

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.
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

Proseus, Raymond Ward 1895 CA – 1937 CA

PORSEUS RAYMOND W		X c 2245898
Corp 812 Aero Sqdn		K
321 North 19 St San Jose Calif		A 3 480 846
Ssn	249 826	T 543 320
Born	3/27/95	R
Enl	8/14/17	CL 2 339 337
Died	12/20/19	I
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS FORM 7208—Rev. Sept., 1926		INDEX CARD 2-13009

Veterans Administration Master Index misspells surname as PORSEUS -

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WS8Z-BRPZ>

Idaho, aged 34 years.
PROSEUS—In San Jose, July 16, Ray W. Proseus, husband of Florence Proseus, father of Audrey E. Proseus, brother of Paul Proseus, a native of California, aged 41 years.
 In San Jose, July 17, Chris-

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Monday 19 Jul 1937 p 22

Raymond W. Proseus
 Raymond W. Proseus, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Proseus, 374 South Tenth street, San Jose, was on board the Tuscania. He enlisted in August, 1917, and later was assigned to the One Hundredth aero squadron.

"San Francisco Examiner" Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 2

Mother Is Proud of Son, Saved From Sea

Mrs. W. A. Proseus, San Jose, mother of Raymond W. Proseus, private in the 300th Aero Squadron:

I must say what many other mothers have said. We are all so happy and proud of our sons. Raymond enlisted because he felt it was his duty, and he traveled here from Arizona to enlist in his home town. We are proud of him and glad that he has been spared for further work for his country, the work that he wanted to do.

It was so kind of "The Examiner" to inform us of Raymond's safety. The War Department telegram did not reach us until several hours later.

My husband returned home from Arizona the day before the Tuscania was torpedoed. It was so good to have him with me in those hours of suspense between the first news of the loss of the vessel and the tidings of my boy's safety.

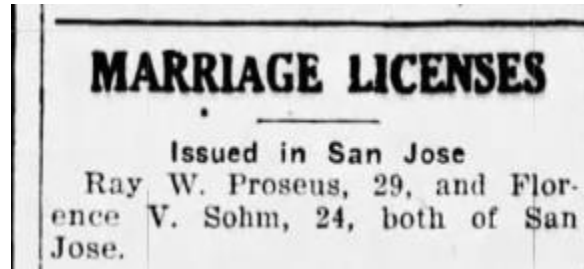
"San Francisco Examiner" Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 3

GUESTS ASSEMBLED FOR BRIDGE, DANCING

Mr. and Mrs. Dewar Roberts entertained friends at bridge and dancing Saturday evening. Those invited were Mr. and Mrs. Theo Harrington of San Jose, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Sohm, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Proseus, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Proseus, and Mr. and Mrs. John Hills.

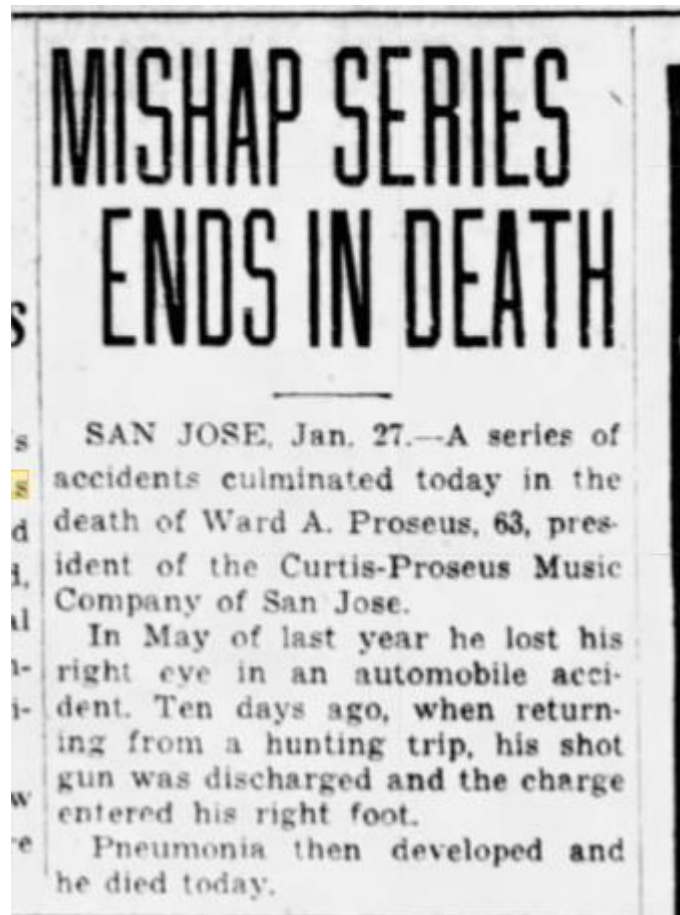
"Peninsula Times Tribune" (Palo Alto CA) Monday 19 Dec 1932 p 6

Wife:



“Peninsula Times Tribune” (Palo Alto CA) Monday 19 Dec 1932 p 6

Father:



Death of father Ward Ashley Proseus – “San Francisco Examiner” Wednesday 28 Jan 1931 p 7

CRASH COSTS EYE
SAN JOSE, May 8.—Suffering from the loss of sight of one eye and facing probability of losing the other, Ward A. Proseus, 374 South Tenth street, prominent local merchant, was brought here from Fortuna yesterday after a motor accident between Fortuna and Eureka last Friday. Proseus' car plunged from a grade, stopped against a tree and caught fire, burning him on the face. He was returning from a fishing trip. His family was unaware of the accident until he arrived here yesterday. Mrs. Proseus is prostrated from the shock.

"Oakland (CA) Tribune" Wednesday 8 May 1929 p 12

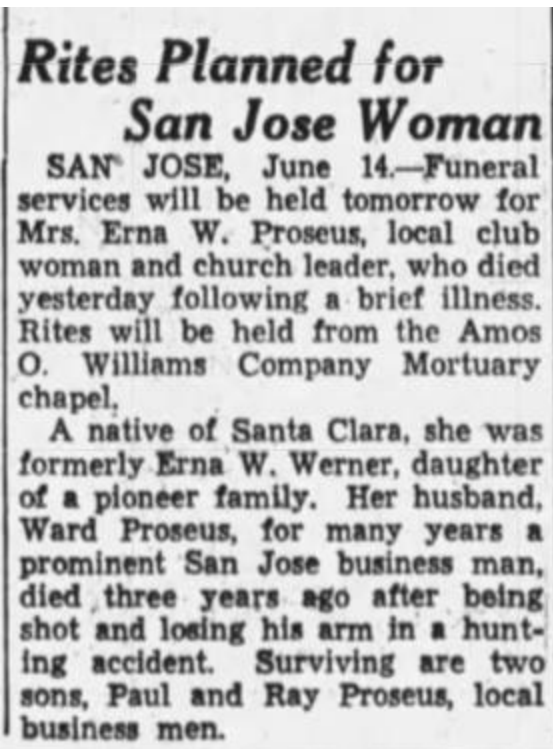
Davis & Co.; formed to conduct a wholesale and retail merchandise business. Principal place of business, San Jose. Directors—Mary A. Davis, D. McD. Davis, W. A. Proseus, Y. Schroeder and George A. Davis, all of San Jose. Capital stock, \$25,000, all subscribed.

"Sacramento (CA) Record-Union" Saturday 3 Sep 1898 p 3

A. Hampton and W. A. Proseus of the "Sandy Bottom" company are domiciled at the Bardin.

"The Californian" (Salinas CA) Wednesday 4 Mar 1903 p 3

Mother:



Obituary of mother Erna Werner Proseus – “Oakland (CA) Tribune” Friday 14 Jun 1935 p 5

Name: Raymond Ward Proseus

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 100th Aero Squadron, 5th Squad - corporal

Serial number: 249,826

Entered service from: San Jose, Santa Clara CA

Sailed on “Tuscania” as: Raymond W. Proseus

Next-of-kin on “Tuscania”: mother Erna W. Proseus, 374 S. 10th St., San Jose CA

Returned from war on: could not locate

Sailed on return ship as:

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank:

World War I draft registration (1917): as Raymond War Proseus - b. 27 Mar 1895 San Jose CA; res: Kelvin, Pinal AZ. Single. Mechanic, J.I. Coleman, at Kelvin AZ. Tall & slender

Veterans Administration Military Index: as Raymond W. PORSEUS

Enlisted: 14 Aug 1917

Discharged: 20 Dec 1919

Address: 321 N. 19th St., San Jose CA

Rank/unit: corporal, 812th Aero Squadron

Birth & death:

Born: 27 Mar 1895 San Jose, Santa Clara CA

Died: 16 Jul 1937 San Jose, Santa Clara Co. CA

Died:

Find A Grave record:

Burial location:

Cemetery: perhaps in Oak Hill Memorial Park? Raymond's brother Paul W., his in-laws Fred W. & Laura Sohm all buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Jose, Santa Clara CA - perhaps Raymond & wife Florence too?

Tombstone:

Father: Ward Ashley Proseus, 15 Apr 1867 WI – 27 Jan 1931 San Jose, Santa Clara CA. Son of Hiram Proseus & Catherine Harvey. He 1st hit a tree with his car in May 1929 while returning from a fishing trip. The resulting fire burned his face & caused the loss of his right eye. Then d. 27 Jan 1931 after shooting himself 10 days earlier in his right foot with a shotgun & developing pneumonia (alternative story in his wife's obituary is that he lost his right arm with the gun), Ward was president of Curtis-Proseus Music Co., San Jose. Sons Ray W. & Paul W. sons described as San Jose businessmen.

Buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Jose, Santa Clara CA.

Find A Grave: 240844894

Mother: Erna Werner Proseus, 21 Dec 1864 CA – 13 Jun 1835 Santa Clara Co. CA. Daughter of Conrad William Werner & H. Metta ---. Buried in Oak Hill Memorial park, San Jose, Santa Clara CA.

Find A Grave: 240844961

Parents' marriage:

Spouse: Florence Veda Sohm Proseus, 26 Mar 1896 Le Sueur, Le Sueur MN – 25 Jan 1987 Santa Clara, Santa Clara CA. Birthplace also found as Sharon, Le Sueur MN. Daughter of Frederick Wilhelm (Fred) Sohm (F: 188733701) & Laura A. (F: 188733719) or Mary Amelia Zimmerman. In the 1920 census, she lived with her parents in San Jose, Santa Clara;

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

- Audrey Elise Proseus Keahey Burnett Marcus, 7 Sep 1928 Santa Clara Co CA – 3 Feb 2018 Oakdale, Stanislaus CA OR Oakland, Alameda CA. – Married Donald Erwin Keahey (1927-2000). They lived together in the 1950 census in San Diego, San Diego CA with 2 daughters. He was age 22, in the armed forces & she was age 21. Their son Michael was born in 1951. – In 1963 Audrey is listed in the San Jose, Santa Clara CA city directory living with William R. Burnett. Audrey divorced Burnett on 16 Jul 1984 in San Mateo CA. A daughter, Gail Burnett, was born in 1956. As Audrey E. Proseus Burnett, she married 12 Jul 1985 in San Mateo CA to Ronald J. Marcus (Marcus possibly 1926-2001, F: 122059169)

Siblings:

- Paul Werner Proseus, 28 Sep 1898 CA – 11 Aug 1946 Sacramento Co. CA. Married 7 Sep 1920 to Sara Josephine Milliken (1900-1970, F: 6424072). They divorced 21 Jul 1938 CA. She married Wilmot Littlejohn Moore (1889-1974, F: 63424073). Enlisted in the US Army

(National Guard) on 3 Mar 1941 in San Francisco CA. Buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Jose, Santa Clara CA

Notes:

Father, mother, brother buried by Amos Williams Funeral Home, Santa Clara CA
<http://www.scchgs.org/wfh/wfhp2.htm> - Williams book 1937, p. 188

Pre-war:

Stanford University graduate 1913

Wartime:

"San Francisco Examiner" 9 Feb 1918 p 2 - son of Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Proseus, 274 S. 10th St., San Jose, enlisted Aug 1917

"San Francisco Examiner" Sunday 10 Feb 1918 p 1 – "Tuscania Survivors" includes Raymond W. Proseus, corporal, 100th Aero Squadron, 374 S. Tenth St., San Jose CA

"San Francisco Examiner" 11 Feb 1918 p3 - mother Mrs. W.A. Proseius, San Jose, said Raymond came home from AZ to his hometown to enlist. The 1st news of his safety was received from "Examiner" before it was received in a War Dept. telegram. Her husband returned home from AZ 4 Feb.

Post-war:

Obituary:

"Oakland [CA] Tribune" 19 Jul 1937 p 22 - d. in San Jose CA 16 Jul, listed as Ray W., survived by wife Florence, daughter Audrey E., brother Paul, b. CA, 42 years old.

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1900 San Jose, Santa Clara CA – 374 – 10th

Ward Proseus, 35 WI, Apr 1865, father b. NY, mother b. NJ, in 1st marriage, married 8 years, salesman, hardware

Ema, 35 CA, Dec 1864, parents b. Germany, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 2 children, 2 are living

Raymond, 5 CA, Mar 1895

Paul, 1 CA, Sep 1898

1910 San Jose, Santa Clara CA – S. 10th St.

Ward A. PROSENS, 43 WI, father b. NY, mother b. NJ, married 17 years, broker, mining stocks

Erna, 45 CA, parents b. Germany, gave birth to 2 children, 2 are living

Raymond W., 15 CA

Paul W, 11 CA

1920 San Jose, Santa Clara CA – 10th St.

Ward PROSEUS, 52 WI, father b. NY, mother b. NJ, merchant, retail

Erna, 55 CA, parents b. Germany

Raymond, 25 CA, mechanic, phonograph house

Paul, 21 CA, salesman, phonograph house

1930 San Jose, Santa Clara CA

Ray W. Proseus, 35 CA, father b. WI, mother b. CA, age 29 at 1st marriage, radio repairman, radio store, WWI veteran

Florence V., 29 MN, parents b. MN

Audrey E., 1 CA

1940 San Jose, Santa Clara CA – Raymond died in 1937 – same house in 1935

Florence Proseus, 39 MN, widow, ladies apparel saleslady, ladies apparel department store

Audrey, 11 CA