

WWI Snapshot: Luther James Inman, 1896-1937

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GUEST COLUMNISTS

Luther James Inman was born in Freeland in Brunswick County, N.C. His WWI Draft Registration from June 5, 1917, at age 21, shows his occupation as farmer, employed by his father. Luther was ordered to report for duty on Oct. 15, 1917, along with six other Brunswick County men.

All seven Brunswick County men were sent to Camp Jackson, S.C., and officially accepted on Oct. 26, and then assigned to Company F, 32nd Infantry, 81st Wildcat Division. Robert

Holden and Owen Mintz would be re-assigned before leaving for Europe, while Isaac Edge was honorably discharged with a disability in December 1917.

The WWI division rosters webpage shows that Sgt. Henry Clemmons, Bugler Willie H. Hewett, Cpl. Luther J. Inman and Pvt. Mack Leonard served in the same Company F throughout WWI. To read more about the 81st Division, begin at the first WWI Profile post (Richard Herbert Gray) and cycle through each post following it.

From his NC WWI Service Card, we know that Inman attained the rank of

Corporal. His service card does not show any details about his ascent to that rank. According to the U.S. Army Transport Service Passenger Lists in ancestry.com, he was a private when he embarked from Brooklyn, N.Y., on July 31, 1918.

The high-quality photograph of the seven men was shared within ancestry.com. Inman is identified as the soldier on the left. His rank insignia indicates he was a corporal at that time. He does not have the wildcat insignia on his left shoulder, which was officially approved on Oct. 19, 1918. Neither soldier appears to have a chevron on the lower half of the left sleeve, indicating six months overseas. This may help determine the approximate time the photo was taken. To learn more about WWI insignias, see the WWI Profile of Richard Herbert Gray.

Inman served overseas until June 18, 1919 and was honorably discharged on June 25, 1919.

Following the war, he married Flossie Leah Simmons. The 1930 Census shows he had three children. Luther was employed at a lumber mill. The family lived in Brunswick County.

On July 24, 1935, the State Port Pilot reported an Inman left Freeland two days earlier

for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) employment.

According to his death certificate, Inman passed away on Oct. 24, 1937, at the young age of 41 from influenza. The 1940 Census shows his widowed wife with four daughters and a son, living near her father in Brunswick County. His wife never remarried, living to age 91.

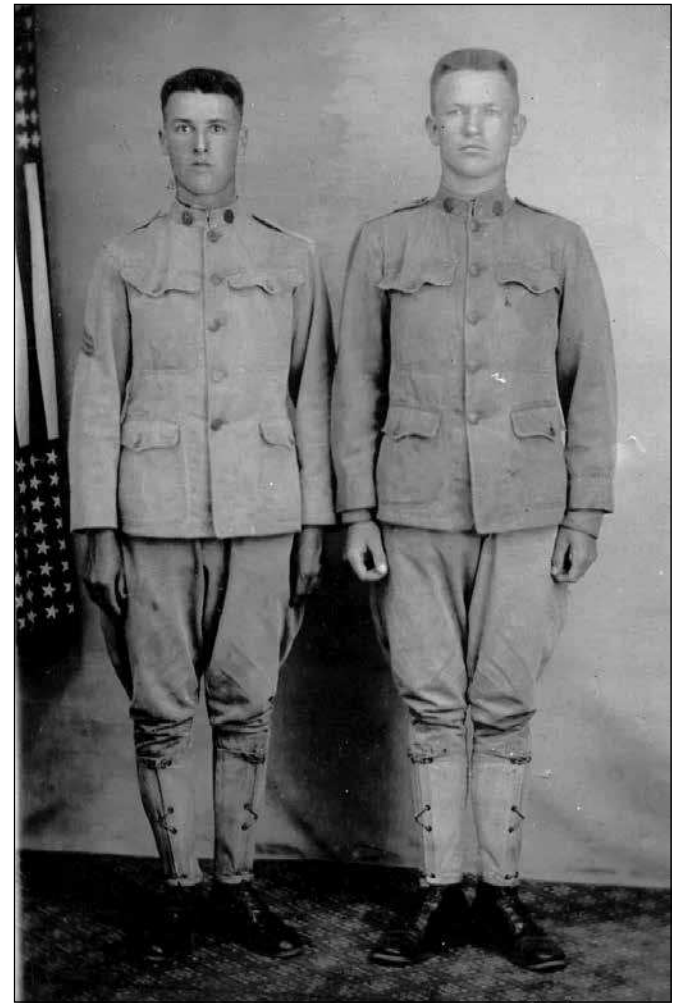
His wife applied for and was shipped a military headstone (Source: Ancestry), but none is shown in Findagrave.

One of Luther's brothers, William Lafayette Inman, also served in WWI and has his own WWI Snapshot.

Sources: ancestry.com, U.S. Lists of Men Ordered to Report to Local Board for Military Duty, 1917-1918 [database online], Provo, Utah, USA: ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.

If you would like to help us honor Inman or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com or go to caswellriflerange.com.

Funds continue to be sent to support the historical preservation of the 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial and the book featuring all the

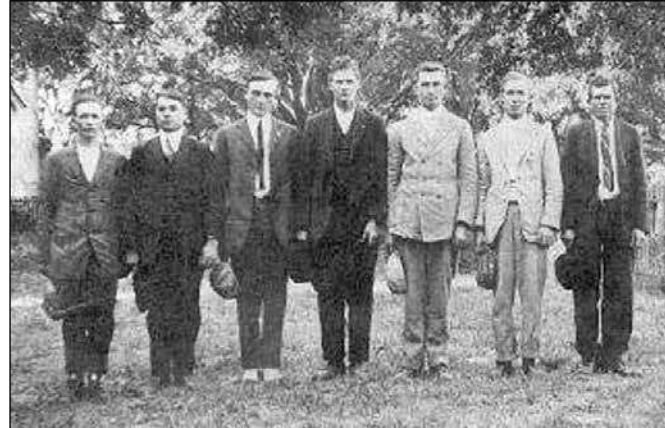


Photos contributed

Luther James Inman, left, is shown with a friend.

men and women who served in the Great War from Brunswick County. Send donations to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.

A publisher is currently working on the book that hopefully will be ready by Veterans Day 2020.



This photo, courtesy of Gwen Clemmons Causey, was taken of the seven Brunswick County men as they reported for duty. Gwen's grandfather, Henry Lindon Clemmons, is standing in the center. Beside him (order unknown) are Luther James Inman, Owen R. Mintz, Willie H. Hewett, Robert W. Holden, Mack Leonard and Isaac Fred Edge.

ENTRIES BY LOCAL BOARD.						ENTRIES AT MOBILIZATION CAMP.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Order No.	Name.	Red ink No.	Date ordered to report.	Date and hour person reported to mobilization camp.	Date actually served.	Date actually reported to mobilization camp.	Failed to report at mobilization camp.	Date rejected at mobilization camp.	Date of final acceptance at mobilization camp.
216	Luther J. Inman	658	1917 10/15	10/15 3 P.M.	10/17				10/26/17
220	Owen R. Mintz	840	"	"	"				10/26
221	Henry L. Clemmons	657	"	"	"				10/26
226	Willie H. Hewett	911	"	"	"				10/26
33	Robert W. Holden	420	"	"	"				10/26
96	Mack Leonard	770	"	"	"				10/26
228	Isaac Fred. Edge	336	"	"	"				10/26

The order to report for duty list is from the local board, indicating dates and acceptances of the seven men, including Luther James Inman.

I

Inman Luther J 1,864,796 * White *Colored-
(Surname) (Christian name) (Army serial number)

Residence: Freeland Brunswick NORTH CAROLINA
(Street and house number) (Town or city) (County) (State)

*Enlisted * R. A. * N. C. * R. C. * Inducted at Southport N. C. on Oct. 15 1917

Place of birth: Freeland N. C. Age or date of birth: 22 3/12 yrs

Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: Co. F 322 Inf to disch.

Grades, with date of appointment: Corp July 3/18

Engagements:

Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.

Served overseas from July 31/18 to June 18/19 from † to †

Honorably discharged on demobilization June 25/19, 19

In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.

Remarks:

Form No. 724-1, A. G. O. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S. Nov. 28, 1919.

Luther James Inman's NC Service Card.