

NEWS

Supreme Court justice display offers glimpse of local personality

by Denise Grant
Staff writer

There is always something happening at Smith Memorial Library, and a trip to the second floor will reveal a display of three well-known local Jamestown personalities.

In one of these displays is a presentation of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson.

Jackson was born Feb. 13, 1892, in Spring Creek, Pa. His family moved to Frewsburg, N.Y. when he was 5 years old. He graduated from Frewsburg High School in 1909 and spent the next year as a post-graduate student at Jamestown High School in Jamestown, N.Y.

He worked as an apprentice in a Jamestown law office for a year, went to Albany Law School, where he completed the one-year program, and went back to Jamestown to continue his apprenticeship. He passed the bar exam in 1913 at age 21 and attended law school without attending college.

He was a successful lawyer in

New York State for 20 years in Jamestown and surrounding areas.

In 1934 he moved to Washington D.C. and became assistant general counsel in the Treasury Department's Bureau of Internal Revenue. From 1934 to 1941 he served as assistant United States attorney general, solicitor general, and attorney general of the United States.

President Roosevelt nominated Jackson to the United States Supreme Court in June of 1941 and the Senate confirmed the appointment the following month. He was also appointed as the chief prosecutor of the surviving Nazi survivors in 1945.

Jackson returned to the area often for vacations and to visit family. He died October 9, 1954, and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Frewsburg, N.Y.

The Jackson display in the exhibit comprises three different areas.

The wall panels near the computer area give the viewer an introduction to Jackson's life and legacy. It also shows examples of his eloquent powerful writing,

which is still pertinent in cases today.

Known for his traveling, the use of the round glass-topped table as a display with maps, writing and photographs offers a unique view and a full circle of his life.

There is also a poster on the bulletin board that announces three upcoming Jackson events, including the Robert H. Jackson lecture by Seth Waxman at 4 p.m. today at the Hall of Philosophy.

Greg Peterson, president and chairman of the board of the Robert H. Jackson Center, said, "We greatly appreciate Chautauqua Institution's invitation to showcase an individual from Chautauqua County who made a national and international impact in constitutional law and international law."

Throughout his career, Robert H. Jackson enjoyed returning to Chautauqua County and made several appearances at Chautauqua Institution.

The Robert H. Jackson Center is located at 305 East 4th Street, Jamestown.



Photo by
Jessica Ebelhar

The display table in the Smith Memorial Library offers pictures of Jamestown native Robert H. Jackson.