

**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](http://www.findagrave.org))

NOK = next-of-kin

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**TUSCANIA**

**Peterson, Oscar Napoleon**  
**1892 ND – 1966 WA**



Fred Hanson & Oscar Napoleon Peterson – “Seattle (WA) Post-Intelligencer” 31 May 1965 – from Find A Grave 187832635

PETERSON OSCAR NAPOLEON *7.1.56 DIA*  
*Xc 20 271 448*  
 Pvt 17th Co 20th Engrs K  
 619 Columbia Ave Whitefish Mont A 1 548 959  
 Sn 250 618 Died *6-25-66* T 1 200 768F  
 Born 2-29-92 R  
 Enl 12-11-17 Dis 6-10-19 Cl 1 383 474  
 I  
 U.S. VETERANS BUREAU  
 MAIL AND RECORDS  
 FORM 7202-Rev. Sept., 1925  
 INDEX CARD 3-15000

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/ark:/61903/1:1:WSFH-K26Z>

# Oscar Peterson

Military • Montana, Military Records, 1904-1918

|                                                                                                                |                  |                             |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Peterson Oscar                                                                                                 |                  | 250,618                     | 1                  |
| (Surname)                                                                                                      | (Christian name) | (Army serial number)        | * White * Colored. |
| Residence: _____                                                                                               |                  | Helena                      | MONTANA            |
| (Street and house number)                                                                                      | (Town or city)   | (County)                    | (State)            |
| Inducted at _____                                                                                              |                  | on Dec 11/17                | 19                 |
| Place of birth: _____                                                                                          | Hamilton N Dak   | Age or date of birth: _____ | 25 10/12 yrs       |
| Organizations served in, with dates of assignments and transfers: _____                                        |                  |                             |                    |
| 17 Co 20 Engrs to disch                                                                                        |                  |                             |                    |
| Grades, with date of appointment: _____                                                                        |                  |                             |                    |
| Capt                                                                                                           |                  |                             |                    |
| Engagements: _____                                                                                             |                  |                             |                    |
| Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.                                                             |                  |                             |                    |
| Served overseas from † Feb 1/18 to † May 26/19, from † _____ to † _____                                        |                  |                             |                    |
| Honorably discharged on demobilization June 10 19, 19 _____                                                    |                  |                             |                    |
| In view of occupation he was, on date of discharge, reported 0 per cent disabled.                              |                  |                             |                    |
| Remarks: _____                                                                                                 |                  |                             |                    |
| Form No. 724-1, A. G. O. * Strike out words not applicable. † Dates of departure from and arrival in the U. S. |                  |                             |                    |
| Nov. 22, 1919. 3-7362                                                                                          |                  |                             |                    |

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3M1-G3DK-T?cc=3010075&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPPF-3VB8>

## Oscar N Peterson

in the U.S., Veterans' Gravesites, ca.1775-2019

|                     |                                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Name:               | Oscar N Peterson                                   |
| Death Age:          | 74                                                 |
| Birth Date:         | 29 Feb 1892                                        |
| Service Start Date: | 11 Dec 1917                                        |
| Service End Date:   | 10 Jun 1919                                        |
| Death Date:         | 25 Jun 1966                                        |
| Interment Date:     | 6 Jul 1966                                         |
| Interment Place:    | Oregon, USA                                        |
| Cemetery Address:   | 11800 SE MT. Scott Boulevard Portland,<br>Or 97266 |
| Cemetery:           | Willamette National Cemetery                       |
| Plot:               | Section T Site 2831                                |
| Notes:              | Pvt Us Army World War I                            |

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2409661:8750?tid=&pid=&queryId=475d60777e112180428c22b8386dcb10&\\_phsrc=hFB44652&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2409661:8750?tid=&pid=&queryId=475d60777e112180428c22b8386dcb10&_phsrc=hFB44652&_phstart=successSource)

## Mr Oscar Peterson

Obituary • United States, GenealogyBank Historical Newspaper Obituaries, 1815-2011

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Name                   | <b>Mr Oscar Peterson</b>   |
| Sex                    | <b>Male</b>                |
| Age                    | <b>74</b>                  |
| Event Date             | <b>28 Jun 1966</b>         |
| Event Place            | <b>Seattle, Washington</b> |
| Event Place (Original) | <b>Seattle, Washington</b> |
| Event Type             | <b>Obituary</b>            |
| Death Date             | <b>25 Jun 1966</b>         |
| Birthplace             | <b>North Dakota</b>        |
| Newspaper              | <b>Seattle Daily Times</b> |

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<https://www.familysearch.org/search/ark:/61903/1:1:Q5MD-R74C>

# SEVEN SLACKERS WILL TELL WHY

TO APPEAR BEFORE THE U. S.  
COURT SATURDAY—FROM  
LINCOLN COUNTY.

Seven alleged slackers from Lincoln county will appear before the U. S. court Saturday morning and explain why they failed to register June 5, as required by law, that the military establishment of the United States may be increased by conscripting men between the ages of 21 and 30. They were arrested by the sheriff of Lincoln county and will be brought to Helena by Deputy U. S. Marshal L. Groff. Informations against the men were filed in the U. S. court yesterday afternoon by H. G. Murphy, assistant U. S. district attorney. Upon their arrival Saturday morning they will be taken direct to the U. S. court to plead. All are from Lincoln county and the information filed gives their names as B. Zielenski, Nelson Miller, Oscar N. Peterson, Thomas Mangan, William Clayton, John Smith and Alex Nicholson.

"Helena (MT) Independent Record" Friday 6 Jul 1917 p 3

# HARD DAY FOR SLACKERS SIX MONTHS THE LIMIT

CANADIANS, MEXICANS AND  
AMERICANS TELL WHY NOT  
REGISTERED.

Slackers had a hard day in court yesterday and as several of them did not believe in registration, they were given time to think it over in the county jail.

[article continues]

Oscar Napoleon Peterson, notwithstanding his name, saw nothing good in war or registering and persistently refused to register up in Lincoln county. He got six months in the county jail. Grover F. Feaster, who lives about 82 miles from Miles City, pleaded not guilty of refusing to register and his case was set for trial July 19.

[article continues]

Oscar Napoleon Slacker was not as enamored of war as his namesake Napoleon Bonaparte was - "slackers" would later be called draft dodgers - Oscar eventually was registered on 9 Jul 1917 (the day before this article) but refused to sign his name on the card - "Helena (MT) Independent Record" Tuesday 10 Jul 1917 p 6

## SIX MONTHS FOR SEVEN WHO REFUSE TO REGISTER

THREE MAY BE RETURNED TO  
CANADA—WHOLE BUNCH  
MADE UP OF I. W. W.

Helena, July 9.—Judge George M. Bourquin in the federal court here today gave seven men sentences of six months each; all of whom are accused of being members of the Industrial Workers of the World organization. They pleaded guilty to the charge of failing to register on June 5. Chris Kinsel, John Smith and Frank Tardiff, citizens of Canada, are not eligible for draft in this country, but it is probable that they will be returned to Canada at the expiration of their sentences. The others who were sentenced are Thomas Baker, Earl Madsen, Bernard Zielinsk and Oscar Napoleon Peterson. All but Kinsel were arrested in Custer county and he came from Libby.

"Anaconda (MT) Standard" Tuesday 10 Jul 1917 p 4

## LIST OF SURVIVORS FROM FOUR STATES

### Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma Men Rescued From Tuscania.

According to advices from the War Department at Washington, among the survivors from the Tuscania, sunk off the Irish coast by a submarine, are the following men from Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana:

#### Arkansas.

Oscar L. Peterson, Magnolia.  
Patrick F. Richardson, Chestman.  
Lester K. Rummel, Lockesburg.  
James L. Carter, El Dorado.  
Clay Stanley Ferrill, Solo.  
Sam Handall, Van Buren.

Tuscania passenger Oscar Ludwig Peterson was from Wisconsin & passenger Oscar Napoleon Peterson was from North Dakota – Henry Carl Peterson was from Magnolia, Arkansas – “Daily Arkansas Gazette” (Little Rock AR) Sunday 10 Feb 1918 p 1

## BROTHER OF JAMESTOWN MAN WAS ABOARD TUSCANIA

In a list of the northwest men who were on the Tuscania, the British ship torpedoed Tuesday night is found the name of Wilfred M. Kilkelly of South Stillwater, Minn., a brother of L. J. Kilkelly of this city. Mr. Kilkelly spent some time here last fall and for a time was connected with the Rathman-Hall Co.

### Others Also.

The following from North Dakota were among the passengers:

**O. N. Peterson, Hamilton.**  
**Knute N. Nelson, Northwood.**  
**Peter Olson, Leeds.**  
**Frank Pew, Andover.**

"Jamestown (ND) Weekly Alert" Thursday 14 Feb 1918 p 2

# COMMANDER PROUD OF WILD WEST FIGHTERS

## Regimental Orders Testify as to Heroic Deeds of Men in Regiment.

The 362d regiment of the Ninety-first division, which division of the United States army performed such heroic work in smashing the Hindenburg line on the Flanders front just before the close of the war, contains a great many men who were called to the colors from Montana. In addition to the men from Montana, there are men from nearly all of the

states throughout the Pacific Northwest, and this division of the army is known as the Wild West division. Soon after the drive of the Ninety-first at the Argonne-Meuse front, in which the 362d played such a gallant part, Col. John H. Parker of the 362d regiment commended his men for their fighting qualities through regimental orders he issued at base hospital No. 23, American expeditionary forces, Oct. 25, 1918. These orders, a copy of which has just been sent by a soldier of the 362d to a friend in Butte, read:

"The colonel is proud of the way the regiment took every objective given to it. No set form of speech or orders can express his just appreciation. In your first fight you broke the Hindenburg line and rolled through the Argonne forest, and took the objective assigned to you for that day. In your second attack you broke the German Stalung Nord, one of their celebrated Kreimheld



line, at Gesnes, and you took and held the hill beyond the corps' objective. In both cases you met and whipped in your first fight the Prussian guards. You lost no prisoners; you sent many crack guardsmen to the rear. The number of big guns and field guns and machine guns that you captured in three days is not accurately known, but it is about equal to the total number our country had when it entered this war. No regiment of any division or any service at any time has ever done better in its first combat. The colonel is glad to have received a share of the injuries that were also borne by Captains Worsham, Watson, Bradbury, Booth, Fletcher; Lieutenants Swift, Martin, Granger, Gard, Elam; Sergts. Barry C. Borland, Sherman L. Lowenstein, Oscar N. Peterson and many others. Next time we will apply upon the enemy the lessons which we have bought and paid for by lives and wounds of our comrades, and we will collect from him some of the price he has not yet paid.

"Congratulations to all on what you have done. On your toes—get set—be ready for the next time."

There is another Oscar N. Peterson from MT & this appears to be him, as the division is incorrect –  
 "Anaconda (MT) Standard" Friday 24 Jan 1919 p 14

## *'Wobblies' Have Lost Muscle, Fire As Age Takes Toll of Angry Ranks*

By BETTY HOPPER

SEATTLE (AP) — Age has muted the once strident voice. The burly arm that shook a fist in defiance has weakened with the years.

Time has taken its toll and the Wobblies of today are but faint echoes of the young, tough, colorful members of the International Workers of the World who were a powerful element in the Pacific Northwest labor force a half century ago.

Born 60 years ago in the ferment of union factionalism, the

Wobblies are dying in a world of established unionism where the working conditions for which they fought are basic in all industrial relations.

Their headquarters here closes its doors today for want of funds. Money was always scarce for the Wobblies, and when rent on the spartan headquarters rose from \$40 to \$75 a month they were priced out of business.

"There's only a handful of us old fellows left in Seattle—maybe a half dozen," says Oscar N. Peterson, 73, secretary.

"A new company took over the building and I figure this is a



polite way of telling us to move out."

#### NEVER 'TACTFUL'

Politeness was never a part of the Wobblies' stock in trade. They believed in direct action to right what they considered wrong, even though such action might lead to violence.

The IWW was formed in Chicago in 1905. Its founding fathers included Eugene Debs, head of the Socialist party; Daniel De Leon, leader of the Socialist Labor group; and William Haywood of the Western Miners' Federation, whose devotion to the causes of the laboring man began when he lost an eye working in a mine at the age of nine. "Big Bill," as he was affectionately known, became the guiding light of the Wobblies.

The new movement was mad and militant. Mad at conditions it felt unfair and, in some cases, dangerous to the working man. Militant to the point of enduring starvation and physical abuse in espousing its cause.

Its purpose was "one great industrial union" and, according to its manifesto, the movement "must be founded on the class struggle and its general administration must be conducted in harmony with the recognition of the irrepressible conflict between the capitalist class and the working class."

#### RED TINGE

Communitic? So said some. President Theodore Roosevelt called the Wobblies "undesirable citizens." U. S. Atty. Gen. A. Palmer Mitchell had many IWW members picked up in the Red raids of the 1920s.

The membership — probably never more than 75,000 — was decimated by creation of the CIO, some defection to the Communist party and its own failure to channel its crusading fervor toward new goals once the old goals had been achieved.

Earlier this year U. S. Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach estimated IWW membership at 1,000.

Although their ranks were thin, even in their heyday, their voice was loud. They conducted successful strikes for the eight-hour day in the textile mills of the East. In 1912 the IWW struck in Lawrence, Mass. A year later it hit Paterson, N. J.

Wobblies went through lock-outs and pitched battles in the minefields of Idaho, Montana and Utah and in the woods of Washington and Oregon. They fought Pinkerton detectives and U. S. troops and their methods would never have been recognized by the Marquess of Queensberry. Their actions cost a score of lives and thousands of dollars worth of damage. Sabotage was a familiar weapon.

Many opposed World War I and were called traitors. Dedicated to the betterment of working men everywhere, they were little concerned with national boundaries. This attitude came back to haunt them.

They had little truck with communism as it is known today. Haywood had met Lenin in Copenhagen and later, when rejected by his own followers, he went to Russia and later died there.

Before he left, however, the IWW became involved in the Everett and Centralia massacres. Free speech was the issue in Everett. Wobblies fought it out with the police and when it was over seven were dead and 68 wounded. The year was 1916 and eventually the IWW was absorbed.

The Wobblies struck a year later and won an eight-hour day in the woods.

The scene shifted to Centralia in 1919. It was Armistice Day and the American Legion planned a parade. The Wobblies protested the route. Legionnaires called them "Reds" and "traitors." The Wobblies taunted back.

**FACTS OBSCURE**  
 No one is sure how it started. Four legionnaires were killed and within hours Wesley Everest had been taken from the jail and hanged. Everest, ironically, was one Wobbly who had served in the Army. Seven Wobblies were sentenced for from 25 to 40 years. One died in prison. The others finally won pardons years later.  
 Dozens of Wobblies, including Haywood, spent months in pris-

on paying society for crimes they committed in behalf of those goals they thought society should have provided.

Most historians agree the IWW fought more battles for the working class than any other union. Their flag was carried by Everest; Frank Little, hanged in Butte, Mont.; and Joe Hill who was shot by a Utah firing squad.

The death of the Wobblies here is quiet by comparison. Its library, including the song book with its "work and pray, live on hay; you'll get pie in the sky when you die," is being turned over to the University of Washington.

Few young people have joined the IWW, so what of the future? "Us old fellows are done," says Peterson. "They can't live on us old fellows forever. . ."



Secretary of the Industrial Workers of the World (the "Wobblies") – "Vancouver (WA) Columbian"  
 Monday 31 May 1965 p 5 -

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/815108383/?terms=%22oscar%20n%20peterson%22&match=1>

Father? [https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/413814:61747?tid=&pid=&queryId=84ba0e3020ebc86b851928bc6b4544&\\_phsrc=hFB44676&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/413814:61747?tid=&pid=&queryId=84ba0e3020ebc86b851928bc6b4544&_phsrc=hFB44676&_phstart=successSource)

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/68645:62035>

**Patriot: Oscar Peterson and his brother-in-law, Ellis Johnson, loaded two carloads of horses and farm machinery the latter part of last week and on Saturday morning shipped out for Nashna, Mont., where they will farm their homesteads this coming summer.**

Is this him? Pingree news – the "Patriot" was a local newspaper – "Jamestown (ND) Weekly Alert"  
 Thursday 27 Apr 1916 p 10

**Name: Oscar Napoleon Peterson**

Name variations: believe that the man named as Oscar L. Peterson of Magnolia AR is Oscar Napoleon Peterson of Hamilton ND

**Military:**

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

Serial number: 250,618

Entered service from: Hamilton, Pembina ND

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Oscar N. Peterson

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father August Peterson, Hamilton ND

Returned from war on: "Santa Paula" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Oscar N. Peterson

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father August Peterson, Hamilton ND (pvt, 17th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Oscar Peterson - b. 28 Feb 1892 Hamilton ND; res: Deer Lodge, Lewis & Clark MT. Single. Lumber jack, unemployed at present. Medium height & build.

Card was signed "Oscar Peterson" but not by him – "This man refused to sign his name." He claimed exemption from the draft: "don't believe in war." He signed on 9 Jul 1917 (later than the 5 Jun 1917 national registration date). [note: he went to court on 10 Jul 1917 & was sentenced to 6 months in jail for draft evasion]

World War II draft registration (1942): as Oscar Napoleon Peterson - b. 29 Feb 1892 Hamilton ND; res: 618 ½ Weller St., Seattle, King WA. Mailing address: PO Box 365, Seattle, King WA. NOK contact J.B. Wilson, Labor Temple, Seattle, King WA. Employed by H.H. Walker, Selleck, King WA. Card signed O.N. Peterson. Height: 5'6" – 165 lbs.

**Veterans Administration Military Index:**

Enlisted: 11 Dec 1917

Discharged: 10 Jun 1919

Address: 619 Columbia Ave., Whitefish MT

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

**Birth & death:**

Born: 29 Feb 1892 (WWII draft & tombstone) or 28 Feb 1892 (WWI draft) Hamilton, Pembina ND

Died: 25 Jun 1966 Seattle, King WA

Find A Grave record: 187832635 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Portland, Multnomah OR

Cemetery: Willamette National

Tombstone: veteran flat: North Dakota Pvt 17 Co 20 Engineers WWI

Father: August Peterson. Born Sweden according to Oscar's responses in the 1930 census. Resident of Hamilton, Pembina ND in Jan 1918 & May 1919 when he is listed as Oscar's next-of-kin.

Find A Grave:

Mother: Born in Sweden, according to Oscar's responses in the 1930 census.

Find A Grave:

Parents' marriage:

Spouse: 1950 census claims he has never married.

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings:

Notes:

There are numerous men named August Peterson in North Dakota – and numerous men named Oscar Peterson in North Dakota, Montana & Washington. Unable to trace accurately.

Oscar gave his wartime next-of-kin address in Hamilton, Pembina ND. The county seat of Pembina County is Cavalier.

A search of all the 1900 – 1910 – and 1920 census pages for Hamilton, Pembina ND did not locate a family named Peterson nor someone named Oscar.

Pre-war:

Wartime:

“Pittsburgh (PA) Press” Sunday 10 Feb 1918 p 4 – “List of Survivors of the Tuscania” includes Oscar N. Peterson, Hamilton ND

Post-war:

1935 & 1950 res. of Spokane WA

Obituary:

His obituary was printed in the “Seattle (WA) Daily Times” 28 Jun 1966. Unable to access without a separate subscription. He died 25 Jun 1966, was born in North Dakota, died at age 74.

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1900 – unable to locate

1910 – unable to locate

1920 – unable to locate

1930 Seattle, King WA – 4847 King St. – line 21

Oscar Peterson, 38 N, single, parents b. Sweden, logger, lumber, WWI veteran  
Lodger with Tamezo & Kiku Oshio & numerous boarders

1940 Seattle, King WA – 611 ½ - 6<sup>th</sup> St. S, # 12 - in same place in 1935 – line 12

Oscar N. Peterson, 48 ND, single, mucker, tunnel [head of household]

1950 Seattle, King WA – 314 --- - middle initial of N. misread by indexer as V. – on line 8

Oscar N. Peterson, 58 ND, never married, street paver, construction company