# WWI Fort Caswell Nurse Profile: Jean P. Dennis 1892-1925

By Norma Eckard and Amy Eckard

*Jean Priscilla Dennis Heyen*
*Ashley, Pa.*
*Army Nurse Corps*
*Served: March 20, 1918 – Aug. 6, 1919, at Fort Caswell, U.S. Army Post Hospital.*
*Overseas: Nov. 15, 1918 – July 6, 1919.*

Jean Priscilla Dennis was born and raised in Ashley, Pa., a town one mile from Wilkes-Barre and about 60 miles NNW from Allentown, Pa. There is a family tree in Family Search. Her middle name was never specified, but was eventually found on the WWI VA Index.

The 1900 Census shows "Jennie" age 8, the oldest of two, the other a son. Her father was an engineer for the railroad. Both children were attending school.

In 1910, Jennie, age 18, was a dressmaker in a shop. The next year, the 1911 Ashley City Directory listed her as a student, presumably at Wilkes-Barre Business College [Source: obituary]. Her younger brother and father are also listed.

A clipping from The Wilkes-Barre Record (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), Sept. 30, 1914, p. 16, shows her training was at Riverside Hospital in Wilkes-Barre. This can also be confirmed by her obituary. In addition, she trained at Woman's Hospital Nurses' Training School in NYC, and worked at Siam Hospital in Cleveland.

On March 20, 1918, she joined the Army Nurse Corps. Details of her U.S. Army service may be found on her WWI PA Service Card. Her service is also listed below in table form for easier reading. Her brother William Malcolm Dennis also served in WWI in the 669th Aero Squadron.

### Jean Priscilla Dennis service as shown on her WWI PA Service Card:

March 20, 1918 to Nov. 1918 at Fort Caswell, NC.

Nov. 1918 to Jan. 1919 at Base Hospital No. 113 (France)

Jan. 1919 to July 6, 1919, at Base Hospital No. 88 (France)

July 6, 1919, to Aug. 6, 1919, at Demobilization Station, NYC

She served overseas, returning home in July 1919, and discharged in August. The 1920 Census shows she returned home to her parents and continued working as a nurse.

In 1922, she married Herman F. Heyen, an engineer from NYC. They lived in Brooklyn for less than two years and then returned to Ashley, probably for her health. A year later, tuberculosis took her life. She was 33 years old.

### Jean Dennis Heyen Dead, The Evening News (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), March 9, 1925, p. 27.

Shortly after 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon, the grim reaper removed from this earthly life Mrs. Jean Dennis Heyen, prominent and popular young woman of this valley, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Willian Dennis, of Hartford street, following an illness of complications. Mrs. Heyen had been a resident of Ashley her entire life and was prominent in church, fraternal and social circles. She was a veteran of the World War, in which she served her country for seventeen months as an army nurse, and upon returning from overseas duty, she took up residence in Ashley, and in October 1922, was united in marriage to Herman F. Heyen, of Brooklyn, N.Y., following which took up residence in Brooklyn, but a year ago returned with her husband to the home of her parents here, where they have since resided.

Mrs. Heyen was a member of Bius Ridge Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Memorial Day Association, Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday school and of the Nurses' Alumni Association of Riverside Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

Mrs. Heyen before marriage was Miss Jean Dennis, and a graduate of Ashley high school, Wilkes-Barre Business College, Riverside Hospital Nurses' Training School, Woman's Hospital Nurses' Training School, New York City, and served some time as professional nurse in Siam Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.

She was talented and had exceptional qualities of personality, which won for her a wide circle of friends, and had a promising future. When the war came upon this country, Miss Dennis responded with her training as a professional nurse and was enlisted in the Sixth Army Nurses Corps. She was sent to Fort Caswell, S.C. [NC], from where she was sent overseas, serving in France and Germany during the great strife. She returned to the United States and was given an honorable discharge in July 1919.

She leaves her husband, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Dennis, of Hartford Street, and one brother, Malcom Dennis, of Timpson Street.

The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon from the Dennis residence at 2:30 p.m. and the services will be private. Interment will be in Oaklawn Cemetery. The family announces that the remains may be viewed by friends this evening between 7 and 9 o'clock. Rev. W.H. Crawford, pastor of the Methodist Church, and Rev. Robert Graham, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, will officiate at the services on Tuesday afternoon.

Her brother William Malcolm Dennis passed away in 1945 at age 52 from complications due to diabetes. Their parents outlived them both.

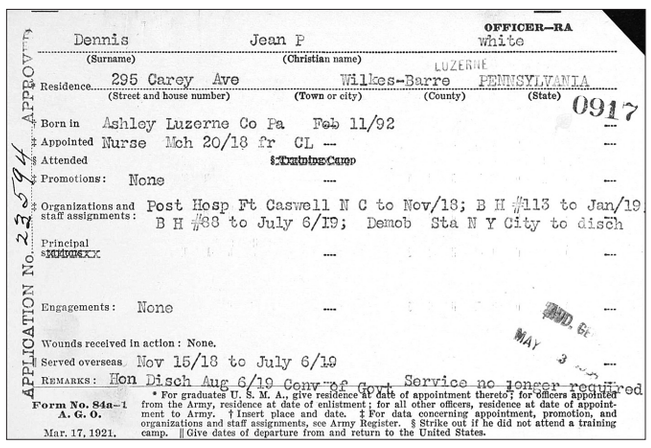
From their death certificates, the family was buried in Oaklawn Cemetery in Wilkes-Barre. No photos are available.

If you would like to help us honor Jean Priscilla Dennis Heyen or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at ftcaswellriflerange@gmail.com or go to caswellriflerange.com.

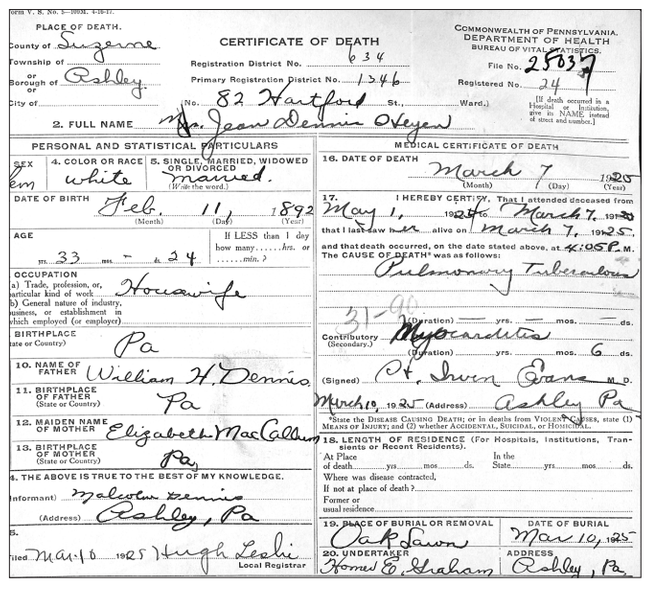
To support the historical preservation of the 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial and the book featuring all the men and women that served their country from Brunswick County, send donations to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.

Photos contributed

"Jean Dennis Heyen Dead." The Evening News (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), March 9, 1925, p. 27.


OFFICER—RA
Dennis (Surname) Jean P (Christian name) white
Residence 295 Carey Ave (Street and house number) Wilkes-Barre (Town or city) LUZERNE (County) PENNSYLVANIA (State) 0917
Born in Ashley Luzerne Co Pa Feb 11/92
Appointed Nurse Mch 20/18 fr CL
Attended
Promotions: None
Organizations and staff assignments: Post Hosp Ft Caswell N C to Nov/18; B H #113 to Jan/19 B H #88 to July 6/19; Demob Sta N Y City to disch
Principal
Engagements: None
Wounds received in action: None.
Served overseas Nov 15/18 to July 6/19
REMARKS: Hon Disch Aug 6/19 Conv of Govt Service no longer required
APPROVED
APPLICATION No. 23594
Form No. 84a—1 A. G. O. Mar. 17, 1921.
* For graduates U. S. M. A., give residence at date of appointment thereto; † for officers appointed from the Army, residence at date of enlistment; for all other officers, residence at date of appointment to Army. † Insert place and date. ‡ For data concerning appointment, promotion, and organizations and staff assignments, see Army Register. § Strike out if he did not attend a training camp. ‖ Give dates of departure from and return to the United States.

Jean's U.S. Army service may be found on her WWI Pennsylvania Service Card.


Form V. S. No. 3—100M. 4-19-17.
PLACE OF DEATH.
County of Luzerne
Township of
Borough of Ashley
City of
No. 82 Hartford St., Ward.
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
Registration District No. 634
Primary Registration District No. 1346
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
File No. 25037
Registered No. 24
2. FULL NAME Mrs. Jean Dennis Heyen
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
3. SEX fem
4. COLOR OR RACE white
5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED married.
DATE OF BIRTH Feb. 11, 1892
AGE yrs. 33 mos. 24
OCCUPATION Housewife
BIRTHPLACE Pa
10. NAME OF FATHER William H. Dennis
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Pa
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Elizabeth MacCallum
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Pa
14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.
Informant Malcolm Dennis
(Address) Ashley, Pa
Filed Mar 10 1925 Hugh Leslie Local Registrar
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
16. DATE OF DEATH March 7 1925
17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from May 1, 1924 to March 7, 1925 that I last saw her alive on March 7, 1925 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 4:05 P.M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
31-96
Contributory (Secondary.) Myocarditis
(Signed) H. Irven Evans M.D.
March 10, 1925 (Address) Ashley Pa
18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents).
19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Oak Lawn
DATE OF BURIAL Mar 10, 1925
20. UNDERTAKER Homer E. Graham
ADDRESS Ashley, Pa

A year after she married, tuberculosis took her life. She was 33 years old.

Dennis Jean, student, res 82 W Hartford
Dennis Malcolm, appr, res 82 W Hartford
Dennis Wm H, engr C R R, h 82 W Hartford

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 [database online]. Provo, Utah, USA, student nurse.

Miss Jean Dennis spent last evening with her parents. Miss Dennis is a student nurse at Riverside Hospital, Wilkes-Barre.

The Wilkes-Barre Record (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), Sept. 30, 1914, p. 16, shows her training was at Riverside Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.