

WWI Snapshot: John Stevenson Moses, 1899-1924

John Stevenson Moses was born on Sept. 29, 1899, in Morganton, N.C.

On Jan. 17, 1918, when John was 18, he enlisted at Fort Caswell. He served until Dec. 24, 1918.

At age 25, John was killed in a tragic accident. A leaky gas fixture in his rooming house caused his death. The following accounts were published in The Washington Post:

Leaky Gas Fixtures Criticized by Coroner

Leaky gas fixtures in hotels and lodging houses said to have caused the death of John Moses, 35 years old, of Morganton N.C., yesterday, will probably be condemned at the inquest to be held tomorrow morning, Coroner Nevitt said yesterday.

The defective gas fixture has been removed by police and will be produced as evidence at the inquest. Dr. Nevitt criticized hotel proprietors who risk the lives of their guests. The law requires gas jets to be of a safe pattern, but Coroner Nevitt wants additional law to have them regularly inspected.

(Source: The Washington

Post, 15 Dec. 1924, p2.)

More Gas-Fixture Inspectors Urged

Recommendation of the coroner's jury that all gas fixtures in rooming houses be regularly inspected by the District may result in a request for additional inspectors, District officials said yesterday. The jury's recommendation was made as a result of the accidental death from illuminating gas of John Moses of Morganton, N.C., in a room at 207 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

The gas fixture in the room was defective, although Carl Smith, the dead man's roommate, testified the gas had been blown out. Inspection of gas fixtures is made now, Plumbing Inspector McGonegal said yesterday.

(Source: The Washington Post, 18 Dec. 1924, p24.)

John Stevenson Moses' death likely saved many lives. His gravesite has not been located.

If you would like to help us honor John Stevenson Moses or another Brunswick County WWI veteran, email the Friends of Ft. Caswell Rifle Range at fcaswellriflerange@gmail.com

or go to caswellriflerange.com.

Donations continue to be sent supporting the historical preservation of the 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range Memorial and the book featuring all the men and women who served in the Great War from Brunswick County. Send donations to Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range, 5 Foxfire Trace, Caswell Beach, NC 28465.

On Saturday, April 4, at 11 a.m. another Roll Call will be held beside the 1918 rifle range in Caswell Beach. The public is welcome. Bring a folding chair. Please park in condo parking lots.

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News clipping tells of the death of John Moses

Moses, John S.		717,661	White
(Surname)	(Christian name)	(Army serial number)	(Race: White or colored)
Residence:	211 4	Morgantown	Burke NORTH CAROLINA
	(Street and house number)	(Town or city)	(County) (State)
*Enlisted in	1st Ft Caswell N.C. on Jan 17/18		
†Born in	Morgantown N.C. 18_1/12 yrs		
Organizations:	8 Co Cape Fear CAC to day 10/18; 10 Co A-A Btry Ft Caswell N.C. to July 2/18; 12 Co Cape Fear CAC to Sept 30/19; 41 Bn US Gds to disch		
Grades:	Pvt		
Engagements:	-		
Wounds or other injuries received in action:	None.		
‡Served overseas:	No		
§Hon. disch.	Dec 24/18 on demobilization		
Was reported	0 per cent disabled on date of discharge, in view of occupation.		
Remarks:	-		
Form No. 724-1 1/2, A. G. O. March 12, 1920. *Insert "R. A.", "N. G.", "E. R. C.", "N. A.", as case may be, followed by place and date of enlistment. †Give place of birth and date of birth, or age at enlistment. ‡Give dates of departure from and arrival in the United States. §Give date.			

Photos contributed

John Moses NC Service Card