



They're no longer

■ Former Levittown resident devotes himself to reconstructing the lives of all of Freeport's war dead, from the Civil War through Vietnam

BY MARTIN C. EVANS
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AS DON SCHULTZ prepares for bed, he often weeps for the veterans of Freeport who were killed in war, then forgotten by history.

Their stories have become an emotional issue for him, now that tidbits of their lives are arrayed on his desk at his Jacksonville, Fla., home.

"You know, when I'm wrapping it up for the night, I say good night to them," said Schultz, a member of the Freeport High School Class of 1952. "It is tearing my eyes up right now."

It has been this way since March 3, when a friend asked the retired supermarket manager whether a member of the Freeport High School Class of 1957 had been killed in Vietnam.

To 'know their stories'

For Schultz, who lived in Levittown after serving in the Army, and moved to Florida 30 years ago, a personal mission was launched. In a time of war again, Schultz has devoted himself to reconstructing the lives of all of Freeport's war dead, from the Civil War through Vietnam, complete with where they were born, what unit they served in, when, how and where they died, and where they have been laid to rest.

"I just wanted to know their stories," said Schultz. "I'd talk to people and sometimes they didn't even know about a relative who had died in World War II. I didn't think they [the dead] were getting the respect they deserved."

He remembered that the Freeport Memorial Library displays the names of the village's World War II dead on a monument in front of the building. Plaques hanging inside the library also display incomplete lists of Freeport's World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War dead.

Schultz wanted a complete listing. So he decided to research their names and backgrounds himself, to honor the dead by making an archive of

his own. His list, he hopes, will bring these war dead the dignity they deserved.

"I wanted everyone to know more about them. I thought I owed them something," he added.

A childhood fascination

Schultz, 74, a former Army sergeant who served stateside during the Korean War, has been fascinated by war stories since he was a child. His mother was a Red Cross worker at Mitchel Field in Garden City. Convalescing World War II fliers home from the European front would share their experiences with him when he visited her.

"They would tell me stories galore," said Schultz, who was a Cub Scout at the time. "I was 8 or 9 years old and some of these guys were 18 to 19 years old, just a few years older than me."

Through Internet searches, newspaper clippings, tips from strangers and scores of telephone calls to Freeport librarian Regina Feeney, Schultz has researched the lives of 131 Freeport residents known to have perished in battle or under nonbattle circumstances during wartime since 1861, the first year of the Civil War, through Vietnam. Two of the 131 were female Army nurses who died during World War I. (To date, 30 Long Islanders have died in the Iraq war, none from Freeport.)

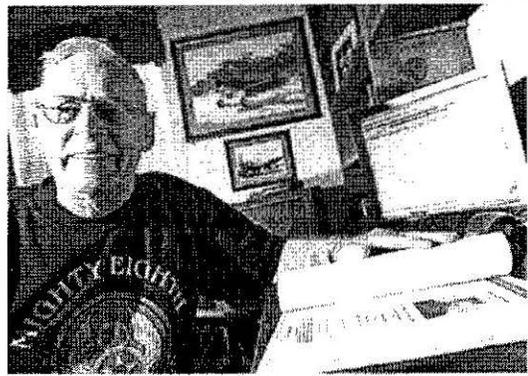
He has entered details of their lives onto a spreadsheet, including, if he could find out, their last known Freeport address, when they graduated from the local high school and where they are laid to rest.

Finding the forgotten

In old records, he found long-forgotten sagas of men born in Freeport who died in combat whose names are no longer remembered. There were brothers, Ralph and Fred License, who lived at 190 Wallace St. Both served during World War II. Fred, the younger brother, was an Army Air Force pilot with the 15th Air Force. Ralph was a private

REMEMBERING FREEPORT'S VETERANS

Researcher Don Schultz has found information on 131 Freeporters who died in combat or noncombat conditions from the Civil War to the Vietnam War. Some of his information is incomplete. He asks anyone with information on the community's deceased veterans to e-mail him at dhschultzfhs52@comcast.net. Here are some of the war dead discovered by Schultz:



GIVING THEM DIGNITY. Don Schultz decided to research the backgrounds of the war dead by making an archive of his own.

CIVIL WAR

■ **William R. Mead**, 23, an Army private, killed in action at Spotsylvania Court House, Va., on May 19, 1864. He was a fisherman before his enlistment.

■ **Benjamin F. Losee**, 21, an Army private, died of disease on Dec. 5, 1864, in Point of Rocks, Va. Before enlistment, lived on Stevens Street and worked as a fisherman. He is buried in City Point National Cemetery, in Hopewell, Va.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

■ **Charles A. Scott**, a Navy seaman, died

Feb. 15, 1898, when his battleship, the USS Maine, sank in Havana harbor. Buried first in Key West, Fla.; later reburied in Arlington National Cemetery.

WORLD WAR I

■ **Harold E. Maxon**, an Army corporal, killed in action on Sept. 29, 1918, in France. He had lived at 78 S. Long Beach Ave. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

■ **Stanley Hart**, an aviation lieutenant, died in an airplane accident in England on June 5, 1918. He had lived at 160 Merrick Rd. His brother, Charles M. Hart, was the architect of the Freeport Memorial Library.

with the 4th Infantry Division. They were killed five months apart — Fred in February, Ralph in July — in 1944. Both are buried at Colleville-sur-Mer, France, within earshot of the waves that crash on Normandy's Omaha Beach.

They are not the only pair of Freeport brothers who died in combat. There were the two sons of Willett and Sarah Mott who fought in the Civil War. Dandridge and Joseph Mott were fishermen. Dandridge was 15 when he enlisted in 1862. Joseph, then 17, followed his younger brother into the Union Army three days later. The brothers sent money home during the war to support two other brothers in the family.

Dandridge became a Union drummer boy, and survived the carnage at Gettysburg and

Chancellorsville. He had come within two dozen miles of besieged Atlanta in the summer of '64 when a bullet killed him instantly, on June 16, at a place called Pine Hill.

Joseph Mott, who served with an artillery unit, was captured two months later during a Union assault at Ream's Station, Va. He starved to death that October at North Carolina's Salisbury Confederate Prison, where 10,000 men crammed the grounds of a converted cotton factory designed to house 2,500.

Willett Mott ran a schooner between Freeport and Norfolk, Va., before the war, and ran supplies to Union soldiers during the war. After the war, the boys' mother went South to find out why her sons never came home, but never learned of their fate. The Freeport Post

of the Grand Army of the Republic — a post-Civil War organization made up of northern veterans — was named after the Mott family, according to the 1920 writings of a Civil War veteran who was a member of the Post.

Another record found by Schultz tells the story of Pvt. Walter Whittaker, who enlisted in the all-black 369th "Harlem Hellfighters" Infantry Regiment. A married man who lived at 40 Alexander Ave., he was known to his fellow soldiers as "a pretty quiet fellow," Schultz found.

In the waning weeks of World War I, Whittaker was at a guard post in France when he ordered a white second lieutenant from Georgia to display his pass. The officer, Emmett Cochran, refused, and shot Whittaker dead, according to the

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forgotten

Roosevelt murder verdict upheld

BY ANN GIVENS
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A Nassau judge yesterday upheld a Freeport man's murder conviction even after the key witness in his case testified that he had lied on the stand.

Terrill Clinkscales is set to be sentenced Aug. 25 for the 2005 murder of Jose Benitez, 36, an immigrant from El Salvador.

A different judge earlier had thrown out the guilty verdict against Clinkscales after key witness Dennis Foster said he fabricated a story implicating Clinkscales, hoping it would help him get out from under his own drug-dealing charges.



Terrill Clinkscales

An appellate court then ruled that prosecutors should have a chance to question Foster about his testimony in a hearing before another judge. After Foster took the stand in a hearing before Nassau County Court Judge Jerald Carter, Carter ruled that Clinkscales' conviction should be upheld.

"The court is not going to set aside this verdict," Carter said yesterday. "The defendant is guilty of murder in the second degree."

Additionally, Clinkscales pleaded guilty yesterday to a number of unrelated drug charges for offenses that happened since the murder conviction.

Clinkscales's lawyer, Michelle Armstrong, of Uniondale, said she plans to appeal the murder conviction.

During Clinkscales' 2006 trial, Foster, of Roosevelt, told police that he saw Clinkscales, then 17, of Freeport; Hesekia McConneghey, then 18, of Uniondale; and Eric Smith, then 17, of Roosevelt, attack Benitez in a failed robbery attempt in Roosevelt. Benitez, who was struck on the head, died days later.

McConneghey and Smith also were charged with murder. But prosecutor Michael Walsh said his office dropped those charges in September 2006 after Foster recanted his testimony. In Clinkscales' case, however, prosecutors said there was additional evidence that he committed the murder and so the case went forward.

CORRECTIONS

A story in yesterday's business section about Steve Murphy's Bloody Mary mix incorrectly referred to his mother as the late Mary Murphy.

"Raggs Live Dance Party," a 90-minute interactive show based on the PBS series for children, will be presented at 6 p.m. Saturday at Eisenhower Park's Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre in East Meadow. The show replaces "Ditty-doodle Works" on the schedule. The originally scheduled show was listed in The Guide in some editions of Sunday's LI Life.

Newsday strives for the highest level of accuracy and fairness and is committed to promptly correcting errors. Readers can report problems or concerns about content in the paper or on Newsday.com by visiting newsday.com/corrections, calling 631-843-2700 or writing to 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, NY 11747, Attention: Corrections.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1858: The first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable, the dreamchild of American businessman Cyrus Field, was laid between Newfoundland and Ireland. (However, after several weeks of use the cable burned out.)

1864: During the Civil War, Union Adm. David G. Farragut led his fleet to victory in the Battle of Mobile Bay, Ala.

1884: The cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal was laid on Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor.

1933: President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the National Labor Board, which was later replaced with the National Labor Relations Board.

1962: Actress Marilyn Monroe, 36, was found dead in her Los Angeles home; her death was ruled a probable suicide from an overdose of sleeping pills.



BATTLES. Left, Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941; U.S. Marines and Navy Corpsmen line up to load casualties aboard H-34 Marine helicopter at Con Thien in 1967.

■ **Mabel P. Guest**, a U.S. Army nurse, died of pneumonia and influenza on Long Island while waiting to be deployed to Europe. She had lived at 23 Rose St. She is buried in New Rochelle Cemetery in New Rochelle.

WORLD WAR II

■ **Donald J. Campbell**, an Army private, killed in action in the European theater on Dec. 16, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge. He had lived at 411 Southside Ave. He is buried in Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn.

■ **George E. Gardiner**, a Navy radio man, listed as missing in action after the Japanese

bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Later declared killed in action. He had lived at 70 Harding Place.

KOREA

■ **Ronald A. Canfield**, an Air Force corporal, killed by a shell fragment on Dec. 8, 1951. He had lived at 251 N. Brookside Ave. Buried in St. Ann's Cemetery, Sayville.

VIETNAM

■ **Michael P. Donlon**, 24, an Army sergeant, killed in action on June 5, 1966. He had lived at 6 Maryland Ave. He is buried in Long Island National Cemetery, Pinelawn.

book "Harlem's Hell Fighters," by Stephen L. Harris. In acquitting Cochran of murder, a judge advocate said "practically all of the witnesses who were eyewitnesses of the shooting were colored soldiers... and their story as to what happened is very unsatisfactory." Twenty years later, Cochran killed himself in a Louisiana hotel.

A personal connection

For Schultz, others discovered had a personal connection. For instance, he wondered what had become of Marine Lt. Col. Albert Pitt, who had shared roomer with Schultz during their senior year at Freeport High and graduated with him in 1952. Pitt was declared missing in action after his Phantom jet crashed in Vietnam in 1966.

"He was 6-foot-1, a good-look-

ing fellow, played football for Freeport," Schultz said.

Schultz asked a friend who lives in Washington, D.C., to check Arlington Cemetery.

"He called me that same night and said, 'Yep, he's memorialized at Arlington,'" Schultz said.

He hopes people with details on the lives of Freeport veterans he is unfamiliar with will come forward with old addresses, military ranks, unit numbers or other details that have thus far escaped him.

"There is still a lot to be done," he said.

Schultz plans to donate his work to the Freeport library — a limestone edifice on Merrick Road that is the oldest war memorial library in New York State.

That suits Feeney, the research librarian.

"It will be nice to have," said Feeney, who is also a trustee of the local historical society, and who found and forwarded the obituaries of the License boys to Schultz.

"You see these names, but you don't know who they were or how they died," she said. "It brings them to life. They become more than just a name on the wall. They become people."

Tethered to an oxygen bottle by emphysema — he smoked Luckys and Marlboros until shortness of breath persuaded him to quit nine years ago — Schultz spends most of the day poring over his research notes. He is often still awake at 3 a.m.

"I put them to bed every night," he said of his research subjects. "All 131 of them."