

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

CLEMMONS FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2000

PRESERVING OLD FAMILY CEMETERIES

The practice of burying relatives, on family farms, which had been the practice after the arrival of the early settlers from North Carolina and elsewhere, began to decline in the late 1800s.

Now most metropolitan areas, such as Davidson, Williamson, Wilson and Rutherford are trying to identify and preserve those family burial sites. Edna Rhea Vaughn, one of the "Clemmons Cousins," has identified several sites from the Samuel Clemmons Jr, Mathis and Lester families and has registered them with Wilson Co Historical Soc, c/o Lebanon-Wilson Co Public Library, 108 S. Hatton Ave, Lebanon, TN 37087 OR Rutherford Co Hist Soc, P.O. Box 906, Murfreesboro, TN, 37133-0906.

In Davidson County, along with the Tennessee State Division of Archeology, the Town Council of the Colonial Dames and Metro Archives the same concern is felt. One may call the Metro Historical Commission at 615-862-7970.

2001 IN LEBANON, TN

Mark your calendar now to celebrate the
Clemmons Family Reunion

on Saturday, July 7, 2001

CLEMMONS FAMILY WEBPAGE ON THE INTERNET

Thanks to Mike Clemmons and those who have helped him the Clemmons family has a presence on the Internet — places to ask questions, leave information, find out if you are related, etc. It's found at:

<http://www.clemmonsconsulting.com/Research/default.htm>
check it out.

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ANCIENT PATH OUT OF NORTH CAROLINA IS NAMED NATIONAL MILLENNIUM TRAIL

The Charlotte Observer, in an article on July 25, 1999, reported that a "68-mile portion of an ancient road linking East Tennessee to southwest North Carolina has been named a National Millennium Trail."

"The Unicoi Turnpike, one of the oldest trade routes through the Southern Appalachians, was one of 16 trails chosen from 50 applicants across the United States."

"The turnpike served as the primary link between the upland frontier of the eastern Tennessee River Valley and both the Piedmont and the Atlantic coast of Georgia and the Carolinas...Some archeologists believe that 16th century Spanish explorers used it as a passageway into the American interior. In the early part of the 19th century, the trail was improved as the Unicoi Turnpike, a toll road."

Committee of Clemmons Cousins: This group of the Clemmons Family plans our Annual Gathering: John and Christine Clemmons, Anne Sloan, Edna Rhea Vaughn, Jo Smith, Faye Van Hook.

The Newsletter — I try to put in what you send me. So please send it to me. But we are moving to Memphis sometime this summer so contact me at drcllemmons@aol.com. Wm Clemmons

AMONG THE FAMILY

William Harrison Clemmons [of John W. and Nannie Mathis Clemmons] celebrated his 90th birthday on June 19 at his home in Pikeville, TN, with his daughter Sarah Ann Farmer and son-in-law, Tom Farmer and two grandsons, Tollett and Wade. Wade and his wife Leslie have a new daughter, Elizabeth - W.H.'s first great-g-daughter.

Vera Shannon Lain, 92, of Lebanon died Jan 7, 2000 [b. Oct 22, 1907 in Wilson County to the late John T. and Opal Martin Lain] survived by her cousin Jean Clemons.

John G. Clemmons [brother to Mike Clemmons] and the son of John G. Clemmons of Hobart, IN, serving in the U.S. Navy and participated in Unitas '99 in South America where is a gunner's mate aboard the USS Carter Hall.

John Ray Clemmons [son of John M. Clemmons and Margaret Eskew Clemmons and g-son of John and Christine Clemmons] is serving as staff assistant to Congressman Bob Clement in his Washington, DC office.

Sallie Baker Clemmons [wife of J. Preston Clemmons and mother of William P. Clemmons] died November 12, 1999 at age 101 ;buried at Woodlawn in Nashville, TN.

Jeanette VanHook Baltzly [daughter of Fred and Faye VanHook] married Stephen Rogers Beaty on Nov 14, 1999. They have three children: Jonathan Baltzly, 16; Jessica, 12; and Kandice Beaty, 9.

Alice Clemmons James [daughter of James Alvis and Celia Clemmons of Lebanon] graduated from Cumberland University, Lebanon, on May 13, 2000.

Alma Brooke Clemmons [gparents, James

Alvis Clemmons and Celia Clemmons, parents, Patrick and Holly Clemmons] born on May 12, 2000.

Donna (Bennett)Hall of Reno, Nevada, sends her greetings and says that as soon as she retires in a year or two, she will be able to attend the Reunion — descended from Mary (Polly) Clemmons and Etheldred Bennett by way of their son, William S, his son Elisha, his son Elisha Thompson, his son Claude and his son Donald Bennett.

Joyce A (Clemmons) Henson sends greetings and notes her change of address to Fairfield, IL. Gfather was Earl G. Clemmons and father was Howard E. Clemmons.

Alice M. Gant sends her greetings and notes a new address in Chattanooga, TN.

Guy Franklin Clemmons [b. July 14, 1929 in Lebanon, TN - parents Robert Henry Clemmons and Mallie Orvis Stem; gfather William M (Billy) Clemmons; ggfather, William Clemmons] sends his greetings from Lorena, TX. He and younger brother Sidney Jerry Clemmons of Ruff Crossing,

McGregor, TX, and their families have been together on July 4th for the past three years.

For Etheldred Clemmons Sr descendants, Anne Sloan has discovered the name of his first wife as Elizabeth Jane Hancock [father John Hancock] who died about 1840. His second wife was Milly Hancock Edwards, widow of Eli Edwards and daughter of Martin Hancock, Samuel's oldest son - Samuel Hancock had come from Montgomery Co, NC to Wilson Co, TN.

ORDINARY MEN DEFINE AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERATION

"Tom Brokaw's book *The Greatest Generation*, is quite accurate in its description of the men and women who lived and fought during World War II....My grandfather [John Wilson Clemmons] is a veteran of World War II, and until I viewed Brockaw's recent documentary, I had never truly understood what he had done for me and for this country. He was an ordinary man who worked hard throughout his life. He went to war because he felt it was his responsibility and obligation as an American citizen....On March 21, 1942, my grandfather was inducted into the 57th Signal Battalion in Oglethorpe, GA. He had chosen to go to war, so his twin brother, James Porter, could stay home and take care of their mother....He was stationed at various times in North Africa, Italy, and southern France. He fought with units from Britain and France....He returned to the States in October 1945 and married his sweetheart, Christine Marler on Nov. 18, 1945....He is now the oldest World War II veteran in Wilson County....What makes him so great is that underneath that exterior of simplicity, there exists a man of extraordinary courage...There exists a man who is my grandfather and my hero."

From the front page of *The Lebanon Democrat*, Monday May 31, 1999, by Jody Gore

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"Mr. Blue Raider"

Working Press Area in Floyd Stadium Named for Gene Sloan. "Descriptions abound for Eugene H. Sloan [mother was Nancy Elizabeth Tennessee (Tennie) Clemmons], a legend in the history of MTSU: 'a bundle of energy and goodness'; 'the fastest two-fingered typist in the world'; 'a company man always.'

Family, friends, and University officials gathered at a mid-December luncheon to celebrate the naming of the working press area in Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium for the late Gene Sloan. The area was dedicated to the former public relations and sports information director during halftime of the November Middle Tennessee-Central Florida football game....

Gene Sloan worked as a reporter at the *Lebanon Democrat*, *Nashville Banner*, and *The Tennessean* prior to coming to Middle Tennessee State College in 1946 to teach government; in 1950 he was named public relations and sports information director. Sloan chaired the University Athletic Committee for more than 20 years. He retired from MTSU in 1976....

Daughter Ann Twining Sloan, associate professor in political science, responded for the family. ~~Before she thanked all those in attendance, she remembered that her dad used to put her to~~ work in the press box, running stats. I believe that my father was part of the generation that saw what MTSU could become, and he helped lay the groundwork for what the University is today."

- From MTSU Magazine, Spring 2000

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NANCY CLEMMONS FOUND!

Thelma Landrum concluded the section on Nancy Clemmons (1796-1848), the tenth child of Samuel Thompson Clemmons and Martha Coggin Clemmons, in her 1981 history of the Clemmons family in Middle Tennessee, "very little is known about this daughter." But, Nancy has been found thanks to Linda Edwards, 2813 McCarley, Commerce, TX 75428. Nancy married Edward Edwards; they had ten children; moved from Wilson to Franklin Co, TN (Winchester) where she is buried (1848). Edward Edwards (1793-1869) moved to Warrick Co, IN (Boone Tw).

The Revolutionary War

Samuel Thompson Clemmons along with other small dirt farmers, garbed in rough mountain-style clothes and carrying the barest of utensils, each shouldering a Kentucky long rifle, met the British Army in small battles that helped defeat the British and win the way of liberation..

“The first blood of the war was shed in a skirmish at Ninety-Six, SC, in November 1775. The full-scale war in SC began the next year....And things really began to heat up in 1780 and 1781 after the British captured Charleston. Troops marched through every area of the state. Throughout the war, the South Carolina farmers [as well as those from NC] in the untrained militia proved to be every bit as effective as the well-schooled American troops they fought alongside. The Marion-led [SC] militia took the point position in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, where the British suffered the highest percentage of losses of any battle in the war. Of about 2,000 British troops, about 85 were killed, 350 were wounded and 400 were listed as missing. Much of the land where that battle took place is under Lake Marion now. The edge of the battle reached to the tiny spit of land dedicated as Eutaw Springs Battle Site on SC 6. Today nothing nearby would indicate the historical importance of that stretch of road.” - From *The State*, June 16, 2000

