



Francis Bernard Kelly

Francis Kelly was born on July 8, 1891 in Lakeville, Minnesota to Michael Joseph Kelly (1857-1921) and Bridget E Derham Kelly (1859-1922). His father was a farmer and a painter. Francis had two brothers that also served in WWI. Walter, his twin and William. He registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 in Firesteel, South Dakota. Once expected to be a booming coal town on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. He was drafted and enlisted May 31, 1918 and assigned to Company C of the 807th Pioneer Infantry Regiment as a Second Lieutenant. The unit consisted of white officers and Black troops along with specialists such as mechanics and carpenters. Serving in a technical capacity, these regiments constructed and repaired roads, bridges, and railroads. He trained at Camp Sherman, Ohio and on July 10, 1918 he married Mary Elizabeth Suel (1890-1968) in Ottawa, Ohio which was located about two hours from Camp Sherman. She was a school teacher from Minnesota. The 807th sailed for France on September 4, 1918. The war in Europe was almost over but they remained there until June 25, 1919 helping with in the clean-up effort. He was released on July 15th and returned home to meet his new baby who was born on April 16, 1919 while he was still in France.

Francis continued his career in banking after the war working as a Bank Examiner and then a Bond Manager at a Trust Company, both in Minneapolis, Minnesota. By 1940, he had taken a job with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation as a liquidator in Camden, New Jersey. Francis died in Collingsworth, New Jersey on July 17, 1966 at the age of 74. He is buried at the Catholic Cemetery in Haddon Heights, New Jersey.