

Brabham, Kearse, Kirkland  
McMillan and Moye  
83<sup>rd</sup>  
Anniversary Reunion



*and*

Ninth Mizpah United Methodist Church Homecoming  
at  
Buford's Bridge, South Carolina

October 10, 2004



Photo by Clyde Kearsse

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## MIZPAH

*Go thou thy way, and I go mine,  
Apart, yet not afar;  
Only a thin veil hangs between  
The pathways where we are.  
And "God keep watch 'tween thee and me";  
This is my prayer;  
He looks thy way, He looketh mine,  
And keeps us near.*

*I know not where thy road may lie,  
Or which way mine will be;  
If mine will lead thro' parching sands  
And thine beside the sea;  
Yet God keeps watch 'tween thee and me,  
So never fear;  
He holds thy hands, He claspeth mine,  
And keeps us near.*

*Should wealth and fame perchance be thine,  
And my lot lowly be,  
Or you be sad and sorrowful,  
And glory be for me,  
Yet God keep watch 'tween thee and me;  
Both be His care;  
One arm round thee and one round me  
Will keep us near.*

*I sigh sometimes to see thy face,  
But since this may not be,  
I'll leave thee to the care of Him  
Who cares for thee and me.  
"I'll keep you both beneath my wings,"  
This comforts, dear;  
One wing o'er thee and one o'er me,  
Will keep us near.*

*And though our paths be separate,  
And thy way is not mine,  
Yet coming to the Mercy seat,  
My soul will meet with thine.  
And "God keep watch 'tween thee and me,"  
I'll whisper there.  
He blessed thee, He blesseth me,  
And we are near.*

JULIA A. BAKER

**2004 MIZPAH REUNION AND HOMECOMING**  
***83rd Anniversary***

*of the*

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

**Ninth Mizpah United Methodist Church Homecoming**

**October 10, 2004**

**11:30 am**

Prelude

Meeting Call To Order ..... Richard Kearse

Invocation ..... Rev. Edward Stiltz, (Olar Charge)

Welcome To Mizpah ..... Betty Jane Miller

Approval of 2003 Minutes & Treasurer's Report ..... (Printed in book)

Election of Officers ..... Report of Nomination Committee

Recognition of Family Members Present

Offertory Introduction of Speaker ..... Richard Kearse

Speaker ..... Rev. Harold Kirkland

Hymn ..... "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Benediction and Blessing ..... Rev. Edward Stiltz

# 2003 Mizpah Reunion and Homecoming Minutes

The 82nd Mizpah Reunion was held October 12, 2003, at the historic church near the old town of Bufords Bridge, South Carolina. Rev. Edward Stiltz, pastor of the Olar charge, offered the invocation after the opening hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

Dr. A. McKay Brabham III (Mickey), Reunion president, welcomed the group of more than 200 descendants of the five reunion families or clans. Brabham said "Mizpah" is a place that serves as a beacon or watch place in the Bible, and asked the congregation to pause to remember our forebears and to think of those to come.

The program consisted of an old time songfest, led by Becky Keel Swindell and Mary Carolyn Watson. Songs included: "I am Thine, O Lord;" "Take the Name of Jesus with You;" "Rock of Ages;" "The Beautiful Garden of Prayer;" "The Church in the Wildwood;" and, "Amazing Grace." Mrs. Watson, pianist, played "Take it to the Lord in Prayer" for the offertory.

President Brabham took the traditional family count with the following results: Brabham - 54; Kears - 73; Kirkland - 75; McMillan - 3; and Moye - 6. Members came from near and far to spend the day with family. Sgt. Bruce Fitton, currently serving in the military in the Middle East, travelled the farthest to attend the Reunion, while Donnie Ayer had to travel only about one-half mile from his home to attend.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as printed in the program. The nominating committee suggested the following slate of officers, which was accepted as presented: Dickie Kears (McMillan family) - 2004 president; Caroline Watson (Kirkland family) - 2005 president; Carol Varn (Kirkland family) as secretary; and Laurence Wells (Kears family) as treasurer.

Amanda Morris who had served as treasurer was thanked for her many years of dedicated service in that capacity.

Bill Craven provided a booklet, featuring a number of photographs of the Mizpah restoration, to be left in the sanctuary for those who may visit. Betty Jane Miller read T. Benton Young's poem, "Bufords Bridge." Members learned that since the last reunion, an historic marker had been placed at the intersection of US Highway 301/321 marking the location of the old town.

The service ended with the singing of the traditional closing hymn, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Rev. Edward Stiltz offered the benediction and blessing before the congregation adjourned to the church grounds for dinner. A photographer was on site to take group photographs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol B. Varn  
Reunion secretary

*Mizpah Church Families Association*  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
*August 31, 2003 - August 31, 2004*

**Bank Balance as of August 31, 2003** ..... \$8,282.04

**Receipts:**

Interest ..... \$ 6.95

Reunion Collection - October 11, 2003 ..... 425.00

**Total Receipts** ..... 431.95

**Total in Bank & Receipts** ..... \$8713.95

**Expenditures:**

Mel Rizer - Paper Goods ..... \$ 40.04

Helen's Florist - Flowers for Church ..... 53.00

Sun Incorporated - Printing Program Books, etc. .... 1,041.98

**Total Expenditures** ..... \$ 1,135.02

**Total in Bank August 31, 2004** ..... \$ 7,578.97

Laurence R. Wells  
Treasurer

# *Mizpah United Methodist Church*

## **MIZPAH FAMILY BOOK COMMITTEE**

*August 31, 2003 - August 31, 2004*

Bank Balance as of August 31, 2004 ..... \$8,787.00

**No Receipts**

**No Expenditures**

### **Special Notice**

This year we will be collecting updated information to be put into the reprinted version of the Family Book. Please let us know your interest in getting another book and help us get together the much-needed family updates. If everyone gets his or her updated information in by July 1st, 2005, we will have the reprinted Family Book available at the next reunion.

Make sure we know your interest and how many books you might need, so we can plan properly for the reprint. If there is someone who would like to volunteer to help get the information coordinated, please let us know.

Amanda P. Morris    2 Southwoode Circle  
Chapin, SC 29036-8653  
803-945-9652

Joyce T. Kearse    PO Box 805  
Olar, SC 29843  
803-368-8863

Clyde Kearse    JCKJ@mindspring.com

Philip L. Morris    philip.morris@sun-inc.com

# *Memorial Flowers*

*by Mizpah Church Reunion Association*

**Robert Emmett O'Neal**

Died February 17, 2004

**Sarah Kirkland Gary**

Died March 15, 2004

**William G. Bishop**

Died March 7, 2004

**Harriett Kirkland Gilmore**

Died July 26, 2004

**Dorothy Brabham Guess**

Died August 7, 2004

**Polly Black Terrell**

Died August 2004

**Joseph H. Lyles**

Died August 9, 2003

**Frances Marshall Kirkland**

Died September 17, 2004

**Carolyn Brabham Tiedeman**

Died August 24, 2004

**Cecil Ray McMillan**

Died October 12, 2003

**Olin Kears**

Died July 10, 2004

**H.L. Fundy McMillan**

Died December 22, 2003

**Lorraine Kears Clark**

Died August 28, 2004

**Edith McMillan Miller**

Died June 19, 2004

**Brandon Gene Proveaux**

Died January 18, 2004

**Jacqueline McMillan Cox**

Died April 6, 2004

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



Flowers on either side of the altar  
are given in memory of:

*Berta Formby*

*Ken Formby*

*Dot Tiner*

*Evelyn McMillan*

~

*Robert Emmett O'Neal*

*Dorothy Brabham Guess*

By:

Mr. & Mrs. Chester Kearse

Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Worrix

Kim Formby

Terry, Kay & Olivia Brinkley

~

The Robert O'Neal Family & Dorothy Brabham

The Guess and O'Neal Families



*YOUNGEST  
&  
OLDEST  
2003*



Youngest - Madison Reese Northcutt  
Oldest - Mrs. Harriett Gilmore - 91 (*deceased*)

# MIZPAH 1856-2004 83rd Reunion

## News to MIZPAH'S extended families

### Church update:

Miss Elizabeth Reed Holt, donated engraved offering plates in honor of Mrs. Harriett Hamilton Kirkland Gilmore.

### Cemetery:

We are still working toward making the cemetery perpetual care. All donations and memorials to further this goal will be appreciated.

### Restoration update:

Several donations were made to the restoration fund, Hopefully we can restore the Organ and Piano. If you know some one that can do this work, please let us know.

Three bricks were installed in the walk,

### MIZPAH Memories

### Wedding:

William K. Proveaux / Majanita W. Proveaux,  
26 September 1992

My Memories of MIZPAH are very recent ones. The church has been restored. It has been wonderful to see the changes that have happened to this grand old church. Thank God for those who had the vision to believe this could happen, and who worked so hard to make it happen.

Wynette Stiltz

Join in a MIZPAH as a child and before my Mother passed away.  
Clyde Kears Jr.

MIZPAH memory forms are available, share your memories with us.

### Remaining Material:

We still have some framed and unframed pictures of MIZPAH, also note cards.  
Heart Pine flooring, brick and nails for sale.

Clyde Kears  
15417 Low Country Hwy.  
PO Box 805  
Olar, SC 29843  
Phone: 803-368-8863  
Email: icki@mindspring.com

# BRABHAM FAMILY NEWS

## BIRTHS:

From the family of Dr. Angus McKay (Mickey) Brabham III:

Heather and Gus (Angus McKay, IV) Brabham announce the birth of Nathaniel Westmoreland Brabham on March 30, 2004, in Columbia, SC. Nates joins brothers McKay and Clay in a very active household.

Carol and Heyward Brabham announce the birth of Margaret Reid Brabham on June 9, 2004 in Columbia, SC.

• • • •

From the family of the Rev. John Risher Brabham:

Twin boys, Charles Cannoy Kalil and Ryan Risher Kalil, were born to Jan Mouzon Brabham and Jeffrey Kalil on April 10, 2004 (the birthday of their grandfather, John Risher Brabham). They join their older brother, Murphy Paul Kalil, who was born on November 15, 2001. The family lives in Cheverly, MD.

Josiah Luke Brabham was born to John Risher Brabham, Jr. and Gina Staton Brabham on January 23, 2004. They live outside Chicago, IL.

Daniel Jordan Brabham was born to Vance Lyn Brabham and Alison Starnes Brabham on May 22, 2000. His sister is Brooke Nicole Brabham who was born on January 22, 1995. They live in Rock Hill.

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## DEATHS:

Robert Emmett O'Neal, husband of Clarice Brabham O'Neal, died February 17, 2004, in Columbus, GA. He was born December 22, 1913, in Hillsboro, TX, the son of Reavis Carlton O'Neal and Nancy Watkins O'Neal. Bob was devoted to the Mizpah reunions and through the years took hundreds of photographs, one of which was used in the Mizpah family book. He was active in many organizations in Columbus including St. Luke United Methodist Church, the Sons of the American Revolution, Rotary, Columbus Audubon Society, and the Georgia Bar Association. He was manager of the Social Security office in Columbus for 32 years. He is survived by his wife, Clarice, his daughters, Mary Carlton O'Neal Lull of Berkeley, CA and Nancy O'Neal Campbell and her husband, Steve, of Denver, CO; grandsons, Chris and Peter Lull and great grandson, Taylor Lull, all of Berkeley.

• • • •

William G. Bishop, son of Lucia Brabham and William G. Bishop, Jr., died March 7, 2004. His father, William G. Bishop, died March 16, 2004. Survivors include Lucia Brabham Bishop, Nancy Bishop Bingham and Lucia and William's six grandchildren and seven great grand children. Lucia is the daughter of Mouzon W. Brabham and is the grand daughter of C.R. Brabham Sr.

• • • •

Dorothy Brabham Guess died August 7 in the Methodist Oaks in Orangeburg, SC. Her funeral was Sunday, August 15 at Trinity Methodist Church in Bamberg where she was a life-long member. Born December 10, 1913, Dorothy was the daughter of Clarence Robert and Buena Daniel Brabham of Bamberg, and was the wife of Harry A. Guess, Sr. She was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Guess of Chapel Hill NC, granddaughters Carol Guess of Seattle, WA, and Alison Guess Fitton of Burke, VA, Alison's husband, Bruce, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

# BRABHAM FAMILY NEWS

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Joseph H. Lyles, husband of Marilyn Brabham Lyles, died August 9, 2003, in Newport News, VA. He is survived by his wife of 54 years; a son, Joseph Bryan Lyles of Mt. View, CA, a daughter, Cynthia Lyles Giangreco, and three grandsons: Mark, Christopher, and Matthew Giangreco. Mark is a junior at Harvard, Christopher is a freshman at Colby, and Matt is in high school.

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Carolyn ("Carrie") Brabham Tiedeman, widow of Walter Probst Tiedeman, Jr., of Rock Hill, formerly of Bamberg, died August 24, 2004, in Rock Hill. Graveside services were August 28 in Bamberg Memorial Garden. Born Oct. 9, 1908, in Olar, she was the daughter of Joe Frank Brabham and Susie Kears Brabham. Survivors include Dr. and Mrs Walter Probst Tiedeman, III of Rock Hill, two grandsons, Jay Wells Tiedeman of Charlotte, NC and Clayton Edward Tiedeman of Virginia Beach, VA and their families.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Eleanor Milford Brabham Fine, 86, now lives in Mountain Vista Health Park in Denton, N.C. She is ambulatory and is still very bright and aware. However, her health mandates having around the clock care. She is the daughter of Lee Hendrix and Mattie Morris

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Brabham and the granddaughter of Berry and Martha Brabham, formerly of Olla. She is the remaining survivor of five brothers and three sisters, all formerly of Charleston. She would enjoy hearing from family members. Her address is Ms.Eleanor Milford Fine Mountain Vista Health Park, P.O. Box 1547, Denton, N.C. 27239. Her grandson Alex Brabham Fine is a Junior at UNC-Chapel Hill and is presently studying linguistics in Germany at Tubengin University. Grandson Daniel and his wife, Shannon, as well as granddaughter Leigh Ann and her husband, Andrew, are expecting their first babies in October.

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Alison Guess, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Harry A. Guess, were married Bruce Fitton April 18, 2004 in a garden wedding at the Fearington Inn in Pittsboro, N.C. The wedding was attended by many family members, and the couple looks forward to future visits to Mizpah. They spent their honeymoon in Williamsburg, Va. and are now living in Burke, Va.

• • • •

Congratulations to Sally and Jim Mings who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary August 18, 2004. Sally is the daughter of Mary Cecile Brabham McEachern and the late Furman E. McEachern. Sally teaches art and Jim is a professional musician in Columbia, S.C.

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*If you know of Brabham family members who are not receiving notice of the Mizpah reunion, please send names and addresses to Nan ONeal Campbell, 1262 Steele St., Denver, CO 80206*

# *BRABHAM FAMILY*



L to R - Mrs. Nan Campbell, ????????,  
Dr. & Mrs. Harry Guess, Mrs. Ali Guess  
Fitton, S.S.G. Bruce Fitton (US Army -  
Just returned from Afghanistan)

# KEARSE FAMILY NEWS

## BIRTHS:

Josh and Lauren Covington of Columbus, GA, are the proud parents of a little daughter, Reese Caroline, born July 14, 2004. She is the granddaughter of Louise W. Dodd and great-granddaughter of Laura Williams K. Kirby of Bamberg and the late Col. Albert Williams.

• • • •

Benjamin Lee Walkenstein Gregory was born August 29, 2004, in Asheville, NC. Benjamin's parents are Marissa Walkenstein and Lee Gregory and the grandson of Walker and Yvonne Gregory of Mount Pleasant, SC, and Mrs. Sherry Knight of Mammouth Beach, NJ. The great grandparents are the late Dr. and Mrs. Walker Gregory (Frances Kearsse).

• • • •

Lauren Patricia Robinson was born July 17, 2004, to Laurie and Chip Robinson of Edgefield, SC. Lauren is the granddaughter of Kathy and George Kearsse of Ehrhardt, SC.

• • • •

Tim and Cindy Kearsse Segars of Lexington, SC, are the proud grandparents of Chayse Segars.

• • • •

Emily Morgan Weber was born March 9, 2004 in Tampa, FL, to parents, Jennifer Morris Weber & Edward Weber, Jr. She weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces. Emily is the first grandchild of Philip L. & Debra H. Morris, and the first great grandchild of Amanda P. Morris, all of Chapin, SC. The Weber family has recently moved to Bluffton, SC.

• • • •

The great granddaughter of Fred and Lorraine Kearsse Clark was born on June 22, 2004, in Arlington, VA. Proud parents are Colin and Ashby Rushing. Grandparents are Chuck and Judy (Clark) Rushing. Her name is Rachel Anabel Rushing.

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## DEATHS:

Olin Kearsse, son of the late Faber and Marie Kearsse (formerly of Bamberg), died July 10, 2004. Funeral services were held in Atlanta, GA.

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Lorraine Kearsse Clark died August 28, 2004, at her residence. She was the daughter of the late Henry Angus and Anabel Boynton Kearsse. Funeral services were held August 31, in Barnwell United Methodist Church with the Rev. Joey McDonald officiating. Survivors include her husband, Fred W. Clark of Barnwell; Rick and Amy Clark, Judy and Chuck Rushing and Dot and Van Hasting. Grandchildren are Colin and Ashby Rushing of Arlington, VA, Jason Rushing of Arlington, VA, Robby and Tricia Hastings of Loganville, GA, Jonathon and Christina Hastings of Savannah, GA, Carrie and Will Clark of Studley, VA; great-grandchild, Rachel Anabel Rushing; brothers, Grady Kearsse of Barnwell, and Ben Kearsse of Ehrhardt; and sisters-in-law, June Kearsse of Fairfax, Sadie Rae Kearsse and Esther Kearsse of Ehrhardt.

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# *KEARSE FAMILY NEWS*

Brandon Gene Proveaux, 12, of Olar, died January 18, 2004. Funeral service was held at Olar Baptist Church and burial in Mizpah United Methodist Church Cemetery of Olar. He was the son of William Kearse Proveaux, Jr. and Bobbie Jean Williams Proveaux. His paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. William K. Proveaux, Sr.

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## **MARRIAGE:**

Jennifer Ann Powell and Benjamin Williams Youra were united in marriage on July 9, 2004, on Panama City Beach, FL. Their parents are June Powell and Brenda and Garrett Youra of Twin Lakes, WI. Jennifer is a Spanish teacher and Ben is employed by G2 Consulting Group, Wheeling, IL. Ben is the grandson of Laura K. Williams Kirby and the late Col. Albert Williams.

• • • •

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

Amanda Bullington, daughter of Joe and Gwen Bullington and granddaughter of Grady Kearse, began her Freshman year at the University of South Carolina in Columbia this fall. She plans to major in Psychology.

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Ched Kearse, son of Chester Kearse of Fairfax, SC, President and General Manager of Kearse Manufacturing Co., Inc., Orangeburg, SC, has received the South Carolina Division SAF Merit Award. The award recognizes continuous and outstanding service through SAF leadership roles, volunteer service, and promotion of the forestry profession. Kearse has been an active SAF member since 1979 and is the Policy and Legislation Chair for the SC Division. He was Chair of the Central Carolina Chapter from 1989-90, Co-Chair of the Science & Technology Committee of the SAF State Museum Project from 1994-97, and Chair of the SC Division in 2002. He has been a member of the SC State Museum's Education Committee since 1998. He is a SC Forestry Association Board member. Ched is also 2001 recipient of outstanding Clemson Forestry Alumnus.

• • • •

Benjamin (Ben) Kearse had laryngectomy surgery at the VA Hospital in Columbia, SC on September 28, 2004.

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Sadie and Ben Kearse were honored on their 50th wedding anniversary with a surprise celebration on Sunday, September 19th at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church in Ehrhardt.

• • • •

Lauren Kearse graduated from Mount Vernon High School in Springfield, VA, and is attending Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA.

• • • •

Richard Kearse attends East Carolina University in Greenville, NC.

• • • •

Steven Kearse attends James Madison University in Harrisburg, VA.

# KEARSE FAMILY NEWS

William Boyte attends USC in Columbia, SC.

• • • •

DeLacie Boyte attends USC Graduate School in Columbia, SC.

• • • •

These are the children of Richard (Dick) and Beth Kearse of Columbia, SC and grandchildren of June McMillan Kearse of Fairfax, SC. Jonathon Hastings and Christina Lingga celebrated their first year of marriage by reaffirming their Wedding Vows. The ceremony took place on October 2, 2004, on the beach of the King and Prince Hotel, located on St. Simons Island, GA. Following the ceremony a Reception was held in the King and Prince Hotel. Jonathon is a son of Dot and Van Hastings, of Valdosta, GA, and a grandson of Fred and Lorraine Clark, of Barnwell, SC.

• • • •

Van R.. Hastings, who is a Police Officer for the, city of Valdosta, GA, along with 24 of his peers were appointed to serve as GBI agents at the G-8 Summit held at Sea Island, GA, during June 8-10, 2004. Van is a son-in-law of Fred and Lorraine Clark.

• • • •

Joshua Morris has been named to the Scholars List at Midlands Technical College in Columbia. He has also been blessed to have had his first annual checkup since being diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and remains "cancer free". Special thanks to all who have been praying for Josh.

• • • •

Amanda (Mandy) Morris remains on the Presidents Honor Roll List and has been inducted into the Honor Society at the University of SC. She is in her senior year there. Joshua & Mandy are the children of Philip L. & Debra H. Morris, and the grandchildren of Amanda P. Morris.

• • • •



L to R - Mike Kearse and George Kearse.



# KEARSE FAMILY



Lois & Bill Craven (Kearse)  
Rev. & Mrs. Stiltz



Fred & Lorraine Clark, Ben  
(background), Grady Kearse,  
Sadie Kearse (seated)

# KEARSE FAMILY



Amanda Morris, Betty Jane Miller, (back) Chester & June Kears.



Joe & Gwen Bullington, and Grady Kears



Douglas Kears, Bernard Kears, Evelyn Kears, Mary Clare Kears and Olin Kears (deceased)

# KEARSE FAMILY



Clyde Kears, Chatham Harris  
(grandson), Joyce Kears



Karen, Gordon, Jim, Susan, Ben  
& Sadie Kears



Ben Kears, Lorraine Kears  
Clark, Grady Kears

# KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS

## BIRTHS:

Brian Ethan Sandifer was born on December 27, 2003. Parents are Brian Kirk and Vanne Jowers Sandifer. Brian Ethan is the grandson of Buddy and Claudia Kirkland Sandifer of Bamberg and the great-grandson of the late Claude and Aileen Kirkland.

• • • •

Emma Elizabeth Ridenhour, daughter of Melanie and Jason Ridenhour of Mt. Pleasant, was born July 8, 2004. Emma was welcomed home by her sister, Anna and brother, Evan. Anna, Emma and Evan are the grandchildren of Billy and Carol Varn.

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## DEATHS:

Sara Kirkland Gary of Tampa, FL, died on March 15, 2004. She was the daughter of the late James Hamilton and Ione Toney Kirkland. She is survived by her son, Robert Porter Mallory and his wife Garry, who live in Lilburn, GA.

• • • •

Harriet Kirkland Gilmore of Hendersonville, NC, died on July 26, 2004. She was the daughter of the late James Hamilton and Ione Toney Kirkland. She is survived by a son, Bill Gilmore, Jr. and his wife Ellen of West Point, GA, and a daughter, Harriet Gilmore Northcutt of Louisville, KY.

• • • •

Polly Black Terrell died in August, 2004. She was the great-great-granddaughter of Lena Kirkland Black.

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Francis "Marshall" Kirkland of Bamberg died September 17, 2004. He was the son of the late Robert Frank Kirkland and the late Belle Wood Kirkland. He is survived by his wife, Shirley McMillan Kirkland, his daughter, Paula Kirkland Sprague and her husband Ron, and son, Frank Kirkland and his wife, Cathy.



Mary Carolyn Watson

# KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS

## MARRIAGES:

E. M. (Monty) Rast, Jr. of Cameron and Kathy Nixon of Augusta, GA, were married on February 21, 2004. Monty is the son of Jeanne Clark and Ed Rast of Cameron, and the grandson of the late Annie Laurie Kirkland Clark of Cope.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Laura Vardell, daughter of Sara Clark Vardell, both of Charleston, is now the new owner of "Carolina Antique Maps and Prints" at 91 Church Street, specializing in Antique Maps and Prints. Laura is the granddaughter of the late Annie Laurie Kirkland Clark.

• • • •

Heather Alsop, daughter of Kay and Frank Alsop, graduated from James Mason University this year. She is the great-great-granddaughter of Lena Kirkland Black.

• • • •

Hayes Kirkland Stanton of Hartsville, SC, is in his first year at the University of South Carolina School of Law. James Creighton Hayes from Rock Hill is a freshman at Wofford College in Spartanburg. They are grandsons of Wilbur Kirkland Hayes of Rock Hill.

• • • •

John May Tatum IV of Beaufort, was graduated from the University of South Carolina in August 2004. He is the son of Mary Laney and John May Tatum III and the grandson of Mary Risher Tatum and the late John May Tatum, Jr.

• • • •

Cooper Fritz of Chicago, is a freshman at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Cooper is the son of Mary Beth Watson-Manheim and the grandson of Mike and Mary Carolyn Watson.

• • • •

Kent C. Kirkland of Barnwell, SC, is now practicing law with the Moore Firm in Barnwell, as well as working two days a week at the Bamberg County Hospital. Kent's wife, Kelsey, is in her first year at the University of South Carolina School of Law. Their son, Clint, is a sophomore at The Citadel. Clint was chosen to march in the Hunley Funeral Procession as a member of The Citadel Cadets Reenactment Squad. In Kent's words, "As we attended the funeral, we felt a lot of pride, and looked at this event as a way to not only honor those brave sailors, but also my great-great-grandfather, CSA Colonel Benjamin Brown Kirkland."

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Sara Tatum Pottenger of Durham, NC, has been elected to the Board of Trustees at Davidson College at Davidson, NC. Sara, a 1979 graduate of Davidson College, is the daughter of Mary Risher Tatum and the late John May Tatum, Jr. and the granddaughter of the late Bess Kirkland and John May Tatum, Sr.

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# KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS

Caroline Watson has opened her own firm, Watson Transition Strategies, in Columbia. The firm offers management and regulatory policy consulting services to monopolies transitioning to deregulation. She retired from BellSouth as General Counsel for South Carolina in 2003. Caroline also joined the SC State Guard as a Captain in the JAG Division of the Civil Affairs Brigade. She edited a book published in September 2004 entitled, "The Medal of Honor: A Commemoration of South Carolina Recipients." Caroline is the daughter of Mike and Mary Carolyn Watson and the granddaughter of the late Bess Kirkland and John May Tatum, Sr.

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Louis Odom participated in April in the 50th anniversary hike on the C & O Canal from Cumberland, MD, to Washington, DC. The hike of 184.5 miles is made every five years by members of the C & O Canal Assoc. This year was special, however, because it commemorated the hike in 1954 by a group led by Assoc. Supreme Court Justice Wm. O. Douglas to save the canal right-of-way from becoming a highway. The effort by Justice Douglas made possible the creation of the C & O Canal National Historic Park.

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Pamela Odom lives in Fairbanks, AK, and is now working with Alaska Biological Research, Inc. (ABR, Inc.). Beth Odom Battalio lives in Pacifica, CA, and is Vice President and Office Mgr. of Old Republic Title Co. in Pacifica. Louis, Pam and Beth are the grandson and great-granddaughters of James Hamilton and Ione Toney Kirkland.

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L. E. "Gene" Jarrell proved to be the "Man of the Hour" July 10 when he correctly identified a marker found in the field of an adjacent neighbor off I-85 in North Carolina. The inscription reads:

**Tarleton Brown South Carolina Captain SC Troops  
Revolutionary War April 5, 1757 -- September 8, 1845**

The marker, weighing more than fifty pounds, somehow disappeared from Winton Park, on Hwy. 3, south of Barnwell, years ago. The property belongs to Gen. John Barnwell Chapter DAR in Barnwell. The DAR Chapter and the Barnwell County Museum and Historical Board were informed. Both groups wanted the Marker returned and thought it providential that Gene was there to speak to its importance to this area. Gene very generously agreed to bring the Marker to the Mizpah Reunion, to be picked up by the interested parties.

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On December 15, 2003, the History of Bamberg County, compiled by Margaret Lawrence and edited by Betty Jane Miller and Nancy Foster, was published. It is felt that anyone with ties to Bamberg County should have a copy of the book.

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# *KIRKLAND FAMILY NEWS*



**Kelsey, Clint (*Citadel*), Ben and Kent Kirkland**

# *McMILLAN FAMILY NEWS*

## **BIRTHS**

Addison Aleafe Peak was born January 11, 2004. She is the granddaughter of Carolyn McMillan Worrix and Bradley Worrix of Kentucky.

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Grayson Lindley was born in January 2004, daughter of Jodie and Michael Lindley and great granddaughter of Francis and Edith McMillan of Bamberg. She was welcomed home by two sisters, Sarah and Anne Marie Lindley.

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Elaney Stanfield was born April 2004 to Michael and Amanda B. Stanfield. She is the great granddaughter of Anne Priester McMillan and the late Furman McMillan.

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Thomas Maxwell Bernat was born November 26, 2003. He is the son of Elizabeth Biggers and Christopher Bernat of Charleston. He is the grandson of Frank and Anne McMillan Biggers of Walterboro.

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## **DEATHS:**

Cecil Ray McMillan of Bamberg died October 12, 2003. Burial was at Bamberg County Memorial Gardens. He was the son of the late Elgin W. and Mary Eleanor Goodwin McMillan. Survived by four children, three sisters and several grand and great grandchildren.

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H.L. "Fundy" McMillan died December 22, 2003. Burial service was at McMillan Cemetery in Colston Community. Survivors include his wife, Anne Priester McMillan, three daughters, one sister and eight grandchildren. He was the son of the late Ernest and Alice K. McMillan.

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Edith McMillan Miller died June 19, 2004. Mrs. McMillan was originally from Ehrhardt and lived in Beech Island for 51 years. She was the wife of the late Robert Miller. Survivors include a son, four daughters, 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

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Jacqueline McMillan Cox of Denmark died April 6, 2004 following a long battle with cancer. She was the widow of the late Vincent Cox. She was the daughter of the late James Calvin and Eleanor Pat McMillan. She was a graduate of Winthrop College and a retired school teacher. She is survived by three children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

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# *McMILLAN FAMILY NEWS*

## **MARRIAGE:**

Jamie Marie Ankney and James Frances Whitlock, both of Greenville, SC, were married June 19, 2004, at the Summerall Chapel, The Citadel. Mrs. Whitlock is the daughter of Mrs. Nancy Vater Ankney and Mr. & Mrs. Jon Wyn Ankney of Columbia, SC. Mr. Whitlock is the son of Mrs. Charles Rufus Whitlock, Jr. of Spartanburg and the late Charles R. Whitlock, Jr. He is the grandson of Charles R. Whitlock and the late Sarah McMillan Whitlock. He is a graduate of The Citadel where he received his Master of Business Administration. Mr. Whitlock is a graduate of Clemson University.

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Nadine Sharon Landry and Patrick Heirs Padgett were married May 22, 2004 at Lowdnes Plantation. Nadine is the daughter of Michael Padgett and Olivia Hiers Padgett and grandson of the late Wendell Heirs and Louise McMillan Heirs.

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# MOYE FAMILY NEWS

## BIRTHS:

Marion Moye Smoak's large family has added two new babies this past year. Morgan Elizabeth Ramsey whose parents are Ashley and Derek Ramsey of Charleston, SC, and Wesley McDaniel Bigbee of Macon, GA, whose parents are Allison and Rick Bigbee. Grandmother to these "additions" is Beverly Smoak Robinson of Seneca, SC. Proud great-grandmother is Marion!!! This makes 11 grandchildren and 4 "great grands".

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Sarah Moye Young of Springman Life Care Retirement Center of Raleigh, NC, was introduced Labor Day weekend to her 2 month old great grandson, Benjamin Nathaniel Young, son of Thomas Benton Young, IV and Michelle Young of Rhode Island at the home of her daughter, Susan ayoung McClure and son-in-law, Wes McClure of Raleigh, NC.

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Douglas and Paula Hutto Keel welcomed Gracie O'Quinn Keel to the family on December 31, 2003. Douglas is the son of Doug Keel and grandson of Leonard and Rebecca Dickinson Keel.

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Marion Moye Smoak's entire large family enjoyed a week at Garden City Beach in June for their regular beach reunion.

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Beverly Smoak Robinson was named "Teacher of the Year" from Oconee County School District for 2004-05. She has been honored at many school events and was the speaker at the Back To School Rally in Seneca, SC, on August 6, 2004.

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Sarah Moye Young's other grandson, Scott McClure, son of Wes and Susan McClure, graduated in May from NC State in Graphic Design and works for a large Euro Sports Company in Durham, NC, where he and staff design and publish 14 magazine catalogues per year. Scott was used in several photos to mdel new soccer uniforms with him in action. He was captain of his high school soccer team.

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Granddaughter, Tricia McClure, daughter of Susan and Wes McClure, was awarded the President's Scholarship at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, where she'll major in classic film making for the next two years before graduation. She has completed the past two years at Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, MD, and maitianed a straight 'A' record.

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Sarah Moye Young is the recent winner of the Springmoor 20th Anniversary Song Writing Contest. The two Springmoor Chorus Groups, in their September 28th auditorium program, sang her song,

# *MOYE FAMILY NEWS*

"Springmoor's The Best A Place Could Be" (tune - This Land Is Your Land) and introduced the secret winner to the audience.

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Karel Keel, wife of Doug Keel, recently spent six weeks studying in Rome and other parts of Italy. Karel was one of twenty-five teachers nationwide who was awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities Institute "Houses of Mortals and Gods". The study was administered by the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Karel teaches Latin at Wahalla High School.

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Lynn Dickinson, wife of George Moyer, III, was chosen Mock Trial Teacher of the Year. She is a teacher at Fort Mill High School.

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Rebecca Dickinson, daughter of George Moyer, III and Lynn Dickinson, has entered the University of South Carolina.

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# *NOTES*

# THOSE WE REMEMBER

## Olin D. Kears - *Dancer, Teacher*

By Sally A. Downey *Inquirer Staff Writer*

Olin D. Kears, 73, formerly of Blue Bell, who taught ballet and staged dance performances in Montgomery County for more than 40 years, died of complications of diabetes Aug. 10 at a clinic in Alpharetta, Ga.

A native of South Carolina, Mr. Kears was the first male in his family in six generations who didn't become a lawyer. Instead of practicing at the bar, he practiced at the barre and studied dance in Philadelphia while working at a friend's manufacturing plant in North Wales.

In 1950, he danced with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet Company in New York and the next year joined the American Ballet Theater. After only eight months with American Ballet, he temporarily lost his eyesight because of a congenital condition. When he regained his eyesight, he danced in roles with the Royal Danish Ballet and the Paris Opera Ballet. His vision was not sufficient, however, for the rigors of performing, and in the early 1950s he opened the Olin Kears School of Ballet in Ambler.

"When I started teaching, the first month or so I wasn't very happy," he told a reporter in 1983, "but the first time I saw a child do an arabesque properly placed and knew I'd helped her to do it, well, that felt great."

Mr. Kears established Ambler Youth Ballet Company later it became Montgomery County Ballet Company - as a performance venue for his students. The Olin Kears School of Ballet, now Pennsylvania Dance Conservatory, and his company, now Philadelphia Dance Theatre, were taken over by his former student, Joy Delaney-Capponi, when Mr. Kears retired in 1997.

Among the performances he staged were *California Poppy*, a tribute to Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova; *Festivals*, a celebration of dance throughout the world; and the second act of *Giselle*.

At a rehearsal the week before *Giselle's* performance in December 1987, Mr. Kears told a reporter: "Can you believe I painted sets for 16 hours on Wednesday [the day before Thanksgiving], and I had 10 people the next day for dinner? I was ready to go out and get a canned ham."

A gourmet cook, Mr. Kears often hosted elaborate dinners for 30 to 40 people in Blue Bell and at his summer home in Cape May, said Tom Yemm, his companion of 31 years. "I'd be washing thousands of dishes," Yemm said.

He also collected antiques and was an accomplished watercolorist, Yemm said. He exhibited work at local galleries and studied in Maine with Jamie Wyeth.

Mr. Kears had lived in Duluth, Ga., since 2000.

In addition to Tom Yemm, he is survived by several cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 2:15 p.m. Sept. 18 at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, Susquehanna Road and Butler Pike, Ambler.

Memorial donations may be made to Mizpah United Methodist Church, Box 805, Olar, S.C., 29843.



Ben Kears - Olin Kears  
(Atlanta, GA., Deceased 2004, son of Faber & Marie  
Kears, Brother - Faber, Jr. (dec.))

# 2002 Mizpah Reunion and Homecoming Minutes

The 81st Anniversary of the Brabham, Kears, Kirkland, McMillan and Moye Reunion and the Seventh Mizpah United Methodist Church Homecoming convened at 11:30 a.m. on October 13, 2002. A prelude of piano selections was offered by Mary Carolyn Watson.

The meeting was called to order by Robbie Kears, reunion president. Rev. Edward Stiltz, pastor of the Olar Charge which includes Mizpah, gave the invocation. Clyde Kears welcomed all to Mizpah Church, noting restoration is almost complete. Madison Milhous offered a vocal selection, and Rev. Stiltz led a brief service of rededication of Mizpah United Methodist Church.

The 2001 minutes and treasurer's report were approved as printed in the program, on motion of Bill Craven. Ched Kears gave the report from the nominating committee. The slate of officers was approved as presented: 2003 president - Mickey Brabham (Brabham family); 2004 president - Richard Kears, Jr. (McMillan family); Carol Varn - secretary and Amanda Morris - treasurer.

President Robbie Kears acknowledged the following family count: Brabham - 29; Kears - 77; Kirkland - 47; McMillan - 12; and Moye - 0. The oldest present was Myra Mayfield, 91 and the youngest present was Anneliese Bernat - 2. The toddler is the daughter of Elizabeth and Christopher Bernat, and the granddaughter of Frank and Anne McMillan Biggers. Mary Carlton Lull travelled the farthest distance, arriving from Berkeley, California.

Betty Jane Miller did a dramatic reading of T.B. Young's poem about Bufords Bridge. She said that the spirit of Bufords Bridge can't be contained within four walls: "It will go home with you, and you will do special things because it is in you."

Ched Kears introduced the speaker, Madison Milhous, of Farmingdale, New York, a certified United Methodist lay speaker.

Mr. Milhous said there were five reasons he volunteered to speak at Mizpah: Harold, Wlima, Mary Alice, Chester and Lois — all members of his maternal grandmother's family. He spoke about heritage and responsibility, noting that his great uncle, Rev. Neeley (a itinerant Methodist minister who died in 1957 at the age of 97), had possibly spoken at Mizpah. Milhous said that the heritage nurtured within us led to the restoration of Mizpah, and that now our heritage demands that we continue building God's church. He led the congregation in the Litany for a Mizpah Reunion.

The service closed with the traditional final hymn, "Blest Be The Tie That Binds." Rev. Stiltz offered the benediction and blessing, and the congregation moved to the church grounds for a covered dish dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol B. Varn  
Reunion secretary

## Special Request

In order to help us with future family news please use the following format for reporting your news items to your family representative:

Births

Deaths

Marriages

Items of Interest

It is also very important if you're providing pictures to be included in the book to write names of the people on the back of the photograph as you would like them to appear. If you want any items returned be sure to include a request as well as the address to which they should be returned. Special news items should be summarized and edited.



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# MIZPAH CHURCH

Methodist Church  
established by 1832.  
Present 1856 house of  
worship is all that  
remains of pre-Civil  
War settlement of  
Buford's Bridge.

MARKER BY  
MIZPAH METHODIST CHURCH  
1971