

Over the Top
Battle Clothing worn during WW1
James Moody Quimby



Donated by Richard and Lorna Quimby

Chosen by Beatrice Ring

PHA Treasurer, retired computer nerd

I have always had a strong interest in WW1 and with my husband have traveled three weeks following the trenches from Passchendaele in Belgium to Compiègne in France. In addition, we have taken a barge tour on the Marne visiting the battle sites specific to America's participation in the war.

Moody Quimby was born in 1893. He joined the war in 1917, signing up with the Canadian forces. He served in France as an engineer where he would have helped to construct roads and bridges and driven wounded soldiers from the battlefields to the medical facilities behind the trenches.

After the war he married Daphne Craig. They moved to Hollywood Ca. for a brief stint before settling in Peacham on a small farm where "Moody" did interior decorating work (wall papering and painting) to earn a living for his family. He died at the Veterans Home in Bennington Vt. in September 1996.

His uniform, puttees, dog tags, metal helmet and gas mask are now part of the PHA archives.

The typical uniform worn in WWI, was made of heavy wool and when added to their backpack, gas mask and rifle meant that a soldier carried between 53 and 58 pounds as they marched to their assigned trenches. (The result was that the weight caused soldiers to drown if they fell face-down in the rain-soaked trenches). While the backpack would have been left in the trenches as the soldiers went 'over the top', they would always have worn their uniform, metal helmet, trench boots, gas mask and carried their rifle.