

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.

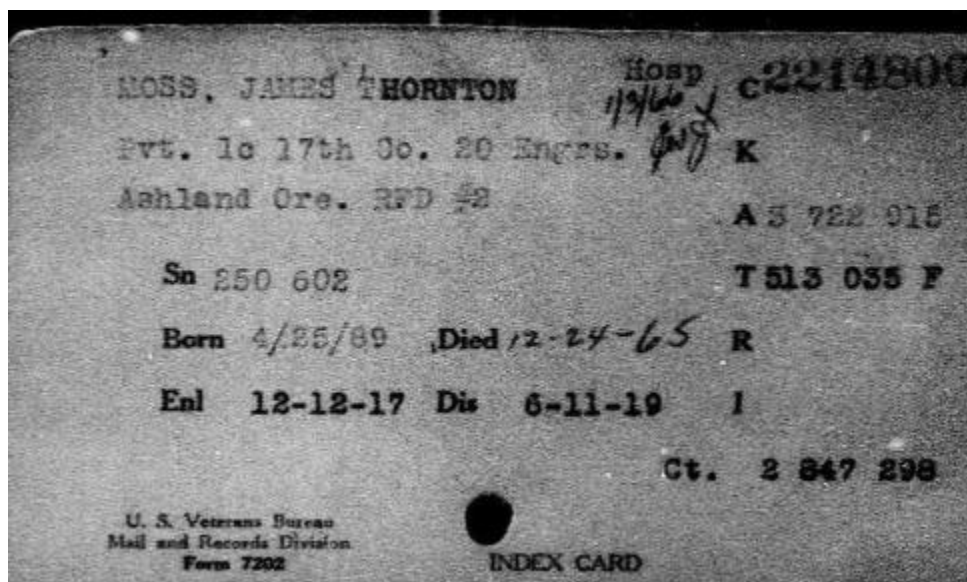
Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA**Moss, James Thornton
1889 IN – 1965 CO**

James F Moss

Oregon, World War I, Veteran State Aid Applications, 1921-1938

Name:	James F Moss
Event Type:	Military Service
Event Date:	8 Dec 1917
Event Place:	Klamath Falls, Klamath, Oregon, United States
Event Place (Original):	Klamath Falls, Oregon, United States
Residence Place:	Klamath Falls, Oregon
Military Final Rank:	Pvt 1cl
Birth Date:	25 Apr 1887
Birthplace:	Corry Ind
Relative's Name:	Mary E Moss
Serial Number:	250602

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/L1VT-MKM>

CLAY COUNTY BOY ON THE TUSCANIA AMONG THE SAVED

JAMES THORNTON MOSS OF NEAR SALINE CITY, LISTED AMONG THOSE WHO WERE SAFELY LANDED AFTER BRITISH TRANSPORT CARRYING UNITED STATES TROOPS ARE SUNK—BROTHER RECEIVES NEWS AT CORY AND TAKES IT TO MOTHER, WHO IS WORRIED ILL OVER FEARS FOR SAFETY OF HER SON JAMES.

Private James Thornton Moss, of Cory, listed among the soldiers who were saved after the transport Tuscania was sunk by a German submarine, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Moss, living west of Saline City on a rural route out of Cory.

News of the Clay County boy being saved was given to a brother, who was in Cory today. The brother took the good news home to his parents, and it was especially gratifying to his mother, who is ill and greatly worried over the boy's safety when it was learned that he had probably sailed for Europe.

Is in Engineer Corps.
 Young Moss is 25 years of age. For the past five years he has been working in the northwest, in Oregon, and enlisted in the 32nd Engineer Corps, a lumberman's regiment. He had previously worked in the saw mills. The last word received from him was that he had left the cantonment in Washington for New York.

"Brazil (IN) Daily Times" Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 1

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7—Two San Franciscans are among those rescued from the *Tuscania*, according to officers of the Twentieth engineer recruiting office.

These were among the 30 reported as having landed at Fort Ellen, Islay, Scotland. They are Harry A. Keller and James T. Moss.

Keller enlisted here on December 5. He is 39 years old and gave his address as 440 First street, San Francisco, and near friend, Lille H. Fuller, of the same address.

Moss, aged 27, also enlisted on December 5th. He was born at Terre Haute, Ind. His next of kin is his mother at Cory, Ind. He came from Klamath Falls, Oregon, and joined the forestry branch.

"Pomona (CA) Progress" Thursday 7 Feb 1918 p 3

Some of the Survivors Reach Port Ellen, Islay, Scotland



WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—Among the survivors of the *Tuscania* arriving at Port Ellen, Islay, Scotland, were: Second Lieutenant Frank L. Baker, engineers; following belong to Company E, 6th battalion, 107th engineers: First Lieutenant Schweissinger, Sergeant Harry Kelly, Corporal Howard E. Bullock, Corporal William A. Cherry, Privates Alva Bowman, William A. Hickring, Charles H. Ineck, Harry A. Keeler, Lloyd Ledbette Haslett, James T. Moss, Walter Maczarek, David Foe, Edward B. Peterson, J. W. Redd, L. M. Roberts, Lee F. Terzia, Ralph Uphus, A. Van den Driessche, Collman White, John S. Williams, Edward L. Anderson, Tom A. Ashby, Frank S. Broz, James Basye, Alexan-

der M. Bush. From the 107th supply train: Private H. Kleist, 158th aero squadron; Privates John B. Fleming and Edward F. Klingman.

"Richmond (IN) Palladium-Item" Thursday 7 Feb 1918 p 1

Mother:

WOMAN MAY BE FATALLY INJURED

MRS. RUFUS MOSS, INJURED IN
JUMPING FROM A BUGGY
YESTERDAY EVENING.

HORSE WAS FRIGHTENED

Mrs. Moss Jumps From Buggy When
Horse Became Frightened at
Passing Automobile and is
Still Unconscious.

Mrs. Rufus Moss, living near Ashboro, about ten miles south of Brazil was probably fatally injured about six o'clock last evening in jumping from her buggy. She has been unconscious since the accident and Dr. Moss, who is attending her has fears for her life.

Mrs. Moss, in company with Mrs. J. C. Moss and Roy Fogle, a young boy, were riding in the vehicle coming from the home of Edward Heck, where they had been to see an injured girl. At a point about one hundred yards from Mitchell's store in Ashboro, at a narrow place in the road, an automobile containing four men, driven by Henry Richter of this city, came along. The horse became frightened, but the horse did not show any signs of running away and the machine went by. The horse apparently waited until the machine had gone by before attempting to run away, for the men in the automobile knew nothing about any accident until they were stopped nearer town and the number and driver of the machine taken.

The boy who was driving the horse had trouble in controlling it. The horse began to back, when Mrs. J. C. Moss struck it with a whip. The horse dashed forward and thinking it would overturn the buggy, Mrs. Rufus Moss jumped and alighted in the road on her head and her shoulders. She was caught in the wheels and dragged for a distance of one hundred yards and was badly bruised in being battered on the road. The horse was stopped and assistance was given the injured woman. Mrs. Moss and the boy who remained in the vehicle were not injured.

When interviewed this morning Mr. Richter said that he had no idea that any accident had resulted. He remembered the horse being frightened, but he was careful to get by and apparently the horse would be alright when once the machine was out of sight. None of the men knew anything about the accident until they were stopped nearer the city. Mr. Richter had driven three men to Clay City.

His mother dies in 1933 – “Brazil (IN) Daily Times” Tuesday 18 Jul 1911 p 1

Siblings:

MRS. MYRTLE COX.
 BRAZIL, Ind., June 15.—(Special)—Mrs. Myrtle Cox, 75 years old, Brazil, died at 7 o'clock Tuesday evening at Clay County Hospital here. Surviving are two sons, Ernest of Centerpoint and Harold of Indianapolis; four sisters, Mrs. Inez Calvert, California, Mrs. Zordia Overton and Mrs. Ruth Newton, both of Brazil, and Mrs. Okla Young of Centerpoint; three brothers, Lanta Moss of Centerpoint, Ralph and Thornton Moss; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The body was taken to Rentschler Funeral Home in Centerpoint.

Obituary of [sister Myrtle O. Moss Cox](#) (1878-1955) – “Terre Haute (IN) Tribune” Wednesday 15 Jun 1955 p 6

MRS. MYRTLE COX.
 CENTERPOINT, Ind., June 16.—(Special)—Funeral services for Mrs. Myrtle Cox, 75 years old, Brazil, who died Tuesday evening at the Clay County Hospital in Brazil, will be at 10:30 o'clock Friday morning at the Ashboro Methodist Church. Burial will be in Oak Hill cemetery. Friends may call at the Rentschler Funeral Home here. The body will be taken to the church one hour before services.

Sister Myrtle O. Moss Cox – “Terre Haute (IN) Tribune” Thursday 16 Jun 1955 p 6

Jacob N. Moss Passes Away

Jacob Nathan Moss, 60, passed away at the home of his sister, Mrs. Inez Calvert, 901 North Street, Tuesday morning.

Mr. Moss, a carpenter by profession, had been in failing health for some time, but his passing came unexpectedly. He had made his home with his sister for about a year and a half.

Mr. Moss was a native of Santa Point, Ind., born Jan. 21, 1888. He had been a resident of California since 1910. He formerly worked at Hilt. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 327, there, having served in the armed forces in the first World War, and a member of the Carpenter Union, No. 1599.

He also leaves four other sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Cox of Indianapolis, Ind., Mrs. Zorada Overton of Brazil, Ind., Mrs. Ruth Butts of Center Point, Ind., and Mrs. Oakley Young of Sleen City, Ind., and two brothers, Lentie R. Moss of Indiana and Thornton Moss of Oregon.

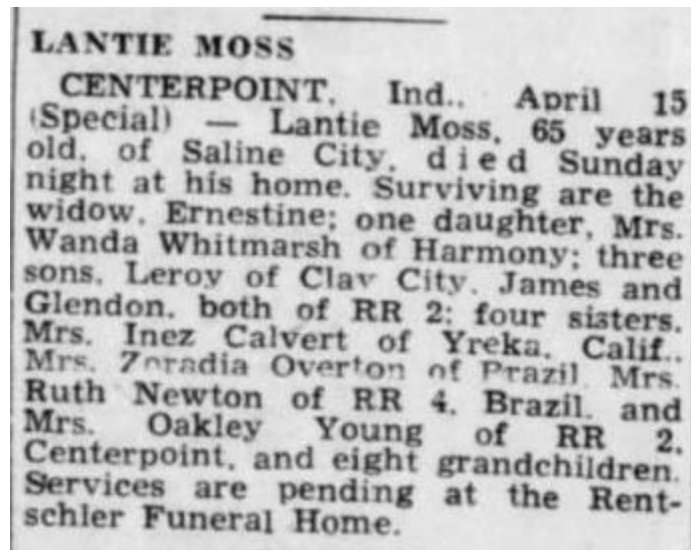
Funeral services will be announced by Girdner's Funeral Chapel.

Obituary of brother Jacob Nathan Moss (1888 – 1945) "Siskiyou Daily News" (Yreka CA) Tuesday 28 Dec 1948 p 6

DEATH REPORTED

Mrs. Inez Calvert of the Park Motel in Yreka today received news of the death of her brother, Lanta Moss in Center Point, Indiana. He succumbed to a heart ailment, it was reported.

Death of brother Lantie Ray Moss (1897-1963) – "Siskiyou Daily News" (Yreka CA) Monday 15 Apr 1963 p 6



Obituary of Lantie Moss – “Terre Haute (IN) Tribune” Monday 15 Apr 1963 p 2

Name: James Thornton Moss

Name variations: Thornton Moss

Military:

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

Serial number: 250,602

Entered service from: Cory, Clay IN

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: James T. Moss

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: sister Mrs. Oakley Marie Moss, Corry IN

Returned from war on: “Santa Paula” May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: James T. Moss

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Ruff R. Moss, Corry IN (PFC, 17th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as James Thorton/Thornton Moss - b. 25 Apr 1890

Terhoate [sic/Terre Haute] IN; res: Klamath Falls, Klamath OR. Single. Lumberjack, not employed.

“father and mother supported by himself and brother” – “rupture left side” – tall & slender.

Registered 12 Jun 1917 (after the 5 Jun 1917 national registration day)

World War II draft registration (1942): as James Thornton Moss - b. 25 Apr 1889 Corry IN; res:

Route 2, Box 392, Ashland, Jackson OR. NOK D. A Snyder, same address. Self-employed at Ashland, Jackson OR. “tatto [sic] mark on right arm” – Height: 5’11” – 172 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 12 Dec 1917

Discharged: 11 Jun 1919

Address: RFD #2, Ashland OR

Rank/unit: private 1st class, 17th Co., 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 25 Apr 1889 Cory, Clay IN (WWI draft: 25 Apr 1890 Terre Haute IN)

Died: 24 Dec 1965 La Plata, Durango CO

Find A Grave record:

Burial location:

Cemetery:

Tombstone:

Father: Ruffus Ray ("Rufe") Moss, May 1859 Clay Co. IN – 1927. Also found as Rufus. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Vigo IN.

Find A Grave: 70432337

Mother: Mary Elizabeth (Mollie) Gibbons Moss, Aug 1858 – 1933. Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Vigo IN.

Find A Grave: 70432313

Parents' marriage: 17 Apr 1879 Clay Co. IN.

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage: reports being divorced in 1930 census & married for 1st time when he was age 33. He was 40 in that census so presumably married ca. 1923

Children:

Siblings: James was the 5th child.

- Myrtle O. Moss Cox, 2 Nov 1880 Clay Co. IN – 14 Jun 1955 Brazil, Clay IN. Married 18 Aug 1901 in Clay Co. Into George C. Cox (1878-1923, F: 64187955). Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Vigo IN. F: 64187952
- (Lothar) Ines /Inez Moss Wallace Calvert, 2 Aug 1882 Clay Co. IN – 20 Nov 1966 Yreka, Siskiyou CA. SSN 551-32-7765. Inez Moss married William C. Wallace on 22 Dec 1902 in Clay Co. IN. – As Lothar Inez Wallace, married 4 Oct 1905 in Vigo Co. IN to Isaih Thomas Calvert (1874-1947, F: 105144990). Buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Yreka, Siskiyou CA. F: 105144989
- Ralph (AKA Ray) Vernon Moss, 11 Sep 1884 Clay Co. IN – 20 Apr 1958 Everett, Snohomish WA. Married ca. 1904 & divorced ca. Mar 1907 in Greene Co. IN. Married on 11 Jan 1906 to Mabel Smith. Married on 5 Oct 1907 in Clay Co. IN to Bertha L. Wyatt (1883-1983), the daughter of David H. Wyatt & Ibbie Jane Hutchinson. Married 17 Nov 1918 in Yakima, Yakima WA to Mollie Blanche Brown. When he registered for the WWI draft on 12 Sep 1918 he was a box maker for the Washington Fruit Co. in Yakima WA.
- Jacob Nathan ("Jake") Moss, 21 Jan 1888 Santa Point IN – 24 Dec 1945 Yreka, Siskiyou Co. CA (at the home of his sister Inez Moss Calvert). Served in WWI from IN as a private in the 158th Depot Brigade (tombstone). Buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Yreka, Siskiyou CA. F: 105147072
- Zorada E. Moss Overton, 10 Mar 1890 [also found as 1891] Clay Co. IN – 12 May 1979 Brazil, Clay IN. SSN 306-70-2997. Married on 22 Aug 1914 in IN to Elmer L. Overton (1889-1960, F: 68780501). Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Vigo IN. F: 68780480
- Ruth Iris Moss Butt/Butts Newton, 5 Mar 1893 IN – 17 Oct 1978 Terre Haute, Vigo IN. – Married Harry Herbert Butt on 5 Apr 1912 in IN. In the 1930 census for Sugar Ridge, Clay IN,

Ruth I. Butt lived with husband Harry H. Butt. Harry (1891 IN – 1972 TX) is buried in TX (F:37958136) & is listed on his death certificate with surname Buttes. – Ruth Butts married on 7 Mar 1955 in IN to John Calvin Newton (1886-1963, F: 52441551). Buried in Center Point Cemetery, Center Point, Clay IN. F: 66937973

- Lantie Ray (“Lanta”) Moss, 26 Jul 1897 IN – 14 Apr 1963 Center Point, Clay IN. According to his marriage record, has birthdate of 26 Jul 1900 in Cory IN. – Married 26 May 1927 in IN to Hazel Ernestine Marshall (1912-1976, F: 24112949). Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Vigo IN. F: 24113263
- Okla Moss Young, 1 Apr 1900 Vigo Co. IN – 5 Oct 1991. SSN 306-32-2422. Appears to be the “Mrs. Oakley Marie Moss” listed as his Tuscania next-of-kin. Married 24 Apr 1926 in Vigo Co. IN to William L. Young (1897-1978, F: 69105066). Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Vigo IN. F: 69107003

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Oregon Daily Journal" (Portland OR) 7 Feb 1918 p 7 - dateline: San Francisco. James T. Moss, age 27, enlisted 5 Dec 1917, b. Terre Haute IN. His mother lives at Cory IN. He came from Klamath Falls OR to join a forestry unit.

"Brazil (IN) Daily Times" 8 Feb 1918 p 1 - James Thornton Moss, of Cory IN, was saved from Tuscania. Son of Mr. & Mrs. Rufus Moss, who live west of Saline City on a rural route of Cory IN. A Clay Co. boy, his brother got the good news in Cory & brought it home. His mother has been ill & worried. James age 25, working for past 5 years in the Northwest & in OR. Enlisted in a lumberman's regiment. Previously worked in sawmills. Last word received by family was that he had left WA for NY.

"Logansport (IN) Pharos-Tribune" 8 Feb 1918 p 1 - James T. Moss is brother of Mrs. Oakley Marie Moss of Cory IN

“Brazil (IN) Daily Times” Monday 18 Feb 1918 p 2 – list of Brazil area men in military includes among those in France with the US Army: James Thornton Moss, 32nd Engineers (rescued from Tuscania)

Landed on isle of Islay, Scotland – met with other survivors at Port Ellen, Islay, on 7 Feb 1918. Reported in numerous newspapers across the US.

Post-war:

Obituary:

Social Security number: 574-03-7829 [issued in Alaska]

Censuses:

1900 Perry, Clay IN

Rufus Moss, 40 IN, May 1859, father b. KY, mother b. IN, married 22 years, farmer
Mary, 42 IN, Aug 1857, father b. WV, mother b. IN, gave birth to 9 children, 9 are living

Myrtle, 21 IN, Nov 1878

Ines, 17 IN, Aug 1882

Ralph, 15 IN, Sep 1884, at school

Jacob, 13 IN, Feb 1887, at school

Thorton (Thornton?), 11 IN, Apr 1889, at school

Zorada, 9 IN, Mar 1891, at school

Ruth, 7 IN, Mar 1893, at school

Lantis R., 3 IN, Jul 1896

Okala M., 1 IN, Apr 1899

1910 Grand Coulee, Lincoln WA

Thornton J. Moss, 21 IN, parents b. IN, single, farm hand, working out, hired man for
Herman F. & Lizzie C. Harms

Also his sister:

Zornida [Zoraide?] Moss, 19, parents b. IN, single, cook for private family

1920 Ashland, Jackson OR

James T. Moss, 28 IN, single, parents b. US, laborer, farm, listed as friend of:

David A. & Golda Snyder

1930 Jacksonville, Jackson OR

J.T. Moss, 40 IN, parents b. IN, divorced, 1st married at age 33, loading, mining company,
not a veteran

Boarder with F.E. Snyder, 43 ID, male, single, father b. NY, mother b. MN, saw filing,
lumbering