

WWI Snapshot: William Barclay Smith, 1880-1935

By **NORMA ECKARD AND AMY ECKARD**
GUEST COLUMNISTS

William Barclay Smith was born in Brechin, Scotland, on Feb. 16, 1880. According to his passport application, his family immigrated to the United States on Jan. 4, 1888, when he was nearly 8 years old. He became a citizen of the United States on Oct. 3, 1902.

The 1930 Census indicates he served in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Various enlistment registers in Ancestry indicate multiple enlistments in the early 1900s.

His NC WWI service records show he re-enlisted from the Regular Army at Fort Caswell on Aug. 10, 1914, at age 34. His residence at the time was Southport, N.C. He was initially a Sergeant First Class. Employment records from these years

show he served in the Panama Canal Zone.

On Sept. 6, 1918, he accepted a commission and was appointed as 1st Lt., serving at Newport News, Va. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 5, 1918.

The 1920 Census lists him, his wife and two children living in Panama, as his passport application indicated.

His wife's parents were born in Norway. His children were born in Panama, and as the 1930 Census shows, an additional child was eventually born in Minnesota.

On July 7, 1935, Smith passed away from pneumonia at age 55. He had been employed for two years as the assistant finance officer for the Minnesota District, Civilian Conservation Corps, Fort Snelling, died Sunday morning at the Fort Snelling hospital after a week's illness. Captain Smith had been in the finance department of the CCC since the corps



William Barclay Smith passport application photo, 1920.

Captain W.B. Smith

Captain William B. Smith, 54, of 912 Thirtieth Avenue North, assistant finance officer for the Minnesota District, Civilian Conservation Corps, Fort Snelling, died Sunday morning at the Fort Snelling hospital after a week's illness. Captain Smith had been in the finance department of the CCC since the corps

Smith, William B.		347,602	White	2 1/2
(Surname) (Christian name)		(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)	
Residence:	Southport	North Carolina		
(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County)	(State)	
* Enlisted in:	RA FT Caswell NC	Aug 10/14;		
† Born in:	Brechin Scotland	23 5/12 yrs.		
Organizations:	QMC Cristobal Canal	Zone to dis h.		
Grades:	Sgt 1st Aug 10/14;			
Engagements:				
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.			
‡ Served overseas:	NO			
§ Hon. disch.	Sept 6/18 to accept a commission.			
Was reported	0	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.		
Remarks:				

Form No. 724-2 1/2 A. G. O. March 12, 1920. *Insert "R. A.," "N. G.," "E. R. C.," "N. A.," as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. † Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡ Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. § Give date and cause.

NC WWI Service Card for William Barclay Smith

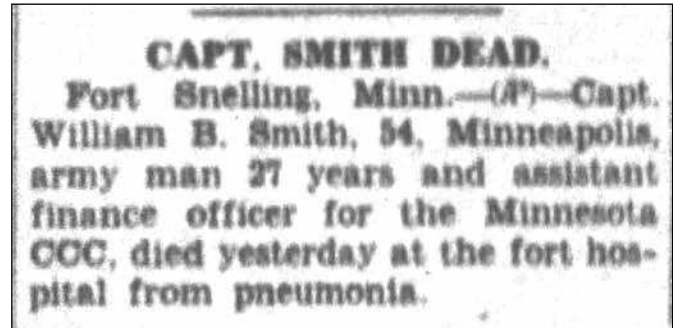
was originated more than two years ago.

Prior to that, he had been an accountant at the Minneapolis Post Office for 12 years. He came to Minneapolis shortly after the close of the war, in which he served as a lieutenant in the quartermaster corps. Captain Smith had been in the army, either in active service or in the reserves for 27 years.

He was born in Scotland, but came to this country with his parents when young. His boyhood was spent in Massachusetts. He was a member of Minnesota Lodge 224, A.F. and A.M., the Minneapolis Consistory of the Scottish Rite Masons, and of Zuhrah Temple of the Shrine.

Surviving are his wife, Lillian Bye Smith; three children, William B. Jr., Dorothy Elizabeth, and Robert Allan; and a sister, Mrs. George Tarbell, Revere, Vt.

Military funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Fort Snelling Post Chapel, followed by Masonic services at the Lakewood Chapel at 3.15 p.m. Burial will be in



Obituary for William Barclay Smith. (Source: Winona Daily News, July 8, 1935, p. 3.)

Lakewood Cemetery.

According to his findagrave page, his ashes were scattered at the lake in the cemetery.

If you would like to help us honor Smith or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at ftcaswellrifle range@gmail.com or go to caswellrifle range.com.

We have been hard at work with Daniel Norris from SlapDash Publishing on the book we plan to offer this year: "Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served."

The book covers the history and future preservation of the rifle range, and includes profiles and snapshots of all of the courageous men and women from Brunswick County who served in WWI. These soldiers have been featured on the website and in The Brunswick Beacon for nearly three years.

All 718 Brunswick County WWI veterans have been honored with a donation by people in the community. We thank the community for the amazing support! To see the veteran list with donors, go to the donor page on the website.

Photos contributed