

Joseph John Bettinger

Joseph John Bettinger was born on December 12, 1895 in Farmington, Minnesota. His parents were Nicolas and Anna Bettinger. Anna was born in Germany and Nicolas was born in France. In 1910, Nicolas worked as a railroad laborer. Joseph had four siblings: John, Annie, Anna, and Elizabeth. Prior to his military service, Joseph worked as a farmer for Otis Penny in Castle Rock, Minnesota.

Bettinger registered for the draft on March 8, 1917. He enlisted on March 8, 1918. A newspaper clipping indicates that Bettinger was sent to the Jefferson barracks in Missouri at some point in 1918. Bettinger served with the 1st Provisional Company, Coast Artillery Corps of the National Army. He travelled on the "Logan" (name of the United States Transport ship) from San Francisco, California to Honolulu, Hawaii. They left the continental U.S. on April 5, 1918 and arrived in Honolulu on April 14. Bettinger was stationed in Oahu until August 5, 1919 and arrived back in San Francisco on August 22. His rank was Private. He was mustered out of the service on September 2, 1919 at Camp Dodge.

After returning home to Farmington, Bettinger married Marie E. (date unknown). They had twelve children together: Joseph Jr., James, LeRoy, Charles, Lawrence, Bernard, Nicholas, Thomas, Susan, Joan, Ann, and Marie. Joseph Bettinger worked as a carpenter in 1930. By 1940, Bettinger worked on his family farm in Vermillion, Dakota County. His son James lived and worked with him as a farm helper at this time also. Joseph Bettinger died on February 29, 1972 in Lynn Wood Nursing Home in Fridley, Minnesota. He was 77 years old. Bettinger had 23 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren at the time of his death.