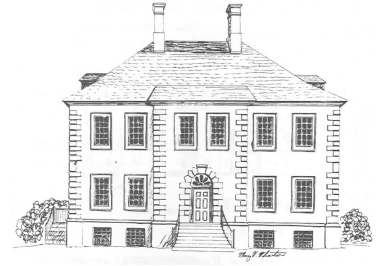


Carlyle Connection

“It’s a fine beginning.”



Former Carlyle House Owner, Decorated World War I Aviator

By Jim Bartlinski

For more than two and a half centuries, Carlyle House has been an Alexandria landmark. Despite the estate’s historic significance as Major General Edward Braddock’s headquarters, over the one hundred and sixty years following Carlyle’s death in 1780, his once grand Georgian Aquia sandstone mansion fell into disrepair. By 1940, John Carlyle’s home was in danger of being demolished. Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer, a Northern Virginia businessman, purchased the property and saved it from the wrecking ball. Schaeffer had a love of history and recognized the historic importance of the site and operated Carlyle’s home as a museum into the 1960s, before selling it to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

Closer examination of Lloyd Schaeffer’s life reveals that he not only had a deep appreciation of history that led him to preserve one of Alexandria’s most important structures, but was himself an active participant in events of major historical significance. While in his early twenties Schaeffer served with distinction during the First World War as an aviation observation officer assigned to the French Army.

Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer was born October 10, 1895, in the small rural Maryland town of Westminster, where his father served as postmaster and mayor. Hearing stories of past military glory, coupled with the patriotic fervor that accompanied the United States entry into the First World War may have influenced Schaeffer’s decision to enlist to fight in what British author and social commentator H. G. Wells referred to as “The war to end war.”

When America entered the war in April 1917, Lloyd Schaeffer was a senior at Pennsylvania College (now Gettysburg College). Soon after graduation on June 5,

1917, Schaeffer registered for the Selective Service Draft. The recent graduate’s draft card describes him as tall, slender built, with grey eyes and black hair. However, it appears that like many of his contemporaries, Schaeffer could not wait for the draft and enlisted with the United States Army on August 22, 1917. Private Schaeffer took off the next day for the Aviation Corps of Princeton University in New Jersey for training in the Army School of Military Aeronautics. At the time Schaeffer joined the Army School of Military Aeronautics, it had been just less than fourteen years since the Wright brothers made their historic flight over the windswept dunes of North Carolina’s Outer Banks. By entering the Aviation Corps, Private Schaeffer was to become a pioneer in aerial combat.



Lt. Schaeffer’s bomber squadron, ca. 1918

When Schaeffer successfully completed his flying lessons, *The Princeton Alumni Weekly* states that cadets like him were “commissioned an officer in the United States Army’s Aviation Section, Signal Corps.” The article emphasized that “Only commissioned officers” were eligible to “fly for Uncle Sam.” On November 12, 1917, the United States

Army Aviation Section, Signal Corps selected Schaeffer for “Special Service” as an aviation observer in the 16th Foreign Detachment Aviation Section, Signal Corps. Eleven days later, the newly commissioned 2nd Lieutenant Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer sailed for France.

The record is unclear on what initially happened to Lieutenant Schaeffer upon his arrival in France on November 23, 1917. However, on March 11, 1918, he received additional training as a “student officer” at the I Army Corps School in Gondrecourt. Three months later, on June 23, 1918, Schaeffer successfully completed his instruction and on the next day, the Army assigned Schaeffer to the Officers Reserve Corps Aviation Section. Before the naïve American lieutenant was thrust into the horror and chaos of aerial combat, Schaeffer next attended the 7th Aviation Instruction Center at Clermont-Ferrand for further training. After this additional aerial combat instruction, the tall, slender American was classified an observer-bombardier and “lent” to bomber squadron Escadrille BR-66 of the French Army’s 12th Escadre on July 7, 1918.

In a July 1918 letter to his mother back in Westminster, Maryland, Lieutenant Schaeffer described a bombing raid near Château-Thierry that he participated in during the Aisne- Marne Offensive. The lieutenant tells the tale of this sortie as if this lethal drama was instead an exciting adventure:

“Just to tell you that while the big drive is on and we are fighting like h---, I am still all right. We go over the lines every day, once in the morning and again in the afternoon. Recently we patrolled ‘No Man’s Land’ at a very low altitude and had an exciting battle with seven Fokker triplanes. I was fortunate again to get off without a scratch. It was an exciting trip. I never expected to see so much of the battle in an actual advance. There were about 100 machines in the bunch, and it seems we must have wiped out a division, as our bombs looked like rain falling, and it would seem impossible to escape them, as we covered miles.

We had orders to bomb at a very low altitude this morning and carried a full load of bombs. Just before we reached the lines (we were then about 5,000 feet high) we ran into clouds, and while coming down we struck a Hun patrol and the best fight I have seen yet took place. We

beat them off and kept on down, when we ran into anti-aircraft guns, which started to shoot, and shrapnel kept bursting all around us until we reached our object. We then returned to our base safely after we dropped tons of bombs on troops massed below, and arrived home with 30 holes in my plane.”

A month after the bombing raid near Château-Thierry, Escadrille BR-66 took part in the Second Battle of the Marne, the last campaign on the Chemin des Dames River. The Second Battle of the Marne occurred between August 2 and October 10, 1918. During this action, BR-66 patrolled the sector from Amiens to Soissons and along the Chemin des Dames. Close to the end of the first month of the Marne offensive, Schaeffer was involved in a fierce dogfight near the ancient Picardy town of Soissons. This engagement not only earned Schaeffer a few medals, but it also nearly cost the gutsy Marylander his life.

It was on August 29, 1918 in the skies over Soissons where Schaeffer, the now veteran combat aviator of nine bombing sorties and several observation missions, faced the German Army Air Service’s celebrated Jagdgeschwader 1 or JG-1, better known as the “Flying Circus.” Also nicknamed “Richthofen’s Circus” and the “Traveling Circus” because its fighter planes’ had bright and distinctive color schemes for easy identification during dogfights, JG-1 had an impressive combat record as well.



Breguet Bre.14 B-2 bomber, flown by BR66

A brief but dramatic account of observer bombardier Lieutenant Schaeffer’s August 29, 1918 encounter with JG-1 appeared in the Tuesday, October 22, 1918 edition of *The Baltimore News*. During the First World War, papers like *The Baltimore News* continued a tradition of sharing letters written home by soldiers from the front with their subscribers. Their correspondence provide personal accounts of the war as seen through the eyes of the combatants, as is illustrated in this published report of

Schaeffer's heroism and brush with death:

"The first Carroll County soldier to get the Croix de Guerre and perhaps the first Maryland airman to win it is Lieut. Lloyd Schaefer of Westminster, whose exploit was described in *The News* some days ago. Lieutenant Schaefer writes his mother, Mrs. Mary Myers:

"I knew you would like to hear from me since you learned of my being wounded in a battle with 15 Boche machines. I have one arm shot up very badly, two bullets went into my back and came out at my shoulder and badly shattered it, my right leg has two bullets through it, one through the knee and the other at the calf, altogether eight holes in all in me. My machine caught fire, but thank God I landed over in France and was safe from capture. My plane had 56 holes shot through it. I am at present in a hospital in France. When I am able will go back after the Boche stronger than ever'."



*Croix de Guerre
with Palm, ca. 1918*

As indicated in the October 1918 edition of *The Baltimore News*, Lieutenant Schaeffer received the Croix de Guerre or "War Cross" for his heroism that fateful August day. The French government awarded the Croix de Guerre to military personnel mentioned in dispatches for bravery. Lieutenant Schaeffer's Croix de Guerre came with a "Palm." The palm indicates that the Maryland lieutenant received the highest grade of the award for his bravery. Schaeffer's service record confirming his heroics reads as follows:

"An officer observer of the greatest valor. In the course of a combat on August 29, 1918, he showed the finest qualities of coolness, [decisiveness] and courage. Attacked by a patrol of fifteen planes and seriously wounded at the beginning of the fight he nevertheless continued to fire on his adversaries forcing one of them to descend disabled."

The hospital the wounded warrior refers to was likely one of the many field hospitals setup at the front to care for the injured before being sent to the rear for further care.

Soon after Lieutenant Schaeffer wrote this short account of his experience, he found himself on the way to a hospital in Paris. The correspondence that follows this earlier letter indicates that Schaeffer's injuries were much more serious than he knew or led his mother to believe. Consequently, the Westminster native would not be able to "go back after the Boche" for revenge as he had hoped. For the action that took place over Soissons would be Schaeffer's last of the war.

In a letter dated September 13, 1918, from a hospital in Paris to an anxious mother back in Carroll County, Maryland, the severely wounded Schaeffer provides a more detailed glimpse into the aerial combat that unfolded over Soissons on August 29, 1918. Schaeffer also speculates on what will happen to him next:

"At last I can write you a few lines, and will try to tell you something about my case. As you know Fritz shot me down and made a pretty good job of it. In fact, he put five bullets through me, one through my ankle, one above my knee, one through my arm, and last but not least two through my back, which struck my shoulder blade and broke it, then tore up something inside of me, as it was an explosive. The doctors at once sewed me up, and I can tell you that no one thought I would live, but they sent me into Paris to an American Officers Hospital and after a few days they discovered the wounds in my back were starting to poison me, so they had to rip my back open, and every morning dress it and I suffer tortures of the damned. I have never suffered so much in all my life. I shot my man and forced another out of the fight, and I was fighting the famous 'Traveling Circus' at that time, which is some feat. Will receive from the French a Palm or two, also the French Blesse Medal and am sure proud of it. The boys brought me the gold- our Escadre insignia with which I am tickled to death. I suppose I will be laid up for a few months yet, it has been sixteen days now since I was shot and believe me I can pull through. All my leg wounds are healed up, and my arm is doing well, but my back is still nasty. They are trying to save my arm, as it seems there is something broken that works my shoulder. The boys think I will be sent to the States to lecture, I don't know. In a few days they are going to sew my back up, and the Lord knows that I can't stand any more, as I am losing my nerve. I had the unique experience of seeing Paris in an ambulance as they rode me all through Paris coming into the hospital and it was so funny. Yesterday some of the

officers and myself went for a short walk as I wanted to get my strength back in my leg and we walked the streets of Paris in pajamas. Gee, but we had lots of fun, and I am going to try to go to a theatre. I can move around fine as my legs are O.K. They seem to want me to move around and I feel so much better when I do. The hospital is in the Latin quarter of Paris, and we see some queer sights and enjoy the fine walks. The doctors say my physical condition was perfect and it is due to that I will pull through, so mother I have you to thank that you let me run as a kid and did not make a Sis of me. Well, good night dear folks, and don't worry as I will be fine soon."

In his letter home, Lieutenant Schaeffer speaks with pride of receiving the "French Blesse Medal." The medal Schaeffer is referring to is the *Insigne des Blessés Militaires* (emblem of military wounds), presented to those soldiers injured in the line of duty. Awarded to Schaeffer for the multiple wounds he received from his fight against the fifteen enemy planes, the *Insigne des Blessés Militaires* is the French equivalent of the American Purple Heart. The "American Officers Hospital" where the wounded Schaeffer was convalescing is, in all likelihood, the Val-de-Grâce Military Hospital in the Latin Quarter district .

The French again honored Schaeffer with a second *Croix de Guerre* for his service as a member of Escadrille BR-66. This subsequent *Croix de Guerre* came with a bronze star. The American lieutenant's service record justifies the awarding of the bronze star with the following remarks: "A very brave observer who distinguished himself during the course of nine bombardments of the field of battle executed with admirable courage and [composure]. Each time he brought back important information concerning the movements of the enemy. He was always ready and always volunteered for all missions."

However, the award that probably meant the most to Lieutenant Schaeffer was the one bestowed upon him by the men he flew with in Escadrille BR-66. While recovering from his wounds in Paris, the American lieutenant received a visit from members of his squadron. During their visit, Schaeffer recounts with pride how "The boys brought me the gold – our Escadre insignia with which I am tickled to death." One reason for Schaeffer's excitement over his comrades presenting him with BR-66's Egyptian falcon insignia is that he had the distinction of being one of just two Americans to receive the honor. By conferring the

falcon insignia on Schaeffer, the French members of the squadron symbolically accepted him as an equal member of BR-66.

With the signing of Armistice on November 11, 1918, the war was over. Recovered enough from his wounds to travel, Lieutenant Schaeffer left for the United States. Arriving home on December 28, 1918, the decorated airman had been overseas just five days shy of thirteen months. Lieutenant Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer received an honorable discharge from the United States Army on April 9, 1919.

Lloyd Diehl Schaeffer returned a man who loved his country, appreciated its past, and believed in its future. The decorated veteran returned to his hometown of Westminster and, wearing his uniform proudly, he served as the grand marshal for the town's Fourth of July parade in 1919. That same year Schaeffer joined the Sons of the American Revolution. In 1923, he moved to Washington, D.C., got married, and raised a family and involved himself in his Presbyterian church, the Masons, and in several businesses, including the museum business. In 1940, twenty-two years after his return from the Western Front, Lloyd Schaeffer purchased the Carlyle House and operated it as a museum until 1969, before selling it to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Schaeffer died ten years later, at the age of 83. The decorated veteran of the First World War most assuredly should get credit for his work in preserving one of Alexandria's most important historic landmarks for generations to learn from and enjoy. It is also essential that Schaeffer's legacy of duty, sacrifice, and service to the country he loved is never forgotten. It is a legacy that can serve as an example for future generations of Americans to learn from and follow.

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News from the Educator

I am incredibly excited to be working here at Carlyle House. Susan and Helen have told me about the great things that the Friends of Carlyle House have accomplished over the years. I hope to meet you all at the holiday party on December 2nd.

In the month of October, we had over 400 students come to Carlyle House for our school programs. November is shaping up to being just as busy with over 100 students participating. I have been following the programs and it's wonderful to see the students so engaged. I look forward to the future school and scout programs here. I have already started to plan the summer camps for next year. They are tentatively scheduled for 7/10-7/14; 7/24-7/28; and 7/31- 8/4 next year. If anyone is interested in becoming a docent and/or a museum teacher please let me know.

~Kerry Mitchell



News from the Curator, sort of

Since the last newsletter, we have been very busy. As you saw in Kerry's column, we have had a deluge of school students this fall. We could barely keep up with them. Many, many thanks to our fan fantastic museum teachers, huzzah!

In September we hosted an extremely successful Scottish Heritage weekend. During the King Street Arts Festival weekend, Carlyle House presented some Scottish fun, Outlander Style! On Saturday, September 17th, we hosted a delightful afternoon of Scottish culture with storytellers bringing legends and tales to life about Celtic and Scottish heroes and heroines. The ever-popular Granfling School of Highland Dance performed, as did the talented Devil's Tailors. Visitors enjoyed free admission to the museum. The following day, we served an Outlander themed tea, deliciously catered by Calling Card Events. Along with the tea, visitors enjoyed harp music by Chris van Dyke and a special fashion show on the Magnolia Terrace. Members of the Appin Regiment, an 18th century Scottish Living History group, modeled the fashions from the time period when Jamie, Claire AND John Carlyle lived.



Whiskey tasting table

Our October Mansion House Whiskey Tasting was a smashing success. It quickly sold out and our guests raved about their wonderful evening. Visitors entered via the front door, toured the Mansion House exhibit, and exited onto the Magnolia Terrace for a delightful evening of four

Virginia whiskeys accompanied by a meal inspired by the fall season and southern cuisine. We even served a whiskey-flavored gelato! Local historian and Executive Director of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, (and husband of the Historic Site Manager of our sister park, Aldie Mill) Rich Gillespie regaled our guests with Civil War tales while also teaching about the various whiskeys being served. We are grateful to Rich for playing such an important role. We are also grateful to our sponsors, Burke & Herbert Bank, Oxford Finance, Dolci Gelati, Visit Alexandria, and Richard and Mary Ruth Coleman. Thank you!

We expect to have an exciting spring line-up of programming—stay tuned!

~Susan Hellman



Carlyle House *Upcoming Events*

Friends of Carlyle House annual holiday party

Friday, December 2; 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Come see Carlyle House decorated for the holidays while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, beer, and wine. Best of all, the evening's musical entertainment will be a professional musician playing our very own spinet. This private event for Friends only is a once a year event—don't miss out. Please RSVP to carlyle@nvrpa.org.

Scottish Walk Open House

Saturday, December 4; 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Come to Old Town on the first Saturday in December to enjoy Alexandria's rich Scottish heritage and see the Scottish Walk Parade march past Alexandria's oldest stone building, Carlyle House. After the parade, enter the museum gates and step back in time for a free open house in the spirit of the holiday season. Docents will be available to answer questions about the house and the collection while guests tour at their own pace. FREE.

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours

Saturday, December 10, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Travel through centuries of local history as you learn more about Alexandria during the holiday season. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall house, and the Old Presbyterian Meeting House! Enjoy each site by candlelight, smell seasonal greenery, sip on drinks, and taste period inspired food. Seasonal libations will be available for purchase. A free shuttle will provide continuous service between the sites. Tickets for this event can be purchased online at alexandriava.gov/shop.

John Carlyle's Birthday Celebration

Saturday, February 4; 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us at an open house to commemorate the 197th birthday of John Carlyle! Details to follow.

Please give us a call or check our website for more details on our happenings.

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Carlyle House Historic Park is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

News from the Site Director

I hope you enjoyed a repeat of Jim Bartlinkski's article from the Fall 2010 issue of the Carlyle Connection. Along with the rest of the City of Alexandria, we are gearing up to honor the 100th anniversary of the United States' entrance into World War I. We are very proud that Lloyd Schaeffer, owner of Carlyle House from 1941—1968, played an important role in our nation's history. Like John Carlyle, Schaeffer was an American patriot. Please note that we had to edit Jim's original article down somewhat for space purposes.



Farewell , Helen.

It is with heavy heart that I announce the resignation of Helen Wirka. After a long career at Carlyle House, Helen is returning to her home state of Wisconsin. In her ten years at Carlyle House, Helen has done just about everything. She began as a docent, worked as both an intern and a supervisor, served as the Educator for about six months, and has been our Site Specialist/Curator since 2011. Helen's institutional knowledge is invaluable, her smile is infectious, and we will miss her greatly. We all wish her the best and a happy future in Wisconsin! Please come say farewell to Helen at Chadwick's on the Strand on Sunday November 20 from 4—6 p.m.

While we bid a fond fare well to Helen, we give an enthusiastic and warm welcome to Kerry Mitchell, our new Curator of Education. Kerry started with us in the last week of October and she is already settling in and making a positive impact. Kerry comes to us from Rippon Lodge Historic Site in Woodbridge, where she worked as a Historic Interpreter for three years, handling a multitude of tasks. As you all know, "other duties as assigned" is standard in the museum world. We are looking forward to working with such a talented and experienced museum professional.

I'd like to thank Janice Magnuson and Carole Smith for once again setting the holiday table for us. Please come see it—it's gorgeous! Janice and Carole graciously spend most of a day each year getting the table ready for the holidays. I greatly appreciate their annual dedication to this important task. And in case you haven't heard, Janice recently became a lifetime member of the Friends of Carlyle House, as a small token of thanks for her forty (yes, that's 40) year service as a docent. Huzzah!

I wish you all a lovely Thanksgiving, and look forward to seeing you at the annual holiday party on December 2!

~Susan Hellman

Carlyle House Historic Park

A property of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

121 North Fairfax Street ~ Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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