

Gardner Newsletter



Gardner Family Reunion to be Held at NorthWoods Stewardship Center on July 10, 2022

We're Baaaaack!

After almost three years of waiting, it's been confirmed - The Gardner Family Reunion will be held at The NorthWoods Stewardship Center on July 10, 2022. Make your plans to attend now.

On March 12, 2022, Maria Young, Executive Director of The NorthWoods Stewardship Center, wrote to Cousin Rod Ames the following e-mail message:

"Hello Rod, Sorry for the delay! Susan (*Susan Moore, who now works part-time at NorthWoods*) had your email from prior years, so I'll try to reach you here.

As long as it works for your family to understand some of the limitations

during the busy season for us, we are HAPPY for your family to celebrate a reunion here on Sunday, July 10.

Here are some of the limitations:

We will make sure that there are NO staff vehicles in the parking lot behind the lodge and in the visitor parking at the side of the lodge. Depending on how many people end up coming, some may have to walk up from parking lower down on the side of the driveway; or, if the weather is dry, in the field below the pond. It could be helpful for you to have someone direct parking, because you can park up to 20 cars around the lodge if you do that strategically!

You are welcome to use the kitchen, but there is no available refrigerator/

freezer space.

We can make sure the grill is available and full of propane on the porch.

We'll have the lodge clean, and tables and chairs stacked, and you can move things around any way you like. You would want to bring your own dishware, tablecloths if you want them, etc. The patio will have picnic tables. There are two bathrooms indoors, and one port alette nearby outside.

You are welcome to swim in the pond - we do all summer!

And, we have new signage on the Gardner Path Living History Trail. I hope some of your family will check it out.



**Gardner Family Reunion to be Held at
NorthWoods Stewardship Center on July 10, 2022 (continued from Page 1)**

We have camp starting early the next day, so we would need you to empty garbage/recycling (which you can do onsite), sweep the floor, and return things as you found it.

Susan confirmed that your family had paid \$450. At that time, that included some payment for the bunkhouse.

The bunkhouse is NOT available this year, because seasonal staff will be living there.

The lodge rental fee for the day and a group of your size is \$450, so we would consider that we were even on payment. That does still include a partner discount, as your family is important to NorthWoods!

Please let me know if all that works for you, or if you have any other question. Once you confirm, I'll add the reservation to our calendar.

While we won't have staff available on Sunday, July 10th, any of your family is welcome to come up ahead of time if that is helpful." *Maria Young*

On Saturday, March 12, 2022, Rod Ames sent an e-mail message to Maria Young, Executive Director of The NorthWoods Stewardship Center confirming the Gardner Family Reunion. Here it is:

"Hi Maria, Thanks for allowing us to use your facility and

all your conditions will work for us. Let's plan on it for Sunday July 10th. The Gardner family will be so pleased to get together on the old Gardner homestead. Blessings." *Rod Ames*

So, there you have it! It might be helpful to review once again the terms and conditions mentioned in Maria's

message. Here are two things I noticed in Maria's message that bear talking about: (1) It appears the kids can swim in the pond this year. (Of course, parents will have to take all the appropriate precautions.) (2) Local family members can arrive really early on the day of the reunion to set up and get things ready. Hopefully, everyone will participate in returning the lodge to its previous state after the reunion.

There were about 60 attendees at the last reunion held in 2019. Hopefully, we can attract even more than

that this year. It would be great if you would contact Cousin Rod Ames, Cousin Paul Gardner, or Cousin Len Griffes if you plan to attend so that we can get some idea about how many people will be there. Thank you.

Oh, and while you're on the grounds, don't forget to check out the new signage on "The Gardner Living History Trail!!" We are so looking forward to seeing everyone again after such a long hiatus.



**The NorthWoods Welcome Center
in East Charleston, VT**



Save the Date – July 9, 2022

Celebrate the Life of Terry Ames



Terrence L. Ames

February 14, 1948 - August 26, 2021

*Join us for a memorial service to celebrate
Terry's life*

*Derby Community Church, Derby, Vermont
July 9, 2022 at 11am with internment at Meed
Hill Cemetery, Holland Vt
Luncheon at DCC
Family, Patty, Dawn, Rod*





Earl H. Lang - per Ripley's Believe it or Not, the Youngest Captain in the U.S. Army during World War I

by: Beulah Griffes



Aunt Beulah is on a roll! Her article entitled "Haying on the Farm" published in our last issue received such positive reviews that she decided to contribute another article for this current issue. In this submission, she researched information about her half-uncle, Earl H. Lang (1895 – 1929).

The *Gardner Newsletter* has published several articles in the past about Earl Lang's illustrious military career. However, Aunt Beulah's meticulous research through studying his letters to his family reveals some facts not known before, such as the actual date of his death, October 31, 1929, as well as a lot more about his personal life with Verna Aldrich and the children they had together, Milt and Tilly.

Earl H. Lang was a half-brother to William Gardner. He was married to Verna, whose maiden name was Aldrich.

Mother's name – Amy Ripley Lang - **Father's name** – Albert Lang. His date of birth was January 15, 1895. His date of death was October 31, 1929.

Earl H. Lang enlisted in the

Army on 3-6-1916 as a private in Company D, First Infantry, probably at Fort Ethan Allen in Burlington, VT. He was stationed at Eagle Pass, TX, Fort Ethan Allen, VT. and Westfield, MA for about one year and 6 months before going to France.

While stationed in Eagle Pass, Texas he was vaccinated for smallpox. He expected to be sick, but he didn't mind it at all, unlike the two soldiers that fainted. He was given a drawing for him to build a

the kitchens.

While in Fort Ethan Allen, 37 of the men left for five different places in the states. He had to stay there as he had charge of another carpentry job. There was a lady named Beatrice that liked him, and a girl named, Verna, who he eventually married. He was saying that Verna and Beatrice might be coming to Fort Ethan Allen to visit him on the same day. If they did, he would be in a pretty fix. Earl received official notice that he had qualified for his commission. He is now Range Officer for the First Battalion.

August 4, 1917 was the last day of the National Guard. Tomorrow they are to be mustered into the regular service. Earl and Verna got engaged while still at Fort Ethan Allen around 9/5/17.

While in Westfield, MA, the captain had to leave for the day, 9/5/1917, so that meant that Earl was in command of the company that day.

"On 10/02/1917, we left Westfield, MA for New York. Arrived

at 12:30 AM. On 10/3/1917, we boarded the Aurania (which has since sunk). We left port before daybreak and went to Halifax, Nova Scotia. We waited 24 hours for another boat. When another boat



Earl Lang, National Guard - 1916

arrived, we took a northern course for England and came up around the north coast of Ireland and down through the Irish Sea to Liverpool, England. On 10/17/1917, we took a train to Southampton. Then we took a cattle boat across the English Channel to Le-Havre, France."

.... Somewhere In France
- 10/27/1917 through
11/20/1918



RMS Aurania - 1916

thatched roof porch for the colonel. The colonel called him "Mr. Carpenter" and Earl said he swelled up like a toad (i.e., Earl felt a lot of pride in his work). He had full charge of several buildings, laying out the foundations and putting in



Earl H. Lang, per Ripley's Believe it or Not - the Youngest Captain in the U.S. Army during World War I
(continued from Page 4)

On 11/21/1917, Earl talks about Congressman Porter Dale of Island Pond who came - and it was so good to see him again. The Congressman said the general opinion was that the war would take two to four years to finish.

On 11/23/1917, Earl applied for government insurance in his mother's (Amy Lang) favor. "Don't think I am making a will - for I am not going to give you a chance to draw the insurance yet. Ha! Ha!"

On 11/28/1917, Earl talks about tomorrow being Thanksgiving. "They will have turkey, cranberry sauce, nuts, apples and pie. They are getting very good food and it costs a little less than a \$1.00 per day". He gets an increase in pay for foreign service. He now makes a little over \$255.00 per month.

On 12/8/1917, he talks about wanting to see Ruth, Elizabeth, Lois and Earl. He says he is glad Will and Olive had a boy because boys are what we need now. This is a quote, "I think they (Will and Olive) ought to wait and give me the chance to catch up. Ha! Ha!" Earl received a Christmas card from the Lyndonville librarian, Miss Hills. He said, "It helps a fellow a lot to know there is someone out there who hasn't forgotten you just because you are gone."



World War I Military Airplane

On 12/28/1917, Earl moved 400 miles and has been sick a couple of days. Jobs for him to do have been piling up. He has a carload of clothing, two carloads of wood, six loads of coal, two truckloads of ordnance property, and a lot of quartermaster supplies. He is responsible for all this work because he was appointed Supply Officer on 5/1/1917.

On 3/12/1918, Earl made his first flight in an airplane. He enjoyed it tremendously and would like to transfer to that branch of service. On this first flight

the motor went bad which forced them to land. "This country is so level they could land almost anywhere. Right now, there is a signal ringing to go to the dugouts. It is not very close, so I will stay. I put a blanket over the window so that the light from the candle cannot be seen. Quite a lot of raids lately for there is a full moon." He knows a "Boche" plane when he sees one; i.e., a German plane, rather than a French plane. The French use a rotary motor and the Germans use a stationary motor.



United States Army Air Service

4/18/1918, Earl had to make up a set of charges against one of his men and it may mean a general court martial. He hates to do this but the man disobeyed a lawful order.

5/5/1918, Earl is an agent officer for the whole munitions train and still commanding a company - and they are sending his second lieutenant back to the States so that leaves Earl all alone. A few days ago he had a 100 mile trip and \$50,000 worth of checks to cash.

On 6/3/1918, Earl was given a First Lieutenant commission. He has a silver bar to wear on each shoulder and an extra dollar a day.

6/13/1918, Earl wishes he could drop into Will's ice cream parlor. "The ice cream here is bad."

.... Somewhere in France - 7/18/1918

(Note: "Boche" is a derogatory epithet used by military personnel to describe the German enemy during World War I.)

"The Boche have been shelling for three days and nights. They killed 12 horses and one man. We think we have silenced them

because they have not fired on us for three hours. I was

in one place this morning, heard a whistle and dropped on my belly, and the pieces went over me instead of hitting me, as would have happened if I was standing."

.... Somewhere in France - 7/26/1918



Earl H. Lang, per Ripley's Believe it or Not - the Youngest Captain in the U.S. Army during World War I
(continued from Page 5)

The "Boche" are on the run and we are after them. My quarters are an old barn with no doors or windows and full of shell holes. The day before I came the "Boche" held the place.

.... Somewhere I France - 8/1/1918

"Signing my name as "Captain" and getting \$2640.00 per year. Became captain officially on 7/13/1919.

.... Somewhere in France - 10/15/1918

Transferred to the Air Service and loves to be in the air. They are having problems finding someone to take his place in the train. He hates to leave his outfit. "The boys in my office say it is like losing their father."

.... Somewhere in France - 10/25/1918

At last, in the Air Service. Expects to finish his course in 10 days and then will go to artillery school. Will have to learn wireless telegraphy and have some practical work before going to the front again. After finishing the course, he expects to get some flying time.

.... Somewhere in France - 11/20/1918

Looks as though the war is over, but not sure. Armistice Day was on 11/11/1918. Hopes the war is over; but on the other hand, would like to see a little action in the air. Earl has finished the course in artillery and radio and now at another school getting his gunnery. He flies several times every day; and one time as they were flying over a lake, the motor went bad. They sent out a tug boat and the motor went bad on the tug boat. It took a while before they got it fixed.

1/1/1919 - Fort Plesnoy, France

Earl applied for Disbursing Quartermaster work. With a captain's commission and experience when in France, he feels he could handle the job. He is okay with this job, but would still prefer the Air Service. In the last 10 days, Earl has been called upon twice by the commanding general. They pulled

surprise inspections on Earl. The only thing they could find was one man smoking in his billet. Yesterday, they assigned a regular army captain for instructions in the Ammunition Service. He outranks Earl, but the Colonel says Earl is to retain command, so he feels quite honored.

1/5/1919

Earl is now back with his old company, and it seems so good to him. Earl had command of the Motor Battalion for eleven days in addition to his company. But now, Major Cushing is back from leave.

The latest rumor is that the 26th Division are going to move; and, after physical exams etc., we will take a boat to the good old USA and reach home by the middle of March. We had a regular show-down made by an inspector from the headquarters of the First Army and he was very well satisfied with the outfit and gave us quite a compliment, something quite unusual for an army inspector to do. My men sure did work hard to prepare for it.

Earl's typewriter fell on the floor which nearly ruined it. Earl took it apart, hammered out some 37mm shells to make new parts. It works fine now.

1/19/1919

Just received orders to report to the commanding general for assignment. The commanding general has been asked by Colonel Howard, who is Chief Inspector of Finance Accounts, to fill a vacancy as Disbursing Quartermaster for the Service of Supply. It is a great job and a compliment to be recommended by a regular army colonel. In this office, Earl will handle two million dollars a month. (Earl was only 24 years old, at this point.)

Had a farewell party for his non-commissioned officers just to say goodbye. It was hard because Earl thinks of the boys in the old company as if they were brothers. Earl thanked his men and told them he came to them as a second lieutenant and now, today, here



Fort Ethan Allen Tower, Burlington, VT



**Earl H. Lang, per Ripley's Believe it or Not - the Youngest Captain in the U.S. Army during World War I
(continued from Page 6)**

he is as a captain. He attributed his success to Company D.

2/10/1919 - Klotten Germany

Earl is assigned as Officer of the Day for the 4th Ammunitions Train. The Officer of the Day has to stay in headquarters all night. Earl is staying up until after midnight. Then he will inspect his guard, which will take about an hour. Then he can sleep until reveille at 6:30 a.m. It was interesting to Earl that he had hauled ammunition to Klotten, Germany to shell the place. Now he is here as the "Army of Occupation."

2/26/1919 - Klotten Germany

Earl says it will be some time before he gets home. According to the paper, all regular army divisions will stay in Germany as long as any American troops are required. Earl thinks that Verna thinks he is never coming home, but he feels he ought to have more money saved before he comes home. Probably he

word that he was dead. Earl felt so bad because he was a fine fellow. He was always willing to do everything Earl asked him to do and he did jobs very well.

4/8/1919 - Klotten, Germany

Expect to move farther into Germany to take the place of the "Rainbow Division." They are National Guard Troops. The 26th Company is probably in Boston. This is the company that Earl was in when he came to France. He is saving money and looking forward to getting married to Verna when he gets home. He was able to send \$400 home. He has to buy his own clothes. Bought a trench coat, which cost him \$90. Earl said that Boston is planning a great reception for the 26th Company. He wishes his mother and father could go to Boston. They would see a bunch of real men.

6/22/1919 - Mulheim. Germany



Boston's Welcome Home Parade for the National Guard's 26th Company - April 25, 1919

wants to have money to start off well when he and Verna get married. Earl had a letter from his old first sergeant. He says that no matter who they have for a company commander, the boys say there is no second Captain Lang. Earl hated to leave them for he had command of them the first time they were under fire, and every one of the 26th was like a brother to him. Some of the older men tried to transfer with Earl rather than go home.

3/16/1919 - Klotten, Germany

"Had a rather hard blow a few days ago." He sent one of his men to the hospital, and a couple days later he received

This place is a little bit dangerous because there is an ammunition dump here which they are cleaning out. A few days ago, there was a bad fire which killed two Germans and almost killed Earl. Also a bunch of hand grenades went off and put two men in the hospital.

AFTER THE WAR

11/30/1924 - Lyndonville, VT

Earl went to work for a man named Philo, building an ell on a house in Lyndonville. Verna and the two kiddies had Thanksgiving at Philo's.



Earl H. Lang, per Ripley's Believe it or Not - the Youngest Captain in the U.S. Army during World War I
(continued from Page 7)

**12/16/1928 - 65 prospect Street,
Rutland, VT.**

The house they were working on had a mistake in the plans and the inspector asked Earl to draw a new plan.

4/14/192 - Rutland, VT.

Earl talks about a man he was working with who got killed on the job. Even though he had seen many killed under different circumstances, it took some time to get over it. Earl talks about building an elevator shaft, which was 118 ft high, with a landing in the basement. The elevator will be used to hoist the brick, stone, and mortar for building the new front. He and Verna went to church. Verna stayed for Sunday School and Earl came home to get dinner.

**Aunt Beulah's conclusions about Earl
Lang:**

"I have heard, but I'm not sure where, that Earl died from falling down an elevator shaft, and there is some evidence that this is true. In his letter dated 4/14/1929, he talks about building an elevator shaft which was 118 ft. high and was in the City of Rutland. This is the last letter that I have from Earl. Also, the death certificate, which I was able to get from the city of Rutland, VT, indicates the cause of death as "skull fracture (unknown)."

As I have been organizing and taking notes from Uncle Earl's letters, I have come to the conclusion that Earl Lang was a good carpenter, a good soldier, and a good commander. His men liked him, and you can see why because of what the men said when he was leaving. They said it was like losing their father. Also, some of the older men wanted to stay with Earl instead of going home."

Earl's Military Appointments

March 6, 1916. He enlisted as a private in Co D, First Infantry.

July 1, 1916. Made First Class Private.

Sept 7, 1916. Mustered out of Federal Service.

March 28, 1917. Appointed Corporal.

April 2, 1917. Called into Federal Service again with the First Infantry.

May 1, 1917. Appointed Supply Sergeant.

May 7, 1917. Appointed Second Lieutenant.

August 23, 1917. Transferred to the 101st Ammunition Train, 26th Division. He was assigned to Company "F", which was a horse company.

June 3, 1918. Appointed First Lieutenant.

July 13, 1918. Given captain's commission.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the upcoming Fall 2022 issue of The Gardner Newsletter will be our 100th issue?

This means you have lots of time between this current issue as well as the Summer 2022 issue, up to the publication date of the Fall 2022 issue to think about how you can help celebrate this great milestone that we have all reached together.

We're asking you, our subscribers, friends, and family, to send in your thoughts about the newsletter as well as any suggestions as to how we can improve and make it better. Your expressions of appreciation for the newsletter may inspire others to become a subscriber and allow them to read it on-line as well.

There are several methods of contacting Paul Gardner, your editor, to register your thoughts and opinions. Here they are:

E-mail address: epaulgardner@msn.com . Cell phone: (781) 346-3566

Mailing Address: Paul Gardner, 28 Ninth Street, # 404, Medford, MA 02155.

You can even send a message through the *Gardner News* website by following this link: [Greta's New Interactive Page \(gardnernews.org\)](http://Greta's New Interactive Page (gardnernews.org)). You can also send a message through "The Gardners" group page on Facebook.

We can't wait to share your valuable insights about the newsletter in the highly anticipated 100th issue due to be published in November 2022. What you think is VERY important to us!

See you at The Gardner Family Reunion this coming July and for our Summer 2022 issue in August.