

Assignment #5

History Report

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The perception of history is viewed differently by each individual. Depending on how a person grew-up and what the lifestyle they were brought up, to the career path or family life one wanted, and possibly did not achieve the plan *they* hoped for.

The person for this interview was my step-father, Jess Hoag. Jesse came into mine and my sister's lives when we were teenagers. There was a lot about Jesse's life prior to the marriage of my mother that I did not know or knew very little about. This essay will focus on the early childhood, young adult and career choice that brought Jesse to where he is today.

Early Childhood

Jesse was born in Marrill, Wisconsin to a farmer and his wife in 1950. He was the middle child of six children and lived in a two-room shack on a small, dirt farm. Jesse went to school in a one room school house with other children from neighboring towns. The school house consisted of ages five thru thirteen. After one turned thirteen, there wasn't a need to continue with education when extra hands were needed for farming.

At the age of nine, Jesse was removed from his biological home due to his mother passing away and his father could no longer care for he and his siblings. From what Jesse remembers, he lived in two foster homes, both being small farms.

Farmers would foster older children because the government would send a check at the beginning of each month and it was extra hands for the farmers.

While working in the field one summer day, a social worker from town came and informed the farmer that a family will to do a trial period with Jesse. During the trial period, Jesse went to a multi-room school where the boys and girls were separated and it was an all-white school. His adoptive family (AF) lived in the suburbs and designated certain nights for bridge night for his mother and her friends, or league night with his father and guys. Because of

his lack in education, Jesse's AF did everything they could to make sure he succeeded in life. They had private tutors, machines that helped with pronunciation of words or flash cards for reading and math. Jesse spent one year with the soon-to-be, AF and at the one-year mark, Jesse was asked by the social worker how he felt about the adoption and if he wanted to the process to continue?

What I find interesting about this section, it was Jesse's decision if the adoption was going to proceed or if he was going to go back to the foster farm, not the soon-to-be, adoptive parents.

Jesse was ten and a half when he was officially adopted in the summer of 1960. When the closed adoption was finalized, the AF changed the location and place of birth where Jesse was born from, Merrill to Wausau, Wisconsin. They also changed his middle and last name. The AF did not trust the biological family (BF). The BF tried accessing Jesse when he was going through his trial period with the AF. Random family members on both sides of the BF would send homemade gifts and money with letters of how everyone was doing. Jesse found out all of this out once he turned sixteen. His AF sat him down and explained who the homemade gifts were from. How the money was spent via "Santa Clause", however, he was not upset at his AF for how they incorporated the gifts.

Young Adult and Career

I am combining the young adult and career sections together, because they go hand-in-hand. At the age of seven, there was career day at his junior high school and they children were asked to pick three careers they wanted to know more about and Jesse's top pick was and airline pilot. He wanted to fly commercial airlines for American Airlines or Delta. He could not remember the other two, only the airline piolet, because when he went home and told his father what he wanted to be, his father responded with, "you can't be a pilot because you wear glasses."

After that statement was made, Jesse didn't think about being an airline pilot again, until high school when a recruiter came to the school and spoke to a handful of teenagers who were "eager" to sign up for the draft. Jesse did not want to join the military and had no desire to speak to the recruiter.

After high school, on the day he turned eighteen, he had to go down to city hall and get his draft card for Vietnam. His number was 274. Because he was going to college to complete his education in Business Management and a minor Economics, that kept him from having to serve in Vietnam. His number was never called during the draft picks.

After college, he got a job as a manager at the local JCPenny's and worked that job for eighteen months until he was laid off. JCPenny's was cutting back on a few of the local stores and since he was one of the new hires, he was given the pink slip. Not knowing what to do next, he decided to go and get his certificate at the local college as an airline mechanic. While going through the program, the President was making cuts to the military because Vietnam was winding down. The cut backs went so deep that the President cut too many from the armed forces and needed to hire enlistments to fill the dilapidated spots.

While all of this is happening, Jesse had been meeting with a recruiting officer over the course of technical training, and he liked the idea of working on what he's always wanted to do, airplanes, but didn't want the contract to bin him to the military. He wanted to be able to walk away from the military, anytime he wanted to. When it came time for the President to say that the "nation needed your services", Jesse saw the recruiter for the last time, and between the two of them, a deal was made so that Jesse would only have to serve for two years with no strings attached.

I saw the pamphlet that the recruiter gave him with all the job listings he could sign up for and airline mechanic was circled.

For a man, who was determined to *not* have any part of the military, spent thirty-one and a half years serving the Air Force. Twenty-three of those years, he was a flight pilot on multiple planes and earned his Masters' in Aeronautical Engineering. When it came time for Jesse to retire, he wasn't ready to leave the military. That was the only thing he knew, for many years. Once he retired, Jesse lost himself as a civilian. He did not know what to do with himself and was depressed the first few years of retirement. Once, he started to learn, all over about who he was and what he wanted, he went back to a two-year program in flight school as a jet engine mechanic. Come July of 2019, he will be graduating and will have the opportunity to work on jet engines and build them from scratch.

I don't remember the company he said that he will be working for.

After interviewing Jesse, my step-father, I learned there is so much more to him that I didn't know was possible. I had no idea that he was against joining and committing to the military. The family life he had with his biological family and life after he was adopted, how it must have been a complete shock, and yet, it was the best thing for him.