

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

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TUSCANIA**Tuscania casualty****Kirk, Frank Leslie****1896 MA – 5 February 1918 Tuscania**



. SERGEANT FRANK L. KIRK,
Spencer soldier, reported lost on the
Tuscania, but whose mother and
friends believe he is alive.

BELIEVE SERGT. KIRK IS ALIVE

**Was on Tuscania and Re-
ported Missing**

SPENCER, March 9.—The parents and friends of Sergeant Frank L. Kirk of the United States Infantry, who was officially reported among the missing troops when the transport Tuscania was torpedoed off the coast of Ireland, Feb. 5, refuse to believe that he is dead and are confident they will soon hear that he is alive.

Today Mrs. Louise Kirk, the mother, who lives just outside the town, was confident that her son may have been spared, when she heard that Sergeant George Putnam, son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Putnam of North Spencer, wrote home, stating that Sergeant Kirk was safe "over there."

The day after the sinking, word was received from Washington announcing that Kirk was among the survivors. Three weeks later he was reported missing. Kirk was 22 years old. Besides his mother and sisters, he has a wife, living at 54, Vale street, Worcester. She, too, is confident that he will be found alive.

Frank Leslie Kirk (casualty) – photograph & article from "Boston (MA) Post" 10 Mar 1918 p 23

FRANK L. KIRK, SPENCER BOY, AMONG RESCUED

SPENCER, Feb 10—Mr and Mrs Charles Kirk of 22 Lake st received a telegram from Washington early today announcing that their son, Frank L. Kirk of the 158th Aero Squadron, was among the survivors of the transport Tuscania. Kirk enlisted in the Medical Reserve Corps in July.

He's alive! (error) – "Boston Globe" Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 7

ANOTHER MASS. MAN MISSING

Spencer Soldier Was on Tuscania

SPENCER, March 1.—An official telegram from Washington was received tonight by Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Kirk, announcing that their son, Sergeant Frank L. Kirk of the 100th Medical Corps, is believed to have perished when the United States transport Tuscania was torpedoed off the Irish coast in February. Kirk's name was among the survivors' list issued by the War Department soon after the disaster.

Sergeant Kirk was last heard from at the camp in Mineola, L. I., just before he sailed, when he promised his wife, who lives at 54 Vale street, Worcester, that he would cable upon reaching the other side. Mrs. Kirk is employed in the Reed & Prentice office in Worcester. The couple were married about two years ago. Before enlisting Kirk was employed as a clerk in Frederick Bolton's drug store in Spencer.

Mrs. Charles H. Kirk, mother of the missing officer, refuses to believe that he is dead and thinks he will be found in England. Kirk was born in Spencer and attended the public schools.

"Boston (MA) Post" Saturday 2 Mar 1918 p 12

SERGT FRANK KIRK LOST ON TUSCANIA

Missing Spencer Man Had Been Reported Saved

Special Dispatch to the Globe

SPENCER, March 1—Mr and Mrs Charles H. Kirk of Lake st received a telegram from the Adjutant General's office in Washington this afternoon stating that their son, Sergt Frank L. Kirk, was among the missing from the Tuscania. Two weeks ago Sunday they had received word from the same source that Sergt Kirk had been saved.

The wife of the sergeant, Mrs Frank L. Kirk of 54 Vale st, Worcester, received a message from Washington, also, conveying information of her husband being missing.

Sergt Kirk promised his wife and parents before sailing that he would cable as soon as he arrived on the other side. Having received the report of his safety from the Washington authorities they had not worried because the promised cables failed to arrive.

"Boston Globe" Saturday 2 Mar 1918 p 8

SPENCER MAN LISTED AS TUSCANIA VICTIM

WASHINGTON, March 1 — Private Carroll Scully of Toledo, O., one of the three American soldiers on the passenger list of the torpedoed troopship Tuscania not previously accounted for in any way, was officially reported tonight as a survivor.

Frank L. Kirk of Spencer, Mass., was reported among those officially recorded as missing. His name had not been carried in previous lists.

"Boston Globe" Saturday 2 Mar 1918 p 8

MARRIAGE—GROOM			
Name of Groom	Frank Leslie Kirk		
Name of Bride	Mae Helena Scanlon		
Residence of Groom	Boston, Mass.		
Date of Marriage	April 17, 1914		
Color	white	Age in Years	21
No. of Marriage	1st	Widowed	Divorced
Occupation	Drug clerk		
Place of Birth	No. Brookfield, Mass.		
Father's Name	Charles Kirk		
Birthplace	N. Y. State		
Mother's Name	Louise Kingsbury		
Birthplace	Warren, Mass.		
Name Party Officiating	Carl S. Hopkins		
Town	Brattleboro,	Certified Copy	Carl S. Hopkins Town Clerk

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1606/images/31394_206616-02381?pld=970329

Mar 13	Frank Leslie Kirk	no	Charles H. and Louise Kingsbury
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North Brookfield, MA birth record, with surname spelled Kirke -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2495/images/40143_270278_0020-00016?pld=8156927

MARRIAGE—BRIDE			
Name of Bride	Mac Helena Scanlon		
Name of Groom	Frank Leslie Kirk		
Residence of Bride	Lynn Mass.		
Date of Marriage	April 17, 1914		
Color	white	Age in Years	19
No. of Marriage	1st	Widowed	
		Divorced	
Occupation			
Place of Birth	Lynn Mass.		
Father's Name	John Scanlon		
Birthplace	Boston Mass.		
Mother's Name	Elizabeth Phillips		
Birthplace	Boston, Mass.		
Name Party Officiating	Carl S. Hopkins		
Town	Brattleboro,	Certified Copy	Carl S. Hopkins
			Town Clerk

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1606/images/31394_207423-01398?pld=1216807

**TWO DEAD, 34 HURT
IN PROVIDENCE CRASH**

Worcester-Bound Motor Bus and
One-Man Street Car
Are in Collision .

Special Dispatch to the Globe

PROVIDENCE, Nov. 7 — Two women were killed and 34 persons injured, more than a dozen of them seriously, tonight when a Worcester-bound motor bus collided with a one-man street car on Branch av, about 300 feet from the corner of Smithfield av.

The dead women and most of the injured were Massachusetts persons returning from Sunday visits in Rhode Island.

The dead: Mrs Marion Covill of Worcester and Louise Kirk of Spencer.

According to the report received by the police, the bus, in charge of Gustave Sundgren of 11 Iroquois st, Providence, was traveling in the middle of the highway as the electric car was approaching in the opposite direction. Motorman Patrick J. Cavanaugh of the electric car in-

Continued on the Seventeenth Page.

formed the police that he noticed the bus when it was turning a corner, about 400 feet away, and that he shut off his power.

Vehicles Collide

Apparently the bus driver made an attempt to turn out from the middle of the street but delayed too long with the result that the electric car hit it a glancing blow, tearing away the wheel on the life side of the conveyance.

The vestibule of the electric car was crushed in as far back as the first seat. Practically every person in the bus was injured.

Motorman Cavanaugh escaped with abrasions about the face and head, and Sundgren sustained injuries about the head and may be possibly injured internally.

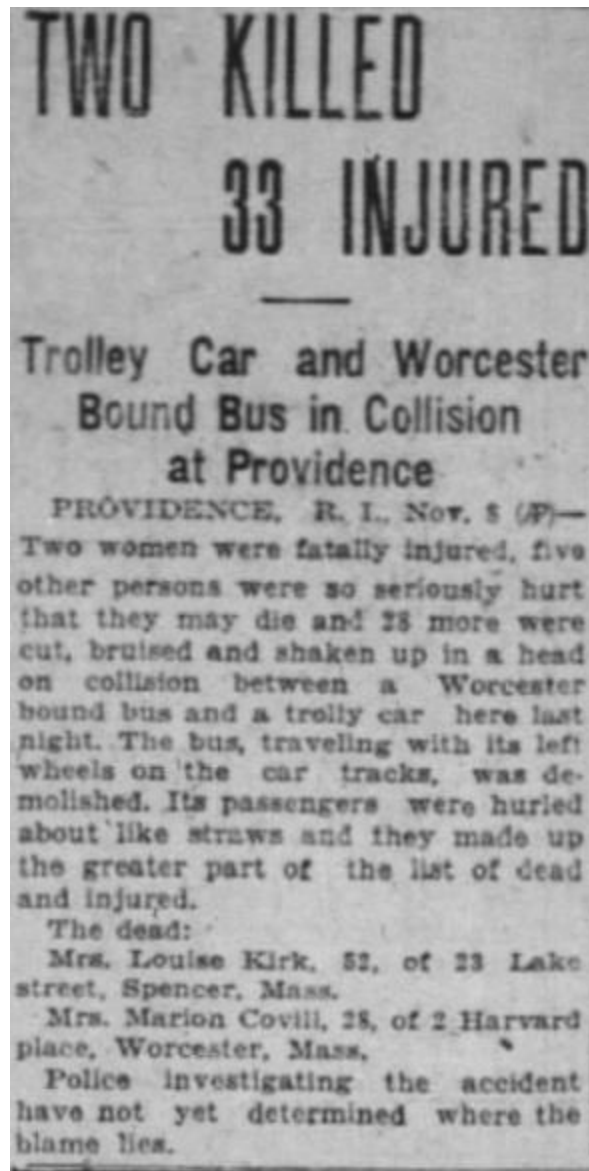
Operators Are Held

He was held under police guard at the hospital tonight. Cavanaugh also was technically held pending an investigation by the police.

Persons riding in the bus were thrown into the street and were picked up by passing motorists and two ambulances, and rushed to the Rhode Island Hospital.

Louise Kirk of Spencer died on the way to the hospital and Mrs Covill of Worcester died on the operating table. Several other persons' names were on the dangerous list late tonight.

Death of his mother in a bus/streetcar collision — "Boston Globe" Monday 8 Nov 1926 p 1, continued on p 17



Death of mother Louise Kingsbury Kirk – “Berkshire Eagle” (Pittsfield MA) Monday 8 Nov
1926 p 9

Charles H Kirk

Massachusetts Marriages, 1841-1915

Tools

Name:	Charles H Kirk • Edit
Sex:	Male
Age:	20
Birth Year (Estimated):	1875
Father's Name:	Thomas • Edit
Mother's Name:	Huldah A Thorn • Edit
Spouse's Name:	Louise Kingsbury • Edit
Spouse's Sex:	Female
Spouse's Age:	21
Spouse's Birth Year (Estimated):	1874
Spouse's Father's Name:	Lewis • Edit
Spouse's Mother's Name:	Eliza Anderson • Edit
Marriage Date:	23 Oct 1895 • Edit
Marriage Place:	Spencer, Spencer, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States • Edit

Ref: 1895-11-11 Charles H. Kirk 20 H. Brookfield 20 Shoemaker Sonoma Co. Thomas & Huldah A. Thorn 1st Rev. S. W. Brown
Spencer Louise Kingsbury 21 At Home Warren Eliza & Eliza Anderson 1st Spencer.

Marriage of parents Charles H. Kirk & Louise Kingsbury 23 Oct 1895 Spencer, Worcester MA

– Charles was a shoemaker - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DCSQ-W8G?i=481&cc=1469062&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AN4WM-Z69>

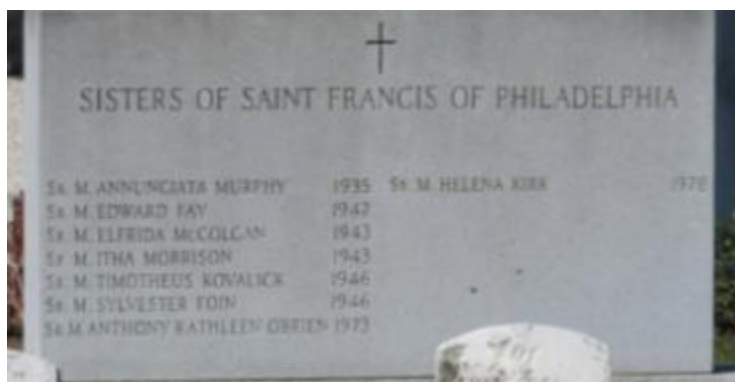
KIRK FRANK LEBLIE		X _C	2761
Pvt Med Det 100 Aero Sqdn		K	
41 Freeland St Worcester Mass		A	2 811 986
Sa	Died 2/5/18	T	453 423
Born 3/13/96		R	
Enl 9/25/17	Dia	Ct.	
		I	

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

INDEX CARD

3-12060

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1R-D8TN-L?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPTJ-9HGN>



Claims to be his wife's Find A Grave 172179694



In Spencer MA - The Isaac Prouty & Co. Shoe Factory (left) & F.W. Boulton, Druggist, ca. 1910-1920. Frank worked as a drug clerk at F.W. Boulton when he registered for the draft in 1917. Family members worked at Allen & Squire shoe factory in Spencer MA.
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:fb494q86d>

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER 3468		ORDER NUMBER 2301	
1. <i>Charles Henry Kirk</i>			
2. PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: <i>22 Lake Spencer Way Mass</i>			
Age in Years 3 <i>43</i> Date of Birth 4 <i>August 10 1875</i>			
RACE			
White	Negro	Oriental	Indian
5 ☒	6	7	8
U. S. CITIZEN		ALIEN	
Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registrant's Majority	Declarant
10 ☒	11	12	13
15. If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?			
PRESENT OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER'S NAME	
16 <i>Shoe Cutter</i>		17 <i>John T. Giguere</i>	
18. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: <i>Wall Spencer Way Mass</i>			
NEAREST RELATIVE			
Name		Address	
19 <i>Nelby Louise Kirk</i>		20 <i>22 Lake Spencer Way Mass</i>	
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE			
P. M. G. O.		<i>Charles Henry Kirk</i>	
Form No. 1 (Red)		(OVER)	

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT			BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout		
21 ✓	22	23	24	25 ✓	26	27 Blue	28 Black

29 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he otherwise physically disqualified? (Specify.) *No*

30 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

J. J. Morin
(Signature of Registrar)

Date of Registration *September 2, 1918*

Local Board for Div. No. 11
State of Massachusetts,
District Court Rooms
(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the area in which the registrant has his permanent home shall be placed in this box.)

62-4171 (OVER)

His father Charles Henry Kirk also registered for the WWI draft – on 12 Sep 1918 -
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005216154_01809?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=17837629

The cutting, stitching and lasting room in the Allen Squire Company



Frank's father, sisters & brother-in-law worked in Allen Squire shoe factory in Spencer MA.

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:fb494q986>

Name: Frank Leslie Kirk

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 100th Aero Squadron, Medical Unit - private

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

Entered service from: Spencer, Worcester MA

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Frank L. Kirk

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Louise Kirk, 22 Lake St., Spencer MA

Missing in action – body not recovered

World War I draft registration (1917): as Frank Leslie Kirk - b. 13 Mar 1896 North Brookfield MA; res: 22 Lake, Spencer MA. Married, has wife. Pharmacist for F.W. Boulton, Spencer MA. Claimed exemption from draft: "already enlisted but not sworn in" (above that line is written what appears to be May Edwards start, with the word "start" being a questionable interpretation). Medium height & build.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Born 13 Mar 1896

Enlisted 25 Sep 1917

Died 5 Feb 1918

Address: 41 Freeland St., Worcester MA

Rank/unit: private, Medical Detachment, 100th Aero Squadron

Birth & death:

Born: 13 Mar 1896 North Brookfield, Worcester MA

Died: 5 Feb 1918 aboard Tuscania – body not recovered

Find A Grave record: 55953349, presence on Tuscania indicated in text & flower

Burial location: Suresnes, Departement des Hauts-de-Seine, Ile-de-France, France

Cemetery: Suresnes American Cemetery & Memorial

Tombstone: missing in action, name on plaque

Father: Charles Henry Kirk, 10 Aug 1875 Saranac, Clinton NY – ? . Son of Thomas Kirk & Huldah Ann Thorn (1834 NY – 13 Feb 1919 Worcester Co. MA). In the 1880 census for Saranac, Clinton NY, Charles is listed as age 3 NY, living with Thomas & Huldah Kirk, both age 45, both b. NY. When he registered for the WWI draft on 12 Sep 1918, Charles Henry Kirk of 22 Lake, Spencer, Worcester MA gave a birthdate of 10 Aug 1875 US, employed as a shoe cutter for Allen & Squire in Spencer MA, NOK his wife Nellie Louise Kirk of the same address, tall in height, medium build. - Worked in shoe factories as a cutter.

Find A Grave:

Mother: Louise Kingsbury Kirk, May 1875 (1900 census) or 1894 (Find A Grave record) Warren, Worcester MA (in 1900 census) – 7 Nov 1926 Providence RI. Daughter of Lewis Kingsbury & Eliza Anderson. Her name is listed as Nettie on her daughter Florence's MA birth record. Louise was 1 of 2 fatalities when a one-man streetcar collided with a motor bus. Almost everyone on the bus was injured (with 34 injured mentioned) and 2 women who died. Louise was listed as age 52 of 23 Lake St., Spencer MA; she died on the way to the hospital. Buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, West Brookfield, Worcester MA.

Find A Grave: 130739956

Parents' marriage: 23 Oct 1895 North Brookfield, Worcester MA (also found as Spencer, Worcester MA). Charles H. Kirk, son of Thomas Kirk & Huldah A. Thorn, age 20 and Louise Kingsbury, daughter of Lewis Kingsbury & Eliza Anderson.

Spouse: Mae Helena Scanlon Kirk, 1 Oct 1892 Lynn, Essex MA [also found as Worcester, Worcester MA] - 26 Jan 1978 Worcester Co. MA. SSN 017-07-0389. Daughter of John F. Scanlon & Elizabeth M. Philips/Phillips.

In the 1920 census lived in Worcester, Worcester MA on Dorchester St. with parents John (age 50) & Elizabeth M. (age 50) Scanlon & her 3 sisters. May was age 25 MA, widow, telephone operator, telephone company.

In 1930 lived in Worcester, Worcester MA on Maywood St. with her parent & 4 siblings. She was age 33, b. MA, widowed, telephone operator, machine tool shop. She reported being age 21 at the time of her 1st marriage.

In 1940, May H. Kirk lived on Stoneland Rd. in Worcester, Worcester MA with her parents & siblings. She was age 38, b. MA, single, telephone operator.

Died with surname Kirk according to MA death record.

Ancestry.com family trees claim that she became a Catholic religious sister, Sister M. Helena Kirk, died 1978, buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Washington DC, F: 172179694.

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage: 17 Apr 1914 Brattleboro, Windham VT. Frank Leslie Kirk, age 21, resident of 18 Upton St., Boston MA, 1st marriage, drug clerk, b. North Brookfield MA, son of Charles Kirk (NY) & Louise Kingsbury (Warren MA). Mae Helena Scanlon, age 19, resident of 125 Western Ave., Lynn MA, 1st

marriage, no occupation, b. Lynn MA, daughter of John Scanlon (b. Boston MA) & Elizabeth Phillips (b. Boston MA). Married by justice of the peace Carl S. Hopkins.

Children:

Siblings: Frank was the oldest child of 3 & the only son.

- Barbara Adele Kirk, 21 Jul 1901 North Brookfield, Worcester MA – 11 May 1993 Southbridge, Worcester MA. SSN 024-09-7283. Birth registered in MA as Adell Barbara Kirk. MA death records list as Barbara A. Kirk.
- Myrtle Florence / Florence Myrtle Kirk LaFleur, 29 Jun 1903 Worcester, Worcester MA – 10 Dec 1985 Worcester Co. MA. SSN 018-42-8131 Her MA birth record lists her as Florence M. Married in Worcester Co. MA in 1921 to Raymond La Fleur/LaFleur (also Francois Raymond, Frank Raymond) (b. 24 May 1901 St. Anicet, Canada – Mar 1967). – In the 1940 census Raymond LaFleur (38 Canada [French]) & Myrtle LaFleur (36 MA) lived in Spencer, Worcester MA; he was a cutter in a shoe factory. – On his WWII draft registration (1942), Frank Raymond LaFleur of 4 Brown St., Spencer MA, listed Myrtle LaFleur as his NOK. He worked at Allen & Squire.

Notes: A Frank L. Kirk of Stoneham MA was also killed in 1918.

Much of the information found on Ancestry.com family trees & in links is incorrect, and links the wrong families.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Boston Globe" 11 Feb 1918 p 7 - Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kirk, 22 Lake St., Spencer MA received a telegram from Washington DC that son Frank L. Kirk was safe. He had enlisted in Medical Reserve Corps July 1917 & was now in the 158th (actually 100th) Aero Squadron

"Boston Globe" 2 Mar 1918 p 8 – his parents in Spencer MA & wife (at 54 Vale St., Worcester MA) get telegrams 1 Mar 1918 that Frank has died. He had promised to cable them when he arrived; they got no cables but they had believed the government notice that he was safe.

"Boston Post" 10 Mar 1918 p 23 – photo - His parents & friends & wife refuse to believe he's dead. Mrs. Louise Kirk heard that Sgt. George Putnam wrote his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Austin Putnam, that her son Frank was alive. The day after the sinking they heard he was alive, but 3 weeks later they were told he was dead. Age 22. Survived by mother, sisters, wife at 54 Vale St., Worcester

Obituary:

Censuses:

1900 West Brookfield, Worcester MA – Elm St.

Chas. H. Kirk – 24 NY, Aug 1875, parents b. NY, married 5 years, shoe cutter

Louise, 25 MA, May 1875, parents b. MA, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living

Frank, 4 MA, Mar 1896

1910 Spencer, Worcester MA – Lake St.

Charles H. Kirk, 35 NY, parents b. NY, in 1st marriage, married 15 years, cutter, shoe shop

Louise, 35 MA, father b. NY, mother b. MA, gave birth to 3 children, 3 are living

Frank L., 14 MA

Barbara D., 8 MA

Florence M., 7 MA

1920 Spencer, Worcester MA – 24 Lake St. – parents, siblings

Charles Kirk, 44 NY, parents b. NY, cutter, shoe factory

Louise, 45 MA, father b. NY, mother b. MA

Barbara, 18 MA, bookkeeper, shoe factory

Myrtle, 16 MA, packer, shoe factory

& father-in-law John Anderson, 63 MA, married, cutter, shoe factory
& a boarder