

The Dedmon Connection

AUGUST 2006 Number 51

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



LEROY DEDMON

HOME AGAIN, HOME AGAIN

Jane and I spent a week in Manchester, TN earlier this month. I preached in a Gospel Meeting (Revival to all my Baptist friends) at the Ragsdale Church of Christ. In all my years as a preacher for the Church of Christ, I have never really understood why we avoid the use of revival. It may be because we don't want to be revived. (kidding of course)... I have noticed different religious groups use terminology that kinda identifies our affiliation (your speech betrays you.... For example, in the selection of preachers I have found the Methodists send their preachers, the Baptist call theirs and Church of Christ tries theirs.... and tried I have been, but no real complaints....

I do think we often avoid doing some things certain ways or calling some things certain names because other religions do it that way. One must be careful not to let customs and traditions dictate his religion.... Customs are often used to gain our way about things. I am reminded of the young boy who shot a duck that fell on his neighbors land. When he went to retrieve it, the neighbor, an old farmer, informed him that the duck was his as it was on his property. After a few exchanges from each claiming the duck, the old farmer said, *"We will settle this the traditional Southern way. You bend over and I will kick you, then I will bend over and you kick me. The one who kicks the other the farthest gets the duck"*. Reluctantly, the young boy, not wanting to violate tradition, agreed. He bent over and received the kick from the farmer. Thinking how much better he would feel when he returned the favor, he picked himself up and walked over to the farmer. *"Ok"*, he said, *"You bend over it is my time to kick you"*..... The old farmer just smiled and said, *"that's ok son, you can have the duck"*. I decided years ago that I was not going to crawl in and out the windows just because my religious friends went in and out the doors. Oh, well that's enough preaching in one day.... Amen??

Anyway, back to my trip to Manchester. It was good to be with the brethren at Ragsdale again. I had preached there several times before and some of the folks. However, the years has taken its toll and a number of those I had known have passed away. We did see a lot of people we have known from other congregations. We stayed with our good friends, Ike and Bea Turner at Morrison. When they built their house almost forty years ago, they gave us a room and we have used it often. Even if they are not at home we know we are welcome to stay there.



GRAPES AND MORE GRAPES

We got back home in time to pick our grapes and blueberries. Also, we had a "bumper" crop of okra this year, but the beans and squash did not do any good. Tom (my brother) and I replanted them the first of the month, so if we do not have an early frost we just might have some good ole pole beans and crooked neck squash yet. We also planted several varieties of greens (Turnip Greens, Lettuce, Kale, Mustard, etc...). The jury is still out on the watermelons and canteloupes (not looking good though).



**BLUEBERRIES JUST
WAITING TO BE PICKED.... ..**



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Having moved back to the old home place, I am often reminded of various family members by observing the names of roads in our area. We live at the end of **Dickson Road**. I remember when **Dickson Road** was just a “pig trail” that was not even used except to walk. We always came to this house by the way of Grandma and Grandpa’s house, which is now a portion of **Bates Lane**. When Dad and Mom retired and moved back to the “Home Place” they cleaned off the trail and made it the drive way to the house. A few years later the county (Catoosa) wanted to install a well and water tower on our property. In exchange they agreed to pave the drive way and convert it to a county road. Thus it was named **Dickson Road** after my Mom’s side of the family. Since then others have built houses on the opposite side and my cousins have built on “our side”, between the house and the main road (Houston Valley Road). Also, it could not be named **Dedmon Road** as that name had already been taken.



Dickson Road intersects Houston Valley Road where the old Hickory Grove Baptist Church/School building still stands. The building has been abandoned for a number of years and was recently sold to the Kittle family. This was the second building for the church as the first building was located a few miles north at Mt. Nebo. My great grandfather, William Dedmon, gave the land for the original building. When I was a young boy I attended services there as Hickory Grove would conduct at least one revival per year. It was also the location for the Dickson/ Templeton Family Reunion for several years.

Just south of **Dickson Road** is **Bates Lane**. **Bates Lane** is parallel to our property line with enough space for houses along the stretch between our property and the Lane. My mother’s step sister, Ola Lee Bates and three of her children, Jimmy, Janette and Randy live there. **Bates Lane** is just south of the drive to my grandparent’s old house and actually intersects the old driveway to our house which is no longer in existence.



Continuing south on Houston Valley Road you will see the new Hickory Grove Baptist Church just as you approach the Whitfield County line. At this point the name is changed to Hickory Grove Road for about a mile. It dead ends into Houston Valley Road in Whitfield County. Just as you turn left you will see **Capehart Road** to your right. This is where my Uncle Robert and Edna Capehart lived. She was my dad’s sister.



As you continue on Houston Valley Road for about a mile you will see **Wimpy Road** on your left. This is a family of cousins I never knew until I retired and returned to the Valley. Joe Wimpy married Alice Dickson, my mother’s aunt. She passed away and Joe remarried and the Wimpy family moved to Michigan. Some of them have since returned. I guess their not living around us was the reason I never knew them.



One of the ways folks around here know whether or not you are a native of Houston Valley is by the way you pronounce it. It is pronounced House...ton, but strangers usually call it Huston... I am not exactly sure how the name was derived. I was told a family of Houstons lived in the valley at one time. My favorite story is that Sam Houston camped here on his way to Texas... Thus the name Houston Valley... go figure!!!!



(continued from page 2)

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

From **Dickson Road** and going north on Houston Valley Road to Bandy Road, you make a left toward highway 41. Just past the railroad crossing there is McGill Lane, a cut off that takes you to Campbell Road



and Tunnel Hill. Just as you turn on McGill there is **Greeson Drive** to the right. Actually it appears to be a driveway to the only house in sight. I do not know who that family is, but the

Greesons are in our tree. The Greeson connection is through Carrie Elizabeth Dedmon and Samuel Huston (Huse) Edgemon. Sam Greeson married their granddaughter, Mamie Irene North. Vernon Greeson married their granddaughter, Louise Edgemon and Hugh Don Greeson married their granddaughter, Helen Edgemon. Carrie Elizabeth was the daughter of Joseph E. Dedmon and Martha Black. Joseph was the son of Hannah Dedmon, my father's great aunt and my mother's great grandmother. Carrie Elizabeth Dedmon was also the grandmother of my friend and cousin John William Henson, III.

Dedmon Road is west of Ringgold, off Highway 151. Most folks in the county know where this road is due to the fact that it leads to the county landfill. However, there are several houses there, but to my knowledge there are no Dedmons living there.



The best that I can figure is that the road is named for the John Thomas Dedmon family. John was a brother to Carrie Elizabeth and of course, a grandson of Hannah Dedmon. According to John Henson, John Dedmon swapped almost a block of Rossville Avenue (I assume Rossville Boulevard) for a large farm down the Lafayette Road south of Ringgold.



This is the area where **Dedmon Road** is located. Traveling toward Ringgold from the west on Highway 151 you would turn left on **Dedmon Road** about 1-2 miles east of Ringgold.

Recently I discovered a **Cavender Road** on the south side of Dalton. I knew there were some Cavenders living in Dalton as our cousin Terry Hightower has written about them in the past. There were also Cavenders living in Cherokee County, near Woodstock, GA where I lived prior to retirement.



Clement Cavender, Sr. married Rachel Rebecca Deadman and some of their descendents drifted to the Dalton area.

Family tradition says that Clement Cavender, Sr. walked from South Carolina to the northeast part of Georgia and selected the place where he wanted to bring his family, and then walked back home to gather his family and belongings and to move to Georgia.

WALKER COUNTY

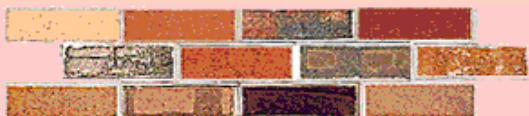
Although I was born in Catoosa County, we moved to Walker County when I was six years old.

I lived there until I married and moved to Huntsville, Alabama in 1959. It never really occurred to me that I was a Walker descendent until I began the family research project less than ten years ago. My father's mother was a Walker, but she died when he was a baby and I never knew her. I don't suppose she was related to Freeman Walker, for whom the county was named, but she could have been. I plan to feature the Walker family in a future issue.



LAST, BUT NOT LEAST IS THIS SIGN ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CEDARTOWN, GA. IT ADVERTISES OUR RESTAURANT LOCATED AT BUCHANAN. GWEN, DAUGHTER, OPERATES THE RESTAURANT.

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.

Hi, George

I came across your Family Tree Maker web site. Looks good.

I am a descendant of Sarah Deadmond and John Hilliard Hill. Thought you might like to have a list of all their children since you have only two listed on the web site. Their fourth child, John A. Hill, was my great, great grandfather. I have a lot of the descendants of many of the children that I could send you if you would like. Just let me know.

Mark Mullinax (mmulli8905@aol.com)

John Hillard Hill was born 1797 in Rowan County, North Carolina, and died 28 August 1868 in Marion County, Illinois. He married (1) Sarah Ann Deadmond 30 December 1817 in Rowan County, North Carolina, daughter of Thomas Deadmond (Dedman) and Sarah Edmund. She was born 1800 in Davie County, North Carolina, and died 1848 in Marion County, Illinois. He married (2) Zurella W. Neal 08 July 1859 in Marion County, Illinois.

Children of John Hill and Sarah Deadmond are:

- i. Thomas Hill, born 16 November 1818 in North Carolina; died 23 August 1848. He married Mary Ann Vaughn; born 1826 in Tennessee; died Unknown.
- ii. Margaret Ann Hill, born 06 July 1821 in Tennessee; died 15 September 1862 in Marion County, Illinois. She married David Womaugh Green 13 February 1845 in Marion County, Illinois; born 11 May 1822 in Memphis, Tennessee; died 02 March 1865 in Meridian, Mississippi.
- iii. Isaac Hill, born circa 1823 in Tennessee; died August 1848 in Marion County, Illinois.
- iv. John A. Hill, born 08 July 1826 in Tennessee; died 25 August 1883 in Marion County, Illinois. He married Lucinda Arminta Beck 19 December 1849 in Marion County, Illinois; born 06 September 1831; died 24 January 1875 in Marion County, Illinois.

v. William Carroll Hill, born 29 February 1828 in Zemuree, Tennessee; died 18 November 1908 in Marion County, Illinois. He married Fariba Tracy 09 October 1849 in Marion County, Illinois; born 17 August 1833; died 01 December 1897 in Marion County, Illinois.

vi. Martha Hill, born 17 January 1831 in Illinois; died 26 November 1862 in Jefferson County, Illinois. She married Marcus Andrew Simmons 18 June 1853 in Marion County, Illinois; born 1833 in Tennessee; died 17 April 1865 in Andersonville Confederate Prison, Georgia.

vii. Sarah Ann Hill, born 1832 in Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois; died 27 July 1865 in Marion County, Illinois. She married Washington Byars 10 October 1856 in Marion County, Illinois; born 1836; died 1906.

viii. Susan Ann Hill, born 14 February 1835 in Marion County, Illinois; died 07 February 1908 in Marion County, Illinois. She married (1) Squire E. Hall 09 October 1856 in Marion County, Illinois; born 14 February 1838 in Morgan County, Illinois; died 21 January 1867 in Marion County, Illinois. She married (2) James Carroll Simmons 09 September 1872 in Jefferson County, Illinois; born 1812 in Sumner County, Tennessee; died 12 August 1877 in Illinois.

Notes for James Carroll Simmons:

One source list his birth date as 2 October 1845. Another source says he married his second wife, Susan Hall (nee Hill) later in life after his first wife, Martha died by whom he had eleven children. More research is needed in this area. Census records have not been checked.

ix. Narcissa Hill, born 23 March 1837 in Marion County, Illinois; died 23 September 1911. She married John Guild Simmons 06 November 1856 in Marion County, Illinois; born 10 May 1837 in Tennessee; died 26 January 1920 in Marion County, Illinois.

x. Unknown Hill, born 1840; died August 1848 in Marion County, Illinois.

xi. Joseph Hill, born 1842 in Marion County, Illinois; died 02 March 1902. He married Rebecca Myers 15 January 1862 in Marion County, Illinois; born 1847 in Illinois; died Unknown.

*Thanks Mark, I appreciate very much your sharing with us this information. If everyone would do this we could virtually eliminate our brick walls.... I am always interested in receiving more information on the related family lines...
Leroy (aka--George)*

From: Sherman Richard
To: 'gldedmon@alltel.net'
Subject: William Bowen
Good Afternoon,

From the Mail Bag (We may be Hound Dogs yet!!!!)



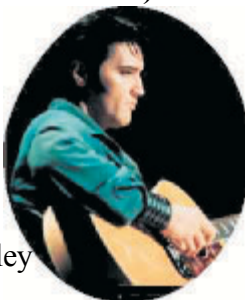
I have recently discovered that I am possibly related to Elvis. Over the last couple of years my cousin has researched our family and has gone back to my Great Great Grandfather, William Bowen. I've been trying to verify this information and ran across your home page searching for Martha Jane Wesson.... which led me to your listing (Number 21) which lists a number of familiar names including William Bowen, Emily "Millie" Bowen, Gladis Love Smith and all the Presleys. It appears I may be related to the Dedmons as well. I will attempt to attach the info I have. Other than the names I have little information. Can you help me confirm any of this. My e-mail is: Richard.sherman@tinker.af.mil. Thanks

There is a connection to the Bowen family thru Arveyzena Caroline Dedmon. The spelling of her first name varies slightly with other researches, but I am going to accept your spelling until someone shoes me otherwise... I have some information somewhere that I will locate and send you. Also, I had an article in volume 21 of the DEDMON CONNECTION about our connection to Elvis.
<http://dedmon.org/connection/connection21.pdf>

Stay in touch and we can share information.. Seems I read somewhere that James Bowen was a preacher. Don't remember where.Leroy

Descendants of William Bowen

- 1- William Bowen
- +Martha Overby
- 2- **Emily "Millie" Bowen (Sister to James Y)**
- +Edward Wesson
- 3- Martha Jane Wesson
- +Dunnan Presley
- 4- Rosella Presley
- 5- Jessie Dee Presley
- +Minnie Mae Hood
- 6- Vernon Elvis Presley
- +Gladys Love Smith
- 7- **Elvis Aaron Presley**



4- Rosalind Presley

2- James Young Bowen (Brother to Emily)

- +**Arveyzena Caroline Dedmon**
- 3- Martha Bowen
- 3- Mary Bowen
- +William F Dunham
- 3- John W. Bowen
- 3- Thomas Young Bowen
- 3- Sarah Elizabeth Bowen
- 3- Emily C. Bowen
- 3- James Andrew Bowen
- 3- Elijah Moloney Bowen
- 3- Anna L. Bowen



The following was taken from Elvis biography information, showing his parents to be the same as shown in the linage to the left:

Elvis Aaron Presley, in the humblest of circumstances, was born to Vernon and Gladys Presley in a two-room house in Tupelo, Mississippi on January 8, 1935. His twin brother, Jessie Garon, was stillborn, leaving Elvis to grow up as an only child. He and his parents moved to Memphis, TN in 1948, and Elvis graduated from Humes High School there in 1953.

I remember the following appearance on the Ed Sullivan show. Several of us "teens" went to Jane's (my then girl friend, now my wife) house on Sunday night following our Worship service at Chattanooga Valley.

Ed Sullivan had once said he would never have the controversial singer on his top-rated show, but that was before the week that Elvis' appearance on Steve Allen had surpassed Sullivan's ratings. Sullivan paid Elvis \$50,000 to make three appearances on his show, which was, at the time, more money than any performer had ever been paid to appear on a network variety program. When Elvis made his third Sullivan appearance in January of 1957, Ed Sullivan surprised Elvis by telling him on camera that his show had never had a better experience with a name act, and said "I wanted to say to Elvis and the country that this is a real decent, fine boy." It was on this very same Sullivan appearance that Elvis was shown on camera from the waist up only, one of early television history's most memorable moments.

DEATH NOTICES

William 'Bill' Lee

(Dec. 15, 1921 - Aug. 7, 2006)

EARL—The Rev. William "Bill" Franklin Lee, 84, of 623 Crow Road, died Monday, Aug. 7, 2006, at V.A. Medical Center in Asheville.

He was born in Cleveland County on Dec. 15, 1921, a son of the late Thomas Marvin Lee and Amanda Williams Lee. Mr. Lee retired from Cleveland Mills as opening room supervisor. He attended New Hope Baptist Church. During World War II, he served in the Army in the European Theater, where he was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Silver Service Medal.

His wife, Naomie "Dink" Jones Lee, preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Robert Hugh Lee and Thomas Lee; and a sister, Edna Earl Howell.

He is survived by a daughter, **Lisa Dedmon** and her husband, Andy, and a granddaughter, Victoria Dedmon, all of Earl.

Visitation: The family will receive friends today after the service at Rose Hill Memorial Park.

Funeral: Today at 10:30 a.m. at Stamey Funeral Home.
Burial: Rose Hill Memorial Park

Officiated by: The Rev. David Gordon

Memorials: Contribute to the charity of donor's choice

Online Condolences: www.stameyfuneralhome.com

I am not sure who Andy and Lisa Dedmon are, but I am depending on our readers to let me know.

--Leroy

SIGNED THE GUEST BOOK

Name: Shane Dedmon

E-Mail: zeekemon@yahoo.com

Referred By: Just Surf'd In

Location: St. Louis, Mo.

Comments: I'm from Cabot, Ar.

My dad was Harry Dedmon and my grandfather was James Dedmon.

Thanks Shane, If we had more information a connection to the tree could possibly be made. I only have one Harry Dedmon, but about 25 James...

--Leroy



From: JMBHDB@aol.com
To: gladdedmon@alltel.net
Subject: Website for your Dedmon Newsletter



Hate to admit it but I lost the website to find your Dedmon website - so much going on around here (family health issues) that I've been away from my family research and wanting to get back into it.

In another of my lines someone told me that my 3rd great grandmother was a Jane Dedmon (a 1806 VA - aft 1850 TN) m/George Reasonover but no one knows her parents, siblings, etc. Thought maybe I could put a query in your newsletter if it's OK.

The girl that told me about Jane Dedmon said that on the 1860 Census for Smith Co, TN 645/645 Jane Reasonover 51 TN (below The Oakley and above WW/Ardura Wills) 648/648 Susan Dedmon 75 NC (maybe Mom of Jane, wife of Geo W) living w/ Annie Hall 49 and maybe related to these Dedmon's in the 1850 Smith Co, TN Census: 824/824 Jane Reasonover 56 VA; Arvil 14, TN; John 6 TN; Caroline 16 TN; George 10 TN. 823/823 Bethel Dedmon 33 TN; Nancy 20 TN; William 1 TN. 825/825 John Dedmon 44 TN; Martha 40 TN; Frances 19 TN; Carlini 17 TN; Carroll 13 TN; Caroline 9 TN; Lewis 5 TN; Wm 3 TN, Henry 1 TN.

Sincerely, Jackie Mae Bishop

My reply to Jackie:

Thanks Jackie, I will use your information... as I am way behind, I might pre-date it and use in an earlier edition which was scheduled for march... I just finished Jan and almost thru with Feb... don't ask!!! (kidding)...the website is:

<http://dedmon.org>

.... Leroy

Well as you can see I did not get it in the earlier edition and somehow it got pushed back behind another stack of "must do things". It is always good to hear from Jackie and I appreciate her research. The area she is most familiar with is the "Mid-Tenn" Dedmons and that is the area in which I am so lacking. I am personally acquainted with a few of the folks in that area and have made a few attempts to find more, but somehow I keep procrastinating on this.... (Leroy)



Teresa Charlene Dedmon celebrated her “plentieth” birthday on Aug 24, 2006. Teresa is the daughter of Thomas Gordon and Diane Sparkman Dedmon. Thomas (Tommy) is the brother of Leroy Dedmon and son of Ruby Dickson Dedmon. Diane is the daughter of the late Robert Henry and Ruby Mae Childers Sparkman. Teresa plans to be married soon and move to the Little Rock, Arkansas area.

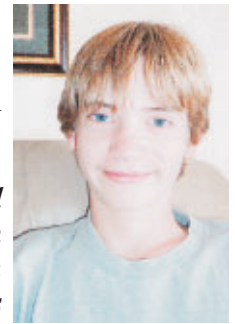


I have been trying to find someone in Arkansas to host a family reunion. You just never know who might be living in the “Razorback State. Many of our ancestors migrated to Arkansas and Oklahoma many years ago and some went from there to California, leaving family members at many places in between.

The Dedmon relatives that I know about in Arkansas include: Ruth Ann Dedmon Richard and Maye Belle Dedmon Armstrong, Kibby Dedman, William “Bill” Stalcup (son of Jewell Inez Dedmon) I keep thinking some of them will step forward and host the reunion. (Hint Hint.....)



Martians: Hoax or Truth by Seth Smith



STEVEN SETH SMITH

Seth is the son of Steve and Tonya Smith and the grandson of my sister, Ruth Dedmon Smith. Seth was twelve years old when he wrote this.

In history there have been many “mysteries” such as Bigfoot and the Abominable



Snowman. Today we will speak on Martians; are they real?

There have been many sightings of UFO’s, but they were all either planes, blimps, trains or some kind of hoax. The government may say there is proof of ufo’s, but they have none. Believe what you want, but I say there is no such thing.



Amen, Seth, preach on brother!!!! You know one has to think if there is life on another planet we would have discovered it by now. I was working at Redstone Arsenal in the early ‘60’s (that’s the 1960’s to some of you quick witted smart aleck cousins) on the Saturn Missile and we figured if there was life we would find it. Guess what?? Almost 50 years later and still no proof!!! ..Leroy

Happy Birthday: Ruth Richard



I am indebted to so many family members that I have met since I began this research project and newsletter almost ten years ago. Among the first were Ruth Ann Dedmon Richard from Arkansas. Ruth is the daughter of Hermon August and Melvina Tyler Dedmon. She has two children, Nathan and Janna. The only time I have met Ruth was at the 2000 Family Reunion. Her sister, Maye Belle Armstrong was also there. Those of you who knew my dad’s sister, Edna (Capehart) may notice the striking resemblance of the two.



RUTH AND JANNA RICHARD AT THE 2000 REUNION. JANNA HAS ALSO BEEN A LOT OF HELP IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE FAMILY. RUTH’S BIRTHDAY WAS THE 21ST.



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, “outlaws” and other laws.... (Leroy)

No limits for this Kodiak

By Larry Fleming (Dalton Daily Citizen)

Some football players complain about an injured finger. Or a stubbed toe or a sprained ankle. You don't hear Michael Templeton whine about anything.

Templeton, a 12-year-old seventh grader at New Hope Middle School, has bigger issues... Like epilepsy.

But on Monday, Templeton was going through all the rigorous practice drills with his teammates in near 90-degree heat. He ran wind sprints to end the session and is gearing up for Thursday's scrimmage against North Whitfield.

“He had a severely sprained finger, one of the worst I've seen,” Kodiaks assistant coach Burt Ridley said. “But he played right on. Michael gives it everything he has got. He's not graced with great athletic ability but he makes up for that by working hard. And he's never complained once about having epilepsy.”

After Monday's workout on the Northwest Whitfield High School soccer field, Templeton walked off the field, carrying his helmet and shoulder pads — just like every other player — and brandishing red cheeks due to the heat.... And he was smiling.

“I'm proud of what I'm doing,” he said. “I take my medication morning and night and I'm doing OK.”

Templeton is currently working at center and nose tackle for the first-year New Hope team. He has previously played rec league football, baseball and basketball, but has decided to focus his energy on football. “I didn't enjoy the other sports as much as football,” said Templeton, who is 5-foot-2 and weighs 85 pounds. “I was afraid of getting hit by a baseball and I wasn't really tall enough to play basketball.”

William Visher, head coach of New Hope's seventh grade team, said the staff keeps an eye on Templeton but they don't give him special treatment. “In heat like this,” Visher said, “we watch all our kids. We give them water breaks and if a player needs an extra break or two, he gets it. That includes Michael. You don't ever want a kid to get hurt. We take every precaution with all these boys.

“But when a parent comes to you with a special circumstance, and Michael's mother certainly gave us the low down on his condition, our senses are certainly heightened.” The Web site WebMD.com says epilepsy is the “occurrence of electrical storms in the brain that lead to various behavioral and/or movement manifestations (grand mal seizures).” There are four forms of epilepsy: idiopathic generalized, idiopathic partial, symptomatic generalized and symptomatic partial.

Michael's mother, Collette Cochran, says her son has a mixture of all four forms. “Michael was 10 when we got the news,” she said. “He's been on almost every medication they offer trying to find something to control the seizures and not mess with his mental ability. “He's been on some bad stuff and it has been a tough road. Things work for a while and then not at all.”

Cochran says Michael's seizures were severe at first. One episode resulted in his suffering a broken foot and a broken collarbone and they can also wipe out some short-term memory. “Michael missed a lot of school early on,” his mother said. “His hand shakes a little, his speech is not always clear, but mentally he's able to learn like the other students.” Cochran says Michael, who has a younger sister, Christian, tends to relate to younger children and adults better than his same-age classmates. She remains his biggest supporter.

“Ask him what's the worst thing that's happened to him, and he won't say epilepsy,” said Collette, who is married to Greg Cochran. Michael's mother calls football “the silver lining” to her son's condition. And she wasn't that concerned when he started playing football. “I don't think Michael can hurt himself or anyone else by playing football,” she said. “He's just a boy and I don't think you should limit him. He can do anything he wants to do.”

Visher has seen nothing that would cause him to restrict Michael's chances of playing this year. “He's hanging in there,” Visher said. “He's vying for playing time at positions in the box where he gets hit all the time. He's going to get as much playing time as he wants, or is able to handle. He's got as good a chance of playing as anybody else. His disability sure doesn't hold him back.”

I am not sure how Michael is connected to the Templeton family, but fairly sure he is related to my grandmother's family. She was Pearl Vistoria Templeton and daughter of George Leroy Templeton, my namesake. ...Leroy

