John W. Richardson

John William Richardson was born 1 October 1891 in St. Paul, Minnesota to John Richardson and Mary Ann Lynch, who were both born in Ireland and came to Minnesota where they married in 1883. The family and their ten children were enumerated in the 1900 census while living at 179 Fillmore Street in St. Paul.

In census records and *Dakota County in the World War* (where he was listed as "John P. Richeson"), Richardson was consistently listed as John P., but from the point in 1917 when he registered for the draft, he consistently used the name John William Richardson. By that time he had married Mary "Mae" Pruno (1892-1941) and had three children, and they were living at 177 Butler Avenue in West St. Paul. Richardson worked as an automobile driver for S & H Roller & Co. in St. Paul.

It is unclear whether Richardson, who claimed exemption for family support on his draft registration card, was actually drafted or voluntarily enlisted as America's involvement in the War escalated. Richardson shipped out from Brooklyn, New York on 8 August 1918 with the U.S. Army's 160th Infantry, along with other Dakota County men including Albert Rehmann (who also gave his life in the War) from West St. Paul. They were transferred to the 308th Regiment, 77th Division and sent to the front. Richardson was killed in action during the Muese-Argonne offensive on 5 November 1918. He was laid to rest in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery. Besides his wife, Mae, he was survived by children John Oliver (1911-1963), George Chester (1913-1994), and Robert William (1917-?) Richardson.

Richardson's widow, Mae, remarried another WWI veteran, Joseph John Kastner of St. Paul, but he died in 1927. She then married Edward Louis Goeke, and they lived in St. Paul with the three Richardson boys.