

THE

An on-line family newsletter

DEDMON

Dedmon, Dedman, Dedmond,
Deadman, Deadmon, Dedmond

Connection
Vol. 79

THE POWER OF AN EXAMPLE



I Read recently that the average life span of Americans is approaching 80 years. This is almost doubled in the past 100 years, but of course the advancement in medical research has been the major cause. However, there may be another reason, and that is the way we live. There was a time when it seemed almost all the men smoked or used tobacco in some form. We didn't have all the warnings even when I was a boy, that we have now. I remember the day my dad quit smoking. I was probably around 8-10 years old at the time and dad came home from work to see all five of us standing in the front yard with little white pieces of paper rolled up and sticking out of our mouths. "What are you doing?", he asked. I don't remember who answered first as I knew one must weigh his answers very carefully when explaining to dad our actions. If it sounded a little "fishy", he would ask something like this, "Are you speaking to your father or some dumb idiot?" and I would say, "You, dad", and then off would come his belt! I decided on one occasion I must be giving the wrong answer, but I am here to tell you that was not smart!!! Anyway, I don't think I was the one to say, "Well, we are playing church, we have had Sunday School and now we are standing out front smoking, waiting for the first song to start." Instead of the expected outburst, I will never forget what happened.

His face turned white, he didn't say a word, but mother said he walked into the house and took that pack of Lucky Strikes or Camels, I don't remember which, but it was the short unfiltered kind, and laid them on the chest of drawers in his bedroom and to my knowledge never touched another cigarette. Later in life as I reflected on that incident, I was so thankful for the example he set before his five children. Now, I am not saying none of us ever smoked or used tobacco as we were just like most kids in that day and at times tried to "prove" we were "macho", but none of



GORDON DEDMON

us smoke today and those who "took up the habit" have not smoked in forty years. There are about fifty direct descendents, including the inlaws, of Gordon and Ruby Dedmon and you can count on one hand those who use tobacco. Thank you dad....

I miss dad and mom and there is not a passing day that I do not think of them when I am home. I am constantly reminded of the work they both did around this place. The old log house, built by my great grandfather over 160 years ago is our den. Mother filled the cracks between the logs as you can see in the picture behind dad. She also remodeled the fireplace and laid the rocks around it. Dad removed the wooden ceiling boards and placed them on top of the log rafters, exposing them from below and added a stairwell and two bedrooms upstairs. Around the yard and garden, I see the work of their hands. Mother had one of the "greenest thumbs" of anyone I have ever known. We believe she could grow grass on concrete. In the last four years of her life, Jane and I lived with her and learned all I could of the family heritage and how to grow vegetables and flowers. Thank you mom...



RUBY DEDMON



John Henson is a cousin and Dedmon descent through Hannah Dedmon. Hannah was a granddaughter to Mark Dedmon, the Revolutionary War veteran who fought at King's Mountain Hannah was also my mother's great grandmother. The following story is amazing, I hope you enjoy it.

Bible takes very long road home

Niles couple cherish father's long-lost book.

August 26, 2012/By KIRBY SPROULS / South Bend Tribune

NILES — When Audrey Henson read a story in The Tribune about a class ring that was found in a lake some 50 years after it was lost, she thought of a Bible story... not a story told in the Bible, but one about a Bible, specifically her father's. This Bible was lost in 1965 in Kenya, never to be seen again by its owner. But nearly five decades later, the aged leather-bound Bible rests on a table in the Niles home of Audrey and John Henson, having been rescued three years ago in, of all places, Chile.

Audrey, 80, and John, 81, cherish the book that was so dear to her father. "I only wish he would have been alive when we got it back," she says. Her father, Ernest T. Gackenheimer, was a Seventh-day Adventist missionary who lost the Bible on a day he was serving as a guest pastor in a Nairobi, Kenya, church.

"When he walked to his car he dropped a sheath of papers," John says. "So he laid his Bible on the top of his car while he picked up all his papers. But he forgot to get the Bible. When he drove off, it was lost." Gackenheimer realized what had happened when he reached the church, so he drove back home but his King James version was gone. "He told the congregation that day about losing his Bible... and that plays into the story later on," John says.

Gackenheimer and his wife, missionaries in several foreign countries over the years, returned home to the U.S. in 1972. He died in 1989 near Chattanooga, Tenn. Meanwhile, Audrey and John were living in northern Georgia in June 2009 when they heard from a Baptist missionary in Iquique, Chile. Stephanie Garcia was rummaging through books in a "junk store" in Iquique when she came across a Bible containing the name E.T.

Gackenheimer, written in cursive. She even deduced from the scribbled notes about weddings and funerals that the Bible belonged to a pastor.

Searching the Internet, she learned about Gackenheimer and the whereabouts of his family. She e-mailed Shandelle Henson, Audrey and John's daughter who is a math professor and department chair at Andrews University. When the family confirmed this was indeed his long-lost Bible, Garcia returned to the store to buy it. "She paid for it in pesos for what would have been less than \$3," John says, "and then shipped it to us."

The store owner told her the Bible came to him in a barrel of items from the United States. The Hensons, meanwhile, moved to Niles last year to be closer to their daughter, who has a story of her own about the lost Bible. Shandelle was speaking to a church group in the state of Washington a couple of years ago when she mentioned the story of her grandfather's lost Bible in Kenya.

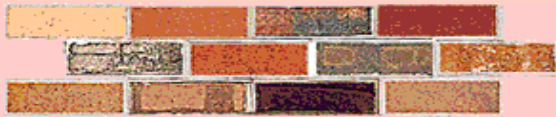
Incredibly, a gentleman approached her afterward and said that as a young man in Nairobi in 1965 he was in the congregation when the preacher talked about losing his Bible. He provided more details about the incident. "I couldn't believe it," Shandelle says. Nor could she believe the family got the Bible back after all these years. "That was almost like getting a note from my grandfather, a Bible with all his scribbles in it," Shandelle says.

Although he is not certain, John believes his father-in-law likely used this Bible when he married Audrey and John 61 years ago. Regardless, the Bible is home. And of its travels, Audrey says, "what a story could be told ... were all of the facts only known."



AUDREY AND JOHN HENSON, OF NILES, MI PLACE THEIR HANDS ON A BIBLE THAT BELONGED TO AUDREY'S FATHER BUT WAS LOST IN KENYA 47 YEARS AGO AND THEN FOUND IN CHILE IN 2009. THE HENSONS BELIEVE THE BIBLE WAS USED IN THEIR WEDDING 61 YEARS AGO,

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.

From: Dedmon@yahoogroups.com
[mailto:Dedmon@yahoogroups.com]

On Behalf Of josjohnstun

Subject: [Dedmon] Dedman inquiry

Hello to all, Please pardon my joining the Dedmon list when I am not a relative, but I need some historical help. I am trying to find information on Colonel John Dedman (b about 1800) and his two sons, Taliaferro (Talefero, Toliver, Talefare, etc., b 1816) and James (b 1817), who were among the earliest settlers in Lee County, Iowa and Clark County Missouri, and did business in Hancock County, Illinois. Does anyone recognize them? Does anyone know of any stories about them, letters, journals, portraits, etc.? Anything that anyone could share would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Joseph Johnstun Hamilton, IL...

I find it interesting to see the first name Talefero as there is this information in my database. First names are often derived from surnames, so there may be a connection here: (LD)

Robert Taliaferro was born Nov 14, 1626 in Middlesex, England, and died bef. Sep 28, 1671 in York County, VA. He married **Katherine Sarah Dedman** in 1651 in York County, VA, the daughter of **Henry Dedman** and **Katherine Grimes**. She was born 1626 in England, and died aft. 1667 in VA. They had a child: **John Taliaferro**, b. 1656, VA; d. 1720. He married **Sarah Smith**, born abt 1661 in VA. They had a child: **Richard Taliaferro**, born 1703 in VA and died 1748 in VA. He married **Rose Berryman** in 1726 and they had a child: **Sarah Taliaferro**, born 1727 in VA and died 1769 in NC. She married **John Lewis** and they had a child: **Charles Lewis** who married **Elizabeth Russell**.

That is all I have on the name Taliaferro, but there is the possibility that John Dedman married a Taliaferro, thus naming his offspring Taliaferro Dedman. The variations in spelling would not discount the possibility of this happening. _Leroy

From: Dedmon@yahoogroups.com

On Behalf Of LaRee Reeves

Subject: Re: [Dedmon] Dedman inquiry

My name is LaRee (Dedmond) Reeves My father does not know much about the family name but I do remember he said our family name years ago was Dedmon and the other "D" was added later. We are of african-american descent if anyone knows more about this email me. -**LaRee Reeves** (www.solutionsforamerica.org)

I received this information a few years ago and may have published it in an earlier newsletter. However, it never hurts to do it again. The additon of the "D" on the end of our name appears in several of our families, indicating more than one reason for it.

The one I know first hand is the Dedmon who kept getting his mail mixed up with another Dedmon nearby, so he added the "D" to make a dinstiction. There are several sons of William Henry Deadman and Sarah Canton whos names are spelled Dedmond. I have no information as to why. However, in researching you often find the same person's name spelled different ways in different places. One of Esby Walter Dedmond's sons spelled his name Dedmondt.

The name Dedmon and Dedman are sometimes used interchangeably. It appears our name came from England as Deadman. Then there are several Deadmon family members. One of the Deadmon descendents says that on the way to Texas from Tennessee the "A" fell off the wagon leaving Dedmon.

Notes from Jim Dedmon: *"The Deadman family adventure began in London, England on the year 1674. John Jr. and his two sons, John III and Thomas boarded the Good Ship Charles captained by Bentony Eaton, destination----AMERICA. The Deadman family settled in a small Maryland township, located about 20 miles NW of Baltimore called Patapsco. They were Tories, loyal to the king of England. In 1765, the patriots confiscated the Deadman's property because they refused to pledge allegiance to the newly formed government. Twenty-six Tory families, including Thomas Deadman II, migrated to Rowan County, North Carolina "*

As far as I can tell the DEDMON spelling originated with Mark Dedmon, the Revolutionary War veteran who fought at Kings Mountain. He was a grandson of Thomas II, and it could have been since his folks were Tories, he changed his name. That of course, is just an opinion of mine. I would be interested in hearing from others as to what they have heard concerning the change of the spelling of the surname DEADMAN.

From: JWHenson
[mailto:jwhenson@catt.com]
Subject: 61 years later

(I received this from John Henson and thought it was of interest to all. -Leroy)

From the Mail Bag



Greetings to all . . . family and friends! Audrey and I just returned from a trip into the North Georgia mountains fleeing the heat. In 1950 I had a picture made by the railroad in the old town of Blue Ridge, GA. This weekend we saw the same spot and the same old shrub and had another picture made there. The shrub and I have both aged and enlarged. The one on the right is the current photo. haha God has been good to me that I should have been able to have another picture made there after so long. Love to all, JWH.



Thanks John, for sharing this with us and also for pointing out which one was the photo taken 61 years ago. Time does pass and things change. The time of the year was obvious as to the color of the landscape. I was especially interested in the snow capped mountain in the picture on the right. (LD)

Here is an email I received from John Henson:

Good Morning Leroy! Thanks for sending your most recent Connections along. I have read it and find it interesting. I saw nothing amiss. Its a chore of love to put out the publication and I certainly appreciate it very much. I have all copies that you have produced. As an old printer, having spent my entire life in the trade, I must say you have a very professional looking publication. Glad to see that you did a highlight on the old Dedmon Cemetery on Mt. Nebo. Back when Hiwassee Land (Bowater) owned the property they

gave me a key to the lock for the pipe that crossed the road. However, I have since lost the key and am sure the lock has been changed several times since then. Please count me in on a trip to the cemetery when you go. Lets go before I get too feeble to make the walk. Our daughter will be back here during the early part of May. She would like to walk out to the old Dedmon Cemetery and so would I. Think it over and I will get some dates for you. Your cousin, John Henson

We did make the trip to try to find the old cemetery, but never located it. I have since found it. (LD)

From the Mail Bag



From: JWHenson
[mailto:jwhenson@catt.com]
Subject: We're on the move... again!

Dear Family and Friends,

All of my life I have been told to act my age. Now as I have entered old age our children tell Audrey and me that we should move near one of them so they can see after us in our "reclining" years. We have sold our house here in Ringgold and will be moving to Niles, Michigan to be near Shandelle and Andrews University. We will move on October 12, 2011 so to get to Michigan before the lake effect snows fall around us. Below is our new address. We will forward you our telephone number and eMail address once we are settled and have them. Continue your prayers for us as we enter upon this new season of life. Love, JWHenson

(Of course the above email came a few months before the one below, but as I am late publishing the first, I will include both of them now. --Leroy)

From: John Henson [mailto:hensoniii@att.net]
Subject: New telephone and address for the Hensons
As you already know Audrey and I have moved to Niles, MI.. The birds have more sense than that. They go south in the winter. However, Shandelle wanted to have us near her in our older years, and so did John, but Seattle is really getting out of our shopping area. Seattle is a beautiful area. The move has been horrendous. We are surrounded by boxes. It's just like Christmas. You pick up a box and wonder what is in it. Below is the promised info. Audrey and JWHenson land line telephone: 269-xxx-xxxx Email: hensoniii@att.net. God bless each of you and please keep us in your daily prayers. --JWH.

(I hated to see John move out of our area. Even though we did not see each other often, I knew he was just across the mountain if I needed him. The day may come when Jane and I may have to make the same move... Well not to Michigan, but to our daughter's. We do get old, if we continue to live and you don't have to be a genius to figure that out. My aches and pains are constant reminders of the fact. I chose not to publish the address and telephone number for the sake of privacy. However, if you wish to contact John, you may do so via his email. I then received the following from John, which I published in the column on the right hand page. --Leroy)

(Leroy, I have attached some wisdom from the Great Indian Chief Seattle. It is something that we Americans need to think of, and remember often. JWH.)

OLD CHIEF SEATTLE

In 1854, Chief Seattle, a famous Indian orator, spoke at an assembly of tribes preparing to sign treaties with whites who had overrun their lands. In the following paragraphs are excerpts of his speech. Though he feared the intentions of the "white man" the chief had earlier accepted Christianity. His concept of God and this creation gives us a new perspective on "sins of white men" against this created world. Seattle said:

"The Great chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. "We will consider your offer. For we know that if we do not sell, you may come with guns and take our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them? "Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memories and experience of my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man."

"So, when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us. We know that white people do not understand our ways. One portion of land is the same to them as the next, for they are strangers who come in the night and take from the land whatever they need. The earth is not their brother or their sister but their enemy, and when they have conquered it, they move on. They leave their ancestor's graves behind, and they do not care. They kidnap the earth from their children. They do not care. Their parents' graves and their children's birthright are forgotten. They treat their mother, the earth, and their brother, the sky, as things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads. Their appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert."

"So, we will consider your offer to buy our land. If we decide to accept, I will make one condition: You must treat the beasts of this land as your brothers. I am savage and I do not understand any other way. I have seen a thousand rotting buffaloes on the prairie, left by whites who shot them from a passing train. I am savage and I do not understand how the smoking iron horse can be more important than the buffalo that we kill only to stay alive."

"Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth. We did not weave the web of life; We are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do ourselves.

"So, if we sell you our land, love it as we've loved it. Care for it as we've cared for it. Hold in your mind the memory of the land as it is when you take it. And with all your strength, with all your mind, with all your heart, preserve it for your children and love it...as God loves us all."

DEATH NOTICES

Marjorie Elizabeth Grigg Dick



MORGANTON- Marjorie Elizabeth Grigg Dick, 73, died Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at Burke Hospice and Palliative Care. Born September 18, 1938 in Cleveland County, she was a daughter of the late David Lawrence Grigg and Dura Belle Deadmon Grigg. Marjorie was a member of Denton's Chapel United Methodist Church, and a retired employee of Doblin. Following her retirement, she opened her own business making athletic apparel. She was also a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant. Marjorie was talented in many ways as a seamstress, artist, and craftswoman of many arts. She taught 17 different classes in the Continuing Education Program at Western Piedmont Community College for more than 30 years including cake decorating, lap quilting, banquet and party foods, and Japanese Bunka embroidery. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Elmer Dick; and a sister, Rebecca G. Trivett. Both Marjorie and Tom were loving caregivers to her mother, Dura Belle Grigg who died in 2004. Marjorie is survived by her children, Wanda Norman Anderson and husband, Pastor Ken of Spruce Pine, and Kimberly Norman Woolard and husband, Dennis of Morganton; grandchildren, Lisa Anderson, Deborah Anderson, Thomas Anderson, and Samantha Woolard; sisters, Patsy G. Caraway of Morganton, Katherine G. Turner and husband, Lee of Valrico, Fla.; brothers, David L. Grigg and wife, Regina of Hamstead, N.C., and Charles Grigg; and a brother-in-law, Jerry Trivett of Newland, N.C. Visitation: The family will receive friends an hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Memorial Service: Friday, 4 p.m. at Colonial Chapel of Sossoman Funeral Home Officiated By: Pastor Ken Anderson Memorials: [Alzheimer's Association](#), 31 College Place, Suite D-320, Asheville, NC 28801

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the 1920 census there were [110 families](#) with the Dedmon surname in the United States. During the Civil War the Dedmon name was found in [15 Confederate Records](#) and [3 Union Records](#).

Mary Chrystine Chambers

Funeral services for Mary Chrystine Chambers will be conducted Wednesday Sept. 28, 2011 @ 2:00 p.m. from the Martin Funeral Chapel of Elk City OK, with Rev. Rick Main officiating. Interment will be in the Fairlawn Cemetery of Elk City under the direction of the Martin Funeral Home.



Mary Chrystine Chambers was born on Christmas Day in 1926 in Beckham County to Alfred Earl and Tura Lee (Dickson) Kenemer. She passed away on Thursday Sept. 22, 2011 at the home of her daughter in Beaver OK at the age of 84. Chrystine was blessed with four children, **Wendall Lee Dedmon**, **Barbara Jean Dedmon**, Jimmie Don Connor, and Michael Wayne Burnam.

Chrystine showed her faith by always doing and caring for others. She worked at the Elk City hospital as a surgical scrub tech until July of 1978. She then devoted her time to caring for her son Jimmie Don Conner in her home. After the death of her parents, she took care of her sister JoAnn Waldrop. Chrystine never sat idle, while caring for her son and her sister, she ran an answering service out of her home for Schlumberger.

Chrystine was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred Earl and Tura Lee; one sister JoAnn Waldrop; son Jimmie Don Connor, and a great granddaughter Amanda Jade Chockley. She is survived by one sister Imogene Steel of Elk City; three half sisters, Diane Garmon of Sayre OK, Earline Hobbs and husband Gary of Sayre, Marsha Cady and husband John of Tulsa, Step brother Jader Rhodes of Elk City; her children, **Wendall** and wife Charla of Walters OK, **Barbara** Chockley and husband Roger of Beaver OK, Mike Burnam of Elk City OK; grandchildren, **Jimmie Lee Dedmon** and wife Crystal and son **Christian** of Walters OK, **Eric Neil Dedmon** of Walters OK, Joe Dawn Chockley and wife Chelby and kids Morgan and Trevor of Beaver OK, Leslie Ann Hudgins and husband Jim and kids Tucker and Hanna of Beaver OK, Mary John Chockley of Beaver OK, Kelli Renee Chockley and Fiancé James Gross and kids Alison and Emily of Claude TX, Tura Jean McLaughlin and boys Ryan, Rusty and little Jimmie of Midwest City OK, Justin Michael Burnam, Jaymee Marie Burnam, Brittney Burnam all of Elk City OK, Keisha Hall of Sayre OK, and a host of family and friends.

DEATH NOTICES

DEDMON, FOREST, Died at home June 18, 2006 at 3:30 pm from complications of congestive heart failure. He was with family and under hospice care. Memorial services will be at Prestoncrest Church of Christ 6022 Prestoncrest Ln. Dallas TX 75230 on Saturday June 24 at 5 pm. Survived by wife Joann and sons Thomas and Forest W. 13535 Brookgreen, Dallas TX 75240, 972-239-7348 or 214-686-1559
tcdedmon@aol.com.

DEDMON, HAZEL Age 93 of Rockwall, TX, passed away March 3, 2007. Services 11am, Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at the old Christian Church, 305 S. Fannin, Rockwall, TX, 75087. Interment 3:00pm, Moore Memorial Garden, Arlington, TX. Visitation Tuesday evening 6:00 to 8:00pm., **For more information please visit www.resthavenfuneral.com Rest Haven Rockwall Chapel 972-771-8641 Funeral Homes - Cemetery - Crematory - Florist Owned by the Cain Family**

Mrs. Willanna "Billie" Dedmon, age 88, of South Fulton, TN died July 25, 2011 at the Haws Memorial Nursing and Rehab Center in Fulton, KY.

She was a member of the South Fulton United Methodist Church and had retired from the Ferry Morse Seed Company in Fulton, KY as a supervisor. She had lived in this area most of her life. She is survived by two sons, Kyle L. Dedmon of Fulton, KY, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Allen R. Dedmon of Hawaii, six grandchildren, six great grandchildren and two sisters Mildred Hunsucker of Ohio and Nina Hall of Louisville, KY.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Odell Dedmon, a son Jimmy Dedmon, her parents Ritta (Cook) and William Henry Sergeant, three brothers and five sisters. Graveside services will be held at 2:00 pm Thursday, July 28 at the Obion Co. Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 12 noon Thursday until time to leave for the cemetery for services. Memorials may be made to the South Fulton United Methodist Church, 205 Orchard Drive, South Fulton, TN 38257.

Mary Patricia Wiens Dedmon



Mary Patricia Wiens Dedmon was born on Nov. 6, 1940 in Beaver County, Oklahoma to her parents Bertha and Lawrence Wiens. She is survived by her husband Stan, son Kevin and wife Nahir, children of the home, Jean Claude, Michelle, Jean Paul, of Houston, TX; son Ryan and his wife Brittany of Carrollton; brother Larry Wiens and family of Enid, Oklahoma; sister Laurette and family, and sister Terry and family, of Beaver, Oklahoma; seven nieces and nephews and several grand nieces and nephews. She spent more than 35 years teaching at Newman Smith High School in CFBISD. Her family expresses their sincere appreciation to all of Pat's friends that continued to support her during her battle with cancer. Services are Saturday July 14 @ 11:00 a.m. at The North Dallas Funeral Home, 2710 Valley View Lane, Dallas, Texas 75234 (972) 322-9191. The family requests, that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to:

The American Cancer Society.

James A. "Jimmy" Dedmon

(December 31, 1947 - July 10, 2006)

He was a member of the Second Baptist Church in Union City, TN and had worked for Beasley Construction Company out of Louisiana. He had lived in this area all of his life. He is survived by his mother - Willanna R. "Billie" Dedmon of South Fulton, TN, a daughter - Vicki Duncan of Hanson, KY and a son - James Daniel Dedmon of Bumpus Mills, TN. 2 grandchildren: Kevin Duncan and Andy Duncan both of Hanson, KY. 2 brothers: Kyle L. Dedmon of Fulton, KY and Master Gunnery Sgt. Allen R. Dedmon of Beaufort, SC, and a half sister - Anita Gail Scarce of South Fulton, TN. He was preceded in death by his father - James Odell Dedmon.

Dedmon, Billie Allen 68 Feb. 22, 1944 May 15, 2012 Bill Dedmon was born in Madeira, Calif., to Arthur Lee and Berniece Dedmon. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Verna Dedmon; children, Shane Dedmon and Mindi Niemetz; 10 grandchildren; and brothers, Ted, Larry and Gerald Dedmon. There will be a memorial service Saturday, May 26, at 1 p.m., at Greater Portland Baptist Church, 17800 SE Main Street, Portland, OR 97233.

Ola Lee Bates

Ola Lee Bates, 86, of Ringgold died Sunday, May 27, 2012. She was 86. She was born in Tunnel Hill to the late Olen Alvin and Dovie Mae Vess. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Indian Springs Church of God.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Emory Bates; sisters, Edna Murray, and **Ruby Dedmon**. Survivors are her children, Charles Bates of Ooltewah, Donnie Bates of Dalton, James Bates, Randy Bates, Carolyn Williamson of all of Ringgold; sisters, Dorothy Petty of Ooltewah, Mary Lunsford, Peggy Lunsford both of Ringgold; 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services: will be Wednesday, May 30, at 10 a.m. in the chapel with Rev. Carroll Allen officiating. Burial: Lakewood Memory Gardens-South. Visitation: Tuesday, May 29, after 5 p.m. and prior to the service Wednesday at the funeral home. Arrangements: Wilson Funeral Homes-Wallis-Stewart Chapel in Ringgold.

Ola Lee was a “step” sister to my mother, but growing up we did not know the meaning of “step”. Ola Lee and her sister Dorothy were just as much my aunt as any of the others.

Billy Killian

RALEIGH Billy Otto (Bill) Killian, of Sunrise Assisted Living, Raleigh, passed from this life on Wednesday, July 6, 2011, in the same manner in which he lived his life- with quiet dignity and unwavering faith. His wife, Betty Sue Dedmon Killian, died on May 3, 2009, just three days before what would have been their 60th wedding anniversary. She was the daughter of Alonzo and Ola Mae Branton Dedmon. Billy was born Oct. 3, 1927, in Catawba County, Bill was the youngest of eight children. He is preceded in death by his parents, Albert Otto Killian and Cora Sipe Killian; his brothers Gaither, Paul and Norman, and his sisters, Ruby, Clara and Pauline. His brother, Ray Allen Killian, lives in Charlotte. Billy is survived by his children and their families, Richard Esley Killian, and his wife, Beryl; his great-grand-daughter, Olivia, of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Cadeen Green, granddaughter, of Oakland, Calif.; Thomas William Killian and his wife, Leslie, and their sons, Thomas and Matthew, of Summit, N.J.; Cynthia Allen Killian, and her children, Wills and Avery Citty, of Raleigh. Bill is remembered as a kind, Christian man who was dedicated to his family, the church and his 44-year career with the Belk organization. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1949 where he and Betty are honored by the Killian Old Well Scholarship, which allows two deserving students from New Hanover County to attend UNC. Bill served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, from which he was called for active duty as a First Lieutenant during the Korean war. Bill and Betty raised their family in Wilmington, where they lived from the early 1950's until Bill's retirement in 1999. At that time they moved to Pinehurst, where they became members of Our Savior Lutheran Church. In early 2009, Bill and Betty moved to Sunrise Assisted Living in Raleigh, where they joined Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Over the years Bill actively served in the church. At St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Wilmington, he served as Chairman of the Church Council, President of the Congregation, leader of building campaigns and call committees, as well as teacher of the adult Sunday school class. He encouraged his children in the church and in sports, teaching all three to play tennis. As a boy, he and his brothers constructed a clay tennis court and taught themselves the game. Bill was a natural leader, always willing to take responsibility and do what needed to be done. At the same time, he was a gentle person who led mainly by example. Perhaps from his rural upbringing, Bill loved gardening and yard work. He kept plants of various types and summer gardens, and did his own yard work, much of it even after retirement. Summer road trips to visit relatives often included stops at fresh produce stands along the way. He was an avid reader, which no doubt influenced his children and grandchildren in a similar way. He was a man of great patience, forbearance and humility, who truly exhibited biblical wisdom. In recent years Bill was affected by Alzheimer's disease, although thankfully its progression was slow and he was able to recognize and interact with family, friends and others until he passed. Never one to complain, his response when asked how he was doing was “Fine.” Dad, Bill, “Gaga”, we will miss you tremendously; however that sadness is tempered by great thankfulness for having been part of your life. You have truly earned your heavenly reward. May your soul rest in eternal peace. Memorials can be made to Hospice of Wake County, who was instrumental in making Bill's last days comfortable; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Raleigh, NC; St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Wilmington, NC; Students Bridging the Information Gap, (sbionline.org); or to the charity of your choice. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Saturday, July 9, with the service following at 11 a.m. Graveside services and interment will take place on the same day in Wilmington at Oleander Memorial Gardens at 4 p.m. Condolences may be sent to [www. BrownWynne.com](http://www.BrownWynne.com)