

TUSCANIA

Tuscania casualty
Butler, Raymond Charles
1898 WI – 5 February 1918 Tuscania

BUTLER RAYMOND CHARLES		C 7 069
Pvt Hqs	Co 20 Engrs	K
New Richmond Wis		A
Re	Died 2/6/18	T 824 831
Born 4/8/97		R
Enl	Dis	CL
		I 7 769

U.S. VETERANS BUREAU
 MAIL AND RECORDS
 FORM 1000 - REV. OCT. 1, 1925

INDEX CARD

Veterans Administration Master Index –

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1C-C3SG-7?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP8Z-R2Q2&action=view&cc=2968245&lang=en>

Butler

Vital • Wisconsin, Births and Christenings, 1826-1926

Name	Butler
Sex	Male
Race	white
Father's Name	Chas. Butler
Father's Sex	Male
Father's Birthplace	U.S.
Mother's Name	Lillie Johnson
Mother's Sex	Female
Mother's Birthplace	U.S.
Event Type	Birth
Event Date	8 Apr 1897
Event Place	New Richmond, St. Croix, Wisconsin, United States
Event Place (Original)	New Richmond, St Croix, Wisconsin, United States

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/sources/L6JP-SLN>

Raymond Butler

Military • United States, World War I American Expeditionary Forces Deaths, 1917-1919

SAVE

EDIT

SHARE

Name	Raymond Butler
Race	White
Event Type	Military Service
Event Place	Minnesota, United States
Event Place (Original)	Minnesota

Tr

Si
NPage 12.
MinnesotaWHITE: INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ARMY OR
ASSIGNED THERETO UPON INDUCTIONNAMESERIAL NO.RANKORGANIZATION AT
TIME OF DEATHDATE OF DEATH

Butler, Raymond

Pvt

Hq Det 6 Bn 20 Engr U.S. Army

Life:

BADGER SOLDIERS LISTED ON BOARD LINER TUSCANIA

ville.
Twentieth Engineers-
 RAYMOND BUTLER, New Richmond.
 CORNELIUS HARRINGTON, Hurley.
 ARTHUR EVENSON, Marshfield.
 OSCAR L. PETERSON, Upson.
 GEORGE O. NELSON, Fairchild.
 ALVIN M. COLLINS, Markesan.
 LEONARD CARLSON, Westboro.
 EDWARD GERBER, Durand.
 JAMES A. SCHLEISS, Rice Lake.
 CLOVIS J. M'GEEHAN, Ashland.
 RUSSELL J. BRUNETTE, Suring.
 LEE J. DOYLE, Brooklyn.
 HENRY GOLDEN, Granton.
 WILBUR H. KENNEDY, Soperton.
 GEORGE A. REINHARDT, Jefferson.
 LESLIE A. ROESLER, Jefferson.
 BENJAMIN E. SIVYER, Milwaukee.
 STEVEN HUGH THORSON, Superior.
 CHARLES E. SWANSON, Rothschild.

Green Bay Press-Gazette
 Fri, Feb 08, 1918 -Page 7

Green Bay WI

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 11.

—Following is a list of those on board the transport Tuscania from Wisconsin who so far have not been reported among the survivors:

Raymond Butler, New Richmond.
 Alvin N. Collins, Markesan.
 James A. Schleise, Rice Lake.
 George R. Rogers, Dallas, Wis.
 George D. Reinhardt, Jefferson.
 Charles E. Swanson, Rothschilds.
 James P. Hawley, Neenah.
 Reuben Peterson, Marinette.
 Otis E. Hutchins, Whitehall.
 Charles Merten, Waukesha.
 C. Metznbauer, Chippewa Falls.
 Arthur Harvey, Eau Claire.
 Edmund Johnson, Iola.
 Earl Wisenberger, Jim Falls.
 Albert Larsen, Kenosha.
 Arthur Junker, Kenosha.
 Otto Mowrey, Kenosha.
 Karl Nulpenius, Kenosha.
 Joseph Marsolek, Independence.
 John McCutcheon, Washburn.
 John McArdle, Nashkero.
 Clarence O. Larson, Saxevilla.
 Leland H. McCue, Poysippe.
 Russel F. Bennett, Plainfield.
 Abide Carollo, Lohrville.
 Clifford Norris, New London.
 William B. Spencer, New London.
 Henry Cook, Cameron.
 Herbert Jenson, Barron.
 Harry McCarty, Shell Lake.
 Clarence Larson, Rice Lake.
 Henry A. Osknee, Ettrick.
 Francis F. Fernstahl, Colby.
 Jacob W. Kramer, Abbotsford.
 Orvell N. Casper, Milwaukee.
 Albert Grabow, Milwaukee.
 Harry E. Peterson, Milwaukee.
 Fred A. Rudolph, Milwaukee.
 Frank Sharp, Milwaukee.

Green Bay Press-Gazette
 Mon, Feb 11, 1918 · Page 2

Green Bay WI

ture was more than it could endure.

Eleven Wisconsin boys were buried in Scotland, according to the report, one being from Kenosha. He is Otto Mowrey. Milwaukee has two victims in the list, Orvil N. Casper and Fred A. Rudolph. Other boys from this state who were buried in Scotland follow: Alvin N. Collins, Markesan; Raymond Butler, New Richmond; Charles E. Swanson, Rothschilds; Homer L. Anderson, Cumberland; Russell F. Bennett, Plainfield; Otis Hutchins, Whitehall; Claire Metzenbauer, Chippewa Falls.

While the bodies have been buried in Scotland there is a possibility of the federal government forwarding the remains to relatives in this country as soon as arrangements can be made to do so.

TWO MORE BADGER BOYS ARE VICTIMS OF TUSCANIA SINKING

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The war department tonight received the following additional list of Tuscania dead by cable:

Edgar C. Barnes, J. E. Barnes (father), Ranger, Texas.

Raymond Butler, C. E. Butler, (father), New Richmond, Wis.

Wilbur W. Clark, Luella Clark, (mother), Lansing, Mich.

John Edwards, Miss Jennie Barnes, (friend), 1629 South Gaylor street, Butte, Mont.

Martin C. Hill, Mrs. Sarah Hill, (mother), Imburley, Texas.

Wm. R. Johnson, Charles P. Johnson, (father), Metamora, Mich.

Wm. Keown, John Keown, (brother), Sand Springs, Texas.

John C. Robinson, m. H. Robinson, (father), Pot Latch, Idaho.

Thomas L. St. Clare, Mrs. Ella St. Clare, (mother), Junction, Texas.

James A. Schleiss, Joseph Schleiss, (brother), R. F. D. No. 2, Rice Lake, Wis.

Wm. A. Moore, Louise Moore, (mother), 59 Cabrillo street, San Francisco, Calif.

This makes ninety-three dead thus far reported to the war department.

The La Crosse Tribune
Sun, Feb 17, 1918 Page 6

La Crosse WI

NEW RICHMOND

(From New Richmond News and Republican Voice).

Bury Two War Heroes.

The remains of Axel Pearson, private in the 18th infantry, First Division, who was killed in the Argonne forest, Oct. 2, 1918, and those of Corporal Merton Sabeau, who made the supreme sacrifice on the field of battle, were returned to New Richmond last evening. Private Pearson was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pearson of New Johannesburg, and Corporal Sabeau was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Sabeau of Stanton.

Raymond Butler Post of the American Legion will have charge of both funerals. Legion pall bearers in uniform will officiate and a firing squad will fire salutes at the interment of the soldier dead.

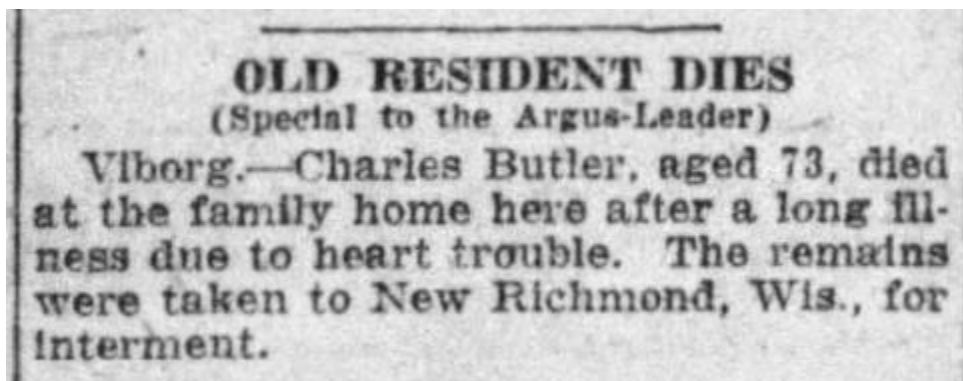
Funeral services for Private Pearson will be held Sunday at 1 p. m. at the Swedish Lutheran church at Huntington, and the body will be buried in the Huntington cemetery.

The services for Corporal Sabeau will be held at 4 o'clock at the Congregational church, and the body will be laid to rest in the local cemetery.

Leader-Telegram
Sun, Jul 31, 1921 - Page 4

Eau Claire WI

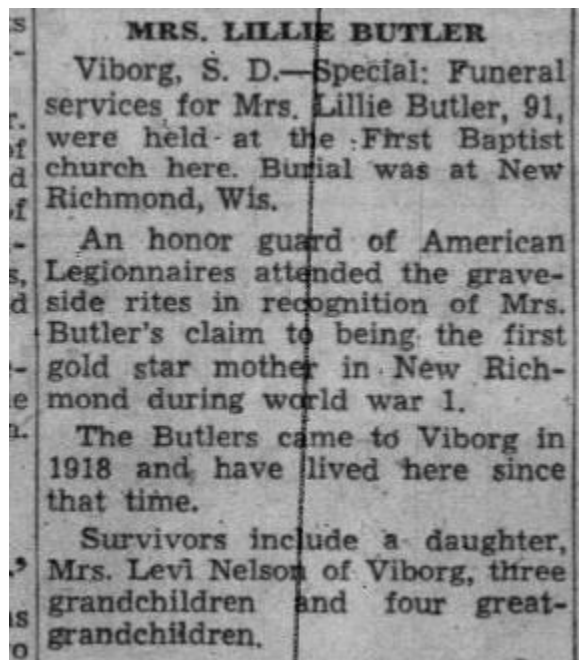
Father:



Argus-Leader
Sat, Mar 21, 1925 · Page 4

Sioux Falls SD

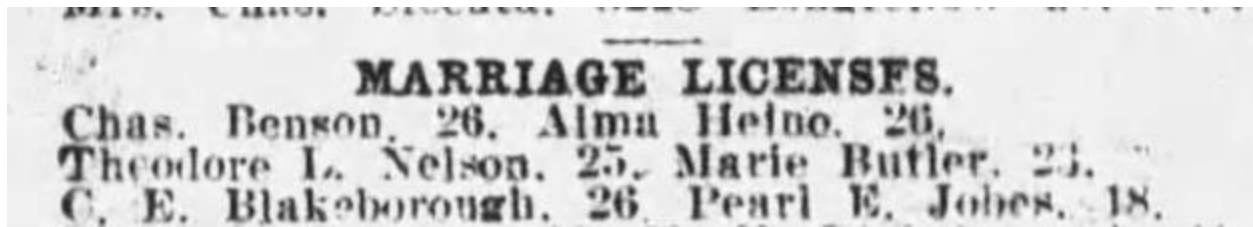
Mother:



The Sioux City Journal
Sat, Nov 22, 1952 · Page 2

Sioux City IA

Siblings:



The Minneapolis Journal
 Tue, Jan 05, 1915 · Page 9

Sister Mary Barbara Butler Nelson (1891-1990)

Mary Butler

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Births and Christenings Index, 1801-1928

[Add or update information](#)

[Report a problem](#)

Detail	Source
Name	Mary Butler
Gender	Female
Race	White
Birth Date	15 Nov 1891
Birth Place	New Richmond, St Croix, Wisconsin
Father	Charles Butler
Mother	Lillie Johnson
FHL Film Number	1305584

https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2544/records/1053908?tid=&pid=&queryId=833186a6-0730-4758-a1f7-9184ae29d028&_phsrc=cPx34515&_phstart=successSource

Marie Butler

in the Web: Minnesota, U.S., Marriages from the Minnesota Official Marriage System, 1850-2022



[Add or update information](#)

[Report a problem](#)

Detail Source

Name	Marie Butler
Marriage Date	4 Jan 1915
Marriage Place	Hennepin, Minnesota, USA
Spouse	Theodore Nelson
Certificate Number	1810019
URL	https://moms.mn.gov/

[This record is not from Ancestry and will open in a new window.](#)
[Learn more](#)

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/70873/records/91088071>

Mary Nelson

VIBORG — Mary B. Nelson, 98, Viborg, died Thursday in Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, Viborg.

Mary Butler was born Nov. 15, 1891, in New Richmond, Wis. Her early life was spent in Wisconsin, graduating from high school in 1910. She moved to Viborg in 1914 and worked as a hat designer in a millinery store.

She married Theodore Levi Nelson Jan. 4, 1915, in Minneapolis. They spent all of their married life in Viborg. Her husband preceded her in death in February 1965.

Survivors include two sons: Kermit, Marion; and Burton, Viborg; one daughter, Shirley Littleton, Riverside, Calif.; eight grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Burial will be in August in the Baptist Cemetery, Viborg.

Fraternal Funeral Home, Viborg, is in charge of arrangements.

Argus-Leader
Fri, Jul 20, 1990 · Page 23

Sioux Falls SD

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Raymond Charles Butler

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. HQ - private

Serial number: not assigned when died

Entered service from: New Richmond, St. Croix WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Raymond Butler

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father C.E. Butler, New Richmond WI

Burial on isle of Islay, Scotland: 1st buried at Kilnaughton, Islay, Scotland - grave 15, as Raymond Butler

Body returned from war on: "Antigone" arriving Hoboken 29 Sep 1920

Body listed as: Raymond Butler

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: pvt, HQ Co., 6th Bn., 20th Engrs

World War I draft registration (1917):

Veterans Administration Military Index:

No enlistment or discharge date

Born 8 Apr 1897 – died 6 Feb 1918

Address: New Richmond WI

Rank/unit:

Birth & death:Born: 8 Apr 1897 [WI birth record & Veterans Administration Master Index & 1900 census]
or 8 Apr 1898 [Find A Grave] New Richmond, St. Croix WI

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Has 2 Find A Grave records:

MN cenotaph:

Find A Grave record: 104602198, presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Cenotaph: on Victory Memorial Drive, Minneapolis, Hennepin MN

Tombstone on MN cenotaph - Private HDQ. Det. 6th BN., 20th Engineers

WI burial:

Find A Grave record: 55703547, presence on Tuscania noted in flower & text

Burial location: New Richmond, St. Croix WI

Cemetery: New Richmond Cemetery

Tombstone: veteran tombstone - Wisconsin Pvt 20 Engrs.

Father: Charles E. Butler, Jun 1851 Lincoln Co. NC – 17 Mar 1925 Turner Co. SD.

Son of Thornton Butler & Adeline E. Ramsour.

Obituary: "Sioux Falls (SD) Argus-Leader" 21 Mar 1925 p 4 – Charles Butler, age 73, died at his farm home in Viborg SD after a long illness due to heart trouble. Body was taken to New Richmond WI for burial.

Buried in New Richmond Cemetery, New Richmond, St. Croix WI.

Find A Grave: 101570337

Mother: Lillie E. Johnson Butler, Dec 1861 WI – 13 Nov 1952 Viborg, Turner SD.

Daughter of Olof Johnson.

Obituary: "Sioux City (IA) Journal" 22 Nov 1952 p 2 – funeral services were held at the First Baptist Church in Viborg SD for Mrs. Lillie Butler; burial in New Richmond WI. An honor guard of the American Legion attended the graveside rites, as she was the first Gold Star mother of New Richmond in WWI. The Butlers moved to Viborg in 1918 & have lived here since. Her daughter is Mrs. Levi Nelson.

Buried in New Richmond Cemetery, New Richmond, St. Croix WI.

Find A Grave: 101570315

Parents' marriage: 26 Dec 1890 St. Croix Co. WI

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Children:

Siblings:

- **Mary Barbara Butler Nelson**, 15 Nov 1891 New Richmond, St. Croix WI – 19 Jul 1990 Viborg, Turner SD. - Wife of Theodore Levi Nelson (buried as T. Levi Nelson, 1889-1965, F: 82501798), whom she married 4 Jan 1915 in Hennepin Co. MN; he was 25 & she was 20 years old & officiant was a Baptist minister. - In the 1940 census, Mary's mother Lily Butler is listed with them & their 4 children in Viborg, Turner SD. - Obituary: "Sioux Falls (SD) Argus-Leader" 20 Jul 1990 p 23 – Mary B. Nelson, age 98, of Viborg SD, d. 19 Jul 1990 in Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home, Viborg. Born 15 Nov 1891 in New Richmond WI. Graduated from high school in WI in 1910. Moved to Viborg in 1914; employed there as a hat designer in a millinery store. Married Theodore Levi Nelson on 4 Jan 1915 in Minneapolis MN. Lived all their married life in Viborg. Husband died Feb 1965. Survived by 2 sons & a daughter. Will be buried in August in the Baptist Cemetery, Viborg Turner SD. F: 82501806

- **Baby boy Butler**, b. & d. 5 May 1896 WI. Tombstone: “only sleeping” WI birth record lists birth date of 1 May 1896; male. Buried in New Richmond Cemetery, New Richmond, St. Croix WI. F: 101570554

Notes:

Wartime:

Had measles when he was put into lifeboat leaving Tuscania.
(http://genealogytrails.com/minn/military_caswwi.html)

“New Richmond (WI) Leader” 15 Feb 1918 – “Raymond Butler Numbered Among Nation’s Heroes” – 2nd [i.e. 1st] New Richmond resident to die for his country, being 1 of the 164 [sic/215] soldiers who died on Tuscania. His body lies with that of his 77 shipmates “on the sunny shore of Scotland not far from the rocky coast where the sea gave up the dead.” For one week friends & relatives read the lists of rescued soldiers hoping to see his name. On Wednesday evening, his name appeared as one of the nation’s heroes. Raymond would have been 20 [i.e. 21] years old in April; lived in New Richmond most of his life. Had worked as a stenographer in St. Paul MN for some time. At Christmas 1917 had visited with home folks & then on 1 Jan 1918 enlisted in the forestry division & was assigned to the 6th Battalion, 20th Engineers, Forestry, at Camp American University, Washington DC. Last word from him was a letter received by his folks dated 22 Jan, stating they were packing & getting ready to leave for France. It is supposed his company embarked 2 or 3 days later [24 Jan]. He had a choice of a clerical position in Washington or accompanying his regiment to France but chose to go across, as several of his friends were doing. He is survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Butler, and 1 sister, who lives in North [i.e. South] Dakota.,

“New Richmond (WI) Leader” 1 Mar 1918 p 1 – memorial services for the late Raymond Butler, “who recently gave his life for his country,” were held at the Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday evening and “the edifice was packed to its capacity.”

Post-war:

Namesake of the Raymond Butler American Legion Post No. 80 in New Richmond WI, now called the Butler-Harmon Post.

Unsourced newspaper clippings obtained from Steven Schwartz:

30 Jun 1920 – “Bodies of Tuscania Victims to be Exhumed and Returned to U.S.” – exhumation of 489 American soldiers buried on Islay after the “Tuscania” and “Otranto” sinkings will begin 1 Jul 1920, it was announced from Paris, France, today. “The Scottish clan which inhabits the lonely spot has taken tender care of the graves and the chief had

given a pledge that the clan would look after the graves as if they were its own until the end of time." Relatives in many cases wished the return of the bodies & the Graves Registration Service decided to do. Raymond Butler, "the first New Richmond boy to make the supreme sacrifice in the great world war, lost his life when the Tuscania went down, and his remains were buried on the isle of Islay." No official information has been received about the return of his remains. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Butler, now live in Viborg SD. "It was in Raymond's honor that the local post of the American Legion was named."

"Raymond Butler's Body to be Buried Here" - Undertaker W.W. Beebe received a telegram from NY that the body of Raymond Butler, drowned when the Tuscania was torpedoed & then buried on the shores of Scotland, was shipped from "that city" (presumably New York City) Wednesday evening to New Richmond. Upon arrival, the body will be taken directly to the undertaking rooms & later to the New Richmond cemetery where Rev. A.S. Gilbert will officiate.

20 Oct 1920 – "Raymond Butler Buried with Military Honors" (continued from page 1, which was not included) – the flag-draped plain oaken casket "was a strong contrast to that other scene in the terrifying hour when the soldier's life went out beneath the turbulent waves, on the wild coast where the shattered ship was sent to the bottom." Rev. A.S. Gilbert, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where Raymond was a member, offered prayer & an address, while the flag was held at half mast above the casket. After a son, 3 volleys were fired above the casket, the bugle sounded "Taps" and the casket was lowered into the grave "and the military escort filed away from the spot that will ever be one of the city's memorial marks." The pallbearers were 3 soldiers & 3 sailors. He was born in New Richmond WI 8 Apr 1898 [1897] & died on shipboard 7 Feb 1918 [5 Feb]. All but the last 2 years of his life were spent in New Richmond. He graduated from New Richmond High School in 1916. At the time of his enlistment – on 1 Jan 1918 – he was living in Minneapolis where he worked as a stenographer. He enlisted in the 6th Battalion, 20th Engineers, sailed 22 Jan 1918 [24 Jan] "on the ill-fated Tuscania." He was a member of the New Richmond Boy Scouts. Raymond is survived by his parents, Mr. & Mrs. C.E. Butler, and a sister, Mrs. T.L. Nelson, all of Viborg SD. Private Nelch of Fort Snelling [MN] accompanied the remains to New Richmond. American Legion commandant Fred B. McDermott asked the paper to thank Legion members who attended the funeral.

Obituary:

Veteran headstone application 1 Dec 1933: private, HQ Detachment, 6th Division. Died 5 Feb 1918. Burial in New Richmond Cemetery. To be sent to Frank K. Bixby, commander of Raymond Butler Post #80, New Richmond, St. Croix WI. No fee.

Censuses:

1900 New Richmond, St. Croix WI

Charles Butler, 48 NC, Jun 1851, father b. Scotland, mother b. Germany, married 10 years,
no occupation listed

Lilly, 40 WI, Dec 1859, parents b. Norway, gave birth to 3 children, 2 are living

Mary B., 8 WI, Nov 1891, at school

Charlie R., 3 WI, Aug 1897

1910 New Richmond, St. Croix WI – Arch St.

Charles Butler, 63 NC, parents b. NC, in 1st marriage, janitor, high school

Lily, 49 WI, parents b. Norway, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 3 children, 2 are living

Mary, 18 WI

Raymond, 13 WI