

We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 20, July 2009

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



Summer

by Loleta Robinson (8)

Summer's passing down the way,
She stopped to visit a few days,
To give us flowers bright and gay,
And watch us harvest the fragrant hay.

She only comes but once a year,
Without her visit life would be drear,
She sings the songs we love to hear,
And makes us happy while she's here.

She fills the days with sunshine bright,
Enchants the shadowed starlit night,
Just when we think the world's alright,
She mysteriously takes her flight.

Just as soon as she is gone,
Then the world seems to be all wrong,
The sweet birds follow her gay song,
And old man winter creeps along.



Brayden Lee Inman

(2-7-1A-2-1)



Brayden was born December 15, 2008. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 20 inches long.

He is the son of Kadi Inman (2-7-1A-2), who is the daughter of Dale and Carl Inman. Proud great-grandparents are Wanda and Pearl Coen.

Wyatt Mian Dennison ->

(2-2-5-1-2)

We are pleased to announce the birth of our newest grandchild! Wyatt is the second son of Jason and Staci Dennison.

He was born March 20, 2009. Wyatt weighed in at 6 lbs. 8 oz.

"He is adorable!"

Bev & Martin Dennison (2-2-5)



Look who saved the day at the 2008 Family Reunion.

Thanks to these brothers, Donald and Bradley Dennison, and their love of food, we all enjoyed a very good meal. Bradley's handmade, one-of-a-kind grill made out of an oil drum really came in handy. After the burgers were finished Jane and Chuck Murphy dipped the burgers in onion soup mix, making the burgers moist and tasty. All in all, I think cooking our meal on a grill was a big success. The burgers were really enjoyed by all and maybe they'll do it again this year.

The Pavilion at the park now has a physical address due to the 911 systems being implemented. It is: 268 Shaver Dr., Exchange, WV 26619. The change has not been released to the general public or to GOOGLE as of yet. This address is not to take the place of the P.O. Box address currently in use, but it is to help 911 responders in case of an emergency.

I travel to the park by taking exit 67 off of I-79, which is the Flatwoods/WV-15 exit. (There is a McDonalds .2 miles s/w of the signal light. The address is 1990 Sutton Lane, Sutton, WV. Use this address on your computer's search engine for your personal map to McDonalds). I then turn right and go 2.3 miles where I turn right onto County Rte-19/Exchange Road. About 2.4 miles a road will turn off to the left – take it. The last street sign I saw posted there read Generation Gap Ln. Google calls it Gerwig Road. The county is renaming it Shaver Drive. Cross over the small creek and go around the bend, and you are there!

CLIFFORD C. DENNISON

March 26, 1922-May 21, 2009

Clifford Calvin Dennison, Ed. D., born near Sutton, West Virginia, March 26, 1922. died Thursday evening, May 21, 2009. He joyfully reunited with Jeanette, his beloved wife of sixty-five years, his revered Poppy and Mommy Dennison, and his ten cherished siblings.

Growing up on a farm in central West Virginia required creativity, which stimulated his developing engineer's mind and provided a laboratory for his developing interest in biology. He began his formal education in a one-room schoolhouse and completed a doctorate in science education from the University of Florida. He served in the Army Air Corps in WWII in England, Germany and France. At the end of the war, he was involved with setting up communications for the Potsdam Conference featuring Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill.

Dr. Dennison taught science at Lee University when it was Lee College from 1955 to 1992. In the lean early years, he often found it necessary to take students to local creeks to seine for frogs and salamanders for use in biology labs. Residents of Centenary Avenue remember seeing him walk erectly down the street in his doctoral gown and stole to participate in academic functions on campus. Dr. Dennison inspired scores of young men and women to pursue advanced studies in the sciences and medicine. He modeled integrity and living spirituality to his students. A grandson called him "a truly honorable person." He retired from Lee in 1992 with the respected rank of "Professor Emeritus."

A grandchild described his Papaw on Facebook as "a remarkable person... a scientist, professor, inventor, carpenter, adventurer, philosopher, minister, traveler." His students knew him as the archetypical brilliant, absent-minded professor, but his family and friends knew him as a pilot, motor-biker, hiker and inventor. His most well-known invention was the Dennison Home Water Distillator, but he also created electric merry-go-rounds for his grandchildren and for Rev. Littlefield's church park. He was always up for fun, and it was he who usually initiated the jump in the frigid creek, the flight on the ultra-light aircraft, or the canister of homemade ice cream. He was active for years with the Civil Air Patrol, and the Feed the People Organization. Before Habitat for Humanity came to the community, he raised money and helped build a house for a homeless family.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Doris & Jim Burns, by four sons and spouses: Denny and Pat, Jimmy and Sallie, Jerry and Dianne, and Jeffrey and Vicki; by grandchildren: Kevin, Todd, & Ryan Burns, Shawn, Micah, Elijah, Jeremy, Amber, Chris, and Trevor Dennison and Jama Hardern; step-grandchildren, Chris, Whitney, Megan and Claire; and great-grandchildren Ty, Trevor, Max, Dylan and Bryan Burns; Cora, Sydney, Evan, and Annalise Hardern; Michael, Matthew, Breanna and Fisher Dennison. Clifford has several hundred nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. One of his most prized accomplishments was marshaling the family to build the beautiful We're Family Park on what was once the old Dennison homeplace where the Dennison and Shaver family reunions are held each July.

My Story was a book Clifford wrote to share his life experiences with his family and us. On page 1, I think he's encouraging us to do what he did.



"In my later years I have become interested in the Dennison heritage. I have learned that my ancestors passed down to their descendants a strong Christian faith, a great love of family, and an abiding love of the land. I am truly thankful for these things. However, there is one aspect of their lives that is sadly missing; they left very little documentation of their daily lives and thoughts.

My father, James Elijah Dennison, told many stories of his life, but he didn't write anything down. Most of those stories are gone forever. I have decided, with Doris' urging, to correct that lack for the benefit of my own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren."



Gareth Dennison, 35, died May 24, 2009 at his home in Peter's Creek, Alaska. A public celebration of life was held on Sunday, June 7th.

Gareth was born August 13th, 1973 in Gulfport, Mississippi. His family moved to Alaska in 1979 and Gareth graduated from Chugiak High School in 1992. He joined the Air Force and served honorably from 1996-1997 until he was medically discharged. He was part of the Public Workers Union Local 71 and worked at the National Guard Armory.

He is survived by his two children, Samantha and Mathew Dennison, his mother, Helene Dennison, his brother and sister-in-law, Christopher and Danielle Dennison and their children Tiffani and Seth, all of Eagle River, and many friends and family in Alaska, West Virginia, and Europe.

He was preceded in death by his father Tilford G. (Gary) Dennison.

Gareth Dennison was "That Guy". He knew it enough to make it his license plate, and the rest of us knew it too. "That Guy" who put family first. "That Guy" who always had a smile and a great story to tell. "That Guy" you called when you needed a friend. "That Guy" you shared coffee with at Sleepy Dog. "That Guy" you called to fix things. "That Guy" you hung out with and ordered Pizza Man and Cokes. "That Guy" standing on the sidelines of his kids' games. "That Guy" who ate a good steak with you. "That Guy" you called to watch a movie. "That Guy" who went wheeling with you and that could get to trails no one else could. "That Guy" you called to pull you out of a ditch. "That Guy" everyone knew and everyone wanted to know. "That Guy" who was your best friend for life or just a moment. "That Guy" who always had you laughing. "That Guy" who loved life. "That Guy" who lived. "That Guy" who loved. "That Guy" who wanted us all to do the same. "That Guy" who will be in our hearts forever.

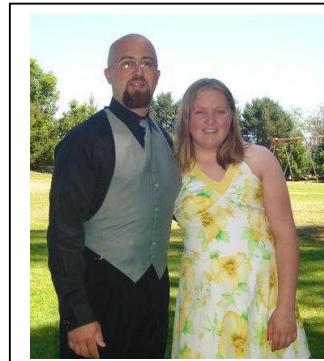
In lieu of flowers, an education/savings account is set up for Samantha and Mathew with Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union Account number: 127317

My dad, where to begin..

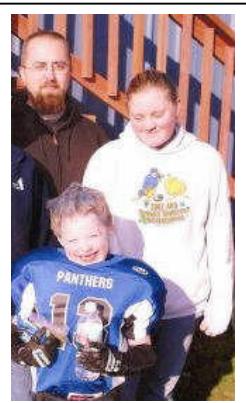
My dad was truly the best man I ever knew. He made so many people laugh, almost to where they wet their pants. He loved the outdoors. And he loved his kids. He had so many friends. Don't be sad, he would want us all to be happy, and to remember all the great things he has done. I will miss my dad so much, there aren't words to explain how much my little brother and I loved our dad. So remember him for his funny personality, caring heart, and love of a good steak on the bar-b-que. He will be in our hearts forever. -Samantha Dennison



Gareth's mom, Helena →



Gareth w/Sam & Matthew



An Impression That Will Last

by Garywayne

I do not possess the quality of being very observant. Therefore, having only met Gary at family reunions a couple of times would not normally lend itself to forming an opinion about him. However, his personality never allowed him to blend into the crowd. He seemed to love life and people, and didn't hesitate to put his feelings into action. I saw him as a type of person to make you feel welcome at a party even though you were the one throwing it. Another term I associate with Gary in connection with the park is generosity because of his financial support. My exposure to Gary's life was very limited but it made an impression that will last.

Entertainment 2008

by Janet Oliver

There were many talented people who shared their gifts with us last year. It was amazing to hear and watch William Shaver's little grandson, Zach, as he took the microphone in one hand and raised the other in praise to the Lord as he helped sing. William and his wife Tonya come from the William and Yvorra branch of the Virginia Clan. Averil's boys (Joe and Mike) along with Dwayne's son Kevin and his daughter also sang.

There were many performers from Lena's branch who participated in the activities. The Shaver Sisters, as they used to be called, sang for us (Elizabeth, Brenda, and June). That was the first time June sang in front of anyone since her stroke. She did great! Brenda also sang a solo called "Daddy's Hands." As usual, it brought tears to my eyes. Ruth Ann signed to the beautiful hymn, "How Great Thou Art." That was such a blessing to all of us.

There were many others from the Tilford branch who took the spotlight. I was happy to get to know and hear Melissa Goins sing. She is one very talented musician and singer. Others returning from the Tilford branch included, Kati Inman (who is becoming more confident every year) and the Maple Creek Band from North Carolina.

We were blessed and encouraged by others whom I have not mentioned. However, the sharing of their talents was greatly appreciated.

Sunday Morning Worship

by Janet Oliver

After learning that there was a preacher among us by the name of Jim Goins, I'd put him on the spot and asked him to present the message at our Sunday Morning Devotional Service. He humbly acquiesced and I then became aware that he was a wonderful preacher. God is so good.

Jessica Dennison: I graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine on Saturday May 30, 2009 in Lewisburg, WV. I began my residency in Family Medicine on June 17 in Newport News, VA. I will be there for 3 years at which time I will decide if I want to do a one-year fellowship in Obstetrics. Peace, Jessica

Letter From the Editor

Garywayne Dennison 1430 Aster Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224 (513) 541-5370

One of the enjoyable things that have grown accustomed to each year has been taking part in the We're Family Park workweek. Not only is there a great satisfaction of getting things done - the fellowship that happens on and off the site is something to be treasured. Unfortunately, due to sickness earlier this year I lost my vacation time that I was going to use to be there. If any of you are on the fence of whether to participate in the workweek or not, please accept my invitation to be my replacement this year. Allow something good to come out of me having pneumonia in February. Then maybe next July we can have fun working together.

Our family web site is a great resource we have at our fingertips. Unfortunately it is greatly underused as a method of getting current news and time sensitive information out to the family at large. I would like to challenge every family member with Internet access to post one article or one reply to an article on the site at least once a year. That way when the time comes for you to share the breaking story of the hour, you'll have confidence and knowledge to get the job done.

Contrary to popular belief, I have little to do with the workings of our website, that is Ryan Shavers baby. I think the only power I have over the rest of you, is to delete postings of others and to put on the newsletters. However, if you need encouragement concerning the web site, I may be the one to contact.



Garywayne



Jim Goins



Janet Oliver



Jessica w/Donald & Sarah