Patrick Henry Gallagher was born on 15 December 1892 at Mound City, South Dakota to the large family of Patrick H. Gallagher (1851-1942) and Anna Marie Hahne (1871-1959). The younger Patrick attended elementary school in Bruno, Pine County, Minnesota. By 1910 his family lived in Newport in Washington County, and by the time of the War they were living in South St. Paul. Three of his brothers also served in WWI: John V., William E., and Thomas J. Gallagher.

Patrick Gallagher, Jr. worked as a locomotive fireman and worked his way up to engineer at St. Paul before joining the Army in September 1917 when he was 24 years old.

While in France, he served in Company C of the 21st Engineers, AEF, where he built and maintained the “Light Railways” that were necessary to move supplies to the St. Mihiel battlefront. Preparing to return home after the war ended, Gallagher fell ill and was sent to Evacuation Hospital No. 18 at Biery, France.

Gallagher died in the hospital just three days later of bronchial pneumonia on 26 March 1919. He was buried at a local French cemetery. In 1922, Patrick’s remains were exhumed and reburied in Calvary Cemetery in St. Paul after a military funeral at St. Augustine’s Church in South St. Paul.

The South St. Paul VFW Post 295 was formed in 1919 and was named in honor of Patrick H. Gallagher.