

Frank George Kelnberger



Frank George Kelnberger was born 27 September 1889 in St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota. He was the son of John Kelnberger (1856-1902) and Adolphine Bock (1855-1918), both Germans born in Austria. They came to the U.S. in 1885 with the eldest children, Johanna/Anna and John; the rest of their eight children were born in Minnesota: Mary, William, Frank, Frederick, Joseph G., and Clara. Before he died in 1902, John Kelnberger was a salesman at Swift & Company in South St. Paul. In 1900, the family was living at 218 Eaton Street in St. Paul. By 1910, they had moved to 1095 Robert Street in West St. Paul. The father, John, died in 1902, so all of the children who were 16 years or older had jobs to help support the family. Three of the boys served in WWI: Frank, Fred, and Joseph.

Frank registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 at West St. Paul, Dakota County, Minnesota. He lived at 1095 South Robert Street in West St. Paul, and reported that he helped to support his mother. At that time, Frank was working in the lard refinery at Swift & Company in South St. Paul.

Frank was inducted into the U.S. National Army on 26 February 1918 at St. Paul. He was assigned as a private to Company B, 55th Engineer Corps, American Expeditionary Forces, and was sent to train at Camp Dodge, Iowa. In March 1918 he was transferred to Fort Custer Training Center in Michigan. He embarked from New York on 30 June 1918 and arrived at Brest, France on 12 July 1918. He was stationed at Montierchaume, France from 15 July 1918 until 10 June 1919. He was promoted from private to wagoner on 7 December 1918. He did not see any action during the War. He returned to the U.S. on 14 July 1919 and was sent to Camp Grant, where he was discharged on 22 July 1919.

Meanwhile, his mother, Adolphina Kelnberger, died on 11 July 1918 in Dakota County.

After the War, Frank returned to work as a butcher and a steam fitter in the meat packing plants. In the 1920 census, he was living at 1099 South Robert Street in the household of his brother John, who was married. Frank married Marie or Mary Stoffel in about 1921. It appears that they did not have any children.

Frank Kelnberger died 16 December 1958 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul, Minnesota. At the time of his death, he and Marie were living at 1093 South Robert Street in

West St. Paul. His obituary mentioned services at St. Michael on the Hill and gave notice to the VFW Post No. 1697.