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**A HISTORY  
OF  
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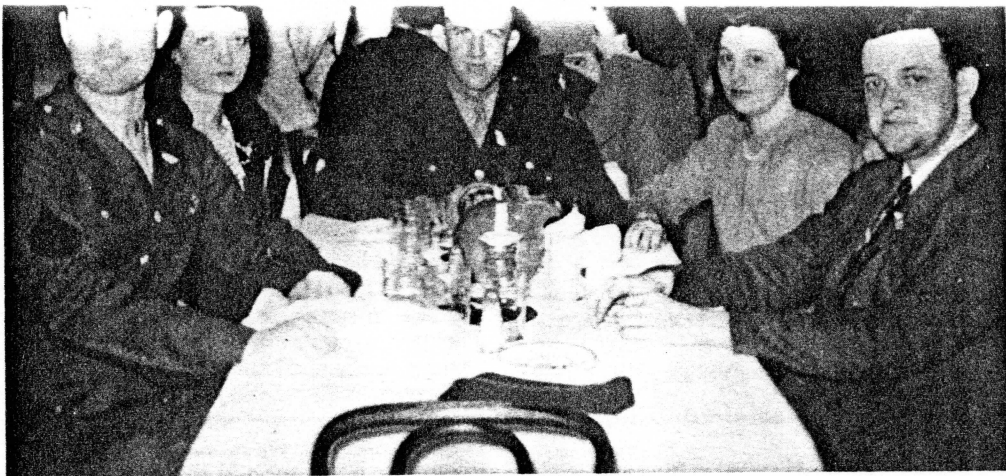
**Volume II**

**by  
The Chickasaw County  
Historical and Genealogy Society**

**Public Library**

**APR 2 9 1999**

**#878**



Week-End-Pass — WWII - 1944 - Jackson, MS - (L-R) Walter M. Smith, Camp Shelby - Laurel, MS, Imogene Murphree, Daughter of Gov. Dennis Murphree, Jackson - Calhoun City, MS, Russell Putnam, Camp Shelby - Houston, MS, Nancy Powell, Jackson - Vardaman, MS, Bobby Roberson, Jackson - Pontotoc, MS.

military occupation was clerk. He was discharged on November 28, 1941 due to an injury he received playing football at Houston High School. He had been stationed at A.F.C.C., MacDill Field, Florida, Scott Field, Illinois. He was discharged from Billings General Hospital at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. During his brief stay in the army he witnessed the World Heavy-weight Champion Joe Louis, the Brown Bomber, put on a three round bout with his number one sparring partner at Scott Field, Ill. He also enjoyed a ride around the Indianapolis Speedway in a private auto while at Billings General Hospital.

Russell was drafted back into the US Army on November 4, 1942 where he served until December 14, 1945. He received the Meritorious Service Award for superior performance of duty in the maintenance of high standard of discipline during the period 18 May 1945 to 18 July 1945. During his second tour of duty he was stationed at Camp Shelby, MS, Chatom, AL, Richton, MS, Fort Lewis, WA, and Camp Beale, CA. The special events he enjoyed during his second tour was the pleasure of seeing and dancing to the music of the Great Swing Bands of the Golden Era of Swing 1930's and 40's. Photos of over twenty of these great bands were presented to the Houston Carnegie Library.

Russell is retired and lives with his wife Helen, a Louisiana native in West Monroe, LA.

by Russell Putnam

## RAINWATER, CARVEL JACK

C256

Carvel Jack Rainwater was born 21 Sept. 1918 in Parkin, Ark. to Hugh Marion and Cornelia Gattis Rainwater. He grew up in Parkin and his parents died when he was



Carvel Jack Rainwater

young. In the late 30's he served approximately two years in the Civilian Conservation Corp.

Jack joined the U.S. Army in Jonesboro, Ark. during WWII. He received his basic training at Ft. Crockett, Texas and was sent to Camp Davis, N.C. He was overseas during WWII when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

After Jack was discharged from the Army he came to Okolona, MS to live with his sister, Eula McKinnis. While in Okolona he learned of the need for someone to operate the restaurant in the Houston, MS Hotel. He grabbed this opportunity. A young lady, Robinette Brand, dau. of Rufus Francis and Ama Jamison Brand of Houston, was working at the restaurant. She and Jack fell in love in 1945 and were married 9 Dec. 1945.

Jack was out of the Army about ten months, when he decided to re-enter the military, after receiving many letters encouraging him to do so. He joined the U.S. Air Force and was later

assigned to France, when Robinette decided to join him, despite the reservations she had of the language and cultural barriers. Jack met her when she landed in Paris, France and thought that she was the prettiest thing he had ever seen, and was so very proud of her in making the long flight all alone.

Jack retired from the military 11 March 1970. He served 29 yrs, 7 mo, 29 days and has the rank of M/Sgt. USAF Retired. Overseas he served in Hawaii, Saipan and France. In the States he served about 10 years on Recruiting Duty, stationed in Knoxville, TN and Gulfport, MS.

While in the military Jack earned the following awards: Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and 2 Silver, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal w/1 Bronze Service Star, Air Force Good Conduct Medal w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster, and American Defense Service Medal.

After their retirement Jack and Robinett made their home in Houston, MS. (See Family story).

by Jack Rainwater

Editors note: After Jack submitted the above article for publication he died at home on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1995. He is bu. in Houston Cemetery. He was well respected by his family and friends, especially for the loving care he gave his wife after she entered Floy Dyer Manor, in Houston, more than six years ago.

by Libba Criddle

## RAY, DENVER

C257

Denver Ray was born September 29, 1919 at Braggadocio, MO, the son of Gus and Maudie Ray. Married to Lela Robertson, they had two children, Robert Gene and Diane Ray.

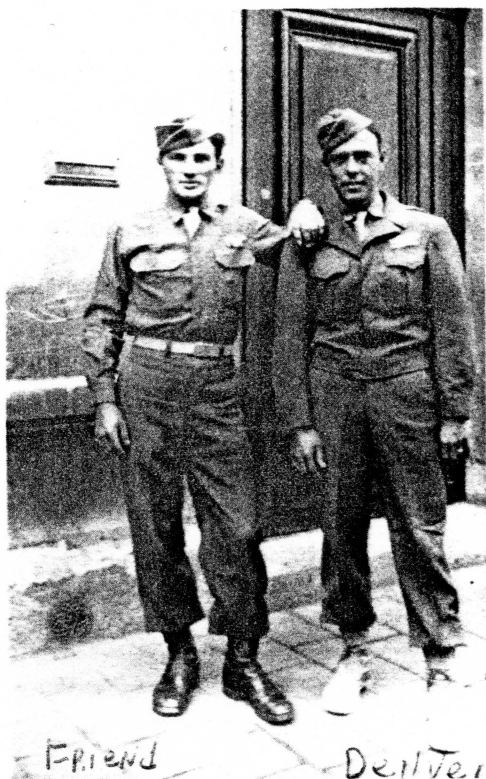
Denver entered the US Army October 12, 1944 at Camp Shelby, MS. He was a rifleman with the rank of Private First Class with Company B 20th Armored Infantry Battalion. He participated in battles and campaigns in Central Europe and Rhineland. While fighting in Germany on March 22, 1945, Denver was wounded in the head when a bullet glanced off his helmet. He was discharged December 1, 1945 at Camp Joseph T. Robinson Arkansas Separation Point.

His decorations and citations include: European African Middle Eastern Ribbon with two battle stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, and World War II Victory Medal.

## RAY, JASPER LEE

C258

Major Jasper Lee Ray, son of Mary Magdalene Speed and John William Ray, was born



Pfc. Qey E. Rowe and Pfc. Denver Ray in Rheim, France.

vision of Ft. Knox, KY. During this assignment he attended school in Flint, MI. After completion of school he was assigned to Camp Chaffee, AR. This assignment was followed by training at the California Desert Training Center.

He left duty from the Desert Training Center and attended Officers Candidate School at Aberdeen Ordnance Proving Grounds, Aberdeen, MD. On 10 April 1943 he was commissioned as 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army. After receiving a commission Lt. Ray was assigned to the 912th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Co. at Camp Claiborne, LA. The stay in Louisiana was short. Soon orders were received — once again — for Desert Training Village in CA. From this assignment, he reported to Camp Kilmer, N.J. for debarkation to Oxford, England.

The 912th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Co. participated in the Normandy Invasion in France on D +14, and from June 1944 to VE Day in 1945, the Company participated in five combat missions.

In the fall of 1945, he was Commanding Officer for 600 enlisted men and 40 officers (all Mississippians) as they departed from Camp Miles Standish, Antwerp, Belgium bound for Boston, MA, via ship. From the port at Boston, they boarded a train bound for Camp Shelby, MS., for separation from the service.

Upon arrival in St. Louis, MO he approached Mr. Patterson, the train master, requesting the route to be traveled. When Mr. Patterson replied, "Jackson, TN and Louisville, MS" he (Jasper) asked if it would be possible for the train to stop in Woodland (Chickasaw) MS so that he could speak to his parents. The request

pg 405

Marie Firestone born in Penn. is a registered nurse and married to Samuel Eugene Pasqua, a police officer at Gonzales, LA. They have two children: Jason Samuel and Sarah Elizabeth Pasqua. (3) Marjorie Ann Firestone born in New Orleans, is a registered nurse at W. Jefferson Hospital in New Orleans.

Dr. John Firestone, Sr. is part owner of Expressway Clinic, Harvey, LA specializing in Internal Medicine.

by Marie Kitterman

## FINN, POPE

F538

Pope Finn was born in 1915 in Chickasaw Co., to Walter and Myrtie Pope Finn. Pope graduated from the Buena Vista Agriculture School. He first married Freda Rhea Sharp at Marked Tree, Ark. She is the daughter of Marvin and Edna Kirby sharp. They met when Pope and other Finn brothers were playing music and singing for dances and local elections. Pope and Freda Finn moved to Memphis where he worked for Dupont Powder Plant in WWII. They had two daughters: (1) Pamela Pope Finn was born in 1941 in Memphis. She married John Rainwater from Loudon Co. TN. They have two sons, John Mark was born in 1963 and Jay Christopher Rainwater was born 1966. (2) Susan Diane Finn was born 1943 in Memphis. She married Harry Stephen Anderson. They had one son, Harry, Jr. Pamela and Susan are both college graduates.

Pope worked at Oak Ridge Atomic Energy Plant during and after WWII. He later owned Finn's T.V. and Radio Repair Shop in Loudon, TN. He also taught "shop" in the local high school.

Pope married second, Linda Faye Cook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack R. Cook. Pope and Linda have one daughter, Jennifer Rebecca Finn who was born in 1974 and one son Matthew David Finn born in 1975.

by Marie Kitterman

## FINN, WALTER AND MYRTLE

F539

Walter Finn was born 8 July 1890 in Chickasaw County, Miss. He was the son of Leander (Lee Andrew) Finn and Katherine Augusta Ray Finn. He and Myrtie Lee Pope were married in 1909. She was the daughter of Thomas Henry and Margaret Ann Sherbett Pope of Houston. Walter was a farmer and Myrtie was a teacher at Brown School. (Location of school east of Houston in Macedonia Community). She had attended the Mississippi Normal School. Myrtie asked Professor L.B. Reid which topics she needed to study most for the teachers' examination. She taught from McGuffey's Reader and the "Blue Back"



Walter A. Finn and his wife Myrtle Lee (Pope) Finn with son.

stealing turkeys, also there was some dispute over the ownership of a cow. Another case was when someone had used a double-barrelled shotgun for a club to hit a woman over the head. He also performed marriages, both day and night, with Myrtie as witness.

Walter did not have a middle name, so for a while he used the name Walter Carter Finn. Later he substituted an "A" for a middle initial.

Walter and Myrtie had the following children: 1. Walter Franklin born 28 July 1910 married Mildred Elizabeth Bryant; 2. Marjorie Louise Finn born 1911 married Dr. Bernard Goldman; 3. Henry Lee Finn born 1913 and married Frances Kerr; 4. Pope Finn born 1915 married Freda Rhea Sharp. His second wife was Linda Faye Cook; 5. William Glenn Finn was born in 1917 and died in 1983. He married Muriel Nadine Davis; 6. Catherine Marguerite Finn born 1919 married Edward L. Harmon; 7. Hilson Avery Finn was born in 1921 and married Mary Elizabeth Hogan; 8. Aubrey Finn was born in 1923 and married Beulah Mae Foster; 9. Marie Celeste Finn was born 24 Dec 1925 in Okolona, MS. She married Joe Clifton Kitterman; 10. Max Ray Finn was born August 1927 in Okolona, MS and married Pearl Beckham; 11. Paula Frances Finn was born 23 Dec 1929, Chickasaw County, MS and married Dr. John Edger Firestone, Sr.

by Marie Kitterman

## FINN, WALTER FRANKLIN

#878

F540

Walter Franklin (Buck) Finn was Walter



totoc Co., MS, and C. Immo L. Rackley born 8 Apr. 1897, died 12 Sept. 1973, buried Eddington Cem. Troy Pontotoc Co., MS.

We have recently contacted a Rackley descendant on a Genealogy Bulletin Board. She has information on the Rackleys (original spelling) of England and has access to a book of Rackleys that lists Michael Rufus but none of his descendants. We are related to the Rackleys by marriage through Davidsons, Johnsons, Prudes, Dallas and Hadleys.

By Royce and Malcolm Culpepper

## RAINWATER, CARVEL JACK

F1143



Jack and Robinette Rainwater, 1980's.

Carvel Jack Rainwater was born and grew up in Parkin, Ark. He was born 9/21/1918 to Hugh Marion and Cornelia Gattis Rainwater. His parents died when he was young. In the late 30's he served approximately two years in the Civilian Conservation Corp.

During World War II, in the 40's, he joined the U.S. Army, serving his country for more than 29 years. He retired from the U.S. Air Force on 11 March 1970, with rank of M/Sgt. (see Military Story).

Between his tenure with the Army and Air Force he came to live with his sister, Eula McKinnis, in Okolona, MS. While living in Okolona he learned of the need for someone to manage the restaurant in the Houston Hotel, Houston, MS. Jack came to Houston and took the job. There was a pretty young lady working in the restaurant. She was Robinette Brand, dau. of Rufus Francis and Ama Jamison Brand of Houston. Jack and Robinette fell in love and were married 12/9/1945. Robinette was a native of Houston, born 10 May 1917.

Jack had been out of the Army about 8/10 months when he decided to join the Air Force, after receiving many letters encouraging him to do so. When he was assigned to Paris, France Robinette decided to join him there, even

though there were many thoughts about the language and culture in a new country. This was a long flight for a young lady from Houston, MS to take all alone. Jack said that when she stepped off the plane it was the prettiest sight he had ever seen.

After Jack's retirement from the military, they came back to Houston to make their home. Jack worked with Shannon Chair Company and Robinette worked as a ladies clothing store sales clerk. They retired and made their home at 105 Tindall Circle, Houston, MS.

(Editor's note) After Jack submitted this story for publication, he died suddenly at his home on Christmas Eve night, 24 December 1995, age 77. Services were held in Houston and he is bu. in Houston Cemetery. Robinette is a resident of Floy Dyer Manor in Houston, where she has been more than six years. Jack and Robinette were both members of the Houston First United Methodist Church, where they were in regular attendance as long as their health would allow. Jack was very faithful in seeing that Robinette was well taken care of after she entered the manor.

By Jack Rainwater

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