Claude Roland Clay

Claude Clay was born on October 8, 1894 in Adair, Iowa to Hamilton Clay Senior (1865-1951) and Carolina Charlotte Cook Clay "Carrie" (1869-1919). Claude was one of eleven children. The family owned and operated the Dakota County Tribune in Farmington from 1911 to 1999. All of the older children were involved in some aspect of the business and having them away at war was going to cause a hardship. Three Clay boys would end up serving. First older brothers Hamilton and Claude would leave. Then Earl, who was a senior at Farmington High School would join one month before graduation. When the boys returned from France, they all decided to go to college making the time without their help longer. The paper struggled to survive during this time. Hamilton Senior published less frequently and accepted stories written by others. He also filled the pages with letters and photos of the boys fighting in France.

Claude registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. On April 8, 1918 he enlists with his friend Bliss Becker. They both were sent to the University of Cincinnati to train as Corporals. Bliss is transferred to Camp Sill, Oklahoma and Claude to Camp Jackson, South Carolina on June 14, 1918. Claude was assigned to the Motorcycle Department where he was responsible for driving officers from place to place. He does not go overseas. He was mustered out of the service on January 11, 1919.

Returning home, Claude enrolls at Hamline University in St Paul, Minnesota. He opens a furniture repair business and this is his occupation until he retires. He marries Sanna Koski Arnold on May 28, 1938 and couple settles down with Sanna's two daughters in Minneapolis.

Claude dies on July 15, 1967. He is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.