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**From:** X Cretzmeyer [mailto:xcretzmeyer@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 03, 2012 7:05 AM

**To:** Cretzmeyer, FX (RBC Wealth Mgmt)

**Subject:**

Joseph Wendoline (Wendeline, Wendaline) Cretzmeyer was born in Waverly, Iowa, on January 16, 1895, to Henry Cretzmeyer and Margaret (Mooney) Cretzmeyer, and was the youngest of ten children. His grandfather, Wendoline Cretzmeyer, was one of the first settlers of the Waverly area, arriving in 1852. His uncle Stephen Cretzmeyer, also of Waverly, served in the Iowa infantry during the Civil War and spent time as a prisoner of war in the notorious Andersonville prison. Joe died in France on October 17, 1918, a victim of the Spanish Influenza. His obituary, as published in the Waverly Democrat, follows.

"JOSEPH W. CRETZMEYER HAS ANSWERED THE LAST CALL. DIED IN FRANCE on OCTOBER 17; NEWS NOT RECEIVED HERE UNTIL FOUR WEEKS LATER. ----- "When your blue star turns to gold, laddie, And life's fair scroll was rolled, We know your gift is Christlike, When your blue star turns to gold." Another gold star was placed upon the service flag of St. Mary's Catholic church in this city, when a message was received here last Wednesday afternoon, stating that Joseph W. Cretzmeyer had died in France on October 17, 1918, his death being due to pneumonia. Thus has another of Waverly's most esteemed young men given answer to the last call, in the service of his country. Private Joe Cretzmeyer was a member of the 88th division, which went to France late in August, and which went into action shortly after its arrival overseas. He left Waverly for Camp Dodge on May 24th, and very soon after his arrival there received notice of his appointment to the medical corps, in which he had previously made application for enlistment. He remained in training at Camp Dodge until August 15th, when he was sent to Camp Mills, Long Island, remaining there only a short time before sailing for France. He was attached to the medical department of the 351st regiment, 88th division. During his ocean trip and after his arrival in the war zone, he wrote frequently to relatives and friends, and only three weeks prior to the time they received news of his death, his parents had a letter from him, saying that he was in the best of health. True to his ever sunny and cheerful nature, his letters were always bright and encouraging; never once did he complain of the hardships of a soldier's life, or mention any trial that may have fallen to his lot. Ever a comfort to all in his home, so were his letters a source of satisfaction to them in his absence. The loss of a loved one in death is a deep bereavement to his relatives, but that he should die in a foreign land, away from their loving care makes the burden of grief double heavy. Joseph W. Cretzmeyer was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cretzmeyer, of this city, and was born here on January 16, 1895. He would thus have been 24 years of age on his next birthday. He first attended the Catholic school in this city, and later the public schools, graduating from the Waverly high school with the class of 1913. Later he attended Dubuque College, where he took a pre-medical course. Having finished his studies in Dubuque, he entered a medical college in St. Louis, where he expected to complete the study of medicine. This hope, however, he abandoned for a time, and spent a year at home, where

on account of the serious illness of his sister, Sister Gertrude, and the advancing age of his parents, he found tasks of love for the performance of which he gladly gave up all else. It was from this home that he answered his country's call in May of this year. Joe Cretzmeyer was one of the best known and most popular young men in Waverly. By the charm of his personality he surrounded himself with hosts of warm friends, who from loving him for his happy and pleasing ways, grew to esteem and respect him for his sterling character, his perfect manliness and his nobility of heart. A young man of deep religious convictions, he tolerated nothing that might savor of wrong-doing or injustice. A leader among his schoolmates and all associates, they turned to him for advice and guidance, knowing that his decisions were ever just, conscientious and morally right. His life, though brief, was a model which might well be emulated, and the sadness caused by his death has touched many homes beyond those of his own immediate relatives, by whom he was especially loved. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cretzmeyer, of this city; three brothers, Dr. Charles H. Cretzmeyer, of Algona; Dr. Frank X. Cretzmeyer, of Emmetsburg; and Prof. John W. Cretzmeyer, of Dubuque College, Dubuque; five\* sisters, Sister Gertrude of the order of Sisters of Mercy, and the Misses Mary, Rose, Annette, and Margaret, all of this city. To these sorrowing ones is extended the heartfelt sympathy of all. A memorial Mass was held on Sunday morning in St. Mary's Catholic Church."

\* A sixth sister, Agnes, died in infancy

Respectfully submitted, Francis X. Cretzmeyer III, Coralville, Iowa, great nephew of Joseph W. Cretzmeyer