Chapter 03956 11/11/1918

WORLD WAR 1

ALFRED WHITEHEAD PROVOST

Caldwell NJ

Charlotte Pearce branch #4 generation #6.

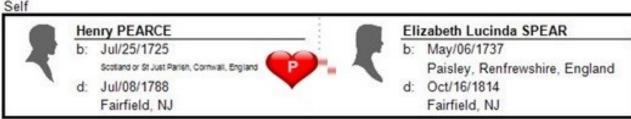
Alfred is the 3rd great grandson of Henry Pearce #1



8/24/2024

Relationship: Henry PEARCE to Alfred Whitehead PROVOST

Alfred Whitehead PROVOST is the 3rd great grandson of Henry PEARCE

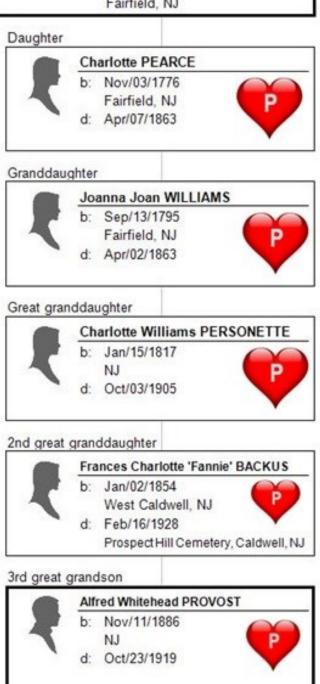


The heart means the person has Pearce blood.

For example, Charlotte had daughter Joanna who had a daughter Charlotte, etc

All the heart people descend from Henry Pearce #1

Alfred's mother Fannie married Tom Provost #1



Another view, with spouses. Hearts signify Pearce blood.

Relationship: Henry PEARCE to Alfred Whitehead PROVOST

Alfred Whitehead PROVOST is the 3rd great grandson of Henry PEARCE

6 generations



Henry PEARCE

b: Jul 1725 Scotland

d: 08 Jul 1788

Hillside Cem, Fairfield, NJ



Elizabeth SPEAR

b: Abt. 1737

Possibly England or Belleville, NJ

d: 16 Oct 1814

Hillside Cem, Fairfield, NJ



Charlotte PEARCE

b: 03 Nov 1776 Fairfield, NJ

d: 07 Apr 1863

Caldwell First Presbyterian Churc



Jeniah WILLIAMS

b: 12 May 1770 Essex County, NJ

d: 26 Sep 1831



Joanna Joan WILLIAMS

b: 13 Sep 1795

NJ

d: 02 Apr 1863

Caldwell First Presbyterian Churc



Abraham Doremus PERSONETTE

o: 31 Jan 1790 Caldwell, NJ

d: 05 May 1881

Caldwell First Presbyterian Churc



Charlotte Williams PERSONETTE

b: 15 Jan 1817

NJ

d: 03 Oct 1905

Prospect Hill Cemetery, Caldwell,



Calvin G. BACKUS

b: 12 Feb 1812

NJ

d: 08 Aug 1864

Caldwell, NJ



Frances C. "Fannie" BACKUS

b: 02 Jan 1854 West Caldwell, NJ

d: 16 Feb 1928

Prospect Hill Cemetery, Caldwell,



Thomas Clinton PROVOST

b: 05 Mar 1849

Caldwell, NJ

d: 1928

Prospect Hill Cemetery, Caldwell,



Alfred Whitehead PROVOST

b: 11 Nov 1886

NJ

d: 23 Oct 1919



Married but do not know her name.

Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell NJ in <u>1885</u>, a year before Alfred Whitehead Provost was born. Notice the telegraph poles. Caldwell Pharmacy is on right. No cars yet. Just wagon tracks.





1898, Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell NJ by the Caldwell Pharmacy, shown below (Peck and Hasler later on). Alfred Provost was age 12 at this time. (Richard Gibbs photo collection in 2024)



Dr. Peck installed the first phone in the Caldwell area at his drugstore at 295 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell, NJ.



In <u>1898</u>, the NY and NJ Telephone Company opened its first switch-board central office in Hasler's Drugstore, with 12 subscribers. Miss **Dora Pierce**, age 18, was the first operator. By 1905 there were 81 phones in service. They increased to 538 by 1912.

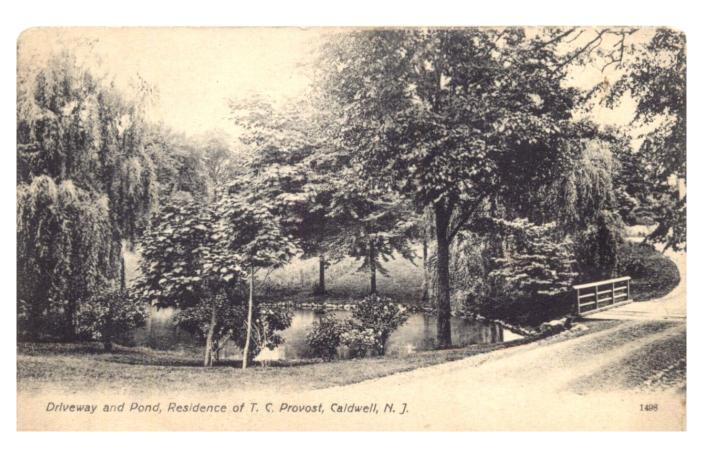
The Caldwell Progress newspaper of 4/19/1902 states that "Miss Dora Pierce is now in charge of the central telephone station at Hasler's Pharmacy."

Dora's father **Munson Pierce**'s fish store was down the street. They lived in Roseland NJ with Dora's mom **Jenny Spear Pierce**.

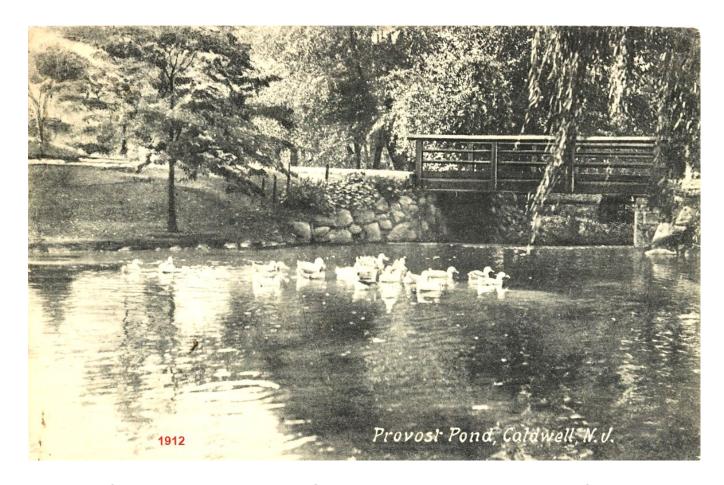
The Peck/Hasler's drug store was a hub for people to aggregate and chat. Civil War vet **Nicholas Williams**, also in the Pierce tree, would take a wagon from Fairfield (he owned the future Dave Millison house) and sit at Hassler's soda fountain and chat with people. Nick's weak legs and blurry eyes gave him problems but he somehow made the trek from Horseneck Road, Fairfield to Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell.



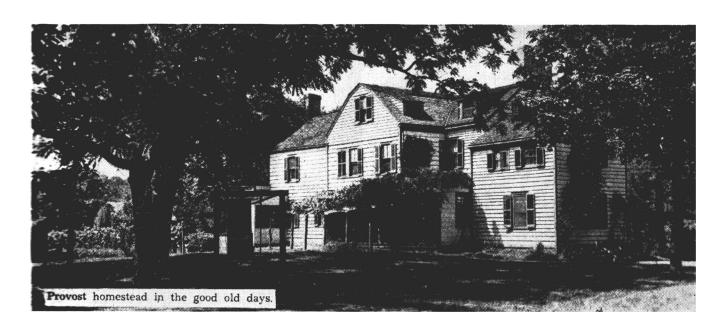
1905 Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell NJ.



1911 driveway of long time Thomas Clinton Provost #1 home

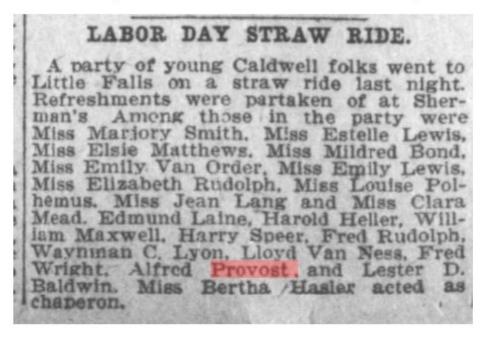


1912 Alfred Provost's dad T. C. Provost had many acres of land. The 2024 Provost Square (Police station, library, townhall) and ball field are on that land.



1907

The Evening star and Newark Advertiser. 9/3/1907, P7



Alfred Provost, age 20, had fun with his Caldwell friends, many who are actually in our Pearce family tree. I also see his long time friends **William Maxwell and Fred Wright** who would join the Army with Alfred 10 years from this Little Falls NJ hayride.

A few days later, Alfred and his older brother Clint, age 27, travelled to Canada for a week.

The Evening star and Newark advertiser. 9/7/1907, Page 10

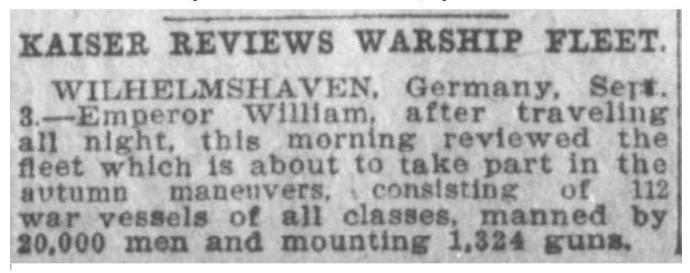
T. Clinton Provost and Alfred Provost, of Bloomfield avenue, Caldwell, left last night for the Thousand Islands for a two weeks' vacation.

The Evening star and Newark Advertiser. 9/17/1907, Page 10

T. Clinton Provost and Alfred Provost, of Bloomfield avenue, Caldwell, have returned from Canada.

On the same page as the 1907 Little Falls NJ hayride is news about German warship maneuvers. In 10 years before World War One would erupt. Some of the hayride kids would be needed to fight.

The Evening star and Newark advertiser. 9/3/1907, Page 7

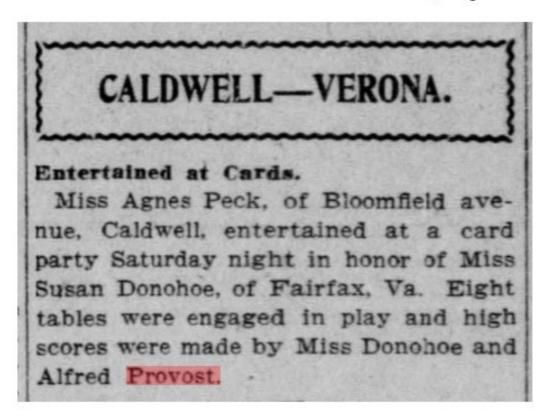


Kaiser William Albert the Second was the last German emperor would abdicate in 1918 after Germany lost WW1. The Hitler gangsters gradually took over the German government.

On this 9/3/1907 day, our **Albin Wesley Pierce**, 6th generation Pearce, celebrated his **2nd birthday** with parents Charles Small Pierce and Louise James Pierce. 36 years from now, Albin would send 2 of his children (Albert and Ellis) to fight in World War Two.

Eight tables of friends playing cards on a 1909 Saturday night. Probably 32 or so people. Alfred is age 23.

Newark Star and Newark Advertiser. 6/14/1909, Page 9



Miss **Agnes Maud PECK**, the 1909 host, was age 25. The daughter of **Dr. Edward Everett PECK** and Nellie L'Hommedieu WILLIAMS, who died 15 years earlier. Dr Peck was a highly respected Caldwell NJ area citizen.

Alfred W. Provost age 24, William Thomas Maxwell (1888-1931), Frederick W. Wright and Alford J. Speer were long time buddies. Seven years from now, the four fellows would join the Army together in the 23rd Engineers. They would fight in WW1 France.

Newark Star-Eagle news, 1/28/1911, Sat, Page 5

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drum, John Van Order tambourine, William Babcock interlocutor; duet, Kenneth Miller, Miss Catherine Miller.



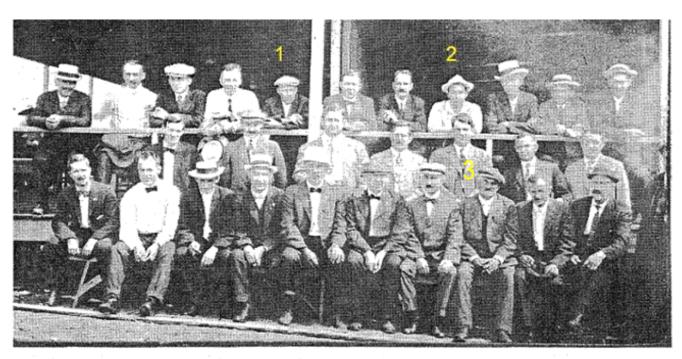
"The Still Alarm is a melodramatic play by Joesph Arthur that debuted in New York in 1887, enjoyed great success, and was adapted to silent films in 1911, 1918, and 1926.

It achieved widespread popularity. It is best known for its climactic scene where fire wagons are pulled by horses to a blazing fire." (Wikipedia)

"The Still Alarm is set in a hotel room. The irony, and the humor, is that the characters don't panic. In fact, they act like perfect gentlemen. A bellhop keeps bringing news about the progress of the fire, but the other characters treat it as if it is no big deal. When the fire fighters arrive, one of them sees a violin in the room and starts to play it. So while the building is burning down around them, he plays "Keep the Home Fires Burning." (Wikipedia)

#1 in photo — **Jonathan Sylvester 'Sylvester' Provost** 1875—1960 was an older brother, by 11 years, to Alfred Whitehead Provost.

In 1912, Sylvester is age 37 and #2 Alfred age 26. You will see in military documents that Alfred uses J. S. Provost as the next of kin.. #3 in photo is **William Maxwell** who will join the 1917 Army with Alfred.



SEASHORE OUTING - Men's Club of Caldwell had an outing back in 1912 to the Jersey Shore and had this picture taken of that historic event. Most of the members have been identified. All were prominent in business or political life in the West Essex area over 50 years ago. They are: first row, left to right, Walter G. Brandley, R. Stewart Wendell, Thomas J. Moran, William Shears, Albert Marr, Howard Wright, Joseph Beach, Louis Courter and Fred Baldwin.

Second row: Harry J. Babcock, Charles VanDuyne, Dr. Joseph C. Conover, unidentified, William Maxwell, unidentified, Charles Pfitzenmayer and Fred Paddock.

Third row: John W. DeBaun, William Wrensch, Frederick H. Rudolph, Frederick R. Cook, Jonathan S. Provost, Arthur Allen, Melvin H. Courter, Alfred Provost, William Teed, Archie Wettach and Dr. J. Roland Teed.

Picture is 18th in a series of old West Essex pictures and was given the Progress by the late Mrs. Henry J. Babcock, mother of Mrs. Robert (Ruth) Maddison.

<u>1913</u>, Bloomfield Ave, Caldwell NJ. The town is growing up. Notice the trolley tracks. (Richard Gibbs photo collection)



4/2/1917, Democrat President Woodrow Wilson asks the Senate and House to declare war on Germany.

On 4/4/1917, the U.S. Senate voted 82 to 6 to declare war against Germany.

On 4/6/1917, the U.S. House endorsed the declaration by a vote of 373 to 50.



In 1917, Fairfield NJ, Our 4th generation Albert Wesley Pierce is age 58 living at 90 Pier Lane with his wife Minnie Mulvaney Pierce age 55. A year later, Minnie would die from the Spanish Flu.

Their son Charles Small Pierce is age 34 and wife Louise age 32. Their son Albin was age 11.

<u>9/12/1918</u> Draft Board at Montclair NJ: This is crazy. Charles was born 1883. Not 1884. He was age 34, not 33. Notice how he made a mistake on the 33. I think age 35 was the draft age limit.

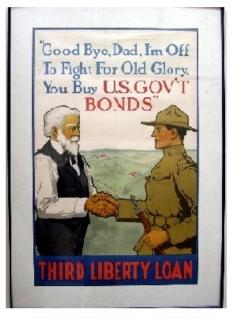
In 1918, Charles and Louise Pierce lived in Upper Montclair, NJ.

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Page 2. 9/12/1918

REGISTRAR'S REPORT DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT HEIGHT BUILD COLOR COLOR OF LYES CF HAIR Tall Medium Short Slender Medium Stou: 29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? (Specify.) 30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows: (Signature of Registrar) Date of Registration (STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD (The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which c3-6171 (OVER) the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in ans box.)

(Glen Pierce went to the same draft board Montclair place in June 1970. They eventually made me 4F.)



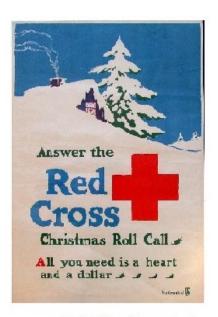
WORLD WAR I - Posters



Artist: Sidney Reisenberg



Artist: Alfred Everett Orr



Artist: Ray Greenleaf



Artist: Walter Whitehead



Artist: James M. Flagg

Alfred's 1917 draft card page 1. He states that he is single. He should not be confused with the Trenton and Hoboken NJ fellows of the same name..

1	Name in full freed Mutchard Provost 30
	Home 264 Bloomfeld are Caldwell (State)
3	Date of birth 200 (Month) (Day) (Year)
4	Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Italiural Born
	Where were Laldwell My you bern! Laldwell (State) (Nation)
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?
7	What is your present frade, or office? Garage Clark 25
0	By whom employed? Caldwell Garage Inc. Where employed? Caldwell My John
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?
0	Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which Eccusion
1	What military service have you had? Rank; branch;
2	Do you claim exemption from draf. (specity grounds)?
\	I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.
The OHIL	Reprosentatives form

Alfred's 1917 draft card page 2. Eyes blue, hair brown, medium height and body.

5	REGISTE	RAR'S PIPORT	20 2 8 A'
Tall, medium, or short (specify which	h)? Med	_ Slender, medium, or sto	ut (which)? Wed
2 Color of eyes?	Blue colo	rof hair? Broso	Bald?
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Alfred W. Provost

Two Caldwellites who enlisted together last December have reported their safe arrival "over there." They are Alfred W. Povost, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Provost, of Bloomfield avenue, and William T. Maxwell, son of Mrs. Alice Maxwell, of Academy road. With two other close friends, Fred W. Wright, of Caldwell, and Alford J. Speer, of Essex Fells, they joined the Twenty-third Engineers. Their leave-taking from this country was sudden, but assurances have come to their families of their safe arrival.

The work of the engineers is highly important in the prosecution of the war. American engineers have gone into French forests and done the work of the pioneers of our own Northwest. They have frequently been un-

Mustered in 9/21/1917

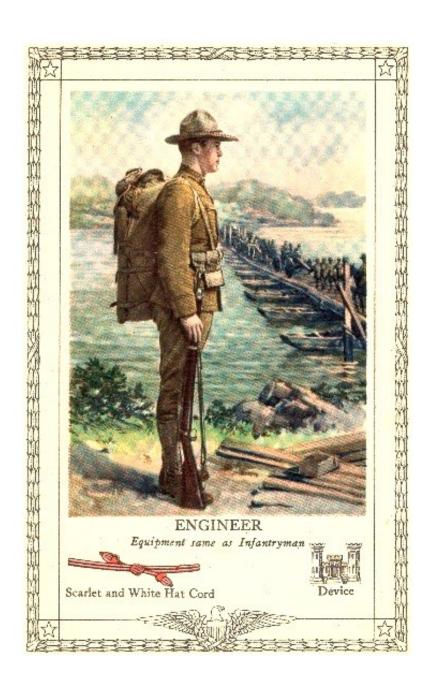
The 23rd Engineers were known as the Road Builders of the AEF.

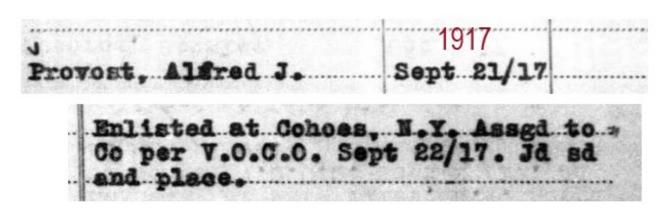


American Expeditionary Force (AEF) Patch



23rd Engineers - WWI Banner/Pillow Cover





3/30/1918 sailing on the SS George Washington troop transport ship.

It's time to go to war. Private Provost would eventually become a Sergeant.

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"When SS *George Washington* was launched in 1908, she was the largest German-built steamship and the **third-largest ship** in the world. The ship could carry a total of 2,900 passengers.

On 4/14/1912, *George Washington* passed a particularly large iceberg south of the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and radioed a warning to all ships in the area, including Titanic, which sank near the same location. " (Wikipedia)



1912 best friends.

2=Alfred Provost 3=William Maxwell

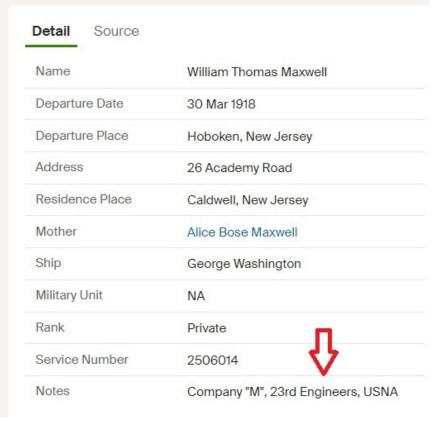
William Thomas Maxwell

in the U.S., Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910-1939

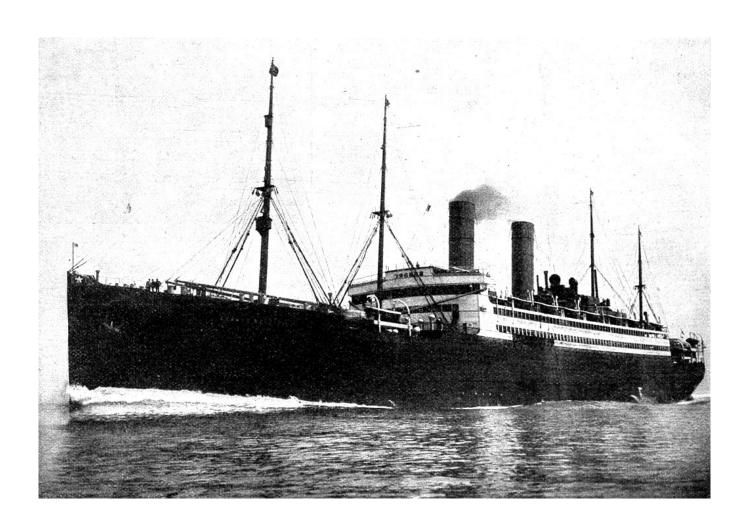


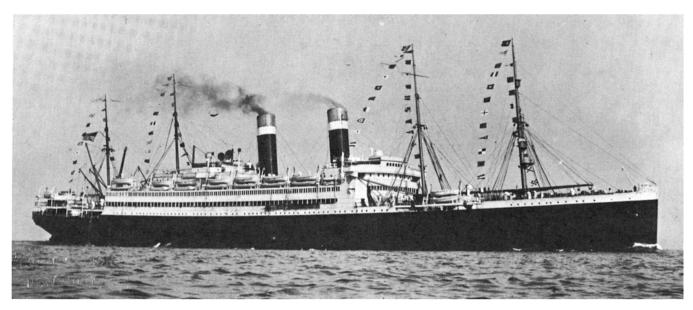
Add or update information

O Poport a problem



1918 SS GEORGE WASHINGTON troop ship. 699 feet length, 78 feet beam wide. 19 knots.







Montclair Times newspaper. 11/16/1918, Sat Page 13

FRANCE

Yellow Jackets Bother Soldiers. That American soldiers in France are sometimes stung by other things that German bullets is shown in a letter received in Caldwell from Alfred Provost, son of Borough Solicitor Thomas C. Provost, who is serving with an engineer regiment on the battle front. The stings to which the young soldier refers were administered by yellow jackets, which, he says, are plentiful in the section where he is serving. Telling of the turnout at morning roll-call following a well-earned night's repose, he says:

continued

"Everything goes well unless a half frozen yellow jacket has crawled into your hat. If so, you do just what I did, get stung on your bald spot. What makes you really sore,

however, is to hear the bunch laugh. Bees are surely a pest; they simply

swarm everywhere.

"Yellow jackets! They get into your coffee and into your bed; they are the joke. All of us have been stung. One boy got a mouthful when he ate some jam in the dark. One lad put his sock on and found one way down near the toe."

Private Provost has been in Europe nearly a year, and in none of his letters home has a word ever been censored. So far as he tells no one would know that a war was going on, for he never mentions war matters, army or regimental movements. His missives are devoted to a few kindly

words about the others in the company from Caldwell, some joke or incident about camp life which might

have occurred in the Canadian widls as easily as in France, and descriptions of the country near where he is stationed. An ardent nature lover, he prefers writing of the fish in Picardy streams, of the nightingale and the flowers which bloom in Picardy to writing of war and carnage.

WWI ended 11/11/1918 11 pm on Sgt Alfred Provost's 32nd birthday.

When the war finally ended, on 11/11/1918, more than **2 million American soldiers** had served. There were **116,000** US dead and 204,000 wounded. Germany lost 2 million souls.

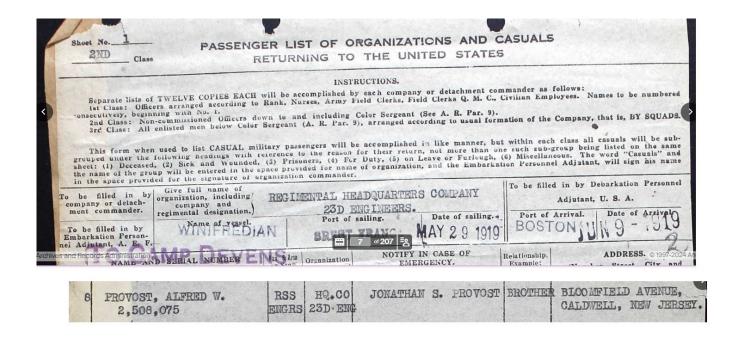
There was a severe **Spanish Influenza** epidemic in 1918-1919 where **600,000** American's died. Another 1.4 million worldwide.

Death carts roamed NYC and Phila. In NYC, 851 died in a single day; Phila had 11,000 in one day.

Bodies were stacked in gutters. People were afraid to talk to each other.

5/29/1919 WAR IS OVER, GOING HOME.

Leaving Brest France, heading for Boston MA.



Alfred Provost returned to Boston MA in October 1919, and received a flu shot serum shot just like every soldier returning from Europe.

Alfred Provost returned Phila or Baltimore in October 1919, and received a flu shot serum shot just like every soldier returning from Europe. Ft. Riley, Kansas.



Battleship Louisiana bringing soldiers home from France, Hoboken, N.J.

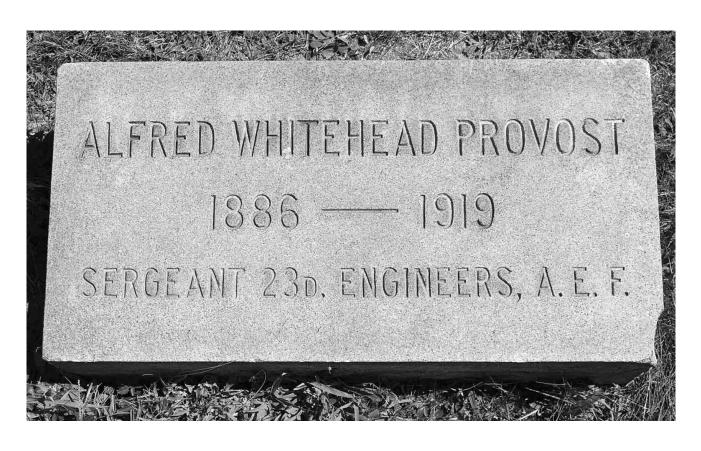
Alfred died 10/23/1919 from the serum a couple of days later.

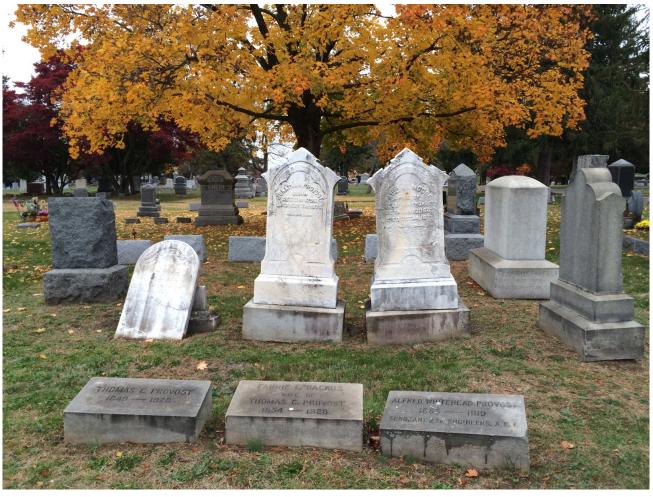
His 10/25/1919 caldwell progress obit says he died at home in Caldwell NJ.

Alfred Provost was an uncle to **Thomas Clinton Provost #3**, age 7, of future WW2 Navy aviation fame.

Alfred Provost was an uncle to Thomas Provost of WW2 Navy aviation fame.

Also a distant relative to 6 year old Jim Backus in 1919. jim backus left Caldwell around age 4 for ohio.







The Purple Heart