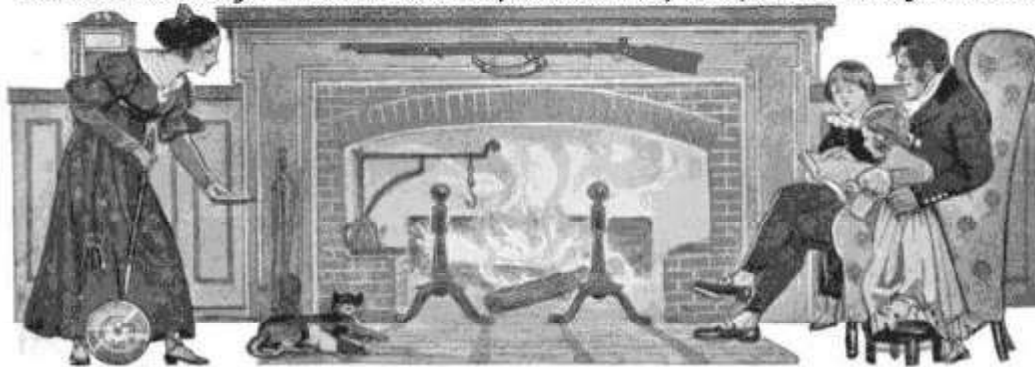




THANKSGIVING IN 1810, 1910, AND 2017

"The world has changed more in the last 100 years than in any 1000 years that have gone before."



Thanksgiving in 1810

Every Thanksgiving, American readers of newspapers and magazines are treated to similar nostalgic pieces about the origins of Thanksgiving and the uniqueness of the holiday. It was no exception in 1910, one hundred years ago, in the pages of *St. Nicholas: An Illustrated Magazine for Young Folks*, a then popular family magazine. In that publication's November 1910 issue, writer Clifford Howard authored a piece called "Thanksgiving in 1810," in which he looked back a century to see how far the nation had progressed since that time. What a fun and intriguing article to stumble across exactly one hundred years later (particularly with the stellar illustrations by C.T. Hill, some of which we've embedded here in.). "The world has changed more in the last 100 years than in any 1000 years that have gone before," Howard wrote, not knowing how much that change would accelerate in the coming years. But surely, in writing such a piece, Howard wondered whether anyone a century from his time would look back to 1910 and comment upon similar changes in the culture. Of course he did. In fact, he ended his piece with the question, "[W]hat will it be in 2010? Who can tell?" So, we here at Abnormal Use, denizens of 2010, will take it upon ourselves this Thanksgiving week to revisit Howard's long forgotten article from that long forgotten magazine. (Considering the nature of his task, we think he would appreciate our responding via the Internet, a medium that he could not have imagined in his wildest dreams way back in 1910).



"NO AREOPLANES" AND "NO SKYSCRAPERS"

Most of Howard's commentary concerned the huge advances in technology that occurred in the century preceding the publication of his piece. Thus, he began with the following premise:

A hundred years back may seem a long while ago, but when you remember that there are men living to-day whose fathers saw General Washington, a century does not seem so long a time after all. And up to the time of Washington a hundred years did not mean very much to the human race. The world moved very slowly. When Washington died, in 1799, people were using the same sort of appliances and doing the same things in the same way that they did in 1699 and even 1599. In former times, if a man could have returned to earth at the end of a hundred years, he would not have been very much surprised at any of the changes that had taken place during this absence. But if Washington or Franklin, or even Thomas Jefferson, who died less than a century ago, were to come back to earth now, he would not know where he was.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Howard notes the obvious, that the citizens of 1810 had no “air ships or automobiles or motor-cycles,” and so of course, travel was not nearly as speedy as it was for those of 1910. But then he ponders how those of 1810 would interpret the technological marvels of the early 20th century:

In fact, not only the humble farmer of that day, but the scientist and philosopher as well, would have found it impossible to believe all the wonderful things that were to take place within the century. If you could have lived then and looked ahead a hundred years and told your friends and neighbors that men would travel by steam and electricity, that they would fly in the air from London to Manchester, or from New York to Philadelphia, that they would talk to one another from Boston to Chicago, they would flash news across the ocean in the twinkling of an eye, that the great wilderness beyond the Mississippi would be populated with millions of people and contain some of the big cities of the world, that men and woman would go across the Atlantic and across the vast continent of America in perfect ease and comfort and in less time than it then took to journey from New York to Washington – if in 1810 you had foretold these marvelous things, your friends and neighbors would have shaken their heads and whispered sadly to one another that you were crazy. If the wonders you related to them were to come to pass during the next thousand years, they perhaps would have admitted that there might be truth in some of your stories; but to say that they would all come true inside of a hundred years and that some of the very people to whom you were talking would live to see many of these magical inventions, would have been really to much for any sane person to believe.

Fifty years later, Arthur C. Clarke would summarize the same sentiment when he wrote that “[a]ny sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.”



“NO TELEGRAPH” AND “NO TELEPHONE”

Of particular interest is Howard’s comparison of the communications infrastructure of both time periods. When we, as modern readers, study history, we have an omniscient view based upon the many events pieced together by the historian. We know what was occurring at all relevant times in all relevant places. But the participants of those historical events had no such luxury. News traveled very, very slowly in 1810, at a molasses like pace even by 1910 standards:

As there were no railroads, news traveled only as fast as a horse could run or a ship could sail. There were no wires to carry messages, for there was no telegraph and there was no telephone. If the farmer of 1810 got a newspaper at all, it was a week or a month or perhaps three months old before it reached him.



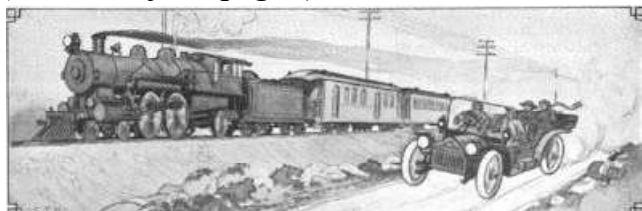
**“NO SEARCH LIGHTS” “NO DYNAMOS”
AND “NO MOVING PICTURES”**

Imagine what Howard would think of live television or the Internet. Would he be able to comprehend Facebook or Twitter? Or the technology which allows each of us, with everyday devices, to capture a moment on film or video and share it with the world instantly? What would he think of the notion that in this age we are all pamphleteers and publishers?

On a side note, we, as proprietors of a legal blog, can’t help but wonder just how different the practice of law was in 1910 based, in part, on the aforementioned differences in communications technology. It was certainly slower, in that litigators could not easily save and alter legal forms and blast them out instantly via fax or email. Never mind the fact that the information gathering process must have been slow, as well, simply because not everyone had telephones. Documents were locked away in dusty file rooms of courthouses, not available with a quick digital search. But the advantage of that may have been that lawyers weren’t scurrying about all the time in such great haste to perform this task or file that motion. Might the practice have been described as slow but rewarding? We can only surmise based on what we know in hindsight.

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“NO RAILROADS” AND “NO AUTOMOBILES”

Some other fun bits:

Howard observes that in 1810, the states of Florida, Texas, and California were not yet a part of the nation and were, thus, merely “waste places or foreign lands.” Ouch.

Howard notes that Thanksgiving, as his generation knew it, was not celebrated officially outside of New England in 1810.

Most newspapers in 1810 were issued only weekly, and the would be news contained therein was a few days to half a year old.

What will it be in 2110? Who can tell?

So, what became of Howard the writer and the publication to which he submitted this piece?

The St. Nicholas magazine, which began publishing in the 1870’s, folded in the 1940’s. Howard, for his part, didn’t make it to the halfway point of the 20th century, either. He died in 1942, at the age of 73, apparently after spending some time in Hollywood writing movies. According to his brief New York Times obituary (behind that site’s paywall archive), Howard “worked with Cecile B. De Mille and his research was largely used for the film King of Kings.” He was the author of many magazine articles and a number of books (and his work wasn’t always family friendly, either).

Here’s the best nugget we discovered about Howard’s life and education: According to this 1895 mini-biography of Howard published in a poetry journal, he once studied the law! It notes: “Like many others in their gradus ad Parnassum, he devoted some time to the study of law, graduating with the title of L.L.B. from the Columbian University in 1890, only to find that Blackstone and Kent were uncongenial masters and that his literary aspirations would never be content within the narrow bounds of prosaic law.”

Well, at least that’s something that hasn’t changed since 1910. -Jim Dedman (*James Monroe Dedman IV*)

Thanks Jim for this excellent article and a bit of “mind jogger”. Among the many changes I recall are my first telephone and television... Leroy



BRIEF HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

The tradition of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving is steeped in myth and legend. Few people realize that the Pilgrims did not celebrate Thanksgiving the next year, or any year thereafter, though some of their descendants later made a "Forefather's Day" that usually occurred on December 21 or 22. Several Presidents, including George Washington, made one-time Thanksgiving holidays. In 1827, Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale began lobbying several Presidents for the creation of Thanksgiving as a national holiday, but her lobbying was unsuccessful until 1863 when Abraham Lincoln finally made it a national holiday.

Today, our Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday of November. This was set by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 (approved by Congress in 1941), who changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November (which could occasionally end up being the fifth Thursday, and hence too close to Christmas for businesses). But the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving began at some unknown date between September 21 and November 9, most likely in very early October. The date set by Lincoln for Thanksgiving was probably to correlate with the anchoring of the Mayflower at Cape Cod, which occurred on November 21, 1620 (by our modern Gregorian calendar --it was November 11 to the Pilgrims who used the Julian calendar).

There are only two contemporary accounts of the 1621 Thanksgiving: First is Edward Winslow's account, which he wrote in a letter dated December 12, 1621. The complete letter was first published in 1622.

Our corn [i.e. wheat] did prove well, and God be praised, we had a good increase of Indian corn, and our barley indifferent good, but our peas not worth the gathering, for we feared they were too late sown. They came up very well, and blossomed, but the sun parched them in the blossom. Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their

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greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.

The second description was written about twenty years after the fact by William Bradford in his History of Plymouth Plantation. Bradford's History was rediscovered in 1854 after having been taken by British looters during the Revolutionary War. Its discovery prompted a greater American interest in the history of the Pilgrims. It is also in this account that the Thanksgiving turkey tradition is founded.

They began now to gather in the small harvest they had, and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty. For as some were thus employed in affairs abroad, others were exercising in fishing, about cod and bass and other fish, of which they took good store, of which every family had their portion. All the summer there was no want; and now began to come in store of fowl, as winter approached, of which this place did abound when they came first (but afterward decreased by degrees). And besides waterfowl there was great store of wild turkeys, of which they took many, besides venison, etc. Besides they had about a peck of meal a week to a person, or now since harvest, Indian corn to that proportion. Which made many afterwards write so largely of their plenty here to their friends in England, which were not feigned but true reports.

The primary sources above only list a few items that were on the Thanksgiving "menu", namely five deer, a large number of turkeys and waterfowl, cod, and bass; plus the harvest, which consisted of wheat, corn, barley, and perhaps any peas that survived the scorching. To that list, we can probably add a few additional things that are known to have been native to the area and eaten by the Pilgrims: clams, mussels, lobster, eel, ground nuts, acorns, walnuts, chestnuts, squashes, and beans. Fruits and berries such as strawberries, raspberries, grapes, and gooseberries were available growing wild. Pilgrim house-gardens may have included a number of English vegetables and herbs, perhaps things like onions, leeks, sorrel, yarrow, lettuce, carrots, radishes, currants, liverwort, watercress, and others. It is unlikely much in the way

of supplies brought on the Mayflower survived, such as Holland Cheese, olive oil, butter, salt pork, sugar, spices, lemons, beer, aqua-vitae, or bacon. It appears the Pilgrims may have had some chickens with them, so likely had access to a limited number of eggs. No mention of swine is found in any account of the first year. They did not yet have any goats or cattle: the first of those arrived on the ship Anne in 1623.

The "Popcorn Myth" would have us believe the Indians introduced the Pilgrims to popcorn at this Thanksgiving: but the Indian corn they grew was Northern Flint, which does not pop well. It was parched to make a simple snack, and the Indians sometimes ground it up and mixed it with strawberries for a cake-like desert. Potatoes and sweet potatoes had not yet been introduced to New England.

The source for the above article is Caleb Johnson a well respected researcher in the genealogy world for the Mayflower, he is an author as well. (MayflowerHistory.com). I am a Mayflower descendant on both my Mom and Dads side of the family.
-Hazel



THE MAYFLOWER TO THE NEW WORLD
I ask myself, would I have been as brave as they were, to board the "The Mayflower" with little more than what I could carry? Then not know how long it would take to get their or even know if we would get their at all? All we knew was that we were going to "The New World". It took about 66 days to get to the new world, and all 102 passengers didn't survive the trip. William Bradfords wife was the first to be lost. Did she fall overboard or did she jump, it's unknown. The first winter many died from starvation and illness. The mothers laid over the top of the children at night to keep them warm, yet some still died from the cold. By the end of the first winter approximately 47 more would be lost. They were people who came to America in 1620 and never gave in to the land and elements. With pure determination they kept going and built a fort, homes, furniture, they persevered.

From these few passengers of "The Mayflower" there are "Millions of descendants" walking around today.

Welcome to the world
and the
Dedmon family



Gray Wilder Burbank was born at 11:22 am on November 15, 2018. He weighed in at 8.4 lb and measured 20.5" long. His parents are John and Jordan Cook Burbank. Jordon is the daughter of Liz Dedmon Cook.



*Jordan, John and Gray
(Happy Family)*



*Liz Dedmon Cook
(Smiling Grandma)*

WEDDING BELLS



Congratulations to Logan Dedmon and Anna Beth Jones (now Dedmon!) on becoming husband and wife on October 27, 2018. The beautiful ceremony with an amazing group of family and friends itook place in Knoxville, Tennessee. We wish them many years of happiness. Logan is the son of Roy Lane Dedmon II and grandson of the late Roy Lane Dedmon.



JAMES "JIM" KITCHIN



James "Jim" Kitching, of St. Marys, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family at Stratford General Hospital on Nov. 6, 2018 in his 73rd year.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife Brenda (Nesbitt), whom he married on September 13, 1969. Proud father of Mark (Marlene), Scott (Gayle), Tim (Shana), and Carla (Coby). Adored grandfather of Heather (Sophie), Justin, Rachel, Chloe, Jada, Shae, Ellie, Bridget, Georgia, Scarlett, and Shannon and great-grandfather of Sawyer. Brother of Patti, Bob, Margaret, and Robyn. Also greatly missed by his circle of friends at Grand Bay, Florida. Family and friends are invited to the St. Marys Golf and Country Club, 769 Queen St E, St. Marys, on Sunday, Nov. 18, 2018 at 1 p.m. for Words of Remembrances followed by fellowship until 4 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society or The Children's Health Foundation.

From Bob Rogar Deadman: To those who don't know Jim, he was my half-brother. His father and mine are one and the same. I never got to meet Jim until sometime before my sister Barbara Mabey passed away. It was through her searching for answers that she was able to locate him living one town west of her in St. Marys, Ontario. That was the beginning of so many emotions and meetings where we were finally able to come together as an enlarged family. Living as far apart as Jim and I do, an annual get together in Woodstock on Christmas Day with the rest of the siblings was a chance to reunite and catch up. I for one will miss those happy moments R.I.P. lil' bro...

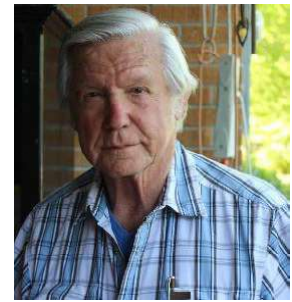
ROBERT F. LUNSFORD

Robert Franklin Lunsford, 89, of Ringgold, Georgia passed away Monday, October 22, 2018. A lifelong resident of the Ringgold area, he was a retired employee of Chattanooga Boiler and Tank and was of the Christian faith. Robert is preceded in death by his parents, Jesse Ray and Millie Wright Lunsford; son, Kenneth Lunsford and ten siblings. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Peggy Vess Lunsford of Ringgold, GA.; three children, Ronnie (Cindy) Lunsford of Ringgold, GA., Larry (Loretta) Lunsford of Ringgold, GA., and Cindy Lunsford of Ringgold, GA.; eight grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held 1:00 P.M. Friday, October 26, 2018 in the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at Anderson Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends 5-8 P.M. Wednesday, 11 A.M. – 8 P.M. Thursday and until funeral time Friday at the funeral home. Arrangements are by Wilson Funeral Home Wallis-Stewart Chapel Ringgold, Georgia.

Find A Grave Memorial 194207402

Robert was my uncle by marriage. His wife, Peggy Vess Lunsford, was a sister to my mother. Robert was a good man. (Leroy)

JOE DEDMON



William Joseph "Joe" Dedmon, 77, passed away Sunday December 2, 2018 at Hospice Ministries in Ridgeland. The family will receive friends Tuesday, December 4, 2018 from 5:00 PM until 8:00PM at Chancellor Funeral Home in Florence, MS. A visitation will be from 12:00PM until the 2:00 PM funeral service Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at Wesley Chapel in Phoenix, MS. Interment will follow in Wesley Chapel Cemetery. Joe was born August 27, 1941 in Phoenix, MS to the late Richard Dedmon, Sr. and Maudie Jones Dedmon. He loved the river where he worked for 40 years. Joe loved his family and was a Christian family man and had a great sense of humor. He was an avid fisherman and invested his life in the lives of many young men through Boy Scouts. Working with wood using his hands brought him great joy. He is preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Tammy Cockrell; sisters, Lurlene, Grace and Jerri; brothers, Richard Jr., Huey Sr., Ray, Charles and Allen. Survivors include his wife, Betty Dedmon of Florence; son, Steve (Becky) Dedmon of Pearl, Glenn (Nicole) of Ashville, AL, Keith Dedmon and Jordan Dedmon both of Florence; daughters, Angela Everett of Florence, Beverly (Chris) Brewer of Pearl, Belle Dedmon of Florence; 24 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Find A Grave Memorial 195125070

The Dedmon Connection is an online family newsletter to aid in research for all families which include, but not limited to - DEDMON , DEDMAN , DEADMAN , DEADMON , DEDMOND , DEADMOND , DEADMONDT and all others
You're encouraged to submit material to be published in the family newsletter. Please submit it to be reviewed
You may contact us at : leroydedmon@gmail.com (LEROY) ~ OR ~ (HAZEL) havrebaby@aim.com