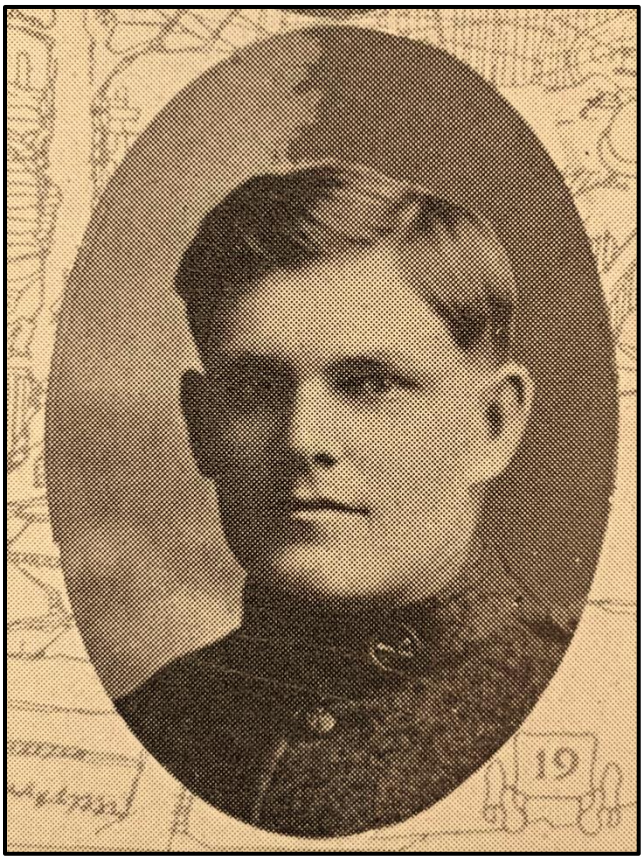
# Andrew Elmer (A.E.) Johnson



Andrew Elmer Johnson was born 25 December 1888 in St. Clair, Blue Earth County, Minnesota. His parents were Nels Johnson (1866-1920) and Anna Ekwall. His father was born in Sweden, but different census records list either Norway or Sweden as his mother's birthplace.

According to his obituary, when Andrew was 8, his father took he and three of his siblings to St Paul to live, while his mother and youngest two siblings remained at home. The 1900 census confirms this, listing Nelson as a St Paul resident (671 Jenks St) along with his children Clara (b: Aug 1884), David (Sept 1887), Andrew (mislabeled as Dec 1889 instead of 1888), and Emma (June 1892). His father was working as a contractor for a cabinet maker. At age 11, Andrew began working for a number of farmers in the South Branch community. At the time of the 1905 MN census, a 17-year-old Andrew was living in Farmington, working as a farm laborer. Interestingly, by the 1910 census, he was working for the Schuler family (William and Josephine, with children Stella, Olga, and Elsie) as a farm laborer in Empire Township. He would later marry Stella Schuler.

Though the timing is unclear, according to one of his obituaries, he worked for four years as a master mechanic for Butler Brothers and was "an expert electric and radio mechanic and operated a bicycle and motorcycle shop…." He also was "in the garage business four years."

Andrew registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 while residing in Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota. He was single and employed as a garage owner in Farmington. During the War, he served as a corporal in U.S. Army, Company A, 307th Ammunition Train, 82nd Division, AEF. Andrew was in the first group of soldiers to leave for service in World War I, 21 September 1917. In May, 1918, he went overseas and saw considerable action, returning to the United States after a year and being honorably discharged 24 May 1919. US Army Transport Service passenger lists named Andrew as a member of Company A, 307th Ammunition Train

sailing from Bordeaux on 26 April 1919 on the *USS Arcadia*, and arriving in Brooklyn, New York on May 12, 1919. His wife, Stella, of Rural Route 1, Farmington, was listed as his emergency contact.

Andrew married Stella C Schuler on Thanksgiving Day 1917 during a furlough. Stella was a daughter in one of the households where Andrew did farm work as a young man. Following his return from the war in 1919, Andrew and Stella lived on Fourth Street in Empire Township, in Dakota County. Andrew worked as an electrician for the telephone company, probably the Star Telephone company described in his obituary.

In 1930, the Johnson family, which included Andrew (age 41), Stella (33), Morris (Maurice) (9), Vernon Elmer (5), and Warren M (almost 1), lived on Seventh Street in Farmington, MN. By then, Andrew had opened his own gas and oil wholesale business. He was noted in that year's census as a World War veteran. At the time of the 1940 census, Andrew (50) and Stella (43) were still living on Seventh Street with their three sons. Andrew was listed as the proprietor of an "oil jobber."

Andrew registered for the WWII "Old Man's" Draft on 27 April 1942. He was 53 years old, and Stella was listed as his emergency contact. His place of employment was "self employed," almost certainly the gas and oil business he had started years before. He was 5'9", 165lbs, with blue eyes and brown hair. He noted "thumbs deformed" under the obvious physical characteristic section of the form.

According to his obituary, Andrew ultimately operated the Farmington Oil Company for 16 years, but had to discontinue his company due to poor health. He became ill in the fall of 1942, and in October had an operation at Bethesda Hospital in St Paul. Although the surgery was briefly successful, he grew worse in the spring and was taken to Veteran's Hospital in Minneapolis, where he died of a stomach ailment. At the time of his death, he was survived by his wife, Stella, and three sons, Pvt Maurice William Johnson (Camp Lee, VA), Vernon (Farmington), and Warren (Farmington). His infant daughter, Georgene Elsie, died before him on April 18, 1928. Andrew was also survived by a brother, David L Johnson (St Paul), and four sisters: Clara Johnson (Bert) of Virginia, MN, Emma Linquist (Charles) of St Paul, Selma Anderson (Oscar) of Winger, MN, and Alma Schuler (Erwin) of Spokane, WA. He is buried in Corinthian Cemetery in Farmington.