

ROBERT D. JOHNSON

Private, Machine Gun Battalion, 1st Infantry Training Regt.

Died of Pneumonia in France on September 12, 1918

Researched & Presented by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

Robert D. Johnson died of Pneumonia, according to the West Virginia Adjutant General's *Revised List of Deceased Soldiers, World War*, January 1, 1922.

Born on January 5, 1896 in Greggsville, Ohio County, West Virginia, Robert was the son of James W. Johnson and Dora E. Winesburg, married in **Greggsville** on November 14, 1894. Dora's age was stated as 22, and her birthplace was Ohio County.

At the time of the 1900 census of Ohio County, James Johnson, 33, born in May 1867, and his wife, Dora E., 28, born in June 1872, lived in Liberty District. Their children were Robert D., 4, John W., 3, Mary C., 10 months, and Myrtle, 13.

By 1910, Dora E. Johnson, 38, was a widow, employed as a laundress, and a resident of Richland District, Ohio County, West Virginia. Children named in the 1910 census were John W., 13, Jennie E., 10, Bessie E., 7, James L., 6, and George W., 5. – At that time, son, Robert Johnson, 15, was living with his maternal grandmother, Christina Winesburgh, a 63-year-old widow, and her son, George, in Richland Twp., Belmont County, Ohio. Robert was employed as a trapper in a coal mine.

When he registered for the World War I Draft, Robert lived in the Edgewood section of Wheeling, employed as a coal miner. He was born in **Greggsville**.

Form 1 628 REGISTRATION CARD No. 46		47-1-21-A	
1 Name (Given name) <u>Robert Dorrin Johnson</u> (Family name) <u>Johnson</u> Age, in yrs. <u>21</u>		REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
2 Residence (No.) <u>Edgwood</u> (City) <u>Edgwood</u> (State) <u>WV</u>		1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <u>Short</u> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <u>Medium</u>	
3 Date of birth <u>Jan</u> <u>5</u> <u>1896</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)		2 Color of eyes? <u>Blue</u> Color of hair? <u>Brown</u> Bald? <u>No.</u>	
4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <u>Natural Born</u>		3 Has person last arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? <u>No.</u>	
5 Where were you born? <u>Greggsville</u> <u>WV</u> (Town) (State) (Nation)		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:	
6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?		<u>Chas A Wood</u> (Signature of registrar)	
7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>Coal Miner</u>		3	
8 By whom employed? <u>Harpport & West Va Coal Co.</u> Where employed? <u>Edgwood</u>		District <u>3</u>	
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)? <u>No</u>		City or County <u>Dea Dist Ohio Co</u>	
10 Married or single (which)? <u>Single</u> Race (specify which)? <u>White</u>		State <u>WV</u> <u>June 5-1917</u> (Date of registration)	
11 What military service have you had? Rank <u>None</u> ; branch _____ years _____; Nation or State _____			
12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <u>No.</u>			
I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.			
<u>Robert Dorrin Johnson</u> (Signature or mark)			

JOHNSON, ROBERT DEMOUN		XC	54 465
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Born	1/5/96	R	
Enl		Cl	
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U. S. VETERANS BUREAU
MAIL AND RECORDS
FORM 7202—Rev. Sept., 1925

INDEX CARD

2-13069

Robert's remains were returned to the United States and he is buried at Stone Church Cemetery, Ohio County, West Virginia.

The Wheeling Intelligencer, October 16, 1918

Roney's Point Boy Succumbs "Over There"

Robert D. Johnson is listed in To-day's Casualty List as "Died of Disease."

Another of Wheeling vicinity boys has answered death's call while waging war against the Hun. Robert D. Johnson, of Roney's Point, an enlisted man, is listed on the casualty released today by the bureau of public information at Washington, as having died of a disease.

Johnson enlisted about a year ago, and has been in France about five months. He was sent to the front line trenches about three months ago, where he was kept at regular intervals until the time of his death. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Johnson, formerly of Valley Grove.

At the time of his enlistment he was staying with his uncle, Harvey B. Evans, of Roney's Point. The cause of his illness and death is not known.

Wheeling Intelligencer, 14 Jan 1922

FUNERAL OF PRIVATE JOHNSON.

Funeral services for the late Private Robert D. Johnson, who died of pneumonia in a French hospital September 12, 1918, were held at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Springer funeral parlors, Elm Grove. Burial was made at the Stone Church cemetery. American Legion, Service Star Legion and Veterans of Foreign War rituals were used.

The Robert D. Johnson, born in January 1896, and found in the 1900 census with James and Dora E. Johnson, is this deceased soldier. The obituary is clearly an error. - Harvey B. Evans named in the article was, indeed, related to Robert, but was a cousin.

Genealogy Note:

- **HARVEY BUTLER EVANS** was born in Ohio County, West Virginia on May 25, 1868 to THOMAS EVANS and MARGARET GOFF, married in Marshall County on February 10, 1848. Margaret was the daughter of William Goff and Christina Wisecarver. Margaret died on December 27, 1868.
- Margaret's sister was LEAR/LEAH ELIZABETH GOFF, who married ELIJAH HUMMEL about 1842. Elijah and Elizabeth Hummel were the parents of CHRISTINA HUMMEL, the wife of WILLIAM WINESBURG. They were the parents of DORA EDITH WINESBURG, the mother of the soldier, Robert D. Johnson.
- In the 1870 census, which was two years after Harvey Evan's mother died, Harvey and his brother, Elijah, were living in Triadelphia in the home of ELIJAH and LEAR HUMMEL, Harvey's maternal aunt and uncle. Elijah and Lear HUMMEL were the great -grandparents of Robert D. Johnson. - Also in the home was CHRISTINE HUMMEL, age 21, who married WILLIAM WINESBURG soon after that 1870 census was taken. They became the parents of DORA EDITH WINESBURG, who married JAMES W. JOHNSON in Wheeling in 1894.

Robert D. Johnson's father supposedly died in 1907 but his mother did not, although her whereabouts after 1910 are unknown. When daughter, Virginia/Jennie, married in 1920 at age 20, her "guardian" was Dora's brother, Clarence Winesburg.

Robert's mother, Dora Edith Winesburg/Weinsberg Johnson, died in 1973 and she, too, is interred at the Stone Church Cemetery. Upon her death, a rather BIZARRE obituary for her appeared in a number of newspapers. Despite the available public records, some of which are presented here, the obituary states that Dora Edith Johnson was born June 12, **1849** at Jug Run, Belmont County, Ohio, making her nearly 124 years of age at the time of her death. – Worse, her West Virginia death record, with the information provided by her daughter, Virginia Johnson Nickerson, states the same nonsense about her date of birth being 1849. - Sadly, the story has been liberally posted on the Internet.

In fact, Dora Edith Johnson's MOTHER, Christine Hummel was found with her parents, Elijah and Lear (Goff), in the 1850 & 1860 census records of Marshall County. In 1850, **Christine was age 1**. In 1870, the family lived in Triadelphia, Ohio County, and Christine was 21 and single. She didn't marry William Winesburg until after that census. – Dora Edith Winesburg was born a year or two later. **So, it was Dora's MOTHER who was born about 1849, NOT Dora Edith.** In the 1910 & 1920 census records, Christine Winesburg was living in Belmont county, Ohio. In 1920, her location was stated specifically as Jug Run, a location mentioned in the incredible obituary.

The Social Security record for DORA EDITH JOHNSON states her birthday as June 12, 1871. She was probably about 100 years old when she died but she was certainly not 124!