

Edward John Seidel

March 6, 1915 – September 1, 1996

World War II

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery
Administration



**Department
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Edward John Seidel (March 6, 1915–September 1, 1996)

By Hampton Hovey

Early Life: New York and Virginia

On March 6, 1915, John and Anna Seidel gave birth to their only son, Edward John Seidel, in Buffalo, New York. The 1915 New York State Census shows Edward as a newborn baby with his father John working as a machinist, most likely for the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company while his mother was a housewife.¹ The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad formed from a series of mergers, consolidations, and leases, eventually serving the New York City and Buffalo trunk line by 1882.² By 1920, Edward and his parents moved to Groveland, New York where his father continued as a railroad machinist for the railroad company.³

By 1930, Edward's parents divorced and Edward and his father John moved in with John's mother Carrie. The 1930 Census lists Edward, now fifteen and still in school, living at his grandmother's home in Buffalo. John continued working as a machinist.⁴ After completing high school by 1935, Seidel moved to Virginia to work for the US Government in the Department of Agriculture.⁵ During the 1930s, the agency assisted rural farmers and communities hurt by poverty and lower crop prices under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs.⁶ On March 5, 1938, Seidel married Mildred Lunsford in Forestville, Maryland and by the 1940 Census, Seidel and his wife settled in Falls Church, Virginia, near Washington, D.C., where the couple worked for the US government. Edward served as a clerk within the Department of Agriculture while Mildred worked as an elevator conductor.⁷ In the past, elevators were operated by people who trained to perform the task; passengers did not just push a button to move from floor to floor.⁸ The couple soon welcomed a son, Lance, by 1941 and a daughter, Mary Ann, by 1943.⁹

Service: Seidel in the Army

On July 1, 1940, Congress passed the Selective Training and Service Act, establishing the first peacetime draft in US history and requiring all males between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-six to register for the draft. The act took effect on October 16, 1940 and over sixteen million men, including Seidel, registered. The law also ensured that no more than 900,000 men

trained at any one time.¹⁰ In 1940, Seidel, age twenty-five, registered, listing his employment at the Department of Agriculture.¹¹ After the United States entered World War II in December of 1941, single men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five filled many of the first draftees. However, after July 1, 1943, eighteen year olds, as well as fathers, soon received draft notices. Twenty-seven was the average age of those drafted during World War II.¹² Seidel, the father of two young children, initially did not receive a draft notice; however, on March 9, 1945, he enlisted in the military in Richmond, Virginia. He eventually served in the US Army, holding the rank of private.¹³

At the time of his enlistment in March of 1945, the Allied Forces inched closer to victory in the war in Europe with the German surrender coming two months later on May 7, 1945.¹⁴ Now focused solely on the Japanese, the United States sent more troops to the Pacific to prepare for the invasion of Japan. The atomic bombings of Japan, as well as the Soviet Union's declaration of war prompted the Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945.¹⁵ While it is not known if Seidel served at home or overseas, he served as a soldier in the Army, ready to defend his country. On May 1, 1946, the Army discharged Seidel.¹⁶

Post War: Family and Work

After his discharge, Seidel returned to Virginia, working for the federal government. The family continued to grow as Seidel and his wife Mildred welcomed two more sons, Walter in 1949 and Daniel in 1951, part of a national trend of babies born in the postwar era. The family continued to reside in Falls Church. Ultimately, after two years of separation, Edward and his wife divorced on September 25, 1967.¹⁷ Edward then married Harriet Bender in Arlington, Virginia.¹⁸ At the time, both worked for the government, Edward as an administrative assistant while Harriet worked as a secretary.¹⁹ The family later settled in Delaware during the 1970s and 1980s before moving to Florida by 1992. They lived in Haines City and later in Vero Beach by 1995.²⁰ On September 1, 1996, Seidel passed away at the age of eighty-one.²¹ Officials at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida placed a memorial headstone in honor of Seidel and his service. Through his work for the federal government as well as his tenure in the Army, Seidel reflects a life of service to his country as a soldier and a government worker.

Endnotes

- 1 “1915 State Population Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 25, 2017), entry for John Seidel, Election District: 02; Assembly District: 04; City: Buffalo Ward 11; County: Erie; Page: 21.
- 2 “Lackawanna Railroad,” *Erie Lackawanna Historical Society, Inc.*, October 14, 2012, accessed July 28, 2017, <http://www.erielackhs.org/index.php/railroads9/dlw>.
- 3 “1920 United States Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 25, 2017), entry for John Seidel, Groveland, Livingston, New York; Roll: T625_1118; Page: 1A; Enumeration District: 44.
- 4 “1930 United States Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 25, 2017) entry for Edward Seidel, Buffalo, Erie, New York; Roll: 1423; Page: 26A; Enumeration District: 0080.
- 5 “1940 United States Census,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 25, 2017), entry for Edward Seidel, Falls Church, Fairfax, Virginia; Roll: T627_4261; Page: 28A; Enumeration District: 30-9.
- 6 “Department of Agriculture,” AllGov, accessed July 28, 2017, <http://www.allgov.com/departments/departments-of-agriculture?detailsDepartmentID=568>.
- 7 “Virginia Divorce Records 1918-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.ancestry.com> (accessed March 25, 2017), entry for Edward John Seidel and Mildred Lunsford, Falls Church, Fairfax, Virginia.
- 8 Lubomir Janovsky, *Elevator Mechanical Design* (Mobile, AL: Elevator World, Inc., 2004).
- 9 “Virginia, Marriage Records, 1936-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://ancestry.com> (accessed July 27, 2017), entry for Lance Edward Seidel and Barbara Ellen Messec, June 15, 1963; entry for Mary Ann Seidel and Edward Lawrence Synan, May 24, 1968.
- 10 James Gilbert Ryan and Leonard C. Schlup, *Historical Dictionary of the 1940s* (New York: Routledge, 2015), 349.
- 11 “U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://ancestry.com> (accessed 25 Jul 2017), entry for Edward John Seidel.
- 12 Michael C. C. Adams, *The Best War Ever: America and World War II* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015), 52.
- 13 “Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca. 1938-1946 (Enlistment Records),” database, The National Archives, Access to Archival Database (<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=893&mtch=2&cat=all&tf=F&q=Edward+J.+Seidel&bc=&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=4316070&rlst=3028226,4316070> : accessed March 25, 2017) entry for Edward John Seidel, Army Serial Number 33865675.
- 14 Richard W. Stewart, ed., *American Military History, Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917-2008, vol. 2, United States Army in a Global Era, 1917-2008* (Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 2009), 164.

15 Ibid., 2:199.

16 “U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://ancestry.com> (accessed July 25, 2017), entry for Edward John Seidel.

17 “Virginia, Marriage Records, 1936-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://ancestry.com> (accessed July 27, 2017), entry for Walter John Seidel and Sharon Elaine Corbin, August 7, 1976; “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://ancestry.com> (accessed July 27, 2017), entry for Daniel E. Seidel.

18 “Virginia Divorce Records 1918-2014,” *Ancestry.com*.

19 “Virginia Marriage Records 1918-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://www.Ancestry.com> (accessed March 25, 2017), entry for Edward John Seidel Harriet Bender, September 25, 1967.

20 “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume 1,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://ancestry.com> (accessed July 27, 2017), entry for Edward Seidel; 1979, 1988, 1992, 1995.

21 “Florida Death Index, 1877-1998,” database, *Ancestry.com*, <https://ancestry.com> (accessed July, 27, 2017), entry for Edward John Seidel.

Mar 23, 1945

many of houses

FLORIDA STATE POPULATION CENSUS, 1945

PRECINCT No. 116		NAME		COUNTY		White RACE	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
NAME	ADDRESS	OR DET	Male	Female	PLACE OF BIRTH	DEGREE OF EDUCATION	OCCUPATION
Williams, Geo Robt	2828 13 th St N	In	60		England Pa	High	Retired
Williams Mrs Joseph	"	"		40	"	"	"
unoccupied	2838 13 th St N	unoccupied			Pa		
Trafton, W J	2904 13 th St N	In	40		Pa		Hotel
Trafton Mrs J	"	"		40	Pa		"
Pellington, S R	2920 13 th St N	"	60		Pa	College	Instructor
Pellington Mrs S R	"	"		60	"	"	Wife
Pellington Mrs Margaret	"	"		23	"	High	Central Tech
Puechner, James	2828 12 th St N	"	27		Pa	College	Book Seller
Puechner Mrs J	"	"		21	Pa	"	Wife
Puechner James Jr	"	"	1		Pa	"	Infant
out	2934 13 th St N	out			"	"	"
Braun Mrs Donald	2939 13 th St N	In		27	Pa		Wife
Davis Mrs Everett	"	"		68	Pa	High	Retired
Davis Mrs Everett	"	"		50	Pa		Wife
Kiefer Mrs Emily	2827 13 th St N	"		40	Pa	High	Wife
Kiefer Charles W	"	"		45	Pa	College	Student
Kiefer Robert C	"	"		19	Pa	College	Student
Kiefer Elizabeth J	"	"		17	Pa	High	Child
Kiefer Joan J	"	"		5	Pa		Child
Weaver James W	1227 13 th St N	"	60		Pa	High	Lawyer
Weaver Mrs J W	"	"		60	Pa		Wife
Pennington James	2828	"			"		
Meek Dr Joseph	2836 12 th St N	In	101		Pa	College	Doctor
Pennington Emma R	"	"		50	Pa		Wife
Dupont Joseph J	2842 12 th St N	"	50		Pa	High	Chemist
Dupont Mrs Joseph J	"	"		40	Pa		Wife
Soderburg Mrs Sode	"	"		60	Swedish		"
Soderburg Mrs Sode	"	"		30	Swedish		"
Soderburg Mrs Sode	"	"		30	Swedish		"
Salce Wm	2904 12 th St N	"	50		Pa	College	Retired
Burdwell James A	2912 12 th St N	"	50		Pa		Wife
Burdwell Mrs James A	"	"		50	Pa		Wife
Porter Mrs J W	2819 12 th St N	out		45	Pa	High	Wife
Willey Mrs Mary J	2816 13 th St N	In		40	Pa	High	Wife
Willey Mrs Mary J	"	"		40	Pa	College	Wife
Reynolds Mrs Sode	"	"		30	Pa		Wife
Moats Mrs Mildred H	1137 28 th Ave N	"	40		Pa	High	Wife
Moats LaVene R	"	"	40		Pa	High	Wife
Hessing Geo W	"	"	60		Pa		Wife
Hessing Mrs Geo W	"	"		60	Pa	High	Wife
Smith Henry M	1101 28 th Ave N	"	50		Pa	High	Wife
Smith Mrs Henry M	"	"		40	Pa		Wife
Graves Mrs Betty	"	"		21	Pa		Wife
Graves Mrs Betty	"	"		8	Pa		Wife
Graves Mrs Betty	"	"		50	Pa	High	Wife
Graves Mrs Betty	"	"		50	Pa	High	Wife
Randall Mrs Wm	2808 11 th St N	"	71		Pa	High	Wife
Randall Mrs Wm	"	"		53	Pa		Wife
Seidell Mrs Robert	2807 1/2 "	"	30		Pa	College	Wife
Seidell Mrs Robert	"	"		30	Pa		Wife
Seidell Mrs Robert	2816 11 th St N	"	76		Pa	High	Retired

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2-0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

45
 State: New York
 County: Columbia
 Incorporated place: Duffinsville
 Ward or city: 1
 Sheet No. 853

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
 FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
 POPULATION SCHEDULE

Enumerated by us on Apr 12, 1930 for General
 Estimated District No. 1580
 Enumeration District No. 724
 Sheet No. 45
26A 8679

No.	STATUS OF ABSENE				DATE	REASON	MARRIAGE		SEX	RACE	BIRTH		PLACE OF BIRTH	NATURALIZATION	AGE	MARRIAGE	SEX	RACE	LANGUAGE	LITERACY	EDUCATION	OCCUPATION	INDUSTRY	MARRIAGE	SEX	RACE	
	Present	Temporarily Absent	Not Present	Not in Family			Married	Single			Month	Year															Month
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED BY THE FIELD OFFICE
 IN OCCASION OF A SUBSEQUENT CENSUS
 INSTRUCTIONS TO FIELD OFFICES

STATE New York
COUNTY Franklin

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920-POPULATION

IC1 (01-375)

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 26
ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 44
SHEET NO. 1-A

TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY: Franklin Township

NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE: Hausville DAY OF 5 1920.
WARD OF CITY: Franklin ENUMERATOR: G. E. Wilcox

NAME OF INSTITUTION: Hausville Red Cross

RACE OF AGENT	NAME	RELATION	SEX	FORM	EDUCATION	NATIVITY AND BIRTH PLACES					OCCUPATION		
						PERCENT	PERCENT	PERCENT	PERCENT	PERCENT			
1	Francis, J. M.	Head	M	52	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	1
2	Robert J. H.	Wife	F	53	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	2
3	John A.	Child	M	24	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	3
4	Joseph, John	Child	M	25	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	4
5	Susan	Child	F	26	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	5
6	Samuel, John A.	Child	M	27	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	6
7	Robert, John	Child	M	28	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	7
8	William, John	Child	M	29	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	8
9	Robert, John	Child	M	30	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	9
10	John, John	Child	M	31	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	10
11	John, John	Child	M	32	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	11
12	John, John	Child	M	33	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	12
13	John, John	Child	M	34	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	13
14	John, John	Child	M	35	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	14
15	John, John	Child	M	36	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	15
16	John, John	Child	M	37	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	16
17	John, John	Child	M	38	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	17
18	John, John	Child	M	39	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	18
19	John, John	Child	M	40	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	19
20	John, John	Child	M	41	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	20
21	John, John	Child	M	42	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	21
22	John, John	Child	M	43	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	22
23	John, John	Child	M	44	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	23
24	John, John	Child	M	45	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	24
25	John, John	Child	M	46	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	25
26	John, John	Child	M	47	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	26
27	John, John	Child	M	48	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	27
28	John, John	Child	M	49	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	28
29	John, John	Child	M	50	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	29
30	John, John	Child	M	51	18	White	White	White	White	White	White	26	30

SERIAL NUMBER		1. NAME (Print)			ORDER NUMBER	
3587		EDWARD John SEIDEL			5484	
		(First) (Middle) (Last)				
2. ADDRESS (Print)						
104 WEST ST. W. FALLS CHURCH VA.						
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)						
3. TELEPHONE		4. AGE IN YEARS		5. PLACE OF BIRTH		6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
7.C. 1911-R		25		Buffalo		U.S.
(Exchange) (Number)		DATE OF BIRTH		(Town or county)		(State or country)
		Mar. 6 1915		New York		
		(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)		(State or country)		
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS					8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON	
Mrs. Mildred Ethel Seidel					Wife	
(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)						
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON						
104 West St. W. Falls Church, Va.						
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)						
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME						
Dept. of Agriculture						
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OF BUSINESS						
Washington, D.C.						
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)						

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

REGISTRATION CARD
D. S. S. FORM 1

(over)

Edward J. Seidel
(Registrant's signature)

Line No.	NAME	RELATION	SEX		AGE		COLOR		MARRIAGE		MILITARY SERVICE		SCHOOL ATTENDANCE		SCHOOL GRADUATION	
			M	F	Y	M	W	Blk	Wh	N	O	W	O	W	O	W
1	<i>Robert E. Miller</i>	<i>Head</i>	1	1	35	35	W	Wh	W	1905	1905	1905	1905	1905	1905	1905
2	<i>John C. Miller</i>	<i>Wife</i>	1	1	32	32	W	Wh	W	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908	1908
3	<i>William C. Miller</i>	<i>Son</i>	1	1	15	15	W	Wh	W	1925	1925	1925	1925	1925	1925	1925
4	<i>Elizabeth Miller</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	1	1	12	12	W	Wh	W	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928
5	<i>Robert E. Miller</i>	<i>Wife</i>	1	1	12	12	W	Wh	W	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928	1928
6	<i>William C. Miller</i>	<i>Son</i>	1	1	10	10	W	Wh	W	1930	1930	1930	1930	1930	1930	1930
7	<i>Elizabeth Miller</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	1	1	8	8	W	Wh	W	1932	1932	1932	1932	1932	1932	1932
8	<i>Robert E. Miller</i>	<i>Wife</i>	1	1	7	7	W	Wh	W	1933	1933	1933	1933	1933	1933	1933
9	<i>William C. Miller</i>	<i>Son</i>	1	1	6	6	W	Wh	W	1934	1934	1934	1934	1934	1934	1934
10	<i>Elizabeth Miller</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	1	1	5	5	W	Wh	W	1935	1935	1935	1935	1935	1935	1935
11	<i>Robert E. Miller</i>	<i>Wife</i>	1	1	4	4	W	Wh	W	1936	1936	1936	1936	1936	1936	1936
12	<i>William C. Miller</i>	<i>Son</i>	1	1	3	3	W	Wh	W	1937	1937	1937	1937	1937	1937	1937
13	<i>Elizabeth Miller</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	1	1	2	2	W	Wh	W	1938	1938	1938	1938	1938	1938	1938
14	<i>Robert E. Miller</i>	<i>Wife</i>	1	1	1	1	W	Wh	W	1939	1939	1939	1939	1939	1939	1939
15	<i>William C. Miller</i>	<i>Son</i>	1	1	0	0	W	Wh	W	1940	1940	1940	1940	1940	1940	1940

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS
 1. Name of each person in household
 2. Sex
 3. Age
 4. Color
 5. Marital status
 6. Military service
 7. School attendance
 8. School graduation
 9. Literacy
 10. Citizenship
 11. Place of birth
 12. Place of birth of parents
 13. Place of birth of grandparents
 14. Number of children ever born
 15. Date of birth of children
 16. Date of death of children
 17. Date of marriage
 18. Date of divorce
 19. Date of remarriage
 20. Date of naturalization
 21. Date of arrival in United States
 22. Date of arrival in county
 23. Date of arrival in place
 24. Date of arrival in household
 25. Date of arrival in neighborhood
 26. Date of arrival in block
 27. Date of arrival in street
 28. Date of arrival in city
 29. Date of arrival in state
 30. Date of arrival in country

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN THIS HOUSEHOLD
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER HOUSES
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER PLACES
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER STATES
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER COUNTIES
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER TOWNSHIPS
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER WARD OF CITY
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER UNINCORPORATED PLACES
 HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS IN OTHER STATES
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