John Henry Burwell

John Henry Burwell was born on November 7, 1895 in Cottage Grove, Washington County, Minnesota. His parents were Willis and Mary (Minnie) Burwell. John had at least four siblings: Earl, Hazel, Meliora, and Charley. Prior to his military service, John worked as a farmer in Hastings.

John registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He claimed exemption because he worked in agriculture. He lived in St. Paul, MN at the time. John enlisted on February 21, 1918 and served with Company 11, 163rd Depot Brigade at the Vancouver Barracks. His rank was Sergeant.

In 1920, John was living with his parents in Hastings, Minnesota. In 1930, John was a boarder in Chicago, Illinois and working as a general practice attorney. He married Esther Mae Kinnen in 1936. By 1940, the couple was living in Minneapolis. John was working as an attorney for the state government at this time. Esther worked as a switchboard operator for an oil company. John died on October 2, 1955 and was buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Photo source: Dakota County in the World War