

Frank Cochrane



Frank Cochrane was born at Halifax, Canada on 23 January 1894. He was the son of Thomas and Cecilia Cochrane, both natives of Canada. The family was enumerated in the 1901 Canadian census while living in Halifax. By 1910, the family had moved to Jefferson, Lafayette County, Iowa, but in 1921, Frank's parents and some siblings were back in Canada. Children besides Frank were Albert, Charles, Ruby, Norbert and Robert Cochrane.

Sometime before 1917, Frank came to Minnesota, perhaps because of his job. While living in West St. Paul he worked as a railroad brakeman on the route from St. Paul to Oelwein, Iowa. He had followed in the railroad career of his father, who was a boilermaker for the railroad in Canada.

Frank voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Army at St. Paul as an alien (non-naturalized applicant) on 2 May 1917. It appears that he was married on 3 December 1917 in Minneapolis to Katherine O'Keefe.

His railroad skills were in great demand. Assigned to Company D, 21st Engineer Regiment, he was sent to France to construct and maintain "Light Railways" which moved supplies to the battle front. Frank contracted meningitis and died on 28 January 1918. He was buried at the St. Mihiel American Cemetery.

In 1929, his mother Cecile Cochrane went to France on a government-sponsored pilgrimage to visit the burial site of her son.