On September 25th, 1892, Karl Hanson was born in Hastings, Minnesota. His parents were Charles A. and Hilda A. Hanson from Sweden. On November 27th, 1892, he was baptized at the First Lutheran Church in Lake City, Minnesota. Karl attended public school and high school in Hastings. He started to work for the First National Bank in Hastings while in high school and eventually dropped out in 1910 to work full-time at the bank. Karl worked for the bank up until he enlisted into the Army in April of 1917.

Karl joined the Headquarters Company 135th Infantry A.E.F. By October 12th, 1918, he had been promoted to the rank of Corporal. He sailed out for England on the SS Nevasa from Hoboken, New Jersey. He returned less than a year later on the S.S. Ohioan on April 4th, 1919, from Bordeaux, France. He sailed with the Camp Dodge Det. No 2 158th Infantry Unassigned. Karl was discharged from the Army on April 29th, 1919.

Upon returning from the war, Karl moved into his parent’s house on Vernallion Street in Hastings. He was able to get his job back at the First National Bank and remained there for his entire career. On February 23rd, 1921, Karl married Klea Carlton Bullock in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The couple returned to Hastings and bought a house at 119 W 7th Street in Hastings. They did not have any children, but both of them were highly involved within the community. By 1930, Karl had been promoted to assistant cashier. At the end of his career, he was a cashier and trust officer at the bank and also served on the Board of Trustees. In addition to his work at the bank, he was the Treasurer for Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, the Dakota County Chapter of the Red Cross of America, and the Dakota Lodge No. 7, AF&AM. The Treasurer and Director of the Dakota County Savings and Loan Association and was the Past Patron of Electra Chapter No. 11 O.E.S. as well as being a 32nd degree Mason.

Karl’s health started to fail in 1950, which forced him to take a step back from the leadership roles he held within the community. In May of 1952, he went on bed rest in their house that they bought early in their marriage. On July 19th, 1952, at the age of 59, Karl died of heart failure at their home in Hastings. He was buried in Acacia Park Cemetery in Mendota Heights, Minnesota.