

World War I Snapshot Allen Miles Simmons, 1890-1963

By NORMA AND AMY ECKARD
FRIENDS OF FORT CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

Allen Miles Simmons was born in Mill Branch in Brunswick County, according to his North Carolina World War I Service Card.

Exact dates of his service are difficult to determine. Three documents shown in the story were used to piece together possible enlistment and discharge dates. It is unusual to have such disparity of dates, although it is seen more often for those who were serving in the Regular Army or National Guard when the United States entered WWI. Allen was serving in the Regular Army. That is the assumed explanation for the discrepancy.

His North Carolina Service Card shows he enlisted on Feb. 23, 1916, at Columbus Banks, Ohio. His discharge is listed as Nov. 21, 1918, and shows he re-enlisted.

His application for military headstone shows his enlistment date as Nov. 22, 1919, with discharge date as Nov. 21, 1920. The back of the application continues that his re-enlistment was Nov. 24, 1920, with a final discharge date of July 18, 1921.

Finally, his VA index card shows he enlisted on April 6, 1917, and was discharged on Nov. 21, 1920.

Combining all reports of his service, the assumption is he served from his initial enlistment on Feb. 23, 1916, through his honorable discharge on Nov. 24, 1920.

Cpl. Simmons served in the Coastal Artillery Corps (CAC) in Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island, which explains why his military flat marker indicates Rhode Island.

By 1930, he was married and farming in Bolton in Columbus County. The 1940 U.S. Census shows he and his wife continued to raise a family in Bolton. He was employed by the government for road work.

Allen's gravesite has a headstone pictured in Findagrave, which reads, "Here lies the greatest deer hunter." Several

local newspapers included articles mentioning his hunting skills. One from 1941 is printed below:

"Allen Simmons, who lives on the Possum Island Plantation about nine miles south of Bolton, has seen much evidence of wild deer where they have been roaming over his potato patch, not far from his home. They seemed to like to frolic there. And, since he was an experienced hunter, and especially fond of deer steak, he let them romp at will until the law came off (deer hunting season began)."

"One morning last week, he went out to this potato patch, hoping, and feeling very confident, that he would find at least one nice buck in there. But no, it wasn't a deer this time. Instead, there was a black bear in there. Whether the bear was grabbing spuds, or not, we have not been able to learn. But, if he was, they were his last."

[Source: Joseph Huffman. "Farm Reporter Picks up Interesting News Items." The Wilmington Morning Star, 1941 Oct. 20, p. 8.]

Allen Miles Simmons took his life on June 1, 1963, at age 73. He was laid to rest in Griffin Cemetery in Ash.

If you would like to help us honor Allen Miles Simmons or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email fcaswell-riflerange@gmail.com.

Anyone wishing to purchase the book, "Brunswick County in the Great War: Preserving the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range and the Legacies of the Men and Women Who Served," may call Norma Eckard at (910) 278-7584 to place an order.

The book is 584 pages and covers the history and preservation of the rifle range, includes profiles and snapshots of all of the courageous men and women from Brunswick County who served in WWI. They have been featured on the website and in The Brunswick Beacon for more than three years.

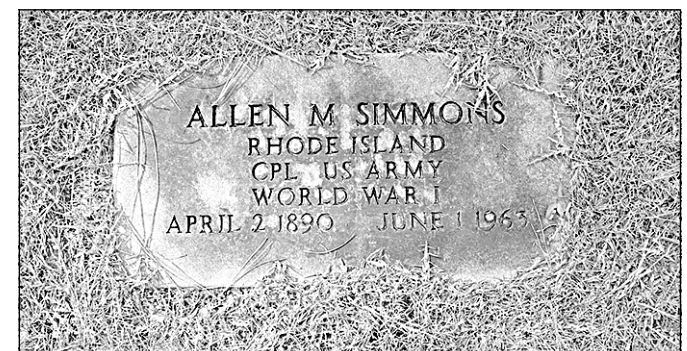


Photos contributed

Allen Miles Simmons in World War I uniform.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| SIMMONS ALLEN MILES | | 6/11/63 2002548 | |
| Corp 6 Co Narr Bay | | A | 1 521 855 |
| Bolton N C | | T | 1 973 895 |
| No 566 236 | Died 6-1-63 | R | |
| Born 4/2/90 | | CL | 3 022 986 |
| Est 4/6/17 | Dis 11/21/20 | I | |
| U. S. VETERANS BUREAU Mail and Records Form 204 - Rev. 1926 | | | |
| INDEX CARD | | | |

VA index card for Allen Miles Simmons



Military flat marker for Allen Miles Simmons

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1. NAME OF DECEASED - LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE (Print or Type) SIMMONS, ALLEN M. | | 14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Griffin Cemetery, Ash, N.C. | |
| 2. SERVICE NUMBER R-566236 | 3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER | IMPORTANT Item 18 on reverse side must be completed. See attached instructions and complete and submit both copies. | |
| 4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year) 11-22-19 | 5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year) 11-21-20 | 15. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U.S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement at the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government. | |
| 6. STATE R. I. | 7. MEDALS | NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) Dollye R. Simmons | |
| 8. GRADE OR RANK Corporal | 9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION 7 Co Narragansett Bay CAC | RELATIONSHIP Wife | |
| 10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year) 4-2-1890 | 11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) 6-1-1963 | ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Street address, City and State) Rt. 1 Bolton, N. C. | |
| 12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS (Christian) <input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID (Hebrew) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO EMBLEM | 13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER | SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>Dollye Roberts Simmons</i> | |
| FOR VERIFICATION: ORDERED JUN 12 1963 | | DATE 6-7-63 | |
| CONTRACTOR BRUCE MARBLE & GRANITE CO., FT. SCOTT, KANSAS | | 17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER Peacock Funeral Home, Inc. | |
| B/L C 2017968 | | ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State) Whiteville, N.C. | |
| DD FORM 1330, 1 AUG 60 | | I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY. SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE <i>[Signature]</i> | |

Allen Miles Simmons application for military headstone

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------|--|
| Name: Simmons, Allen M. | | 566,236 | | White | |
| Residence: Mill Branch, Brunswick | | NORTH CAROLINA | | | |
| Enlisted in: Co Columbus Bks Ohio | | Feb 23/16 | | | |
| Served in: Mill Branch N C | | 25 10/12 yrs | | | |
| Organization: 7 Co Narragansett Bay C A C | | to Nov 3/18; Co A 59 | | | |
| | | Am Th to Dec 2/18; 7 Co Narragansett Bay C A C to Sept 15/19; 6 Co Narragansett Bay C A C to disch | | | |
| Grader: Corp | | Aug 19/18 | | | |
| Engagements: - | | | | | |
| Wounds or other injuries received in action: None. | | | | | |
| Served overseas: None | | | | | |
| Hon. disch. Nov 21/19; for reenlistment | | | | | |
| Was reported 0 | | per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation. | | | |
| Remarks: - | | | | | |

Allen Miles Simmons' North Carolina service card

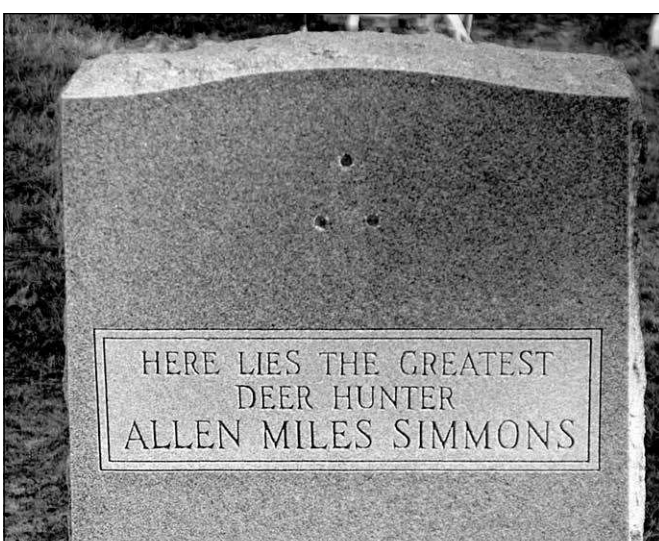


Photo contributed by Findagrave

Allen Miles Simmons' gravesite has a headstone that reads, "Here lies the greatest deer hunter."