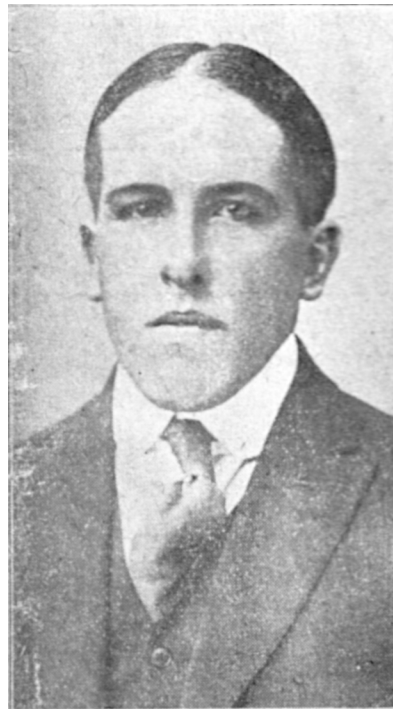


Walter C. Lewis

December 7, 1895 - Nov. 2, 1918

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF WALTER C. LEWIS

Accompanying this little sketch is a likeness of Walter C. Lewis, another Monticello boy who made the supreme sacrifice on the battle fields of France for the preservation of democracy throughout the world. He was the youngest son of John Lewis, of Mt. Pleasant township, and was born on the old homestead farm, about five miles east of Monticello, on December 7, 1895. He received his early education in the neighborhood school and later attended the Albany high school, from which institution he graduated with the class of 1915.



Walter C. Lewis

Co. F, 63rd U. S. Infantry,
6th Division, whose death
occurred in France on Nov. 2

After his graduation from high school he spent one year at home and then entered Browns's business college at Rockford, Ill., where he completed a business course. In April 1917, he accepted a position at the Illinois Central freight depot in that city as billing clerk, and was later promoted to demurrage clerk. He held that position until February of this year, when he returned home to remain until called to the service of his country.

Had he so desired it would have been clearly within his rights to claim exemption or deferred classification upon agricultural grounds, but he had no desire whatever to be exempted from service and it was with his characteristic willingness that he received his call to the colors on April 30.

He left Monroe on May 4th with a Green county contingent for Columbus Barracks, Ohio. From there he was sent to Spartanburg, South Carolina, where he was assigned to Co. F, 53rd U. S. Infantry Regulars. Early in July he sailed with his division for France, where he passed away on Nov. 2 his death resulting from bronchial pneumonia. His last letter home was written in September, at which time he remarked that he was in good health. While he made

no mention of being in action, it is known that the division he was with participated in several engagements and he was undoubtedly with his company up to the time of his fatal illness

The deceased was a young man of quiet disposition, pleasing personality and fine character. Because of his many good qualities he made friends wherever he chanced to be, and it was with a feeling of deep regret to one and all that the news of his death was received. While the aged father, brothers and sisters are enveloped in sorrow over the disheartening news, they must surely find some consolation in the thought that the departed soldier was engaged in so worthy and noble a cause when the final summons came. The following letter, dated at Rockford, Ill, was sent to the bereaved family by the Illinois Central force, with whom Walter was associated before entering the service:

Walter's Family: We are in receipt of your letter of Nov. 30th, conveying the sad intelligence that Private Walter C. Lewis, formerly employed in this office, had died in France.

We assure you we deeply regret that we are called upon to receive such sad information, as Walter was a favorite among the employees here, and we had hoped he would return to us and enter the service again. We, therefore, as a whole, extend to you our deepest sympathy in this sad hour and offer you the condolence of our entire force. Very respectfully, I. C. FORCE.