

# We're Family Park Newsletter

Dedicated to the family of James & Amanda Dennison Issue 22, March 2010

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

We look forward to your presence at our next Family Reunion – July 24 & 25, 2010

## Two Hearts In The Snow

As we looked out at the new fallen snow  
that was glistening on the ground.  
Our tear dimmed eyes could hardly see  
and our joy could not be found.

Our hearts were heavy, our spirits low  
for our faith, this was a test.  
It was the long and dreaded day  
when we'd lay our Mom to rest.

As we prepared to say goodbye  
I asked the Lord above.  
Just send a sign to ease our pain  
and show us that we're loved.

A neighbor stopped to show respect  
as we prepared for the burial day.  
He left a sign down in the snow  
as he turned and drove away.

It was a sign sent down by God  
not a single heart, but two.  
Perfects hearts for all to see  
What does this mean to you?

We asked the question many times  
what could the answer be?  
Why was it left there, Oh so plain  
for everyone to see.

Just simple tracks left in the snow  
the message was very clear.  
God sent a sign, twas Mom's great love  
and we could feel her presence near.

It was just like Mom, she was always there  
through our troubles - yours and mine.  
It was again a Mother's love,  
she'd come to comfort one last time.

Her heart was joined with Daddy's  
who'd been waiting up above.  
They are now together in Heaven  
by God's Matchless and Marvelous love.

This sign was sent from up above  
and helped wipe our tears away.  
They are now together with Jesus  
waiting to meet us some sweet day.

In memory of Vaughn and Virginia Shaver  
Who are loved and greatly missed by their family  
Written By Daughter : Wilma (Shaver) Foster



## Hiaku

Sarah Dennison 2-2-4-2

Emerald nails gleam  
Holiday fun on my toes  
Better than green beer



September 26, 2009

**Joshua Darius Dennison**, son of Donald and Sarah Dennison, married **Erin Elaine Adams** at Saint Patrick's Church in Bellefontaine, Ohio. The reception took place at Tree Links Golf Course after the ceremony. Josh and Erin are looking forward to a long and happy life together.

## Fund Raising Idea

by Garywayne

I often wonder what the interest, hobbies, and vocations are of family members that I see at reunions. Lack of time keeps me in the dark. I would like to shed some light on one individual with an entrepreneurial spirit, my niece, Valerie Long. She wanted to help support the ongoing financial needs of the We're Family Park, but the current economy put the needs of her family above her wants.

This inspiring young lady and mother of two came up with a plan. After seeking permission and simple guidance, Valerie decided, to set up a table in the fireplace room, to sell Sentsy products (wickless candles). Simply, she was not to interfere with any activities of the reunion, be very low key, and that 100% of her commissions were to be donated to the general fund.

She got advertising for her business, possible future sales, interactions with other family members that she might not have otherwise met, and was able to donate \$42.00 for a good cause.



## To All Senior Citizens (55 and older)

by Geraldine Dennison

What are you doing for fun and enjoyment in your life? Are you sitting at home and wishing you had someone your age to talk to? Well, my advice is to find a senior center, and you will feel much better! Most places have buses to take you to and from your home, or find a family member who would be happy to do the same. You may feel a little tired when you get home, but aren't you tired after doing chores around the house? Don't worry - those chores will wait for you if you decide to slip away to enjoy yourself for a short while.

I turned 83 years old in August of 2009, and I have been going to a senior center since I was 62. I am currently participating in a kitchen band. It consists of decorated bleach bottles, a large water bottle that we use for drums, a washtub, lids from pots and pans, kazoos, coleslaw graters, and bells. We use wooden spoons for our drums sticks. Add to this a piano and I can assure you we make a "joyful noise."

During the year we are invited to play for nursing homes and local grade schools. On the visits to the schools, the students have an hour to ask us questions about growing up. The students find it hard to believe we had outside johns, and no TV. We tell them how we entertained ourselves – such as the games we played. They served us cookies and drinks and we all enjoy ourselves, in fact, we are often asked to come back the following year.

At the center we have Bingo and talk about things that happen in our lives, we play chair volleyball, and even have chair volleyball tournaments. There are also shopping trips. There are numerous parties as well - tea parties, Mardi Gras, Halloween, Christmas, New Year's, to name a few. There are also dress-up days with hats and gloves, bands come to play for us, and we have carry-in dinners. Go and see what you are missing!

At our church we have a Busy B's club on Thursday – once a month. Once a year we draw names for a secret sister. This involves giving cards or a gift for special occasions, etc. In September we go out to lunch and exchange our last gift and find out who our sister has been. Then we draw names for the next year. This is always a good time with a lot of laughs. The second Saturday of the month, the men fix breakfast and everyone is invited. The cost is by donation only and they are good cooks. The money goes to help needy people. In June we have our church picnic at the church shelter. After the service there is a potluck followed by games. Who has time to lonely at home when there is a world of excitement close by to keep us young at heart? Not me!

## Photo Sharing

I was recently going through one of our many photo albums and discovered something. It was very hard to throw away any pictures of family members to make room for others that have more meaning in my current state of mind.

I would like to propose a plan to share unwanted photos with those who might better appreciate them. How about bringing your extra photos to the reunion and donate them so that any one who has a desire for particular photographs can take them?

My contribution to the family is being the newsletter editor. It would be very nice if someone volunteered to make their one contribution, to be in charge of this photo sharing program.

I hope you'll plan to bring a few photos to the reunion for I am curious to see how something like this might work. It would be good to have a variety of photographs in order to gauge an accurate response.



## Letter from the editor

This newsletter marks the beginning of my eighth year of being editor. It is still difficult to get people to submit articles. However, there are a few bright spots that give me hope. There have been very few articles that I have rejected from getting into the newsletter. There are 21 complete newsletters that contain different types of articles that I consider worthy for publication. Please look them over and then let your voice be heard through the written word.

### A Birthday Wish

by Garywayne

Our church has a program to match up 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students with adults to become prayer pals for 10 weeks. Last year I was paired up with a triplet by the name of Ian. Unfortunately, one of the babies died as an infant. Whenever Ian spoke of his live brother, he would call him his twin.

On week 9 during our chat session before prayer, I told Ian that for my birthday in November, I would like each of my children and grandchildren to make a thirty-minute cassette recording of their voice for me. They could just share with me their thoughts on life, read a portion of their favorite story, or simply tell jokes. The point was to keep memories alive of who they are right now by hearing their voice. It would also be something I would treasure if something bad would happen to one of them.

He told me he thought that would be a good idea. At that point he began to share with me that he was really a triplet and that one of his brothers died as a baby. He said he didn't remember his brother, but he had seen a photograph of the 3 of them, and then there was the grave marker. As he journeyed deep in thought, he said it would have been nice to have a recording of his brother's voice even though he was just a baby.

Ian then encouraged me to go after my birthday wish and I encouraged him to make a recording of his voice for his parents and grandparents. I now would like to challenge everyone reading this article that would find any value in a similar wish of mine to pursue it. I also plan to give them a sample of my voice as well.

Life does not come with a guarantee of tomorrows and it is often very unfair, so now is the time to think about the unthinkable.

### Getting Old

Garywayne

When I was young, someone who was 40 was old. Now that I'm 57, being 40 is relatively young. Since everyone has an opinion of what being old is, my Brother Martin gave me a definition that I really liked. He said, "You know you're getting old when you hire someone to do a job that you have always enjoyed doing simply because you don't feel like doing it."

### Computer Answers Revealed Systematically

navigating the technical highway with Jason Maloney

**Question:** Someone told me that it was important to defrag my computer occasionally. What does that mean? How long does it take? What are the steps in getting it done?

**Answer:** Defrag is short for defragmentation, which is to say that you un-clutter the data on your computer's hard drive. As you use a computer the files get unsorted, and the more files that become fragmented throughout your systems hard drive, the longer it takes your system to find a particular file when it needs to. This will eventually affect your systems performance if left unchecked. You typically defrag your system on a monthly (or every two months) basis. Defragging your computer can be as quick as 20 minutes and as long as a few hours depending on the level of fragmentation. To defrag your computer go to [Start] > [All Programs] > [Accessories] > [System Tools] > [Disk Defragmenter]. When the screen pops up, select your hard drive(s) and select analyze. If it says you need to defrag (or there are large chunks of red in the graphic it shows) press defragment. It will let you know when it is done, and you can defrag other drives if necessary or simply close the program.



# HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING AND BUILDING OF WE'RE FAMILY PARK

## “The Vision”

by Clifford Dennison, December 2005

During the 1992 Homecoming I discussed my dream of building our very own Family Park as a place to hold our Family Homecomings and other Family activities. I made a pledge to The Family that whatever amount of money that could be raised jointly as a family group to start the project, Jeanette and I would match it up to \$50,000.00. Plans were immediately set in motion to build our own Family Park.

The location chosen for the park site was to be on the last piece of property that “Poppy” (James Dennison) owned. His son Tilford owned the land before he purchased it. At one time Tilford was in the business of selling eggs and chickens. He had a chicken coop that was approximately 40 ft. long and 15 ft. wide. It sat on the same location where Virginia Shaver’s mobile home sat for so many years, the corner of Exchange Road and Generation Gap Lane. The coop was built on polls so that it had easy access to its entrance door from Exchange Road. Once Poppy became the owner of the land where the chicken coop sat, he cleaned house and remodeled the building into living quarters consisting of two rooms for him and Mommy to live in while he built a Cape Cod home on this acreage. After moving out that the old chicken coop, it was transformed into a tobacco-drying barn. The family park is now in the background of the house he built. It was to be their final home.

Once the decision to build the Park was made, I called a meeting of as many family members that could get together. The meeting was held at Virginia Shaver's house on the Exchange Road. There were about fifteen persons attending, including Jeanette and me, Virginia Shaver, Robert Shaver, Jerry and Sharon Shaver, Donn and Karron Lake, Billy Luzader, Maxine Marlor, Reta and Tim Cogar, InaJune Dennison and Jack and Deloris Stockman. Karron was chosen as recording secretary for the meeting. InaJune volunteered to donate one acre of land for the Park site and agreed, over time, to sell an additional six acres. Jerry agreed to donate (sell), over time, two acres for a total of nine acres of land. We agreed on We're Family Park as the name of our Park. We also discussed the type of Organization we would form and the basic concepts of membership in the Park.

Our first unofficial meeting with family members gave me the basis of negotiating with InaJune for additional land, having conferences with legal counsel about the best type organization to establish, and getting started on writing By-Laws, The preferred choices of a type of organization seemed to be a trusteeship, a limited partnership, or a non-profit, non stock corporation. Legal counsel recommended the non-profit corporation, which I chose to form. Since forming a corporation would take time, I first set-up a trusteeship with me as the sole trustee so that I could accept the acre of land InaJune donated and go ahead with the purchase of an additional six acres from InaJune for a total of \$4,000.00. I proceeded with the legal requirements of founding a non-profit, non-stock corporation with the Secretary of State of West Virginia. In order to complete this process, I had to write a set of By-Laws including the purposes for the Organization of the Park. While this process was going on, I contracted with Westfall Surveying Company to survey the Park site. The results of the survey showed that our Park site needed an additional two acres of land, owned by Jerry Shaver, to bring our boundary up to the middle of the road bordering our Park. Jerry graciously donated this strip of land. In return I credited him \$500.00 on membership fees for him and his children. I worked the winter of 1992-93 on the By-Laws, finalizing work in setting-up the corporation, writing a Newsletter, constructing the framework for the Entryway, and making drawings for constructing the pavilion, in addition to my regular teaching duties.

I got my son Jeff to paint an artist's conception of the Park. He painted a beautiful picture of the Park showing the road, the little stream, a large pavilion with hexagonal ends by the road and a walkway over a bridge crossing the stream leading to a gazebo. Now that we had the land, moral support of the family, a financial plan, a corporation in place, and **the vision** to pull it altogether, the birth of a great thing was set in motion.