

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 document lacks 1950 census data.

Please return to Tuscania1918.org in the future to see if a revised and
finalized version is available.

Abbreviations:

b = born

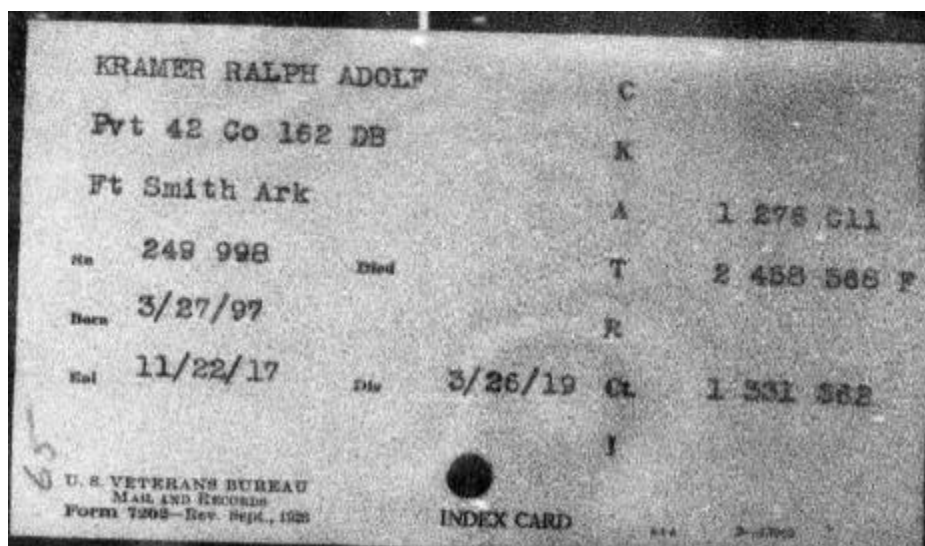
d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Kramer, Ralph Adolf 1897 AR – 1984 AR



<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1R-69WN-L?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP5-6L19>

ARKANSAN ON TUSCANIA?

**Carl Kramer of Fort Smith Believed
to Have Been on Vessel.**

Special to the Gazette.

Fort Smith, Feb. 7.—It is believed that Carl Kramer, aged 19 years, former shipping clerk of the Berry-Beall Dry Goods Company of this city, and son of Mrs. A. Kramer of Meadows, Crawford county, was aboard the Tuscania. Kramer was recently transferred to the 157th Aero Squadron, which was aboard the steamer. He enlisted in the aero service in this city three months ago. Fort Smith relatives last January received word from him that he had been transferred from the 259th to the 157th Aero Squadron, after he had been taken ill in New York, and had been prevented from sailing with the former.

Kramer wrote that his squadron sailed about eight hours before he was released from a hospital, where he had been detained with an attack of the mumps, and that he had been transferred to the 157th Squadron. He also wrote that his relatives need not expect to hear from him for another month.

Carl (?) Kramer – otherwise everything is more accurate – “Daily Arkansas Gazette” (Little Rock AR) 8 Feb 1918 p 1

KRAMER REPORTED SAFE

Alma Youth Was Among Tuscania Survivors, Says War Department.

Special to the Gazette.

Port Smith, Feb. 11.—A telegram received today from the War Department announced to local relatives that Ralph Kramer, aged 19, of Alma, was among the Tuscania survivors. Kramer was a member of the 159th Aero Squadron. Word was received Saturday that Max Friend of the 20th Forestry Engineers, also aboard the Tuscania, had been rescued. No word as yet has been received from Earl Bennett of Van Buren, also a member of the 20th Engineers, and who is believed to have been aboard the transport.

William Earl Bennett does not survive - "Daily Arkansas Gazette" (Little Rock AR) 12 Feb 1918 p 1

WAS TUSCANIA SURVIVOR

**Fort Smith Youth Says America Has
Real Cause to Fight.**

Special to the Gazette.

Fort Smith, March 6. — "Heaven help the kaiser if we ever get him," was the prayer in a letter Mr. and Mrs. Joe Friend received today from their son, Max, who was among the Tuscania survivors. "If the American people imagine they had no cause to fight the kaiser, they can change that belief, and that quickly," he writes. Friend's letter, probably because of the censorship, gives no details of the Tuscania disaster. He refers to it as having been "a terrible experience." He also refers to his rescue by a British destroyer. The writer says he is now living in northern Ireland with a Scottish regiment, and that those who survived the disaster "are in good shape."

Mrs. Lou Kramer of Meadows, Crawford county, today received a letter from her son, Ralph, another Tuscania survivor. The letter was mailed from an Irish seaport and made no reference to the disaster except that a fountain-pen which the boy's family gave him at the time he enlisted is "at the bottom of the ocean."

Letter home did not mention the Tuscania — except that the fountain pen his family gave him is now at the bottom of the ocean — "Daily Arkansas Gazette" (Little Rock AR) Thursday 7 Mar 1918 p 2

Relatives of Ralph Kramer of this city, who was also rescued in the disaster, received a letter from him yesterday stating he was well. The letter barely mentioned the Tuscania disaster. Cablegrams announced the safety of the boys shortly after the news of the disaster became public.

"Arkansas Democrat" (Little Rock AR) Thursday 7 Mar 1918 p 14

-27220 NR

Form BH-413, Rev. 100M-8-42-82782-C-M, 11

ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH—BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

DELAYED BIRTH CERTIFICATE

(Do Not Write in This Space)

1. PLACE OF BIRTH OF CHILD: County Crawford
 City or Town Alma
 Street No. or Rural Route 2

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Lora Marie Kramer

3. Is Child Male or Female? Female 4. What is Child's color or race? White 5. Was Mother Married to Father of Child? Yes 6. What was date of Child's Birth? July 22 1898
 (Month) (Day) (Year)

FATHER 7. Father's Full Name August Kramer 8. Where was Father living at the time of this birth? Alma, Ark. R. 2 9. What is Father's color? White 10. What was Father's age at time of birth? 44 yrs.

MOTHER 11. In what State or Country was Father born? Germany 12. Mother's Full Name Before Marriage Luella Riddell 13. Where was Mother living at the time of this birth? Alma Ark R. 2 14. What is Mother's color? White 15. What was Mother's age at time of birth? 34 yrs.

16. In what State or Country was Mother born? Ohio

AFFIDAVIT

State of Arkansas ss.
 County of Crawford

I hereby swear under oath in full knowledge of the penalties of the law for false statement that, to my best knowledge and belief, the facts above stated are true and correct in every particular. I am related to this child as Mother
 (Attending physician, midwife, parent, older brother or sister, or other person having knowledge of this birth) and my present age is 81 years.

(Signed) Win. L. Kramer
 Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 7 day of Sept, 1944
James H. Riddell
 (Notary Public or Other Official Empowered to Execute Oath)

My Commission Expires Nov. 3, 1946

(Do Not Write Below This Line)

Filed SEP 6 1944, 1944 T. T. Ross, M.D. State Registrar

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 This is a permanent record and must be written in INK.
 Certificates in pencil will be REFUSED.
 ALL THE QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.
 It is a CRIMINAL OFFENSE to make a false statement on this Record. Form VS-B-80

Delayed AR birth certificate of his sister Lora Marie Kramer – dated 6 Sep 1944 – birth 22 Jul 1898 to
 August Kramer & Luella Riddell -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61774/images/61774_01_00448-00955?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pId=757163

Ralph Geren Kramer

Fort Smith, AR, 1921 - 2012



Ralph Geren Kramer, 90, of Fort Smith, died Jan. 28, 2012 in Fort Smith. He was born March 8, 1921 in Fort Smith to Ralph A. and Elsie Geren Kramer. He graduated from high school in 1937 and attended the University of Arkansas, graduating in 1941. He was a member of Lambi Chi Alpha. He attended medical school at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock and graduated in 1944. He trained at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, Calif. and served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 and again in 1953 to 1954. He was chief of staff at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center when the new hospital opened and President Gerald Ford dedicated the hospital. He was also chief of staff at Sparks Regional Medical Center, president of the Sebastian County Medical Society, and president of the Arkansas Chapter of AAFP. He was on the board of Lincoln Youth Center, commissioner of War Memorial Stadium appointed by Gov. Frank White for a seven-year term. He was in family practice for 40 years-plus and then became medical director of Sparks Regional Medical Center. He served on the board of trustees and also the board of Sparks Foundation. He served on the board of Superior Bank for 25 years and is chairman of the Godfrey Thomas Foundation. He served on the board of the Fort Smith Classic, was an operator of the trolley in Fort Smith, and member of Friends of the Library board. He served as the medical director of Select Specialty Hospital. He was a member of the Arkansas Medical Society and the AMA. He was active in the U.S. Naval Reserve and retired with the rank of commander. He is survived by his loving wife, Millie Kramer of Fort Smith; one daughter, Karen Stuart and husband Steve of Dallas, Texas, Dr. Steve Kramer of Las Vegas, Nev., William Kramer and wife Mary of Biloxi, Miss., and Kenneth Kramer and wife Mari of Houston, Texas; one step-daughter, Patrice Acosta of Fort Smith and Steve Kistulentz and wife Tracy of Jackson, Miss.; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild; sister, Betty Adams and aunt, Jackie Stapleton, along with several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Delores Kramer and grandson, Colin Kramer. Funeral will be Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in Christ the King Catholic Church, with burial to follow in the U.S. National Cemetery including full military honors, all under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home. Pallbearers will be Sam Bateman, Bruce McNeill, Dr. R.C. Goodman, Jim Sparks, Doug Parker and Dr. Boyd Saviers. The family will greet friends in the Edwards Funeral Home Chapel on Monday evening from 5-7 p.m. Memorials may be made to U of A Fort Smith Season of Entertainment or Christ the King Catholic Church, 1920 S. Greenwood, Fort Smith, Ark. 72901. To sign an online guestbook visit www.edwardsfuneralhome.com.

Published January 29, 2012

OBITUARY SUBMITTED BY:

Edwards Funeral Home
PO box 3, Fort Smith, AR
E-mail: edwardsfh@yahoo.com
Phone: 479-782-8203

obituary of son Dr. Ralph Geren Kramer -
<https://www.arkansasonline.com/obituaries/2012/jan/29/ralph-kramer-2012-01-29/>

Caledonia Girl Wed in San Diego

Caledonia, Minn.—(Special)—Miss Delores Elizabeth Frank, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Frank, Caledonia, and Dr. Ralph A. Kramer, Fort Smith, Ark., were married July 26 at St. Joseph's Cathedral, San Diego, Calif.

The Rev. James Ludwig performed the double-ring ceremony.

The bride who was given in marriage by Dr. Harold M. Engelhorn, wore a gown of white brocaded taffeta with long sleeves and a tiered skirt ending in a train. Her finger-tip length veil edged with lace was held in place by a seeded crown. Her flowers were white roses and gladioli centered with a white orchid.

The matron of honor was Mrs. Carl Adams, sister of the bridegroom, who was dressed in a gown of yellow net over taffeta. She carried an arm bouquet of Tallsman roses and a coronet of roses. Bridesmaids were Miss Doris O'Brien and Mrs. Chester Mills, Jr., classmates of the bride from Rochester, Minn., who wore identical gowns of pink and blue taffeta with matching hats. They carried colonial bouquets of pastel shades. Best man was Dr. Lawrence Reck, and the ushers were Chester Mills, Jr., and Douglas Haine.

A reception was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Engelhorn, San Diego, whose home was decorated with white carnations, gladioli and asters. A wedding cake was the center piece at the bridal table.

Following the reception the couple left on a wedding trip to San Francisco, Yellowstone Park and Minnesota. For travel Mrs. Kramer wore a beige gabardine suit with brown accessories and an orchid shoulder bouquet.

The bride who is a graduate of Loretto High school, Caledonia, and St. Mary's School of Nursing, Rochester, has been employed at San Diego the past two years. The bridegroom is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and its school of medicine, Little Rock, Ark.

A reception for 40 guests was given at the home of the bride's parents Sunday in honor of the bridal couple who arrived Saturday.

Dr. and Mrs. Kramer will make their home at 2003 Dodson avenue, Fort Smith, Ark.

Delores Elizabeth Frank, of Caledonia, Houston MN married Dr. Ralph Geren Kramer on 26 Jul 1947 in St. Joseph's Cathedral, San Diego, San Diego CA – "Winona (MN) Daily News" Wednesday 6 Aug 1947 p 8

OBITUARY

Betty Lou Adams

APRIL 1, 1923 - MAY 12, 2012



A loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Betty Lou Adams, 89 of Fort Smith, entered heaven May 12, 2012. She was born April 1, 1923 in Fort Smith to the late Ralph and Elise Geren Kramer. She was a retired Financial Officer from Southside High School and a member of Central Presbyterian Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl B. Adams and her brother Dr. Ralph Kramer.

Funeral service will be 1:00 Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at Edwards Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Adam Green officiating. Burial will follow at Forest Park Cemetery under the direction of Edwards Funeral Home. She is survived by her daughter Carla Stoufer, son Gary Adams and his wife Carol of Katy, Texas and daughter Pamela Green and husband Mark of Booneville, grandchildren Rick Stoufer, Adam and Ashlie Green, Joshua Green, Rachel and Josh Jones, Felicia Adams, Rebekah and Jason Sacran, Matthew Stoufer, Leah and David Moseley, Melissa Adams, and Sarah and Bradley Irby, great grandchildren Kaitlyn, Seth, Kayden, Michael, Jacob, Allison, Audrey, Elaina, Claire, Eily, Nora, Eli, Luke, Ryan, Lillie, and Ian, and aunt Jackie Stapleton, and sister in law Millie Kramer.

Pallbearers will be her grandsons Rick Stoufer, Matthew Stoufer, Adam Green, Joshua Green, Joshua Jones, Jason Sacran, David Moseley and Bradley Irby.

The family will visit with friends Monday, May 14, 2012, from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM at the Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Western Arkansas Alzheimer's Association, 2408 South 51st Court, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903.

Obituary of daughter Betty Lou Kramer Adams - <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/fort-smith-ar/betty-adams-5101851>

Name: Ralph Adolf Kramer

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 158th Aero Squadron - private

Serial number: 249,998

Entered service from: Alma, Crawford AR

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Ralph A. Kramer

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Mrs. Muella Kramer, RFD 3, Alma AR

Returned from war on: "Mexican" Feb 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Ralph A. Kramer

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: mother Mrs. Luella Kramer, Alma AR (pvt, 158th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917):

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939 roster): 1119 N. 35th St., Fort Smith AR

World War II draft registration (1942):

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 22 Nov 1917

Discharged 26 Mar 1919

Address: Fort Smith AR

Rank/unit: private, 42nd Co., 162nd Depot Brigade

Birth & death:

Born: 27 Mar 1897 Alma, Crawford AR

Died: 7 Jul 1984 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR

Find A Grave record: 51729858 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Fort Smith, Sebastian AR

Cemetery: Forest Park

Tombstone:

Father: August (Augustus) Kramer, Aug 1854 (also found as 1852 Germany – 15 Feb 1917 Sebastian Co. AR. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith, Sebastian AR.

Find A Grave: 51729000

Mother: Lovella (Louella/Lon) J. Riddell Kramer, Mar 1863 Greene Co. OH – 10 Mar 1947 Sebastian Co. AR. Daughter of Robert Wilson Riddell & Lydia J. Speer. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith, Sebastian AR.

Find A Grave: 51729828

Parents' marriage: 21 Jun 1893 Crawford Co. AR

Spouse: Elsie Natalie Geren Kramer, 9 Oct 1900 Sebastian Co. AR – 13 Nov 1962 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR. Daughter of Andrew Jackson Geren (1876-1955, F: 46404422) & Beulah Beatrice Van Cleave (1878-1966, F: 46404428).

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage: 9 Mar 1920 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR. Ralph A. Kramer, age 22 & Elsie Natalie Geren, age 19, both residents of Fort Smith, Sebastian AR obtained their marriage license & married on the same day.

Spouse: Mabel Eddell/Eddel Creekmore Graham Kramer, 27 Aug 1909 Crawford Co. AR – 5 Feb 2001 [last residence Yuba City, Sutter CA – dying 83 years to the day since the Tuscania sank). SSN 54812-5507. Daughter of Robert L. Creekmore & Sara E. Tye. Married on 14 Nov 1931 in Washington Co. AR to Thomas Nelson Graham (1908 AR – 1970 CA, F: 27788510). Buried in Bluff Cemetery, Springdale, Washington Co. AR with Thomas.

Spouse Find A Grave: 27788486

Marriage: 1 Apr 1972 Santa Clara Co. CA. Ralph A. Kramer, age 75, married Mabel E. Creekmore Graham, age 62.

Children:

- Ralph Geren ("Billy") Kramer, 8 Mar 1921 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR – 28 Jan 2012 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR. SSN 431-26-4158, Graduated from high school in 1937. Attended Medical School of the U of AR (Little Rock AR), graduating in 1944. Trained at the US Naval Hospital (San Diego CA); on active duty with the Navy 1943-196 & 1953-1954. Chief of staff at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center; chief of staff at Sparks Regional Medical Center, president of the Sebastian County Medical Society. On various boards. Family practice physician for over 40 years. – First wife was Delores Elizabeth Frank (1924-2000, F: 17504418), daughter of Peter J. Frank (1883-1967, F: 153890024) & and Catherine Penning (1884-1972, F: 153890067), whom Ralph married 26 Jul 1947 in St. Joseph's Cathedral, San Diego, San Diego CA. – His widow was Millie Kramer. Survived by 1 daughter & 3 sons. – buried in Fort Smith National Cemetery, Fort Smith, Sebastian AR. F: 84137394
- Betty Lou Kramer Adams, 1 Apr 1923 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR – 12 May 2012 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR. Wife of Carl Bogue Adams (1919-1990, F: 34057260), whom she married when she was age 23 & he was age 27. Obtained a marriage license on 6 Dec 1946 in Sebastian Co. AR & married on 8 Dec 1946. - Retired financial officer from Southside High

School. Survived by 2 daughters & 1 son. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith, Sebastian AR. F: 34057277

Siblings:

- Walter V. Kramer, 9 Mar 1894 Van Buren, Crawford AR – 5 [also found as 15] Nov 1973 Alma, Crawford AR. SSN 430-64-9422. Buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Fort Smith, Sebastian AR. F: 51729866
- Charles August Kramer, 10 Nov 1895 Van Buren, Crawford AR – 10 Aug 1959 AR. Husband of Nina Taylor (1903-1962, F: 36703325) whom he married 3 Feb 1926 in Crawford Co. AR. Their daughter: Faye Marie Kramer (later Beller), 1927-2011. Buried in Gracelawn Cemetery, Van Buren, Crawford AR. F: 36703336
- Lora Marie Kramer McDonald, 22 Jul 1898 Alma, Crawford AR – 9 Feb 1972 AR. Name is Lora Marie on AR delayed birth certificate. Married William Norman McDonald (1906-1993, F: 39882501) when she was age 59, on 2 Nov 1957 in AR. - Buried in Gill Cemetery, Van Buren, Crawford AR. F: 39882454

Notes:

The woman "Marie Kramer" linked on Find A Grave (51729841) to Lovella is not her daughter. This is Mamie Kramer, died 1920.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Post-war:

Fort Smith AR city directory 1953

Kramer, Ralph A. (Elsie N.) salesman, Beall Dry Goods, resident of 2013 South L

Kramers, Ralph (Delores), USN [Navy], resident of 2320 South N

Obituary:

Social Security number: 4309-6137

Censuses:

1900 Alma, Crawford AR

Agustus Kramer, 47 Germany, Aug 1852, parents b. Germany, married 7 years, emigrated 1869, in US for 31 years, naturalized, farmer

Lou Ellen, 37 AR, Mar 1863, father b. Germany, mother b. OH, gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living

Walter, 6 AR, Mar 1894

Charles, 4 AR, Nov 1895

Ralph, 3 AR, Mar 1897

Marie, 1 R, Jul 1898

1910 Alma, Crawford AR

[head of household:] A. Kramer, 57 Germany, parents b. Germany, married 17 years, farmer, farm

Loualla, 47 OH, father b. PA, mother b. OH, gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living
 Walter, 16 MO
 Charles A., 14 AR
 Ralph, 13 AR
 Marie, 11 AR
 R.W. Riddell, 73 PA, widowed, parents b. PA [father-in-law]

1920 Alma, Crawford AR
 Chas. Kramer, 24 AR, farmer, farm [head of household]
 Walter, 26 AR, occupation: none [brother]
 Ralph, 22 AR, salesman, dry goods company [brother]
 Mara, 20 AR [sister]
 & mother Lon [Lou?], 57 OH, widowed, father b. PA, mother b. IA
 [for the children: father b. Germany, mother b. OH]

1930 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR
 Ralph Kramer, 35 AR, father b. Germany, mother b. AR, age 23 at 1st marriage, proprietor, grocery store
 Elsie, 29 AR, father b. TN, mother b. AR, age 19 at 1st marriage – says not a veteran, but no man on this census page is a veteran, which seems unlikely
 Billy, 9 AR
 Betty Lou, 7 AR

1940 Fort Smith, Sebastian AR – 1105 S. 22nd St. – same house in 1935
 Ralph Kramer, 43 AR, traveling salesman, shoe (?) & dry goods
 Elsie, 39 AR
 Ralph S./G., 19 AR, gas station attendant, retail gas station
 Betty Lou, 17 AR