

JOHN FREW COWL

Seaman 2nd Class, United States Naval Reserve Force

Died at Sea of Spanish Influenza October 6, 1918

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

Born in Wheeling on May 18, 1891, John Frew Cowl was the son of John T. Cowl and Martha Ann Clator, both born in West Virginia, and married in Wheeling on December 19, 1871.

At the time of the 1900 census, the family lived on 16th Street, Wheeling. Mr. Cowl was Superintendent of the Mail Department. Children at home were Fred E., Frank S., Harry C., Earl A., John F., James L., and Mamie Nichols, a married daughter born in 1878. By 1910, the family had moved to South Broadway, Wheeling Island. Only John Frew and James L. were still at home.

Form 1 1514 REGISTRATION CARD		No. 52	
1	Name in full <i>John Frew Cowl</i>	Age in yrs. <i>26</i>	
2	Home address <i>37 So Broadway Wheeling W. Va.</i>		
3	Date of birth <i>May 18th 1891</i>		
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <i>2) Natural Born</i>		
5	Where were you born? <i>Wheeling W. Va. U.S.A.</i>		
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?		
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <i>Clerk</i>		
8	By whom employed? <i>Wheeling Electric Co.</i>		
9	Where employed? <i>Wheeling W. Va.</i>		
10	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <i>No</i>		
11	Married or single (which)? <i>Single</i> Race (specify which)? <i>Caucasian</i>		
12	What military service have you had? Rank <i>None</i> ; branch <i></i>		
13	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?		
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
2844		<i>John Frew Cowl</i>	
2842		(Signature of mark)	

47-1-32-A	
REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <i>Medium</i> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <i>Medium</i>
2	Color of eyes? <i>Gray</i> Color of hair? <i>Light Brown</i> Bald? <i>No</i>
3	Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <i>No</i>
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>Madison</i>	
Precinct # <i>4</i>	
City or County <i>Wheeling</i>	
State <i>W. Va.</i>	
Signature of registrar <i>J. C. Nelson</i>	
Date of registration <i>June 5 1917</i>	

GOWL JOHN FREW	C	41 973
Sea 2 cl USNRF	K	
Wheeling W Va	A	
En	Died	10-6-18 T 3 268 919
Born	5-18-91	R
Enl	Dis	Ct.
		I 89 837
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS FORM 7202—Rev. Sept., 1925		
INDEX CARD		
GPO 2-12569		

From *Officers and Enlisted Men of the United States Naval Service Who Died During the World War*: "COWL, JOHN FREW, Seaman, 2nd class, USNRF, (father, John Cowl, 37 Broadway, Wheeling, W.Va.; enlisted Parkersburg, W.Va., May 21, 1918), USS Mercy, ex-liner Saratoga, hospital ship (ID-1305, later AH-4), served along US East Coast, respiratory disease, October 6, 1918."

John Frew Cowl is buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling.

Wheeling Intelligencer, 11 oct 1918

JOHN F. COWL DIES ON U. S. BATTLESHIP

**Popular Young Local Man Victim of
Pneumonia While Serving in Navy.**

Superintendent of Mails John T. Cowl of the Wheeling post office, received the sad announcement yesterday from Washington that his son, John Frew Cowl, died last Sunday evening on the U. S. battleship Kentucky while at sea. Death was due to pneumonia, following an attack of Spanish influenza. The message did not state where the ship was at the time of his death.

Young Cowl was born and reared in this city and was an unusually popular boy. He had hundreds of friends in this community who will be distressed to learn of his death. He was an employe of the Wheeling Electric company before enlisting in the navy last April. He was a member of the Masonic lodge, Knights Templar and Scottish Rite bodies.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cowl, of South Broadway, Island, two sisters, Mrs. Charles Redman, of Follansbee; Mrs. Mell Edwards, of Toronto, Ohio, and five brothers, Fred E., Frank S., Harry C., Earl A., and James L. Cowl. The latter enlisted at the same time and is now stationed at the naval aeronautic field at Norfolk, Va.

Relatives left last evening for the Atlantic port to meet the vessel and bring the body to Wheeling. Funeral arrangements will be completed upon its arrival here.

Wheeling Intelligencer, 15 Oct 1918

Funeral for John Frew Cowl

Yesterday afternoon funeral services were held for John Frew Cowl, son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Cowl, who died in the service of his country on the battleship Kentucky October 6 of Spanish influenza Cyrene Commandery, Knights Templar was in charge of the services. The funeral and interment were private. The Rev. Dr. H. C. How-

ard, of Thompson Methodist Episcopal church officiated, and burial was in Greenwood