

## Willis Harold Chase



Willis Harold Chase was born 22 May 1889 in Eureka Township, Dakota County, Minnesota to Horace B. Chase (1856-1929) and Elizabeth Jelly (1861-1913), parents of nine children. Elizabeth was born in New Market, Scott County, Minnesota and came to Eureka in Dakota County with her parents in 1863. Horace's family was from New Hampshire. Horace and Elizabeth married in 1880 in Eureka. Willis' brothers Cecil and James also served during WWI.

Willis registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 at Warm Springs, Oregon, where he was working as a clerk for a garage.

Willis joined the colors in December 1917. He trained at Mare Island, California and at Pelham Bay. He made ensign in the Navy in March 1919.

After the War, Willis lived with his brother Murrey, an attorney, in Dinuba, Tulare County, California, and he worked as a laborer in a fruit house. By 1930 he was working as a salesman for a sewing machine company in San Luis Obispo, California. He belonged to the Masonic fraternity. Willis became involved in politics for several decades beginning in the 1920s; he ran for tax collector of Tulare County, California and served as county auditor in San Luis Obispo County, where he was also a member of the American Legion.

Willis married on 14 June 1931 in California to Flora C. Watson (1889-1962). It does not appear that they had any children. He died in St. Luis Obispo on 23 August 1956 at the age of 67, and is buried in the San Luis Cemetery there.

