WILLIAM FRANKLIN CONAWAY

U. S. Army Private, Company "A" 107th Machine Gun Battalion, 28th Division

Died of Cerebrospinal Meningitis April 1, 1919; buried St. Mihiel American Cemetery, France

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

This soldier has been overlooked by many researchers of his family. For that reason, more family information is included here. – The name is spelled as both Conoway and Conaway.

William Franklin Conaway, born on August 14, 1893, was the son of James M. Conaway, born in 1870, and Laura Belle Greene, born in 1871. They were married in Ohio County in 1893 and lived on Wood Street, Ritchie District, Ohio County, at the time of the 1900 census. Mrs. Conaway had given birth to 3 children and 2 were living, according to the record. They were William F., 6, born in August 1893, and Lida M., 1, born in May 1899.

The birthdate of August 14, 1893 is from William's Draft Registration and is the same month & year found in the 1900 census. But according to the West Virginia birth record, W. F. Conaway, son of James and Laura, was born on October 15, 1893 in Ohio County. The error might be on the part of the state or county, as the original birth record was transcribed into the alphabetical list.

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William Franklin Conaway has been missed by many researchers because they, understandably, read his name in the 1900 census as "William H." However, if one looks at the uppercase "F" in other entries, including the "F" to indicate female, it is apparent that William's middle initial was "F."

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4325 **REGISTRATION CARD** 17.1-32-A Name in full William Conaros REGISTRAR'S REPORT media 4 mpt St I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has 5 his signa wledge are true, except as follows 6 tint 8 ma. 2 Cla 9 10 IV ICC 11 12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? Henry Osohn I affirm that 857 murale

The father, James M. Conaway, born on November 3, 1867 in Ritchie County, West Virginia, died of Tuberculosis at 32-26th St., Wheeling, on July 24, 1907. At the time of his death, he was a Coal Miner.

Wheeling Intelligencer, 25 July 1907
Conoway Funeral.
The funeral of the late James M.
Conowsy, of the South Side, who died
yesterday morning at 1 o'clock, will
take place this afternoon from the
family residence at No. 32 Twenty-
sixth street. The deceased was in the
thirty-seventh year of his age and was
well known and highly respected by
all who knew him. The interment will
be made at Greenwood cemetery.

This is where he died, yet one of two death records state his usual residence as Benwood.

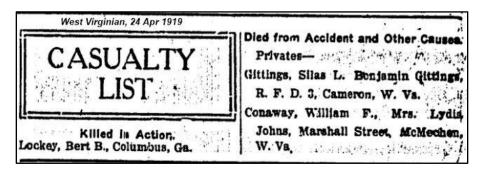
U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Laura Conoway West Virginia > Wheeling > 1909 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1909 Conoway Mrs. Laura (wid. James), res. 32 26th (2d fl).

Wheeling resident, Laura B. Conaway, a widow, died of Tuberculosis on January 29, 1911 in McMechen, Marshall County, while visiting relatives. She is buried at McMechen Cemetery.



This writer believes the aforementioned James and Laura are William Franklin Conaway's parents. However, there is an unresolved conflict in Laura's obituary, which says she died at the home of her sonin-law, William Rader, in McMechen. Many years later, when Laura's daughter, Lydia Conaway Johns Pavlik, died in Indiana, the person giving the information for her death record stated Lydia's mother's maiden name was Rader. It seems there was some connection to the Rader family. The soldier and his sister, Lydia, were young when their parents died and it is not clear with whom Lydia, about 12 years of age, lived after her mother's death.

When U. S. Army Private William Franklin Conaway departed for France from Newport News, Virginia on July 18, 1918, his emergency contact was his sister, Lydia Johns, Marshall Street, McMechen, West Virginia. She was Lydia May Conaway, born in Ohio County, West Virginia, per marriage record. She married William Harris Johns on April 28, 1917 in McMechen, Marshall County. Her husband died in 1929 in Indiana. She married Pete Pavlik in Indiana in 1931. Pete was actually from McMechen and was a close neighbor of Lydia Conaway Johns in the 1920 census of Marshall County.



Daily Intelligencer, 19 Apr 1919 Dies Overstell.

Word was received here yesterday by Mrs. Lyda Johns stating that her brother Private William Franklin Conaway had died overseas April 1st, from disease.

The lad enlisted in the service in May. 1918, and was sent to Camp Lee, only being there a few weeks he was transferred overseas where he was stationed with company A, 107th Machine Gun Battery. He was at the front several times but always escaped injury. After the armistice was signed he took aick and was sent to the base hospital. When his company sailed for home he was urable to come due to his critical condition.

He was well known in this city, hving here all his life. His sudden death will come as a shock to his many friends. Before entering the service he was employed at the Craft Manufacturing Company.

CONAWAY WILLIAN F	RANKLIN	χc	196 080
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sn 3 174 673	Died 4/1/19	Т	2 781 460
Born 8/14/93		R	
Eni	Dis	Ct.	
		I	117 686
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202-Rev. Sept., 1925	INDEX CARD		GPO 2-13969

McMechen is where William's sister - his next of kin - resided.