



**VOICES of CONSCIENCE:** Peace Witness in the Great War

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# Share a Story

Share your story of the legacies of conscientious objectors.

These can be added to the notebook in the “Voices of Conscience” exhibit. If you prefer, your stories can be emailed to Kauffman Museum at [kauffman@bethelks.edu](mailto:kauffman@bethelks.edu).

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Read & Reflect

## Websites

Civilian Public Service: World War I--The CO Problem

<http://civilianpublicservice.org/storybegins/krehbiel/world-war-1>

Conflict within the Conflict: Mennonite Conscientious Objectors in Central Kansas during World War I (National History Day top ten junior website)

<http://98280678.nhd.weebly.com/>

International Encyclopedia of the First World War

<http://www.1914-1918-online.net/>

Kansas World War I Centennial Committee--Conscientious Objector: Herbert Nickson Baker

<https://www.kansasww1.org/herbert-nickson-baker-conscientious-objector/>

Mennonite Library and Archives, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas

<https://mla.bethelks.edu/ww1.html>

National WWI Museum and Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri

<https://www.theworldwar.org/>

Peace Pledge Union, CO Project, London, United Kingdom

<http://www.ppu.org.uk/coproject/coww1a.html>

Swarthmore College Peace Collection, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

<https://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/peacewebsite/scpcWebsite/Documents/COsources.htm>

White Feather Diaries

<http://www.whitefeatherdiaries.org/>

World War I On-line, Home Before the Leaves Fall

<https://wwionline.org/articles/conscientious-objection-during-world-war-i/>

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### **Forthcoming**

Presentations from the October 2017 symposium “Remembering Muted Voices” will be published in future Issues of *Mennonite Quarterly Review* and *Peace & Change*.



# Discussion Guide

## for Youth and Adults

The nine modules in the exhibit are listed below in bold print. Divide your group so that someone is assigned to study and answer the questions for each module. You can choose to spend all your time at one module, or circulate to other modules and questions.

**The Great War 1914-1918** *A brief history*

- Who was the first nation to declare war, against whom, and why?
- When did the United States enter the war?

**Resisting The Drumbeat of War** *Who stands against the rush to war?*

- Which pacifist protesting for peace was most interesting to you?
- What was one of the reasons given for opposing entry into the war?

**Voices Against War** *Who speaks for peace in times of war?*

- What kinds of people continued to speak for peace after the U.S. entered the war?
- What religious backgrounds influenced people who chose pacifism?

**Voices Against Conscription** *What am I willing to fight for?*

- When did Congress pass the Selective Service Act and what did the law require?
- What is conscientious objection?

**The Hutterite Martyrs of Alcatraz** *What am I willing to die for?*

- What orders did the Hutterite men refuse to obey?
- Why did Jacob Wipf say he would not serve in the Medical Corps?

**Refusing to Pay for War** *Is paying for war participating in war?*

- What were Liberty Bonds and what relation did they have to war?
- What reasons did people give for not buying Liberty Bonds?

**Terror in the Homeland** *How would I respond to violence?*

- What specific acts of violence did people of peace suffer?
- Which story of resistance was most interesting to you?

**International Voices Against War** *What would enable the peace movement to be truly international?*

- What options to military service did Russia give?
- How were pacifists treated in Germany?

**Legacies of Voices of Conscience** *Who are the muted voices of today?*

- What is benevolence and how did it disprove charges of CO cowardice?
- What impact did the experience of WWI conscientious objectors have on WWII?

Has anyone taught you about pacifism? Why or why not?

The first compulsory conscription for all young men in the United States began with the Selective Service Act of 1917. In 1973 the U.S. ended the draft in favor of a volunteer military. If the Selective Service restarted the draft for both men and women, would you choose to serve in the military or seek alternative service?

What would you be willing to die for?