



(LEFT) Clarence Raymond Stephenson, Jr. and Helen Gregg pose for a wedding photo. (RIGHT) Helen Stephenson with her daughter, Ann Marie.



SUBMITTED

While in Ironton to gather information on Stephenson, O'Connor visited the home he grew up in and spoke with a neighbor who remembered the family. She did not remember Stephenson because she moved in after he had left for the war, but O'Connor said she had nothing but nice things to say about the family.

After he left Ironton, O'Connor went to Akron to meet with Stephenson's youngest sister, Ruth. While there he discovered Stephenson kept a diary which mentioned his first meeting with the woman he said would change his life.

The following are three of the entries from Stephenson's diary.

- "January 31, 1942 - Left Ironton at 10am via bus to Dayton to start ball rolling toward my getting into the Corps.

- June 13, 1942 - Met a lovely girl in Central Park

and liked her very much. I made a date with her for next Thursday. Miss Helen Gregg, 424 W. 47th St. I bet this will change my entire future life.

- June 18, 1942 - First date with Helen Gregg. I've never known a girl like her. Already I'm in love with her."

When Stephenson proposed to Helen she said she would love to, but she could not just then because she was only 17 years old, said O'Connor.

On her 18th birthday, Sept. 6, 1943, they travelled to Ironton to be married in the rectory of St. Lawrence Church.

Exactly one year after they were married, Sept. 6, 1944, Raymond was killed in action.

He never saw his wife again. He never laid eyes on his daughter.

"I, of course, knew my mom was married before, but it was never brought up," O'Connor said.



Spectrum Outreach Services LTD

Provider of alcohol and drug recovery treatment programs

Robert L. Vinson II, BSS, MA, CDCA

- Assessment
- Individual
- Group
- Case Management
- Crisis Intervention

- Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Services
- Opiate Education Group
- Domestic Violence/Anger Management Program

- Remedial Driving
- Adult Female Residential Treatment
- Adult Male Residential Referrals
- Tri-State Driver Intervention Program

IRONTON

214 S. Fourth St.
Ironton, Ohio
740-532-3767

THE LINDA CENTER

Female Residential
Treatment Center
740-532-3767

THE DAWES HOUSE

A transitional recovery home
South Point, Ohio
740-532-3767

Hope starts here