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Prof. Hopper - Digital Media Production

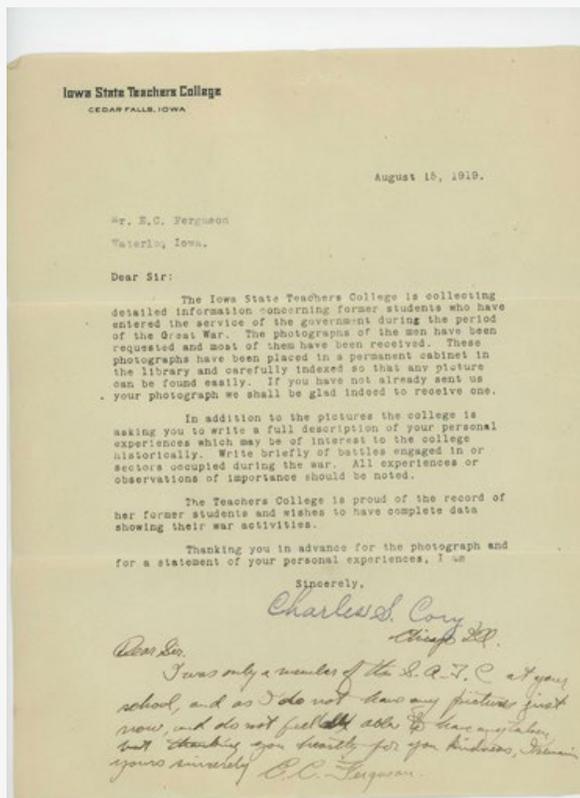
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SOUTHERN GROUP

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Reese Stolte

World War I Veterans

The photos of the student veterans of World War I have a lot to say along with the documents that were with them. The documents I will be primarily focusing are Herbert L. Pesch and Adrian H. Garnet's photos and papers, along with Charles Cory's letter addressed to each of the student veterans. I will describe the narratives the texts are telling on the surface and an underlying narratives that I experienced as a spectator.



The records the Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) took of the soldiers at the time and the letter Charles Cory sent to the veterans provides the secondary knowledge needed to potentially help shed light on the purpose of the portraits. Through his letters it has become clear that Cory, a faculty member of the college, instigated the pictures taken and informational documents which each veteran filled after the war ended. The forms themselves gathered information including when the men had signed up, where they were stationed, their promotion history, date of discharge and more, all of which was in order to inform future generations of the sacrifices these young men made.



Pesch's portrait photo is brighter, with little shadow and the picture has made nearly his whole body and chair he's sitting on visible within the frame. Garnet's photo on the other hand is framing the torso and up with no chair visible. In fact the only identifiable object in the photo is Garnet, as the background is a black void which is far more ominous than Pesch's photo, where a wall is easily visible behind him. A third veteran with a trumpet has a unique background as well. One would assume at first impression that the photos of the men were the ones taken for Cory and the college, but on closer inspection the photos have few similarities. Which begs the question did the men or photographer choose to set each photo differently, or were some of these photos military photos taken during the war?



Harold Russell Gingrich's photo. Is this an official military photo or the one Charles Cory wanted to take?



With this secondary knowledge in mind and several questions in my head I will move on to the underlying narratives that I inferred during my viewing of the two vets. I found the Pesch and Garnet photos stood in stark contrast to each other in this regard. In Pesch's photo, his posture exudes fearlessness, and he is emitting confidence. This tells of the strength he had in enduring the war. Similarly the chair he sits on is an extension of this, as it appears firm and able to hold its weight and more. Garnet's photo on the other hand is more unsettling. The texture on his military uniform looks rough and uncomfortable, most likely from wear. His expressions displays uncertainty and timidness. The most interesting detail I found was the dark void behind him. I continued to look at the picture for nothing specific. The more I looked, the more I found myself waiting for that dark background to jump out and cover Garnet in its darkness, to consume him, like the horrors of war consumed so many young men before and after. This contrast in underlying narratives along with the background information given tells an interesting and compelling story about the veterans of the Iowa State Teachers College.

IOWA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
Military Record

Name William N. Garnet
Home Address Alburneth, Iowa.
Date and Place of Birth July 22, 1876. Montezuma, Iowa
Ancestry Irish - American
Birth place of father and mother Iron Co. Ia., County Down, Ireland
Time, place and circumstances of enlistment May 2, 1917
Waterloo, Ia. Voluntary enlistment
Rank and assignment at time of entering service
Title Private Company Troop L
Regiment 19th Cav. Nature of Service Cavalry
Identification Number 566865

Where stationed, give complete history St. Ethel Allen, D.C.
Camp Shelby, Miss. Camp Greene, North Carolina

Promotions, changes in title, service or status, with exact dates, periods of service in each capacity, names of regiments, etc. Transferred to Troop L,
77th Field Artillery, Oct. 1, 1917. Promoted to Pvt. 1st,
Nov. 1, 1917. Promoted to Mechanic, July 1, 1918

Battles engaged in, with dates, places, honors received, citations for bravery None. Merit offensives Aug. 2 -
Aug. 11, 1918; St. Mihiel Sept. 12-16, 1918; Meuse-Argonne
offensive Sept. 25, Nov. 11, 1918.

Casualties, hospital record

Date and place of discharge Aug. 7, 1919, Camp Dodge, Ia.
or release

What is your standing in the service now? (Sept. 1, 1919) Honorably discharged as Mechanic from
Hdq. Co. 77th F. A. 4th Division

IOWA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
Military Record

Name Herbert L. Pesch
Home Address Clayton, Iowa
Date and Place of Birth April 9, 1897
Ancestry German
Birth place of father and mother Germany
Time, place and circumstances of enlistment July 31, 1918
The location that it was compulsory.
Rank and assignment at time of entering service
Title Private 1st Class Company I
Regiment 1st Div. Nature of Service Infantry
Identification Number 552

Where stationed, give complete history Tricks at French River 24.
35 days. French River on Buffalo Bay. 20th Nov. 1918
St. Mihiel, 7 months. Camp 1918. Service Germany
between Metz and Bismarck. French
River.

Promotions, changes in title, service or status, with exact dates, periods of service in each capacity, names of regiments, etc. Private 1st Class
Private 1st Class (Buffalo) (German) (German) (German) (German)
1st Div. (Buffalo) (German) (German) (German) (German)

Battles engaged in, with dates, places, honors received, citations for bravery

Casualties, hospital record None was sick during
Made a gain of 30 lbs during service.

Date and place of discharge March 14, 1919
or release

What is your standing in the service now? (Sept. 1, 1919) Discharged but has made further study
unsuccessful

Pesch and Garnet's "military record" files collected by the Iowa State Teachers College.

Materials here can be found in the [Photograph Collection](#), [World War I Veterans collection](#), and the [Cory Seldon Charles Papers](#) UNI Special Collections & University Archives

