

WILLIAM CUMMINGS RHODES

Corporal, Company "B" 16th Infantry, 1st Division

Died May 8, 1918 of Wounds Received in Action in France

"The first Wheeling boy to give his life on France's battlefield"

Researched & Presented by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

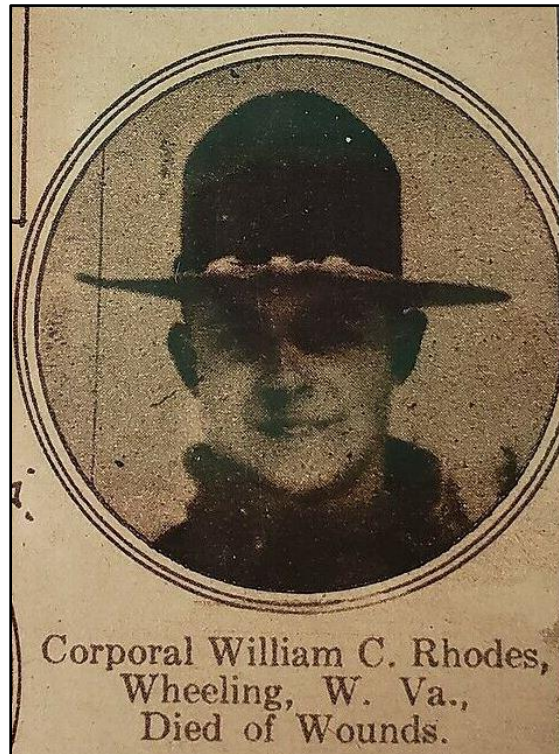


Photo for sale on ebay.

Born on August 30, 1898, William Cummings Rhodes was the son of George Cummings Rhodes and Mary Glatz, married in Wheeling on November 28, 1893.

At the time of the 1900 census, the Rhodes family lived on Market Street, Wheeling. George C., 32, a Bricklayer, was born in September 1867. His wife, Mary, 27, was born in May 1876. Their children were James L., 5, born in October 1894, Arthie M. (dau), 4, born in April 1896, and William C., 1, born in August 1898.

In 1910, the George C. and Mary A. Rhodes lived on 12th Street, Wheeling, and Mr. Rhodes was employed as a "Paver." The children were James L., Esther M. (apparently the name was misspelled in 1900), William C., Elizabeth A., Dorothy M., Loretta, and Helen C.

No World War I Draft Registration is found for William, probably because he promptly enlisted on April 6, 1917.

RHODES WILLIAM CUMMINGS		X C	16946
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INDEX CARD

Wheeling Intelligencer, 13 May 1918

WHEELINGITE IS BATTLE VICTIM

William Rhodes, With General Pershing, Killed in Action

George C. Rhodes, an employe of the city received word last night telling of the death of his son, William, a member of the American Expeditionary Forces now serving in France. The message gave no details, only saying his son had been killed in action.

William Rhodes was one of the most prominent young men of the East End, living with his parents at 1321 McCulloch street. He was employed at a local mill and was one of the first to go when the country entered the war.

Mr. Rhodes lived in this city practically all his life. He was a graduate from the local schools. Soon after his enlistment he was sent to a training camp in the south and later to New York, whence he was sent overseas about four months ago. Many letters were received of him by his parents telling of his being in the fighting and only last week was a letter received.

George Rhodes, the young man's father, has been in the employe of the city for the past ten years. He has been working in the street department and is well known.

Daily Intelligencer, 29 Mar 1921

CORPORAL RHODES' BODY DUE TODAY

Was First Wheeling Boy to Die on Battlefield of France.

The body of Corp. William C. Rhodes, first Wheeling boy to give his life on France's battlefields, is expected to arrive in the city sometime this evening, from overseas. Young Rhodes, who was the son of Mr. and the late Mrs. James Rhodes of South Wheeling, was but 17 years old when he enlisted, and was one of the youngest soldiers in the service of his country.

After having fought in several of the hardest battles of the world war, the young lad was killed in action May 8, 1918.

Wheeling post No. 1, American Legion, is arranging to hold a military funeral for the soldier hero and a meeting will be called in Legion headquarters shortly after the arrival of the body.

The remains of William Rhodes were returned to the United States and he was buried at Mt. Wood Cemetery, Wheeling.