

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

The logo for Tuscania, featuring the word "TUSCANIA" in a stylized, black, serif font with a drop shadow effect, set against a solid red rectangular background.

Kingham, Merle Stewart
1895 OK – 1972 OK

**TUSCANIA SURVIVOR
WRITES HIS PARENTS**



MERLE KINGHAM
First letter from Kiowa county lad since torpedoing of ill-starred Tuscania, February 5. Eleven of his company lost life in disaster. Helped to bury his chum, Raymond Hurst, a bugler, on foreign soil.

Merle Stewart Kingham - "Hobart (OK) Weekly Democrat Chief" 21 Mar 1918 p 9 - <https://www.newspapers.com/image/663329252>

KINGHAM MERLE STEWART	C 470 845
Sgt Co F 116 Sup Tn	K
Roosevelt Okla	A 1 876 822
Su 251 474 Died	T 109 319 F
Born 8/31/94	R
Enl 11/18/17 Dis 3/28/19	Ct. 813 962
	I
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202--Rev. Sept., 1936	INDEX CARD 2-12000

MERL KINGHAM DROWNED.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kingham, six miles southwest of Roosevelt, received a telegram this morning from the War Department that their son, Merl, who was aboard the ill-starred Tuscania, which was torpedoed last week by the Germans near the Irish coast, was among the drowned.

Merl enlisted two or three months ago and was en route to France for active service.

News of his death was premature – "Hobart (OK) Republican" Thursday 14 Feb 1918 p 6

PERRY AND KINGHAM IN LIST OF MISSING

Lone Wolf and Roosevelt Soldiers Not in Register of Tuscania Survivors—Thirty Oklahomans Believed Lost.

George C. Perry, son of Mrs. C. A. Perry, of Lone Wolf, and Merl S. Kingham, listed as being from Roosevelt, Texas, but in reality from Roosevelt, Kiowa county, Oklahoma, are in the list of the thirty Oklahomans, missing since the Tuscania was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland, Wednesday February 6.

It was not known in Hobart, until Tuesday morning that Merl S. Kingham, listed as being from Texas, was from Kiowa county. He enlisted a few months ago with Albert R. Harrison, of Roosevelt. Both remained together during their military service and embarked on the Tuscania. Harrison is listed as being among the survivors.

Howard E. Bowman, of Rocky, is also among the missing.

Late reports show that Otto Bussamus of Indianahoma, was rescued.

"Hobart (OK) Weekly Democrat-Chief" Thursday 14 Feb 1918 p 3

MERL KINCHAM AMONG MISSING!

**Other Kiowa County Boys Among
Survivors of the Ill-Fated
Tuscania.**

Merl Kingham, of Roosevelt, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kingham, who was aboard the ill-starred Tuscania, which was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland on Tuesday February 8, is reported by the Government to be among the missing. His parents here have, however, received no word except that he was aboard the vessel. It is still possible that he is among the survivors and that in the mixture of names he has been miss named, or that he may have been picked up and not yet reported.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 15 Feb 1918 p 1

Meri Kingham Rescued.

J. B. Kingham received a telegram Wednesday afternoon from the War Department stating that his son Meri was among eighty-nine men rescued from the Tuscania, which was sunk by a german submarine two weeks ago. The telegram was sent to Roosevelt, Tex., and double back here to the county exemption board and did not give any particulars of the rescue.

However, it is enough at present to know that he is among the survivors and the entire Roosevelt community are rejoicing with the Kingham family over this fact.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 22 Feb 1918 p 1

NEWS FROM CAMP TRAVIS

Dear Friends:—

To-day is the day assigned by the Camp Department for each correspondent to submit his weekly letter, so I'm getting busy.

We boys are expectantly watchful for the arrival of the "selects" from home, and it sure will be a relief to those here now to see a home face again, to say nothing of the feeling of prospective comradeship.

It was with regret that I heard of the plight of my boyhood friend, Merle Kingham. It has been but a short time since I was talking to both he and Harrison at the Depot Brigade, a few days before they left for the east to "go over" in the Tuscania. I went by their quarters every day going to Grenade School. I'm now taking a course in the Chaucet Automatic Rifle, and it's interesting work. All you need to do is to pull the trigger, and it will fire all the shells in the country quicker than your eye can bat.

The Y. M. C. A. is doing a great deal to straighten the "SAMS" out morally. Their work cannot be over estimated. The geniality of the boylike Y. men is what breathes a brotherly love into the souls of every one connected with them, and coming into contact with their daily routine of good cheer.

The letter continues & is signed:

As ever, I am

Your "Sam,"
Sgt. Glen Hutton,
Co. M. 857th. Inf.

"Kiowa County Democrat" (Snyder OK) Thursday 28 Feb 1918 p 1

KINGHAM REPORTED AMONG SURVIVORS

Roosevelt Youth Who Enlisted
November 11, With Albert
Harrison, and Aboard Ill-Fat-
ed Tuscania In List of Saved.

Meryl Stewart Kingham, son of Mr.
and Mrs. J. W. Kingham, who live
three miles west and three miles

Meryl Stewart Kingham, son of Mr.
and Mrs. J. W. Kingham, who live
three miles west and three miles



MERYL STEWART KINGHAM
Member No 1, Casualty Replacement
Division, Quartermaster's De-
partment, of Roosevelt.

miles south of Roosevelt, according to
the latest list of survivors from the
ill fated transport, Tuscania, has been
saved.

Through an error his name was always published in the press reports as being from a town in Texas the same as his home address. During all the days of anxiety, felt since the sinking of the transport, members of the family never entirely gave up hope but that Meryl had been saved. With the report of his safety, the Kiowa county boys on the Tuscania so far not reported saved has been reduced to one, George C. Perry, of Lone Wolf.

Meryl Kingham is a native Oklahoman, and was born near Oklahoma City, August 31, 1894. He attended the public schools in Oklahoma City, Hobart and Roosevelt. On November 11, with Albert Harrison, a neighboring lad, he volunteered his services "to the colors" and was sent to Camp Merritt, N. J. Prior to this he made four unsuccessful attempts to enlist in the navy.

At Camp Merritt he was assigned to Casualty Company, No. 1, Replacement Division, Quartermaster's Department, and with his company ordered to France.

His brother Glenn is a musician in the navy, and was one of nine selected from a company of 300 to play in the king's palace at Santa Domingo, where he played the violin before the king.

"Weekly Democrat Chief" (Hobart OK) Thursday 28 Feb 1918 p 9

KINGHAM HELPED BURY CHUM ON FOREIGN SOIL

Dear Folks:

Will try and write you a few lines to let you know I am alive and well. Believe me I have had some experience of German warfare. Talk about peace; never until the German government has been crushed forever. I was on the Tuscania which was sunk on the night of Feb. but my company neve lost but 11 men, while some of the compaines on board of her lost as high as 52, but considering the amount on board the Casualty list was very small. One of my pals lost his life on it he was a bugler. His name was Raymond Hurst and I helped to bury him. He was in one of the life boats which the destroyer failed to pick up and their boat drifted into land about 15 miles away and was pounded to pieces on the rocks, killing all who were in it.

Went to church last Sunday morning. It was held in a Cathedral which das built in 1093 and it was a magnificent building. Believe me the people of this country sure treat the American boys fine. I haven't reached my final destination yet and don't know when I will but hope to soon.

Must close as it is near mess time so

Bye Bye, Love from
MERLE KINGHAM.

"Hobart (OK) Weekly Democrat Chief" Thursday 21 Mar 1918 p 10

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/663329259/?terms=%22merle%20kingham%22%20tuscani&match=1>

Merle Kingham Writes.

August. 25, 1918

Dear Mother Father and all:

Will drop you a few lines to night to let you know that I am alright. Believe me, I am having the time of my life here at Aix-les-bains. Am on my seven days leave of absence. You talk about scenery; there certainly is lots of it here. Just got back today from Mt. Revard. It certainly is some wonderful scenery. I am seeing something that the rich people spend thousands of dollars to see. Tomorrow I am going to take a trip through the Alps Mts. in an automobile. They have some of the most wonderful lakes here that one ever saw. All that I have done since I have been here is swim and try and see all that is to be seen. Gee, but I certainly do wish that we were allowed to go to Italy.

We are right here close at present but of course one cannot have things just as he wishes them. I also took a trip up Mt. Shambotte. I went up on a Co. Railway and returned on a bicycle; believe me, it was great; we coasted for 30 kilometers and didn't have to do anything but watch where we were going the first seven or eight miles were pretty rough but after that it sure was grand. O yes, I had some pictures taken today and will get them next Wednesday and will send them home just as soon as I get them.

One can see Mt. Blanc from here and I think we will get to it. Am not positive about it but if I get a chance you can bet your life that I am going. Gee, Dad, I would give anything in the world if you could be here and see some of the scenery. We are treated the best in the world here at Aix-les-Bains.

Are put in the swellest hotels and all of our expenses are paid so you see that Uncle Sam treats his soldiers fine.

So Harold has joined the navy, has he? Well, don't worry

but just be contented and I assure you that he will come back a better man because he most certainly will learn discipline. Well, I guess that I will close for tonight. Will try to write and tell you about my trip when I get back to the company. Do write soon.

Corp. Merle S. Kingham,
Headquarters Garage A.P.O.
727 A. E. F.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 4 Oct 1918 p 8

TUSCANIA SURVIVOR HERE.

(Saturday, July 5.)

Merle Kingham, who lives six miles southwest of Roosevelt, was in town Thursday and Friday to help celebrate the Fourth here in proper and fitting manner.

It will be remembered at the time the ill-fated transport, Tuscania, was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland that Mr. Kingham was reported as one of the missing, and in fact he was one of them for a few days. However, he succeeded in hanging onto a drifting piece of wood until he could be rescued, and he was finally reported as safe.

Later he saw service on the western front in the capacity of motorcycle dispatch rider, beginning at Chateau-Thierry and lasting until the armistice was signed. After that event he travelled considerably over France, returning home a few weeks ago.

Mr. Kingham relates his experiences as exciting and thrilling to the utmost, many of which he would not care to endure again.

DISCHARGED FROM THE NAVY.

(Friday, August 29.)

Glenn Kingham, whose home is near Roosevelt, was in the city yesterday afternoon on his way to Oklahoma City for a few days visit.

At the beginning of the recent war with Germany, Mr. Kingham enlisted in the navy as a musician, and as such received many honors. He was one of the six musicians of the navy selected to play before the king of a tropic island, where he spent a great deal of his time of service.

He has just received his discharge and come home for the first time since his enlistment.

Glenn Kingham is a brother of Merle Kingham, who was in the army and as a passenger of the ill-fated Tuscania, was reported drowned, but was later picked up and returned to his unit. He saw service in France and was discharged a short time ago.

Discharge of his brother Archie Glen Kingham from the US Navy where he served as a musician, mostly in the tropics – "Hobart (OK) Republican" Thursday 4 Sep 1919 p 11

Mrs. M. S. Kingham came in from Chickasha Tuesday to join Mr. Kingham and make this their home. Mr. Kingham has bought the Maben Onstott barber shop and took charge of the business the first of the week.

"Kiowa County News" (Lone Wolf OK) Thursday 3 May 1923 p 5

Merl Kingham went to Oklahoma City Sunday where he was called to take another examination. This was made necessary in connection with some business in regard to his pension.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 8 Feb 1924 p 1

Merle Kingham and wife came in Thursday from Hot Springs where they have been living for the past few months. Merle's health has not been good since he has been in Arkansas so he decided to come back.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 1 Apr 1927 p 3

Merl Kingham, who has been living on a farm near Anadarko for the past couple of years, is here staying with his father J. B. Kingham. Merl is looking for a location and intends to buy into some business here in Roosevelt so he can be near his father who recently had a stroke of paralysis. Merl is a barber and worked at that trade here for a number of years. He is one of the ex-service men who really deserves the patronage of the home folks as he was in the worst end of the "hell" of the world war. He was picked up on the rocky coast of Scotland after the wreck of the Tuscania and served afterwards as a motor cycle messenger in the worst of the war area.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 12 Dec 1930 p 1

Leases Interest In Shop

Merl Kingham has leased the Paulk interest in the Dixie barber shop and will assist Claude Coyle in operating the same. Merl, who has been living on a farm near Anadarko for the past two years, has moved into a house in the north part of town and is on duty at one of the chairs in the Dixie barber shop where he would like to meet all of his old friends.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 2 Jan 1931 p 3

Merl Kingham Buys Home

Last week Merl Kingham bought the Hoyt Barker home on South Main street. Hoyt has moved to Lawton and Merl took possession of the property immediately. J. A. Barker, who has been living in the property for the past month, moved into the old Sullens place on the east side of town.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 17 Apr 1931 p 1



"Chickasha (OK) Star" Thursday 1 Apr 1943 p 9



Ad for White-Way Barber Shop – "Chickasha (OK) Daily Express" Friday 1 Feb 1952 p 10



"Daily Oklahoman" (Oklahoma City OK) Tuesday 3 Oct 1972 p 34

MARRIAGE LICENSE			
(Coupon to be Detached By County Clerk and Forwarded to State Registrar Vital Statistics, State Capitol)			
STATE OF ARKANSAS			
County of	GARLAND	of	Chickasha
Mr.	Merle S. Kingham	State of	Oklahoma
County of	Grady	and	
Age	35	Nationality	White
Ms	Grace Green	of	Chickasha
County of	Grady	State of	Oklahoma
Age	29	Nationality	White
	8th day of August	192	9
			Ursery S. Owen,
			County Clerk
			Deputy County Clerk

Married 8 Aug 1929 Garland Co. AR to Grace Green –

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61775/images/61775_01_00438-00690?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=358472

STATE OF TEXAS **058-01-2 058-21** CERTIFICATE OF DEATH **4123 32** STATE FILE NO. **92620**

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY Dawson		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived, if institution, residence before admission) a. STATE Texas b. COUNTY Dawson	
b. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.) Lamesa		c. CITY OR TOWN (If outside city limits, give precinct no.) Lamesa	
d. NAME OF (If not in hospital, give street address) HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Medical Arts Hospital		d. STREET ADDRESS (If rural, give location) 1400 Nth 7th St	
e. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES ☒ NO ☐		e. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES ☒ NO ☐ f. IS RESIDENCE ON A FARM? YES ☐ NO ☒	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) Elinor		4. DATE OF DEATH December 3, 1973	
5. SEX female	6. COLOR OR RACE white	7. Married ☐ Never Married ☐ Widowed ☒ Divorced ☐	8. DATE OF BIRTH July 24, 1897
9. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done, even if retired) Homemaker	10. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Homemaking	9. AGE (in years last birthday) 76	
11. BIRTH-PLACE (State or foreign country) Illinois		12. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U S A	
13. FATHER'S NAME Joe B. Kingham		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME (unknown) Stuart	
15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? NO (If yes, give war or dates of service)		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 458-18-2273 B	
17. INFORMANT Mrs. Jack Wilcox		18. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE (To be filled out by physician, for (a), (b), and (c).) Myocardial Infarction CHD DECEASED 1974 IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS	
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (a)			
19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES ☐ NO ☒		20. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED: (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of Item 18.)	
20a. ACCIDENT ☐ SUICIDE ☐ HOMICIDE ☐		20b. TIME OF INJURY Hour 8:30 Month 11 Day 11 Year 73	
20c. INJURY OCCURRED WHERE AT WORK ☐ NOT WHILE AT WORK ☐		20d. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office building, etc.)	
21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from December 3, 1973 and last saw the deceased alive on December 3, 1973 . Death occurred at 8:30 P on the date stated above, and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.		22. ADDRESS Lamesa, Texas 22c. DATE SIGNED 12-11-73	
23. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) Burial		23b. DATE Dec 6, 1973	
23c. LOCATION (City, town, or county) Lamesa Dawson Texas		24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE John Humphreys	
25a. REGISTRAR'S FILE NO. 125		25b. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REGISTRAR 12-12-73	
25c. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE A.L. Spindler		25d. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE A.L. Spindler	

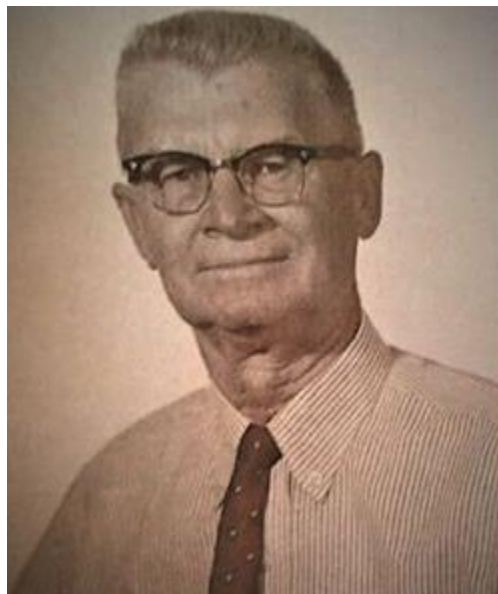
TX death certificate of his sister Mary Elinore Kingham Penn -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2272/images/33154_b062906-00234?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=46373

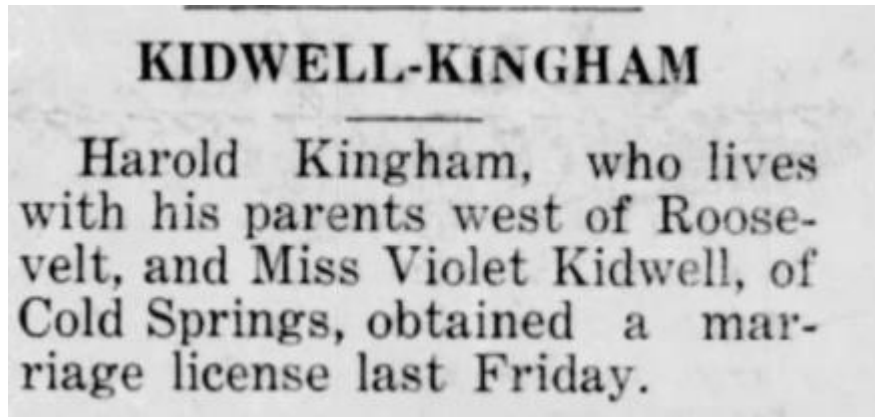
Kingham-Penn.
 Miss Elinor Kingham, of Roosevelt, and George Penn, of Cold Springs, were married last Wednesday afternoon at the Presbyterian parsonage at Hobart. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kingham, who live five miles southwest of Roosevelt, and is very popular with her many friends. The newly married couple will reside on a farm near Cold Springs. The Record joins their many friends in wishing them every happiness.

MARRIED TWO COUPLES
 Geo. U. Penn, of Cold Springs, and Miss Mary Eleanor Kingham, of Roosevelt, were married Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Presbyterian manse, by Charles W. Estes. Last Sunday at the bride's home, in west of Hobart, Ethel Hunter, was married to C. C. Green, by Rev. Estes. A large number of relatives and friends of the contracting couple, were present at the ceremony.

Marriage of Mary Elinor Kingham to George Ulas Penn – Left: “Roosevelt (OK) Record” Friday 1 Oct 1920 p 1 – Right: “Hobart (OK) Weekly Democrat” Thursday 30 Sep 1920 p 3



Harold Russell Kingham – from Find A Grave 224121312



Marriage of brother Harold Russell Kingham to Violet Kidwell – “Roosevelt (OK) Record”
Friday 30 Aug 1929 p 1



Tombstone of his brother Charles Kingham, Find A Grave 25717482

Name: Merle Stewart Kingham

Name variations: Merl Kingham

Military:

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

Serial number: 251,474

Entered service from: Roosevelt, Kiowa OK

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: Merle St. Kingham

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father J.B. Kingham, RFD 3, Roosevelt TX [in error, as this Roosevelt is in OK]

Returned from war on: "Agamemnon" Mar 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Merle S. Kingham

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Joe B. Kingham, RFD 3, Roosevelt OK (sgt, 116th Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Merle Stewart Kingham - b. 30 Aug 1895 OK; res: Roosevelt OK. Single. Farmer for self, Roosevelt OK. Short in height, medium build.

World War II draft registration (1942):

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 18 Nov 1917

Discharged 28 Mar 1919

Address: Roosevelt OK

Rank/unit: sergeant, Co. F, 116th Supply Train

Birth & death:

Born: 30 Aug 1895 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Co. OK

Died: 1 Oct 1972 Chickasha, Grady OK

Find A Grave record: 63944440, presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Chickasha, Grady OK

Cemetery: Rose Hill

Tombstone: veteran tombstone: Oklahoma Sgt. Co D 116 Sup Train WWI

Father: Joe B. Kingham, 20 Sep 1858 IL – 12 Apr 1936. Buried in Roosevelt Cemetery, Roosevelt, Kiowa OK.

Find A Grave: 23490978

Mother: Sarah M. Stewart, 5 Aug 1863 IL – 19 Jul 1942. Daughter of William M. Stewart & Margaret Campbell. Buried in Roosevelt Cemetery, Roosevelt, Kiowa OK.

Find A Grave: 23491031

Parents' marriage: 23 Jul 1882 Pike Co. IL

Spouse: Grace Green Kingham, 26 Jun 1900 OK – 20 Mar 1992 Irving, Dallas TX. Buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Chickasha, Grady OK.

Spouse Find A Grave: 63944427

Marriage: 8 Aug 1929 Garland Co. AR. Grace was age 29, Merle was age 35. Both were residents of Chickasha, Grady OK.

Children:

Siblings: Had 2 more siblings, dead by the 1900 census.

- Charles Klingham, believe he was born 29 Jan 1885 Oakley, Macon IL & died 29 Apr 1885 Oakley, Macon IL. His tombstone says he died at 4 months, on 29 Apr 1885. The IL death record says he died at 3 months old, on 29 Jan 1885. It would make more sense that he was

BORN on 29 Jan 1885 & DIED on 29 Apr 1885. Shares his tombstone with William M. Stewart (d. 1887 at age 49). Buried in Cross Cemetery, Oakley, Macon IL. F: 25717482

- Mary Mayola (also found as Margaret) Kingham Terry, 2 Oct 1887 Cerro Gordo township, Piatt IL – 26 Dec 1962 Los Angeles Co. CA. On her IL birth record (for a female born 2 Oct 1887), her father J.B. Kingham is age 29, b. IL & her mother Sarah Stewart, 24 IL. Often referred to as Mrs. Lou Terry in OK newspaper articles. Wife of Lewis Early Terry (1884-1965, F: 155922025), the son of Stephen Dorsey Terry & Harriet Emeline McElvain. Buried in Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, Los Angeles CA. F: 155922146
- Archie Glen Kingham, 1 Aug 1891 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Co. OK – Oct 1967. SSN 432-60-1277. Often referred to as Glen or Glenn. A.G. Kingham was married on 5 Jan 1926 in Nocona, Montague TX to Beulah Glen Allen (1897-1958, F: 63677716). The 1935 Lubbock TX city directory shows Archie G. & Beulah G. Kingham at 1944 Avenue H; he is employed at Photocraft Studio. - On his 1942 WWII draft registration, he lives in DeQueen, Sevier AR & is self-employed. Buried in Nocona Cemetery, Nocona, Montague TX. F: 63677714
- Mary Elinor Kingham Penn, 24 Jul 1897 OK – 3 Dec 1973 Lamesa, Dawson TX. Often found as Elinor or Elinore. Married on 29 Oct 1920 in the Presbyterian parsonage, Hobart, Kiowa OK to George Ulas Penn (1892-1967, F: 115761032). Her TX death record notes she died at age 76, a widow, resident of 1400 N. 7th St., Lamesa TX, died in the Medical Arts Hospital of ventricular fibrillation. -Buried in Dawson County Cemetery, Lamesa, Dawson TX. F: 115761194
- Harold Russell Kingham, 16 Mar 1900 Kiowa Co. OK – 23 Jun 1974 Long Beach, Los Angeles CA. SSN 458-18-2050. Joined the US Navy on 15 Jul 1918 & was discharged 11 Mar 1919. Engineer. Husband of Violet Lorraine Kidwell (1909 OK – 2001 AZ), the daughter of David Kidwell & Mary Scott. "Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 30 Aug 1929 p 1 – marriage license for Harold Kingham & Violet Kidwell. On his WWII (1942) draft registration, Harold resides in Snyder, Kiowa OK & works for Century Granite; his NOK is Violet Kingham. - One of their 4 sons was named Merle Duane Kingham. - Buried in Sunnyside Cemetery, Long Beach, Los Angeles CA. F: 224121312

Notes:

Pre-war:

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 7 Nov 1913 p 3 – Merle Kingham left for Dallas TSX on Thursday to see the sights of the Fair & to spend the winter at Cedar Hill TX.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 30 Jul 1915 p 3 – Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kingham hosted a party Saturday night in honor of their daughter Elinore's 18th birthday.

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 3 Dec 1915 p 3 – Merle Kingham went to Oklahoma City OK Friday "where he has taken out a life scholarship in a Barber college."

"Roosevelt (OK) Record" Friday 24 Dec 1915 p 2 – Merle Kingham returned last week from Oklahoma City OK where he is attending barbers college.

Wartime:

“Hobart (OK) Weekly Democrat-Chief” Thursday 26 Jul 1917 p 2 - #1420, Merle Stewart Kingham, Roosevelt OK is 1 of 2,038 draft registrants from Kiowa Co. OK. They were listed in the newspaper by the order drawn.

“Hobart (OK) Republican” Thursday 18 Oct 1917 p 8 – Merle Stewart Kingham, registrant 1420, draft number 793, of Roosevelt OK

Because the Tuscania passenger list mistakenly places his next-of-kin, father Joe Kingham, in Roosevelt, Texas, and NOT correctly in Oklahoma, newspaper accounts in 1918 are confused. The War Department sends news of his survival to Roosevelt TX. Merle has landed in a lifeboat on the isle of Islay, Scotland. Here he helps buries Tuscania casualties, among them his friend, Raymond Hurst. The news of his survival takes longer to reach than U.S. Although newspapers regularly reported him missing, one reported him dead.

“Stroud (OK) Democrat” 15 Feb 1918 p 6 – one of the Tuscania soldiers from TEXAS reported missing is Merle S. Kingham of Roosevelt.

“Houston (TX) Post” Wednesday 20 Feb 1918 p 4 – there were 37 men formerly reported as missing in action whose names were found when the Associated Press compared lists. One of the survivors is Pvt. Merle S. Kingham of Roosevelt, TEXAS.

“Roosevelt (OK) Record” Friday 18 May 1917 p 7 – the Roosevelt OK Lodge No. 231 IOOF voted to keep all its members who were in good standing when they enlisted or during their military service as members in good standing. The first name on the list is Archie G. Kingham.

Post-war:

“Roosevelt (OK) Record” Friday 15 Apr 1927 p 4 – Merl Kingham bought & took possession of a 4-chair barber shop in Chickasha & has taken up residence there.

“Chickasha (OK) Star” Thursday 26 Dec 1929 p 6 – H.L. Laudermilk & Mike Laudermilk are in the county jail, charged with stealing 2 colts from M.S. Kingham, who lives near the city.

“Hollis (OK) Post-Herald & Harmon County Tribune” Thursday 1 Jan 1931 p 1 – Archie Kingham sold his photography studio to W.T. Cornutt, who took possession as of 1 Jan 1931. Archie did good business during the 1 year he operated the studio.

“Roosevelt (OK) Record” Friday 9 Oct 1931 p 1 – Mrs. Merle Kingham visited her parents at Chickasha this week.

“Kiowa County Star-Review” (Hobart OK) Thursday 30 Jul 1936 p 5 – Mrs. L.E. Terry spent Saturday with her mother Mrs. Kingham & brother Merl [sic] Kingham & family.

“Kiowa County Star-Review” (Hobart OK) Thursday 18 Nov 1937 p 8 – the Armistice Day banquet sponsored by the American Legion at the Bon Ton Café included M.S. Kingham among its out-of-town members who attended

"Chickasha (OK) Daily Express" Friday 5 Dec 1941 p 4 – among the moves of residences: M.S. Kingham moved from 407 Pennsylvania to 302 N. 4th

Obituary:

"Daily Oklahoman" (Oklahoma City OK) 3 Oct 1972 p 34, deaths Chickasha, Merle Kingham, age 78, retired barber, services 3 Oct 1972 (Sevier)

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1900 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Co. OK – 225 Washington St.

Job Kingham, 41 IL, Sep 1858, father b. England, mother b. IL, married 18 years, photographer
 Sarah M., 36 IL, Aug 1863, father b. Scotland, mother b. Ireland, gave birth to 8 children, 5 are living
 Margaret Mary, 12 IL, Oct 1887, at school
 Archie Glenn, 8 OK, Aug 1891, at school
 Merle S., 5 OK, Aug 1894, at school
 Mary Ellines, 2 OK, Jul 1897
 Harold Russell, 2 months, Mar 1900

1910 Otter Creek, Kiowa OK

Joab Kingham, 59 IL, father b. England, mother b. IL, in 1st marriage, married 27 years, farmer, general farm
 Sarah N., 46 IL, father b. Scotland, mother b. Ireland, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 8 children, 5 are living
 Archie G., 18 OK, farm laborer, home farm
 Merle S., 15 OK
 Mary E., 12 OK
 Harry R., 10 OK

1920 Otter Creek, Kiowa OK

Joe B. Kingham, 61 IL, father b. England, mother b. IL, farmer, general farm
 Sarah M., 56 IL, father b. Scotland, mother b. NC
 Archie G., 28 OK, farmer, general farm
 Merle S., 25 OK, barber shop
 Mary E., 22 OK
 Harold R., 19 OK, farm hand, home farm

1940 Chickasha, Grady OK – 407 Pennsylvania – in 1935 lived in Roosevelt, Kiowa OK

Merle S. Kingham, 45 OK, barber, barber shop, WWI veteran
 Grace, 39 OK