

My Library Story - Jason Cox

Recently, my job required that I attend a training class in San Jose, California. During one of my classes, I sat by man from New York. When he learned that I was from Mississippi, he shared that his parents had been married in Jackson, MS. When I asked why they had gotten married in Mississippi, he told me that his father had been a Colonel during World War II and had been stationed in Flora at the Military Ordnance Plant. He was quite surprised when I told him that I lived Flora and was very familiar with where the Military Ordnance Plant had been. He said that he and his siblings knew very little about the role that his father had played while he was in Flora. When I returned to Mississippi, I made a trip to the Flora library. I told Ms. Dee Export that I was interested in finding out some information about the plant. She quickly located a book about Flora history out of which 24 pages were devoted to the Military Ordnance Plant. Ms. Dee very graciously agreed to scan those pages and create a PDF document, which I could forward to this man, which he, in turn, could share with his siblings. I did not even know that His mother was still alive. After receiving the document, which Ms. Dee had scanned, here is what he said: "I'll be sharing this with my Mom, now 96, when I see her in a few weeks. She's still sharp and will remember. Mom was in nursing school and my Dad stationed at the Raritan NJ Army Base when they met at an Officers Dance. He was then transferred to Flora and she followed by train. They were married in Jackson with one other Army couple in attendance. After a few months at MOP he was off to France and my Mom back home to her parents Staten Island, NY farm."

I know that Ms. Dee's gracious act will brighten the day of an elderly woman and will hopefully bring to mind some beautiful memories. Thanks Ms. Dee for all your help! Jason Cox