

Franklin Pierce Rasnake I was born March 25, 1924, at Coulwood, Russell County, Virginia. Later my address changed to . . . Cleveland, Virginia. This is on the headwaters of Weaver Creek, known as Crackers Neck. I attended grade school at Combs School and at Cleveland High School. In my senior year I filed an application with Martin Aircraft through the mail and was hired as a painter on aircraft parts. On April 12, 1943, I entered into active service at Camp Lee, Virginia. I took my basic training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, with the 1341st Engineers Battalion. Then I went to Fort Lewis, Washington, for mechanic school. When that was finished, I was sent to Scholfield Barracks in Hawaii. After training and grouping we made our first invasion in Saipan. There we built roads, hospitals, unloaded ships with supplies. I remember an incident there when I was driving a truck hauling supplies and ammunition to the dump. I had my truck loaded with ammunition and stopped at our company for dinner. While there, we had an air raid with bombing and strafing. Everybody went for cover, some down under my truck and when it was over they were surprised to find the truck was loaded with explosives. From Saipan we invaded Tinian. My company was scheduled to go in on the ninth wave, but due to confusion we were sent in on the second wave. We beat the Marines in. For that maneuver we got the Presidential Citation Award through the Navy. We cleared the beaches of land mines by one man running the bulldozer and another man standing on the blade to stop when a mine was dug up. Our company lost one man from sniper fire. Our next operation was Okinawa and there we ran into a typhoon. The war was almost over and we moved on to Korea and from there we were sent back to the States. On January 6, 1946, I received my separation papers at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. -A Tribute to World War II Veterans of Russell County Virginia. Historical Society of Russell Co., Va., 1999. Franklin Pierce Rasnake was a son of Daniel Rasnake and Sarah Gertrude Presley. Daniel was a son of Franklin Pierce Rasnake and Elizabeth Cook. Franklin Pierce was a son of James Harvey Rasnick and Nancy Jane Breeding. James Harvey was a son of John M. Preston Rasnick and Margaret Smith. John M. Preston was a son of Jacob Rasnake, Jr., and Judith Finney. Jacob, Jr., was a son of German soldier, Jacob Ruehrschneck.