

## 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.

17	July 12	Crosby	Mary	1
18	Feb 5	Crosby	Blanche	1
19	Sept 15	Coniff	Mary	1
20	Aug 3	Carl	Edw	1
21	Feb 17	Cassiday	Channey	1
22	Oct 15	Conaway	W F	1
23	July 14	Cunningham	Len	1
24	" 16	---	Howard	1
25	Dec 28	Cook	Clara	1
26	Oct 30	Cole	Carl	1

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."

3524	85	134	Conaway	James M	Head	W	M	Nov	1870	29	M	9		
			Conaway	Laura B	Wife	W	F	Dec	1871	28	M	9	3	2
			Conaway	William F	Son	W	M	Aug	1893	6	S			
			Conaway	Lida M	Daughter	W	F	May	1899	1	S			
3524	85	135	Albus	Philip	Head	W	M	May	1861	40	M	13		
			Albus	Frances	Wife	W	F	Mar	1867	33	M	13	3	3
			Albus	Philip	Son	W	M	July	1891	11	S			

Form 1 4325 REGISTRATION CARD		No. 44
1	Name in full	William Conaway 23 <small>(Family name)</small>
2	Home address	1114 Mt St Wg. W. Va.
3	Date of birth	August 14 1893.
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	Natural born.
5	Where were you born?	Wheeling W. Va. <small>(Town) (State) (Nation)</small>
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	Cutter.
8	By whom employed?	Kraft Mfg. Co.
	Where employed?	31st & Mt St. Wg. W. Va.
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?	no.
10	Married or single (which)?	single
	Race (specify which)?	white
11	What military service have you had? Rank _____ branch _____ years _____ Nation or State _____	
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	<del>no.</del>
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.		
1857		<i>W. Conaway</i> <small>(signature of mark)</small>
<small>If incorrect in any respect, return to the Bureau of Census.</small>		

47-1-32-A REGISTRAR'S REPORT				
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)?	medium	Slender, medium, or stout (which)?	medium
2	Color of eyes?	Blue	Color of hair?	Black
			Bald?	no
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?			
	no.			
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:				
<i>John K. Wells</i> <small>(Signature of registrar)</small>				
Precinct	2 Clay			
City or County	Ohio			
State	W. Va.	Date of registration	June 5 11	
<i>Henry Prohman</i>				

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

**Wheeling Intelligencer, 25 July 1907**  
**Conaway Funeral.**  
 The funeral of the late James M. Conaway, 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 Conaway  
 West Virginia > Wheeling > 1909 > Wheeling, West Virginia, City Directory, 1909  
 Conaway 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.

*Wheeling Intelligencer, 31 July 1911*

**M'MECHEN**

Funeral of Mrs. Laura Conoway Takes Place in City Yesterday.  
Other McMechen News.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at 2:30 over the remains of Mrs. Laura Conoway, from the residence of her son-in-law Mr. William Rader on South Marshall street. Rev. E. D. Fellers of the First Methodist Episcopal church, of the city, had charge of the services, and the interment was made in the McMechen cemetery. Mrs. Conoway passed away at the home of Mr. Rader, Sunday, following a long suffering with tuberculosis. She was a resident of Twenty-seventh street, Wheeling, but was visiting relatives here. The funeral was well attended by relatives and friends both of this city and Wheeling.

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 son-in-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.

*West Virginian, 24 Apr 1919*

**CASUALTY LIST**

**Killed in Action.**  
Lockey, Bert B., Columbus, Ga.

**Died from Accident and Other Causes:**  
Privates—  
Gittings, Silas L. Benjamin Gittings,  
R. F. D. 3, Cameron, W. Va.  
Conaway, William F., Mrs. Lydia  
Johns, Marshall Street, McMechen,  
W. Va.

Daily Intelligencer, 19 Apr 1919

**Dies Overseas.**


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 sick and was sent to the base hospital. When his company sailed for home he was unable to come due to his critical condition.

He was well known in this city, living 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 WILLIAM FRANKLIN		X C	196 080
Pvt Co A 107 M G Bn		K	
McMechen W Va		A	
Sn	3 174 673	Died	4/1/19
		T	2 781 860
Born	8/14/93	R	
Enl		Dis	
		Cl.	
		I	117 686

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

 INDEX CARD

GPO 2-13060

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