

## **George Victor Bernier**

George Victor Bernier was born on December 23, 1885 in Mendota, Minnesota. He was the eighth of nine children born to Esdras Bernier and Eugenia Auge Bernier. Esdras was born in 1850 in Lotbiniere, Quebec, Canada. He immigrated to Eagan township in 1871. Eugenia was born in 1884 in Mendota. They owned and operated a general store in Mendota before moving to White Bear, MN in 1908. They opened a general store in White Bear as well. Prior to his military service, George worked in the family's general stores and attended Cretin High School and St. Thomas College.

Bernier registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He lived in Rosemount, MN at the time. Bernier enlisted into the Army on September 19, 1918. Bernier was a part of the Students' Army Training Corps (SATC), Company A, 1st Regiment. He trained at Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis but did not go overseas. His rank was Private. Bernier was discharged from Dunwoody on December 9, 1919.

In 1920, George and his brother Richard were bachelors and lived as boarders in Bridget Hyne's house. In 1921, George and Richard opened up a drug store known as Bernier Drug Company in Rosemount, MN. In 1923, George sold his stake in the drug store to Richard. George went back into the general store business with his brother Louis. They also started selling Ford motor cars and trucks. George married Mary H. Callahan on June 18, 1924 at St. Luke's Catholic Church in St. Paul. They had one daughter, Marilyn, in 1925. In 1930, George and Mary were renting at 1171 Selby Ave in St. Paul. George was a salesman for automobiles at this time at Bernier Motors in Rosemount. He died of pyelonephritis, a type of kidney infection, on August 14, 1954. Bernier buried at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Rosemount.