

# WILLIAM OLIVER PHILLIPS

28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Division

Killed in Action - Buried at Sea, May 28, 1918

Sea Tablets of the Missing, Somme American Cemetery, Bony France

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty

William Oliver Phillips, born on September 13, 1886, was the son of Robert H. C. Phillips and Amanda Robinson. Robert's father was Hanson Wilson Phillips, a wealthy "Engine Builder" in the 1870 Wheeling census, and a Justice of the Peace in Wheeling in 1880.

Mr. Robert H. C. Phillips, the Wheeling City Assessor, contracted Typhoid Fever and died on March 8, 1887, leaving his wife, Amanda, and the following five children: Amanda, Sarah Elizabeth, Hanson Wilson, Robert Robinson and William Oliver. Mrs. Amanda Robinson Phillips died on June 22, 1910.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wheeling Register, 9 Mar 1887</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DEATH OF R. H. PHILLIPS.</b></p> <p><b>His Demise Occurs at Nine O'clock Last Evening.</b></p> <p>Robert H. Phillips died at his residence No 647 Main street, about 9 10 o'clock last evening, in the thirty-fifth year of his age. While the deceased was at Charleston, where he was summoned early in the session of the Legislature, to impart some information relative to the license tax bill, he contracted a heavy cold. Shortly after his return home, about the middle of February, Mr. Phillips' malady grew worse, and he was soon unable to leave his room. The heavy cold was soon transformed into a severe attack of typhoid fever, and the disease steadily grew worse until, a week ago, the worst was feared by the family and friends. Hope lingered, however, until Monday afternoon, when it became evident that death was near. The patient lingered on until last evening, however, when he died, surrounded by his family and relatives.</p> <p>The sad intelligence was soon spread down town, and in all quarters, and especially at the City Hall, where Council was in session, it was received with every manifestation of sorrow.</p>	<p>Robert H. Phillips, as a public officer and as a citizen, was universally respected and esteemed. His first public position was a Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff Tugle. Later, in the fall of 1880, he was elected County Assessor for the First district, and continued to discharge the duties of the office up to his last illness with signal ability. He was an expert upon all matters relating to assessment and taxation for State and county purposes, and his judgment and experience were often deferred to by those much higher in authority.</p> <p>As an official of the State Fair Association, Mr. Phillips also distinguished himself, and his services were highly valued by the Association.</p> <p>Socially, Mr. Phillips was genial and companionable to a degree not often observed. Always in a cheerful frame of mind, he had a host of warm personal friends, to whom his death will be a sad blow. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his untimely death.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Wheeling Intelligencer, 22 June 1910</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADDITIONAL OBITUARY.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mrs. Amanda R Phillips.</p> <p>After a short illness Mrs Amanda R Phillips died last evening at the home of her daughter, Mrs W C Etzler, of Zane avenue, Island. Deceased was in her fifty-ninth year and was a life-long resident of this city. She was born in North Wheeling, where she resided for many years.</p> <p>Deceased was an earnest church worker and was loved by the poor, whom she befriended. She was the wife of the late Robert Phillips, a former county assessor of Ohio county. Deceased is survived by three sons and two daughters, Will O., Hans P. and Robert E. Phillips, of Oklahoma, and Mrs. Dr. W. S. Etzler and Mrs. Dallas Scatterday, of this city. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.</p>
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In 1910, William O. Phillips, his brother, Hanson W., and their mother, Amanda, lived on Zane Street, Wheeling, with William's sister, Sarah Elizabeth Phillips Etzler and her husband, William C. Etzler, a Physician. William O. Phillips, 23, was employed as a Traveling Salesman.

The Klee-Phillips-Rhoades [Rhodes] Post Veterans of Foreign Wars was named in honor of Charles Klee, William Phillips and William Rhodes who died during World War I, according to a news article.

Form 1 **1994** REGISTRATION CARD No. 23

1 Name in full William Oliver Phillips Age, in yrs. 30

2 Home address 110 Zane St Wheeling W. Va.

3 Date of birth Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1886

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 Citizen

5 Where were you born? Wheeling W. Va. W. Va.

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject? W. Va.

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Traveling Salesman

8 By whom employed? Peters & Co. St. Louis Mo.

Where employed? West Virginia & Ohio

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or father or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? No.

10 Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? None : branch \_\_\_\_\_ : years \_\_\_\_\_ : Nation or State \_\_\_\_\_

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No

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

**CA** W. O. Phillips  
(Signature for work)

If present at time of this writing

**47-1-32-A**  
 REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Medium Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Slender

2 Color of eyes? Blue Color of hair? Brown Bald? No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eye, 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:

Chas Ahrens City Auditor  
(Signature of Registrar)

Precinct 5 Wheeling W. Va.  
By: W. Phillips Sec

City or County \_\_\_\_\_  
 State W. Va. June 5, 1917  
(Date of registration)