



# ALL SAINTS

AN EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY IN RICHMOND

*Equipping the Saints*

Monday, May 29, 2023

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Each Memorial Day we remember the men and women who gave their lives serving in the armed forces of the United States. This year I would like us to focus on the plaque in the nave of our church which lists 73 members of All Saints Church who served during the Great War (World War One.) Almost 4 million American soldiers, sailors and marines served during World War 1. 116,000 of these died during the conflict. This includes 53,000 killed in action as well as other non-combat related deaths. Of the 73 All Saints members who served, 4 did not survive the war.

I hope to bring these four servicemen off the bronze plaque and encourage us remember them as living members of our parish and community.

-Richard Haas

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**J. Mitchell Conrad** was born 6 May 1891. He lived with his parents Parker and Margaret in the Clay Ward section of Richmond. This part of the city is north of Broad Street and east of Hermitage Road. His mother Margaret is recorded in the church register as being among the worshipers at the first All Saints Christmas service 1888. The register also shows Mitchell was baptized by the rector on 16 January, 1892, at the family's home. At the time of his enlistment, Mitchell was working as a clerk at a hay and feed store in the city.



Mitchell was assigned to the 306<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion as a private and embarked from Boston for France aboard the ship Karoa, 13 April 1918.

Pvt. Conrad was killed in action 26 October 1918, at the age of 18 during the battle of the Meuse-Argonne. This was the largest battle in WW 1 involving the United States Expeditionary Force. Mitchell's death was less than one month before the Armistice, November 11, 1918. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Loraine, France.

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**Foster Saunders Powell** was born in Richmond to parents Joseph Foster and Edna Virginia, 25 January 1896. He enlisted in the United States Navy, 10 May 1918 and served as Yeoman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. Foster was stationed at the naval base in Norfolk. He was home on leave when he contracted influenza during the pandemic of 1918. He died at his parent's home 2002 Grove Avenue, 21 October 1918, at the age of 22, and is buried in Hollywood Cemetery. The All-Saints' Church Register shows that his funeral service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev J.L. Downman on October 22, 1918.



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**Walter Scott Hoen** was born in August 1877 to parents Ernest and Clara. They lived at 312 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street near where Ethyl Corporation exists

today and one block south of East Byrd Street. His mother is listed in the church register as being among the worshipers Christmas Day 1888. Walter Hoen was a graduate in the 1902 class of the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Commander Hoen was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of Marines Port au Prince, Haiti where he was the base medical inspector. Haiti was occupied by the United States from 1915 until 1934. Commandeer Hoen was married to Maude George Hoen. His death was attributed nonspecifically to angina pectoris (chest pain), 7 July 1918. He was 39 years old and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



**John Dunn IV** was born on 10 March 1898 to John L and Nellie Dunn. His mother was born in Canada. They lived at 302 East Franklin Street. His father was a physician. The All-Saints register shows the younger John Dunn was baptized May 31, 1898, at his parents' home. The register also shows that his mother was a worshipper at the Christmas service at All Saints Church 1888. Young John was enrolled in the class of 1918 at the University of Virginia but did not graduate because he left the University to serve in the military. He enlisted on 25 January 1918, joining the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) as a cadet. He was sent for training to Burwash Hall, Victoria University, Toronto. The RFC was one of the most elite units in the British Army and one of the most dangerous. The average life expectancy of a pilot was 11 missions. The RFC flew their Sopwith Camels over enemy lines on reconnaissance as well as combat missions.

Cadet Dunn was in training for two months when he contracted scarlet fever and died 26 March 1918 at the age of 20 years. His body was returned to Virginia and buried on Good Friday, 29 March, 1918 at Blandford Cemetery. His aunt Jonnie Porterfield commissioned the Louis Comfort Tiffany Studio to build a stained-glass window for All Saints' Church in his memory. The window depicts the Archangel Michael from the book of Revelations. Archangel Michael is known as the protector of the military. This window was dedicated on All Saints' Sunday 22 December 1918, and was installed in the church on Franklin Street. The window was moved to the new All Saints building on River Road when the church was relocated there. This window became Richmond's first memorial to honor a casualty of the Great War. The window now resides in our ambulatory on the pulpit side.



*An Anglican prayer for remembrance:*

Lord of the nations,  
we honor the bravery and sacrifice of those who served.  
Grant us similar courage to recognize and restrain evil in our own day,  
and may those who lead the nations of the world  
work together to defend human liberty,  
that we may live peaceably one with another.  
This we ask in the name of the Prince of Peace,  
our Savior Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Thanks to Richard Haas for writing this article and for Steven Haas and Rick Richardson for helping with this article.