

# We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 18, December 2008

[WWW.WEREFAMILY.ORG](http://WWW.WEREFAMILY.ORG)

We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 25 & 26, 2009

## Christmas 74, New Year 75

written by *Loleta Robinson*

As we feel the Christmas spirit work,  
We know it is our Savior's birth,  
Let's all remember to give special thanks,  
Then there won't be left so many blanks.

I love the Christmas season so much,  
Not just the tree with tinsel, gifts and such.  
The Holy Spirit that I can always feel,  
Is worth lots more than it all in this deal.

As we approach the coming New Year,  
May we make this approach far more dear,  
By loving the Lord with all our hearts,  
As He's the one that gave us a part.

I'm, hoping to enjoy this coming New Year,  
With all the things that give us good cheer.  
Our lives can be richer and fuller each day,  
Even more than words we can ever say.



## James Wesley & Vickie Lee

August 9, 2008

James Wesley Dennison, the third son of Rick & Sherie Dennison, and grandson of the late Byron & Jessie Dennison, married Victoria (Vickie) Lee Dunton on Aug. 9, 2008 at La Conner Flats and Garden in La Conner, WA.

Vickie's flowers were white, pink, and blue lilies. They said their vows outside by the gazebo surrounded by rows and rows of roses. It was a very beautiful garden setting for their vows.

The married couple stayed a week on the Oregon Coast to celebrate their union. [submitted by the mother of the groom](#)

## Justin & Melinda Meadows

Melinda S. Shaver (10-8-3) and Justin R. Meadows were united in marriage on July 19, 2008 during a private ceremony at their home at Chapel Route, Gassaway, WV. The ceremony was performed by Pastor Dennis Shaver (10-1-3).

Melinda is the daughter of Sharon & Jerry V. Shaver (10-8) of Exchange, WV. She is the granddaughter of the late Vaughn, & Wilma Virginia Shaver (10).



## Mark Your Calendars

Kirk Shaver, son of Keith and Kathy Shaver of Gassaway, and Courtney Rose, daughter of Mark and Mary Rose of Little Birch, will be getting married May 16, 2009. Their engagement took place at Cass Scenic Railroad in September of 2007.

Kirk and Courtney are graduates of Braxton County High School. Kirk is also a graduate of Glenville State College with a Business Management Degree. Kirk is currently employed at Interstate Batteries of Southern West Virginia where he will continue to work in the future. Courtney is a sophomore at Glenville State College majoring in Nursing, and will be going to Montgomery, WV to finish her junior and senior year of college. After graduation, Courtney plans on working in the Charleston or Clarksburg area as a trauma nurse.

On behalf of the couple, they would request your presence at their wedding in May 2009 at the Gassaway Baptist Church.



Lena's great-granddaughter (5-7-1-1) got married.

This is the wedding announcement:

It is our moment to celebrate  
the love that unites us  
Amanda Marie Holmes  
and

Jacob P. Haws

Together with our parents  
Brenda and Brent Holmes  
and

Toni and Kim Haws  
we invite you to share with us  
this joyous celebration of love  
at our marriage  
on Saturday, the 20th of September  
two thousand and eight  
at two o'clock in the afternoon  
Shaver's Fork Community Church  
Exchange Road  
Sutton, West Virginia

Jacob is a great guy. Our whole little twig of the family loves him. He is originally from Arizona and has only lived here for a few years. We hope you all get to meet him at next year's reunion.



## Work Week

The top three projects on the We're Family Park location during 2008 were creating the Memorial Walkway, adding the deck onto the Pavilion, and installing a metal roof on the chapel. The information I have received on the workers of these projects are as follows. **The Chapel:** Dale, Garywayne, Donald and Sarah. Dale was the foreman who made sure that we had everything on site to get it done in the shortest amount of time. Donald told me during one of his numerous coffee breaks, "Rome was not built in a day, but then again my brother, Dale, was not in charge of that project."

## Wedding Bells in the Shaver Family:

We are please to announce that **Beau Shaver and Megan Bragg** were married June 15, 2008. Megan works as District Manager for Subway. Beau works for his Father at Interstate Batteries of WV. They reside in Ripley, WV.

**Natasha Rexroad and Matthew Somerville** were married Sept. 27, 2008. Matt works for Valtronics and Natasha works for Camden Clark Hospital in Parkersburg. The couple resides in Ravenswood, WV.

Congratulations from your Grandparents, Robert & Janice Shaver



## Gail Beasley and John Angus

were married on Oct. 11, 2008 at the Stewart Wesleyan Church in Stewart, Ohio. The small building was at full capacity. Their reception was next door, complete with a chocolate fondue fountain w/strawberries & other fruit.

## In the Spotlight

by Garywayne

There are those that slip in and out of our presence and virtually go unnoticed. At this time I would like to put the spotlight on one of my new found heroines, Maxine Marlo. Not only did she leave the reunion to pick up her brother, Billy Luzader when he decided not to come on his own, but she quietly works behind the scenes all year to promote family unity.

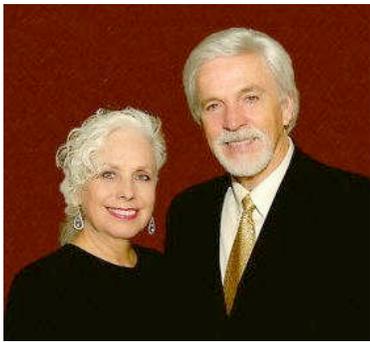
As many of you know, my passion is the newsletter. When it gets published three times a year, Rita Cogar (bless you Rita), prints a copy from her computer and gives it to Maxine. Maxine lets her own light shine by going that extra mile to the library to make another copy so that she can go visit Aunt Virginia Dennison with a present in hand. Everyone doing their part, even in the smallest of ways, is what being a family is all about. Both Maxine and Rita embody that spirit. If our family had a Hall of Fame, I would have several candidates to nominate. Maxine would be on that list.



Billy & Maxine

## Drama Comes Alive

information submitted by Doris Burns



**Doris & Jim Burns**

After friends of friends called Doris and Jim Burns looking for someone to do a show with music, a playwright was born. The result was a beautiful Christmas show titled "Christmas is Forever." Doris wrote drama vignettes and included five Christmas songs Jim had written. By the time Doris had become a playwright, her hair had already turned white, so obviously it had not been a longing career path for her. They produced this show for two holiday seasons in a row.

The success of that production sent the same people calling again. A couple had purchased and restored a historic building on the square in Adairsville, GA where a dinner theatre on the upper level was established.

They asked Doris and Jim to create an original musical theatre work based on a book by Corra Harris (1869-1935). Mrs. Harris lived in Bartow County GA the last 23 years of her life and her old home had been restored as a historical site. Her book, "A Circuit Rider's Wife" was published in 1910.

This show was to be the centerpiece celebrating the dual anniversaries of that century old building and Bartow County being established 150 years, by highlighting one of their most famous writers. Jim and Doris took the challenge, knowing that the very first performance was going to be attended by The Corra Harris Society of Bartow County. Talk about pressure!

A synopsis of the story is that a city girl falls in love with a country circuit-riding preacher from the "hell-fire-and-brimstone" preaching era. It may not have been a marriage made in heaven, but it certainly makes for earthly encounters with true-to-life characters. The story celebrates the difficulties and triumphs of love. Music and dialogue show the hearts and minds of the turn-of-the-20th century mountain folks of the Redwine Circuit.

After the premiere of the first version of the show in 2002, Doris bought a library of books about writing the "Broadway musical". The first sentence she read on the Internet about the subject could be summed up in one word - "DON'T!"

Doris and Jim, and their cast had the distinct honor of representing Lee University at the 35th annual AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATER FESTIVAL REGION IV 2003. The regional festival showcases the very best in new musical theater works throughout the Southeast. "Circuit Rider's Wife...the Musical" was one of only three new works invited to stage portions of their work in a workshop. Doris and Jim call it a "Christian-Broadway-Style" musical theatre.

Through the years, the musical has been underwritten by one or more of the following: a bank, a church, a Play group, a museum center, and a university. They were also invited to the Georgia Literary Festival 2005. In 2007, "Circuit Rider's Wife...the Musical" was chosen as one of six new works from almost 100 submissions to be read at THE APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL OF PLAYS AND PLAYWRIGHTS 2007.

As a result of these experiences, Jim and Doris refined the show over the last five years from six original songs, to fourteen with extensive character and scene development. Jim wrote new songs that give more personal voice to some of the characters while Doris revised the script to add strength to the characters and the story itself. The play has 19 scenes. This is the fifth year they have returned to the dinner theatre in Adairsville since the premiere, and the second in Cleveland. It's been a different show every time. However, Doris admits, "We hope we've made the final revisions of this show."

### submitted by Marge Kinser

This is the last quilt I pieced together, which I started after Jess died in 1997. I quilted about two feet of it before my eyes went bad. The Neal Ave. Church sewing ladies finished it for me. It is called "Diamond Jubilee." I saw a picture in a catalog and made it from scraps that I had on hand. It is a one piece pattern.



### "Kayleigh Somerville"

Born March 25, 2008 to:  
Natasha Rexroad  
&  
Matt Somerville

Her Grandmother is:  
Nannette Rexroad  
Great Grandparents are:  
Robert & Janice Shaver

	<p><b>Brody Charles</b> (2-2-5-2-3)  Born: 8-16-08 7lbs. 9oz.  To Greg &amp; Shannon Dennison  Siblings:  Alicia, Samantha &amp; Logan  Grandparents: Martin &amp; Bev</p>	 <p><b>Letter From the Editor</b>  (<a href="mailto:Garywayne.ohio@gmail.com">Garywayne.ohio@gmail.com</a>)</p>
	<p><b>Caden Cox</b> (5-3-2-1-1)  Born 8/8/2007  Son of Nicole &amp; Darius Cox  Taken with:  Grandma Alice Hawkins</p>	<p>Occasionally I like to reflect on the reasons I became the newsletter's editor. At the top of my list was that feeling of being disconnected from the larger family that I was a part of. I felt receiving and editing stories from my family would give me a greater sense of who I was. However, it has not really worked out that way.</p> <p>What others and I have created is a place where our individuality, creativeness, and family history can be explored. It is in participating in the format of our newsletter/web site, (which is open to all), that I'm finding out who I am and what I have to offer so that others may not feel so disconnected.</p> <p>Please share with us your childhood adventures, favorite memories, and the lessons you have learned from life. Sharing pleasant memories of departed loved ones is a great way to bless others, for it jump-starts the mind to remember the past. Take that step of faith to bless us with a part of your life, and then don't be surprised when it turns into a blessing for yourself.</p>
	 <p><b>Stop, Think, Listen to your Heart</b></p>	
<p><b>Cooper Scott Overfield</b>  (2-3-1-3-4)  Born 4-10-2008  Son of Chandra &amp; James  Shown off by Mom</p>		
	<p><b>A new game in town</b> written by Garywayne</p> <p>In recent years a new game has been taking the Cincinnati area by storm – that would be Cornhole. I made a game platform and Ro made the bags of corn to go with it to bring to the family park. Wanda and Pearl's branch also brought a set to the reunion.</p> <p>Unfortunately, only Uncle Clifford showed an interest in playing the game Saturday morning (other than those that brought them). I made the decision not to put my set on the auction block due to lack of interest. After the auction was over however, the game took on a life of its own until after dark. The set I brought has since been donated to The Park's recreation collection.</p>	
		<p><b>Exciting News:</b> Don't miss the next issue of the Newsletter, coming in March. I'm going to have exciting news about Entertainment 2009. I'll give you a hint; Dale Shaver and Elizabeth Hobbs Porter are helping with the planning. It's going to be so much fun.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Janet Oliver</b></p>

- 1 t. baking powder
- 2 c. lt. brown sugar
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 – 15oz can pumpkin
- 3 c. flour, 1 t. salt, 2 eggs
- 1 T. pumpkin pie spice

**Pumpkin Cookies**

Whenever my sister or I make these, people always ask for the recipe. Warning: they are highly addictive! **Christina Dennison**

Heat oven to 350. Beat eggs, sugar, oil, & vanilla extract until smooth. Stir in pumpkin. In separate bowl, stir dry ingredients. Add to wet mix ½ c. @ a time. Drop heaping teaspoons onto greased cookie sheet. Bake for 9-12 min or until light golden brown on bottom. Top with powdered sugar icing if desired (heaping tablespoon soft butter, 2 cups powdered sugar. Add milk slowly to make right consistency; add 1 teaspoon vanilla. Mix. If too thin, add more sugar).

**Graduation Announcement:** Kathryn (aka Kadi) Pearl Inman graduated from Grove City High School on May 31, 2008. She will be attending Hocking College in Nelsonville, Ohio, in the fall in their Police Science program. She received one of two \$500 scholarships from the Grove City NJROTC program. Congratulations, Kadi!

## Not Forgotten

### Jessie Marie Boggs Dennison

by Garywayne Dennison

The week of the family reunion has always been a busy time for those directly associated with it. The invasion from the children of the Marlin Burnell Dennison clan on the Byron and Jessie family during that time certainly must have raised the stress level, but it was never apparent in Aunt Jessie's actions.

On one of our weeklong reunion trips, the Byron boys took me groundhog hunting, for the rodent had dug its borough on an established cow path. I was given the honor of protecting the cows from broken legs by eliminating the cause of the digging. It only took me six shots at 8 ft. away to accomplish my mission. I decided right then that hunting was not for me.

Upon returning to the house, Aunt Jessie gave orders to have the animal cleaned as she prepared to fix it for our noon meal. It was obvious that it was a side dish to honor my accomplishment. However, she was the one who should have been praised for rearranging her busy schedule to make room for me as an individual among so many other children. She was a very special woman to me not only back then, but she always continued to be so. I have no doubt that she was a very special person to everyone she met.

### Shirley Raye Dennison Maloney

by Dale Dennison

Aunt Shirley and I were only nine years apart in age, so we were more like friends since we grew up in the same small community. Distance separated us over the years but we were always fond of each other.

Several years ago she started participating in the family reunions on a regular basis. She came up to me and asked how I was doing. I looked into her eyes and told her that I had AIDS. The expression on her face went from idle chitchat to true concern. She asked me to repeat what I had just said. I told her that I was hard of hearing ever since I got out of the Army. So I asked her if she was telling me that maybe it was hereditary instead of the noise from guns. Upon seeing her "Tell me, and tell me right now without changing the subject look," I repeated my earlier comment. I then told her it happened in Massachusetts two years ago. Even though it was a total shock to her system and I could tell she had many unanswered questions on her mind, at that point someone then interrupted our conversation. I told her that we would talk more later on.

Since I spoke about it openly without toning down my voice, I never gave her any indication to keep quiet about the conversation. I am sure that I gave Aunt Shirley the impression that many other people knew about it. As I began to talk to a cousin, I noticed that Aunt Shirley was going around asking questions to get her curiosity satisfied.

After about a half hour or so, someone else came up to me in a hushed voice and said questionably, "I just heard that you had AIDS!" Just then I saw Aunt Shirley looking in my direction, so I motioned for her to come over and I asked him to repeat his comment once Aunt Shirley became part of our threesome. When he did, Shirley's face went blank. She had not found anyone who knew about any recent health problems that may have befallen me, so she must have realized that she had clearly stepped over the line of concern to have both feet planted in the world of gossip.

In the uncomfortable presence that Aunt Shirley found herself, I responded to the real question by saying, "Yes. It has been two years now since I drove to Massachusetts and bought one for each ear. Now I can hear very good!" That is when I saw a more aggressive, uncompassionate side of my normally gentle Aunt Shirley. After receiving a few strikes of a fist to my chest, I was certain that I pulled off my practical joke flawlessly.

### John William Lake (Gen.# 6-6) born October 31, 1942

John passed away on September 26, 2008 from complications of lung cancer. He went peacefully in his sleep at his daughter's (Theresa Hope) house. He would have been 66 on his next birthday. Services were held in Flatwoods, WV at the Stockard-Gibson Funeral Home. He was buried beside his grandparents John and Effie Lake at the Flatwoods Cemetery.



## Helen Adams Dennison

Dec. 24, 1934 ---- Aug. 15, 2008

There has been an outpouring of sympathy to the family, and me, which is not surprising in view of Helen being the person she was. But she would have been surprised, being the unassuming person she was, to see people all over the USA either coming to say goodbye or calling to express their sadness. They are still calling and sending letters. It was heartbreaking to see her struggle, with or without pain. People have been surprised in that they largely did not know how much of a struggle it was for her and even to those of us closest to her, we never expected her to go so quickly. Even near the end, she was apologizing for being so much trouble. How could one not love her?

After we went through a ton of photographs of her as a child, a teenager, at her engagement party, with a navy officer (it was the uniform) and through the intervening years, daughter Jane made a collage of them for the memorial service. That, plus the eulogy, a letter from a friend addressed to her at her current address and other remembrances left no eyes dry. I said goodbye to her, as I will many times hence.

## Computer Answers Revealed Systematically

navigating the technical highway with Jason Maloney

People who enjoy the technical side of working with computers are often labeled geeks. Stereotypes are often misleading as it is in my case. I enjoy working in the silent world of circuit boards and figuring out problems that can't be seen, but that is only part of whom I am for I love blowing up stuff. Other interests that I have are cooking/grilling, history (general, military/war/weapon, American), firearms and, of course, shooting.

Please secure my future with the newsletter by sending me your computer related questions as Garywayne did. **Question:** I have a few DOS based programs that I find beneficial in the way I use a computer. However, recently I bought a laptop which doesn't seem to have a DOS prompt. ( C:\ ) Is there any chance of keeping an old routine in my life?

**Answer:** You can access a DOS prompt by either navigating to [Start] > [All Programs] > [Accessories] > [Command Prompt]. On some systems this may be named "MS-DOS Prompt" but the results are the same. A second method of accessing the command prompt is to navigate to [Start] > [Run] > type "cmd" and press [Enter]. The shortcut sequence for this method is pressing the Windows Key [Win] + [R] to bring up the Run dialog box and then type 'cmd' and press [Enter].

For now, please pass your questions along to Garywayne.

### INCOME FROM HOMECOMING

FOOD DONATION	\$ 302.00
AUCTION	\$ 480.00
RAFFLE	\$ 216.00
NOODLE JAR	\$ 50.00
LOVE OFFERING	\$ 91.00
DONATIONS	\$1,291.31
DUES	\$ 70.00
PARK RENTAL	\$ 50.00
TOTAL	\$3,500.13

### EXPENSES

FOOD & SUPPLIES	\$1,117.49
MOWING	\$ 100.00
NET INCOME:	\$2,282.64



**Serenity Lynn Malin**  
Born 3-14-2008 (2-5-4-1-1)  
with dad Justin



This holiday season, get to know a family member you're unfamiliar with. I introduced myself to a second cousin this Thanksgiving.

**Mandy, Zachary, & Kyle Malin**