

Memorial Day 2021

Remembering ...

Those from Plainville Who Have Died in Military Service Civil War Through Vietnam

We begin with the Civil War during which we were still part of Farmington. Based on research done for the Historical Society's Civil War Project, we believe that the men listed here lived in what is now Plainville.

The names for World War I, World War II, and the Korean War are taken from the monument in our Veterans Memorial Park. The names of those who lost their lives are separately listed on the monument.

Five young men from the Vietnam War are consistently noted as being from Plainville. We also note three others who had or may have had Plainville roots. If you know of additional names for any time period, please let us know at 860-747-6577 or plainvillehistorical@gmail.com.

Note on Photographs: We include photographs when available. Most are from files and materials at the Historic Center. If you have photographs of any of those listed here and would allow us to make copies, please let us know at the phone number or email given above.

Civil War

John W. Beach



John W. Beach of the 25th Connecticut Volunteers Infantry Company K was listed as a "clock maker" in the 1860 Census. He enlisted in August 1862 and died in July 1863 while serving in Louisiana.

Samuel E. Derby

Samuel E. Derby of the 16th Connecticut Volunteers Infantry Company K enlisted in July 1862. He was captured by Confederate forces in Plymouth, North Carolina in April 1864. He died as a prisoner of war in December 1864 in Charleston, South Carolina.

George A. Goodale



George A. Goodale of the First Connecticut Light Battery enlisted in October 1861. He died in August 1862 in Beaufort, South Carolina. He is buried in West Cemetery.

John I. Hill

John I. Hill enlisted in July 1862. He was captured by Confederate forces in Plymouth, North Carolina in April 1864. He died as a prisoner of war at the infamous Andersonville Prison in Georgia in September 1864.

Augustus Hitchcock



Augustus Hitchcock enlisted in August 1862 and served in the 20th Connecticut Volunteers Infantry Company E. He was wounded and captured at the Battle of Chancellorsville (Virginia) in May 1863. He died in February 1864.

Marcus E. Lyman

Marcus E. Lyman enlisted in August 1862 and was in the Connecticut Volunteers Infantry Company K. He died in December 1862.

Henry H. Neale

Henry H. Neale enlisted in June 1861 and served in the 5th Connecticut Volunteers Infantry Company B. He died in September 1862. His gravesite is in West Cemetery.

Levi H. Newell

Levi H. Newell was also listed as a “clock maker” in the 1860 Census. He enlisted in August 1862 and was in the 16th Connecticut Volunteers Infantry Company K. He died in January 1863.

George A. Orvis

George A. Orvis enlisted in August 1861 and served in the First Squadron Connecticut Volunteers Cavalry Company B. Records indicate that he was a “farrier” which is somewhat of a cross between a blacksmith and veterinarian in the care of horses’ feet. He died of disease in Point Lookout, Maryland in December 1862.

Edwin L. Rowley

Edwin L. Rowley enlisted in August 1862 . He served in the 16th Connecticut Volunteers Infantry Company K. He died in August 1863.

John E. Russell



John E. Russell enlisted twice with the first time being April 1861 followed by a second time in October 1861. He served in the 1st and 10th Connecticut Volunteers Infantry, Companies G and K. He was killed in the Battle of Kinston Bridge in North Carolina in December 1862. He is buried in West Cemetery.

Reuben A. Spencer



Reuben A. Spencer enlisted in October 1861. He was in the 1st Connecticut Volunteers Light Battery. He died in July 1862. He is buried in Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, South Carolina.

World War I

Francis Luther Barnes



Francis Barnes was the first local soldier to die in World War I. He lived on Broad Street and worked at Trumbull Electric before the war. Private Barnes was killed at the Battle of Seicheprey in April 1918. He is buried in West Cemetery. The local American Legion post was named after Francis Barnes and Monica Brock (who is included below).

Arthur C. Bates



Arthur Bates had lived in Massachusetts and New York State before coming to Plainville. Private Bates was wounded during an attack on the Hindenburg Line in September 1918 and later died from his injuries. He is buried in France at the Somme American Cemetery.

Monica Brock



Army Nurse Monica Brock is the only Plainville woman who has died in military service. She grew up on South Washington Street. As an Army nurse, Monica was in charge of several wards at Military Hospital #1 in Neuilly, France. In late 1918 after her return, she passed away in Washington D.C. and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery. The local American Legion post is named for Monica Brock and Francis Barnes.

Joseph Patrick Green



Joseph Green also lived on South Washington Street. He worked at Bristol Brass before the war. Private Green died from influenza in October 1918 at Camp Merritt in New Jersey. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

James MacIldowie



James MacIldowie had immigrated from Glasgow, Scotland. He worked at Bristol Brass and lived on Broad Street. James fought for the Allies as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces since he was still a citizen of the UK. He was killed in action in the Battle of Blecourt in September 1918. He is buried in France. James left wife Jennie and two children.

Earl William Madeley



Earl Madeley lived on South Washington Street with his family who had a small farm. He had worked for the railroad and Trumbull Electric but prior to American entry into the war, he joined the Army and served on the Mexican border in 1916. In July 1918, Corporal Madeley died from wounds suffered earlier at the Battle of Chateau Thierry. He is buried in the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in France. The local VFW was named for him and Leon Roberts (see below).

In a 2014 *New York Times* article, Earl Madeley is featured as one of the soldiers who had inscribed his name on the walls of Chemin des Dames, an underground quarry that was used by the American forces.

Arthur J. O'Hara



Arthur O'Hara was originally from Waterbury but had moved to Plainville with his family. He lived on Elm Court. Private O'Hara died from influenza in October 1918 at Camp Upton in New York. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Leon Russell Roberts



Sergeant Leon Roberts was also in the Army before American entry into the war and had served on the Mexican border in 1916. The family lived on East Street. Leon fought in several battles in France and was gassed at the Chateau-Thierry in May 1918. He was hospitalized and then died in March 1919 just before his division sailed home. He is buried in France. The local VFW is named for Leon Roberts and Earle Madeley.

Frank Saviano



Frank Saviano immigrated from Italy in 1910 and lived on East Street. In 1914, he signed a Declaration of Intent to become a citizen. He worked at Sessions Clock in Forestville. He was killed in action in August 1918. Frank is buried in St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France.

World War II

Alphonse Reno Bourgoin (Army)



Alphonse Bourgoin had come to Plainville from Aroostook County, Maine. It appears that he had Bourgoin relatives already living in town. Alphonse had worked at Marlin Rockwell. He died in January 1944 during the Italian Campaign following the Allied landing. He is buried in the American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy.

Anthony D. Casciello (Army)



Anthony Casciello graduated from Plainville High School in 1935. The Casciello family had lived on East Street but moved to Park Street about the time Anthony was in the service. He worked at Marlin Rockwell and also as a barber. He died at Camp Wheeler in Georgia in 1941 and is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery. Casciello Drive is named for Anthony.

William Francis Cassidy (Army)



William Cassidy graduated from PHS in 1942 and had been employed at Marlin Rockwell. He was part of the Italian Campaign and fought in the Battle of Anzio during which he lost his life in February 1944. He is buried in the American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy. In 1958, the Army Nike site near North Mountain Road was named for William Cassidy and two soldiers from Farmington. We believe that Cassidy Drive may have also been named for William.

John H. Clayton (Army)



John Clayton graduated from Plainville High School in 1941. He lived on Bicycle Street and then New Britain Avenue. He had worked at the Lassy Tool Company off Bohemia Street. John was stationed at Camp Polk in Louisiana. He died in January 1944 and is buried in West Cemetery.

John H. Cleveland (Army)



John H. Cleveland lived on Cottage Street. He was a PHS graduate and worked at Trumbull Electric. He was part of the Army Air Forces stationed in Pueblo, Colorado. Sergeant Cleveland died in 1943 in a training plane crash. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery. In 1952, Cleveland Memorial Drive was named for him.

Dale A. Coolbeth (Army)

Dale Coolbeth came to Plainville from Vermont and had originally lived with relatives on East Main Street. He worked at Landers, Frary & Clark in New Britain. Also part of the Army Air Forces, he was killed in action in France in 1944 and later buried in Vermont. He left wife Florence and a daughter.

Albert J. DiBenedetto (Army)

Albert DiBenedetto lived on West Main Street at the time of entering service. He died as a result of an aircraft accident in May 1943. We believe that he was stationed in Louisiana at the time.

Charles Dombrowski

We believe that Charles Dombrowski was originally from the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania area. A directory indicates that a Dombrowski family lived on Wayne Drive in Plainville in 1944. We are currently researching further information about Charles Dombrowski whom we believe was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army

Carl Fosgrau (Army)



Carl Fosgrau was born in New York but had moved to New Britain as a child. At the time that Carl entered the military, Carl reported that he lived and worked as a farm hand at the Pinnacle Rock Dairy Farm in Plainville. He died in Europe in April 1945. He is buried in the National Cemetery in Long Island.

Edward J. Fournier (Army)



Edward Fournier lived on Maple Street and worked at New Departure in Bristol. Corporal Fournier died in Germany in November 1944. He is buried in the Lorraine American Cemetery in France. He left his wife Kay and a son.

Zelwood Alpha Gravlin (Army)



Zelwood Gravlin came to Plainville from New Vineyard, Maine. He lived on East Main Street and had worked at both Fafnir in New Britain and New Departure in Bristol. Sergeant Gravlin, Army Air Forces, was a crew member on a bomber. In August 1943, he was missing in action during a raid on Romanian oil fields that were supplying Nazi Germany. His memorial is in the American Cemetery in Florence, Italy.

Edward Hittleman (Army)

Edward Hittleman lived on West Main Street near the Bristol Spring Manufacturing Company which his family owned. He attended UCONN. Sergeant Hittleman was based at the Sioux City Army Air Base and lost his life in January 1945 as a result of an air crash during training. He is buried in Beth Alom Cemetery in New Britain. Hittleman Court is named for Edward.

Arthur Francis Hull (Navy)

Arthur Hull and his family moved from Massachusetts to Plainville where they resided on Broad Street. Arthur was a PHS graduate. He died at the Naval Hospital in Norfolk, Virginia in November 1942. Hull Drive is named for Edward.

Charles Elton Hurlburt (Army)

Charles Hurlburt lived on Camp Street and had worked at Olson Brothers. He died in France in July 1944 just over a month after D-Day and is buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

Harvey Monroe Kalish (Army)

Harvey Kalish lived on Rockwell Avenue and graduated from PHS in 1938. He had worked at Trumbull Electric and Pratt & Whitney. He served in the Pacific and was reported missing after the fall of Bataan. It was later known that he was captured and died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in July 1942. He is memorialized at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

Norman S. LaPointe (Army)

Norman LaPointe and several siblings came to central Connecticut from the Plattsburgh, New York area. Norman worked at Marlin Rockwell before entering the Army. His address was given as East Mountain Terrace. He died in January 1945. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Edward Leroy Linsley (Army)



Captain Edward Linsley's family lived on Trumbull Avenue. He had worked as a tool engineer at Stanley Works. Captain Linsley was killed in action in the Pacific in July 1943. He left his wife Jeannette. He is interned at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. Linsley Drive was named for Edward in 1957.

Gordon Mannix (Army)



Gordon Mannix lived on East Main Street and had graduated from PHS. He was a very talented artist who had been accepted by the Parsons School of Design in New York. Gordon was part of the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944 and lost his life shortly after on June 19th as American forces advanced into France. He is buried in the American Normandy Cemetery in Colleville-Sur-Mer.

Nicholas Margonelli (Army)



Nicholas was living with his Margonelli aunt, uncle, and cousins on East Main Street. He had graduated from Plainville High School in 1936. Nicholas worked at Trumbull Electric. Sergeant Margonelli died in service in Europe in February 1944.

Albert McKee (Navy)

Albert McKee was in the Navy and served in the Pacific. Chief Machinist's Mate McKee was captured after the fall of Corregidor and died as a POW in 1942. We believe that his family may have lived in the North Washington Street area at one time. His memorial is in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

Albert McKee was born in 1895 and was 47 when he lost his life. We are still researching the distinct possibility that he was the same Albert McKee from Plainville who served in the Navy during World War I.

Raymond Norman Michaud (Navy)



Raymond Michaud had come to Plainville from Vermont and worked at Trumbull Electric. Gunner's Mate Michaud served in the Pacific and was missing in action and presumed dead in 1944. He is memorialized in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

John I. Nowak (Army)

John Nowak was employed at Pratt & Whitney. A member of the Army Air Forces, he died in a military plane crash in October 1944 in Louisiana. The family had previously resided in Manchester, CT but had relocated to Plainville. John Nowak is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in New Britain.

Anthony Piergrossi (Army)

Anthony Piergrossi attended both Plainville High School and Goodwin Tech. His family lived on West Main Street. He worked at New Britain Machine and was also a member of Plainville's Auxiliary Police. Technician Piergrossi died in service in June 1945.

Robert J. (Navy) and William H. (Army) Ritchie



William and Robert Ritchie were two brothers who died in World War II. The family lived on Shuttle Meadow Road after moving from New Britain during the 1940's.

Electrician's Mate Robert Ritchie was missing in action in the Pacific in 1945. He is memorialized in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. Sergeant William Ritchie died in Europe in 1944. He is buried in the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten.

Franklin Field Phelps (Army)



Franklin Phelps was originally from Vermont. When he entered the military, his address was Pinnacle Rock Farm in Plainville. Sergeant Phelps was killed in action in the Pacific in January 1945. Franklin left his wife Elizabeth whom he had married in 1942. During his service, he wrote an extensive journal, a copy of which we have at the Plainville Historic Center.

Armand J. Robidoux (Marines)



Armand Robidoux lived on East Broad Street. He graduated from PHS in 1940. Corporal Robidoux was declared missing in action in Iwo Jima in February 1945 and his death was officially declared in 1946. He is memorialized in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii as well the Iwo Jima Memorial in Newington. Robidoux Road is named for Armand.

Peter Joseph Rowinski (Army)

Peter had Rowinski lived on David Avenue. A 1941 directory lists Peter's occupation as patternmaker. Corporal Rowinski of the U.S. Army Air Forces was missing in action in April 1944. He is memorialized in the North African American Cemetery in Tunisia.

John Joseph Sharr (Navy)

John Sharr and his family had come to Plainville from Pennsylvania and lived on Whiting Street. In a 1940 directory, John's occupation is listed as enameler at a firm in Terryville. In August 1943, his ship sunk in the Solomon Islands and John was declared missing. He is memorialized in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

Robert Frank Trask (Navy)

Robert Trask lived on Hough Street with his family. His father was Superintendent of Schools Ervin E. Trask. Robert was a graduate of Yale University. Robert Trask died in April 1945 when his ship was bombed by enemy aircraft. He is buried in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

H. Stevenson Washburn (Navy)

Lieutenant H. Stevenson Washburn had lived on Red Stone Hill. His family owned the Plainville Casting Company on South Canal Street. Lieutenant Washburn was a 1936 Yale graduate. His cruiser Helena was sunk in the Pacific during the July 1943 Battle of Kula Gulf. He left his wife Mary. Washburn Drive is named for Lieutenant Washburn.

Charles Halsey Weeks (Navy)

Charles Weeks came to Plainville from Long Island, lived in the Wayne Drive area, and worked at Fafnir in New Britain. Chief Machinist's Mate Weeks was listed as missing in the Pacific in 1942 and his death was declared in 1944. He is memorialized in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

Anthony Zommer (Army)

Anthony Zommer had lived on North Washington Street. Sergeant Zommer died in France in October 1944 leaving his wife Ethel and a daughter. He is buried in the American Cemetery in Dinoze, France.

Warren Caswell Olson (Maritime Service)

First Engineer Warren "Buddy" Olson was one of two Maritime Service men who died during the war. His family was originally from New Britain but moved to Plainville and lived on MacArthur Road. Warren worked for Seibert Dairy. Warren died in December 1944 leaving his wife Alice and a son.

Edwin T. Riley (Maritime Service)



Edwin had been born in Lowell, Massachusetts and was living on East Main Street in Plainville and working at Trumbull Electric. Edwin died at a base hospital in 1944.

Korean War

Arthur Thomas Eastwood (Army)



Arthur Eastwood had lived with his family on Pierce Street. Arthur worked at Peck Spring. He was killed in action in August 1950 near Pusan during the North Korean invasion. Arthur is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Thomas Genis (Army)



Thomas Genis had lived with family on Woodford Avenue Extension. He attended Plainville schools and had worked at Trumbull Electric. Thomas was killed at the Battle of Baldy Hill in 1952. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Lincoln Clifford May (Army)



Lincoln "Cliff" May had lived on Johnson Avenue. He worked at Landers, Frary, Clark in New Britain. Sergeant May was missing in action in November 1950 at the Battle of Unsan. In 2008, through DNA provided by nephews Glen and Cliff Block, Lincoln's remains (which had been returned by North Korea) were officially identified. In June 2009, a military ceremony and burial took place at West Cemetery.

Oscar Joseph Provencher (Air Force)



Oscar Provencher was from Roosevelt Avenue. He had graduated from PHS in 1947 and worked as a chef. Corporal Provencher was killed in a military plane crash in January 1952 near Fort Yukon, Alaska. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery. Provencher Drive is named for Oscar.

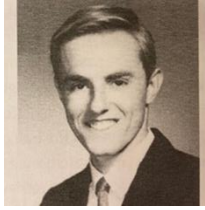
Vietnam War

Clayton Plourde (Army)



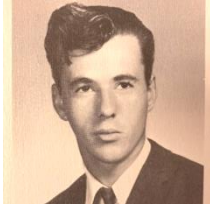
Clayton Plourde's family had moved from Maine to Westwood Avenue in Plainville. Clayton graduated from PHS in 1970 and worked with his father at a company in Rocky Hill. Specialist Plourde died in Phu Bai, Vietnam in October 1971 leaving his wife Suzanne and a son. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Douglas Edward Ayers (Army)



Douglas Ayres was a 1968 graduate of PHS where he was Tri-Captain of the track team. He attended CCSU. Sergeant Ayres died in a mortar attack Vietnam in March 1971.

Donald Sturgeon (Army)



Donald Sturgeon had lived on Pearl Street and graduated from Plainville High School in 1966. Specialist Sturgeon was killed south of Saigon in October 1968.

Douglas Beveridge (Army/U.S. Special Forces)



Douglas Beveridge was a member of the PHS Class of 1967. He was known for his outstanding and innovative art. Specialist Beveridge was killed on patrol in Vietnam in February 1969. He is buried in West Cemetery.

Lawrence Woods (Army)



Captain Lawrence Woods was a 1955 PHS graduate and Captain of the basketball team. He went on to graduate from Norwich University and entered the military. Captain Woods, a helicopter pilot, was killed in Vietnam in June 1966. He was the first from Plainville to die in Vietnam. Captain Woods left his wife Selah and three children.

In addition, we would like to include four others from the Vietnam War whose names have been mentioned over the years as being from Plainville or having Plainville roots or connections.

James Gerald Flynn



Army Staff Sergeant Jim Flynn had lived and gone to school in Plainville. He attended PHS as a member of the Class of 1965. His family moved to the Danbury area while he was in high school. He died in Vietnam in May 1969. He was survived by his wife Phyllis.

John Stephen Alling Jr.

John was from Auburn, NY. However, his father had been born and had lived in Plainville where members of the extended Alling family still lived. It appears from records that his parents moved around the time John was born. John's obituary indicates that he was formerly from town. Specialist Alling died in Saigon in November 1968.

Aldo E. Ryder

Aldo was a Marine from Bristol who was killed in action in June 1968. He had been born in Maine and as noted in the Courant, the family had moved to Connecticut 5 years prior to losing Aldo. They lived on Pine Street close to the town line. Also, Aldo's father had some local connections here. We are unsure if and when the family lived in town.

Francis Joseph Dowd Jr.

Francis was a Killingly Marine who died in 1968 in Vietnam. At the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, his hometown is given as Pineville in Connecticut. A small section of Killingly is referred to as Pineville. We do not know if this was confused with Plainville at some point. Although there was a Dowd family in Plainville (including a Francis P.), we are unsure if there was a connection.