Charles “Francis” Kaye

Charles Francis Kaye, who went by the name “Francis,” was born 19 May 1895 in Lake City, Wabasha County, Minnesota to Charles L. Kaye and Catherine Benson. The elder Charles Kaye was a cattle salesman, a career which his son followed.

Charles “Francis” Kaye registered for the draft on 3 June 1917 at South St. Paul, where he was a cattle salesman. The draft registration card shows that Francis was 22 years old and single.

He was married on 29 June 1918 to Florence J. Newell in Stevens County, Minnesota. She was a teacher at Central School in South St. Paul.

Francis enlisted on 15 August 1918 and was sent to Camp Meade, Maryland, where he served as a private in Company E, 429th Telegraph Battalion, U.S. Army Signal Corps. The Signal Corps was responsible for communications, including using radio, air balloons and telegraph machines. The Franklin Cantonment at Camp Meade was a 400-acre camp that housed 11,000 men as a Signal Corps camp of instruction. Many of the “Hello Girls” who operated long-distance switchboards at the American Expeditionary Forces headquarters in Chaumont, France were also trained there.

Francis was discharged from service on 6 January 1919 and returned to live in St. Paul with his wife. They owned a home and raised their children at 1402 Goodrich

Avenue. Francis continued to work as a livestock commission man in South St. Paul.

Francis died of a heart attack on 10 December 1957 at Good Samaritan Hospital while vacationing in Phoenix, Maricopa County, Arizona. He was 62 years old. He is buried in Resurrection Cemetery in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.