

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 9, December 2005

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We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 29 and 30, 2006

The Christmas Gift

By Christina Dennison

When getting someone a Christmas present,
You want it to be the best
Especially if that person
Is one you love above the rest.

My boyfriend Scott was thinking
About Christmas for me
And then an idea hit him
As hard as could be.

“Whenever we’re together,”
He thought,
“She’s always cold
And I’m always hot.”



That year for Christmas
When I opened my gifts to see what I’d get
What did I find
But a space heater and a heating blanket!



Season's Greetings

Following The Wind

Marge Kinser (in
white) with her
friend Ken (on left)

Geller Park - Heath, OH
May 31, 2005
Getting ready to go.



I am a bit of a daredevil and challenger. Who else would take dance lessons and be in their first dance recital in their 70s? I normally am not afraid of heights and I've been on a number of roller coasters and Ferris wheels in my day (including the biggest Ferris wheel in France where each 'bucket' held 50 people). The last roller coaster I was on was in Sandpoint, Idaho, with my son and granddaughter. I was not letting my granddaughter get away with calling me 'chicken.'

I went river rafting in Alaska's Denali Park, but we had a guide who did all the work. It was cold, cold, cold! It gave me the idea of white water rafting on the New River in West Virginia. I organized a bus trip and 12 of us went rafting. None of us had ever been rafting before. It was rough, but fun. Rapids are measured by numbers, 5 being the roughest. We were in one 5, the rest 4s and 3s. Now, that was a challenge. It was a young person's paradise. Lots of youth groups were there, (so our band of senior citizens seemed a bit out of place.) and when one raft upset the kids went flying, but the raft was uprighted, kids scared, unharmed, then laughing.

My latest dare was to go up in a hot-air balloon. We were gliding along as high as 2400-plus feet, but they like to keep it much lower. We glided for several miles, looking at beautiful scenery, trying to point out familiar places, for over an hour. Balloons travel according to the wind direction. We had a bit of a rough landing in someone's backyard where there was a flat place. You climb into the basket, very unladylike, and there is room for only four, plus the pilot, very close quarters.

I don't know what my next challenge will be.

written by Marge Kinser



L to R - Courtney, Victoria, Cooper, Rebecca

A New Experience

by Garywayne and friends

When I was growing up, family reunions could have been described as a gathering of old people who were standing around with a nice buffet table in the background. The hours that I spent in a group atmosphere were something I never looked forward to, but the abundance of food made it tolerable. It wasn't until I started building relationships that my desire to be counted among their numbers increased.

Since I'm not a "people person," the process of getting to know others was and is a slow one. Putting in time working side-by-side with others on building and maintaining We're Family Park has been a great way for me to get to know others and stay connected. This year I brought my grandson, Cooper,

to spend time working with me on the Pavilion during the recent pre-reunion workweek. During that time he struck up friendships with Matthew Shaver and Shane Cogar. Cooper also befriended three Tilford clan cousins who were also staying at Dale and Sharon's. He hopes he will be able to return next year to continue to build on those relationships and others.

I posed this question to these reunion first-timers: What three things did you like the most about being at the reunion? Or, what thoughts did you have about the reunion?

Cooper Hammann: "People there sure do shake hands and hug a lot. It was cool how Dale and Sharon let us stay at their house. I was allowed to go anywhere and play pool when I wanted. They treated me like I was part of their family. It was fun meeting new people and knowing that they were related to me. My grandpa gave me some money he planned on spending at the auction. I loved bidding on things using someone else's money in doing it. He let me have everything I won. People sure do shake hands and hug a lot there." - son of Sandra (Dennison) & Ken Hammann, grandson of Garywayne & Ro Dennison, great-grandson of Burnell & Geraldine

Rebecca Dennison: Hi. This is Rebecca. It was fun and I'd like to do it again. I learned a few things and met a whole lot of people. It was nice to meet Cooper, Cortney, and Gail. But it was fun learning how to play pool. It was also fun at the reunion because I really liked the games and all my cousins. - daughter of Jon & Donna Dennison, granddaughter of Eugene & Helen

Victoria Dennison: This is Victoria. It was fun to go to the reunion with Grammy and Pop-Pop. It was the first time for me to be away from home. We met a lot of my relatives. I want to go again. - daughter of Jon & Donna Dennison, granddaughter of Eugene & Helen

Elvie Porter: I had six thoughts about the reunion and they are: 1. The feeling of God's presence. 2. Love of the family fellowship. 3. Good entertainment. 4. Wonderful, delicious food. 5. Blessed with a place for fellowship, and 6. It was so much like my own family reunion, I don't think it can get any better. Husband of Elizabeth (Shaver) Porter

Martin: Hey Garywayne. When I took my customer's deer head to the taxidermist today, he said you had brought one in. It was a real beauty. I didn't know you had taken up hunting. Where did you hunt?

Garywayne: Well, I don't really want to talk about it.

Martin: I felt the same my first time, but it took me three hunting seasons to make a kill. You must be good.

Garywayne: It wasn't really anything, but I don't feel like talking about it right now.

David: Hey brother, I see you are driving a rental car. Did you have an accident with your truck or something?

Garywayne: Like I was just telling Martin here, I'd really rather not talk about it at all right now!





Liberty Grace

Savannah and Cooter Dennison became the proud parents of a baby girl on June 21, 2005. Liberty Grace weighed in at 9 lbs. 6oz. Cooter is the oldest son of Jeff and Kay Dennison, and the grandson of Byron and Jessie Dennison. Liberty Grace is welcomed into the Tilford clan.

Alexander Gabriel

Born to Jeremy and Erica Moore on September 23rd was Alexander Gabriel. This beautiful grandson of Patty (Shaver) and Bob Moore weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. He is welcomed into the Lena clan.

From the Editor

It is my desire to give every member of our family their 15 minutes of fame. I would like to do that through articles in the newsletter – from birth announcements, special occasions, graduations, to obituaries. I want a picture with at least a short paragraph of information. Since I am not an investigative reporter, if you think something should be placed in the newsletter, I am giving you the responsibility of sending it to me.

No information about many of the new additions to the family has reached me since I became the editor. Many of you are aware of the newsletter by now, so I would like to devote one-page of the next issue (deadline February first) to children under the age of four who haven't had their picture in the newsletter yet. My goal is to introduce new members of the family and as a result we will find out who the proud parents and grandparents are.

Additional Graduation News



I graduated from Rutgers Law School this past May (2005). I went part-time in the evening, which was grueling, because I was still running my air testing laboratory during the day. It was a 90 minute commute each way, so sometimes I didn't get home until 11:30 p.m., but I loved it. Having been a scientist all my adult life, it was something very different. by Jane Dennison

From Marge Kinser

There were two graduations in our family that I know of. One was Sara Blaney, granddaughter of Alfred, graduated from Newark Catholic High School. She won several scholarships, was in three beauty pageants, runner-up in one of them; was also in sports, especially track.

The other one was Ronald Lewis, great-grandson of Estle, graduated from Lakewood High School.

Staff Members: Garywayne & Ro Dennison, Robert & Janice Shaver
With special thanks to Dale Inman as proofreader

Death Announcement



Sue Mora

Just as a new birth brings joy to our family, the loss of one brings us sadness. On October 15th Sue Mora, granddaughter of Tilford & Lucy, daughter of Rondal & Joyce Dennison was laid to rest. She died after a long fight with cancer. Our sincere condolences to Joyce, Rondal, and other members of Sue's family.



I thought Dennison's had Cherokee blood, not Mohawk!!! (Alexis Dennison)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I would like to thank everyone who helped out during the workweek and the reunion of 2005 at We're Family Park. It was a great success, and I think it was one of the better workweeks we have had. Even though some could only work a few hours; we could not have done it without you. The ladies out-did themselves again in bringing and serving the food. Thank you so much. I believe a happy man is a man with a full belly. Looking at me it seems mine is always full. (Janice says, she can't keep mine full, as I'm always hungry.)

The pavilion was pressure washed and then treated, some trim was put up inside and varnished, and the large columns were painted. Plus there was general maintenance and clean-up, preparing for the family reunion. With the pavilion now 99% finished, it is hard to believe that it is only 12 years old and needed a face lift, but with your help we accomplished a lot in that short week before the reunion.

The money collected from the fundraisers and auctions this year and in the past helped us pay Rita and Tim Cogar in full for the heat and air conditioner. A big thanks to the Cogars as they paid for this out of their own pocket and never charged the park interest. That was a generous offer.

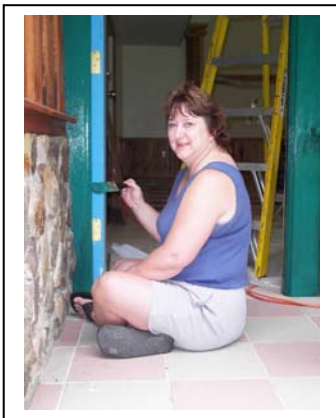
If you didn't make it this year for the workweek, plan on coming for the 2006 workweek. That date is July 24 through 28, 2006. The Family Reunion is July 29th and 30th of 2006. We need your help and would enjoy your fellowship in working toward a common goal. Perhaps we can finish up some touches on the Pavilion as we have a future porch planned and brick walkways at the entrance.

Be sure to put your brick order in so Jerry can get the bricks laid before the next reunion. You can send the order to me. Anyone who would like to help out in a financial way or work on a special project, please contact Martin or me.

In closing I will say it was great to have been with you as a family. At next year's reunion I hope to see you all there. Janice and I would like to wish each one a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - May God Bless you with good health and happiness throughout the New Year.

Robert Shaver, President

Anita



Robert & Dale



Cooper



Keeping Busy – Workweek 2005

I scheduled my last two days of vacation to bring my grandson Cooper to the reunion. I was somewhat apprehensive about spending two of our four days in West Virginia on a work crew at the park, but my fears of him suffering from boredom never materialized. Cooper set short-term goals and rewarded himself with a game of pool before deciding the next number of banister slats to polyurethane before rewarding himself with another game. Other members of the 2005 workweek crew were Virginia's children, Robert, Dale, Dwaine, Karen, Rita, and Anita. Jane Murphy was also there helping out.

Projects included painting, putting polyurethane on bare wood, general cleaning, staining the Pavilion, killing various kinds of bees nesting in the human safety zone, minor maintenance, and washing windows. The workweek is a time to bless the rest of the family with a clean, safe, and beautiful surrounding. It is also a time of bonding with other workers, thus it is a time of giving and receiving a blessing.

Many projects were not completed or even started due to the lack of manpower. Please mark your calendar for the last full weekend in July 2006 to join in on the rewarding fellowship and to do your part to keep our wonderful family Park looking good.

written by Garywayne

The entertainment for We're Family Reunion this year was exceptional. We are so blessed to have so many talented people in our nuclear family. All of the entertainment was wonderful and if you were there enjoying it, I know you were blessed as I was. If you were not there, I'm sure you would want to have been.

Let me name a few of the talented ones that shared with us. Heather Hawkins who lifted her beautiful voice for us in praise to God. Ruth Ann looked just angelic as she signed to the words of "How Great Thou Art". Everyone joined me in singing "Happy Birthday" to Joshua Hawkins as he celebrated his 6th special day. These are from the Imogene Hawkins family. We also heard from Mary and Brenda Hobbs singing "Daddy's Hands" - that was such a wonderful blessing to everyone. As I looked around the room I saw so many cousins just weeping as their voices blended in beautiful harmony. God was most certainly blessing his children through them. These girls are from the Elizabeth Hobbs family. Elizabeth, June, and Brenda also blessed us with singing. All of these are from the Lena branch.

It was such a treat to hear Joe and Michael Shaver lifting up their voices in song, and Joe was playing the guitar as they sang some Bluegrass and some spiritual songs. These boys are from the Aviral Shaver family and, like their father, they are so very talented. Also singing and playing with them was Dwaine's son and his daughter. We couldn't have had an evening of entertainment without hearing from Wilma, Rita, and Anita lifting their voices in praise to our God and lastly, but most certainly not least, we heard from Karen. All of these girls are so special and God blesses us abundantly through them. These are all from the Virginia Shaver branch.

We also heard from members from Tilford's branch including Katie Inman singing our national anthem acappella; and Clifford's branch as Doris shared with us some wonderfully, funny stories. But I must say, one of the most entertaining times of sharing our talents was the performance by Margie Kinser of the Ozenna branch. She entertained us with line dancing to "Trashy Woman". We enjoyed it so much that Doris put out a challenge to us for all to learn how to line dance by the 2006 reunion.

In 2006 we plan to see all of these talented entertainers plus many more, such as, William Shaver, (aka) Willie. William sings with his wife and mother-in-law and they go to Little Kanawha Independent Church in Burnsville. I understand they are very good and I'm so anxious to hear them. William is the son of Yvorra, from Virginia's branch.

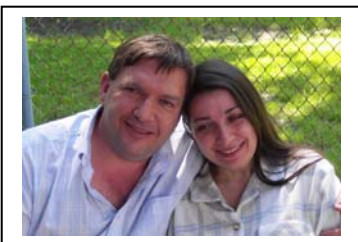
We will also be hearing John Squires play his beautiful silver trumpet. Tony Shaver, son of Clifford Paul, is going to sing for us and as an added treat, he will be bringing us the message on Sunday morning. Both John and Tony are from Lena's branch.

From Wayford's branch, we are hoping to hear Keso sing for us. There are so many talents from Tilford's branch I'd be hard pressed to list them all, but one that we've heard and would love to hear again is Theron's son-in-law and grandchildren. These people are soooooo good. They are actually professionals, and two years ago when they entertained us the guitar was almost as big as the little boy who was playing it. I promise if you come to Entertainment 2006, you'll be blessed.

Reunion 2006 is going to be great. I'm already so excited about it. I have so many ideas running around in my head for the best reunion yet. They just seem to get better each year. Because we have many preachers in our extended family we want to have each of them bring us the message from God in our Sunday morning worship services. We've heard several of them already and I am looking forward to learning who the others are. As I've stated before, Tony Shaver will be bringing us the message in 2006. Please contact me if you have a minister in your branch.

A Bride From Russia

edited by Garywayne



My brother, Stanley, met Alla Nikuradze on the Internet in April 2004. Alla is from Russia. In September 2004, he went to Moscow for a week to meet her in person after very many e-mail conversations. They communicated by using a Russian/English dictionary and body language. In December he returned to Russia for three weeks to meet her family and friends. It was obvious they were meant for each other, so on May 16, 2005, he returned to Russia to bring her to America.

They were married on August 10, 2005, and look forward with anticipation to a long, loving, and prosperous future together.