

## George Louis Kern



George Louis Kern was born 16 February 1894 on the family farm in Fox Lake, Forrest Township, Faribault, Rice County, Minnesota to Louis E. and Alice E. (Wharton) Kern. Prior to the War, he was engaged in farming. He registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 at age 23, while living at Eureka Township in Dakota County and working for Joseph H. Mallery in Lakeville, Dakota County.

He enlisted on 21 September 1917 at Hastings in Company B, 135<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 34<sup>th</sup> Division. He served as a private and trained at Camp Dodge, Iowa from September to November 1917. He was among the Dakota County men who were cheered after leaving Camp Dodge, as reported by the *Dakota County Tribune* in October 1917: “Ralph Ailrey, John Johnson, Hans Jorgensen, Alva Wright, Tom Collins &

George Kern of Farmington and Phil Dunham of Lakeville are among the soldiers going through Des Moines where they were cheered by thousands... George Hoffman and Andy Johnson belong to the ammunition wagon.”

George was transferred to Camp Cody, New Mexico on 10 June 1918 and was sent to Europe, arriving on 9 July 1918. He was stationed at St. Agnia, France from 20 July to 24 July 1918, and then reassigned to Company H, 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division, AEF. He participated in several battles between 27 July 1918 and 7 November 1918 and was also a part of the Army of Occupation. He returned to the U.S., arriving at Hoboken, New Jersey on 25 April 1919 and was sent to Camp Dodge, Iowa, where he was mustered out on 12 May 1919 as private 1<sup>st</sup> class.

After the War, George took a job as a fireman at the State School for the Deaf and Dumb in Faribault. He married on 30 September 1924 at Morristown in Rice County to Emma Caroline Wilhelmina Spitzack (1895-1947). By 1940, he was living in Faribault with wife Emma, and they had five children. He registered for the WWII draft in 1942 at Faribault. Emma died in 1947 and George married his second wife, Ester H. Clarine (1902-1964), in 1950.

George Louis Kern died 11 November 1970 in Faribault at age 76. He is buried at Meadow Ridge Memorial Park in Faribault.