

# Stratford History - Always Amazing

**By David Wright, Editor**  
Stratford Historical Society's  
**UPDATE**

October 1918 was a month of celebration and mourning in Stratford. As World War I was drawing to a close, the war's anticipated end was marked by celebrations and parades. Unfortunately, the Spanish influenza was making its presence felt with at least 500 recorded cases and 20 deaths.

On the celebratory side, the U.S. War Relic Train visited town on October 20th. Here's one of several reports of the day.

## **The Bridgeport Telegram**

October 17, 1918

### **Double Quota Of Liberty Loan After Parade**

Stratford Crowds Look, Listen and Act in Truly Patriotic Manner. STRATFORD, Oct. 16 (Special).

-Thousands of people viewed the Liberty Loan parade and witnessed the arrival of the Liberty special at the railroad station late this afternoon. The large open space south of the east-bound railroad station was packed with people who listened to the speeches of the Liberty Loan orators and of the soldiers who had spent months fighting in France. At the conclusion of the speaking and while Liberty Bonds were being sold, the crowds of people surged onto the train and viewed the many relics from the battlefields that were on exhibition...

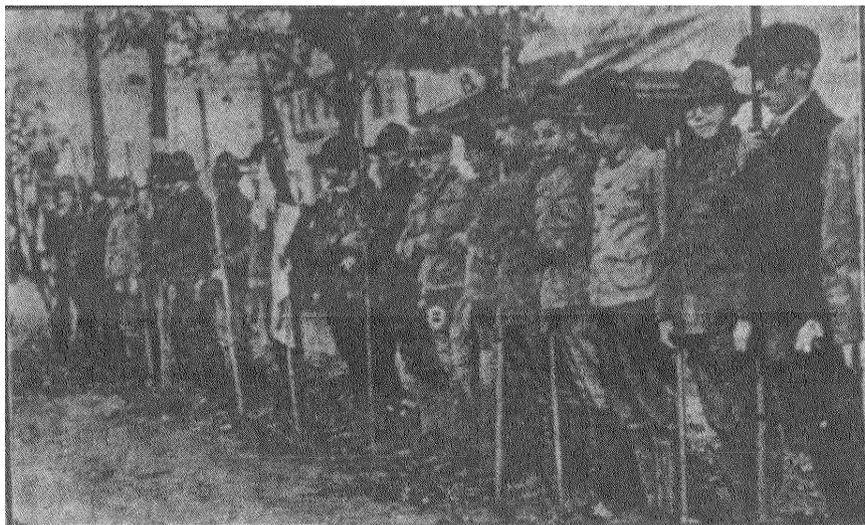
### **Fine Street Parade.**

The street parade that started at Paradise Green and covered the principal streets in the center of the town, was one of the best ever held in Stratford. It was handled by Chief Nichols and a number of the members of the police force. They were followed by the Locomobile band which played stirring music all along the line of march. Three companies of the State Guard, commanded by Major Herrman of this town, were in

line, together with the Boy Scouts and the fire department. Autos filled with Minute Women also were in line.

### **Old Glory Flew.**

All of the autos in the parade were prettily decorated and all along the line of march every house had Old Glory flying to the breeze. Some of the houses were extensively decorated with red, white and blue and with the flags and colors of the Allies. Every section of the parade was enthusiastically cheered as it passed along the streets.



Troop 1, Boy Scouts, Stratford, R. C. Whitehead, Scoutmaster.



Mrs. Thomas B. Taylor (standing), Chairman of Division No. 2, Minute Women. Photos from the **Bridgeport Herald**, October 20, 2918