

## Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier

Around 1919, the Kansas State Historical Society and the American Legion solicited biographical information from returning veterans (primarily members of the 35th and 89th infantry divisions) and the families of those who died in service, notably from the Gold Star Mothers. Each veteran or family member was asked to provide letters, photographs, a biography, and military records. This file contains information on Harlan Clare Thompson, Bakery Company 315, 86th Division. Harlan died on October 6, 1918 from pneumonia at an American base hospital near Brest, France.

Date: 1918-1919

Callnumber: World War I Coll. #49, Box 45 Kansas Soldiers

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 225191

Item Identifier: 225191

[www.kansasmemory.org/item/225191](http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/225191)



Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier



Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier

Cop. Harlan. C. Thompson  
Summerfield  
Marshall  
Co  
Battery Co - 315 Kansas  
86th Div.



Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier

Sumnerfield Kansas  
March 20<sup>th</sup> 1919

Mr. William E. Connelley

Sir Please let me  
know if you receive these  
Papers all right.

Yours. Respy  
Moses. Thompson

## Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier

Summerfield, Kansas, March 17, 1919.

Mr. William E. Connelley, Secretary,  
Kansas State Historical Society,  
Memorial Building,  
Topeka, Kansas.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your communication enclosing a Memorial Diploma in memory of our son, Harlan C. Thompson, and a request for his photograph, copies of his letters, and a sketch of his life.

The information that you have of the death of our son is correct according to the reports that were sent us. We heartily thank you for the interest you have shown in him, and for the sympathy you extend to us.

I am enclosing a photograph and some papers which will I think meet the desires of the Society which you represent.

Yours sincerely,

*Moses Thompson*



## Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier

### DEATH OF CORPORAL CLARE THOMPSON.

The sad news came out in the Sunday papers that Corporal Harlan C. Thompson, who was known to his friends as Clare Thompson, had died overseas of disease. This was the first information that his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Thompson of our town, had of his death. It was the latter part of September that he went overseas. The last word they had was a card making simply the formal announcement that the vessel on which he sailed had arrived safely on the other side. Nothing is known about whether he took ill on the way over or after landing, nor when his death occurred, nor what the disease was which caused his death. For some unknown reason no government notice of his death was sent to his parents.

Clare Thompson was born at Wilsonville, Furnas county, Nebraska, March 25, 1894. For fifteen years he lived at Wilsonville, then after a few years at Leonardville, Kansas, the family, nearly two years ago, came to Summerfield. He was married last April 4 to Miss Ethel Durst of Delphos, Kansas, who at the present time is teaching at Wells, Kansas.

Clare enlisted in the Regulars and entered army service the last week of July, 1917, at Belleville, Kansas. He was sent first to Fort Logan, Colorado; then after a month to Fort Riley, Kansas, where he remained but a few days, then was sent to Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois, where he remained till he was ordered overseas, September 17 last. He belonged to the 86th Division, Bakery company 315. It is thought that went across in the same transport with a son of Rev. Mr. Cullison, pastor of the Methodist church of our town. It is a hard blow to his parents, wife, brother and sisters, but they have the comfort of knowing that he made the supreme sacrifice in a most noble cause; He gave his life to preserve the rights and liberties of mankind. The deep sympathy of the community goes out to them in their great grief. His is the first star on the local United Presbyterian service flag to turn to gold.

(The above is an exact copy of the article which appeared in the Summerfield Sun, issue of Thursday, November 28, 1918).

## Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier

### SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF CORPORAL HARLAN C. THOMPSON

86th DIVISION, BAKERY CO. 315.

\*\*\* \*\*

Died October 6, 1918, of Bronchopneumonia, at the American Base Hospital Number 65, Kerhuon, near Brest, France.

\*\*\* \*\*

In the summer of 1917 feeling it his duty to aid in the struggle for humanity, Harlan C. Thompson enlisted as a soldier of the regular army at Belleville, Kansas, July 26th, 1917.

He left home with true soldier courage, and with the determination to do his best to make the world better and safer for those near and dear to him, and for all humanity. He left with these words, "I will do my best, and if I perish I will have given all, and simply done my duty to God and to my country".

After enlisting he was first sent to Fort Logan, Colorado, and was stationed there until the middle of August, 1917, when he was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, at which place he attended for two weeks the Bakers' School, and was then sent to Camp Grant, Illinois, where he remained until August 25, 1918.

At Camp Grant he was transferred from Bakery Company 376 to Bakery Company 315, of the 86th Division. While here he was made a first class private, and later a Corporal. During his service at Camp Grant he was granted three furloughs. It was while he was on his furlough, on April 4, 1918, that he was united in marriage to Miss Ethel Durst, of Delphos, Kansas.

While at Camp Grant he suffered a severe attack of quinsy and tonsillitis from which he never fully recovered.

On August 25, 1918 he with his company was sent to Camp Mills, Long Island, where he remained until September 17, 1918, when the company left American soil for service abroad.

After a few days on ship he became ill with influenza which had broken out in camp previous to their leaving. This illness developed into bronchopneumonia from which he died October 6, 1918 at an American Base Hospital number 65 at Kerhuon, just outside of Brest, France. He was buried by his comrades in the new American cemetery at Lambezellec, France.



## Harlan Clare Thompson, World War I soldier

As stated in the sketch of his life Corporal Thompson was a cook in the army. In one of his letters to a sister he gives the following brief account of baking bread:

### HOW WE BAKE BREAD

We use one-fourth rye flour in most of the bread. Its O. K. when you get used to it. In one shift we make about 3,000 two pound loaves, never less; and lately from that up to four and five thousand two pound loaves in the shop alone, and last week we had five field ovens turning out about four or five thousand loaves every twenty-four hours. We usually work eight, or maybe nine hours; it depends on how hot the ovens are. We have ten doughs to make up and bake every day.