

# The Dedmon Connection

NOVEMBER 2004 - Number 30

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



Leroy Dedmon

## BACK TO WORK

Since I needed more to do, I accepted a job with “Preaching the Gospel TV” with James Watkins. This is a thirty minute weekly television program that is now nation wide. We are on several local network affiliates, World Harvest via DirectTV Satellite, Family Net and Inspiration Network via several cable systems. Visit the web site at: (<http://preachingthegospeltv.com>) to know more about it and also for the schedule.

James Watkins has had a great influence in my life. He baptized me in 1957 and performed our wedding ceremony in 1959. It was his influence, along with Lawrence Garmons’ and Bobby Jones’, that encouraged me to become a preacher.

About 8 years ago, he was preaching at Woodstock (where I preached the last eleven years) and Barry Gilreath, Sr. was leading the singing in a Gospel Meeting. One night after services, Barry asked me, “Of all the preachers you know, who would be a great candidate for a national television program?” Of course, I replied, “You mean besides myself?”... Barry graciously said, “Well I was thinking of someone else.” It was then that I gave him the answer he was searching for...”James Watkins”... From there Barry “took the bull by the horns” and the rest is history.



JAMES WATKINS

I have been associated in a small way to the program from the beginning, serving as the “Key Contact” in the Atlanta area and have promoted it whenever I could. I have also been one of



the ones who answered questions sent in by the viewers. Now I am involved even more as Program Coordinator, with an office at the Highland Church of Christ in Dalton, GA. The Highland congregation is the “overseeing congregation” of the program. Plans are already underway to establish a Television Station via satellite. Programs like “Preaching The

Gospel”, “Search for the Lord’s Way” (<http://www.searchtv.org>) and “Truth for the World” (<http://www.tftw.org>) will be televised twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week.

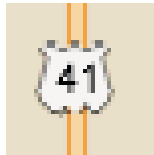
Gospel Broadcast Network (GBN) is scheduled to begin telecasting on January 1, 2006. We already have offices in Chattanooga, TN and Jim Dearman has already begun his work as Program Director. A web site has been established (<http://www.gbntv.org>) to provide weekly updates on the project. While this is not new in the religious world, it is a first for the Churches of Christ. I am delighted to be part of it.





## Highway 41

I was born in Ringgold, Georgia and Ringgold is located on US Hwy 41. Except for the five years I lived in Alabama, I have never lived more than forty miles from Hwy. 41. In fact, while in Springfield, TN for almost 14 years our back yard bordered Hwy. 41. It used to be a family joke as we would somewhere get on Hwy 41 and Jane would say to the kids, “now if we stayed on this road, we would go to our house in Springfield”..... Even now, when we see the road sign, one of them might repeat the statement. Of course, we have kinda exaggerated it through the years.



THE FAMILIAR  
HWY MARKER

I once made reference to this in a sermon as I was discussing the security I felt while traveling up and down Hwy. 41. It seems we know folks all the way from Atlanta, GA to Evansville, IN. In fact, we almost moved to Evansville once and you guessed it.... it is located on Hwy. 41. There have been a couple of times that our car “broke down” and we called on our mechanic friends, Ike Turner of Morrison and Clarence Phelps of Manchester. In addition to Springfield, Manchester, TN was located on Hwy. 41, Morrison was 13 miles away, Bremen was about forty and Woodstock was only about eight. Now we are living back in Ringgold.

Robert Taylor, a member of the church at Springfield where I preached, once wrote the following:

*God told Leroy to preach His Son.  
Leroy asked, “where do you want this done?”  
God said, “Up and down Highway 41.”*

I have kept this little note for many years and ran across it the other day. I guess that is what reminded me to write this article.

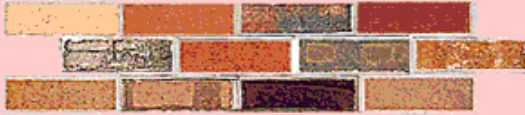
Highway 41 used to be one of the most traveled roads to Florida, Highway 27 being the other. I remember the beautiful chenille bed spreads that used to “decorate” the road side of Hwy. 41 as we traveled in the Dalton area. Here is an excerpt taken from Dalton History at <http://downtowndalton.com/daltonhistory.htm>:

*“About 1900 the city of Dalton became famous for bedspreads. **U. S. Highway 41**, a major automobile route from Chattanooga to Atlanta built in the early 1920’s, became known across the nation as “Chenille Alley” for the bedspreads that homeowners would hang in front of homes from Dalton to Adairsville. The cottage industry made Dalton the “Bedspread Capital of the World.” As demand increased, the cottage industry could no longer meet the growing needs of a nation and by 1925 work had begun on a mechanical process for tufting the spreads. Developed during the depression, the modified Singer sewing machine was producing more than 90% of the material by the end of the decade.”*

I remember when you could go to one of those “bedspread” places and get what looked like a sheet with a pattern of blue dots and dashes. We would then put it in a quilting frame (now there is a memory jogger).... The whole family would then sit around the “sheet” and tuft the bedspread. That consisted of large needles and some heavy thread. You would just follow the pattern. There would be instructions as to which color to use where. Come to think of it, the pattern may have been stamped with the respective colors... After the tufting was finished, then we would take scissors and clip the thread between each dot. When we returned the project we were paid, I believe ten dollars... Of course the money went for groceries and other necessities. The real value was the family togetherness it produced.

Today the story of Whitfield County (Dalton) is the story of the carpet industry. Dalton is the “Carpet Capital of the World” and for good reason. The city leads in yards produced, people employed and gross revenue, and its closest competitor is a long way back. But the history of Whitfield County begins with the story of nomadic American Indians of the Woodlands Era who built a wall at Rocky Face very similar to the wall at Fort Mountain. These were probably the first inhabitants of the county.

## THE BRICK WALL



*I have discovered at least five major Deadman branches that we have not been able to connect. If you have information on any of the Deadman family branches, please submit.*

***(The following was taken from a Taliaferro website at: <http://www.spingola.com/TaliaferroTimes/TT41.htm>)***

I would like to understand the confusion about Sarah Grymes and Katherine Dedman. I am sending you a portion of an article that was published in THE VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, Volume 56 contents for the year ending December 31, 1948 published by the Virginia Historical Society, page 208.

Every now and then a reference in the body of a deed reveals a startling fact that throws unexpected light on a tradition, or claim, that has long been accepted as fact. Such a discovery has been my recent lot and it would seem to definitely settle the question of the identity of the wife of Robert Taliaferro, I, the Immigrant. She has long been placed as Sarah, daughter of the Rev. Charles Grymes (1612/3-1662/3), who was born in Igham, Kent, England, and who died in Virginia, matriculated at Cambridge at the age of 18 in 1631. In Tyler's Quarterly, vol. XXI, pp 83-84, it is shown by me that the wife of the first Robert Taliaferro was not Sarah, but Katherine (Sarah being the wife of the second Robert; and nee Catlett). On November 20, 1672, "Mrs. Katherine Taliaferro" was granted 600 acres of land for the transportation of 8 negroes and 4 English servants "which rights I do hereby assign over to my son Robert Taliaferro." (Rappahannock County records D.B. 5, p. 99.) Since Katherine Taliaferro received this patent it would seem that she was a widow and therefore Robert Taliaferro, I, had died before this date. The Rev. Charles Grymes died 1662/3 and left a will which was offered for probate by his widow, Katherine Grymes, who on August 26, 1678, as his executrix, was sued by Thomas Godlington of London. (See Tyler's Quarterly, vol V, p. 260.) Although the record of the proving of the will of the Rev. Charles Grymes does not appear, his widow Katherine must have finally succeeded in proving its validity, for on August 9, 1822, in Essex County Court, Robert Taliaferro, III (grandson of Robert Taliaferro, I, and Katherine, his wife) sold to Augustine Smith 200 acres of land "part of 600 acres formerly granted to Mr. Charles Grymes September 4, 1654 and by his last will and testament bequeathed to Katherine Dedman, grandmother of the said Robert Taliaferro." (Essex County records D.B. 12, p. 426). On August 9, 1692, John Smith, of Ware Parish, Gloucester County, made a deed to John Taliaferro, of St. Mary's Parish, Gloucester County, made a deed to John Taliaferro, of St. Mary's Parish, Essex County, for 200 acres of land, "the one half moiety of the land taken up by Charles Grymes, dec'd, November 22, 1661, and bequeathed by him to Mary Dedman. (Essex County records, Book I, p. 40.) On June 20, 1726, Samuel Hoyle deeded to Samuel Skinker, both of King George Co., 300 acres of

land, "part of a patent of 600 acres taken up by Charles Grymes on September 4, 1654, who by his last Will & Testament Gave and Bequeathed one Moiety or half of the said patent to his Daughter in Law Ann Dedman which said Ann intermarried with a certain Edward Hoyle, party of these presents." (King George County records, D.B. I, p. 361.) From this we see that Katherine, wife of Robert Taliaferro, Ann, wife of Edward Hoyle, and Mary Dedman were sisters and daughters of Katherine, wife of the Rev. Charles Grymes, by a previous marriage and hence step-daughters ("daughters-in-law" in the 17th and 18th century use of the word) of the Rev. Charles Grymes. Katherine Grymes was evidently the widow of Henry Dedman (or Deadman, the name is spelled both ways) who was granted 350 acres of land in Rappahannock River June 27, 1650. (Cavaliers and Pioneers, p. 191.) On November 18, 1653, Henry Dedman was granted 400 acres in Lancaster County bounded with the land of Mr. James Bagnall and with another tract now in the possession of the said Deadman; 150 acres by right of a patent granted him for 350 acres June 27, 1650, which is relinquished to make this good, and 250 acres for the transportation of 5 persons. (Ibid., p. 245.) On March 17, 1663, Capt. George Bryer and Richard Lawrence were granted 300 acres in Rappahannock County, "extending along the creek side to the head of Parson Grymes" (sic). (Ibid., p. 467.) On March 16, 1663/4 Bryer and Lawrence were granted 3,000 acres in the same county "extending along the creek side to the land of Charles Grimes, dec'd." (Ibid., p. 527.) This latter grant is probably a regrant of the patent of the preceding year, and, if the Rev. Charles Grymes was not dead at the time of the first patent, he was certainly deceased when the second grant was made. On June 4, 1652, Henry Dedman made bond for 8,337 lbs. of tobacco to Richard Bennett. On February 19, 1652/3, he gave a heifer to his son; October 24, 1653, he had 3 tithables; February 6, 1654/5, he was taxed with 2 tithables; and June 6, 1655, he was deceased and Richard Perrott was his administrator. (See Fleet's Lancaster County Court Orders 1652-1655.) In the absence of more direct reference it is certainly permissible to place Katherine, wife of the Rev. Charles Grymes, as the widow of this Henry Dedman and as the mother of Katherine Deadman (who married Robert Taliaferro, I), Ann Deadman (who married Edward Hoyle) and Mary Deadman. This was written by John Bailey Calvert Nicklin, P.O. Box 148, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

From this article it is clear to me that Katherine Dedman was the widow of Henry Dedman and married Rev. Charles Grymes. Katherine and Henry had a daughter, Katherine, who married Robert Taliaferro, I, the Immigrant. I know other records show Robert being married to Sarah Grymes. I can understand how the Grymes name came into the picture but what about the Sarah? Please clear this up for me.

***(The mystery that surrounds this has also "bugged" me. I have seen some of this from day one and have never been able to locate Katherine into the right spot... -Leroy)***

**From:** Eddie Hightower  
**mailto:** [Eedyedgar@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2004 11:37 AM  
**To:** gldedmon@alltel.net  
**Subject:** HOFFMANS & HIGHTOWERS.JPG

## From the Mail Bag



Hi Brother Buddy and Cousins,

Shown are family members of Jeanette Waltz Creech, who passed away on May 30, 2004. Ironically, she had her homecoming with her Lord on the very day that many of the Hightower family were enjoying the annual Hightower Family Reunion at Still Waters Farm near Govan, S.C. this year.

Our dear cousin Jeanette was very faithful to attend the Hightower Family Reunions when they were held annually at the Barnwell State Park in her hometown of Blackville, SC. And, of course, her mother Bessie Hightower Waltz was always with her in those days when both of them were enjoying good health. The Hightower Reunions are not the same as when many of our loved ones who have gone on to be with their Lord have left us. But we cherish the memories of them.



My Aunt Bessie Hightower Waltz was the sister of my Father, Edgar Voncile Hightower, Sr. Another of their sisters - Aunt Vinelle Hightower Hoffman - was the mother of the cousins pictured at Jeanette's funeral services. Nell, Barbara, and Lois Hoffman who were originally from Bamberg, SC.

**Photo (L to R): Jim Roberts, Betty Hoffman, Nell Hoffman Roberts, Barbara Hoffman Stokes, Mazie Hightower, Eddie Hightower, and Lois Hoffman Best.**

We are all grandchildren of Owen Riley and Gertrude Sandifer Hightower. And great-grandchildren of Robert James "R.J." Hightower, whose descendents gather now at Still Waters Farms the last Sunday in May every year for family fellowship.

Our Great-Great-Grandfather Thomas Hightower was a veteran of the War Between the States. He served his Confederate States of America honorably in its armed services. We are now in the process of planning to have his 100+ year old portrait preserved for posterity. If you are interested in helping in this effort financially it would be greatly appreciated, as this is an expensive project.

-- Love, Eddie

*(Thanks Eddie for this very interesting contribution to our Newsletter. Be sure to let me know when you visit Georgia... I only live about ten miles from Villanow. In a recent letter from Eddie, he mentioned some health concerns for himself and some family members. Although, at his request the letter will not be printed, I am taking the liberty to ask for prayers on his behalf... Please forgive me Eddie, if this violates the confidence.)*

--Leroy)

From: Shanell Dedman  
[mailto:hiiaka69@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, September 07,  
2001 11:19 PM  
To: minister@mindspring.com  
Subject: Dedman from Hawaii



Aloha, My name is Shanell Hi'iakaikapoliOPele Leilani Dedman. I live on the biggest island in the Hawaiian island chain (Hawaii island). My family is the only Dedmans here in Hawaii... I am trying to locate or just find information about my family from America..My grandfather's name was George Rucker Dedman from Texas. Can you help me in anyway??? What can I do from my side?? Please write me back...no rush I have my whole life-time anyway....are you a Dedman??? Mahalo for your time, ~ Shanell

*This is another of the backup files I found and when I sent the following, it came back as an invalid address. I am posting it here in case Shanell reads the newsletter and will answer me at gldedmon@alltel.net. --Leroy*

*(Shanell, I am not sure whether I answered you or not, but anyway here is some information. My computer crashed right after you emailed me, then I moved... etc.. but today was looking through some old files and came across your letter... Please write back, Leroy)*

## TRICK OR TREAT



OUR "HALLOWEEN GUESTS" WERE JESSICA AND AMANDA COCHRAN AND HANA AND MORGAN DEDMON. THEY ARE MY GREAT NEICES PICTURED WITH THEIR GREAT GRANDMOTHER RUBY DICKSON DEDMON (MY MOM).

## From the Mail Bag

From: Roger Armstrong  
[mailto:rogaiki@valuelinx.net]  
Sent: September 05, 2001



Hello, The memorial service for Justin Wayne Morgan was held at the First Baptist Church in Mansfield, AR, Sept.4, 2001.He was the son of the late Mary Dedmon Morgan and Jerry Morgan. There was a very impressive honor guard of at least 50 uniformed volunteer firemen, police officers, sheriff deputies, first alert crews,EMS, forestry and personnel from our area. Some stood inside and others stood outside the church. There was a brief video presentation of Justin and Lauren that was first shown at their wedding in October just three years ago. One tape was played, ' It Is Well With My Soul', a tape of Lauren singing at the worship service the Sunday before he died. A few people then gave brief tributes before our pastor talked of his character, service to his community, his church, and his family. His body was carried on one of the fire trucks he usually drove. Ten more fire trucks from here and surrounding communities followed as well as at least ten more EMS and police cars, then a long procession of friends and family. He is buried next to his parents' plot and very near the highway. A Confederate reenactment group honor guard gave the twenty one gun salute. It was a group he helped start. He had ancestors on both sides of that conflict. He had also researched and helped place several veterans' head stones. Some times he had the stones delivered to our hardware store since he would be at work. Our son, Neal, dressed in his kilt, played his bagpipes just before and after the graveside ceremony. What more can be said.. We all knew so much more about him. No one could find anything negative to say: Beloved nephew, friend and helper to many, deep love of family, faithful worker in his church, great respect for his forebears, shining example for all of us. His service here is done but his influence lives on. Pardon me for sounding like a proud aunt. Now we are beginning to be curious about how this fits into God's bigger plan. Lauren's parents thought Justin hung the moon. They are strong Christians and feel that way too. God had a reason for allowing things to happen as they did. Love,

--Maye Belle Dedmon Armstrong

*This article was one of several I found from some old back up files from the computer crash I had a couple of years ago. I apologize for not publishing it before now. Maye Belle is from the Arkansas "limb" of our tree. --Leroy*

# 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....)*

## TEEN DIES IN WRECK

*Friends mourn loss of recent WLHS grad*

*From staff reports June 24, 2002*

VALE – A recent West Lincoln High School graduate died Friday night following a four-wheeler accident. Jason Michael Dedmon, 18, drove his four-wheeler over an embankment, landing in the path of a 1986 Buick traveling on Reeps Grove Church Road, according to state Highway Patrol reports.

The driver of the Buick, Jerry Norman Vancise Jr. of Peeler Road, was not at fault, police said. The accident happened at 8:19 p.m. Dedmon was transported by Lincoln County EMS to Lincoln Medical Center where he was pronounced dead.

Vancise was treated by EMS at the scene and transported to LMC by private vehicle. Vancise was charged with driving with a revoked license. West Lincoln Rescue Squad and Union Volunteer Fire Department also responded to the accident. Dedmon is the son of Mike and Dawn Dedmon of Vale.

Funeral services are today at 2 p.m. at Reeps Grove United Methodist Church. Former classmates say Dedmon will be missed. “He’s one of the best people I’ve ever known. You had to love him no matter what. It’s really sad it had to happen like this. He’s a good man,” said Clark Heavner.

Matt Williams described Dedmon as “one of the best friends I ever knew.” “I love him just like a brother. We all loved him,” he said. A four-year West Lincoln High School football team veteran, Dedmon played left offensive tackle. “Jason was a great kid. It all came together his senior year. He worked hard. He seemed to mature as a player and as a person,” said Athletic Director Harold Warren who was the team’s head coach last year.

Friends say he planned to attend Central Piedmont Community College to prepare for a career as a diesel mechanic. He enjoyed working on cars and trucks.

# From the Mail Bag

**From:** Jackie Bishop  
[JMBHDB@aol.com]  
**To:** gldedmon@alltel.net  
**Subject:** Re: newsletter



Great newsletters and really appreciate your putting in my query about Dedman / Dedmon / Deadmons and White’s that married. Now, hoping someone will be able to help me.

Wow, great garden and the best of the gardens have the weeds - part of the deal but hey, well worth the effort because look at the outcome.

The Dedman /Dedmon/ — book you mentioned by Wanda. Wondered if there’s mention of any White’s in the book also. If the book has an index would you mind checking.

I’m corresponding with another person with Dedman / Dedmons/ — and Whites so I forwarded your email about the newsletters - hope it was OK.

Thanks again for sharing all your hard work - Jackie Mae Bishop

*Thank you Jackie for your continued support and encouragement of my work. Yes, the garden was a success in spite of the weeds. I am now in the process of “laying it by” for the winter. My cousin Jim brought me a load of “chicken litter”, which I will spread over the area and enrich the soil... It kinda reminds me of the old story that has a neighbor asking, “what do you put on your strawberries?”... To which the neighbor answered, “chicken litter, what do you put on yours?” The answer was “cream and sugar”....*

*We are still searching for the White connection that we so desperately need to tie all these Dedmon/Deadmons together. We are also awaiting some response on our “Brick Wall” article in issue 28. It seems to me that some of this family moved to Alabama and then on to Mississippi. We have several “dead ends” in both states. I have had several Mississippi Dedmons contact me with information that I have failed to connect... --Leroy*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOM



ME AND TOMMY AROUND THE AGES OF 8 AND 4

He is my brother and he turned \$\$\$%%##### on November 4th. There are four years between us and it seems to me that the older I get, the closer he gets to me. When I was 8, I was twice his age and he has been trying to catch me ever since. Growing up, he was always a Red Sox fan. So when the Sox won the World Series last month, needless to say he was a happy camper.

For a number of years he was the athlete of the family. He was a runner, always going places to participate in a run. About 10 years ago, my brother Bill, called and told me that Tommy had a heart attack. "Did he have any warnings?" I asked. Bill replied, "Yes, the last twenty-five mile race he ran, he had to walk the last six miles"!!

After graduation from High School in 1961 he entered the Air Force where he spent most of his time in England. When he was discharged, Mom and Dad had moved to Huntsville, but Tommy had plans of his own and soon married and stayed in Chattanooga.



THOMAS GORDON DEDMON  
USAF 1961-1965



TOMMY AND HIS WIFE DIANE SHORTLY AFTER THEIR WEDDING.

Tommy married Diane Sparkman in 1965. She lived on Mission Ridge Road, very near the community where we grew up. In fact, all three of our wives, mine, Tom's and Bill's came from Mission Ridge Rd. Tommy and Diane have three children, Teresa, Tony and Jeniffer.

## BRAGGING RIGHTS



Here are my precious great grandchildren, Curt and Masie. Curt will be a year old in December and Masie will be three in March. I just can't help it folks!!!!!! I admit it, I am a bit prejudiced.



However, you know that I will gladly publish yours, if you send me the picture. Don't be bashful send it to me.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, GREG

My grandson, Greg, turned 19 on November 5. He is a student at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, TN. I remember quite well when Greg was born. A little pre-mature (4 lbs), he was shipped to Vanderbilt Hospital for a few days. Jane and I drove up from Bremen, GA and she stayed a week to help. To look at him now you would never know he was ever under developed.





*I have no idea how many of the Dedmon clan have given their lives in support of freedom. These are but a few, but it's a start. Send me the names and info of your loved ones who have died in service. We honor them and their families for their great service to our country.*

*(This was an interesting bit of history that I stumbled across while researching the war veterans. I have been unable to find where Dedmon's Trace is actually located, but am quite certain it is in the Ringgold-Tunnel Hill area. Maybe somebody out there knows... LD)*

## The Civil War Archives

Union Regimental Histories  
1864

Expedition from Scottsboro, Ala., toward Rome, Ga., January 25-February 5, 1864. Ringgold, Ga., February 8. Demonstration on Dalton, Ga., February 22-27. Near Dalton February 23-24. Tunnel Hill, Buzzard's Roost Gap and Rocky Faced Ridge February 24-25. Scout to **Dedmon's Trace, GA**. Cpt. Warner, 4th Ohio Cav., attempted to capture a rebel picket of 50 men. He succeeded in capturing but 4 of them, privates of the 2nd and 4th Tenn Cav.

<http://www.thisiswhatibelieve.com/>

Today in America, our elected officials are more and more straying from the Traditional Values we as Christians believe in. We feel this is not representative of the majority in America. Our elected officials were elected to office for the purpose of representing us, the people. The purpose of this project is to show them that they have forgotten us, and to remind them of our values. All I ask is that you visit this web site and review the information. If you agree, then we ask that you sign the letter, stating your agreement with Traditional Values, based upon Biblical foundations, upon the principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence, our Constitution, the writings of the Founding Fathers.



### CIVIL WAR

**Henry S. Dedman**  
Killed May 28, 1864  
in Dallas, Georgia

**Capt Gus. Dedman**  
Co I 4th Infantry

### WW I

**John R. Dedmon**  
Smith Co., TN

### WW II

**A. C. Dedmon**  
Cherryville, NC

**Leslie Dedmon**  
U.S. Navy  
Shawnee OK

**S. E. Dedmon**  
S/S 21 July 1944

### KOREA

**Paul Dickson**  
(Army) Ringgold, GA  
**Harold D Dedmon CPL**  
**Warren County MS**  
**KIA 25 JUL 1953**

### VIETNAM

**Julian Dean Dedman**  
(SSG/Army) NORWALK, CA.

**Leslie Paul Dedman**  
(SP4/Army) BIRMINGHAM, AL.

**Ronald Eugene Dedman**  
(SP4/Army) WELLS, NV.

**Tony Dedman**  
(SP4/Army) LA GRANGE, IL.

**Donald Clay Dedmon**