

## Harry Engstrom

Harry Engstrom was born in Northfield, Minnesota on October 30, 1893 to Axel Engstrom (1865-1934) and Ella Wilhelmina Peason Engstrom (1872-1952). He was working in road construction when he registered for the WWI draft in Rice County at the age of 24. Part of Northfield is in Rice County and part is in Dakota County. He was drafted and sent to Camp Grant, Illinois to train with Company E of the 311<sup>th</sup> Ammunition Train assigned to the Military Police of the 86<sup>th</sup> Division. The Ammunition Company was responsible for transporting the artillery and infantry ammunition from the ammunition refilling point to the area of engagement. The train itself may have been a literal train, but in most cases it was not. It could be horse-drawn wagons or trucks. His Company sailed for France on the SS Rhesus out of the New York harbor on September 25, 1918 but the war ended before they made their way to the front. They returned to America from Bordeaux, France on January 17, 1918. He was released on February 9, 1919. He returned to Northfield where he lived with his sister and her family in 1920. Shortly after this, he moved to Hastings, Minnesota where his Uncle had a Road Construction business. He married Gladys Elizabeth Holmes (1902-1993) on New Year's Eve 1925 at the home of another sister. Harry worked in road construction for 45 years and the couple raised three sons. Harry was a Light Heavyweight Boxer in the successful LaCoursiere Club in Hastings. He participated in the Northwestern Golden Gloves Tournament in 1945. He was knocked out in this tournament after several rounds and was expected to win. He had knock outs of his own published in the newspapers that we found.

Harry died on February 4, 1966 at Regina Hospital in Hastings. He is buried at Lakeside Cemetery also in Hastings, Minnesota.