

The Dedmon Connection

June 2006 Number 49

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

SIXTY SEVEN AND COUNTING



**LOOK
WHO WAS
BORN
THIS MONTH**

June 27, 1939 was the day I was born, sixty seven years ago. In some ways it seems like a long time, but in other ways it is “but a vapour that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away”. Those familiar words from the pen of James seem to hold more meaning as I get older. I guess if I had paid attention to the prayers of my brethren through the years I would have realized that I was getting older. When I first began preaching brethren would pray something like this, “Father, thank you for brother Dedmon and give him a long useful life in the Kingdom”. Then a few years ago I began hearing things like, “Father, thank you for brother Dedmon and give him a ready recollection of the things he has prepared”. Lately, I heard a brother pray, “Father, thank you for brother Dedmon and give him a few more years of service”. So it just goes to show that you need to pay attention to what others are saying. Happy birthday to me.....



GUARD DOG



After my experience last year with the bear eating my watermelons and canteloupes, I decided it was time to get a dog. I really wanted a collie, as I had a great collie once and have always been a bit partial to them. But we also was trying to keep the cost down and decided to pay a visit to the Animal Shelter. Our first “adoption” was not a good experience. We went to the shelter in Buchanan and picked out a “Lab Mix” that we thought would be a good pet. In less than a week the dog died. After the proper “burial” we went to the shelter here in Catoosa County and found a similiar dog and tried again. So far this is working out just fine. My daughter named it Oreo as it was black with a touch of white. She must be doing a fine job as the bear has not robbed my gardenyet!!!! Just in case I think I am going to keep my scarecrow as it does have the potential of “guarding” some of the garden. The “melon” over to the left is actually a pumpkin, but I don’t know if the bear knows the difference. My tomatoes are doing quite well as the bottom left picture shows. My brother, Tommy has worked very hard to help me with the garden this year. In fact, I would not have been able to do it without him. The weather took its toll on our squash and beans, but the okra is doing great. We are looking for a great crop of blueberries and grapes.





EDDIE HIGHTOWER

Hi to all of my Park, Yandell, Clements, Cavender, Dedmon, Hightower and Sandifer family lines in Northwestern Georgia and Southeastern South Carolina homelands.

Wouldn't it be great if we could magically press a button and travel back in time and sit with one of our family's forefathers to ask him near the end of his journey on Earth the details of

the most important events of his life and family stories of his many family members who shared his life of many years.

I personally would jump at an opportunity like that. In fact, when I attend family reunions, I guess that I am subconsciously trying to do the next best thing: sharing long told stories which have been passed down through the years by family members, such as the story of Doctor Thomas Yandell Park of Walker County, Georgia, and his part in apprehending the Union spy Andrews who was a member of Andrews' Raiders about whom even the late great Walt Disney made a Hollywood movie — "THE GREAT LOCOMOTIVE CHASE", or some such title.

A week after the Park Family Reunion at Cousin Frank Clements Shaw, Jr.'s family museum home at the historic Davis Crossroads in McLemores Cove in the shadow of Lookout Mountain, I had the pleasure of attending the Hightower Family Reunion at the Still Waters Farm Resort in Bamberg County, S C.

There I was the family story teller. I related the miraculous story of the time in 1919 when my father, Voncile Hightower, Sr., at the age of 11 years of age, give, or take a month or so, was involved in an accident in a sand embankment cave-in. He and his neighbor who was one of his favorite playmates on the country farm was 12 years of age, give, or take a month or so. His playmate, Thurston Whetstone, and himself were discovered by his playmate's older brother, Victor Whetstone, Sr., as their feet and legs were sticking out of the collapsed sand embankment. The older young man, about 20 years of age, frantically pulled the two boys out from the sand which had entombed them. He could find no signs of life in either his brother, or my very

young father. A doctor was hailed from town and he also was unable to find any sign of life according to rural medical practice in 1919 in the "low-country" of South Carolina.

It was a bittersweet evening in the Binnicker's community of Bamberg County that day. After both young boys had been pronounced dead by the small town physician, their bodies were removed to their respective homes.

The family and friends of Thurston Whetstone had gathered at their home to attempt to comfort the parents — Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Whetstone — and those immediate family members who had suffered such a great loss of young Thurston before he had the opportunity to enjoy the many joys and trials of manhood in the South.

Over at the neighboring family home of Mrs. Owen Riley Hightower (Gertrude Sandifer Hightower) and her four surviving daughters Vinelle, Lottie, Lily, and Bessie, their family had also begun to arrive and share their grief and sympathies with the very saddened mother and sisters of young Voncile Hightower.

But, miracle of miracles, it was not Voncile's appointed time to meet his Maker. Therefore, he gradually awakened and slowly shuffled into the midst of his loving family members and neighboring friends.

Their emotions were mixed, to put it mildly. At first, the very sight of someone walking in the room after being thought to be dead for hours, was unsettling and caused a degree of fright and alarm. Many attempted to flee the room in the front of the home. The saddened and loving Mother of Voncile was instantly seeing her prayers answered by the return of her only son to her arms of welcome.

Upon telling this story at the recent Hightower Family Reunion, I told the approximate 75 cousins that was my all time favorite family story and I would challenge the others to top it.

Of course, there were no takers. Some even replied that there was no way to top such a story of the shared family members.

Prior to my attendance at these two family reunions — the Parks and the Hightowers — I had attended my first of the year. My wife is in the "low-country" South Carolina Johnson family. She and I both share cousins who have the Johnson bloodline, but it has been determined that she and I were not related prior to our marriage.

Yes, there were some interesting stories told by the Johnson cousins also. And the reunion has stimulated the discovery of a few stories which were not told to everyone at that family gathering.

(continued on page 3)



(continued from page 2)

And in July, my wife's Huggins Family line will be gathering again in the family life facility of the Ghents Branch Baptist Church. That Church was the place of worship of both of our Bamberg County families and its Cemetery the resting place of departed ancestors.

And Mazie and I were married in that Ghents Branch Baptist Church on June 14, 1957, on a very hot "low-country" Summer Wedding Day. That is one year shy of half a century.

But about 146 years ago — one year before the Citadel Military College Cadets fired the first shots at Major Anderson's troops out in the harbor of Charleston's Fort Sumter — there was another gathering of family members of one of my family lines — the Park Family.

This was one of those magic occurrences which too few times happen in the histories of our loved ones. But, fortunately, this one did.

Last Summer when I visited my Cousin Frank Clements Shaw, Jr., he shared with me about 5 separate journals of various lengths which had been written by relatives who are of more immediate kin to him than myself.

The one that I will share with you at this time speaks for itself, and thankfully it speaks volumes in its three short pages.

**EAGLE CLIFF, GEORGIA
JUNE 7TH, 1860**

MY BELOVED CHILDREN,
I SEAT MYSELF TO GIVE YOU ALL A GENERAL SEARCH OF MATTERS AND THINGS — AS SOME OF YOU WISH ME GIVE YOU SUCH A LETTER. WELL, I SHALL GO BACK TO THE 21ST OF AUGUST, 1851, THE DAY OF YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH. HER AND MYSELF LIVED TOGETHER FORTY-SEVEN YEARS, FOUR MONTHS, TWO WEEKS, ONE DAY AND EIGHTEEN HOURS. FROM THAT DATE UNTIL MY SECOND MARRIAGE WAS THREE YEARS, TEN MONTHS AND ELEVEN DAYS.

WELL, SOME OF YOU HAVE SEEN MY SITUATION AND SOME HAVE NOT, THEREFORE I WILL GIVE YOU A SMALL SKETCH OF IT.

I AM SITUATED ON A BEAUTIFUL EMINENCE ON THE WEST SIDE OF YOUR BROTHER'S (T. Y. PARK) LOT OF LAND, IN FULL VIEW OF LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN.

WE HAVE GOOD WATER AND ABOUT THIRTY APPLE TREES, SOME HAS APPLES ON THEM THIS YEAR. WE'VE GRAPE VINES IN THE YARD, ALL BEARING GRAPES. WE HAVE GOOD LOTS FOR

RAISING VEGETABLES, ALSO A GOOD PAILED GARDEN WITH PLENTY OF VEGETABLES IN IT. MILK, BUTTER, PLENTY OF HONEY TO SEASON ALL.

OUR BEES ARE VERY RICH THIS SPRING, WE HAVE BUT FIVE SWARMS YET FROM ELEVEN STANDS. WELL, SOME OF YOU WISH TO KNOW HOW WE CAME TO RAISING CHICKENS, IF YOU COULD SEE US GO OUT IN THE EVENING TO FEED ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TO TWO HUNDRED, YOU WOULD THINK WE WAS GOING INTO THE CHICKEN SPECULATION.

WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT UNLESS IT WAS OF MORE IMPORTANCE. I HAD LIKE TO FORGOTTEN TO SAY MY PRINCIPLE BUSINESS IS TO ATTEND THE DRIS VINEYARD. I HAVE AN INTEREST IN IT. IT IS DOING WELL, IT HAS SOME GRAPES IN IT THIS YEAR. THIS SEASON IS VERY GOOD SO FAR, PLENTY OF FRUITS OF ALL KINDS.

WELL, I THINK I HEAR SOME OF YOU SAY, "FATHER LIKES TO PUFF IN HIS OLD AGE, BUT I RECON HE IS DONE NOW." NOT SO, THE BEST IS TO COME YET. YOU RECOLLECT, THIS IS MY BIRTHDAY! THREE SCORE AND FIFTEEN YEARS. WELL, HOW MANY GRANDCHILDREN DO YOU SUPPOSE I HAVE? I WILL TELL YOU, FORTY AND FIFTEEN GREAT GRAND CHILDREN.

"WELL, WELL, FATHER MUST FEEL QUITE LARGE" — WELL, I DO, FOR THIS YEAR HAS BROUGHT ABOUT SOMETHING NEW THAT I NEVER DID EXPECT TO SEE. YOU ALL WONDER WHAT CAN THAT BE! I THOUGHT YOU HAD LIVED SO LONG THERE WAS NOTHING NEW! YES, YES, THERE IS!

I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE A UNIVERSALIST CHURCH CONSTITUTED IN THIS COUNTY. AND MY ELDEST GRANDSON THE PASTOR OF IT. I SHALL BE GREATLY PLEASED IF YOU WILL HEAR HIM.

AND NOW, IN CONCLUSION, I CAN SAY WITH THE LIGHT I HAVE BEFORE ME, I HAVE NOT A DOUBT ON MY MIND, OF THE UNIVERSAL HOLINESS AND HAPPINESS OF ALL THE HUMAN FAMILY, AND YOUR MOTHER SAID ON HER DEATHBED, "TELL ALL MY CHILDREN AND FRIENDS I HAD AN UNSHAKEN CONFIDENCE IN GOD, A UNIVERSAL FATHER; CHRIST, A UNIVERSAL SAVIOR; MAN, OF UNIVERSAL BROTHER AND HEAVEN, A UNIVERSAL HOME."

NOW YOU CAN ACCOUNT MY PRESENT FEELINGS. I THINK OF OUR DEAR FRIENDS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE, WE THAT ARE YET ALIVE SHALL ALL SOON MEET TO PART NO MORE, WHERE TEARS SHALL BE WIPED OFF ALL FACES, AND WHERE SIN AND SORROW WILL NEVER MOLEST US AND DEATH THE LAST ENEMY SHALL BE DESTROYED. MAY GOD GRANT IT TO BE ALL HAPPY LOTS.

SO FAREWELL. JAMES PARK

(Thank you Eddie for writing and sharing this document with us...) *--Leroy*

Following is more information from Eddie as a follow up to the information on pages 2 and 3.

RAPARKSR@aol.com writes:

Dear Eddie,

I can't believe all the work you have done. I appreciate all the information you have shared.

Cousin Richard A. Park

Son of David Allen Park

Grandson of Richard Franklin Park

Great-grandson of Thomas Yandell Park

Great, great-grandson of James & Martha Yandell Park

In a message dated 5/29/2006 9:19:39 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, Eedyedgar writes:

Dear Richard,

As I said to many of you at Cousin Frank's at the Davis Cross Roads intersection of Hog Jowl Road and the other road location of one of the most amazing homes which I have ever visited -- the Frank Clements Shaw, Jr.'s Northwest Georgia homestead -- that place, and time, and circumstance from the perspective of a 69 year old earthling must have been a great deal like Heaven. I sure felt that there were many of our loved ones surrounding us on that idyllic Saturday.

It is amazing what Frank had done out there in what I believe is McLemore's Cove where the skirmishes occurred just a couple of days prior to the more heralded military actions at Chickamauga. And the setting is further enhanced with the majestic Lookout Mountain outlining the Western horizon.

As I sat there in the "upper breeze way" of Cousin Frank's and watched cousin Ed Park unroll that scroll like panoramic vision of the earlier 1923 Park Family Reunion with the help of a few other Park Family relatives, I was awestricken.

The wonderful and loving images of members of my family such as my Grandfather Judson C. Cavender's two sisters — Georgia Cavender Beck and Minnie Cavender Warrenfells and their spouses and children — was more than I would have anticipated. The welcomed surprises just continued to greatly please us as we gladly shared our family treasures and heirlooms in the museum like surroundings of Frank's most impressive residence and farm.

I will be forever grateful for all of you wonderful Park cousins who I met for the first time ever on that enchanted May 20th in 2006.

Today is Memorial Day — 2006, as I write this. Yesterday, was the Annual Hightower Family Reunion which is held in the vicinity of a little Bamberg County village by the name of Govan, South Carolina. We have been gathering at Still Waters Farm Resort for three years now. There were prior sites in the general area for our family.

We had about 75 cousins who came from as far as Texas, Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina. It was a very different atmosphere than the North-western Georgia site of the previous week.

It was a 90+ degree day which kept us in the air conditioned meeting hall most of the time. We did go outside from time to time to check on the progress of those sweltering cousins who were lovingly preparing the bar-b-que with their treasured recipes which have been handed down for generations of Hightower history in our "lowcountry" of the Palmetto State.

One of our cousins, Debbie Barry of Tallahassee, displayed to us a fiddle which her Great Grandfather John Thomas Hightower had hand made. And there were a few of the family who shared stories which they had heard the elders tell in long ago "family times" of Debbie's grandpa "J.T." and other kin as they would gather on Saturdays in Denmark to entertain the townsfolk who had come to town from their rural homes to load up on supplies for the next few weeks. It was a great time of reminiscing yesterday at Still Waters.

I am looking forward to the Park and Hightower gatherings again in 2007 and beyond.

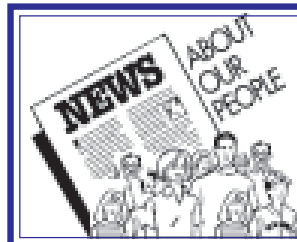
--Cousin Eddie Hightower

(Son of Voncile and Martha Eleanor Cavender Hightower Grandson of Flora Collins and Judson Cicero Cavender GreatGrandson of Martha "Mattie" Clements and Joseph Warren Cavender

GreatGreatGrandson of Adam G. and Mary Wilson Hill Park Clements

GreatGreatGreatGrandson of Martha Yandell and James Park)

(Those familiar with the Dedmon (Deadman) family know that Eddie connects at Clemith Cavender and Rebecca (Rachael) Deadman. There are some pictures on the next page in connection with the information given on this page. Thanks again Eddie for your contribution to the family research project. --Leroy)



...Just the GOOD NEWS

Missourian News June 26, 2006

Academy gives students training in ethics Columbia College program teaches high school students about the choices they make

By MARISA WILSON-FRAILS

Five high school seniors from Missouri and Illinois have spent the past two weeks at Columbia College considering how they make moral decisions and how others reach them.

They are participating in the college's first Summer Ethics Academy. The three-week program was started by Mark Price, an assistant professor of philosophy, to help high school students think about ethics before they become adults and to show them the college experience before they graduate.



MARK PRICE

Each weekday, the students participate in two, two-hour sessions, and the rest of the time is free. During the morning session, they sit around a table with Price and talk about contemporary ethical issues. They discuss scenarios and decide whether they think the issues raised are moral ones and why. During the afternoon sessions, Price lectures about traditional moral theories.

"It's very challenging," said Shannon Buckridge, who will start her senior year at Hickman High School in the fall. "I'll be hanging out with my friends and still will be thinking about it. I think I'll be able to live a more ethical life and apply it to life in general."

Price applied for a grant from the Higher Education and Leadership Ministries in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to start the program. The college has its roots in the denomination and, although the school is nonsectarian, it maintains a relationship with the church. Applicants did not have to show a belief in God; however, special consideration was given to those students who are members of a Disciples of Christ congregation, Price said.

Columbia College has worked to build its ethics program. That push largely began when John Schiffman, a member of the college's Board of Trustees, gave a sizable donation to the college, which he wanted to go toward ethics education. A lecture series on ethics is held in the Schiffman name.

"The summer ethics program for high school students was the next step in ethics education," Price said. "My specialization has always been ethics. (The program) was a hope to give them some ethics training before independence."

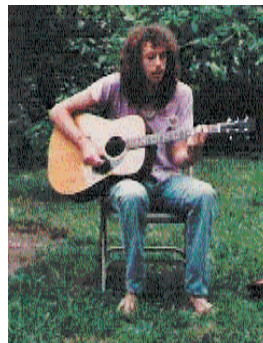
The program, which runs through Friday, is free for the students, including room, board and other activities.

"It prepares you for college life, gives you a chance to live on campus and adjust to the classroom setting," said Ashley Gilpin of Auxvasse. "As you grow, you have to learn more about yourself, and this has definitely helped. It's made me realize that when you have a belief, you should have a good argument to back it up." The program is also intended to work as a recruitment tool for high-achieving students. Buckridge is now considering attending Columbia College.

"Before I came, I wasn't sure because it was so small, but now it's on my list," she said. "It just seemed more personal; they seemed to care a lot."

Price said the program will affect the students' ethics overall and said he hopes the program and Columbia College continue to serve the community.

"That's my goal, to inspire them to develop a strong basis for their own moral thinking," Price said. "That basis can be applied to anything they face in life".



Mark Price is my nephew and son of Carolyn and Claude Price. Carolyn is my sister. We don't see him very often as he is busy out in the "show-me state". As a young person he was very talented. He is shown here entertaining for my parents (his grandparents) 50th wedding anniversary in 1988. If my caculations are correct he was 18 then.

DEATH NOTICES

From: VON HAMRICK

To: gldedmon@alltel.net; jofern@zianet.com; McBee49@aol.com; Hamrickjr@comcast.net

Subject: Obit of Dr. John Jewell Hamrick

John Jewell was the grandson of Preston Norman Hamrick and Betty Dedmon. She was the daughter of William Henry and Sarah Canton Deadman.

Obituaries

Published in the Charlotte Observer on 5/24/2006

Dr. John Jewell Hamrick

LENOIR — Dr. John Jewell Hamrick, (Col. U.S. Army Ret.) 84, of Lenoir, died Sunday, May 21, 2006, at Caldwell Memorial Hospital.

He was born July 26, 1921, in Rutherford County to the late John Jasper and Lucy H. Hamrick. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Tommy Hamrick.

Dr. Hamrick went to Mars Hill College for two years, from 1937-1939 and Emory University School of Dentistry. He retired with the rank of Colonel from the U.S. Army with 30 years of service where he served in WW II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Lenoir Lions Club; he had 20-plus years with the RSVP-VITA Program for seniors, low-income and the handicapped. He provided dental care for those in need, and his volunteer work speaks well for him.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Lenoir where he was a life deacon; he served for 22 years as co-chairman of the beautification committee and the Lord's Supper Committee.

Survivors include his wife, whom he married on May 19, 1951, Sarah Elizabeth Curtis Hamrick of the home; two sisters, Mrs. Betty Sue Hamrick Price of Charlotte and Mrs. Eric Carolyn Hamrick Russell of Black Mountain; a nephew, Jody Price and wife Amy of Lake James; two nieces, Mrs. Renee Price and husband Greg, and Ms. Susan Andrews, all of Charlotte; special cousin, Mrs. Susie Grist and her late husband, Tom Grist; and numerous other cousins.

Graveside services will be held Friday, May 26, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. at the Blue Ridge Memorial Park, and memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church of Lenoir conducted by Dr. David B. Smith and the Rev. Fred Barnes. The gathering of friends will follow the service in the fellowship hall of the church.

Greer-McElveen Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

The Star's know-it-all:

Doris Dedmon, cancer fighter

You know someone with cancer? There's hope

Cassie Tarpley - May 10, 2006

The know-it-all: Doris Dedmon, oncology nurse at Cleveland Regional Medical Center, Relay for Life co-chair for Cleveland County

What she knows: Cancer --- professionally, as a career cancer nurse, and personally, with many family members and friends affected by the disease

What's up? Two good reasons for hope in the treatment of cancer

HOPE Lodges are free homes away from home for patients in active outpatient treatment. One of the 18 in America is in Greenville, near the cancer research center at East Carolina University

New drugs are coming out all the time that the public doesn't learn about right away. One is Revlimid, proving effective against bone marrow cancers.

Why you should care: "These things give people hope. The fellowship of Relay for Life does that too. People come together that have something in common — that's why Relay's so successful."

What to do: Learn all you can about the fight against cancer and join the effort. Cassie chimes in: In 2005, Cleveland County participants ranked fourth in the nation in per capita fund-raising. Wow!

I am not sure who Doris is. She may be married to a Dedmon, but nevertheless we are always pleased to find Dedmons in the news. --Leroy



The Newest Dedmon

CONGRATULATIONS

to Danielle and Bradley Dedmon of Spiro, Okla. They have a new son, Garon Alex. born June 13.

I found a Bradley Dedmon, but if I have his birthdate correct he is only 14 years old, so I am ruling that one out. Somebody out there help us on this one. Thanks,

--Leroy

From the Mail Bag

From: Glenda Holcomb
<momofKGS@aol.com>

Subject: address

Just checking my email addresses and found this note to change yours. Is this finding you? How are you doing?



(Yep, it found me and thanks for the short message. I had wondered if your part of California had fallen into the Pacific.

--Leroy)

It was good hearing from Glenda again. She had written some Down Memory Lane articles for some of the earlier editions of the Dedmon Connection. She is connected to the family by James Thomas Dedmon and Susanah Rebecca McEntire. James was a cousin to my grandfather..

(My letter:)

Mark, I want to use the article about your project in the June newsletter... (I know you can't believe I am just now publishing June) Anyway, I would like a more current picture of you than the one I have... Although I like that one too. If you don't mind would like to leave it in..... Was so good seeing you recently and I am proud to have you as a nephew.... keep up the good work... UNK

(His reply:)

Leroy,

It was good seeing you and Jane too. I'm flattered that you want to publish the story about me. Thanks for the kind words. I had to laugh when I saw the picture of me at 18! Please do leave it in—the contrast with the ones I'm sending you is amusing.

Take care, Mark

I wrote the above letter to my nephew in reference to the story on page 5. After receiving his reply I decided to publish the other picture he sent.

--Leroy

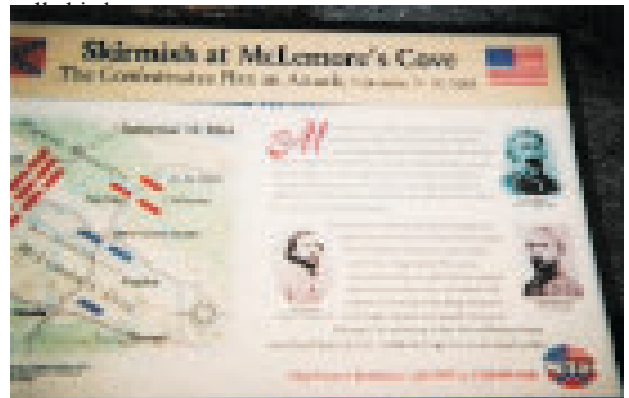


*(Mark Price, 18 yrs later)
(See Picture on page 5)*

The following pictures are in connection with the article(s) on pages 2, 3 and 4 submitted by Eddie Hightower.



A small park — “side trip” — near the Estelle community in Walker County, Georgia. These informational stands are located on the land where the ancestral home of the Frank Clements Shaw family was located just a few miles from the Davis family homestead which Frank, Jr. now



It seems that the gathering at Davis Cross Roads, back in 1863, was not as pleasant as the recent Park Family Reunion on the 20th of May 2006.

Name: Shane Dedmon

E-Mail: zeekemon@yahoo.com

Location: St. Louis, Mo

Comments: I'm from Cabot, AR. My dad was Harry Dedmon and my grandfather was James Dedmon.

The only Harry I found was not the son of James and was probably too far back to be Shane's father. Maybe we can get some dates and other names to help make the connection. --Leroy

Name: Kathy Broome

E-Mail: kathysfamilyroots@comcast.net

Location: East Ridge, TN

Comments: My husband's gr gr grandmother was Caldonia Dedmon, who married William Louis Broome. What a great site and tons of hard work involved.

Thanks Kathy and it is good hearing from you. I am familiar with the Broome family that connects to Caldonia and William... --Leroy



This page is dedicated to the "branches" of our tree that are not Dedmons. I will gladly print any information you send me as to your relatives. This includes inlaws and "outlaws".

Betty Black, 76, Ringgold

Betty Jo Peters Black of Ringgold, died Tuesday, June 13. She was 76. A lifelong resident of the Ringgold area, she was retired from Candlewick Yarns where she worked for 27 years. She is preceded in death by her husband, Oscar "Pete" Black; parents, Louis and Annie Holcomb Peters and siblings, Charles Peters, Lucille Rhear and Pauline Bridges. Survivors include two children, Paula White and James "Jim" Bullard, both of Ringgold; one sister, Mamie Redden of Shalimar, Fla.; three grandchildren, Julie Wolff, Jaime Banks, and Chad Bullard, all of Ringgold; great grandson, Brady Wolff of Ringgold, and several nieces and nephews. Services: Friday, June 16 at 2 p.m., in the funeral home chapel with Rev. Herman Kapherr officiating. Burial: Anderson Cemetery. Visitation: Thursday, June 15 all day and until funeral time on Friday, June 16, at the funeral home. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Home, Ringgold.

(I am not exactly sure how Betty Jo is related, but I know she is a descendent of Josiah A. McEntire and Louvenia Proctor. Also, her husband, Oscar Black probably is related. I will have to do a little research on this. ---Leroy)

Ronnie Cline, 62, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Ronnie Cline of Chattanooga, Tenn., died Tuesday, June 20. He was 62. He had lived in the Chattanooga area for most of his life and was of the Baptist faith. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jess and Susie Cline. Survivors include his three children, Michelle Cline, Anthony Cline and David Gream; two brothers, Nathan Cline of Chattanooga, Jesse Cline of Rossville; three sisters, Frances Baker, Edith Peterson and Emma Chambers, all of Chattanooga; several nieces and nephews. Services: Friday, June 23, at 2 p.m. at Harrison Cemetery. Visitation: Friday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe.

(Dad once told me that he thought his last name was Cline until he was in his "teens". His mother died when he was a baby and his aunt Tony Walker Cline "raised" him. ---Leroy)

Millard Black, 93, Rossville

Millard Theodore **Black** of Rossville died Tuesday, May 23. He was 93. He trusted in the Lord 33 years ago and was ready to go meet Him and to once again be with his wife of 62 years, Lavader **Wells** Black. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Alice Black Huneycutt. He was proud to say he was a World War II veteran and a Marine. Survivors include nine children and their spouses, Harold and Lonnie Black of Calhoun, Wilburn and Katherin Black of Centre, Ala., Winston and Sue Black of Sugar Valley, Jimmy Black of Fort Payne, Ala., Ruth Anderson of Calhoun, Patty McGee, and Mary and Clinton Henderson, all of Fort Payne, Ala., Carolyn and Jimmy Willoughby of Harrison, Tenn., Wanda and Jerry **Callahan** of East Ridge, Tenn.; son-in-law, Gene Huneycutt of Locust, N.C.; 27 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, several great-great-grandchildren; many others who truly loved him. Services: Friday, May 26, at 11 a.m. at Lakewood Memory Gardens South with Revs. Jimmy Coleman and John Carroll officiating. Visitation: Thursday, May 25, after 4 p.m., and prior to the service Friday at the funeral home. Online guestbook: www.wilsonfuneralhome.com Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe.

There are several possible family connections in this obit. Of course, there is the Black connection, as everyone is kin to Gordon Black. Actually the Black family connects to us about a dozen different ways. The Wells family is mentioned and my great grandmother was a Wells. Also, the Callahan family is part of this family. My father's aunt Rachel married Gene Callahan. I am hoping someone will make these connections and send me the information. --Leroy