WORLD WAR I REMEMBERED: MINNESOTA LAW & LORE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "WAR TO END ALL WARS"

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Presented to Minnesota Judicial Center
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COUNTING CENTENARIANS

Total in World: 450,000 (U. N. estimate)
Total in U.S.: 72,197 (2016)
Increase since 2000: 44%
% of Men/Women: 17%/83%
% of U.S. Population: .22%
Total in Minnesota: 1,211 (2010)
% of State Population: .23%
CASUALTY COUNT

Worldwide: 36,000,000
20,000,000 deaths
16,000,000 wounded

Americans: 330,000 of 4.7 million in military service
116,000 deaths
204,000 wounded

Minnesotans: 100,000 estimated in service (57,413 in Capitol plague)
1,432 killed in combat
3,600 Flu epidemic
DEcisive Dates

June 28, 1914: Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Serbian Nationalist

August 1, 1914: Beginning of war in Europe (Germany declares War on Russia)

May 7, 1915: Sinking of The Lusitania (1,924 killed, 114 Americans)

January 17, 1917: The notorious Zimmerman Memorandum

April 2, 2017: President Wilson asks for declaration of war

April 6, 1917: U.S. enters the War (Senate 82-6; House 373-50)

June, 1917: U.S. Troops land in France (“Over there, over there”)

November 11, 1918: Armistice

June 28, 1919: Treaty of Versailles (5 years later)

U.S. Troops in World War I
THE LUSITANIA

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing Of The Lusitania
Author: Erik Larson
Publisher: Crown Publishers
430 Pages

A rendering of the sinking of the Lusitania on May 7, 1915

The U-Boat that sank the Lusitania
SOME IMPACTS

- Bolshevik Revolution and Communism in Russia/Soviet Union
- American Isolation (League of Nations Treaty fails)
- Volstead Prohibition (18th Amendment) – Andrew Volstead of Minnetonka
- Women Suffrage (19th Amendment) – Minnesota women first to vote (So. St. Paul bond referendum)
- Expatriates Abroad (Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Gertrude Stein, etc.)
- The Jazz Age
- Rise of Nazi Germany & World War II

What else?
"Clear and Present Danger"
Schenck v. United States, 249 U.S. 47 (1919)
"imminent lawless"
Minnesota Cases: anti-war pamphlets; “The war is coming,” discouraging enlistment, “wrong side”

Federal Cases: Meints v. Huntington, 276 F.245 (8th Cir. 1921): Tarred & Feathered in Luverne for not supporting war
INSURANCE ISSUES

Insurance lapsing upon discharge for Nonpayment of Premiums under 1914 War Risk Insurance Act

Disability Dilemmas:

- **Stephens v. U.S.**, 29 F.2d 904 (8th Cir. 1928): No retroactive due to fear of “fraud”

Tuberculosis Deaths:

- **U.S. v. LeDuc**, 48 F.2d 79 (8th Cir. 1931): No lapse if total, permanent disability

- **Eggen v. U.S.**, 58 F.2d 612 (8th Cir. 1932): Lapse because not “permanently disabled”

Gonorrhea Death:

- **Proechel v. U.S.**, 59 F.2d 648 (8th Cir. 1932): Not covered as “total disability”
Forest Fire due to locomotive in Northeast Minnesota (October, 1918)

* 2,000 square miles
* 40,000,000 property losses
* 500 deaths

Hall v. Davis, 150 Minn. 35, 184 N.W. 25 (1921): 278 claims for property damages

Wrongful Death Cases

*Granquist v. Duluth M & N Ry. Co., 155 Minn. 217, 193 N.W. 126 (1923) Untimely 4-year old lawsuit against multiple railroads

**BUSINESS BATTLES**

Banker v. Broker: market “uncertain and fluctuated rapidly”

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*Minneapolis Gas & Light Co. v. Minneapolis*, 140 Minn. 400, 168 N.W. 588 (1918): Gas Attack  
1914 fixed price contract valid despite “unforeseen” costs

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*Corliss v. U.S.*, 7 F2d. 455 (8th Cir. 1925): Criminal Creamery Conviction  
Reversed due to frenzied “atmosphere which reigned”
VETERANS!
Thank you for your service!