

Christensen military history continues



1955 Back: first two men from Louisiana (2nd one is Martens), Ray Christensen, far right from Nebraska; Front: Peterson, ??



Ray had a picture of his parents sent to Korea and a Korean artist made a rendition of that picture on a cloth which measures 16 x 12 inches.

Now we go into Ray's Veteran family connections. Some of these Veterans may not have a direct Manning connection but will be included with Ray's military story in the history book. This is one of many reasons the Manning Veterans' history book will be very unique in that family history will also be included, as room allows once the layout of the book begins.



2005 Trent Christensen with his grandfather, Raymond Christensen. Trent is the son of Paul & Monica Christensen.

Trent's write-up will be included in the section of the Manning book that covers his era of military service and not with Ray's biography, but there will be references in the individual biographies that mention the names of close relatives and what era they'll be featured in the Veterans' book.

Here is the information I have for Trent that was provided for the Veteran section of the 2006 Manning Quasqui book...it will need updated for the future Manning Veterans' book.

Trent Levi Christensen Trent joined the U.S. Army Reserves on August 26, 2002, during his senior year and Manning High School. He graduated from basic combat and Military Police School, November 7, 2003, at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He served with the 4249th Port Security Company Military Police in Pocahontas, Iowa. As of 2005, Trent holds the rank of Specialist and has received the Army Service ribbon and the Army Achievement & National Defense medals.



Carl D. Forsbeck was born on May 3, 1883, on a farm near Gray. He was the son of Andrew G. and Mary (Aikman) Forsbeck. Captain Forsbeck's service began December 28, 1917. He served with the 525 Engineers and was stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia; Camp Pike, Arkansas; and also served in France from July 10, 1918, to July 3, 1919. He was discharged July 26, 1919. Carl was a brother to Ray Christensen's grandmother, Sadie (Forsbeck) Christensen.



Jens Christensen - first cousin twice removed to Ray. Jens served in the China-Burma theater during WWII.



Just to show you how many old pictures have been damaged over the years this image is what the first picture of Jens above looked like before I digitally cleaned up all of the cracks. Damage like this takes a lot of hours to fix and I generally don't take the time to do this type of major repair except when there is only one photo that exists or if it is more historically important.



To show the importance for every Veteran to identify their medals, ribbons, and patches...we are not 100% sure which patches go with which Christensen. Ray is fairly sure the two patches above belonged to Jens.

So if you are a Manning Veteran who is going to submit your military story for the Manning Veterans' book please make notes about your various patches and honors before submitting your things to be scanned and added to the database.



The only patch that Ray was not sure belongs to Jens is the oval shaped one just above. He is sure the other patches belonged to Jens, except for the Tech Sergeant patch which more than likely belonged to Lyle Christensen.

Lyle will be featured next and fortunately he was featured briefly in the Gray Centennial book.

With so many surrounding towns, there are many direct connections to Manning and will be featured in the Manning book.

This is why it is so imperative for anyone who has military information to come forward and help out.



Taken from the 1981 Gray Centennial book: Lyle Christensen was born March 5, 1911, son of Chris and Sadie (Forsbeck) Christensen. He was drafted and served at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and the U.S. Third Army in Germany in 1944. He was employed as a farmer, trucker, tavern operator and Gray School custodian. He died October 26, 1966, and military services were conducted by the American Legion Post No. 22, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 3517, of Manning.



Lyle Christensen (uncle to Ray) served during WWII - photo taken overseas.

A note about the information above for Lyle that came from the Gray centennial book...For several years I have been wanting to find time to go through the area Centennial history books to see if they have any Veterans featured who are also connected to Manning.

While working on Ray Christensen's family Veteran history I looked at the Veterans' section of the 1981 Gray Centennial book and there was a "jackpot" of entries that have Manning connections.

Here is a list of names from the Gray Centennial book that I either didn't have in my Manning database, and others who I had their name but little or no information: Dale Christensen, David Summerville, George Campbell, Howard Campbell, Lyle Christensen, Robert Hansen, Melvin Hansen, Fred Hansen, Cynthia Wanninger, Freddie Moeller, Harold Book, Harold Beck, Richard Morrell, Keith King, Harold Scott, Lyle Zinke, Robert Ewoldt, and Delmus Hacker.

Some of these Veterans listed above are living and their 1981 military biographies should be updated for the Manning Veterans' book. We also need original photos of their military service to scan. The images in the Gray book are not something that you can scan and get a very good digital image from - because of the large dot pattern used to print books of that type.

--END of the Christensen family Veteran history--

#15 Edmund Claussen (several pictures, formal write-up)



Edmund in Baumholder, Germany

Edmund was born and educated in Manning through Ninth Grade, when his family moved to Winterset, Iowa, to farm. His parents were Herman H. and Anna (Diederich) Claussen. He completed school at Patterson High School, Patterson, Iowa.

Edmund was drafted in the Army in 1951, with basic training in Ft. Rucker, Alabama. His service duty took him to Baumholder, Germany. He was a Rifleman and Company Clerk, 136th Infantry Regiment. Upon returning from service in 1953, Edmund attended Iowa State University, receiving his B.S. Degree in Agriculture Education in 1956. There he met and married Kathleen Manning Claussen from Clinton, Iowa. They had three children: Steven, Ann, and Paul.

Steven, born in 1957, married Rhonda Alleman Reams. They have three children: Shelly Reams, Daniel Claussen, and Benjamin Claussen.

Ann, born in 1961, married W. Randall Watler and they have two children: Kristopher and Sarah.

Paul, born in 1965, married Trang Ngo and they have three children: Alexander, William, and Vincent.

Edmund taught and started the Agriculture Education program at Charter Oak, Iowa for three years. He then worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for twenty-two years in Minneapolis, Dallas, Kansas City, Des Moines, and Denver. He retired from Government work in 1981, and started a Food and Drug Consulting business, traveling worldwide. He retired to a farming business in Maxwell, Iowa.

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