

# The Dedmon Connection

April 2006 Number 47

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



**LEROY DEDMON**  
EDITOR



## SPRING IS HERE

April showers bring May flowers... or something like that... Spring is a beautiful time of the year in Georgia. I guess Spring is my favorite season. It may be because I am ready to get back outside to the garden, mowing the grass, etc... Of course, six months from now, I will probably be saying, "Fall is my favorite as I can relax from working in the garden and mowing the grass, etc....."

One of the things I don't like about Spring is the moving of the clock forward one hour. I like the time the way it is!!!! However, they didn't ask me, in fact, I am not sure if they asked anybody... and who in the heck is they???? Now I am told that "they" have decided to move the clock up in March instead of April beginning in 2007....



In case many of you have forgotten, or maybe never knew, Daylight Saving Time was introduced to save energy. With the sun setting an hour later we are supposed to have less "dark time" in the evenings before we go to bed, therefore burning less electricity with lights and TV. Maybe it works... or at least that is what "they" say about it. Of course, we are not supposed to ask about the extra hour of darkness in the morning!!! According to studies, "they" tell us that most Americans like DST...

Not all states observe the time change. According to a friend I have in Arizona, they leave the clocks as they are. One exception to this is the Indian Reservation. Indiana used to be split on the matter. Several years ago I was preaching in Martinsville, Indiana and was almost late to worship services because I didn't know that part of the state stayed on "regular" time. Counties in the Eastern Time Zone portion of the state did not observe DST. They were on standard time year round. A state law was passed in 2005 that has the entire state of Indiana observing DST beginning in April 2006.

The American law by which we turn our clock forward in the spring and back in the fall is known as the **Uniform Time Act of 1966**. The law does not require that anyone observe Daylight Saving Time; all the law says is that **if** we are going to observe Daylight Saving Time, it must be done uniformly. In 1918, in order to conserve resources for the war effort, the U.S. Congress placed the country on Daylight Saving Time for the remainder of WW I. It was observed for seven months in 1918 and 1919. The law, however, proved so unpopular that it was later repealed. When America went to war again, Congress reinstated Daylight Saving Time on February 9, 1942. Time in the U.S. was advanced one hour to save energy. It remained advanced one hour forward year-round until September 30, 1945.

I remember as a child that some of the areas around Chattanooga changed time and others didn't. If I remember correctly, our time changed where we lived, but where my grandmother lived it did not change. Also, when we moved to Huntsville, Alabama in 1959, the county Huntsville is in (Madison), observed DST, but where we lived in the adjoining county (Jackson), the clocks remained the same. I am told it was like that all around the nation, thus prompting the law that said it had to be uniformly. Well so much for the history lesson. By the way, it is Daylight Saving Time, not Savings.. Thought you wanted to know....



***The HEART & SOUL of Denmark, SC  
The Jim Harrison Studio Downtown***



photo by Jerry Durgan: *Advertiser - Herald*

The above photo, which pictures what has over the many decades of Denmark, South Carolina's history, is now one large building — about one quarter of a town's block at the intersection of Highway 78 — “the Blackville highway”, and Highway 321 — “the Savannah highway. And if you look really close at the sidewalk which runs on the right side, can catch a glimpse of the Historic Denmark Railroad Depot.

It was when the railroad powers that were decided to paint the name of the town on its location sign that what was up until that time known as Graham's, South Carolina, then became Denmark for all time. It was when that third, and final, railroad was built that the small community of Grahams started its migration from a site about a mile or so East of the present location. And prior to the name of “Grahams”, it was “Graham's Turnout”, and before that it was “Sato.”

I doubt that the town's name will ever change again, but if it does; I can assure you that it will in some way reflect the tremendous contribution which has been made for over 60 years an old friend of mine and the community as a whole — Jim Harrison, internationally honored South Carolina Low country artist.

I for one, would not object to that change, but it really wouldn't change the reality of the vast improvement of the town which is now known as “Denmark” as a result of Jim's selfless contributions and artistic preservation efforts.

If one would walk out of the front door of the Jim Harrison Gallery, which is the one-third portion of the above pictured building, and walk about one and one-half blocks down the sidewalk on the Bamberg highway, you would reach a vacant, single-wide house trailer.

Unfortunately, that is where Fleming Lee was brutally murdered in a robbery a few years back. He was a very popular and well liked young man of the Lee family which over the years has contributed persons such as Bill Lee. Bill served Bamberg County as Sheriff of Bamberg County and his interesting races for that office were even covered by the national media as far away as St. Louis on the front page of its *Post-Dispatch* newspaper back in the late '50's.

Before the Lee family bought the property upon which that fateful mobile home was placed, it was the location of the home of Mr. and Mrs. “Joe” Brunson and their children Martha and Lynwood. Back around 1945, at the time that America was victorious over the Nazi's in Europe, Mr. “Joe” Brunson was kind enough to share his home with the “Voncile” Hightower which had just decided to make Denmark, South Carolina, their permanent home. “Voncile” had been born about four blocks down Church Street in a small white frame house back in 1908, where he lived for a short while with Riley and Gertie Hightower — his loving parents. But it wasn't too long before “Voncile's” father died an early death and he and his mother and sisters moved out to the Binnicker's community in what is now called “Finland”.

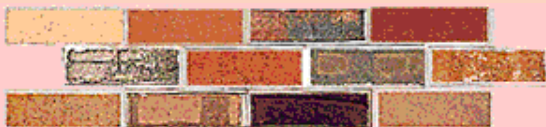
It was in that home which was located on the property of the D.N. Cox dairy where my daddy lived with his newly widowed mother when he met with the fatal cave-in accident. The collapse of that sand embankment cave, or tunnel, resulted in the country doctor, who served the medical needs of the Denmark area from a horse and buggy, making a pronouncement that both of the young boys had died of suffocation.

Daddy had been playing with a young neighbor boy — Thurston Whetstone — who was a younger brother of the man who in later years became the Denmark Chief of Police. It was Denmark's Chief of Police Victor Whetstone, Sr., who was able to take the heroic action which resulted in the saving of my daddy's life, but not in time to save his little brother's life. That was a very sad day at the neighboring homes of the Whetstones and the Hightowers on that day in 1919.



***Eddie Hightower is connected to the Dedmon family through Clemeth Cavender and Rebecca Deadman. He is a regular contributor to the “DEDMON CONNECTION”. He may be contacted by email at: [Eedyedgar@aol.com](mailto:Eedyedgar@aol.com)***

## 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.*

Eula Mae Dedmon McDaniel was my grandmother my father was her son Dewey Henry McDaniel, Jr. I am looking for any information on his father Dewey Henry McDaniel, Sr. He left around 1930 from Baltimore, Maryland. If anyone has anything about him please let me know. Possibly he was a tight rope walker in a circus.

Mary McDaniel, email:.(mekayla@grits.net)

Looking for ancestors of Mollie Frances Dedmon b. 1/1/1930 m. 1. (unknown) Norton 2. Ira Bicknell. Her mother was Mollie Frances Boardman - father Eber Jack Dedmon.

Inez Ward, email:.(wardi@ipa.net)

I am the daughter of Billy Key Dedmon and Dorothy M. Bruning Dedmon. Add me to your list of Dedmons. I was born in Jackson, Mississippi on August 2, 1973.

Dorothy Key Dedmon, email: (dolly@mato.com)

Does anyone have DEADMAN family in Wiltshire, England? That is where my branch is from; they emigrated to Canada in 1907.

Cindy Gilbert, email.(office@sylvan.isp.on.ca)

I am looking for any information on the Dedmon family. My great grandfather was Lucian M. Dedmon. He was born in 1894 and died in 1955. He married Hattie Miley. They had 6 children. Lucian's parents are Samuel and Coria Dedmon. Any information would be appreciated.

Melanie Dedmon,  
email: (madedmon@yahoo.com)

*We need some help on all these "brick walls". If you find anything let me know as well as the inquirer listed here. Remember it takes all of us working together to get the job done. As Danny McBee says, we will get them..... one at a time.....*

*The following poem was written and sent to me by Jackie Dedman. She is the wife of Charles "Chuck" Dedman. Some of you may remember that she was the editor of "THE DEDMAN CONNECTION". This was a newsletter that she published and mailed several years ago before the age of computers and email. I have most, if not all of those issues. It is my intention to publish them on the internet.... --Leroy*

### My Precious Son

My precious, precious son, why did you choose  
Drugs from a demon that stole life from you  
Why couldn't you talk to me  
Did you think I wouldn't listen?  
I'd rather it had been me, than to be left in this prison,

Torture and Anguish is all I feel now  
Just to think how much you suffered all alone  
Except for the crackpipe and spoon  
Alone in the motel room hurt and despair  
hopeless you felt, brings us that's left so many tears.

You left a three page letter son  
Your pain I feel every breath that I take  
If only you had called on someone  
To listen to your needs and grief  
Instead of choosing this way, with only your words  
left for us to read.

You wrote about your heartache, love for your kids  
Then for what you were about to do  
You wrote and asked God to forgive  
God heard your request, as sure as He hears mine  
I'll be with you son, when it comes my time.

If only you called upon Our Lord and Saviour  
Poured out you heart and asked for help  
Instead of using drugs that leads to danger  
He would have helped you turn your life around  
Instead of you giving in to some demonic stranger.

I'm writing my heartbreak down onto paper  
Hoping to prevent anyone from making the mistake  
Thinking drugs are their answer, No, no, no  
Please reach out to someone, take the first step  
Don't give into drugs, it could very well mean  
your death!

A Hurting Mother

DJD

2006

(JackieD@citicom.com)

*Somehow in all my files that were transferred from the other computer, I must have misplaced some of the correspondence that I received from Jackie. I am assuming this was in response to losing a son....*



In the 1800s in Red River, Tennessee, a supposed witch puts a curse on the Bell family after a heated dispute over land ownership and interest paid. John Bell (Donald Sutherland) is found guilty of breaking church law (usury) and loses his good name. After the hearing before the church council,



the Bell family experiences a host of haunting episodes. There are strange sounds in the night, candles flicker and blow out, doors slam shut, and Betsy Bell (Rachel Hurd-Wood), John's teenage daughter, is being physically abused by this poltergeist. This force cannot be stopped nor explained from religious or scientific viewpoints and the Bell family is left at the mercy of their tormentor. Now, in the present, the new occupants of the Bell family estate are experiencing a similar haunting. An American Haunting is a retelling of the best-documented and only recorded case in American history where a spirit or entity caused the death of a human being.

This film was amazing. It may seem from the previews to be a typical story of a little girl "possessed", but there is so much more. There is so much I want to tell about this film, but I dare not give away the plot. However, I can assure you, dear readers, this is not your typical possession-horror story. I will reveal one exciting clue: this spirit is not part of the house, nor is the entity contained by it.

This film was carried by the performances of the actors. A lot of times the faces of someone horrified in a film like this can cause the scene to go south because the actor looks silly, however, I never felt this way. I constantly felt the fear, confusion, and dread of the characters. Donald Sutherland plays John Bell whose physical appearance and health diminish on screen as the film progresses. Sissy Spacek delivers a great performance as Lucy Bell, John's wife. Sissy had a perfect demeanor for this

role and was the most identifiable character in the film. Rachel Hurd-Wood does a wonderful job of carrying the film and has a great scream. The first time that she was possessed the whole theater went completely quiet, which is a rarity.

One thing that did bug me, however (and this is me being the typical viewer) was how often they left Betsy alone in her room. The rest of the cast spent half the movie running up the stairs to the aid of Betsy. John and Lucy Bell constantly returned to Betsy's room to find her being attacked and I just kept asking myself, "Why do you keep leaving her alone?! If that were my daughter, I would be in that bed with her! I would never leave her side!" Oh well, it's just a movie. For the remainder of this review visit:

[www.hollywoodjesus.com/american\\_haunting.htm](http://www.hollywoodjesus.com/american_haunting.htm)

*Refer to Issue 45 of the Dedmon Connection for information on Brian Dedmon. I ran this article because of my living near Adams, TN for almost 15 years. I heard of the "Bell Witch", but never really visited the location. -- Leroy*

### Jane and Leroy Celebrate Number 47

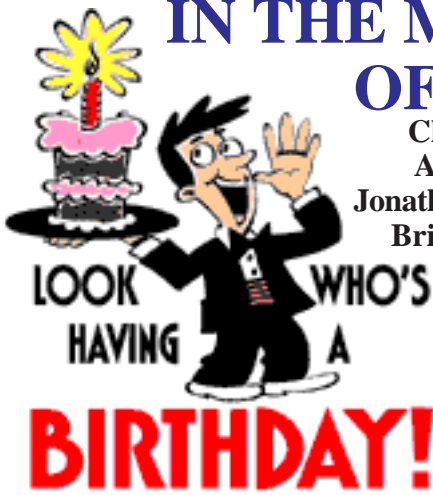
It was a Sunday afternoon on April 5, 1959 when I stood with Jane before James Watkins and promised "till death do us part". I sometimes wonder if she thought I would live this long.

It seems life a few days, but we are reminded of the patriarch Job, who said, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle..." I have never seen a weaver's shuttle at work, but can only imagine how swift it may be.



**JANE AND LEROY  
DEDMON - 1959**

I have to ask, "where have the years gone?".... They are as James described, "a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away..." However, those years have brought many changes to our family. We have been blessed with two fine children, three wonderful grandchildren and two very precious great grandchildren.



## IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

Claude Price - 08  
 Amy Vaughn - 15  
 Jonathan Dedmon - 20  
 Brian Dedmon - 29



CLAUDE PRICE

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRO-IN-LAW

For a long time I thought I was the oldest of the clan, but found out recently that my brother-in-law, Claude Price has me beat by little over a year. I am not sure either of us consider that a great honor. Claude will have been married to my sister Alice Carolyn for 46 years on September 2nd. He and Carolyn have three children, Kenneth, Susan and Mark. He is good to help Carolyn in the care of our mother, who is now 94 years old. He has always been willing to help in anything I have asked him to do. Of course we try to be nice to him as we don't want him to give Carolyn back to us.



AMY SMITH VAUGHN

### AMY SMITH VAUGHN

Amy is the second child and only daughter of my sister, Alma Ruth. Although looks can fool you she is quite a "dare devil". At least a couple of times she has experienced broken and/or bruised bones from motorcycles and four wheelers. Amy is also a softball player, competing not only in women's softball but also co-ed. She is married to John Vaughn and they have no children..

### JONATHAN PATRICK DEDMON



JONATHAN DEDMON

Jonathan is the youngest son of my son, Gary Dedmon. It is hard to believe that my youngest grandchild is almost twenty years old. I guess when you get as old as I am, you are supposed to have grown grandchildren. Jonathan and his older brother Greg work together with a construction company in Springfield. I guess I still remember them as nine and ten year old boys. I especially remember the time they came to stay with us for a few days. On about the third day I must have scolded Jonathan a bit harsh as I remember him saying, "Granddaddy, you were happy the first day we were here".... That was also the time he hid from us sending me into the panic mode as we lived on a major highway. He finally came out of hiding when he heard me say to Greg and my granddaughter Carrie, "Well, while he is hiding, let's go get some ice cream..."

**"MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS.."**

### WILLIAM BRIAN DEDMON

Brian is the first son and second child of my brother Bill. I remember well the night he was born at the hospital in Springfield, TN. Bill had moved there to attend the Nashville School of Preaching during the time I lived there. Brian is married to Cynthia Yvonne O'Bryant "Cindy", and they have three children, Hana, Morgan and Briana. He is employed with the Georgia Highway Patrol and is the supervisor of the dispatch operation in Lafayette, GA.



WILLIAM BRIAN DEDMON

*Editor's Note: I am willing to publish information concerning any of the family birthdays. Of course, I do not know all of them. I do my best to find all that I can, but contrary to popular belief, I am only human. I know this may come as a shock to many of you, but nevertheless it is true... If you have a birthday you wish published, just email me the information. Give me as much info as you wish to be printed. Also, send a picture if possible.*



## DEATH NOTICES

*Although the following obits are from the archives, they still contain information that might be helpful to someone in their research.*

### Flossie Johnson

Flossie Viola Johnson, 84, of Bremerton died of natural causes July 24, 2001, at Bremerton Health and Rehabilitation Center. She was born June 27, 1917, in Arbyrd, Mo., to Harve and Eva Mae (Griffen) Adams. She married James Edward Johnson in Missouri in 1951. He preceded her in death in 1994. Mrs. Johnson was a caregiver for 18 years. She was an avid reader. Survivors include two daughters, **Mary Dedmon** and Tommie Jean Eastep, both of California; a sister, Thelma Machado of California; eight grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. She also was preceded in death by two sons, Wilson Vestal Turner and Thomas Rouse; and two brothers, Eugene and Franklin Adams. At her request, no service will be held. Her ashes will be scattered at her favorite location in the Olympic Mountains at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Tuell-McKee of Bremerton. Memorial donations may be made to Toys For Tots, P.O. Box 69, Bremerton, WA 98310.

*The obvious conclusion is that Mary is married to a Dedmon. Maybe some of the family in that area will be able to find out the connection and let us know. I have contacted a Mary Dedmon in the past from one of the western states that was divorced from a Dedmon. In fact she was in the news as one who carried the Olympic Torch when the games were in Atlanta. I believe that was in 1996. It seems she was a Nurse and taught in some college in Idaho.*

### Alice Bell Dedmon

**DEDMON** Alice Bell, was born Jan. 13, 1915, to the late **Ben and Edna Dedmon** in Woodford County, KY, and departed this life after a long illness on Dec. 13, 2005. A graduate of Lexington's Douglas High School, she took great pride in her advocacy for education. She spent many hours preparing her nephews, Vertner and Charles, for a lifetime of quality learning. In addition, she shared her historical knowledge by participating in Midway College's research on the impact of that institution in the black community. Alice Bell was an employee of Immanuel Baptist Church for many years. Before her illness, she was a dedicated member of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, Midway, where she was an active member of the Stewardess Board and the Pastor's Aid Club. Also she was an officer of the Wilgus Street Neighborhood Flower Club. She leaves to mourn her passing two nephews, Vertner (Joan) and Charles Taylor; great niece and nephew, Dr. Janet Taylor Jackson and Vincent Taylor; great-great nieces and nephews, Lauren, Erin, Taylor, Yanna, Maya, Brendan, Tony, Joey, other relatives and friends such as the staff and administration of Cambridge Place Nursing Home who rendered Alice Bell loving and efficient care for eight years. Funeral services 12 pm Sat. at St. Matthews A.M.E. Church, Midway. Visitation 11 am until time of service. Arrangements, Smith & Smith Funeral Home. *Published in the Lexington Herald-Leader on 12/16/2005.*

*I have received several letters through the years from African/American Dedmons. Most of them say the name was taken from slave owners. I have also received fairly reliable information that there were some Dedmon slave owners in the Rome, Georgia area. While we do not condone the practice of slavery, it is an established fact of history.*

### Samuel A. Huskey

*Retired from Musgrove Mills*

**COWPENS** – Samuel Albert Huskey, 82, of 214 S. Green River Rd., died Monday, Sept. 3, 2001, at his home.

A native of Cherokee County, he was the husband of **Levone Dedmon** Huskey of the home and son of the late Walter and Rosa Cudd Huskey. He was a member of High Point Baptist Church and was retired from Musgrove Mills.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Raymond Huskey of the White Plains Community of Gaffney; a daughter, Margaret Hall of Gaffney; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. at High Point Baptist Church Cemetery conducted by the Rev. Allen Galloway. The family will receive friends 30 minutes prior to the service at the cemetery and other times will be at the home. Arrangements by White Columns-Gaffney.

### Andy Dedmon

Andy Dedmon, age 57, of Beebe, Arkansas, died April 2, 2006. He had worked for the City of Cabot for twenty-four years. Mr. Dedmon is survived by his wife, Darla Dedmon; son, Shane Dedmon of St. Louis, Missouri; two daughters, Rachel Dedmon of Ward, Arkansas and Nichole Dedmon of Beebe; stepson, Tommy (Lisa) Boyce of Beebe; two stepdaughters, Angela Lentz and Sandra (Jay) Martin, all of Beebe; five grandchildren; and one brother, Wendall Dedmon of Cabot; three sisters, Martha Osgood of Iowa, Rhoda Burgess and Anna White, both of Cabot. Funeral is 10:00 a.m. Thursday, April 6, 2006, at Westbrook Funeral Home, with burial in Sumner Cemetery.

[www.westbrookfuneralhome.com](http://www.westbrookfuneralhome.com)



...Just the  
**GOOD NEWS**

# Gail S. Dedmon Gallery

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

## ABOUT GAIL DEDMON

Gail is a lifelong resident of South Carolina. Born and raised on a farm in the shadow of the bomb plant in Aiken County. This had a profound effect on how she perceived the world, and in turn her art. She paints places and things that bring happiness and celebration to people's lives. "There is enough darkness in the world already."

Her father, a carpenter by trade and a farmer by desire, was one of the few people to have the forethought to build a fall-out shelter; this had a great impact on the whole family. This gave Gail a love of architecture, beautiful buildings seen above ground. Buildings could stand for the future of man, not the bleak outlook that the shelter offered.

Her love for the lowlands of South Carolina began the first time she felt the salty air touch her face and the wet sand of the beach ooze up between her toes. This would be a lifelong connection. "There where the water meets the sand, is the place I keep my soul. It's the place my spirit goes to replenish itself."



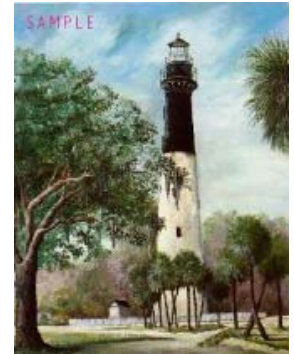
**A Palmetto Sunset**  
by Gail Dedmon

Gail began her study of art at Aiken High School. After which she married her high school sweetheart, Stanley Dedmon, they have three wonderful sons. Stanley shares Gail's love for art and has encouraged and supported her throughout the years, making her success possible.

Gail participated in workshops by Guy Lipcomb, Ed Rice and Freedman Schoolcraft. She studied for a year with Zita Melon. She says her best teacher was painting every day, for this was her passion, something instilled in her at an early age. She always knew she wanted to be an artist, as she often told her cousins while they played. They would laugh and say, "you don't know anything about art." That was true, her concept of being an artist was drawing for Walt Disney.

Gail's dream never wavered. She put all of her extra time and Stanley put all the money he could into making the dream a reality.

Gail has been blessed in receiving many awards for her artwork, which include: local art guild, fifteen ribbons-first place, second place, tree award, and best in show. Statewide, placed in the n.b.s.c. juried show, accepted in traveling show; placed in the Florence juried show; best in show twice in the Rice Festival show; placed in the international miniature juried show; best in show at the Sandoz Drug Corp. show, won purchase award, placed in three categories; best in show at the Clarion Corp. show and won purchase award; placed in the Springs Mills Corp. juried show, accepted in the traveling show; placed in the Sieble Bruce Corp. juried show.



**The Light at Hunting Island**  
by Gail Dedmon

Gail's many one-man shows include: In Aiken at the Artist Parlor Gallery, The Artistic Endeavor Gallery, and Aiken Framing Gallery. Museum shows at the Aiken Historical Museum and at the Williston Historical Museum

Gail's original work is in corporate and private collections nationally and internationally. Her work has hung in the White House and the South Carolina Governors Mansion.

*I am not exactly sure how Gail and Stanley "hang" on our family tree. I have corresponded with her on this, but was not able to locate it.*



*Her work would not be complete without this University of Georgia painting. (Kidding of course, but I am a little prejudiced when it involves my UGA)*



*This page features related families to the Dedmons. Send me information on your relatives.*

## **Esther Buff, 85, Bowdon, GA**

Esther Mayes Buff of Bowdon, died Wednesday, April 26. She was 85. She had lived in the Rossville area for most of her life and was a member of the Mountain View Church of Christ in Rossville. She had worked at Olan Mills in the School Division as well as Davenport Hosiery Mill and Miller-Smith Hosiery Mill. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Thomas S. Buff and step-son, Thomas W. Buff. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Connie and **Bill Dedmon** of Bowdon; step-daughter, Kathy Baldwin of Rossville; three grandchildren, Kymberly Cochran, Brian and Cindy Dedmon and Craig and Brittany Dedmon, 5 great granddaughters, Jessica and Amanda Cochran, Hana, Morgan and Briana Dedmon; step-grandchildren, step-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Services: Saturday, April 29 at 11 a.m., in the Fort Oglethorpe chapel with Minister **Leroy Dedmon** and Minister Dick Hillis officiating. Burial: Lakewood South Memory Gardens. Visitation: Friday, April 28 after 4 p.m., and prior to the service on Saturday, at the funeral home. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe.

*I had known Ester Buff for almost 50 years. She and her husband Tom were members at the Chattanooga Valley Church of Christ when I began attending there in the mid-'50's. When Tom passed away a few years ago, I was privileged to preach his funeral. Their daughter, Connie, became my sister-in-law a few years after that. She was also the flower girl in our wedding. Of course, it was an honor to be asked to preach Esther's funeral. I always referred to her as "Hester". She came to expect me to call her that and seemed disappointed when I didn't. Bill, my brother, married Connie in 1971. I performed their wedding ceremony.*

## **Thelma Walker, 83, Chattanooga, Tenn.**

Thelma Walker of Chattanooga, Tenn., died Saturday, April 15. She was 83. She attended Clifton Hills Baptist Church and was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas "Brownie" Walker; brothers, Ernest, Ben and William Christison; sister, Christine Manning. Survivors include son and daughter-in-law, Don and Annette Walker of Ringgold; daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Doug Duncan of Fort Oglethorpe; sister, Amanda Boydston of Trenton, Fla.; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Services: Tuesday, April 18, at 10 a.m. at the chapel with Rev. Randall Massingill officiating. Burial: National Cemetery. Visitation: Monday, April 17, from 4-8 p.m. at Heritage Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe. Condolences may be sent at [www.heritagefh.com](http://www.heritagefh.com). Arrangements by Heritage Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe.

*I don't know this person or family, but being a descendent from the Walker family, I decided to publish this obit. There are three or four Walker families in this area, and so far I have not been able to connect with any of them...*

*My grandmother was Alice Walker and I know very little about her family. She passed away when my father was just a baby and he was raised by an aunt. I remember visiting some of the relatives on that side of the family when I was just a boy, but have not seen any of them in fifty years. I do know the Walker family was somehow connected to the Evitt family, which is still in the Ringgold, Georgia area.*

*My great grandfather was James L. Walker and he was married to Martha Frances Evitt. They had thirteen children, including my grandmother. James' father was Andrew Walker and that is as far back as I know. Martha Frances Evitt had at least one brother, John, and I suspect some of the Evitt family still around Ringgold is through his line. John married Mary Elizabeth Duncan and they had a son named, James Edward, who married Annie Lee Ward. Their son was James Edward, Jr. and he married Delynn Crabtree.*