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The Joint Archives Quarterly, Volume 28.02: Summer 2018

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“Selfless Service and Sacrifice: A Soldier’s Story” by Hannah Brockway

The information in the Joint Archives Quarterly Vol, 28.02 article, “Selfless Service and Sacrifice: A Soldier’s Story,” incorrectly indicated that Morris Moody enlisted in the United States Marines. It also indicated that the American Expeditionary Forces were a part of Marine operations. Morris Moody was, in fact, in the US Army and not a Marine.¹ He was part of the American Expeditionary Forces, the name given to the American Army in Europe, in its Second Division. He was in the 12th field artillery regiment within this division. Proof of his status as an Army soldier can be found in his files at the Joint Archives, in an Honorable Discharge form from the Army.² His attendance at Army forts, as opposed to camps that the Marines use, is referenced in the chronology of his military experience that he handwrote, kept in his files at the Joint Archives.³ The author of this article may have been confused because Moody’s division included two regiments of Marine soldiers.⁴ Another point of confusion is that the *Holland Sentinel* reported “Mr. Moody and Elmer Poppe... volunteered three days after Holland’s first contingent of m[a]rines left the city.”⁵ Finally, there is documentation in Moody’s files of his Adjusted Service Certificate of \$1584.00, given to him after the war, which lumps the military and naval forces together.⁶ The author of this article used this information in her assembly of the piece. All other information in the piece is correct.

Additional Information on the American Expeditionary Forces:

- Established by General John Joseph “Black Jack” Pershing, the supreme commander of the American army in France⁷
 - Originally just the “American Army in Europe”⁸
 - “Pershing’s AEF was the first modern American army”⁹
 - “divisions were organized into corps; and corps organized into number armies. By the end of the war the AEF contained two numbered armies”¹⁰
 - “The 1st and 2nd Divisions were Regular Army; the 26th and 42nd Divisions came from the National Guard... the Regular Army divisions were cobbled together from existing Army and Marine Corps regiments”¹¹
 - “The 2nd Division was especially noteworthy because one of its brigades consisted of United States Marines.”¹²

Endnotes

¹ “Holland,” Biographical, 1899-1970, Moody, Morris, Box 1 (H17-1967). This article states that “Marinus Kale, George Glupker, and Peter Marcusse have joined the marine corps, Samuel Ziegler and James Van Anrooy have enlisted in the cavalry, and Elmer Poppe and Morris Moody will join the coast artillery.”

² “Honorable Discharge from the United States Army,” *Military Service Documents, 1917-1925*, Moody, Morris, Box 1 (H17-1967). The form reads: “This is to certify that Morris C Moody [cross] 128900 Private Battery C 12th Field Artillery The United States Army, as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service, is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the United States...”

³ “Morris Moody service chronology—Original,” *Military Service Documents, 1917-1925*, Moody, Morris, Box 1 (H17-1967). This chronology notes that he stayed at Fort Strong and Fort Myer, Army fortifications.

⁴ “Member of 12th Field Artillery Writes from Germany That Paris Was Saved by the ‘Fighting Second’ Division,” *Biographical, 1899-1970*, Moody, Morris, Box 1 (H17-1967). This document notes that “This was the 2nd division of regular army troops consisting of 5th and 6th marines, 9th and 23rd infantry and 12th, 15th and 17th field artillery, a great many of whom were from Michigan.” It also stated that this group was part of the Army of Occupation.

⁵ *Holland Sentinel* “First one of Sentinel Stars Comes Home,” Biographical, 1899-1970, Moody, Morris, Box 1 (H17-1967).

⁶ “United States Veterans Bureau, Washington, January, 1925 Letter,” *Military Service Documents, 1917-1925*, Moody, Morris, Box 1 (H17-1967). The document claims the certificate “as certified to this Bureau by the Department which [Moody] last served while in the Military or Naval forces of the United States.”

⁷ Library of Congress, “The American Expeditionary Forces,” *Stars and Stripes: The American Soldiers’ Newspaper of World War I, 1918 to 1919*, par. 2 <https://www.loc.gov/collections/stars-and-stripes/articles-and-essays/a-world-at-war/american-expeditionary-forces/>

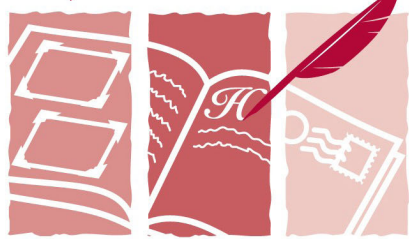
⁸ Leo P. Hirrel, “Supporting the Doughboys: US Army Logistics and Personnel During World War I,” *US Army Combined Arms Center* (Fort Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2017), [https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-\(Web\).pdf](https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-(Web).pdf) pg 41

⁹ Leo P. Hirrel, “Supporting the Doughboys: US Army Logistics and Personnel During World War I,” *US Army Combined Arms Center* (Fort Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2017), [https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-\(Web\).pdf](https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-(Web).pdf) pg xiii

¹⁰ Leo P. Hirrel, “Supporting the Doughboys: US Army Logistics and Personnel During World War I,” *US Army Combined Arms Center* (Fort Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2017), [https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-\(Web\).pdf](https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-(Web).pdf) pg 42

¹¹ Leo P. Hirrel, “Supporting the Doughboys: US Army Logistics and Personnel During World War I,” *US Army Combined Arms Center* (Fort Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2017), [https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-\(Web\).pdf](https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-(Web).pdf) pg 48

¹² Leo P. Hirrel, “Supporting the Doughboys: US Army Logistics and Personnel During World War I,” *US Army Combined Arms Center* (Fort Leavenworth: Combat Studies Institute Press, 2017), [https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-\(Web\).pdf](https://www.armyupress.army.mil/Portals/7/combat-studies-institute/csi-books/Supporting-the-Doughboys-(Web).pdf) pg 61



The Joint Archives *Quarterly*

Volume 28 Number 2

Summer 2018

Here As at Home: The 1918 Holland Flu Epidemic

By Aine O'Connor

In early August 1918, Holland soldier Edward Atman wrote home to his family from France. He described his new life “over there,” commenting on things like the excellent sermons provided by the Y.M.C.A. He ended the letter with a single line, probably intended to comfort worried friends and family in Holland, Michigan: “We are just as well off here as at home.”

Little did Atman know that soon both his hometown and his temporary encampment would be utterly changed by illness. Five months earlier, a young unnamed soldier had reported ill at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was treated for flu-like symptoms, but alarmingly, other soldiers around him also began to get sick with horrible pneumonia-like hacking coughs. It was a quick-moving and extremely destructive disease, targeting the healthy lungs and immune systems of young people—and ominously, millions of those healthy lungs and immune systems were headed on a collision course towards each other. Soldiers exposed to the new flu at Fort Riley began to board ships in droves, ready to go to war for democracy. They took the flu with them, and the disaster began slowly, then all at once. (Although the flu was well-known both at the time and today as “Spanish influenza,” most modern-day sources choose the Fort Riley patient as “patient zero.” The flu gained much attention when it came to Spain in late 1918, and due to the lack of censorship in the country, the attention was allowed to spread.)

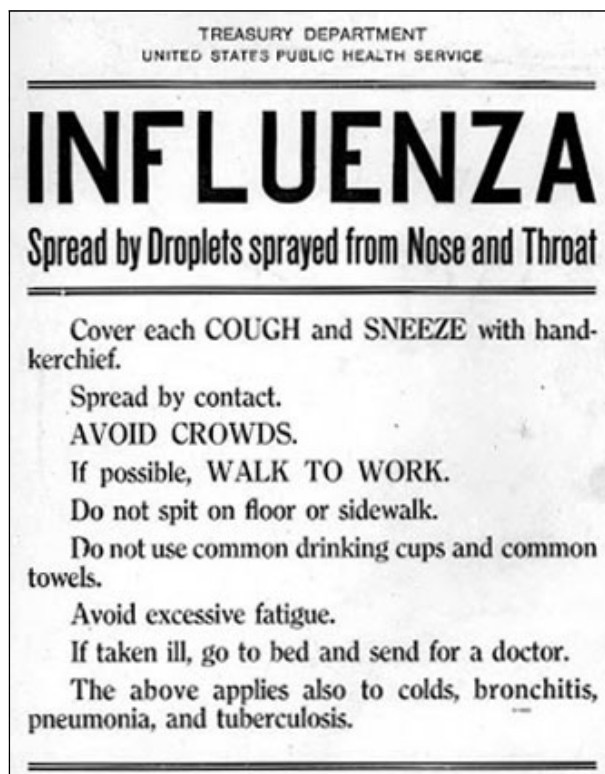
Meanwhile, the little town of Holland remained firmly entrenched in the war effort. More men volunteered or were drafted and sent to Camp Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan, to be trained. There were more sweethearts to kiss goodbye, letters to write, money to raise. The tide was turning in the war, a sentiment reflected in the

patriotic letters from soldiers published in the *Holland City News* and *The Anchor*, Hope College’s weekly newspaper. Holland waited in anticipation for its boys to come home; by September 1918, the war was only months away from finally ending.

The first whisperings of the flu in Holland began 60 miles southeast, at Camp Custer. The large majority of young soldiers from Holland up to this point had been sent there for basic training, and it was a common setting for stories and letters in the *Holland City News*. The camp must have seemed like a Hope College branch, due to the number of young men from the school who trained there. A hotel even existed for various family members to come visit. By the end of the war, over

100,000 soldiers passed through Camp Custer. It was where Michigan’s best came to learn how to kill the hated *Boche* and heroically make the world safe for democracy, as President Woodrow Wilson had told them to do.

The flu began slowly at the camp, just like everywhere else. News about the flu traveled even more slowly, so



(continued on page 2)

From the Director



This issue of the *Joint Archives Quarterly* features two student-written articles about life in Holland, Michigan, and a soldier's story while fighting in Europe in 1918, the last year of World War I. These illustrate the struggles and fears both soldiers and those at home experienced during one of the most memorable years of

the 20th century and one we hope never to repeat. I hope that these two articles, and those written in the *Quarterly* over the last year, have given you some insight into life in Holland, at Hope College, and in Europe during 1917-1918.

Geoffrey D. Reynolds

"Here As at Home" (continued from page 1)



New recruits stand at attention while training at Camp Custer, ca. 1917

much so that on September 27, the *Grand Rapids Herald* reported that all men had been thoroughly checked for the flu—according to the reporter, “no man sneezes or coughs without being immediately rushed to the regimental surgeon... no cases have been reported.” The reporter went on to say that there was no perceived harm in continuing to have regular visit days. The article was factually incorrect, and proved to be catastrophic. Official reports from the surgeon general’s office suggest that the epidemic had reached the camp almost a week earlier. Some infantrymen had not begun boiling and sterilizing their belongings until September 26, because of some confusion, and appeared in the hospital in hordes just days later. On September 28—just *one day* after the *Grand Rapids Herald* article appeared—doctors at the camp noted that the number of sick men “exceeded the number of available beds.” Since the regular visit days were apparently still going on, many of the sick people using the beds became mothers and girlfriends of ill soldiers who had come to check in. The hotel that had once been used for happy visits was haphazardly converted into a second, isolated hospital. The flu had officially arrived in Michigan.

The statistics surrounding the spread of flu at Camp Custer are staggering. At one point, the *Baltimore Sun* reported that of the estimated 6,100 men in the camp, “5,500 are being treated for influenza.” Some African American troops at Camp Custer were the most devastated by the flu and were not helped by doctors, writing them off as “venereal cases.” October 2, 1918, proved to be the worst day at the camp, as 64 men died from complications of pneumonia in 24 hours. All in all, nearly 10,000 men would be hospitalized at Camp Custer with flu-like symptoms, about 10% of the total population of the camp for the entire duration of the war. 674 men died, along with many of the wives, girlfriends, mothers, and other family members who arrived to help and were exposed. In the closing weeks of the war, men from Michigan were sent to Camp Lee in Virginia, because “this camp is comparatively free from the flu and is being used to receive recruits who under normal conditions would have been sent to such places as Camp Custer where the flu has taken a very strong hold.” Training at the camp ended earlier than others in the United States, in part due to this terrible outbreak. Camp Custer would prove to be a turning point as Michigan began to feel the full effects of the influenza.

Even as the death toll from the flu began to pour in from Camp Custer, Holland remained relatively normal. Atman’s August “we are just as well off” letter officially appeared in the *Holland City News* on October 3, 1918, a few days after Michigan governor Albert Sleeper declared that any person who died from the flu had to have a private funeral, rather than in a church or state building. Still, mentions of “influenza” stayed isolated and relatively placid. Private James Klomparsens, a Hope student, was confined to bed with the flu in Van Vleck Hall on October 9, but fears about an outbreak quickly subsided as he recovered. One day earlier, the first fatality from any Hollander—civilian or otherwise—was reported by the *Holland City News*; Hope alum and one-time professor Herbert Keppel had been stricken with the disease in Florida. Surely, this still felt quite far away to the typical Holland citizen, more preoccupied by everyday matters or exciting news from the front. But to the modern-day historian, a terrifying series of newspaper articles and reports begins to feel like a black cloud gradually descending over the country—and its next storm was due to touch down in Holland.

Fort Riley (725 miles from Holland) in early March. Detroit (180 miles) in mid-September. Camp Custer (60 miles) in late September and early October. Grand Rapids (27 miles) in mid-October. On October 19, Governor Sleeper “closed” the state of Michigan and asked for federal physicians and nurses to be brought in. As an early precaution, Hope



Herbert Keppel was Holland's first flu fatality, ca. 1918



Soldiers from Fort Riley, Kansas, ill with Spanish influenza at hospital ward at Camp Funston, 1918 (Kansaspedia.com)

College was officially quarantined and classes cancelled on October 16. Saugatuck (15 miles), Zeeland (9 miles), and Drenthe (7 miles) all began to experience sickness around the time of the closing of Michigan. Almost daily, Holland parents, friends, and family members were receiving news that their young men had been killed by the flu while abroad. And yet, it would take until late October for the Spanish flu to, by this point inevitably, reach Holland.

When it reached, it roared. On October 24, the *Holland City News* wrote, "There has been a rapid increase in the disease throughout the city in the past 24 hours and the indications are that Holland is but just entering upon the epidemic which in some other cities has spent its force." Almost 40 new cases of the flu had been reported in the past 24 hours, with bad weather bringing more cases on the horizon. The flu had finally caught up to Holland, and the city reacted. Everything would have to change to fight the flu.

At first there were voluntary closings. Many business owners and clubs chose to close their doors to prevent the spread of disease. Relief Corps meetings, millinery shops, political campaigns, and female fraternal organization (Ladies of the Maccabees) get-togethers were cancelled or postponed. Even the mayor of Holland, Nicodemus Bosch, set up bowls of formaldehyde to kill the virus in his factory, Western Machine Tool Works. Bosch did not want to stop production, since his factory had received commendations from the Army for its tools during the war. The two newspapers reporting on all these closings, the *Holland Sentinel* and the *Holland City News*, also experienced "disruptions" in circulation because there were so many sick newsboys. Despite Hope's quarantine, *The Anchor* also had to take a break, since both its editor-in chief and his substitute contracted the flu. Across Holland the city was getting quieter, gearing up for the biggest fight of its life.

It should not have come as too much of a shock, then, when the city was "officially" quarantined in the last days of October. Hope College professor Almon T. Godfrey, also known as "Health Officer Godfrey," quickly became a Holland staple as he took on the flu, ordering all stores except restaurants and drug stores to close at 6 PM. The reading room at the library was closed, as were soda fountains and ice cream parlors. By far the most shocking closure, though, were the churches. For the first time in Holland's history, Sundays would be *churchless* for two weeks. All schools were also closed, and the health officer threatened that any parent that allowed their children to come into close contact with others "is guilty of crime under the present circumstances."



Almon T. Godfrey, ca. 1918

Meanwhile, the most famous school in town had essentially become a correspondence college in isolation. Students at Hope College either had to stay home or, in cases where students' homes were far away, could not leave their dorm except to read the daily class assignments, written on a bulletin board. While the *Holland City News* wrote that work at the college "goes on in every way," *The Anchor* was less democratic, complaining at one point, "no 'flu,' no excitement, no classes, all study." This boredom must have been felt throughout Holland, as the city shut down to prevent more disease. While not all of the flu deaths in Holland got reported in newspapers like the *Holland City News*, stories like the five Brummel children, whose mother was killed by the flu, and Martin J. Brown, who died at 23 after a week-long battle and left behind a wife and child, prove that the tragedy of the epidemic had been deeply felt.

With nothing to distract them, it would have been difficult for Hollanders to keep themselves from thinking of their loved ones far away. Almost all of the men from Holland who died in World War I were killed by diseases like the Spanish flu, following the general proportion of all American soldiers. Some died in France in the last weeks of the war, while others passed away at Camp Custer before they ever got there. Many died en route or while in Russia as part of the Polar Bear Expedition. To add insult to tragedy, many of these soldiers' bodies could never come home, in part because the ban on public funerals was still in place. The first man from Hope to die in the war, William Jansma, passed away from complications of influenza and pneumonia on October 27, during the college's quarantine. *The Anchor* wrote, "he had scarcely landed [in England] when the call came for him to lay down his life and to enter a higher and nobler service. He gave his life for the freedom of humanity and we know that he did not die in vain." Several weeks later, Holland soldier Lawrence DeWitt wrote home to his parents from

France, “I am feeling fine, that is the main thing on this side of the pond.” It was a far cry from Edward Atman’s own letter from France written just three months earlier.

As Holland mourned its losses, the flu began to lose its grip. After another churchless Sunday on the last day of October, the official quarantine was lifted, although the health officer left the threat of quarantine open if Holland residents did not comply with strict “precautions” to prevent the spread of disease. Hope College, too, lifted its quarantine, and *The Anchor* rejoiced, writing, “We realize as never before that there is a thing as ‘getting too much of a good thing.’” However, they added to this statement, “Just what would have been the toll that the ‘flu’ would have extracted from our student numbers had not the closed classroom system been introduced when it was we dare not venture to estimate. At the time the system was begun the insidious disease had already



William Jansma, 1918

seized the dormitory and had seized Flossy ‘Flu’ Dalenberg.” Due to early action, the flu became a forgettable adventure rather than an unmitigated disaster at Hope. Holland, too, had responded well, and came through the black cloud of the Spanish flu without too many adverse effects. One unfortunate occurrence was the closing of the new Knickerbocker theater, which had lost basically all of their money during the quarantine. It would take years before the theater reopened under new management, but it remains a fixture in downtown Holland today.

Some companies experienced a boom from the outbreak. The DePree Chemical Company “had ‘been keeping a force busy night and day... ‘It is thought that the onrush of orders will continue long after the ‘flu’ epidemic has subsided, as many cities will be taking precautionary steps, so that there will be no recurrence of the Spanish influenza in their cities.’” The other Holland industry that profited from the flu? Coffin manufacturers—according to the *Holland City News*. But even as death remained a thought in Holland’s mind, the atmosphere turned towards celebration and reflection. Less than a week after the quarantine was lifted on November 5, Holland and the rest of the country celebrated the official signing of the armistice on November 11. It was time for a parade. Holland had many reasons to rejoice, from the promise of returning home to the simple joy of church bells ringing throughout the city.

Note: Information used in this article was taken from local newspapers like the Holland Sentinel, Holland City News, The Anchor, as well as a Camp Custer report: Ernest E. Irons, Lynn S. Beals, Wyndham B. Blanton, and John F. Bresnahan, n.d., “Report of Influenza and

Pneumonia Epidemic, Camp Custer, Michigan, September to November, 1918.”



About the author:

Aine O’Connor is a junior at Hope College and is originally from South Bend, Indiana. She is an English and history double major, with a special focus in disability studies and Holland history.



Armistice Day Parade in Holland, Michigan, 1918

Selfless Service and Sacrifice: A Holland Soldier's Story

By Hannah Brockway

We usually think of World War I in terms of the battles fought and the strategies utilized. We think of the political causes of the war and the major events that transpired. We learn in school about the implications of the war and the legacy it had in Europe and the United States. We even remember the notable players of the war: the leaders, the generals, and their contributions. However, we rarely remember that the war was centered on individuals. The brunt of World War I rested on young European and American men. These young men each had not only ambitions, families and a story of their own, but also had a significant impact on the course of the war in their individual contributions. These men, many of whom gave up their lives in service, are the heart of the war and show the complex ways in which the war reached even the most seemingly unassuming men and places.

Morris Moody was born to Guy and Harriet Moody on January 26, 1899, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His family lived on 16th Street in Holland, Michigan, and this is where he spent the entirety of his childhood. It was here that he lived the ideal American life. He was from a long line of Americans that stemmed from the *Mayflower* and were involved in every major developmental moment of United States history. His past was steeped in these ideals. He was truly American made in every capacity, and his life in Holland was a testament to this fact. Moody had three sisters: one older, Lucy, and two younger, Abby and Nina. He is often pictured enjoying time with his sisters and parents, and he appears to have been close with each of them. His family owned a farm, and he spent time



*Morris, Lucy and Nina Moody,
ca. 1905*



Moody family, ca. 1918

there playing with his cousins, playing and learning about farming. His family was prominent in the community. He lived a quiet childhood life, the type that comes with

Holland, Michigan, and was an average small town boy in every respect. He had many neighborhood friends that he kept throughout his childhood and was active in the community. Moody went through the Holland public school system and received average grades. While in high school at Holland High, he began working for the *Holland Sentinel* as an after school job. He was on course to graduate and lead a normal, inconspicuous life in the American workforce. However, Moody's life had unique timing, in that during his senior year of high school, the United States joined World War I.

Moody was immediately sympathetic to the American cause and was eager to join the American Expeditionary Forces. According to the December 23, 1918, *Holland Sentinel* reflecting on his service, Moody joined "three days after the first contingent of marines left the city." Moody enlisted in the United States Marines on April 25, 1917, with his friend and colleague, Elmer Poppe. This was before he had even graduated from high school. Both boys were very eager to join the action and were ready for the next step in the process. For Moody, this meant Columbus, Ohio, where he began his training. He quickly went on to Fort Strong, Massachusetts, to continue his basic training. Moody then specialized in field artillery, a division of the Marines that deals with mobile support artillery, and was sent to Fort Myer, Virginia, on June 30, 1917, for his specialized training.



*Morris Moody (right) at
Fort Myer, Virginia, 1917*

Unfortunately for Moody's adventurous spirit and impatience to fight for his country, it was not until January 1918 that he was finally called to go "over there." What he did between June 30, 1917, and January 10, 1918, is unclear. However, it is known that he received his training for field artillery and did not return home during this time. He set sail on the cold morning of January 10, 1918, leaving his friend Elmer Poppe behind; much to the latter's chagrin. Moody was eager to join the fight and was glad to be leaving Fort Myer and to finally be able put his training into practice. First, he had to face one blustery and frigid journey across the Atlantic Ocean. He traveled on the *Olympic*, the sister ship to the *Titanic* and the largest British ocean liner at this time. The use of convoys was still a new concept at the time of his voyage. Therefore the ship traveled alone, meaning that the men had to stay under cover during most of the journey. This must have been quite frightening for Moody and the men he traveled with, to have to remain under cover in anticipation of attack. However, the journey went relatively smoothly, other

than the acute seasickness that plagued Moody during the voyage. The *Olympic* reached England on January 18, 1918, and Moody was finally able to get his sea legs back on dry land. The men stayed in England for only a short time, and were soon moved to Le Havre, in Normandy, France, as was usual for men entering the war from the United States. From here, Moody, with his field artillery training, was soon sent to the artillery camps near Switzerland for further training and preparation to join the ongoing war.



Private Morris Moody,
1917

Moody was placed in Battery C. 12th Field Artillery regiment of the Second Division of the American Expeditionary Forces. This meant that he was part of a regiment that controlled and moved the larger weapons to support the infantry with indirect fire. His unit commanded the 75mm Gun M1917, or the “French 75” gun that was the primary large artillery piece during the war. One gun was manned by six men and required six horses for transport. Moody was part of one of these six

men crews that would aid in the movement and firing of the massive gun during battle. During the winter when Moody first joined the Second Division, in between training to operate the 75 and to conduct effective trench warfare, he helped to perform “prosaic tasks.” This meant that his unit helped build up the Allied infrastructural presence in Europe to enable an efficient military system. These tasks included building railroads and landing coal. This work, as unheroic as it seems compared to battle, helped to ensure the Allied transportation system and fueled the war effort.

Finally, Moody’s first official call to duty came when his battalion was appointed to a quiet sector of the Verdun Front. This was Moody’s first actual experience of World War I and the violence that went with it. He reported in the *Holland Sentinel* on December 23, 1918, of the “thrilling experiences” he had with firing the 75 gun and with combatting the “big German shells which sometimes cleaned out dugouts and destroyed other places of shelter.” He stayed there for only a short time, however, because as timing would have it again, the Battle of Château-Thierry was planned for July, 1918. It was a part of the second battle of the Marne, and was one of the first actions taken solely by the American Expeditionary Forces. The battle was undertaken on July 18, 1918, and Moody’s unit was called to help support the French troops against the encroaching German forces. During the battle, the men in his division went without food because their rations were depleted, and because they were forced to quickly divert their plans and rush to the aid of the French troops. The work of the

Second Division in this battle and in the war in general has been celebrated as the “salvation” of Paris. Their work here guarded Paris and pushed the Germans away from the capital city. The January 13, 1919, *Holland Sentinel* also claimed that the French army wanted to give up at this time after opposing the Germans for so long and that the American Expeditionary Forces, and namely, the Second Division that Moody belonged to, came in at the perfect time to bolster their strength and supply fresh troops for relief. No matter the extent to which the Second Division had in “saving Paris,” Moody and the rest of his battalion fought courageously in France and altered the course of the war through their selfless dedication to the cause.

This is all the impact that Moody would have on the Front; however, because as fate would have it, Moody only remained in battle for two more days. As his division was transferring to the Soissons front after Château-Thierry, his company crossed through an open sector. The horse he was leading was shot down, and he was caught with a bullet in his right shoulder. His time fighting in World War I came to a quick end. He was rushed from the battlefield to a Parisian hospital where he immediately underwent surgery. His shoulder and part of his back were severely wounded and one of his nerves had been severed, threatening the function of his arm and hand. It would require multiple surgeries and a long road of recovery.

Moody stayed at a Red Cross hospital, where, he stated in the January 13, 1919, *Holland Sentinel* that his care was “of the best.” While recovering from this first surgery, he realized that he needed to inform his family of what had happened to him, and so he had a chaplain at the hospital type a telegram for him on July 30, 1918, to notify his mother that he was alright and healing from his first surgery. He told her of the exceptional care he received here, saying that, “the Red Cross do everything one could ask for.” He also told his mother, “We ought to be thankful that I have got out so fortunately.” Moody considered himself lucky that he only received a severe wound that could leave his hand incapacitated as opposed to the much worse outcomes he witnessed every day in the war.

Moody sent a second, handwritten letter to his mother on August 23, 1918, before he left the Paris hospital and reported that his arm was healing. In this letter, he voiced that he was still interested and concerned with the course of the war, despite his current battle with a painful surgery and rehabilitation. He asked his mother if she had seen in the papers “what good work the allies [were] doing.” He was also still eager for his comrades to put “‘Old Bill’ back where he belong[ed] and return home.” Even when he was out of commission in a Parisian hospital, removed from the action, he was still keenly invested in the Allied effort, for which he had sacrificed his time, safety, and comfort.

From
Private Morris C. Moody,
Battery C. 12th Field Artillery
Am. Ex. Forces

Red Cross
American Military
Hospital, No. 1. *Am. E. F.*
30 July 1918

To
Mrs. G. C. Moody,
102 West 16th Street,
Holland,
Michigan.

My own dear mother:

I have asked the chaplain to write this because I want you to know that I am getting along very well. My arm will be all right. It will not be stiff even. We ought to be very thankful that I have got out so fortunately. The chaplain gave me a Bible today. The Red Cross do everything one could ask for,

Give my love to all the family and take lots of it for yourself. I wish I could see you all.

Very devotedly,

Morris

(Written by Chaplain
Rolfe P. Crum)

P.S. Write me here but put on the envelope my company and number of my regiment so that the letter will be forwarded to me wherever I am.

MOODY TELLS OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN FRANCE

WOMAN'S LITERARY CLUB WAS
PACKED TO THE DOORS AT
MEETING SUNDAY.

Statue of Liberty Looks Good to Re-
turning Soldier, Declares Boy Who
Is Back from the Front

A crowd that packed the Literary
Club rooms to the doors greeted Mor-
ris Moody, one of the first Holland
soldiers and one of the first

specialists like an otolaryngological unit that specialized in the ear, nose, and throat. The hospital was large and grand with a wide space to eat and easy access to the beaches on the Atlantic Ocean. Moody was able to get outside often and explore the boardwalk and the beaches while he was recovering from his many surgeries here. Moody is

even pictured frolicking on the beach with a dog in many of the pictures from his time there. He made a painting as part of his therapy to recover from his arm surgeries, a practice that had recently been implemented in the War Risk Insurance Act passed in 1917. This act ensured the rehabilitation and re-education of the men returning from World War I, and encouraged the use of arts and crafts to help soldiers cope mentally and physically with their time at war. The practice was still not widely in use in 1918 and the Cape May Veterans' Hospital was ahead of its time for implementing this therapy.



Cape May Veteran's Hospital, ca. 1918

Moody also made many friends while he was recovering in Cape May, New Jersey. He is often pictured with other wounded soldiers smiling on the beach or making silly faces into the camera. In addition, he appears to have gotten close with many of the nurses who cared for him. In the picture album from his time there, there are several photographs of the men and nurses playing games and having fun together. The captions on the photographs also reveal that they had nicknames for each other, such as one of the nurses whom they called "Birdie."

While Moody was receiving his care in Cape May, New Jersey, he was allowed several furloughs home to Holland to visit his family. There are many happy photographs of him reuniting with his family after being gone for almost two years in training camps and war-torn Europe. The December 23, 1918, *Holland Sentinel*

Several days after this second letter was received by the Moody family, on September 24, 1918, an official telegram from the United States government was sent to Morris's mother, informing her that her son was "severely wounded" in battle, with no indication to his then current state. Thankfully, Morris had already managed to inform his family of his condition or this telegram would have caused needless shock and worry in the Moody household. Three days later, Guy Moody received a second telegram from the United States informing him that his son had been moved from the Parisian Red Cross Hospital all the way to Newport News, Virginia, in good condition. On the same day, the Moodys received a letter from Morris informing them that he had indeed finally been transferred back to the United States.

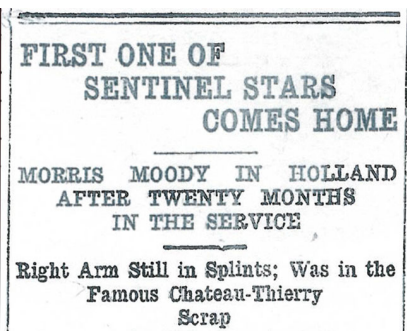
Morris Moody came home to the U.S. on a return journey of the *Olympic*. This trip was smoother, in that his seasickness was much subdued. In the January 13, 1919, *Holland Sentinel*, Moody stated that, "there was never a happier feeling than the time when he saw the shores of good ole U.S.A. and beheld the Statue of Liberty loom up in the New York Harbor." Moody was finally in the United States and relieved to be back. He spent a short time in the Camp Stuart base hospital in Newport News, Virginia, before he was transferred in early October to the Cape May Veteran's Hospital in New Jersey, where they had the advanced equipment required to address his still wounded shoulder and arm. Moody received quite exceptional care here. The hospital was indeed well-equipped with state-of-the-art technology, such as an x-ray machine, and even



*Morris Moody (center) and friends
at Cape May Veteran's Hospital, 1919*

reported that his family was obviously happy to have him home, but could "hardly recognize the husky soldier" who returned to them. Moody went back and forth between Holland and New Jersey at least three times while his arm was being operated on and he was recovering. He was in and out of the hospital for so long because the damage to his nerve required extensive careful surgery to reconnect so that he would be able to regain the use his hand.

Moody was not officially discharged from the United States Marines until May 15, 1920. He was honorably discharged with a glowing review of his service. He was recognized for his "honest and faithful service," and his



character was described as "excellent." The document reflects that he never missed and was never late to duty the entire time he served until he injured his arm. This glowing assessment is a testimonial to his sacrifice and

dedication to the United States Marine Corps, and to the American people. The only compensation Moody received was in 1925, five years later, when he was granted \$1,584 for his service by the United States Veterans Bureau, according to the World War Adjusted Compensation Act. He received only this small compensation for his trouble and sacrifice in World War I, and yet he bore the burden with honor.

Then, just like that, the war was over and Moody returned to his quiet life in Holland, Michigan. Just like many soldiers who returned to a world which now seemed impossibly normal, Moody naturally felt disoriented by his post war surroundings. He now had to

figure out how to return to civilian life and what to do with his civilian life. He was only eighteen when he joined the Marines and was sent to war. His life had barely begun.

As his life started to go back to normal, Moody decided to apply to the University of Michigan for engineering, a path that was common for Moody men. His ancestor, E. Moody Boynton of Newbury, was a well-known inventor, and his relative, Herbert A. Moody, who compiled the entire Moody genealogy, chose the same path, even specifically attending the University of Michigan for engineering. Morris Moody was accepted and spent his years there studying to be an engineer. He also made many friends while at college and is pictured playing games with young people and having fun, much like his time at the veteran's hospital in Cape May.

Moody graduated from the University of Michigan in 1929 with a degree in civil engineering. His first employment after college was in Fort Wayne, Michigan, as a surveyor. This position entailed mapping out the distances and angles between points on the Earth to construct a working depiction of the topography. His work as a surveyor required the skills he learned as an engineering student, such as trigonometry, geometry, and physics. Although it was a good first experience after graduation, this was not what Moody ultimately wanted to do with his life. Moody eventually ended up in East Lansing where he worked for ten years as an engineer for the Michigan State Highway Department, the predecessor of the current Michigan Department of Transportation. Moody then worked for the Aeronautics Commission, the agency responsible for all aeronautics within the state of Michigan, such as airplanes, airports, and air schools. He worked here for twenty-three years until he retired in 1966.



*Morris Moody (right) studying at
the University of Michigan, ca. 1925*

Morris Moody married Genevieve Craig on August 9, 1936, when he was thirty-seven years old. The couple had one son, William and, in turn, one grandchild. Moody was very involved in his community in East



Surveyor Moody, ca. 1929

Lansing, just as he had been in Holland. He was prominent in his church, the Peoples' Church of East Lansing. He was also a member of the Grand Valley Society of Professional Engineers and the Michigan State Employees Association.

Although Morris Moody died on November 11, 1969, of pneumonia at the age of seventy, he lived to see the first man walk on the moon by approximately four

months; a scientific accomplishment that would be of particular interest to the aeronautic engineer. He was survived by his wife, their son, and grandchild. He was also survived by two of his sisters, Abby and Nina. He received a memorial service at his church and was laid to rest at Deepdale Memorial Park in East Lansing.

In most respects, Moody lived a typical Holland and later, Michigan life. He was homegrown and dedicated to the area; he participated in community events and even worked for the local *Holland Sentinel*. He found childhood neighborhood friends and participated in the Dutch culture in the area. In many respects, he was living the American Dream. However, Morris Moody was exceptional for his sacrifice for which Holland and the nation will always be indebted to him. Moody joined the cause when the call came to Holland for soldiers. He joined with enthusiasm, happy to defend the country and the American way of life that had been the cornerstone of his childhood and young adult years. And, even though he was only a young eighteen year old kid, he showed courage and a patriotic love for this country by risking his life to defend it.

Beyond that, Morris Moody's ancestry held a destiny for his life that led up to his military career. He was more than just a boy from Holland. He came from a long line of patriotic American military men. His family was part of America from its beginnings and participated in every part of its development. His ancestors came over from England on the Mayflower in 1620. They helped establish the Plymouth colony and develop the Protestant work ethic at the core of American ideals. They were instrumental in setting up many of the colonies and towns of New England. Moody's ancestors then fought in every war significant to the American cause, most importantly the American Revolution and the Civil War. Even before his ancestors moved to Michigan and his own family moved to Holland, his destiny was set in place. The idea of defending American freedom was ingrained in Morris Moody from his ancestors who landed on Plymouth Rock down to those who fought for

American independence, down to those who fought to preserve the union and independence in the Civil War.

Moody and his division fought valiantly in World War I and have been heralded as the "saviors of Paris," as the presence of American troops relieved the exhausted European troops who had been fighting for more than three years. Each individual who fought in the war was significant and changed the course of the war. Moody was a Holland boy just like any other, but his life is a testament to the fact that heroes can come from anywhere, even inconspicuous Holland, to make a profound difference in the world.



About the author:

Hannah Brockway graduated from Hope College in 2018 with a major in history and a minor in French. She is currently attending an internship at Cornerstone Church in Highland, Michigan, and plans to get a master's degree in library science in the future.



Holland Area Historical Society 2018-2019

The Holland Area Historical Society focuses on the history and heritage of the Holland area. Its programs are designed to inform the membership through a series of quality presentations, tours, and other events focusing on the area's past. Programs are held on the second Tuesday of the month (except where noted), eight times per year. If you are not a member, we encourage you to join our group and participate in an exciting year of programs!

Ascent: The 75-Year History

of the



Tulip City Airport

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

From its founding as a grass landing strip in 1942 to its opening as a major airport business center and terminal in 2016, the Tulip City Airport has played a key role in the transportation history of the Holland area. Join local author Myron Kukla as he documents the ascent of this regional transportation link, now known as West Michigan Regional Airport.

We All Must Do Our Utmost:

Holland, Michigan in World War I

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.
Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College
264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

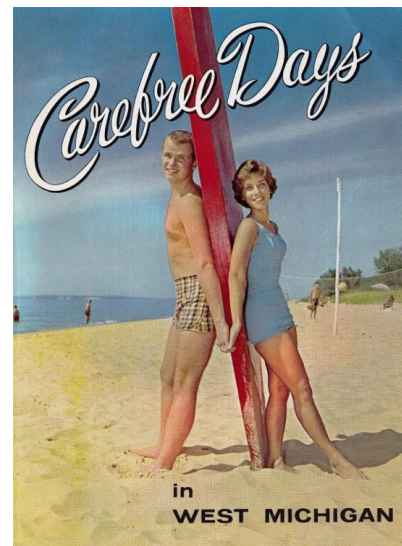
The Great War had raged since July 1914, starting as a European conflict which spiraled outward to engulf what felt like the entire world. As men from Hope College and Holland enlisted, those on the home front decided to “do their utmost” in the great cause for America. Join Hope College students Aine O’Conner and Avery Lowe as they present their research on this important conflict.

Promoting Michigan for 100 Years: A History of the West Michigan Tourist Association

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

Maas Center
Auditorium, Hope
College
264 Columbia
Avenue, Holland

The West Michigan Tourist Association was founded in 1917 as the first grass-roots tourist association in America to boost the tourism advantages of Michigan. Christine Byron and Tom Wilson will feature some of the noteworthy efforts to advertise and promote the Great Lakes State over the last 100 years. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.**



150 Years of Grace: Grace Episcopal Church and Christmas Dessert

Tuesday, December 11, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church
555 Michigan Ave., Holland

Come hear church member and historian Paul Trap speak about this important local church and its part in our community's long history of worship. **PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TIME AND LOCATION.**

How Much Dutch: The Linguistic Landscape of Holland, Michigan

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.

Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College
264 Columbia Avenue,
Holland



Dutch language and culture have been part of Holland since early settlers came in 1847 and play an important part in the local economy. Join Dr. Kathryn Remlinger as she presents her findings on how language use and cultural objects communicate

meanings that reimagine Holland as a “Dutch” city.

History of Design at Herman Miller
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
 Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College
 264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

The Herman Miller furniture line began in 1923 when an ambitious Dirk Jan De Pree found himself at the helm of a new furniture company in Zeeland, Michigan. Join Amy Auscherman, corporate archivist for Herman Miller, as she presents the history of the company's product design and the influence it has had in the furniture history overall.

**Big Red Lighthouse:
 Aid to Navigation to Local Icon**

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
 Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College
 264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

Big Red lighthouse hasn't always been big or red. Join John Gronberg as we learn more about this local icon over time and its importance to Lake Michigan navigation and Holland history.

**For Better, For Worse:
 Stories of the Lives of Early CRC Pastors**

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
 Maas Center Auditorium, Hope College
 264 Columbia Avenue, Holland

The Christian Reformed Church in North America was founded in 1857 and the lives of its pastors have been well documented, while the stories of their wives have been sadly ignored. Join Janet Sjaarda Sheeres as she brings the challenges of these important women to light for the first time.

Cancellation Policy:

Meetings are subject to cancellation due to weather and other unforeseeable circumstances. If Holland Public Schools cancels school due to bad weather, the Holland Area Historical Society will also cancel programs for that evening.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lois Jesiek Kayes, President
 Brenda E. Bos, Vice-President
 Bill Van Dyke, Treasurer
 John Hoogstra, Secretary
 Harold Gazan
 Kristi Jo Knoll
 Geoffrey Reynolds, Director

TERM EXPIRES

2018
 2018
 2019
 2019
 2017
 2017
 ex-officio

HAHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

The major goal of the Society is to bring together persons with an interest in history and at the same time promote awareness in the general public of the cultural heritage of the Holland area. In accordance with this goal, the Historical Society sponsors, on a regular basis, a variety of lectures, field trips and other historical activities. Monies collected through membership fees and fundraising activities go towards financing the activities of the Society. For more details about the meetings or membership, contact Geoffrey Reynolds at the Joint Archives of Holland (616-395-7798).

MEMBERSHIPS

Individual: \$15 per year - entitles you to vote, hold office and participate in all activities sponsored by the Society.

Family: \$20 per year - covers all members of family; benefits same as Individual with one vote per family.

Sustaining: \$30 per year - this category is for individuals who would like to provide greater financial support for the Society.

Life: \$300 - enables you to enjoy regular membership benefits on a continuous basis.

Student: \$5 per year - benefits same as Individual.

Senior Citizen (55 years and older): \$10 per year - benefits same as Individual.

Non-Profit Institutional: \$15 per year.

Corporate: \$50 per year.

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 Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

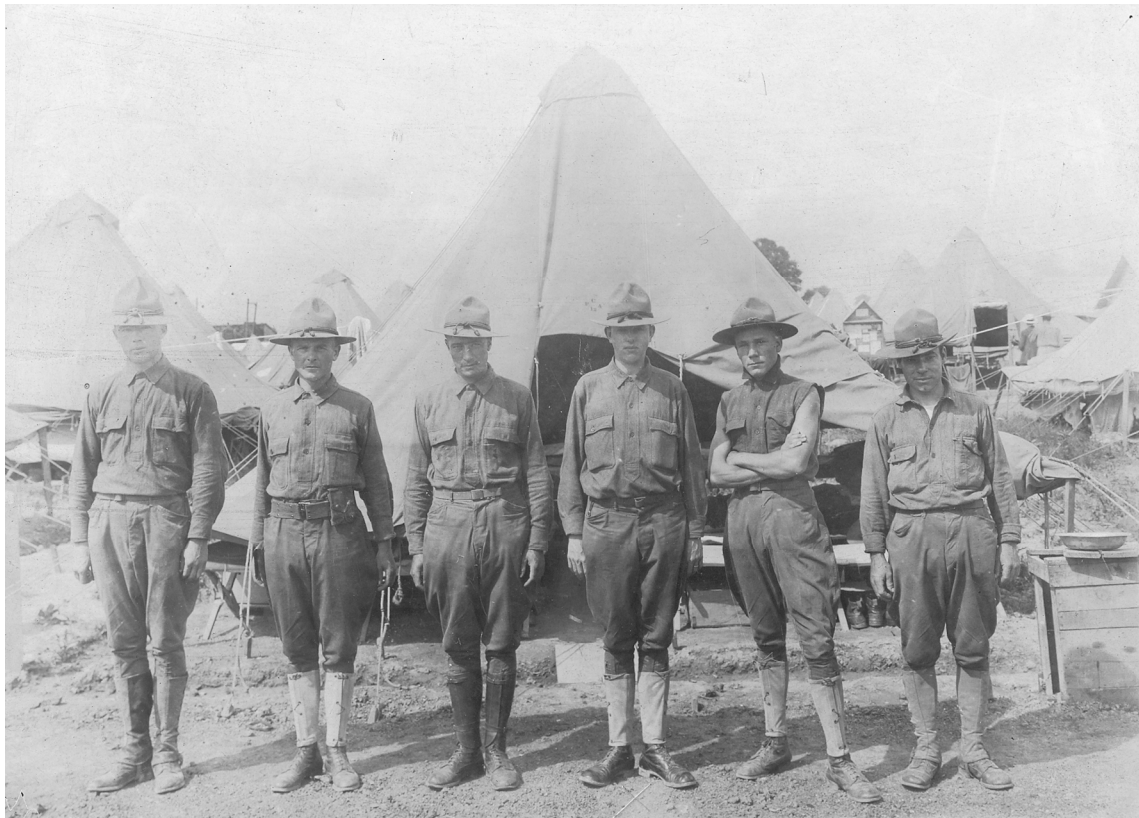
Membership Type _____

Make check payable to HAHS and mail to:

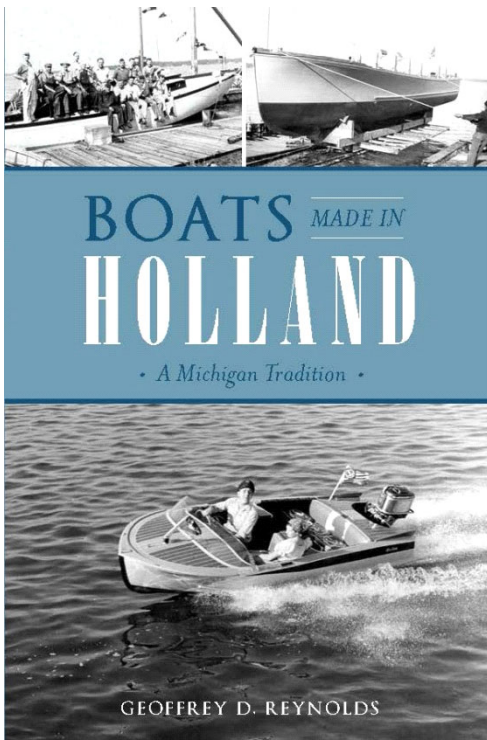
Holland Area Historical Society
 c/o The Joint Archives of Holland
 Hope College
 PO Box 9000
 Holland, MI 49422-9000



Contact us at (616) 395-7798 • Fax (616) 395-7197 • E-mail: archives@hope.edu • www.jointarchives.org



Morris Moody (4th from left), Fort Myer, Virginia, 1917



Geoffrey Reynolds, the Mary Riepma Ross Director of the Joint Archives of Holland, has published *Boats Made in Holland: A Michigan Tradition*, a new book featuring the men and women who produced watercraft with creativity, skillful hands, financial resources and cooperation. It also illustrates the area's rich and long history of successful companies that produced pleasure boats, working boats and military craft out of wood, steel, aluminum and fiberglass. Companies succeeded by working together toward a common goal, maintaining spiritual practices and commitment to family.

The Holland area has benefited from the creation of many small boat building enterprises, starting in the 1940s and continuing through today. In 1939 the Chris-Craft Corporation came to Holland, changing the landscape of the boating industry with their second and largest plant. They went on to purchase a small, locally owned steel cruiser company and changed how steel, and later aluminum boats, were made and marketed. Chris-Craft was also the training ground for countless employees that eventually left the company as craftsmen to work in or begin their own successful companies. In the late 1950s, Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic

(FRP) completely changed boat building for companies like the Slick Craft Boat Company and allowed them to continue to grow into today's high regarded S2 Yachts, Inc., maker of Tiara and Pursuit brand boats.

From the very beginning of boat building in Holland, family has played a key role in the success or failure of the boat factory. Large and small companies started with husbands and wives who had dreams to make boats designed by their tastes, built by their hands and sold via their relationships with others. Many of these families disintegrated from the stress of making and losing money, time away from one another and the loss of confidence. A few stuck to ideals, even during the worst of times, and persevered with attention to their spiritual life and being accountable to their coworkers, customers and themselves.

Much like the history of industry around the nation, small shops competed with larger firms and lost a share of the market, which reduced hundreds of small companies to just a few conglomerates today. This book tells the stories of their innovation, struggles and achievements, and provides the reader with an understanding of one of Holland, Michigan's largest local industries, along with a sense of the industrious spirit that helped create their community.

The book is available at the Hope-Geneva Bookstore, Holland Museum, Reader's World, Barnes & Noble, and online at arcadiapublishing.com.