Peter John Rohr

Peter Rohr was born on January 2, 1895 in Douglas Township, Minnesota to Conrad Rohr, a farmer (1865-1917) and Elizabeth Foss Rohr (1870-1949). Both parents were born in Minnesota to German immigrants. Peter was one of eight children. His father and grandfather that farmed together both died just months before Peter was required to register for the WWI Draft on June 5, 1917. He requested a waiver but was drafted anyway. He was 21.

On August 19, 1917 Perter left for Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina for training. He was assigned to Company A, 54th Pioneer Infantry. This was part of the Army of Occupation which meant that their group could serve in Germany, Austria or Hungary for post war service between November 12, 1918 and July 11, 1923 if needed. They moved to Embarkation Camp Stuart, Newport News, Virginia to prepare for transport to France on August 20, 1918 and set sail from New York on August 30th. His ship was the SS Duca d'Aosta. On September 12, 1918 they arrived in Brest, France. As a "pioneer unit" they performed engineering tasks and construction. They traveled throughout France doing road and quarry work in Clermont Woods, Meuse-Argonne and others, all the while under fire by the Germans. The group was lucky and they were able to leave France about six months after the war ended. They shipped out from St. Nazarie, France on the SS Artennis on June 13, 1919. Peter was discharged from Camp Stuart, Virginia.

Peter returned home to help his widowed mother with the farm. He Married Marie Mainz (1900-1963) in 1923 at the age of twenty-five. The couple had nine children. Four of their sons served in WWII: Gerald (1926-2007), Jerome (1927-1995), Donald (1929-2009) and Eugene (1931-2008). Peter farmed until he retired. He died in Hastings on May 6, 1968 at age 72. He is buried at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Cemetery.