

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

Stephenson, George Ray
1892 WI – 1967 WI

Ray Stephenson, 74, dies at Wood hospital

Ray Stephenson, 74, formerly of Kenosha, late of 1029 East Idaho St., Milwaukee, died at the Veterans Hospital, Wood, Wis., Thursday, following a one-month illness.

Born in Darlington, Wis., Dec. 25, 1892, he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson. He received his education in the schools of Darlington and spent his early life there.

Prior to World War I, he moved to Kenosha to make his home. On May 14, 1917, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving overseas and during the course of his military career survived the sinking of the Tuscania in 1918. He was discharged May 29,

1919 at Camp Grant.

Mr. Stephenson married Miss Martha Mielke April 12, 1922. He was formerly employed by the Simmons Company as a foreman.

In 1944, the Stephensons moved to Milwaukee. He was manager of the Bay View Legion Post of Milwaukee and later was manager of the Red Arrow Club of Milwaukee, retiring from active duties in 1957.

He was a member of the Bay

View post and Red Arrow Club and past commander of the Kenosha Paul Herrick Post No. 21.

Mr. Stephenson is survived by his widow and two sons, John Stephenson, Woodland Hills, Calif., and Roger Stephenson, Madison, Wis. He is survived also by five grandchildren and two brothers, Guy Stephenson, Kenosha and Homer Stephenson, Culver City, Calif.

(Continued on Page Seven)

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:W7RT-3ZN2>

WW I		WW II		KOREA		HON		ORIGINAL
1. NAME OF DECEASED - LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE (Print or Type) Stephenson, George R.						14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Sunset Ridge Kenosha, Wis.		
2. SERVICE NUMBER 251 000						3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER VC 17960392		
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year) 5-14-17						5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year) 5-29-19		
6. STATE Wisconsin						7. DECORATIONS None		
8. GRADE OR RANK Sgt						9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION Army Co. B. 107th Syp. Div		
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year) 12-25-92						11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) 11-23-67		
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one) ☒ LATIN CROSS (Christian) ☐ STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew) ☐ NO EMBLEM						13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE ☐ FLAT MARBLE MARKER ☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER ☒ FLAT BRONZE MARKER		
DO NOT WRITE HERE						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.		
FOR VERIFICATION 6 DEC 1967						16. FREIGHT STATION Kenosha, Wisconsin		
B/L 28200						17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER Sunset Ridge Memorial Park		
CONTRACTOR Sheldow Bronze & Kingwood, West Virginia						ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State) Rt. 3, Box 200, Kenosha, Wis. 53140		
SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE X Sunset Ridge, Inc.						DATE 11-28-67		
I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY.								
DD FORM 1330, 1 NOV 62						EDITION OF 1 DEC 61 MAY BE USED.		
APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER						NCPMA-WY 12/21/67		

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2870876:2375?tid=&pid=&queryId=5f9ea3a18077630acd2bef00f61703fb&_phsrc=hFB59466&_phstart=successSource

A DARLINGTON BOY ON THE *TUSCANIA*^a

You wanted me to tell you more about the *Tuscania*. Well, I think from the papers I have seen, you could imagine just how it happened, etc. It happened February 5, 1918. We were due to land in Liverpool the following morning. About 5:30 that evening I was sitting talking to the members of my Company, on the lower deck (I, myself, had a stateroom up on the upper deck). I was waiting for the supper bell to ring, when all of a sudden, the sub, or "tin fish" as we now call them, hit us. It was a queer, deadening noise, and put the lights out immediately and water was shooting all over from bursted pipes caused by the explosion. We had been talking about the danger that we were in just before she was struck,

^aThis letter, written in France, June 3, 1918, by Ray Stephenson is reprinted from the *Darlington Democrat* of July 11.

as the men on the boat said it was the most dangerous part of the water, and was filled with mines, submarines, etc. As soon as we came to our senses, there was a mad rush for the steps leading to the upper deck. It was pitch dark outside and no lights were allowed on deck after dark at any time. Well, in getting out of the place I was at, there were big iron posts and steel bars; it reminded me of a jail. I managed to crack my head against one of the posts, and, together with that and the excitement, I was about all in. I carried the cut and bump, as a reminder, for a couple of weeks; but I found out there was no need of anything to remind me, for I could dream constantly, night after night, and imagine I was still on the water.

I got up two flights of stairs and made for my stateroom, as I did not have my life preserver with me, due to carelessness, as we were cautioned never to appear at mess without one. There was no order enforced though, and naturally the fellows got careless and would go around without them, unless at boat drill, where it was compulsory.

I got to my room, by luck, after feeling my way. I got down on my hands and knees and confiscated my pack and found a flashlight, then put on my life belt, and away I went to the outer deck. We were all assigned to certain places on the different decks. I had a hard time to make my way through, as the fellows were all trying to get away in the lifeboats as they were lowered. I was one of the unlucky ones, for when we got to our deck all to be found that looked like it might have been a lifeboat was a lot of splintered timbers. We waited and waited and saw lifeboats, one after another, being lowered and paddled away. Several smashed boats were thrown from the top deck, striking and upsetting loaded boats ready to pull away. The boys were thrown into the water and were floating around perfectly helpless, and their cries were of no use for we could do nothing.

we did not know whether it was help coming.

After every lifeboat was off, things began to look pretty blue, and were getting worse every minute. There was not even as much as a board left for us to float on, and the only thing we could see to do was to wait and hope. Every once in a while faint lights were seen in the distance, and we did not know whether it was help coming

A Darlington Boy on the Tuscania 187

to us or a light in some lifeboat, as the night, as I have said before, was as black as I ever saw it. Finally it started to rain, and then the thoughts of our being in the cold, salty water made us stop and use some headwork, and do it quickly, for the *Tuscania* had already tipped considerable and was sinking fast.

All of a sudden a crash was heard on the opposite side of the boat, and, after going over, we found it to be a torpedo boat destroyer. Men were going down the ropes like rats jumping into a river. Several fell and others were crushed between the destroyer and the *Tuscania*, from the dashing of the waves. About half an hour after the first one left—it was then 9:30—a second destroyer pulled up, and it was then I made my get-away. I landed on the destroyer in good shape and went to find a place to ride for the remainder of our trip. I had on only a suit of underwear, shoes, shirt, and trousers when I got off, and it was a cold night, too.

Well, as we pulled out, another submarine fired at us and missed, and we were told it was sunk by depth bombs from the destroyer. These destroyers could have come to our rescue sooner had they not been loaded; but they had to go to the nearest shore and leave their crew, and thousands of gallons of oil, which they burn, were dumped out. In the first place they were not supposed to take us on; that is the rule of the sea; but they took the chance; otherwise we would have all been drowned, that is, those who had no lifeboats.

We got to Bemerency, Ireland, about 2:30 in the morning, and they had a lunch for us and then we went to bed. It was about four weeks before our Company were all together again, outside of three men—two of those were drowned and the other was McCauley, who used to drive jitney with Guy. He had pneumonia when we were torpedoed and he got away in his underwear only, and was in a hospital at Larne, Ireland, until about six weeks ago. His voice has never been the same since. We had the best of treatment in Ireland and England. We crossed from Dublin, Ireland, to Hollyhead, England, in a fast mail and passenger boat, escorted by two American destroyers.

“Wisconsin Magazine of History” volume 2, number 2, Dec 1918, pages 183-187, as published in the “Darlington (WI) Democrat” of 11 Jul 1918 - <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4630144?seq=5>

Somewhere in France, June 3, 1918.
Dear Uncle and Aunt:—

This is a good time of the day for me to answer your letter of May 5th, which I received last night. I was awfully glad to hear from you. This has been a very warm day, in fact we have had a month of genuine summer weather like we get back home. We need rain badly. Yes, I have certainly had plenty of experience and seen a lot of Europe since I came to this country. I have already been to Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Germany, Switzerland and on the border of Spain. I expect to go to Italy in the near future. Most of our trips have been through the largest cities such as London, Winchester, Paris, etc. You wanted me to tell you more about the Tuscania. Well, I think from the papers I have seen you could get a good idea just how it happened, etc. It happened February 5, 1918. We were due to land in Liverpool the following afternoon. But the night before at 5:50, I was sitting

there was no need of anything to remind me for I could dream constantly night after night and imagine I was still on the water. Well, I got up two flights of stairs and made for my room as I did not have my life preserver with me, due to carelessness, as we were cautioned never to appear at mess without one. There was no order enforced though and naturally the fellows got careless and would go around without any unless at boat drill where it was compulsory. Well, I got to my room by luck after feeling my way. I got down on my hands and knees and confiscated my pack and found a flash light and then got my life belt and away I went to the outer deck. We were all assigned to certain places on the different decks, and I had a hard time to make my way through as the fellows were fighting, trying to get away in the life boats as they were lowered. We were the unfortunate ones, as when we got to our deck, all to be found that looked like it might be a life

talking to the members of my company on the lower deck. I myself had a state-room up on the upper deck. I was waiting for the supper bell to ring when all of a sudden the sub, or "tin fish" as we now call them, hit us. It was a queer, deadening noise and it put the lights out immediately and water was shooting all over from bursted water pipes, caused by the explosion. We had been talking about the danger that we were in just before she was sunk as the men on the boat said it was the most dangerous part of the water and was filled with mines and submarines, etc. Well, as soon as we came to our senses there was a mad rush for the steps to get on deck. It was pitch dark outside and no lights were allowed after dark on deck at any time. Well, in getting out of the place I was in, which reminded me of a jail, I managed to crack my head against one of the steel posts and together with that and the excitement I was about all in. I carried the cut and bump as a reminder for a couple of weeks but I found out

boat was a lot of splintered timber. Well, we waited and waited and saw life boats one after another being lowered and paddled away. Several smashed boats were thrown from the top deck, striking loaded boats ready to pull away and these boats were upset and were floating around in the water perfectly helpless and we could do nothing. After every life boat was off then things began to look pretty blue and getting worse every minute. There was not even as much as a board left for us to float on. The only thing we could see to do was to wait and hope. Every once in awhile faint lights were seen in the distance and we did not know whether it was help coming to us or a light in some life boat as the night, as I said before, was as black as I ever saw it. Finally it started to rain and then the thoughts of our being in the cold salty water made us stop and use some head work and do it fast for the Tuscania had already tipped considerably, and was sinking fast. All of a sudden a crash was heard on the opposite side

of the boat we were on and after going over we found it to be a torpedo destroyer. Men were going down the ropes like rats jumping into a river. Several fell and others were crushed between the destroyer and Tuscania from the waves dashing. Well, about half an hour after the first one left, it was then 9:30, a second destroyer pulled up and it was then I made my getaway. I landed on the destroyer in good shape and went to find a place to ride the remainder of our trip. I did not have but a suit of underwear, shoes, shirt and trousers on when I got off. It was a cold night too. Well, as we pulled out another submarine aimed at us and missed and we were told it was sunk by the depth bombs from the destroyer. These destroyers could have come to our help sooner had they not been loaded but they had to go to the nearest shore and leave their crew and thousands of gallons of oil which they burned was dumped out. In the first

place they were not supposed to take us on for that is the rules of the sea, but they took the chance, otherwise we would have all been drowned, that is, those that had no life boats. We got to a port in Ireland about 2:30 in the morning and they had a lunch for us and then we went to bed. It was about four weeks before our company was all together again, outside of three men. Two of these were drowned and the other was McCauley that used to drive the "jitney" with Guy. He had pneumonia when we were torpedoed and he got off in his underwear and was in a hospital at Larne, Ireland until about a month and a half ago. His voice has never been the same since. We had the best of treatment in Ireland and England. We crossed from Dublin, Ireland to Holyhead, England in a fast mail and passenger boat which was escorted by two American destroyers. Well, I have just told you a few things, the rest I will tell when I get back. I wonder when that will be?

Things are certainly high. It is hard to get anything over here. We have goods eats and cannot complain, but we cannot get cigarettes, and say, if you will send a carton of Camels I will be ever so much pleased. We have not a cigarette in the company. Everyone is sending notices home. I did see a package of Piedmont's in some one's hands a few days ago but they soon were distributed when the fellows were wise. We have 77 men in our company and one officer, a captain. We expect to have a 1st lieutenant soon. We also have a Frenchman with us as an interpreter. We have 28 trucks, all Packards, 3 tons

but 2, and they are Peerless, the same weight. Well I don't know of any more news at the present. I am feeling fine. Getting fat as well as gray and enjoying life the best I can, but ready to go back. Have not the slightest idea when that will be though. Trusting this finds you all well and that I will be with you soon, I remain

Your loving nephew,

RAYMOND.

LETTER FROM "OVER THERE"

Ray Stephenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson of Darlington, was one of the survivors of the Tuscania catastrophe. The following letters from him were received recently:

"Dear Parents and Bros:—

Well, I am safe and sound across the waters and feeling in great shape. I suppose you heard all about the Tuscania being torpedoed by a submarine. Well, I was on that boat. Yes we were the first American troops to be torpedoed and the Tuscania was the last boat left of the Anchor Line. I am not allowed to say who is missing for the casualty list has not been published and you do not know any of the men anyway. There were our 6 companies of supply trains, engineers, 3rd aero squadron and some infantry. I can say that we had a very narrow escape and the loss of lives is not much over 100 if that. There were about 3000 on the boat. I will save the rest of the news till I come home. I met a British soldier from Toronto, Canada on the boat coming to this camp and I gave him your address as he has been wounded and is being sent home so I thought possibly he could get word to you before I could. He can tell you more thoroughly about our being torpedoed.

We sure came in like a lion. It will be all of three months before we are in service. We lost all our equipment. I did not have a blouse, leggings or overcoat even when I was picked up. I am thankful to be on land once more. We have about half of our company missing but I think they were picked up and will be here today. We are seeing lots of country having traveled all over Ireland by rail and a great deal of England up to date. The English soldiers treated us like brothers and gave us the clothes off their backs. How are you all? Say I wish you could send me some camel cigarettes. We just crave for tobacco. It is very scarce and no one has money. I lost \$20. in the accident. We have two month's pay coming. I think we will get some money tomorrow. Have you received my insurance paper yet or allotment money? I thought for a while you were going to be \$10,000 ahead, Ha, Ha. Well we are all thankful we came out alive and are happy now. Don't worry at all for there is plenty of time to worry when the time comes. I have had enough experience up to date to lecture every night at Darlington the rest of my life. Now you write real often and I will also and keep you posted the best I can. I understand the mail we receive from home is not censored it is just the

soldiers' mail going out. I lost my wristlets, hug-me-tight, and helmet. All mother's time and trouble for nothing. Well we will not worry about that. I will close for today as we have dinner at 2 P. M. and it is about time now. Hope this finds you all well and happy and please do not worry for there is nothing to worry about now. Tell every one to write and do a good share yourself."

I remain your loving son and bro.,
RAY.

* * *

My dear parents and bro:—

"Somewhere" in England and waiting for equipment before going farther. Am feeling great; we are having regular spring weather. It rains about every day. I am acting Mess Sergeant temporarily for our battalion. We are living on British rations at the present but will be in the hands of the Americans in a few weeks. We have finally got all but three men out of our company. These three have never been heard of. The loss is very small considering. The boat sunk four hours after she was hit. We were a sad looking sight the following morning with the equipment we had left on our backs. How are you all? I hope allright. Have lots of news to tell you when I get home about my experiences since we left New York Jan. 24th. Am enclosing

some clippings of the Tuscania, the boat I was on. Send some tobacco if you will and a pipe or cigarettes. The Red Cross of London sent over carloads of stuff for us. The British soldiers treat us great. This is a rough country around here, awfully hilly and beginning to show signs of spring. Well dear ones I will close and get to bed as I have to get up at 6 A. M. to get things ready for breakfast. Write often. I have had no mail from you since the last day I was in Camp Mac Arthur. I know you have written though. I know some of the fellows said they were two months hearing from their parents. I guess our mail is sent direct to France. Well good night and may God bless you all.

Your loving son and bro.,

RAY.

* * *

Dear parents and brothers:—

Am at the Y. M. C. A. so will start a letter. This is the fourth one I have written since I arrived across the water. Well how are you all? Am very anxious to hear from you and know how you are. I am fine and dandy and anxious to get to France. We have all but three men of our

company together again. We have not heard a word from them yet. We are afraid they were hurt or drowned. One of them has a brother in our company yet. Have the names of those who were lost appeared in the papers yet? I never will forget the scrambling there was to get out on deck after the Tuscania was torpedoed. I would not go through it again for a fortune. It was pitch dark as the lighting system had been demolished. We have not received any of our equipment yet to speak of. We lost practically everything both personal and government issue. We have not had a pay day since Jan. 1st. I think we will all be home soon. Believe me I could do justice to one of your good meals if I was there now. We are living on British rations here and they fall far short of the American rations, still we are not starving. The Red Cross of London shipped us carloads of things such as razors, brushes, tooth powder, shaving soap, tobacco, cigarettes etc. Say I wish you could send me some cigarettes or tobacco. This camp we are now at is a resting camp for all American soldiers after first arriving before going further. Well dear ones I will close for this evening. Trusting this will reach you in due time and find

you all fine as it is leaving me, and that I will hear from you real soon. I remain your loving son and bro.,
RAY

"Darlington (WI) Democrat" Thursday 14 Mar 1918 p 1-

"Darlington (WI) Democrat" <https://www.newspapers.com/image/678856514/>

BADGER SOLDIERS WRITE OF ADVENTURES IN WAR

Under the title, Badgers in the Great Adventure, a series of war letters by Wisconsin boys in military, naval and aerial service is published in the current number of the quarterly Wisconsin Magazine of History, published by the Wisconsin State Historical society.

A letter by Chester A. Purdy of Marshfield recounting the death of his brother on the western fronts, Learning to Fly, by Lieutenant J. H. Fowler of Lancaster, the adventures of Ray Stephenson of Darlington on the torpedoed Tuscania, an encounter with submarines described by Lieutenant Sam Ferguson of Oshkosh, a description of shell fire by Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Garlock of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin Boys at Belleau Wood by H. A. Meyer of Sheboygan, and An Artist in Battle by Kenneth Conant of Two Rivers are among the letters published.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Friday 31 Jan 1919 p 7

—Ray Stephenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson of Center, who enlisted with a Kenosha company in May, 1917 and has served more than seventeen months overseas, arrived home Saturday evening. He was one of the twenty-four hundred soldiers on the Tuscania that was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Ireland in February, 1918, the only real misfortune that happened among two million men taking the voyage. Ray seems not a particle the worse for his thrilling experiences and long service in the army.

"Darlington (WI) Democrat" Thursday 5 Jun 1919 p 7

—Ray Stephenson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson left for Milwaukee Friday morning. At the time he entered the army service two years ago he was attending a school of embalmers in the city where he will now complete his course.

“Darlington (WI) Democrat” Thursday 25 Sep 1919 p 5

Life:

Ray Stephenson, son of John Stephenson, of Avon, while playing with other boys at Geo. Martin's last Friday, fell from the fence and dislocated one of his arms at the elbow. Dr Lehnkering (n) Pcc't administered ether and set the arm and the lad was able to go about the yard the next day.

“Republican Farmer” (Darlington WI) Friday 15 Jul 1904 p 3

Ray Stephenson and Miss Alice Morton of Darlington spent Saturday and Sunday in New Digings.

George Ray Stephenson & his maternal aunt, Alice Morton – “Benton (WI) Advocate” Friday 2 Dec 1910 p 10

—Mr. Ray Stephenson left Monday morning for Mason City, Iowa, where he has accepted a position as salesman for the Peoples' Gas and Electric Company, of that city.

“Darlington (WI) Republican-Journal” Thursday 22 Jan 1914 p 5

—Francis and Bernard Clark, and Ray Stephenson, old Darlington boys, and two sons of Joseph Martin, formerly of Belmont, all of whom now make their home in Kenosha are said to have enlisted with a Kenosha company.

“Darlington (WI) Democrat” Thursday 14 Jun 1917 p 5

Dewey is looking well and feels in good health. I am feeling fine and I think I have gained a few pounds, and I sure do like the life. All the Darlington boys that I have seen like it all right. Ray Stephenson is about two rods from us, and Clyde Curry, Galey Nelson and Harold Gordon are about two blocks away. Please send that grub you mentioned and send just as much as you want to, because I can 'tend to it. Also please send the sheepskin coat and blanket at once.

Hoping you get this soon and are all well, with love to all,

ANSLEY McCONNELL.

Excerpt from a letter home written by Ansley (“Hans”) McConnell, training at Camp MacArthur TX, dated 11 Oct 1917 – “Darlington (WI) Democrat” Thursday 18 Oct 1917 p 4

Kenosha Soldiers on Roster of "Tuscania"

War Department Roster of Ill-fated Transport Gives Revised List of Kenoshans Aboard, Omitting Names of Many Originally Thought to Have Been on the Ship.

The latest report from the War Department shows that many Kenoshans originally thought to be aboard the transport "Tuscania" had not yet sailed from New York. The 107th Engineer Train, with sixteen Kenoshans enlisted, was not aboard. The revised list as given out by the War Department, from the roster of the ship, gives the following Kenoshans as those aboard:

Truck B, 107th Supply Train.

Lieut. Asbury Vale.
Sergt. Edward Wold.
Sergt. Frank M. Lane.
Sergt. Joseph Bartol.
Sergt. George R. Stephenson.
Sergt. Charles W. Soukup.
Corporal Otto Nelson.
Corporal Hale Tolleth.
Corporal Allen E. Williams.
Private Karl H. Hultenius.
Private Rudolph A. Hultenius.

[list continues]

"Kenosha (WI) News" Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 1

THE SUNDAY STATE JOURNAL, FEBRUARY 10, 1918.

TUSCANIA SURVIVORS—MAYBE HIS NAME IS HERE!

GEORGE RAY STEPHENSON, Arlington, Wis.

George is from Darlington, not Arlington, Wisconsin – "Wisconsin State Journal" (Madison WI)

Sunday 10 Feb 1918 p 4

I received a letter from Charlie. In fact yesterday I had about fifteen letters waiting for me when I joined the band. Charlie seems to enjoy his work. Ray Stephenson saw Charlie one day and I now know where he is. He also knows about where I am. I probably will not be able to see him because we are quite a distance apart. He is located in a fine place, believe me and he certainly is lucky in being with a fine outfit. In one of your letters you spoke of buying me a liberty bond. It would have been quite a bit of money spent, but a good investment in a good cause.

This is Sunday and our band is going to play two concerts in two neighboring cities. I will expect to see Ray Stephenson and the Smith boys this afternoon.

Excerpt from a letter written home by Ansley McConnell, dated 5 May 1918, from France –
 “Darlington (WI) Democrat” Thursday 30 May 1918 p 2

Sunday we played at a town near here and a week ago Sunday at three towns. We were at Ray Stephenson's town. The experience he went through surely doesn't seem to have affected his health for he looks fine. In his company there is also a Gibson from Cuba City. Yesterday we met Melchy Banfield at Ralph's town, although he is not in Ralph's company.

Excerpt from a letter written home by “Dewey” – in an Army band, written 7 May 1918 from France –
 “Darlington (WI) Democrat” Thursday 13 Jun 1918 p 2

VALE'S MEN LAST OUT OF FRANCE

**107th Supply Train Official-
ly Announced to Arrive
on Virginian on Next
Monday Morning.**

ALL SAW HEROIC SERVICE

**Formal Orders of the War Department
Announces This as the Last Unit to
Sail for the State—Milwaukee
Planning Grand Review.**

The one hundredth and seventh supply train, which has seen wonderful service over in France under the command of Captain Asbury Vale of Kenosha and which contains some sixty Kenosha men did not return on the Louisiana on Tuesday and a new order of the War Department states that this unit of the 32nd Division has sailed from Brest aboard the battleship Virginia and it is due to arrive at Newport News on the morning of next Monday May 19th. As the transports with returning troops have been coming into ports in this country about a day ahead it is pretty probable that the word from these boys will begin to reach Kenosha about next Sunday at noon. The 107th will be on the last steamer bearing members of the 32nd Division from France home. It is probable that the men will be sent to Camp Upton to await order to move West to Camp Grant. It is not known who will be in command of the train since Captain Vale has been ordered back to Coblenz. The last roster of the Kenosha men in the 107th Supply Train showed the following:

Sergeants: Edward Wold, Frank M. Lane, Joseph Bartel, George R. Stephenson, Charles W. Soukup.

Corporals: Otto Nelson, Hale Tollet, Allen Williams, Ernest Bollou, Albert I. Larsen, Otto Mowrey, Louis E. Regnier.

Privates: Rudolph A. Hultenius, Hans Anderson, Francis E. Anderson, Lynn Anderson, Harold W. Bresnahan, Harvey Earl, Lawrence Garglas, Frank E. Hanna, Floyd S. Mill, Neal F. Hopper, Fred Jahnke, Henry M. Kleist, Michael J. McGinn, Fred Mitchell, Victor J. Novak, Robert F. Riley, Otto Romanek, George Roskos, Edward Schmidt, George Schunk, William Seltrecht, Frank H. Tanking, Norbert Tyson, Elmer Williams, John J. Yung, August Zura, Henry W. Huettin, Claude Forbes, Dominico Nicolaza.

Fred Scholey was a member of the First Sanitary Squadron which is scheduled to come home at the same time as the Supply Train.

These names as given were the Kenosha men with the 107th when they sailed on the ill fated Tuscania. One other man was listed. He was Corporal Arthur Junker who lost his life on the Tuscania and who is now sleeping some where over on the Irish Coast. Some of these men may have been transferred to other units in the army and many of them may have won the chevrons of non-commissioned officers.

The One Hundred and Seventh Supply train is one of the Kenosha units which saw much action on several of the battle fronts. The boys were in action at many of the hardest fought engagements with the Germans and bore their part with honor. No group of men from Kenosha in the army saw as much service as these members of the 107th Supply train.

It is probable that following their arrival in New York they will be sent to Camp Grant for demobilization.

Milwaukee is making great preparation for a parade of the 32nd Division but the date for the big state review is not to be set until after the arrival of the 107th the last of the units of the Division to reach the country from France.

—Ray Stephenson of Milwaukee is here this week visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson of Center.

“Darlington (WI) Democrat” Thursday 19 May 1921 p 7

Victim Claims Dapper Agent Took His Cash

George Stephenson Tells Police of Operations Which Cost Him \$200.

Today the police are seeking the trail of an alleged confidence man who operated in Kenosha a few days ago under the name of George Oakley, and who said that he was the field agent of the Booth Fisheries company and as such looking for a man to run a local store which was to be opened in Kenosha in the downtown district.

According to the information given the police by George R. Stephenson, 711 Exchange street, he entered into a contract with Oakley and turned over \$200 as cash bond, only to learn subsequently through the Booth Fisheries company that they had employed no such person as George Oakley, and that no person representing that company is doing business outside of Chicago.

A Personable “Field Agent”

Stephenson learned through an advertisement that a man was wanted as a store manager. When he answered, he found at one of the downtown hotels George Oakley, who represented himself to be the field agent of the Booth Fisheries company of Chicago, and said that he was looking for a capable man as the branch manager here of one of a chain of stores operating under the Booth Fisheries company and financed by them but known as the “Continental Stores company.”

Mr. Oakley was a man of a good deal of personality, Stephenson said, and impressed everyone with whom he came into contact. They discussed together the proposed business in Kenosha, and the man who purported to be the representative of the Booth Fisheries went over the matter in detail, conveying the impression that he had considerable knowledge of the business.

Knows Old Banking Days

The proposition looked exceedingly attractive but not unreasonably so, and Oakley's only requirement was that Stephenson, before undertaking the job of local manager, put up a cash bond of \$200.

The two men stopped in at one of the banks in the city, while negotiations were in progress, and Oakley was soon in conversation with one of the cashiers of the bank, exchanging old-time bank gossip as one who might have been identified with business organizations for a quarter of a century.

Finally the preliminaries appeared to have been covered satisfactorily, and a contract was drawn up by Oakley, which was signed by both men March 4, 1926.

It only remained for Stephenson to turn over the cash bond, and this he did on Sunday.

Victim Claims Dapper Agent Took His Cash

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

was able to take care of himself in his own town, and further, the man departing had \$200 of his own hard-earned money.

"No Such Agent," Says Booth

Yesterday Stephenson went to Chicago himself. He found the Chicago office of the Booth Fisheries company and though he was transferred from one member of the local office to another, no one had heard of George Oakley. Finally he reached the main office, and presented his case. He showed the contract which purported to be signed by George Oakley, acting as "field manager" of the Booth Fisheries company for the "Continental stores corporation."

Stephenson was told that there was no such man representing the Booth Fisheries, and he was advised to get in touch with the police at Kenosha at once, being assured that the company would do their part to have the man apprehended.

In giving the description to the Kenosha police, Stephenson said that Oakley was 52 years old, about five foot nine in height, gray-haired, and wore glasses.

Leaves On Short Notice

Shortly after this, both men were in a taxi-cab and Oakley directed the driver to go to the North Shore station. He said he had to get to Chicago at once. When they reached the station, Oakley turned and gave Stephenson \$1, telling him to take the taxi back home.

The incident struck Stephenson as rather peculiar, but the man whom he looked upon somewhat in the light of a new employer, had departed before he had an opportunity to consider it further. It is not usually the way, he reflected, for men of affairs to treat one another; he

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

"Kenosha (WI) News" Tuesday 9 Mar 1926 p 1 & p 7

Tuscania Vets Reunion Here to Bring 300

(Continued from Page One)

gow, Scotland, and Wilhelm Meyer, the U-Boat commander, is believed to be living in Berlin.

Kenosha is President

Frank H. Tanking, Kenosha, president of the national association, and the other officers are I. Fred Vater, Milwaukee, vice-president; George Ray Stephenson, Kenosha, secretary; Fred A. Scholer, Kenosha, treasurer; Charles Dunn, Chicago, judge advocate; Leo V. Zimmerman, Milwaukee, historian; Stanley D. Anderson, Saginaw, Mich.; sergeant-at-arms and Arthur J. Siplon, Muskegon, Mich., chaplain.

Kenosha's lone casualty on the Tuscania was Arthur Junker, for whom the Veterans of Foreign Wars post here has been named. Most of the others lost were Wisconsin soldiers, and of the survivors more than 300 still live in this state.

While reservations are coming from the veterans for participation in the reunion preparations are being made for the convention by the Kenosha officers of the association.

"Kenosha (WI) News" Saturday 20 Jan 1940 p 7

Wife:

—The following marriage licenses were issued by County Clerk E. P. Noble for the week ending April 13: James Kane, Kendall and Laura A. O'Brien, Darlington; George Raymond Stephenson, Darlington and Martha Meilke, Kenosha; Elmer F. Lund and Della M. Wiseley, Darlington.

Marriage license between George Raymond Stephenson & Martha Meilke – “Darlington (WI) Democrat” Thursday 13 Apr 1922 p 5

RECENT MARRIAGES.

E. F. Lund to Miss Della Wisely, Darlington.

Chas. W. Netherwood, aged 79, of Oregon, Wis., was married to Mrs. Mary Breylinger 70, of Monticello.

James Kane, Kendall and Laura Agnes O'Brien, Darlington.

George Ray Stephenson, Darlington, to Martha M. Meilke, Kenosha.

Teddy H. Ableman to Ruth Johnson Woodford.

“Argyle (WI) Atlas” Thursday 20 Apr 1922 p 1

MARRIED IN JANESVILLE.

Miss Martha Mielke Becomes Bride of George Stephenson of Darlington.

A marriage of interest to Kenoshans took place in Janesville, Wis., Wednesday when Miss Martha Mielke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Mielke, 417 Lemon street, became the bride of George Raymond Stephenson of Darlington, Wis.

Mr. Stephenson is a former Kenoshan and was a member of old Company M. Both were popular here and have the best wishes of hosts of friends. They will make their home in Darlington, Wis., where Mr. Stephenson is associated with the Travelers' Insurance company.

"Kenosha (WI) Evening News" Thursday 13 Apr 1922 p 3

Martha Stephenson

Mrs. Martha B. Stephenson, 90, formerly of Kenosha, late of Oakwood Retirement Apartments, Madison, died Thursday at St. Mary Hospital in Madison.

The daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Karl (Johanna Kruger) Mielke, she was born on June 4, 1892 in Kenosha.

She received her education in local schools. She lived in Milwaukee since 1942 before moving to Madison this year.

On April 12, 1922 she married Ray Stephenson. He died on Nov. 23, 1967.

Surviving are a son, John, of Woodland Hills, Calif.; and five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Roger, in 1978; four brothers, William R., Carl H., Fred W., and Herman R.; and three sisters, Mrs. Mary Kraai, Mrs. Anna Motter and Mrs. Louise Hanson.

STEPHENSON—Funeral services for the late Mrs. Martha Stephenson, a former resident of Kenosha and late of Madison, who died on December 2nd, will be held on Saturday December 4th at 11 A.M. from the Hansen Funeral Home. Interment to follow in Sunset Ridge Memorial Park. Friends may call at the Hansen Funeral Home on Saturday from 10 A.M. til time of services.

Obituaries of Martha M. Mielke Stephenson – left: "Kenosha (WI) News" Friday 3 Dec 1982 p 5 and right: same paper, p 26

Ill Two Weeks Resident Dies

**Mrs. Johanna Mielke, 88,
Dies at Daughter's Home**

Mrs. Johanna Mielke, 88 years, widow of the late Karl Edward Mielke and a resident of Kenosha since 1889 died at the home of her daughter, 5134 Eighteenth avenue, at an early hour this morning following an illness of two weeks.

The deceased was born in Pomerania, Germany on June 9, 1855 the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kruger. She spent her early life in her native land and was educated there.

In Germany on November 18, 1881 she was united in marriage to Karl Edward Mielke. She came to America with her family in 1885 and resided at Manitowoc, Wis., until 1889 when she came to Kenosha and has made her home here since that time. She was one of the oldest members of the Friedens Evangelical Lutheran church. She was a member of the Ladies Aid of the church.

She is survived by two sons and four daughters: Fred W., Herman R. Mielke of Kenosha, Mrs. Walter Motter of Henry, Ill., Mrs. Jay Kraai and Mrs. Ray Stephenson of Kenosha, and Mrs. Stanley Hanson of Chicago. She is also survived by 10 grand children and one great grand child.

She was preceded in death by her husband, on July 21, 1932 and by two sons William R. and Carl H. Mielke.

Death of Martha Mielke Stephenson's mother Johanna Kruger Mielke – "Kenosha (WI) News" Friday
13 Aug 1941 p 7

Children:



Son John Winfield Stephenson (1923-2015) – radio, TV & movie personality – Find A Grave 146636593

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRY OF MARRIAGE				BOOK 3796 PAGE 396	
(PERSONAL DATA - LICENSE TO MARRY)				REGISTRAR'S NUMBER 2786	
GROOM PERSONAL DATA	1a. NAME OF GROOM - FIRST NAME	1b. MIDDLE NAME	1c. LAST NAME	2. AGE OF GROOM (LAST BIRTHDAY)	
	John	Winfield	Stephenson	31	
	3a. USUAL RESIDENCE OF GROOM - STREET ADDRESS IF RURAL, RITE LOCATION	3b. CITY OR TOWN (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)			
	4417 1/2 Coldwater Canyon	No Hollywood			
BRIDE PERSONAL DATA	4. COLOR OR RACE	5. NEVER MARRIED	6. NUMBER OF TIMES PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	7. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OF BIRTH IS OK)	
	White	none	none	Wis	
	8a. NAME OF FATHER OF GROOM	8b. MOTHER OF GROOM	9a. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER OF GROOM	9b. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	
	George R Stephenson	Wis	Martha Mielke	Wis	
BRIDE PERSONAL DATA	10a. NAME OF BRIDE - FIRST NAME	10b. MIDDLE NAME	10c. LAST NAME	8. AGE OF BRIDE (LAST BIRTHDAY)	
	Jean	Elaine	Irwin	25	
	12a. USUAL RESIDENCE OF BRIDE - STREET ADDRESS IF RURAL, RITE LOCATION	12b. CITY OR TOWN (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)			
	8992 Lloyd Pl	Los Angeles			
BRIDE PERSONAL DATA	13. COLOR OR RACE	14. NEVER MARRIED	15. NUMBER OF TIMES PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	16. BIRTHPLACE (STATE OF BIRTH IS OK)	
	White	none	one	Calif	
	17a. NAME OF FATHER OF BRIDE	17b. MOTHER OF BRIDE	18a. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER OF BRIDE	18b. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER	
	Thomas E Irwin	So Dak	Marie C Hansen	Iowa	
LICENSE TO MARRY	20. I hereby certify that the above named bride and groom were				
	21a. BRIDE (SIGN FULL NAME)				
	21b. GROOM (SIGN FULL NAME)				
	21c. COUNTY OF ISSUE OF LICENSE				
CERTIFICATION OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY AND WITNESS	22. I hereby certify that the above named bride and groom were				
	23a. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS				
	23b. ADDRESS OF WITNESS - STREET ADDRESS				
	23c. ADDRESS OF WITNESS - CITY OR TOWN AND STATE				
LOCAL REGISTRAR (COUNTY RECORDER)	25. DATE RECEIVED BY LOCAL REGISTRAR (COUNTY RECORDER)				
	FILED FEB 8 1955				
	26. LOCAL REGISTRAR (COUNTY RECORDER)				
	M. H. Baker				

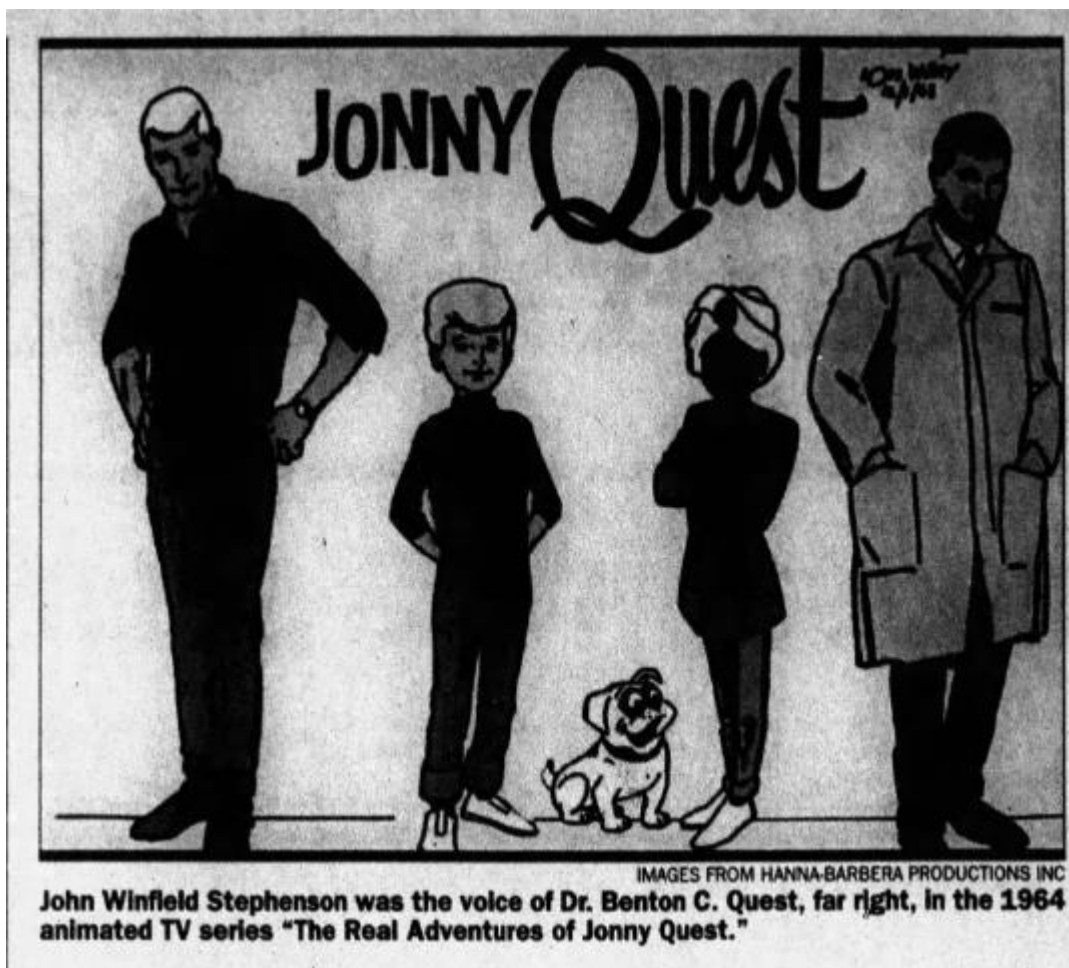
Marriage of John Winfield Stephenson to Jean Elaine Irwin on 5 Feb 1955 Los Angeles Co. CA - <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-893H-4B8T?i=257&cc=1804002>



JOHN STEPHENSON

SIX-FOOT-ONE John Stephenson, who plays the "heavy," Roger Crutcher, left the Midwest twice. Born in Darlington, Wisconsin, he made his debut at 13, with the Kenosha Little Theater. His first departure took him all the way to China, where he did combat duty with the Air Force as a radioman-gunner. Then, having picked up his Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in drama, at Northwestern University, John left again, ne'er to return. Not that he has anything against the Midwest. But there's been no time for visits home. John arrived in Hollywood in 1948 for a visit, has since enjoyed a flood of good parts on radio and in television and the movies. Blue-eyed and brown-haired, John likes swimming and tennis and, after his wife Jean and their North Hollywood home, loves golf most of all.

https://www.google.com/search?q=%22john+stephenson%22+actor&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS907US907&oq=%22john+stephenson%22+actor&aqs=chrome..69i57j46i512j0i22i30j0i390l5.10618j1j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#imgsrc=6_iLEdVz9VBBYm



Character actor had roles on 'Flintstones,' 'Jonny Quest'

BY DIANE GILES

dgiles@kenoshanews.com

Question: Which Kenosha native was the voice of Mr. Slate on "The Flintstones," Dr. Benton Quest on "Jonny Quest" and Fancy Fancy, the debonair cat on "Top Cat"?

Answer: His name was John Winfield Stephenson, and although he did not call Kenosha his home for long, he made his mark as a character actor, TV series narrator and the voice of a score of cartoon characters.



John Winfield Stephenson

He was born here on Aug. 9, 1923, and died earlier this year on May 15 in the Woodland Hills neighborhood in Los Angeles at the age of 91.

HISTORY MYSTERY

For previous History Mystery articles, visit the Kenosha News website and the Web page www.kenoshanews.com/news/history-mystery.php.

radio in 1948, but made the transition to television with ease.

He reportedly was the first person who appeared on camera when "I Love Lucy" debuted in 1951 as Stephenson was the commercial pitchman on that show.

Mel Blanc may have had 1,000 voices, but Stephenson had nearly as many roles.

His most famous recurring role was that of the voice of Mr. Slate on "The Flintstones."



The late John Winfield Stephenson, a Kenosha native, was most famously known as the voice of Mr. Slate, Fred Flintstone's boss in the long-running '60s TV show "The Flintstones."

In Slate, Stephenson had

Stephenson graduated in 1941 from Kenosha High School, serving on the student council and taking part in forensics.

He was a member of the National Forensics League and took second in the national meet in Lexington, Ky., that year in dramatic declaration and oratorical declamation. With more than 800 contestants, Kenosha was the highest-scoring team in the contest that year.

More than one online source says he got his start in the Kenosha Little Theater group.

Hitting the big time

He began his career in

Stephenson played Mr. Slate in 73 episodes during the show's run from 1960-66 and was one of the last surviving original cast members.

His Mr. Slate can be heard in "The Flintstones" holiday shows in the '70s, '80s and '90s and in the 2000 video game "Flintstones Bedrock Bowling."

Many roles

He voiced a number of animated characters in the 1960s, including the Cary Grant doppelganger Fancy Fancy on "Top Cat"; the father Dr. Benton Quest on "The Adventures of Jonny Quest" and as an occasional villain voice on "Scooby Doo."

In films, Stephenson had a role in the 1977 version of "The Hobbit" and a voice role in "Charlotte's Web" (1973).

His television role credits included characters — mostly of the stuffed shirt variety — seen on "Bonanza," "77 Sunset Strip," "Dragnet," "Perry Mason," "Beverly Hillbillies," "Man from U.N.C.L.E." and "Hogan's Heroes."

He and his wife Jean were married 60 years, and the couple had two children, Roger and Katie.

This week's mystery: What was the name of the 92-foot boat that was built in Carol Beach for more than a decade and launched in 1976?

"Kenosha (WI) News" Tuesday 18 Aug 2015 p 2

THE
Hollywood
REPORTER

John Stephenson, Voice of Mr. Slate on 'The Flintstones,' Dies at 91

The Hanna-Barbera mainstay played hundreds of cartoon characters, including Fancy-Fancy on 'Top Cat.' He appeared onscreen as well.

BY MIKE BARNES  MAY 21, 2015 2:07PM



John Stephenson, a prolific voiceover actor who played Fred's boss, Mr. Slate, on *The Flintstones* and the ladies' man Fancy-Fancy on *Top Cat*, has died. He was 91.

Stephenson, who also worked as a narrator on the 1960s version of TV's *Dragnet*, revealing the verdicts and sentences at the end of each episode, died May 15 in Woodland Hills after a three-year battle with Alzheimer's, his son, **Roger**, told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Stephenson, a mainstay of the 1960s Hollywood cartoon factory Hanna-Barbera, also voiced characters for such shows as *Jonny Quest* (as dad Benton Quest), *The Peter Potamus Show*, *The Magilla Gorilla Show*, *The Banana Splits Adventure Hour* and several iterations of *Scooby-Doo*.

Stephenson was seen onscreen on *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*, *Perry Mason*, *F Troop* (as Gen. **George Armstrong Custer**), *Hogan's Heroes*, *Mission: Impossible*, *The Doris Day Show*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The Streets of San Francisco*, *Lou Grant* and other series.

Stephenson began work on *The Flintstones* in 1960, when it debuted as an ABC primetime show on Friday nights. He voiced the hot-tempered Mr. Slate of the Bedrock Quarrel and Gravel Co. — in addition to many other citizens of Bedrock — for decades.

“I think the show was successful because it was an adult cartoon and viewers associated it with *The Honeymooners*,” he said in a 2010 interview. “And with the Stone Age setting and some very good writing, audiences loved it. They still do.”

Top Cat, another Hanna-Barbera cartoon, debuted on ABC in 1961; it revolved around a gang of scheming Manhattan alley cats.

Stephenson had a Hollywood legend in mind for the voice of Fancy-Fancy. “I tried to make him come across as a kind of Brooklyn **Cary Grant**,” he once said.

He retired about 10 years ago after more than six decades in the business, his son said.

A native of Kenosha, Wis., Stephenson served in World War II as a radio operator and gunner in the Army Air Corps and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He decided to become an actor after he left the service, took a course in speech and drama at Northwestern via the G.I. Bill and worked in Chicago radio.

In 1948, Stephenson visited Chicago friends in Hollywood and stuck around, landing gigs on the radio shows *It's Always Sunday* and, in the title role, *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

Soon, as a spokesman for sponsoring tobacco company Philip Morris, he introduced TV audiences to episodes of *I Love Lucy* and then was a regular on the sitcom *The People's Choice*, starring **Jackie Cooper**.

In addition to his son, survivors include his wife of 60 years, **Jean**; daughter **Katie**; and granddaughter **Samantha**.

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/tv/tv-news/john-stephenson-dead-flintstones-voice-796680/>

George Ray Stephenson, serving as a private in the 107th Supply Train, Company B, born in Darlington, Wisconsin, was famous for his letter describing his *Tuscania* experiences, published in the *Darlington Democrat*, July 11, 1918, and for becoming president of the Kenosha, Wisconsin, American Legion. But millions should be grateful that survivor “Ray” fathered son John, born August 9, 1923. Ray’s son John Winfield Stephenson earned fame as the voice of numerous Hanna-Barbera cartoon figures, for his voiceovers for television shows and commercials, and as a bit player in several television shows and movies. In his 55-year career, where he excelled at portraying – as he described it – a “stuffed shirt,” John provided the voice of Fred Flintstone’s boss Mr. Slate in *The Flintstones* as well as most of the show’s guest characters. He also provided voices for cartoon series *Top Cat* (voicing Fancy-Fancy), *Scooby-Doo* (where he voiced villains and mad scientists), *Laff-A-Lympics* and many others. He had over 230 voice-over and on-screen credits. He appeared in such movies as *Spartacus*, John Wayne’s *Hellfighters*, *Topaz*, *Herbie Rides Again*, several made-for-television movies and Hanna-Barbera’s animated *Charlotte’s Web*.

The first person who appears on the very first episode of *I Love Lucy*, airing October 15, 1951 (after the hotel call-boy who yells “Philip Morris” for sponsor, cigarette manufacturer Philip Morris) is John Stephenson. He is seen in the Ricardo apartment before the episode starts, asking the viewers if they inhale or not, and then promoting Philip Morris cigarettes. In the first episode, the four main characters all enjoy cigarettes, which becomes an important part of the plot. John was also the voice of the closing credits on the show.

John’s ability to provide accents meant he could appear on television show *Hogan’s Heroes* several times, often playing German roles. His was the voice that intoned the summary “And now, the results of the trial” from 1967-1970 on *Dragnet*. He provided the voice of Dr. Benton Quest in the first five episodes of *Jonny Quest*. His TV appearances are a line-up of American classic television: *The Johnny Carson Show* (in which he appeared as a serious news anchor and Carson as the roving reporter several times), *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*, *The Real McCoys*, *Bonanza*, *Perry Mason*, *Yancey Derringer*, *The Mod Squad*, *Mission: Impossible*, *Jeannie* (the voice of Hadji in 16 episodes), *The Beverly Hillbillies*, *F Troop* (appearing as General George Armstrong Custer), *The Addams Family*, *Get Smart*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The Streets of San Francisco*, *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*, *The Lou Grant Show*, *The Doris Day Show*, *The Millionaire*, *The People’s Choice* (as Roger Crutcher), *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* – and even *The Lone Ranger*. His voice also was used for video game characters.



Tonto and the Lone Ranger with John Stephenson, son of a Tuscania survivor, in the “Dan Reid’s Fight for Life” episode of The Lone Ranger, November 18, 1954.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0827267/>

Excerpt from Marilyn C. Gahm’s “The Sinking of the Tuscania” –
pages 383-384

Stephenson, Roger W.

MADISON—Mr. Roger W. Stephenson, age 53, of 1617 Lakeview Ave, died on Tuesday, February 21, 1978 at a local hospital after a long illness. Mr. Stephenson was born January 28, 1925 in Darlington, WI, and was a Madison resident since 1946. He worked for the Credit Union National Association for the past 6 years serving as a Pension Specialist. He was a veteran of WW II, serving in the Army Air Force. He married the former, Fay Flodstrom, September 3, 1949. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Miss Karen Stephenson of Madison; two sons, Robert W. and James R., both at home; a brother, John W. of Woodland Hills, CA; and his mother, Martha Stephenson of Milwaukee. Funeral services will be held at LAKEVIEW AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4001 Mandrake Rd. on Thursday at 1:30 p.m., with Reverend Kenneth Hoffman officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. There will be no visitation. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. The RYAN FUNERAL HOME, 2418 N. Sherman Ave is in charge of arrangements.

Obituary of son Roger Walter Stephenson (1925-1978) – “Wisconsin State Journal” (Madison WI)
Wednesday 22 Feb 1978 p 29

Father:

—The many friends here of the Messrs. Homer and Ray Stephenson of Darlington were sorry to hear of the death of their father, John Stephenson, which occurred on Sunday, Oct. 16, at that place.

“Platteville (WI) Journal & Grant County News” Wednesday 19 Oct 1921 p 1

Miss Martha Mielke left today for Darlington to attend the funeral of the late John Stephenson which will be held on Thursday.

Martha Mielke, who will marry George Ray Stephenson in Apr 1922, attends the funeral of his father in Oct 1921 – “Kenosha (WI) News” Wednesday 19 Oct 1921 p 3

JOHN STEPHENSON.

John Stephenson, died at his home in Avon, just south of this city, at two o'clock p. m., Monday, after an illness of about two weeks of pneumonia, at the age of 59 years. He was born at Jenkinsville, in the town of Benton. Mr. Stephenson leaves his wife and three sons. The funeral was held this (Thursday) afternoon, the services being conducted by Rev. Stever, pastor of the Congregational church. The Odd Fellows lodge, of which the deceased was an honored member, attended. A suitable obituary will be printed next week.

“Darlington (WI) Republican-Journal” Thursday 20 Oct 1921 p 1

OBITUARY

Stephenson

(Contributed)

John Stephenson was born at Jenkensville, Wisconsin, on Nov. 11, 1862. He was a son of George and Margaret Stephenson who were among the early settlers of Lafayette county. He spent his childhood and youth on a farm near Fayette. He was married to Miss Jennie Morton, Nov. 11, 1891, and to them four sons were born, George R., Guy M., Harold and Homer. Harold died in infancy.

Mr. Stephenson was a member of the independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs and the Beavers. He was also a member of the Congregational church and for several years had been one of its trustees. He was a man known for his good judgment, uprightness and thorough honesty. He was one of Darlington's most widely respected citizens. His genial personality won him a host of friends, and as one of those friends expressed it, "to have known John Stephenson was to have been his friend in the fullest sense of the word."

He died at his home at fifteen minutes after two o'clock on the afternoon of Oct. 17th. Death was the result of pneumonia. While never in very robust health his condition was not regarded as serious until a few days before he passed away, and when pneumonia finally laid its hold upon him he was not strong enough to resist it. The funeral was held from his home Thursday afternoon, Oct. 20, at 2:00 o'clock, Rev. F. A. Stever of the Congregational church conducting the services at the house and the commitment of the body to its place of final rest was made by the Odd Fellows.

Mr. Stephenson is survived by his wife and his sons, George R. (Ray), Guy and Homer and his stepmother, Mrs. George Stephenson.

Those from out-of-town who attended the funeral were: Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, Mrs. R. Brewer and son Hayden of Cuba City; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson, J. M. Thompson, Clyde Teasdale, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Paterson, Mrs. Fred Poppa, El and Laverne Newman, Thomas Henegar, Clint Young, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vicekr, Edw. Longhorn, Miss Florence Watson, Mrs. John Morton and George and Miss Alice Morton of New Diggings.

Obituary of father John Stephenson – "Darlington (WI) Democrat" Thursday 27 Oct 1921 p 1

Mother:

Miss Elizabeth Morton died Wednesday evening at the home of her sister, Mrs. John Stephenson, where she had been living the past month. Miss Morton was 48 years old and was born at New Diggings. Besides her mother, deceased leaves her sisters Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. Thomas Battery of this city and Miss Alice Morton of New Diggings and three brothers, George and Joseph of New Diggings and Thomas of Iowa.—Republican Journal.

His mother's sister Alice Morton had lived with the family in the 1910 census - "Shullsburg (WI) Pick & Gad" Thursday 21 Apr 1921 p 4

Brothers:

Notwithstanding the heavy democratic vote in the city Monday the "east ward" shows handsome republican gains. Two young republicans registered at John Stephenson's early Monday morning. Everybody prospering.

Birth of his twin brothers **Guy Morton Stephenson & Harold Stephenson**, on 2 Mar 1896 in Darlington, Lafayette WI – Harold dies on 14 Jul 1896 & Guy on 18 Nov 1970 – "Darlington (WI) Democrat" Thursday 5 Mar 1896 p 1

Guy Stephenson

Guy M. Stephenson, 74, 4413 6th Ave., died Wednesday morning at St. Catherine's Hospital following a short illness.

Born March 2, 1896, in Darlington, Wis., he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson. He was educated in Darlington and came to Kenosha in 1916.

On Sept. 18, 1943 he married Eleanor Kleist in Kenosha.

Mr. Stephenson joined the U. S. Army on April 30, 1918 and saw action in the Meuse Argonne battle in World War I. He was discharged at Camp Grant on June 28, 1919.

He was a shipping clerk for 10 years at the Simmons Co., retiring in 1958.

He was a member of the Eagles club.

Surviving are his wife; a daughter, Mrs Fred (Harriett) Hammer of Milwaukee; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Also surviving is a brother, Homer of Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Stephenson was preceded in death by a twin-brother, Harold, and a brother, Raymond.

Obituary of brother Guy Morton Stephenson (1896-1970) – "Kenosha (WI) News" Thursday 19 Nov 1970 p 18

Deaths.	
00519 U.S.	
1. Full name of deceased	Harold Stephenson
2. Color	White
3. Sex	Male
4. Age	
5. Name of the father of deceased	John Stephenson
6. Name of the mother of deceased	Jennie Stephenson
7. Occupation	
8. Place of birth	Darlington, Wis
9. Name of wife of deceased	
10. Name of husband of deceased	
11. Date of birth and date of death	Feb - 2 - 1896 July - 14 - 1896
12. Cause of death	Dysentery
13. Name of the place, town or township and county in which the person died	Darlington
14. Name and location of burial ground in which interred	Union Prot. Darlington Mchall
15. Name of person returning certificate	B. H. Russell
16. Residence of such person	Darlington, Wis
17. Date of certificate	July - 28 - 1896
18. Date of registration	Sept. - 9 - 1896

WI death record of Harold Stephenson, twin of Guy Morton – died of dysentery at age 4 months –
Find A Grave 247534758

Name: George Ray Stephenson

Name variations: buried as Ray

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. B - sergeant

Serial number: 251,000

Entered service from: Darlington, Columbia WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: George Ray Stephenson

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father John Stephenson, Arlington WI

Returned from war on: "Virginian" May 1919

Sailed on return ship as: George R. Stephenson

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father John Stephenson, Arlington WI (cpl, Co B, 107 Supply Train)

World War I draft registration (1917): as George Ray Stephenson - b. 25 Dec 1892 Darlington WI; res: 260 Park St., Kenosha WI. Single. Embalmer, N.P. Mischler, 260 Park St., Kenosha WI.

Claimed exemption from draft: "Has enlisted." Tall & slender.

National Tuscania Survivors Association (1939): 5030 - 22nd Ave., Kenosha WI

World War II draft registration (1942): as George Ray Stephenson - b. 25 Dec 1892 Darlington WI; res: 5134 – 18th Ave., Kenosha WI. NOK Mrs. Martha Stephenson, same address. “scar over bridge of nose” – Employed by Simmons Mfg. Co., Kenosha WI. Height: 5’11” – 175 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 15 Jul 1917

Discharged: 29 May 1919

Address: Wells St., Darlington WI

Rank/unit: corporal, Co. B, 107th Supply Train, 32nd Division

Birth & death:

Born: 25 Dec 1892 Darlington, Lafayette WI

Died: 23 Nov 1967 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI

Find A Grave record: 113555000 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Kenosha, Kenosha WI

Cemetery: Sunset Ridge Memorial Park

Tombstone: not pictured: inscription: Wisconsin Sgt Co B 107 Supply Tn WWI – buried as Ray Stephenson

Father: John Stephenson, 11 Nov 1862 Benton, Lafayette WI – 17 Oct 1921 Darlington, Lafayette WI. Son of George Stephenson & Margaret Drummond. Died of pneumonia.

Buried in Union Grove Cemetery, Darlington, Lafayette WI.

Find A Grave: 130944423

Mother: Mary Jane (“Jennie”) Morton Stephenson, 1870 New Diggings, Lafayette WI – 3 Dec 1936 Lafayette Co. WI. Daughter of John Morton & Phoebe Raine. Buried in Union Grove Cemetery, Darlington, Lafayette WI.

Find A Grave: 130944427

Parents’ marriage: 11 Nov 1891

Spouse: Martha M. Mielke Stephenson, 4 Jun 1892 Kenosha, Kenosha WI – 2 Dec 1982 Madison, Dane WI (in St. Mary Hospital). Daughter of Karl Edward Mielke (d. 21 Jul 1932) & Johanna Kruger (b. 9 Jun 1855 Pommern – 13 Aug 1943 Kenosha WI). Buried in Sunset Ridge Memorial Park, Kenosha, Kenosha WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 113554999

Marriage: 12 Apr 1922 Janesville, Rock WI

Children:

- John Winfield Stephenson, 9 Aug 1923 Kenosha, Kenosha WI – 15 May 2015 Woodland Hills, Los Angeles CA. Actor & one of the busiest voice artists in the 1950s & 1960s. Was a student at Northwestern University when the US entered WWII. John enlisted in the US Army Air Corps. After the war, he moved to Hollywood CA & worked in radio, TV & motion pictures. He died from Alzheimer’s disease; his body was cremated. – John Winfield Stephenson, age 31, married on 5 Feb 1955 in Los Angeles Co. CA to Jeane Elaine Irwin, age

25, daughter of Thomas E. Irwin & Marie C. Hansen, who survived him. They had a son & daughter. F: 146636593

- Roger Walter Stephenson, 28 Jan 1925 Darlington, Lafayette WI – 21 Feb 1978 Madison, Dane WI. Husband of Fay Renette Flodstrom (1928-2019, F: 204113516) whom he married 3 Sep 1949. Buried in Lakeview Lutheran Cemetery, Madison, Dane WI. F: 175602555

Siblings:

- Guy Morton Stephenson, 2 Mar 1896 Darlington, Lafayette WI – 18 Nov 1970 Kenosha, Kenosha WI. Twin of Harold. Married 18 Sep 1943 in Kenosha, Kenosha WI married Lois Jane Kleist (1903-1980, F: 216522251). Buried in Sunset Ridge Memorial Park, Kenosha, Kenosha WI. F: 206671571
- Harold Stephenson, 2 Mar 1896 Darlington, Lafayette WI – 14 Jul 1896 Darlington, Lafayette WI. Twin of Guy. Died at 4 months old of dysentery. Buried in Union Grove Cemetery, Darlington, Lafayette WI. F: 247534758
- Homer Albert Stephenson, 6 Sep 1900 Darlington, Lafayette WI – 26 Sep 1985 Los Angeles, Los Angeles CA. Husband of Ethel Hanson (1903 UT – 1994 CA, F: 78719244) whom he married in 1930. Buried in Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, Los Angeles CA. F: 78086585

Notes:

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Post-war:

Obituary:

Social Security number: 390-03-8893

Censuses:

1900 Darlington, Lafayette WI

John Stephenson, 37 WI, Nov 1862, father b. England, mother b. Scotland, married 9 years, stock buyer

Mary J., 30 WI, Apr 1870, father b. England, mother b. WI, gave birth to 3 children, 2 are living

Ray G., 7 WI, Dec 1892

Guy M., 6 WI, Mar 1894

1905 WI state census – Darlington, Lafayette WI

John Stephenson, 41 WI, father b. England, mother b. Scotland, land agent

Jennie M., 35 WI, father b. England, mother b. America

Ray G., 12 WI
 Guy M., 9 WI
 Homer A., 4 WI

1910 Darlington, Lafayette WI – Avon Rd.

John Stephenson, 47 WI, parents b. England, in 1st marriage, married 18 years, real estate agent, farm land

Mary J., 39 WI, father b. England, mother b. WI, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 4 children, 3 are living

George R., 17 WI

Guy M., 14 WI

Homer A., 9 WI

& sister-in-law Alice C. Morton, 17 WI, father b. England, mother b. WI, single

1920 Darlington, Lafayette WI

John Stephenson, 37 WI, father b. England, mother b. Scotland

Jennie, 49 WI, father b. England, mother b. WI

Ray G., 27 WI

Guy M., 23 WI

Homer E., 19 WI

[all the sons are single – occupations for all: “none”]

1930 Kenosha, Kenosha WI – 1916 – 50th St.

Ray G. Stephenson, 37 WI, parents b. WI, age 29 at 1st marriage, foreman, bed & furniture factory, veteran status left blank for all entries on this page

Martha, 37 WI, parents b. Germany, age 29 at 1st marriage, machine operator, bed & furniture factory

John, 6 WI

Roger, 5 WI

& servant for a private family Jessie Burrington, 24 WI

1940 Kenosha, Kenosha WI – 5030 – 22nd Ave. – same place in 1935

Roy Stephenson, 48 WI, laborer, furniture factory

Martha, 48 WI

John, 16 WI

Rogers, 15 WI

& mother-in-law Johanna Mielke, 84 Germany, widow

1950 Milwaukee, Milwaukee WI – 1029 E. Idaho St.

G. Ray Stephenson, 57 WI, club manager, Red Arrow Club

Martha B., 57 WI