

## William Lee Hiers



Born: 5 Oct 1895 Brunson, SC  
Married: 13 Feb 1921 Helen Marie Freeman  
Died: 29 Aug 1983 Sanford, FL  
Parents: Joseph Brabham Hiers & Carrie A Priester



William Lee Hiers was born in the town of Brunson, SC., on October 5, 1895. Picture taken on 9/13/2008.

Not much is known about William's life growing up in the Brunson, SC area. I am sure he was involved in helping his father on their family farm. William's WWI registration card shows that he enlisted at the age of 22, before his marriage to Helen Freeman.

# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

## CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH

23-6

FULL NAME William Lee Hiers Date of Birth October 5th, 1895  
 Nationality American Race White WHERE BORN:  
 SEX — Male — Female Township Peoples  
 Present Address RFD, Box 175 Town Brunson  
Sauford, Florida County Hampton  
 State South Carolina  
 Full Name of Father Joseph Brabham Hiers Age Last Birthday 83  
 Nationality American Race White (If Dead, age at death)  
 Present Address Deceased WHERE BORN:  
 Town Rivers Bridge  
 County Barnwell  
 State South Carolina  
 Maiden Name of Mother Carrie Avaline Priestley Age Last Birthday 71  
 Nationality American Race White (If Dead, age at death)  
 Present Address RFD, Lake Monroe, Fla. Town Allendale  
 County Barnwell  
 State South Carolina

Physician's or Midwife Certificate:  
 I hereby certify that I am \_\_\_\_\_ years of age and that I attended the birth of \_\_\_\_\_  
 on the date above given.  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA Physician  
 County of Hampton Midwife  
 PERSONALLY appeared before me Mrs. Carrie Hiers who after being duly sworn  
 says that she is now 71 years of age and that she knows of her own knowledge that William  
Lee Hiers was born on the date above stated in the certificate of birth and that the informa-  
 tion therein given is true and correct.  
 Sworn to before me this 7th  
day of August A. D. 1945.  
B. L. L. L. L. (L. S.)  
 Notary Public for South Carolina.  
 (SEAL) Mrs. Carrie Hiers

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
 County of Hampton  
 PERSONALLY appeared before me W. D. Freeman who after being duly sworn  
 says that he is now 63 years of age and that he knows of his own knowledge that  
William Lee Hiers was born on the date above stated in the certificate of birth and that the informa-  
 tion therein given is true and correct.  
 Sworn to before me this 7th  
day of August A. D. 1945.  
B. L. L. L. L. (L. S.)  
 Notary Public for South Carolina.  
 (SEAL) W. D. Freeman



Picture of William L Hiers in WWI

WWI Registration card

File # 829 1681 REGISTRATION CARD No. 83

1 Name in full William L. Hiers Age in yrs 21

2 Name Brunson address (City) (State) (County)

3 Date of birth Oct 5 1895

4 Are you (1) a natural born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Yes

5 Where were you born? Brunson SC

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Farm Laborer

8 By whom employed? J. B. Hiers

9 Where employed? Brunson SC

10 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? Father, Mother, Sister

11 Married or single (which)? Single Name (specify which): Brunson

12 What military service have you had? Rank Private Branch Infantry

13 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?

I solemnly swear that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

William L. Hiers

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 39-1-19

1 Tell, outline, or sketch (specify which) Medium (Height, weight, or age (which)) Medium

2 Color of eyes? Blue Color of hair? Light Build? Slender

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

none to #9

J. M. Rouse  
(Signature of Registrar)

Printed Brunson

City or County Brunson

State SC 6/5/17  
(Date of registration)

William L Hiers WWI registration card dated, 6/5/1917



(Each entry to be initialed)  
 REMARKS: Sailed fr the USA Aug 20/18 & arrived in France on Sept 3/18. Left Brest, France for return to the United States on May 12, 1919. Arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey upon arrival in the United States on May 22, 1919.

CURRENT ENLISTMENT.  
 Serving in 1st enlistment period.  
 Accepted for enlistment at Hampton, S. Carolina  
 Enlisted June 24, 1918, at Hampton, S. Carolina  
 by Depot Brigade, 26th Co. 7th Bn.  
 signed to (Company and regiment or corps or department.)  
 at Camp Jackson, S.C., June 24, 1918  
 (Station.)  
 Transferred to, 191  
 (Company and regiment or corps or department.)  
 Transferred to, 191  
 (Company and regiment or corps or department.)  
 Furloughed to reserve at  
 , 191 . Character:  
 † Honorably discharged; † discharged and not recommended for reenlistment; † dishonorably discharged at  
 , 191 . Character:  
 † Strike out words not applicable.

(Last phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive) Offensive operations with the 33rd Divn. 1-11 Nov. 1918.  
 Wounds or other injuries received in action:  
 Medal of honor (action, with date thereof, for which granted):  
 Certificate of merit (nature of service, with date thereof, for which granted):  
 Furloughs: 12-15 Aug. 1918.  
 Time lost to be made good under A. W. 107:  
 (a) Absence without proper authority or in desertion.  
 (b) Confinement under sentence or while awaiting trial and disposition of case, if trial resulted in conviction.  
 (c) Unable to perform duty through the intemperate use of drug or alcoholic liquor or through disease or injury the results of his own misconduct.

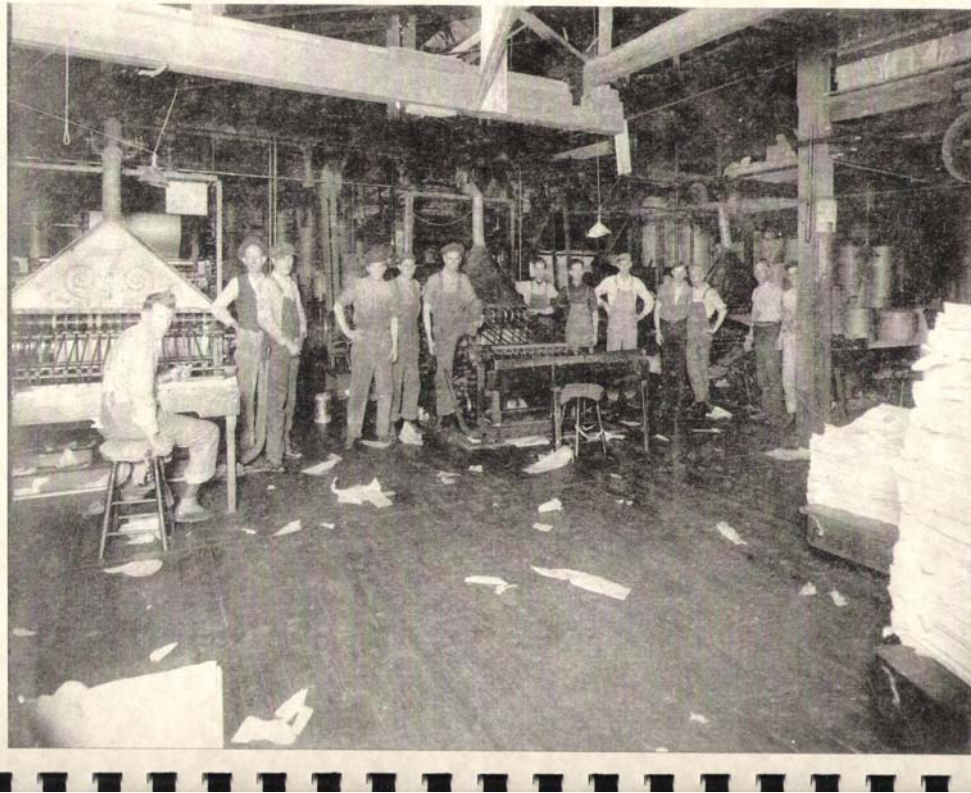
\*Give date of qualification or rating and number, date, and source of order announcing same

From the records above we learn that William L Hiers enlisted in the Army in Hampton, SC, on 24 June 1918 and was assigned to Depot Brigade, 26<sup>th</sup> Company, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, at Camp Jackson, Columbia SC. He was on furlough 12-15 August 1918. He sailed from the US on 20 August 1918 and arrived in France on 3 September 1918. He participated in the last phase of the Meuse-Argonne offensive with the 33rd Division, Company E, 108<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Train, from 1-11 November 1918.

After WWI, William came home to Brunson, SC, and in 1921 married Helen Freeman. Within a couple months after their marriage they traveled by train and moved to near Sanford, FL. (reason for moving to central Florida is unknown) William's father and some of his brothers and sisters also moved to this area. William's first job was as a farm laborer in the celery fields.

Williams' next job was at the Crown Paper Company.

(Picture below) Production workers take a break to pose for this picture taken at the Crown Paper Company located in Sanford, FL. Cir. 1920. William is the 8<sup>th</sup> man from the left. Picture found in a 2002 Sanford Historic Calendar. William's brother, Harold, also worked here.



1913: PAPER COMPANY PLANT IN SANFORD. The Crown Columbia Paper Co. of San Francisco announced plans to open a plant in Sanford. The company, had a capital stock of \$15 million. The Sanford plant was to manufacture wraps for citrus and other fruits and would have the capability of producing 5 million wraps in eight hours. (from the Orlando Sentinel archives)

According to the archives found at the Sanford Historical Museum, on 3/18/1918, the city of Sanford gave the Crown Paper Company the land for this building to keep them in the city. The building is located at 200 N Elm Ave and is still standing.



In December of 1940, William Hiers was admitted to the Bay Pines Veterans Hospital in Largo, FL. William was suffering from a sinus infection and was examined for eye glasses while he was there.

The Bay Pines VAMC campus was established in 1931 as part of a national effort to provide improved facilities for the nations' World War I veterans. The Bay Pines hospital campus construction was unique in its application of the regionally popular Mediterranean Revival architectural styling to standardized prototype hospital and support facilities.



Bay Pines painting circa 1940's when William Hiers would have been there.



As it looks today.

\*On the following pages are copies of letters William wrote home to his wife, Helen, and addresses her as "My Dearest One."



(1)

Bay Pine Fla.  
 Sunday afternoon.  
 My Dearest, one  
 just a line or two to  
 let you hear from me  
 today. I guess you will  
 get this and my other  
 letter at the same time.  
 Write me how you all  
 are? How is W.L. and  
 the rest. Helen don't  
 you worry about me.  
 I am feeling fine. I am  
 going before the chief  
 medical tomorrow.  
 he might throw me  
 out. but I cannot  
 wait on them any  
 longer all they do

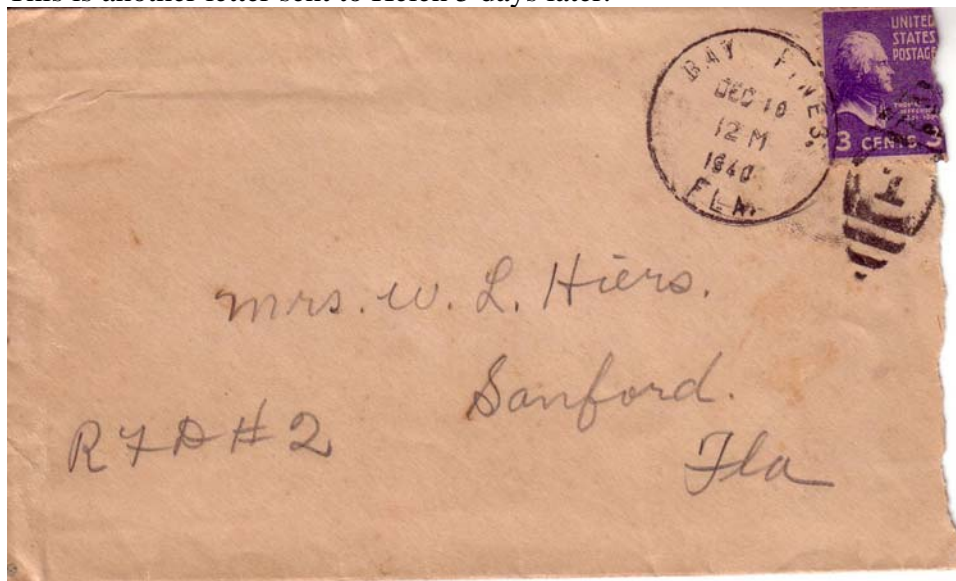
(2)

Just take my Temperature  
 every day. Since they  
 taken my Blood Test  
 and Blood Count, and  
 Urine test, this sure  
 is nice place if they  
 would go ahead and  
 work on you so much  
 red tape. I went to  
 preaching this morning.  
 Heard a good sermon.  
 Saw a picture show  
 last night. they feed  
 us good we had  
 Chicken and Ice cream  
 for dinner. it is about  
 230 now. it is  
 lonesome here for  
 me. although I



Now, Mr Bert Long,  
 " George Cook,  
 " Withington,  
 " Myres,  
 " Joe Tatum,  
 Mr Merrinether went  
 home Friday. all of  
 there are Sanford  
 folks. So you see  
 I can find some one  
 to talk with I wish  
 you could see this  
 place. Some day when  
 I get home I will  
 bring you and show  
 you. I guess I will  
 close. With lots of  
 Love to you all.  
 Answer soon  
 P.H., Mr L.H.

This is another letter sent to Helen 5 days later.





(1)

Bay Pines Fla  
Monday night.  
my dearest one.  
your letter just received.  
was glad to hear from  
you hope W.L. is better  
by this time. and the  
rest is well. I am ok  
don't worry about me.  
I got tired of waiting  
here. So, I went and  
had a talk with  
Dr. Kendall. he is the  
Chief Medical. So I  
have bin busy from  
one office to the  
other today I get. m.d.  
Examinator tomorrow  
at 10 o'clock. I will

(2)

let you hear what  
they do. I had a card  
from Skeet today.  
he said he had mailed  
me a Sanford Paper  
but I have not got it  
yet. How has the weather  
bin. Very Cold it has  
not bin very cold here.  
How has Mildred and  
Louise behaved? you  
told me about W.L.  
but never mentioned  
them. Helen each  
bed has Car Phones  
to the Radio you can  
listen or not. Helen  
you take care of your  
self. take your medicine  
(over)

and let me hear  
from you often  
tell all folks for  
me. and answer

soon.  
(ps) tell W & Mr Cook told  
me. the boys shot  
so bad he was calling  
it of until he gets  
back.

~~Bye~~

William & Helen

Bay Pines Fla  
Co. Veterans Hospital.

\*Not sure when this one was sent

1  
Bay Pines Fla  
Thursday morning  
your letter just received.  
was glad to hear from  
you long to hear that  
you have had the fever  
Helen. I am feeling fine.  
I had my eyes examined  
for glasses. Tuesday  
Friday morning I get  
the second check on them  
I got the glasses in  
Orlando. I just wrote  
Hazel. Helen my  
Dr told me this morning  
I must have more  
X Ray taken of my  
mouth or sinuses.  
you are the place  
where the Pius was

2  
coming is all closed  
up before they got to  
me. As the picture  
did not show much  
for them to do. If I  
get them today maybe  
I can come home  
before long I am in  
hopes of next week.  
it is harder to get out  
of here than to get in.  
Well Helen I have  
no news much. I had  
a letter from Harold.  
answer soon  
I send my love to  
you all. ~~W.L.H.~~  
W.L.H.

These letters show a loving husband and father. It is also obvious he was a little unhappy with how slowly his doctors were moving in providing his healthcare.

\*Above letters were provided by Janet Johnson Korgan, granddaughter of William Hiers.



During WWII, William and his family were issued Ration cards.

Stamps must not be detached in the presence of the registrar, his employee, or person authorized by him to make delivery.

Local Board No. 17-1 County Seminole State Fla.

(Signature) *W. L. Hiers*

has been issued the attached War Ration Stamps this day of May 1942, upon the basis of an application signed by himself, or on his or her behalf by his or her husband, wife, father, mother, or other person (Check one.)

Sex ☒ Male ☐ Female Age 47 yrs. (Color of eyes) blue (Color of hair) brown (Height) 5 ft. 10 in. (Weight) 175 lbs.

**Certificate of Registrar**

The Stamps contained in this Book are valid only after the lawful holder of this Book has signed the certificate below, and are void if detached contrary to the Regulations. (A father, mother, or guardian may sign the name of a person under 18.) In case of questions, difficulties, or complaints, consult your local Ration Board.

**Certificate of Book Holder**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have observed all the conditions and regulations governing the issuance of this War Ration Book; that the "Description of Book Holder" contained herein is correct; that an application for issuance of this book has been duly made by me or on my behalf; and that the statements contained in said application are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*William L. Hiers* [Book Holder's Own Name]  
(Signature of, or on behalf of, Book Holder)

Any person signing on behalf of Book Holder must sign his or her own name below and indicate relationship to Book Holder *self*

*W. L. Hiers*  
(Father, Mother, or Guardian)

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1942 16-20051-1 OPA Form No. R-302

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**War Ration Book One**

**WARNING**

- 1 Punishments ranging as high as Ten Years' Imprisonment or \$10,000 Fine, or Both, may be imposed under United States Statutes for violations thereof arising out of infractions of Rationing Orders and Regulations.
- 2 This book must not be transferred. It must be held and used only by or on behalf of the person to whom it has been issued, and anyone presenting it thereby represents to the Office of Price Administration, an agency of the United States Government, that it is being so held and so used. For any misuse of this book it may be taken from the holder by the Office of Price Administration.
- 3 In the event either of the departure from the United States of the person to whom this book is issued, or his or her death, the book must be surrendered in accordance with the Regulations.
- 4 Any person finding a lost book must deliver it promptly to the nearest Ration Board.

OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Nº 784238 -306

(Above) A World War II Ration Book One issued to William L Hiers on May 7, 1942

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

Nº 279208 BM

**WAR RATION BOOK No. 3** Void if altered

Identification of person to whom issued: PRINT IN FULL

*William L. Hiers*  
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Street number or rural route *17-1*

City or post office *Seminole* State *Fla.*

AGE	SEX	WEIGHT	HEIGHT	OCCUPATION
		Lbs.	Ft. In.	
47	M			

SIGNATURE  
(Person to whom book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf.)

**WARNING**  
This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell it to any other person, or to use it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods in accordance with regulations of the Office of Price Administration. Any person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it. Persons who violate rationing regulations are subject to \$10,000 fine or imprisonment, or both.

**LOCAL BOARD ACTION**

Issued by \_\_\_\_\_ (Local board number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of issuing officer)

OPA Form No. R-130

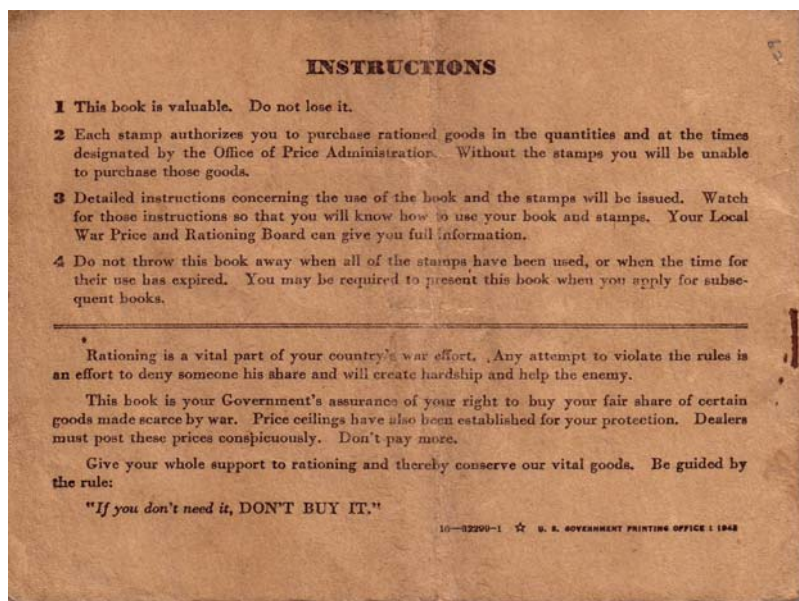
NOT VALID WITHOUT STAMP

(Above) A World War II Ration Book 3 issued to William L Hiers in 1943





Coupon page from Ration Book 3



Instructions on back of Ration Book 3

\*Ration Book 3 above provided by Janet Johnson Korgan, granddaughter of William Hiers.

In the United States, nationwide food rationing was instituted in the spring of 1942, and each member of the family was issued ration books by the Office of Price Administration (OPA). These books contained stamps and gave precise details of the amounts of certain types of food that you were allowed. Rationing insured that each person could get their fair share of the items that were in short supply due to the war effort and import reductions. By the end of the war, over a hundred million of each ration book were printed.



The Office of Price Administration (OPA) was in charge of rationing consumer goods such as sugar, coffee, shoes, household appliances, and other goods during World War II. The OPA accepted ration book applications and issued ration books, from which consumers tore out stamps in order to purchase food and other supplies at grocery stores.

Four different series of war ration books were issued. In 1942, five months after (December 8, 1941) the United States entered the Second World War, "[Book One](#)" series were issued. In January 1943, "[Book Two](#)" series were issued. "[Book Three](#)" series were issued in October of 1943. And "[Book Four](#)" series were issued towards the end of 1943. Most ration restrictions didn't end until August 1945, with sugar rationing lasting in some parts of the country until 1947.



In 1945 William Hiers began working at the Sanford Naval Air Station, Sanford, FL



(Picture above) William Hiers, warehouseman in Supply & Fiscal Department, receives a cash award from LCDR Patterson. The award was presented for Mr. Hiers' suggestion which improved delivery of material. Date: Unknown



(Picture left) William Hiers retires from Civil Service at the Sanford Naval Air Station in 1960.

CS EMPLOYEE RETIRES--Mr. William L. Hiers recently ended his career in Civil Service. Since 1955, he has been a warehouseman at NAS Sanford. Above, Lcdr. L.D. Ellingwood, Supply and Fiscal Officer bids him farewell. In Mr. Hiers' left hand is a Mitchell spinning outfit presented to him by his fellow employees so he can catch the "big ones".

VOID IF ALTERED OR ERASED

# CERTIFICATE OF DEATH FLORIDA

83-077169

LOCAL FILE NO.		FEDERAL FILE NO.		DATE OF DEATH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
DECEDENT—NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST		SEX		DATE OF DEATH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
1. William Lee Hiers		Male		Aug. 29, 1983	
2. RACE—(e.g., White, Black, etc.)		AGE—Last Birthday (Yr.)		DATE OF BIRTH (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
White		87		Oct. 5, 1895	
3. CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION OF BIRTH		HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION—(Name, street, city, state and zip code)		COUNTY OF DEATH	
Sanford		Orange Avenue, Rt. 3, Box 521		Seminole	
4. STATE OF BIRTH (If born in U.S., name of state)		5. MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, SEPARATED		6. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If widow, give maiden name)	
South Carolina		Married		Helen Freeman	
7. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		8. USUAL OCCUPATION (Last kind of work done during year of death)		9. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY	
261-01-7154		Civil Service		Warehouseman	
10. RESIDENCE—STATE		11. CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION		12. STREET AND NUMBER	
Florida		Sanford		Orange Avenue	
13. FATHER—NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST		14. MOTHER—MAIDEN NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST		15. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify block and lot)	
Joseph Hiers		Carrie Priest		No	
16. INFORMANT—NAME (If spouse, name of spouse)		17. MARITAL ADDRESS (If different from residence)		18. CITY OR TOWN	
Mrs. Helen Hiers		Rt. 3, Box 521		Sanford	
19. BIRTH, CREATION, REMOVAL, OTHER (Specify)		20. CEMETERY OR CREATION (Specify)		21. LOCATION, CITY OR TOWN, STATE	
Burial		Evergreen		Sanford, Florida	
22. FUNERAL DIRECTOR (Name, address, phone)		23. FUNERAL HOME (Name, address, phone)		24. LOCATION, CITY OR TOWN, STATE	
R. D. Brisson		Brisson Funeral Home, P. A. Sanford, Florida		905 Laurel Avenue	
25. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at the time and place stated.		26. On the basis of examination and investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time and place stated.		27. On the basis of examination and investigation, in my opinion death occurred at the time and place stated.	
28. DATE SIGNED (Mo., Day, Yr.)		29. HOUR OF DEATH		30. PRELIMINARY DEAD (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
8-29-83		12:00 P		Aug. 29, 1983	
31. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN, MEDICAL EXAMINER (If none, specify)		32. REGISTER (Name, address, phone)		33. DATE RECEIVED BY REGISTER (Mo., Day, Yr.)	
Robert M. Rosemond, M.D., Box 1547, Sanford, FL 32771		Don R. Smith & Son, Inc.		Aug. 29, 1983	

Date issued: AUG 18 2009

C. J. Neach, Jr., State Registrar

THIS DOCUMENT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE. THIS DOCUMENT IS PRINTED OR PHOTOCOPIED ON SECURITY PAPER WITH A WATERMARK OF THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA. ON THE FRONT, AND THE BACK, CONTAINS SPECIAL LINES WITH TEXT AND SEALS IN THERMOCHROMIC INK.

DH FORM 1946 (08-00)

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

25936249



STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFIED COPY

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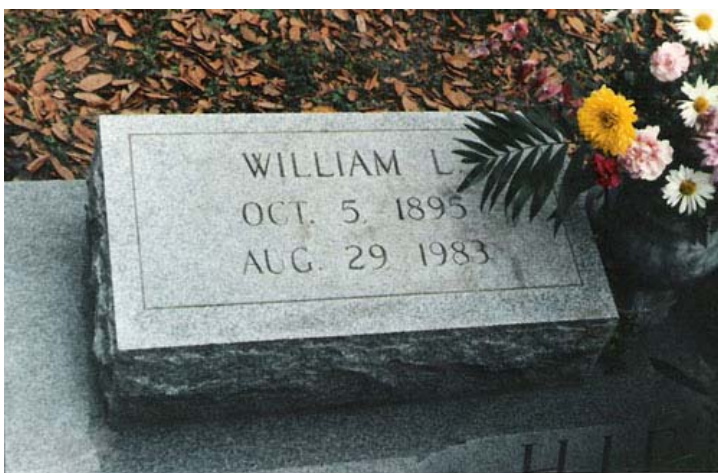
The Orlando Sentinel, Tuesday, August 30, 1982

**William Lee Hiers Sr.**, 87, Route 3, Orange Avenue, Sanford, died Monday. Born in Brunson, S.C., he moved to Sanford from there in 1920. He was a member of the Christ United Methodist Church, Sanford. He was a veteran of World War I. Survivors: wife, Helen; son, W. L. Jr., Cornelia, Ga.; daughters, Mrs. Hazel Johnson, Mrs. Mildred Peters, both of Sanford, Mrs. Louise Bruce, Avon Park; brothers, George, Sanford, Harold, Enterprise; sisters, Mrs. Pearl McCormick, Altamonte Springs, Mrs. Belle Lindsey, Mrs. Beegie Dobson, both of Sanford; 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren. **Brisson Funeral Home, Sanford.**



**William L Hiers died while tending his garden in the back yard of their home (pictured above). Helen and William were working in their garden when around noon, Helen went in to cook lunch. William stopped working and sat down in a chair next to the garden while Helen went inside to cook. When Helen called out to him to come in because lunch was ready, William did not answer. Helen went out to get him only to find out he had passed away peacefully in his chair. Picture above taken on 10/12/08**





**William Lee Hiers is buried in Evergreen Municipal Cemetery, Sanford, FL**



## AREA DEATHS

### WILLIAM L. HIER SR.

William Lee Hiers Sr., 87, of Route 3, Box 521, Sanford, died Monday morning at his home. Born Oct. 5, 1895, in Brunson, S.C., he moved to Sanford from there in 1920. He was a veteran of World War I and fought in the Argonne Forest in Germany. He was a member of the Christ United Methodist Church where he had held office on many church boards. He is survived by his wife, Helen; one son, W. L. Jr., Cornelia, Ga.; three

daughters, Mrs. Hazel Johnson, Sanford, Mrs. Mildred Peters, Sanford, Mrs. Louise Bruce, Avon Park; two brothers, George, Sanford, and Harold, Enterprise; three sisters, Mrs. Pearl McCormick, Altamonte Springs, Mrs. Belle Lindsey of Sanford, and Mrs. Bessie Dobson of Sanford; 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren. Brissom Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

On 30 May 2010, descendents of William L Hiers gathered to honor and commemorate his WWI military service by placing a WWI service marker at his grave.







My fondest memories of my grandfather include many Sunday, after church, lunches at their home in Sanford. I remember one day granddad cut 2 palm fronds from one of the palmetto bushes from across the street and removed the green fans from both. He used one branch to trim into an arrow and the other he cut a “v” into each end and tied string to form a bow. I had lots of fun that day shooting that arrow from the bow my granddad made for me.

I also remember vividly his aversion to having his picture taken. Anytime someone came near him with a camera, he would head the opposite direction!

Wayne Peters, Grandson