

# Montevallo

## Historical Society<sup>SM</sup>

*Opening the Portals of Our Heritage*

540 Shelby Street  
Montevallo, AL 35115  
[www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)



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### ALL OF A MAN

*Submitted by Marty Everse*

His name was James Cliett Hendrick, named after his father and mother's maiden name respectively. To avoid confusion with his father, family and friends called him Cliett, and he was a handsome guy, 5 feet, 10 inches tall with gray eyes, brown hair, and a fair complexion. He worked the family farm just south of Montevallo, but when in April 1917 the United States declared war on Germany, he knew his world would change. Cliett may have been looking for adventure, may have seen what was coming, or just may have been caught up in the patriotic fervor of the time when he, along with his friend Knox Woolley, trekked down to Montgomery and enlisted in the army on May 24th, one week before they were required to register for the draft.

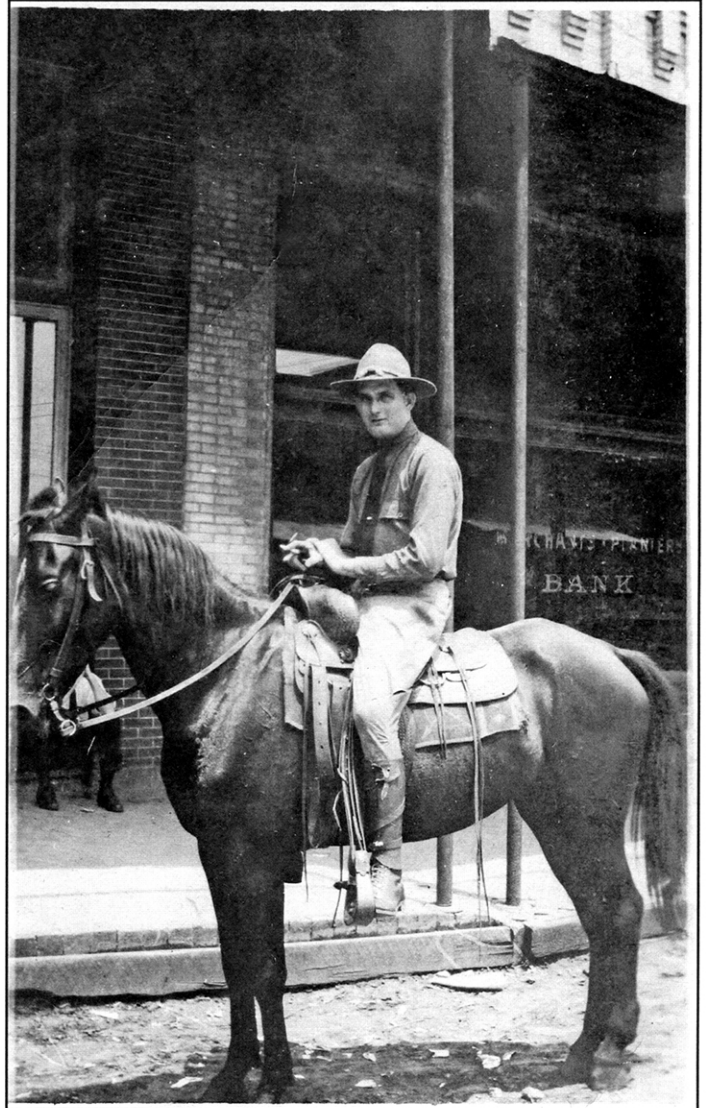
By October Cliett and Knox, now members of the 167th Infantry Regiment of the famous Rainbow Division, were in New York, and a month later set sail for France on the troop transport ship the SS Lapland. Once there, they began intensive training with the French in learning the basics of trench warfare and by early spring 1918 were facing the Germans themselves. In April Knox wrote home that he and Cliett were OK and doing well.

By July, however, things got deadly serious. On the 26th, Company D of the 167th of which Knox and Cliett were members, was ordered to attack a German held position at the Croix Rouge Farm. Attacking at a run, firing as they went they overwhelmed the enemy but at a great cost. Only 23 of the initial 58 men of Company D were left standing. Cliett was not one of them. He was buried where he fell on the battlefield.

Word of his death did not reach Montevallo until September when Cliett's mother, Lula, received notification from Lt. Ernest Bell, Cliett's company commander. He wrote, "It is with deepest regret that I write you of the death of your son. It is quite a hard and painful undertaking to inform a mother of her son's death, and I am at a loss for words to express my sympathy to you. There was no braver and truer soldier than he."

Knox Woolley was one of the lucky 23. He wrote his parents sometime later. "I guess you know before you get this that Cliett Hendrick is not with us anymore. Tell his mother that my most sincere regards come back to her. He was a good soldier, liked by all, a brave boy and all of a man."

Cliett's remains were eventually returned to the United States in 1921. He rests now near his parents, 3 brothers, and 3 sisters in the Montevallo Cemetery. On March 23, 2018, the American Village honored James Cliett Hendrick as the Veteran of the Week.



A month after he enlisted the local Montevallo newspaper noted that Cliett Hendrick, a soldier boy from Montgomery, was visiting relatives and friends in town. (Courtesy Alabama Department of Archives and History)

Montevallo Historical Society's  
First Annual Gala

*Gala 2019*  
Italian Feast

Evening at the Fox & Pheasant Inn  
October 5, See Insert for Details