Louis Benjamin Braswell Jr.
Born Oct. 10th 1897 in Demopolis, Ala.
Marengo Co. was a boy of unusual attractions. Very bright, quick to learn, with a charming personality that won many friends and made him leader in all kinds of boyish sports. His disposition was very joyous and lively. With very little effort he led the grades in his early years in high school.

In 1914 (Sep.) he matriculated at Marion Military Institute then owned and superintended by Dr. Hobson Murphy and his brother Walter Murphy. After ~~a~~ two years ~~work~~ in which time he took the regular three years B. S. course he was graduated, taking the B. S. degree, holding the office of 1st Lieut. of Co. C.

In Sep. 1916, he entered the University of Ala. at Tuscaloosa as a Junior. Dr. George Denny was President of this institution.

He soon joined the Sigma Nu fraternity, and also became a member of the Glee Club, taking a prominent place in the latter, being very gifted musically, endowed with an excellent voice and playing well on several instruments.

In 1917, declaring his intention of enlisting and entering the army, he did not return to the University. For some months he was employed as clerk at the Post Office.

Later, he entered his fathers Hardware establishment, where he remained until he enlisted.

On May 14th 1918.
Louis Benjamin Braswell Jr. left Dunopolis for Paris Island, having enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps.

For several weeks he rec'd intensive training here, was then removed to Quantico, Va. After more training and practice, he qualified as Expert Rifleman, having taken the most severe tests and made a very high record. He rec'd at this time, a medal for his proficiency.

In the rigid physical examination given at Quantico he was classed 100 per ct.

In July he was selected, with thirty-five others, for the Machine Gun Corps, and sent to Utica, N.Y. for special training.

Here they attended The School of Instruction at the Gun Factory.

A part of this training required them to commit to memory the whole manual, also to learn to assemble & dissemble six different

Machine Guns

While blind-folded and be able to accomplish this in a very few minutes.

On Aug. 17th he sailed for France, We learned later, on the "Von Steuben" formerly the "Kron Prinz Wilhelm", an interned vessel.

At this time he was in Co. "C" 5th Sep. Bat. U.S.M.C.

Shortly after landing in France he, having contracted Influenza, was sent to a Hospital, where he was very ill for about ten days.

After changing Companies several times he was placed in Co. K. 5th Reg. U.S.M.C.

They were in some engagements but the details are unknown.

Having been in the front lines for a wk or more, on Nov. 1st at 5.25 A.M. Co. K. Captain Francis Fisk commanding, "Jumped Off", just below Landres St. Georges, in attack Argonne-Meuse.

They had advanced all day with severe losses.

At about 4 o'clock P.M. being just in front of objective about 250 yds. Bayonville Heights, they were fired upon by a Nest of Machine Guns. Which they (Co K) engaged & enveloped, capturing three enemy officers & ninety men. During the fight, the 3rd Platoon of which Louis B. Braswell Jr. was a member, had to make the front attack, and was badly cut up. One officer & five men killed, and nine wounded. Pvt Braswell was severely wounded in the right lung.

After receiving first aid he with another comrade Denton Cluff, Spokane, Washington, was sent back ~~was sent back~~ to Landres-St. Georges for the night. Here he was lost sight of. his friend said the next morning he was taken to a field Hospital he thought, for better attention. We were never able to hear anything more of him. ~~[illegible]~~ The Gov. mt. informed us Nov. 27th '18, that he had been severely wounded. On Dec. 30th '18, another message

informed that he had died on Nov. 6th 1918.

Later the Graves Reg. Service notified us, that he had been buried in the Cemetery at Bayonville et Chennery, Ardennes France - Grave No. 2. (isolated).

Several months later his body was removed to Romagne Cemetery.

His Captain and a number of his comrades wrote much of his splendid spirit, ~~his~~ unfailing cheerfulness, and his willingness to sing and make music for the boys, at any time.

His "buddy" of the last few weeks wrote, "Louis was a boy to be proud of, a credit to you, and a credit to the Marine Corps. and I know that he died in a Hospital somewhere, just like he had fought and bled on the battle field, with a smile on his face."

(Written to his Mother by W. J. Greer, Hattiesburg - Miss).

His body was received at Dunopolis Ala. his home. Sep. 24-1921. and on Sunday the 25th, he was buried with all Military honors.

Leaving home the 14th day of May, '18. he arrived in France on the 27th of Aug. On Nov. 6th he gave up his life, being at this time, twenty-one years and one month, old. "A youth, to fortune & to fame, unknown."

Thus ends the short and incomplete military record, of a valiant young soldier, and loyal Marine.

Just before leaving for France he wrote - "I am going to do my duty, and that's the biggest word in the Marine language" Following this ideal, he also exemplified the motto of his beloved department Semper Fidelis. (Always faithful) and fearlessly "laid down his life for his friends."

John Henry McKinley (continued)

He was in the Forty-Third Ala. regiment, was afterward transferred to the engineer's corps. Serving first with the Western Army, after the battle of Missionary Ridge he was transferred to the Virginia Army.

Married in 1860 to Martha Ann Stanton. He was the father of five sons & two daughters. (The eldest daughter being the mother of Private L. B. Braswell Jr.)

John Henry McKinley (the subject of this sketch) was a staunch Democrat, a Mason, past master of his lodge. A member of the Baptist Church.

Thomas Stanton and his wife Mary (Owen) Stanton, the great grandparents of Louis Benjamin Brazell Jr. on his Mothers side, lived for about thirty years of their married life near Alston, Fairfield District, S.C. They were well-to-do farming people.

In 1858 they moved to Whitefield, (now Sturgis) Miss. Ten years later, Martha Ann, their Eldest daughter, was married to John Henry McKinley, and they went to Demopolis to make their home. In this place they lived the rest of their lives, honored & loved by neighbors & friends, devoted Christians and consistent members of the Baptist Church.

"John Henry McKinley."

Was born in Augusta Maine - March 30th 1830. During his boyhood & youth he traveled thru many states, living for sometime in Canada - Born of Scotch McKinley's staunch Presbyterians, & rigid abolitionists, he drifted South, joined the Confederate Army, & fought valiantly for the four years - except when, for a time, he was ill -

Louis Benjamin Braswell,
the second son of Wm
Jackson & Frances Breton Braswell
and father of the subject of this sketch,
was born in Demopolis, Ala.
Aug. 30th 1861. The greater part of
his life has been spent in the
city of his birth. Entering the
Hardware business with his father,
while a youth, he has continued
in it & is now joint owner with
his brother Tilford Braswell of
the original Braswell Hardware
Co. establishment.
For years he was a member of
the National Guard, & was Captain
of the Demopolis Rifles when he
resigned.
He is a member of the K. of P. lodge
& Past Chancellor of same.
Also a member of the Methodist
church and an active Steward.

In 1894, June 12th he was mar-
ried to Mary M. McKinley.
One daughter, and five sons
blessed this union - Helena,
Louis Benjamin Jr. Fredrick Oscar,
Erskine McKinley, Douglas McKinley,
& John William.

Archibald Braswell of Tenn.
was the father of Griffin Davis Braswell.
(Born Oct. 26th 1810) In the year 1834, Feb. 9th, he
was married to Ann Cottrell Hilton (Born Aug 11th 1802.)

They went to Livingstone Ala, in 1836,
and about a year later to Dayton Ala. to live.
Their eldest son, William Jackson Braswell (Born Jan. 3rd 1835.) went to Demopolis,
Ala, when quite a young man, & engaged
in business. In the earliest stage of the civil war
he joined the 43rd Ala. Reg.
In the Battle of Chickamauga he was
three wounded. After weeks in a hospital
was sent home. He did not recover suffi-
ciently to re-enter the active service.
but during the remaining time of the
war period, was on duty in the ordinance
department at Demopolis. For many years
he was at the head of a successful Hard-
ware establishment. later two of his sons
engaged in this business with him as mem
bers of the firm. Braswell Hardware Co.
He was a member of the Methodist Church,
a Mason and K. of P.
Was regarded as one of the leading cit-
izens & substantial men of the town,
serving as Mayor for four years.

In 1859, April 21st W. J. Braswell was
married to Frances Charlotte Breton (age 19 years.)
She was of French parentage - her grand-
father, Louis Breton, being a native of
Orbe Switzerland - Her father, Daniel
Breton was also born there, coming to Dem-
opolis about 1830. This marriage resulted
in the birth of ten sons & daughters -