



Back then

20th Anniversary Edition of "THE DEDMON CONNECTION"

**MARCH
1998**



**FEBRUARY
2018**



And now

Twenty years ago this month Leroy Dedmon began our "Family Newsletter". "March 1998" TWENTY YEARS AGO!! For thousands of hours he has researched "family" to give not only to himself and his family, but to US, the readers.

This "20 year Anniversary Edition" is to give back to you "Leroy Dedmon" with much appreciation.

Your dedication to this newsletter has been amazing this past 20 years. Through your personal life and all the struggles, your own work, family, heart attack, caring for your wife, through illness, you have kept it going without fail.

You started the newsletter with just 2 pages, by the 4th issue you had 2,000 visitors to your page and you were so excited. The Dedmon Family Newsletter had 4,000 actual "hits", and you were surprised back then. Well, don't look NOW, because you made it an overwhelming success!



Over these many years you never forgot where you came from, you have always stayed close to your roots. In the newsletters you have encourage all of us to stay close to our own. Thanks to you I believe many of us have gotten closer.

In the beginning you shared yourself with us in so many different ways so we could get to know you. You have shared family photos, family stories, and continued to do so as your family grew. With love in your heart and pride on your shoulders you told your stories and we all listened and smiled and we read them. For those that listen to you speak so lovingly about your family how can they not "hang onto every word you say". I know I do.

Most importantly, you have shared YOU this past 20 years Leroy Dedmon. I, "WE" want you to know all your hard work and dedication to each and every one of us has been greatly appreciated. Thank you for opening your home and your life so we could get to know "Leroy Dedmon", the man that has given us a priceless amount of information about our family that we couldn't have possibly gathered alone in our lifetime. You will be, and are so cherished by so many for all you have done for us. Never ever forget that!



MEMORIES AND PHOTOS



I have gathered just a few of those memories belonging to you and brought them forward to share now. Perhaps some missed them, perhaps some never saw them. Perhaps seeing these they will want to go back and refresh their memory and see the others again.

THEN AND NOW... (1959 - 2009)



The wedding party on April 5, 1959 at the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ: (L-R) Ann McCall, Connie Buff, Alma Ruth Dedmon, Carolyn Dedmon, Ruth Glasscock, Jane Glasscock Dedmon, James Watkins, Leroy Dedmon, Tommy Gilbert, Charlie Lail, Joe Perkinson and Jimmy Cooper.



The wedding party on April 5, 2009 at the Chattanooga Valley church of Christ: (L-R) Connie Buff Dedmon, Ann McCall Gilbert, Alma Ruth Dedmon Smith, Carolyn Dedmon Price, Jane Glasscock Dedmon, Leroy Dedmon, Charlie Lail, and Jimmy Cooper. Not present was Joe Perkinson, (deceased), James Watkins, Tommy Gilbert and Ruth Glasscock Morton.



You have been our "St.Nick"



We even met Mrs. Claus

You have shared lifes greatests treasures



Ruby Dickson Dedmon



January 8, 1912
July 14, 2008

Gordon Lee Dedmon
1918

September 16, 2002

Rest well
Mr. & Mrs. Dedmon



Oh yes,
You know I am
I'm really good
at "watching"
NOT
staring !!

She is
staring at
me isn't she
LEROY !!

All along the way you have introduced us to your greatest gifts .

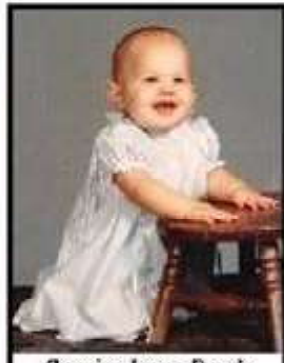
YOU SHOULD HAVE HAD MORE CHILDREN!

I remember saying to my children, Gary and Gwen at one point, "are three grandchildren all I am going to get?" To my dismay heard, "If you want more grandchildren, you should have had more kids. So I settled in to enjoy the three precious grandchildren given to me. Carrie Jane Rawls was born May 16, 1983 to my daughter Gwen and her husband Thomas Rawls. My second grandchild, Gregory Lebron Dedmon was born to my son Gary and his wife Diane Toothman Dedmon on November 4, 1985. Then not much more than a year later my third and what was to be my last, Jonathan Patrick Dedmon was born on April 20, 1987 to Gary and Diane.



Gregory Lebron Dedmon

Jonathan Patrick Dedmon

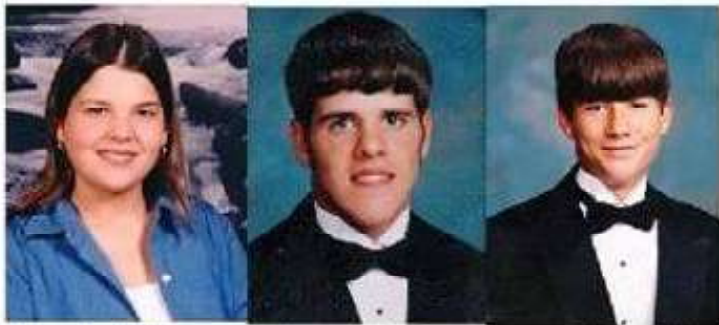


Carrie Jane Rawls



Greg, Jonathan, Carrie
Guessing- Christmas 1987

Left to Right



I watched them grow through their teen years and enter the world of adulthood. Carrie married in 2002 and it looks like Jonathan has been bitten by the love bug and a wedding is planned for the summer of 2010. Greg is still single. Then the unexpected began to happen... more grandkids.



THAT'S MY GRANDSON!!!!

The proud grandparents, Jane and Leroy, rejoice with "The Graduate" as he begins a new chapter in his "Book of Life"

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY AND REPLENISH THE EARTH...



Our Grandchildren



Carrie's family
(L-R) Cassidy, Mark, Curt
Carrie and Masie



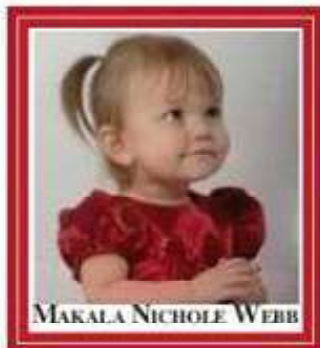
Yours truly Carson and Brady



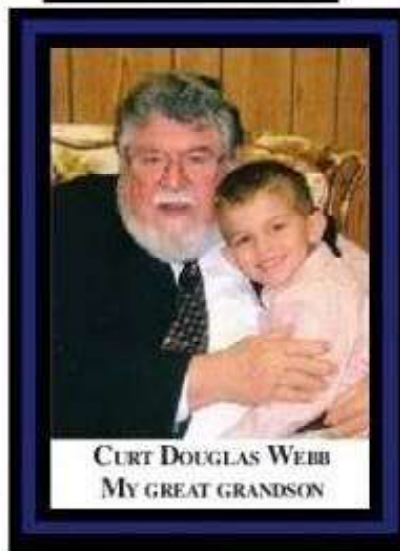
Our Children and In-Laws
Back Row (L-R) Gary and Diane, George and Gwen
Front Row (L-R) Leroy and Jane



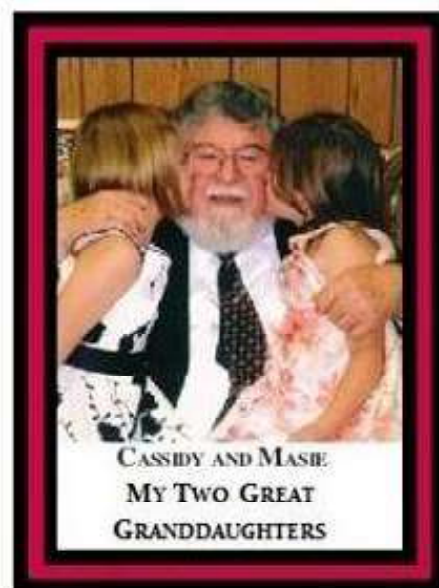
Curt Thomas Webb and Masie



MAKALA NICHOLE WEBB



CURT DOUGLAS WEBB
MY GREAT GRANDSON



CASSIDY AND MASIE
MY TWO GREAT
GRANDDAUGHTERS

Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to

LEROY DEDMON

For creating the sites "The Dedmon Connection" and "Branches"
In the last "20 years" you have volunteered your endless hours of time
to give us the valuable information about our family that we may
not have otherwise found. "Family Historians" such as you are
far and few. This family has been blessed and is grateful for you
and all you have done. Keep up the great work.

On behalf of all of the family

THANK YOU

20th Anniversary Edition "The Dedmon Connection"

March 2018

Cousin Leroy

As we collect documents and piece them together to create our family history and it begins to tell a story. As time goes on it gets so big we find ourselves becoming genealogist and then family historians of the family. We become story tellers of all. The heart beats once again for those who have walked before us, flesh is put back to their bodies, life comes back to the towns in the era in which they lived in decades past. We put love into each family as the story once again is told from so many years ago. Writing about those who have lived before us becomes easy as we can hear them in our own heart as we search many pages in libraries, searched many sites as well. We can see them in our own mind with each mile we travel and walk looking for them. They become real even though they have lived long before us. They are a part of us, we are a part of them. Without them we wouldn't be us after all. When you find an ancestor, has your heart ever added a beat? Have you never stood before the grave and had "that moment" where words just came out and you felt as though they were right next to you? Then you go home and tell somebody about it or even write the story of that day? That's when you became part of the story. With all the stories we tell through the years, we always become "the story" itself. One day our story will be shared. And we will become a part of somebody else's story too. Your story has already started, how will your story end? We will never know as it has yet to be written. You started sharing your story with us all 20 years ago Leroy Dedmon. So many have followed your story each month and waited with anticipation for the next story to be written. We are all so grateful for every story you have shared and we can't wait for all those you have yet to write. You are your own writer, our story teller, please keep writing.

Hazel Inglis (Dedman Cousin)



What a friend we have in Leroy, what he has done for our family is simply amazing, giving his money to keep up the newsletter online. The thousands of hours writing and gathering of information, the correspondence with family and friends. The love and pride he puts into each issue to be factual and not hurt anyone's feelings while telling their family's story, never asking for anything except information. Once we die our life becomes a story. Leroy can be assured his story will be told for many generations for what he has done for his family, friends, and people he has helped. He is truly a living legend.

What a friend we have in Leroy
Tim Dedmon



"In the early 1970's Leroy's family and our family lived about 15 miles apart in Warren County, Tennessee. We were often asked if we had any relationship to his family and we always answered that, "No, the names are not spelled the same". At the same time he knew of our cousins who also lived close. He was asked about his relationship with them and always replied no. Not until the computer came into being were we able to connect again and realize that this family had several spellings but we were actually just one big family. After my husband had his DNA tested we found that there is actually no relationship between Leroy's family and ours. I asked if that meant we were being kicked out of the family and in his generosity he has allowed us to stay connected. The information he has provided during the years has been most interesting and certainly appreciated."

Marianne Deadmon



Over the many years I've learned a lot about everything Dedmon/Dedman/Deadmon/ Etc and many of the ancillary families these ancestors produced. It has been a great resource to have "Cousin" Leroy take ownership of a project that has produced so much for all of us. We know that the name Leroy comes from the French "Le Roi", The King, and certainly all of us can recognize that Cousin Leroy is "The King" of all things Dedmon, however it is spelled. Thanks for all the work, Leroy. Long live the King, long live Cousin Leroy.

Jim Dedman, Columbia, SC...Of the Christopher Dedman line from Virginia

As I recall, the first time Cousin Leroy and I spoke was on facebook. He sent me a message and it was one that I couldn't figure out at all. It was written as though he had spoke to me before and I was to answer like I knew what he was talking about. I read the message a few times trying my best to figure it out, and looking at his name over and over again trying to remember if we had spoken before and if I truly was suppose to know what the message was all about. I could not recall it at all. I finally wrote back and asked him " Who are you, and do you have the write person "? (in so many words) Leroy was sure he was talking to the right person and answered again as though he was talking to the right person and again I was to know what he was talking about. Now, I'm sitting here scratching my head, trying to figure out who in the heck is " LEROY DEDMON " !!! After some thinking it hit me... "Dedmon- DEDMAN.. Hazel, Hazel, Hazel !! I know, now your confused too !! My Grandmother is Hazel Emma Dedman, Grandma has a brother name Herbert. Great Uncle Herb has a daughter name Hazel. I had a gut feeling here.... So I had to asked him. " Do you know Hazel C in Montana ? " "YES" that's YOU". "No, I'm Hazel Inglis in North Carolina". We are all related just different Hazels. Leroy thought he had been talking to ME for a long long time. Instead, he had been talking to my Cousin Hazel ! Did I get that right Cousin, I think I may have confused myself a little bit there ?!

Leroy and I start talking in messages and we talk and talk... and talk and talk. We have shared photos, stories and memories. I have been so honored to have gotten to know you Leroy. You are more than family to me, you are my "friend". You have enriched my life in ways that you will never know. In ways that there are just no words to explain. Thank you for that. Thank you for everything.

Cousin Hazel Inglis in North Carolina

