John Edward King

John King was born in Nininger, Minnesota on October 12, 1886 to Patrick H King (1840-1915) and Catherine Butler King (1842-1920). John’s father, an Irish immigrant, owned King’s Hotel located at 139 North Concord in South St Paul. John worked in the hotel and later as a clerk in a railroad office. He registered for the draft on June 5, 1917 at the age of thirty. His father had died and he was managing the hotel. He was assigned to the 34th Division, Company G of the 109th Ammunition Train. The Ammunition Company was responsible for transporting the artillery and infantry ammunition from the ammunition refilling point to the area of engagement. The train itself may have been a literal train, but in most cases it was not. It could be horse-drawn wagons or trucks. They arrived in France in October of 1918, too late to be sent to the front. They returned home in January of 1919. John was released as a Corporal and he returned home to South St Paul. In the 1920 census he is living with his sister and her family and he is not employed. He died at St Joseph’s Hospital in St Paul, Minnesota following an operation on March 5, 1921. His military funeral was the first recorded in the City of South St Paul.