

Charles Luverne Brownell

Charles L. Brownell was born on August 27, 1895 in Farmington, Minnesota. Prior to his military service, Charles worked for an electric company in Minneapolis.

Charles registered for the draft on July 5, 1917. He lived in Farmington at the time. He trained at Quantico in Virginia. On August 30th, 1917, Charles sailed for France on the U.S.S. De Kalb, an old German boat. They docked in St. Nazarre, France on September 15th. Then they travelled by train to Lormant, the third largest city in France at the time. Charles served with the U.S. Marines, 6th Regiment; 2nd Division, 9th and 23rd Infantry. He was wounded in action in France by an “exploding shell” and was in the hospital when the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. Brownell wrote a detailed account of his time in France that describes the horrors of war and the deprivation the soldiers suffered for the Dakota County Tribune. The article was called “Three Right Good Oversea Letters”. He writes that he considers himself lucky and does not regret his service, but points out that he does not care to repeat it. Charles left France on December 18, 1918 and returned to Newport News, Virginia on New Year’s Eve 1918.

Charles married Anna Ulysses Eslick on June 28, 1923 in Hanson, South Dakota. They had 2 children. Their daughter Beverly was born in 1924 in South Dakota. Their son Arthur was born in 1927 in Michigan. His occupation was listed in the 1930 and 1940 Censuses as Engineer. In 1942 the family lived in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. He died on October 26, 1966 at age 71. Charles was buried at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Memorial Gardens in Wayne County, Michigan.

Note: If you are interested, there is a detailed account of Brownell’s movements in France in a newspaper clipping. Contact Dakota County Historical Society for more information.