

Clarence Benjamin Kraft



Clarence Benjamin Kraft was born 5 September 1890 in Oakes, Dickey County, North Dakota to Abraham Kraft (1857-1950) and Emma Lieske (1871-1948). Abraham was born in Iowa, and his parents were from Germany. Emma was born in Germany, and her family arrived in the U.S. in 1886; sadly, her parents both died within three years. Abraham's family had been in Castle Rock, Dakota County by 1865, but after Abraham married Emma Lieske in 1890, they moved to North Dakota. Sometime between 1900 and 1905 the family moved back from Verner, Sargent County, North Dakota to Castle Rock. Clarence was the oldest son and worked on his family farm.

Clarence was a non-commissioned University Cadet in Minnesota for three years before enrolling in the draft. He enlisted on 15 August 1918 as a private. During the War, he was assigned to Casual Detachment #28, 163rd Depot Brigade. The brigade was stationed at Camp Dodge, Iowa, and its purpose was to receive and organize recruits, provide them with uniforms, equipment and initial military training, and then send them to France to fight on the front lines. The depot brigades also received soldiers returning home at the end of the war and completed their out processing and discharges.

After the War, Clarence returned to live with his parents in Farmington. In 1928, he won state honors in a pork-raising competition. He raised one litter of sixteen Jersey pigs that weighed 4,150 pounds. By 1940 he had changed careers to become a painter/decorator for a construction company.

Clarence did not marry. He died on 25 December 1946 and is buried in Castle Rock Valley Cemetery near his parents.