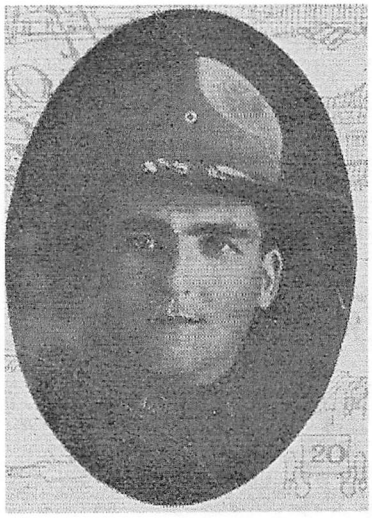

Owen Joseph Judge

Owen Judge was born on October 14, 1893 in Marshan, Minnesota which is just south of Hastings. He was the youngest of eleven children born to Barney Judge (1842-1905) and Margaret Devaney Judge (1850-1898). Barney was a veteran of the Civil War and he also fought in the Indian War's. He enlisted at age 21 in Hatch's Independent Battalion and served for two years in Company F leaving as a Corporal. Margaret (Maggie) was born in Ireland.

Both parents would die young. First Owen's mother died from Erysipelas, a contagious skin disease. She left her husband to care for ten children. Owen was only four at the time she died. Then Owen's father died in a horrible snow storm when he was twelve. In 1910, Owen is living on the family farm with his older siblings. By June 5, 1917, when he registers for the WWI Draft, he has moved to St Paul, Minnesota where he is working as a clerk at the First National Bank on 4th & Jackson downtown. Instead of waiting, he enlists in the National Guard on April 18, 1918. He trained at Camp Logan, Texas and was assigned to the 33rd Infantry Division. They sailed for Europe on the SS Calamares out of Hoboken, New Jersey. The division went immediately to the Huppy area, near Abbeville, South Africa where they trained with the British Army, particularly the Australian Corps. The main role they played in the war was to follow British personal and be ready to relieve them. However on the Fourth of July, they fought alongside their comrades in the Battle of Hamel. The battle itself considered insignificant, it was historical as it was the first battle in the war where US Army personnel fought alongside British Empire forces. They demonstrated that the American Troops could play a significant role in winning the war. This division remains the only US Army division that has ever fought as part of the British Army and French Army Corps. Owen sailed for home, from Brest, France on the SS Nansemond on May 20, 1919. He was officially discharged from Camp Newport News, Virginia. He returned to St Paul and his job working at First National Bank.

He married Rowena B Baner (1896-1985) and the couple had two children, Margaret in 1930 and Owen Junior in 1933. Owen worked at First National Bank until he retired as Bank Auditor.

Owen died at the age of sixty. His funeral was at the Catholic Cathedral in St Paul near where his family lived. He is buried in Hastings, Minnesota at St Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery.