

An online family newsletter  
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THE

Deadman-Deadmon-Deadmond-  
Dedman-Dedmon-Dedmond  
and all related families

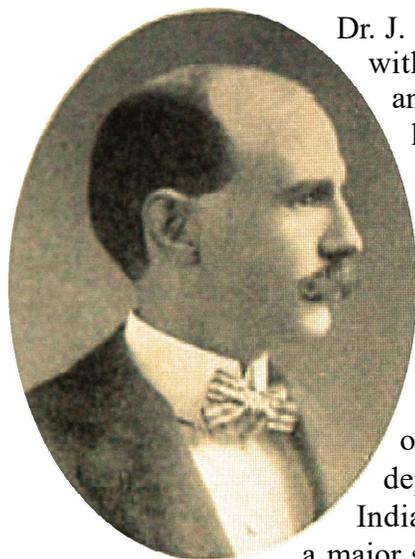
# DEDMON CONNECTION

November 2020

Volume 179

## A TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR J. E. DEDMAN

James Edwin Dedman, physician, was born January 10, 1870, in Selma, AL; son of Col. James M. and Mary Ann Scarff Dedman, grandson of William Howard and Elizabeth D. Haile, natives of Virginia, who lived in Mecklenburg County, in that state, until they moved to Williamsport, TN., and of W. D. C. Scarff and Mary (Coats) Scarff, the former of whom was a soldier in the War of 1812. He was the great-grandson of John Coats, who resided at Greensboro, and a member of the first legislature of Alabama, and later became State senator for his district. Dr. Dedman's father lived in Selma, and served throughout the War of Secession in the Twentieth Alabama Infantry regiment. He was promoted to colonel, especially commended for bravery at the battle of Chickamauga, by President Jefferson Davis, and advanced to a brigadier generalship just before Lee's surrender. He was elected sheriff of Dallas County and mayor of Selma, and died February 6, 1888, at Shelby Springs, where he had gone in search of health.



Dr. J. E. Dedman attended school at the Dallas Academy, Selma; and was graduated with honors from Selma High School. He entered the University of Alabama and was graduated from that institution three years later with the highest honors of his class, with a B.S. degree. He enrolled in the medical course at the University of Tennessee, in Nashville, during which time he served a year as intern at the Nashville City hospital. He won first prize for his essay on "Prescription Writing" during his first year at the university; and was graduated, as a M.D., taking the Paul F. Eve faculty medal for the highest average in all branches in a class of one hundred and ten students. He was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in New York City, as a M.D. and opened practice in Nashville, Tennessee. At the same time he was lecturing on normal histology in the medical department and on anatomy in the dental department of the University of Tennessee. He practiced two years and a half at Indianapolis, Indiana as the chief surgeon to St. Vincent's hospital and served as a major surgeon in the European War. He was of the Baptist faith and served as state deputy grand president for the Fraternal Order of Eagles, past commander of the Knights of the Maccabees, past chancellor of Birmingham Lodge of United Moderns and is a member of Phi Delta Theta, college fraternity.

Dr. Dedman was married three times, first to Lorinda Cordelia Todd in 1894, with whom he composed the nationally published music "Trilby". His second marriage was in 1901. to Madge, daughter of George and Loretta Whitney, of Mt. Sterling, Ky., with whom he had two children, Madge and James Edwin Dedman, Jr. They lived in Birmingham, Alabama. (RE: *Dictionary of Alabama Biography*) Dr. Dedman retired from a career in the Army Medical Corps, the forerunner of the Veteran's Hospital. In 1908 he starred as the "Father" with Irene Boyle in the silent film "The Moonshiner's Daughter". His third wife was Catherine Crew. He passed away on March 03, 1953 in Betterton, MD and was buried at the Elmwood Cemetery (Also known as Elm Leaf Cemetery) in Birmingham, AL.





**HOLY INNOCENTS HOSPITAL**  
**\*\* FREE FOR CHILDREN\*\*\***

A little over 2 years ago (1911), the realization of Birmingham's dire need of a children's free hospital gave birth to this complete little institution, where science and sympathy are working hand in hand to save the babies. To Dr. Carl Heinckel, **Dr. James E. Dedman** and Dr. Raimondo DeOvies is due the honor of starting this noble work.

Dr. Heinckel, in his work at "All Saints Mission," under patronage of Rev. Mr. Claybrooke of St. Mary's, found in his parish hundreds of children, who, if taken ill, were cut off from medical help. Dr. Heinckel sought the help of **Dr. James E. Dedman**, then city physician, who had at all times access to beds in St. Vincent and Hillman hospitals, but the necessity of putting children into adult wards brought most unsatisfactory results, as the grown ups were disturbed by the children and the children in turn suffered from not having a ward of their own. These factors were the germs that later developed into the movement to start a free hospital devoted entirely to the care and treatment of children. Dr. DeOvies was called in consultation and with his usual enthusiasm, gave his hearty support.

A charter was procured in the spring of 1911 by the gentlemen above mentioned and the institution was incorporated under the patronage of the Protestant Episcopal church with the name "HOLY INNOCENTS HOSPITAL, for "Inasmuch as ye do it to one of these, ye do it unto Me."

After the departure from Birmingham of Dr. DeOvies, Rev. Willis Clark continued his work. The most successful hospital in the United States are under the supervision of the various churches, for they grow and thrive better when fostered by one body of people, provided that body feels responsible for the existants of the institution and takes a pride in maturing and sustaining it for the good of the whole community.

**\*Membership of the association\***

The association is composed of a body of women working for the support and supervision of the hospital. Any person of legal age and moral character may become and remain a member of the association upon

payment of \$ 1.00 initiation and yearly dues of \$ 1.00. Mrs. Kate Wittichen served as the first president of association, Mrs. C.M. Tardy, secretary, Mrs. W.C. Phillips as treasurer, Rev. Willis Clarke, Chaplin.

**\* Present Organization \***

The five trustees are as follows: **Dr. James E. Dedman**, Major E.M. Tutwiler, Mr. D.M. Drennen, General Louis V. Clark, Mr. James W. McQueen.

These act as counselors to the Hospital Association, and the head of which are the following: Mrs. Crawford Johnson, president; Miss Fannie Dunn, secretary; Mrs. Valentine Nesbit, corresponding secretary; Mrs. W.C. Phillips, treasurer. The executive board consists of the following: Mrs. Ruffin Smith, Mrs. T.D. Parke, Mrs. Sidney Ullman, Mrs. Morris Marx, Mrs. W.C. Phillips. Rev. Mr. Claybrooke, Chaplin.



MRS. CRAWFORD JOHNSON

**\*Superintendent\***

Miss Lillian Williams Sparrow is now the able superintendent, with Miss Mabel Howland Albro assistant; both graduates of the Children's hospital of Boston, Massachusetts. Their enthusiasm and ability have given new life to the work; and at the same time their willingness to co-operate with all other charitable institutions in caring for the sick children of these institutions have endeared them to all. Mrs. Margaret Sparks, night supervisor, is a graduate of St. Luke's hospital, of Jacksonville, FL

**\* Admission\***

There are two open wards, accommodating about 25 patients. These sunny rooms, with their soft green walls, white curtains, dainty beds and attentive nurses, at once give courage and confidence to the mother who must needs leave her child where it can receive scientific care. Nothing is left undone for the comfort of the little patients. The requirements of admission are the needs of the child and a vacant bed. A modern and well equipped operating room is now ready, where, in sanitary surroundings, the most difficult cases may be handled.



A VIEW OF ONE OF THE WARDS

### **\*Preventive Work\***

Miss Albro will have in charge a model diet kitchen and laboratory. The hospital is yet too small to establish an outside visiting department, and it will be one of the aims to follow up the discharge cases by having them report frequently for consultation. Classes for the instruction of the mothers will be instituted, where they will be taught the scientific modification of milk to meet the demands of individual cases so that they may keep their children well.

### **\*Nurse Maids\***

Girls between the ages of 16 and 24 years will be trained to become nursery maids in a course of eight months duration. They are taught to take entire charge of infants or small children, to amuse children, to do mending, to modify milk and at the end of training are competent to meet simple nursery emergencies. They are then ready for service in private families as nursery maids.

### **\*Some Patients\***

Among the little patients that have been treated at the hospital are; LaVeda, a poor, crippled, little imbecile, has now been an inmate for several months. Kind treatment and much attention have brought forth unexpected intelligence and prospects of great physical betterment. Peter, a little foundling, who has been a pleasure and show baby of the institution and named "Peter the Great," because he was so small. It was with regret that little, well Peter was turned over to another institution in the city, where he is still waiting to be taken into some one's arms and mothered, even ever so little bit.

### **\*The Pay Annex\***

At the request of prominent physicians, a pay annex has been opened for the use of out of town patients and others needing the constant care of nurse and doctor.

### **\*THE HOLY INNOCENTS\***

They are going, only going,  
Jesus called them long ago;  
All the wintery time they're passing,  
Softly as the falling snow.  
When the violets in the springtime  
Catch the azure of the sky,  
They are carried out to slumber  
Sweetly where the violets lie.  
They are going, only going,  
When the summer earth is dressed;  
In their cold hands holding roses,  
Folded to each silent breast.  
When the autumn hangs red banners  
Out above the harvest sheaves,  
They are going, only going,  
Thick and fast like falling leaves.  
Little hearts forever stainless,  
Little hands as pure as they,

Little feet by angels guided,  
Never a forbidden way !  
They are going, only going,  
Leaving many a lonely spot;  
Let us then all work to save them,  
Lend our aid, ourselves forgot.

-Unknown-

### **\*Staff\***

The staff is composed of prominent physicians, who extend their services free of charge for four months each. The staff for 1913 is as follows:

Pediatrician - Dr. Walker, Dr. Parke, Dr. Snyder.

General Surgeons - Dr. Torrence, Dr. Jordan, Dr. Morris.

Nose, Throat and Ear- Dr. Rucker, Dr. Harris, Dr. Harrison.

Eye - Dr. Fox, Dr. Ledbetter, Dr. Constatine.

Neurology - Dr. Ward. - Orthopedic - Dr. Scott.

### **\*Support\***

The hospital has been supported by the work of the ladies of the association and free will offerings. Two Brassard days, where funds were solicited, on the street, were held under the able direction of **Mrs. J. E. Dedman**, and last year in December, under the management of Mrs. C. H. Nabb, a doll bazaar was held, which netted about \$1500.00. This will be an annual event and will be held early in December, 1913, where there will be dolls, dolls, dolls and real live dolls taking part in dances.

### **\*Reception Day\***

A reception day was held on Saturday, June 14, which was attended by a large croud of interested friends. The recent improvements and innovations were closely inspected, and the officials congratulated upon their success.

### **\*Gifts\***

The gifts to Holy Innocents Hospital so far have been varied ; from a jar of jam, that sweetened the not too plentiful larder, to sums up to \$100.00. Everything is appreciated and helps along in spirit and body the work most needed to make a model city of Birmingham.

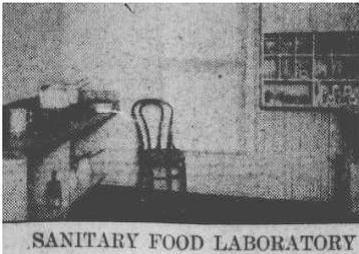
**The Birmingham age-herald. , June 18, 1913  
Birmingham, Alabama**

**Holy Innocents Hospital for Children**, as Children's was then known, originally operated under the auspices of the Episcopal Church of Alabama. It was founded in 1911 when Rev. Carl Henckell, pastor of All Saints Church of Birmingham, sought a solution to the growing need in his community for quality health care for children, especially those from poor families. Henckell joined Rev. Raimundo de Ovies, rector of St. Andrews Church, and **Dr. James E. Dedman**, health officer of the City of Birmingham, in founding the organization. The hospital, providing free medical care for all children, opened its doors in 1912 in the All Saints' small parish house on Birmingham's Southside. An all-female group of volunteers did whatever was needed to operate

the charity hospital, from scrubbing floors to sitting with sick children. The small quarters soon dictated a move for the hospital to a nearby 10-room frame house that could accommodate up to 12 beds.



Following a successful fundraising campaign chaired by Birmingham's Carolyn (Mrs. Crawford) Johnson, the house was renovated to more than double the number of patients it previously served. In addition to providing space for three patient wards, the hospital also added a new kitchen, a research area, and an operating room that was reported to be the best in the South for children. In 1914, the hospital changed its name to Children's Hospital, reflecting an amicable separation from the Episcopal Church's sole financial support.

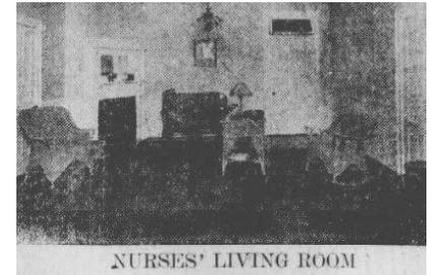


As efficient nurses clad in crisp white, floor-length uniforms and signature starched white caps scurried from one white metal bed to another dispensing loving comfort and care for their young patients, fundraising for the facility was taken on by the hospital's all-woman executive board. By now, the facility was serving 170 patients a year with doctors' services donated. In just one year, the patient load had again doubled. In ensuing years, the number of infants, toddlers and older boys and girls who needed Children's Hospital continued to grow. From tonsillitis to injuries, from measles to scarlet fever to diphtheria, the medical needs of Alabama's youngest never slowed. Antibiotics were still a miracle of the future and surgery was not yet an established practice.



As it was from its first day of operation, Children's Hospital turned no patient away. It operated through the generosity of private citizens, civic organizations and the tireless work of volunteers who organized doll bazaars and charity balls as fund-raisers. In 1923, Jefferson County's newly established Community Chest—today's United Way of Central Alabama—designated Children's Hospital as one of its first beneficiaries. Creating financial stability for the hospital for the first time, the organization reimbursed the hospital for the difference between a patient's total charge and what his or her family could afford to pay.

By July 1924, the hospital was able to relocate to a new, two-story brick and concrete building it had built on the corner of 17th Avenue and 30th Street South with donations from the community. This \$75,000, 50-bed facility gave area children expanded access to the latest medical care with the most caring of providers. It opened its first free clinic—an outpatient ward—in 1925. And just eight years later, the hospital opened a second building at the site, raising bed capacity by 50 and adding urgently needed surgical facilities, nursing quarters and an outpatient clinic. About this time, Children's became a member of the American Hospital Association as the medical world was experiencing major breakthroughs in care, including the invention of penicillin.



Despite serious shortages of many supplies and equipment prior to and during the World War II years, Children's patients were never denied anything that could provide them with the best medical care, even when the scourge of polio necessitated the use of iron lungs and special care. Well-trained medical professionals, whose bond with patients transcended the usual medical relationship, were complemented by caring volunteers who were always on hand with a reassuring smile and book or two at ready.

The hospital's two operating rooms were the scenes of many life-saving procedures, but none as unique as the operation in 1948 on a six-week-old infant girl to rearrange misplaced organs in her tiny body. Without the surgery, life expectancy for the five-pound, five-ounce baby would have been mere weeks. A milestone in medical care was passed in 1955 with the advent of polio vaccines. It would not be long before Children's Hospital, no longer needing iron lung machines, was able to return the antiquated machines to their owner, the National March of Dimes Foundation.

In 1961, Children's moved to its present location on 7th Avenue South in Birmingham, a four-story, 100-bed facility. In its move, the hospital made an agreement to provide pediatric care for the University of Alabama and University Hospital patients while serving as a learning and teaching resource for the University of Alabama School of Medicine. By 1967, UAB had become an independent institution and University Hospital had phased out most of its pediatric beds. A grant from the Meyer Foundation made possible the addition of a fifth floor and a new two-story wing in the late 1960s, adding capacity for another 60 beds.

## FAMILY INFORMATION

James Edwin Dedman, SR. was born January 10, 1870 in Selma, Dallas County, AL, and died March 03, 1953 in Betterton, MD. He was buried in the Elmwood Cemetery; Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama **(Find a Grave Memorial 118293194)**.

His first of three wives was, Lorinda Cordelia "Delia" Todd. They were married on June 20, 1894 in Marion County, Indiana. Delia was born March 06, 1871 in Morgan County, MO. She was the daughter of John Turner and Lorinda Jane Dinwiddle Todd. She later married Thomas H. Bryant, with whom she had one child, Francis Todd Bryant. She died July 01, 1956 in Kansas City, Jackson County, MO. and was buried in the New Salem Cemetery; California, Moniteau County, Missouri.

**(Find a Grave Memorial #32748619)**

He married Madge Whitney (Before 1901). She was born November 19, 1863 in Mt. Sterling, KY. to George and Loretta Whitney, of Mt. Sterling, KY. She was previously married to James Webb Ridley II, with whom she had two sons, George A. Whitney and James Webb Smith Ridley III. who were raised by their mother and Doctor James Edwin Dedman. Madge died December 01, 1927 in Beacon, NY. and was buried in the Elmwood Cemetery; Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL **(Find A Grave Memorial# 64278820.)**



Dr. J.E. Dedman married the third time in June 1929 to Catherine Crew, Chief Nurse with the United States Bureau of the Public Health Service and Chief Nurse of the United States Veteran's Hospital at North Port, NY. She was born 1876, and died 1960. Catherine was buried in Still Pond Cemetery; Still Pond, Kent County, MD **(Find A Grave Memorial #158790066)**

Dr. James Edwin and Madge Whitney Dedman had two children. Their daughter, Madge Whitney Dedman, was born in 1901 and died at the very young age of six years in 1907. She was buried in Elmwood Cemetery; Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL **(Find A Grave Memorial# 118293695)**

Their son, James Edwin Dedman, Jr. was born on June 13, 1904, in Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL; His first marriage was to Elizabeth Simpson on April 05, 1927 in Knoxville, TN. She was born in Macon, GA on August 23, 1907. After their divorce Elizabeth married Everett Adolph Graff. She died in October 1992 and was buried in Skylawn Memorial Park; San Mateo, San Mateo County, CA. **(Find a Grave Memorial 145336207)**



James Edwin, Jr. married Marialyce Nicholas in 1938 at Paducah, KY. She was born on 28 May 1909 in Illinois and died in February 1991, She was cremated and her ashes scattered. **(Find a Grave Memorial 181829409)**

James Edwin, Jr died December 15, 1987, and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery; Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL **(Find A Grave Memorial# 108858862)**.



James and Elizabeth Simpson had 2 children: James Edwin Dedman III, born on August 28, 1928, in Mascot, TN. and died on April 08, 1987. He was buried in Elmwood Cemetery; Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL **(Find A Grave Memorial# 118293531)**.

He married Sylvia Elizabeth Wirts on October 24, 1951 in California. Sylvia was a native of Tennessee, born on October 21, 1929, the daughter of the late Harry Wirts and Addie Beene Wirts. They had 5 children: Elizabeth Alyce, David Whitney, Elaine Ann, Nancy Jane, and Diane Ellen. Sylvia died on August 17, 2013 and was buried in Gracelawn Memorial Park; New Castle, New Castle County, DE, **(Find a Grave Memorial 115658984)**



The second son of James III and Elizabeth Simpson, was Robert Whitney Dedman, born on August 09, 1931, in Columbia, TN. He married Ilse Marie Karkosch on March 01, 1963. She was born March 14, 1939 in Germany. They had one child: Robert Whitney Dedman Jr. who was born on September 11, 1964. He died March 15, 1997. and was buried in Elmwood Cemetery; Birmingham, Jefferson County, AL. **(Find A Grave Memorial# 108859098)**



**June 17, 1911**

Children's Hospital was founded June 17, 1911, as Holy Innocents Hospital. The Episcopal Dioceses of Alabama sponsored the project under the leadership of the Rev. Carl Henckell of All Saints Episcopal Mission, the Rev. Raimundo de Ovies of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Dr. James Dedman, Birmingham's medical officer.

The hospital was located in a house, and the staff eventually cared for as many as 25 patients. In 1914, the facility became Children's Hospital. The Women's Auxiliary organized doll bazaars to help support the hospital, until the Community Chest of Birmingham stepped in to supplement the cost of medical care provided to families.

On June 2, 1924, the hospital moved to a new brick building at 30th Street South. A second building was added in 1932, allowing beds for 100 patients. After receiving federal funding, in 1961 the facility was replaced with a modern, four-story building at 1601 Sixth Ave. S. That year, Children's forged an agreement with UAB Hospital and the UAB Department of Pediatric Medicine to serve as a teaching and research hospital. Further additions brought the hospital to more than 1,900 beds by 1989. Two years later, a nearly 200,000-square-foot Ambulatory Care Center was opened, allowing the hospital to install a helipad and enlarge its trauma facilities.

In 2018, Children's Hospital employed 4,999 people, performed 26,381 inpatient and outpatient surgeries, and had 677,390 outpatient visits.

For the ninth straight year, U.S. News & World Report named Children's among the nation's best hospitals.



**Children's Hospital of Alabama, 2013**



### **I MUST BE GETTING OLD**

The good book says, ***"The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away"***. ( Psalm 90:10). On June 27, 2018, I attained the 80 years and as a very "thoughtful" cousin wrote, "Your warranty has expired"!!!

In retrospect the last ten years have been a great educational experience. I have learned first hand about hearing aids, by-pass heart surgery and prostate cancer. I would have never known about those things had I died at 70. I finished the eight week regiment of radiation treatment in August. Going every day Monday-Friday was quite an ordeal. Ringing the bell at the end was a feeling of accomplishment and as in the case of the heart surgery, I would not want to repeat the process,



Gary, my son, will have birthday number 60 on November 22 and Gwen, my daughter, celebrated number 58 on October 7. It does not seem possible that I have children that old, but when you are old that does happen. I remember when all five of my mother's children were above the age of 60. I asked



her, *"Mother, how old do you have to be to have five children 60 years old and older?"* Without hesitation she replied, "95". Wow, if perchance I live to the age of 95, both my children would be over the age of 70.

**DEDMAN CEMETERY**  
Helton, DeKalb County, Tennessee



Nestled in the beautiful hills of the Eastern section of Middle Tennessee lies the Dedman Family Cemetery with at least 14 graves. Lack of maintenance and possibly a bit of vandalism, the family burial ground has almost disappeared from the view of the casual eye. FindAgrave.com has this to say about it, *“This was probably a family burial ground, and may or may not be there in present day. It is, however, listed in the DeKalb Co. Cemetery list”*. However, some of the family does know it still exists and at least one family cares enough to attempt a restoration of it.

Thomas and Cheryl Deadman have committed to the project, but if anyone has ever been involved in such an attempt, you are well aware of the task. Not only



**Thomas and Cheryl Deadman**

does it require a ton of “elbow grease”, there is also a very considerable expense. We have some family still in the general area that may help, but most have moved away. It would be a tremendous help if we could all “pitch in” and help ease the financial burden.

We will keep you posted as to the progress via this Newsletter and Facebook. You may assist Thomas and Cheryl financially by mailing to: 592 Pack Circle, Smithville, TN. 37166. You may contact him at tdeadman67@gmail.com.



I have known Thomas practically all his life, as he grew up in Manchester, TN. When I moved there in 1964, I met his grandfather and great uncle, Fred and Frank Deadman. They were the owners of the Manchester Funeral Home, which was also known as *“The Deadman Funeral Home”*. They became good friends, but at that time we dismissed any possible kinship due to the spelling of our surname. We now know spelling does not matter. Although I left the area, I returned quite often and our paths have crossed many times. In fact, I was at the funeral home the

day Thomas’ father passed away in 1997. When Thomas contacted me about a year ago that he had moved to Smithville, TN and was interested in researching his family history, I was very excited and now that he has determined to restore the cemetery, I am overjoyed. I only wish I lived closer to him.

Known burials in the Dedman Cemetery are:

- Adelaide Dedman Bailiff*
- Mary Jane Bailiff*
- Elizabeth F Washer Dedman*
- Elizabeth F. Webster Dedman*
- Johnathan Dedman*
- Julia Ann Davis Dedman*
- Mathew Lee Dedman*
- Patterson Dedman*
- Landy L. Fisher*
- Martha Baliff Fisher*
- James Franklin Johnson*
- Sarah E. Foutch Malone*
- J. M. Webster*
- Mary Malone Webster*



There are probably others, which may be discovered during the restoration. These are some of the descendents of Jonathan (John R. Dedman/Dedmon Sr.) and Susanna Hunt. There still remains a mystery surrounding John and his relationship to Mark Richard Dedmon. There are several explanations offered but none are yet proven.