Frank John Binko

Frank John Binko was born was born on August 10, 1891 in Minneapolis Minnesota to Joseph Binko Jr and Margaret (Maggie) Catherine Cook. When John was just a baby, his mother obtained a divorce from his father and received full custody. The family moved to Hastings to live with Maggie's mother and sister. Margaret (Maggie) returned to her maiden name "Cook" and used this name until she married James Thomas Collins when John was three. By age 17, John was working as a hired hand at the Dennis Fahey Farm in Hastings. In 1915, when John was 22 his mother died, leaving 11 children behind.

John registered for the draft in June of 1917 but didn't want to wait so he enlisted on June 24, 1918 at the age of 26. He had been employed by the Farmers Grain Elevator in Hastings. He reported the next day and was sent to Camp Grant for his training.

He was assigned to the 86th Division, 311th Ammunition Train, Company B. The Division as nicknames "The Black Hawk Division" His Division sailed for France on September 25, 1918 and returned home on January 17, 1919. He was discharged from Camp Grant. John returned to his job at the Hastings Elevator when he returned home. He boarded with the Fahey family, where he had once worked.

John married Agnes C Knoll on April 26, 1921 and the family lived in Minneapolis where John was first employed as a fireman for Pillsbury and then by the City of Minneapolis for the rest of his life. The couple had two children and were deeply religious. Both children were formally trained to work in the Catholic Church. Son Jerome, a Brother, who eventually married and taught social studies. And his daughter, Patricia who became Sister Gabriella CSJ. She was a music prodigy, who trained with Shinichi Suzuki in Japan. She later taught the violin using the Suzuki method. Frank died on April 17, 1957 at the age of 63. He had always maintained a second home in Hastings and is buried at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery there.

Note: The researcher believes that John was born on August 10, 1991, however a different date (August 10, 1993) appears on his grave stone. All of the records that were checked are consistent with the earlier date but we found no birth certificate that provided proof.

Frank used "John" as his first name throughout life.