

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

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TUSCANIA

**One of the Baraboo 21
Mahler, Richard Lorraine
1897 WI – 1985 WI**



Richard Mahler – courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA



Surviving members of "Baraboo's 21," who escaped alive when the troopship, Tuscania, was sunk in World War I, with a loss of 147 American lives, will hold a dinner and smoker at Baraboo Saturday on the 31st anniversary of the sinking of the ship. Among the 2,030 American soldiers aboard the transport when it was sunk by a German submarine Feb. 5, 1918, off the coast of Ireland were 21 Baraboo soldiers. Fifteen of the 21 are alive but one of them, Wayland Kier, now lives in Montana. The other 14 are expected to attend the reunion in the Baraboo Legion club. The 14 expected at the anniversary celebration are pictured above. They are, from left to right: front row, Richard Mahler, Maywood, Ill.; Horace Cahoon, Lake Delton; Paul L. Stewart, Baraboo city clerk; Edward Coughlin, Baraboo; Charles Kellogg, Janesville, and James Bray, and Randall Herfort, Baraboo; back row, Otto Bates, Baraboo; Earl Veerhusen, Milwaukee; Otto Arndt, Reedsburg; and Earl Powell, Clarence Braun, Arthur Thayer, and Herbert Steckenbauer, Baraboo.



Richard Lorraine Mahler – front, far left - "Madison (WI) Capital Times" Friday 4 Feb 1949 p 12

OBITUARY - RICHARD L. MAHLER

The Iron River Pioneer, Wisconsin May 2, 1985

Richard L. Mahler, 88, Baraboo, died on Tuesday morning, April 23 at the Jefferson Meadows Care Center. He was born in Baraboo on Feb. 17, 1897, the son of Albert and Myra Jane (O'Dell) Mahler. He married the late Ruth Downie, who died in 1968. He was a World War I veteran and a survivor of the Tuscania, the only troop ship sunk by the Germans during World War I. He was a mail carrier for the post office for over 30 years and he was a member of the American Legion Post No. 26, Veterans of World War I Barracks 3127 WI, a life member of Parshall Cummings VFW No. 2336, life member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 28 Washburn-Ashland; a member of the Wisconsin Tuscania Survivors and Elks Lodge 688.

Survivors are a brother, Phillip, Baraboo; a step-son, William Sheldon, Hillside, Ill.; a niece, Mrs. Clarence (Elaine) Klingensmeyer, Milton; two grand-nieces, Debra and Darcy; and a grand-nephew, David. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Grace Frank; a brother, Robert.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 25 at 2 p.m. at the Hanson Funeral Home with Gordon Cline officiating as chaplain. Military honors were accorded at Oak Hill Cemetery, North Freedom. Washburn friends attending the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guski and son, Bryon and also Mrs. Guski's mother, Mrs. Mae Traaholt from Ashland. Mr. Mahler had lived in Washburn for over 30 years before going to the Jefferson Meadows Care Center.

Courtesy of Steven Schwartz of Renton WA

MOHLER RICHARD L		C	523 025
MAHLER RICHARD LORRAINE		K	127 167F
Corp Co F 101 Sup Tn			
418 N 5th Ave Maywood Ill		A	2 349 443
Ssn	251 227	Died	T 157 271
Born	2/17/98		E 174 862
Enl	7/15/17	Dte	4/26/19
		Ct.	1 103 697
		I	

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

INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1Y-2C7G-M?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A7B8W-3HW2>

Father:

Albert R. Mahler

BARABOO—Albert R. Mahler, 84, a life-long resident of Baraboo, died Saturday at a Baraboo hospital after a long illness.

Mr. Mahler was employed as a conductor on the North Western Railway co. until his retirement 18 years ago.

Among the survivors are his wife; three sons, Richard and Robert, Maywood, Ill., and Philip, Baraboo; and two sisters, Mrs. William Rindfleisch and Mrs. William Dwars, Rock Springs.

The body was taken to the Hanson funeral home where friends may call today after 3 p.m. Services will be held Monday at 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be at the Oak Hill cemetery, North Freedom.

Obituary of father Albert R. Mahler, d. 3 Dec 1955 Baraboo WI – “Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) Sunday 4 Dec 1955 p 36

Albert Mahler, a brakeman on the Northwestern road, living at Baraboo, was struck by the engine of the north-bound paper train in this city Wednesday morning, and badly bruised. His injuries are not considered serious.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Friday 14 Jan 1898 p 1

Mother:

Deaths in Area
Baraboo — Mrs. Myra J. Mahler, 95, died in a Reedsburg hospital Wednesday.

Death of Myra J. Mahler, d. 1 May 1968 Reedsburg WI – "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Thursday 2 May 1968 p 30

Wife:

FORMER RESIDENT SUCCUMBS IN WEST

Mrs. Effie Downie, 70, wife of E. W. Downie, a brother of Mrs. Fred Conklin of this city and former resident here, died at her home in Portland, Ore., Thursday following an extended illness.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Algernon Fry, she was born near Baraboo, Wis., June 2, 1870, and was married in Baraboo Jan. 23, 1896.

Prior to removing to Portland three years ago, Mr. Downie was a train dispatcher for the North

Western railroad in Chicago for 35 years and retired on a pension.

Mrs. Downie leaves a daughter, Mrs. Richard Mahler, of Maywood; a sister, Mrs. John Greeney, of Portland; and a grandson, William Sheldon, of Maywood. The late Howard Fry of this city was a brother.

The Downies lived here one year when Mr. Downie was employed at the North Yard but the home had been made for many years at Maywood prior to going west.

Child:

Richard Mahler

mentioned in the record of Baby Mahler

Name:	Richard Mahler
Birthplace:	Barsboo, Wisconsin
Sex:	Male
Wife:	Ruth Frye Downie
Daughter:	Baby Mahler

Other information in the record of Baby Mahler from Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947

Name:	Baby Mahler
Event Date:	22 Sep 1931
Event Place:	Melrose Park, Cook, Ill.
Sex:	Female
Race:	white
Age:	0
Birth Year (Estimated):	1931
Birth Date:	22 Sep 1931
Birthplace:	Melrose Park, Cook, Ill.
Father's Name:	Richard Mahler
Father's Birthplace:	Barsboo, Wisconsin
Mother's Name:	Ruth Frye Downie
Mother's Birthplace:	Malta, Illinois
Residence Place:	Melrose Park, Cook, Ill.

Burial Date:	23 Sep 1931
Burial Place:	Maywood, Ill.
Cemetery:	Waldheim

IL death record of infant daughter, born 22 Sep 1931, buried 23 Sep 1931 -
<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/9KZP-NMR>

Siblings:

Frank Services Held at Baraboo

(State Journal News Service)

BARABOO — Funeral services were held here Thursday for Mrs. Grace M. Frank, 43, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Mahler, who died Tuesday night at the Sauk county hospital after seven years of illness. She is survived by her parents, a son, Walter, who lives with the grandparents, and three brothers, Richard and Robert, Maywood, Ill., and Philip, Baraboo. Mrs. Frank will be buried in the North Freedom cemetery after services at the Mahler home at 2 p. m.

His sister Grace Mahler Frank, who died 14 Dec 1937 after an illness of 7 years -
"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Friday 17 Dec 1937 p 16

Deaths in Area

Baraboo — Robert A. Mahler, 62, died Monday at home.

Death of brother Robert A. Mahler – "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Tuesday 22 Jul 1969 p 16

Mahler, Phillip J.
BARABOO — Phillip "Phid" J. Mahler, age 78, of Baraboo, died Thursday, February 11, 1988, at the Sauk County Health Care Center. He was born on June 11, 1909, in rural Sauk County, the son of Albert and Myra (O'Dell) Mahler. He married Lena Meisel in 1932, and she preceded him in death in July of 1979. Mr. Mahler had worked as a plumber for many years at Schadde Plumbing in Baraboo and, later, at Pharo Plumbing and Heating in Madison. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Richard and Robert and, one sister, Mrs. Grace Frank. He was a member of the National Rifle Association and Plumber's Local #167 of Madison. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Clarence (Elaine) Klingenmeyer of Milton, Wisconsin; three grandchildren, Debra Collins of Janesville, Darcy Calhoun of Janesville, and David Klingenmeyer of Rockford, Illinois; and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services will be Monday, February 15, 1988, at 1:30 p.m. in the HANSON FUNERAL HOME. Pastor Emil G. Toepel will officiate. Interment will be in the Oakhill Cemetery in North Freedom, Wisconsin. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Obituary of brother Phillip J. Mahler (1909-1988) – "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI)
 Saturday 13 Feb 1988 p 34

Life:

Driver Richard Mahler who was operating the Overland car which smashed into the Caledonia Ford on the outskirts of Portage Saturday night appears to have more or less misfortune of late and he was just recovering from the nervous shock of the Portage collision when on Monday he broke his arm while cranking an automobile. The Baraboo News says: "Once before he broke the same arm in cranking a machine and previous to that fell and broke the member. Mr. Mahler was driving the car which turned over with five passengers, three young ladies and two young men, on the Portage road on Saturday night. Evidently the fates are pursuing him. He will be incapacitated for work for some time. Mr. Mahler is employed at the Mather garage."

"Portage (WI) Daily Register" Wednesday 6 Oct 1915 p 3

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Mahler recently entertained their sons and families, Richard and Robert Mahler, of Maywood, Ill.; their grandson, Walter M. Frank, who is with the specialized pilot training squadron at Lockbourne army air base, Columbus, O., and Donna Ann Gefers, Beloit. Frank recently returned from a flight to Newfoundland and Belle Isle.

"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Thursday 30 Dec 1943 p 7

Name: Richard Lorraine Mahler

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. E - corporal

Serial number: 251,227

Entered service from: Baraboo, Sauk WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Richard Lorraine Mahler

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father A.B. Mahler, 410 - 5th St., Baraboo WI

Returned from war on: "Winifredian" Apr 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Richard L. Mahler

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Albert R. Mahler, 808 - 5th St., Baraboo WI (cpl, Co. F, 101st Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917):

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939 roster): 1939 NTSA: 2024 S. 8th Ave., Maywood IL & Baraboo WI - 1955 WI Survivors: 1950 N. River Rd, Melrose Park 2, IL, then amended to 922 W. Bayfield St., Washburn WI

World War II draft registration (1942): as Richard Loraine [sic] Mahler – b. 17 Feb 1897 Baraboo WI; res: 2024 S. 8th Ave., Maywood, Cook IL. NOK Mrs. R. Mahler, same address. Employed at US Post Office, Maywood IL. Height: 5'6" – 140 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index: as Richard Lorraine Mahler / Richard Lorraine Mohler

Enlisted: 15 Jul 1917

Discharged: 25 Apr 1919

Address: 418 N. 5th Ave., Maywood IL

Rank/unit: corporal, Co. F, 101st Supply Train

Birth & death:

Born: 17 Feb 1897 Baraboo, Sauk WI

Died: 23 Apr 1985 Baraboo, Sauk WI (Find A Grave: Nov 1895)

Find A Grave record: 53863447 – presence on Tuscania indicated in flower

Burial location: North Freedom, Sauk WI

Cemetery: Oak Hill

Tombstone:

Father: Albert R. Mahler, Apr 1871 Germany – 1955 Baraboo, Sauk WI. Railroad conductor. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, North Freedom, Sauk WI. On some censuses, he reports being born in WI. Find A Grave: 53863442

Mother: Myra Jane O'Dell Mahler, 9 Apr 1873 North Freedom, Sauk WI – 1 May 1968 Reedsburg, Sauk WI. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, North Freedom, Sauk WI.

Find A Grave: 53863445

Parents' marriage: 22 Mar 1893 Sauk Co. WI

Spouse: Ruth E. (Fry?) Downie Sheldon Mahler, 12 Jun 1900 Chicago, Cook IL – May 1968 Washburn, Bayfield WI. Daughter of E.W. Downie & Effie Fry (1870-1940).

First married to George William Sheldon (4 Jun 1899 Rock Island IL). They had a son, William Harold Sheldon (see below). On his WWI (1917) draft registration, George was living at 1546 – 7th Ave., Moline, Rock Island IL, was an auto mechanic & NOK was Ruth E. Sheldon, same address. George married on 2 Sep 1922 to Ruth A.E. Johnson. Because both his wives were named Ruth, Ancestry.com family trees incorrectly attribute their son William Harold Sheldon as the son of Ruth Johnson, but he was born before his father's 2nd marriage. In 1942 (WWII draft card), George lived at 608 S. 9th Ave., Maywood IL.

In the 1920 census, George & Ruth lived with his parents, George E. & Belle H. Sheldon, in Maywood, Cook IL.

Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, North Freedom, Sauk WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 53863449

Marriage: 24 Jan 1928 Cook Co. IL – Ruth Shelden [sic], age 28 & Richard L. Mahler, age 30

Child:

- Infant daughter Mahler, b. 22 Sep 1931 Melrose Park, Cook IL. Buried 23 Sep 1931 in Maywood, Cook IL. Mother listed as Ruth Frye Downie.

Stepson: by his wife Ruth Downie's 1st marriage, to George William Sheldon:

- William Harold Sheldon, 7 Jan 1921 Oak Park, Cook IL – 22 Aug 1992. SSN 330-07-5422. IL birth record lists father as William Sheldon, age 21 & mother as Ruth Downie, age 20. He might be the William H. Sheldon who married Joan J. Blish on 3 Jun 1949 in Cook Co. IL or the one who married Amanda Hart on 7 Jul 1942, also in Cook Co. IL.

Siblings:

- Grace Marie Mahler Frank, 1894 WI – 14 Dec 1937 Sauk Co. WI. Died after an illness of 7 years. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, North Freedom, Sauk WI. F: 52207871
- Robert Albert Mahler, 26 Feb 1907 Baraboo, Sauk WI – 21 Jul 1969 Baraboo, Sauk WI. Husband of Mollie (b. 1910). Also husband of LaVerne J. (1914-2012, F: 53863443). Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, North Freedom, Sauk WI. F: 53863448
- Phillip Jasper Mahler, 11 Jun 1909 Baraboo, Sauk WI – 11 Feb 1988 Baraboo, Sauk WI. Husband of Lena Meissel (1899-1979, F: 53863444), whom he married 15 May 1932 in Chicago, Cook IL. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, North Freedom, Sauk WI. F: 53863446

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Post-war:

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Sunday 7 Feb 1943 p 11 – for the 25th anniversary of Tuscania, the Baraboo 21 will have dinner at the Warren Hotel on Saturday. One of those hoping to attend: Richard Mahler, Maywood IL.

“Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) Tuesday 6 Feb 1945 p 8 – there were 14 of the Baraboo 21 at the reunion dinner at the Ritz, with 3 out-of-towners present, among them Richard Mahler of Maywood IL.

“Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) Monday 9 Feb 1948 p 8 – the 30th anniversary reunion of the Baraboo 21 from the Tuscania was held Saturday at the American Legion. Of the 21, 7 are dead. All but 2 of those still living were present. Richard Mahler of Maywood IL is still alive.

Obituary:

Social Security number: 353-14-9211

Censuses:

1900 Baraboo, Sauk WI – 419 - 6th St.

Albert Mahler, 29 Germany, Apr 1871, parents b. Germany, married 7 years, emigrated 1880, in US for 23 years, naturalized, indexed as “saleswoman” but not correct, begins with an “H” (it appears), railroad

Myra, 27 WI, Apr 1873, father b. NY, mother b. PA, gave birth to 2 children, 2 are living

Grace, 5 WI, Aug 1894

Richard, 3 WI, Feb 1897

1905 WI state census – Baraboo, Sauk WI - as of 1 Jun 1905

A.R.. Mahler, 34 Germany, parents b. Germany, conductor

Myra, 32 WI, father b. NY, mother b. PA

Grace, 11 WI

Richard, 8 WI

1910 Baraboo, Sauk WI – 315 – 5th St.

Albert R. Mahler, 39 WI, parents b. Germany, in 1st marriage, married 7 years, conductor, railway

Myra J., 37 WI, father b. NY, mother b. PA, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 4 children, 4 are living

Grace M., 15 WI

Richard L., 13 WI

Robert A., 3 WI

Phillip J., 10 months Wi

1920 Baraboo, Sauk WI - 808 – 5th St. – record is faint & hard to read

Albert R. Mahler, 48 WI, parents b. Germany, age 22 (?) at 1st marriage, conductor, railroad

Myra J., 46 WI, father b. NY, mother b. PA, age 18 (?) at 1st marriage

Richard L., 22 Wi, machinist, garagte

Robert A., 12 WI

Phillip J., 10 WI

1920 Maywood, Cook IL – his future wife with her 1st husband

George E. Sheldon, 53 MI

Belle H., 44 MI [wife]

George William, 20 IL [son]

Clarence P., 18 IL [son]
Helen B., 7 IL [daughter]
George E. Jr., 4 IL [son]
Ruth, 19 IL [daughter-in-law – wife of George William Sheldon]

1930 Maywood, Cook IL – 10 N. 5th Ave.
Richard L. Mahler, 33 WI, parents b. WI, mail carrier, Post Office, WWI veteran
Ruth, 29 IL, father b. WI, mother b. CO

1940 Maywood, Cook IL – 2024 S. 8th Ave.
Richard Mahler, 43 WI, mail carrier, US mail service
Ruth, 39 IL