

TUSCANIA

Tuscania casualty

**Weisenberger, Earl Odearl
1893 IL – 5 February 1918 Tuscania**



EARL WEISENBERGER

e Born April 30, 1893. Entered the
t, service at Chippewa Falls, Wis., June 4,
l, 1917, as a private in Co. A, 4th Wis. Inf.
t, Trained at Camp Douglas, Wis., and
Camp McArthur, Waco, Tex. Sailed on
Tuscania. Drowned when boat was
torpedoed Feb. 5, 1918.

Earl Odearl Weisenberger – “Honor Roll, Chippewa County” page 91 -

<https://box2.nmtvault.com/ResCarta->

EAU/jsp/RcWebSearchResults.jsp?collection_filter=All&query1=-1-1

WEISENBERGER EARL ODEARL		C 14 694
Pvt 107 Sup Tr Co A		K
Jim Falls Wis		A
Sn	Died 2-5-18	T 363 319
Born 4-30-93		R
Enl	Dis	Cl
		I 10 135

U.S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
Form 1302—Rev. Sept., 1926

INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3M8-GYC7?cc=2968245&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AWQB6-C6ZM>

Earl Odear Weisenberger

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

Page 38

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>SERIAL NO.</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION AT TIME OF DEATH</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
Weisenberger, Earl Odearl	250,990	Pvt	Co A 107 Sup Tn	Feb 5/18

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MW-K92L-4?cc=2996059&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPHW-5C1W>

Life:

Roll of Honor

[By United Press.]
Washington, Feb. 26. —The war department today received 61 more names of dead from the Tuscania disaster, who were previously reported as unidentified missing. They include:

Benjamin H. Brown, Barron, Wis.
Alcido Carrolo, Lohrville, Wis.
Arthur Christian Junker, Kenosha, Wis.
Frank Sharpe, Milwaukee, Wis.
Earl Weisenberger, Jim Falls, Wis.
William B. Spencer, New London, Wis.

"Sheboygan (WI) Press" Tuesday 26 Feb 1918 p 1

**DEDICATES POEM IN
HONOR OF HERO**

At a Victory Loan meeting held at Jim Falls this week Attorney W. H. Stafford read the following poem written by William F. Kirk and dedicated to the memory of Earl Weisenberger who lost his life when the Tuscania was sunk:

A Yankee with a German name,
A modest lad unknown to fame,
He chose to join Columbia's band
And with Old Glory took his stand
For he had learned to love the sky
That arches over Liberty,
And he had learned to love the breeze
That whispers in Columbia's trees—
That whispers like some living
thing;
"My Country, 'Tis of Thee I Sing!"

He joined the ranks and found his
grave
With those who sleep beneath the
wave.
When the Tuscania in distress,
Sank under Neptune's harsh caress
Brave lads they were who went that
day!
And, heroes all, they passed away,
Their voices joined in chorus free
Singing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee!"
Earl Weisenberger, your work is
done!

done!
You died before you met the Hun
But died a Yankee! 'Neath the icy
wave
A Yankee sleeps within a Yankee's
grave.
W. R. K.

Earl was not lost at sea as the poem implies – "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Friday 25 Apr 1919 p 2

Chippewa County's List of Gold Stars

Earl Weisenberger

From Chippewa Falls WI – "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Wednesday 2 Jul 1919 p 2

ment for pneumonia.
A telegram received this morning stated that the body of Claire Metzembauer will leave Chicago at 6:30 tonight, and arrive at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Friday 15 Oct 1920 p 5

Two Tuscania Victims are Brought Home

EARL WEISENBERGER
The body of Earl Weisenberger, another Chippewa soldier who lost his life in the sinking of the Tuscania, arrived this morning. He enlisted while a resident of Jim Falls and his family now lives at Warren and Division-sts. The funeral will probably be held Monday morning.

Earl Odearl Weisenberger & Claire Metzembauer - "Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 16 Oct 1920 p 1

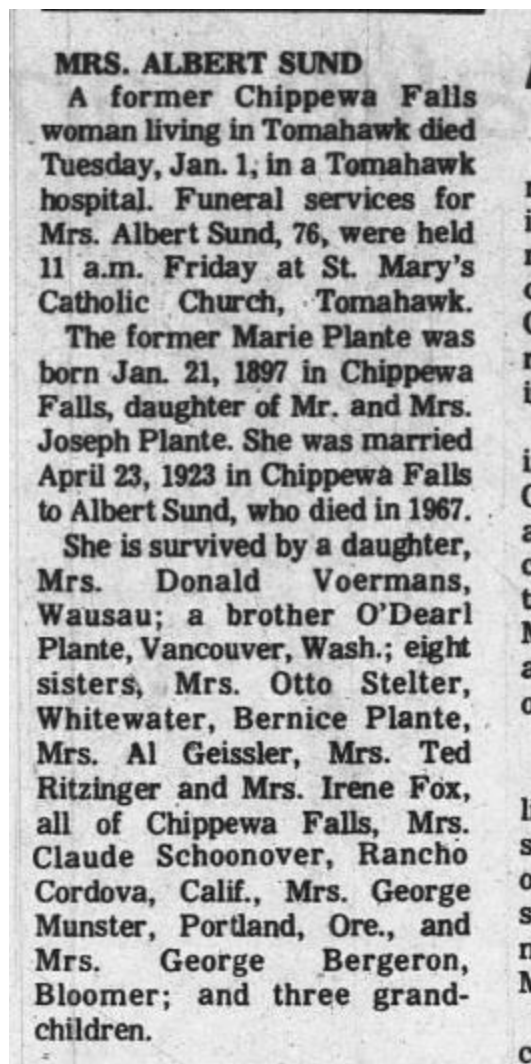
Other men from Chippewa county who were aboard the boat when she went down were D. N. Richard of Stanley, and R. H. McCarty, New Auburn.

Another Chippewa county casualty in that particular World War I incident was Earl O. Weisenberger of Jim Falls. Several men from Barron, Cameron, Rice Lake and other Barron county cities were either killed or drowned in the incident.

As each Armistice or Veteran's Day passes these surviving men undoubtedly relive those hours afloat in the inky Atlantic in life boats and jackets awaiting rescue ships.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" (Chippewa Falls WI) Saturday 10 Nov 1962 p 1

Wife:



Obituary of wife Mary Josephine (Marie) Plante Weisenberger Sund – “Chippewa Herald-Telegram” (Chippewa Falls WI) Tuesday 8 Jan 1974 p 4

Marie Plante

in the Wisconsin, U.S., Marriage Records, 1820-2004

Name	Marie Plante
Marriage Date	13 Sep 1917
Marriage County	Chippewa, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse	Earl Odard Weisenberger

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/91144795:61484>

CALL ATTENTION TO TIME LIMIT

World War Veterans and Next of Kin Urged to File for Insurance.

Attention of world war veterans and the next of kin of deceased veterans is urgently called by the American Legion to the fact that opportunity to file for adjusted compensation expires on January 2, 1930, or only about three weeks from now and that the time limit probably will not be extended.

In addition to this, next of kin who have not received their \$10,000 war risk insurance of deceased veterans are still entitled to it without any time limit but should also file for this at once. James F. Burns, department service officer of the Legion in Wisconsin estimated there is nearly \$500,000 unpaid war risk insurance due to next of kin of deceased Wisconsin veterans. These figures were compiled after an extended survey by Mr. Burns.

Weisenberger, Earl O.—Mrs. Marie
Weisenberger (wife), Jim Falls.

"Chippewa Herald-Telegram" Friday 13 Dec 1929 p 12

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Marriage licenses were granted yesterday to three couples as follows: Oscar A. Lebel of this city and Edna F. Stelketee of Grand Rapids, Mich.; to Alvin L. Krause of Bloomer and Mary McDonald of Cadott; Earl O. Welsenberger and Marie Plante of Jim Falls.

"Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Wednesday 5 Sep 1917 p 3

weeks.

Application for a marriage license was made at the office of the county clerk yesterday by Erik Albert Lund and Marie Welsenberger, of Jim Falls. Mrs. Welsenberger is the widow of Earl Welsenberger, one of the Chippewa county soldiers who was lost when the Tuscania sank off the coast of Ireland.

Erik Albert Sund, not Lund - "Eau Claire (WI) Leader-Telegram" Thursday - 19 Apr 1923 p 8 -

Mother:

MRS. LEWTON'S STORY.

The Young Widow Talks Very Freely of Her Terrible Sin.

[Special to the Kansas City Times.]

LIBERTY, MO., Jan. 8.—Mrs. Lina Lewton, deceased's wife, arrived at 4:40 o'clock this afternoon from Kansas City and THE TIMES correspondent not long afterward called at the home of Percy Cochran, her uncle, in the northwest part of town, where she immediately went, not stopping to see the dead form of her husband.

Mrs. Lewton herself opened the door. She was weeping. Mrs. Cochran came into the room and Mrs. Lewton disappeared, but came in again on being called for. She is a quite pretty little woman of good figure and dark hair and eyes. She was dressed in a stylish but not costly dress and talked very pleasantly between short sobbing spells.

Mrs. Cochran, who is a sister of the dead man, talked very freely and led in the conversation, but Mrs. Lewton gradually became more talkative and said: "I arrived from Kansas City about an hour ago, having heard of the death of my husband through THE TIMES. I was indeed shocked and never thought of such happening. I knew of his ill feeling existing against Lawyer Sheetz. My husband returned from a trip to California very soon after Christmas day. On that day I went to Kansas City with Mr. Sheetz, having been accompanied to the depot here by my uncle, Percy Cochran. Mr. Sheetz and I went on the Milwaukee road and I paid my own fare. I was going to visit my uncle in Kansas City, Robert Cochran, 1403 Flora avenue. We got off at Fifteenth street and instead of going direct to my uncle's we went to a room in some part of the city and remained until near 3 o'clock in the afternoon and then proceeded to the home of my uncle's. He questioned me as to where I had been all day and I told him,

but that it was a policeman I was with. Uncle Robert reproved me and said he was going to have the officer arrested.

"In a day or so I received a letter from the folks here saying that John had returned from California and to come home immediately. I did not do so and my uncle here came over after me, but I did not go back with him. Next day my husband came. He was not in a good humor and during the day told me if ever I came back to Liberty he would kill me. Of course in that case I did not care about coming and remained away until this afternoon.

"We were married last August at Barry, Ill., and came here with the intention of going on to California, and the object of my husband's trip there was to choose a home.

"I first met Mr. Sheetz here when he called at the home to see a lady who resides here, for whom he was an attorney. I next saw him at his office when I called at Dr. Miller's office to have him make a professional visit, but he was not in. Mr. Sheetz spoke to me and asked me if I did not want a divorce. I told him no; that I did not desire to separate from my husband. Our trip to Kansas City was our principal meeting. I wrote to Mr. Sheetz once while in Kansas City and gave the letter unsealed to my uncle to mail, but it never reached the party to whom it was addressed, as they here tell me it fell into their hands."

Mrs. Lewton was frequently interrupted by Mrs. Cochran, but she appeared to bear no ill feeling toward her brother's widow and replied to anything she said. When the young woman would appear to get her story mixed then she would say: "Tell it just as it is." Mrs. Cochran was kind enough to furnish a photograph of her brother to THE TIMES.

ARRESTED FOR MURDER.

The Coroner Acts—Sheetz Refuses to Say a Word of the Crime.

[Special to the Kansas City Times.]

LIBERTY, Mo., Jan. 8.—The body of the dead man was placed in a coffin to-night and will be buried to-morrow.

Sheetz is again being guarded in the sheriff's office and his brother, Dr. William Sheetz of Orrick, Mo., is with him, having arrived this evening. To-night he was placed under arrest for murder in the first degree on information filed before a justice of the peace by the coroner.

When seen to-night Sheetz said he of course was not surprised at the verdict of the jury. He could not be persuaded to make any statement of the affair whatever, refusing to tell their positions in the room when the shooting commenced, or whether he fired first while Lewton was seated in a chair or not. He said that under the advice of his attorneys he must not say anything on the subject. He expressed himself as feeling confident that he would come out all right when the full facts should be made known at the proper time. He closed with the remark that most all men in the course of their lives were driven to acts of desperation to protect themselves.

Judge Woodson, one of Sheetz' attorneys, was sought with the hope of learning something through him, but said silence was best for the present, though his client would have no trouble in being acquitted.

The date for a preliminary hearing has not yet been fixed.

It is difficult to tell what public opinion is in the matter, or whether or not it has been formed at all to much extent. The fact that there is a woman in the case is a bad feature for the defendant, but the threats are to be considered.

THE RELATIVES TALK.

Pierce Cochran and His Wife Tell of the Young Wife's Confession.

Pierce Cochran, a bricklayer of this city, living at 2403 Flora avenue, is an uncle of Mrs. Linnie Lewton, and it was at his house she spent the time from Christmas until she heard of the tragic death of her husband yesterday. It was through the intervention of Mr. and Mrs. Cochran that the misguided young woman was led to confess her fall and through them the young couple were on the fair way to be reunited when the untimely death of the husband separated them forever.

Mrs. Pierce Cochran was seen at her home last night and after some solicitation told the following story: "Yes, sir, Mrs. Lewton is my husband's niece and perhaps I do know a little something about the affair you mention. Mrs. Lewton is but a little past 15 years of age and is an exceedingly handsome girl, so acknowledged by all who have seen her. Her maiden name was Hartbarger—Linnie Hartbarger—and she married John Lewton at Barry, Pike county, Illinois, some time last August. They had always known each other as the families were intimate, and Robert Cochran, my husband's brother, was married to Lewton's sister. They left Illinois and came to Liberty some time in September, Lewton expecting to get work there. He was a farmer, and not finding work as he wanted, after waiting three weeks he went to California to see if he could not better himself. So far as I know, up

he could not better himself. So far as I know, up to that time they lived happily together and if they had had trouble it would have come out during the recent affair. Mrs. Lewton came over to my house Christmas day and staid with me until this morning, when she left for Liberty. Jim Sheetz came with her as far as my gate, as I afterward learned, but she had no opportunity to see him after that as she was with me all the time as I have stated. She confessed to me shortly after she came here that she and Sheetz had been criminally intimate but I don't care to talk about that part of it until I am obliged to.

"No, sir; I will not say whether or not she told me Sheetz had used underhand means to gain her confidence or to accomplish her ruin. I told my husband what she had confessed to me and also told Robert Cochran. Lewton came back on New Year's day from his trip to California and the boys told him of his wife's confession. She did not make a voluntary confession to her husband. He and his wife had a long talk on the matter last Friday night when she acknowledged she had been doing wrong but would give him no satisfaction as to her intentions in the future. Lewton took the matter very coolly and talked to his wife as quietly as if he had not been wronged in the least. He stayed here last Friday night and Saturday morning he left for Liberty. He said he was going to see Sheetz, but I won't say anything further about what he said regarding that visit. He made no threats in my presence, but I don't care to talk about what was told me regarding his purpose in going.

"After going over there Lewton wrote a long letter to his wife in which he virtually promised to take her back upon her promise to do better in future. She sent him a reply yesterday in which she expressed her regret for her conduct and assured him that Sheetz had never won her love from him and that she would be broken hearted if he did not take her back. This letter he must have received about 7 o'clock last night and just before he went to Sheetz' office. We did not hear of John's death until this morning and she did not show much feeling over it until I said, 'My God, Linnie, have you caused your husband's death?' then she broke down and cried until she left for Liberty, which she did on the first train. I have not heard from her since."

response to inquiries regarding the man which Mrs. Lewton's confession was obtained: "The day before Christmas I had a letter from my niece, Mrs. Linnie Lewton, stating that she was going to visit me on the next morning and for me to meet her at the Milwaukee depot. The next morning I went to the depot immediately after breakfast and was there when the train came in, but she did not get off and I went home thinking she had changed her mind. At two o'clock that afternoon she came to the house and stated that she had come on the train according to promise and that after looking about the city awhile a policeman had shown her to my house. I thought nothing of it at the time, but the next day my brother Robert came over from Liberty and told me that something was wrong. He had gone to the depot with Linnie the morning before and Jim Sheetz was there, but did not get on the train with her. He waited until it had started to pull out and then jumped on the side from the depot. I put that against her story together and confronted her with the fact and she confessed that Sheetz came over with her, took her off the train at Fifteenth street and from there to a rooming house. She could not tell where the house was, but confessed that she stayed there with Sheetz until she came to my house that afternoon. She also confessed to having met him criminally once before in his office in Liberty. When we told her husband of it he took it very quietly and never, to my knowledge, made any threats against Sheetz."

Original has torn right and bottom margins – "Kansas City (MO) Times" Thursday 9 Jan 1890 p 4

SHEETZ IN GREAT LUCK.

A Missourian Charged with a Double Crime Released on Bail.

LIBERTY, Mo., Jan. 9.—James Sheetz, charged with murder in the first degree for the killing of John Lewton was released on bail late this evening. A preliminary examination was offered to the prisoner this afternoon before a justice of the peace, but his attorney waived examination, merely entering a formal plea of not guilty for his client. Sheetz and his attorney then appeared before Judge Gray in the County Court and procured a writ of habeas corpus, claiming that inasmuch as the killing was done in self-defense it was a bailable crime. No testimony was taken on the question of self-defense, and, although the Prosecuting Attorney contested the issuance of the writ, the Judge granted the motion and fixed the bail at the low figure of \$1,500. Signatures to the bond were easily procured among Sheetz's friends, and the prisoner was released. The crime itself, involving as it does the ruin of Lewton's wife by Sheetz and the murder of Lewton, caused great indignation among the people here, and the action of the Court in treating the matter so lightly has increased the bitter feeling.

Murder of John Lewton & "ruin of Lewton's wife" by James Sheetz claimed self-defense — "Chicago (IL) Inter Ocean" Friday 10 Jan 1890 p 2

SHEETZ'S NIGHT IN PRISON.

SO MISERABLE THAT HE FOUND RELIEF IN TEARS THIS MORNING.

**A Likelihood That He Will Be Taken to
Plattsburg To-Night and Have a New
Hearing Before Judge Sandusky
To-Morrow—Lawyers Disagree.**

LIBERTY, Mo., Jan. 16.—Shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday James L. Sheetz, who murdered John Lewton on the night of January 7, marched through the narrow iron doorway of Clay county's jail for the first time, and the locks of the iron doors shut him in what is probably the most miserable excuse for a prison in the state. It is a veritable hole in the ground, being under the southeast wing of the court house. A half dozen steps down from the floor of the court house lead to a room about twenty feet square, arched with masonry. About on a level with the beginning of the arch is a 9x12 window, with iron bars on the outside, through which a ray of sunshine has never penetrated since the jail was built. It is more like a dungeon than a jail. There is only one room. The walls are dingy and dirty, and the furniture consists of three old bedsteads, with four dirty mattresses on them, and dirty quilts and blankets, an old table, two chairs and a big stove. A light must burn on the brightest

day to distinguish objects.

This jail has been condemned by every grand jury for the last four years. The Second street jail in Kansas City is a paradise compared to it, and Judge Phillips says it is awful punishment for a prisoner to have to remain in the Second street jail.

Into this desolate hole fastidious James L. Sheetz was ushered and compelled to stay all of last night. Sheetz is known to everyone, and it aroused the first feeling of pity for him when he failed to keep out of the jail.

Sheetz's attorneys worked hard for him. Failing to get bail, they offered to pay for one or two guards to remain with Sheetz if Sheriff Thomason would permit it, but the sheriff refused. No one of Sheetz's friends offered to spend the night with him, and it is doubtful if anyone would have been allowed if application had been made.

SHEETZ BREAKS DOWN.

Sheetz's supper was taken to him before 6 o'clock, but he ate little of it. This morning a reporter for THE STAR went into the jail. Sheetz sat on a rickety chair reading an old law book. On the table flickered a lamp whose chimney was very dirty and on the table was a plate of baked beans and scraps of meat. In the dish was a small wooden paddle, the only means with which to eat the food.

Sheetz's eyes were red and he looked as if he had passed a sleepless night. When greeted by the reporter he burst into tears. Taking a red silk handkerchief from his pocket, for several moments he gave vent to his emotions. This is the first time Sheetz has broken down entirely. He had little to say except that the jail was a bad place. Last night saw little sleep for him, he said, and he hoped it would be his last night in the jail.

On account of the unexpected illness of his father, W. M. Burris, one of Sheetz's attorneys, did not go to Plattsburg last night to get a writ of mandamus from Judge Sandusky for a rehearing of the case to fix bail, but his associate, W. F. Simrall, went. Mr. Simrall returned this morning with the writ. Judge Sandusky fixed to-morrow at 2 p. m. as the time for it to be returnable. Mr. Simrall said that Sheetz's counsel would make every effort to be on hand at the time set with the prisoner and what witnesses they needed for the defense. To do this he said they would leave on the 4:47 p. m. train to-day and spend the night at Plattsburg, so as to be ready for the hearing. He thought that the hearing would not occupy more than one afternoon.

WILL HEAR NEW EVIDENCE.

Prosecuting Attorney Dougherty said this morning that he should open the case for new evidence. He refused to agree to submit the case on the testimony before the coroner's jury. Nothing about the significant third wound in Lewton's left arm was brought out at the inquest and this fact could not be introduced if he agreed to the request made by Sheetz's attorneys. Mr. Dougherty said he should subpoena a dozen witnesses for the state and go into the testimony all anew. He did not think it possible to get all the testimony in in one sitting of the court. Mr. Dougherty was also in doubt as to his ability to be ready for trial by to-morrow afternoon.

Attorneys for Sheetz will subpoena a number of witnesses for the defense. Colonel Woodson said they had witnesses who would testify to hearing scuffling in Sheetz's office before a shot was fired. The attorneys also claim to have new testimony about Lewton's threats against Sheetz.

Among the witnesses for the state who will be required to go to Plattsburg if Prosecutor Dougherty persists in reopening the case, and he says he will, will be the following: Mrs. Linnie Lewton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cochran, Sheriff Thomason, Coroner Rothwell, Dr. Miller, Ed Morgan, Dr. Allen, John Patton, the city marshal and Deputy Sheriffs Thompson and Whitmore.

Attorney Simrall said this morning that it would take but a few minutes to summon the witnesses for the defense and nothing but contrariness on the part of the prosecuting attorney would prevent a hearing and disposition of the case to-morrow. He is confident that Judge Sandusky will fix bail for Sheetz upon hearing the testimony.

If Sheetz leaves for Plattsburg to-night and bail is fixed he will not have to spend another night in jail. If bail is again refused he will have to stay in jail until the next term of the Clay county circuit court, which is the fourth Monday in February. As there is no criminal court in the county all matters go before the circuit court. On Monday, February 24, the grand jury will be impaneled which will consider Sheetz's case.

Sheetz has been suffering since the murder with a touch of the influenza, and on his table in jail this morning were several bottles of medicine. The damp underground jail will not retard the disease.

A MISSOURI SENSATION.

The Tragedy at Liberty Which Has Kicked Up Such a Row.

Clay and Jackson counties, Mo., and all the region roundabout Liberty, are excited about a murder (if it be proper to so call it) of which there were no witnesses. The man killed was John Lewton, the man who killed him is James L. Sheetz, a leading lawyer and

lately prosecuting attorney, and the cause of the killing was the pretty 15-year-old wife of Lewton; but only the two were present at the fatal affray, of whom the one cannot testify and the other need not.

The testimony presents some curious features. On the evening of Jan. 7 parties in the store below the office of Sheetz heard five shots, and the next minute the lawyer appeared, going in a full run to the office of Sheriff Oscar Thompson. The sheriff says that the lawyer bounded in, fell on his knees and clasped those of the sheriff and cried bitterly. In vain did the officer ask him what was the matter; he only cried harder and implored the sheriff to come to his office. They went, no one else being allowed to enter with them, and on the floor lay the corpse of John Lewton, the top of his head laid open by one bullet, his heart pierced by another. The most expert marksman, firing with perfect deliberation, could not have placed either shot more fatally. Indeed, such instant death must have resulted from either that some experts insist that one or the other must have been fired after the man fell.



JOHN LEWTON. MRS. LEWTON. SHEETZ.

Still more curious is the fact that all the gossips of the place knew the cause, knew beforehand that Lewton intended to whip Sheetz and that Sheetz had seduced Lewton's wife, and the girl herself never denied it. She is so very frank about it that the sister and other relatives of the murdered man readily forgave her, wanted to effect a reconciliation and are now befriending her. To add to the oddity of the situation the suddenly made young widow gave the details freely to a correspondent of The Kansas City Times, and at his request went to a gallery and had her photograph taken for him to get a picture for publication. Peculiar sort of young widow, that.

She is but fifteen years old and married Lewton last summer at her home in Barry, Ills. In September he took her to Liberty and left her with his sister while he went on to California to seek a situation. According to her story, she got "lonesome," became intimate with another woman, was by her persuaded to go about a good deal, met Sheetz at Kansas City and yielded to him, then repented and confessed all to her uncle and sister-in-law. Her husband returned, heard the story as told by his relatives, did a great deal of unnecessary threatening as to how he would "whale Sheetz," went to the latter's office unarmed and was killed.

The slayer was taken before Justice L. P. Gray and released on \$1,500 bail, which raised a storm of popular indignation. The lawyer was afraid to leave town lest he should be followed and lynched, though, as he says, he went twice to the depot to leave, but saw too many enemies watching him. After a lengthy inquest he was again arrested on the evidence there presented and consigned to jail, all bail being denied. The wife had written her husband a frantic appeal for forgiveness, which he failed to get, and it fell into a reporter's hands. The character of the child's intellect may perhaps be judged from the concluding lines, viz.:

"John, I will stay with you the rest of my days and be faithful and true if you only take me back. I will do right if it kills me. I love you; I love. You say I do not appear to regret having done what I have, but I do, and you would know if you only knew my heart. Write to me and come one day this week. Good-by. Your loving wife to my dear husband, John P. Lewton. Good-by. I won't write to my folks at home if you don't say you will live with me. My folks may go to the devall. Again good-by.

"LINNIE LEWTON."

Linnie Hardbarger Lewton was born Jul 1873 & is 17 years old, not 15 - "Rock Island (IL) Argus" Friday 7 Feb 1890 p 4

JAMES L. SHEETZ has been indicted at Liberty, Mo., for murder in the first degree for the killing a month ago of John Lewton. Sheetz is ex-county attorney. The murder occurred during a quarrel over Sheetz's alleged criminal intimacy with Lewton's wife.

"Streator (IL) Times" Wednesday 5 Mar 1890 p 1

Lewton's Slayer Acquitted.
PLATT CITY, Mo., Aug. 23.—The jury in the case of the State against Sheetz, charged with the murder of John Lewton, returned a verdict of not guilty at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Sheetz was tried for the murder of John Lewton, whose 15-year-old wife he was alleged to have ruined. Lewton swore revenge and was about to execute it when Sheetz shot him.

"Chicago (IL) Tribune" Monday 25 Aug 1890 p 6

Lawyer Wills \$500 To Man Who Saved Life 49 Years Ago

By The Associated Press.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 27.—An attorney's will today bequeathed \$500 to a man who 49 years ago warned him his life was in danger and helped him win acquittal from a murder charge.

The will of James L. Sheetz, 81, former Clay county prosecutor, recalled a sensational murder trial of the 90's. It said:

"To Samuel H. Diemer of Liberty, Mo., I give the sum of \$500 on account of his giving me due and timely warning of an attack upon my life and on account of his friendship and testimony to me and in my behalf."

Diemer died nine years ago. The will was written in 1923.

John Lewton, 30, was shot and killed in Sheetz's office Jan. 6, 1890. The attorney was indicted for murder. At the trial, Diemer testified he had warned Sheetz of threats made against him by Lewton. Sheetz pleaded self-defense; was acquitted. He died here Monday.

"Columbia (MO) Daily Tribune" Monday 27 Feb 1939 p 7

Illinois, County Marriage Records, 1800-1940

View record

Name Linnie M Luton
 Gender Female
 Age 19
 Birth Year 1872
 Marriage Date 16 Dec 1891
 Marriage Place Pike, Illinois, USA
 Father Jas Hardberger
 Mother Margert Cochran
 Spouse Geo W Weisenburger

https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/26475777/person/27552943832/facts?_phsrc=hFB66832&_phstart=successSource

Siblings:

Form 1 / 6-11 REGISTRATION CARD 3 No. 68	
1	Name in full <u>Ivan Weisenberg</u> Age in yrs <u>21</u>
2	Home address <u>Barry, Illinois.</u>
3	Date of birth <u>June 20, 1895</u>
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention? <u>Natural Born</u>
5	Where were you born? <u>Barry, Illinois, U.S.A.</u>
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>Laborer 30</u>
8	By whom employed? <u>Marion Richards</u>
9	Where employed? <u>Barry, Illinois.</u>
10	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? <u>None</u>
11	Married or single (which)? <u>Single</u> Race (specify which)? <u>Caucasian</u>
12	What military service have you had? Rank <u>None</u>
13	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <u>Rejected from enlistment</u>

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Ivan Weisenburger
 Signature or mark

1463

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 12-6-25-A	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <u>Medium</u> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <u>Medium</u>
2	Color of eyes? <u>Blue</u> Color of hair? <u>Brown</u> Bald? <u>No</u>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <u>No</u>

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

G. J. Davis
 (Signature of registrar)

Precinct 1
 City or County Barry, Pike.
 State Ill. Date of registration Jan 5 1917

1463

WWI draft registration of brother Ivan Weisenburger (here Ivan Weisenberg) (1895-1977) -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/6482/images/005248749_01175?pld=233898

13596
WAR DEPARTMENT
O. G. M. G. FORM NO. 628
Approved Aug. 12, 1912
Revised May 12, 1923

PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE

Original
APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE
No. 28783

Honorably Discharged Aug. 13, 1919.
Served at Clarence Henry Weisenberger - Illinois - Pvt. - U.S. Regiment, 6 Regt U.S. Marines -
NAME RANK COMPANY State Organization, or Vessel DATE OF DEATH
Weisenberger, Clarence Henry 2 Div. - January 12, 1928
Weisenberger, Clarence Henry Pvt. 97th 6th Regiment Jan. 12, 1928.
Co. Enl. July 30, 1918

If World War veteran—			NAME OF CEMETERY	Located in or near—	
Division	State	Emblem		CITY	STATE
<u>2d</u>	<u>Ill.</u>	Christian Marine Navy	Greenmount	Quincy	Illinois.

TO BE SHIPPED TO Mrs. Clarence Henry Weisenberger (Name of consignee)
at Marblehead, Adams County, Illinois.
MAY 10 1928 (Give town, county, and State)

PERMANENT ADDRESS Marblehead, Illinois.
DATE February 18, 1928.
I hereby agree to accept the headstone at above destination, freight prepaid, and properly place same at decedent's grave.
Hattie Weisenberger Consignee.
(Mrs. Clarence Henry Weisenberger)
Address Marblehead, Illinois, Date Feb. 18, 1928.

DO NOT WRITE HERE
Verified MAY 10 1928
Ordered _____
From JAN 26 1929
Shipped _____

This application is for the UNMARKED* grave of a marine. It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or steamboat landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed it will be promptly removed and set up at private expense.
*State whether soldier, sailor, marine, Army nurse, etc.
Hattie Weisenberger (Signature)
Mrs. Clarence Henry Weisenberger
*Stone must not be requested for any grave at which a private stone, monument, or other permanent marker is already erected or is to be erected.

Veteran headstone application for **brother Clarence Henry Weisenberger (1897-1928)** -
https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/2375/images/40110_285470-00837?pId=2072850

Otis Wissenburger

in the Illinois, U.S., Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916-1947

Name	Otis Wissenburger
Birth Date	13 Dec 1902
Birth Place	Kinderhook, Ill
Death Date	10 Nov 1918
Death Place	Barry, Pike, Illinois
Burial Date	13 Nov 1918
Burial Place	Park Lawn
Death Age	15
Occupation	T...sler
Race	White
Marital Status	S
Gender	Male
Father Name	Geo. W. Wissenburger
Father Birth Place	Barry, Ill
Mother Name	Lena Hardbauger
Mother Birth Place	Pike Co.
FHL Film Number	1544381

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/460811:2542>

Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

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

NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Earl Odearl Weisenberger

Name variations: family members use Weisenberger or Weisenburger

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. A - private

Serial number: US Army enlisted men were not assigned serial numbers until after the sinking of the Tuscania showed their value, so Earl died without a number

Entered service from: Jim Falls, Chippewa WI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Earl Odearl Weisenberger

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": wife Mrs. Marie Weisenberger, Jim Falls WI

First buried on the isle of Islay, Scotland: in Kilnaughton, Islay, Scotland - grave 88, as Earl Odearl Weisenberger

Body returned from war on: "Antigone" arriving Hoboken NJ 29 Sep 1920

Body listed on return ship as: Earl O. WIESENBERGER

Rank & unit on return ship: pvt, Co. A, 107th Supply Train

World War I draft registration (1917): as Earl Weisenberger - b. 30 Apr 1893 Barry IL; res: Jim Falls, Chippewa WI. Single. Employed as laborer, O.F. Stelter Co., Jim Falls WI. Private, WI National Guard, just enlisted. Medium height, stout build.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlistment & discharge dates not listed

Born: 30 Apr 1893

Died: 5 Feb 1918

Address: Jim Falls WI

Rank/unit: private, Co. A, 107th Supply Train

Birth & death:

Born: 30 Apr 1893 Barry, Pike IL

Died: 5 Feb 1918 Tuscania

Find A Grave record: 113257017 – photo – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI

Cemetery: Hope

Tombstone: tombstone: Co. A 4th Wis. Inf.

Father: George Washington Weisenburger, Jan 1872 Pike Co. IL – 22 Sep 1936 Barry, Pike IL. Son of Barney Weisenberger & Anna Marie Hulse.

George W. Weisenburger married 16 Dec 1891 Linnie May Lewton (1st husband's name?), daughter of James Hardberger & Margert (Cochran) Hardberger.

Buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, Barry, Pike IL.

Find A Grave: 80023854

Mother: Lena May (“Linnie”) Hardbarger Lewton Weisenburger, Jul 1872 Pike Co. IL – 29 Jul 1905 Pike Co. IL. Daughter of James Hardbarger & Margaret Cochran (later Creech, 1848-1925, F: 91707589).

Lena married John P. Lewton (31 Mar 1862 – 7 Jan 1890, F: 77497875) in summer 1889. He was the son of Hamilton Lewton & Mary Ann Lock. The couple married in Barry, Pike IL & then moved to Liberty MO in Sep 1889, where John went to California to find work. Linnie Lewton (identified in newspapers as age 15, but actually age 17) was “seduced” by prominent attorney & former Clay Co. MO county prosecutor James L. Sheetz (1857-1939, F: 17238412). Upon Lewton’s return, he went to see Sheetz unarmed, planning to whip him & was shot & killed by Sheetz. In newspaper articles, Linnie references her parents’ names. Sheetz was acquitted of the 1st-degree murder charges.

In Dec 1891, Linnie remarried, to George Weisenburger.

Buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, Barry, Pike IL.

Find A Grave: 80023919

Parents’ marriage: 16 Dec 1891 Pike Co. IL – George W. Weisenberger & Linnie May Lewton.

Spouse: Mary Josephine ("Marie") Plante Weisenberger Sund, 21 Jan 1897 Chippewa Falls, Chippewa WI – 1 Jan 1974 Tomahawk, Lincoln WI. SSN 399-30-2728. Daughter of Joseph Charles Albert Plante & Katherine Russell.

In the 1920 census, a widowed Marie Weisenburger [sic], 22 WI, lived with her parents, Joseph & Kate Plant, in Eagle Point, Chippewa WI. She was a telephone operator.

Marie Weisenberger obtained a marriage license with Erik Albert Sund (1879 Sweden – 1967 WI, F: 227384611) & they married 24 Apr 1923 in Jim Falls, Chippewa WI.

Mary is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Tomahawk, Lincoln WI.

Spouse Find A Grave: 250189624

Marriage: 13 Sep 1917 Chippewa Co. WI

Children:

Siblings: Earl was the oldest sibling.

- Ivan Weisenburger, 20 Jun 1895 Kinderhook, Pike IL – 11 Feb 1977 Jacksonville, Morgan IL. Married Nellie A. Christison (1901-1986, F: 115079012) on 28 Jul 1924 in Barry, Pike IL. Buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, Barry, Pike IL. F: 80023885
- Clarence Henry Weisenberger, 21 Jun 1897 Kinderhook, Pike IL – 12 Jan 1928 Fall Creek, Adams IL. In the 1910 census for Barry, Pike IL, Clarence, age 12 IL, both parents IL, lived with his [maternal] grandmother Maggie Hardbarger, 60 OH, her son David Hardbarger (44 IL) & Maggie's grandson Floyd Hardbarger (24 IL). Married Hattie Bell Sanders (1894-1962, F: 160183920) on 12 Jan 1928 Fall Creek, Adams IL. Buried 15 Jan 1928 in Greenmount Cemetery, Quincy, Adams IL. F: 160183865
- Otis Weisenberger, 13 Dec 1902 Kinderhook, Pike IL – 10 Nov 1918 Barry, Pike IL. His IL death record on Find A Grave confirms his parents' names. Buried in Park Lawn Cemetery, Barry, Pike IL. F: 80024099

Notes:

Father's family tree at: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/22163846/person/380135825613/facts>

Mother's family tree at: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/26475777/person/27552943832/facts>

Pre-war:

Wartime:

Post-war:

Obituary:

Censuses:

1900 Kinderhook, Pike IL

George W. WISENBURGER, 28 IL, Jan 1872, father b. Germany, mother b. IL, married 8 years, day laborer

Lennie M., 26 IL, Jul 1873, father b. VA, mother b. IL, gave birth to 3 children, 3 are living

Earl W., 7 IL, Apr 1893

Ivenne, 4 IL, Jun 1895

Clarence, 2 IL, Jun 1897

1910 Barry Pike IL

Earl WEISENBERG, 18 IL, single, parents b. IL, hired man, laborer, farm

Residing with Charles (age 70) & Chloe (age 60) Lippincott