

[Densmore, Robert B.]

Orleans County Soldier Boy Is Killed in Texas

First to Give His Life for Country

GOVERNMENT WIRES FAMILY

Robert Densmore Gave Up Promising Prospects to Join Colors
And Finds His Death in Training Horse for Cavalry Service

Albion, June 24—A War Department dispatch announces the death Saturday morning, in Texas, of Robert B. Densmore, Jr., of this village, who enlisted at Rochester about five weeks ago. Mr. Densmore was 21 years old and son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Densmore of Ingersoll street. He was one of the seventy-seven Albion young men who answered the call to the colors and gave up promising prospects to enter the war against Germany.

Mr. Densmore was unusually successful in handling horses, and one week ago, while handling an outlaw horse, suffered an injured shoulder and had several teeth knocked out. The war dispatch announcing his death states that Mr. Densmore was killed by a fall while riding a horse Saturday morning, and that the War Department is sending full details of the accident to his parents by letter. His body has been shipped to Albion and is expected to arrive here about Friday morning, in charge of a military escort.

His death is the first casualty of Orleans county youths who have enlisted to the United States military service since this country entered the war with the Allies.

Upon arrival of the body a public funeral service will be held at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church, and a military burial will follow at Mt. Albion Cemetery.

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Mon. 25 Jun 1917

Transcribed on 18 Feb 2008 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY

[Densmore, Robert B.]

Body of Trooper is Buried With Military Honors

Throng Overflows Church and Fills Street

BUSINESS HOUSES CLOSE

Flags Float at Half Mast and Bells Toll in Albion in Honor of
Robert B. Densmore, the Orleans Boy Who Was Killed In Texas

Albion, June 29—The first military funeral in Orleans county in many years was that of Robert B. Densmore, who was buried here this afternoon at 5 o'clock from the Universalist Church, with full military honors. Fifty members of Company F, Third Regiment, in charge of Lieutenant Barton E. Woodward, acted as military escort. From noon until sunset all flags on public buildings and private residences were at half mast. All business places closed at 4:30 o'clock, when the prayer service was held at the home of the parents of the dead trooper. All bells in the village were tolled as the funeral procession passed from the home to the Pullman Memorial Church with the National Guardsmen, Albion Boy Scouts, Orleans County Home Defense Executive Committee, Orleans County Home Defense Corps and Albion Lodge of Elks escorting the body.

Service at the church, of which the dead soldier was a member, was conducted by Rev. Edwin P. Wood, who was assisted by Rev. Arthur W. Grose of Rochester, former pastor of the Pullman church who christened the dead trooper when he was a child and who gave the eulogy at the service. Miss Lena Everett, soprano soloist of the Brick Presbyterian Church, Rochester, sang "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth" and "My Task."

The immense crowd that turned out to attend the service was unable to get inside the church and filled the streets nearby. Members of the Albion Motor Club furnished fifty automobiles for transportation from the church to Mount Albion cemetery. The active bearers were Harold Densmore, Rochester; Willard Densmore, East Gaines; William Garlock, Port Gibson; Lewis [Dunsett?], Fairport; Merrill Brooks, Childs; and Erastus J. Burt, Kent; all relatives of the dead man.

At the grave the committal service was in charge of the militiamen and a full military service was conducted. The American flag was wrapped around the casket containing the body. Four guardsmen, standing on either side of the grave, fired a salute of three volleys each, twenty-four shots, and as the service closed, the bugler of Company F sounded "taps" over the grave of the dead man, who enlisted in the service of his country at Rochester on May 14, 1917. The floral remembrance was one of the most beautiful and largest ever seen at a local funeral.

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