Keith Holiday Carr

Childhood and Life before WSC

Keith Holiday Carr was born on 9th March 1922 in Nampa, Idaho, to parents Clifford H. Carr and Alma Carr (nee. Gronemeier). Keith was the middle of three children. His older sister Eldeen C. Carr was a year older, while his brother Clayton H. Carr was five years young. Keith's father, Clifford served in the First World War and was recognized, in his obituary, as being the first Whatcom County resident to enlist in the war.[1] This legacy would later inform Keith's own service in the military.

Immense parallels exist between the two sides of Keith's family. Keith's father was a second-generation immigrant from England. Clifford's father Charles, who lived with the Carr's for most of Keith's childhood, had himself been born in New York just a few months after his family had migrated from Liverpool, England in 1855.[2] Keith's mother Alma, was also a second-generation immigrant who relocated from Indiana to meet Clifford in King County, Washington. Her father, also called Charles, moved from Hanover, Germany to Indiana through New York with his family when he was four years old.[3] Charles Gronemeier, born August Gronemeier in 1850, began going by an anglicized version of his middle name "Carl" sometime after his family emigrated in 1854.[4] Keith's maternal grandfather was a blacksmith, while his paternal

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[1] "Clifford Holiday Carr", Findagrave.com. Updated August 2012
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96081961/clifford-holiday-carr

[2] The National Archives and Records Administration; Washington, D.C.; *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at and departing from Ogdensburg, New York, 5/27/1948 - 11/28/1972*; Microfilm Serial or NAID: *M237, 1820-1897.* Ancestry.com. *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

[3] Year: *1900*; Census Place: *Mount Vernon, Posey, Indiana*; Roll: *398*; Page: *6*; Enumeration District: *0043.* Ancestry.com. *1900 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

[4] "August C Gronemeier", Findagrave.com. Updated April 2009.
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/96081961/August_C_Gronemeier

grandfather was a machinist. Keith, having spent the majority of his childhood in Bellingham, Washington, would have had greater access to his paternal family while growing up.

After their marriage in 1920 Clifford and Alma Carr relocated to Nampa, Idaho. Their two eldest children, Eldeen and Keith, were born there before the family returned to Bellingham permanently. Keith's younger brother Clayton was born in Washington. During Keith's childhood the Carr family, in addition to Charles who resided with the family, took on a boarder. Herbert Thrall, who worked as a gardener possibly for the Carr's, came from Minnesota and lived with the Carr's during Keith's adolescent years. During this time, Keith became known in his community as an athlete, playing varsity football and baseball for the Bellingham Highschool Red Raiders. Keith played center in football, helping the team to victory a number of times. He also served as Sports Editor on the school newspaper and participated in the Hi-Y club – a youth program affiliated with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Keith graduated in 1939.

Experience at WSC

Keith began his college experience at Washington State College, where he studied between 1940 and 1941, before transferring to the University of Portland. While at WSC, Keith retained his role as center on the football team, playing under renown Coach O.E. Hollingberry[5]. At WSC, Keith also joined the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, playing baseball on the intramural league. At University of Portland, Keith is also reported to have played football, earning a place, according to one of his numerous obituaries, as "one of the university's all-time great football centers for his performances in 1941-1942."[6]

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[5] WSU 1, WSU Publications: Evergreens https://libraries.wsu.edu/masc/finders/wsu001_999.htm at Washington State University Libraries' Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections (MASC) https://libraries.wsu.edu/masc

[6] The Telephone Register, McMinnville, Oregon, Thursday, November 18, 1943
LIEUTENANT KEITH CARR KILLED IN PLANE CRASH IN NEW MEXICO

Military Service and Death

Keith registered for the draft in 1942, and by September of the following year had enlisted in the US Army Air Corps, serving as an instructor for aviation training at Roswell Field in New Mexico.[7] While there, he achieved the rank of first lieutenant. During his service, Keith married his wife: Margery Rose Walton. Margery, from McMinville, Oregon, attended university like Keith where she played an active role in Greek life joining the Delta Delta Delta sorority at Oregon State University.[8] Their wedding announcement indicated that Keith received his commission as a bombardier.[9] Margery played a role in his graduation ceremony by presenting him with his aviator wings.[10] The couple were married in Roswell.[11] Unfortunately, less than two months after this nuptials, Keith was involved in a plane crash. His training bomber crashed after a routine flight about 30 miles outside of Roswell.[12] Five men were killed in the crash.

Postwar Legacy

Despite his active role on campus in both college and high school, Keith's legacy has largely been relegated to his studies. Keith's wife Margery played a crucial role in protecting his history and in passing information between Keith's family, President Holland at WSC, and the broader public.

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[7] *The Bellingham Herald*; Publication Date: *12/ Sep/ 1943*; Publication Place: *Bellingham, Washington, USA*; URL: https://www.newspapers.com/image/768856517/?article=93ca5115-280d-4e96-b8a5-bd0819d14237&focus=0.017575601,0.09120083,0.16368766,0.23072694&xid=3398,

[8] Ibid

[9] Ibid

[10] Ibid

[11] Ibid

[12] *Santa Fe New Mexican*; Publication Date: *12/ Nov/ 1943*; Publication Place: *Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA*; URL: *https://www.newspapers.com/image/583673925/?article=5ffeaead-edb7-4573-949d-dce5de924ae8&xid=4718&terms=Keith_Holliday_Carr ,*