

# Ray Macklin's History

*Excerpt from Freda's book "Growing Up In The Good Ole Days"*



Over the years I have collected this information from Ray's relatives. At the reunion in Dighton, Kansas, Ray I and several of his first cousins would sit up until after midnight to look up records. Hazel Conner, a cousin, had saved these records over these years from her parents. She was very fond of Ray. We spent many nights at her home. All of the cousins would come over and get acquainted.

## Ray Is Born In Kansas

We went out on the prairie at Alamota, Kansas where Ray was born. The son of one of his cousin's still works at the elevator in Alamota. We also saw where Ray's grandparent's house used to be; the windmill was still there. They were Amy's parents. First they lived in a sod house and I think they built a different house in later years. You could see for miles on this wide prairie.

Once in a while you would see some elevators and a house. I often wondered how they ever ended up there from Ohio and Missouri.

Ray was born in a sod house with a clay floor. However, it was hard but not dusty. Ray was the only one born in western Kansas. Ray's family moved around a lot after the parents married. They lived in a lot of places since his father worked for the railroad.

## Colorado

They lived in Ordway, Colorado for quite a long time and in Olney Springs, Colorado. Later they lived on an Indian reservation in Oklahoma where Stanley was born. Ray liked Colorado so much that he preferred to stay there and work after his parents came to Paola. For several years, he went back to Ordway every August to clean and sweep cantaloupe cars. One time he took me to Ordway and we stayed all night in an old hotel for \$5.00 a night. The agent that Ray worked for was still living. We went to his house and he said he still had a watch fob that Ray found in a railroad car that he cleaned. It happened to be an Odd Fellow pin worn by a man who belonged to the Odd Fellow lodge. He treasured the pin so much, because Ray was such an honest boy and the agent was also a member of the Lodge. He also showed me where Harry Morgan, a close friend and buddy, lived in Ordway. Ray stayed with Harry and his parents.

Ray was a hard worker. He worked in an alfalfa mill and loaded bales of hay and hauled it. He also worked for a man on a sheep farm. The boss took a contract to feed a big herd of sheep. Ray and the boss's son helped feed the sheep. When it got severely cold and snow was flying, Ray and the son wanted to quit. The boss told them "no way, we have a contract so you will tough it out"! Later, Ray and Bob Stephenson got a job logging near Durango, Colorado. He loved to tell about the logging experience and how they got stuck in the snow drifts in the mountains. Once they had to borrow a shovel from a miner's back porch to dig out. He also showed me where he ice skated on a lake and a place he danced many times between Ordway and Rocky Ford.

## Great Husband and Father

As you all remember your Dad's personality as a father to you, and a husband to me. I think we all agree it was easy to rate him number one. Ray was just himself, he was what he was, but always had goals to improve and reach a higher standard. No work was too hard, he believed in "a day's work for a day's pay" or "no work - no pay". He had a lot of confidence in himself and his abilities. I'm sure he believed it was with the help of God.

In earlier days, he loved to visit and talk with people and to dance. Ray was always interested in the welfare of his family and his country. You will remember how he liked to discuss politics, which I sometimes got tired of. Ernestine was always ready to listen and discuss world events. She enjoyed this as much as he did. I think Norma got in on some of the conversations.

Every New Year's Eve, we all went to grandma Frey's. One time grandma asked "Raymond, what did you gain this year"? He quickly answered "a daughter" - Joan 1939. Someone spoke up and said you aren't raising any soldiers. Ray said no, but I'm raising wives for them. He always had a witty answer. He loved to come home with a surprise for me, like a raise in pay or a promotion. He never was without a job. Most times he had another job the next day. I guess this is how he learned to do so many repairs around the house. Remember when he put a tin roof on the 1932 Dodge and we got caught in a hail storm?

## The Hard Worker

Sometimes he made his own jobs like painting houses for business people. One of the houses was owned by Mr. McLaughlin, editor of the local paper. He had to wait for Ray but was really pleased with his work and printed "it pays to wait for a good painter". After that, Ray got many calls for paint jobs, more than he could handle.

Ray always looked ahead and believed in saving a little. He was very independent and didn't want anyone to tell him what to do. He told the kids what to do and I asked him "why do you speak like that"? He replied "so they will know what I mean". He didn't want to argue with me, so he would take his cap and walk downtown. He would have other things to talk about when he returned. He didn't believe in calculators or computers. Lee tried to explain how a computer works. By now he probably would have purchased one!

## The Teacher

Ray was very proud of all the grand children and he loved each and every one. He tried to show the boys about carpentry work and how to properly use a saw and hammer. One time, he gave C.J. (Chris) a hammer, piece of 2X4 and a bunch of nails so he could practice driving a nail. I was afraid C.J. would hit his fingers and Ray said "he will learn if he does". I remember him trying to teach the older boys too, always explaining how to be careful.

On Sunday after church, he liked to take us riding in the country. I enjoyed going with him to the Rural #2 water plant, where he worked after retiring. After heavy rains, he had to check the lines. He worked many kinds of jobs, most were in supervision. He was supervisor at the Rock Quarry, a carpenter on the railroad gang, a relief foreman on the Frisco railroad, an electrician at Taylor Forge, a welder for Fluor Corporation, and a maintenance foreman at Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant.

## Ray's Favorite Hobby

One of Ray's favorite hobbies was to travel and look at the scenery. In October 1984, Dad was raking leaves. He stopped and said to me "I think we should go and see the mountains one more time". I told him we can't do that, we have tickets to go to California in 10 days. He said that was OK, we can do both. We drove to Estes Park, Colorado and I really enjoyed the trip. He insisted we drive to Bear Lake, which was quite a few miles from our motel. When we got about half way, there was no other car on the road and the sun was ready to set. I insisted we go back to the motel, afraid we might have car trouble. Dad wasn't happy and said "I thought you wanted to see Bear Lake and now you're scared". He looked at the map after we got back to the motel, but we couldn't agree to go to Durango where he had planned so strongly to take me.

Later, that night he got out of bed and looked at the map again. He said "I will take you on a most beautiful trip in the morning, we won't eat breakfast until seven or eight o'clock. We will stop at one of my favorite country restaurants near Lyons". This was five or six miles from the bottom of Estes Park mountains. The sun was coming up and reflecting on the rocky peaks which threw a shadow on the rocks so beautifully. He knew how I enjoyed the Aspens. The leaves looked like gold dollars and never stopped shimmering in the sun. He stopped the car and told me to get out and pick some of those gold dollars. I said this is surely God's country - so beautiful.

## The Car Accident

Starting down the mountain, I told him we had better fasten our seat belts. He had already fastened his and put his headrest up. I didn't have my headrest up because I wanted to reach back and get snacks. We made a turn into town off the highway that had changed to one way. We got hit by a truck and I got a whiplash. Dad said he didn't have time to get checked since he had to take care of the car. He hated to see his yellow Ford totaled. After I was checked at the hospital, we rented a car to drive home. That was our last trip to Colorado. When we got home we bought a Chevrolet Caprice, which he didn't like. He thought he would trade it for a Ford.

## Ray Dies

When Ray and I came to California ten days later, he suffered a major heart attack at Joanie's house on evening of November 4th – the day before the big general election—1984. He died early Tuesday morning November 5th at Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA.

## Ray's Parents

Now I'll tell you about his parents. His mother, **Amy Lawrence**, was 15 years old when she married **George Frank Macklin**. Amy's mother died when Amy was 10 years old. Amy had to learn to bake bread and keep house. Amy and Frank lived in Chanute, Kansas for a while, where Frank worked in a cement plant. From there, they moved to Alamota where Ray was born. A man named John went to get a midwife so Ray's middle name was John. Ray's father was working in the wheat harvest for Amy's brothers at Dighton when she met him. Later they lived in a lot of different places. Amy's parents must have moved from Ohio and Missouri to Lane county Kansas, probably in a covered wagon.

## Ray's Grandparents - Father's Side

**Grandparents George Macklin & Dollie Schoolcraft** lived on an island in Randolph County Illinois, then on a house boat on a river. Grandfather George Macklin served in the Civil War from April 11, 1865 to July 4, 1865 as a volunteer. His rank was "Pvt C-10" in the 10th Calvary Regiment. He was discharged after his wife Dollie died and he had to care for five small children. He died at the Old Solders Home in 1893. Both George and his wife died of pneumonia. Then, the children were put into an orphan's home in Chicago. Later, they were adopted by a family in Chicago where Frank (Ray's father) and Ed were not happy and ran away to Missouri. There, they were once again adopted. Ed married Amy's sister Nellie, the mother of Lyman and Cora. Lyman and Velma live in California, Cora lived in Belton, MO. Ed moved to Oregon.

## Ray's Grandparents - Mother's Side

**Grandfather Daniel Strong Lawrence** was born Nov 1848 in Pike County, Ohio. He married **Betti Catherine Jobe** Dec 1872 in Jefferson City, MO. She was born Oct 1855.

**Great-grandfather Hiram Lawrence** was born June 29, 1815 in Hardy County Virginia. He married **Mary Strong** Oct 20, 1844 at the Universal Church in Chillicothe, OH. One of them died Feb 23, 1859.

**Great-great-grandfather Abraham Lawrence** was born between 1775 and 1782. He married **Dorthy Yonkins** Jun 1, 1814.

## Ray's Uncles

**Ernest Harrison Lawrence**

**George Washington Lawrence**

**Hiram Arthur Lawrence** was a poet who graduated from Athens University in Ohio.

**Albert Elmer Lawrence**

**Levi Emerson Lawrence**

## Ray's Aunts

**Maude May Lawrence**

**Nellie Annis Lawrence**

**Edith Oddie Lawrence**

## Ray's Brothers

**James Daniel Macklin** was born Nov 26, 1907 in Chanute, KS. He married **Sadie Horton** from Hoisington, KS. They had one son, Jim. James was a Private with the Second Marines in the Pacific during World War II. As a civilian he worked for the Frisco Railroad in the signal department. In the military from 1943 to 1946 he participated in the invasion of Normandy landing on Omaha Beach. Then he served in Belgium and Germany. A bomb explosion while working on a telephone pole injured him. He received three Battle Stars while with the Railroad Battalion. He spent the rest of his live in Veteran's Hospitals. First, at Menningers in Topeka, KS, next to Wadsworth in Leavenworth, KS, then to Wilshire in Los Angeles and finally Sylmar near San Bernadino. He was killed in the San Bernadino earthquake Feb 9, 1971.

**Alva Rodney Macklin** was born Oct 17, 1913 in Manning, KS. He served in the US Army from 1943 to 1946 on Gilbert Islands in the South Pacific. He was injured during the invasion of the Philippines at Luzon. He received three Battle Stars, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge.

He married **Jessie Stephens** (from Minnesota) in Gardena, CA. Alva died Dec 25, 1973 in Gardena, CA and is buried in Englewood Memorial Park.

**Clarence Leo Macklin** was born Apr 26, 1917 in Otis, KS. Served in the US Army from 1940 to 1946 and was part of the invasion of North Africa. He also served as a Military Policeman in San Francisco. He received one Battle Star.

He married **Rose** and they had one son Jim “Jimmy”, who served in the US Navy from 1972 to 1976 as part of the Defense intelligence Agency in Washington, DC. Jimmy now lives in Fort Smith, AR and works for Merchants National Bank.

Clarence worked for 20 years as a glass and bottle maker for the Owens Company. He died Nov 10, 1992 in the Veterans Hospital, Muskogee, OK. and was cremated in Paris, AR.

**Stanley Strong Macklin** was born Jan 8, 1915 in Ralston, OK. Married **Edna Rempel** Nov 15, 1936 in Herrington, KS and daughter Sandra was born Jan 5, 1941. Stanley served with the US Naval Ammunition Depot at Hawthorn, NV from May 1944 to Jan 22, 1946. He began working for the Yellow Cab company in Topeka, KS Nov 1946 as a truck helper and retired 37 years later on Jul 1, 1977 as Treasure.

**Cecil Cedorn Macklin** was born Mar 9, 1920 in Carlton, KS. He was a US Marine Sergeant serving 5 years total in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. He spent 2 1/2 years on the Cruiser USS Philadelphia, and crossed the ocean 26 times. He received an Honorable Discharge and lived in San Diego and San Leandro, CA. Following military service, he worked for Roto Rooter.

He married **Mary McIntyre** Aug 31, 1941 at St. Lawrence Church in Brookline, MA - a suburb of Boston. They had one daughter Elaine who was born in 1957. Cecil died Mar 14, 1979 and is buried in the Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, CA.