

World War I Snapshot: Junius Jackson Adams, 1899-1941

By NORMA AND AMY ECKARD
FRIENDS OF FORT CASWELL RIFLE RANGE

According to his NC World War I Service Card, Junius Jackson Adams Jr. was born in Southport. He enlisted in the National Guard in Charleston, S.C., on July 24, 1917. His residence is listed as Whiteville in Columbus County.

His father, Rev. Junius Jackson Adams Sr., was born and raised in Wake County. He married Margaret Ella Galloway in Southport, which explains why Junius reported that he was born there. His birth record can only confirm that he was born in Brunswick County. The family lived in Sampson County in 1900 then returned to the area, living in Whiteville in 1910.

His service card indicates he became a wagoner on May 8, 1918, serving in the 105th Ammunition Train in the 30th Old Hickory Division. The roster listed on the WWI Army/Marine Division Rosters for Brunswick County shows that Wagoner Adams was the only Brunswick County man serving in the 105th Ammunition Train.

See Jackson Berry Potter’s WWI Profile (caswellriflerange.com) to understand the demanding role of a wagoner.

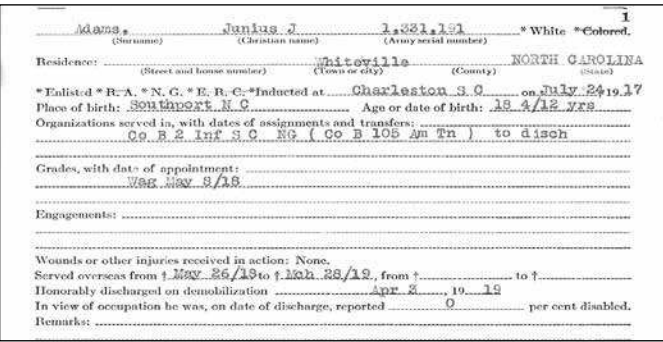
His VA Index does show this service. He actually has two VA index records. Together, they show his service dates are July 25, 1917, to April 3, 1919; Sept. 23, 1919, to Sept. 7, 1922.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows he returned home to Whiteville. He was described as a soldier in the US Army, yet there is no indication on his military headstone application to prove that he was in the Army from his discharge from WWI to his re-enlistment at the end of 1920. However, additional records can be used to prove this service.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows that Junius had returned home, which was Southport at this time, and he was working on a dredge boat.

The 1940 U.S. Census in Southport indicates that he was unable to work.

According to his death certificate, Junius continued to live in Southport until 17 days before his death when he was moved to a VA facility in Roanoke, Va. When WWI veterans pass away at such a young age, exposure to poisonous gas in the battlefields comes to mind as possibly having contributed to an early death. Could the chronic nephritis listed on his death certificate possibly be from trench nephritis? The 30th Division was often exposed to poisonous gas as the WWI Profile of Thedford Lewis shows (caswellriflerange.com). No confirmation can be made.

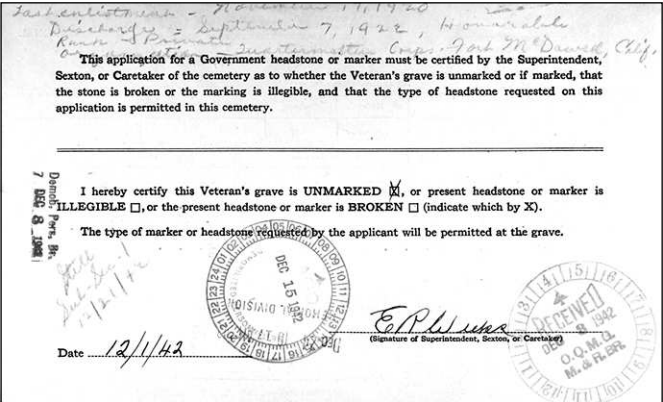
A scanned image of a North Carolina World War I service card for Junius J. Adams. The card is filled out with handwritten information. It includes fields for name, residence (Whiteville, North Carolina), date of birth (July 24, 1917), place of birth (Southport, N.C.), age (38 years), and date of discharge (April 3, 1919). It also lists organizations served in, including the 105th Ammunition Train and the 30th Division. The card is signed by the applicant and has a date of filing (April 1, 1919).

Photos contributed

Junius Jackson Adams Jr. NC WWI service card

A scanned image of the front of a military headstone application for Junius Jackson Adams Jr. The form is titled "APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER" and includes fields for name, rank, service number, and date of death. It also has a section for "REMARKS" and a "SIGNATURE" line. The application is dated July 24, 1917, and is signed by the applicant.

Junius Jackson Adams Jr. military headstone application (front)

A scanned image of the back of a military headstone application for Junius Jackson Adams Jr. The form includes a section for "REMARKS" and a "SIGNATURE" line. It also has a section for "DATE" and "PLACE". The application is dated July 24, 1917, and is signed by the applicant.

Junius Jackson Adams Jr. military headstone application (back)

Junius Jackson Adams Jr. passed away on June 14, 1941, in a VA facility in Roanoke, Va., at age 42. He had never married. His headstone includes his military service, but because of his date of death (1941), his headstone does not include the WWI inscription. Before that time, only one world war had occurred. Inscriptions including WWI or WWII were added to military headstones after WWII ended.

He was laid to rest in Northwood Cemetery in Southport.

If you would like to help us honor Junius Jackson Adams Jr. or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email ficaswellriflerange@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.

Since the book is now published with the 718 WWI soldiers from Brunswick County, we intend to pause



Photo contributed by Findagrave

Junius Jackson Adams Jr. military headstone

the WWI Snapshots so we can continue working on the historic preservation of the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range located in Caswell Beach. The rifle range was built in 1918 by Fort Caswell to support the training of WWI soldiers in marksmanship before being sent to France. The book will be available at the Fort Caswell gift shop for those attending programs supported by the Baptist Assembly. The plan is to also make the book available on Amazon in the near future.

If we are able, we intend to continue to honor our WWI military on Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, with a Roll Call of remaining Brunswick County soldiers who have not been called so far.

On Memorial Day, we encourage you to visit the gravesite of a relative who served in WWI from Brunswick County or any veteran on the list on the website. Many of the cemeteries where these men were buried are listed.