

Bland County VA's Fallen Heroes



“Freedom is not Free” – Dedicated to the Fallen Soldiers from Bland County

BLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL GLIMPSES, V OCTOBER 2017

FIFTH IN A SERIES OF NOTABLE HISTORICAL EVENTS IN BLAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA

WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)
WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)
KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)
COLD WAR (1950-1992)
VIETNAM WAR (1964-1975)

EDITED BY
ANN HARDY BEARDSHALL

BLAND COUNTY FALLEN HEROES ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In 2016 the Bland County Historical Society was contacted by the War Memorial in Richmond and asked to provide details about our fallen heroes during World War II. We decided to honor all the men from Bland County who have died while wearing the military uniform of the United States beginning with World War I through the present day. We examined many lists and researched these men that are described on the following pages. The book has been edited by Ann Hardy Beardshall. A special thanks is given to Kathryn Cooper who proofed and organized the notebooks with the research information now on display at the Bland County Historical Society. The notebooks will be added to the Bogle Library after the display is taken down. There are also additional files on these men in our archives. Friends and members of the Bland County Historical Society who contributed to the project are listed below.

Contributors to Bland County Fallen Heroes Project

Renee Repass Thompson
Sally Hinebaugh
Kathryn Cooper
Jim Wilson
Ann Beardshall
Molly Thompson

Buzz Richardson
Tom Richardson
Virginia Gills
Sue Ellen Tate
Sandra/Steve Kelly
Eisle Havens

World War I

E. S. Billings
W. P. Umbarger
W. P. Richardson
J. P. Pulliam
A. R. Hull
A. D. Pendleton
H. T. McNutt
M. T. Burton
H. W. Morris
W. A. Sublett
S. N. Brown
C. O. Fanning
C. W. Lilly
J. N. Tickle
H. C. Collins

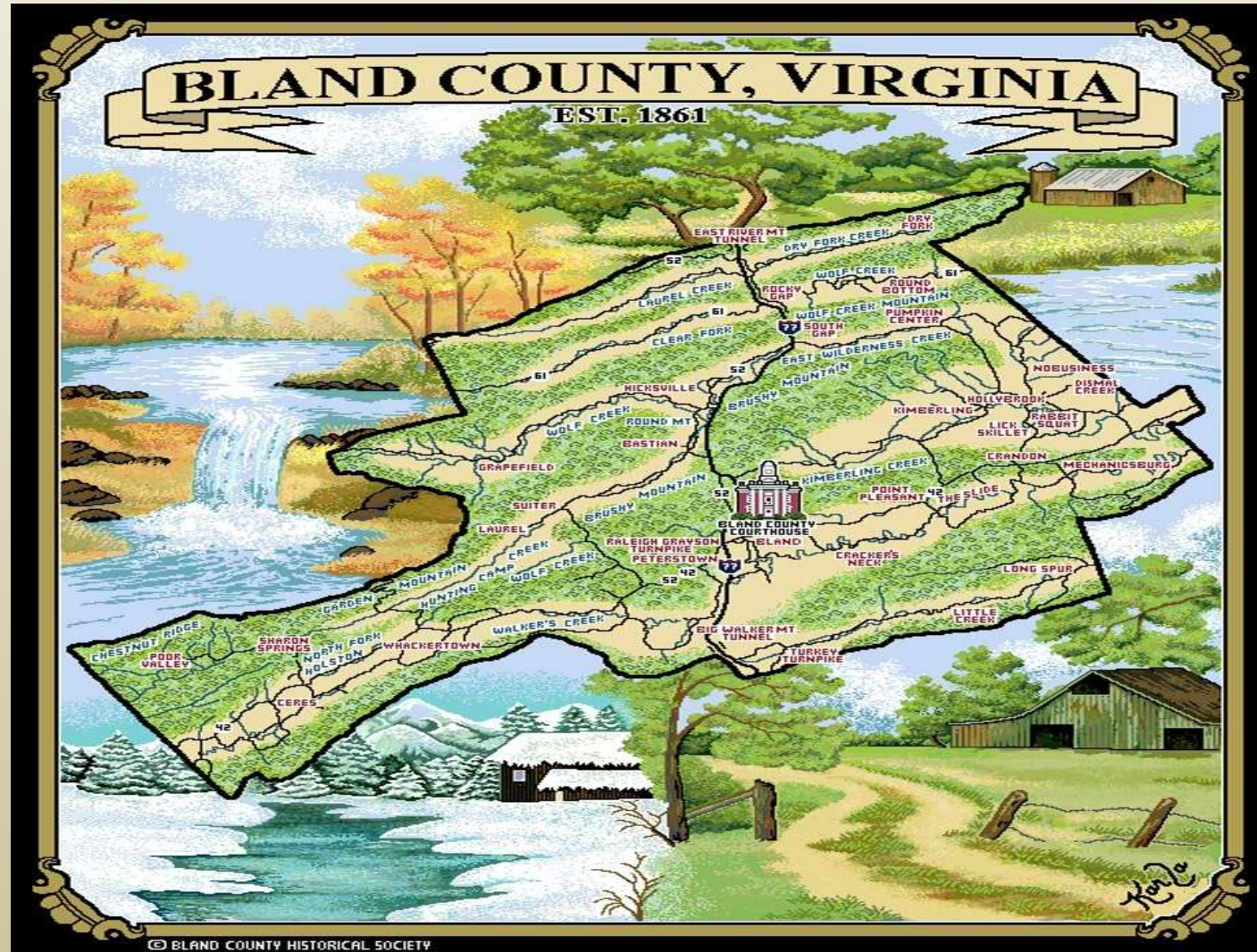
Cold War

W. L. Fanning

Other

L. W. Payne
N. K. Hickman

Fallen Heroes



Korean War

R. J. Wright Jr.

Vietnam War

C. L. Royal Jr.

World War II

M. A. Alliff
W. W. Bogle
J. L. Burke
W. A. Burton
R. L. Carver
J. E. Dillard
L. T. Farmer
E. S. Hall
A. G. Hancock
F. F. Kitts, Jr.
W. C. Long
R. T. Miller
J. T. Morehead
F. B. Morris
E. G. Pauley
A. R. Porterfield
J. O. Ramsey
R. O. Repass
S. T. Sadler
W. H. Sadler
W. L. Stone
Z. W. Strock Jr.
H. C. Thomas
J. M. Walker
C. W. Willis
O. T. Wilson

World War I
1917 – 1918

BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES

WORLD WAR I

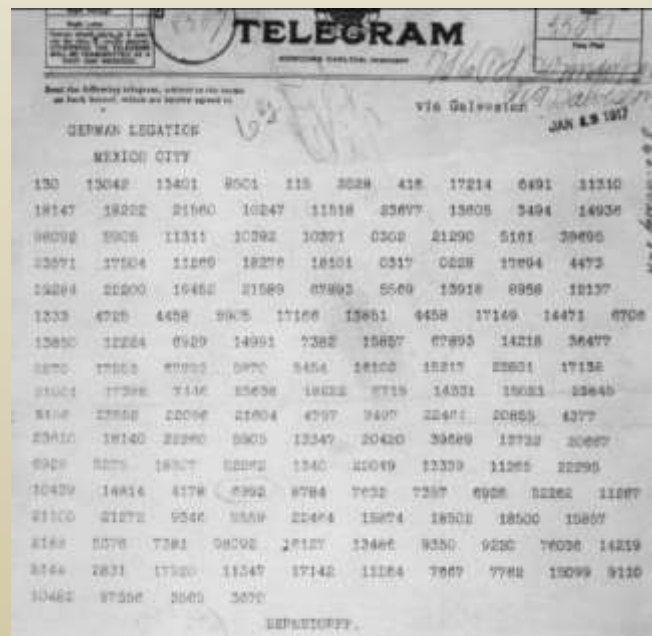
THE ROAD TO WAR (1914 – 1917)

- **July 28, 1914** - Official beginning of World War I when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. On 6/25/1914 Franz Ferdinand, nephew of Austrian-Hungarian Emperor, Franz Joseph was assassinated. This act set up the sides: **Allies: Great Britain, France, Italy, Russia** and **Central Powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire (Turks)**.
- **May 7, 1915** – German submarine sinks the passenger liner, **Lusitania**, during a crossing from New York to Liverpool, England killing 128 Americans. Germans promise to stop unrestricted sinking of ships using submarines.
- **November, 1916** – **President Woodrow Wilson** re-elected with the slogan – “**He Kept US Out of the War.**”
- **January 17, 1917** – British Intelligence intercepted and decoded the **Zimmerman Telegram** sent by German Foreign Minister, Arthur Zimmerman to Mexico proposing a military alliance between Germany and Mexico in the event of the U. S. entering WWI against Germany.
- **February 1, 1917** – German submarines return to unrestricted warfare. March 1917 five American ships sunk by Germany.
- **April 2, 1917** - President Woodrow Wilson goes before Congress for a **Declaration of War** (Vote: Senate 82 for and 6 against; House 373 for and 50 against)
- **April 6, 1917** – **U. S. officially enters World War I.**

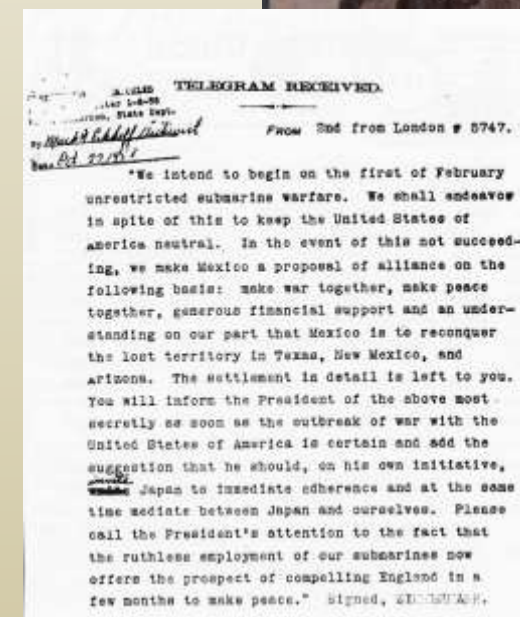
WORLD WAR I USA GOES TO WAR IN 1917



May 17, 1915
Sinking of the Lusitania
U. S. Citizens Killed = 128

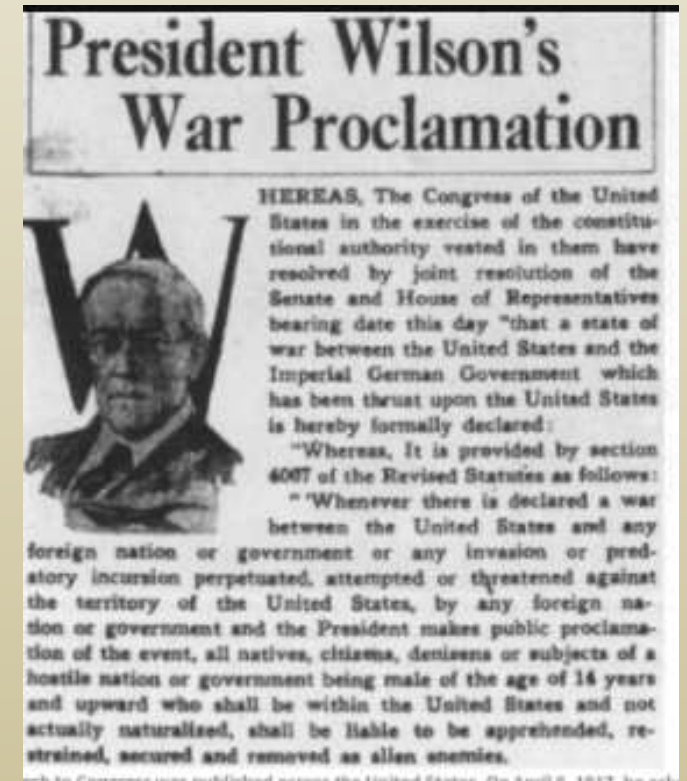


January 17, 1917
Zimmerman Telegram
(Coded)



January 17, 1917 Zimmerman Telegram (Decoded)

WORLD WAR I DECLARATION OF WAR APRIL 6, 1917



“We must make the world safe for democracy..”

President Wilson, April 2, 1917

ON 6 APRIL, 1917, VIRGINIANS FOUND THEMSELVES AT WAR...



**ALMOST IMMEDIATELY
AFTER DECLARING WAR
ON GERMANY, THE
COUNTRY WAS FLOODED
WITH RECRUITING
POSTERS LIKE THESE...**





WORLD WAR I AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES (AEF)

General John J (“Black Jack”) Pershing, Supreme Commander

- General John Joseph “Black Jack” Pershing appointed the supreme commander of American Army and the American Expeditionary Forces created for WWI.
- **April, 1917** – U. S. had a standing army of **127,500 officers and soldiers**.

General Pershing realized that we needed to mobilize troops quickly.

- **Selective Service Act of 1917** enacted on May 18, 1917 drafted 2.8 million men into military service.
- **First Time in History** that the **U. S. sent soldiers abroad to defend foreign soil**.
- **November, 1918** – At end of war, **4 million men had served in the U. S. Army with an additional 800,000 in other branches**



WORLD WAR I 1ST DRAFT REGISTRATION DAY – JUNE 5, 1917

Registration Dates

- 1st **June 5, 1917** – all men between the ages of 21 and 31.
- 2nd **June 5, 1918** – all men who attained age 21 after June 5, 1917. A supplemental registration, included in the second registration, was held on August 24, 1918, for those becoming 21 years old after June 5, 1918.
- 3rd **September 12, 1918** – all men between the ages of 18 through 45.



WORLD WAR I DRAFT REGISTRATION

Form No. 57 REGISTRATION CARD No. 8

1 Name in full Hugh Chaffin Collins Age in yrs 22

2 Home address Longspur Va

3 Date of birth December 17 1894

4 Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born citizen

5 Where were you born? Longspur Va U.S.

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Farmer 30

8 By whom employed? Father
Where employed? Longspur Va

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? Father and mother & 3 brothers

10 Married or single (which)? single Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank _____ Branch _____
years _____ Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? Dissected shoulder

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Hugh Chaffin Collins
(Signature or mark)
his mark

45-2-8A REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tell, medium, or short (specify which)? medium Stature, medium, or short (which)? medium

2 Color of eyes? blue Color of hair? light Build? me

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? Bone scrofula

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

R. L. Williams
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct Davis
City or County Bland
State Va. June 5, 1917
(Date of registration)

Men between the ages of 21 and 31 went to their local voting precincts on June 5, 1917 to register.

At the National Archives:

The registration cards consist of approximately 24,000,000 cards of men who registered for the draft.

The cards are arranged by state.

Usually include:

- the registrant's full name
- date and place of birth
- race
- citizenship
- occupation
- personal description
- signature

**Sample Registration Card for Hugh Chaffin Collins
Longspur, Bland County, VA – June 5, 1917**

WORLD WAR I THE FIRST DRAFT



The slips were enclosed in gelatine capsules and placed in a great bowl which was sealed and kept under lock and key.

A blindfolded, President Wilson, draws gelatin caps out of a great bowl. The gelatin caps contained registrants' number recorded on June 5, 1917. These numbers were pasted on the wall behind and notice was given to the local draft board. Articles appeared in the newspapers with the date for reporting for physicals.

Bland Messenger

Experience
teaches that ad-
vertising brings
results.

VOL. XIV, NO. 2 BLAND, VIRGINIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1917.

\$1.00 per year

Report on Aug 6, 1917

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Address
1	258	Neel, Wm. Thomas,	Ceres,
2	337	Saunders, Wm. Oscar,	Crandon.
3	273	Parson, Andrew W.,	Long Spur.
4	126	Gordon, Thos. Fred,	Mechanicsburg
5	407	Fogleson, Wm. Robt.,	Ceres
6	373	Turley, Phos. Augustus,	Ceres
7	307	Ritter, Frank Chas.,	Long Spur
8	43	Burton, Orland Dupree,	Crandon
9	10	Bird, Chas. Henry,	Rocky Gap
10	140	Hamblin, Estil Crockett,	Long Spur
11	18	Bruce, Arthur Carlton,	Bastian
12	182	Kelly, John Sam,	Bastian
13	46	Burton, Charles Gleaves,	Bland
14	223	Looney, Lincoln,	Grapefield
15	117	Flick, Geo. Winton,	White Gate
16	390	Winesett, Jesse Clarence,	Ceres
17	75	Devor, Meek,	Grapefield
18	280	Peck, Marion Robt.,	Ceres
19	332	Sadler, Edgar Herman,	Bland
20	379	Umbarger, Edd Rufus,	Ceres
21	194	Kitts, Walter Hugh,	Ceres
22	298	Richardson, Chas. Newton,	Bastian
23	343	Stowers, Randall Grason,	Cove Cree
24	15	Beasley, Edder S.,	Hicksville
25	353	Tolbert, James Walter,	Rocky Gap
26	218	Lindamood, Vernor Clyde,	Ceres
27	31	Blankenship, Estel,	Bland
28	183	Kitts, Chas. Henderson,	Bland
29	56	Clark, Luther Oscar,	Round Botto
30	5	Allen, James Levi,	Ceres
31	350	Stowers, Robt. Bishop,	Cove Creek

Notice of Call And to Appear For Physical Examination.

The following named persons are hereby notified that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved May 18, 1917, they are called for military service of the United States by the Local Board for Bland County. The serial number and the order number of each of such persons is shown below. The first 31 on this list will report at the office of this Local Board for physical examination on the 6th day of August, the next 31 on the 7th, and the next 30 on the 8th, 1917, at 9 o'clock A. M.:

Report on Aug 7, 1917

32	54	Clark, Chas. Wesley,	Round Bottom
33	269	Newberry, Wm. Henry,	Bland
34	335	Songer, John Ward,	Mechanicsburg
35	341	Sublett, Wm. Albert,	White Gate
36	391	Wylie, Edgar Nye,	Bland
37	353	Tracy, William J.,	Round Bottom
38	360	Thompson, Dunn Newberry,	Bland
39	72	Davis, James William,	Round Bottom
40	356	Thomas, Isaiah Bee,	Bastian
41	112	Farmer, Wm. Henry Harve,	Bland
42	128	Graves, Harmon E.,	Mechanicsburg
43	11	Bailey, Ernest Edward,	Round Bottom
44	363	Thompson, Arista Clarence,	Carnot
45	6	Allen, Miller Shannon,	White Gate
46	327	Short, William Henry,	Grapefield
47	93	Damewood, Saml. Maynard, Jr.,	Bland

48	345	Stowers, Henry Wysor,	Cove Creek
49	103	Francisco Frank,	Round Bottom
50	154	Harden, Chas. Corbett,	Ceres
51	51	Clark, David Ira,	Round Bottom
52	30	Bruce, Haynes Hoge,	Bland
53	199	Keister, B. S.	Mechanicsburg
54	388	Winesett, Henry Cleveland,	Ceres
55	406	Williams, Kent,	Ceres
56	25	Bird, Richard Lavman,	Bland
57	392	Wiley, Fred Shuler,	White Gate
58	383	Umbarger, Arnold Anderson,	Ceres
59	122	Groseclose, Henry Casper,	Ceres
60	222	Looney, Linkous,	Grapefield
61	297	Richardson, Wm. Harrison,	Bastian
62	321	Smith, Avon Taylor,	Round Bottom

Report on Aug 8, 1917

63	368	Thompson, Ira Kelly,	Bland
64	320	Shufflebarger, Dave N.,	Hicksville
65	121	Gibson, William Henry,	Rocky Gap
66	221	Looney, John Harrison,	Hicksville
67	292	Peak, Henry Harrison,	Ceres
68	312	Shrader, Pyott Frazier,	Round Bottom
69	90	Dehart, James Emory,	Mechanicsburg
70	191	Kitts, Franklin Forest,	Ceres
71	130	Grayson, James McNutt,	Bland
72	168	Hall, Paris Miller,	Hicksville
73	175	Johnson, Chapman L.,	Mechanicsburg
74	300	Richardson, Jeff. Jackson,	Bland
75	278	Fruett, John Milton,	Kimberling
76	336	Stafford, John Roy,	Mechanicsburg
77	212	Lampert, Henry Gordon,	Ceres
78	49	Caldwell, Asa,	Rocky Gap
79	8	Atwell, Denzil Linton,	Ceres
80	305	Ramsey, James Bill,	Crandon
81	323	Shufflebarger, Herman B.,	Rocky Gap
82	357	Thomas, Clarence Ezra,	Bastian
83	23	Bruce, Charlie Johnson,	Bastian
84	331	Shewey, James K. Polk,	Ceres
85	149	Stowers, Wiley Hicks,	Round Bottom
86	102	French, Earnest,	Round Bottom
87	86	Davis, Decoe Green,	Ceres
88	71	Duncan, Charlie,	Rocky Gap
89	113	Faulkoer, Chester Arthur,	Crandon
90	156	Harner, Robt. Lee,	Ceres
91	267	Neece, Isaac Carter,	Cove Creek
92	169	Hull, Albert Randolph,	Rocky Gap

WORLD WAR I
VIRGINIA GOES TO WAR
CAMP LEE - STATE MOBILIZATION CAMP
(ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1917)

- **Camp Lee** near Petersburg was selected as a state mobilization camp just 18 days after war was declared with Germany.
- **June 1917** - Building began and **within sixty days some 14,000 men** were on the installation. When construction work ended, there were accommodations for **60,335 men**.
- **July 15, 1917** - War Department announced that the camp would be named for Robert E. Lee, Civil War General.
- **June, 1920** - Camp Lee was still active as late as 1920. When the 1920 U. S. Census was taken, many soldiers still stationed there.

WORLD WAR I

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 6, 1917 – NOVEMBER 11, 1918

- **April 6, 1917 – War Declared by Congress**
- **June 1917 – January 1918 – Troops drafted, trained and shipped overseas – mostly to France**
- **January, 1918 – Spanish Flu outbreak**
- **January, 1918 – First troops to Europe.**
- **Dates of Major Fighting (41 days of combat): Chateau Thierry, Meuse Argonne**
- **November 11, 1918 – Peace declared on the 11th hour of 11th day of 11th month, 1918.**

**AMERICANS WOULD HAVE TO
DEPEND ON THEIR ALLIES FOR
COMBAT EQUIPMENT
WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN
FRANCE...**

- **Steel helmets (UK)**
- **Wool puttees (UK)**
- **Gas masks (Fr and UK)**
- **Grenades (Fr and UK)**
- **Light MGs (Fr)**
- **Heavy MGs (UK)**
- **Trench Mortars (UK)**
- **Light Arty (Fr 75-mm)**
- **Medium Arty (UK 155mm)**
- **Horses (UK)**
- **Aircraft (Fr)**
- **Tanks (Fr)**
- **Ammunition (Fr and UK)**



U.S. soldier upon his arrival in France

WORLD WAR I

SPANISH INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

1918 - 1919

- “**Spanish flu**” was a particularly vicious form of influenza, causing crushing headaches, violent coughing attacks, debilitating body aches. Killed more than 50 million—and perhaps as many as 100 million—people worldwide (**600,000 Americans**) in 1918 and 1919,
- The first case is believed to have emerged in the United States in early 1918 at **Ft. Riley, KS.**
- **War conditions and the arrival of U.S. troops** in Europe brought the deadly virus to the world.
- Spread like wildfire among troops and civilians, with particular virulence, strangely, among **the young and healthy.**
- Making matters worse, the virus was at its most deadly phase precisely at the time that **General Pershing and the AEF needed large numbers of replacements** for men lost in combat.

WORLD WAR I

MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS

By war's end, units of the AEF had participated in a number of battles and campaigns:

- **Cambrai:** 20 May - 4 Dec 1917
- **Somme Defensive:** 21 Mar - 6 Apr 1918
- **Lys:** 9 Apr - 27 Apr 1918
- **Aisne:** 27 May - 5 Jun 1918
- **Montdidier-Noyon:** 9 Jun - 13 Jun 1918
- **Champagne-Marne:** 18 Jul - 6 Aug 1918 (Pulliam)
- **Aisne-Marne:** 18 Jul - 6 Aug 1918
- **Somme Offensive:** 8 Aug - 11 Nov 1918
- **Oise-Aisne:** 18 Aug - 11 Nov 1918
- **Ypres-Lys:** 19 Aug - 11 Nov 1918
- **St. Mihiel:** 12-16 Sep 1918
- **Meuse-Argonne:** 26 Sep - 11 Nov 1918 (Burton, Fanning, Lilly, Morris, Pendleton)
- **Vittorio-Veneto:** 24 Oct - 4 Nov 1918
- **Occupation:** 12 Nov 1918 – Mar 1919 (Tickle, Collins)

WORLD WAR I CASUALTIES

	Total Served	Killed in Action/Died of Wounds	Died of Disease/Other	Total Casualties	% of those served
USA	4,355,000	53,402 (46%)	63,114 (54%)	116,516	2.7%
Virginia	73,062	987 (45%)	1,185 (55%)	2,172	3.0%
Bland County	188	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	15	8.0%

Fallen Heros of Bland County-World War I (1917 – 1919)					
Name	Hometown	Details of Death	Date of Death	Age	Burial Site
Early Scott Billings	Bland	Died of Disease in San Antonio,TX	05/04/1917	17	San Antonio,TX National Cemetery
Walter Perry Umbarger	Ceres	Died of Disease: Pneumonia at Camp Lee Hospital	12/28/1917	22	Red Oak Cemetery, Ceres
Walker Poage Richardson	Bland	Died of Disease contracted at Camp Lee, died in Bland	03/18/1918	24	Bland Cemetery
Joseph Dudley Pulliam	Round Bottom	Killed in Action, Chateau Thierry, France	07/03/1918	22	Aisne Marne American Cemetery, France
Albert Randolph Hull	Rocky Gap	Died while a prisoner of war in Germany	09/26/1918	28	Clear Fork Baptist Cemetery, Rocky Gap
Addison Davis Pendleton	Mechanicsburg	Killed in Action, Meuse-Argonne France	9/27/1918	27	Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, France
Henry Trollinger McNutt	Ceres	Died of influenza the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Norfolk	09/28/1918	23	Sharon Lutheran Cemetery, Ceres
Miller T. Burton	Bland	Killed in Action, Meuse-Argonne France	10/04/1918	24	Munsey Cemetery,Walker’s Creek Road
Herbert Wayne Morris	NoBusiness	Killed in action Lorraine, France	10/05/1918	22	Morris Family Cemetery, Nobusiness
William Albert Sublett	Mechanicsburg	Died of Wounds in France	10/11/1918	23	Arlington National Cemetery
Stuart Nathaniel Brown	Little Creek	Died of Pneumonia at Camp Lee,VA	10/18/1918	24	Strader Church Cemetery, Little Creek
Charles Otto Fanning	Mechanicsburg	Killed in Action, Meuse-Argonne, France	11/03/1918	23	Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, France
Clownie W. Lilly	Hicksville	Killed in Action, Meuse-Argonne, France	11/01/1918	30	Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, France
John Nye Tickle	Longspur	Died in Germany of disease during occupation	01/26/1919	27	Bland Cemetery
Hugh Chaffin Collins	Longspur	Died in Luxembourg of disease during occupation	03/03/1919	25	Arlington National Cemetery

PVT EARLY SCOTT BILLINGS (1900 – 1917)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (BLAND), VA

- **BORN:** April 8, 1900 in Rich Valley, Smyth County, VA

He was the youngest of 6 children born to James Billings (Grayson County) and Mary Elizabeth Roberts (Bland County). It is believed he was residing with his brother Calvin Billings in Bland at the time of his enlistment. He must have misled recruiter since he was only 17 at the time of his death.

- **MILITARY :** Apr 1917 - May 1917

Private, U. S. Army, 3rd U. S. Infantry, Basic Training, San Antonio TX

DEATH: May 4, 1917 (Age – 17 years)

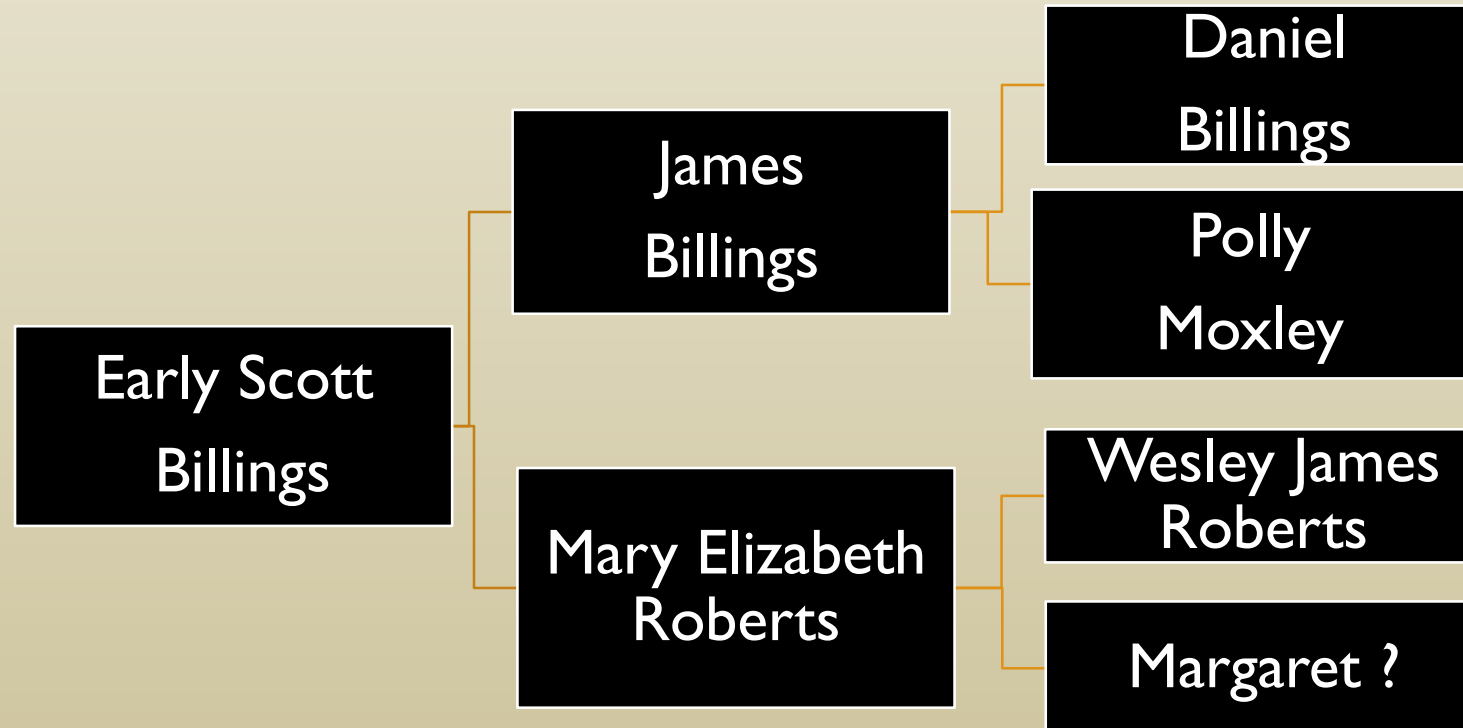
Died of disease in the base hospital in San Antonio, TX.

- **BURIAL:** San Antonio TX National Cemetery, Sect. D Grave No. 582



FAMILY TREE

PVT EARLY SCOTT BILLINGS





PVT WALTER PERRY UMBARGER (1894 - 1917)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (CERES), VA

Born: November 20, 1894 in Ceres, Bland County, VA

Walter was youngest of 5 children born to Henry Umbarger and Mary Jane Henderson. He was working on a farm owned by the family in Max Meadows when he entered military service. He was described as having blue eyes, black hair (partly bald), tall and medium build.

Military Career: July 1917– December 1917

Registered for draft on June 5, 1917. Served in Company H, 317 Infantry, 80th Division.

Died: December 28, 1917 (Age=23)

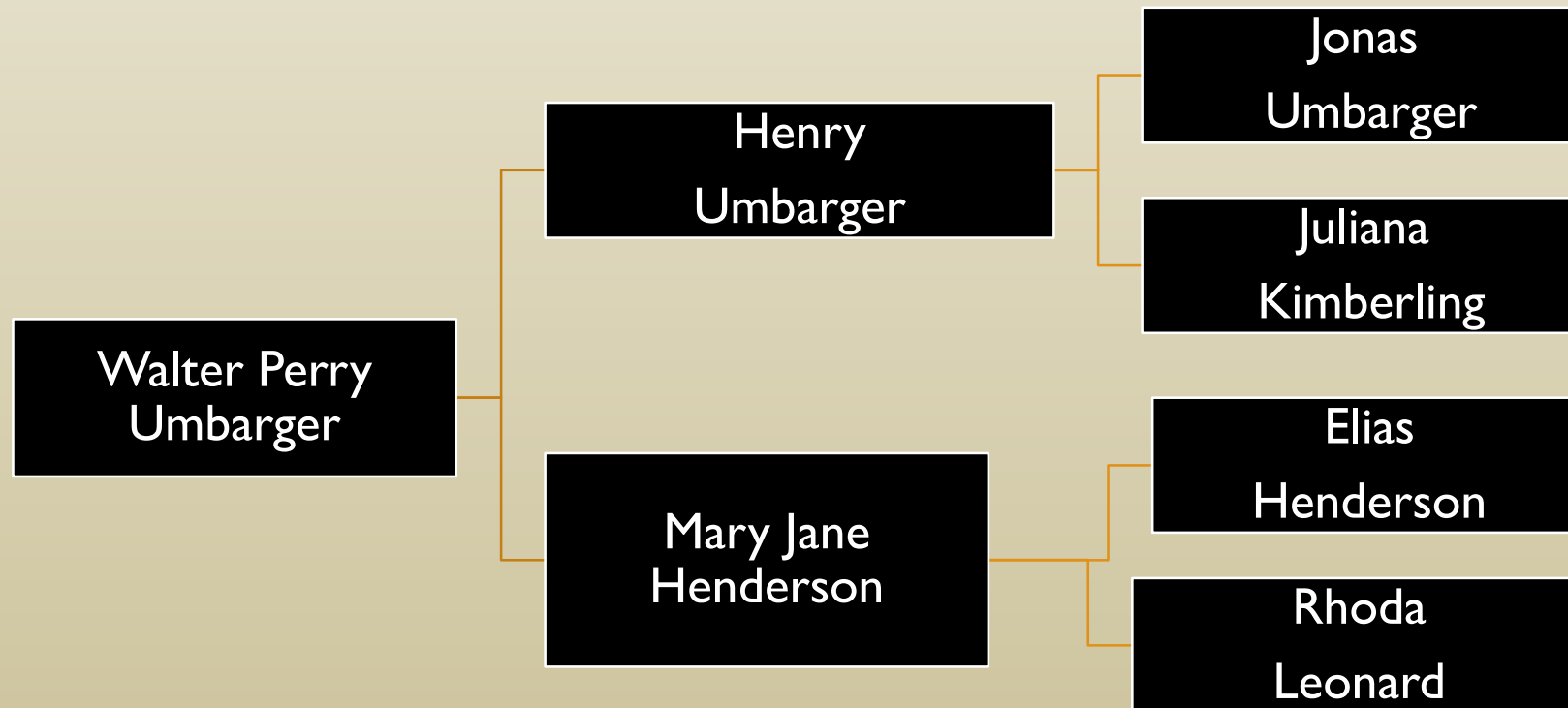
Walter became sick on December 23, 1917. He was admitted to the base hospital at Camp Lee VA. He died there 5 days later.

Burial: Red Oak Cemetery, Ceres VA – Inscription: “Friend to his country, believer in Christ”



FAMILY TREE

PVT WALTER PERRY UMBARGER





PVT WALKER POAGE RICHARDSON (1894 - 1918)
U. S. ARMY
BLAND COUNTY (BLAND), VA

- **BORN:** October 13, 1894 in Wythe County VA

His father and mother were Cloyd A. G. Richardson and Alice Virginia Painter. He had 4 brothers and 1 sister. He worked for Guy B. Dunn, local automobile dealer, as a mechanic/chauffeur before entering service.

- **MILITARY:** October 6, 1917 – March 18, 1918

He was assigned to Company B, 317 Regiment, 80th Division at Camp Lee, VA. While at Camp Lee he became ill and remained there until January 1918 when he went home to recover in Bland.

- **DEATH:** March 18, 1918 (Age – 24 years)

Died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis at home in Bland.

- **BURIAL:** Bland Cemetery, Bland, VA



Bland Cemetery



PVT WALKER POAGE RICHARDSON (1894 - 1918)
U. S. ARMY
BLAND COUNTY (BLAND), VA

PVT Richardson's
Obituary,
Bland Messenger
March 1918

**Private W. P.
✓Richardson Dies**

Walker Poage Richardson, son of C. A. J. and Alice V. Richardson, was born in Wythe County, Va., Oct. 13th, 1894, and died March the 18th at his home in Bland, Va. He was chosen with the boys of the county for the service of his country and left home for Camp Lee Oct. 6th, 1917, and was enlisted in Company U, 317 Infantry. He was soon attacked with measles and was in the hospital for about twelve days, then went back to camp service. He was soon attacked with big measles and at the same time with mumps, and was taken again to the hospital where he remained for 28 days, after which he went again into drill service. In a short while he came home on a five days furlough—the 26th of January—and was unable to return on account of what the doctors pronounced tuberculosis of the lungs. He remained at home under the care of his loved ones until his death.

He was given to the Lord by his parents in baptism when a child and early taught by his mother to pray. It is said he never forgot his mother's teachings and was never known to give her a cross word. He was received by Rev. W. C. Crockett into the Church Feb. 28, 1918.

The family have the consolation that he was at home where he could receive the attention and care of loved ones and the kindness of his many friends in the neighborhood.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday afternoon at the Lutheran Church by Rev's. Allen Jones and W. C. Crockett. A large sympathetic crowd was present, indicating the esteem in which Walker was held. He belonged to the Jr. O. U. A. M. and his body was in charge of his fraternity. The casket was wrapped in the folds of the country's flag and decorated with beautiful flowers. His was the first death in his fraternal order, and he was also the first soldier of the boys of Bland to hear death's bugle call.

Services were concluded at the grave by the Jr. O. U. A. M. through their beautiful and impressive ceremony, and amid songs and tears the body was laid tenderly to rest in the Bland cemetery.

The hearts of our entire community goes out in love and sympathy for the bereaved family. They have the assurance that he was worthy of the honor and kindness that has been bestowed.

W. C. CROCKETT.

Company "B" 317th Inf.
Camp Lee, Va.
March 19, 1918

From C. O. Company "B"
317th Infantry, Camp Lee,
Virginia.

To Mr. C. A. J. Richardson,
Bland, Virginia.

Subject: Private Walker P.
Richardson, Company "B",
317th Inf., deceased.

1. It is with the deepest regret that the officers and men of this Company learn of the death of your son, Private Walker P. Richardson.

2. Private Richardson was taken sick here first on December 11, 1917, and was confined to the Base Hospital until January 19, 1918. This illness may have contributed somewhat to the sickness that caused his unfortunate death.

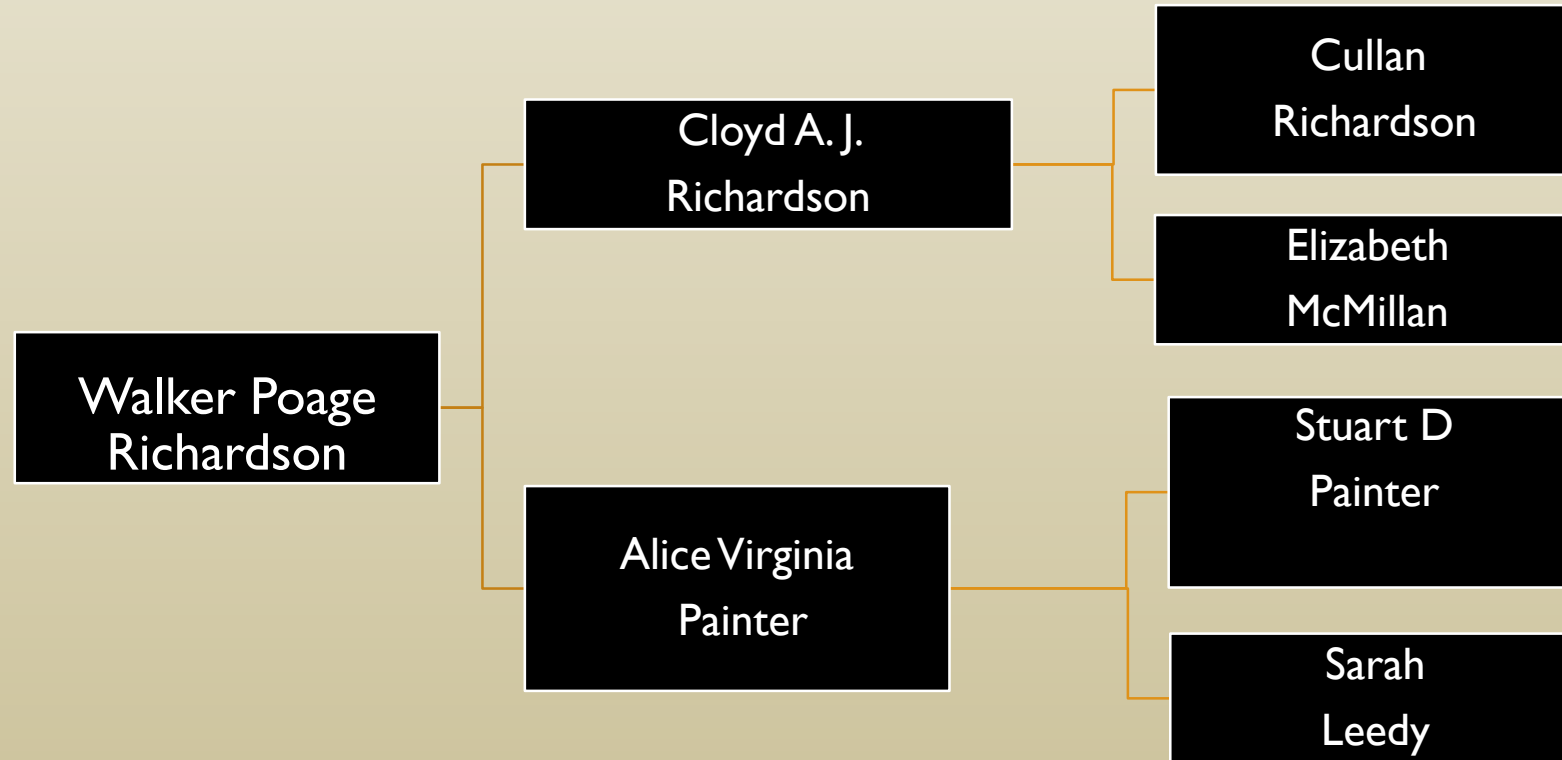
3. Private Richardson was an excellent soldier and one of whom his family may well feel proud. He was universally liked by his officers and fellow soldiers, and his unfortunate death is a source of genuine sorrow to us all. Private Richardson showed great aptitude in his work and devotion to duty. I take this opportunity to extend to his bereaved family the deepest sympathy felt for them in their great loss by the officers and men of this Company.

C. BLAIR LEE,
Captain 317th Infantry.

Letter of Condolence
from Pvt Richardson's
Commanding Officer, C.
Blair Lee

FAMILY TREE

PVT WALKER POAGE RICHARDSON



PVT JOSEPH DUDLEY PULLIAM (1896 - 1918)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY(ROUND BOTTOM), VA

Born: October 27, 1896, Pearisburg, Giles County VA

He was the 2nd son born to James B. Pulliam and Mollie L Suttle. Prior to enlistment he worked as a lumberman in Round Bottom near Rocky Gap VA. **1st to die in combat from Bland County in WWI – Local VFW Post bears his name.**

Military Career: July 1917– July 1918 Entered service in July 28, 1917. Became a member of the 2nd Trench Mortar Battery, 2nd Infantry Division. Left for Europe on a transport ship from Portland ME on December 24, 1917.

Died: July 3, 1918 (Age – 22 years) Killed in action when hit by a machine gun bullet at Chateau Thierry, France

Burial: Buried in Aisne Marne American Cemetery. Belleau, Picardie, France Plot A Row 2 Grave 79.



PVT JOSEPH DUDLEY PULLIAM (1896 - 1918)

Washington Post
July 18, 1918

>>>>→

Americans Killed and Wounded In Fighting on the French Front

The following casualties are reported by the commanding general of the American expeditionary forces:

Killed in action.....	39
Died from wounds.....	16
Died of disease.....	4
Died of aeroplane accidents... 3	
Died from accident and other causes.....	6
Severely wounded.....	96
Missing in action.....	9
Prisoner.....	1

Total173

KILLED IN ACTION.

Sergeants:

Ralph Cox, Sharpsville, Ind.
Charley Davis, Washington, N. C.
George Gegere, Green Bay, Wis.

Corporals:

Dave Davis, Soddy, Tenn.
Claude Roy Harper, Social Circle, Ga.
Samuel M. Kraft, Akron, Ohio.
Luke Napodano, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Harry Peters, Toledo, Ohio.
William Henry Salvador, Philadelphia.
Cook Joseph W. Hoge, Salisbury, N. C.

Privates:

Charles Afremoff, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Alonso P. Baldwin, Des Moines, Iowa.
Samuel Belinski, Bridgeport, Conn.
Joseph Bucior, Buffalo, N. Y.
Bradley Burkhardt, McRoberts, Ky.
G. H. Downing, Natural Bridge, N. Y.
James A. Dunham, Whiting, Kans.
William Ellison, Elmira Heights, N. Y.
Roy Lee Finney, Cambridge, Kans.
E. L. Frank, Constableville, N. Y.
F. B. Huddleston, Melbourne, Fla.
Morris Krupot, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Samuel Lemma, Canandaigua, N. Y.
Nick Mainus, Ageia Cania, Greece.
Joe Patrick Meagher, Lillis, Kans.
Robert E. Mitchell, New Haven, Conn.
C. E. Montague, Hoboken, N. J.
William Newsbaum, Fulton, N. Y.
Samuel R. Nicholas, Tullahoma, Tenn.
Earl C. O'Brien, Ronceverte, W. Va.
John O'Connor, Elmira, N. Y.
Charles E. Patterson, Paola, Kans.
James H. Poe, Laurel Bloomery, Tenn.
Joe D. Pulliam, Round Bottom, Va.
C. A. Schiavone, Waterbury, Conn.
William Seibert, Hagerstown, Md.
Donald C. Stough, Lander, Wyo.
John Joseph Tesoro, New York.
Milton E. Van Pelt, Bronx, N. Y.

Harrison F. Rachow, Round Lake, Minn.

William C. Ramm, Battle Creek, Iowa.
Ollis Guy Raworth, Dorchester, Neb.
George Francis Roberts, Kingston, N. Y.

Anthony C. Rupp, Catherine, Kan.
Clarence A. Schmidt, Le Mars, Iowa.
Max C. Shaw, Cedar Falls, Iowa.
Glenn Sheets, R. 2, Holton, Ind.
James F. Silhanek, Cicero, Ill.
W. B. Spears, Aurora, Ill.
Amos M. Tippins, Atlanta, Ga.
Dominik Tomkin, South Bend, Ind.
L. Troutman, Lewis, Kan.
Earl M. Ward, Atlanta, Ind.
James Othnal Williams, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Kenna James Williams, Liverpool, W. Va.
Timothy W. Williamson, Van Zant, Ky.

MISSING IN ACTION.

Sergt. Carl Samuel McKee, Sibley, Iowa.

Corporals:

Charles Herschel Doane, Terre Haute, Ind.

Earle E. Murphy, Hartford, Conn.

Privates:

E. E. Brunkow, Wamego, Kan.
Robert E. McEnany, Vancouver, Wash.
Mike Orestean, East Youngstown, Ohio.
John E. Sciullo, Waterbury, Conn.
James Joseph Shea, Cincinnati.
James Whriteneur, Smiths Mills, N. J.

Prisoners:

Priv. Effim Lehukey, Philadelphia.

CORRECTION.

Erroneously reported killed in action, now reported as on duty with his company:
Sergt. Paul Gegere, Green Bay, Wis.

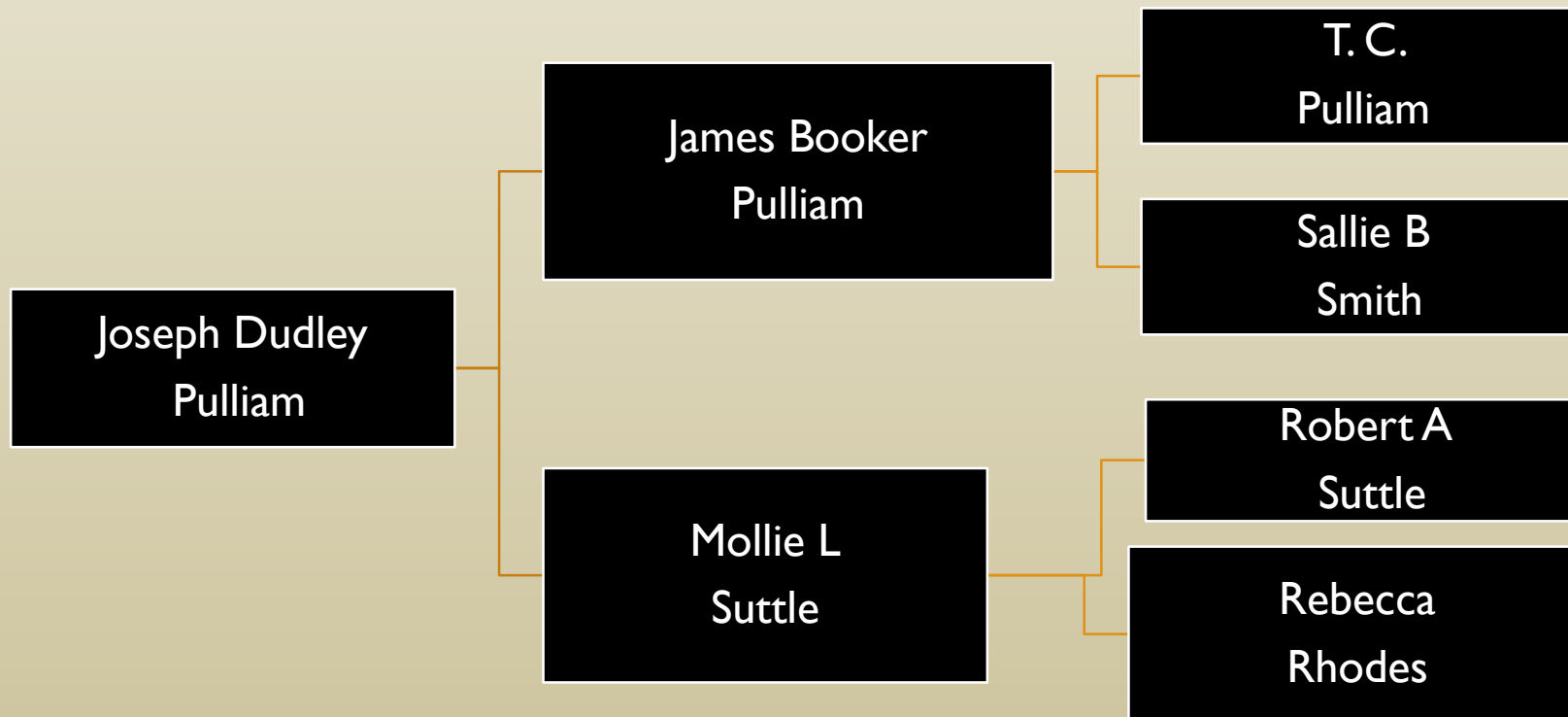
2 Americans in Canadian Casualties

Ottawa, July 17.—The following American names appear in today's overseas casualty list:

Wounded and gassed—R. E. Rivard, Lansing, Mich. Ill.—D. Healey, New York.

FAMILY TREE

PVT JOSEPH DUDLEY PULLIAM



PVT ALBERT RANDOLPH HULL (1890 - 1918)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (ROCKY GAP), VA

- **Born:** August 19, 1890 in Wythe County, VA

He was one of 7 children born to Sidney J. Hull and Ida Belle Montgomery of Rocky Gap VA. Prior to entering military service, he worked on Mrs. Emmy Carpenter's farm in Rocky Gap. He was described as tall with blue eyes and blond hair.

- **Military Career:** October 1917 – September 1918

Entered service in October 1917 and went overseas with Co. B, 317th Regiment, 80th Division on May 26, 1918

- **Died:** September 26, 1918 (Age -28 years)

Wounded, taken prisoner (July 27, 1918); died in hospital at Aachen, Germany.

- **Burial:** 1st in Aachen, Germany Cemetery, Re-interred at Clear Fork Baptist Church Cemetery at Rocky Gap, VA



Clear Fork Baptist Cemetery



PVT ALBERT RANDOLPH HULL (1890 - 1918)

**Indianapolis Star
October, 1918**

**3 officers and 53 enlisted men in
German POW Camps including:**

**Albert R. Hull, Rocky Gap >>>>
at Limburg, Germany**

WASHINGTON, October 15.—Names of three officers and fifty-three enlisted men in German prison camps were announced today by the war department. The officers, all of whom are at Karlsruhe are:

Lieutenants George T. Wise, Washington, D. C.; William D. Tipton, Jarrettsville, Md., and Marvin K. Curtis (not fully identified).

The list of enlisted men follows:

At Cammel—Jefferson Craig, New Castle, Pa.; John Braccio, Swampscott, Mass.; Thomas Connelly, Bayonne, N. J.; Van R. Fleming, Shreveport, La.; John Thunke, Vinegar, Minn.; Fred Davis, Havener, N. M.; Nicolas Hubert, South River, N. J.; Tom Robertson, Brandenburg, Tex.; Alfred Langlais, Oldtown, Me.; Henry Frank, Morrison, Okla.; David Duiny, New York city; Edward Whitehouse, Laddonia, Mo.; Major Tignor, Johnsons Mill, Va.; Homer Reeves, Lenad, Miss.; Antonio Mollon, Manchester, N. H.; Martin Meehan, Dorchester, Mass.; James Garvey, Troy, N. Y.

At Rastatt—Vernie Schucker, Kutztown, Pa.; Frank Joseph Kelly, Philadelphia; Charles Rice, Stoutsville, Mo.; Jacob Kenansky, New York; Louis N. Betters, Blackoreek, N. Y.; Stanley Wisnefsky, Mt. Carmel, Pa.; George Eckstein, New York; Louis William Fly, Richmond Hill, Long Island, New York; Benton H. Baker, Alvy, W. Va.; Edward Sakowicz, Hicksville, N. Y.; Alexander Shitsko, Ansonia, Conn.; Tom Silla, Newark, N. J.; Luck Conatiempo, Brooklyn; Joseph Andrew Wood, Highbridge, N. J.; Fred H. Simmons, Trueman, Pa.; Max Albert, New Brunswick, N. J.; Louis A. Runa, Long Island City, N. Y.; John J. Graf, New York.

At Darmstadt—Willie W. Logan, Surry, Va.

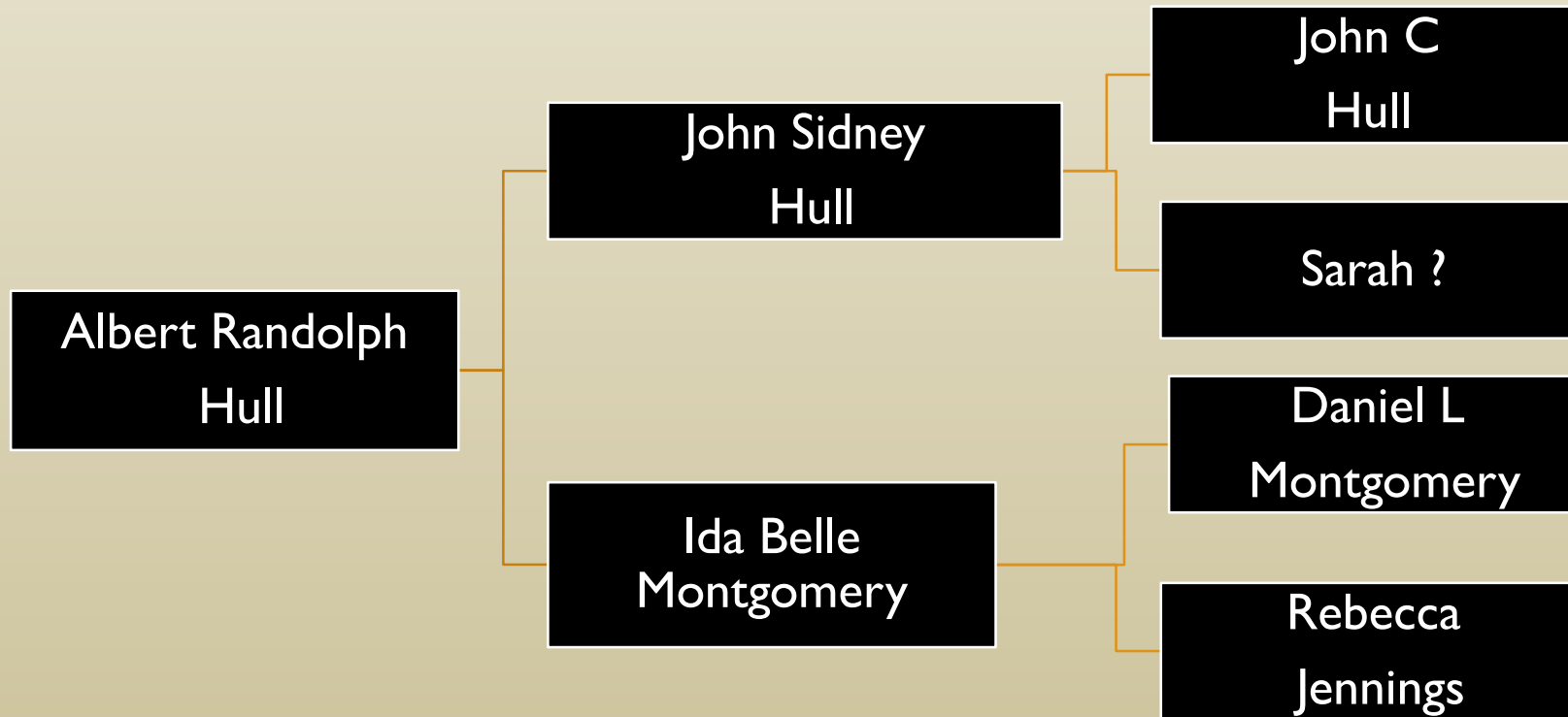
At Giessen—Robert Skarsten, Turner, Mont. At Strakow—Thomas Hart, Hartford, Conn.

At Limburg—Aaron Hatchelor, Philadelphia; Albert Hull, Rocky Gap, Va.; Alfred Sather, Norway; Scott Jarvis Comfort, Troy, Pa.; Frank Hart, Somerville, Mass.; Raymond Carlisle, Lebanon, N. H.

At Camps Unknown—Emil Troina, New Haven, Conn.; Edwin R. Neer, Purcellville, Va.; Stanislaus S. Krajewski, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.; Mathew H. Stachowski, Buffalo, N. Y.; Emory Zimmer, Beaver Dam, Wis.; Alfred O. Brewer, Tuscola, Ill.; Curtis E. Taylor, Silver Hill, W. Va.; Hiram Scott, Grass Creek, Ind.; A. Nowojsky, Newark, N. J.

FAMILY TREE

PVT ALBERT RANDOLPH HULL





PVT ADDISON DAVIS PENDLETON (1891 - 1918)

U. S. ARMY

CRANDON (BLAND COUNTY) VA

- **BORN:** February 14, 1891 in Mechanicsburg, Bland County VA

His father and mother were James Pendleton and Ardelia (Dela) Sublett. He was working on the family farm for his widowed mother in Mechanicsburg when he entered service.

- **MILITARY:** June 1917 – September 1918

Machine Gun Battalion, 80th Division, 314th Infantry. Departed Newport News on Troop Ship Floridian on July 6, 1918. Fought at Artois, Somme Offensive and in Meuse Argonne, France.

- **DEATH:** September 27, 1918

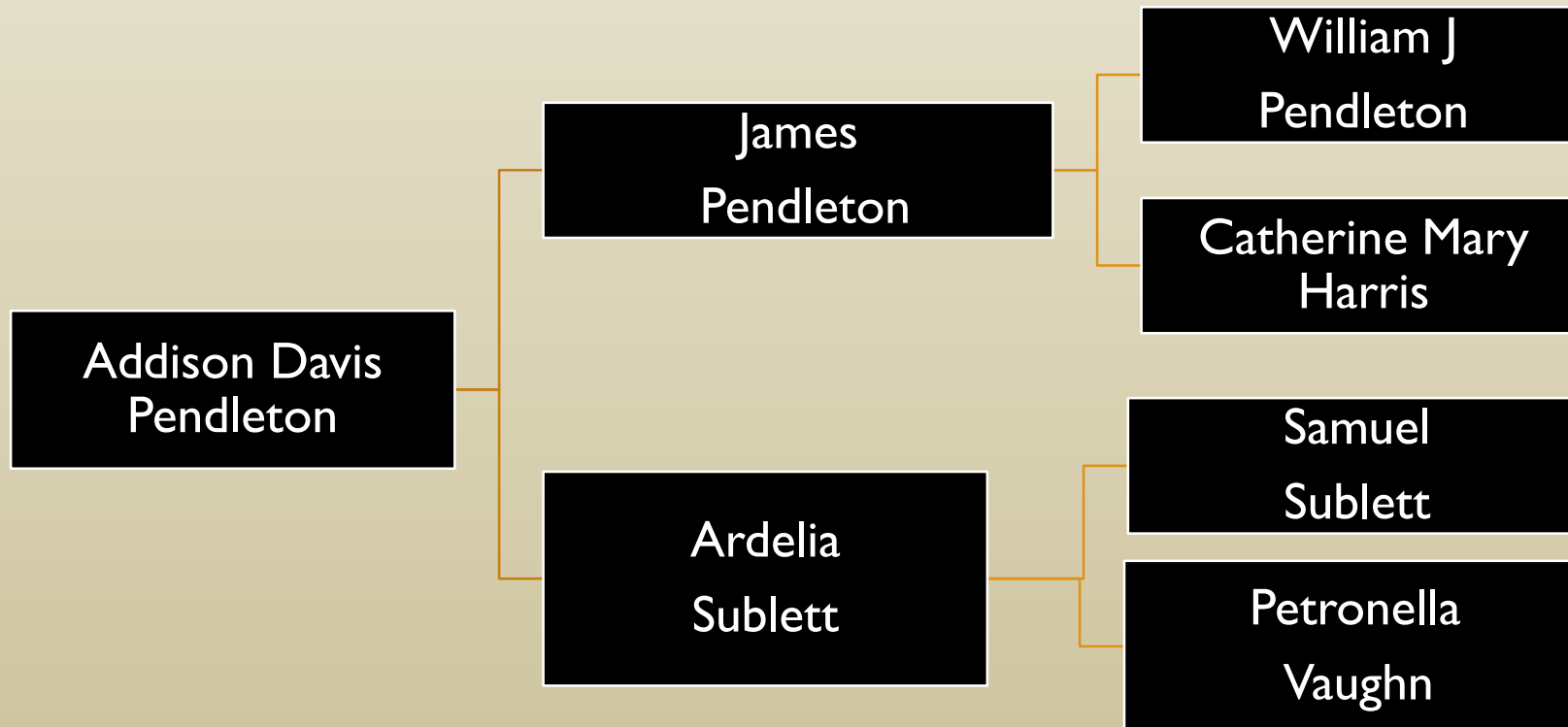
Killed in Action in Meuse-Argonne, France.

- **BURIAL:** Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, France. Plot F Row 43 Grave 22



FAMILY TREE

PVT ADDISON DAVIS PENDLETON



FN 2ND CLASS HENRY TROLLINGER MCNUTT (1895 -1918)
U. S. NAVY
BLAND COUNTY (CERES), VA

- **BORN:** January 12, 1895 in Ceres, Bland County VA

He was born to William T. McNutt, former sheriff of Bland County and Nannie Mary Sadler. Henry was unemployed at the time of his enlistment. He had dark brown eyes, dark brown hair. His height was described as medium and his build was stout.

- **MILITARY:** June 1917 – September 1918

He trained for his naval service in WWI at the Portsmouth Shipyard in Norfolk VA. He was a Fireman 2nd Class at the time of his death.

DEATH: September 28, 1918 (Age – 23 years)

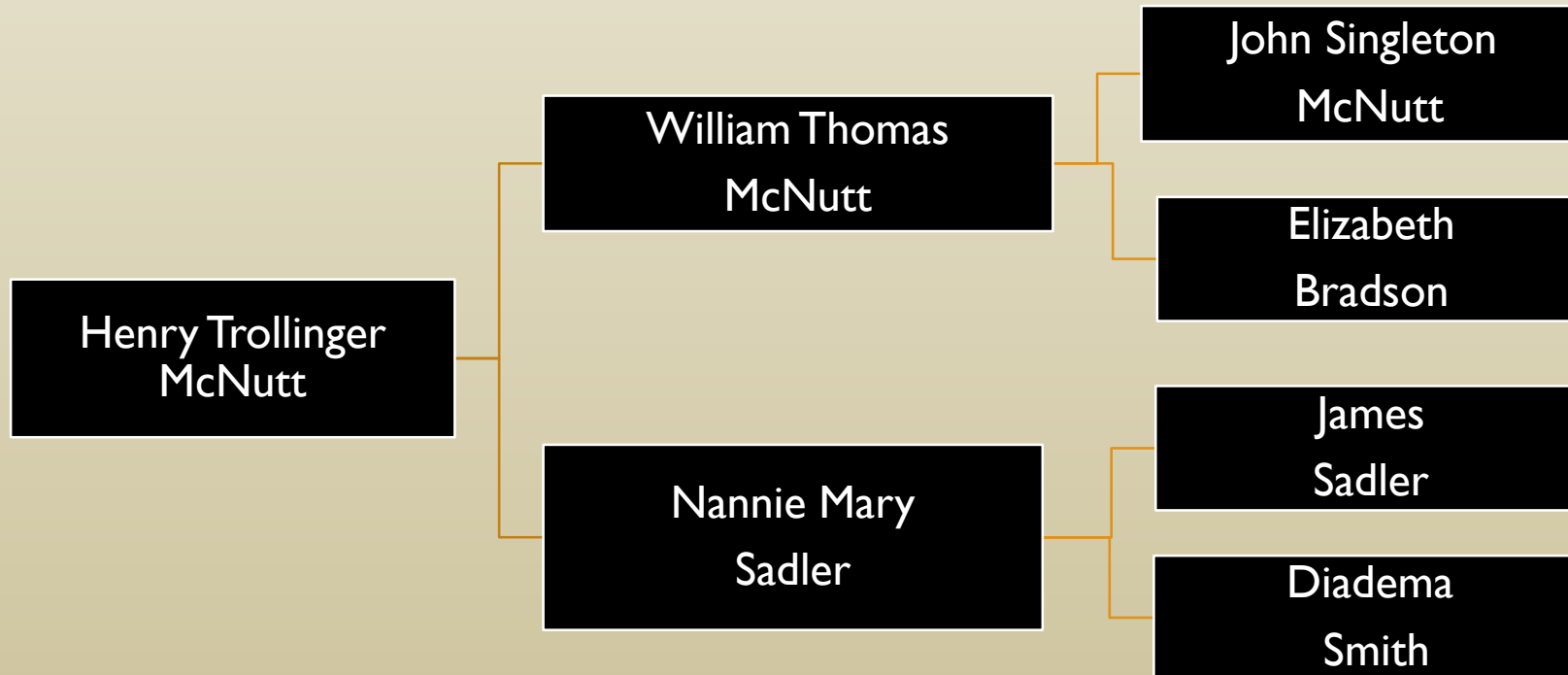
Died of Influenza while at the Naval Hospital in Norfolk

- **BURIAL:** Sharon Lutheran Cemetery, Ceres, VA



FAMILY TREE

FIREMAN 2ND CLASS HENRY TROLLINGER MCNUTT





PFC MILLER THOMAS BURTON (1894 – 1918) U. S. ARMY BLAND COUNTY (BLAND), VA

- **Born:** May 16, 1894 in Bland County VA

He was the oldest of 9 children born to James A. Burton and Cora Corder. He worked on his father's farm on Walkers Creek before he entered military service.

- **Military Career:** June 1917 – October 1918

Co. H, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division (Blue Ridge Division)

Died: October 4, 1918 (Age – 24 years)

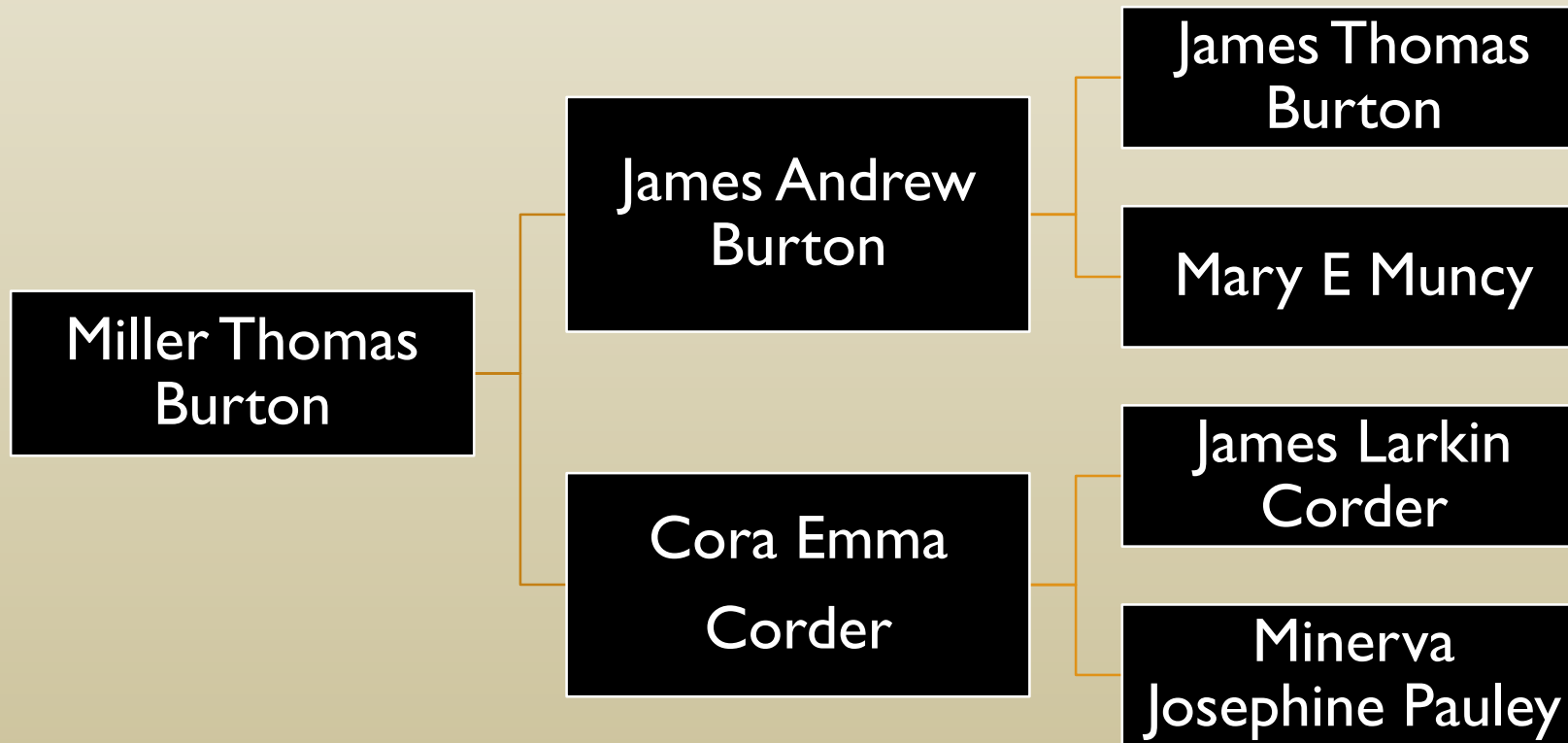
Killed in Action in Meuse Argonne Campaign in France.

- **Burial:** He was buried first overseas at an unknown location. His remains were returned to Bland County in August 1921. He was reinterred at the Muncy Cemetery, East Blue Grass Trail, Bland, VA. The American Legion Post 20 in Bland was named in his honor.



FAMILY TREE

PFC. MILLER THOMAS BURTON





PVT HERBERT WAYNE MORRIS (1896 - 1918)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (NOBUSINESS), VA

- **Born:** January 27, 1896

He was the one of 9 children born to Samuel V Morris and Octavia Miller. Prior to enlistment he was working on his father's farm near Nobusiness.

- **Military Career:** June 1917 – October 1918

Entered service in October 1917 and went overseas with Co. B, 317th Regiment, 80th Division on June 1, 1918

- **Died:** October 5, 1918 (Age – 22 years)

Killed in the battle of Argonne by a shell that struck him in the head.

- **Burial:** 1st in France, then reinterred at Morris Cemetery in Nobusiness just over the Giles County line.

- **Stone Inscription:** *'Twas noble to die, God smiles on valiant soldiers, His record is on high.'*

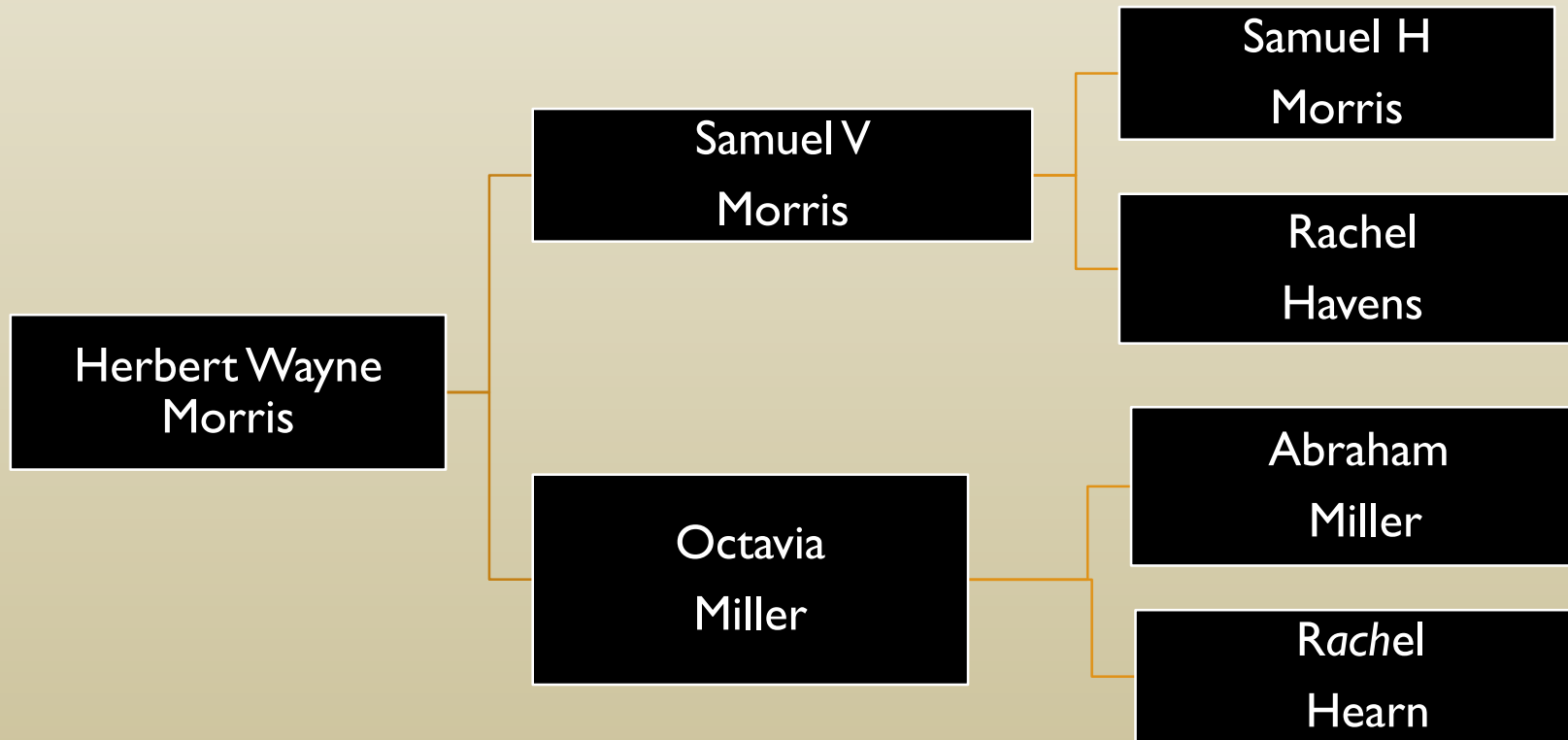


Morris Family Cemetery



FAMILY TREE

PVT HERBERT WAYNE MORRIS





PVT WILLIAM A SUBLETT (1895- 1918)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (WHITE GATE), VA

- **Born:** December 10, 1895 in Mechanicsburg, Bland County, VA

He was one of 7 children born to Joseph Franklin Sublett and Minnie Jones Duncan. Prior to enlistment he worked on a farm owned by John L. Bogle in Mechanicsburg.

- **Military Career:** July 1917– October 1918

Registered for draft on June 5, 1917. Served in Company H 318 Infantry 80th Division.

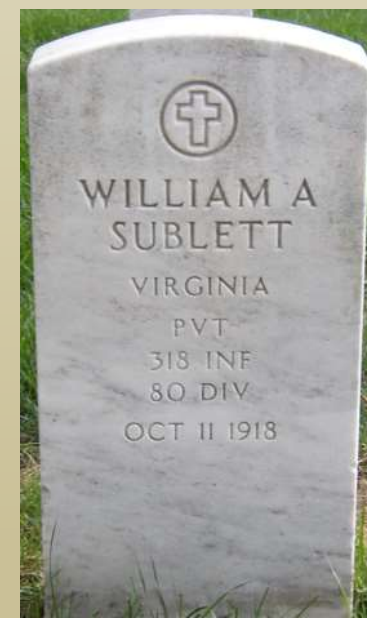
- **Died:** October 11, 1918 (Age – 23 years)

Died of wounds while fighting in France

- **Burial:** 1st in Argonne American Cemetery, France. Re-interred at Arlington National Cemetery on 9/29/1921-Section 58 Plot 4 Grave 158.

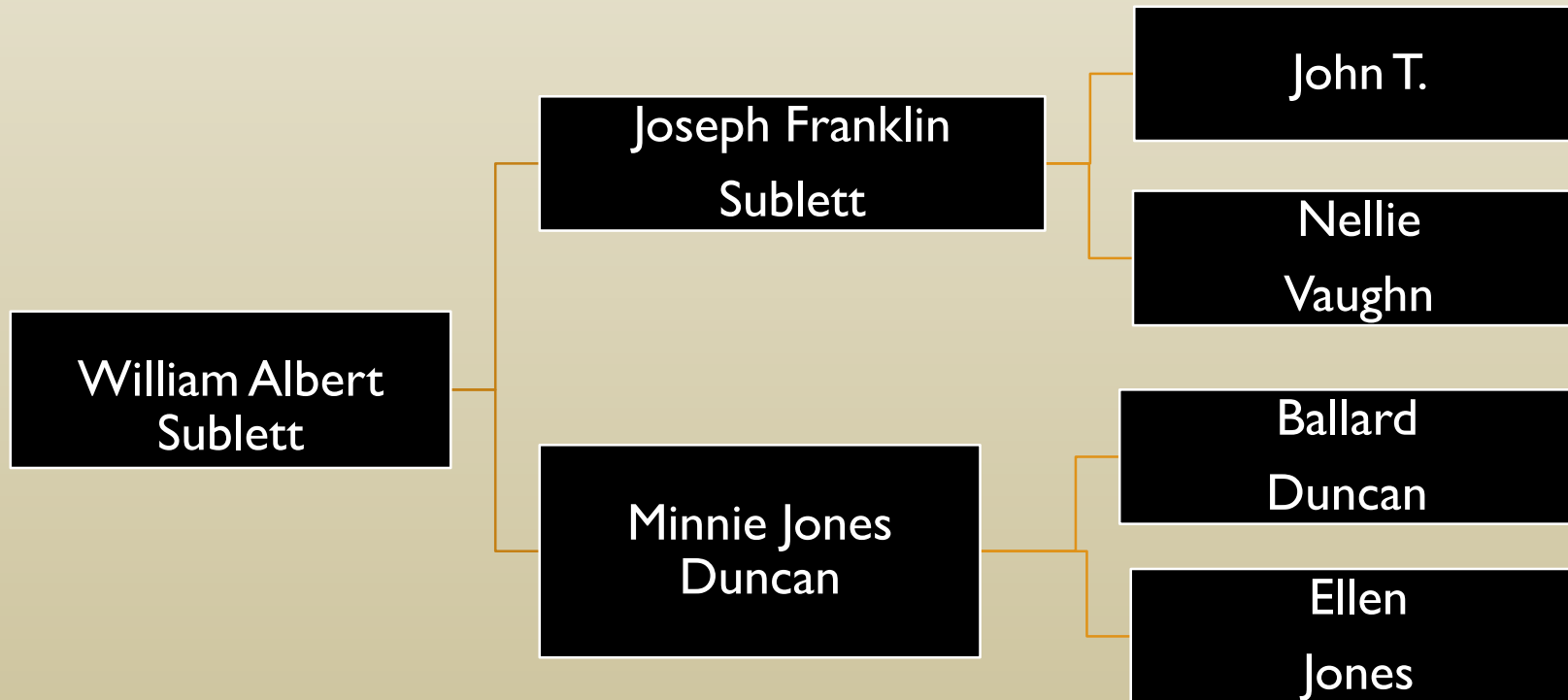


Arlington National



FAMILY TREE

PVT WILLIAM A SUBLETT



PVT STUART NATHANIEL BROWN (1894 – 1918)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (LITTLE CREEK), VA

- **Born:** November 15, 1894 in Wythe County VA

He was the oldest of 3 sons born to Joseph E. Brown and Blanche Repass of Bland County VA. His family lived in the Little Creek Community. When he registered for the draft, he was working on the farm of George Thompson in Bland.

- **Military Career:** May 1918 to October 1918

Assigned to the 3rd Co, 1st Brigade, 155 Depot, Camp Lee VA.

Died: October 18, 1918 (Age – 24 years)

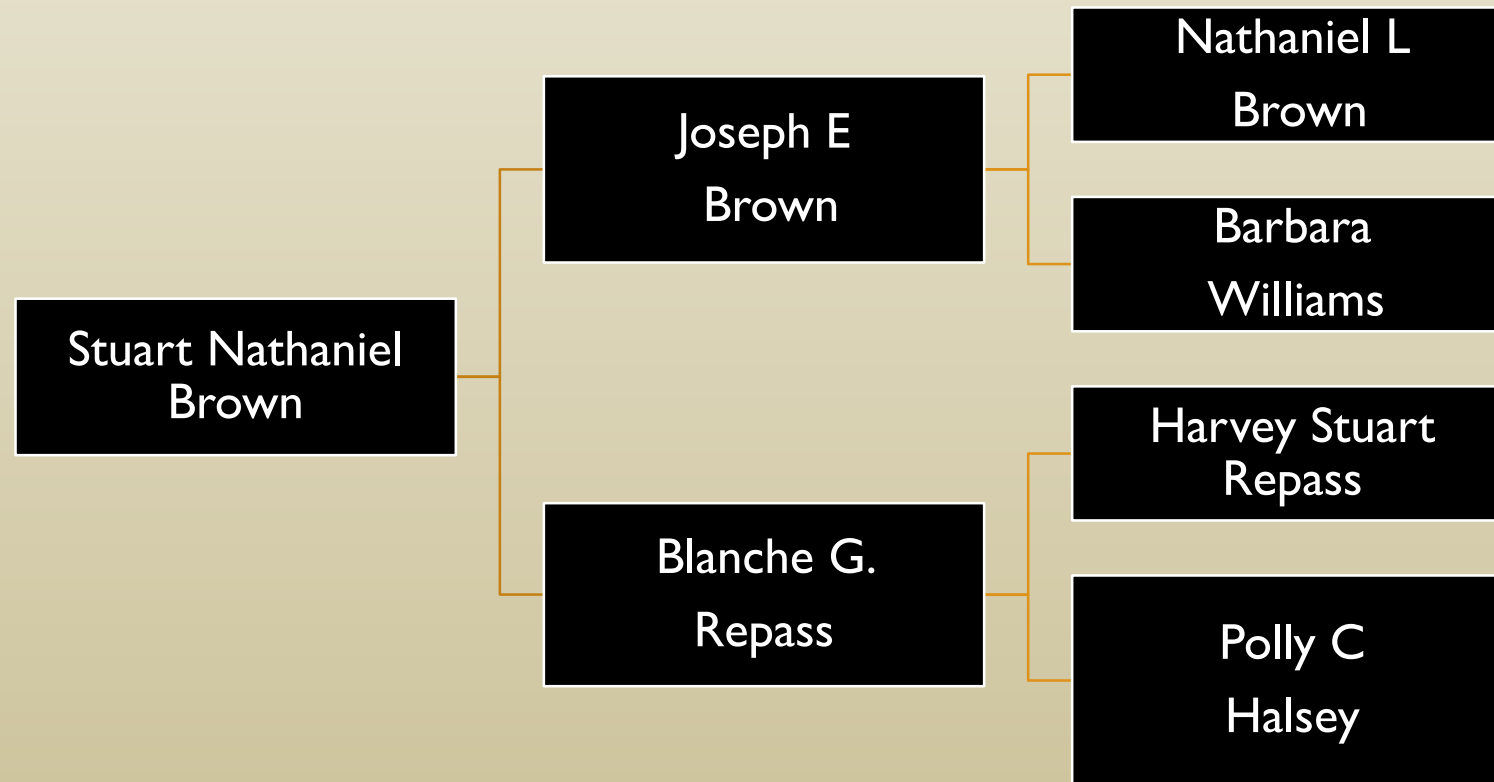
Died of pneumonia at the base hospital at Camp Lee VA. He was under medical care from July, 1918 until October, 1918.

- **Burial:** Strader Church (Little Creek), Bland County VA.



FAMILY TREE

PVT STUART NATHANIEL BROWN





PFC CHARLES OTTO FANNING (1895 - 1918)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY(MECHANICSBURG), VA

- **Born:** September 23, 1895 in Bland County VA.

He was the eldest of 6 children born to James M Fanning and Nannie J Mustard of Bland County VA. They lived in the Mechanicsburg Community. He was working as a coal miner in Maybury, WV when he entered service.

- **Military Career:** June 1917 – November 1918

Assigned to 3rd Battalion, 317th Infantry, 80th Division (Blue Ridge Division)

- **Died:** November 3, 1918 (Age – 23)

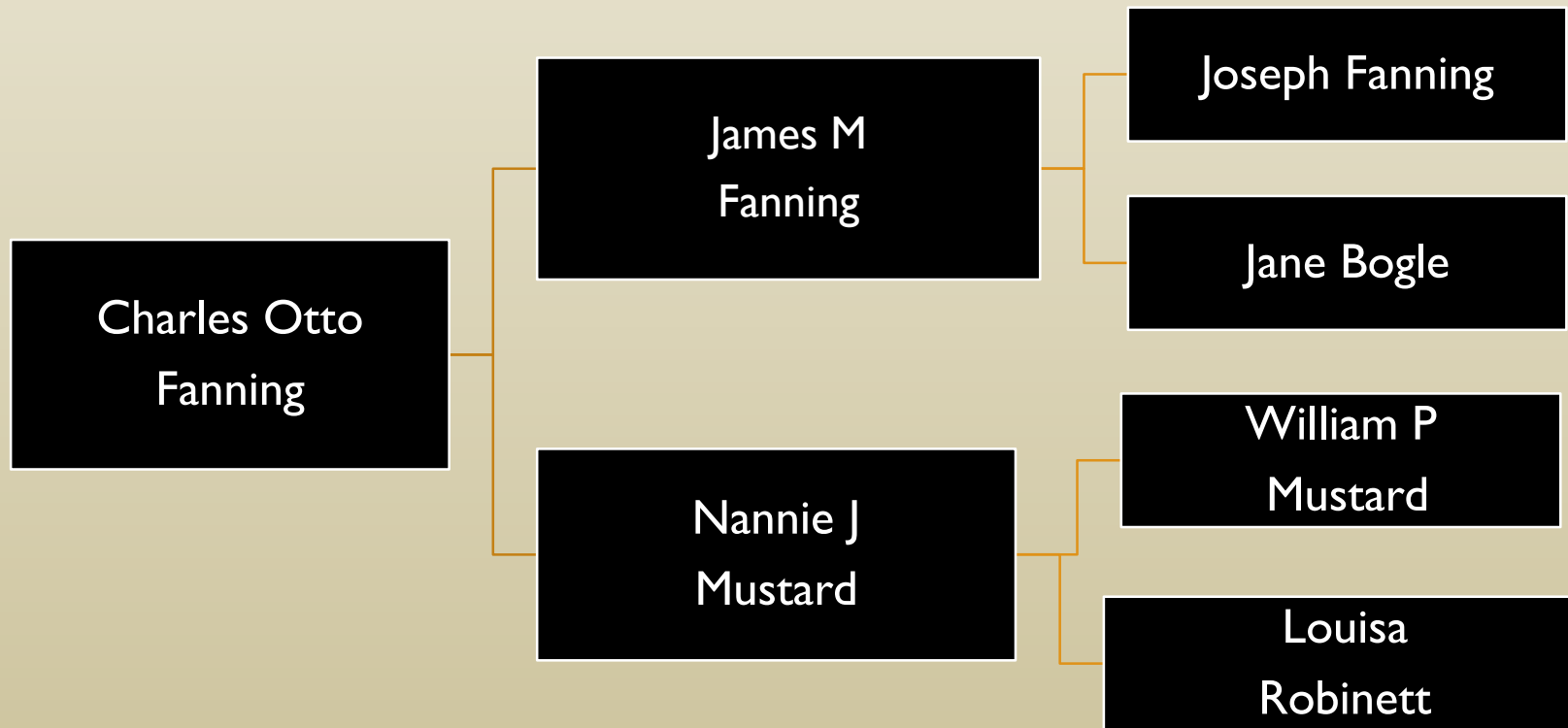
Killed in action near Meuse-Argonne France.

- **Burial:** Meuse Argonne Cemetery, Romagne, France Plot F Row 7 Grave 39



FAMILY TREE

PFC CHARLES OTTO FANNING





PVT CLOWNIE W LILLY (1888 - 1918)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (HICKSVILLE), VA

- **Born:** October 25, 1888 in Hinton WV

His father and mother were Wilson A. Lilly, Jr and Elizabeth Ellen Farley from Raleigh County, WV. He and his brother-in-law Russell Reed were working in the lumber business at Hicksville VA at the time of his enlistment. He listed Bland County as his residence.

- **Military Career:** June 1917 – November 1918

Company B, 354th Infantry Regiment 89th Division

Died: November 1, 1918 (Age – 30 years)

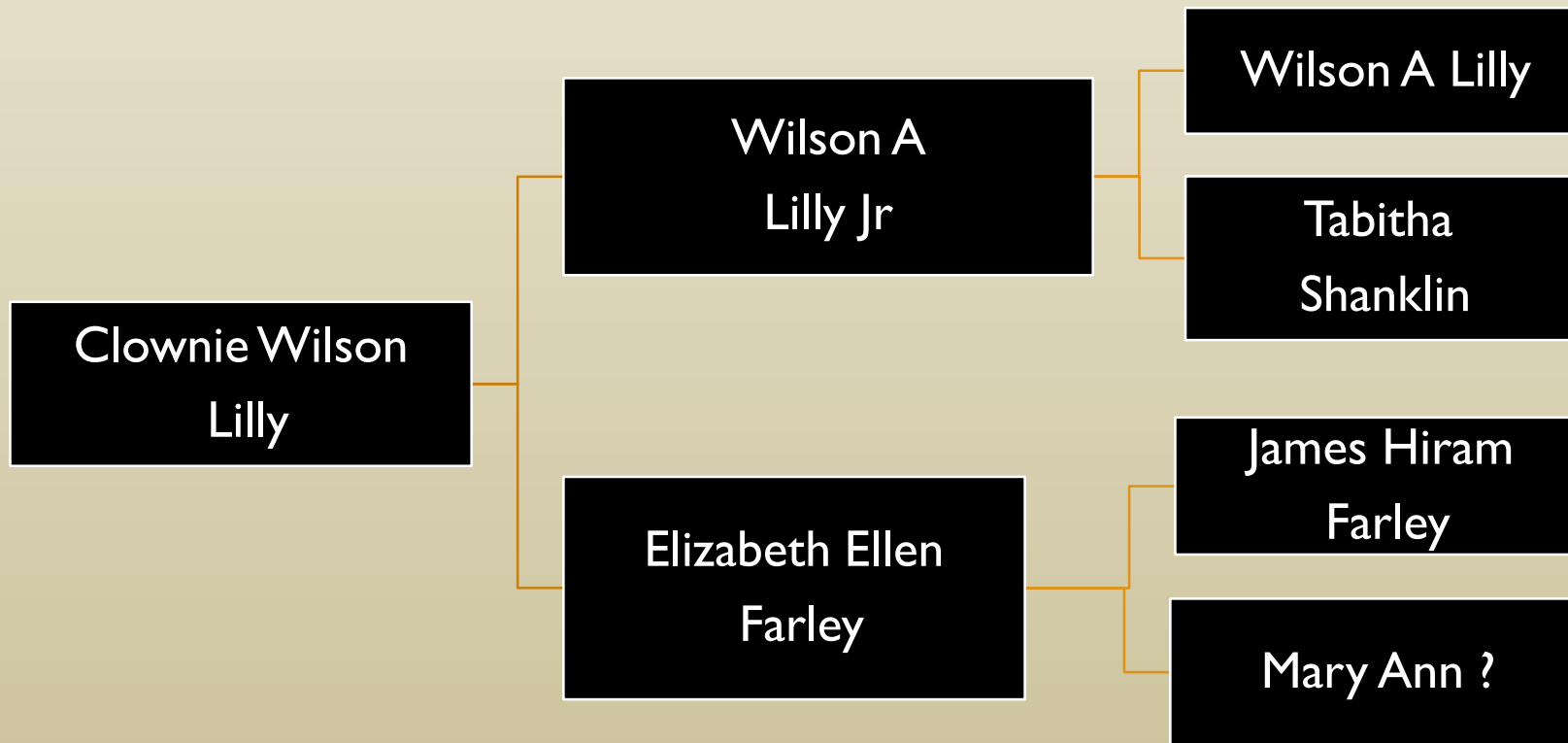
Killed in Action in France.

- **Burial:** Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, Romagne, France. Plot C Row 5 Grave 30.



FAMILY TREE

PVT CLOWNIE W LILLY





PVT. JOHN NYE TICKLE (1892- 1919) BLAND COUNTY (LONGSPUR), VA



- **Born:** February 16, 1892 in Longspur, Bland County, VA

He was the oldest son of the 13 children born to George L Tickle and Ella Smith Pegram. When he registered for the draft, he was a machinist in Cincinnati, OH. He was married to Ida K. Brookman in 1914.

- **Military Career:** July 1917–January 1919
- Registered for draft on June 5, 1917 in Cincinnati, OH. Served in Company F 147th Infantry of the U.S. National Guard
- **Died:** January 26, 1919 (Age – 27 years)

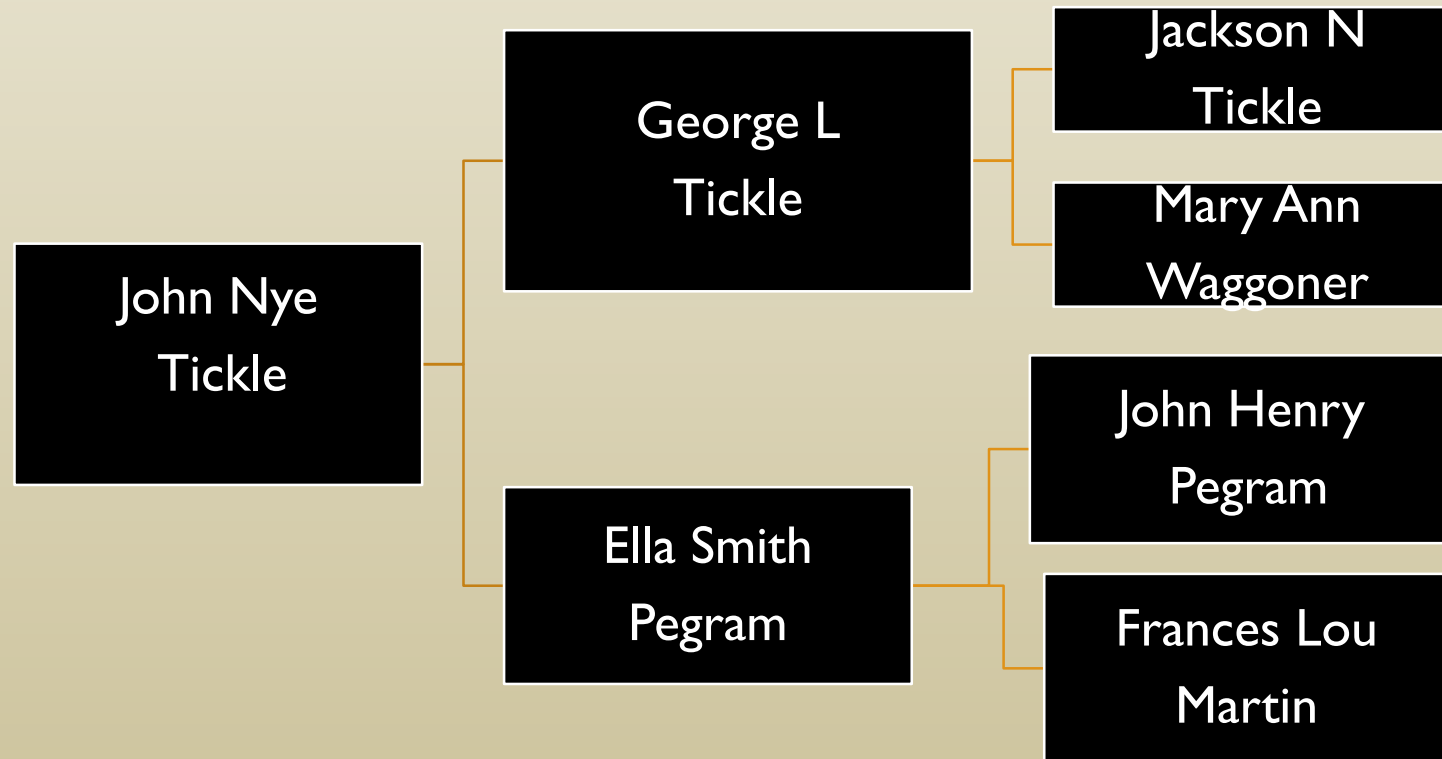
Died of disease while serving in Germany after the war.

- **Burial:** Bland Cemetery Bland VA.



FAMILY TREE

PVT JOHN NYE TICKLE





PVT HUGH CHAFFIN COLLINS (1894 – 1919)

U. S. ARMY

BLAND COUNTY (LONGSPUR), VA

Born: December 17, 1894 in Bland County VA.

He was one of 12 children born to John Harvey Collins and Gillie Bralley Akers of Bland County VA. They lived in the Longspur Community. He was working on his father's farm in Longspur when he entered the service.

Military Career: June 1917 – March 1919

Assigned to 129th Infantry, 33rd Division.

Died: March 3, 1919 (Age – 25)

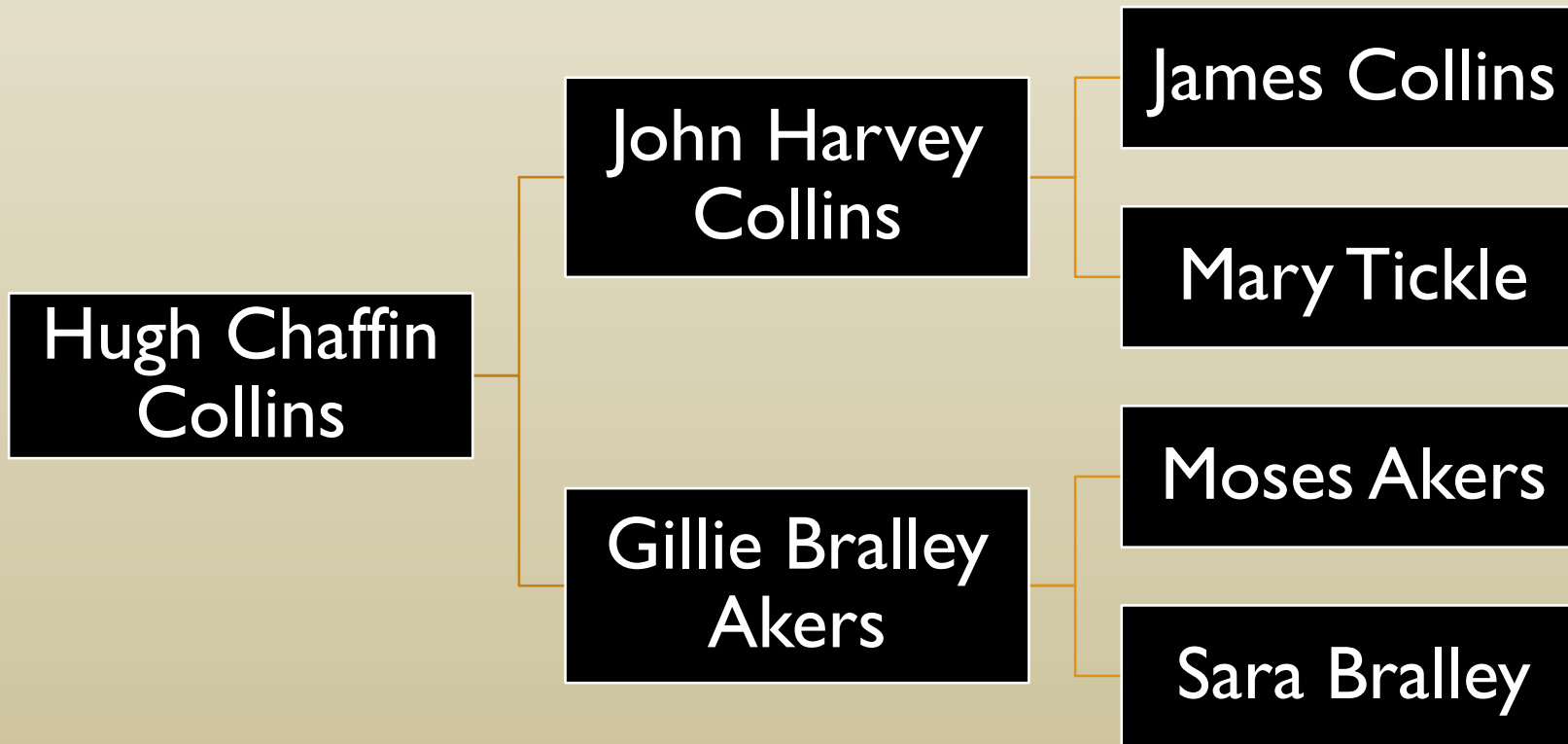
Died of Disease in Luxembourg, Germany during the occupation after the war.

Burial: Interred at Arlington National Cemetery on November 20, 1920



FAMILY TREE

PVT. HUGH CHAFFIN COLLINS



THE 11TH HOUR OF THE 11TH DAY OF THE 11TH MONTH...



American troops react to the silence along the firing line.



BLAND COUNTY REMEMBERS WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL BRIDGE - BLAND, VA

“TO THE SACRED MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLD WAR.”



On the bridge there is a memorial plaque sponsored by the Miller T. Burton Post of the American Legion listing all the Bland County Veterans serving in the Great War: 188 men and 1 woman. The one woman is Bertha Lee Thompson (USN). There is a star beside the men's names that did not survive the war.



BLAND COUNTY FALLEN HEROES POEM: FIELD OF FLANDERS & RESPONSE

IN FLANDERS FIELDS the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

(Lt Col John McCrae, MD (1872-1918))

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders' Fields
Sleep sweet - to rise anew;
We caught the torch you threw,
And holding high we kept
The faith with those who died.

We cherish, too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led.
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.
But lends a lustre to the red
On the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders' fields.

And now the torch and Poppy red
Wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught:
We've learned the lesson that ye taught
In Flanders' fields.
(Moir Michael "The Poppy Lady")

WORLD WAR I

REFERENCES

- **Virginia Military War Dead Database at the Library of Virginia**
http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd/vmd_Search.asp
- **World War I History Commission Questionnaires Collection at the Library of Virginia**
www.lva.gov
- **National Archives – especially World War I Centennial**
<https://www.archives.gov/topics/wwi>
- **American Battle Monuments Commission**
<https://www.abmc.gov/>
- **Book: *Soldiers of the Great War* ... (Virginia, Volume 3) edited by William Mitchell Haulsee, Frank George Howe, Alfred Cyril Doyle**

WORLD WAR II

1941 – 1945

BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES

WORLD WAR II

THE ROAD TO WAR

SEPTEMBER 1, 1939 – DECEMBER 7, 1941

- **September 1, 1939** - Nazis invade Poland.
- **September 3, 1939** - Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declare war on Germany.
- **September 4, 1939** - British Royal Air Force attacks the German Navy.
- **September 5, 1939** - United States proclaims its neutrality; German troops cross the Vistula River in Poland.
- **September 5 1939 – December 7 1941** Between those two events, President Franklin Roosevelt worked hard to prepare Americans for a conflict that he regarded as inevitable. In November 1939, he persuaded Congress to repeal the arms embargo provisions of the neutrality law so that arms could be sold to France and Britain. After the fall of France in the spring of June 1940, he pushed for a major military buildup and began providing aid in the form of Lend-Lease to Britain, which now stood alone against the Axis powers. America, he declared, must become "the great arsenal of democracy." From then on, America's capacity to produce hundreds of thousands of tanks, airplanes, and ships for itself and its allies proved a crucial factor in Allied success, as did the fierce resistance of the Soviet Union, which had joined the war in June 1941 after being attacked by Germany. The brilliance of America's military leaders, including General Dwight Eisenhower, who planned and led the attack against the Nazis in Western Europe, and General Douglas MacArthur and Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, who led the Allied effort in the Pacific, also contributed to the Allied victory.
- **December 7, 1941** – Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor.

WORLD WAR II

JAPANESE ATTACK PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941

- **6:00 A. M:** The first attack wave of 183 Japanese planes takes off from the carriers located 230 miles north of Oahu and heads for the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. The Japanese attack force commanded by Admiral Nagumo has six carriers and 423 airplanes is about to unleash its wrath on the large military installations located on Oahu.
- **7:02 A. M:** Two Army operators at Oahu's northern shore radar station detect the Japanese air attack approaching and contact a junior officer who disregards their reports, thinking they are American B-17 planes which are expected in from the U.S. west coast.

Pearl Harbor is not on a state on high alert. Senior commanders have concluded, based on available intelligence, there is no reason to believe an attack is imminent. Aircraft are therefore left parked wingtip to wingtip on airfields, anti-aircraft guns are unmanned with many ammunition boxes kept locked in accordance with peacetime regulations. There are also no torpedo nets protecting the fleet anchorage. And since it is Sunday morning, many officers and crewmen are leisurely ashore.

- **7:53 A. M:** The first Japanese assault wave, with 51 'Val' dive bombers, 40 'Kate' torpedo bombers, 50 high level bombers and 43 'Zero' fighters, commences the attack with flight commander, Mitsuo Fuchida, sounding the battle cry: "Tora! Tora! Tora!" (Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!).

The Americans are taken completely by surprise. The first attack wave targets airfields and battleships. The second wave targets other ships and shipyard facilities. The air raid lasts until 9:45 a.m. Eight battleships are damaged, with five sunk. Three light cruisers, three destroyers and three smaller vessels are lost along with 188 aircraft. The Japanese lose 27 planes and five midget submarines which attempted to penetrate the inner harbor and launch torpedoes.

Escaping damage from the attack are the prime targets, the three U.S. Pacific Fleet aircraft carriers, Lexington, Enterprise and Saratoga, which were not in the port. Also escaping damage are the base fuel tanks.

The casualty list includes 2,335 servicemen and 68 civilians killed, with 1,178 wounded. Included are 1,104 men aboard the Battleship USS Arizona killed after a 1,760-pound air bomb penetrated into the forward magazine causing catastrophic explosions. Among those killed were 40 Virginians.

WORLD WAR II

JAPANESE ATTACK PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941



Seaplanes destroyed at Hickam Field



USS West Virginia and USS Tennessee
Burning after Pearl Harbor Attack

WORLD WAR II

DECLARATION OF WAR - DECEMBER 8, 1941

“DAY OF INFAMY SPEECH BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT



Roosevelt delivers the speech to Congress. Behind him are Vice President [Henry A. Wallace](#) (left) and [Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn](#). To the right, in uniform in front of Rayburn, is Roosevelt's son [James](#), who escorted his father to the [Capitol](#).

THE DAY OF INFAMY SPEECH BEGAN:
“Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.” With those words, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. Millions of Americans learned about the attack and heard the president’s speech on radio.

WORLD WAR II BLAND VIRGINIA HEARS ABOUT THE JAPANESE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR DECEMBER 7, 1941

This story was related by Donnie Ray Muncy, 10 year old son of the newspaper editor in Bland, on Pearl Harbor Day on December 7, 1941. Jim Muncy was that editor of the ***Bland Messenger***. He was also the owner of the Muncy Beer Garden located on Main Street in Bland.

That Sunday morning, the residents attended the churches in town. Jim Muncy did not open the beer garden on Sunday morning out of respect for the churchgoers. Donnie Ray and his mother were listening to the radio that Sunday afternoon about 2:30 When President Franklin Roosevelt announced that the Japs had bombed Pearl Harbor. Ships were being sunk and there was a large loss of life among those serving in the military on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. After the announcement, Mrs Muncy (Lorrayne) wrote out a note and asked Donnie Ray to take the note to his father at the beer garden.

Donnie Ray hurried to the Beer Garden where many of men of Bland were enjoying their refreshments on that Sunday afternoon. Jim Muncy opened the note and read it to the crowd.

The men dropped their beers and headed home to get their guns and returned armed to the beer garden. They were ready should Bland be invaded by those “nasty yellow bastards.”

Some 600 of Bland Countians would ultimately be drafted, would enlist, would serve in vital civilian jobs, and defend this country against Germany and Japan. Many of those present that day in the Muncy Beer Garden would become part of “The Greatest Generation.”

WORLD WAR II

DECLARATION OF WAR – “DAY OF INFAMY SPEECH” BY FDR

CONGRESS PASSED DECLARATION OF WAR ONE HOUR AFTER THE SPEECH WAS DELIVERED.



President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Declaration of War against Japan, December 8, 1941. (Photo credit: U.S. National Archives)

**ON DECEMBER 8, 1941, VIRGINIANS AGAIN
FOUND THEMSELVES AT WAR...**



WORLD WAR II POSTERS



WORLD WAR II DRAFT REGISTRATION

Selective Training and Service Act

- Passed by Congress on September 14, 1940 becoming the first peacetime draft in US history.
- This Selective Service Act required that men between the ages of 21 and 35 register with local draft boards.
 - *Later, when the U.S. entered World War II, all men aged 18 to 45 were made liable for military service*



WORLD WAR II

HISTORY OF THE DRAFT IN WWII

Pre – World War II (September 16, 1940 – December 7, 1941)

- Although the United States was not at war, many people in the government and in the country believed that the United States would eventually be drawn into the wars that were being fought in Europe and East Asia. Isolationism, or the belief that Americans should do whatever it could to stay out of the war, was still strong. But with the fall of France to the Nazis in June 1940, Americans were growing uneasy about Great Britain's ability to defeat Germany on its own. Our own military was woefully unprepared to fight a global war should it called upon to do so. National polls showed a growing majority in favor of instituting a draft.
- On **September 16, 1940**, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, which required all men between the ages of **21 and 45** to register for the draft. This was the **first peacetime draft** in United States' history. Those who were selected from the draft lottery were required to serve at least **one year** in the armed forces.
- The draft began in **October 1940**, with the first men entering military service on **November 18**. By the early summer of 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the U.S. Congress to extend the term of duty for the draftees beyond twelve months to a total of eighteen months, plus any additional time that he could deem necessary for national security. On August 12, the United States House of Representatives approved the extension by a single vote. The Senate approved it by a wider margin, and Roosevelt signed the Service Extension Act of 1941 into law on August 18.
- Many of the soldiers drafted in October 1940 threatened to desert once the original twelve months of their service was up. Many of these men painted the letters "O H I O" on the walls of their barracks in protest. These letters were an acronym for "Over the hill in October," which meant that the men intended to desert upon the end of their twelve months of duty. Desertions did occur, but they were not widespread.

WORLD WAR II

HISTORY OF THE DRAFT IN WWII

Post Declaration of War – December 8, 1941

- Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on **December 7, 1941** millions of American men entered the United States' military's ranks both by volunteering and by conscription.
- After the United States entered World War II, amendments to the Selective Training and Service Act on **December 20, 1941** made all men between the ages of **20 and 44** liable for military service, and required all men between the ages of **18 and 64** to register. The terminal point of service was extended to six months after the war.
- Another amendment signed on **November 13, 1941** called the registered 18 and 19 year olds into military service.
- From **October 1940 until March 1947**—when the wartime Selective Training and Service Act expired after extensions by Congress—over **10,000,000 men were inducted**. Another 6 million volunteered for service in World War II.

WORLD WAR II

WHO WENT TO WAR IN BLAND COUNTY

Military Service	Number
US Army	396
US Navy	114
US Marines	10
Navy Seabees	2
Merchant Marines	2
WACS	4
WAVES	2
U. S. Nurses Corps	4
Others after 8/1944(est)*	100
TOTAL**	634

**No known list after Aug 10, 1944, estimated to be approximately 100.

*Source: Numbers are through August 10, 1944 – Bland Messenger, High School Yearbooks

WORLD WAR II CASUALTIES (1941 – 1945)

	Total Served	Total Combat Deaths/Prison Camps	Total Deaths Other	Total Casualties	% of those served
USA	16,112,566	291,557	113,842	405,399	2.52%
Virginia	320,640	7937	1746	9,683	3.02%
Bland County	~634	24	5	29*	4.57%

*3 listed on the Bland County Casualty list appear to have no connection to Bland: Gober, Manning and Reed

Fallen Heroes of Bland County-World War II (1941-1945)					
Name	Hometown	Details of Death	Date of Death	Age	Burial Site
Melvin Patrick Aliff	Rocky Gap	Died on a hospital ship from wounds suffered at Saipan	6/15/1944	24	Buried at sea. Memorial in Honolulu HI
William W (Jack) Bogle	Ceres	Killed in action near Normandy France	9/7/1944	34	Brittany American Cemetery, St. James FR
James Leslie Burke	Ceres	Killed in action in Normandy France	7/13/1944	26	Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur Mer FR
William Artie Burton	Kimberling	Died of non-battle wounds in Luxembourg Belgium	12/17/1944	30	Browns Chapel Baptist Church, Pacolet Mills, SC
Robert Lee Carver	Rocky Gap	Died of Disease during occupation in Germany	12/24/1946	18	Clear Fork Baptist Church, Rocky Gap VA
James Edward Dillard	Mechanicsburg	Killed in action in Epinal France. Remains not recovered.	02/19/1945	19	Epinal American Memorial Epinal FF
Leroy Thomas Farmer	Bland	Killed in action near Frolis FR,on the Moselle River, Remains not recovered	9/12/1944	20	Lorraine American Memorial, Lorraine FR; marker at Maple Hill Cemetery in Bluefield VA
Everett St Clair Hall	Bland	Died of non-combat wounds at Camp Butner, Granville NC	9/8/1945	31	Glen Haven Memorial Park, Glen Burnie MD
Andrew Gilbert Hancock	Bastian	Lost at sea when ship hit a mine near Brunei	4/3/1945	21	Manila American Cemetery, Tablets of the Missing; also marker at the Bland Cemetery.
Franklin Forrest Kitts, JR.	Ceres	Killed in action east of Aachen, Germany	11/17/1944	23	U. S. Military Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle Belgium
Willie C Long	Bastian	Killed in action near Sicily	06/08/1944	23	Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Italy
Robert Thurman Miller	Kimberling	Died in air combat over Holland	4/5/1945	26	Ardennes American Cemetery, Belgium; also a marker at Salem Cemetery, Kimberling.
Jeff Troy Morehead	No Business	Died in aircraft training accident near Bakersfield CA	10/3/1944	25	Shiloh Church Cemetery, Hollybrook

Fallen Heroes of Bland County-World War II (1941-1945)					
Name	Hometown	Details of Death	Date of Death	Age	Burial Site/Marker
Finley Brown Morris	Niday	Died of disease at Camp Davis Base Hospital, Onslow, NC	06/13/1943	28	Shrader Family Cemetery #2, Round Bottom
Earl George Pauley	Bastian	Killed in Action while serving in Italy	2/18/1940	19	Bland Cemetery, Bland
Arthur Roland Porterfield	Bland	Killed in action in Liberia, North Africa	12/23/1942	25	Arlington National Cemetery
James O. Ramsey	Hollybrook	Killed in action at Anzio Beach, Italy	3/8/1944	27	Shiloh Church Cemetery, Hollybrook
Robert Oren Repass	Ceres	Killed in action during the Battle of the Bulge	1/25/1945	23	Bethany Cemetery, Ceres
Sherman Tartar Sadler	Bland	Died of wounds suffered in Pacific Theater (New Guinea)	8/8/1944	29	Arlington National Cemetery
William Howe Sadler	Bland	Killed in action while fighting in Germany	12/2/1944	31	Ardennes American Cemetery, Nupre, Belgium
William Larry Stone	Bland	Died of wounds and disease in Gemeter Germany	11/1/1944	26	Winchester VA National Cemetery
Zachariah Witten Strock JR	Mechanicsburg	Drowned while jumping from troop ship, Sicily Italy	1/26/1944	22	Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Italy Marker: Mechanicsburg Cemetery
Clifford Thomas	Mechanicsburg	Killed in plane crash near Columbia SC	7/4/1944	22	Oakwood Cemetery, Pulaski VA
James Moore Walker	Mechanicsburg	Killed in air drop into Utah Beach in France	6/17/1944	28	Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Italy
Clifford Andrew Willis	Rocky Gap	Killed in action in Italy.	4/18/1945	20	Laurel Fork Cemetery, Rocky Gap
Owen T Wilson	Ceres	Killed in action in South Pacific atoll, Funifuti	04/22/1943	21	Sharon Luheran Church Cemetery, Ceres

FALLEN HEROES OF BLAND COUNTY-WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)

The men listed below are in many documents as Bland County Fallen Heroes. However, much research and contact with their families did not confirm this connection. If you know otherwise, please let us know.

PVT Wilbur C. Gober (1922 – 1944) U. S. Army

Birth: March 21, 1922 Robertson County, TN.

Death: September 25, 1944, Holland (Zon Eindhoven)

Burial: January 19, 1949 in Nashville National Cemetery.

1st Lt Edward Dunn Manning (1919 - 1944) U. S. Army

Birth: December 16, 1919 in Norfolk VA

Death: He was killed in action on August 8, 1944 in France.

Burial: He is buried in Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, France.

2nd Lt Robert M. Reed (1916 – 1943) U. S. Army Air Corps

Birth: March 29, 1916 in Trenton, New Jersey

Death: August 18, 1943 in an aircraft accident near El Paso, TX

Burial: Unknown



SGT. MELVIN PATRICK ALIFF
(1920–1944)
U. S. MARINE CORPS
ROCKY GAP (BLAND COUNTY) VA

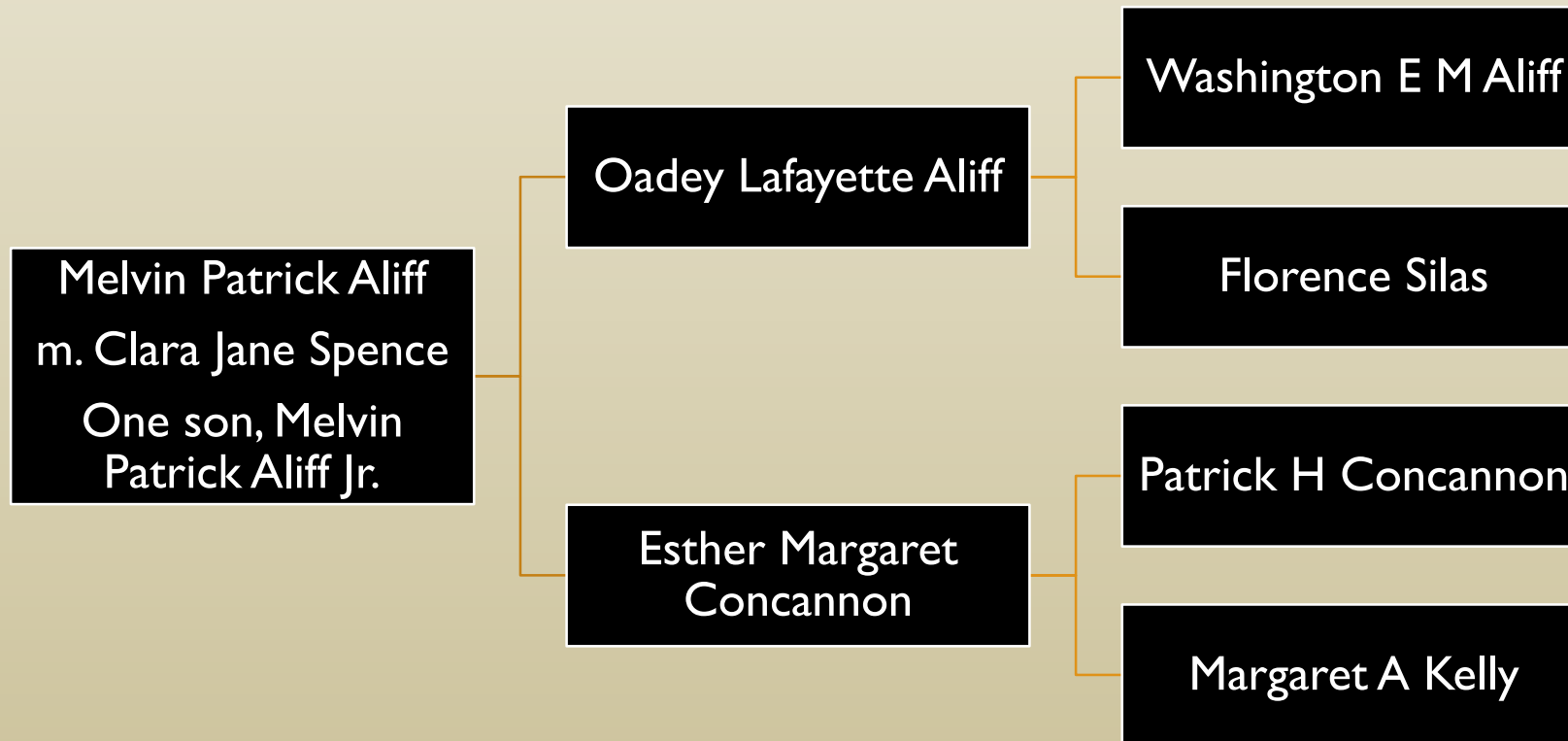
Born: April 24, 1920 in Keystone, McDowell County, WV

Biography: Melvin Aliff lived with his parents, Oadey Aliff and Margaret Concannon and 4 younger siblings. He was the oldest child in the family. At first they lived in Bluefield, WV where his father worked on the railroad. By 1940 they had relocated to Rocky Gap, Bland County, VA. Melvin was 20 years old in 1940 and worked as a helper in an armature business in Bluefield. Before entering the Marine Corps, he married Clara Jane (Janie) Spence from Rocky Gap. They had one son, Patrick Aliff.

Died: June 15, 1944 from a wound received in landing at Saipan.

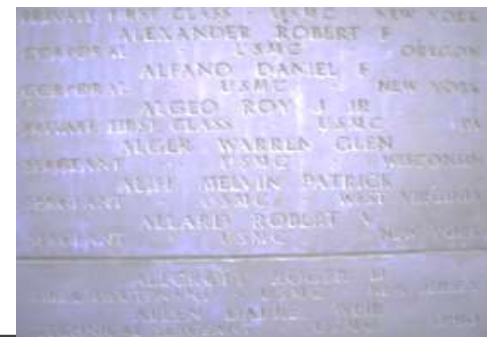
FAMILY TREE

SGT. MELVIN PATRICK ALIFF (USMC)





SGT MELVIN PATRICK ALIFF
U. S. MARINE CORPS
(1920–1944)
ROCKY GAP (BLAND COUNTY) VA



MILITARY : 1942-1944 Melvin Aliff enlisted in 1942, saw action in the battle of Namur in early 1944 where he earned promotion to sergeant. He was wounded in the landing on Saipan* on June 15, 1944. He earned a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star posthumously.

**Battle of Saipan: The Battle of Saipan was a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II, fought on the island of Saipan in the Mariana Islands from 15 June to 9 July 1944. The Allied invasion fleet embarking the expeditionary forces left Pearl Harbor on 5 June 1944, the day before Operation Overload in Europe was launched. The U.S. 2nd Marine Division, 4th Marine Division, and the Army's 27th Infantry Division, commanded by Lieutenant General Holland Smith, defeated the 43 Infantry Division of the Imperial Japanese Army, commanded by Lieutenant General Yoshitsugu Saito.*

DEATH: June 15, 1944 died on a hospital ship to which he had been evacuated.

BURIAL: Sgt. Aliff was buried at sea from the hospital ship. His name appears on the Tablets of the Missing, Court 2 at the Honolulu Memorial, HI.





PFC. WILLIAM WALLACE ("JACK") BOGLE
(1910-1944)
U. S. ARMY
CERES (BLAND COUNTY) VA

- **Born:** February 4, 1910 in Ceres, Bland County, VA

He was the 5th of 9 children born to Andrew Napoleon Bogle and Luvenia Miriam Pruett. He attended Ceres High School. In the 1930 Census he is serving as a soldier in Vancouver, WA.

Military Career: He re-entered service in January 1944. After basic training he was assigned to duty in Brest France. He served in the 9th Infantry, 2nd Division.

Died: Mortally wounded near Normandie on Sept. 2, 1944, died on Sept. 7, 1944 in Brittany, France.

- **Burial:** Brittany American Cemetery, Saint James France. Plot H Row 16 Grave 14



PFC WILLIAM WALLACE (“JACK”) BOGLE
(1910-1944)
U. S. ARMY
CERES (BLAND COUNTY) VA

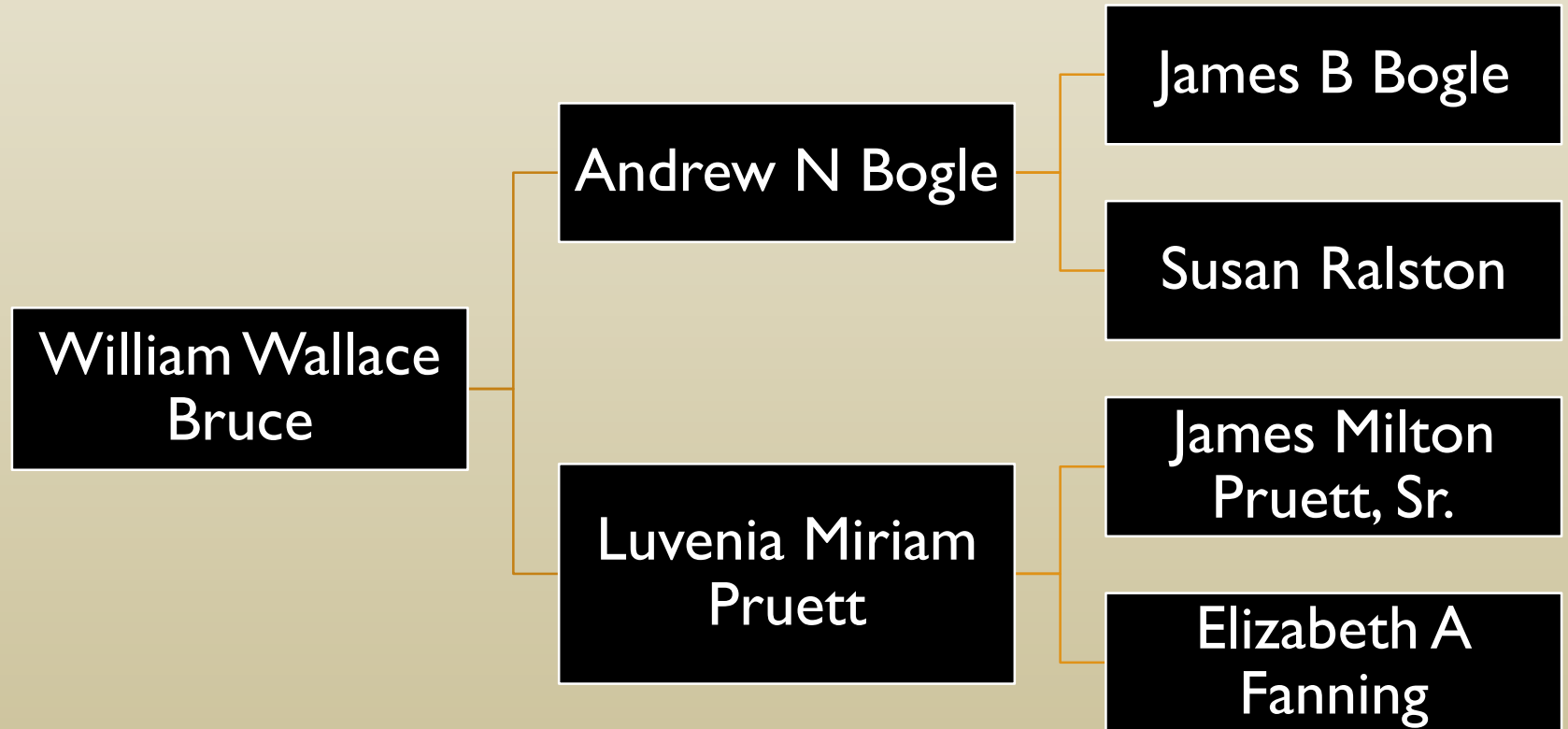


The Mountaineer, Ceres High School yearbook (1945-1946), is dedicated to the those students who attended their school that were killed in World War II. The dedication reads, “...to those who gallantly and heroically gave their lives to defend our rights and privileges in WWII. One of those gallant heroes was “William Bogle who attended school in Ceres from 1926 until 1927.”



Jack Bogle and his sister, Selma

FAMILY TREE PFC. WILLIAM WALLACE (JACK) BOGLE





2ND LT. JAMES (JIMMY) LESLIE BURKE (1918-1944) U. S. ARMY CERES (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: January 7, 1918 in Tazewell, VA

Jimmy Burke was the oldest child born to James C. Burke and Alice Belle Davis. They moved from Tazewell to Ceres during his sophomore year in high school. He graduated from Ceres HS in 1939. In the 1940 Census he was listed as a proprietor of a restaurant in Wytheville. He married Mallie Montes Repass on August 24, 1941.

Military Career: He entered service in April of 1942 rising to the rank of 2nd Lt. He served in the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division.

Died: On July 13, 1944, he was killed in action in Normandy France.

Burial: He is buried in the Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France, Plot D Row 8 Grave 22.



2ND LT. JAMES (JIMMY) LESLIE BURKE
(1918-1944)
U. S. ARMY
CERES (BLAND COUNTY) VA



2nd Lt Burke

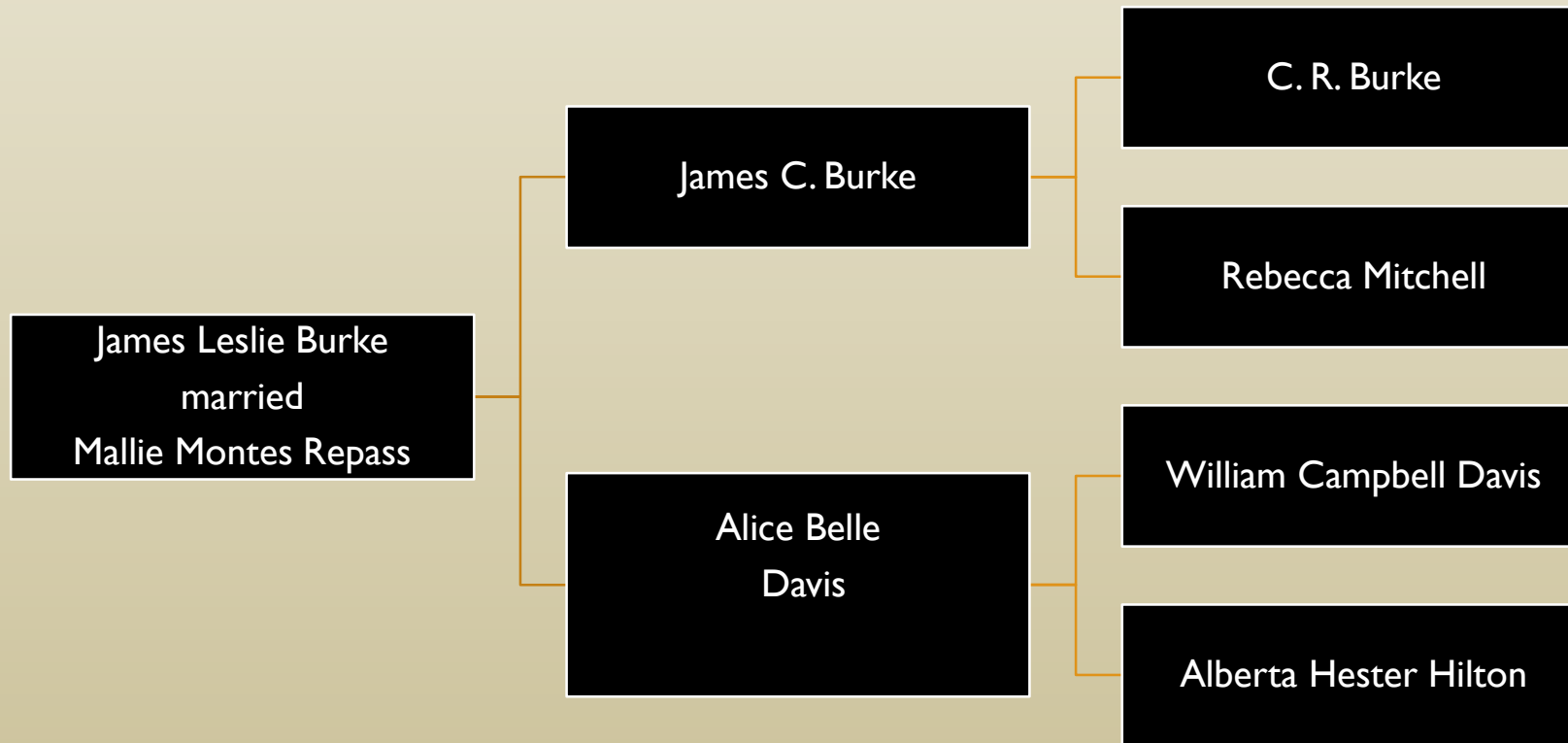


Ceres HS Class of 1939

The Mountaineer, Ceres High School yearbook (1945-1946), is dedicated to the those students who attended their school that were killed in World War II. The dedication reads, "...to those who gallantly and heroically gave their lives to defend our rights and privileges in WWII. One of those gallant heroes was "Jimmy Burke graduated from Ceres High School in 1939 and was killed in action in France in 1944."

FAMILY TREE

2ND LT. JAMES (JIMMY) LESLIE BURKE





CAPT. WILLIAM ARTIE BURTON (1914-1944) U. S. ARMY KIMBERLING (BLAND COUNTY), VA

- **Born:** November 29, 1914 in Kimberling, Bland County, VA

Artie Burton was the 5th child of 10 children born to Charles Robert Burton and Ressa Mary Dunagan. He married Dovie Banks from Pacolet Mills, SC. They had one children, William A. Burton, Jr.

Military Career: The 1940 Census shows that Artie Burton had already entered the service and was living on base in Ft. Howard MD.

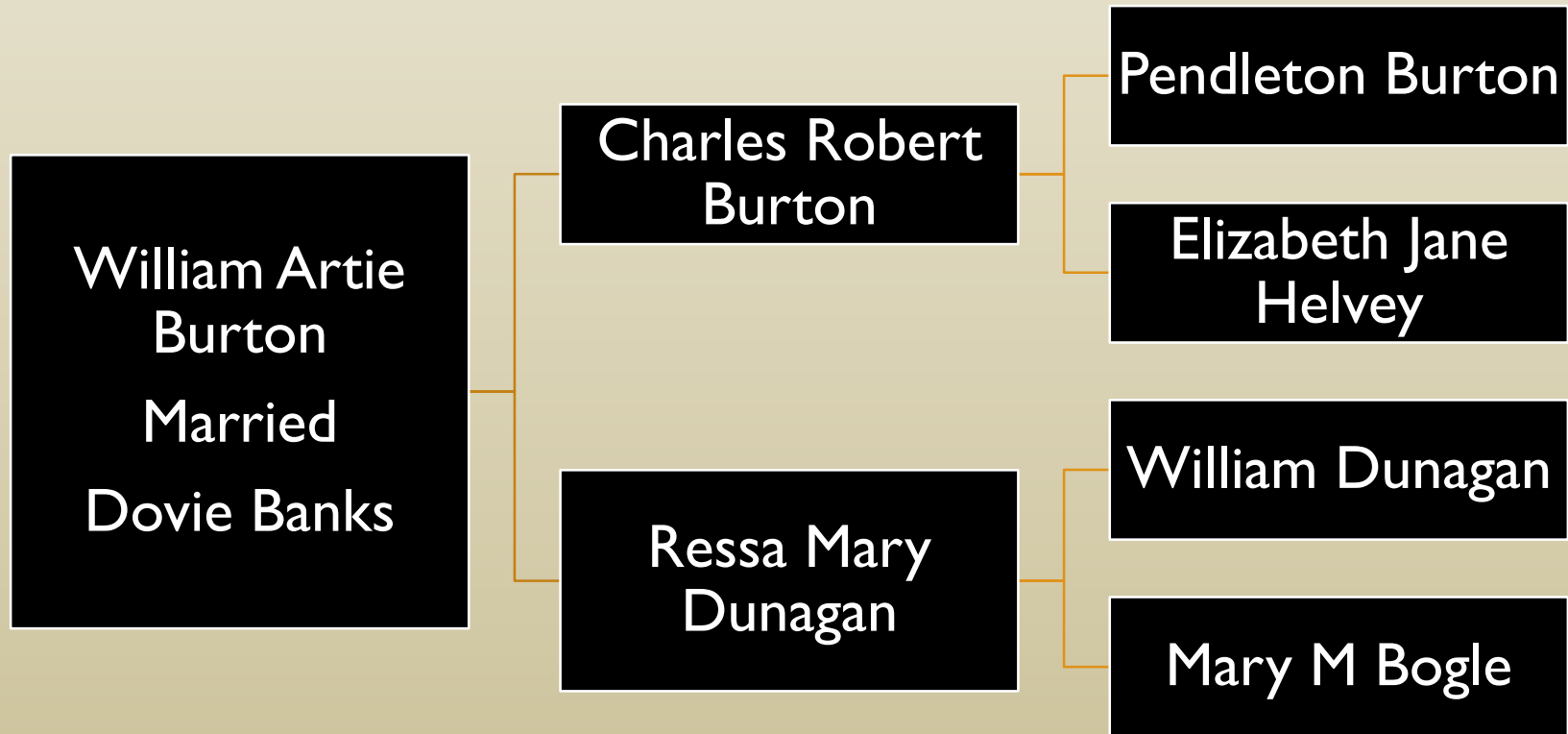
Died: He died on December 17, 1944 of non-battle wounds late in the war while serving in Willinsein, Luxembourg, Belgium. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

- **Burial:** Buried in Pacolet Mills, SC (hometown of his wife)



FAMILY TREE

CAPT. WILLIAM ARTIE BURTON





PVT. ROBERT LEE CARVER (1927 - 1946) U. S. ARMY ROCKY GAP(BLAND COUNTY) VA



- **Born:** June 9, 1927 in Bland,VA

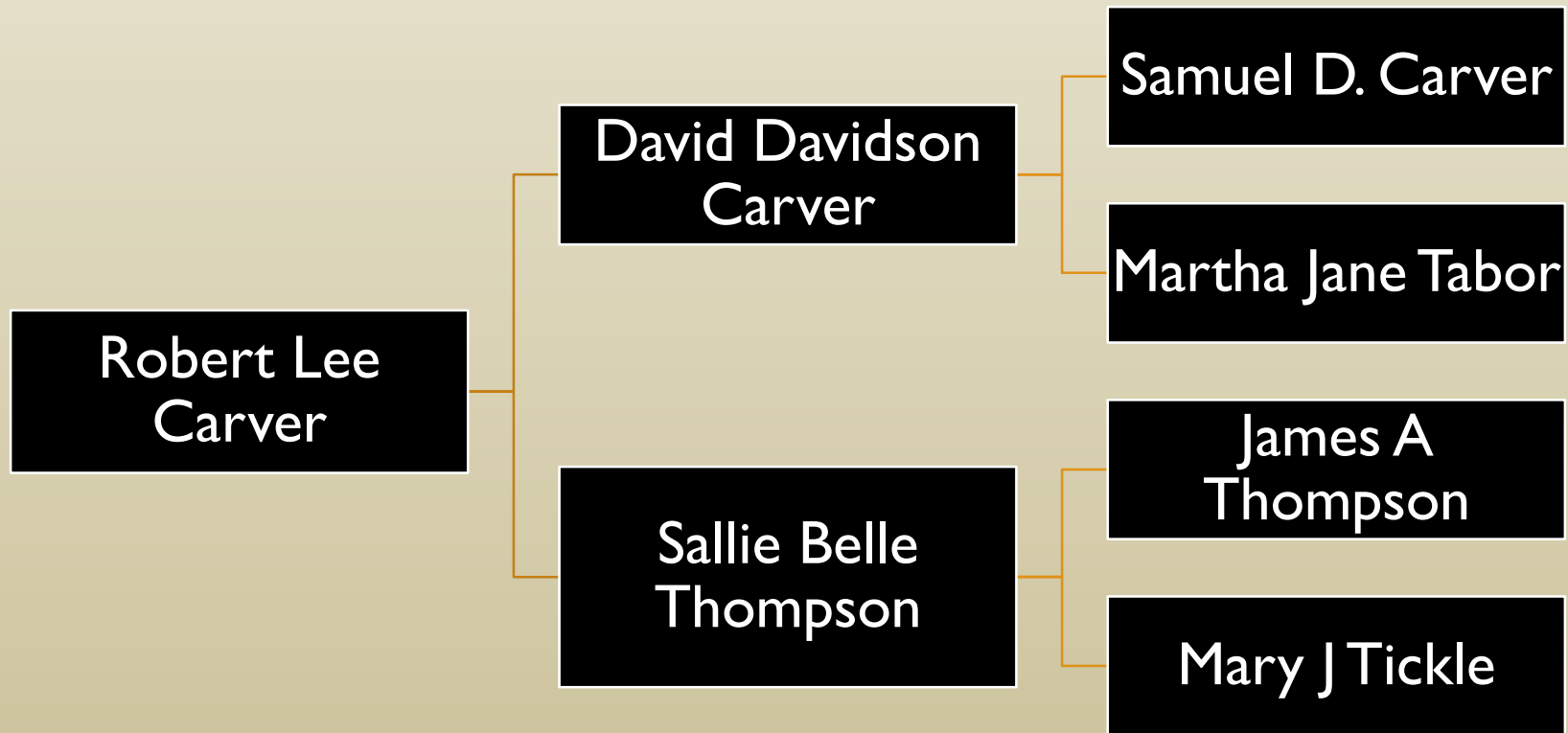
Robert Carver was the oldest of 3 sons David Carver and Sallie Belle Thompson. He lived with his parents in Rocky Gap where his father was a farmer.

- **Military Career:** He enlisted in the Army on 9/25/1945 and was assigned to Battery E, 7th Battalion 3rd Regiment. At the end of the war he was honorably discharged on January 3, 1946. He immediately re-enlisted on January 4, 1946 and assigned to the 68th Constabulary Squadron, Regiment 3.
- **Died:** He died on foreign soil in the line of duty on December 24, 1946. He contracted pneumonia while serving in Ii, Oulun Laani, Finland and died in a hospital in Germany.
- **Burial:** Clear Fork Baptist Cemetery, Rt 61, Rocky Gap,VA.



FAMILY TREE

PVT. ROBERT LEE CARVER





PFC JAMES EDWARD DILLARD (1925-1945) U. S. ARMY MECHANICSBURG (BLAND COUNTY) VA

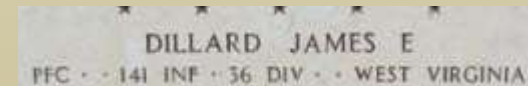
- **Born:** June 16, 1925 in Tazewell County VA.

James Dilliard was the oldest child born to Earl Dillard and Mattie Bell Collins. His father was working at a dairy farm near Bluefield, WV. Later, the family moved to Mechanicburg. He was still in school in 1940.

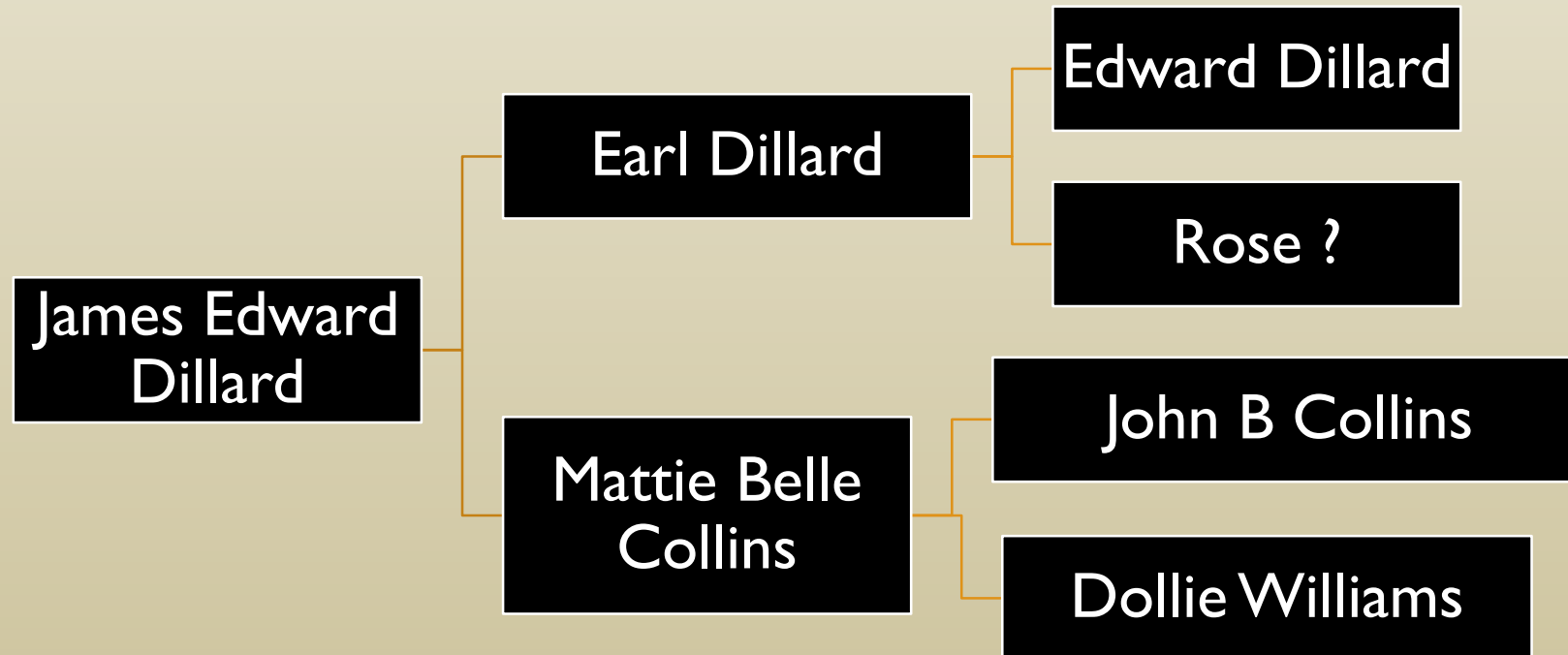
Military Career: He served in the 141st Infantry Regt. 36th Infantry Division.

Died: February 19, 1945 killed in action in Epinal, France.

Burial: His remains were not recovered so he is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial, Epinal, France. Awarded Bronze Star and Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters



PFC JAMES EDWARD DILLARD FAMILY TREE





PFC LEROY THOMAS FARMER (1924-1945) U. S. ARMY BLAND (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: July 27, 1924 in Bluefield, VA

Tom Farmer had a twin sister, Lorena. They had 4 older siblings. Their parents were Haven Howe Farmer and Ada B. Shufflebarger. His father worked as a carpenter for the N & W Railway in Bluefield.

Military Career: At the age of 18 he completed his draft registration card. Later he was drafted into the Army, 134th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division.

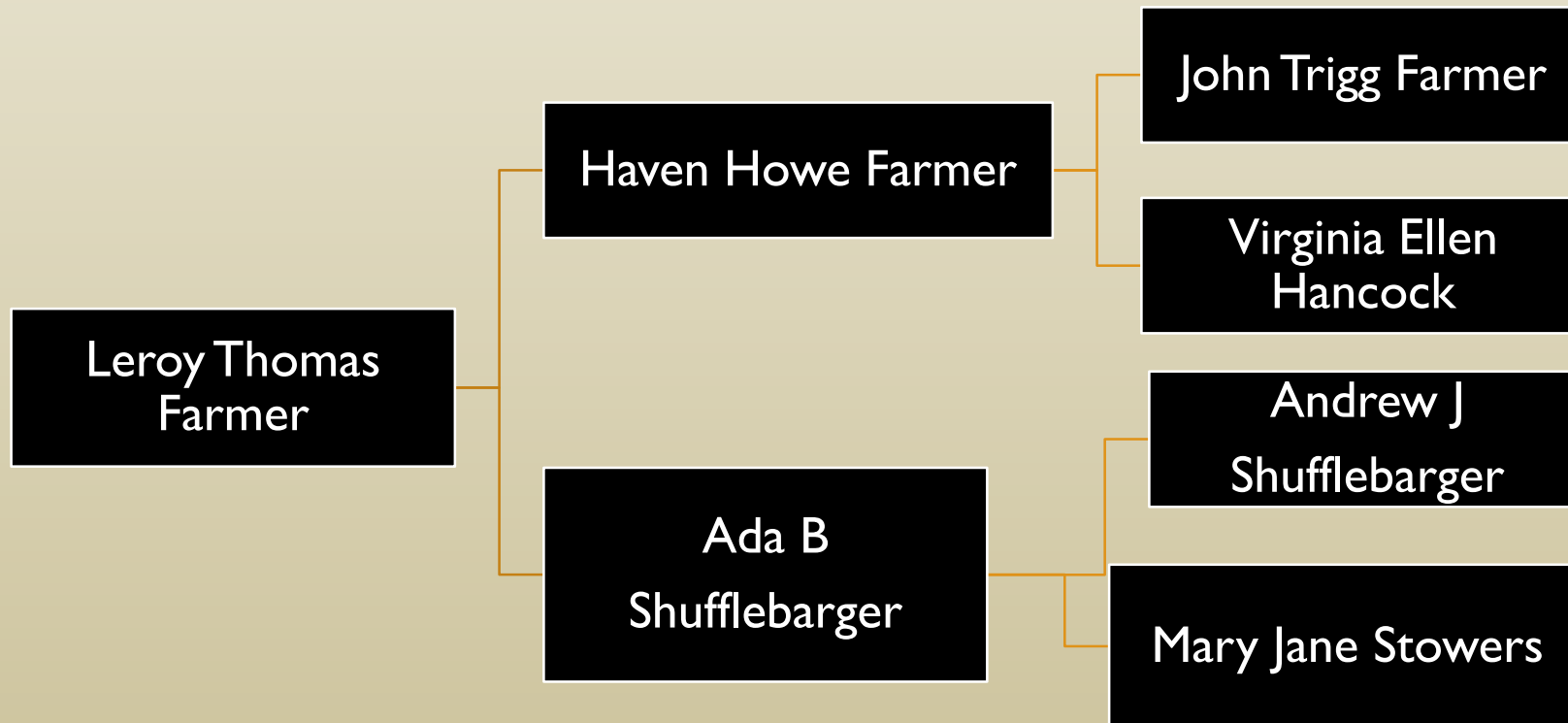
Died: He died near Frois on the Moselle River in France on 9/12/1944. His remains were not recovered. He was declared dead on 9/12/1945.

Burial: His name is listed among the 444 heroes at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in Lorraine, France. There is a also marker in the Maple Hill Cemetery, Bluefield, VA where his family members are buried.



FAMILY TREE

PFC LEROY THOMAS FARMER



PVT WILBUR F GOBER (1922-1944) U. S. ARMY BLAND COUNT) VA

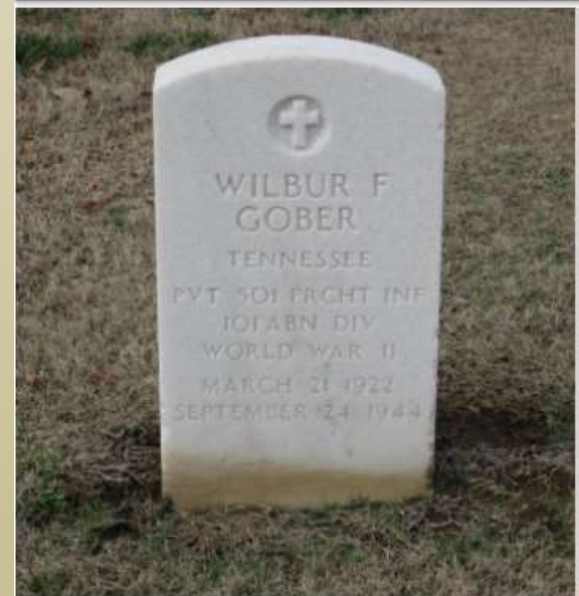
- Born:** March 21, 1922 in Robertson County, TN to Claude Gober and Laura Belle Templeton.

Military Career: Registered for the draft in Portsmouth, VA June 18, 1942 where he was working in the Norfolk Navy Yard. He served in the 501st Parachute Infantry.

Died: He PVT Gober died on September 24, 1944 of wounds suffered while parachuting into battle over Holland.

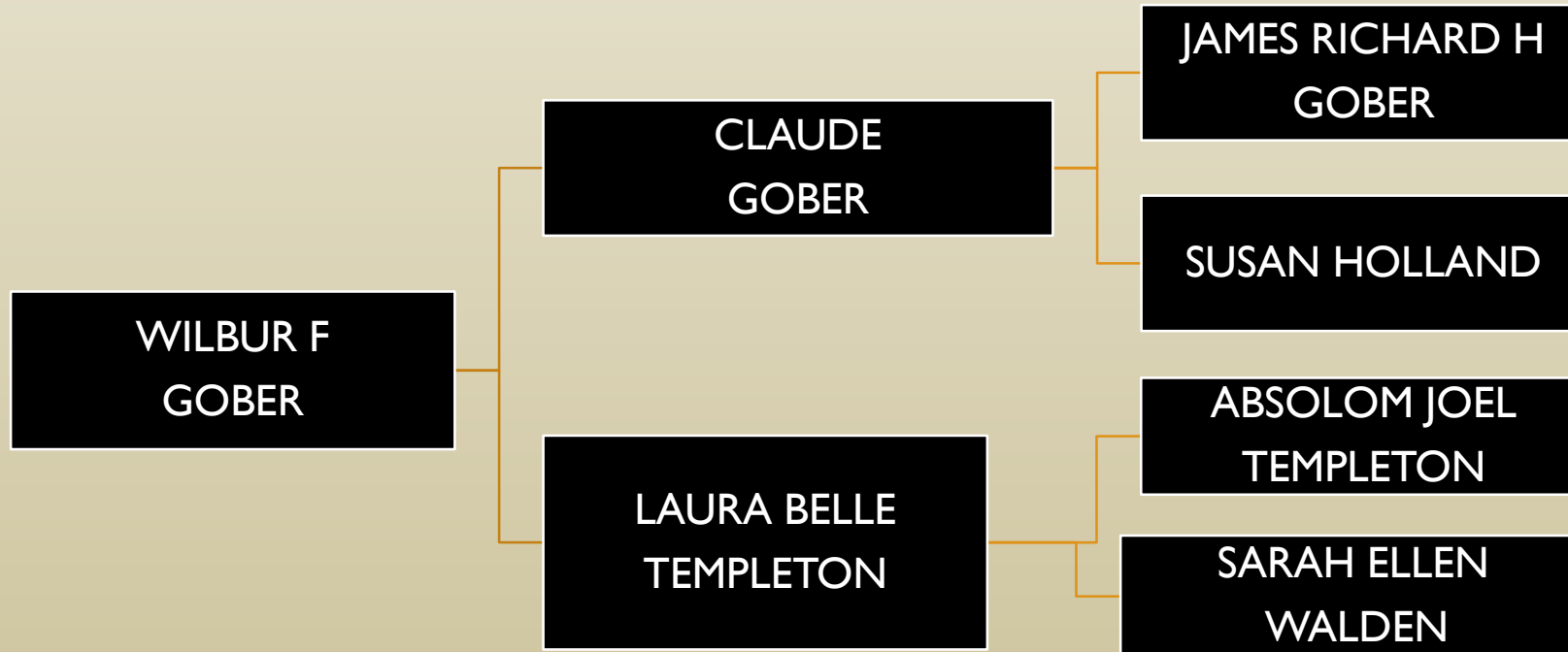
Burial: He was buried January 19, 1949 in the Nashville, TN National Cemetery

There is no known Bland Connection.



FAMILY TREE

PVT WILBUR F GOBER



1ST SGT EVERETT ST CLAIR HALL (1914-1945) U. S. ARMY BLAND (BLAND COUNTY) VA

- **Born:** August 26, 1914 in Bland County, VA

Everett Hall was one of 5 children born to Roy Edward Hall and Fannie Elizabeth Farmer. They lived on the family farm on Laurel Road near Bland. After moving to MD as a soldier, he married Elizabeth Johnson. They had one daughter, also named Elizabeth.

- **Military Career:** In the 1940 census Everett Hall was already a soldier in the Army, living in Baltimore MD. His enlistment record shows that he enlisted in the infantry on March 23, 1941 at Ft. Meade MD with the rank of sergeant. Family records show that he spent most of his time in Europe.

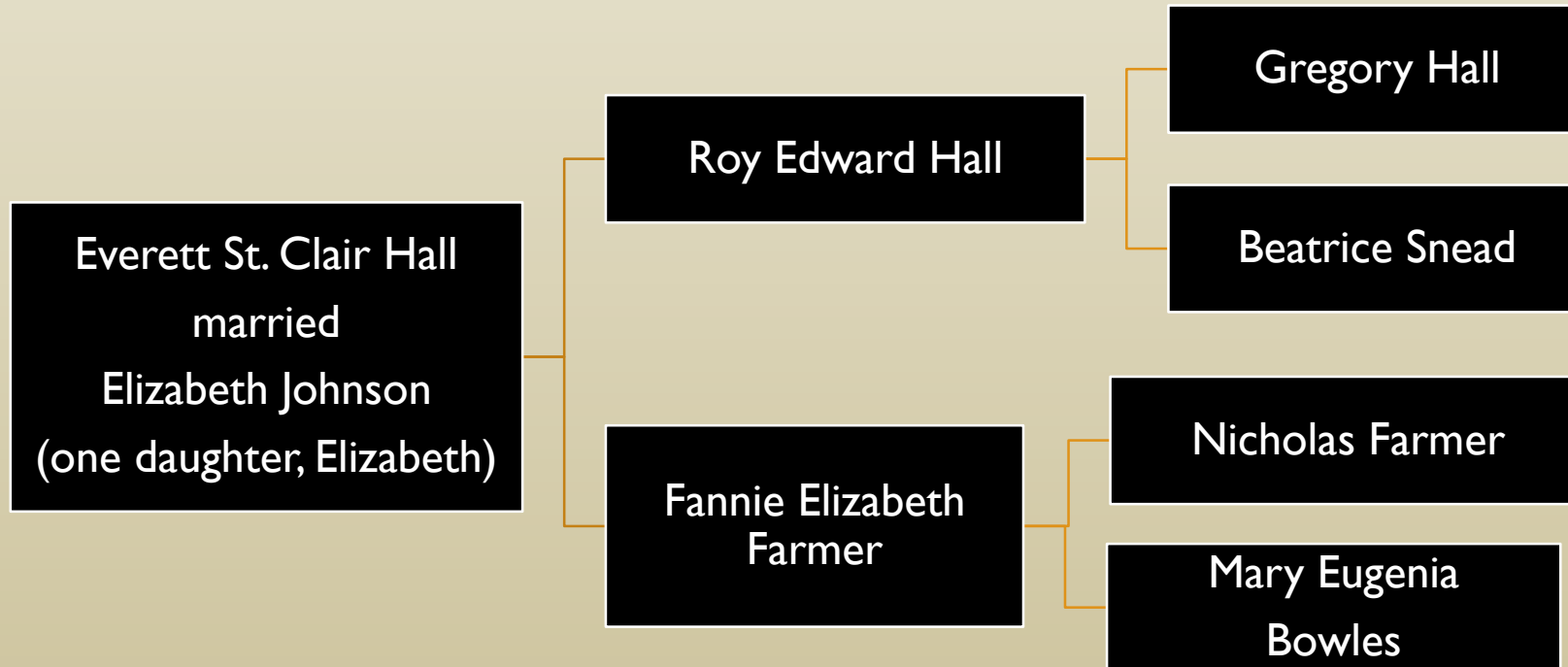
Died: He died on September 8, 1945 at Camp Butner base hospital in Granville, NC

Burial: He is buried in the Glen Haven Memorial Park, Glen Burnie, MD



FAMILY TREE

1ST SGT EVERETT ST CLAIR HALL





SEAMAN 1ST CLASS ANDREW GILBERT HANCOCK (1923-1945) U. S. NAVY BASTIAN, VA

• **Born:** August 30, 1923

Andrew Hancock was one of 5 children born to Charles Sheffie Hancock and Lessie Hazel Kidd. He lived with family on the family farm the late 30s when they relocated to Tazewell County.

Military Career: He enlisted in the U. S. Navy on April 6, 1943 and after basic training reported to the ship's commissary as a cook on September 11, 1943.

Died: April 3, 1945 Seaman Hancock was lost at sea when his minesweeper (USS YMS-71) hit a mine near Brunei and exploded.

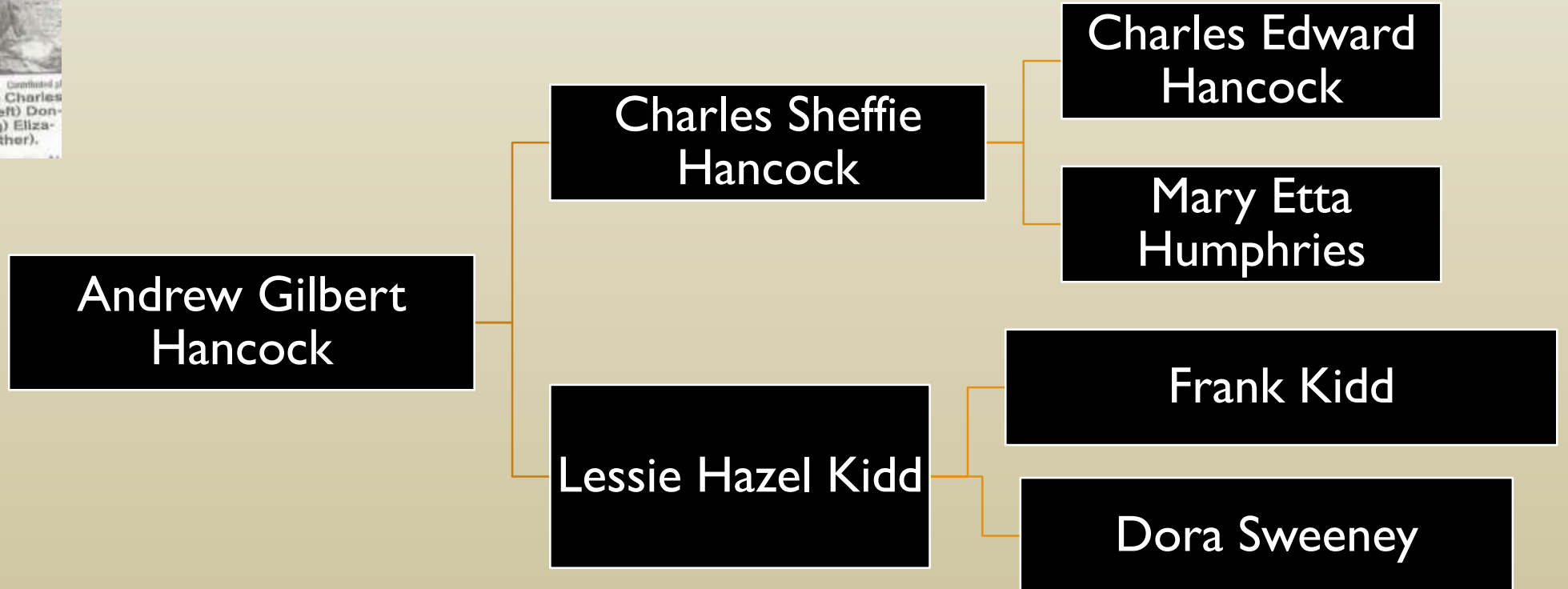
Burial: He is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Phillippines. He also has a stone at the Bland Cemetery.





FAMILY TREE

SN 1ST CLASS ANDREW GILBERT HANCOCK





TECH. SGT. FRANK F. KITTS, JR (1921-1944) U. S. ARMY CERES (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: 1921 in Mercer County, WV.

Frank Kitts was the oldest child born to Frank Kitts, SR and Myrtle Cregar. They lived in Bluefield, VA before moving to Ceres in Bland County. He attended school at Ceres High School and is honored in the yearbook. Prior to entering service, he worked as a painter in construction in Baltimore.

Military Career: Enlisted January 1, 1940 in the 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division

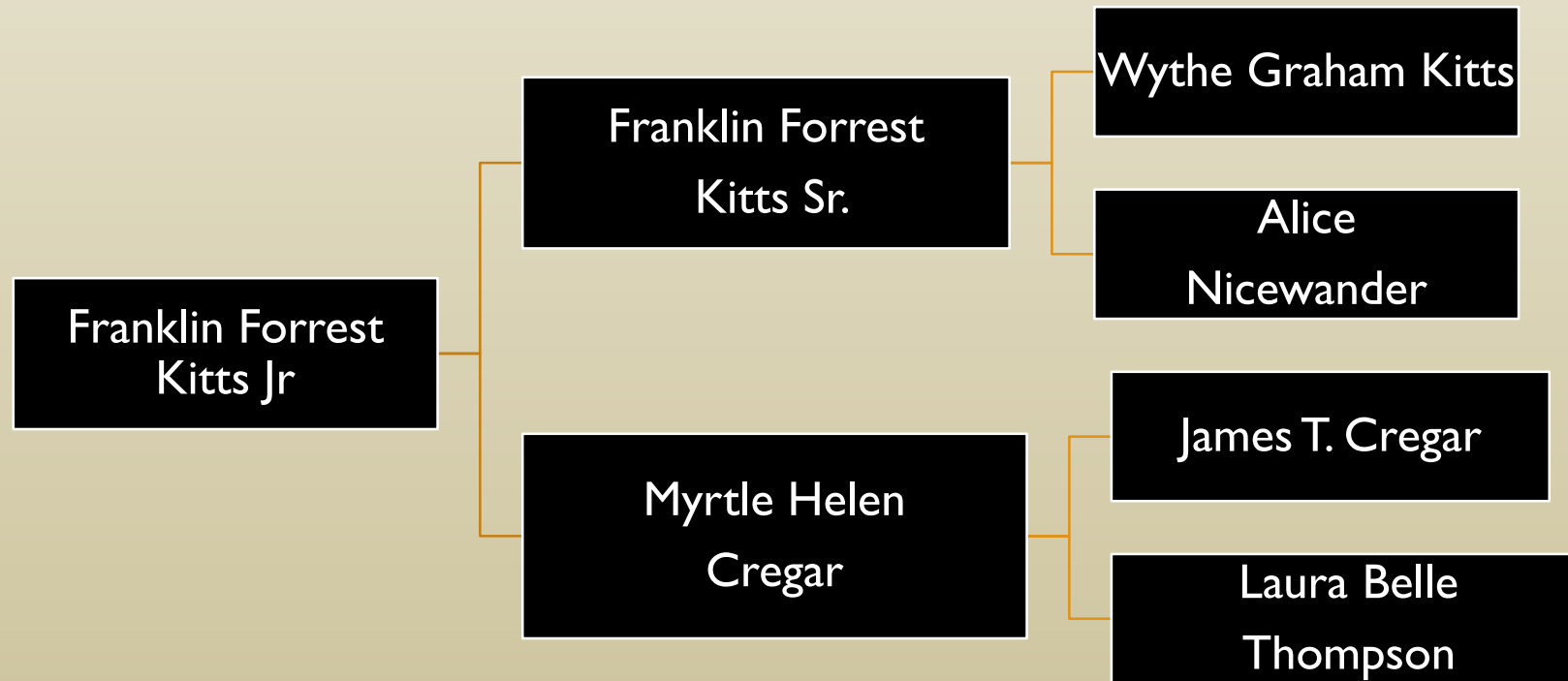
Died: November 17, 1944 east of Aachen, Germany

Burial: U. S. Military Cemetery Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, Plot F Row 4 Grave



FAMILY TREE

TECH. SGT. FRANK F. KITTS, JR



PFC WILLIE C. LONG
(1921-1944)
U. S. ARMY
BASTIAN(BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: 1921 in Hawkins County, TN

Willie Long was one of 6 children born to Eldridge L. Long and Nora Ethel McNally. During his early years he lived on the family farm in rural Hawkins County TN. By 1940 he was living with his widowed mother and 2 siblings in Bastian. His occupation is listed as a mill worker at the lumber company.

Military Career: He enlisted in the U. S. Army serving in the 337th Infantry Regiment, 85th Infantry Division.

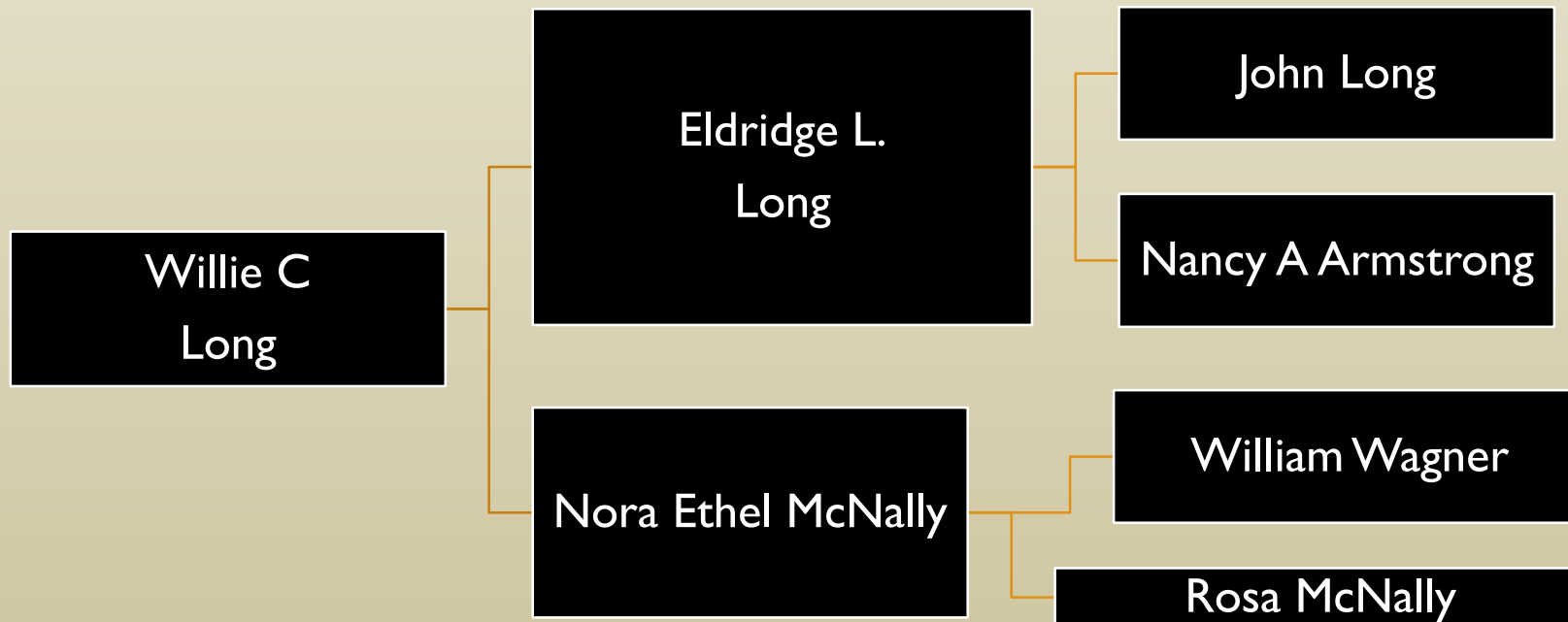
Died: He was killed in action on June 8, 1944 (2 days after D-Day) in Italy.

Burial: World War II Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, Plot J Row 3 Grave 2.



FAMILY TREE

PFC WILLIE C. LONG





1ST LT EDWARD DUNN MANNING (1919 - 1944) U. S. ARMY BLAND COUNTY VA

Born: December 16, 1919 in Norfolk VA

Edward Manning was one of 5 children born to James Fletcher Manning and Kathryn Elizabeth Dunn. They moved to Currituck Hyde County, NC in the 1930s. He finished 2 years of high school in NC. He was married to Mary Catherine Bass. **There is no known Bland County connection.**

Military Career:

In the 1940 census he has already entered the service and is listed as a soldier at Ft. Bragg. Family documents show that he entered service on June 9, 1939. He served in the 203rd Field Artillery Battalion

Died: He was killed in action on August 8, 1944 in France.

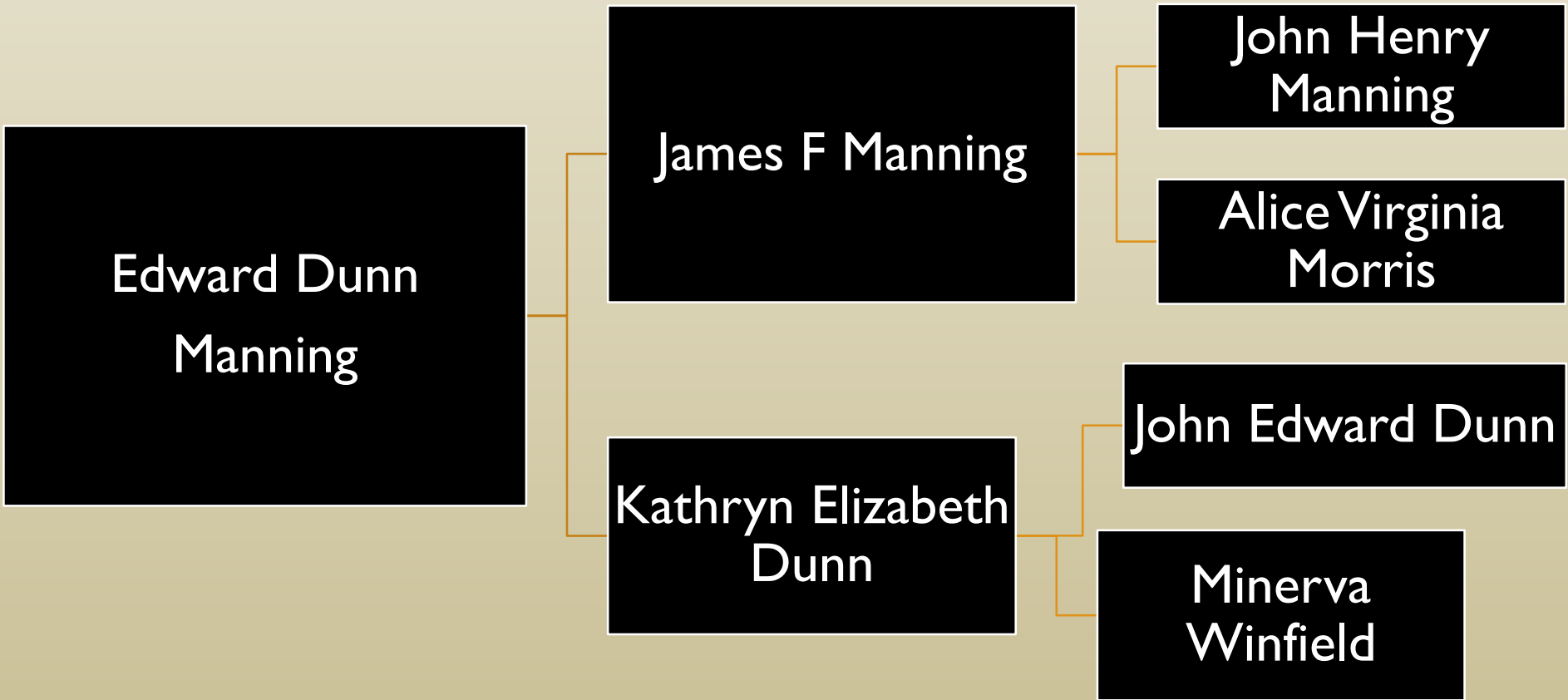
Burial: He is buried in the Brittany American Cemetery in St. James, France.





Edward
Manning
and wife
Mary
Catherine
Bass

FAMILY TREE
1ST LT EDWARD DUNN MANNING





SGT ROBERT THURMAN MILLER (1918 - 1945) U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES KIMBERLING (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: September 16, 1918 in Mercer County, WV

Bob Thurman was the 2nd child and only son of Robert M. Miller and Mary Elizabeth Miller. When he was born the family was living in Bland County. After high school, he worked in his father's business as a truck driver. About 1940 he married Edith V. Caldwell of Rocky Gap. Before his enlistment in 1940 they had two children, Mary Ann and Thurman. A third child was born after he left for Europe. He was described as an outgoing person who loved his Indian motorcycle and playing his mandolin.

Died: His plane experienced mechanical problems over Holland while on a bombing run over Germany. Dutch reports indicate that it was shot down by a German Fighter.

Burial: He is buried in the Ardennes American Cemetery, Belgium, the final resting place for 5,321 Americans, with 65 percent of those being fallen airmen of the U.S. Army Air Forces. Their headstones are aligned in straight rows, composing the form of a Greek cross.





SGT ROBERT THURMAN MILLER
(1918 - 1945)
U. S. ARMY AIR FORCES
KIMBERLING (BLAND COUNTY) VA



Military Career: Bob Miller registered for the draft on October 6, 1940, eventually joined the 566th Bomb Squadron, 389th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force and became a tail gunner on a B-24M Liberator. Their missions involved bombing sites in Germany.

He was awarded an Air Medal and Purple Heart.

(Sgt. Bob Miller is the airman in the back row on the far right.)

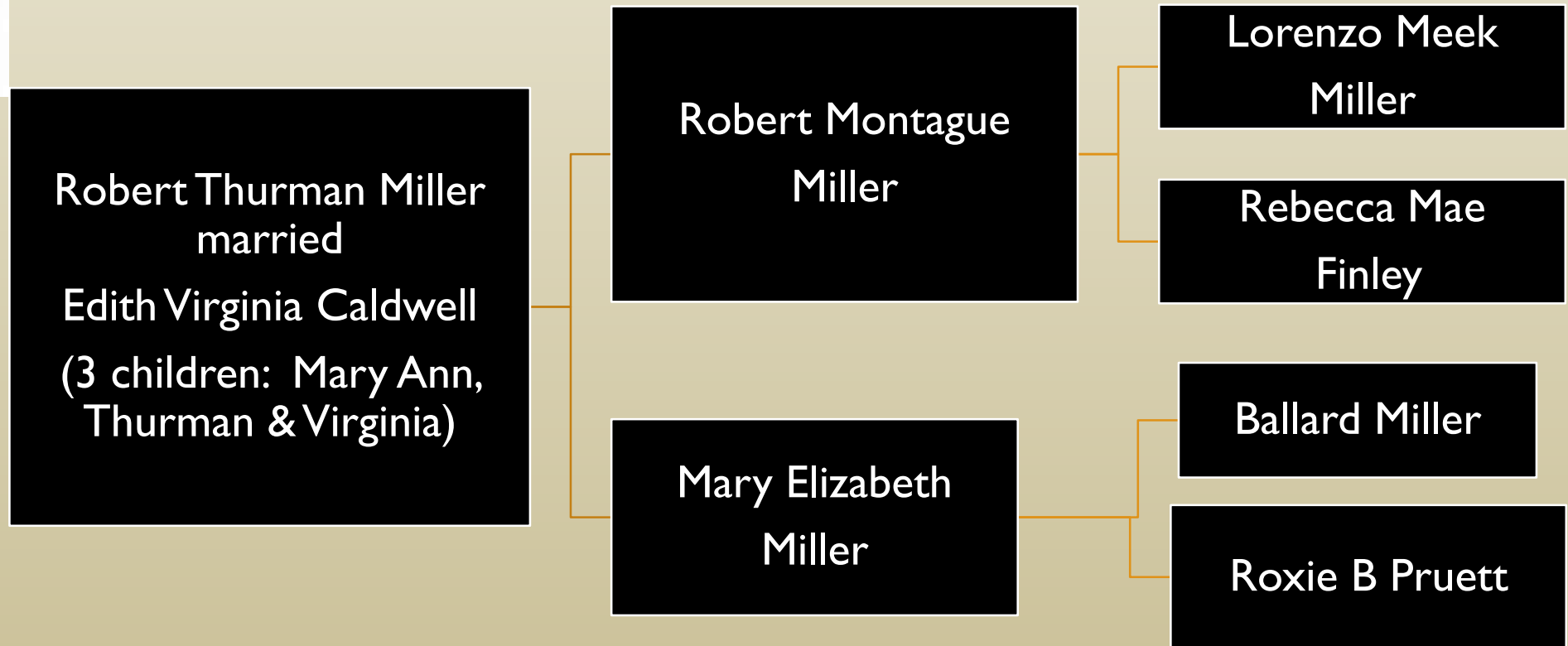


Squadron: 566th BS 389th Bomb Group
All KIA on April 5, 1945
Target: Plauen Marshaling Yards



Bob Miller
and wife
Edith
Caldwell.
They had 3
children:
Mary Ann,
Thurman &
Virginia

FAMILY TREE SGT ROBERT THURMAN MILLER





AVIATION CADET JEFF TROY MOREHEAD (1919 - 1944) U. S. ARMY AIR FORCE HOLLYBROOK (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: February 26, 1924 in Hollybrook, Bland County, VA

Troy Morehead was the 2nd of 5 children born to Lake and Kate Burton Morehead. He grew up on his family farm near Hollybrook. He attended Bland High School and 1 year of college studying accounting before entering service. At the time of his draft registration he was working for Celanese Corp. of America in Narrows. While in pilot training, he married his high school sweetheart, Louise McMillan.

Military Career: Troy registered for the draft on June 30, 1942 in Giles County. He enlisted about 6 months later in the Aviation Cadet Corps. He trained in Miami and Gulfport, MS before beginning pilot training in the P-38 in Bakersfield CA.

Died: On October 3, 1944 Aviation Cadet Morehead died in an aircraft training accident in Bakersfield, CA.

Burial: He is buried in the Shiloh Cemetery in Hollybrook with other family members.

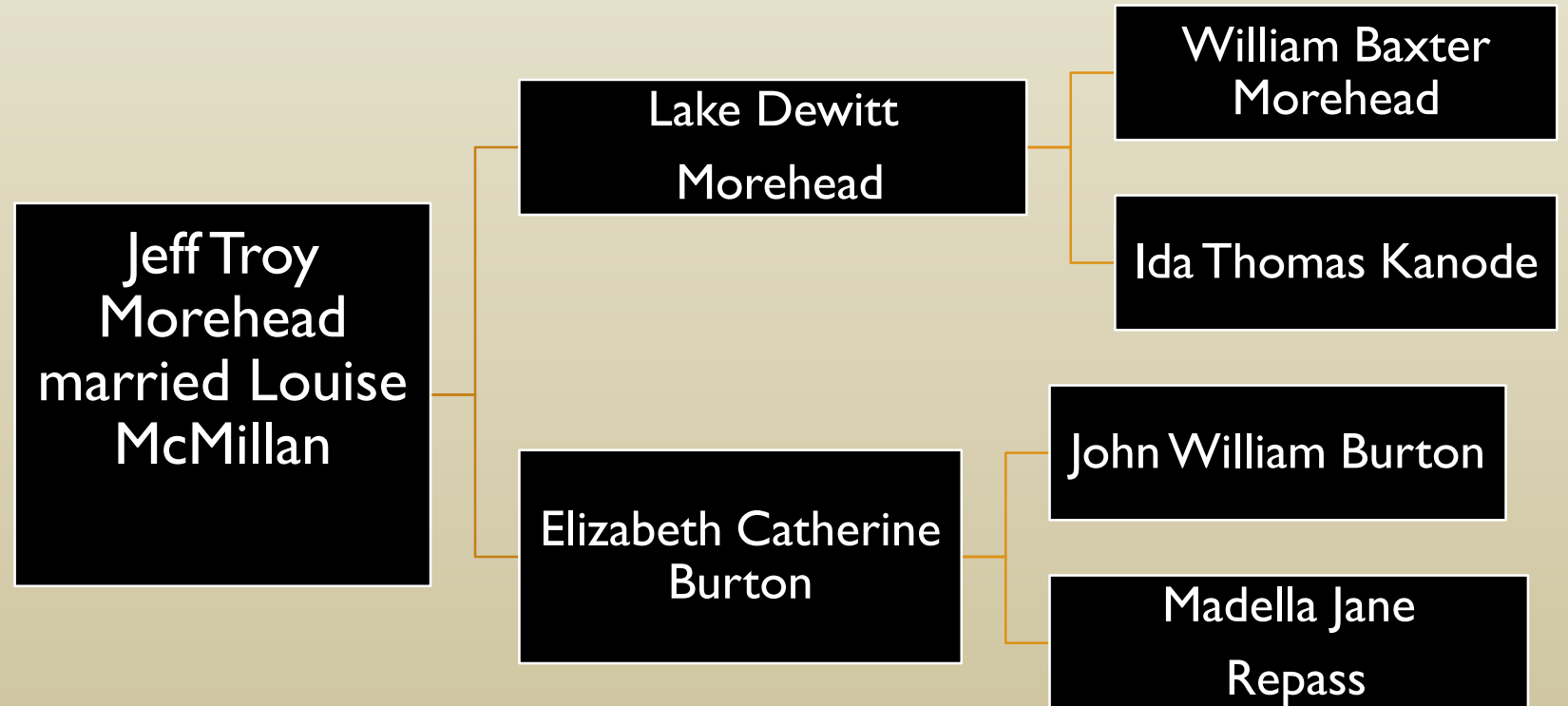




Troy with his twin sisters, Joyce and June, at home on leave before leaving for California.

FAMILY TREE

AVIATION CADET JEFF TROY MOREHEAD



STAFF SGT FINLEY BROWN MORRIS (1915 - 1943) U. S. ARMY NIDAY (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: June 3, 1915 in Bland County, VA

Finley Morris the 2nd of 4 children born to Woodson Vernon Morris and Virgie Smith. Early on he lived with his paternal grandfather, but by 1930 when he was 15 he was living with his maternal grandparents in Rocky Gap. In 1936 he married Mollie O'Brien from Niday and was working as a miner. By 1940 he was in Washington DC working at the Kitmar Restaurant.

Military Career: Finley registered for the draft in Washington DC in 1941 and enlisted. His enlistment record shows that he entered military service on March 20, 1941 in Baltimore, MD. His rank was listed as private. Since it was before the official start of WWII, he enlisted for the Philippine Department. On his death certificate he is listed as a staff sergeant, Battery D, 639th CA Battalion.

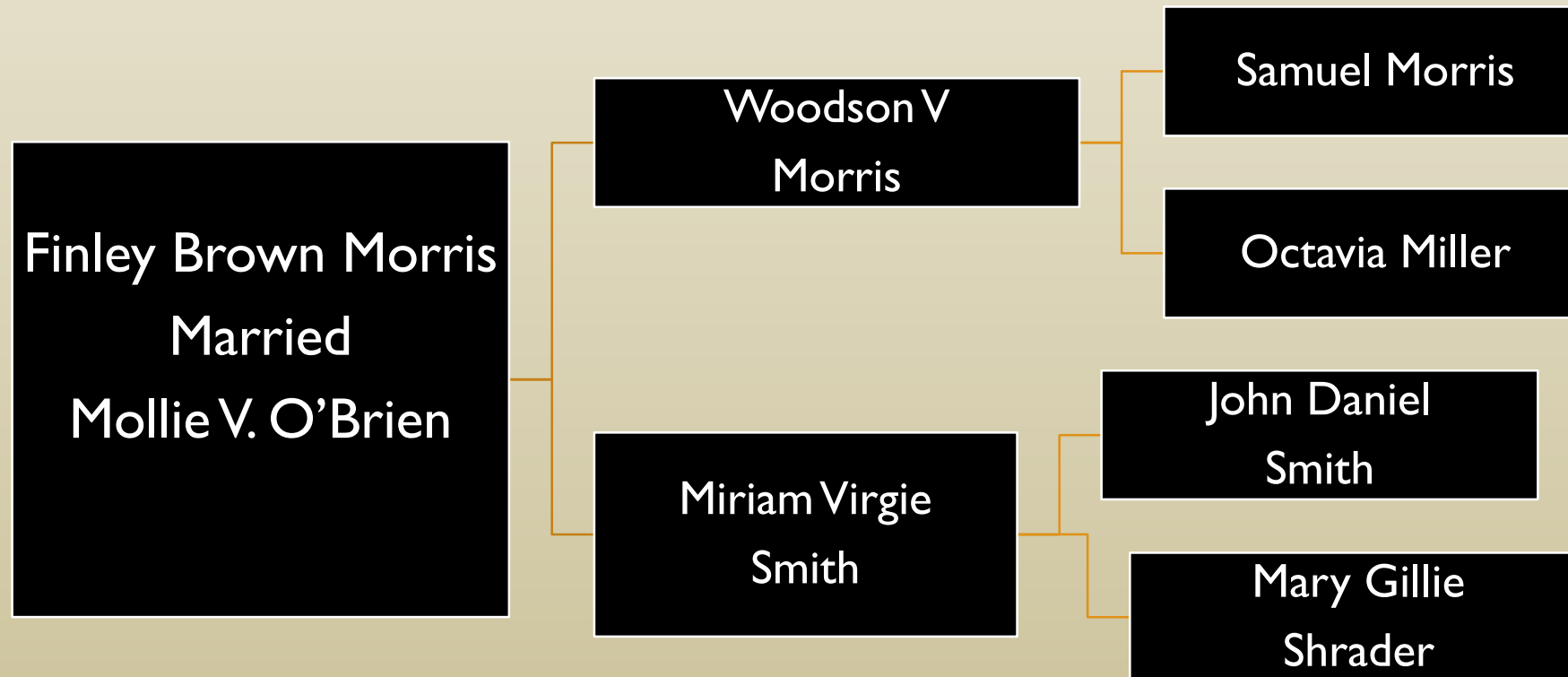
Died: On June 13, 1943 SSgt Morris was taken to the Camp Davis Base Hospital in Onslow, NC where he died from a bleeding ulcer.

Burial: His remains were returned to Bland County. He is buried in the Shrader Family Cemetery #2, Round Bottom, Bland County, VA



FAMILY TREE

STAFF SGT FINLEY BROWN MORRIS





PVT EARL GEORGE PAULEY
(1924 - 1944)
U. S. ARMY
BASTIAN(BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: 8/31/1924 in Bland County,VA.

Earl Pauley was one of 10 children born to Albert S. Pauley and Ethel G. Kitts. He grew up in Bastian where his father worked at the lumber mill. He was still in school when the war broke out. He was working for VA Hardwood Lumber Company in Bastian when he registered for the draft on December 16, 1942.

Military Career: Earl enlisted in the Army on June 18, 1943 at Abingdon, VA when he was 18 years old. He became a private in the 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division.

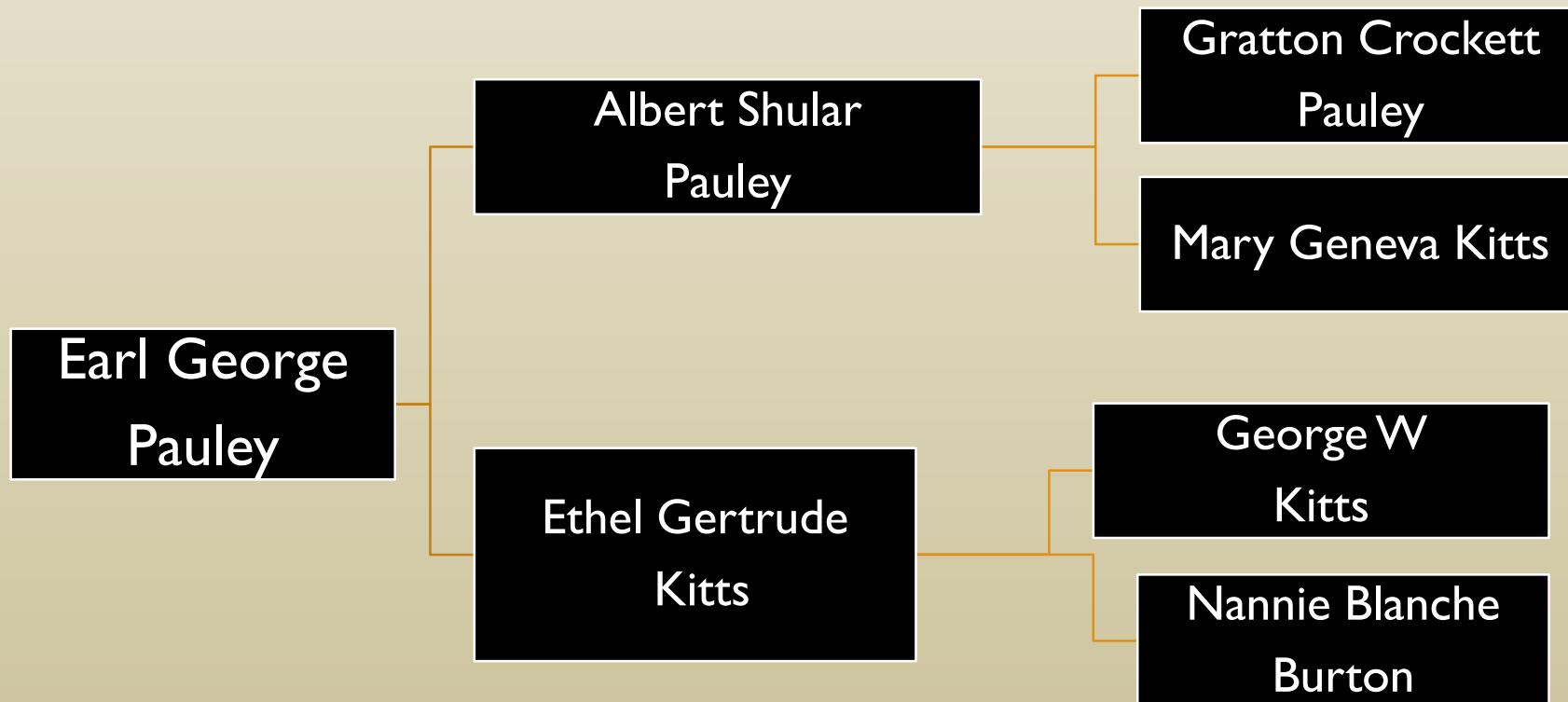
Died: On February 18, 1944 he was killed in action while serving in Italy.

Burial: His remains were returned to Bland County. He is buried in the Bland Cemetery.



FAMILY TREE

PVT EARL GEORGE PAULEY





PVT JAMES OREN (OTTO) RAMSEY
(1916 - 1944)
U. S. ARMY
HOLLYBROOK, BLAND COUNTY, VA

Born: April 28, 1916 in Bland County VA

Bio: James Ramsey was the second of 5 sons born to Loranza (Lonnie) Ramsey and Leona Miller, both of Bland Couty. James left school after the 5th grade and went to work in his father's saw mill. He was never married.

Military Career: He enlisted in the Army on February 7, 1942. He served in the 179 Infantry Regiment, 45 Infantry Division

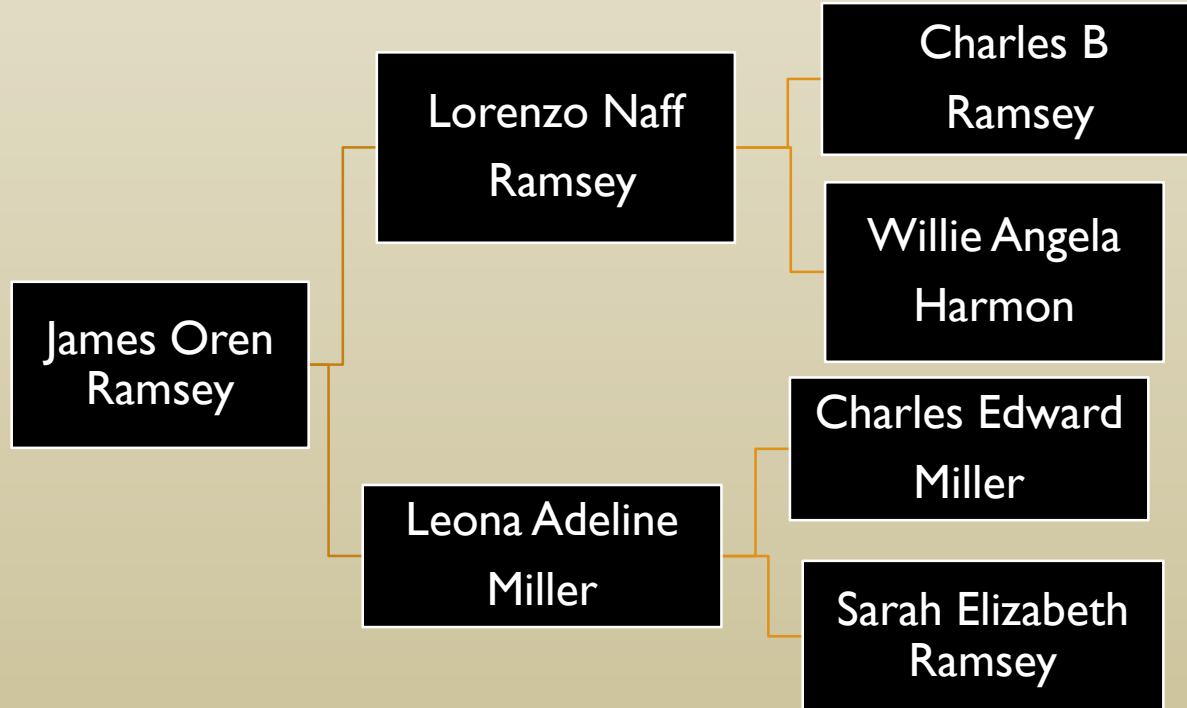
Died: He died on March 8, 1944 at Anzio Beach in Italy. He is listed as James Oren Ramsey on the WWII Memorial.

Burial: He is buried with his family in the Shiloh Church Cemetery in Hollybrook.



FAMILY TREE

PVT JAMES OREN (OTTO) RAMSEY





CAPT ARTHUR ROLAND PORTERFIELD (1917 – 1942) U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BLAND, VA

Born: 6/26/1917 in Bland, VA

Roland Porterfield was the oldest of 4 children born to Arthur Porterfield and Cynthia Brown. Mr. Porterfield was a lawyer and Mrs. Porterfield taught school. Roland attended VPI and received a degree in Agriculture Science in 1938. In 1940 he was working as an assistant to the county agent in Patrick County.

Military Career: Roland entered service as a 1st Lieutenant. He served in the U. S. AGF Co. B 41st Corps of Engineers.

Died: Capt. Porterfield died on December 23, 1942 while carrying wounded men to a hospital in North Africa (Liberia.) He was the first person from Bland County to die in WWII. The local VFW Chapter is co-named Pulliam Porterfield VFW in his honor.

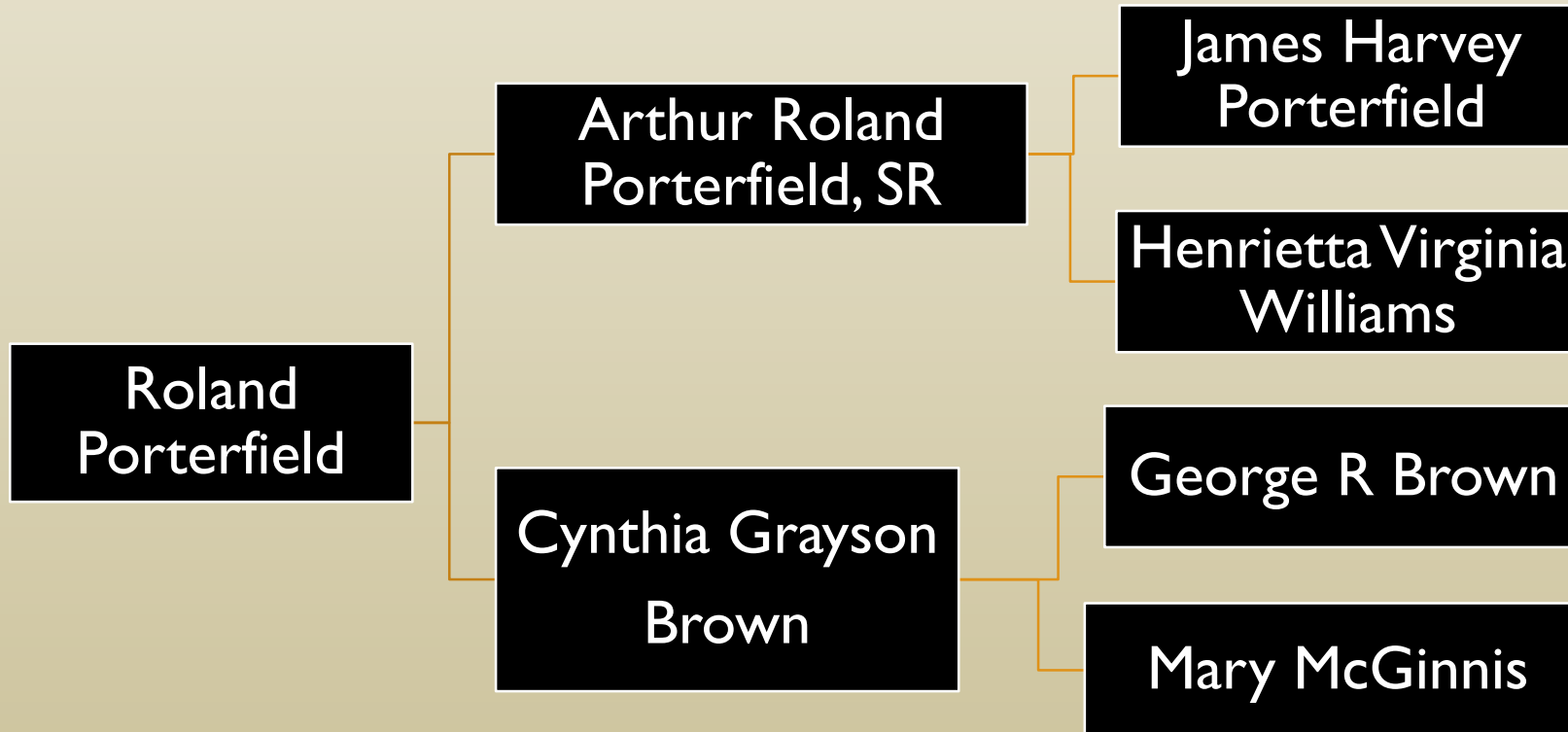
Burial: He was first buried at the Casablanca European Cemetery in Morocco, but on March 14, 1949 he was reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 12, Site: 68 NH.

FAMILY TREE

CAPT A. ROLAND PORTERFIELD, JR



Roland Porterfield
at VPI in 1935
as a freshman.



2ND LT ROBERT M. REED
(1916 – 1943)
U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS
BLAND COUNTY, VA

Born: 3/29/1916 in Trenton, New Jersey

Just before entering service he worked in the office of the State Hwy Dept in Trenton NJ. Apparently, he met his wife, Grace Reed there. She was working as a clerk stenographer.

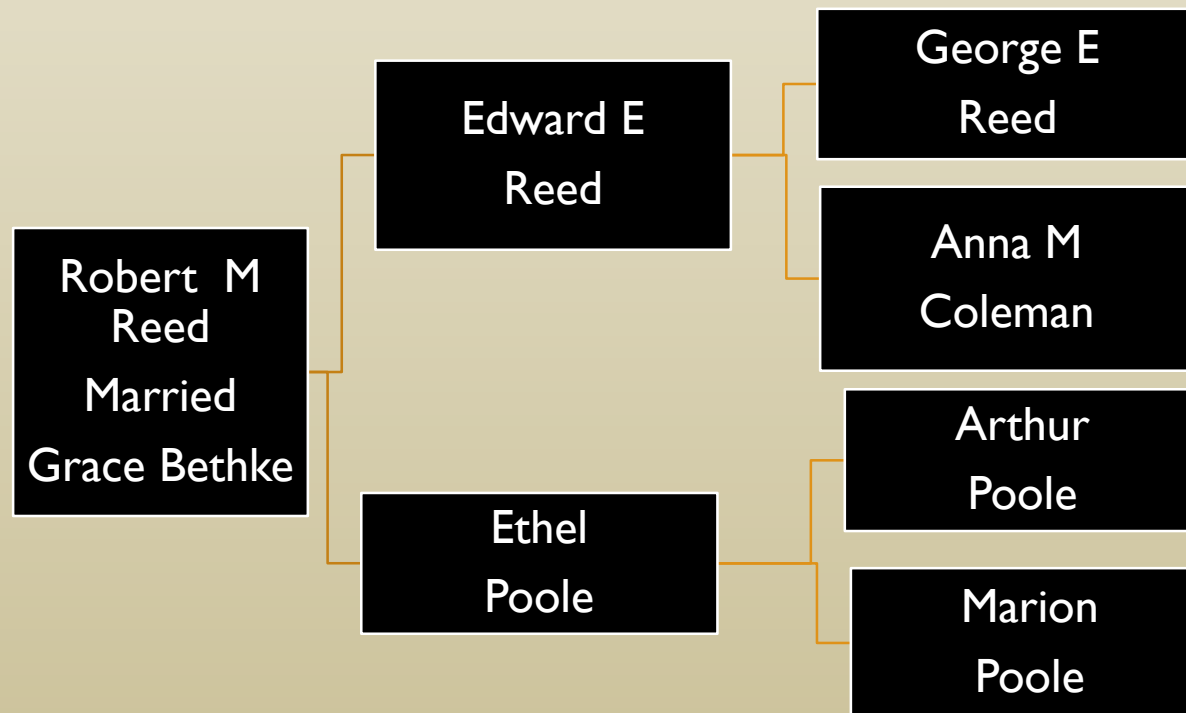
Military Career: He enlisted in the Army Air Corps on May 4, 1942. He trained with the 457th Bomb Squadron at Biggs Field, El Paso, TX

Died: On August 18, 1943, he was one of twelve airmen killed in the crash of B-24E Liberator #41-29045, twenty-five miles northeast of the airbase in El Paso.

Burial: Unknown. **There is no known Bland County connection.**

FAMILY TREE

2ND LT ROBERT M REED





PFC ROBERT OREN REPASS
(1921 - 1945)
U. S. ARMY
CERES, BLAND COUNTY, VA

Born: 01/27/1921 in Ceres, Bland County, VA

Bob Repass was one of 5 children born to Morris Repass and Gray Umbarger. He attended school in Ceres and is shown in the Ceres High School Yearbook in both 1939 and 1940 as being very active in many school activities. Just before entering service he worked on a Public Works Administration project for improving Virginia.

The Mountaineer, Ceres High School yearbook (1945-1946), is dedicated to the those students who attended their school that were killed in World War II. The dedication reads, "...to those who gallantly and heroically gave their lives to defend our rights and privileges in WWII. One of those gallant heroes was "Robert Oren Repass, graduate in the Class of 1940. He is pictured in the 1940 yearbook as Art Editor of the Yearbook, Secretary of his Senior Class, Best Musician and one of the most popular students at Ceres High School.



PFC ROBERT OREN REPASS (1921 - 1945) U. S. ARMY CERES, BLAND COUNTY, VA

Military Career: PFC Bob Repass was drafted into the U. S. Army in December of 1943, took his training at Ft. Meade in MD, Ft. McClelland and Camp Rucker in Camp Rucker. After only 6 weeks of basic training, he was sent into active combat. He was in the 5th Division of the 3rd Army.

Died: January 25, 1945. Bob was killed 2 days before his 24th birthday during the Battle of the Bulge. While under artillery fire, a shell hit a tree adjacent of his foxhole and he was killed from the tree burst.

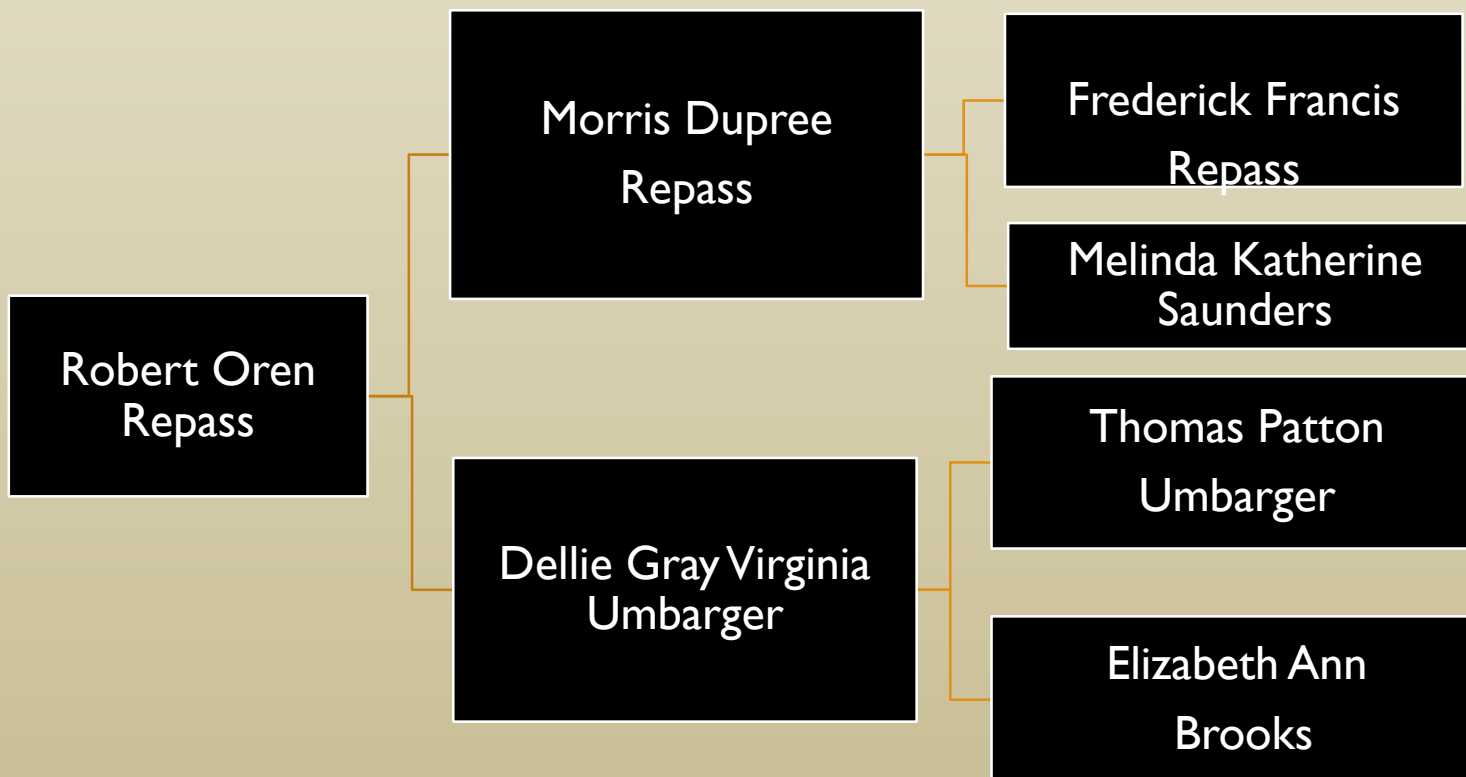
Burial: Bob's remains were kept overseas until the fall of 1948 when his body was shipped back to the United States for proper burial in the Bethany Cemetery in Ceres, VA. During this time frame, all family members were brought back into the home for visitation by family and friends. His casket was guarded at all times by a U. S. soldier. Bob's mother (Gray Umbarger Repass) was adamant that the body she was burying was indeed that of her son. While the family members distracted the guard, Bob's casket was opened and his parents were able to identify him by a gold tooth.





FAMILY TREE ROBERT OREN REPASS

Bob Repass with siblings:
L to R (Bob, Elizabeth Repass
Barger Wagner, Orville Dupree
Repass, Ethel Repass Harmon)





PFC SHERMAN TARTER SADLER (1915 - 1944) U. S. ARMY BLAND COUNTY, VA

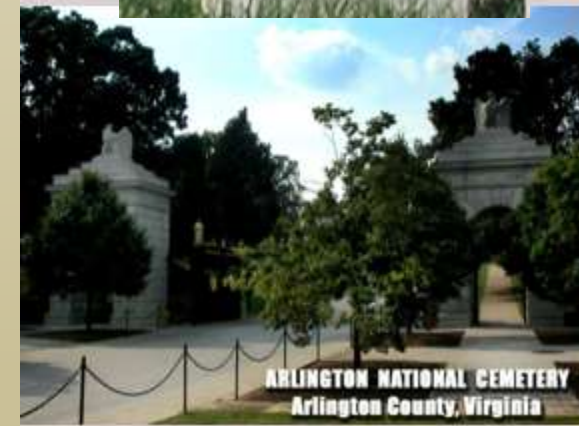
Born: March 2, 1915 in Bland, VA to James Ammon Sadler and Pinkie Jeanette Fry

Bio: Sherman Sadler lived on the family farm with his 6 brothers. He finished high school in Bland. By 1935 he had left Bland and was working as a carpenter's helper for his Uncle Luther Gearing's construction company in Roanoke County (Vinton). He registered for the draft in Roanoke County.

Military Career: He enlisted in the Army on June 17, 1941 in Roanoke. He joined the Weapon Troop, 112th Cavalry Regiment U. S. Army Ground Forces

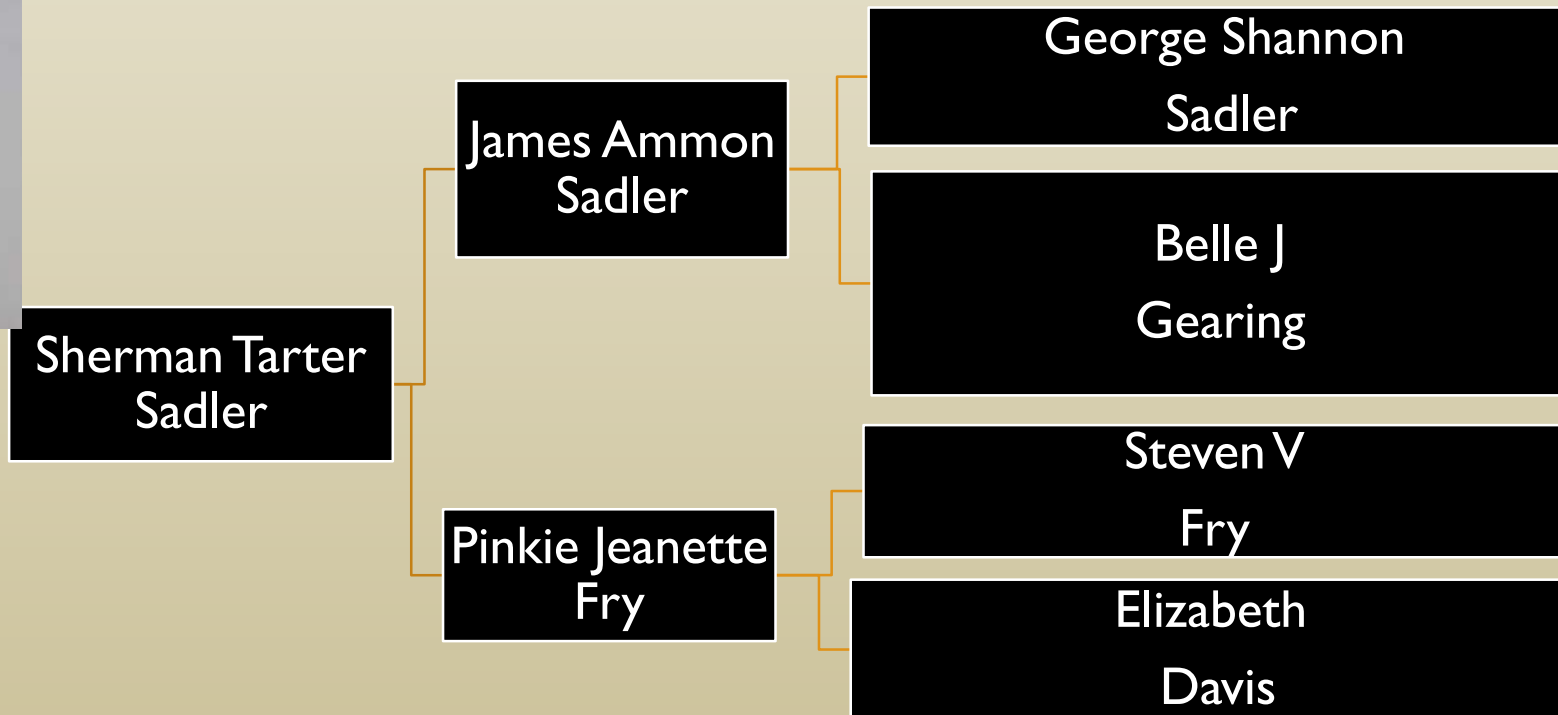
Died: On August 8, 1944 he died of wounds suffered in the Pacific Theater (New Guinea).

Burial: After being interred overseas, his remains were returned on July 1, 1948 for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, Sec 12, Grave 3863.



FAMILY TREE

PFC SHERMAN TARTER SADLER





PVT WILLIAM HOWE SADLER
(1913-1944)
U. S. ARMY
BLAND COUNTY, VA

Born: November 29, 1913 in Bland, VA

Bio: Howe Sadler was the 3rd of 6 children born to Hayes Gordon Sadler and Nellie Gray Hancock. They lived at the head of Laurel Creek near Bland. In 1940 when he registered for the draft he was working for Pendleton's Construction in Wytheville. In 1941 he married a local girl, Lucy Marie Hall. She worked at the Bland Hosiery mill.

Military Career: He served in the 121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division.

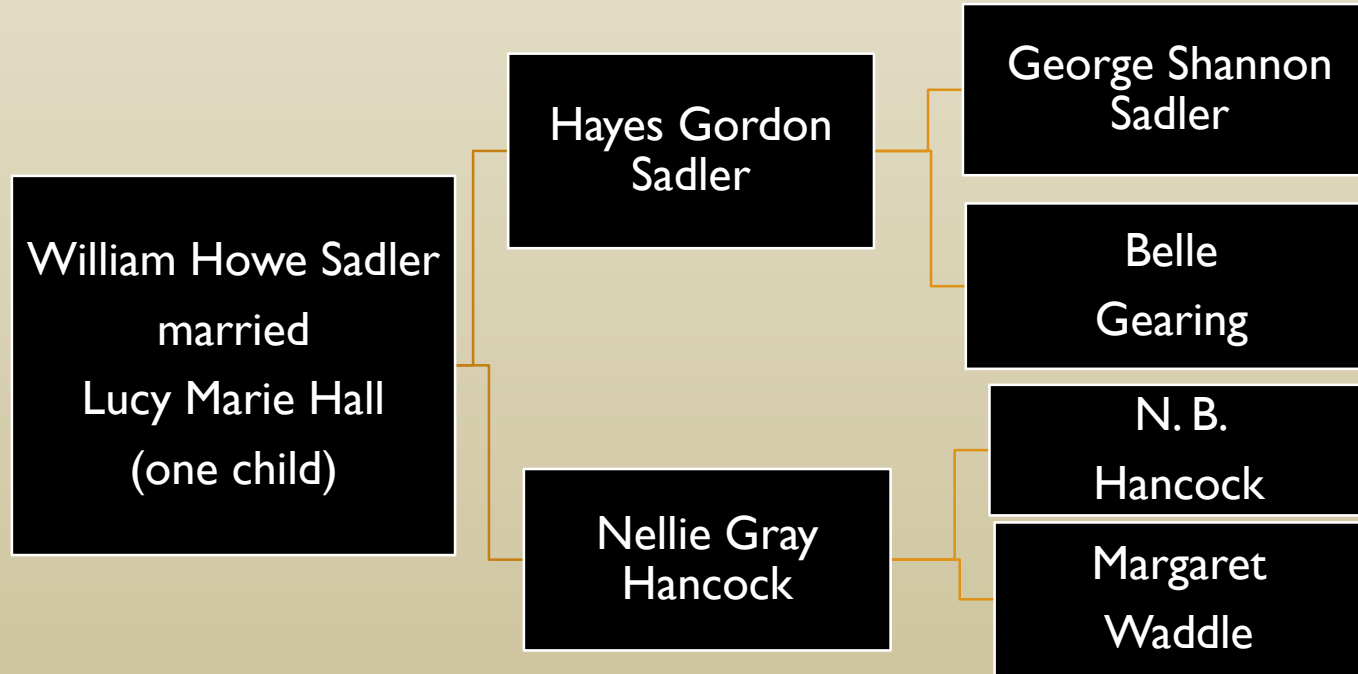
Died: On December 2, 1944, he was killed in action while fighting in Germany. He was a first cousin to Sherman Sadler from Bland County also killed in World War II.

Burial: Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre, Belgium, Plot A Row 32 Grave 31,



FAMILY TREE

WILLIAM HOWE SADLER

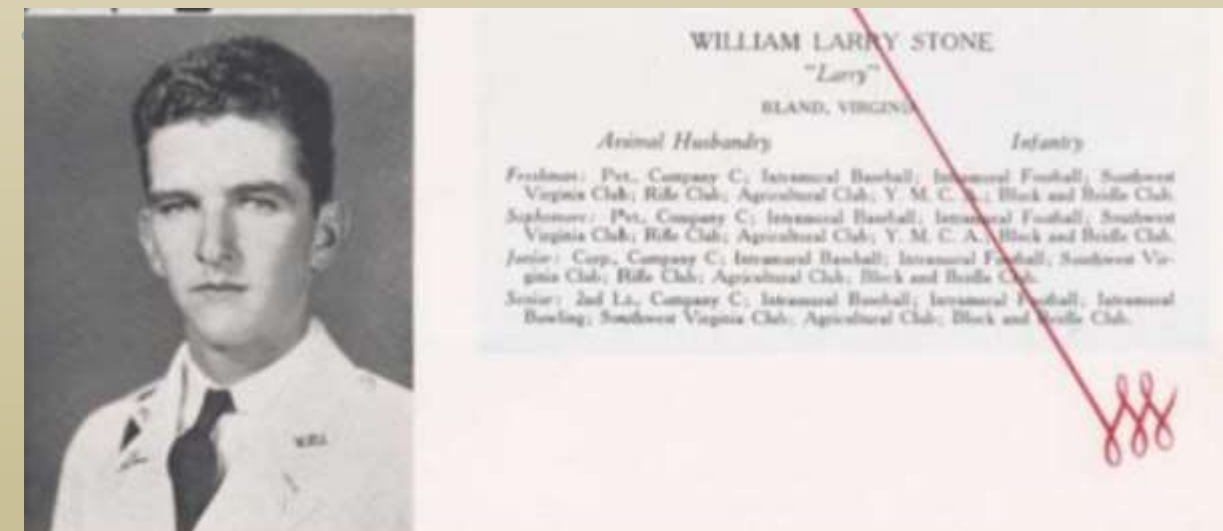




S/SGT WILLIAM LARRY STONE (1918 - 1944) U. S. ARMY BLAND VA

Born: August 15, 1918 in Bland, VA to Robert Boaz Stone and Marie Spencer Newberry.

Bio: When Larry Stone was 2 he was living in Rockingham County, NC where his father was an insurance agent. By 12 it appears that his parents had divorced and he was living with his grandparents, W.A. and Lucy Newberry at Oaklawn near the town of Bland. He graduated from VA Tech in 1940. He married Fay Lucas in 1940 and they had two children before he went overseas.





S/SGT WILLIAM LARRY STONE (1918 - 1944) U. S. ARMY BLAND VA

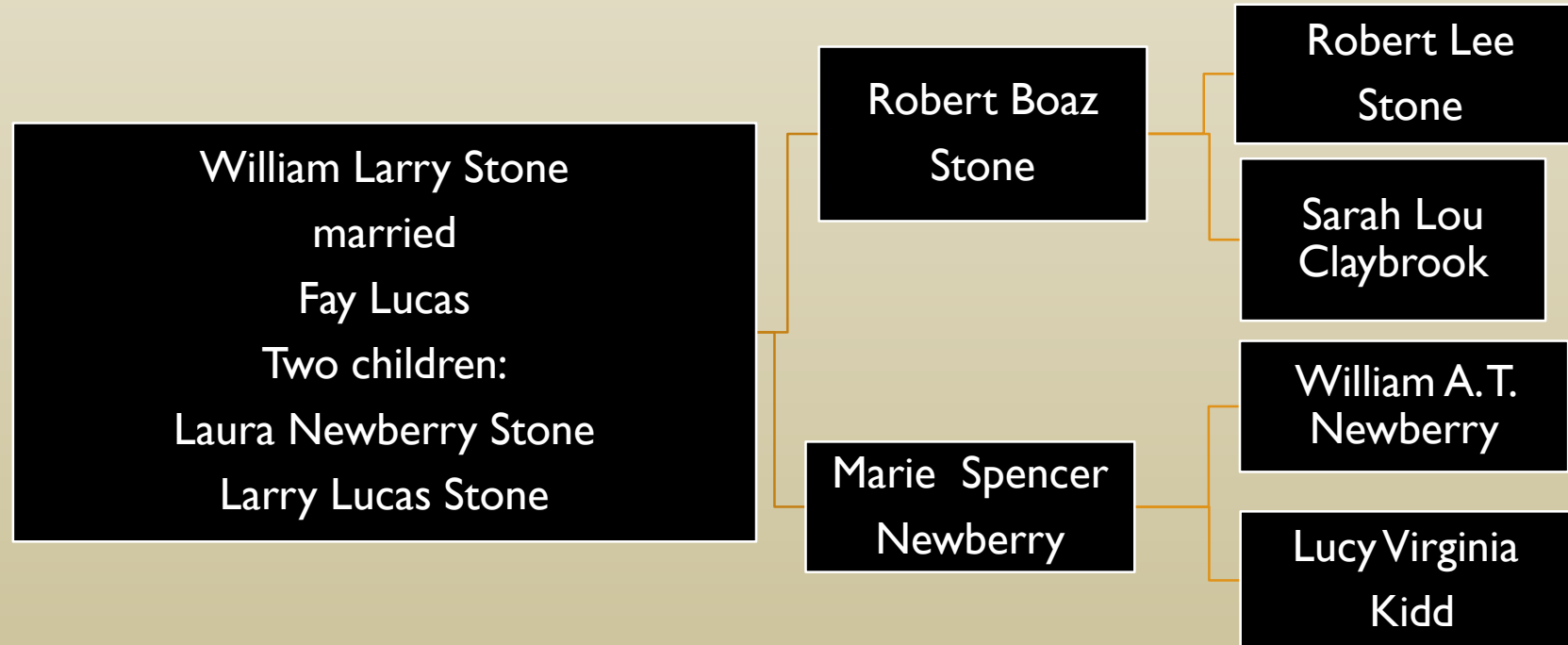
Military Career: He registered for the draft in 1942 in Bland. He served in the Third Army in Eastern France. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Died: He died of wounds and pneumonia on November 1, 1944 in Gemeter, Germany. *(Note: Long after the war, an Army nurse who treated him visited the family and said that though Stone had a through-and-through chest wound, he should have survived, but died of pneumonia because of the wet and cold conditions in the field hospital.)*

Burial: He was first buried in Europe – Henri-Chapelle Cemetery then on December 9, 1947, his remains were reinterred at the Winchester, VA National Cemetery, Section 76, Grave 3547-B



FAMILY TREE WILLIAM LARRY STONE





PFC ZACHARIAH WHITTEN STROCK, JR (1921 - 1944) U. S. ARMY MECHANICSBURG (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: December 14, 1921 in Mechanicsburg (Bland County) VA

Bio: “Junior” Strock was the 5th child of 13 born to Zachariah Whitten Strock, Sr. and Hassie Victoria Mitchell.

Military Career: He entered the service in December 1942 and was sent to North Africa in April 1943. Served in the 83rd Chemical Battalion in Italy (Sicily and Rome)

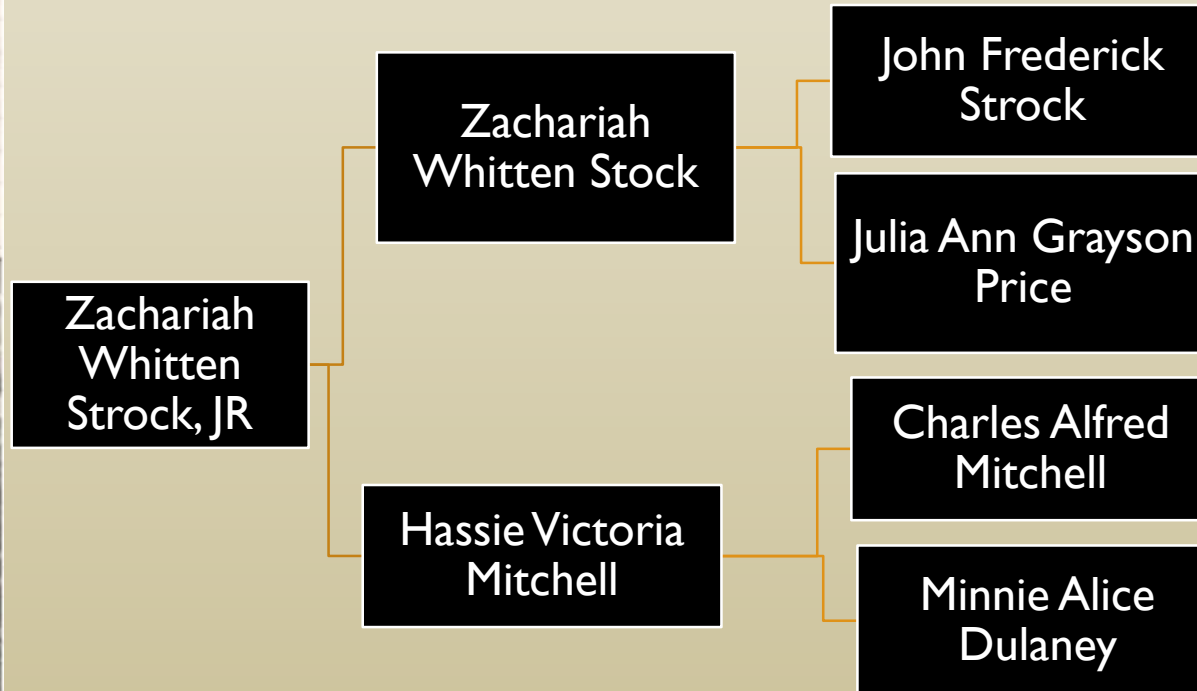
Died: While participating in the invasion of Sicily, he drowned while jumping from a troop ship to a smaller boat near Sicily. He was declared missing in action in January 26, 1944

Burial: His remains were never recovered. His name appears on the Tablets of the Missing at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery. There is also marker in his memory at the Mechanicsburg Cemetery.



FAMILY TREE

PFC ZACHARIAH WHITTEN STROCK, JR



TELEGRAM TO FAMILY OF PFC ZACHARIAH WHITTEN STROCK, JR



WESTERN UNION		1300
CLASS OF SERVICE This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its designated character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.	SYMBOLS DL=Day Letter NT=Overnight Telegram LC=Deferred Cable NLT=Cable Night Letter Ship Radiogram	
A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT	NEWCOMB CARLTON CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD	J. C. WILKINSON FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
The time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.		
.RUC30 50 GOVT=WUX WASHINGTON DC 2 1215P		
MRS HASSIE V STROCK=		
ROUTE TWO CRANDON VIR RTE BLAND=		
THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES THAT I TENDER HIS DEEP SYMLATHY TO YOU IN THE LOSS OF YOUR SON PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ZACHARIAH W STROCK JR WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION REPORT NOW RECEIVED STATES THAT HE WAS KILLED IN ACTION TWENTY SIX JANUARY IN ITALY. LETTER FOLLOWS=		
ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.		
323 4th St. D.C. 537P.		
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE		



2ND LT HARRY CLIFFORD THOMAS
(1921 - 1944)
U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS
MECHANICSBURG (BLAND COUNTY) VA



Born: Harry Clifford Thomas was born August 27, 1921 in Bland County, VA

Bio: Lt. Thomas resided in Bland County and Roanoke for the first 18 years of his life. In 1939 the family moved to Pulaski. He was employed after school in Bunn's Sweet Shop and was quite popular among the younger set. He married Betty Whittaker from Pulaski. They had one son named Tommy. Tommy attended school in Bland County.

Military Career: He volunteered for service in 1942 and began pilot training. He received his wings at Spence Field in Moutrie, GA in May 1943. At the time of his death he was stationed in Atlanta Air Base in the AUS Eastern Flying Training Command.

Died: Lt. Thomas died on July 4, 1944 in a plane crash in Columbia, SC. The plane crashed shortly after take off enroute to Camp Lee VA. His eventual destination was to see his family in Pulaski.

Burial: Harry Clifford Thomas is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Pulaski, VA

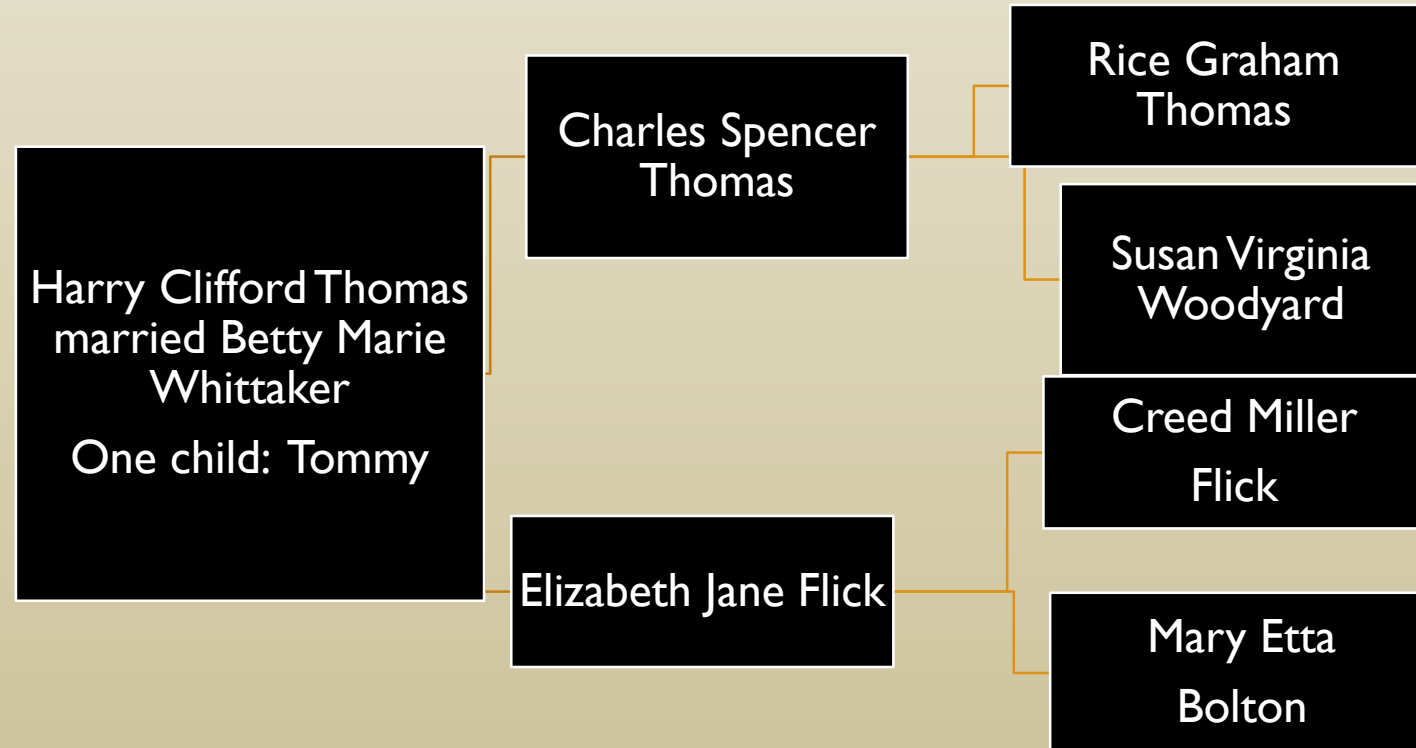


FAMILY TREE

2ND LT. HARRY CLIFFORD THOMAS



Harry Thomas with young son, Tommy (circa 1943)





PVT JAMES MOORE WALKER (1915 - 1944) U. S. ARMY MECHANICSBURG (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: James Moore Walker was born July 25, 1915 in Mechanicsburg, Bland County, VA

Bio: Jim Walker was the oldest son in a family of 5 children. They lived in Mechanicsburg where his father farmed and worked in the ore mines. In 1937 at the age of 20 he married Margaret May Taylor. They had one daughter. He worked as a public school bus driver.

Military Career: He enlisted in the U. S. Army on June 4, 1943 in Abingdon, VA. He joined the 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division (Screamin' Eagles).

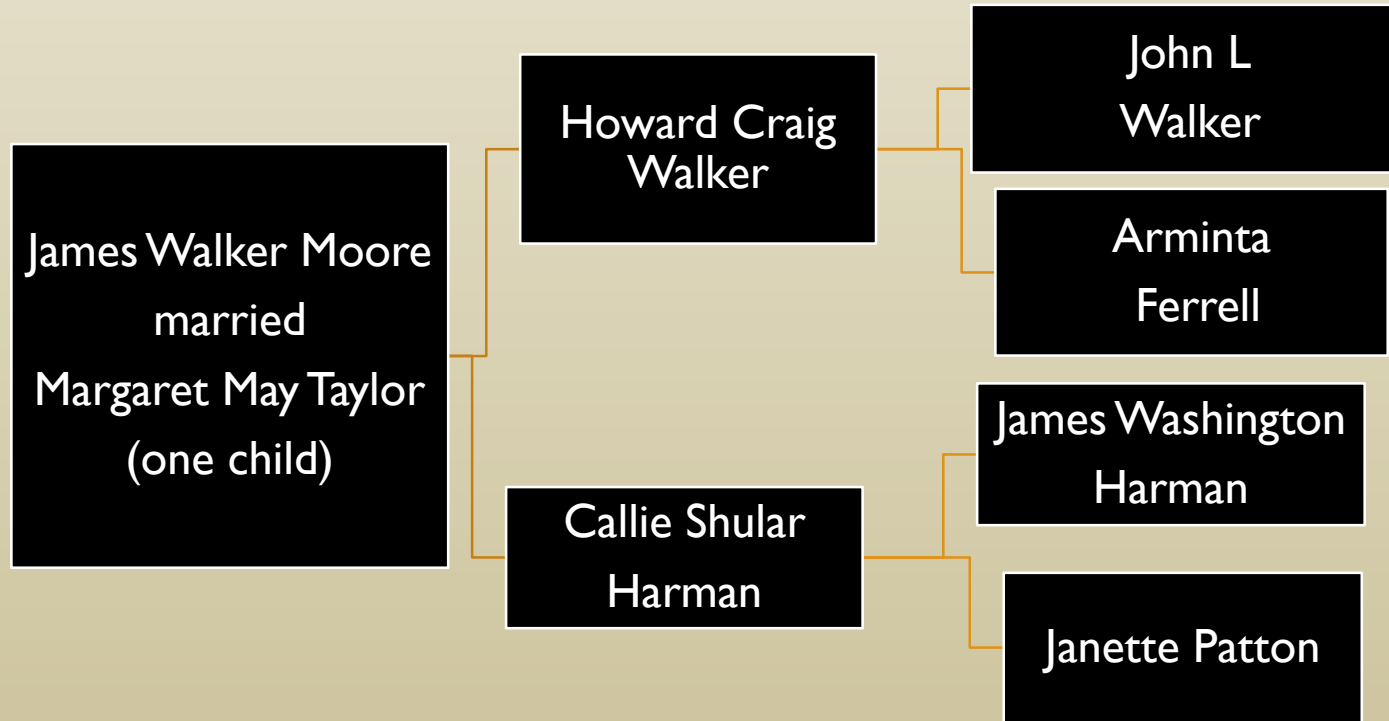
Died: On June 8, 1944 during night drop into Utah Beach he was listed as missing in action. On June 17, 1944 his remains were recovered and he was listed as killed in action.

Burial: He is buried in the American Normandy Cemetery in France, Plot J, Row 17, Grave 33. As part of the record, we have the telegram his wife received as well as the site of his permanent interment.



FAMILY TREE

PVT JAMES MOORE WALKER





PFC CLIFFORD ANDREW WILLIS (1923 - 1945) U. S. ARMY ROCKY GAP (BLAND COUNTY) VA

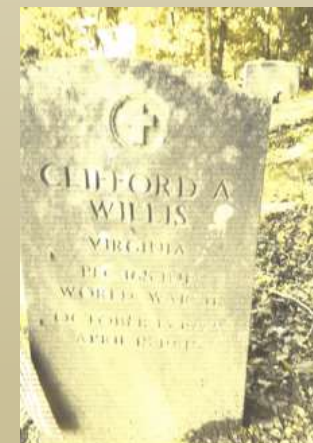
Born: Clifford Andrew Willis was born on October 13, 1923 in Rocky Gap, VA

Bio Clifford Willis was one of 6 sons born to Joseph Thomas Willis and Hattie Mae Martin. In 1930 he lived with his parents. His dad was a stone mason and a carpenter. He attended school through the 4th grade. By 1940 he was at the CCC Camp in Bastian working for wages. His enlistment record shows that immediately before he entered service he was working as a filling station attendant.

Military Career: He registered for the draft in Bland on June 30, 1942. He enlisted on May 17, 1944 at Ft. Meade MD. He became part of Co K, of the 168th Infantry Regiment and attained the rank of PFC.

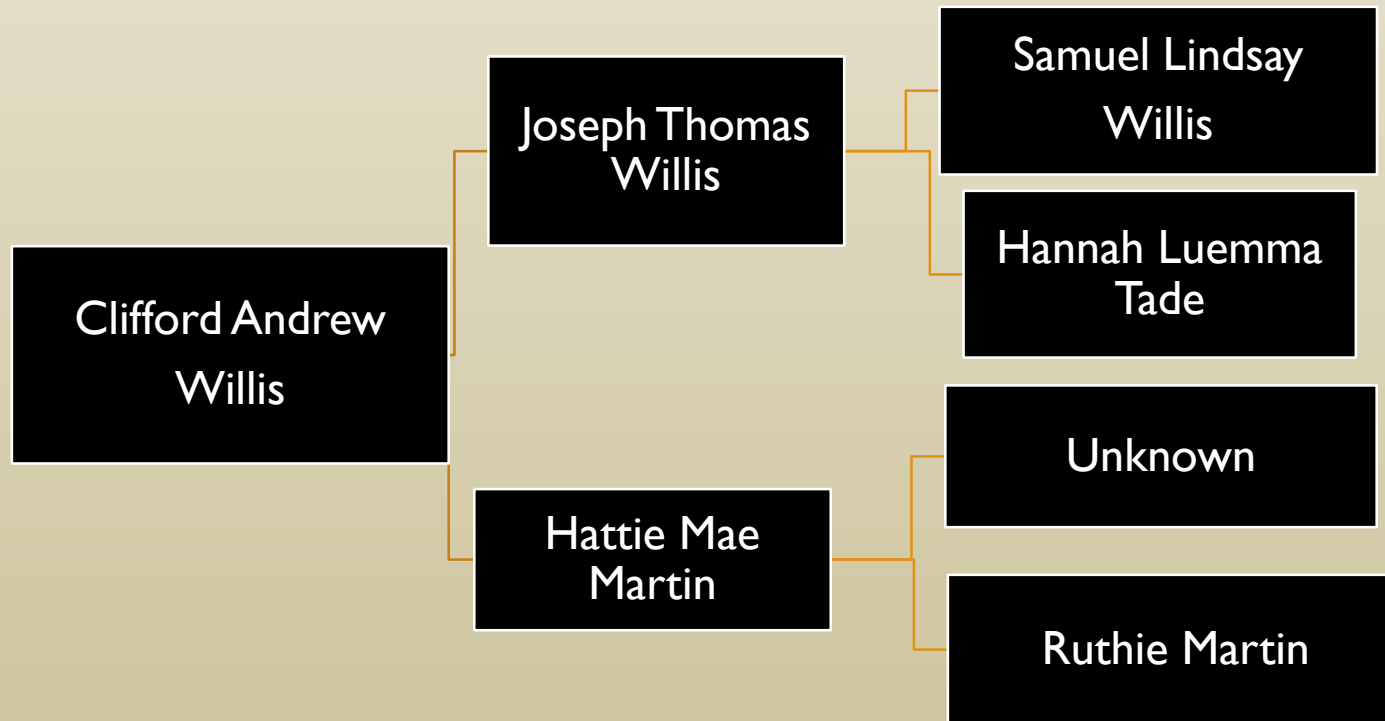
Died: He was killed in action while fighting in Italy on April 18, 1945. He was 22 years old.

Burial: Pfc. Willis is buried beside his family in the Laurel Fork Cemetery near Rocky Gap in a very lovely mountain setting.



FAMILY TREE

PFC CLIFFORD ANDREW WILLIS





S/SGT OWEN THOMAS WILSON (1922 - 1943) U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS CERES (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: Owen Thomas Wilson was born February 17, 1922 in Ceres to Dewey Kent Wilson and Annabell Barger.

Bio: Owen Wilson graduated from Ceres HS in 1939. He graduated with 2nd Lt Jimmy Burke, also killed in World War II. The 1939 Ceres Mountaineer gave the following information about senior class member, Owen Wilson. Voted "best liked in the Who's Who's" contest because of his ready smile and athletic record, his pleasing disposition pleases all.

Owen Thomas Wilson (Dude)
"I dare do all that may become a man
Who dares do more is none."
Voted best liked in the "Who's Who" contest
probably because of his ready smile and athletic
record, his pleasing disposition pleases all.
One of the best on the basketball team as well
as the baseball team, and he won his record by
hard work and steady going. A willing worker
in other school activities, he has the admiration
of the girls as well as the boys, even though he
loves to tease. "Ha, ha, that's a good one on
you" or "I love to aggravate her", we have often
heard. Bland curly hair and gray eyes, charac-
terize "Dude". Owen, may your life be long and
happy is your classmates' last wish.
Vice-Pres. Senior Class
Vice-Pres. Beta Club

He worked at the Bland Hosiery Mill and the Celenese Corporation in Narrows before entering the military.



S/SGT OWEN THOMAS WILSON
(1922 - 1943)
U. S. ARMY AIR CORPS
CERES (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Military Career: Owen entered military service in June 22, 1942. He trained at Tyndall Field in Panama City FL, Alamogordo NM and Topeka KS. He went overseas to the South Pacific Island of Funifutu (Ellice Island Group) in March 1943. He participated in bombing runs on Japanese facilities in the South Pacific.

Died: About a month after arriving at the base on Funifuti, the Japanese conducted a raid on April 22, 1943 which killed 5 Air Force personnel including Owen Wilson. LIFE Magazine covered the tragic end of Owen Wilson's Air Crew in the South Pacific.

Burial: Owen Wilson was first buried at Funifuti, then reinterred at Punch Bowl in Hawaii, and finally in 1947 his remains were laid to rest at Sharon Lutheran Cemetery in Ceres.



Bland Messenger
May 6, 1943

SENGER

Of Bland County And Southwest Virginia

MAY 6, 1943.

READ BY
THREE-FIFTHS OF
THE PEOPLE OF
BLAND COUNTY

\$1.50 a Year In Advance

ON
NCED

One In-
is

is

Staff Sgt. Owen Wilson Dies Of Wound Received In Action In Pacific

BLAND MESSENGER MAY 1943

BLAND COUNTY YOUTH MAKES SUPREME SACRIFICE FOR HIS COUNTRY

A Tribute To Staff Sergeant Owen Wilson, Who Gave His
Life In The Service Of His Country On April
22, In Active Battle On Foreign Soil

The following is an excerpt taken from a letter sent to his mother, Mrs. Anna Bell Barger Wilson, of Ceres; from Major General Willie H. Hale, U. S. A., Commanding, May 15.

"Your son was with me last month when we were engaged in offensive operations against the Japs in the Western Pacific. He was instantly killed on April 22nd and was buried with four companions on the island where he met his death. It will be necessary for his body to remain there until the conclusion of the war.

"The military funeral ceremony was performed by a Navy Chaplain, assisted by a detachment of Marines and some of your son's most fortunate comrades. I was present, as were other officers of my command. . . I hope you will accept my profound expression of sorrow, coupled with the vow that someday, the death of your boy and others will be fully avenged. I realize that such vengeance is of small comfort to you and in no wise will compensate you for your loss, however, you can cherish some degree of satisfaction in the knowledge that he died heroically in the service of his country."

Funafuti, the island on which Staff Sergeant Wilson is buried, is the new United States base in the Pacific. It has summer weather the year around and is an atoll-shaped, low coral island; one of the more important islands that comprise the Ellice group.

Those who knew Owen Wilson, and there were many, regarded him in the highest terms. He was friendly and likeable and had a deep profound regard for his home and country; traits which made him the hero he proved himself to be. He was awarded the Air Medal and the distinguished Purple Heart Medal for heroic achievements. His last valiant fight will not be in vain. Staff Sergeant Wilson will be remembered for his brave sacrifice.

"No battle is fought
No race ever won—
Let there be a sacrifice
On the part of someone.
This someone we knew
To be honorable and good
A Christian soldier in service,
Brave, for the liberty he stood
His life he gave for his fellowmen
—heroically
In supreme sacrifice
For his country—"

WAS REAR GUNNER ON A BOMBER

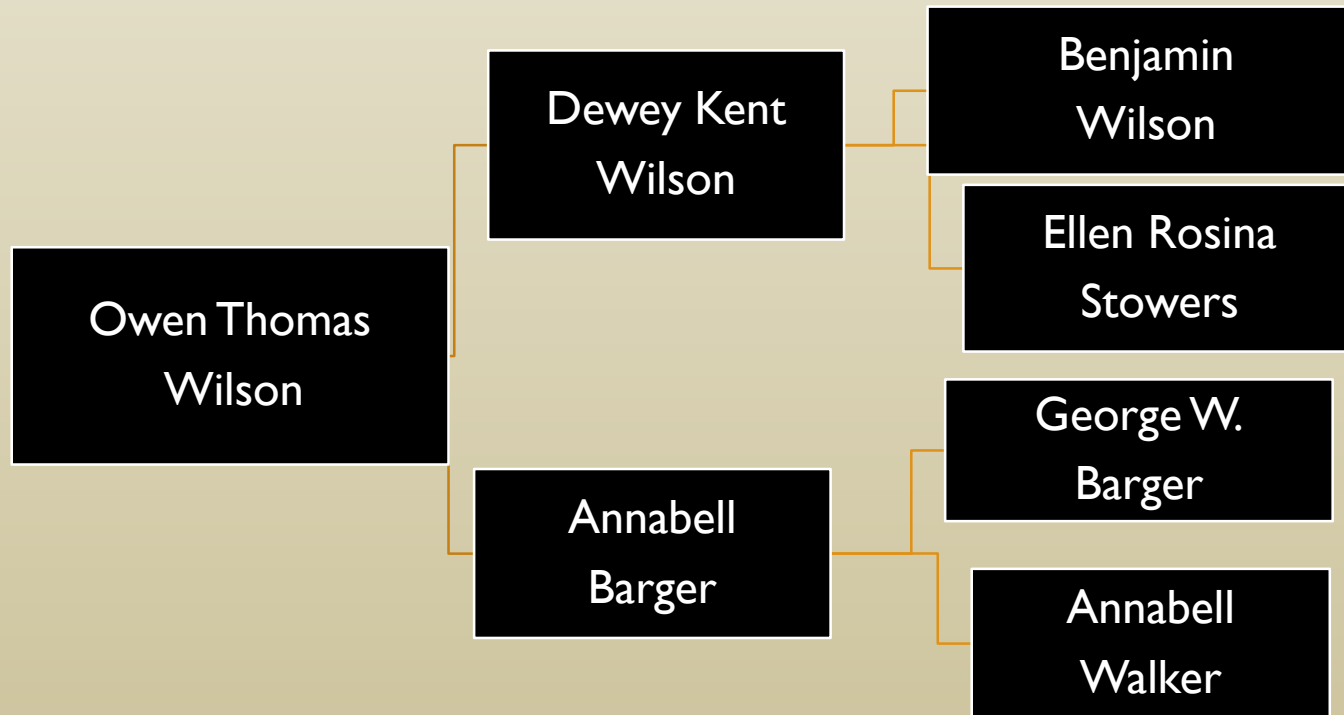
Is Second Bland County Youth
To Die In Armed Service
Of Nation

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey K. Wilson, of Ceres, were notified last Thursday by the war department of the death of their son, Staff Sergeant Owen T. Wilson, 21, who was wounded in action and died April 22 somewhere in the Pacific area. Sergeant Wilson was rear gunner on a bomber. He enlisted in June, 1942, and received training at Tyndall field, Fla. He had been overseas only a short time.

Owen was wellknown and a very popular young man throughout the county. He is the second Bland county boy to die in the armed service. Besides his parents he is survived by two brothers, Harry Wilson, of Dayton, Ohio, and Jimmy Wilson, of Ceres.

FAMILY TREE

S/SGT OWEN THOMAS WILSON



WORLD WAR II

THE END OF THE WAR IN EUROPE

V-E DAY – MAY 8, 1945



- **V-E DAY – WAR ENDS IN EUROPE**

- On June 6, 1944—celebrated as “D-Day”—the Allied began a massive invasion of Europe, landing 156,000 British, Canadian and American soldiers on the beaches of Normandy, France. In response, Hitler poured all the remaining strength of his army into Western Europe, ensuring Germany’s defeat in the east. Soviet troops soon advanced into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania, while Hitler gathered his forces to drive the Americans and British back from Germany in the Battle of the Bulge (December 1944-January 1945), the last major German offensive of the war. An intensive aerial bombardment in February 1945 preceded the Allied land invasion of Germany, and by the time Germany formally surrendered on May 8, Soviet forces had occupied much of the country. Hitler was already dead, having committed suicide on April 30 in his Berlin bunker.



WORLD WAR II

THE END OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

V-J DAY

SEPTEMBER 2, 1945

On September 2, U.S. General Douglas MacArthur signs Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

• V-J DAY – WAR ENDS IN JAPAN

- **February – June 1945** - Heavy casualties sustained in the campaigns at Iwo Jima (February 1945) and Okinawa (April-June 1945), and fears of the even costlier land invasion of Japan led Truman to authorize the use of a new and devastating weapon—the atomic bomb.
- **August 6, 1945** – Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima
- **August 9, 1945** - Atomic Bomb dropped on Nagasaki.
- **August 10, 1945** - Japanese government issued a statement declaring they would accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration.
- **September 2, 1945** - U.S. General MacArthur accepted Japan's formal surrender aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.



WORLD WAR II THE END OF THE WAR

**V-J Day, Bluefield Daily
Telegraph, August 14,
1945**



BLAND MESSENGER

READ BY
THREE-FIFTHS OF
THE PEOPLE OF
BLAND COUNTY

THE
BEST ADVERTISING
MEDIUM IN
BLAND COUNTY

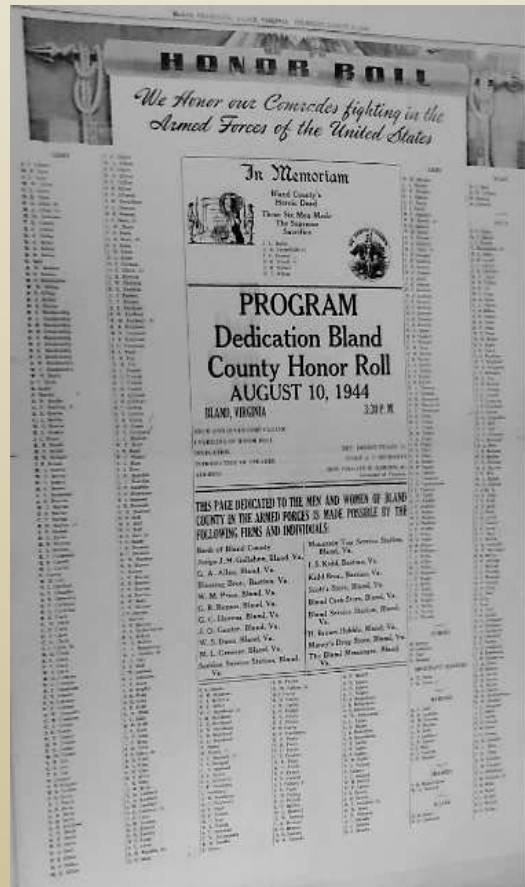
An Independent Newspaper Devoted To The Interest Of Bland County And Southwest Virginia

Vol. XXII, No. 28.

BLAND, VIRGINIA: THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1944

\$1.50 a Year In Advance

Stage All Set For Honor Roll Dedication Today



On August 10, 1944 Bland County dedicated the World War II Honor Roll. It was a big deal. The Honorable Colgate Darden, Governor of Virginia gave a speech. There was a 30-minute parade. The occasion was to unveil a wooden plaque, the Bland County Honor Roll, that had been created by Mr. Percy S. Curry. The Honor Roll contained the names of all Bland Countians who were serving in WWII. At that time, six of these brave men had been killed and they were designated by gold stars.

The Bland County Honor Roll was mounted on the side of the stone gas station that now houses Lanny Lindamood's Barber Shop. The plaque remained there until the early 1950s when it was removed to the Bland Court House. Ike Pauley had acquired the gas station and decided to use the space for a lubricant stall. In 1948 J. T. Dunn was instructed to remove the plaque to the Bland Court House.

To our knowledge, the Bland County Honor Roll for WWII was never re-hung. And searches by the Bland County Historical Society have found no trace of this historic plaque. It is assumed that it met its fate in the dump on Hogback. We'd love to hear from you if you have any knowledge of its whereabouts or any pictures of same. The article about the dedication in the *Bland Messenger* on August 10, 1944 and one small picture that shows where it was installed on the stone gas station is all that remains.

We regret that this valuable piece of Bland County History has not been preserved.

**Bland Messenger
(August 10, 1944)**

WORLD WAR II

REFERENCES

- **Virginia Military War Dead Database at the Library of Virginia**
http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd/vmd_Search.asp
- **World War II History Commission Questionnaires Collection at the Library of Virginia**
www.lva.gov
- **National World War II Museum, New Orleans, LA** - <https://www.nationalww2museum.org>
- **National Archives – World War II Archives**
<https://www.archives.gov/>
- **American Battle Monuments Commission**
<https://www.abmc.gov/>
- **Book: *Gold Star Honor Roll of Virginians in the Second World War* ...** edited by W. Edwin Hemphill. Virginia World War II History Commission, Charlottesville VA 1947.

BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES

KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)
COLD WAR (1950-1992)
VIETNAM WAR (1964-1975)
OTHER (1994)

Fallen Heroes of Bland County-Other Wars (1950 – 1994)					
Name	Hometown	Details of Death	Date of Death	Age	Burial Site/Marker
Korean War					
Robert Johnston Wright Jr.	Hollybrook	Died while a Prisoner of War	3/18/1951	21	Court of Missing, Honolulu; Marker Shiloh Cemetery
Cold War					
William Lawrence Fanning	Mechanicsburg	Died in a motorcycle accident while traveling home on leave	9/10/1954	22	Mechanicsburg Cemetery
Vietnam War					
Council Lee Royal JR	Rocky Gap	Died as a passenger on an R&R Flight to Hong Kong	10/21/1968	38	Ridge Park Cemetery, Hillsboro TX
Other					
Leslie Warren Payne	Rocky Gap	Died in a non-combat accident in Germany	7/19/1994	26	Roselawn Cemetery, Princeton WV
Nathan Karl Hickman	Rocky Gap	Died in an automobile accident while home on leave	12/23/1994	21	Roselawn Cemetery, Princeton WV

BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES

KOREAN WAR

1950 - 1953



KOREAN WAR

JUNE 25, 1950 – JULY 27, 1953

- **June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953**
- The Korean War began when North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations, with the United States as the principal force, came to the aid of South Korea. China came to the aid of North Korea, and the Soviet Union gave some assistance.
- The Korean War was relatively short but exceptionally bloody. Nearly 5 million people died. More than half of these—about 10 percent of Korea's prewar population—were civilians. (This rate of civilian casualties was higher than World War II's and Vietnam's.) Almost **40,000 Americans** died in action in Korea, and **more than 100,000 were wounded**.

BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES THE DRAFT KOREAN WAR 1950 - 1953

Initially, Marine and Navy reservists were called up to active duty to supplement regular Army forces. These "retreads" from WWII, as they were known, proved to be an invaluable resource in the inexperienced ranks. In December 1950, 82% of the Army in Korea was made up of regulars. Exactly two years later, the ratio was 37% regular to 63% draftee.

All means were devised to circumvent the draft—mostly legal. (Convicted draft violators during the war years numbered less than 10,000.) To avoid the infantry, many joined the Navy, Air Force or National Guard. Others wrested deferments and exemptions with the aid of the very Administration that gave America the war.

In March 1951, President Harry Truman issued an executive order deferring students who scored at least 70 on an intelligence test. The following spring, 65% of the 400,000 students tested were deferred, opening the door to charges of bias.

Such draft policies gave preference to what famed newsman Edward R. Murrow called an "intellectual elite." Some draft board members resigned in protest against a deferment policy that was seen as "un-American and represented class discrimination."

Not surprisingly, military service during the Korean War "did not become the model generational experience of young men in the early 1950s," according to one historian. During the conflict period, 1,751,820 men were drafted, but relatively few found themselves in Korea.

(KOREANWAREDUCATOR.ORG)



KOREAN WAR

JUNE 25, 1950 – JULY 27, 1953

VIRGINIANS IN THE KOREAN WAR

979 CASUALTIES

- **Korean War, 1950–1953**
- In addition to those who died in theater, data for this conflict also includes Virginia National Guardsmen who died closer to home during this period. Furthermore, since, technically, the Korean War has not yet ended, those Virginians who have died in Korea since the truce was signed in 1953 are also included in this portion of the database. There are currently **979** entries in this portion of the database.

KOREAN WAR

JUNE 25, 1950 – JULY 27, 1953

	Total Served	Total Combat Deaths/Prison Camps	Total Deaths Other	Total Casualties	% of those served
USA	5,720,000	33,739	20,507	54,246	0.948%
Virginia	NA	852	127	979	NA
Bland County	NA	1	0	1	NA

NA=Not Available



PFC ROBERT JOHNSTON WRIGHT JR
(1930-1951)
U. S. ARMY
HOLLYBROOK (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Born: August 22, 1930 in Mechanicsburg to Robert L. Wright and Daisy Burton.

Bio: Bobby Wright grew up on the family farm in Hollybrook. His father died in 1942 when he was 12 years old. At the time of his enlistment he was working on his father's farm.

Military: PFC Wright was a light weapons infantry man in Company G, 2nd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

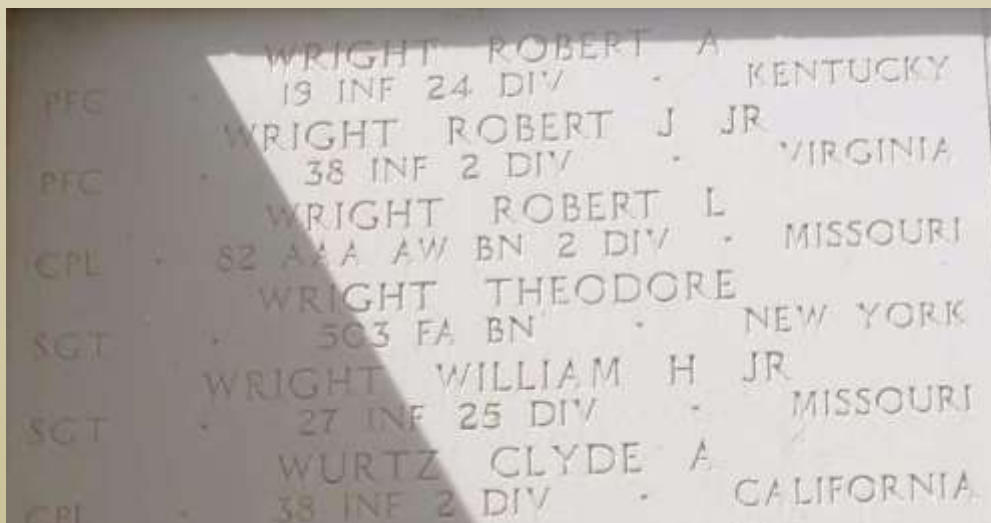
Died: He was taken POW while fighting near Kunu-ri, North Korea on November 29, 1950. He died while a prisoner of war on March 18, 1951.

Bobby Wright was the only casualty of the Korean War from Bland County.



PFC ROBERT JOHNSTON WRIGHT JR (1930-1951) U. S. ARMY HOLLYBROOK (BLAND COUNTY) VA

Burial: His remains were buried (among the 2000 sets of unknown soldiers turned over by the Communist forces with a list of names that included PFC Wright) in Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu, HI. Robert Wrights name is listed in the Courts of the Missing in Honolulu.



HONOLULU HI MEMORIAL (Tablets of the Missing)
KOREAN WAR – PFC Robert Johnston Wright JR, US Army (1930-1951)

PFC ROBERT JOHNSTON WRIGHT JR (1930-1951) U. S. ARMY

In 2003, Elaine Havens began an attempt to find out about the MIA Status of her cousin, Bobby Wright. Over the next 4 years, she found out where his remains were probably located, but it would take DNA testing to confirm this. To date DNA Analysis has not been completed to positively identify his remains. As a compromise, she was able to get a marker to honor Bobby. A military service was held and a marker installed at Mt. View Cemetery in Hollybrook. The article from the May 23, 2007 issue of the **Bland Messenger** details her quest to find out about her cousin's MIA Status. Sadly, his mother died before Elaine found out what had happened to her son.

High school roundup / A6 May 23 • 2007 Mountain laurel magic / A4

Messenger

The Bland County

www.blandnews.com A Media General Newspaper Devoted to Bland County and Southwest Virginia Volume 84, No. 22 • 50 cents

A mission for the missing

County woman works on marker for Korean War veteran

By WAYNE QUESENBERY/Staff

Robert Johnston "Bobby" Wright Jr. has been missing for 56 years. The Hollybrook native was believed killed or taken prisoner during the Korean War.

Wright's family never received any official notification from the U.S. Army or the government after declaring Wright missing in action in 1950. Relatives waited as time ended for many of them.

His mother, Daisy Wright of Rocky Gap, died in 1994. Sister Goldie died in 1996 and his only brother, Elbert Wright, died in 2003.

Robert J. Wright Sr. died when his son was 12. Bobby Wright joined the Army at the age of 18 to help his family financially.

At Elbert Wright's funeral in 2003, the MIA status of Bobby Wright was discussed again by relatives. It was the true beginning of a quest for answers.

The Wrights' first cousin, Elaine W. Havens of Hollybrook, pledged to Bobby Wright's two remaining sisters, Lethia W. Williams of Pulaski and Nora W. Quesenberry of Madison, that she would investigate the matter. She checked the Internet and within 10 minutes found that Bobby Wright's MIA status had been changed to "declared dead" and the Department of Defense was requesting DNA from a relative.

"You have to remember that during the earlier years rela-

tives had limited means," Havens stated this week. "It was a big deal to make a long distance call from Bland County."

She never knew her cousin Bobby because he was missing in action when she was born. The lack of information had bothered her for years, even more after she had three children of her own.

"I live beside the Mountain Field Cemetery in Hollybrook," Havens said. "It's our family cemetery and it just didn't seem complete. I decided something had to be done."

Since her husband, Lewia Havens Jr., is the current quartermaster of the Bland VFW Post 7969, she went to him and the unit for assistance. Together they made phone calls and more Internet searches.

Havens learned from a Korean War MIA/POW organization that North Korea released the remains of prisoners of war in 1954. The subsequent burial in Hawaii in 1956 became known as the Punch Bowl.

Identification of the remains is being hindered by the use of a powder that was used to preserve the remains which is interfering with DNA extraction," Havens pointed out. "Also hindering identification is the loss of Army records from a fire in a St. Louis, Mo., records facility."

According to her, the matching DNA must come from Wright's mother's side of the family. Havens is kin through the father's bloodline and not eligible for DNA testing.

"I've talked to both of Bobby's sisters and explained that the process is simple for taking DNA samples," she noted. "They're both elderly and I don't know if they will do it."

Havens learned that Bobby Wright was captured by North Koreans on Nov. 29, 1950. Wright died March 18, 1951, according to her information.

With additional help from Post 7969 and A. Vest & Sons Funeral Home in White Gate, Havens was able to secure a memorial marker for Bobby Wright through the Department of Veterans Affairs. She learned from the marker that her cousin was awarded a Bronze Star Medal and a Purple Heart which none of the family ever received.

The memorial marker, Havens said, will be placed in the Mountain Field Cemetery in time for a memorial service this Sunday, May 27. It will be located along side Bobby Wright's father, mother and other relatives.

Bland VFW Post 7969 will prove an Honor Guard for the service. Havens will have copies of the military account of the three-day battle which resulted in Bobby Wright's MIA status.

"Maybe now the family can finally have some closure," she commented. "His mother died still thinking that Bobby would come home one day. I remain hopeful that Bobby's remains will be sent home. Knowing as much as we now do is an improvement from the last. I hate that it had to come so late."

Wayne Quesenberry can be reached at 1-800-653-1406 or wquesenb@wythevalnews.com.

"His mother died still thinking that Bobby would come home one day."
—Elaine W. Havens



Bobby Wright Jr. of Bland County

Continued from Page A1

Continued

MISSING: Woman helps secure marker

Continued from Page A1

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PFC ROBERT JOHNSTON WRIGHT JR (1930-1951) U. S. ARMY HOLLYBROOK (BLAND COUNTY) VA

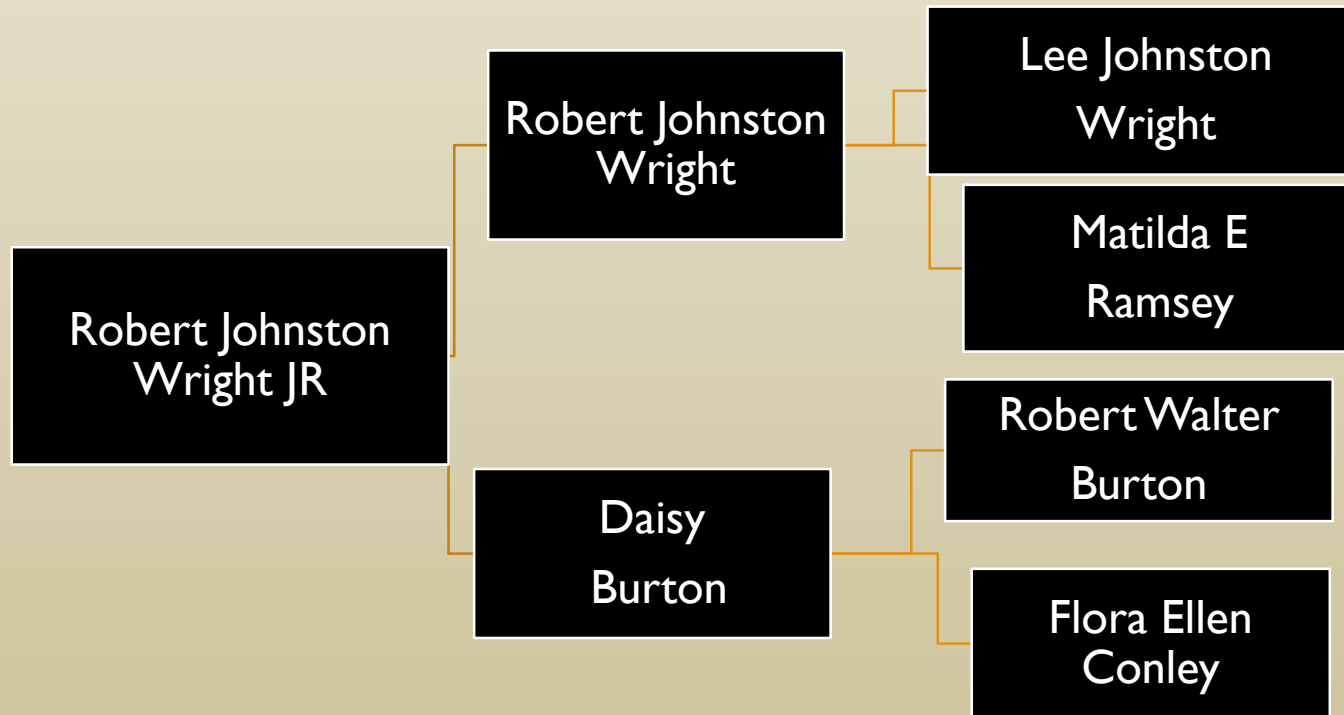
On May 27, 2007 Bland VFW Post 7969 provided an Honor Guard for a proper military service for PFC Wright. At that time, a military marker was installed at the family cemetery, Mountain View in Hollybrook.



Mountain Field Cemetery (Hollybrook)
Korea - PFC Robert Johnston Wright (JR) – Marker

FAMILY TREE

ROBERT JOHNSTON WRIGHT JR





KOREAN WAR

THE END OF THE WAR

ARMISTICE SIGNED– JULY 27, 1953



After a year of fighting in the Korean War, President Truman wanted to end the war and he began the talk of finding peace between the countries. Neither side could all agree on an agreement so the fighting continued for another two years. In 1952, during the US presidential election, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president. Eisenhower was determined to establish peace in Korea and end the Korean War. He picked up where Truman left off and continued to negotiate for peace between the countries. Finally, on July 27, 1953 the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed.

The US Army Lieutenant General William Harrison Jr. represented the United Nations Command (UNC) and signed for the United States, South Korea, and the Allies. Peng Dehuai signed the Armistice for the Chinese and Kim Il-sung signed for the North Koreans.

BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES

COLD WAR

1950 - 1992

COLD WAR (1950 – 1992)

- Cold War
- The decades-long confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, which lasted from the late 1940s to the early 1990s. The name "Cold War" arose from the fact that the conflict never escalated to direct military confrontation (that would have been a "hot war").
- The Cold War between the free world and the forces of international communism was conducted often in secret by personnel conducting human and electronic intelligence gathering and military reconnaissance, usually aboard ships and aircraft. One of the early "battles" of this war was, however, humanitarian in nature, the Berlin airlift. Thus far, only six Virginians have been identified from among the many who lost their lives in this war.



SEAMAN WILLARD LAWRENCE FANNING (1932-1954) U. S. NAVY - MECHANICSBURG

Born: May 23, 1932 in Bland County to Robert Glenn Fanning and Grace Pearl Havens.

Bio: Willard graduated from Bland High School in 1950.

Military Career: He entered the Navy shortly after graduating from high school. He served as a seaman aboard the USS Robinson (DD562) from November 9, 1952 until his death on September 10, 1954.

He was a few short weeks of getting out of the Navy when he died.

Died: On September 10, 1954 Willard Fanning died in a motorcycle accident while traveling home on leave from the Norfolk where his ship was based. He was a passenger on a motorcycle when the accident happened due to bad weather caused by Hurricane Diane.

Burial: He is buried in the Mechanicsburg Cemetery.



SEAMAN WILLARD LAWRENCE FANNING
(1932-1954)
U. S. NAVY - MECHANICSBURG



SN Willard Fanning



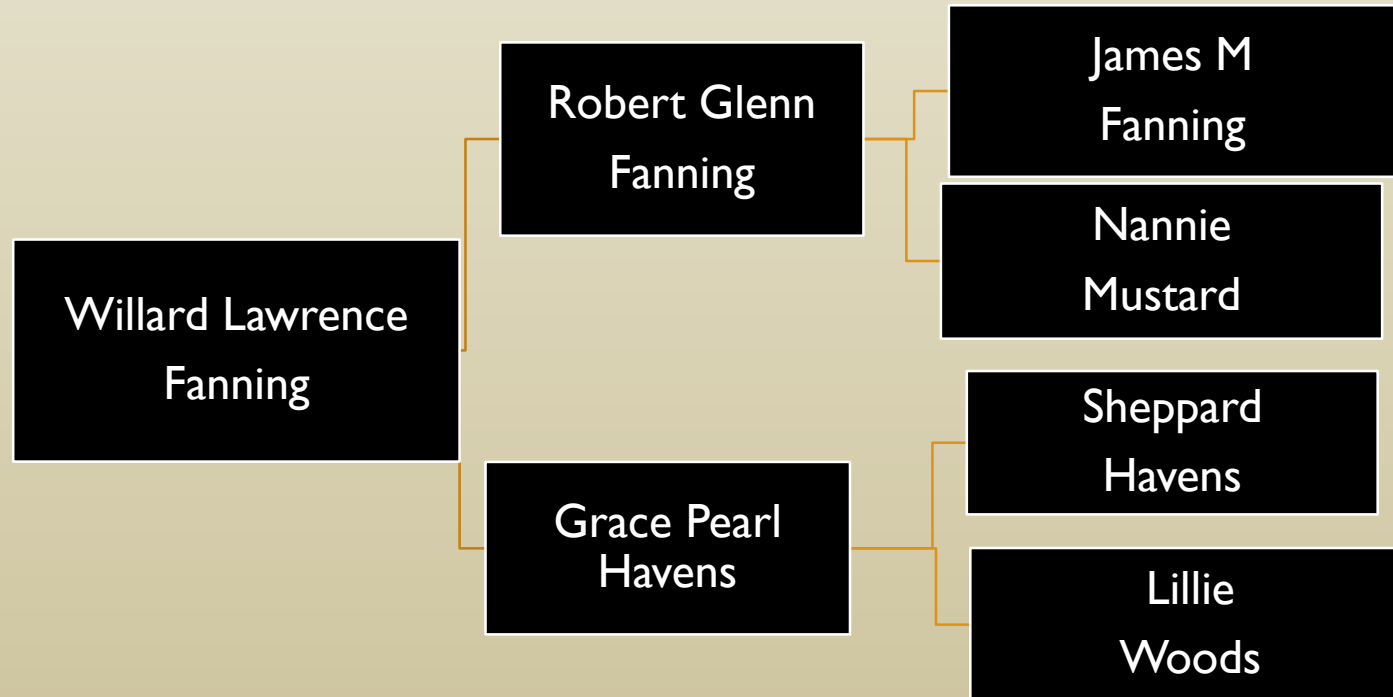
USS Robinson, DD 562

FAMILY TREE

WILLARD LAWRENCE FANNING



Willard Fanning
Class of 1950
Bland High School



BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN HEROES

VIETNAM WAR

1964 - 1975

VIETNAM WAR (1964-1975)



The Vietnam War was a long, costly and divisive conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The conflict was intensified by the ongoing Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. More than 3 million people (including over 58,000 Americans) were killed in the Vietnam War, and more than half of the dead were Vietnamese civilians.

In August of 1964, after DRV torpedo boats attacked two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin, Johnson ordered the retaliatory bombing of military targets in North Vietnam. Congress soon passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which gave Johnson broad war-making powers, and U.S. planes began regular bombing raids, codenamed Operation Rolling Thunder, the following year. In March 1965, Johnson made the decision—with solid support from the American public—to send U.S. combat forces into battle in Vietnam. By June, 82,000 combat troops were stationed in Vietnam, and military leaders were calling for 175,000 more by the end of 1965 to shore up the struggling South Vietnamese army.

VIETNAM WAR (1964 – 1975)

	Total Served	Total Combat Deaths/Prison Camps	Total Deaths Other	Total Casualties	% of those served
USA	8,744,000	47,434	42,785	90,220	1.03%
Virginia	NA	1,305	NA	1,305	NA
Bland County	NA	0	1	1	NA

NA=Not Available



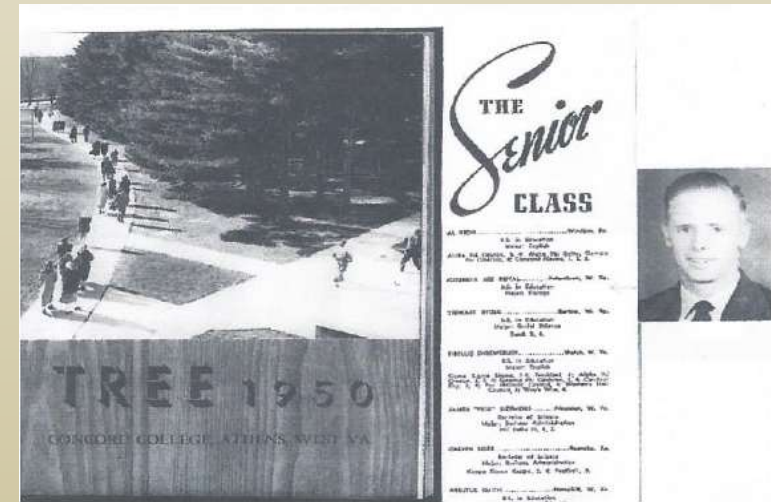
LT COL COUNCIL LEE ROYAL JR (1930-1968) US AIR FORCE - ROCKY GAP (VIETNAM WAR)

Born: Council Royal was born Feb 8, 1930 to Council Royal SR. and Mary V. Wood when his family lived in the Lillybrook Coal Camp in Slab Fork, Raleigh County WV.

Bio: Council's family purchased a small farm in Peterstown, WV around 1940. When Council was 12, his father passed away in 1942 from lung fibrosis probably due to his previous occupation as a coal miner. The remaining family moved to Norfolk, but Council stayed behind in WV to finish his education.

After graduating from high school, he attended Concord College in Athens WV, majoring in science. His first job out of college was as a teacher at Rocky Gap High School. He boarded with the family of Freda Simpkins.

He married Dorothy Findlay from Waco, TX while teaching at an Air Force School there. They had two sons, Michael and David.



**Council Royal's Senior Picture
Concord College**



LT COL COUNCIL LEE ROYAL JR (1930-1968) US AIR FORCE - ROCKY GAP (VIETNAM WAR)

MILITARY: Council Royal enlisted in the U. S. Air Force on September 26, 1952 at the age of 22. He served in the Korean War (1952-53). He then went to Navigator training in Waco, TX. In 1958-1959 he was selected for pilot training in Florida and San Angelo, TX. His first assignment was at Hickam Field in Hawaii with the 57th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. In 1967 he had his first tour in Vietnam with the 6250th Combat Support Group. On December 9, 1967 he was involved in aircraft emergency when he was piloting a plane with 18 troops aboard and it developed a major hydraulic system leak. His high degree of skill in dealing with the emergency and safely landing the plane earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

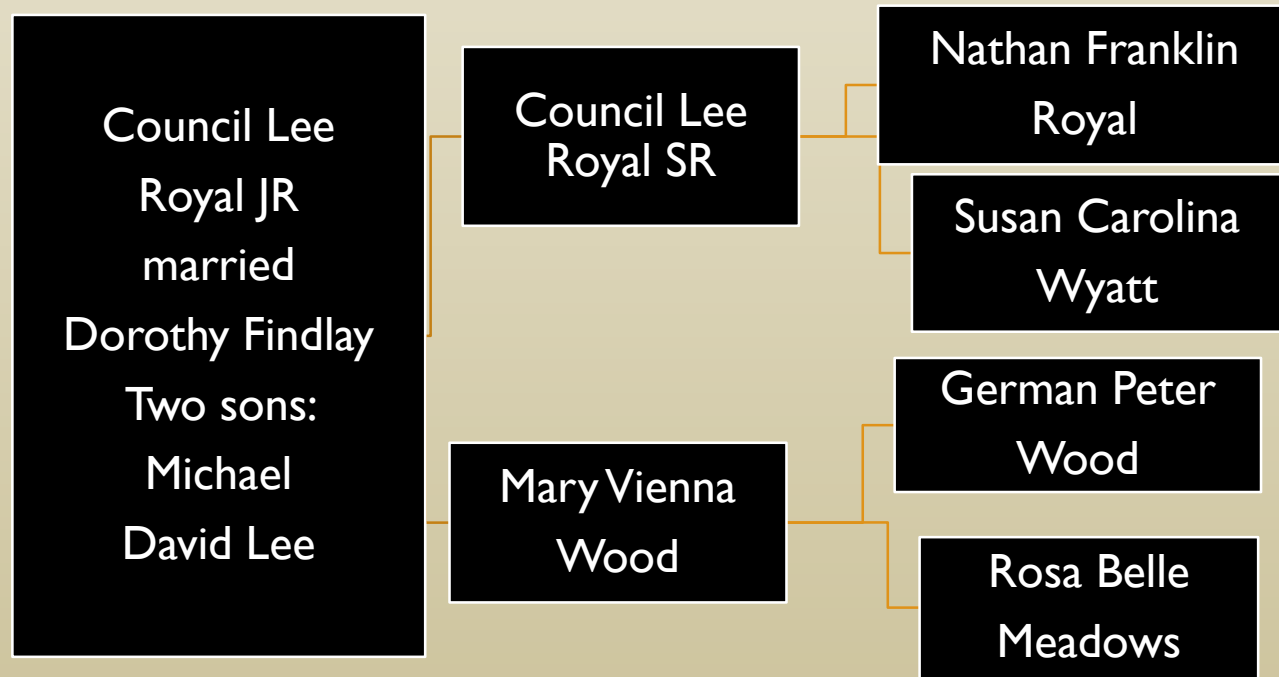
DEATH: He was killed on October 21, 1968 while a passenger on an R & R trip to Hong Kong near Danang, South Vietnam. Within a few weeks of his death, he was due to be transferred to the Cape Cod area.

BURIAL: He is buried in Ridge Park Cemetery in Hillsboro, TX near his wife's family home. His name is listed on the Vietnam Wall Memorial on Panel W40, Line 15.



FAMILY TREE

LT COL COUNCIL LEE ROYAL



THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR

U. S. WITHDRAWS – AUGUST 15, 1973

SAIGON CAPTURED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY – AUGUST 30, 1975



Opposition to the war in the United States bitterly divided Americans, even after President Richard Nixon ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973.



U. S. withdrew its forces in 1973 and Communist forces seized control of South Vietnam in 1975. The country was unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the following year. **Over 3 million people died in South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos after the Communist takeover of Southeast Asia.**

OTHER MILITARY DEATHS 1994

The last deaths of men from Bland County who wore the uniform of the United States both occurred in 1994.

Leslie Warren Payne was serving in Germany as a medic. He was killed in a car accident.

Nathan Karl Hickman was serving aboard the USS Inchon in Norfolk. He was home on Christmas leave in 1994 and died of injuries at Wytheville Community Hospital as the result of a car accident on Wilderness Road.



SGT LESLIE WARREN PAYNE

1968-1994

U. S. ARMY

ROCKY GAP

Born: Leslie Payne was born in Bluefield WV on May 27, 1968 to Sam Payne and Hattie Lou Keaton.

Bio: The family moved to the Rocky Gap area and Leslie graduated from Rocky Gap High School in 1989.

Military Career: He attained the rank of Sergeant during his short military career as Medical Specialist. He was highly regarded among his military colleagues.

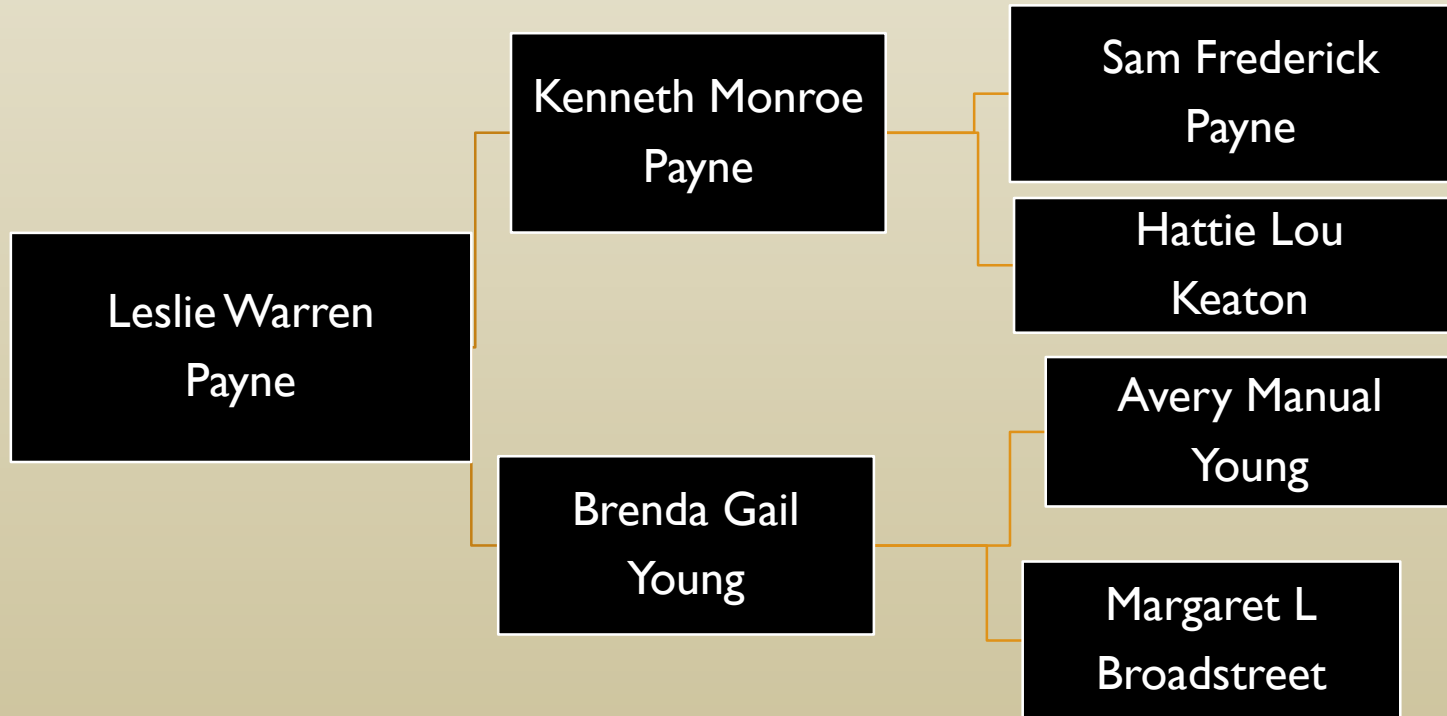
Died: He died on July 19, 1994 in a non-combat accident in Germany,

Burial: He is buried in Roselawn Cemetery, Princeton, WV.



FAMILY TREE

LESLIE WARREN PAYNE





**PO3RD CLASS NATHAN KARL HICKMAN
(1973-1994)
US NAVY
ROCKY GAP**

Born: Karl was born 1973 in Bluefield WV to Nathan B. Hickman and Frances Weier.

Bio: He grew up in Rocky Gap and was a 1991 graduate of Rocky Gap High School.

Military Career: He attained the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class in the US Navy. At the time of his death, he was serving in the Navy Air Dept, USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12) an amphibious assault ship based at Norfolk VA Naval Base.

Died: He died on December 23, 1994 in a car accident in Bland County while on leave.

Burial: He was buried with military rites at Roselawn Cemetery, Princeton, WV.

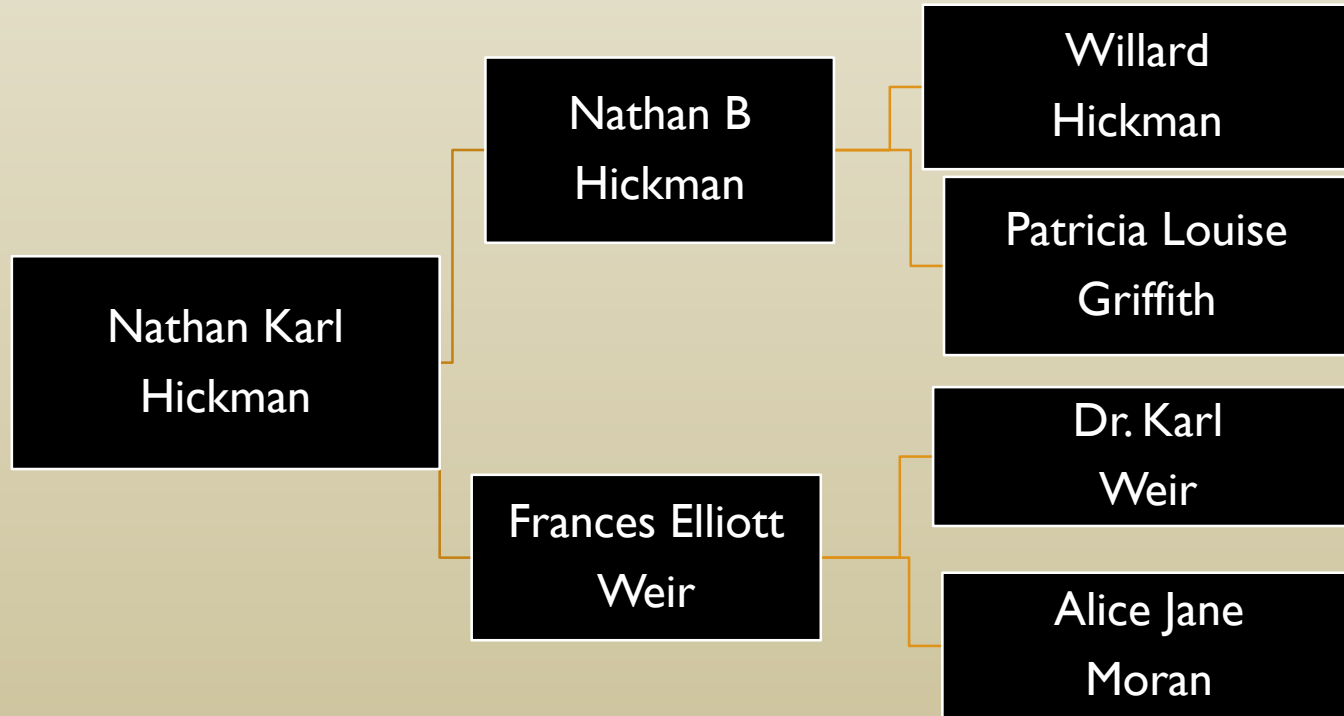


USS Inchon



FAMILY TREE

NATHAN KARL HICKMAN



OTHER WARS REFERENCES

- **Virginia Military War Dead Database at the Library of Virginia**

http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/vmd/vmd_Search.asp

- **Korean War**

www.koreanwar.org

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_War

- **Vietnam War**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War

- **Cold War**

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War

- **National Archives**

- <https://www.archives.gov/>

- **American Battle Monuments Commission**

<https://www.abmc.gov/>

CEMETERIES WHERE BLAND COUNTY'S FALLEN
HEROES HAVE BEEN LAID TO REST
OR MEMORIALIZED WITH A MARKER

Overseas Cemeteries with Bland County Fallen Hero Graves

MEUSE ARGONNE CEMETERY, Romagne France
WWI - PFC Charles Otto Fanning (1895-1918)
WWI - PVT Clownie W. Lilly (1888-1918)
WWI - PVT Addison Davis Pendleton (1891-1918)



AISNE MARNE AMERICAN CEMETERY, Belleau France
WWI - PVT Joseph Dudley Pulliam (1896-1918)



BRITTANY AMERICAN CEMETERY/MEMORIAL BASSE-NORMANDIE, FRANCE
WWII - PFC William W. "Jack" Bogle US Army (1910-1944)



NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY, Basse-Normandie, France
WWII – 2nd LT James L Burke (1918-1944)
WWII – PVT James Moore Walker (1915 – 1944)



Overseas Cemeteries with Bland County Fallen Hero Graves

EPINAL-AMERICAN CEMETERY (Tablets of the Missing), FRANCE
WWII- PFC James E Dillard, (1923-1945)



LORRAINE AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL (Tablets of the Missing), FRANCE
WWII - PFC Leroy Thomas Farmer (1924-1944)



Manila American Cemetery (Wall of the Missing), Philippines
WWII – SC1 Andrew Gilbert Hancock, US Navy (1923-1943)



Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery Hambourg, Belgium
WWII - TECH SGT Frank F. Kitts, JR, US Army (1921-1944)



Overseas Cemeteries with Bland County Fallen Hero Graves

SICILY-ROME AMERICAN CEMETERY, ITALY
WWII - PFC Willie C Long US Army (1921-1944)



ARDENNES AMERICAN CEMETERY, NEUPRE, BELGIUM
WWII- SGT Robert T Miller, US ARMY AIR FORCES (1918-1945)
WWII - PVT Howe Sadler, US ARMY (1913-1944)



SICILY-ROME AMERICAN CEMETERY-TABLETS OF THE MISSING
WWII - PFC Zachariah W Strock JR US ARMY (1921-1944)



World War I Memorial –Kansas City MO



World War II Memorial DC



Korean Veterans Memorial DC



Vietnam Veterans Memorial DC

UNITED STATES NATIONAL CEMETERIES WITH BLAND COUNTY FALLEN HEROES GRAVES

ARLINGTON VA NATIONAL CEMETERY
WWI - PVT Hugh Chaffin Collins (1894-1919)
WWI - PVT William A Sublett (1895-1918)
WWII-CAPT Roland Porterfield -US Army Corps of Engineers (1917-1942)
WWII-PFC Sherman T Sadler - US Army (1915-1944)



SAN ANTONIO TX NATIONAL CEMETERY
WWI - PVT Early Scott Billings (1900-1917)



WINCHESTER VA NATIONAL CEMETERY
WWII - S/SGT Larry Stone (1918-1944)



HONOLULU HI MEMORIAL (Tablets of the Missing)
WWII - SGT Melvin Patrick Aliff, USMC (1920 - 1944)
KOREAN WAR - PFC Robert Johnston Wright JR, US Army (1930-1951)



BLAND COUNTY VA CEMETERIES WITH FALLEN HERO GRAVES

STRADER CHURCH CEMETERY (Little Creek)
WWI - PVT Stuart N Brown (1894-1918)



MUNCY CEMETERY (East Blue Grass Trail)
WWI - PFC Miler T. Burton (1894-1918)



CLEAR FORK BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY (near Rocky Gap)
WWI - PVT Albert Randolph Hull (1890-1918)
WWII - PVT Robert Lee Carver (1927-1946)



SHARON LUTHERAN CHURCH CEMETERY (Ceres)
WWI - FN2C - Henry Trollinger McNutt (1895-1918)
WWII S/SGT Owen T Wilson - US ARMY AIR CORPS (1921-1943)



MORRIS FAMILY CEMETERY (No Business, Giles County)
WWI - PVT Herbert Wayne Morris (1896-1918)



BLAND CEMETERIES (BLAND, TEMPLE HILL, MORNING STAR) (Bland)
WWI - PVT Walker Richardson (1894-1918)
WWI - PVT John Nye Tickle (1892-1919)
WWII-SCL-Andrew Gilbert Hancock (1923-1945) - marker
WWII-PVT Earl G Pouley (1924-1944)



BLAND COUNTY VA CEMETERIES WITH FALLEN HERO GRAVES

SHILOH CHURCH CEMETERY (Hollybrook)
WWII – AVIATION CADET Jeff Troy Morehead US Army Air Forces (1924-1944)
WWII – PVT James O Ramsey US Army (1916-1944)



SHRADER CEMETERY #2 (Round Bottom)
WWII – S/SGT Finley Brown Morris (1915-1943)



BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (CERES)
WWII – PFC Robert O Repass US Army (1921-1945)



LAUREL FORK CHURCH OF CHRIST CEMETERY (ROCKY GAP)
WWII – PFC Clifford Andrew Willis – US Army (1915-1944)



Mountain Field Cemetery (Hollybrook)
Korea – PFC Robert Johnston Wright (JR) (1930-1951) – Marker



Mechanicsburg Cemetery (Mechanicsburg)
WWII – PFC Zachariah W Strock JR – US Army (1921-1944) – (Marker)
COLD WAR – Willard L Fanning (1932-1954)



OUTSIDE BLAND COUNTY CEMETERIES WITH FALLEN HERO GRAVES

BROWNS CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY (PACOLET MILLS, SC)
WWI - CAPT William Artie Burton (1914-1944)



Glen Haven Memorial Park, Glen Burnie, MD
1st SGT Everett St. Clair Hall (1914-1945)



OAKWOOD CEMETERY (PULASKI, VA)
WWII - 2nd LT Harry Clifford Thomas US ARMY AIR FORCES (1921-1944)



RIDGE PARK CEMETERY (HILLSBORO, TX)
VIETNAM - LT COL Council Lee Royal - U.S. Air Force (1930-1968)



MAPLE HILL CEMETERY (BLUEFIELD VA)
WWII - PFC Leroy Thomas Farmer, US ARMY (1924-1945) - marker



ROSELAWN CEMETERY (PRINCETON WV)
PEACETIME - SGT Leslie Warren Payne, US ARMY (1968-1994)
PEACETIME - POB Nathan Karl Hickman, US Navy (1973-1994)



BLAND COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL ROCKY GAP (BLAND COUNTY) VA



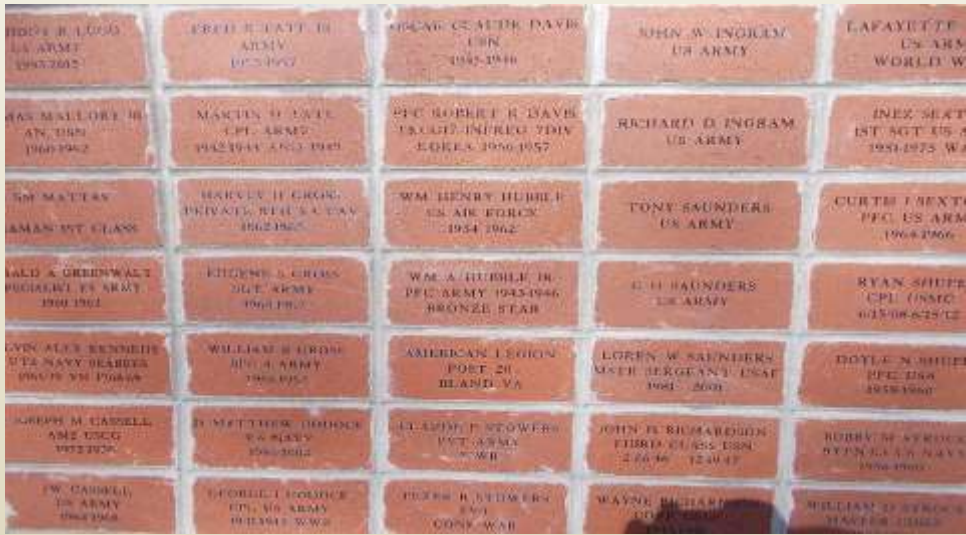
The mission of the BLAND COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL organization is to build and maintain a permanent memorial, not only to honor those who have served our great country, but also to honor those who are presently serving in our military.

There was no memorial in Bland County that honored all our veterans prior to the dedication on November 11, 2012. A non-profit group had been formed around 2010 in Rocky Gap to establish the Bland County Veterans Memorial



The design of the memorial is a pentagon shape with interior walls and flags to honor the 5 branches of the military: Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard. Old Glory flies in the middle of these walls. The five exterior walls contain the bricks purchased in honor of or in memory of Bland County veterans.

Many of the fallen heroes of Bland County have no bricks on their honor. Details on how to purchase these bricks can be found on the inside cover of this calendar.



BUY A BRICK FOR A BLAND COUNTY FALLEN HERO

The Bland County Veterans Memorial Committee sells bricks to be placed at the memorial that will honor those serving or who have served. Most of the brave men featured in this calendar have no bricks to honor their memory. The list of those already having a brick are listed on the left.

List of Soldiers With Bricks at the Bland County Veterans Memorial

WWI: Walker P Richardson

Thanks to fund raising efforts at Bland Heritage Day by Goldie and Randy Kiser enough funds have been received to buy a bricks in honor of the remaining WWI Fallen Heroes.

These men have bricks at the memorial:

WWII: Robert Lee Carver

Andrew G Hancock

Zachariah Witten Strock, JR.

Leroy Thomas Farmer

William Artie Burton

Other: None

The bricks cost \$50. Anyone interested in buying a brick may contact Jim Sparks at 276-928-1752 or Karen Hodock at 276-928-1677. Additionally, if you would like to buy a brick or contribute to a fund for these heroes that have not been honored, please contact the Bland County Historical Society and assistance will be given toward buying a brick for them

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S VETERANS DAY ADDRESS 1985



- [President Reagan's Veterans Day Address](#)



Bland County Veterans Memorial (Rocky Gap VA)

Bland County Historical Society

PO Box 416, Bland, VA 24315

Phone: 276-688-0088

Email: info@blandcountyhistsoc.org

Website: www.blandcountyhistsoc.org