

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:

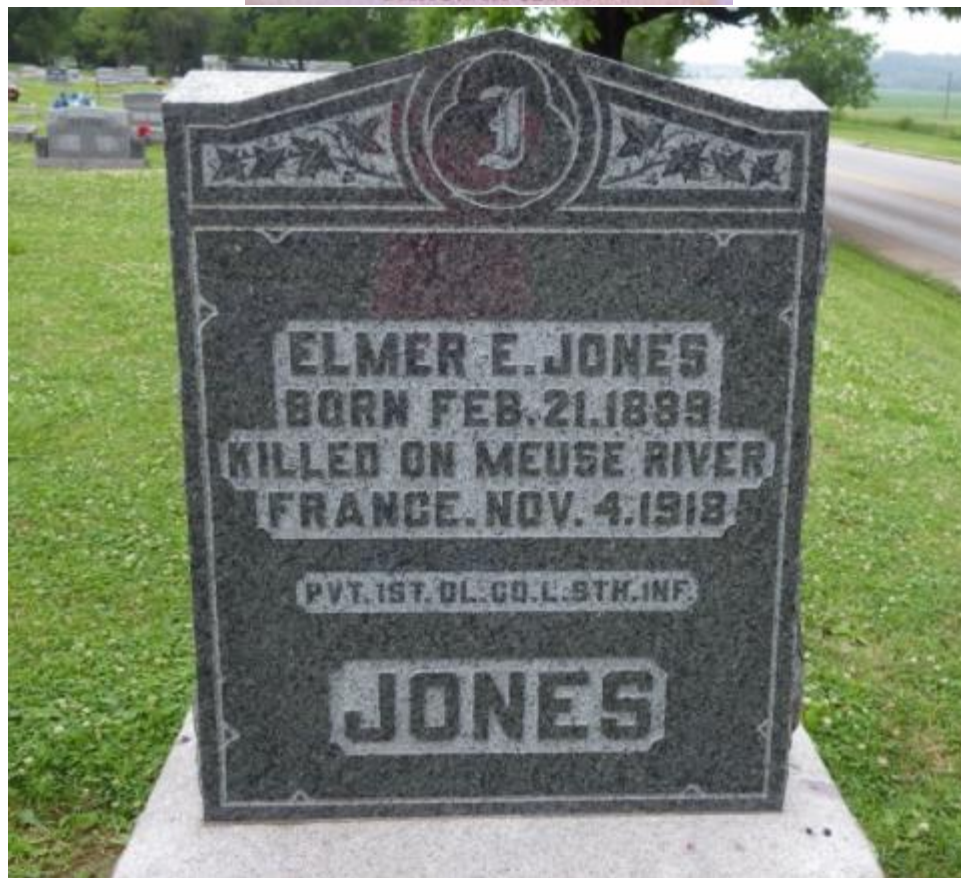
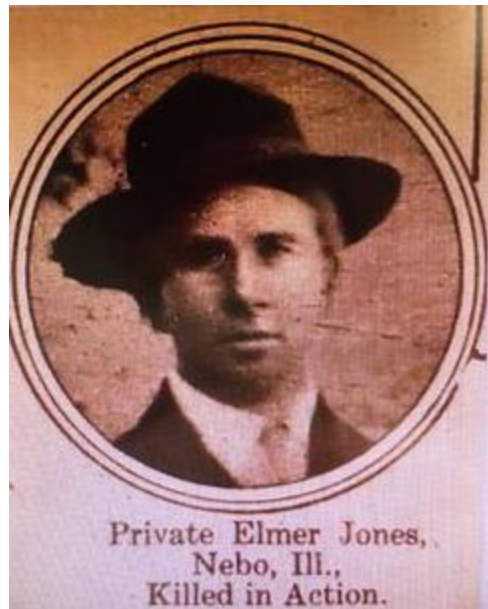
b = born

d = died

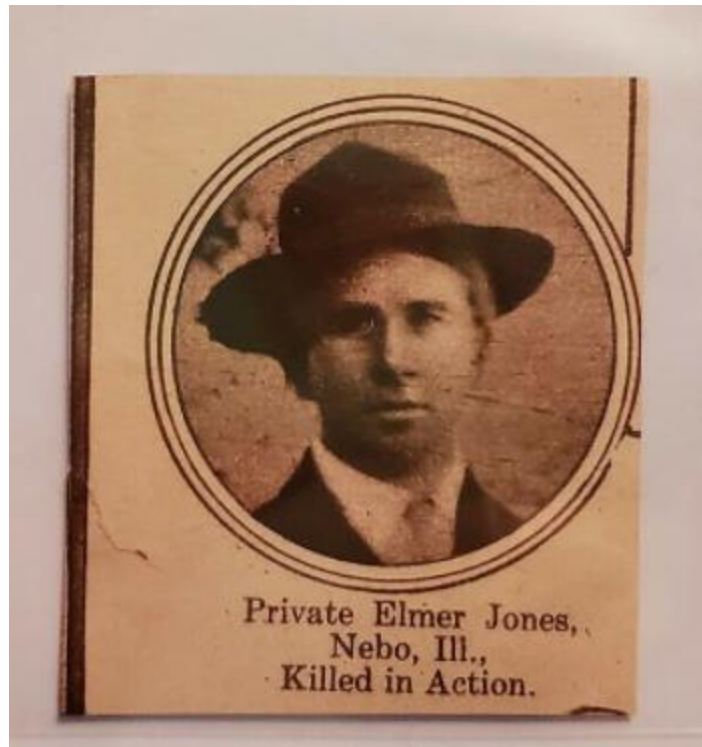
F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA**WWI casualty****Jones, Elmer Esther****1889 IL – 1918 France**



Find A Grave 131510237



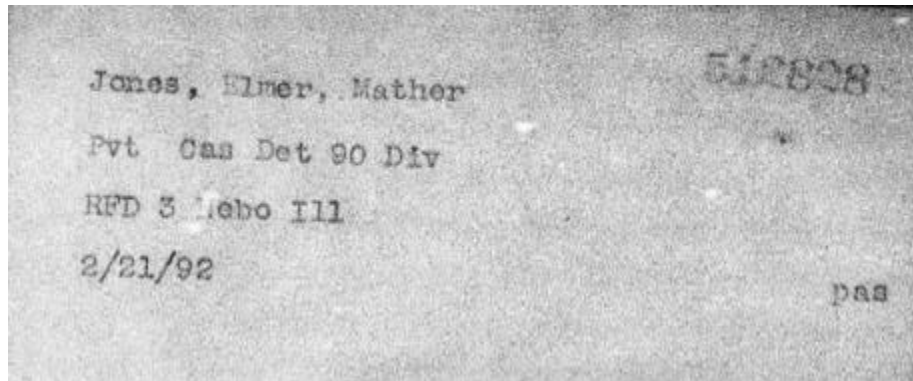
Photograph for sale as of 10 May 2021 at:
<https://www.ebay.com/i/352847008822?chn=ps&mkevt=1&mkcid=28>

JONES ELMER ESTHER		X	C	143 259
L 9 Inf			K	
Nebo ill			A	
Sa	Died		T	512 8287
Born 2/21/92			R	
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U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
 MAIL AND RECORDS
 Form 7302—Rev. Sept., 1925

INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1R-D3P8-3?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPTJ-MVFW>



<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1R-D37D-7?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPTJ-92SB>

Name: Elmer Esther Jones

Name variations: Elmer Mather Jones

Military:

On Tuscania: Camp Travis Det. 1, 165th Depot Brigade - private

Serial number: 251,465

Entered service from: Nebo, Pike IL

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Elmer Jones

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": stepsister Irene Blackketter (sic), RR 3, Nebo IL

Body returned from war on: "Somme" arriving 14 Mar 1921 Hoboken NJ

Body listed on return ship as: Elmer Jones

Rank & unit on return ship: pvt, Co. L, 9th Inf.) (tombstone reads PFC

World War I draft registration (1917):

Veterans Administration Military Index: Elmer has 2 different cards:

- 1 for Elmer Mather Jones, b. 21 Feb 1892, of RFD 3, Nebo Township, Pike IL, private, Cas Det, 90th Division
- 1 for Elmer Esther Jones, same birth date/place, L, 9th Infantry - his tombstone is engraved with initial E. for middle name

Enlisted

Discharged

Address:

Rank/unit:

Birth & death:

Born: 21 Feb 1889 Nebo, Pike IL

Died: 4 Nov 1918 France (killed in action, Meuse)

Find A Grave record: 131510237, presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Nebo, Pike IL

Cemetery: Nebo

Tombstone: Killed on Meuse River France

Father: presumably with surname Jones, either in a marriage or a relationship with his mother. In census records, Elmer reports his father was born in IL.

Find A Grave:

Stepfather: Thomas Franklin Blackketter, Feb 1863 Spring Creek township, Nebo, Pike IL – 16 Jan 1948 Spring Creek, Nebo, Pike IL. Buried in Nebo Cemetery, Nebo, Pike IL.

Stepfather's Find A Grave: 131333457

Mother: Nancy Josephine ("Josie") Colvin [Jones?] Blackketter, 20 Nov 1863 Spring Creek, Nebo, Pike IL – 17 Dec 1938 Nebo, Pike IL. Daughter of William A. Colvin (1821-1882, F: 43763268) & Lurinda Hirons (1829-1880, F: 43763267).

Married Thomas Franklin Blackketter on 28 Feb 1895 in Pike Co. IL. Elmer had been born in 1889. Buried in Nebo Cemetery, Nebo, Pike IL.

Find A Grave: 131333610

Parents' marriage:

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Half-siblings: an additional sibling or half-sibling was born prior to the 1900 census

- Beulah Irene Blackketter McCleery Jones, 24 Nov 1896 Nebo, Pike IL – Sep 1981 Hannibal, Marion MO. Listed as Mrs. Irene McCleery in Apr 1921 when Elmer's body was reinterred in Nebo IL. Married Oliver Jones 12 Aug 1949 in Hannibal, Marion MO. Buried in Nebo Cemetery, Nebo, Pike IL. F: 131507104
- Jessie (Jess) Loren/Lorn Blackketter [uses only one "K" in his surname], 19 Dec 1897 Spring Creek, Nebo IL – 4 Aug 1951 Boise, Ada ID. Husband of Eliza (Lizzie) Ray (1895-1976, F: 59467523). On his WWII (1942) draft registration, Jesse Loren Blackketter lives with Eliza in Firth, Bingham Co. ID where he is a farmer. Buried in Morris Hill Cemetery, Boise, Ada ID. F: 59467524
- Ola Mae Blackketter Myers, 16 Sep 1901 Spring Creek, Pike IL – 27 Jan 1967. Wife of Raymond W. Myers (1900-1972, F: 100072553). Buried in Grand View Burial Park, Hannibal, Ralls MO. F: 10002532
- Russell L. Blackketter, 8 Sep 1905 IL – 27 Oct 1918 New Canton, Pike IL. He dies 8 days before his half-brother Elmer is killed in the war. Buried in Nebo Cemetery, Nebo, Pike IL. F: 131332907

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Chicago (IL) Tribune" 10 Feb 1918 p 2 – not accounted for yet: Camp Travis Detachment No. 1 overseas casualties: Elmer Jones of Nebo IL

"Rock Island (IL) Argus" Tuesday 25 Feb 1919 p 6 – the War Department casualty list of 25 Feb 1919 reports Pvt. Elmer Jones of Nebo IL killed in action.

Post-war:

Obituary:

"Pike County Republican" 6 Apr 1921 on Find A Grave record 131510237: body buried at Nebo on Sunday, 27 Mar 1921 with American Legion rites. Survived by mother & stepfather [unnamed], 2 sisters: Mrs. Irene McCleery & Miss Ola Blacketter & brother Jesse [no surname] of Idaho. Born 21 Feb 1889. Killed in action in France at 29 years, 8 months, 13 days. Left Tarr River OK 4 Oct 1917 for camp at San Antonio, then went to Camp Travis. Sent from Camp Houston TX to France, where he was torpedoed on Tuscania. Rescued after floating on spar for 48 hours (probably a life raft, not in water). Killed 2.5 miles from Beaumont, France, in the Meuse-Argonne battle. His body moved to a cemetery near Sedan, France, and then to Hoboken NJ on 18 Mar 1921. From Hoboken NJ his body went to Nebo IL

Censuses:

1900 Spring Creek, Pike IL

Thomas Blackkitter, 37 IL, Feb 1863, father b. IN, mother b. MO, married 6 years, farmer [therefore, not married to Josephine when Elmer was born]

Josephine, 36 IL, Nov 1863, parents' birthplaces unknown, gave birth to 4 children, 3 are living

Beulah, 3 IL, Nov 1896, parents b. IL [daughter]

Jesse, 2 IL, Dec 1897, parents b. IL [daughter]

Elmer E., 11 IL, Feb 1889, parents b. IL [son] [here listed with surname Blackkitter]

1910 Hardin, Pike IL

Alva Couch, 37 IL, father b. OH, mother b. IL, in 1st marriage, married 8 years, farmer, general farm

Celesta Couch, 30 KS, parents b. PA, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 4 children, 2 are living

Cloyd Couch, 7 IL, parents b. IL

Ethel, 1 IL, parents b. IL

& hired man Elmer Jones, 21 IL, parents b. IL, farm laborer, general farm