

THE

Volume 104

DEDMON

Deadman, Deadmon, Deadmond,  
Dedman, Dedmon, Dedmond, Dedmond



## In Memory of William Gordon Black



**IF YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY WAS BORN IN CATOOSA COUNTY, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE YOU ARE KIN TO GORDON BLACK**

I was well beyond 50 years of age when I first met Gordon Black, but I had heard of him as far back as I can remember. He was my dad's cousin, but not sure how many times removed... His great grandmother mother was my grandfather's sister, well actually his half sister. She was 38 years older than my grandfather. Her father was William D. Dedmon and mother was Ellender Nellie McEntire. They had 10 children that I know about. Gordon's mother was Vina Emiline Dedmon, the firstborn (1842). After Ellender died, William D.

married Mary Wells in 1876. Mary was two years younger than Gordon's mother Emiline. William and Mary had four children, but one died in infancy. My grandfather was the youngest of William's "second family". That is why my cousins from the "first family" my age are once or twice removed. For example, William D. Dedmon is Jim Dedmon's great-great grandfather, but he is my great grandfather and I am 3 years older than Jim. In the case of Susan Dedmon Miller, William D. is also her great-great grandfather and I am 15 years older than she. Gordon Black and my father were close to the same age. While they referred to each other as cousins, William D. was Gordon's great-great grandfather and dad's great grandfather, which means Gordon Black and I are actually in the same generation. Dad had several uncles he never knew, as his youngest uncle was 20 years older than his father. Some of them died before dad was born and it seems all of his aunts and uncles from that group died before dad was 10 years old. I used to wonder why dad never knew any more about his family until I discovered this information. Dad said he remembered his uncle Joe Lane Dedmon, who died in 1927. I said all this to explain why Gordon Black and my father called each other cousin, they were the same age and all the once and twice removed meant nothing to them. They were just cousins, and Gordon Black called me his cousin.

Gordon Black looked after the Dedmon Cemetery located on Mt. Nebo on Taylor's Ridge. It has actually become officially known as "**Mount Nebo-Black-Dedmon Cemetery**". I wish I had been more interested in my family research back in those days when, Dad, Gordon Black, Tuck Peters and others would go to the cemetery to clean it up. Tuck is related to the Blacks, Nichols, and some of the Dedmon family. He has ancestors buried in the Dedmon Cemetery. He passed away in 2005. The site is now located within private corporate property and while they keep it mowed and trimmed, you have to get permission to get the gate open. The caretaker will actually escort you to the cemetery. The trip in 2000, Tim Dedmon wrote about in Volume 100 was through the "back way". We knew the folks who let us cross their property to an old logging road that took us there. However, as Tim described, the road was barely passable and that might be stretching the definition. Tim, myself, my brother Tommy, John Henson and his daughter, Shandelle, made the journey on foot about five years ago, but were never able to find the cemetery. My nephew, Brian Dedmon, contacted the caretaker and he met me at the gate and drove me to the site. That was the last time I visited, and to my knowledge anyone else in the family...



"YOURS TRULY" AT THE GRAVES OF WILLIAM D. DEDMON AND MARY WELLS DEDMON.

## Down Memory Lane

Send me your old stories or articles relating to the Dedmon Family. Come on folks!!! Dig into that old shoe box in the closet and bring out the goodies!!!!



There were things I did not know until I read Gordon's obituary (See page 6). I was always impressed with the Cross and Flags that are displayed a couple of times a year along the streets and in front of the courthouse. However, I had no idea he began he project.



**Paul Dickson  
KIA 1950  
Korea**



One of the reasons I always had an interest in the impressive display of the flags is because my cousin Paul Dickson is among those honored for the sacrifice they gave in service of our country. I always tried to find his memorial. I didn't know that there was an on line research tool, until I researched information about this project

Another thing I learned about Gordon from reading his obituary was he fought in The Battle of the Bulge. I suppose some of our younger readers may not be familiar with that particular battle, and some my age have forgotten. I took the following from the internet.

### **The Battle of the Bulge**

In late 1944, during the wake of the Allied forces' successful D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, it seemed as if the Second World War was all but over. On Dec. 16, with the onset of winter, the German army launched a counteroffensive that was intended to cut through the Allied forces in a manner that would turn the tide of the war in Hitler's favor. The battle that ensued is known historically as the Battle of the Bulge. The courage and fortitude of the American Soldier was tested against great adversity. Nevertheless, the quality of his response ultimately meant the victory of freedom over tyranny. Early on the misty winter morning of Dec. 16, 1944, more than 200,000 German troops and nearly 1,000 tanks launched Adolf Hitler's last bid to reverse the ebb in his fortunes that had begun when Allied troops landed in France on D-Day. The Battle of the Bulge is about bravery of American Soldiers.

*Thanks to many like Gordon we enjoy our freedom.*

## Catoosa Flags Honor County's Fallen

In 1970, an unmarked flag honoring fallen soldiers from around the county stood steadfast and strong on the lawn of the Catoosa County Courthouse. Two years later, in 1972, 12 American flags were placed at Anderson Cemetery in Ringgold.

Today, (2010) members of the community, including Ringgold Mayor Joe Barger, off-duty police officers and members of Ridgeland High School's JROTC group are planting 866 flags throughout the county. Every planted flag now is accompanied with an anchoring wooden cross bearing the name of a soldier who has, at some time, been a resident of Catoosa County and including the war in which he or she served.

"There are six pieces to each cross," said Steven Cox, who retired from the Tennessee National Guard and helped to plant some of the flags in Ringgold. "Three one-inch thick pieces running vertically and three running horizontally. Then they're routed to allow the flagpole to slide in from the top." The flags are put up twice a year in Ringgold, once during May in the week before Memorial Day and again in November leading up to Veterans Day.

The commemorative flags, which have become a staple in the Ringgold community, can be seen along the original portion of the city on Nashville Street, Highway 151 from its beginning point at Highway 41 to where it crosses Interstate 75 and the portion of Highway 41 from Ringgold leading up to Capital Bank at the end of Battlefield Parkway. Other locations include City Hall in Ringgold, the historic Ringgold Depot and Rossville Bank.

During the commencement of the upcoming 1890's Day festival, flags will be put on display to honor those killed in action. "Thirty-seven flags will go up on the left side of the courthouse lawn," Mr. Barger said. "Three of those were killed in the most recent conflict in Iraq."

The mayor said anyone who has a deceased family member that served in any branch of the military is welcome to contact him personally to buy a flag for their relative for upcoming display dates.

Anyone who would like to help plant the flags also can call the mayor at 706-935-2019 or at City Hall at 706-935-3061. "Fortunately, I have a lot of friends in the community," he smiled. "We couldn't do this without their help."

by Mike Shadwick correspondent Chattanooga Times

## VINA EMILINE DEDMON

Vina Emiline Dedmon/Dedman was born in 1842 in Rutherford County, North Carolina, the oldest child of William D. and Ellender Nellie McEntire Dedmon. She married John Hardin Black on September 11, 1858, in Ringgold, Georgia. She had four children by the age of 24, Joseph (1858-??), William Henderson (1859-1953), Henry Robert (1866-1932), and Robert Wilburn (1871-1939). She died January 21, 1928, in Ringgold, Georgia. She and John are buried in Ebenezer Cemetery, Catoosa County, GA

**(Find A Grave Memorial# 51873603)**

**(Find A Grave Memorial# 51873109)**

I have no information on Joseph and for some reason, believe he may have died in infancy. William Henderson Black was born June 27, 1859, in Ringgold, Georgia. He married Margaret Elizabeth (Lizzie) Syler, daughter of Houston and Sarah Earley Syler, on June 6, 1880. They had eleven children: John Edgar, Claude Houston, Lota Clara, William Carl, Ida Clemmie, Blanche Elaine, Roba Elizabeth, Pearl Josephine, Infant Son, Prova and Myrtle. William died on May 04, 1953 and is buried at Ebenezer, along beside his wife, Lizzie.

**(Find A Grave Memorial# 53104263)**

**(Find A Grave Memorial# 53104317)**

Claude Houston Black was born November 13, 1882. He married Ollie Lee Capehart on December 28, 1910. They had four boys: Lewis Fowler, Millard Houston, Harold (died in infancy) and **William Gordon**. Ollie was the daughter of Charles Borax (Charlie) Capehart and Theodocia Myra Jane Jones. Theodocia's sister, Nancy married John Bartow Capehart, Sr. who were the parents of James Robert Capehart. James Robert married Edna Dedmon, my father's sister. That was another family connection we had with **Gordon Black**. This was a situation of brothers marrying sisters as Charles Borax and John Bartow were brothers. Claude and Ollie are buried in Ebenezer Cemetery.

**Find A Grave Memorial# 12238337)**

**(Find A Grave Memorial# 12238344)**

**Gordon Black** was also related to the Dicksons and Templetons along with just about everyone in Catoosa and the surrounding counties including Wimp(e)y, Hall, Peters, Walker, Gilbert, Fincher, Lunsford, Smith, Westbrook(s), Whaley, Hambright, Nichols, Hall, Broom(e), Cavender, and, etc, etc... and so am I... That's why Family Tree Maker lists me and Gordon as being kin eight different ways. It also shows Gordon was kin to himself five different ways. On that note I have him beat, I am related to my self six different ways. So far, I am not my own grandpa..... Yet...



To: [leroydedmon@gmail.com](mailto:leroydedmon@gmail.com)

**From the mail**

Gordon Black did all his work the hard way (no computer) His connection with us was Wm D. Dedmon. He was the grandson of Emmeline. I really miss him. We had some good times in the Ringgold area. We went to a Ho-down where Maudie played an electric washtub bass fiddle. It was a family affair and adults danced and the kids sometime were on the dance floor. We had a great time. Gordon was a humble intelligent person. He kept the Dedmon cemetery on the Taylor Ridge up. He could drive his pickup up there and would mow the grass and cleanup the area. When we went up there, there was a cable which didn't allow driving to the cemetery. And, it was pretty grown up. I think of Gordon and Maudie a lot. His son was nice enough to let me know of their passing away. --Jim Dedmon

*This letter was dated May 26, 1988 and Gordon forwarded it on to my father with a note to keep it in case it was needed for further use.*

Dear Mr. Black, Thank you for your recent letter. My sister, (Mrs. D.H. Malcolm) and I have no objections to you fencing in the grave yard! We are delighted that you and your family are taking an interest in the cemetery and support your effort! Mr. Black, let me share a problem that we've experienced! We attempted to put a gate across the road that leads to the land. It consisted only of a large chain a combination lock and two posts. Shortly after it was knocked down and stolen! Let me suggest to that you and your family might want to erect a sturdier and more permanent fence around the graveyard! I can't guarantee that any structure you put up will be safe from vandals, but I feel that you all might want to look at different possibilities. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me! -Sincerely, James I. Moore

*I have no idea who Mr. Moore or his sister are, but obviously they have had some connection to the family and must at one time been in some capacity of looking after the cemetery (Dedmon-Black Cemetery). The cemetery is "officially" listed as "Mount Nebo-Black-Dedmon Cemetery". My personal knowledge of the upkeep of the cemetery was the efforts of Gordon Black. Gordon Dedmon (my father) and Tuck Peters. All three are deceased and to my knowledge is under the care of the land owners that surround the cemetery.*

## RINGGOLD CITY COUNCIL HONORS FORMER COUNCILMAN BLACK

City Council members gathered at the home of former Councilman Larry Black to present to him a Declaration of Appreciation from the Ringgold City Council. The Declaration honors Mr. Black for his service of 16 years to the City as both a Councilman and as the Chairman for the Downtown Development Authority. Mayor Joe Barger and Councilman Terry Crawford presented a framed copy of the Declaration which was approved by the City Council on December 9, 2013.

"Larry, we want to thank you for serving the City for the last 16 years," said Mayor Joe Barger, "Many things have been accomplished." The Mayor was accompanied by Councilman Terry Crawford and City Manager Dan Wright in presenting the plaque at Mr. Black's home in Ringgold. "I have enjoyed working with you Larry on the City Council," explained Councilman Crawford, "He will always be a dear friend of mine." Collectively, the four men in attendance have a cumulative total of over 100 years in service to the public. After receiving the plaque and reminiscing with Dan Wright about some of the humorous stories from their years working together on the City Council, Mr. Black said, "Thank you, this really means a lot."

Mr. Black is a retired veteran of the Navy and was employed by Dupont for 40 years. He has been married to his wife Cindy for 47 years. Cindy worked for the Catoosa County News for 40 years. In the spring of 2013, Mr. Black suffered a traumatic stroke and has spent the past year in recovery. While undergoing physical therapy and rehabilitation Mr. Black decided not to run for reelection on the City Council and no longer serves on the Downtown Development Board. The Declaration of Appreciation from the City Council reads as follows:

### **"Declaration of Appreciation" Councilmember Gordon Larry Black**

*"This Declaration of Appreciation is to formally commend you for your 16 years of dedicated service on the Ringgold City Council in the capacity of Councilmember and Downtown Development Authority Chairperson. You have also served on numerous committees over the years and volunteered countless hours serving your fellow citizens.*

*Your supporting efforts, along with those of your past and current councilmembers have brought needed changes and improvements to the City of*

*Ringgold and its citizens. Some of these changes were in forming the first Convention and Visitors Bureau and reestablishing the Downtown Development Authority. Your support and vision for the addition of sidewalks, parks, and nature trails have been critical in what we now enjoy.*

*We are sorry to lose you as a member of our council, but join with the whole City in wishing you the best in your future endeavors. We encourage you to remain active in community services. You will always be a huge part of this City.*

*The Mayor, Council, and Employees of Ringgold thank you for your time on the Ringgold City Council. You should take extreme pride in your outstanding record and accomplishments. We remain forever grateful for having you on our Council."*



**MAYOR BARGER AND COUNCILMAN CRAWFORD  
PRESENTED FORMER COUNCILMAN BLACK WITH  
A DECLARATION OF APPRECIATION.**

**Larry is the oldest son of Gordon and Maudie Black. The other being Kenneth Wayne Black.**



***A FEW OF THE SURNAMES THAT ARE RELATED TO GORDON BLACK***

*As I said in my opening remarks on page one, if you live in Catoosa County, you may very well be related to Gordon Black. Here are some of the surnames who are related to Gordon: Abercrombie, Abernathy, Abney, Abrams, Acosta, Adair, Adams, Addison, Adkins, Aguilera, Akers, Albert, Aldridge, Alexander, Allen, Allgood, Allison, Anderson, Andrews, Armstrong, Askew, Baggett, Baker, Ballew, Bandy, Barnes, Barton, Bates, Bass, Beesley, Bell, Bird, Black, Blanton, Botts, Bowen, Bowman, Boyd, Brackett, Brewer, Bridges, Broom, Broome, Brown, Buff, Burk, Burton, Callahan, Campbell, Capehart, Carpenter, Carroll, Carter, Cash, Cavender, Champion, Childers, Clark, Cochran, Collison, Cook, Cooper, Cope, Cornelison, Costner, Coulter, Crane, Cross, Crowder, Crowe, Davis, Deadman, Deadmon, Deadmond, Dedman, Dedmon, Dedmond, Dickson, Dixon, Dunn, Edgeman, Edgemon, Ellis, Evans, Fincher, Fisher, Forrest, Forrester, Foster, Gentry, Gilbert, Gilreath, Grant, Green, Greene, Griffen, Grigg, Hanline, Hall, Hambright, Hamrick, Hardin, Hayes, Haynes, Head, Henson, Hunsucker, Johnson, Jones, Keys, King, Ledford, Leonard, Lowery, Lundsford, Martin, McBee, McCune, McEntire, Miller, Mitchell, Nichols, Padgett, Peters, Petty, Pitts, Price, Sheppard, Shields, Shook, Smith, Templeton, Walker, Wells, Westbrook, Whaley, White, Williams and Wimpy. This is not a complete list. Go to the website at [dedmon.org](http://dedmon.org) and look at the surnames for more.*

## WILLIAM GORDON BLACK

RINGGOLD, GA- William Gordon Black, 93, departed this life Saturday, Oct, 16, 2010 at the Pleasant Valley Assisted Living Home in Dalton. He was



born in Ringgold to the late Claude and Ollie Black, and was preceded in death by his wife, Maudie Bell Black; brothers, Lewis and Millard Black; nephews,

Hutson and Roger Black. Mr. Black was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church and a veteran of World War II, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He was also a charter member and former Commander of the American Legion Post #40 and helped start the Ringgold VFW Post in 1969. He was a lifelong member of the Masons. Gordon was very active in his community by serving on the Catoosa County Sheriff's Auxiliary and a member of the Catoosa County Historical Society. Mr. Black started the Flag and Cross displays for the Veterans of Catoosa County that line the streets of the City of Ringgold. Survivors include his sons, Gordon Larry (Cindy) Black, of Ringgold, Kenneth Wayne Black, of Cedar Bluff, Ala.; granddaughter, Ashley Black, of Smyrna, Ga.; nephews, Eugene Black, of Tunnel Hill, Charles Black, of Dalton; two great-nephews, and one great-niece. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010, in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery. Family will receive friends after 4 p.m. today, and prior to the service Tuesday. Arrangements are by Ringgold Chapel of Wilson Funeral Homes, Ringgold, Ga.

**Find A Grave Memorial# 60315994**

## MAUDIE BELL WRIGHT BLACK

Maudie Bell Wright Black, 78, of Ringgold, GA passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2002, at a local hospital. A lifelong resident of the North Georgia area, Mrs Black was a member of the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, had worked with RVA for 11 years, was President of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, member of Order of the Eastern Star Post #241, the Catoosa County Historical Society and Director to the Catoosa County Seniors on Thursday nights. She was preceded in death by her parents, Oscar Henry Wright and Irene Wright Gossett and her brother: Albert Wright. Mrs. Black is survived by her husband: Gordon Black of Ringgold; two sons: Gordon Larry Black of Ringgold and Kenneth Wayne Black of Cartersville, GA; one sister: Mary Wright Gentry of Dalton; one granddaughter: Ashley Mary Ann Black of Smyrna, GA; several nieces and nephews. Funeral services was held on Monday at 2:00 P.M. in the Wallis-Stewart chapel of Wilson Funeral Home. Junior Bryson and Leroy Dedmon officiated. Interment was in the Ebenezer Cemetery.

**Find A Grave Memorial#  
12238424**

*I was honored when Gordon called me to participate in the funeral service of Maudie. (ld)*



## RANDALL BLACK

Randall Edward Black, 83, of Ringgold, passed away Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016, at his home. He was preceded in death by his wife, Winnona Black; father and mother, Joseph and Irene Black; brothers and sisters, Bobby Jo Jones, Marjorie Wilson, Ottis Black, Dennis Black and Gelene Black.



He is survived by his wife, Betty Black; daughters and son-in-law, Teresa Green and Lisa and David Owens; brother and sister-in-law, Jackey and Patricia Black; sisters and brothers-in-law, Carra and Paul Hamill and Phyllis and Larry Stephenson; grandchildren, Stephanie DiDonato, Christy Garner, Michelle Quarles, Kimberly Davis and Jennifer Owens; great-grandchildren, Madeline, Makayla, Caleb, Sawyer, Tyler, Carolyn, Tristen and Jenna.

Services to celebrate the life of Randall Black are Tuesday at 11 a.m. from Nellie Head Baptist Church with the Rev. Eddie Killian officiating. Burial will be in Nellie Head Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. today. Jones Funeral Home of Tunnel Hill is in charge of arrangements. **Find A Grave Memorial# 157917493**

*I believe Randall's parents were Joseph E. Black and Lillian Irene Black, but I am not 100% certain. Joseph was the son of James Lodonel and Leola Peters Black. Irene was the daughter of John Judson and Nancy Lovennia (Vennie) Templeton Black. Find A Grave Memorial# 142814778*

## RAYMOND VICTOR WELLS, JR.

(Coach, Teacher, Pastor and Volunteer Chaplain)



Rev. R. V. Wells, Jr., 82, of Ringgold, Ga., passed away Tuesday, February 19, 2013: He was born in Ringgold on October 25, 1930. He grew up in the Boynton Community in Catoosa County and was a lifelong resident of Catoosa County and Walker County. He was a graduate of Ringgold High School, The University of Chattanooga, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Mercer University. He taught and coached at Ringgold High School and Lafayette High School (football, girls basketball, and boxing) during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1952, he accepted Christ as his savior and two years later he responded to God's call to enter Christian ministry. During his 59 years of ministry, he served as pastor of Covington Ridge Baptist Church (Kentucky), New Prospect Baptist Church (Kensington, Ga.), Peavine Baptist Church (Rock Spring, Ga.), and Mission Glen Baptist Church (Rossville). During his ministry, he

served in many leadership capacities in the Coosa (Northwest Georgia) Baptist Association and served one term as vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention. Rev. Wells served as a volunteer chaplain at Hutcheson Medical Center for 55 years. He also served as a chaplain for Hutcheson Hospice for over 20 years. Rev. Wells served as camp pastor for Georgia Baptist Convention Brotherhood Department Royal Ambassadors at Camp Glynn in Brunswick and Camp Kaleo in Forsyth for over 30 years. He also had extensive involvement in Camp Scott Patterson in Ringgold, serving as camp director and camp pastor. He was also involved in community recreation: little league baseball in LaFayette; recreation football in Chickamauga; and Golden Gloves Boxing in Chickamauga, and church league softball. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Raymond and Addie Lee (Dempsey) Wells; and great-granddaughter, Sarah Lennon Walker. Rev. Wells is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce Elrod Wells; brother, Wayne (Jo Ann) Wells; his children, Vic (Carol Brand) Wells, Cindy Wengert, and Steve (Dixie) Wells; grandchildren, Krishna Brooke (David) Castleberry, Lindsay Wells, Nicole (Robbie Harrison) Wengert, Joseph Wengert, Melissa Wells, Stacy Wells, Amy (Greg) Raub, Winter Park, Fla., Katy (Donny) Green, Villa Rica, Ga.; great-grandchildren, Madeline and Julia Castleberry, Boone Wells, and Brennan Harrison, all of Ringgold; Austin and Sarah Kate Green, and Brady and Luke Raub. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, in the funeral home chapel with Reverend Dan Whitaker and Reverend Terry Burns officiating. Interment will be in Peavine Cemetery with fellow ministers serving as honorary pallbearers. Visit [www.heritagefh.com](http://www.heritagefh.com) to share words of comfort with the family and view the memorial tribute. Memorial contributions may be made to Mission Glen Baptist Church, P.O. Box 277, Rossville, Ga. 30741. The family will receive friends from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday at Heritage Funeral Home, Battlefield Parkway.

*After Gordon Black's great-great grandmother, Ellender Nellie McEntire Dedmon passed away, his great-great grandfather, William D. Dedmon married Mary Wells, who was Raymond Well's great aunt.*



## Sergeant William F. Black, Jr. Georgia State Patrol, Georgia December 20, 1940



Sergeant William Black was shot and killed near Ringgold by an escaped convict from Missouri after he and his partner stopped the man's vehicle for a traffic violation. The suspect shot Sergeant Black as he approached the driver's door. The man fled on foot but was arrested

after a large manhunt in Georgia and Tennessee. He was sentenced to death and executed for Sergeant Black's murder on March 12, 1943. Sergeant Black was survived by his wife. He was also a U.S. Army Reserve officer.

*I don't know if, where or how Sgt. Black fits in the family tree, but I chose to post the article here as it adds to the fact that the Black family has been and still is involved in the local activities of the community.*

## RUBY LEE DEDMON BLACK



CHERRYVILLE, NC - Ruby Lee Dedmon Black, 93, died Sunday, April 10, 2016 at her home on Tot Dellinger Road. She was born June 19, 1922, to the late Cornie Vashtie Wellmon Dedmon and Augustus Clee Dedmon. Upon her marriage to Charles Hugh Black, she helped him farm and worked in the local textile mills. In her early 30s she worked for David P. Dellinger, a local attorney and representative to the North Carolina House of Representatives. She opened her own business of insurance, real estate, and accounting in 1961. Mrs. Black opened her office with very little resources after a small loan of Two Hundred Dollars was denied. She was told that Cherryville did not need a female owning a business. She used a cigar box for making change while her business was growing. It grew until she opened the largest insurance agency in town along with a branch office in Lincolnton.

She was a visionary in real estate foreseeing the changing business activity within Cherryville. She moved her growing business out of the downtown to its present location. A few years later she envisioned the business moving further east on Highway 150. She graduated from Cherryville High School in 1939. Later, she attended Howard's Business College in Shelby. Her knowledge in accounting led to certification as an Enrolled Agent to appear before the Internal Revenue Service. She was a well-respected Notary Public and Real Estate Instructor at the community colleges. Rather than retire at the age of 75, she operated three family care homes. She always taught her children, grandchildren, and other family members that the most important things in life are family and church, the second is education, and the third was one's chosen work.

Mrs. Black was instrumental in her children's, Shirley Anne Black Starling and Augustus Melton (Buddy) Black, success in attaining university degrees in social work and mathematics. She went to college in her 60's and graduated with honors in 1988 from the University of the State of New York at Albany with a baccalaureate degree. An immensely generous and giving woman, she believed in helping others as she shared her love and gifts with those less fortunate. Her legacy to her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, other family members, and friends is the love of God, love of family, and love of fellowman. She accepted Jesus Christ as her savior at an early age and was a life-long member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Her service to Christ and the church included President of the WMU, Sunday School teacher, choir member, youth leader, and pianist. In her later years she was a member of the Open Door Sunday School class.

She shared anything she had with those who were in need. She was a life-long Democrat who served as the Chair of the Precinct for many years; in her service to the election board she always treated Democrat or Republican equally when questions of politics came up.

She served on the Gaston County – Lincoln County Library board for 9 years and as Chair for 4 years. She was a member of the Gaston County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. She was a great basketball player at Cherryville High School which led to her selection to the Cherryville Sports Hall of Fame.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husband, Charles Hugh Black; brothers, Augustus Clee Dedmon, Jr. and Leroy Pinkney Dedmon; sisters, Mozelle Dedmon McSwain and Betty Jane Dedmon McSwain Frye. Survivors include her children, Shirley Anne Black Starling and husband, Donald Dean Starling, and Augustus Melton (Buddy) Black and wife, Anne Ware Black; grandchildren, Deanne Starling Moss and husband, Randy Moss, Donald Dean Starling and wife, Margaret, Augustus Melton (Mel) Black Jr. of Raleigh, and Charles Wesley Black of Durham; great grandchildren, Ethan Crocker, Eric Starling, Kaitlin Starling, Andrew Melton Black, and Marion Black; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of her life will be held 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Highway 274 North, Cherryville NC with grandson, Charles Wesley Black, a student at Duke University Divinity School, and the Rev. Ken Gibson officiating.

The body will lie in state 30 minutes prior to the service and burial in the church cemetery will follow the service. The family will receive friends from 6:30 until 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at Carpenter's Funeral & Cremation Services, 1100 E. Main St, Cherryville. The family will receive friends at other times at the home at 511 Tot Dellinger Road, Cherryville.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cemetery Fund, 112 Mount Zion Church Road, Cherryville NC 28021. Condolences may be made to [www.carpentersfuneralhome.net](http://www.carpentersfuneralhome.net)

**Find A Grave Memorial# 160933705**

*I have no idea if this branch of the Black family connects to Gordon's family, but is possible. (LD)*