

The Dedmon Connection

December 2006 Number 55

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



HO HO HO

What a joyous time one has when the season for giving rolls around. The jolly fellow pictured here has been very busy. I spent two Saturdays at Wal-Mart making pictures with the kids and several days at Gwen's Family Restaurant in Buchanan, GA. (Gwen is my daughter).



Jane (my wife) and Ruth (my sister) did a bit of decorating to our den to make it look a lot like Christmas. Don't worry Santa, we will put out the fire before Christmas eve. I wish the picture had turned out a little lighter as it is hard to capture the beauty of the old log room and fire place.

The poem to the left was written by my sister, Ruth Smith. It was hard to pick just one from the many that she has written. I guess this one has a little something for everyone. She really knows how to capture the "spirit of Christmas" with words. She has written several poems about many different subjects, from people to houses to places. Her poems about the members at the Gurley Church of Christ have been a great "hit" as they were published in the weekly bulletin. Among my favorites are the one of this house where we now live and of course the "booklet" about her brother Leroy's sleeping problem.

Signs of Christmas

by Ruth Smith



Silver bells ringing,
Happy carolers singing;
Twinkling Christmas Lights.



Little elves in green tights,
Jolly Santas in the malls.



Everyone's decking the halls.
Christmas music everywhere,
Shoppers rushing here and there,
Children are good, there's a reason,



Oh yes, it's the Christmas season!

Cookies baking, smells so nice,
Children playing quiet as mice.



Stockings by the chimney hang,
"O Christmas Tree" the carolers sang;



Cookies for Santa on a plate,
Children so excited they can hardly wait...



Christmas morning here at last,
Children open presents very fast!

But the very next day, you're sure to hear,
The children all cry, "We can't wait until next year!!!"

Ruth decided to move in with us a couple of months ago to help care for mom. It sure does help to have her around. I don't think her kids and grandkids were all that thrilled about it, but now it gives them a great trip to come see their "Nanna". They also get a bonus as they can visit Uncle Leroy.



RUTH SMITH



FINALLY MY JOURNEY IS FINISHED

Eddie Hightower



Ever since my father, Edgar Voncile Hightower, Senior, told me the miraculous story of an accident which he was involved in with his best friend by the name of Thurston Whetstone when they both lived in the Binnicker's Community of Bamberg County just East of Denmark, South Carolina, I have never known the ages of the two boys, nor the date of the fatal accident.

One, a few years ago, I shared the facts of the incident which I knew with an old friend of mine, Victor Whetstone, Junior, of Denmark. "Vic", Jr. is the nephew of Thurston's. But we discovered that neither of us knew the date or their exact ages. Just that they were young boys at the time. That little bit of knowledge was never enough to satisfy my curiosity about that accident which forever shaped to course of my life and all the members of my immediate family. I realized that if I could find the location of the burial site of Thurstone Whetstone then I would have the answer to both of my questions which would be engraved on his headstone. So I asked "Vic", Jr. where his Uncle Thurston has been laid to rest. Was I really surprised to hear him say: "Some where over around St. Mathews." As he pointed over to the East. I just had trouble believing that a person would not know where their uncle was buried who had experienced such a tragic accident in his youth.



Above is pictured the Two Mile Swamp Baptist Church which has a mailing address of Cope, S.C. It is only several miles from Highway 70 after crossing it on Slab Landing Road travelling North.



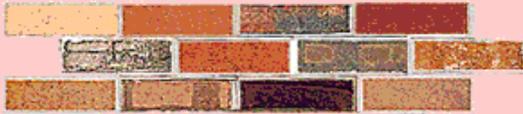
The four headstones in the foreground of the photo are in the J. C. Whetstone burial plot. The headstone on the far right is that which reads: "Father - J. C. Whetstone 1859 - 1927". The headstone on the far left, foreground, is that reads: "Thurston Whetstone 1907-1919, AT REST".



There it was, after all of those years of searching. There were the answers to my questions. Thurston Whetstone's headstone informed me that in the year of 1919, my father --Voncile Hightower-- was involved in a cave-in when a sand embankment buried both of the young boys. Thurstone's older brother Victor Whetstone, Sr., discovered their legs and feet sticking out of their sandy graves. And "Vic, Sr." could not find any signs of life in either of them was he pulled their lifeless bodies from the sand that had entrapped them.

The bodies of both of the boys were taken to their respective homes where their families gathered to say their eternal good-byes. Because, like the older brother, the doctor who responded to the call for help pronounced both of them "dead". Plans were to have the funeral director, George Washington Hightower, of Denmark to deliver them to the funeral home for burial preparation. At the time that Gertrude Sandifer Hightower was being consoled by her gathered loving family in the front of the Hightower home, Voncile was in a miraculous manner being revived. He was groggy after being out for so many hours and believed dead by his saddened family. It is said that when Voncile Hightower stumbled into the midst of his grieving family than only his greatly relieved mother remained in the house. So now I know that this most important Hightower story of my father's life, as well as mine happened when he was eleven years old. He was born in 1908. He was pronounced "dead" the first time in 1919. There was finally great joy in the Hightower home, but it was greatly tempered by the realization that little Thurston Whetstone had not been revived. He would be eternally twelve years old and forever "at rest". Voncile and Thurston were reunited in 1973 when Voncile suffered his third heart attack. All of us in Voncile's family are grateful for the additional fifty-four years which he was able to share with us. By Edgar V. Hightower, Jr. Voncile's oldest of two sons.

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.

Source: ROWANROOTS-L@rootsweb.com
Subject: Re: Dedmon I have a Deadmond in one of the Hamby lines I have researched. Henry Hamby (born ca 1785) married Sarah Cross (born 1788) on Nov. 29, 1810 in Wilkes Co, NC. Sarah is the daughter of Asel Cross and Temperance Deadmond who were married 3-21-1782 in Rowan Co, NC. Temperance is the daughter of Edmond and Elizabeth Deadmond. Edmond's will can be found in Rowan Co, NC dated 7-16-1808. My primary interest is in proving Henry Hamby's father. Can anyone help??

---Bob Hamby---

From: siwel@bellsouth.net

To: ROWANROOTS-L@rootsweb.com

Subject: Re: Dedmon <Whitewolf> I have found a very long list on the web of Dedmons and Deadman the name was changed from time to time. The Dedmon in my family was married to a Pickelsimer in Tenn. and north Ga. At this time I do not have my program working but I do know it was on a Pickelsimer web list... may be Dennis Pickelsimer. If you can not find it e-mail me, and i will try to find it for you. --Sandra

NOT A TRACE

*I am still searching for more information on "Dedmon's Trace". This is a reference I found in the Civil War Notes. If anyone has information let me know. --Thanks, Leroy Chattanooga-Ringgold Campaign November 23-27. Raid on East Tennessee & Georgia Railroad November 24-27. Charleston November 26. Cleveland November 27. March to relief of Knoxville, Tenn., November 28-December 8. Charleston, Tenn., December 28 (Detachment). Expedition to Murphy, N. C., December 6-11. Expedition from Scottsboro, Ala., toward Rome, Ga., January 25-February 5, 1864. Ringgold, Ga., February 8. Demonstration on Dalton, Ga., February 22-27. Near Dalton February 23-24. Tunnel Hill, Buzzard's Roost Gap and Rocky Faced Ridge February 24-25. **Scout to Dedmon's Trace April 10.***

FAMILY

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,
"Oh excuse me please" was my reply.

He said, "Please excuse me too;
I wasn't watching for you."

We were very polite, this stranger and I.
We went on our way and we said good-bye.

But at home a different story is told,
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.

Later that day, cooking the evening meal,
My son stood beside me very still.

When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.
"Move out of the way," I said with a frown.

He walked away, his little heart broken.
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.

While I lay awake in bed,
God's still small voice came to me and said,

"While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use,
but the family you love, you seem to abuse.

Go and look on the kitchen floor,
You'll find some flowers there by the door.

Those are the flowers he brought for you.
He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.

He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise,
you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."

By this time, I felt very small,
And now my tears began to fall.

I quietly went and knelt by his bed;
"Wake up, little one, wake up," I said.

"Are these the flowers you picked for me?"
He smiled, "I found 'em, out by the tree.

I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.
I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue."

I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today;
I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."

He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay.
I love you anyway."

I said, "Son, I love you too,
and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."

FAMILY Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family we leave behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives.



Derby days

The Pinewood Derby



Local scouts had the Pinewood Derby at the Jones Memorial United Methodist Church in East Ridge. The Scoutmaster is Ken Price, my nephew, Ken is the son of Claude and Carolyn Price. Carolyn is my sister. In another activity involving my nephew and family is Ken's wife, Becky. She is shown here playing the hand bells for an activity at the East Ridge Middle School when the school chorus performed for the PTA.



SCOUTMASTER, **KEN PRICE** (LEFT), PREPARES TO RACE AGAINST **DERAY HELTON** (RIGHT), AS **SAMMY PRICE** (CENTER), LOOKS ON.



FOUR OF THE SCOUTS (NOT IN A PARTICULAR ORDER AS I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THEM BUT **TAYLOR**, ON THE FAR RIGHT) **TAYLOR** IS THE SON OF **KEN PRICE** WHO IS THE SON OF MY SISTER, **CAROLYN**. THE OTHER THREE ARE **MICHAEL** , **DEVAN** AND **MATTHEW**.



Birthdays for the month of December

Happy Birthday to: Cindy, Hana, Briana and Curt.



CINDY DEDMON

Cindy Dedmon is the wife of my nephew, Brian. Hana and Briana are their children. December must be a busy month for them Brian is the son of my brother, Bill. Hana and Briana have a sister, Morgan. They live next door to us and in pretty weather they play around our house a lot. A few



BRIANA DEDMON



HANA DEDMON

years ago we placed a swing set near our house for them to use. Another attraction is the cats that hang around our house. The last time I counted the number was seven. However, the only "tame" one is our little white cat, Snowball. Cindy's birthday is the 13th. Briana turned a year old on the 21st and Hana celebrated her 8th on the 27th.

Curt is my great grandson His mother is my grand daughter, Carrie, the daughter of Gwen, who of course is our daughter. It's hard to believe Curt is already three years old. His birthday was on the 23rd of December.



CURT WEBB

I do believe his computer skills have surpassed those of mine (if I have any). This is one of his favorite positions at his "nannas". His love for tractors and trucks is almost an obsession.



Once he is outside the computer is out of sight and out of mind and he is right at home on the "tactor".

I count the days until he is old enough to spend a week or so here on the farm and learn to operate a real tractor. Oh well, the years will pass soon enough.



The Twelve Days of Christmas

(Genealogy Style)



On the Twelfth day of Christmas,

My true love gave to me,

Twelve census searches,
 *Eleven Printer ribbons,*
Ten e-mail contacts,

Nine headstone rubbings,
Eight birth and death dates,

Seven town clerks sighing,

Six second cousins,

Five coats of arms,



Four GEDCOM files,

Three old wills,



Two CD-ROMS

And a branch in my family tree.

From: Jackie Mae Bishop [JMBHDB@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Subject: The Twelve Days of Christmas

(Genealogy Style)

Thought you'd appreciate this - love, Jackie Mae

Thanks Jackie, for sharing with us the above bit of Christmas. I am sure all the readers will enjoy the genealogy twist given to the very familiar song. We all wish you and your family a great big Texas style Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Jackie is connected to our Middle Tennessee branch of the family tree.)



...Just the GOOD NEWS

Dedmon Establishes A Pre-Dental Internship Program At USC Upstate

Spartanburg, S.C. – Dr. David Dedmon, a dentist who has been practicing in Spartanburg for the past 25 years, has an unwavering support of higher education and a commitment to help others the way he has been helped along the way. He established David B. Dedmon Scholarship Endowment in 2003 at the University of South Carolina Upstate which benefits full-time, junior level students who are enrolled in a pre-professional health science curriculum. Additionally he serves as a mentor to the Health Professionals Club.

Dedmon is now working with Dr. Jeannie Chapman, an assistant professor of biology and faculty advisor for the Health Professionals Club at USC Upstate, to establish a pre-dental internship program, the first of its kind in the state that will allow pre-dental majors to shadow local dentists to gain a first-hand perspective of the profession.

“I would like to help at least one person per year to attend USC Upstate who would not have otherwise been able to do so through scholarships or other vehicles,” said Dedmon, who has already recruited 15 dental colleagues to participate in the program. “My interest in supporting higher education is unwavering and this is my opportunity to reach back to help others the way I have been helped along the way.”

The pre-dental internship program will allow students interested in pursuing a career in dentistry to shadow an area dentist where they will observe all facets of dentistry from patient interactions, to routine and emergency procedures, to record keeping and insurance billing.

“The intent is to expose the students to as much as possible about the field of dentistry and to get a sense of what it is like to run a small business,” said Dedmon. “In addition to observing in a clinical setting, the students will experience how to interact with patients, how to manage a staff, how to create treatments plans and so much more.”

In addition, students will gain knowledge about what is expected of dental professionals, both from their patients and from the community at large. Academic credit will also be earned by the students. The students must be at least a junior to participate in the program. “This is such an advantage for our students because this program will allow them to establish an early contact with a dental professional, who can later provide a letter of reference for admission to dental school and/or act as a mentor once the student completes dental school,” said Chapman.

Omar Figueroa, a pre-dental major at USC Upstate, has already benefited from Dedmon’s generosity. For the past year, Figueroa has spent five hours a week observing in Dedmon’s Pine Street office. “Dr. Dedmon has really been a huge help to me,” said Figueroa, who also works weekends as a certified medical interpreter at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System. “He has answered so many of my questions about the application process for dental school. I’ve also had the opportunity to talk with his patients and his staff. Communication is key in dentistry because you have to put many patients at ease and calm their anxiety.”

Dedmon is very complimentary of Figueroa, saying “Omar understands the procedures well after I have explained them to him. He is a very caring and giving individual and will be an asset to the dental community and the overall community in which he decides to live and work.”

Dr. Dedmon is a native of Spartanburg and has practiced dentistry in Spartanburg for 25 years. He is a graduate of Wofford College and the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He serves on the Carolina Piedmont Foundation Board. Dr. Dedmon has served as president of the Medical University of South Carolina Dental Alumni Association, where he is an adjunct clinical professor in the MUSC School of Dental Medicine. He has held district and state offices for the Lions Club and was also instrumental in establishing the Middle Tyger Presbyterian Church.

Great work David. You make me proud to have you in the family. I wish it was not so far to Spartanburg as I am in bad need of some dental work. Of course, I can think of nothing I hate worse than a trip to the dentist. However, I might make an exception... --Leroy

DEDMON IN THE NEWS

FAMILY = (F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER (I) (L)OVE (Y)OU



Jayson Ellis and Heather Dedmon

There is not much to it, I am 24 years old. I have two beautiful daughters, Makenzie is 5 and Reghan just turned 4 on Valentine's Day! I just inherited two more little girls, Payson who is 3 and Madison who will be 3 in June. My kids & my husband are my life and my everything without them I don't know who I would be today. I love you, Jayson Ellis Dedmon. I know it is soon but I have known Jayson for almost 9 years and who would of thought me & Jayson Dedmon. Here goes for the saying good things come to those who wait. I know that I have been a part of the Dedmon family since high school but now I get to take the name and I am so happy. I work for a criminal defense attorney in downtown (Gary J. James). I am a legal assistant and have been here for over 3 years. I live in Tuttle, OK we moved back here to be with Jayson and close to our families. I never thought I would be back but its still the same old town but now there is a family dollar and dollar general Yeah!! My hobbies are watching Makenzie do POM at All that Dance in Moore and listening to Reghan tell me how it is. She is the baby and the boss of the house!

Vanessa Jean Dedmon



Vanessa Jean Dedmon was (born 28 April 1987 to Russel and Waltraud Dedmon). She was a semifinalist on Germany's third season of Deutschland sucht den Superstar (the German Version of Pop Idol) being kicked out by audience vote in the Top 3 Show. Vanessa was one of the favorites from the jury.

Vanessa has 2 older siblings. Her brother's name is Delanzo and her sister's name is Latascha. Vanessa and Latascha live with their parents in Germany while Delanzo is stationed in Hawaii as a member of the United States Army.

In October 2006 her first single *Sonnenschein*, a duet with German Hip Hop band Rapsoul, entered the German single charts at #17. --From *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*



I found this picture along with some information of this family at dedmonfamily.com/index.htm. However I was unable to locate the names of the two adults. The child's name is Megan. I am sure there is someone out there who will recognize the family and let me know who they are.

Thanks, Leroy



Another Vanessa Dedmon

This Vanessa Dedmon is a Buyer's Agent with New Homes Realty of Georgia and South Carolina. She serves the home buyers of the Beaufort, Bluffton, and Savannah areas. I am sure if you are in the market for a home in any of those areas, she will be glad to help you. At this point I am unsure as to how Vanessa "fits" onto the tree.



BRANCHES

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 in-laws, "outlaws" and other laws... (Leroy)

Thelma Shirley, 78, Ringgold

Thelma D. "Tip" Shirley of Ringgold died Friday, Jan. 19, at a local hospital. She was 78. She attended Spring Creek Road Baptist Church and was retired from Dixie Yarns after 27 years of service. Her son, Quinton Dwight Shirley, preceded her in death. Survivors include her husband, Quinton Shirley of Ringgold; daughter, Judy Vaughn of Chattanooga, Tenn.; son, Dennis Shirley of Soddy Daisy, Tenn.; sister, Joyce Sweat of Birmingham, Ala.; brothers, Ray Parker of Rising Fawn, Bess Parker of Florida; seven grand-children, 10 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews. Services: Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 1 p.m. with Rev. Wayne Winters officiating. Burial: National Cemetery. Visitation: Sunday, Jan. 21, from 2-8 p.m., and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Heritage Funeral Home and Crematory, Fort Oglethorpe. Condolences may be sent at www.heritagefh.com. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Chattanooga, 4355 Highway 58, Suite 101, Chattanooga, Tenn., 37416. Arrangements by Heritage Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe.

(The Shirley family is my wife's heritage. However, I have no idea how or if Thelma is part of her family. I do know that one of her lines ended up in the Ringgold Area. --Leroy)

Rev. Bette Oliver, 72, Fort Oglethorpe

Rev. Bette Louise Oliver of Fort Oglethorpe died Thursday, Jan. 18, at a local hospital. She was 72. She was a resident of North Georgia for more than 60 years. She was a member of Chattanooga Valley Church of God. She was an artist and caregiver, and exuded the love of God in everything she did. "But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9 and Isaiah 61:10, "My soul rejoices in my God." She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard and Helen Grieger Hunt; stepdaughter, Joyce Jackson; husband, Rev. Burton Oliver. Survivors include son, Richard Oliver; stepson, Joseph Oliver; stepdaughter, Cathy Jackson; sister, Sherry Bennett; grandchildren, Beth Oliver, Joy Shadwick, Emily Robby, Richie and Amy; nephew, Adam Bennett; great-grandchildren, Lacey, Kayleigh, Jaxson, Brody, Ana, Malia, Zackery and Caleb. Services: Saturday, Jan. 20, at 1 p.m. at the funeral home chapel with Revs. Robert Jackson, Roy Cope and Rev. Paul officiating. Burial: Lakewood Memory Gardens, South. Visitation: Friday, Jan. 19, from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Heritage Funeral Home and Crematory, Fort Oglethorpe. Condolences may be made at www.heritagefh.com. Arrangements by Heritage Funeral Home, Fort Oglethorpe.

(There may not be a connection to the Oliver family to ours, but some of my ancestors had first names Oliver. Knowing that often a name is given a child based on the maternal surname, I decided to include this obit. __Leroy)



May all your holidays be happy ones and many thanks for the support you give me in the family research project. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Jane and Leroy