



Young Historians Journal

WWI Veteran Family Interview with Claudia Smith, Librarian at LR Central High, about the WWI experiences of her grandfather David Wesley Huett, III (training, service as POW escort, experience as POW, living with effects of shell-shock, successful member of community after war)

Interview by Alex Crawford, LRCHS Class of 2018, Butler Center Student Intern

- Briefly describe the project.

The project collects relative's stories of the First World War as well as presenting correspondence from soldiers as examples of what the average Arkansas soldier experienced during the First World War.

- What did you learn that surprised you?

Although it was to be expected, there is often not a lot of documentation, per se, that backs up the stories handed down by families. Indeed, some of the stories are very limited, due to the soldiers not relating the full extent of their stories at the time and also to stories being muddled by the passage of time.

- What other questions does this project make you want to ask?

Why is this war so often overlooked? Why is there a sense that this war is not as important as the Second World War? What effect did the war have on the family of the soldier? What became of the other soldiers in the stories? Why is documentation so hard to come by?

- What other tips do you have for students doing projects like this?

Above all, don't be discouraged by a lack of initial success. Time and perseverance often prove to be a great help, as well as an active pursuit of leads.

--Alex Crawford

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