

## Cross of Christ Chronicles

### *Gold Star Memorial*

We imagine that most of you who have been to the Stone Church have noticed in the entry a long, framed, panoramic photograph taken at the 80th Anniversary of our Congregation in 1935, and the equally impressive panoramic photo of the "Third Call" of the Houston County Selective Draft – February 25, 1918, which includes several of our former members and serves to illustrate a part of our participation in The Great War.

On that same wall there hangs a handcrafted Service Flag commemorating those from our Stone Church congregation who fought the good fight to keep the world free, as much as possible, from fascist oppression. Beautifully bordered in red, its white field contains 43 stars representing each soldier who was in the service at the time the flag was made. All are blue except for one — a *Gold Star* in honor of the supreme sacrifice made by one of those boys.



*Memorial Cenotaph at Stone Church.*

This exceedingly significant Gold Star honors a young Norwegian-Swedish soldier by the name of Emil Jorgenson, whose impressive monument is just a little north of the first road through the cemetery, about halfway back. It features a depiction of a World War I soldier complete with helmet and bayoneted rifle, and reads *In Memoriam, Emil Jorgenson, Pvt. 343<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Co. I, 1895-1918, Buried at Morn Hill, England*. It is therefore not an actual gravestone but a *cenotaph*, or memorial marker for one who is buried elsewhere.

Our Stone Church cemetery contains three such stone markers, including one for Olaf Johnson who was killed at Pearl Harbor in World War II and John Houge who went down on the Scorpion submarine during the Vietnam War era. We honor them and their Gold Star mothers, Bertha Gaustad Johnson Duxbury and Gladyne Kragness Houge, together with their families. Of course, both of our cemeteries provide a final resting place for a great many veterans beginning with the Civil War.

As was usual in those early wars many more people died from disease than in combat, so it is really quite remarkable that our World War I Service Flag bears only one Gold star.

Circumstances attending death (cause, kind of care received, etc.)

*He took sick on the ship with the  
Spanish Flu, which turned to Pneumonia  
which caused his death.  
He had no pain  
and died very easy.*

*A portion of Emil's Minnesota Gold Star Roll form.*

*His illness followed a typical course of flu, progressing quickly into a particularly virulent strain of pneumonia.*