

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****Matthews, William (“Billie”)****1894 WA – 5 February 1918 Tuscania**



William Matthews
1894 - 1918



WILLIAM MATTHEWS—(19)

Private, Co. F, 20th Engrs., 6th Baty.; born in Whatcom County, June 25, 1894; son of Angelica and Charles Matthews, Bellingham, Wash.; entered service at Bellingham, Dec. 10, 1917; served on S. S. Tuscania; torpedoed off Irish coast, Feb. 5, 1918; died on S. S. Tuscania, Feb. 5, 1918.

William ("Billie") Matthews - 2 photographs & service entry found on Find A Grave 5977867



Photograph of William Matthews in the William Matthews Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1585 in Bellingham WA - <https://vfwpost1585.wordpress.com/gallery/>



William Matthews Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1585, 625 N. State St., Bellingham WA 98225 - <https://vfwpost1585.wordpress.com/gallery/>



William Matthews - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/b4346d9c-87cc-43a2-b419-0a323cb0a981?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource

Dear Mother! -
 When you receive this you
 will know we have arrived
 safely in France.
 Address future mail to
 Co. F-6th Bn. 20th Engrs. (Foresty)
 American Expeditionary Force,
 France.
 William Matthews,

MAIL ORDER
 U.S. ARMY
 THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mrs. E. W. Matthews,
 Bellingham,
 R. F. D. # 2, Box 191, Wash.

One of the prewritten letters announcing a soldier's safe arrival in France – very untrue in William's case - the last letter his mother received - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/b4346d9c-87cc-43a2-b419-0a323cb0a981?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource

[viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/fe95fc9a-02e3-4bb3-a958-533655b204cf?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/fe95fc9a-02e3-4bb3-a958-533655b204cf?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource)



William Matthews Burial Cross @ Islay, Scotland

Buried at Kilnoughton Cemetery - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/02b2f74d-1806-4511-a0b1-d23dc44b75cd?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource

BODY OF MATHEWS ARRIVES TODAY; FUNERAL MONDAY

224-5-1918
The body of Wm. Matthews, son of Mrs. Angelica Matthews, of Bellingham R. F. D. 2, was received here on the noon train, having been shipped here from Scotland. According to announcement made by Undertaker Bingham this morning, funeral services will be held at the Matthews' home on Monday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock with Rev. Duncan McPhail of the First Baptist church officiating.

Private Matthews enlisted in the 20th Engineering corps in the U. S. army, and was aboard the S. S. Tuscania when it was torpedoed by a German submarine off the shores of Scotland. His body was shipped to this country with six other comrades, all entering service in the Northwest. Surviving is the mother and four brothers—Orrie and James at the family home; Lyman of Custer; Sheridan of Park. Three sisters—Mrs. Jennie Katool of Seattle and Mrs. Etta and Cora McClanahan of B. C. Interment will take place in the Woodlawn cemetery where full military honors will be observed by Company E, of which the deceased was a member.

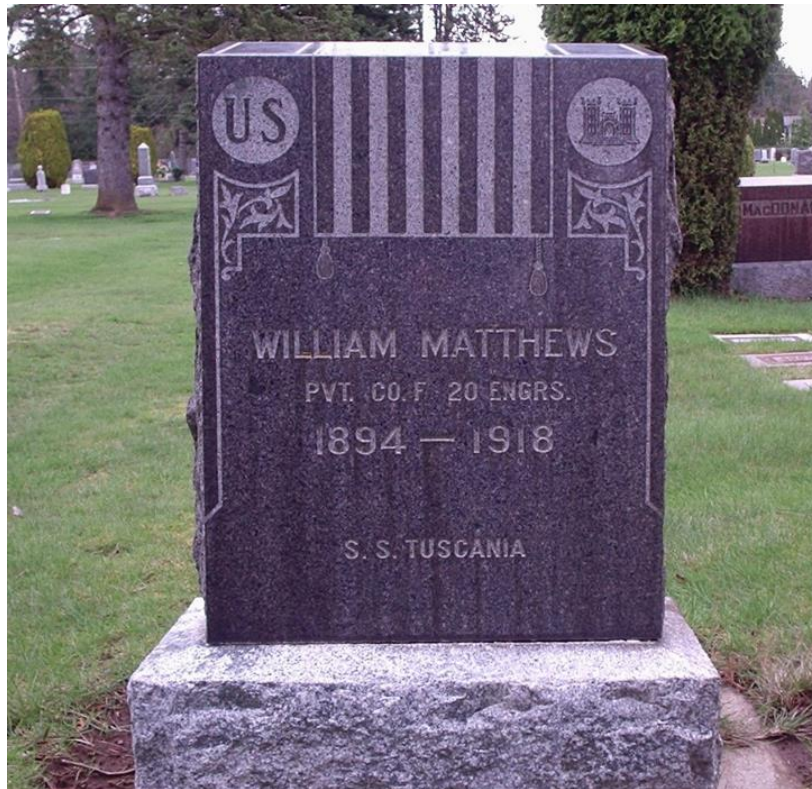
https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/6f0723d5-11de-4e17-a9c1-f793c93269a3?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource



https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/106960a7-215d-4d4c-8f5d-084df4b10b1f?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource



https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/70673215/person/40221788827/media/50624504-a30d-4743-b620-3395700d11d8?_phsrc=hFB31006&_phstart=successSource





Joint Proclamation



WHEREAS, the William Matthews Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1585 Bellingham was chartered July 14, 1928, and has been in continuous service to Veterans and communities since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Post was named for William Matthews, the first US soldier from Whatcom County to die from combat action in WWI; and

WHEREAS, William Matthews Post 1585 embodies the Veterans of Foreign Wars motto "No One Does More For Veterans," by providing Relief Fund financial assistance, housing, medical support and food supplies to needy or disabled Veterans of Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, for 90 years William Matthews Post 1585 has provided extensive support to community organizations including Rotary Club, Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops, American Legion, Elks Club, area nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities; and

WHEREAS, William Matthews Post 1585 provides funding support and meeting facilities for other Veteran groups including Whatcom Allied Veterans Council, Disabled American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive proclaim July 14, 2018, to be

WILLIAM MATTHEWS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 1585 DAY

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County and celebrate 90 years of extraordinary service and generosity by all members of this VFW Post for their selfless efforts.

Signed this 21st day of May, 2018


Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham


Jack Louws, Executive
Whatcom County



William Matthews Post 1585, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bellingham WA, established 14 Jul 1928 - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/88229951/person/32572582695/media/6cdbfa06-0204-4186-956f-4d3ed014916c?_phsrc=hFB31028&_phstart=successSource



William Matthews Post 1585 VFW at the gravesite of William Matthews -
<https://www.facebook.com/VFWpost1585/>

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.

William Matthews did not die in France, nor did the other Tuscania victims listed – “Albany (OR) Democrat-Herald” Thursday 21 Oct 1920 p 3

MATTHEWS, WILLIAM		I c- 7 014
Pvt. Co H 320 Engrs.		RS-
Greenbrier, Tenn.		RH-
Sn.	Died 2-6-18	V-
Born 6-25-94		T- 391 535
		N-
Enl.	Dis.	I- 7 714
		K-
		H-

VA FORM 3-7202a Existing stocks of VA Form 3-7202a, Jul 1949, will be used. MASTER INDEX CARD 16-55777-2 GPO

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1Y-KWHR-8?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AWMRZ-6RT2>

Father:



Father Charles Wesley Matthews, who was 53 years old when William was born – Find A Grave 5977858

Matthews Angelica, r C W Matthews
 Matthews Belle Mrs, nurse 1626 Iron, h do
 Matthews Clarence H, Bellingham P O (\$75)
 Matthews Claribell, student, r 1626 Iron
 Matthews C W, dairy R D 2 (\$480)
 Matthews Ella M, r 615 12th
 Matthews E T, Bellingham P O (\$475)
 Matthews James T, r C W Matthews
 Matthews Lorin, student, r 615 12th
 Matthews Louise, opr P T & T Co, r 615 12th
 Matthews Lyman C (Inez), lab, h 1709 C
 Matthews Manuel T (Anna), millwright E K W L Co, h 615 12th
 Matthews Orrie, r C W Matthews
 Matthews Sheridan, r C W Matthews

Matthews Violet Mrs, r 2200 King
 Matthews Wm, r C W Matthews
 (Helen) (Mattson)

Bellingham WA city directory of 1913 includes his mother Angelica, father C.W., brother James T., brother Lyman C. brother Orrie, brother Sheridan & himself -
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2469/images/14306350?usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB31037&_phstart=default&usePUBJs=true&pld=888768500

Siblings:



Left: Brother Lyman Charles Matthews – Find A Grave 6749081 – right: brother Phillip Sheridan Matthews – Find A Grave 5977865



Sarah Jennie Matthews
1884 - 1934

Name	Jennie Olsen
Gender	Female
Marital Status	Married
Age	49
Estimated Birth Year	1885
Death Date	06 Feb 1934
Death Place	Sedro-Woolley, Skagit, Washington
Father	Charles Mathews
Mother	Angelica Shover
Spouse	Martin Olsen
FHL Film Number	2023102
Reference ID	cn 67
Household members	

Sister Sarah Jennie Matthews - Left: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/88229951/person/32572582691/facts> - Right: WA death record <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/88229951/person/32572582691/facts>

Name: William Matthews

Name variations: Billie Matthews - MATHEWS

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 18th/Co. F - private

Serial number: Army enlisted men were not assigned serial numbers until after the sinking of the Tuscania showed their value

Entered service from: Bellingham, Whatcom WA

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: William Matthews

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Angelica Matthews, RFD 2, Bellingham WA

First buried on isle of Islay, Scotland: in Kilnaughton, Islay, Scotland - grave 70, as W. Matthews

Body returned from war on: "Antigone" arriving Hoboken NJ 29 Sep 1920

Body listed on return ship as: W. MATHEWS

Rank: pvt, Co. F, 20th Engrs.

World War I draft registration (1917): as William Matthews - b. 25 Jun 1894 Whatcom Co. WA; res; Rte. 2, Bellingham, Whatcom WA. Single. Farmer for Mrs. C.W. Matthews, Laurel WA [his widowed mother]. Mother dependent on him. Claimed exemption from draft: "support of mother." Tall & slender.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlistment & discharge dates not given
 Born 25 Jun 1894 – died 6 Feb 1918
 Address: Greenbrier TN
 Rank/unit: private, Co. H, 320th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 25 Jun 1894 Laurel, Whatcom WA
 Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania
 Find A Grave record: 5977867 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text & flower
 Burial location: Ferndale, Whatcom WA
 Cemetery: Woodlawn
 Tombstone: tombstone: Pvt Co F 20 Engrs S.S. Tuscania

Father: Charles Wesley Matthews, 15 Nov 1840 Andes, Delaware Co. NY – 21 Jun 1916 Bellingham, Whatcom WA. Son of Thomas S. Matthews & Sarah Jane Gregory. Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Ferndale, Whatcom WA.
 Find A Grave: 5977858

Mother: Angelica Cyles Shaver Matthews, 2 Nov 1850 Andes, Delaware Co. NY – 4 Oct 1925 Laurel, Whatcom WA. Daughter of James William Shaver & Juliet Davis. Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Ferndale, Whatcom WA.
 Find A Grave: 5977843
 Parents' marriage:

Spouse:
 Spouse Find A Grave:
 Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: William was the youngest child.

- Estella Matthews Martin McClanahan, 20 Sep 1868 NY – 12 Aug 1947 Bellingham, Whatcom WA. Married in 1889 to Horace R. Martin (1867-1934). Married in 1918 to Daniel Abbott McClanahan (the younger) (1873-1953). Daniel was the son of Daniel Abbott McClanahan (1823-1873) & Nina Seclamatan (1840-1876) & the brother of Horace Greeley McClanahan who married Estella's sister, Juliett. Buried in Lynden Cemetery, Lynden, Whatcom WA. F: 6749098
- Orrie Matthews, Apr 1870 Colchester, Delaware Co. NY – 24 Apr 1942 Bellingham, Whatcom WA. Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Ferndale, Whatcom WA. F: 5977864
- Juliett M. ("Etta") Matthews McClanahan, 30 Oct 1873 NY – 27 Oct 1963 Olympia, Thurston WA. Married Horace Greeley McClanahan (1869-1943) on 2 May 1893 in Lynden, Whatcom WA. Horace was the son of Daniel Abbott McClanahan (1823-1873) & Nina Seclamatan (1840-1876) & the brother of Daniel Abbott McClanahan (1873-1953), who married Juliett's sister Estella. Buried in Lynden Cemetery, Lynden, Whatcom WA. F: 6749101
- James Thomas Matthews, 14 Feb 1880 Woodruff, Phillips KS – 1 Mar 1929 Sedro-Woolley, Skagit WA. He appears in the 1880 census for Franklin, Edwards KS as 3 months old, born Feb 1880. Ancestry.com family trees add "Blaine" as a sibling born in Mar 1880 (impossible

because James was born in Feb 1880) & died in Jun. Married in 1910 to Alice Marie O'Neill (1893-1967). Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Ferndale, Whatcom WA. F: 5977862

- Lyman Charles Matthews, 18 May 1882 Laurel, Whatcom WA – 26 Oct 1955 Custer, Whatcom WA. Married 29 Jun 1912 in Whatcom Co. WA to Inez Jordal (1894-1953). Buried in Lynden Cemetery, Lynden, Whatcom WA. F: 6749081
- Sarah Jennie / Jennie Sarah Matthews Isaacson Katoll Olsen, 13 Aug 1884 Laurel, Whatcom WA – 6 Feb 1934 Sedro-Woolley, Skagit WA. - Married to Isaac Martinus Isaacson (1877 Norway – 1950 WA, F: 7556562). Their supposed daughter listed on Ancestry.com family trees is Martha Pearl Isaacson ((1906-1977, later Mrs. James F. McClellan Jr.) but her birth records list her mother as Anna Peterson. - Married to William August Katoll (1885-1938) on 17 Nov 1919 in Tacoma, Pierce WA. James was a resident of Bremerton WA & Jennie Isaacson a resident of Bellingham WA. - Married to Martin Olsen (b. 1885) on 30 Jul 1930 in Kitsap Co. WA.
- Phillip Sheridan (Sherd/Sheridan) Matthews, 18 Sep 1887 Bellingham, Whatcom WA – 14 Oct 1947 Bellingham, Whatcom WA. Married in 1913 to Georgia Beulah Wycoff (1892-1974). Buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Ferndale, Whatcom WA. F: 5977865

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

"Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review" Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 2 – two articles. In one: aboard Tuscania: Co. F, 6th Battalion, 20th Engineers, Forestry: Wm. Matthews, Bellingham. In one: among the WA state men not yet reported as saved or lost: William Matthews, mother Angelica Matthews, RFD 2, Bellingham WA.

"Colville (WA) Examiner" Saturday 23 Feb 1918 p 2 – appearing on the incomplete list of Tuscania victims: Matthews, William, Bellingham WA.

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 W. Matthews of Bellingham WA

Namesake of the William Matthews Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1585, 625 N. State Street, Bellingham WA – established 14 Jul 1928

Obituary:

Censuses:

1880 Franklin, Edwards KS – conducted 1 Jun 1880
Chas. MATHEWS, NY, parents b. NY, farmer

Angelica, NY, parents b. NY, keeps house
 Cora, 11 NY, at home
 Orrie, 10 NY
 Juliett, 6 NY
 Blaine, 3 months KS, b. Feb 1880

1900 Laurel, Whatcom WA

Charles W. MATHEWS, 59 NY, Nov 1840, parents b. NY, married 33 years, farmer
 Angelica, 49 NY, Nov 1850, parent b. NY, gave birth to 8 children, 8 are living
 Orrie, 30 NY, Apr 1870, farm laborer
 James T., 20 KS, Feb 1880, farm laborer
 Lyman, 18 WA, May 1882, farm laborer
 Sarah J., 15 WA, Feb 1884
 Sheridan, 12 WA, Sep 1887, farm laborer
 William, 5 WA, Jun 1894
 [marital status for all the children: single]

1910 Laurel, Whatcom WA

Charles W. Matthews, 70 NY, parents b. NY, in 1st marriage, married 44 years, farmer, own farm
 Angelica C., 59 NY, parents b. NY, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 8 children, 8 are living
 James T., 30 KS, laborer, home farm
 Lyman C., 27 WA, hook tender, logging camp
 Sheridan, 22 WA, chaser, logging camp
 William, 15 WA
 & hired man Alfred Nelson, 33 Denmark
 [marital status of all the children: single]