

The Clemmons Newsletter

Number 21

Summer 2005

Michael Clemmons

What's In A Name?

Are you called Clements?

The "Peak Advertiser" has been asked about "Clemson" but that is only one of the variations of "Clements" (of which there are about 100 altogether in the local directories) and so it is thought preferable to display the more familiar surname as a heading. Even if one discounts the foreign imports such as "Clementi" (Italy) and "Clemenceau" (France) there are over 30 permutations, from the straightforward "Clement" to "Climpson".

Whatever form the surnames take, they are all derived from the personal name "Clement". He is generally believed to have been mentioned in Philippians: CH. IV; 3 and who went on to succeed St. Peter as Pope from 88-95 A.D. Much theological writing was attributed to him but his authorship is now questioned. He is supposed to have met martyrdom by being flung overboard to drown with an anchor round his neck. Other narratives make it an anvil which has led to him having a special standing with Blacksmiths - see "Great Expectations" Ch. XII. He is the Patron Saint of Tanners since the tradition is that he followed that trade.

He was so highly regarded that 14 Popes took the name as their Papal Title and in England nearly 50 churches were dedicated to him. The best-known is that in London (Strand). The site is thought to have been that of an old Danish burial-ground - hence the name "St. Clement, Danes". It is

particularly celebrated in the English-speaking world on account of the nursery rhyme, "Oranges and lemons/Say the bells of St. Clements". Readers may observe that "Clements" and "Lemons" don't really rhyme and this introduces an interesting point on pronunciation. We have a habit of dropping the letter 'T' both in speech and writing. Examples are "mortgage" and "listen" and in speaking we often say "I dunno" for "I don't know".

In the case of "Clements" the sound modulated in "Clemen" and was reproduced in writing as "Clemens" as early as 1153. The Latin form "clemens" (see further) may also have influenced both spelling and pronunciation. Still, whatever happened, it provided children with a perfect rhyme. In passing it is worth mentioning that the tradition of getting church bells to say things evolved freely all over England. Here in Derby, for instance, the children used to sing "At two they will throw/says St. Warbo". (i.e. St Werburgh, Friar Gate). So in the case of St. Clements it was simply a spontaneous and ready-made rhyme with "lemons" and all those fanciful explanations involving carriage and trade in citrus fruits are spurious!

The name is related partly to a Latin adjective "clemens" which means "mild" or "humane" and partly to a noun "clementia" which signifies "good nature" or "gentleness". Out of them both boys' and girls' names evolved: During the intervening centuries, the masculine form "clemens" appears to have emerged as the feminine

"Clemence" whereas the Latin noun in the feminine gender, "Clementia" has passed over to become the boy's name of "Clements". The girl's name "Clemence" has also been joined by "Clementine". On passing it may be noted that the fruit which is called "Clementine" was the result of an accidental hybridisation occurring in 1902 and how it came to be so-called is not known.

In the case of boys, the name "Clement" was one of the most popular names among our medieval ancestors, especially during the 13th century. As usual it took on "pet" or "hypocoristic" forms such as "Clem", "Klim" and "Climmie". The most celebrated bearer of such a name was an outlaw in Cumberland called "Clym of the Clough" (i.e. Clement of the Cliff). His exploits slightly pre-date those of Robin Hood but are remarkably similar. He is said to have dwelt in Englewood Forest, near Carlisle. The name, in whatsoever form, remained as a well-favoured baptismal name until the Reformation, and then, no doubt because of its Papal Connotation (Clement VII:-1523-1534 and Clement VIII:-1592- 1605) it went quite out of fashion. However, in the 1840's the trend towards Medievalism led to much interest in the early Church and Saints' names were revived, amongst them, "Clement".

Naturally in the guise of surnames the name had survived and had been sufficiently well-established to have generated some 30 permutations. The most common development was to indicate parentage. So, as it were, in answer to the question, "Whose kid is that?" came the reply "Clements" or "Clemson" or "Clemmons". Forms made by adding "-son" included "Clementson" "Clemison" and "Climpson". In Scotland "Climie" was widespread and

we encounter a George Clemy in Glasgow (1553) and a John Clemison in Leadhills (1737). In Ireland it never took on and existing surnames are reconstructions of the Gaelic "MacLaghainn" or "MacLamond".

It is regrettable but there really is not sufficient space to comment on all the forms this surname takes!

In a few cases a name picks up a place-name into which it has been incorporated as, for example, here in Derbyshire, there is Clemonseat Plantation (near Pilsbury), dating from 1415. A resident from "Derbyshire" is registered as "Clemence" in Winnick (Lancashire).

Curiously enough, in spite of its extensiveness, there are only a few entries in the standard biographies and none is exactly a "headliner". One variation provides a distinguished exception. It relates to Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910) the American author, much better known as "Mark Twain" and the creator of "Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer".

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From "The Peak Advertiser", 31st May 1999.

Announcements

2006 Reunion – The next reunion will be held on July 1st, 2006 in Lebanon Tennessee.

Clemmons Cook Book – We are putting together a family cookbook for next years reunion. At the 2003 & 2004 reunion, someone had volunteered to handle this project but I have since lost that persons information! We need someone to take this project by the horns and get it done! This includes collecting recipes, organizing them and preparing them to be printed and bound.

If you would like to submit any recipes, please send them to:

Mike Clemmons
3375 Redbud Ct
Westfield, IN 46074

Or, you can email them to mclemmons@c3-software.com I will then route the recipes to the correct person.

News & Notices – If you see any newspaper clippings, obituaries, wedding announcements, anniversaries, births, etc. Please cut them out and send them to the mailing address above.

Births

Austin Charles Gore
Born October 1st, 2004 in Lebanon, TN at the University Medical Center.
Parents: Chuck & Jody Gore. Grandson of Dave & Jo Smith.



Andrew Joseph Clemmons
Born November 23rd, 2004 in Hobart, IN.
Parents: Joe and Jane Clemmons. Grandson of John and Brenda Clemmons

Nicholas Brendan Clemmons

Born Sept. 17th, 2004 in Colorado.
Parents: Brendan and Kortni Clemmons.
Grandson of John and Brenda Clemmons



Caelin Bree Clemons

Born October 9, 2004 at Ft. Lewis, WA.
Parents: Nicholas and Jamie Clemons.

Nick is a Sgt in the US Army and was deployed to Iraq in April



2005. We hope to have him home safe and sound by year end. Keep him and his family in your prayers. If you would like to send him a card, his address is:

SGT Nicholas Clemons, 7053
249th EN BN / 326th ASG
APO AE 09333

Nick is the son of Gene & Cheryl Clemons of Galveston, TX.

Kathryn Virginia Horton

Born Aug. 16, 2004 in San Antonio, TX

Parents are John and Monica

Horton, and proud grandpa is Jimmy Horton. Mary is the daughter of Ina Mae Clemons and Alton Evetts, and is descended through the Clemmons

brothers who came to Texas in the 1890s.



Elizabeth Anne Farmer

Born May 21, 2000 in Johnson City, TN to Wade Harrison and Leslie Renee Trent Farmer. Granddaughter of Sara A. Clemmons Farmer.

Andrew Harrison Farmer

Born November 13, 2001 in Johnson City, TN to Wade Harrison and Leslie Renee Trent Farmer. Grandson of Sara A. Clemmons Farmer.

Deaths

Mary Frances CLEMMONS

Age 80

March 27, 2005

Age 80 of Ashland City, TN, passed away on Sunday, March 27, 2005. She was born on December 13, 1924 in Lebanon, TN and was retired from BellSouth in Lebanon, TN with 32 years of service. She was preceded in death by her parents, Evans and Carrie Clemmons; three brothers, David, Daniel and Claude (Bootie) Clemmons; two sisters, Sarah Clemmons and Pauline Gray. She is survived by a sister, Dorothy Norred of Appalachicola, FL; nieces, Gwendolyn Lannom of Ashland City, TN, Beth (Ricky) Fletcher of Lebanon, TN, Paula (Johnny) Melton of Ashland City, TN; nephews, Ronald (Sandy) Clemmons of Murfreesboro, TN, Lance (Amy) Lannom of Joelton, TN and several other nieces and nephews. Private graveside service will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 at 11 a.m., in the

Cedar Grove Cemetery in Lebanon, TN, with Brother Marshal Gupton officiating.

*Note: I don't have any proof, but I do believe that she is related to our Clemmons family.

Elizabeth Riggan CLEMMONS

Age 92

August 6, 2004

Gladeville/Murfreesboro

Friday August 6, 2004, NHCA Health Care Center, Murfreesboro, TN. Preceded in death by parents, Howard Edgar & Betty Jane Ferrell Riggan; husband, Joseph Edwin Clemmons; daughter, JoAnne Goodman; sister, Caroline Riggan; brothers, Bill & Ray Riggan & sister-in-law, Ruth Hoagland. Survived by daughter, Gayle (Buddy) Boyd, Murfreesboro; brother, Sam Riggan, Nashville; sister, Frances Stewart, Lebanon; grandchildren, Joel (Michelle) Drennan, South Carolina, Martha Clemmons Boyd, Murfreesboro, Gwen (Ron) Barnum, Murfreesboro; great grandchildren, Alexandria & Kellie Drennan, Joseph, Amanda & Michael Barnum; lifelong friend, Jessie Hunt, & several nieces & nephews. Mrs. Clemmons was a member of the Gladeville United Methodist Church where she served as a steward, she was retired from Southern Woodware. Visitation Sunday August 8, 2004, 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Partlow Funeral Chapel. Graveside services to follow at 2 p.m. in the Wilson County Memorial Park. Dr. Mack Wayne Craig will officiate. Pallbearers: Gary Goodman, Walter Pete Hunt, Buddy Boyd, Jason Partlow, Hunter Reynolds, Max Apple, Ronald Barnum III, William Steve Armstrong, & Thomas O. Haralson.

*Note: Joseph Edwin Clemmons is from the John Clemmons line (John son of Samuel Thompson).

Cora Lee Burton CLEMMONS

Age 93

November 27, 2004

Lebanon, TN

November 27, 2004. A Wilson County native, she spent a lifetime as a caregiver in health related situations and was a member of the First Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband of sixty years, James Cecil Clemmons; son, James Alvis Clemmons; parents, Edmund and Delle Peek Burton; five sisters, Bernie Northern, Gracie George, Eleanor Gray, Martha Crittenden and Gertrude Rawls; three brothers, Robert, Harris and Leslie Burton. Survivors include twin daughters, Faye (Fred) VanHook, Gaye (David) Baird; daughter-in-law, Celia T. Clemmons; eight grandchildren, Joyce (Nick) Holleman, Jeanette V. Beaty, James Franklin VanHook, William D. Baird, Daniel (April) Baird, Alice (Chris) James, Patrick (Holly) Clemmons and Carol (Tim) Teel; 18 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Edna Smith and Clara Bates;

two brothers, Randall and James Burton; two sisters-in-law, Louise and Bernice Burton. Funeral services were held 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 30, 2004 with Rev. Donald Owens, Rev. W. L. Baker and Rev. Don McElroy officiating. Interment followed in the Rocky Valley Cemetery.

*Note: James Cecil Clemmons, Cora's husband, is from the James Clemmons Line (James, son of Samuel Thompson Clemmons)

William Harrison CLEMMONS

Age 90

October 23, 2000

Pikeville, TN Woodlawn Funeral Home

Son of John W. and Nannie Mathews Clemmons.

October 23, 2000, in Pikeville, TN. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Florence Briley Clemmons; brother, J. Preston Clemmons. He is

survived by his daughter, Sara Anne Clemmons Farmer; son-in-law, Thomas A. Farmer; grandchildren, Wade Harrison, Leslie Benjamin Briley Farmer, Auburn, AL;

great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Anne Farmer, Johnson City, TN; several nieces and nephews. Mr. Clemmons

was born and educated in Wilson County, TN. A graduate of Watertown High School, he was an

employee of the Kroger Company for 43 years. He started to work as a stock boy in stores in Nashville, TN,

was promoted to Produce Merchandiser serving in Carbondale, IL, Cincinnati, OH, and Chicago, IL. He

retired from the company in 1970. His remains are at Woodlawn Funeral Home, where services will be

conducted 11:30 A.M. Wednesday, October 25, 2000, by Dr. Raymond Langlois and Dr. Walter Jackson.

Interment to follow in Woodlawn Memorial Park. Active pallbearers are Wade Farmer, Tollette Farmer, Benjamin Farmer, Tim Sharp, Michel Dugger, James Warner and

William P. Clemmons, Jr. Honorary pallbearers include Ruth Miller, Carolyn Delbridge and members of the

Pastor's Sunday School Class of Judson Baptist Church.

Note: William is from the Samuel Thompson Clemmons Jr. Line. From *Wade Harrison Farmer*

Note: William is from the Samuel Thompson Clemmons Jr. Line. From *Wade Harrison Farmer*

Sara FARMER

Age 62

January 28, 2005

Pikeville, TN

of Pikeville, TN, died Friday, January 28, 2005, in an

area hospital. She was a member of the Pikeville United Methodist Church. Mrs. Farmer was a 1964 graduate of

Vanderbilt University, where she was a member of the Chi Omega Sorority. She provided Early Childhood

Services through Head Start and childcare to children in Bledsoe County and four other counties for more than

thirty years. She also served 20 years in the Bledsoe

County School System where she was currently serving as a School Psychologist. She was also a member of the Bledsoe County Education Association. Sara most enjoyed participating with her three sons in Cub Scouting and 4-H and supporting them in their academic and athletic activities. She was rediscovering this pleasure with her grandchildren, Elizabeth and Andrew. She was preceded in death by her parents, William H. and Florence B. Clemmons. Mrs. Farmer is survived by her husband of 38 years, Thomas A. Farmer, of Pikeville; three sons, Wade H. Farmer and wife Leslie R. Farmer, of Gray, TN, Thomas Tollett Farmer, of Pikeville, and Benjamin Briley Farmer and wife, Stacy H. Farmer, of Tuscumbia, AL; and two grandchildren, Elizabeth and Andrew Farmer. Funeral services will be held Monday at 1:30 p.m. at the Pikeville United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jim Fain Officiating. Burial will be in Smyrna Cemetery.

*Note: Sara was the daughter of William Harrison Clemmons. From *Wade Harrison Farmer*

Mrs. Charlene Willis COLLIER

Age 89

October 7, 2003

Mt. Juliet, TN

Died October 7, 2003 after an extended illness. She was the former Executive Secretary of the Tennessee Retired

Teachers Association, former Staff Member with the Tennessee Education Association and pioneer in the

Field Service Program of the National Education Association. Mrs. Collier retired as Executive Secretary

of TRTA in 1992 and was formerly Director of Professional Relations for the TEA. Funeral services will

be conducted 11 a.m., Friday, October 10, 2003 at Bond Memorial Chapel with Dr. Bill Sherman officiating.

Interment will follow at Mt. Juliet Memorial Gardens.

Active Pallbearers will be George Kersey Jr., Steve Adams, Hugh Tiller, Richard Chapman, Steven Curry, Keith Ericson, Ed Hennessee and Domingo Mendoza.

Mrs. Collier was a native of Mt. Juliet in Wilson County and the daughter of the late Charlie and Mollie

Clemmons Willis. In 1953, she married Maxie C. Collier, who was with the U.S. Post Office at the time of

his death in 1959. A brother, Thomas Lee Clemmons and a nephew, Charles Clemmons also precedes her in

death. One nephew, Harold Clemmons Jr. of East Ridge, TN survives her. After attending the public schools of

Wilson County and graduating from Mt. Juliet High School in 1933, she attended Bethel College in

McKenzie and then realized a long-time goal when she began teaching, assigned to a one-teacher school in

Nonaville, her native county. Two years later, she became eighth grade teacher and physical education

director for both boys and girls at Mt. Juliet Elementary School. Mrs. Collier continued her higher education

while teaching, receiving the B.S. Degree in elementary education from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville and the M.S. in elementary education with minors in history and physical education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. After four years of teaching in Wilson County, she joined the Davidson County school system and taught history, her favorite subject, at Taylor Stratton School in Madison. While at Stratton in 1946, she assisted her principal, the late Jeannette Bateman, with the Tennessee Sesquicentennial production involving 3,500 county students at the Vanderbilt University Stadium. In 1947, she became supervisor of instruction for the fifth, sixth and junior high grades in the Davidson County schools. She left that position in 1949 to become the first field representative on the TEA staff and one of the nation's first six persons employed for field work by state education associations in a program begun by the National Education Association. Mrs. Collier, Director of Field Service, also became Consultant for the Future Teachers of America in high schools and Student TEA in colleges and universities. Later her title became Director of Professional Relations and she also served as Consultant to the TEA Department of Classroom Teachers and the Instruction and Professional Development Programs. She developed the TEA's spring leadership conference, a program designed to provide training for local association leaders and copied by many states. She also began a fall workshop program for Student TEA Chapters which served as a model for other states. She became one of the few persons outside the State Department of Education to receive the Department's Distinguished Service Award and also was twice the recipient of the TEA's top honor, the Presidential Merit Award. When she retired in early 1979, she had completed 43 years of service to education without using a single day of personal sick leave. After her retirement, Mrs. Collier became active in the Retired Teachers Association, serving as state President-elect and President and being elected Executive Secretary in 1982. Her duties involved serving as a Lobbyist on Capitol Hill, where legislators and their staffs recognized her skills. She also planned workshops and conferences and edited publications for retired members. She was a former Member of the following organizations: Tennessee Congress of Parents and Teachers, National Education Association, Tennessee Education Association, Tennessee Federation on Aging, American Association of Retired Persons, Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, Mt. Juliet/West Wilson Historical Society and the Order of the Eastern Star. During her life, she collected many history books and over 2,000 cookbooks. She was known for many years as a talented hostess and a lover of cats. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made to the Charlene Willis Collier Scholarship at Bethel College, McKenzie, TN 38201.

*Note: Charlene Willis COLLIER is from the John Clemmons line (John son of Samuel Thompson).

Mrs. Mary Frances Stultz

Services for Mary Frances Stultz will be held Monday, December 20 at 1 p.m. at Nave Funeral Home. Officiating will be Rev. Bernard Ziehardorf, assisted by Rev. David Brewington. Burial will be at Chapman Cemetery.

Mrs. Stuluz died Dec. 18 at Quality Care Nursing Home following an extended illness. A lifetime member of the community, she was a member of the Assembly of Christ Mission Church.

She is survived by her husband, Mr. James Lee Stultz; two daughters, Diane Shrum and Jennette Cauley; one son, Timothy Cauley; and one grandson, Scottie Shrum, all of Lebanon; parents, Hilton and Ethel Belcher Clemmons of Lebanon; sisters, Judy Burgett of Lebanon and Jannie Jones of Goodlettsville; brothers Raymond Clemmons and Clyde Clemmons, both of Lebanon.

*Note: Mary Frances Stultz is from the James Clemmons line (James son of Samuel Thompson). I do not have the actual date, but am following it up with the person that posted it.

Marriages

Wade Harrison Farmer (son of Thomas A. Farmer and Sara A. Clemmons Farmer) married Leslie Renee Trent (daughter of Larry L. Trent and Linda J. Johnson Trent of Telford, TN) on May 25, 1996.

From *Wade Harrison Farmer*

Benjamin Briley Farmer (son of Thomas A. Farmer and Sara A. Clemmons Farmer) married Stacy Elizabeth Holman (daughter of James Orell and Sylvia Harris Holman of Alexander City, AL) on May 17, 2003.

From *Wade Harrison Farmer*

Web Sites For Our Family

Clemmons Family

<http://www.clemmonsfamily.com>

Clements DNA Project

<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com/~clementsdnaproject>

Additional Notes

Leslie Renee Trent Farmer was born on November 14, 1976 in Johnson City, TN.

Stacy Elizabeth Holman Farmer was born on June 20, 1975 in Alexander City, AL.

Also, I want to correct the spelling and add to the info of my families' names (per Clemmons ancestry book by Thelma Landrum of 1981 on page 146):

Wade Harrison Farmer, born April 20, 1970, Chattanooga, TN.

Thomas Tollette Farmer, born April 17, 1972, Chattanooga, TN.

Benjamin Briley Farmer, born September 6, 1974, Chattanooga, TN.

From *Wade Harrison Farmer*

2004 Reunion Pictures





Thursday, June 9, 2005

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD CLEMMONS

Clemmons Wed 50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Howard E. Clemmons of Fairfield will observe their golden wedding anniversary on Thursday, June 9, (today).

Howard E. Clemmons of Barnhill and Reba L. Meador of Fairfield were married June 9, 1955 at the home of the late Rev. William H. and Mrs. Emma E. Clifton of Fairfield. Rev. Clifton officiated at the double ring ceremony. Their witnesses were William T. Clemmons and Evalyn N. Meador. Mrs. Clifton served cake and punch after the ceremony.

Howard and Reba have one daughter, Joyce Ann and husband Kent Henson of Fairfield.

Howard is the son of the late Earl G. and Mary Alice Clemmons of Barnhill, and Reba is the daughter of the late Wesley Virgil and Ruby Icel Meador of Fairfield.

Howard is retired from Airtex and Reba is a housewife.

A family celebration is planned. Cards may be sent to the couple at 805 Epworth, Fairfield, IL 62837.

Wayne County Press
 June 9th, 2005
 Fairfield, IL
 (Etheldred Line)