

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



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## REMEMBERING ARMISTICE DAY, 100 YEARS AGO

### The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month, 1918.

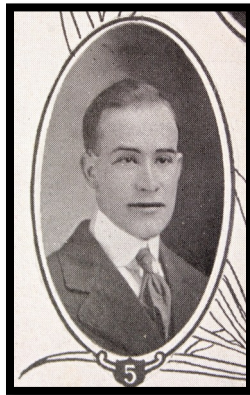
This was the date and time the world leaders (Allied and Central Powers—England, France, Italy) met with the leaders of Germany and signed an armistice (a ceasefire of military operations). Even as it was signed at 5AM, they agreed that the time would start at 11AM, Paris time. The leaders met in a railroad car owned by Marshal Ferdinand Foch, in Compiègne Forest, near Rethondes, France to sign the armistice. The terms were largely written by Allied Supreme Commander, Marshall Ferdinand Foch, French Military Commander. Present were: F. Foch, R. E. Wemyss, Matthias Erzberger, Alfred von Oberndorff, Detlof von Winterfeldt and Ernst Vanselow.

Even though the conflicts and hostilities did not end until mid 1919, November 11, 1918 will always be known as the end of the “Great War”, referred to as the “war to end all wars.” The Great War consumed over 7.5 million soldier lives before its end. The US lost 49,000 soldiers on foreign land. A total of 112,000 deaths from all causes. Disease and flu epidemic raged on during that time.

Over 100 soldiers from the Brighton area were engaged in the War. We lost 3 local young men in the Western Conflict. They

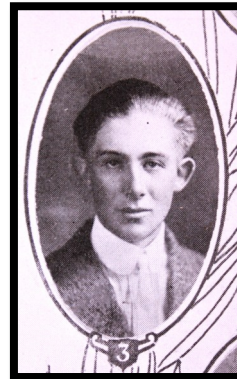
were: Jesse Barton Cooley, John Avis and Clare W. Rorabacher.

**Jesse B. Cooley**, Private WE 126, Inf 32, was the first local to die. He was killed in action on August 21, 1918, just shy of his 22nd birthday, at Chateau Thierry. The American Legion Post 235 was named in honor of Jesse B. Cooley.

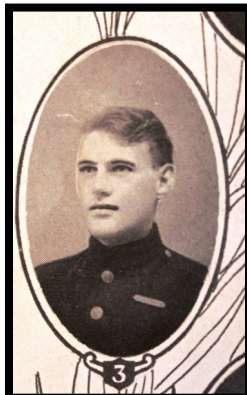


armistice. He went over-the-top 5 times and was killed on the 5th try.

**Clare W. Rorabacher**, Corporal Co. S, 126th was from Green Oak/Brighton. He was in service from June 19, 1916 and sent overseas on February 26, 1918. He was killed in action on October 26, 1918 in fighting in Argonne Forest.



**John Avis**, Marine Private Co. 76, 6 Maries 2 Div. from Genoa was in service from 1915. He met and married Jennie Lewis and had a daughter born in 1918. He went overseas on August 12, 1918 and was killed in fighting in the Argonne Forest on November 1, 1918, 10 days before the



November 11 of each year is set aside to remember our brave soldiers who died to not only protect our rights, but to make the world a better place.

(Compiled by Mindy Kinsey and Judith Coebly from the following resources: Roll Call of WW! And the Brighton Argus archives.)