



## Elmer John Swanson

Elmer Swanson was born September 3, 1895 in South Park, South St Paul, Minnesota to Carl John Swanson (1864-1908) and Gustava Sophia Linderot Swanson (1864-1947). Both of his parents were born in Sweden. His father worked as a laborer in a foundry and died when Arthur was just twelve years old. When he registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 he was working as a clerk in a grocery store in South Park. He was 21. He was drafted and enlisted on April 8, 1918. He was assigned Wagoneer and trained at Camp Greene, North Carolina. As a Wagoneer, Elmer was responsible for the horses and wagons, including ambulances. He left for France on August 28, 1918 from Newport News, Virginia on the SS Keemun with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Airborne Corps, Company C (Artillery Park). His division engaged in the Aisne-Marne Offensive where they were assigned to protect Paris with a position on the Marne River, a position that they held keeping the Germans on the other side of the river. The losses were substantial. He returned home to South St Paul and his job at the grocery store. He married Ellen Amanda Bratt (1896-1974) on June 28, 1921. He was now working as a mailman in South St Paul and the couple would have four children. Tragically Elmer died at age 41 at West Side General Hospital following a ruptured appendix. Elmer was very active in his church where he was a trustee for fifteen years. He was also active in the Boy Scouts and he organized and was president of the Patrick Gallagher VFW Post Drum and Bugle Corps. He is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery in South St Paul, Minnesota.

Elmer also had an older brother, Arthur Carl Swanson that served in WWI.