



## Commemorating the Centenary of the Great War in the Pennsylvania House

In 2014, history institutions, along with governments, private societies, and private citizens around the world, began commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the First World War, referred to by contemporaries as The Great War. Nations mobilized for the war effort, and Pennsylvania's frontline and homefront contributions have been recorded on a major scale.

The United States officially joined the effort in 1917, declaring war on Germany. Pennsylvania's industry went into overdrive to manufacture necessary supplies, with the railroad, coal and steel industries providing much of the raw materials and equipment needed for the war effort. By the end of the war in 1918, the people of Pennsylvania paid over \$1 billion in federal taxes.

Pennsylvania supplied 324,115 soldiers for the United States Army and 45,927 for the Navy and Marine Corps. 10,278 soldiers were killed in action, and 26,252 were wounded. Pennsylvania units were engaged on the combat lines in France from July of 1917 to the



*This WWI Memorial statue, sculpted by artist John Hardy, stands at North Front and Cumberland Streets in Harrisburg and was erected in 1922. Photo courtesy of Christopher Kulfan.*

armistice declared on November 11, 1918, which led to the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

The 28th Division of the Army National Guard, covering Pennsylvania and nicknamed the "Keystone Division," played a significant role during the war, suffering 3,077 casualties and over 13,000 wounded. The Second Battle of the Marne, the St. Mihiel Drive, and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive were among the most historic campaigns that Pennsylvanians experienced. Over 200 of these Pennsylvania soldiers either served or would go on to serve in the Pennsylvania state legislature. Many of the Representatives went on to campaign for seats in the United States Congress, serve as Senators, in high-ranking gubernatorial roles, and even as Governor.

The House Archives holds many biographical materials on these individuals, and continues to learn more about Representatives' service inside and outside of the House as research progresses.

## Soldier, Lawyer, Representative, 3-Star General, Lt. Governor: Daniel B. Strickler

Daniel Bursk Strickler was born on May 17, 1897, in Columbia, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In 1916, he graduated from Columbia High School with honors. When the Pennsylvania National Guard was called to active duty on the Mexican border in 1916 he enlisted into the 4th Pennsylvania Infantry. In September of 1917, Strickler's company was deployed to France. After returning from World War I and receiving a degree from Cornell University, Strickler was admitted to the Bar of several courts, such as the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Courts of Lancaster County, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, United States District Court, and the United States Supreme Court. In 1930 he established his own law firm in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and went on to serve as Auditor for Lancaster County from 1927-1929.



*Major General Strickler (center) conferring with military officials following an accident in the line of duty during official movements of the Pennsylvania National Guard in Ohio in 1950 (Massillon, OH Newspaper Ohio Evening Independent).*

Strickler was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 1931 and 1932 General and Special Sessions. He was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, and not long after was sent to France for a second time. He commanded the 28th Division, Infantry Regiment, during World War II. In 1942 he started command with the 109th Unit, and later moved command to the 110th Unit of the 28th Division. During the Battle of the Bulge, he received a battlefield commission to Colonel. After three years of fighting in Europe, Strickler returned home where he would receive his commission to Brigadier General in March of 1946.

In January of 1947, Strickler took office as Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania. He held that position until 1950, when he resigned to

serve in the Korean war. He acted as an officer during that conflict from 1950-1953, which led to his promotion to Major General. He then became a leading diplomatic advisor to Korea for the United States Army until his retirement in 1957.



*Rep. Daniel Strickler in his Member photo, circa 1931 (Pennsylvania Manual).*

By the end of Strickler's career, he ranked as a three-star general, with an honorable final commission to Lieutenant General on February 8, 1960. Throughout his career, he was commemorated several times, receiving the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit and the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He died on June 29, 1992, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.



# of House Members during World War I

## Medical Student, Infantryman, Politician: The Service Record of Lewis Meade Mintess

House Member Lewis Meade Mintess (R-Philadelphia) completed the form (left) to register for the draft for World War I.

Draft Registrations from 1917-1918 are held in the National Archives.



Lewis Meade Mintess circa 1943 (PA Manual).

While over 200 House Members served in WWI, we would like to highlight one Representative whose career trajectory was representative of the path followed by many during the period. Mintess attended Lincoln and Temple Universities, and received medical training at the Medico-Chirurgical College in Philadelphia.

During the First World War, he served in the 813th Infantry Medical Detachment of the United States Army. After the war, he worked for the Recorder of Deeds of Philadelphia County from 1924-1934, and the Department of Receiver of Taxes for the City of Philadelphia. He was active in city politics as a Republican, and was involved in civic affairs as treasurer of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and Training School.

Mintess was elected as a Republican to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1942, and served from 1943-1944 and 1947-1951. He was active in child welfare

efforts, and served from 1947-1948 on the Joint Legislative Committee on Juvenile Delinquency and Child Welfare. He died on July 24, 1982.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Pennsylvania, with a population of just over 8.5 million citizens at the time, contributed almost \$3 billion worth of Liberty and Victory Bonds during US involvement in World War I?**

Poster held in Library of Congress Print and Photograph Collection



## In Memoriam

### Joseph. W. Battisto, Sr.

June 27, 1931-October 25, 2014  
D, Monroe County, 1983-2000

### Daniel E. Beren

November 3, 1929-December 14, 2014  
R, Montgomery County, 1967-1976

### Daniel F. Clark

December 11, 1954-September 28, 2014  
R, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry, & Snyder  
Counties, 1989-2002

### John W. Fichter

January 2, 1935-February 11, 2014  
R, Montgomery County, 1993-2006

### Thomas J. Gola

January 13, 1933-January 26, 2014  
R, Philadelphia County, 1967-1970

### Charles Paul Hammock

August 24, 1941-February 15, 2014  
D, Philadelphia County, 1973-1976

### Max H. Homer

May 20, 1935-October 30, 2014  
D, Allegheny County, 1965-1974

### Harold Mowery, Jr.

January 4, 1930-March 3, 2014  
R, Cumberland County, 1977-1990

### Thomas C. Petrone

July 31, 1937-August 5, 2014  
D, Allegheny County, 1981-2008

### Frank A. Salvatore

June 2, 1922-July 16, 2014  
R, Philadelphia County, 1973-1984

### Clark S. Smith

May 30, 1912-October 28, 2014  
R, Adams & York Counties, 1973-1974

### John Wansacz

October 7, 1936-November 15, 2014  
D, Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties,  
1965-1972

### Michael L. Waugh

December 17, 1955-October 8, 2014  
R, York County, 1993-1998

### Robert Wright

November 5, 1944-February 22, 2014  
R, Delaware County, 1981-1992

*More information on the Representatives listed here can be found in the House Archives' Biographical Directory at: [www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives/bioDir.cfm](http://www.house.state.pa.us/bmc/archives/bioDir.cfm)*

## Recent Acquisitions in the House Archives Library

- Personal Papers Collections: Paul Clymer (R-Bucks 1981-2014) 18 Boxes, Jerry Stern (R-Blair 1993-2014) 3 boxes, RoseMarie Swanger (R-Lebanon 2007-2014) 0.25 Boxes, Samuel Smith (R-Jefferson 1987-2014) 8 boxes
- Baseball card sets and DVDs for Capitol All-Stars Softball games for 2013 and 2014
- "Key to the Keystone State: Pennsylvania" by League of Women Voters, 1989
- "Report of the Committee of Ways and Means of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, on the currency and finances of the Commonwealth: Mr. Keating, Chairman, March 1, 1834"
- "From Liberty to Liberality: The Transformation of the Pennsylvania Legislature, 1776-1820" by Anthony M. Joseph, 2012
- "The Iraq Lie: How the White House Sold the War" by Joseph M. Hoeffel, 2014 (D-Montgomery 1977-1984)
- "Memorial of John Augustus Smull, Late Resident Clerk, House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, 1881"
- "Our Hidden Heritage: Pennsylvania Women in History" edited by Janice H. McElroy, 1984