

WWI Fort Caswell Nurse Profile: Ida E. Trollinger, 1892-1975

By NORMA ECKARD
AND AMY ECKARD
GUEST COLUMNISTS

*Ida Estelle Trollinger
Durham, NC (registered in
Baltimore)
Army Nurse Corps
Served:
March 23, 1918—January
29, 1919
Fort Caswell, U.S. Army
Post Hospital:
March 23, 1918—January
29, 1919*

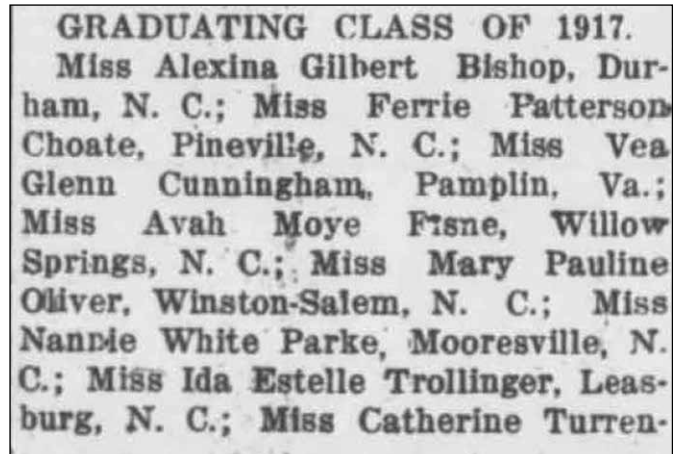
Ida Estelle Trollinger was born and raised in Caswell County, which is north of Burlington near the Virginia border.

In 1900, there were eight children, all living, with ages ranging from infant to 14. Ida was 8 years old. Her father was a farmer.

In 1910, three more children had been born, two passed away: Sadie Gertrude, age 2; and Laurie Myrtle, age 19.

Her mother would have one more in 1911, for a total of 12, 10 living. Ida was 17 years old. One of her older sisters, Ann Elizabeth, was a teacher at a public school.

From 1915-17, Ida was listed in the Durham City Directories as a nurse at Watts Hospital. Stories about her graduation were found in newspapers from Durham and Raleigh (News and Observer, May 20, 1917, p. 6.)



Ida's graduation Announcement, 1917, Durham Morning Herald.

"Of the nine nurses who will graduate tomorrow, five have indicated their intention of entering the service of the American Red Cross and will contribute their quota to the efforts of the United States to successfully prosecute plans for termination of the world war and the bringing about of a permanent peace," the story read.

Nurse Trollinger did join the effort. She entered the Army Nurse Corps from Maryland. Despite spending her entire life in North Carolina, she was recorded as a Maryland nurse. Her WWI service consisted of the post hospital at Fort Caswell until her honorable discharge on January 23, 1919.

WWI Service Card from Maryland

Name: Ida E Trollinger
Gender: Female
Race: White
Age: 25
Birth Date: 30 Oct 1892
Birth Place: Leasburg, N.C.
Residence Place: 1413 Park Ave., Baltimore
Military Year: 1917-1919
Military Place: Maryland, USA
Comments: ANC 3/23/18 nurse, Post Hosp Ft Caswell N.C., Hon. disch. 1/23/19 Maryland in the World War 1917-1919; Military and Naval Service Records,

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Ida's brother, Cpl. Thomas Trollinger, enlisted in 1914 and served in WWI. After the war, he moved to California, living in San Diego in 1920. He worked in the oil industry, married Clara Alice MacRae, had two daughters, Norma and Lillian, and passed away in 1938 in Los Angeles.

Nurse Trollinger was listed in the Fayetteville City Directory of 1919 as a nurse at Highsmith Hospital.

In 1920, Ida was back with her family, who now lived in Alamance County. Her parents were still living, with five children who lived at home. Ida was employed as a nurse in a hospital. Her father's employment is illegible.

Trollinger's name appears in numerous Raleigh City Directories, beginning in 1926. She was listed as a Wake County city nurse in 1931, living in downtown Raleigh.

From 1934-60, until age 68, she is listed as a nurse or superintendent at the infirmary for N.C. State College, living close to or on campus. The 1938 NC State Yearbook lists her on the faculty page.

In 1940, RN Ida Trollinger lived at 922 Johnson St, Raleigh. She had a roommate, an elementary school teacher, Ethyl D. Burks.

Trollinger passed away in Rex Hospital, Raleigh, on Sept. 11, 1975, at age 82. The cause of death was acute septicemia with complication from pulmonary embolism and GI bleeding.

She was laid to rest in Raleigh, with a military flat marker, shown at top.

If you would like to help honor Ida Estelle Trollinger or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range at ftcaswellriferange@gmail.com or go to caswellriferange.com.

Donations supporting the



Photos contributed

Military Flat Marker for Ida Trollinger. Source: Findagrave

OCT 10 1975		NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	
REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 092-95 LOCAL NO. 1185		DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES - VITAL RECORDS BRANCH	
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		33925	
1. NAME OF DECEASED <i>Ida Estelle Trollinger</i>	2. DATE OF DEATH <i>9-11-75</i>	3. SEX <i>F</i>	4. RACE <i>W</i>
5. PLACE OF BIRTH <i>Wake N.C.</i>	6. DATE OF BIRTH <i>10-30-92</i>	7. AGE <i>82</i>	8. SEX <i>F</i>
9. PLACE OF DEATH <i>Wake Raleigh</i>	10. STATE OF BIRTH <i>N.C.</i>	11. SOCIAL RESIDENCE <i>Raleigh</i>	12. COUNTY <i>Wake</i>
13. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION <i>Watts Hospital</i>	14. SURVIVING SPOUSE <i>Never married</i>	15. STREET ADDRESS OR R.F.D. No. <i>18 Home St. Apt. 3</i>	16. INSURE CITY LIMITS <i>Yes</i>
17. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY <i>USA</i>	18. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <i>241-58-1336</i>	19. OCCUPATION <i>Nurse</i>	20. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <i>NCSU Infirmary</i>
21. FATHER'S NAME <i>James Thomas Trollinger</i>	22. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <i>Nettie Birch</i>	23. PARTIAL ADDRESS <i>Mrs. Claude Gaddy, 2626 St. Mary's St., Raleigh, N. C. 27609 - Niece</i>	
24. DEATH CAUSED BY <i>Acute septicemia with complications of Pulmonary embolism + GI bleeding</i>		25. PERIOD OF ILLNESS <i>3-4 wks</i>	
26. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS <i>Arterial EVD with possible MI acute</i>		27. ACCIDENT OR INJURY <i>None</i>	
28. DATE OF DEATH <i>9-11-75</i>	29. TIME OF DEATH <i>9-10-75</i>	30. SIGNATURE OF DECEASED <i>Ida Estelle Trollinger</i>	
31. SIGNATURE OF PHYSICIAN <i>John M. Stewart, M.D.</i>	32. DATE <i>9-11-75</i>	33. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR <i>O. C. Pennington</i>	
34. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <i>M. B. ...</i>	35. DATE <i>9-12-75</i>	36. SIGNATURE OF BRANCH CLERK <i>Jerry W. Strickland</i>	

Ida Trollinger's death certificate.

historical preservation of the 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial and the book featuring all the men and women that served in the Great War from Brunswick County are accepted.

Send donations to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.

A roll call event will be held beside the 1918 rifle range in Caswell Beach on

Saturday, April 4, at 11 a.m. The public is welcome. Attendees should bring a folding chair. And park in the condo parking lots.