How do we learn about people who lived over 100 years ago?

Newspaper articles, military records, obituaries, and census data all contain information that can give us some insight into the lives of people from the past. From various sources, we can learn about a person’s family members, service history, and even the role they played in their communities.

Finding background information can be a challenge. Using sources like the ones in this unit, you can discover clues that help you expand a search from one source to another.

The following pages include snippets from a range of sources that introduce you to some of the members of the service from Oswego County who gave their lives during World War 1.

Whether they died as a result of conflict on the battlefield, or from influenza in a military hospital, they left loved ones to mourn their passing.

It’s important that we remember not just the names, but the person as well.
CONGRESSMAN MOTT MAKES APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments to Annapolis and West Point were made Thursday by Congressman Luther W. Mott of 32d district.

West Point—First alternate, Stewart Leon Thompson, Watertown; second alternate, Gordon W. Couch of Watertown who is now serving with the Watertown naval militia.

Gerald S. Pierce of Watertown was appointed principal to West Point several weeks ago by Mr. Mott.

Annapolis — Principal, Edward Richard Frawley, 710 West First street, Fulton; first alternate, George Barrington, Oswego; second alternate, Earl D. Hopkins, R.D. 6, Fulton.

Examinations for all these appointments will be held in about a month.

The Fulton Patriot, January 23, 1918, page 2.
In Loving Memory

Of George W. Barrington, who died one year ago today, October 22d, 1918.

Brave star of gold amidst the blue,
   It means one more within the fold;
One to his country's cause was true;
   We honor the our star of gold.
   Father, Mother and Sister.

New York, World War 1 Veteran's Service Data, 1913-1919
OUR SOLDIER BOYS.
The Supreme Sacrifice.

Information reached Fulton on Sunday that Samuel Aluzzo, one of our Fulton soldier boys, had been killed in action in France.

The flags on the municipal staff in the East First street park will remain at half mast for a period of ten days, in accordance with the announcement of Mayor V. C. Lewis.

Fulton’s men who have given their lives in the service are: James Ranger, Frederick Sullivan, A. Lester Kempston, Edmond J. LaPorte, William Newsbaum, Leon Goodrowe, Orin Thompson, Michael Yacura, Franklyn G. Goodrowe and Samuel Aluzzo.

Miss Florence Holmes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Holmes, received the sad information Tuesday morning that First Lieutenant Levi Morehouse had been killed in action in France. A brother officer found Lieutenant Morehouse’s body on the field of battle, and in the pocket of his coat was a letter addressed to Miss Holmes. The officer forwarded the letter to Miss Holmes, together with his own letter, telling of the finding of the body. Miss Holmes and Lieutenant Morehouse were engaged.

Fort Ontario Report.

Reports from Fort Ontario state that only a few cases of sickness are there at present, which is extremely gratifying to the officials. Most of the cases developed since Monday are light. Today’s report of deaths carries the names of two army nurses and the wife of Captain Wilcox. The list follows:

Charles E. Jones, 18 years, Medical Department, General Hospital No. 5, Oswego, N.Y.
Lowe Young, 22 years, 81st Company, Twentieth Battalion, Syracuse Recruit Camp, Elmira, N. Y.
John Stone, 23 years, Sixteenth Company, Fourth Battalion, Manchester, N.Y.
Elisha Wilson, General Hospital No. 5, nearest relative given as 56 East Schuyler street, Oswego, N.Y.
Josephine Wilcox, wife of Captain Wilcox, Fort Ontario.
Ada M. Ferguson, Army nurse, General Hospital No. 5, Spring Valley, N.Y.
Frances Poole, Army nurse, General Hospital No. 5, Evanston, Ill.
LEARNING TO FLY IN FRANCE
Donald Stone of Mexico Writes More Letters Home About His Work There.

Additional letters have been received in Mexico from Donald Stone, of that village, who is a member of the famous Lafayette Escadrille and is training in the French Aviation School at Alvoid, France. Young Stone is now probably on the last lap of this training and one of these days he may be moved up to the front with Thaw, Lufbury, Rockwell and the other famous American fliers.

In one letter he says that he’s had a small fall, but wasn’t even scratched, although the machine was some smashed. “It is a belief or a superstition in this school, he says, and perhaps in every aviation school, that one has to have one accident before his eye teeth are cut. If this cuts mine so much the better and I am glad that I am through with it.

“The railroad runs near one field where we work and it is not an uncommon sight for a trainload of American soldiers to pass through. Sometimes an American is standing near the track when the train passes, but, being dressed, as we are, in the uniform of the French soldier, we are taken for French, and often some American soldier yells a word of French at us, or something that he has picked up and considers French. So he is quite surprised when the supposed Frenchman yells, ‘Hello, Jack, what do...
supposed Frenchman yells, ‘Hello, Jack, what do you think you are doing over here?’ or some other like expression. You should see their faces change. It is laughable.”

In another letter Young Stone tells of being promoted one class.

“I moved up yesterday to another class,” he says, “and it’s really flying from now on, although, of course, we don’t scrape the clouds in the present class, getting up perhaps 300 feet, then cutting off the motor, sticking the nose of the machine toward the ground and learning landings,” one of the hardest things to do in aviation.

“Last night instead of coming home to the barracks after work -I walked over to the little country hotel about 2 1/2 miles from the field and five miles from camp and stayed there for the night. Another boy named Hull, from New York, was with me and it did seem good to us to get between some sheets again, if only for a few hours. Of course, we did not get into bed until 10:30 and I was up at four with the moon still shining. I never appreciated sheets and a feather mattress and clean surrounding more in all my life.

“A Y.Y.C.A. man came down here yesterday with a little American tobacco and milk chocolate to sell and later he hopes to have a good supply. I can tell you it seems good to get a taste of them again.”

The Lafayette Escadrille pilots, near Bar-le-Duc, Verdun sector of the Western Front in July 1916. From left to right: Lt DeLaage, Charles Johnson, Laurence Rumsy, Ames McConnell, William Thaw, Raoul Lufbery, Klifoon Rockwell, Didier Masson, Norman Prince, Bert Hall. Virginia Military Institute archival collections; this image is in the public domain in the United States because the copyright has expired.
DONALD STONE KILLED IN FIGHT
Mexico Aviator Was Reported Missing in Action — News Comes That His Airplane Fell in Flames After Battle Over German Lines.

Lieutenant Donald E. Stone, twenty-six, son of Mrs. Edward T. Stone, of Mexico, reported as missing on April 21st after an aerial battle near Noon, was killed, according to a cablegram received yesterday, by his brother, the Rev. Warren Stone, of Rochester, from the dead hero’s uncle, the Rev. Carlos H. Stone, head of Stone’s school at Cornwall-on-the-Hudson, now in France on Y.M.C.A. work.

Lieutenant Stone was one of two fighters downed in a comb at which twenty airplanes took part. The battle occurred about 2.5 miles in the air and five miles back of the German first line trenches.

In a letter from the front George Dock, another member of the Lafayette Escadrille and Stone’s chum, describes the fatal fight. Lieutenant Stone and three other Allies flyers, he says, encountered a patrol of four German scouts at 4,000 meters. Stone, in a 200-horsepower plane, and two of the Allied airmen started after the Boches, while the fourth darted up to protect them from possible attack from seven other enemy planes which were flying at a much higher altitude. This precaution proved a wise one, as the seven planes swooped down to plunge into the battle which had started.

The machine whirled, twisted and looped, the machine guns spitting fire, with the Allied flyers...
hopelessly outnumbered. One burst into flames and dropped like a plummet, the gasoline tank punctured by a bullet, and then another spun downward out of control. At this juncture five French planes arrived and put the Germans to rout.

It was first thought that Lieutenant Stone had gone down in the second machine and had been taken prisoner after landing behind the German lines. Information against this conjecture has evidently been received in Paris, indicating that Lieutenant Stone fell and was killed in the machine that dropped in flames. It is probable that the International Red Cross received this information from Germany as they have been working through the Spanish legation to get definite news as to Stone’s fate.

Lieutenant Stone had been in France over a year and a half and won the croix de guerre when a member of the American ambulance service for bravery under fire. He was a graduate of Mexico High school and Hamilton College and was ranching it in the West when the war called him. Besides his mother in Mexico, to whom the sympathy of many friends will go out, and his brother in Rochester, he leaves another brother, Dr. Chester T. Stone of Brooklyn.

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PRAISE FOR DONALD STONE
From Corporal George Dock, His Friend in France.

Corporal George Dock, Jr., of the Lafayette squadron, has written Mrs. Edward T. Stone, of Mexico, a letter telling of the air fight in which her son, Donald Stone, lost his life. Corporal Dock, after describing the fight, says:

“I can not express what the loss of your son means to the escadrille, to say nothing of what it is for me personally. I had known him in all the aviation schools, and we came out to the front together. I never met a man, whatever his age or position, whom I admired as much as Don for his grit, manliness and absolute unselfishness. Among the French aviators here, though he was a the front only a month, he made himself a name, respected for his skill as a flyer, his aggressive spirit and his straightforward character.

“A few weeks ago he received a letter from an American friend, offering him a captaincy in the U.S. Ordnance Department. Don declined this immediately in spite of the fact that he was only a corporal here, living practically on his own private means, saying that he believed that he could ‘do more good here.’
OSWEGO BOYS PROVE HEROES
Devens, Kelly and McLernon Save the Live of a Brother Soldier Who was Drowning in the James River in Virginia.
Camp Stewart,
May 25th 1918.

To the Editor of the Palladium:

Dear Editor — As it is customary to give a brother soldier all the credit due him, I take the liberty to write you concerning three of your Oswego boys. I don’t think they would like it much if they knew I was writing, but nevertheless they are worthy of praise from their homefolks. Well, it happened this way: Yesterday, while we enjoying our everyday swim in the mouth of the James river at high tide, Edwards, a soldier of Company F, Ammunition Train, ventured a little too far out. The result was, Edwards was caught in the under-tow and carried far into the stream. His cries of aid brought a throng of soldiers to the scene. Corporal Devens, who happened to be nearest to that point, jumped into the stream with clothes on and swam to where Edwards was seen going down. In the meantime, Cook McLernon, of the Ordnance Corps, and chauffeur Edward T. Kelly secured a surface boat. Devens had Edwards by the hair and both were at the point of exhaustion when Kelly and McLernon came to the rescue. They saved Edwards’s life, and they were commended by their commanding officer for their timely action.

Hoping that you print in your next edition, I am respectfully,

A. RUDOLF,
Sergeant in charge of the Section Company C, 102d Ammunition Train, Twenty-seventh Division, U.S.A.

The Oswego boys mentioned in this letter are as follows: Corporal H.T. Devens, Co. C, 102d Am. Train; Chauffeur E.T. Kelly, Co. C, 102d Am. Train; Cook B. McLernon, 102d M. O. R. S., Camp Stewart, Newport News, Va.
NEARING THE OTHER SIDE.

Captain C.S. Martin and Machine Gun Company May Arrive Out This Week.

Mrs. C.S. Martin, of West Eighth street, has received assurances that her husband, Captain Clarence S. Martin, 108th Machine Gun Company, sailed from an Atlantic port a week ago last Friday, May 10th, and she believes that he is now well over to the other side. It is believed that by Saturday next they will have landed.

Charles Mackin, Ki Kern, Benjamin Q. Mastin, Thomas Glynn, Harry Lass and others from Camp Dix, are also on their way, it is said.

Cards received in Utica yesterday state that the 107th Infantry, which left Camp Wadsworth a few days before the 108th for Newport News, has arrived safely in France.

Two more Syracuse units of the National Guard, Battery A, 104th Field Artillery, and Company A, 102d Ammunition train, have reached a port of embarkation from Camp Wadsworth. Homer K. Sweet, of Phoenix, is a second lieutenant in the 102d ammunition train.

OUR SOLDIER BOYS

Supreme Sacrifices.

Leon Goodrowe, aged 26 years, a private in Company K, 7th infantry, was killed in action July 15th. It was just one month ago that his brother-in-law, William Newsbaum, a member of the same company, was killed in action.

Corporal William M. Barnett of the 64th company, 6th regiment, U.S. marines, was killed in action July 19th. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Barnett of Oswego.

Private Clarence A. Hamlin, aged 22 years, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Hamlin of Demster, died from the effects of wounds received in the battle of Chateau-Thierry in June. His death was reported Thursday.

Leslie Stone, grandson of Mrs. D. R. Stone of Oswego, was killed in action in France on July 18th.

Timothy Harrington of Oswego, who was wounded in action, died at base hospital No. 34 in Nantes, France, July 18th.

The Fulton Patriot, August 14, 1918, page 1
RESTRICTING NEWS.
Little Information Coming from Some of the Oswego Boys.

Indications are multiplying that the Oswego boys in France, especially those with the new York Division, are approaching the battle area and may soon be taking their turns in the trenches. In many cases the Oswego boys have been put in the class of soldiers partially incommunicado, being prohibited from sending letters home that might indicate where they are now stationed.

The only news that is now coming to many homes is that conveyed on the small army postcards with the printed lines indicating the barest details applicable to the soldier’s situation at the time of sending.

Oswego Daily Palladium, July 24, 1918

Ben Mastin Is Well.

A letter has been received by Mrs. H. B. Mastin from her son, Benjamin Quibelle Mastin, of the 303d Engineers, now stationed “somewhere in France.” Bennie says that he has not yet received a letter from the States and is anxious to hear from home. Letters have been written almost every day to him, but they have either been lost in the mail or delayed somewhere en route.

He says all the boys enjoy Army life and tells of their first visit to the French villages. All are well and healthy and anxious for a chance to get a Fritz.

Oswego Palladium, May 27, 1918, page 11.
Private Clarence A. Hamlink

New York Abstract of World War 1 Military Service, 1917-1919

1910 United States Federal Census
Ormond Barstow
Service from October 1, 1918 to October 14, 1918 (date of death).

Died at Columbus Barracks, Columbus G., of lobar pneumonia. Burial in Rural Cemetery, Oswego Town.

New York, World War 1 Veteran’s Service Data, 1913-1919
**OBITUARY.**

Private George Mills.

Word was received in this city today announcing the death of Private George Mills, son of Charles Mills, who died at Lockport City Hospital yesterday of pneumonia. Private Mills formerly lived in this city, but a few years ago the family moved to Niagara Falls. He was a member of Captain Plank's Company E, Second Provisional Infantry. The remains will arrive in this city tonight and will be brought to the home of William Fox, 184 West Fourth street from where the funeral will be held, time to be announced later.

**The Sick List.**

It was reported today that Private James Coakley, of East Seventh street, who was taken to the Hospital of Good Shepherd in September, suffering from influenza, was seriously ill. He was taken ill at the Recruit camp at Syracuse.

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**Pearl** — Died at the Lee Memorial hospital, Dec. 10th, Charles Pearl, aged 27 years. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Pearl of Seneca street; two sisters, Charlotte and Caroline, and one brother, John, all of this city. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

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Two Oswego county boys received citations for bravery in the world war last week. Sergeant Andrew Tylka of Central Square, for gallantry in the Meuse_Argonne offensive in 1918, when he was severely wounded and later died from effects of wounds and gas. The other, Burt Simmons of Parish, for bravery in action near LaCharmel, France, in 1918, in aiding in destroying as enemy machine gun nest.
DIED SERVING HIS COUNTRY.

Elwood Whitney, of New Haven, Died at Naval Training Station Newport, R.I., of Pneumonia.

News came yesterday announcing the death of Elwood Whitney, of New Haven, eighteen years old, at the Naval Training station, Newport, R.I., on Thursday night. The body, it is expected, will arrive at New Haven this evening at seven o’clock and will be taken to the home of his brother, Hoyt Whitney, in New Haven. From there the funeral will be held, according to present arrangements, tomorrow afternoon at two o’clock and from the M.E. church, New Haven.

Mr. Whitney was born and raised in New Haven and was a student at the high school there when he enlisted in the navy in November. He was a young man of promise and was a strong, healthy, vigorous young man. About a week ago he was taken ill and pneumonia developing, death resulted. He was a son of the late William H. Whitney and a nephew of former Supervisor George C. Whitney, of New Haven. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary Fitzgerald and four brothers, Berton, Hoyt, Willis and Hayden Whitney; two sisters, Mrs. Clara B. Clarkey and Miss Edna Whitney, all of New Haven. The funeral will be in charge of Undertaker Newton Coe., of Lycoming.

New York, World War 1 Veterans’ Service Data, 1913-1919 for Elwood J. Whitney
CLEVELAND BOY IS DECORATED

CLEVELAND, N.Y., May 17. — David Dupre, of this village, is in receipt of the following communication from the War Department regarding his son: David Dupre, Cleveland, Oswego county, New York:

Dear Sir — This office has been advised by the Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces (cable 1973), that he has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously to your son, Sergeant Harold J. Dupre, Company L, Ninth Infantry, for “extraordinary heroism in action near Medeah Farm, France, October 3d, 1918. He gallantly led his half platoon against an enemy machine gun nest, and captured the position, together with four machine guns and about sixty prisoners. Immediately after this he fell mortally wounded.”

Very truly yours,
J.P. KOR,
Adjutant-General in charge of office.

Mr. Dupre has since been advised regarding the death of his son and has also received the

A very impressive Memorial program was given by the Chaplain, Mrs. B. J. Ladd and Mrs. J. W. Wadsworth, Lecturer at the Grange last Saturday night. Tribute was paid to all those of our boys who lost their lives in the world war, Raymond Sharrer and Archie Sill. Also to Mr. Jason Kanyon, Mr. Peter Burghart and Andrew Herrick who were Civil War Veterans and members of our grange.

Mexico Independent, June 2, 1927.
Carl W. Leadbetter

Upper left: U.S. Army Transport Service, Passenger List, Vestris, May 20, 1918
Right: Photo of Carl W. Leadbetter
ancestry.com; findagrave.com
Albert Dana and Mrs. Fred Keller wish to thank their friends for the beautiful gold star booklet and the kind words of sympathy given them Welcome Home Day, Sept. 27, 1919.

On December 15, Albert Dana received a telegram from the new Base Hospital at Camp Mills Long Island, that his son, Erie Dana, was very sick and he and his daughter, Mrs. Fred Keller, left on the night train to see him, and after taking the long ride got there too late to see him alive, as he died the night they were on the way to see him. He had been sick and in the hospital a few days before, got better and went back to duty, caught cold and had pneumonia. He was the last of three sons all of whom died with pneumonia. A letter came to Mr. Dana saying Erie was an excellent soldier, and was universally liked by his officers and fellow soldiers and his untimely death is a genuine source of sorrow to all. His death occurred in a line of duty and is no less honorable than had it occurred in the field of battle. He is survived by his father and sister, Mrs. Fred Keller.

— W. S. S. —
LIEUT. DAVID BENSON PAGE, JR., DEAD OF PNEUMONIA IN FRANCE

Sad Intelligence Came in Telegram to His Family Yesterday Afternoon — Did Not Know He Was Ill — Passed Away on January 5th.

Instead of getting a message announcing his safe arrival in the United States, which the family were momentarily expecting, the sad news came in a telegram from the War Department to Mr. and Mrs. David B. Page, of 157 West Third street, yesterday afternoon of the death of their younger son, Lieut. David Benson Page, Jr., of the Fifty-sixth Engineers. His death occurred in France on January 5th, of lobar pneumonia, following influenza. The family did not even know that he was ill and the message came as a great shock. Mrs. Page, who has not been in robust health since the death of her daughter, Miss Harriet Page, with influenza last fall, was completely crushed and a physician had to be called to attend her. Everywhere about the city, when the news spread, there was widespread regret expressed, not only for the family who have given two children to their country, for it was during war work activities that Miss Page was stricken, but over the loss of “Bense,” who was one of the most popular and splendid young men that went out of Oswego.

The last letter received from Lieut. Page was written on December 26th. He told of the Christmas celebration; how his regiment was moving toward a port of embarkation and how three companies in the regiment had already sailed. When no more letters arrived the family were happy in the thought that he was on the seas, on the way back.

Lieut. Page was born in this city on August 19th, 1891. After leaving the Oswego High school he entered St. John’s Military Academy, at Manlius, and from there went to Union College, where he completed the scientific course in 1915. He was a member of the football team at Union and prominent in the various student activities. After graduating from Union he was
with the Dyneto Electric Company at Syracuse for some time and later went to the Newport News Shipbuilding Company, when he was commissioned a second lieutenant of Engineers. This was in August, 1917. He reported to the American University Training Camp, Washington, on September 1st, 1917, and after completing his course there, was, much to his disgust, assigned as an inspector in the Watson Wagon Works, at Canastota, as an attache of the General Engineering Department. All of the time he was there he was endeavoring to get an overseas assignment and on March 15th, 1918, managed to get a transfer to Washington Barracks, where he was assigned to the Fifty-sixth Engineers.

His regiment sailed for France on July 10th, and until the signing of the armistice, it was used as an antiwar craft searchlight battalion. He had written many interesting letters home, telling of his work and the pleasure which it afforded him. He had enjoyed splendid health and was looking forward with great pleasure to his return.

While at St. John’s Military Academy, he was a classmate of Private Benjamin Q. Mastin, of this city, a member of the 303d Engineers, who also died in France recently. There were three weeks’ difference in their ages and they died within a period of twenty days.

Lieutenant Page was a member of Frontier City Lodge, No. 422, F. & A. M. Of the City Club and of the University Club of Syracuse. He attended Christ church.

Besides his parents, Lieutenant Page is survived by two sisters, Mrs. W. H. Arnold of New York city, and Miss Olive Page, and one brother, Allison S. Page, of this city.
WHAT A DAY FOR OLD OSWEGO.

What a day for old Oswego,
What a gala day of cheer.
What a day for old Oswego,
When our boys will answer, “here.”
When our fighting sons from “over there,”
Returning from that goal,
Will place their names fore’er and e’er
Upon our honor roll.

What a day for old Oswego,
‘Mong its’ people mild and meek
What a day for old Oswego,
Commencing Old Home Week,
When our glad returning soldier boys,
Will bring us added cheer,
And weld anew the broken joys
By proudly answering “here.”

What a day for old Oswego,
In the coming summer heat,
What a day for old Oswego,
When they’ll march again Bridge street,
But, alas, upon the hillsides steep,
In French and Flanders caly,
Many, many of our heroes sleep,
Who will not march that day.

What a day for old Oswego,
Because the war is o’er
What a day for old Oswego,
By Lake Ontario’s shore,
When the victors tread the old home clay,
And tell with pride and pain,
Of the sleeping comrades far away,
Who’ve died, but not in vain.

JOHN TAYLOR
Questions for further research and discussion:

1. What were some of the resources used to learn about some of the Oswego County servicemen who died during World War 1?

2. How important were letters to soldiers during World War 1? How important were letters to their family members and friends back home?

3. Donald Stone was a pilot with the Lafayette Escadrilles. Continue to research the Lafayette Escadrille pilots and share your information with the class.

4. What were a few of the medals awarded to the servicemen?

5. How do service members and their families communicate in the 21st century?

6. What roles did women play during World War 1? How is that different from today?