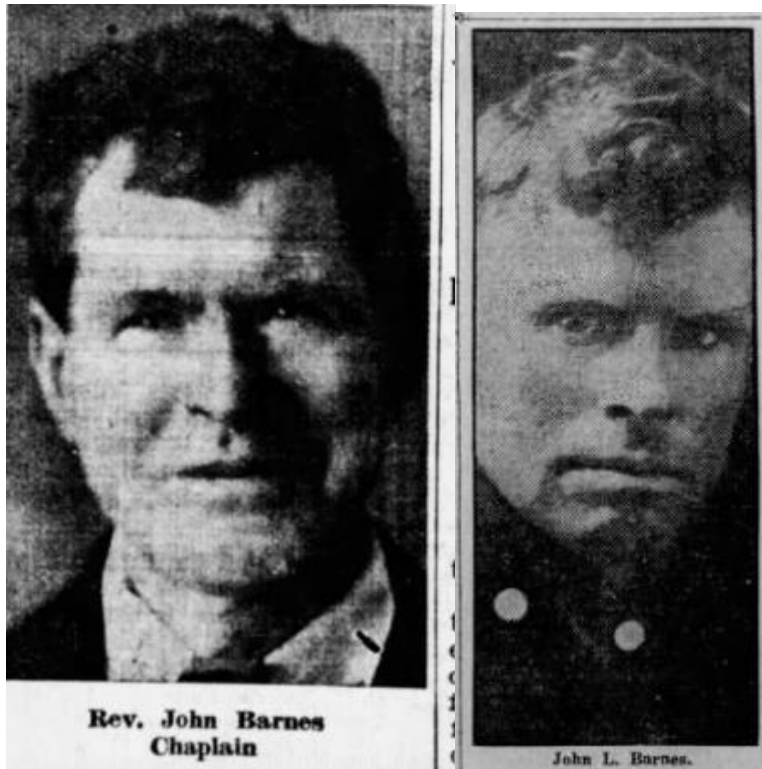


TUSCANIA

Barnes, John Lawrence 1884 WI – 1972 WI



*Left: Reverend John Lawrence Barnes – “Sheboygan Press” 5 Feb 1936 p 17 – right:
“Madison (WI) Capital Times” 4 Nov 1925 p 9*



“Tuscania Sinks”

Troopship – World War 1 – Painted by John L. Barnes of Waushara Co. L
 Photograph courtesy of the Waushara County Historical Society, where the painting is preserved



PRIVATE JOHN LAURENZ BARNES—Wautoma, Wis. Born July 21, 1884. Son of William and Emelia A. Barnes. Enlisted July 9, 1917, at Wautoma, Wis., in Co. L, 5th Wisconsin Infantry. Sent to Camp Douglas, Wis. Transfers: Camp McArthur, Texas, Co. C, 107th Supply Train; Co. C, Replacement Co., 107th Supply Train; Co. B, 107th Ammunition Train. Sent overseas January 24, 1918, on ill-fated Tuscania. Took part in the Battles of Chateau-Thierry, Juvigny, Meuse-Argonne Offensive, and Alsace Sector. Discharged May 21, 1919, at Camp Grant, Ill.

John Laurenz Barnes – “The Honor Roll of Waushara County”

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~wiwausha/honorroll/boysofwautoma.jpg>

John L. Barnes

WAUTOMA — John L. Barnes, 87, Wautoma, died early Sunday morning at Wautoma Community Memorial Hospital, following a short illness.

Mr. Barnes, who was born in Wisconsin July 21, 1884, was best known in the area for the Episcopal chapel, "St. Mary of the Lake," that he built by hand on the Northeast shore of Bughs Lake, about two miles east of Wautoma.

He served in World War I and was a survivor of the sinking of the ship Tuscania. He built the chapel in the early 1930s in memory of his parents and has since deeded it to the Fond du Lac diocese of the Episcopal Church. Services are held there each week, conducted by the Rev. Robert Brown of Ripon.

There are no immediate survivors. He was a member of the Wolman-Minskey Post 317, American Legion.

Friends may call after 5 p.m. today at Patterson Funeral Home, where services will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday. Burial will be in the Wautoma Union Cemetery.

Obituary of John Lawrence Barnes – “Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern” Monday 17 Jul 1972 p 27

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John Lawrence Barnes

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Birth Records, 1812-1921

Name	John Lawrence Barnes
Gender	Male
Birth Date	21 Jul 1884
Birth County	Florence, Wisconsin, USA
Birth Registration Date	25 Oct 1956
Father	William Dwight Barnes
Mother	Amelia Annette Parsons

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/138831:61482?tid=87637340&pid=382065142053&queryId=ebc06b416f9c94b7e9270b46a43358a6&_phsrc=cPx4202&_phstart=successSource

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1. NAME OF DECEASED - LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE (Print or Type)						14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State)	
BARNES, John L.						Wautoma Union Cemetery, W	
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251 081			XC 457 882			18. This application is submitted for a stone grave of a deceased member or former member U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Army an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recovered I hereby agree to accept responsibility for grave or memorial plot at no expense to the (
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year)			5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year)			NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type)	
July 9, 1917			May 23, 1919			Robert A. King	
6. STATE			7. DECORATIONS			ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Street address, City,	
Wisconsin						Wautoma, Wisconsin, 5498	
8. GRADE OR RANK		9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION				SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	
Pvt.		Army				Robert A. King	
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year)			11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year)			16. FREIGHT STATION	
July 21, 1884			July 16, 1972			17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE	
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one)			13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED			ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City,	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS (Christian)			<input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE			Wautoma, Wisconsin, 5498	
<input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew)			<input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER			I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY.	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO EMBLEM			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER			SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO EMBLEM			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER			Robert A. King	
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FOR VERIFICATION				ORDERED			
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FOR VERIFICATION				Wautoma, Wisconsin, 54982			
15 SEP 1972				27 OCT 1972			
B/L 17789				CONTRACTOR			
				Sheidow Bronze Corp.			
Pvt US ARMY / WWI							

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NCMHW 10/5/72 S JR

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3413655:2375>

Life:

(By United Press.)
 Washington, D. C., Feb. 9.—Out of the war zone today came the names of hundreds of American boys saved from the torpedoed transport Tuscania, to ease anxiety in the homes of this country. The names are now being sent across the water in a steady stream and as rapidly as possible being compiled for publication. Not until the entire list is in will the war department be able to check up and determine those who gave up their lives. Those thus far announced include the following Wisconsin men:

John L. Barnes, Milwaukee.

"Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern" Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 1

e *By Day a Laborer, By Night an e Artist Toiling in His Attic e Studio, He Finds Happiness*

BY REUBEN LEVIN

A telephone lineman by day and an artist by night and week-ends, toiling in his attic studio on the top floor of the Sumner Drug Co. building, above the hum of the busy square—that is J. Laurenz Barnes, Madison's newest artist of an individual and ultra-modern school.

While he scales the telephone poles for the Wisconsin Telephone Co., Mr. Barnes' thoughts of his art, visions of his future fame in the world of Bohemia soar way above the topmost poles of Madison. He looks beyond his daily work to the intellectual enjoyments of his leisure.

Many of the pictures in this studio are studies of the human form, that burst upon the beholder with all the force of reality. His individualism, his conception of the male studies as more beautiful than the female makes one feel as if Michael Angele has been resurrected and brought to Madison.

"I'm a lineman on weekdays because I have to get my pork chops somehow," he said frankly. "But here in my studio is where I want to be and this is the work that I want to do. I never went to an art school, nor much to any sort of school."

Never a tutor has he had; never to a school of painting has he gone. The paintings that cover the walls of his rendezvous are the products of his self-taught art, the springs of his remarkable talent that evidenced itself 25 years ago when he was still a lad making sketches on the wall's of his father's barn in Oakfield, Wis.

Mr. Barnes, the man, is even more interesting than J. Laurenz Barnes, the artist. Not a college, nor even a high school training has he had. But he is educated thoroughly. His knowledge and his art was learned from books, from contact with all classes of society, from experience with all the hard knocks of life.

On the easel, before which Mr. Barnes stood in his ordinary working clothes, felt hat on his head, grizzled and tanned a bit by his many years of work on the tops of telephone poles, there was a painting nearly finished of a great ship sinking in the midst of pitch darkness, her upper deck ablaze with the light of flames.

"That is the sinking torpedoed Tuscania troop ship as she looked to me that fearful night that I was saved and picked up by a U. S. destroyer," informed our whimsical artist-lineman.

"War pictures? Hell, yes. I saw enough to paint an art gallery full of them. I tried a number and they said the pictures had no perspective and were too frightful. Well, there wasn't any perspective in the war. There was damned little art in the war anyway."

Mr. Barnes has been through all the horrors of the World war and had painted ghastly pictures of some of the frightful scenes—pictures that were so strongly denounced for their sheer ghastliness that he has destroyed many of them.

Enlisting, though above the draft

age, Mr. Barnes is the present day embodiment of the individualism of pioneer days. Over 40 years of age, he is boyish of eye and speech.

Brought up in Oakfield, Mr. Barnes lived for many years in Wautoma, roamed about the whole

state on his telephone job, has become thoroughly acquainted with the scenery of Wisconsin and its people, and is now settled in this city. He claims to trace his ancestors in America way back beyond the revolutionary days.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Friday 15 May 1925 p 5 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/517923636/>

Shipwreck Canvas Brings Him Fame

Laborer Paints War Disaster From Memory

OUT OF the obscurity of an attic studio, to bask in the sunshine of public notice, John L. Barnes, Madison telephone lineman and artist, has sprung.

Though his years of toil before his palette have been years of seclusion; though he has been one of that great army of artists, who, painting in the privacy of darkened studios, have only the fires of their own genius to illuminate their work, John Barnes is happy now.

For his paintings have come to the attention of Mrs. W. E. Chase, secretary of the Madison Art association. She visited his studio on the third floor of the Sumner Drug Co. building, N. Pinckney st., recently and was impressed by the excellence of many of his paintings.

'Tis the first time a member of the Madison art coterie has complimented him, or has even taken any cognizance of his work.

That's why John Barnes, 40 years old, his face tanned and weather-beaten by his years of out door work, now whistles and hums a happy tune as he lays the cables and installs the poles for the local branch of the Wisconsin Telephone Co.

Above the several dozen paintings of Wisconsin landscape scenes, and of nudes in his studio there stands out an unfinished canvas of



John L. Barnes.

a huge ship afire in mid-ocean, of its passengers scrambling overboard, jumping into the sea, fighting to enter lifeboats. It was this painting, vivid in its color, imaginative in its execution, that attracted the particular attention of Mrs. Chase.

"The picture of that ship was remarkable indeed," said Mrs. Chase. "Mr. Barnes has had a wonderful start on it. It has enough merit to be approved by an art jury, and hung in an art institute."

The scene painted in such brill-

iant colors is based on actual event of the World war, on the sinking of the huge transport "Tuscania," when it was torpedoed in the Irish sea, while carrying 2,100 American soldiers, by a German submarine. Barnes was on that ship and he's trying to incorporate his vivid recollection of that casualty in the painting.

"There were 290 U. S. boys lost when the ship sank on Feb. 6, 1918 at 6 p. m.," said Barnes, recalling each detail. "The torpedo blew a hole fourteen feet square amidship.

I remained on the transport for an hour and then slid off a rope onto a destroyer."

Other scenes about his studio have settings at points throughout Wisconsin, for Barnes' position has been an itinerant one in the past, his duties as lineman carrying him to every part of the state. He's been in Madison for the past year.

"Madison (WI) Capital Journal" Wednesday 4 Nov 1925 p 9 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/518123853/>

John Barnes Paints When In Notion

By WINIFRED WISE

STANDING in his bare studio, painting by the dim light which filters in through a small window, John Barnes, artist-lineman of Madison, is a picturesque figure. Little cares he for fame and recognition. He is painting for the pure joy of creation, and his weather-scarred face lights up as he speaks of his work.

His heavy flannel shirt is open at the neck, and he wipes his rough hand on corduroy breeches before lighting an odorous pipe. Blue eyes with a twinkle of humor peer out from under a tangled mop of sandy hair.

For about 40 years now he has been wandering about as he says in his homely style.

Hat's His Keme

"Anywhere I hang my hat is home. My father was a tramp before me. Guess it runs in the family."

Painting only on Saturday after-

noons and Sundays, Mr. Barnes has done a surprising amount of work. Most of his sketches are not quite finished. He is his own master, so when he grows tired of a scene, he drops it for a time and starts something else.

He does not care whether or not he sells a picture.

"I paint for my own amusement. I don't care whether anyone thinks them worth buying. I once sold a picture for \$75, but that was flying pretty high."

In spite of his professed indifference, he was highly pleased when Mrs. E. C. Chase, secretary of the Madison Art association, visited his studio recently. She complimented him highly on his use of color, but recommended that he improve his technique under competent instruction.

Style of His Own

His present technique is his own entirely; he has never had instruction from anyone. He prefers to paint with oils as he finds water color too thin.

At present he is depicting the sinking of the "Tuscania" from memory. As a corporal in the Wauwatosa section of the Red Arrow division, the artist was a passenger on the ill-fated troop ship, which was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland. The powerful glare of great arcs sheds a ghastly glare on the dreadful scene pictured below. Lifeboats are being lowered frantically, and men are leaping wildly into the dark waters.

Wisconsin views painted from real life and photographs cover the walls of the studio. Their clear bright color makes each distinct.

"I like a picture I can see clear across the room. None of these half tones for me. Why, I could see all the details of this (he indicated a landscape) clear across the capitol square," he declared.

And so John Barnes lays telephone poles and adjusts cables day after day, cheered by the thought of the precious oils, which are wife and mother, family and friends to him.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Sunday 6 Dec 1925 p 24 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/397618141/>

mer merchant here.

List of Men Aboard

Following is the list of Waushara county men who were aboard the Tuscania: Norman Perry, Leo W. Spear, Vernon J. Rozzelle, Charles Eagan, Lyman Byse, Lloyd Garthwaite, Arlon P. Selsing, E. J. Patterson, John McArdle, Hallie Rowe, Lealand McCue, Glen Diggles, Joe Parkin, Frank Reader, Ed. Ueck, A. D. Robbins, John M. India, Miles Colligan, Carl Emigh, Irwin Peterson, Charles Stratton, C. W. Bucholtz, Nels Jensen, Earl Wilder, Clyde Diggles, J. J. Johnson, Joe India, Alfred Thorstad, William Horn, Harry Turner, Joe Bauer, Thomas Evans, Renne Luhm, Ingvald Sorenson, J. Swendrzynski, Adam Zielke, Clarence Larson, Siver Jarvis, Oliver Bendixon, T. A. Gerhke, J. Stranske, Chris. Knuteson, A. M. Persons, R. B. Pierce, Roy Simonson, Warren Cotton, Earl Campbell, W. G. Callahan, George Gunderson, Alvin Grambsch, A. H. McLaughlin, Henry Gethers, J. C. Hopper, John Barnes, H. R. Ameigh, Joseph Bejma, Minor Johnson, Charles Knaup, A. L. Peron, Lyle Paulson, Edward Riemer, Lewis Hanson, Lawrence Miller, Asa B. Couse, Robert F. Lind, Glen Gustin, Warren Berry and Ernest Rogers. The last three are now deceased.

"Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Saturday 19 Feb 1927 p 2

John Barnes Painting Wins French Praise

Local Artist Who Painted Sinking of Tuscania Honored

John Laurence Barnes, a Madison artist whose works have recently received high criticism from two Parisian art reviews, intends soon to open a studio in the city. Two of his pictures, "The Sinking of Tuscania," and "Saym Burgh," constitute his outstanding efforts so far.

He first started to paint while living in Baraboo, in 1912. Then the war came. He served with the 32nd Division and in the 107th supply train, and took part in many of the big engagements.

Probably the most outstanding experience he had during the war occurred when he was crossing the Atlantic in January, 1918. The S. S. Tuscania, on which he was one of the many passengers, was torpedoed in the north Atlantic and sank. Later he was to paint the sinking of that ship, a job which was enhanced by first hand impressions.

Mr. Barnes has twice exhibited, at Chicago, and intends to take his pictures to New York for exhibition this winter.

The "La Revue Moderne" has this to say of Mr. Barnes:

"The two canvasses which constitute the offering of John Laurence Barnes rank in my opinion among the best works of this gallery. They come from an entirely personal conception of the art of painting, and from a spirit perfectly independent in regard to the rules and regulations of a school or a studio. Besides, he has been his own teacher. His art comes entirely from instinct and feeling.

"Without a teacher of any kind, but by personal observation, by lectures and by persistent work, he has come today to a certain position as a painter and has become conscious of his personality, which today is easily seen in his work, and which draws the eyes

of the spectator and holds him spell-bound."

From the "Revue du Vrai et du Beau":

"These works so living and poignant with reality attracted my attention. In the case of this artist, one is not in the presence of a professional. The qualities of composition and of meaning which strike us in his work are even more remarkable. Talent in him is strong and sincere; nothing in his work gives evidence of effort of affectation.

"The passion for art has taken possession of this simple soul, who adores nature and truth above all things."

Mr. Barnes is connected with the Wisconsin Telephone Co., and spends but a part of his time in painting. The studio he intends to open will be called the "menagerie," for no other reason than the name is a personal whim.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Thursday 29 Sep 1927 p 62 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/518034198/>

Showing of Oil Paintings
at the
Menagerie

You are cordially invited to view the oil paintings of J. Laurenz Barnes at 15 S. Pinckney, 3rd floor over Sumner's Drug Store Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

A few desirable pieces are still on hand ranging in price from \$30 to \$50

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Friday 28 Oct 1927 p 8

Paintings

By J. LAURENZ BARNES

*May be reviewed Saturday and Sunday
afternoon at*

The Menagerie

15 So. Pinckney St.
3rd Floor

We still have a few desirable pictures on hand ranging in prices from

\$30 to \$50

All pictures are subject to retouching and varnishing when sold.

Landscapes

Marines

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Friday 28 Oct 1927 p 8

WAUTOMA MADISON

The Menagerie

Announcement Extraordinary

I will be pleased to submit pictures on conditions named to reliable parties subject to six months approval in their own homes.

You keep the pictures for six months, if at the end of that period pay the agreed price or return the picture.

I make this offer simply because I do not believe one can tell whether they like a permanent work, such as oil paintings are, in a shorter period. I reserve the right of approval as to parties taking out the pictures. I do not frame any pictures. Prices run from Fifteen to Four Hundred Dollars.

Saturday and Sunday Afternoons

J. Laurenz Barnes

15 South Pinckney
Third Floor over Sumner Drug Store
For Appointments Call Simon Hotel.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Thursday 5 Apr 1928 p 14

Tuscania Picture To Hang in Theater

Canvas Painted by Survivor, to Be
Unveiled in Capitol Wednesday

Twelve years ago Wednesday, at 6 p. m. Feb. 5, 1918, the transport Tuscania, carrying Wisconsin troops, was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, sinking less than an hour later.

Tomorrow at 6 p. m. a futuristic painting of the ship will be unveiled in the foyer of the Capitol theater in the presence of the Madison men who were survivors. The picture was hung this morning, and the unveiling will take place on the same hour that the disaster occurred 12 years ago.

The picture was painted by John L. Barnes, construction foreman with the Wisconsin Telephone Co. who was a member of company 107 supply train, and whose memory of the torpedoing was vivid enough to enable him to transfer the scene to canvas.

“Madison (WI) Capital Times” Tuesday 4 Feb 1930 p 10

**Sinking Of The
Tuscania**

**12 Years Ago at 6 P. M.
English Time**

The Cunard Liner Tuscania torpedoed off the coast of Ireland. First casualties of Wisconsin troops in World War. 32 division troops on board, 15 men of 107 Supply Train lost. John L. Barnes was a member of Co. C., 107 Supply Train.

***On Display In Lounge Of
Capitol Theater***

J. Laurence Barnes wishes to thank the management of the Capitol Theater for their courtesy in extending the privilege of exhibiting the picture in the beautiful Capitol Theater.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Wednesday 5 Feb 1930 p 24

**Hang Picture of
Tuscania Today
in Capitol Theater**

In observance of the sinking of the Tuscania, American troop ship, by a torpedo, 12 years ago Feb. 5 off the Irish coast, a modernistic picture of the sinking, painted by John L. Barnes, Madison, one of the survivors, was hung in the inner lobby of the Capitol theater today.

The picture has been exhibited in Chicago art galleries, receiving much favorable comment. It is about 4 feet square. Len S. Brown, Capitol theater manager, said it would remain at the theater for a week or 10 days.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Thursday 6 Feb 1930 p 6

John L. Barnes of Madison, a former Wautoma resident, was elected president of the Tuscania Survivors' association at the fourth annual meeting of the group Wednesday night in this city. The meeting was held in the Legion clubroom.

Other officers elected were J. J. Johnson of Wautoma, first vice president; A. H. McLaughlin of Coloma, second vice president; Joseph Parkins of Hancock, secretary, and John McArdle of Redgranite, treasurer.

John M. Maitland, the only Berlin man on the ill-fated Tuscania, was in charge of the evening's program. J. J. Williams, past commander of Berlin Legion post and commander of the Sixth district, was a guest and speaker at the gathering. Messages were read from Gen. John J. Pershing, the captain and chief mate of the Tuscania, and Dr. Wilhelm Meyer, commander of the U-boat that torpedoed the American transport. Hancock was selected as the 1931 meeting place.

"Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern" Friday 7 Feb 1930 p 3

Foreign Artists

Editor, The State Journal:

Has it ever occurred to any newspaper people to give natives of this country an even break with foreigners.

Every time a foreign artist shows up there is much hullabaloo over his stuff.

The women's clubs have teas and what-nots whether his stuff is any good or not. (It must be good he comes from Europe).

It's publicity, of course, that make any artist, musician or writer.

I suppose if I had served in the German army instead of our own I'd be hot stuff.

Well I've got to get this off my chest, but why this constant worship of foreign stuff.

An American ex-soldier can starve or go to hell for all our so-called intelligentsia care. But if some garlic smelling goof with a hunch doubts that no one knows what they are, he's hot stuff.

Just another of Hoover's hoboos on the way to the poor house.

—John L. Barnes

Simon Hotel.

P. S.: I spent \$13.00 with you which is a darn site more than the imported talent spends.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Wednesday 14 Dec 1932 p 3

City Tuscania Survivors To Attend 15th Reunion

J. L. Barnes, C. P. Diggles on Torpedoed Troop
Ship; Meet in Chicago Feb. 4-5

MADISON survivors of the "Tuscania" sinking are planning to attend the reunion of survivors to be held in Chicago Feb. 4 and 5, just 15 years after the disaster. The "Tuscania" was the only U. S. troopship torpedoed by a German submarine in the transportation of 2,000,000 troops to France during the World war.

Invited guests of honor at the reunion will be Capt. Wilhelm Meyer, commander of the German U boat No. 77 which sent the "Tuscania" to the bottom. Also invited are John M. Smith, commander of the British de-

stroyer "Grasshopper" which rescued all but the 225 men who were drowned or killed; and Capt. Peter McLean, Glasgow, master of the "Tuscania."

Two known survivors in Madison are John L. Barnes and Clyde P. Diggles. They will be taken to the convention by the delegation from Wautoma, which had 70 men on the ship for the largest group from any one place.

Members of the convention executive committee include Otto F. Bates, Baraboo; C. W. Eagan, Wautoma; Fred A. Scholey, Kenosha; Leo Zimmerman and M. W. Collins, Milwaukee.

UB-77 Kapitan Meyer did not attend – Adolph Hitler got in the way – "Madison (WI) Capital Times" Friday 20 Jan 1933 p 1

Madison Survivors to 'Tuscania' Meet

Reunion to Be Held in Chicago, Feb. 4

Madison's two survivors of the "Tuscania" sinking, John L. Barnes and Clyde P. Diggles, will attend the 15th reunion of survivors Feb. 4 and 5 at Chicago.

The "Tuscania" was the only U. S. troop transport torpedoed by a German submarine during the World war and was sunk just 15 years ago while on its way to France.

Wautoma had the largest group of soldiers on the transport when it sank and the Madison survivors will accompany the Wautoma group to the reunion.

Among the invited honor guests to the reunion are Capt. Wilhelm Meyer, commander of the German submarine which torpedoed the "Tuscania"; John M. Smith, commander of the British destroyer "Grasshopper" which rescued all but 225 men and Capt. Peter McLean, Glasgow, master of the "Tuscania."

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Saturday 21 Jan 1933 p 4

Tuscania Survivors Arrange Meeting

Wautoma, Wis.—At a reunion of the Tuscania survivors of this section of the state, held at the Central hotel in Red Granite Tuesday evening, it was voted to hold the 1934 meeting at Coloma.

Officers for the coming year were elected as follows: President, A. H. McLaughlin; secretary, Joe Parkin; treasurer, John McArdle.

The following men from Wautoma attended the meeting: John Barnes, Joe Bauer, Oliver Bendixen, Miles Colligan, J. J. Johnson, Art Robbins, Arlon Selsing, Ingwald Sorenson and Charles Stratton.

"Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Saturday 10 Feb 1934 p 2



All Around the Town

[By ADELIN HOHLFELD]

THE SUMMER visitors who flock to the lakes near Wautoma will have no excuse for missing their Sunday morning services this season for the bell chiming from the tower of a little chapel in the woods will call them to worship. They can go to church without breaking the rural peace of their holiday by a trip to town, because a former telephone lineman had a dream and made it come true. This is the way the chapel came into existence.

✱ ✱ ✱

PAINTER

JOH N LAURENZ BARNES, who formerly worked for the Wisconsin Telephone Co. and lived at the Simon hotel, had always wanted to be a painter. Several years ago he took an extended vacation from his work and began painting in earnest. When the vacation was over he found that the picture he was painting was so much more important to him than the telephone company that he went right on painting and has been doing so ever since.

Bugh's Lake and surrounding country that there were services at John Barnes' Episcopal Chapel.

Several times last summer when various Episcopal dignitaries were vacationing in the neighborhood they came to conduct services in the chapel. Several metropolitan bishops have preached there, and other reverends, but when there is no ordained clergyman to conduct services, the ex-lineman reads the of that terrible experience. This picture has now gone to New York. Mr. Barnes' "Blacksmith Shop" still hangs in the Simon hotel, however, having been purchased by Mr. Ophaug, the proprietor.

✱ ✱ ✱

MIRAGE

LAST YEAR Mr. Barnes bought a piece of land on Bugh's Lake about a mile from Wautoma, Wis. He built himself a little cottage and studio where he painted many scenes of the surrounding country. Near the cottage is a little wooded hill. Mr. Barnes used to stand and

He paints seascapes and landscapes and portraits. His best known picture is "The Sinking of the Tuscania" which has been exhibited in Madison at the Capitol theater and the Simon hotel and also has been shown and taken prizes at several out of town art exhibits. Mr. Barnes was an enlisted man on the Tuscania when it was sunk during the World War and was one of the first men off the doomed ship, so that this picture was painted from indelible memories to inform the good people of

look at his hill and think to himself what a fine place it would be for a chapel. And as he thought about it, the little chapel took shape in his imagination until he could never look at the hill without seeing the chapel there. Soon he felt the necessity for turning his chapel from a mirage into a reality.

✦ ✦ ✦

CHURCH

HE SET about building the chapel a year ago doing most of the work himself, trying to make it just as he had seen it in his dream. All the time that he wasn't off in the woods sketching he was sawing and hammering until his hill was crowned with a picturesque little church with a steeple and a bell tower. The church bell was just a big dinner bell of the sort used to call the farmhands in to meals across the fields, but it served prayers and scriptures himself for his little congregation. The chapel seats 36 but has held more on some occasions when some of the congregation have been content to stand.

ALTHOUGH the chapel was used last year, Mr. Barnes has continued working on it all during the spring and winter and it is much finer this season. He is painting a series of panels inside depicting scenes in the life of Christ. Near by he has built a grotto of the sort found in connection with many old European churches. It is worked in local stones with a big cross at the back made from a kind of purple stone which is found in the region. Mr. Barnes is also busy collecting stones with the plan of making a mosaic veneer of rock over the present wooden structure of the chapel. It is slow work as he has very special ideas about the laying and artistic arrangement of the different colored stones.

The chapel is dedicated to the memory of John Barnes' mother.

Early Registrants

Registration early this afternoon included the following names:

Oakley Parkhill, Fargo, N. D.
 Guy Wiseman, Menominee
 Joseph Marsolik, Winona, Minn.
 Albert Olson, Chippewa Falls
 Joseph E. Roberts, Madison
 Henry Werner, St. Paul, Minn.
 Richard J. McGinn, Oshkosh
 A. D. Robbins, Wisconsin Rapids
 Roy C. Marsh, La Crosse
 Nathan F. Carhart, Galesville
 Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee
 Ray C. Marsh, La Crosse
 F. A. Duxburg, Sheboygan
 Harry H. Irgwald, Manitowish
 Fred A. Scholey, Kenosha
 Charles W. Knauf, Kenosha
 John Mitchell, Kenosha
 Louis E. Regnier, Kenosha
 George R. Stephenson, Kenosha
 Otto Nelson, Chicago, Ill.
 John L. Barnes, Wautoma
 Charles W. Eagan, Wautoma
 Miles Colligan, Wautoma
 Thomas W. Clayton, Dixon, Ill.

Convention Sidelights

Arnold Joerns of Chicago, a past president, telegraphed his regrets from Buffalo, New York. Having planned to fly to Baraboo from that city, he was grounded by the snow-storm and unable to be present.

The newspaper is full of National Tuscania Survivors Association news - "Baraboo (WI) News-Republic" Tuesday 5 Feb 1935 p 7 -
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/868615830/>

Sinking Of The Tuscania

**12 Years Ago at 6 P. M.
English Time**

The Cunard Liner Tuscania torpedoed off the coast of Ireland. First casualties of Wisconsin troops in World War. 32 division troops on board, 15 men of 107 Supply Train lost. John L. Barnes was a member of Co. C., 107 Supply Train.

On Display In Lounge Of
Capitol Theater

J. Lorenz Barnes wishes to thank the management of the Capitol Theater for their courtesy in extending the privilege of exhibiting the picture in the beautiful Capitol Theater.

Oshkosh Girl Married In Rustic Chapel

In the old, rustic chapel of St. Mary's by the Lake, Wautoma, Miss Janet Goehrs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Goehrs, 1125 Merritt Ave., Oshkosh, and Thomas Alan Hudson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Hudson, 828 Fulton St., Wausau, exchanged vows in the presence of immediate family members.

The 11 o'clock ceremony this morning, performed by the Rev. Harris T. Hall of St. Peter Church, Ripon, was the first to be performed in the natural granite and wood chapel built, by hand, by John Barnes, Wautoma.

The bride's street-length dress with pleated skirt and sleeveless bodice of white linen, was worn with an imported long-sleeved lace jacket, while her nosegay contained white pompons, ivory rosebuds and pinks. She wore a short veil secured by white peau de soie flowers.

Miss Carolyn Goehrs was her sister's maid of honor, wearing chalk pink with lace trim from the high round neckline to the hemline in front. Her corsage was of white pompons and pink sweetheart roses.

Philip F. Hudson attended his brother as best man.

The couple will honeymoon in northern Wisconsin after a reception at the bride's parents' summer home on Crystal Lake, south of Wautoma.

They will live near Fort Belvoir, Va., where the bridegroom is a lieutenant in the Army. He is a Ripon College graduate, where he majored in economics and was a member of Theta Chi. His bride attended Ripon College where she was affiliated with Alpha Phi.

The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the bridegroom's parents at Peck's Plantation, Wautoma, Friday evening.

"Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern" Saturday 28 Aug 1965 p 8

St. Mary by the Lake

Man's Dream Lives in A Small Stone Church

BY FRANCES V. HUTCHISON
Special to the Post-Crescent

Two miles from Wautoma, on placid Lake Bugh, is a monument to a man's dream, "St. Mary by the Lake," the only Episcopal church in all Waushara County.

The small stone chapel was built in its entirety by John L. Barnes, a World War I veteran.

Along winding roads, across rough fields, the visitor must travel carefully to reach the little church at the end of the road—this mecca of summer sightseers. Here on a warm Sunday morning with the sun shine sifting through the Norway pines and the sound of the organ coming through the windows, one waits to hear the voice of the lay reader, usually the builder himself, and the responses of the tourists who have stopped to worship there.

Barnes, survivor of the Tuscania and often a winter resident of the Grand Army Home at King, dreamed many years of building this little chapel before he could find just the spot which answered to the call of his imagination. At the time the land was purchased, Lake Bugh was surrounded by wilderness; today it is dotted with summer cottages.

Begun June 1933

After buying the land, Barnes who is artist and architect as well as carpenter, designed the place of his dreams. Construction was begun in June, 1933, and on Aug. 20 of the same year the tiny chapel was dedicated by the late Bishop Reginald Weller of Fond du Lac.

Stones which went into the construction of the building all were found in Waushara County. They are selected colors of sandstone and were accumulated over a period of years by Barnes. They differ from the ordinary sandstone considerably, in both colors and hardness. Some stones weighed as much as 3,600 pounds but all went into the building with the aid of a stone chisel.

Over the sandstone altar is an oil painting by Barnes, of the Christ on Calvary. The Tabernacle on the altar is also of his design and construction.

Outside the chapel a sun dial, also made by Barnes, points out the hours and a shrine built into the chapel wall inspires reverence. The bell tower is 12 feet high and holds a bell that was a gift of the late Cass Williams, pioneer of the Village of Wautoma.

"Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent" Sunday 24 Jul 1966 p 33 (page number in Newspapers.com, but page D1 in actuality) - <https://www.newspapers.com/image/290941366/>

Father:



William Dwight Barnes - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/87637340/person/382065141906/media/3b90cb71-b0fd-4d41-afdb-4860c2012e13>


Siblings:

Registration of Death	
1. Full name of deceased.	Olive Barnes Sutherland Mrs
2. Color.	white
3. Sex.	Female.
4. Age.	22
5. Name of the father of deceased.	William Barnes.
6. Name of the mother of deceased.	Anneline "
7. Occupation.	
8. Place of birth.	
9. Name of wife of deceased.	
10. Name of husband of deceased.	Frank B. Sutherland
11. Date of birth and date of death.	Sept 1" 1893 Aug
12. Cause of death.	Misadventure & heat stroke
13. Name of the place, town or township and county in which the person died.	Uphamtown. Wis Iowa
14. Name and location of burial ground in which interred.	Waukegan. Sher
15. Name of person returning certificate.	Rm. Campbell J. L
16. Residence of such person.	Amos Wis W
17. Date of certificate.	26 th Sept 1893 7"
18. Date of registration.	30" " " 9"

WI death record of **sister Olive Millicent Barnes Sutherland (1870-1893)** -

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3130098:61483?tid=579693&pid=372102782176&queryId=1894e774acd61ad6934e7b19b6fda0ce&phsrc=cPx4193&phstart=successSource>

Wisconsin Death Index, 1959-1997

 [View image](#)

[View record](#)

Name Lester G Barnes
 Age 90
 Sex M (Male)
 Birth Date abt 1873
 Death Date 22 Mar 1963
 Certificate 011260

011260 BARNES LESTER G 22 MAR 63 DODG 90 M 1

Brother Lester Grant Barnes (1873-1963) - <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/579693/person/372102782083/facts>

Registration of Marriage
 No. 191 128

1. Full name of husband	William L Plath	Joe
2. Name of the father of husband	August Plath	Ol
3. Name of the mother of husband before marriage	Augustine Stagg	Ca
4. Occupation of husband	Furniture Dealer	Bl
5. Residence of husband	New London Wis	Wa
6. Birthplace of husband	Marquette Co. Wis	Sw
7. Full name of wife previous to marriage	Fannie N Barnes	Th
8. Name of the father of wife	William D Barnes	
9. Name of the mother of wife before marriage	Rhoda A Parsons	Ha
10. Birthplace of wife	Nebraska	Sw
11. Time when the marriage was contracted	Oct 28 1900	Oct
12. The place, town or township, and county, where the marriage was contracted	Waupaca Wis	Wa
13. The color of the parties	white	wh
14. By what ceremony contracted	Civil	Me
15. Names of officiating witnesses	Eva Hatch, Winifred Hatch	Id
16. Name of person procuring marriage	J.M. Hatch	Jo
17. Residence of person last named	Waupaca	Wa
18. Date of certificate or affidavit of marriage	Oct 28 1900	Oct
19. Date of registration	Nov 3 1900	H
20. Any additional circumstances		

Marriage of *sister Fannie Estelle Barnes (1875-1952)* to William L. Plath -

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/92179582:61484?tid=579693&pid=372102782180&queryId=8974b928dc1d16738c27d36289c0d4bd&phsrc=cPx4195&phstart=successSource>

Fannie Estelle Plath

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Death Records, 1959-2004

Name	Fannie Estelle Plath
Death Date	28 Aug 1952
Death County	Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, USA

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/3249791:61483>

Former Manager Of Ripon Phone Company Is Dead

RIPON — Elmer W. Barnes, 80, died at the home of his son in Milwaukee Wednesday after an illness of several years.

Mr. Barnes, who spent most of his lifetime in Ripon, was manager of the Ripon United Telephone Company until his retirement about 30 years ago. He was a past noble grand of the International Order of Odd Fellows, a member of Rebekah Lodge, Masonic Lodge, and the Order of Eastern Star.

Preceding him in death were his wife, a brother and a sister.

Surviving are a son, Vernon, Milwaukee, and two brothers, Lester, Milwaukee, and John, Wautoma.

Friends may call at the Butzin Funeral Home after 11 a.m. Friday.

Services will be conducted by the Rev. Douglas O. Anderson Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Interment will be in Hillside Cemetery.

Obituary of *brother Elmer William Barnes (1877-1956)* – “Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern”
Thursday 29 Nov 1956 p 33

**BARNES, HORACE P.
(RODNEY)**

Formerly of Waterford, Wis.
Age 75. Passed away Nov. 23
in the Milwaukee General
Hospital following a stroke.
Mr. Barnes was born in Vilas
County, Wis. on Nov. 13, 1881
and had formerly lived in
Waterford and Rochester. He
was a telephone lineman for
the Waterford and Rochester
Telephone Co. He was a mem-
ber of St. Thomas Aquinas
Church, Waterford. Surviving
are three daughters, Mrs. Guy
Hughes of Milwaukee, Mrs.
Sylvester Darling of Fox Point
and Mrs. Paul Griswold of
Cincinnati, Ohio; two sons,
John of Big Bend and William
D. of Milwaukee, Wis.; three
brothers, Lester G., Elmer and
John; 22 grandchildren; nieces,
nephews, relatives and friends.

His wife, Dora, preceded him in death in 1952. Funeral services will be held Monday, Nov. 26, 9 a. m. in St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Rev. Edward Hertel officiating. Interment will be in St. Thomas Aquinas cemetery. Friends may call at the MEALY FUNERAL HOME, Waterford, Sunday afternoon after 3 o'clock and until service time. The Rosary will be recited Sunday evening, 8 o'clock, in the funeral home.

Obituary of *brother Horace P. Barnes (1881-1956)* – “*Racine (WI) Journal Times*” Saturday 24 Nov 1956 p 10

St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel Wautoma WI

54982

<https://www.joinmychurch.com/churches/St-Mary-s-Episcopal-Chapel-Wautoma-Wisconsin-United-States/62800>



St. Mary

St. Mary Chapel, on Bugh's Lake, Wautoma, was originally gifted to the diocese. Subsequently In the 1950's it was given to St. Peter. This chapel was built by John Barnes, a corporal in the U.S. Army Fifth Wisconsin Infantry in World War I.

Barnes was aboard the USS Tuscania when it was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat off the coast of Ireland. While adrift in the North Atlantic, Barnes prayed to have his life spared and, vowed that if he lived, he would build a chapel dedicated to St. Mary. Barnes was rescued and returned to Wautoma. A mason by trade, he built a chapel on his property on Bugh's Lake in 1932. Clergy from St. Peter have celebrated the Eucharist every Saturday year-round. Seating up to 25 people, the chapel is an intimate setting with a choir of birds, frogs and crickets. A small but dedicated group of parishioners and visitors gather weekly for the Eucharist and to hear God's word.



St. Mary Chapel in Wautoma is located 38 miles northwest of Ripon on the shoreline of scenic Bugh's Lake. It was extensively renovated in 2006-07 making it more suitable for year-round use. It is a setting which makes the congregation feel connected to their fellow worshipers and the beauty of nature.



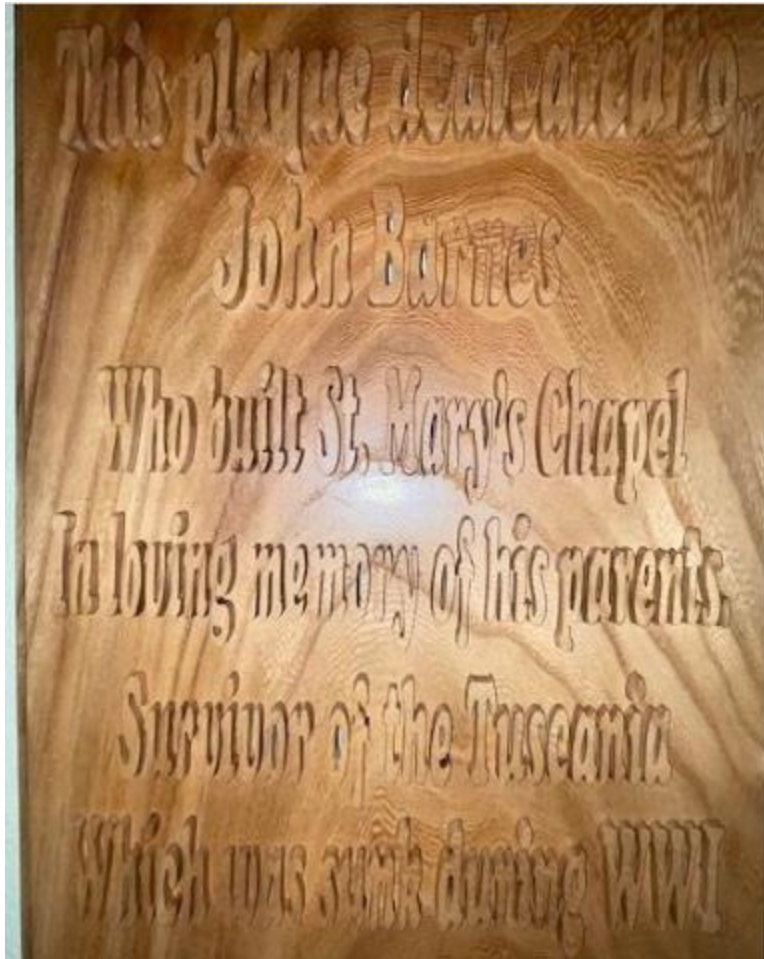
(St. Mary Chapel)

ST. MARY CHAPEL

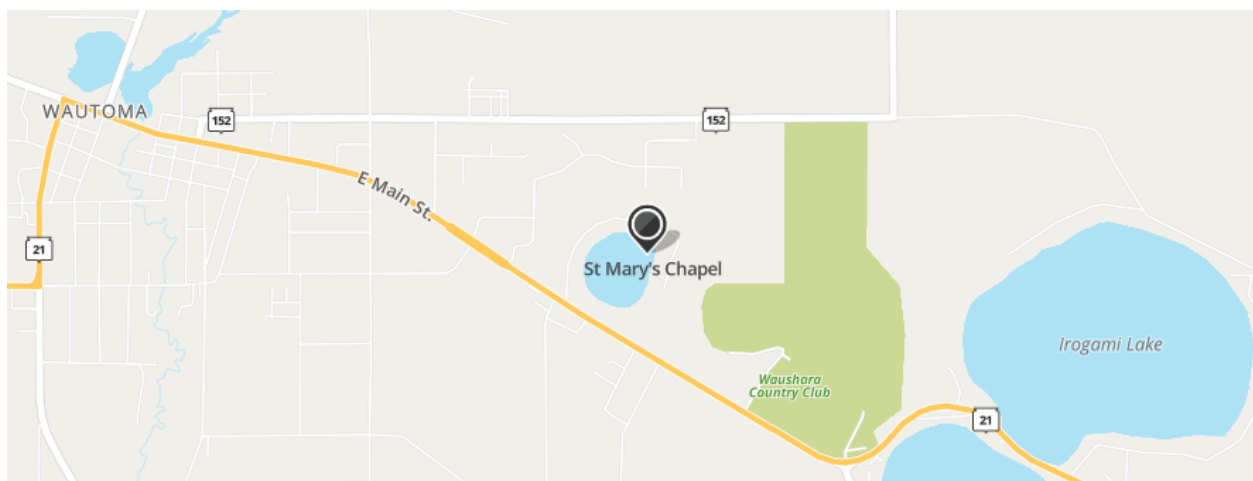
N2616 Bughs Lake Rd, Wautoma, WI 54982

https://www.diofdl.org/uploads/7/2/4/1/72413413/st_peter_and_st_mary_ripon_and_wautoma_profile_2019.pdf





<https://www.compass.com/listing/n2616-bughs-lake-road-wautoma-wi-54982/1421152700296093889/>



St. Mary's Chapel at Bugh's Lake - <https://www.mapquest.com/us/wisconsin/st-marys-chapel-400422690>

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: John Lawrence Barnes

Name variations: J. Laurenz Barnes, John Laurenz Barnes

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. C - corporal

Serial number: 251,081

Entered service from: Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: John L. Barnes

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": NOK brother L.G. Barnes, 411 Newhall St., Milwaukee WI

Returned from war on: "Louisville" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: John L. Barnes

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: brother Lester G. Barnes, 411 Newhall St., Milwaukee WI (PFC, Co. B, 107th Amm. Train, Field Artillery)

World War I draft registration (1917):

World War II draft registration (1942): as John Lawrence Barnes - b. 21 Jul 1884 LeRoy, Dodge WI; res: Wautoma, Waushara WI. Contact: Miles Colligan [fellow Tuscania survivor], Wautoma WI. Not employed. Height: 5'7" – 155 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 15 Jul 1917

Discharged 24 May 1919

Address: Wautoma WI

Rank/unit: private 1st class, Co. B, 107th Ammunition Train**Birth & death:**

Born: 21 Jul 1884 LeRoy, Dodge WI

Died: 16 Jul 1972 Wautoma, Waushara WI (Wautoma Community Memorial Hospital)

Find A Grave record: 112219950 - presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Wautoma, Waushara WI

Cemetery: Wautoma Union

Tombstone: veteran flat - Wisconsin Pvt US Army WWI

Father: William Dwight Barnes, 19 Jul 1848 LeRoy, Dodge WI – 15 Jul 1915 Oakfield, Fond du Lac WI. Son of Horrace/Horace Barnes (1823-1895, F: 53629159) & Phebe L. Higgins (1826-1910, F: 53629220). Buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, LeRoy, Dodge WI.

Find A Grave: 144809453

Family tree at: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/87637340/person/382065141906/facts>

Mother: Emelie Parsons Barnes, 25 Mar 1847 VT – 4 Jul 1929. Daughter of Maseina S. Parsons & Lydia Blanchard. Buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, LeRoy, Dodge WI.

Find A Grave: 144809541

Parents' marriage: William D. Barnes [sic] married Amelia A. Parsons 19 Sep 1869 Dodge WI. He is listed as the son of Horrace & Phebe Barnes, she the daughter of Massina & Lydia B. Parsons.

Parents' marriage: 1869

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Children:

Siblings: had 3 brothers & 2 sisters according to obituary

- Olive Millicent Barnes Sutherland, 22 Sep 1870 Fairmont, Fillmore NE – 1 Sep 1893 Winnebago Co. WI. Listed as daughter of William D. Barnes & Emelie A. Parsons when she married Frank George Sutherland 14 Dec 1892 in Shiocton, Outagamie WI. He was born in Waukau WI (where Olive was buried when she died at age 22 the year after her marriage.) Frank (1867-1914, F: 29413478) was the son of Andrew Sutherland & Harriet Beebe. Her death record indicates she was the daughter of William Barnes & Amenelia Barnes. Died of heart disease. Buried in Waukau Cemetery, Waukau, Winnebago WI. F: 29413111
- Lester Grant Barnes, 25 Feb 1873 Fairmont, Fillmore NE – 22 Mar 1963 Dodge Co. WI. Married in 1894 to Elizabeth May Dexter (1875-1963, F: 114814781). Buried in Christ Church Episcopal Columbarium, Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee Co. WI. F: 114814767
- Fannie Estelle Barnes Plath, 10 Apr 1875 Fairmont, Fillmore NE – 28 Aug 1952 Fond du Lac Co. WI. Wife of William L. Plath (1870-1940, F: 161419868). She is listed as the daughter of William D. Barnes & Emelie A. Parsons & he (a New London WI furniture dealer) is listed as son of August Plath & Augustine Stagg when Fannie & William married 28 Oct 1900 Waupaca, Waupaca WI. Buried in Rienzi Cemetery, Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac WI. F: 161419867
- Elmer William Barnes, 31 Aug 1877 Leroy, Dodge WI – 28 Nov 1956 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. Married 24 Dec 1902 in West Bend, Washington Co. WI to Henrietta Macholtz/Macholz (1880-1927, F: 196814943). He is listed as b. Oakfield, Dodge WI to William D. Barnes & Emelia Parsons. She was born in West Bend WI, daughter of Wilhelm Macholz & Wilhelmina Stielow. Died at the home of his son in Milwaukee WI. Retired about 30 years earlier, was manager of United Telephone Company & long-time resident of Ripon WI. He was survived by brothers Lester & John. Buried in Hillside Cemetery, Ripon, Fond du Lac WI. F: 196814426
- Horace Paul ("Rodney") Barnes, 13 Nov 1881 Vilas Co. WI – 23 Nov 1956 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. – Married 23 Nov 1909 in Green Lake Co. WI to Dora B. Eichman (1884-1952, F: 35790823). In 1920 census living in Wautoma, Waushara

WI with his mother, Emelia A. Barnes (72 VT) & his wife Dora B. (34 WI), 1 son & 3 daughters. Manager of a telephone company. – Buried in St. Thomas Aquinas Cemetery, Waterford, Racine WI. F: 35790824

Notes:

Wartime:

Post-war:

“Madison (WI) Capital Times” 15 May 1925 p 5

“A telephone lineman by day and an artist by night and week-ends, toiling in his attic studio on the top floor of the Sumner Drug Co. building, above the hum of the busy square – that is J. Laurenz Barnes, Madison’s newest artist of an individual and ultra-modern school.” Employed as lineman by Wisconsin Telephone CO. Many of the pictures in his studio are “studies of the human form. “His individualism, his conception of the male studies as more beautiful than the female makes one feel as if Michael Angelo has been resurrected and brought to Madison.” He said he works as a lineman as he has “to get my pork chops somehow.” Never went to art school or much of any sort of school. Self-taught art that evidenced itself 25 years ago when he as a lad he made sketches on the walls of his father’s barn in Oakfield WI. He learned his art & knowledge “from books, from contact with all classes of society, from experience with all the hard knocks of life.” He paints in his ordinary work clothes, with a felt hat on his head, “grizzled and tanned by his many years of work on the tops of telephone poles.” On the easel “there was a painting nearly finished of a great ship sinking the midst of pitch darkness, her upper deck ablaze with the light of flames.” He explains that is the sinking, torpedoed troopship “Tuscania” – “as she looked to me that fearful night that I was saved and picked up by a U.S. destroyer.”

He continued, “War pictures? Hell yes. I saw enough to paint an art gallery full of them. I tried a number and they said the pictures had no perspective and were too frightful. Well, there wasn’t any perspective in the war. There was damned little art in the way anyway.” He painted pictures so ghastly that he destroyed many of them. Barnes enlisted in the Army although he was above the draft age. “Over 40 years of age, he is boyish of eye and speech. He was brought up in Oakfield WI & lived for many years in Wautoma, but roamed around the entire state of WI as part of his job. He has now settled in Madison. He says he traces his ancestors back beyond the Revolutionary days.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" 4 Nov 1925 p 9 - photo, "Shipwreck Canvas Brings Him Fame" - John L. Barnes telephone lineman & artist, paintings came to attention of Mrs. W.E. Chase, secretary of the Madison Art Assn. who saw his landscapes & nudes & painting of a ship on fire at his studio on the 3rd floor of the Sumner Drug Co. bldg. & were impressed by the excellence of many of his paintings, 40 years old, tanned & weather-beaten from outdoor work, lays cables & installs poles for Wisconsin Telephone Co., unfinished canvas of ship afire in mid-ocean with passengers jumping overboard & fighting

for lifeboats based on Tuscania, Mrs. Chase says this remarkable picture should hang in a gallery or art institute. Barnes said 290 killed on Tuscania, torpedo blew 14-foot-square hole amidships, he slid down rope to destroyer one hour after the torpedo, landscapes based on his work around WI, been in Madison for the past year.

“Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) 6 Dec 1925 p 24 “John Barnes Paints When in Notion”

Bare studio, painting by dim light which comes through a small window, “John Barnes, artist-lineman of Madison, is a picturesque figure.” He does not care for fame or recognition, but paints for the pure joy of creation. His weather-scarred face lights up when he speaks of his work. He wears a heavy flannel shirt open at the neck & wipes his hands on corduroy breeches before lighting his pipe. “Blue eyes with a twinkle of humor peer out from under a tangled mop of sandy hair.” He has spent 40 years “wandering about.” He said “Anywhere I hang my hat is home. My father was a tramp before me. Guess it runs in the family. He paints on Saturday afternoon & Sundays. He has done a surprising amount of work, but most of his sketches are unfinished, as he grows tired of the scene and drops it for some time. He doesn’t care if he sells a picture, as he paints for his own amusement. One picture sold for \$73 but he thought that was “flying pretty high.” Mrs. E.C. Chase, secretary of the Madison Art Appreciation Association, visited his studio recently and complimented him highly on his use of color. She suggested some education; he has had no training. Prefers to paint with oils as watercolor is too thin. At present he is depicting the sinking of the “Tuscania” from memory. He was a corporal in the Wauwatosa section of the Red Arrow Division and was a passenger on the torpedoed ship. “The powerful glare of great arcs sheds a ghastly glare on the dreadful scene pictured below. Lifeboats are being lowered frantically, and men are leaping wildly into the dark waters.” He paints from real life and photographs.

“Madison (WI) Capital Times” 29 Sep 1927 p 62: “John Barnes Painting Wins French Praise” John Laurence Barnes, a Madison artist, has works which recently received high criticism from two Parisian art reviews. He intends to open a studio in Madison. Two of his pictures – “The Sinking of Tuscania” and “Saym Burgh” – constitute his outstanding efforts so far. He first started to paint while living in Baraboo in 1912. During the war he served with the 32nd Division and in the 107th Supply Train & took part in many of the war’s major engagements. His most outstanding experience in the war was being on the torpedoed “Tuscania.” He has twice exhibited in Chicago and intends to exhibit in New York this winter. “La Revue Moderne” wrote: “The two canvases which constitute the offering of John Laurentz-Barnes rank in my opinion among the best works of this gallery. They come from an entirely personal conception of the art of painting, and from a spirit perfectly independent in regard to the rules and regulations of a school or a studio. Besides, he has been his own teacher. His art comes entirely from instinct and feeling.”

“Without a teacher of any kind, but by personal observation, by lectures and by persistent work, he has come today to a certain position as a painter and has become conscious of

his personality, which today is easily seen in his work, and which draws the eyes of the spectator and holds him spellbound.”

The “Revue du Vrai et du Beau” wrote: “These works so living and poignant with reality attracted my attention. In the case of this artist, one is not in the presence of a professional. The qualities of composition and of meaning which strike us in his work are even more remarkable. Talent in him is strong and sincere; nothing in his work gives evidence of effort of affectation. The passion for art has taken possession of this simple soul, who adores nature and truth above all thing.” Barnes works for the Wisconsin Telephone Co. & spends but a part of his time painting. He intends to call the studio he will open the “Menagerie” – the name is a personal whim.

“Madison Capital Times” 28 Oct 1927 p 8 – 1 of many ads for the Menagerie studio. Public invited to view the oil paintings of J. Laurenz Barnes at 15 S. Pinckney, 3rd floor, over Sumner’s Drug Store on Saturday & Sunday afternoon. “A few desirable pieces are still on hand ranging in price from \$30 to \$50.”

“Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) 5 Apr 1928 p 14

Ad for The Menagerie – Wautoma & Madison, Saturday & Sunday afternoons, by J. Laurenz Barnes, 15 S. Pinckney. A person can keep a painting for 6 months and then pay for it at the end of that time period. Believes a person cannot tell if he/she likes a particular work in a shorter period. Prices range from \$15 to \$400.

“Madison Capital Times” 4 Feb 1930 p 10

Twelve years ago Wednesday (5 Feb) at 6 p.m. the Tuscania was torpedoed, and sunk in less than an hour later. [not accurate – sunk 3 hours later]. “A futuristic painting” was hung this morning in the foyer of the Capitol Theater in Madison & will be unveiled at the same hour, 6 p.m. tomorrow (5 Feb 1930). The painting was done by John L. Barnes, construction foreman with the Wisconsin Telephone Co. who was in the 107th Supply Train “and whose memory of the torpedoing was vivid enough to enable him to transfer the scene to canvas.”

“Wisconsin State Journal” 5 Feb 1930 p 24

“Tuscania Painting on Display Here”

An oil painting depicting the sinking of the “Tuscania” by John Laurenz-Barnes, one of the survivors, will be exhibited at the Capital Theater beginning at 6 p.m. on 5 Feb. Only troopship torpedoed while carrying troops. The only Madison man listed among survivors is C.L. Harrington, superintendent of forests & parks in the conservation commission. “The events were so unforgetably [sic] imprinted in the mind of Mr. Barnes that he was able to reproduce it vividly on canvas and win the praise of art critics.”

“Oshkosh Northwestern” 7 Feb 1930 p 3 – John L. Barnes of Madison, formerly of Wautoma, was elected president of Tuscania Survivors Assn. (apparently only the WI

group) meeting in Oshkosh, their 4th annual meeting, held in the American Legion club room in Oshkosh.

“Madison Capital Times” 20 Jan 1933 p 1

Two Madison survivors – John L. Barnes & Clyde P. Diggles – attending NTSA reunion marking 15th anniversary. The contingent from Wautoma numbered 70, the largest group from any one place on board.

“Madison Capital Times” 12 Jun 1934 p 11

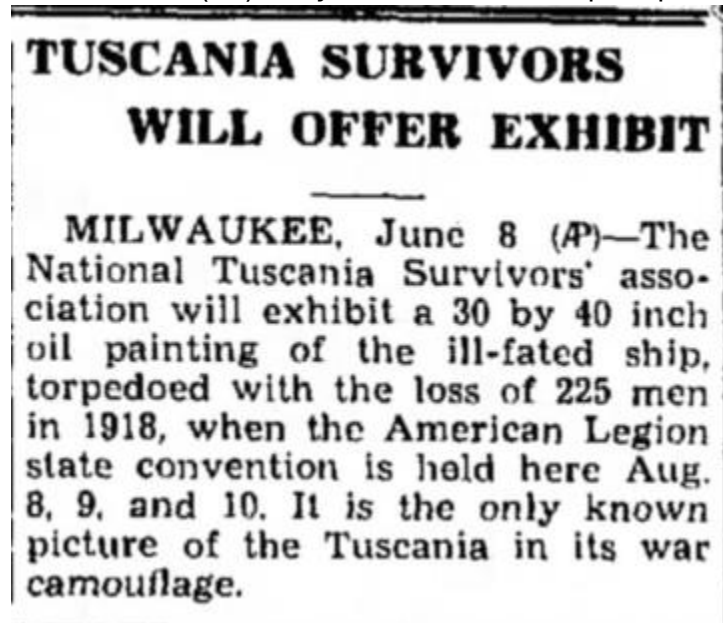
John Laurenz Barnes, formerly employed by the Wisconsin Telephone Co. and who lived at the Simon Hotel, had always wanted to be a painter. Several years ago he took an extended vacation from his work & began painting in earnest. After this vacation, he decided to keep on painting. He paints seascapes, landscapes & portraits. His best-known picture is “The Sinking of the Tuscania” which has been exhibited in Madison WI at the Capitol Theater and the Simon Hotel & several out-of-town exhibitions. Barnes was an enlisted man on the “Tuscania” and was one of the first men off the ship, “so that the picture was painted from indelible memories to inform the good people of Bugh’s Lake and surrounding country of that terrible experience. This painting has now gone to New York. Barnes’s “Blacksmith Shop” still hangs in the Simon Hotel, having been purchased by the proprietor, Mr. Ophaug. Barnes reminds people of services at his Episcopal Chapel at Bugh’s Lake. Episcopalian dignitaries vacationing in the area last summer conducted services there, while several metropolitan bishops have preached there. If there is no clergyman, then the ex-lineman reads the service. Last year Barnes bought a piece of land on Bugh’s Lake about a mile from Wautoma and built a little cottage and painting studio. Near the cottage is a little hill, and he many times thought it would be a fine place for a little chapel. About one year ago he began building the chapel, doing most of the work himself. The church has a steeple and bell tower, the bell being just a big dinner bell like those used to call farmhands into meals. The chapel seats 36 but can hold if some attendees stand. Although the chapel was used last year, Barnes continued to work on it through the spring & winter & it is much finer. He is painting a series of panels inside depicting scenes in the life of Christ. He also constructed a nearby grotto, made of local stones with a big cross at the back made from some local purple stone. Now he is collecting stones to make a mosaic veneer of rock over the present wooden structure of the chapel. The chapel is dedicated to the memory of Barnes’s mother.

“Eau Claire Leader-Telegram” 7 Feb 1935 p 2

Reunion marking 17th anniversary, with Sheboygan WI selected for near year. John L. Barnes is NTSA chaplain. The group adopted a resolution asking President Franklin D. Roosevelt & Wisconsin’s two senators to enact the Senate bill providing medals to Tuscania survivors. Dr. Wilhelm Meyer from Saarbrücken, Germany, was invited, but had too many duties following recent plebiscite.

"Sheboygan [WI] Press" 5 Feb 1936 p 1 - photo, NTSA officer (listed as Rev. John Barnes, the association chaplain)

“Rhineland (WI) Daily News” 8 Jun 1937 p 1 – perhaps John Barnes’s painting?



“Oshkosh (WI) Northwestern” 28 Aug 1965 p 8 “Oshkosh Girl Married in Rural Chapel”
Miss Janet Goehrs, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Warren J. Goehrs of Oshkosh, married Thomas Alan Hudson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P. Hudson of Wausau, in the rustic chapel of St. Mary’s by the Lake in Wautoma on 28 Aug 1965. This was the first wedding ceremony to be performed in the natural granite & wood chapel built by hand by John Barnes of Wautoma.

“Appleton (WI) Post-Crescent” 24 Jul 1966 p 33 (page number from newspapers.com, in actuality p. D 1)

“Man’s Dream Lives in A Small Stone Church”

“Two miles from Wautoma, on placid Lake Bugh, is a monument to a man’s dream, “St. Mary by the Lake,” the only Episcopal church in all Waushara County. The small stone chapel was built in its entirety by World War I veteran, John Barnes. The chapel is at the end of the road, a mecca for summer sightseers. Sometimes the lay reader is the builder himself – Barnes. Barnes, a survivor of the “Tuscania” and often a winter resident of the Grand Army Home at King WI, dreamed for many years of building the little chapel before he could find just the spot. When the land was purchased, Lake Bugh was surrounded by wilderness, but now is dotted with summer cottages.

After buying the land, Barnes – an artist, architect and carpenter – designed the chapel, with construction beginning in June 1933. On 20 Aug 1933, the chapel was dedicated by the late Bishop Reginald Weiler of Fond du Lac. The stones used in construction were all found in Waushara County. Selected colors of sandstone were collected over the years by Barnes. Some stones weighed as much as 3,600 pounds but were set in the chapel with the aid of a stone chisel. Over the sandstone altar is a painting by Barnes of Christ on Calvary. The tabernacle on the altar is also of Barnes’s design and construction. Outside

the chapel is a sundial made by Barnes and a shrine built into the chapel wall. The bell tower is 12 feet high; the bell inside is a gift of the late Cass Williams, a Wautoma village pioneer.

Obituary:

"Oshkosh [WI] Northwestern" 17 Jul 1972 p 27

John L. Barnes d. age 87, Wautoma resident, died early Sunday morning at Wautoma Community Memorial Hospital. He was b. 21 Jul 1884 WI, in early 1930s built by hand the St. Mary of the Lake Episcopal Chapel on the NE shore of Bughs Lake, about 2 miles E. of Wautoma in memory of parents, deeded it to Fond du Lac Episcopal diocese. Services held there weekly by the Rev. Robert Brown of Ripon WI. No immediate survivors, member of American Legion, WWI vet - Tuscania survivor

From Waushara County Historical Society – newspaper obituary, no citation but likely July 1972

"Death Claims Builder of Bugh's Lake Chapel" – photo of Barnes in 1968 with the oil painting of "The Sinking of the Tuscania"

Familiar figure in Wautoma for past 40 years. Failing health for several months. "A note found in his Bible left careful instructions for his funeral and burial." Born 21 Jul 1884 in Florence, son of William D. & Emilie Parsons Barns. Corporal in Co. L, 5th Wisconsin Infantry in WWI, one of 65 survivors of the 70 Waushara County volunteers on the torpedoed & sunk English ship, the "Tuscania." At the 50th reunion of Tuscania survivors in Milwaukee in 1968, the national secretary of the organization said this was probably the final reunion. At one time John was manager of the telephone exchange at Wautoma. After his retirement, he did stone work and built, by hand, the Episcopal Chapel of St. Mary at Bugh's Lake in 1932 in memory of his parents & in thanksgiving for his survival when Tuscania sank. He used several thousand pounds of sandstone of various colors from the Stratton farm north of Wautoma. The chapel was deeded to the Fond du Lac diocese of the Episcopal Church, and operates as a mission outreach by St. Peter's Episcopalian Church of Ripon. Services are held at 6:30 p.m. each Saturday night by Father Robert Brown. John's oil paintings hang in the front of the little chapel. A military funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at the Patterson Funeral Home (Wautoma) & at graveside. Father D. Strom officiated at the funeral & later at the memorial service held in John's little chapel. Members of the Wolman-Minskey American Legion Post 317 of Wautoma also participated in the rites. Burial was in Wautoma Cemetery. John is survived by 5 nephews & 8 nieces, and was preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers & 2 sisters.

Social Security Number: 398-36-9940

Censuses:

1880 LeRoy, Dodge WI

Wm. D. Barnes, 31 WI, parents b. NY, farmer

Emelea A., 31 VT, parents b. VT, keeping house
 Olive, 9 NE
 Lester, 7 NE
 Fanny, 5 NE
 Elmer, 2 WI

1900 Oxford, Marquette WI
 William Barnes, 51 WI, Jul 1848, parents b. NY, married 31 years, farmer
 Amelia, 53 VT, Mar 1847, parents b. VT, gave birth to 6 children, 5 are living
 John S., 15 WI, Jul 1884, single, at school

1905 WI state census – Oxford, Marquette WI
 W.D. Barnes, 57 WI, parents b. NY, farmer
 Emilie A., 58 VT, parents b. VT
 John S., 20 WI, single

1910 Oakfield, Fond du Lac WI – his parents
 William D. Barnes, 62 WI, both parents b. WI, married 41 years, farmer
 Emilie A., 63 VT, both parents b. VT, gave birth to 6 children, 5 are living

1920 Wautoma, Waushara WI – St. Marie St. – conducted 3 Jan 1920
 John L. Barnes, 35 WI, single, father b. WI, mother b. VT, lineman, telephone co., boarder
 with:
 Emery A. Weeks (47 WI) & his wife Vesta D. Weeks (41 KS), their 10-year-old daughter, his
 in-laws (Vesta's parents), 2 servants, a hired man & 6 boarders.
 Three of the boarders – John L. Barnes, Sever Jarvis (age 30 WI) & Miles Colligan (age 24 WI)
 - are Tuscania survivors. Colligan & Jarvis are both listed as the proprietor of a garage.

1930 – John is double-counted, at 2 different locations, only 2 days apart:

1930 Madison, Dane WI – 115 S. Hancock St. – conducted 11 Apr 1930 – line 100
 John L. Barnes, 45 WI, single, father b. WI, mother b. VT – telephone lineman, WWI veteran
 Boarding with Amanda O. Peterson (38 WI) & 3 female boarders
 Found at: <https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/59780385:6224>
 And

1930 Madison, Dane WI – 110 S. Blair St. – conducted 13 Apr 1930 – line 83
 John L. Barnes, 45 WI, single, father b. WI, mother b. VT, laborer, Bell Telephone, not a
 veteran
 Boarding with Edward Serstad (56 Norway), wife Anna Serstad & their 3 children. Edward
 has 4 male lodgers
 Found at: https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/59781662:6224?tid=87637340&pid=382065142053&queryId=ebc06b416f9c94b7e9270b46a43358a6&_phsrc=cPx4204&_phstart=successSource

1940 Farmington, Waupaca WI – resident of Bryant Hill, WI Veterans Home – in 1935 in
Wautoma, Waushara WI – line 24 – conducted 11 Apr 1940
John L. Barnes, 55 WI, single, institutionalized

1950 Wautoma, Waushara WI – Bughs Lake Rd.
John S. Barnes, 65 WI, never married, occupation left blank