Robert H. Jackson

Country Lawyer, Supreme Court Justice, Nuremberg Prosecutor
Early Years

Robert’s parents, Angelina Houghwout & William Eldred Jackson
Born in Spring Creek, PA
February 13, 1892

Baby Robert, 1892

Robert, at age 3, with sister Ella
Moved to Frewsburg, NY
1897

Robert with his parents & sister, Ella

Jackson family in their car
Graduated with a class of three from Frewsburg High School in 1909

Jackson, 1910

Frewsburg High School
After graduation, Robert apprenticed at Frank Mott’s law office in Jamestown, NY.

In 1911, Jackson spent one year studying law at Albany Law School.
Country Lawyer

Early Career

- Became a prominent lawyer in Jamestown
- Spent the first forty-two years of his life in Western NY
- Was senior partner with the firm of Jackson, Herrick, Durick & Leet

Settling in Jamestown, NY

- Married Irene Gerhart in 1916
- Son, William, born in 1919
- Daughter, Mary, born in 1921
Political Development

- Supported Democratic Party in Chautauqua County
- Met Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1911

The Jackson family in Jamestown
February 1934: Jackson went to Washington, D.C. and began working at the Bureau of Revenue (current IRS).
By 1936, Jackson’s abilities and his relationship with Roosevelt earned him the position of Assistant Attorney General.
January 27, 1938: FDR nominated Jackson as Solicitor General, the official charged with supervising and conducting government litigation in the Supreme Court of the United States.
Robert Jackson with wife, Irene, and children William and Mary Margaret, 1938
January 18, 1940: Jackson became Attorney General of the United States, and the chief legal advisor to President Roosevelt.
Jackson was sworn in on July 11, 1941.
Mr. & Mrs. Jackson

Celebrating with daughter Mary & wife Irene on being nominated to the Supreme Court

Bill’s graduation from Yale University

Robert & Irene Jackson at a White House reception
1941
- December 8: United States enters WWII following the attacks on Pearl Harbor

1943
- West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette

1944
- Korematsu v. United States

1945
- WWII is coming to an end
- President Roosevelt dies from a stroke
Chief U.S. Prosecutor, Nuremberg

May 2, 1945: President Truman appoints Justice Jackson as Chief U.S. Prosecutor, Nuremberg

Four nations—the United States, Great Britain, France & Russia—prosecuted the surviving Nazi war criminals

International Military Tribunal (IMT trial) began on November 20, 1945
“That four great nations—flushed with **victory** and stung with injury—stay the hand of **vengeance**, and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the **law** is one of the most significant tributes that **Power** has ever paid to **Reason**.”

—From Robert Jackson’s “Opening Address”
The Crimes... Unthinkable, Unspeakable, Unparalleled

The Criminals... Unremorseful The Destruction... Unimaginable
Justice… Unequivocal

Defendants

Prosecutor

Prison

Courtroom
After Nuremberg: Returning to the Supreme Court

**Steel Seizure Case: 1952**

**Brown v. Board of Education: 1954**

“We conclude unanimously that in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place.” — Chief Justice Warren
Robert Jackson died on October 9, 1954, at age 62.

“He kept the ancient landmarks and built the new.”
Enduring Legacy

Robert H. Jackson Center