

# ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT

When Frank Woodruff Buckles died in 2011 he was the last surviving American veteran of World War I. In 1986, Cabot students in Mr. Polston's U. S. History class participated in a letter writing project with veterans of that war. Buckles, who enlisted in the military at age sixteen, was among the approximately 100 veterans who participated in the project. His letter is a part of the over 400 pages of first-hand World War I information collected by the students. That valuable collection is one of many housed in the school operated museum.

FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES  
GAP VIEW FARM  
JEFFERSON COUNTY  
CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 25414

17 December 1986

Mr. Mike Polston  
Cabot High School  
Cabot, Arkansas 72023

Dear Mr. Polston:

Your project for recording first hand information from the soldiers and others who took part in World War I seems very worth while. Now is the time to collect data before they all fade away.

In December 1917 I sailed with the American Expeditionary Force in the SS "Carpathia" from Hoboken, N.J., via Halifax to Glasgow, Scotland, as a member of the First Ft. Riley casual detachment - a unit of only 102 men.

The "Carpathia" had on board many of the officers and crew who participated in the rescue of the White Star Liner "Titanic" on April 15, 1912. The crew members of the Cunard vessel "Carpathia" had vivid memories of the famous event which I had read about as a young boy and their vivid recitals made the voyage pass quickly.

I spent two years in England, France and after the Armistice was attached to a Prisoner of War escort unit to take prisoners back to Germany.

Maybe I can furnish some useful information for your project. Except for my relatives no one knows that I was in the Great War, which may be one reason the details are retained so vividly in my mine; that is my experiences not being mingled with stories of other veterans to the point where the teller combines his experiences with that of his compatriots.

My Army serial number was 15,577 and considering that General John J. Pershing was No. 1, that brings me in the forefront.

With regards and best wishes for an interesting project.

Sincerely,  
*Frank Woodruff Buckles*



