

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**Tuscania casualty****Herrmann, Fred William****1891 NE – 5 February 1918 Tuscania**



*"Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty. They shall behold the land that is very far off."
 Fred William Herrmann, Find A Grave 124528863 – this is verse 33:17 from the Old
 Testament book of the prophet Isaiah*

HERMAN FRED WILLIAM		X c 5 069
Co F 6 Bn 20 Engrs NA		K
425 S 13 St Lincoln Nebr		A
Sn	Died 2/6/18	T 385 409
Born 10/19/92		R
Enl	Dia	CL
		I 6 202
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1906		INDEX CARD

1915	Name <u>F.W. Herman</u>	Age <u>23</u>
Card No. <u>286</u>	County <u>Jewell</u>	P. O. <u>Alfalfa</u>
Sex <u>Male</u>	Town or Township <u>Alfalfa</u>	Ward
Color <u>White</u>	Occupation <u>Lumberman</u>	Do you own your home or farm { Yes... No... ☒ }
Married <u>no</u>	Birthplace <u>Neb</u>	Ancestry <u>America</u>
Single <u>single</u>	Father's birthplace <u>Germany</u>	
Widowed <u>no</u>	Mother's birthplace <u>Sweden</u>	
Divorced <u>no</u>	Extent of Education <u>High School</u>	Graduate of
Read <u>yes</u>	Military Service: Civil War <u>no</u>	Mexican <u>no</u> Spanish <u>no</u>
Write <u>yes</u>	State <u>no</u>	Regiment <u>no</u> Company <u>no</u>
Blind <u>no</u> Deaf <u>no</u>	Maiden name of wife <u>no</u>	Year married <u>none</u>
Insane <u>no</u> Idiot <u>no</u>	Church affiliation <u>Lutheran</u>	
If Foreign Born are you Naturalized <u>X</u>	Signed <u>E.F. Allen</u>	Assessor
Years in U.S. <u>X</u>	This card becomes a permanent record.	
Years in S.D. <u>6</u>		

1915 South Dakota state census – F.W. Herman [misindexed as T.W. Herman]

Fred W. Hermann Was On Tuscania

Fred W. Hermann, son of Mrs. Ida Hermann of 425 South Thirteenth street, who, before joining the United States forces was manager of a lumber company at Nunda, S. D., is reported to have been one of the soldiers on board the ill-fated Tuscania, which was sunk by a submarine off the coast of Ireland. He was with Company F. of the Sixth battalion, Twentieth engineers, and had been in training at the American university camp at Washington, before sailing. It is not yet known whether he was among the survivors.

Congressman Reavis telegraphed C. B. Letton from Washington Friday evening that Harold Heasty, a former university boy and son of John F. Heasty of Fairbury, was not a passenger on the ship. No word has been received from Judge Letton's son, Captain Letton, who was one of the ship's passengers, but it is believed he is safe.

"Lincoln (NE) Star" 9 Feb 1918 p 2

MOTHER WAITS

FOR WORD OF SON

Mrs. Hermann Hoping Against Odds Boy May Be Among Tuscania Survivors.

His Name Among 400 Listed As Missing—Three Other Nebraskans On List.

Hoping against hope, Mrs. Ida Hermann and her two daughters are comforting one another as best they can at the mother's home, 425 South Thirteenth street, waiting and praying hour by hour for a message from Washington that Fred W. Hermann, Mrs. Hermann's son in military ser-

(Continued on Page Four.)

MOTHER WAITS

FOR WORD OF SON

(Continued from Page One)

vice, is a survivor of the ill-fated Tuscania.

In press dispatches this morning, his name was among the 400 on the ship, on which the war department has received no report. The known casualties number only about 160, so that the names of the missing today have two chances out of three of being classified as survivors.

Hermann, who was 26 years old, had been manager of the Anderson Lumber yards at Nunda, S. D., and came home to Lincoln for a stay with his mother last October, before he enlisted here in November in the forestry service.

On Furlough Xmas.

Two days later he was sent to Jefferson barracks, Missouri, and Jan. 22 he wrote from an Atlantic port that he was ready to sail for France.

"Whatever may be his fate now, we are so thankful that he was granted a good furlough to come home and spend Christmas with his mother; it will be a comfort to her mind anyway," said Mrs. C. L. Thompson, 1310 O street, his sister, who is temporarily at her mother's home.

A daughter, Miss Grace Hermann, lives with her mother, and a son, Hugo, is at Mills, Neb.

Mrs. Hermann is a widow who moved to Lincoln with her daughter, Grace, two years ago from West Point, Neb.

Fred Hermann was born and reared in West Point, leaving there seven years ago for South Dakota, where he has since been engaged in the lumber business.

The war department list names him as bugler in company E, Sixth battalion, Twentieth engineers, forestry service.

"Lincoln (NE) Star" 11 Feb 1918 p 1

MOTHER IS SURE SON IS VICTIM

**Mrs. Ida Hermann Loses Hope
Her Boy Is Survivor of
Tuscania.**

**Pleads That Body of Lincoln
Boy May Be Brought
Back**

An Associated Press dispatch from a port in Scotland says that among the bodies washed ashore from the torpedoed Tuscania was that of "T. W. Herman," which dispatches from Washington later today say was probably Fred W. Hermann, of Lincoln.

"I'm sure that was my Fred—it's so easy to confuse and 'F' and a 'T'," said Mrs. Ida Hermann, 424 South Thirteenth street, when the name was read to her over the telephone. Mrs. Hermann is his mother.

"Can't I have his body brought back—it would be at least a satisfaction to have him buried at home," she pleaded. Her voice quavered and broke.

She promised to follow a suggestion given to her to wire Congressman Reavis at Washington, to take the matter up with the war department.

Fred Hermann enlisted in the forestry service from Lincoln last November.

He has two sisters here—Grace, living with her mother, and Mrs. C. L. Thompson, 1310 O street. A brother, Hugo, is at Mills, Neb.

He had been manager of a lumber yard at Nunda, S. D.

"Lincoln (NE) Star" 13 Feb 1918 p 1

Mrs. Ida Hermann of Lincoln, mother of Fred W. Hermann, victim of the Tuscania, whose body was buried in Scotland, with 163 other bodies, has asked the War department to send the body to Lincoln.

"Arapahoe (NE) Public Mirror" 21 Feb 1918 p 2 [and almost every newspaper in NE which ran this same story]

**NUNDA YOUTH LOST ON
THE ILL-FATED TUSCANIA**

Nunda, March 9.—Local friends finally have been definitely advised that Fred W. Herman, for some time manager of the J. F. Anderson lumber yards in this city, was one of the American boys who gave up their lives as the result of the torpedoing of the transport Tuscania. He was a member of the 20th Forestry Engineers, having enlisted at Omaha. The body was recovered and was among those interred in Scotland.

"Sioux Falls (SD) Argus-Leader" 9 Mar 1918 p 7

BROTHER OF TUSCANIA VICTIM SEEKS SER- VICE TO AVENGE HIM

Lincoln, June 14.—Hugo Herrmann of Omaha, a brother of Fred Herrmann of Lincoln, who lost his life when the transport Tuscania was torpedoed, applied today to Chairman Teeters of board No. 1 for immediate induction into the army.

Herrmann suffered the loss of three fingers in an accident some years ago and could not pass the physical tests for active service. He begged to be allowed to enter some branch of the service to avenge the death of his brother he said.

Young Herrmann is employed by a bridge construction company in Omaha. He will be inducted for limited service.



Brother Hugo, minus 3 fingers, inducted into limited Army service in revenge for Fred – “Fremont (NE) Tribune” 14 Jun 1918 p 7 – and his military tombstone showing service as a private in the Chemical Warfare Service, Hillside Cemetery, Somerset, St. Croix Co. WI, Find A Grave 111749139

DEATHS AND FUNERALS.

Herrmann—Mrs. Ida, fifty-six years old, died at her home at 520 South Thirteenth street, at 10 o'clock Saturday. Her death was very sudden. She leaves a daughter, Grace, at home, and a daughter, Mrs. Edith Thompson, at West Point, and a son, Hugo, of Detroit. Funeral services will be held Tuesday at Hodgman's parlors. Rev. Mr. Buechner will have charge. The body will be taken to West Point for burial.

Obituary of mother Ida Luedke Herrmann – “Lincoln (NE) Journal Star” Monday, 22 Jan 1923
p 6

John E. Hermann, an old resident of Cuming county, the second son of Fred Hermann, a pioneer settler, died of consumption at the home of his brother, B. G. Hermannu, in West Point, at the age of forty-three years. The deceased leaves a widow and four children. Funeral services were held under the auspices of the German Evangelical church, Rev. J. Scherbaeher, pastor, presiding.

Obituary of father John E. Herrmann – “Nebraska State Journal” (Lincoln NE) Sunday, 16 Feb 1908 p 6 – also in “Omaha (NE) Daily Bee” 16 Feb 1908 p 3 and “Lincoln (NE) Star” 17 Feb 1908 p 5

✓ 1	1	Herman, Hugo Edward	M	W	M	June 9, 1893	Nov. 3, 1945	52-4-25	Bridge County, Minn.
Accidental lutation of 6th. cervical vertebrae Posterior with cord damage					1 day	Nebr. Germany Minn.			
Accident: Nov. 2, 1945									
Tire blow-out - auto went in ditch									

His brother Hugo Edward Herrmann's death record – Minnesota, County Deaths for Washington Co. MN - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G9DL-FQR2?i=534&cc=2185953&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP3W-DC47>

25	Nov	3	1945	Herman, Hugo Edward	Male	White	Married	June	9	1893	
25	Nebr			John Herman				Ida Luedke	Nov	5	1945

Minnesota County Deaths - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-99DL-CLNK?i=707&cc=2185953&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPZH-2RWK>

Hugo Edward Herman

Minnesota Deaths and Burials, 1835-1990

Name:	Hugo Edward Herman
Event Type:	Burial
Event Date:	6 Nov 1945
Event Place:	Somerset, St. Croix, Wisconsin, United States
Event Place (Original):	Somerset, Wisconsin
Sex:	Male
Age:	52
Birth Year (Estimated):	1893
Death Date:	3 Nov 1945
Death Place:	Stillwater, Washington, Minnesota
Father's Name:	John Herman
Mother's Name:	Ida Luedke
Spouse's Name:	Catherine Helzer Herman
Spouse's Sex:	Female

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/G3KM-HRZ>

Name: Fred William Herrmann

Name variations: Herman (on passenger list & in newspapers) – also Hermann, also Fritz

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 18th/Co. F - private

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

Entered service from: Lincoln, Lancaster NE

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Fred W. Herman

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Mrs. Ida Herman, 425 S. 13th St., Lincoln NE

First buried on isle of Islay, Scotland: 1st buried in Kilnaughton, Islay, Scotland - grave 1, as T.W. Herman

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

Body listed on return ship as: Fred W. Herman

Rank: pvt, Co. F, 20th Engrs

World War I draft registration (1917): as Fred W. Herman - b. 19 Oct 1892 West Point NE; res: Nunda, Lake SD. Single. Dependent mother. Lumber dealer, J.F. Anderson Lbr. Co., Nunda SD. Tall & slender.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Born 19 Oct 1892

Died 6 Feb 1918

Enlistment date not listed

Address: 423 S. 13th St., Lincoln NE

Rank/unit: Co. F, 6th Battalion, 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 19 Oct 1891 West Point, Cuming NE (1892 - I)

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Find A Grave record: 124528863, presence on Tuscania indicated in flower

Burial location: West Point, Cuming NE

Cemetery: Mount Hope

Tombstone:

Father: John E. Herrmann, Dec 1865 Germany – Feb (?) 1908 West Point, Cuming NE. Son of Frederick (Gustav Frederick) Herrmann (1832-1920, F: 124528066) & Wilhelmina Kerkow (1829-1905, F: 124528104). Listed as the son of Fritz & H. Herman on his marriage license. His obituary from the "Nebraska State Journal" (Lincoln NE) 16 Feb 1908 p 6 copied above. Buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, West Point, Cuming NE.

Find A Grave: 124528133

Mother: Ida Luedke Herrmann, 3 Sep 1866 MN – 20 Jan 1923 Lincoln, Lancaster NE. Her obituary from the "Lincoln (NE) Star" 22 Jan 1923 p 6 is copied above. Lists her father as William "Ledke" on her marriage license. She died at her home at 520 S. 13th St., Lincoln NE. Her tombstone in the Mount Hope Cemetery, West Point, Cuming NE is inscribed "Mother of Fred W., Hugo E., Edith and Grace."

Find A Grave: 124528910

Parents' marriage: 18 Sep 1891 West Point, Cuming NE. John Herman was age 25, Ida Ledke was age 24.

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: Fred was the oldest child.

- Hugo Edward Herrmann [buried as Herman], 9 Jun 1893 West Point, Cuming NE – 3 Nov 1945 Stillwater, Washington Co. MN. SSN 346-01-8678. - Possibly him? "Nebraska State Journal" (Lincoln NE) 21 May 1911 p 3 – Hugo Herrmann, a young man, has been charged with highway robbery, to be heard in Cuming Co. NE district court on 22 May 1911. - WWI draft card (1917) notes "crooked arm and one finger off and one crooked." Hugo resides at 425 S. 13th St. Lincoln NE & is a bridge carpenter. - Although missing fingers caused him to fail the WWI draft physical, he convinced the Army to enlist him to avenge the death of his brother Fred on the Tuscania. His military tombstone notes his service from NE as a private in the Chemical Warfare Service. He served from 29 Jul 1918 to 18 Mar 1919. – "Edward Herman" (son of John Herman & Ida Luedke), age 27, married May Whiting Irwin, daughter of John Irwin & Lillian Proctor, on 11 Aug 1919 in Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie IA. - In the

1930 census Hugo (36 NE) & wife Katherine (age 29 NE) live in Chicago, Cook IL. He is the manager, she the assistant manager of a rooming house. They say their parents were both b. NE. He was 26, she age 19 at the time of their 1st marriages. – A resident of Detroit MI when his mother died in Jan 1923. - Catherine Helzer listed as his widow on his MN death certificate. - On his WWII draft card (1942), he resides in Chicago, Cook IL with wife Cathrine [sic] Herman, whose address is in Somerset WI. – MN death record copied above. A tire blew out on his car in Washington Co. MN on 2 Nov 1945 & his car went into a ditch. He died a day later of “accidental luxation of 6th cervical vertebrae; posterior with cord damage.” He was a bridge construction foreman, b. 9 Jun 1893. Buried in Hillside Cemetery, Somerset, St. Croix Co. WI. - F: 111749139

- Edith C. Herrmann Thompson, 13 Jun 1896 NE - Mar 1985. Wife of Claude Landis Thompson (1894-1973, F: 110191044). Edith Herrman married Claude on 1 Aug 1917 in Fremont, Dodge NE. The couple lived in West Point, Cuming NE in the 1930 & 1940 censuses. Buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, West Point, Cuming NE. F: 110191017
- Grace Herrmann Rich, 14 Sep 1898 NE – May 1988 Omaha, Douglas NE. SSN 507-52-7005. Wife of Claude Clifford Rich (1896-1943, F: 149866978) who served in the US Navy in WWI. Claude & Grace are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, West Point, Cuming NE. F: 194807384

Notes:

All versions of the family surname need to be searched: HERMAN, HERMANN, HERRMAN, HERRMANN.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Lincoln (NE) Star" 11 Feb 1918 p 1 & 4 - "Mother Waits for Word of Son" - Mrs. Ida Hermann & her 2 daughters wait for news. Fred's mother lives at 425 S. 13th St., Lincoln. His name is on the roster but no status report. Age 26, was a manager at Anderson Lumber Yards at Nunda SD. Came to Lincoln to visit his mother before enlisting here Nov 1917. Two days after enlisting, he went to Jefferson Barracks MO. On 22 Jan 1918 his mother got letter from an Atlantic port that he was ready to sail to France. His sister Mrs. C.L. Thompson, 1310 "O" St., said it was a comfort to have him home for Christmas. His sister Grace Herman lives at home with her mother & his brother Hugo lives at Mills NE. His mother Ida is a widow. She moved with Grace to Lincoln 2 years ago from West Point NE. Fred was born & raised West Point NE & left there 7 years ago for SD, where he worked in the lumber business.

"Lincoln (NE) Star" 13 Feb 1918 p 1 – there were 171 American soldiers buried on the Scottish coast, with 78 of them side-by-side in a trench, with graves numbered 1 to 78. Listed in order, the list begins with T.W. Herman.

"Gibbon (NE) Reporter" 14 Feb 1918 p 2 – Pvt. Fred W. Herman of Lincoln NE not yet accounted for from the Tuscania

Post-war:

1920 Lincoln NE city directory:

Herrmann, Ida (widow of John E.), resident of 520 S. 13th

Obituary:

Censuses:

1880 West Point, Cuming NE – his father John

Frederick Herman, 48 Prussia, farmer

Wilhelmina, 50 Prussia, house keeper

Bernhard, 19 Prussia, farm laborer

John, 15 Prussia, at home

Elaxander, 11 NE

1900 West Point, Cuming NE

John E. Herrmann, 34 Germany, Dec 1865, parents b. Germany, emigrated 1870, in US for 30 years, married 9 years, carpenter

Ida, 33 MN, Sep 1866, parents b. Germany, gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living

Fritz, 8 NE, Oct 1891, at school

Hugo, 6 NE, Jun 1893

Edith, 3 NE, Jun 1896

Grace, 1 NE, Sep 1898

1910 West Point, Cuming NE – but husband John died in 1908

Ida, 43 MN, parents b. Germany, married 20 years, in 1st marriage, dressmaker at home, gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living

Edeth, 13 NE, father b. Germany, mother b. MN

Grace, 11 NE, father b. Germany, mother b. MN

Minnie Luedke, 65 Germany, widow, emigrated 1857, gave birth to 14 children, 10 are living [mother]

1910 Hilen, Butte SD

George Smith, 47 IL, parents b. OH, married 14 years, hotel manager

Adaline 43 MN, parents b. Germany, gave birth to 3 children, 3 are living

plus 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 brother, 2 servants, and

Mother-in-law Minnie Luedke, 69 Germany, widow [who's also listed in the NE census]

& nephew Fred Hermann, 18 NE, single, father b. Germany, mother b. MN, laborer, railroad