JOHN FRANCIS HILT, was a member of Company H of the 1st Idaho Volunteer Infantry in the Spanish American War from May 1898 to August 1899. He served as a waggoner. Hilt was born on March 20, 1878 in Stockton, Rooks, Kansas to John Thomas and Ruhamah Jane (Laddasaw) Hilt. After the war, Hilt had been listed in the 1900 census in Idaho City as a boarder in ( ) working as a teamster in the local mining district. It wasn't certain when Hilt had started to work for the U.S. Forest Service, but he had remained with them until 1914. He had served in Lowman, Idaho and Port Angeles, Washington. Hilt had fought fires in the Clear Creek - Deadwood Divide in Idaho on August 1906. Hilt was commended for his "superb action" in this fire.

On October 13, 1904, John F. Hilt married Miss Minta Nora McDougall in Boise, Ada, Idaho. Minta was born on June 6, 1881 in Brant, Saginaw, Michigan to Allen William and Ida (Mitchelson) McDougall. In this union, the Hilts had four children, three boys and one girl.

These were their children:


After the birth of his second son, Dowell Milton in 1908, John Hilt left Idaho to Piedmont Precinct, where an aunt had lived with her spouse, Mr. and Mrs. Evan (Orrie) Epperson in Eden Valley. It was unclear for his motive to leave behind his wife and two young sons.
However, Minta took her two sons, Allen and Dowell to move back to Chesaning, Michigan.

When he moved to Port Angeles, Washington sometime before 1910, he worked for Chris Magenroth in the Elwah District. He lived in a tent in the area at the present day Ranger Station near Griff Creek. The 1910 census stated that Hilt was in the Piedmont Precinct of the Olympic National Forest. There was one fire prior to 1914, Hilt fought in this fire called Sol Duc Burn, however, he had to ride a horse onto the Snider Ridge.

When John Hilt left the U.S. Forest Service in 1914. He started to work at various jobs in Port Angeles. His first job was at Peen Garage as a machinist. Later he worked at Charles Nelson Mill as a boilerman. Then he worked at the Washington Motor Coach as their mechanic and bus driver, whenever there were shortage of drivers on the Port Angeles-Seattle route. His final employment was working as a watchman and fire-stoker at the Port Angeles Western R.R. until he retired.

Minta Hilt had died on April 4, 1924 in Port Angeles. She was buried in the Oceanview Cemetery in Port Angeles. Shortly after his wife's death, Hilt remarried on May 12, 1926 in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon to Eva May Clark, but this union lasted than three years in a divorce. Nevertheless, Hilt had followed his first wife in death nearly 29 years later on October 4, 1953 in Seattle, King, Washington. He was buried in the Oceanview Cemetery in the Veteran Section.

**Records of John Francis Hilt**

**1880 UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUS**
Name: John F. Hilt  
Home in 1880: Iowa, Rooks, Kansas  
Age/Estimated Birth Year: 1/abt 1879  
Birthplace: Kansas  
Relation to Head of Household: Son  
Father's name: John Hilt  
Father's birthplace: Kentucky  
Mother's name: Jane Hilt  
Mother's birthplace: Indiana  
Marital Status: Single  
Race: White  
Gender: Male  
Household Members (Name/Age): John Hilt/37; Jane Hilt/36; George Hilt/13; Annie Hilt/11; Edgar Hilt/5; Joseph Hilt/5; John F. Hilt/1; Rosana Hilt/56; Samuel Hilt/21  
Source Citation: Year: 1880; Census Place: Iowa, Rooks, Kansas; Roll: 395; Family History Film: 1254395; Page: 474B; Enumeration District: 269; Image: 0375. [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)
1900 UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUS
Name: John F. Hilt
Home in 1900: Moore Creek [Idaho City], Boise, Idaho
Age/Birth Date: 23/Mar 1877
Birthplace: Kansas
Race: White
Gender: Male
Relationship to head-of-house: Boarder
Marital Status: Single
Occupation: Teamster
Household Members (Name/Age): Harry E. Mitts/24; Edith E. Mitts/17; Georgia E. Mitts/7/12; John F. Hilt/23
Source Citation: Year: 1900; Census Place: Moore Creek, Boise, Idaho; Roll: T623_232; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 30. [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)

IDAHO MARRIAGES, 1842-1996
Name: John F. Hilt
Gender: Male
Spouse: Ninta Mcdougall
Spouse Gender: Female
Marriage Date: Oct 13, 1904
Marriage Location: Boise, Ada Co., Idaho
Source Citation: This record can be found in the marriage book at the County Courthouse located in Ada Co., ID in Volume 6 on Page 97. [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)

1910 UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUS
Name: John F. Hilt
Home in 1910: Piedmont, Clallam, Washington
Age/Estimate Birth Year: 33/abt 1877
Birthplace: Kansas
Relation to Head of House: Boarder
Marital Status: Single [Married]
Race: White
Gender: Male
Occupation: Fireman/Locomotive
Household Members (Name/Age): John F. Hilt/33
Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: Piedmont, Clallam, Washington; Roll: T624_1654; Page: 5B; Enumeration District: 0040; Image: 740; FHL Number: 1375667. [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)

Name: [Minta] Hilt
Age/Estimated Birth Year: 29/abt 1881
Birthplace: Michigan
Relation to Head of House: Housekeeper
Home in 1910: Beaver, Crawford, Michigan
Marital Status: Widowed (Married)
Race: White
Gender: Female Household Members
(Name/Age): John Hanna/63; Freda Camp/18; John Hanna Jr./15; [Minta] Hilt/29; Allen Hilt/4; Dowell Hilt/2
Researcher's Note: Apparently John and Minta were separated in 1910. His status was single and her status was widowed. However, John and Minta were back together approximately 1918 when John registered for the WWI Draft and prior to his twins being born in 1919.
Source Citation: Year: 1910; Census Place: Beaver, Crawford, Michigan; Roll: T624_636; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 0084; Image: 510; FHL Number: 1374649. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (fee-based site)

**WWI DRAFT REGISTRATION CARDS, 1917-1918**
Name: John F. Hilt
County: Clallam
State: Washington
Birth Date: 20 Mar 1878
Race: White
Age: 41
Occupation: Machinist
Height/Build: Short/Medium
Color of Eyes/Hair: Brown/Sandy
Date of Registration: 12 Sep 1918
Source Citation: Registration Location: Clallam County, Washington; Roll: 1991535; Draft Board: 0. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (fee-based site)

**1920 UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUS**
Name: John F. Hilt
Home in 1920: Port Angeles, Clallam, Washington
Age/Estimated Birth Year: 41/abt 1879
Birthplace: Kansas
Relation to Head of House: Self (Head)
Spouse's Name: Mint[a] Hilt
Marital Status: Married
Race: White
Sex: Male
Occupation: Machinist/General
Household Members (Name/Age): John F. Hilt/41; Mint[a] Hilt/39; Allen J. Hilt/14; Dowell M. Hilt/11; Ida M. Hilt/6/12; Melvin S. Hilt/6/12
Source Citation: Year: 1920; Census Place: Port Angeles, Clallam, Washington; Roll: T625_1921; Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 19; Image: 859. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (fee-based site)
CIVIL WAR PENSION INDEX: GENERAL INDEX TO PENSION FILES, 1861-1934
Name: John F. Hilt
Service: Co. H, 1st Idaho Infantry
State Filed: Washington
Date Filed: 12 Jun 1926
Application/Certificate Nos.: 1543440/R4-8-37
Source Information: . [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)

1930 UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUS
Name: John F. Hilt
Home in 1930: Port Angeles, Clallam, Washington
Age/Estimated Birth Year: 52/abt 1878
Birthplace: Kansas
Relation to Head of House: Head
Race: White
Occupation: Stressfitter/Sawmill
Military Service: Spanish American
Household Members (Name/Age): John F. Hilt/52
Source Citation: Year: 1930; Census Place: Port Angeles, Clallam, Washington; Roll: 2486; Page: 20A; Enumeration District: 28; Image: 408.0. [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)

U.S. WWII DRAFT REGISTRATION CARDS, 1942
Name: John F Hilt
Birth Date: 20 Mar 1878
Birth Place: Stockton, Kansas
Residence: Port Angeles, Washington
Race: White
Age: 64
Employment: Port Angeles Western R.R.
Height/Build: 5'8"/175
Color of Eyes/Hair: Brown/Brown
Date of Registration: 24 Apr 1942
Source Citation: World War II Draft Reg. Cards, 1942, Rec. Group No.: 147; Archive No.: 563992; Box No.: 87. [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)

WASHINGTON DEATH INDEX, 1940-1996
Name: John F. Hilt
Date of Death: 4 Oct 1953
Place of Death: Seattle
Age/Estimated Birth Year: 75/abt 1878
Gender: Male
Certificate: 17790
Source Citation: Washington Death Index, 1940-1996, Cert. No.: 17790; Name: John F. Hilt. [Ancestry.com] (fee-based site)

Upper Snake River Family History Center and Ricks College (Rexburg, Idaho). Idaho Marriages, 1842-1996 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005. Original data: These records were extracted between 1982 and 1996 primarily from marriage records held at county courthouses. Specific source information is provided with each entry. URL: http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?rank=1&new=1&MSAV=0&msT=1&gss=angs-c&gsfn=John+Francis&gsIn=Hilt&msbdy=1878&msbpn__ftp=Stockton%2c+Rooks%2c+Kansas%2c+USA&msbpn=72784&msbpn_PInfo=8-|72784&msddy=1953&msdpn__ftp=Seattle%2c+King%2c+Washington%2c+USA&msdpn=65561&msdpn_PInfo=8-|65561&msrpn__ftp=Idaho%2c+USA&msrpn=15&msrpn_PInfo=5-|15&msgdy=1904&msgpn__ftp=Boise%2c+Ada%2c+Idaho%2c+USA&msgpn=55063&msgpn_PInfo=8-|55063&uidh=e31&pcat=34&h=102284&recoff=1+2+3&db=IDmarriages_ga&indiv=1 (accessed: June 20, 2011).