

# Three Generals

Chapter 6  
by Kay Hively

After getting back into the car, Eddie and Michael asked Mr. Barnes lots of questions about General Bradley and what he had done in World War II and why he was made a five-star general.

As the boys talked about General Bradley the time passed quickly, and suddenly they saw Mr. Barnes turning the car once more.

The two boys could see they were in another small town. A sign on a store told them the town was Keytesville. What, they wondered, would they find here.

Soon Mr. Barnes stopped the car in front of a small house. Nearby Eddie and Michael could see railroad tracks.

Standing once again beside the car, Mr. Barnes introduced Eddie and Michael to still another general. Pointing to the house, he said this was the birthplace of General Maxwell Taylor.

As the boys looked at the little house, they wondered what it might be like inside.

Mr. Barnes said that young Maxwell only lived here for three years. But, even though he moved away, Maxwell returned to the area during the summer to spend time

with his Grandpa and Grandma Davenport who lived on a farm at nearby Dalton.

Eddie and Michael's ears really perked

up when Mr. Barnes began talking about Grandpa Davenport.

Grandpa Davenport had fought in the Civil War and had lost an arm. When Maxwell was a little older, he came to visit his grandparents each summer.

While he was visiting on the farm, Grandpa Davenport would thrill Maxwell with stories of the Civil War.

Maxwell enjoyed his summers on the farm, but at summer's end he returned to Kansas

City. Many years later, General Taylor admitted that he was strongly influenced by his

grandfather's stories. Hearing the stories made him want to be a soldier and a general.

But becoming a general was not easy for Maxwell Taylor. He was not good at science and math. This made it hard for him to get into a military academy.

At first, he applied for the U.S. Naval Academy, hoping to become a sailor, but he failed the examination. Later, after studying harder, he passed the examination to attend West Point. Maxwell Taylor became a paratrooper, and during World War II he commanded an army airborne division.

Even though General Taylor had trouble getting into a military academy, he overcame that by studying hard and even taking classes at a junior college so he would be better prepared.

Mr. Barnes explained to Eddie and Michael the value of studying hard. He told them that General Taylor not only worked his way into the academy to study, he came back after World War II to become the superintendent at West Point.

Listening to the story of General Taylor, Eddie's mind was full of information. Turning to his father, he remarked that if General Taylor had gotten into the Naval Academy maybe he would have become an admiral instead of a general.

Taking one last look at the house where General Maxwell Taylor was born, everyone climbed back into the car. As he took his place in the back seat, Eddie's mind was whirling with stories about Generals Maxwell Taylor and Omar Bradley.

Michael's head was swirling with thoughts of lunch.

## Next Chapter: A picnic

### Things to Think About and Do

- Grandpa Davenport fought in the Civil War. What were the soldiers on each side called, and who won?
- General Taylor was not good in science and math. How did he overcome that?
- Read the obituary section in your newspaper to learn about local citizens and what they accomplished in their lives.