Richard Watson Hyde was born 20 August 1891 in Maxville, Buffalo County, Wisconsin. He was the son of Plina Albert Hyde (1859-1936), who was born in Wisconsin, and Harriet Devore (1869-1935), who was born in Minnesota. His father was a carpenter and before the War, Richard worked as a self-employed painter. Richard had four brothers: Charles, Albert William and Warren. The family lived in West St. Paul at 966 South Robert Street.

When Richard registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 at West St. Paul and was asked whether he claimed exemption from the draft, his reply was, “No sir.” He joined the colors on 28 May 1918 and “left Hastings with the drafted boys.” He shipped out for France on 8 August 1918.

Richard served as a private with Company H, 308th Infantry, and also with Company E, 160th Infantry of the “Lost Battalion” infamy. He was killed in action on 5 October 1918 during the Argonne offensive and was buried in France. In 1921 his remains were returned to the United States and reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery.