

Jasper County Council of Defense

Following a meeting held in Des Moines, called by Governor W. L. Harding, on February 11, 1917, county councils of defense were organized throughout the state. Governor Harding named two men in each county to proceed with the work of county organization. H. B. Allfree and O. P. Myers of Newton were named by the governor for Jasper County and they in turn named one man in each township to act as township chairman, and thus was moulded together one of the strongest and most important war service organizations in the state. The permanent organization was perfected with H. B. Allfree of Newton as chairman and J. A. Winger, postmaster of Newton, as secretary and treasurer.

The Jasper County Council of Defense through its committees took over practically all of the war service work in the county and thus much duplication of effort and expense was dispensed with.

War Drives

The first of the war drive activities sponsored by the Council of Defense was on May 15, 1917, when the Y. M. C. A. campaign for funds was launched. The Jasper County quota of \$2,000 was easily subscribed.

From May 27 to June 2, 1917, the first campaign for money to help the government prosecute the war was made in the form of the first liberty loan drive. The first liberty loan campaign in Jasper County was handled under the direction of the bankers of the county. The county's quota of \$756,000 and was oversubscribed.

The first Red Cross drive in the county was instituted on May 27, 1917, and the Council of Defense took an active part in raising the county's quota of \$15,000.

On July 6, 1917, the first draft numbers were received by the county Selective Service Board from Washington. The Council of Defense assisted the soldiers of the county in filling out their questionnaires and other papers in connection with the selective draft.

The chairman of the Council of Defense appointed one man in each town in the county to act as Food Administrator whose duties were to see that the provisions of the orders of the national food administration were carried out and observed in order that the conservation of food could be effectively maintained.

The fuel administration was handled in a like manner, D. L. Clark, J. Lindley Coon, and C. P. Hunter of Newton acting as the county's fuel administrators.

Another organization working in connection with the Council of Defense was the Four-Minute Men. This organization was directed by Ross R. Mowry and the members consisted of prominent business and professional men all over the county, who delivered four minute talks in the theatres and at other public gatherings. The main object of the speakers was to keep before the public the things their government was fighting for and how they could best help in the great struggle.

The Second Liberty Loan was opened on October 9, 1917, and was handled through the Council of Defense. The quota of \$1,000,000 for the county was subscribed.

The next drive was the Third Liberty Loan which started in May, 1918, and was oversubscribed about 230 per cent. The county's quota was \$756,000.

The Fourth Liberty Loan was started September 30, 1918, and culminated in raising the county's quota of \$1,732,200.

And finally as a grand finish to the campaigns already undertaken for the government loans, the Fifth or Victory Loan was launched on April 6, 1919. That the people of the county were just as loyal as at the beginning, the county subscribed its quota of \$1,302,000. The total amount subscribed for the five liberty loans in Jasper County reached the sum of \$5,447,200.

In connection with the fifth loan drive the Council of Defense asked subscriptions for the erection of a suitable memorial to the boys from Jasper County who gave their lives while serving their country in the great war. The campaign was started for \$25,000 to be used for this purpose and about one-fifth of that amount was raised. The Council of Defense expects to complete the canvass for funds for the memorial during the fall of 1920.

The War Service Council was a tributary organization of the Council of Defense composed of two men in each school district who worked under the direction of the township chairman of the Council of Defense. A total of 435 men in Jasper County was enrolled in this work and canvassed their school districts for every war activity of the Council of Defense.

The Jasper County Council of Defense enjoys the distinction of being the first county council organized in the state and its record of achievement stands forth as a glowing tribute to the men who so willingly disregarded their own personal and business affairs in order that the work assigned to them could be successfully concluded.

1—HARRY B. ALLFREE

Chairman

Mr. Allfree has been engaged in the loan and abstract business in Newton for about twenty-five years, and his work as Chairman of the Council of Defense stamps him as one of the most patriotic and public-spirited men of the county. His honest and fearless convictions, coupled with an unbounded enthusiasm to serve his country faithfully, were responsible for much of the success of the Jasper County Council of Defense.

2—A. K. MURPHY

Hickory Grove Township Chairman

Mr. Murphy is a prominent banker and farmer of Newburg. The son of a civil war veteran, he was born on a farm southeast of Newton, and is purely a Jasper County product. He taught school in his earlier life, and after several years of successful business life in the East, he came to Newburg in 1908 and became cashier of the Newburg Savings Bank.

3—ELI SWIHART

Member of the Council of Defense in Newton Township, District No. 3

Mr. Swihart, who is one of the successful farmers of the county, took an active part in all the campaigns and drives of the Council of Defense, and his untiring efforts contributed largely to the fine showing made by this county.

4—A. T. HADSALL

Washington Township Chairman

Mr. Hadsall came to Jasper County in 1874 and in 1883 he moved with his wife on the farm where he now resides in Washington Township. He was an active and untiring worker throughout the war, and has always taken an active part in the welfare of the county at large.

5—FRANK CHIPPS

Fairview Township Chairman

Mr. Chipps, for the past nine years has been assistant cashier of the Monroe National Bank. For twenty years prior to entering the bank, he was a farmer. Mr. Chipps was born in 1867, near Monroe, and attended the rural schools and Monroe high school.

6—O. P. MYERS

Newton City Chairman

Mr. Myers is one of the pioneer lawyers of Newton and Jasper County, and his gifted eloquence and ability as a public speaker were available at all times to promote the cause of our government. His friendly counsel and eloquent appeal for patriotism did much to sustain the morale of the county in those trying times.

7—E. L. DUNCAN

Poweshiek Township Chairman

Mr. Duncan was born in Jasper County in 1858. His father, Lieutenant E. D. Duncan, was a hero of the civil war, and gave his life for his country at the Battle of Shiloh. Mr. Duncan successfully operates a large farm northeast of Colfax.

8—J. W. JEFFRIES

Chairman of Des Moines Township

Mr. Jeffries was born in Jasper County, in 1866, on Loan Oak Farm, his present home. Most of his education was received in Des Moines schools. Mr. Jeffries was elected recorder of Jasper County in 1892, serving four years. He was elected to the office when twenty-six years of age, and at that time was the youngest county officer ever chosen. He also served several years as township committeeman.

9—CARL C. WEBB

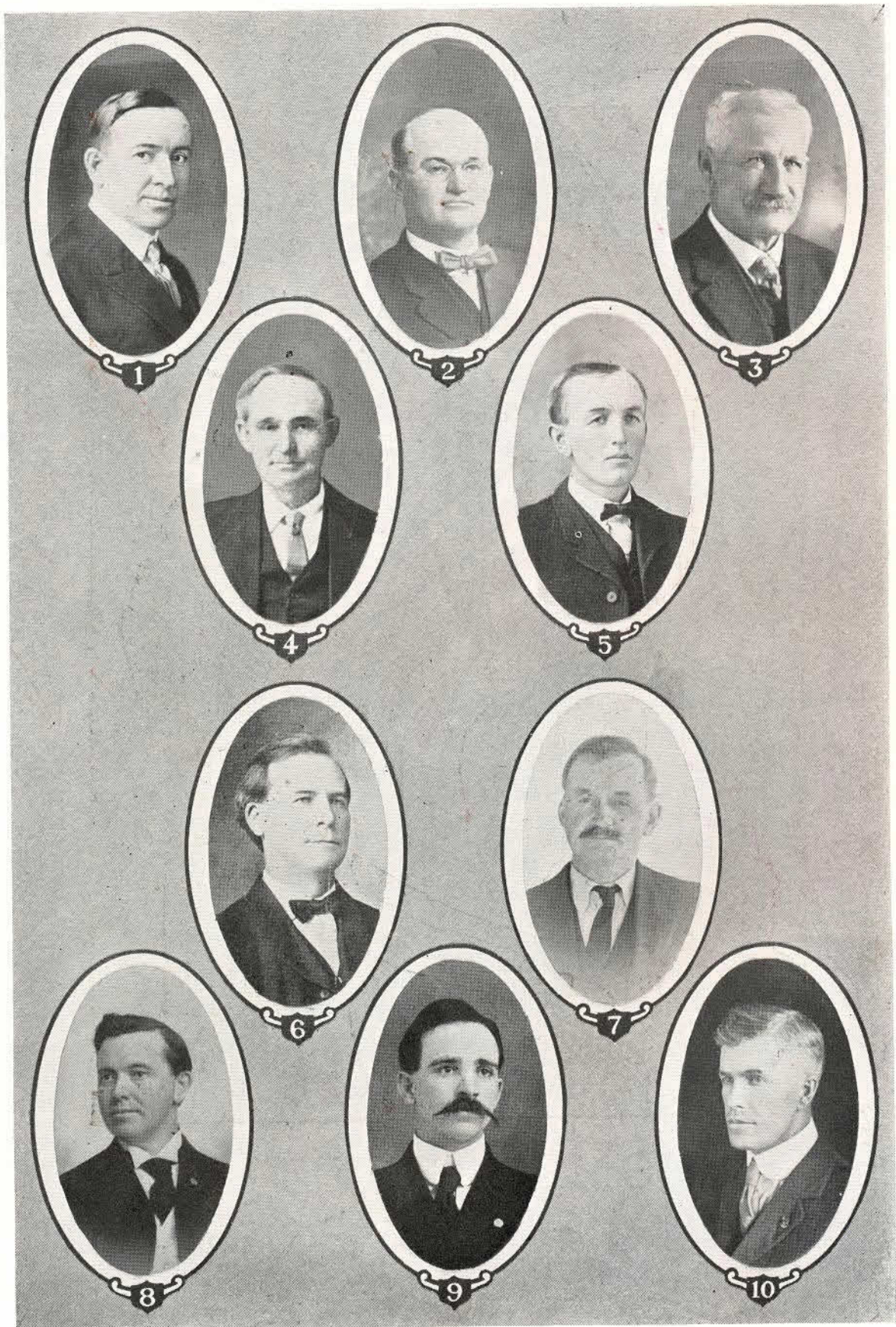
Chairman Independence Township

Mr. Webb, who has made a success of the real estate and insurance business at Baxter for the past twenty-five years, was born in Jasper County in 1875, the son of a veteran of the civil war. Mr. Webb has served as postmaster of Baxter for eight years, and for eighteen years has been his town's clerk. Mr. Webb was prominently identified with the war drive activity of his community.

10—S. H. NEWELL

Chairman of Richland Township

Mr. Newell is the successful operator and owner of "Maple Grove Farm", in Richland Township, where he is known as one of the best farmers and stock raisers in the community. Mr. Newell has always been identified with and taken an active part in the public enterprises of his community and the county as well.



1—J. A. GUNN

Chairman of Kellogg

Mr. Gunn, who is the founder and president of the Gould Balance Valve Company, of Kellogg, was one of the most active Home Service workers in the county. In addition to his activities in connection with the Council of Defense, Mr. Gunn was county chairman of the Military Training Camps Association, which association was responsible for securing men for training as officers at Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

2—AUGUST G. MILLER

Chairman of Mariposa Township

Mr. Miller, one of the public-spirited farmers of Mariposa Township, has been a resident of Jasper County all his life, and was born in 1871. He has made a success of farming and stock raising. Mr. Miller took an active part in all the campaign activities in his township.

3—E. C. TURNER

Chairman of Rock Creek Township

Mr. Turner has been a life-long resident of Jasper County, having been born in the vicinity of Newburg in 1873. He located in Rock Creek Township about thirty-three years ago. He is a graduate of Newton Normal College. Mr. Turner has always taken an active part in the service of his community and county.

4—C. H. POTTER

Chairman of Lynn Grove Township

Mr. Potter was born in Lynn Grove Township in 1869 and attended the public schools at Lynnville. He has lived practically all his life in Lynn Grove Township, and has been prominently identified with the development and improvement of his community. He was president of the township high school board for two years and a director for five years.

5—GEORGE W. EDGE

Chairman of Newton Township

Mr. Edge came to Jasper County in 1883 and settled on the farm which he now owns and operates. Mr. Edge served for five years with the Iowa National Guard, being honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant. For the past twenty-three years he has been prominently identified with the I. O. O. F. order. He has also served on his township school board, and is serving his sixth year as township clerk. Mr. Edge is also secretary of the Jasper County Farm Bureau.

6—ED WHITE

Chairman of Buena Vista Township

Mr. White has been a resident of Jasper County for twenty years, and is known and respected as one of the prominent farmers of his township. Mr. White took an active part in all of the war activities of his township.

7—H. E. SMITH

Chairman of Palo Alta Township

Mr. Smith was born in England and came to the United States in 1855. He was married in the same year and moved to Jasper County, settling in Palo Alta Township, where he has since resided and made a success of farming. Mr. Smith was one of the untiring workers in every campaign in his township.

8—W. H. BROCK

Chairman of Mound Prairie Township

Mr. Brock came to Iowa with his parents in 1870, and settled near Newton, in Mound Prairie Township. Coming from several generations of American farmers, Mr. Brock has made a success of his life profession and is now able to enjoy the fruits of his labors. Mr. Brock takes an active part in all community and county affairs and is a prominent member of the Jasper County Farm Bureau.

9—WILLIAM C. DEBRUYN

Chairman of Elk Creek Township

Mr. DeBruyn not only looked after his duties as township chairman of the Council of Defense, but busied himself in other ways, and devoted much of his time to the various war activities of the county. He is one of the substantial farmers of Elk Creek Township.

10—ARTHUR C. WATT

Chairman of Sherman Township

Mr. Watt is another of the tireless workers of the county, and stood steadfastly behind every movement and campaign that was undertaken in his township, devoting a large part of his time to the success of the enterprise in hand.

11—CHARLES LONG

Chairman of Clear Creek Township

Mr. Long was born on the farm where he now lives, northwest of Mingo. He has served as township clerk and is now completing his first term as a member of the Jasper County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Long gave willingly of his time whenever he could be of service.

PHILIP S. HILL

Chairman of Malaka Township

Mr. Hill came to Jasper County with his parents when a child and has lived here ever since, residing on the old home place in Malaka Township. Mr. Hill has spent several years as township trustee and on the school board. He is president of the Farmers Lumber Company at Baxter, and a director of the Baxter Telephone Company. (No picture obtainable.)

