

COUNTY OF MORRIS  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE ON AGING, DISABILITIES & COMMUNITY  
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Tayfun Selen

P.O. Box 900

Morristown, New Jersey 07963-0900



*County Administrator*

John Bonanni

*Department Director*

Katharine A. Errico

*Division Director*

Christine Hellyer

973-285-6858

973-285-6845 fax

[chellyer@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:chellyer@co.morris.nj.us)

## Morris County's POWs and MIAs

Morris County Office of Aging, Disability & Community Programming

Michael H. Williams

Veterans Service Officer

973-285-6866

[hs.morriscountynj.gov/veterans](https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/veterans)



## Morris County POWs/MIAs

Morris County remembers and honors servicemen missing in action, those who died in captivity and those who were returned to the nation.

Our list below of Morris County soldiers and sailors is not complete, as evidenced by the lack of female POW/MIAs, the absence of POW/MIAs from the American Revolution, the Spanish American War, and later conflicts. If you have additions, corrections or have further information, please contact Jan Williams at [jwilliams@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:jwilliams@co.morris.nj.us) ; as well as, Lisa at [lostella@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:lostella@co.morris.nj.us)

## **James Patrick Allen**

Madison, WWII

United States Army 21st Squadron – 374th Troop Carrier Group

Finding of Death, December 13, 1945.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines.

## **Thomas R. “T. R.” Allen, Jr.**

Montville, WWII, United States Army

Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany. Last known living 1945.

## **Charles Anys**

Morris County, Civil War, 33rd New Jersey

Wounded in Action at Peach Tree Creek.

He died a Prisoner of War in Andersonville Prison, February 13, 1865.

## **James N. R. Apgar**

Morris County, Civil War, 1st New Jersey

Missing in Action at The Battle of The Wilderness.

## **Herbert L. Armeny, Jr.**

Florham Park, WWII, United States Army 96TH BG – 337th BS – 8th AF

Held in Luft IV. Plaque on a farm road in Heufurt marks the location of the crash: English translation:

*“In memory of the emergency landing in Heufurt on 25 November 1944 after their first mission. US Bomber Boeing B-17G, Tail number: Ac44-6612, Eighth Air Force Air Corps (AC) Unit: 96/337/AW-A 96th Bomb Group, 337th Bomber Squadron. Airplane Serial Number: 43-37621 The Crew of the B-17 After the war in 1945 all returned to the US Corporal Robert W. Owens, Corporal Anton T. LaPuzza, Staff Sergeant John H. Bianchi, Jr., Ron F. Aren (did not belong to crew), Corporal Lawrence O. Davis, Lieutenant Robert A. Fischer (Captain Pilot), Lieutenant Robert W. Bell (Co-pilot), F/O Herbert L. Armeny, Jr. Navigator, F/O Robert L. Frazier Bombadier”.*

An S.S. officer inspects the wreckage of Mr. Armeny's plane.



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## **Frederick William Aten**

Butler, Korea, United States Army 3rd Battalion

Perished in captivity on the Tiger Death March.

## **James Atkinson**

Morris County, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Missing in Action; Supposed dead at Boydton Plank Road.

## **Alfred Reeve Axtell**

Born in Morristown, Civil War, 16th Michigan

Captured in Tennessee, held for four months before escaping. Returned to service.

Killed in Action at Petersburg, June 23, 1864.

## **Wesley M. Ayres**

Morris County, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Missing in Action. Supposed Dead at Spotsylvania

## **David H. Baird**

Morris County, WWII, United States Navy

Missing in Action when the ammunition ship U.S.S. Mount Hood exploded in port.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines.

## **Whitney W. Bangs**

Harding Township, WWII, United States Army 301st Infantry Regiment – 94th Infantry Division

Harding Township Memorial Plaque

## **William C. Bassing**

Parsippany, WWII, United States Army



Stalag 7A Moosburg Bavaria 48-12 Work Camps 3324-46 Krumbachstrasse 48011, Work Camp 3368 Munich 48-11.

## **Joshua Beach**

Morris County, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Captured at Rapidan, Virginia November 27, 1863.

Died in Andersonville Prison August 1, 1864.

## **Randolph G. Beam**

Morris County, WWII, United States Army

First reported missing August 2, 1944. Held Stalag 7A, Moosburg.

## **Russell Anthony Benigno**

Chatham, WWII, United States Army 106th Inf Div 422 Reg

Held at Leipzig Camp 4B from December 21, 1944 to April 25, 1945.

## **Charles V. Berdone**

Denville, WWII

United States Army Air Corps – 13th Bomber Group – Large

B-25C “Boomerang” failed to return from bombing mission on shipping in Milne Bay, August 25, 1942.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery – Manila – Philippines.

Berdone Court, Denville, is named in his honor.

## **Edward Payton Berry *alias* Thomas Gilbert**

Dover, Civil War, 5th New Jersey Volunteers

Captured in action at Second Bull Run (Second Manassas) and held in Libby Prison. Survived.

Succumbed to wounds received in action at Gettysburg, July 10, 1863.

## **Jonathan Bigalow**

Jefferson, Civil War, 69th New York

Captured October 20, 1864 at Petersburg. Paroled February 28, 1865; mustered out on individual roll June 1, 1865 at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Bigalow died in 1922.

## **Charles Brandt**

Morris County, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Capture date and place unknown. Held at Andersonville Prison, where he died October 31, 1864.

## **Charles “Charlie” A. Brennan**

Morristown, WWII

United States Army 8th Air Force 334 Sqd. 95 Bomb Group B-17

Captured in the Bavarian Alps, South Germany, March 16, 1944, age 19. Held for 409 days Stalag Luft 3; liberated April 29, 1945.

## **William B. Briggs**

Morris County, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Missing in Action at Spotsylvania.

## **Philip A. Brodziak**

Denville, WWII

United States Army 38th Bomber Squadron – 30th BG Heavy

Missing In Action September 11, 1944. Lost in the Pacific during a bombing run over Marcus Island from Saipan aboard the B-24 “Pistol Packin’ Mamma”

Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii. Picatinny Arsenal World War II Memorial Plaque.

Brodziak Road in Denville is named in his honor.

## **Jacob August Brunisholz, Jr.**

Morris Township, WWII

United States Army 328th BS – 93rd Bomber Group – Heavy

The B-24D “Friday the 13TH” was reported Lost over Scotland September 9, 1942.

Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England.

## **Marshall Lindley Bush**

Dover, Korea, United States Marine Corps 2 BN 1ST MARINE DIV

Missing in Action, Presumed Dead at Chosin, December 2, 1950.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

21st Infantry Battalion USMCR Korean Conflict memorial, Picatinny.

## **Solomon “Sol” G. Cannon**

Morristown, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Wounded at Gettysburg and again at the Battle of the Wilderness. Not yet recovered from his wounds, he was captured the following October at Boydton Plank Road and sent to Libby prison. Released from captivity February 16, 1865 and remained in the U.S. Army Hospital at York, Pennsylvania until July 1866.

After the Civil War, veterans formed an organization named the Grand Army of the Republic-or G.A.R.. Chapters of the G.A.R. were established in Morris County and hosted entertainments, political events and participation in “Decoration Day” (Memorial Day in modern parlance) and Fourth of July Parades. Mr. Cannon was a member of the Torbert G.A.R. Post in Morristown, New Jersey.

## **Gerard “Jerry” J. Caporaso**

Chatham, WWII, United States Army 8th Air Force 96th BG – 337th BS – 45th CW

WWII. Chatham. Deceased 2017. TSGT on the B-17F “Dottie J III”. Stalag XVIIIB. In the spring of 1945, he survived a 300-mile Death March in the rain and snow on little to no food or water until he and fellow prisoners were rescued by Allied troops. Mr. Caporaso penned his memoirs in 2014, entitled: From the Top Turret.

## **William “Bill” R. Caruso**

Morris Plains, WWII and Korea, United States Army 388th BG

Held I Dulag Luft 17B. The B-17F “Iza Angel II” was shot down and crashed into the North Sea 10 miles NW of Denmark on October 9, 1943.

## **Joseph “Joe” Miles Casadevall**

Whippany, WWII, United States Army 15th AF, 465th BG, 783rd BS

During a mission on June 30, 1944, his plane sustained significant damage, forcing him to bail out. He was taken as a prisoner of war, and held in the infamous Stalag Luft III in the German province of Lower Silesia, near the town of Zagan, in what is now Poland.

## **Rocco Alfred Cerbo**

Parsippany, WWII, United States Army

Held in Stalag 4b Muhlberg Sachensen.

## **John Channel**

Mendham, American Revolution, Served in Capt. Lyon’s Company.

Taken prisoner in 1777, he died in a British prison camp in New York City, he was buried in one of the mass graves.

## **Forrest Spencer “F. S.” Chilton, III**

Pequannock, WWII, United States Army Air Corps

He was seen bailing out from his P-47 over the English Channel, after returning from a bombing mission over St. Quentin, France.

Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England.

Chilton Memorial Hospital is named in his honor.

World War II Memorial Pompton Plains

## **Jacob Colver**

Washington Township, Civil War, 27th New Jersey

Missed when the Army went into camp at Wheeling, Virginia, June 1863; Supposed captured.

## **Cyrus E. Cook**

Mt. Arlington, Civil War, 1st New Jersey

Captured at Brandy Station, he was held in Libby Prison for eight months and ten days.

Mr. Cook was a Member and past commander of the Dahlgrin G.A.R. Post, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

## **Harry W. Cook, Jr.**

Morris County, Korea, United States Army 35th Infantry 2nd Battalion, 25th Infantry Division

Captured while fighting the enemy in South Korea on April 25, 1951 and died while a prisoner of war.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

## **Walter Robert Coombs**

Kinnelon, WWII, United States Navy

Aboard the U.S.S. Jarvis DD-393, August 9, 1942, when she was sunk by Japanese aircraft off Guadalcanal, in the Battle of Savo Island.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines.



## **Charles Bracher Copeland, Jr.**

Dover, WWII, United States Navy, U.S.S. Gudgeon SS-211

Declared dead while missing

Purple Heart (posthumous)

Tablets of the Missing Honolulu, Hawaii

## **Donald E. Dahms**

Roxbury, Korea, United States Army 2nd Battalion – 5th Cavalry Regiment – 1st Cavalry Division.

Listed as Missing in Action while fighting the enemy in South Korea on July 25, 1950.

He was presumed dead on February 26, 1954.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial, Court 4.

## **David Daley**

Morris County, Civil War

Missing in Action, Supposed dead at Gettysburg.

## **John Davney**

Pequannock, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Missing; Supposed dead in actions Before Petersburg.

## **Esli B. Dawson**

Boonton, Civil War, 27th New Jersey

Taken prisoner at Goldsboro, North Carolina and confined in Libby Prison. Pvt. Dawson was paroled the day before Gen. Grant entered Richmond.

*Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia, August 23, 1863.*

Mr. Dawson was a member of the John Hill Post, no. 86, G.A.R. in Boonton, and the New Jersey Ex-Prisoners of War Association at Morristown. Mr. Dawson died in 1926.

## **John A. DeHuff**

Madison, WWII, United States Army

Stalag 2A Neubrandenburg Mecklenberg 53-13

## **Bartholomew “Bat” “Bart” W. Dempsey**



Morristown, Civil War, 7th New Jersey

Captured at Petersburg, confined to Libby and Andersonville Prisons.

Born in County Carlow, Ireland, Mr. Dempsey emigrated to America aboard the ship “The Colonist” in October, 1851. After his war service, he served as Morristown’s Marshal. He died in 1879.

Buried in Holy Rood Cemetery, Corporal Dempsey received a military headstone in 2009.

## **John H. “Bud” Derling**

Budd Lake, WWII, United States Army 374th Bomb Squad B-17G

Shot down October 7, 1944 on Mission 133, to take out the oil refineries in Politz.

Held in Luft IV.

## **Nelson L. Dimick**

Boonton, WWII, United States Army Air Corps

Shot down and captured during the Kassel Mission Raid September 27, 1944.

Held in Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany.

## **Joseph L. Doty**

Morristown, Civil War, 1st New Jersey Cavalry

Held at Belle Isle Prison. Died after liberation on November 19, 1866.

## **James Dougherty**

Rockaway Township, Civil War, 9th New Jersey

Died in captivity Andersonville Prison, August 3, 1864.

## **Harold Lewis Drew, Jr.**

Riverdale, WWII, United States Navy

Tablets of the Missing at East Coast Memorial New York City, USA

Riverdale World War II Memorial

## **George Drexl**

Montville, WWII, United States Army

Held in Stalag 12A to 9B Limburg An Der Lahn Hessen-Nassau, Prussia.

Leslie H. Eames

Morris Plains, WWII, United States Army

Captured in December 1944 by the Germans during the Battle of the Bulge near Wiltz, Germany, and was a prisoner of war, held in 12A and 13B. He was repatriated four and one-half months later.

## **Richard Ives East**

Mendham, WWII, United States Army Air Forces – 4th FS- 52nd FG

United States Army Air Forces 52nd Fighter Group. Reported missing during the African Campaign, wreckage of his fighter plane was found by the Allies in Tunis.

Mendham Memorial Plaque

## **Theodore Edwards**



Morristown, Civil War, 1st New Jersey Cavalry

Missing while on scout, August 29, 1863. Died in Libby Prison, September 15, 1864.

## **Thomas Carl Estwick**

Dover, Korea, United States Marine Corps 2 BN 7MAR 1 MAR DIV

Corporal Estwick was listed as Missing in Action while fighting the enemy in Korea on December 3, 1950.

He was presumed dead on October 26, 1953.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial, Court 8

## **Edward Thomas Everman**

Rockaway, WWII, United States Navy Reserves

Missing in Action November 10, 1944.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines.

## **Reuben T. Feiler**

East Hanover, WWII

United States Army Air Forces – 412nd Bomber Squadron – 95th Bomber Group – Heavy B-17

Declared dead while missing, June 14, 1944.

Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England

East Hanover Memorial

## **Ralph Almon Fletcher, Jr.**

Madison, WWII

Lt. Felton was the pilot on the B-17 “Rose O’Day” on a mission targeting marshalling yard, Hamm, Germany; known as “The Hamm Raid”. The Rose O’Day never returned.

Tablets of the Missing at Netherlands American Cemetery.

## **George Fenner**

Morris County, Civil War

Missing in Action at the Battle of Winchester.

## **David Louis Ferratti, Jr.**

Chatham Township, WWII, United States Army 803rd Engineering Aviation

Three months after Pearl Harbor, in March 1942, Ferratti was among American soldiers who were captured and participated in the infamous Bataan Death March. He was imprisoned in Japan for three years at Sendai no. 6 Hanawa Camp, released in 1945 and discharged from the service in May of 1946.

## **Albert Freeman**

Roxbury, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Wounded in Action and captured at Brandy Station.

## **William C. Galton**

Madison, WWII, United States Army 13th AF – 307th BG, Heavy B-24J

Lost over the Japanese-held Yap Island, Micronesia, near the Yap Island harbor in his B-24, August 19, 1944.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery – Manila – Philippines

Madison Roll of Honor

## **Harold Francis Gantert**

Parsippany, WWII, United States Army 384th BG 544 BS

On April 29, 1944, as a flight navigator, Lt. Harold Gantert took off on a bombing mission when his plane was shot down over Germany forcing him to parachute down. He was captured four days later and spent the next year as a POW in Stalag Luft III. After a grueling march the prisoners of war were forced to endure, they were liberated by the Allied troops in 1945.

Additional service in the Korean War.

September 17, 2013 was declared “Harold Gantert Day” in Parsippany.

Mr. Gantert died December 31, 2013 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

## **Robert H. Griffith**

Madison WWII, United States Army Air Forces – 506th FG- 457th FS P-51D20

Missing in Action on what has become known in WWII history as “Black Friday”.

P-51 Mustangs had been ordered to escort B-29s to Osaka, Japan. Nearing the target, the planes hit a squall, causing two of the B-29s to collide mid-air. Forced to fly in blinding rain and turbulence, the Mustangs broke formation and began colliding with each other. Out of the chaos, a sole pilot bailed out at 5,000 feet, and was picked up by the U.S. Navy.

Twenty-five pilots P-51 Mustang pilots were lost in this single day.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

Madison Roll of Honor

## **Thomas Jefferson Halsey**

Morristown, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Captured in the Battle of Chancellorsville with 26 other men. Although wounded himself, Sergeant James McDavit rushed to render aid to Maj. Halsey was shot and killed. Major Halsey was held in Andersonville Prison for eight months.

A Grand Army of the Republic post in Dover was named in honor of Sergeant James McDavit.

## **Willem “William” Homeijer**

Boonton Township, Allied Forces

A member of the Dutch military. He spent three and a half years in a Burmese Prisoner of War camp.

## **Charles Fern Hopkins**



Medal of Honor

Boonton, Civil War, 1st New Jersey

Wounded left side, head, shoulder and right leg during the Battle of Gains Mill.

Held at Florence, Libby and Andersonville prisons. Corp. Hopkins kept a diary, which his descendants donated to the Andersonville National Historic Park.

In 1898, Mr. Hopkins was commissioned by Acting New Jersey Governor Voorhees to assist in erecting a monument at Andersonville Prison, in remembrance of New Jersey soldiers buried there.

In 2014, at a ceremony dedicating plaques to former Morris County Freeholders-of which Mr. Hopkins was one-his granddaughter, Mrs. Lucille Scerbo, was in attendance.

“Grandpa Charlie”, she advised, always wore an over-sized hat to obscure his injuries.

At the time of his death February 14, 1934, Corporal Hopkins had been the last surviving veteran of the Medal of Honor recipients for service rendered in the Civil War.

Member of the John Hill Post, no. 86, G.A.R., Boonton.

## **Frederick L. Hornung, III**

East Hanover, Morris County, Korea, United States Army 38th Infantry Regiment – 2nd Infantry Division

He was taken Prisoner of War while fighting the enemy in South Korea on November 25, 1950. Died in captivity.

East Hanover Memorial

## **Robert Huxham**

Chatham Township, WWII, United States Marine Corps VMF-223 Corsair.

Date of loss May 17, 1945 over the Philippine Islands “Operation Victor”.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery – Manila – Philippines

Chatham World War II Memorial

## **Alpheus Iliff**

Washington Township, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Lt. Iliff was captured in action May 10, 1863. Held at Andersonville until the close of war. He had been erroneously reported killed, and Rev. Martin Herr of Dover preached a funeral sermon.

Mr. Iliff later served as a chaplain to the Samuel Star G.A.R. Post, German Valley. He was a member of the New Jersey Prisoners of War Association, joining in 1891.

## **Stuart Raymond Jelly**

Morris County, Korea

United States Army 3rd Battalion – 38th Infantry Regiment – 2nd Infantry Division

On February 12, 1951, First Lieutenant Stuart Raymond Jelly was captured by enemy forces near Saemal, South Korea.

He was then marched to prisoner holding camps along the Yalu River in North Korea.

Repatriated American prisoners of war reported that 1st LT Jelly died in the Suan Bean POW Camp on May 31, 1951.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

National Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

## **Hjalmar Oke Johansson**



Montville, WWII, United States Army Air Forces -767 Squadron

A nose gunner, his first mission became a one way trip. Planes left Torretta, Italy, and his B-24 was badly damaged by flak December 17, 1944. Attacked by German fighter planes on the way to bomb Odertal Oil Refinery in Poland. Over half of the group was shot down. Twenty-nine service men, were killed on that raid alone and at least that same number were captured or missing in action, never actually reached the target. Hit by flak, which knocked a big hole in the wing, taking out the number-four engine. Shortly thereafter, the number-three engine went out—that's the two engines on the right side—making the plane lose altitude. Shot down behind enemy lines, he was held in Stalag IIIA Luckenwald, Germany. Denied food and water, Johansson would lick the condensation off metal bolts for water. Upon his return to the United States, he earned engineering degrees and his career was spent building the very thing he was sent to destroy-oil refineries. When congratulated on his 91st birthday, Mr. Johansson replied, "I'm not old, really. I've just been young a really long time."

The History Channel filmed Mr. Johansson addressing the class of West Morris High School, published on July 5, 2018 just weeks after his death on June 30 aged 92.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EuWtMhrA3c>

## **Gilbert Jones, Jr.**



WWII, Mountain Lakes, United States Marine Corps

Disappeared on a mission in the Bougainville area. Declared Missing in Action in the South Pacific in February 1944 and Presumed dead March 1945.

Tablets of the Missing Manila American Cemetery

Mountain Lakes Memorial

## **William Curtis Judson**

Madison, WWI, United States Navy

A Seaman Second Class or S2, he was assigned to the U.S.S. Cyclops; the largest fuel ship in the Navy, carrying tons of coal. The Cyclops and her crew of 306 were last spotted March 4, 1918. Last seen leaving Barbados, she was declared lost on June 14, 1918, somewhere in what is commonly known as “The Bermuda Triangle”. No trace of the Cyclops has been located as of 2019.

The U.S.S. Cyclops does not have a memorial. In 2018, discussions began in the United States House of Representatives to erect a memorial.

Madison Roll of Honor

A tree is planted in his honor, Madison.

## **Nelson Kelley, Jr.**



Chatham, WWII, United States Navy

Lost aboard the U.S.S. Albacore SS-218. Information obtained after the war indicates that the “Albacore” possibly hit enemy mines in the waters of Hokkaido Island.

Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii

Chatham World War II Memorial

The U.S.S. Albacore SS-218 Memorial, Beaverton, Oregon

## **Amzi B. King**

Roxbury, Civil War, Unit unknown

Died while captive in Libby Prison, December 25, 1863.

## **Jacob M. Kinney**

Rockaway Township, Civil War, 8th New Jersey

Captured in Action at Seven Days Battle.

Imprisoned Belle Isle, where he died August 5, 1862.

## **Samuel Farrand Kitchell**

Rockaway Township, Civil War, 7th New Jersey

Died while confined in Andersonville Prison, September 12, 1864.

## **Chester “Chet” Kochan**





Hanover, United States Army 83rd Infantry Division

D-Day participant

Mr. Kochan landed on Omaha Beach, and began fighting in what is known as “Hedgerow country”. He was 18 years old when he was shot through the neck, and wounded by shrapnel after he was shot. He was captured by the Germans in Saint-Malo, France, eventually exchanged for a German prisoner.

Awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, two campaign stars for Normandy and Northern France, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct, WWII Victory medal, Morris County Distinguished Service medal and the Legion of Honor, bestowed by the French Government.

At age 92, Mr. Kochan was at Normandy in June, 2019 for the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

He visited the bunker where he had been wounded and taken prisoner.

## **Charles Bromley Kruger**

Morristown, WWII, United States Army 8 AF 390 BG B-17

Held in 7A Nuremburg.

## **Whitfield Lake**

Washington Township, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Missing in Action; Supposed Dead at Spotsylvania.

## **Frederick D. Langham**

Dover, WWII, United States Army 39th Bomb Group (VH) – 60th Squadron

Prepared for a bombing run to Japan. Nothing further is known regarding the crew.

Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii

Picatinny Arsenal World War II Memorial Plaque

## **Moses Laramie**

Pequannock, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Captured at Spotsylvania, died in Andersonville Prison, November 20, 1864.

## **Avelino L. Larroza**

Parsippany, WWII, United States Army Combat Co HQ 2Reg

Held in Camp Luna Parang Cotabato, Philippines.

## **Anthony “Tony” LaRusso**

Roxbury, WWII, United States Army 8 AF 452 BG

Tail Gunner on a B-17. On April 8, 1944 his plane took off from an English airfield for a Bombing run over Nazi occupied Europe. They bombed their target but were hit by flak as they started to return, damaging the plane. Over Denmark an engine caught fire, spreading to the cabin. The pilot safely belly landed in a field where the men scattered in groups of 2, attempting to make contact with the Danish Underground, several did, but LaRusso and his buddy were captured by German soldiers a day later. They were sent to Dulag Luft, a POW Camp in Germany.

Dulag Luft was liberated by the American Army on March 29, 1945.

Mr. LaRusso was a member of the Musconetcong Post 278, American Legion, Stanhope; the Lakeland Post 2347 VFW of Netcong and the American Ex-POWs.

## **Anthony J. LaSpina**

Florham Park, WWII, United States Army 459th BG 758th Squadron

Shot down over Germany, August 22, 1944, and remained a POW until April 26, 1945, held in Stalag Luft IV, Poland.

He took part in the 600 mile walk from Poland to liberation in Germany, covering the distance with a broken leg, snapped when bailing out.

Mr. LaSpina was a member of the American Legion Post 43 in Florham Park.

## **John G. Litz**

Randolph, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Mr. Litz (sometimes seen as Lieze, Leitz) was captured at Hanover Court House, June 1, 1863. Confined in Libby, Andersonville, Florence Stockade and Danville prisons, he was released February 28, 1863.

Member of the New Jersey Ex-Prisoners of War Association in 1891.

## **Robert F. McKenzie**

Denville, United States Army Dental Division

Taken as a prisoner of war to Reserve Lazaret III, Bremen Oldenburg, Germany.

Died in captivity April 24, 1945.

Robert McKenzie Lane in Denville is named in his honor.

## Philip John Manella

Boonton, WWII, United States Navy

Captured by the Japanese and held as a Prisoner of War at Camp 1 Taihoku, Formosa until his death while still in captivity January 3, 1945.

Boonton Veterans Memorial

## Richard E. Manners



Montville, WWII, United States Army

He had just turned 23 when he was captured along with the remnants of his Army platoon as they fought to hold their section of the Siegfried Line in Belgium in January 1945. Held in Stalag 13C. He volunteered to work on a road crew cleaning up debris after a bombing run. Manners escaped the road crew and managed to avoid recapture for a few days. When he was recaptured, he was sent to a prison in Nuremburg. He escaped again while being force-marched in an evacuation. Manners and his friend, Howard, stayed hidden until the Americans had advanced.

Parts of Stalag 13C remain in use in 2019, as the German Army's infantry training facility.

*Mr. Manners provided a recorded interview that may be viewed here:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ucd-yKtzG0>

## Frederick Mast

Roxbury, Civil War, 20th New York

Captured at Chancellorsville, prison unknown. Paroled May 15, 1863.

Last known living date November 18, 1882, where he was the hotel keeper for The Succasunna Hotel.

## **Oscar “Mort” Mauterer**

Long Hill, Vietnam, United States Air Force 602nd Tactical Fighter Squadron A-1E

Declared Missing in Action February 15, 1966

Vietnam Memorial Wall Panel 5E, Line 38

Courts of the Missing, Court A, Honolulu, Hawaii

National Air and Space Museum Wall of Honor, Virginia, Panel 38

Dogwood Vietnam Memorial, McIntire Park, Virginia

## **Eugene W. “Gene” McMahon**

Long Hill Township, WWII, United States Army 15 AF 463 BG 775 BS

On February 25, 1945, Gene’s plane was shot down over Linz, Austria. After bailing out, he ran for his life and managed to elude the enemy for almost two weeks. Captured in Hungary. Forced to march to Vienna and then on to Nuremberg and Frankfurt. With inadequate clothing in the sub-zero temperatures and practically no food, through freezing rain, sleet and snow, he marched. Crowded into a cattle box car with other prisoners. Without food or water, they were transported to the Mooseberg Prisoner of War camp. On April 29, in the Mooseberg camp, the Germans were alerted that U.S. army tanks under General Patton were approaching. The prisoners were informed that they were all going to be shot before their liberators arrived. However, it did not work out that way. The tanks came crashing through the gates of the prison. Gene and the others ran for cover in a ditch while bullets whizzed past. General George Patton himself was there and after the conflict had ended, he gathered the POW’s together and made a heartfelt speech. At the time of his liberation, Mr. McMahon weighed 96 pounds.

He lost 90 pounds as a Prisoner of War.

## **Clarence H. McCain**

Boonton, WWII, Coast Artillery Corps

Missing in Action February 7, 1943.

Tablets of the Missing Cambridge American Cemetery

Boonton Veterans Memorial

## John F. McWhirr

Morristown, Civil War, 18th Connecticut

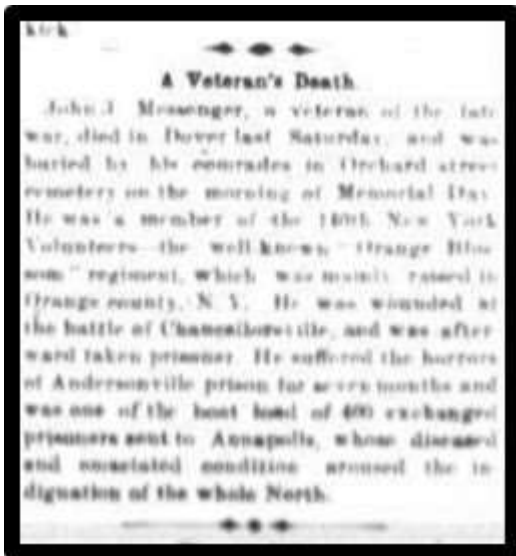
Captured at the Battle of Winchester. Paroled.

## John J. Messenger

Dover, Civil War

Born c. 1844, John enlisted July 7, 1862, Goshen, New York. He served with Co. B, 124th NY Inf.

Private Messenger was wounded in the left arm and side at Chancellorsville. Taken prisoner, he was confined in Andersonville prison.



The Dover Iron Era, June 5, 1886

### A Veteran's Death

John J. Messenger, a veteran of the late war, died in Dover last Saturday, and was buried by his comrades in Orchard street cemetery on the morning of Memorial Day. He was a member of the (?) New York Volunteers—the well-known Orange (Blues?) (same?) regiment which was (?) Orange county, NY. He was wounded at the battle of Chancellorsville and was afterward taken prisoner. He suffered the (horrors?) of Andersonville prison for (seven?) months and was one of the (last? Boat?) load of 400 exchanged prisoners sent to Annapolis whose diseased and (emaciated?) condition aroused the (disgust?) of the whole North.

## **Robert A. Mett**

Pequannock, WWII, United States Navy

Missing in Action at Normandy.

Tablets of the Missing at Normandy American Cemetery

World War II Memorial Pompton Plains

## **Jacob Miller**

Roxbury, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Missing in Action, Supposed dead at Gettysburg.

## **Nevius K. Moneyman**

Harding, Civil War, 30th New Jersey

Held at Andersonville Prison.

## **Elias D. Muchmore**

Chatham, Civil War, 14th New Jersey

Capture date unknown. Died in Danville Prison, January 2, 1865.

## **James F. Mullin**

Butler, WWII, United States Army 423 Inf 106 Div

Dulag Luft 4G 4B Dresden.

## **Charles Munn**

Pequannock, Civil War, 1st New Jersey

Captured June 13, 1864, succumbed to disease while a prisoner in Andersonville, August 27, 1864.

## **Samuel J. Nixon**

Morristown, Civil War, 1st New Jersey

Initially Supposed dead, at Spotsylvania, Sgt. Nixon was captured; held at Florence and Andersonville Prisons. Liberated March 1, 1865.

Member of the New Jersey's Ex-Prisoners of War Association.

Last known living 1891.

## **Frank H. O'Neil**

Netcong, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Captured at the Battle of Winchester. Held prisoner for 6 months and 22 days. Released March 9, 1865.

Last known living 1890.

## **John N. Pardenek, Jr.**

Montville, WWII, United States Army 82nd Airborne Division

Held in Stalag 2B Hammerstein.

## **William A. Pieper**

Chatham, WWII, United States Army Air Forces 785th BS 466 BG Heavy B-24J

April 5, 1945 Failed to return on a bombing run over Holland.

Tablets of the Missing, Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridgeshire, England

Chatham World War II Memorial

## **Robert Emmett Pierson**

Chatham Township, WWII, United States Army

Finding of death May 29, 1944.

Wall of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery.

Chatham Township WWII Memorial

## **Columbus B. Post**

Roxbury, Civil War, 8th New Jersey



Held captive for five days at Libby Prison.

Last known living 1900.

## **John A. Recanio**

Morristown, Civil War, 7th New Jersey

Captured at Gettysburg, held a prisoner at Belle Isle prison until his death, October 7, 1863.

## **Herbert J. Rolstad**

Chatham, WWII, Coast Artillery Corps

Held at Osaka Hirohata Camp, 12-B.

British and American liberated POWs raise the colors in Hirohata at Japan's surrender.

British and American liberated POWs raise the colors in Hirohata at Japan's surrender

## **Thomas G. Ryan**

Madison, WWII, United States Army Air Corps

In July 1944, he was flying out of Italy as a gunner in a B-24 on his 27th or 28th mission. Over Hungary, the plane was shot down. He managed to light a cigarette as he was parachuting down. One of his legs broke when he hit the ground, and one of the first people to reach him stole his gear, including his fleece-lined flight suit. The Germans took Thomas to a hospital in Budapest and then he was kept in a prisoner of war camp for nine months in Stalag Luft 3.

## **Vincent Sacco**

Montville, WWII, United States Army 94 INF 302 BN CO G

*“Sgt. Sacco was the NCO in charge of my dad’s unit when they were captured by the 11th Mtn SS on March 6, 1944. Despite being wounded himself, Sgt. Sacco provided leadership of his unit not only during their last battle, but during their captivity and the long march into Germany as the Germans gathered prisoners near Munich. During captivity food was very scarce, and Sgt. Sacco made certain that every one of his men shared equally. This was very important for my dad because he had been wounded during the battle, with both of his eardrums being blown out. Sgt. Sacco never asked to be a leader, but when the time came he took responsibility to lead his men through very difficult times. Few men are called in this manner, and fewer still answer the call. Vincent Sacco answered the call and I credit him with saving the life of my father....”*

*Thank you, Mr. Gerald Kolb.*

Mr. Sacco was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Association.

## **Lewis Hulse Salmon**

Mount Olive, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Captured at the Battle of Fredericksburg and held at Libby Prison for four weeks, exchanged.

## **Hiram M. Sands**

Morristown, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Captured at Fredericksburg and confined in Libby Prison.

Mr. Sands was a member of the New Jersey Ex-Prisoners of War Association at Morristown.

## **George Schoonover**

Netcong, Civil War, 1st New Jersey Cavalry

Captured at Gettysburg, held at Libby and Andersonville Prisons.

## **Charles Schuyler**



Charles Schuyler was born a slave in New Jersey, about 1833. He lived in the Pompton Plains section of Pequannock. Enlisting as a cook in the New Jersey 1st Infantry, “Tulley”, as he was known, was shot by Confederate Calvary forces in the neck and shoulder-even after his surrender- during the Second Battle of the

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Wilderness, Virginia. He was left for dead in the woods. Private Schuyler survived his wounds and eleven months in a Confederate prison.

“Tulley” returned home to Pequannock and became a member of “The Bloomingdale Cornet Band”, formed in 1884, performing on the kettledrum.

The Bloomingdale Coronet Band remains in existence in 2019 as New Jersey’s oldest coronet band.

Serving as a sexton of the First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains, Mr. Schuyler died in 1898 and was buried in the Pompton Plains Reformed Church Cemetery. His band mates played a concert in tribute to “Tulley” at the cemetery. Private Schuyler was buried without a veteran marker.

In 2011, Private Charles Schuyler received a military stone.

Part of the ceremony included a concert given by The Bloomingdale Cornet Band.

## **Charles Shay**

Dover, Korea, United States Army 1st Battalion – 31st Infantry Regiment – 7th Infantry Division.

Listed as Missing in Action when he failed to return from a patrol in North Korea on January 21, 1953.

He was presumed dead on January 22, 1954.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

## **Arthur J. G. Smyth**

Kinnelon, WWII

United States Army 56th Bomber Squadron – 323rd Bomber Group – Medium B-26B-30-MA

On a mission to France, the plane was last sighted over the target, after it was severely damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

Tablets of the Missing at Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre, Belgium.

## **Mahlon M. Stage**

Dover, 1st New Jersey

Captured at The Battle of The Wilderness, Mahlon was held at Libby and Andersonville Prisons. His time in captivity left him with chronic health issues, despite this, he became a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, practicing in Dover.

Dr. Stage was a member of the James M. McDavitt G.A.R. Post in Dover, as well as the New Jersey Ex-Prisoner of War Association.

He addressed the McDavitt Post one May evening in 1888, recounting his time in captivity, recorded in The Iron Era, May 12, 1888 article "[An Evening with the Veterans.](#)"

**Comrade Mahlon Stage was introduced and gave a most interesting description of the incidents that attended his capture and confinement in different Southern prisons. He told how he went out on the 16th of May, 1861, from this town, with Noah C. Haggerty, and believes they were the first soldiers who went from Dover. He enlisted in the 1st Regiment of Kearney's 1st Jersey Brigade. He described the fight in the battle of the Wilderness in May, 1863, in which he was captured. He was wounded, but not seriously, and put to work assisting the surgeons in the work of amputations in Locust Grove Hospital, at which he was engaged for three weeks. Of 365 or 370 prisoners there, over 300 had lost either an arm or a leg. He described the march of the prisoners to various points until Richmond was reached, where he was placed in the famous Libby prison for some days, and while there was shot at by a sentinel for looking out of a window. From there they were sent to various points and finally reached Andersonville, the location and general description of which he gave. When he went in there he took with him some herbs good for medicinal purposes, and saved the lives of some Union prisoners with them. He told how the soldiers were robbed and how a party of thieves who were caught and hung had in their possession over**

\$4,000 in money. The water they had to drink was of the worst character, as it carried all the filth and drainage of the grounds. The prisoners would make little pools in the sand, and let the water filter through it, but even then it would soon become alive with maggots. This water was all that was provided for 27,000 prisoners to drink, and with which to bake their bread. The horrors of the dead line were also portrayed, showing how men were shot for reaching under the line to get a cup of water, and for rolling under the line in their sleep. Every guard who shot a Union prisoner was given a sixty days furlough. Next was told how the prisoners endeavored to dig a tunnel by which to escape, and how their effort was betrayed by one prisoner who thought to gain his liberty by turning informer. After that men were fired upon for congregating together in unusual numbers. The rations when he first went in the prison were a pint of corn meal each day to each prisoner, without anything to cook it with or put with it. After a while one could hold in the palm of his hand all the meal that was given him in 24 hours. The dead were carried out in wagon loads every day, and in one day in August 300 were carried out in 24 hours. Hunger and exposure were the causes of death. Strong Western men would come there in perfect health and in a week would be carried out as corpses. Finally he was transferred to Savannah and obtained his release when Sherman's army reached that city. He hoped some time to give his experiences in greater detail and all his hearers hoped to be able to hear him do so.

**EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.**

The following are the names and prison records of Morris County veterans who joined the New Jersey Ex-Prisoners of War Association at Morristown:

Louis Kutcher, private Co. B, 123d Ohio, captured June 15th, 1863, confined at Libby and Belle Island, residence Long Hill.

Samuel J. Nixon, Sergt. Co. K, 1st N. J., captured at Spottsylvania May 12th, 1864, released March 1st, 1865, confined at Andersonville and Florence, residence Morristown.

E. B. Dawson, private Co. C, 83d N. J., captured March, 1865, at Averyboro, N. C., released April 1st, 1865, confined at Danville, residence Boonton.

John G. Lelizo, private Co. I, 1st N. J., captured at Hanover Court House, Va., June 1st, 1864, released Feb. 28th, 1865, confined at Libby, Andersonville, Florence and Danville, residence Port Oran.

Hiram M. Sands, Musician Co. B, 15th N. J., captured at Fredericksburg, released twenty-two days later, confined in Libby, residence Morristown.

James McKee, private Co. F, 2d N. J. Cavalry, captured at Eaber's Station in 1864, confined three months, residence Morristown.

Alpheus Hiff, Serg't Co. E, 11th N. J., captured at Spottsylvania May 10th, 1864, released Dec. 18th, 1864, confined at Andersonville and Florence, residence Parker.

M. M. Stage, of Dover, Alpheus Howell, of Parker, Chas. F. Hopkins, of Boonton, Dr. Stephen Pierson, Rev. A. M. Sherman, Samuel Nixon and Wm. Doty, of Morristown, had previously joined the Association.

*Thank you, Mr. Ken Post, great grandson of Dr. Mahlon Stage.*

## Cyrus L. Talmadge

Dover, Civil War, 11th New Jersey

Wounded and captured in action at Gettysburg, Pvt. Talmadge died in captivity, Andersonville Prison, September 2, 1864.

## Henry R. Taylor

Boonton, Civil War, 67th New York

Captured in Action at Seven Pines, May 31, 1862, held captive until paroled September 13, 1862.

## **Walter M. Thompson**

Chester, WWII, United States Army Air Forces 803rd Engineer Battalion – Aviation

Taken prisoner when the Japanese invaded the Philippines shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Died while a prisoner, June 30, 1942.

## **Robert Shoemaker Thorpe, Jr.**

Morris County, Korea

United States Army Headquarters Company – 1st Battalion – 32nd Infantry Regiment – 7th Infantry Division

He was listed as Missing in Action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on December 2, 1950. Presumed dead on December 31, 1953.

Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

## **Patrick Toole**

Boonton, Civil War, 4th New Jersey

Capture date unknown. Died December 23, 1864 in Danville Prison.

## **George William Trelease**

Hanover, Civil War, 15th New Jersey

Missing in Action at the Battle of Laurel Hill.

## **John Henry Tucker**

Boonton Township, Civil War, 1st New Jersey

An exchanged prisoner of war, he died at home on furlough, April 9, 1865.

## **Raymond John Tuttle**

Hanover, Korea

United States Marine Corps Ammunition Company – 1st Ordnance Battalion – 1st Marine Division

Taken prisoner while fighting the enemy, November 30, 1950.

He was presumed dead on February 10, 1954.

Courts of the Missing at Honolulu, Hawaii

East Hanover Memorial

## **Aaron Van Duyne, Jr.**

Montville, WWII, United States Army

Capture date unknown. Held in Stalag 4b Muhlberg Sachensen.

## **Robert W. Van Fleet**

Boonton, WWII

United States Army Air Forces – 359th BS- 303rd BG- Heavy B-17F “Lady Fairweather”

The B-17F “Lady Fairweather” went missing off the coast of St. Nazare, France.

Tablets of the Missing at Cambridge American Cemetery, England

## **Paul P. Verdi**

Morris County, WWII, United States Army Battery G – 60th Coast Artillery Regiment

Capture date unknown, first reported missing May 7, 1942. Held as a POW in the 92nd Garage, Pasay School and on the Arisan Maru. The Arisan Maru was a Japanese freighter used as a POW transport. These POW ships, called Hell Ships by the prisoners, were used to stop Allied planes from bombing, loading them with Allied prisoners and leaving them anchored near shore.

Sgt. Verdi’s last known actions were attempting to escape off the Arisan Maru.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery – Manila – Philippines

## **Richard Vincent, Jr.**

Boonton, Civil War, 1st New Jersey

Capture date and place unknown. Andersonville Prison.



Congressman John Hill of Boonton was known to visit the Union troops frequently in Army hospitals. At some point, the Congressman appears to have come into contact with Private Vincent before his death in Andersonville on July 2, 1864.

Private Vincent evidently extracted a promise from Mr. Hill, on behalf of the five-month-old daughter, Lillie, that he had left behind.

Congressman Hill honored that promise in December of 1864, writing the following note:

*“Mrs. Vincent-*

*Among the last words Richard said to me when I saw him last was that I should get a rubber Doll and give it to his Little Girl as a “Present from her Father”, not having found one that suited till late.*

*I now send it to you fulfilling this his last request to me.*

*Respectfully yours, John Hill”.*

Lillie Vincent kept the doll, wearing a holiday dress sewn by Mrs. Hill, and the Congressman’s note until her death in 1947.

Lillie’s doll, dress and note from Congressman Hill reside with the Boonton Historical Society.

## **Frank Thomas Vitcusky**

Hanover, WWII. Next of Kin lived in Hanover, entered service from New Jersey.

United States Navy Reserves

Declared Missing July 12, 1944 off the U.S.S. Wasp CV-18.

Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii

## **George L. Vreeland**

Parsippany, WWII, United States Army 325th Corps of Engineers

Declared Missing February 3, 1943, Greenland.

Tablets of the Missing at East Coast Memorial New York City

## **Harry Arthur Wann, Jr.**

Madison, WWII

United States Army 353th BS – 301st BG – Heavy

Declared Missing in Action March 12, 1943 after his B-17 failed to return from a mission to Tunisia.

Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American Cemetery.

Madison Roll of Honor

## **Robert S. Watson**

Mine Hill, WWII, United States Army Air Corps

Watson was flying his 13th mission when the plane was shot down over Germany on April 11, 1944. He received several wounds, including being shot in the back. He was held by the Germans as a prisoner of war in Solo 17B, a camp in Krems, Austria, for thirteen months.

Mr. Watson was a member of Mine Hill American Legion Post 391; served as Commander in 1961.

## **George Bockoven Wear**

Morristown, Civil War, 2nd New Jersey

Capture date unknown. Prisoner of War at Andersonville.

Died after release from captivity, January 25, 1865.

## **John Benjamin “Jack” Westcott, Jr.**

Chatham, WWII, United States Army 18th Infantry – 1st Army

Reported Missing in Action January 4, 1943 while on patrol in Tunisia. While on patrol that night with two other men, Lt. Westcott insisted the two men take cover while he proceeded to patrol the area. As day broke, the Lt. ordered the men to return to HQ to make a report. When they later searched for Lt. Westcott, he could not be found.

Tablets of the Missing at North Africa American Cemetery

Chatham World War II Memorial

## **Albert William Ziana**

Dover, WWII, United States Navy

Declared Dead while Missing in Action, November 13, 1942.

Tablets of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery – Manila – Philippines

Memorial at United Methodist Church Cemetery, Roxbury