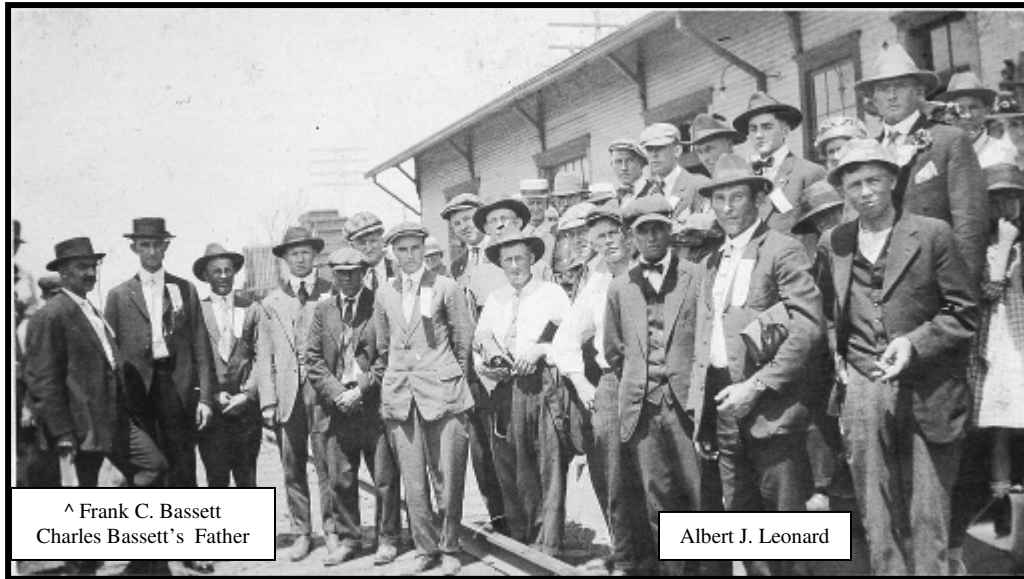


WORLD WAR I – April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

A global military conflict that took place mostly in Europe between 1914 and 1918. It left millions dead and reshaped the modern world. The Allied Powers, led by France, Russia, The British Empire, and later, Italy and the United States defeated the Central Powers of Austria-Hungary, the German Empire and the Ottoman Empire.



This is the crowd that gathered at the IC depot in Tuscola when a contingent of eighteen men left Douglas County on May 27, 1918 for military service. Albert Leonard, William Oye and Aster Garrett, of Tuscola, were wounded in action.

Those Killed From Tuscola



Attorney Lemuel Jones

Killed in action in France on October 24, 1918. Prior to going into the service he worked for Judge W. W. Reeves in preparation for becoming an attorney. He was 24 years old.



Charles Lyon Bassett

Killed in action October 11, 1918, in France. He was a plumber by profession prior to the war. He was 23. A double military funeral was held for Mr. Bassett and Mr. Cooch in Tuscola on October 16, 1921.



Charles C. Cooch

Killed in action on October 12, 1918, in France. A barber by trade, he was in the employment of the George O. Land barbershop in Tuscola.

Civil Conservation Corps

(Excerpts from an article written by Lynrita Aldridge Brown for *The Tuscola Review*, May 6, 1974)

In the midst of the wave of depression that blanketed the United States following the “crash” of 1929, the Civil Conservation Corps, or CCC, was established. It was a lifesaver for the poor, a place that made men out of boys and an opportunity to learn skills that turned into occupations. The CCC was organized in military fashion and the military took care of recruitment, induction, clothing, safety, health, welfare, discipline and administration. The civilians took care of what useful work needed to be done in the area. The uniform of the CCC boy was World War I leftovers. .

Boys were supposed to be 16, but many kids lied about their age on the application form. If they passed their physical, they were accepted and signed into the corps. There were over 16,000 camps in the United States and a new enlistee would be sent wherever work was needed. Pay was \$30 a month, but \$25 was sent to the boy’s family.

Camp SCS-43, better known as Camp Tuscola, was located on the site of the present Tuscola High School football field. The entrance was on the east end of Houghton Street. This land was owned by the William Iles Estate. Mr. Iles died in 1928. The men of Camp Tuscola belonged to Company 2618. This company was organized July 29, 1935 at Camp Marshall. Capt. Samuel H. Patterson assumed command of the newly formed Company 2618, in Tuscola, with a staff consisting of First Lieutenants George E Ripley and Alois R. Sentzel. The new camp buildings were completed September 21, 1935.

In Tuscola Camp there were 17 buildings, 13 of which were portable, the exception being the Technical Services garages and the educational building. The majority of CCC Camps were famous for their absolute cleanliness. The area was constantly patrolled for scraps of paper and anything out of place. Building improvements were continuously made.

The CCC camp in Tuscola had been established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture through the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering to do maintenance work on drainage ditches within 25 miles of Tuscola. This work graduated into dragline operations, headwall, bridge construction and tile relaying. Other projects completed by the boys of Camp Tuscola included fencing, seeding, sodding, hydraulic research, bank sloping and terracing. The work was hard, physical labor, requiring at least 10-hour days.

Recreation consisted of baseball, softball, basketball, boxing, touch football, volleyball, pool, ping-pong, movies held in camp weekly, etc. There was a well-equipped reading room with books, newspapers and periodicals. The library had 2,500 books. There were also opportunities for continuing education at the local camp. Educational films were shown two-three times each month. Off-the-job classes were conducted regularly in camp as well as continuous on-the-job training. Several enrollees completed their grammar school courses and their high school under the supervision of a WPA instructor. The camp had one doctor who made sick calls daily; a chaplain visited the camp tri-monthly, while town clergymen held regular services in the camp.

The establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps was a much-needed boost, not only to a troubled nation, but also to the youth who needed help finding a direction for their lives in troubled times. This “home away from home” was often better than home. The officers and squad leaders sometimes became the guiding force in the lives of the youth at the CCC. Discipline learned in the 30’s and early 40’s helped many fledgling soldiers face the rigors of World War II. No matter what the boys of the CCC camps went on to accomplish, the alumni of this corps of American youth found this experience to be a useful time in their lives.



Denver Robinson recalled that youth could be released from CCC if they found a job. Shortly after his marriage to Frances Brinkley, he went to work for his father-in-law, Walter Brinkley, in farm tile work. Robinson served in the Navy and returned to Tuscola. He did construction work, was employed at Fullerton Bakery and served as caretaker of Tuscola cemetery.



Bob Compton, pictured with wife Jane in 1994, was stationed at Camp Charleston before coming to Camp Tuscola in 1938. Bob said he was impressed with the classes taught at Camp Tuscola. He learned railroad telegraphy from Bill Nesbit, and later taught telegraphy at the same camp. He said CCC was beneficial in helping boys decide what occupation to take up. Compton recalled the dances held in the recreation barracks on the east end of the camp. They were open to the public. Bob served in the Navy during WWII and then worked for the C&EI railroad for 37 years. He died in 2001.



Billy "Shorty" Moran spent time at the Tuscola Camp. This photo was taken May 18, 1939.

Harland "Hop" Conner came from Hindsboro to sign up for CCC. He was stationed here one summer before being transferred to Wisconsin. Hop liked the CCC because it allowed him to work with different people with different attitudes. He'd like to see CCC come back to teach today's younger generation some responsibility. Hop recalled walking along creek beds to find logs suitable for fence posts. He said in the camp there was the usual horseplay of tying water balloons on the beds of unsuspecting barracks mates and flipping beds over when the occupants were making too much noise. Hop entered the Marines, serving three years. He later joined the National Guard. He has been a member of the VFW and American Legion for over 65 years. He and his wife, Nancy, still live in Tuscola.

WORLD WAR II – December 8, 1941 to August 14, 1945

A worldwide conflict fought between Allied Powers and the Axis Powers, from 1939 until 1945. Armed forces from over seventy nations engaged in aerial, naval and ground based combat. Spanning much of the globe, WWII resulted in the deaths of over sixty million people, making it the deadliest conflict in human history. The war ended with an allied victory.

Tuscola WWII Casualties

Source – Names displayed on Douglas County Courthouse wall.

Reece Starbuck, Glenn Dobbs, Charles Bowles, Herbert Ford, Jim Galbreath, Raymond Kappes, Dale Navel, David Slutzky and Herman Slutzky.

Tuscola Celebrates the End of WWII August 14, 1945

Photos Pettitt Photo Service



KOREAN WAR – June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953

A civil war was created between the states of North and South Korea that was created out of post-WWII Soviet and American occupation zones in Korea, with large scale participation by other countries.

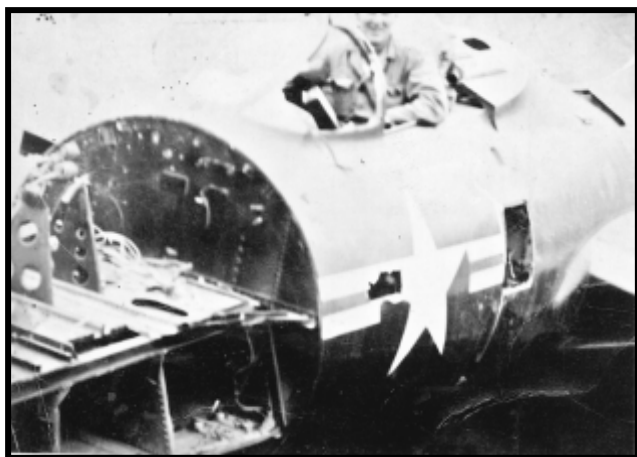


These local National Guard soldiers were being called to duty on February 18, 1952, to serve our country during the Korean War.

Left to right – Dale Black, unknown, Carl Barber, Bill Burmeister, Jim Sparks, Harry Conner, Art Smith, Truman Endsley, Harold Peeler, Kenny Moore, unknown and Myron Barber.

Photos courtesy of Pettitt Photo Service

Two casualties were noted from Tuscola, Army PVT. Herman L. Jacobs, died April 22, 1951 and Army PVT. Robert O. Titus, died May 18, 1951.



Left - A Marine Panther Jet Fighter Plane, Glen Stumeier sitting in the cockpit – Baseball legend Ted Williams belly-landed his plane at K55 Airfield in Korea, after getting the landing gear destroyed by enemy fire in the Spring of 1953. Glen Stumeier (right) was serving as a heavy equipment operator in the Army at time. He first saw the plane complete, but by the time he could get his camera, parts of the plane had been taken off.

VIETNAM WAR – November 2, 1963 to April 30, 1975

A military conflict in present day Vietnam occurring from 1959 to April 30, 1975. The conflict was a successful effort by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) and the indigenous National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam to unify Vietnam as a communist state, defeating the South Vietnamese Republic of Vietnam (RVN). To a degree, the Vietnam War was a “proxy war” between the United States and its western allies on the side of the RVN, with the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China supporting the DRV on the other side. As a result of this it is often considered a part of the Cold War.



Richard Ray Carson was the only casualty from Tuscola in the Vietnam War. He was just twenty years old when he was killed in a surprise attack on Fire Station Base Mary Ann on March 28, 1971.

The Tuscola Journal, January 16, 2007

In January, 2007, City workers Dan Kelly and Ron Stabler, both Vietnam Vets, helped install a military-style marker on the grave of Richard Ray Carson in Tuscola Cemetery.

The Tuscola Journal, January 16, 2007



OPERATION DESERT SHIELD AND STORM

August 2, 1990 to February 27, 1991

A conflict between Iraq and a coalition force of approximately thirty nations led by the United States and mandated by the United Nations in order to liberate Kuwait.



Jim Nayonis was one of several local soldiers to participate in the first Gulf War.



Desert Shield/Storm Soldiers From Tuscola

Source – Names displayed on Douglas County Courthouse wall.

Shannon Clarkson, James Conner, Brian Hayes, Jim Hector, Ervin Kauffman, James Nayonis, Mark Payne, Michael Ray, Kevin Smith, Mark Smith and Davie Willoughby.



OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – October 2001 to Present

The official name used by the United States government for its military response to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. On October 5, 2006, NATO officially took over control of United States forces in Afghanistan.



An evening candlelight vigil on September 14, 2001, at the gazebo in downtown Tuscola, drew many local residents together in remembrance of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Businesses around town used their marquees to offer words of condolence and prayer, and numerous flags were flying at half-staff.

The Tuscola Review, September 18, 2001

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – March 20, 2003 to Present

Sometimes known as the second Gulf War, Operation Iraqi freedom is an ongoing war begun with the United States – led invasion of Iraq in 2003. The United States coalition overthrew Saddam Hussein and captured him. Hussein was put on trial by his own people and hanged on December 30, 2006.

SOME OF TUSCOLA'S IRAQI VETERANS

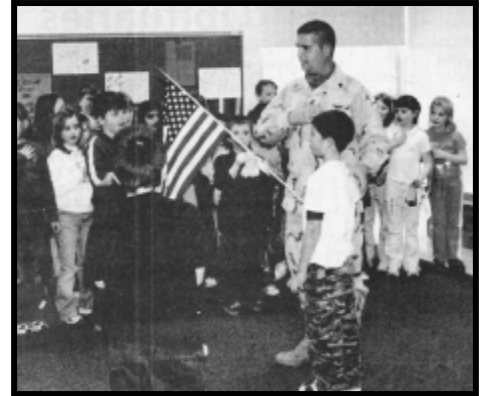


Left photo – Mayor Dan Kleiss welcomes Shannon Clarkson and Jim Nayonis home from Iraq.

Photo courtesy Jim Nayonis

Right photo – Ross Rund joins his son, Hunter, in leading the Pledge of Allegiance at North Ward. The class corresponded with Rund regularly while he was in Iraq.

The Tuscola Review,
March 8, 2005



Jeremy Gordon spent 6 months in Ramadi.
The Tuscola Review, July 18, 2006



Nick Price has spent more than one tour of duty in Iraq.
The Tuscola Review, July 5, 2005



Kim Kremitzki and Eric Ruff return to a hero's welcome. They were Grand Marshals for the 2005 Harvest Fest parade.

The Tuscola Review, August 23, 2005



Frank Pfeiffer returned to civilian life after 6 months training and a year in Iraq.

The Tuscola Review, May 2, 2006

Below – Jim Nayonis and Roger Reed

Photo courtesy of Jim Nayonis



Below – Jordan Hanke returned to civilian life after 6 months training and a year in Iraq.

The Tuscola Journal, May 9, 2006

