

A Hero Comes Home

Charles T. Noonan

Charles T. Noonan, son of Michael and Mary Jane Noonan of Lee, was born on November 3, 1899. One of eight children, Charles and the Noonan family lived in a house on Main Street in downtown Lee, across from the town Library. Today, the sight is occupied by the Hyde House.

Charles grew up in Lee, a communicant of St. Mary's Church. As he grew into his teen years, Charles developed a love for motorcycles. When ever possible, Charles worked as a "motor machinist" at the Park Garage. His nickname was "shift", coming from his love of motorcycles. An engaging young man, he was well liked by all who knew him.

Charles enlisted in the Army in 1918 requesting duty in a motorcycle squad. When shipped out to Europe, he saw action, quite horrific for an eighteen year old to experience.

On October fourteenth, twenty days before his nineteenth birthday while serving in Belleau Wood, France Charles was killed. It was two weeks before the Armistice. An item appeared in the November 29th 1918 Berkshire Gleaner stating that Private Charles T. Noonan of Lee was killed in action on October 14th. Mr. and Mrs. Noonan were notified by telegram. Mrs. Noonan received a letter dated July 20th 1919 from D.E. Thebaud, Company commander, Headquarters Company, 38th Infantry. The letter expressed his deep sorrow for her loss. The letter also detailed his pride in the valiant service and brave deeds rendered by Charles. Enclosed in the letter was a Victory Ribbon awarded to Charles with bronze stars denoting the number of major operations in which he participated.

Charles was not returned to Lee for burial until September 7th 1921. He was the first of the young men from Lee lost in the war to be returned. Charles was buried on September 9th, with a funeral Mass at St. Mary's Church and full Military honors. The Kelly Funeral home coordinated the burial. John J. Bossidy of Lee Post #78 American Legion was in charge of the military

detail. The Lee Draft Board was represented by its Chairman Judge Bart Bossidy.

I am Charles Thomas Quigley, son of the youngest Noonan, (Marjorie), and proud to have been named in honor of a true hero from Lee Massachusetts.



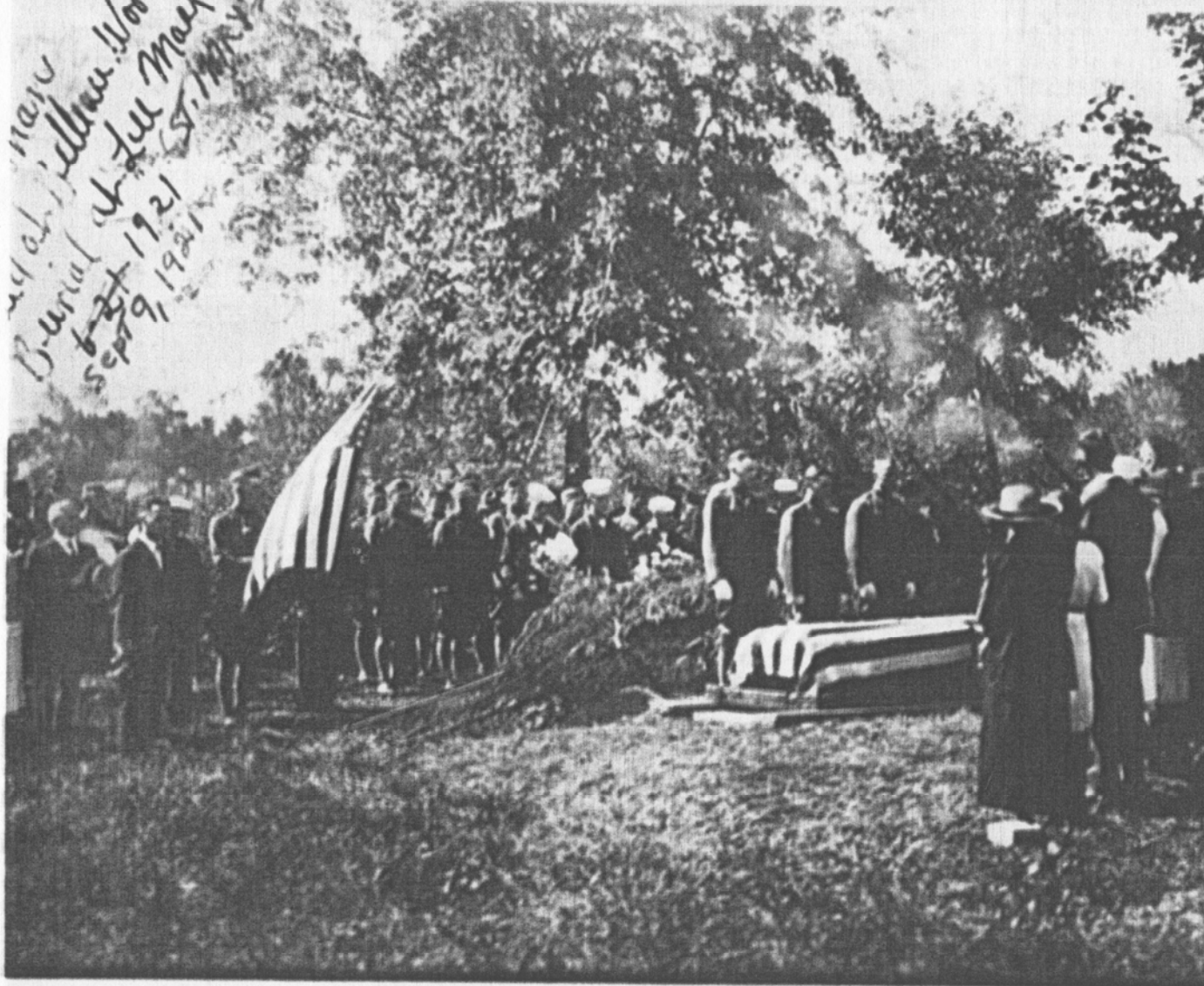
FUNERAL PROCESSION OF

Private Charles T. Noonan of Lee, Mass., who was killed in action in France on 14 October 1918 while serving with Headquarters Company, 38th Infantry, A.E.F. He was born in Lee, Mass., 3 November 1899 the son of Michael and Mary Buckley Noonan and was 18 years of age at the time of his death. His body was returned to Lee on 7 September 1921 in a sealed Oak casket in charge of the Kelly Funeral Home. The funeral was held two days later, 9 September at St. Mary's Church. This picture was taken while passing his late home on Main Street while en route from the Church to St. Mary's Cemetery.

Commander John J. Bossidy of Lee Post #78, American Legion was in charge of the military detail. There were 100 service men in line. Bearers were: William Plue, Edward Sutton, George Wright, Hubert Orienti, Walter Walker, and Joseph Whalen. Members of the firing squad were: Joseph Pompei, Louis Vania, William Powers, John Ford, Thomas Toomey, James McGinty, Michael Vecchia, and Charles Brazee. Taps sounded by David Bowers. Celebrant of the Requiem Mass was Rev. James J. Donahue. Lee Draft Board was represented by its Chairman, Judge Bart Bossidy. Also in line besides family and friends were the Sunshine Sisters and High School Students. The DAR placed a wreath and the colors on the memorial tablet at the Library

Killed in Action Oct 18, 1918

Major
William Wood
Burial at Lee Mass
Sept 1921
St. Mary's





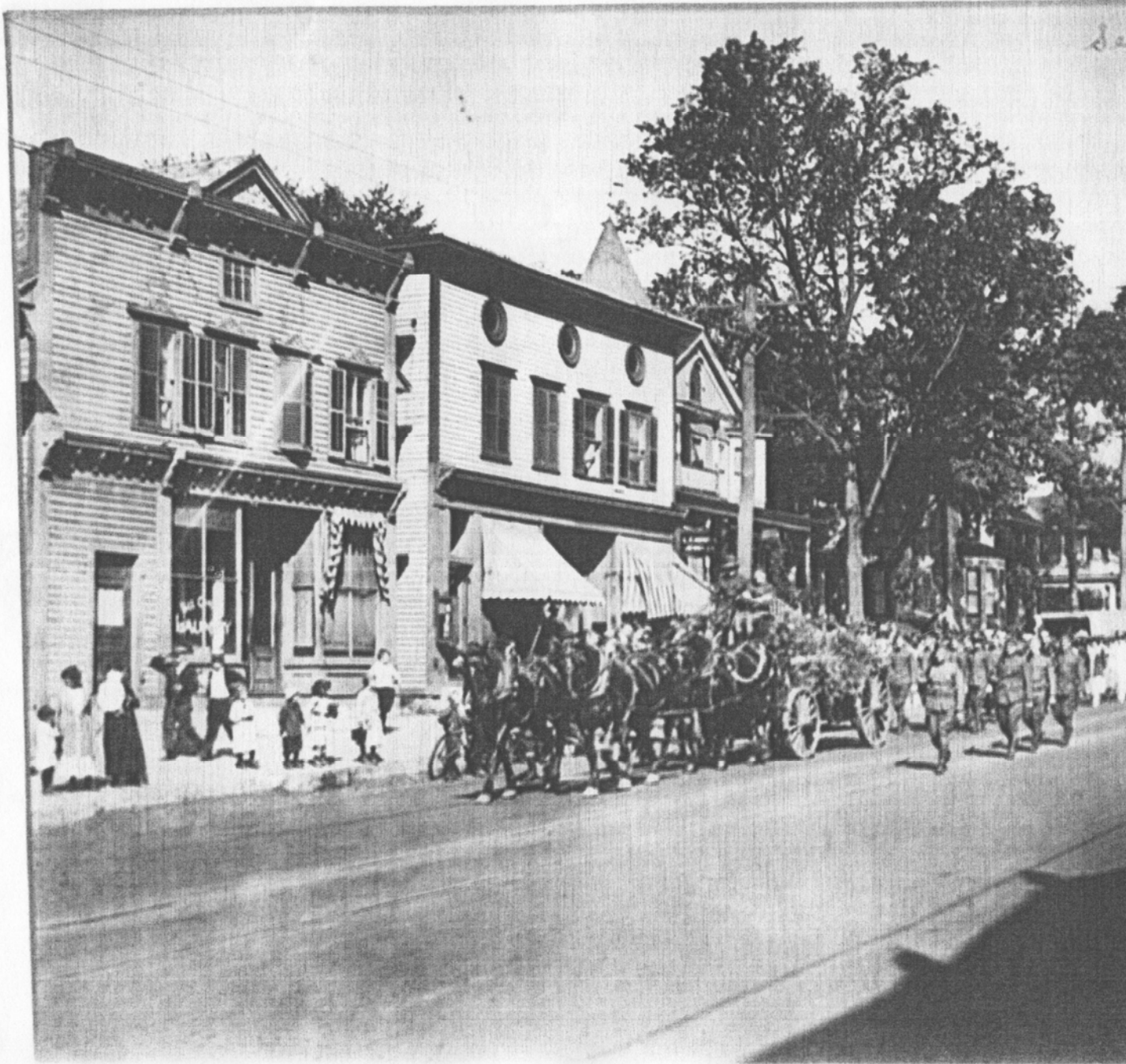
CHARLES T NOONAN

MASSACHUSETTS

PVT HQ CO 38 INFANTRY

WORLD WAR I PH

NOV 3 1899 · OCT 14 1918



The Noonan home on Main Street was replaced by movie theater which in turn was replaced in approximately 1985 by the present structure, Hyde House.

