

The Dedmon Connection

MAY 2005 - Number 36

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



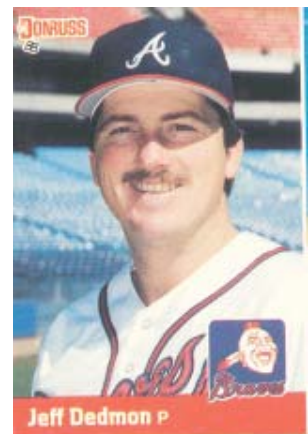
LEROY DEDMON

HOLA - CIAO - HALLO BONJOUR- HELLO

Like they say a smile is the universal language, however, hello may sound a little different. Since I have begun the research project, I have discovered that the Dedmons are not entirely universal, but we may be a little different Or to say the least, we are a people to “call our own”....

For the most part the Dedmons seem to be a “private” people. We tend to “mind our own business”, but will lend a “helping hand” to the down trodden and those less fortunate. Our ancestors appear to be somewhat conservative by nature. The ones I know personally are competitive and like to win. A Dedmon could have been the one who originated the saying, “If it does not matter who wins or loses, but how you play the game.... why do they keep score?” Well, at least that is the motto I have always tried to live..... ok, ok... or play by..

When I began this little family research project, I really thought that I knew personally almost all the Dedmons now living. Well, I knew there were a few that I had not personally met. One such person was Jeff Dedmon, who formerly pitched for the Atlanta Braves. Although I had not met him, my son Gary had and of course I had seen him pitch. He and Gary discussed the possibility of kinship, but neither knew enough of the family to make the connection. It was my intention to contact him and “beg” an official Braves jersey with Dedmon #48 on the back, but he was traded to the Indians before I followed up on my intentions. I was able to contact him via e-mail after his retirement. He resides in California and is involved with girls’ softball as his girls are excellent players. We are 5th cousins.....



There are other Dedmons that I knew about, but had not met them. Included in this list is Lee Dedmon a North Carolina basketball star. He was MVP of the UNC team in his senior year. He was drafted in the 5th round in 1971 by the Los Angeles Lakers and ended up playing professional in the old ABA for the Virginia franchise. If I remember correctly he became ill and retired. He is now principal of Highland School of Technology in Gastonia, NC. Then there is Donald Dedmon for whom the Dedmon Center at Radford University in Virginia is named. I have never been able to find out who Donald is as to where he “fits” into the ole family tree.



My youngest grandson, Jonathan, finished High School this month. I couldn't help but let my mind wander back to 1957. That was the year I graduated from Rossville High School...

The event that keeps returning to my mind is my baccalaureate service. It was to be at a local church on Sunday night and the whole family had planned to go. Well, being one not to sit around all afternoon, I talked dad out of the family car (it's hard to believe there was only one car, but remember that was the 50's) to go to Jane's house. However, when I got there, some other friends were there and we decided to "ride around". We had plenty of time as the baccalaureate was seven o'clock.

For some reason, we decided to drive over to Graysville, GA and I was going to show all my friends where I used to live. We found the house and it was as I remembered it. There was a "private" picnic area about a mile from our previous house and I decided to drive over there to show the friends the old swimming hole and home made beach area. The road was rather primitive and as we drove down the little road that led to the recreational area, the car scraped on a rock and punctured the oil pan.

So there we were, broke down in a place where we were not supposed to be and only a couple of hours until baccalaureate time. It would take about an hour to take the friends back to Jane's house and get back to my house where the family was waiting to go to the baccalaureate service.

It is difficult to say that it was "my lucky day", since all had happened as it did, but luck was with me after all. I couldn't believe my eyes, a cousin of mine, Carl Dickson, was at the water hole. He had a small welding shop near Graysville and he towed us to the shop and repaired the oil pan. To say the least the family was very anxious by the time I arrived, with barely enough time to make the baccalaureate service.

In fact, dad was so upset that he decided not to go to the baccalaureate service. This in turn, upset other family members, including myself and mom. But Dad had made up his mind, and nothing was going to change that.

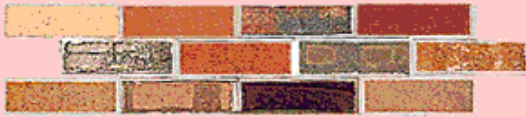
I have no idea what the preacher talked about at our service. I was not only disappointed at the fact that Dad stayed home, but was more concerned about him finding out about the car. I knew I should have told him what happened, but that took more strength than I had at the time. I would pick the right time to tell him.

As luck would have it Dad took the car for an oil change before I told him. Now you have to understand that in the 50's we didn't have the "let me change your oil, while you shop at Wal-Mart", or the "Quick Change".. etc.,.... We had the local "Full Service", owned by "I've known you since we were kids".... Now that brings back memories of yesteryear.. "full service"!!!! How long has it been since you pulled into the service station and Friendly Henry came running out with his smile and familiar, "want me to fill 'er up Mr. Dedmon?" "Yes, please, Henry and by the way would you check the oil?" "Sure will, just as soon as I wash your windshield and check the air in your tires." Makes you want to cry as you stand pumping and breathing the gasoline fumes and looking at 3.00+ per gallon.

Well back to the story... "What happened to your oil pan, Mr. Dedmon?, looks like someone has been doing some welding around the plug".... Geesh, why did he have to bring that up? I don't know what the record time from our house to the service station was, but I can tell you Dad set a new one that day. I sat there listening to how disappointed he was in me and why would I not tell him the truth about it (I never lied, but failing to mention it was equal to one in Dad's eyes), and didn't I know how dangerous it was to weld underneath a car with a tank full of gasoline, etc...I wanted to say, please whip me, beat me, tear up my back side, anything but this... but this was all I got.. I knew I deserved more. It was never discussed again. A year later he bought a 1955 Plymouth and made me a deal on the old 1949 model. I thought about asking if he should not reduce the price as the oil pan had been welded, but thought better of it....

Through the years I was invited to speak at several of those baccalaureate services. I tried not to be as boring as the speaker at my service was. I was the speaker at my son's, (Gary) graduation. If memory serves me right I was also the speaker for my daughter's (Gwen) graduation.

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.

From: VON HAMRICK
[mailto:vbhamrick@webtv.net]
To: gl dedmon@alltel.net
Subject: For Your Newsletter

Hi Leroy,

As you know, I have been using DNA in genealogy for about 5 years, now. It is an amazing tool and I have been able to break down some brickwalls with it. I thought it may be good to give your readers a short overview of how DNA works.

In genealogy, we use only the DNA from the Y-chromosome. Only males have a Y-chromosome. Females do not have one. The only purpose of the Y-chromosome, that we know, is to program the embryo development as a male. Because the mother does not have one, the version contributed by the father is not changed. The father's contribution may or may not include a Y-chromosome. If it does not, the offspring will be a female. The Y-chromosome, if included, is only about 2% of the total genetic contribution by the father. The Y-chromosome or Y-DNA, as it is commonly called, is handed down from father to son unchanged for 100's of generations. It is like a lasting finger print in the male line. It is expressed in a series of numbers called markers.

The Y-DNA follows the true male bloodline and is not changed by adoptions or out of wedlock situations. Researchers have used Y-DNA to accurately separate families of the same name and combine families with different names. There is, however, always a risk of finding out you are not who you thought you were and I have seen that happen.

My ancestor is Patrick Hamrick who came to VA in 1699 from Ireland. We do not know who his parents were or what name they may have used in Ireland. He is back 10 generations from me. My

first use of DNA was to compare my DNA with a man in VA who spelled his name Hambrick. He is descended from a different son of Patrick. We compared 25 markers and they were a perfect match. This not only proves that we are both descended from Patrick but it also gives us the DNA of Patrick. We can use this to locate other descendants of Patrick that might help us determine who his parents were.

The lab test to get my first 12 markers, cost \$225 back in 2000 but that same test today costs only \$99. In fact, if you are a patient person, you can get 39 markers done free of charge by participating in the DNA research project of Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation in Salt Lake City, UT. This is a Huge project that was started at Brigham Young University and later taken over by SMGF. Right now, it is taking about 12 months for new samples to be finished and added to their database. So, if you are willing to wait 12 months, your best deal is to participate in their project. You can read about the project by going to:

<http://www.smgf.org>

I don't claim to be an expert in DNA but I will be happy to answer any questions that you or your readers have.

Best Regards,
Von Hamrick
vbhamrick@webtv.net

Thanks Von, I appreciate your thinking of us and sharing this information. This might not eliminate all of our "brick walls", but it would certainly help. If I understand correctly, a descendent of Mark Dedmon and one of both Seneca and Christopher (our three man lines that are not yet connected) could determine if we are in fact of the same lineage. At least if we knew that we could either stop looking or be more determined than ever. Von is the great grandson of Margaret Elizabeth (Betty) Deadman. Betty was the daughter of William Henry and Sarah Canton Deadman. William was the father of James Deadman, who was the brother of Mark Dedmon (The first recorded DEDMON) --Leroy

From the Mail Bag

From: Tommy Westbrook
[mailto:tommy@thwgraphics.com]
To: gldedmon@alltel.net



Leroy:

Good job! Thanks for sending it to me. I was in Walker County yesterday and while looking for some relatives in Missionary Ridge Baptist Cemetery, I found a few Dedmons, some I can identify and some I cannot. The William Riley and Anne Dedmon are Mamie (Dedmon) Westbrook's parents. The Robert Dedmon was buried close to them and Ida was not far away but I don't know how they are related.. Do you have them in your database?

Sincerely,
Tommy Westbrook

I grew up in the Mission Ridge area and until I became a member of the Chattanooga Valley Church of Christ, attended the Mission Ridge Baptist Church where these head stones are located. Although, my mother knew about these stones, it was only after I began my research that I saw them. As Tommy said, the stones of William Riley and Anne Dedmon are the parents of his ancestor, Mamie Westbrook. Riley was the son of Hannah Dedmon. Hannah was my mother's great grandmother and my father's great aunt.



Mary Anne Anderson
July 10, 1840-July 10, 1840

The stones of Robert (Bob) Alvin and Ida Lee Cordell Dedmon are other Dedmon relatives, but from a different part of the tree from Riley and Anne. Robert was the grandson of my great grandfather, William D. Dedmon. He was my father's (half) first cousin. According to Family Tree Maker he was kin to my dad at least five different ways. I suspect this is due to cousins marrying cousins in the line above Robert.

Robert was quite a traveler and there remains till this day a great mystery. He left one day and was gone for 18 years. Jim Dedmon has possession of a letter written by Robert reflecting a bit of poetic language and a educated man. These traits were unknown to those familiar with his "first life". It is thought that he may have had another family in another place during these missing years. That certainly could account for some of the "unknown" Dedmons floating around. When he reappeared, he lived with his father-in-law, the "Reverend" Cordell.

His "living out his days" with his in-laws does suggest forgiveness by his family. He did however have several children who grew up in an orphans' home as Ida Lee died around 1912. Robert died in the early '50s. Mom has a vivid recollection of these events...



William Riley Dedmon
January 04 1834
January 08 1909



Robert (Bob) Alvin Dedmon
Oct 10, 1874-April 14, 1953



Ida Lee Cordell
1878-1912

M - O - T - H - E - R

Another Mother's Day has come and gone and I know that it is a day of gladness and sadness for so many. However, even though some have lost their mothers, it is still a day to reflect on the one who means so much to so many.

There are so many "mothers" in the Bible that come to mind. Eve, the mother of all living, was our first mother. Then there was Jochebed, the mother of Moses. Of course a list of mothers would have to include, Sarah, Rachel, Rebekkah, and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. It was the apostle Paul who reminded Timothy of what his mother, Eunice had meant to him in regards to the Scriptures. Then, Mary the mother of Jesus has to top the list....

The word mother occurs 245 times in the King James translation of the Bible. As children we are told to honor our Father and our Mother. Honor them we do every year on Mother's Day. Honoring our mothers should not be regulated to one day of the year. Mothers are honored when their children do well.

My mother is 93 years old and I could never repay her the debt I owe. She taught us to honor and respect God and His Word. She showed us the meaning of submission to her husband. She knows the meaning of work. She still wants to do her share and insists on washing the dishes and doing her laundry. She is independent and does not want to be trouble to any one. In fact, I personally believe it was far better for Dad to go first. I don't know that he could have cared for himself as well as Mom has since he passed away in September 2002. I said to one of my brothers, "I sure hope my mind is as well as Mom's when I reach her age". To that he replied, "well, you will have to improve a lot if it is...."



RUBY DICKSON DEDMON
Alive and well at 93

Somebody said.....

Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby... somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, "normal" is history.

Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct ...somebody never took a three-year-old shopping.

Somebody said being a mother is boring ...somebody never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit.

Somebody said if you're a "good" mother, your child will "turn out good" ...somebody thinks a child comes with directions and a guarantee.

Somebody said "good" mothers never raise their voices ... somebody never came out the back door just in time to see her child hit a golf ball through the neighbor's kitchen window.

Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother ... somebody never helped a fourth grader with his math.

Somebody said you can't love the fifth child as much as you love the first...somebody doesn't have five children.

Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books ...somebody never had a child stuff beans up his nose or in his ears.

Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery. Somebody never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten . or on a plane headed for military "boot camp"

Somebody said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back. Somebody never organized seven giggling Brownies to sell cookies.

Somebody said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married...somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings.

Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home...somebody never had grandchildren.

Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her....somebody isn't a mother.

Pass this along to all the "mothers" in your life

From: Jim & Mary Dedmon
To: minister@mindspring.com
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 9:04 PM
Subject: Family tree

Hello Leroy My name is Jim Dedmon from Radcliff Ky. We were in contact a year or so ago and I promised to get you a list of my siblings for the family tree. It has been a hassle getting it on my computer I even had to get a new one before I could get it done. I now have a web page James Ray Dedmon of Radcliff Kentucky on family Tree Maker and it is on the World Family Tree. I hope you can pick at least one page up so you can add us to your master plan. Thanks Jim Dedmon

From: aunt_rain@ameritech.net
Subject: DEADMAN>Alabama

Looking for info on William Webster Deadman (and wife Helene) who lived in Alabama but had been born in Michigan. Wm was killed by a train but I have no date. He may have been born approx 1910-15. Would anyone have cemetery or census records? Sorry info is so scarce.

--Lorraine

FROM: Shellaphatts@cs.com
SUBJECT: Re: [Dedmon] DEADMAN-Alabama
What part of Alabama is he from? I have been in AL for 11 months now and I moved from CA but I hang out in the genealogy side of the library and maybe I can find something. Email me at shellaphatts@tds.net and give me some info but only one person per search please! Thanks
--Michelle Timberlake

From: Shellaphatts@cs.com
Subject: Re: VA Dedmons

Hi is this Leroy? Long time no hear. I am still having problems linking my relative but I do know that they are from Arkansas but migrated to Longview, TX. I have alot of their deaths from the social Security death index for the ones related to me in Longview. It sure is good hearing from you again Leroy. Take care.

--Michelle Timberlake

From the Mail

Hello, I have just switched my email address from colvin@tech-stars.net to colvinw@sbcglobal.net.



Please use this new address for all future emails.
--Thanks, Wanda Colvin

Thanks Wanda, it is important that we keep our addresses up to date. I have lost touch with so many through the years and I really wish there was a way to recover all them.

-Leroy

Wanda is one of the Christopher Deadman researchers. Her published works are excellent and very worth the price.... I had sent her an email containing the following message.

Wanda, just wondering if this was still your email... It has been a while since I heard from you. How have you been?

--Leroy

Dear Leroy,

Yes, I am still here. Still researching, just having a harder time finding anything. Just a bit here and there. I will try to check your web site soon. If I can help in any way, just let me know. I do not know that I have any thing that you need or want. I did the book on the Dedman family in 1983 and I keep publishing some of them. I have also done a Colvin Book, a Ross Book, Gordy Book, Hays Book. I have worked on lines of Anthony, Armstrong, Granade, Haynes, Mason, Nutt, Rhea, Sample, Sanderson, Speer, Steelman, Sutton, Talbert, Tool, Waller, Williams, Work, Yarbrough, York. I also have worked on my husband's lines of Blaylock, Green, Hamilton, Lacature, and McClain. I plan to try to go to the NC Archives this fall for research. Let me know if I can help.

--Wanda Colvin

I may have printed some of this material in another issue, but as we get new readers all the time, plus it is good to keep all of us in touch with each other...
--Leroy

CONGRATULATIONS JONATHAN



big Jon

It is hard to believe that my youngest grandson is now out of high school.... but 'tis true. We drove to Springfield to share in the rejoicing. Not knowing what to get him, I just gave him a picture of Ben Franklin. Seems he was starting quite a collection of the ole kite flyer. It is times like this that sometimes I am grateful to have only three grandchildren. Well, maybe 5 or 6 would be ok...

Jonathan is the quick witted one... he always has an answer for every situation. I remember several years ago as we were returning from Wednesday night Bible Study, the phone rang... it was Jonathan. "Guess what grand daddy", the voice on the other end said. "Well, I don't know and kinda afraid to guess, Jonathan", was my reply... "I got baptized tonight", he said. Thinking of his young age, I asked, "How old are you son?" To which he quickly replied, "one year older than Dad when he was baptized... .. touche!!



**GARY (HIS FATHER AND OUR SON),
JONATHAN AND DIANE (HIS MOTHER)**



**GREG (HIS BROTHER), JONATHAN AND
GARY (HIS FATHER AND OUR SON)**

Family Reunion....

The descendants of John Marion Dickson are hosting a family reunion
(but other Dickson's (Dixon) are invited and welcome)

When? Oct. 15, 2005

Where? 497 Dickson Rd

(The home of Ruby Dickson Dedmon)



A PAINTING OF THE ORIGINAL HOUSE BUILT BY JOHN MARION DICKSON ABOUT 150 YEARS AGO. THE PAINTING WAS DONE BY ALMA RUTH (DEDMON) SMITH FROM A PHOTO. THE HOUSE STILL STANDS ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY MORE STRUCTURE. RUBY DICKSON DEDMON WAS BORN HERE 93 YEARS AGO. SHE PRESENTLY LIVES HERE WITH HER SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, LEROY AND JANE DEDMON.

Bring your lunch (covered dish) and Lawn Chairs.

We will begin eating around 1:00pm.

Bring photos and other information on the family.

Come share the fun...