

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)

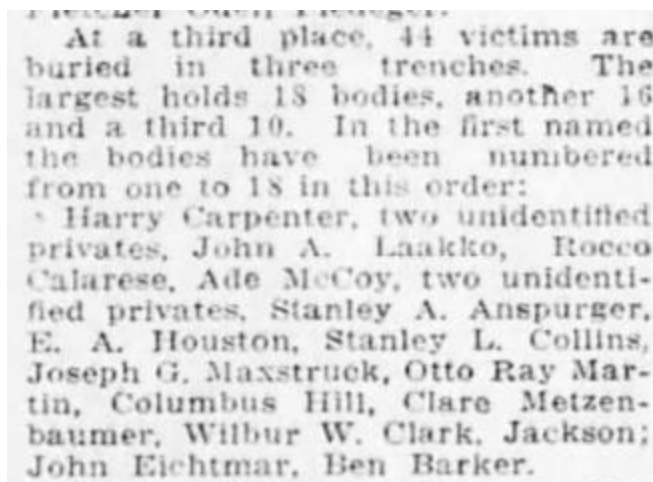
NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA

Tuscania casualty

Laakko, John Alexander

1896 Finland – 5 February 1918 Tuscania



At a third place, 44 victims are buried in three trenches. The largest holds 18 bodies, another 16 and a third 10. In the first named the bodies have been numbered from one to 18 in this order:

• Harry Carpenter, two unidentified privates, John A. Laakko, Rocco Calarese, Ade McCoy, two unidentified privates, Stanley A. Anspurger, E. A. Houston, Stanley L. Collins, Joseph G. Maxstruck, Otto Ray Martin, Columbus Hill, Clare Metzbaum, Wilbur W. Clark, Jackson; John Lichtmar, Ben Barker.

“Lansing (MI) State Journal” Wednesday 13 Feb 1918 p 2

Bodies of Five of Portland Soldier Dead Due on Friday

The bodies of six overseas soldiers are scheduled to arrive in Portland on the 3 o'clock train Friday afternoon, according to information given to Major Frank P. Tingley, depot quartermaster. All served with the Twentieth engineers. Five of the soldiers lived in Oregon. The bodies are those of Theodore E. Lew-ton of Portland, John A. Laakko of Astoria, Sidney W. Bernitt of Marshfield, E. A. Houston of Prineville, William F. Morin, 897 Gantenbein avenue, Portland, and W. Matthews of Bellingham, Wash. Funeral arrangements have not been announced.

"Oregon Daily Journal" (Portland OR) Wednesday 20 Oct 1920 p 11

Bodies of 5 Oregon Heroes Near Home

Portland, Or., Oct. 21.—The bodies of six war heroes who gave their lives in France will arrive in Portland Friday afternoon, according to Maj. Frank P. Tingley, depot quartermaster. They were members of the 20th engineers and all lived in Oregon save one. The bodies are those of Private John A. Laakko, Astoria; Private Sidney W. Bernitt, Marshfield; Private W. Matthews, Bellingham, Wash.; Private E. A. Houston, Prineville; Private William F. Morin, Tigard; and Private Theodore E. Lewton, Portland.

"Albany (OR) Democrat-Herald" Thursday 21 Oct 1920 p 3

The body of John A. Laako, a member of Company D, 20th engineers, who was drowned in the Tuscania disaster on February 5, 1918, has arrived at Astoria for burial.

"Oregon Daily Journal" (Portland OR) Wednesday 27 Oct 1920 p 10

Ellis
 LAAKKO JOHN ALEXANDER *PC* 173 258
 Pvt K
 2365 Birch St Astoria Ore A
 Sa Died 2/6/18 T 470 942
 Born 12/4/95 R
 Enl Dis Ct.
 I 116 828
 U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
 MAIL AND RECORDS
 Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1925
 INDEX CARD 3-12999

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1R-63QM-X?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP8X-J5H1>

Page 6
 OREGON

WHITE; INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ARMY OR ASSIGNED THERETO UPON ENLISTMENT.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Laakko, John A.		Pvt	Co D 6 Bn 20 Engr	Feb 5/18

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MW-K9KF-L?mode=g&cc=2996059&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP4-386H>

Form 1		REGISTRATION CARD		4725	5
1	Name in full	John Alexander Laakko		Age, in yrs. 21	
2	Home address	Knappton.	Wash.		
3	Date of birth	Dec. 4	4	1896	
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	Naturalized Citizen			
5	Where were you born?	Oulu	Oulu	Finland	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?				
7	What is your present trade, occupation or office?	Sawyer			
8	By whom employed?	Knappton Mills & Lumber Co.			
9	Where employed?	Knappton, Wash.			
10	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?	No.			
11	Married or single (which)?	Single	Race (specify which)?	Caucasian	
12	What military service have you had? Rank	No	branch		
13	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	Obliged to help support family			
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.					
If person is of African descent, tear out this corner.		 (Signature or mark)			

46-2-7 A
REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)?	Medium	Slender, medium, or stout (which)?	Medium
2	Color of eyes?	Gray	Color of hair?	Light Brown No.
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?			
	No			

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

R M Babcock
(Signature of registrar)

President Knappton

City or County Knappton

State Wash

June 5, 1917
(Date of registration)

WWI draft registration 5 Jun 1917 -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005243522_03463?treeid=&persnid=&hintid=&queryId=26f9a1c0dfbecfea0a1daf9eb613f6e3&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB24150&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=27062933

e Minister, Priest or official performing the marriage ceremony and returned to the county in which the marriage took place, within ten days from the date of the ceremony, with unfading ink. This is a permanent record. See that EVERY BLANK space is filled out. Issued at Vancouver, Washington.

FILED

MAR 20 1929

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

A15587

PLACE OF MARRIAGE, County of <u>Clark</u> Town of <u>Vancouver</u>	
GROOM	BRIDE
Full Name <u>Chas Laakko</u>	Full Name <u>Hazel Peterson</u>
Residence <u>Portland, Ore</u>	Residence <u>Portland, Ore</u>
Street and No. <u>470 7th St</u>	Street and No. <u>470 7th St</u>
Age at last Birthday <u>23</u> Years	Age at last Birthday <u>16</u> Years
Color or Race <u>white</u>	Color or Race <u>white</u>
Single, Widowed or Divorced <u>single</u>	Single, Widowed or Divorced <u>single</u>
Number of Marriages <u>1st</u>	Number of Marriages <u>1st</u>
Birthplace <u>Finland</u> State or County	Birthplace <u>Ore.</u> State or County
Occupation <u>Seaman</u>	Occupation <u>housekeeping</u>
Name of Father <u>John Erik Laakko</u>	Name of Father <u>Frank Peterson</u>
Birthplace of Father <u>Finland</u> State or County	Birthplace of Father <u>Finland</u> State or County
Maiden Name of Mother <u>Mary Alatalo</u>	Maiden Name of Mother <u>Elizabeth Henderson</u>
Birthplace of Mother <u>Finland</u> State or County	Birthplace of Mother <u>Ore.</u> State or County
Maiden Name of Bride, if She Was Previously Married	
We, the groom and bride named in this certificate, hereby certify that the information given herein is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.	
<u>Chas Laakko</u> Groom	<u>Hazel Peterson</u> Bride

We, the groom and bride named in this certificate, hereby certify that the information given herein is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Chas Laakko Groom Hazel Peterson Bride

CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY

I HEREBY CERTIFY That Chas Laakko and Hazel Peterson were joined in Marriage by me in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington, at Vancouver this 11th day of Feb. 19 29

Signatures of Witnesses	<u>Betty Peterson</u>	Signature of the person performing the ceremony.	Official Station <u>J. P. Blair</u>
	<u>Bill Lingas</u>		
	Res. <u>Billings St. No. 311 1/2</u>	Residence <u>Idaho</u>	

Marriage of brother Charles Nicholas Laakko to Hazel Peterson 11 Feb 1929 -

Ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2378/images/45654_B281821-

00397?treeid=105095069&personid=252024254385&hintid=&queryId=be81cf85aca91627e64b630f9b517faa&usePUB=true&phsrc=hFB24115&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=1055351274

1172 July 16 1908 George W. Lakka male white legitimate Franklin Township

FATHER John Lakka	Franklin Township	Finland	Miner	Oct. 10, 1908
MOTHER Maria Alatala	Franklin Township	Finland		OCT 5 - 1909

MI birth record of brother George William LAKKA – recorded 10 Oct 1908 -

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-LBZD-H5J?i=376&cc=1923472>

Oregon, U.S., State Marriages, 1906-1968 for Annie Laako
1918 > Clatsop

OF MARRIAGE
~~Astoria~~ Clatsop

Registered No.

Astoria Justice Court No. Street

Date of Marriage 8th, 20th, 1918
Month Day Year

HUSBAND	WIFE
Herbert L. Pace	Full Maiden Name Annie Laako
Fort Stevens, Or.	Residence Astoria, Oregon
White; Age 25 Years Months Days	Color White; Age 20 Years Months Days
Mexico Ky.	Birthplace Finland
Soldier	Occupation Housewife
First	No. of Marriage First
Birthplace New York	Father's Birthplace Finland
Birthplace New York	Mother's Birthplace Finland
(Signed) J. J. Carney	County Clerk

marriage of sister Annie Laakko to Herbert > Pace 20 Aug 1918 -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61677/images/61677_302022005610_0048-00189?usePUB=true&phsrc=hFB24149&phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=1221724

Herbert L. Pace	Maiden name of wife Anna Laakko
Portland, Ore	Residence of wife Clatsop Co. Ore
Number (or volume of record, etc.) 13061	Date of marriage Aug 20 1918 (Month) (Day) (Year)
plaintiff? wife (Husband or wife)	Was case contested? No
final decree May 28 1929 (Month) (Day) (Year)	Cause for which divorced Desertion
Clatsop, Ore	Number of children affected by decree None
	(Signed) J. E. Clinton County Clerk.

Anna divorced 28 May 1929 on grounds of desertion from Herbert L. Pace -
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61678/images/60966_302022005598_0305-06721?usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pld=90006674

LAAKKO—In this city, Oct. 20, 1964, Emil W. Laakko, beloved brother of Mrs. Lydia Verschueren of Astoria, Ore., Mrs. Anna Nilsen of Seattle, Herbert Laakko of Astoria, and Willard Laakko of Sacramento. Friends are invited to attend the funeral on Friday, Oct. 23, at 2 p. m., at DRISCOLL'S MORTUARY CHAPEL, 1096 South Van Ness Ave. at 22nd St. Inurnment, Olivet Memorial Park. COURTESY PARKING MOBIL STA. 22ND AND SO. VAN NESS AVE.

Obituary of brother Emil Waldemar Laakko – “San Francisco Examiner” Friday 23 Oct 1964 p 33

DEATH NOTICES

Lydia J. Verschueren — 92, of Coos Bay, died Nov. 17, 1999, in Coos Bay. Arrangements are under the direction of Coos Bay Chapel, 267-3131.

“Coos Bay (OR) World” Thursday 18 Nov 1999 p 5

One Husband Too Many

Superior Judge Lowell L. Sparks of Placer County has granted Willard Laako an annulment of his marriage to Juanita Laako on the ground she was the legal wife of L. J. Richards last March when she married Laako.

Willard Laakko's annulment on grounds his wife Juanita Richards Laako had a living husband from whom she was not divorced when he married her in Mar 1945 – “Auburn (CA) Journal” Thursday 28 Jun 1945 p 5 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/378381863/?terms=%22willard%20laako%22&match=1>

Cars Stolen, 2 Recovered

Two cars were listed as stolen and two recovered in city police reports today.

The 1946 model car of Cecil Edward Johnson, 1060 Gaines St. SE, was both stolen and recovered. It was taken Friday from his home and was found about 6:30 this morning in the 1000 block of Market street NE, officers said.

Herbert Jack Laakko, Astoria, told officers Friday that his 1957 Rambler was stolen during the night from the 300 block of Chemeketa street NE. It contained two suitcases full of men's clothing, he said.

The Jackson County Sheriff's office notified Salem police today that it has recovered the 1948 Studebaker reported stolen in Salem Aug. 27 by Marvin Whitaker, Aumsville. The driver of the car had a bill of sale signed by a man in Portland, deputies said.

The car is being held for Whitaker.

Brother Herbert Jack Laakko resident of Salem OR – "Salem (OR) Capital Journal" Saturday 12 Sep 1959 p 13

Sailor Injured In Fracas on Boat

Charles Laako, a sailor on the U. S. S. Manzanita, was treated at the Keizer hospital Sunday for head injuries received when he was assertedly struck with a baseball bat during a fracas aboard the vessel Saturday night. Laako attacked several members of the crew while he was intoxicated, according to investigating officers, and was struck down to prevent his injuring others. The man was discharged from the vessel following investigation.

Brother Charles Nicholas Laakko? – “Coos Bay (OR) World” Monday 21 May 1934 p 2

Name: John Alexander Laakko

Name variations: Johan Loakka (at Ellis Island, NYC) – Laake (burial on Islay)

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 16th/Co. D - private

Serial number: Army enlisted men were not assigned serial numbers in WWI until the sinking of the Tuscania showed their value so John did not have one

Entered service from: Astoria, Klatsop OR

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: John A. Laakko

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: father J.E. Laakko, 2365 Burch St., Astoria OR

Body 1st buried on isle of Islay, Scotland: in Kinnabus, Islay, Scotland - grave 4, as John A. Laake

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

Body listed as: John A. Laakko

Rank & unit on return ship: pvt, Co. D, 20th Engrs

World War I draft registration (1917): as John Alexander Laakko - b. 4 Dec 1896 Oulu, Oulu, Finland; res: Knappton, Okanogan WA. Single. Sawyer, Knappton Mills & Lumber Co., Knappton WA. Naturalized citizen. Claimed exemption from draft: “obliged to help support family” – medium height & build.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted

Discharged

Address:

Rank/unit:

Birth & death:

Born: 4 Dec 1896 Oulu, Oulu Municipality, Northern Ostrobothnia, Finland

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Find A Grave record: 39020547 – presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Miles Crossing, Clatsop OR

Cemetery: Lewis & Clark

Tombstone:

Father: Johan Erick Laakko, 8 Feb 1864 Finland – 19 Feb 1920 Clatsop Co. OR. Buried in Lewis & Clark Cemetery, Miles Crossing, Clatsop OR.

Was married 2 times, he responded in 1910 census.

Find A Grave: 39020546

Mother: Maria L./Mary Alatolo/Alatala Laakko, ca. 1870 Finland – 18 Feb 1940 Clatsop Co. OR. Buried in Lewis & Clark Cemetery, Miles Crossing, Clatsop OR.

Find A Grave: 39020548

Parents' marriage:

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: John was the oldest child.

- Annie (Anna) Laakko Pace Nilsen, ca. 1898 Finland - . Age 12 in 1910 census. Married Herbert L. Pace, age 25, of Fort Stevens OR, b. Mexico KY, soldier, his 1st marriage, parents b. NY on 20 Aug 1918 in Astoria, Clatsop OR. Annie was age 20, b. Finland, housewife, 1st marriage, parents b. Finland. She sued for divorce, claiming desertion, granted 28 May 1929 Clatsop Co. OR. – An Annie Laakko married in York, Ontario, Canada. – Listed as Mrs. Annie Nilsen of Seattle WA in her brother Emil's Oct 1964 obituary. – Was she the Anna Nilsen, SSN 537-12-8492, b. 21 Mar 1898, d. Oct 1986, a resident of Portland OR? Was she the Anna Nilson, b. ca. 1899, a resident of Mill Creek WA, who d. 10 Oct 1996 in Everett WA, SSN 534-07-3175?
- Emil Waldemar Laakko, 3 Jun 1902 Finland – 20 Oct 1964 San Francisco, San Francisco CA. SSN 277-32-6672. Veteran tombstone: BMC, US Coast Guard, WWII, from CA. Buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, San Mateo CA. F: 3598408
- Charles Nicholas Laakko, 28 May 1905 Franklin, Houghton MI – 12 Apr 1943 Marion Co. OR. Married in Vancouver, Clark WA as Chas. Laakko, 470 Flint, Portland OR. Married 11 Feb 1929 in Vancouver, Clark WA to Hazel Peterson, age 16, single, her 1st marriage, resident of 470 Flint, Portland OR, b. OR, occupation: housekeeping, daughter of Frank Peterson (NE) & Elizabeth Henderson (OR) – Chas. Laakko, age 23, single, his 1st marriage, resident of 470 Flint, Portland OR, occupation: S---man, b. MI, son of John Erick Laakko (Finland) & Mary Alatolo (Finland). - Buried in Lewis & Clark Cemetery, Miles Crossing, Clatsop OR. F: 39020550

- Lydia Josephine Laakko Verschueren, 1906 MI – 17 Nov 1999 Coos Bay, Coos OR. Married John Joseph Hoefke Verschueren (1906-1976, F: 174747151) on 24 Feb 1925 in Clatsop Co. OR. Buried in Ocean View Cemetery, Warrenton, Clatsop OR. F: 174747152
- Willard George Laakko, 17 [or 16] Jul 1908 Franklin, Houghton MI – 24 Feb 1976 Douglas Co. OR. SSN 544-01-5192. Birth recorded as George William LAKKA on 16 Jul 1908 Franklin Township. Listed as Willard G. (age 11) in 1920 census. Private in US Army in WWII. – Annulment of marriage: “Auburn (OR) Journal” Thursday 28 Jun 1945 p 5 – annulment decree granted 22 Jun 1945 in the case of Willard Laako against Juanita Laako as “defendant had another husband living at time of marriage to plaintiff.” – Juanita [maiden name?] was still married to L.J. Richards when she married Willard in Mar 1945. – Buried in Lewis & Clark Cemetery, Miles Crossing, Clatsop OR. F: 39020549
- Arvid Andrew Laakko/Laako, ca. 1911 MI – 26 Sep 1946 Seattle, King WA. Class of 1928, Astoria (OR) High School. Listed as Andrew A. (2 months as of 29 Apr 1910) in 1910 census. Through 1930 census, uses spelling of Laakko; in 1940 census listed as Laako & WA death records use Laako. Wife at time of death was Esta. In the 1941 Seattle WA city directory, Arvid A. Laako & Esta H. Laako live at 4419 – 24th Ave. West; he is a sawyer for SCLMCo. Is he the Arvid A. Laako who married Helen Katuala on 25 Oct 1943 in Coeur d’Alene, Kootenai ID, both of them being residents of Seattle WA? His WA death record lists mother’s maiden name was lealatolo [with an uncapitalized 1st letter] & that he is married to Esta. – Esta H. Laako married Reino O. Ross in Seattle, King WA on 18 Dec 1947.
- Herbert Jack Laakko, 15 Nov 1913 Franklin, Houghton MI – 11 May 1974. SSN 535-07-9971. On 16 Oct 1940 (WWII draft) lived at Astoria, Clatsop OR; next-of-kin was Charles Nicholas Laakko. Served in US Army 30 Apr 1942 to 12 Jul 1946. Married Velma L. Sorensen/Sorenson (1905-1984, F: 174259459) in Pacific Co. WA on 16 Aug 1969. Marriage record spells as Sorensen. “Longview (WA) Daily News” Saturday 9 Aug 1969 p 8 – marriage license application: Herbert J. Laako of Astoria OR & Velma L. Sorenson of Nahcotta WA, on 8 Aug 1969. – Last residence before death: Nahcotta, Pacific Co. WA. – Buried (as Laakko) with Velma in Ocean View Cemetery, Warrenton, Clatsop OR. F: 174259458

Notes:

Ancestry.com family tree: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/105095069/person/252024254567/facts>

Pre-war:

A Johan Erick Laakko married Maria Henrika Lappetelainen in Finland.

1917 Astoria OR city directory

Laakko

Anna, baker Astoria House Bakery, rooms at 2365 Birch

John (Mary) Laakko, yardman, H Lbr Co., resident of 2365 Birch

Wartime:

“Klamath Falls (OR) evening Herald” Wednesday 13 Feb 1918 p 1 – among the 171 Tuscania victims buried on the Scottish coast is John Laakko, Astoria OR.

“Oregon Daily Journal” (Portland OR) Saturday 16 Feb 1918 p 1 – on the official list of Tuscania dead: John A. Laakko, 2365 Burrough St., Astoria OR

Post-war:

"Salem (OR) Statesman Journal" 21 Oct 1920 p 1 & "Oregon Daily Journal" (Portland) 20 Oct 1920 p 11 - bodies of 6 war heroes arriving from France (actually Scotland) in Portland 22 Oct on 3 p.m. train, all privates from 20th Engineers, includes John A. Laakko, Astoria OR

1936 Astoria OR city directory:

Laakko

Charles, laborer, resident of 177 – 51st

Emil, resident of 177 – 51st

Herbert, resident of 177 – 51st

Mary (widow of Erick), resident of 177 – 51st

Obituary:

Censuses:

1900 Quincy, Houghton MI – father Johan Erick – his family did not emigrate until 1903
Eric Laakko, 36 Finland, Feb 1864, married, alien, emigrated 1898, day laborer, boarder with:
Henry & Ida Veio.

1910 Franklin, Houghton MI

John Leckko Sr., 45 Finland, parents b. Finland, in 2nd marriage, married 14 years, emigrated 1897, papers filed, miner, copper mine

Maria L., 41 Finland, parents b. Finland, in 1st marriage, emigrated 1901? 1903? 1907?, gave birth to 7 children, 7 are living

John Jr., 14 Finland, emigrated 1903, motorman, copper mine

Annie, 12 Finland, emigrated 1903

Emil, 7 Finland, emigrated 1903

Charles, 4 MI

Lydia, 3 MI

William, 1 MI

Andrew A., 2 months MI

1920 Astoria, Clatsop OR – 1771 – 51st St. – John has died on Tuscania

John E. Laakko, 55 Finland, parents b. Finland, emigrated 1889, naturalized 1911, laborer, lumber mill

Mary, 50 Finland, parents b. Finland, emigrated 1903, naturalized 1911

Emil, 17 Finland, emigrated 1903, naturalized 1911, laborer, lumber mill

Charles N., 14 MI

Lydia J., 13 MI

Willered G., 11 MI

Arvid A., 9 MI

Herbert J., 6 MI

& roomer Anna Mattson, 51 Finland, widow, alien