

# Robert H. Jackson



Country Lawyer, Supreme Court Justice, Nuremberg Prosecutor

# Early Years



Robert's parents, Angelina Houghwout & William Eldred Jackson

# Born in Spring Creek, PA February 13, 1892



Baby Robert, 1892



Robert, at age 3, with sister Ella



# Moved to Frewsburg, NY 1897



**Robert with his parents & sister, Ella**



**Jackson family in their car**

# Graduated with a class of three from Frewsburg High School in 1909



**Jackson, 1910**



**Frewsburg High School**

After graduation, Robert  
apprenticed at Frank Mott's law  
office in Jamestown, NY.



In 1911, Jackson spent one year  
studying law at Albany Law School.



# Country Lawyer



Early Career

- Became a prominent lawyer in Jamestown
- Spent the first forty-two years of his life in Western NY
- Was senior partner with the firm of Jackson, Herrick, Durick & Leet

Settling in Jamestown, NY



- Married Irene Gerhart in 1916
- Son, William, born in 1919
- Daughter, Mary, born in 1921

# Political Development

- Supported Democratic Party in Chautauqua County
- Met Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1911

The Jackson family in Jamestown





# Public Service



∞ February 1934:  
Jackson went to  
Washington, D.C. and  
began working at the  
Bureau of Revenue  
(current IRS).



# Assistant Attorney General



By 1936, Jackson's abilities and his relationship with Roosevelt earned him the position of Assistant Attorney General.



# Solicitor General



- œ January 27, 1938:  
FDR nominated  
Jackson as Solicitor  
General, the official  
charged with  
supervising and  
conducting  
government litigation  
in the Supreme Court  
of the United States.







Robert Jackson with wife, Irene, and  
children William and Mary Margaret, 1938

# Attorney General



✧ January 18, 1940:  
Jackson became  
Attorney General of  
the United States, and  
the chief legal advisor  
to President Roosevelt.

# United States Supreme Court



82<sup>nd</sup> Associate Justice  
of the Supreme Court



Jackson was sworn in on July 11, 1941.





**Mr. & Mrs. Jackson**



**Celebrating with daughter  
Mary & wife Irene on  
being nominated to the  
Supreme Court**



**Bill's graduation  
from Yale  
University**



**Robert & Irene Jackson  
at a White House  
reception**

# WWII and the Supreme Court

1941

- December 8: United States enters WWII following the attacks on Pearl Harbor

1943

- *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*

1944

- *Korematsu v. United States*

1945

- WWII is coming to an end
- President Roosevelt dies from a stroke

# Chief U.S. Prosecutor, Nuremberg



Justice Jackson at the podium

- ❧ May 2, 1945: President Truman appoints Justice Jackson as Chief U.S. Prosecutor, Nuremberg
- ❧ Four nations—the United States, Great Britain, France & Russia—prosecuted the surviving Nazi war criminals
- ❧ International Military Tribunal (IMT trial) began on November 20, 1945



“That four great nations—flushed with  
**victory** and stung with injury—stay  
the hand of **vengeance**, and  
voluntarily submit their captive  
enemies to the judgment of the **law** is  
one of the most significant tributes that  
**Power** has ever paid to **Reason**.”

—From Robert Jackson’s “Opening Address”



The Crimes...



*Unthinkable,*



*Unspeakable,*



*Unparalleled*



The  
Criminals...



*Unremorseful*



The  
Destruction...



*Unimaginable*



# Justice... *Unequivocal*



Defendants

Prosecutor



Prison



Courtroom

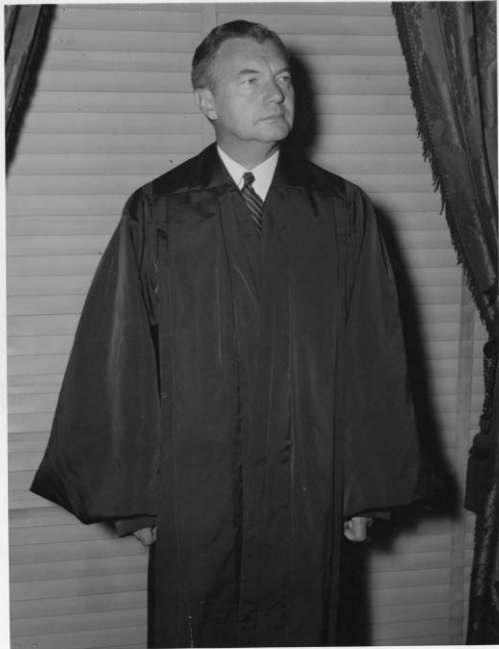




# After Nuremberg: Returning to the Supreme Court



*Steel Seizure Case: 1952*



Supreme Court ruling on  
Presidential power

*Brown v. Board of Education: 1954*



“We conclude unanimously that in the field of public education the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place.”—Chief Justice Warren



**“He kept the ancient landmarks and built the new.”**



**Robert Jackson died on October 9, 1954, at age 62.**





# Enduring Legacy

