

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

LeRoy, Willis Charles
1890 TX – 1969 MT

LEROY WILLIS		<i>8-5-69 smw</i> <i>X 13663687</i>	
Pvt 17 Co 30 Engrs		K	
Illioipis Ill		A	2 830 040
Ssn 250 562	Died <i>7-26-69</i>	T	487 548
Born 3/17/90		R	
Enl 9/19/17	Dis <i>6-30-79</i>	Cl	1 682 211
		I	
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1926		INDEX CARD	

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1T-LSK3-6?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A7T25-MCN2>

Flathead Rescue Unit Finds Old Soldier Safe on Sandbar

By Tribune Correspondent

COLUMBIA FALLS—There was a happy ending to a Flathead Life-saving and Rescue Assn. midnight call Sunday.

Commander Clarke Grady of the Montana Soldiers Home here informed Sheriff Dick Walsh that Willis (Tex) LeRoy, about 65, World War I veteran and resident of the home, had been out in his boat on Flathead River fishing since 10 a.m.

Columbia Falls and Whitefish units of the Flathead Life Saving and Rescue Assn. were alerted by Walsh. Two boats went down the river in the dark. Water was treacherous. At 1:30 a.m. Walsh said they smelled smoke.

On Bruner Bar, about 5 miles below Columbia Falls, they came on the old veteran stretched out near a small fire. He jumped up with a stick, thinking it was a bear, when they approached. There were bear tracks in the vicinity, the sheriff said.

Beached on the bar was the old soldier's boat, half-filled with water. There was a life jacket. The swift current had proved too much for the boat. Walsh felt that when morning had come LeRoy would have attempted to leave the island, and likely there would have been tragedy, considering the boat and motor condition. Walsh said "It was lucky we got there during the night."

Walsh said the river was so swift that a 15 h.p. motor barely could make progress in some spots.

Commander Grady stayed up until LeRoy was found and safe.

On the mission were Sheriff Walsh, Deputy Sheriff Cecil Coombs, Bud Darling, Darvin Lundstrom, Fred Fowler, Bill Nadeau, George Walton, Dick Jarrett, James Allan and son and Dick Holter.

Dr. Walker		ARIZONA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS		STATE FILE NO. 4902	
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH					
BIRTH NO. 1209					
1. PLACE OF DEATH					
A. COUNTY Pinal		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (WHERE DECEASED LIVED, IF INSTITUTION; RESIDENCE BEFORE ADMISSION)			
B. CITY (IF OUTSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS, WRITE RURAL) Florence		A. STATE Arizona B. COUNTY Pinal			
C. LENGTH OF STAY IN THIS PLACE (IN ARIZONA) 13 Days 9 Yrs		C. CITY (IF OUTSIDE CORPORATE LIMITS, WRITE RURAL) Coolidge,			
D. FULL NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Pinal County Hospital		D. STREET ADDRESS 270 Byrd Ave.			
3. NAME OF DECEASED					
A. (FIRST) ANNIE		B. (MIDDLE) BELLE		C. (LAST) PACE	
4. SEX Female		5. COLOR OR RACE White			
6. DATE OF BIRTH					
MONTH DAY YEAR		8. AGE YEARS MONTHS DAYS			
Sept. 14, 1895		54 10 15			
9A. USUAL OCCUPATION (GIVE KIND OF WORK DURING MOST OF LIFE, EVEN IF RETIRED) Housewife					
9B. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Housewife		10. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) Texas		11. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.	
12. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (YES, NO, OR UNKNOWN) (IF YES, WAR OR DATES OF SERVICE) No		13. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. None		14. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) Ohio	
15A. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Rosa Barton		15B. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) No-Record		16. INFORMANT'S SIGNATURE D.A. Pace	
17. DATE OF DEATH July		18. CAUSE OF DEATH		19. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION	
19A. DATE OF OPERATION		19B. MAJOR FINDINGS OF OPERATION		20. AUTOPSY? YES ☐ NO ☒	
21A. ACCIDENT (SPECIFY) SUICIDE HOMICIDE		21B. PLACE OF INJURY (IF, E. G., IN OR ABOUT HOME, FARM, FACTORY, STREET, OFFICE BLDG., ETC.)		21C. (CITY OR TOWN) (COUNTY) (STATE)	
21D. TIME (MONTH) (DAY) (YEAR) (HOUR) OF INJURY		21E. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK ☐ NOT WHILE AT WORK ☒		21F. HOW DID INJURY OCCUR?	
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I ATTENDED THE DECEASED FROM July 1, 1950, TO July 29, 1950, THAT I LAST SAW THE DECEASED ALIVE ON July 29, 1950, AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED AT 12:30 P.M. FROM THE CAUSES AND ON THE DATE STATED ABOVE.					
23A. SIGNATURE Dr. Walker		23B. ADDRESS Coolidge, Ariz.		23C. DATE SIGNED 9/16/50	
24A. BURIAL CREMATION REMOVAL		24B. DATE July 31, 1950		24C. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Valley Memorial Park	
24D. LOCATION (CITY, TOWN, OR COUNTY) (STATE) Coolidge, Arizona.		25A. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. Sept 18 1950		25B. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE D.H. Martin	
25C. FUNERAL DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE D.H. Cole		25D. ADDRESS Cole & Maud Coolidge		25E. EMBALMER'S SIGNATURE D.H. Cole	
25F. CERT. NO. 209-A					

AZ death certificate of sister Annie Belle LeRoy Curtis Pace (1895-1950)

R. D. Curtis and Miss Annie Leroy of Antlers were married about two weeks ago, by Rev. L. L. Price. When the certificate of marriage was filed, it was found that Rev. Mr. Price had not registered his ordination as a minister and that therefore the marriage was not legal. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis were then re-married.

"Muskogee (OK) Daily Phoenix & Times-Democrat" Tuesday 14 Feb 1911 p 4



Ross D. Curtis & wife Anna (is this Anna LeRoy? As another wife was Anna Bopp) -

<https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/52824905/person/13413958202/media/9c5679bd-d7fe-4313-ad09-6ede3ffb9a04>

MRS. ANNIE PACE
COOLIDGE, July 29 (Special)—
 Mrs. Annie Bell Pace, 54 years old, died Friday night at Florence Hospital. She was a native of Limestone county, Tex., and had been in the community nine years.
 Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday from the Cole and Maud Mortuary Chapel with the Rev. Clyde Raether officiating. Interment will be in Valley Memorial Park.
 She is survived by her husband, Albert; a daughter, Mrs. Arthur Ferris, and two sons, Harold Leroy, and Arthur Willis, all of Coolidge; and four stepchildren, Mrs. J. F. Jennings, Coolidge; Mrs. Ocia Baldwin, Bartlesville, Okla.; D. A. Pace, LaPalma, and W. A. Pace, Bartlesville.

Obituary of sister Annie Belle Pace, which does not mention Willis – “Arizona Republic” (Phoenix AZ) Sunday 30 Jul 1950 p 9

Willis Leroy was fined \$25 by Madsen for fishing in closed waters. When he could not pay the fine he was turned over to the county jail.

“Daily Inter Lake” (Kalispell MT) Saturday 19 May 1951 p 2

Montana, U.S., Prison Records, 1861-1968

Flathead County Jail > Jail Register (1861-1968)

7073	WIKKIS	NAI	LERoy	61	5	8	130	GRAY	Blue	Light	DAHAM,
											TEXAS
518	57	MADSEN	GAME VIOL								
			\$25 FINE	5	30	51					SERIED OUT FINE

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61261/images/40665_b323499-00149?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&usePUBJs=true&pId=45972

Name: Willis Charles LeRoy

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 17th/Co. E - private

Serial number: 250,562

Entered service from: Antlers, Pushmataha OK

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Willis Leroy

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": sister Annie Leroy, Antlers OK

Returned from war on: "Santa Paula" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Willis Leroy

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: sister Miss Annie Leroy, Antlers OK (pvt, 17th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Willis Leroy - b. 17 Mar 1890 Dallas TX; res: Soper, Choctaw OK. Single. Farming for E.O. Oakes, northeast of Soper OK. Medium height & build.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939 roster):

World War II draft registration (1942): as Willis (none for middle name) Leroy - b. 17 Mar 1890

Dallas TX; res: Townsend, Broadwater MT. NOK contact John Graveley, Townsend MT. Employed by John Graveley, Townsend, Broadwater MT. Height: 5'8" - weight: 130 lbs.

[https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1002/images/44480_02_00004-](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1002/images/44480_02_00004-01292?usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB26751&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=17387175)

[01292?usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB26751&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=1738717](https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1002/images/44480_02_00004-01292?usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB26751&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=17387175)

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Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted 19 Sep 1917

Discharged 30 Jun 1919

Address: Illiopolis IL [Illiopolis]

Rank/unit: private, 17th Co., 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 17 Mar 1890 Dallas, Dallas TX

Died: 26 Jul 1969 Missoula Co. MT

Find A Grave record: 85690852 - presence on Tuscania indicated in text & flower

Burial location: Crow Agency, Big Horn Co. MT

Cemetery: Custer National Cemetery

Tombstone: veteran tombstone: Texas Pvt 17 Co 20 Engineers WWI

Father: Charles A. LeRoy, b. Dec 1863 (or does it read Sep?) OH, father b. France, mother b. MI in 1900 census.

Find A Grave:

Mother: Rosanna (Rose/Rosa) A. Barton LeRoy, Feb 1868 Leesville, Lawrence IN or Flinn, Lawrence IN - . Daughter of Moses Barton & Mary A. White. Alive in 1910 census.

Find A Grave:

Parents' marriage: 9 Jun 1889 McLennan Co. TX

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings:

- Annie Belle LeRoy Curtis Pace, 14 Sep 1895 TX – 29 Jul 1950 Florence, Pinal AZ. Wife of Albert A. Pace, whom she married 24 Dec 1919 in Bryan Co. OK. She was age 24, a resident of Antlers OK & A.A. Pace was age 35, a resident of Wapanucka OK. Also apparently wife of Ross D. Curtis (1893 AR – 1958 TX, F: 28721487) on 4 Feb 1911 in Antlers OK. Due to a technicality about the minister's paperwork, they had to be remarried. AZ death record notes her birth on 14 Sep 1895 TX, death 29 Jul 1950 at Pinal County Hospital, Florence, Florence AZ, after a stay of 13 days. Resident of 270 Byrd Ave., Coolidge, Pinal AZ. Had lived 9 years in AZ. Buried in Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, Coolidge, Pinal AZ on 31 Jul 1950. F: 53240307

Notes: **Caution:** many of the records on Ancestry.com family trees are incorrect.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Daily Ardmoreite" (Ardmore OK) Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 1 – Williams LeRoy, sister Miss Anna Leroy, Antlers OK, on board

"Daily Oklahoman" (Oklahoma City OK) 11 Feb 1918 p 1 – among the saved, reported by the War Department: Willis Leroy, Antlers OK

Post-war:

Flathead County MT Jail records #7073 – Willis [no middle initial] LeRoy, age 61, 5'8", 130 lbs., gray hair, blue eyes, light complexion, born Dallas TX. Arrested 18 May 1951 by Madsen for a game violation, fined \$25, served out the fine, discharged 30 May 1951.

Obituary:

Social Security number: 507-09-1040

Censuses:

1870 Flinn, Lawrence IN – his mother – conducted 28 Jul 1970

Moses Barton, 36 IL, miller

Mary A., 34 MS, keep house

Heston, 14 IL, at home [son]

Nancy, 12 IL, at home

John P.D., 10 IL, at home

Francis M., 6 IL, at home
 Wm. H., 4 IN, at home
 Rosanna, 2 IN, at home
 Julissa, 2 months IN, at home

1900 Mineral, Sevier AR

Charley Leroy, 36 OH, Dec (Sep?) 1893, father b. France, mother b. MI, married 10 years, teamster, saw mill
 Rosy, 32 IN, Feb 1868, parents b. MS, gave birth to 2 children, 2 are living
 Willie, 9 TX, Mar 1891, father b. OH, mother b. IN
 Annie, 4 TX, Mar 1896, father b. OH, mother b. IN
 & boarder Minnie Barton, 19 GA, May 1881, parents b. GA, married 2 years, zero children

1910 Antlers, Pushmataha OK

Rosa A. Leroy, 42 IN, widow, parents b. AL, seamstress, at home, gave birth to 4 children, 2 are living
 Charles W., 20 TX, father b. OH, mother b. IN, farmer, general farm
 Annie B., 14 TX, father b. OH, mother b. IN, occupation: none
 Oliver D. Barton, 38 IN, teamster, saw mill [brother]
 Dora C. Barton, 32 TX [Oliver's wife] & their 4 children

Cannot locate other censuses