

**Brabham, Kearse, Kirkland  
McMillan and Moye  
79th  
Anniversary Reunion**



*and*  
**Fifth Mizpah United Methodist Church Homecoming  
at  
Buford's Bridge, South Carolina  
October 8, 2000**

# DEDICATION

This program is dedicated to the loving memory of A. McKay Brabham, Jr. (1916-2000), whose unselfish support and dedication to Mizpah United Methodist Church and Reunion will be greatly missed.

Few men have the ability to influence the hearts and minds of a people like Angus McKay Brabham Jr. did. On March 29, the 83-year-old pastor died quietly in his home in Columbia.

For 10 years, the small, soft-spoken man wielded the power of the pen as the editor of the SC Methodist Advocate, but it is his accomplishments during that period of history for which Brabham will be mostly remembered.

His often fiery editorials were the trademark of this lifelong crusade to fight for justice with the Gospel in one hand and the pen in the other. His views were not always popular, but they weren't designed to be. Brabham's beliefs in social justice were rooted in his belief in God. No group was safe from his pen. He called things as he saw them.

"I was born a human being and a citizen, and later by choice I became a Christian and a minister," he said. "But I never knew that being a minister meant I should forfeit my rights and duties as a man and a citizen."

After resigning as editor, Brabham was appointed as the Spartanburg District superintendent. Brabham retired in 1985 as the pastor of College Place UMC in Columbia.

Brabham was a strong advocate for the homeless and this time and energy and support helped keep the Oliver Gospel Mission in downtown Columbia a functioning mission to combat homelessness. He began serving as trustee and chairman of the board of trustees of the mission in 1968, and was actively involved in its renovation in 1988-1990.

Brabham is survived by his wife, the former Helen Hutto of St. George; their son, Dr. A McKay Brabham III and his wife, Eugenia C. Brabham; grandchildren, Margaret W. Brabham, Heyward C Brabham, William W. Brabham, Angus M. "Gus" Brabham IV and his wife, Heather R. Brabham; great-grandson Angus McKay Brabham; sisters, Mrs. Robert E. O'Neal of Columbus, Ga., Mrs. Furman E. McEachern of Columbia. A son, William Hutto Brabham, predeceased him in 1985.



*(Information obtained from the South Carolina United Methodist Advocate May 2000)*

Shoot Original

“The Spirit of Buford’s Bridge”

(replaces “Message from Minister”

**2000 MIZPAH REUNION AND HOMECOMING**  
**79th Anniversary**

*of the*

***Brabham, Kears, Kirkland, McMillan and Moye Reunion***  
*and*

**Fifth Mizpah United Methodist Church Homecoming**

**October 8, 2000**

**11:30 am**

PRELUDE: *God of Our Fathers* ..... Warren (arr. Kohlmann)  
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER..... John M. Tatum, III , President  
INVOCATION ..... Rev. Edward Stiltz, Minister - Olar Charge  
HYMN: *Amazing Grace* ..... (congregation stands).....Edwin O. Excell  
WELCOME FROM MIZPAH ..... “Betty Jane” Elizabeth Miller Barker  
APPROVAL OF 1998 MINUTES AND TREASURER’S REPORT ..... Printed in Book  
BUSINESS  
REPORT OF MIZPAH CHURCH RESTORATION ..... Clyde Kears  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS ..... Report of Nominating Committee  
Ched Kears  
Ginger Brabham McCully  
Cal Watson  
INTRODUCTION OF 2000 REUNION PRESIDENT ..... Clint Smoak  
RECOGNITION OF FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENT  
OFFERTORY: *Fairest Lord Jesus* ..... Crusader’s Hymn (arr. Kohlmann)  
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER..... John M. Tatum, III  
SPEAKER..... Mr. Steve Smith  
HYMN: *Blest Be The Tie That Binds* ..... (congregation standing).....Lowell Mason  
BENEDICTION AND BLESSING ..... Rev. Edward Stiltz

Pianist: Mary R. Tatum

Amazing Grace Hymn  
pull from last year

Blest Be the Tie That Binds Hymn  
pull from last year

Shoot Original

(1999 Mizpah Reunion and Homecoming Minutes)

*Mizpah Church Families Association*  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
*August 31, 1999 - August 31, 2000*

**Bank Balance as of August 31, 1998** \$11,499.57

**Receipts**

Interest \$ 52.84

Reunion Collection - October 10, 1999 495.00

**Total Receipts** 547.84

**Total in Bank & Receipts** \$12,047.41

**Expenditures**

Donnie Ayer - Cleaning Cemetery, Etc. \$ 325.00

Floyd Williams - Moving Chairs and Tables 30.00

Willie J. Williams - Moving Chairs and Tables 30.00

Mell Rizer - Paper Supplies for Reunion 74.86

Glen Dupuis - Singing at Reunion 50.00

Helen's Florist - Flowers for the Church 47.70

Sun Printing, Inc. - Printing Program Books 1,165.00

**Total Expenditures** 1,722.56

**Total In Bank August 31, 2000** \$10,324.85

Sarah K. Seabrook, Treasurer



# *Memorial Flowers*

*by Mizpah Church Reunion Association*

**Rev. A. McKay Brabham, Jr.**

Died March 29, 2000

**George Moye Dickinson, Jr.**

Died October 1999

**Helen McMillan Heirs**

Died August 3, 2000

**Berta McMillan Formby**

Died November 23, 1999

**Louis Houck**

Died April 23, 2000

**Judy Diane Kears**

Died June 20, 2000

**Barnwell Rhett Linley**

Died April 12, 2000

**Marvin Lee Manheim**

Died August 10, 2000

**Ernest L. McMillan**

Died August 11, 2000

**Belle Polk Bishop Mouzon**

Died December 20, 1999

**Thomas Benton Young**

Died August 18, 2000

*As well as to the memory of all the deceased in our families*

The Flowers on the Piano  
are given in Memory of  
***Laurie Smoak, Jr.***

and

***Louis Houck***

*by Marion Smoak and Family*

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Flowers Given By Sara Kirkland Gary

*In Memory of*

***Alexa Mallory Hilliard***

***Ione Toney Kirkland***

*(at left of Podium)*

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Flowers Given For

***Rev. A. McKay Brabham***

*By Family*

*(at right of Podium)*

# *Mizpah United Methodist Church*

Buford's Bridge, S.C.

## NEWS TO MIZPAH'S EXTENDED FAMILY 2000

This year I have the opportunity to thank each of you for your support during this long and expensive work to restore Mizpah.

Thanks to Betty Jane Miller's untiring work and Bill Craven's photography, Mizpah was approved and recommended by South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office to be listed in the National Register of Historical Places. The recommendation forwarded to Washington, D. C. for final approval.

### RESTORATION

This year was necessarily slow. The boards needed for the Ceiling 20 long 12" wide 1" thick were difficult to find. The Men of Schofield harvested some exceptional fine timber in November and we were able to acquire enough to finish the interior. Kinard's Wood Preservation sawed it to the correct size then delivered, it here, the first week of December, to air dry inside the church. George was able to start installing it in May, hand planing each board just as our forefathers did in 1856. Look around to see if you can find them.

The second quarter we demolished David Sojourner's barn to salvage its sills. The beams salvaged were sawn into useable sizes, carried to West Columbia and turned on a lathe to make the balusters used in the handrails. A baluster from the altar served as template.

During third quarter installed a new electrical breaker box and electrical wiring. The front cement walkway was pored. Constructed a gravel bed with a drain line inside to carry away run off from church roof. A brick wall was built to obscure the HVAC. Interior of church and front porch was primed and painted. George built the front steps with ten stringers; in addition, he added some steel reinforcement, it should support a large group.

**Mizpah  
1856 - 2000**

I wish to express my appreciation to those who have freely given so much to make this restoration a success.

Kearse Mfg. Co: Chester & Ched Kearse, I thank them for their council, their unselfish gifts of labor, equipment and resources, and also for keeping their doors open to me. Without them this work would not have been done.

Mrs. Betty Jane Miller, for her untiring work to place Mizpah on The National Register. Without her it would not have been done.

Bill Craven, for all those trips from his Ga. home, to document with photographs this work. His photographs were invaluable to Betty Jane as she presented her program to Archives & History.

Mrs. Harriott Kirkland Gilmore for the sound system.

David Sojourner, for giving a barn. The Men of Schofield demolished it to salvage its Cypress beams, that were used for the balusters in the porch and steps hand rails.

Graham Kearse, for supplying the red mortar used in the piers and foundation brick work,

Will Proveaux, for the use of his tractor to level some of the truck loads of donated soil. His pickup and trailer to haul beams, mortar, moving the piano and installing the electrical breaker box.

Kinard Wood Preserving: Mr. Douglas Kinard, his crew and saw mill, saved the day for us for pulling nails from salvaged beams to delivery of the sawn lumber.

REA Construction, the many, many truck loads of soil they placed on the yard.

Carolina Farm Fresh Sod:- Mr. John Fogle, his gift of centipede grass.

sod.

J.W. Williamson Ginney Inc. Johnny Williamson, who gave fertilizer for the

Philip Morris, designed the lay out and printed the update, pictures, thank you notes and so much more.

Bob McCully whose generous donations to Cemetery Fund made it possible to rework the fence and yards

George and Kathy Kearse, their advise has been invaluable.

Sara Seabrook, her untold hours of keeping

the books of the income and expenses. Her bookkeeping experience is a great asset to all.

Donnie Ayer, for all those hours of labor.

The Ladies of the church, Amanda Morris, Judy Ayer, Sara Seabrook and Joyce Kearse for their council, advise and support.

Bethel UMC for allowing us to store Piano, and Church Furniture.

Olar Fire Department for storing the Alter, Pulpit and Pews.

Bethel UMC in Olar, Trinity UMC, and Delavan Inc. in Bamberg, for the use of their folding chairs

And to each of you who have worked and prayed for the restoration to be successful. I thank you.



# *“Thank You” McKay*

To: The Family of Reverend A. McKay Brabham, Jr.

From: Mizpah Members and Friends

Message:

We express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for McKay's neverending and untiring love for Mizpah.

He came to our rescue in 1990 when the District Superintendent, Reverend Harland Wilson, decided that due to poor attendance and too few members, Mizpah Church should be closed for services.

We contacted McKay and he and Helen came the Sunday Rev. Wilson decided to preach the final sermon and officially close Mizpah for any future services. Members and friends from other churches also came for moral support.

During the Business Session with Rev. Wilson presiding, McKay said he would like to come to Mizpah and preach once a month for a year to see if anything could be worked out to keep Mizpah Church open. Rev. Wilson took a vote after discussion, and everyone present agreed with McKay and Rev. Wilson also agreed and very graciously accepted the offer.

McKay and Helen decided to come the second Sunday of each month (1990-91) to hold services. Helen helped with the music and McKay preached his usual inspirational message to a nice attendance each Sunday. Helen also brought us a special message one Sunday.

WE LOVED THEM BOTH.

During that year, we had a very good support system from the Brabham, Kearse, and Kirkland families from Bamberg. We had a great fellowship every Sunday that we had church service.

Mizpah Church remained open until it was closed in 1997 for restoration. We hope to have church again when restoration is complete. We pray that will be in the very near future.

McKay and Helen will always remain with Mizpah members in spirit.



# *BRABHAM FAMILY NEWS*

## **BIRTHS**

Thomas Cole Lull was born September 1, 2000, at Mission Viejo, California. He is the son of Sarah Peek and Christopher Lull; grandson of Timothy and Mary Carlson Lull, and great grandson of Robert E. and Clarice Brabham O'Neal.

• • • •

Jamie Lacy and wife, Jennifer, of Georgia, announce the birth of a son, Nicholas Ryan, in May 2000. Nicholas is a great grandson of Bobby and Inez Brabham of Sumter, S.C.

• • • •

A new member of the Brabham family came into this world February 15, 2000. He also descends from William Rice Brabham and Lucy McKinney Brabham. His name is Austin Taylor Barwick and is the grandson of Billy and Joyce Kinard Breland. Austin resides at Islandton on land that has been in his family for at least 7 generations.

## **DEATHS**

The Brabham family lost one of the long livers in the death of Belle Polk Mouzon. Aunt Belle died December 20, 1999, at the age of 96 years old. She descended from William Rice Brabham and Lucy McKinney Brabham, and was one of 12 children of William Thomas and Cornelia Bunton Polk. She lived longer than any of the family so far and has

one brother left who is in his nineties. She was talented beyond belief, loved and could play a piano until just before her death. She had a green thumb second to none and did any kind of hard work. She was born and reared in Islandton, S.C., and lived her last years in Walterboro, S.C. She was the aunt of Joyce Breland.

## **OTHER NEWS**

Peter Lull was graduated from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, in May, 2000. His graduation was attended by his grandparents, Robert E. and Clarice O'Neal; his parents, Timothy and Mary Carlson Lull, and his aunt and uncle, Nana and Steve Campbell.

• • • •

Reid Carpenter, daughter of Bill and Cantey Brabham Carpenter, began working July 5th in New York City at Hill and Knowlton Public Relations Firm.

• • • •

Tiffany Miles of Lanett, Alabama, daughter of John and Gail Brabham Miles and grand daughter of Bobby and Inez Brabham of Sumter, S.C., is attending Nurse's Training in Lanett, Alabama.<sup>3</sup>

## *Youngest Member Present*



Left to Right - Kathy Kears, Chip Robinson, George Kears, Laurie Kears Robinson, Matthew Kears Robinson (Youngest - 19 days old) and Charlotte Kears.

## *Oldest Members Present*



Left - Clarice Brabham O'Neal. Right - Harriet Kirkland Gilmore. Both ladies are 86.

# KEARSE FAMILY NEWS

## MARRIAGES

Jenefer Ann Proveaux and Thomas Keith Harris were married Saturday, September 16, 2000, at First Baptist Church of Lexington. Jenefer is the daughter of Steve and Debbie Proveaux, granddaughter of William Kearsse Proveaux and great granddaughter of the late Griffin W. and Lena Kearsse Proveaux.

• • • •

Jacquelin Brancice Harrington and Michael Trenton Proveaux were married Saturday, October 7, 2000, at Trinity Baptist Church in Barnwell, SC. She is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Christopher J. Harrington of Barnwell, SC. Trent is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Steven Proveaux and grandson of William Kearsse Proveaux. He is the great grandson of the late Griffin W. and Lena Kearsse Proveaux.

• • • •

Lauren Owen, daughter of Louise Owen Dodds of Columbus, Ga., and Ken Owen of Redding, California, was married on May 23, 2000, to Joshua Covington of Atlanta, Ga. The wedding was held at the Officers' Club at Fort Benning. Lauren is the granddaughter of Laura Kearsse Williams Kirby and the late Colonel Albert Williams and the great granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Kearsse, Sr.

## DEATHS

William Harold Kearsse died February 7, 1999 and services were held at Bethel United Methodist Church in Olar, SC. Burial was at Mizpah United Methodist Church. He was the son of Lozelle and Wilbur Kearsse.

• • • •

Judy Diane Kearsse, daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. William Harold Kearsse, died June 20, 2000. Memorial services were held July 15, 2000 at Mizpah United Methodist Church.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Kathryn Ann Duncan, daughter of Sarah K. Seabrook and the late Holland K. Seabrook, now living in Hendersonville, NC., is moving to Walterboro, SC in the near future.

• • • •

Melissa Fae Voegtli, youngest daughter of Sarah K. Seabrook, is in Hagerstown, Maryland, and is employed by General Electric. Melissa does a lot of traveling and training for the company.

• • • •

William Holland Voegtli, grandson of Sarah K. Seabrook, spent one week with her recently. He was 8 years old on September 28th. He enjoyed working in the yards for her.

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• • • •

Allen Kearsse, son of Ricky and Robbie Kearsse of Bamberg, graduated from Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School in May. He is the grandson of Evelyn Kearsse and the late Bobby Kearsse. Allen is now a freshman at Newberry College.

• • • •

Laura K. Kirby, "Pert" K. Thompson, Betty Kemmerlin and Laurence Wells joined a tour group last October and traveled to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The fall foliage was at its peak and was especially beautiful traveling through the White Mountains of New Hampshire. The group saw many interesting sites and thoroughly enjoyed touring the coast of Maine, which was also a favorite among the other "tourists."

• • • •

Hal Kemmerlin, son of Betty K. Kemmerlin and the late Harold Kemmerlin, enjoyed a bus tour this past April to Biloxi, Mississippi. The tour group visited many interesting and exciting places and saw several stage shows.

• • • •

Waddy Thompson, son of "Pert" K. Thompson, has recently been appointed Director of Development for the New York Foundation for the Arts. The Foundation makes grants to creative artists (composers, writers, painters, choreographers, architects, film makers, etc.) who live in New York state to create new work. It gives more grants to individuals than any organization in the United States. It also supports small arts organizations that present the works of emerging artists. Waddy will be responsible for raising more than \$5 million annually to make these grants possible. For the last three years, he has been in charge of fundraising for Poets & Writers, Inc., a national service organization for poets and writers.



# KEARSE FAMILY NEWS



Laurence Wells, Betty Kearsé Kemmerlin, Laura Kearsé Kirby, and Hal Kemmerlin.



Jon Kearsé and children - Ched Kearsé & Marie.



L to R: Grady Kearsé, Elizabeth "Pert" Kearsé Thompson, (*seated*) Lula Edmond Kearsé, Lorraine Kearsé Clark, Fred Clark.



Amanda Morris, Josh and Philip Morris



Harriet Kearsé, Clyde Kearsé, Mrs. Gilmore, Chester Kearsé, June Kearsé, Mary A. Kearsé Morris, & Buster Morris.

# *KEARSE FAMILY NEWS*



L to R: Brenda Kearse Jowers, Walter Jowers, Gwen Kearse Ballinton, Joe Ballington, Amanda Ballington, Jessamine Jowers. Back row - Lula Edmonds Kearse and Grady Kearse.



L to R: Mrs. Wynette Stiltz, Emily Kearse, and Kimberly Stiltz.



L to R: Van & Dot Clark Hastings, Lorraine Kearse Clark, & Fred Clark.



Laura Kearse Kirby, Elizabeth "Pert" Kearse Thompson, Mrs. Bobby Kearse.

# ONE OF COUNTY'S GRAND OLD MEN

~~Dr. Kirkland~~  
~~article this page~~

# KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS

## BIRTHS

Sophie Joyner Myrick was born June 5, 2000, in Charleston, S.C. She is the daughter of Jim and Bett Myrick of Charleston and the great-granddaughter of William Edwin and Emily Best Myrick.

## MARRIAGES

Mary Jacquelyn (Lyn) Mallory and Scott Unold were married on January 29, 2000, at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Snelville, GA. She is the daughter of Robert Mallory of Snelville and granddaughter of Sara Kirkland Gary of Tampa, FL.

• • • •

Jessica Vanne Jowers and Brian Kirk Sandifer were married April 8, 2000, in Bamberg. Brian is the son of Buddy and Claudia K. Sandifer of Bamberg and the grandson of the late Claude and Aileen Kirkland.

• • • •

Rev. John Marshall Bruner and Katie Neal were married in May in Atlanta. He is the grandson of Wilbur Kirkland Hayes of Rock Hill and the great-grandson of the late Benjamin Brown Kirkland of Columbia.

• • • •

Hank Wehner and Sherrie Culp were married in Port orange, Fl., where they will make their home. Hank is the son of Carolyn Kirkland Wehner of Port Orange, Fl.

## DEATHS

Barnwell Rhett Linley of Columbia, S.C., died April 12, 2000. He was retired from S.C. Electric and Gas Company. He was the husband of Ruth Snelling Linley. She is the granddaughter of Pauline Barker Kirkland Black, whose parents were Sarah Cornelia Barker and John Cornelius Kirkland. He is also survived by a daughter, Sarah Linley Clingman of Columbia.

• • • •

Marvin Lee Manheim died August 10, 2000, in Chicago, Ill. He was the William A. Patterson Distinguished Professor, J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. He is survived by his wife, Mary

Beth Watson-Manheim and a step-son, Cooper Fritz, both of Chicago. Mary Beth is the daughter of Mike and Mary Carolyn Watson of Bamberg.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

Gene Jarrel has an up-to-date, corrected computer print out on the descendants of Reuben Kirkland. Stop by today and look up your branch.

• • • •

Joel Benjamin Stoudenmire, Jr., of Greenville, entered The Citadel, Charleston, S.C. Hayes Kirkland Stanton of Hartsville is a freshman at Wofford College in Spartanburg and Albert Derrell Bennett IV was presented the Eagle Scout Award. These young men are all descendants of the elate Benjamin Brown Kirkland of Columbia.

• • • •

Oliver (Mac) and Jennie Johnston (Toozie) McMahan live in St. George. Toozie is the daughter of the late Jennie Kirkland Johnston and granddaughter of the late Dr. Reuben Cornelius Kirkland. They have three daughters: Coe, her husband, Frank Atherton, and two children live in Honolulu, Hawaii; Jennie, her husband, Barry, and two daughters live in St. Matthews, SC, where Barry works with IBM and Jennie is library coordinator for the school district; and Beth, her husband, Mack Tyner, and their four children live in St. George. The took over operation of Mac's Supply when Mac retired.

• • • •

John David and Anne Johnston retired to his family home in St. George, SC in 1987. John David is the son of the late Jennie Kirkland Johnston and grandson of Dr. Dr. Reuben Cornelius Kirkland. Currently he is serving as Chairman of the Dorchester County Library Board of Trustees. Both he and Anne are actively involved in work with the Lourie Theater. Anne directed Alfred Uhry's "Driving Miss Daisy" in March. Their son, John, flies for Delta Airlines and was made Captain in the spring. He and his wife, Carol, and their two daughters live in Columbus, Ga. Their daughter, Anne, and her husband, Bill Gregg, have four children and they live in Columbia where they own SC Tees.

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# KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS

Kirk and Jim Mallory, sons of Robbie Mallory and grandsons of Sara Kirkland Gary, live in Denver, Co. Kirk is serving as a buyer for Safeway Grocery and Jim is with Lucent Technology.

• • • •

Andrew Chumley graduated from the University of Tennessee in August. He is the son of Helen Toney and Douglas Chumley and grandson of Carolyn Kirkland Wehmer of Port Orange, Fl. Helen's husband was recently transferred to Schumberg, Ill., and they have relocated in Crystal Lake, Ill.

• • • •

Carolyn Kirkland Wehner spent two weeks this summer with her niece, Ruth Kirkland Stanley, at her summer home on Lake Ontario in upper N.Y. state.

• • • •

Prior to the Mizpah Reunion, Bill and Ellen Gilmore of Tallahassee, Fl., are being treated by their children to a vacation at Hilton Head. Their children are from Deerfield Beach, Fla. and Houston, Tx. Bill is the son of Harriett Kirkland Gilmore of Hendersonville, NC.

• • • •

Allen Northcutt is the proud owner of a condo at Mashpee, Me. Hamilton is associated with Carithers Interiors in Atlanta. She is also doing freelance work with Georgia Public Television. Allen and Hamilton are the children of Harriett and Allen Northcutt of Louisville, Ky., and the grandchildren of Harriett Kirkland Gilmore of Hendersonville, NC. Harriett and Hamilton spent two weeks touring Italy in May and joined a Smith College tour in Florence for an additional week.

• • • •

Sarah Kathryn Johnson, granddaughter of Kathryn Kirkland Johnson, was awarded the U.S. Achievement Academy recognition for achievement as a National Leadership and Service Award winner. She is a student at Sneads, Florida, High School. Her name will appear in the USSA official yearbook. Her father, William Johnson, spent two weeks in Scotland on his annual golf safari playing at Carnoustie and the Old Course at St. Andrews.

• • • •

Lula Kirkland Kester accompanied her son, George W. Kester, to Dundee, Scotland, to attend the International Financial Conference. George and his wife, Karen, recently moved from Bucknell, Pa., to Lexington, Va., where George will be Chairman of the Finance Department at Washington and Lee University. Their son, Brian, recently moved from Charlottesville, Va., to Winston-Salem, NC, where he is a Commercial Loan Officer for Wachovia Bank.

• • • •

Allison Kirkland Kester, granddaughter of Lura Kirkland Kester, spent six weeks at the University of Quito in Ecuador, this summer. She is a senior at the University of South Carolina in the International Business program. Her brother, Justin Kester, entered the University of Florida as a freshman. Their father is John Marcus Kester, III.

• • • •

The year 2000 has been exceptionally busy for Louis and Jan Odom of Springfield, Va. Louis is the son of the late Ione Kirkland Odom. It began with a spring trip across Tennessee for visits with friends and family; next, a driving cross-country trip (Florida to California) by Louis with a friend with lots of golf thrown in; a trip by Lou and Jan to Lake Ontario, NY for a visit with cousin Ruth Kirkland Stanley; then a visit in Va. by daughter Bethe and her family; next, a two week trip by Jan to Fairbanks, Alaska, for a visit with daughter, Pam and family. Pam is on the staff of the University of Alaska Press. And finally, the summer concluded with a return trip in September to Tennessee, where Jan attended her 50th high school reunion.

• • • •

Sara Tatum Pottenger is serving as vice-president of the Davidson College Alumni Association. She and her family reside in Durham, NC. James Risher Tatum (Jimmy) is reporter for the Beaufort Gazette and lives in Beaufort, SC. Sara and Jimmy are the daughter and son of Mary Risher Tatum and the late John May Tatum, Jr.

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John May Tatum, IV, is a freshman at Clemson University. Johnny is the son of Mary Laney and John May Tatum, III, of Beaufort, and grandson of Mary Risher Tatum.

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# KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS

Melanie V. Ridenhour, daughter and step-daughter of Billy and Carol B. Varn, was recently promoted to Contracts Manager at the Advanced Technology Institute (ATI), located in Charleston, SC. ATI is an affiliate of the South Carolina Research Authority, (SCRA). Melanie, husband, Jason, and daughter, Anna, reside in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

• • • •

Carol Bell Varn recently completed the Leadership Training Course offered by the Tri-County Alliance. She is a board member for Region III of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor, and serves as a board secretary. Daughter of the late Glenn and Betty Tatum Bell, and granddaughter of the late Col. and Mrs. John Tatum, Carol and husband, Billy, live in Bamberg, SC.

• • • •

Mike Watson, Jr., has accepted the position of Medical Director of Goshen Medical Center in Faison, NC. This involves one main clinic and two satellite clinics and primarily serves rural and Hispanic patients.

• • • •

Caroline Watson has recently been elected to serve on the Claflin University Board of Trustees. Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC., was

founded by the Methodist Church and is the oldest historically black college in South Carolina. Caroline's father, Mike Watson, Jr., has also served as a Board of Trustees member for a number of years.

• • • •

Cal Watson, who with his family lives in Columbia, is serving a one year term as President of the Wofford College National Alumni Association. Cal, Caroline and Mike, Jr., are all grandchildren of Col. and Mrs. John M. Tatum (Bess Kirkland).

• • • •

Mike Watson, Sr., was presented the 2000 Mel Schulstad Professional of the Year Award by the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors in Denver, Co., on July 1. This was given in recognition of his exceptional leadership and devoted service to the field of alcoholism and drug abuse counselors. He has also served as Chairman of the Tri-County (Bamberg, Orangeburg, Calhoun) Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission (Dawn Center) for many years and was awarded the 1999 South Carolina Professional of the Year by the South Carolina Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors.



Left: Cal & Cathy Watson, Jay  
Right: Dr. Mike Watson & Mary Carolyn Watson

# *KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS*



Front Row - Bill & Ellen Gilmore  
Second Row - Harriet Kirkland Gilmore



Right - Harriet Kirkland Gilmore  
(oldest - 86)

# *McMILLAN FAMILY NEWS*

## **BIRTHS**

Parker James Myrick, born December 20, 1999 to Ryan and Susan Myrick. Ryan is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Roger Myrick of Ulmers. Grandparents are Billy and Marjorie McMillan Myrick and great grandparents the late George and Annie Mae Kearsé McMillan.

## **MARRIAGES**

Natasha Katherine Folda and Wendell Farrell O'Gorman were married Saturday, July 15th at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Chapel Hill, N. C. Farrell is the son of Louie and Gail Hiers O'Gorman. Great Grandson of the late George A. and Annie Mae Kearsé McMillan. Natasha is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jaroslav Folda, III, of Chapel Hill, N. C.

## **DEATHS**

Mrs. Helen McMillan Hiers, 91, of North Charleston and formerly of Bamberg, died August 3, 2000 at White Oak Nursing Center in

Charleston. She was a daughter of the late James Calvin McMillan and Adrienne Babbot McMillan. She was the widow of Dr. Charlie Hiers. Survivors are: Miss Mary Adrienne Hiers of Duluth, Ga. and Charlie Hiers, Jr. of James Island, S. C. and two grandchildren.

Ernest L. McMillan, 89, of Bamberg died August 11, 2000. He was the son of the late Aquilla Lee and Lula Varn McMillan. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Alice M. Kirklandof Ulmers, a son, Furman McMillan of Bamberg, 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Berta McMillan Formby, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Preston McMillan, was killed in a tragic accident on U. S. Hwy 301 on November 23, 1999. She is survived by two daughters: Miss Kim Formby and Mrs. Kay Brinkly. Grand daughter, Olivia Brinkly. Four sisters, Dorothy Tyner, Carolyn Worrix, June Kearsé and Margaret Hiers.



L to R: Emily Kearsé, Neilie Best, Franklin Hiers, Margaret Hiers, Frankie Hiers, Jada Owen Hiers, Betty Jane Barker Miller.





**L to R: (front row) Johnnie & Sandy Sanders; (back row) Eula Stuckey Kinard, Douglas Kinard.**



# MOYE FAMILY NEWS

## BIRTHS

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Robinson of Seneca, S. C. announce the birth of their second daughter, Jada Reign, born July 31, 2000. She is the granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Robinson (Beverly Smoak) of Seneca, and the great granddaughter of Marion Moye Smoak.

## MARRIAGE

Linda Smoak Miles and Terrance Weiload were married August 19, 2000, in a lovely garden wedding in Beaufort, at the home of the groom's parents, Colonel and Mrs. Weiland. Linda is the daughter of Marion Moye Smoak and the late Laurie Smoak.

## DEATHS

Louis Houck of Jacksonville, Fla. died April 23, 2000 in Bamberg, S. C. Louis, son of Marion Moye Smoak was diagnosed in December with short term lung Cancer. He returned to Bamberg to the loving care of his Mother and his large family for the last months he had to live. He was an inspiration to his family and many friends for his faith and Christian outlook.

• • • •

Thomas Benton Young, Jr., husband of Sarah Moye Young of Columbia, S. C, died August 18, 2000 after a long illness. Marion Moye Smoak, his sister-in-law, and Clint Smoak, nephew and a pallbearer, attended his funeral in Florence, S. C. His Poem "The Spirit of Buford's Bridge" and a picture of Mizpah Church is included in his published book, "Light of The Sun."

• • • •

George Moye Dickinson, Jr., son of G. Moye, Sr. and Minnie Johnson Dickinson died in

October of 1999 at the age of 92. He was born and reared in Bamberg, and was married to the former Hortense Sandifer and was retired from Sonoco in Hartsville, S. C. He is survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

## OTHER NEWS

Johnathan Turner Peel, son of Chandler and Martha Moye Dickinson Peel, has returned to Hartsville from Texas. He is the third generation to be employed by Sonoco.

• • • •

Doug and Karen Keel recently moved into their log home on Lake Keowee. Doug is retired from the State Department of Education but continues his program "Speaking of Schools" on Educational Radio. Karen teaches Latin at Walhalla High School. Doug is the son of the late Leonard and Rebecca Keel and grandson of the late H. Moye and Minnie J. Dickinson.

• • • •

Matthew Keel, son of Doug Keel is traveling around the country as a flight attendant with American Airlines. He is based in Chicago.

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Douglas and Paula Keel have recently purchased Allstate Insurance Agencies of Simpsonville and Travelers Rest. Douglas is a son of Doug Keel.

• • • •

Patricia McClure, grand daughter of Sarah Moye Young and daughter of Wes and Susan Young McClure of Raleigh, N. C., was selected to attend North Carolina's School of Fine Arts in Winston Salem, N. C. She is a high school senior and will major in Visual Arts, which includes architecture, photography, graphics, sculpture and design.

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