

Kimberly Brooks

▶ Teaching Situation

- Crossville High School, Crossville, AL
 - ▶ Grades 6-12, pop. Approx. 1000
 - ▶ Approx. 160 students in 6 classes
 - ▶ Jr. Civitan Sponsor
 - ▶ HS Scholar's Bowl Sponsor
 - ▶ PLATO Administrator-AHSGE and Credit Recovery
 - ▶ ACCESS Facilitator
- DTAH
 - ▶ Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History
 - www.gilderlehrman.org
- Adjunct Teaching
 - ▶ HIS 101,102,201,202,121,122



D-TAH



Sgt. Alvin C. York





Serial No. 372

Local Board Local Board for the County of Pettus,
(This must be the name of the local board.)
 Address Jacksonville, Tenn.

Form No. 103, prepared by the Provost Marshal General.

CLAIM OF APPEAL BY PERSON CERTIFIED TO DISTRICT BOARD.

To Local Board Local Board for the County of Pettus,
(This must be the name of the local board.)
 Address Jacksonville, Tenn.

I, Alvin Collins York, Pell Hall, Tennessee,
(Name) (Address)
 now hereby claim an appeal to the District Board for Madison District of Tennessee
(This must be the name of the district board.)
Jacksonville, Tennessee, because you denied my claim for
(This must be the name of the local board.)
 discharge which was based upon the ground that I am a member
 of a well organized religious sect or organization existing
 May 10th, 1917, whose then existing creed or principles for-
 bid its members to participate in war, etc.

A. C. York
(Signature)
Pell Hall, Tennessee,
(Address)

* Specify in the blank lines the nature of the decision of the Local Board appealed from, whether relating to status of membership or discharge, or to physical fitness or otherwise for military service.



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Home, Sweet Home
 Back home again in the Tennessee mountains.

Sgt. York

Bio

- ▶ Born Alvin Cullum York, December 13, 1887, in Pall Mall, Tennessee.
- ▶ His life was turned around by a woman, Gracie Williams, who convinced him to give up his worldly ways and go to church. Formed long held and firm religious beliefs as a result.
- ▶ Drafted in 1917.
- ▶ Impressed the regular army officers with his ability to use a gun. Shot accurately at ranges of 200, 300 and 500 yards. Struggled with the moral issue of killing human beings, and refused to shoot at human silhouettes (targets).
- ▶ At the battle of the Argonne Forest in the fall of 1918, as a member of the 82nd division, he killed 25 Germans, knocked out 35 machine guns, and captured 132 prisoners almost single-handed.
- ▶ Recieved the French Croix de Guerre, the Italian Groce de Guerra, the American Medal of Honor, and Distinguished Service Cross (numerous others).
- ▶ Came home to the adulation of the American people, married Gracie Williams, and died in Nashville, Tenn. on September 2, 1964 after having a cerebral hemorrhage.

Sgt. York

Religion vs. Patriotism

- ▶ reputation of being the best marksman and hunter in Fentress County, Tennessee before the war
- ▶ York applied for Conscientious Objector status due to his religion when drafted; as his church denomination did not specifically prohibit service in war
- ▶ the application was turned down
- ▶ performed well in basic training, tutoring his fellow draftees in marksmanship
- ▶ he repeatedly sought exemption from combat
- ▶ An open and frank discussion with his company and battalion commanders, debating religion and patriotic duty, ended with York being given two weeks' leave to decide
- ▶ The battalion commander, Major G. Edward Buxton Jr., agreed to discharge him if he still held to his convictions after the leave
- ▶ York returned and went overseas with the 82nd "All American" Division
- ▶ He attributed his decision to Matthew 22:21 "...Then sayeth he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things which are God's."

Sgt. York Quotes

- ▶ *"Sir, I am doing wrong. Practicing to kill people is against my religion."*

York, speaking of target practice at human silhouettes.

- ▶ *"What you did was the greatest thing accomplished by any private soldier of all the armies of Europe."*

Marshall Ferdinand Foch, on York's feat in the Argonne.

- ▶ *"This uniform ain't for sale."*

York, on demands for his endorsement.

- ▶ *"It's over; let's just forget about it."*

York's modesty about the the event that brought him the Medal of Honor.

Church of Christ in Christian Union Origins

- ▶ Church of Christ in Christian Union
 - Late 1700s, John Wesley voiced an article of faith he called “perfectionism.”
 - ▶ It said Christians got a “second blessing” called “sanctification.”
 - ▶ This assured them of freedom from original sin as well as salvation.
 - ▶ Eventual split (mid-1800s) from American Methodists

Church of Christ in Christian Union Origins

- ▶ The Holiness movement of 1860s adopted sanctification as a “vehicle of spiritual rejuvenation.”
- ▶ Disaffected Methodists left to establish new churches and this fed the growth of the Church of Christ in Christian Union.
 - New groups –Columbus, OH (1863), Terra Haute, IN (1864), more in Midwest and border states of KY and TN after the Civil War.

Church of Christ in Christian Union Origins

- ▶ C.C.C.U. discouraged “political preaching”
- ▶ Minimized distinctions among Christians-appealing to people at lower end of social scale or “mountain folk” – like York.
- ▶ Bible considered the “only rule of faith and practice”
- ▶ Encouraged parishioners to interpret Scriptures in THEIR WAY.

Church of Christ in Christian Union Doctrine

- ▶ Members had only to:
 - confess Christ as Savior
 - Accept the Bible as the revealed word of God
 - Promise to study and follow Bible's teachings-as THEY understood them
 - Local congregations were self-governing
 - ▶ i.e., baptism performed in a "scriptural" manner as individuals felt correct

Church of Christ in Christian Union Doctrine

- ▶ NO specific doctrine of pacificism
- ▶ History of resistance to warfare
 - Early life of church REFUSED to
 - ▶ Vote for resolution of war
 - ▶ Pray for the success of war
 - ▶ Join the ranks that marched on the streets at war meetings

Legacy



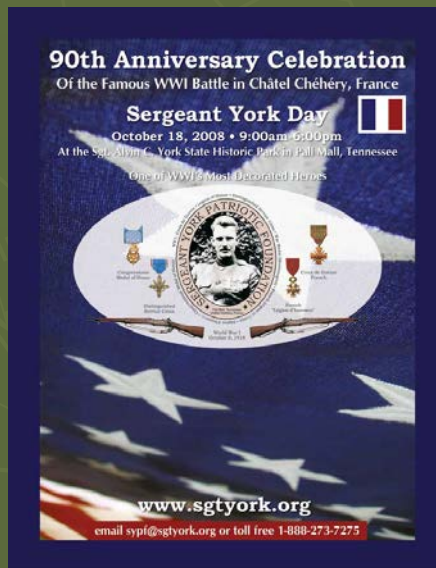
York Historical Park,
Pall Mall, TN



7 December 1941



M247 Sergeant York



Sgt. York Day



Alvin & Gracie's
Wedding Day

June 7, 1919



Later Years



York Home
& Wolf River
Church



Legacy



Sgt. York & Wilburn
Ross 1945



Alvin C. York & grandchild



Alvin York, Gracie, son
George, & the Standleys

In Memory of:
SGT. ALVIN C. YORK
 Born:
 December 13, 1887
 Pall Mall, Tenn.
 Died:
 September 2, 1964
 Husband of:
 Gracie C. York
 Father of:
 Alvin C. York, Jr.
 George Edward Buxton York
 Woodrow Wilson York
 Andrew Jackson York
 Betsy Ross Lowrey
 Mary Alice Franklin
 Thomas Jefferson York
 Brother of:
 Robert York
 George York
 Henry York
 Mrs. Lillie Stewart
 Mrs. Lucy Rains
 Services from:
 York's Chapel Church Of Christ
 In Christian Union
 Saturday, September 5th, 2:00 P.M.
 With Full Military Honors
 Interment At:
 Wolf River Cemetery
 Jamestown Funeral Home
 Jamestown, Tenn.

Sgt. York
Funeral Card



Gracie York
&
The Gravesite



Sgt. York 1953



Sgt. York U.S. Army

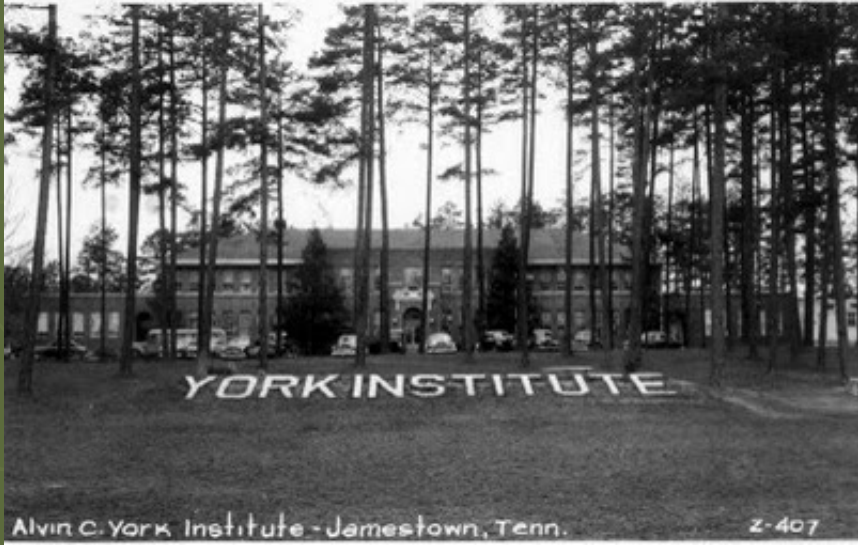
Images



Alvin & Gracie



York & Sons Store



York & his mother



Alvin York, 1950s



York & the Governor of Tennessee