

ite News

The Inter-Mountain, Elkins, W. Va., Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, 3A

was one sister, Martha Ross Hickling.

He was reared on a farm, on which his great-great-grandfather had settled in the 1830s. He received his elementary education in a one-room country school, was graduated with honors from the Carthage High School and earned a bachelor's degree in history at Park College where he served as president of the student body and was an honor graduate with the class of 1940. Following graduation from college, he taught in the Carthage public schools and was serving as principal of the Mark Twain Junior High School when he entered military service in 1942. He

was assigned to combat intelligence in the Fifth Air Force in the Far East during World War II and was awarded five battle stars and various commendations for service in New Guinea, Leyte, and Mindore in the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan. Shortly after he was married, he entered Harvard University where he earned master's and Ph.D. degrees in history.

various other learned and philanthropic organizations. Since 1997, he has been a trustee advisor at Davis & Elkins College.

Dr. Ross was the author of several books including full-length biographies of Senators Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver and Henry Gasaway Davis, the Diamond Jubilee History of Davis & Elkins College, a history of the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church and a history of the Elkins Rotary Club. He also had written numerous articles, book reviews, eulogies and short histories of the Tygart Valley Home-steads and the Davis Memorial Hospital. He had been editor of the Davis & Elkins Historical Magazine and associate editor of the Presbyterian Outlook and the Randolph County Magazine of History and Biography. He wrote two articles for The West Virginia Encyclopedia published in 2006.

The family will receive friends at Hallehurst Hall on the Davis & Elkins College campus Monday from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. On Wednesday, Oct. 7, Dr. Ross will be moved to the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church where final rites will be conducted at 11 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Peter A. Vial will officiate and interment will follow in Maplewood Cemetery at Elkins.

The family suggests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of memorial contributions to: Davis & Elkins College, 100 Campus Drive, Elkins, W. Va. 26241 or to the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, 450 Randolph Ave., Elkins, W. Va. 26241.

Lohr & Barb Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements for Dr. Thomas Richard Ross. Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.lohrbarbfuneral-home.com.

A longtime active churchman, Dr. Ross served as an elder in the Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years and taught an adult Bible class

for some 30 years. He was a trustee of the local church and of the Greenbrier Presbytery and twice served as a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States. He served two terms on the national Board of World Missions and on the board of trustees of the Davis Stuart Inc. He has also been a member of the board of trustees of the Presbytery of West Virginia Mission Fund.

His civic activities included membership in the Randolph County Historic Landmarks Commission, the Board of the Randolph County Habitat for Humanity and of Friends of the Elkins-Randolph County Library. He was a senior active member of the Elkins Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Rotary Fellow. He was also a member of the H.W. Daniels Post 29 American Legion and the Elkins-Randolph County Senior Center of which Mrs. Ross was a long time executive director. He was a member of the Harvard Club of West Virginia.

Among numerous honors awarded him, he was especially proud of the Thomas Richard Ross Endowed Chair in History, which family and friends established at Davis & Elkins College, that Park College had given him the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1975, and of the Beta Alpha Beta MERIT Award for Community Service in 1988. He was listed as Who's Who in the East and Who's Who in the South.

Dr. Thomas R. Ross

Dr. Thomas Richard Ross, 90, a well known professor of history — Emeritus and Dean of the Faculty — Emeritus at Davis & Elkins College and a resident of Kerens Hill, Elkins, departed this life Thursday afternoon, Oct. 1, 2009, in Davis Memorial Hospital.



ROSS

He was born Monday, June 2, 1919, at Carthage, Mo., a son of the late Frank Fullerton Ross and Ethel Ornduff Ross, both members of prominent pioneer families in southwestern Missouri.

On June 1, 1946, he was married to the former Jean McCorkle of Leavenworth, Kan., who preceded him in death April 19, 2001.

Surviving are one son, attorney Thomas Richard "T.R." Ross II and wife, Vida, of Elkins; one daughter, Laurie Ross Taylor and husband, Richard, of Albuquerque, N.M.; one sister, Nancy Smith of Elkins; four grandchildren, Amanda Lee Ross of Columbus, Ohio, Natalia Marie Ross Schooley and husband, Ryan, of Washington, Pa., Tessa Ross Taylor and Hannah Ross Taylor, both of Albuquerque, N.M.

Preceding him in death

In 1949, Dr. Ross joined the faculty of Davis & Elkins College as an associate professor of history. Subsequently, he was promoted to professor of history, was appointed chairman of the Department of History and Political Science, and served as academic dean from 1958 to 1970 and again from 1986 to 1987 after having retired in 1985. He also served as visiting professor of United States history at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, from 1970 to 1971 while on sabbatical leave. Dr. Ross was the first West Virginia professor to be awarded a Danforth Foundation Teacher Study Grant and the first Davis & Elkins College faculty member to receive the Lois Latham Award for Excellence in Teaching. In 1960, he was one of 20 academic deans in the United States to be invited to participate in an Intellectual Life Conference at Pegasus, Nova Scotia, sponsored by the Association of American Colleges. At the invitation of President Gerald Ford, he attended a White House Conference on Education, Economics and Environmental Problems in 1974. For many years, he was senior associate of the Danforth Foundation and was a member of the American Historical Association, the American Association of University Professors, Phi Alpha Theta, the West Virginia Association of Academic Deans, the Randolph County History Society and