Good evening, everybody. My name is Gianna Abilene, and I am an archivist here at the Filson Historical Society. I'd like to thank you all for coming out to this evening, this evenings presentation on Camp, Zachary Taylor. We have today the Ballard High history club. I'm particularly enthusiastic to introduce them. Because I've been working with these folks for the past few months as they've been coming into the Felson. To do research on this project. Something that's really neat about this group, you all is that they're self started. This wasn't a history club that the school assigned them to do. It's something that they started themselves. They've also been coming in on their own accord, every other Friday for I would say about three months or so. And on the Fridays, they're not here they're meeting at school, and discussing whether it's this protect, this presentation on campus, Zachary Taylor, or maybe another historical event that they're interested in research in. So they've been when they've been here, what have they been doing? Well, they've been examining artifacts, also primary and secondary resources, you're going to be seeing examples of all of those and their presentation today. Like I said, this club isn't a school requirement, rather an activity they started on their own. I've been really impressed with their dedication, like I said, coming in on a Friday, that's not always the easiest thing to do. So without further delay, I'd like to introduce the club founder and president will, as well as Mark, Nathan, and Jalen who are going to be presenting today. I really think you're going to be just as impressed with them as I have been so and also we should give a special shout out and thank you to their Academic Advisor, Mr. Mark dividend. So without further ado, folks, here is the Ballard High history club.

Hi, everyone, my name is Wil. I'm the president and founder of Ballard History Club. And not everyone that did research is here today. This is just a small sample. These are the people that wanted to present. But there were like 10 different people that came on varying different Fridays to actually do stuff. So this is like the culmination of all of our work. So hopefully you enjoy. So today, we're going to be talking about camp Zachary Taylor, which is a somewhat
the US should join the French they thought the US should join the Russians and the Germans.

Henry Watterson, who's the man pictured up there, they were very pro all allies, they thought that Germans or if we should just not get involved at all. Newspapers like the Courier Journal, and public opinion over the issue of whether we should join the allies or if we should join Belgium, when the war started, in the US, and in Louisville, in particular, there was very split public opinion over the issue of whether we should join the allies or if we should join the Germans or if we should just not get involved at all. Newspapers like the Courier Journal, and Henry Watterson, who's the man pictured up there, they were very pro allies, they thought that the US should join the French they thought the US should join the Russians and the Germans.

The sun never set on the British Empire at the time, they had colonies in India, Africa, Southeast Asia, pretty much everywhere. So after the rape of Belgium, well, sorry, before the rape of Belgium, when the war started, in the US, and in Louisville, in particular, there was very split public opinion over the issue of whether we should join the allies or if we should join the Germans or if we should just not get involved at all. Newspapers like the Courier Journal, and Henry Watterson, who's the man pictured up there, they were very pro allies, they thought that the US should join the French they thought the US should join the Russians and the Germans.

The British get involved. And now it's, you know, a real world war, because the British had been the sun never set on the British Empire at the time, they had colonies in India, Africa, Southeast Asia, pretty much everywhere. So after the rape of Belgium, well, sorry, before the rape of Belgium, when the war started, in the US, and in Louisville, in particular, there was very split public opinion over the issue of whether we should join the allies or if we should join the Germans or if we should just not get involved at all. Newspapers like the Courier Journal, and Henry Watterson, who's the man pictured up there, they were very pro allies, they thought that the US should join the French they thought the US should join the Russians and the Germans.

And the driver took a wrong turn towards the cafe. And one of the assassins he they had tried to assassinate him earlier in the day, but failed, and they still put like we're on the route. Like, it doesn't make a lot of sense to me. So he was actually kind of upset the nerve is attentive worked. So he went to this cafe, he was sitting there drinking, eating, and then he realizes that the Archduke is literally right in front of him. And he stands up, he pulls out his gun, and he shoots the Archduke and his wife killing both of them. So what happens next is Austro, Hungary believes that the Serbian government had a role in this, maybe they were supporting the Blackhand, or no one really knows. But so Austro Hungary declares war on Serbia. And there's a series of alliances that happen. For example, Serbia was in an alliance with Russia. Austro, Hungary was in alliance with Germany. So when Austro Hungary declares war on Serbia Austro Hungary is also declaring war on Russia. And Serbia is also declaring war on Germany. That's kind of how the First World War starts. It goes from a very small conflict into this very large conflict that really didn't have to happen if you get down to it. There were other treaties and alliances that were also very important. For example, Russia was no alliances with France. So then France gets involved. And, yeah, so on the next slide, the rape of Belgium, this is when Britain gets involved in the war. So if you look, in the far right, you'll see a map of France, Belgium and Germany, the red arrows indicate something called the Schlieffen Plan, which was created by a German officer. And basically, the plan was, they were going to outflank the French by going through Belgium, and then coming around towards Paris, and they were going to trap the French army between the soldiers that were now in Paris and the soldiers that were back at home in Germany. So not a great thing. It could have worked, but it didn't. They, the whole idea was, we're going to make this move as fast as possible. So within days, within a month of declaring war on France, Germany was within 90 miles of Paris, very close. But then the whole thing just kind of fell apart, they started running out of supplies train stopped running as smoothly, so it kind of fell apart. It became known as the rape of Belgium, mainly because Belgium had been declared officially neutral about 75 years later, or not later, earlier. and Britain swore in this treaty where they declared their neutrality that if they were ever invaded, or if anyone ever violated Belgian neutrality, then Britain would come to their aid. So the Germans thinking that the British wouldn't really take the 75 year old treaty seriously just went ahead and invaded Belgium, and then the Britain than the British get involved. And now it's, you know, a real world war, because the British had been the sun never set on the British Empire at the time, they had colonies in India, Africa, Southeast Asia, pretty much everywhere. So after the rape of Belgium, well, sorry, before the rape of Belgium, when the war started, in the US, and in Louisville, in particular, there was very split public opinion over the issue of whether we should join the allies or if we should join the Germans or if we should just not get involved at all. Newspapers like the Courier Journal, and Henry Watterson, who's the man pictured up there, they were very pro allies, they thought that the US should join the French they thought the US should join the Russians and the Germans.
needed to be stopped, especially after the rape of Belgium. Then you had other newspapers like the Anzeiger, which was run by Germans, German town. And the United States was made up of a lot of immigrants from all across the world. So you had all these different ethnic groups that were all like jockeying for the United States to help their home country. So the US is pre split over that decision, Woodrow Wilson, who was the president at the time, he sighs that the US is going to stay neutral. So, in Europe, one of the reasons that Woodrow Wilson didn't want to get involved was because the war was going so terribly for everyone else. Coming into the war, the mechanics and the technology was very advanced. And the tactics that were being used were just centuries old, like Napoleonic, very brute, like, brutal, just not, not effective. For example, the bayonets at the time were like a foot and a half long, because they believed the two armies would charge each other and then fight each other with bayonets like spears. But once the lines kind of crystallized on the Western Front, which is what those red lines are on the map, the when you have an army jumping into another army's trench, the reach of the bayonet is a huge issue. It's very long, it's very awkward to use, and they got a lot of people killed, and it just wasn't effective. So you end up getting all these people making like makeshift wefted, or makeshift weapons that were just terrible, like baseball bats wrapped in barbed wire, and just don't get me started. And the base, basically, how it worked was you would have the allies on one side and the Germans or whoever was on the other side. And then there was no mainly no man's land in between, and the two sides have basically shell each other until the other side decided to attack and then one side would attack and the other side would defend. And then while the other side was retreating, they would do a counter attack and they would try to get the other enemy while they weren't really in their trenches yet. In the front, this was a war that progress wasn't measured in miles. It was literally measured in inches and feet, because it never moved. The Germans actually built their lines with concrete and electricity and warm water and showers and they're actually like, very nice. The allies on the other hand, like the British and the French, they believed that by building those things, it would be bad for the morale of the men because that means that we're not moving. We're just going to stay here and we're not going to progress. Which side got more trench foot or sickness? Which side was more unhappy? Thank you can guess. Okay. So these are some images of what trench warfare did. And what's important to remember is this was truly the first modern war of its time. Not too much earlier, you had the Napoleonic Wars. I mean, we're talking nearly Flintlock rifles, we're talking black powder, I mean, cannons very colorful, elaborate uniforms, horsepower, all these things. The First World War was so awful, because you had all these new weapons that people just did not know what people didn't know the potential for harm that they had. All these men would sign up to go to this war. And they would think that, hey, we're going to go we're going to come back heroes, we're going to prove that we're men, there'll be an adventure or something to tell our grandchildren. Like previous words, someone had been, but this just completely destroyed that notion and a lot of cultures. And as you can see, there was the invention of tear gas in the upper left, there's dead bodies on the left and the right. In the bottom left is a picture of no man's land. Bottom rate is a picture of a rifle with a helmet on it in no man's land. In the bottom middle is them going over the top, which is when they would attack an enemy trench, and weapons like the machine gun, or just mow them down and never really stood a chance, which is sad. That so now, to tell you more about the road to the war is Nathan sparks. All right,

Nathan Sparks 11:49

so the Lusitania was a system cruise ship that was supposed to be carrying systems from America to Europe. It ended up being in the Atlantic, there was a lot of German U boat activity, so a lot of thinking of ships. And this ended up being a major issue that Kant like one of the first
conflicts between the US and Germany, during World that on the road of World War One, because the German U boats sank the Lusitania, which was to everyone else's knowledge solely full of citizens. So there is no reason for the Germans to sink it. Going back, though, and looking at the wreckage, there was indeed military supplies being shipped to Britain. So it was in fact, like an actual legitimate strike towards the US. But it ended up getting a lot of prejudice towards the German military, because they ever knew nobody knew why Germany did it. And so it was a lot easier to convince the public that we needed to go to war with Germany after this because of this, a knowledgeable act for no reason. These German telegraph was a telegram that Britain intercepted and told us about but it is a telegram from Germany to Mexico, trying to convince Mexico to attack America and trying to weaken us, so that they could, Germany could help overthrow America because they saw us as a superpower to be able to eliminate like further attacks from us, make it easier to win the war. Overall, the Zimmerman telegraph was intercepted due to the fact that all Telegraph's from Britain from Europe to the New World were sent through a single wire that ran underneath the Atlantic Ocean. So Britain was very they intercepted everything that came through there. So it's very easy for them to scoop it up and send it to us and tell us about it. Mexico was promised everything that they lost in the Mexican US recession session, sorry. And get all the territory back. So it was one of the final straws that pushed us over towards war. So us is at war with Germany officially and April 6 1917. America entered the fray. We were extremely unprepared for war, we had very few troops 200 1000s and 1914. And by 1918, we had spiked to I believe 2 million or 4 million. The first first draft instituted since the Civil War. Everybody was meant to join in and just try and grow the troops. Victory Gardens were a way for us. To be able to get supplies to troops over in Europe, trying to have the people pitch in and grow their own gardens in their backyards so that we could get more supplies and food to send to our troops. John perishing Oh, my bad. Sorry. John perishing is the man up here in the right corner. He is the general over the entire military, in the first gen to have as much power over as much power since George Washington having complete power over the entire military. This was a quote by our current president, the world must be made safe for democracy. So here it says the army increases in size from 200,000 to 4 million in just four years just showing the the ridiculous increase in military potential that we had. You can see in the bottom left corner, the first people to sign up for the military at Camp Zachary Taylor. And in the right bottom corner, the first people to arrive on train camp Zachary Taylor. There were 16 cantonments for training created during this four years, and just really helped to grow the military potential of the United States. Here you can see all the different bases, all the ones in black were the army bases that they created. And you can see in Kentucky, Camp Taylor, that was the largest one that they created during this time. And now to speak more about camp Taylor's beginnings of Shimon.

Will 16:53

Okay, so when the Louisville Board of Trade heard that the government was trying to create a bunch of new military camps, they pounced on it. Think about it's kind of like hosting the Olympics, you get a ton of visitors coming to see the camp you get all these new guys coming in, as you know, soldiers visitors, it's going to rake in a ton of money and it's going to make the city a little more famous. So the two main cities that were kind of jockeying for who which city gets the base, where Louisville and Lexington and as of 1917. According to the Federal Government, Louisville is better than Lexington. So, on June 11 1917, they decided that Louisville was going to host the camp mainly because they had better access to water with the Ohio River. They had better access to railroads and they were more central to where all the soldiers were going to be coming from. Camp Zachary Taylor consisted of army drafts and enlistees from Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. So it was closer. And we're also not that far away
from an artillery field that had been created during the Civil War. Later it would become Fort Knox, but at the time, it was a 1600 acre artillery field. So the government bought a bunch of land that was fairly cheap and the south end of Louisville, right now, it's where like the zoo increase in park area is. So in the top right, you'll see a picture. At the time, it was mostly farmland, so there's actually crops in the front. And then oh, sorry, my bed. So in the top, right, you'll see there's camp Taylor are being constructed in the back. And then there's crops in the front. And that's because they hadn't gotten rid of those crops yet. They were, you know, still the farmers that owned that land. And then in the bottom left, and so on, you'll see the camp being constructed. And in the bottom right, you'll see some of the barns and crops that they would actually burn to make room for the buildings. And Kim Taylor was very unsafe, it was very haphazardly built, you would have 2000 buildings constructed. And it was built in 90 days, they would build like, over 10 buildings in one day. It was ridiculous. Yeah. So all these men decided we're going to go join the adventure. We're going to make our families proud. We're going to go fight for democracy. We're going to test our mettle. We're going to become men, we're going to come back heroes. So that's what they did. They all signed up for the US Army. Some of them were drafted, but that's, you know. So in the top, or in the left and right, these are all photos of recruits at Camp Taylor, they would just show up in their normal clothes, and they would mark them around for a little bit to make sure they didn't, you know, like, lie during their physical or something, which did happen on occasion. The right side, you've already seen this picture, but the first guy to register as a soldier at Camp Taylor was John Herbert. So enter just think. So we're going to talk a lot about divisions and regiments and all that stuff. So I just thought I would give a brief rundown of what that is if you're not entirely familiar. So in an army, there's two cores. And then there's a division, which is three brigades, which is one battalion, which is a company, which is a platoon and then a squad. So I ran through that really fast. Okay, we're mostly going to be talking about divisions, which are about 10,000 soldiers. So that's pretty much the only thing you need to know on here. Okay, so this is a map of Louisville at the time with camp Taylor shaded in black. And I've gone ahead and labeled the four different parts of the camp. So there's little postcards too, that they would have souvenirs. So the first part was the main camp. And you can see that's where all the barracks were. The second part was in the maneuver field. So in the video that you all were watching, hopefully before Gianna came up here and talked that was on the maneuver field. The third part is the rifle range. And the fourth part is the remount station where all the horses will be kept for the artillery school, which we'll get to a little later. So the division that was trained at Camp Taylor was the 84th division. They're known as the Lincoln division or the Railsplitters. Their General was General Hale. It wasn't originally general Hale, but he's the main one for the bulk of the war. So we're gonna say it was General hill. They were organized to camp Taylor in September of 1917. And as I said earlier, they were from Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. The field officers Central or sorry, the field artillery central Officers Training School was a large part of Camp Taylor. There were kind of two campuses, if you will, one was at Camp Taylor, and one was at West Point. It was actually the biggest school in the country. It had more people enrolled at it than any other school of any kind in the country at the time. So here's some pictures of it. If you look here, this is a picture of them in a parade downtown. Over here, this is them firing it, Fort Knox was in Fort Knox. He had of course. And then down here, this is a picture of some of them. And then, yeah. So the daily life of a soldier. It really depended on what you were doing. The schedule that's on the left is for someone who is in the artillery school. So according to this, you would start out with breakfast, you would usually have it changed day to day also. So weekends were usually easier than weekdays. They would do things like well, first off the meals at Camp Taylor. Awesome. Okay, we're talking steak, mashed potatoes, just like awesome food, okay, and they were so much of it. Like even the recruits got it on the first day. And some of the letters that we read, like recruits were like, and a lot of these guys came from farms who like didn't have like running water. So like this much food and running water. Awesome. So they
that's a lot of it was written there. Daisy and Tom's wedding was at the seal back. And there's very funny. Yeah. Oh, the also spent a lot of nights at the seal back. So if you're ever there, to Officer school and becoming a lieutenant. So the kind of dodged a bullet, you could say, it's a lot of people think they dropped out so the wouldn't have to get drafted. So he ended up going to Officer school and becoming a lieutenant. So he kind of dodged a bullet, you could say, it's very funny. Yeah. Oh, he also spent a lot of nights at the seal back. So if you're ever there, that's a lot of it was written there. Daisy and Tom's wedding was at the seal back. And there's a lot of people think they dropped out so the wouldn't have to get drafted. So he ended up going to Officer school and becoming a lieutenant. So he kind of dodged a bullet, you could say, it's very funny. Yeah.

Scott Fitzgerald was very disliked at Camp Taylor, a lot of people thought he was egotistical, and he would just order people around just to prove he had more power than them. Some people have said he was actually a Princeton when the war started, and he dropped out. And a lot of people think they dropped out so he wouldn't have to get drafted. So he ended up going to Officer school and becoming a lieutenant. So he kind of dodged a bullet, you could say, it's very funny. Yeah. Oh, he also spent a lot of nights at the seal back. So if you're ever there, that's a lot of it was written there. Daisy and Tom's wedding was at the seal back. And there's a lot of people think they dropped out so the wouldn't have to get drafted. So he ended up going to Officer school and becoming a lieutenant. So he kind of dodged a bullet, you could say, it's very funny. Yeah.

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an account of where he had to get thrown out of the Rathskeller and the basement for drinking too much so. So Kim Taylor was home to a lot of people have a lot of different nationalities. Some of the more interesting ones, I think, are the French officers that were there to help train units. After all, the French had been fighting the war for three years already until the US decided to get involved. So these are the four officers that were at Camp Taylor that we're there to help train the soldiers. Another so the government said that as soon as you enlist in the US Army, and you're not a citizen, you become a citizen. That was one of their ways of getting a lot of men to sign up to help, you know, boost our army to 4 million from the measly 200,000. It was. So one of the very one of the huge landmarks at Camp Taylor was called the naturalization tree. And soldiers would have naturalization ceremonies there. And one point there were approximately 4000 Soldiers sworn in there at once. And the top right the monument is still there. It was raised by the DoD Isn't the American Revolution in 1921, the year the camp closed down, which we'll get to at the end. But in the bottom right, that's an image of one of the naturalization ceremonies. And in the bottom left, those are all soldiers that were born in foreign countries that became citizens through this through this way. So, the Railsplitters, the 84th division, they were put in France, but don't get excited. They were not a combat division, sadly, gets the kind of depends on your outlook, but for entertainment purposes, sadly. They were a replacement division and an occupation force. So they were put in two cities that had already been taken, Lemond and West perigueux and France. The video was actually them in West perigueux, where they were trained in France further. Essentially, how it would work is when you had men on the Western Front who were killed, they needed to be replaced. So the government would pick randomly pick men from battalions such as this, and just put them on the western front with a bunch of guys that they've never seen before. It's kind of hard to find stories, men from Camp Taylor did fight in the war, but they are kind of obscure and hard to find stories of Kevin Maguire at the camp Taylor Historical Society, he does have some if you're interested, you're more than welcome to contact him to find out. So to tell more about the troops at Camp Taylor, we have Nathan.

Nathan Sparks  31:48

So it was kind of difficult to find a lot of information on the color troops at Camp Zachary Taylor, because a lot of historians, for some reason just kind of rushed over all of them, which was extremely frustrating. But I did end up finding a lot of information on one gentleman named Rufus B. Atwood. He went on to do a lot of things after the war. He was the president of the Kentucky State College for negroes. So that was like a major thing that he did is he ended up dying in Cincinnati. He's buried up there. But what the reason that he got he was like, so influential and ended up he ended up getting a medal cited for bravery, because I'm gonna read the exact account of what he did. December 10 1918. While returning to the switchboard and pound missin, I'm not quite sure I noticed the city in France, pair and France. Yeah, a shell struck the house in which the switchboard was being operated. Breaking all the lines, Sergeant Atwood rendered valuable assistance to the officer in charge and reconstructing the switchboard and constructing new lines under fire. When the ammunition dump began to explode in the same neighborhood, he remained on the job tapping new connections after repairing repairs were made from the first explosion, there were too to follow. So he sat there, and they had a bunch of explosives stored in the same sort of area all exploded, so all the men are running. And this dude just stays here and keeps fixing this important control panel to be able to like talk to different people. And so it all blows up, he gets it all fixed, and happens two more times. And he just stays there and just keeps at it, keeps fixing it. So after repairs are made, which completely wrecked the switchboard room, and tore out all the lines, which were in the first in a first and had been newly fixed, Sergeant Edward was left alone. And he
established a new switchboard and the same connections that had fallen the first time, the corners with which he went about his work and his initiative. He took him handled handling the situation just faiz him as being mentioned in orders. So this guy was just ridiculous. He just stayed through two explosions and everybody else who ended up running and it just gave up on it. And he you stay there and fix this board and was just able to keep the fight going. So that was a major guy. That was actually a medal given to him through the American government. Most of the metals that African Americans, Colored Troops got weren't from America. They were from French government, because the guy that we spoke about earlier Pershing as soon as the war started, we were the president said not to give any troops to any other countries to deal out if they're going to be fighting in the war. They will be fighting under the American flag under the American government and just won't be handed out. But Pershing didn't see he was an Indian horrible racist, and didn't see the color troops as American citizens. And so he just gave them to the French because they were pressuring him for supplies and backup. And so he just gave the color troops to the French. And they ended up going with nothing more than a uniform and the French welcomed them with open arms and completely supply them in everything. And so most of the African Americans who fought in the war, and did get medals and had stories, first of all, still weren't well documented, but they did end up getting medals and such for their honors. Another dude, Gus Norse, he fought in the war. Very little upset about him just that he saved his lieutenant, which was extreme action. I wish there was more to say about it, but he won a medal through the French government. In the 800, and 14th, Pioneer Infantry Division at the Black Devils was the color troops at Camp Zachary Taylor actually. So that was the regiment here are the division here in the 360/9 Infantry Regiment, the Harlem Hellfighters was the one of the most well known regiments in the whole war, and it was actually colored troop. Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts is a very interesting story. Needham Roberts. And Henry Johnson were on the front line and they were keeping watch at night. And Needham Roberts ended up just falling over, get he got stabbed by a German soldier that snuck up on him, hadn't noticed. So he got stabbed, and there they found Henry Johnson and eat them Roberts early the next morning. need him Roberts, wounded, but he ended up being able to patch himself up and eat. I think it was 12 or 11 dead Germans around them, and all of them killed with a knife. The knife that Henry Johnson used had been dulled to the point of just being bent and unusable because he had literally killed 11 Pittman by himself. They were found all over the trenches, some of them crawling away, and on top of barbed wire out of the trench, blood trails everywhere. I mean, it was just it was just crazy. He went off. So yeah, so to talk more about influencer, in camp, Zachary Taylor, we have Mark.

Mark 37:50

So, influenza, the 1918 influenza pandemic killed over 50 million people worldwide and 20 million people in the US. And the cause or origin of the pandemic is not known. And the influenza, it's a commonly known as the flu. It's a common and contagious respiratory disease illness caused by the influenza virus that can be deadly without proper treatment. And yeah, World War, World War One really helped with the spread of influenza because, you know, in the trenches in Europe, it was very unsanitary, and people were closely packed together. So the flu spreads really easily through contact and like respiratory, like coughing and sneezing and stuff can like really spread that easily because it spreads through like the little water droplets, people have cough up, and then when in contact that people can get that. And then also, yeah, and when the soldiers were also shipped off back to like their, like behind lines, or like other countries and such, and they would have most likely contracted diseases from the disease from other soldiers. And then they went when they went home or anything like that. They also spread disease to other people. And some symptoms of influenza are fever, chills, muscle
aches, coughing, and congestion and congestion, runny nose, headache and fatigue. And then, is it some Zachary Taylor, and how it was influenced by influenza? There was about Yeah, about 124 soldiers that had died of influence at the camp, and then about 13,000 were hospitalized under were hospitalized at the camp as well. And there were some In many cases that the main hospital became so overcrowded that they had 15 barracks of the C section and had to be temporarily converted to temporarily convert it to like hospitals. And like living quarters for the sick. And it was located around the east part of the Lincoln overpass Avenue. So yeah. And then right there, there's the picture of what the main hospital looked like. And then in according to some journal entries on some soldiers on a soldier that didn't get sick, in fact, he was living out in tents that they had to transport all the other troops living in the barracks, and they sent them out to live in these tents. Like he said that the camp was under quarantine for a total of 52 days. And during this time, people were issued to extra blankets so they could stay warm, and the chances of others getting influenza won't be as high. And yeah, and then. Yeah, so and also, the cancer also, very poorly, get well, not very poorly, but were pretty constructed hastily. And you know, it was pretty unsanitary. So the disease quickly spread around in the camp. And then, here's how Louisville was infected by affected by the influenza. And you can see a picture of the nurses and like with soldiers and such, right there, there's all the nurses that worked, that treat all the influenza patients, to nurses with two wheelchair soldiers and then the hospital quarters. And then, in Louisville, Kentucky, suffered a really large shortage of nurses and physicians because most of them were serving for the armed forces and the Army overseas. So there's only about 101,500, physicians were left to care for all of Kentucky's 2 million citizens. So that played a part in that the spread of influenza. And then the city health officer took a wanted to take a plan of action to make sure it doesn't spread in the city. So he asked all the citizens to advise this, they try to walk to wherever they needed to. And to avoid like street cars to like avoid, like contact with, like things that like public items and such. Lots of people happen to be. And then as they're also asked to avoid like large crowds of people and as the prohibition of public funerals to prevent the large gathering of people as well. And then yeah. And then nurse, Clara Gibson. She was a nurse at Camp Zachary Taylor. Yeah, well, yeah, she had many patients. And she was also according to journal entries and letters of other soldiers. That like letters that were sent to her, she was very attractive and lots of men liked her and wanted her to marry them. And then like, be her like be let them let her be the bride. And then she also there was also a point where she had like three different she was dating three different men at the same time. So she was pretty busy there. And then there's also this issue of prostitution in the city as well, when the first when the camp was first being issued, near Louisville. And then, earlier, we mentioned sort of the negative temptation of that could negatively influence the soldiers and that was it. And at this time, brother brothers were common in just about every city in the US. And then and since this huge camp was being built there to train all the soldiers, they wanted all negative influence away from their new trainees and people because they wanted the new American soldier to be powerful yet pure and Verrall. Yet virgin, virginal. So yeah, they wanted to want to do more to fix that problem, like the government did. And then yeah, the mayor was in fact supporter of having these brothers and prostitution because he thought Louisville could benefit from it. And then, yeah, obviously the government didn't like that. So eventually they shut him down and like, sent in people like, shut down the brothers brothers and everything. And then but in fact, the Commission of the city, he had published a report and made recommendations on how to fix the problem, though they were never implemented because he had no power or any any kind to implement these. So and obviously the mayor was against it as well. And yeah. And then these are like famous Kentuckians. Kentuckians in the war. This is Nora Norman Cole up. He has studied MIT metallurgy and call it well, he went to DuPont manual High School. And then you went to the University of Cincinnati and studied metallurgy there and then moved to Boston after college and enlisted in the French Army in 1917. And then you traveled to France
in 1917 enlisted in the French army and then and then he joined the group Robinson reserve mallet, and then he became a Motor Truck more like driver in the company, three 372 And then he was demobilized, which basically means he was basically like draft the army in on July 14 1919. And then Logan failland he was in the fifth Marines. He was on the phone battles the below would seasons blanc Mont ridge and are gone. And he was awarded the Distinguished cross Distinguished Service Cross the distinguished surfer Service Medals of both the Army and the Navy. Officers ranked in the Legion of Honor and quality gear with bronze star gold star and four palms. And there's Willie Sandlin. He was the only Kentucky and to receive the Medal of Honor in World War One. And he single handedly destroyed three German machine gun and placements and killed 24 of the enemy on September 26 1918 At the Boys Air Force. And he died in 1949 from a lingering lung infection that was resulting from a poison gas attack on his company in the Battle of argon. And then, Lawrence Kingsley Callahan. He was a part of the Royal Flying Corps. And he had 17 victories which is quite a bit compared to like the most amount of victories which is 24 But uh, yeah, he was pretty close to that. He also tied for second with another with another pilot. And he's from Louisville, Kentucky, and other recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross. And then here is Jesse or in Creech. I had six victories was Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross and all won 48 aero squadron. And then here is will with what's left Will 48:46

so camp Zachary today or sorry camp Zachary Taylor today, in 1921. That camp was auctioned off. Most of the lumber and building material that was on the campus property was reused. And it was used to build the camp Taylor neighborhood today. So if you look in the slide this house up here, it was built in 1925, using materials that were from Camp Taylor. And then the only Well, there's more than two, but the two main buildings that are left from Camp Taylor are these two. This one up here was the residents of general Hale whilst he was the commander of Camp Taylor and 84th division. So this is it today, and this is in 1918. And then the probably the most recognizable out of them all increase in park next to the Google Tennis Center and the zoo. You have the Louisville motor school building at the time over here in 1918. It was the mechanic school. So if you ever see those two things, that's what they are. So now we're gonna have q&a. So if you have a question, just raise your hand and then I'll recognize you And then we'll do our best to answer it. So you all like Come over here. Yes, sir.

Q 50:12

They're Lincoln, Taylor. Lee Sherman, what are the main streets that were in camp Taylor when it was first established?

Will 50:26

Um, it's kind of a hard question to answer. A lot of the roads that were originally in camp Taylor, some of them were destroyed, and some of them were moved. And a lot of the roads also in Kim Taylor were named different things at the time. So like, you would have Indiana Avenue after the men that were from Indiana, or Kentucky street or Victory Road, things like that. There were some streets that are still intact, that are still in existence, but their names have changed since then. I can't name any off the top of my head. So sorry.
Question 51:02
What kinds of residences were built on their property after it was torn down?

Will 51:10
So they were mostly they were just residential homes. They were mostly one story. Pretty small. A lot of them were shotgun houses. So they had several rooms going back. So you would have like one room followed by several others. Not immediately after the war. More recently, yes. And especially after World War Two, yes. But immediately after World War One, not really. It was mostly just individual houses. And some of the if you see any apartments, there’s a chance that they were at one point and barracks, but it’s kind of slim. But there is at least one that’s still like that.

Question 51:54
Please explain exactly where camp Taylor was.

Will 51:57
What is it now? Right now it’s the zoo and most of Creason Park. It’s also part of autumn Park. And, of course, Fort Knox for the artillery field, that it's poplar level road goes right through it. I remember that. That answers your question. Partially. Sorry, I couldn’t think of it at the time.

Gianna Abilene 52:22
I have a question. When you guys were here at the Filson what were some of the things that you found on Camp Taylor that were the most surprising to you? Or maybe the most interesting.

Will 52:33
For me, it was the cont the belongings of Norman Cola, who was one of the soldiers that we talked about not too long ago. He had a lot of maps that were in his pockets. And they were on canvas and then they were printed little squares so that he could fold it up and put it in his pocket easily. And they were from cities where he would go and drive trucks so one was spa song One was a Nazi places like that, that the US Army was very influential and and they were all places they’d been in places that all these maps had gone. So I thought that was kind of interesting.

Nathan Sparks 53:06
I think one of my favorites was I did some research on a cartoonist that was doing like cartoons
in Louisville, and so I was trying to find different military leaders that you would be able to do further research on and ended up that's how I found my Rufus be admin at what was do that. So that was pretty cool.

Mark  53:30

Um, I would say one of the most interesting things I found was when I was reading some of the journal entries from a lot of the soldiers at Camp Taylor, and especially with Claire Gibson, too. That was pretty interesting. She had three boyfriends same time and everybody thought she was really attractive and everybody really liked her and everything. So I thought that that was pretty interesting because seeing all the different journal entries about Pearn, everything.

Jalen  53:59

One interesting thing I found is that not only did they train the soldiers to go to war, they also train them for jobs in America. A common one was a motor school that they told him to beat. Sorry, to make cars Volvo cars take them apart. And soon after the war, they apply that knowledge to an actual job in bike mechanics and stuff.

Will  54:25

Yes for camp Taylor as a whole, no, but there are some small segments that are the most notable is probably the naturalization tree marker, which they just redid not too long ago, if you've seen it, it's in camp Taylor Park. The actual tree was struck by lightning and like 1928. So it's not there anymore. But there is a marker that is actually kind of an interesting story. It was put there in 1821 by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and it was kind of forgotten about and And it was actually in someone's backyard for a really long time, like, fenced in. And then a few years ago, right around like 2014, they decided, okay, we should probably take this out of this person's backyard. So they they redid it. So it looks nice now if you ever see it.

55:16

And there is actually a historical marker for cam Zachary Taylor, I think it's I can't remember the name of the bank that's on papa liberal road right across from the Kmart. But that was erected there. Several years ago, a good friend of mine helped get that installed. I loved your all's presentation. It's great that we have young people that are interested in history like this, just want to add a few footnotes. There is a building an apartment building at the end of Indiana Avenue that I think is an original building from that time. A friend of mine used to own that building. And he said that apparently dates back to the time of the camp. And I can't remember the exact address of it. But it's right at the end of Indiana Avenue. pretty recognizable because it's it's literally three feet from the street. Couple other footnotes and those that you mentioned remount station, but on the map it showed it be way out. I think like around Fairdale or somewhere remount station was over near Papa John's stadium, Floyd Street. The reason I know is because I did a walking tour kin McGuire and I did a walking tour two years ago over there. And we took people over there to show him. We there's no remnants
of it now. But we showed him the exact area where that had been. And one other footnote. And I think this is a collection that you all have in the Felson. And I think I've seen it online. But the picture you showed of the house that was being burned down when they were building the camp, I think somebody has a collection or you all have a collection of that were document of several the houses that were bought by the government and burned down to make way for the camp. Just an interesting footnote. Most of those families were German or of German descent. So I wonder what kind of deal the government gave them? Probably for their property out there.

Will  57:16
Yes. Sure, I don't see why not. Just just come and talk to me after that. I'll, I'll share it with you. Okay, yes. Well,

Gianna Abilene  57:44
will you repeat the question?

Will  57:46
Oh, yeah. Sorry. So the question was, what percentage of soldiers were left at Camp Taylor. They were never sent abroad. The 84th division and the Field Artillery School did take up of the vast majority of the people at Camp Taylor. So when they were sent to France in September of 1918, most of the population of the camp left with them. Most of the people that were left at the camp at that time were like members of the hopper, not members, but they weren't at the hospital. So it was mostly nurses. You'd also have some people that were going there for special training like the mechanic school. Does that answer your question? I don't have an exact number. So yes.

Question  58:30
Sorry. Can you give us the name of the cartoonists that the young man referenced? I don't remember.

58:49
Once the king Thank you. Yes.

Question  59:01
What is going on in that far? Right slide?
That's a really good question.

William: Yeah. I'm glad you asked that I did that on purpose. So these are all like very short segments that are like, on a loop of the training video that you all watched it was running before we started. Some of you may not have seen it. But um, on the left in the right, those are pictures of field officers that we're training. I don't really know what they're doing on the right. That's a great question. The there's a book here at the Filson. And it was widely circulated. It's the story of the field office, the field artillery officer school, and there's just pictures of it with no explanation as to what it is. So I don't know if it's like some kind of like weird initiation or if it actually served like a purpose. I just don't know. But it is funny. I do know that. Yeah. Tank training at Camp Taylor. No. They're America and tanks, very limited. Most of the tanks that were used on the Western Front were British, and they were already over there. So it didn't really make a whole lot of sense to make them in America. There was a whole lot of Calvary training. You probably saw that in the video if you were here beforehand. There weren't airplanes there. Sometimes. So yeah, sorry. No tanks.

Gianna Abilene: Will you tell us where you got this video footage? Yeah, the National Archives YouTube channel is awesome. So if you're ever bored, and you want to look at some cool videos, National Archives, it's pretty cool.

Gianna Abilene: These are my kinda kids. You all thank you so much for coming. And let's give a big round of applause to the Ballard high school history club. I told you you'd be impressed. Hey, really important. Someone has left their Audi key in the bathroom. So if you drive an Audi and you don't have your key, I have it or I can just keep your car and sell it. So if you drive an Audi, come see me. Thank you so much for coming in. And you guys again, if you're interested in World War One talks, check out our calendar online. We have more of them coming up. I can't promise they will be as entertaining as these guys but they will be interesting.