

Clyde Dean Crosswhite

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man
lay down his life for his friends.—John 15:13.

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June 1, 1894 to July 1, 1919

Who Gave His Life as a Supreme Sacrifice
For His Country in The World War

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A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE

Corporal Clyde D. Crosswhite departed this life at 2:20 a.m. Tuesday morning, at the home of his parents, I. A. Crosswhite and wife, one mile north and one-half mile east of Parker.

After arriving home last Thursday, he appeared to rally and gain a little strength, but on Monday evening he began to grow weaker. His last hours were filled with intense suffering.

He was born at the homestead where he died, June 1, 1894, and at the time of his death was aged 25 years and one month. His Common School education was had at Enterprise School. He graduated with the 1914 class of the Parker High School, going from thence to Emporia where he took three years of Normal study in two years. He taught the following schools one term each: Walnut Grove, Wait, Sullivan and Enterprise. He filled a vacancy of two months in the Parker High School and was employed at Enterprise school when he was called to military service Nov. 6, 1917.

He enlisted at Kansas City, Mo. May 31, 1917. He was trained at Camp Funston, but a short time and started overseas as a Replacement, Jan. 18, 1918, embarking from Hoboken, N.J. Jan. 28. He was the first boy from this vicinity to land in France. He continued training in France as a replacement until June 8, when he was assigned to Co. A. 26th Infantry. On July 20, he went "over the top." He was made a Corporal August 26th. During 1918 he participated in the following battles in France with the A.E.F.: Soissons July 18-23; St. Michael Sept. 12-13; Argonne Oct. 1-12; Muzon Nov. 1-10.

For conspicuous gallantry in action on the Soissons front he was cited for bravery by the Brigadier General.

He received slight flesh wounds while in action, but they did not cause him to go to the hospital. They were: Shrapnel hit his right shoulder; Bullet grazed his left arm and one grazed a leg. He was seriously gassed, and this brought on Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which caused his death.

After the Armistice was signed he went on into Germany with his Company, where he became a Teacher in the Army School, although at the time his health was failing, but he did not stop in the line of duty until compelled to do so. He was sent to the Hospital in Germany on Feb. 18, 1919 and as quickly as was possible he was brought to the states, arriving at Hoboken, N.J. April 20, where he was placed in St. Mary's Hospital, in which he remained until brought home by his mother and brother Herman. He was discharged there June 24, 1919.

He was a member of Parker Lodge I.O.O.F. No. 378.

Several years ago he made a confession of Christ. He was baptized in St. Mary's Hospital on June 13, by Lt. N.A. Borop, an Army Chaplain of the Christian Church.

He leaves to mourn his departure a father and mother; two sisters Misses Ella and Lucretia; four brothers, Lt. Wm. T., Herman, Harry and Bert, and a devoted fiancée, Miss Mildred Nolin.

Besides all the members of the family who were present at the funeral, the following relatives were present; Mrs. Lucretia Breckenridge; Wm. Breckenridge and family; Newton McDowell and family; Mrs. Alta Breckenridge and daughter; Mrs. Ella Warner; Mrs. Lena Crosswhite; Mrs. Osa Crosswhite and Mrs. Reba Crosswhite.

The funeral services were conducted from the home Wednesday afternoon by Elder H. C. Gresham assisted by Dr. C.M. Lowe who paid fitting tributes to his memory. Mrs. J.O. Kash, Miss Madge McClay, C.F. McClay and Chas. Vail sang appropriate songs. The floral tributes were many and beautiful.

It was one of the largest funerals ever held in this community, fully 400 were in attendance. The I.O.O.F. and Rebecca Lodges attended in a body. The active pall bearers were; Benson Quisenberry, J.F. Trigg, Kenneth Grove, Harry Early, Russell Hare and Clarence Cochran. The honorary pall bearers were: Leonard Kempton, Earl Vance, Frank Hassey and Omer England, all except the last served in the A.E.F. Overseas.

The burial was in Highland Cemetery where the I.O.O.F. Lodge conducted the services, with the closing benedictions by Elder H.C. Gresham and Dr. Lowe. – Written by H.C. Greshman, Editor The Parker Message

A TRIBUTE

Clyde D. Crosswhite, Citizen, Friend, Brother, Gentleman and Patriot has gone from us. He was one of those choice spirits of earth, whose life was a blessing, a benediction to all he met. His friends were many, and I never knew of him having an enemy. In every school he taught, he was loved by all his pupils. He was a gentleman who never had to apologize for any word or act. His years upon earth were few in number, but he lived well and his influence for good will continue until time will be no more. He was a good Baseball and Basketball player, but he played the games with the same spirit that he played the game of life. He was always fair, honorable and upright. He had high ideals of life, and with an earnestness that was genuine and contagious he followed his ideals.

He was a hero in the truest sense of the word. It has been my rare privilege to read his Diary which he kept from the time he left Camp Funston until June 17, 1919. He endured all of the things incidental to war, hunger, marching thru rain and mud, trench warfare of the worst kind, and for four and one-half months suffered much from the pain and fever of disease, but I failed to find a single word of complaint in his diary. Verily “he was made perfect thru suffering.”

He never thought of himself, the discomforts or the honor an act might bring him. So thoroughly was duty uppermost in his thought, that when he was cited for bravery, he regarded it as an every day affair, not even mentioning the fact in his Diary.

To him loyalty to his country was a first consideration. Shortly after the nation declared war on Germany, rather than wait until he was drafted, he promptly offered his services and was accepted. He gave his life for his Country, and thus again we are reminded of the price of human liberty.

Rev. Robt. Williams, of Los Angeles, Calif., who was Chaplain of the 26th Infantry, writes under the date of June 25, 1919 as follows: Clyde Crosswhite served as a school teacher for me some weeks in Germany. I noticed that he seemed to be in a bad state of health and I insisted on his being examined by the surgeons there. The Doctors found it necessary to send him to the hospital. He was as fine a boy as I ever knew in the army, a steady intelligent companion. I missed him after he left and have been anxious to know how he fared after leaving us.

To him home and loved ones was the best place in the world. No matter where he was he longed for it with an untiring devotion, and during the months preceding his death, knowing full well that his days on earth were few, the thought uppermost with him was to return to the “old home” and there spend his last days with the ones he loved so well.

We sorrow because of your untimely departure, but we do not sorrow as those who have no hope. Our farewell is but for the evening, the night is short and soon we shall say “Good morning.” – H.C. Gresham

But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free people as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. — Pres. Woodrow Wilson.

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