

Flags To Recognize Veterans

by Lynne Belluscio

Last year, Janine Werner Torcello stopped by the Historical Society and asked if a flag could be put on her grandfather's grave. I went to the Machpelah Cemetery files and Charles Lupperger's name wasn't included in the military records. So I went to our clipping file and there was nothing. So I asked Janine if she knew anything about her grandfather or if she might have an obituary, and she really didn't know. A week ago she stopped by again, and said that she had found an obituary and she had contacted Terry Krautwurst and he was able to find his military records.

We have been going through all the Machpelah records and lists for the past couple of months to see if we can discover missing veterans and it has been quite a project.

We have some military files from various wars. And we have lists from the Daughter's of the American Revolution from the 1920s who made lists of the cemeteries. We have some old lists from the American Legion when they placed flags on graves. Then, we found a letter from the Genesee

County Historian's Office which listed veterans in Machpelah.

Last year, Sid Barefoot photographed all the military gravestones in Machpelah and we have his list. So with all these lists we hoped to have an up to date list ready for this year, but the work continues, searching out misspelled names and mistaken identity and names with no clue about their military service. But one by one we are making progress.

This year for the first time since Charles Lupperger's death in 1966, his grave will be decorated with a flag on Memorial Day. He was born in Wyoming on March 9, 1894. His parents were George and Christina Lupperger (who are also buried in Machpelah – in fact when I went over to the cemetery, I discovered that their gravestone has been tipped over.)

According to his obituary, he was "a World War I Veteran." His



service record, indicates that he enlisted in Batavia on September 25, 1917. He served in Battery D of the 307 Field Artillery and was in "Group A Rep Unit 302 MTC." He served overseas from January 11, 1918 until June 19, 1919. He was honorably discharged on June 19, 1919. His service record also indicates that he received no injuries and apparently served in no engagements. When he returned home, he married Janine Found on October 30, 1919. (She died in 1964.) Charles and Jennie had one daughter, Dorothy, who married Ken Werner. The Werner's were Jennie's parents and they are also buried in Machpelah Cemetery.

Charles Lupperger lived in the LeRoy area all his life. He was a hunter and fisherman and a well-known gunsmith and he was a member of the Northwoods Sportsman's Club. He had been

a mechanic at LeRoy Motors where he had worked for over 30 years. He died in Petawawa, Ontario Canada, on a fishing trip at the Pope Allen Lodge. His granddaughter told me that it took quite a long time to have his body shipped back into the United States. According to the cemetery records, he is buried in Section H gravesite 108, and for certain, this year, there will be a flag on his grave.

On Saturday, May 28, volunteers will begin placing over 400 flags at Machpelah Cemetery. Anyone interested in helping can join us at 9 am. It usually takes 2 hours to complete the project, although that depends on the number of volunteers who show up. Dress for the weather, rain or shine. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for black flies and bring a bottle of water.



LeRoy Historical Society Chicken 'n Ribs Barbecue

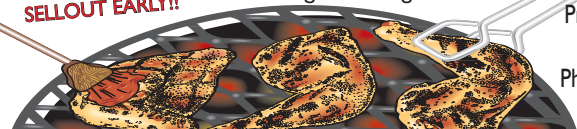
Sunday, May 22nd
on Trigon Park, Le Roy

11:00 am Til Sold Out!

BBQ 1/2 CHICKEN - \$10.00 • BBQ 1/4 CHICKEN & RIBS - \$12.00
RIBS ONLY - \$15.00 • w/salt potatoes & cole slaw, roll, cookies

THE CHICKEN
& RIBS
SELLOUT EARLY!!

Carry Out Only
"Drive Through" On Trigon Park



Prepared
By
Phil Tooze