

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.

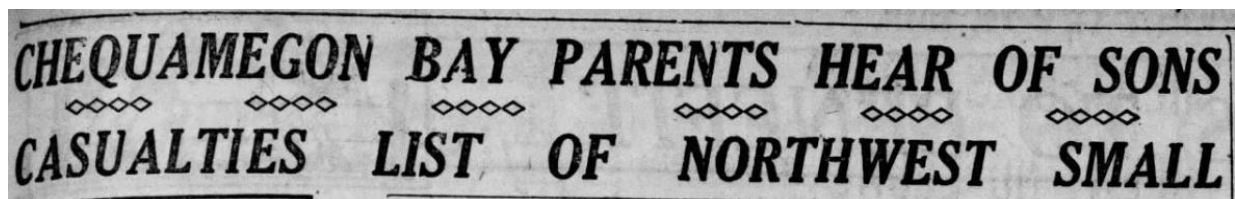
Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org)

NOK = next-of-kin

TUSCANIA**Tuscania casualty****Schleiss, James Albert****1885 WI – 5 February 1918 Tuscania**

The Duluth News Tribune
Tue, Feb 12, 1918 · Page 9

Duluth MN



9, James A. Schleiss,

Rice Lake, Wis.;

SCHLEISS JAMES ALBERT		(C	7 032
Pvt Co D 20 Engrs		K	
Haugen Wisc		A	
En	Died 2/6/18	T	474 686
Born 4/23/85		R	
Enl	Dis	Cl.	
		I	7 732

U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1926

INDEX CARD

GPO 2-12008

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MW-4W23-9?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AW7RF-8GT2>

James A Schleiss

Military • United States, World War I American Expeditionary Forces Deaths, 1917-1919

Page 35

WISCONSIN - WHITE; INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ARMY OR ASSIGNED THERETO UPON ENLISTMENT

NAME	SERIAL NO.	RANK	ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH	DATE OF DEATH
Schleiss, James A.		Pvt	Co D 6 Bn 20 Engrs	Feb 5/18

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPHW-DCDL>

James A Schleiss

Military • United States, Enlisted and Officer Muster Rolls and Rosters, 1916-1939

112.Schleiss, James A.	Oct 19/17	Trans to Co D 6th Bn this regt Camp Amer Univ DC 1/1/18 RSO 249 par 6 sd
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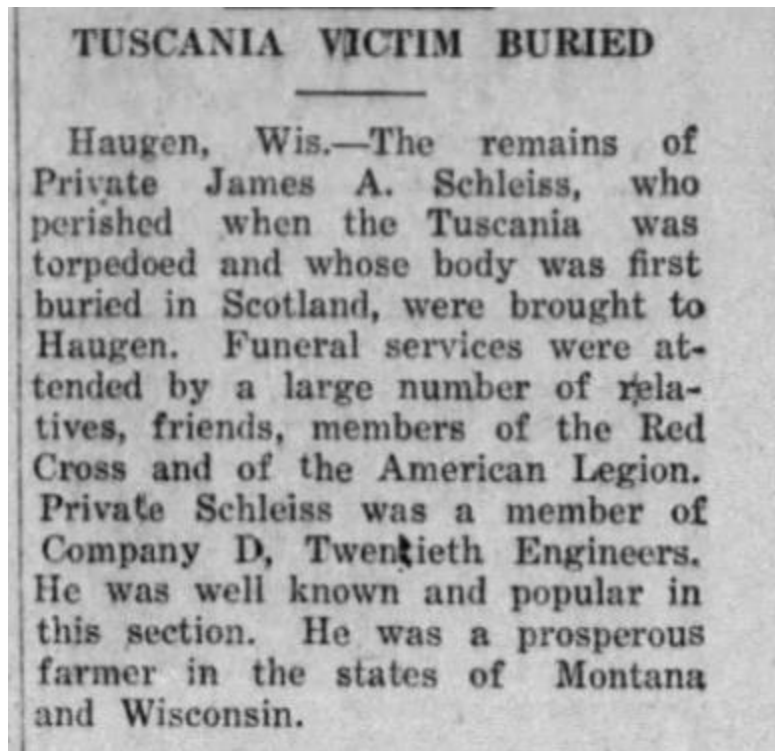
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-N3ZG-7933-Q?cc=3346936&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A668M-SPSS>

Albert Slajs

Vital • Wisconsin Births and Christenings, 1826-1926

Name	Albert Slajs
Sex	Male
Birth Date	8 May 1885
Birthplace	Franklin, Kewaunee, Wisconsin, United States
Birthplace (Original)	Franklin Township Kewaunee, Wisconsin, United States
Race	White
Ethnicity	American
Father's Name	Martin Slajs
Father's Sex	Male
Father's Birthplace	Bohemia
Mother's Name	Marget Kulhanek
Mother's Sex	Female
Mother's Birthplace	Bohemia
Event Type	Birth

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/G993-M35>



“Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune” Thursday 2 Dec 1920 p 2 –

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/243237851/?terms=tuscania%20haugen&match=1>

James A Schleiss	
in the U.S., General Land Office Records, 1776-2015	
Name:	James A Schleiss
Issue Date:	16 Apr 1917
Place:	Hill, Montana, USA
Meridian:	Montana PM
Township:	030n
Range:	009E
Aliquots:	SW¼
Section:	1
Accession Number:	578383
Document Number:	019766
Original URL:	http://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=578383&docClass=SER&sid=yssdv4vs.2lt

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/8451778:1246?tid=&pid=&queryId=28fe9bbc0e4369b3c4fa3d351f000221&_phsrc=hFB53393&_phstart=successSource

Hill County Deeds Filed for Record

Special to The Daily Tribune.

Havre, Aug. 3.—Title deeds from the government were yesterday recorded in the names of Eugene Smith and James A. Schleiss.

The Central Montana Ranches Co. filed four deeds of record yesterday, the purchase price in each being stated as \$1 and other valuable consideration.

"Great Falls (MT) Tribune" Saturday 4 Aug 1917 p 11

WISCONSIN MEN UNACCOUNTED FOR

Washington, D. C., Feb. 11.—Following is a list of those on board the transport Tuscania from Wisconsin who so far have not been reported among the survivors:

ORVELL N. CASPER, 605 Twenty-eighth street, Milwaukee.

CORPORAL ABLERT GRABOW, Milwaukee.

HARRY E. PETERSON, 694 Twenty-eighth street, Milwaukee.

FRED A. RUDOLPH, Milwaukee.

FRANK SHARP, 87 North Avenue Milwaukee.

RAYMOND BUTLER, New Richmond.

ALVIN N. COLLINS, Markesan.

JAMES A. SCHLEISE, Rice Lake.

GEORGE R. ROGERS, Dallas, Wis.

GEORGE D. REINHARDT, Jefferson.

CHARLES E. SWANSON, Rothschild.

JAMES P. HAWLEY, Neenah.

REUBEN PETERSON, Marinette.

OTIS E. HUTCHINS, Whitehall.

CHARLES PHILLIP MERTEN, Waukesha.

With name misspelled – "Wausau (WI) Daily Herald" Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 1

Missing In Tuscania Sinking

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12.—
Following is a revised list of the
Wisconsin men on the Tuscania list-
ed by the war department as miss-
ing:

20th Engineers, 6th Batt. HEADQUARTERS CO.

Butler, Raymond
.....New Richmond, Wis.
CO. D.

Collins, Alvin N.....Markesan, Wis.
Schleiss, James A.....Rice Lake, Wis.
CO. F.

Reinhardt, George A..Jefferson, Wis.

[list continues]

“Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram” Wednesday 13 Feb 1918 p 1

Another Tuscania Victim Is Listed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Elev-
en additional names of American
soldiers who lost their lives on the
torpedoed liner Tuscania were re-
ceived tonight by the war depart-
ment from London. Ten of them
previously had been reported in
the list of 131 identified received
by the Associated Press from a
Scottish port last Tuesday. The
one not in that list was that of
Private James A. Schleiss, Rice
Lake, Wis.

“Billings (MT) Gazette” Sunday 17 Feb 1918 p 1

TWO MORE BADGER BOYS ARE VICTIMS OF TUSCANIA SINKING

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The war department tonight received the following additional list of Tuscania dead by cable:

Edgar C. Barnes, J. E. Barnes (father), Ranger, Texas.

Raymond Butler, C. E. Butler, (father), New Richmond, Wis.

Wilbur W. Clark, Luella Clark, (mother), Lansing, Mich.

John Edwards, Miss Jennie Barnes, (friend), 1629 South Gaylor street, Butte, Mont.

Martin C. Hill, Mrs. Sarah Hill, (mother), Imburley, Texas.

Wm. R. Johnson, Charles P. Johnson, (father), Metamore, Mich.

Wm. Keown, John Keown, (brother), Sand Springs, Texas.

John C. Robinson, m. H. Robinson, (father), Pot Latch, Idaho.

Thomas L. St. Clare, Mrs. Ella St. Clare, (mother), Junction, Texas.

James A. Schleiss, Joseph Schleiss, (brother), R. F. D. No. 2, Rice Lake, Wis.

Wm. A. Moore, Loulse Moore, (mother), 59 Cabrillo street, San Francisco, Calif.

This makes ninety-three dead thus far reported to the war department.

"La Crosse (WI) Tribune" Sunday 17 Feb 1918 p 6

TUSCANIA SURVIVORS

Washington, D. C., Feb. 16.—Eleven survivors of the torpedoed liner Tuscania, previously listed as unreported, were announced tonight by the war department with the name of another survivor, H. Obaird, of Wagoner, Okla., who was not on the original passenger list as given out here.

The other eleven survivors were:

Private Hugh Alexander, Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

Private David Cisneros, Brownsville, Tex.

Private Connor A. Collins, Battle Creek, Mich.

Private Joe Curland, Evansville, Ind.

Private Robert E. Lee Hickey, Denton, Tex.

Private Marion F. Lambert, Rotan, Tex.

Private Miguel Martinez, San Diego, Cal.

Private Burley C. Nail, Garlington, Okla.

Private Rueben Peterson, Marinette, Wis.

Private Irene Smith, Spokane, Wash.

Private Jesse D. Smith, Coleman, Okla.

Ten of them previously had been reported in the list of 131 identified received by the Associated Press from a Scottish port last Tuesday. The one not in that list was that of Private James A. Schleiss, Rice Lake, Wis.

The war department's list of known dead now is ninety-three, it having received eighty-two names by cable last night. The Associated Press dispatch referred to announced that a total of 164 soldier victims had been buried in Scotland, but that thirty-three of them had not been identified.

"Sioux City (IA) Journal" Sunday 17 Feb 1918 p 2

Milwaukee, Feb. 14. — Included in the list of 171 victims of the Tuscania disaster, who have been buried on the coast of Scotland, are reported twelve Wisconsin men whose bodies were washed ashore and identified. Their names and home addresses are:

RAYMOND BUTLER, New Richmond.

CHARLES E. SWANSON, Rothschilds.

HOMER LLEWELLYN ANDERSON, Cumberland.

RUSSELL F. BENNETT, Plainfield.

JAMES P. HAWLEY, Neenah.

OTTO MOWREY, Kenosha.

CLAIRE METZENBAUER, Chippewa Falls.

ALVIN N. COLLINS, Markesan.

OTIS HUTCHINS, Whitehall.

GEORGE A. REINHARDT, Jefferson.

ORVELL N. CASPER, Milwaukee.

FRED A. RUDOLPH, Milwaukee.

Note James Schleiss's name is omitted from Islay burial list — "Wisconsin Rapids (WI) Daily Tribune" Thursday 21 Feb 1918 p 6

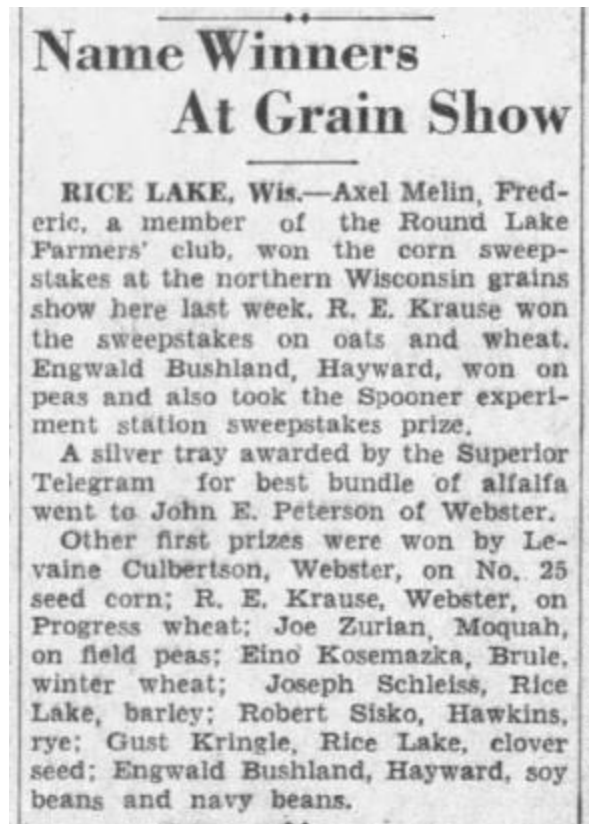


Marketa Schleiss – Find A Grave 214176873 – dates translate from Czech as 10th of August (Srpná) of the year (roku) 1854 – 26th of April (Dubna) of the year (roku) 1911

Siblings:



Brother Joseph Schleiss (1881-1933) - <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/69217531/person/352000693364/media/86927988-5bfa-4c80-945e-a07a5360fe53>



"Madison (WI) Capital Times" Tuesday 30 Oct 1928 p 10

Name: James Albert Schleiss

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 16th/Co. D - private

Serial number: US Army enlisted men were not assigned serial numbers in WWI until after the sinking of the Tuscania showed their value

Entered service from: Rice Lake, Barron WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: James A. Schleiss

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": brother Joseph Schleiss, RR 2, Rice Lake WI

First buried on isle of Ilay, Scotland: in Kilnaughton Cemetery - grave 81, as James A. Scheiss

Body returned from war on: "Antigone" arriving Hoboken NJ 29 Sep 1910

Body listed on return ship as: James U. SCHEISS

Rank on return ship: pvt, Co. D, 20th Engrs

World War I draft registration (1917):

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlistment & discharge dates not listed.

Born: 23 Apr 1885

Died: 6 Feb 1918

Address: Haugen WI

Rank/unit: private, Co. D, 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 23 Apr 1885 WI (32 years at time of death, Barron Co. WI) (birth date from Veterans Administration Master Index) – or is he “Albert Stajs” – son of Martin Slajs & Marget Kulhanek, born 8 May 1885 Franklin, Kewaunee WI.

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Find A Grave record: 214176695

Burial location: Haugen, Barron WI – prior to listing on Find A Grave, had gotten burial information from "Daily Tribune" (Wisconsin Rapids WI) 2 Dec 1920 p 2 & "Rice Lake (WI)

Chronotype" 25 Nov 1920 p. 1 & confirmed by St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rice Lake, Barron WI

Cemetery: Holy Trinity (section 2, row M, lot 8)

Tombstone:

Father: Joseph M. (Martin Joseph?) Schleiss, possibly Slais or Slajs originally, Nov 1843 Bohemia/Czechoslovakia (1900 census). Was age 66 in the 1910 census when he & wife Margret lived with their son Joseph & his family in Bear Lake, Barron WI.

Find A Grave:

Mother: Margaret Kulkanen Schleiss (?), Aug 1852 (in 1900 census) or perhaps known Marketa Schleiss, 10 Aug 1854 Bohemia – 26 Apr 1911, who is buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Haugen, Barron WI, F: 214176873

Find A Grave:

Parents' marriage:

Spouse:

Spouse Find A Grave:

Marriage:

Children:

Siblings: his mother Margaret said she gave birth to 10 children. In both the 1900 & 1910 censuses, she said 8 of the 10 were living.

- Alma Schleiss, ca. 1874 Bohemia. Age 7 when the family emigrated Jun 1881.
- Frank (Franz) L. Schleiss, 22 Sep 1878 Bohemia/Czechoslovakia – 1954. Age 4 when the family emigrated Jun 1881. On his WWI draft registration (12 Sep 1918), Frank reported a birthdate of 22 Sep 1878. He was a resident of Barron Co. WI, with a mailing address of general delivery, Rice Lake, Barron WI. He was a declarant & a laborer for Martin Konak (spelling? Konop?). He was of medium height & stout. His NOK was Barbara Frolik, Route 6, Rice Lake WI. She was a “witness to mark” when Frank made “X – his mark” to sign the card, being unable to write his name. In the 1930 census Frank (54 Bohemia, parents b. Bohemia, laborer at odd jobs) lived at 210 Messenger St., Rice Lake, Barron WI with wife Mina B. (53 MN, father b. MI, mother b. ME). Frank Schleiss had married Mina B. Hill on 18

Feb 1920 in Barron Co. WI. Buried in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Haugen, Barron WI. F: 214176802

- Joseph I. Schleiss, 2 Feb 1881 Czechoslovakia/Bohemia (1880 on Find A Grave) – 25 Mar 1933 Bear Lake, Barron WI. Husband of Anna Frolik (1884-1965, F: 181099210), whom he married 6 Jun 1905 WI. In the 1910, 1920 & 1930 censuses, he lived in Bear Lake, Barron WI. On his WWI draft registration (12 Sep 1918) he gives a birthdate of 2 Feb 1881. He is naturalized, resides at Route 2, Rice Lake WI, is farming for himself & lists his contact as Mrs. Annie Schleiss. He is tall in height with a medium build. - Buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Rice Lake, Barron WI. 181099277
- Annie Schleiss, Oct 1886 WI {in 1900 census) – She might have married a Konop.
- Rosy Schleiss, Jul 1889 MI (in 1900 census)
- Barbara Schleiss, Jul 1893 MI (in 1900 census)
- Anastasia Schleiss, Dec 1894 MI (in 1900 census). Is she Sietta (Shetta? Sletta?) who is age 14, b. MI in the 1910 census?

Notes:

Information on James & his family is lacking.

Pre-war:

The Schleiss family emigrated from Bremen, Germany; then through the port of Southampton, England; arriving in NYC on 22 Jun 1881 aboard the “Hohenstaufen.” The name is indexed as “Schleis” because the indexer missed the “eszett” (the double “S” in Germany which appears as a capital B or an F & is therefore misread). Aboard were Martin (36) – Marg^{the} (28) – Alma (7) – Franz (4) & Josef (9 months). Also listed is a Maria Schleiss (45). All from Bohemia/Austria.

He is linked on Ancestry.com to the birth record of Albert Slajs, born 8 May 1885 Franklin, Kewaunee WI, to Martin Slajs & Marget Kulhanek, both b. Bohemia. Although there are similar names for the families in Kewaunee County & Barron County, this requires further verification.

In the 1900 census, the family name is Slais.

On 2 Aug 1917, James A. Schleiss recorded a title deed from the US federal government in Great Falls MT.

Wartime:

Enlisted 19 Oct 1917.

Post-war:

"Daily Tribune" (Wisconsin Rapids WI) 2 Dec 1920 p 2 - article "Tuscania Victim Buried" does not list burial site. A large attendance at his funeral in Haugen WI. Was a prosperous farmer in MT & WI

Obituary:

Censuses:

1900 Oak Grove, Barron WI

Joseph SLAIS, 56 Bohemia, Nov 1843, parents b. Bohemia, married 26 years, farmer
Margaret, 47 Bohemia, Aug 1852, parents b. Bohemia, gave birth to 10 children, 8 are living

James, 15 WI, Mar 1885

Annie, 13 WI, Oct 1886

Rosy, 10 MI, Jul 1889

Barbara, 6 MI, Jul 1893

Anastasia, 5 MI, Dec 1894

& sister Mary Slais, 65 Bohemia, Nov 1834, widow, parents b. Bohemia

Joseph, Margaret & Mary emigrated in 1882 & were in the US for 17 years

1905 WI state census – Rice Lake, Barron WI

James A. Schleiss, 27 Germany, mill laborer, boarder with:

Alfred J. & Olena H. Hentz, their 6 children & 2 other boarders

1910 Crookston, Polk MN – S. Main St. – line 45 – is this him?

James Schleiss, 26 US, parents b. US, laborer, saw mill

Lodger with August & Lorisa Johnson, their children & grandchildren & 4 other lodgers

1910 Bear Lake, Barron WI

Joseph Schleiss (indexed as Schliers), 20 Austria/Bohemia, parents b. Austria/Bohemia, emigrated 1881, naturalized, in 1st marriage, married 4 years, farmer, general farm

Annie, 24 WI, father b. Austria/Bohemia, mother b. Germany, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 3 children, 3 are living [wife]

Albena, 3 WI [daughter]

Levia, 2 WI [daughter]

Paul, 1 WI [son]

Joseph M., 66 Austria/Bohemia, parents b. Austria/Bohemia, emigrated 1879, papers filed, married 37 years

Margret, 59 Austria/Bohemia, parents b. Austria/Bohemia, emigrated 1879, gave birth to 10 children, 8 are living

& sister Sietta (Shetta? Sletta?), 14 MI [is this Anastasia?]

& aunt Mary Hiroves, 84 Austria/Boehmia, parents b. Austria/Bohemia, widow, emigrated 1879