



# Legacies of 1918: Life in Minnesota at the End of the Great War

No one would be the same after World War I. International alliances and new military practices meant combat was more violent and expansive than ever before. On the home front, the necessities of war and international exchange created new social norms that changed our state forever.

In this exhibit, explore what life was like for Minnesotans during World War I through the stories of individuals buried at Lakewood.

#### Lakewood: A Place to Remember

This exhibit is brought to you by Lakewood — where countless families have come to honor, remember and reflect for nearly 150 years. Lakewood's 250 acres of urban parkland have served as a community gathering place and a chronicle of our region's traditions, cultures and people. A history keeper and a thought leader, Lakewood honors its roots as



**LAKWOOD**  
CEMETERY • CREMATION • COMMEMORATION

a landmark cemetery while reimagining its role in modern life, through thoughtfully designed events, experiences and spaces.

As a nonprofit governed by a board of trustees, Lakewood is committed to preserving and enhancing its grounds and architectural treasures. We invite you to discover and explore Lakewood.

# World War I Overview

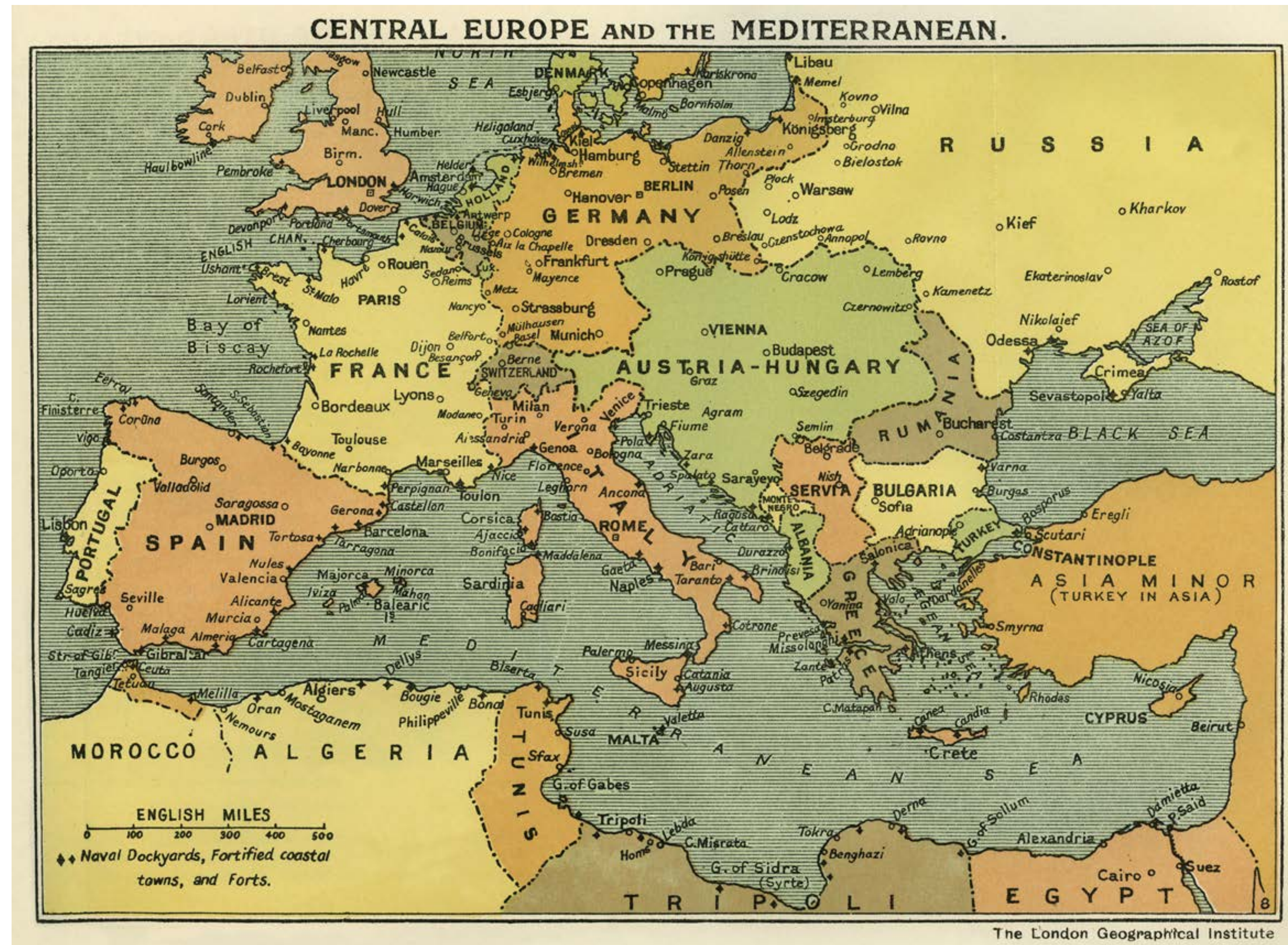
The world would never be the same after World War I. Between 1914 and 1918, the global conflict affected dozens of nations and millions of people, from high-ranking generals to ordinary civilians at home.

World War I involved all of the major global economic powers of the 1910s. The Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire) had been vying for political, military and colonial control of Europe and other nations for decades. Ongoing disagreements turned into threatening ultimatums when Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was killed by a Yugoslav nationalist on June 28, 1914. Within a month, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and troops were mobilized for the start of what would also become known as the Great War.

Over the next four years, the Allied Powers of Serbia, Russia, France, the British Empire, Belgium, Italy, Japan and the U.S. rallied their citizens to serve in a type of war no one had seen before. Trench warfare and new military technologies made it deadlier and more expansive than previous conflicts. All business and daily obligations on the home front—including in Minnesota—were redirected to the war effort.

After more than four years of combat, the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. The Ottoman, German, Russian, and Austro-Hungarian Empires fell. Many German colonies and parts of the former Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires were partitioned into independent states or claimed by the Allies.

Though contemporaries called it “the war to end all wars,” new military technologies and international alliances instead set precedents for battle in the modern era. The war had a lasting impact off the battlefield, too: international exchange and changing social roles on the home front pushed national and local cultures alike closer to a new era: the 1920s.



Map of European states on the eve of World War I



World War I saw the advent of bloody trench warfare.



American soldiers were deployed after the U.S. entered the war in 1917.

## World War I at a Glance

- **Dates:** July 28, 1914–November 11, 1918
  - **Reasons for war:** Political disputes and economic/military alliances going back to the 1880s established military, economic and colonial tensions in Europe
  - **Countries in combat:** Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire) and Allied Powers (Serbia, Russia, France, the U.K., Belgium, Italy, Japan, the U.S. and others)
  - **Death toll:** Nine million combatants and seven million civilians
- 1914**
- Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated (June 28)
  - Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia (July 28)
  - Russia begins general mobilization (July 30)
  - Germany invades Belgium (August 4)
- 1915**
- Germany uses chlorine gas against Allied Powers (April 22)
  - German U-boat torpedoes British passenger ship RMS *Lusitania*; 128 Americans killed (May 7)
  - Germany agrees to limit submarine warfare in an effort to keep the U.S. from entering combat (September 18)
- 1916**
- Britain deploys tanks, marking the first time tanks are used in war (September 15)
  - President Woodrow Wilson wins second term by campaigning on a non-interventionist platform (November 7)
- 1917**
- Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare (February 1)
  - Germany sends the Zimmerman Telegram, offering parts of the American Southwest back to Mexico if they ally with Germany in case of U.S. intervention; Mexico declines (February 25)
  - U.S. enters the war under President Wilson (April 6), draft implemented the following month
- 1918**
- Germany and Russia declare peace; German soldiers move to the Western front (March 3)
  - Kaiser Wilhelm resigns his throne after many German defeats (November 9)
  - Armistice is signed, ending the fighting between the Allies and Germany (November 11)
- 1919**
- More than seven months after the Armistice, the Treaty of Versailles is signed, officially ending the war (June 28)

# World War I in Minnesota

During the first years of combat, most U.S. politicians wanted to stay out of the war. Among these non-interventionist politicians was President Woodrow Wilson. "He kept us out of war" was among his most popular campaign slogans. With this platform, Wilson was elected to a second term in 1916.

But not wanting to fight didn't mean Americans didn't have opinions. They tended to side with the Allies. This preference strengthened after the 1915 sinking of the RMS *Lusitania*. In 1917, Germany's renewed use of submarines and sending of the Zimmerman Telegram convinced even peacenik Wilson to join the Great War.

A frenzy of patriotism swept the country after the U.S. entered the war in 1917. Suspicions of disloyalty were rampant. Governments and civilians alike were especially suspicious of Americans of German descent, whom they feared had ties to the Kaiser. Many German Americans, who made up

Minnesota's largest ethnic group in the 1910s, were persecuted on vague charges.

It was in this context of discontent that Minnesotans at home stepped up to support the war effort. Many Minnesotans (especially the 84 percent of the population that was foreign-born) publicly demonstrated their allegiance to the U.S. and the Allies. Women sewed bandages for soldiers. Children planted foodstuffs in "victory gardens" to save large-scale food production for the war effort.

Morale-raising parades and singalongs of patriotic songs dominated public spaces. When young men-turned-soldiers left vacancies in the workforce, women and new immigrants filled them.

Across the state, people of all ages, genders and ethnicities engaged in public life in new ways to support the war. These new public roles fueled social changes that ensured the U.S.—and Minnesota—would never be the same after World War I.



Western Front, American troops marching towards the front, France, 1918



Americans troops at Fort Snelling training in the construction of trenches



A World War I-era parade at Second Street & Marquette Avenue in downtown Minneapolis

## World War I in Minnesota

- Young men were trained for combat at Fort Snelling and local colleges like Dunwoody Institute
- 104,416 Minnesotans served in the Army
- 11,236 Minnesotans served in the Navy
- 2,845 Minnesotans served in the Marine Corps
- 1,432 Minnesotans were killed in action or fatally wounded
- 2,175 Minnesotans died of disease while in service
- Over 7,000 Minnesotans served locally in the Home Guard, protecting sites of wartime production



War bulletins like this one, posted on downtown Minneapolis's Donaldson's department store, kept Minnesotans abreast of the progress of the war.

# Charles A. Lindbergh and the Nonpartisan League

Minnesotans, like other Americans, were not unified in their opinions about World War I. These differing viewpoints were on display in the political sphere in Minnesota, where politicians with opposing stances on the war faced off for public support.

Representative Charles A. Lindbergh, father of aviator Charles Lindbergh, was a peacenik. He was born in Sweden in 1859 and raised by a farmer and blacksmith in Melrose, Minnesota. After graduating from Michigan Law School, the progressive Lindbergh was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1906. In 1916, the farmer-labor socialist group the Nonpartisan League (NPL) rallied farmers in neighboring North Dakota to unite against corporate



Nonpartisan League rallies were held throughout the midwest.

interests and agricultural and shipping middlemen who profited off of farmers' work. Lindbergh aligned himself with the group, which was gaining popularity in Minnesota.

Lindbergh and many rural Minnesotans felt that the expenses of war could be put to better use serving Americans at home and didn't want the U.S. to enter combat. But this stance got him and the NPL into trouble in 1918, when public support for the war peaked (as did scrutiny of those who did not support the war). Opposing parties accused NPL members of disloyalty.

As the war bore on, Lindbergh remained part of the NPL. He ran for governor in 1918 on the NPL ticket. On the campaign trail, he found enormous support in some towns; in others he was met with hurled stones, bullets and effigies of himself being hanged.

The claims of disloyalty led to the eventual demise of both the NPL in Minnesota and Lindbergh's gubernatorial campaign. Among the leading organizations who contributed to the downfall of this anti-war group was the pro-interventionist Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, led by Minnesota Governor J. A. A. Burnquist.



U.S. House Representative Charles A. Lindbergh

## Lakewood Connection

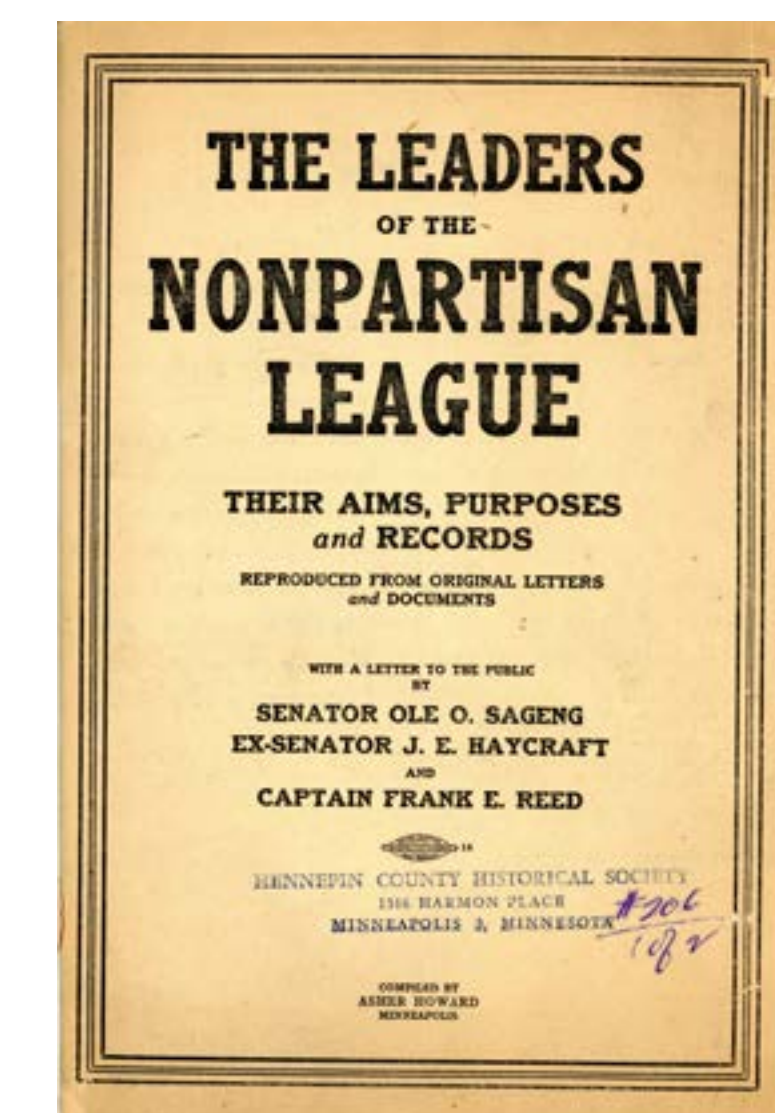
Lindbergh died in 1924 while again campaigning for governor as a progressive. He did not live to see the U.S. Supreme Court rule in 1925 that the state of Minnesota had violated NPL members' civil liberties. His ashes were kept in the Lakewood Chapel columbarium for 11 years.



A Nonpartisan League leader with his party's wagon box, Little Falls, Minnesota



Lindbergh speaks at a 1917 Nonpartisan League meeting in Cottonwood, Minnesota



Journal of the Nonpartisan League, stating their aims, purposes and records

# J. A. A. Burnquist and the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety

Born in Iowa in 1879, Joseph A. A. Burnquist earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1905, served in the state legislature from 1909–1912, was elected lieutenant governor in 1912, and stepped in as governor in 1915 after the death of Governor Winfield Scott Hammond.

When Governor Burnquist took office in 1915, most Americans weren't paying much attention to the mounting war in Europe. Midwesterners in particular—with their heavy involvements in farming and milling—were often more interested in domestic policy than foreign policy. This interest helped progressive, anti-war groups like the Nonpartisan League build a stronghold in Minnesota.

In 1917, however, Germany's renewed use of submarine warfare and the Zimmerman Telegram encouraged President Wilson and many American politicians and citizens to support the U.S.'s entry into the war. Governor Burnquist made it his primary political task to build enthusiasm in Minnesota. In spring of 1917 he became the first leader of the gentle-in-name-only Minnesota Commission of Public Safety (MCPS).

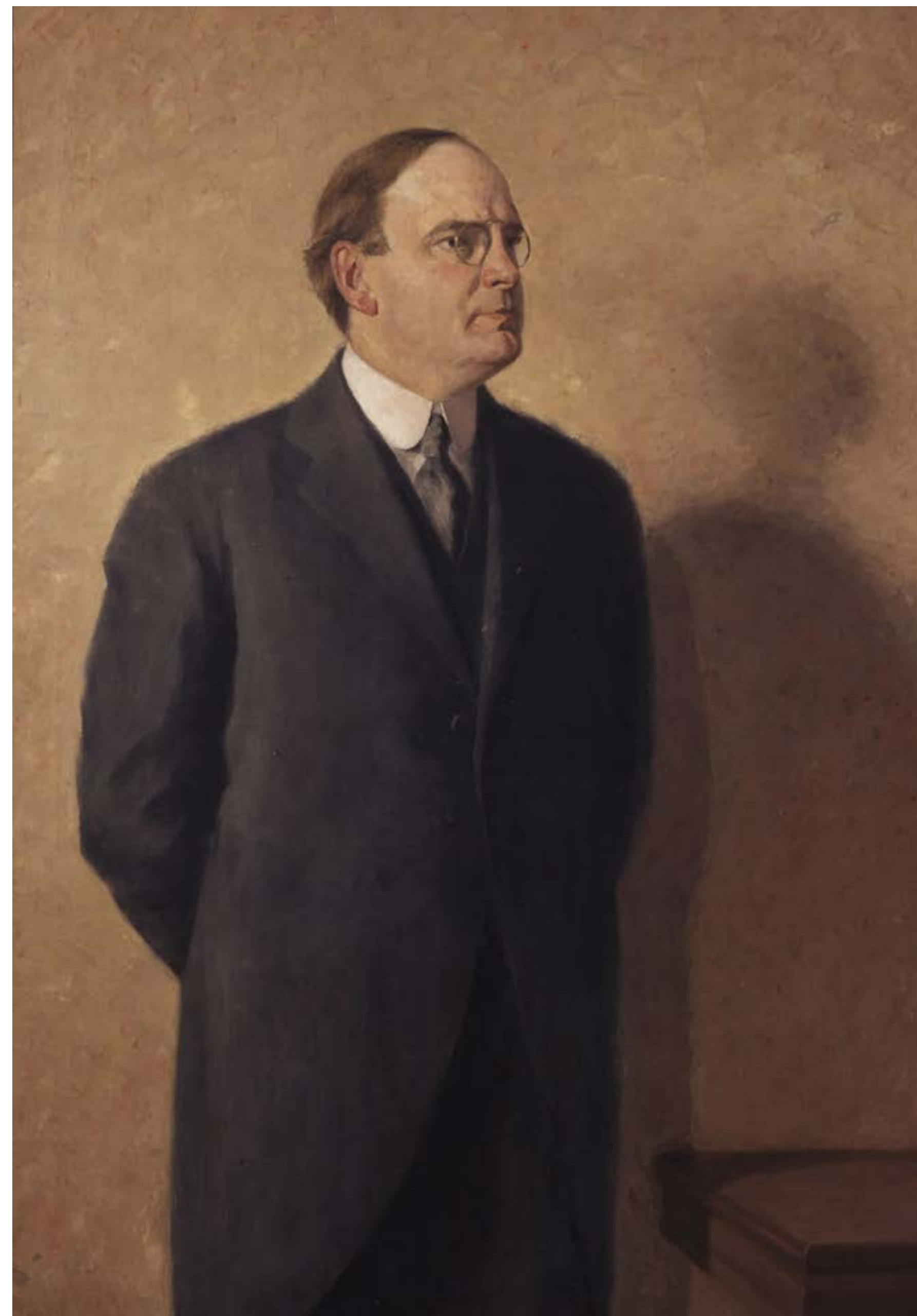
**DON'T BE  
SUSPECTED!**  
USE AMERICAN LANGUAGE  
**America is Our Home**

Among the MCPS's most controversial tactics was the forced "Americanization" of new immigrants. Burnquist and MCPS members encouraged the erasure of ethnic practices and non-English languages in the name of "loyalty."

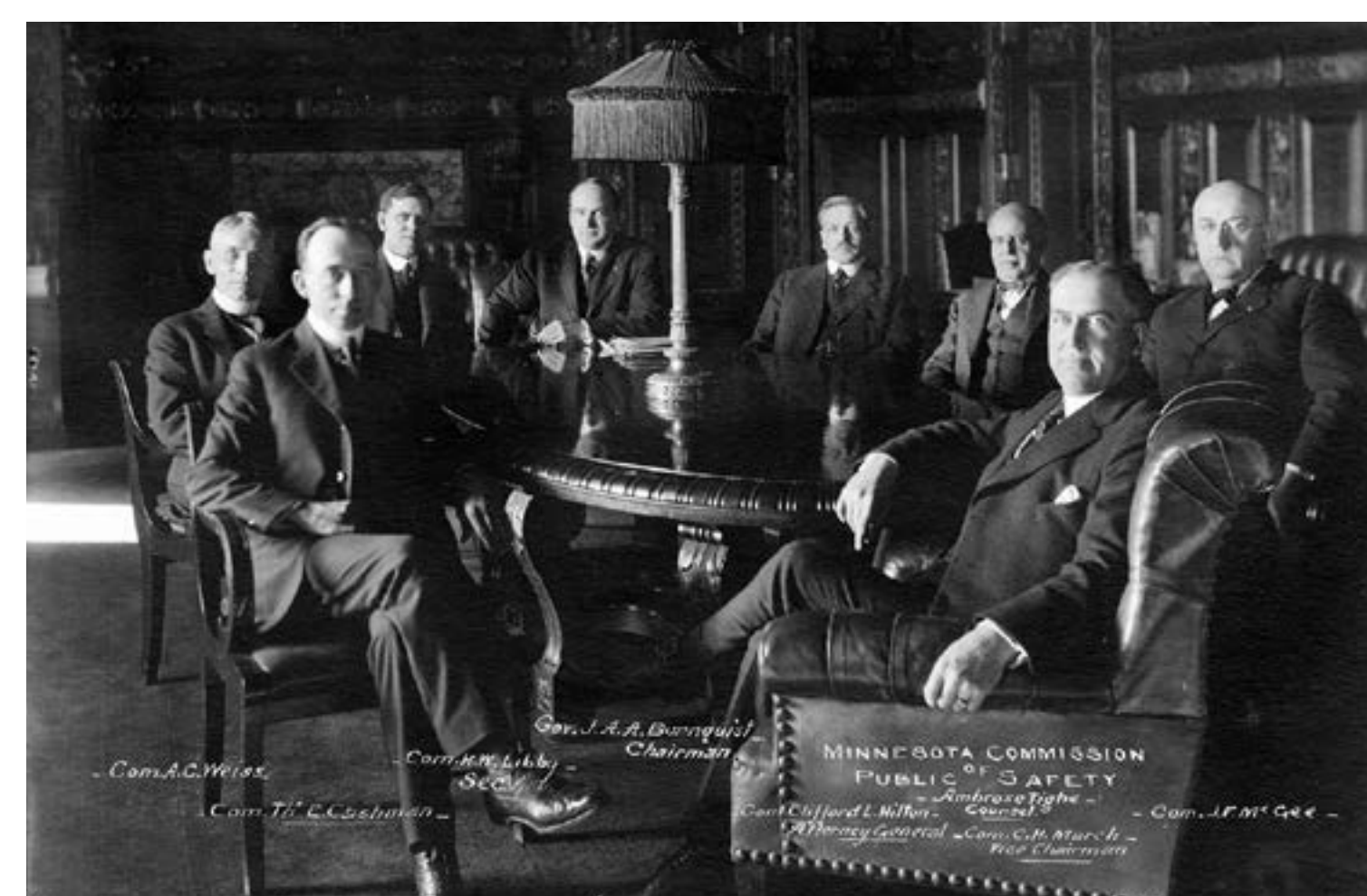
The MCPS was a seven-person commission charged with keeping Minnesota safe during war. Its power was sweeping, and its members were not afraid to use it. From 1917–1918, the MCPS controlled many of the state's regulatory, public safety, and military functions. The MCPS took on practical measures like

distributing food and conserving resources. But they also used intimidation and surveillance tactics to ensure loyalty and enforce "Americanization," especially on the 84 percent of Minnesotans who were foreign born.

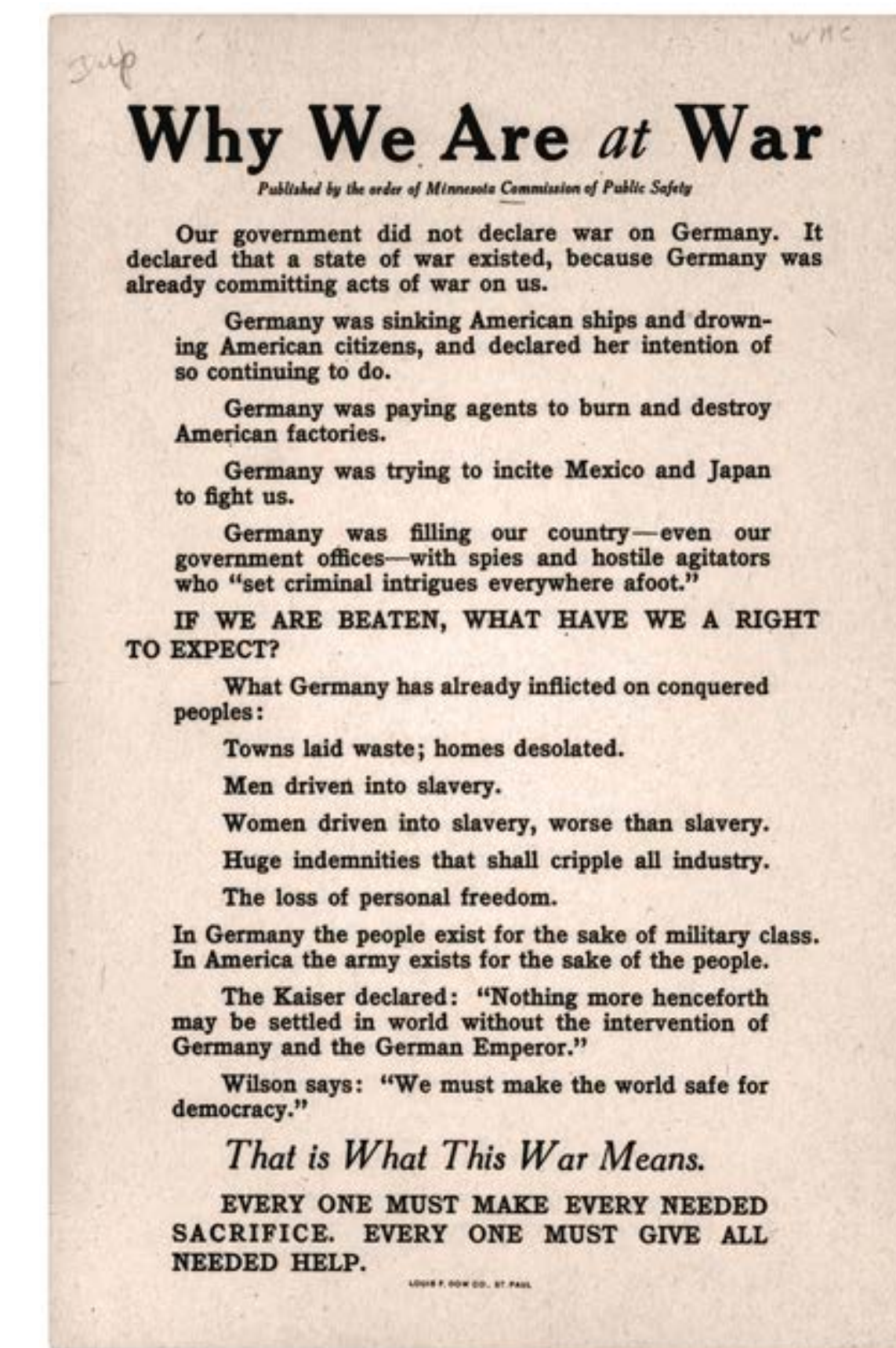
At the helm of the MCPS, Burnquist used controversial methods to stamp out anti-war sentiment as "un-American." Though many of his means have been critiqued as anti-immigrant and overreaching, he succeeded in organizing emotional and practical support for the Great War.



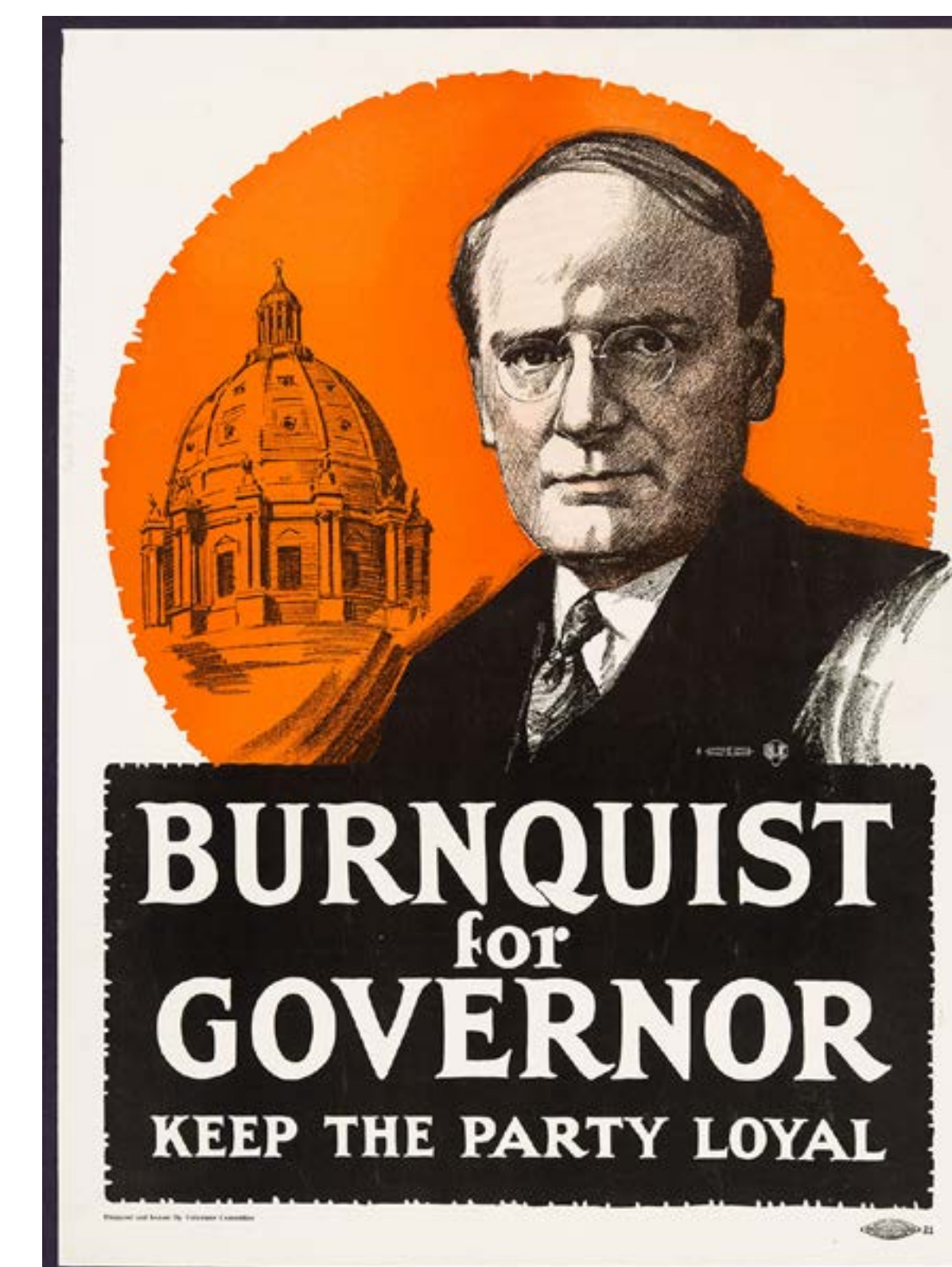
Governor Joseph A. A. Burnquist



Members of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety, 1917



A piece of literature created and distributed by the Minnesota Commission on Public Safety, explaining the reasons behind war to Minnesotan readers



Governor Burnquist appealed to the fear of foreign influence and the threat of disloyalty in this 1918 reelection campaign.

**Lakewood Connection**  
After serving as governor, Burnquist returned to his law practice. Later in life, he re-entered politics as the state's second-longest-serving attorney general. He passed away in Minneapolis in 1961 and is buried in Lakewood's Section 27.

# James Ford Bell and the Politics of Food

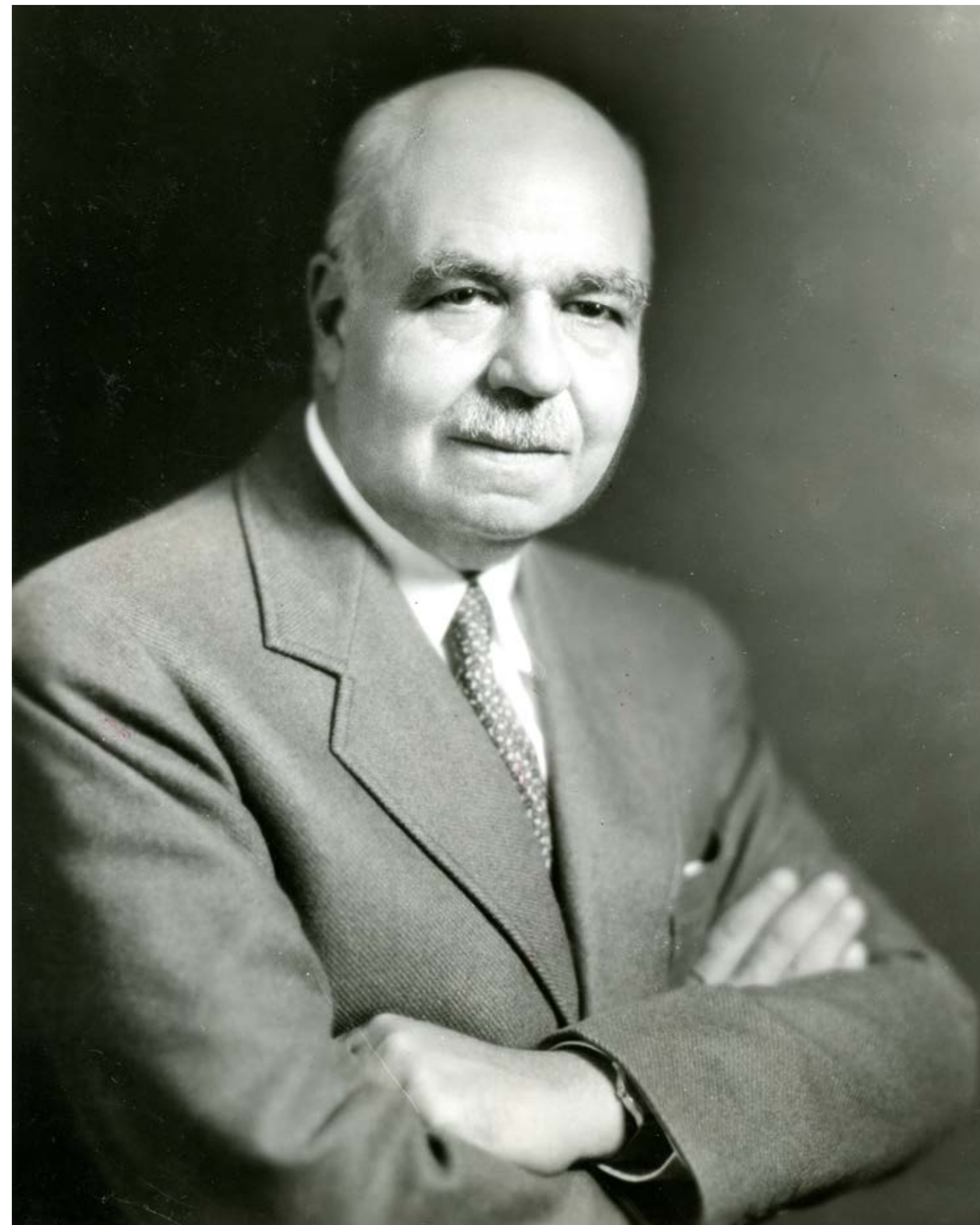
From the early days of the war, the U.S. provided food to the Allies, many of whom were starving after combat ravaged their farmland. As the U.S. redirected food production efforts overseas, conservation and at-home gardening became patriotic activities. The Food Administration (now the Food and Drug Administration) was formed, in part, to encourage rationing that stretched the wheat supply at home. They expertly used posters and pamphlets to tie conservation to patriotism. "Food will win the war" became a national rallying cry.

Rationing was voluntary. On the supply side, however, changes were involuntary. To guarantee that the U.S. could supply sufficient food for the Allies, Food Administration president Herbert Hoover tapped Minnesotan James Ford Bell to lead his agency's milling division.

Food production was especially relevant to Minnesotans. By the 1880s, Minneapolis had established itself as the greatest wheat-producing city in the nation. Bell's career in Minnesota had prepared him well for the job. Born in Philadelphia in 1879, Bell studied chemistry at the University of Minnesota before entering the milling industry. He became vice president at the Washburn-Crosby Company in 1915. During his tenure, his company produced more wheat than any milling company in Minneapolis.

As head of the Milling Division of the Food Administration, Bell introduced policies to stretch the supply of wheat. Millers were required to register with the government, operate under price controls and mill whole wheat flour instead of refined flour.

After the war ended in 1918, Bell returned to Minnesota, where he formed General Mills. But perhaps it was his wartime career that developed Bell's passion for conservation. He went on to donate to conservation causes and to fund the renovation of the University of Minnesota's Zoological Museum, later renamed the Bell Museum of Natural History.



James Ford Bell



Students at North High School operate a greenhouse to support the war effort, 1918



"The Fruits of Victory" World War I poster, 1918

## Food in World War I

- United States agricultural leaders sent U.S. food products to Allied troops overseas
- Those on the home front, especially children, supported the war by planting home vegetable and grain gardens, or "victory gardens"
- Minnesota's economy, based largely on milling, was almost entirely redirected to the war effort
- Home gardening and rationing wheat consumption became patriotic

## Lakewood Connection

James Ford Bell passed away in 1961. He is buried in Lakewood's Section 23.

Lakewood is also honored to serve as the final resting place of other Minnesotans who made a name for themselves in milling, including members of the Pillsbury, Crosby and Washburn families.



# Alice Ames Winter and Women's War Work

When the draft was implemented on May 18, 1917, young men were sent overseas in droves. At home, workers were needed to produce food, send supplies overseas and care for wounded soldiers. For the first time in U.S. history, women entered the workforce in large numbers.

Shortly after its formation in 1917, the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety (MCPS) picked Alice Ames Winter to head their women's committee. Winter was also named the head of the Minnesota Woman's Committee within the Council of National Defense. Educated at Wellesley College, Winter had participated in local politics and women's initiatives since the 1890s. During the war, she helped women find jobs as laborers, leaders and administrators.

With much of the state's economy based on milling and farming, many Minnesotan women entered agricultural jobs. In addition, Winter helped create programs in nearly every county to ensure that vocational schools offered medical and clerical training to women. Women were then matched with wartime opportunities that suited their skills. Winter also encouraged women to participate in fundraising and conservation efforts, and to volunteer with aid organizations like the Red Cross.

Winter was a strong pick for the iron-fisted MCPS. She—like many of the women who took on leadership positions during World War I—was a member of Minneapolis's wealthy elite, with an advanced degree and family ties to the booming milling industry. She believed, as did the members of the MCPS, that immigrants had to become "Americanized" to truly be patriotic. Through her work she encouraged the erasure of non-English languages and ethnic identity, especially among German, Finnish and Austrian Americans.

Winter and the MCPS's tactics were controversial. But the realities of war empowered women to enter the workforce and demonstrate their capacity for political organizing in a new way, laying the groundwork for social change.



Alice Ames Winter, 1925



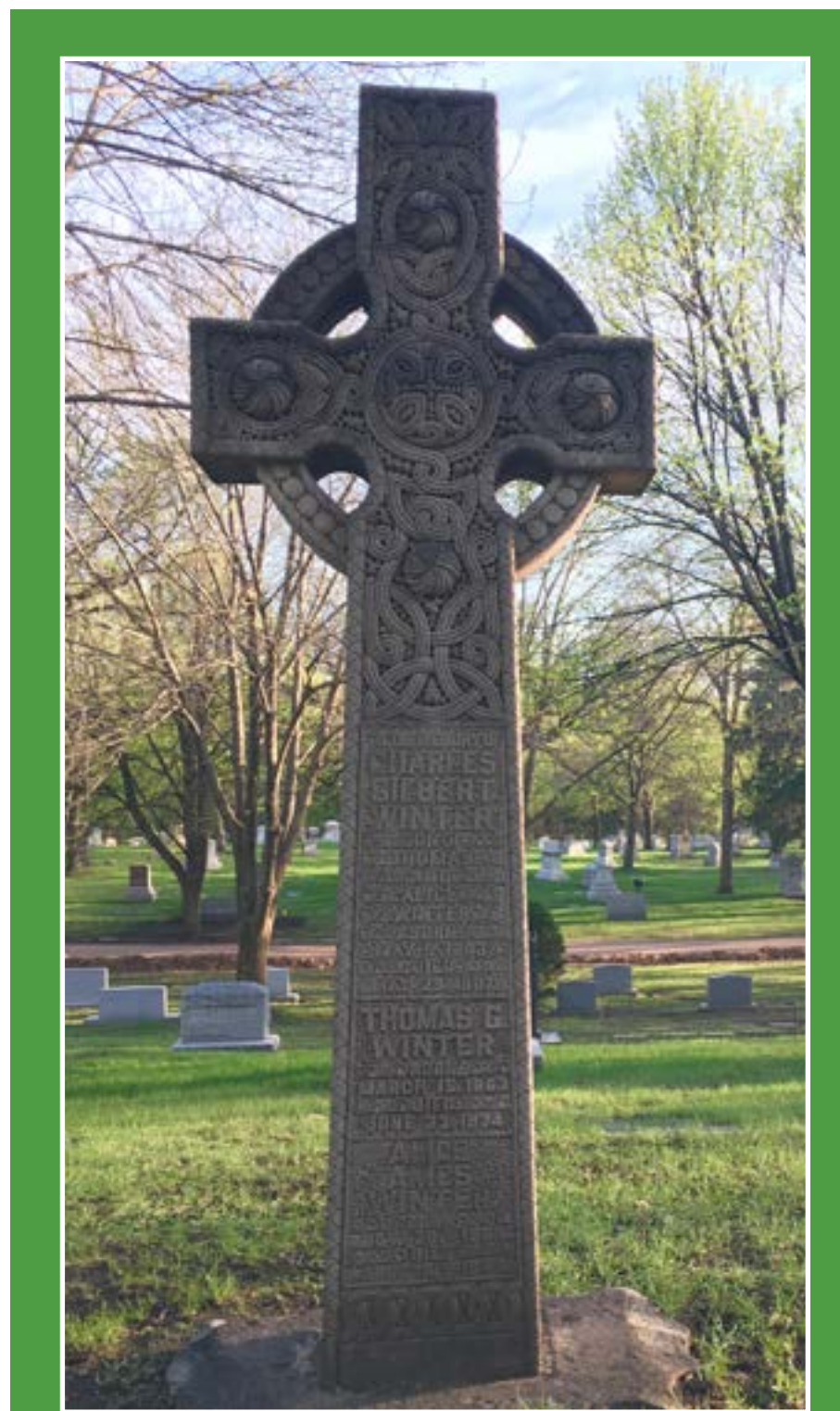
Woman's Community Council members standing in front of the Alice Ames Winter Demonstration House, Minneapolis.



Members of a local Red Cross chapter in 1918



American propaganda poster showing Red Cross nurse with soldier signaling for help



## Lakewood Connection

Alice Ames Winter passed away in 1944 at age seventy-eight. She is buried in Lakewood's Section 16.

## Alice Ames Winter – A Lifetime of Accomplishments

- Born 1865 in Albany, NY; grew up in CA, MA and PA
- BA and MA from Wellesley
- President of the Minneapolis Kindergarten Association (1890s)
- Published two novels (early 1900s)
- First president of the Minneapolis Women's Club (1907-1915)
- Chaired the Woman's Committee of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety and the Minnesota Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense (World War I)
- President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (1920-1924)
- Appointed by President Warren Harding as one of four women on the Washington Conference on Naval Disarmament advisory committee (1921-1922)
- Contributing editor of the Ladies Home Journal (1924-1928)
- Worked as a liaison between women's groups and the movie industry for Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (1929-1942)

# Rozette Hendrix and the Patriotism of Prohibition

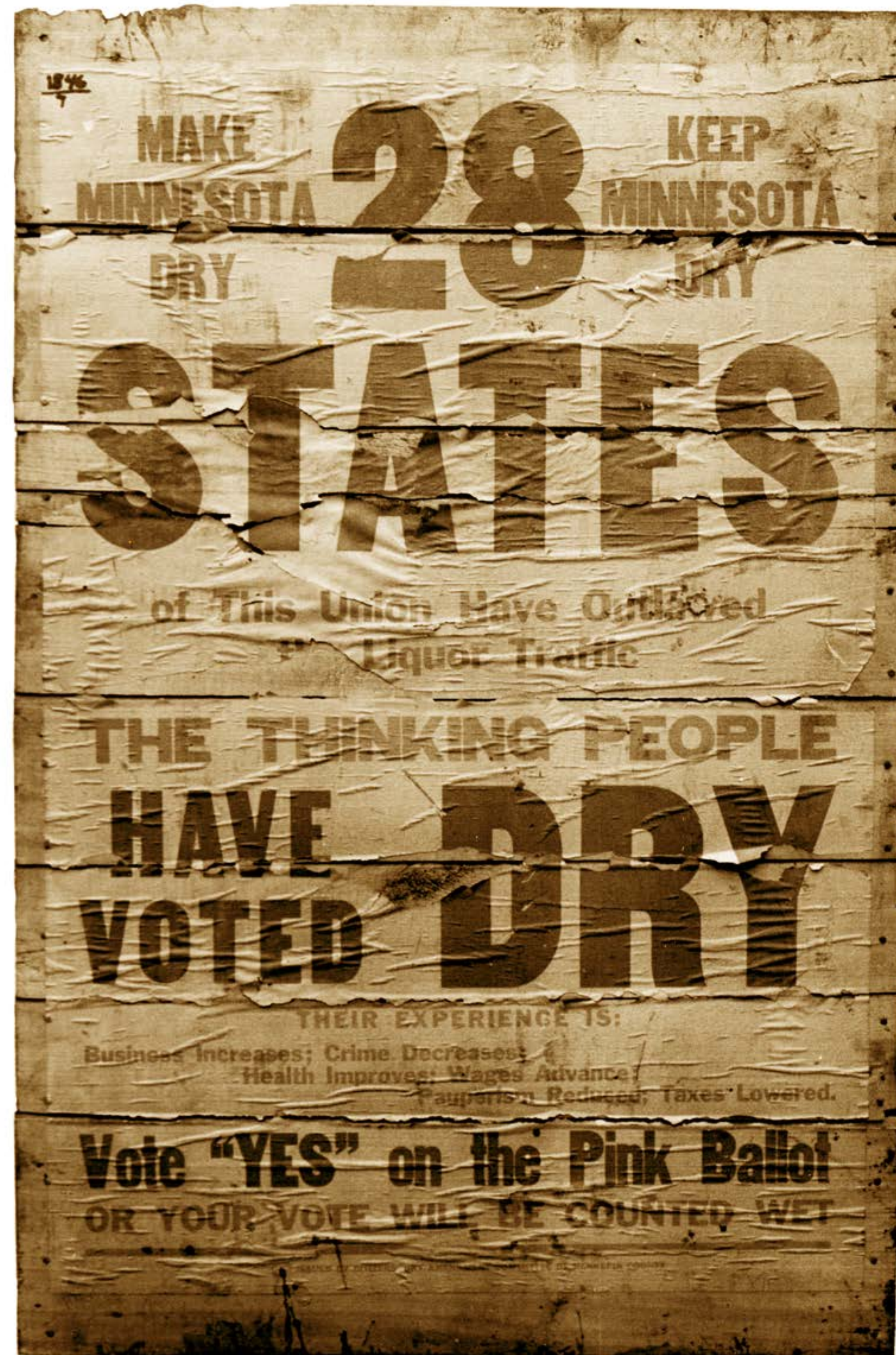
By 1918, scaling back on grains and sugar was as American as apple pie. This food consciousness provided a new platform for advocates of a certain political campaign to advance their cause: the prohibition of alcohol.

Minnesota had long been a hotbed for prohibitionist sentiment. Many citizens had advocated for temperance since the 1850s—the early days of statehood. Alcohol, they said, contributed to domestic abuse, unemployment, promiscuity and other social ills that damaged families. Men and women alike supported the cause. It is largely remembered, however, as a women’s campaign, since it was one of the few socially acceptable political roles for women at the time.

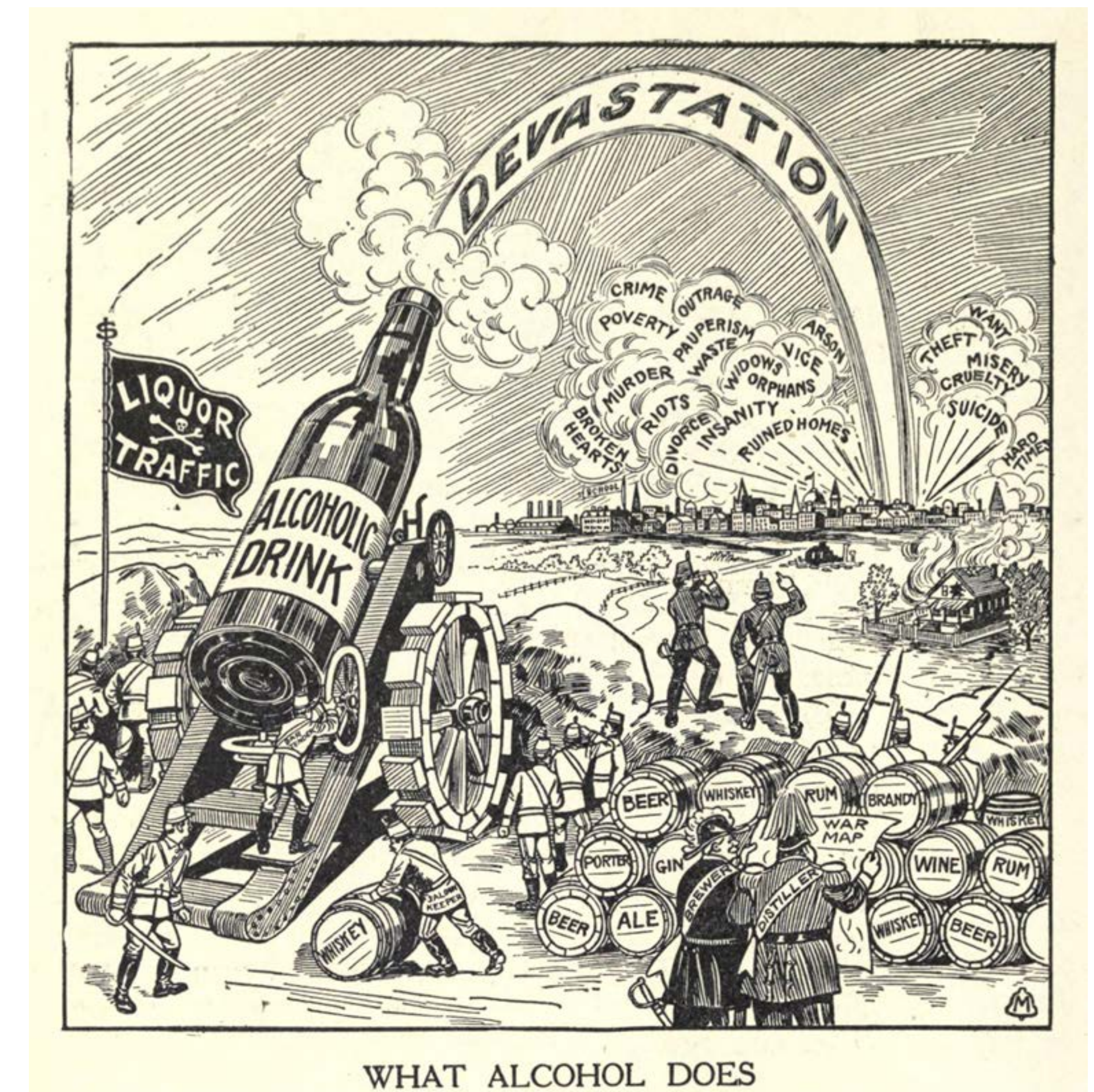
The Minnesota chapter of the national Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) had been active since 1877. During World War I, state chapter president Rozette Hendrix used the food consciousness of the war to propel the group’s mission. Rozette, who was almost sixty years old when the U.S. entered the war, distributed literature and posters about patriotism, conservation and temperance. She also encouraged Minnesota’s WCTU members to support the war by raising funds, knitting blankets for soldiers and volunteering with the Red Cross. Even after the war was over, Hendrix’s WCTU chapter continued to support soldiers by donating supplies to General Hospital 29 at Fort Snelling.

Hendrix’s efforts succeeded. The number of “dry” territories in Minnesota increased during World War I, as did membership in the WCTU. Statewide prohibition passed in early 1919, long before federal prohibition went into effect in July 1920.

Prohibition has gone down in history as an unpopular decision. It is the only constitutional amendment that has been overturned. But the hard work and patriotism of Hendrix and other Minnesotans made our state a leader in a popular national movement intended to lessen the social ills of the time.



Campaign poster to support prohibition in Minnesota



Cartoon of bottle on a caisson launching devastation on a community, 1915

Minnesota’s WCTU members prepared “comfort kits” for soldiers. According to a World War I-era issue of temperance magazine “The Union Signal,” these kits consisted of “bandages, scissors, darning cotton, thread, needles, safety pins, adhesive plaster, pin wheels, bags of buttons, testament, leaflets and pledge cards.” One soldier was especially impressed with the work of the WCTU and wrote: “In these days of efficiency and conservation the W.C.T.U. (sic) has them all beaten, for a comfort kit contains in about sixteen cubic inches what we used two or three rooms besides the sewing machine for at home.”

## Lakewood Connection

Rozette Hendrix passed away at age seventy-five in 1933. She is buried in Lakewood’s Section 8.





# Clara Ueland and the Final Push for Women's Suffrage

When President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany in 1917, he stated that "the world must be made safe for democracy." But many of the nation's women saw irony in this statement. How, they asked, can we promote democracy overseas when we cannot participate in our own democracy at the most fundamental level: voting?

Born in 1860, Minneapolis kindergarten teacher and education advocate Clara Ueland was perhaps the most prominent Minnesota suffragist of the twentieth century. During World War I, she served as president of the Minnesota Women's Suffrage Association, whose members had lobbied for suffrage since 1881. Ueland expertly used the war's spotlight on women's abilities, employability and citizenship to propel the cause.

In 1917, over 1,000 women braved freezing rains at the White House to make their discontent known to President Wilson on the eve of his second inauguration. The protests continued throughout the summer and fall. Many women were arrested, beaten and mistreated in jail. Their plight earned attention and

garnered sympathy for the cause. Back in Minnesota, Ueland used this moment of national support to advance suffrage locally.

On March 24, 1919, Minnesota passed a law allowing women of European descent the right to vote for the president. Less than five months later, on September 11, 1919, these Minnesota women received the right to vote in every federal, state and local election. Nearly a year later, the Twentieth Amendment guaranteed such women across the country the same rights. (It wasn't until the

Voting Rights Act of 1965 that African Americans—women and men—were guaranteed the right to vote.)

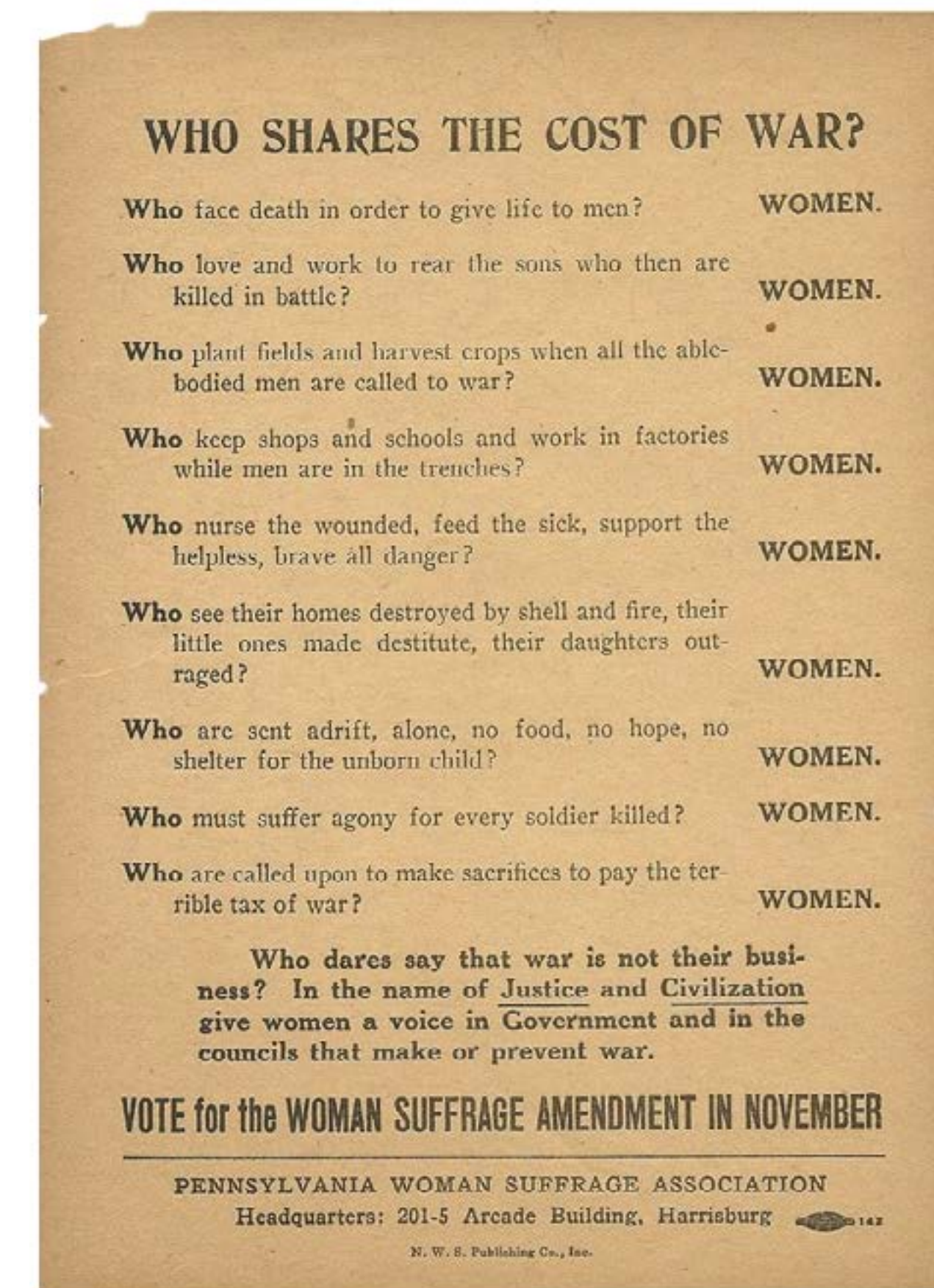
After Governor J. A. A. Burnquist signed the presidential suffrage bill into law in Minnesota, he presented his pen to Clara Ueland.



Clara Ueland in 1921

## The Next Generation

Clara Ueland fought for the right to vote so that women of future generations could focus their energies elsewhere. Her independent, brave spirit lived on in her daughter, Brenda Ueland, who was a trailblazing freelance journalist, writer and teacher. Brenda Ueland's ashes were scattered in Lakewood's lake in 1985.



This World War I-era pamphlet from the Pennsylvania Women's Suffrage Association shows how suffragists used the wartime advancements of women on the home front to advocate for the right to participate in American democracy.

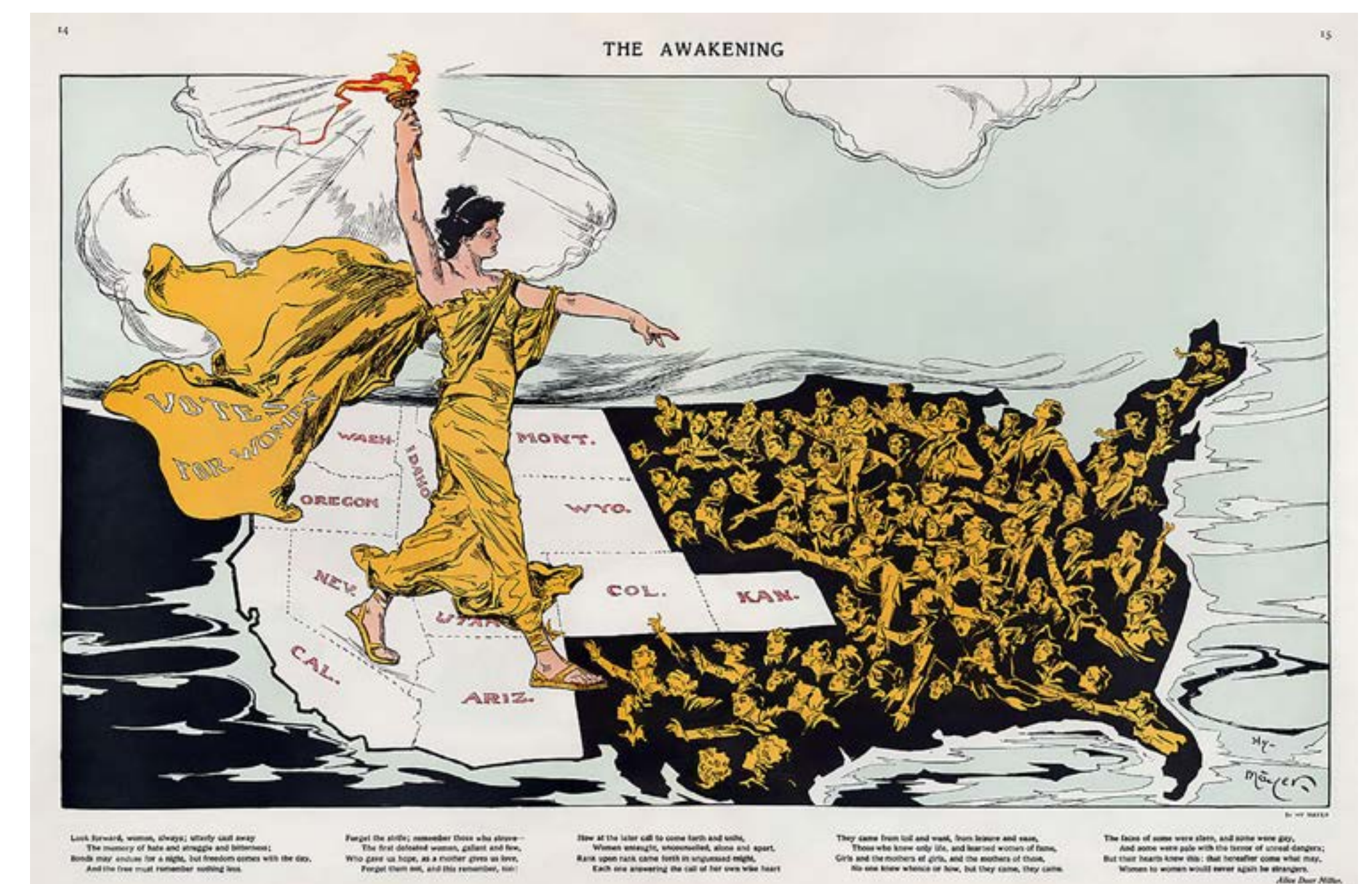


## Lakewood Connection

Clara Ueland stayed active in politics even after the Twentieth Amendment was ratified. She continued to advance the cause of women in politics and also fought for welfare legislation. Tragically, she was killed in 1927 when she was hit by a truck near her home on the shores of Bde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun) while returning from a legislative session. She is buried in Lakewood's Section 9.



A national women's suffrage pamphlet connecting voting rights to World War I



"The Awakening" by Henry Mayer published in 1915 showing the successful fight for women's rights in the eastern states inspiring those in the west

# Jesse Stevens and the Service of African American Minnesotans

Women weren't the only ones who saw the irony in President Wilson's assertion that "the world must be made safe for democracy." Through legal discrimination and vigilante violence, the U.S. also excluded African American men and women from American democracy. Nevertheless, many African American Minnesotans eagerly supported the war after the U.S.'s entry in 1917.

Segregation defined the law and society of World War I America. African American units were separated from their white counterparts both at home and abroad. Minnesota's Home Guard was created in 1917 after the National Guard was federalized. Members of the African American community then asked Governor Burnquist to create an all-African American battalion. In the spring of 1918, the Sixteenth Battalion was formed.

In addition to practical measures like guarding sites of wartime production, assisting with Red Cross relief and escorting draftees to train stations, the Sixteenth Battalion (and all Home Guard battalions) was responsible for rallying support for the war. Battalions often had their own bands, which performed at patriotic parades.

Mail carrier and violinist Jesse F. Stevens was twenty-nine when he joined the Sixteenth Battalion in 1918. Having led local orchestras since 1914, Stevens directed the Sixteenth Battalion Orchestra. Under his oversight, the orchestra performed at balls and events. Musicians from the Sixteenth Battalion marched in parades with all-white battalion bands.

Newspapers reported that the Sixteenth Battalion was met with great applause at the otherwise all-white 1918 Twin Cities Memorial Day parades. But this did not mean that the racial climate was peaceable for African Americans. African American service members across the country received racist threats and attacks; some white Minnesotans criticized the state government for even permitting African Americans to be officers within their battalion. Yet members of the Sixteenth Battalion bravely demonstrated their patriotism and citizenship amidst racist practices of segregation.



Members of the all-African American Sixteenth Battalion, 1918

In 1965, the U.S. passed the Voting Rights Act, which banned racial discrimination in voting. This act was signed by President Johnson under the guidance of Minnesota's own Hubert Humphrey. Humphrey is buried in Lakewood's Section 51.



Ad for an event hosted by Company D of the Sixteenth Battalion, Minnesota Home Guard. Image is from the *St. Paul Appeal*, May 25, 1918.

## Lakewood Connection:

Jesse Stevens was eighty-nine when he died in 1978, twenty-one years after he buried his wife Ethel at Lakewood. He is buried in Lakewood's Section 19 alongside his wife. Ethel Steven's grave, seen here, was marked with a grave marker, but Jesse's grave does not bear a marker.



# Harry Anderson and the Unifying Power of Music

During World War I, making music was one of the most common ways to demonstrate patriotism and rally support for the war. Seventy percent of popular songs copyrighted in 1918 were war songs. Contemporary tunes like "Over There" remain well known today.

Starting around the time that the U.S. entered World War I in 1917, the Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners hosted singalongs of popular patriotic songs in the city's parks. These "community sings" built camaraderie—and allowed local governments to gauge loyalty by monitoring attendance. Such singalongs took place in every county in the state.

Minneapolis's community sings had been planned through the end of 1918. But after the November 11 armistice was signed, they lost some of their urgency. The practice disappeared in many U.S. cities. But one local musician saw an ongoing need for their community-building power.

Though Englishman Harry Anderson didn't have the title of "community sing director" until after the war, he was a linchpin of Minneapolis's musical community during World War I. As a music professor at Augsburg College, he encouraged fellowship through music by bringing the school's Glee Club to perform across the state. When the war ended, he took over the community sing operation. He was the community sing director with the Minneapolis Park Board from 1920 until 1945. In peacetime, Anderson didn't just continue the practice—he grew it exponentially, and gained Minneapolis national recognition as a musical city.

Anderson was a master of drumming up public enthusiasm and wasn't afraid to introduce a bit of friendly competition to increase attendance. Under his guidance, 15,000 voices rose together one summer evening in Powderhorn Park, setting the record for the largest community sing in the state. Thanks in part to Anderson's efforts, Minneapolis became a city known for its music.



A 1932 newspaper account of Harry Anderson and pianist Arthur Sweeney leading a community sing in Powderhorn Park

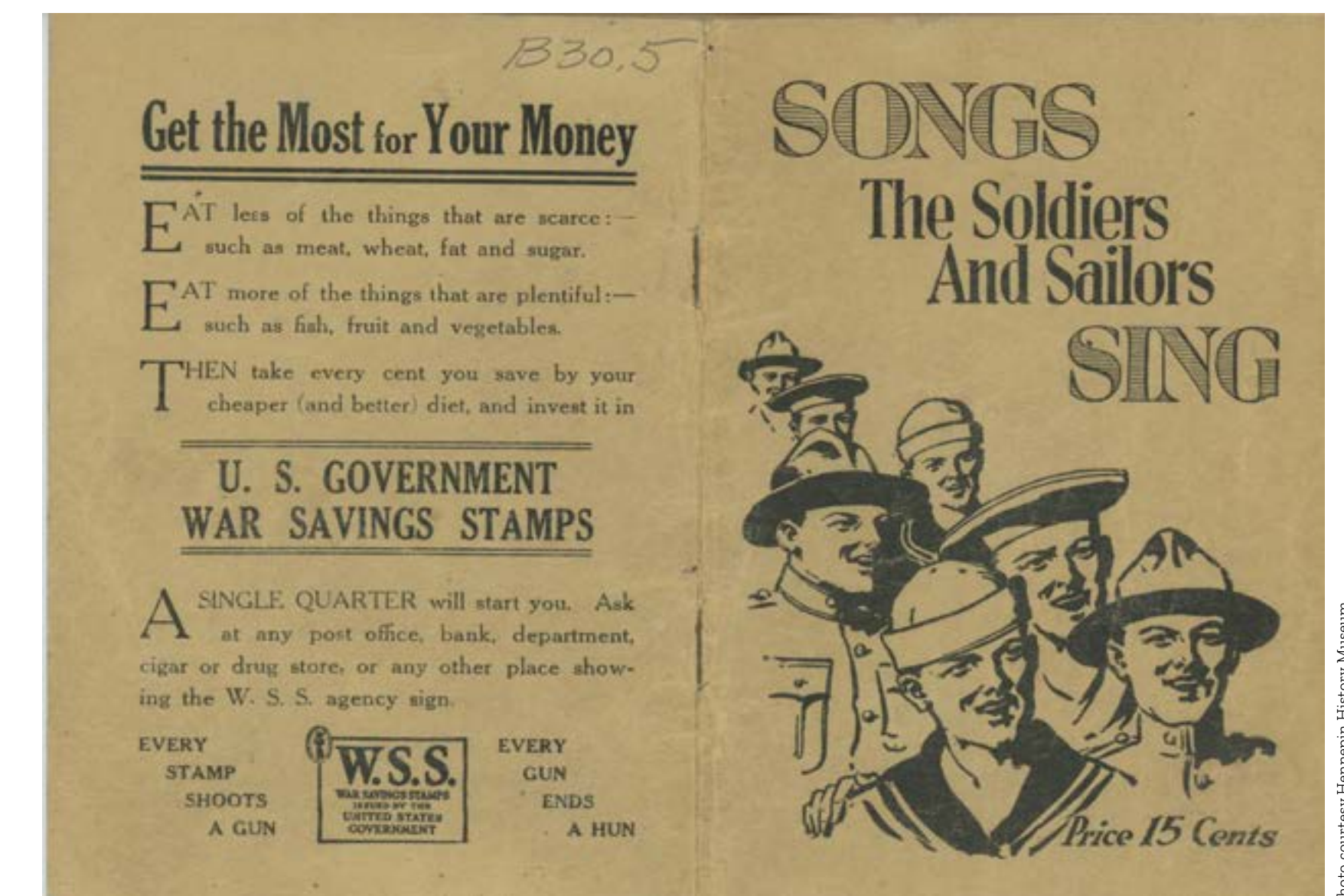


## Lakewood Connection:

Anderson was devoted to patriotic causes until the end of his life. He served as the Park Board's Community Sing Director until 1945, even while chairing the local World War II draft board. Anderson passed away in 1946 and is buried near Lakewood's former streetcar entrance in Section 40.

## Community Singing at a Glance

- Popular from 1917-1950s, with up to six sings a week in Minneapolis's public parks; the practice continues today (including an annual sing at Lakewood)
- Many sings conducted personally by Harry Anderson
- Anderson issued challenges to the various hosting parks; sings were judged on "attendance," "enthusiasm" and "deportment" (not musical ability!); results posted in the next day's newspapers



A World War I-era book of patriotic songs.



The Dunwoody Navy Band marches on downtown Minneapolis's Nicollet Avenue in a 1917 parade. Patriotic music played a large role in garnering public support for World War I.

# Wilford "Captain Billy" Fawcett and the Social Politics of Post-War America

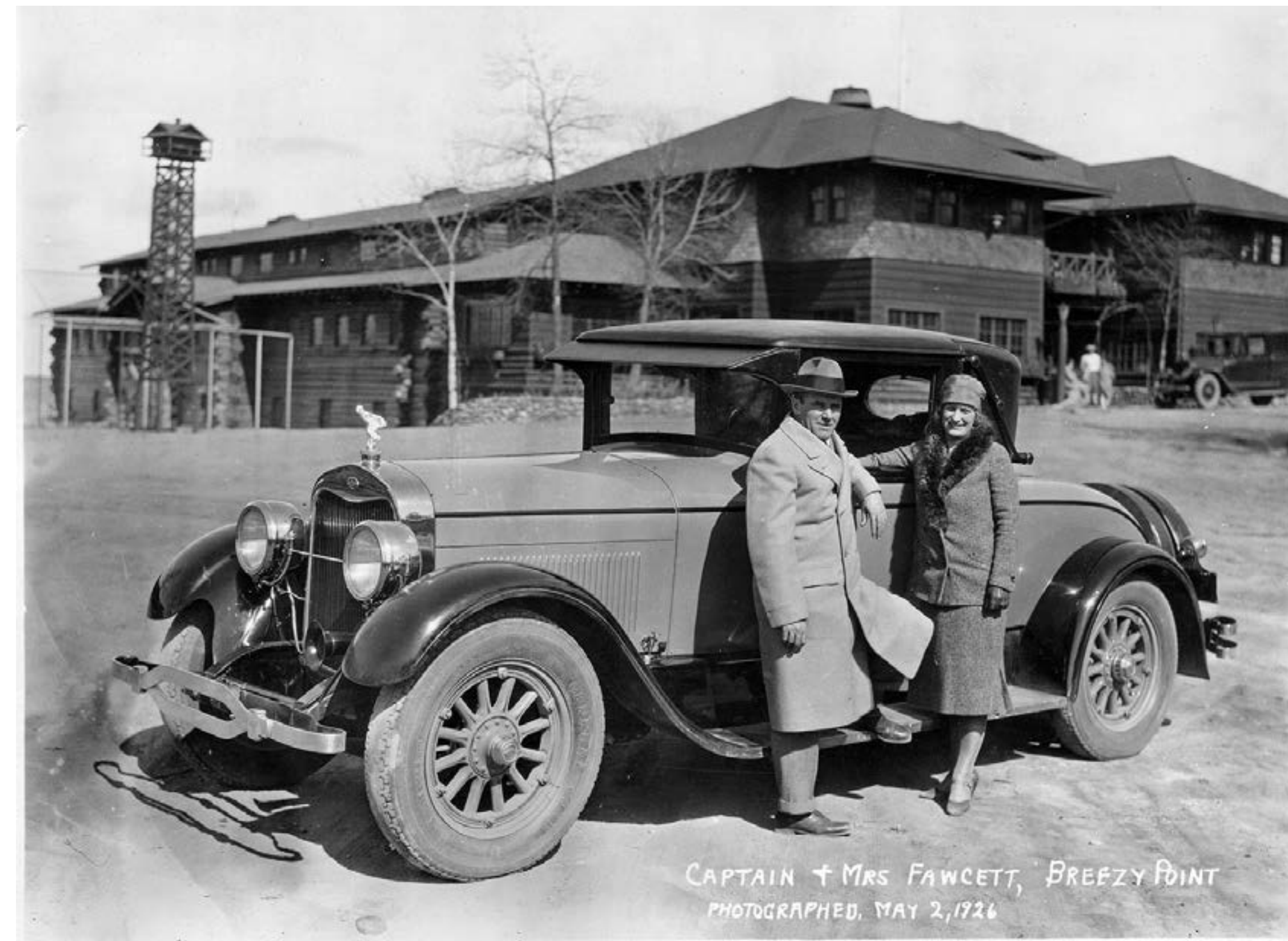
Though the circumstances were dire, World War I was a bonding opportunity for young men. Wilford "Captain Billy" Fawcett was a reporter for the *Minneapolis Tribune* before the war and wrote for military newspaper *Stars and Stripes* during the war. He wanted to continue the brotherhood formed in wartime after the November 1918 Armistice.

He did so through humor. After statewide prohibition shut down the bar that Fawcett operated in 1919, he began publishing the now-infamous magazine *Captain Billy's Whiz Bang* out of his home. He wrote with the ribald sense of humor that soldiers often shared on the battlefield. This humor reflected the era's changing social norms and the influence of Europe's comparatively liberal social practices. As American women entered the workforce, they took on the less restrictive fashions of European women. These changes were common fodder for *Captain Billy's* drawings and writings.

The need to fill wartime jobs also brought new immigrants into the workforce. Though the U.S. entered the prosperous era of the 1920s shortly after the Armistice, this era was not without social upheaval and mistrust of new Americans and non-Europeans. Some of *Captain Billy's* writings continued the suspicious and disparaging view of new immigrants that wartime propaganda had encouraged.

*Captain Billy's Whiz Bang* is remembered as a racy publication with what many consider offensive and inappropriate jokes. But it also demonstrates how many soldiers—especially those of European descent who had assimilated to American culture—felt about the changing times. A 1922 *Whiz Bang* one-liner summarizes the magazine's attitude well: "It used to be wine, women and song, but now it is near-beer, your own wife and community singing."

Despite its flaws—and perhaps because of them—*Captain Billy's Whiz Bang* was enormously popular. By 1923, Fawcett sold 425,000 copies a month nationally. Fawcett published his last issue in 1936.



Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett at Breezy Point Resort in 1926. Wilford Fawcett founded Breezy Point Resort in 1921.

### **Mothers of River City!**

Heed the warning before it's too late!

Watch for the tell-tale sign of corruption!

The moment your son leaves the house,

Does he rebuckle his knickerbockers below the knee?

...Is he starting to memorize jokes from **Captain Billy's Whiz Bang**?

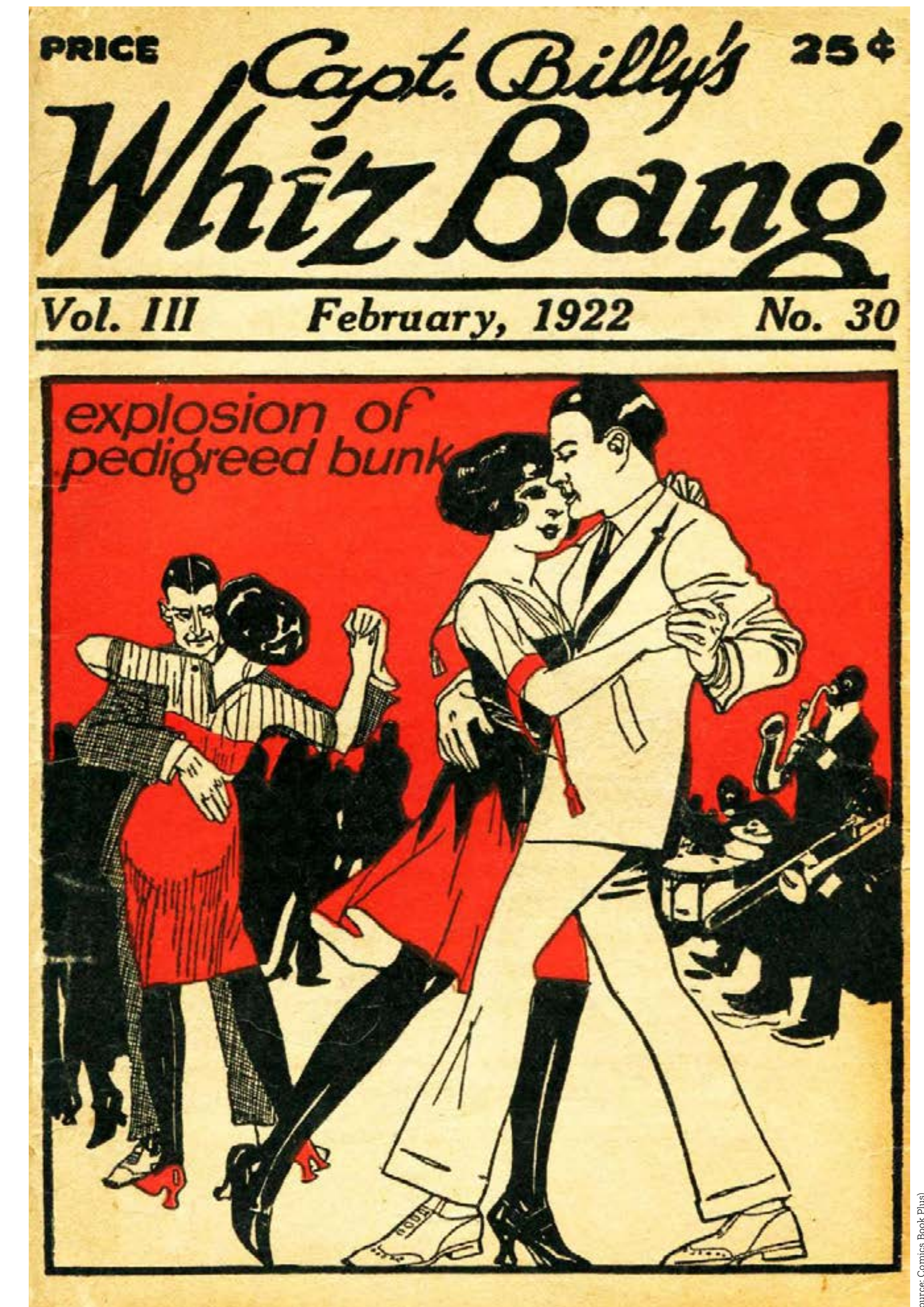
– "Ya Got Trouble," from *The Music Man*

Wilford Fawcett's racy magazine *Captain Billy's Whiz Bang* was immortalized by the popular song "Trouble" from 1957 musical *The Music Man*.



### **Lakewood Connection:**

Wilford Fawcett lived a multi-faceted life. Prior to World War I he had served in the Philippine-American War. In addition to writing and publishing, he competed in trap shooting in the 1924 Olympics and founded Breezy Point Resort. He passed away in Hollywood in 1940 and is buried in Lakewood's Section 16.

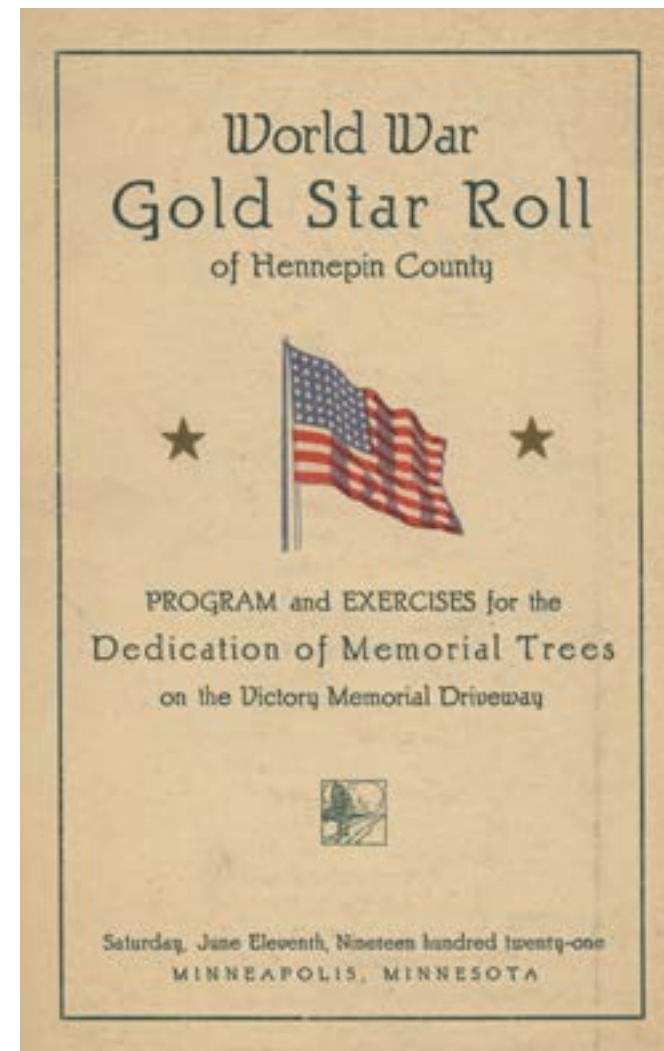


Covers of *Captain Billy's Whiz Bang* often included drawings of women in new, more revealing clothing.

# Theodore Wirth and the Commemoration of World War I

The intensity of combat meant that many slain U.S. soldiers had to be buried overseas. Starting in 1918, the federal government exhumed the bodies of many soldiers and brought them home for burial. Many of these burials took place in national military cemeteries, which provided burial and marker placement free of charge.

Though Fort Snelling Cemetery opened in 1870, it didn't become a national cemetery with federally funded military burials until 1939. Therefore, many World War I soldiers from Minnesota who died in action were buried in public, religious and nonprofit cemeteries. Many cemeteries, including Lakewood, created monuments and sections for World War I veterans.

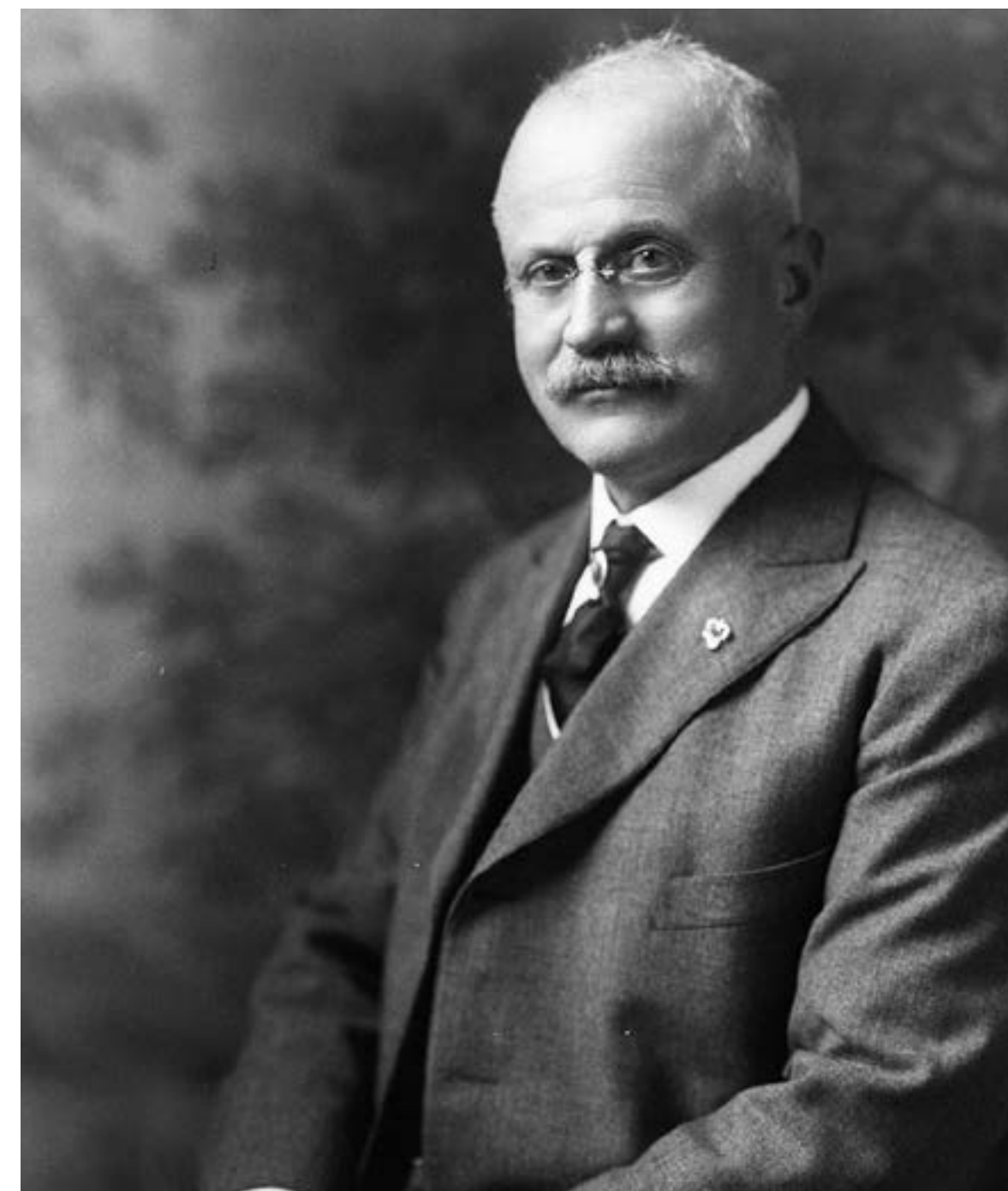


One of the most unique memorials to the war, Victory Memorial Drive in North Minneapolis, is not within a cemetery. The four-mile, tree-lined parkway honors Hennepin County residents who died in World War I.

Victory Memorial Drive was the brainchild of Theodore Wirth. Born in Switzerland in 1863, Wirth is largely responsible for designing the public park system that Minneapolis boasts today. A park planner and florist, he expanded Minneapolis's park land from 1,810 acres to 5,241 during his tenure as superintendent of the Park Board (1906–1935). His work earned him recognition as the “dean of the parks movement in America.”

With the help of “Father of the Parks” Charles Loring (also buried at Lakewood), Wirth selected 568 elm saplings to adorn the drive—one for each slain service member from Hennepin County. In 1928, a bronze marker bearing the name of the fallen soldier was placed in front of each tree.

30,000 people attended the dedication of Victory Memorial Drive on June 12, 1921. Army planes flew overhead, dropping flowers on the parkway. The site remains one of the largest World War I memorials in the country.



Theodore Wirth, 1916



Dedication of Victory Memorial Drive in Minneapolis, 1921

“Mr. Wirth is due unstinted credit for his genius in creating...and carrying to completion this wonderful scenic drive, which as the years pass will become more and more appreciated...and he will have constructed a lasting memorial to his own industry and artistic skill.”

– A. A. McRae, Minneapolis Park Board President at the 1921 dedication of Victory Memorial Drive



## Lakewood Connection

Theodore Wirth loved the park-filled area surrounding Lakewood Cemetery. In 1910 he and his family moved into a home and administration building recently built for the parks superintendent. This home still stands at 40th & Bryant, very near Lakewood's border. As superintendent until 1935 and superintendent emeritus for a decade following, Wirth resided in this home office until 1945. After relocating to California for health reasons, Wirth passed away in 1949. His remains were brought home to Minneapolis. Wirth is buried in Lakewood's Section 25.



American Legion units in a 1930 ceremony on Victory Memorial Drive

# Legacies of 1918:

## Life in Minnesota at the End of the Great War

Amidst the violence and tension of World War I, Minnesotans on the home front took on new social roles that forever changed our state. The stories of these millers and farmers, musicians, women laborers, African American service members, writers, politicians and countless others live on at Lakewood.

### STAY IN TOUCH AND LEARN MORE

Join the growing Lakewood community to learn more about upcoming events and history at Lakewood. Find us here:

- **Website:** [Lakewoodcemetery.org](http://Lakewoodcemetery.org)
- **Newsletter:** Sign up on our website [lakewoodcemetery.org/tours-and-events](http://lakewoodcemetery.org/tours-and-events)
- **Facebook:** Follow or like us @LakewoodCemetery
- **Mobile app:** Download from Google Play or the App Store



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