

Thomas Canton

Torsten “Thomas” Canton was born 26 Nov 1875 in Gran, Oppland, Norway. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1890. By 1900 he was living in Chippewa County, Minnesota with his brother, Peter J. Canton.

Prior to the War, Thomas worked as a cattle salesman for Lauderdale Cattle Co. He registered for the draft on 12 Sep 1918 at Hastings while a resident of South St. Paul.

Dakota County in the World War lists Thomas Canton as a member of the Home Guard. He served in Company B, 5th Battalion of the Minnesota Home Guard. His unit was mobilized for a 24-hour period during a street car strike, and also served as escorts to the “drafted boys.”

Thomas married Lisa Marie “Lizzie” Saboe (1880-1957). They had children: Marian Gwendolyn, Thelma Lucille, Anna Jeanette and Katherine Grace. Thomas served many years in South St. Paul city government, including as an alderman and as city assessor. He also served as treasurer of the Dakota County Historical Society when it was formed to attempt to save the Hastings Spiral Bridge in 1950.

Thomas is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in South St. Paul. He died a widow at age 81.