

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMORANDA

IN REFERENCE TO

GORDON McCLELLAN MERCER

Great care should be exercised in filling the blanks which follow. Data should be full and accurate. The facts given will form the basis for sketches, and if wanting in detail or if carelessly prepared, the sketches will be correspondingly deficient. The facts called for have reference to the subject of the sketch. Collect all data and examine blank carefully before attempting to fill. Attach sheets of this size for additional data.

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS MARGIN

- 1. Full name (do not use initials): Gordon McClellan Mercer.
- 2. Present P. O. (give last address, with date of death if dead): Belleau Wood June 6, 1918
- 3. Exact date and place of birth: on Nov. 18, 1896 at Jefferson, Ala?
in the county of Marengo State of Alabama

- 4. Full name of the subject's father: Thomas Barton Mercer born at Mills Springs in the county of Wayne State of Kentucky.

He lived at Mills Springs Ky. until grown, moved to Waco, Texas about 1870
Give also any particulars concerning him, as official position, war services, etc., books written by, etc.
came to Alabama 1873 and lived there until his death at Jefferson
Marengo Co. Ala. Sept. 6 - 1901.

He was the son of John Caldwell Mercer and his wife Catherine Eleanor Weaver.
Full name Full name

who lived at Mills Springs, Kentucky.

- 5. Maiden name in full of the subject's mother: Emma Elizabeth Mercer She was the daughter of John Wesley Berry and his wife America Ann Oakley
Full name Full name

who lived at Jefferson, Marengo County, Ala.

6. Remarks on Ancestry. Give here any and all facts possible in reference to your parents, grand-parents, great-grandparents, etc., not included in the foregoing, as where they lived, offices held, Revolutionary or other war service; what country the family came from to America, where first settled, county and State; *always* giving full names (if possible) and *never* referring to an ancestor simply as such without giving the name. It is desirable to include every fact possible, and to that end the full and exact record from old Bibles should be appended on separate sheets of this size, thus preserving the facts from loss:

The Mercer family came from Scotland and settled in Virginia, from there they moved to Kentucky.
The father of John Caldwell Mercer was John Mercer a ^{nephew} relative of General Mercer of Revolutionary War fame.

The mother of John Caldwell Mercer was Catherine Eleanor Weaver the daughter of Elijah Weaver who married Eleanor Ford.

Gordon McClellan Mercer's maternal grandmother was America Ann Oakley, the daughter of Emily Douglass, born 1809, Edgefield District South Carolina and William Allan Oakley of Richmond, Va., born March 1st. 1801 at the Cumberland Co. Courthouse, Va.

His grandfather John Wesley Berry was born Feb. 5, 1831 in Edgefield District S.C. and served in the Confederate Army throughout the Civil War. A grand uncle Sidney Berry also served throughout the Civil War. with the Confederate forces.

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Three maternal uncles Thomas, Allan and Jordan Oakley

served in the Confederate Army, Thomas was killed at the battle of Seven Pines Va and Jordan so badly wounded that he never fully recovered from the effects of his wound?
Allan Oakley was killed at the battle of Chicamauga.

7. Early education—where obtained, incidents, names of teachers: Early education at Jefferson, Ala., under tutelage of Mrs. B.A. Wooten*Two years high school at Linden, Ala., under Prof. Clarke, two years high school Demopolis, Ala. under Prof. Hoover.

8. College education—where attended, and year of graduation, with college honors and degrees: Entered Marion Military Institute Sept. 1914 and was graduated with B.A. degree June 1916. Dr. Hobson Murfee President M.M.I. Attended the University of Ala. Tuscaloosa, Ala in fall of 1916. Dr. George Denny, Pres. Univ. of Ala.

9. Professional education, if any—where obtained, date of graduation, with degrees:

10. Profession or occupation—date entered upon, where practiced, and incidents of: In January 1917 Gordon McC. Mercer joined his sister Geneva Mercer an artist who was associated with the famous sculptor Guiseppe Morretti in his Pittsburg studio, his intention at that time being to work and study.—Temporarily he accepted a position with the Columbia Heating Co. as draftsman, . Immediately after our declaration of war on Germany he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, declaring at the time that he felt it to be his duty to fight for his country and that his place was "in kaki". At this time he was not 21 years of age.

11. Every civil office held—city, county, State or national, with exact dates as far as possible. If ever a member of the Legislature, give date of session:

12. Miscellaneous: Reform movements, influence on affairs, etc:

13. Political party—official position, committee work in, etc.:;
Wilsonian Democrat.

14. Church connection—with official position, if any: Regular attendant Baptist
Church.

15. If a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows, or other secret order, give names, with official position, if any:

Not of age at time of enlistment hence ineligible to membership
in Masonic and other orders.
Was initiated into the Kappa Sigma Fraternity by Beta Chapter
at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Dec. 13, 1916.

16. Titles of books written or edited. Give exact copy of title page, with the number of pages
the book contains:

17. Maiden name in full of the subject's wife, with date and place of marriage:

Not married

She was the daughter of and his
Full name

wife who lived at
Full name

Give also other and full particulars of wife's ancestry, as far as possible:

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18. Military record: (1) exact rank, (2) name of commands and commanders, (3) date and places of service, (4) heroic or trying incidents personal to your service, all as full as possible, and

if necessary on separate sheets of paper: Mercer-122 095, Gordon McClellan, Corporal.
83rd. Co. 3rd. Battalion, 6th. Reg. U.S. Marines, 2nd. Division. Corps Commander, General L. Jeune Reg. Com. Col. Cattin
Entered training at Paris Island S.C. May 18, 1917. trained at Paris Island and Quantico Va., sailed for France - Oct. 26, 1917.

Landed at Brest, France Nov. 19, 1917. with the 83rd. Co. 6th. Reg. U.S. Marines.
At Bordeaux from Nov. 21st. 1917 to Jan 8, 1918, assisting the Engineers on American docks.
At Chaumont LaVille - Jan., 8th. to March 14th. 1918 undergoing intensive training preparatory to going to front line trenches.
Verdun Sector March 15th. to March 14th. 1918., First experience in front line trenches.
Vitry Le Francois, May 13th. to 20th. 1918 - intensive training behind the lines.
Montagny May 22nd. to 30th. 1918.
May 30th., Decoration Day, received urgent call from the Marshall of France to assist in checking the Germans rapid advance on Paris.
Belleau Woods June 1st. to June 6th. 1918.
It was here on the afternoon of June 6th., Corporal Mercer was killed while making an attack on the German machine gun positions.
He was appointed Corporal Sept. 17th. 1917 and was under orders to report at next officers training camp for commission when killed.
His grave is located in the American Cemetery between the small towns of Bourches and Belleau Wood, grave #108. ^{Belleau Wood} American No 1764 Section D. plot 3
In accordance with General Order No. 75, Corporal Mercer would have been entitled to the Victory Medal with one battle clasp. This Victory Medal with battle clasp was conferred upon his mother posthumously.

19. Full list of children (if any) of the subject of the sketch, with full names of husbands or wives of each, in case of marriage, with present place of residence and P. O., numbering them in regular order, viz:

- (1) _____

The foregoing data was prepared by his mother, Mrs, Emma B. Mercer.
(Mrs) Emma Berry Mercer

Name

Date February 1922.

Demopolis Ala.

Address

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