

WILLIAM RURIC WALTERS

Sergeant 1st Class, U. S. Army Aero Squadron

Died of Influenza Pneumonia, Postwar, on February 5, 1919

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

Born in Wheeling on January 3, 1890, William was the son of Ruric Neval Walters and Elizabeth Brinkmann (per marriage record), married in Wheeling on October 8, 1885. They were residents of McCulloch Street, Wheeling, at the time of the 1900 census. Mr. "Neavel" Walters was a carpenter. Mrs. Walters had given birth to 7 children and 5 were living. The children were Primal [Prima Alice], 13, William, 10, Eliza, 8, George, 3, and Richard, 2. In 1910, still on McCulloch Street, all of the children were still at home.

When William registered for the World War I Draft, he was employed as a Traveling Salesman.

Form 1 619 REGISTRATION CARD No. 43	REGISTRAR'S REPORT
1 Name in full <i>William Ruric Walters</i> Age in yrs. <i>27</i>	1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? <i>Short</i> Slender, medium, or stout (which)? <i>Medium</i>
2 Home address <i>1063 McCulloch St Wheeling W Va</i>	2 Color of eyes? <i>Brown</i> Color of hair? <i>Black</i> Bald? <i>No</i>
3 Date of birth <i>Jan 3 1890</i>	3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabling (specify)? <i>No</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>Natural-born</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:
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? <i>36</i>	<i>Chas. Abrams</i> By <i>Harry Johnson, Dep. Cnd.</i> <i>Wheeling, W. Va.</i>
7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <i>Traveling Salesman</i>	
8 By whom employed? <i>S.M. Rice & Co</i>	Precinct <i>9. Washington</i>
9 Where employed? <i>West Va - Ohio</i>	City or County <i>Wheeling</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>	State <i>West Virginia</i> <i>Jun. 5, 1917</i> (Date of registration)
11 Married or single (which)? <i>Single</i> Race (specify which)? <i>White</i>	
12 What military service have you had? Rank <i>None</i> branch <i>None</i>	
13 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <i>No</i>	
I certify that I have verified above answers and that they are true. <i>1868</i> <i>William Ruric Walters</i>	

WALTERS WILLIAM RURIC	KC 143 030
Sgt 1c 336 Aero Sqdn	K
1063 McCulloch Wheeling W Va	A 4 216 694
Sa 2 350 635 Died 2/5/19	T 464 266 F
Born 1/3/90	R
Enl Dis	Ct.
	I 95 160
U. S. VETERANS BUREAU MAIL AND RECORDS Form 7202—Rev. Sept., 1925	
INDEX CARD	

William returned home from war on Christmas Day 1918 and soon after he became ill, presumably with Spanish Influenza. He died of Influenza-Pneumonia and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling.

Wheeling Intelligencer, 6 Feb 1919

DEATH CALLS SERGEANT WILLIAM R. WALTERS AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

Following two weeks' illness of tonsillitis and pneumonia, Sergeant William R. Walters, aged 29 years, one of the most widely known and popular young men of this community, died in the home of his parents, 1063 McCulloch street, at 10:20 o'clock last night.

Mr. Walters, after having been discharged from the aviation service of the United States army overseas, returned home on last Christmas day and had since been slightly ill. His condition became serious about a fortnight ago and he rapidly sank until the end came. He was born in this city on January 3, 1890, and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Walters. He was here educated and previous to his entering the war was for several years a traveling salesman for S. M. Rice & Co., Main street wholesale milliners.

Mr. Walters enlisted in the army shortly after the United States entered the war. He received his preliminary training at Camp Zachary Taylor Louisville, Ky.; later he was transferred to the Waco, Texas, aviation cantonment and sailed from Newport News, Va., for England, where he did splendid work in Great Britain in the 336th aviation corps. He attained the rank of sergeant in the army and was in line for a higher office when the armistice was signed.

Mr. Walters was a Shriner and was a prominent member of a number of Masonic bodies, being a 32nd degree Mason, and other fraternal and social organizations. He was a member of Ohio Lodge No. 1, A. F. & A. M.; Ohio Valley Lodge No. 31, Knights of Pythias, and B. P. O. Elks Lodge No. 25. He was also a member of the First Spiritualist church.

Surviving besides his parents are two sisters and two brothers: Mrs. A. H. Porter, Mrs. J. C. McCann, George B. and Richard A. Walters, all of Wheeling. Funeral services will likely be completed today.