

Descendants of Barnett Dempsey

Generation No. 1

1. BARNETT¹ DEMPSEY was born Abt. 1752 in Virginia or Ireland, and died 1814 in Spartanburg Co. South Carolina. He married WINNIFRED (WINNEY) WFT Est. 1768-1797. She was born Abt. 1752 in Virginia, and died Aft. 1820 in Gwinnett County, Georgia.

Notes for BARNETT DEMPSEY:
1752-1814

The name has been spelled O'Diomasaigh in ancient times to Demsy, Demsey, Demcy in later times.

Origins are cited as "Lord of Clanmaliere", O'Dempsey was a chief in Offaley. The lands ruled over contained parts of the baronies of: Geashill and Phillipstown in Kings County, Portnehinch in Queens and Offaley and Monasterevan in Kildare.

The main castle was at Geashill, in Kings County. Others to be found in the barony of Offaley in County Kildare and in barony of Portnehinch at Ballybrittas in Queens County to name a few.

Cheifly a Sept of Leinster, as documented by the birth index.

O'Dempsey was one of the few Chiefs who defeated Strongbow in a military engagement. Many of his successors distinguished themselves as Irish Patriots and they were ruined as a result of their loyalty to James II. The name is now numerous in all the provinces.

In 1772 a decline in the linen trade and exorbitant rents caused a new wave of emmigration from the north of Ireland. Some 30,000 Ulstermen sailed for America in the five years preceeding the Revolutionary War.

Spartanburg South Carolina RMC office Book , pages 116-117
Barnett Dempsey to William Dempsey.. This indenture made this 7th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, in the twenty fifth year of independence, between Barnett Dempsey of the State of SC, of Spartanburg County of the one part and William Dempsey of the same state and county aforesaid of the other part witnesseth whereas in and by a certain grant three hundred and ninety two (392) acres granted to the said Barnett Dempsey____the first day of December 1795 situated in Pinckney District lying on the Branch of Abner's Creek and the waters of the Enoree River and both such shape and marks as are represented by a plat unto the said grantee named now the said Barnett Dempsey for the consideration of one hundred and fifty dollars in hand paid by the said William Dempsey his heirs executors administrators or assigns one hundred fifty acres of land more or less being the NW part of the said tract

beginning at a post oak-----mentions Lockards line-----Flannigan's line

.....

William Dempsey and his wife Betsy turn right around and sell this land to Henry House. It begins on page 117 and ends 118. This is apparently the son of Barnett and may be the oldest as he does receive the land. (And he may have left the state soon after, since by 1814 he is left out of the document filed for settlement which list children "in the state").

From Abstracts of Early Records of Laurens County, SC 1785-1820 by Sara M. Nash published in 1982....

Deed Book G, page 661 deed made 26 July 1802 and filed 6 September 1803 Edward Penman and James Simpson, London Kingdom of Great Britain by their attorney Edwin Gardner to Alexander McDowell merchant of Charleston for \$1000, total of 3000 acres. (1) 500 acres in Spartanburg District, granted to Robert Phillips 23 June 1774 by David Culbertson, James Kilgore, Barnett Dempsey, Henry House; (2) 500 acres Laurens District on Beaverdam Branch of Saluda where Thomas Mares formerly lived bounded by Thomas Williamson, James Rosemond, John Childers Samuel Neighbors; (3) 1000 acres Spartanburg District on Ferguson's Creek of Tyger River bounded by James Peden, granted to Daniel Heyward 2 April 1772; (4) 1000 acres on South Fork of Tyger River bounded on Isaac Huger, granted to D. Heyward 1773; (5) 500 acres on Middle Fork of Tyger River originally granted to Robert Phillips 23 June 1774 bounded on said Robert Phillips, Robert Carl. Witness: John Blair, James Davidson, D. Anderson, JQ Page 658 is a similar deed with same persons buying land.

This from Barnett to Robert Phillips may be the rest of the grant Barnett received of 392 acres, and another one of the sellers to R. Phillips is Henry House who also bought the land in deed from William Dempsey.

This is to certify I have published this citation at Wood's Meeting House in a public congregation, 5 August 1814.. This is a notice to begin administration of estate on Barnett Dempsey, I assume, it is with his administration estate papers.

These papers are originally filed in Inventory and Appraisment Book B, Spartanburg County, South Carolina, but are also at the South Carolina Archives Box 8 File Folder #771 package 22.

From the appraisal 26 September 1814, the total amount is \$441.23 then listed "whole amount given in by the legatee that they received in the lifetime of the deceased" but actually is items listed from the estate they took and charged out the sum to them. These took the items : Elexar, James, John, Jesse, William, Levi and William Willison and William Medford.

This came to a total of \$472.82 for a total of estate of \$914.05

On 29th December 1816 Jesse Dempsey filed for a settlement of the estate with John, Lazarous and Winney, Levi and William Willison and William

Medford, legatees "In the State" who were ready for a settlement. The settlement account list the items above as them paying for them to bring the net amount of estate to \$994.70 and 4/10. Cost to administer were \$109.30 2/10. The widows third of estate was \$295.13 4/10 and leaves a balance of \$590.268/10 to divide among 9 legatees which leaves each share at \$65.58 5/10. Elexar/Elezar (Ellenor or Elizabeth?), James and William Dempsey are not mentioned in this action as being in the state, have they moved to another state?

This doesn't seem like much but some items listed were 2 beds and furniture listed for \$12.00 and 1 mans saddle, one side saddle and a sheep skin for \$ 2.62, so you can see prices were NOT high in those days.

From records I find later, only Jesse, Levi, William and Matilda Medford, and Lazarous move to Georgia and James, William, John and daughter who married William Willson (Wilson) and not sure about Elezar, are somewhere else. Jesse, Lazarous and Levi are all in Gwinnett County Georgia in the 1820 census, plus William and Matilda. Barnett's widow Winney also move to Georgia and is probably living with William and Matilda.

More About BARNETT DEMPSEY and WINNIFRED (WINNEY):
Marriage: WFT Est. 1768-1797

Children of BARNETT DEMPSEY and WINNIFRED (WINNEY) are:

2.
 - i. LAZARUS² DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1793, Spartanburg Co. South Carolina; d. June 10, 1885, Smyrna, Georgia.
 - ii. JAMES DEMPSEY, b. 1774; d. WFT Est. 1775-1864.
 - iii. JOHN DEMPSEY, b. 1775; d. WFT Est. 1776-1865.
 - iv. WILLIAM DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1776; d. WFT Est. 1807-1867; m. ELIZABETH (BETSY), Bef. 1801.

More About WILLIAM DEMPSEY and ELIZABETH (BETSY):
Marriage: Bef. 1801

- v. LEVI DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1777, Spartanburg Co. South Carolina; d. Bef. 1840, Gwinnett County, Georgia?; m. CHARITY, WFT Est. 1795-1830, Spartanburg Co. South Carolina.

Notes for LEVI DEMPSEY:
1777-1838

In Spartanburg County, South Carolina Deed Records, 1818 he and his mother Winiford sold land which had been granted originally to Charles Wakefield in 1787. It doesn't mention when Barnett bought the land. The Deed also stated that Levi was from Dekalb County, Georgia.

In a second deed, Levi signs with his wife Charity. Book U pg. 92-3 dated 14 Feb. 1824 Levy Dempsey of DeKalb Co. Ga. to William Hendrix, Spartanburg Dist. for \$380. sold 190 acres where James Hendrix now lives on a branch of Abner's Creek of Enoree River, being part of a tract of 315 acres granted to said Levy Dempsey by patent bearing date of 5 July 1798. Witness James Hendrix and Phillip C. Lester. Signed Levi Dempsey. Witness oath 17 Feb. 1824 James Hendrix to Thomas Wood. Dower renounced 17 Feb. 1824 Charity Dempsey to Thomas Wood Rec. 2 June 1828.

I had Levi born about 1785 but by this grant above and the legal age of 21, I have reestimated his birthdate to 1777.

Levi is in Gwinnett County on the 1820 census, and is listed in the census index as Levi, Sr. in Gwinnett County 1830. By the 1840 census ,it shows only Charity in Coweta County with 2 sons and 2 daughters. Evidently the Levi, son of Barnett has died. I wonder why Charity moved to Coweta County? Was another child of theirs already there?

Levi is in the 1820 census of Gwinnett County, in Austin's Militia District and had 4 females and 4 males. This would be 6 children, probably.

The 1830 Gwinnett County census shows he had 5 sons and 4 daughters. The Coweta County census shows 2 sons and 2 daughters at home with Charity.

He was appointed in 1821 July term of court to mark off the road from the courthouse to the shallowford on the Chattahooche River. He won land in the 1832 Georgia Land Lottery, and at this time was in Loveless District of Gwinnett County. The land he won was in 21st District 2nd section but do not have lot #. He has jury duty in 1828.

These last two paragraphs were taken from THE GWINNETT COUNTY HISTORY

And were taken from a paper written by Muril Matthews for a family reunion, September 1993.

Clarke Rogers sen Levi's Admr. of Estate papers and they begin with File D-1 1835. Appointment Minutes are included in Book A pages 58,89 and 157, and Book B 73..

Bond in book A page 51 and Book B page 7 or 27, and page 33.

Misc. orders in Book B pages 3,5,11,21,37,40,56,60,62,137,179,264.

leave to sell in book A page 82 and Returns in Book A page 272 and book B page 105 and Book C pages 316 and 317.

Inventory of Goods and Chattles of Levi Dempsey, deceased sold on 27 February 1835. Eli Dempsey and John Dempsey bought some of items also a Joseph Ensley (related to Parks) and John and James.

William W. Selman and Charity were appointed Admr. of Estate, he signed and her mark was affixed., also as witnesses were Larkin Bailes and James T.

Wood.

A second return was given 31 December 1838.and it shows it being kept open until at least after January 1840.

On return #1 page 272 it is noted William Levi Dempsey in 18th District, now DeKalb Co. Ga has Lot # 277. this is the only time i have seen him referred to with the given name William included.

More About LEVI DEMPSEY and CHARITY:

Marriage: WFT Est. 1795-1830, Spartanburg Co. South Carolina

- vi. FEMALE DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1778; m. WILLIAM WILSON, WFT Est. 1792-1872; d. WFT Est. 1792-1872.

More About WILLIAM WILSON and FEMALE DEMPSEY:

Marriage: WFT Est. 1792-1872

- vii. JESSE DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1780, Spartanburg Co. South Carolina; d. June 02, 1799, Floyd County, Georgia; m. ELIZABETH, Abt. 1799, South Carolina.

Notes for JESSE DEMPSEY:

1780-1853

In 1820 Gwinnett County census, he has 6 males and 6 females.

In May of 1822 he is appointed to lay out road between Lawrenceville to Ezekiel Matthews bridge.

On January 11 and 26 and August 11, 1836 Jesse purchased three 40 acre lots and over the next nine years he bought four more additional 40 acre

lots, for a total of 280 acres in Floyd County, Georgia.

In 1846, he began selling his land, mostly to children and grandchildren. and when he died in 1853, all he owned was 20 acres, the S 1/2 of lot 245 which is located to the west side of Rehoboth Church. This was probably his homeplace, and where he lived when he died. The Rehoboth Church was not organized until 1876.

He apparently had no will, as all his children signed the deed to dispose of the land when he died. All signed except Berryman, but he was one who bought it and continued to own this land till just shortly before he moved to Arkansas on January 30, 1872.

A group of 14 people joined together on 20 June 1840 in Floyd County and founded Providence Church, Elizabeth and Ruth Dempsey were among these Charter members.

He was not a founding member of Providence Church, he did join the church about 4 months later. He and Berryman joined the same day 18 October 1840, and Jesse's death date is recorded in the membership list, and is probably buried in the Providence Cemetery.

More About JESSE DEMPSEY and ELIZABETH:

Marriage: Abt. 1799, South Carolina

- viii. ELEZAR DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1790, Spartanburg Co. South Carolina; d. WFT Est. 1791-1884.
- ix. MATILDA DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1782, Halifax Co. North Carolina; d. August 17, 1846, Lumpkin Co. Georgia; m. WILLIAM MEDFORD, Abt. 1799, South Carolina; b. 1780, County Antrim, Ulster, Ireland; d. June 24, 1842, Lumpkin Co. Georgia.

Notes for WILLIAM MEDFORD:
1780-1842

The name MEDFORD which has been spelled Meadford, Metford, means a place by a ford in a meadow. The name is Anglo Saxon and the Medfords were of Protestant faith but came from Ireland.

William Edward Medford left England and moved to Northern Ireland in 1609. We are not sure of the line but a descendant of his left County Antrim Ireland, which was our William, born in about 1772. He came to South Carolina while still a young man.

He married and lived in Spartanburg next to his inlaws, Barnett Dempsey. His brother John was in Spartanburg, S.C. by 1790 and is listed on the census.

Barnett Dempsey died in 1814 in Spartanburg District, leaving Administration of Estate papers, which named his children and named William Medford as a son in law.

In 1818 the Medford's Matilda's mother Winney, some of her brothers and sisters all moved to Gwinnett County Georgia. The farmers here were growing cotton and tobacco, but William decided to grow only tobacco as it would require less land and less hard labor of which he was getting too old to do.

William Medford is on the census of 1820 Georgia, Gwinnett Co. with 4 males and 4 females. He later is listed as serving as Inferior Court juror in June of 1831.

In MEDFORD'S OF THE SOUTH, VOL II it is said that Dempsey Barnett Medford, William's oldest son won land in the 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery. It is printed in Gwinnett County history that it is William who has won the land. He lives in the Towers District of the county. I have not checked the book, nor with the Georgia land board. Sometimes these people

won the land but when they saw it, they did not accept it.

Life was good for all until 1835 when William had a bad case of Malaria and had to retire. Some of the sons had already gone to Cherokee County Georgia and so William and Matilda and rest of the family joined them.

William bought land there between 1837-1839. William's land was between the railroad and Rope Mill road. Dempsey's land was on west between Rope Mill Road and Noonday Creek. William's land was known as #995 and was 40 acres, the plot bought in 1837.

William and Matilda joined the Aeon Baptist Church on July 5, 1840.

After checking 1820-1840 census, it appears to me that William and Matilda are not as old as earlier records would indicate. If the consensus of information from these correctly indicates age, they could not have born before 1780. Also it appears in the 1830 and 1840 census that there is a daughter younger than Luke Rupert. It has been said there was a child who died as infant, this was probably said as the child could not be located in records, but also on the records of Aeon Baptist Church in Cherokee Co. Georgia there is a Malinda Wood and Sylenna (sic) Medford plus an Elezer Medford.

On a document found by C. Jack Wood, who believes Malinda is a daughter of this couple, concerning Elisha Minshew, Jr. and Matilda Underwood (who was 'nee Wood, daughter of Solomon P. Wood and alleged Malinda Medford) Elisha states that his first wife (Sylinna, by 1850 census) and Malinda (Medford) Wood were sisters.

It is possible the Elezar Medford on record at Aeon Baptist Church is Elizabeth Ellison Medford, Wife of William Jackson Medford, but may be another daughter of William and Matilda. Perhaps those two earlier daughters did not die, or there was another in between some of the boys. There is an age gap. I really believe this is the wife of William Jackson Medford.

Elezar is on this roll of females, 1845, Matilda has been marked "dead" Selinae Medford, Malinda Wood and Matilda Wood are dismissed by letter. This is about time they went to Alabama.

More About WILLIAM MEDFORD and MATILDA DEMPSEY:
Marriage: Abt. 1799, South Carolina

Generation No. 2

2. LAZARUS² DEMPSEY (*BARNETT*¹) was born Abt. 1793 in Spartanburg Co. South Carolina, and died June 10, 1885 in Smyrna, Georgia. He married MARY (POLLY) JONES WFT Est. 1812-1842, daughter of SAMUEL JONES and BETHIA NATIONS. She was born Abt. 1799 in South Carolina, and died May 13, 1872 in Cobb County, Georgia.

Notes for LAZARUS DEMPSEY:
1793-1883

In 1936 a granddaughter files a BIOGRAPHICAL QUESTIONAIR with the Georgia Archives .

A son, Alvin Green was a Methodist minister and was founder of the First Methodist Church of Smyrna.

He also filed a claim with the Southern Claims Commission. He lived in Smyrna during the Civil War, but was forced to leave home while the Battle of Atlanta was in progress. When he left home, he had about 40 acres of woodland and a house, Wen he returned, all his timber had been

cut and his house had been torn down and hauled away for use of the Union Army. His son Alvin Green was forced to join the Confederate Army and serve as Chaplain. Lazarous could not prove he was loyal to the United States, so his claim was rejected, and he never received pay for his house and timber. Alvin Green was a witness in his father's case saying "I had to protect my father from the insults of the Rebel soldiers, it was on account of his opposition to the Confederacy and to expressing his Union sentiments, it was not safe for a man to talk the way he did at that time, he is an old man and what he thinks he says and what he feels he shows, said he would never have anything to do with the war," his forefathers fought for the Union and he never intended to go against it".

The above statement makes it clear that either Barnett or his father or Winiford's father must have fought in the American Revolution, but so far it has gone unproved.

Lazarous also says he served in the War of 1812, and at his age, it is likely, and also that he may have received a pension.

Also included with the Biographical Questionnaire was a Bible record of one of his sons, Thomas J. In this Bible record, it gives the death date of Lazarous and his wife Mary.

He may have had about 13 children, using the census and other information but in his will which is on file in Cobb County, Georgia, only Alvin, Irene C. and Mary are named.

In records found from Cobb County, an A.G. Dempsey served in Company A, 1st Regiment, later was called the 18th Georgia Regiment. an S.G (or S.J.) served in Company F, 19th Regiment of Georgia. In the Smyrna cemetery there is tombstones of Sarah J., born 6 June 1848 and died 3 August 1921 and Laura G, born 6 October 1838 and died 18 June 1907. check this again.....

In the 1820 census of Gwinette County Lazarous has 2 males and 3 females.

Cobb County, Georgia Bond Book A (1855-1877) page 106 James W. Keheley principal with Alvin G. Dempsey, T.G. McAfee as security bonded for \$500. on January 15 1871 as constable for #992 G.M. District before Alfred Maner N.P. Recorded 14 February 1871.

More About LAZARUS DEMPSEY and MARY JONES:
Marriage: WFT Est. 1812-1842

Children of LAZARUS DEMPSEY and MARY JONES are:

3. i. ALVIN GREEN³ DEMPSEY, b. September 30, 1833, Cobb County Georgia; d. September 09, 1890, Smyrna,

- Georgia.
- ii. THOMAS JACKSON DEMPSEY, b. WFT Est. 1815-1841; d. WFT Est. 1816-1905.
 - iii. IRENE DEMPSEY, b. WFT Est. 1815-1841; d. WFT Est. 1816-1909.
 - iv. ZADOCK R. DEMPSEY, b. WFT Est. 1815-1841; d. July 05, 1862.
 - v. R.C. DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1832; d. WFT Est. 1833-1926.
 - vi. S.C. DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1835; d. WFT Est. 1836-1929.
 - vii. L.N. DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1837; d. WFT Est. 1838-1927.
 - viii. MARY M. DEMPSEY, b. Abt. 1841; d. WFT Est. 1842-1935.

Generation No. 3

3. ALVIN GREEN³ DEMPSEY (*LAZARUS*², *BARNETT*¹) was born September 30, 1833 in Cobb County Georgia, and died September 09, 1890 in Smyrna, Georgia. He married MARTHA EMELINE WATERS December 06, 1847. She was born November 05, 1833 in South Carolina, and died November 03, 1895 in Smyrna, Georgia.

Notes for ALVIN GREEN DEMPSEY:

Alvin Green Dempsey was the 1st Pastor of the First Methodist Church - Smyrna, Georgia

He married Martha E. Waters and they had 10 Children

According to Muril Matthews notes from Alvin Greens Bible death date was September 26, 1890

More About ALVIN GREEN DEMPSEY:

Burial: Smyrna, Georgia City

Fact 1: birth date 1831 or 1833 death Sep9 or sep30

More About ALVIN DEMPSEY and MARTHA WATERS:

Marriage: December 06, 1847

Children of ALVIN DEMPSEY and MARTHA WATERS are:

- 4. i. THOMAS JACKSON⁴ DEMPSEY, SR., b. December 02, 1852; d. March 28, 1935.
- ii. N.A. DEMPSEY, b. November 05, 1850.

Notes for N.A. DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

- iii. L.J.A.A. DEMPSEY, b. August 06, 1855; d. April 09, 1857.

Notes for L.J.A.A. DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

- iv. R.H.W. DEMPSEY, b. February 28, 1858.

Notes for R.H.W. DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

- v. MARY MARANDAY GRACEY ANN MANAVERY JANE DEMPSEY, b. September 28, 1860; d. November 28, 1898.

Notes for MARY MARANDAY GRACEY ANN MANAVERY JANE DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

According to notes from Muril Matthews the only name listed under deaths is Mary

- vi. ZEDOCK PINKNEY DEMPSEY, b. May 19, 1863.

Notes for ZEDOCK PINKNEY DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

- vii. SARAH MARTHA CAROLINE SELINNA KATHARINE DEMPSEY, b. August 08, 1865.

Notes for SARAH MARTHA CAROLINE SELINNA KATHARINE DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

- viii. N.L.D.G. DEMPSEY, b. January 27, 1868.

Notes for N.L.D.G. DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

- ix. W.S. DEMPSEY, b. March 10, 1871; d. August 05, 1897.

Notes for W.S. DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

- x. EMMER L. DEMPSEY, b. February 21, 1876.

Notes for EMMER L. DEMPSEY:

Birth and Death dates and names From email from Muril Matthews. Entries from Alvin Green's Bible

Generation No. 4

4. THOMAS JACKSON⁴ DEMPSEY, SR. (ALVIN GREEN³, LAZARUS², BARNETT¹) was born December 02, 1852, and died March 28, 1935. He married NARCISSA AMERICA SMITH, daughter of JOHN SMITH and IRENA NIX. She was born February 17, 1851, and died November 17, 1921.

Notes for THOMAS JACKSON DEMPSEY, SR.:

Thomas Jackson Dempsey, Sr. was Judge of the County Court of Sumter County , Florida for four years (1928-1932), having refused to run for re-election again in 1932. He spent the winters at his farm in Webster Florida and the summers with his daughter, Ernestine, in Atlanta, Georgia. He died at Hollard Hospital in Leesburg, Florida on March 28, 1935 after a week's illness. He was survived by Dr. E.F. Dempsey of Toccoa, Georgia; Miss Ernestine Dempsey of Atlanta, Georgia; Mr. T.J. Demsey, Jr. of Athens, Georgia and by nine grandchildren. Funeral rites were conducted from the Jackson Methodist Church and interment was in the Jackson, Georgia cemetery.

Thomas Jackson Dempsey was known as Tom Dempsey. The Dempsey home was located at the end of Dempsey Avenue in Jackson, Georgia. Tom Dempsey was known as a very stubborn person, strict disciplinarian and regarded the Carmichael Family as a great rival. This is evident in the article, "WAKE UP JACKSON!" which was given to Sue Dempsey by Uncle J.R. Carmichael, Jr. The article dated November 14, 1906 was unsigned, but Tom Dempsey was given the credit because he was so opposed to the City water system in Jackson, Georgia.

Hugh Dempsey, told Sue Dempsey, that his grandfather, Tom Dempsey, had an opportunity to be a wealthy person by investing in Coca Cola stock when it was very cheap. Tom Dempsey said, "I do not want to invest in "DOPE"!"

Children of THOMAS DEMPSEY and NARCISSA SMITH are:

- i. ELAM FRANKLIN⁵ DEMPSEY, b. July 06, 1878.

Notes for ELAM FRANKLIN DEMPSEY:
Dr. Elam Dempsey

From the Library of Congress

American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers'
Project,
1936-1940

[Elam Franklin Dempsey]

[Oct. 39?]
Page 1.

ELAM FRANKLIN DEMPSEY

"I was born -- this Elam Franklin Dempsey -- as Benjamin Franklin, that great old sage of America. As for the Dempsey part, I always say that it is the same as Jack Dempsey, spelled the same way, so there is no further difficulty there. Elam Franklin Dempsey. I was born July 6, 1878, in Atlanta, Georgia, Tattnall Street, the Peachtree of that day, in my grandfather's house. My grandfather's name was John Durant Smith. My parents lived in Dodge County, and for a season my father lived in a place bearing his own name, Dempsey, Georgia. He was engaged in the crosstie trade, manufacturing and selling them, and therefore he traveled a good bit, living between Georgia and Florida. We lived here and there between north Florida and Georgia. His health breaking down around 1880, he was forced to give up his occupation, and had to move to Jackson, Georgia, near Indian Springs, the water of which is a specific, as you may know, for malarial diseases. He lived there thirty-seven years, raising four children.

"My oldest sister was named Irene, the second, Ernestine, who is now teaching English at Girls' High School, here in Atlanta. My brother, Thomas Jackson Dempsey, Junior, is in the education department of Georgia, a well-known supervisor-inspector of schools under Dr. Collins. He is next to Dr. Collins in rank. I'd be glad if you'd interview him sometime. He's a man who, though well-known in some circles, is not as much recognized as his ability and accomplishments warrant. Of course, he's younger than I am, and hasn't had as much time to make himself known. He lives at Watkins, Georgia, but works and has his office in the State Capitol.

"I just happened to think of it, if you will look at the Memoirs of Georgia you will see a sketch of my father. "Both my parents were natives of Cobb County. My father was Thomas Jackson Dempsey, son of Reverend A. G. Dempsey -- Reverend Alvin Green Dempsey. I've often wondered how the Alvin and the Green came into the Dempsey family, but I haven't done the necessary research yet to find out. My mother was Narcissa America Smith -- N a r c i s s a. It's a peculiar old-fashioned name, and my mother never liked it. But we all loved its old-fashioned sound.

"Now, going back. We were at Butts County, where we lived many years. My father had a large mercantile business there, and other businesses, and was also a lawyer. Later he went to Florida, and at the age of seventy-five was elected Judge of the Supreme Court there, and won flattering praise for his excellent handling of the somewhat involved Florida law. He was never reversed on a single judgment, and only one was ever questioned, and everybody said that he was right on that.

"My father was a very aggressive man. I'm not very much like him in that -- unless you put me under pressure. My grandmother used to say of him, 'He's like Job's war horse. He sniffs a battle from afar, and rushes into battle.'

"At Jackson I had the usual experience of going through grammar school and then through high school. I had fine teachers, and I do appreciate good teachers

and good preachers! My pastors were very lovely to me, also. One of them I would like to mention in particular. Reverend John L. Bowden. I remember him reverently. I remember him, giving me counsel many times. Once he said, 'My boy, a man ought not to preach to study in the pulpit, but should preach from the standpoint of study.' By that he meant that one shouldn't use the pulpit for experimenting, but should study diligently before preaching. I loved and honored him, and when he died I had the honor to write the memoirs of his life. I'd love to name all the pastors, but of course, that would take too long.

"Well, to get back to school. We didn't have, in those days, a formal kindergarten. But we were fortunate in having a lady -- Miss Eva Sassnitt, daughter of William Sassnitt, with us. She was an intellectual and devout woman, and had that enthusiasm of a teacher (which is the most valuable attribute of a teacher). She was my first teacher, and was more or less in charge of schools there. Then a schoolhouse was built at Jackson, where I first went to school. We were fortunate in being one of the earlier of the counties to have a good school.

"Professor [Blasingame?] I remember, Professor J. C. Blasingame, and Professor Troy Kelley, constituted the faculty that early gave shape to the school.

A typical day in school:

First, in the large auditorium, in the morning we had chapel for Bible-reading and exercises. There would be comment, sometimes by the visitors, if any were present, on the Bible reading of the day, then there would be singing from a well-chosen hymn book. Professor Blasingame, who was always enthusiastic about music, would lead the singing.

"It was the privilege of Jackson High School to have a series of talks each year by visitors -- well-known men, whose talks would inspire us and counsel us to make something of ourselves. For instance, Doctor Quigg, a Scotch divine, lectured on his experiences.

Cuba, and his lecture was one of the most impressive of the series. Another man I remember was Marcus W. Beck, a native of Jackson. He gave many talks, and sedulously prepared for these addresses. He came to us with inspiring remarks, and filled us with aspiration for great things. It was that a man of such wonderful gifts and ability should advance rapidly, and I was not surprised when he became a Justice of the Superior Court.

I remember one day seeing him walking under the large oak trees along the walk on the sunlit sand. It was one of these beautiful Georgia mornings that we have, and the sunlight was coming down through the leaves of the trees, making a pattern of checkered light and shade -- a beautiful sight. He was absorbed in his meditations, and wasn't aware that anyone was watching.

I saw him, though, gesturing vigorously, and walking soberly along. It was inspiring to me. I know that he was preparing another one of his fine talks. I said to myself, 'Here is a man who expects to be somebody. He is willing to pay the price, and works hard.' I'll never forget the picture of him striding down the walk of white sand, overshadowed by tremendous oak trees, through which the sunlight filtered down.

"We had some remarkable people in Jackson. Old Dr. Anderson, for instance. Nobody knew anything about him, or where he came from. He just appeared out of nowhere, before the railroad came, even. He was a man who had had considerable tragedy in his life, and he took refuge in his books. He was a very eccentric man, a very smart man. He was the one my father studied law under. The people of the famous Will N. Harbin were also there in Jackson.

. "But you want a typical day in school, and I got off on this side track After [shapel?] we went to recitations again, then we had mid-morning recess, playing games, and so forth. Let's see if I remember any of those games. Ofcourse, there was the craze over marbles that was current then, and top-spinning -- knulling tops, it was called -- and races. We

waxed quite ambitious in our athletic program. Some of the boys got two ropes and tied them to high limbs, and they would swing way out with them. Sometimes they would put a little fellow on it and swing him way around, until finally he had to let go and do a belly-buster. I always hated to see them do that. Sometimes the little boys would get on the swings themselves, and fall off. They shouldn't have done it. But a young boy is ambitious, you know, and they didn't think about the consequences.

I used to get after the big boys for picking on the little ones, and one time I had a fight about it. One of the big boys was teasing and bullying a little boy. He wasn't really mean, but just the bullying kind. I said to him that I'd give him a licking if he did anything to the little fellow again, and of course, that was the invitation he was waiting for. The bully got behind me and put his hands on my shoulders and said, 'Elam will take care of him; yes old Elam'll take care of him.' When he jumped on the boy again I hit him. I had a negro friend who had told me something about fighting, and he had said to kick his shins. I didn't realize as fully as I should have that he could kick my shins, too. It was a game two could play, and his shoes were heavier than mine. For days after that my shins were sore. I made up my mind that the shoe business wouldn't work, and I took care to use another method next time. I wasn't really a belligerant boy, but I didn't like to see anybody picked on. All this fighting took place at the morning recess.

"At noon most of us went home for dinner, for most of us lived there in town. We came back and had recitations again, and the afternoons did seem long! We stayed till four o'clock, usually. Then there would be those, sometimes, who were kept in. That was bad on the teachers and the pupils, too. There was recognition of fidelity in marks, sometimes based on a hundred, sometimes on ten.

We had a debating society, which would rise, flourish, and fail. Then we'd have declamation time, being very ambitious and anxious to be Daniel Webster and Thomas Paines. We would get together in groups in the fields, far enough from one another so that we wouldn't disturb each other, and practice. We didn't know anything about platform posture, gesturing, and so forth, though, and it was mainly main strength and awkwardness. We could holler loud, though, and we did. When anybody had advanced to the point where he could be heard clear across the village he was thought to be very good.

Sometimes in vacation time we put on exercises, and had debates. And it did us good, too. That old time custom contributed to civic thinking, and taught us to think on our feet and get up before the public put our thoughts into words. I've noticed that those who excelled at those things have done well in life since then.

"There was a lady who taught music at the school -- mandolin, guitar, and violin. We had a very musical group in Jackson, Georgia. Professor Blasingame took a large part in the musical activities.

"The young men and women who went away from Jackson represented us well. Major Woodward, of G. M. A.; Professor Henry F. Fletcher; Douglas Watson, of Gordon Institute; and O. L. [?] Thaxton, of G. S. C. W., are some of the men who have gone out into the world from Jackson and made good.

"In September, after my sixteenth birthday, I entered Junior College and went two years. My schooling was interrupted by ill health, and I stopped out and stayed one year on the farm. I have always been glad that I did, for it improved my health and helped me to be strong. In June, 1899, I graduated, having had the pleasure of being three years under Bishop Candler. I graduated, though, under Dr. C. E. Dowman. At college, in spite of ill health, I was champion debater, and was editor of the Phoenix. I entered every debate they had. At that time Mrs. Corra White Harris was my Sunday School teacher. You knew Mrs. Harris, the famous Georgia author. She was at that time wife of the Greek professor at Emory, Professor L. H. Harris, and as always, her mind scintillated with wit and shrewd understanding. I spent many an evening with her and

others, enjoying their conversation and learning. I never enjoyed anything more than those informal gatherings where we discussed all the things I had been interested in for so long. I simply ate it up.

"During my college life I tried to take part in all the various activities -- the religious, social, athletic, and all of them. I was especially interested in debating.

"I thought that a person in college should get a well-rounded education and culture, and I set out to do this. I didn't lay particular stress on the social activities, though I was a member of the A.T.O. Fraternity.

"The incentive I had at Emory was not personal ambition, but to please my father and mother. I was so sickly that the work was very taxing on me, but I knew that for me to do well would give them joy, and that was the happiest part of it for me.

"There at college all the books I had longed to have the opportunity to read were at hand, and I read them incessantly. I read everything -- Balzac, even. Ought not to have read some I did, perhaps, but I didn't know, and I gloried in the opportunity of having so many books at hand. In this atmosphere of books and learning at Emory I was in paradise. I was a very ardent fiction reader, but I had read that one must not be desultory in his reading, and I decided to limit myself to only one book of fiction at a time, and finally cut them out altogether.

"I can tell you, though, I stuck my tooth into one thing that was hard to handle. Mrs. Harris had recommended to me the Journal of Amiel, Journal Intime, translated by Mrs. Humphrey Ward. It is a book of philosophical thoughts that Amiel jotted down -- deep meditations on many subjects Talk about Attic Salt, talk about Ambrosial Nights, we had them in Oxford, Georgia, there at little Emory!

"My college friendships have been very precious to me. My roommate was G.M. [Eakes?]. He was like a brother to me. We were inseparable, and deskmates back in Jackson before going to college. He was my good guide and counselor and helped me on many an occasion. He loved me truly, and I him. He meant much to me.

"When I was in the Freshman class in college an incident occurred which was rather amusing, which involved Eakes. He was persuaded by the rest of the boys to co-operate with them in scaring me. We didn't have any regular hazing then, but usually a new boy would be initiated in some manner by the older students. Well, they had decided to play the "dumbull" on me, which in tying a string on a nail stuck under the clapboard of a house and then rosining it and stroking it. It produces a weird sound, sometimes high and screeching, and sometimes low and ominous. Well, Eakes, being my roommate, was appointed to talk to me that night and get me properly in the mood to be scared. He began telling me all kinds of weird things about the effect of such a sound. I wasn't much impressed, however, and said that it was just silly. Well, we went to bed, and presently the noise began. We awoke, and Eakes asked me if I heard it. 'Yes,' I said, 'it sounds rather silly, doesn't it?' Then I turned over and went back to sleep and didn't wake up anymore that night. But Eakes told me later that he was kept awake half the night by the dumbull that was supposed to frighten me. He told the other boys about it the next morning, and one of them said, 'Well, I told them all the time that you couldn't do anything with that ugly old gangling, old long-legged devil!' I was long and awkward and thin then.

"Later in life, when I was started on my way upward he befriended me time and again, and took me about with him to various churches and let me help him in evangelical [work?]. I surely went through agonies to get up

sermons and arguments for those services. I was just out of college, and it is not easy to get on to making a good sermon. A preacher has got to not only lay down a proposition, but he must argue it, apply it, persuade and admonish, and close with a definite and earnest proposition.

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"I could tell you many episodes of that part of my experiences. After we closed the meetings we would all go off somewhere and have a houseparty and relax before going into the next series of evangelical services. My good friend, Reverend G. M. Eakes, who was my roommate at Oxford, entertained a number of pastors once, and during my stay there I had a great deal of pleasure in going through his large library. I remember one volume particularly, a volume of James Whitcomb Riley, in which was a poem called THE PIPES O' PAN OF [ZEKESBURY?], and I read and reread it many times, I became so

infatuated with it. I didn't try to memorize it, but I found the other day that I remembered it word for word. I amazed myself by quoting it line for line, all the nine stanzas:

(Quotes poem)

"Well, I've been blessed with a good memory, but I was much surprised at myself. The memory, I think has been depreciated lately too much -- probably because in former years it was rated too high. Not enough attention is given to cultivating it. The memory is handmaiden to all our faculties. What could you do if you lost your memory? Why, if you couldn't remember, you would lose even your personal identity. When I was a young boy I used to memorize just for the pleasure of it all the examples of correct English given in Hart's Readers. My mother, seeing me interested in cultivating my memory, suggested that I learn some hymns. I took her suggestion, and have always been grateful for it, for I still remember them. And I have been able to remember many Bible verses because of a good memory.

"And speaking of the Bible, do you know that there is not a book in the Bible that is not built on some other book? That shows that there was one supervisory intelligence for the whole work. Most people think that the

Pentateuch is difficult
to account for on the score of literary sources. But this need
not

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perplex if one will notice such passage as the second half of
Exodus, Seventeen,
and such like scriptures. It is evident from these that writing
and keeping records
was a matter entirely familiar to the Hebrews in charge of the
migration of the
Jews in the Wilderness.

"I graduated, and then joined the conference in Lagrange,
Georgia, following the
life of an itinerant minister. Later, I graduated from
Vanderbilt, in 1906, and it
was my privilege to deliver on that occasion the address
representing the
department. Bishop Hendricks was on the platform. In november,
1909, it was
Bishop Hendricks who presided over conference, and he gave me an
appointment to Trinity Church, here in Atlanta. Later, he was
helpful to me in
writing the life of Bishop Haygood.

"When I entered the ministry I felt very strongly that I had to
be mentally honest,
and wanted to go into the Biblical problems deeply. Not all men
feel that way,
and I pass no judgment or criticism on those. I want to make that
plain. But for
myself, I knew that I had to study a great deal before I could
satisfy myself on
the various Biblical questions.

"I wanted to get more education to broaden my knowledge, and I
requested
Bishop Hendricks to appoint me a student to Vanderbilt
University. I always
believed, like Dr. Lovick Pierce, father of Bishop Pierce, said,
that a call to
preach is a call to get ready to preach. After graduating from
Vanderbilt I
returned to Georgia, and married Georgia Roger Hunnicutt, the
daughter of
James B. Hunnicutt. We have not been blessed with children, but
my wife still
lives, and blesses my life.

"My first charge in the preaching line was in the city mission
in Atlanta. Then I
served circuits and stations in North Georgia Conference and was
appointed to
Trinity Church in 1910. I was Dean of the Theology Department at
Emory from

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1914 to 1918; paster at Athens, First Methodist Church; Rome,
First Church;
and was Secretary-treasurer of the Christian Education Movement
to [1926?],
and was presiding elder of the Oxford district from 1926 to 1930.

From 1932
[to?] 1934 I was pastor at Madison, and from 1934 to 1936 at the
First
Methodist Church in Toccoa, Georgia.

"At present I have been given a sabbatical year to complete and
[publish?] the
life of Bishop Haygood, which his family requested me to write
some time ago.

"My comment on my record of varied service is that no one is more
surprised at
its character than I. My expectations when I left college -- and
I fully expected
that and nothing more -- was to be pastor of a church. It came as
a great
surprise -- and almost alarm to me/ {Begin inserted text} [?]
{End inserted
text} when I saw I was being called in phases of service somewhat
different
from that detached work. But it was the call of Providence and
the voice of the
Church, and it would have been presumptuous of me to refuse. I
have tried as
best I could to serve in these various fields.

"Among other things I have been trustee of various institutions
-- Holmes
Institute, Emory College, Emory University. I was trustee at
Emory for ten
years. I have also served in that capacity for Reinhardt College,
Lagrange
College for Women. Others have invited me to serve, but those are
the ones I
served.

"I was secretary of the Christian Education Movement during many
periods, and
one year I raised \$100,000. I'll tell you how that happened. I
was within fifteen
hundred dollars of that goal when conference met. I looked about
and found
that Mr. Samuel Candler Dobbs was in the city. Knowing his love
for this cause,
I called to see him and stated the case to him. In a very kind
manner he said, 'Is
that all you need?' I replied, 'Yes, sir, that will bring me to
my desired goal.'
Without further ado he wrote me a check for fifteen hundred

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dollars. You can imagine with what eagerness I returned to
conference, and
after getting the Bishop's recognition, stated that here in my
hand -- holding it
aloft - was the last fifteen-hundred dollars on a total of one
hundred thousand
dollars for the Christian Education Movement. I was very happy,
and the whole
audience cheered and applauded loudly.

"I taught in the college at Oxford for several years, and enjoyed
my life and
associations there greatly. It was very pleasant to be with the

young men and help them as much as I could to understand some fundamentals of Biblical study. One of the things I think important is the ability to speak and enunciate clearly. I don't know whether my enunciation is clear, but I've been told it was. At Oxford, in one of my Bible courses I referred in a lecture to Aaron's budded rod -- you remember the story of his rod bursting into bloom. When examination time came one of the boys used in an answer to a question a reference to Aaron's budded rod! I don't know whether he was being facetious, or whether he [understood?] it that way.

"I never had any trouble keeping discipline in my classes, and I didn't have to scare the boys into behaving, either. I tried to be more subtle. One afternoon, I remember, a boy was sitting with his feet propped up on the seat of the desk in front of him. It was a very hot, long summer afternoon, and the students were naturally restless, but of course I couldn't allow that. There was a professor at Emory once who used to show the soles of his feet while he lectured, but I don't approve of that kind of conduct. I wanted to call the boy's attention to his position, but I didn't want to hurt his feelings, so I looked straight ahead, at the wall in the back of the room, so that really I wasn't looking at anyone in particular, and yet it seemed that I might be looking toward any student in the room.

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"I said, 'I have been reading in a magazine recently an article entitled The Upward Tendency of the Foot.' Quick as a flash the boy took his feet down, and it was all I could do not to burst out laughing, but naturally I couldn't afford to smile even.

"Another way I had of keeping them in hand was, if I saw a young fellow [slack?] up in his work, to ask him to come by the desk when class was adjourned. For instance, one of the boys might have been making poor grades in one of the subjects, when I knew that he could do better.

"At the adjournment of class," I would say, 'I would like for Mr. Brown to stop by my desk. Class is adjourned.' I would wait until all the others were gone, then I would turn to the boy and say to him, 'Mr. Brown, do you

think you are
doing your duty fully by this subject?' He wouldn't know what to
say, usually,
but would hem and haw and shift from one foot to the other.
'That's enough, sir,'
I would tell him. 'I'm sure it will not be necessary to again
call your attention to
this matter.'

"I didn't believe in embarrassing pupils, as some teachers do. I
contend that a
pupil usually wants to do well in his studies and maintain good
conduct if he gets
the proper appreciation from his teachers.

"One of the tenderest little episodes I remember happened at big
Emory while I
was teaching there. I think the subject of the class in which
this occurred was
Church History, or some such study. It was not a major, and many
laymen
elected the course -- maybe because they thought it was a "crip"
course, I don't
know. Well, anyway, one day I was a few minutes late to class,
but not more
than five at the most. When I got to the classroom, however, the
door seemed
to be locked. I pushed upon it and found that a chair had been
propped against
it from the inside, anchored under the doorknob -- you know

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how it's done. Well, I just pushed the door on open as if nothing
had happened,
and quietly set the chair aside. I made no reference to the
incident, but went on
with the class as usual. Years after that I received a letter
from a man in Texas,
well-established in business, and he said [that?] he was the one
who had
propped the chair against the door. It was purely in a spirit of
fun, he said, but it
had been on his conscience ever since, and he was much struck
with the smooth
and [gential?] way in which I treated the incident. I appreciated
that, and thought
it was a beautiful episode in my life.

"A minister meets a variety of people and personalities in his
work. There was
Mr. Dodd, who was a member of the congregation of my first
church. His
daughter, Nellie Dodd, had died a little while before, while
still very young and
beautiful, and he donated money to the church to build a chapel
to her memory.
He was a business magnate of the city, and an influential
citizen, and I called on
him one day to ask him advice about making the year's church work
successful.
Mr. Dodd -- Mr. Green T. Dodd -- was a bluff, hearty man, and he
said, 'Why
just go out there and start throwing rocks and killing snakes!'
Of course, he was

using snakes as a symbol of sin. Somebody once said, 'Don't dig up more snakes than you can kill,' and that's pretty good advice, too. Mr. Dodd was a judgmatical man, and he proved a wise man and counselor for me all during my stay at that church.

"In the membership of what has grown to be Oakland City Baptist Church there was a delightful Irish family. Their home was a delightful place for the young minister. They had a picturesque way of saying, 'Our name is Shannon, and we are as Irish as the Shannon River.'

"There was quite a little romance to the family, as I learned after knowing them a while. When Mr. and Mrs. Shannon were young they lived in Ireland and were childhood sweethearts, but their parents opposed their

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marriage. Mr. Shannon soon came to America, and married a lady over here. The girl married someone else and lived in India several years. It happened that both Mr. Shannon's wife and the girl's husband died at nearly the same time, and they both went back to Ireland for a visit, of course quite without knowing anything of the other. They met again in Ireland and fell in love all over, married, and came back to America. They are a lovely family, and have some fine children. I have spent many pleasant hours with them.

"One of the most amusing little episodes occurred at Jefferson during a testimonial meeting in church. The meeting was well in progress, and several people had gotten up and made statements to the congregation. We had a lady musician who played the organ for us, and this lady had a peculiar habit of sitting up very rigid and straight while she was playing. She would not sway her body or turn her head, but would turn the whole body at once on the organ stool. During a lull in the service she whirled about very suddenly on the stool, looking like a marionette in a puppet show. 'Brothers and Sisters,' she said, 'I just feel like I'm a settin on the stool of do-nothin'. It was very funny, the way it all happened, and many people had a job of it to keep from laughing.

"Very beautiful incidents occurred too. One time we were holding

- ii. EMILY IRENE DEMPSEY, b. November 13, 1879.
- iii. ERNESTINE MAY DEMPSEY, b. March 02, 1884.
- 5. iv. THOMAS JACKSON DEMPSEY, JR, b. November 03, 1886, Jackson, Georgia; d. June 09, 1948, Athens, Georgia.

5. THOMAS JACKSON⁵ DEMPSEY, JR (*THOMAS JACKSON⁴, ALVIN GREEN³, LAZARUS², BARNETT¹*) was born November 03, 1886 in Jackson, Georgia, and died June 09, 1948 in Athens, Georgia. He married BERTHA BEATRICE CARMICHAEL April 20, 1910 in Jackson, Georgia. She was born January 19, 1885 in Jackson, Georgia, and died April 09, 1967 in Athens, Georgia.

More About THOMAS JACKSON DEMPSEY, JR:
Burial: Jackson, Georgia

More About BERTHA BEATRICE CARMICHAEL:
Burial: Jackson, Georgia

More About THOMAS DEMPSEY and BERTHA CARMICHAEL:
Marriage: April 20, 1910, Jackson, Georgia

Children of THOMAS DEMPSEY and BERTHA CARMICHAEL are:

- i. ALVIN HUGH⁶ DEMPSEY, b. February 17, 1920, Butts County; d. April 07, 1982, Griffin, Georgia; m. MARY SUE DILLARD, March 20, 1948, Athens, Georgia; b. August 02, 1927, Clarke County.

Notes for ALVIN HUGH DEMPSEY:
U.S. Army Record of Alvin Hugh Dempsey - Serial Number 0-514-300
Prepared by Sue Dempsey - January 2001

ROTC CAVALRY at The University of Georgia, as a student, graduated in 1942. Applied for and received a commission in U.S. Cavalry as 2nd Lt. From 1942-1944 he was at Fort Riley, Kansas attending Officer's Candidate School. In April, 1944 was promoted to 1st Lt. and attended Field Artillery School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma - August, 1944.

November, 1944 1st Lt. Dempsey was sent to the European Theatre (England, France, and Germany) In Third Army Division with the 16th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and was promoted to Captain in July 1945.

Captain Dempsey returned to U.S.A. in August 1945 and was assigned as commanding officer of Troop A of 16th Cavalry and Assistant Executive officer of Headquarters at Camp Hood, Texas in November 1945.

Captain Alvin Hugh Dempsey requested release from Active Duty in February 1946. He received his Clearance Certificate through Ft. Meade, Maryland Separation Center in March 1946.

Captain Hugh Dempsey's Military Record and Report of Separation Certificate of Service gives the following information:

Continental Service - 2 years - 4 months - 14 days
Foreign Service - 9 months - 4 days
Total --- 3 years- 1 month - 18 days

More About ALVIN HUGH DEMPSEY:
Burial: April 08, 1982, Griffin, Georgia

More About ALVIN DEMPSEY and MARY DILLARD:
Marriage: March 20, 1948, Athens, Georgia

- ii. ANNE AMERICA DEMPSEY, b. January 25, 1916; d. January 22, 1984, California; m. RAY DEAN WATTS; b. October 31, 1914; d. October 16, 1999.

More About ANNE AMERICA DEMPSEY:
Burial: Jackson, Georgia

- iii. EMILY IRENE DEMPSEY, b. June 23, 1914; d. September 30, 1987; m. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ETHERIDGE, June 02, 1940; b. February 27, 1917.

More About EMILY IRENE DEMPSEY:

Burial: Waycross

More About BENJAMIN ETHERIDGE and EMILY DEMPSEY:

Marriage: June 02, 1940

- iv. FRANCES EARNESTINE DEMPSEY, b. March 20, 1923; d. January 23, 1984, Atlanta, Georgia; m. (1) JOHN BEASLEY THOMAS, JR., June 16, 1945; b. April 13, 1923; d. November 01, 1974, Atlanta, Georgia; m. (2) ARTHUR BROOKS, February 12, 1983.

More About FRANCES EARNESTINE DEMPSEY:

Burial: Bishop, Georgia

More About JOHN BEASLEY THOMAS, JR.:

Burial: Bishop, Georgia

More About JOHN THOMAS and FRANCES DEMPSEY:

Marriage: June 16, 1945

More About ARTHUR BROOKS and FRANCES DEMPSEY:

Marriage: February 12, 1983

- v. BERTHA JANE DEMPSEY, b. January 04, 1922, Jackson, Georgia; d. February 20, 1990, Smyrna, Georgia; m. WILLIAM BOGAN CRAWFORD, JR., April 19, 1942, Atlanta, Georgia; b. November 25, 1919.

More About BERTHA JANE DEMPSEY:

Burial: Westview Cemetary

More About WILLIAM CRAWFORD and BERTHA DEMPSEY:

Marriage: April 19, 1942, Atlanta, Georgia

- vi. LEE DURANT DEMPSEY, b. September 18, 1925; m. ELIZABETH BENNETT (LIB), June 14, 1952, Atlanta, Georgia; b. August 09, 1929; d. February 03, 2002, Rome Georgia.

More About ELIZABETH BENNETT (LIB):

Burial: February 05, 2002, Rome Georgia

More About LEE DEMPSEY and ELIZABETH (LIB):

Marriage: June 14, 1952, Atlanta, Georgia

- vii. AMBROSE FRANKLIN DEMPSEY, b. December 04, 1917; d. February 23, 1983.

Notes for AMBROSE FRANKLIN DEMPSEY:

Never Married

- viii. THOMAS JACKSON DEMPSEY III, b. October 12, 1912; d. May 09, 1914.

Notes for THOMAS JACKSON DEMPSEY III:

Thomas Jackson Dempsey III

Died in Infancy

- ix. LOLLIE MAY DEMPSEY, b. April 22, 1927; d. January 22, 1965, Athens, Georgia; m. (1) MILTON SMITH, January 22, 1949; m. (2) ROBERT A. LINDSEY, September 1959; d. October 20, 1998.

Notes for LOLLIE MAY DEMPSEY:

Lollie was married to Milton Smith. They had one son, Alan Warren Smith- Lindsey. Divorced. Alan was given the Lindsey name and was raised by Bob Lindsey after Lollie's death.

More About LOLLIE MAY DEMPSEY:

Burial: Athens, Georgia

More About MILTON SMITH and LOLLIE DEMPSEY:

Marriage: January 22, 1949

Notes for ROBERT A. LINDSEY:

First Marriage to _____ Smith. One child born - Alan Smith. Alan was later adopted by Bob Lindsay.

More About ROBERT LINDSEY and LOLLIE DEMPSEY:

Marriage: September 1959

- x. ROBERT THOMAS DEMPSEY, b. March 03, 1911; m. MARGARET BRANCH, August 09, 1937; b. September 10, 1919.

More About ROBERT DEMPSEY and MARGARET BRANCH:

Marriage: August 09, 1937