

## Charles William Amidon

Charles William Amidon was born 18 October 1886 in Farmington, Dakota County, Minn. He was the son of William W. and Hattie (Haynes), who were farmers in Empire Township in Dakota County. Prior to entering service, Amidon worked as a gas fitter in Red Wing, Goodhue County, Minnesota. He married Henrietta Rehder (1884-1924) on 19 March 1910 and they had a daughter, Jane, born in Red Wing in 1911.

Amidon registered for the WWI draft on 5 June 1917 while living at Benton, Illinois. He listed his birth year as 1889. He said he had four years of experience as an infantry sergeant in Minnesota. He enlisted 4 Oct 1917 as a 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt and achieved rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in U. S. Army (AEF), Company B, 306<sup>th</sup> Engineers, 81<sup>st</sup> Division. They left New York on 30 July 1918 and served in France, returning to the U.S. on 3 June 1919.

“Charlie” wrote about trench life at the front in a letter published in the *Dakota County Tribune* on 8 Nov 1918. He was a demolition specialist. He described the nerve-wracking, constant bombardment in the dugouts, and said that he had two “close calls.”

In 1920, Amidon and family were living in Mattoon, Coles County, Illinois, where he was a locomotive engineer. His wife Henrietta died in 1924 in Paxton, Illinois, and she is buried in Red Wing, Minn. Charles Amidon married his second wife, Mary Etta Greenan, in 1925 in Kankakee, Ill. By 1930 they were living in Grand Island, Nebraska where Charles was president of a public utility company. Charles died 25 November 1935 in Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas.

