

Happy New Year 202~~0~~¹



Leroy Dedmon

I don't know about you, but if you are anything like me, you are glad 2020 has come and gone....I tried to think of something positive to say about it, but the only thing I could think of is I am very positive that I am glad it is gone. Only history will reveal the extent of the damage brought about by the world wide pandemic. My mother told me the pandemic of 1918 lasted about two years. Here is hoping history does not repeat. I don't know how many of our family members lost the battle to COVID19, but I know there were several. Many deaths in 2020 may have been attributed to the "Virus" that were actually other causes, which we probably will never know. However, we pay tribute to all who have "crossed over Jordon" during the infamous year of 2020. I realize we are missing several to which I hope other family members will add to the list for us. The most difficult group to find are the Maiden names. We have some but not all. I intend to publish all the obituaries as soon as I can, Just be patient and I will get there as soo as I can. The follwing are what we have:

DEADMAN

Berit (Nordoan) Deadman, Betty Ann (Deadman) Shafer, Elaine Deadman, John Geddes Deadman, Pamela Jacqueline (Gray) Deadman, Toni Marilyn (King) Deadman, Virginia Lee (Gunnnett) Deadman,

DEADMON

Cleveland A. Deadmon Jr., Deborah Renee Deadmon, Larry James Deadmon, Myrtle (Wilson) Deadmon, Nancy (Deadmon) Wright, Robert Deadmon, Tina Marie (Barrett) Dedmon, Walter James (Zoe) Deadmon,

DEADMOND

Abigail "Abby" Marjorie Deadmond, Ervin D Deadmond, Joyce Lynn Deadmond, Leland Charles "Lee" Deadmond, Tina S. (Deadmond)-Finley,

DEDMAN

Anthony Tulley Dedman, Barbara J. (Hurst) Dedman, Bobbye Jeannette (Griswold) Dedman - Schroeder, Carl Dedman Sr., Cathy P. (McGoogan) Dedman, Charles Raymond Dedman, Charles Thomas "Tom" Dedman, Harold W. Dedman, Imogene (Bennett) Dedman, Kathryn Margaret Dedman, Kathryn (Bingham) Dedman, Kendall Michelle (Herman) Dedman, L.J. "Jack" Dedman, Mary Carroll Dedman, Merlin "Shayne" Dedman, Michael Wayne Dedman, Nannette "Nan" Dedman, Obbie Dedman, Patricia Dedman, Richard Dedman, Sarah (Dedman) Arthur, William Dedman,

DEDMON

Albert Pinkney "Buddy" Dedmon, Benny Frank Dedmon, Carolyn Mae Dedmon, Donna Michele Dedmon, Dorotha Coweita (Moore) Dedmon, Dorothy (Dedmon) Livingston, Emma Jean (Dedmon) Norton, Ethel L. (Arnold) Dedmon, Eugene Wooldridge Dedmon, Eunice Marie (Wedge) Dedmon, Harriet Alice (Wilson) Dedmon, Jerry Dedmon, Justin Shane Dedmon, Lenny Dedmon, Lillie Marie (Morbley) Dedmon, Louise (Munn) Dedmon, Melvin Dedmon, Michael Dedmon, Reba Jean (Maynard) Dedmon, Robert "Mike" Michael Dedmon, Roy Dedmon, Russell Cullen Dedmon, Sara (Dedmon) Caldwell, Sharon {Bozarth} Dedmon, Susan Jean (Dedmon) Miller, Tina M. Dedmon, Tommie (Webster) Dedmon,

DEDMOND

Curtis Clifton Dedmond, Harrison A. Dedmond, JoAnn (Staten) Dedmond, Randy Dedmond, Wanda Lee (White) Dedmond,

I realize there are many other family members who passed away in 2020 and I will be glad to add them to the list as I am informed. I know of some whose grandmothers were of one of the above surnames, but they are difficult to research. I will in time publish those obituaries that I know about. I can say good bye to 2020 with no regrets... it was a bad year.



STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

The use of computers by the State of Tennessee began in 1958 with the installation of the first computer in the Department of Finance and Administration to implement a centralized payroll system. During the 1960s, the use of the computer as a productivity tool became widespread, and many of the larger departments installed computers to automate repetitive tasks.



Stephanie Dedmon
Chief Information Officer

In the early 1970s by executive order, state computer functions were centralized into one division in the Department of Finance and Administration. Since then, Strategic Technology Solutions (formerly the Office for Information Resources), has served as the state's central information technology service bureau to state departments.

STS is a division within the Department of Finance & Administration (F&A), guided by Stephanie Dedmon, Chief Information Officer. STS's clients primarily consist of State departments and commissions. STS provides planning, resources, execution and coordination in managing the information systems needs of the State of Tennessee. In addition to providing technical direction, services, and infrastructure to the State of Tennessee, STS also serves as staff to the Information Systems Council (ISC).

DAVIS DEADMAN

Mr. Deadman has been a Partner with Advantage Storage since 2012. In that role, he is responsible for sourcing and executing on new acquisitions and development activity. His background resides in lending/banking, valuation, commercial real estate and institutional money



management. Mr. Deadman served as the Chief Lending Officer of Triumph Savings Bank during 2012-2014 and currently serves on the Board of Directors of both Triumph Savings Bank, SSB and Triumph Community Bank. During 2004-2011, he served as Chief Executive Officer and President of NexBank, a financial services organization that included a broker-dealer and an investment banking and corporate advisory firm. In that role, Mr. Deadman grew a \$50 million rural community bank into a \$600 million urban commercial bank with a diversified loan portfolio and significant non-interest income. During 1998-2007, he served as a Senior Portfolio Manager and ultimately partner with Highland Capital Management L.P. In this role, he managed a team of investment professionals responsible for a several billion dollar portfolio of credit investments across multiple industries. Additionally, he oversaw various real estate investments for the firm including the notable \$200+ million Chase Tower (Dallas CBD Office) acquisition. Prior to 1998, he served as an investment officer at Mutual Benefit Life, where he managed a \$200 million commercial real estate-backed loan portfolio. Mr. Deadman received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas A&M University and a Master of Business Administration in Finance, Cum Laude, from Southern Methodist University – Cox School of Business. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charter holder.



WEDDING BELLS

DEADMAN/SCOTT WEDDING

Bob and Lisa Scott, of Pagosa Springs, are thrilled to announce the marriage of their son, Dean Scott, to Carson Deadman, daughter of Glenn and Kathryn Deadman, of San Antonio, Texas. The parents-only ceremony and dinner, due to COVID-19 restrictions, was held at the Deadman's home on April 11. The immediate family attended the ceremony via Zoom conference. The wedding festivities have been postponed to late summer. The newlyweds are happily working from their home in Midland, TX, in their careers at Concho Resources and Diamondbank Energy.



SGT DEDMAN IS HOME; WOUNDED TWICE IN FRANCE

Sergeant Sam Dedman, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Dedman who fought through several campaigns in France with the Rainbow Division as a member of the famous 151st Machine Gun Battalion, along with several other Americus men, returned home Sunday after being mustered out at Camp Gordon Friday.

"Glad to be back is the right word," said Sergeant Dedman. "I've had enough for the rest of my life. Here -after when I find a fellow that wants to fight, I'll tell him to find somewhere else. Me for the quiet, peaceful life from now on."

Sergeant Dedman surprised his parents by informing them that he was wounded twice in France, he not having told them of it in any of his letters, and they never having been notified through the war department. He was wounded in the thigh by shrapnel August 2, and in the leg by a serial bomb on Oct. 21. Both wounds put him in the hospital for several weeks, and he was in a rest camp when the armistice was signed.

Sergeant Dedman was in the front line trenches within four days after reaching France. When his battalion sailed from New York in Oct. 1917, he was ill and remained in a hospital near New York for several months. When he finally sailed the Rainbow division was in the thick of the fighting, and he was hurried into the trenches on arrival.

"An order of the German crown prince was all that kept the Germans from breaking completely through at Chateau Thierry," he said. "When the Germans attacked, they crashed right through, but after making a certain gain the crown prince ordered them to wait for him to come up with his forces. It took him three days to arrive, and by that time we were reinforced and that ended the German advance and the tide was turned right there.

"But they gave us plenty, and our losses were very heavy. The Rainbow division has been shot all to pieces. Now there is probably not one man in a hundred left in it who was a member of the division when they first went in."

The Eighty-Second division suffered heavily in the Argonne forest. They were right near where I was in the hospital when they started. When they came out eight days later they had lost about three-fourths of their men."

Sergeant Dedman declares the treatment the men received and the hardships they suffered in their camps after the signing of the armistice were inexcusably bad. "For months we were quartered in sheds," he said, "that leaked and had no floors. The rains fell in torrents and ran into the sheds. We had wire net springs, strung on 2x4 pieces, laid on the ground. We had one blanket under us and two or three for covers. It was cold, there being snow on the ground nearly the whole time. And we nearly without fuel nearly the whole time; none was provided us except toward the last a little, and we were not allowed to go about the country to find wood to burn. At best conditions were very bad. Inspections were made, but the inspectors always telephoned ahead when they were coming, and the officers had the camps slicked up and looking fine when they arrived."

Sergeant Dedman came home as a casual, not being with his unit at the end of the war, and not having gone into Germany with the Army of Occupations. "There were a lot of us in the rest camp in January," he said, "who were asked whether we wanted to rejoin our outfits or be sent home. Things had been mighty uncomfortable and every man said 'home' without a moments hesitation. It took us nearly two months to get to sail, but we did better than many who have been waiting for a long time to return."

Americus times-recorder., March 17, 1919 **Americus, Ga**



SERGEANT DEDMAN IS NOW OVERSEAS

Americus friends of Sergeant S.L. Dedman will learn with interest of his safe arrival "overseas" information to this effect having been received here last night. Sergeant Dedman is a son of Mr. and Mrs S.L. Dedman and a brother of Miss Martha Dedman, and has a host of friends in Americus. He first went into the military service as a member of the Americus Light Infantry and was alter transferred to the "Rainbow" division. Recently he had been postmaster at Camp Merritt, whence he sailed for overseas duty. The trip across, according to a message from him, was made in twelve days, and was without incident.

Americus times-recorder. August 20, 1918 **Americus, Ga.**



The following article is from a cousin, Alleen Cater, who has spent a lot of time in search for answers to some of our ancestors. I have exhausted my resources along with her diligent efforts and decided to reach out to our resourceful readers, hoping someone has some helpful information to provide some of the missing "bricks" in our wall. Every little bit helps, so don't hold back, thinking it may not be important. You may send your information directly to: Alleen Cater, 327 Easton Circle, Birmingham, AL 35223... (alleenc@me.com). We will publish the information here in order to share with our readers. (Jim)

I have been searching far and wide for primary documents pertaining to William Howard Dedman (1803-1846), his wife, Elizabeth Haile (1806-) and their daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth Dedman Williams (1828-1850). Bible records would be particularly helpful. Perhaps someone has a record, a letter, a Will or a connection which I have not seen. James M. Dedman, III, who is my fourth cousin, has taken great interest in this project and has made many helpful suggestions. He has encouraged me to reach out to this group.

In a Williamsport, TN cemetery, two time-worn, once-identical stone shafts mark the graves of the first two wives of Edward Williams, II (1820-1890) of Williamsport, and later of Columbia, both places being in Maury County. Dorothy Darby Williams (1820-1843) died one month after the birth of her first child, Thomas. Following Dorothy's death, in 1845 Edward married Eleanor Elizabeth Dedman (1828-1850). Eleanor bore a son, William Howard, in 1846; a daughter, Elizabeth, in 1848; and a son, Edward, in April, 1850. Eleanor died April 23, 1850, either in or very shortly after childbirth. The Sept. 7, 1850 Maury County, TN Census lists Edward Williams with four named children: Thomas, age 6, (my great-grandfather), William, age 4 (also my great-grandfather), Elizabeth, age 2, and an infant, Edward, 4/12 year of age. That child Edward is not listed in the 1860 Census, so he must have died young. I have found no information on his death or burial, which would probably have been in Williamsport, near his mother.

Wanda Williams Colvin's book, The Dedman Genealogy mentions Eleanor at the top of page 48, but the death date is erroneously listed as 1849. The Colvin book lists Eleanor as a daughter of William Howard Dedman

(1803-1846) and his wife, Elizabeth Haile. I have no primary record of that parent-child relationship. W. H. Dedman is listed on p.42 in the Colvin book as a son of John Dedman (1776-1835) and Carrie Elizabeth White (?-?). I do have John Dedman's Will, which mentions William Howard several times.

It is known that William Howard and one of his brothers left Mecklenburg Co, VA with their families circa 1830 and went to Hickman Co, TN, where he managed the Bon Aqua Springs Hotel for a few years. Jim Dedman, III has a great map showing where the Dedman families lived when they came to TN from VA. A Find-a-Grave entry shows that WH was buried in Williamsport, but I have found no proof of that. Edward Williams was named Administrator of W.H. Dedman's estate, according to lengthy records in the Maury County Archives; but nowhere is it said that Edward Williams was WH Dedman's son-in-law. The same court papers list Elizabeth Dedman as the widow of WH Dedman; she is not to be confused with her daughter, of course. Another Find-a-Grave record shows that Elizabeth Haile Dedman died years later in Selma, AL. Again, I have no proof of this. Lately it has been suggested that perhaps she remarried, which would make locating her more difficult.

Annie Laura (Deadmon) Griffith's book, DEDMAN - DEADMON Family History states that Wm Howard died 2 Sept 1846 in Williamsport. No proof is cited. Her book contains the same erroneous death date of 1849 for Eleanor.

I have searched microfilm records of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Williamsport, which was built on land donated by Edward's father, also named Edward Williams, founder of Williamsport. I have consulted Maury County Archives and TSLA. I have searched Newspapers.com. I have searched Early TN Marriages, which lists Edward Williams' marriages, but not that one (he married four times). I have reviewed the list of services conducted, written inside the back cover of the Bible of The Rev. John B. Hamilton, whose wife Sarah Alderson was an older half-sister of Edward Williams, II. The very helpful Administrator of the church adjoining the cemetery where Eleanor Williams is buried could find no other records. The Administrator told me that the cemetery is owned by the municipality of Williamsport, not by the church. I have not been able to speak with any town official in Williamsport, who could check old records. The Hickman County Courthouse burned in 1863, so any marriage or death records there were lost. I have no idea if Eleanor married Edward Williams in a church or if a priest performed the ceremony.

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If anyone can shed light on the following questions, I will be ever so grateful.

Are William Howard Dedman and/or Eleanor Elizabeth Dedman Williams mentioned in Bible records?

Is there a marriage record for Eleanor Dedman and Edward Williams?

Is there any record of the birth and/or Baptism of Eleanor's children: William Howard, Elizabeth and Edward?

Is there a record of the death of the baby Edward Williams (1850-)?

Is there a death record for William Howard Dedman or for his wife, Elizabeth Haile Dedman?

Is there hard evidence of a burial place for William Howard Dedman or for Elizabeth Haile Dedman?

I do have extensive information on: William Howard Williams (1846-1908), who married Mary Elizabeth Sarven of Columbia, and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Birmingham, AL; Elizabeth/Lizzie Williams Glasgow (1848-1921), buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Nashville, TN; and Thomas Hamilton Williams (1843-1922), who married Annie Caroline White of Spring Hill, TN, and is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Columbia, TN. Another Elizabeth Williams is buried in the Williamsport Cemetery: she was the wife of Edward Williams, I and mother of Edward, II; and mother-in-law of Eleanor E Dedman Williams. She died in 1840.

ANY suggestions and thoughts will be very much appreciated. Thank you for taking time to read this information. --Alleen Cater

Eleanor's tombstone inscription (left stone in the photo below) reads:



PERSON FOUND DEAD AFTER ROWAN COUNTY HOME DESTROYED IN FIRE



ROWAN COUNTY, N.C. (WBTV) - A person was found dead after a house appeared to be completely destroyed by a fire Thursday afternoon in Rowan County.

The fire occurred around 2 p.m. at a home on Crestwood Drive in China Grove. The single wide mobile home was located at the end of the road.

According to a press release from the Enochville Fire & Rescue, due to the heavy fire involvement and the structure beginning to collapse, firefighters were unable to enter the structure. Firefighters battled the flames for almost 15 minutes before bringing it under control.

“Once the fire was extinguished, one victim was recovered from the structure and sadly was pronounced dead on the scene,” said Daniel Jenkins of Enochville Fire & Rescue. “We extend our deepest condolences to the affected family.

”The victim has now been identified as **Deborah Renee Deadmon**, 66. According to the Rowan Sheriff's Office, the victim had significant health issues, and did use bottled oxygen.

“There has been no evidence of foul play found at present, nor is foul play suspected,” said Captain John Sifford.

According to a press release from the Enochville Fire & Rescue, due to the heavy fire involvement and the structure beginning to collapse, firefighters were unable to enter the structure. Firefighters battled the flames for almost 15 minutes before bringing it under control.

Firefighters had to haul water to the location.

SUSAN JEAN DEDMON MILLER

May 20, 1955 - December 19, 2020



When Susan Miller was a little girl, she was not afraid of strangers. Strangers were just an opportunity to make a new friend. It worried her parents, but she never changed. It was the way she lived every day. Having Susan in your life meant you had a champion if you needed one, a cheerleader when you were down, a caregiver for any pain and someone to share your victories, joy and

laughter. The world lost a beautiful light when Susan Miller passed away Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020.

Susan was born May 20, 1955, in San Diego, Calif., to Roy and Pearl Dedmon. She was the youngest daughter in a military family of six children. She grew up in Europe, Kentucky, Alaska, Louisiana and Tennessee. Susan met her husband, John Ramsey Miller, in Nashville, TN, and married Dec. 23, 1976. They raised three sons as they moved from Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, and North Carolina for her work with various banking institutions.

Susan enjoyed traveling, reading, gardening, cooking for and celebrating her family and friends. Susan was a beloved daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She is survived by her husband, John Ramsey Miller; sons, Christian McCarty Miller (Natasha Labadie Miller), Rush Lane Miller (Liz S. Miller) and Adam Ramsey Miller (Jessica Lockavitch Miller); grandchildren, Alexa Labadie, Eli Miller, Max Miller, Sasha Miller, Rush Miller, Shay Miller, Ramsey Miller, Theo Miller, Charlie Miller and Jasper Miller; and siblings, Guy Dedmon, Judy Dedmon, Liz Cook, Roy Dedmon and Jim Dedmon.

Friends are invited to a celebration of Susan's life Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, from 3 to 5 p.m., at The Downtown Warehouse, 8 Church St. South in Concord. Instead of flowers, please consider an act of kindness to another person. Do something to show love or tell someone how much you love them.

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When I received the news of Susan's passing I could hardly believe it. However, I knew she was battling the return of "The big C", which she had experience several years ago, and was taking treatments again, but I though she would beat it again. Her family line is very close to mine as our common ancestor was my great grandfather. I came in contact with her when I first began the family research project and newsletter. Although we did not visit often in person, we were in contact via the internet and Facebook. Although we did not know at the time, we lived within thirty miles of each other in Middle Tennessee several years before we knew of each other.

-Leroy

ARTHUR GUY DEDMON

August 18, 1948 - March 9, 2021



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Arthur Guy Dedmon of Port Richey, Florida, who passed away on March 9, 2021, at the age of 72, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends can light a candle as a loving gesture for their loved one. Leave a sympathy message to the family in the guestbook on this memorial page of Arthur Guy Dedmon to show support.

He was predeceased by: his parents Roy and Pearl Dedmon, his sister Susan Dedmon. He is survived by: his wife Nina Dedmon; his pet Serenity; his children, Michael Ellis, Jennifer Hankins (Chad), Allie Dedmon, William Deasy (Lauren) and Shawn Johnson (Crystal); his grandchildren, Damion Dedmon, Apollo Dedmon Douglas Ellis, Jacob Ellis and Zoe Ellis; his brother-in-law John Miller; and his siblings, Judy Coyle (Frank), Elizabeth Cook, Roy Dedmon (Dee) and Jim Dedmon (Jewel).

He was an avid fisherman, and loved boating in the gulf with his wife, Nina and his service dog, Serenity.

Funeral arrangement under the care of Thomas B. Dobies Funeral Homes & Crematory.

My Dad and Guy met at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama several years ago. We corresponded often but never actually met in person, although we intended to do so.

-Leroy

WILBURN “WIB” WIMPY



Wilburn “Wib” Wimpy, 100, passed away Friday, January 15, 2021. Born in Ringgold, Ga, he lived several years in Wyandotte, and after retirement from General Motors, Fleetwood, he moved back to Ringgold in 1978. He was a WWII Army veteran, a lifetime member of Quitman Masonic Lodge, VFW and American Legion post 40. He was preceded in death by his wife, Doris Jones Wimpy; parents Joseph and Alice Dickson; daughter Brenda Borza; and six siblings. He is survived by two children, Sharon Wimpy of Wyandotte, MI and Gary Wimpy of Ringgold, Ga.; two sisters, Edna Castleman of Lincoln Park, MI and Eloise Korte of Gibraltar, MI; five grandchildren, Ron (Betty) Borza, Gino (Shari) Borza, Dino Borza, Brian (Beth) Wimpy and Ashley (Sebastian Payne) Wimpy; eight great grandchildren; five great great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held Friday, January 22, 2021 in Ringgold, Ga interment was at Dunagan Cemetery in Rocky Face, Ga.

Find a Grave Memorial 94466838

Wib was my mother’s first cousin and I never met him until my father’s death in 2002, but after that we became good friends and he attended some of our family gatherings. He, also, visited my mother often during the final years of her life. Growing up we never visited that segment of the family as they had moved to Michigan. In fact, it was not until I began the family research that I became aware of our kinship to the Wimpy family. I published an article about him in the October 2020 (Volume 178) of this newsletter.

-Leroy

NEAL PATRICK MCBEE



Neal Patrick McBee, 77, of Clover, SC, passed away Friday, December 18, 2020, at his home.

He was born January 28, 1943, in Gaston County, son of the late Fred McBee and Dorothy Dedmond McBee.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Jack Jenkins, J. B. McBee, Buster McBee, Robert McBee, and Danny McBee; and sisters, Gail Bell, Irene Hardin, and Billie Payne.

Left to cherish his memories are his wife of 54 years, Cora L. McBee; sons, Frank McBee and wife, Kimberly, Robert McBee and wife, Michelle; daughter, Tanja Lynn McBee; brother, Larry McBee; grandchildren, Brandon, Dustin, Tori, Jewel, and Kaitlyn; and great grandson, Bryson.

A funeral service will be held 2:00 pm on Wednesday at the South Chapel of Greene Funeral Service, 1503 S. York Rd. Gastonia. Pastor Evan Muro will be officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Interment will be held at Gaston Memorial Park. Due to Covid-19, the family request that all who attend to please wear a mask.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospital for Children – 950 W. Faris Street, Greenville, SC 29605 – shrinershospitalforchildren.org. Arrangements are with the South Chapel of Greene Funeral Service and Crematorium, Gastonia. Condolences may be made online at greenefuneral.com. To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our Sympathy Store.

Published in Gaston Gazette on Dec. 21, 2020

Neal’s brother, Danny, was a tremendous help to me in the early days of my research project. -Leroy

THOMAS “HAPPY HAL” DEDMON



Thomas “Happy Hal” Dedmon passed away on June 20, 2019 at age 97. Born in Cleveland County on January 16, 1922, Hal was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Lawson Dedmon and Verdie Mae Horn Dedmon. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Sarah Blanton Dedmon; three children: Caroline, Tom, and Ted (Karen) Dedmon; three grandchildren: Noah, Michael, and Anna Marie Dedmon; a brother and sister: Roy Dedmon and Lou Jean Hamrick; and many nieces, nephews and special friends.

Hal was reared in the Ross Grove community and attended Ross Grove School. He graduated from Fallston High school in 1939 and attended Boiling Springs Jr. College (now Gardner-Webb University) until he was inducted into the 416th Bomb Group, 9th Division of the US Air Force in 1942. His group loaded bombs onto the airplanes and were stationed in England, France, and

Germany during his military tenure. Hal was discharged in 1949 and returned to Shelby where he married Sarah Caroline Blanton of Lattimore. He continued his education at Howard’s Business College.

Happy Hal was involved in athletics throughout his life. He played professional baseball with the Boston Braves, the Shelby Farmers, the High Point Hi Toms, and the Rutherford County Owls. He was assistant coach with “Pop” Simmons for the American Legion baseball team (1954-55) and coached the KM Legion team in 1955. In that same year, Hal took the Athletic Director’s position at the Shelby City Park, doing the things he loved most.

He developed and coached programs for children and adults as well. He started the Early Morning Milers adult exercise program and a fitness program for ladies. He was in charge of football, basketball, and baseball programs for the local youths. He started a group of Golden Gloves boxing and was Director of the Shelby Boys Club. One of his greatest joys was working with young people. Hal left the City Park in 1967 to take a position with the NC Probation and Parole Department in Western North Carolina and retired in 1985.

Besides his love of baseball, Hal was also an avid golfer. He had 5 holes-in-one and played golf every chance he got. He was a regular at the Royster Golf Course. His nickname “Happy Hal” came from that ever present smile that he gave to everyone. He always just seemed to be naturally happy.

Hal loved being a part of and serving his community. He was a member of the Shelby Lions Club and was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellows award by Lions International in 2002-2003. He was a member of the VFW, DAV, the Lattimore Historical Society, Cleveland County Sr. Golf Association, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, NC Sheriff’s Association.

He was recognized as the Director of Outstanding Service to the Youth of Shelby and Cleveland Co. in 1965 by the Parks and Recreation Commission. In 1993 he was inducted into the Cleveland County Sports Hall of Fame. The circle around the ball fields at the City Park was named “Happy Hal Circle” in his honor.

Hal’s greatest love though was for his family and his church. He was a lifelong member at Ross Grove Baptist Church where at age 12 he earned \$0.25 per week for cleaning the church and ringing the bell. He later served the church as Deacon, Church Clerk, Cemetery Committee Chairman, Building Committee Chairman, Sunday School Director, and served on various committees. He started the Royal Ambassadors group at Ross Grove.

A celebration of life will be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 at Ross Grove Baptist Church, 1225 Fallston Road, Shelby, NC 28150 at 2:00 pm with Rev. Marcus McGill officiating. The family will greet friends following the ceremony. Memorials may be sent to The Boy’s and Girl’s Club of Cleveland County, 412 West Sumter Street, Shelby, NC 28150; Shelby Lions Club, 1420 South Lafayette St, Shelby, NC 28152; or Ross Grove Baptist Church, 1225 Fallston Road, Shelby, NC 28150.