

THE POFFS OF FLOYD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Nevada dated August 7, 1920. Therefore, it is probable that he was home at least before he got out of the Navy. So we can assume that he was in the Navy for more than two years. The Nevada was in service in the Atlantic Fleet 1916-1930. On March 1, 1919 the ship was in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He signed his letters Fred P.

In a copy of a letter from Fred's mother Stella, dated July 19, 1920, to her stepmother Lillie Reed, Stella indicated that Fred was home on 15 days leave at the time she wrote the letter.

From reading his letters to his sister Mary, it was apparent that he did write his mother on occasion as he referred to letters from his mom.

Wayne Roberson, son of Agnes Poff, sent me a copy of letter that he wrote on October 3, 1920, when the U. S. S. Nevada was in New York City for a port call

The Nevada was launched July 11, 1914, commissioned March 11, 1916 and decommissioned August 24, 1946. The USS Nevada (BB 36) joined the Atlantic Fleet at Newport May 26, 1916 and operated along the east coast and in the Caribbean until World War I. After training gunners out of Norfolk, she sailed August 13, 1918 to serve with the British Grand Fleet, arriving Bantry Bay, Ireland August 23. She made a sweep through the North Sea and escorted the transport George Washington, President Woodrow Wilson embarked, during the last day of her passage into Brest, France, before sailing for home December 14.

After reading carefully the military records of Fred, it appears that on or about the beginning of December 1920, that the Navy found out that Fred had enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17 years which was underage for an enlistee. You had to be at least 18 years of age. The Navy had been notified by the Congressman James Woods who had received a letter and affidavit from his parents that Fred did not have their consent to enlist in the Navy at the age of 17 years and was needed back home in order to help support the family. At that time the Navy proceeded to issue orders to discharge him for inaptitude(underage) which they did on December 29, 1920.

After finishing training at the Navy Training School, Hampton Roads, Virginia, he was assigned to the U. S. S. Nevada May 11, 1919 until his discharge December 29, 1920. Also after reviewing his records it appears that Fred was reduced in rank once from Seaman Second Class down to Seaman. His record showed that he did not take to the authority in the Navy and was in solidarity confinement on the Nevada on two occasions. He was also the subject of a summary Court Martial on the Nevada, found guilty and \$25 was deducted from his pay.

It appears after reviewing all the data about this LOST uncle, that he was somewhat of a "smart ass" and had a short fuse.

From reading these letters it was obvious that he did receive mail from his mother Stella.

From his military records, it appears that Fred may have tried to reenlist in the Navy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1923.

Rosemary Henry Thomas indicated in 2004 that her notes had indicated that her grandmother, Mary Manning, had heard from Fred in 1922. The extent of this contact is not known.

In reviewing the Richmond, Virginia, city directories in 2002, there were no listings for Poffs in 1917, 1918, 1920 and 1922-1923.

A request to the Pennsylvania Department of Health (Vital Statistics) in 2005 was returned with no record of his death in that state 1920 - 1990.