

# RAISING PRIVATE MINER: ELEVATING THE RANK OF THE GREAT WAR'S LAST FALLEN

By Joe Louis Mattox

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial celebrates its first inaugural year on December 2, 2007.

I was among the large crowd that gathered for the Museum's opening ceremony in 2006. It was a very dignified, impressive, soul-stirring event. Many people braved the cold weather to hear distinguished and honored speakers address the significance of Kansas City's \$27 million contribution to the remembrance and study of "The War to End All Wars."

The Liberty Memorial, the Shrine to the Great War, is dedicated to the men and women who fought and died in World War I. Department of the Interior, Secretary Dirk Kempthorne designated the Liberty Memorial a national historic landmark in recognition of its role in memorializing World War I service as well as its notable design. The "The Liberty Memorial in Kansas City is one of the most compelling monuments constructed in honor of those who gave their lives in World War I," Kempthorne noted. "Its beautiful monument and museum complex exemplifies visionary city planning and architectural innovations of the early 20th century."

Congress has designated the National World War I Museum as the only public museum in the United States dedicated exclusively to the history of World War I.

One of the reasons I wanted to attend the ceremony and opening of the Museum was to meet the French Ambassador to the United States. I wanted him to autograph my copy of, "Harlem's Hell Fighters" (a story about black soldiers in World War I, the men of the 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 93<sup>rd</sup> Division, an all-black combat unit) by noted author and military historian, Stephen Harris. The ambassador was unable to attend the ceremony due to inclement weather.

The men of the 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment have a connection to Kansas City. One of the heroes of the 369<sup>th</sup> was Henry Johnson, the father of the late Herman A. Johnson, Tuskegee Airman, well-known businessperson, respected civil rights activist, and prominent civic leader. The recently re-constructed bridge at 27<sup>th</sup> and The Paseo is named in honor of Herman A. Johnson.

Another reason to visit the Museum was to find out if

the million dollar exhibits and high-tech displays depict and recognize the patriotism blacks had for their country, even when most of them could not carry a gun, nor vote, and when smart "colored boys" were lynched for talking back to white folks. Still, black soldiers were ardent about winning the war overseas, even when the Germans reminded them of the irony of their second-class citizenship in America, the land of the free, home of the brave.

One more reason I looked forward to visiting the Museum was to find out if the attractions and storytelling would cause me to leave there with a feeling of Esprit de Corps and intuitive kinship with the 370,000 black soldiers and sailors—approximately 11 percent of the total American combat force—who served in World War I, with 200,000 of them fighting in France.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, I was hoping Black History lived at the Museum and that word-of-mouth and lots of advertising in the black media would draw large numbers of local black people...and blacks from out-of-town.

The Annals of World War I record 53,513 American men and women died to "make the world safe for democracy," the idealist words

of President Woodrow Wilson. The number of Kansas City's fallen totaled 420 whites (including one woman), and 21 black men.

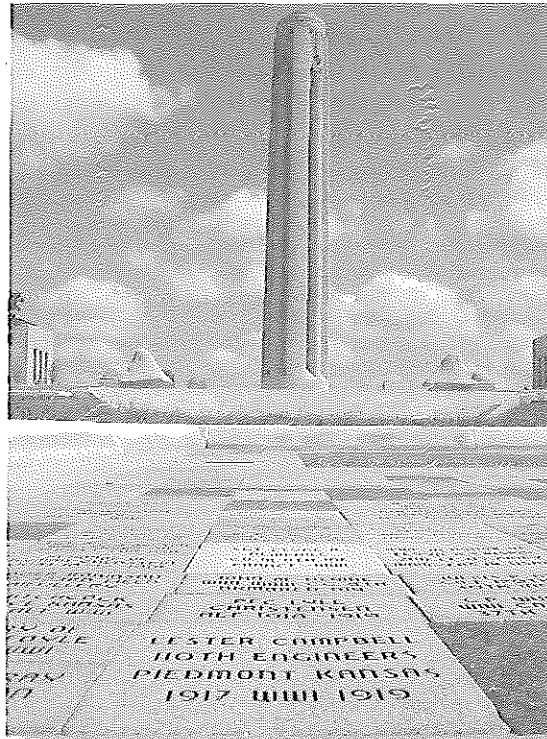
Is it curious that two men from Kansas City happened to be the **first and last** casualties of the Great War.

Surely, these veterans deserve some extra recognition beyond their service to country.

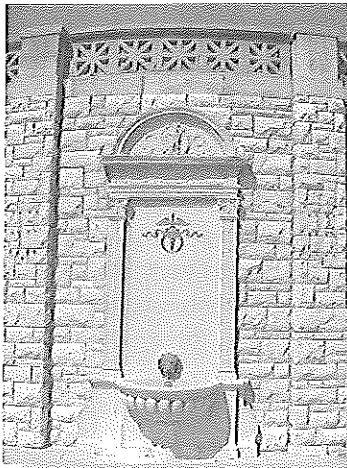
## WWI FIRST OFFICER CASUALTY—A WHITE KANSAS CITIAN

One of the Kansas City service members whose name was mentioned during the opening ceremony of the Museum was First Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimmons. He was a graduate of the University of Kansas Medical School, and in the U.S. Army served as a physician with the 5<sup>th</sup> Base Hospital.

Fitzsimmons was **the first American officer to die in World War I**. He was killed in action in France on September 4, 1917, and was buried in the Somme American Cemetery at



Kansas City's Liberty Memorial  
(Photo courtesy David W. Jackson, editor)



William T. Fitzsimmons memorial on the south wall of The Paseo Pergola at 12<sup>th</sup> Street. (Courtesy David W. Jackson, editor)

*Lieutenant Fitzsimmons was promoted to the rank of Captain posthumously.*

## WWI LAST CASUALTY—A BLACK KANSAS CITIAN

I was surprised that Private Wayne Miner's name was not mentioned during the grand opening ceremony of the National World War I Museum last December.

Private Miner is distinguished among all other World



Sergeant Henry Johnson, 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry ("Harlem Hellfighters"), who single-handedly fought off a German raiding party to save his comrade, Private Needham Roberts, 1918. Here, Johnson (standing) passes along Fifth Avenue during a parade. (Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 165: Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, 1860–1952; ARC Identifier: 533524; Local Identifier: 165-WW-127(39))

Bony, France (Plot B, Row 9, Grave 14, according to the American Battle Monuments Commission).<sup>2</sup>

In Kansas City, a veterans post bears Fitzsimon's name, and two memorials have been erected in his honor: one at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and The Paseo; another at 47<sup>th</sup> Street and The Paseo. At St. Mary's College in St. Mary's, Kansas, a memorial arch stands in his honor. In Denver, Colorado, the Veterans Medical Center bears Fitzsimmons' name.

**Fitzsimmons was a European-American Kansas Citian.**

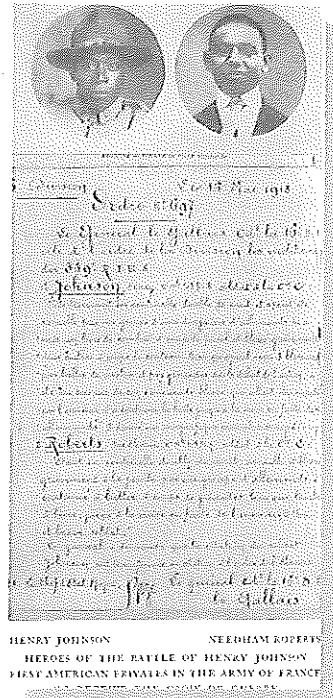
War I veterans as he was **the last American soldier to die in World War I.**

In 1919, Kansas City's American Legion Post Number 149 was organized and named in honor of Private Wayne Miner. According to an article titled, "Negroes Form a Legion Post," in the September 20, 1919, edition of the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*: "*The first Negro post of the American Legion was formed last night at the War Camp Community Club, [northwest corner] 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine Streets. There are approximately 600 Negro former servicemen in the City and all of them are urged to enroll in this post. Homer Roberts, post commander; J. H. Crutchfeld, vice commander; William Edwards, Adjutant; J. G. Driver, finance officer; William Anderson, chaplain; A. O. Mitchell, historian. Roberts was also elected a delegate to the State convention.*"

The officers listed in this newspaper article differ from those enumerated on the official application for a permanent charter into the American Legion (dated September 29, 1920): "T. E. Gaillard, commander; James O. F. Thomas, adjutant; Marshall Jackson, treasurer; T. E. Gaillard, service officer; David E. Jones, employment officer; Norval Lemons, chaplain; B. H. Muldrew, historian; Dr. E. H. Lee, athletic officer; and, H. B. Holman, Sergeant-at-Arms." Each year on Armistice Day (Veteran's Day), the Wayne Miner Post of the VFW conducts a memorial ceremony at Highland Cemetery.

The *Wayne Miner Court* apartment complex was built in 1962 with five high-rise buildings surrounded by two-story apartment buildings (a total of 738 apartments for low-income Kansas City residents) at 11<sup>th</sup> and Woodland Avenue.<sup>3</sup> Only 27 years later, *Wayne Miner Court* was the victim of crime, neglect, and deferred maintenance.<sup>4</sup> The Housing Authority decided to implode the high-rise buildings in 1987.<sup>5</sup>

Although the Wayne Miner Community Center remains a viable, posthumous tribute to the man, the Wayne Miner Health Center was renamed the Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Center in 1988 after Dr. Samuel Rodgers.



Sergeant Henry Johnson's Commendation, 369<sup>th</sup> US Infantry (Courtesy New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center; New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs: Military History, as viewed at <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/reghist/ww/i/nfantry/369thInf/369InfCommJohnsonLarge.htm>)

Miner also happened to be an African-American Kansas Citian.

*Might Private Miner be promoted to the rank of Sergeant posthumously?*

### MINER, THE SON OF FORMER SLAVES

Wayne Miner's parents, Ned and Emily Minor, were former slaves, having been born in Missouri between 1852-1854.<sup>6</sup>

Note the variation in the spelling of the surname. In most of the early records uncovered so far, the family's name was recorded as "Minor." That is the convention used in this article, except when specifically mentioning Wayman "Wayne" Miner, which is the way his name was spelled on his World War I enlistment card.

Five years after Emancipation, 18-year-old Ned Minor was enumerated in the 1870 Census in Clinton, Grand River Township, Henry County, Missouri. The former slave was living in the household of an African-American family, John (age 72) and Polly (45) Royston (both Virginia natives), and their family: Ann (29; born in Kentucky); Addison (19; born in Missouri); Maria (12; Missouri); and Robert (10; Missouri). Ned and Addison were likely farm hands, though the Census did not list an occupation for anyone in the household. There is also a remote possibility that Ned was related to the Roystons in some way.

Ned Minor met and married Emily in Henry County between 1870 and 1872 (Judging from the age of their oldest child. In the 1910 Census, they reported having been married 41 years, which computes to 1869).

When the 1880 Census enumerator visited their home, the couple resided with their young family in Calhoun, Tebo Township, Henry County, Missouri. Ned was a 27-year-old potter along side 26-year-old Emily, who was keeping house. They had four children: Minnie, age 7; Lizzie, 5; Allena, 3; and Curtis, five months (born December 1879).

The Minor family of Calhoun, Missouri, continued to grow, although they also suffered loss. Emily reported in the 1900 Census that she was the mother of 12 children, 10 of



Wayne Minor Court (Courtesy Kansas City Public Library)

whom were then still living. One of those who had died had been Ned and Emily's eldest daughter, Minnie, who had married Wiley Shockley. Minnie died on 6 July 1894 and is buried in the Calhoun Cemetery.

Ned Minor owned his Henry County farm by 1900. When the Census was taken that year, his eldest son living at home, Clarence (age 17; born Feb 1882) was a farm laborer. The other children in the Minor family were: Arthur (14; Mar 1880); Beula (10; June 1890); **WAYMAN (8; Aug 1891)**; Joseph (6; Aug 1893); Finas (4; Aug 1895); and, Regina (11 months; June 1899). Wayman is the subject of this sketch, Wayman "Wayne" Miner.



Famous [African American] regiment arrives home on the France. New York's famous 369th (old 15th) Infantry [African American] troops arrive at Hoboken, New Jersey. (Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 165: Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, 1860-1952; ARC Identifier: 533528; Local Identifier: 165-WW-127(42))

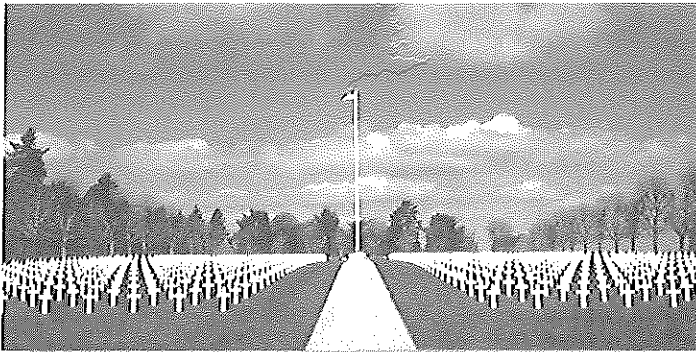
Sometime between 1900 and 1910 when the Census was taken again, the Minor family moved to Johns Township, Appanoose County, Iowa. **WAYMAN "Wayne" was the eldest child living at home (age 18)**; followed by Joseph (16); Finis (14); Virginia (Regina) (10); and Tobias (8). While Ned was engaged in farming, and Emily was "keeping house." Joseph and his older brother Wayman "Wayne" Miner were coal miners (no pun intended).

According to page 19 of the 1915 *Appanoose County Plat Map*, "N.M." owned a 10-acre farm in the Northwest ¼ of Section 25 Township 69 North, Range 19 West. This was about three miles east of Plano, Iowa.

All of Ned and Emily's children were living outside the family home except Tobias, who was an 18-year-old coal miner, when the Census enumerator visited their home in January 1920. At that time, Ned and Emily were 68 years old. They had just suffered the loss of their son Waymon "Wayne" in the Great War. Records beyond 1920 have yet to be uncovered for this family.

Although neither Ned nor Emily Minor ever learned to write, in her later years, Emily admitted being able to read. Apparently, Ned never learned to read either.

In two U. S. Census reporting years (1880 and 1920), Ned and Emily claimed their parents had each been born in Missouri. However, in 1910 they said Kentucky, and 1900 they testified not knowing the birthplace of their parents.



Images of Saint Mihiel Cemetery where Wayne Miner is buried. (Images courtesy American Battle Monuments Commission viewable at <http://abmc.gov/home.php>)

Considerable added research into Ned and Emily Minor's offspring and parentage is needed. While there descendants may be discovered, given the complexities surrounding the genealogy of those who endured slavery, and the scant record sources available, it may be a long journey towards discovering more about their ancestors.

#### WAYNE MINER IN "DEEDS, NOT WORDS"

Wayman "Wayne" Miner was born on August 17, 1894.<sup>7</sup> He married Belle Carter between 1910 and 1918.<sup>8</sup> They did not have any surviving children.



U.S. Army infantry troops, African American unit, marching northwest of Verdun, France, in World War. (Photograph by U.S. Army Signal Corps No. 25042, courtesy Library of Congress CALL NUMBER: LOT 8876-A [item] [P&P]; Digital ID: cph 3c16442; Reproduction Number: LC-USZ62-116442 (b&w film copy neg.))

Miner (Serial Number 2167915) enlisted in the United States Army in Kansas City on October 26, 1917. He reported that his address at the time was RFD 3, Centerville, Iowa. Miner's basic training was completed at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

On January 1, 1918, Miner was appointed Private First Class, and on June 15, 1918, he shipped out to France with Company A, 366<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 92<sup>nd</sup> Division. This was an all-black combat unit that had as its shoulder patch insignia a charging buffalo, whose slogan was, "*Deeds, Not Words.*"<sup>9</sup>

Miner was in one of two segregated African American combat divisions in the American Expeditionary Forces.

#### 92nd Division, National Army (Buffalo Division)

183rd Infantry Brigade  
 365th Infantry Regiment  
 366th Infantry Regiment  
 350th Machine Gun Battalion

184th Infantry Brigade  
 367th Infantry  
 368th Infantry  
 351st Machine Gun Battalion

167th Field Artillery Brigade  
 349th F.A. Regiment  
 350th F.A.  
 351st F.A.

317th Trench Mortar Battery

#### Divisional Troops

349th Machine Gun Battalion  
 325th Field Signal Battalion  
 317th Engineer Regiment  
 Headquarters Troop  
 Supply and Medical Trains, including  
 Dental Corps

The 92nd Division was in battle for 17 days. They occupied the Marbache Sector, October 9 - November 11, and participated in the attack of the 2nd Army November 10-11. The 92nd had 1570 battle casualties.

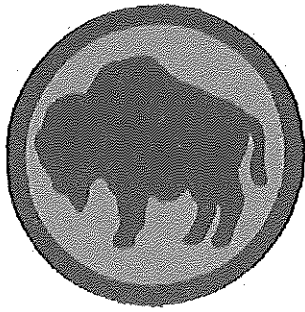
#### 93rd Division, Provisional

185th Infantry Brigade  
 369th Infantry  
 370th Infantry  
 186th Infantry Brigade  
 371st Infantry  
 372nd Infantry<sup>10</sup>

A copy of Miner's official military personnel file was procured from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. That the file survived at all is remarkable, given that on July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel files (including 80% of Army personnel discharged from November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1960).

Miner was one of the 21 black soldiers from Kansas City who gave the ultimate sacrifice during World War I.<sup>11</sup> He was killed three hours before the armistice was signed at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Early that day, Miner, serving in the Marbache Sector, had been the first of four men to volunteer to carry machine gun ammunition to an out-post. Miner died in action, a brave soldier trying to carry out his last mission.

Kansas City, Kansas, veteran First Lieutenant William H. Clark, compiled the story surrounding the death of Wayne Miner, as follows:



*"Forty-five years ago, November 11, 1918, the 92<sup>nd</sup> (all Negro) division 30,000 strong was attacking the village of Caney, 11 miles southwest of the highly fortified city of Metz, Germany.*

*"I was commanding the foremost advancing units of Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the*

*366<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Wayne Miner was a private in the First Platoon. I commanded the First and Fourth platoons, 124 men strong.*

*We were spearheading the regimental position of the entire Allied line. To the east of us was the Vooges mountains and a network of rivers that in all wars between France and Germany, no army had ever attempted to cross.*

*"Five hours before jumping-off time, I received my battle orders from Captain George A. Holland, our company commander. Second Lieutenant William Jones was my second-in-command leader of the Fourth platoon. We were on high ground in the village of Montfaveon, overlooking the Bois Vivrotte (woods of the Vivrotte), our first objective about one mile away and known to be occupied by German outpost units.*

*"On our left were units of Company F led by First Lieutenant Mallileau W. Rush and to his left was First Lieutenant Oscar Brown, commanding the 351<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Company, supporting both of us.*

*"One-half hour before jumping off time, Lieutenant Brown sent through an appeal relayed by our companies for four men from each company to assist in carrying machine gun ammunition. This was an unwanted assignment and I called for volunteers.*

*"I made a strong appeal but for a minute or two, no one stepped forward to accept. I told the boys they were letting me down and I would use the lottery system. As I was about to execute that method of selection, Private Wayne Miner stepped forward as the first volunteer; then another, and others until the four had responded.*

*"When Wayne Miner stepped out, a lump-like feeling accumulated in my throat. He was a highly cultured and courageous soldier, respected by the entire company of 250 men. I had used*

*him on every patrol I had made, including one on October 16 of this same year, when the members of the patrol were so pleasing to Division headquarters that Brigadier General Barnum came to the company and assembled the seven of us who carried it out, praised us highly and had our company clerk to type out a personal eulogy that he gladly signed. It was my most-prized possession until I lost it going through a Delousing plant.*

*"An ammunition carrier slings his rifle, his main defense, across his back and becomes a packhorse. The terrain was of such a rough nature that Lieutenant Brown had to use his method as mules and ammunition vehicles could not be used.*

*"I never saw Wayne Miner again. From my hospital bed at*

*Tours, France, where I was carried after we occupied our first objective, I learned he was killed by bursting shrapnel. I recommended him for the Distinguished Service Cross. Somehow, my captain through whom it was sent, never received it and a brave sacrificing and deserving soldier did not receive his just reward even posthumously.*

*"We went over the top as scheduled at 5:09 p.m., advancing at a brisk walk, ten paces apart. The artillery from the enemy was intense. Fokker planes of the Germans dominated the skies at the beginning and pinpointed our advance. Singing shrapnel passed within a few feet of me and cut down a corporal. His last words were, "Oh Lordy, Lieutenant, they've got me."*

*"I assigned a soldier to help him until the hospital corps arrived. I was told he died before other help reached him. Our objective, the Bois Vivorette, could not be achieved as Lieutenant Rush, a graduate of a college in Atlanta, advanced three minutes ahead of us and with the woods seemingly offering cover, we were pushed east in the open.*

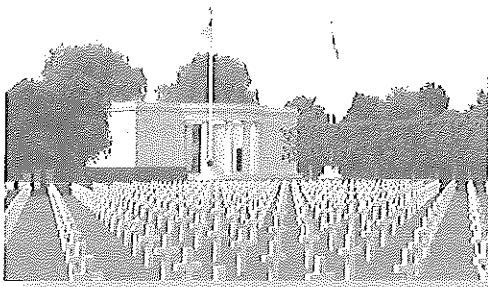
*"This proved to be a God-send for my company. The Germans cut lose on those woods with the most thundering artillery barrages we had ever heard. Lieutenant Rush was mortally wounded. He wandered unconsciously into our position and fell. His stature of being the tallest officer of our regiment was his undoing, as shrapnel cut straight through the middle of his head.*

*"Captain James Kennedy, chief medical officer of our regiment, reached him before he was carried to the hospital. I had put a dead man's coat under his head. Captain Kennedy received the Distinguished*

*Service Cross for this act, but in spite of all, Rush died after four days, without regaining consciousness.*



First Lieutenant William H. Clark (Courtesy Mrs. Shirley A. Perry, Clark's daughter)

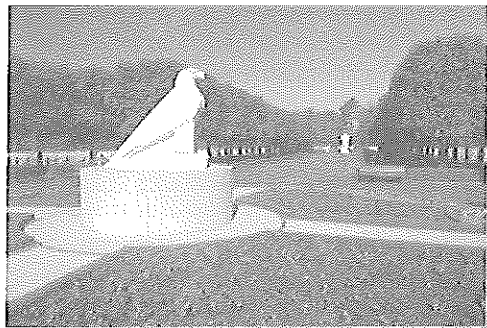


Images of Saint Mihiel Cemetery where Wayne Miner is buried. (Images courtesy American Battle Monuments Commission viewable at <http://abmc.gov/home.php>)



*"Shrapnel nipped my shin just enough to glance off the bone. I tried to conceal it as I knew they would take me away from my men. I treated it with iodine and dirt and wrapped it well but tore my gas mask diving into shell holes. I fortunately had a French Reserve mask in my bosom, yet I got enough gas to last a lifetime."<sup>12</sup>*

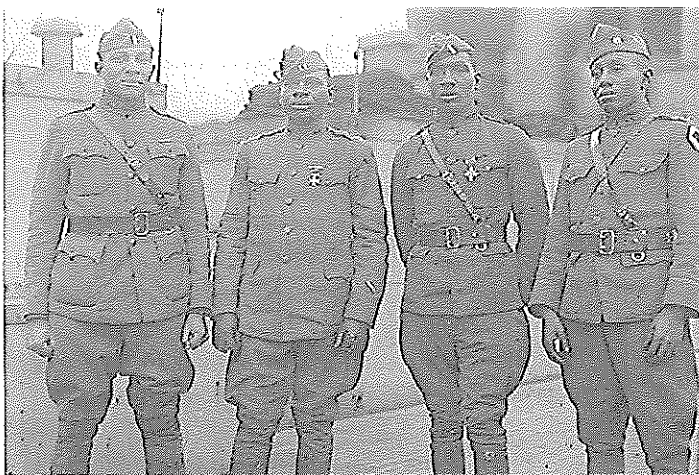
A December 6, 1918, issue of the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, ran the headline, "An Oversea List of 870: Five Greater Kansas City Men are Included." Among the roster was Wayne Miner, who was buried in the World War I St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial (Plot B, Row 14, Grave 17, according to the American Battle



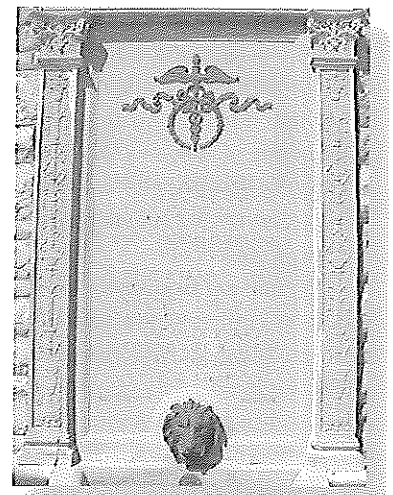
*"The mustard gas from exploding shells was so intense it was dripping from bushes. The machine gun fire had whipped the weeds as naked as straws, and had we been a little later digging in, our losses would have been much heavier. As it was our casualties were above 40 per cent. Company A's was higher.*

Monuments Commission), at the west edge of Thiaucourt, France.<sup>13</sup>

St. Mihiel contains 40.5 acres where the graves of 4,153 of our military dead may be visited. The majority of these died in the offensive that resulted in the reduction of the St. Mihiel salient that threatened Paris. The burial area is divided by Linden alignment trees and paths into four equal plots. At the center is a large sundial surmounted by an American eagle. To the right (west) is a statue of a World War I soldier and at the eastern end is a semi-circular overlook dominated by a sculpture representing a victory vase. Beyond the burial area to the south is the white stone memorial consisting of a small chapel, a peristyle with a large rose-granite funeral urn at its center, and a map building. The chapel contains a beautiful mosaic portraying an angel sheathing his sword. On two walls of the museum are recorded the names of 284 of the missing. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. On the wall facing the door is a large



[African American] Officers of 366th Infantry Back on Aquitania. Left to right: Lieut. C.L. Abbot, South Dakota; Capt. Joseph L. Lowe, Pacific Grove, California; Lieut. A.R. Fisher, Lyles, Indiana, winner of Distinguished Service Cross; Capt. E. White, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. (Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 165: Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, 1860–1952; ARC Identifier: 533490; Local Identifier: 165-WW-127(6))



William T. Fitzsimmons memorial on the south wall of The Paseo Pergola at 12<sup>th</sup> Street. (Courtesy David W. Jackson, editor)

map of inlaid marble depicting the St. Mihiel Offensive.<sup>14</sup>

At the time of his death, Wayne Miner's widow, Belle, lived at 571 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri. By the time the 1920 U.S. Census was taken, Belle, age 25, was living with her 29-year-old brother, Archie Carter, in Bellair Township, Appanoose County, Iowa.<sup>15</sup>

### POSTHUMOUS ACCOLADES?

As we look back at World War I, it appears that the "Bookends of The Great War," its Alpha and Omega of Yanks dying over there are the deaths of a white officer, Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimmons, and a black enlisted soldier, Wayne Miner, both from Kansas City. One was the first (officer) to die, the other the very last one to die in the cause of freedom.

At the Liberty Memorial, when we talk about bravery, courage, honor, patriotism, sacrifice, valor, and examples of "men who set the fashion for American manhood" in World War I, let us always remember Fitzsimmons and Miner.

Hopefully, coming soon to the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial will be a permanent exhibit about black soldiers in World War I, with special emphasis on Wayne Miner.

*Lieutenant Fitzsimmons was promoted to the rank of Captain posthumously.*

I close by reiterating this question in hopes that anyone with the ability to make it happen might read this plea:

*Might Private Miner be promoted to the rank of Sergeant posthumously?*

*Might First Lieutenant William H. Clark's recommendation that Miner be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross also finally be honored?*

### ADDITIONAL RELATED INFORMATION IS POSTED ON OUR ONLINE JOURNAL AT JCHS.ORG

Joe Louis Mattox, a local historian, majored in history and government at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri. He is an independent scholar at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center in Kansas City, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Historic Kansas City Foundation and the Kansas City Landmarks Commission. He is also a published author, having had numerous articles in newspapers and magazines, including past issues of the *Jackson County Historical Society JOURNAL*.

1 Ross, Marie. "Kansas Recalls Last Day of World War I When W. Miner Died," *Kansas City (Mo.) Call*, February 1965.

2 World War I Honor Roll database posted at <http://www.abmc.gov> (viewed 8 Nov. 2007).

3 "Wayne Miner's \$6M renovation complete," *Kansas City Business Journal*, 19 Mar. 2003 (as viewed on 15 Sept. 2007 at <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/stories/2003/03/17/daily20.html>).

4 See the editorial in the *Kansas City (Mo.) Times*, 21 Mar. 1957; photo and caption in the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star*, 18 Aug. 1960; and, <http://www.kitesingleton.com/nahc.htm> (viewed 15 Sept. 2007).

5 "Wayne Miner's \$6M renovation complete." Renovation of the 74-unit, 15-building housing complex started in October 2001, said Kevin Crockett, a Housing Authority spokesman. Lenexa-based Straub Construction Co. Inc. and Kansas City-based WGN Associates Inc. worked on the project. The Housing Authority of Kansas City marked the completion of a \$6 million revitalization of the Wayne Miner Court Apartments at a ceremony at the Wayne Miner Community Center on March 19, 2003.

6 As with many people in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, particularly emancipated slaves, exact birthdays were not known. The only two Census returns for Ned Minor that correlate in age are the 1870 and 1880 Census returns when he reported being 18 and 27 respectively. In 1900, he said he was 51 (he even reported March 1849 as his birthday), when he was most likely 47 or 48. In 1910, Ned said he was 63. Ten years later in 1920 he reported only gaining five years in age when he said 68, which, at that time aligned most probably with his true age. Emily had the same disparage in age reporting over the decades. In 1880, she was 26; but, 20 years later in the 1900 Census she said she was 56. Then years later, she reported being only 55. Like Ned, Emily's age in the 1920 Census correlates closest to the earliest reporting years when she said she was 68 (she was likely closer to 66).

7 World War I index card that is part of Miner's "R" file at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1985, pursuant to a request for Miner's file by a representative of the Kansas City, Missouri, Housing Authority, a Mr. D. Petree at the National Personnel Records Center attempted to locate additional information about Miner from the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Federal Archives and Records Center (FARC) in Chicago, Illinois. Deborah L. Haverman, Chief, Records Reconstruction Branch, delivered to Petree the report from FARC that, "they were unable to locate an XC-folder."

8 Judging from the 1910 Census and his 1918 enlistment. The actual marriage record has not yet been secured; it was *not* in Jackson County, Missouri, but likely in Iowa.

9 The 92nd Infantry Division (colored) was a unit of the United States Army in World War I and World War II. Nicknamed the "Buffalo Soldiers Division. According to Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/92nd\\_Infantry\\_Division\\_\(United\\_States\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/92nd_Infantry_Division_(United_States))), this unit was activated in October 1917 and went overseas on 18 July 1918. Their major operations were in Meuse-Argonne (less FA). There were a total of 1,647 casualties. (120 were killed in action; 1,527 were wounded in action under commanders Major General Charles C. Ballou (29 October 1917) and Major General Charles H. Martin (19 November 1918).

10 Courtesy [www.libertymemorialmuseum.org/FileUploads/AFRICANAMERICANSANDWORLDWA.doc](http://www.libertymemorialmuseum.org/FileUploads/AFRICANAMERICANSANDWORLDWA.doc) (viewed 8 Nov. 2007).

11 From documentation found by the author at the Kansas City Public Library Missouri Valley Special Collections Department; the National World War I Museum Research Center; the Combined Arms Research Library at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the American Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana; and, the library of Delbert White, past Commander of the American Legion Fifth District (who is a member of the Wayne Miner Post Number 149).

12 Ross, Marie.

13 World War I Honor Roll database.

14 <http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/sm.php> (Viewed 8 Nov. 2007).

15 A 19-year-old Archie Carter was found in the 1910 U.S. Census for 15<sup>th</sup> Ward of Kansas City, Missouri. This is likely Belle's brother given the unusual name and exact age match between the two decades of data; but, it is difficult to say for sure as there was no other easily identifiable family connections in his enumeration. Archie was listed as a "boarder."