

Project Summary

In collaboration with the Chelsea River Gallery (inspired by co-Director Deborah Greer) Chelsea District Library presents **The World War I Centennial: Strong Foundations, New Possibilities**, which commemorates the centennial anniversary of World War I. The program is made possible in part by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Tourism Action Plan Program (CTAP) through Washtenaw County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Chelsea American Legion Chapter 31 provided initial moral and financial support.

More than 100 years ago, America was gripped in the midst of World War I (July 28, 1914 – November 11, 1918). It affected U.S. troops overseas and families back home in communities across the country, including those in the southeast Michigan town of Chelsea, in Washtenaw County.

As part of a continuing effort to chronicle the city of Chelsea's history, the Chelsea District Library and River Gallery have curated WWI-era photographs, letters, stories and artifacts from local residents. A curated selection of the photographs will be exhibited in an outdoor art installation of large-format sepia-toned banners, which will be hung throughout downtown Chelsea, featuring local historic WWI photographs.

Check out the stories and photos on "Stories of Chelsea" local history website: storiesofchelsea.org

Take a moment to give us your feedback!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWIFeedback>



Artifact Photos by Burrill Strong Photography

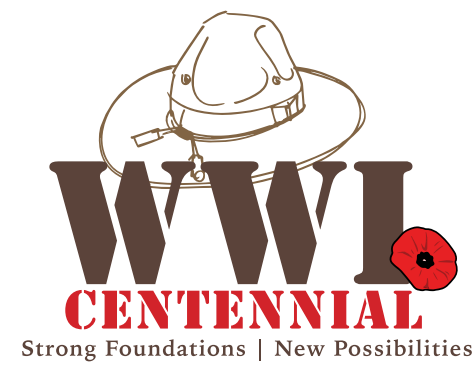
Display of WWI Artifacts

Continue experiencing the WWI era through an artifact collection on display at CDL. Many of the objects on display have been contributed by area residents and some objects belong to individuals depicted in our banners. The collection includes a sword, helmets, gas mask, medals and more.

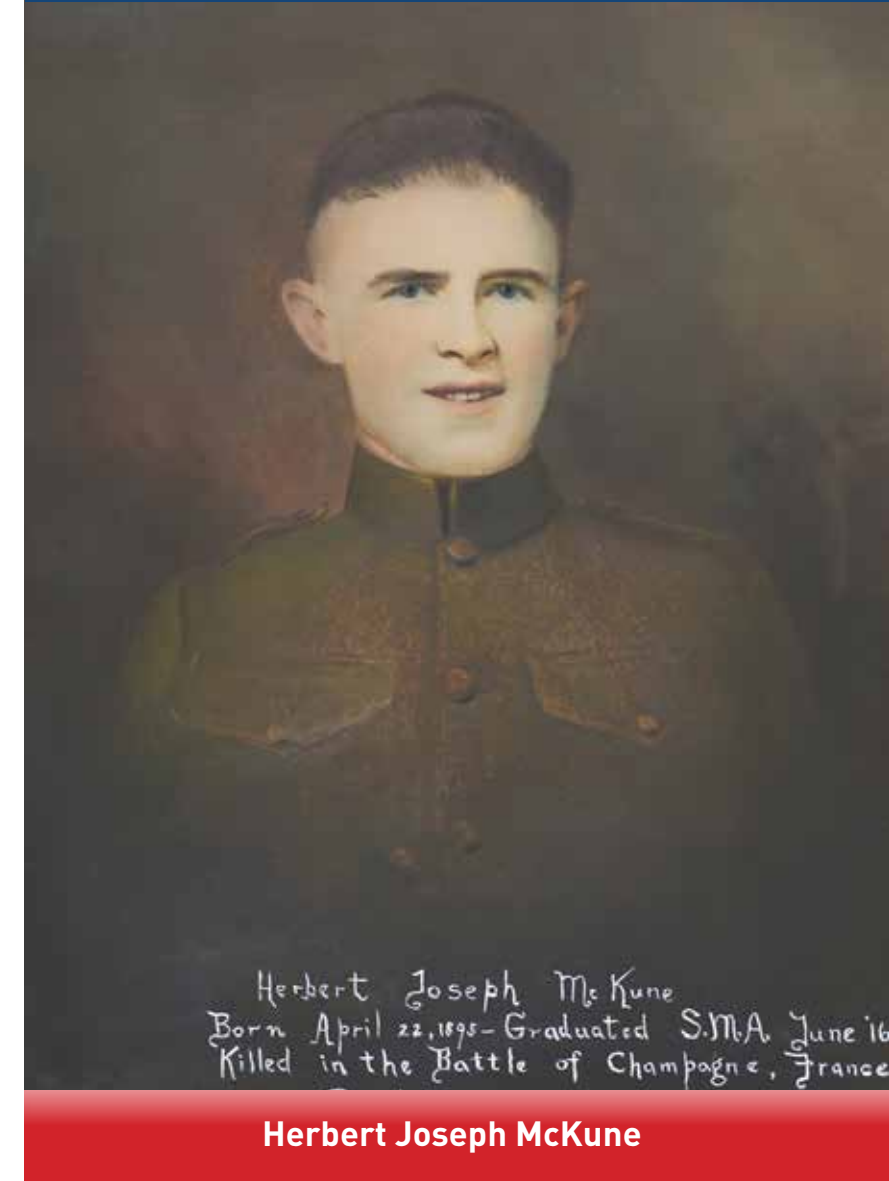
An Opportunity To Share Your Thoughts



A message sculpture will be placed in the lobby of the Chelsea District Library. Tags, markers and stamps will be available so that community members and visitors can share their thoughts and feelings about the WWI exhibit. This sculpture will be gifted to the Chelsea American Legion, Chapter 31.



JULY 30 – NOVEMBER 11, 2016
CHELSEA, MI



Herbert Joseph McKune

Special Thanks To...

Howard Flintoft, Craig Maier, Chief McDougall and Chuck Reed of the Herbert J. McKune American Legion Post 31, Chelsea, MI. You helped launch the WWI exhibition with your patriotic support.

Chelsea Community members who saved, cherished and shared the precious photos and artifacts of their beloved ancestors who lived and served during WWI.

Downtown building owners who generously lent their buildings to serve as outdoor exhibition display sites.

The City of Chelsea for their constant and unwavering support of historical, cultural events and programs serving the Community of Chelsea. A special "shout out" to Derrick Bollinger, DPW supervisor and his staff for their amazing skill with the installation of the banners.

Gary Munce, Chelsea District Library "Friend of the Year" 2015, special thanks for all that you do in Chelsea and especially for designing and producing the message sculpture for "An Opportunity to Share Your Thoughts".

The **volunteer docents** who stepped up to learn all about Chelsea's WWI ancestors and for providing WWI guided walking tours for the Community of Chelsea and visitors.

Avenue Banners

To tour the Avenue Banner Exhibit, head North on M52 / Main Street from the Shell Station / I-94, continue up to and through the downtown, ending at Dewey St.
Name of person in the photo displayed in Bold / *Person providing the photo displayed in Italics*

 Edwin Gaunt, postcard <i>Dan Gaunt Toni Keim</i>	 Ross Stofflet in football gear <i>Ross Stofflet III</i>	 Louise Ives, wife to Edwin Gaunt <i>Dan Gaunt Toni Keim</i>	 James Taylor, Texas National Guard <i>Charlie Taylor</i>	 Ross Stofflet Football Team <i>Ross Stofflet III</i>	 13th Engineers Regiment, Bill Bell's Photos <i>Rob Turner</i>	 Postcard from James Taylor <i>Charlie Taylor</i>	 Plane Crash, Bill Bell's Photos <i>Rob Turner</i>
 Bill Bell, 13th Regiment <i>Rob Turner</i>	 UofM Student Army Training Corp <i>Chelsea District Library</i>	 Hospital, France, Bill Bell's Photos <i>Rob Turner</i>	 Ross Stofflet <i>Ross Stofflet III</i>	 Edwin Gaunt in barracks <i>Dan Gaunt Toni Keim</i>	 Walter Schrader <i>Donald Schrader</i>	 Poem sent by Edwin Gaunt <i>Dan Gaunt Toni Keim</i>	 Eldean Eisele <i>Eldean Eisele</i>
 Political Rally, circa 1915 <i>Chelsea District Library</i>	 Edwin Gaunt, pre-enlistment <i>Dan Gaunt Toni Keim</i>	 Damaged Plane, Bill Bell's Photos <i>Rob Turner</i>	 George Alfred Lindauer <i>Jason Lindauer</i>	 Chelsea Decoration Day, May 30, 1917 <i>Chelsea District Library</i>	 Dr. Faye Palmer, General William Haan <i>Chelsea American Legion Post 31.</i>	 Decker Myles <i>Jim Myles</i>	 Bill Bell in France <i>Rob Turner</i>

#1: Chelsea Lanes Bowling Alley

Chelsea's American Red Cross Chapter, WWI

From front to back: Mrs Frank Leach, Eva Cummings, Kitty McKune, Gertrude Daniels, Mrs. W. Boyd, Unknown, Mary Brown, Nel Savage, Kate Hooker, Mrs. Albert Winans, Ruth Bacon Fordyce and Edith Boyce. Photo provided by Chelsea District Library.



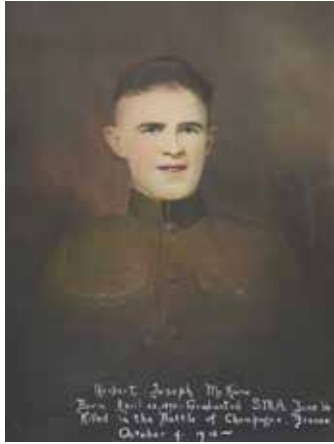
#1: Chelsea Lanes Bowling Alley

Harold Hellyer served as Captain then promoted to Major, 108th PA Heavy Field Artillery, 28th Division. Awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre for bravery and military virtue. Originally from Penns Park, PA, Harold's photo was found in an antique mall near Chelsea Lanes. Research pieced together his story, he is being honored as a "Chelsea" WWI Veteran.



#2: Chelsea District Library

Herbert J McKune was the son of Hugh and Millie McKune of Chelsea. He served as corporal in the 67th Company, 2nd Division, 5th US Marine Corps. He received the title "expert rifleman" for his marksmanship skills. Herbert was killed in action at the Battle of Champagne, France, October 4th, 1918. The Chelsea American Legion Post 31 was named in his honor and provided the photo for the exhibit.



#3: Original Post Office

Frank O'Connor served as Private, 1st Class, Battery D, 328th Field Artillery. Frank was a farmer in Wayne County. He and his family frequently visited North Lake in the summer months. In later years he made the decision to make Chelsea his home. Photo provided by Erma O'Connor, daughter-in-law of Frank.



#4: Merkel's Furniture and Carpet One

Benjamin Belesky served in Battery A, 330th Field Artillery. He lived in Detroit and worked at Ford Motor Company. Benjamin died on April 16th, 1964 and is buried in Riverview, MI. This is the last remaining photo of him provided by his great granddaughter Danielle Engel.

#5: Smokehouse 52 BBQ



Edwin Gaunt served as a private in the Supply Company for the 328 Field Artillery, working with communications and moving supplies. His unit served on the front for only ten days, then the armistice was signed and the war ended. After the war Edwin married Louise Ives of Chelsea. Edwin is pictured here with family and friends. Photo provided by Dan Gaunt and Toni Kiem, grandson and granddaughter -in-law of Edwin.



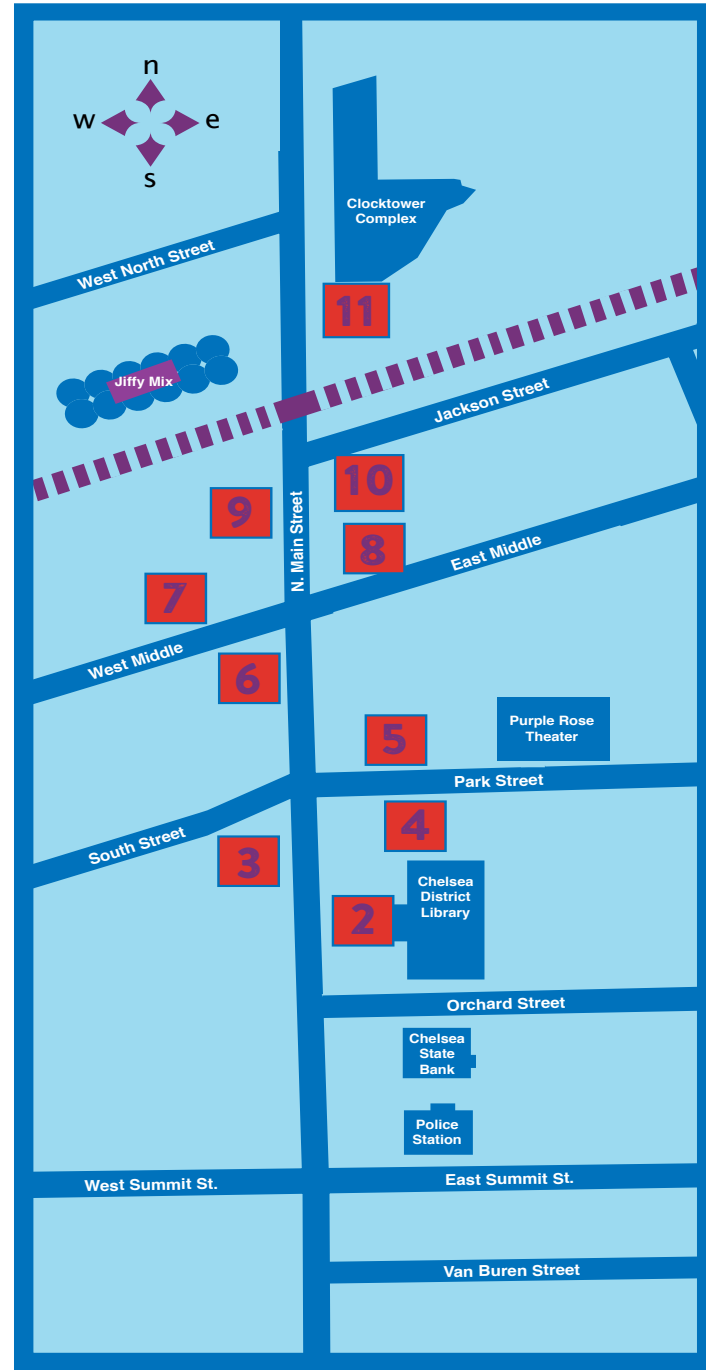
#6: Chelsea Print and Graphics

Bill Bell served in the 13th Engineers Regiment and was stationed in France from 1918 -1919. While in France Bill engaged in the Battle of Verdun. Pictured here are some of the soldiers in his regiment, with a dog and her puppies. Photo provided by Rob Turner, great nephew of Bill.



#7: Zou Zou's Cafe and Coffee Bar

George Conrad Haefner served as private in the 330th Machine Gun Battalion, 42nd Division and was later transferred to Company C, 150th machine Gun Battalion, 42nd Division. He was stationed in St. Mihiel, France and fought in the St. Mihiel offensive, September, 12th, 1918. He also served in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October 10th-November, 11th, and the Army of Occupation in Germany, December 3rd to April 5th, 1919. George was born in Chelsea on February, 1st, 1887, died on November, 17th, 1983. Photo provided by Kathryn Hafner-Taylor, granddaughter of George.



1 South Chelsea



#8: La Maison

George Alfred Lindauer served as a private in the American Expeditionary (AEF) part of the 32nd Division. He engaged in the battle in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918. At war's end his division served as part of the Army of Occupation in Germany. George is seen here in uniform with his son Arthur. Photo provided by Jason Lindauer, grandson of George



#9: Heydlauff's Appliance

Dan, Clarence and Ed Vaughan enlisted in the Navy, 1917. Dan the eldest was 20, Ed and Clarence 19 and 17 and grew up in the UP. Ed and Dan served in the Navy as Yeoman with administrative duties. Clarence enlisted as an apprentice seaman. Dan and Ed (front row) and Clarence (back row) are pictured here with their sister Florence. Photo provided by Daphne Hodder, daughter of Florence Vaughan.

#10: Longworth Building



Bill Bell (front row, center) is pictured here with members of the 13th Engineers Regiment. Photo provided by Rob Turner, great-nephew of Bill Bell.



#11: McKinley Clocktower Complex

Edwin Gaunt served as a private in the supply company of the 328th Field Artillery. He is pictured here with a friend in France. During the war, Edwin wrote daily letters to his sweetheart and future wife Louise Ives of Chelsea. Photo provided by Dan Gaunt and Toni Keim, grandson and granddaughter-in-law of Edwin.