

The Names of the Veterans on the District of Columbia War Memorial

Researched by Barbara Bates – 2018

The names of 499 men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in World War I are inscribed on the District of Columbia War Memorial. William N. Brown, President of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants (AOI), has created a data base of these names. Below is information as known on 34 also honored by their respective institutions (one is listed on two plaques) as well as ten others. Sources for the brief biographies include Find A Grave Memorial and Ancestry data bases. Information on the ten women veterans can be found in the report Ten Women Veterans on the District of Columbia War Memorial or Tree Memorial printed by AOI. The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) has a digitized data base for those buried or listed on the Tablets of the Missing in their overseas American cemeteries that they administer. There are 64 names of those from DC who died overseas and are buried or listed on the Tablets of the Missing (including one listed on the U.S. Department of Agriculture War Memorial) that are on the DC War Memorial included on their data base. These names are provided below.

Wilson (District) Building Memorial

The following 9 names on the District Building Memorial also on the DC World War I Memorial are as follows:

Private Vincent B(ambury). Costello (1889-1918) served in Company G, 53rd Infantry 6th Division. He was killed in the Department du Haut-Rhin, Alsace, France on September 8, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Private William J(ulius) Compher (1886-1918) served in Company C, 312th Machine Gun Battalion. He was killed in Nantillois, France on September 26, 1918. He was a former DC policeman. He is buried in Monocacy Cemetery, Bealsville, Maryland.

Private Carrington E(pp) Bailey (1896-1918) served in the Headquarters of 315 Infantry. He died in action in France on September 28, 1918. He is buried in Greenwich Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Virginia.

Major James E. Walker (1874-1918) was a National Guard Officer and educator. He joined the First Separate Battalion of the DC National Guard comprised of African Americans when it was organized in 1896. He was called to active duty in World War I to guard the White House, U.S. Capitol, other government buildings, and DC landmarks. Due to impaired health, the Army sent him to Fort Bayard in New Mexico for recuperation; he died there from Tuberculosis on April 4, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Private William T(hompson) S. Lusby (1890-1918) served in the 327 Battalion Tank Corps. He died from an accidental gunshot wound at Camp Colt, Pennsylvania on July 16, 1917. He is buried in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, DC.

Private Howard (Richard) Colbert (1890-1918) was an African American who served in the infantry in the DC National Guard. He was selected from Camp Jackson for the September Automatic Replacement Draft Battery #11 Field Artillery (Colored) and departed from Hoboken, New Jersey on the U.S. Army Transport ship the Leviathan on September 29, 1918. He subsequently died of disease. No burial site was indicated.

Private Morgan B(rooks) Harvey (1891-1918) served with the DC Fire Department. He died at Camp Meade, Maryland on October 11, 1918. He is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC.

Private William H(enry) Rollins (c.1889-1918) served in the U.S. Army with Company A, 7th Engineers Corps. He died at Camp Humphries of Bronchopneumonia following Influenza on October 15, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Seaman 2nd Class Francis A(loysius) Tennant (1890-1918) served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force. He died at his home in Washington, DC of Influenza on October 5, 1918. He was a former Inspector in the Water Register Office in the District Building. He is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC.

Library of Congress Memorial

Four men honored on the Library of Congress memorial plaque and tree who served and died in WWI who are listed on the DC War Memorial. The four are as follows with their information:

Private Charles Edwin Chambers (1887-1918) served in Company C, 312th Machine Gun Battalion 79th Division and died from pneumonia in a hospital in France on October 10, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

First Lieutenant Edward Theodore Comegys (1896-1918) served in the U.S. Air Service as a pilot in the 11th Aero Squadron. He was killed in action in the Battle of St. Mihiel in France on November 4, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Corporal Frank E. Dunkin (1891-1918) served in Company I 54th Infantry 6th Division and died from pneumonia in a hospital in France on October 28, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Corporal John W. Wheeler (1884-1918) served in the U.S. Signal Corps. He died of pneumonia at Camp Merritt in 1918. He is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC.

This memorial is described in Allen, Erin, [World War I: The Library of Congress Memorial Tree](#), Washington, DC: Library of Congress Blog, April 19, 2017.

War Memorial for the Department of Agriculture

Six names of the 69 honored on the War Memorial for the Department of Agriculture are on the DC War Memorial as follows:

1st Lieutenant James D(allas) Bebout (1891-1918) served in Company D, 318th Infantry, 80th Division, U.S. Army. He died in battle at the Bois de Brioules, France on September 29, 1918. He is buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France (he is listed in the AMBC records as entering from PA). (1)

Private 1st Class Cornelius A. Driscoll (1889-1918) served in Company A, 6th Ammunition Train, 6th Division, U.S. Army. He died of Pneumonia in Base Hospital

114, Fleury-sur-aire, France on November 4, 1918. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC. (1,2)

Sergeant 1st Class Frank T(homas) J(ohn) Fagan (1891-1918) served in the Chemical Warfare Service, U.S. Army. He died of Pneumonia at St. Mary's Hospital, Niagara Falls, New York on November 22, 1918. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC. (1,2)

Private Douglas C(lifford) Mabbott (1893-1918) served in the 79th Company, 6th Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps. He was killed in action at Bois de Montague, St. Mihiel sector. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. (1,2)

Private Carl F(rederick) Miller (1891-1918) served as (Candidate) Field Artillery, Central Officers' Training Camp, U.S. Army. He died of Pneumonia at Camp Zachary Taylor, Louisville, Kentucky on October 10, 1918. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Syracuse, New York. (1)

Private Carl Olin Minor (1887-1918) served in the Students' Army Training Corps, Training Detachment, U.S. Army. He died of Pneumonia at Blacksburg, Virginia on October 23, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. (1, 2)

Where indicated above, the write-up states as follows in the biographical sketch.

(1) "His name is inscribed on the temple erected in Potomac Park, Washington, D.C., to the District of Columbia men who lost their lives in the World War."

(2) "A memorial tree has been planted on Sixteenth Street, NW, in Washington, D.C., in his honor. Beside it stands a bronze shield on which his name and military service are recorded."

A War Memorial book was published in 1932 on this memorial. It has been digitized and shows the Memorial and the Honor Roll along with bios on the 69 men. (see <http://archive.org/stream/warmemorialdedic00unit>)

Georgetown University Honored Dead

The following 10 members of Georgetown University who died in WWI are on the DC World War I Memorial:

Captain Melvin M(oritz) Augenstein (1890-1918) served in the U.S. Army with the 313rd Infantry. He was in the Avocort Sector; Meuse Argonne; Troyer Sector and died of an explosive powder accident on October 9, 1918. He was first buried in France with intent to later have him buried with his family in Washington Hebrew Congregation Cemetery, Washington, DC.

First Lieutenant Julian N(oyes) Dowell (1893-1918) served in the Aviation Section U.S. Signal Corps, Company J, R Company C. He was killed in an accident in France on May 2, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

First Lieutenant Maurice L. Harding (1894-1918) served in the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps. He died of disease in the Department de la Loire-Atlantique Pays de la Loire in France on October 11, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

First Lieutenant Warren G(odwin) Harries (1892-1918) served in Infantry Company N, G. He died in France on July 25, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

John J. Keady (c.1894-1918) served in the U.S. Army. He died on October 15, 1918.

Lieutenant James L. King most likely is Lieutenant James Lewin Gibb King (1889-1918) who served in the Medical Corps (dental), U.S. Naval Reserve Force as an Assistant Surgeon. He died of Pneumonia, Lobar and Influenza in the U.S. Naval Hospital at Norfolk, Virginia on October 1, 1918. He is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, DC.

Lieutenant Joseph G(abriel) McDonald (1891-1918) served as Commissary Steward in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force. He died of Pneumonia, Lobar on September 28, 1918 in the Naval Hospital in Hampton, Virginia. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC.

First Lieutenant William A. Sheehan (1886-1918) served in the U.S. Army with the 315th Infantry Regiment, 79th Division. He was killed in action during the Meuse-

Argonne offensive in the Bois des Ogons while attacking a position called Madeline Farm north of Montfaucon, Aisne, Picardie, France on September 29, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Second Lieutenant Francis Michael Tracy (1883-1918) served in the 363rd Infantry 91st Division. He died on September 27, 1918 and is buried in the Meuse Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in Lorraine, France. Note: he is also on the listing of those buried overseas.

Private A(rthur) G(riswold) Vanderlip (1891-1918) served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He died on May 28, 1918 at Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, DC. He is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, DC.

War Memorial in Clarendon, Virginia

The following four names listed on the World War I Plaque at War Memorial in Clarendon, Virginia are on the DC War Memorial:

2nd Lieutenant Irving T(homas) C(hapman) Newman (1896-1918) served in the Aviation Corps. He died in Austin, Texas on November 2, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Yeoman 3d Class Archie Walters Williams (unk-1918) served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force. He died of Influenza in the Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 30, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Seaman Apprentice Frederick Wallis Schutt (1900-1918) served in the U.S. Navy. He died of Pneumonia Lobar in the Naval Hospital at Hampton Roads, Norfolk, Virginia on October 7, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Corporal Frank Dunkin (1891-1918) served in Company I 54th Infantry 6th Division. He died from Pneumonia in a hospital in France on October 28, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. He is listed as Frank E Dunkin on the Library of Congress Memorial and DC War Memorial.

Note: Oscar L. Housel is listed on this memorial and that of the DC Government but not on the DC War Memorial. .

World War Memorial Plaque at Pohick Church

The following name listed on the World War Memorial Plaque at Pohick Church, Virginia is on the DC War Memorial:

1st Lieutenant Arthur Thomas Elmore (1896-1918) served in the 5th U.S. Marine Corps 2nd Division. He died of his wounds in France on July 13, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

The Lives of More DC War Dead on the Memorial

The following ten names are also listed on the DC War Memorial:

Chief Yeoman Edward Joseph Brown (1888-1918) served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force. He was on board the *USS Triton* for less than three months before getting Influenza. He died at home on October 1, 1918. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Washington, DC. His grandnephew is William N. Brown, President of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of DC.

Private Raymond P(atrick) Cady (1891-1918) served in Company E 19th Regiment Engineers in the U.S. Army. He died of Influenza on September 29, 1918. He was first buried in Nievre, France and later interred on January 20, 1921 in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. His grandnephew is William N. Brown, President of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants.

Apprentice Seaman William Luck Chinn (1899-1918) served in the 8th Regiment 1st Company in the U.S. Navy. He died of Cerebrospinal Fever at the Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island on May 3, 1918. He is buried in Sharon Cemetery, Middleburg, Virginia.

Lieutenant Alan Ogilvie Clephane (1874-1918) served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force. He died of Influenza at home on January 13, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Private Charles Monroe Edwards (1890-1918) served in the 2nd Company, 1st Extensioned Battalion, U.S. Infantry. He died on September 25, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Private William H. Giles (1892-1918) was an African American who served in the 37th 154th Company D, Brigade of the U.S. Army. He died on October 13, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

2nd Lieutenant Peyton C(onway) March, Jr. (1897-1918) served in the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps Reserves. He died from injuries in an airplane accident at Hicks Field near Fort Worth, Texas on February 13, 1918. March Field was named for him in 1918 in his honor; it is now March Joint Reserve Base. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.. His father was General Peyton Conway March, Sr. (1864-1955) who was appointed Army Chief of Staff in May 1918 and was a member of The Society of the Cincinnati; he is also buried in Arlington National Cemetery. .

Captain George W(eeks) Polhemus (1889-1919) served in the U.S. Army. He died on September 4, 1919. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

1st Lieutenant John W(ellington) Stepp (1890-1918) served in the U.S. Army Air Service Aero. He died on October 21, 1918. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.

Private George E(dward) Stewart (1890-1918) served in Company D, 312th Machine Gun Battalion in the U.S. Army in the Avocourt Sector, Meuse-Argonne, France. He died of Lobar Pneumonia and Influenza at a hospital in France on October 14, 1918.

To date (July 31, 2018) this provides documentation on 116 of the 499 veterans on the DC War Memorial. Work continues for doing the same on the remaining names. Assistance in this effort is welcomed and may be emailed to: aoiofdc@gmail.com or mailed to The AOI of DC, 4425 Greenwich Pkwy., NW, District of Columbia, 20007-2010.