



Edward Joseph McDonald

Edward McDonald was born on October 14, 1887 in Burnsville, Minnesota near Crystal Lake to Charles J McDonald (1864-1934) and Mary Ann Martin McDonald (1862-1925). When he registered for the WWI draft on June 5, 1917 in Rosemount, Minnesota he was single and working as a carpenter and cement worker. He enlisted on July 26, 1918 left for Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina for training. He was assigned to Company A, 54th Pioneer Infantry. This was part of the Army of Occupation which meant that their group could serve in Germany, Austria or Hungary for post war service between November 12, 1918 and July 11, 1923 if needed.

The Unit moved to Embarkation Camp Stuart, Newport News, Virginia to prepare for transport to France on August 20, 1918 and set sail from New York on August 30th. His ship was the SS Duca d'Aosta. On September 12, 1918 they arrived in Brest, France. As a "pioneer unit" they performed engineering tasks and construction. They traveled throughout France doing road and quarry work in Clermont Woods, Meuse-Argonne and others, all the while under fire by the Germans. His group left France about six months after the war ended. They shipped out from St. Nazarie, France on the SS Artennis on June 13, 1919. Edward was discharged from Camp Stuart, Virginia. Before shipping out, he married Margaret (Maude) Hayes (1893-1987) on July 11, 1918. After the war, the couple lived in Rosemount, Minnesota where Edward worked as a building contractor until he retired. He was elected Mayor of Rosemount on December 1924 as a "write in" candidate and he was mayor for the next 30 years. He also served as fire chief and was a member of the Rosemount Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He was a member of the Rosemount School Board, the Utilities Commission and the Water Board. He is credited with procuring the first city water facilities in about 1928 as well as adding a sewer system about 20 years later. In 1970, he was given a community service award by the Rosemount Lions Club.

Edward died on May 31, 1975 at the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital of pneumonia. He is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Edward had a brother, Charles Lewis McDonald that also served in WWI and a son, Edward (Mac) McDonald that served in WWII and also died at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis.