

## **Corporal Maynard Clouter (US Army #2784220)**

Maynard Clouter (1888-1938) was the son of Horatio and Katherine (Tilley) Clouter of Elliston, Newfoundland. As was common among young men at the time, he found it necessary to seek employment beyond the borders of Newfoundland, and the Boston area of the USA was his initial choice. He was working in a furniture factory in Leominster, Massachusetts, when the US entered WWI on April 6, 1917, and it was on June 15 of that year that he registered for the draft. He then moved west to join his older brother, Arthur William, who had already established himself as a farmer in the Auburn area of Washington State.

It was at this location that he was inducted as corporal into the 264th Infantry on May 6, of 1918, and after a brief training period was assigned to active duty on the French front. He participated in the following engagements as a machine gunner:

- (1) the Mihiel offensive on September 12 and 13,
- (2) the Meuse-Argonne offensive from September 26 to October 4, and
- (3) the Ypres-Lys offensive from October 31 to the end of the War on November 11, 1918.

The consequences of this relatively brief period of service proved to be psychologically devastating. Although it was not recognized as a significant disability at the time, he returned from the war with clear symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or Shell Shock in the parlance of the day. For the ensuing 20 years he endured a mentally tortured existence and eventually took his own life on July 7, 1938.

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Information provided by nephew Maynard John Clouter