

Jefferson Co

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMORANDA

IN REFERENCE TO

LEON R. MCGAVOCK

Great care should be exercised in filling the blanks which follow. Data should be full and accurate. The facts given will form the basis for sketches, and if wanting in detail or if carelessly prepared, the sketches will be correspondingly deficient. The facts called for have reference to the subject of the sketch. Collect all data and examine blank carefully before attempting to fill. Attach sheets of this size for additional data.

1. Full name (do not use initials): Leon Ragsdale McGavock
2. Present P. O. (give last address, with date of death if dead): Revigny, Meuse, France, and died there October 15, 1918.
3. Exact date and place of birth: on October 7th, 1893, at Athens,

in the county of Limestone, State of Alabama.

4. Full name of the subject's father: William Robert McGavock, born at Athens in the county of Limestone State of Alabama

He lived at _____
Give also any particulars concerning him, as official position, war services, etc., books written by, etc.

_____ He was the son of

Jacob McGavock and his wife was Elizabeth Haynes McGavock
Full name Full name

who lived at Cloverport, Breckenridge County, Kentucky, and also lived at Athens, Limestone County, Alabama.

5. Maiden name in full of the subject's mother: Belle Ragsdale She was the daughter of Robert Ragsdale and his wife Eliza Hammerly Ragsdale
Full name Full name

who lived at Athens, Limestone County, Alabama.

6. Remarks on Ancestry. Give here any and all facts possible in reference to your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc., not included in the foregoing, as where they lived, offices held, Revolutionary or other war service; what country the family came from to America, where first settled, county and State; *always* giving full names (if possible) and *never* referring to an ancestor simply as such without giving the name. It is desirable to include every fact possible, and to that end the full and exact record from old Bibles should be appended on separate sheets of this size, thus preserving the facts from loss:

The McGavock family is a very old one, and one prominently identified with military and political affairs of the country for nearly 200 years.

JAMES MCGAVOCK, Sr., the great-great-great grandfather of Sergeant Leon Ragsdale McGavock, was the first of his family to come to this Country. He was born in 1728, in the County of Antrim, Ireland, near Glenarm. In 1754 or 1755 he landed in Philadelphia, later settling in what is now Rockbridge County, Virginia. In 1760 he married Mary Cloyd at Rockbridge, Virginia, and settled at Fort Chiswell, Virginia. Here he filled with credit high offices, both in civic and church affairs, and also served as Magistrate and agent responsible for the disposal of provisions for the Continental Army. Mr. McGavock came of that remarkable people, the Scotch-Irish, who have done so much for the liberties of this country, and for education generally, and the dissemination of Presbyterian principles, especially in Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

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HUGH MCGAVOCK, the son of James, Sr., and Mary Cloyd McGavock, was the great-great grandfather of Sergeant Leon Ragsdale McGavock. He married a Miss Nancy Kent of Montgomery County, Virginia, in March, 1785. He was in a volunteer company under Colonel Joseph Crockett in the Revolutionary War to repel an invasion by the Indians on the Ohio frontier.

ROBERT MCGAVOCK, son of Hugh and Nancy Kent McGavock, was the great grandfather of Leon Ragsdale McGavock. He was born October 20, 1794, at Max-Meadow, Wythe County, Virginia. He married Anne Hickman, daughter of Colonel Thomas Hickman, March 9, 1819, at Howard County, Missouri, where he was engaged in the practice of Law for a number of years, having graduated at Washington College, now Washington and Lee University.

It is not surprising to find an enviable Army record on file for Leon Ragsdale McGavock, for his ancestors on both sides had set the example for him. His grandfather, Robert Ragsdale, fought all through the Civil War, together with 3 brothers and three brothers-in-law.

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7. Early education—where obtained, incidents, names of teachers: He started school in Birmingham, Alabama, at Powell School, under Miss Mary Callahan as principle; for five years he attended Ullman School in Birmingham, Alabama, under Mrs. Dabney as principle; he then entered St. Bernard College at Cullman, Cullman County, Alabama, where he studied for five years.

8. College education—where attended, and year of graduation, with college honors and degrees:

9. Professional education, if any—where obtained, date of graduation, with degrees:

10. Profession or occupation—date entered upon, where practiced, and incidents of:

On February 8, 1914, Leon Ragsdale McGavock, enlisted in Battery E, 4th Field Artillery, in which company he stayed for 3 years at Texas City and Brownville, Texas. Leon R. McGavock had just gotten out of College and had not entered into any profession or occupation before making his enlistment in February, 1914.

11. Every civil office held—city, county, State or national, with exact dates as far as possible. If ever a member of the Legislature, give date of session:

12. Miscellaneous: Reform movements, influence on affairs, etc:

13. Political party—official position, committee work in, etc.: _____;

14. Church connection—with official position, if any: Member of 11th Avenue
Methodist Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

15. If a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows, or *other* secret order, give names, with official position, if any:

16. Titles of books written or edited. Give exact copy of title page, with the number of pages the book contains: _____

17. Maiden name in *full* of the subject's wife, with *date* and *place* of marriage: _____

She was the daughter of _____ and his
Full name
wife _____ who lived at _____
Full name

Give also other and full particulars of wife's ancestry, as far as possible:

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS MARGIN

18. Military record: (1) exact rank, (2) name of commands and commanders, (3) date and places of service, (4) heroic or trying incidents personal to your service, all as full as possible, and

if necessary on separate sheets of paper: 1-Sergeant Leon Ragsdale McGavock.

(2) Commanding officers - Captain T.C. Merrell, Captain Russell Lombard; Lieutenant Louis M. Washburn; Colonel Swezey; Major Stuart Janney, Gen. Kuhn;
(3) February 8, 1914, Battery E, 4th Field Artillery, Texas City and Brownville Texas, where he was stationed 3 years; September 17, 1917, in the 312th Machine Gun Battalion, stationed at Camp Mead, Maryland, 79th Division, where he was engaged as an instructor for about nine months. Sailed July 8, 1918, for France. Connected with 312th Machine Gun Battalion, 79th Division, American Expeditionary Forces, France. (4) Leon Ragsdale McGavock fought in the Meuse-Argonne battle from September 13, 1918, until October 6th, 1918, and while engaged in such battle was promoted on the field of battle by Captain Lombard to the rank of Sergeant. On the victory Medal of Leon Ragsdale McGavock are two bars inscribed as follows: "Meuse-Argonne" and "Defensive Sector."

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19. Full list of children (if any) of the subject of the sketch, with full names of husbands or wives of each, in case of marriage, with present place of residence and P. O., numbering them in regular order, viz:

- (1)

The foregoing data was prepared by Mrs. W.R. McGavock, mother of Leon Ragsdale McGavock.

Name

Date January 25th, 1922.

1021 St. Charles Street, South, Birmingham, Alabama. Address