



William Frank Siebenaler

William Siebenaler was born on May 12, 1893 in Vermillion, Minnesota to Mathias Siebenaler (1838-1910) and Katherina Beljong Siebenaler (1844-1944). Both of his parents emigrated from Luxembourg in 1857. They first lived in Shakopee, Minnesota and then moved to Vermillion in 1865 where Mathias farmed. On June 5, 1917 William registered for the WWI draft in Shakopee where he was living and working at the time. He was 24 and working in the concrete business. He was drafted and assigned to the Corp of Engineers, Company E.

The Engineers were responsible for building port facilities, roads and railroads essential to moving equipment to the battlefronts. They also harvested timber and operated searchlights. Searchlights were first used in the War to create “artificial moonlight” to enhance opportunities for night attacks by reflecting searchlight beams off the bottoms of clouds. We did not find a record of William going overseas but we assume that he did based on his release date of February 5, 1919. His unit most likely spent the next several months following the end of the war in France in the clean-up effort.

He returned to the Shakopee area where he attended Business College in Minneapolis and married Elizabeth Anglesburg (1896-1982) on November 9, 1921. The couple had five children and remained in Shakopee, Minnesota until about 1930. William had been supporting the family as a mail carrier. He took a job in Hagel, North Dakota as a manager of a lumber yard. Around 1936 the family moved to Three Forks, Montana where he managed the Monarch Lumber Company until about 1945. He transferred to Fort Benton and retired in 1958. He died at Fort Benton, Montana on November 5, 1973 at the age of 80. He is buried at Riverside Cemetery.