John L. Bicek was born on August 15, 1890 or 1891 in Lexington Township, Le Sueur County, Minnesota. His parents were John and Kate (Katerina) Bicek of Bohemia. He had eight siblings. Prior to his military service, John worked as a horse shoer for Gust Liskan in Rosemount.

John registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He lived in Le Sueur Center at the time. John enlisted on May 28, 1918. On August 8, 1918, John embarked on the Nestor from Brooklyn, New York. John served with Company E, 160th Infantry, 40th Division of the U.S. Army in France. His rank was Private. On March 19, 1919, John departed Bordeaux, France on the S.S. W.A. Luckenbach with the Camp Dodge Detachment.

In 1920, John was a lodger in Rosemount, MN. He worked as a shop blacksmith at the time. In 1930, John, his wife Catherine, and children John, Theodore, Thomas, and Agnes were living in Lexington Township, MN. John worked as a farmer. In 1940, John was living with Theodore and Agnes in Lexington Township. John and Theodore both worked as farming operators. John died on September 21, 1975 and was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Montgomery, Le Sueur County, MN.