

John Heinen (Canada)

John Heinen was born in Vermillion, Minnesota on May 11, 1879 to Nicholas Stephan Heinen (1858-1935) and Mary Henkes Heinen (1859-1930). He was the oldest of eight children and the only son. In 1900 when he was 21 he moved to Saskatchewan, Canada to take advantage of a land claim offered by the Canadian Government. When the war broke out he joined the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Forces on January 9, 1916. He was assigned to the 243rd Battalion. They trained at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. On May 28, 1917 they sailed for England from Halifax, Nova Scotia on the SS Olympic. His unit was hit hard and there were few that survived. John was sent home and discharged early on April 5, 1918. He had been gassed and wounded. The 243rd no longer existed.

While in the service in Europe, John met and married Sarah McAllister (1879-1948) while he was on leave in Scotland. He returned to Dakota County and worked with his brother-in-law in construction for as long as he was able. In November of 1919, Sarah came to the United States from Bailestown, Scotland. The couple lived in St Paul and Minneapolis where John worked as a custodian for an apartment building. John died on May 16, 1931 from Pneumonia. He is buried at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, Minnesota.