Grant Wetterlin Johnson

Grant W. Johnson was born 13 April 1897 in Minnesota to Alfred Johnson (1869-1913) and Alma F. Wetterlin (1870-1962). In 1900, Alfred and Alma Johnson lived on Seventh Street in Hastings with their five children. Della, the oldest, was 8, followed by Ethel, Hazel, Grant, and Gladys. Alfred was Justice of the Peace. By 1905, the family, now living on Eighth Street, had added two more sons: Blaine and Alton. Alfred was then working as an attendant at an asylum. In 1910, the Johnsons were living at 807 Eighth Street in Hastings. Alfred F (age 47) and Alma F (38) by then had eight children still at home (of a presumed nine children total): Ethel L (17), Hazel E (15), Grant W (13), Gladys L (10), Blaine A (9), Alton G (5), Verne (Vernon, 3), and Helen G (1). The occupation field for Alfred and Alma on that year's census lists "none." Alfred Johnson died on 15 May 1913 in Hastings.

Grant enlisted in the Army on 28 May 1917. Initially he served in Company G, 135th Infantry, 34th Division, Army National Guard. By the close of the War, he was a corporal, working as a Prisoner of War Escort in Army Service Corps 260. He left aboard the USS *Ortega*, departing New York City on 12 October 1918. His transport listings indicate he returned with the Brest Casual Company #4299 (temporary admin unit) on the USS *Mercury*, sailing from Brest, France on 9 September 1919, and arriving in Brooklyn on 19 September 1919. He listed his mother as his emergency contact.

When Grant returned from the War, he moved into his family's home at 807 W Eighth Street in Hastings. Alma, now 47 years old, lived with six of her children: Ethel, Grant, Blaine, Alton, Vernon, and Helen. Alma worked as a washerwoman at her home, Ethel as a dressmaker for a private family, Grant as a machinist at a factory, and Blaine at a shoe factory.

By 1930, Grant had moved out and started a life with his own family. He had married in roughly 1920 at age 22 to 23-year-old Hazel M. Nelson. The couple, now in their 30s, owned a $1700

home on Eddy Street in Hastings. They had one son, 9-year-old Hobart M (born 17 August 1920). Grant was working as an operator at an oil station. His war service was noted in census records from that year.

Grant's first wife, Hazel, passed away on 22 January 1937 at age 40. By 1940, Grant and his son Hobart (now age 19) had gone to live with his younger brother, Vernon and his wife, Gail, at 515 Eddy Street. Grant was still working at the oil station. His brother did bench work at a factory.

Grant registered for the WWII draft on 14 February 1942. He was still living at 515 Eddy Street in Hastings, and was self-employed at 3rd and Vermillion St. Mrs. F. C. Klingbeil (Grant's mother, who had remarried to Frank Carl Klingbeil) of W. 8th Street in Hastings was his emergency contact. Son Hobart registered for the draft with his father, listing Grant as his employer as well as his emergency contact.

Grant married his second wife, Vivian C Spellmen (1899-1990), daughter of Wilber Smiths, on 6 October 1962 in Hastings. It was the second marriage for both.

His 10 April 1988 obituary indicates that Grant, who died at age 90, was survived by his wife, Vivian; two grandsons, Hobart Jr (South St. Paul), and Andrew (St. Paul); a sister, Helen Johnson (McLaughlin, SD); a brother, Blaine Johnson (Des Plaines, IL); and a daughter-in-law, JuliaAnn Johnson (Rogers, AR). He was preceded in death by his son, Hobart. Grant may have been active in the American Legion Nelson Lucking Post #47, as memorials were directed there. His wife, Vivian, died at age 91 two years later, on October 9, 1990.

Grant W. Johnson is buried in Lakeside Cemetery in Hastings.