

HISTORY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

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WOOD, GROVER
WILSON (MIKE)

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Mike's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Luke Monroe Wood II of Duck Hill, Mississippi. Mike's grandfather on his mother's side was James R. (Dick) Woods, who served as a Pvt. in the 15th Miss. Infantry, CSA. In 1864 Dick transferred and joined the Confederate Navy at Mobile and served a short time until he was captured by the Federal troops. He was transferred to prison in New Orleans where he managed to escape and go home. The war ended before he returned to his unit. J.R. (Dick) was first married to Lizzie W. Woods (1842-1898), who was born in Monroe County Georgia. Lizzie was the mother of Mike's grandmother. At her death, Dick married Sarah (Sallie) Elizabeth Neal, Bell, Dendy (1841-1915). Both wives are buried near Dick in Shiloh Cemetery.

Mike's grandfather on his father's side was W.H. (Boss) Wood (1848-1923). His wife, and Mike's grandmother, was Viola L. Holmes (1850-1904). They are both buried at Mars Hill Cemetery east of Duck Hill.

Dick was born August 23, 1842, died December 30, 1918 and was buried in Shiloh Cemetery southeast of Duck Hill in Montgomery County. Dick's daughter, Willie Woods (1882-1954) married Grover's father, Luke Monroe Wood II (1878-1954). Their children were Guy Monroe Wood (1901-1978), who was first married to Hazel Pyron. Guy later married Nona Holmes. Guy and Nona are both buried at Duck Hill Cemetery. William Dewitt Wood (1903-1905), who died an infant was buried at Shiloh Cemetery southeast of Duck Hill in Montgomery County. Sallie Louise Wood (1905-1990) married Joe Tindall. She was buried in Duck Hill Cemetery. George Royal Wood (1907-1959) was never married. He was buried in Duck Hill Cemetery. Corinne Wood (1908-1932) who was never married, is buried in Duck Hill Cemetery. Luke Monroe Wood III (1909-1987) married Trixie Walker. He is buried at Conroe, Texas, where they made their home. Willie Leona Wood (1911-1988) married Ellis Stewart. She was buried at Duck Hill Cemetery. Lillie Beatrice Wood (1915-1974), who was first married to Woodrow Rodgers and later to Ross Edens. She was buried in Duck Hill Cemetery. Lizzie Mae Wood (1917-1917) died as an infant and is buried at Shiloh Cemetery southeast of Duck Hill. Clyde E. (Pete) Wood (b1918) married Mildred Partridge. Pete served his country during World War II in the Marine Air Corps. Pete and Mildred made their home at Moorhead, Mississippi, where Pete taught vocational agriculture in school for many years. Douglas Erlene Wood (b1920), first married Leland Waldrop and later married S.T. Shook, Jr. of Winona, Miss., where they made their home. Edna Marie Wood (1922-1966) married Fred Sydes and later, Leslie Hathaway.

On July 4, 1940, Grover W. (Mike) Wood (b1913), married Beulah Ransom of Duck Hill. Beulah's parents were D. Fox Ransom and Lillian Bennett Ransom. Lillian was the daughter of Lee Bennett of Duck Hill. Beulah had three sisters Olene Ransom Flowers, Peggy Ransom McAnally, and Loyce Ransom Henson.

Mike and his family grew up around Duck Hill. Mike attended school at Eskridge a short

military style training at Fort McClellan, Alabama. With his unit, he then traveled to the Dyer, Tennessee, area where he worked and finished the time. When his term was up, Mike got work with a highway contractor building bridges on the construction of Highway 51. This lasted about two years. Mike then opened and operated an automobile service station in Duck Hill for about 18 months. It was about this time that he and Beulah married. He then obtained a job with the Mississippi Highway Department, where he was working when World War II began.

Grover (Mike) Wood entered the U.S. Army Air Force in December 1942, departing for Camp Shelby January 4, 1943, where he took basic training. He then traveled to MacDill Field at Tampa, Florida for Air Force training then on to the Air Base at Avon Park, Florida. He here joined the 54th Air Service Group of the 500th Air Service Squadron upon its organization. In September he and the 54th Group were stationed for additional training at Lakeland Air Base, Florida. In mid-November they boarded troop trains and traveled to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia, a few miles from Newport News and Hampton Roads, where they shipped out a few days later aboard a cargo Liberty Ship bound for Africa, by way of a convey from New York.

The unit's destination proved Oran, North Africa. Fate only allowed a short five-week stay here, and they were soon reloaded onto a cargo ship, the S.S. William Ruys, bound for the East.

They traveled through the Suez Canal, across the Red Sea into the Gulf of Aden, on into the Indian Ocean to debark at the docks of Bombay, India. They then spent a week crossing India by Indian Railroad, a memorable experience within itself, to Calcutta. They had taken a brief few days stopover in camp at Karanchapur. From Calcutta Group 54 traveled east on the Hooghly (Ganges) River to Dacca, and nearby Tezgaon which was to become their permanent Indian base field.

In India, Mike, who had attained the rank of T/Sgt. served as a Supply Technician, and saw to the loading and shipping of tons of supplies and fuel to supply the surrounding armies and air bases. He personally made many trips with the cargo and gasoline into the war zones of China and over the hump (Himalayan Mountains) as part of the huge airlift, the only supply to the troops in Burma. These trips were in cargo carrying B-25s, C-46s, C-54s, C-109s and several other unlikely type aircraft pressed into service for this critical mission. They were often under fire from the Japanese ground units. Sgt. Wood earned the Good Conduct Medal, a Bronze Star, Five Battle Stars for campaigns and the Victory Medal. Grover had earned his points home and was awaiting transportation arrangements when the war ended in 1945. On February 5, 1946, he was discharged from where he began ... Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

After discharge, Grover (Mike), returned to Duck Hill, Montgomery County, Mississippi, and he and wife, Beulah, ran a local restaurant for about 35 years. Beulah had owned and run the restaurant for several years before they married. She continued its operation alone during the war years, while Mike was away.

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