

Edmund Earl Wunder, United States Navy, WW II

USS Laffey (DD 459)

lost in the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal

body not recovered

© 2018 by Robert A. "Bob" Christiansen, updated 13 Jul '18.

Taken from the **Avoca, Iowa & Vicinity > Gold Star Avoca** webpage at *bigpigeon.us*.

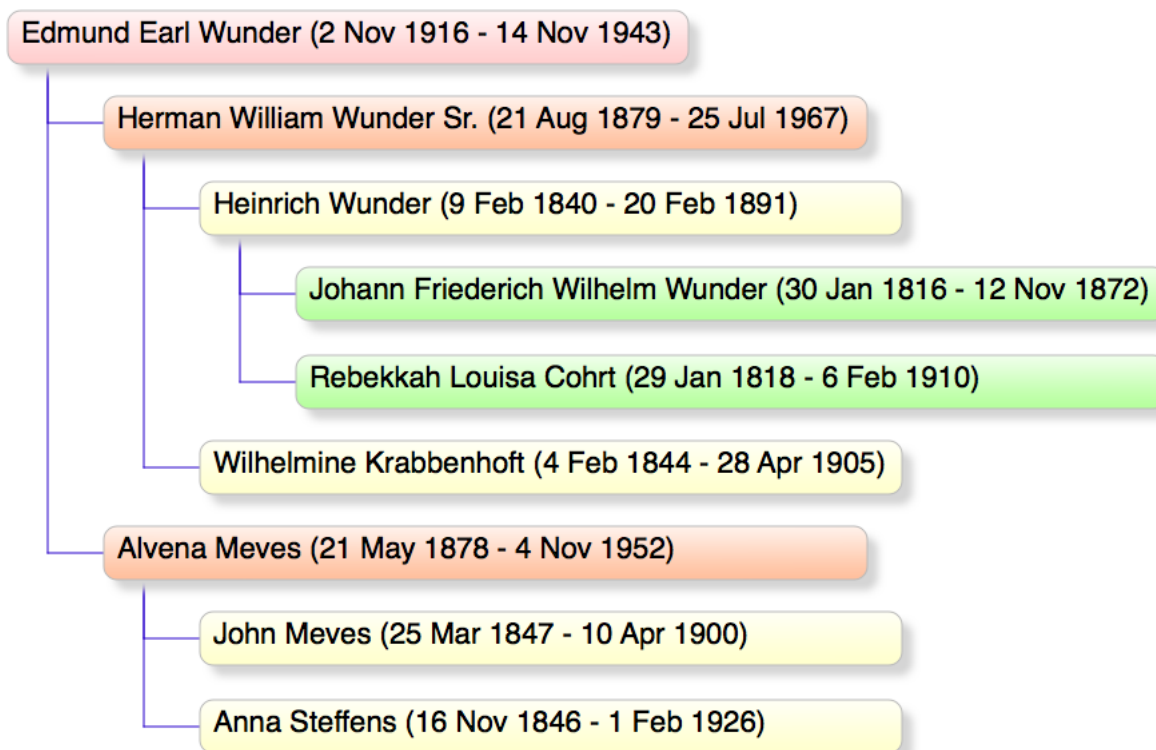
Edmund E Wunder grew up on farms in Shelby County northwest and northeast of Avoca. During the 1930s, the family settled in Harlan, Iowa.

Edmund E. Wunder joined the navy in September 1941 and was a Boilermaker First Class on the *USS Laffey* when the Laffey engaged the Japanese battleship *Hiei* during the first stage of the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. The *Laffey* subsequently sank in Ironbound Sound north of Guadalcanal and southeast of Savo Island. Fifty-nine crew members, including Edmund Wunder, died.

The crippled battleship *Hiei* sank late on the 14th, the first Japanese battleship lost during World War II. To memorialize the *Laffey*, a new destroyer, DD-724, was also named *Laffey*. Laffey #2 was almost lost by kamikaze attacks during the battle of Okinawa in 1945. Laffey #2 is now preserved at Patriots Point in Charleston, South Carolina.

Edmund E. Wunder was the brother of Victor O. Wunder, long-time Avoca businessman and the second cousin of Frank Grant Wunder of Minden, who also died in the Southwest Pacific during World War II.

Known ancestors of Edmund E. Wunder (updated 13 Jul'18):



The parents and siblings of Edmund E. Wunder:

