

Janis Kozlowski: Well, now let me go back a bit. You said you got married in June of '45 before you were discharged. How did you end up courting your wife while you were gone so much? Did you have some leave?

Charles Donovan: That's, that's another interesting story ... I forgot to tell you that one. While I was up there and became friends with Sergeant Conroy, he used to get mail from this girl in Waltham, Massachusetts that he used to go out with. And she sent him a photograph of five different girls - three of four of them were sisters. And he showed me the photograph and we got to talking, and he say's, "Why don't you write to one of them?" And I said, "Well, OK, why not." I said, "Let's write to this one," and I pointed out to her. And I started writing to her. And we're writing back and forth for two and a half years, or for two years, I guess. And I finally got out of there and got home on leave. I got home, picked up the phone and asked her marry me.

Janis Kozlowski: Did you really?

Charles Donovan: Yeah. I got home to Buffalo, New York, picked up the phone, and asked her to marry me. She accepted, and her father and mother and one of her sisters drove her from Massachusetts to Buffalo, New York, and we got married there.

Janis Kozlowski: So, you'd seen a picture of her, but had you actually met her?

Charles Donovan: No.

Janis Kozlowski: And had she seen a picture of you?

Charles Donovan: Yes. I had sent her one, of course.

Janis Kozlowski: And so, you two just thought you were - with all the writing and all - you felt you were very compatible and ...

Charles Donovan: Evidently. [Chuckle] It's lasted for 64 years.

Janis Kozlowski: Wow. So, did she immediately accept your ... your proposal?

Charles Donovan: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

Janis Kozlowski: And then, you said you got married right away - how soon after that proposal did you get married?

Charles Donovan: Oh, it ... well, as I said, I was home on leave.

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-hum]

Charles Donovan: And I was home on a 30 day leave. So she come [sic] out there and we got married.

Janis Kozlowski: Oh, boy. And then she knew you had to go back, and for some amount of time?

Charles Donovan: Oh, yeah. That was June of 1945 and I had to go back. And then I was sent down to Guam, to pick up the Concise.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did she go back to her family's home in Waltham?

Charles Donovan: She went to ... she stayed with my folks - at my sister's for a while, out in Appleton, New York, outside of Buffalo. Stayed with them, and ... she stayed there for awhile, and then she went back to Waltham. And then after I got out of the service, I moved back to Waltham.



Four generations of Donovans, May 2010



Charles Donovan holding his great-granddaughter, August 2009



At the World War II Memorial in Washington DC in 2010 with great-grandson Logan.



Charles Donovan at the World War II Memorial, Pacific Pillar, in Washington DC with Chaplain Jackson, May 2010.