

Groveton News
Aug 7, 2003

Elvin Jackson Griswold Jr.

Griswold, 79, Teacher, Student of
Civil War

Elvin Jackson Griswold, Jr. for thirty years a teacher at Austin High School and a dedicated student of the Civil War died Sunday, July 27, 2003 of cancer. He was 79.

He was a real gentleman. Even after the fashions changed, he was a stickler for impeccable dress. Every day he went to school in a nice suit and tie. They don't do that any more." said his wife, Betty Lutz Griswold of Houston.

Griswold taught history, economics, civics and police administration at Austin High in the Houston school district.

Born in Groveton, Griswold was the son of Elvin Jackson Griswold, Sr., a carpenter and farmer and Dona Artemisia Bagwell Griswold.

As a boy, Elvin Griswold helped his dad in carpentry and farming and worked in a sawmill. He decided his future was in other lines of work.

At high school in Groveton, a teacher instilled in Griswold a love of the printed word. He relished Shakespeare especially and often quoted a line from the Bard: "What is, is."

During World War II, Griswold was an enlisted man in the U.S. Air Force. As a glider mechanic and teletype operator he served in the Phillipines, Australia and New Guinea. After the war, he continued in the Air Force Reserve until 1983.

In 1949, Griswold received a bachelor of science degree and a teachers' certificate from Sam

Houston State University. He attended college on the GI Bill and

supplemented his income working in an icehouse.

After graduating, Griswold looked for work in the oil business, but had no luck. Hearing that teachers were in short supply, he found a job in 1949 with the Houston school district.

He taught at Marshall, Burbank and Johnston junior high schools before joining Austin High in 1954. He retired in 1984. During his teaching years, Griswold also worked as a shoe salesman and insurance salesman to help support his family.

He devoured books on the Civil War. He was a member of the Arabia Shrine Temple and of the Temple Provost Guard and Arabia Shrine Pistol Team.

His first wife of 33 years and mother of his children, Leba Pauline Loftin Griswold, died in 1978.

Griswold is survived by Betty, his second wife of 22 years; and four daughters, Jacquelyn Bryan of McKinney, Phyllis Rainey of Conroe, Ceceile Slaughter of The Woodlands and Laury Finn of Spring.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, July 30, 2003 at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home with burial in Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, 6900 Lawndale, Houston, Texas