

TUSCANIA

Tuscania casualty

Cowan, Elmer Luther

1895 MT – 5 February 1918 Tuscania



Elmer Luther Cowan – from Find A Grave 11327603

Form 555 **REGISTRATION CARD** No. 70 Age in yrs 71

1 Name in full Elmer Luther Cowan
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address Victor Mont
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth Oct 3 1895
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural

5 Where were you born? Victor Mont U.S.A.
(Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Janitor

8 By whom employed? A. W. Prefield 30
Where employed? 3 1/4 Miles N. N. Victor

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? No

10 Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank _____ branch _____
years _____ Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Elmer Luther Cowan
(Signature or mark)

25-1-21-A **REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Slender Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Slender

2 Color of eyes? Gray Color of hair? Brown Bald? No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? No

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

[Signature]
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct "Ravalli"
City or County Mont
State Mont June 5-17
(Date of registration)

WWI draft registration 5 Jun 1917 in Ravalli Co. MT

COWAN ELMER LUTHER
Pv Co D 20 Engr
Victor Mont

Sn Died 2/6/18 T 472 129
Born 10/3/95 R
Enl Dis Cl.
I 7766

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202 - Rev. Sept., 1926

INDEX CARD GPO 2-13969

Veterans Administration Master Index -

Page 4

MONTANAWHITE: ENTERED SERVICE WITH NATIONAL GUARD OR ASSIGNED
THEREUPON ENLISTMENT OR INDUCTION.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
White, John J.		Pvt	Co A 16 Inf	Feb 8/18
Williams, Cecil T.	106,822	Pvt	Co B 3 M G Bn	Oct 9/18
Williams, Harry	83,225	Corp	Co B 127 Inf	Sept 3/18
Winkler, Arthur E.	83,187	Pvt	Co G 125 Inf	Aug 3/18
York, Lorraine	43,574	Pvt	Co H 16 Inf	May 31/18
Zilkey, Frank	42,419	Corp	Co D 16 Inf	Oct 9/18

WHITE: ENLISTED IN REGULAR ARMY OR ASSIGNED
THEREUPON INDUCTION.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Cowan, Elmer L.		Pvt	Co D 6 Bn 20 Engrs	Feb 5/18

US American Expeditionary Forces deaths -



Elmer Luther Cowan's grave #6, in the center, at Kilnaughton, isle of Islay, Scotland



"Victim of Tuscania Disaster" – Elmer Luther Cowan's grave in Victor MT

Life:



Brothers Albert Ashley Cowan & Elmer Luther Cowan registered for draft -

Ravalli County Record

Thu, Jun 14, 1917 · Page 2

Hamilton MT



Precinct No. 11, Victor, Mont.

539 August Martin Alder; 540 John Leonard Allnutt; 541 Lee O. Busenbark; 542 William Noah Bryant, Stevensville; 543 William David Blackie; 544 Everett Babbitt; 545 James Bodak, Drummond; 546 Albert Earl Buker; 547 Erwin William Becker; 548 Jeddie William Bland; 549 Elmer Cates; 550 Albert Ashley Cowan; 551 Benjamin Hill Cannon; 552 Swift Homer Chamberlain; 553 George G. Culbertson; 554 Floyd Cates; 555 Elmer Luther Cowan; 556 Roy Wilbur Carlson, Missoula; 557 Virgil Campbell; 558 Wilber Lindorff Costello; 559 William Clarence Cates; 560 Angelo Decebo, Stevensville; 561 LeRoy Dean; 562 Amie Van Den Driessche, Stevensville; 563 George Hoyt Dorsey, Cripple Creek Colo;

The Western News
Thu, Jul 12, 1917 · Page 5

Stevensville MT

Second Call Made.

Fifty additional men have been called for examination. This was made necessary by the men failing to pass the examination made by army officers at American Lake, eight having been rejected. The names of the men drawn follow:

Stevensville—John Alfred Emerson, Arthur William McGraw, Jose Real, James Joseph Shea, Henry A. Behn, Gerald S. Sturgis, Amie Van Den Driessche, Edward C. Randles, Primo Stefanini, Eliza Porch, Elisodoro Ramirez, Joe Harrington, John Ronchietto, John Raymond, William George Craig, William Walker Brown, Stanley R. Felber, Andrew Garfield McNett, James Patrick Cherry.

Hamilton—Harry Z. Tagushi, Pete Parpaola, Wellington A. Bamford, James H. Higgins, William Garrard, Don E. Anson, Spiro Angeloff, Lysle Cooper, Frem Henry Terou, John Wessling, Lee Lin Fat, Irl Abbey.

Corvallis—Guy Hall, John W. Hay, Clifford F. Wallace, Charles Goneau, Robert Alonzo Keayes, Gilbert E. Chaffin, John Oren Glassley.

Victor—William Earl Dennis, August Martin Alder, Elmer Luther Cowan.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Nov 09, 1917 - Page 1

Hamilton MT

2 BITTER ROOT BOYS BURIED IN SCOTLAND 171 VICTIMS OF TUSCANIA ARE INTERRED

M. B. COOK
E. L. COWAN

Former University Student
and Interscholastic Track
Star Victims of Sinking
of United States Transport.

Both Dead Men
Well Known Here

Washington, Feb. 13.—Montana soldiers who have been buried in Scotland, with other victims of the Tuscania's sinking, as reported by an Associated Press correspondent, follow:

MARCUS B. COOK, COMO.

ELMER L. COWAN, VICTOR.

JOHN EDWARDS, BUTTE.

JACK J. BYRNE, BUTTE.

William I. Droogs of Mount Idaho, Idaho, also has been buried in Scotland.

WELL KNOWN IN MISSOULA.

Marcus Cook and Elmer Cowan were well known in Missoula. Cook was a student at the State University, while Cowan represented the Victor high school in several interscholastic track meets held here under the auspices of the state school.

It is thought that, with the deaths of Cook and Cowan, all of the western-Montana men on board the Tuscania have been accounted for, with the exception of James W. Sallee of Hot Springs, on the Flathead. No word of him has been received.

The Sentinel today broke the news of the deaths of Cook and Cowan to their relatives in the Bitter Root valley. No other word has been received by their families.

Cowan Was Aged 22.

Elmer L. Cowan was born in Victor in September, 1895, being 22 years and five months old at the time of his death. He was reared and educated in the valley, being a graduate of the Victor high school and a star in athletics at that institution, winning fame on the track and field.

His father died at Victor on October

(Continued on Page Four.)

COOK AND COWAN BURIED ABROAD

**Former University Student
and Interscholastic Track
Star Victims of Sinking
of United States Transport.**



(Continued From Page One.)

3, 1917, and a few weeks later young Cowan enlisted in the Twentieth engineers. His mother has been dead for over 17 years.

Five brothers, two of whom are abroad with the United States army, survive Elmer, they being W. J. Cowan, G. H. Cowan and Frank Cowan, all of Victor, and Arthur Cowan, who was last heard from at Camp Aldershot in England, while Albert Cowan, who has been at Camp Lewis, is also believed to be across the seas.

Career of Marcus Cook.

Marcus B. Cook had completed two months of his sophomore year at the State University when he enlisted in the 20th forestry engineering regiment. He entered the institution in the fall of 1916, after being graduated from the Hamilton high school.

Cook was majoring in the forestry course at the institution and enlisted December 9, being accompanied by Ralph S. Graves and Leo Stewart, who were also aboard the Tuscania at the time of the disaster, but were rescued. The three men originally enlisted in Company O, 4th battalion, but were transferred to the 6th.

Cook, who was a tall, well-built youth, took part in class athletics during his university days and was a long-distance runner on the track team. Last year he formed the bulwark of the freshman attack in the annual tulrush. He was 23 years of age and enlisted just eight days after his birthday. He was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity.

Although a graduate of Hamilton high school, Cook's home was in Como where his father, F. L. Cook, owns a ranch, just above Darby. His parents are listed among the pioneers of western Montana. He is also survived by a brother, George Cook of Bozeman, Mrs. Kate Durland, a sister, whose home is at Cutbank, and by two younger brothers at the family home at Como, Theodore and Frank.

He Was a Corporal.

The last word received in Missoula from the former student was a letter dated January 13, to one of his fraternity brothers. At that time he was stationed at American University, Washington, D. C. He was one of 16 soldiers detailed to guard experimental laboratories there, and was acting as corporal of his squad.

At that time Cook expressed the opinion that he expected to be transported to France within a short time. "I don't think we will be here long after February first," he wrote. "The sooner, the better for me." He closed his letter by writing: "Give my best regards to all the fellows on the campus and tell them to write whenever they get time."

The Missoula Sentinel
Wed, Feb 13, 1918 - Page 4

Missoula MT

Five Montana Soldiers Among Tuscania's Dead; One University Student

**Marcus B. Cook, Como, Dead,
and Elmer L. Cowan
of Victor.**

BURY ALL VICTIMS ON SCOTLAND COAST

**Western Montana Boys Well
Known Here; Flags at
Half Mast.**

Five Montana men, including two from the Bitter Root valley, lost their lives in the Tuscania disaster and have been buried on the coast of Scotland, according to an official announcement made yesterday. The Montana Sammees killed when the transport was torpedoed are:

MARCUS B. COOK of Como, a State University student and formerly an employe of the U. S. Forest service.

ELMER L. COWAN of Victor, a high school boy.

JOHN EDWARDS of Butte.

J. J. BYRNE of Butte.

C. J. DAVISON of Anaconda.

Two other Montana men who were on the transport are still unaccounted for but probably are safe, inasmuch as the casualties are thought to have been announced with possibly a few exceptions. The men still missing are James W. Sallee of Hot Springs and Leon Dethman of McCabe, in Sheridan county.

Shock to Missoula.

Definite announcement of the death of Cook and Cowan came as a shock to Missoula people. Both men were well known here. Cook had worked in the forest service before entering the State University, and Cowan had competed in the annual interscholastic games at the university. Both came from prominent Bitter Root families.

The State University and the federal building lowered their flags to half-mast yesterday in Cook's honor.

ELMER LUTHER COWAN.

Elmer Luther Cowan was 22 years old. He was born in Victor in September, 1895, and was educated in the valley. At Victor high school, from which he would have graduated this spring had he not enlisted, he was an athletic star. He won the individual championship at the Ravalli County Interscholastic meet in 1916 and competed at the spring games on Montana Field. His father and mother are both dead and two of his five brothers are in the army. Three sisters are also living. The brothers are Arthur, who was last heard of from Camp Aldershot, England; Albert, who is believed to be overseas with his regiment; W. J., Frank and G. H. Cowan, all of Victor. The sisters are Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. W. S. Jones, Mrs. A. W. Fifield, all of Victor.

FIRST BITTER ROOT LIVES LOST IN WAR

War Brought Home to the Residents of the Bitter Root Valley This Week By the Sad News That Two Prominent Sons Lost Their Lives By the Torpedoing of the Transport Tuscania and Buried With Military Honors in Scotland

The war in which this country is engaged was brought home to the people of the Bitter Root valley this week when it became known that Marcus B. Cook of Como and Elmer Luther Cowan of Victor lost their lives in the Tuscania disaster, the sinking of which vessel was chronicled in last week's Republican. They are the first young men from this county to sacrifice their lives. According to an official announcement received Wednesday these men were buried with military honors on the coast of Scotland.

University Student.

Marcus B. Cook was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Cook of Como. He enlisted in the twentieth engineers of the forest service. Young Cook had worked in the forest service and was a student at the University of Montana. His father owns a ranch near Como, being a pioneer of the Bitter Root valley and a Civil war veteran. Marcus Cook was 23 years old, being born December 1, 1894. He was a graduate of the Hamilton high school. He was well liked by all his acquaintances and at the university he was a prominent athlete.

Beside his parents he is survived by three brothers and a sister. They are George Cook of Bozeman, Theodore and Frank of Como, and Mrs. Kate Durland of Cutbank.

This is the second son that F. L. Cook has lost by drowning. Hiram Cook, his oldest son, was drowned in the Yellowstone river in 1906 while he was with a surveying crew. Marcus Cook was the next oldest child.

Interscholastic Champion.

Elmer Luther Cowan of Victor was 22 years and seven months old. He was born at Victor in September, 1895. He was a member of the senior class of the Victor high school and would have graduated this year. He was a fine athlete and won the individual championship at the Ravalli County Interscholastic meet in 1916. His father and mother are dead, but he is survived by five brothers—Arthur, who is believed to be at Camp Aldershot, England; Albert, who is supposed to be across the ocean with his regiment; W. J. and G. H. Cowan of Victor—and three sisters, Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. W. S. Jones and Mrs. A. W. Fifield of Victor.

Elmer Luther Cowan.

Elmer Luther Cowan, another Bitter Root boy, who belonged to the 20th engineers, now sleeps on the Scottish coast.

He was born in Victor in September, 1895, and was educated in the valley. At Victor high school, from which he would have graduated this spring had he not enlisted, he was an athletic star. He won the individual championship at the Ravalli County Interscholastic meet in 1916 and competed at the spring games on Montana field.

His father and mother are both dead and two of his brothers are in the army. Three sisters are also living. The brothers are Arthur, who was last heard of from Camp Aldershot, England; Albert, who is believed to be overseas with his regiment; W. J., Frank and G. H. Cowan all of Victor. The sisters are Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. W. S. Jones, Mrs. A. W. Fifield, all of Victor.

A memorial service will be held Sunday at Victor under the auspices of the Victor high school.

The Western News
Thu, Feb 21, 1918 -Page 1

Stevensville WI

Victor to Honor Memory of Elmer Luther Cowan

Victor, Feb. 21.—Special.—Memorial services will be held Sunday afternoon at the Community church at 3 o'clock, in honor of Elmer Luther Cowan, who lost his life as a result of the sinking of the Tuscania. Rev. G. G. Culbertson will deliver the address and a special song service will be held in connection with the memorial services.

**Elmer Luther Cowan Was First
Victor Boy to Lose His Life in
the Cause of Democracy.**

Victor, February 28.—Memorial services were held at the Community church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock for the late Elmer Luther Cowan, who lost his life in the Tuscania disaster February 6. Services were conducted by Rev. A. C. Culbertson whose address was impressive.

Elmer Luther Cowan was 22 years old. He was born in Victor September, 1895, and was educated in the valley. At Victor high school, from which he would have graduated this spring had he not enlisted, he was an athletic star. He won the individual championship at the Ravalli County Interscholastic meet in 1916 and competed at the spring games on Montana Field. His father and mother are both dead and two of his five brothers are in the army. Three sisters are also living. The brothers are Arthur, who is believed to be in France; Albert is a sergeant at Camp Lewis; W. J., Franklin and G. H. Cowan, all of Victor. The sisters are Mrs. John Smith, Mrs. W. S. Jones, Mrs. A. W. Wilfield, all of Victor.

COWAN MEMORIAL

Services Held at Victor Last
Sunday Morning.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Mar 01, 1918 -Page 1

Hamilton MT

ON THE TUSCANIA

Boys, Saved from Watery Grave, Write Home.

Lawrence Watters and James Everett Babbitt Tell of Experiences on Ill-Fated Boat.

Victor, March 14.—Letters were received Tuesday by the parents of Lawrence B. Watters and James Everett Babbitt, who were on the Tuscania,, which was sunk by a torpedo February 6. Elmer, referred to in the first letter, is Elmer Luther Cowan, who lost his life. The three boys left Victor about the last of November. The letters follow:

letters follow.

"February 14, 1918.—It has been some time since I have written you, but much longer since hearing from you. You may think I have had an easy time, but since going aboard the ship it has been rather hard, as we have been moved about so much. Have been treated like princes since we landed, except for clothing, as the government has not a very big supply here. Am just getting started again to collect a few little things of my own, donated by the Red Cross Association.

"Suppose by now you have heard of our disaster on the sea, when we were in sight of land on both sides of the ship. We all thought we were safe, but guess the submarine had us sighted, and waited for us until dark, and then let her drive.

"It is an experience I never want to go through again. We were all ordered out, and especially requested to keep our lifebelts on or with us. I, with half of the other bunch, was lined up for supper, on the third deck. The others, however, had just eaten and were called out on deck for the rest of the night, as we were in what they call 'Hell's hole.' All of a sudden there came a bang, and out went the lights. Then we were in a mass of crowding men, and there was a great scramble for the upper decks where the lifeboats were stationed and where we were drilled to go in case of such an emergency.

"It was a terrible sight to see the way some of the men lost their heads and jumped overboard, some of whom were saved, and the rest numbered among the lost. Ropes on the lifeboats broke, spilling men in every direction, most of whom were picked up and saved. The boat I was to have gone on was smashed, so I was left on deck, with the rest of those who were going with me, as well as many others, who were in the same fix.

"Something told me that we would be saved, and sure enough, three torpedo destroyers came alongside of our ship and took us away to different landing points. We lost everything we had to our names, excepting what we had on our backs.

"From all indications, we are afraid that Elmer is among the missing, as we can hear nothing of him. Many of the lifeboats that were safely launched were mashed on the rocks. Most of the friends I had made, since being in the army, were killed in that way.

"I found Everett Babbitt, and we stuck together and made it away on the same "chaser." If this ship had sunk as quickly as most of them do, hardly any of us would have been saved. It took something over two hours for it to go down.

"The young wireless operator never left his post, but stayed right there to send messages and signals.

signals.

"Well I spent the last cent I had for soap, towels, tobacco, stationery and many other articles, so I was broke for the 14 days on board and ever since I landed. Hope you are all well and enjoying the green grass, as we are. Have been in many different countries and places since leaving home. If you want to send me anything please send me sweet chocolate, hard candy and handkerchiefs. You see I lost everything, even my sweater.

"May send cable before this reaches you. With love to all.

LAWRENCE WATTERS.

Hamilton MT

FUNERAL FOR E. COWAN

Body of Victor Boy, Who Was on Boat That Was Sunk Sailing for France, Received.

Victor, Oct. 28.—Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon at the Community church over the remains of Elmer Luther Cowan, received last Thursday evening from Port Ellen, Scotland, accompanied by a Mr. Welch of the military service. It will be remembered that Elmer Cowan, Lawrence Watters and Everett Babbitt enlisted in the forest service in December, 1917, and sailed for France February 1 on the boat which was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Scotland on the morning of February 5, 1918. In the life boat in which Cowan left the ship only one man escaped alive when the boat was dashed to pieces on the rocks. His body was recovered and interred at Port Ellen, which is near where his father was born. At the request of his brothers and sisters the body was brought home through the Red Cross and the government.

Elmer Cowan was in the senior high school class and would have graduated with the class of 1918 had he remained in school. He was a star athlete of Ravalli county and won many medals and a cup during his three years of high school work. The services were conducted by Rev. F. J. Salsman of Hamilton, who was well acquainted with the deceased. Interment was in the Victor cemetery.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Oct 29, 1920 ·Page 1

Hamilton MT

Victor, March 10.—The Elmer L. Cowan Post, American Legion, will present the Missoula Elks' minstrels at the Victor opera house Saturday, March 12. The entertainment will be followed by a basket social, and an enjoyable time is anticipated.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Mar 11, 1921 ·Page 5

Hamilton MT

MINSTRELS AT VICTOR

Elmer L. Cowan Post of the American Legion Will Have Benefit Show Tuesday Evening.

Victor, March 31.—Elmer L. Cowan Post No. 102, American Legion, will be the beneficiaries in a minstrel show to be given at the Victor opera house Tuesday evening. The same cast that made such a hit at Hamilton last week will line up for the performance here. The program will be localized and several Victor people will be mentioned in a good-natured way to the amusement of the audience. Several good hits have been put on ice for this occasion, and it is doubtful if such an enjoyable evening of entertainment was ever billed for Victor. Several from Hamilton, who saw the production there, are coming here to see the show again. It will be a great night in Victor and all the legion members will be at the opera house.

Perhaps the first Montana man to fall was Elmer L. Cowan of Victor, Montana, Company D, 20th Engineers who was killed February 3 in the sinking of the Tuscania. In the fighting between February 1 and June 5, three officers and 38 enlisted men from Montana were wounded.

The Wolf Point Herald
Thu, Sep 15, 1921 - Page 4

Wolf Point MT

Victor and Vicinity.

The masquerade dance given at the Victor opera house Friday evening was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the kind ever given here. It was given by Elmer L. Cowan Post of the American Legion, and prizes were awarded to the best costumed lady and gentleman. The attendance was large and the receipts will materially aid the local post.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Nov 04, 1921 - Page 3

Hamilton MT

JOINT INSTALLATION

**Officers of Elmer L. Cowan Post of
American Legion and Auxiliary
to Be Installed.**

Victor, Jan. 12.— Joint installation of officers of Elmer L. Cowan Post of American Legion and auxiliary was postponed until Tuesday, January 24, at which time all members are requested to be present. Refreshments will be served. Officers to be installed are as follows: Legion—W. J. Winters, post commander; Ralph Powell, vice-commander; T. M. Cole, post adjutant; J. E. Babbitt, finance officer; Wil-

liam Bryant, sergeant-at-arms; Lawrence McCarty, chaplain.

Auxiliary—Mrs. Adam Hornung, president; Miss Miriam Watters, vice-president; Mrs. W. P. Robb, secretary; Mrs. Leonard Helm, treasurer; Miss Elzaida Cole, chairman of social committee.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Jan 13, 1922 · Page 3

Hamilton MT

PLANS FOR THE POST

Membership Contest Started By the American Legion Post and the Woman's Auxiliary.

Victor, Jan. 26.—The 1922 plans for the Elmer L. Cowan Post, American Legion, and woman's auxiliary were started in real earnest Tuesday night. Following the installation of legion officers the woman's auxiliary served refreshments. J. E. Babbitt and Miss Miriam Watters were chosen captains for a membership contest. They chose sides and the contest was started with a bang.

The contest is to continue until Tuesday, May 23, after which the losing side will furnish refreshments for all. The post and auxiliary have other plans for the future in the way of entertainments, social affairs and get-together meetings, as well as real work which will be welcomed by the new members.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Jan 27, 1922 · Page 3

Hamilton MT

The American Legion placed metal legion markers at the graves of Elmer L. Cowan and Delbert Older on Memorial day, to remain there.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Jun 02, 1922 · Page 8

Hamilton MT

Two Victor men will always observe February 5. It was the date in 1918 when they were en route to France on the transport "Tuscania" when the boat was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Scotland. Elmer L. Cowan, J. Everett Babbitt and Lawrence B. Watters left Victor together. Cowan lost his life when the life boat in which he and other made their escape from the fated "Tuscania, was dashed to pieces off the rocky Scotland coast. Watters and Babbitt are both here and their families and friends rejoice.

WARS

The outbreak between Spain and the United States saw a number of young Montanans off to war. Then came World War I. Montana troops were sent abroad and many fell in the defense of Paris, at the Marne and the Argonne. Probably the first Montana boy to lose his life was Elmer L. Cowan of Victor, who went down with the *Tuscania*. Montana suffered the largest per capita loss of any state in the Union.

World War II, Montana's casualties were again high for a state of her population. The Korean conflict also took its toll of young Montanans.

Times-Leader
Fri, Mar 13, 1964 - Page 2

Fairfield MT

Ravalli County's Initial WWI Deaths Retold

By B. K. MONROE

HAMILTON — An old newspaper published here in February, 1918, gives an account of Ravalli County's first loss of men in World War I. They were two enlisted men lost at sea off the coast of Scotland.

Marcus Barret Cook, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cook of Como, and Elmer L. Cowan, member of the pioneer Cowan family of Victor were passengers on the troop transport, Tuscania, when it was torpedoed by a German submarine. Their graves are on the Scottish coast.

Marcus Cook, 22, was a sophomore at the University of Montana when he enlisted and the old Marcus Cook Hall was dedicated in his honor.

Elmer Cowan was finishing high school at Victor when he enlisted. His death was the second tragedy for the Cook family; an older brother, Hiram, student at Montana State College, Bozeman, drowned while fishing in the Yellowstone River 10 years earlier.

The Cowan family likewise knew multiple tragic deaths in later years. A son, Henry, worker for the Rocky Mountain Laboratory when it was state operated, died of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in the early 20's and another son, Albert, was shot to death in his Victor home Christmas Day, 1930.

Moments of valor

Montanans prove themselves in battle

By **KIMBERT E. LARSEN**
Of the Gazette Staff

MONTANANS were reluctant to join in the Indian wars, but they became gung ho when the Spanish-American War erupted and in the two world wars.

Enthusiasm waned a bit in the Korean War and quite a lot in the Vietnam War.

But all of the wars produced some heroes from Montana.

Following is a brief look at a few of those heroes.

- Capt. John E. Moran won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his activity in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

He participated in many battles, including the battle for a Chinese cemetery in Manila, the fierce battle at Caloocan, and engagements from Loma Church to Polo.

Moran's feat of valor occurred on Sept. 17, 1900, on Luzon.

His Medal of Honor citation said:

"After the attacking party had become demoralized, Moran fearlessly led a small body of troops under severe fire through water waist deep in the attack against the enemy."

Moran died in Great Falls on Nov. 4, 1930.

- Pvt. Elmer L. Cowan of Victor was the first Montana man to die in action in World War I.

A member of Company D, 20th Engineers, Cowan was killed Feb. 5, 1918, when a Germany submarine attacked and sank the troop transport U.S.S. Tuscania.

Cowan was among American and British troops



Gazette photo

Montanans have won the Congressional Medal of Honor and other medals for their bravery.

being transported on the Tuscania, which was off the coast of Scotland when it was attacked. The tragedy was one of the most publicized disasters of World War I.

● George Driscoll, a young miner from Walkerville, was the first Montanan drafted to serve in World War I. He was sent to Fort Lewis, Wash., for training. In January 1918, Driscoll was shipped to France to serve with the American Expeditionary Forces.

A member of 35th Company, 20th U.S. Engineers, Driscoll fought in many battles. Gas attacks by the enemy caused Driscoll to suffer severe lung damage.

He was discharged to Camp Funston, Kan., in February 1919.

Driscoll returned to his mining job in Montana. But he eventually was confined to bed because of his injuries caused by mustard gas. He died at the age of 35 on May 14, 1930.

● Mike Mansfield was one of the youngest Americans to serve in World War I.

Only 14 years old, he enlisted in the Navy on Feb. 23, 1918.

After serving in the Navy for the duration of the war, Mansfield enlisted in the Army for one year in 1919. Then he enlisted for two years in the Marines, serving most of that time in China.

Mansfield later was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, then the U.S. Senate, where he served as majority leader. After retiring from the Senate, Mansfield served for many years as ambassador to Japan.

● Gerald Fraser Dullum of East Helena enlisted in the Navy on Feb. 6, 1940.

He was assigned to the U.S.S. Arizona, which was sunk by the Japanese during their infamous attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Dullum is believed to be the first Montana serviceman to die in World War II.

He was officially declared missing in action on Dec. 21, 1941. His body and the bodies of his shipmates remain in the Arizona's hulk at the bottom of Pearl Harbor.

The Arizona is now a national memorial shrine,

visited by thousands of people every year.

● Richard L. Fleishmann joined the Army shortly after he graduated with honors from Anaconda High School in 1948.

Two years later, he was in Korea with the U.S. Infantry Division's 23rd Medical Company.

Within a month of his arrival in the war zone, Fleishmann ran forward under enemy fire to remove a wounded section leader and give medical treatment.

Then he ran through heavy fire to a gun position where he fired a machine gun, allowing his unit to reorganize. He continued firing until he was shot and killed.

Fleishmann was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously and had a camp in Korea named for him.

His body was returned to Anaconda and buried, with military honors, on Aug. 3, 1951.

● Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rodney A. Knutson of Billings was a prisoner of war for seven years during the Vietnam War.

Assigned to the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Independence, Knutson was on his fourth bombing mission of the day on Oct. 17, 1965, when his F-4 Phantom was hit by ground fire. He bailed out, landed in enemy territory and was taken prisoner by irate North Vietnamese.

Prison guards beat him, breaking his teeth, nose, and wrists.

Knutson said he was tortured with a bamboo club until his backside was bloodied and "like hamburger."

"Then they made me sit on the wounds for six days," he recalled after being freed.

"At one torture session I was asked to apologize to the Vietnamese people for atrocious crimes," Knutson said. "I refused to do this. I refused to talk to them."

Knutson said his captors offered to let him go with anti-war activist Jane Fonda when she visited Hanoi. But he refused.

When he did return home, Knutson had an extensive physical exam and returned to the Navy.

The Billings Gazette
Sun, Jul 23, 1989 · Page 99

Billings MT

Fact-check: There were only American – but not British – troops aboard Tuscania

FIRST MONTANA CASUALTIES

The Tuscania was the first ship carrying American troops en route to France to be sunk, and Americans across the country were stunned. The exact toll from the loss of Tuscania is unknown, with 210 soldiers and crew "Killed in Action" being commonly accepted. Many of those who had made it to lifeboats later died when their light craft were smashed against the rocky shorelines. At least 39 of the 384 crewmen aboard perished in the boiler rooms. The heroic action of Royal Navy escort ships, coupled with the leadership and discipline among the soldiers, saved a remarkable 2,187 men.

Ten Montanans lost their lives on Tuscania. Among them was Marcus Barrett Cook of Como, Ravalli County, the first casualty from the University of Montana. Cook had graduated from Hamilton High School and completed two months of his sophomore year in forestry at the university when he enlisted with two other university friends, Ralph S. Graves and Leo Stewart, in the 20th Engineers, and all were assigned to Company D. Both Graves and Stewart were among 85 known Montanan survivors.

Another victim of the Tuscania was Elmer Luther Cowan, a graduate and star athlete of Victor High School in the Bitterroot Valley. Cowan's mother had been dead for many years, and with the October 1917 death of his father, young Cowan joined two of his brothers in enlisting in the Army. Cobb was assigned to Company D of the 20th. Chauncey J. Davidson, a native of Anaconda, enlisted in the Army, married Martha Harrison, and three days later departed for duty with the 20th. Eighteen months later his widow, Mrs. Martha Davidson, christened the USS Deer Lodge at Portland, Oregon.

The River Press
Wed, Feb 07, 2018 · Page 5

Fort Benton MT

Father

PIONEER RESIDENT.

**Thomas Cowan Lived at
Victor Forty Years.**

**Funeral Held at Community Church
Sunday Afternoon By Rev.
Blair of Stevensville.**

Victor, October 11.—The funeral services of Thomas Cowan, who died last week Wednesday evening, were held at the Community church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Blair of Stevensville officiating. His son Albert, a United States soldier at American Lake, Washington, was present for the services, while through a little misunderstanding Arthur Cowan, who was in the service in Oregon, enroute to North Carolina, arrived about an hour after the funeral services. Interment was made in the Victor cemetery.

cemetery.

The deceased was 66 years old and had lived in the Bitter Root valley nearly forty years. Besides the two sons who are in the army he is survived by four other sons, Henry, Walter, Elmer and Franklin Cowan of Victor, and three daughters, Mrs. John Smith and Mrs. Arthur Fifield of Victor and Mrs. William Jones of Florence.

THOMAS COWAN DEAD

Thomas Cowan, one of the respected pioneers of this state dropped dead from heart failure at his home in Victor last Friday. The funeral took place from the Presbyterian church at 2:30 p. m. last Sunday when the largest concourse of sorrowing friends followed the remains to the Victor cemetery and laid him to rest. Rev. Henry L. Blair preached the funeral sermon.

Thomas Cowan was born in Airdry, Scotland January 13, 1851 and died at Victor, Mont. October 3, 1917, aged 66 years 8 months and 20 days.

He came to the United States from the place of his birth when he was five years old. He landed at New Orleans and from there went to St. Louis, Missouri, then to Franklin Co., Mo., where he lived for 20 years, then he moved overland to Utah where he lived five years, then to Victor, Mont. where he lived till the dread summons came. He was generous to a fault and reliably honest.

He is survived by nine children, Arthur Cowan of the U. S. Army, Henry Cowan, Blanche Jones, Mary Smith, Ellen Fifield, Elmer Cowan, Frank Cowan, Walter Cowan, all of Victor, and Albert Cowan of the U. S. Army and a sister, Elizabeth Collins of Victor, besides a wide circle of admiring friends.

North West Tribune
Fri, Oct 12, 1917 - Page 1

Stevensville MT

Mother

AFTER LONG SUFFERING.

Mrs. Harriet Cowan Passes Away in Sisters' Hospital.

Mrs. Harriet E. Cowan, aged 40 years, wife of Thomas Cowan of Victor, who is one of the Bitter Root valley's most prominent citizens, died at noon yesterday at the Sisters' hospital, where she had been ill for two months. The fatal illness dates back nearly a year. Following child birth she was then taken down, never departing from her bed of illness until called by death. Deceased was the mother of eight children, who with the bereaved father, now survive and are residents of the Bitter Root valley.

The remains were taken to Victor last evening, interment to occur at the cemetery of that village on Sunday.

HER SUFFERING IS AT AN END

Mrs. Harriet E. Cowan
Passed Away.

DIED AT THE HOSPITAL

Remains to Be Taken to Vic-
tor for Interment.

Many Friends Mourn Demise of Old
Timer--Body of C. M. Cronberry
to Be Given Burial at
Missoula.

(Special Telegram.)

Missoula, April 12.—Mrs. Harriet E. Cowan, wife of Thomas Cowan, of Victor, died at the Sisters' hospital in this city yesterday at one o'clock. Deceased was forty years of age and leaves a husband to mourn her demise. She had been at the hospital for the past three months suffering from blood poisoning in the hand, and for some time has been growing worse until death relieved her suffering shortly after the midday hour yesterday. Her remains will be taken to Victor today where services will be held and the remains consigned to their final rest. Mr. and Mrs. Cowan are old-timers in this part of the state, arriving here in the early days, and have many friends who extend to the husband their heartfelt sympathy in his hour of bereavement.

Victor Native Dies Suddenly At Home

Victor — Robert Arthur Cowan, 73, died suddenly Tuesday morning at his home, following a period of failing health.

He was born in Victor, April 9, 1883, of pioneer parents. He spent his entire life here except for his volunteer service in the United States Army during World War I. He was injured while serving in France. He was a member of Ravalli County Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Funeral services are tentatively set for Saturday afternoon in the Victor Federated Church, and burial in the Victor cemetery. The Whitesitt Mortuary, Stevensville, has charge of the body.

Mr. Cowan is survived by his widow, Lena Cowan; two stepchildren, Mrs. Inez Jenson, Whittier, Calif., and Eugene Glasson, Seattle; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Smith and Mrs. Ellen Fifield, Victor, and Mrs. Blanche Jones, Bremerton, Wash., and two brothers, Walter Cowan, Hamilton, and Frank Cowan, Bozeman. Also by a large number of nieces and nephews.

Ravalli Republic
Thu, Jul 05, 1956 · Page 1

Hamilton MT

Brother Robert Arthur Cowan (1883-1956)

ROBERT ARTHUR COWAN, 73, DIES AT VICTOR

Robert Arthur Cowan, 73, died at 5:45 Tuesday morning at his home, following a period of failing health. He was born in Victor, April 9, 1883, of pioneer parents. He spent his entire life here except for his volunteer service in the United States Army during World War I when he was injured serving in France. He was a member of the Ravalli County Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Funeral services are set for Saturday afternoon in the Victor Federated Church and burial will be in the Victor Cemetery. The Whitesitt Mortuary, Stevensville, is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Cowan is survived by his widow, Lena Cowen, two step children, Mrs. Inez Jenson, Whittier, Calif., and Eugene Glasson, Seattle; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Smith and Mrs. Ellen Fifield, Victor, and Mrs. Blanche Jones Bremerton, Wash., and two brothers, Walter Cowan, Hamilton, and Frank Cowan, Bozeman; also by a large number of nieces and nephews.

North West Tribune
Thu, Jul 05, 1956 - Page 1

Stevensville MT

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Blanche Jones Taken by Death

Word has been received at Victor of the death of Mrs. Blanche (Cowan) Jones, 83, at Long Beach, Calif., where she was visiting with her daughter, Mary Ellen. Mrs. Jones had lived in Seattle for many years.

She lived in Victor as a small child and had visited here a year ago, attending the funeral of her brother, the late Budge Cowan.

Survivors include daughters Agnes, Seattle; Mary Ellen, Long Beach; and sons George, Edmonds, Wash., and Billie, California; one brother, Frank Cowan, Bozeman.

Several nieces and nephews of Mrs. Jones live in the Bitter Root.

Ravalli Republic
Tue, Jan 02, 1968 - Page 1

Sister Blanche Ophelia Cowan Jones (1884-1967) – Hamilton MT

Blanche Jones

Blanche Jones, 83, a former long - time resident of Bremerton, died Tuesday in a hospital in Long Beach, Calif. She had been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Mary Ellen Santavicca, a resident of that city.

Mrs. Jones was born in the Bitterroot Valley in Montana on Dec. 5, 1884. She moved to Bremerton in the early 1900's where she raised her family. She moved to Seattle in the mid-1940's and had an apartment there on Empire Way.

more on Empire way.
Mrs. Jones was a member of the Royal Neighbors of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and the Rebekah Lodge of Bremerton.

She is survived by two sons, George R. Jones, Edmonds, and William T. Jones, Concord, Calif.; two other daughters besides Mrs. Santavicca, Mrs. Agnes E. Larsen, and Mrs. Edith C. Roesch, both of Seattle; a brother, Frank Cowan, Bozeman, Mont.; 13 grandchildren and 11 great - grandchildren.

Funeral services have been scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday at Lewis Funeral Chapel. The Rev. Kenneth Peterson will officiate. Interment will be at Ivy Green Cemetery.

Kitsap Sun
Thu, Dec 28, 1967 - Page 14

Bremerton WA

W. S. Jones Dies In Seattle

Victor; Dec. 20.—William S. Jones, 78, old-time Victor barber and justice of the peace, died December 17 at Seattle, according to a message received here by relatives. He had been in failing health for two years. He and his family moved to the coast about 27 years ago and lived in Bremerton until moving to Seattle last summer.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Blanche Cowan Jones, four daughters living in Seattle and two sons, George, in Alaska, and Billie, in the air force. A son, Elmer Jones, lost his life while serving in the Army on Leyte in the Philippine Islands last December. Mrs. George Rowe, Hamilton, is a sister, and another sister lives in California. Funeral services were held in Seattle and burial was in Bremerton beside the grave of his son, Walter, who died several years ago.

The Missoulian
Fri, Dec 21, 1945 · Page 6

Missoula MT

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June maintained its reputation for being a month of brides by having the greatest number of weddings for the year. Clerk of the Court A. C. Baker issued fourteen licenses. The month started out brisk with nine licenses being granted in ten days, but after that interest in the matrimonial line commenced to lag. The licenses:

June 3—J. M. Stockman and Sarah J. Allnutt, both of Hamilton.

June 6—William A. McElroy and Laura May Goodrich, both of Hamilton.

June 7—Henry Cowan of Victor and Evalyn Johnson of Bozeman,

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Jul 07, 1911 · Page 1

Brother George Henry Cowan (1886-1924) – Hamilton MT

Canyon Creek Schoolhouse Laboratory People

Along with many other men and women, these people worked at the Canyon Creek Schoolhouse laboratory during the years 1921–1928 and played important roles in the research on Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF). Three of them lost their lives researching RMSF during the schoolhouse years.

George Henry Cowan (January 8, 1886- Oct. 29, 1924)

George Cowan was born in Victor, Montana. His parents were among the original White settlers of the area. A field station for studying Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) was located in Victor before moving to the Canyon Creek Schoolhouse laboratory in Hamilton, Montana.

Cowan joined the RMSF investigation in 1913 and was the longest-serving field worker at the time of his death. The Montana State Board of Entomology made him deputy chief of tick control work in 1921, and he continued that work with the U.S. Public Health Service in the Canyon Creek Schoolhouse laboratory. Cowan helped to collect ticks and when he shot a certain mountain goat, more than a thousand already engorged ticks were picked off of it. Dr. Roscoe Spencer tested to see if the ticks caused RMSF, discovered that ticks had to be fed before they became infectious, and got the idea to grind the ticks into an RMSF vaccine. Unfortunately, the vaccine was not completed before Cowan became ill with RMSF and died in October 1924.



Image: Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum, 1575

<https://history.nih.gov/display/history/Canyon+Creek+Schoolhouse+Laboratory+100th+Anniversary+People>

TICK WORKER SUCSUMBS; SPOTTED FEVER IS FATAL

George Henry Cowan Is
Dead at Hamilton Hospital.

Hamilton, Oct. 29.—Special—George Henry Cowan died at 4 a. m. today following a short illness of spotted fever at the Hamilton hospital. Cowan was a field worker at the entomology station west of town and had the longest record in the state in spotted fever research work having entered the service when it was under federal supervision in 1913 under Dr. W. B. King of Washington, D. C. In 1917 he was appointed chief deputy in tick control work by the state board of entomology and in 1921 made field assistant when the work became aligned with the public health department. Dr. R. R. Parker, head of the field work here, Dr. W. S. Cogswell and Professor R. A. Cooley, state entomologist, stated today that the loss to

the service occasioned by Cowan's death was irreparable because of his great practical knowledge of the work.

Whether he contracted the disease through accidental inoculation at the laboratory or by the bite of a tick is not known. The experimental work ceased at the laboratory several weeks ago when Dr. Parker became ill with tularemia, another disease traced to tick bite. Dr. Parker is still confined to his bed, though improving. Cowan is the fourth man to die while engaged in the research work. The others were Dr. McClintock of Washington, D. C., who contracted the fever in the laboratory at Victor in 1912 and died after returning to Washington; Dr. McCray, who died in Helena while doing laboratory work in 1919, and William Gettlinger, a Bozeman college student, who died here after contracting the disease in the laboratory in 1922.

Dr. Ricketts who died in Mexico in 1910 while working with typhus was experimenting with this disease in the hope of determining something about the spotted fever.

the spotted fever.

Mr. Cowan is survived by his wife and two daughters, Phyllis P. and Doris B. There are four brothers, Frank of Bozeman, Arthur and Albert of Victor and Walter of Bremerton, Wash.; three sisters, Mrs. W. S. Jones of Bremerton, Mrs. J. R. Smith and Mrs. A. W. Fifield of Victor. A brother, Elmer, was drowned when the Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine. He was 48 years of age and born at Victor. His parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cowan, were pioneers of the Bitter Root valley. Services will be held Saturday afternoon from the Victor Presbyterian church following services at the Masonic temple here.

Mr. Cowan was a member of the Hamilton band.

The Missoulian
Thu, Oct 30, 1924 - Page 4

Missoula MT

TICK FEVER EXPERT IS BITTEN, DIES

Hamilton, Oct. 30.—George H. Cowan died at 4 Wednesday morning following a few days' illness of spotted fever. Cowan had been field worker for the entomology station since 1913, beginning at Victor. He is the fourth man to die in the state while engaged in the work. He was 38 years of age and a native of the Bitter Root valley, having been born at Victor. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, Doris, 8, and Phyllis, 4; four brothers and three sisters. A brother, Elmer, perished when the Lusitania was sunk by German submarines.

The Daily Inter Lake
Thu, Oct 30, 1924 - Page 1

*Elmer died on Tuscania, not Lusitania -
Kalispell MT*

GOVERNMENT OFFICER VICTIM OF SPOTTED FEVER

HAMILTON.—A victim of spotted fever, a disease which he and other government officials have been investigating in this section, George Henry Cowan, 38 years, is dead here. Mr. Cowan, who had been field assistant for the United States public health laboratory west of Hamilton, passed away eight days after being seized with the malady. His case is one of the strangest on record, physicians say, the appearance of the disease being uncommon at this time of the year. Attendants also failed to discover signs of a tick bite on his body and it is believed that he became inoculated with spotted fever by animals of which he had charge in the government experiments to prevent the disease.

Mr. Cowan had been employed for three years in the health service and had trapped animals for use in spotted fever investigation. Part of his duties was to care for numerous live animals kept at the laboratory.

He was a native of Victor and had resided in this section all of his life. Mr. Cowan was widely known and highly esteemed in the Bitter Root valley. He was a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows organizations.

Mr. Cowan leaves his wife and two children, Doris, 8, and Phyllis, 6; three sisters, Mrs. John Smith and Mrs. Arthur Fifield, both of Victor, and Mrs. Will Jones of Bremerton, Wash., and four brothers, Walter, Arthur and Albert of Victor and Frank of Bremerton, also survive him.

The Butte Daily Post
Thu, Oct 30, 1924 · Page 11

Butte MT

Miss Mary Cowan and John Smith were married at the home of Mrs. Al Rogers here Thursday evening. They have taken up housekeeping in their new home in the southern part of town. Their many friends extend to them hearty congratulations.

Stevensville Register
Thu, Jul 08, 1915 · Page 1

Stevensville MT

Sister Mary Eliza Cowan Smith (1888-1963)

A marriage license was issued yesterday to John R. Smith and Miss Mary Cowan, both of Victor.

The Western News
Fri, Jul 02, 1915 · Page 4

Stevensville MT

J. R. Smith, Native Of N. Carolina, Died June 1

Funeral services were held on Tuesday morning at the Dowling chapel for John R. Smith, 84, of Victor who died suddenly Saturday, June 1 at Daly hospital at 3:10 p.m. Mr. Smith suffered a heart attack while working on an irrigation ditch with three other men Saturday and died shortly after reaching the hospital. He had been in good health. Rev. Robert Sherwood officiated and interment was in Victor cemetery. Pallbearers were Harley Sargent, Harold White, Forest Groff, Joe Ess, John Greenfield and William Engler.

Aside from his devotion to his family and his attention to woods work and farming "Tarheel" Smith had two avocations. One was mining, the other fishing. He was well versed in prospecting and had mining properties in the Big creek area adjacent the Curlew. He knew the river and was adept in extracting fish from it.

John R. Smith lived longer than most of his contemporaries and hence there remain a smaller circle of friends at the time of his death than he owned at life's zenith. But those who knew him realize his fine character, his industry, his integrity, his stubborn insistence upon cleaving to equity in all things. He was truly a fine man.

John Robert Smith was born May 13, 1879 in Lenoir, N. C. He came to the Bitter Root in 1901 to Victor and it was there that he married Mary Cowan on July 1, 1915. Rev. D. H. Hanson officiated and attendants were Arthur W. and Ellen Fifield. He built the house which is still the family home and where their children were all born. Mr. Smith, affectionately known as "Tarheel," was one of the last of the valley's old time loggers. He spent 40 years in woodworking and also did considerable prospecting.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Victor Odd Fellow lodge and the Cantons in Hamilton.

Surviving beside the widow are sons Zeb and Lennie of Hamilton, Albert in Victor; daughter Mrs. Leo (Ruth) Kelly, Lawndale, Calif.; sisters Mrs. Neelie Burns, Mrs. Emma Hauck, both Lenoir; brothers, Zeb, Connelly Springs, N. C., and Thomas in Lenoir; four grandchildren; one great grandchild.

Mrs. J. R. Smith Taken by Death

VICTOR — Mrs. John R. (Mary) Smith, 75, died Saturday in a Hamilton hospital.

Her husband preceded her in death in June of this year.

She was born March 29, 1888, in Victor, to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cowan, who came here in 1879 from Utah. Her entire life was spent here.

She was married to Mr. Smith July 3, 1915, in Victor.

Survivors are three sons, Zeb, Hamilton; Albert, Victor; Lennie, Kamiah, Idaho; a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Kelley, Lawndale, Calif.; two brothers, Walter Cowan, Hamilton; Frank Cowan, Bozeman; two sisters, Mrs. Ellen Fifield, Victor; Mrs. Blanche Jones, Seattle, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Smith was an active member in Three Link Rebekah Lodge for 46 years.

Funeral arrangements are pending in Dowling Mortuary, Hamilton.

The Missoulian
Sun, Sep 29, 1963 - Page 12

Missoula MT

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LICENSED TO WED.

License to wed was granted today by the clerk of the district court to the following:

Arthur W. Riffield, Victor, aged 21,
and Miss Ellen Cowan, Victor, aged 18.

This couple was married this forenoon by Justice of the Peace Phillips at his office. They will make their home at Victor.

The Missoula Herald
Tue, Mar 03, 1908 - Page 1

Missoula MT

Sister Ellen Sophronia Cowan Fifield (1890-1964) – her husband's surname is misspelled as Rifield

VICTOR

Fifield Rites Are Conducted

Funeral services for Mrs Arthur W. Fifield were held Monday afternoon in the Victor Federated Church, with Rev. John Hall of Stevensville officiating. Burial was in the Victor cemetery.

Pallbearers were grandsons Ward and Mick Fifield, Albert Miller, Dan Gow, Jim Personett and Thomas Kerr.

Mrs Fifield passed away Thursday in Hamilton hospital. Whitesitt Mortuary in Stevensville was in charge of arrangements.

Ravalli Republic
Mon, Mar 23, 1964 · Page 4

Hamilton MT



Brother Albert Ashley Cowan (1891-1929) – Find A Grave 11327543

SLAIN RANCHER BURIED TODAY



ALBERT COWAN.

DOUBLE MILITARY FUNERAL SERVICES AT VICTOR TODAY

Last Rites to Be Conducted
For Albert Cowan and
John Hill.

Special to The Missoulian.

Hamilton, Dec. 28.—Tonight the bodies of Albert Cowan and John Hill lie in state at the Dowling chapel. The men who were close friends in life now lie in adjoining rooms awaiting the hour tomorrow when their friends and dear ones gather to pay their last respects at a double military funeral to be held at Victor.

Cowan, the victim of a murderer's bullet, met death Christmas day and Hill, a scarcely less tragic end when death came 36 hours later after 10 days of unconsciousness due to a fractured skull suffered in an auto accident.

Both were ex-service men, 38 years of age. Cowan visited Hill daily at the hospital while he served as jurymen in the last term of court. The pals hunted together this fall when the deer season was on. Cowan's burial will take place at Victor and Hill's at Corvallis.

CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS TURNED TO TRAGEDY WHEN BITTER ROOT VALLEY RANCHER IS SHOT DOWN BY EMPLOYE

Albert Cowan Dies After Shooting By Wm. Hogue,
19, Who Said He Was In Love With Mrs. Cowan

Hamilton, Dec. 26.—(P)—Burning with a hopeless love for his employer's wife, William Hogue turned Christmas happiness into tragedy yesterday, shooting down Albert Cowan, Bitter Root valley rancher, as he was watching a cream separator a few yards from where his wife was engaged in housework, with their two small daughters playing with their Christmas presents at her side.

Mrs. Cowan summoned a neighbor who held Hogue until the officers arrived. At the jail, Sheriff J. S. Stokes said Hogue admitted the shooting, after first saying it was accidental, telling of his unrequited love for Mrs. Cowan and declaring, "If I couldn't have her, I didn't want him to."

Cowan was shot in the spine and died almost immediately.

Hogue, 19 years old, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hogue, highly respected resident of Anaconda. He graduated from the Anaconda high school and was a student last year at Mount St. Charles college, Helena. He had been working for Cowan since June.

Cowan was 38. He was a member of a prominent Bitter Root family, a graduate of Montana State college and a veteran of the World war. A brother, Henry, died from spotted fever five years ago and another brother, Elmer, was drowned when the Lusitania sank.

Parents Prostrated

Anaconda, Dec. 26.—(P)—Almost prostrated by news that their son, William, shot and killed his employer, Albert Cowan, Victor rancher, yesterday, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hogue today were unable to throw any light on the motive that may have been behind the act.

"William always a good boy," was his mother's sob-choked testimonial.

The father is engineer-inspector of the air lines at the reduction works here.

Friends of the youth, who was well thought of here, were able to corroborate to some degree the boy's tale of his love for Mrs. Cowan. He apparently had made no secret of it and some of his intimates said it was the only reason he remained as a ranch hand.

Miles City Star
Thu, Dec 26, 1929 - Page 10

Miles City MT

Leading Bitter Root Paper	RAVALLI REPUBLICAN	All Printed in Hamilton
VOL. XLII	HAMILTON, MONTANA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1929.	NO. 26
FATAL SHOOTING YESTERDAY MORNING		
Albert Cowan Shot By His Eighteen-Year-Old Ranch Hand and Instantly Killed Christmas Morning While the Victor Rancher Was Operating a Cream Separator at His Home		

Albert Cowan was shot and almost instantly killed Christmas morning by William Hogue, his hired man. Cowan was turning the cream separator in the kitchen of his home southwest of Victor when Hogue stepped from a hall to the kitchen door and shot him in the back without warning. The bullet pierced Cowan's spine slightly above the waist and he died about 15 minutes later, before a physician could reach him. The tragedy occurred about 10:30 o'clock.

Made Confession.

Hogue confessed the shooting in a signed statement given to Coroner John W. Dowling and Sheriff Stokes at the county jail yesterday afternoon. He said he had loved Cowan's wife for several months, and while she had given him no encouragement, he felt that if he could not have her he did not want Cowan to have her. The statement said: "I, William Hogue, killed Albert Cowan, thinking I could get his wife." Late last night Hogue said to the sheriff, the coroner and a group of newspaper people, that he had not premeditated the crime, except that it had flashed into his mind during the previous night, but that he had dismissed the idea.

The next morning he took Cowan's gun, a 30-30 Winchester rifle, and went out into the field to look for coyotes. Returning to the house he gave the gun to Cowan's nine-year-old daughter Frances and went into the granary to get feed for the cows. Later he returned to the house and went into the hall, where the guns were kept, got the rifle and killed his employer. He said he had had no trouble with Cowan.

Came From Anaconda.

Hogue is an American youth and will be 19 years old next April. Mrs. Cowan is about 18 years his senior and is known as a hard-working respectable woman. Cowan was 38 and a member of one of the oldest families in the Bitter Root valley.

Mrs. Cowan was at work in the front part of the house and the two little girls were playing with their Christmas toys when the shot that spelled one of the grimmest Christmas tragedies ever recorded rang out. Mrs. Cowan ran to the kitchen to see her husband lying face down on the floor and Hogue with the gun still in his hand. "She screamed," Hogue told the sheriff, "but I was so crazy I don't remember what she said." Asked if he did not regret his deed instantly, he replied that he had regretted it the moment it was done.

Hogue said in his talk to the officers that Mrs. Cowan screamed when she found he had shot her husband and that when he realized what he had done he went to the telephone and "told Central to get a doctor." Mrs. Cowan called Swift Chamberlain, their nearest neighbor, and Chamberlain with his wife and daughter were first on the scene of the tragedy. Sheriff Stokes and Dr. Herbert Hayward were immediately called, but Cowan had passed away before their arrival, and the coroner was notified. Chamberlain had taken the youthful gunman in charge and prevented his escape before the officers came. Later when relatives and neighbors gathered as the news of the shooting spread the sheriff had difficulty in restraining some of them from laying violent hands on Hogue, whom he brought immediately to Hamilton, where he was locked in the woman's cell of the county jail.

Here Since June.

Hogue said he had lived in Anaconda with his parents and two younger sisters since 1918 and that his father was a car inspector for the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. They came to Anaconda from Spirit Lake, Idaho. He attended the Anaconda high school for three years, coming to the Bitter Root valley for the hay harvest last June. Since that time he had worked steadily at the Cowan place and was planning to remain there for the winter and to trap for furs as a side line. He is a slight, blonde youth of average height with a slender, sensitive face and sat with his head bowed most of the time

when he was being questioned. When he was asked about his parents he begged that the news of his plight be kept from his mother. "For God's sake don't tell her, for it will kill her," he said.

Albert Cowan was a native of the Victor community. His brother Henry died about five years ago of spotted fever while he was field worker for the state board of entomology. Another brother, Elmer, was drowned when the transport Lusitania went down off the coast of Ireland during the World war. Two brothers, Walter of Seattle and Arthur of Victor, three sisters, Mrs. Blanche Jones of Bremerton, Wash., Mrs. Ellen Fifield and Mrs. J. H. Smith of Victor, survive with the widow and two small daughters, Frances aged nine years and Altha, a baby of three. Mrs. Edgar Puyear of 303 South Seventh street is a sister of Mrs. Cowan. The family of the murdered man was brought to the Puyear home last night.

Inquest Today.

An inquest will probably be held some time today, Coroner Dowling stated. County Attorney H. C. Packer, who was spending Christmas in Missoula, was notified of the tragedy early yesterday by the officers and returned to Hamilton last night. As to the time of arraignment for young Hogue nothing has been settled.

Cowan was drawn as a juryman during the recent court session and had spent most of his time in Hamilton the past three weeks. He was an ex-service man and of powerful physique and as a youth was well known as an athlete during high school days. The body, still clad in work shirt and overalls, was brought to the Dowling funeral home shortly after the tragedy and no arrangements for the last rites had been made when The Republican went to press.

Ravalli Republic
Thu, Dec 26, 1929 - Page 1

Elmer was drowned on Tuscania, not Lusitania – Hamilton MT

Walter Cowan Taken by Death

HAMILTON—Walter William Cowan, 72, Hamilton, died Wednesday in the veteran's hospital in Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Cowan was born Jan. 8, 1894, in Victor.

Survivors include his widow, Ellen.

The body is being sent here for funeral services and burial under the direction of Dowling Mortuary.

*Brother Walter William Cowan (1894-1966) -
Missoula MT*

The Missoulian
Thu, Jun 09, 1966 -Page 12

WOOD-COWAN NUPTIALS

**Miss Elva Wood and Walter Cowan
Were Married Wednesday Night
at the Bride's Home.**

Victor, July 1.—Miss Elva Wood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Wood, and Walter Cowan were married yesterday evening at 6 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents east of Victor. Both bride and groom are well known here, where they have lived most of their lives

and their many friends wish them happiness. They went to Missoula for a few days.

Ravalli Republic
Fri, Jul 02, 1920 -Page 5

Hamilton MT

A marriage license was issued Wednesday morning by Deputy Clerk of Court John Quincy Adams to Miss Elva Wood and William Walter Cowan both of Victor.

The Western News
Thu, Jul 01, 1920 - Page 8

Stevensville MT

Elva Alice Wood Srader

Elva Alice Wood Srader, 85, died Feb. 15 at Shelton, Wash.

She was born Oct. 27, 1900, at Victor, the oldest of four daughters to Alice and George Wood. She attended school in Victor and was valedictorian of her graduating class.

In 1920 she married Walter Cowan and was later divorced. The couple had a son, George, who died in 1936.

During World War II she worked at the Navy shipyards at Bremerton, Wash.

She married Horace Srader in 1953. They made their home in

Bremerton until their divorce in 1961, after which she moved to Shelton. Until her retirement, she worked as a nurses' aide at Shelton General Hospital.

She was a longtime member of Rebekah Lodge.

Survivors include three sisters, Ettie A. Robbins, Hamilton, Etta M. Simmons, Missoula, and June Marie Schrader of Portland, Ore., four nieces and two nephews.

Memorial service will be held today at 11 a.m. at McComb-Batstone Funeral Home in Shelton. Graveside memorial service will be held at a later date in Corvallis.

Ravalli Republic
Wed, Feb 19, 1986 - Page 2

Hamilton MT

George Cowan, 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cowan, former Victor residents, died at the family home at Manette, Wash., last Thursday, relatives here were advised. Mrs. Cowan's parent's, Mr. and Mrs. George Wood left Friday to attend the youth's funeral. The boy was a native of Victor and he had been ailing since an attack of infantile paralysis three years ago. Influenza was the immediate cause of death.

COWAN CHILD DIES

PROLONGED ILLNESS

Victor, March 25.—George Cowan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cowan, died Thursday at the family home in Manette, Washington, according to a telephone communication with Mr. and Mrs. George Wood, grandparents of the boy. Mr. and Mrs. Wood left Friday morning for Manette.

George Cowan was born here June 29, 1922. The family moved to Manette when he was small. Three years ago, he was taken ill with infantile paralysis, from which, he had not fully recovered. Flu and a weakened heart were given as the causes of his death. He is survived by his parents and grandparents and a large circle of relatives.

North West Tribune
Thu, Mar 26, 1936 -Page 1

Stevensville MT

Ellen Cowan, Ex-Resident, Passes Away

Valley friends were informed Monday of the death of a former resident, Mrs. Ellen Cowan, 80, in Fair Oakes, Calif.

The woman lived in Victor and Hamilton for many years before moving to California about five years ago to make her home with a daughter, Mrs. Hermoine Soukup. Other survivors include two sons living in California and Washington.

Funeral rites are planned Wednesday in Olympia, Wash.

Ravalli Republic
Mon, Dec 28, 1970 - Page 2

Hamilton MT

Ellen Winter Cowan

The funeral service for Ellen Winter Cowan will be held in the Mills and Mills chapel this Wednesday at one p.m. Officers of the Olympia Eagles Auxiliary will conduct the service. Burial will follow in Forest Memorial Gardens. Mrs. Cowan died Sunday in Sacramento.

The Olympian
Tue, Dec 29, 1970 · Page 15

Olympia WA

Ellen Winter Cowan

Ellen Winter Cowan died Sunday at Sacramento, California. Mrs. Cowan had lived in Olympia for many years. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Hermione Soukup, Fair Oaks, California; two sons: Richard and Gerald, both of Washington; two sisters, both of California; eight grandchildren; 11 great - grandchildren. A funeral service will be held in the Mills and Mills chapel this Wednesday at one o'clock. Burial will take place in Forest Memorial Gardens.

AT SCHRADER HOME

Mrs. Elva Cowan, Bremerton, Wash., and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Wood, Corvallis, were guest during the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Schrader of Missoula. Mrs. Cowan is a sister of Mrs. Schrader, and is on a visit at the home of her parents in the Bitter Root.

The Missoulian
Tue, May 27, 1947 - Page 3

Missoula MT

FRANK COWAN

Victor Native Now Retired After Work as Entomologist

By LOUISE LANGTON

Frank T. Cowan, USDA entomologist in charge of grasshopper and Mormon cricket research at Montana State University, Bozeman, retired recently after 41 years of service.

A world authority on grasshopper and Mormon cricket control, he is credited with the research and work that have eliminated Mormon crickets as an economic threat to range and crop lands.

After graduation from Victor High School in 1919, he attended Montana State, where he graduated in 1925. He has been in charge of the Bozeman laboratory since July 1, 1952.

During the summer of 1962 he spent several weeks in the Middle East and East Africa, serving as an advisor to the Desert Locust Control Organization. He has worked closely with the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London, and the Desert Locust Control of East Africa.

Cowan was the youngest of eight children of the Thomas Cowan family of Victor. His mother died when he was very young, and he was raised by a sister, Mrs. John (Mary) Smith. Frank's brother, Elmer, was on the Tuscania when it was torpedoed by the Germans during World War I. His body was washed up on the shores of Scotland, very near where his father had been born. Everett Babbitt and the late Lawrence Watters were also on the torpedoed ship, but were rescued and later returned to live in Victor.

Cowan and his wife have a son Tom, an entomologist with a chemical company in Portland, and a daughter, Jane, a former model now married to a advertising executive in Los Angeles. Cowan's wife is a vocal music teacher on the campus in Bozeman.

Frank has a sister, Mrs. Blanche Jones, Seattle, now in her 80s, and (several) nieces and nephews in the Bitter Root Valley. He visited with relatives in Victor last month.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowan plan to

continue to make their home in Bozeman. In August they will travel to Braemar, Scotland, for the "Gathering of the Scottish Clans."

Ravalli Republic

Wed, Jul 12, 1967 - Page 3

Brother Franklin Thomas Cowan (1901-1996) - Hamilton MT

Franklin Cowan, Victor, Is Married at Bozeman

Victor, May 15.—Special.—The marriage of two members of the junior riage of Montana State College. Franklin Cowan of Victor and Miss Elva Ayler of Greencastle, Ind., which took place in Bozeman April 7, with Rev. H. G. Klemme, pastor of the Presbyterian church, officiating, was supposed to be secret until the close of the college year, but some of their friends among the fraternities, the bride being a member of the Pi Beta Phi and the groom of the Sigma Chi. The numerous friends of both bride and groom on the college hill, as well as those in the city of Bozeman, are extending congratulations and best wishes.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowan expect to continue their studies for the rest of the year. Mr. Cowan was born at Victor and attended Victor schools and was a graduate of the high school here. He was a star performer in all trackmeet events. For several years he has spent his summer vacations assisting Dr. Parker at Hamilton and Victor in field work for the state board of entomology.

Cowan-Ayler Wedding at Bozeman

(Special to The Tribune)

The marriage of two members of the Junior class of the Montana State College, Franklin Cowan of Victor and Miss Elva Ayler of Greencastle, Indiana, which took place in Bozeman, April 7th with Rev. H. G. Klemme, pastor of the Presbyterian church officiating, was supposed to be a secret until the close of the college year, but some of their friends found it out and the news soon spread among the fraternities, the bride being a member of the Pi Beta Phi and the groom of the Sigma Chi fraternity. The numerous friends of both bride and groom on the college hill as well as those in the city are extending congratulations and best wishes. Mr. and Mrs. Cowan expect to continue their studies for the rest of the year. Mr. Cowan was born at Victor and attended Victor schools and was a graduate of V. H. S. He was a star performer in all track meet events. For several

years he has spent his summer vacations assisting Dr. Parker at Hamilton and Victor in field work for the State board of Entomology.

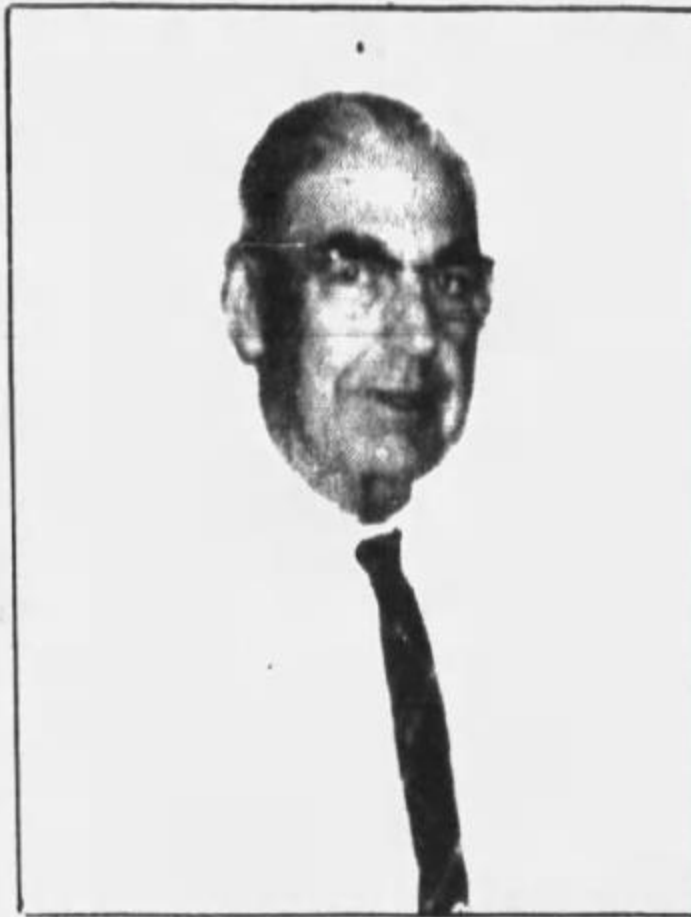
North West Tribune
Fri, May 16, 1924 - Page 1

Stevensville MT

Word has been received of the birth of a daughter at Bozeman to Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Cowan.

The Butte Miner
Sun, Dec 07, 1924 · Page 40

Butte MT



Franklin Cowan

Franklin Cowan _____

Lennie and Albert Smith of Victor have received word of the death of their uncle, Franklin Cowan, 94, at a Bozeman nursing home.

Cowan was the son of Elizabeth and Tom Cowan and grew up on his parent's farm near the old Curlew Mine northwest of Victor. He was one of nine children. His mother died when he was about three months old and his sister, Mary Cowan Smith, cared for her brothers and sisters along with her father, Tom.

He graduated from Victor High School in 1919, and later graduated from Montana State College in Bozeman. He went on to become a nationally known entomologist working at MSU in Bozeman, as well as in Colorado for several years. Cowan traveled to Egypt and other countries overseas working in grasshopper and cricket control.

Surviving are a son Tom of Portland, Ore., a daughter Jane of Portland, Ore., and several grandchildren and nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by his wife Elva and a daughter-in-law.

STATE DEATHS

Absarokee: Dorothy Imlay, 59.

Belgrade: Barry Thomas, 40.

Billings: Kenneth Morrison, 73;
Mary Heckel, 68; Fergie Newlin, 41.

Bozeman: Vance Irey, 80; Franklin
Cowan, 94; Franklin Cowan, 94; Albert
Noraker; Phyllis Cattrell, 76.

The Missoulian
Wed, Jun 05, 1996 · Page 13

Missoula MT

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Elmer Luther Cowan

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 16th/Co. D - private

Serial number: Army enlisted men were not assigned serial numbers in WWI until the sinking of the Tuscania showed their value.

Entered service from: Victor, Ravalli MT

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Elmer L. Cowan

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": brother-in-law ["in-law" handwritten] John R. Smith, Victor MT

Burial on isle of Islay, Scotland: st buried at Kilnaughton, Islay, Scotland - grave 61, as Elmer L. Cowan

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

Body listed on return ship as: Elmer L. Cowan

Rank: private, Co. D, 20th Engineers

World War I draft registration (1917): b. 3 Oct 1895 Victor MT; res; Victor, Ravalli TX. Single. Farming, A.W. Fifield, 3 ½ miles NW of Victor MT. Tall & slender.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlistment & discharge dates not recorded

Birth date 3 Oct 1895 – death date 6 Feb 1918

Address: Victor MT

Rank/unit: private, Co. D, 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 3 Oct 1895 Victor, Ravalli MT

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Find A Grave record: 11327603, presence on Tuscania indicated in text & flower, has photo

Burial location: Victor, Ravalli MT

Cemetery: Victor

Tombstone: tombstone: Co D 6th Bn. 20th Engineers "Victim of Tuscania disasters"

Father: Thomas Cowan, 13 Jan 1861 Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Scotland – 3 Oct 1917 Victor, Ravalli MT.

Emigrated in 1855.

Obituary: "Ravalli Republic" Friday 12 Oct 1917 p 5 – "Pioneer Resident" – "Thomas Cowan Lived at Victor Forty Years" – Funeral was held Sunday afternoon for Thomas Cowan, who died last week Wednesday. His son Albert, a soldier at American Lake WA, was present but his other son Arthur, in service in Oregon, through "a little misunderstanding," arrived an hour after the funeral. Age 66, lived in the Bitter Root Valley nearly 40 years. Survived by his 2 sons in the Army (Albert & Arthur) & 4 other sons: Henry, Walter, Elmer & Franklin Cowan, and 3 daughters: Mrs. John Smith [Mary] of Victor, Mrs. Arthur Fifield [Ellen] of Victor & Mrs. William Jones [Blanche] of Florence.

Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT.

Find A Grave: 11327259

Mother: Harriet Elizabeth Miller Cowan, 28 Jun 1861 Champaign, Champaign IL – 11 Apr 1902 Missoula, Missoula MT.

Daughter of John Henry Miller & Nancy Jane Harper.

Obituary: "Missoulia" 12 Apr 1902 p 5 – Mrs. Harriet E. Cowan, 40, wife of Thomas Cowan of Victor who is 1 of the Bitter Root Valley's most prominent citizens, died at noon on 11 Apr at Sisters' Hospital. She had been ill 2 months, but her fatal illness began almost a year ago. Following childbirth, she was "taken down" and never left her bed of illness until her death. Mother of 8 children, who survive, as does her husband. Body was taken to Victor 11 Apr; interment in Victor Cemetery on Sunday, 13 Apr.

"Butte Miner" 12 Apr 1902 p 12 – adds that Sisters' Hospital is in Missoula MT. She was ill in the hospital for 3 months with blood poisoning in her hand. An old-timer, who arrived in the early days.

Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT.

Find A Grave: 11327470

Parents' marriage: 1 Jun 1879 Diamond, Juab UT

Siblings: Elmer was the second-youngest child

- **Elizabeth Alice / Alice Elizabeth Cowan**, 12 Dec 1881 Ravalli Co. MT – 4 Apr 1882 Ravalli Co. MT. Tombstone: daughter of T. & H.E. Cowan. Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT. F: 30960581
- **Robert Arthur / Arthur Robert Cowan**, 9 Apr 1883 Victor, Ravalli Co. MT – 3 Jul 1956 Ravalli Co. MT. - WWI – private 1st class from MT, Co. D, 16th Infantry. - Husband of Floy Wills (b. 1889), whom he married on 22 Dec 1912 in Helena, Lewis & Clark MT. – Husband of Lena (surviving widow). - Obituary: "Missoulia" 4 Jul 1956 p 5 – Robert Arthur Cowan, 73, died suddenly 3 Jul 1956. Born Victor MT 9 Apr 1883 of pioneer parents. Spent entire life in Victor except for when he volunteered to serve in the Army. He was injured serving in France. Member VFW Ravalli. Survived by wife Lena, 2 stepchildren & 3 sisters: Mrs. Mary Smith & Mrs. Ellen Fifield of Victor & Mrs. Blanche Jones of Bremerton WA & 2 brothers: Walter Cowan (Hamilton MT) & Frank Cowan (Bozeman MT). – Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT. F: 11327503
- **Blanche Ophelia Cowan Jones**, 5 Dec 1884 Hamilton, Ravalli MT – 26 Dec 1967 Long Beach, Los Angeles CA (or Concord, Contra Costa CA). - Wife of William S. Jones (1868-1945) whom she married 24 Nov 1903 Hamilton, Ravalli MT. - Obituary of William Jones: "Missoulia" 21 Dec 1945 p 6 – William S. Jones, 78, old-time Victor MT barber & justice of the peace, d. 17 Dec 1945 in Seattle. In failing health for 2 years. The family moved to the coast about 27 years ago & they lived in Bremerton until moving to Seattle last summer. Survived by widow, Blanche Cowan Jones, 4 daughters in Seattle & 2 sons. William & Fred's son Elmer died in the Philippines while serving in the Army in Dec 1944. He was buried in Bremerton WA besides the grave of their son Walter, who died several years ago. (Son Walter A. Jones, 1907-1928, F: 44022336) buried in Ivy Green Cemetery, Bremerton WA, the same cemetery Blanche is buried in. - Obituary: "Ravalli Republic" 2 Jan 1968 p 1 – Word was received at Victor MT of the death of Mrs. Blanche (Cowan) Jones, 83, at Long Beach CA where she was visiting her daughter, Mary Ellen. She had lived in Seattle

many years & lived in Victor as a small child. She visited here a year ago to attend the funeral of her brother, Budge Cowan [has to be Walter]. Survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, nieces & nephews in the area & brother Frank Cowan of Bozeman MT. – Buried in F: 11221900

- **George Henry Cowan**, 10 Jan 1886 Victor, Ravalli Co. MT – 29 Oct 1924 Ravalli Co. MT. - Husband of Evelyn Johnson (1891-1955), whom he married 7 Jun 1911 Ravalli Co. MT. – Died of Rocky Mountain spotted fever; was a field worker for the MT state board of epidemiology. – Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT. F: 11327521
- **Mary Eliza Cowan Smith**, 29 Mar 1888 Victor, Ravalli MT – 28 Sep 1963 Hamilton, Ravalli MT.- She raised her siblings & took care of her father after her mother Harriet died in 1902. Was Elmer's NOK contact when he sailed on Tuscania. - Wife of John Robert Smith (1879-1963, F: 125555599), whom she married 1 Jul 1915 in Ravalli Co. MT. - "Ravalli Republic" 30 Sep 1963 p 1 – Mrs. John R. (Mary) Smith, pioneer Victor lady, spent all her 75 years in the valley. Born 29 Mar 1888 in Victor MT to Mr. & Mrs. Tom Cowan, who had moved to the Bitter Root Valley from UT in 1879. She was born & raised on the old Curlew ranch northwest of Victor. She married John R. Smith on 3 Jul 1915 in Victor. They established their family in the SW corner of Victor & she lived there until her death. Husband John, a longtime logger & rancher, d. Jun 1963. Survived by 3 sons, 1 daughter, 2 brothers: Walter Cowan (Hamilton MT) & Frank Cowan (Bozeman MT) & 2 sisters: Mrs. Ellen Fifield (Victor MT) & Mrs. Blanche Jones (Seattle WA). – Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT. F: 125555637
- **Ellen Sophrona Cowan Fifield**, 12 Apr 1890 Wisdom, Beaverhead MT – 19 Mar 1964 Ravalli Co. MT. - Wife of Arthur Ward Fifield (1888-1970), whom she married 3 Mar 1908 in Missoula Co. MT. - Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT. F: 31498078
- **Albert Ashley Cowan**, 25 Oct 1891 Victor, Ravalli MT – 25 Dec 1929 Victor, Ravalli MT.- Shot to death in the back on Christmas Day by his 17-year-old hired man William Hogue, who was in love with Albert's wife (who did not return his affection). Hogue's trial was held the next day (26 Dec) & he was on his way to the MT state penitentiary at Deer Lodge MT to serve a life sentence that afternoon. Hogue killed himself at the MT state hospital at Anaconda in 1936. - Albert served in WWI from MT as a battalion sergeant major, 548th Field Artillery, 91st Division. – Albert is buried in Victor Cemetery with his wife, Gladys Mildred Kearns (1893-1964), whom he married 5 May 1919 in Missoula Co. MT. - Death: "Ravalli Republic" 26 Dec 1929 p 1 – Albert Cowan was shot Christmas morning & died almost instantly. He was shot by his 18-year-old [he was 17] ranch hand William Hogue. Albert was turning the cream separator in the kitchen of his home SW of Victor when Hogue stepped from the hall to the kitchen door at 10:30 a.m. & without any warning shot Albert in the back. The bullet pierced his spine slightly above the waist & he died about 15 minutes later. Hogue confirmed in a signed statement to Coroner John W. Dowling & Sheriff Stokes at the county jail on the afternoon of 25 Dec that he had loved Mrs. Cowan for several months but she gave him no encouragement. He felt if he could not have her, then he did not want Albert to have her. Hogue thought about killing Cowan the night before (Christmas Eve). On Christmas morning, he took Cowan's

gun – a 30-30 Winchester rifle – and went out to shoot coyotes. Returning to the house, he gave the rifle to Cowan’s 9-year-old daughter Frances & went to the granary to get feed for the cows. Then he returned to the hall, took the gun & fired. Hogue will be 19 years old [incorrect, would be 18] in Apr 1930. Mrs. Cowan is about 18 years older than Hogue, a hard-working, respectable woman. Albert, age 38, was a member of one of the oldest families in the Bitter Root Valley. Mrs. Cowan was at work in the front of the house while her 2 little girls played with their Christmas toys “when the shot that spelled one of the grimmest Christmas tragedies ever recorded” happened. She ran to the kitchen, saw her husband face-down on the floor & Hogue holding the gun & began screaming. Hogue said he regretted his action instantly & phoned Central to send a doctor. Mrs. Cowan called their closest neighbor, Swift Chamberlain, who came to the Cowan house with his wife & daughter. Chamberlain prevented Hogue from leaving. The sheriff had trouble restraining others from violence toward Hogue, who was taken immediately to Hamilton MT. Hogue asked the officers not to tell his mother, as it would kill her. Albert was born in Victor. His brother Harry died about 5 years ago of spotted fever; was a field worker for the state board of epidemiology. His brother Elmer drowned on the “Lusitania” [sic/”Tuscania”] off the coast of Ireland in WWI. Survived by 2 brothers: Walter Cowan (Seattle) & Arthur Cowan (Victor) & 3 sisters: Mrs. Blanche Jones (Bremerton WA), Mrs. Ellen Fifield & Mrs. J.H. Smith (Victor). He is survived by his wife & 2 daughters: Frances (9) & Altha (3). Albert was on the jury during the recent court season & spent most of the past 3 weeks in Hamilton. He was a WWI veteran, with a powerful physique, an athlete in high school. His body was brought to town clad in his work shirt & overalls. - The trial: “Ravalli Republic” Thursday, 2 Jan 1930 p 1 – William Hogue was sentenced to life in prison by Judge J.M. Self last Thursday afternoon [Dec 27, 2 days after the murder], to be served at the state prison at Deer Lodge MT. Hogue pled guilty to murder in the 1st degree. When asked by the judge after each witness testified if the statements were true, he nodded. Did not have a defense or ask for any legal delays. Made no statement. “Missoulain” Thursday 2 Jan 1930 p 5 – “Hogue is Youngest ‘Lifer’ in Prison” – 17-year-old William Hogue of Anaconda is in the prison at Deer Lodge MT. He killed the man who stood between him & the man’s pretty 37-year-old wife. He is the youngest murderer ever received at the prison to serve a life term. Hogue was brought to Deer Lodge Friday after pleading guilty in district court at Hamilton to the murder of Albert Cowan. The youth had developed a passion for Albert’s wife. Albert was killed while playing with his 2 children on the floor. Hogue was rushed to the prison by Ravalli Co. officers who feared the high feeling of Victor residents might become mob violence. Hogue waived all legal delays. The boy’s mother, Mrs. John E. Hogue of Anaconda, says her son should not bear all the onus of the crime & demanded an investigation. She said Mrs. Cowan should have sent her son away “as soon as she learned that the youth had developed for her the searing passion which flamed into murder.” She was refused permission to see her son yesterday, as it was not a visiting day. - “Missoulain” 27 Dec 1929 p 1 & 2 – has numerous articles – William Hogue, who will be 18 next April, arrived in Missoula MT on 26 Dec on his way to the state

penitentiary at Deer Lodge. Smoking a cigarette, he no longer looked like the “broken, hopeless, friendless” boy who was arrested. He talked freely, blaming the murder on his own infatuation with a woman who did not encourage him. He does not think Albert knew anything about his affection. Mrs. Cowan refused to leave her husband for him. Hogue “got weak” when the couple showed affection to each other. Since the judge did not believe in capital punishment, he sentenced Hogue to life while the judge was crying. Mrs. Cowan had asked for the death penalty., When Mrs. Cowan called neighbor Swift Chamberlain, she was incoherent. When Chamberlain came to the house, the oldest daughter Altha (younger daughter) told him, “Bill shot Daddy.” Mrs. Cowan was holding the rifle & pointing at Hogue, saying “He did it, he did it.” Chamberlain would not allow Hogue to go upstairs. Hogue was born 9 Apr 1912 in Spirit Lake ID & was thrown out of his house by his father who had whipped him. Mrs. Cowan said, who did not appear at the trial, which lasted just over an hour, said she had no feeling for Hogue other than an interest in someone who had lived with the family for several months. Hogue said he wanted to get to prison before his mother saw him. He was not bitter about his father but didn’t get on well with him. He was whisked out of town due to threats from friends of the “big friendly Albert Cowan.” - Hogue’s suicide: “Billings Gazette” 2 Aug 1936 p 14 – William Hogue, 24, Anaconda MT, was found dead on the hospital grounds of the MT State Hospital at Warm Springs of a self-inflicted shotgun wound. He was transferred Dec 1935 from the Deer Lodge penitentiary where he was serving a life term to the state hospital. He was found dead last Friday, 31 Aug 1936, by the painters with whom he was working. William Joseph Hogue’s Find A Grave record says he was doing a painting job at the Weber home on the hospital grounds. Left alone at lunch break, he went into the house, got a shotgun, left an unsigned suicide note & killed himself with the owner’s gun. The obituary on his Find A Grave record (206178265) does not mention the murder or the suicide or the penitentiary – says he was a patient at the state hospital and was found dead of a gunshot wound. – Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT. F: 11327543

- **Walter William (“Budge”) Cowan**, 8 Jan 1894 Victor, Ravalli MT – 8 Jun 1966 Ravalli Co. MT. US Marine Corps in WWI. - Married 30 Jun 1920 in Victor MT to Elva Alice Wood (1903-1995). - Buried in Victor Cemetery, Victor, Ravalli MT. F: 11327579
- **Franklin Thomas (“Frank”) Cowan**, 21 Aug 1901 Victor, Ravalli MT – 1996 Bozeman, Gallatin MT. - Husband of Mary Elva Ayler (1903-1995), whom he married 7 Apr 1924 in Bozeman, Gallatin MT. - Marriage: “Missoulain” (Missoula MT) 16 May 1924 p 5 – Two juniors at MT State, Franklin Cowan of Victor & Miss Elva Ayler of Greencastle IN, were married 7 Apr 1924 in Bozeman. The wedding was supposed to be kept secret but fraternity & sorority members told. Both will continue their studies. Franklin was born in Victor & graduated from Victor High School, where he was a star performer in track meets. For several years he has spent his summers as an assistant to Dr. Parker at Hamilton MT & Victor MT in field work for the state board of epidemiology. - Obituary: “Ravalli Republic” 18 Jun 1996 p 5 – photo – Lennie & Albert Smith received word of the death of their uncle, Franklin Cowan, 94, at a Bozeman MT nursing home. Son of Elizabeth & Tom Cowan, he grew up on the

Cowan farm near the old Curlew Mine northwest of Victor. He was 1 of 9 children; his mother died when he was 3 months old. He was cared for by his sister, Mary Cowan Smith, who cared for her siblings as well as her father. Graduate Victor High School 1919. Graduate of MT State University, Bozeman. Nationally known epidemiologist working at MT State University & in Colorado. Traveled to Egypt & other countries, for grasshopper & cricket control. Survived by son & daughter; preceded in death by wife Elva. Retirement: "Ravalli Republic" 12 Jul 1967 p 3 – Frank T. Cowan, USDA epidemiologist in charge of grasshopper & Mormon cricket research at MT State University, Bozeman, retired recently after 41 years. World authority on grasshopper & Mormon cricket control. Credited with research & work that have eliminated the Mormon cricket as an economic threat to range & crop lands. Graduate of Victor High School 1919. Attended MT State University & graduated in 1925. In charge of Bozeman laboratory since 1 Jul 1952. In summer 1962 spent several weeks in the Middle East & East African advising the Desert Locust Control Organization. Worked with the Anti-Locust Research Centre, London & Desert Locust Control of East Africa. Youngest of 8 children in the Thomas Cowan family of Victor. His mother died when he was very young & he was raised by his sister, Mrs. John (Mary) Smith. His brother Elmer was on the Tuscania when it was torpedoed; Elmer's body washed up on the shores of Scotland, very near where his father had been born. Everett Babbitt & the late Lawrence Watters survived the Tuscania & returned to Victor. Cowan & his wife have a son who is an entomologist & a married daughter who is a former model. His wife teaches vocal music at MT State University. His sister, Mrs. Blanche Jones of Seattle, is in her 80s. He has nieces & nephews in the Bitter Root Valley & visited relatives in Victor last month. The couple plans to live in Bozeman. In Aug he will attend the "Gathering of the Scottish Clans" in Braemar, Scotland.

Notes:

Wartime:

"Anaconda [MT] Standard" 14 Feb 1918 p 10 - Victor High School track star, b. Victor MT Sep 1895. Died at age 22 years, 5 months. Born & raised in the valley. His father d. in Victor 3 Oct 1917, his mother has been dead over 17 years. Survived by 5 brothers (2 of them in the in Army)

"Butte Miner" 14 Feb 1918 p 3 - b. Victor MT on Sep 1895, d. age 22 years, 5 months. Reared & educated in the valley. Victor High School graduate, where he was an athletic star in track & field, was individual champion of Ravalli interscholastic in 1916. His father d. in Victor 20 Oct 1917 & Victor enlisted a few weeks later. His mother died over 17 years ago. Survived by 5 brothers (2 of whom are overseas in the Army) - W.J., G.H. & Frank of Victor MT & Arthur & Albert overseas.

From Marilyn C. Gahm's "The Sinking of the Tuscania" (www.tuscaniamemorial.org), page 192:

Captain David Davis Hall of the 20th Engineers wrote the brother of casualty Elmer Luther Cowan of Montana three months after the sinking, in May 1918. Cowan "in fine spirits" had marched to the lifeboat with coolness, got into his assigned boat, and got safely away from the ship. "All went well with the boat until the shores of the Isle of Islay were reached." The sea had become very rough and Cowan's boat was broken to pieces on the rocks at 2 a.m. on February 6. Their lifebelts, wrote Hall, were of little use on the rocky coast. Cowan's body was recovered the next morning.

"Daily Missoulian" 19 May 1918 – "Victor Athlete Among First to Give His Life in War Against Prussianism" – residents of the Bitter Root Valley & Missoula will not forget very soon the shock of the news of the death of Elmer L. Cowan, a senior in Victor High School when he enlisted, where he was the star athlete. He won the individual championship trophy at the Ravalli County track meet in spring 1916 & received the trophy cup & many medals. When the 1st call came to join the Army, his older brothers were among the first to enlist. "The glories of high school victories lost some of their significance to the boy who was beginning to view life with a broader vision. But there was a father, whose health was failing, to consider, and the boy quietly made the sacrifice and remained at home." When his father died, he enlisted.

"Missoulian" 8 Apr 1967 p 5 – an old newspaper was found from Feb 1918 about the 1st loss of men in WWI from Ravalli Co. Two enlisted men were lost at sea off Scotland. One was Marcus Barrett Cook, son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cook of Como MT. This was the 2nd tragedy for the Cook family; Marcus's brother Hiram had drowned while fishing in the Yellowstone River. Elmer L. Cowan was a member of the pioneer Cowan family of Victor, and was finishing high school when he enlisted. His family also had tragic deaths. Brother Henry Cowan, a worker for Rocky Mountain Laboratory when it was state-operated, died of Rocky Mountain spotted fever in the 1920s and brother Albert Cowan was shot to death in his Victor home on Christmas Day in 1929.

Post-war:

"Missoulian" (Missoula MT) 3 Nov 1944 p 8 – Victor MT, 2 Nov 1944 – Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cowan & Mr. & Mrs. Herman Bunker of Bremerton WA visited the homes of John Smith [Mary Cowan] & George Wood. Franklin Cowan of Bozeman MT arrived Monday at the Smith home & accompanied the men on a hunting expedition. Walter & Frank are brothers of Mrs. Smith & Arthur Cowan.

Obituary:

Censuses:

1900 townships 8 & 9, Ravalli Co. MT - conducted

Thomas Cowan, 49 Scotland, Jan 1851, parents b. Scotland, married 21 years, miner, of ore

Harriet E., 38 IL, Jun 1861, father b. Germany, mother b. OH, gave birth to 9 children, 8 are living

Robert A., 17 MT, Apr 1883, farm laborer

Blanche O., 15 MT, Dec 1884

George H., 14 MT, Jan 1886

Mary E., 12 MT, Mar 1888

Sophronia E., 10 MT, Apr 1890

Albert A., 8 MT, Oct 1891

William W., 6 MT, Jan 1894

Elmer S., 4 MT, Oct 1895

1910 Corvallis, Ravalli MT – SW of Victor - conducted

Thomas Cowen [sic], 59 Scotland, widowed, emigrated 1884, naturalized, mining & miner

Henry, 24 MT, farmer, farm [George Henry]

Mary, 23 MT

Albert, 18 MT

Walter, 15 MT

Elmer, 13 MT

Franklin, 9 MT

All the children: father b. Scotland, mother b. IN