Grace Noyes

Grace Noyes (1892-1961) was a WWI Army Nurse.

She was born 25 June 1892 in Buffalo, Wright County, Minnesota.[1] The family moved to LeSueur, Minnesota about 1897 where she obtained her elementary education. She was one of ten children of Reverend Herman Abram Noyes (1861-1949) and Anna Earls Joyce.[2] Grace's brother Prof. W. E. Noyes was Superintendent of Schools in Dakota County.

Grace trained for nursing at Warren Hospital in Warren, Minnesota from 1909 to 1911. She worked as a private nurse in Stephen and Minneapolis, Minnesota from 1912 to 1913. Then she attended Macalester College from 1914 to 1915. "After that time I nursed in Minnesota and Wisconsin, making headquarters with my brother who has always resided in Minnesota. Went to Farmington (where my brother is Supt of Public School) about one month before entering the Army service as an Army Nurse, taking my oath April 29, 1918."[3] The Bonus File indicates that when she worked in Wisconsin it was as a nurse for the president of Lawrence College.

At the time of enlistment she was living at Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota and was 25 years old.[4]

She reported for duty on 29 April 1918 at Camp Custer, Michigan.[5] The Bonus File indicates that she was in New York City from September 7 through 26, 1918, and in France between October 6, 1918 and June 18, 1919. While she was in France, she wrote a letter to her brother that said she was in charge of gas patients.[6]

She was separated from service on January 16, 1922.[7]

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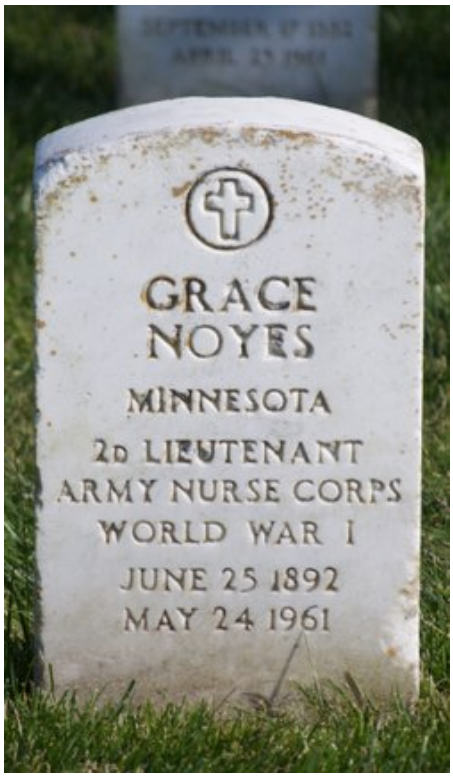
[1] State of Minnesota, WWI Service Records, Bonus Files, call no. 110 H 4 3 B.
[2] Obituary Rev. Heman Noyes, Union-Bulletin, Walla Walla, Washington, Sunday, November 13, 1949.
[3] State of Minnesota, WWI Service Records, Bonus Files, call no. 110 H 4 3 B.
[4] State of Minnesota, WWI Service Records, Bonus Files, call no. 110 H 4 3 B.
[5] State of Minnesota, WWI Service Records, Bonus Files, call no. 110 H 4 3 B.
[6] Dakota County Tribune, 6 December 1918. Grace Noyes, sister of superintendent Noyes, wrote a letter to Mr Noyes that she is safe. She has charge of gas patients.
[7] Ancestry.com. U.S. National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Original data: Interment Control Forms, 1928–1962. Interment Control Forms, A1 2110-B. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774–1985, Record Group 92. The National Archives at College Park, College Park, Maryland.

When she applied for a soldier's bonus in 1921, she was a patient at Walter Reed Hospital in Tacoma Park, DC and said her rank was 2nd Lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps.[8] She was issued a check for $420 soldier's bonus payment on 14 January 1922 by the State of Minnesota.

In March 1924, Grace was attending the New York School of Fine & Applied Arts in New York City when she applied for a passport to go to France to study art. Her physical description was age 31 years, 5'6-1/2" tall, high forehead, hazel eyes, medium nose and mouth, long chin, dark brown hair, medium complexion, oval face, and small scar on forehead. The passport application contained a declaration from Grace's sister Harriet Noyes of Donald, Washington, who was a public health nurse.[9]

It does not appear that she ever married or had children. Grace Noyes died 24 May 1961 at age 68 and is buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, San Mateo County, California.[10]

Gravestone photo from FindaGrave.com.



Submitted by Vicki Albu, Genealogy Committee Volunteer, November 2018

[8] State of Minnesota, WWI Service Records, Bonus Files, call no. 110 H 4 3 B.
[9] Ancestry.com. U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925 [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2007. Original data: Selected Passports. National Archives, Washington, D.C. Volume: Roll 2431 - Certificates: 372850-373349, 21 Feb 1924-25 Feb 1924
[10] FindaGrave Memorial ID 74110790, accessed online at https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/74110790 (November 25, 2018).