

The Red Cross in Jasper County

The first Red Cross organization in the county was the chapter at Colfax which came into existence within a few weeks after the United States entered the World War. The jurisdiction of this chapter included the city of Colfax and Washington and Poweshiek Townships. Organization was completed May 24, 1917.

At the same time, Miss Helen Needles, tien school nurse at Newton, and who afterward saw service in France and Italy, was heading a movement at Newton to organize a chapter to cover the remainder of the county. On May 3, 1917, she received from the Central Division at Chicago acknowledgment of the receipt of a list of thirteen names as charter members of the chapter, and an expression of hope that the organization would in time grow into a national asset. Results more than justified the hope. A certificate recognizing the Jasper County Chapter, as this main organization was called, was issued from Washington, D. C., on June 1, 1917.

The two chapters operated as separate organizations during the war, but were united into one chapter covering the whole county at the annual meeting for 1918, held after the signing of the armistice.

During the war period, branches of the Colfax Chapter were organized at Mingo and Valeria. Branches of the Jasper County Chapter were organized at Ashton Chapel in Clear Creek Township, at Baxter, at Bethel Chapel in Richland Township, at Center-Victor school districts in Rock Creek Township, at Buena Vista Grange in Buena Vista Township, at Galesburg, at Ira, Killduff, Kellogg, Lynnvillle, Monroe, Newburg, Prairie City, Reasnor, and Sully. Auxiliaries were also organized at Witemburg, and in Palo Alto Township.

During the war period, the work of the organization all over the county was along definite and uniform lines. The principal lines of work were the production of surgical dressings, the making of hospital supplies, including many articles of comfort for the soldiers in the field and for the relief of destitute civilians abroad; financial and other aid to soldiers in the service and their families; and the raising of large funds for use by the central authorities of the organization for the relief of suffering in the army and among civilians in the war zone. County wide membership campaigns were conducted, and the organization also did great local service during the first influenza epidemic. The branch at Newton, during that epidemic, organized, financed, and operated a hospital at a total expense of approximately \$6000.00. The collection and shipping of old clothes for foreign relief was conducted over most of the county by other organizations under the supervision of Mrs. E. N. Grimes. The principal committees through which the work was done both at chapter headquarters and in the branches were Executive, Ways and Means, Hospital Supplies, Surgical Dressings, and Home Service.

The first war fund campaign and the membership campaigns were conducted by an organization over the county built up by the Red Cross itself. The second war fund campaign was handled by the Council of Defense of the county and was very creditably done. The campaigns or drives conducted were the following:

First War Fund Drive in June, 1917.

Second War Fund Drive in May, 1918.

Membership Campaign in December, 1918.

Membership Campaign in December, 1919.

Local branches also conducted special campaigns for the raising of local funds. At Newton, pledges were made generally over the city for the payment of a certain amount monthly until the close of the war. Several thousand dollars were raised in this way.

Aside from the soliciting of funds, practically all the active productive work of the organization in the county was done by the women. A complete list of those who did this work would be a roll call of the women of the county. They also assisted materially in all financial campaigns, but the burden of this end of the work was carried by the men of the county. John Ruskin once set down a truth that holds good for all time: "You cannot think that this buckling on of the knight's armour by his lady's hand was mere caprice of romantic fashion: it is the type of an eternal truth: that the soul's armour is never well set to the human heart unless a woman's hand has braced it, and it is only when she braces it loosely that the honor of manhood fails."

A Junior Red Cross organization was also perfected over the county and included in its membership practically every school child in the county. The principal credit for the work of organizing and managing the juniors is due to the teachers of the county under the leadership of the County Superintendent, who was also chairman of the School Committee.

The highest number of members belonging to the Jasper County Chapter at any one time was 9,138. The highest number belonging to the Colfax Chapter at any one time was 952. This means a great many more than one member for each family in the county.

The production of manufactured articles by the Jasper County Chapter was as follows:

Surgical dressings	221,707
Hospital Supplies, consisting of the following articles:	
Bath robes	83
Bed socks	231
Hospital shirts	1,943
Pajama suits	2,068
Articles in men's and boys' clothing.....	376
Articles in women's and girls' clothing.....	899
Filled comfort kits for soldiers.....	190
Men's sweaters	1,877
Scarfs	573
Pairs of socks.....	2,391
Pairs of mitts.....	1,519
Helmets	336
Long sleeved children's sweaters.....	130
Pairs of children's long stockings.....	401
Miscellaneous articles, such as dish cloths, wash cloths, table napkins, hand towels, layetts, bath towels, dust cloths, and handkerchiefs.....	12,458
TOTAL,	25,465

The production of manufactured articles by the Colfax Chapter was as follows:

Surgical dressings	14,817
Hospital Supplies, consisting of the following articles:	
Sweaters	345
Bath robes	52
Comfort kits	50
Pairs of socks.....	330
Pairs of wristlets.....	255
Helmets	25
Shirts	275
Pajamas	128
Draw sheets	216
Pillow cases	312
Towels	233
Handkerchiefs	168
Wash cloths	99
Hospital gowns	42
Mufflers	174
Napkins.....	96
Tray cloths	50
Scarfs	105
Slippers	15
Hospital socks	40
Hot water bag covers.....	20

TOTAL, 3,030

The amount to be credited to the entire county is therefore as follows:

Surgical dressings	236,524
Hospital supplies, items.....	28,495

The money raised by the Jasper County Chapter was as follows:

First War Fund Campaign.....	\$11,755.56
Second War Fund Campaign.....	24,806.76
Membership Campaign, 1918	9,719.01
Membership Campaign, 1919, approximate.....	2,500.00
Miscellaneous contributions, including membership received outside of special campaigns.....	35,714.24

TOTAL, \$84,495.57

The money raised by the Colfax Chapter was as follows:

War Fund Campaigns.....	\$6,080.77
Memberships and miscellaneous contributions.....	8,052.32

TOTAL, \$14,133.09

TOTAL FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTY, \$98,628.66

In the stress of the great war, people were too busy getting things done to adopt absolutely accurate systems of bookkeeping in all cases. The Branches bought their supplies of chapter headquarters at Newton and Colfax mostly, and paid for them out of branch funds. These remittances appear in the accounts of the Chapter Treasurers. On the other hand, the Branches were entitled to a share in the various war funds

which were collected at Chapter Headquarters, and these shares were in many cases sent them in cash by the Chapter Treasurers, and accordingly appear on the Branch accounts. Large sums were raised at chapter headquarters and in the branches outside of memberships and war fund drives, and considerable disbursements were made by the branches that did not go through chapter headquarters. These things make it difficult to get an exact statement of the total raised all over the county for Red Cross purposes and at the same time avoid duplication of items. A few approximations have been made on this account, but in all cases they are close and may be relied upon. If there is any error, the amounts are understated.

Of the total amount raised, about \$10,000.00 is still on hand at chapter headquarters and in the hands of the various branches. The balance was spent for the purchase of material for the great quantities of manufactured articles made by the women and listed above, for the share in the various campaign funds due National Red Cross, for the relief of families of soldiers, for relief during the flu epidemic, and for general incidental expenses. The National Red Cross got three-fourths of the funds raised by the war drives, and approximately one-half of all funds raised in membership drives. \$3,600.00 from funds on hand was also sent to the National Red Cross in March, 1920. No salaries were paid anyone except a small amount for clerical work, and a small amount paid Mrs. Lana Henderson by the Newton Branch for winding up the work at headquarters after the armistice was signed, when public interest had fallen off to such an extent as to make it hard to get volunteer help.

The methods of raising the miscellaneous contributions were many and clever. Baxter originated the idea of a street carnival by local talent which proved a great success wherever tried. Entertainments of all sorts were given. Red Cross quilts were made and sold at auction. In some parts of the county, notably in the northeast part, farmers donated hogs or other live stock which were sold and the entire proceeds turned over to the Red Cross. The regular monthly payments on subscriptions taken for general expense were the chief source of general revenue at Newton.

During the principal part of the war period, the officers and committee heads of the Jasper County Chapter, both at headquarters and in the branches, were as follows:

HEADQUARTERS AT NEWTON

Executive Committee

J. E. CROSS	REV. G. C. WILLIAMS	MRS. O. N. WAGLEY
R. W. SAYRE	MRS. J. C. HAWKINS	D. J. EBERHART
H. C. KORF	R. H. BAILEY	MRS. JAY CLARK

Chairmen at Various Times

V. H. MORGAN	R. H. BAILEY	J. E. CROSS
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Recording Secretary

MRS. O. N. WAGLEY	MRS. W. E. SHARP
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Treasurer

R. W. SAYRE

Executive Secretary

MISS HELEN M. NEEDLES	MRS. J. C. HAWKINS
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Head of Hospital Supplies Committee

MRS. JAY CLARK