food Supply Commission and other institutions, forty men have been brought into the county and been placed on farms, which together with some three hundred boys and young men liberated from high school and rural schools of the county for work on farms, has largely supplied the immediate demand for labor to assist in crop planting. Due to the shortage of horsepower, two tractors were secured by the Farm Bureau with complete equipment for plowing, discing and harrowing. At least five hundred additional acres of land were fitted for crops by these tractors which were rented on a per hour or per acre basis. A survey showed farm machinery sufficient for the needs of the farmers in the county.

Insect and Plant Disease Control: The service of Mr. Taylor, in this department, was at all times available for the farmers, to assist them in the protection of their crops.

Seeds and Supplies: Due to a shortage of seed potatoes, spring wheat, buckwheat, barley and beans, arrangements were made to supply the needs. Twenty-three hundred bushels of seed potatoes from the State of Maine and two hundred bushels from points in New York State were distributed at cost to growers, with a signed contract that these potatoes were to be used for seed purposes only and to be used only by the parties purchasing them from the seed commission. It is estimated that thirty thousand bushels of potatoes were produced by this arrangement.

Farm Minute Men: Through efforts of the Home Defense Committee men were registered and sent out on farms for a short period to prevent loss

HERKIMER COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

of crops at harvest time. In doing this the Home Defense Committee co-operated with existing organizations under the charge of Mrs. C. C. Loomis, who had charge of the investigating of dependent soldiers' families and also to furnish employment for those dependents. This was closely interwoven with the Red Cross activities, church, patriotic and fraternal organizations.

Aliens, under the charge of Hon. Abram Zoller of Little Falls, N. Y. With nearly eight thousand aliens in the county, there was considerable activity as to investigating their status and the committee had many calls by the Remington Arms Company, of Ilion, N. Y. and the Savage Arms Co., of Utica, N. Y., to investigate applicants for employment in their plants.

Instruction, under the Rev. F. O. Hokerk. There were many meetings, lectures and patriotic addresses and distribution of literature and posters. Much was done in this department in assisting and organizing the local home defense military units.

Medical and Hospitals, under the charge of Mrs. C. S. Thompson, co-operated with the Red Cross activities, under the charge of Dr. Cyrus Kay, of Herkimer; Dr. Jennie M. Richardson, of Ilion, and Hon. Abram Zoller, Mayor of Little Falls, N. Y. The Herkimer Home Defense also co-operated with Mrs. Ida G. Burgess, and others, who had charge of Independent Red Cross activities, carried on in her home. The Church and other religious organizations through their clergymen, church officials, club societies and guilds, rendered efficient service in this department.

Industrial Situation, under charge of Mr. Albert B. Russell, had to do with the survey of all the industrial plants of the county, covering inquiries relative to the labor supply and the need of men to assist in getting out government contracts and the withdrawal from the industrial plants of men going into military service and supplementing the service by supplying women workers wherever possible. This was done to a large extent without seriously interfering with the production of industrial plants. Assistance and co-operation in better housing for munition workers was provided.

The Home Defense Committee rendered valuable service to the two local draft boards, in charge of Frederick G. Teall, of Little Falls, N. Y., and William H. Waterbury, of Frankfort, N. Y., in furnishing information and working with the boards; also work was done and information furnished the exemption board in charge of Dr. Geo. W. Graves, of Herkimer, N. Y. The committee gave valuable assistance to the Liberty Loan drives and met with these committees at various times; also assisting in passing upon and enrolling workers for ship building. The great volume of poster work in connection with sending out of material for all purposes in connection with the war was handled through this committee. Information as to war insurance was furnished to many families of soldiers and sailors.



HERKIMER COUNTY IN THE WORLD WAR

The committee pioneered in the field, collecting material as to soldiers who were drafted and offered their services as volunteers from Herkimer County. This work took a great deal of time and effort in endeavoring to secure accurate data. Letters were sent to all the soldiers whose names appeared on the draft registers of the first and second districts of Herkimer County and trips were made to various recruiting offices at Utica, Syracuse, Albany and other places to secure information as to volunteer service. All letters sent out contained a questionnaire and a post paid return envelope. Those failing to answer received a second and third communication and while the committee knows that the record is not complete they believe that they have made an effort to furnish as complete a roster as possible of soldiers and sailors from Herkimer County who served in the World War.