

This Is My Life



by: Jane Dedmon
2011

The life story of Berla Jane Glasscock Dedmon

(as recorded by her and typed by her husband, Leroy Dedmon)

I am the daughter of **Berlin Edward Glasscock** and **Cynthia Viola (Shirley) Glasscock**. My maternal grandparents were **Jackson Alexander** and **Sarah Jane (Yates) Shirley**. When dealing with ancestors, it is very difficult to know exactly where to begin. I am going to start with my mother's family, a large family, known as the **Shirleys**. As far as has been determined, my connection through the Shirley family is traced back to England.



The family of Shirley is of great antiquity of an ancient Saxon line long before the Norman Conquest as ancient manuscripts, documents, Parish registers and records prove. The Norman Conquest began in 1066 with the invasion of the Kingdom of England by William the Conqueror (Duke of Normandy) it was a pivotal event in



ETTINGTON PARK HAS BEEN IN THE SHIRLEY FAMILY SINCE BEFORE THE NORMAN

English history. Only three families are said to be able to trace their lineage in the male line to an Anglo-Saxon Domesday forebear. The Shirleys are one of those families. The progenitor of the Shirley family was Sewallis, an Anglo-Saxon, who was granted land by the king. He held lands at Ettington in Warwickshire, Tichmarsh in Northamptonshire, Witence in Lincoln and Hoon, Hatton, Etwell and Shirley in Derbyshire. Ettington, located in the county of Warwickshire, is the original seat of the ancient family of Shirley. Some of the estates at various times passed from the hands of the Shirleys for various reasons. Ettington has passed in an uninterrupted succession for more than 900 years in the male line to the present. I am told that it is the only estate in England with this distinction.

In 1986, members of the Shirley Family Association traveled to England to join in the celebration of the 900th anniversary of the continual ownership of Ettington by the Shirleys. Major John Shirley is the present owner. Ettington is located about six miles from Stratford Upon Avon and is leased at present as a five star hotel.

The first Shirley from England in American records is Daniel Shirley, who arrived on the Bona Nova in 1619. He lived near the Shirley plantation in Virginia. Robert Shirley came to Virginia on the Ark and Dove in 1634. Thomas Shirley was on the Thomas and John and arrived in Virginia in 1635. The oldest ancestor that I can connect to my family is **John Shirley**, who was born around 1770 -1780 in either North Carolina or Tennessee. **He married Mahala Frost** and moved from South Carolina to White Co. Tennessee. Around 1829 he moved to Jackson Co. Alabama where he died in 1845. John raised a family of eleven children.

I am descended from John and Mahala's son, **John Shirley, Jr.**, who married **Maggie Huddleston**. John and Maggie had six children. Their son **John Calvin Shirley** is my great great grandfather. He married **Martha Foshee** and they had seven children. My mother's father was their son, **Jackson Alexander Shirley**, he born on December 3, 1871 in Stevenson, Alabama (Jackson County), and died on November 28, 1930 in Chattanooga,



JOHN CALVIN SHIRLEY

Tennessee. John Calvin Shirley died in 1881 and his wife, Martha, died in 1909. They are buried in the old Foshee grave yard near Stevenson, Alabama. They owned the Knox Farm at Stevenson where my mother's family lived so long. Martha was the daughter of **Alexander Foshee** and **Evaline Merrill**.

I found the following story in my mother's (Cynthia Shirley Glasscock) papers:

"There was a man in Bridgeport, Alabama by the name of Foshee. He was a man who believed in God and read the Bible but had never heard any one preach it, until one Sunday he got on his horse and went to hunt a stray calf he had lost and came upon the little church at Rocky Springs. They were having church so he went in and when he heard the gospel he obeyed it right then and was baptized and went home in his wet clothes. He taught the Bible till his death."

This appears to be how the Shirley family became members of the Church of Christ. Of course, that is not to say that at some point in time another family member may have become a member by another means. The Rocky Springs Church of Christ became the home congregation to many of my ancestors. It is located on Hwy 72, just southwest of South Pittsburgh, Tennessee, in Bridgeport, Alabama. Just west of Chattanooga on I-24, take the Hwy. 72 exit at South Pittsburgh. Heading west on Hwy 72 (Also known as the old Cherokee, "Trail Of Tears") Just after crossing the Alabama line you will enter the city limits of Bridgeport. Continue past the exit for Bridgeport, and begin looking to your right for a sign, advertising Rocky Springs, the oldest Church of Christ in Alabama. Turn right and the church building will be on your left. Another congregation nearby, Edgefield is also listed as a place where some of my family worshipped. I have ancestors buried in cemeteries at both places.



THIS PLAQUE WAS GIVEN TO **THOMAS FOSHEE**, REPRESENTING THE CHURCH, ON **JANUARY 4, 1976**, IN A PUBLIC CEREMONY AT THE BUILDING BEFORE A LARGE ASSEMBLED CROWD. **THOMAS** IS A DESCENDENT OF **ALEXANDER FOSHEE**.



Rocky Springs Church of Christ

The Oldest Continuous Church of Christ In Alabama



UNCLE JIM AND AUNT LUTIE YATES
(PHOTO TAKEN IN THE SMOKEY MOUNTAINS)

Jackson Alexander Shirley married **Sara Jane (Jeannie) Yates** on August 20, 1899 in Marion County, Tennessee in the Battle Creek Community. She was the daughter of **John** and **Cynthia (Champion) Yates**. She was born August 17, 1880 in Missouri, and died September 23, 1947 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She had a brother, **Jim Yates**. I remember my mother and father visiting them in Texas, while on their way to Wyoming to visit my aunt Augusta.

Jackson Alexander Shirley's mother, Martha Foshee, had one sister **Parlee (Foshee) Hackworth** and several brothers buried at the old home place. Parlee married **Randolph Hackworth** they had one daughter Laura and several sons and they all had children and grandchildren. My mother (Cynthia Shirley Glasscock) said, *"These were all Christians, Parlee and Randolph held worship service in their home for many years on Sunday and did a wonderful work."*

We have almost no information on the parents of John Yates and Cynthia Champion. I assume my mother (Cynthia Shirley Glasscock) was named after her grandmother Champion. Cynthia Yates died with TB while they were living in Missouri. They both died, Jim and Sara Jane (Jennie) young. John Yates, aunt Jane Rogers and her husband Thomas Guthrie, took the children and raised them.

John Yates' sister, **Kizzie Yates**, had no children. Their mother was Frankie (Rogers) Yates, who lost her husband in the Civil War. She died when my mother was a child, but she said that she remembered her well. Her maiden name was Rogers, her sisters were Jane Guthrie, Maggie Smith, Neete Smith, Nan Hackworth and brother Bill Rogers, who never married. All the women had children, but we have no information on them.

Grand daddy's brother **John Brazleton Shirley** is buried at Caperton cemetery near Stevenson, Alabama. He married **Ann St.Clair**. Grand daddy's sister, **Eva**, married **Douglas St. Clair**. I remember two of their children, **Faye (St. Clair) Shipp** & **Virgie (St. Clair) Turner**. After Douglas died, Eva, married his 1/2 brother **John St. Clair**.

Mother's oldest brother was **William Alexander Shirley**, but was called **Bill**. He was born August 20, 1809 in Tuscombia, Alabama and died April 2, 1945 in Sheffield, Alabama. He married **Katherine Cloud** from Stevenson, Alabama on December 31, 1923 in Rocky Springs, Jackson County, Alabama. I remember going to Chickamauga to hear uncle Bill preach. The church met then in an old building on Gordon Street. It was the first church building for the congregation in Chickamauga. Uncle Bill and aunt Kate had two children, **Raymond Andrew** and **Hilda Jean**. Raymond married **Patrica Ann Myers**. Pat, was born Edna Vivian Myers. She legally changed her name to Patricia Anne Shirley. She had been nicknamed Pat as a small child, and had never been called the other, so it didn't seem to fit well on her. Everyone always called her Pat, so she just changed it (—via Jean Brenneman) Pat died on February 15, 2007. Raymond and Pat had three children: **Raymond Andrew (Andy), Jr., Linda Anne**, and **Christina Colette (Cris)**. **Hilda Jean** married **Joseph Warren Brenneman** on February 2, 1951. They had four children: **Beth , Ellen , Rebecca , and another daughter that I can't remember her name..**



RAYMOND SHIRLEY
AGE - 3

Two of mother's siblings died in infancy. They were, **James Marion** and **Clara Shirley**. Her parents later named another child, Clara. My cousin, Hilda Jean (Shirley) Brenneman, wrote me the following letter.

Jimmy was five years old and Clara was two or three. There was a double epidemic, possibly diptheriae and smallpox, both at once, and the three little ones, including my daddy got it. They got sent to the "pest house" which was a quarantine place. Many had been sent there, a large 3-story house. I have lived by it for years there in Muscle Shoals, AL, seen it hundreds of times. The babies had to be put on pallets on the floor. They stacked the dead bodies out on the back porch. They died faster than they could make caskets. Grandmother got very bitter because Clara had to die on the floor. I think she was two. My father recovered. I think he was three. Jimmy recovered that bout, but a later one, perhaps a year later, finally killed him at age 5. Someone came to see us - I think it was Claude - and he wanted to go see the pest house, so my daddy drove us all out there, out in the country between Tuscumbia and Muscle Shoals. I heard my uncle talking with mama and daddy about how Jimmy lived a while longer and did not die when Clara died, but did die by age 5. The epidemics were simply terrible. I saw both their graves. There was no marker. There was a large tree there, oak or chestnut, and I could always identify their graves by that big tree. I told the cemetery people about the two graves and where they were. Grandmother came to see us and would not go to the cemetery. She was very bitter about it all. I believe daddy was aged in between Jimmy and Clara but am not positive about that. He remembered playing with Clara and Jimmy and he was the one who begged grandmother to name the second Clara, Clara, to remember the first one by. He mourned the loss of his playmates. Grandmother was also bitter because she had named daddy Willie and he didn't like it and he took it upon himself to name himself William and it made her angry. She told me that in no uncertain terms. My mother also was named Kate and she named herself Katherine. I guess they wanted to "be somebody," ha, ha. During the depression, Mama had a fur collar on her coat and daddy paid a week's wages for an onion skinned Bible!!!! But they sure looked like somebody when they went to church!!! It turned me off and when you see me, what you see is what you get. The Bible says, " - - - the hidden man of the heart." --

Jean Brenneman



GRANDMOTHER SHIRLEY'S CHILDREN -MID '30s
(L-R)(BACK ROW) BILL, CLARA, CLAUD, DOW (2ND ROW)
CLYDE, CYNTHIA, GRANDMOTHER (FRONT) FRED, JOHN, LONNIE



UNCLE BILL AND AUNT
KATE SHIRLEY, WITH
RAYMOND AND JEAN

Mother's other siblings were as follows:

Augusta Mae Shirley, born Mar 06, 1906 in Tuscumbia, AL; died Jul 24, 1993 in Gearldine, AL (DeKalb County). She first married **Horace Brooks** and after their divorce she married **Taylor Marvin Sparks**. They adopted **Shirley Ann (Ellis) Sparks**. She married **Willie Glenn Windham** and they had two girls: Renee and Reba.

Claude Thomas Shirley, born Mar 18, 1908 in Tuscumbia, AL; died Jan 23, 1989 in Whitwell, TN (Marion County). He married **Martha Jane (Mattie) Green** on Nov 29, 1929 in Bridgeport, AL (Jackson County). Aunt Mattie died in 1994. They had two children: **Billie Faye Shirley** and **Marian Carolyn Shirley**. Billie Faye married **Thomas Arnold Potts** Jun 19, 1955 in Chattanooga, TN, son of John Franklin Potts. They had one daughter, **Phyllis Ruth**, born Sep 24, 1956 in Chattanooga, TN. She married **Carl Cummings Rose**; born Jul 27, 1954 in

Nashville, TN. After Arnold and Billie Faye divorced she married **Tom Skipper** around 1958. Billie Faye taught me to ride a bicycle. **Marian Carolyn Shirley** married **LeGrand Fournier**, son of J.C. Fournier and Unknown Harden. They have two children, **Cathy** and **Steve**.

Billie Faye and Carolyn used to come to our house for a week and then we would go to their house at Powell's Cross Roads, near Whitwell, Tennessee, for a week. That was our only experience with an "out house" as we had to go out there to use the bathroom. They had a cow that would chase us and we had to go past the cow to get to the outhouse. When our aunt Clyde got married, Billie Faye and Carolyn were staying at our house and they had some "special" dresses that they were wearing. I remember very well how they would not let me and Ruth get close to them in the car. With all four of us in the back seat, it was difficult not to touch the dresses.

Lester Franklin Shirley, born Jul 05, 1910 in Stevenson, AL (Jackson County); died Mar 19, 1989 in Chickamauga, GA.. He married **Geneva Elizabeth Bullard** Oct 05, 1940 in Rome, GA (Floyd County). Leroy preached uncle Lester's funeral. Uncle Lester and aunt Geneva had three children: **Franklin (Monk)**, **Hubert** and **Polly**.

Dow Yates Shirley, born Nov 04, 1912 in Stevenson, AL (Jackson County); died Oct 21, 1968 in Stevenson, AL (Jackson County). He married **Eula Jane Durham** and they had one child, **Harold**. Harold married **Katherine Unknown** and they had three children: **Fred Wayne Shirley**, **Carol Ann Shirley**, and **Charles Clem Shirley**.

Clara Shirley, born Jul 24, 1917 in Stevenson, AL (Jackson County); died Nov 03, 1971 in Chickamauga, GA. She married **Mike Jarmon Plaster**. He was born Mar 02, 1917 in Chickamauga, GA, and died Jan 12, 1985 in Chickamauga, GA. Leroy was asked to preach Uncle Mike's funeral. Mike and Clara had two children: **Jackie Arlen Plaster**, born Jan 31, 1942 in Chickamauga, GA. and **Gary Malcolm Plaster**, born May 13, 1944 in Chickamauga, GA.

Clyde Shirley, born Jul 24, 1917 in Stevenson, AL (Jackson County); died Jul 15, 1974 in Chattanooga, TN. Aunt Clyde and Aunt Clara were twins. She married **George Stiles** Jun 19, 1947 in Chattanooga, TN. They had one child, Cynthia, who died at birth.

Lonnie Gilbert Shirley, born Mar 11, 1919 in Stevenson, AL (Jackson County); died Apr 14, 1972 in Decatur, GA (DeKalb County). He married **Clara Belle Wehunt** Mar 13, 1943 in Gainesville, GA (Hall County). Children of Lonnie Shirley and Clara Wehunt are: **Lewis Gilbert (Butch) Shirley**, **Milton James Shirley**, **Linda Sue Shirley**. She married **John P. Harris**, and **Gina Shirley**.



1937 - GRANDMOTHER WITH MY COUSINS
CAROLYN, FAYE, JEAN, SHIRLEY AND RAYMOND



**GRANDMOTHER SHIRLEY'S DAUGHTERS -MID '30s
(L-R) CLYDE, AUGUSTA, GRANDMOTHER, CLARA, CYNTHIA**

office supply store in Dalton, Georgia. He made friends with brother Thurman Chitwood, who owned Chitwood Carpet Mill in Resaca, Georgia. Brother Chitwood put Uncle Fred in the carpet business in Clearwater, Florida. I remember going with mother and daddy to visit with uncle Fred and one time me and Ruth spent a week with them. We came back home on the bus and the bus driver told uncle Fred that we would not have to change buses. As it happened, we had to change buses in Atlanta and we were scared to death that we were on the wrong bus, but we made it all right.

I never knew grand daddy Shirley, but I know he is buried at the Edgefield Church of Christ Cemetery near Bridgeport and Stevenson, Alabama. He died shortly after his last child, Fred, was born and left grandmother a widow with a houseful of kids.

Grandmother came to live with my aunt Clyde for a long time as aunt Clyde was not married. They lived on Mulberry Street in Chattanooga and I remember going there to visit. Mother went there when Lebron was born and I remember him in his bassinet in a bedroom.



**1601 MULBERRY STREET. THIS IS THE HOUSE WHERE
GRANDMOTHER AND AUNT CLYDE LIVED**



**GRANDMOTHER SHIRLEY,
ME AND RUTH**

My earliest remembrance of grandmother Shirley was one time that she came to our house and helped my mother can green beans. They took them out of the canner and put them on the back porch and everyone of them burst. They thought maybe the change in temperature was too drastic and the lost everyone of the beans. I also remember having our picture made with our dolls and grandmother at the crepe myrtle tree in our front yard. She died when I was seven years old, but she gave me her watch because I was her "namesake". I remember he calling me to her bedside and giving me the watch. I remember grandmother's funeral at the East Lake Church of Christ and they sang, "Above The Bright Blue". I think I will always remember that. When she was laying corpse at aunt Clyde's house, uncle Fred took me to the store and let me pick out the cookies. I thought that was really wonderful.



**AUNT CLYDE (SHIRLEY) AND
UNCLE GEORGE STILES
JUNE 19, 1947**

Aunt Clyde married George Stiles in June of 1947, just a few months before grandmother passed away. He was from McMinnville, Tennessee. At some point they left the East Lake congregation and began attending Ridgedale. They had one child, Cynthia Ann (Cindy), who passed away a few days old.

Aunt Clyde would always buy our Easter clothes. I guess since she had no children of her own, she enjoyed dressing us up. We always enjoyed visiting with Aunt Clyde and Uncle George. Of course, we enjoyed all of our aunts and uncles, but they seemed to be around more. I remember one time when mother and daddy took a trip our west with Aunt Clyde and Uncle George to visit Aunt Augusta in Montana. They left us with grandmother Duncan and Billie Faye and Carolyn. Grandmother Duncan was daddy's step mother and she didn't have a house, so she would visit her children for several weeks at a time.

Aunt Clyde died in 1974 as the result of a car wreck that she and Uncle George was in. Uncle George later married a woman he knew from the Ridgedale church where they attended. Her name was Lois, but I don't know her maiden or previous married name. Uncle George passed away a few years ago.



**BERLIN EDWARD GLASSCOCK
MY FATHER**

My paternal grandparents were **Charles Walter** and **Grace Pearl (Springer) Glasscock**. My father, **Berlin Edward Glasscock**, was born on August 4, 1910 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Daddy had one sister, **Addie Sue (Glasscock) St. Clair** and two half brothers, and a half sister. Daddy's mother, Pearl, died soon after he was born. Charles Glasscock later married **Frances (Fannie) McCarey** and they had three children, **Marcus, J.L. (John)** and **Mary Frances Glasscock**. Daddy had three aunts, **Johnnie, Jessie** and **Della Springer**. They lived in Indianapolis, Indiana and I remember visiting them one time. This was the first time that I remember staying in a motel. Aunt Della's husband, **Emmett Thompson**, worked at the speedway..

Aunt Sue was married to **Marvin Otis St. Clair, Sr.** and he was the son of **Evaline (Eva) Loutitia Shirley** and **Caleb Douglas St. Clair**. Eva was my grandfather's sister so Marvin was my mother's first cousin. Aunt Sue and Uncle Marvin were married in 1926, which was eight years before mother and daddy were married. I am not sure if Aunt Sue had anything to do with mother and daddy meeting each other. Marvin and Sue St. Clair had five children: **Marvin Otis, Jr., Daniel, Betty Ann,** and **David Delano**.

I don't know much about the Glasscock family as Aunt Sue told me that my grandfather, Charles Glasscock, was adopted by the Glasscock family and that he was actually a Lewis. I have no information on either family. I do remember daddy's half brothers and sister. Uncle Marcus married **Frances Conner** and they had four children; **Maureen Yvonne Glasscock, Linda Gayle Glasscock, Harriet Glasscock, Marcus L. Glasscock, Jr.** Uncle J.L. (John) married _____ and they had _____ children: _____---_____. Aunt Mary married **Victor Nelson** and they had two children: **Barbara Nelson** and **Billy Joe Nelson**.



**CHARLES WALTER GLASSCOCK
MY GRANDFATHER**



MY AUNT AUGUSTA'S STORE WAS LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF WALLACEVILLE ROAD AND MARBLETOP ROAD.

I was born in Chickamauga, Georgia on February 1, 1940 at Simonton's Clinic. Dr. Fred Simonton was our family doctor during all my childhood years. After I was born mother and daddy continued to live with my aunt Augusta on Wallaceville road to help with the store until they built a house. Mother said I used to get in the nails and scatter them everywhere.



OUR HOUSE ON VANDIVER ROAD, FACING MISSION RIDGE ROAD, NEAR WALLACEVILLE



THIS IS ME AT 1 YEAR OLD

We had a swing and glider set on the front porch and that's where I read a lot. We had a badminton and horseshoe courts that daddy had built for us, so it was easy to have a fun time with all the aunts, uncles and cousins. Daddy also put a swing set in the side yard and mother made her a flower garden. We also had a croquet set that we enjoyed playing. After Lebron was born, daddy build him a room on the back porch. I lived in the same house until I married, except for the few months we lived with aunt Augusta when I was born. The picture to the left is one of the youngest pictures I have of myself, maybe a year old.

Mother and daddy met some time in the early 1930s. Daddy began attending the Cowart St. Church of Christ in Chattanooga, where mother was a member. Daddy baptized by the preacher, brother R.C. White. On November 27, 1935 they were married at the home of Paul Buchanan witnessed by Cynthia's twin sisters Clyde and Clara they started living in an apartment house shared with Lonnie and Margaret (Clevenger) Blackwell. They soon moved to Wallaceville, Georgia to help aunt Augusta in a grocery store.



SIMONTON'S CLINIC CHICKAMAUGA, GA

On the 7th day of September 1940 3 acres of land was purchased from Mrs. E. D. Vandiver for mother and daddy to build a house on Mission Ridge road. The mailing address was Rt. 1, Rossville, Georgia. I thought it was a large and pretty house up on a hill. It contained five rooms and a bath room. It had a back and front porch. The front porch was made of rock and was high



ME, DADDY AND MOTHER



ME, MOTHER, DADDY AND RUTH

Some of the first things that I remember in my life is going to church and sitting on the bench and looking at the pictures in my mother's Bible. I also remember walking out by the grape arbor at our house, thinking about going to school. Another of my early memories was Santa Clause coming one year and printing our names on the blackboard. I thought that was the most wonderful thing in the world that he knew our names. Me and Ruth would go with daddy to get a hair-cut and while he and Lebron got their hair cut, me and Ruth would get a coke and a Little LuLu comic book and wait on them in the car. We did the same thing when mother and daddy would visit

My sister, **Sandra Ruth Glasscock**, was born on August 31, 1941. Were close to the same age and enjoyed each other as we shared everything. Daddy wanted a boy, so **Edward Lebron Glasscock** was born on February 26, 1944. That completed our family as mother said three was enough.

Erlanger hospital to see the sick.



ME, RUTH AND LEBRON - ABOUT 1950

They would get us a comic book and a coke and we would sit in the waiting room till they got through. I broke my arm one day down in the shower in the basement. It was a concrete shower and I fell off a nail keg while trying to either turn the water on or off, I don't remember which. They rushed me to the doctor's office and I got a cast on the arm. This was while I was in grammar school. Ruth never had any broken bones that I remember.

Growing up we had to wash dishes and dry and put them away. Mother would water her flowers and make me and Ruth do the dishes. That didn't set too well with us. We had to dust and mop, iron pillow cases and stuff like that, which we didn't like to do. Another thing we had to do was bring in the wood for the stove.



MOTHER AND DADDY WITH ME AND MY SUBLINES, RUTH AND LEBRON. YOU CAN SEE THE FLOWER GARDEN.

Among some my earliest memories is the time I had to bring stove wood, but did not think it was my turn, so I got mad and ran away from home. I went to my aunt Clara's house, which was just across the road and spent the night with my cousins Jackie and Malcolm Plaster. The next day when I returned home mother gave me a "talking to". I was afraid she was not going to let me come back home.

Since Aunt Clara lived across the road, we played a lot with Jackie and Malcolm. Lebron and Malcolm were close to the same age. We played marbles with them. I remember me and Ruth building play houses in the woods. We played store, both in the house and outside. We would gather up all of mother's canned goods and sell them to each other. We played dolls with the white baby beds daddy made for us one Christmas. We learned to skate on a sidewalk on the side of the house. Another fond memory was my birthday party on my seventh birthday.



ME AND RUTH ARE DISPLAYING WAR BONDS DADDY BOUGHT. SINCE DADDY WORKED FOR COMBUSTION ENGINEERING HE WAS EXEMPT FROM THE ARMED SERVICE DRAFT, BUT HE WAS VERY PATRIOTIC.

In the summertime, after we did the dishes, we would go outside and play softball. Daddy wanted Lebron to be a catcher. We have pictures of him as a child with his uniform. This picture was published in the Combustion Engineering paper, where daddy worked as a crane operator for more than 30 years. We used to have all the family reunions at our house and I remember all the aunts and uncles. There was eleven of them and with their mates we would have a houseful. We would go out and play softball together.



MOTHER AND ME WITH RUTH AND LEBRON. YOU CAN SEE THE SWING SET.

It seems to me like Lebron was always there, he was a quite little boy and never caused anyone any trouble. One time our preacher, Bobby Jones and his wife Evelyn, was visiting us. We were eating supper and Lebron jumped off the back porch and bit his tongue. I found him in the bathroom where he was trying to stop the bleeding. They rushed him to the doctor's office and he sewed it up for him, but that was an awful bloody mess for awhile. It was really swollen.



BATTER UP - THE YOUNG MAN AT THE PLATE IS EDWARD (LEBRON) GLASSCOCK. HE IS THE 4 YR. OLD SON OF BERLIN GLASSCOCK, CRANE OPERATOR IN OUR NUMBER 2 PLANT.



**FIRST GRADE
1946-47**

I remember dressing by the old wood stove to get ready to go to school. I attended the Osburn Elementary School near Chickamauga. My first grade teacher was Mrs. Youngblood. I remember learning the alphabet from her. Osburn school had dark oil floors and an old dark lunch room, so I would take my own lunch. My best friend through elementary school was **Gwendolyn Judy Blaylock**. I used to visit her home and spend the night and she would come to my house to spend the night. **Barbara Watkins** was my favorite friend that was not kin to me. She lived near us and saw that I got on the right bus every day. I really depended on her. Mother was always home

when I got off the school bus, except when she had to go to a PTA meeting. She would often have cup cakes baking for us. They were called "snowflake cupcakes".



ME AND DADDY, WITH RUTH AND LEBRON



ME AND MY BEST GRAMMAR SCHOOL FRIEND, JUDY BLAYLOCK



IN THE FIFTH GRADE I WAS IN A PROGRAM. I AM ON THE RIGHT END IN MY BLUE PAPER DRESS.



SIXTH GRADE



ME AND MY SIBLINGS

Another thing I remember when I was in grammar school was that I used to go spend a week with my cousin, Yvone Glasscock in the summer time, and then her sister Linda would come and spend a week with my sister, Ruth. Their parents were my Uncle Mark and Aunt Frances Glasscock. I graduated from Osburn in 1955. The earliest election that I remember was when Truman won over Dewey. We went to bed thinking Dewey had won, but the



A FAMOUS PICTURE OF HARRY TRUMAN HOLDING THE PAPER DECLARING DEWEY THE WINNER.

next morning we found out Truman had won. I also remember watching the Eisenhower inauguration in 1953 in the school auditorium on a black and white television. Even the movies in those days was in black and white.

Some of my early memories of mother is seeing her hang clothes to dry around the ceiling in the winter time. In the summer she would hand them on the clothes line outside. Of course, this was before the days of electric dryers. She had an old wringer washer that she used to wash clothes on the back porch. In the winter she would bring the washer in the kitchen. I also remember her feeding Lebron custard pudding and letting us eat some with Zwieback.



I remember mother making home made biscuits at the cabinet and beating cakes by hand. She would heat blankets on the wood stove for us to go to bed and keep warm.

I remember daddy coming home from work with the person he rode with and getting out of the car with his lunch box. Daddy would lead the singing at church and make us things in the basement to play with, like the doll beds



ENGLE STADIUM - 1955

I mentioned. He would paint the trim on the house and the screens every spring and ever so often he would paint the house.

Daddy would take us to see the Chattanooga Lookouts, a minor league baseball team, with Uncle George and Aunt Clyde.



THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN MARCH OF 1952. (L-R) FRONT ROW: DADDY, MOTHER, LEBRON BACK ROW: RUTH AND ME

I grew up in the days of segregation. Brother Marshall Keeble used to bring his "preacher boys" to the Third Street Church of Christ and let them preach. They would get up and just preach away, and we thought that was so cute. Mother would let us ride the bus to Chattanooga every Saturday. Me and my sister, Ruth, would walk up and down the streets and shop, go to the movies and eat out. When integration began the black folks began sit-ins at all the dime stores, so we had to quit going to town on Saturdays. I remember when we first got electricity and our first telephone. It was an eight party line, so eight families had to use the same line. I also remember the first television we owned. It was just a small black and white, but was great. That was about 1956 or 57.



BROTHER MARSHALL KEEBLE

The history of the Chattanooga Valley Church of Christ goes back to a group that assembled under an apple tree up on a hill, I think it was called Bost's hill, on Wallaceville Road. Then they moved to a little "shack like" building in the back yard of brother and sister Wrinkle. Then they built the basement of the first building owned by the church. The church met in the basement until the building was completed. This was the building where I attended and was baptized. They have a new building now on Nickajack Road about a mile toward Flintstone from the original building. The old building still stands, it is a rock building and is now owned by a Baptist church.

When the church at St. Elmo began the Chattanooga Valley congregation at Flintstone, the leaders came to mother and Daddy and asked them to begin attending there. Daddy later became an elder at Chattanooga Valley. I remember having fish fries at our house and the home of Andy Harper, who also became an elder. His son Jerry and wife Peggy later became good friends of me and Leroy. We would also have chili suppers at the Chattanooga Valley School.

We attended the Chattanooga Valley congregation all my childhood and teen-age years. Before Chattanooga Valley began Wednesday night services we attended the East Lake congregation where my aunt Clyde Styles was a member. We had to memorize a Bible verse each Wednesday night and stand up and say it. The preacher was brother Leslie Boyd. Boyd-Buchanan school was named in honor of him and brother Paul Buchanan. Brother Buchanan married my mother and daddy.

Some of the first preachers, that I remember at the Valley were Lonnie Blackwell and J.T. Mowery. I also remember Howard Horton holding a tent meeting. Bobby Jones was our first full time preacher. He was working at the Red Food Store in Rossville and daddy asked him to preach for us. He began as "part-time", but later gave up his job and became "full-time". It was also his first full time preaching job. We used to meet with Bobby at the church building and print our bulletin.

After he left Charles Kilgore became our preacher and his wife was named Gwen. He was the preacher who baptized me at the age of 14. I remember going to the Kilgore's house and eat hamburgers by candlelight and Ruth and I thought that was the greatest thing we had ever done. We used to go to their house for lunch and sew for the orphan's home. That was when I first met Helen Morton.

She was the mother of Mickey Morton, who later married my sister, Ruth. One time we went to Joe and Ethel Farliss house and that was the first time we had tamale pie. Mother got the recipe and we used it for a long time. Ethel was brother Kilgore's sister and they are the ones who were responsible for Charles and Gwen coming to the Valley church. We also went to Florida once with Joe and Ethel to visit her mother in Largo, Florida.

When brother Kilgore left, brother James Watkins became our preacher. This was around 1954 or 55. The Watkins's lived at the foot of Lookout Mountain and we would have picnics at his house. They had a beautiful view of the mountain and we would enjoy hiking through the woods. Brother Watkins would also come to the house and play badminton with us. James was a very dynamic preacher and the Valley began to grow.



Church of my Childhood

*The little old church of my childhood
Is bright in my mind once again;
Its' pews overflowing each Sunday
With worshipping women and men.
I can hear those sweet voices, like angels,
Resounding to heaven above.
As the righteous were whispering softly
Petitions of praise and of love.
I have frequently thought of the numbers
Of prayers that were uttered with zeal,
And I'm back in the church of my childhood
And the wonderful memories seem so real.*



THE CHARLES KILGORE FAMILY

This was about the time I met Leroy. We had attended Osburn Elementary together, but I was a grade behind him and we were never associated with each other. However, I did know his sisters. When we moved to the new High School in 1956 we became friends and eventually began dating. We were in the Bible Club together. He began attending the Chattanooga Valley congregation was baptized by James Watkins in 1957.

When he left, brother Lawrence Garmon became our preacher. Lawrence continued the picnic tradition that we had come to enjoy. The Garmons lived across from the church building and we would literally have “dinner on the ground” at their house. We would spread the table cloths on the ground and then put the food on the table cloths. I remember mother taking chicken ‘n dumplings and everyone of them would be eaten. While Lawrence was our preacher we added a classroom annex of five or six classrooms on the back side of the parking lot. Leroy helped with the construction of the new classrooms. Lawrence found some odds and ends of floor tile that was made available to us at either a low or no cost to the church. There was not enough of any one color to do a room, so Leroy helped arrange the patterns to utilize the free tile. This was probably his first experience with installing floor covering. We later owned a floor covering business.



**CONNIE BUFF
AND LEROY**

Another eventual thing that I remember from childhood was a little girl named Connie Buff. Her mother and father, Thomas and Esther Buff, began attending church at Chattanooga Valley. Mother began keeping her while Connie’s mother worked. She was 18 months old. I am ten years older than her, so this must have been around 1952. She was the flower girl in our wedding in 1959 at the age of eight years. She was about ten years old when daddy died and mother had to leave her at the house when they took him to the hospital. Daddy died enroute to the hospital. Leroy and I came from Huntsville and found her there and took her to Tri-County Hospital with us. The hospital is known today as Hutcheson Memorial in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Connie married Leroy’s brother, Joseph William (Bill) on Feb. 6, 1971.

We owned a 1954 chevrolet and daddy taught me to drive by backing the car and pulling it up in the driveway and parking it. As I got older, I would get to drive to the store. After I got my drivers license, daddy would sometimes let me drive to school. He rode to work with someone he worked with, so the car was always left home. I got along with mother and daddy very well in my teen age years.



MY 13TH BIRTHDAY

In my teen years I worked at Tri-County Hospital (now Hutcheson Memorial) at Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia and a “Dime Store” in Rossville. I made three dollars on Saturday as a floor secretary at the hospital. My favorite books were Nancy drew and Gone with the Wind. Some of my favorite movies were the Ten Commandments, Giant, and Tammy. After we got our TV, I remember the Hit Parade, Ed Sullivan, Groucho Marks and Johnny Carson. The most popular songs were by the Platters, Elvis Presley, Pat Boone and Fats Domino. My favorite clothes were a full skirt with crinolines, wool skirts and sweaters. Before we had television we listened to the radio. Some programs I remember include: Mysteries, Queen for a Day, and Break the Bank. I used to wish we could see what the actors looked like, never dreaming we would have a television.



**1958 - ME AND LEROY IN FRONT
OF ROSSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

I attended Chattanooga Bible School, which is now known as Boyd Buchanan School in Chattanooga, in the ninth grade. I was in the chorus and brother Elbert Henry was my chorus director. We would visit all the congregations in the Chattanooga to sing for them. We used to ride to school with brother Paul Kidwell, who at that time was the preacher at Chickamauga. In the tenth grade I began attending Rossville High School. I joined several clubs and was president of the Medical Club that I started. I graduated from Rossville High in 1958. Following graduation I attended the Erlanger School of Nursing in Chattanooga. My best friend there was Grace Ann Crawley. After about a year, I quit Nursing School to get married. Back then you had to live in the dormitory, even if you were married. So this did not appear to be an option to me



**1958 READY
TO GRADUATE**

Leroy and I married on April 5, 1959 on a Sunday afternoon at the Chattanooga Valley church building. Julian Green was the preacher after brother Garmon, but we asked brother Watkins to preform our ceremony. I borrowed my wedding dress from my cousin, Billie Faye (Shirley). My sister Ruth was the maid of honor. Leroy's sisters, Carolyn and Alma Ruth along with Ann McCall, who had become my best friend in high school, were bridesmaids. Connie



THE GIRLS (L-R) CONNIE BUFF, ANN MCCALL, ALMA RUTH DEDMON, JANE GLASSCOCK, RUTH GLASSCOCK, CAROLYN DEDMON

Buff was the flower girl. The groomsmen were friends of Leroy all through grammar and high school, Charlie Lail, Jimmy Cooper and Joe Perkinson. His best man was his cousin, Tommy Gilbert. He and Ann McCall got married and asked Leroy to preform the ceremony, that was his first wedding. They were married at my mother's house. The guys decorated the '52 ford that Leroy owned and was to be our means of transportation for a few years. It was a "straight shift" and I had to learn to drive all over again. We went to the Smokey Mountains for our honeymoon. We drove to Knoxville that night



THE GUYS (L-R) JIMMY COOPER, JOE PERKINSON, JAMES WATKINS, LEROY DEDMON, TOMMY GILBERT, CHARLIE LAIL

and on to Gatlinburg the next day. On Tuesday we drove to Cherokee, North Carolina and visited the Indian Reservation. We saw a sign that indicated that it was almost as close to Chattanooga as it was back to Gatlinburg, so we came home. We began house keeping in a small garage apartment in the backyard of Leroy's parent's house. Leroy and his dad remolded the garage, making a small one bedroom apartment. Mr. Dedmon had built the garage several years prior and had added a room to the side that had served as a storage and utility room. At one point, Leroy's brother, Tommy, had made a bedroom in the back of the utility room area. It did not take much to make a cute "bungalow".

Thomas Buff (Connie's father) sold us a custom built corner sofa that just fit the living room area. I assumed that we would live there until we could afford a mobile home to place behind my parent's house on the hill where I had grown up. I could not have been more wrong. It was not long after we married until he was offered a job with the NASA Space Program in Huntsville, Alabama with Redstone arsenal. We moved to Huntsville at the end of June that year. It was a boost to our finances as Leroy doubled the salary he was earning at Combustion Engineering in Chattanooga.



LEROY AND JANE, APRIL 5, 1959

It did not take much to make a cute "bungalow".



THIS PICTURE OF THE LITTLE APARTMENT BEHIND THE DEDMON'S HOUSE WAS TAKEN A FEW YEARS AFTER WE MOVED. THE CARPORT ON THE FRONT WAS ADDED AFTER WE LIVED THERE.

We rented a U-Haul trailer and Leroy's cousin, Tommy, pulled it with our belongings to Huntsville. We found a small apartment on Walker Street and lived there about a month. Tommy and Ann then moved into the little garage apartment. They later purchased the Dedmon's house and Leroy's sister and her husband, Claude Price lived in the apartment. This was the first time either of us had been away from home for any period of time and it took a lot of adjustment. Leroy worked long hours and I was very bored and homesick. The windows in the apartment were narrow and high off the floor. I had to stand in a chair to look out the window. I found a Library near enough so I could walk to it. We came home almost every weekend. We did not enjoy living in Huntsville.



THE APARTMENT BUILDING AT WALKER AVENUE IN HUNTSVILLE. THE MAIN ENTRANCE WAS A NARROW DOOR THAT OPENED INTO A DARK HALL THE APARTMENTS WERE ALSO SMALL AND DARK AS THE TREES SHADED THE VERY SMALL AND NARROW WINDOWS



THE LITTLE HOUSE ON WALKER STREET WAS FACING THE SCHOOL AND MADE IT CONVENIENT TO SUBSTITUTE TEACH.

The answer to the problem was to move to Gurley, Alabama. Some friends from Chattanooga, Arlen and Faye Moore helped us find a little house in Gurley on Wood Street, across the street from the school. The house was owned by the Riley Brannum and they treated us extremely well. I remember one time when Riley caught two catfish that were at least five feet long. He cut us some steaks that were almost as large as a plate. We worshipped at the church at Paint Rock and met several people who became good friends. In addition to the Moores, Edward and Lenora Gattis, Bill and Ellen Metchnik, Mrs. Blanch Maples and her old maid daughter Audery Bartlett, welcomed us into their homes. Audery Bartlett was a school teacher and she suggested I substitute teaching school. So I tried this and taught at Woodville, Alabama where she taught and also at the Gurley High School, which was across from our house. My problem was that I did not know how to discipline and many of the students were almost as old as I was.



We were invited to the Kennamer Reunion soon after our moving to Gurley by Audrey and Mrs. Maples. This was an annual affair held at Woodville, Alabama. Since we had nothing better to do, we went. We had no idea that we would be considered to win a prize, since we were not Kennamers, but that didn't seem to matter. Somebody said if you weren't kin to the Kennamers, you wished you were. So everyone counts. This photo was taken from the Jackson County Sentinel, Scottsboro, Alabama on September 1, 1959.

(L-R) FRONT ROW - MISS NANCY CAMP, OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR; MRS MARY KENNAMER, OLDEST PERSON PRESENT; MRS. AND MR. LEROY DEDMON, MOST RECENTLY WED COUPLE; BACK ROW - LISA MOORE, YOUNGEST PRESENT; HELD BY HER MOTHER, MRS. ARLEN (FAYE) MOORE; WENDELL PAGE, NEW PRESIDENT; AND MRS. ELIZA KENNAMER, WHO HAD THE MOST DESCENDENTS PRESENT AT THE REUNION.

As we had made several friends and were being invited to their homes, we realized our little house was too small for that. We found a 2 bedroom house on highway 72 in Jackson county, which is pictured to the right. It belonged to Tom Woodall and was the first house across the county line, between Paint Rock and Gurley. Their son, Tommy, later married one of the girls at the church in Gurley and Leroy was asked to perform their wedding ceremony.





THE CHURCH BUILDING AT PAINT ROCK NO LONGER EXISTS AS THE FOUR LANE HIGHWAY REMOVED IT A FEW YEARS AGO. THE MEMBERS BEGAN ATTENDING AT THE LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AT GURLEY AND WOODVILLE.

The church at Paint Rock had different men to preach on Sunday morning but met to sing at night. So Leroy offered to make talks and they agreed. He began to purchase books to build a library and would study on Sunday afternoon. It was soon learned by other congregations that he would “fill in”, so he was asked to preach at other places in the North Alabama area. I remember a brother Elkins from a congregation nearby called Glovers Chapel coming by while Leroy was at work and said he heard a preacher lived here. I said well he can make a talk so he wanted him to come and teach on Wednesday night and preach on some Sundays so we did that. We were invited home with some of the members for Sunday dinner and I guess that was the beginning of eating with people we had never met before which has also continued until this day.

In February of 1960 Leroy was asked to preach at the church in Gurley until they could obtain a full time preacher. After about three years he decided to be their full time preacher and quit his job at the Arsenal. This was in June of 1963 and for about six months he preached for the church at Gurley and a small congregation he helped establish on the nearby Keel Mountain. He would preach four times each Sunday and then conduct mid-week services on Tuesday night at Keel Mountain. Sister Gold lived on the mountain and she wrote asking that we start a church there. Leroy held a tent meeting in front of their store. Mr. Gold was not a member of the church, but attended every night. At the end of the meeting he gave us a billy goat. Gary and Gwen made a pet of it and we kept it until we moved to Childhaven Children’s Home in 1964. We gave it to one of the members when we moved.



THE CHURCH BUILDING AT GURLEY IN 1960



THE CHURCH BUILDING AT KEEL MOUNTAIN. THE CHURCH NO LONGER MEETS, BUT THE BUILDING STILL STANDS.

The Central congregation in Huntsville, Alabama paid half of Leroy’s salary and built the church building at Keel Mountain on some land donated by Roy and Sammy Sanders. They were not members at the time, but later became members. They also moved to Childhaven after we did to become houseparents. They were a nice older couple. They later moved back to Keel Mountain and asked Leroy to preach a Gospel Meeting. The building was filled each evening and on Sunday night several congregations in the area dismissed their evening services and came to the meeting. Folks were standing in the aisles and sitting all around the pulpit area where Leroy was standing.

The Metchniks had a baby named Teresa that I enjoyed so I decided I would like to have a baby. When I discovered I was expecting, we decided to move back to Huntsville, to be closer to the hospital. We found a little house on Halsey ave. to rent in Huntsville but needed painting so Daddy came down and stayed a day or two and painted the house (4 rooms and bath). The irony of this story is that we happened to be in another town (Owens Cross Roads) when I went into labor after moving back to Huntsville to be near the hospital. Our friends were Ralph and Mimi Samples from Chattanooga. He preached at Owens Cross Roads and we enjoyed playing scrabble with them and eating together. Ralph later became the golf coach and Psychology teacher at David Lipscomb. We were as far away as Gurley would have been and a road under construction across Monte Sano Mountain.



THE HOUSE ON HALSEY AVE IN HUNTSVILLE, WHERE GARY WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 22, 1960

There was a preacher and wife, Benny and Earline Pinkley that came out from Huntsville to preach one Sunday a month at Paint Rock. We became friends and one night they called and asked us out for supper. They were members at the Memorial Parkway congregation in Huntsville. There was a house behind the building that was remodeled for a fellowship room and they asked if we would like to see it. We walked in to a surprise shower of the Paint Rock people and had invited mother and daddy and other friends. We were shocked and surprised.

Ruth married Michael Wayne Morton, from Chattanooga Valley in September of 1960. He was in the Navy for several years and they lived in several different places. They had two children, Sandra Kaye, who was born in 1961 and Michael Patrick, was born in 1964. Ruth had a difficult time dealing with Navy life. She, like myself, had never been away from home for any length of time. They lived in Maine when Sandra Kaye was born and it was a hardship on her. In addition to Maine, they lived in several places, among which included, Millington, TN, Paducah, KY and Jacksonville, FL. Mickey resigned from the Navy after about ten years, so they could live a "normal" life. Sandra Kay married Tim Sholar and they have two children, Steven and Elaine. Michael married Traci Gray from Chattanooga Valley. They had one child, named Grayson. Michael and Traci are now divorced. Grayson is presently living with Michael. Ruth and Micky divorced in 1985, after twenty five years of marriage.

After brother Green left the Chattanooga Valley congregation, Frank Crownover preached for about 18 months until a preacher was found. Frank was one of almost a dozen "home grown" preachers produced by the Valley. He worked for a bank in Chattanooga, and never became a "full-time" preacher, until he retired and moved to the Winchester, TN area. During this time the Valley was in search for a preacher. Carl and Nancy Seignthaler, lived in Scottsboro, Alabama, and Carl was the assistant preacher to Paul Kidwell. Carl and Nancy became good friends and we used to visit them and even spend the night. One time we spent the night at their house and unbeknown to us, Mr. and Mrs. Dedmon had come to our house for a week end visit. Since we were not home, they had to "break in" and spent the night. They were there when we returned the next day. Carl came to Paint Rock on Thursday night to teach a Bible Class and during this time daddy met him and asked him to consider moving to Chattanooga Valley, which he did. Carl stayed more than ten years and during that time, the Valley built a new building on Nick-A-Jack road, about a mile from the old one. Carl was the last preacher that we had personal contact with at the Valley, until Leroy's brother preached there in the '80s.



GARY LEBRON DEDMON

Gary Lebron Dedmon was born at the Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville, Alabama on November 22, 1960, following 32 hours of labor. Since he was the first grandchild for each set of grandparents, it seemed that all of Chattanooga was at the hospital.

We selected his name in order that he have the initials G. L. Since we didn't want him to be George Leroy, Jr. we selected the name Lebron after my brother for the "L" and thought Gary would go well with it. Gary was the third G. L. Dedmon as Leroy's father was Gordon Lee Dedmon. Since Gary

was born in Alabama he has always been an avid Alabama football fan. Since we lived in Tennessee so many years he often "suffered" for his allegiance.



HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Daddy had his first heart attack shortly after Gary was born. Once when he was in the hospital, we sent him a get well card from Gary every day. When we went to see him he had all those cards lined up on a table in the room. After daddy came home from the hospital we were able to visit him. He never recovered from the first attack, before he had the second one. Mother called uncle Mike to take him to the hospital. Daddy actually passed away, before they reached the hospital. Daddy had a saying, "I had rather wear out than rust out". By that I think he meant that he didn't want to sit around doing nothing as he was always active at home and church.



**BERLIN GLASSCOCK
1910-1961**

Daddy died in May of 1960 and mother had a difficult time financially, as she was not old enough to draw social security. Lebron joined the army and mother got a job at Freed-Hardeman College in 1961 as a Dormitory Supervisor. She also worked in the Book Store. We would visit mother at Thanksgiving and the Lectureship, she would come to our house in the summer. She served almost ten years in what was then Brigrance Hall, seen to the right. It has since been renamed The Joy McDaniel House. A new dorm was built at the end of 1971 called Scott Hall. Mother served one year in Scott Hall before she died in 1972.



KENNETH PYLE'S HOUSE WHERE GWEN WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 7, 1962

Our year's lease on Halsey Avenue was up in the summer of 1961, so we moved back to Gurley and rented a house from Kenneth Pyle on Miller Road. While living there, Gwendolyn Jane Dedmon was born on October 7, 1962. She made her presence known on Sunday morning while Leroy was preaching. He took me to the hospital early on Sunday morning. The nurse told him it would be several hours before the baby would be born. Knowing our experience with Gary's birth, he decided there was plenty of time, so he went on to church. **GWENDOLYN JANE DEDMON** She was born about the same time he was beginning his sermon. I named her after my childhood friend Gwendolyn Judith Blaylock and one of our preacher's wife when I was a child, Gwen Kilgore.



THE FIRST HOUSE WE LIVED IN AT GURLEY. IT HAD BEEN REMOLDED WITH THE TWO STORY ADDITION ON THE LEFT END.

Kenneth decided to get married and informed us that he needed his house. The Branums had just finished remodeling the little house we lived in when we first moved to Gurley, almost doubling the size. We called them and was able to rent it again. The first time we lived there, we had no children, but now with two of them we needed the added space. We stayed there the rest of the time we lived in Gurley. Counting that little house twice, it was the seventh house we had lived in the first four years of our married life.



PRESIDENT JFK AND WIFE, JACQUELINE, WITH TEXAS GOVERNOR CONNALLY SHORTLY BEFORE HIS ASSASSINATION

1963. They lived with us some until they found a house. On November 22, 1963, we were giving Gary a birthday party at their house, when the news came that president John F. Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, Texas. I remember watching the news on television for almost a week as news came that the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald had been caught and then he was killed by Jack Ruby. Needless to say those were some uneasy times for us, especially since Leroy worked at the Redstone Arsenal in the Space Program.



ME AND LEROY WITH GARY AND GWEN

Lebron came to our house during the Christmas holidays in 1963. We decided to take him back to his army base, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. We left around the first of the year, in January of 1964. We made it just fine going and we stayed a couple of days. My cousin, Jackie Plaster was also stationed there, so we got to visit with him also. On the way home we reached Shebylville, Tennessee about dark and ran into an ice storm. Since it was so dangerous to travel, we decided to stay at a motel for the night. The next morning we woke up to a snow storm that had paralyzed the area. We spent two days trying to “dig out” of our predicament. We spent all our money and determined if we had to stay another night we would have to call on the preacher at the church to help us.



THE MAIN BUILDING AT CHILDHAVEN. WHILE WE WERE LIVING THERE, THE TOP FLOOR BURNED.

At the time we lived at childhaven there were two cottages in addition to the main building. The cottages housed the senior boys and girls. We lived in the senior boys cottage. All the meals were prepared in the dining hall in the main building, but on occasion, I would cook our supper in the little kitchen that was located in our apartment. Leroy was supposed to be the preacher at the Childhaven Road church, but the administration changed and the new superintendent did not want him to be obligated every Sunday in order to travel more, The circumstances were not good and Leroy wanted to preach. We left Childhaven in August of 1964.

Also, in January of 1964 we moved to the Childhaven Children’s home in Cullman, Alabama to serve as houseparents. We lived there for eight months in one of the “cottages” which housed twelve senior boys. Leroy was in charge of the mailing list and public relations. We drove the bus all over Alabama to promote the work. One of the board members was Ernest Clevener, Jr. from Chattanooga. The Clevengers had been friends of mother and daddy, so he gave her a summer job as temporary house mother.



SENIOR BOYS COTTAGE, CHILDHAVEN - 1964

We moved from Cullman to Manchester, Tennessee, where Leroy preached at the New Union congregation in Manchester, TN. We stayed there about four years. Gary started to school there in the first grade. Since we lived next door to the school house, he could walk to school. My two best friends at New Union were Thula Crouch and Treva Haines, we have remained friends till this day. While we were at New Union, I began teaching a Ladies Bible Class. Prior to this I had only taught children, so I was a nervous wreck. We got through it and it was some good training for me.



THE NEW UNION CHURCH BUILDING - 1964



**GARY AND GWEN
1965**

We had some good years there. We purchased our first color television while living at New Union. Our kids enjoyed living at New Union as there were other kids at church that could come and play with them. We had a large yard, plus the play ground at the school, so there were plenty of things for them to do. These pictures were taken at Easter in 1965, Gary is four years old and Gwen in two. The large yard made a good place to hide Easter eggs for all the kids.

We had a badminton court in our back yard and also a large garden plot. We had some very good gardens and supplied vegetables to several of the members of the congregation.



**OUR FAMILY
EASTER 1965**

While we were living at New Union, Leroy began holding Gospel Meetings. One year he held ten gospel meetings with seven of them in Coffee County. As many of our friends came to several of the services, he said he felt like he was preaching to the same group every night. He has preached over 400 meetings, mostly in Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. He has held some meetings in Florida, Mississippi, Indiana, and Illinois.



PREACHERS HOUSE AT NEW UNION

Gary started to school at New Union. His first grade teacher was a member at the New Union church, and many of his friends from church were also at school, so he was among friends. The school building was next door to the church building and Gary would walk to school. Leroy would go over and play softball with the kids at recess. He also began substituting teaching in

He was scheduled to go to Springfield, Vermont, but cancelled when Lebron's wife died. He preached several tent meetings. In addition to the one on Keel Mountain, he preached one in Gurley while we lived there. He also preached in a tent meeting in the field in front of mother and daddy's house and a couple at Gossburg, in Coffee County, Tennessee.



THE SCHOOL BUILDING AT NEW UNION



GARY AND MARTHA TEAL

Coffee County. We became very active in school activities at New Union. Leroy was elected president of the Parent-Teachers Association and eventually was elected to the president of the Coffee County PTA. He attended the state PTA convention and helped organize PTA groups in other schools throughout the county. We held a lot of school carnivals and other fund raising activities. The favorite was the "dunking machine". When Leroy got on it, the whole community lined up to dunk him. The first one threw the first ball and he landed in the water. All the others were disappointed and several tried to get him to do it again.. One year Gary and Martha Teal, the daughter of Ray and Mary Teal, ran for "homecoming king and queen". It was based on who could raise the most money. We worked very hard, but we still lost by a small margin.

In 1966 at Christmas time we took the kids to Murfreesboro, Tennessee to shop and see Santa. Gary, being, six and in the first grade thought he had Santa all figured out. When we walked in the store, the big booming voice yelled out, "Well, there are the Dedmon kids from Manchester". Not only did it convince Gary, it almost made a believer out of me. I looked at Leroy and asked, "Who is that"? Of course, he simply said, "Can't you see, it's Santa Clause". As it turned out, Santa was one of the school teachers at one of the schools where Leroy had substituted. Of course, he recognized Leroy and knew these were the Dedmon kids from Manchester.

Another thing we did was to drive a little Renault that Leroy had bought in order to save on gas, since it was thirty miles away. We shopped all evening, finally getting all our purchases together and taking them out to the car. To our dismay, it was impossible to get them into the little compact car. We had to take all of it back into the store and put it on layaway and go get the bigger car. So much for saving on gas. The extra trip ate up all the savings.

We made several friends among which are Winfred and Virginia Duke. Winfred was the principal at New Union school and his birthday is the same as mine. We ate out together on our birthdays for several years.



GARY, GWEN AND SANTA CLAUS

It was about this time that we met Sun Huem Park. He was from Korea and was in mother's dorm at Freed-Hardeman. He and Leroy began doing mission work through publishing study materials in the Korean Language. While New Union sponsored the effort, several other congregations gave money for it. Brother Park used to come to our house and stay several days at a time. After he graduated from Freed Hardeman, he went back to Korea, and we did not hear from him for several years. After we moved to Springfield, he contacted us and brought his whole family to stay with us. There were five children and his wife and all seven of them slept on the floor in the den. He was always trying to start some business venture. At one time we had a small wig shop with wigs that he was able to find. Then he presented Leroy and Gene Davis, a deacon and song leader at Springfield, the idea of an Oriental Food Store at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Up to this point we had never had suspected that he was not to be trusted. So we began the Oriental Food Store. We rented a building in Radcliff, Kentucky, where Fort Knox is, and gave him ten thousand dollars to go to Chicago to purchase the first shipment of food. That is the last time we saw him. He drove to Chicago and took a plane to Las Vegas and lost the money in one night. We had to borrow another ten thousand dollars and Gene went to Chicago and got the food. We opened the store with another Korean, Chang Hong. It never was a profitable venture. We were also left with brother Park's family and had to help them for several years. We have not heard from any of them in 30 years.



(L-R) SUN HUEM PARK, MOTHER, GARY, ME, LEROY, GWEN

While in the army Lebron met Mary Hayes from Owensboro, Kentucky. They married in December of 1965. They had two girls, Cynthia Lea (Cindy) and Cheryl Lynn (Cheri) Glasscock. We visited them quite often. Since Mary met him as Ed, that's what she called him. Of course his name was Edward Lebron, but the army uses the first name so we now call him Ed. He and Mary were living in Sikeston, Missouri when their first daughter, Cynthia Lea (Cindy), was born. He worked with the Woolworth Company. They moved to Paducah, Kentucky and he got a job with Sears. Their second daughter, Cheryl Lynn (Cheri) was born on January 3, 1972.



THE PREACHER'S HOUSE AT MORRISON

In June 1968, Leroy accepted the preaching position at Morrison, Tennessee. To fulfill his ninety day agreement with New Union, he preached for both congregations for three months. Morrison was only twelve miles away and they had preaching at 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. Leroy could drive to Morrison and then return for the services at New Union.

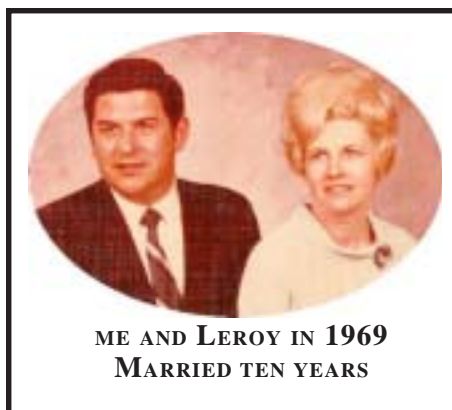
We moved to Morrison in August, of 1968. The preacher's house was located right behind the church building and was an old house. It was painted off white through out. The brethren agreed to repaint it for us. I had each room painted a different color, causing a bit of interest among the members.

We soon learned there had been some discussion. When we moved and one of the older ladies came to see us. After looking around she smiled and said, "I told them this would look good, when they got their furniture in it."

Morrison built a new church building in 1964 adjoining the old building. The old building was built in the '30s and was an attractive structure. It had been remolded and contained the fellowship hall and some classrooms. There was a bell tower and the bell was rung each Sunday morning. You could hear the chimes all over town. Across the road was a vacant lot and it provided the neighborhood children an excellent place to play. Leroy and I would often play baseball with them.



THE NEW BUILDING AT MORRISON, ON THE RIGHT, WAS BUILT IN 1964. THE OLD BUILDING, ON THE LEFT, IS NOW THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND HAS THE BELL TOWER



**ME AND LEROY IN 1969
MARRIED TEN YEARS**

In 1969 we celebrated ten years of marriage. We had lived in ten different houses and lived in six different cities. We had two children and Leroy was now preaching for his third congregation as a full-time preacher. Also, I was no longer the brown haired girl that I was all my life. I had now become a blond and continued to visit the hair dresser each week for the next twenty years, keeping it blond, platinum or frosted. On day Leroy said, "If you would leave your hair alone, Mother Nature has done what your are paying for." That of course was true, I was now natural grey. Our children were growing and making friendships, some which have lasted till this day. They were becoming involved with school and community projects, which included Cub Scouts and Little League Baseball. I was now a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts.



SANTA AGAIN!!! - 1968



OUR FAMILY AFTER TEN YEARS OF MARRIAGE. GARY IS NINE AND GWEN IS SEVEN

After about two years at Morrison, we agreed to move to the Sunny Acres Children's Home and continue to preach at Morrison. Sunny Acres was a home for children who had no parents or had been removed from their homes by the Department of Children and Family Services (DFAC). The home was under the oversight of the elders at Morrison. At the time there were four houses with about 8-10 kids in each house. About forty to fifty folks lived there, providing a large family atmosphere. Gwen had made friends with the children there and often spent the night at Sunny Acres. When we decided to move to the Children's Home, we sat down with Gary and Gwen to discuss this with them. "How would you like to live at Sunny Acres?", we asked. Gwen's face lit up with a smile and she began to jump with excitement. Then she stopped and looked at us and asked, "You will come and visit us some, won't you?" We then had to explain that all of us were moving there. We had two family groups at first: the Wolfe children, Mary, Joe, Bert, Sharon and Alvin, Patsy and Doris Markham. Later we got two boys from the Dunlap area: Ronnie and Jackie Ewton



SUNNY ACRES FAMILY (L-R) FRONT ROW - LEROY, GWEN, ALVIN, SHARON, ME (SECOND ROW) - GARY, BERT, MARY, JOE (BACK ROW) - PATSY, DORIS.

While at Morrison we developed a lasting friendship with the Turner family and especially Ike and Bea. Our friendship with Ike and Bea has lasted through the years and we stay at their home when we are visiting in the area. They also visit us. I again began to substitute teach at the school in Morrison, until we moved to Sunny Acres.



**MAIN STREET CHURCH BUILDING
322 N. MAIN STREET**

In October of 1971, Leroy was invited to “try out” for the preaching position at Springfield, Tennessee. We drove up on a Wednesday night, met with the elders and their families for supper. Leroy preached and met with the elders. A few days later he was offered the job and in January of 1972 we moved. We lived in Springfield for almost 14 years. Gary was in the sixth grade and Gwen was in the fourth. I remember we had an ice storm within a week after we moved in. We were without power for several days. The only heat we had was from a fireplace in the den. This was Gary and Gwen’s first experience without television.

The Preacher’s house was located about one mile from the church building at 114 N. Sequoia Drive. It was a large split level house with four levels. The top level contained four bedrooms and two baths. The next level down was the living room/dining room, foyer and kitchen. The ground level was a den, bathroom and garage. Then the fourth level was a basement. We converted the garage into a play room for the kids. It had a large yard with the back yard terraced and steep. It was very difficult to mow. The house was below street level and in a curve. There was a large pyracantha bush on the front of the house that had to be trimmed and trained. In the back yard we had a beautiful rose bush. Leroy had to spend at least one day a week in the yard. The Springfield congregation was by far larger that Leroy had ever thought he would preach for. It was considered to be in the range of 500 members. It was very organized and provided us with a lot of opportunities and training that proved helpful in our future congregations.



**PREACHER’S HOUSE AT SPRINGFIELD
114 N. SEQUOIA DRIVE**

Mother received her ten year service pin from Freed-Hardeman in May of 1972. As she had been doing for several years she came to our house in the summer. Late in June we had to take mother to the hospital in Springfield, where it was discovered she had a ruptured pancreas. They transferred her to Baptist Hospital in Nashville. She died a few days later on June 27, 1972. One of her friends and co-worker was sister Lora Laycook. She wrote the following poem about mother, that appeared in the Freed Hardeman newsletter.

*Her life has ended -- the night has fallen,
And we are lonely and sad;
But a brighter home is on the other side.
We know that we should be glad.*

*She came to us about ten years ago;
A stranger she was then;
But as years have passed at F.H.C.
She became a veery dear friend.*

*She loved her family, ‘twas plain to see;
Her grandchildren were her delight,
Like Dorcas, of old, garments she made,
She would sew from morning till night.*

*There are many girls scattered here and there
Who are sad and lonely today.
Little did they dream when they said “good-bye”
That she would be going away.*

*Since we do not know just when we will go,
Let us prepare for that day.
It’s coming to all, both great and small,
Let us walk the narrow way.*

--Lora Laycook



CYNTHIA VIOLA (SHIRLEY) GLASSCOCK - 1914-1972

While at Springfield Leroy began speaking more at civic clubs and other “after-dinner” gatherings. He had always done that kind of speaking, but mostly to church functions where we attended, or on occasion for another local congregation. I guess this began to develop while we were at Morrison, as he was in the Ruritan Club, but it seemed like he had more opportunities in Springfield. Once again we became involved with the school and community, with Leroy becoming president of the PTA almost immediately. We hosted the annual district conference of the Tennessee Parent-Teachers Association at the fellowship hall at the church building. Leroy also joined the Springfield Kiwanis Club at the invitation of one of the Springfield elders, Lawson Safely.



FAMILY - 1973

We actually began working in Summer Bible Youth Camps, while we lived at New Union. Leroy began serving on the board of directors of Camp Child at Altamont, Tennessee and directing a week of camp in 1965. We later worked with a camp program at Fall Creek Falls, while at Morrison. The first year we were at Springfield (1972) we were counselors at Camp Lylewood, near Clarksville, Tennessee. In 1973, we began working with Short Mountain at Woodbury, Tennessee as “The Preacher of the Week”. Leroy conducted the devotionals and taught the Senior Bible Class. He also would talk to the young people who wanted to be baptized and most of the time he would do the baptizing. They had a nice little cottage for us and we spent a week each summer all the time we lived at Springfield. After we moved to Bremen, Georgia in 1985 we worked with Camp Inagehi at Douglasville, Georgia.

Leroy was on the board of directors and directed a week of camp until we retired in 2003. Gary and Gwen began attending camp when they were five and three years old. As they grew older, Gwen did not enjoy it so much, but Gary became more involved a couple of summers he served as a counselor at Short Mountain.

At Springfield we developed friendships with several of the couples near our age. It seems as if there was always a “party” at one of their houses. We played a lot of rook in those days. One of the couples, Don and Betty Hall, divorced soon after we moved to Springfield, and Betty and I became good friends. We would go to the movies and eat out. In the picture to the right are the ones we were with the most. They are Gene and Elsie Barbee, Harold and Faye Jackson, Jim and Robbie Carlton, Jim and Joyce Dunn. You can also see Leroy’s first mustache. Of all the places we lived Springfield was by far the most sociable. Even the older folks enjoyed getting together for snacks and rook. We were also friends with Grace and Harry Hudson. Grace would have us over for a meal or take us out to eat almost every week. Harry was the treasurer and later became an elder.

A reporter for the local newspaper came by the house one day for an interview for a weekly column called, “On The Street Where You Live”. The following article was then published about us.

Dedmon Family Keeps Busy

We visited with Jane Dedmon and her family at 114 N. Sequoia. Her husband, Leroy, is the preacher at Main St. Church of Christ here. They have two children - Gary, 12 and Gwen, 10 - as well as a big collie named Rusty. Dedmon keeps busy with his church activities and playing on the church softball team. He is also president of the local P.T.A. His hobbies include caring for three aquariums and drawing house plans. Jane is secretary of the Green Thumb Garden Club and a member of the Mt. Dension-Springfield Home Demonstration Club. She says she enjoys reading and runs the church library. The children too, have interesting hobbies. Gwen weaves baskets and makes plaster of paris plaques. Gary works in ceramics and plays Little League baseball for the Braves. The Dedmons plan to take a group to Short Mountain Christian Camp near McMinnville later this Summer.



**SHORT MOUNTAIN BIBLE CAMP
(L-R) FRONT - LEROY, DON HAMPTON
BACK - DOTTIE HAMPTON AND ME**



**(L-R) FRONT: ROBBIE, FAYE, ELSIE, JOYCE AND ME
BACK: GENE, HAROLD, JIM C., JIM D. AND LEROY**

The Springfield church was established in the early 1900's, and they purchased the first building from the Baptist church. There were a lot of older members that were part of the congregation from the start. Of course, there were a lot of custom and tradition. Around 1957



**THE ORIGINAL CHURCH
BUILDING EARLY 1900**

they tore down the old building and erected a new one on the same site. The members did much of the work. The brick from the old building was saved and used on the new one. There was a certain amount of pride with the older members, that the younger members did not completely understand.

In addition to teaching a Ladies Bible Class I served on the "Special Activities" committee at Springfield. The Main Street church was very good about honoring certain groups as the widows, teachers and elders. They also held annual dinners for the men and women. The Activities committee was responsible for planning and execution of these events. I gained a lot of valuable experience doing this, that helped us at the next churches, where we worked.

While at Springfield I began working at a carpet store which we eventually owned. Later, I worked at a children's shop and a jewelry store at Rivergate Mall. I also worked for a short time at Montgomery Ward and Sears Catalog stores. This was the first time I worked outside the home after we were married, except for the substitute teaching I had done, while we were living at Gurley and Morrison.



As Gary and Gwen grew older, their interest began to go in different directions. They developed friendships with other kids at church, school and community. As a result, they became less involved with each other.

Here is a Mother's Day card Gwen made for me at school. It meant so much since she drew the pictures and wrote the poem. I am not sure if she made it up or copied it, but it really never mattered to me.

Mother

*To One Who Bears The Sweetest Name
And Adds The Luster To The Same,
Who Shares Her Joy, Who Cheers When Sad,
The Greatest Friend I Ever Had,
Long Life To Her, For There's No Other
Who Takes The Place Of My Dear Mother.*

*Love Always,
Gwen
1975*



After mother's death, we began the tradition of having Christmas with Ruth and Lebron's families. Ruth and Mickey lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee and Lebron and Mary lived in Paducah, Kentucky. Since this made us about half-way, it was convenient for them to meet at our house. We continued this for several years. Lebron's girls were by far the youngest children and Santa was having a difficult time keeping up with where they would be. The transportation of the gifts and assembling them on Christmas Eve, was becoming more and more difficult. In 1978 it was decided that we should meet in Paducah. So in 1978 we all drove to Paducah to spend Christmas with Ed and Mary.



CHRISTMAS - 1978 (GARY, LEROY, JANE, GWEN)



CHRISTMAS - 1978 (MICKEY, KAY, RUTH, MICHAEL)



CHRISTMAS - 1978 (CINDY, MARY, CHERI, ED)



GARY (HIGH SCHOOL)

Gary played organized baseball from the time he was about 8 years old. While at New Union and Morrison, Leroy was his coach in Little League. After we moved to Springfield, Leroy decided it best not to be his coach, but Gary continued to play through his teen years for the Babe Ruth Leagues and in high school. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1978 and enrolled in David Lipscomb University at Nashville, Tennessee for the fall term. He had always planned to attend Freed-Hardeman, but after mother passed away, he decided not to go there. Since it was only about 35 miles to Nashville, it suited me just fine for him to stay close to home. We had told Gary that we really could not afford the tuition at Lipscomb, but that we would give it a try. We made application to all the loans and grants we could find and managed to scrape together enough to enroll him and guarantee his first year. Gary, somehow managed to get a full scholarship the rest of the time by serving as the manager of the baseball and basketball programs. He traveled with the teams and took care of the equipment.



GARY (1978)



FAMILY - 1979

In 1979, we had been married twenty years. I must say as far as moving, the second ten was much milder than the first ten, as we only lived in two houses during this decade. This compared to ten houses in the first ten years. We had settled in very comfortably at Springfield. Gary was now in college and Gwen was a Senior in High School. Ed's (Lebron) wife, Mary, passed away on June 6, 1979, following an extended bout with cancer. She had asked Leroy to participate in her funeral service. Since Leroy was involved, the Catholic church would not allow it to be held at a church. The priest, who was the chaplain at the hospital, helped conduct the service. This was a new experience for Leroy as he did not know all their customs. The service was held at night at the funeral home. After Mary died, Ed and the girls came to live with us. The carpet business we had "inherited" was growing, so Leroy and Lebron formed a partnership and enlarge the business. We rented a little store building just below our house and named the business, "The Fashion Place". This became a family business as I also began working. Later, Gary worked some as well as Gwen's boyfriend, Jeff Rawls. Leroy trained Ed and Jeff (Bubba) to install carpets, vinyl and hardwood. We sold and hung wall paper and formed a floor cleaning business.

Leroy helped with carpet installations and it was not unusual for them to work all night. It seemed like we carpeted all of the church members homes. We closed the carpet store, as it interfered with Leroy's church work. We had to pay for the carpet when we ordered it and the customers would wait until the house was finished and the loan closed to pay us. We lacked the money to do this as it would often be a month before we got our money. Ed got a job with the Sherwin Williams Paint and Bubba went to work in Nashville.

In High School, Gwen would come by the carpet store and ask what we wanted for supper. I would tell her what to fix and how to do it. She would have supper ready by the time we got home. Her first job was at Pratt's Kitchen. Bill Pratt, a deacon at the church, owned the restaurant and gave Gwen her first job as a waitress. Then McDonalds came to town and the manager was a member of the church, and he gave Gwen a job. Then she was a cashier at a grocery store, and then a convenience store with a deli. Little did we know that she may have been preparing for a career in the restaurant business.

Gwen transferred from the Springfield Jr. High to Jo Byrns in the ninth grade. Several of her friends at church lived in the Cedar Hill-Adams area and they encouraged her to come there for High School. She graduated from Jo Byrns High School in 1980.



CINDY, ED AND CHERI



GWEN (1980)

Although we had a large house, it was fairly full at times. With Ed and the girls living with us, we needed more bedroom space, so we made a bedroom in the basement. Leroy's mother and daddy came up and helped us build a shower in the room. With Gary away at college, we gave his old room to Ed. His girls, Cindy and Cheri, took what had been a guest room up till this time and Gwen kept her room. Gary then took the basement bedroom, when he would be home from college. There was a time that my sister Ruth's son, Michael, lived with us while he was in school in Nashville. I believe he also slept in the basement. I mentioned earlier that the Park family lived with us for a time, while they searched for a house. All seven of them slept in the den on the floor.



BACK TO BROWN.....

With all that was going on, I had quit going to the beauty shop as much as I had been and let my hair return to it's natural color. It seemed that I had about as much trouble making up my mind about my hair color as Leroy did with growing a mustache. We would also go through periods of time when we would be concerned as to how we could save money. So the beauty shop would be among the first to go. Also, in those days it was not as fashionable for men to have hair on their face as it is now. He would sometimes think that some brethren did not like it and was afraid it might affect his opportunities to hold meetings.



NOW YOU SEE IT.....



HOG NOSE LEROY

In 1980 the church gave us an Eight Year Anniversary Reception. Leroy said he was not sure if it was because they thought we might not stay two more years to make ten or that they might be planning on making a preacher change. As it turned out neither case was true and we stayed five more years. Actually the reception turned out to be a roast of Leroy. They even had a large hog's head as the centerpiece on the table. He was given a large hog snout to put on his face. Leroy joked, that his nose might not fit in it. There were at least a dozen men who took "potshots" at him. The grand finale took place while he was granted "equal time".



...NOW YOU DON'T!



SOME OF THE INSTIGATORS OF THE "ROAST" WAS LAWSON SAFLEY, WHO IS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE. GUY STANLEY IS AT THE FAR LEFT.

Just as he took the podium to speak, there was a very loud siren just outside the fellowship room door and the Sheriff of Robertson County came bounding through the door with the announcement of the arrest of Leroy Dedmon for impersonating a preacher. He even read him his Miranda Rights, but I am not sure if he was handcuffed. After some discussion it was determined there was not enough evidence to sustain the arrest.



MY BROTHER, ED, ON THE LEFT, GOT A BIG KICK OUT OF THE EVENING. ALSO LOOKING ON IS LEON MCQUEEN A GOOD FRIEND.



GWEN'S WEDDING - 1980
LEROY, GWEN, BUBBA, JANE, GARY

Our children grew up and married while we lived at Springfield. Gwen married **Jeffrey Thomas (Bubba) Rawls** on November 27, 1980. The wedding was at our house and since it was Thanksgiving, we combined the reception with our traditional family dinner. Leroy did perform the ceremony, but had a very difficult time with it. Several of the family were involved in the wedding as well as some of Gwen's friends. Her best friend from Morrison, JoAnne Turner, was her Maid of Honor and her cousin, Sandra



THE BRIDE



BROTHER AND SISTER
GARY AND GWEN

Kay, was her bridesmaid. Bubba's niece, April Rawls, was the flower girl. My brother, Ed, gave her away and Craig Dedmon, Leroy's nephew was the ring bearer. Bubba chose as his best man, Gary Alley, who was the manager of Sherwin Williams. Leroy had met him through the softball program and contracted to install the carpets for Sherwin Williams. Leroy later baptized him and his wife Pat. For his groomsman, Bubba selected our son, Gary, along with Michael Morton, my sister Ruth's son and Steve Smith, Leroy's sister Alma Ruth's son. Those serving were; Bubba's sisters, Tammy and Jennifer, Monica Price, she was married to Kenneth Price, Leroy's sister Carolyn's son, and Carolyn's daughter, Susan Price. They, of course, are all cousins to Gwen.



THE MOTHER OF THE BRIDE AND HER
SIBLINGS ED AND RUTH



CARRIE JANE RAWLS
MAY 16, 1983



GWEN & BUBBA RAWLS WITH CARRIE JANE- 1984



CARRIE JANE- ONE YEAR

Gwen and Bubba had one child, **Carrie Jane Rawls**. She was born on May 16, 1983 at Jesse Holman Jones Hospital in Springfield. Gwen's name was Gwendolyn Jane, so we kept the name Jane in the family all these years. I was a grandmother at forty two years old. I guess that's what happens when you marry young and your children do the same thing. Gwen got a job delivering newspapers. This eventually led to the entire family getting paper routes. I even had an afternoon route delivering 100 papers. Gwen and Bubba divorced in 1985.



GARY - 1982

Gary graduated from David Lipscomb University in August of 1982. He had managed to get a job with the Nashville Sounds in the summer while in college. After graduation he was able to continue his employment with them. He too, had gotten a paper route and was working some at the carpet store. With his Christian education, he became more involved with the young people at church and began chaperoning a lot of the youth activities. It was during this time that he began dating Diane Toothman. She was the daughter of one of the elders, Don Toothman, and had attended and graduated from Freed-Hardeman University, while Gary was at David Lipscomb. Diane has intended to be in mother's dorm at Freed-Hardeman, but mother died the summer before Diane was to go. Since both of them were involved in the youth program at church, they were together at various functions, before they actually began dating. In fact, it was a while before we realized they were dating.

Gary married **Linda Diane Toothman** on November 5, 1983. Diane is the daughter of Don (deceased) and Faye Toothman. Don was one of the elders that invited Leroy to move to Springfield from Morrison. When he passed away in 1997, Leroy was one of the preachers who preached his funeral. Leroy and Don performed the wedding ceremony at the Main Street church building. Leroy was also the best man and Don gave away the bride. Gene Davis, the song leader for most of the time we were at Springfield, sang for the wedding. The Matron of honor was Mrs. Terry Baggs, a friend of Dianas. Her bridesmaids were



BUBBA AND GWEN, DIANE AND GARY, ME AND LEROY

Gwen, Katheleen Toothman, her brother Ralph's wife and Shirley Ford. The flower girl was Haley Hagan. Craig Dedmon was the ring bearer. The ushers were Ralph and Don Jr. Toothman (Diane's brothers), and Jeff (Bubba) Rawls. Dottie Hampton, Diane's cousin, kept the guest register. We had a reception in the fellowship room at the church. Some of Diane's cousins and aunts helped serve at the reception. Of course, we could never have selected a better wife for Gary than Diane, even if we tried.

Diane had purchased a house at Pleasant View, which was about fifteen miles from Springfield. Diane worked for the Family and Children's Service in Cheatam County, so she had to live in that county. Gary and Diane lived there until she got a job in Springfield (Robertson County). Their house sold before their new one was finished, so they lived with us for a while. There were times when it seemed like "Grand Central Station"



THE BRIDE AND GROOM

at 114 N. Sequoia Drive. One of the biggest problems we had was the assignment of household chores. We made lists and assign each one their duties. Ed and the girls decided to move out on their own and they rented a house from Gary Alley. He was the manager of Sherwin Williams. We had closed the carpet store, but Ed, Leroy and Bubba was still installing carpet and running the paper routes.



GARY AND DIANE WITH THE ENTIRE WEDDING PARTY

Gary's job at the Nashville Sounds and middle of the night paper routes were not so compatible with married life. He got a job with the City of Springfield, working at the sewage disposal plant. He decided that was not what he wanted to do, so he got a job as manager of a paint store in Nashville. This took his career into the area of sales and eventually back into the floor covering business. For several years he traveled as a representative for carpet distributors. He also worked with a couple of construction companies as job estimator and finally with a carpet and furniture store in Springfield.

I had always wanted him to preach or teach school. In his mid 30s he was diagnosed with MS and had to take disability. For a few years he taught the Wednesday Bible Class and preached on the 5th Sundays at Cedar Hill, near Springfield. He was also a substitute teacher at the High School in Springfield. Diane is a Social Worker at the hospital in Springfield.



*Happy Mother's Day
Love, Gary and Diane
1985*

(This is a card Gary and Diane made for me on Mother's Day in 1985)

With you as a Mother
who could want another
Sometimes hard to bear
But one that's always fair
We would sometimes disagree
But everyone does with me
When needing to ask with hope
That you would not say nope
You would always listen
With that smile that glistens
And tell me what was best
Then leave it up to me on the rest
being your son, was always fun
Even with your guiding hand
You never made me be in the band
But let me do my thing as I grew
Because you always knew
That someday that I would say
I love my mom's way
I would like to say
That I love you every day

In March of 1985, Leroy announced to the Springfield elders and congregation his intentions of leaving after thirteen years as their minister. With no place to go, he asked that they give him six months to search for a place to preach. I still wonder what made him resign without a job. I have always said it was his middle age craze. Looking back, he says that was not a very smart thing to do. He said that he was feeling stagnate



**HARRY HUDSON PRESENTED LEROY
WITH A GOING AWAY GIFT.**

and unchallenged and needed a new work. He called several friends and sent his resume to several places. We made trips to Evansville, Indiana to talk with the elders at Washington Avenue. He did not really want to move north. A good friend of ours, Jere Via, was the preacher at



A GOOD CROWD IN ATTENDANCE

Main Street in Manchester, while we were at New Union, was living at Douglasville, Georgia and gave his name to the church at Bremen and Leroy sent a resume to them. I remember Ray Spake, one of the Bremen elders, calling and asking us to come for a "trial" sermon at the end of June. They offered the work to Leroy and he accepted. We made plans to move on the first of September. The church at Springfield gave us a nice going away party and gifts. We made a lot of friends while at Springfield and still visit with some of them.

The church grew while we were at Springfield, in spite of a large number of deaths and folks moving away. There were about 200 in present the day we left that was not there when we arrived. The worship attendance increased by 25%. One of the projects I had been involved in was the church library and



JUST THE TWO OF US

was teaching a class for women on Wednesday night. Leroy was instrumental in organizing a softball program, that still exists today. There were converts made as a result of the program. One of the highlights was the Bible Call Telephone Tape Library. I helped organize, promote and execute "Homecoming", which is held every five years. Leroy was asked back to speak at Homecoming in 2000. He has also held three meetings there, the last one was in 2009. Leroy hired and trained Linda Ballard to be the church secretary in 1973, a position which she served for more than fourty years untill she retired.



LINDA BALLARD,

In September of 1985 we moved to Bremen, GA. The church at Bremen agreed to pay our moving expense, so Leroy and Ed decided to do it themselves, in order to save the church money and make some for themselves. It took two 24' U-Haul trucks plus a few trips with a pick-up truck. In between the trips with the U-Haul, Leroy,



650 ALABAMA AVENUE, BREMEN, GA

Ed and Leroy's brother, Bill, installed new carpet in the Bremen Preacher's house. We left with the last load of furniture on Mr. Dedmon's pick-up truck, looking a bit like the "Beverly Hillbillies". I remember leaving Gwen's house with Carrie Jane standing on the front porch waving and saying, "bye bye grand daddy". Leroy cried all the way to Georgia. We were leaving all our family, Gary and Diane, Bubba, Gwen and Carrie Jane. Also, Ed and the girls, Cindy and Cheri and my sister Ruth. She had just moved to Springfield to work at a company there called Nasco. She and Mickey had divorced earlier in the year and she had been in Idaho with her daughter, Kay. **BREMEN BOUND**



So we headed south to a small southwest Georgia town and not a soul did we know. Leroy had held two meetings at Carrollton, Georgia in the early seventies, about ten miles from Bremen and had actually preached on a Sunday night there. Brother Lawrence Garmon, our preacher at Chattanooga Valley during our teen years, was the preacher at Carrollton and Paul Kidwell was preaching at Bremen. He was a preacher we had known in Chattanooga and also he was the preacher at Scottsboro, Alabama when we lived at Gurley. They, of course, were no longer in the area. However, we did know Jere Via, the preacher at Douglasville, Georgia and Doug Sims, the preacher at Cedartown, Georgia. Both were about twenty five miles away.



PREACHER'S HOUSE NEXT DOOR TO THE CHURCH BUILDING AT BREMEN



ME AND JIMMIE LOU BONNER
OUR WESTERN THEME FOR A YOUTH RALLY

I had grown accustomed to working while at Springfield, but I could see there was not much opportunity for that in Bremen. It was a "one horse" town with a railroad running through the middle of it. I was not very happy with the move to Bremen, but we made some good friends there. Our best friends at Bremen were Ed and Jimmie Lou Bonner. We would eat out with them and visit the sick, prospects, delinquent members and visitors to our services. We still visit them on occasion. Ed now has alzheimer's disease and it makes it difficult to enjoy our visits with them. We made other friends in addition to the Bonners such as David and Artie McGukin and Gary and Edie Anderson. They took us to Atlanta and other nearby towns for shopping and eating out.

The Bremen church was in a bit of a turmoil at the time we moved there, as some were still upset as to the manner in which the previous preacher had left. They also, were just completing a new two story addition which housed a fellowship hall and classrooms. There were some who felt the cost of the project was too much and they had halted construction for the time. We finished the new addition with mostly volunteer help and soon began to enjoy fellowship meals and other activities. Many of the things we experienced at Springfield helped up to organize and execute this activities. There were two elders, Tom and Ray Spake, who were brothers. The first Sunday we were there one of the men stood up and called for a meeting of all the men to discuss elders. Leroy said the meeting got rather heated at times, but all agreed upon a solution Leroy presented. Shortly after the first of the year in 1986 the church appointed six additional elders, bringing the total eldership to eight. Overall the work at Bremen was enjoyable and the church grew.



LEROY AND ED BONNER
WE PRESENTED THE CHURCH A DINNER BELL

Gregory Lebron Dedmon was born on November 4, 1985 to Gary and Diane. He became the fourth G. L. Dedmon. (Gordon Lee, George Leroy, Gary Lebron and Gregory Lebron). He Played Little League Baseball in his young days and was on the football team in high school. He is graduated and presently works in Springfield.



GREG - Nov. 4, 1985



PROUD PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS



GWEN AND JACKIE

Gwen and Bubba were divorced shortly after we moved to Bremen. Gwen and Carrie came to Bremen for a few weeks, but returned to Springfield. Gwen married Jackie Gower in the Spring of 1986 and moved to Bremen. She and Jackie never had any children and were divorced after about eleven years.

Gary and Diane's second child, Jonathan Patrick Dedmon, was born on April 20, 1987. He, is our third and last grandchild. It was not until we had our first great grandchild about fifteen years later, that we realized that we were not through with grandchildren.



JONATHAN - 1987



GARY AND DIANE BRING THE CHILDREN TO BREMEN - 1987



GREG, JONATHAN AND CARRIE - 1987

Several times the boys would get to spend several days at a time with us while we were at Bremen. They were a good age to do this as they were not yet involved in Little League Baseball. That came at a later date. Since Carrie was living at Bremen, the cousins had an opportunity to visit each other. On one occasion, after the boys had been with us for a few days, Leroy scolded one of them for something they did. Jonathan said to him, "Grand daddy, you were happy the first day we were here." We always enjoyed having them visit with us.

By the time 1989 rolled around, we had been married for 30 years. There was so much going on for our 25th (Silver Anniversary), that it went almost unnoticed. We were too busy having weddings and grandchildren to spend time, effort and money on another event. Leroy was now preaching for his fifth congregation since he began full time preaching. We had stayed on an average of three years at each of the first three: Gurley, New Union and Morrison. We stayed almost fourteen years at Springfield and now in our fourth year at Bremen. Our grandchildren were growing and it was obvious we were only going to have three. We were told, if we wanted more grandchildren, we should have had more children.



ONE LITTLE, TWO LITTLE, THREE LITTLE.....

When Gwen moved to Bremen, she got a job as a cashier at a super market. In order to “make ends meet” she also got a paper route, as she was an experienced carrier, she had no difficulty doing that. She later worked for a mobile home dealer. They bought used homes and she redecorated them. Leroy contracted the carpet and floor repair as he had kept his carpet tools from Springfield. Gwen finally



GWEN'S FAMILY RESTAURANT

went back to the food business. She worked in a restaurant at Bremen, called Hendersons. I worked there some as a cashier. In 1991 we opened a restaurant in Buchanan, Georgia, named Gwen's Family Restaurant.

We began the restaurant as a partnership with David Waters. When we were living at Gurley some friends, Raymond and Carol Waters, moved to Gurley. He was a nephew of brother James Watkins. While he was there his brother David came to live with them. When we started the church on Keel Mountain, Carol and Raymond, built a house behind the church building and moved to the mountain. However, the house they built was too small for David to live with them, so he lived with us for a while. After we left Gurley, we had not seen or heard from him until one day he showed up in Bremen. He and Leroy would meet for breakfast at Henderson's where Gwen was working. He had found the restaurant at Buchanan and found that we could move in by just paying rent and buying the food. So they talked with Gwen and formed a three way partnership. Leroy and David put up the necessary money and Gwen was to run it and provide the experience. Since she already knew the vendors that provided the food at Hendersons, she made all the necessary arrangements and on November 21, 1991, we opened the doors for business. In March of 1992, Leroy and Gwen bought David's portion of the business. Although we have remained partners with Gwen, she manages the restaurant and we have never been very involved in the operation of it. I did work there for a short period of time before we moved away from Bremen. Carrie Jane has worked there from the time she was about ten years old.

All three of our grandchildren have been involved in sports. I guess that was to be expected since Leroy has always played softball and encouraged Gary to play. Even when Gary and Gwen were growing up, he played with them and the neighborhood kids almost every afternoon after school. Gary is extremely sports oriented and was heavily involved in Youth Baseball in the Springfield area. We made a couple of trips to Springfield to see them play. As they grew older their interest changed to other things. Greg played football in high school and Jonathan was on the wrestling team. I think he is playing church softball in Springfield now.



CARRIE

GREG

JONATHAN

Carrie played on girls softball teams in Bremen and Buchanan. Jackie was a good softball player and he helped teach her. We used to go watch her play. She was a catcher and sometimes played in the field. As she grew older, Gwen played on women's softball teams, but never played on organized teams in her younger days. The restaurant had a softball team for a few years and Carrie played sometimes.

Leroy played High School baseball. After graduation he played fast pitch softball in the Chattanooga area. After we married and moved to Huntsville, he never played softball, but was on a bowling team. Of course he always played with the kids at church and in the neighborhood. He built a baseball field at Childhaven and played with the kids at the home. At New Union, he organized a team in the community and played other communities in the Coffee County area. When he began coaching Gary, he quit playing and did not play while we were at Morrison, except for playing with the kids at Sunny Acres. I even surprised them at my being able to play. There would be times that I had to play on the girls church team if they were short a player. As I got older, I did not enjoy it so much. He coached the whole time we lived there. After we moved to Springfield, he organized a Softball program at the church for the men. He later helped organize a women's program. He did the same at Bremen. He tried not to coach church teams, because he always said if the players got mad at him, they were mad at the whole church. Jackie played with his team at Bremen, as well as my brother, Ed. Leroy, also, was always involved in the softball games at camp. The Counselor-Camper game was always an exciting event at camp and the counselors usually won.



ED AND ANGIE 1993

My brother, Ed and his daughter, Cheri moved to Bremen some time in 1986 and lived with us for awhile. His other daughter, Cindy, stayed in Springfield for about a year, but then moved to Bremen. At that point Ed and the girls rented a place of their own and lived together for several years.

Cindy married Wayne Smith and divorced within a couple of years. She later married John Hardie and they have three children, Zachary Christopher, Mary Allison and Kasie Marie. They still live in the Bremen/Buchanan area. She worked at the restaurant with Gwen for a while and then opened her own restaurant in Tallapoosa. She later closed that restaurant and got a job in Bremen.

Cheri married Kevin Harris and Leroy performed their ceremony. They have two children, Michael Lynn and Mitchell Leland. They live just south of Carrollton, Georgia in the Clem community. Cheri works at Central High School in Carrollton.

After the girls married, Ed moved back in with us and stayed there until he remarried. He married Angie Sawyer and they lived in Carrollton for several years. Leroy performed the ceremony. Ed and Angie worked for Olan Mills together for a few years as proof consultants. He opened a mortgage company in Villa Rica, Georgia. They sold their house in Carrollton and bought a house in Villa Rica. He retired in 2008 and closed the mortgage company. They sold the house in Villa Rica and moved back to Carrollton. He worked as a part time

salesman for an asphalt company in Buchanan. After that he worked a short time at the restaurant with Gwen. He and Angie both worked there when we first opened. Due to health problems he had to completely retire in 2011.

In the fall of 1992 a group from Woodstock, Georgia visited Bremen, stating they were just riding around and enjoying the scenery of the Fall Season. We were aware that Woodstock was looking for a preacher and so there was suspicion that they were “checking Leroy out”. About two weeks later another delegation from there showed up at the Sunday morning worship service. This time, after the services one of the men introduced himself as an elder from Woodstock and asked Leroy if he might be interested in moving. I had tried to get Leroy to submit a resume six years before when Woodstock was in search of a preacher, but he wouldn’t do it. We had heard that there was trouble there and the preacher and about half the congregation had left. This made Leroy very cautious. Since we were going to be away from Bremen over Thanksgiving, Leroy agreed to come on Wednesday night and teach a Bible class, with no strings attached. He made it clear that he was not “trying out”, but would look the situation over. He suggested they look at some other prospects and if they did not find someone by the end of the year, he would talk to them at that time. I know they did interview other preachers, but am not sure how many and all the details.

About the middle of December, Leroy received a phone call from one of the elders, who was out of town during Thanksgiving, and had not met him. They talked a couple of hours about the problems and he asked that we seriously consider the Woodstock preacher’s position. Leroy finally agreed that we would meet with the elders and wives for supper at a restaurant between Bremen and Woodstock to discuss the situation. Although, I was ready to move, Leroy still had reservations, due to the manner in which the previous preacher left and the split that followed. We had known the preacher several years back, while living in Springfield.

Over the next six weeks we met with the elders on several occasions and made a couple of visits to Woodstock during the week just to look around and see what we could find out. Around the first of February, Leroy finally agreed to preach a “trial” sermon and accepted the offer made to him at that time. We made plans to move around the first of May, which would honor our ninety day agreement with Bremen.

Around the first of March, in 1993, one of the preachers who had tried out at Woodstock, contacted Leroy about the Bremen congregation. Leroy suggested he call one of the elders and it was agreed that he would “try out” the first Sunday in March. We decided to go to Woodstock for the week-end and when Leroy called one of the elders, he asked him to preach while we were there. We met them for supper on Friday night and heard on the weather report that there was a possibility of snow that night. We stayed in the preacher’s house as it had some furniture that had not been moved out. It had not been used as a dwelling for several years and the church had some offices there, but they had decided to move the offices back to the church building and for some reason a bed and couch was in the house as well as the kitchen appliances.

That night we had the biggest snow storm that area had in many years. It is referred to as the “Blizzard of ‘93”. Needless to say the whole area was paralyzed and it was next to impossible to travel, except for emergency type vehicles. As we had no food, one of the members did manage to make it to the house and bring us a few items. The elder that we had eaten with the night before had given us a key to the church building and me and Carrie Jane was able to walk there and get some food from the pantry. We had taken Carrie with us as she enjoyed visiting the shopping malls in the area and riding the escalators. She was about 10 years old and as we were getting the food from the pantry, she asked, “Mama Jane, do you think it is ok to steal food from the church?” Of course, I explained that it was ok, and that we had permission.

The worship services were cancelled on Sunday as the roads were impassable and we were not able to leave Woodstock until Tuesday to return to Bremen. Leroy had taken a computer with us and he and Carrie fought over who would use it. I guess there was some games that they played. Then the power went off and that ended the computer struggles. It also stopped the heat and we had to “scrounge” for wood to build a fire in the fireplace. It was an experience that came in second only to the snowbound at Shebyville, Tennessee in 1964.



THE PITCHER

During the month of April, we drove to Woodstock at least once a week for Leroy to participate in the softball program they had. Once the guys realized he was a pitcher, and pretty good, he was in the good graces of the younger group. As I mentioned earlier, he had been involved in softball at Springfield and Bremen. As he grew older he became involved in “Senior Softball”, a program designed for those over 50 in age. He also served on the Cherokee County Senior Softball Association. He still plays some, but not very much since we retired and moved away from Woodstock. He and his brother Tommy, played in 2007 on a Friday morning League. He has tried to get interest in the N. Georgia/Chattanooga, TN for a program, but so far to no avail.

We moved to Woodstock, in May of 1993, and lived there until Leroy retired from local preaching in October of 2003. It was a period of rebuilding as the congregation lost about 250-300 to the split. The church was less than 20 years old and had experienced a period of rapid growth in the early 80’s, reaching almost 600. They started a new congregation in the nearby North Cobb County area around 1988 and about 100 left at that time. The split was devastating and when we arrived only about 125 were in attendance. The membership consisted mainly of the older members who had helped establish the congregation and build the church building. The group was very depressed with several others undecided as whether they would go or stay.



THE CHURCH BUILDING AT WOODSTOCK,, GEORGIA. 219 ROPE MILL ROAD. THE BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED BY THE USE OF MUCH VOLUNTEER LABOR. VERY FEW, IF ANY, OF THOSE WHO HELPED BUILD, LEFT DURING THE SPLIT.



THE PREACHER’S HOUSE AT WOODSTOCK. PRIOR TO OUR LIVING THERE IT HOUSED THE OFFICES.

We were given the choice as to where we would live. There were several options, which included renting or buying. We also could live in the house next door, which the church had purchased a few years before and used it for offices and youth activities. The elders decided to move the offices back to the church building, so the house was available for us to live in. As we did not wish to purchase a house, we looked around for apartments and finding none. We decided to live in the house next door to the church building. The men painted and Leroy laid the carpet.

Our first Sunday at Woodstock was the first Sunday in May, which is the day they generally have a special service and homecoming. Most of the time a guest speaker would be invited. Leroy was the speaker for the 1993 service. The Woodstock church began on May 2, 1976 as the result of the efforts of J. L. and Louise Tomlin. The Tomlins were still members at Woodstock when we moved there. They were an encouragement to us and would have us in their home for meals on occasion. J. L. was a lot of help to Leroy when we moved as he would go with him on Monday night to visit. They had a little place in Florida, where they stayed during the winter months. We spent the night with them one time, when Leroy held a meeting at Zephyrhills, Florida. Louise passed away before we left Woodstock. J. L. has since passed away.

At Woodstock, I had a very successful Bible Class on Wednesday night for the women. I enjoyed teaching very much and developed a couple of courses for Women's Seminars. One was on "Hospitality for Church Leaders" and the other was "Life Looks Better When You Do". I had conducted a Ladies Day Program at the Tara Congregation, just south of Atlanta while at Bremen, but while at Woodstock, I did more. The special programs included going back to Morrison, Springfield, Gurley and my home congregation, Chattanooga Valley. My plans were to continue those special "Ladies Day" programs after we retired, but due to my health, I never pursued it. I did teach a class in the Winter Lectureship at Highland in Dalton in 2005.

While at Bremen, I had begun a Mother-Daughter activity, which was held on the Saturday before Mother's Day each year. We had several different programs, which usually involved extensive decorations. One of the popular things we did was the "Fashion Show". It seems everyone enjoyed dressing up and parading before the group, showing their outfits. In 1993, I had already helped plan the program, although we were in the process of moving. Of course, I returned to Bremen for the event. By then Carrie Jane had begun attending, making three generations for us. I always enjoyed being with her and Gwen.



GWEN AND CARRIE WITH ME AT THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER ACTIVITY



LEROY SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WORKING ON COMPUTERS

During our time at Bremen, Leroy had become interested in computers. He had learned a lot about them, so by the time we moved to Woodstock, he was upgrading and building computers for other people. He had also installed systems for other churches and helped them with their finances, membership management and publishing their bulletins. Woodstock was in need of upgrading their computer systems, so Leroy immediately went to work on that. He has tried on several occasions to get me interested in using computers, but I just never could get the hang of it. I even took a course with him once. Within a couple of years he had a network of seven or eight computers at church and had learned how to publish websites. He and one of the members created a website for the church. Other churches began asking him to help.

The Woodstock church was in a very depressed condition and all the members could talk about was the spilt. Leroy was having serious regrets about having made the decision to move there. We talked about things we could do to help the situation. One of the depressing things was the large auditorium with 600 seats and less than 150 people. Leroy and I designed a plan to remove over 200 seats and put in some temporary classrooms in the back of the auditorium, making it much smaller. The new design also gave it a more modern look, similar to a fan shape. This seemed to be the cure for the depression and from that time we never looked back. Once we reached over 300 in attendance on a regular basis, we removed the temporary classrooms, but left the seating configuration, making the number of seats approximately 500. The growth was a slow steady increase and the congregation became stable again. The Woodstock elders decided to remodel the church building in order to give it more "eye appeal". My cousin, Malcolm Plaster, came down and made some suggestions and had an architect draw the plans. He had intended to contract the job, but decided it was too large a project for him to do, since he was living at Chickamauga. The project ended up taking much longer than expected and the cost more than doubled. We did not get the desired fellowship room. Additional elders were appointed. When we left in 2004, only one of the original elders were still serving. Two had moved away and one resigned for health reasons.



THE CHURCH BUILDING AT WOODSTOCK GETS A "FACE LIFT"



HAYSEED

Leroy joined the Kiwanis club while we lived at Springfield, but was never involved very much. Since Bremen did not have a Kiwanis club he joined the Lions Club there. He held a couple of club offices there, but was not very active. Since he preferred the Kiwanis he rejoined the Kiwanis when we moved to Woodstock. He was club president on three different terms and served the club in various ways. He also was given more exposure for his after dinner speeches and created the character he calls "Preecher" Alafaha Hayseed. He also was asked to more church activities that in the past. He has always used humor in his sermons and at times has offended individuals, who did not understand his jokes. I have talked to him about this for almost fifty years, but have never changed him. Most of the time he has been able to laugh himself out of situations when people were offended. I guess he will never learn. I have almost given up.



GRANDCHILDREN - 1998

When 1999 rolled around, we celebrated forty years of marriage. Our grandchildren continued to grow and were approaching their teen years. It is hard to believe that they were growing up so fast. Carrie would visit with us on the week-ends and we would take her to the shopping malls. One of her favorite pastimes was riding the escalators and shopping for school clothes. She was developing a mind of her own and we often did not agree on the selection of clothing. Since Greg and Jonathan still lived in Springfield, they only came during certain holidays. Mostly Thanksgiving and Christmas. They were so heavily involved in summer baseball, that they had quit spending their weeks in the summer. However, they did come for Summer Bible Camp a few times. The Church at Woodstock gave us a 40th Anniversary Reception. There were a large number of family members present from both sides of the family. We also had some friends from other places where we had lived. Our friends, the Bonners, from Bremen, were in attendance.



40TH ANNIVERSARY - 1999
(L-R) GARY, DIANE, GORDON, LEROY, RUBY, GWEN, ED, ANGIE, CONNIE, JANE, BILL, RUTH



THE OLD COURTHOUSE IN BUCHANAN WAS THE LOCATION OF CARRIE'S WEDDING. ABOVE ARE THE DEDMONS WHO WERE PRESENT.

Carrie Jane married Doug Webb in 2000. Leroy had baptized his grandfather a few years before when we lived at Bremen. He had also carpeted his house and some rental property he owned. Leroy performed the ceremony and did a little better that he did at Gwen's. We had planned to have it outside at Gwen's house, but they predicted rain, so we decided to have it at the Old Courthouse in Buchanan. With everyone's help we decorated it and got it in shape on Friday, before the event took place on Saturday. We had a pretty good crowd in attendance. Most of mine and Leroy's families were present. Since it was in Buchanan, Doug's home, there were several of his family members there.

Masie Jane Webb, made her presence known about 4 am on March 15, 2001. Gwen called and announced, "We are leaving for the hospital". I woke Leroy with the news and we laid in bed a few minutes, but quickly decided to go on to the hospital as going back to sleep was next to impossible. We arrived about the same time Masie did. We really had never given thought to great grandchildren. In some ways it is just like having grandchildren all over again. It does make you thing about age when your grandchildren begin having children. As I have mentioned earlier, Masie Jane is the sixth Jane in my family ancestry. Since Leroy's parents were still living, Masie made the fifth generation in the Dedmon family. However, Mr. Dedmon passed away in September of 2002 and we never got a picture of him with Masie.



MASIE JANE WEBB 2001



QUEEN FOR A DAY - 2003

We thought Masie was as pretty as her mom and grandmother, but of course we admit that we were very prejudiced as to our little beauty. However, as it turned out, we were not the only ones who saw her beauty. She came in first place at a beauty contest in Buchanan. It was held at the same place where Carrie was married, the Old Buchanan Courthouse. She was two years old.



MASIE WITH CARRIE, GWEN AND RUBY



CURT DOUGLAS WEBB

Our second great grandchild, Curt Douglas Webb, was born on December 23, 2003. He was almost a Christmas present. It makes it difficult to have his birthday party so close to the holiday. So far we have managed to make sure he gets presents for both events. One year, Carrie had the party in January to escape the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Holiday. He is a very sweet boy and is growing up fast. He and Masie get along real good. Leroy is anxious for him to get old enough to come and spend a week with us. He is fascinated with tractors and trucks, which has made it easy for us to buy toys for him. Carrie and Doug divorced after Curt was born.



BABY CURT



MASIE JANE AND CURT DOUGLAS

It is amazing how much Gwen, Carrie and Masie look alike at the same ages. In fact folks who live in the places where Gwen grew up often see pictures of Carrie and think it is Gwen. Of course that is how she looked when we lived there. They have a hard time realizing that Gwen is a grandmother. It is hard for me to realize it too. Leroy is always calling one of them by the other's name. It is confusing to all of us.



TACTOR.... TACTOR



CARRIE AND BABIES



GWEN - AGE 4



CARRIE - AGE 6



MASIE - AGE 6

Being born two days before Christmas, makes it difficult to find a time we can celebrate Curt's birthday. But even when we had it in January, Curt still had a great time. Sometimes it is hard to know who is having the best time, him or his mother. It is hard to see in the picture, but the cake is decorated with John Deere farm equipment. Lake Winnepesaukah has always been a fun place to visit. When we were kids, mother and daddy would take us to spend the day. So I thought it would be a good thing to have Gwen and Carrie bring the kids up and spend the day at "Lake Winnie". While there are so many things for the kids to ride, it seems that the ones they like are for larger kids. Masie became six years old in March of 2007, she had a "pool party" to celebrate.



CARRIE & CURT



ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?



POOL PARTY



GREG - 2004



JONATHAN- 2005



CARRIE - 2006

Our grandson, Greg, graduated from Springfield High School in May of 2004. He enrolled in Austin Peay University for the fall term. At first he drove the thirty miles to Clarksville each day, but soon decided to quit and continue working for his Uncle Don Toothman, Jr., Diane's brother. He worked with him for several years during the summer and after school. He now works in a construction company in Springfield. Jonathan received his High School diploma in 2005. It is hard for me to believe my youngest grandchild is out of high school. Jonathan, also worked for his Uncle Don and later for the same company as Greg. They eventually found other jobs and Greg is working for a company in Galatin, TN and Jonathan works for a company called First Response out of Nashville. Not long ago he was working in Chattanooga and we met him and one of his fellow workers for supper. Of course, we attended celebration parties for both our "boys", which was held in Springfield. Since we didn't know anything they really needed we just gave them cash. Leroy always says if that is not the right size, we will take it back and exchange it for a smaller size. So far they have just kept what we gave them.

Although Carrie is the oldest grandchild, she was the last to receive her high school diploma. She dropped out of school when she got married and continued working with Gwen at the restaurant. After her children were born, it was awhile before she resumed her studies. She received her GED, for which we were proud to see her accomplish. Although she talks about going to Nursing School, she has not been able to do so. Being a mother keeps her busy as well as working. Carrie married Mark Webb, (Doug's brother) and built a new house on his grandfather's (Curlis Agan) place and she raises a garden, keeps pigs, chickens, goats, cats and dogs. It is like visiting a "petting zoo" to to to their house. Curlis and Barbara were members of the church at Bremen when Leroy preached there. Since Mark has custody of his daughter, Cassidey, she became part of the family.

Now that all three of our grandchildren are into their adulthood, we don't see them as often as we did during their childhood years. Of course, with their jobs and other responsibilities, they don't have the time to come visit like they did as kids. They still make their visits during Thanksgiving and Christmas and a few other times throughout the year. Jonathan married Michele Grogan in 2010. Greg is not yet married, but we still have hope..



DIANE, GREG AND GARY



GREG, JONATHAN AND GARY



CURLIS AND BARBARA AGAN

After Mr. Dedmon died in September of 2002, Mrs. Dedmon was living alone and the family was becoming concerned about her health and safety. Ever since Mr. Dedmon got sick and was unable to work, Gwen had been going up and mowing the yard and helping Mrs. Dedmon with some of her house work. Leroy would be 65 in June of 2004, so he would be able to start his Social Security retirement in January without much penalty for early retirement. We decided to retire and move in with Mrs. Dedmon. We moved to Houston Valley into the house where Mrs. Dedmon was born in 1912. The original log house was built by her grandfather, John Marion Dickson, around 150 years ago. When Mr. and Mrs. Dedmon retired in the late 60s and moved there, they added on to the house and remodeled much of the inside. They lived in crowded conditions while they did most of the work themselves. It is amazing to see all the rock work Mrs. Dedmon did on the fire place and front porch. She also built several planters out of rock that seems to grow on the place. After we moved, Leroy dug a little fish pond and all the rocks laying around it came out of the hole he dug. The original log house now serves as our den.

When we moved Mrs. Dedmon was not in the best of health, but was still able to help with the garden and other chores around the house. Often she and Leroy would wash and dry the dishes after I had cooked us a meal. Until she became "bed fast" we would watch Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy and Who Wants to be a Millionaire almost every night. She amazed me as to how many of the questions she was able to answer. Her mind was still very sharp up until the time she passed away. Leroy used to say, "If I reach 90, I hope my mind is still as good as hers". His brothers would always say, "It had better improve a lot if it is to be".

Mrs. Dedmon became confined to the bed, except when Leroy would sit her in a chair. Gwen would come up on occasion to help take care of her. For about the last two years of her life, Leroy's two sisters, Carolyn and Alma Ruth had to take care of her personal hygiene. I am confident that their care for her, extended her life by many months. We moved her into the front room of the house and converted it to a nice room for her to have a hospital bed. It made it easier for her to have company and gave her a better view of the outside. Ruth and Leroy planted flowers and hung bird feeders outside for her to see. The Hospice workers were always amazed at her view of the flowers and bird feeders. Mrs. Dedmon said the move from the back bedroom to the front of the house with the view of the outside was what she needed. I knew she had become depressed and had reached the point of not wanting to eat. After we moved her, I wondered why we did not do it sooner. Of course, hindsight is always 20/20. It was amazing how her appetite improved, and she began reading again. Ruth would stay in the



THIS IS A PICTURE OF A PAINTING BY LEROY'S SISTER ALMA RUTH. THE LOG PORTION OF THE HOUSE IS NOW THE DEN.



MRS DEDMON ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY



MASIE & CASSIDY VISITS MRS DEDMON

bedroom that had been Mrs. Dedmons when she came up. On Monday morning, July 14, 2008, Ruth went to awaken her mother and was unable to do so. Leroy was at the tractor shed getting ready to mow the yard when I went to get him. When I told him, "Ruth can't get your mother to wake up", he knew what to expect when he reached the house. She was reading a book on Sunday night before she went to bed. I don't know what time she laid the book aside and placed the marker at her place. She turned out the light and went to sleep. Thus ended the final chapter of the book of her life. She was born and died in the same house, although she did not live here the entire 96 years.



JAMES WATKINS

While we were living in Woodstock, Barry Gilreath was leading singing for a Lectureship and James Watkins was preaching. Following the service Barry mentioned to Leroy an idea he had for James to preach on national television. This was an exciting possibility as James had meant so much to us through the years. He baptized Leroy and performed our marriage ceremony. He had also baptized Barry Gilreath, who had grown up in the same area as James. Preaching the Gospel TV with James Watkins, has now been on the air for eleven years. Leroy served in a voluntary capacity as the coordinator for the Atlanta area from the beginning of the program. When we retired, Barry asked Leroy to go to work with Preaching The Gospel TV. He decided not to join the paid staff.

We began attending the Hillcrest congregation in Tunnel Hill and was made to feel at home. Leroy was asked to preach when the regular preacher, Mike Lusk, was away. He also taught some of the Bible Classes. It was a small congregation, but we enjoyed the family atmosphere that we found there. Ruth would also attend Hillcrest the Sundays she would be at the house. When Ruth and Mrs. Dedmon were discussing her “final plans”, she suggested Mike to be the preacher for the funeral service. This was acceptable to all the family and so when it happened he was the one who preached the funeral and did a good job. Barry once again approached Leroy about working with Preaching The Gospel. This time Leroy agreed and we began attending the Highland congregation in Dalton, where the PTG office was located, and working with the TV program in August, 2004.



HILLCREST BUILDING



This was about the time another program called GBN was beginning. We were in South Alabama with Barry doing some publicity for the TV program as well as attending a Gospel Meeting brother Watkins was preaching. While meeting with the preachers and church leaders in the area, one question keep coming up. “Why don’t we have our own TV station, with gospel programing twenty four hours a day?” On the way home Barry and Leroy talked about that some more. A couple of weeks later, Barry organized a meeting in Huntsville, Alabama of about fifty preachers and other church leaders to discuss the possibility. The idea was met with great enthusiasm and

brother Jim Dearman expressed a deep interest in the project. Jim had been involved in television and radio for a number of years. Within a few weeks, he and his wife Janis, moved to Chattanooga and The Gospel Broadcasting Network (GBN) had its beginning. GBN was launched late in November of 2005 and is on several cable systems. The Highland elders merged the two television efforts, Preaching The Gospel and The Gospel Broadcasting Network, the first of January, 2008 and we moved into new offices off Cloud Springs Road in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. I graded Bible Correspondence Courses three days a week. After Mrs. Dedmon passed away, Barry Gilreath asked Leroy to work full time at GBN and so we spent five days a week at the GBN building. We also did a lot of traveling to promote the network. I made me an office where I would grade the Bible Correspondence Cources. I also listend to a lot of books as the days were often long and boring. Our friend, Wanda Hackney, the bookkeeper went to lunch with us almost every day and that helped to pass the time. Leroy resigned from The Gospel Broadcasting Network in January of 2011.

Several years ago, while living at Woodstock, I worked for the Gibson Card Company as a merchandiser. I worked at about four stores straightening and replacing Greeting Cards. After we retired I was able to get the



American Greetings

same job with American Greetings Company, who purchased the Gibson Company. Leroy also was hired and we accepted about six stores located in Lafayette and Dalton. It proved to be too much for us so we had to reduce to only two stores, Food Lion at Varnell, Georgia and Dollar General Store at Tunnel Hill, Georgia. That was all I could handle with what I did at GBN. When Leroy began full time with GBN we gave up the card business.

After Gwen and Jackie divorced, Gwen rented their house and purchased another as she did not want to continue living in the house her and Jackie had shared. The new house had been vacant since the owner had passed away. She was an older lady and left the house to her nephew. After he got everything out of the house he wanted, the left was given to us. We took a small truck load of “goodies” to Woodstock and rented a space at a flea market and sold them.



GWEN AND GEORGE

Leroy installed carpet in Gwen’s new house and the owner, Kenneth Summerville, installed ceramic tile in the bathrooms. He also made a small apartment in the basement, which me and Leroy now use as a second home. We stay there when we have an opportunity to visit with Gwen, usually when we go to the doctor.

Gwen married George Kiley on January 10, 2008 at Tybee Island in Savannah, Georgia. She continues to manage the restaurant and George works for a construction company in Atlanta. Carrie also works in the restaurant as she can.

After retirement, Leroy finally grew the beard he had always wanted. Even though there were times that he had a moustache and even once at Woodstock, he grew a beard for a while, he never kept them long at a time. Since the beard was white, he decided to become Santa Claus. For three years he did that by making pictures at Wal-Mart and Gwen’s Restaurant. He also has visited schools and private parties, with his jolly HO HO HO.

Masie and Curt, seem to know who he is when he is in the red suit. Masie once said, “Granddaddy, when you were Santa, I still knew you were my granddaddy. Carrie has explained to them that Santa Claus needs lots of helpers to get around to all the children and that



SANTA AND MRS. CLAU

Leroy is one of them. Carrie bought her an elf outfit and helped with the making of pictures. She also worked hard to find

“Santa” opportunities to visit. One year he visited Masie’s Christmas party at school and then to her teacher’s child’s birthday party. I even got in the Christmas Spirit and got a Mrs. Santa hat. Carrie said Masie and her cousin, Cassidy Webb, wanted an elf outfit and Leroy planned to set up a Santa’s workshop for the kids to visit and get their picture made. However, he shaved the beard and all plans were put aside. I never really liked the beard.



SANTA AND KIDS: (L-R) CASSIDY, MASIE, CURT, CARRIE

Leroy’s High School class celebrated their 50th year reunion in May of 2007. They asked Preecher Hayseed to speak and then a few weeks later he was asked to speak at Gordon Lee in Chickamauga 50th reunion. Some of those students went through the 8th grade with Leroy at Osburn. My class held their 50th reunion in April of 2008. Since I knew many of the students in Leroy’s class, it was good to see them again as well as my reunion. My friend Ann McCall, who married Leroy’s cousin, Tommy Gilbert, was there and we enjoyed seeing each other. Theirs was the first wedding Leroy preformed, but they divorced after about 20 years. They used to visit with us in Springfield and Bremen. Several of my classmates had lunch together for several months following the reunion and it was good to get together to talk over old times. Also, when Leroy was on the television program, Know Your Bible, we would often meet Ann for supper and I would stay with her until he finished the program. Sometimes Ann would cook supper at her house.



PREECHER HAYSEED

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on April 5, 2009 on the same day of the week (Sunday) and at the same place where we married. Of course it was not the same exact building as the Chattanooga Valley church has since built a new facility about a mile from the original. Gwen catered the event and brought help from the restaurant. It was good to see all the folks who came to see us that day, some of which I never would have dreamed that they would be there. We tried to get all the original members of the original party to be present and succeeded except for Leroy's cousin, Tommy Gilbert, James Watkins, my sister, Ruth Glasscock, Morton and Joe Perkinson, who is deceased.



HERE WE ARE 50 YRS LATER



THE WEDDING PARTY ON APRIL 5, 1959 AT THE CHATTANOOGA VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST: (L-R) ANN MCCALL, CONNIE BUFF, ALMA RUTH DEDMON, CAROLYN DEDMON, RUTH GLASSCOCK, JANE GLASSCOCK DEDMON, JAMES WATKINS, LEROY DEDMON, TOMMY GILBERT, CHARLIE LAIL, JOE PERKINSON AND JIMMY COOPER.



THE WEDDING PARTY ON APRIL 5, 2009 AT THE CHATTANOOGA VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST: (L-R) CONNIE BUFF DEDMON, ANN MCCALL GILBERT, ALMA RUTH DEDMON SMITH, CAROLYN DEDMON PRICE, JANE GLASSCOCK DEDMON, LEROY DEDMON, CHARLIE LAIL, AND JIMMY COOPER. NOT PRESENT WAS JOE PERKINSON, (DECEASED), JAMES WATKINS, TOMMY GILBERT AND RUTH GLASSCOCK MORTON.



There are not many times when we all gather for a picture, but on this occasion we were all here. There are thirteen of us as seen in the above photo to the right. Standing from (L-R) George Kiley (Gwen's Husband), Gwen, Mark Webb (Carrie's Husband) Carrie, Jonathan, Greg, Diane (Gary's wife) and Gary. Seated (L-R) Jane and Leroy. Kneeling (L-R) Cassidy, Curt and Masie. However, in April of 2011 Carrie became the mother of another grand baby, Makala. Also, Jonathan and Michele are expecting in October of 2011. Brady Mac will become our 5th great grandchild. So when we add Makala, Michele and Brady there will be 16 of us.



JONATHAN AND MICHELE

Jonathan married Michele Grogan on August 28, 2010 at the Main Street Church of Christ in Springfield, TN. Although they are members at the Hillcrest Church of Christ, also in Springfield, they chose the Main Street building for their wedding. Main Street is the “church of his youth” and not only where Leroy preached for almost fourteen years, his other grandfather, Don Toothman, served as an elder and preached in the absence of the local preacher for many years. Jonathan’s father and mother, Gary and Diane Toothman Dedmon, grew up at the Main Street church. They also were married at Main Street by Leroy and her father. Michele is the daughter of Michael and Gwen Grogan. She is the paternal granddaughter of Barbara Yoder and Don and Patsy Yoder. Her maternal grandparents are Edna Grogan and the late Charlie Ray Grogan. Jonathan’s maternal grandparents are Faye Toothman and the late Don Toothman. Of course, me and Leroy are his paternal grandparents. It’s hard for me to believe my youngest grandson is now married. I guess it is just another sign of growing old. They have a house in Springfield that Michele’s parents were able to help them get and fix it up. It is a very nice house.



MAKALA

As I mentioned earlier following Carrie’s divorce to Doug, she later married his brother, Mark. Carrie had two children, Masie and Curt and Mark had a daughter, Cassidy. After they finished thier house and settled in they decided they would like to have a child by each other. So we were blessed with out fourth great grandchild on April 26, 2011 when Makayla Nichole Webb made her debut into the world. This was



(L-R) CASSIDY, CARRIE, MARK, CURT, MASIE

Carrie’s third gift to us in the form of great grandchildren and of course she has one step daughter, Cassidy, and we count her as well, bringing the total to four for Carrie. We were able to visit soon after Makala came home from the hospital and tak a picture of all of us. If Gwen had gotten in the picture it would have been all four generations.



Curt has been riding a dirt bike and racing. Since the races are on Saturday night we have not been able to attend. However, the reports we receive are that



CURT WEBB



FAMOUS LEG

he is doing good. He has won first place at least once and come in second a number of times. I am not sure I want to see one of the races anyway as I think about him getting hurt. Well it finally happened, Curt had a werck on his bike and broke a leg. This brought his racing career to an end for a while, but he is back to racing again. Now he has taken up another sport, deer hunting and has his own gun. I have a lot of mixed emotions about him hunting, but the whole family seemed exciced when news came that he had killed his first deer. They grow up too fast for me.



CURT’S FIRST DEER



MASIE AND CASSIDY

Masie and Cassidy were cheerleaders for their football teams for a while and Curt tried his hand at football, but decided that was not for him. Massie also tried softball for a while and now is involved in gymnastics and she and Cassidy are approaching their teen age years. They are into computer and video games and each has an iPad, whatever that is. Curt is also an expert at some to the video games, especially the hunting games. Of course Leroy would have preferred all of them to play softball as that was his favorite sport. He played organized softball until he reached age 70.



MIGHTY MASIE



BRADY MAC DEDMON

On October 17, 2011, Jonathan and Michele presented us with our fifth great grandchild. Brady Mac Dedmon became the first boy Dedmon in a new generation. Of course that makes Leroy very happy as he was afraid the Dedmon name might end on his side of the family.

Of course we still have Greg, who is not yet married and have hope for him to help out here. We made a trip to Springfield to visit our newest addition and to see Jonathan and Michele's new house.



To say the least we have been very pleased with our offspring in so many of their accomplishments, but we rejoiced the most when they became Christians. Gary began talking about being baptized before he started to school, but Leroy said we did not practice, "infant baptism". When he was around 7 or 8 years old he went with Leroy to a Gospel Meeting in Lynchburg, TN, which Leroy was preaching. On the way home, Gary put his arms around Leroy and said, "*Daddy, you almost persuaded me tonight*". Leroy said that brought tears to his eyes and they talked about when Gary could be baptized. Leroy told him, "*When you are ready, you won't ask you will tell me*". He was nine years old the night he walked down the aisle at Morrison and said to Leroy, "*I am not asking, I am telling you, I am going to be baptized tonight*". Gwen was around 13 years old before she decided to be baptized. It was during a Gospel Meeting at Springfield in which Willard Collins was preaching that she responded to the invitation. Of course Leroy baptized her. We were living in Woodstock, Georgia and one Wednesday afternoon the phone rang and our granddaughter, Carrie was on the line. She said, "*Granddaddy, the next time you are in Bremen, I want you to baptize me*". Leroy said, "*Honey, I plan to be in Bremen tonight as soon as I finish my Bible class at Woodstock*". The drive to Bremen was about an hour and when we arrived, a large delegation of the Bremen members were awaiting our arrival to witness the baptism. We were still at Woodstock a few years later when the phone rang on a Wednesday night after we returned from Bible study. It was our grandson, Jonathan. He said "*Granddaddy guess what I did tonight*". Leroy said, "*Son, I am afraid to guess what you might have done*". He said, "*I was baptized tonight by my other granddaddy*". In thinking of his young age, Leroy said, "*Son, how old are you?*" to which he replied, "*I am a year older than daddy was when he was baptized*". Leroy always enjoyed kidding Jonathan when he was in the presence of his other grandfather, who was also a preacher and an elder at the Springfield congregation. "*Jonathan*", he would ask, "*Which one of your granddaddys is the best preacher?*" Finally Jonathan came up with his answer, "*The one who is preaching at the time*". Brother Toothman passed away before Greg was baptized, but he requested Leroy to baptize him. We were in the area of Springfield when he decided to be baptized and we drove to the church building one afternoon with several family members and Leroy baptized him. Jonathan's wife, Michele, was baptized before they married by our son, Gary. Jonathan and Michele became members at the Hillcrest congregation in Springfield, which is a new congregation made up of several of our friends who were members at Main Street. Gary and Diane began attending there when his health got to the point he was not able to teach and preach at Cedar Hill. That congregation was good to them and we always appreciated their care and concern for Gary. Leroy held two gospel meetings for them while Gary and Diane was attending there. Diane's brother, Ralph Toothman is an elder and Marvin Crouch is the preacher at Hillcrest. He and his wife Nina have been friends for more than 30 years. They are in good hands.

Leroy was invited to preach at Hillcrest in the summer of 2010 for one of their Wednesday night services. It was good to see so many of our friends that we made while living in Springfield. Hillcrest is a new congregation made up of members from about three congregations in the area. We also knew several of those who were from other places. Their attendance is around 300. Leroy always felt there was a need for another congregation in the city of Springfield and was approached about beginning one when he resigned from Main Street in 1985, but he felt it would not be expedient since he had preached there almost 14 years. I am not sure if he was afraid too many would leave Main Street or if none would. Guess we will never know.

During the last meeting Leroy held at Cedar Hill in June of 2011, I became very sick and was taken to the hospital on Sunday. The diagnosed me with dehydration and pancreatitis. Since Diane works at the hospital there, it seemed I got extra good care and they ran a lot of tests and reports. My doctor had wanted some of the tests run, but had never gotten all of them done. One was the test for Parkinson's disease, which they ruled out and said the symptoms was from some of my medicines. They changed some of the medication I was on and I have since been doing a lot better. In fact, I feel better now than I have in a long time. Leroy held a meeting in September of 2011 at Adams, TN and we got to spend a lot of time with Gary and his family during that week.

When Leroy left Woodstock he decided he didn't want to preach "full time" for another congregation. He said he was satisfied with the six "works" he had been involved in, but felt too old to start another. Actually he preached for seven congregations (Gurley, Keel Mt. New Union, Morrison, Springfield, Bremen and Woodstock) in the almost 50 years he preached as what is often called a "located evangelist". While we lived at Gurley, AL, he helped start the congregation at Keel Mt. and preached for bothe congregations for about six months. He preached four sermons each Sunday and taught a Bible Class on Wednesday night at Gurley and Thursday night at Keel Mt. We have been invited back for preaching appointments or gospel meetings at all seven of the congregations and asked to come back as the preacher for four of them. Several times when Morrison would be looking for a preacher, Leroy would "fill in". We always stay with our friends, Ike and Bea Turner in Morrison.

Since Leroy had always been asked to hold several meetings (around 400) during the years he preached, he intended to just hold meetings, workshops, lectureships and fill in appointments. The Wednesday night Summer Series has become popular with many congregations where they have a visiting speaker each Wednesday night during the summer months and Leroy has been asked to participate in several of these. His acceptance of the work at the Gospel Broadcasting Network provided an opportunity to speak at a lot of congregations while promoting GBN. He preached a lot at Hillcrest in Tunnel Hill and Highland in Dalton as those were the congregations we attended after retirement. We went to Valdosta, GA once a month for about six months while the Forrest Park congregation was looking for a preacher. Spen Broom, who was a deacon at Bremen and also a distant cousin of Leroy is the Youth Minister there. The trip to Valdosta was a "three day journey" as we drove down on Saturday, preached on Sunday and returned on Monday.



OOLTEWAH BUILDING

In April of 2010, Tim Arthur, the preacher at Ooltewah, TN called Leroy and asked him to fill in for three months as he wanted to take a leave of absence. In August, when the three months was up, he asked Leroy to stay and alternate Sundays. In September, Highland asked Leroy to preach every other Sunday, which he did until February of 2011. During this time he decided he would leave GBN and work with Ooltewah on a part time basis and hold more meetings and workshops. In August of 2011, Tim resigned and the elders asked Leroy preach "full time" at Ooltewah. Ooltewah is about 20 miles from our house and takes us about 30 minutes to get there. Leroy's nephew, Brian and wife Cindy, are members there and they live next door to us in his father's house. His father, Bill, preaches for the church in Bowden, GA and he also serves as an elder. They plan to move back when he retires around 2015. Leroy prepares his lessons and studies at home, but has an office at the church building where he can meet with those who want to talk with him.



LEROY'S OFFICE

Living in church furnished houses has some advantages, but also disadvantages. I liked being close to the building, Leroy was able to “walk to work” and we could walk to church. At Gurley we lived in rented houses which we furnished as we were already there when Leroy started preaching. In Springfield we lived in a subdivision about a mile from the building. It provided the children a neighborhood where they could have friends. We purchased a house in Springfield for rental purposes and thinking we might retire there we would have a place to live. After we moved to Bremen we sold that house. When we moved in with Mrs. Dedmon, I thought it would be a temporary situation and that we would live in the basement of Gwen’s house in Buchanan. We lived with Mrs. Dedmon about four years until she passed away in July of 2008. When the property was divided, Leroy was given the house. The original house, which was a small log cabin was built by Leroy’s great grandfather about 150 years ago. It seems that each generation has added to it, but the log house still stands and is now our den. The property was inherited by Leroy’s mother and her sister when they were young girls and there were two houses on it. Leroy’s mother and daddy lived in the other house when he was a baby and his aunt lived in this one although his mother was born here. The other house was torn down in the mid 50s and for several years this house stood vacant. When Leroy’s parents retired in the late 60s, they moved here and began the remodelling process that gives the house it’s presence appearance.



THIS IS A PICTURE OF A PAINTING BY LEROY’S SISTER, ALMA RUTH. THE HOUSE IS WHERE WE LIVE NOW. THE LOG PORTION OF THE HOUSE IS NOW THE DEN.

Leroy’s sister, Ruth, painted the picture to the left from an old photograph, which depicts the house as it was when Leroy was growing up and his Gilbert cousins lived here. You can see the original log house and the “lean to” kitchen on the back. The room on the right facing the house was added about 100 years ago and was built of rough sawed lumber. There was also a small room shedded off the back of it, that served as an eating area. Mr. and Mrs. Dedmon tore off the “lean to” kitchen and the eating area and built an addition that went about 25 feet past the corner on the back right. This area serves as two bedrooms, the kitchen and bath. On the back of it they added a carport and small entrance to the kitchen. They buillt a porch across the

front, but then decided to enclose most of it for a living room and added another porch on the front of it. Mr. Dedmon took plank ceiling down in the log room and put the boards on the top of the log ceiling joists, creating exposed beams and a wooden ceiling. He also cut an opening in the corner of the room and added stair to access the actic of the two front rooms, therefore making two bedrooms upstairs. We rarely go up there as the steps are rather steep, but the grandchildren and all their friends love to go up there. The picture to the right is how the house now looks from the outside.



THIS IS LOOKING FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE HOUSE FROM THE ORIGINAL PHOTO. YOU CAN SEE HOW FAR PAST THE HOUSE THE ADDITION EXTENDS. THE SECTION IN THE MDDLE IS THE KITCHEN.



THE FLORIDA ROOM

With Gwen’s help we did some redecorating in the hallway and turned the living room into a “Florida Room”. She painted the walls of the “Florida Room” a bright yellow and a friend of ours from Woodstock, Moises, came and helped Leroy put up a new ceiling. The floor was concrecte and we didn’t want to spend a lot of money for tile so Leroy painted the floor to look like stone. He put down tape and rolled stain on the floor and then took up the tape. The picture to the left shows how it turned out. We found some wicker funiture at a couple of “flea market” type places. Gwen had given us some flooring she took up from one of her rental houses and we put it in the hall and guest bedroom. We were going to refloor the room Leroy uses for his office, but when we took up the old carpet there was a nice pine floor under it, so we just used it. Leroy and his brother Tommy remodddled the bathroom and our next project is the kitchen. We are just waiting on Gwen to come help us.

We had a few pets when the children were growing up. Gwen had a white cat once and I remember it climbed a tree and would not come down. Gwen would take it food and put at the bottom of the tree, but to no avail. After several days, we had some friends who worked for the electrical company and they came and climbed the tree and got it down. Our songleader, Gene Davis, at Springfield raised Collies for sale, and he had one that a rat bit its tail off when it was a baby, and he couldn't sell it, so he gave it to us. He was a beautiful dog and we named it Rusty. He mostly stayed in the yard, but would occasionally wander off and on one of those trips he ate some poison and we found him dead on our front porch. Leroy was in a Gospel Meeting in Mississippi, where his brother Bill was preaching and one of the members there had registered Poodles and gave one to Leroy. I still have to laugh when I think of Leroy and that little white Poodle traveling from Mississippi to Springfield in a Volkswagon. I have forgotten how many times he had to stop. We named the Poodle Princess and she was attached to Gwen. She really became too much for us to care for with all the other things going on at that time so we gave him to Leroy's secretary, Linda Ballard. At some point someone stole her while Linda was at work. We had another collie earlier that was given us by the Franks family, near Haleyville, Alabama. This was when we were leaving Childhaven and moving to Manchester, but neither Leroy or I can remember what happened to this dog. We were given a billie goat by a family on Keel Mountain that became a pet for the children. We gave it to one of our members when we moved from Gurley to Childhaven and he made bar-b-que of it. It never occurred to us that would be the destiny of the goat when we gave it away. We tried raising rabbits once. Leroy thought it would be good to raise them for food as they had done that when he was growing up, so we bought one and raised it. The problem was that the kids made a pet of it and when it came time to "prepare the fatted rabbit", Leroy couldn't do the deed. Mr. Dedmon told us to bring it to their house and he would dress it and Mrs. Dedmon would cook it for us. Gwen was around 4 years old at the time and when we sat down for a promised meal of delicious tame rabbit, she looked over the plate of meat and looked at her grandfather and asked, "*What happened to it's pretty little blue eyes?*" Needless to say there was no rabbit eaten at that meal.



OREO

When we retired and moved to the "farm", Leroy decided he wanted a dog, so we went to the dog pound and found one we liked. She is part labrador Retriever and as she is black with a little white on her neck, we named her Oreo. We also got a pet kitten at the same time. It was white with blue eyes and deaf, we named it Snowflake, but when the vet told us it was a boy, we decided to call it Snowball. We didn't know white, blue eyed cats were normally deaf. We had to take it with us when we traveled as we were afraid it could not take care of itself, not being able to hear. We took it to Leroy's sister, Ruth's house once



SNOWBALL

when we spent the night and it crawled up into the air conditioning duct work under the house and we thought we would have to dismantle the duct work. Fortunately it crawled up to Ruth's vent in the bathroom and she got it out. Snowball died mysteriously within a year and I determined we would not get another house cat. We have about a dozen "wild" cats running around the place. I keep reminding myself that they keep the rat and snake population to am minimum and I tolerate them if they stay out of sight. Of course, Leroy tries to tame the feral cats and every now and then is successful with one or two. His most success-



BOBBY

ful endeavor was with a beautiful black cat with white feet and he named it Bootsie. She has become the "Queen" of the carport and does her best to keep the other cats off of it. Of course they don't come that close to us when we are out there anyway. There is usually a litter of kittens somewhere on the place and every now and then some of them manage to survive. I think the most we have been able to count at one time is 13. Recently a tame white cat showed up and seemly has decided to make it's home with us. It must not know I don't really like cats as it will jump up in my lap when I am sitting on the carport. It has a bobbed tail so we named it Bobby, as I think it is also a Tom Cat. Of course Bootsie is jealous and the two of them have a hard time sharing the carport. They both left for a couple of days so we figured they ran each other off, but they soon returned and tolerate each other.



BOOTSIE



HONEY

As a boy Leroy wanted a dog like Lassie and Rusty was just that. When we got Oreo, Leroy was hoping for a Collie, but they are not usually at the dog pound. He found one on the internet near Birmingham, AL so we drove there only to find the dog they were wanting to give us did not look like the picture on the internet and in fact did not look like a Collie. It was an aggressive dog and appeared to be sick so we left it in Alabama. He continued his search on the internet and never found one near enough to get it. Gwen finally came through and called Leroy and told him she had found him a collie. When he asked how much, he nearly fainted and said that is too much money. Gwen said, *"I have already bought if for you"*. When Leroy objected she said, *"We can find a male and raise puppies, so consider this an investment"*. This puppy is a beautiful sable colored full bloodied registered collie with markings like Lassie. We named her Honey before we even got her. While we were awaiting the time we could get the puppy as it was newborn and had to be about six weeks old, Gwen called and said she had bought another collie. This one is two years old and had some kind of genetic problem and could not be used for breeding, so the collie farm did not want to keep him. They had already named him Jasper and he was registered under that name so we kept it.



JASPER

We have made fiends with a couple from the Ooltewah congregation, Mike and Judy Caputo. He is a lawyer in Chattanooga, TN and she works for a judge in Cleveland, TN. They kinda replaced our friends Wanda and Charles Hackney, whom befriended us at the Highland congregation in Dalton, GA. We ate most Sunday meals with Charles and Wanda. We still meet them for meals in the evenings on a fairly regular basis. She was the bookkeeper for the "Preaching the Gospel" television program when Leroy began working at the Dalton office on the paid staff. When they merged with GBN she continued to be the bookkeeper. Charles is a building contractor and he did all the remodeling of the building GBN moved into in 2008 when PTG and GBN merged. Charles is also a "coon" hunter and since we have a woods full of coons, Leroy traps them and Charles takes them to the hunting areas and turns them loose. Anyway, back to Mike and Judy. Judy was excited at our getting a collie that she wanted one. They came to see our's when we got them home and if just a few weeks she found her one at a Collie farm in Milledgeville, GA. His name is Jake and if all goes as plans he will be the father of Honey's puppies when we are ready to start breeding them. I think a little over a year from now (July 2013). It remains to be seen if there is any money to be made in this endeavor. Leroy, and Gwen all thinks there could be, but all I see is buying dog food and veterinarian expenses.

Although we tried not to make friends exclusive of other congregational members and hopefully avoid the creation of "clicks", there seemed to always be some who gravitated a little closer to us at every congregation where we preached. Audrey and Sister Maples at Paint Rock, where we worshipped a while and Leroy began preaching on Sunday Nights, took us under their wings and became "grandparents away from home". Audrey was an old maid and they were a little frightened about living alone. When they came home at night, sister Maples would stay at the door while Audrey would through the house and under the beds. Leroy always kidded them by saying, *"If Audrey were to find a man hiding under the bed, she would yell to her mother, 'Shut and lock the door mother I found one'."* They were very encouraging to Leroy as he was first preaching. They took us to almost every gospel meeting within an hour's drive of Paint Rock. We also went to a Kennerman's Reunion when we first moved there with them and we won the **"Newest Married Couple Award"**. I guess the reason we moved out to the Gurley and Paint Rock area was due to Arlen and Faye Moore. Leroy and Arlen worked together at Combustion Engineering and Arlen had already been hired at the Redstone Arsenal and moved a few months before we did. Since we knew them and they were members of the church we moved near them and began worshipping at Paint Rock. Paint Rock was a small congregation with no elders, but we enjoyed being with the people there and have always appreciated giving Leroy the opportunity to preach. We also made friends with Bill and Ellen Mitchnick at Paint Rock and since we continued to live in the area they remained our closest friends the years Leroy preached at Gurley.

At Gurley we didn't really make "real close friends" as we continued to visit Audrey and sister Maples and Bill and Ellen. However, we considered all members friends. We spent some time with Russ and Babs Alley as they had children about the age of ours and enjoyed cooking out, etc. Also, we were with Jimmy and Betty Smith and Tom and Ann Elkins. Tom's daddy was the one I mentioned earlier that came by the house and invited Leroy to preach at Glover's Chapel. At some point Glovers Chapel closed their doors and the Elkins family moved to Gurley. Tom was not a Christian at the time and one Saturday. Leroy drove out toe the church building

and laid out and dug the footing for the foundation of some classrooms the brethren agreed to build. Tom and Ann lived to the side of the building and Tom sat in the shade and watched Leroy dig. Tom had some breathing problems and was not able to help. Tom went home and told his wife he was going to start to church as that was a “dedicated preacher”. Leroy baptized Tom and he became a strong church worker, later becoming an elder. Julian and Wilma Pyle lived next door to us, but he was drafted into the Army and Wilma moved to her folks in Woodville. Wilma was the first person Leroy baptized and he and Wilma often said they were not sure which one was the most nervous. Rufus and Vera Pyle were our next closet neighbors and she would visit me often. Since Leroy worked long hours at the Arsenal and we had two babies our social life was not the greatest during those years. Among the folk at Gurley was Ernest and Myrtle Smith. It seemed everyone we met identified themselves as to their relationship to Myrtle Smith. We were always hearing, “*I am Myrtle Smith’s cousin, or nephew or whoever*”, Leroy would say to Myrtle, “You are kin to everyone in Gurley but me”. In about two years, Leroy’s sister, Alma Ruth, married Don Smith, Myrtle’s son. Of course then Leroy would introduce himself as “*I am Leroy Dedmon, Myrtle Smith’s daughter-in-law’s, brother*”. He told that at Myrtle’s funeral.

While we lived at Gurley, my cousin, Malcolm Plaster and his wife Chris moved to Gurley and he got a job as a draftsman at The Redstone Arsenal. Chris was still in High School and walked to school each day and would stop by our house and often eat lunch with me as we lived across from the school. Leroy baptized Chris while we were at Gurley and she and Malcolm were a great help to us there. Another cousin, Carloyn Shirley Fournier and her husband LeGrand also moved to Huntsville while we were living at Gurley. Although they did not attend the church at Gurley, LeGrand was a lot of help to our building addition. He was an electrician and wired the new addition and I don’t think he charged above expense. Leroy really liked (and still does) LeGrand and we were able to visit each other often. Carolyn, being a nurse, got a job at the Huntsville Hospital. They moved to Bogart, GA several years ago and retired there. We have visited them a couple of times. Raymond Waters, another friend from Chattanooga moved to Gurley while we were there. Raymond was brother James Watkins nephew and married Carol Mathis, from the East Chattanooga congregation. Raymond was a song leader and he and Carol were good church workers. They helped with the establishment of the Keel Mountain congregation and built a house and moved next to the building. Later they moved to Childhaven while we were there. Raymond’s brother David, who was still in school, lived with us for a while. Later when we were at Bremen, he moved there and was a partner in the restaurant when we first opened.

At Childhaven, our friends consisted of the staff and the only time we went out for a meal was after church on Sunday evening when the whole congregation would go to a cafeteria style restaurant for dessert. Mother was there in the summer, so she was the only friend I needed. When we decided to leave Childhaven, Leroy called Bobby Jones (our first preacher at Chattanooga Valley). He was the one who encouraged Leroy to preach full time. Bobby told one of the members at New Union about Leroy and from that recommendation we moved there. We learned then it pays to have friends, but of course we really already knew that. We made several friends and as I mentioned earlier my closest friends were Treva Haines and Thula Crouch. Treva’s husband, Kenneth, died shortly after we moved there and Thula had never married. Thula married while we were at Springfield and Leroy preformed the ceremony. Leroy made good friends with all the guys and being only 24 he fit in with the High School and College group. He met Billy Freeze, who had just graduated from David Lipscomb College (now University) and they being almost the same age became good friends. Billy is now an elder at New Union. We were close friends with David and Linda Haley, David also preached appointments at various places in Coffee County. He was drafted into the army and we gave him a big going away party at the school. Two days later he called to tell us due to a health issue he was not accepted. We met him at the airport in Nashville and brought him and Linda to our house. Leroy had hung a big signs that said, “*Welcome Home Our Hero*”. Another friend Leroy made was Wayne (Bugger) Colwell. You will hear more about this in Leroy’s book. The family that “took us under their arms” was Walter (Doc) and Avis Colwell. Doc owned the Powers Farm and Seed Store and was considered to be one of the more wealthy members at New Union. They took us out for Sunday dinner or had us at their house almost every Sunday. Another couple with whom we made friends was Winfred and Virginia Duke. They were members at the Gnat Hill congregation, but Virginia grew up in the New Union congregation. Winfred was the principal at the New Union School, where Gary attended the first and second grade. Winfred and I share the same birthday and we celebrated together even after we left New Union. In 2011, Virginia was killed in an automobile accident and Winfred called Leroy to preach her funeral.



THE TURNERS: (L-R) BILL, MICHAEL, ISAAC, BEA, AMY AND JOSPHENE

When we moved to Morrison we met the Turner family. Brother and Sister Earl Turner had six boys and three girls. Five of the six boys worshipped at Morrison, Bill, Ike, Jimmy, Frank and Marion. We became friends with the whole family, but we were with Bill and his wife Jo and Ike and his wife Bea more than the others. The picture to the left was taken of them with some of their grandchildren. Ike is holding his grandson, Isaac, and Bill and Jo's two grandchildren are standing with them. Ike and Bea lost their first grandchild, Anna Marie, when she was just two years old and Leroy preached her funeral. Michael died at sixteen in a tragic situation and Leroy preached his funeral. Leroy married Bill and Jo's daughter Pat to David Hutton. We had already moved to Springfield, but came back to Morrison for the wedding. David is the

only groom to faint during the ceremony that Leroy performed. I guess he has "tied the knot" about 200 times. The air conditioner was blowing the baptistry curtains behind the candles and some one turned off the air conditioner and it became extremely hot underneath the large candelabra. Bill said it was the only time he ever saw the father of the bride walk in with the bride and then carry the groom out. We have often wondered if they are really married as they propped him up and nodded his head when Leroy asked if he took Pat to be his bride. In addition to Michael and Amy, David and Pat have an adopted son, Jonathan. Also, Ike and Bea have another grandson, Matthew. Their daughter, Beverly is married to Thomas "Bogie" Brewer.

We would go to the races on Saturday night in Winchester, TN to watch Frank race on the stock car dirt race track there. Jo was Leroy's secretary and Bill had a body shop across from the church building, so we ate lunch almost every day. I remember one day when Leroy called, I was not feeling well and said I would not go. He told me that Bill had said he was not going. When Jo called Bill, she told him that I was not going. As it turned out all four of us went that day. We laugh about that now as we did not want Jo and Leroy eating together at the local restaurant in a small town. Other friends at Morrison were Chigger and Irene Parker and Wayne and Shirley Crawley. Chigger and Irene have since divorced and each remarried. Wayne was killed in a tragic accident when a car ran over him as he was moving the grass at his grandmothers home place.

Our lasting friendship from Morrison is Ike and Bea Turner. When they built their new house they said one of the bedrooms was ours and we have spent the night there for almost 40 years, sometimes when they were not there. One time we stopped there on our way home from a trip and they were not at home. We called all the Turners and none were home, this was before the days of the cell phone. So we called Wayne Crawley to ask if he knew where they might be. As soon as Wayne answered and recognized Leroy's voice, he said, *"Well it looks like they finally got in touch with you"*. "No", Leroy replied, *"I have not heard from them"*. Wayne went on to explain that Sister Turner had passed away and the family had been trying for a couple



(L-R) BEA, IKE, ISAAC, JONAHAN, JANE, BEVERLY, MATTHEW, GWEN, GARY AND LEROY

of days to reach Leroy, to preach her funeral. Wayne surmised they were all at the funeral home so we went there to find the whole family. Of course we stayed a couple of days for the funeral and Leroy preached it. The picture to the left has me and Leroy and our children, Gary and Gwen along with Gary's son, Jonathan. We still visit with Ike and Bea after all these years. Sometimes they call and we meet them halfway over at the Jasper, TN exit at the Cracker Barrel. Once we went to the flea market at Collinsville, AL. It was a cold day and Ike and Leroy bought them a red toboggan to keep their ears warm. They also got a good deal on tape measures, so each bought one. The Turner's daughter saw the picture to the right one day and asked her mother who those two men were. I think she said it was Darel and his other brother Darel. Anyway it is hard to find friends like the Turners. Leroy said Ike was a supporter and encourager. He said, *"If you were in the electric chair, Ike would shake your hand and say, more power to you"*

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(L-R) IKE AND LEROY

Jane Dedmon

Personal Information:

Jane Glasscock Dedmon was born on February 1, 1940 in Chickamauga, GA. She is the oldest of three children born to Berlin Edward and Cynthia. She was baptized at the Chattanooga Valley Flintstone, Georgia in 1954 by Charles Kilgore as an elder at the Chattanooga Valley congregation until his death in 1961. After his death, her mother was a homemaker at Freed-Hardeman University until her brother Edward Lebron Glasscock lives in her sister Ruth Morton lives in Niceville, FL. Dedmon on April 5, 1959 and they are the parents of two children, Gary Lebron, born November 22, 1960 and born October 7, 1962. Gary lives in Springfield, TN and preaches at nearby Cedar Hill. He was formerly married to Diane Toothman and they have two sons, Gwen lives in Buchanan, GA and is co-owner of Gwen's Family Restaurant, a joint effort with Leroy since 1991. Gwen has one daughter, Carrie Jane. Carrie lives in Buchanan and works at the family restaurant. Leroy married Doug Webb in 2000. They had two children, a daughter, Masie Jane and a son, Curt Douglas. They are now divorced.



Shirley Glasscock. Church of Christ in . Her father served the congregation until his death in 1972. Her husband, Leroy, lives in Carrollton, GA and she married Leroy in 1972. They have two children, Gwendolyn Jane, born in 1973, and Leroy, born in 1975, where he teaches at the University of Tennessee. She is married to the Rev. Greg and Jonathan. Leroy is the owner and operator of Leroy and Jane since 1991. Carrie also lives in Buchanan. Carrie married Doug Webb in 2000. They have two children, Masie Jane and Curt Douglas.

Education:

Jane attended Osburn Elementary School in Chickamauga, GA through the seventh grade. She then transferred to Chattanooga Bible School in Chattanooga, TN, for the eighth grade. The school is now known as Boyd-Buchanan. She then attended Rossville High School in Rossville, GA, from which she graduated in 1958. In the fall of 1958 she entered the Erlanger School of Nursing which was housed at Erlanger Hospital. The classes were through the University of Chattanooga, now known as the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). In order to prepare herself as a teacher of God's Word. Jane has attended several classes and schools which include the Tullahoma School of Preparation, Tullahoma, TN; National Teachers Institute (Adult Teacher Training), Hendersonville and Columbia, TN and the School of Biblical Studies, Marietta, GA. She is a certified instructor for Ron Willingham's Course, "The Christian Woman". She has also received professional training as an Interior Decorator at Payne Furniture Company and Carriage Lane Interiors, Nashville, TN.

Employment:

Although Jane has never pursued a career outside of homemaker, she has worked at several part time jobs that has provided her with opportunities to broaden her talents and communication skills. Among her places of employment are: Hutcheson Memorial Hospital, Ft. Oglethorpe, GA where she served as a Medical Secretary. She has also been a substitute teacher for several school systems which include: Woodville Elementary and High School in Woodville, AL; Gurley Elementary and High School in Gurley, AL and Morrison Elementary and High School in Morrison, TN. She has also worked in Catalog Retail Sales for Montgomery Ward, and Sears, both of Springfield, TN. She also has considerable experience in retail sales, having been employed by Little World Children's Clothes, Springfield, TN; Carpet Land Carpets, Springfield, TN and Fashion Place Carpets, Springfield, TN (a joint business venture of Jane and Leroy with her brother). She has been a Display Merchandiser for Gibson Greeting Card Company and at the present is employed by American Greetings Card Company as merchandiser. Her experience in the food business includes cashier, server and caterer with Henderson's Restaurant, Bremen, GA; and Gwen's Family Restaurant, Buchanan, GA (a partnership with the Dedmons and their daughter, Gwen).

Church Experience:

Jane has also served as a Receptionist/Secretary on occasions where her husband, Leroy, has preached. Those congregations include: Springfield Church of Christ, Springfield, TN and Woodstock Church of Christ, Woodstock, GA. She has also conducted a number of Ladies' Day Workshops and Lectures. She has developed her material on Hospitality for church leaders wives and "Life Looks Better When You Do".



LEROY DEDMON

A personal note: by Leroy Dedmon

I have been married to Jane for more than fifty years and can truthfully say that she has made me what I am. I realize that some may say that is certainly nothing to brag about. Her experience as an elder's daughter was extremely important to me in my early days of preaching the Gospel. She did not marry a preacher as I was a design draftsman at Combustion Engineering in Chattanooga, TN when we married. She was supportive of my decision to preach and has been a source of great encouragement. After we moved to Huntsville with the NASA Space Program we became involved with the Lord's church at Paint Rock, AL. They had no preacher on Sunday nights, so I volunteered to "make talks" at the Sunday night service. This eventually led to the invitation from the church at Gurley to "fill-in" until they could find a preacher. After more than three years I was given the opportunity to resign from my job at Redstone Arsenal and preach full time for the church at Gurley and Keel Mt. My preaching four times each Lord's Day with two small children placed a burden on Jane that I only came to realize after the fact. She was a great help in helping me prepare my sermons and encouraging me as I struggled with meeting and greeting people. Those who know me now do not realize how backward and shy I was as a child and teen. She would say, "Leroy, if you are going to preach, you have to learn to smile, speak and shake hands with folks". In those days there was no facility at the church building to care for the children's needs and there were times that Jane had to take both babies home during the worship service. During those early years she developed a strong desire to teach and train young children. Her abilities were used at all the congregations where we served for the first twelve years. She developed her own visual aids and unselfishly shared with others in training teachers for children.

While we were at Manchester, TN she organized a Sunday afternoon class for women and taught it for about two years before we moved to Morrison, TN. This led to classes for children and then eventually the men began meeting also. For a long time (and may still do) the church at New Union in Manchester had classes for all prior to their evening worship services. Since her "first love" for teaching was still with the children, she did not pursue the teaching women until we moved to Springfield, TN in 1972. Since then most of her teaching and service has been directed to women. Jane is an organizer and planner, giving heed to the smaller details of which I never give thought. This has kept me from having the agony of being two places at once on a number of occasions. I will admit that this is often frustrating to me "the last minute, down-to-the-wire" person that I am. However, with the 20/20 hindsight that I have, I do appreciate very much her keeping of the schedule. As you may know, this book is probably late to the printer waiting on me to write this article.

Jane is a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She is affectionately called "Mama Jane", by her grandchildren and even some of the nieces and nephews. She has been a great daughter in law to my parents and a mother in law to our children's mates. She is a great cook and has often been the undeserving subject of my so called humor of when I say, "let's eat" she gets in the car. While it gets laughs from the audience, I know it is not really the truth. Actually it is my unplanned and "last minute" activities that has kept her from planning meals since the children married and left home. She enjoys entertaining for special dinners and parties. Her decorations and table settings always gets the "ahhhs and ohhhhs" from the guests. She has collected hundreds of dishes and other dining utensils and they are neatly boxed, labeled and stored as she not only knows what she has, but where it is. A few years ago in a family discussion of "what would you do if you won the Ed McMahan sweepstakes", the youngest grandson, around twelve at the time, said, "Mama Jane, you don't need any more dishes!!!"

I have often wondered where I would be today if I had not gotten on the wrong bus sometime in 1957 and sat by that "sandy hair, freckled face girl with a pony tail hairdo", who said, "we are having a Gospel Meeting at our church tonight, why don't you attend?".... "What church is that?", I asked. She replied, "the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ"... "I never heard of the church of Christ, is that some kind of Holy Rollers", I thought, but wisely did not ask.. Well, I went and that night I was introduced to a group of people who were singing with the instrument God created in them and pleading to "go back to the Bible"... They treated me extremely nice and so I went back the next Sunday and I met their preacher, James Watkins. The rest is history..... --Leroy