

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

Rockett, William Laurence
1894 NY – 1951 NY

LARCHMONT MAN DIES IN GARAGE

W. L. Rockett Found Dead
Beside Car, Victim of
Heart Attack

William L. Rockett of 443 Boston Post Road in Dillon Park was found dead beside his automobile in the garage of his home at 11:50 A. M. yesterday after Town of Mamaroneck police were informed by a passer-by that a body was lying next to the car.

Mr. Rockett had been under a physician's care for heart trouble and it is believed he died after attempting to crank the motor of his automobile. He was fifty-seven years old.

William Barbera of the Bronx telephoned police from a call box near the Loyal Inn and Det. Sgt. Chauncey Smith could detect no pulse or respiration. Dr. Fred Prausnitz stated Mr. Rockett had been dead less than one hour.

Mrs. Rockett told police her husband had left the house near 11:30 to go to New Rochelle, where he was in the circulation department of Cue Magazine.

The body was removed to the George T. Davis Funeral Home in New Rochelle after permission was granted by the county medical examiner.

Mr. Rockett was born in Katonah, son of the late William and Helena Wolfe Rockett and had lived here 10 years after moving from Mount Kisco. He served in the Army during World War I.

He is survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Gertrude Smith.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 2 P. M. at the George T. Davis Memorial Chapel in New Rochelle and interment will be in Beechwoods Cemetery. Rev. Frederick Wamsley of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Rochelle, where Mr. Rockett was a communicant, will officiate.

Obituary of William Laurence Rockett – "Mamaroneck (NY) Daily Times" Thursday 29 Nov 1951 p 1

Rockett, William <i>L</i>		250,201	White <i>230</i>
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)
Residence: Grove St Mt Kisco		NEW YORK	
(Street and house number)		(Town or city)	(County) (State)
*Enlisted in	RA Mineola NY	—	Dec 8/17 —
†Born in	Catoma NY	—	23 10/12 yrs
Organizations:	213 Aer Sq 2 Pursuit /Gr AS to disch		
Grades:	Pvt	—	—
Engagements:	—	—	—
Wounds or other injuries received in action: None.			
‡Served overseas:	Jan 24/18 to Apr 11/19		
§Hon. disch.	Apr 16/19 on demobilization		
Was reported	0	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.	
Remarks:	—		

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/3030/images/40808_1120704930_0521-00440?pld=414691

Age at enl. 23 yrs. 10 mos.

SAT PR-2
ORIGINAL

CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <i>(See Instructions attached)</i> ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE ☐ FLAT MARBLE MARKER ☒ FLAT GRANITE MARKER ☐ BRONZE MARKER (NOTE RESTRICTIONS)		APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER <i>(Please make out and return in duplicate)</i>	
ENLISTMENT DATE December 8, 1917 DISCHARGE DATE April 16, 1919 <i>Hon.</i>		SERIAL No. 250210 PENSION No. XC 16-583-523	
NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial) Rockett, William L.		STATE RANK New York Private COMPANY 213 Aero Squad.	
DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) 2-2-1894 NAME OF CEMETERY Beechwood <i>hm</i>		U. S. REGIMENT, STATE ORGANIZATION, AND DIVISION 213 Aero Squad. <i>ASCC</i> LOCATION (City and State) New Rochelle, New York NEAREST FREIGHT STATION (City and State) New Rochelle, New York	
SHIP TO (I CERTIFY THE APPLICANT FOR THIS STONE HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ME TO TRANSPORT THE STONE FROM THE FREIGHT STATION TO THE CEMETERY) <i>Pierre W. Vallet</i> (SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE)		POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE c/o Vet. Div., DFCW 50 Weyman Avenue, New Rochelle, N. Y.	
DO NOT WRITE HERE FOR VERIFICATION ORDERED W. CHELMSFORD, MASS. AUG 6 1952 B/L W W 6680036 SHIPPED		I certify this application is submitted for a stone for the unmarked grave of a veteran. I hereby agree to assume all responsibility for the removal of the stone promptly upon arrival at destination, and properly place it at the decedent's grave at my expense. <i>Elizabeth J. Rockett</i> APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE ADDRESS (Street, City, State) 445 Boston Post Road, New Rochelle	

DATE OF APPLICATION

QOMG FORM 623 REV 15 APR 47 *AGOP-WR 4/30/52 AC*

16-31403-6 GPO
NEW YORK

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1481040:2375>

William L Rockett

in the New York, U.S., Death Index, 1852-1956

Name: William L Rockett

Age: 57

Birth Date: abt 1894

Death Date: 28 Nov 1951

Death Place: Mamaroneck, New York, USA

Certificate Number: 72172

230	ROCKWOOD	WILLIAM	COLONIE	85	1	420	4	20	21629
230	ROCKETT	WILLIAM L	MAMARONECK	57	1	420	11	28	72172
231	RESTIVE	DOMENIC	ALBION	83	1	422	7	29	44911
232	RICKETSON	ALEDIA M	PLATTSBURGH	57	1	420	7	14	41594
232	RICKETTS	ANASTAS	BABYLON	57	1	195	2	25	12071

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/61535/images/47952_554226-01242?treeid=58869450&personid=30080762663&hintid=&queryId=57a048c45509a66626883c7507ecb33e&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hFB50620&_phstart=succesSource&usePUBJs=true&pId=146302

ROCKETT WILLIAM LAWRENCE **CX16583523**

Pvt 213 Aero Sq - Spec Cas Co K
#2922

59 Grove St Mt Kisco NY A 3 620 608

Sr 250 201 Died 11 28 51 T 456 841

Born 2/2/94 R

Est 12/8/17 Dis 4/16/19 CL 2 709 032

I

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7208-Rev. Sept., 1928

INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WQKH-M6MM>

Board Grants Variance For Used Car Lot

The application of Shirley L. Goode of Larchmont for permission to erect a sales office for a used car business on the Boston Post Road and Van Guilder Street was approved Wednesday night by the Town of Mamaroneck Zoning Board of Appeals for one year.

The board ruled that the building must have a setback of 15 feet from the Boston Post Road; cars are not to be parked in front of the building line; the depth of the lot is limited to 100 feet; any filling used shall not change the grade of Van Guilder Street; and no wrecked cars are to be placed on the property.

Edward Payne, real estate agent, represented Mr. Goode.

The only objector was W. L. Rockett who represented Mrs. J.

L. Smith of 445 Boston Post Road, Larchmont.

He objected to the possible use of the land as a spare-part lot for used cars to which wrecks would be towed and dismantled but had no objection to the site being used as a legitimate business for used cars.

Mr. Payne assured the Board that the land would not be used as a junk yard, but would be

covered with a gravel or pebble top, and shrubbery and plants placed around the outside of the building to beautify the area.

Goode formerly applied for permission to erect a gasoline station on the site but last month withdrew his application in favor of the new one.

William apparently acting for the interests of his mother-in-law Julia Smith – "Mamaroneck (NY) Daily Times" Friday 26 May 1950 p 10

Wife:



Obituary of Elizabeth G. Smith Rockett – “Mamaroneck (NY) Daily Times” Tuesday 5 Apr 1983 p 4



“New York Herald” Tuesday 30 Apr 1918 p 11

William L. Rockett

in the New York State, Marriage Index, 1881-1967

Name:	William L. Rockett
Gender:	Male
Marriage Date:	12 Aug 1916
Marriage Place:	Rye., New York, USA
Spouse:	Elizabeth G. Smith
Certificate Number:	22751
Records Sharing Certificate Number:	Name
	William L. Rockett
	Elizabeth G. Smith

https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?dbid=61632&h=5717937&indiv=try&o_vc=Record:OtherRecord&rhSource=618

FOUR-FOOT FALL FROM LADDER IS FATAL TO MAN, 73

**Town Of Mamaroneck Resident
Dies After Mishap In
New Rochelle Factory**

A fall of less than four feet from a ladder in the stock room of the W. A. Case and Sons Manufacturing Company at 115 Cedar street, New Rochelle, caused the death Wednesday afternoon of Henry C. Smith, 73, of 185 Boston Post road, Town of Mamaroneck.

Although the aged man fell less than four feet, he sustained a fracture at the base of the skull, a fracture of the left collarbone and fractures of the first, second, third and fourth ribs.

The accident happened at 2:35 o'clock but police were not notified until Smith died three hours later at the New Rochelle Hospital.

According to the results of an investigation conducted this morning by Detectives William Mancusi and Maurice Kelly, Smith had placed a six-foot ladder between two "cubby holes" in the Case stock room and then had placed a narrow board the length of the ladder. He was walking on this when, for some reason not yet determined, he lost his balance and fell.

He was discovered within five minutes by an employe of the company who called the doctor and then the hospital.

Mr. Smith was born in New York City, May 1, 1857, a son of the late Christopher and Christina Smith, and had lived in the town of Mamaroneck for the past 38 years.

Mr. Smith had been with the Case Company for about five years. Formerly he was connected with the Jones Speedometer Company, at the same location. As a teamster, he also worked for the Knickerbocker Press for a number of years.

Surviving are the widow, Julia L. (Witthoff) and two children, Harry T. Smith, Jamaica and Mrs. William L. Rockett, of Mount Kisco. Mr. Smith was a member of the Foresters of America.

Funeral services will be held at the late home, 185 Boston Post road, tomorrow at 3 p. m., with the Rev. Daniel M. Welton, who is in charge of Trinity Church while the rector, Dr. Paul Gordon Favour, is on vacation, officiating. The interment will be in Beechwoods Cemetery.

Obituary of father-in-law, Henry C. Smith, died 6 Aug 1930, buried Beechwoods Cemetery –
"Mamaroneck (NY) Daily Times" Friday 8 Aug 1930 p 2

Father

Rockett	Tony	7 Dec	Chant	48855
	William	2 Jul	Bedford	26909
	William M	26 Dec	Greenvale	61254

Death of father William Rockett on 2 Jul 1900 in Bedford, Westchester NY -

[https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSG8-](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSG8-RBYK?cc=2803479&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQG5W-7TLD)

[RBYK?cc=2803479&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQG5W-7TLD](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSG8-RBYK?cc=2803479&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQG5W-7TLD)

Mother

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2375676:8800?tid=&pid=&queryId=5f49147381e21c05968cdbe1f093a536&_phsrc=hFB50637&_phstart=successSource)

[content/view/2375676:8800?tid=&pid=&queryId=5f49147381e21c05968cdbe1f093a536&_phsrc=hFB50637&_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2375676:8800?tid=&pid=&queryId=5f49147381e21c05968cdbe1f093a536&_phsrc=hFB50637&_phstart=successSource)

Surrogate's Court,
Westchester County,
In the Matter of the probate
of a paper writing propounded
as the last Will and Testament
of
Helene Rockett
Deceased.

I, Helene Rockett, of the Village of Mount Kisco,
County of Westchester and State of New York, being of sound
and disposing mind and memory, and considering the sincer-
tainty of this life, do make, publish and declare this to be my
last Will and Testament, in manner and form following:

First: I request my executors hereinafter named to
pay out of my estate all my just debts and funeral expenses,
as soon after my decease as they conveniently may be paid.

Second: I hereby give, devise and bequeath all my estate and property, real and personal, unto my mother, Helena Wolf, for and during the term of her natural life.

Third: All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate real and personal subject to the life estate, heretofore given to my mother, I hereby give, devise and bequeath unto my son William Lorenz Rockett his heirs and assigns.

Fourth: I hereby nominate and appoint my said mother, Helena Wolf, guardian of the person and estate of my said son William Lorenz Rockett, for and during his minority.

Fifth: I hereby nominate and appoint my mother, Helena Wolf, and Timothy J. Hartnett of Mountisco, New York, to be executors and trustees under this my last will and

testament for the purpose of carrying the provisions hereof with the power to invest the monies coming into their hands in approved securities and to pay the income derived therefrom to my mother, Helena Wolf, for and during her natural life. And I hereby grant unto my said executors and trustees full power and authority to sell and convey and all real estate of which I may be seized at either public or private sale and at such time or times as in their judgment they shall deem for the best interest of my estate. And I hereby revoke all other former wills by me, at any time made.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the twenty-fourth day of August in the year one thousand nine hundred and nine.

Witnesses:

Helene Rockett

(S)

John Hartnett

Charles H. Canke,

The foregoing instrument, to which we have subscribed our names as witnesses, was subscribed by Helene Rockett, the testatrix named in the foregoing Will, in the presence of each of us, and at the time of making such subscription, the above instrument was declared by the said Testatrix to be her last Will and Testament, and each of us, at the request of said Testatrix and in her presence and in the presence of each other, signed our names as witnesses thereto.

John Hartnett, Residing at Mount Kisco N.Y.

Charles H. Banks Residing at Mount Kisco, N.Y.

I, Helene Rockett, of the Village of Mount Kisco, Westchester County, New York, ^{being} of sound and disposing mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of this life, do hereby make, publish and declare this to be a Codicil to my last Will and Testament, bearing date the 24th day of August 1909, as follows:-

First: In the event of the death of my son William Lorenz Rockett prior to the death of my mother, Helena Wolf, leaving lawful issue him surviving, then and in such case I give and bequeath all of my estate real and personal unto such lawful issue of my said son, subject to the life use thereof of my said mother.

Second: In case my said son should pre-decease my said mother leaving no lawful issue him surviving, but leaving a wife, then and in such case his wife if living at the death of my said mother shall take the part or portion of my estate which my said son would have



59 Grove St., Mount Kisco NY - https://www.zillow.com/homedetails/59-Grove-St-Mount-Kisco-NY-10549/33106086_zpid/

Name: William Laurence Rockett

Name variations: Lawrence

Military:

On Tuscania: 213th Aero Squadron - private

Serial number: 250,201

Entered service from: Mount Kisco, Westchester NY

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: William L. Rockett

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": wife Elizabeth G. Rockett, 59 Grove St., Mt. Kisco NY

Returned from war on: "Rotterdam" Apr 1919

Sailed on return ship as: William L. Rockett

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: wife Mrs. Elizabeth D. Rockett, c/o Mrs. J.L. Smith, Boston Post Rd., New Rochelle NY (PFC, 213th Aero Sq)

World War I draft registration (1917): as William Laurence Rickett - b. 2 Feb 1894 Katonah NY; res: Mount Kisco, Westchester NY

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): 69 Grove St., Mount Kisco NY – listed as William LAWRENCE Rockett

World War II draft registration (1942): as William Lawrence Rockett - b. 2 Feb 1894 Katonah NY; res: Bloomerside-Peach Lake, North Salem NY. NOK wife Elizabeth G. Rockett.

Veterans Administration Military Index: as William LAWRENCE Rockett

Enlisted: 8 Dec 1917

Discharged: 16 Apr 1919

Address: 59 Grove St., Mount Kisco NY

Rank/unit: private, 213th Aero Squadron, Spec Cas Co

Birth & death:

Born: 2 Feb 1894 Katonah, Westchester NY, NY (

Died: 28 Nov 1951 Mamaroneck, Westchester NY

Find A Grave record: 188308490 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text & flower

Burial location: New Rochelle, Westchester NY

Cemetery: Beechwoods

Tombstone: veteran tombstone application: veteran flat: NY, Pvt, 213th Aero Squadron

Father: William Rockett, Jul 1865 NY (1900 census) – 2 Jul 1900 Bedford, Westchester NY.
Son of William Rockett & Mary Fitzpatrick. The 1900 census (conducted 26 Jun 1900) listed him as an invalid.

Find A Grave:

Mother: Helene Wolfe Rockett, Dec 1868 NY (1900 census) – Aug 1909 (last will & testament) NY.

Find A Grave:

Parents' marriage:

Spouse: Elizabeth Gertrude Smith Rockett, 10 Jan 1894 New Rochelle, Westchester NY – 3 Apr 1983 Peekskill, Westchester NY. Daughter of Henry C. Smith, son of Christoph Smith & Christine Sperber. & Julia L. Witthoff, daughter of Frank Witthoff (1837-1912) & Anna Margaret Kaiser (1829-1897).

In the 1915 NY state census, 21-year-old Elizabeth lived with her parents in Mamaroneck, Westchester NY.

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage: 12 Aug 1916 in Rye Co. NY

Children:

Siblings:

Notes:

Do not confuse (as Ancestry.com presumably does with siblings and other data) with William Laurence Rockett, b. 2 Jul 1894 or 1898 & died 1959, F: 2800917.

Pre-war:

1913 Peekskill NY city directory:

Rockett, William, resident of 7 S. Field

1914 White Plains NY city directory:

Rockett, William L., forester, resident of 59 Grove St.

Wartime:

"New York Tribune" Sunday 10 Feb 1918 p 14 – "List of Tuscania Survivors" includes Rockett, William L., 59 Grove St., Mount Kisco NY

"New York Times" Sunday 10 Feb 1918 p 12 – among the New Yorkers saved: Rockett, William L., private, wife Elizabeth Rockett, Mount Kisco NY

Post-war:

When William L. Rockett sailed from Havana, Cuba, to NY in 1927, he gave his birth information as 2 Feb 1894 Katonah NY. He arrived in NYC 8 Feb 1927 aboard "Siboney." Resident of 59 Grove St., Mount Kisco NY

Obituary:

Social Security number:

Censuses:

1900 Bedford, Westchester NY – conducted 26 Jun 1900 – his father dies 2 Jul 1900
William Rockett, 34 NY, Jul 1865, parents b. NY, married 9 years, invalid
Helen Rockett, 31 NY, Dec 1868, parents b. Germany, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living
William L., 6 NY, Feb 1894

1905 NY state census – Bedford, Westchester NY
Lena Wolf, 55 US, hotel keeper
Lena Rockett, 35 US, helper [daughter]
Willie Rockett, 11 US, at school [grandson]
& brother-in-law David Wolf, 34 Ireland, bar tender

1910 Bedford, Westchester NY – Grove St. – conducted 18 Apr 1910
Helena Wolfe, 60 Germany, widow, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living, own income
Helana Rockett, 41 NY, parents b. Germany, gave birth to 1 child, 1 is living [daughter]
William L. Rockett, 16 NY, parents b. NY [grandson]

& niece Florence M. Slant [Stewart?], 21 NY, parents b. NY, stenographer & typewriter, broker's office

1920 Bedford, Westchester NY – 59 Grove St.
 William Rockett, 26 NY, parents b. NY, mechanic, auto garage
 Elizabeth G. Rockett, 26 NY, parents b. NY [wife]
 & servant Marry Roth, 59 NJ, widow

1925 NY state census – Bedford, Westchester NY – 59 Grove St.
 Wm. L. [misread as Y.] RICKETT, 31 US, auto mechanic
 Elizabeth, 31 US, housewife

1930 Mount Kisco, Westchester NY
 Wm. L. Rockett, 36 NY, parents b. NY, age 22 at 1st marriage, proprietor, garage, veteran
 status left blank for most entries on this page
 Elizabeth G., 36 NY, parents b. NY, age 22 at 1st marriage

1940 Mount Kisco, Westchester NY – 169 E. Main St. – in 1935 in same place
 William Rockett, 46 NY, car dealer, own business
 Elizabeth, 46 NY

1950 Mamaroneck, Westchester NY – Boston Post Rd.
 William L. Rockett, 56 NY, salesman, magazines
 Elizabeth G. Rockett, 56 NY
 & mother-in-law Julia Smith, 80 NY