

The Dedmon Connection

JUNE 2004 - Number 25

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



Leroy Dedmon

TIME FLIES WHEN YOU ARE HAVING FUN

Well, here we are half-way through the year 2004 and I am wondering how I had time to “work” as my retirement is busy. Jane and I just returned from Bismarck, Illinois, where I preached a Gospel Meeting. It was a good trip as we were able to see some friends from the past.

We stopped at Martinsville, Indiana and spent the night with Jim and Carolyn Coleman. I had preached several meetings there in the ‘60s and 70’s and at one time considered moving there. They had invited over several from the congregation, so we had a good reunion.

On Saturday we drove on to Bismarck where we stayed with Jim and Ellen Russell. Jim has been the preacher at Bismarck on two different times, for a total of about fifteen years. He is now a full time counselor and preaches on occasion. I have known Jim since the early ‘70s when I held a meeting at Carrollton, GA. He and I were both influenced to preach by Lawrence Garmon, now deceased. Jim also has two brothers who preach, Roger and Lamar. Interestingly enough, I was the preacher at Bremen, GA, where Roger’s in-laws attend and also at Woodstock, GA, where Lamar’s in-laws attend.

The Bismarck congregation built a new building a few years back. As you can tell it is a nice brick structure and is wisely designed as to be easily enlarged. Jane and I were attracted to their old building which is now owned by one of the members. He plans to use it for an antique shop and tea room.



We were given a “private” tour of the facility one evening prior to the worship service. The old building is in the middle of the small town of Bismarck and there was no room for expansion or parking. They have plenty of both at the new location.

On the way home we stopped at our son’s (Gary) home in Springfield, TN and spent the night. Actually we did that on the way up as well. We were able to eat with our grandsons, Greg and Jonathan and of course Gary and Diane. It is hard to believe that Greg has graduated from High School and Jonathan will be a senior next year. Our “little” boys are not little any more....



THE SIGN IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING AT BISMARCK, IL YOU CAN SEE THE FEATURED SPEAKER IS NONE OTHER THAN “YOURS TRULY”. I REALLY LIKED THE BELL.....





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!!!

Well folks! What can I say! It finally arrived! the big 65 is her.. Yep it happened just one mile from where I am now living on June 27, 1939. Although I don't remember it, Mom says that Doc Stevenson slept in his car all night outside our home awaiting my arrival. I am not sure if the twenty-five dollars he charged included overtime charges or not. What a bargain! No comments please.



I am the oldest of five children born to Ruby Dickson and Gordon Dedmon. My sisters, Carolyn and Ruth are next in line and then my brother Tommy was born November 4, 1943. This picture is the earliest I could find of myself. Maybe one year old...

Here is a picture of my mom and dad with me and Carolyn. I am guessing that I am around 2 years old as Carolyn was born January 11, 1941 and she appears to be around six months old here. I didn't remember having a pair of overalls until just recently, but I guess I did. Mom thinks the house in the background was where



her mother (Pearl Templeton Dickson Vess) and step-father, Olan Vess were living on Dr. Banks chicken farm in Ryle Springs, TN. I don't remember that egg farm, but I do recall another later that they lived on. Some of my fondest memories is going with grandpa to gather eggs and then sitting around the stove at night to clean them.



Here I am with my dad somewhere around two years of age. We don't have very many pictures of dad.

...and then there were three... Alma Ruth was born July 24, 1942, thus in three years there were three kids with approximately eighteen months between each of them.... Now I am the "big brother" to my younger sisters. I have fond memories of the "big" yard and cedar tree in Graysville, GA, where we were living by the time I was five years old. It didn't take a "bought" swing set in those days to provide an excellent playground. Just hang a rope on the nearest limb, give us a couple of sticks, a few rocks and old car tires and we had it made. Pictured here are the three of us, "all dressed up" and ready for church. The story goes, that I was holding Ruth's dress to keep her from walking to the camera and it showed more of her diaper than mom intended.



...now I am four and there are four of us... Tommy was born November 4, 1943. Four children in four years and four months. Now at least there were as many boys as were girls, so I no longer felt "out numbered"...



Of course, I don't remember any thing that we voted on in those days. I guess it is just knowing there are more of them... Here we are somewhere around the ages of seven and three. I suspect by then we had moved to East Garden Farm Rd. in Rossville, GA, where I lived from 1946 until I married in 1959.

Joseph William, (we called him Billy) was born March 1, 1947 about four months before my eighth birthday. He is the only one that I remember when he was born. Here is the "baby" of the family around four years of age. Even as a young boy he was "out standing in his field". He, Tom and I played countless hours of baseball. Bill currently preaches for the Church of Christ in Bowden, GA, where he also serves the church as an elder.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

LEROY



THE "MATRIARCH" (MY MOM, RUBY DICKSON DEDMON) LOOKS ON WITH APPROVAL..... IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE SHE IS 92



STARS AND STRIPS (WELL BLUEBERRIES AND STRAWBERRIES) SINCE THE "CELEBRATION" WAS ACTUALLY ON JULY 5TH, CARRIE JANE (OUR GRANDDAUGHTER) DECIDED TO GO PATRIOTIC IN THE CAKE DECORATION. WHEN I ASKED, "WHY NO CANDLES", I WAS TOLD THE CATOOSA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT ISSUE A BURN PERMIT!!! EVERY FAMILY HAS A COMEDIAN, BET WE GOT SEVERAL...



MOM AND NATALIE SMITH. DAUGHTER OF STEVE AND TONYA SMITH. MY SISTER RUTH'S NEWEST GRANDCHILD....



THE "MASTER CHEF", MY BROTHER, BILL, IS GETTING THE FOOD READY. HE GRILLS A MEAN HOT DOG AND HAMBURGER. I TOLD HIS SINCE HE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF THE SIBLINGS, HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE THE JOB FOR A LONG TIME....



...AND HERE WE ARE... MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS WITH OUR MOM... (L-R) (BACK ROW) RUTH, CAROLYN AND "YOURS TRULY"... (FRONT) TOMMY, MOM AND BILL



CONNIE (BILL'S WIFE) AND THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER, HANA. SHE IS THE OLDEST DAUGHTER OF BRIAN AND CINDY DEDMON. BRIAN IS BILL AND CONNIE'S MIDDLE CHILD. KYM IS THE OLDEST AND CRAIG IS THE YOUNGEST. CRAIG JUST MARRIED IN APRIL....



MONDAY, JULY 5 WAS THE DAY SELECTED FOR THE "CELEBRATION". TWENTY FIVE OF THE FORTY SIX DESCENDENTS OF MOM (INCLUDING MATES) WERE PRESENT FOR THE FUN IN THE SUN AT THE OLD HOME PLACE (WHERE WE NOW LIVE) WE HAD A SMALLER GATHERING ON SATURDAY, JULY 3RD OF OUR CHILDREN, GARY AND GWEN AND HER DAUGHTER (CARRIE) AND GRANDCHILDREN (MASIE AND CURT). THE ABOVE PICTURES TELL THE STORY... (L-R)(1ST PICTURE) MOM'S CHILDREN AND THEIR MATES (FRONT) JANE (MY WIFE), MOM, CONNIE AND BILL. (SECOND) TOMMY, RUTH AND DON SMITH (BACK) CAROLYN AND CLAUD PRICE. (2ND PICTURE) ALL MOM'S GRANDCHILDREN AND MATES: (FRONT) AMANDA AND JESICA COCHRAN, NATALIE SMITH, RUBY DEDMON (MOM), GWEN GOWER, HANA DEDMON, (SECOND ROW) MORGAN DEDMON, CINDY DEDMON, SETH SMITH, TONYA SMITH (BACK) KYM COCHRAN, STEVE SMITH, BRIAN DEDMON, SETH SMITH, GARY DEDMON. (3RD PICTURE) MORGAN IS ENJOYING THE SWING (FOURTH PICTURE) JESICA, HANA AND MORGAN ON THE 4-WHEELER (5TH PICTURE) SETH SMITH IS READY TO BAT (6TH PICTURE) JUSTIN SMITH IS THROWING THE BALL AND GARY DEDMON IS LOOKING ON AND GIVING LESSONS ON PITCHING AND HITTING....



GREG DEDMON GRADUATES WITH HONORS

Our grandson Greg graduated from Springfield High School on May 20, 2004. It brought back memories as we attended the ceremony at the Springfield Civic Center. The Center is located across from the church building where I preached for almost fourteen years. Our son, Gary, graduated from there almost twenty-five years ago. Greg plans to attend Austin Peay University in Clarksville, TN. Pictured above is Greg with his mother, Diane, and his father, Gary. Diane is the daughter of Don and Faye Toothman. Don passed away in 1997. He served as an elder for the Main Street church of Christ while I was the preacher.



THE GRADUATES OF SPRINGFIELD HIGH
 Almost 200 seniors are anxiously awaiting their diplomas as they say good-bye to High School.



THAT'S MY GRANDSON!!!!
 The proud grandparents, Jane and Leroy, rejoice with "The Graduate" as he begins a new chapter in his "Book of Life"

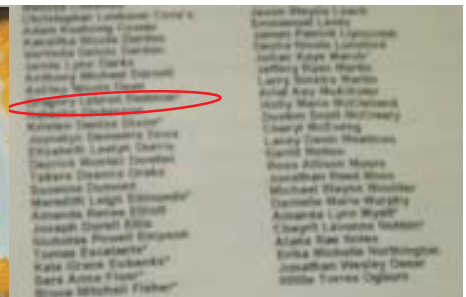


MY FAVORITE COLOR!!!
 Greg is displaying a few of his prized collections. I never realized he liked to collect pictures of Ben Franklin.



I GUESS THE CAKE SAYS IT ALL!!!!

Sarah is a first cousin to Greg. She is the daughter of Kathaleen and Ralph Toothman. Ralph is a brother to my daughter-in-law, Diane...



Denotes graduating with honors
 If you look real close, you can see the astrick* that denotes "graduating with honors"..

From: Eddie Hightower [Eedyedgar@aol.com]

Subject: [Dedmon]

Hi Cousins and friends,

On May 30th, 2004, my father's side of my family -- the Hightowers -- had our annual family reunion at Still Waters Farm in Bamberg County, South Carolina. The little village is named Govan, S.C. Govan is small but powerful. It gave the world the founder of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Bishop McTyrie of the Methodist Church. He is buried on the Vanderbilt campus and honored as its founder.

I am attaching a photo which was taken by my double-first cousin once removed, Jean Hightower Maslankowski of Colorado. This was her first visit to our annual reunion. She and her daughter and three of her grandkids were lodged in the log cabin which is located on the Still Waters Farm site. The log cabin is special to many of us. It was the Boy Scout Hut of Troop 77 in Denmark, S.C. That was the troop of which I was a member for years. In fact, when the cypress logs were pulled out of the Edisto River swamps many years ago, I was among the scouts who skinned the cypress logs to be used in building the log meeting house.

Over the many years of usage, the Scout Hut fell into disuse because of the deterioration of the neighborhood in which it was located. Criminals were using it for purposes which were the direct opposite of its original use. And the Scouts were forced to take refuge into the rural area of Denmark for safety. The Scout Hut was finally disassembled and reassembled about 10 miles south in the quiet village of Govan. It is now used as a rental unit at the bed and breakfast Still Waters Farm. Jean's first cousin, Millie Lundy Smoak of Denmark, SC, enjoyed a few visits with Jean and other family members at the Farm. I enjoyed reviewing the history of Denmark, the First Baptist Church, and Ghents Branch Baptist Church, and other Bamberg County places of interest in the comfortable rocking chairs on the front porch of the old log-cabin converted Boy Scout Hut.

I am looking forward to the next Hightower Reunion on the last Sunday in May, 2005, and to visiting any family members who check in a day or two early in any of the 7 (seven) rental units available next year. Your Cousin (or friend),
Eddie Hightower

From the Mail Bag

Editor's note: Eddie Hightower is one of the latest discovered cousins. He descends from Rachel Deadman and Clemith Cavender. If you recall there was an article and photo submitted by him in the last issue of the DEDMON CONNECTION. Here is a copy of an email he sent to the Dedmon Group in response to an inquiry...



From: Eddie Hightower [Eedyedgar@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2004 9:49 AM

To: Dedmon@yahooogroups.com

Subject: Re: [Dedmon] Earl Gene Dedmon

Hi, I will have to do some digging on that one. If I find anything I will send it to you. I am descended from the North Georgia small village of Villanow, GA, Cavenders, Clements, Dedmans, Garvins, Collins, Magills, Warrenfells, Becks, Shahans.

My Great-Grandfather was Joseph Warren Cavender of Villanow, GA. My Great-Great-Grandfather was George Washington Cavender of Villanow, Ga. Joseph Warren married a Clements. George Washington's mother was Rachael Dedman. So Rachael was my Great-Great-Great-Grandmother. --Eddie Hightower, Grandson of Judson Cicero Cavender of Villanow and LaFayette, GA



EDDIE AND JEAN HIGHTOWER MASLANKOWSKI (EDDIE'S DOUBLE FIRST COUSIN) ON THE PORCH OF THE LOG CABIN WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE STILL WATERS FARM SITE.

***Since Eddie Hightower has been providing me with some wonderful information on the descendents of Rachel Deadman and Clemeth Cavender, I thought I would include other information in this issue on that branch...
Leroy***

From: Bill Locke [mailto:thelocke5@catt.com]
To: minister@mindspring.com
Subject: Dedmon

Dear Mr. Dedmon,

I am a descendant of Rachel Rebecca Deadman b. 1778, who married Clemeth Cavender Sr. My question is Where is the Dedmon Cemetery? I live in Ringgold on Three Notch Rd. I am very interested in my family and you have given me so much information. Thank you for your intense research. I would also like to know where the store was and where the old home place is located.

I am originally from Hickory, N.C. and moved to Chattanooga in 1983 and then to Ringgold in 1994 because of the school system. (We have 5 children). Little did I know I was moving into my descendants home town. What a small world. Hope to hear from you soon!

Cuz, Sue Locke (TheLocke5@catt.com)

This is Sue again with my line of relations:
Sue Frederick Locke, Marilyn Graham Frederick, Frederick Garland Graham, Fannie Wimpy Graham, Nancy Head Wimpy, Kitty Cavender Head, Rachel Rebecca Deadman, Edmond Deadman, Thomas G. Deadman Jr., Thomas Deadman, John Deadman Jr., John Deadman Sr., born 1595 in England. This may be confusing. If you are interested I'll post more.
Sue Locke TheLocke5@catt.com

Yes it really is a "small world" when it comes to family. There are so many interesting things and coincidences that it is often "frightening". Not only did Sue move into the County where many Dedmons came over 150 years ago, but as a child I lived on Three Notch Road. Also, at the present time one of my mother's cousins, Wib Wimpy, lives there now. I noticed a Wimpy in Sue's family information... More kin????? Who knows???

Leroy,

Hi, thought I'd drop you a few lines. My husband and I went to find the Dedmon Cemetery last week. We found Dickson Rd. and at the end of the road we saw the log cabin. My heart sank as we sat there a few minutes, then we felt we better leave before someone came out. We then went to Kittle Rd. and for some odd reason our car broke down. We were stranded, and the first car that came by was Mrs. Treece. She told us that the cemetery was at the end of the road and any time we wanted to come to let her know. We had our car towed and we haven't been back, yet. I guess the Lord didn't want us there at that time. Like I said, the whole thing was very odd. We have never had to be towed before, except for one time, we ran out of gas. They say it was the timing belt this time.

Anyway, we are going to go back, because I'm very interested and would like to take pictures of it. Thank you for writing. Sue

I sure hated that Sue had all that trouble and of course there is a standing invitation to return. We are living in that log cabin at the end of the road. I plan to make the journey soon to the "Dedmon Cemetery". It is not an easy one to make. I will make a full report whenever I do. However, to my knowledge there are no descendents of Rachel Deadman there. There is another cemetery in the area that does contain some of them.

From: Eddie Hightower [Eedyedgar@aol.com]
Subject: MARTHA CLEMENTS' MONUMENT

Hi again Cuz,

I hope the photo of the Cavender Store in the previous e-mail opened for you. I am still learning how to do all of this. In this e-mail, I am sending what is the main and central headstone in the Cavender Cemetery in Villanow. If you can view this photo, you will see an old codger, which is yours truly. This photo was taken on Thanksgiving Eve 2002. My wife and I had been over to Nashville to see Neil Diamond in concert and were hurrying back to S.C. to be with the family on Thanksgiving. This was my first successful attempt to find the Cavender Cemetery. It was my third attempt. Although I had been to the home place before, I had not walked the few yards into the pine forest which hides the headstones. Eddie

(Photo is on the next page)



Eddie Hightower in the Cavendar Cemetery at Villanow, GA

Hi Cousin LeRoy,

You have really produced a great newsletter. It is very interesting. It is professional. It was worth printing. It was very much appreciated. I am very pleased with your publishing of my e-mail correspondence with you and also the publishing of the Cavender Family Reunion in 1933 in Villanow at the old Cavender Home place which is also the location of the Cavender Cemetery. There are six marked graves there. The largest headstone is that of Martha Almina "Mattie" Clements Cavender. She was the first wife of Joseph Warren Cavender. She died as a result of the birth of their last born child Joseph W. W. Cavender. The baby was born 2 Nov. 1882 in Villanow, and his mother followed him shortly in death.

My Great-Grandfather Joseph Warren Cavender erected what amounts to a monument to his dear wife which has engravings on all four sides. On one side it has the names of all seven of their children including the first and last who did not survive childhood. Of course, the only son to reach adulthood was my Grandfather Judson Cicero Cavender, who I addressed as "Pa." On another side, it gives the names of her Mother and Father. Her father was Dr. Adam C. Clements and her mother was Mary Wilson Hill Park Clements. Of course, two of the headstone in the Cavender Cemetery are small ones with angels engraved on them and belong to my Great-Aunt and Great-Uncle who died as babies. Two of the headstones belong to Dr. and Mrs. Adam Clements. And the other headstone designates the final resting place of Great-Grandfather Joseph Warren Cavender, who fought on the CSA side of the War of Northern Aggression.

It would not surprise me to learn that you have visited this cemetery since you have lived in that part of the state. I received sad news that the old Cavender home place requires razing soon, if not already. It seems that the portion of the house which was a log cabin which was built by the local Indian who still lived in the area has one wall which is now in such a condition of rot, that demolition is necessary. The house and property is now owned by Llewellyn (Lew) Chapman, Jr. and his sister. They are the Grandchildren of Joseph Warren Cavender's daughter Myrtis. Lew told me that "Bug" Shaw, who is quite an historian, is in charge of the disassembling and will determine how to best use the logs for historic purposes. I would really like to be present to say "good-bye" to the home place which has never had indoor plumbing and only a hand-pump on the back porch. To think so many relatives were born and raised there.

In proof-reading the portion of the newsletter which refers to the Joseph Warren Cavender branch of the family, I was very pleased and did not see anything that needs editing. Thank you so much for treating our branch with such warmth. Eddie Hightower

Thank you Eddie for the contribution you have added to this research project. I did not know about the cemetery until now, but rest assured it is on my "must do" list to make a visit. It is not far from where I live.

From the Mail Bag



To: minister@mindspring.com

Subject: Abercrombies

If you are interested in updating and correcting your Abercrombies, contact me. I don't know where they fit in importance in your data. I am descended from (girl) m. James Wilson Allbritton. She was Julia Pearl, my grandmother. Barbara Allbritton-Grant.

[<douggrant@comporium.net>](mailto:douggrant@comporium.net)

I received this email quite a while back and lost it when my computer crashed, then ran across it when I was looking through some backup files. It is good to fill in the blanks.... I replied to Barbara:

I don't know if I answered you or not, my computer crashed and I am just now recovering some of my files.... I am interested in the Abercrombies.... Leroy

I then received this email from her in reply:

I'm not thinking that we've made contact recently. I will get back into family history on a more regular basis come this May. Keep in touch if you feel that my Joseph Abercrombie and yours might connect. I have his picture with all twelve children and many of their in-laws and grandchildren.

--- Barbara Allbritton-Grant

The Abercrombie connection goes back to Rachel Deadman and Clemeth Cavender. Their daughter Fannie married John Hamilton Abercrombie, Joseph was Fannie's son and he married Julia Pearl Abercrombie.

From: LLOYD WINSTON
[mailto:LCWINSTON@msn.com]
To: minister@mindspring.com
Subject: Deadman

Hello.

Sitting in my lap at this time is a photo of Elijah Corbin Deadman. I'm the great great grand daughter, Christine Deadman. I would love to talk. Or, write. Thank you!
Chris & Lindsey Winston
15858 El Socorro Loop
Corpus Christi, Texas 78418

My reply:

From: Leroy Dedmon
To: LLOYD WINSTON
Subject: RE: Deadman

Thanks for writing... I would love to include the photo in my next newsletter at Dedmon.org. Please reply and if possible send a copy of the photo... Would you send your family info that connects you back to Elijah... Leroy...

Her answer:

From: LLOYD WINSTON
Subject: Re: Deadman

Sure, I'll take a photo of the photo and include it. I am charging my camera up right now. It's a crazy photo for sure!

Okay, my father (deceased) was Gene Francis Deadman. His father was Joseph Homer Deadman. Elijah Corbin Deadman was Joseph's father. And, as I said, I'm Christine Marie Deadman.

I just love this! It's so interesting. I'll send photo sometime today.
Chris

This must have been about the time my computer crashed as I have no record of ever receiving the photo. I hope to re-establish contact with Chris and have the photo sent to me. I have a "gut" feeling that if she allows this to be printed that there will be several requests for it.... ...Leroy

From: pepjo [pepjo@prodigy.net]
To: gldedmon@alltel.net
Subject: Rebecca Dedman/Deadman

Hi,
Your web pages for the Deadman family are so well done and informative. Thank you for your efforts to share information. Rebecca Deadman is my 5GGrandmother. I found her in your data but was unable to figure out which if any of the 4 lines you listed she was connected to. I'm sure I overlooked something. Could you let me know? Your help would be greatly appreciated.

SincerelyJackie Pepper

Well flattery will get you everywhere... Here is my reply:

From: gldedmon@alltel.net
To: pepjo

Subject:Rebecca Dedman/Deadman
It was good to hear from you... Since there are a number of Rebecca Deadmans in the data base I was unsure of which was yours... Please send me your immediate family info and back to Rebecca.. Look forward to hearing from you... Leroy

Her reply:

Hi,
Sorry, the Rebecca Deadman I am related to was born approximately 1778 in Rowan Co., NC. Her parents were Edmond Deadman and Elizabeth Corbin.

She sent me all the names that connected her to Rebecca and Clemeth Cavender. Space will not permit the printing of all the names here. I am sure if you want them, she will be glad to send them.... I have a book that Danny McBee sent me several years ago that has a lot of information about the descendents of Rachel Rebecca Deadman.