Earl Cook Clay

Earl Clay was born on January 5, 1898 in Adair, Iowa to Hamilton Clay Senior (1865-1951) and Carolina Charlotte Cook Clay "Carrie" (1869-1919). Earl 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 with another classmate, Archie Vickers. The school told the boys that they would receive full credit and a diploma. 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.

In May of 1918, Earl and Archie Vickers took the First Milwaukee to St Paul, Minnesota, then jumped on the Rock Island train to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. From there they went to Camp Mills, New York where they were both assigned to the 5th Recruiting Detachment. On September 25th, 1918 they boarded the SS Plassy, a British ship in Hoboken on their way to England. They arrived in Southampton and after a short rest they took a train to La Havre, France on October 12, 1918. Earl was stationed at Fort De Stains, the fort protecting Paris as a Corporal in the 6th Anti-aircraft Battalion. By this time the war was over and he was able to witness the celebration in the streets of Paris, France. He was mustered out of the service on January 22, 1919.

Returning home, Earl enrolls in Chiropractor School. By 1922 he has opened his own Chiropractor Practice on Chicago and Lake Streets in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He married Martha Genevieve Borowicz on June 13, 1929. He is 31 and she is 21. They have three children. Both Earl and his wife were active in the Minnesota Chiropractors Association where Earl was past President. The couple were part of the Minneapolis social life and they traveled all over the world. The first lived in the posh suburbs of Edina and then moved to Lakeville. Earl died on April 27, 1964 at the age of 66. He is buried at Corinthian Cemetery in Farmington, Minnesota.