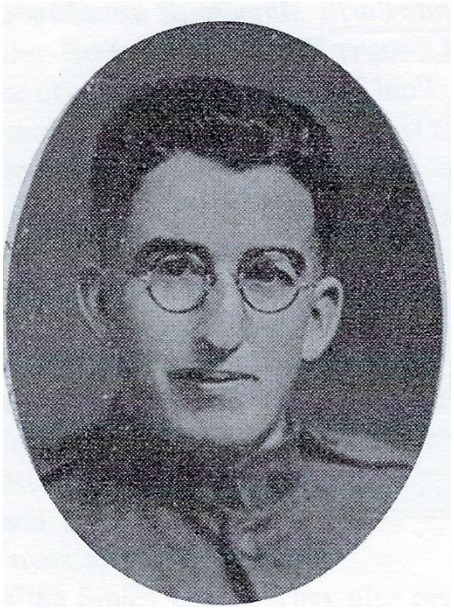

Lawrence Thomas Oster

Lawrence Oster was born on April 20, 1896 in Castle Rock, Minnesota to Peter August Oster (1864-1945) and Hannah Elizabeth Freil Oster (1870-1959). His parents farmed and he helped them until after he returned from service. He registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 in Farmington at the age of 21. He was drafted and enlisted on June 24, 1918. He was assigned as a cook at the Curtis Bay Ordinance Depot in Maryland. Built especially for the war in 1918, Curtis Bay was used to store weapons and munitions until needed by the troops fighting at the front. “Food will win the war.” Was Herbert Hoover’s rallying cry while in charge of the United States Food Administration during WWI. The challenge was to supply the troops with the proper nutrition to fight a war while facing shortages, rations, shipping and delivery issues. Lawrence would have faced the challenges of cooking for a large group during a pandemic that was taking hold in the United States. He was released on January 31, 1919 and he returned to Castle Rock where he found employment as a clerk in a law office. He married Justine V Auge (1899-1980) in September of 1920. They lived in Eagan, Minnesota where he worked in Newspaper Circulation until he retired. The couple had fifteen children.

Lawrence died on July 11, 1979 at the age of 82. He is buried at the Church of St Peter Historical Cemetery in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.