

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

Roberts, Joseph Eugene
1896 WI – 1961 MN



Real Estate Broker, Joseph Roberts, Dies

Joseph Roberts, 120 S. Broom st., a Madison real estate broker, died Wednesday (July 12, 1961) in a Rochester, Minn., hospital after a brief illness.

Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Raphael Cathedral, 218 W. Main



st. Burial will be in Resurrection cemetery. Friends may call at the Joyce funeral home, 540 W. Washington ave., until time of services. The rosary will be recited at the funeral home at 8 tonight.

Mr. Roberts was a Madison resident for the past

**MR.
ROBERTS**

30 years. Before entering the real estate business he was in school and personnel administration. He was a member of the Madison Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Roberts, a veteran of World War I, was a survivor of the sinking of a troopship, the *Tuscania*, Feb. 5, 1918. He was a member of the 32nd Red Arrow division's Engineering company E.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth; a daughter, Patricia, at home; two sons, James H., at home; and Bernard T., 3709 Cross st.; a brother, Pierce, 304 S. Brooks st.; two sisters, Mrs. Mamie Hosking, Milwaukee; and Mrs. Carrie Fitch, P a m o n a, Calif.; and five grandchildren.

Joseph Eugene Roberts - from obituary: "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) 14 July 1961 p 14 - <https://www.newspapers.com/image/legacy/400529269/?article=cb7e2e95-ba8e-41cf-bfd5-2124ee3b9954>

Survived Tuscania Sinking

Joseph Roberts, Madison Real Estate Broker, Dies

Joseph E. Roberts, 120 S. Broom St., real estate broker here and former school and personnel administrator, died unexpectedly Wednesday at a Rochester, Minn., hospital.

A native of Ridgeway, Mr. Roberts was a Madison resident the past 30 years. He was in school and personnel administration work for many years and more recently was in the real estate business here.

A veteran of World War I, serving with Engineers Co. E in the 32nd Division, he was one of the survivors of the troop ship *Tuscania*, which was sunk Feb. 1, 1918.

Survivors are his wife, Elisabeth; a daughter, Patricia, at home; two sons, James H., at home, and Bernard J. Roberts, 3404 Cross st.; five grandchildren; a brother, Pierce Roberts, 307 S. Brooks st., former executive secretary of the Madison Building and Construction Trades Assn.; and two sisters, Mrs. Mayme Hoskins, Milwaukee; and Mrs. Carrie Fitch, Pomona, Calif.



Funeral services will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. in the Joyce funeral home, 540 W. Washington ave., and at 9:30 a.m. in St. Raphael's Cathedral, Msgr. Edward M. Kinney officiating.

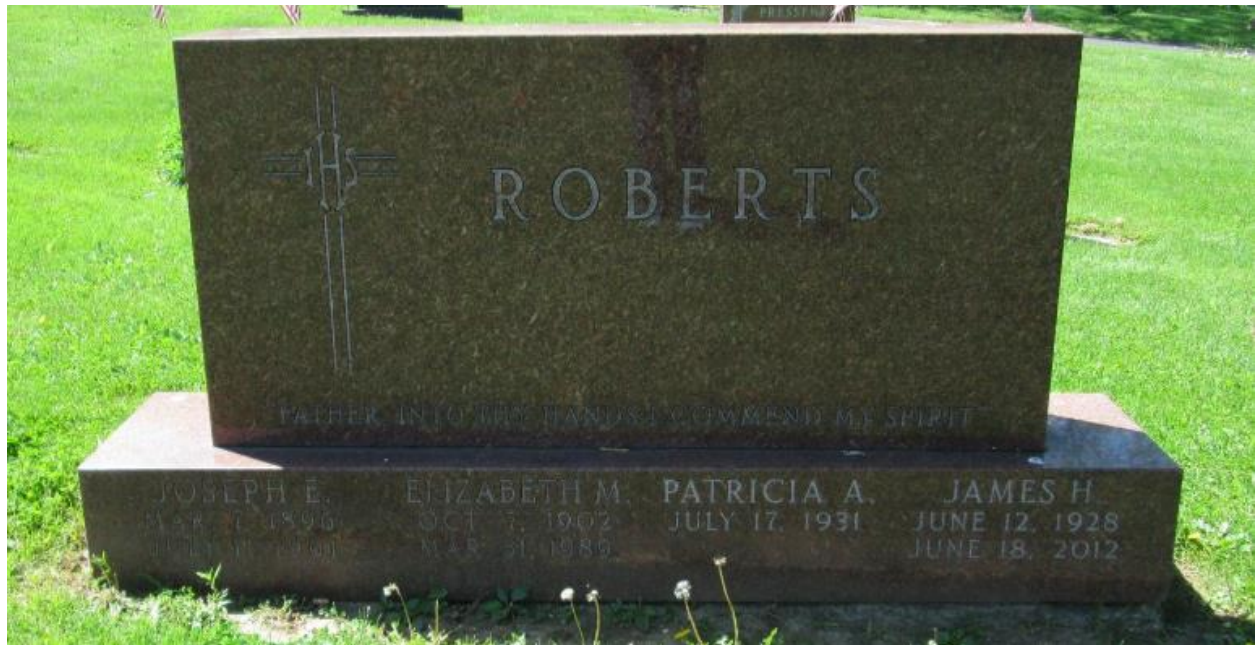
Friends may call at the funeral home after 7 tonight. The rosary will be recited there Friday at 8 p.m. Burial will be in Resurrection cemetery.

ROBERTS JOSEPH EUGENE		YC21817798	
Pvt 1c 107 Engr Tn 32 Div		K	
Ridgeway Wis		A 1 123 625	
Sa 251 722	Died 7/11/61	T 1 55 461	
Born 3-7-96		R	
Enl 7-15-17	Dis 5-27-19	Ct 45 806	
		I	
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1925		INDEX CARD GPO 2-13305	

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:WWWX-ZYZM>

WW I		WW II		KOREA		ORIGINAL	
1. NAME OF DECEASED, LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE (Print or Type)				14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State)			
ROBERTS, JOSEPH E. ✓				Resurrection Cemetery, Madison, Wis.			
2. SERVICE NUMBER		3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER		IMPORTANT - Item 18 on reverse side must be completed. See attached instructions and complete and submit both copies.			
251 722 ✓				15. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement at the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government.			
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year)		5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year)		NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type)			
5-30-17 NG		5-27-19 Hon		Bernard Roberts			
6. STATE		7. MEDALS		RELATIONSHIP			
Wisconsin ✓				son			
8. GRADE OR RANK		9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION		ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Street address, City and State)			
Pfc. ✓		107th Engr's 32nd Div. ✓		3404 Cross St. Madison, Wis.			
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year)		11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year)		SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT			
3-7-96 ✓		7-11-61		James H. Roberts - son			
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one)		13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED		DATE			
☒ LATIN CROSS (Christian)		☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE		15 AUG - 1961			
☐ STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew)		☐ FLAT MARBLE MARKER		16. FREIGHT STATION			
☐ NO EMBLEM		☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER		Madison - Wis			
		☒ FLAT BRONZE MARKER		17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER			
				J H ROBERTS			
DO NOT WRITE HERE				ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State)			
FOR VERIFICATION		ORDERED		120 S. Broom ST. MADISON - Wis			
AUG 23 1961		SEP 12 1961		I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY.			
B/L		CONTRACT		SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE			
1599		JAMES H. MATTHEWS (287) PITTSBURGH, PA.		James H. Roberts			
kfc 107 Engrs 32 Div in hr I							

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1386610:2375>



Shared tombstone of Joseph Eugene Roberts, his wife Elizabeth, his daughter Patricia & son James – Find A Grave 203505818

THE reported torpedoing of the Empress of Australia off the coast of Africa recalled the wrecking on Feb. 5, 1918, of the Tuscania, a British transport enroute to the battlefields of Europe with American soldiers, many of whom were from Wisconsin.

On Feb. 7, 8 and 9 this year in Detroit will be held the 23rd annual convention of Tuscania survivors. The Madison men who live to tell the story of this memorable ocean disaster are **Edward M. Davis** of the Forest Products laboratory staff; **Clyde P. Diggles** of the state banking department; **C. L. Harrington**, superintendent of parks and forests for the Wisconsin conservation commission; **Joseph E. Roberts**, manager of the state employment bureau, and **Leo J. Doyle** of the Veterans facility personnel.

Prof. Olaf S. Aamodt, former chairman of the agronomy department of the University of Wisconsin, is also a Tuscania survivor. He is now connected with the U. S. department of agriculture at Washington, D. C.

These former World war veterans have made a patriotic practice of attending as many of the survivors conventions as they possibly could. But it is quite likely that none of them will get away to the Detroit convention this year, ow-

of the vessel, while the second struck in the vicinity of No. 1 boiler.

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TROUBLE WITE LIFEBOATS

THE Tuscania stopped dead. A shiver ran through her and she heeled over at a dangerous angle. The lifeboats, thus elevated so high on the port side, were practically useless. Only a few were put over from that side.

The first of the lifeboats launched struck the water so unevenly that they capsized, throwing the occupants into the sea. However, several were put down successfully but the vessel's list became more perilous. The soldiers, under strict orders from their commanders, kept unusually cool heads and their military precision even after they thought they were doomed to go to the bottom and even after their superior officers, realizing that the end had come, ordered them to break ranks and "do the best they could" for themselves.

Just when everyone on board was certain that their last hour had come, a British destroyer appeared miraculously from somewhere and drew up on the starboard side of the wrecked Tuscania. This ship took off several hundreds of our soldiers—all she could carry—and moved away. As

ing to the stress of national conditions at the present time. As Joe Roberts said: "There is too much important work to be done now to even think of going."

HOW IT HAPPENED

The sinking of the British transport *Tuscania* on Feb. 5, 1918, by a German submarine was the first serious military loss of the United States in the first World war. The vessel was under charter to the Cunard Line and served as a transport for American troops to Europe.

On board the *Tuscania* 23 years ago were 2,179 American soldiers, the greater number being from Wisconsin, Michigan, California and other west coast states. The transport was torpedoed off the north coast of Ireland near the Island of Islay. Over 200 lives were lost. Many of the bodies were washed ashore on the Scottish coast and buried with appropriate services in Scotland. The members of the crew who lost their lives were nearly all killed in the explosion in the engine room.

The *Tuscania* was attacked early in the evening of Feb. 5 while proceeding under convoy in sight of the Irish coast. With other troop and provision ships, she was entering what was considered

she steamed off with her decks loaded with Wisconsin and Michigan men, another British destroyer emerged out of the darkness on the *Tuscania's* port side.

Soon the work of rescue was over, but not soon enough to save all. Most of the deaths, however, in the soldiers' ranks, were caused by the capsizing of the lifeboats in the attempt to lower them from the port side of the vessel. Many of those thus thrown into the icy waters perished of exposure.

EVERY AID GIVEN

WISCONSIN had the greatest number of survivors in this wreck—155 being listed.

The survivors, upon reaching the Irish mainland, were quartered in hotels, private homes and hospitals along the north coast of Ireland. Two groups were sent off to Belfast by rail, thence by boat to England. Everywhere they were given warm welcome and substantial aid and comfort.

The possibility of being torpedoed had been discussed daily by the soldiers aboard from the time the *Tuscania* left American shores. When this actually happened, they seemed to be ready. Hundreds of soldiers had just finished their evening meal. Hundreds

fairly safe waters. Moving along in the dusk, with land easily distinguishable ahead, a torpedo struck the liner amidships. No sign of a submarine had been seen before the blow was struck, but two torpedoes had been launched by the enemy from somewhere, the first one passing just astern

more were forming in line to enter the dining salon when disaster struck. Officers shouted instructions to the men who displayed wonderful coolness and nerve as they marched to their boat stations. There wasn't a sign of a panic.

The rescue work done by the British destroyers was followed by trawlers which watched for and picked up those whom the destroyers had missed. One trawler thus rescued 340 Americans. The vessels which took part in this heroic, historic rescue were H. M. S. Harpy; H. M. S. Mosquito; H. M. S. Grasshopper; H. M. S. Curacao and the Trawler Walpole.

"Madison (W) Capital Times" Thursday 30 Jan 1941 p 11

Tuscania Reunion Calls Five Men from Madison

Five men from Madison and one from Cottage Grove, survivors of the Tuscania disaster of the first World war, may attend the annual convention of the National Tuscania Survivors assn. in Wisconsin Rapids Feb. 7 and 8.

The Madison members are Edward M. Davis, Forest Products laboratory; Clyde P. Diggles, 719 Chapman st.; Cornelius Harrington, 136 Lathrop st.; Asbury H. Vale, 107 W. Doty st., and Joseph E. Roberts, 127 E. Mifflin st. Raymond C. Harrison is listed from Cottage Grove.

The unique association gathers each year to remember the early evening hour in 1918 when a German submarine sent the Tuscania to the bottom of the Atlantic. Of the 2,393 United States officers and men who were aboard, 269 perished.

Those who cannot attend the meeting will pause at the anniversary time—5:50 p. m.—to say silent prayers for departed comrades.

The banquet will be held the night of Feb. 7 in Hotel Witter. Business and social sessions will be held Sunday. Mayor Carl Zeidler, Milwaukee, has been invited to address the convention.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Wednesday 28 Jan 1942 p 3

of the torpedoing of the Tuscania, the liner on which my section of the 32nd division was sailing, headed for Liverpool, to enter World War I.

"On Feb. 5, 1918, we had almost reached the north coast of Ireland when a submarine got us. Extraordinary discipline prevailed among the troops aboard the ship which was under the command of **Maj. Wade**. However, it was soon evident that the boat was done for and that many of us were doomed to a watery grave. Finally we received the final command. It was something like this:

"We've done all we can. Look out for yourselves now, boys."

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"We had practically abandoned all hope when suddenly out of somewhere loomed the British destroyer, the Mosquito. It was an 11th hour, 59 minute, 59th second rescue! We were taken off the sinking vessel and carried aboard the Mosquito to Buncrana, an Irish seaport town a few miles south of Londonderry.

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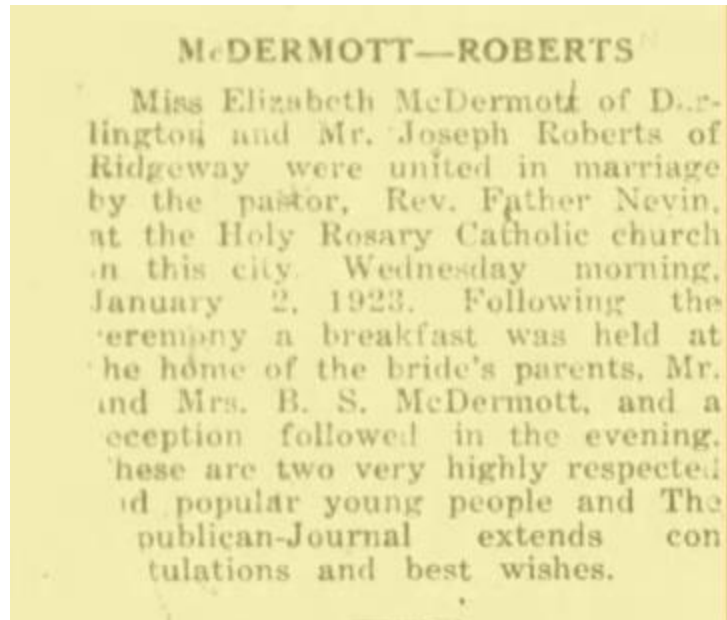
"The Tuscania survivors formed a club which met regularly for a long time, usually some place in Wisconsin, as many of the survivors were from this state. We haven't met now for quite awhile and probably won't for the duration."

HIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

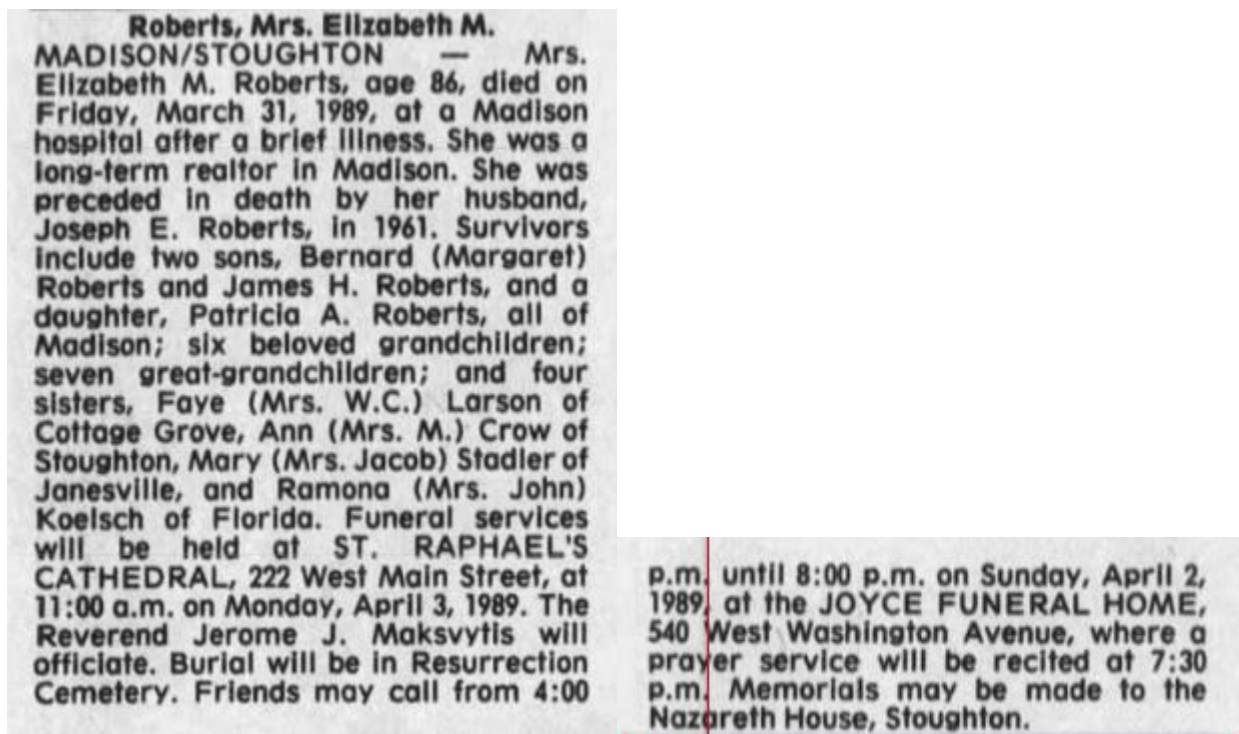
"There's one anniversary I'll never forget," says **Joseph E. Roberts**, local manager of the U. S. employment bureau, "and that's Friday. That's the 25th anniversary

Rescued by the "Mosquito" – "Madison (WI) Capital Times" Thursday 4 Feb 1943 p 13

Wife:



Marriage of Joseph Eugene Roberts to Elizabeth L. McDermott on 2 Jan 1924 – “Darlington (WI) Republican-Journal” Thursday 3 Jan 1924 p 1



Obituary of Elizabeth McDermott Roberts – “Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) Sunday 2 Apr 1989 p 26

Children:
 frogie



BERNARD ROBERTS OBITUARY

Bernard Joseph Roberts
March 5, 1925 - March 14, 2022

Bernard Joseph Roberts (BJ), passed away peacefully at home, with family by his side on Monday, March 14, 2022.

Bernard was born March 5, 1925 to Joseph and Elizabeth Roberts of Dodgeville, WI. Bernard grew up in Madison, WI, graduating from Central High School.

After high school Bernard went into the military and fought in World War II over in Europe.

After the leaving the military Bernard attended the UW Madison and graduated with a degree in Economics. While attending the UW, Bernard was introduced to Margaret G. Palzkill, by his friend Bill Goeden, who was also attending the UW at that time and dating Margaret's sister Lorraine. Bernard and Margaret were married in Mineral Point, WI, on November 15, 1952, on the opening day of the Wisconsin gun deer season and Bernard's brother James never forgot that.

Bernard joined the City of Madison Police Department as the first police officer with a college degree. Bernard retired at the rank of Lieutenant in 1981, after 33-years of service. While attending a nine month Traffic Institute course at Northwestern University in IL, (1970-1971) all of the students and professors, that year ended up with their names listed on microfiche, along with a copy of the New Testament, which was sent up on a NASA mission and placed on the moon.

While on the Madison PD, he was a member of the MPD pistol team shooting competitively for the police department. Bernard was well known throughout the state as an expert shooter winning the state title nine consecutive years in a row. On occasion when some shooters going to a pistol match would see Bernard show up, they decided to go golfing that day instead of shooting.

After retiring Bernard and Margaret went back to Europe several times to visit the areas he had been during World War II, to see how they changed after the war and how they looked now.

Bernard is survived by his wife, Margaret of 69-years of marriage; his children: Dan (Sara), Colleen (Bill), George (Debbie), Jim, Beth; and his sister Patricia. Bernard is also survived by several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bernard was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Elizabeth; a daughter, Ann; and his brother, James.

Per Bernards wishes there will be no public service held.

In lieu of flowers or plants, donations may be made to wildd.org or a [Shriners Children's Hospital](#).

Obituary of son Bernard Joseph Roberts (1925-2022) -
<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/madison/name/bernard-roberts-obituary?id=34030174>

FORM APPROVED
Budget Bureau No. 33-R012-42

REGISTRATION CARD (Men born on or after July 1, 1924, and on or before December 31, 1924)
(Also for the registration of men as they reach the 18th anniversary of the date of their birth on or after January 1, 1943.)

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)		ORDER NUMBER
W 199	Bernard (First)	Joseph Roberts (Middle) (Last)	13158

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)
334 W. Wilson St., Madison Dane Wisconsin
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON LINE 2 ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS
Same.
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same, insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE F. 6752 (Exchange) (Number)	5. AGE IN YEARS 18 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Dodgeville, Wisconsin (Town or county) (State or country)
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7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
J. E. Roberts, 334 W. Wilson St., Madison, Wisconsin
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
Student

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
University of Wisconsin, Madison Dane Wisconsin
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

DSS Form 1 (Rev. 11-16-42) a16-21630-4 (OVER) *Bernard Roberts*
(Registrant's signature)

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)		WEIGHT (Approx.)		COMPLEXION	
White	X	6' 1"		160 lbs		Sallow	
		EYES		HAIR		Light	X
Negro		Blue	X	Blonde		Ruddy	
Indian		Gray		Red		Dark	
		Hazel		Brown	X	Freckled	
Filipino		Brown		Black		Light brown	
Japanese		Black		Gray		Dark brown	
Other Oriental				Bald		Black	

Bride-to-Be



MARGARET PALZKILL

Announcement of the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Margaret Germaine, 208 S. Henry st., to Bernard Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Roberts, Route 3, is made by Mr. and Mrs. George Palzkill, Mineral Point.

The wedding will take place on Nov. 15 at 9:30 a. m. in St. Mary's church, Mineral Point.

Miss Palzkill is employed by the Madison club and Mr. Roberts is on the Madison Police force.

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) Monday 3 Nov 1952 p 12

Roberts, James Hubert

MADISON - James Hubert Roberts, age 84, passed away Tuesday, June 19, 2012. Private services will be held.

**Joyce-Ryan Funeral Home
& Cremation Services**

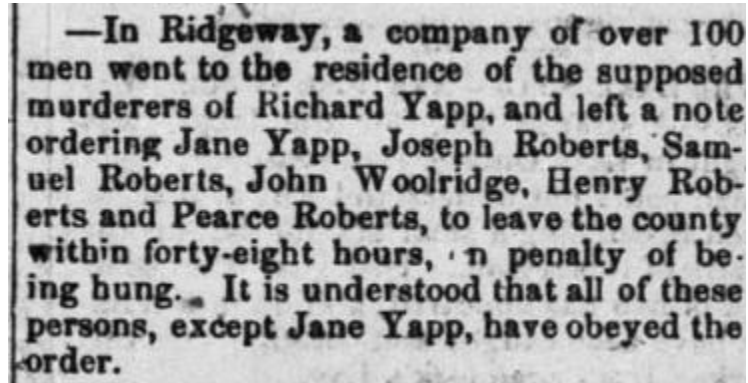
5701 Odana Road

(608) 274-1000

www.ryanfuneralservice.com

Obituary of son **James Hubert Roberts (1928-2012)** – “Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI) Friday 29 Jun 2012 p 8

Father:



—In Ridgeway, a company of over 100 men went to the residence of the supposed murderers of Richard Yapp, and left a note ordering Jane Yapp, Joseph Roberts, Samuel Roberts, John Woolridge, Henry Roberts and Pearce Roberts, to leave the county within forty-eight hours, on penalty of being hung. It is understood that all of these persons, except Jane Yapp, have obeyed the order.

“Wisconsin State Register” Saturday 22 May 1869 p 2

RIDGWAY

MR. EDITOR: Presuming that your numerous readers throughout the county feel interested in the series of lawsuits just terminated between the Roberts Brothers and their brother in law, Woolridge, on the one side, and the members of the "Ridgeway Vigilance Committee" on the other side, I take this opportunity of giving you the particulars. Not being in the habit of writing for the press, (to say nothing of other excuses I might suggest, and which, no doubt, will suggest themselves to the reader,) my narrative will necessarily be imperfect in many points; but I will endeavor to give you "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

On the 4th day of March, 1868, early in the evening, Richard Yapp, Jr., was murdered in this neighborhood, and suspicion pointed to the Roberts family as the perpetrators of the crime. The grounds for this suspicion I need not narrate, as they are very generally understood. The people became terribly excited over the murder, and set to work to detect the assassin or assassins, as the case might be, when it became rumored throughout the neighborhood that several persons who had made themselves conspicuous by giving evidence before the coroner's inquest, and

in other ways, had been threatened with vengeance by the very parties, who were suspected of murdering Richard Yapp. This state of affairs, very naturally, intensified the excitement, already existing, to such a degree that on the 1st day of May, in the same year, it culminated in a public meeting at the voting place in this town, at which it was *unanimously* decided that Jane Yapp, the widow of the murdered man, and Joseph Roberts, Samuel Roberts, Henry Roberts and Pierce Roberts, and a brother-in-law—John F. Woolridge—should be waited upon and ordered to leave the county, within forty-eight hours from the receipt of the notice. —The resolution was immediately carried into effect, and some eighty-five men marched in a body from the meeting to the house of Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts, and calling to find the suspected parties they left a letter addressed to them, assuring them that if they did not leave as directed they would have “such justice as their actions merited.” Not **having** any particular desire to have justice measured out to them according to their merits, they left within the time specified—that is, with the exception of Jane Yapp.—They assembled around the country for some time, and prospered to such an extent that, in January, 1870, by the advice and with the

assistance of the notorious Moses M. Strong, John Woolridge, Samuel Roberts and Joseph Roberts, each commenced an action of trespass on the case, in the United States District Court, and assessed their damages at ten thousand dollars each, amounting in the aggregate to (only) ninety thousand dollars.—These cases were continued from term to term until the June term held at Madison, in this year, when the case of Woolridge, *vs* Thos. Watkins, John Calkins, *et. al.* was tried and resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, for two thousand dollars. There are some facts connected with this case that are not generally understood, but which exercised an important influence upon the verdict arrived at by the jury.

The counsel for the defence concluded their argument on Saturday evening, at about five o'clock, and the Judge immediately adjourned Court until 9 o'clock Monday morning, thus giving Judge Orton (who made the principal plea for the plaintiff) an extra opportunity to prepare himself, for the task that appeared to nine tenths of the spectators, at that time, to be insurmountable.—And that he improved upon the time thus allowed, any one, who heard his pleading at that time and upon the recent trial, must be convinced.—And then, any one can judge the advantage that that postponement gave to

[article goes on for several columns]

"Dodgeville (WI) Chronicle" Friday 29 Sep 1871 p 2

THE WRESTLING MATCH.

A Hotly Contested Struggle in Which Lewis Proves the Best Man.

[By Our "Sporting Reporter."]

The grand wrestling match for the heavy weight championship of the state of Wisconsin,—Cornish style—between Ben Knight of Darlington, and Evan Lewis, formerly a Ridgeway boy, now of Montana, Ter., took place at the Opera House in this city on Tuesday last.

The match was made some two weeks ago, and although the time was short for either man to do any great amount of training, a great deal of science was displayed by both sides.

For two days previous to the time the match was to take place men began to arrive in our city from different parts of the country to witness something which it not been their pleasure to see in many years; and especially were Darlington and Ridgeway, and Cornwall and Wales well represented.

The hall was densely crowded long before the time announced for the wrestle to take place, and one would be led to believe that this was even more than a "holiday" for the sports of this community.

At 2:15 the referees—being Messrs. Richard Pollard, of Linden, Pierce Roberts, of Ridgeway, and Parnell, of Darlington—entered the ring, and Mr. Parnell called the audience to order, at the same time taking from his pocket a book containing the rules and regulations of "The Cornish Style of Wrestling," which he read aloud, and at the finish was lustily cheered by those present. The referees then announced "time" Lewis was the first to enter

[article continues]

"Iowa County Democrat" (Mineral Point WI) Friday 23 Mar 1883 p 3

Mr. Pierce Roberts has sold his house and lot in this village to Messrs Brennan and McCaragher, of Mineral Point, who will establish a blacksmith and wagon shop thereon. We wish them success in their undertaking.—Ridgeway Enterprise.

"Iowa County Democrat" (Mineral Point WI) Friday 5 Dec 1884 p 3

Justice Court.

One of the most interesting trials that this county has had for some time was brought before Eq. Northey, of this village, on Saturday, Sept. 30th. Especially among the mining portion of our citizens was the suit interesting. The case was a trespass suit, brought by Dr. H. C. Cutler against the Roberts Bros. of Ridge-way.—The complaint alleged that the said brothers had broken open and entered plaintiff's diggings, after being prohibited and forbidden by plaintiff. The trial occupied Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday until two A. M. The defence called for a jury, and after considerable delay the following gentlemen served as jurors: Wm. Hooper, John Corin, Josephus Sobor, Thomas Cutler, Charles Dickinson and John Holman, Jr. S. W. Reese, Richard Carter and G. L. Frost were plaintiff's counsel; E. P. Weber and M. J. Briggs for defence.

Such was the interest felt that each of the above lawyers did their full duty in the suit. Each point was contested thoroughly. Their arguments were logical and sound; each lawyer and witness appeared to act as though the decision of the case depended upon him alone. There were

seventeen witnesses examined, and most of the examinations were very lengthy—the cross-examinations were particularly searching. The following were witnesses for Plaintiff: Dr. H. C. Cutler, Russell Farwell, Thomas Stewart, Sam W. Reese, Philip Rogers, Frank Esterly, Leonard Leigh, Jr., and Thomas Thomas. Witnesses for defence were: Sam'l Roberts, Wilder Roper, Robert Demley, Levi Baker, Pearce Roberts, Henry Roberts, James C. Hocking, Michael McMahon and Jos. Roberts. After a spirited contest among the lawyers, the jury retired, and in a quarter of an hour brought in their verdict as follows: "We, the jury, find for plaintiff, and assess the damages at 5 cents.

"CHAS. DICKINSON, Foreman."

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***Pierce Roberts Dies
At Ridgeway, Aged 86***

RIDGEWAY — Pierce Roberts, 85, life long resident of this community, died at his home Sunday after a short illness.

Besides the widow he is survived by four sons, Pierce and Joseph, Madison; Thomas, Milwaukee; John, Ridgeway; two daughters, Mrs. J. Hoskins, Hollandale; Mrs. A. M. Fitch, Pomona, Cal.; two brothers, Harry and Phil, Madison; and a sister, Mrs. James Yapp, Dodgeville.

Funeral services will be held from the home Wednesday afternoon with interment in the Ridgeway cemetery.

Obituary of father Pearce Roberts – “Madison (WI) Capital Times” Monday 3 Jul 1933 p 2

Half-siblings:

ARTHUR M. FITCH
 Arthur M. Fitch, well known business man of Pomona, passed away at the family home, 735 N. Gibbs street, Pomona, at 6:45 o'clock Wednesday morning, following a few days' illness.

Mr. Fitch was born Dec. 18, 1875, in Bedford, Iowa, and came to California from Chicago, Ill., in 1910. For one year he lived in Pasadena, at which time the family moved to Pomona, where they have resided since that time.

Upon coming to Pomona Mr. Fitch became associated with Tom Harrison in the electrical business and has continued in this work up until the time of his passing. He was an active member of the Trinity Methodist church and belonged to the Pomona lodge, No. 110, F. & A. M.; and to the Spanish-American War Veterans.

Besides his widow, Mrs. Carrie Fitch, he is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Irene Fitch Shaver, Pomona; one son, Calvin M. Fitch, Oakland, and a sister, Mrs. May Odell, Bedford, Iowa.

Funeral services will be held from the Todd and Reeves chapel at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon. Rev. Harry G. Earle, pastor of the Trinity Methodist church, and Rev. J. R. Stead will officiate. Interment will be made in the Pomona cemetery.

Obituary of Carrie Fitch's husband Arthur M. Fitch (1875-1943) – "Pomona (CA) Progress Bulletin" Wednesday 22 Sep 1943 p 13

Arthur M. Fitch of Des Moines, Iowa;
 Caroline Roberts of Ridgway, Wis.....23-26

Marriage license "Chicago (IL) Inter-Ocean" Friday 31 Jan 1902 p 10

Siblings:



Hosking family photo - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/171513099/person/412237064480/media/ccf27c18-f6a7-4e06-a7ee-6f41640db168?_phsrc=hFB49909&_phstart=successSource

Pearce L. Roberts, Retired Building Trades Chief, Dies

Pearce L. Roberts, 79, of 307 S. Owen Dr., died Tuesday (Oct. 17, 1967) at home after a long illness.

Mr. Roberts was the often-mentioned, seldom-seen organizational genius behind the development of the building trades movement in southern Wisconsin after World War II.

A tall, thin man with immobile and weather-worn features, he was a veteran worker in labor affairs.



MR.
ROBERTS

Born in Ridge-way, Mr. Roberts learned the plastering and brick-laying trade, working at it while in Milwaukee and then when he was later lured to California.

He came back to Madison in 1923 and three years later was elected to his first union office: president of the Bricklayers Union.

He provided the initial leadership for the building of the Labor Temple on S. Park St.

In 1959, he retired as executive secretary of the Madison Building and Construction Trades Council.

He was a member of St. James Catholic Church, its Holy Name Society, and the Eagles Lodge.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret; two sons, Joseph, 5154 Loruth Terrace; and Frank, 1214 Milton St.; a daughter, Mrs. Francis Harmon, Utica, Ill.; a sister, Mrs. Carrie Fitch, Pomona, Calif.; 13 grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

The funeral will be at 9:30 a.m. Thursday in the church.

Friends may call after 3 p.m. today at the Ryan Funeral Home, 235 King St., where the rosary will be recited at 8 to-night.

Obituary of brother Pearce L. Roberts – "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI)
Wednesday 18 Oct 1967 p 36

Roberts Services Held in Milwaukee

RIDGEWAY, Wis. — Funeral services will be held Wednesday in Waukesha for Thomas Roberts, 52, who died Sunday in a veterans' hospital in Milwaukee. Burial will be in Waukesha.

Mr. Roberts was born in Ridgeway and grew to manhood here. He left Ridgeway 22 years ago, going to Waukesha and later to Milwaukee as a teacher.

He is survived by his wife; three sons, Jerry, Teddy and Peter, all at home; his mother, Mrs. Ann Roberts, Verona; three brothers, Pierce Joseph and John, all of Madison; and two sisters, Mrs. Jay Hoskings, Milwaukee; Mrs. Carrie Fitch, Pomona, Calif.

Obituary of brother Thomas Roberts (1892-1944) – "Madison (WI) Capital Journal" Tuesday
18 Jul 1944 p 11



Thomas Andrew Roberts family - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/101480676/person/360008712993/media/84ac323d-9ffa-4267-b511-85376bbf18c8>

John Roberts

John L. Roberts, 57, of 141 S. Butler St., a construction worker, was killed in a one-car accident Monday near Colorado Springs, Colo., according to word received here.

His son, John C. Roberts, 215 N. Brooks St., said Mr. Roberts was driving alone at the time of the accident and that he reportedly lost control of the car which rolled over. He suffered a broken neck.

Also surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Patricia White, Big Sur, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. James Hosking, Milwaukee; and Mrs. Carrie Fitch, Pomona, Calif.; and two brothers, Pierce, 307 S. Brooks St., and Joseph, 120 S. Broom St.

Mr. Roberts frequently traveled to the West Coast for construction work, according to his son. He was born at Ridgeway.

Friends may call after 3 p.m. Friday at the Ayers Funeral Home, Ridgeway. The rosary will be recited there Friday night at 9.

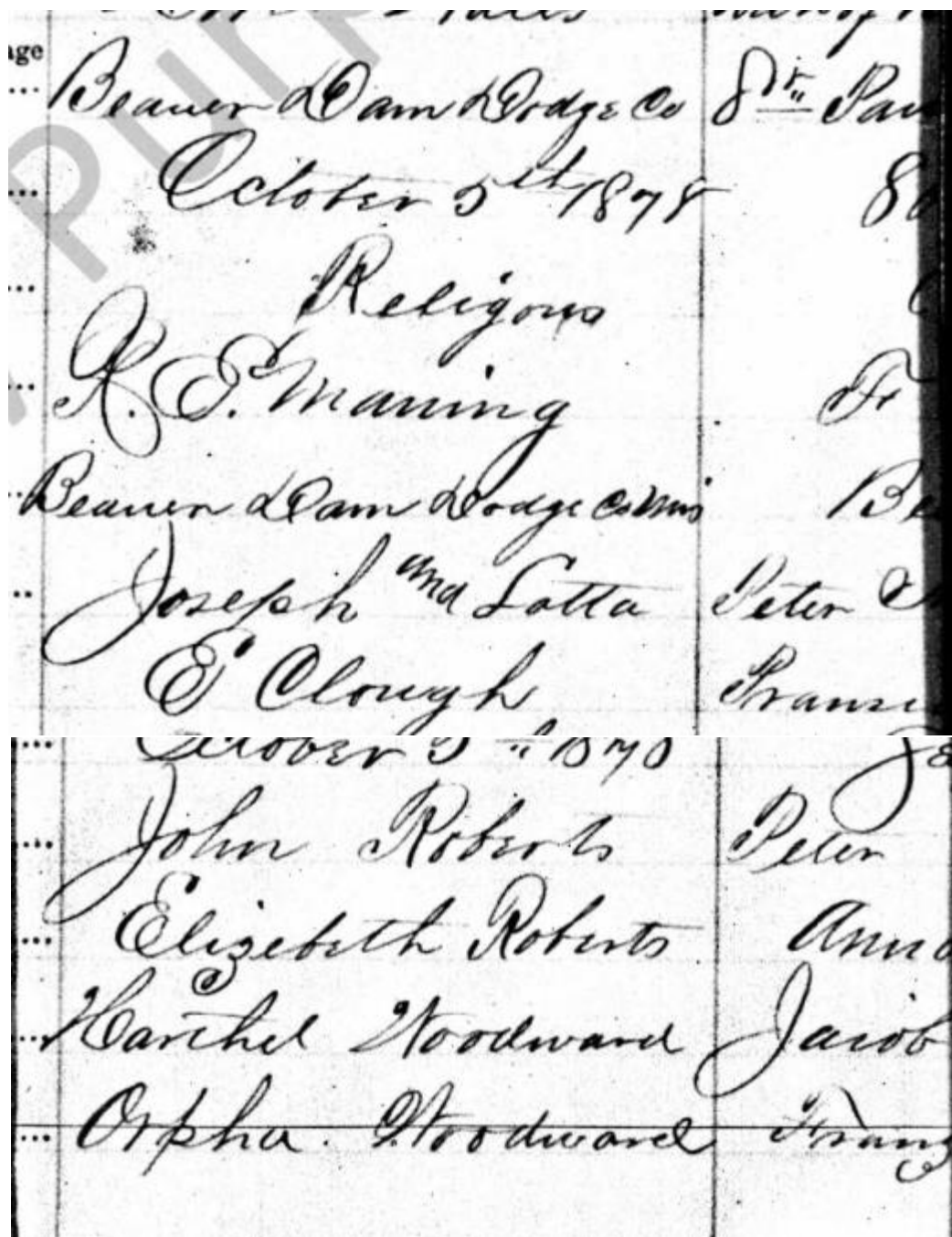
Funeral rites will be held Saturday at 9:15 a.m. in the funeral home at Ridgeway, and at 9:30 in St. Bridget's Catholic Church there. The Rev. Edward Bier will officiate, and burial will be in the church cemetery.

Obituary of **brother Joseph Lawler Roberts d. 1958** – “Madison (WI) Capital Times”
Thursday 14 Aug 1958 p 6

Registration of Ma

02310

October 17 th 1878	October
white	
Peri J. Roberts	Anton
Maion C Ball	Anna
Merchant	
Beaver Dam	Town of



https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/1759043:61484?_phsrc=hFB49943&_phstart=successSource&gsfn=Pearce+Rogers&gsln=Roberts&ssrc=pt_t24030760_p27340808620&ml_rpos=6&queryId=5807931dc502ecc2346c9d0b59c60176

Name: Joseph Eugene Roberts

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Eng - private

Serial number: 251,722

Entered service from: Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Joseph E. Roberts

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": mother Mrs. Pearce Roberts, Ridgeway WI

Returned from war on: "Haverford" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: Joseph E. Roberts

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Pierce Roberts, Ridgeway WI (PFC, 107th Engineer Train)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Joseph E. Roberts - b. 7 Mar 1896 Ridgeway WI;

res: Ridgeway, Iowa WI. Single. Principal of school, School District at Blue Mounts WI.

Enlisted in Wisconsin National Guard. Tall & slender.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): 127 E. Mifflin St., Madison WI

World War II draft registration (1942): as Joseph Eugene Roberts - b. 7 Mar 1896 Ridgeway

WI; res: 334 W. Wilson St., Madison, Dane WI. NOK Mrs. Elisabeth [sic] L. Roberts, same

address. Employed by U.S. Social Security Bureau, Washington DC, at U.S. Employment

Service, 210 Monona Ave., Madison, Dane WI. "acid burn on left upper arm" – Height: 6'4"

– 190 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 15 Jul 1917

Discharged: 27 May 1919

Address: Ridgeway WI

Rank/unit: private 1st class, 107th Engineer Train, 32nd Division

Birth & death:

Born: 7 Mar 1896 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI

Died: 11 Jul 1961 Rochester, Olmstead MN (hospital) (resident of Madison, Dane WI)

Find A Grave record: 203505818 - cemetery information originally determined from veteran tombstone application & "Wisconsin State Journal" 14 Jul 1961 p 14 obit as not added to Find A Grave at the time of the original search

Burial location: Madison, Dane WI

Cemetery: Resurrection

Tombstone: veteran tombstone application: Wisconsin PFC 107th Engr Train, 32nd Div WWI

Father: Pearce (Pierce) Rogers Roberts, Mar 1848 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI – 2 Jul 1933

Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI. Son of Joseph Roberts & Elizabeth Rogers.

In the 1870 census for Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI, Philip Roberts lives with his parents.

In the 1880 census, Pearce Roberts is listed with 2 daughters: - "Cary" (Carrie/Caroline), age 4 & Clara, age 2. Carrie is mentioned in family obituary as a surviving sister. Since

Pearce did not marry Anna Lawler until 1881, this presumes he had an earlier marriage. He also reports in the 1910 census that his marriage to Ann is his 2nd marriage.

A Pierce J. Roberts married on 5 Oct 1878 in Dodge Co. WI to Marion C. Woodward Ball (1847-1882, F: 332500819, the daughter of Nathaniel Woodward (1808-1856) & Orpha Brandt. Marion Woodward had married Franklin D. Ball (1845-1873) on 23 Jun 1866 in Dodge Co. WI. She might have been the first wife of Pierce, as she was widowed by the 1878 marriage – except Caroline Roberts is born in 1874.

Buried in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI.

Find A Grave: 115174980

Mother: Anna Catherine (Catherine Ann) Lawler Roberts, 27 Jun 1856 Lombard, DuPage IL – 1945 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI. Daughter of Dennis B. Lawler & Catharine Kelly. Buried in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI.

Find A Grave: 90914405

Parents' marriage: 4 Oct 1881 Iowa Co. WI

Spouse: Elizabeth M. McDermott Roberts, 7 Oct 1902 (203505820) or 28 Feb 1904 (160596852) Dane Co. WI – 31 Mar 1989 Madison, Dane WI.

Daughter of Bernard S. McDermott (1863-12 Jul 1924, F: 54473873) & Alice Armstrong (1879-1969, F: 54473857, who later married Nicholas Steffes & a man named Massey. Elizabeth's father died 7 months after her marriage.

Buried in Resurrection Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 203505820 (Resurrection) & 160596852 (with family links but no burial location).

Marriage: 2 Jan 1924 Darlington, Lafayette WI, in Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Children:

- Bernard Joseph Roberts, 5 Mar 1925 Dodgeville, Iowa Co. WI – 14 Mar 2022 Madison, Dane WI. Married Margaret Palzkill on 15 Nov 1952 in Mineral Point, Iowa Co. WI. She was the daughter of George Palzkill (F: 116676059) & Margaret Deinken (F: 164691684). They had been married 69 years at the time of Bernard's death.
- James Hubert Roberts, 1 Jun 1928 WI – 18 Jun 2012 Madison, Dane WI. Buried in Resurrection Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI. F: 203505849
- Patricia A. Roberts, 17 Jul 1931 - She shares a tombstone with parents Joseph & Elizabeth & brother James in Resurrection Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI but her death information is blank. Alive in Mar 2022 when her brother Bernard died.
-

Siblings: In the 1910 census, his mother reports giving birth to 7 children, 5 of whom are living

- Philip Roberts, 17 Sep 1882 – 25 Dec 1886.
- Pearce Lawrence Roberts, 9 Apr 1888 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI – 17 Oct 1967 Madison, Dane WI. Husband of Margaret McCann (1891-1975, F: 90851722). Resident of Madison WI in Jul 1961. Buried in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI. F: 90851720

- Mary (Mamie) Roberts Hosking, 17 Sep 1885 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI - 1967. Resident of Milwaukee WI in Jul 1961. Wife of James Russel Hosking (1884-1959, F: 191804237). They had 7 children. Buried in Holy Cross Cemetery & Mausoleum, Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI. F: 191804203
- Thomas Andrew Roberts, 16 Oct 1892 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI – 17 Jul 1944. Married 18 Jun 1925 in Waukesha, Waukesha WI to Ruth Hester Anderson (1900-1987, F: 84493239). Buried in Prairie Home Cemetery, Waukesha, Waukesha WI. F: 84493240
- John Lawler Roberts, 26 Oct 1900 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI – 11 Aug 1958 Palmer Lake, El Paso Co. CO. Married Inez Hollander (1909-1993) on 22 Oct 1927 in Marinette Co. WI. His birthdate was found on his WWII draft registration. Ancestry.com links show a Joseph Roberts divorced an Inez in Nov 1966 in Columbia Co. FL – but this John was deceased. Buried in St. Bridget's Cemetery, Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI. F: 90311537

Half-siblings:

- Caroline (Carrie) Roberts Fitch, 8 Nov 1874 Dodgeville, Iowa Co. WI – 11 Feb 1972 Claremont, Los Angeles CA. SSN 569-70-5335. Resident of Pomona CA in Jul 1944, Jul 1961 & Oct 1967 (mentioned in family obituaries as Mrs. Carrie Fitch). – On 30 Jan 1902 in Chicago, Cook IL, Caroline Roberts, age 26, married Arthur M. Fitch (age 26. – Arthur May Fitch (1875-1943) was the son of John Huntington Fitch (1833-1927) & Sarah Elizabeth Hawley (1834-1883). In the 1920 census for Pomona, Los Angeles CA, Arthur M. Fitch (44 IA), an electrician, lived with his wife Carrie (45 WI).
- Clara Roberts, ca. 1878 WI

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 2 – among the WI men on board Tuscania: Joseph E. Roberts of Ridgeway WI

Post-war:

Obituary:

"Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI) 14 Jul 1961 p 14 – Madison WI real estate broker, Tuscania survivor. Madison WI resident for 30 years. Survived by wife Elizabeth, daughter Patricia, sons Bernard T. & James H., brother Pierce, all of Madison WI & sisters Mrs. Mamie Hosking (Milwaukee) & Mrs. Carrie Fitch (Pomona CA)

Social Security number: 399-30-4005

Censuses:

1880 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI

Pearce Roberts, 32 WI, parents b. England, blacksmith

Cary, 5 WI

Clara, 2 WI

1900 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI

Pearce Roberts, 52 WI, Mar 1848, parents b. England, married 18 years, stone mason

Annie, 43 IL, Jun 1856, father b. WI, mother b. Ireland, gave birth to 6 children, 4 are living

Mary, 14 WI, Sep 1885, at school

Pearce, 11 WI, Apr 1889, at school

Thomas, 7 WI, Oct 1892

Joseph, 4 WI, Mar 1896

& mother Elizabeth Roberts, 88 England, May 1812, widow, emigrated 1840, in US for 60 years, boarder

1905 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI

Pierce R. Roberts, 57 WI, parents b. England, stone mason

Annie C., 49 IL, parents b. Ireland, house wife

Mary, 19 WI

Percie, 17 WI

Thomas, 12 WI

Joseph, 9 WI

John, 4 WI

[for the children: father b. WI, mother b. IL]

1910 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI

Pearce Roberts, 62 WI, parents b. England, in his 2nd marriage, married 28 years, mason, stone work [misread & misindexed as Reale instead of Pearce]

Ann C., 53 IL, father b. England (Irish); mother b. Ireland, in her 1st marriage, gave birth to 7 children, 5 are living

Pearce L., 22 WI, plasterer, general work

Thomas A., 17 WI

Josep [sic], 12 WI

John, 9 WI

1920 Ridgeway, Iowa Co. WI

Pearce Roberts, 72 WI, parents b. England, mason, home building

Anna, 61 IL, father b. France, mother b. Holland

Thomas, 27 WI, agent, steam railroad

Joseph E., 23 WI, single, instructor, school

John, 19 WI

1930 Kimberly, Outagamie WI – 312 First St. - conducted 3 Apr 1930

Joseph E. Roberts, 34 WI, father b. US, mother b. Ireland, age 27 at 1st marriage, principal, high school, WWI veteran

Elizabeth L., 27 WI, parents b. WI, age 21 at 1st marriage

Bernard J., 5 WI, kindergarten in public school
James H., 1 year 10 months WI

1940 Madison, Dane WI – 523 W. Washington

J.E. Roberts, 44 Madison WI [?], MSRUW Emp. Off., State Service, in Madison WI in 1935

Elizabeth, 38 WI, housewife, in Madison WI in 1935

Bernard J., 15 WI, in same place in 1935

James, 11 WI, in same place in 1935

Patricia, 8 WI, in same place in 1935

& lodger Martin Joseph Kann, 23 IA, in Eugene OR in 1935

1950 Madison, Dane WI

Joseph E. Roberts, 53 WI, supervisor of employment services, State of Wisconsin

Elizabeth M., 47 WI, realtor, real estate

James H., 21 WI, realtor, real estate

Patricia A., 18 WI

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