



Ralph Charles Frank

Ralph Frank was born on November 20, 1894 in Hastings, Minnesota to Charles Frank (1856-1924) and Mary Elizabeth Ferguson Frank (1861-1916). Both parents had lived most of their lives in the Hastings area. Charles was a farmer and a teamster. Mary died when Ralph was twenty. He was working in public service in Hastings when he registered for the WWI Draft on June 5, 1917. He enlisted on September 30, 1918. He was twenty-four. He trained at Camp Dodge, Iowa and was assigned to the 342nd Infantry, 86th Division, Company I. They sailed for France on the SS Minnekahda on September 9, 1918 from New York. He was transferred to the 55th Infantry, 7th Division, Company F and neither group saw action in the Great War. He returned home from Brest, France on the SS Imperator, arriving in Hoboken on June 20, 1919. He was

released from Camp Merritt, New Jersey on June 29, 1919.

When Ralph returned home he married Elsa Bertha Oestraich (1894-1959). The couple had two sons, Raymond (1920) and Donald (1923). They first lived with his widowed father and then purchased their own home in Hastings. Ralph worked for the King Midas Flour Mill as a Feed Packer until her retired. He moved to White Bear Lake, Minnesota and died on August 28, 1951. He is buried at St John's in the Wilderness Episcopal Cemetery in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.