

Henry “Harry” Guy Tanner

Henry “Harry” Guy Tanner was born 26 March 1895 in Eau Galle, Dunn County, Wisconsin to Edson Smith Tanner (1873-1906) and Mary Josephine Baier (1870-1947). After Edson’s death, she remarried to George M. Wood (1865-1934) and lived at 212 Ninth Avenue South in South St. Paul, Dakota County, Minnesota.

Tanner registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 while living at Stanley, Wisconsin, where and aunt and uncle lived and where he was a laborer for the North Western Lumber Company. He also reported that he was a member of the National Guard at Stanley. He was single.

During the War, Tanner served as a private in Company A, 119th Machine Gun Battalion, 32nd Division and was sent overseas. Newspaper reports informed the community that he had been seriously injured in the fighting at the front, and the memorial publication, *Dakota County in the World War*, even reported him as having died from his injuries. But that was not the case.

After the War, Tanner returned to South St. Paul where he lived with his mother and stepfather and worked in the packing plants. In September 1929 in Milwaukee, he married Hedwig Angela “Jenny” Smoczyk (1899-1988), and they had two daughters, Mary Ann and Colleen, and lived in Colorado. In 1930, Harry and Jenny were working at a dry goods store in Denver. Tanner died 20 May 1956 in Denver where he is buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

(Note: Through an error on the application for a veteran’s headstone, the birth date on Tanner’s grave marker erroneously reads “1905.” He was actually born in 1895.)