



***AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
CENTENNIAL  
1919-2019***

***DISTRICT FOUR***

***DISTRICT AND UNIT HISTORY  
2019***



## *The American Legion Auxiliary Emblem*

The emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary is your badge of distinction and honor. It stands for God and Country and the highest rights of man.

The emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary is the emblem of Americanism.

The Rays of the Sun stand for the American Legion Auxiliary's four principles; Loyalty, Justice, Freedom and Democracy.

The unbroken circle of blue represents unity and Loyalty

The field of white exemplifies the hope of Freedom.

The star of blue is the emblem of service in war; it is no less the emblem of service in time of peace.

## *The American Legion Auxiliary Mission Statement*

In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

## *Preamble To The Constitution Of The American Legion Auxiliary*

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during the Great Wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth; To safeguard and transmit to posterity, the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; To participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



### **DEDICATION**

This booklet is dedicated to the mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, grandmothers, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of The American Legion Auxiliary, District Four Department of Nebraska. To these women past and present who have selflessly volunteered their time, wealth, and devotion with perseverance to the veterans and the men and women of the United States Armed Forces, their history in the following pages distinguishes each Auxiliary Units history of "service not self".





***NOTE: PICTURES & GRAPHICS IN BOOKLET HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS NARRATIVE....***

## THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

### DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA

#### 2018-2019 National Auxiliary Officers

National President - Kathy Dungan

National Vice-President – Nicole Clapp

#### 2018-2019 Department of Nebraska Auxiliary Officers

President - Beverly Neel

Vice-President – Elizabeth Paes

#### 2018-2019 District Four Auxiliary Officers

President – Melody Sanna

Vice-President – Teri Poley

#### District Nuggets of History

The following District Four submission is the result of recorded historical documents from the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska, several Auxiliary members and internet research. The subsequent information reflecting this research has been related here with the best of intent to convey to the reader historical Auxiliary information and events affecting women of The American Legion Auxiliary Units in District Four through the years.

In celebration of The American Legion Auxiliary's Centennial 1919-2019, District four is proud to celebrate each District Unit still serving veterans and their communities at the 89<sup>th</sup> District Four Spring Convention Saturday March 2, 2019 held at the Morrill, Powell-Lewis American Legion Post 10 in Morrill Nebraska.

As the Auxiliary celebrates its Centennial we certainly should celebrate those American Legion Posts in District Four who are celebrating their Centennial: Scottsbluff Post 5, Alliance Post 7, Hemingford James Barry Post 9, Morrill Powell-Lewis Post 10 (*re-chartered in 1947*), Lewellen Reveille Post 14, Sidney Post 17, Bridgeport Roy Johnston Post 29, Gering Post 36, and Mitchell Michie-McKeown Post 124. Sadly two others who have surrendered their Charters were: Kimball Neely Post 22 and Minatare Turnbull Post 139.

The American Legion Auxiliary when first chartered in 1919 by Congress was named "Women's Auxiliary American Legion".

At the American Legion National Convention in Kansas City, Mo held November 1-2, 1921 the organization changed its name to "The American Legion Auxiliary". Several District Four Units hold two Charters, one with the original Auxiliary name and one with the current name used today.

According to the "History of Nebraska American Legion" by Frank Boyd O'Connell and published by the Department of Nebraska in 1922, Nebraska American Legion Districts were formed using the Nebraska Legislative Districts. In 1929 District Four was established when the Department of Nebraska restructured the Districts from six to thirteen. The first District Four Convention was held in 1930 which makes 2019 District Four's 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Per a 1930 District Four Convention Program the first District elected Presidents were Mrs. E. L. Goldsmith of Scottsbluff in 1929-30 and Mrs. Nora Patrick of Alliance in 1931.

**Past Presidents of District Four are as listed:** 1932 – Mrs. J.C. Schlater, Oshkosh; 1935 - Winnie Meyer, Alliance; 1936 – Mrs. Harper T. Anderson, Scottsbluff; 1938 – Mrs. Fern Prince, Bayard; 1941 – Mrs. W.P. Ackerman, Sidney; 1942 – Mrs. Gene Binning, Kimball; 1943 – Mary Jones, Mitchell; 1944 46– Sylvia Caven, Gering; 1947-49 - Edith Grieve, Sidney; 1949-51 - Mattie Franzen, Scottsbluff; 1951-53 - Ruth Kane, Alliance; 1953 – Dolly Sandberg, Broadwater; 1954-56 – Evelyn Robinson, Oshkosh; 1956-58 – Dorothy Phinney, Mitchell; 1958-60 – Ethel Hunt, Bayard; 1960-62 – Barbara Moss, Minatare; 1962-64 – Goldie Johnson, Sidney; 1964-66 – Wilma Gabriel, Gurley; 1966-68 – Gertrude Clark, Morrill; 1968-70 – Mrs. Blanch Ray, Hemingford; 1970-72 – Mrs. Leo Eberhardt, Minatare; 1972-75 – Mrs. Charles Singleton, Dix; 1975-76 – Mrs. Harold Steele,

Potter; 1976-78 - Maudie Deaver, Alliance; 1978-79 – Gloria Denham, Morrill; 1979 -80 – DyAnn Armstrong, Lewellen; 1980-82 – Jackie Blair, Bayard; 1982-84 – Amy Jensen, Hemingford; 1984-86 – Mrs. Ralf Taylor, Broadwater; 1986-88 – Mary Delatour, Oshkosh; 1988-91 - Eleanore Golden, Alliance; 1991-92 – Sue Stoddard, Alliance; 1992-94 - Delma Turgeon, Alliance; 1994-96 - Luayne Weisgerber, Alliance; 1996-98 – Marilyn Schutt, Gering; 1998-2000 – Jackie Dalbey, Bayard; 2000-02 – Carol Danbom, Hemingford; 2002-04 – Ellen Christensen, Alliance; 2004-06 – Doris Steele, Potter; 2006-08 – Teresa Nelson, Alliance; 2008 – Emily Curry; 2009-11 – Carol Danbom, Hemingford; 2011-13 – Bonita Dickinson, Sidney; 2013-15 - Carol Danbom, Hemingford; 2015-17 - Donna Bratt, Bayard; 2017-19 - Melody Sanna, Dalton.

**Department of Nebraska Presidents from District Four:** 1927 – Mrs. Vernice LaSalle, Chappell; 1933 – 1933-34 - Mrs. Nora Patrick, Alliance; 1937-38 - Winnie Meyer, Alliance; 2002-03 - Luayne Weisgerber, Alliance; Years are unknown for Mrs. Glen Patrick of Sidney and Mrs. Louis Johnson.

The 1922 book, ‘History of The Nebraska American Legion’ by Frank Boyd O’Connell lists the first fifteen Units applying for Charters in Nebraska. Four of these Units from District Four were; Scottsbluff Unit 5, Lewellen Unit 14 on January 29, 1920; Bridgeport Unit 29 on February 10, 1920, and Hemingford Unit 9 on March 30, 1920.

**Charters:** At one time there were twenty-four Units serving eight counties with 1,848 members, of those 104 were listed as Gold Star Mothers. Of those twenty-four Units the remaining fourteen Units as of 2019 are alphabetically: Alliance #7; Bayard, Lincoln-Stone #200; Broadwater, Jesse Snider #312; Dalton, Mintken-Davison #301; Gering #36; Gurley, Weyerts #137; Hemingford, James Barry #9; Hyannis, Major A.D. Fetterman #57; Lisco, Ed Cain #309; Mitchell, Michie-McKeown #124; Morrill, Powell-Lewis #10; Oshkosh, Shaw-Jeppson #210; Potter #291; Sidney #17. Sadly the following ten Units surrendering their Charters were: Big Springs, George S. Johnson Unit 275 (5/6/1926-3/16/2010); Bridgeport, Roy Johnston Unit 29 (3/27/1922-6/2/2014); Chappell, Clinton McAuliffe Unit 217 (*unknown*); Dix, Western Unit 292 - (4/9/1927-2/28/2017; Kimball, Neely Unit 22 (12/28/1926-2/28/2017); Lewellen, Reveille Unit 14 (7/10/1923-8/27/2013); Lodgepole Unit 286, (*unknown*); Lyman, Unit 3 (*unknown*); Minatare, Turnbull Unit 139 (*unknown*); and Scottsbluff, Wright Iron Unit 5 (3/21/1922-3/16/2010).

#### **Units providing District Four Awards:**

- **The Mitchell Michie-McKeown Unit 124 provided two;** The Dorothy Phinney Trophy (1956) presently a certificate, was created by member Dorothy Phinney (*PD4P*). It is awarded to the first Unit in the District to reach their Membership Goal for the present year. The Vera Clouse Trophy (1965) presently a certificate was created by member Vera Clouse (*PD4P*). It is awarded to the Unit whose Cornhusker Girl State Attendee received the highest Girls State Government test score.
- **From the Bayard Lincoln Stone Unit 200;** The Ethel Hunt Traveling Gavel (1960) was created by member Ethel Hunt (*PD4P*) given to the Unit achieving the highest % increase of membership from the previous year.
- **From Alliance Unit 9:** The L.K. Weisgerber Membership Plaque (2004) created by Luayne Weisgerber (*PD4P & PDP*) The LK Weisgerber Membership Award replaces the Jean Henkens District 4 Membership Award. It is awarded to the Unit with the highest membership percentage reported at Department the Friday before District 4 Convention.

Since the inception of The American Legion and Women’s Auxiliary American Legion in 1919, Nebraska women have served veterans and enlisted servicemen/women who served in World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Gulf War/ War on Terrorism. Nebraska women served first, as community volunteers, then as members of the, the “Women Auxiliary of the American Legion” and continue under “The American Legion Auxiliary”.

Nebraska’s Army airfields were major United States Army Air Force (USAAF) training centers for pilots and aircrews of USAAF fighters and bombers during World War II. Nebraska was favored due to excellent, year-round flying conditions and sparsely populated land making ideal locations for gunnery, bombing, and training

ranges. Each facility was located in rural farmland, near small farming communities. They were designed to be nearly self-sufficient, with not only hangars, but barracks, mess halls, even hospitals and recreation centers. The effect of stationing thousands of airmen brought the reality of war to rural and small town Nebraska. In addition to providing training for servicemen, the air bases provided jobs for many civilians who were employed in maintenance, repair, and secretarial work.

In District Four two of these airfields were; The "Alliance Army Airfield" established in 1942, construction was completed in August 1943 and was hosted by I Troop Carrier Command and the 434<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group. It provided C-47, Glider and Parachute training, and was a flexible Gunnery School. It repaired the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-24 Liberator aircraft from other airfields. Closing in 1945 it remains a municipal Airport. The "Scottsbluff Army Airfield" at Western Regional Airport was hosted by II Bomber Command, and the 4190<sup>th</sup> Army Airforce. It was a Base Unit for I Troop Carrier Command and provided for B-17 heavy bomber training (1941-44); C-47 Training (1944-45), Glider crews training, Aircraft and radio maintenance training. It became a sub-base of Alliance Army Airfield under I Troop Carrier Command closing December 1945 and remains a municipal airport. . Local American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units served the service men stationed at these facilities by hosting dances and providing entertainment and special events in their Post Halls for servicemen stationed at these installations.

Another installation within the boundaries of District Four was the Sioux Ordnance Depot (SOD) located north-west of Sidney completed December 28, 1942.

*A marker west of Sidney on Highway 30 reads - Sioux Army Depot was established on 23 March 1942 as Sioux Ordnance Depot (SOD). It was the only U.S. Army Ammunition Depot in Nebraska during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The depot was initially under the command of the U.S. Army Ordnance Department and later the U.S. Army Materiel Command. Sioux Army Depot's mission during its entire history was the receipt, storage, and issue of all types of ammunition from small arms to 10,000 pound bombs, all types of general supplies from small automobile parts to jeeps, and various strategic and critical materials. The depot occupied 19,771 acres and included 801 ammunition storage igloos, 22 general supply warehouses, 392 support buildings, 225 family living quarters, 51 miles of railroad tracks, and 203 miles of roads. Depot personnel assigned ranged from 625 to 2,161 civilian employees and from 4 to 57 military personnel depending on Army activity. Sioux Army Depot was deactivated on 30 June 1967. Marker is dedicated by the Sioux Army Depot Employees on 25 July 1992.*

The Sioux Ordnance Depot was intended to be a temporary structure; most of the buildings were designed to last between 5 and 20 years and were wood frame with asbestos siding. Despite its temporary intent, the depot in fact lasted 25 years, with some buildings still standing today. In 1943, the depot became home to a Prisoner of War Camp. On average, approximately 300 prisoners lived at the camp at any given time, mostly Italians, but at one point over 600 prisoners, half Italian and half German, were held at the camp. In accordance with the Geneva Convention, the prisoners were allowed to work paid jobs in non-war-related industries. Many worked in farms, though few liked it. Others worked at the depot as laborers, engineers, carpenters, auto mechanics or other jobs. After Italy surrendered on September 8, 1943, Italian prisoners were given the opportunity to stay in America and continue working for the American war effort. Many prisoners at Sidney did, forming the 70th Italian Quartermaster Service Company. All the POWs at Sidney were repatriated by 1946. Some of them enjoyed their time in Nebraska and returned after the war. *(See more below on Prisoners of War).*

With the end of hostilities it was said that the corner where Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming met had "the largest concentration of intercontinental ballistic missiles" of any place in the world, and with 200 Minuteman missiles it contained 45 times the destructive power of all the bombs dropped during the entirety of WWII." The depot did not stop working after the war. It was used in the immediate post-war years to process surplus ammunition from the war. During the Korean War (1950-1953), the depot saw increased usage. The Cold War kept the SOD busy during the 1960s. In 1962, the depot was renamed the Sioux Army Depot (SAD). In 1964, a

Launch Control Center for Minutemen Missiles was built at the depot. This Control Center was responsible for a number of missile silos in the region. That same year, however, the Army announced that the depot would be deactivated. The depot was not immediately closed but was gradually phased out. It was finally closed in 1967. Eight hundred and one concrete munitions storage igloos remain as a reminder of war.

Though not within District Four, we must not forget the importance of the North Platte Canteen... During World War II the Union Pacific Railroad transported enlisted servicemen from east to west and west to east through North Platte. The Union Pacific railroad station in North Platte offered a lunch counter which grew to become the famous "The North Platte Canteen". Volunteers from local churches and community organizations including Units of the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary provided sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, cakes, pies, cookies and other food items, cigarettes and magazines to these soldiers. The North Platte Canteen was one of approximately 120 community-based canteens in the United States during World War II; North Platte was by far the largest. From Christmas of 1941 through April 1, 1946, volunteers greeted and fed approximately 6 million service members. By comparison, the second largest canteen, in Lima, Ohio, served 2.5 million soldiers.

Doing their part, in spite of war rationing District Four Auxiliary women supported the North Platte Canteen with homemade cookies, cakes and non-perishable items. These items were carefully boxed and taken to the train Depot and shipped on trains arriving and departing daily to North Platte from these communities.

WWII Prisoners of War (POW's) were brought to the U.S. to be safely confined and to supplement a depleted civilian work force. In Nebraska, approximately 12,000 prisoners of war were held in camps across the state. The internment camps sprang up in the Midwest because of its shortage of manpower in producing agricultural products necessary in the war effort. Farmers around these camps were struggling to accomplish timely field work with the shortage of farmhands serving on the war front. With thousands of idle, apparently docile men sitting in the POW camps, the military authorities set up systems to allow the POWs to work in civilian jobs, as long as the jobs weren't dangerous or related to the war effort. Farming was a good fit. The Prisoners of War 441 of the North Platte Valley enabled many POWs to find useful day labor. POWs when working were paid 80 cents per day. Part of this allotment was kept for the day when they would be repatriated. Farmers using Nebraska POW 441 laborers paid the standard wage for agricultural workers directly to the POW Camp; the POWs were paid out of this fund.

Scottsbluff Army Airfield served as the POW Main Base Camp in the District Four American Legion Auxiliary area. Smaller satellite camps from the main base camp in District Four were located at; Lyman, Mitchell, Morrill, Bayard, Bridgeport, and the Sioux Ordinance Depot at Sidney. Altogether there were 23 large and small camps scattered across Nebraska.

By January, 1946, the POW movement back to Europe had started. As the time of departure neared, many prisoners admitted their reluctance to leave. Approximately 5,000 prisoners attached to the Scottsbluff camp were 'being repatriated at the rate of 750 each day. Many communities tell of these former POW prisoners returning to become citizens of America and make their homes in the community.

The histories submitted in the following pages by the remaining fourteen Auxiliary Units in District Four relates to the reader to a small extent their beginnings, activities and accomplishments through their years of dedicated service to those men and women who have served in America's Armed Forces and, who we as members of The American Legion Auxiliary call "Veterans".

Respectfully submitted by, Melody Sanna  
District Four President

**ALLIANCE AUXILIARY UNIT No. 7**

Alliance, Nebraska 69301

Box Butte County

President/Secretary – Luayne Weisgerber

Vice-President – Ellen Christensen

The Alliance American Legion Post 7 organized and applied for charter on August 5, 1919. The newly chartered American Legion Post 7 met in the basement of the Alliance Times-Herald, so it would follow that the Auxiliary also met there. There are still painted footprints on the floor where they had dance lessons.

The group then purchased the USO building at Third Street & Niobrara Avenue where both groups met until it burned to the ground in the mid- to late 1970s. Almost all the Auxiliary Unit records were lost in the fire.

The Post later purchased a building at Third Street & Ramblin' Road. The Unit met there until the building was sold. They met at Sallows Military Museum until they changed their meeting time to noon, when they began meeting at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Zella Johnson served as Unit 7 President 1921-22 when Alliance Unit 7 received its charter on September 9, 1922.

The Unit is home to three Past Department Presidents – Nora Patrick in 1933-34; Winnie Meyer in 1937-38; and Luayne Weisgerber in 2002-03. Weisgerber's Past Department President's pin belonged to Meyer.

The Unit co-hosts County Government Day, host a Holiday Festival on the first Friday-Saturday of November, participates in the Americanism Essay contest, delivers Meals-on-Wheels in June, sponsors one to three girls to Girls State, and distributes poppies the first weekend of May. Alliance and Hemingford alternately host the annual Box Butte County meeting in September.

Unit 7 has one Gold Star member – Dixie Bloom, whose brother died in World War II, before she was born. The member with the longest continuing years of membership is Shirley Bauman, with 74 years. She currently resides in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Unit 7 officers are currently: Luayne Weisgerber, president and secretary; Barb Kendle, vice-president; Ellen Christensen, treasurer; Teresa Nelson, membership secretary; and Joan Wolvington, chaplain.

Weisgerber also serves as Box Butte County Vice-President; Department Constitution & Bylaws chairman, and third-year Department Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted by, Luayne Weisgerber  
Unit President

**JAMES BARRY AUXILIARY UNIT No. 9**

Hemingford, Nebraska 69348

Box Butte County

Unit President – Pat Mracek

Vice President – Heather Kresl

Unit Secretary – Jac-Lyn Stefka

James Barry Post #9 of the American Legion was organized on July 17, 1919, in Hemingford, Nebraska. It was the second Post to be organized in Box Butte County. The soldiers and sailors of Hemingford and vicinity met at the old Opera House for the purpose of perfecting an organization to serve the veterans of World War One.

The American Legion Post was then in need of an appropriate name, so it was named after an outstanding citizen, James Barry (*March 1, 1846 – July 11 1919*) a Civil War Veteran born in Maine. At age 14, the civil war broke out. He enlisted at Cape Elizabeth, Maine on 9/11/1862 in Company I 25th Marine Volunteer Infantry and was discharged on 7/10/1863. On September 19, 1863, he re-enlisted in Company I 30th Volunteer Infantry and was discharged again on July 4, 1865 for wounds received in battle. His pension certificate read: gunshot wounds in right forearm resulting in disability such as to render incapable to perform manual labor;



equivalent to the loss of a hand. Mr. Barry was a former Hemingford 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank president and a pioneer of the county. He passed away in his sleep and is buried in the Hemingford cemetery Sec. C Row 4 Space 28C, on his Headstone it reads "He kept a faithful friendship with a friend whom loyally he served before himself".

The American Legion held its Charter meeting in the old Opera House, before renting space upstairs in the old Shindler building. In 1923 a fire destroyed the building destroying the original Post and Unit charters and records. Among the items lost in the fire was a bronze plaque given to the veterans of the community, the plaque had all the names of every World War One veteran from Hemingford inscribed on it. The Legion was re-chartered in 1934.

When the veterans from World War II came home, a major fund raising drive was held to purchase the old Cory building. Permanent clubrooms were set up in the basement. In 1949, the adjoining property to the north of the Post Home was bought and a Community Hall was built; the clubrooms were then moved to the main floor of the original building.

Hemingford had two young men that were POW's in Japan during World War II, Norman Larsen (U.S. Marine) and Oscar Planansky (civilian). Both returned home with honors. Larsen became a member of Post #9. Planansky was given the privilege of being named as an honorary veteran for his service and bravery. Post 9 has produced a Department of Nebraska Commander, Frank Dee and two fine District Four Commanders.

On March 30, 1920 the James Barry Unit 9 was among the first fifteen Units to apply for a Charter in Nebraska per the "History of the Nebraska American Legion" by Frank Boyd O'Connell and published by The Department of Nebraska American Legion in 1922. On February 24, 1934 the James Barry Unit 9 received its Charter reflecting the American Legion Auxiliary's name change. The companion Charter Roll document shows the Unit with twenty two Charter members. Unit 9 received its Charter of Incorporation from the National American Legion Auxiliary Executive Committee on July 7, 1948 protecting individual members from liability under the Laws of the State of Nebraska. Unit #9 members diligently supported their Post's programs, activities, and fund raisers. Unit #9 has a strong membership of over 130 members. Unit #9 has also been fortunate to have had two members who served as District #4 Presidents. Our Unit has had four members to receive the Gold Star Banner.

Post #9 and Unit #9 joined together providing programs for our local community, veterans, and children & youth. Both Legion and Auxiliary members visited the Veterans Home & Hospital in Hot Springs, SD for Dollar Days, Gifts for Yanks Who Gave, and summer picnics. Junior members would sing and entertain the veterans. Visits were also made at the Veterans Home & Hospital in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Some years later, the West Nebraska Veterans Home was built in Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

The Auxiliary Unit formed its Junior program in 2017 holding regular monthly meetings teaching the four principles of the Auxiliary. The Juniors have elected Honorary officers, are participating in the Junior Patch programs, made a Quilt of Valor and presented it to a local veteran, participated in Unit events and fundraisers, presented the POW/MIA Remembrance Service and served as Pages at the 2018 District Four Spring Convention.

A few ways Auxiliary members have supported and assisted the Legion Post Legionnaires with their many activities and fund raisers through the years are: **(1).** Memorial Day Programs and decorating graves / Legionnaires placed U.S. Flags on veterans' graves and Auxiliary placed poppy sprays on Auxiliary members graves, years later wreaths are placed on entrance gates into the cemetery. **(2).** County Fair / Legionnaires ran a concession stand at the Grand Stand and Auxiliary sold patriotic jewelry which was ordered through the American Legion catalog. Later the Auxiliary and Legion operated the concession stand. **(3).** The Auxiliary enters a float for the fair parade every year and the Legion color guard leads the parade. **(4).** Annual Easter Egg Hunt (since the 1940's) / 40 dozen eggs were dyed by Legion, Auxiliary, & Junior members and hidden in the city park along with prizes, now 60 dozen plastic eggs are used and treat bags are given to each child. **(5).** School Dances / both Legion and Auxiliary sponsored Bobcat Den Dances after Friday night home games. **(6).** Girl State & Boy State / sent one girl and one boy as delegates from HHS. **(7).** Many bake sales. **(8).** Provided

BINGO on Sunday nights for about 8 years. **(9)**. Distributed poppies in the community / also went door-to-door collecting donations for the U.S.O. and the American Heart Fund (1940's---mid 1970's). **(10)**. Senior and Junior Auxiliary members served many banquets and dinners at the Post Home. **(11)**. Auxiliary provided U.S. Flags for the local retirement home and Hemingford Schools as well as selling U.S. Flags to the community. **(12)**. The Auxiliary has worked side-by-side and hand-in-hand to provide support for our American Veterans and their communities by volunteering and donating funds, and striving to keep the American Legion programs running in accordance with the American Legion's "Four Pillars" and the "Four Principles of the Auxiliary" which are the foundation of our organizations.

Respectfully submitted by, Carol Danbom  
Historian

### **POWELL-LEWIS AUXILIARY UNIT No. 10**

Morrill, Nebraska 69358  
Scottsbluff County

President - Sandra Lutz  
Vice-President - Karen Ritz  
Secretary – Shirley Cawiezel

#### Brief History of the Morrill American Legion Auxiliary of Powell-Lewis Unit #10

Per the American Legion Department of Nebraska records, the first application for the Morrill American Legion charter occurred on May 8-10, 1919 with fifteen charter members lists the name as "Morrill Post 10" on August 5, 1919. In the "History of Nebraska American Legion" book by Frank Boyd O'Connell and published by The American Legion Department of Nebraska in 1922, Morrill Post 10 was named "Evan Powell Post 10". Evan Powell Post 10 was in operation from 1919-1922 under Commander Orlando H. Kearney and Adjutant D.M. McMichael when Post 10 was "discontinued" per Post document recorded at Department of Nebraska.

Namesake, Evan Wilkinson Powell was killed in action during his enlistment in service of his country in World War I on February 15, 1919.

The second application for Morrill Post 10 under the name of "Lewis-Powell" was made on May 7, 1946 with fifteen Charter Members. On September 9, 1946 Commander, Robert Smeltzer submitted a Post 10 Resolution to Department of Nebraska resolving that the Post name be amended to "Powell-Lewis Post 10" for namesakes Evan Wilkinson Powell and Lewis brothers; William Orley Lewis (*Jan.13, 1922 - Sep.1,1944*) served as Ensign in the US Navy Air Corp Pilot torpedo Bomber on the carrier USS Croatan listed in the Navy Casualty List as crashed at sea September 1944 and Donald LeRoy Lewis (*May 22,1925 - May 17, 1945*) a Naval Hospital Apprentice, both were killed in action. Walter Wilson Lewis enlisted in the USS Navy on October 16, 1940 and was honorably discharged following the deaths of brothers.

The following historical research was found in the "Morrill Mail" (*Years of publication: 1907-1970*) currently "The Voice News" reveals the following articles and excerpts: May 22, 1919 the *Morrill Mail* printed a general article about the American Legion as an organization. Sanctioned by Congress in April or May 1919

On June 12, 1919 a meeting to organize a Morrill American Legion would occur on June 18, 1919. "All persons who served in the army, navy and marine corps of the United States, or in the forces of our Allies during the present war, are requested to meet at the Athletic Hall, Morrill, Nebraska at eight o'clock p.m. on June 19, 1919 for the purpose of organizing an American Legion Post, and for such other business as may properly come before the meeting, Orlando H. Kearney."

A June 19, 1919 article advertised an "American Legion Benefit Ball will be given at the Opera House, Tuesday, June 24 for Edward Foster, a blind soldier boy of Bayard who lost his eyesight while with the A.E.F. in

France. Hagensnick's Orchestra of Scottsbluff has been secured to furnish the music. Ladies are cordially invited. Come and bring a cake with you. Refreshments will be served. Tickets \$1.99 and War tax \$ .10.

An article on June 26, 1919 stated that a temporary Post of the American Legion in Morrill occurred. Orlando H. Kearney was elected the temporary Chairman and committees were appointed: Credential and Membership comprised of Ed Fostel, Elmer Parsons, Ben Hissell, John Walsh, and Chas Light; Constitution and By-Laws: Eugene Plummer, Don Savre, and Orlando Kearney; Name: McKinley McKinley Swanson, Chas Light and Wm. Walsh; Social: John Walsh, Chas Light, Louis Boatsman, Lynn McHenry and Dan Beeson.

A July 31, 1919 article stated "There will be an American Legion Meeting at the Athletic Hall, Morrill, Nebraska Wednesday, August 19. All returned service men are requested to be present "Important business". Orlando H. Kearney, Chairman.

The research has not yet yielded any results of a report that the group was disbanded only discontinued in 1922.

Morrill American Legion Auxiliary Unit #10 indicates the group was organized in October of 1946. National President Mrs. Norton H. Pearl sent a letter on January 8, 1947 to Bertha Fullerton, president of Powell-Lewis Unit 10 stating she had just signed the charter bringing the Morrill Unit into official being in the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska.

Unit Charter shows the date as January 13, 1947 with 46 charter members listed as follows: Stella Hauder, Marie Hauder, Elsie H. Clark, Adeline Cressy, Lucy E. Dummitt, Delores Dummitt, Bertha E. Fullerton, Jacque Fullerton, Shirley Fullerton, Helen Folbrt, Leola Glenn, Frona Gorham, Nora Groothuis, Maud Harrison, Lucy C. Harrison, Gretta Johnson, Louise Kubista, Nova Kuxhausen, Clara Bella Lewis, Nell K. Noe, Lucille Parson, Beverly Parson, Eva G. Quick, Alma Runge, Blanche Runge, Carrie B. Snyder, Ruth M. Trennt, Maxine Vanek, Bessie M. Zimmerer, Twyla Andrew, Thelma Blough, Barbara Curry, Hulda M. Davis, Nettie M. Glenn, Elsie L. Jones, Katherine B. Lane, Bernice Mitchell, Olive Muse, Imogene Thomas, Emma F. Trout, Ruth Snyder, June Smeltzer, Sylvia Surratt, Jessie Wilkinson, and Shirley Davis.

Auxiliary records delineate the following Unit Presidents: 1946-47 - President Bertha Fullerton, 1947-48 - Bertha Fullerton, 1948-49 - Ceola Glenn, 1949-50 - Nielsen, 1950-51 - Hulda Davis, 1951-52 - Hulda Davis, 1952-53 - Christine Barrett, 1953-54 - Sara Barrett, 1954-55 - Sylvia Barrett, 1955-56 - Beatrice Spencer, 1956-57 - Carrie Snyder, 1957-58 - Dalma Smith, 1958-59 - Lucy Harrison, 1959-60 - Gertrude Clarke, 1960-61 - Lois Sawvel, 1961-62 - Lois Sawvel, 1962-63 - Edna Mae Kerns, 1963-64 - Edna Mae Kerns, 1964-65 - Lucille Cherry

1965-66: 42 active members

Historical records show Gold Star Members in 1961-62 as Bella Lewis, Elva Dykes, and Dorothy Zlatnik, 1965-66: Gretta Eagleston, Jane Kerns and Sylvia Surratt

Records beyond 1966 were apparently not preserved.

Current membership in 2018 is at 31. We are an active auxiliary and work closely with the Legion Post and the Sons of the Legion on a variety of events throughout the year. We work with the high school guidance office and send out mailings in March to juniors and seniors about the Boys' State, Girls' State, and Junior Law Cadet programs as well as give a presentation on all the programs (including our Legion Post, Son's, and Auxiliary scholarships); arrange for and host a Nebraska State Trooper to talk to the juniors about the Junior Law Cadet Program; typically deliver centerpieces for the Veteran's Home twice a year; send monetary donations to the Alliance National Veteran's Cemetery group for the purchase of cookies for funerals there; conduct interviews for scholarship applicants; help set up and sell 50/50 raffle tickets for the Sons of the Legion Luck o' Irish fundraiser (we get half of the amount of the 50/50 sales for our scholarship fund); attend the District #4 Conference; help set-up and supervise the Easter Egg Hunt at the Morrill Village Park; distribute to Elementary school in April materials for the Poppy Coloring Contest, judge the entries, give monetary rewards to winners in each grade, and distribute poppies in town; provide cookies and whatever else is needed for County Government Day; our historian creates a pictorial book of auxiliary events

throughout the year; attend the Veteran's Breakfast at the Veteran's Home; award a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating senior; send Mail for our Military to Friends of our Troops (completed 1,598 cards this year); prepare and serve around 450 (with help from Sons and Legion members) hamburgers, beans, chips and a drink at noon at the Village Park for Rendezvous Days in July; distribute candy to all elementary student at the Halloween Stroll; decorate the main hall at the Legion for Christmas; bake and serve slices of pie to all community members who come to the Morrill Christmas Stroll; and send invitations to all Auxiliary, Sons, and Legion members as well as the Veteran's Home and veterans in area nursing homes to attend our annual Legion Christmas Dinner (Legion provides the meal; we decorate, set up, provide desserts and gifts for guests, and clean up). As you can see, we are very busy and involved in providing for our veterans and for our community. Current membership in 2018 is at 31.

Respectfully submitted by, Shirley Cawiezel  
Unit Secretary

### **SIDNEY AUXILIARY UNIT No. 17**

Sidney, Nebraska 69162  
Cheyenne County

President – Teri Poley  
Vice-President – Margie Surber  
Secretary – Bonita Dickinson

### **SHORT HISTORY**

The Sidney American Legion Post 17 was chartered on August 5, 1919. The Sidney American Legion Auxiliary #17 was chartered and Instituted on July 28, 1922 in Sidney, Nebraska. At the Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary Convention held Aug 17, 1922 in Lincoln, Unit #17 was presented with their Charter. President of the Department was Mrs. E.B. Penney and the Secretary of the Department was Leah Ball. National President of the ALA at that time was Edith Irvin Hobart and the National Secretary was Pauline C Curnick.

The charter is signed by 58 members of the Sidney Unit. The first officers of Sidney Unit #17 were: President Jenny Armstrong, 1st Vice President Helen Ledbetter and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Rose Golding.

Respectfully submitted by, Bonita Dickinson  
Unit Historian

### **GERING AUXILIARY UNIT No. 26**

Gering, NE 69341

## Scottsbluff County

President – Cecil Doshier  
Vice-President – Dana Heine  
Secretary – Marilyn Schutt

### One Hundred Years of Yesterdays

The Gering American Legion Post 36 Chartered September 5, 1919 is named for the town of Gering. Gering was named for Martin Gering, a pioneer of Nebraska. A migrant from Germany to Pennsylvania as a small boy, Mr. Gering served in the Union 4<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry Company during the Civil War. Following the war in the spring of 1887 he migrated west to Gering. A founding father of Gering he helped organizers secure Gering as the Scottsbluff County seat. Later years, Mr. Gering moved to Washington D.C. and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Descendants of his family still reside in Gering.

On June 18, 1920, Captain L.E. Cottle, appointed by the Legion Post, met with wives of Legionnaires at an informational meeting to discuss organizing an Auxiliary Unit. It was held in the upstairs room on the east side of the Fireman's Hall Fraternity building (currently a beauty salon). Mrs. Lillie Silvernail, whose son was enlisted, acted as Chairman and Elsie L. Cross, whose brother was also enlisted, acted as secretary with 17 ladies present. At the conclusion of this informational meeting, Captain Cottle was asked to inquire about Auxiliary Unit Charter application process from Department.

June 25, 1920 an organizational meeting was held for the purpose electing officers, and applying for an Auxiliary Unit Charter. Officers elected were, President, Edna Mikesell (*a well-dressed modern young woman*), Vice-President, Dorothy Sorensen, Secretary, Estelle Laughlin (*because she could run a typewriter*), and Treasurer, Grace Remeder. Sixteen Charter members were present to sign the application; Edna Mikesell, Lillie Silvernail, Anna M. Hobart, Nora McDermet, Grace Remeder, Thelma Pollock, Dorothy Reasor Sorensen, Lora Hubbard, Verle Hubbard, Estelle C. Laughlin, Daisy W. Cottle, Elsie L. Cross. Nellie G. Kelly, Nellie F. Thomas, Georgia Cross Entrekin, and Dorothy Ponder are the names on the original charter.

Charter member Dorothy Ponder's husband James swam across the Meuse River in France, under fire the night of November 9, 1918, as war hero he received the Distinguished Service Cross for this action.

Post Commander H.O. Jones and Post Adjutant Jesse P. Entrekin signed and sent the Auxiliary Unit Charter application to Department of Nebraska. The Unit charter application was signed by Department of Nebraska Commander Robert G. Simmons, and National Adjutant Lemuel Bolle, and National Commander Franklin D'Olier.

August 28, 1920 the FIRST Gering Unit 36 Charter was received as "Women's Auxiliary American Legion." It was noted in the early years' time was spent on the 'indoor sport' of reading the Auxiliary Constitution and By Laws. Dues were set at \$2.00, it was noted that Unit attendance dropped to a handful.

The first Memorial Day observance was held in 1921 in co-operation with Legion Post 36, the Grand Army of the Republic (1856-1956) and its Women's Relief Corps. "We stand now where they did then, with veterans of another war joining our ranks to help carry on the work."

In November 1921 the Auxiliary name was changed from "Women's Auxiliary of The American Legion" to "The American Legion Auxiliary" and a SECOND Charter was received. Unit dues were reduced to \$1.50. The outgoing president received a gift of a half dozen salad forks.

In 1922 Department President Mrs. Penny and District 6 President Mrs. Frater, visited the Gering Unit. Later District 6 would be reorganized to District 4. The purpose of the visit was to ask for help caring for Veterans, providing bedside bags, pajamas, T bandages, Bingo party funds, cookies and Christmas gifts for children of disabled veterans; they collected tea money at 10 cents each.

Activities in February of 1922, Carl Henatsh (*Called Long Boy due to his height*) inscribed the Unit "Charter Member Roll" of Unit members This Charter Roll hangs in the meeting room as a companion to the Unit Charter. The Unit curiously purchased 500 daisies to sell in May. Thereafter, records show they purchased poppies. Early meetings were held in members' homes. Legionnaires sponsored a dance event called, Poker Flats. The Auxiliary sponsored Tupper's Eating House for 3 nights netting them \$203.44!

December of 1923 due to small attendance the Unit considered disbanding, after suspending the required seven member's by-law to members present, the meetings continued. The Unit ordered three gross (432) of poppies, held the first American Legion National Essay Contest and made the first Child Welfare fund donation of \$5.00 and donated six Comfort Kits for the hospital.

In 1925 they realized \$25.29 from poppies. Christmas boxes were distributed to 15 families and "advocated putting toilet soap in the next boxes."

In 1928 membership was 33, the Unit Held a bridge benefit party netting \$24.75, distribution of 800 poppies netted \$53.00. Cards replaced expensive flowers sent to sick members, held the first Oregon Trail Days concession stand, and held an Immigration Party, sending invitations to eligible Legion and Auxiliary members. "A Statue of Liberty was made from a dress form, a switch for hair, and a light bulb held in her upraised hand lighted the way for the immigrants to walk the gang plank into the hall. Captain Cottle and Leslie Laughlin in costume as inspectors, checked each eligible "immigrant" arriving in costume of their chosen country for head varmint, and sufficient funds to enter America etc." all in good fun. The immigrants performed stunts of their nationality, England presented the Prince of Wales riding horseback and taking the traditional fall; the Spanish-Mexican group weeded beets on their knees; Holland presented skaters; Russia with one immigrant, was arrested for bringing vodka into a Prohibition Country; and a woman dressed in Chinese dress, pleaded entry because of race. A paper sack lunch was served followed by square dancing finishing the evening. This party received much attention in the papers.

In the 1930's Basket suppers were very popular, poppy distribution netted \$78.93, magazine sales, netted \$19.80, and dues were raised from \$1.00 to \$1.25. Creating a year book listing officers, members and events was discussed. They continued charitable work and helped 16 poor families at Christmas time. Joint meetings with the Legion declined from earlier years.

They held a pie stand at Oregon Trail Days, but people inquired about hot dogs. Indians from Pine Ridge were their best customers and "Chief Steals Horses especially liked berry pies." Mr. Woods of the Gering Courier provided free advertising for the pie stand. Building floats for the Oregon Trail Days Parade was a tradition that continued through the 60's. They talked of having "Washington Tea's" (dressed in colonial clothes), have given white cross markers for service men's graves at Gering's West Lawn cemetery, and donated children's books to the library. Around 1935, precedent was set for an annual picnic, which continues today. Interests were all directed toward equipping the new Legion Home located on 6<sup>th</sup> street. Communism became the scare word of the day. Today, Unit meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month after earlier changes from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday. Reading formal historical minutes of our Unit, the Unit continues those earlier traditions and events today.

Respectfully submitted by, Cecil Doshier  
Unit #36 President

**MAJOR A.D. FETTERMAN AUXILIARY UNIT No. 57**

Hyannis, Nebraska 69335

## Grant County

President – Kayla Wintz

Vice-President – Donna Simpson

The Major A.D. Fetterman American Legion Post #57 was first chartered in late 1919 or early 1920 with about 15 charter members. The Post was named in honor of Major A.D. Fetterman who went to the service from Hyannis in March of 1918, and died in Coblenz, Germany, on February 10, 1919, while serving with the Army of Occupation as a major-inspector. Major Fetterman was one of the best known newspaper men in Nebraska as a member of the World-Herald editorial staff. Around 1914, he quit the newspaper business to become an attorney at Hyannis and to operate a large ranch in Grant County.

The first meeting of the Major A.D. Fetterman American Legion Auxiliary Unit #57, Hyannis Nebraska, was held on April 20, 1931, at the Maccabee Ladies Hall. Our unit charter was countersigned by the President and Secretary of the Department of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May in 1931 with 17 charter members. Meetings were held the first and third Mondays of each month.

Post Commander Harry Haney appointed Elsie Girard as Chairman of the Auxiliary. The first officers for the Auxiliary were President Elsie Girard, Vice-President Bea Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer Jessie Hansen, Historian Lelia Johnson, Chaplain Louise Haney, and Sergeant-At-Arms Frieda Anderson.

In 1963, a fire in the Legion Building destroyed all of the old records but older members say that around 1926 one of the members took off with the funds and the Post folded up for a short time before being re-chartered. After using several other buildings in Hyannis to hold their meetings, the Legion Post leased the Winter's Building from the Village of Hyannis in 1975 and have made it their home ever since. With the assistance from the Auxiliary Unit, another room was added on to the building in the early 1990s, giving the Legion and Auxiliary larger separate meeting areas.

Respectfully submitted by, Kayla R. Wintz  
Unit President

### **MICHIE-MCKEOWN AUXILIARY UNIT No. 124**

Mitchell Nebraska, 69357  
Scottsbluff County

Unit President - Laura Lebruska 2005-2019

Vice President - Doris Weitzel 2018-2019

Unit Secretary - Shirley Smith -2004-2019 (*PP 1971-73*)

The American Legion Post 124 of Mitchell Nebraska was Chartered in 1919 and named for two men by the surnames of McKeown and Mitchie who were killed in action in WWI their information has been lost to the dustbins of history but their names live on with Post 124. Post 124 built their first Post Hall in 1920.

Following World War I in 1922 the Mitchie-McKeown Unit 124 of the American Legion Auxiliary was organized and Chartered with 20 + members. The Unit Charter President from 1922-23 was Izilda Sandford, upon passing away mid-term her Vice-President Eunice Reed was installed President to finish her term. Sixty seven women have followed serving as Unit Presidents since our Charter was issued. Though the Unit Charter members have long passed on, many present members were young girls/women who remember those ladies and their many accomplishments. This year on the American Legion Auxiliary's Centennial 1919-2019 Unit 124 has served the community and veterans for 97 years.

Several Unit members have served as County Presidents; Mary Harvey Berry, (*PP 1928-29 & 1977-78*) and Dorothy Phinney, (*PP 1946-47*) (*PD4P 1956-58*) also served as District Presidents. Currently there are five members with Auxiliary continuous membership ranging from 61 - 70 years of service to veterans. Ida Casson

(relative unknown), Laura Whipple (son, Eugene E. Whipple, U.S.N. MIA 1942 off the Aleutians) and Jennie Herrera (spouse, Fransico, 1966 Vietnam) were Unit Gold Star members.

Two District Four Awards have originated from Unit 124 members: The Dorothy Phinney award was started in 1956 by District Four President Dorothy Phinney and is awarded to the first Unit in the District to reach their Membership Goal for the present year. The Vera Clouse Trophy award was started 1965 by Vera Clouse (PP 1945-46 & 1970-71) for the Unit whose Cornhusker Girl State Attendee received the highest Girls State Government test score in District Four

During World War II the Unit made "ditty" bags filled with razors, soap, paperback books etc. to send to service men overseas. They wrapped bandages for hospitals among other things. In spite of war rationing, Unit members made and sent cookies to the "North Platte Canteen", a project by train to North Platte. The North Platte Canteen project brought people from 125 different communities as far as 200 miles away together, serving coffee, sandwiches, cake and cookies day and night every day to 6 million WWII troops who were transported on military trains across the country from 1941-1946.

In the 1940's a Prisoner of War Camp was located northeast of Scottsbluff, Unit members served refreshment for the Friday and Saturday night dances hosted by the Legion Hall for the Army Camp Guards. Unit members, high school girls and young women of the community would attend these dances as dance partners for the service men

Through the years our Unit has served Community Club dinners, held large Poppy drives, entered floats for many years in the Scottsbluff County Fair Parade, Served concessions for the Legion Bingo, helped with County Government Day since its beginning, sent a Girl's State delegate every year since 1941 and hosted the District Fall Round-up and District Spring Convention many times through the years.

Respectfully submitted by, Joella Johnson,  
(PP 1959-60, 1969-70 & 1981-83)  
Historian

### **WEYERTS AUXILIARY UNIT No. 137**

Gurley, Nebraska 69141  
Cheyenne County

President – Chris Lind  
Vice-President – Marvel Moore  
Unit Secretary – T'Neal Lind  
Unit Treasurer – Adeline Frerichs

On April 17, 1933 twenty-five military Veterans from Gurley and Dalton obtained a Charter to become the Weyerts American Legion Post 137 named for Christoph (Christ) and Anna Weyerts sons; Henry (KIA) and Tonges (Tony) who died in France during WWI.

Tony was born December 19, 1892. He enlisted on June 5<sup>th</sup> 1917 (He stated on his Draft Card he had a lame right knee) at the age of 24. On June 4, 1918 Tony sailed from New York on the Baltic a Troop Transport Ship for France. He served in the Army as a private in the 335<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 89<sup>th</sup> Company K Infantry Division. Tony died in France November 13, 1918 three days after the signing of the Armistice from the widespread onset of the influenza outbreak called the "Spanish Flu".

Henry was born September 24, 1895. He enlisted on June 5, 1917 at the age of 22. Henry sailed from New York on the Karmala for France on September 3, 1918 serving in the Army as a private in the 335<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 84<sup>th</sup> Division Machine Gun Company. Henry was killed in action on October 9, 1918.

Tony and Henry are both interred in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in Romagne France; they rest in Plot F Row 41; Tony in grave #27 and Henry in grave #28. The cemetery is 26 miles



northwest of the city of Verdun. The thousands of Cemetery graves reflect the fighting in the Meuse-Argonne, fought by General Pershing's American Expeditionary Force (AEF) September-November 1918.

January 12, 1934 nine months after the Weyerts Post 137 received the American Legion Post Charter, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 137 received their Charter. Four of the thirteen Charter members were; Mayme Ahlm, Eleanor Bennett, Rose Fortney and Frieda Larson. Unit 137 Gold Star mothers were Anna Weyerts (*Tony & Henry-France WWI*) and Johanna Bolz (*Henry H. Bolz – Purple Heart died November 18, 1944, Philippines in WWII, at rest in the Manilla Philippine American Cemetery & Memorial in –Block D Row 8 Grave 137*).

In 1948 the final touches were put on the \$30,000 cement block structure of the Weyerts American Legion Post Hall built in the 800 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> street in Gurley. The new Post Hall included a bar, kitchen, dining room, a photographic dark room for the Boy Scouts and a fully-equipped projector room. One of our members recalls a target range of sorts constructed behind the doors under the stage.

Marvel Moore, our oldest active member joined Auxiliary Unit 137 in 1948 though not a Charter member, at age 98 remembers when the first Legion Hall wall was erected... it was blown down during a severe windstorm causing the Legionnaires to start over! Much of the labor for this building was volunteered by Legionnaires and the community.

The Weyerts Legion Hall was widely used; many dances were held, even big name bands were known to have provided music for attendees. Big banquets were held here when oil was discovered just south of Gurley. The Hall was a favorite for Wedding receptions as one of our present members, Carol Franzen, tells of her own reception held in the Post Hall. The Auxiliary ladies served many soup suppers and held other fundraisers in the Post Hall as well.

Our Auxiliary members sent many homemade sandwiches and cakes to the famous "North Platte Canteen" during WWII in spite of war rationing to encourage and support our troops on their way to war.

In 1964 Unit 137 member, Wilma Gabriel served American Legion District Four as a two term District President.

Sadly the Weyerts American Legion Post 137 closed their Post Hall in 1975; the building was sold to Harry Handley. The American Legion Weyerts Post 17 Charter was surrendered in 2017 with the remaining Legionnaires transferring to the Dalton, Mintken-Davison Post 301.

Today the Gurley, Weyerts American Legion Auxiliary Unit 137 proudly remains an active Widow Unit with fourteen members continuing to support veterans and Americanism in a variety of ways. We still distribute Poppies on Poppy Day and present a Flag Ceremony to the third graders at the Leyton Elementary school in Gurley every year, handing out small flags with handmade stands to each student. Our Unit has sponsored a Cornhusker Girls State delegate every year and remains a special favorite of Unit members.

Respectfully submitted by: Unit members

**LINCOLN STONE AUXILIARY UNIT No. 200**

Bayard Nebraska, 69334

Morrill County

President - Donna Bratt

Vice-President, Historian - Shirley Huck  
Secretary - Marilyn Wimmer  
Treasurer – Jeannine Tyree

The first Bayard American Legion application for Charter under Earl T. Amsberry Post 200 was dated March 10, 1920, signed by the Department of Nebraska American Legion on January 15, 1920. This original Charter remains in the Post Hall. Per Ancestry.com: Earl Thomas Amsberry (1893-1919) enlisted for WWI on June 5, 1917 in Bayard. The U.S. Transport Service Passenger ship, the Powhatan embarked Bordeaux, France, arrival date of January 7, 1919 lists Earl as passenger #158, service #143521-I U.S. Army 127<sup>th</sup> Battery D, F.A. (Field Artillery) as one of three cooks. Below is Earl's picture.

The first American Legion Auxiliary Earl T. Amsberry Unit 200 Charter was issued on December 26, 1924 and remains in the Bayard Post Hall.

The second and current American Legion Post 200 Charter was renamed Lincoln-Stone on March 19, 1932 for WWI Veterans, Elery Reuben Lincoln (1889-1928) and Fred W. Stone (1895-1920). The Department of Nebraska does not have an application or records of the Legion Post 200 name change. Per Loretta Parker her grandfather, Elery R. Lincoln served as the American Legion Earl T. Amsberry Post 200 Commander at the time the Post name was changed to the current name of Lincoln-Stone Post 200.

Ancestry.com records show namesake Elery R. Lincoln registering for service on June 5, 1917 in Bayard. The application for Elery R. Lincoln's Headstone or Marker from the War Department was made by his father (*Per Granddaughter Loretta Parker*) Robert T. Lincoln on December 2, 1937 and states enlistment date October 5, 1917 discharged January 9, 1919. Elery was listed as Private 1<sup>st</sup> class in the Auxiliary Remount Depot # 323, Quartermaster Corps. The application for namesake Fred W. Stone's Headstone or Marker from the War Department was made by the American Legion #200. The headstone application states he enlisted June 27, 1918, discharged on August 24, 1919 as WW I Private in the 88<sup>th</sup> Division, Company B 351<sup>st</sup> Infantry.

Following on February 21, 1935 the American Legion Auxiliary Earl T. Amsberry Unit 200 received its new Lincoln-Stone Unit Charter. Department of Nebraska American Legion Auxiliary officers signing the new Unit Charter were President Madge Lonie, Secretary Ethel Hunt and Treasurer Cecilia Wilson.

September 5, 2018 the founding Charter member, Ruby (Lincoln) Hill passed away at 100 years of age whose father was one of the Legion Post 200 namesakes. While Rubi's husband served in the WWII European Theater, she told of picking potatoes alongside the German POWs housed in Bayard, she was active in her community, serving as a Cub Scout Leader and tirelessly serving Auxiliary Unit 200.

Bayard housed POW's during World War I and then WWII POW was housed in the Bayard Sugar Factory dormitory (which is now closed but was known as "The House of Transfiguration" these POW's worked in the fields helping area farmers with farming. The Base POW Camp located in Scottsbluff sent approximately 182 POW's to the satellite POW site established in Bayard, these POW's were allowed to work on local farms in and around Bayard.

Unit Presidents from date of Charter were: Madge Lonie (1935), Myrtle Neeley (1936), Alice Puliver (1937), Fern Prince (1936), Blance O'Keefe (1939), Alma Randall (1940), Nell Samels (1941), Eva O'Hay (1942), Thelma Raymond (1942), Doris Rath (1943), Fern Doherty (1946), Lana Mae Calvert (1947), Aileen Dutton (1948), **Ethel Hunt (1948)**, Lydia Schultz (1950), Florence Elerbeck (1950), Frances Williams (1951), Beulah Sith (1952), Ulna Heyl (1953), Yvone Johnston (1954), Marie Levick (1955), Mary Hradecky-Ensser (1956), Barbara Durnal (1957), Dorothy Guard (1958), Edna Amen (1959), Madelyn Elder (1960), Berenece Hughes (1961), Mary Johnson (1962-64), Thelma Raymond (1965), Margaret Baird (1966), Barbara Bangert (1967), Ruth Heil (1968), Beth Baird (1969), Ester Betz (1970), Alvina Schultz (1971), Betty Satchell (1972), Mary Belle Beck (1973), Jacklyn Blair (1974), Florence Henson (1975), Vivian Flores (1976), Dolores Kissinger (1977), Pam Holtus (1978), Evelyn Fetherston (1979), Evelyn Fetherston (1980), Ester Schanhols (1981), Janice Piester (1982), Beverley McDaniel (1983-84), Karen Fries (1985-86), Evelyn Fetherston \*(1987-90), Delores Vogel (1991-92), Beverley

McDaniel (1993), Florence Henson (1994-95), Betty Satchell (1996-97), Members serve monthly (2008), Ruth Heil (2008-2012), Donna Bratt (2012 to date 2019)

The Ethel Hunt Traveling Gavel Trophy, now an Award Certificate originated from the Bayard Unit 200. Each year the award is given at the District Four Spring Convention to the Unit with the highest percent of increased membership from the previous year. This Award was established by Ethel Hunt, 1948 Unit 200 President and 1958 District Four President. Though the Trophy through the years has been misplaced this award in Certificate form remains a goal for all District Units to attain.

Research sources: Unit 200, Department of Nebraska, Elery Lincoln's granddaughter and Ancestry.com

Respectfully submitted by, Lincoln-Stone Unit 200 Members

### **SHAW-JEPPSON UNIT No. 210**

Oshkosh, Nebraska 69154  
Garden County

President/Secretary – Mary Delatour  
Vice-President – Germaine Menghini

Application for The American Legion Shaw-Jeppson Post 210 Charter was made on February 7, 1920, with fifteen charter members listed on the application. The Shaw-Jeppson Post 210 Charter was granted on February 25, 1920. The first Post Commander was I. P. Armstrong and first Post Adjutant was Walter E. Stroud. The Shaw-Jeppson Post 210 listed twenty-five paid members for 1920. The Shaw-Jeppson Post 210 namesakes were Stephan R. Shaw and Hilmer Edward Jeppson.

Stephan R. Shaw served in the U.S. Army as Private 1<sup>st</sup> class U.S. Army 59<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Pvt. Shaw boarded the Troop Transport ship, Demosthenes leaving New York with Company 6 Camp Cody June automatic replacement draft infantry on June 29, 1918. Stephan is listed on the WWI Honor Roll as killed in action at the Viesle River in France on August 7, 1918, thirty-nine days after sailing from New York at the age of 34. Stephan Shaw is buried in the OiseAisne American Cemetery and Memorial at Fere-en Tardenois, Department de l'Aisne, Picardie, France.

Hilmer E. Jeppson served as a Private in Company C 128th Infantry. Pvt. Jeppson boarded the Army Troop Transport ship the Espagne on April 3, 1918 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company from Camp Funston April Replacement draft embarking Hoboken New Jersey. Approximately four months after sailing from Hoboken New Jersey, Pvt. Hilmer Jeppson was listed as killed in action on August 1, 1918 at age 28 at the Battle of Château-Thierry located in Aisne, France, he is listed on the Army Military Honor Roll.

The American Legion Auxiliary Shaw-Jeppson Unit 210 obtained its Charter on December 1, 1924. Membership dues were \$1.50. The twenty-six Charter members were: Ester, Gertrude and Mattie Aufdengarten, Minnie Greenlee, Evelyn Meier, Eva and Myrtle Mong, Viola Naslund, Elinor Olson, Alma Overman, Thelma Plummer, Inez Ridenour, Marguerite Riepl, Hattie Sarvis, Marguerite Schlater, Helena Shaw, Ida, Mabel and May Snell, Anna, Pearle and Rhoda Sudman, Grace Swanson, Mary B. and Mary M. Thompson. Information acquired from Department records.

Gold Star Charter members were: Helena Shaw, Mother and Inez Ridenour, Sister of Stephan R. Shaw, namesake of the Shaw-Jeppson Post 210, Mary Jacobson, Sister of Hilmer Edward Jeppson, namesake of the Shaw-Jeppson Post 210.

Charter and Charter member Information for The American Legion Post and Unit 210 was obtained from The Department of Nebraska Legion and Auxiliary. Information for the Post Namesakes was found on Ancestry.com.

Respectfully submitted by, Melody Sanna  
District Four President

### **POTTER AUXILIARY UNIT No. 291**

Potter Nebraska 69156  
Cheyenne County

President/Secretary - Doris Steele  
Vice-President - Geraldine Johnson  
Treasurer - Jeanne Steele

The Potter American Legion Post was chartered on February 1, 1922. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit to Potter Post No. 291 was organized in Potter, Nebraska on January 26, 1927 and chartered on March 23, 1927 with twenty (20) members.

The first officers were: Mrs. N. S. Miller, President; Mrs. R. V. Francis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Mrs. Ralph Mersheim, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Mrs. Elmer Seyfang, Secretary; Mrs. Ralph Robertson, Treasurer; Mrs. J. F. Callaway, Sgt-at-arms; Mrs. Fed Johnson, Chaplain; Mrs. Clarence Johnson, Organist; Mrs. R. L. MacAdam, Historian.

Gold Star mothers were: Nell Tebrinke; Gyretha Johnson and Melanie Schwartz. Other Gold Star members were Margaret Anderson and Betty Slama.

Respectfully submitted by, Doris Steele  
President

### **MINTKEN-DAVISON AUXILIARY UNIT No. 301**

Dalton, Nebraska 69131  
Cheyenne County

President – Marva Holt  
Vice-President – Carol Brown  
Secretary – Dot Hall

On April 17, 1933 twenty-five WWI military Veterans from Gurley and Dalton obtained a Charter to become the Weyerts American Legion Post 137 named for Henry Weyerts (KIA) and Tonges (*Tony*) Weyerts who died in France during WWI (*See Gurley*). Following WWII those veterans returning home to Dalton and the WWI veterans belonging to the Gurley Weyerts Legion Post 137 determined there were sufficient veterans in the Dalton area to support a Dalton American Legion Charter. The Dalton veterans held an organizational meeting to apply for Charter from the Department of Nebraska American Legion. The Dalton, Mintken-Davison American Legion Post 301 obtained its Charter in 1947.

The American Legion Mintken-Davison Post and Auxiliary Unit 301 was named in recognition of local servicemen; Namesake, Warren H. Mintken listed as Missing In Action (MIA) a Motor Machinists Mate, Second Class in the Naval Reserves serving aboard the U.S.S. Barbell Submarine when it was sunk in the China Sea and never found nor recovered. Namesake, Alfred Davison was Killed In Action (KIA), while serving as a Pharmacist Mate in the United States Navy attached to the Marine Medical Corp.

WWII Medals awarded to Dalton servicemen recorded in the Auxiliary Unit's early history book were: eight Bronze Stars, and six Purple Hearts.

One WWII Dalton enlisted serviceman was listed as a POW from Dalton. Dean Leo Beavers (12/27/1919 - 2/15/2003) of Dalton enlisted on October 8, 1937 serving in the United States Navy as a Torpedo Mate, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, Service #3720373, serving in the WWII Southwest Pacific Theatre: Philippine Islands. He was mustered from the USS Pickerel Submarine to the USS Canopus (AS-9) Submarine Squadron 20 on December 31, 1941.

On the Bataan Peninsula the Canopus was bombed and disabled, when ordered to surrender the Bataan Peninsula on April 8<sup>th</sup> the crew took the Canopus out to sea between Corregidor Island and the Bataan Peninsula on April 10, 1942, opened all the valves and sank her to prevent capture by the enemy. Upon surrender of the Peninsula the Canopus crew was captured by the Japanese.

On May 6, 1942 Dean was reported as POW by the Navy. Japan was listed as the detaining country where he was held at the Osaka Main Camp, Chikko Osaka 34-135. At the end of WWII, September 2, 1945 Dean was returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated on October 15, 1945 with parents listed as Ralph E. and Jessie Beavers, Dalton Nebraska. When honorably discharged on March 7, 1946 and returning to Dalton, Dean Leo Beavers became a Charter member of The American Legion Mintken-Davison Post 301 with his brother Emit Robert who also served in the Navy, enlisting November 8, 1945. Ever the patriot, Dean re-enlisted in the Navy on June 12, 1952 serving in the Korean Conflict (*1950-1953 Armistice*), again honorably discharged August 19, 1957.

The first Auxiliary organizational meeting was held on November 20, 1947 with Mabel Mintken elected as President. The American Legion Auxiliary Mintken-Davison Unit 301 of Dalton, Nebraska received their Charter on February 23, 1948 from the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska with 38 Charter Members. Three Gold Star Mothers included in the Charter membership were President Mrs. Mabel Mintken, Mrs. Flora Davison (*whose sons were the Legion Post and Unit namesakes*) and Mrs. Lillie Fraass.

Outstanding accomplishments of Unit 301 were: numerous fundraising events which allowed them to present the Legion Post with an outdoor Legion Post sign, purchase tables, chairs, kitchen appliances and other items through the years to furnish the Post Hall, made and sold rag rugs as a fundraiser, served meals at Legion Post Turkey shoots, entered floats for the Dalton Fall Festival parades, sponsored the Fall Festival Queen contest and Pageant, continues to sponsor Cornhusker Girls State delegates, Poppy Day Poster Contests, distributed Hospital and Veterans Home Tray favors, Gift Shop donations, Soup suppers, participated in County Government Day, gave gifts to Gold Star Mothers for Mother's Day, sponsored Veterans and Memorial Day events, sponsored Blood Drives for many years, and many more projects too numerous to mention here. Members have served faithfully the community of Dalton, its veterans and the organization for seventy two years.

Two important highlights of Unit 301 history was hosting the 1956 and the 1966 District Four Conventions. In the 1956 District Convention minutes it was stated "Unit 301 was proud to have Mrs. Esther Henke installed as Cheyenne County President." And, "All left Dalton with a feeling they had attended the best Convention yet and the Hospitality of the Dalton people unexcelled anywhere."

Mintken-Davison Unit 301 Auxiliary member Melody Lewis Sanna is the first Mintken-Davison Unit member to serve as District Four President (2017-2019). In 2018 Post 301 Legionnaires and Sons of The American Legion with Potter Color Guard led the Annual October Fest parade in Sidney, Nebraska, with a pickup float representing District Four carrying District Four Commander, John Sanna and President Melody Sanna.

The Unit is proud to have kept its legacy of history retaining four American Legion Auxiliary Blue binders of history from 1947 through 2018 with only a few gaps in its recorded history

Respectively Submitted by, Shirley Melton  
Unit 301 Historian

### **ED CAIN AUXILIARY UNIT No. 309**

Lisco, Nebraska 69148  
Garden County

President – Diana Feters  
Secretary – Nancy Dunn

The Lisco American Legion Auxiliary was formed on Friday November 22, 1946 at an 8:00 p.m. meeting of interested women. There were 23 Charter Members of which the first officers were:

President – Leola Stevenson

Vice President – Gertrude McGinley

Secretary – Dorothy Mathis

Treasure – Carrye Ray

Sargent of Arms – Elsie Haney

Chaplain – Stella Stevenson

Historian – Juna Daly

Musician – Marie Bellin

Ed Cain Post 309 was named for Edward Anthony Cain. He was born May 21, 1888 at Silver City, Iowa and moved to Lisco in 1909.

He volunteered and left for training September 18, 1917 as member of Company H S.A.T.C., Manhattan, Kansas.

He contacted influenza and died October 21, 1918 at Manhattan, Kansas. The first Commander of Ed Cain post 309 was Ed Mitchell. The community refurbished the Lisco Mitchell Motor and Implement Co. building donated by Ed Mitchell into a community hall, which became the Lisco American Legion Hall.

Respectfully submitted by, Lucille Cooper,  
Past President

### **JESSE SNIDER AUXILIARY UNIT No. 312**

Broadwater, Nebraska 69125

Garden County

President – Marlene Yeager

Vice-President – Kari Nolte

Secretary/Treasurer – Luilla Thompson

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919. That same year the Women Auxiliary of The American Legion Auxiliary received their charter. The American Legion, Jesse Snider Post 312 of Broadwater Nebraska was chartered October 3, 1921.

The Post namesake, Jesse Max Snider's Draft Registration Card discloses he registered at age 23 in Mayville, Chautauqua County New York. His Draft Card reveals the following information; born October 27, 1894 Jesse listed his home as Broadwater, Nebraska and was employed as a Shoreman in New York. From the WWI U.S. Army Troop Transport Service passenger records, Jesse embarked New York April 25, 1918 on the Adriatic for France as a Private of Company K, 137<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. On the WWI Casualty List Jesse is listed as killed in action on September 28, 1918, a month shy of age 24 and five months after arriving in France. Jesse is interred in the American Cemetery, Meuse Argonne, Romagne France, plot 4 – row 37 – in grave # 19.

The Broadwater American Legion Auxiliary Unit 312 was chartered February 28, 1946 with 13 charter members.

They soon had several dozen members and were very active with serving funeral dinners, helping the Legion men with the Memorial Day service at Rose Hill Cemetery, and serving lunch after the service, having fund raising dinners and donating to the Veteran's Home in Scottsbluff. They most always had a young lady going to Girl's State.

In 1974 they were able to purchase the former feed store behind the Legion building and put in a kitchen, bathrooms and remodel it into a meeting hall and dining area. By the 1990's the Legion building was sold, (as few members left alive) and was very few auxiliary members so after a vote it was decided to sell the building as the upkeep was too expensive.

In 2010 the Cemetery board erected a nice white fence at Rosehill Cemetery and the Legion Auxiliary voted to donate part of the money from the sale of their building to install at a cost of \$ 3,365 a beautiful wrought iron metal sign with the name of the cemetery and roses above the gate. Our auxiliary didn't meet for a few years, as so few members were left, but in April 2018 we re-organized and currently are working to be sure all veterans have bronze flag holders, by their headstones as we put out flags for Memorial Day and work with the Cemetery Board for the annual Broadwater Memorial Day Program, lunch is served at the church for a large crowd after the program.

Submitted by, Luilla Thompson  
Secretary/Treasurer

(Thank you Page)

Thank you to each Unit for their history submission and for allowing me to assist with historical research on their Post Namesakes. I also would like to thank the Department of Nebraska American Legion and Auxiliary staff for honoring the many requests for Post and Unit information. And, I would be remiss if I did not thank all of the individual Auxiliary members who have encouraged and provided tidbits of history for me to chase down. This Booklet has been an extraordinary journey into the District Four American Legion and Auxiliary history, incomplete as it is... without each and every one of you this booklet would not exist.

*Melody Sanna  
District Four President*

(Last Page)

*You are only one, but you are one. You cannot do everything, but you can do something.*

*And you will not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.*

*<Edward Everett Hale> (A revised version)*

(Back Cover)

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
Oh, say does that Star - Spangled Banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:  
'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more!  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."  
And the Star - Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!