

TUSCANIA

Babcock, Vernon Everett 1893 IA – 1987 KS



Vernon Everett Babcock, seated in the front row, at right, arms crossed – courtesy of Steven Schwartz

Kansas, U.S., Enrollment of World War I Veterans, 1930 for Vernon Everett Babcock

Volume 09: Crawford, Decatur

15

1930
ENROLLMENT
EX-SERVICE MAN OF THE WORLD WAR OR
HIS WIDOW AND ORPHANS

ARMY ☒ (Name of township, city or ward and city)
 NAVY ☐ (County)
 MARINE ☐
 CORPS ☐
 (Check branch of service)

Name Babcock Vernon Everett
 (Last) (First) (Middle)
 Address 412 W. 7th St. Pittsburg Crawford
 (Street) (City) (County)
 Widow's name E. J. Manning
 (If veteran is deceased) (Last) (First) (Middle)
 Address _____
 (Street) (City) (County)
 Names and addresses of orphan children under 16 years of age _____

Rank at discharge Private 1st Class
 Organization 17th Company 20th Eng.
 Wounded or injured (in service) or deceased? _____
 (State fully)

 Member of the American Legion? Yes (Yes or no)
 If so, name and number of post Ben. Fuller Post # 64
 If soldier died in Kansas, give date and place _____

REMARKS: Enlisted Dec. 14th, 1917 Jefferson Barricks Mo.
Discharged June 12th, 1919. Camp Taylor, Ky.
Over Seas from Jan. 23, 1918, to May 28, 1919.

NOTE—THREE COPIES OF THIS FORM WILL BE FURNISHED THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF KANSAS BY COUNTY CLERKS.

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21914:2955?tid=86623430&pid=422253055074&queryId=7d6fd0c56edce0e9c305f1daa79667aa&phsrc=hFB44487&phstart=successSource>

BABCOCK VERNON EVERETT		C	1872840
Pvt 1/c Cas Det Dem Gp		K	
412 W 7 St Pittsburg Kans		A	1 059 468
Sa	250 467	Died	T 450 811
Born	12/14/93	R	
Enl	12/14/17	Dis	6/12/19
		CL	306 665

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
FORM 7302

INDEX CARD

GPO 2-13909 909

US Veterans Administration Military Index -
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/ark:/61903/1:1:QP8Z-1VQG>

Sinking OF THE TUSCANIA

Presented
to the
Tuscania
Survivors
at the
15th. Annual
National
Convention

CHICAGO

1933



by
VERNON E. BABCOCK
CO. E. 6 BAT'N 20th Engr's.

"SINKING OF THE TUSCANIA"

We had sighted land, and were feeling grand,
As the ship plowed on that day.
And the Irish shore didn't seem much more
Than a mile or two away.
On a sea like glass, or molten brass,
The Tuscania sailed on.
And our hopes were high, for the end was nigh,
We'd hit Liverpool by dawn.

It's a long old trip, cooped up in a ship;
Two weeks since we'd put to sea.
So that Irish coast was a long sought host;
It had been an eternity.
But we all felt gay, in a care free way,
With the journey almost o'er.
And the morning light, would bring to sight,
Old England's welcome shore.

But just at the hour, that the light-house tower,
Sent its warning gleam from the shore,
And when none surmised, we were baptised,
In that terrible phase of war:
For a submarine, that death machine,
With the noise like the crack of doom,
Its exploding shell sang our death knell,
As it hit in the boiler room.

Now the jar and quake, made the old boat shake,
Like leaves on a wind blown tree.
And from stem to stern, she seemed to turn,
A somersault in the sea.
With her strength all gone, she staggered on,
And she put up a valiant fight.
Then a final lunge, and a head-long plunge;
She bravely sank from sight.

- 2 -

'Twas a heavy toll, when we called the roll;
Two hundred brave lads or more.
Made up the list of the boys we missed;
And they're buried on Scotland's shore.
And the sweet perfume of the heather bloom
Wafts over that hallowed ground;
And the cliffs stand there, in silent prayer,
Watching over each little mound.

So we pause today, our respects to pay,
To you boys buried over there;
Where the ocean roar, pounding on the shore,
Is the strain of your martial air.
But we know that when the call comes again
For men that are tried and true,
We shall hear the tread of Tuscania's dead
As they pass in their grand review.

Vernon E. Babcock

Co. E, 6th Bat'n, 20th Engrs.

Dedicated to the lads lost on the Tuscania Feb. 5th, 1918
Buried in Scotland

American University, Washing-
ton, D. C.,

January 11th, 1918

Editor Martin and Walnut Eagle

Readers:

I thot I would write you a few lines about the army camp here as it is somewhat different from the other camps, as the camp is made up of lumber jacks from the north, and young men that were holding positions with some retail lumber company.

The 20th Engineer's Regiment is ten times larger than any other American regiment, as it totals 17,000 men, with 754 officers, that is when they are all together.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Battalions have already been sent across the pond, and the 6th Bat. is slated for the next sailing, and we have been given our full equipment, and they are putting us thru our drills.

They also have a fine Y. M. C. A. here, and a lively secretary, and he gets the best entertainments for the boys that Washington, D. C. can furnish. We had a 58 piece band out last night and the night before he had out The American Quartette. They sing for the Victor Co. Monday night Billy Sunday will be here at the Y. M. C. A.

Well I must close as I think this is enough for one time. With good luck to Walnut and her people.

Vernon E. Babcock,
20th Engineer's,
Co. E., 6th Bat.
Am. University,
Washington, D. C.

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 18 Jan 1918 p 2 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482485567/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

K. U. STUDENT ON SHIP

k u student on ship AOIN

**THOMAS ASHBY, FORMER SIGMA
NU WITH TROOPS**

**One of Five Employees of Long-Bell
Lumber Company a Member of
6th Battalion**

Kansas City, Feb. 7.—Five former employees of the Long-Bell Lumber Company of Kansas City were members of the 6th Battalion of the 20th Engineers which was aboard the transport Tuscania, officials of the Company announced today. No word has been received here as to whether the men had been rescued. About 40 employees of the company are members of forestry regiments, a number of them being in other battalions of the 20th, Company officials said.

The employees who were members of the 6th, it was announced, included Thomas Ashby, Liberty, Mo., Company E; Porter B. Smith, Liberty, Mo. Company E; Vernon Babcock, Walnut, Kans., Company E; W. M. Barwick, Chicago, Company F; Purl H. Marshall, Columbus, Kans., Company E.

Thomas Ashby, one of the members of the 6th Battalion, 20th Engineers, which was on board the transport, Tuscania, is a former K. U. student, having attended the University here in 1913-14. He was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and a junior in college.

“Lawrence (KS) Daily Journal” Thursday 7 Feb 1918 p 1 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/60160238/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

110 AMERICANS DROWN WHEN BRITISH TRANSPORT SINKS IN NORTH ATLANTIC

KANSANS DEAD.
PAUL H. MARSHALL, Columbus,
Kansas.
THOMAS ASHBY, Liberty, Kansas.
VERNON BABCOCK, Walnut, Kans.

This article has numerous errors – there were 215 casualties, the submarine was not sunk – and Vernon Babcock was not dead – “Great Bend (KS) Tribune” Thursday 7 Feb 1918 p 1 – <https://www.newspapers.com/image/95180763/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

Walnut Boy on Torpedoed Ship.

The stern realities of war were brought home to the people of this community in the sinking of the transport *Tuscania* by a German submarine off the north coast of Ireland on Tuesday evening, February 5th, Vernon E. Babcock, of Walnut, being a member of the 6th Battalion of 20th engineers which was on the ill-fated ship. The 20th engineers has the distinction of being the largest regiment in the world. The aggregate strength of the regiment being 17,000 officers and men. The 6th Battalion was the only battalion of this regiment on the torpedoed ship. Mr. Babcock spent Christmas at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs.

V. E. Babcock, on furlough being at that time at Jefferson Barracks. From there he was sent to Washington, D. C. for four weeks intensive training at the American University before taking passage on the Tuscania.

This mornings Kansas City Journal contains the information that Vernon E. Babcock and others were landed at Ft. Ellen, Islay, Scotland.

The town on the isle of Islay, Scotland, is Port Ellen (not Fort) but fact check: Vernon was not in one of the lifeboats that landed on Islay, but was instead picked up by a mine sweeper/trawler after several hours in a lifeboat and taken to Ireland (in his case, to Larne)

– “Walnut (KS) Eagle” Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 3 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482485946/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

Crawford County Boy on Tuscania.

Vernon E. Babcock of Walnut, one of the men listed as being aboard the Tuscania, which was torpedoed off the Irish coast Wednesday, is well known in Pittsburg. He was a student at the Normal during 1913, 1914 and 1916. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Babcock, have lived in Walnut for many years. Babcock enlisted last December. Prior to that time he was manager of the Long-Bell Lumber Company's timber yard at El Dorado.

Purl H. Marshall, another Long-Bell employe, a son of James Marshall, 403 South Delaware, Columbus, Kans., is also listed as being aboard the Tuscania. He and Babcock were members of the sixth battalion of the Twentieth engineers, a forestry regiment. Three other employees of the Long-Bell Lumber Company were members of the sixth battalion of the Twentieth engineers and were on the Tuscania, it was announced yesterday by the officials of the company at Kansas City. They were: Thomas Ashby, Liberty, Kans., Porter B.

Smith, Liberty, Mo., and W. M. Barwick of Chicago. In all, about forty Long-Bell employes are in various forestry regiments, many of them being in the battalions of the Twentieth engineers. Only one battalion of this regiment, the sixth, was on the Tuscania.

"Pittsburg (KS) Sun" Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 11 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/71359817/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=>

Vernon E. Babcock, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Babcock has been officially reported as among the survivors of the Tuscania.

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 15 Feb 1918 p 3 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482485989/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

The letter below was received by Mr. V. E. Babcock several days ago and was written on board the Tuscania on the trip which ended so disastrously when she was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off the north coast of Ireland.

At Sea, Jan. 25, 1918

Dear Folks:—

Well at last we are on our way across the Pond and I can say that I am enjoying myself. We left camp at night and every one was cautioned to be quiet. It was a five mile hike to the place where we were loaded on our train and we got there at midnight. I was put on guard duty that night, had the back end of the car. My orders were not to let any one off or on the car. A guard is on duty two hours and off four. We pulled out of the harbor yesterday but were loaded on the transport the noon before. While leaving port no one was allowed on deck but after we were out a ways we went on deck and it was sure a pretty sight as

there were lots of vessels we could see and also the disappearing buildings proved that the earth is round. The farther out we got the less number of ships we encountered and last night we traveled without lights. It was grand to stand on deck as we had such a glorious old moon. It reminded me of some moonlight nights in dear old Kansas. The five of us boys are together (meaning the Long Bell boys) Purl and I are sitting on the same bunk writing home. I don't think I will get sea sick as the rocking of the vessel appeals to me and I never felt better in my life. I got rid of my cold before I left camp and most of the boys are in fine shape. The transport is a British vessel manned by a Scotch crew of boys from about 14 to 16 years old. It is the best transport that England has. It is about 600 ft. long and 70 wide, is fire proof, iron clad and has made several trips over. I think our company is represented by

every state in the Union and from every walk in life. Before we left the U. S. every one was requested to write a card addressed to their home folks saying, "Arrived safely in France," and that card is taken up and when the boat gets over a cablegram is sent back and then their cards are mailed out. It makes it quicker for the boys to notify their parents. It sure seems to be leaving the grandest old country in the world but that is what we are doing and it is for the best. I thot of that little verse after we were on board:

"When the good byes are said,
And the gang plank pulled in,
And the sight of the home land grows
dim;

Remember the friend on this side of
the wave,
Hopes you are thinking of him."

Good-by, with love,
Vernon E. Babcock,
Co. E. 6th Bat.,
20th Engineers,
A. E. F. via N. Y.

Written on board Tuscania – "Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 22 Feb 1918 p 2 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482486068/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

This note was posted at Larne the morning following the torpedoing of the Tuscania.

Ireland, February 1918

Dear Folks:—Arrived safely this A. M. feeling fine. Give my regards to every one. Is sure a pretty country and everything is green and climate warm. I will write more later.

With love

Vernon E. Babcock

This letter was posted in Belfast,
Ireland Feb. 9 1918

Dear Folks:—Will write again today. I am feeling fine. Marshall, Smith and I are together, I have not seen Ashby for several days. This is a pretty country here tho I believe it rains every day at least it has the last three. I got all of the ocean I want for awhile. I have gotten rid of my cold and I hope I don't take any more as it is like spring weather here, every thing is green and nice. Get me a good razor and send it to me I lost mine, you can not get razors here as it takes so many for the boys at the front. What are the people doing and how is the weather in America. The people here are hospitable and they can't do too much for us. Give my regards to every one and tell them to write. Well I had better close and go to dinner.

With love to every one

Vernon E. Babcock
Co. E, 6th Bat. 20th Engineers
A. E. F. Via New York

“Walnut (KS) Eagle” Friday 8 Mar 1918 p 2 -

[https://www.newspapers.com/image/482486179/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&
match=1](https://www.newspapers.com/image/482486179/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1)

England, Feb., 1918.

Dear Folks:—

I am going to write you a little in regard to the submarines and sinking of the S. S. Tuscania, the boat on which I was sailing.

The explosion happened at 6 o'clock p. m. and I was on the top deck when it happened. All I remember saying at the time was, "There it goes," and I started to the life boats, as I was one to help lower them. I never saw men act with such coolness in my life as they did in those moments.

We lowered boat 14 and then drew up the tackle and lowered boat 14A, that was the boat that I was to go down in and when my time came I lowered myself down the rope and the life boat

We rowed from 6:15 until 12:30 when we were picked up by a mine sweeper boat and we were sure thankful as we were all exhausted. They gave us a good warm meal and we lay down in the dining room and went to sleep to awaken the next morning with land in sight and it sure looked good.

Ashby is with us now and we are feeling some better.

Our company has only nine men missing and some of them may show up yet. I must close. Love to all,

Vernon E. Babcock,
Co. E. 6th Bat. 20 Engineers,
A. E. F. via N. Y.

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 15 Mar 1918 p 2 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482486241/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

N England, Feb. 18, 1918.

Dear Folks:

Will write a few lines this morning as I have time. My hands are rather chilly, so you may have a hard time making this out. It is sure dandy weather and I think it will stay this way. It is just like an April day at home. Yesterday we went down town and visited one of the oldest and largest cathedrals in England, and tomorrow the whole company has to go there to church.

This is the oldest town in England and was at one time the capital. There are roads here that were built by the Romans and England considers it a very historic place.

Yesterday they took a moving picture of the survivors of the Tuscania. You can look for my face among them.

Three companies have organized a foot-ball series and I am playing quarter-back for Co. E. We play Co. D Saturday afternoon.

I was sick for about a week, and since then have been getting well as fast as can be. I believe that I have gained twenty pounds in the last two weeks. I have been working in the mess kitchen for the last week as second cook; one day on and the other off and I feel fine.

I don't know how long we will be here, but I think we will soon be on our way; I hope so at least.

How is the oil industry at home, are they still doing anything? Has Ernest left the United States yet? If so, send me his address. Tell Mr. Martin to keep on sending the paper to me, as I will get them some time and they will look good to any of us boys. You might also bundle up some Kansas City Journals and send to me, for believe me, a paper from

Tell Mr. Casey he was sure foolish to leave such pretty country as Ireland, as it is one of the prettiest countries in the world.

Well I had better close for this time; and I'll just keep on writing and maybe in time we will get some mail. N With love, N

Vernon E. Babcock.

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 5 Apr 1918 p 2 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482486349/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

France, May 10, 11, 12, 1918

Dear Mother:—

As Sunday is "Mother's Day" all the American Ex. Forces are requested to write a letter home to their mother, or the person that is acting as a mother for them, so I will write a little each day and have my letter ready by Saturday night.

Today is sure a lovely day here, and everything looks so green and nice. I wish you could see some of these French women's gardens, they sure look fine and dandy. Also some of the trees are in blossom and they are species of trees I have never seen before. I have seen sights since I have been over here that a person will never get to see again and I would not take anything for my trip.

The French are queer people but you find them hospitable and they will do anything to accomodate you if you can only make them understand what you want and most of that is done by motioning with your hands. We are all pretty good Jews when it comes to that. You can talk for a half an hour to one of these French kids and then all you get for an answer is "no compre" meaning I don't get you.

The old lady that owns the bakery where we make the bread is sure a fine old lady and we sure have lots of fun with her. We call her "grandma" and it sure tickles her. You ought to see a pair of their wooden shoes, and watch them walk around in the wind with them.

Of an evening when the band plays for retreat the whole town comes out to the camp. Old men and women down to the little kids, and they seem to amuse themselves watching the boys make a run for their chow.

I think I will get a kodak after payday and get some of these pictures. I am also going to send you the picture of the Long Bell bunch that we had taken some time ago and you can take them down to the gallery and have them mounted on cards. The fellow standing behind me is Purl. I got a letter from Theo yesterday but it was written the first of April, so it was rather late as I got your letter of the 8th of April on the 2nd of May, so you see mail is not regular.

I have been getting the paper pretty regular but it is almost a month old.

Mother you don't need to worry about me because I have a good place to sleep, and all that I want to eat, and I weigh more than I ever did before. The boys tell me if I don't stop eating I will be as big out as I am long.

Give my regards to all the people around there and write when you have time.

Well mother I must close.

With love,

Vernon E. Babcock,
Co. E 6th Bn., 20th Eng.
American E. F.

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 7 Jun 1918 p 2 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482486751/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

France, July 8, 1918

Dear Folks:

Will write a few lines again this Monday morning. Fourth of July has come and gone we had a big time here. It was my first celebration in France, just wonder if we have another. We had a real minstrel show that night and it was fine. The other night after supper we helped a lady thresh her rye and it was quite interesting. The bundles are very large tied by hand and they carry them up on top of the machine by way of a ladder, that was my job carrying the bundles up. The straw on coming out of the machine is again bundled and tied and from there it goes to the stack. Five of us Americans

did most of the work but the stacking and they would not let us do that. I got your letter Saturday the one Theo wrote some in also a dandy letter from Marie and one from Bertha Wampler. The climate is still fine here but the days are getting warmer. We get our first service the last of this month for six months service. I got some papers yesterday and the Eagle had some very interesting letters in it from the boys. Well Mother I must close and get to work,
With love
Vernon E. Babcock
Co. E, 20th Engineers

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 9 Aug 1918 p 2 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482487247/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

American Expeditionary Force,
Sept. 30, 1918

Dear Folks:—

Will write a few lines today as I failed to get a letter off last week.

Time passes so fast over here that a person can hardly realize that he has been here so long.

I got a letter from Ernest Vehlow yesterday and he is stationed in the same camp that we were when in England, and I guess he likes it about as well.

My time has not come yet for the furlough but it will soon be here.

I have written Bob twice but I haven't heard from him since July. But then so much mail gets lost, so when you don't get a letter for quite a while just figure that I am well and having a great time.

I received a letter from Don Carlos and he figured that maybe we can meet on our furlough, but if we did it would be only an accident.

The weather here of late has been very damp, rains almost every day.

I got two bunches of papers the other day and I am looking for the bunch with the pencils in almost any time now.

It is grape time now here and you know how I can eat grapes. Well, I sure have the chance and I am making good.

Well I must close and get to work.

With love,
Vernon E. Babcock,
17th Co. 20th Eng.
American E. F., France.

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 25 Oct 1918 p 2 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482488134/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

Many More Discharged.
 Sardes were received from the United States department of labor yesterday by John A. Barrett, employment agent here, showing that the following service men from Crawford county have been discharged from camp:

Anton Pete Krenker, Girard; Harry Smith, Walnut; James Edward Collins, Mulberry; Fred C. Sumner, Pittsburg; Henry M. Highland, McCune; Thomas N. Kelley, 1603 North Joplin, Pittsburg; John Spriggs, 115 West Monroe, Pittsburg; Walter A. Gerye, Pittsburg; Vernon E. Babcock, Walnut; James Bell, Girard; Jack Halstead, Mulberry; Raymond J. White, Pittsburg; Wiley Beecher Ward, Mulberry; Elmer E. Wheat, Girard; Lloyd C. Carlton, 806 North Locust, Pittsburg; John H. Lloyd, Frontenac; Marion Stark, Cherokee; John J. Fliss, Girard; J. E. Murphy, Girard; Robert Slack, Mulberry; Ferris F. Willits Farlington; Arthur C. Mitchie.



Discharge – “Pittsburg (KS) Sun” Saturday 14 Jun 1919 p 5 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/67578828/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

AMERICAN LEGION CHARTER DESIRED

MEETING HELD LAST NIGHT—
PETITIONS CONTAINS 76
SIGNATURES.

The first steps in the organization of a local post of the American Legion were taken last night at the Chamber of Commerce when a meeting of ex-service men was held to make application for a charter to the national executive committee through the state chairman. A large crowd attended the meeting and signed the application in order to be on the ground floor as charter members. The petition contains 76 names and was mailed last night to the state secretary, Ike Lambert, at Emporia. In case the charter is granted, the men who signed last night will be the only charter members. All other men desiring to be members of the Pittsburg post must make application, which will be acted on by the national executive committee.

The following temporary officers of the proposed post were elected: George E. Callen, president; Fain Connor, secretary; Sam M. Degen, treasurer. These men will head the organization until the charter is received, at which time a formal election will be held and the regular officers named. It is expected that the charter will be received within two weeks.

The next meeting will be held the first Wednesday following the receipt of the charter. At that time it is probable that delegates to the national convention, to be held in Minneapolis, Minn., in November, will be considered. A membership fee of 75 cents was paid last night by each of the men signing the petition. This money accompanied the application for the charter.

Cigars were furnished the men through the courtesy of the Chamber of Commerce.

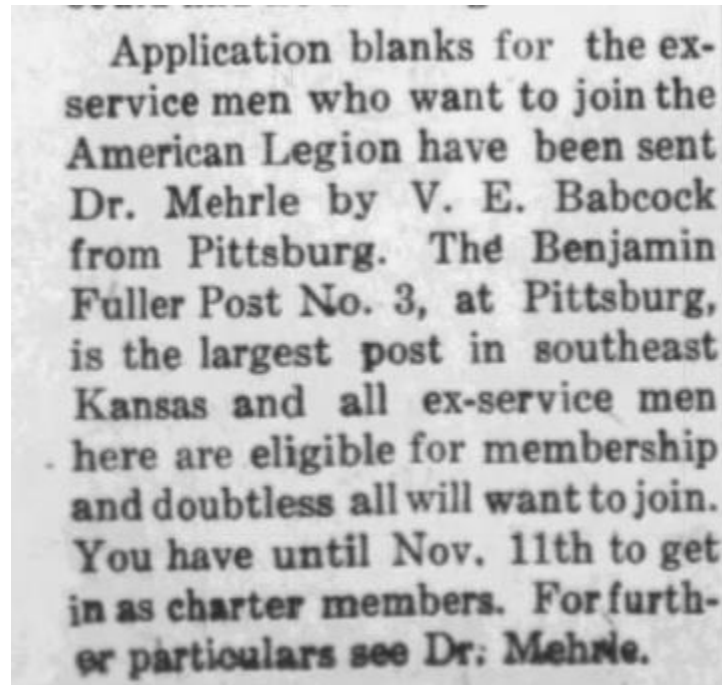
The following is the list of the men applying for the charter: George E. Callen, Sam M. Degen, Herbert Munson, Lloyd C. Ringle, W. H. Updegrave, R. R. Courtney, J. K. Poin-dexter, Vincent F. Lindsey, Mark D. Gillon, Russell Johnson, Isadore F. Greenbaum, W. E. Ringle, Fred A. Ruehre, Adolph S. Fristo, Edwin C. Palson, W. H. Bray, E. W. Patterson, Fain Connor, Charles Reneenberger,

J. N. Parsons, Arthur Wright, Ernest H. Fikes, Lloyd C. Keady, David T. Jones, William Clements, William Purdon, A. M. Morgan, O. L. Rupard, A. N. Thompson, G. Polson, Dan Jones, E. L. Montee, James R. Sills, Earl Jarrell, Ed Harrigan, Earl Babcock, B. J. O'Connor, Billie Anderson, George C. Snider, L. M. Perkins, Elmer A. Comer, John C. Leacey, Clarence E. Johnson, Harold T. Davis, Vernon E. Babcock, Harry S.

Carothers, Faye H. George, Richard A. Mallams, Thomas E. Mallams, Edward R. O'Brien, Ernest L. Vohlow, Guy Anderson, Thomas C. Doss, George P. Malcolm, David W. Degen, Audley E. Patton, Paul E. Cornelisen, Rube Collins, L. E. Curfman, H. C. Rule, Charles C. Clements, Woodson Ross, James H. Reasor, O. E. Welcome, W. O. Rogers, H. C. Powers, J. C. Turk, Fred I. Patrick, John Anderson, Jack Thomas, Frank M. Robinson, R. A. Taft, Nick C. Simion, R. M. Collins, C. E. Wolfe, Leo J. McKenna.

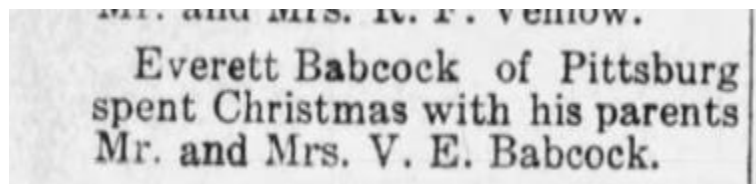
Establishment of the local American Legion, with Vernon as a charter member – “Pittsburg (KS) Sun” Thursday 21 Aug 1919 p 6 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/66047236/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>



Application blanks for the ex-service men who want to join the American Legion have been sent Dr. Mehrle by V. E. Babcock from Pittsburg. The Benjamin Fuller Post No. 3, at Pittsburg, is the largest post in southeast Kansas and all ex-service men here are eligible for membership and doubtless all will want to join. You have until Nov. 11th to get in as charter members. For further particulars see Dr. Mehrle.

“Walnut (KS) Eagle” Thursday 23 Oct 1919 p 3



Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Babcock.
Everett Babcock of Pittsburg spent Christmas with his parents Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Babcock.

“Walnut (KS) Eagle” Friday 26 Dec 1919 p 3

The following poem taken from the Kansas City Journal, was written by V. E. Babcock, of Pittsburg and a former resident of Walnut.

When gray October days arrived at the close of the baseball campaign of 1925 and Walter Johnson, the "old master" of the "fire ball," known during his nineteen years under the "big top" as the "Coffeyville comet," checked in his suit and hopped a rattler for the fishing grounds in Nevada, many said he was through. "Old Barney," as he is known to his teammates, had shown signs of cracking under the strain of the pennant drive in late September, although he finished the season in good style.

There was much concern about him during the winter. Fans and writers speculated as to whether "Old Barney" would come back with the old hop to his fast one this spring. He came back. He hurled one of the greatest opening games in the history of the league, winning 1 to 0 against the rival Athletics in fifteen innings. That victory inspired V. E. Babcock, a fan in Pittsburg, to write a poem, and here it is:

" OLD BARNEY"

"Old Barney," I hardly would say you were through,
 For you sure pitched a whale of a game.
 Some might say that old age has slowed you a bit,
 But you turned in a win just the same.
 And for fifteen long innings you stayed on the mound
 And fooled 'em and fanned 'em, 'tis true;
 So if Old Father Time has been taking his toll
 From some others, he surely missed you.

A year or two back they all said you were done,
 For they knew you could not stand the pace.
 Some youngster would have to step into your shoes,
 But I figure you're still in the race.
 For whenever a pitcher delivers the goods,
 Like you did, then you're just in your prime
 And that ambitious young pitcher will wait a spell yet,
 For the sickle of Old Father Time.

—V. E. BABCOCK

PITTSBURG — E. V. Gorrell Friday was elected high priest of the Pittsburgh Royal Arch Masons, to succeed Vernon E. Babcock. Other officers chosen included Ira J. Newcomer, king; M. O. Peterson, scribe; E. C. Webber, treasurer, and W. W. Beine, secretary.

“Parsons (KS) Sun” Tuesday 9 Dec 1930 p 6 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/692448194/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

V. E. Babcock, Pittsburgh, was in Chetopa Thursday calling on friends here. Mr. Babcock is a poet and plans to be in Chetopa at some future time and at present some of his works before a study club here.

“Parsons (KS) Sun” Friday 3 Feb 1939 p 8

V. E. Babcock Heads UCT, Smies Corrects

V. E. Babcock, of Pittsburgh, not I. T. Michaelson, of Wichita, was elected grand counselor of the United Travelers Grand Council at the UTC convention here Saturday morning.

Mr. Michaelson was re-elected grand secretary, and Ed A. Smies, Manhattan, was reelected grand treasurer. The other officers were elected as reported in The Mercury and Chronicle Saturday

“Manhattan (KS) Morning Chronicle” Tuesday 15 Jun 1943 p 3

Pittsburg Sour Dough and Casement Recall Sea Crash

Memories of the illfated Tuscania from whose sinking they survived while enroute over seas at the time of the World War have been recalled recently from Vernon E. Babcock, "sour dough baker" of Pittsburg, and Dan D. Casement who was interested to learn that Mr. Babcock was a fellow passenger on that boat.

Prompted Both to Verse

An unusual incident in that connection is the revelation that the experience prompted both Mr. Babcock and Captain Casement to write verses about the tragedy. Mr. Babcock sent to Mr. Casement a copy of his poem dedicated to the lads lost on the Tuscania February 5, 1918, and whose bodies were interred in Scotland.

Mr. Babcock wrote in his poem that after traveling two weeks on sea, land had been sighted, the Irish shore seemed only a mile or two away, and hope was high, "for the end was nigh, we'd hit Liverpool by dawn."

"But just at the hour that the light house tower sent its warning gleam from the shore," a submarine sent its exploding shell into the ship's boiler room. The ship jarred and shook and "seemed to turn a somersault in the sea. With her strength all gone, she staggered on, and she put up a valiant fight. Then a final lunge, and a headlong plunge; she bravely sank from sight." The toll was 200.

Mr. Casement's Comment

Mr. Casement wrote of the approach of a fleet of destroyers to

<p>Mr. Casement's poem was written March 7, 1918. He was in command of a company of replacement troupes from Camp Travis which lost 12 men in the disaster. Mr. Babcock was with Company E., Sixth Battalion, 20th Engineers. Mr. Babcock's inquiry to the Manhattan rancher was prompted by his reading an article in the National Tribune of Washington, D. C., that the Tuscania survivors are to have a reunion in Chicago next February 4, 5, and 6, and that Mr. Casement was appointed the committeeman for Kansas.</p> <p>Five Other Kansans Aboard</p> <p>As far as the Pittsburg survivor is informed the only other Kansans on the boat that night were P. H. Marshall, then of Columbus but now of California; Thomas Ashby, Liberty; Emmert W. Black, Summerfield; Henry J. Seamatter, Home, and Homer Clements, Coats.</p>	<p>guard the ship's final steps to the Irish shore. "Reassured and cheerful we made at last the mouth of the northern channel that heads the Irish sea; Islay's light to north of us, Rathlin's to the south seemed to give us welcome and safety finally," he wrote. And then—</p> <p>"WHANG! ! The ship's in darkness, her engines cease to run.</p> <p>A liner proud, one moment breasting the combers cold,</p> <p>The next a sinking junk heap of twenty thousand ton</p> <p>With forty mangled stokers a-dying in her hold.</p> <p>"Paunched by the Hun she listed, gut-shot below the line.</p> <p>Some life-boats lay in splinters, while others swung and fell</p> <p>When rotten tackle parted. Didn't our chance look fine!</p> <p>Till the 'Pigeon' came and copped us from the very cup of hell."</p>
---	--

"Manhattan (KS) Mercury" Saturday 5 Nov 1932 p 1 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/422399060/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

The J A Y H A W K E R

"OUR NATIONAL GAME"

There are those who will say old man football,
 Is the king-bee, when naming their sports.
 While others will claim, that our national game,
 Is that, played on the basket-ball courts.
 But the one that attracts the attention,
 And comes in for the glory and fame.
 Is the one that is played on a diamond,
 And is known as our National Game.

Some people go in for lawn-tennis,
 While others think golf is the best;
 But I will repeat, that nine can compete,
 With base-ball, for it's sure stood the test.
 It has color, excitement and glamour,
 None other can match it at all.
 From early spring, on down through the summer;—
 Climaxed by the series, each fall.

It's the Old Barney's, the Ty Cobbs and Speakers,
 The Sewall's the Cooper's, and Ruth's;
 Who down through the years, have received the
 stands cheers;
 They're the idols of all of our youths.
 And you lads playing there on our sand lot,
 Might some day clumb the ladder of fame,
 For right there is where all of our greatest
 Started playing their national game.

—Vernon E. Babcock

A poem about baseball, in addition to the one about Tuscania – "Baxter Springs (KS) Jayhawker" Friday 9 Jul 1943 p 5 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/484200128/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

Lions Entertained by Philosopher-Humorist

A humorous talk, interspersed with some homespun philosophy by Vernon Babcock, Pittsburg, featured last night's meeting of the Lions club in the Quality dining room. Babcock included a few personal bits of poetry, directed at members of the club.

New members and transfer members who have joined the club since the first of the year include William Phillipy, Dr. K. Wayne Humphreys, R. J. "Dick" Moore, Clyde Bulkeley, Bernard Stout, Jack Wicker and W. W. Clark. The total enrollment now stands at 74 members.

"Parsons (KS) Sun" Friday 31 Jan 1947 p 1 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/692413444/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

PITTSBURG, Kan. — Vernon E. Babcock, chaplain and rehabilitation chairman of the Ben Fuller post of the American Legion here has been appointed to the national membership and post activities committee of the American Legion.

"Wichita (KS) Eagle" Thursday 4 Nov 1965 p 6 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/695779446/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

Wife:

Carnagey-Babcock

The marriage of Miss Charlsie Marie Carnagey and Mr. Vernon Everett Babcock took place at 10 o'clock Sunday morning, August 29 at the home of the bride's parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carnagey at LaCygne, Kansas. Before the ceremony, which was performed by Rev. M. O. Moyer, Miss Jane Carroll, accompanied by Mrs. Harry Comstock, sang "I love you, truly." Miss Wilma Strahl, niece of the bride, played the wedding march. The home was decorated with ferns and pink and white carnations. The bride wore an embroidered white georgette dress and carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses. Her veil of white tulle was held in place with lilies of the valley.

The bride was graduated from the Kansas State Teachers' College at Pittsburg in 1920 and for the past several years has been a teacher in the Kansas schools. The last three years she has been a faculty member of the Kansas State Teachers' College of Pittsburg.

The groom is the son of Mrs. Anna E. Babcock, and for several years has been connected with the Baxter Lumber Company. During the World War he served with the 20th Engineers overseas.

A wedding breakfast, served by Miss Sadie Gluecklich, Miss Thelma Carnagey, and Miss Wilma Strahl, followed the ceremony. Those present were: Rev. and Mrs. M. O. Moyer, Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Carnagey, Mrs. Anna E. Babcock, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Albert and sons Richard and Carl, Mr. and Mrs. Hersehel D. Helm, Mrs. Sarah Allen, Mr. and Mrs. William Noske, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Huff, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Comstock, Miss Jane Carroll, Miss Sadie Gluecklich, Miss Thelma Carnagey and Miss Wilma Strahl.

Mr. and Mrs. Babcock left for a wedding trip to the Ozarks, and will be at home after September 15, at 412 W. Seventh St., Pittsburg, Kansas.

Wedding of Charlsie Marie Carnagey & Vernon Everett Babcock Sunday 29 Aug 1926 at the home of her parents – "Walnut (KS) Eagle" Friday 3 Sep 1926 p3 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/482937964/?article=bed868f1-b552-40d8-b42b-744234b22b43&focus=0.17810397,0.05039054,0.30564705,0.45290568&xid=3398>

Daughter:

U.S., Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection, 1847-Current

Gender:	Female
Death Age:	91
Birth Date:	24 Oct 1929
Birth Place:	Pittsburg, Kansas
Marriage Date:	28 Dec 1949
Marriage Place:	Pittsburgh
Residence Place:	Pittsburgh
Death Date:	10 Oct 2021
Death Place:	Frontenac, Kansas
Obituary Date:	13 Oct 2021
Father:	Vernon E.
Spouse:	Bob L. Scifers
Child:	Bob K. Scifers Brenda King

Daughter Katherine Joan Babcock Scifers (1929-2021) -
<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/290450242:2190>

**Katherine
Joan Scifers**



KATHERINE SCIFERS OBITUARY

Katherine "Joan" Scifers, 91, of Pittsburg, passed away on October 10, 2021 at Oakview Estates in Frontenac, KS. She was born in Pittsburg, KS on October 24, 1929 to Vernon E. "Bab" and Marie C. (Carnegie) Babcock.

On December 28, 1949 she married Bob L. Scifers in Pittsburg. He preceded her in death on December 2, 2009.

Joan graduated from Pittsburg High School in 1947 and attended Kansas State Teachers College. After college, she worked for Southwestern Bell, AAA Travel, and over twenty years with Dr. Modesto Gometz and Dr. James McDaniel.

Member of the First Christian Church, Alpha Sigma Alpha Alumni, Daughter of the Nile.

She is survived by a son, Bob K. Scifers and his wife Colleen of Pittsburg, KS; a daughter Brenda King of Pittsburg, KS; and grandchildren, Rich King, Stacy Schicke, Bryan Thorpe, Amanda Higgins, Will King, and Tyler Scifers; and 15 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

A private family graveside service will be held at the Garden of Memories Cemetery. The family suggests memorials to Mirza Transportation Fund and the USD #250 Foundation. Friends may leave condolences online at www.brennERMortuary.com

OCT **Service**
16

10:30a.m.

Garden of Memories

Hwy. 69149 S, Pittsburg, KS

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/katherine-scifers-obituary?id=30094993>

Father:

Vernon E. Babcock ,69, died at his home in Pittsburg Saturday. He lived on a farm near Walnut for more than eighteen years prior to his removal to Pittsburg two and a half years ago.

Death notice of father Vernon E. Babcock – “Caney (KS) Daily Chronicle” Thursday 26 Apr 1923 p 4 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/481145130/?terms=%22vernon%20babcock%22&match=1>

V. E. Babcock.

V. E. Babcock died at 4:20 o'clock, Saturday afternoon, April 21, 1923 at his home in Pittsburg, following a long illness. He was born in Pennsylvania and was sixty-nine years old. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at the Methodist Church with the pastor, Dr. Wilbur N. Mason in charge and burial was in Highland Park cemetery. The deceased is survived by his wife, Mrs Anna Babcock and six children, Miss Theo Babcock, at home; Mrs. E. W. Albert, Daniel, Wyo.; Mrs. Albert Lyness, Iowa; Mrs. C. E. Patton, Lawrence, Kansas; C. H. Babcock, Pittsburg, Kansas and Vernon Babcock, at home. He also leaves four granderildren, two brothers and three sisters. Mr. Babcock was a member of the Methodist church and Modern Woodmen of America. Two and one-half years ago the family moved from Walnut to Pittsburg. They had resided on a farm a half mile north

of Walnut for about eighteen years. Mr. Babcock was a good, christian respected by everyone and his friends in Walnut were sorry to learn of his death and extend to the family their sympathy.

Mr. V. E. Babcock and daughters,
Theo and Marie, attended the school dinner at Liberty school Friday.

In Highland news: "Savonburg (KS) Record" Friday 13 Mar 1903 p 4

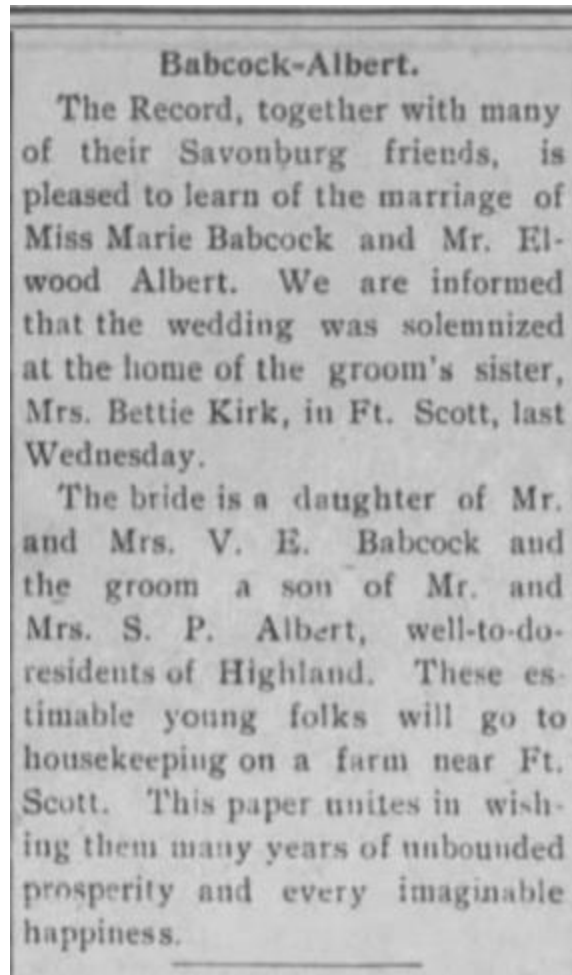
Siblings:



Sister Thea Ianthe Babcock (1882-1979) – Find A Grave 104734920

Miss Theo Babcock is meeting with fine success as a nurse. She received fine training in Bethany Hospital at Kansas City, Kansas, has been a nurse in many of the prominent homes in Kansas City and now has a position as nurse in the hospital at Moberly, Mo. at a salary of \$50.00 a month and' all expences paid. Miss Theo is a fine christian lady, is well pleased with the work and takes great pride in doing her best. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Babcock, living one mile north of Walnut.

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" Thursday 3 Aug 1911 p 2



Wedding of sister Anna Marie Babcock (1884-1978) to Elwood William Albert – “Savonburg (KS) Record” Friday 13 Mar 1908 p 6

Lyness-Babcock.

Mr. Albert L. Lyness and Miss Ina L. Babcock were married at Camp Cody, Deming, New Mexico, Thursday evening at 7 p. m. May 16, 1918, the ceremony being performed by the Major Chaplain. Mr. Lyness is the son of Mrs. Hannah Lyness who lives four miles north of Walnut. He has spent much of the time for several years in Iowa and enlisted there in the army about a year ago. He was born and raised near Walnut and is a young man of fine character. Mrs. Lyness, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Babcock, has lived near Walnut for a number of years. She taught for several years in the first room of the Walnut school and was a very successful teacher. She is a young lady of pleasing personality. The Eagle joins with their many friends in wishing them happiness.

Marriage of **sister Ina Laura Babcock (1890-1978)** to Albert L. Lyness on 16 May 1918 at Camp Cody, Deming NM – “Walnut (KS) Eagle” Friday 24 May 1918 p 3



Brother Carriel Hunter (Shorty) Babcock (1891-1976) at right with Virginia Buechele (Ronie) & his 2nd wife Mary Marie (Licci) Babcock – Find A Grave 139219147

Mr. Carriel Babcock and Miss Flossie Fox, both of Walnut, were married at the M. E. Parsonage in Hubbard, Iowa, March 31st, 1917. They will make their home at present at Gifford, Iowa. These are excellent young people, very popular among their friends and are well and favorably known in Walnut and vicinity. The EAGLE extends best wishes and congratulations.

Marriage of Carriel Hunter Babcock to his 1st wife, Florence M. (Flossie) Fox (later Kelley) – “Walnut (KS) Eagle” Friday 13 Apr 1917 p 3

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Vernon Everett Babcock

Name variations: Everett Vernon Babcock, Bab Babcock. Also fond as Junior/Jr.

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 17th/Co. E - private

Serial number: 250,467

Entered service from: Walnut, Crawford KS

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: Vernon E. Babcock

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: mother Mrs. V.E. Babcock, Rte 2, Walnut KS

Returned from war on: "Santa Paula" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Vernon E. Babcock

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: mother Mrs. Annie E. Babcock, Walnut KS (PFC, 17th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Vernon Everett Babcock - b. 14 Dec 1893 Hubbard IA; res: Walnut, Crawford KS. Single, Foreman [“forman”] of Long-Bell Lbr. Co., El Dorado

KS. Medium height & build. Registered 26 May 1917, earlier than the national registration day of 5 Jun 1917.

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: 412 W. 7th St., Pittsburg KS
 World War II draft registration (1942): as Vernon Everett Babcock - b. 14 Dec 1893 Hubbard IA; res: 412 W. 7th, Pittsburg, Crawford KS. NOK Marie C. Babcock, same address.
 Employed at Area Engineers Material Section, Baxter Springs KS, at Sauer (?) Crestline (?), Chester KS. Height: 5'6" – 165 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 14 Dec 1917

Discharged 12 Jun 1919

Address: 412 W. 7th St., Pittsburg KS

Rank/unit: private 1st class, Cas Det Dem Gp

Birth & death:

Born: 14 Dec 1893 Hubbard, Hardin IA

Died: 11 Jun 1987 Pittsburg (or Frontenac), Crawford KS

Find A Grave record: 185780439, presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Pittsburg, Crawford KS

Cemetery: Garden of Memories

Tombstone:

Father: Vernon E. Babcock, Oct 1852 PA – 21 Apr 1923 Pittsburg, Crawford KS. Son of Andrew Stockbridge Babcock & Iantha A. Carriel. Buried in Highland Park Cemetery, Pittsburg, Crawford KS.

Find A Grave: 103579052

Mother: Annie Eliza Hunter Babcock, 29 Nov 1854 Sadorus, Champaign IL – 13 Mar 1848 Pittsburg, Crawford KS. Daughter of Rev. Thomas Jefferson Hunter & Nancy Mariah TenBroeck. Buried in Highland Park Cemetery, Pittsburg, Crawford KS.

Find A Grave: 103579062

Parents' marriage: 8 Sep 1881 Hardin Co. IA

Spouse: Charlsie Marie Carnegay Babcock, 31 Dec 1897 LaCygne, Linn KS – 5 Sep 1981 Pittsburg, Crawford KS. Daughter of Charles Carnegay & Catherine/Emma Hyner. Graduate of LaCygne (KS) High School 1915. Graduate of Pittsburg (KS) State College (1922) & later taught there. Her obituary appears on her Find A Grave record. Died at Mount Carmel Medical Center, a resident of 412 W. 7th.

Spouse Find A Grave: 159639061

Marriage: to Marie Carnegay on 29 Aug 1926 at LaCygne, Linn KS.

Children:

- Katherine Joan Babcock Scifers (also found as Kathryn, known as Joan), 24 Oct 1929 Pittsburg, Crawford KS – 10 Oct 2021 Frontenac, Crawford KS. Also known as Kay or

Joan, sometimes found spelled Kathryn. Wife of Bob L. Scifers (12 May 1930 KS – 2 Dec 2009 Joplin MO), son of Millard J. Scifers & Clarice E. Colclasure. Resident of Pittsburg when died. Son of Millard J. & Clarice (Colclasure) Scifers, whom she married 28 Dec 1949 in Pittsburg, Crawford KS. Bob is buried in Garden of Memories Cemetery, Washington township, Crawford KS (F: 45076821) and according to her obituary, so is Katherine, but she is not on Find A Grave as of 16 Jun 2022.

Siblings: his mother indicates gave birth to 6 children

- Theo Iantha Babcock, 29 Sep 1882 Hubbard, Hardin IA – 25 Sep 1979 Pittsburg, Crawford KS. SSN 513-30-5131. Nurse. Buried in Highland Park Cemetery, Pittsburg, Crawford KS. F: 104734920
- Anna Marie Babcock Albert, 4 Sep 1884 IA – 1978 KS. SSN 551-50-7337. Wife of Elwood William Albert (1874-1944, F: 179590675) whom she married 11 Mar 1908 in Bourbon Co. KS. Buried in Mountain View Cemetery & Mausoleum, Altadena, Los Angeles CA. F: 179588061
- Ina Laura Babcock Lyness, Feb 1890 NE – Jan 1978. SSN 486-26-3888. Wife of Albert Lewis Lyness (1890-1946, F: 97962332) whom she married 16 May 1918 at Camp Cody, Deming, Luna NM. Buried in Forest Cemetery, Oskaloosa, Mahaska IA. F: 97962407.
- Carriel Hunter (“Shorty”) Babcock, 10 Nov 1891 Eldora, Hardin IA – 23 1976 Pittsburg, Crawford KS. Male. Married to Florence M. (“Flossie”) Fox on 31 Mar 1917 in Hardin Co. IA. Flossie was the daughter of Owen Frank Fox & Elizabeth. Browne. In the 1920 census, she was married to Babcock. In the 1930 census, she was married to John Frank Kelley (F: 15683347). - Husband of Mary Marie Licci (1904-2004, F: 139219132). - Buried in Saint Mary’s Catholic Cemetery, Pittsburg, Crawford KS. F: 139219147
- Dora Gladys Babcock Patton Dimick, 23 Mar 1895 Walnut, Pottawattamie IA – 4 Aug 1992 Eudora, Douglas KS. Graduate of Walnut IA High School. Served in US Navy Sep 1918 – Aug 1920 in TX. - She met Charles Edward Patton (1889-1963, F: 203302087) in the Navy & married him in 1920. – Moved to Lawrence KS in 1923. - Married Eugene Dimick (1896-11 Jan 1987, F: 9112948) in Lawrence, Douglas KS in 1965. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, Douglas KS. F: 23539063.
- In the 1905 KS state census, listed as family members: Lillian Babcock, 16, and Benjamin, 12. These may not be the children of V.E. & Anna.

Notes:

Author of poem (copied above) distributed at 1933 NTSA reunion, Chicago IL

There are hundreds of articles available on Newspapers.com by searching Vernon Babcock, Everett Babcock and V.E. Babcock (which locates article both on him & his father).

Wartime:

"Pittsburg (KS) Sun" 8 Feb 1918 p 1

Vernon E. Babcock of Walnut KS, well-known in Pittsburg, was a student at the Normal 1913, 1914 & 1916. His parents Mr. & Mrs. V.E. Babcock have lived in Walnut many years. Enlisted Dec 1917. Was manager of Long-Bell Lumber Co. timber yard at El Dorado KS.

"Newton (KS) Evening Kansan-Republican" 14 Feb 1918 p 5 - "A Halstead Boy on the Tuscania" –

Everett Babcock, brother of Mrs. E.W. Albert, well-known to people here as worked here several summers, last time 2 yrs ago "on the hospital" - enlisted fall 1917 from El Dorado

"Pittsburg (KS) Headlight" 14 Feb 1918 p 3 – 5 former employees of Long-Bell Lumber Co. of Kansas City, in the 6th Battalion of the 20th Engineers, were on the ship. No word has been received. One is Vernon E. Babcock of Walnut KS

"St. Paul (KS) Journal" 14 Feb 1918 p 1 "Walnut Boy on Torpedoed Ship"

Largest regiment in world is the 20th Engineers, with 17,000 members. The 6th Battalion was the only battalion of this regiment on board. Vernon spent Christmas at home with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. V.E. Babcock, on furlough from Jefferson Barracks. He then went to Washington DC for 4 weeks of intensive training. The "Kansas Journal" reported he landed at "Ft. Ellen, alsly, Scotland." [He did not land at Port Ellen on Islay – he landed in Ireland]

"Halstead (KS) Independent" 21 Feb 1918 p 6 – Mrs. Pat Rickman, "the well known colored lady of Newton," said she's willing to knit a sweater for Everett Babcock "who lost everything but his life on the Tuscania" if someone furnishes yarn. "Let's get busy here, take up a ten cent or popular collection and provide the makings for this sweater." BUT – "Evening Kansan-Republican" (Newton KS) 23 Feb 1918 p 2 – there was "an unfortunate slip" in a clipping about Mrs. Pat Rickman in the "Halstead Independent" which called her a "colored lady." Mrs. Rickman said she is an Englishwoman "and states that she despies the word 'lady'." Her husband is colored "and she says that in her country there is no color line."

"Walnut (KS) Eagle" 22 Feb 1918 p 2

A letter was received by V.E. Babcock several days ago, written on the ship. "At sea, Jan. 25, 1918." He writes "on our way across the Pond and I can say that I am enjoying myself." They left camp at night quietly to board the ship. After a 5-mile hike, they arrived at midnight at the train and got on. He had guard duty at rear of the car – no one on or off. Guard duty was 2 hours on & 4 hours off. The ship left the harbor 24 Jan but the men had been loaded on the transport at noon on the 23rd. No one was allowed on deck at departure, but later allowed on deck. Saw lots of vessels & disappearing buildings, proving earth is round. Last night (24 Jan) traveled without lights but "grand to stand on deck as we had such a glorious old moon" – reminding him of moonlight in KS. Five of the Long-Bell boys are together, and Purl (Marshall) & he were on their bunks writing home. He got rid of his cold. The ship is a British vessel manned by 14- to 16-year-old boys. But it is the best transport available – about 600 feet long, 70 feet wide, fireproof, iron-clad, made many trips across ocean. Every state in the Union & ever walk of life are represented in the men

aboard. Everyone was asked to write a card saying he had arrived safely in France, to be mailed when they land.

“Walnut (KS) Eagle” 8 Mar 1918 p 2

Letter from Larne, Ireland, 6 Feb. announcing he arrived safely this a.m. & feeling fine. A pretty country, green & warm. Will write more later.

“El Dorado (KS) Republican” 15 Feb 1918 p 3

Earl [sic] Babcock of El Dorado was on the ship. He lived in El Dorado for 4 months last spring, later joining to Kansas City to join a forestry regiment. Many members of the younger set remember him.

“Walnut (KS) Eagle” 15 Mar 1918 p 2

Letter from England, Feb. 1918. Writing more about Tuscania. When torpedo hit at 6 p.m. he was on the top deck. He went to the lifeboats he was assigned to lower. Men keep cool. He helped lower boat 14 & then 14A, his assigned boat. He went down a rope to 14A & they rowed away. They rowed from 6:15 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. when they were picked up by a minesweeper. All were exhausted. Given a good warm meal & then lay down in dining room, waking up in sight of land. Ashby [Thomas Ashby] is now with them. There are 9 men missing from his unit.

“Walnut (KS) Eagle” 5 Apr 1918 p 2

Letter written with chilly hands on 18 Feb 1918 from England. It's like April at home. Visited 1 of the oldest & largest cathedrals in England on 17 Feb, and tomorrow the entire company has to attend church there. Oldest town in England, once the capital, Roman roads. A motion picture was taken yesterday of survivors. “You can look for my face among them.” Three companies have organized football teams; he is quarterback for Co. E, which will next play Co. D. He was sick about a week but gained 20 pounds in the last two weeks. He is working in the mess kitchen, one day on, next day off. He asked about the oil industry in KS & Ernest, told them to thank Mr. Martin for sending papers & asked them to send “Kansas City Journal” issues.

Post-war:

Obituary:

Social Security Number: 511-16-3256

Censuses:

1900 Tipton township, Hubbard, Hardin IA

Vernon E. Babcock, 47 PA, Oct 1853, parents b. NY, married 19 years, day laborer

Anna E., 45 IL, Nov 1854, father b. NC, mother b. IN, Nov 1854, gave birth to 6 children, 6 are living

Theo I., 17 IA, Sep 1882, at school [female]
 Anna M., 15 IA, Sep 1884, at school
 Carriel H., 8 IA, Nov 1891, at school [male]
 Everett V., 6 IA, Dec 1893, at school
 Dora G., 5 IA, Mar 1895, at school

1905 KS state census – Walnut, Bourbon (?) KS
 V.E. Babcock, 52
 Annie E., 50
 Theo, 22
 Marie, 20
 Ina, 15
 Carriel, 13 [male]
 Everett, 11
 Dora, 9
 Lillian, 16
 Benjamin, 12

1910 Walnut, Crawford KS – he appears in two censuses in Walnut:

1910 Walnut, Crawford KS
 Everett Babcock, age 16, b. IA, hired man for John Q. Lewis, farm laborer, parents b. US

1910 Walnut, Crawford KS
 Vernon E. Babcock, 58 PA, parents b. PA, married 29 years, in 1st marriage, farmer, general farm
 Anna, 52 IL, in 1st marriage, father b. NC, mother b. IN, gave birth to 6 children, 6 are living
 Ina, 20, b. NE
 Careral [identified as female], 18 IA
 Everett, 16 IA, farm, home farm
 Dora, 15 IA

1920 Pittsburg, Crawford KS
 Vernon E. Babcock, single, age 26 IA, father b. PA, mother b. IN, shipping clerk in lumber yard, lodger with Harrison & Bessie Belew
 Found at: https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/73886169:6061?tid=86623430&pid=422253055074&queryId=7d6fd0c56edc0e0e9c305f1daa79667aa&_phsrc=hFB44485&_phstart=successSource

1930 Pittsburg, Crawford KS
 Veron [sic] E. Babcock, 36 IA, father b. PA, mother b. IL, age 32 at 1st marriage, auditor, lumber company, WWI veteran
 Marie C., 31 KS, age 22 at 1st marriage, father b. PA, mother b. KS [wife]
 Joan K. 5 months KS [daughter]

Anna E., 75 IL, father b. NC, mother b. IN, widow, age 26 at 1st marriage [mother]
Ceotheo (spelling?) I., 48 IA, single, father b. PA, mother b. IL, nurse, city

1940 Pittsburg, Crawford KS – 412 W. 7th St. - same house in 1935

Vernon E. Babcock, 46 IA, salesman at retail marble works

Marie C. 42 KS [wife]

Kathryn Joan, 10 KS [daughter]

Anna E. Babcock, 85 IL, widow [mother]

Theo I., 57 IA, single, public school nurse [sister]

Thelma J. Carnagey, 40 KS, married, teacher at state college [sister-in-law]

1950 Pittsburg, Crawford KS – 412-A W. 7th

Vernon E. Babcock, 56 IA, lumber company manager, lumber company

Marie C., 52 KS [wife]

Joan B. Scifers, 20 KS, married, telephone operator for telephone company [daughter]

Thelma Carnagey, 50 KS, never married, primary supervisor, college [sister-in-law]

Charles Carnagey, 88 PA [father-in-law]

Emma Carnagey, 87 KS [mother-in-law]