The Dedmon Connection

JUNE 2005 - Number 37

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

Well here we are in the month of June. I like this month... of course it is the month I entered into this world. It also is the beginning of summer, which is what we have been waiting on about as eagerly as we will be awaiting the end. Baseball is in full swing and is still in my opinion the real national pastime. Now don't get me wrong, I like football and basketball. I actually played high school football for two years. I have a broken nose to prove it. Basketball was a game I never mastered. Too much running at one time and for someone who can't walk and chew gum at the same time, dribbling the ball, and running was out of the question. At least in baseball you can run 90 feet and stop while someone else takes their turn to hit the ball. Now hockey is a game I might have enjoyed, but



Leroy Dedmon

you have to skate and soccer is like basketball, too much running. Bowling and golf were ok, but I would have done better if I coulda used my golf score for my bowling score and my bowling score for my golf score. As I grew older horseshoes became a game I wished I had paid more attention to as I grew up.

So I chose softball for my sport in which I would participate. I began right after high school with fast pitch softball on a team that my dad coached. One of my greatest "goof ups" was right after Jane and I married. On the way home from work I drove by the ball field and saw my team practicing. I quickly drove home, grabbed my glove and told Jane, "I will be back in a couple of hours".. I remember her saying, "but I cooked your supper and it is on the table"... I guess I never realized how important that was to a new bride... well... until I got home... I never tried that again.



Yours truly on the mound

I played with the guys at church beginning with Springfield and ending at Woodstock. For a number of years I wore number 57. I told folks when my age and jersey number were the same, I would retire. When I turned 57, I changed my number to 60. It was about then that I learned of "Senior Softball", a program created for those 50 years and older. I played till last year. It was just too far to drive back to Woodstock after I moved to Ringgold. I did it for one season and talked my brother Tom into joining. We enjoyed reliving our boyhood days as pitcher and catcher. Tom's knee is just too weak for him to do that, so we didn't go back the nest season. I tried to get a league started here in the Chattanooga area, but to date I have had no luck......

I grew up as a Chattanooga Lookout fan, which was then the Washington Senators AA farm club. When the Milwaukee team moved to Atlanta, I quickly became a fan of the Braves. I cheered for them through the "lean days" and have enjoyed the past 14 seasons as they have won the division every year since 1991. The disappointment of only winning one World Series shows on most of the loyal Braves fans. But then there is always next year. I will predict the Braves will win the division and lose to Houston in the fourth game. My crystal ball says it will be a long extra inning game with the Astros winning in the bottom of the 18th inning. It will probably be a slugfest with two grandslams in the game, one for each team. The only game the Braves will win is the one John Smoltz pitches. That's my prediction.....

Memory Lane



It was about six or seven years ago now when attending what was back then the Hightower Family Reunion which was held every other year. I always love to see the last Sunday in the month of May roll around on the years in which we have the family get-together scheduled.

Eddie Hightower

On this particular session of our relatives who mostly have our origin in the Bamberg County section of South Carolina, a number of us cousins were in one of the many smaller groups making a lot of small talk of just about anything under the sun which had happened to us of any note since the last time we shared personal experiences and interesting facts about the history of the Hightower family.

One of the cousins asked us if we had heard that the Southern comedian by the name of Jeff Foxworthy was related to us. And of course, if Jeff had been a close relative; we would have all known about that. But, it seems that there was a possibility that we might be able to lay claim to kinship to the famous personality who we have enjoyed over the years as he pokes fun at the colorful people of our region who most times live in first generation house trailers.

At first we thought that the cousin who brought up the subject of possible kinship with the famous "YOU MIGHT BE A REDNECK IF..." funny man, was maybe setting the rest of us up for a "redneck" joke himself. We do have a number of cousins who have off-the-wall senses of humor. The Hightower family itself is famous around Bamberg County, South Carolina, for not only playing a good natured trick on friends and relatives, but also being the butt of one of the unexpected pranks. So, it was not too far fetched to believe that Jeff Foxworthy just might live on one of the many branches of the Hightower family tree. One of my favorite "Jeffisms" is the "you might be a redneck if your family tree doesn't have any branches". So we tried to explore the various avenues of genealogy that would lead a cousin of ours to believe that this very funny comedian who at one time lived at the end of one of the busiest runways in the world in the massive area which was the hub of Delta Airlines in Atlanta, Georgia. We are all entertained by the stories that Jeff tells of his youth in the home which seemed as though it would shake apart with some of the closest landings of the giant airliners.

Within the Hightower family there are several other Bamberg County families which our ancestors married into. A few of them are the Smoaks, the Sandifers, the Bessingers, and the Abstances. But we at that moment could not for the life of us remember any Foxworthys in Denmark, which is the hometown of most of us.

But on the way home from the very enjoyable fellowship with the family that Sunday, I continued to think about this new family puzzle. Then from the long forgotten past, a small piece of information from a place in my mind which has little bits of very insignificant facts stored; a memory of some young man who just sort of popped into the life of the Denmark Public Schools for a short while, and then almost just as quickly disappeared again.

I was very pleased with myself for this mental discovery, and shared it with my wife, Mazie, who was also a classmate of mine in Denmark. As it turned out, she had more Foxworthy memory stored in her brain than I did. So now we realized that what had seemed to be just a subject to joke about at the reunion actually might have some basis. We tried to remember the first name of this long forgotten Foxworthy boy from our youthful past. We sort of agreed after trying a few names as we travelled home that the name "Jim" seemed to fit best after all of those years of just being a dormant note in our sixty plus year old minds.

I will continue this Hightower — Foxworthy family story in my next posting. So just remember, "You, too, just might be a Redneck, if......" *Thanks Eddie, I look forward to the conclusion* of the "Redneck" story. I also appreciate the contributions you make to our newsletter. We need more family members to write.... Leroy



we have not been able to connect. If you have information on any of the Deadman family branches, please submit.

(The following was sent to me by Gary Deadmond [cpod0558@lv.rmci.net] and I have published it here because there continues to be some doubt as to the ancestors of Thomas Deadmond. For a long time it was thought that he was the son of Samuel Dedman and Eleanor Howard. This is the theory set forth in Anna Griffins 1983 publication of the Dedmans.

The other proposal is that Thomas is the son of William Lane Dedman and Mary "Blanchy" Green. I am not really sure how either of the proposals came to the conclusion they reached. This material deals with the descendents and not the ancestors of Thomas. I would like to hear from some of the existing descendents.

The following information was originally compiled by Mary K. Lyons of Sandoval, Illinois. It is the result of many years of work on her part and that of others.

Thomas Deadmond was born 22 March 1784 in either North Carolina or Virginia. There is still some doubt as to who his parents were. There are two sets of parents that could be his. Research is still being done on this subject.

Thomas married Elizabeth Milliron about 1810. Elizabeth was born 27 August 1793. Tradition says she was born in Frankfort, Germany and that her mother's maiden name was Burger. We know that Thomas and his family lived in Bedford County, VA, Orange County, N.C., and Middle Tennessee before coming to Marion County, ILL. in 1827. Denisha Deadmond Hayes told of walking behind the wagon from Tennessee to Illinois.

Thomas died in Marion County, ILL. 20 Sept. 1851 on land on which he had intended to spend only one winter. According to Brinkerhoff's History of Marion County, cold weather caught them off guard in 1827. The Deadmond Cemetery is now located on part of this land and 174 years later some of the fifth and sixth generations of the family still live in the area. It is said that the first person to be buried in the cemetery was an Indian who rode through on horseback and became sick. Thomas took him in and nursed him but he died and was buried under an old oak tree near the north fence.

Had we known Thomas DEADMOND, I do believe we would have found him a busy man. It is said that he ran a trading post and was a Justice of the Peace. In the DEADMOND Family Bible (now in the possession of Riley DEADMOND), we find the births and deaths of the family.

NOTE: Riley Deadmond has since passed and I am not sure who is in possession of the family Bible.

Issue of Thomas and Elizabeth (MILLIR0N) DEADMON:

I. Jerusha DEADMOND, born 21 Jan 1810, died 31 Mar 1843; married 14 November 1826, Peter W. WILBOURN, born 15 Feb 1803, died 12 Nov 1857. He was son of William and Mary (Wilks) WILBOURN. Both Jerusha and Peter buried in Deadmond Cemetery in Sandoval Twp.

II. Joseph DEADMOND (second child of Thomas), born 27 June 1811, died 19 Sept 1879: married 5 Oct. 1831 in Marion County Susannah WILBOURN, born 11 Dec 1813 in Orange County, N.C. died 26 Mar 1899. Both buried Deadmond Cemetery. Susannah was daughter of William and Mary (Wilks) WILBOURN. Issue, 14 children.

III. Martha Susan DEADMOND (third child of Thomas), born 23 July 1813, died ????, married 6 Oct 1831 in Marion County, ILL Dr. John Wilks WILBOURN, born ca. 1809, died 1878 in Texas. He was son of William and Mary (WILKS) WILBURN. This family moved to Texas in 1848. Issue, 9 children.

IV. Bluford DEADMOND (fourth child of Thomas), born 28 Mar 1815 in Bedford County, Va., died 25 Jan 1900 in Eugene, Oregon; married 31 Dec 1837 in Marion County, Ill.. Emiline Adams, born 8 Mar. 1822 in Tenn. Both buried Gillespie Cemetery in Eugene Oregon with no dates on their stones. Issue, 12 children. V Denisha D. DEADMOND (fifth child of Thomas), born 12 Apr 1817 in Orange County, N.C., died 26 Mar 1911 in Marion County, Ill., buried Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Raccoon Twp.; married 12 Apr 1838 in Marion County Elijah McDonough HAYES born 15 Jan 1818, died 31 Mar 1893, buried Mt. Moriah Cemetery. He was son of Samuel and Rachel HAYES. Issue, 9 children.

VI Lutisha DEADMOND (sixth child of Thomas), born 14 Mar 1819 in N.C., died 23 Sept 1848, buried Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Raccoon Twp. married 22 Mar 1838 in Marion County Samuel Allen HUFF, born 20 Mar 1817, died in North Powder, Qregon. He was son of Samuel and Mary (PROCTOR) HUFF. Issue, 6 children.

VII Narcissa DEADMOND, born 17 May ????, died 24 Sept 1843, burial place unknown; married in Marion County 3 Dec 1840 Arthur M. CRAWFORD, born 20 Mar 1820, died 3 Jan 1899, buried Zion Hill Cemetery in Centralia, ILL. He was son of Alexander and Christy Ann (??????) CRAWFORD. Issue, 2 children.

VIII Thomas Nun DEADMOND (eighth child of Thomas), born 22 Oct 1823 in Orange County, N.C., died in Sandoval Twp., buried Deadmond Cemetery (grave is not marked). He married in Marion County 20 June 1844 Rachel McCLELLAND, born 1828, died 3 Jan 1860 (if she is buried in Deadmond Cemetery her grave is also unmarked).

His obituary reads: "I have lived most 100 years." "T. N. DEADMOND was born in North Carolina October 22nd, 1823, died May 1914, aged 90 year, 6 months, 24 days. He with his parents moved to Middle Tennessee in 1825. In 1827 moved to Illinois. He had four Brothers, Joseph, Bluford, James and John and five sisters - Susie WILBOURN, Denisha HAYS, Luticia HUFF, Melisha WELCH, Narcissa CRAWFORD, Jerusha WILBOURN all preceding him to the tomb. He married Rachel McCLELLAND June 20, 1844- she died in 1859. To this union were born 10 children - Sarah E., John R., Isaac E., William T., James R., Martha, Mary Jane, Melissa, Joseph and ? (article torn here). He was a man of good character, but never united with any church. A short time before his death he desired to be baptized, so a tank was prepared and he was baptized by Rev. BRUCE, the minister of his choice. He was a great sufferer for two years, but now he is at rest. He leaves besides his three children many relatives and friends. About three hundred attended the funeral which was held at his late residence conducted by Rev. BRUCE Centralia. Issue, 10 children;

IX Melisha DEADMOND, born 5 Feb 1826, died ????; married 29 JUNE 1844 in Marion County Radford M. WELCH. According to tradition, this family moved to Texas with the WILBOURNs. Nothing further known (at time this was written) Issue (as of 06/04/2001) 9 children:

X James Gaston DEADMOND, born 12 Apr. 1828, died 29 Jan 1844. According to the Deadmond family Bible, which is very worn and hard to decipher, he apparently was shot in a hunting accident on 29 Dec 1843. Presumably he is buried in the Deadmond cemetery.

XI John Henry DEADMOND, born 29 Jan 1831 died ????; unmarried. 'John settled in Eugene, Oregon. Had a disagreement over the Civil War with his brother Bluford. Moved to the Oregon coast, acquired a cattle ranch, town property and a gold mine.

The foregoing information is the result of 13 years of collecting material on the DEADMOND family and descendants, with much help from: Mrs. Ethel (LEWIS) NEWMAN of Sandoval, ILL.; Mrs. Vera (BENNET) KNOX of Edmond, 0kla.; Guy ARROWSMITH of Champaign, ILL.; Mrs. Nell (McKOWN) DANIEL of Chickasha, Okla.; Mrs. Brig (Dolores HUFF) YOUNG of Halfway, Oregon; Mrs. Opal FYKE's copy of the Mt. Moriah Cemetery and the HAYES family history; Mrs. Gladys RUDECK of Helena, Mont.; Mrs. Hilda NAUCH of Huntington Park, Calif.; Floyd DEADMOND of Townsend, Mont.; Earl BRUCKERT of Casper, Wyo.; Elmer JONES of Arnold, Mo.; Leona HENRY of Centralia, ILL.; Leona DAVIS of Patoka, Ill.; Riley DEADMOND of Odin, Ill.; and my family. Any corrections or additions please send to Mrs. Mary (OVERBECK) LYONS, Rt. 1, Box 160-A, Sandoval, ILL. 62882. Dated 26 November 1979.

One has to appreciate the great job Mary did on the research... no computers, no internet, just good hard work and research. She also listed all the children, but I didn't print all of them as space does not allow. From: fdedmon@juno.com [mailto:fdedmon@juno.com] Sent: Saturday, September 10, 2005 3:28 PM To: gldedmon@alltel.net Subject: hello

Dear Leroy,

It's been awhile since I have written to you, I just wanted you to know that Floyd is back home and has been since the 2nd of June. He is doing ok so far, he doesn't walk much and he sleeps more than before, his eyes are causing him lots of problems. We have been to three specialist and he has cataracts really bad on one eye and the other has some nerve damage and glaucoma, they plan on operating on the one with cataracts first. He will be in the hospital when they do this one, cause of his breathing and his heart, high blood pressure and more.

I told him this was his decision, cause I feel like I have put him through a lot to keep him alive, that this was between him and the Lord, cause I know he is tired and wants to go, but I am thankful for everyday that he is here with me. I told him the Lord has him here for a reason and he hasn't finished whatever the Lord has in mind for him.

Please pray for us during this time and that if the Lord says he is ready to go that I can accept it with out a complete melt down, cause I Love this man so much and with all my heart. Other than all of this he is fine, he doesn't read or get on the computer anymore cause of the shakes, so please write again, I always let him know who writes to him and what they need.

Thanks again Glenda and Floyd

Thanks Glenda and for sure keep us updated on Floyd's condition. He has meant so much to our family research project and words really can't express the appreciation he deserves. Of course we will remember him in our prayers and you too. I know it is difficult under the circumstances and it is refreshing to see the vows "for better or for worse" and "in sickness and in health" taken seriously. Far too many abandon their responsibilities during these situations... Remember the words from Phil. 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."--Leroy

From the Mail Bag

FROM: dirhe@email.com I am trying to gather information on a Earl Gene Dedmon who lived in Hanford, Kings County, CA in the 1940's. I believe



FROM: McBee49@aol.com SUBJECT: Re: [Dedmon] Earl Gene Dedmon

I don't have much on your Earl Gene Dedmon other than he was one of four children born to Joseph Earl Dedmon and Eula Pitchford. He had siblings Stanley, Minnie, and Aubrey. Is this your Earl Gene Dedmon? He was raised up in Oklahoma to my knowledge. Danny.

From: Bill Locke [mailto:thelocke5@catt.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 homeplace 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

I am not sure if I have used this e-mail before, but am including it here as to reopen the discussion with Sue and her connection to the tree. I lived on Three Notch Rd. as a child.

--Leroy



by Eddie Hightower

Above is a photo of the 1930 era or the Clements-Cavender old home place. On the same site is the Cavender-Clements cemetery which has the burial sites of six members of the family. They are Dr. Adam G Clements and wife Mary Wilson Hill Park Clements, and Joseph Warren Cavender and wife Joseph Warren Cavender and Wife Martha ":Mattie" Almeda Clements Cavender and their two children who did survive childhood.

In fact the birth of the last son J.W.W. Cavender was the contributing factor of Mattie's death not too long afterwards. My great-grandfather, Joseph Warren Cavender years later married a widow by the name of Clementine, who had a son by a previous marriage.

Joseph Warren also had a daughter named Clementine in addition to my great Aunt Clemmie. There was also Minnie, Georgia and Myrtis. And of course, the only son to survive childhood was my grandfather Judson Cicero Cavender, but he was always "PA" Cavender to me. He was a very pleasant man who would give me a good thumping of my ear when he was in a teasing mood, which was often. He died in 1945 just after my family moved to Denmark, SC, my father, Voncile Hightower's birthplace and Hightower home town.

Since sending the first e-mail with the photo of the log cabin, home of our ancestors, our cousin Ed Park e-mailed me the news that the lady in the photo, Eugenia Chapman Kollmansperger, passed away earlier in 2005.

Ed Park also said that Eugenia's husband was one of the previously unidentified men in the photo. He is the gentleman who is second from Eugenia's right. Her brother Lewellyn is standing between the two of them. Eugenia's husband's name is Charles and he has moved Nashville, TN.

Thanks Ed, for updating us on this family information. That is what it is all about. Your fellow Clements-Cavender-Park-Dedmon and descendent Eddie Hightower. Eddie sent me the article on the left about the Cavender old home place as well as the newspaper clip below... The Cavender family are descendents of Clemith Cavender and Rachel Deadman. Eddie is a faithful contributor to the newsletter and I appreciate his cooperation. We need more of you to do the same. --Leroy

WALKER GIRL WED TO CAROLINA MAN

Miss Martha Cavender Bride of Edgar V. Hightower at La Fayette Friday.

The wedding of Miss Martha Elcanor Cavender, of La Fayette, Ga., and Edgar Voncile Hightower, of Denmark, S. C., was solemnized Friday morning at 10 o'clock at the Baptist pastorium in La Fayette. The Rev. M. L. Keith officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Judson C. Cavender, of La Fayette. She is a sister of Ben H. Cavender, of Memphis; Joseph and Robert Cavender, of La Fayette. She is a niece of Mrs. W. H. Warrenfels, Mrs. Lee Shahan, Mrs. Benjamin Beck and Mrs. C. H. Magill, of Chattanooga.

The bride was educated at the La Fayette High school and Georgia State College for Women. She has been a teacher in the La Fayette schools for six years.

Mr. Hightower is the son of Mrs. O. R. Hightower, of Denmark, S. C. He is a brother of Mrs. J. A. Johnson, of Denmark; Mrs. L. C. Hoffman, of Bemberg, S. C.; Mrs. M. O. Waltz, of Barnwell, S. C., and Mrs. Fred Mullin, of Brooklyn, N. Y. He is connected with the American Telephone and Telegraph company.

Attendants at the wedding were Miss Jane Baker, of Chickamauga, Ga., and Joseph Cavender. The bride wore a fall costume of navy triple sheer with blue accessories. Sweetheart roses and delphinium_formed her shoulder bouquet.

Mr. Hightower and his bride have gone on a trip through the Carolinas.



It was after Doc Stevenson drove out on Monday evening from Ringgold only to find that I was not ready to appear. With the price of gas being 15 cents per gallon, he probably decided he would not profit from the delivery if he made the extra 10 mile trip back to Ringgold, so he slept in his car overnight. I believe mom said that he charged 25 dollars for the house call and delivery. I have often wondered if they ever thought he overcharged them.

Of course, 25 dollars in 1939 was quite a sum of money when you think about it. What could you buy with 25 dollars? I guess it would buy a week's supply of groceries and give you change. A gallon of milk was 49 cents and a loaf of bread was 8 cents. Since we had a cow we didn't buy milk. The average income was around 25 dollars per week. Your could buy a new car for less than \$1000.00 and a new house would cost around \$6,000 or maybe less. It seems to me we paid less than that for a new house in 1946.

The movie "Gone With the Wind" was a smash hit at the box office. It was frowned upon by many because of the four letter word Rett Butler used at the end of the movie. Today that movie would probably be a "G" rated movie. Vivien Leigh was voted best actor for the role of Scarlett O'Hara. So I guess she really didn't care what Rett thought.

It is interesting that among the popular songs of 1939 included "God Bless America" sung by Irving Berlin. I am not sure that song could be sung in public today... It is sad indeed that God has been banned from public life in America today. Folks are now complaining that our Pledge of Allegiance has "one nation under God". Our forefathers must be turning over in their graves. "Blessed is the Nation, whose God is the Lord".

Among those with whom I share my birthday are Helen Keller, Jeff Conine, Trisha Yearwood, Ross Perot, and Buger Colwell.

Helen Keller was, for a time, the most famous handicapped person in the world. A severe fever at age 19 months left her blind and deaf and barely able to communicate. At age six she met Anne Sullivan (later Anne Sullivan Macy), the tutor who taught her the alphabet and thereby opened up the world to her. Helen became an excellent student and eventually attended Radcliffe College, where she graduated with honors in 1904. In later life she became an activist and lecturer, sometimes in support of the blind and deaf, and sometimes for causes including Socialism and women's rights. She also founded and promoted the American Federation for the Blind. During her lifetime she was regarded as one of America's most inspirational figures.

Jeff Connine is an outfielder for the Florida Marlins, if he has not retired. Trisha Yearwood is a country music singer and Ross Perot is a Texas. billionaire and was a presidential candidate 1992. So that brings us to Bugger Colwell. Bugger was actually named Wayne by his parents. When I moved to Manchester, TN in 1964, I was given his name as a person I needed to visit. I will never forget when I knocked on the door and it opened with the almost 300 pounds and 6'-6" tall frame of a man. "Are you Wayne Colwell", I asked. "Folks 'round here call me Bugger", he replied. I just couldn't bring myself to call a giant of a man, that I had just met, Bugger!! But, I surmised, "If a 6'-6" 300 pound man wants to be called Bugger, who am I to call him anything else". So I said, "Hello Bugger, I'm Leroy Dedmon, the new preacher at New Union". We became friends and soon discovered our birthdays were on the same day.

The New York Yankees won the World Series that year to make it a record setting four in a row. At least I can be happy it was the Cincinnati Reds rather than the Atlanta Braves who fell beneath the power of the "Yanks". I believe they swept the series. The '39 Yankees included some all time greats like Joe DiMaggio, Bill Dickey and Lefty Gomez. Joe McCarthy was the manager. Earlier in the year, the Iron Horse, Lou Gehrig, asked to be removed from the lineup and of course did not play in the World Series. His final game was April 30, 1939. He died two years later.

Family Reunion....

The descendents 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) Call (770) 605-1920 for information



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 share in the fun. We will begin eating around 1:00pm. Bring photos and/or other information on the family.