

DISCLAIMER

This biography is a rough draft and a work-in-progress.
The research has not been completed, so there may be errors and omissions.

This record also lacks 1950 federal census data.
Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Houkom, Omer
1895 WI – 1977 WI



https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/156711723/person/212244121873/media/d95ac6eb-c056-457f-8bc0-9de68705226c?_phsrc=hFB16109&_phstart=successSource

HOUKOM OMER		C	
Sgt Cas Det 2 Tr Bn 161 DB		K	13685 F
Blair Wis		A	1 568 270
Sn	250 919	Died	T 347 738
Born	2/18/25	R	
Enl	7/27/17	Dis	5/29/19 CL 120 484
		I	

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

INDEX CARD

2-12062



Friends of Omer E. Dahl, Oscar Jahr and Omer Hankom, all of Blair, Wis., watched the Associated Press reports today for news of the boys, all members of the 107th Engineer train, a unit that is known to have been aboard the liner Tuscania, torpedoed by a German submarine near the North coast of Ireland. News from the boys has been lacking recently and it is now believed that this was caused by the embarkation of the men on the ship. When the report that all but 168 American soldiers aboard the vessel had probably been saved was received this morning, friends voiced their hope that these three young men may have been among the rescued. They all are enlisted men who were trained at Camp McArthur, Texas. Definite information concerning them had not been received late today.

"Winona (MN) Daily News" 7 Feb 1918 p 2



The above young man lives at Blair, Wis., when at home but at the present time he is serving the government as a member of Supply Train No. 107 located at Camp McArthur, Waco, Texas.

"Winona (MN) Daily News" Saturday 22 Dec 1917 p 5



Omer Houkom - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/156711723/person/212244121873/media/241da380-dc7f-4905-9d8e-a4a575da579a?_phsrc=hFB16109&_phstart=successSource



Houkom family ca. 1918 – Omer standing in back – seated (left to right): his mother Thorbor Olson Houkom, his maternal grandmother Gjertrude Anundsdatter Olson, sister-in-law Josephine Margurite (“Jo”) Johnson Houkom (married to Omer’s brother Stephen), Bessie Eileen Houkom (later Mrs. Hjalmer Henry Ryerson, daughter of Stephen & Jo), sister Nettie.

Seated on grass (left to right): sisters Bernette, Louise, Tena

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/156711723/person/212244121873/media/12d83ec4-8a87-4f80-81ef-bbd4e039842f?_phsrc=hFB16109&_phstart=successSource

Miss Redline Bride of Waukegan Man

The marriage of Miss Marguerite Lorraine Redline, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin H. Redline, 422 Cass-st., to Omer G. Hokum of Waukegan, Ill., took place this morning in the parsonage of St. John's church, at a quiet but pretty ceremony performed by the Rev. Joseph A. Therien. The service was read at 9:30 o'clock. After the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents to immediate relatives and Mr. and Mrs. Hokum left on an extended wedding trip to New York. They will return by way of Canada and Niagara Falls, and will make their home at 315 N. Utica-st., Waukegan, Ill.

The bride is well known in this city having resided here all of her life. The groom is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and is now connected with the Waukegan National bank, being assistant cashier and manager of the bond and trust department. Mr. Hokum was formerly state bank examiner.

"Green Bay (WI) Press-Gazette" Thursday, 21 Oct 1926 p 8

Omer Houkom

Married at Green

Bay Oct. 21st

Announcement has been received here by friends of the marriage of Omer Houkom, son of Mrs. Gunder Houkom, to Miss Marguerite Lorraine Redline, the ceremony being performed at Green Bay, Wis. Oct. 21st.

After a short trip through the east they will be at home at Waukegan, Illinois where Omer holds a position with the Waukegan National Bank.

Omer is a graduate of our high school here and later took up work at the state university at Madison after which he was connected for some time with the state banking department. He is a fine young man in every respect and The Press takes pleasure in extending congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Houkom.

Unsourced citation – married 21 Oct 1926 Green Bay, Brown WI -

https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/32464229/person/192100741959/media/d3e996ae-7cdb-4f87-b928-23d916c2d2bb?_phsrc=hFB16124&_phstart=successSource

HOUKOM, OMER

318 So. Vincennes Circle

Age 82. Passed away Saturday, September 10, 1977, at St. Mary's Medical Center. Mr. Houkom was born in Blair, Wis. on February 18, 1895 and had been a resident of Racine since 1933. In 1926 in Green Bay, Wis., he was united in marriage to the former Lorraine Redline. He served with the U.S. Army in the WWI 32nd Division, from July, 1917 until May, 1919. He was one of the survivors of the Torpedoed SS Tuscania. Mr. Houkom was the former Executive Vice-President of the Farmers & Merchants Bank for 40 years. Prior to that, he was with the State Bank Department in Madison. He was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Racine Country Club, Racine Rotary Club, American Legion Post 76,

the Red Arrow Club and Waukegan Commandery No. 12 K.T. Surviving are his wife, Lorraine; three sisters, Miss Tena Houkom of Blair, Wis., Mrs. William Krause of Sidney, Montana and Mrs. John J. Powers of Minneapolis, Minn.; two nieces and one nephew; other relatives and friends. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, September 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the Strouf-Sheffield Funeral Home. The Rev. K. L. Nerenz will officiate. Entombment will be at Mound Crypts. Friends may meet with the Family this (Monday) evening from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the STROUF-SHEFFIELD FUNERAL HOME, 1001 High St. Please direct memorials to Emmanuel Lutheran Church or to the Heart Fund.

Obituary of Omer Houkom - "Racine (WI) Journal Times" Monday 12 Sep 1977 p 18

Lorraine (Redline) Houkom

Lorraine (Redline) Houkom, Friday, Feb. 6, 1998. Formerly of Green Bay and Racine. Preceded in death by her beloved husband, Omer Houkom; her parents, Ben and Mabel Redline; and her brothers, Howard B. Redline; Joseph O. Redline. Dear aunt to her surviving nieces, Gloria Redline Curran, Atlanta, Ga.; Joan Redline Casey, New Hope, Minn. Also survived by her special friend and devoted

companion, Mrs. Dorothy Campbell.

Memorial services 2 p.m. Wed. at St. John's Home Chapel, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, Wis., 53202. Private interment Mound Cemetery, Racine, Wis.

Mrs. Houkom began her banking career at the American Bank and Trust Company in 1944. She retired from her position of Assistant Vice President at the M & I Bank of Racine in 1967.

Weiss Funeral Home, 414-276-5122.

Obituary of his wife Lorraine Redline Houkom – "Green Bay (WI) Press-Gazette" Monday 9 Feb 1998

Lorraine Redline Houkom

MILWAUKEE - Lorraine Redline Houkom, formerly of Green Bay and Racine, passed away Friday, February 6, 1998.

Mrs. Houkom began her banking career at the American Bank and Trust Company in 1944. She retired from her position of Assistant Vice President at the M & I Bank of Racine in 1967.

Dear aunt to her surviving nieces, Gloria Redline Curran of Atlanta, Ga. and Joan Redline Casey of New Hope, Minn. Also survived by her special friend and devoted companion, Mrs. Dorothy Campbell. Preceded in death by her beloved husband, Omer Houkom; her parents, Ben and Mabel Redline; and her brothers, Howard B. Redline and Joseph O. Redline.

Memorial services will be held at St. John's Home Chapel, 1840 North Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee, on Wednesday, February 11, 1998, at 2 p.m. Private interment in Mound Cemetery in Racine.

WEISS FUNERAL HOME

1901 North Farwell Avenue
Milwaukee 414-276-5122

She died in Milwaukee – "Racine (WI) Journal-Times" Tuesday 10 Feb 1998 p 10



Unique Racine husband and wife team is Mr. and Mrs. Omer Houkom, above, of 318 South Vincennes Circle. The Houkoms, who met in a Green Bay bank, both are now bank executives; Houkom as executive vice president of Farmers and Merchants Bank, his wife Lorraine as assistant vice president of American Bank and Trust Company. The Houkoms are one of the few Mr. and Mrs. teams of bank executives in the United States.

They're 'Two of a Kind'

By Mary Spillane

Two of a kind is a winning combination for five Racine Mr. and Mrs. teams who share the same careers. Bankers, lawyers, librarians, teachers and photographers — two heads, they say, are better than one.

Common interests wrote their love stories and guarantee a sympathetic listener for tales of a "hard day at the office."

Banking brought Mr. and Mrs. Omer Houkom together to form one of the few husband-and-wife teams of bank executives in the country—a circumstance that makes the couple a conversational nucleus at conventions.

Shop talk is out, however, at the couple's new home at 318 South Vincennes Circle. Unethical, the Houkoms point out, since they work in different banks; Houkom as executive vice president at Farmers & Merchants Bank and his wife Lorraine as assistant vice president of American Bank & Trust Co.

Though Mrs. Houkom admits she has been known to bungle the family check book and has had to rack her brain to supply missing entries, she and her husband met when Mrs. Houkom was working in a Green Bay bank where her husband called as a state bank examiner.

After the couple married, Mrs. Houkom "retired" and Houkom accepted a position with a Waukegan bank. Then he returned to the state bank examiner's office working in southeastern Wisconsin and the couple moved to Racine.

During World War II, Mrs. Houkom was "drafted" back into banking and has been on the job ever since, completing the unusual banking team.

"Racine (WI) Journal-Times" 24 Jul 1955 p 13



Examining a display of historic currency in the glass enclosed lobby of the new Farmers & Merchants Bank are, (left): B. T. Wiechers, vice president, and Omer Houkom, executive vice president. Bank design utilizes full use of natural light. Milwaukee avenue side of the building is

plate glass. Office furnishings are completed in a variety of colors, using cocoa beige rugs, gold fiberglass drapes and reds, greens and blues for chair upholstery. Vault walls are decorated in green tile with gold fleck.

—Journal-Times Photo

The new Farmers & Merchants Bank Building – executive vice president Omer Houkom is the man at right – “Racine (WI) Journal-Times” 19 Apr 1959 p 32



Raft Survivors Of World War I Reunite in State

LEWISTOWN—It was 39 years ago when W. E. (Dick) Kier, Lewistown, was on the U.S. troopship the "Puscania" in the Atlantic ocean, near Ireland en route to the battles in France.

With Kier was an Army buddy, Omer Houkom. On the night of Feb. 5, 1918, the troopship was torpedoed by a German submarine and 257 men on the "Puscania" lost their lives. Kier and Houkom were together on the same life raft after the explosion. They drifted for several hours that night and were picked up by a fishing boat and taken to Larne, Ireland, the next day.

A few days ago Kier and Houkom met again after 38 years. The last time that they had seen each other was in 1919, a year after the Puscania was torpedoed. Houkom was taking his family through Lewistown en route to the western part of the state when he stopped to visit Kier.

After 38 years, Omer Houkom meets life raft companion Wayland Kier in Montana – survivors not of "Puscania" but "Tuscania" – "Great Falls (MT) Tribune" Saturday 22 Jun 1957 p 4

Obituary EARLY NURSE'S LAST RITES SET

Mrs. Louise H. Duncan, 77, died in a Spokane hospital yesterday. She had lived in Spokane 50 years. Her home was at S315 Jefferson.

Mrs. Duncan was born in Blair, Wis., and taught school for several years. She later took up nursing at La Crosse, Wis., and was an army nurse during World war I. She was stationed at Camp Fremont and Camp North Island in California. After the war she taught nursing for several years in this area under the American Red Cross program.

Mrs. Duncan was well known in the Inland Empire because of her long nursing career. She was a member of Unity Church of Truth and Elderbloom club.

The body will be sent by Ripplinger funeral home to Blair, Wis., where funeral services and burial will be held tomorrow.

Survivors include the widower, George W., at the home; three brothers, Stephen Houkom and Lorance Houkom, Blair, and Omer Houkom, Racine, Wis.; four sisters, Tena and Nettie Houkom, Blair, Mrs. J. J. Powers, Minneapolis, and Mrs. Alma Krause, Sidney, Mont.

MRS. GEORGE DUNCAN

BLAIR, Wis. (Special)—Relatives here have learned of the death of Mrs. George Duncan at Spokane, Wash. June 28.

As Louise Houkom she was born Oct. 26, 1877, near Blair. After attending Blair High School she taught several years before entering nurses training. She was graduated from a nurses' training school at La Crosse and followed her profession at Spokane.

She entered service as an Army nurse in World War I and was stationed at an air base in San Diego, Calif. She was married to George Duncan in 1923.

She is survived by her husband, four sisters, Nettie and Tena Houkom of Blair, Mrs. Bernette Powers of Minneapolis and Mrs. Alma Krause of Sidney, Mont., and three brothers, Stephen and Lawrence Houkom of Blair and Omer of Racine.

Obituary of sister Louise Houkom Duncan – Left: “Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review” Tuesday 29 Jun 1954 p 31 – Right: “La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Saturday 10 Jul 1954 p 2

STEPHEN HOUKOM
BLAIR, Wis. — Stephen Houkom, 87, of Blair died at a Whitehall hospital Friday, Jan. 26.
 Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in the Trempealeau Valley Lutheran Church. Rev. L. H. Jacobson will officiate, and burial will be in the church cemetery.
 Friends may call at the Frederixson - Jack Funeral Home in Blair after 2 p.m. Sunday.
 Mr. Houkom, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gunder H. Houkom, was born in Blair April 4, 1880. He was married Dec. 24, 1915, to Josephine Johnson, who died in 1934.
 After retiring from farming in the Blair area he lived with a daughter, Mrs. Hjalmer Ryerson, at Blair. Other survivors are two brothers, Lawrence of Blair and Omer of Racine; and three sisters, Tena Houkom of Blair, Mrs. Alma Krause of Sidney, Mont., and Mrs. Bernette Powers of Minneapolis.

MISS NETTIE HOUKOM
BLAIR, Wis. — Miss Nettie Houkom, 83, died Thursday night, April 21, in a Whitehall hospital.
 Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Trempealeau Valley Lutheran Church. Rev. W. H. Winkler will officiate, and burial will be in the church cemetery.
 Friends may call Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the Frederixson Funeral Home.
 Miss Houkom was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Houkom March 12, 1883, on a farm near Blair. She taught for a time, attended La Crosse Business College and then did secretarial work in Winona and St. Paul.
 Surviving are three brothers, Stephen and Lawrence of Blair and Omer of Racine; three sisters, Tena of Blair, Mrs. William Krause of Sidney, Mont., and Mrs. J. J. Powers of Minneapolis.

Left: Obituary of brother Stephen Houkom – “La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Saturday 27 Jan 1968 p 3 –
 Right: Obituary of sister Nettie Houkom – “La Crosse (WI) Tribune” Thursday 21 Apr 1966 p 26

Alma S. Krause

SIDNEY — Alma S. Krause, 90, who died Sunday, came to Sidney in 1935 and entered Richland Home 10 years ago.

Born in Blair, Wis., a daughter of Gunder and Thorbor Houkom, she graduated at the teachers college in Whitehall, Wis., and came to New Salem, N.D., to teach. In 1912 she married William Krause in Blair. They lived in Hazen, N.D.; Bozeman and Sidney. Her husband died in 1944.

Survivors include a son, Earl Krause of Sidney; a daughter, Carol Lee of Roseburg, Ore.; two sisters, Tena Houkom of Blair and Bernette Powers of Edina, Minn.; four grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Lonsdale United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Sidney Cemetery, with Fulkerson Funeral Home in charge.

Obituary of sister Alma S. Houkom Krause – "Billings (MT) Gazette" Tuesday 17 Apr 1979 p 10

Lawrence Houkom

BLAIR, Wis. (Special)—Lawrence Houkom, 82, Blair, died Saturday at Lutheran Hospital, La Crosse, Wis., following a short illness.

A retired farmer, he was born Nov. 12, 1891, at Blair to Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Houkom. He never married.

Survivors include: one brother, Omer, Racine, Wis.; three sisters, Miss Tina Houkom, Blair; Mrs. Alma Krause, Sidney, Mont., and Mrs. Bernette Powers, Minneapolis, Minn., nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at Trempealeau Valley Lutheran Church, the Rev. Vern Barlow officiating. Burial will be in Trempealeau Valley Cemetery.

Friends may call at Jack Funeral Home, Blair, after 3 p.m. today and at the church Tuesday after 12:30 p.m.

Powers

Bernette Houkom Powers was born October 25, 1897 in Blair, Wisconsin. She died April 22, 2000 at Health East Care Facility in St. Paul. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack and her seven siblings. She is survived by nieces & nephews, Bessie Ryerson, Blair, WI, Earl Krause (Jean), Sidney, MT and Helen Nothom, Marian Reagan, Elizabeth Powers and Gregory Powers (Lorraine), all of St. Paul. After graduating from high school in Blair, Bernette taught in a one-room schoolhouse in North Dakota, then attended business college in La Crosse, WI, and then came to work as a bookkeeper at Booth Fisheries. There will be no visitation, but a gathering of family and friends will be held on April 30 at the home of grandniece Tricia Rettler in Inver Grove Heights. Memorials preferred to Our Lady of Good Counsel Home, 2076 St. Anthony Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104.

Bradshaw
488 Humboldt Avenue
651-222-8597

Left: Obituary of brother Lawrence Houkom – “Winona (MN) Daily News” Monday 23 Sep 1974 p 2 –
Right: obituary of sister Bernette Houkom Powers (last of the siblings to die) – “Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune” Saturday 29 Apr 20 p 35

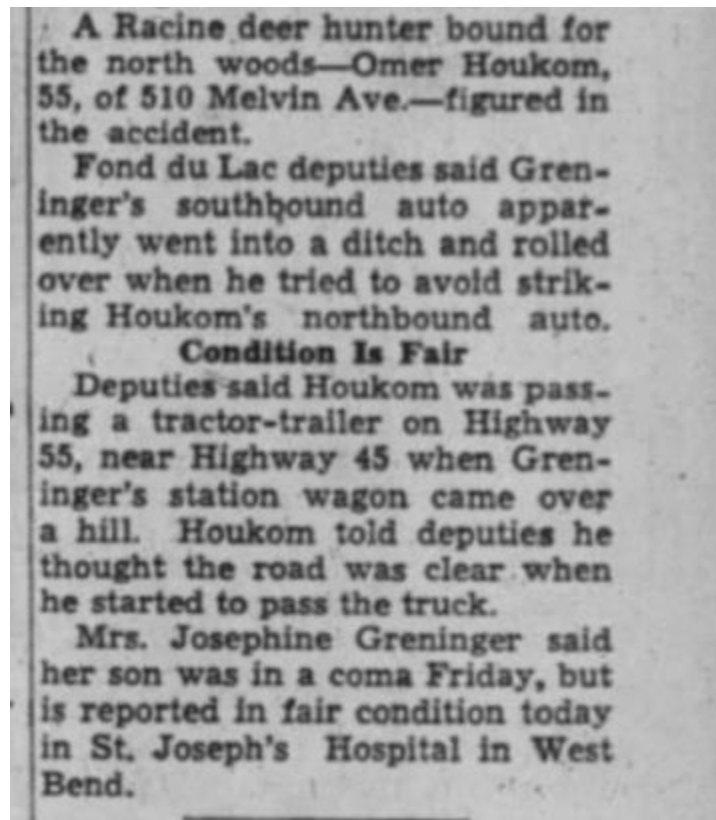
Auto Accident Halts Marriage

The wedding of a Racine couple which was to be held at 9 a. m. today in Racine, was postponed because the prospective bridegroom suffered serious injuries in an accident near Fond du Lac Friday afternoon while he was returning to Racine for the wedding rehearsal.

Suffers Concussion

The would-be bridegroom, Bernard J. Greninger, 22, suffered a brain concussion and possible internal injuries.

Greninger, the son of Mrs. Josephine Greninger, of 1612 North Main St., and Dorothy Marie Lange, of 1114 Isabelle Ave., were to be married in St. John Nepomuk church this morning. The bride's mother, Mrs. Frank Lange, said the wedding has been postponed. Greninger has been working in Fond du Lac.



Omer, driving a car & trailer, heading north for deer hunting, was passing a truck when Bernard J. Greninger in the opposite lane had to go into a ditch to avoid Omer's car. Greninger was going to Racine WI for his wedding rehearsal. Since he was in a coma when this was published (on his originally scheduled wedding day), the wedding was postponed. "Racine (WI) Journal-Times" 18 Nov 1950 p 1

Greninger, 50th

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Greninger of 4930 Tanglewood Ave. will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday at a family dinner in their honor at Pieces of Eight restaurant in Milwaukee.

The couple were married Dec. 30, 1950, at St. John Nepomuk Church, where they are still members. Mrs. Greninger is the former Dorothy Lange. Their wedding was supposed to be held Nov. 18, 1950, but had to be postponed after Bernard suffered injuries from an automobile accident the day before.



Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Greninger

Greninger was a design engineer for Massey Harris, Gittings & Lewis in Fond du Lac, Walker Manufacturing Co., Gorton Manufacturing Co. and PDI.

He was active in Boy Scouting for 27 years as a troop leader and neighborhood and district commissioner. Greninger taught older scouts Indian dances and how to make their own costumes for five years. The group performed for scout and civic organizations, schools and nursing homes in three counties.

Greninger is a food bank and Skill Bank volunteer. He enjoys traveling, woodworking and gardening.

Mrs. Greninger was a secretary at SC Johnson & Son, Gittings & Lewis and J.I. Case Co., retiring in 1970.

She was a Girl Scout leader, a den mother and volunteer tutor. Mrs. Greninger is a member of the St. John Nepomuk Parish Council and a Eucharistic minister. Her hobbies include playing the organ and cards.

The Greningers are Racine natives.

They have three children: Michael (Terri) of Anchorage, Alaska; Stephen (Kim) of Sturgeon Bay; and Jeanne Greninger of Kenosha.

A happy ending – the 50th anniversary of accident victim Bernard Greninger – married 30 Dec 1950 instead of the original 18 Nov 1950 - "Racine Journal-Times" Saturday 30 Dec 2000 p 27

Bn Wisc. (over) *BW* **ORIGINAL**

1. NAME OF DECEASED—LAST—FIRST—MIDDLE (Print or type) DUNCAN, Louisa H. (Served as: Louisa H. Houkom)			APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER (See attached instructions. Complete and submit original and duplicate)	
2. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, Day, Year) 2-1-18	3. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, Day, Year) 10-5-20 <i>HOW</i>	12. EMBLEM (Check one) ☒ CHRISTIAN (Latin Cross) ☐ HEBREW (Star of David) ☐ NONE		13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE ☐ FLAT MARBLE MARKER ☒ FLAT GRANITE MARKER ☐ FLAT BRONZE MARKER
4. SERVICE NO. 7872	5. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NO. C-16 308 279	14. SHIP TO (Name and address of person who will transport stone or marker to cemetery) Mr. Lawrence Houkom		
6. STATE Wash.	7. GRADE RESERVE Nurse	8. MEDALS none	15. FREIGHT STATION Blair, Wis	
9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, AND DIVISION OR SHIP ANC ARMY NURSE CORPS			16. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Blair, Wis	
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 10-26-77	11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) 6-28-54	17. I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE OR MARKER HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT SAME TO THE CEMETERY. SIGNATURE Lawrence Houkom DATE 8-2-54		
DO NOT WRITE HERE RECEIVED AUG 4 1954 VERIFIED R/L WY 3898213 SEP 3 1954 ORDERED M. E. FLETCHER CO., INC. WEST CHELMSFORD, MASS.		18. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Print or type) Miss Rena Houkom, BLAIR, WIS. 19. I certify this application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, soldiers of Union and Confederate Armies of the Civil War. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for properly placing the stone or marker at the grave at no expense to the Government. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT Rena Houkom DATE 8-2-54		

GMC FORM 13 OCT 52 **646** REPLACES OQMG FORM 623, 8 FEB 40 WHICH MAY BE USED **IMPORTANT—Reverse Side Must Be Completed** 16-11453-9 GPO

His sister Louise was also a veteran - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/156711723/person/212244121878/media/40050_2421402106_0411-02943

Name: Omer Houkon

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Eng. HQ - corporal

Serial number: 250,919

Entered service from: Blair, Trempealeau WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Omer Houkom

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father Gunder Houkom, Blair WI

Returned from war on: "Virginian" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Omer Houkom

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father George Houkom, Blair WI (sgt, HQ Co., 107th Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Omer Houkom - b. 18 Feb 1895 Preston WI; res: Blair, Trempealeau WI. Single. Assistant cashier, First National Bank of Blair. Tall & slender.

National Tuscania Survivors Association 1939 roster: 1939 NTSA: 510 Melvin Ave., Racine WI - 1955 WI Survivors: 318 S. Vincennes Circles, Racine WI

World War II draft registration (1942): as Omer Houkom - b. 18 Feb 1895 Blair WI; res: 510 Melvin Ave., Racine, Racine WI. NOK Lorraine Houkom, same address. Employed at State Banking Department, Madison WI. Height: 6' – weight: 175 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 27 Jul 1917

Discharged 29 May 1919

Address: Blair WI

Rank/unit: sergeant, Cas Det 2 Tr Bn, 161st Depot Brigade

Birth & death:

Born: 18 Feb 1895 Blair, Trempealeau WI (I & WI Birth Index - Preston, Trempealeau WI)

Died: 10 Sep 1977 Racine, Racine Co. WI (St. Mary's Medical Center)

Find A Grave record: 177850527, presence on Tuscania noted in text

Burial location: Mound, Racine WI

Cemetery: Mound

Tombstone:

Father: Gunder Svenung Houkom, 21 Jan 1848 Kviteseid, Telemark, Norway – 27 Oct 1920 Blair, Trempealeau WI. Son of Svenning Halvorson Houkom & Thone Johansdtr. Skare. Came to the US with his parents in 1870 & settled in the Trempealeau Valley. After shopping in Blair WI on the morning of his death, he came home as the family was sitting down to dinner. He sat down, was asked if he wanted to eat, said "no" & died a few minutes later. Buried on 1 Nov 1984 in Trempealeau Valley Cemetery, Taylor, Jackson WI.

Find A Grave: 145574220

Mother: Thorbor Leifsdatter Olson Houkom, 29 Mar 1853 Forsdal, Telemark, Norway – 25 May 1933 Blair, Trempealeau WI. Daughter of Leif Olson & Gjertrud Anundsdatter. She came to the US at age 8 with her parents, during the Civil War. The Houkom family home was on Highway 95, 3 miles east of Blair. She died at her home at age 80.

Find A Grave:

Parents' marriage: 30 Dec 1876

Spouse: Marguerite Lorraine Redline Houkom, 18 May 1902 Brown Co. WI – 6 Feb 1998 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. SSN 398-20-9071. Used the name Lorraine. Daughter of Benjamin Hugh Redline (F: 1962456716) & Mabel Tucker (F: 196245619). Also a bank executive, as was Omer. Buried in Mound Cemetery, Racine, Racine WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 177850506

Marriage: 21 Oct Green Bay, Brown WI

Children:

Siblings: Omer was the 7th of 8 children.

- Louise Henrietta Houkom, 26 Oct 1877 Blair, Trempealeau WI – 28 Jun 1954 Spokane Co. WA. Wife of George Wesley Duncan (1886-1958, buried in Spokane WA, F: 214432235). He had served in the Canadian Army 1918-1919. Even though she was born in the US, she applies on 19 Feb 1926 for naturalization in Spokane WA. Louise Henrietta Duncan, resident of 1507 W. 4th Ave., Spokane WA, b. 26 Oct 1877 Blair WI, wife of George Wesley Duncan, b. 13 Jul 1886 in Ugenia, Canada. They have no children; they live together. George was naturalized in Spokane on 20 Dec 1924. The couple married in St. Paul MN on 23 Jun 1922. She lived in the US since birth & in WA from Oct 1904 on. Louise is buried in Blair, Trempealeau WI according to her obituary; burial place unknown on Find A Grave. F: 167846505
- Stephen Houkom, 4 Apr 1880 Blair, Trempealeau WI – 29 Jan 1968 Whitehall, Trempealeau WI. Husband of Josephine Margurite ("Jo") Johnson (1882-1934). His obituary in the "La Crosse (WI) Tribune" 27 Jan 1968 p 3 is copied above. Buried in Trempealeau Valley Cemetery, Taylor, Jackson WI. F: 32985087
- Thonette ("Nettie") Houkom, 12 Mar 1883 Trempealeau Co. WI – 21 Apr 1966 Whitehall, Trempealeau WI. Died of pneumonia at TriCounty Memorial Hospital, Whitehall WI. Her obituary in the "La Crosse (WI) Tribune" 21 Apr 1966 p 26 copied above. Buried in Trempealeau Valley Cemetery, Taylor, Jackson WI. F: 167832157
- Gjertine ("Tena"), 31 Dec 1885 Blair, Trempealeau WI – 17 Sep 1979 Blair, Trempealeau WI. A teacher. Buried in Trempealeau Valley Cemetery, Taylor, Jackson WI. F: 167831293
- Alma S. Houkom Krouse, 8 Mar 1889 Blair, Trempealeau WI – 15 Apr 1979 Sidney, Richland MT. Wife of William Frank Krause (1889-1944) whom she married in 1912 or 1913. Her obituary in the "Billings (MT) Gazette" 17 Apr 1979 p 10 copied above. Buried in Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, Richland MT. F: 130644890
- Lawrence Houkom, 12 Nov 1891 Blair, Trempealeau WI – Sep 1974 La Crosse, La Crosse WI. Never married. His obituary in the "Winona (MN) Daily News" 23 Sep 1974 p 2 copied above. Buried in Trempealeau Valley Cemetery, Taylor, Jackson WI. F: 145577445
- Bernette Houkom Powers, 25 Oct 1897 Preston, Trempealeau WI – 22 Apr 2000 St. Paul, Ramsey MN. Wife of John Joseph Powers (1887-1965). Her obituary in the "Minneapolis (MN) Star Tribune" 29 Apr 2000 p 35 copied above. Buried in Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Bloomington, Hennepin MN. F: 27721501

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) 10 Feb 1918 p 4 – "Tuscania Survivors – Maybe His Name is Here" – lists Omer Houkom of Blair WI

Post-war:

"Waukegan (IL) News" Sunday 1 Jul 1930 p 9 – Yesterday's report that R.K. M'Dougal had defeated Omer Houkom in the Vanderkloet Cup of Class C final match [in golf] was incorrect. It was the opposite; Houkom beat M'Dougal.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" 9 Feb 1950 p 3 – there were 14 survivors among the 16 Trempealeau Co. boys who were on the Tuscania. One was Omer Houkom of Blair WI. Corporal Houkom wrote Dr. & Mrs. S.E. Hutchins of Whitehall WI, the parents of Tuscania casualty Sgt. Otis E. Hutchins, that he had sacrificed his place on a lifeboat to someone else. It was discovered once the lifeboat left Tuscania that Otis was not on board.

Obituary:

"Racine (WI) Journal Times" 12 Sep 1977 p3 & p 18 - age 82, funeral on 13 Sep 1977 in Racine. Resident of 318 S. Vincennes Circle, Racine WI. A Racine resident since 1933, joined Farmers & Merchants Bank, 1001 Milwaukee Ave., Racine, as executive vice president & director in 1952 after 18 years with the state of WI's banking dept as senior examiner, doing trust work in southeastern WI. He resigned from Farmers & Merchants in early 1962. Was trust officer for 6 years with Waukegan National Bank (Waukegan IL) before working for the state of WI. Also worked 1 year with Continental National Bank & Trust Co. (Chicago). Born in Blair WI 18 Feb 1895. Married Lorraine Redline in 1926 at Green Bay WI. Served in US Army 32nd Div. Jul 1917-May 1919, Tuscania survivor. Member of American Legion & Red Arrow Club. Survived by wife & 3 sisters. Interment Mound Crypts

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1910 Preston, Trempealeau WI

Gunder Houkom, 61 Norway, parents b. Norway, in 1st marriage, married 32 years, emigrated 1870, farmer, general farming

Torbjorn, 57 Norway, parents b. Norway, in 1st marriage, emigrated 1862, gave birth to 8 children, 8 are living

Tena, 24 WI, school teacher, common school

Alma, 21 WI, school teacher, common school

Lawrence, 18 WI

Omer, 15 WI

Bernetta, 12 WI

Bertha Olson, 84 Norway, widow, parents b. Norway, emigrated 1862 [mother-in-law]

1930 Waukegon, Lake IL – 302 Ridgeland Ave.

Omer Houkon, 34 WI, parents b. Norway, cashier, bank, WWI veteran

Lorriane, 27 WI, parents b. WI

1940 Racine, Racine WI – 510 Melvin Ave. – in same house in 1935

Omar Houkon, 43 WI, accountant, state bank department

Lorraine, 37 WI