

WWI Fort Caswell Nurse Profile: Anna M. Setley, 1889-1972

BY NORMA ECKARD
AND AMY ECKARD

*Anna Mary Setley
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Army Nurse Corps, U.S.
Navy
Served: Sept. 25, 1918
– April 11, 1919 and Sept.
17, 1921 – Jan. 1, 1936
Fort Caswell, U.S. Army
Post Hospital: Sept. 25,
1918 – Feb. 13, 1919*

Anna Mary Setley was born in Starr, Pa., a small community about 130 miles NE of Pittsburgh. There is a family tree in Family Search. The Findagrave entry for the family is completely populated also.

In 1900, her father was listed as a stonemason. There were 10 children. Anna, 11 years old, was the sixth. One daughter had died previously. Three more children would be born, for a total of 14, with 13 living, confirmed by the 1910 Census.

Her life is discovered from many documents. It also matches closely with another nurse who served at Fort Caswell during WWI: Faye Elmo White.

In 1910, Anna was not included with her family. One possibility is this 1910 Census, which shows a Mary Sittay working as a waitress at a hotel not too far from her family's home.

By 1918, when she began her military service, she had graduated from Allegheny General Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh, Pa., as written in her obituary shown below. Her PA WWI Service Card shows she served at Fort Caswell, followed by Fort Lee, Va.

Served: Aug. 12, 1918 – March 23, 1919

Fort Caswell, U.S. Army Post Hospital: Aug. 12, 1918 – March 23, 1919

Three brothers (Charlie, Harold and Roy) of her 12 siblings served overseas during WWI. Two were wounded. In addition, one older sister (Ida) became a nurse, although there's no indication she entered the military.

After her discharge in April 1919, no records were found to describe her activities until 1921, when she enlisted in the

U.S. Navy. She served until January 1936. The table below lists many of the locations from various historical documents.

1922 – 1924 Haiti
[Source: US Marine Corps Muster Rolls]
1925 US Naval Hospital, Brooklyn

[Source: 1925 NY Census]
1928 US Naval Hospital, Norfolk

[Source: 1928 Norfolk City Directory]
1930 Navy Yard Mare Island Naval Res. CA

[Source: 1930 US Census]
1934 Canacao, Philippines

[Source: PA Veterans' Compensation File]
In 1940, Mary, age 50, was living at home with her mother and several siblings. In 1945, a Nurse Anna M. Setley is shown in the NYC City Directory.

Between 1947 and 1950, City Directories for Ansonia, Conn., show a Nurse Anna M. Setley employed at Laurel Heights State Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

Anna Mary Setley passed away on May 17, 1972. The following obituaries were found.

Anna M. Setley, Navy nurse

Miss Anna Mary Setley, 82, of 154 Atlantic Ave., died at 8:15 p.m. Sunday in the Franklin Hospital. She was born in Tionesta Aug. 18, 1889, the daughter of Winfield and Elizabeth Thompson Setley. Miss Setley was a member of the Free Methodist Church and the Mission Society of the church. She enlisted as an Army nurse in September 1918, after graduating from Allegheny General Hospital School of Nursing. She was discharged from the Army in April of 1919. On Sept. 15, 1921, she enlisted as a Navy nurse. She served with the Navy until her discharge on Jan. 1, 1936.

Surviving are two sisters, Katherine Setley of Franklin, with whom she made her home, and Mrs. Vernon (Nina) Johnson of Erie. Preceding her in death were five brothers, Harold, Roy, Sylvester, Ralph and Charley, and five sisters, Dora and Ida Setley, Mrs. Maude Brady, Mrs. Rida

Henderson and Mrs. Helena Goodnow. Surviving are two sisters, Katherine Setley of Franklin, with whom she made her home, and Mrs. Vernon (Nina) Johnson of Erie.

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Friends may call anytime after 7 p.m. Today at the Leverne L. Burger Funeral Home, where the family will receive friends from 7 to 9 p.m. Today and from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday. Services will be held in the funeral home at 2 p.m. Wednesday. The Rev. Adolph Steed, pastor of the Free Methodist Church, will officiate. Interment will be in Starr Cemetery in Forest County. In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions be made to a favorite charity.

Additional info

The News-Herald (Franklin, Pa.), 15 May 1972, p. 24.

Miss Anna Setley:

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Leverne L. Burger Funeral Home for Miss Anna Mary Setley, 82, 154 Atlantic Ave. Miss Setley, a retired U.S. Navy nurse who served in World War II [WWI], died Sunday in the Franklin Hospital.

The Rev. Adolph Steed, pastor of the Franklin Free Methodist Church, officiated. He read the hymns, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and "I Won't Have to Cross Jordan Alone" and the 23rd Psalm.

Interment was in the Starr Cemetery, Forst County. Pallbearers were Robert and Harold Parkhurst, Johnny Setley, Lee and Linn Reynolds and Mark Ives.

At the cemetery, the flag was presented to Miss Setley's sister, Miss Katherine Setley.

Attending from a distance were Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Goodnow, Harold Parkhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Parkhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Orton and Mrs. Gerald Beeman of North East; Mr. and Mrs. Mark



Photos contributed

Anna Setley's headstone.

Setley, Anna M.		OFFICER—ORC
(Surname)	(Christian name)	white
Residence (Street and house number)	Pittsburg	ALLEGHENY PENNSYLVANIA
(Town or city)	(County)	(State)
1553		
Born in	Starr Pa Aug 18/89	
Called into active service as	Nurse Sept 25/18 fr CL	‡ Train 1918
Promotions:	none	
Organizations and staff assignments:	Post Hosp Ft Caswell NC to Feb 13/19; Base Hosp Camp Lee Va to disch	
Engagements:	none	
Wounds received in action:	None.	
§ Served overseas	none	
Hon. disch.	Apr 11/19	for convenience of the Government, services no longer required.
Was reported	XX	per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.
Remarks:	RESERVE NURSE RELIEVED FROM ACTIVE DUTY; NOT DISCHARGED.	
Form No. 84c-1	* Give place and date. † Insert (a) grade; (b) arm or staff corps or department; (c) date; (d) source, civil life (CL), RA, NG, ORC, NA; and (e) designation of training camp attended, if any. ‡ Strike out if he did not attend a training camp. § Give dates of departure from and return to the United States. Give date.	
A. G. O.	3-894	

Anna Setley's PA WWI Service Card

Ives of Sherman, N.Y.; John Setley of Rochester, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. O.V. Johnson of Erie; Mr. and Mrs. Vorman Reynolds, Townsville; Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Brady, Slippery Rock; Harvey Brady and Mrs. Hazel Albaugh, Starr; and Mr. and Mrs. Fay Henry and sister of New Bethlehem.

The News-Herald (Franklin, Pa.), 18 May 1972, p. 28.

In the obituary above, it shows that Mrs. Fay Henry was present at her funeral.

Faye White was also a WWI Fort Caswell nurse. Anna trained and served with Faye for many years and apparently remained friends.

Nurse Anna was laid to rest with her family in Starr Cemetery, in Pa. Her service in the Navy is written on her headstone.

If you would like to help us honor Anna Mary Setley or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com or go to caswellriflerange.com.

Donations are continuing for the historical preservation of the 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial and the book featuring all the men and women that served their country from Brunswick County. In the recent fundraiser, Oktoberfest in Caswell Beach, \$2,200 was raised. The Veterans Day ceremony was Monday, Nov. 11, beside the 1918 Ft. Caswell Rifle Range Memorial in Caswell Beach.

Veterans Day at the 101-year-old Fort Caswell Rifle Range

On Veterans Day, Monday, Nov. 11, more than 60 people witnessed the Roll Call that continued for the 724 men and one woman nurse that served in WWI from Brunswick County. The Southport Historical Society Firing Crew fired "Thor" in commemoration of the veterans' service. Gwen Causey, locally known for her historic focus and knowledge of Brunswick County, spoke on Brunswick County 1900-1921.

The event was sponsored jointly by the Brunswick Town Chapter NSDAR and the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range.

Seven grandchildren of Pvt. Robert Bollie Stanley also attended the event. Fred Stanley and Deborah Bolin took part in the Roll Call. Pvt. Stanley was the only POW from Brunswick County, who was taken prisoner toward the end of the war. After the Armistice, he was released to the U.S. and following several months of care for a leg amputation above the knee, he returned home, married and had children.

The next and last Roll Call will be April 4, 2020, at 11 a.m. beside the memorial.



Photos contributed

Gwen Causey speaks about Brunswick County 1900-1921 at the Veteran Days event.



Randy Lewis is shown reading the benediction.



Seven grandchildren of Pvt. Robert Bollie Stanley attend the event. Shown are William Hill, Tilita Alexander, Mila Alexander, Deborah Bolin, Carol Hill, Ann Stanley and Fred Stanley.