

## Walter Frank Whittier



Walter Frank Whittier was born 23 August 1886 in Empire Township, Dakota County, Minnesota to Frank A. Whittier (1860-1925) and Margaret C. Cameron (1860-1960). The family moved to Minneapolis, then St. Paul. There Walter attended grade school before they moved to Red Wing, where he attended high school. Later his parents moved to Stillwater, where his father Frank was the state parole agent at the prison.

Prior to the War, Walter worked as a salesman for Twin City Grocery Wholesale Company. His father wrote, “(Walter’s) ambition was to become a merchant. When he was in Oregon, he was active in YMCA work and in the gymnasium. He won several prizes as a long-distance runner. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity.”

Walter enlisted in the Army in St. Paul in March 1918 and was sent to Camp Dodge for training. He was transferred to Camp Logan and Company B of the 131<sup>st</sup> Regiment before he was sent overseas. Walter was on the battlefield in France in July and August. From August 7<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> he saw continuous action and was not only gassed but

received a machine gun bullet wound to his left ankle. After his release from the hospital he was assigned to Nantes where he developed pneumonia. He died in the hospital at Nantes, France on 25 April 1919, where he received care from Red Cross nurses. He was 32 years old.

Funeral services were held at the Masonic Hall in Farmington on October 1, 1920 and Walter was buried in Corinthian Cemetery. However, in February 1921 it was learned that due to an error by the War Department, the buried remains were actually those of another soldier, Tresty Perkins of Jackson, Mississippi. Perkins was disinterred and his remains returned to family members, and the remains of Walter F. Whittier were finally laid to rest in a ceremony “without ostentation.”