William James Joyce

In *Dakota County in the World War*, William Joyce is listed as a veteran from Farmington, with a photo but no additional information about his service. It is believed that this photo represents William James "Red" Joyce (1895-1968); however, the only connection proven to Dakota County is his membership in the Hastings Knights of Columbus. Perhaps he spent time with some family members in Dakota County during his youth, since his mother died when he was young.

William James Joyce was born 25 May 1895 in St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota to John Joyce (1856-1935) and Johanna Cullen (about 1865-1901). Johanna died in Rochester, Minnesota when William was only 6 years old, and she had a number of additional children. It appears that William was sent to live in Wheaton, Chippewa County, Wisconsin, where he is found in the 1910 federal census with his maternal cousins, William and Margaret Devney. He was 14 years old and working as a farm laborer.

Before the War, William lived near Lake Harriet at 2826 W. 43rd Street in Minneapolis, and he worked as a mechanic at Ford Motor Company.

On 30 April 1917, when he was 21 years old, William enlisted in the U.S. Navy in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. He first trained at the U.S. Naval Station in Great Lakes, Illinois; then he was assigned to the Naval Training Station at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis. Afterwards he served at New York; Norfolk, Virginia; and at Philadelphia on the SS *Powhatan*. During his service he was promoted from the rank of seaman, to that of seaman 2nd class (electrician). He was discharged from service on 10 September 1919.

After the War, he returned to his work at Ford Motor Company. In about 1922, William opened Joyce's Bakery at 4406 France Avenue South in Edina. The bakery was well known for its breads, fancy cakes (with lard frosting) and pastries and remained in operation for over 50 years. On 6 June 1923, William married Miss Mabel A. Bliss Dolan (1894-1977) at Stewart, McLeod County, Minnesota. The marriage announcement printed in the newspaper said that they would make their home in Minneapolis. They owned a home at 4632 Drew Avenue South, where they

raised two children, Thomas Cullen Joyce (1927-2007) and Joan Adair Joyce Welch (1932-1975). William retired in the late 1960s and sold the bakery to Stan Rice.

William James Joyce died 13 October 1968 in Minneapolis, and was laid to rest in Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, Dakota County, Minnesota. He was 73 years old. His obituary said that William had been a past commander of the William Peck American Legion Post 279 and a member of the Knights of Columbus in Hastings.