Lists New Yorkers Among Navy Dead WASHINGTON, D.C. - U. S. wife, Mrs. Martha Saunders, 25 Navy has released the following Convent avenue. Negro personnel in the New York | Carl C. Scott, Gunner's mate area who lost their lives during 3 c; mother, Mrs. Jessie M. Scott, World War II, with home address 444 Gates avenue. of next of kin as listed in the Oliver Singleton, cook, 3 c; wife; Mrs. Penny Singleton, 303 man's record: William Ameker, cook, 3 c, West 151 street. father, James Amerker, 617 Gates Lawrence E. Sneed steward's avenue Brooklyn. mate, 1 c; wife; Mrs. Lillian N. Richard J. Banks, motor ma- Sneed, 328 West 53rd street. chinists mate 2 c wife, Mrs. Lillian Thomas O. Spurlock, E. Banks, 1947 Seventh avenue. machinist mate, 1 c, wife, Mrs. Terance Bibbs, Steward's mate, Lucitta Spurlock, 2915 Eight 1 c; father, Lathan Bibbs, 14 Maavenue. dison avenue, Inwood. Willie A. Stinnson, steward, 3 William Blocker, seaman 1 c; c; wife, Mrs. Naomi Stinnson, wife, Mrs. Edith Blocker, 72 West 1217 Union avenue. Robert L. Stratmon, steward. Louis D. Borgers, seaman, 2 c 1 c; wife, Mrs. Annie Stratmon, wife, Mrs. Ruby Borges 1053 For- 1 3 West 111 street.

This story from the New York Age noted Stratmon's death and his widow, Annie.

INTERMENT IN THE LONG ISLAND CEMETERY THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON 25, D. C. NAME (Lant, first, middle initial) STRATMON, Robert LEROY 7809 GREEN MOUNTAIN, VT. AUG 10 1948 WW II Dead returned from British Guinea USAF Cem. -Finschaffen No. 2 PINELAWN, L. I., NEW YORK POST OFFICE ADDRESS

This interment form notes Robert Leroy Stratmon's service and burial in New York.

Black History Month

Stratmon gave his life to the country twice

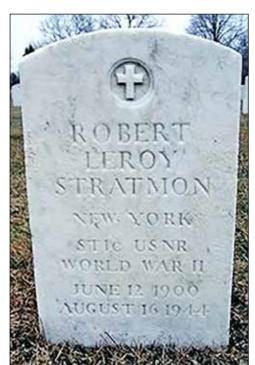
Norma and Ron Eckard lead a project to preserve and spotlight the role of Brunswick County residents in the Great War. The Caswell Beach couple also spearheads the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, the non-profit group that is saving and restoring the 1910 rifle range, a training area that was once part of Fort Caswell, where American soldiers learned to shoot before leaving for

The concrete pit stands at Caswell Dunes condominiums, next to the Oak Island Golf Club. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Friends group is composing a book to document the lives of all 725 Brunswick County residents who served in World War I. Gwen Causey, Amy Eckard, Emma-Lou Edwards, Jane Freach and Kathryn Kalmanson have also contributed to the effort. Kalmanson is the daughter of Susie Carson, the late historian and founder of the Southport Historical Society.

The historians are posting brief profiles and more detailed stories on the website www.caswellriflerange.com. One is the following profile of Robert Lee Stratmon, an African-American man who served during wartime twice and died during World War II:

Robert Lee Stratmon, a Southport native born in 1900, was 18 years old when he signed up for the U.S. Navy during the Great



Robert Leroy Stratmon's tombstone.

War. He was assigned to menial tasks, like most African-Americans during those times. He started as a mess hall attendant, 3rd

Class. By the end of the war, he rose to the rank of Wardroom Cook.

In 1920, according to the Census, he and his family lived in Southport, called Smithville in the earliest records. Later, they moved to Boston, Massachusetts, then New York

A member of the Naval Reserves, Stratmon again answered the call of duty during World War II.

He died in New Guinea, presumably from disease, and was originally interred at the Fischaffen U.S. Air Force cemetery. He died August 16, 1944; his remains were taken to Long Island National Cemetery four years later.

"Ron and I have always had an interest in history," Norma said. "After becoming involved with the rifle range, learning what it was and who used it piqued our interest. We have always enjoyed the exhilaration of the hunt and thus a new hunt began. Early on we built a website and the surprisingly strong interest in the site provided additional encouragement for our research.

"It all began in 2011, when our volunteer grounds-landscape committee was cleaning up the common area in Caswell Dunes," Norma said. "The old concrete structure that was nearly 200 feet long caused us to stop and ask, what is this thing that is such an eyesore?

"That was the beginning of another ad-

venture that continues today. Gwen Causey advised us to contact Jim McKee (of Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site) for information. He called on the State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh for additional information. Once we learned the structure was 100 years old, we conducted more research.

"By 2015 we knew that our stabilization of the structure needed a 'human element' and we began asking local folks to send us pictures of WWI military in uniform with family stories. A Wall of Honor was established to share at fundraisers. Daughters Lorraine, Amy and husband Sam assisted with the research.

"In October 2017, daughter Amy started researching the state archives and military records to find out how many Brunswick County men served in WWI. She discovered over 700 men served from Brunswick County. We decided to write profiles about the men and post the profiles on the website.'

So far, the Fort Caswell-inspired effort has revealed information about 718 local veterans of the Great War.

Anyone who would like to share information with The Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range about a veteran is encouraged to email normaron@mindspring.com.

The website is www.caswellriflerange.com.

– Lee Hinnant