



CLARENCE C. PALMER
U.S. Army, Wagoneer
World War I

Wagoneer Clarence C. Palmer made sure the supplies flowed readily to the troops of the 126 Infantry, 32nd Division during World War I. He served under General John "Black Jack" Pershing at The Battle of Château-Thierry and the area around Soissons. Palmer was then part of a supply team that split off and under Col. George Marshall went on to fight in the "Hundred Day Offensive" in support of the French armed forces. This effort included the Battles of the Argonne Forest and the Battle of Montfaucon. The "Hundred Day Offensive" was one of the bloodiest battle efforts of World War I with 26,277 troops killed and 95,786 wounded. This was the finalizing battle efforts of the 1st World War.

Wagoneers and their mule teams played a vital part in supplying the troops with munitions and food. Dale Palmer, the son of Clarence Palmer, remembers the time his father told of being under enemy fire and the mule team balked and would not move. In order to get them to move out of the line of fire, Wagoneer Palmer bit down on the ear of the mule pack's lead mule. With that bite, the mule decided it didn't like the bite or the battle action and followed direction from Palmer to go for cover. A picture of Wagoneer Palmer and his mule teams and wagons are featured in the Autobiography of General John J "Black Jack" Pershing.

Wagoneer Palmer was raised in Springfield Township, Mercer County and raised his family in the Mercer area. He is survived by his 82 year old son, Dale C. Palmer of Church Road, Virginia and his daughter, Mary Jean (John) Kraynak of West Virginia.

Clarence Palmer was one of the founders of the Mercer Moose Lodge, and was instrumental in formation of the originating Mercer American Legion Post # 159.

Clarence's grandson, Brian Palmer of Hadley, PA, is an active volunteer who drives the limousine for one of the posthumous honorees in the Memorial Day 500 Parade every year.