



Elbert Russell Swanson

Elbert Swanson was born on February 24, 1897 in Hastings, Minnesota to Frank Aaron Swanson (1869-1940) and Mary Christine Swenson Swanson (1875-1930). Both of his parents were born in Sweden. His father worked as a wagon maker and blacksmith in Hastings. Elbert enlisted in the 110th Aero Squadron and trained at Kelly Field in Texas. Aero Squadrons were the designation of the first US Army aviation units. These units consisted of combat flying, training, ground support, construction and other components of the Air Service. He boarded the SS HR Malory in Hoboken, New Jersey on May 26, 1918 as a Private. He returned home on April 17, 1919 from Brest, France on the USS Huntington as a Corporal. He married Mable Louise Hanson (1892-1945) in Hastings in 1926. Mable's family was one of the first to settle in Hastings and her father and uncle owned Hanson Brother's Grocery on 2nd street. Elbert worked at the store and eventually owned it when he retired in 1959. All told, the store belonged to the same family for sixty-seven years. Mable Swanson died in 1945. Elbert married a second time, in 1964 to Valborg Sanjum (1893-1988).

He died on December 9, 1964 from a heart attack and is buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Hastings, Minnesota.