

Exploring the Cemetery: Women Veterans

By Denise Witwer Lahr

With the Veterans Day holiday approaching. I wanted to focus on women buried in the cemetery who have served in the military. But first, a caveat: It is much harder to get information on women through the sources I have available to me. I may have missed some. Let me know if that is the case. But, for fun, I will show you some of the various sources I use.

Budget Bureau No. 68-R145
Approval expires August 31, 1945

Form 900A
FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
DIVISION OF NURSE EDUCATION

SERIAL NO. 89872

NAME OF CADET NURSE Violet M. Eberly
(PRINT OR TYPE)

SIGNATURE OF CADET NURSE *Violet M. Eberly*

NAME OF SCHOOL Lancaster Gen. Hosp.

CITY Lancaster

STATE Pennsylvania

DATE OF ADMISSION TO SCHOOL Sept. 27, 1943

DATE OF ADMISSION TO CORPS Apr. 1, 1944

DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THIS CARD June 9, 1944

SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL OF NURSING *Annale Reinhart*

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

THIS SPACE FOR CENTRAL OFFICE USE	TERMINATION DATES		
	BY GRADUATION	WITH DEFAULT	WITHOUT DEFAULT
<i>10/9/46</i>			

(4400) *18-03-6* 16-38249-1

First, Violet (Eberly) Rankin (1925-2003) is buried with her husband, John; her step-father, Arthur Boose, and mother, Martha (Carpenter) Boose; an aunt, Susan M. (Carpenter) Rineer; and an uncle, Robert Carpenter and his wife, Miriam. They are in Section 7 behind the old section. Violet was a member of the Cadet Nursing Corps at Lancaster General Hospital from Apr. 1, 1944 to Oct. 9, 1946.

The obituary of Justine Vivian (Phillips) Geyer (1922-1988) states that she was an apprentice seaman in the WAVES in WW II. I also found her burial record with the Commonwealth of Pa. Dept. of Military Affairs. She was the wife of Henry Geyer. They are buried to the right of the driveway with Henry's parents, Walter and Lizzie Geyer.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs		RECORD OF BURIAL PLACE OF VETERAN		LANCASTER County	
NAME GEYER, JUSTIN VIVIAN (PHILLIPS)		DATE OF BIRTH 7/23/22	DATE OF DEATH 8/4/88		
VETERAN OF W.W.II		WAR	SERVED IN ARMY () NAVY (X) MARINE CORPS ()		
DATES OF SERVICE 5/7/43-6/17/43		ORGANIZATION(S) u.s. navy WAVES		RANK APP. SEAMAN	
CEMETERY NAME ROTHSVILLE, LUTHERAN					
PLACE OF INTERMENT LOCATION ROTHSVILLE WARWICK TWP TWP., LAN. CO. PA					
LOCATION OF GRAVE IN CEMETERY				HEADSTONE	
SECTION LOT No.	RANGE GRAVE No.	GOVERNMENT () COUNTY () FAMILY ()			
INFORMATION GIVEN BY 8/23/88 LYNN K RENTZ				REMARKS DAUGHTER	
DATE					
After being Recorded in the County Veterans' Grave Registration Record This card is to be sent to THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for final Record.					

Betty A. (Maurer) Fizz (1924-1998) rests with her husband, Stanley E. Fizz, in the flat marker section at the back of the cemetery. Betty is listed in the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs Death File. Her dates of service in the WAVES are given as Sept. 5, 1944 - July 14, 1945.

Loretta G. (Collogan) Mayfield (1925-2004) served in the WAVES in WWII according to her obituary. She is buried with her husband, Dean H. Mayfield, also a WWII veteran in the small East section. It is very hard to find verification of service for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, at least through the resources I have available to me. At least 84,000 women served in the program, not only as nurses and secretaries, but also as airplane mechanics, control tower operators and in intelligence. The "Emergency" designation implied that female service would end when the war ended. But the WAVES continued until 1948 when women were admitted to the regular Navy.

Finally, there is Carrie M. (Landis) Wertz. According to her obituary. Carrie was a veteran of the US Navy, Petty Officer 1st Class, and worked as a dispatcher during World War II. I found her Application for Veteran's Compensation filed in 1950, stating that she had served from June 5, 1944 until Mar. 2, 1946. She received \$210.

Carrie was the daughter of Ira and Margaret (Boyer) Landis, and the second wife of Roy Franklin Wertz, who is buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Lancaster.

Here is the WAVES marching song (sung to *I Want To BE A Friend Of Yours*), by Betty McClinchie):

I want to be a Navy Wave, MMM, and a little bit more;
 I want to be an Ensign too, MMM, and a little bit more;
 I want to wear a suit of blue, MMM, and a little bit more;
 One blue stripe would be alright, but oh, for a little bit more.

Form No. 1
 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
 WORLD WAR II VETERANS COMPENSATION BUREAU
 APPLICATION FOR WORLD WAR II COMPENSATION—TO BE USED BY HONORABLY
 DISCHARGED VETERAN OR PERSON STILL IN SERVICE

IMPORTANT—Before Filling Out This Form Study It Carefully.
 Read and Follow Instructions—Print Plainly in Ink or Use Typewriter. DO NOT
 Use Pencil—All Signatures Must Be in Ink.

1—Name of Applicant.
 Last: Landis First: Carrie Middle or initial: Mae

2—Address to Which CHECK and MAIL is to be Sent.
 Rothsville Lancaster Pa.
 City or Town County State

3—Date and Place of Birth.
 June 27 1912 Rothsville Lancaster Pa.
 Month Day Year City or Town County State

4—Name Under Which Applicant Served in World War II.
 Last: "JAMES HAYES" First: Middle or initial:

5—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941
 (and March 5, 1946 (both dates inclusive) During Which Applicant Was in DOMESTIC
 SERVICE.
 Date of Beginning: June 5, 1944 Date of Ending: August 21, 1946
 (Handwritten: 20-28, 1944 to 1946)

6—Date of Beginning and Date of Ending of Each Period of Service Between December 7, 1941
 (and March 5, 1946 (both dates inclusive) During Which Applicant Was in FOREIGN SERVICE.

7—Date of Beginning Date of Ending
 June 5 1944 Lancaster Pa.
 Month Day Year City or Town County State

8—Service or Serial Numbers Assigned to Applicant.
 Service No.'s: 768 48 18
 Serial No.'s:

9—Date and Place Where Applicant Was Separated From Active Service.
 August 21 1946 FSU, New Orleans, Louisiana
 Month Day Year Place

10—Is Applicant Now Serving in Armed Forces On Active Duty? Yes No X

11—Mark "X" Above Name To Indicate Sex and Branch of Service.
 Sex: Female Branch: Navy Service Class: Coast Guard Other—describe:

12—Applicant's Residence At Time of Entry Into Active Service.
 Rothsville Lancaster Pa.
 House No. Street R. D. P. O. Box City or Town County State

13—Applicant Was Registered Under Selective Service As Follows.
 Draft Registration No. City or Town County State

Applicant Must Not Write In Space Below
 JUNI 1950
 Batch Control Number: 29991-63281
 Active Domestic Service: Months: 21 Days: 310
 Active Foreign Service: Months: Days: Amount Due \$
 Total Amt. Due \$ 210.00
 Service performed by: [Signature]
 Date: JUL 21 1950
 For A. G. [Signature]
 For S. T. [Signature]
 Application Discharged by:

