CHAPTER IX

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J.W. (JAY W.) RUBY

1906-

J.W. (JAY W.) RUBY. I was born February 12, 1906 in Seven Hills, Kentucky. It has since been taken into Owensboro as part of the city. I am the son of John William Ruby of Calhoun, Kentucky and Arminta (Minnie) Burnett Ruby of Utica, Kentucky. When I was born it was the custom, or fad, to name the sons by initials only. Later when mother and I were living in Chicago and I attended the schools there, the teachers insisted that I have a real name, as they put it, so I took the name of Jay W., to avoid having to explain that my name really was initials only.

My early childhood was a series of moving from place to place and attending school wherever we happened to be living at the time. I was the youngest child of five with two older brothers. Otis was seventeen years old when I was born and Hugh was ten. My two sisters died before I was born. So, I grew up, more or less, as an only child. My parents owned a grocery store with their home connected - on Leitchfield Road near Owensboro, for the first years of my life. Then they sold it and moved to a farm for a few years, then to Owensboro where they purchased a duplex house. We lived in one side of it and rented out the other. I attended the first three grades of school in the Third Street School. My parents were members of the Presbyterian Church and Sunday School and took me with them even as an infant. My cousin, Bess Ruby Boulware, told Ruth and I that my folks put me to sleep on the last pew when I was a baby and they attended services. This is perhaps why I still am drawn to the Presbyterian Church to this day.

My parents separated in 1912 and I went to live with my father at the Bell Hotel where he was the Manager. Later he became Manager of the Planter's Hotel. From then on I lived with either my mother or father or one of my brothers. While I was living with Hugh and his wife May, Hugh was drafted into the Army - in 1917, and I had to go back and live with my mother.

In 1914, my parents were finally divorced and my mother moved to Louisville, Kentucky for a while. It was in Louisville that I had my first real paying job - selling racing forms at the Churchill Downs for the Kentucky Derby. Living so close to the race-track and selling racing forms - yet I did not see a Kentucky Derby until I was a grown man in 1964. Mother left Louisville and moved to South Bend, Indiana and from there to Chicago, Illinois where she continued to live until her death in 1934. I was shuttled back and forth from one to the other and through it all I still managed to finish school. It was while visiting mother in 1919, that Otis' wife Ruby and her mother, Mrs. Granville Smitha, came to Chicago to visit mother - and Ruby's sister Laura Smith (Mrs. Frank W. Smith) in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.
The Smiths had two daughters, Ruth who was twelve, just seven months younger than me and Frances who was two years old. Mrs. Smith invited Ruby and Mrs. Smitha and mother out to dinner, mother would not go unless she could bring me along - thus began a friendship that culminated into marriage twelve years later. Mrs. Smith invited me to come back and spend a week with them as it was vacation time. We had a wonderful time that week - going to Sunday School picnics and just having a good time in general. I won a high-jumping contest and a blueberry pie-eating contest. Somehow, blueberry pies have never tasted as good since that time. Ruth told me later that her mother had wanted to adopt me.

In Chicago, I worked for Hillman's Department Store and the Western Electric for several years. Then back to Ohio where I worked for Otis at the store until the opportunity came along for me to work for the Ohio State Highway Department.

My first real break came when I started to work for T.G. Nicholson Fireproofing Company - Ruth's father was the Superintendant. I first worked as a laborer, then as a bricklayer after I learned the trade. I continued in this line until my retirement in 1970. After a while I was able to supervise the work and did this for many years. I took a course in blueprint reading which included drafting, at the Chicago Technical College.

In 1927, Mr. Smith took several of us to New Orleans and Mobil Alabama to work on the American Bank Buildings. He and Mrs. Smith and Frances lived in an apartment for the duration of the job. Ruth was in college and came down between semesters for spring vacation. It was while she was there that I proposed to her and we became engaged in September 1930. We were married in the Maywood Baptist Church with Dr. Howard Taft, President of the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary officiating. We went to Bellefontaine for our honeymoon and came home with about fifty cents in our pockets and in debt. We were married during the worst depression this country has ever known. I went from a very lucrative job to working in the delicatessen department of Hillmans in Oak Park, and very happy to have the job. Many professional men were walking the streets - some selling apples on street corners - and some who just couldn't take it committed suicide. It was a very trying time for everyone.

In 1931 Otis bought a gas station in a small town about six miles from Bellefontaine - Huntsville - we spent a year there running the gas station for him. We were furnished a small house, and a very small percentage of the income. However, we had a garden, (even it was flooded out several times) and such good friends. We were always receiving gifts of vegetables from the farms of these wonderful folk. So, in spite of the hard work and long hours, we managed to survive and looking back now we realize those were the fun years.

After a year we returned to Oak Park and lived with Ruth's parents. I went back to the building work and we continued to live in Oak Park and Wheaton, Illinois until 1970. There were many out-of-town jobs but we always came back to Oak Park like a homing pigeon.
In 1947, Ruth had a very serious operation and she no sooner was home from the hospital than I was injured in an elevator accident while working on the Monroe Exchange Building in Chicago. We were putting in tiles around the elevator shaft and the Otis Elevator Company was installing the elevators - somehow the signals got crossed and they brought the elevator down pinning my head into the side of the shaft. For the next three months I was in the hospital and when I was able to go home, the doctor advised me to go to a warmer climate until my injuries were completely healed. We went to California where our son Jay enrolled in the El Monte Junior High School. We then went to Houston where I found a very good job and Jay went to Junior High School there and played on the football team. After a year we returned to Oak Park and rented a house in Maywood, Illinois where Jay graduated from Junior High School. We moved to Oak Park and Jay enrolled in Oak Park High School where he stayed for four years graduating in 1953. A complete history on Jay and his family are shown in Chapter X - JAY WILLIAM RUBY.

Ruby, Otis' wife died in the spring of 1967 and seven months later Otis died of a heart attack. Then just four months after Otis' death, my last brother Hugh died - also of a heart attack. I lost all of my immediate family within one year. I was named as the co-executor of both Otis and Ruby's estates which necessitated my living in Bellefontaine until all the property was sold and the money distributed to the various heirs as stipulated in their wills. It was a very complicated settlement as there were so many pieces of property - and so many heirs on Ruby's side of the family - each with a different idea of how it should be handled. I managed to survive and carried out the instructions in the wills - I am not sure it was to the satisfaction of Ruby's family but as the lawyer instructed me to do.

In the meantime, Ruth who had been working for twenty-one years as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Board of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists decided to retire. We sold our home in Wheaton, Illinois and bought a new house in Bellefontaine, Ohio. We moved there in July of 1971.

We had been spending our winters for many years in Florida and when the cold and snow were getting to be a problem we decided to move there permanently. In 1976 we moved to the sunny south and have never been sorry.

As co-author of the Rubi-Ruby History, I thought you might like to know a little about Ruth. She taught Religious Education in River Forest, La Grange and Oak Park for many years; she taught Dramatic Art and Speech Therapy for over nineteen years in Illinois; she is a member of the MacDowell Artists Society; and as already mentioned above, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Board to ACOG; she is a member of the Eastern Star (serving as Esther, a Star Point); Past Vice President of the Bellefontaine Woman's Club; a member of the Logan County Cancer Society - serving on the Executive Committee; and since coming to Lakeland, she has served for two years as Registrar of the Lakeland DAR. Ruth has been a tremendous help to me in my work as President, Secretary-Treasurer and Registrar in the Lakeland Chapter of the SAR. And, now as co-author of the Rubi-Ruby History.

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We have always enjoyed the same places to visit, the same people and the same hobbies. Next to genealogy, which is our number one priority, we love travel. We have been very fortunate to have visited in every State in the United States; Mexico three times; the Yucatan twice and to Europe twice - visiting Holland, Germany, France, Switzerland, England, Wales and Scotland. We are still looking forward to going to Alaska.

We are members of the First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland. Ruth was a Baptist, but joined the Presbyterian Church with me when we moved to Lakeland. We have been blessed with reasonably good health, good friends and a nice family. Our son, Jay, is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at Temple University in Philadelphia. He is presently married to Janis Essner Ruby, who is an accomplished artist. Jay has three children; Bill (who was named Billy Graham Ruby at birth - but has since become known as William Fallowfield - so named by his mother using Bill's stepfather's name). Bill is married to Colleen and they have a son named Luke. They live in California. Aaron, Jay's second son by Jay's second wife, Carmela Kempf Ruby, is at the present time a teacher (of English) in the high schools in Nicaragua. Maria, Jay's daughter two years younger than Aaron has just graduated from a Business Administrator Course in San Francisco after attending colleges in Sacramento and a year in the University of Mexico, is at the present time (1984) living and working in Sacramento.

As we were about to close the last page of the last chapter of the History of the Rubi-Ruby Families I was suddenly aware that this is not the end of the history - really only the beginning of a whole new history of the families - as new generations are coming along to take our places and to continue the Rubi-Ruby Saga. While musing on this thought, it came to me that we are all writing chapters in our our own "Book of Life", it is all written down, some good, some bad, some mediocre and all with so many imperfect pages. I am comforted by the thought that God in His infinite perfect wisdom will act as our Editor and somehow make everything turn out right and erase some of the mistakes we, in our human frailties, have made. Perhaps He will help us in our remaining chapters to write a more perfect page so that when we come to Him with our "Book of Life" He will be able to say - "Well done, thou good and faithful servant ----"

This history has been the result of long, hard years of research, but we feel it has been worth while if it helps you to understand and be proud of a family that has contributed so much to the world. Wear the name of Rubi-Ruby with pride, dignity and know that it comes to you from a long line of ancestors who have left to you a heritage rich and worth while.

I believe we have at last found the answer to:

"Who we are and from where we came."

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Information re:  JAY W. RUBY (J.W.)
225 E. Edgewood Dr., Apt. 84
Lakeland, Florida  33803

OCCUPATION:
Retired Masonry Contractor for 50 years in and around Chicago, Illinois.

RELIGION:
Member of the First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland Florida.
Parents, John William Ruby and Arninta (Minnie) Burnett Ruby were members of Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Owensboro, Kentucky from 1889 until 1944. Jay W. was taken to this church as an infant and attended until he went to Chicago in 1922.

LODGES - SOCIETIES - CLUBS:

Lodges:  Masonic:
Member of Circle Lodge No.938 in River Forest, Illinois;
Member of Commandery No.54 in Oak Park, Illinois;
Member of Shrine - Egypt Temple, Tampa, Florida;
Member of Scottish Rite, Tampa, Florida.
Past Officer in Eastern Star, Lakeland, Florida.

Lodge:  Elks in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Societies:
Member of the Filson Club - Louisville, Kentucky;
Member of The Kentucky Historical Society - Frankfort, Kentucky;
Listed in Who' Who in Kentucky Genealogy;
Society of Kentucky Pioneers (applied May 17, 1982);
Member of West Central Kentucky Family Research Association;
Member of Imperial Polk County Genealogical Society - Florida.

Sons of the American Revolution:
Past President of the Lakeland Chapter of the SAR;
Registrar of the Lakeland Chapter of the SAR;
(became a member through Patriot John Hughes (174701830) born in Pennsylvania - died in Kentucky - buried in Rawley Cemetery, Poole, Kentucky;
Supplemental Revolutionary Ancestor: Samuel Johnson (1743-1833) born Pennsylvania - died in Daviess County, Kentucky;
Second Supplemental Ancestor: William Baxter Davis (1740-1823) born in Virginia - died in Kentucky.)

HOBBIES:
Golf - Member of Cleveland Heights Country and Golf Club. Lakeland, Fl.

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Chapter IX  J.W. (JAY W.) RUBY

Reference #3 Copy of Cradle Roll Certificate - Methodist Church - Owensboro, Kentucky 1913

Beginners' Department
OF THE
Settle Memorial Bible School.

THIS CERTIFIES,

That J.W. Ruby has completed the Course of Study in the Beginners' Department, and is hereby promoted to the Primary Department.

Mrs. F.E. Kattejohn

Dated Sep. 28th 1913

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." 
Mark 10:14
State of Illinois
Cook County

Marriage License

To any Person Legally Authorized to Solemnize Marriage.

GREETING:

Marriage may be Celebrated, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, between Mr. Jay W. Ruby of Chicago in the County of Cook and State of Ill. of the age of 27 years, and Mrs. Ada Ruth Smith of Oak Park in the County of Cook and State of Ill. of the age of 27 years.

Witness, Robert M. Peck, County Clerk of the County of Cook, and the Seal attached at my office in Chicago, this 16th day of November, A. D. 1932.

Robert M. Peck
County Clerk

The Person who Solemnizes Marriage is charged against making any changes in this License.

STATE OF ILLINOIS. COUNTY OF COOK.

I, George W. Smith, a Minister of the Gospel, hereby certify that Mr. Jay W. Ruby and Mrs. Ada Ruth Smith were united in Marriage at my place of business, on the 27th day of November, 1932, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois.

(The Names in this certificate must be identical with Names in above License)

Address: 30 E. Lake Park, Oak Park, Ill.

N. B.—This License, with certificate of marriage properly made, must (within 30 days) be returned to the COUNTY CLERK, by the person who performed the marriage ceremony.
Chapter IX - J.W. (JAY W.) RUBY
Reference #5 - Picture of Birthplace of Jay W. Ruby
Pictures of Jay W. Ruby as a child.

Jay W. Ruby - six months old.

Birthplace of Jay W. Ruby

Jay W. Ruby-Five years old.
Chapter IX - J.W. (JAY W.) RUBY

Couple is married for 50 years

Mr. and Mrs. Jay W. Ruby of Lakeland, Fla., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception at the Fountain Square Club House, Lakeland, Nov. 29.

The couple was married Nov. 27, 1930 in Maywood with the Rev. George W. Taft, president of the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary officiating.

Mr. Ruby was a masonry contractor for more than 50 years in and around Chicago and Ohio. He is a member of Circle Lodge No. 938 in River Forest and the Commandery No. 54 of Oak Park, the Shrine and Scottish Rite in Tampa, Fla.

Mrs. Ruby, the former Ruth Smith, is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Smith of Wesley Av., Oak Park, and the sister of Frances L. S. Wolf of Oak Park. She attended Oak Park-River Forest High School and graduated from the Sherwood School of Music and Drama in Chicago. A member of the MacDowell Artists, she taught dramatic art and religious education for many years in Oak Park and River Forest, before serving as administrative assistant to the executive board of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She worked for the college from 1961 to 1971 when she and Mr. Ruby retired to Bellefontaine, Ohio, his childhood home.

The Rubys have one son, Jay W. Ruby Jr., an associate professor of anthropology at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. They have three grandchildren, William of Mission Viego, Calif., Maria of Sacramen-


The Rubys have lived in Florida for the past four years and are active in the SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) of which Ruby is the president of the Lakeland Chapter. His wife is chairperson of the committees on Lineage and Genealogy of the Lakeland Chapter of the DAR. They both are officers in the Eastern Star and belong to the First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland.

They have adopted the motto of the Ruby families in the early 1700s in Switzerland: “Love dieth not and ceaseth not in death.”
This chapter is about me with far too many details to be useful to genealogists. I have therefore deleted it.