

## **Kenan, Owen Hill** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Kenan, Owen Hill**

by Thomas S. Kenan III, 1988

**23 May 1872–2 July 1963**



From "The Kenan family and some allied families of the compiler and publisher."

<sup>[2]</sup>Owen Hill Kenan, physician, was born in Kenansville, the oldest child of James Graham and Anne Elizabeth Hill Kenan. After graduation from [The University of North Carolina](#) <sup>[3]</sup> in 1894, he received a medical degree from the [University of Pennsylvania](#) <sup>[4]</sup>. He practiced medicine first in Kenansville and later in New York City and Palm Beach, Fla.

A world traveler, Kenan was one of the few survivors of the [Lusitania](#) <sup>[5]</sup> disaster when the vessel was torpedoed by a German submarine off the Irish coast in 1915. He joined the French Army and was awarded the French Medal of Honor. When the United States entered [World War I](#) <sup>[6]</sup>, he joined an American unit and attained the rank of colonel. In later years he lived and maintained homes in Paris, France; Palm Beach, Fla.; and [Wilmington](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, N.C. He was an art collector and an authority on eighteenth-century French art.

Kenan was a member of St. James Episcopal Church, Wilmington, and of Bethesda By the Sea Episcopal Church, Palm Beach; he was buried in [Arlington National Cemetery](#) <sup>[8]</sup>. He never married.

#### **References:**

Kenan family records in the author's possession.

Alvaretta Kenan Register, ed., *The Kenan Family* (1967).

#### **Additional Resources:**

Kenan Family in World Cat: <http://orlabs.oclc.org/identities/lccn-sh95-9452> <sup>[9]</sup>

Kenan Family Papers, 1748-1996 (collection no. 04225). The Southern Historical Collection. Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/k/Kenan\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/k/Kenan_Family.html) <sup>[10]</sup> (accessed February 15, 2013).

*A Wilmingtonian Abroad; the Remarkable Life of Owen Hill Kenan*; UNCW: <http://digitalcollections.uncw.edu/utills/getfile/collection/camdoc/id/7/filename/4.pdf%3E4.pdf%3C/a%3E%3Cembed%20src=> <sup>[11]</sup>

The Lusitania Resource: <http://www.rmsslusitania.info/people/saloon/owen-kenan/> <sup>[12]</sup>

Owen Hill Kenan in WorldCat: [https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=su%3AKenan%2C+Owen+Hill%2C+1872-1963.&qt=hot\\_subject](https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=su%3AKenan%2C+Owen+Hill%2C+1872-1963.&qt=hot_subject) <sup>[13]</sup>

"Uniform, Hat". Accession: [H.1918.14.12](#) <sup>[14]</sup>. 1916-1918. North Carolina Museum of History.

"Helmet, Military, Accession #: [H.1918.14.15](#) <sup>[15]</sup>." 1916-1918. North Carolina Museum of History.

"Pot, Accession #: [H.1918.14.8](#) <sup>[16]</sup>." . North Carolina Museum of History.

"Dispatch Bag, Accession #: [H.1918.14.6](#) <sup>[17]</sup>." 1916. North Carolina Museum of History.

## Image Credits:

Register, Alvaretta Kenan. *The Kenan family and some allied families of the compiler and publisher*. Statesboro, Ga., J. S. Kenan II. 1967. <https://archive.org/details/kenanfamilysomea00regi> [2] (accessed February 15, 2013).

## Subjects:

Biographies [18]

Military personnel [19]

Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, and other Medical Professionals [20]

## Authors:

Kenan, Thomas S., III [21]

## From:

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press. [22]

1 January 1988 | Kenan, Thomas S., III

---

**Source URL:** <https://ncpedia.org/biography/kenan-owen-hill>

## Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/kenan-owen-hill> [2] <https://archive.org/details/kenanfamilysomea00regi> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-chapel-hi> [4] <http://www.upenn.edu/> [5] <http://www.pbs.org/lostliners/lusitania.html> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/world-war-i> [7] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/wilmington> [8] <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/> [9] <http://orlabs.oclc.org/identities/lccn-sh95-9452> [10] [http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/k/Kenan\\_Family.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/k/Kenan_Family.html) [11] <http://digitalcollections.uncw.edu/utis/getfile/collection/camdoc/id/7/filename/4.pdf%3E4.pdf%3C/a%3E%3Cembed%20src=> [12] <http://www.rmslusitania.info/people/saloon/owen-kenan/> [13] [https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=su%3AKenan%2C+Owen+Hill%2C+1872-1963.&qt=hot\\_subject](https://www.worldcat.org/search?q=su%3AKenan%2C+Owen+Hill%2C+1872-1963.&qt=hot_subject) [14] <http://collections.ncdcr.gov/RediscoveryProficioPublicSearch/ShowItem.aspx?15889+> [15] <http://collections.ncdcr.gov/RediscoveryProficioPublicSearch/ShowItem.aspx?15899+> [16] <http://collections.ncdcr.gov/RediscoveryProficioPublicSearch/ShowItem.aspx?78635+> [17] <http://collections.ncdcr.gov/RediscoveryProficioPublicSearch/ShowItem.aspx?78633+> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [19] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/soldiers> [20] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/physicians> [21] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/kenan-thomas-s-iii> [22] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>