

The Dedmon Connection

MAY 2004 - Number 24

(Dedmon, Dedman, Deadman, Deadmon, Dedmond, Dedmond, etc.)



Leroy Dedmon

ABOUT OUR NAME

There have been several articles written about the origin of the name Deadman. The most popular and widely accepted theory is the corruption of the "place name" Debenham. **From "American Surnames" by Elsdon C. Smith:** *The name Deadman apparently doesn't mean a "Dead Man", but a man from Debenham (Saxton) meaning, "Deep River Homestead", in Suffolk, Saxon meaning "South Forks" country, England, which is near the North Sea in South East England, West of Cambridge and North of London.* -- **From Jim Dedmon:** *Evolution of our name was: Deadman, Dedman and Dedmon. There have been other variations, such as the family in Chattanooga, TN who put a "D" on the end, (Dedmond) so their mail wouldn't get mixed up with other relatives.* --- **From Steve Deadman in London:** *"my Grandmother told us that our family originated from up north and that we can trace our family history back to the earliest Kings and Queens of England and around the 14th Century we were brought to London as Executioners and at the time of the great plague of London our family was commissioned to burn and bury the bodies at Graves End and Blackheath"*---**From Gary Deadmond:** *"His (Floyd Dedmon) name is spelled a little different than mine. That is because when his family moved south in the covered wagon two of the letters fell out and no one noticed until it was too late."* **From my files:** *The "Dedmon" spelling of the name started around 1776. Marcus Richard Deadman changed it to "Dedmon" when he joined the "Continental Army" and fought in the "Revolutionary War. (I suspect that had to do with the fact that his family was Torries)---* and then **Dr. Bob Dedmon:** said he changed his from Deadman while in Med School, the reason he said was obvious....

There are several variants of the spelling those of which I am aware are: Deadman, Deadmon, Deadmond, Dedmon, Dedmond, Dedman, Dedmond. Our sound index is D355. Soundex is used by the National Archives to index the U.S. censuses. It codes together surnames that sound similar but have different spellings. Among the surnames that share the D355 Soundex code are Didomenico, Dudman, Dodman and Ditman. There is a soundex converter at <http://resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter>.

Ever wondered how many of us there are? Well not very many compared to the Jones and Smith families, but quite a few compared to the Zwanzig family. **Dedmon** and **Dedman** were the only two spellings I found at this research site.

Dedmon is the 11,247th most popular last name (surname) in the United States; frequency is 0.001%; percentile is 72.352 [SourceCBN]

Dedman is the 19,733rd most popular last name (surname) in the United States; frequency is 0.000%; percentile is 77.914 [SourceCBN]

Jones is the 4th most popular last name (surname) in the United States; frequency is 0.621%; percentile is 3.136

Smith is the 1st most popular last name (surname) in the United States; frequency is 1.006%; percentile is 1.006 [SourceCBN]

Zwanzig is the 53,213th most popular last name (surname) in the United States; frequency is 0.000%; percentile is 86.435 [SourceCBN] (<http://www.placesnamed.com/d/e/dedmon.asp>)

Just in case you are wondering what the number two and three most common surname in America. Well it is of no real surprise..... You guessed it.... **Williams and Johnson.**



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

Memories of childhood are a wonderful thing. We had no worries and everything always worked out... In fact, I have often told children to count your blessings and enjoy your youth. I believe the third grade was the happiest three years of my life... Maybe it is because I am now living in “the cradle of my ancestry”, but the events of yester year keep popping in my memory.

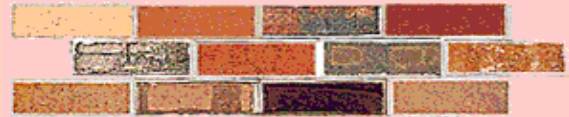
We killed a snake the other day in the “utility room” and I was reminded of several events of my youth. There was the time I was spending the night with my cousins, J.E. and Tommy (Gilbert). J.E. woke up in the middle of the night screaming, “something just bit me”!!! Of course, Aunt Edna ran into the room and as we all looked at the two little punctures on his arm, we all concluded he was bitten by a snake.

Since the Gilberts had no car, Tommy and I ran down to Grandmother’s house where my parents were spending the night. Dad drove us back up to the house and we took J.E. to the doctor in Ringgold. (We never heard of emergency rooms in those days). I am sure the doctor appreciated being awakened at two in the morning. The doctor took one look at J.E.’s arm and turned it over as we viewed two more small punctures on the back side of his arm. Now there were four small teeth marks and we breathed a sigh of relief as the doctor informed us that the bite was from a rat... Memories are made of this....

Our granddaughter (Carrie) called the other day to inform us of Masie’s (our great granddaughter) broken arm... Oh, for the life of a child....



THE BRICK WALL



I have discovered at least five major Deadman branches that we have been unable to connect. If you have information on any of the Deadman family branches, please submit.

TENNESSEE DEDMONS

The “Tennessee” Dedmons have been extremely difficult for me to place in the family tree. Actually there are about three of the Tennessee groups that I know about. One is the West Tennessee branch. I talked recently to Margaret Dedmon Penny from the Milan, Tennessee area and she is going to send me some information. I knew her husband, Neal Penny, who was a preacher for the Church of Christ. He has been dead several years. I am looking forward to receiving her information. It has been my privilege to meet several of the West TN family through the years as they were closely connected to Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, TN. My mother-in-law served as a “Dorm Mother” for about ten years at Freed. To the best of my knowledge and research it appears that this group came to Tennessee via Alabama. It also appears at this time that they belong to the Christopher Deadman group.

The second group of the family live in and around McMinnville, TN. Most of them spell their name D-E-A-D-M-A-N. While living in Manchester, TN, I became acquainted with Fred and Frank Deadman. Their “claim to fame” was the ownership of the DEADMAN FUNERAL HOME... This made Ripley’s Believe It Or Not” several years ago. There is a Deadman-Turner reunion held at Fall Creek Falls each year. I don’t have enough information of this family’s ancestors to make a connection.

The third group is found in the Lebanon, TN area. Of this group we have the new found friend in Lynn Dedmon. Floyd visited with Lynn and family a couple of years ago and established a friendship that has kept him in touch with many of the family researchers. According to information recently received it appears that this group is connected to “our” branch of the tree. We are still discovering information to help in making the connection.

To my knowledge this was my first contact with Lynn. I apologize for not getting it printed before Easter, just consider it a belated message... Leroy

From: lynndedmon2000
Sent: Friday, April 09, 2004 3:11
To: Dedmon@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Dedmon] Middle Tennessee
Hi Everyone, Just wanted to drop a line, and say hello, from the Middle Tennessee Dedmon's. Happy Easter. Lynn Dedmon

Here is an email that Lynn sent to Floyd, who in turn sent it to me:

On Sat, 10 Apr 2004 14:01:08 -0400
Lynn Dedmon <ldedmon1@bellsouth.net> writes:
Hello Down There, O.K. what's going on? Hope everything is alright down that way, haven't received very much e-mail from you and I am worried that something may be wrong. Maybe you're taking a Easter vacation, or visiting someone, anyway hope all is well. I have dug up another Dedmon and I can't remember if I gave you his name or not. This is all I have. Luther Lee Dedmon-b.12-21-1882 d. 8-1971. He married Epsie Gibbs, they had three children, Henry, Carl, and Lela. Lela married Tom Gibbs. Tom's brothers Felix married Lily Dedmon, and Alex married Camy Lou Dedmon? Lela, Lily and Camy Lou were first cousins. Luther lived in the Elmwood, Tn. area, I have heard his name mentioned from time to time, he has to fit in close to my branch. I wonder if maybe he was a 1st cousin to my Grandpa. Will talk to you later, Happy Easter. Lynn

Then I received this from Floyd. For some reason I do not have John Lane Dedmon as a son of Mark Dedmon. There are other John Lane Dedmons and I need to sort through this new information.. Thanks, Floyd...

Thanks Leroy for the notification of the "Newsletter". As always a great job! If you need any help at anything, I'll do my best to help you if I can? I noticed the "Lebanon, TN." Dedmon's mentioned. I've met with William Lynn Dedmon, B. 1954 TN. & his wife last year when we were there! Swell people. His line ties with ours. John Lane Dedmon, Sr. b. 1788 NC. Yours is William D., B. 1790 NC, & mine is Thomas C., B. 1787, NC. Thanks a bunch. Your Cuz, Floyd Dedmon

From: Eedyedgar@aol.com
[mailto:Eedyedgar@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2004 9:43 AM
To: Dedmon@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [Dedmon] Middle Tennessee

Hi Lynn,
God Bless you. Happy Easter and every day of the year to all of the fellow Dedman ancestors in North Georgia and everywhere else. I am right in the middle of arranging activities and last minute details for the reunion of my father's side of the family of the South Carolina cousins. The main reunion will take place after church Sunday, but some of the cousins from as far away as Colorado began arriving last night. So the excitement and blessings have already started to flow. Family is about one of God's greatest blessings for us, isn't it.

I guess you might be in Reverend LeRoy's immediate family? I have never met him in person, but I couldn't be more impressed if I had. He is quite a gift to this world by God. I hope the next time that I am over in the North Georgia area around Villanow, that I might be fortunate enough to look up some Dedman cousins. Sure wish Cousin LeRoy would have been able to bless us tomorrow with his humorous act. That would have been a hoot, and blessing.

Of course, there will only be four cousins with Dedman descendency at tomorrow's reunion. Myself, my daughter, and my two granddaughters. With an outside chance that my brother who lives in Oak Ridge, TN, might be able to attend. That would make five of us. But we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord's larger family, and that is really what counts in the life here on Earth. Thanks again for the Dedman Easter Greeting, Eddie Hightower...Great-Grandson of Joseph Warren Cavender of Villanow, GA.

Thank you Eddie for those kind and flattering remarks.. You keep that up and your articles will become a regular feature in this publication. (In fact, it seems that they already have.) I am looking forward to meeting Eddie. He seems like "my kind of a guy". I live less than twenty miles from Villanow, GA...

Believe It or Not -- There Is a Deadman's Funeral Home

When I moved to Manchester, TN in 1964, I was introduced to Frank and Fred Deadman. At that time I was not aware of the fact that my original surname was spelled that way, so we never thought about being kin...

But the thing that really caught my attention was that they were the owners of Manchester Funeral Home. The business was also known as DEADMAN FUNERAL HOME.

Although I have never read the articles, I am told by "reliable" sources that it has actually been listed in Ripley's Believe It or Not twice. Also, several years ago the Deadmans were on a national television program, "Real People".

Frank Deadman actually started the business in 1932 with two other owners, J.C. Jackson and George Stroud. Fred and Frank Deadman bought the business in 1945 and began operating it in January of 1946. In 1970, Fred's son, Tommy became a partner in the business.

Fred and Frank are the sons of John Bethel and Sarah Willie Barnett Deadman. Fred's son, Tommy had two boys, Jeff and Thomas. After the passing of their father and grandparents they began operating the business. The photo below shows their names.



The Deadmans were very active in the local community. Fred and Frank were both members of the Rotary Club and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. They were both members of the Main Street Church of Christ and for a number of years a Bible Class was conducted at the funeral home.



Fred coached Little League and Babe Ruth baseball for the youth. He also served on the Recreation Commission and for a while served as the chairman. A city park is named in his honor.

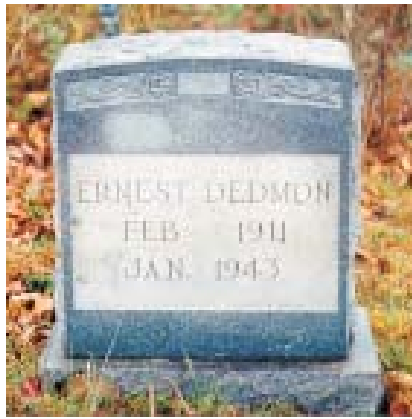


To my knowledge the Deadman family no longer owns the funeral home as it was sold a few years ago. Jeff and Thomas may still work there on a part-time basis, but I am not really sure of that.

T O M B S T O N E



Thomas Judson Dedmon
 b. November 26, 1880
 Catoosa County, GA
 d. June 29, 1945
 Chattanooga, TN
 Ebenezer Baptist Church
 (Near Ringgold, GA)



Ernest Dedmon
 b. February 1911
 Oklahoma
 d. February 1943
 Catoosa County, GA
 Ebenezer Baptist Church
 (Near Ringgold, GA)



**Susanah Rebecca McEntire
 (Dedmon)**
 b. March 09, 1841 NC
 d. Dec. 30, 1908 Waldron, AR
 (Scott County, Arkansas)



**William D. Dedmon (b. June 04, 1822)
 (d. August 05, 1890) and Mary Wells Dedmon
 (b. June 03, 1840) (d. June 12, 1911).** The graves
 are located in Dedmon Cemetery on Taylors
 Ridge in Catoosa, County, GA.



James Thomas Dedmon
 b. January 31, 1839 Walker County, GA
 d. March 30, 1922 Waldron, AR
 ((Scott County, Arkansas)



Dedmon Cemetery in Catoosa, County, GA.



Ernest R. Dedmon
 May 19, 1899 Cole Creek, Tannie Hill
 Paririe,
 Choctaw Lands,
 Indian Territory, OK

DEATH NOTICES

(Some of the obits in this issue date back a couple of years, but I am including them anyway as they contain a wealth of info.... Leroy)

Nancy D. Jolly (Union native)

MOORE - Nancy Loretta Dedmon Jolly, 71, of 4370 Anderson Mill Road, Moore, died Nov. 12, 2002, at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. Mrs. Jolly was a native of Union, a daughter of the late John C. and Etta Painter Dedmon. She was a charter member of Anderson Mill Road Baptist Church and was a retired homemaker.

Surviving are her husband, William J. Jolly of the home; a daughter, Pamela J. Lockhart of Inman; a sister, Sara Dedmon Caldwell of Spartanburg; two grandchildren, Shanna Danielle Jolly of Inman and McKenzie Johnson Lockhart of Roebuck; and two special friends, Sue Waldrop of Moore and Laur Hawkins of Cowpens.

Mrs. Jolly was predeceased by four brothers, James Dedmon, William Dedmon, John Dedmon Jr. and Roosevelt Dedmon; and two sisters, Annie Belle Dedmon Horne and Mary Dedmon Bradley. Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at Bethany Baptist Church by the Rev. Glenn Rusher. Burial will follow in Oak Grove Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home. The body will be placed in the church at 1 p.m. on Friday. The family is at the home of Robert and Pamela Lockhart, 711 Jordan Creek Road, Inman. Memorials may be made to Greenville Shriners Hospital, 950 West Paris Road, Greenville, S.C. 29605-4277. Bobo Funeral Home has charge of arrangements.

I have been unable to locate this family in our tree. I do have a John Calvin Dedmon with no additional information. He was born in 1893, the son of John James and Joanna Elinore Workman Dedmon. Does anyone have information on Nancy that might show if she is the daughter of John Calvin. Thanking you in advance for your input. ...Leroy

William F. Dedmon, *Shelby, N.C.*

William F. Dedmon, age 76, a native of Shelby, passed away July 5, 2000, at his home, 254 Buffalo Church Road.

He was founder and President of Asphalt Paving of Shelby, Inc. A Navy veteran of World War II, he served on the LSM 450. He received the American Victory World War II medal and the Asiatic Pacific & I Star medal. He served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, and the Cleveland County Fair Association Board of Directors. He was a member and Director of the National Asphalt Pavement Association and Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association where he served as secretary and treasurer. He was a member of Waco Baptist Church, and formerly belonged to Ross Grove Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, F.S. Dedmon and Jennie Alexander Dedmon; and a brother, Gene Dedmon.

Surviving are his wife, Betty Spangler Dedmon; a son, Donald Dedmon Sr. and wife, Delores, of Shelby; and two daughters, Krista Kustra and husband, Bob, of Greenville, and Jan Elder and husband, Mike, of Wake Forest, N.C. He is also survived by one brother, Carl Dedmon and wife, Doris, of Shelby; sisters, Clara Shive and husband, Lowell, of Greenville, and Rachel Dedmon of Chapel Hill, N.C.; and a sister-in-law, Joan Dedmon of Shelby. The grandchildren are Donna Cardascio and husband, Mike, Donald Dedmon Jr. and wife, Tisha, Jenny Kustra, Alison Kustra, Anna Kustra, Gretchen Elder, Trent Elder. The great-grandchildren are Tripp, Matthew, and Clay Dedmon, Gracie Johnson; and great-step grandchildren, Cody and Chase Cardascio.

The family will receive friends at Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home, Shelby, N.C., from 7 to 9 p.m. today, July 7. Funeral services will be held at Ross Grove Baptist Church Saturday, July 8, at 11 a.m. The service will be officiated by the Rev. Hunter Hay. Burial will be held in Ross Grove Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, Shelby Relay for Life, 500 E. Morehead St., Suite 211, Charlotte, NC 28202, Attn.: Paisley Payton.

From the Mail Bag



From: Diana Soward
[mailto:dirhe@email.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 29,
2004 12:21 PM
To: Leroy Dedmon
Subject: Re: dedmon

Dear Leroy:

Thank you so much for your quick reply to my inquiry about Earl Gene Dedmon. Your message ended with the descendants of Aubrey. Do you have info on the descendants of Earl? I am pretty sure he had a son Steve. Any help with info regarding Earl's descendants would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.... Diana Soward

At first this email kinda confused me as this was the email I sent to Diana: (All I have on Earl is Earl... Not much on his father... However, I do believe a couple of researchers have more... they should contact you... Let me know if you find or have more, Leroy) Then I received this from Floyd, which must be what Diana received:

Joseph Earl¹³ Dedmon (John Harrison¹², Abram Oliver¹¹, Mark¹⁰, William⁹, Mark⁸, Thomas⁷ Deadman III, Thomas⁶, Thomas⁵, John⁴, John³, Johnsfather², Unknown¹)¹ was born June 04, 1903 in Oklahoma City, OK, and died March 1980 in Oklahoma City, OK. He married **(1) Eula Mae Pitchford** October 04, 1924 in Leflore County, OK. She was born Abt. 1900. He married **(2) Jewell Ella Fetner** 1937. She was born November 21, 1918, and died 1954. He married **(3) Unknown Wife** Abt. 1950. Children of Joseph Dedmon and Eula Pitchford:

- 2 i. Aubrey Joe¹⁴ Dedmon, born Abt. 1925.
- 3 ii. Earl Gene Dedmon, born Abt. 1926.
- 4 iii. Stanley Dedmon, born Abt. 1927.
- 5 iv. Minnie Dedmon, born Abt. 1928.

Child of Joseph Dedmon and Jewell Fetner is:

- 6 i. Earl Lee¹⁴ Dedmon, born February 09, 1938.

Earl Gene¹⁴ Dedmon (Joseph Earl¹³, John Harrison¹², Abram Oliver¹¹, Mark¹⁰, William⁹, Mark⁸, Thomas⁷ Deadman III, Thomas⁶, Thomas⁵, John⁴, John³, Johnsfather², Unknown¹) was born Abt. 1926. He married **Unknown Wife** Abt. 1946.

Child of Earl Dedmon and Unknown Wife is:

- i. Steve¹⁵ Dedmon, born Abt. 1947.

Earl Lee¹⁴ Dedmon (Joseph Earl¹³, John Harrison¹², Abram Oliver¹¹, Mark¹⁰, William⁹, Mark⁸, Thomas⁷ Deadman III, Thomas⁶, Thomas⁵, John⁴, John³, Johnsfather², Unknown¹) was born February 09, 1938. He married **Unknown Wife** Abt. 1960. She was born 1938. Child of Earl Dedmon and Unknown Wife:

- i. Sherry¹⁵ Dedmon, born September 13, 1962. She married Richard Coffel.

From: Sandy and Steve Dedmon
[mailto:dedmon1@acsworld.net]

To: Leroy Dedmon

Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2002 8:18 PM

Subject: Dedmon Family

Dwight Leland Dedmon died in Little Rock, AR. He was buried outside of Heavener, OK. Dwight married Betty Lou Nelson May 1, 1948. They divorced and he married Sue Lagoe on February 14, 1971 or possibly 1972. I will make sure that you get the correct dates when I can get that information from mom. Dwight and Betty had three sons:
Dwight Nelson Dedmon b. December 11, 1949 – Ottumwa, Iowa

Steven Lee Dedmon b. December 16, 1950 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Charles Duane Dedmon b. May 9, 1952 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dwight married Evelyn (?) on February 14, 1976 They have one daughter: Angela Dedmon - she married Bryan Watts on (?, 1998)

They have two sons:

Tyler Nelson Watts b. March 2, 1998 – Beverly, New Jersey

Chandler Watts b. (?) Beverly, New Jersey

Steve married Marcia Kathleen Migut b. July 12, 1951 – Johnstown, PA, on June 16, 1973.

They had five children:

Steven Joseph b. November 19, 1974 – Pittsburgh, PA he married Melinda Kline on July 3, 1999.

David Paul b. April 24, 1979 – Lewistown, PA

Matthew Christian b. February 1, 1981 – Lewistown, PA

Krystal Lynn b. February 26, 1984 -Lewistown, PA

Leanne Marie b. September 5, 1985 – Lewistown, PA

Steve and Marcia were divorced in 1997. He married Sandra Marie Elizabeth Reed Egolf, b May 9, 1958 – Metz, France, on September 26, 1997.

No issue from this marriage.

Charles Dedmon married Leah Hegenbart b. (?) Lawrence, Kansas, on (?). They were divorced in (?).

That's as much information as I have for now. When I can fill-in the blanks I will pass along it along. Thank you very much for the branch that you sent. Steve and Sandy

From: "Sandy Dedmon"

Subject: e-mail address change

Steve & Sandy have a new e-mail address.

Please change from dedmon1@acsworld.net to dedmon1@acsworld.com. Thanks

Steve and Sandy

From: Tommy Westbrook
[mailto:tommy@thwgraphics.com]
Subject: Mamie Dedmon
Greetings!

I found your website courtesy of the moderator of the Westbrook Genealogy Forum on Yahoo. I have been trying to track down the names of Cecil Westbrook's wife and children. I must admit I am a little confused by some of your information. I could not find Mamie Dedmon's husband mentioned anywhere in your information. Cecil E. (b. 1917) and Darrel Edwin Sr. (b 1909) were the sons of Mamie Dedmon and John M. Westbrook (no "s"), my great uncle (1876-1944). I can share some info with you on my homepage:
familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/w/e/s/Thomas-H-Westbrook/

I look forward to hearing from you!

Before I could answer Tommy, I received this from him....

I sent my earlier e-mail to you hastily. Indeed I found what I said I could not about John Westbrook. I hope you do not mind if I share some of your information. I have some old photos on my site also that came from my Grandmother Westbrook. On John Westbrook's page is a photo from a 1925 Westbrook Reunion in Walker County (Wallaceville, where John's sister Annie Barton lived) of John, Darrel, Cecil and Mamie.

I found this information from Tommy while attempting to clean up some of my old files on my back-up drive. I guess I had moved them over there and somehow lost the original. I need to follow up with him for more information. He has provided me with some new "enlightenment" as to Hannah Dedmon. Hannah was my father's great aunt and my mother's great-great grandmother. She had four boys who wore the Dedmon surname. Riley, Joseph, Thomas and Calvin. I had some information where one of her granddaughters applied for Indian status and listed her father as Jesse Dedmon. According to Tommy he was the son of Thomas Griffin Deadman and Nancy Tatum. She later married David McAuther Dickson and Calvin added Dickson to his surname and went by Calvin Dedmon Dickson. Hannah and David are both buried in the Dedmon cemetery on Taylor's Ridge here in Catoosa county.



**1925 Westbrook Reunion in Walker County
John, Darrel, Cecil and Mamie.**



Flora, John, Mamie (Dedmon) & EC Westbrook

NOTICE--NOTICE--NOTICE

It was my intention to publish this newsletter on a bi-monthly basis, but lately I have been receiving so much information that I have decided to make it a monthly publication. Thus, I have renamed Volume 22 from March-April, just to March and Volume 23 May-June to April. I hope it doesn't mess up your already printed versions.