Merle Nickolson (aka Nicholson)

Merle Jennings Nicholson was born January 2nd, 1899, in Bringham, Hancock County, Iowa. His father was John William Nicholson, and his mother was Nellie J. Cummings Nicholson. Prior to the war, Merle worked as a laborer.

He enlisted in the National Army on May 17th, 1917, in South Saint Paul, Dakota County, Minnesota. He was inducted into service on June 6th, 1917 and served with Company A of the 125th Machine Gun Battalion, American Expeditionary Forces. In September of 1918, he boarded the ship Arlanza, bound for Europe. He likely served as part of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in France in October of 1918. He left France from Saint Nazair in April of 1919 aboard the Matsonia. He mustered out of service on May 2nd, 1919.

After the war, Merle returned to South St. Paul, and lived with his parents and siblings. He worked as a laborer in the construction industry. In 1924, his brother Wesley Fletch Nicholson died, and in 1927, his brother Theodore Nicholson died. After these loses, Merle and his family moved to River Falls, Pierce County, Wisconsin. Merle then met and married Harriet Pearl Causey Nicholson. They had seven children: Donna, Theodore Edward, Joseph Merle, William, Robert Wesley, Jerry, and Dorothy. Merle died on November 28th, 1987, in River Falls at the age of 87. He is laid to rest at Greenwood Cemetery in River Falls, Wisconsin.