August Hanson was born on May 15th, 1898, in Northfield, Minnesota, to Peter and Amelia Hanson. August was one of five children. His siblings were Nels, Andrew, Henry, and Emil. Their mother, Amelia, died in 1903. Their father, Peter, remarried Mary in approximately 1905. August’s older brother Andrew also served in WWI. The family-owned a farm near Farmington, Minnesota. August worked on the farm prior to enlisting into the Navy.

On September 3rd, 1917, August enlisted into the United States Navy as a Seaman. He was located at the Great Lakes Station and served on the U.S.S. Kearsarge. By the time he was discharged on March 23rd, 1920, he was a Fireman Second Class. He is listed under Company Five, First Regiment for the University of Minnesota Gophers in 1920.

August returned to his family’s farm, where he worked for a few years. By 1931 he had moved to Flint, Michigan, and was working as a salesman. On October 24th, 1931, August married Kathleen Siess, a teacher from Flint, Michigan. Four years later, on November 26th, 1935, Kathleen died from puerperal sepsis after the surgical removal of an adherent placenta. Fourteen years later, August remarried Evelyn Margaret Fountain on August 17th, 1949, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. They lived in Flint, Michigan, for the rest of their lives. August died on March 9th, 1968, at the age of 69. He is buried in Flint Memorial Park.