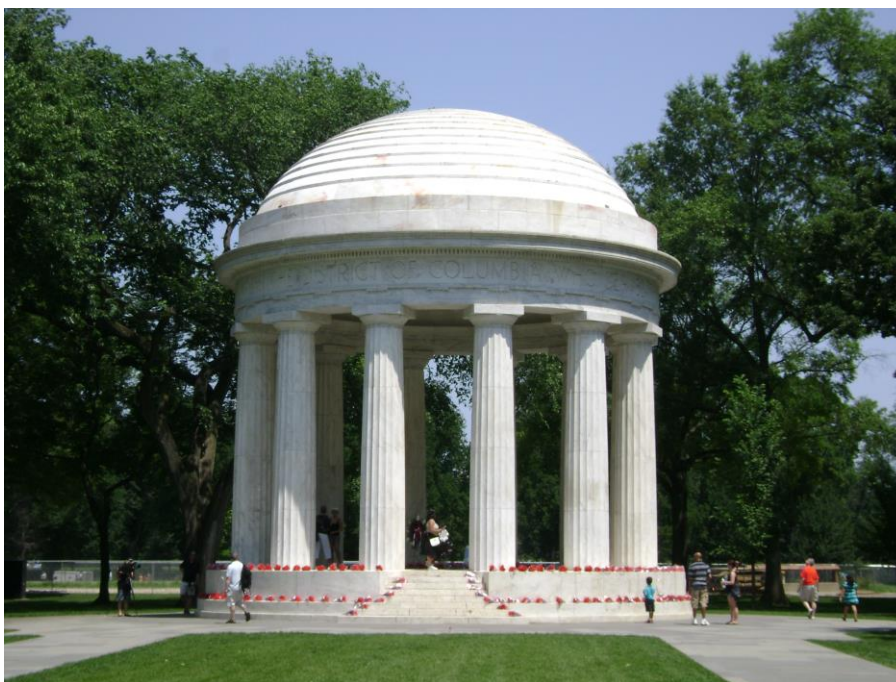


**The Ten Women Veterans on the
District of Columbia War Memorial
or Tree Memorial**

Researched by Barbara D. Bates, January 2018





Memorial trees on Sixteenth Street planted in honor of the men of the District of Columbia who gave their lives during the World War.

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"Women Marines & Yeoman flank Secy. of the Navy Josephus Daniels and Ass't. Secy. of the Navy Franklin Roosevelt and their aides on the occasion of the women's final review on July 30, 1919" (National Archives)

The Ten Women Veterans on the District of Columbia War Memorial or Tree Memorial (*)

Of the ten women, six served as Yeoman (Female) in the United States Navy. As a result of the Naval Appropriations Act of 1916, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels found that the language indicated he could recruit "persons" and therefore women to replace the men at home so they could go overseas to fight in the war. These women received the same pay as a man in that position and were entitled to veteran benefits. Four answered the call of the American Red Cross to serve as nurses in the United States Army and Navy Nurses Corps. An “*” indicates they are also listed on the District’s 16th Street Tree Memorial.

Mattie Virginia Bushee (1896-1918), Nurse, ANC*, is buried in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC (Plot R 154 Site 185). Her mother Sallie P. Bushee (1875-1915) (Plot R 153 Site 185) is buried nearby with a headstone; her death certificate indicates she had resided in the District for three years and her husband is listed in the 1914 (p.265) and 1915 (p.262) City Directory. In the 1900 United States Federal Census, Mattie is living with her parents, siblings and grandmother in Waltham, MA; her Family Tree indicates that she was born in Waltham, MA. In the 1910 United States Federal Census, she is residing with her parents, John H. and Sally P. Bushee, and siblings in Cedar Run, Fauquier County, VA. According to the September issue of The American Journal of Nursing, she was assigned to Camp Sherman in August of 1918. She died at Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, OH of Influenza on October 3, 1918.

Victoria Ruth Good (1890-1918) Nurse, NNCR, is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Clifton Forge, VA with a marker inscribed "When Duty Calls." She died at the Naval Hospital in Brooklyn, NY on October 9, 1918 of Influenza. Her parents were James L. and Sarah Catherine Bailey (Katie) Good. In the 1910 United States Federal Census, she is residing with her widowed mother and two of her siblings in Clifton Forge, VA. She graduated from Columbia Hospital Nursing School in Washington, DC. In the 1916 City Directory, she is listed as Nurse, Columbia Hospital (p.526). She served as Head Nurse and in private nursing before

being accepted into the United States Navy in Washington, DC. She was transferred to the Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, VA where she served for nine months before being assigned to the one in Brooklyn, NY. According to the New York City Municipal Deaths, she was born in Crozet, VA and was single. Her obituary indicates that she was buried in her nurse's uniform and in a casket draped with the American flag. Her mother and two of her brothers are also buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Clifton Forge, VA.

Bertha Ryan Hayes (1899-1918), Yeoman, 2nd CI, USNRF (*), is buried in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC (Plot R 155 Site 223). She shares a headstone with her brother William Thomas Hayes (1895-1919). She was born on April 19, 1899. In the 1910 United States Federal Census, she is residing with her parents, William I and Lillie W. Hayes, and brother William T. in Washington, DC. In the 1918 City Directory (p.632), she is listed as Tel. opr residing at 717 10th Street, SE. According to the U.S. Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976 (p.352), she enlisted in Washington, DC on April 29, 1918 and died in Georgetown University Hospital on October 8, 1918 of Influenza and Lobar Pneumonia. Her next of kin was her mother Lillie Web Hayes, 717 10th Street, SE, Washington, DC. According to the District of Columbia Certificate of Death, she was born in Washington, DC and was single.

Pauline Marie Everett Lawrence (1899-1918), Landsman for Yeoman (F), USNRF*, is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC. According to the District of Columbia Compiled Marriage Index, her father Harry Everett married her mother Delia Tirney on May 24, 1898 in Washington, DC. Pauline was born on April 12, 1899. Her father died before 1904 and in the 1910 United States Federal Census, Pauline is residing with her mother, stepfather Merritt L. Dawkins, and stepbrothers at 234 11th Street, NE in Washington, DC. According to the U.S. Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976 (p.451), Pauline enlisted in Washington, DC on February 23, 1918. She died at Sibley Hospital on July 29, 1918 of Uremic Convulsions following childbirth. Her next of kin was her mother Delia Dawkins, 234 11th Street, NE, Washington, DC. According to

the District of Columbia Certificate of Death, she was born in Washington, DC and was married. Her Find A Grave Memorial record indicates she was married to John C. Lawrence. Her mother Delia Tierney (1880-1956) and stepfather Merritt Lewis Dawkins (1869-1931) are also buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC.

Beatrice Colton Murphy (1895-1919), Yeoman, 1st CI, USNRF, is buried in All Saints Cemetery, Sunderland, MD with a marker. According to the District of Columbia Compiled Marriage Index, Beatrice Trever Colton married Herbert Talbot Murphy on March 6, 1911; both were born in Washington, DC According to the Navy Department Muster Roll of September 1918, she enlisted in Washington, DC on April 11, 1917. In the 1918 City Directory (p.977) she is listed as Mrs and Clk Navy living at the California. Her obituary in The Evening Star dated January 13, 1919 indicates that she died of Influenza the day before at her brother's home in Huntington, MD, that her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Colton, and she had been employed in the office of Admiral Wells. Her son Trevor Colton Murphy (1916-1919) predeceased her; her survivors included a daughter Marjorie, her husband, her parents and three siblings.

Helen May Orchard (1880-1918), Nurse, NNC*, is buried in Elmwood Memorial Gardens, Columbia, SC with a Military Veteran's Headstone applied for and obtained by her sister Pauline Munford. According to her State of South Carolina Death Certificate, she died at the Naval Hospital, Charleston, SC on March 20, 1918 of Metastatic Carcinoma of Peritoneum Omentum and Liver; she was born on May 4, 1880 and was single. (Note on Tree Memorial, she is listed as Helen V.) Her Find A Grave Memorial record indicates that she was born in Columbia, SC. She moved to Washington, DC where she was trained as a nurse. When war was declared, she applied to serve in the United States Navy and was accepted; she was sent to Charleston, SC. In the 1880 United States Federal Census, she is residing with her parents, Francis Band and Augusta Bedell Orchard, and her siblings in Augusta, GA. Her parents were later divorced.

Ruth Catherine Payne (1894-1918), Landsman Yeoman, USNRF*, is buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Hamilton, VA (Plot C-7) in a family plot and has an individual marker "Ruth" with her birth date as August 29, 1894. In the 1918 City Directory (p.1046), she is listed as Clk g m g a residing at 1945 Vermont Avenue, NW. According to the U.S. Adjutant General Military Records. 1631-1976 (p.581), she enrolled in Washington, DC on October 2, 1918. She died in Georgetown University Hospital on October 27, 1918 of Broncho Pneumonia/Exhaustion. Her next of kin was her mother Elizabeth Payne, Hamilton, VA. According to the District of Columbia Certificate of Death, she was born in VA and was single. Her Find A Grave Memorial record indicates that she was survived by her parents Ewell A. and Susie E. Payne and by one of her siblings Genevieve Payne Preston.

Blanche Eleanor Ridgely Pierce (1889-1918), Landsman for Yeoman (Female), USNRF*, is buried in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC (Plot R 68 Site 340) in the same grave as Virgie P. Pierce (1871-1891), the first wife of her husband's uncle. According to the U.S. Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976 (p.594), Blanche enrolled in Washington, DC on August 27, 1918 and died in Georgetown University Hospital on October 6, 1918 of Influenza. Her next of kin was her husband James Virgil Pierce, 621 12th Street, NE, Washington, DC. According to The Washington Post of June 9, 1915, James V. Pierce, 23, and Blanche E. Ridgely, 24, of Bradbury Heights, MD had taken out a License to Marry. James V. Pierce is listed in the 1919 City Directory (p.1163) as living at 621 12th Street and his occupation is Machinist. He (1892-1958) is buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suitland, MD. According to the District of Columbia Certificate of Death, Blanche was born in Washington, DC and was married. In the 1910 United States Federal Census, she is living with her parents, Bernard E and Ruth E. Hayes Ridgely, and her many younger siblings at 925 Ninth Street, Washington, DC. One sister, Ruth Ridgely (1898-1901), predeceased her and is buried in Congressional Cemetery (Plot 16-243). Her father and a number of other siblings are buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Suitland, MD.

Olive Schureman (1886-1918), Nurse, ANCR*, is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Toms River, NJ (Old Section Plot 490). She shares a headstone with her sister Grace Schureman (1871-1907) and has an individual marker "Olive." The headstone indicates that she was born on April 21, 1886. According to All Maryland Military Men, 1917-1918, she was a Nurse at Base Hospital Camp Mead, MD on October 2, 1918 and died there on October 11, 1918 after contracting Influenza and then Broncho Pneumonia. Her address was 600 Broadway, Baltimore, MD. She was born in NJ and graduated from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. She taught in Baltimore for several years and enrolled in a nursing course at Johns Hopkins University. She worked first for the hospital and then in private nursing before responding to the call for Army nurses by the American Red Cross. Her Find A Grave Memorial record indicates she was born in Toms River, NJ and that her parents, Irving Clark and May Emma Schureman, predeceased her and are also buried in Riverside Cemetery, Toms River, NJ.

Lula May McDonough Thrift (1892-1918), Landsman for Yeoman (F), Private, USNRF*, is buried in Union Cemetery, Leesburg, VA (Plot A Lot 110 Site 1) with a Military Veteran's Headstone applied for and obtained by her husband Leonard Elgin Thrift. According to the U.S. Adjutant General Military Records, 1631-1976 (p.729), she enrolled in Washington, DC on May 10, 1918 and worked in the U.S. Bureau of Navigation. She died in Georgetown University Hospital of Influenza and Pneumonia on October 10, 1918. Her next of kin was her husband Leonard Elgin Thrift (1892-1961), 303 Cavendish Apartments, Sixteenth Street and Columbia Road, NW, Washington, DC. He is also buried in Union Cemetery, Leesburg, VA as are her parents, William Hunt and Cora A. Longacre McDonough, who predeceased her. Her Find A Grave Memorial record indicates that she was born in Leesburg, VA.

Compiled by Barbara D. Bates, Revised January 2018

Abbreviations: ANCR=Army Nurse Corps Reserve
NNCR=Navy Nurse Corps Reserve
USNRF=United States Naval Reserve Force

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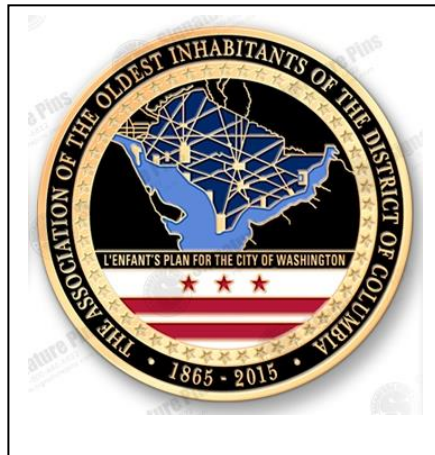
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Notes:



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