

John Tobey

Born

Died: 1992

Period of Service: WW II

Source: Cemetery 177 N,
JG, Nephew Steve Tobey

Member of the Tobey family that lived in Jensenville near the Red Barn. His wife was Iris Paxton whom he married before being shipped out to the Pacific theatre in World War II. John served on Bouganville, and was traumatized by Japanese infiltrators in nighttime raids in which soldiers in so-called "safe, patrolled areas" had their throats slit, silently, to be discovered in the midst of their company in the morning. He declined a battlefield promotion from private first class to corporal.

After the war he worked for a building managers association in Chicago until his retirement. " He suffered from post traumatic syndrome disorder not recognized at that time and untreated, and a resultant alcoholism all his life. He had recurring nightmares. He was a gentle, intelligent , sensitive man, totally unsuited for front line military service." (Nephew Steve Tobey) He loved vegetable gardening.

Since Iris was unable to have children, they adopted a baby girl, Janice, who currently lives in El Reno, OK. She works at the FAA office in Oklahoma.

Steve Tobey is John's nephew who worked as a distinguished chemist for Dow Chemical. (JG)