

Scenes from Princeton's Past-Continuation on the Kannenberg Family

From the last article, Scenes of Princeton's Past about the Kannenberg Family, Fred and Della Kannenberg had three sons-Donald, Vernon, and Frank. Fred, Adele "Della", Donald, and Frank Kannenberg are buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery, their son Vernon, who was called Gordon, was cremated and not buried in the Princeton Cemetery. Much of the information for this article comes from Ron, Lori, and Shannon Kannenberg from Green Lake, WI. Ron is the grandson of the late Fred and Della Kannenberg, and the son of the late Frank Kannenberg. Shannon is the great-granddaughter of the late Fred and Della Kannenberg, and granddaughter of the late Frank Kannenberg.

Donald was the oldest of Fred and Della's sons. He was born June 16, 1916, in Saskatchewan Canada and died January 16, 1945, in Vielsalm Arrondissement de Bastogne Luxembourg, Belgium. Donald was killed in action in WWII. He was a Sergeant, Technician 5th Grade, 33rd Armored Regiment, 3rd Armored Division in the US Army. Donald died from the wounds he sustained in the Battle of the Bulge and buried in Belgium. When soldiers were killed in action they were buried near the place that they fought. After the war each family was contacted by the US Government asking if they wanted their loved one to stay buried in Europe with their Brothers in Arms or to have the loved one brought back home and buried by their families. The first of the Heroes was brought back in the United States in 1948-1949. Donald was buried in Belgium and then brought back to the United States and buried in the family plot in the City of Princeton Cemetery. He was in the service for 3 years 7 months and 2 days, he enlisted on June 14, 1941. His Service Decorations include: A Purple Heart, 4 Overseas Bars, 1 Service Stripe, and 4 Battle Stars. He married Margaret Bierman in 1941, he was only married for a month before he died. Margaret was employed at the Green Lake State Bank. Donald was athletic and loved sports. Donald loved stamp collecting and had collected stamps from all over the world, and displayed his collection in books. Donald's stamp collection now belongs to Ron, Lori, and Shannon Kannenberg, and they are proud to have the collection. He entered Princeton High School from W Division High School in Milwaukee in 1935. He was very involved school activities. He was involved in Basketball, Baseball, Literary Society, Triangle Staff (Yearbook), the Annual Staff, and was Class President his Senior Year, and graduated in 1936.

Vernon Gordon, was known as Gordon, he is the second son of Fred and Della. Gordon was born August 3, 1920, in Saskatchewan, Canada, and died March 10, 2001. Gordon was cremated and not buried in the family plot in the Princeton Cemetery. Gordon was in the Army in WWII and stationed in Burma. He enlisted on August 26, 1942. In the Army, Gordon dealt with communications and radar. He was in the Army for 3 ½ years and was a Sergeant. His Service Decorations include: Pacific Theatre Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, and Burma Star. He liked to golf, hunt, and was known as a jokester of the family. He entered Princeton High School from W Division High School in Milwaukee in 1935. He was also very involved in school activities. He was involved in Basketball, Baseball, Track, Glee Club, FFA, Triangle Staff (Yearbook), Annual Staff, and was Prom King his Junior Year, and graduated in 1938.

Frank was Fred and Della's third son. Frank was born April 1, 1922 in Saskatchewan, Canada. He died August 24, 1975. Frank was in the Army in WWII. He was a Private First Class, and a Platoon Leader. He was in the Army for 3 years and 2 months, he enlisted on October 8, 1942. Frank was stationed in the Philippines. His Service Decorations include: American Theatre Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with 3 Battle Stars, 1 Bronze Arrowhead, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal. After

WWII, Frank worked for the Green Lake County Veterans Service Office and was the Village Treasurer for Green Lake. Franks hobbies were golf and convertible cars. Frank's son Ron stated his Dad had a different car each year. He graduated from Princeton High School in 1940. Frank, like his brothers was involved in school activities. He was in Basketball, Baseball, Tennis, Softball, Track, Boxing-Wrestling, Volleyball, Football, Triangle Staff (Yearbook), Annual Staff, Glee Club, and FFA.

All three of Fred and Della's sons were very involved in High School not only in sports but also in other extracurricular activities. Fred and Della's sons were also all in WWII at the same time, Donald enlisted in June 1941, Gordon enlisted in August 1942, and Frank enlisted in October 1942. Donald was in Belgium, Gordon was in Burma, and Frank was in the Philippines.

Princeton City Hall again wants to thank Ron, Lori, and Shannon Kannenberg for sharing information about their family for this article. Information for the article also came from the book-Service Record WWI and WWII Princeton and Community Sponsored by the War Moms at the Princeton Public Library, information from the records at the Princeton Historical Society, and Princeton High School Triangle Yearbooks. Information also came from Dominique Potier for Belgium, Eddy Lamerty form Vielsalm, Belgium, and Bobby Bell who is involved with the American Battle Monument in Vielsalm Belgium.

If anyone has information about the Kannenberg Family or about anyone else buried in the City Cemetery, please contact City Hall at 531 S Fulton Street or call 920-295-6612 or email mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com or cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com. All information that is collected goes in the binders of all the people buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery that are kept at City Hall. City Hall is also looking for old Year Books from Princeton High School. If anyone has any that they do not want or need anymore and would like to donate them to the City of Princeton for use in these articles and information for the Cemetery Walking Tour, please contact City Hall. City Hall is also looking at doing a Second Printing of the 1930's Edition of the Band Mother's Cookbook as a fundraiser for the Cemetery Restoration.

The next two articles, in August, of Scenes of Princeton's Past will focus the Cemetery Walking Tour and the people being portrayed in the Walking Tour. The Guided Walking Tour is August 26th, the first tour is at 1:30 pm and the second is at 4:00 pm. The Walking Tour is part of a day of History in Princeton. The Historical Plaque Presentation starts at 10:00 am at the Tiger Brew located at 317 S Farmer Street. The Historical Society will have an Open House at their buildings located at 630 and 632 W Water Street. People can visit the Flea Market in the morning do some shopping at the many wonderful shops in Princeton then go to the Historic Plaque Presentation, and then the Cemetery Walking Tour.

Continued with pictures.....

Donald in Uniform



Donald in Tank



Continued....

Donald's Wedding Margaret & Donald, Gordon and Margaret's sister



Frank in Uniform (Frank on the left)



Continued....

Donald on Skates

