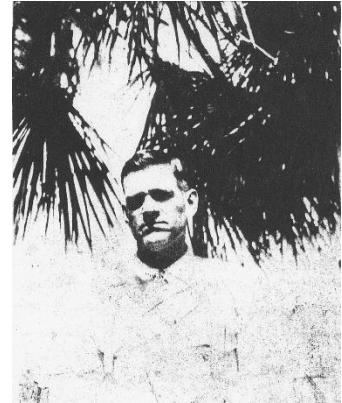




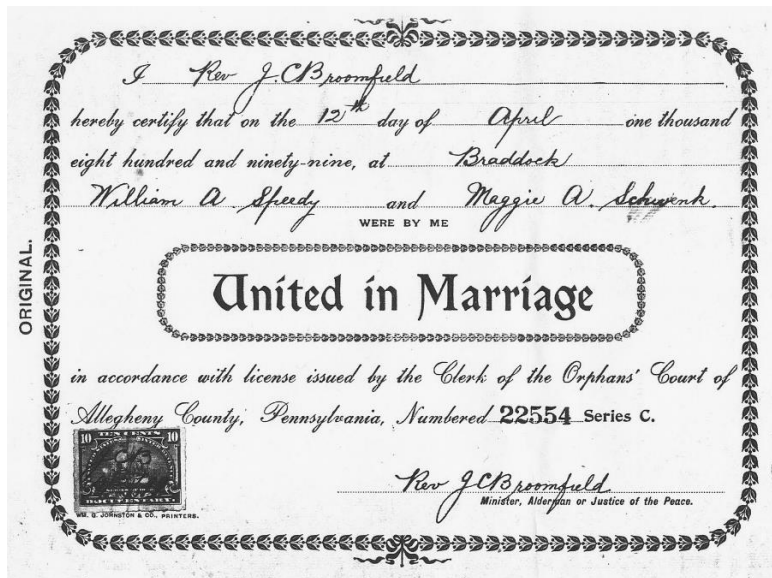
ORIGIN

William Arthur Speedy was born on 24 January 1874, a cold Saturday in Pittsburgh.¹ The son of John A. Speedy and Sarah Kneidler, little is known about his early years. William, also known as Arthur, spent his childhood in the Pittsburgh suburb of Braddock where his father, a Civil War veteran, was a policeman who served as constable and was responsible for bringing down a notorious crime gang that had gripped the community in fear.²



MARRIAGE

On 12 April 1899, a cloudy cool spring day, William married Margaret A. “Maggie” Schwenk in Braddock.³ Rev. J.C. Broomfield, pastor of the Fourth Methodist Protestant Church, performed the wedding ceremony.⁴ A day earlier, the couple filed a marriage application at the Allegheny County Courthouse in downtown Pittsburgh. Both William and Maggie lived on Homestead Street in Swissvale. William worked as an engineer and Maggie lived with her siblings and widowed mother, Marian “Mary” Schwenk.



The following year, William and Maggie lived on Second Street in the neighboring town of Rankin where William was a foreman at Carrie Furnace.⁵ For the first fifteen years of their marriage, William worked as a millworker, machinist, engineer – all likely at Carrie. Carrie Furnace, a blast furnace which was a part of the Homestead Steel Works and later U.S. Steel, sat along the Monongahela River in Swissvale on the edge of Rankin.⁶ William and Maggie lived on Carrie Street in Swissvale for most of this time, a short walk from the furnace mill.⁷



A family photo, attributed to William, shows a boat with the caption “Marian C. at Daytona Fla. May 9, 1921.” According to family tradition, William and Margaret named their boat *Marian* after Margaret’s mother Marian Burd Schwenk, who also went by Mary.

In 1923, William was named with a group of fishermen applying for a patent with the state of Florida to incorporate the Salerno Fishermen’s Association.²⁰ He was also to be appointed as one of the Board of Directors of the corporation. Local newspapers mentioned the Speedys in the “social news” section, noting when William spent a few hours in Stuart and when Maggie played bridge at the Yacht Club.²¹



CAPE MAY

Sometime in the early 1920s, the Speedys began spending time in Cape May, a seaside resort and thriving fishing community at the southern tip on New Jersey. It appears that William and Maggie split their time between Cape May and Salerno from newspaper reports such as “Mr. and Mrs. Speedy who have spent many winters here have returned from the north to spend the winter.”²² In April of 1923, newspapers reported that after spending the winter in Salerno, Mr. and Mrs. “Will” Speedy would travel to New Jersey by boat, stopping in St. Augustine where Maggie’s mother would take the train and meet them in Cape May.²³

In July of 1925, William and Maggie bought a house at 1227 Washington Street in Cape May, not far from Shellenger's Landing, where fishermen could dock in Cape May Harbor.²⁴ They paid \$2800 and likely took out a mortgage (need to get to CM to see records). Maggie's niece Marian Cabbage and her friend traveled from Monessen, PA to visit them in Cape May that summer.²⁵



Shellenger's Landing, Cape May, New Jersey

CAPTAIN SPEEDY LOST AT SEA

On Saturday morning 7 August 1926, William left home with a few sandwiches and some water for a fishing trip in his 28 foot cabin cruiser "Merion" [Marian?] and never returned home.²⁶ He had gone towards the Northeast End Lightship looking for bluefish, about 26 miles at sea, despite warning from the Coast Guard for lone fishermen not to venture too far out into open waters alone.

Five days after William left on the fateful fishing trip, a newspaper reported that the Coast Guard still held out hope that he had been picked up by a passing vessel. Maggie was reported to have said "unless some word came from him today she would give up all hope."²⁷ A newspaper clipping found with images of William and his boat may have summed up Maggie's feelings at this time:

"Of all the agonies that rack the human heart, such waiting is the cruelest. The uncertainty of hope deferred plunges the heart into a constancy of the bitterest grief. Better far to know the worst than to hope on and on, without even the poignant consolation of knowledge of the dear one's fate."

**EX-PITTSBURGHER
MISSING AT SEA**

**Planes and Boats Scour Coast
for William Speedy, Gone
Since Saturday.**

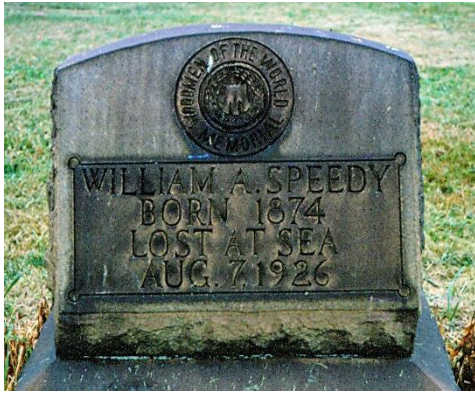
CAPE MAY, N. J., Aug. 11.—(Special.)—William Speedy, aged 52, former Pittsburgher, who left his home here on Saturday morning to go off to Northeast End Lightship for blue fish, has not been heard of or any trace of his boat been seen by the coast guard patrol boat and sea planes that have been scouring the seas for the last 56 hours for the lone fisherman.

Coast guards still hold out the hope to Mrs. Margaret Speedy, his wife, that there is a possibility that Speedy may have been picked up by some passing sailing vessel and taken into some coastwise or foreign port. Mrs. Speedy said this morning that unless some word came from him today she would give up all hope.

Speedy has been off shore many times before by himself, despite warnings of coast guards to lone fishermen to not go so far to sea alone.

The Northeast End Lightship is 26 miles at sea in the wake of coastwise steamers, but no word has been received from the lightship of having seen any trace of Speedy or the craft.

Coast Guard searches were unsuccessful and reported that William probably got caught in an electrical storm that had rolled in that day. A few weeks after he went missing, a Coast Guard patrol boat found a piece of wreckage with the name "Merion" on it near Five Mile Fathom, a bar about 3 miles east of Cape May.²⁸ News of the missing fisherman and his demise was picked up in Brooklyn, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh newspapers. A New Jersey newspaper reported that William "was well known in Cape May and was the skipper of a fleet of six fishing vessels."²⁹

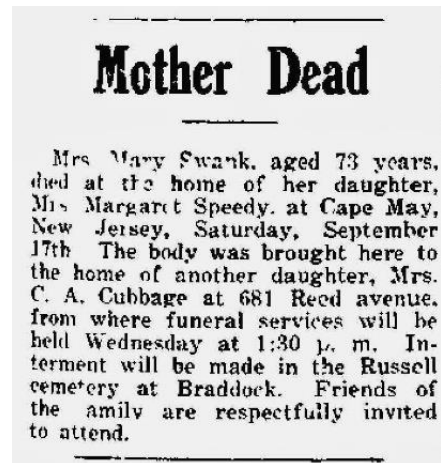


William’s body was never recovered, and Maggie did not file a death record. William A. Speedy’s tombstone stands in Russell Cemetery in Braddock, next to the Cabbage plot with Maggie’s sister and her family, not far from where Maggie’s father was buried in the GAR plot.

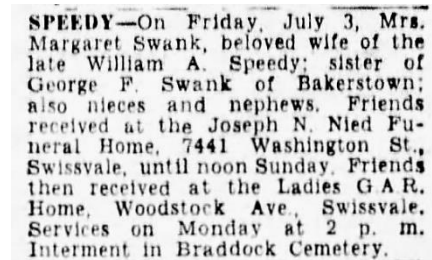
William’s tombstone is engraved with the Woodmen of the World insignia. A fraternal organization founded in 1890, they primarily provided insurance to its members, in addition to social benefits. William’s tombstone has some of the symbols of the organization that are often found on headstones - the tree stump and olive branches.

WIDOW MAGGIE

A few months after William died, Maggie visited her sister, Maine Cabbage, in Monessen.³⁰ Maggie was back in Cape May by the summer of 1927, when her mother Mary died while visiting.³¹ Mary’s pension records have receipts of her treatment by Dr. Hughes and for the transport of her body back to Pittsburgh for burial; it took Maggie until the spring of 1928 to receive reimbursement for the funeral expenses.³²



In the wake of the loss of her husband and mother, Maggie moved in with the Cabbage family in Monessen.³³ Maggie continued to live with her nieces and nephews after the death of her sister Maine and her brother-in-law Charles in the late 1930s.³⁴ In early 1946, Margaret Speedy of Monessen sold the Cape May home for \$1200.³⁵ The deed was signed in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania and witnessed by her niece Marian Cabbage. Maggie lived with her niece Marge Cabbage Cenkner and her family in Belle Vernon. In her later years, Maggie was quite informed with diabetes and confined to a bed.



Margaret Speedy, aged seventy-six, died on 3 July 1953 at the Ladies GAR Home in Swissvale of a cerebral hemorrhage.³⁶ Maggie was buried at Braddock (Russell) Cemetery, likely in William’s plot, though no tombstone stands in her memory. Her death notice named her brother George as a survivor, and that friends would be received at the funeral home and the Ladies GAR Home.³⁷

CAPTAIN SPEEDY’S LEGACY

William and Margaret did not have any children, but William did have a namesake. William Arthur Cabbage, born in 1912 in Swissvale, was named for his Uncle Speedy who lived a few blocks away on Carrie Street. His nephew, who went by Arthur, was only thirteen years old when Captain Speedy died.

Arthur's son Corky, William's grandnephew, has kept Captain Speedy's legacy alive. Family vacations in Cape May always included a drive by William and Maggie's home on Washington Street, and a visit to the Fisherman's Memorial which faces the Cape May Harbor.



¹ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Birth Register, Vol. 7: 233, William Arthur Speedy; Register of Wills, Pittsburgh; consulted as "Pennsylvania, Births and Christenings, 1709-1950," digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org>; accessed 13 July 2020), FHL microfilm 499267, image 24 of 700.

² "Funeral Services for John A. Speedy," *The Pittsburgh Gazette Times*, 1 April 1908, p. 6, col. 1; *Newspapers.com* (<https://newspapers.com> : accessed 14 July 2020).

³ Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Application for Marriage License and return no. 22554, 11 April 1899, Speedy-Schwenk; Office of Orphans' Court Clerk, Pittsburgh. Also, "The Weather," *The Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette*, 11 April 1899, p. 6, col. 4; *Newspapers.com*.

⁴ "Christian Workers," *The Pittsburgh Press*, 11 June 1901, p. 10, col. 1; *Newspapers.com*.

⁵ 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Rankin Borough, Enumeration District (ED) 478, sheet 10-B, p. 214 (stamped), dwelling 182, family 196, Martin Sperdy; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2020), citing FHL microfilm 1375444. *William was misindexed as Martin Sperdy, it appears to be a W overwritten with Arthur.*

⁶ Wikipedia (<https://wikipedia.com>), "Carrie Furnace" rev. 28 May 2020.

⁷ "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> accessed 14 July 2020), entries in Pittsburgh city directories for William A. Speedy at 7419 Carrie Street in 1903, 1904, 1906, 1908, 1912.

⁸ 1910 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Swissvale, Enumeration District (ED) 243, sheet 7-B, p. 150 (stamped), dwelling 132, family 146, William A. Speedy; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2020), citing National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 1297.

⁹ "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," digital images, *Ancestry.com*, entries in Pittsburgh city directories for Charles W. Swank, Marion Swank, p. 1770.

¹⁰ 1910 U.S. census, Allegheny Co., Pa., pop. sch., Swissvale, ED 243, sheet 7-B, p. 150 (stamped), dwelling 132, family 146, William A. Speedy; digital images, *Ancestry.com*.

¹¹ *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://findagrave.com> : accessed 14 July 2020), memorial no. 62744454, Joseph L. Conner (1866-1903), Monongahela Cemetery, North Braddock, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

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- ¹² "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," digital images, *Ancestry.com*, entries in St Augustine, Florida, city directories for William A. Speedy in 1914 and 1918.
- ¹³ "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," digital images, *Ancestry.com*, entries in Atlantic City, New Jersey for Harry M. Speedy in 1911, and St Augustine, Florida, in 1914 and 1916.
- ¹⁴ *Hopkins Map of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Co., 1915), Real estate plat-book of the city of Pittsburgh: Eastern Vicinity, Rankin, Swissvale, Plate 7; citing *Historic Pittsburgh* (<https://historicpittsburgh.org> : accessed 14 July 2020).
- ¹⁵ "United States, World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," index and images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2020), card for William Arthur Speedy, serial no. 2298, Local Draft Board No. 14, Swissvale, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; citing *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*, NARA microfilm publication M1509; imaged from Family History Library roll 1852391.
- ¹⁶ "Ibid.
- ¹⁷ "U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995," digital images, *Ancestry.com*, entries in West Palm Beach, Florida city directories for William A. Speedy in 1920, 1922-25.
- ¹⁸ Wikipedia (<https://wikipedia.com>), "Port Salerno, Florida" rev. 20 April 2020.
- ¹⁹ "Harry Speedy Dies At Stuart," *The Palm Beach Post* (West Palm Beach, FL), 26 March 1949, p. 1, col. 1; *Newspapers.com*.
- ²⁰ "Notice of Intention to Apply for Letters Patent," *The Palm Beach Post* (West Palm Beach, FL), 24 December 1923, p. 9, col. 4; *Newspapers.com*.
- ²¹ "Salerno," *The Miami Herald*, 22 February 1925, p. 10, col. 4; 19 April and 1 March 1925. Also, *The Palm Beach Post* (West Palm Beach, FL), 29 January 1922, p. 6, col. 3; *Newspapers.com*.
- ²² "Salerno Personals and Newsy Notes," *The Palm Beach Post* (West Palm Beach, FL), p. col. 1; *Newspapers.com*.
- ²³ "Salerno," *The Palm Beach Post* (West Palm Beach, FL), 27 April 1923, p. 1, col. 4; "Salerno," *The Miami Herald*, 29 April 1923, p. 8, col. 7; *Newspapers.com*.
- ²⁴ Cape May County, New Jersey, Deed Book 402: 530-31, Harry W. Bell to William A. and Margaret Speedy, 21 July 1925; County Clerk's Office, Cape May Court House.
- ²⁵ "Out of the Files, Twenty Years Ago, Monday July 13, 1925," *The Monessen Daily Independent* (Monessen, PA), 13 July 1945, p. 7, col. 3; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 August 2013).
- ²⁶ "Fisherman Still Missing," *Cape May Star and Wave* (Cape May, NJ), 14 August 1926, p.1; photocopy of clipping, privately held [address for private use] NJ, 2011.
- ²⁷ "Ex-Pittsburgher Missing at Sea," *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 12 August 1926, p. 20, col. 3; *Newspapers.com*.
- ²⁸ "Searching for Speedy's Body," *Cape May Star and Wave* (Cape May, NJ), 28 August 1926; photocopy of clipping, privately held [address for private use] NJ, 2011.
- ²⁹ "New Light on Missing Boat is Seen," *The Courier-News* (Bridgewater, NJ), 27 August 1926, p. 11, col. 5.
- ³⁰ "Local and Personal News," *The Monessen Daily Independent* (Monessen, PA), 12 November 1926, p. 8, col. 5; digital images, *Ancestry.com*.
- ³¹ "Mother Dead," *The Monessen Daily Independent* (Monessen, PA), 20 September 1927, p. 1, col. 1; digital images *Ancestry.com*.
- ³² Widow's pension application no. 586124, certificate no. 475533, Mary Ann Schwenk; service of Charles G. Schwenk (Pvt. Co. A and 1st Sgt. Co. C, 82nd Pennsylvania Inf., Civil War), pension application no. 694362, certificate no. 454879, Case Files of Approved Pension Applications ... 1861-1934; Civil War and Later Pension Files; Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- ³³ 1930 U.S. census, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, Monessen, population schedule, enumeration district (ED) 65-98. sheet 5-A, p. 106 (stamped), dwelling 119, family 163, Margaret Speedy in Charles A. Cabbage household; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 August 2013) citing National Archives publication T626; imaged from FHL microfilm 1241370.
- ³⁴ 1940 U.S. census, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Monessen Ward 2, Enumeration District (ED) 65-121, sheet 16-B, p. 2062 (stamped), household 352, Margaret Beatty in Lest Cabbage household; digital images, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 13 July 2020), citing NARA microfilm publication T627.
- ³⁵ Cape May County, New Jersey, Deed Book 683: 121-2, Margaret Speedy to the Stockton Company, 30 January 1946; County Clerk's Office, Cape May Court House.
- ³⁶ Pennsylvania Department of Health, certificate of death no. 59114 (1953), Margaret Speedy, Bureau of Vital Statistics, New Castle.
- ³⁷ "Speedy," death notice, *The Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA), 5 July 1953, p. 7, col. 6; digital images, *Newspapers.com*.