

## Ray Frank Harris

Ray Harris was born on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1891, in Farmington, Minnesota. He was the youngest of ten children to Monroe and Orinda Harris. His father fought in the Civil War as a member of the Union Army. Ray grew up on his family's farm in Lakeville. His mother passed away in 1908 when Ray was 17 years old. She is buried in the Corinthian Cemetery in Farmington. Ray moved to Seattle, Washington, where his older sister Abbie lived with her husband, John Cooley. While in Seattle, he worked as a molder's helper at the Vulcan Iron Works. He only stayed in Seattle for a total of seven months. While he was there, he registered for the draft on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1917, at the age of 25. He then moved back to Farmington, Minnesota, where he worked as a farmer.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1918, Ray was enlisted into the Army. Because he had registered for the draft in Seattle, he was required to report for duty there as well. He had to pay his own way from Farmington to Seattle but was eventually reimbursed. Ray was initially assigned to the 166<sup>th</sup> Depot Brigade. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1918, he was reassigned to Company "B" 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Ray never served overseas and was discharged from Camp Lewis as a Private. Once discharged, Ray had to pay his own way back to Minnesota. He was eventually reimbursed for that travel as well.

In January of 1920, Ray was living as a lodger in Saint Paul in the home of Martin and Emma Olson. He was working as a contractor teamster. By December of 1920, Ray was unemployed and applying for the Minnesota Soldier's Bonus. The process was complicated by the fact that he registered for the draft in Seattle. He had to have his brother-in-law, who lived in Seattle, send in a letter vouching for his residence being in Minnesota. Around the year 1925, Ray married Lucille Gust. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1928, the couple had a son named Raymond Emil in Saint Paul. In 1930, the young family was living with Lucille's family at 612 Sherburne Ave, Saint Paul. Ray was working as a laborer in street construction. The next year, on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1931, Lucille died of a pulmonary embolism. She is buried in Fairview Cemetery in Stillwater. Their son Raymond went to live with Donald and Pearl McConnell and their two sons after Lucille died. They eventually became Raymond's legal guardians. At the age of 50, Ray registered for the WWII draft on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1942. He was living at 295 Marshall Ave in Saint Paul. He was working as a laborer for Foley Bros. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1968, at the age of 76, Ray died of acute coronary thrombosis in Forest Lake, Minnesota. His last residence was 411 St. Peter Street in Saint Paul. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Stillwater, Minnesota.



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