Silverton Burnett was born on June 25, 1889 in Alma, Buffalo City, Iowa. His parents were David Burnett and Amelia Scott. He had four siblings. In 1910, Silverton was working as a machinist at Waterous Engineering Works at American Hoist & Derrick. He joined the military on January 5, 1913 and served at Vera Cruz, probably during the occupation in 1914. Burnett served in the Navy as a Machinist Mate, 1st Class until June 5, 1917.

Burnett registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He lived in South Park, Dakota County, at the time. He enlisted on June 12, 1917 and embarked from Norfolk, VA on the USS James on August 20, 1917. Burnett once again served in the Navy on the USS James, Carole and Senica at Brest, France. According to Dakota County in the World War, Burnett served with the A.E.F. in France. However, this fact does not appear on his military service record. His papers were lost in the sinking of the USS James in April, 1919. He was mustered out of the service on August 28, 1919.

Burnett married Simone Le Cinche in Brooklyn, New York on August 30, 1922. She was born in France and became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. They had one child, Maurice, in 1924. They lived in South St. Paul. At some point, Simone and Silverton divorced. Burnett worked as a chief engineer in the shipping industry after the war. In 1930, Simone was living with Silverton’s parents in South St. Paul and working as a seamstress. Silverton was not listed as a resident of the household at this time. In 1940, Silverton was living at home with his mom and Maurice and working as a machinist at a farm implement facility. From 1942 until at least 1955, Silverton was a sanitation worker. He died on July 18, 1959 of Right Lobar Pneumonia (Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease) at the VA Hospital in St. Cloud. He was 70 years old. Burnett was buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

Photo Sources: Find A Grave and Dakota County in the World War.