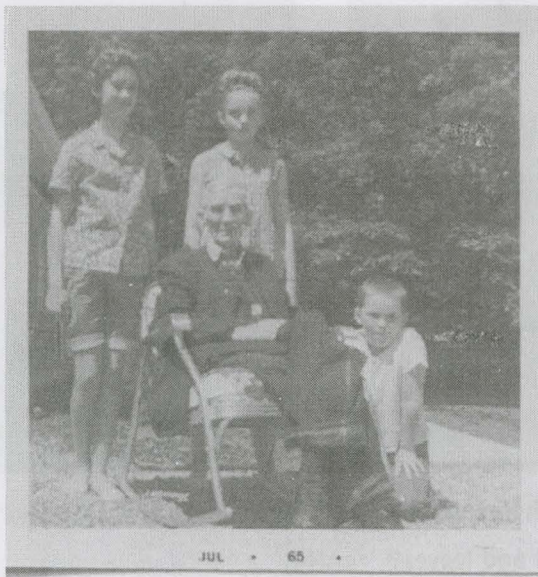


OLD PHOTOS



Left: Lloyd Felts with grandchildren Pam Felts, Frances and Nathan Dowell, 1965

Right: Richard and Lula Martin Felts with children Earl and Etta
Richard was the brother of Lloyd Felts, Melvin's grandfather.

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Road
Galax, VA 24333

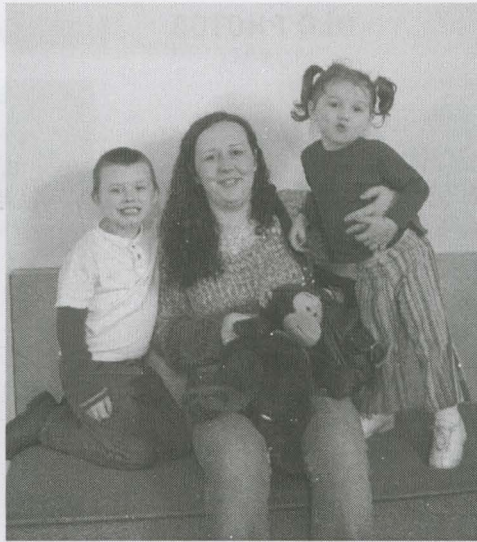
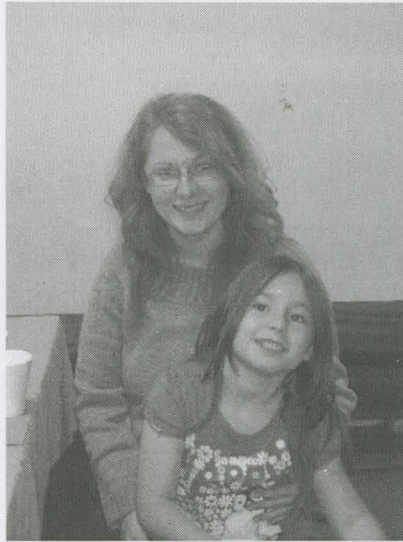
ROANOKE VA 240
08 NOV 2013PM 1 T



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC, 27050

2705039780

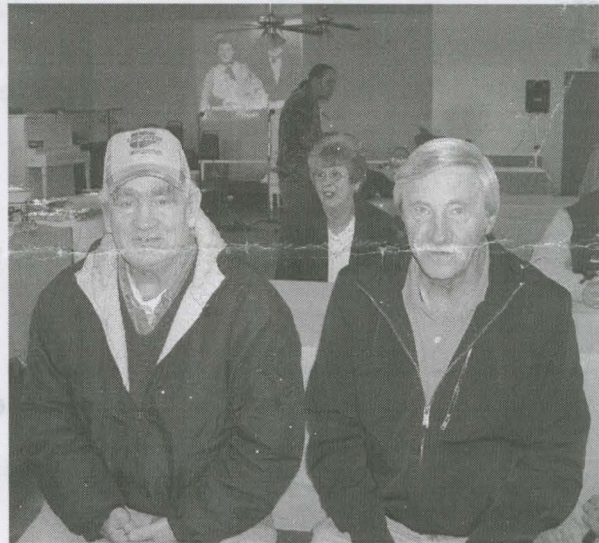




Left: Stacey Utt and daughter Majestic Center: Beth Jennings with children Noah and Jocelyn ("Josie")
Right: Ianna Dennis, Misty and Neveah VanHoy

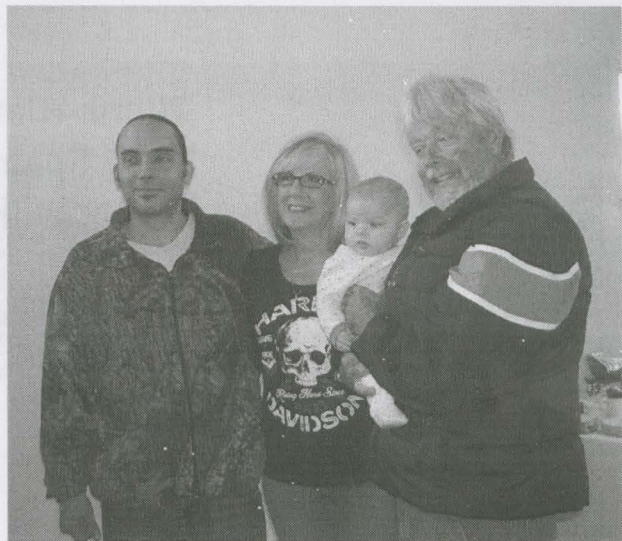
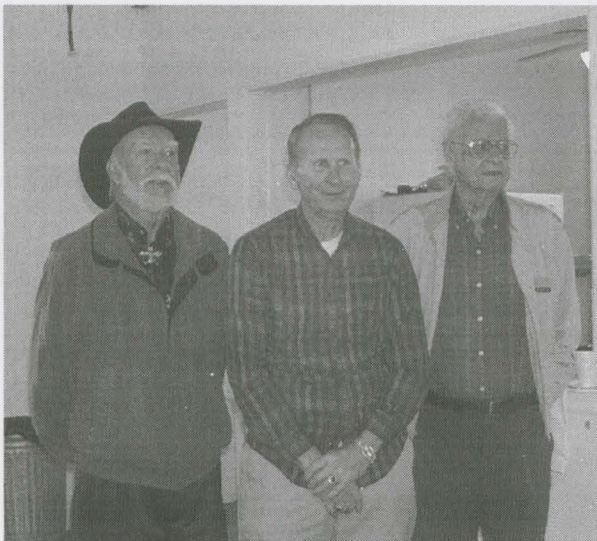


Above: Ruth and Dot



Ronald and James Galyean

Below: Elvin Felts, Virgil and James Melton Brian Dennis, Sandra and Gary Harris, Lilliane Dennis



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from Melvin and Dea 2013

FAMILY NOTES

After several years of dealing with bladder cancer and lymphoma, Melvin has been feeling very well. Here are some of the highlights of his year.

I celebrated my 82nd birthday a couple of weeks early with a family and music party on Jan. 1 (my birthday is actually on Jan. 16). My sister Faye's birthday is on Dec. 26 and my niece Lois's birthday is on Jan. 13, so we cut the cake together. We did some visiting when the weather was not too bad. When it started to get warm, I helped Dea with her flower garden, as she was having some trouble with her shoulder. I did a lot of the trimming and weeding. By doing this, I felt a lot better.

During the winter we played music at the senior centers, and by May we became a lot busier. I go to three jam sessions a week regularly, when I don't have something else scheduled. We played at Mabry Mill twice a month, and at several local festivals.

I'm happy to say that all my doctors tell me that I'm doing fine.

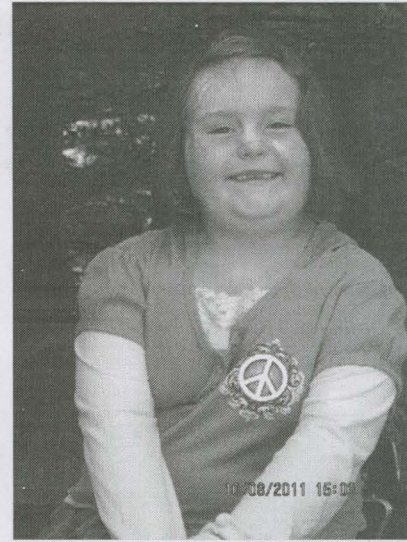
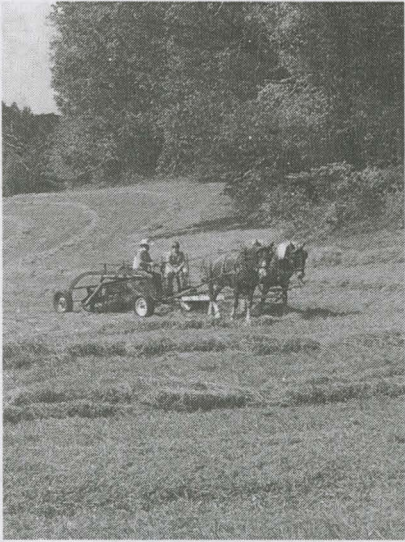


Melvin's son *James Felts* works as a maintenance electrician for Mayville Engineering Company in Wytheville. He has stayed busy this summer putting up hay for his six horses. His wife *Laurie* has had a rough year. She was disabled by severe joint pain from January to August, when it finally started getting better. She suspects it may have been a reaction to an antibiotic, but the doctors still do not know what caused it. They managed to find time to set up camp at Shockley's Old Timey Days the last weekend in September.

Brianne and Quinn are in the marching band in George Wythe High School. Brianne plays flute and Quinn plays trumpet. Brianne is taking her child care classes as preparation for being an elementary school teacher. During her first two periods in school she goes to different preschools in the area, acting as a teacher's aide. Justin, in 5th grade, loves school, especially math and reading, and he got a perfect score on his history SOL's.

The picture below left shows James and step-son Quinn raking hay.

Melvin's son *Allen* enjoys time with his grandchildren Dylan (pictured below with the beekeeping outfit) and Makayla (at right).



Lois Rogers taught kindergarten for 22 years but was moved this fall to 2nd grade. She spent a large part of the summer getting her lesson plans together and her room ready, but now she is getting along well with the change. Bryan, in the 11th grade, is on the AB honor roll and plays sax in the Galax High School marching band. For several years he has had a rock band with three other boys. He got his driver's license about a week ago.

April Thompson Clontz



Ricky and Dee Thompson have been busy trying to help out the kids. April married Zac Clontz on May 11. April and Zac are living in a rental house and working on their property outside of Hillsville. They have a double wide almost ready to move in. April works at the Carroll County governmental complex during the week. Cody works night shift at Magnolia in Hillsville. He has a hunting group that he enjoys for recreation.

Carolyn Bartley had back surgery in May and says her back is "doing great" but she deals with arthritis in her shoulder and hip. Kayla and son Corbin (soon to be 3) have moved back in with Carolyn and Randy. Shannon and Bert are living in Mary and Troy's house. Shannon has diabetic neuropathy and is currently having tests for unknown health problems. Jeffrey has his own place, in the trailer park at the head of the road, so all of them still live close by.

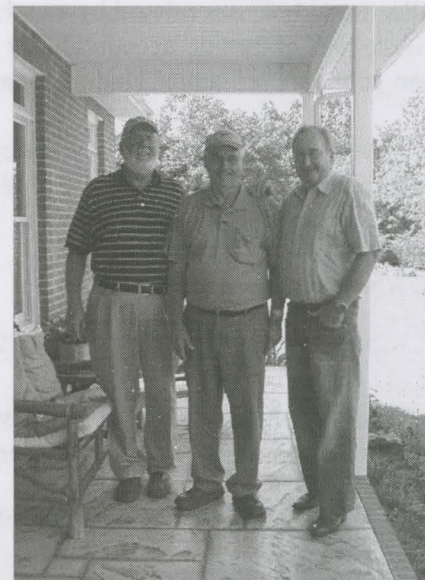
We had lunch with *John and Shirley Bullion* on Oct. 31. Shirley spent January to April in hospitals and rehab due to complications from pneumonia and COPD. This summer they were able to spend some time at the beach with their grandchildren.

George and Lucille Bonn have not been able to attend recent reunions, but they are still doing OK. They have a great great grandchild, Alexandra, a year old, born in Richmond.

Dot Felts (pictured on p. 5 at this year's reunion) is having some serious health problems and would appreciate everyone's prayers.

Sadie Harris is having shots for worsening macular degeneration. She is still able to drive during the daytime.

R.J. and Janice Felts visited us in February. Sometime after that, R.J. became very weak and short of breath. He spent a month in Duke Hospital but no explanation was found for quite a while. He is now in a rehab center on a ventilator and is diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. This picture of R.J., Melvin, and Clinton was taken at our house a couple of years ago.



We asked Shirley Everhart to write about her father, who passed away on July 1, and to tell us how she is getting along. She sent us these notes.

I hope all is well with you. I have attached the article for the newsletter as requested. There really isn't that much going on with Rodney and I on a personal level. I did choose to leave my job in early summer and am now taking a break just trying to decide what I want to do when I grow up.

I have been spending a great deal of time on line looking at DIY home maintenance/cleaning supply articles getting back to basics and trying to live a greener lifestyle. I have a greater appreciation for my grandmother because she used a simple arsenal of green supplies to do everything that a bottle of harsh chemicals will do and not as well I might add.

Recently, I have been cooking some of my favorite dishes that Grandma Felts used to prepare like her strawberry dumplings or corn pudding around the holidays.

Let me know if you need anything else at this time. Look forward to seeing you both at Thanksgiving!

Life Lessons We Learned from Our Father, Willard McRoberts

Willard McRoberts married into the Felts family on December 23rd, 1954 and remained married to my mother, Inez Felts for the next 53 years. Along the way they raised two daughters, Lois and Shirley and instilled values to live by and life lessons to take out into the world. Sadly, we lost him this past summer but his life lessons still echo in our daily lives.

Our parents approached life very differently from each other; I suppose that is where opposites attract. Our mother came from a family of planners; our father didn't worry about things that had not happened yet. Willard took life in stride, the good with the bad and always lived in the moment. He always presented a quiet strength in the face of adversity; accepted what he could not change but moved forward in life never letting circumstances define him. I would like to think that the service to his country in the United States Army, combat veteran in the Korean War taught him those values. Live in the moment and make your own happiness; enjoy the simple pleasures.

Willard instilled a love of music in his children and grandson, Bryan Rogers. While we may not have agreed on all genres, he exposed his daughters to the local culture of bluegrass and old time music frequently sharing stories and memories of the songs that were the soundtrack of his life. I am pretty sure that he was welcomed into heaven to a jam session in progress with Grandpa Andy (McRoberts) and Grandpa Rat; if an instrument had strings he could play it. Lessons learned; dance and sing while you can because the music will eventually stop.

Willard loved nature and spent years as beekeeper to a small apiary with hives of varying numbers from year to year. As a result he and my mother would put up a vegetable garden yearly to give the bees plants for pollination as well as beautiful ornamental beds our mother cultivated from heirloom seeds or starts of plants from our maternal grandmother (anyone who knew Lula Felts would attest that she could plant a dead stick and have a forest the next week). The lesson Lois and I learned from the bees is if you take care of the land and God's small creatures you will be rewarded for your stewardship. Cultivate relationships in life the way you cultivate a garden and you will find yourself surrounded by beautiful blooms while you weather life's storms.

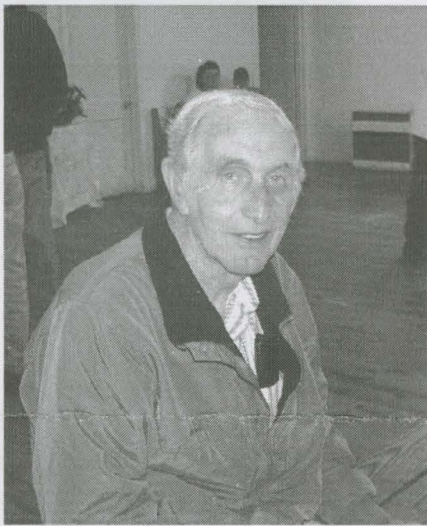
Willard and Inez are missed by all who love them, but their legacy lives on in their children. Their legacy includes a fierce love of family, accountability of actions and helping someone when you are able. You may never know when your random act of kindness may change a life or an attitude; sometimes it may even be your own.

While Willard and Inez have moved on to their reward of eternal rest; they are still teaching life lessons to Lois, Bryan and I. I hope that as they gaze on us from above that they know we were listening.

Love,
Shirl

NEWS AND PHOTOS FROM THE FELTS-MELTON REUNION 2013

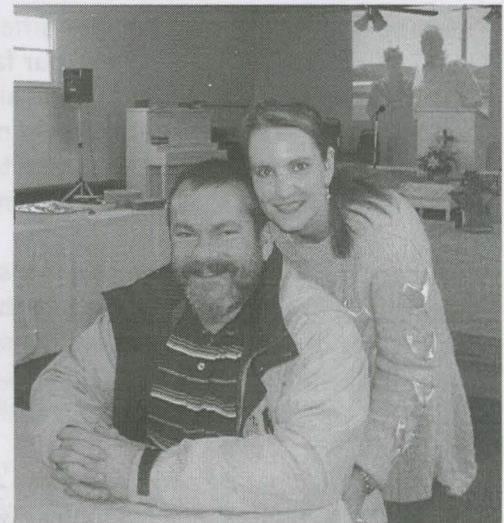
The Reunion was hosted by Shirley Everhart and Lois Rogers at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap.



It was the last reunion for their father, Willard McRoberts.



above: Melvin, James, and Laurie Felts, Lois Rogers and Allen Felts



right: Rodney and Shirley Everhart; a slide show of photos from past reunions is playing in the background.

Felts picks up speed:

Junior WR a quick study for the Golden Eagles

THOMAS SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

By most football standards Surry Central's Casey Felts is considered small. But for what Felts lacks in size, he makes up for with grit, determination and speed.

Felts has been a standout player for the Golden Eagles this season, starting both ways at wide receiver and defensive back. He is the Eagles speed specialist, with the ability to both break, and run down, big plays.

Felts, a junior and member of both Surry Central's wrestling and baseball teams, is in just his fourth year of organized football. In just his second season under his system, Felts has become one of the stalwart pieces for Central coach Monty Southern.

Southern said despite his lightning fast wideout's lack of experience, his make up has allowed Felts to learn the game with the same speed which he brings to the field.

"He didn't play as freshman and he came out last year and caught on really quick," Southern said. "He is just a great athlete. He is probably the best wrestler at our school right now and he is one of the best baseball players. If we had a men's volleyball team or lacrosse team he would be on it. He is kind of one of those kids he just gets it. He sees what he needs to do and he does it. He is very easy to coach."

While Southern sees Felts as one of his teams most athletic and coachable players he knows that he is a player who refuses to quit. Felts agreed and said that because of his lack of size he thinks his best attribute is his heart and desire to win.

"That's just how I grew

up," Felts said. "You don't give up. Even though you're small you have play hard. You have to bring a bigger game when you smaller. I hate to lose. I would give anything not to lose and I will do whatever I can to win."

Felts said his parents Joe and Vicki Felts are his inspiration and raised him to always give his best. He credits them with giving him the tools he needs to be successful on an off the field.

"My dad is one of my heroes because I am about the same size he was when he was in high school and he played here as a defensive back," Felts said. "I really want to be like my dad but I still love my mom too because she is there for me every minute."

Joe Felts had 54 tackles from the cornerback spot on the 1986 Golden Eagles squad. Like his father, Casey is no slouch when it comes to playing defense, showing it by picking up two interceptions against MVC 2A Conference rival North Surry last Monday night.

"It's about even between offense and defense," Felts said. "But it's better to deliver the blow than like on offense when you have to wait on what's happening."

While the Eagles have struggled this season to find their offensive rhythm at times, Felts has provided a bright spot, as his long sprints down the sidelines are something fans and opponents have come to expect.

Both of his scores on the year, a 68 yard touchdown against West Stokes and a 67 yard touchdown against McDowell, have allowed him to show off his breakaway speed. Felts said when he sees the open field, a killer instinct

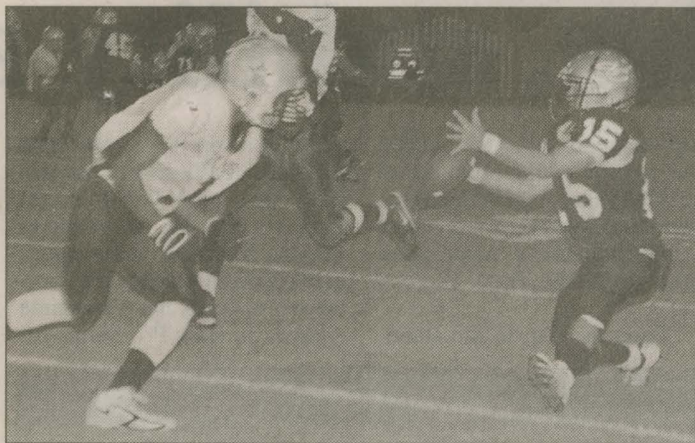


Casey Felts has become a leader and major offensive option for the Surry Central Golden Eagles this season

THOMAS SMITH/THE NEWS

See FELTS page 3B

10-9-2008



THOMAS SMITH/THE NEWS

Casey Felts (15) bears down on a catch against McDowell.

FELTS:

Continued from page 1B

kicks in.

"It's exhilarating (breaking a big play)," Felts said. "Somebody could possibly hit you but when you are running you don't think anyone can catch you.

"When I get down the sidelines and I see open field I just know I am going to get a touchdown. That is just me, that's the way I think. I want to score a touchdown every time I get the ball."

Felts said he considers himself an emerging leader in Central's locker room, but still defers to his senior teammates, like Jared Cave and Brett Boyles, who he says are his teams heart and soul.

However, his coach knows that next year the Eagles will be looking for Felts to step up even more than he has so far and show his teammates what giving their all is all about.

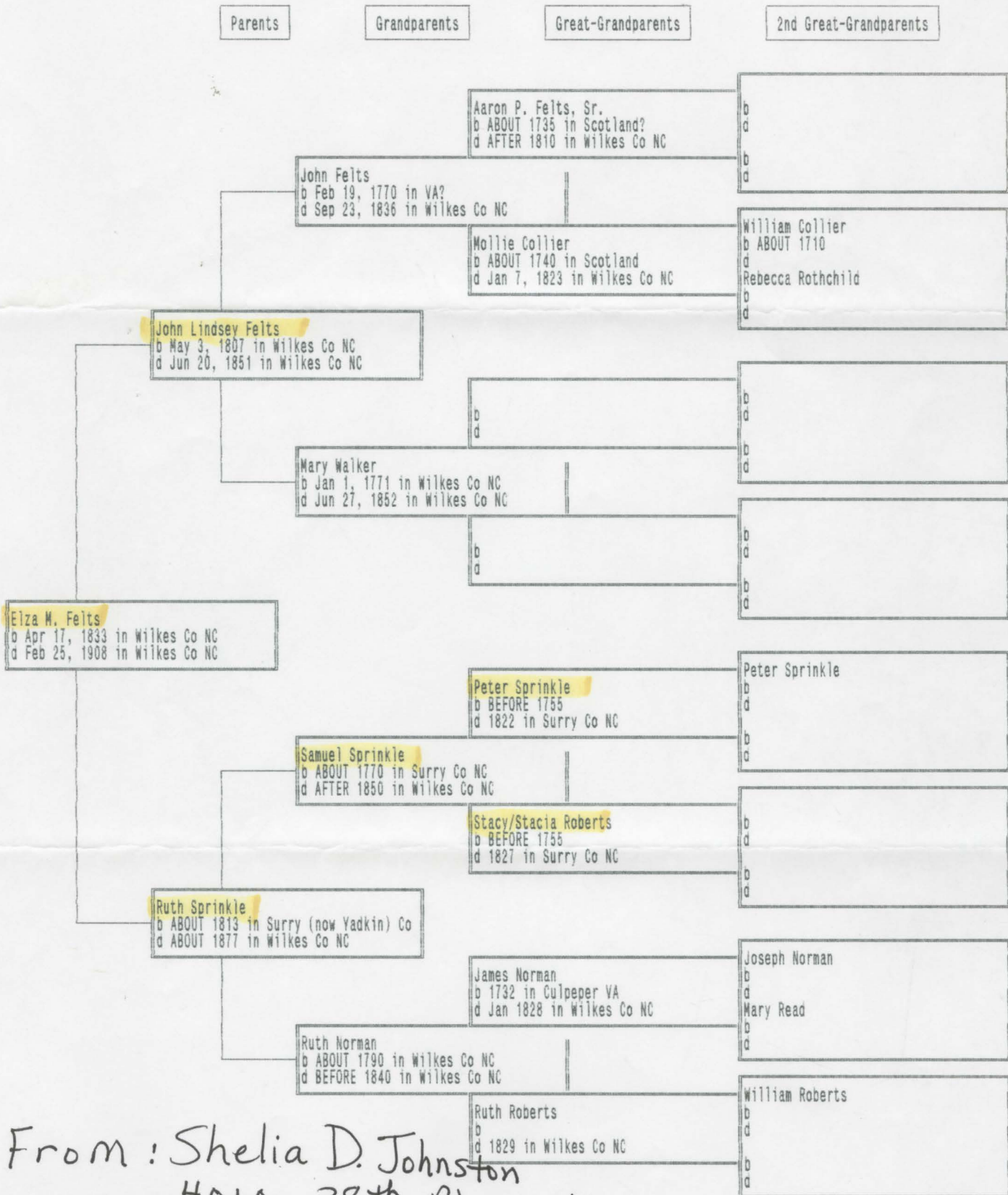
"Everybody is not like that," Southern said. "Some kids have to work a lot harder than others and things they come naturally for Casey."

..... 7 Roberta Patricia Rae Baker 1944 -
 7 Frances Mary Baker 1946 -
 +Jim McLean
 8 Kate McClean
 8 Josh McClean
 8 Molly McClean
 7 Claud Clinton Baker 1951 -
 *2nd Husband of Roberta Sydney Ferguson:
 +Arnold C. Brothers 1909 -
 6 William Thomas Ferguson, Jr. 1918 - 1998
 +Jeanne Breedlove
 7 Roberta Jeanne Ferguson 1943 -
 +Simpson
 7 Joyce Ruth Ferguson 1946 -
 +Young
 7 Sharon Ferguson 1948 -
 +Smith
 7 William Thomas Ferguson III 1957 -
 7 Brian Ferguson 1960 -
 7 Ben Ferguson 1963 -
 6 Verna Elizabeth Ferguson 1922 - 1993
 +Raymond O'Donnell 1922 - 1988
 7 Mike O'Donnell 1947 -
 +Mauvee Demos 1947 -
 8 Thadd O'Donnell 1966 -
 +Tracie Thielen 1968 -
 9 Danielle O'Donnell 1991 -
 9 Seth O'Donnell 1993 -
 8 Casey O'Donnell 1969 -
 8 Jill O'Donnell 1978 -
 7 Mollie O'Donnell 1948 - 1949
 7 Kathy O'Donnell 1949 -
 +Jerry Sikorski 1944 -
 8 Amanda Sikorski 1968 -
 +Randy Tunby 1966 -
 9 Abby Tunby 1994 -
 8 Kristi Sikorski 1970 -
 +Shay Beyers 1963 -
 9 Dalton 1990 -
 7 Dan O'Donnell 1950 -
 +Sandi Johnson 1952 -
 8 Gary O'Donnell 1972 -
 8 Nicky O'Donnell 1977 -
 8 Molly O'Donnell 1980 -
 7 Maureen O'Donnell 1951 -
 +Greg Harbac 1951 -
 8 Hannah Harbac 1981 -
 8 Rose Harbac 1984 -
 7 Nora O'Donnell 1953 - 1988
 +Gary Stevens 1943 -
 7 Beth O'Donnell 1955 -
 +Paul Berger 1954 -
 8 Ryan Berger 1982 -
 8 Sara Berger 1985 -
 8 Cameron Berger 1986 -
 8 Nathan Berger 1988 -
 7 Becky O'Donnell 1957 -
 +Steve Weinert 1955 -
 8 Sean Weinert 1982 -
 8 Carly Weinert 1987 -
 7 Pat O'Donnell 1958 -
 +Tammy Rustad 1959 -
 8 Gina O'Donnell 1981 -
 8 Ashlee O'Donnell 1983 -
 8 Jordan O'Donnell 1987 -
 7 Laurie O'Donnell 1960 -
 +Eric Schilt 1960 -
 8 William Schilt 1991 -
 8 Mariah Schilt 1993 -
 7 Matt O'Donnell 1962 -
 +Brenda Sanders 1963 -
 8 Clancy O'Donnell 1990 -
 8 Brooke O'Donnell 1992 -
 6 Mary Lois Ferguson 1924 -
 +Patrick Murphy 1920 - 1994
 7 Kerry Ann Murphy 1946 -
 +Dick N. Boesiret 1944 -

..... 8 Rene Boesiret
 6 Eleva Elnor Ferguson 1935 -
 +Rodney Siring
 7 Rhonda Siring 1955 -
 7 Rae Lynn Siring 1957 -
 7 Margie Siring 1959 -
 7 Cindy Siring 1961 -
 7 Rodney Siring, Jr. 1967 -
 5 William (Bud) Alfred Golden 1900 - 1960
 +Clara B. Hamer
 5 J.S. Golden 1903 - 1903
 5 Walter Golden 1908 - 1908
 4 Alfred Goldin 1863 - 1942
 +Annie Catherine Day 1875 - 1917
 5 Olive Catherine Golden 1890 - 1992
 +John F. Beall
 5 James Thomas Golden 1893 - 1975
 +Hazel Bebo
 *2nd Wife of James Thomas Golden:
 +Edna Leona Smith 1893 - 1965
 6 James Leland Golden 1914 -
 6 Lewis Corey Golden 1915 - 1999
 +Merle Marie Olson 1915 -
 7 Gwenneth Merle Golden 1937 -
 +Richard Allen Jackson 1933 -
 8 Korey Vern Jackson 1957 -
 +Tana Louise Holcomb 1959 -
 9 Katrina Marie Jackson 1989 -
 9 Mathew Edward Jackson 1993 -
 9 Bethany Louise Jackson 1995 -
 8 Kerry Lewis Jackson 1957 -
 8 Kraig Richard Jackson 1963 -
 7 Gaylon Lewis Golden 1940 -
 6 Anne Leona Golden 1917 -
 5 Ester Althea Golden 1898 -
 +Verne B. Seymour
 5 Alfred Chester (Fred) Golden 1901 - 1983
 +Cora Brandenburg
 5 Verne Day Golden 1904 - 1938
 +Lucille Riley
 5 Lyndon Chester (Bob) Golden 1911 -
 +Evelyn Kemitz
 4 Elizabeth Golding 1864 - 1909
 +Hilary Barker
 5 Early Barker 1888 -
 5 Grover Barker 1889 -
 4 Caladona Golding 1868 - 1945
 +Enoch McDaniel Cox 1866 - 1948
 5 Clarence Cox
 5 Emmett B. Cox 1887 - 1971
 5 Betty Maude Cox 1888 - 1949
 +Guy S. Rector
 5 Lessie Virginia Cox 1897 - 1978
 +Jack Higgins
 5 Sidney Rufus Cox 1902 - 1987
 5 Mattie Lucinda Cox 1904 - 1994
 +Clyde Liddle 1903 - 1977
 6 Dan Alfred Liddle 1927 -
 +Katherine Graf 1925 -
 7 Barbara Jean Liddle 1951 -
 7 Dan William Liddle 1953 -
 7 David Allen 1957 -
 6 Clyde Burton Liddle 1930 -
 +Barbara Ann Graham 1933 -
 7 Shawn Burton Liddle 1959 -
 7 Stacey Ann 1961 - 1961
 7 Kelley Ann 1963 -
 6 Walter Franklin (Buddy) Liddle 1938 -
 +Carol Swadener 1941 -
 7 Shelly R. Liddle 1962 -
 7 Rhonda R. Liddle 1963 -
 7 Kevin L. Liddle 1965 - 1980
 7 Kurt A. Liddle 1968 -
 5 Addie Mae Cox 1907 - 1972
 5 Golden D. Cox 1909 - 1954
 5 Jessie Grace Cox 1915 -
 +James Cooley

Linda Ferguson

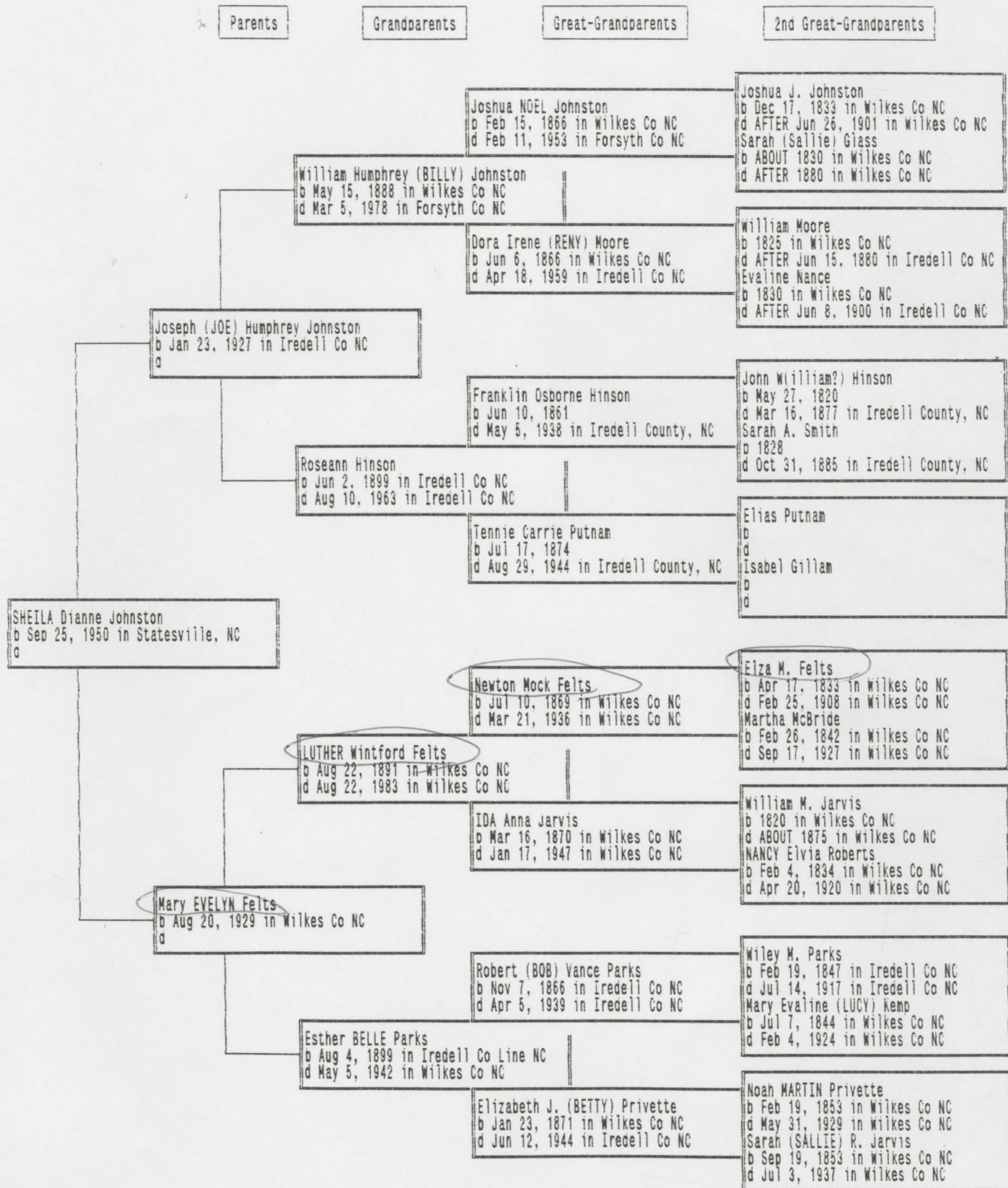
Ancestors of Elza M. Felts



From : Shelia D. Johnston
 4010 38th Place N.
 Arlington, VA 22207

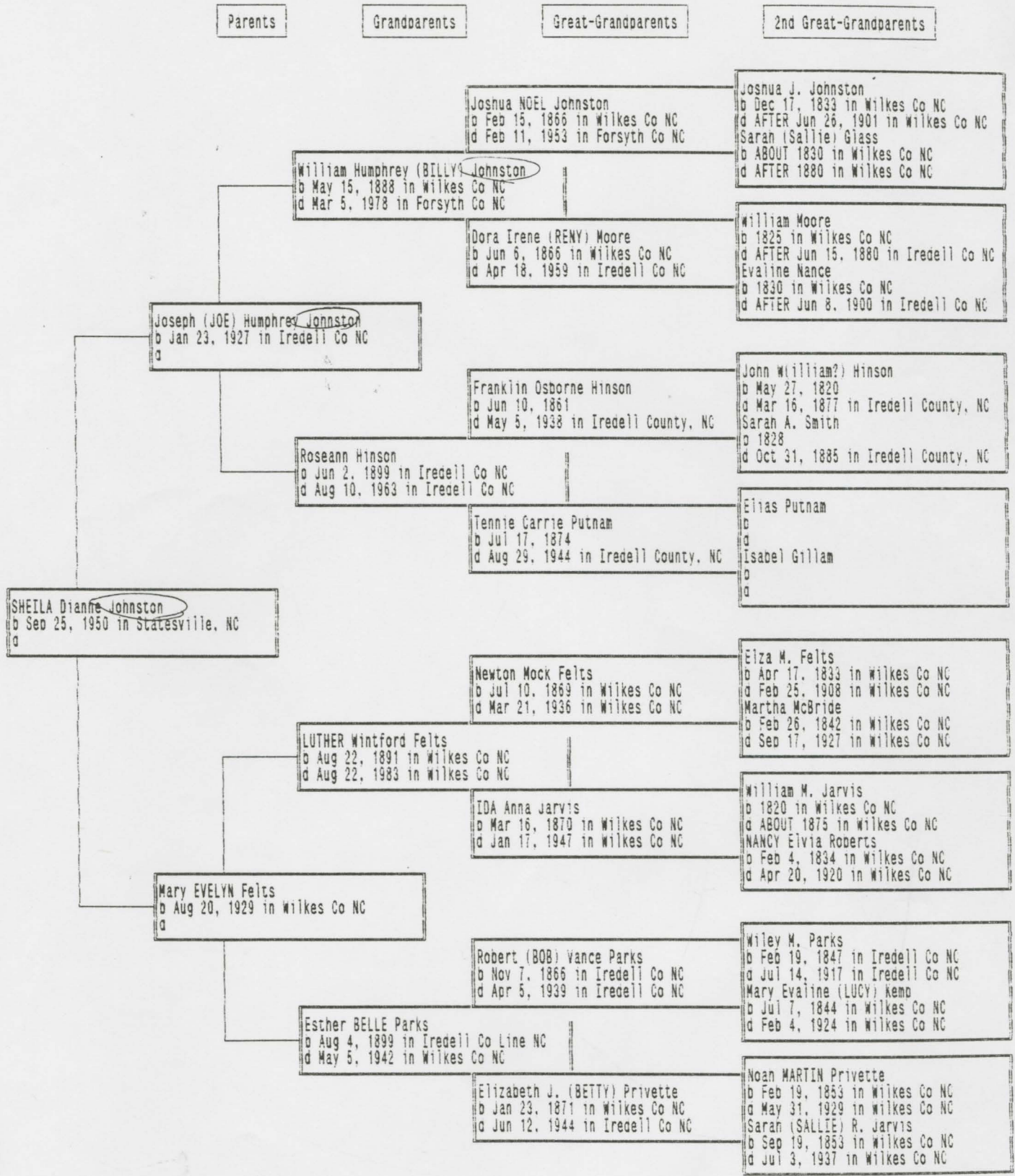
FROM: Shelia D. Johnston
 4010-38th Place N.
 Arlington, VA 22207

Ancestors of Sheila Dianne Johnston



FROM: Shelia D. Johnston
 4010-38th Place N.
 Arlington, VA 22207

Ancestors of Sheila Dianne Johnston



the
Felts-Melton
family

OLD TIMES AND NEW
fall – winter 2000 - 2001

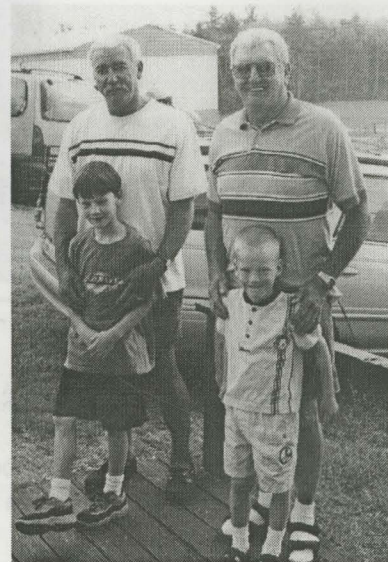
The Felts-Melton reunion 2000 was held May 7 at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap, VA. 82 people signed in. If you know of someone who wants to receive this newsletter but missed the reunion or didn't sign in, please call or e-mail Melvin Felts at (540) 238-1921 m&dfelts@tcia.net

The reunion is being held on the first Sunday in May. This year's reunion turned out to be a beautiful sunny day. It featured a covered dish dinner, a quilt show arranged by Inez McRoberts, and live music by the Laurel Fork Travelers. Melvin and Dea Felts are managing the reunion. We would like to encourage everyone to bring old photos, handwork, and heirlooms for display.

Put the 2001 reunion on your calendar for Sunday May 6.



above
Troy Galyean, Elray Felts, Hallie Hall, Elvin Felts, Sadie Harris
right
Tommy and Coy (Billy) Hawks
children are Raven Hawks and Jeremiah Hawks



Snapshots from 2000

more photos inside



**A scene that many of us remember:
packing tomatoes**

Vauda, Heymon, and T.R. Felts
children: Clinton, Elray, Ila Faye, and Elvin Felts

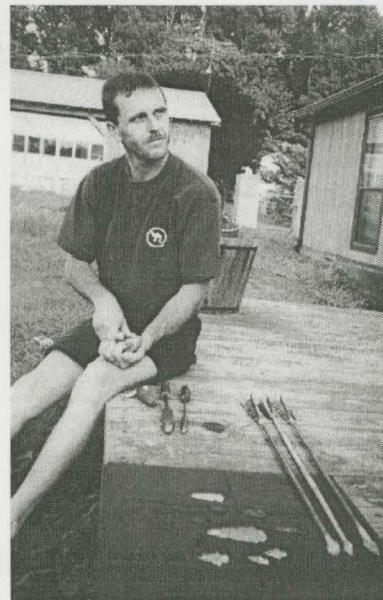
photo from the late '40's

We'll do this NEWSLETTER whenever we have enough material to put in it. That means *contributions* from you! Old or new photos, recipes, remembrances – whatever can be printed and shared. We can shrink and crop photos but we are not using color. We would like to feature some of the younger people whenever we do a newsletter, so that cousins might get to know each other. We'll need a photo and a short article.

Allen Felts

Allen, my middle son, lives at Laurel Fork beside his wife Lora's parents and his son and daughter-in-law Travis and Marlana. Allen and Lora have worked together at National Textiles (formerly Hanes and Sara Lee) in Galax for 21 years. They are active in the Crooked Oak Baptist Church. Allen keeps a variety of farm animals and enjoys hunting and all outdoor activities. In this picture he is showing some arrowheads he made. Photography is another one of Allen's hobbies. He takes a lot of wildlife pictures, and he took the reunion pictures that are in this newsletter. Allen and Lora helped us to get started researching the Felts genealogy.

Melvin Felts



Inez's German Chocolate Upside Down Cake

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup coconut | 1 stick margarine |
| 1 cup chopped pecans | 8 oz cream cheese |
| 1 box German Chocolate cake mix | 1 lb confectionary sugar |

Spread coconut and pecans evenly in greased 13x9x2 pan. Mix cake mix by directions on box. Pour in pan. Combine margarine, cheese, and sugar. Thin it with milk if needed, so it spoons easily, and spoon over cake. Bake at 350 for 50 to 60 min or until done. Keep it in the refrigerator.

Inez Felts McRoberts



the

Felts-Melton

family

OLD TIMES AND NEW

newsletter #2

spring 2001

This springhouse sits on the old Crawford Felts farm on Crooked Creek, Road 620.

It's time to put the 2001 reunion on your calendar for Sunday May 6.

The reunion will be at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap, starting at 11:30 AM. From I-77 take VA Exit 8 or from US 52 take Road 148. Just west of I-77, take Road 778; it will be the first state road going north. The building is 1/2 mile on the right.

We'll have live music and a covered dish dinner. Please bring pictures and family items to show.

We have enjoyed putting together this newsletter and will try to do it whenever we have enough stories to make up a few pages. Our thanks to Robin Felts and Lois Rogers for contributing to this issue. Please contact us if you have something you would like to share.

*Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333
phone (540) 238-1921
e-mail mdfelts@tcia.net*

Agnes Felts Stoneman passed away Jan. 25, 2001 at the age of 58. She is survived by her daughter Jolene Huckabee and brother Joe Felts. She was the daughter of Deck and Louvinie Felts.

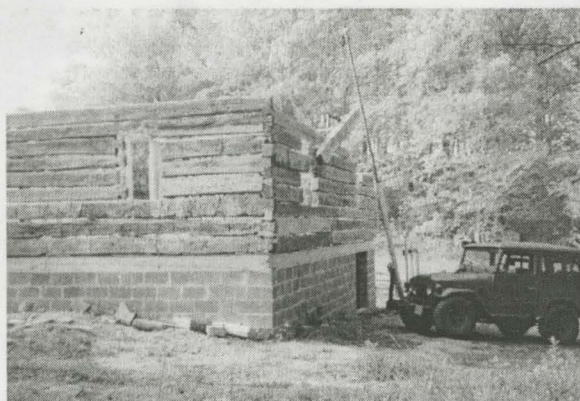
Luke A. Neal, infant twin son of Jennifer Felts and John Neal, was stillborn Sept. 10, 2000. He was a great-grandson of Melvin Felts. His brothers are Levi (twin) and Matthew Neal.



Mystery Photos

We are trying to represent both early and later generations in the newsletter. Can you identify these two young people? You will find their names in the stories. The answers are at the bottom of page 3.

Lois Rogers is the daughter of Inez Felts McRoberts and granddaughter of T.R. and Lula Felts. She teaches kindergarten at Galax Elementary School. Lois and her husband Frank live in the Coal Creek community, just across the Grayson County line. This is her story of building their log cabin.

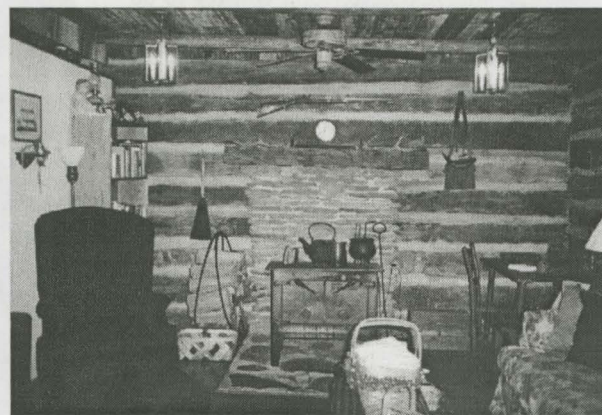
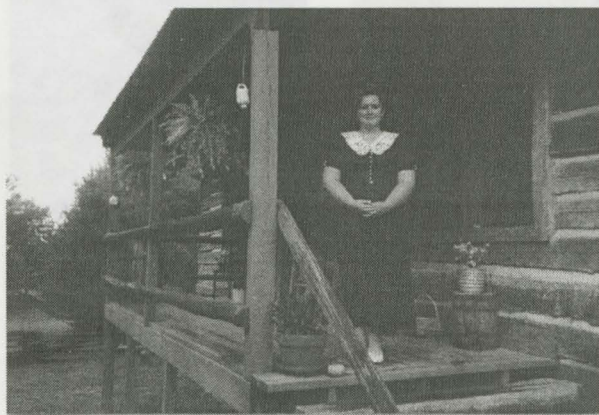


Before Frank and I married in April of 1993, we sat down and drew up the plans for the house we were planning to build together. We were dreaming of building an authentic little log cabin, but were afraid we wouldn't be able to find the logs we wanted. We placed an ad in The Thrifty Nickel wanting to buy logs. A man from the Raleigh-Durham area called wanting to sell two hand-hewn oak tobacco barns his grandfather had built in 1902. The logs were in great condition, but we were still afraid we wouldn't have enough logs to complete the house.

The next problem? How were we going to get these logs up by ourselves? Mom and Dad gave us our two acres as a wedding present. With the family working together, we managed to clear the land and lay the basement despite the fact that Frank was recuperating from a cracked vertebra in his back. But...the logs were just too heavy to lift. Dad and Frank finally devised a plan to rig up a boom on the front of the Land Cruiser and cable it off to the back. Then, we would run the cable from the wench over a pulley wheel at the top of the boom to lift and lower the logs in place. Finally, the last log went on, and we ended up with 3 logs left over.

It took over a year of us working on it in our spare time and after work each day, but we finally finished our little log cabin in the woods.

Lois Rogers



A Neighborhood Blacksmith Shop and Grist Mill

Can you figure this out?

A couple of miles west of Fancy Gap on Road 608, Bob Hawks ran a blacksmith shop and grist mill. We got axes up-set and maticks sharpened, and we got our corn ground there too. The mill was only for corn. It was powered by a Model T Ford engine. It would take maybe an hour for our corn to be ground. Bob would be at work at the forge, and while I was waiting for the corn, I would turn the crank for him, which operated the blower for the forge. I never knew we were any relation.

Luemma Hawks was Bob Hawks's mother. After I started working on the family history, I found out that Luemma's maiden name was Melton and that she was Albert Melton's sister. Albert Melton was

married to Lillie Felts, my grandpa Lloyd Felts's sister. Luemma's father James was a brother to Elisha Melton, who was married to Martha Felts. Martha was Theodore Felts's sister, and Theodore was my great-great grandpa. Also, Elisha's grandson Eldridge Melton married Minnie Felts, another one of Lloyd's sisters. Finally, Leonard Melton, the son of Eldridge's brother Steve, married my sister Gladys Felts.

by Melvin Felts

Me and Ina

by Robin Felts



Ina Hawks Felts

The first time that I ever met Ina Felts was in the summer of 1982, at R.J. Campground. Russell and I went camping for the first time together. I had never been camping before and I was a little nervous, but Ina welcomed me into the family and we became friends that day. I packed the camper that week but I forgot to pack the salt. Ina said that she had some in her camper so she gave me a salt and pepper shaker and told me to always keep it in the camper.

That same summer we went to the Galax Fiddlers' Convention, Ina was there also. We stayed the whole week and we camped side by side. We would have the camper doors facing one another. During the day we would go to uptown Galax to shop. Ina took me in every store that we could find. We had the time of our lives. Ina could flatfoot too. Her dancing was kind of like a Charleston. She wouldn't dance in front of anybody, but around at a jam session where there wasn't very many people, me and her would cut a rug. Callie (my daughter) danced with her too.

Ina and me loved to garden. Ina would always have such a big garden and she would can everything. She taught me how to can, and if I didn't know how to do something she would help me and show me how. She loved potato salad. Every year when we would get together for the Fiddlers' Convention we would fix potato salad. One summer Ina would bring her garden potatoes and I would bring my homemade pickles, and the next summer we would bring the opposite. We would make a big bowl of potato salad and half it. We would end up eating it up to 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning while we would listen to the music. Ina taught me a lot of things: sewing, canning, crafts and how to believe in the good Lord above. She always taught me how to put God first in your life and He will show you the way, and she was right.

Ina didn't believe in sewing on Sundays. She would come to visit and stay Saturday and Sunday and leave late Sunday evening. We would go to the Flea Market on Saturday and make things on the sewing machine also. If we were not finished by Sunday she would let me finish up the sewing and she wouldn't leave until everything was finished. If by chance the sewing machine messed up, she would have me get a case knife and she would work with it until she had it running like a brand new one, and it would work wonderful until the next time that she came to visit.

Ina always said that if you had too much of something like flowers or food to always share with your friends and family, and yours will multiply. I have always shared things since she told me this, and I have learned that was the truth.

When Ina told me that she was sick I asked her if she was afraid to die, and she said "No, I'll be able to go home and be with my Father in Heaven and I'll be able to hold my baby again." Ina Felts was a light in this world and when she went to Heaven part of that flame went out, but the rest burns brighter than before because she is still in my heart.

I love you Ina!

Robin is married to Russell Felts, son of Heath and Callie Combs Felts. Robin and Russell live at Spencer, VA.



Answers to Mystery Photos: (left) Ina Hawks, about 16 years old; (right) Callie Felts, Robin's daughter, graduating from high school in 2001

Ina's Recipe for Potato Salad

9 medium potatoes cut in small chunks, boil till tender and drain
3 eggs, hard boiled and diced
2 tablespoons vinegar
3 tablespoons sugar
6 heaping tablespoons mayonnaise
Season with butter, salt, pepper to taste. Use pickles and onions as desired, more the better. Mix sugar, vinegar, and mayonnaise and pour over potatoes after cool. Add a little cream if wanted for moisture.

FANCY GAP YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Garbage

I was thinking about the big bags the garbage collectors have to pick up every week, or else people have to haul them to the landfill. In earlier times, we didn't have garbage. We had a slop bucket for the pigs, where we put all our table left-overs. There was no packaging from anything we bought. There were no bottles or metal cans, since we grew our own food and we didn't drink pop, we drank milk or coffee. An occasional paper bag went in the stove for fire building. The newspaper or Sears catalog was used in the outhouse or for making a fire. The feed sacks were usually printed cloth which Mom made dresses out of. The sacks came out in different prints and were very popular for making clothes.

Old worn-out shoes and items such as old bicycle parts and junk that wouldn't burn would be put in a washed out gully. Usually people would put dams across the gully with rock so that the rains would fill the gully with sand or dirt and the trash would get covered up and not wash farther downstream.

I don't remember my mother ever throwing out any store-bought thing or anything anybody gave her. In later years when more things were bought at the store, she would save plastic milk jugs; dozens of them still hung in the storage building when she died. Dad never took anything to the landfill in his life.

Melvin Felts

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

27050-9780 02



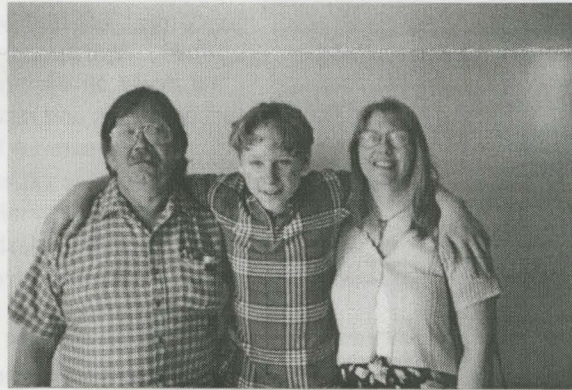
the Felts - Melton family

OLD TIMES AND NEW
newsletter #3 summer 2001

Reunion 2001 had close to 100 people signing in. We appreciate your support and the increase in donations over last year. A highlight of the reunion was the formal picture of Thomas and Eliza Felts brought by Betty Voigt. A duplicate of this photo, in its oval frame, hung in Lloyd and Frances Felts' house for many years but later got burnt up in a house fire. Betty also brought a bonnet belonging to Eliza. We have a lot of good photos from this year's reunion, taken by Allen Felts and Dea Felts. We will display them at the next reunion. We would like for anyone else who took pictures to bring their favorites.

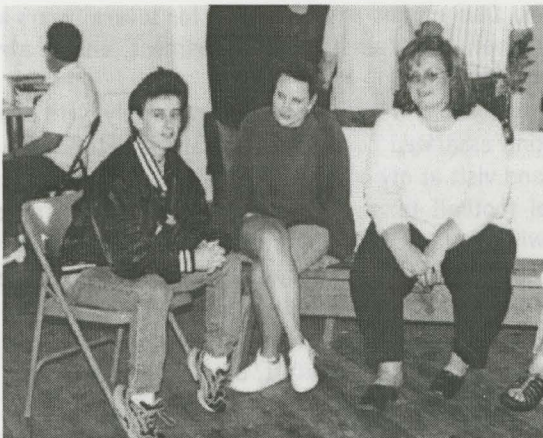


**Rudolph Testerman, Robert and Betty Voigt,
Melvin Felts and Gladys Felts**



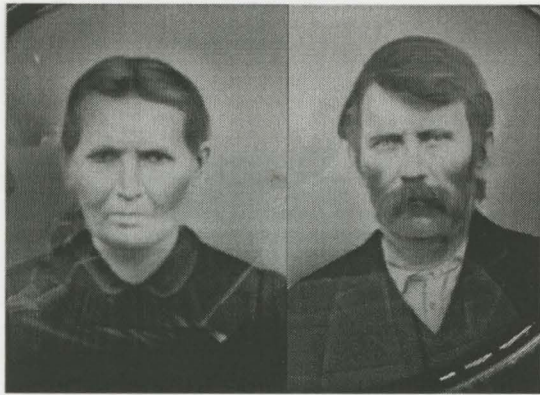
Joe Felts, Christopher Huckabee, Jolene Huckabee

**near right:
Angela Goings,
Shirley Everhart,
Lois Rogers**



**far right:
young people at
Reunion 2001**



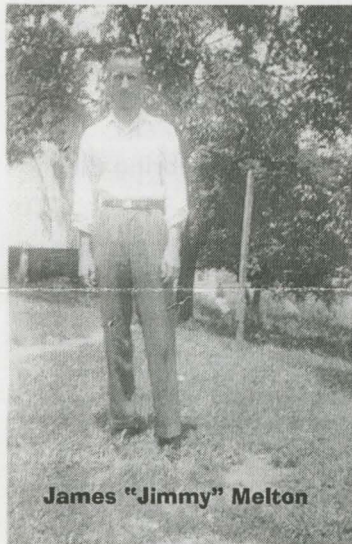


above:
Eliza Edwards Felts and Thomas Felts



right:
Mystery Photo (answers on page 4)

James Edward Melton



James "Jimmy" Melton

Sara Melton Sumner sent this story about her father, the son of Eldridge and Minnie Felts Melton.

James Edward Melton, my father, was born on Christmas Day 1932; "a Christmas gift!" is how he was described to his nine brothers and sisters at that time, and he was indeed a gift to many people during his life. Jim was the son of William Eldridge and Minnie (Felts) Melton, and was born in Carroll County, Virginia. The family moved around several times during his childhood, between Carroll, Wythe, and Pulaski Counties. The family's most permanent home was "the house on Eighth Street" in Pulaski. Here is where my dad spent his high school years, and received his degree from Pulaski High School in 1954.

He entered the Navy shortly after high school, and seems to have had many enjoyable experiences there: he learned to swim; he went to Scotland and Cuba; he saw a whale in the waters of the Caribbean. But after four years, he came back to Pulaski and shortly afterward met my mom, Juanita Meadows, when they were introduced by a mutual friend. Six months later, they were engaged, and they married in June of 1958. They moved to Baltimore,

Maryland, where Jim got a job at Bethlehem Steel and Juanita worked as a legal secretary. They lived in a neighborhood with many other young couples, and they all got to be friends. They convinced Mom and Dad to go out dancing some evenings, and reportedly, they would do the Jitterbug and the Polka in those days! They never demonstrated these skills to me, however.

I was born in 1964; I am their only child. When I was two, Dad took a job at Radford Arsenal, and we moved back to Pulaski, and then later to Dublin. Dad worked at the Arsenal for several years in air conditioning and refrigeration; later he moved to Radford University's Maintenance Department, also in air conditioning and refrigeration, and he eventually became the Foreman there.

Dad retired in 1994, and enjoyed the two years of his retirement immensely. He always enjoyed trout fishing, and his fishing time and stream-scouting escalated considerably after his retirement, as did his flower and vegetable gardening (he would also come and visit at my house and help me with *my* gardening!). He was a great fan of the Pulaski County High School football team, the Cougars, and seldom missed a game or a supporter event. Dad also spent a lot of time with his large family--he was one of eleven children, and had quite a few nieces and nephews. Every year his family gathers for a reunion at Claytor Lake State Park, and every year for many years, my Dad and his youngest brother Robert Melton would go to the park in the wee hours of the morning on the day of the reunion, get everything set up, and get started making a huge breakfast for anyone who would come out early. For many years I didn't go to the breakfast, but finally I decided I would manage to get myself out of bed for it, and I'm glad I did, since it was quite a production! Dad and my Uncle Bobby just worked themselves to death cooking over hot grills making tenderloin, bacon, apples, biscuits and gravy--all the decadent breakfast foods you can imagine. I cooked up the scrambled eggs in the background one year, but I

was pretty much of a flunky: they did all the work. Lots of relatives came to fill their plates--all of our Mt. Airy contingent would be there--but Dad and my uncle just kept cooking until everyone had as much as they could eat. The morning began to get warm, and by the time they finished they were red as beets from standing over fires and grills! But I believe they always enjoyed it, and it meant a lot to them, I think, to do for everyone in that way. The funny thing is that there would be lunch a little later, and no one from the "breakfast crew" ever felt like eating. But there was always plenty, just in case.

There is of course still plenty at the Melton reunion, and it is still a nice day. But it is a slightly sad occasion now for me, my Mom, and my husband David, because my Dad passed away suddenly in December of 1996, just a few days before his sixty-fourth birthday. We always remember how he enjoyed the day, and how he would cook, and how he loved that breakfast. But we also try to remember that he would want us to go and to enjoy ourselves, and have a good time with his family, as he always did. His family always meant so much to him, and he was very close to all of his brothers and sisters. He is sadly missed, but we were so lucky to have him as our "gift" for many years.

One final note: I'm very sorry that Dad never saw the Felts-Melton newsletter; family-oriented publication that it is, it would have tickled him pink! It's only appropriate, then, for me to tell his story here.



Willa Dean and Herman

told to Melvin and Dea Felts, June 2001

Herman Felts

Richard, my daddy, and his brothers were always produce men. They worked for Lawrence Melton, Daddy's nephew. We'd go way down south and up north on the produce routes. Our home at Fancy Gap was called the Wilburn Morris place, and that's where we did our farming. On some days at dinner time, we'd sit down under an apple tree and Etta (my sister) and Mama would bring us dinner in a basket. On the days that we did go to the house for dinner, Popi always liked to take a short nap after lunch. The kids would go in the bedrooms and lay down on the floor -- you didn't dare get on the beds during the day. Popi would take a little nap with his chair back, and then all of a sudden, "Let's go back to work young-uns". And so we'd get up and go back out in the fields again.

Everybody'd come and visit everybody. When the radio first came out, we'd go to Ike Snow's and listen to the Grand Old Opry and hear Uncle Dave Macon and all them. We'd go over at Uncle Lloyd's and stay all day, and especially to Uncle Eldridge and Aunt Minnie's. They would all get together on Sundays and play ball and eat and have a big time. We went to school at Ivy Hill. We'd get out there in the woods and build us a cabin, we'd cut green leaves and ivies and have us a shed to stay in where it was cool. We'd play there all the time, at recesses and during lunch hour.

My wife Estes and I were living in Burlington during the 1940's. I was working for Uncle Benny Felts. Popi sent word that there was a place for sale at Fancy Gap, 13 acres. We moved there and I worked at Hercules, the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, and worked in produce during the lay-offs, with Lawrence and Jeff Melton. It would take an hour each way, to go to Radford, and the time it would take to get ready, we said it'd take 12 hours to make 8. Roy Martin (Popi's brother-in-law) and I built the house there at Fancy Gap. That's where Willa Dean grew up and that's the place that she has now.

Herman, Elzie, Annie Ruth, and Willa Dean at Reunion 2001





Willa Dean Felts

Mommy (Estes) worked at the hosiery mill, and Daddy (Herman) was at Radford. It's really something what all these people did years ago. They would get up at 4 or 5 o'clock and milk the cows and be at their public job by 7 or 8 o'clock. Then they would come back home at 4 or 5 in the afternoon and go out and milk the cows again. Then they would go to the garden and stay in the garden until it was black and they couldn't see.

I was an only child. Mommy died in 1965, when I was 12 years old and she was 39. She lived 2 years after being diagnosed with breast cancer, and my daddy raised me. That's why Daddy and I have a special bond, because he's been my dad and my mother both. I was working at Barkers (formerly Sprague Electric) in Hillsville when my cancer came along in 1993. I'll soon be an 8-year survivor. I was unable to work after having the breast surgery. My arm would not let me do the competitive working. I got my disability in 1997. Since then, I've organized all my pictures, writing down who the people are. I've had time to do more of what I love to do. I love to sew. I got that from my mom. I made 3 or 4 prom dresses this year. I make my own clothes and also sew for other people.

I got married when I was 17. I should have listened to my daddy, but I didn't listen. So I had a marriage of 16 years and then it all ended. I have two children, Brian and Jennifer. She's 21 and he's 23. Brian is married and works in Kernersville as a mechanic. Jennifer has worked at Kentucky Derby Hosiery since she was 16. She plans on going to Radford in August. She wants to get her masters degree in psychology, study criminal justice.

Daddy and I get out and listen to music together. Sometimes on Sundays we go to Poor Farmer's Farm or Mabry's Mill. Daddy still does a garden, and we do the canning together. We canned a hundred and something cans of beans last year. Daddy does my yard work, and we do gardening together. We keep each other busy.

Answers to mystery photo: Eldridge and Minnie Felts Melton and children. The children are Ila, Myrtle, Gladys (on Eldridge's lap), Grace (on Minnie's lap), and Mae. The photo was sent to us by Sara Melton-Sumner.

We will get up another newsletter when we get some stories from you, the readers. Till then....Melvin and Dea

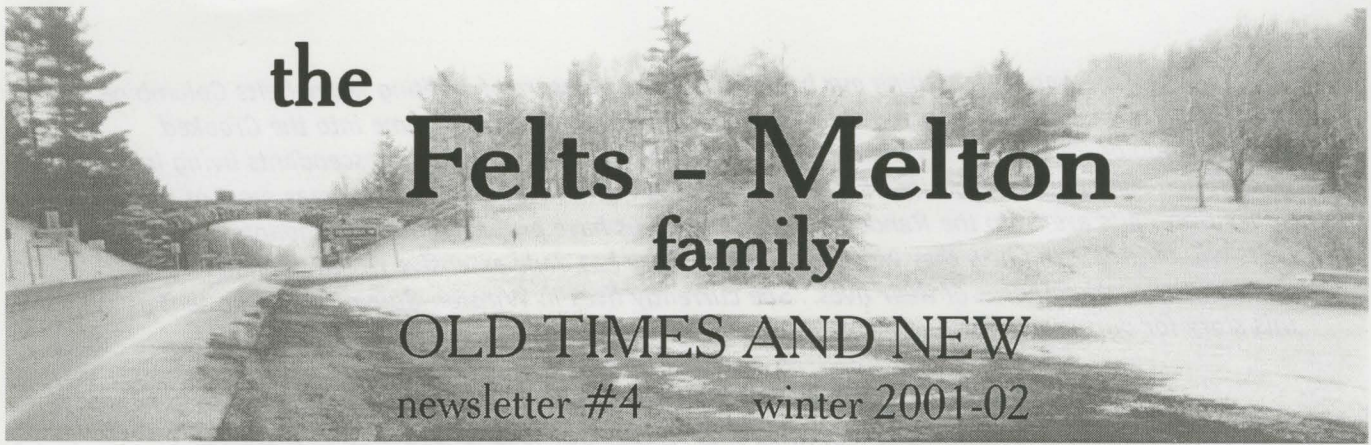
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the Felts - Melton family

OLD TIMES AND NEW
newsletter #4 winter 2001-02

The Parkway bridge at Fancy Gap

Christmas Greetings to all of our families and best wishes for the New Year!

We'll look for you all at the next reunion, Sunday May 5, 2002, at Ruben's Red Lantern.

We have two stories for you in this issue. One is from Mary Felts Columbine, a descendent of Joshua Felts, and one is from the family of Pauline Surratt, who passed away last summer. We hope to hear from you, the readers of the Newsletter, so that we can share some more stories and keep up with family news.

Pauline Felts Surratt (1926- 2001)

We lost a vigorous senior member of our family on June 19, 2001. Bearing a serious heart condition for many years, Pauline attended all of our family events, bringing food she had prepared herself and displaying an eagerness to meet everyone present. As the oldest of T.R. and Lula's children, she contributed the lead section to our family book, "The Felts Family of Fancy Gap, VA", © 2000, telling stories of family, neighbors, and the changes in mountain life that she experienced as she grew older.

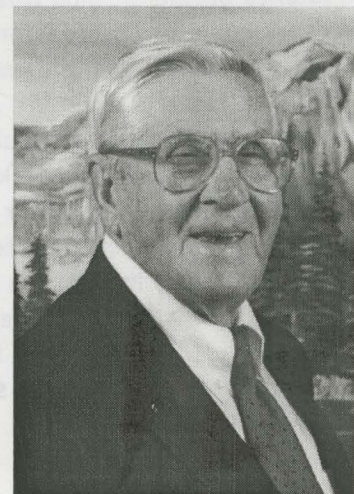
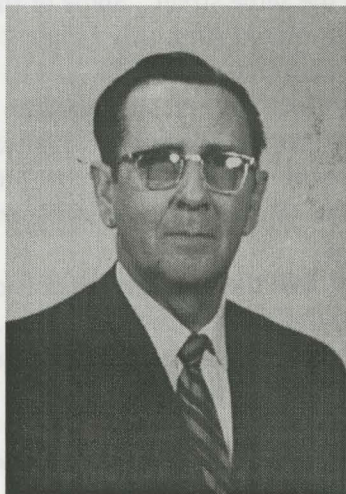
Pauline is survived by her second husband, Donald Surratt, two children, Coy (Billy) and Tommy Hawks, 3 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Several of her descendants have made a contribution to this issue of the Newsletter by participating in a family story-telling.

George Moore, 71, a grandson of Lou Emma Melton Hawks, died July 14, 2001. A Carroll County native, he died in Dorchester, South Carolina. He was preceded in death by his parents, Porter and Cora Hawks Moore.



Faces you might remember:

*Lillie Felts Melton
and sons
Guy Melton and
Jeff Melton*



While we were researching our book we had the pleasure of meeting Mary Felts Columbine, who is a descendant of our pioneer ancestor Crawford Felts. Crawford came into the Crooked Creek section of Carroll County about 1809, and all three of his sons have descendants living in Carroll and surrounding counties. Mary Columbine is from the Joshua line whereas most of the Fancy Gap Felts are from the Randolph line. Some of us have probably met descendants of Joshua Felts without realizing how they were connected. Mary has done extensive research on her Felts line and the circumstances of their lives. She currently lives in Winston-Salem, NC. She sent us this story for our newsletter.

THE FELTS OF SURRY COUNTY, NC

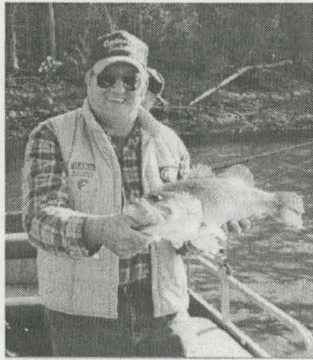
The pioneer Crawford Felts had three sons, Randolph, Jordon, and Joshua Felts. Joshua is my line and I am recording some of his children. Two of Joshua's daughters, Elizabeth and Charity, married men from northwest Surry County, NC and they settled in Surry just west of Piper's Gap Road. Their brother Iredell, called Ira, later married Sintha Normon of northwest Surry County, NC but they lived in Carroll County, VA, between Pipers Gap and Woodlawn. Sometime between 1880 and 1900 Ira died when a tree he was cutting fell on him. When he did not come in for supper, Sintha went to see about him and found him dying. Ira was buried in the cemetery at Crooked Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Carroll County, VA. In the Surry County, NC marriage records there is a marriage license for Ira's son Washington Monroe in 1892. His mother Sintha's name is on the document. In the Surry County, NC census for 1900 I found Sintha and her children Joshua, James, and Eliza. They were married to Surry County people before 1900. Washington Monroe moved to Cana, VA where his wife's people were. At one time he was the pastor at the Blue Ridge Chapel in Carroll County, VA. Sintha and her three married children were living on Pipers Gap Road in 1900. A neighbor told in 1929 that the Felts were tenant farmers. She said that they were poor and pitiful during those years. James, Joshua, and Eliza married into the Phillips family and they were all bunched up along Pipers Gap to the old Fancy Gap road where old John Phillips owned a farm.

James is my grandfather. Before March of 1916 he was the tenant farmer for the widow Roberta Martin at Cana, VA. He was living there in 1916 when Jack Allen was killed in Widow Martin's house. The tenant house was on the back side of the farm and a dark path through the woods led to it. I do not know how long they lived there, but I found them in Mount Airy records in the winter of 1931-1932. James Felts died in April, 1925 of pneumonia but his widow was there with her children. They lived on Galloway Street which is off Main Street at the Dry Bridge. James' brother Joshua was on the same street. Some of the half grown children of James were working in furniture factories in Mount Airy. My father Roy Felts married Ethel Webb of Cana, VA, Oct. 1928, and they were also on Galloway St. in 1931-1932. Joshua, the son of Ira and Sintha, worked at the Mt. Airy Rock Quarry. His children remained in that area, but about 1940 James' children moved south of town a little east of Highway 52 and Rockford Street. One moved and five others followed like a herd of cattle. From 1900 til 1948 they lived near each other as if they were afraid to scatter apart. Mostly they worked in mills and factories. They were thrifty hard working people and honest.

James and Joshua Felts told their families that Thomas Felts of Galax, Virginia was their cousin. He was a detective, they said. It appears that old Joshua, Randolph, and Jordon were brothers. Melvin and Dea Felts found land records with these three names indicating that they were related and were the sons of Crawford Felts.

*Best Wishes,
Mary Felts Columbine
204 Union St
Winston Salem N.C 27127*

On Nov. 20 Melvin and I spent an evening with Coy (Billy) and Geneva Hawks, their daughter Angie Goings, and her son Jeremiah. Coy is the son of Pauline Felts Hawks Surratt. I will let them talk to you in their own words from the tape we made of the interview. Dea Felts



Coy I like to fish. I travel all over North Carolina and into Virginia. The primary lakes that I fish are Lake Hickory, Lake Norman, and Lake Jordan in NC, and Claytor Lake and Smith Mountain Lake in VA. I bass fish. I like it better because they're hard to catch, and because I don't like snakes. I don't like rambling around in creeks and down in the bushes and stuff. I fish from a boat. I've got a twenty-foot pontoon boat I fish off of. I use strictly artificial bait, no live bait of any kind. I've caught three 8 pounders and two or three 7 pounders. I turn them back. I don't keep any. If I go out on Saturday afternoon, if I get to the lake around 3 or 4 o'clock and I fish till 1:30 or 2 in the morning, and I drive home, it takes an hour and a half or two hours to get home, I don't clean no fish.

Now Geneva's brother, he keeps about all he catches. When he catches them, somebody eats them. He catches crappie, bass, trout. But I just mainly bass fish. Once in a while I'll catch a crappie or something on a bass lure.

I filet them and roll them in cornmeal and flour, salt and pepper. When you wash them, roll them in it while they're still damp, and then fry them in butter. Geneva fries them in oil, but I think if you fry them in butter they're better.

I'm going to teach Jeremy how to fish next year; he'll be old enough. He's fished with me some. I hooked a couple down at Lake Norman and let him wind them in.

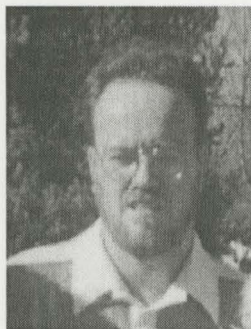
I work at North Carolina Foam. That's in Mt. Airy. February will be 17 years. I help cut foam rubber for mattresses, cushions, and stuff like that.

Geneva I clean houses. Housekeeper, I guess, is what they usually call me.

I like to go to flea markets and collect modern tins, like Hershey and M&M, Crayolas, and Life Savers. I also collect tea pots and cookie jars. I probably have about a thousand. I've been doing this about three or four years. I have three or four bookcases full, and downstairs they're just everywhere.

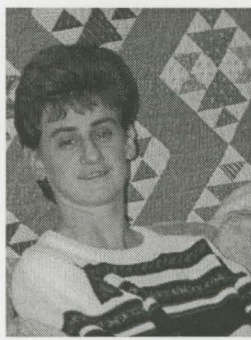
I enjoy going to church. I go with my brother, Rev. Randy Rippey; he's an evangelist. I like going to different churches.

Our children are Adam, age 35, and Angie, age 32.



Talking about Adam Adam was always taking toys apart, and TV's, VCR's, radios. He just had a mind of his own what he was going to do. After a while he started putting radios and stuff back together. And then people would start bringing him stuff to fix.

He was always fascinated with electricity. He took two plug-ins, like lamp plug-ins, and crossed them and plugged them in the wall. He welded them together before it threw the breaker. He was sitting on the floor just laughing. He was about three. When he was in middle school he was interested in mathematics. He liked working with anything that was a challenge. In high school, he and some of his friends would work several weeks on a problem, didn't get any credits for it in school or anything. Just a problem that nobody knew the answer to, so they started trying to solve it. He got his college degree at UNC Charlotte. Then he went to work for IBM. He started out as a programmer, then he was a program systems analyst. In other words, if you bought a program from IBM and put it in your computer and it wouldn't work, then he'd take it apart and find out why it wouldn't work, and make it work. He's a troubleshooter right now. He's working in Charlotte, NC.



I think our readers who have worked in factories and on assembly lines and suffered from tendonitis and other injuries will be interested in Angie's description of her work conditions. DF

Angie I work at ASMO Appalachian Corporation in Mt. Airy. It's owned by the Japanese. We build power window motors for cars. I do all the jobs on the line. We have to rotate every hour. You do one job for an hour and then you do something else. And they make you exercise at every break. That cuts down on injuries, like tendonitis and carpal tunnel. That's a very big issue with the Japanese. If they think the exercises we're doing are not working, they'll change them. At ASMO if they think you have carpal tunnel or anything like that, when you go to the doctor, the plant nurse goes with you. They try to work with you. If you're disabled for a while, they'll give you light duty until the doctors say you can go back to the line. They just let you work so many hours on the line, and then for so many hours you do light duty, until the doctors say OK, you can go back to work full time. They feel like a healthy employee is a good employee. They want to keep everybody working and healthy because they know if you're not, you're not going to be there. The Japanese are really safe conscious. Every machine has a safety device on it. There's absolutely no way to get your fingers hung in any of those machines. We've got one machine you can get hurt on, and they changed the design on it four times trying to figure out how to make it safe. And every machine has Plexiglas over it to keep you from getting your fingers and hands inside the machines. I know the reason ASMO is like that is because all the insurance is paid out of the company's pocket, like our health insurance and workmen's comp. They're self-insured.

Besides work, I like to go shopping. I collect eagles. Models, plates, and things. I take Jeremiah with me. He likes cars and trucks.

Jeremiah I'm six. I like to play with my legos. I'm in first grade. I like playing in the playground. I like to write. I make up stories. I like drawing and coloring. I like trucks. Monster trucks.

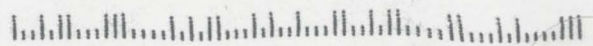


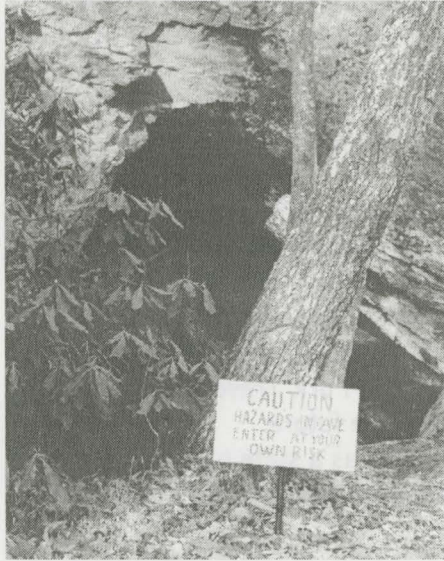
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Main entrance to the Devil's Den

The Felts-Melton Family

Newsletter #5

Spring 2002

The 2002 REUNION will soon be here! Put Sunday May 5 on your calendar now!

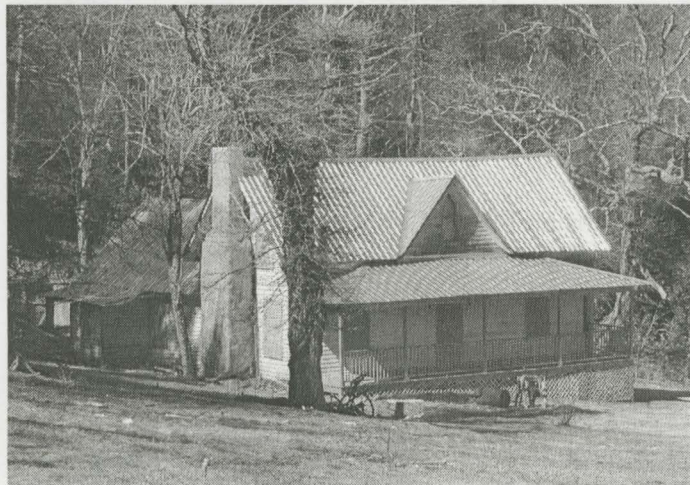
The reunion is held the first Sunday in May at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap, starting at 11:00 AM. From I-77 take VA Exit 8 or from US 52 take Road 148. Just west of I-77, take Road 778; it will be the first state road going north. The building is ½ mile on the right.

Live music

Covered dish dinner

Bring family pictures to share

We appreciate all the support that the families have given us for our work in promoting the reunion. We are looking forward to seeing everybody again this year. *Melvin and Dea Felts (276) 238-1921*



This photo of the Bob Harris house was taken in March of 2002. The house is located about two miles west of Fancy Gap just off Route 608.

The Devil's Den and Robert (Bob) Harris house were just across the hill from us when we were growing up at Fancy Gap. The property, which includes about 300 acres, has been donated to the county under the condition that it will be developed as a park. My sisters Faye and Inez are working with the committee to restore the house and make the Devil's Den accessible to the public.

Melvin Felts

Devil's Den Acres

The Devil's Den is a cave in the side of Fancy Gap Mountain. When I was growing up we lived on the next hill, about a mile from the Harris farm. Daddy used to tell us about the cave. He said there was a ladder which led down into the cave which is now gone, and inside the cave there was a huge rock with a flat top and it was called the Devil's Table. In one place he said you could throw a rock and hear it hit water at the bottom. The Devil's Den is said to have been a drawing card for over a hundred years. During or after the Allen Tragedy it was said the Allen gang hid in the cave, as the terrain was an accessible passage up and down the mountain, and that the Felts detectives and others stormed the cave but the Allen gang had escaped. I have heard about the Devil's Den all my life but I had never been to it until May of 2000.

Also on this land was the Harris house, owned by Bob and Rowena Harris. They were said to be one of the richest families in Fancy Gap. Robert Harris bought the land from John Morris on July 21, 1890 and built their house down in the valley soon after that. The house is fairly original to its construction design and still in fairly good shape. When John Morris owned the land he had bought three slaves to whom he gave a home after the Civil War. Two of the slaves and a traveler are said to be buried on the land with a pile of rock marking their graves. At one time there was a hotel on the property operated by John Morris and Jim Mitchell. Also there are several different trails on the land for hikers.

The land is to be used for cultural and intellectual purposes as a state park. Dan, Faye, and Inez are serving on the advisory board and enlisting volunteers. Some of the plans for the future are to name the plants on the property, clear the land of brush (no trees are to be cut), improve the trail to the cave, make the cave accessible to enter, build a picnic shelter, erect signs, make benches for the trails, and also make an overlook facing the North Carolina side. The house is to be restored as it could qualify as an historical site. We had a picnic and fall walk in October. Music at the picnic was provided by the Laurel Fork Travelers, and Donald Wayne Hawks led three groups to the cave. We have plans for more activities in the future.

We need lots of volunteers to enlist their time so we can see this developed as a state park and everyone can enjoy it. Anyone can come to our meetings and express their interest and tell what they may be able to do.

by Faye Felts Williams

We were at the Devil's Den Acres Park yesterday, Feb. 2, 2002, and as I looked out over the field to the southwest, I could see the Harris homestead. Many years ago my Uncle Dexter and Aunt Louvina lived in the tenant house below the farmhouse; they were caretakers for Mr. Harris.

I would go with my father to visit them, and sometimes they would be at the Harris house. The Harris house was one of the finest homes in the community at that time. I remember as you entered the house, on the left was the parlor. It was furnished with antique furniture, but in the left corner of the room there was a big piano. I remember this because I wanted to play the piano real bad but was afraid to ask. The fireplace was in the center of the left wall. The walls had wallpaper and the floor was covered with carpet. Not many houses had wallpaper or carpet at that time.

I had heard of the Devil's Den Cave all my life. When I was ten years old I went with my brother and sisters to see it. There were big rocks and a hole for a door. You could go inside into big rooms. I don't know much about the cave, just things I have heard my father and grandfather and brothers talk about.

Two years ago the estate was deeded to trustees to make a park.

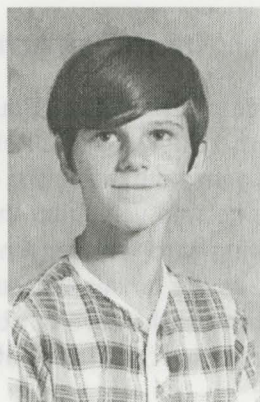
I have been working with the committee to get something going for spring. Our goals are to open trails for walking and nature, improve the trail to the cave, build a picnic shelter, place benches at overlooks into the Piedmont, and erect all our signs.

We hope to have all this done by the time the park opens on the first of May. The public is invited to visit the park. The committee plans to restore the house to its original state as funds permit. We would like to use the house for a visitor center in the future.

by Inez Felts McRoberts



Mystery Photos
answers on page 4



Allen and Travis Felts

Allen Felts is my middle son, born in 1959. He is married to Lora Nester. Their son Travis married Marlana Gravley in April 1999 and they had their first baby last year, my great-grandson. Melvin Felts



Allen Felts

Allen:

I live in Meadows of Dan on a 30-acre farm, my wife Lora's home place. The land joins the Blue Ridge Parkway. The farm originally belonged to the Terrys, Lora's grandparents. Now part of the land is being rented out, but at least 20 acres of it is wooded, and we use it for hunting. We live in a double-wide beside Lora's parents' house, and Travis and Marlana have their own house trailer up by the road. Travis and Marlana's son Dylan was born last August, our first grandchild.

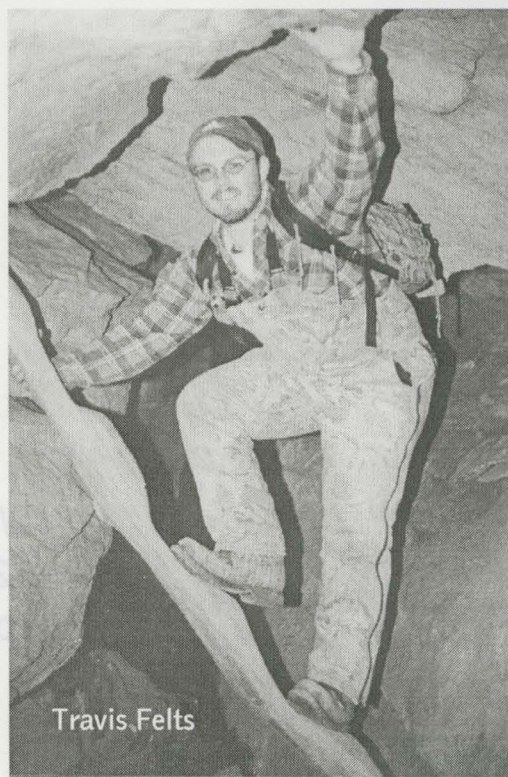
Allen and Travis will tell you about their life out in the country and some of the things they enjoy doing together.

Our house is right near our woods, which connects into a large wooded area, probably several hundred acres. We've seen signs of bear. Travis saw one about ten years ago on the back porch. Rush (our blue tick coon hound) got loose and run it. A bear has been eating corn out of our feeder. This last winter we saw where it marked a tree six feet up. They'll reach up as high as they can, putting their mark on a tree, letting the other bears know how tall they are. The neighbors say they've seen some mountain lions. A big black panther ran across the road in front of Lora's car one night.

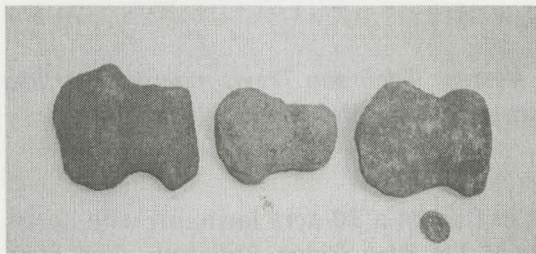
There's a lot of deer. There are four of them that come around all the time. We call one of them Little Foot. Right now she's running with a doe and two younger ones. She'll have her first fawn this summer.

We hunt deer, rabbit, turkeys, coon, pheasant – we like to hunt for everything really. Anything we can eat. Deer, we skin, gut, and field dress it. Then we cook it up at the house. We put some of it in the freezer. It's real good when it's canned or stir-fried. Travis tried making deer jerky. You cut it up in real thin strips and soak it over night. There's a recipe for what all you put in it to soak it. Then you put it in the dehydrator for about 12 hours. It came out really salty, but it didn't go bad.

We fish, and we go frog gigging. We camp and fish down on the New River. We also fish in stocked trout waters and go native trout fishing in small creeks. We get catfish, bass, bluegills, and red-eyes from stocked ponds. We brought some frogs back one night and cooked the frog legs out on the campfire. We've eaten fried grasshoppers, break the back legs off and drop them in a pan of oil. We've caught crawfish. If they die before you get home, you have to throw them out. Get your water boiling and just drop the whole crawfish in alive. Let them boil until they turn red, only about a minute. Then you just eat the tail.



Travis Felts



We like to look for Indian artifacts. This last Friday we went to a place we hadn't been before and found three tomahawk heads, all of a different kind. One is probably a hatchet, and one could be a club. We've found some arrowheads over at Marlana's daddy's place and other places scattered out through the county. We find most arrowheads down around creeks and in low-lying areas, but we found the tomahawks up on a hill. We think the Indians might have been fighting over possession of the hill, but it

could have been just where they lived. A lady who grew up around there found a flat rock about 8 by 10 inches and 1 inch thick, and she said it had grease baked onto it.

We have several ginseng patches. Last summer we moved 54 plants close to the house, well guarded by a dog. We're making more patches, waiting for the plants to get bigger. The dried ginseng root sells for two or three hundred dollars a pound.

The Devil's Den

Allen: I like going in caves. I was in the Devil's Den when I was younger. When they built Interstate 77 it changed it a whole lot. You can't even find one of the entrances now. The Devil's Den was posted for a long time, but now it's not, so we can go in.

Travis: We went in the Devil's Den about a month ago. It's the first natural cave I've been in. Compared to Luray Caverns, it's very rugged and not as clean. You get dirty, and you have to crawl in some places. It's easy to get turned around in there.

Answers to Mystery Photos: left: Inez and Faye Felts; center: Allen Felts; right: Lula Martin Felts (seated) with children Elzie, Etta, Calvin, and Annie Ruth

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333

Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobacoville, NC 27050

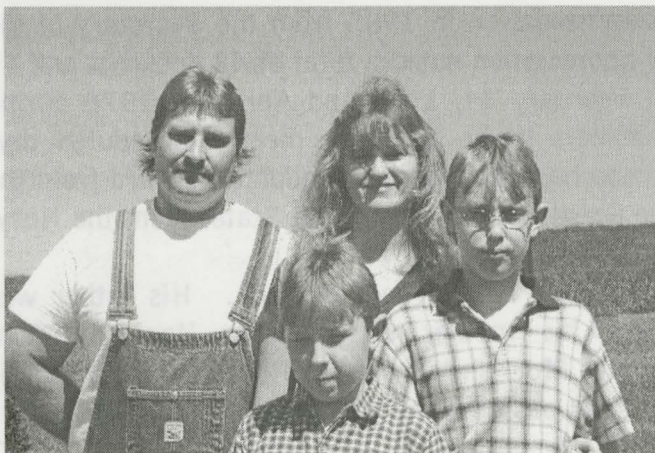




Midway Baptist Church, Iron Ridge; Theodore Felts is buried in the church cemetery.

**In
this
issue:**

Vicki Felts Alderman writes about Carroll County Felts in the Confederacy	Report on the 2002 reunion
Young fiddlers in the family	Swanson Melton
Visiting with Opal Felts Edmonds	



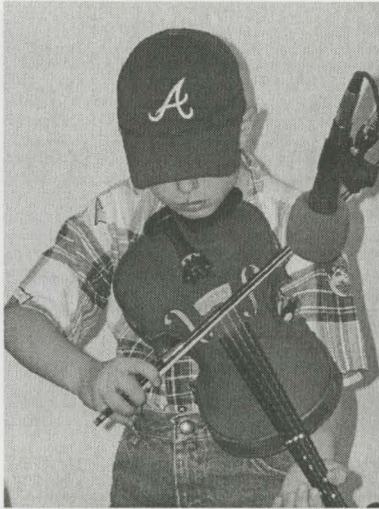
At the reunion, May 5, 2002:

Myrtle and James Melton

Benton Flippin, Andy (playing guitar), Debbie Akers, Virginia Surratt, Annie Ruth Flippin

Danny and Vicki Alderman and their children

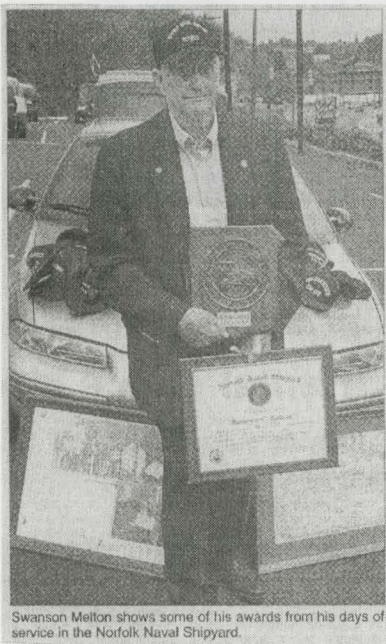
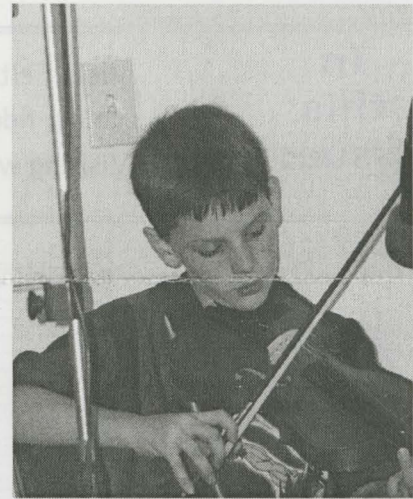
Our May 2002 Reunion featured two young fiddlers in addition to the Benton Flippin Band. They were Cody Thompson, grandson of Dan and Faye Felts Williams, and Raven Hawks, grandson of Tommy and Jane Hawks and great-grandson of Pauline Felts Surratt.



My name is Cody Thompson. I have been interested in music since the age of three when I got to play my guitar on stage, with my grandpa Williams' band, at the Fries fiddler's convention in 1997. The band won second place and let me keep the ribbon which hangs on the wall in my room. My cousin, James Burris, has been a great encouragement to me to learn to play the fiddle because that is what he plays. My family takes me to some area fiddler's conventions and family get-togethers so that I can hear the different kinds of music. My great uncle, Melvin Felts, has been kind enough to teach me a few tunes on the fiddle to help me get started. I'm also interested in learning the banjo someday.

First, my music teacher at school started teaching me how to play the recorder in music class. Later on in the year, we learned how to play the harmonica. Then I signed up to start taking violin lessons at the Andy Griffith Playhouse through the Surry Arts Council. Mr. Vipperman is my violin teacher, I go see him Thursday for two hours. I have one more lesson with him through the Arts Council, then I'm going to start private lessons with him at his shop. My goal is to get good enough to play "Devil Went Down to Georgia."

Raven Hawks
6-23-02



Swanson Melton shows some of his awards from his days of service in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

On the Melton side:

Swanson L. Melton, a regular attendant at our family reunion, was recently recognized in the Galax Gazette (May 6, 2002) in regard to his service at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, VA. As a member of the dry-docking crew, Swanson received the Meritorious Unit Commendation in 1985 from the Secretary of the Navy. The letter of appreciation noted a total of 48 dockings and 40 departures between February 24, 1975 and April 14, 1976 during which the crew members never failed to meet a scheduled dry-docking date. Swanson has also won the Productive Award from the U.S. Senate and the Great Seal of the United States from the Navy. He retired in 1992.

Swanson was raised near Woodlawn, VA. His father was Everette Melton and his mother was Luvada Hanks Melton. Swanson married Violet Morris, daughter of Ross and Elsie Morris of Fancy Gap, VA. Violet passed away on November 6, 1995.

Vicki Felts Alderman and her brother Jerry Felts visited us earlier this year. Jerry is a member of the Sons of the Confederacy. Vicki has done extensive research on the Felts and became interested in the Confederacy because of Theodore's tombstone. Vicki sent us this information on our kinfolk in the Civil War.

FELTS' IN THE CONFEDERACY



Theodore Felts'
tombstone, Midway
Baptist Church cemetery

Carroll County had several of its men to sign up to fight in the Civil War. Our family had seven men to join the four-year war, all but one returned. Five of them fought with the same regiment, which was the FORTY-FIFTH VIRGINIA INFANTRY, Company E. Their names were: James C. Felts, Iradell C. Felts, William H. Felts (all sons of Joshua Felts). Also, Theodore Felts and Thomas C. Felts, they were sons of Randolph Felts. Theodore and Thomas' youngest brother Raleigh also enlisted, he fought with the FIFTY-FIRST VA INFANTRY, Company B. Lastly, Jordan Felts was enlisted with THIRTIETH BATTALION, Company E., the VA SHARPSHOOTERS. Unfortunately, I only have information on the 45th. The roster is complete and very precise and has the following information.

Iraddell C. Felts, (b: 1838, d: after 1880) enlisted on May 27, 1861 at Wytheville, VA. He was promoted to a Corporal in September 1861. He was then captured at Piedmont (Augusta Co. VA) on June 5, 1864 and was taken P.O.W. to Camp Morton. Then he was exchanged on March 4, 1865. He then returned to Carroll County where he remained until his death.

James C. Felts, (b: 1836, d: 1861) enlisted in Wytheville on May 29, 1861. He became sick when the regiment moved from Wytheville on July 12, 1861. He was mortally wounded at Cross Lanes on August 26, 1861. He died the next day at Camp Gauley.

William H. Felts, (b: 1846, d: 1929) enlisted on October 12, 1863 at Liberty Hill. He was captured at Waynesboro on March 2, 1865, and taken P.O.W. to Fort Delaware. He was later released on June 20, 1865. He is described as 5'6" tall, dark hair, brown eyes. He is buried with his family at Blue Ridge Chapel Cemetery.

Thomas C. Felts, (b: 1839, d: 1908) enlisted May 29, 1861 at Wytheville. He was listed as sick in November 1861. He also was captured at Waynesboro on March 2, 1865 and taken P.O.W. to Fort Delaware and released on June 20, 1865. He was described as 5'6" tall, with light hair and blue eyes. He died in Carroll County on February 22, 1908 and is buried at Blue Ridge Chapel Cemetery with his family.

Theodore Felts, (b: 1834, d: 1917) enlisted May 29, 1861 at Camp Gauley. He was shot in the right knee at Cloyd's Mountain in Pulaski on May 9, 1864. He was again wounded, this time in the left leg in a battle at Opequan River, near Winchester on September 19, 1864. He was placed on leave during December 1864. After returning to the war, he was captured at Waynesboro on March 2, 1865. He also was taken P.O.W. to Fort Delaware and released on June 20, 1865. He was described as 5'9" tall, with dark hair and dark eyes. He died in Carroll County on May 13, 1917 and is buried at Midway Baptist Church Cemetery. He was my great great grandfather.

I don't have any military records for Raleigh or Jordan. Although I do have much more information about the 45th Infantry, if anyone would like to learn about the locations and the battles they fought in.

Sincerely,
Vicki Felts Alderman
380 Klondike Road
Galax, VA 24333



Visiting with Opal Felts Edmonds

On April 10 of this year we met Opal Edmonds in Mt. Airy. Opal is the granddaughter of Theodore Felts, one of ten children in her family, and the last one living. Her father was William (Bill) Felts, and her mother was Mallie Gwyn. Theodore died before Opal was born, and Opal did not hear much talk about that family. She just remembers hearing that they came from Germany and Scotland, and that they came to the mountains and made their home.

Opal brought a number of photos of her father and brothers and sisters, taken in the late 1800's or early 1900's. She says, "I was born up there next to the mountain, in Carroll County, up in the Cana section. My family is buried at Flat Ridge Church, in Cana. My daddy helped build the church, in 1924."

Opal's husband was William Wade Edmonds. They have six children. "He was my childhood sweetheart. We worked together, played together. We both was brought up hard. The night we got married we had 25 cents between us."

"I was a tomboy growing up. I had to be, I worked like a boy. I used to go with my brothers squirrel hunting, fox hunting. My daddy, he was a good one. He never whipped me. But when he talked to me I was whipped to death."

Financial Report

Renting the building	\$ 75
Supplies	\$ 43
Band	\$125
Newsletter, 3 issues last year	\$180
Total expenses	\$423
Donations	\$159

Donations were down from last year. Dea and I enjoy working with the reunion and putting together the newsletter. If we did not hire a band or do the newsletter, we would have cleared our expenses. We accept responsibility for the cost, but your financial support will help make it possible for us to continue in the future.

Melvin Felts

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050



the Blue Ridge Parkway at Fancy Gap, ice storm of February 2003

the Felts - Melton family

Newsletter #8 Spring 2003

We look forward to seeing all of you at our reunion this year
Sunday, May 4
starting at 11 AM at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap, VA

From I-77 take VA Exit 8 or from US 52 take Road 148. Just west of I-77, take Road 778; it will be the first state road going north. The building is ½ mile on the right.

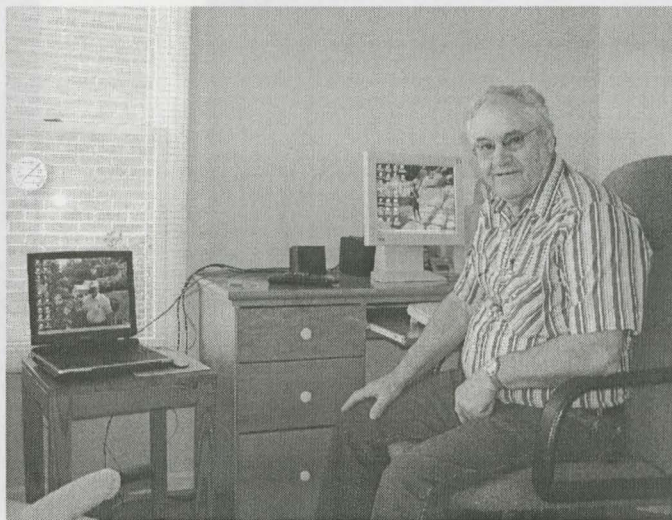
bring family photos and keepsakes

covered dish dinner at noon

After a cold and snowy winter we are seeing the first buds and flowers of spring. Over the last few months indoors, Melvin has made quite a few additions to his genealogy and Dea has been busy with her needlework. Our band, The Laurel Fork Travelers, has a gospel album almost ready to be released.

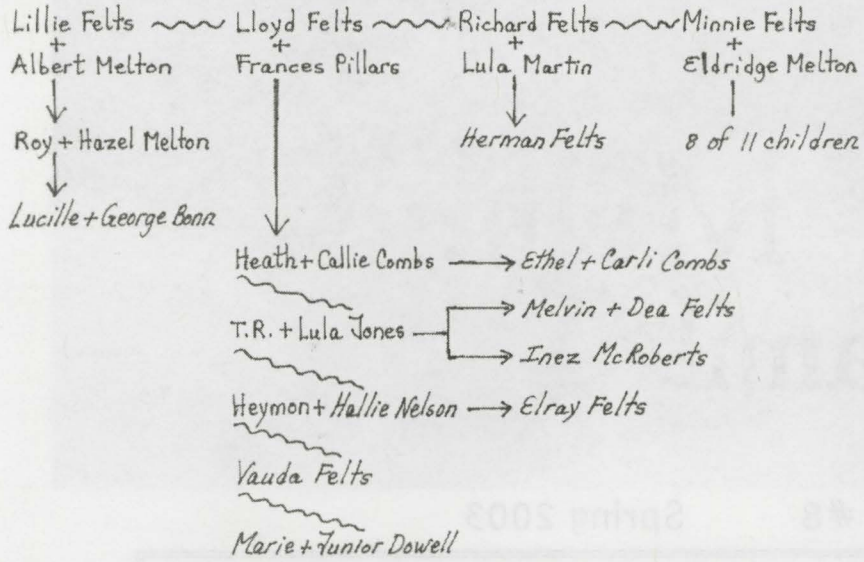
We've taken advantage of our leisure time this winter to make several visits and we want to share with you our photos of family members at home. We hope you enjoy this photo edition of our newsletter.

Melvin and Dea



For information about the reunion or the newsletter, or just to chat, call us at (276) 238-1921 or e-mail us at mdfelts@tcia.net

Pictures in this Newsletter

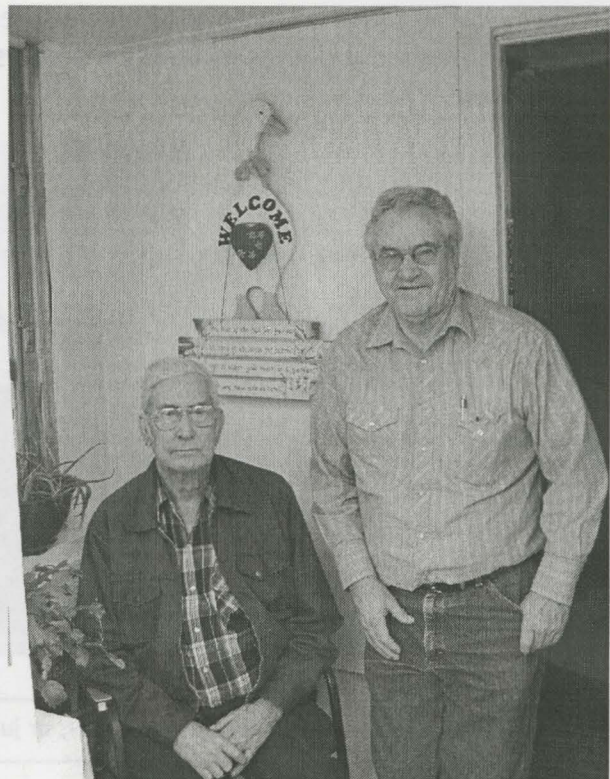


We visited *Hallie* and her son *Elray Felts* at their home at Fancy Gap. The picture was taken on their front porch on a sunny late winter afternoon.



Junior and *Marie Dowell* in the living room of their home on Chantilly Drive, Fancy Gap.

Vauda Felts lives at Mt. Airy, North Carolina. A party was given to celebrate his 87th birthday in March.



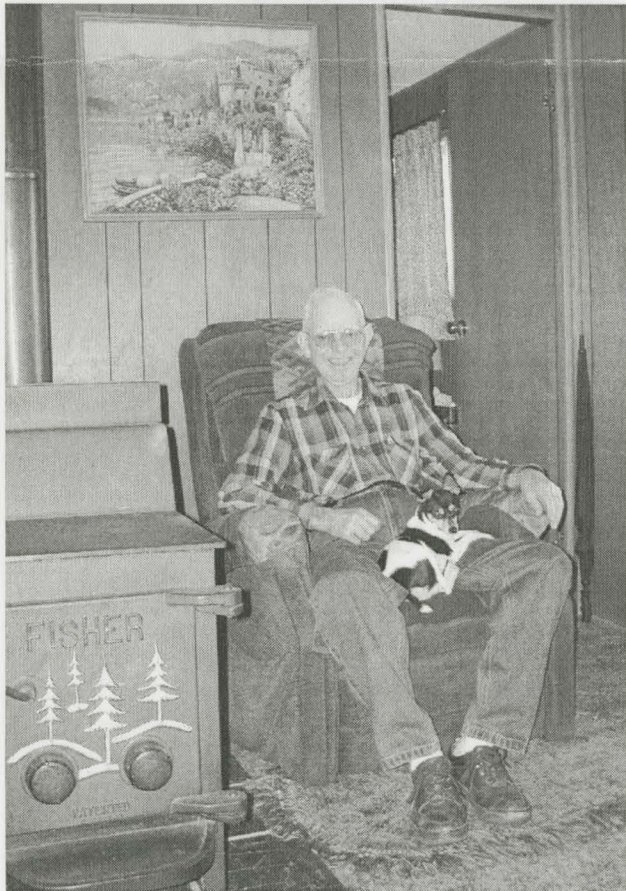


Lucille and George Bonn at home in Galax. Melvin and Lucille found that they remembered a lot of the same people from when they were growing up.

Melvin's cousins Carli and Ethel Combs live at Spencer, VA.

Herman Felts was enjoying the winter with his dog "Little Bit".

Inez McRoberts kept busy with her quilting.



This picture of Minnie and Eldridge Melton's family was sent to us by Sara Melton-Sumner. Our readers may remember Mae, Myrtle, Ila, Gladys, Grace, Gordon, Margaret, Carl, Pauline, Jimmy, and Bobby. Melvin recently talked to Pauline and Carl on the phone.

Melvin has been working on the genealogy of the Hawks lines that connect in with our family. He keeps an eye on the Internet Genforum and he has corresponded with R.J. Felts about the Hawks ancestors. More and more of us turn out to be connected in several ways.

My mother was Lula Jones Felts. Lula's grandmother was Phoebe Crotts Helmstutler. We called her Granny Stuttler. She was the daughter of Jonathan and Louisa Hawks Crotts. Once when I was very young, Mom and Dad and all of us young ones went to Granny Stuttler's birthday dinner. Her home was between Cana and Lambsburg, in the face of the mountain. There was a huge table out in the yard and it was completely full of food. At the dinner she told that this was probably the last birthday she would ever have because she was born on February 29, leap year. She must have been in her early 80's at that time. R.J. Felts' parents were Rosco Felts and Pearlie Jones. Pearlie was Lula's sister, so R.J. is connected to the Hawks just the same way I am.

Sadie, Elvin, and Clinton Felts, my first cousins, are connected to the Hawks through their mother Ina Hawks Felts. We have to go back several generations to connect Ina to Louisa. Abraham Hawks married Nancy Stewart in Surry County, NC in 1786. Abraham's son Thomas was the father of Louisa Hawks. Another son, Abraham Hawks Jr., was the father of William A. Hawks and grandfather of Barnett Hawks. Sanders Hawks was the son of Barnett Hawks and the father of Ina.

Walter Hawks, another of Barnett's sons, was the father of Zetta Hawks. Zetta and Hillman Hawks were the parents of Coy Hawks. Coy was my sister Pauline's first husband and the father of Coy (Billy) and Tommy Hawks.

I'm continuing to collect family photos. I have these photos and many more on my computer in color. If you are interested in a particular photo, I can send it by e-mail. I'm planning to organize my collection and make it available on a CD. If you have ancestor photos, I would like very much for you to bring them to the reunion and let me scan them into my computer.

Melvin

Donations made since the last Newsletter

Carli and Ethel Felts Combs
Frances and Mark Irvin

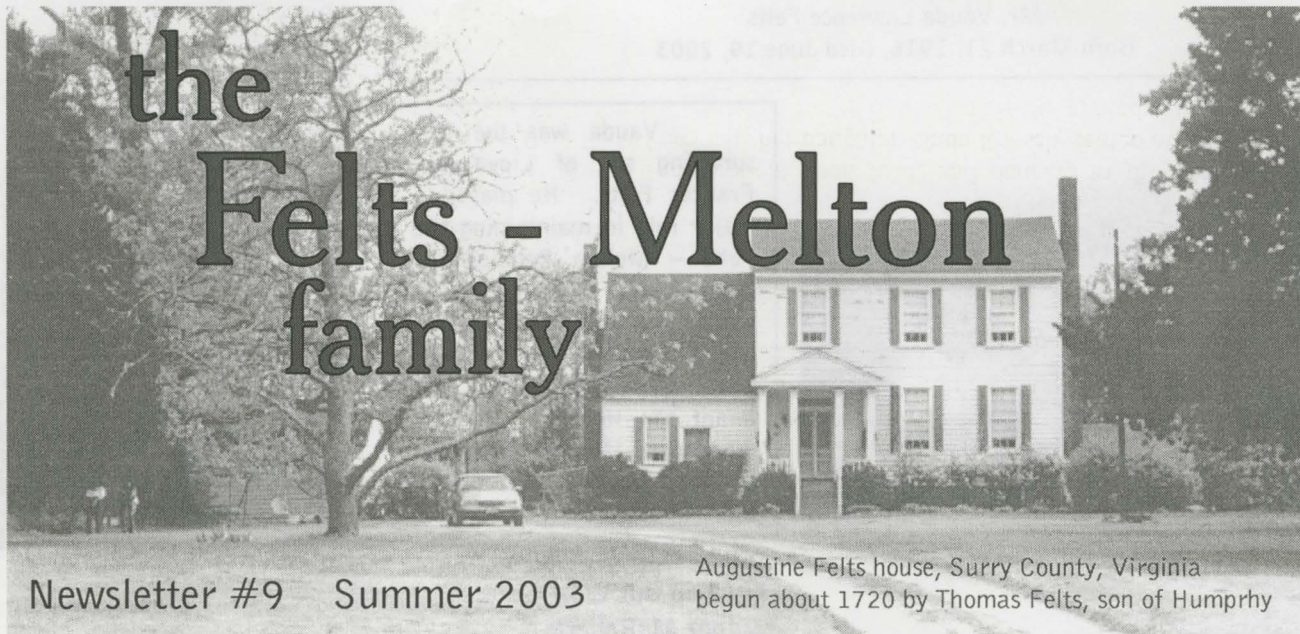
Dave and Sara Melton Sumner
Marie Dowell

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

This picture of Wilma and Ethel's family was sent to us by Dave Melton Sumner. Our readers may remember Mae Myrtle, the bride, Gordon, Margaret, Carl, Pauline, Jimmy, and Betty. Melvin recently talked to Pauline and Carl on the phone.



the Felts - Melton family

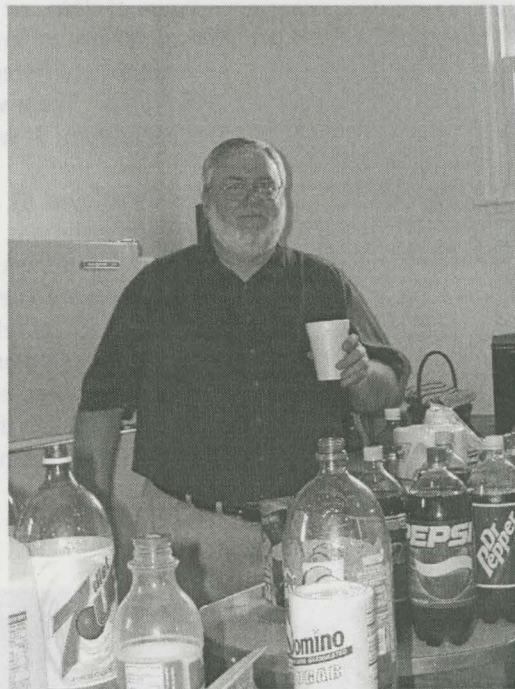
Newsletter #9 Summer 2003

Augustine Felts house, Surry County, Virginia
begun about 1720 by Thomas Felts, son of Humprhy

In this issue:

*Reunion '03 snapshots
The early Felts families in Virginia
an interview with Julian Felts
Vauda Felts 1916 to 2003*

*Melvin and Dea's trip to the quilt show
Inez's trip to Kansas
A visit from historian Ron Hall*

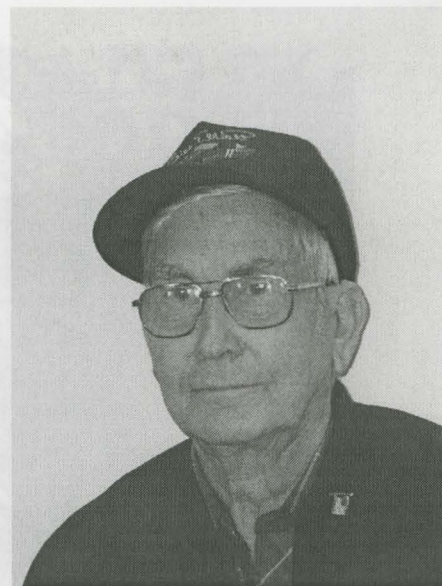


Reunion 2003, a foggy day at Fancy Gap, brought good food, and dancing to the band "Backstep". We had first-time visitors Opal Felts Edmonds, her daughter Linda Raasch, seated at left, and daughter-in-law Norma Edmonds; Elzie Speas is standing to the right. Opal is the granddaughter of Theodore Felts. Her father, William (Bill) Felts, was born in 1855 and died when Opal was 10 years old. Opal lives in Westfield, near Mt. Airy, NC. R.J. Felts, from Raleigh, NC was at the reunion for the first time in many years. R.J. is the son of Rosco and Pearl Jones Felts.

IN MEMORY OF
Mr. Vauda Lawrence Felts
Born March 21, 1916, Died June 19, 2003



Vauda was the last surviving son of Lloyd and Frances Felts. He played a major role in maintaining the Felts – Melton Reunion for many years. His wife Ina passed away in 1989. She was the mother of his children Sadie, Elvin, and Clinton, and infant son Hermet. He was married to Mildred Eaton for the last several years of his life.



My Trip Out West by Inez McRoberts



Barbara La Prod and I had planned a trip to Kansas to visit her daughter, Tina, her son-in-law, Rick, and her grandchildren Cody and Dillon Delks for some time. I was unaware that the travel arrangements Barbara had made would coincide with our family reunion. We had planned to drive out, but our husbands decided that it was not safe for us to make a trip of that great a distance alone, so we took the Greyhound bus. We took the northern route out to Kansas, and after four unexpected layovers, we finally arrived in Kansas City, Missouri. Upon arrival, we learned that our next layover would be *seven* hours! Barbara called Tina, who said, "I am coming to get you." It took her three and a half hours to drive to our location, and we finally made it to Tina's at 3:00 a.m. After a few hours of sleep, we were ready to see the sights.

Kansas is very different from Virginia. The land is flat, and you can see wheat fields for miles. The weather is different as well. We had showers and thunderstorms every night. The days were hot and humid. There were tornados all around our area but none where we were. The land was sparsely populated. It was wide-open spaces. The nearest neighbor was approximately fifteen miles away.

Tina is employed by a co-op in Marion, Kansas. Each day, she allowed Barbara and I to borrow her car while she was at work. Barbara took me someplace different every day. She wanted to show me what Kansas was really like, having lived there for ten years before moving back to

Roanoke, Virginia. The towns were small and everyone knew everyone else. The people were very friendly.

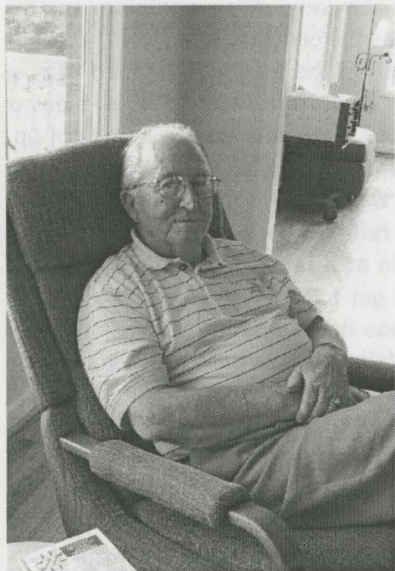
During our stay we also attended various school related functions of which Cody and Dillon were participants. On Sunday afternoon, we went bowling in Newton, Kansas and had dinner at a nice Mexican restaurant.

We left on the ninth of May to return home taking the southern route on the return trip. When we arrived in Jackson, Tennessee, we learned that they had had four tornados in that city in just two days. It looked like a war zone. The buildings that were left standing were heavily damaged, and most of them had been blown away. The State Police had to lead the bus to the bus station.

We didn't have any layovers coming home and even arrived home an hour ahead of schedule. I enjoyed my trip immensely, but I was glad to get back to Virginia.



Tornado damage in Jackson, Tennessee
Kansas flat land



We enjoyed a visit from Julian Felts in May of this year, along with his wife Margaret and his son and daughter-in-law Jay and Anita Felts. Although we were strangers, Julian and Margaret welcomed us to their home when we were researching the early Felts families several years ago. Our guests live in Ivor, VA, near the eastern shore where Felts families first settled in the late 1600's.

We asked Julian to tell how the first Felts settlers might have come to this country and to tell about his own lineage. As he talked, we heard how a lot of history had been woven through the Felts generations. The opportunity to experience history in a personal way has been one of the major rewards of our adventure in genealogy. We think our readers will be interested in this account of the Felts family in America. Those of you who are particularly interested in the Civil War will find a personal story here.

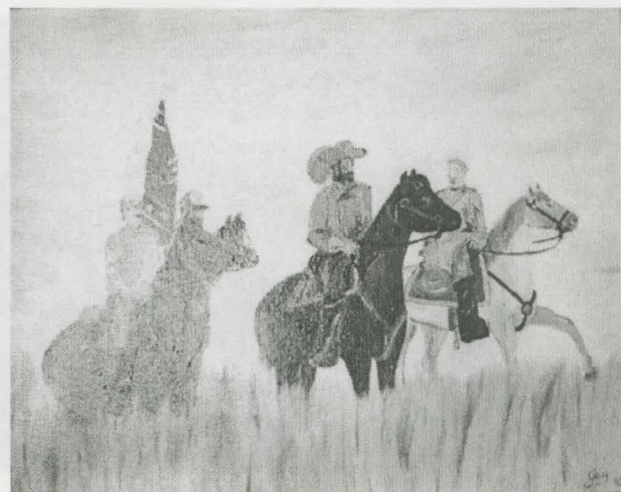
My name is Julian Felts. I was born in Southampton County, Virginia in 1919, and I am the eighth generation down from Humphrey Felts. I started tracing the Felts family about 30 years ago. My father did not know the origin of the name Felts or where they had originally come from. He told me, as his father had told him, that there were three brothers who had come to this country, Thomas, William, and Hump. After visiting the library in the College of William and Mary, I found in the old records that Hump was Humphry Felts. Then from there I went to Surry Courthouse [Surry County in eastern Virginia] and I found Humphry's will, written in 1713. His wife's name was Elener, maiden name unknown. Humphry and Elener had eight sons and one daughter. It appears to me that this is where all the Felts come from in the United States. By following the paper trail, I traced the Felts into Tennessee, and into Warren County (formerly Bute County), North Carolina. And my dad used to tell us about a whole lot of Felts up here in the mountains. He had never known any of them, just knew they were here.

When this country was first settled, there were Crown grants and there were conditional grants. The Crown grants consisted of thousands of acres. They were given to wealthy people by the king of England. A person could receive a conditional grant, maybe 250 acres, on the condition that you work it and improve it. If you do that over a period of years, the government will give you a deed to it. There were a multitude of those grants, given to people with strong backs, so as to develop the country. They went from the 1600's on up to just before the Revolutionary War. Agreements had been made with the Indians. For example, in our county, Southampton County, the Nottoway Indians were given 3600 acres of land along the Nottoway River. They could farm it or do whatever they wanted, but over a period of time, they lost it all. They fished and hunted and lived that way. They weren't used to the work of farming the land. They would borrow on their property until it was taken over.

Humphry could have been a man of some wealth. I don't know that for sure. But I do know that people who were over here could bring other people over here, and then they would get more land granted to them. There was a vast ocean of land, and nobody owned it but the Crown.

My line starts with Humphry's second son Richard. I traced on down the line to another Richard, the son of Richard, and from there to Frederick. Frederick married into the Hines family, one of the wealthiest families in Southampton County. He and his first wife, Sarah Hines, are the parents of my great-grandfather William. William H. Felts married Nancy Hines, who died, and then he married Winney Oney. He and Winney Oney had three sons and one daughter. Their son Benjamin Franklin Felts was my grandfather. His brother William H. Felts, Jr. was killed in the Civil War, at the battle of Gaines Mill.

The battle of Gaines Mill was fought on the 27th of June, 1862. There was about a 10-acre cornfield on the Gaines farm. The heat of the battle was fought that day in the open. They would fight in the woods, but in the open was where they really had the battles. Toward night they would stop fighting. They set up camp for the night and ate what food they had, and my grandfather Benjamin noticed that his brother William didn't show up. They were in the same company, so he went back to the battlefield and began to hunt for him. He said that he could walk across that field and never step on the ground. He could step on bodies and never step on the ground, that's how many was killed. And he found him in about the place he thought he would be, because they were in the same company and pretty close together, and he was dead. He turned him over and went through his pockets and got a big old silver watch, and a compass. That



was what he had on him. And he took him up in his arms and carried him over to the edge of the field near a peach tree. He dug a grave and rolled him up in a blanket and buried him, and then went back to his company. My grandfather and his brother were in Company D, Third Virginia Infantry. I have the watch and my son Jay has the compass.

My dad told me a lot of stories. He told how Company D, in the last few months of the war, was detailed to take prisoners from Richmond to Danville, and later to Andersonville, Georgia. On their way back from Andersonville, the war ended. My grandfather Benjamin Felts rode the train as far as he could, until he got to where the tracks were torn up, which was close to Appomattox where the surrender was. That was around the first of April. Then he walked the railroad track to Petersburg, and then on down to a little village called Wakefield. He had to walk the old railroad right-of-way because that told him where he was going, you know. At Wakefield he broke off of the railroad onto a country road going in to where his father lived. When he got to maybe four miles of his home, he turned in at a farmhouse to get a drink of water. When he went up to the well, the lady there heard him and came out, and they got to talking. She was a widow, had lost her husband in the war, and she owned that farm. And so they talked. This was in April, and in November they got married. The lady he met and married was Dorinda Atkinson, my grandmother. A fellow by the name of David Norris wrote a song about this incident, called "He Walked All the Way Home". It has recently been recorded by the bluegrass group called Blue Highway.

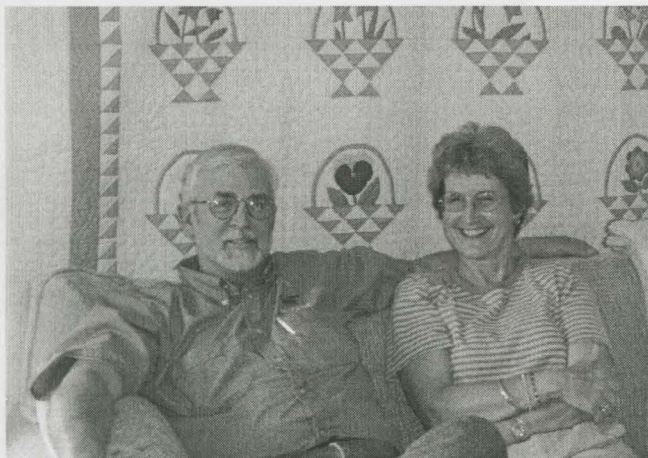
We have had a member of the family participate in nearly every war. In the Surry County courthouse where I found Humphry Felts's will, I also found his record in the Virginia Militia. This was before the Revolutionary War. The French and Indian wars came much earlier, when we were still under England. The French were occupying a portion of what is the United States now, as well as part of Canada. The French were furnishing the Indians with war material, guns and things like that. George Washington helped drive the French back up into Canada; of course he was a young man then. Then Frederick, my great-great-grandfather, fought in the Revolutionary War. Back then, they didn't draft you for the duration of the war because everybody had to farm; farming was the major occupation then. They would give you a number, and when your number came up, you left and served a certain number of months in the army. Then you came home and somebody else would come. We fought Indian style, hiding and fighting from trees and bushes. The British fought European style. They lined up shoulder-to-shoulder and started marching. You could mow them down like that. We would never have won it like that because we didn't have the materials and the numbers of people.

My great-grandfather, William H. Felts, fought in the War of 1812.

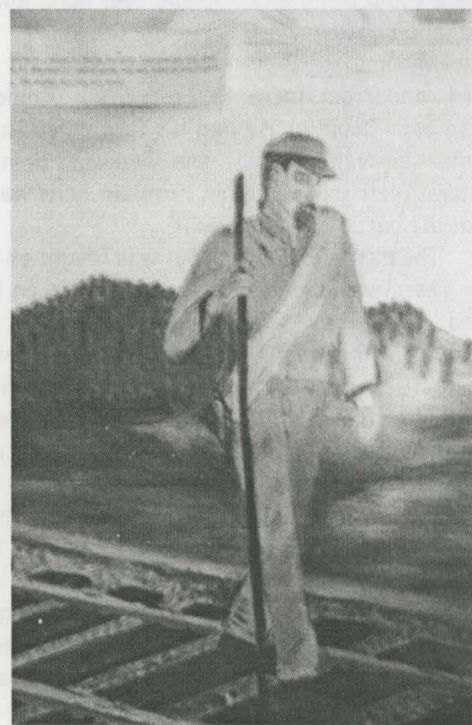
I had a half-brother in World War I. Then the next war was World War II. Everybody had someone in that. I had a brother, Clifton Joiner Felts, who went ashore on D-Day in Normandy and got shot in the leg, but went on through the war to its end. He was awarded the bronze star in the Battle of the Bulge. He volunteered to join a group of eight to remove the mines from a head row (that's a stone wall that divides a field) so that they could run the tanks through there. During World War II, I was in the Newport News shipyard. They were doing all government work, and I spent the war there.

Right after World War II, I wrote to a law firm in Texas to search the origin of my name. They sent back the English coat of arms of the Felts family with the meanings of the various parts of it, which you can find in our family book, "Felts! A Touch in Time..."

Julian's son Jay Felts (Julian Felts, Jr.) is very interested in history and will be taking his father's place in researching the family. Jay has done some oil paintings that are based on his interest in the Civil War. The one on the previous page shows a scene of Robert E. Lee at Gettysburg and the one at right shows his great-grandfather Benjamin walking home from the Civil War.



Jay and Anita Felts



Our first ancestor in the Blue Ridge, Crawford Felts, had a land grant on Crooked Creek in Carroll County in 1809. He served in the War of 1812. Crawford is Melvin's fourth-great-grandfather. By circumstance, we believe he must be connected to the Humphry Felts that Julian has told about in this interview, but we can only guess what line he might be from. You can read about our search for Crawford Felts in our book, "The Felts Family of Fancy Gap, VA".

Melvin and Dea

A Visit from Ron Hall

On July 4, Melvin got a long-awaited visit from Ron Hall, who has been living in Minnesota. Ron was born in Carroll County and is planning to move back here soon. He has been an active participant in the internet GenForum and has been compiling a genealogy of Carroll County residents that already includes over 90,000 names. He has shared a lot of his information with Melvin over the internet. Ron has published a book called "The Carroll County Courthouse Tragedy", ©1997. After visiting about the genealogy, Melvin, Ron, and Dea played a few tunes together. Ron plays folk-style guitar and does some good finger-picking.



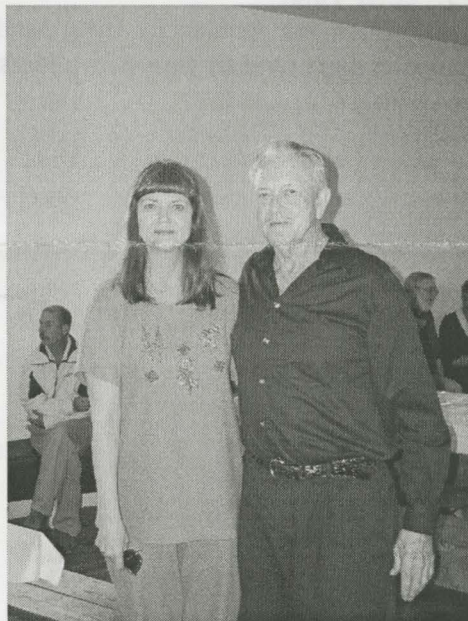
Snapshots from this year's Reunion

Right: Leia Crouse and her father Lonnie Melton

Far right: Mary Galyean with great-grandchildren Seth and Tyler

Below: Dylan and Lora Felts, Melvin's great-grandson and daughter-in-law

Below right: CodyThompson fiddling with his uncle Melvin and grand-father Dan Williams



QUILTS

Melvin and I had the opportunity to see the big quilt show in Paducah, KY this April. The very elaborate quilts made for international competition invited a good deal of thought and discussion about the quilts we treasure. Melvin's mother Lula hardly ever got to go shopping, and she pieced quilts from mill ends and feed sacks. The quilts in the show were made from quite expensive fabrics that were chosen from a seemingly limitless selection, and a lot of scraps surely were wasted in the process. But like Lula, the quilters of today are using the best that is available to them. I think there is a spontaneity and inventiveness when a person is forced to make do with just the scraps she has on hand, and it adds something to the quilt's value.

Some of the quilts in the show had large pictures painted onto the fabric. Some of the fabric colors were so intense that they almost seemed scary. Some had beads added, some were so elaborate that you would be afraid to touch them (of course you weren't allowed). But indeed they were all very interesting. I overheard a couple of ladies talking about whether some of them should even be called quilts. Melvin settled that question for me when he said, "A quilt is what a child crawls under when he's scared."

In my own quilts I am caught between the old and the new, and I have to find my personal middle ground. I shop for most of my fabrics, but I always think of how Melvin's mother made something useful out of scraps and never wasted anything. Mostly, I make my quilts to hang on a wall rather than use for a blanket, because there are plenty of good long-wearing blankets nowadays. Thus my quilts turn out to be a description of my personal situation, as all quilts do. But I don't think I want to make anything a child would be afraid to crawl under.

Dea Felts

RECENT NEWSLETTER DONATIONS: Betty Voigt

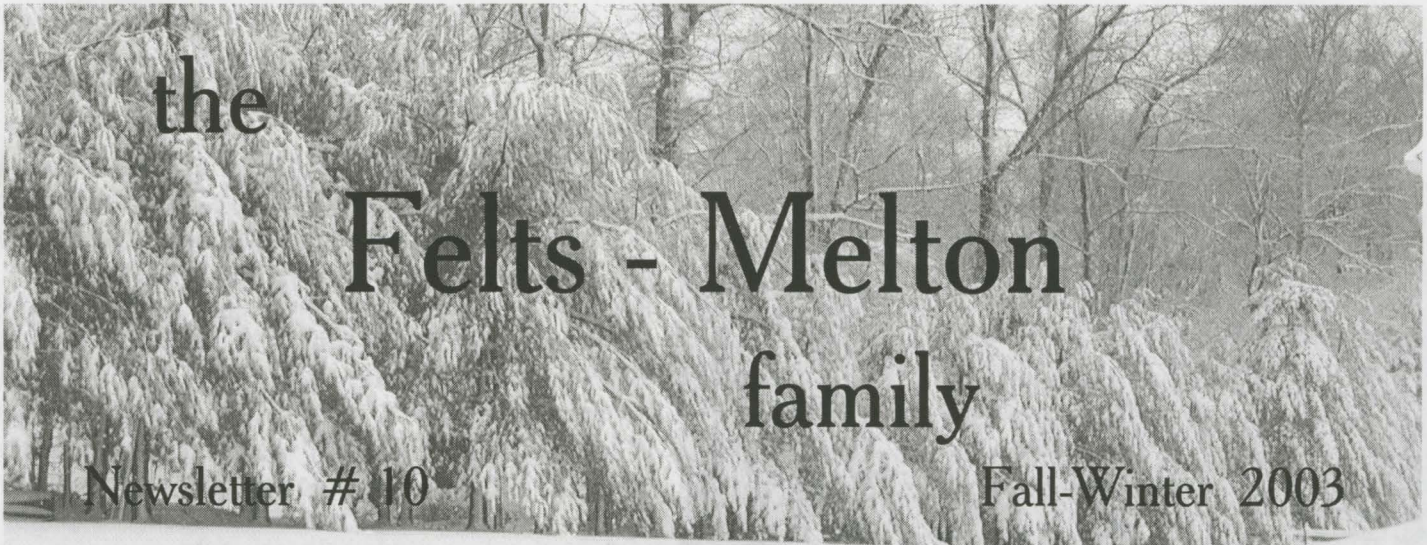
We thank all the people who supported the reunion by their donations and also those who have made donations to the newsletter. If you move and don't send us your new address, we can't send you a newsletter. We have been getting two or three back each time.

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050





the

Felts - Melton family

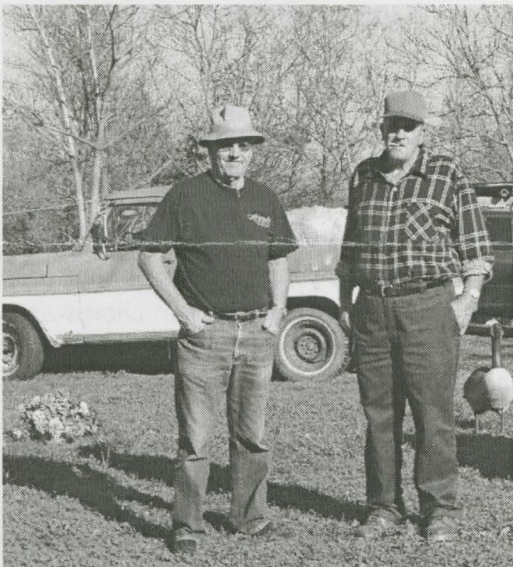
Newsletter # 10

Fall-Winter 2003

Holiday Greetings to all of our Friends and Family



FANCY GAP DAYS: Friends of the Family



Melvin and Dea visited Parlie and Betty Robertson (above) and Virginia Tate (below). The Robertsons were neighbors of T.R. and Lula Felts at Fancy Gap and often visited them. Parlie still owns the truck T.R. had when he died (the photo was taken in November). Betty, Melvin, and a grandson are sitting on the front porch of the Robertson's house in Ararat, VA.



Virginia grew up at Fancy Gap. She lived most of the time with her grandmother, "Sis" Tate, and her aunt and uncle, Sena and Bruce Rigney. "I knew all of Melvin's sisters. We all played together. We'd go to Grandpa Lloyd's and play with Marie. And I knew Elvin and Sadie Mae."

Betty Robertson is Bruce and Sena's daughter.

Melvin and Dea visited with Delores (DeeDee) Thompson and her family for this interview. DeeDee is the daughter of Faye Felts Williams. Many of our readers would see her regularly at T.R. and Lula's on Sundays when she was growing up.



Delores

My name is DeeDee Thompson, and my husband's name is Ricky. We have two children, April who is 14, and Cody who is 9. We live in Dugspur, VA, about two miles from Ricky's mother and father, on Poplar Hill Drive. Ricky and I both work at Parkdale Mills, which used to be Magnolia. Ricky is a spinning technician. I'm a spinner. I spin the thread that makes different kinds of yarn, such as for underwear or T-shirts or Levis. We make different weights of yarn, and cotton blends. It's pretty fascinating to watch.

I've been a hairdresser for about 20 years. I took cosmetology in high school. I do that on the side,

when I have time.

Our goals someday would be to not have any bills and just do what we want to, but that's impossible at this point, with two kids doing sports and running here and running there. I work in 12-hour shifts and Ricky works 10 hours a day. We hardly see each other on the days I work, so any time that we get, we try to spend every minute of it together.

Someday we'd like to be able to have a few horses or cows, just have a little mini-farm. That's our dream. We would like to go out west maybe, but I couldn't leave Mama.

April

I'm in the 8th grade. I'm taking chorus, gym, math, and world history. And I do cheerleading. I cheered for football, and now that's over, I'm going to start basketball. I just like everything about it, doing the stunts and stuff. I'm a flyer. They lift me up and they throw me up in the air and catch me. I've been dropped a few times. To be a flyer, it helps to be small, but you don't have to be. You just have to have muscles. You can't wear any jewelry or earrings, and you have to wear your hair up. This is for safety, because you could come down and rip your earrings or your hair out.

At home I like to dance and sing. I turn on the radio and sing with it, and I sing songs from chorus and practice the dances from cheerleading. We have five dances. We do them at half-time during football games, and for pep rallies.

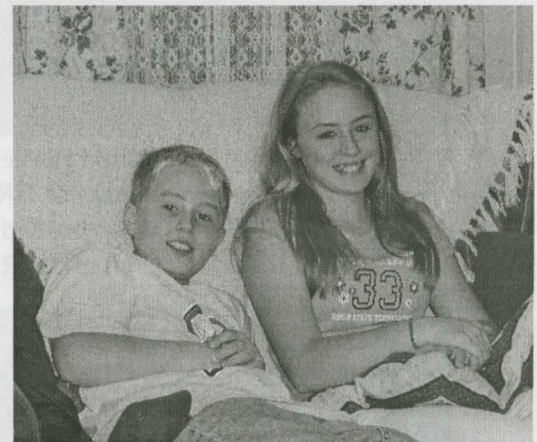
This summer I went camping with my family out west. We went to the Grand Canyon, Colorado Springs, Mesa Verde, and other places. We were gone two weeks. I never flew before, and we flew over the Grand Canyon in a plane. It took an hour. It was fun. It was a little bit windy that day. When we hit air pockets, you'd bump and go up. We saw the Colorado River, a volcano, and different spots that they named. I took pictures of them all. Then we rode horses through the Garden of the Gods, in Colorado. It's a place with a bunch of unusual rock formations in it.

Cody

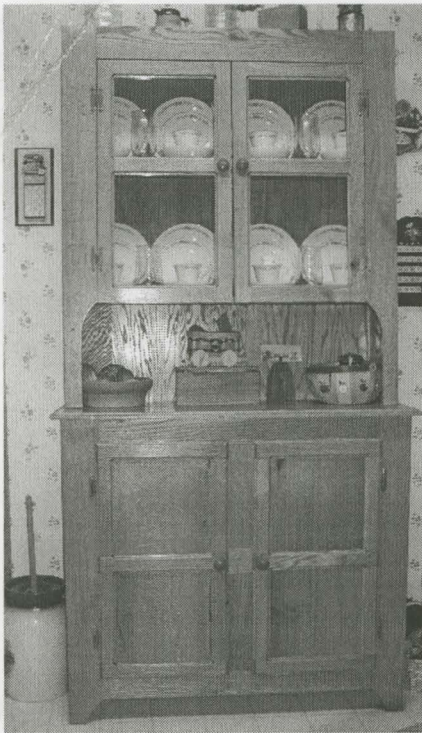
The part I liked best about our trip was riding the horses. We had a guide, and we rode for about an hour. It was the first time me and April were allowed to ride on a horse by ourselves. When we were coming back to the stable, something scared all the horses and they took off running.

We went to Seven Falls, which is near Colorado Springs. It is a beautiful place. We watched some Indian dances there. And we went to Mesa Verde. That was cool. That's where they have the cliff dwellings, where the Indians had built their houses in the side of the canyon. We could walk around and look in them. In the houses, there were black streaks coming out on the rock where the windows were. This is where they had made their fires and the smoke blacked it. Some of the places were round and were maybe a ceremonial pit. In one place, there was a ladder you could climb down and go into a room. I was the only one of us that went down in there. It had petrified wood in it that looked like plastic.

I'm in the 4th grade. I'm taking math, science, and social studies. Right now we're talking about electricity in science. We try to light up a light bulb with wires and a battery. I like math. We're learning how to multiply double digits. I play football and baseball and basketball. I like football best.



At home I like to go hunting with my dad. This year we killed an 8-point deer. We made jerky out of it, and Mama canned some. I know how to shoot, but I don't have a gun yet.



Ricky

I grew up here in Dugspur, just a couple of miles down the road, on Burkes Fork Creek. My parents are Dale and Linda Thompson. My grandfather had a farm down there, roughly 130 acres. Dr. Cox's farm was next to theirs, and my grandpa and my uncle kind of run the farm for Dr. Cox as well as taking care of their own. My dad worked at the Burlington plant during the night and then he helped on the farm during the day. I got started real young, helping on the farm. Everybody square baled hay back then. When I got big enough to roll a hay bale over in the field, they would have me go along beside the trucks and trailers and roll them up in a pile so they could load them. After Dr. Cox passed away, my grandpa and my uncle kept on running the farm. After a while, Joe Burton bought it, and he hired me to keep on helping him. That's how I got my piece of property here. I bought it off of Joe Burton, worked it out on his farm.

My grandfather's farm is still in the family. My grandpa passed away in '97, but my grandmother is still living there on the farm. That's my mother's parents, Clyde and Ethel Goad. We take the camper up there in the summertime and camp out on the creek. We take the kids and work on the fences and run cows and put up hay and stuff like that. So my kids are getting some farm background, but probably not as much as I did.

When we go hunting, I take the kids over to my grandparents' place. I have a tree stand that I've built over there on the farm. Deer season is the main thing, but we go turkey hunting sometimes.

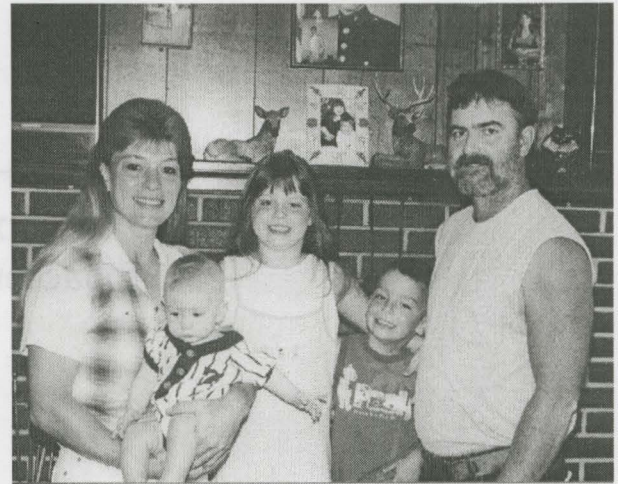
I do woodworking too. I would watch my grandpa make stuff, years ago, and I took some woodworking classes in school. I got started on bowls when I was in school, turning them on the wood lathe. I always liked that. I didn't really know how to make them. I just started it, and they turned out pretty good. I've sold a few, and given a lot of them away for Christmas presents. DeeDee won't let me get rid of most of them. I've made a couple of cabinets for our house.



I would a lot rather do farm work than be in a factory, but you've got to have the insurance and all. I don't really have goals for myself. I'd just like for the family to grow up and do what they want to, just stay out of trouble and be good kids is the main thing. There's so much for them to get into these days, so many different roads they can go down. I just hope they pick the right one.



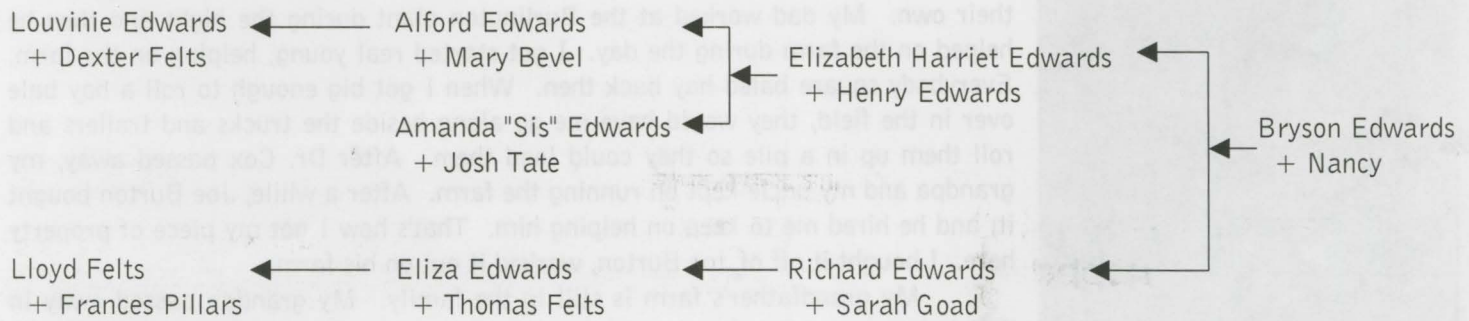
Above: Brian Rogers, grandson of Inez Felts McRoberts
Right: Troy and Mary Galyean, great-grandchildren Tyler, Hunter, and Seth



Above: Laurie Dove and James Felts, children are Justin Felts, Brianne and Quinn Dove



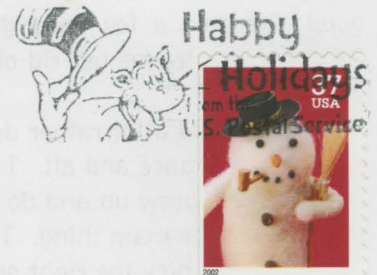
Melvin has found new family connections while researching the Edwards line. There are two connections of the Felts back to Bryson and Nancy Edwards, as shown in the diagram. Dexter ("Deck") Felts was the grandson of Thomas Felts and Eliza Edwards. Virginia Tate, whom we recently visited, is the granddaughter of Amanda ("Sis") Edwards Tate. "Sis" told Virginia that she would sometimes go to see her Indian grandmother (wife of Bryson Edwards) when she was a child. She spoke of her wearing feathers and Indian leggings, and her appearance frightened her. "Sis" called her grandmother "Massie" and thought she was from the Delaware tribe.



Donations since the last newsletter:
James and Myrtle Melton; Clayton Stockner

We need your stories for future newsletters!
Melvin and Dea Felts
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27050+9780 02



the

Felts - Melton family

Newsletter # 11

Spring 2004

**We hope to see all of you at our reunion in a few more weeks: SUNDAY, MAY 2
at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap, VA, starting at 11:30 AM.**

From I-77 take VA Exit 8 or from US 52 take Road 148. Just west of I-77, take Road 778; it will be the first state road going north. The building is ½ mile on the right. Bring pictures, family keepsakes, and a covered dish.

This will be the last reunion that Melvin and Dea are going to host. We will hold an election for someone to be in charge of the reunion next year. Elvin and Clinton Felts and Sadie Harris have been nominated as a team. Please let us know if you have other nominations.

During the winter, Melvin has continued to work on his genealogy and has been corresponding with several new people. One of the "genealogy cousins", Charles Miller, has contributed an article to this newsletter about the origin of the Felts name. Melvin has recently produced a banjo-fiddle CD featuring Orlus Nester, called "Hitchhiker's Blues". Dea spent a part of her winter preparing a small book called "The Mabry Mill Band: Anecdotes and Remembrances". All of the regular band members and a couple of the dancers tell about their lives and music in their own words. We will have these items for sale at the reunion along with a few remaining copies of "The Felts Family of Fancy Gap, VA". If you have personal projects you want to share, please bring them too.



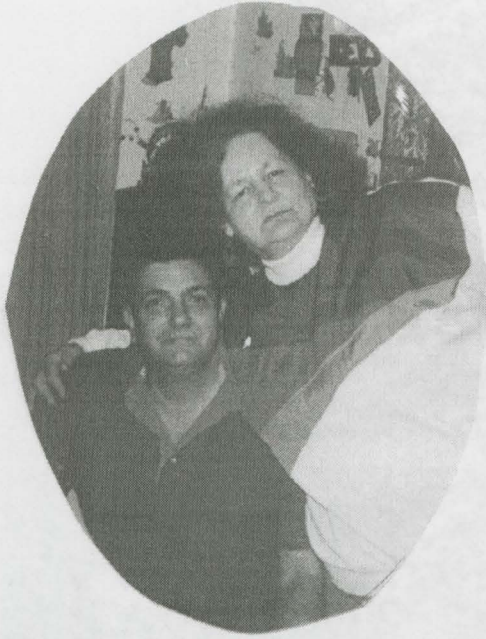
*At left: Cody Thompson fiddling at Mabry Mill, 2002,
with Arnold Spangler, Ed Spears, Melvin and Dea Felts*

The Laurel Fork Travelers (Mabry Mill Band) will be playing at the reunion this year.

We plan to continue with the newsletter as long as we can find articles of interest and are able to do the work. Since the last newsletter, we have received donations from Parlie and Betty Robertson, Ron Hall, and Carli Combs, a total of \$50.

Please note: our e-mail address has changed.
Write to us at:

mdfelts@adelphia.net



Parlie and Betty Robertson were neighbors of T.R. and Lula Felts for many years and are distantly related through the Edwards line. They often visited the family at Fancy Gap. Betty sent us this story for our newsletter.

Growing Up in Fancy Gap, Virginia
by Betty Robertson

I was the second daughter of Bruce and Sena Tate Rigney. My sisters were Rebecca Lynn, Sallie Mae, and Iva Gayle. Rebecca and Iva are both deceased. We had a baby brother Robert who died at eight days old. We never got to see him. We lived with our grandmother Sis Tate. What she said went, and if we didn't do what she said, we went. She was a darling old lady, and everybody loved her.

We had a cow, chickens, and hogs, so we always had plenty to eat. "Taters", beans and black molasses sometimes, when we would get pretty low on food. However I can't remember ever being hungry.

Grandma Sis always took care of "grandpa" Robert Harris, who lived on a farm next to us. We played on the farm and helped to stack hay. Grandpa Harris always saved us a ball of chocolate candy. Grandma would clean his house. He was a precious old man, and we loved him. The Devil's Den was right below his house. Mamma would take us there. I was always a little scared because I thought the Devil lived there. I never tried going there by myself.

T.R. Felts and Lula lived by us. They were the best neighbors anybody could ever ask for. We went to school at Ivy Hill, Grace Ruth was one of our teachers, she was a good old soul. However I was more scared of her than I would have been of a setting hen. Myself, my sister Sallie, Inez Felts McRoberts, and Ila Faye Felts Williams would walk to school. It was a long way but we would always have fun. T.R. and Lula were like a second mamma and daddy to all of us young ones. We were all like one big family. Melvin was the best looking fellow in Fancy Gap, but he was too old for us young girls at the time. It's funny now we are all as old as he is.

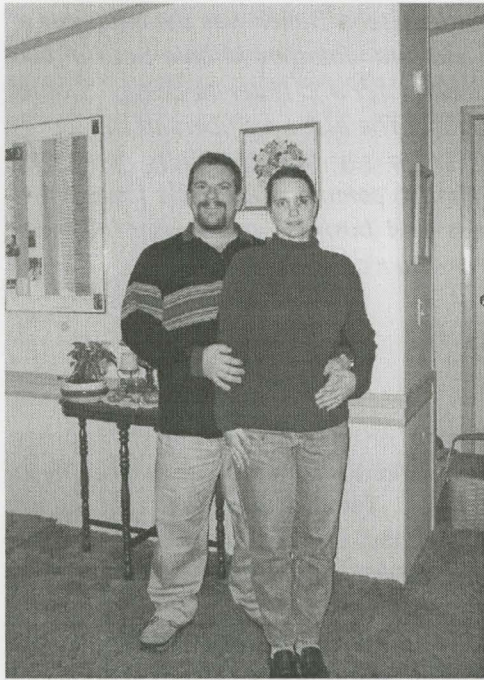
Vauda Felts, T.R.'s brother, and his wife Ina would stay with us a lot. My daddy and Vauda would fox hunt together. Back in them days, people would raise hogs and have a poor time of feeding them. We kept a five gallon bucket setting on the back porch. It was called the slop bucket. After meals we would rake the scraps off our plate into the bucket, if we were lucky enough to have a scrap left. Mamma would wash the dishes and pour the dish water in the bucket, and then they would stir some chop in to feed the old hog.

One night Daddy and Vauda went hunting. It was really cold outside. They came in sometime before morning, and they were both froze half to death. They put every bit of kindling and old dried up corn cobs, everything they could get their hands on that would burn, into the stove. They got warm and went to bed. Not long after they were in bed, Ina hollered so loud she woke everybody up. She said she smelled smoke. Vauda came running through the house in his long handle underwear; Daddy had done jumped up in his. They had set the house on fire where the stove pipe went up into the wall. They were beating and tearing the wall out. Grandma Sis heard all the commotion and came running out of bed in her old flannel gown. She couldn't see without her glasses, she was staggering all over the place, but she made it into the kitchen, grabbed the old five gallon slop bucket and emptied it right in the top of Daddy and Vauda's head. She meant to put the fire out. I can't tell you what all they said, but they were drowned, froze, and funny looking standing there. Mamma and Ina mopped and cleaned up the mess, but the floor still had some ice on it. Ina and Mamma never stopped laughing over that. Snow would blow in over the windows and door. Sometimes us little ones would rake up enough to build a snowman. I don't know how we kept from freezing to death. However we never got that cold.

Times have really changed. Looking back, we were all rich and didn't have sense enough to know it.

I am now married to Parlie Robertson. We have three children, Phyllis, Mack, and Eric. Phyllis died February 1, 2002. Parlie works at Spencer's in Mt. Airy, NC. We are raising three grandchildren, Melissa, 14, Thatcher, 8, and Sabre, 6. We had two boys and a girl to start with. We now have two boys and a girl. We have started all over again. They are growing up and we are growing old. Maybe we will make it.

I could write a book on how good the Felts family were to all of us and all the good times we had together, but there's not a book big enough to hold it all. They are precious good people and I love every one of them.



Shirley Everhart is the daughter of Willard and Inez McRoberts. The picture at left was taken at Inez's Thanksgiving dinner, 2003. Inez gave us the following introduction:

Shirley and Rodney were married Aug. 24, 1996 and moved into the home they had purchased in Midway, NC. Shirley worked in medical records at the hospital and doctors' offices in Mt. Airy, NC and Winston-Salem for some time after they were married. She then acquired the medical records business for herself and worked out of her home office. She did this until she decided she needed a change of careers. She then started working at Salem Kitchens as a caterer.

Gourmet Delights
by Shirley Everhart

I am the youngest daughter of Willard and Inez McRoberts, and the youngest granddaughter of T.R. and Lula Felts. I reside in the small community of Midway, North Carolina, about ten miles outside the city limits of Winston-Salem. Rodney, my husband, and his family are native to this area.

I have been in the catering business for about three years now. I got into this line of work quite by accident. I have always enjoyed holiday entertaining in my home and will prepare a seasonal meal a couple of times a year and provide full table service for my guests. I had come to the decision to change professions and began a job search when the job opening at Salem Kitchen seemed to drop into my lap, so I felt that this is where I am supposed to be. The Geis family has been wonderful to work for in my experience, and the company is small enough that the other employees are as close as a family unit as well.

Salem Kitchen is a small family owned catering firm located in the heart of Winston-Salem. We are located on Miller Street about a half a city block from Wake Forest School of Medicine and North Carolina Baptist Medical Center. Salem Kitchen operates on three separate platforms in the business structure. We have a front-end showroom that provides "gourmet-to-go" meals. This offers families a nutritious alternative to fast food while providing quality time for a traditional family meal. We offer gourmet foods such as jams, chutneys, dipping oils, dressings and dip mixes as well as specialty gift items. We also offer corporate catering which consists of box lunches, hot meal buffets and party trays for the occasional reception. In back of house we conduct our full service catering which is the fun part of the business.

I work primarily in the Event Planning department of Salem Kitchen. I cover the planning process for the full-service catering as well as the corporate drop-off events. I can honestly say that I have new respect for wedding planners and waitresses since I get the best of both worlds. It is not an uncommon event that I assist a bride in the planning process of her special day and then work at the reception as a server for the event. Catering shifts can be brutal. Some events require that you be on your feet for up to ten hour shifts; however, it is rewarding to hear the guests speaking about what a beautiful presentation a colossal fruit, cheese and vegetable may be or someone stopping you to ask who the catering service is so that they may schedule a future event with your firm.

The biggest project that I am currently working on is reviving our website (www.salemkitchen.com) and working with a new webmaster to improve our image and move into the e-commerce on-line store feature. The new website presentation should be up and running by the end of April 2004. If the opportunity presents itself, log on and see what I've created for Salem Kitchen.

A recipe given to Inez from her daughter Shirley:

Sweet Potato Casserole

3 C sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed
1 C sugar
½ C butter or margarine
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp vanilla
½ C milk
Mix and put in baking dish

for the topping:
1 C brown sugar
½ C flour
1/3 C butter or margarine, softened
1 C chopped nuts or coconut
Mix and sprinkle on top of sweet potato mixture
Bake at 350° for 25 minutes in uncovered dish

Charles Miller is related to the Felts in three directions. His grandmother Stella Baker was the daughter of Dophus (Adolphus) and Betty Baker. Betty was Theodore Felts's daughter. His grandmother Minnie Spurlin was the daughter of Emmet and Rosamond Felts. Rosamond was Theodore Felts's daughter and sister to Betty. Emmet was the son of Columbus Houston Felts and grandson of Theodore's brother John. The older members of my family visited with Dophus and Betty quite often. I have heard my grandfather Lloyd say that the Felts name was German, but the Felts I have found through genealogy have all turned up in British colonies. Recently I have been corresponding with Charles through e-mail. He speaks of German colonies and business enterprises in Great Britain, Scotland and Ireland around the time when the Felts first appeared in America in the late 1600's. I asked him to write an article for our newsletter and share some of this history with us.

Melvin Felts

Origin of the Felts Family

by Charles Miller

Many German surnames derive from cities or towns or even characteristics of particular families. A prime example would be "Klein", which means small or little. There is even a story about three German brothers who came to America. One kept the old family name since he felt proud of his old family heritage. The second brother changed his name to "Small" since the English Americans mispronounced the original name. The last brother changed his name to "Little" for the same reason as the second brother. After a few generations, the descendants of these three brothers forgot that they were even related.¹

Felts is an old name that derives from the German word Fels meaning rock. This would indicate that our family lived in a village near a rocky mountain or hill. An example would be the town of Weissfels in the western part of Germany. Weissfels means "white rock" and describes the appearance of the rocks of the near-by mountain.²

Migration of Life: A Natural Phenomenon

Just as birds, animals, and other creatures move throughout the world, human beings have this urge to seek the unknown and to find something new. Historical events will also cause families to move from their original homelands. The following give a few examples.

Religious Wars

The Thirty Years War was one of the most devastating conflicts to influence the German nation. It began in 1618 and ended in 1648. It was a war mainly between Protestants and Catholics; however, it had political reasons as well.³ Some of the countries that invaded Germany were Denmark, France,⁴ Sweden and England, each wanting their piece of German territory. By the end of the war in 1648, the King of France had taken parts of two German principalities. These were Alsace-Lorraine and the city of Landau in the Rheinland-Pfalz. Holland and Switzerland became independent nations from the German Empire. Landau has since that time been recovered by the Federal Republic of Germany. Alsace still remains under French rule; however, the Felts family is still found in these locations as well as other parts of Germany.⁵

Many Germans Leave the Rheinland-Pfalz and Settle in Holland and America

Due to the fact that France was Roman Catholic, much persecution took place in the border areas occupied by them. Holland gained its independence from the Catholic Emperor of Germany and welcomed both Catholics and Protestants to enter their land of freedom.⁶ Many Germans from the Rheinland-Pfalz did just that, and many Feltses live in Holland today. Even though this is true, many Protestants including Feltses left Holland and settled with fellow Germans in Pennsylvania. Out of gratitude for that stay in Holland, these Germans named a Pennsylvania town New Holland after their former adopted country and became known as Pennsylvania Dutch.⁷ The PA Dutch call their area of that state Dutchland, in German, Deutschland. An old article on German migration shows that PA Dutch settled from Winchester, Virginia to the very southern tip of southwestern Virginia. These Germans were invited down to Virginia by Governor Gouch in the late seventeenth century. It also mentions that these PA Dutch went eastward in Virginia and settled as far east as Norfolk.⁸ These people founded also such towns as Vienna, Germania, and Fries. Some settled in Hampton as far as Ivor, Virginia as well as Surrey and Sussex Counties.⁹

The Hanseatic League

In the American German newspaper known as the "Neue Prese", there was an article on the Hanseatic League, a group of merchants living in northern Germany. Some of the towns they founded were Bremen, Luebeck, and Danzig. After World War II Danzig became part of Poland.¹⁰ These merchants established settlements in Poland, Russia, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.¹¹ From the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries, Germans built towns in northern Scotland and in the Shetland islands of Scotland. If one were to go there today, he would find old tombstones in German and churches which still use the language. Even when they speak English, they use German phrases. I will give an example. If you want to rent for yourselves a house where German is spoken, you would say, "Ich moechte ein

Haus mieten." The German Scots will say "I want to miet a house" or "I want to pay my miet." Many of these German Scots came to America in the 1600's.¹²

The Irish Connection

Many German Americans also call themselves Dutch-Irish. The word Dutch here really means German and many of them later left Ireland and settled in the Galax area. My great-grandmother, Elizabeth Felts, married an Adolphus Baker, whose forefathers could speak German, Irish, and English. He called himself Dutch-Irish since his German ancestors settled in Ireland in the seventeenth century.¹³

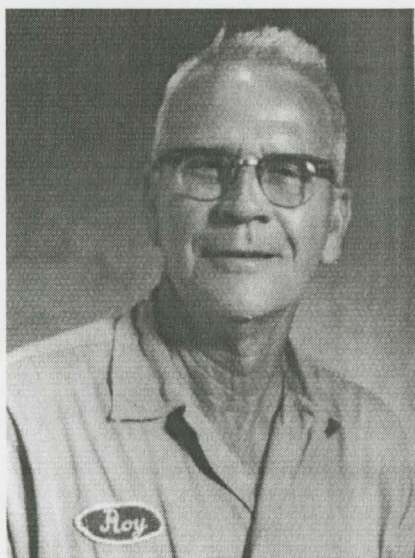
Where Were Feltses Found in Germany

There is no doubt in my mind that our branch of the Felts family call from the Rheinland-Pfalz. In 1974, I lived in Western Germany in the Rheinland-Pfalz. The telephone book was full of Feltses. Since the dialect of Virginia Deutsch was once spoken in the Galax area and members of the family spoke it, there is no doubt in my mind that our forebearers were from the Rheinland-Pfalz. *Charles gives an example of the Rheinland-Pfalz dialect found in Virginia.* A friend of mine, Dr. Andreas Freitag of the University of Hamburg, identified the dialect as Palatine German.

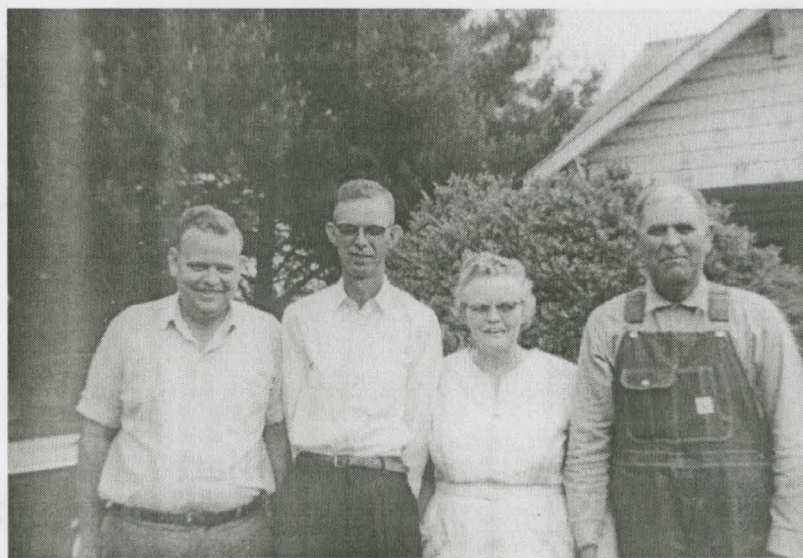
Endnotes

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2. Ibid.
3. The Colubia Viking Desh Encyclopedia: 1953 and 1963, Viking Press
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Man's Religions, MacMillan Publishing Company, Page 284, John B. Noss.
7. New Holland: Article from a local news magazine, date unknown.
8. The Palatine Project: An Internet Article: Copyright: Gary I. Horlacher.
9. Ibid.
10. Die Neue Presse, Die aktuelle deutschsprachige Wochenzeitung fuer Nordamerika.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Neue Presse, Die aktuelle deutschsprachige Wochenzeitung fuer Nordamerika.

Some family pictures you might enjoy



left: Roy Melton



right: Calvin, Herman, Etta, and Earl Felts

Family Notes

Gladys Felts has recently been diagnosed with cancer and has been having radiation treatments. She has declined chemotherapy. A dinner was given for Gladys on March 6 at Woodland Church in Mt. Airy, NC. It was attended by all of her children and a large number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We recently had a visit from Donald Surratt and Coy Hawks. Donald is recovering from cancer treatments and looks quite well.

Opal Felts Edmonds attended the reunion last year for the first time. She passed away this winter. We asked her daughter Linda Raasch to write a bit about her.

Opal Edmonds

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. It was such a shock and we are still trying get over the loss. She was a sweet lady who just got sweeter as she got older. She grew up hard being the only girl at home with 5 brothers. She married the love of her life, Wade, on her 18th birthday. She enjoyed all her children and loved to be around all 6 of her kids, 7 grandkids, 3 great-grandsons and sons and daughter-in-laws. Nothing made her happier than making a big dinner on Sunday and having everyone in. We would fuss at her for cooking and working so hard and she'd say she loved it and even in her later years she continued to do it. She had the most beautiful white hair and people often commented on it. It was so soft. She was always ready to go and enjoyed traveling. She had just recently renewed her driver's license for 5 more years at the age of 83. She got her CNA license at the age of 65 and loved working at the hospital. She is now in heaven with our dad and her husband of nearly 60 years. We miss her terribly but knows she's happy and in a better place. She enjoyed the Felts reunion last year and wanted to know more about her Felts kin. Thank you for being so kind to her. Linda Raasch, Opal's daughter

Carlos Melton

Carlos Fred Melton of Max Meadows passed away Nov. 29, 2003. He was the son of William E. and Minnie Felts Melton. He is survived by his second wife, Kathleen Elizabeth Melton.

Rudolph Testerman

Rudolph Testerman passed away Jan. 22, 2004. He was the son of Fannie Felts Testerman. He attended many of the family reunions.

Sara Felts

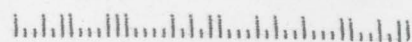
Sara Lou Burcham Felts passed away Oct. 20, 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband, Haywood Felts. Her mother-in-law, Hallie Felts, lives at Fancy Gap and attends the reunion regularly.

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the

Felts – Melton family

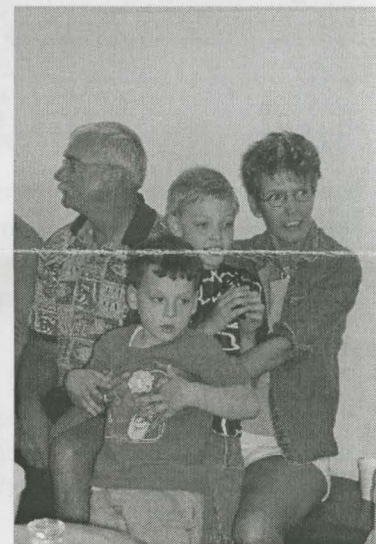
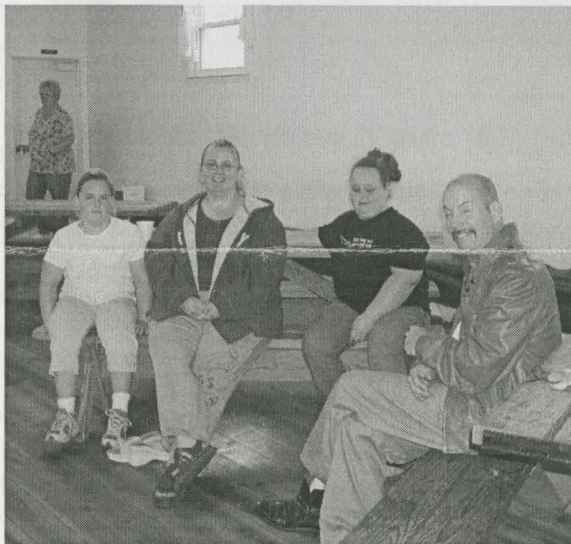
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Summer 2004

view toward Fancy Gap from Ruben's Red Lantern

A close member of our family, Gladys Felts, passed away on July 1 after a long struggle with cancer. She had been in the care of her oldest daughter, Cathie Dix, at their home in Mt. Airy, NC. Gladys was the daughter of T.R. and Lula Felts. She is survived by her four children, Kenneth Melton, Cathie Dix, Ellen Speight, and Jeanne Holder, by ten grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren, and by her brother and three sisters. A graveside service was held on a beautiful July 4 afternoon at Independence Baptist Church Cemetery, Fancy Gap.

We lost a special friend and fiddler, Arnold Spangler, on July 10, 2004. Arnold had played with us for 12 years as the Laurel Fork Travelers and as the Mabry Mill Band. Arnold worked at Mabry Mill and was a well-known personality there before he took over the fiddling in 1993. He was 80 years old and was playing regularly up until his death. He is survived by his wife Lucille and a very large extended family that we have enjoyed knowing.



Above: young people at the reunion

Below: The Laurel Fork Travelers: Arnold Spangler and Ed Spears, fiddle and guitar, with Ray Chatfield and Marie Gallimore substituting for Melvin and Dea



It has been a privilege for us to work with the reunion for the last five years. In 2005, the reunion will return to the Melton side with Leah Crouse and Rita Epperon and their father, Lonnie Melton. We have put together this brief history of the Felts and Melton families and the reunion, as accurately as we can remember it.



Lonnie, Leah, and Rita

The Felts and Melton Families history of the reunion

Felts ancestry in Carroll County, VA

Crawford Felts had a land grant dated 1809 on Crooked Creek, which was part of Grayson County at that time (now Carroll). Crawford's property was only a few miles from Fancy Gap. Crawford had 3 sons who continued to live in this area. The oldest son, Randolph, was the father of Theodore Felts. All of the Felts families who attend the reunion are descendants of Theodore, and most of them are descendants of Theodore's son Thomas. Theodore had two more sons, Bill and Cloyd (or Claude), and five daughters who lived to adulthood. Thomas was one of the first Felts to live in the Fancy Gap section.

The Felts and Melton families at Fancy Gap were linked geographically and

through marriage in the generation of Thomas Felts's children. Thomas's children were Lillie, Lloyd, Troy, Richard, Minnie (Sara Minnie), Cleo, Roscoe, Bennie, Fred, Edd, and Fannie. Lillie married Albert Melton and Minnie married Eldridge Melton.

Lloyd, Richard, Roscoe, Bennie, Fred and Edd were in the produce business.

The Meltons at the reunion

Albert and Eldridge were cousins. Eldridge's father was William Randall Melton and Albert's father was James Melton. We still hear from some of Eldridge's descendants, but the Meltons that come to the reunion are primarily descendants of Albert or his brother Estel.

Albert and Lillie's children were Arthur, Jeff, Roy, Lawrence, Maude, Margie, and Guy. Jeff and Lawrence Melton were in the produce business and ran the produce market at Fancy Gap. Thus the Meltons and Feltses of Fancy Gap were well acquainted.

Guy Melton probably had the biggest part in starting the Felts - Melton reunion.

Down the generations

Lloyd Felts had eight children, all of whom grew up at Fancy Gap and spent most of their lives near Fancy Gap. They were Heath, T.R. (Rat), Dexter (Deck), Frank, Heymon, Vauda, Sidney, Claude, and Marie. All of the boys were in the produce business at some time or another. Many descendants of this group still come to the reunion.

Vauda Felts was in charge of the reunion for many years.

Melvin is the son of T.R. Felts. He and his sisters, Pauline, Gladys, Mary, Inez, and Faye all helped with the reunion when he first sponsored it in 2000. Since then, Pauline and Gladys have passed away.

In 2005, the reunion will be back in the hands of the Melton descendants. Lonnie Melton, grandson of Estel Melton, and his daughters Leah Crouse and Rita Epperon will be hosting it on Sunday, May 1, at Ruben's Red Lantern.

We will continue with the newsletter as long as we are able, but we need your stories! We appreciate your donations to the newsletter throughout the year. Donations made at the reunion will go toward the reunion unless otherwise specified. Since the last newsletter, we have received donations from Mildred Smith, W.B. and Maxine Felts, Troy Felts, and James and Myrtle Melton. Please note that our e-mail address has changed. Write to us at mdfelts@adelphia.net or call (276) 238 - 1921. Melvin and Dea

James and Myrtle Melton

James and Myrtle Melton visited with us on July 9, 2004. James is the son of Jeff Melton and grandson of Albert and Lillie Felts Melton. James and Myrtle have attended the family reunion regularly and are well known to most of our readers. T.R. and Lula rented a small house from Jeff Melton after the Parkway took their home, which was about 1937. James and Melvin were very close friends while they were growing up. Both their families lived on Rt. 608 a few miles west of Fancy Gap.

James Melton

My father and Melvin's father were both in the produce business. They farmed some, but not all that much. Mostly they'd buy and sell. Every year they'd head for Florida. They'd go to Florida and get tomatoes. They weren't actually in business together, they just run together. They had their own trucks. I remember Daddy hauling on an old '33 Ford truck. We had right much land out there, but if we farmed, it was like corn or something, for feed. We had maybe a hog or a cow. I remember carrying corn to Bob Hawks' mill to get it ground.

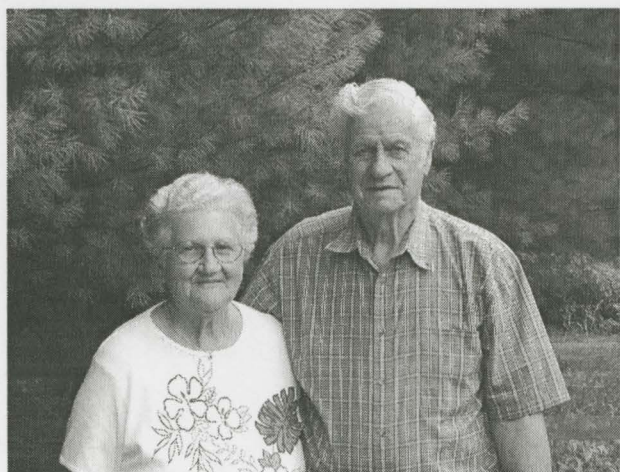
We all grewed up just as poor as poor could be. We did, and Melvin and them did too. I don't know how in the world we survived, really. There was eleven of us children in my family. *Jeff's children were Ruth, Edgar, James, Juanita, Burlie, Edith, Irene, Arlene, Ida Jean, Wanda, and Kenneth.* Ruth and Edgar and me and Juanita, we was so poor we didn't have nothing to eat for breakfast sometimes. Mommy'd stir up a little water gravy or something, you know. 'Course the younger ones was a little bit better off when they was growing up. We had it rough, there ain't no doubt about it.



I remember when they built the Parkway, they took five acres of Daddy's land and gave him five hundred dollars. That tickled him to death. He thought that was a real good price. But they didn't do as good with everyone. I remember Julie Hawks' house. You know, she wouldn't sell to them, and they moved her out. She lived under a tree there for a while. They moved her out of the house and tore the house down. It's hard to believe they could do something like that, her with a house full o' young-uns. Times sure has changed since back then. Daddy had 150 acres of land. Grandpa Meredith gave Mommy 75 acres, and then Daddy bought 75 acres. Later they sold the whole 150 acres to Judge Lewellyn for \$5000. That's called Chalet High now, you know. They say they sell lots for \$30,000 or more, where Daddy sold the whole thing for \$5000.

Not long after the Parkway was started, we moved out to Fancy Gap to the house beside of Jackson School. We lived there during the time they was building the Parkway bridge. I can remember my dad hauling rock to build the Parkway bridge. They used a flatbed truck to haul it, great big old stones. The Parkway worked several of the men around in that area. *Melvin's father and four of his uncles worked on the construction of the Parkway.* Things began to pick up a bit after that.

I remember staying all night in the old log house Lloyd Felts lived in. We always called him Uncle Lloyd. I remember sleeping upstairs. The steps was real steep, and upstairs there was two little rooms. Russell Felts stayed at Uncle Lloyd's a whole lot, and Gladys was there too. I was probably about 12 years old. Gladys and Marie slept in one bed and me and Russell in another. Grandma Felts was living then. She was sickly at that time. Out there at Uncle Lloyd's, I can remember it good. On Sundays, the company would just cover the place up. Just everybody come out visiting. People back then done a lot more visiting. Back then, when we'd go anywhere, with the amount of children that we had, we'd all get in the back of the truck, you know. That's how they hauled the children all the time was in the back of the truck.



About every school year during the winter, the schools would have a pie supper or square dance or something, to raise the money for library books or something like that. I remember out at Ivy Hill School, every time they had a pie supper there'd be a fight. There'd be a pretty big crowd, and some of the Cana boys would come up to it. The Cana boys and the over-the-mountain boys would fight and break the whole supper up.

In some ways they was good old days, and in some ways they was awful hard. I remember walking from where we lived out there to Fancy Gap, and have a quarter, twenty-five cents. I would catch a Greyhound bus to Hillsville, it cost ten cents, and go to a movie, do all that on a quarter. Me and Edgar'd ask Daddy for quarters, and he'd cut a terrible shine at us, you know. 'Cause he didn't want to give it up,



or probably he didn't have much to give.

The first work I did, me and Edgar, my brother, used to cut acid wood. The old dead chestnut trees that had fell, we'd cut them and split them up. Used a cross-cut saw, sawed the wood and split it, and hauled it to Galax. We'd put two layers in a truck and get \$15 or \$16 a load for it. I got a job for a little while at Flat Rock (*the granite quarry*) in Mount Airy, worked up there around a jackhammer. That old dust'd cover me up. My brother-in-law got a job hauling new cars out of Detroit, and he got me on. That's what I did most of the time after that.

On Sundays back then, the Primitive Baptists would have all-day meetings during August and maybe into September. August meetings, they called them. People'd set up stands and sell ice cream, watermelons, cantalopes, and bananas to the crowd of people walking outside. That's how I met Myrtle. It was at the Elkspar Primitive Baptist Church meeting. Me and Melvin Strickland were sitting up there on the Parkway bridge in the old truck that I owned. I thought she was the prettiest girl I'd ever seen. It was love at first sight.

Myrtle Melton

It was love at first sight for me too. The churches would have all day preaching and dinner on the ground. We used to go to the different ones. I'd go with my friends, Mary Smith and Mabel Towe and Sally Jones. We was just walking on the outside of the church, maybe down at the Parkway bridge, when we met the boys and we got to talking.

I grew up at Cana, down close to Oak Ridge Church. You turn off of U.S. 52 on to Brushy Fork Road and then on Oak Ridge Road. I had three brothers and two sisters. Daddy had an orchard when I was growing up, and I picked apples and peaches. We had it pretty good. We wasn't rich by no means, but we always had enough, or I thought we did. I went to Brushy Fork School. That was a two-room schoolhouse.

I met James in September of 1946 and we got married in 1950. We'll have been married fifty-five years in January. We bought a two-room house about six months after we got married. It was on U.S. 52 down in Cana. I was so proud of that. Then a few years later we came up to Fancy Gap and built a cinder block house up on the bank behind the cabbage shed. I've never worked on a public job. I just worked trying to take care of our children. We have six children, ten grands, soon to be eleven, five step-grands, and two great-grands.

James and Myrtle's six children are Bonnie Easter, Terry Melton, Leslie Melton, Tammy Upchurch, Vickie Barnes, and Trudy Towe.

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the

Felts – Melton family

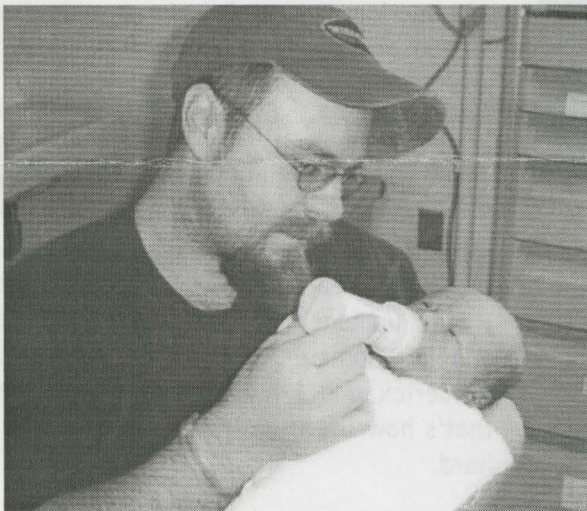
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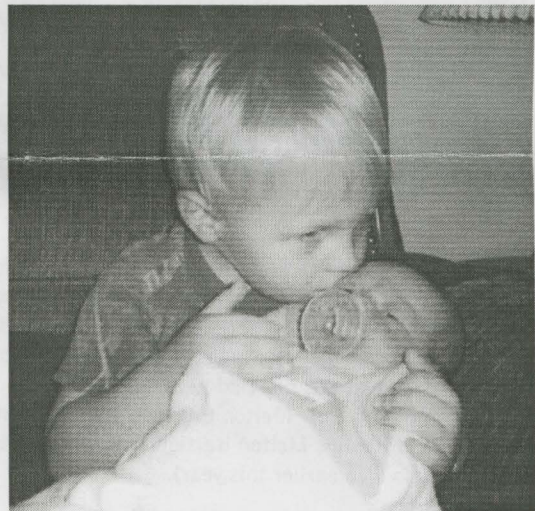
Holiday greetings to the Felts and Melton kinfolk from Melvin and Dea

Melvin has a new great-grandchild, Makayla Suezann Felts. She is the daughter of Travis and Marlana Felts, born Aug. 23, 2004.

Left: Travis and
Makayla



Right: Makayla
and her brother
Dylan



We lost two family members since the summer newsletter.

James Arthur Jones died October 11 at age 61. James was the son of Rufus Jones and the nephew of Lula Jones Felts. He lived at Mt. Airy. He is survived by his sisters Margaret Surratt, Emma Moyer and Mabel Wingler, and brothers Howard, Tom, Paul, and Clyde Jones.

Nathan Dowell Jr. ("Junior") died October 19 at age 76. He is survived by his wife Marie Felts Dowell, their daughter and son-in-law Frances and Mark Irvin, their son Nathan Dowell, and several sisters and brothers. Marie is the daughter of Lloyd Felts and the only one of Lloyd's children still living. Marie and Junior made their home in Fancy Gap and were married for 58 years. Junior drove a school bus for about 30 years and was known to many people in the community.

Since the last newsletter, we received a donation from James and Myrtle Melton. Your donations and your stories make the newsletter possible. Melvin and Dea Felts mdfelts@adelphia.net

Melvin has been corresponding via e-mail with his cousin Bill Melton. Bill is the son of Roy and Hazel Melton and grandson of Albert and Lillie Felts Melton. Bill sent us this introduction and story about growing up in Fancy Gap.

Billy Melton was born and raised in the Fancy Gap area, attended Oakland Elementary School, graduated from Woodlawn High School in 1965, and completed a bachelor's degree in business administration from Berea College in Berea, Kentucky, in 1969. During employment as an Admissions Counselor at Berea College, he completed a master's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1973 and spent two and one-half years as Assistant Director of Admissions at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, before becoming the Director of Admissions at Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, in 1977. He held that position for 21 years. Since 1998, Bill has held numerous positions in the Advancement Office at Alice Lloyd College, currently serving as Dean of Advancement. Bill is married to the former Nancy Moore of Paint Lick, Kentucky. Bill and Nancy have two daughters, Annie Melton Rymer and Carrie Melton.

GROWING UP IN FANCY GAP



Bill Melton and his siblings

Left to right: Frederick Melton (married Janet Stanley Melton); Lucille Melton Bonn (married George Granville Bonn); Lilly Pearl Melton Bedwell (was married to Bill Bedwell, who died a couple of years ago); Ivery Melton (died in 1979 and was married to the late Dorothy Galyean Melton); Billy Melton (married Nancy Moore Melton); and Pauline Melton Bartlett (was married to Joe Bartlett, who died earlier this year).

Russell Baker, the Pulitzer Prize winning author, wrote of his life's experiences in a wonderful book titled Growing Up. In many ways, his book reminds me of my youth, in rural Fancy Gap...yes, rural Fancy Gap, because life in the Carroll County area around the town of Fancy Gap, was different than the life I visualized in the little town I now always visit when I return home. You see, Fancy Gap seemed a den of activity to me compared to the overwhelmingly quiet life my family and I knew a mile from the "Crossroads" section of the county. And, Galax was just unbelievable and was a real treat to visit.

My parents, Roy and Hazel Combs Melton, also grew up in Carroll County, children of William Albert and Lillie Felts Melton, and Sandy and Martha McCraw Combs. There were six of us – Ivery (deceased); Lucille (Bonn); Pauline (Bartlett); Pearl (Bedwell); Frederick, and me. Frederick and I grew up together, mostly after the oldest four had married and left home. Although we were poor, I always felt that Frederick and I had it easier than the older ones. Maybe that's how life usually is – the younger ones never have it as hard.

Our early lives centered around our immediate family. My mother (we called our parents Mommy and Poppy) never had a public job, and that was just fine with me. Returning from school to fried apple pies or chocolate bread pudding will always be fresh in my mind. Mommy was not the kind of person who readily told her children that she loved us, but there was never any doubt in any of our minds that she did. Mommy was the most important person in our lives, and was the reason we always came home. In fact, we all still "come home" and gather frequently at our parents' home on Pipers' Gap Road, the house they moved to as they grew older in order to be closer to town and have a few modern conveniences, like running water and an indoor bathroom. Running to the outside toilet on cold, winter nights quickly grew old. I remember wishing I could stay at Oakland School where it was warm and they had a real inside bathroom. I knew that when I got home Mommy's fire in the cook stove and Poppy's fire in the Warm Morning stove would go out, and the house would get cold. There were so many of Mommy's tacked quilts on the bed, I could hardly turn over. It seemed to me that the temperature inside the house was about the same as it was outside. However, things weren't as rough as when Poppy was a boy. He told us of going to bed at night and waking up in the morning with little snowdrifts across the covers, where the snow had blown in through the cracks in the wall.

Poppy worked hard all his life. He always said, "It's hard to break up a working man." He farmed, worked at sawmills and furniture factories, and helped his brother, Lawrence, for a while at Lawrence's produce

place in Fancy Gap. Poppy never owned a car during my life. He walked a mile every day to the Crossroads to catch a ride to work. We never had a lot, but we had enough. Poppy always made sure we had food on the table, and at Christmas, even some oranges and candy and a fruitcake. We never exchanged presents, but Frederick and I were fortunate – our siblings showered gifts on us as if we were princes. Everybody came to the house on Christmas eve, and many times they would spend the night. Ivery was always the first to leave. He worried about the roads even if the weather wasn't threatening. We remember so many wonderful gifts from Ivery, Lucille, Pauline, and Pearl – board games which we played into the wee hours of the morning; a miniature pool table that couldn't have been better if it had been full-sized; cap pistols; boxing gloves that I regretted getting because I knew Frederick would beat me up; and one Christmas, a little red wagon I still remember playing with all Christmas morning in our front yard. My recollection is that the red wagon was partly from Poppy, which made it more special.

Summers could get quite boring. Our weeks revolved around waiting for Sunday when we knew that the rest of the family would come home for dinner. Mommy's fried chicken and banana pudding were always big hits. All of our nieces and nephews were there, and we would play all afternoon. We were good at making and flying kites, playing horseshoes, croquet, cow-pasture football and baseball, and every once in a while we would picnic at Cumberland Knob Park on the Parkway. It seemed that every picnic had a watermelon of which Mommy was always cautioning me not to eat so much to prevent me from wetting the bed! Sometimes we would go through the woods below our house to Uncle Arthur's place and pick chinquapins. Since I left home, I haven't found anyone who knows anything about chinquapins.

Summer weekdays were challenging. There were weeks at a time that we didn't see an automobile until our brother and sisters came on Sunday. We would actually yearn to see a car coming around the bend through Johnny Hawks' farm and wonder whether it was coming to our house or to Gladys Lowe's or Jimmy Hawks' (our closest neighbors) places. I'm sure we slept late more often than not, but what I remember the most was having to get up early to work in the garden, hoe a field of corn that seemed to never end, or carry water from our spring about a quarter mile from the house up the big "north hill" as Poppy called it, so that Mommy could do the washing on her wringer washing machine. Later, Poppy had a well drilled, and we actually had a pump at the back porch. That was a wonderful thing, until we progressed to a sink with running water in the house, but to this day the house has no bathroom.

Some summer mornings Mommy would get Frederick and me up early and give each of us two one-gallon cans (probably Karo and King syrup cans). We knew right then that we were going to go pick blackberries. We would again traipse through the woods toward Uncle Arthur's place where the blackberries were plentiful. Mommy would usually carry two one-gallon cans in each hand. We would come home with eight gallons of berries, and the only berries we ate were the ones we sneaked. However, we sure had some good blackberry jelly, my favorite to this day. Sometimes these trips would involve picking fox grapes instead of berries, from which Mommy would make the most wonderful grape juice. Recently we were visiting my first cousin, Billy Combs and his wife Joy, and Joy had canned some grape juice that looked just like Mommy's with the full grapes in the juice. I hadn't seen any grape juice like that since I left home.



Blessings in life come in many expressions, sometimes easily recognizable as they occur, but often veiled by circumstances beyond our limited awareness at the time, until later experiences in life bring light to what we thought was darkness. This has been my experience as I reflect on my life.

I have many more memories of growing up in Fancy Gap. Maybe I can share them with you in future editions of the Newsletter. As a youngster, I couldn't wait to set out on my own and see what the world was like outside of my Blue Ridge mountain home. Although I have never returned to live in Fancy Gap, I have never really left it.

Bill Melton, November 2004

Albert and Lillie Felts Melton



Turtles

There were terrapins and there were mud turtles. The terrapins live in a shell that they can close up. They can shrink themselves back in their shell and close the doors, both the front compartment and their legs. The terrapins get about 6 to 8 inches across. You can see them most anywhere where there's vegetation. People used to carve their initials on them, and they lived to be about 30 or 40 years old. They put their initials on the bottom, where the shell was smoother. I found one where Claude and Sydney had carved their initials and date on it, and the initials had been on there about 30 years. The terrapins, you can just reach and pick up. When you pick them up, they'll hiss at you, and then they close themselves in their shell. They don't try to bite you or anything.

The mud turtles grow much larger in size. Some people call them mud turtles and some people call them snapping turtles. I don't know whether they're the same species or not, but I do know that the mud turtles will snap at you. I remember my Grandma Jones bringing home a turtle about the size of a frying pan. Earlie and I were given the responsibility of killing it. The way we killed it, we had to make it mad so it would bite a stick. Then with the stick we pulled its head out of the shell and chopped it off with a chopping axe. Then I threw the stick away with its head still biting it. Later in the day, our little fox terrier dog found it and was barking viciously. Me and Earlie went to see what it had tree'd, and when we got up close, the dog attacked the head that was biting the stick. The turtle's head turned loose of the stick and latched onto the jaws of the dog. The dog was crying from pain. I held the dog while Earlie carefully split the jaws of the turtle with his knife so that it would turn loose of the dog.

My grandma said that there were seven different flavors of meat in a turtle, naming chicken, pork, steak, and fish. She cut the shell off and cut it into parts. I don't remember whether she boiled it or fried it, but I do remember that the legs and parts of the turtle would move while it was cooking. I remember tasting of it, but I can't remember what part I ate or how it tasted. I was just a kid. I just remember that one time, but she had done it before, and she was the one who had told us how to get its head out so we could cut it off.

Dad told me a story about him and my grandpa when they were ditching in Silas Morris's swamp. They ran across a mud turtle that was so big he described it as being as big as a number 2 washing tub. So they tried to capture it. Grandpa grabbed a hold of its tail, and it was dragging him. Dad ran and jumped on top of its shell. It continued to travel, dragging my grandpa and hauling my dad, and they had to let it go.

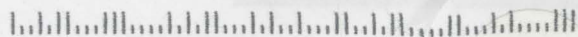
Melvin

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27050+9780 02



The Felts - Melton Family

Newsletter #14
Spring, 2005

View of Pilot Mountain from Rt. 608 west of Fancy Gap

Don't forget to put the **Felts – Melton Reunion** on your calendar for Sunday, May 1.

The reunion will be hosted this year by Elvin Felts. We will look for you at Ruben's Red Lantern, starting at 11:30 AM. From I-77 take VA Exit 8 or from US 52 take Road 148. Just west of I-77, take Road 778; it will be the first state road going north. The building is ½ mile on the right. Bring pictures, family keepsakes, and a covered dish.

FAMILY NEWS

Lonnie Melton, who had planned to host the reunion this year with his daughters Leah Crouse and Rita Epperon, is unable to attend this year because of serious illness. We hope that he will be better soon.

Hallie Hall has had open-heart surgery and has been in the hospital six times since November. She has recently come home and is doing fair.

We recently visited Virginia Felts Surratt, who fell and broke her hip last fall. She is looking very well now and getting around just fine.

Melvin has a new great-granddaughter, Morgan Lee Felts, born Feb. 17, 2005. Her parents are James Walter Felts and Jennifer Nicole Dalton.



Inez and Willard cutting the cake

A 50th anniversary party was given for Willard and Inez Felts McRoberts by their daughters, Lois Rogers and Shirley Everhart. Shirley provided a catered dinner for friends and family on Dec. 4, 2005.

Donations for the reunion will be taken at the reunion on May 1.

Donations for the Newsletter can be made at any time to:

Melvin Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333

Donations since the last Newsletter:
Billy C. Melton

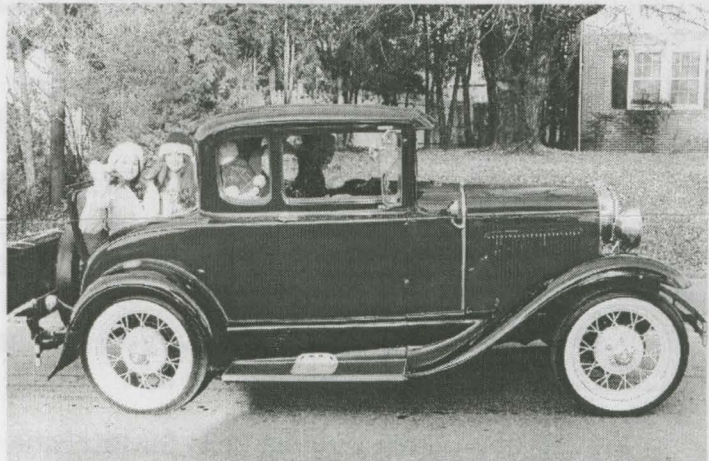
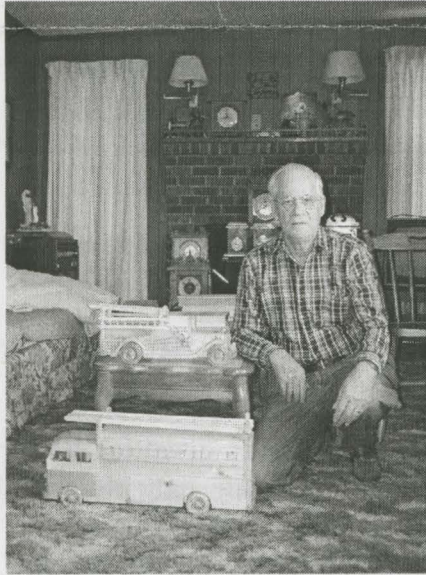
Melvin and Dea recently visited Carl and Margaret Surratt and Donald Surratt at Mt. Airy, NC. Donald is the widower of Pauline Felts Surratt and is Carl's brother. Margaret is the daughter of Rufus Jones, who was Lula Jones Felts' brother.



Above: Donald, Carlos, and Margaret Surratt
Right: Margaret with photo of herself as a young girl



This issue of the Newsletter features a road trip along Rt. 608 west from Fancy Gap. You might enjoy taking this trip in the bright blue Model A Ford belonging to James Melton.



These fire trucks were carved by Carli Combs, husband of Ethel Felts Combs. Ethel is the daughter of Heath Felts. Carli and Ethel live in Spencer, VA.

Melvin and Dea's Rhubarb Pudding

With spring coming, you might enjoy this easy recipe.

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- ¼ cup flour (gravy type is best)
- 3 cups diced rhubarb (about 6 big stalks)

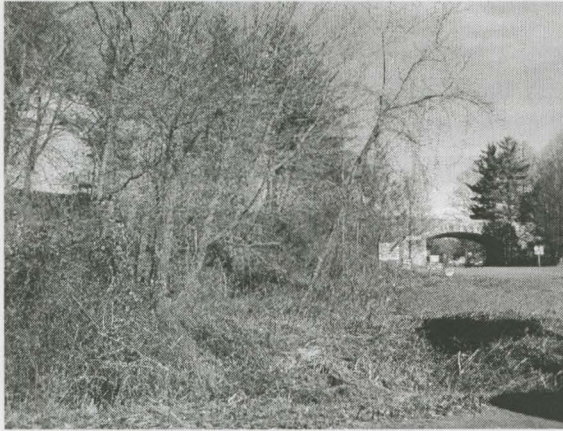
Put in greased dish and bake at 350 degrees for about 40 min. Serve warm with whipped cream.

West From Fancy Gap

by Melvin Felts

A lot of our readers remember Fancy Gap in the 30's, 40's, and 50's, or they have family roots along the stretch of road to the west. Back in those days people's property was kept clean by cattle grazing and you could see across the grassland for miles and miles. There were some woods and laurel patches in the steepest places. Nowadays it would be easy to get lost in all the undergrowth and vegetation. The pines have taken over where we used to roam the hills.

We're going to put in pictures of some places along Road 608 from Fancy Gap to the Crooked Creek road and explain some changes made over the years. About a mile before the Crooked Creek road, Rt. 608 intersects with 775. That intersection was known all over the county as the Crossroads. My family and neighbors that I knew when I was young lived between Fancy Gap and the Crossroads. Rt. 608 through this section was a part of the Appalachian Trail.



Judge Bolen Hotel site

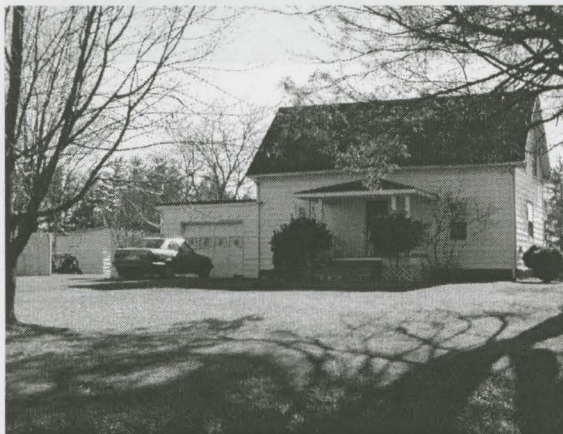
In the '30's, Fancy Gap had two general merchandise stores, a cabbage house, a Primitive Baptist church, and the Judge Bolen Hotel which I would guess was torn down by 1937. The hotel site was pointed out to me by Daddy and Grandpa to be just below the Parkway bridge, about where this thorn thicket is today.

The two stores, just north of the Parkway bridge, were owned by J.W. Worrell and E.B. Bunn. The J.W. Worrell store was built first, and for some reason, Bunn could not have his store facing U.S. 52 for a number of years. The post office was first in the Worrell store, and later, when Bunn's store was rebuilt to face 52, the post office was moved over there.

As we drive west out Road 608, the Jackson Hill School site is about ¼ mile on the left. Today it's just a grassy field adjacent to Ruben and Betty Felts Griggs' house. It was attended by Roy McMillian and his sisters Annie and Irene, by Ted, Terry, and Betty Lou Snow and their cousins Posey Ray Snow and Eugene Snow, also Carlos, Murray, and Woodrow Phibbs and their sisters Geneva and Alma Lee. When Jackson Hill School closed, they started going to Ivy Hill School along with me and my brother and sisters.

Remains of Deck and Louvinnie Felts's house

The house has been abandoned for years. This is an example of the way the vegetation has been let to grow on places that were once tended.



Silas Morris house

Silas' daughter Lorelee was the last person I knew who lived there, but the house is nicely kept today.



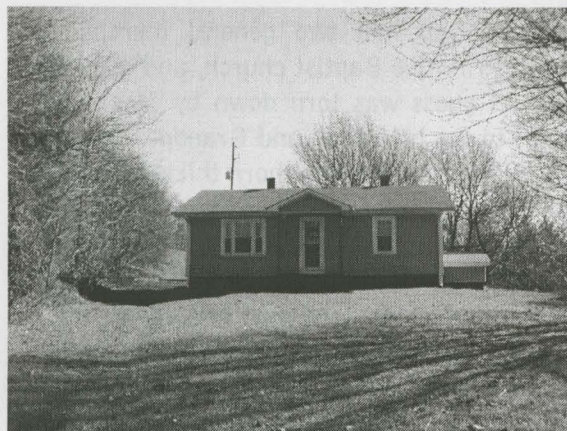
Near the Silas Morris house, my family leased a couple of fields to grow cabbage. Evelyn Botschen's house is located in one of those fields today. Just past her house and near the Parkway was a community baseball field where my dad and his brothers and Ike Snow's boys would play ball.

Ike Snow property and Posey Snow house

Less than a mile past the Silas Morris house, on the left, was Ike Snow's grocery store. Ike's son Posey built the brick house which exists today on the same location where Ike had a frame house beside his store. Ike Snow was the last person on 608 to use the old crank type telephone, and it was many years after that before the modern telephones came in.

From this site there is a spectacular view of Pilot Mountain.

The entrance to the Morris Cemetery and Devil's Den Nature Preserve is just past the Snow property. The Devil's Den property was deeded to Carroll County for development as a park and is open to the public in the summertime.



The grading for I-77 made a big change in the landscape. Right at the entrance to the Morris Cemetery, Road 608 used to make a big bend and it came around to the old house place where I was born. The road was almost level where now there is a deep valley.

T.R. and Lula Felts house

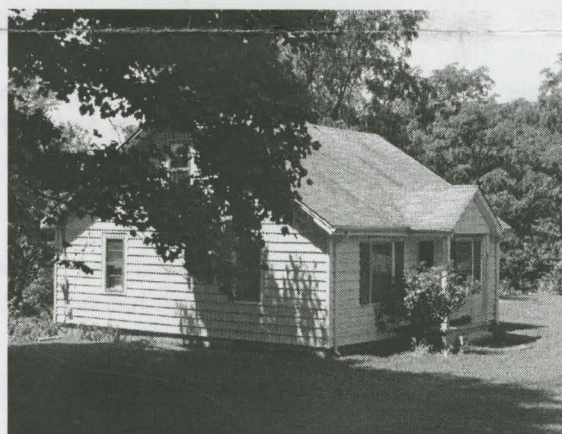
The Parkway took the old house where I was born, and most of our readers remember T.R. and Lula living in this house on 608 just beyond I-77.

Vauda and Ina Felts house

My uncle Vauda's house, about ¼ mile west of T.R.'s house, is now owned and maintained by his children, Sadie, Elvin, and Clinton.

Just past Vauda's is the house belonging to my uncle Heymon and aunt Hallie. Hallie Hall was widowed twice and is now living in the house with her son Elray.

Just beyond this home is a log cabin that was owned by Heymon at one time and was known as the Worrell Cabin.



Bob Hawks' Blacksmith Shop

Bob Hawks was the son of Louemma Melton Hawks. Louemma was a sister to Albert Melton. The blacksmith shop also had a corn grist mill in it which was powered by a Model T Ford engine. My brother Earlie and I would carry corn to this mill and get it ground. The shop building is not visible from 608; it is perhaps ½ mile south, in a group of summer homes, and appears to be well maintained by the present owners.

Our neighbors, Clayton, Carl, and Charles McMillan, lived on this lane just past the blacksmith shop.

My brother and sisters and I walked this route to Ivy Hill School, along with the neighbor children. Grace Stockner Ruth taught in this school. She taught my mother and all of us children, and she taught my sister Pauline's son Coy for one day. Clayton Stockner, who is a well-known jeweler in Hillsville, is Grace's nephew. Clayton and I were best friends in school, and Clayton sometimes attends our family reunion. W.B. Felts' home is just on the north side of 608 from the school location, but there is no trace of the school building remaining today. We used to play in a patch of short ivies (mountain laurels) in the woods near the schoolyard which may have given the school its name.

Julie Hawks house rebuilt

When the Parkway came through, the government bulldozed a big two-story house belonging to Julie Hawks, setting all of her furniture out to the side under a canvas, and Julie lived there with her eight children until two rooms of this house were built for her by the government. Additions were made to the house later on.

Just beyond Julie's house, across 608 on the south side, is the entrance to a community of modern homes called Chalet High. Most of this property was owned by Jeff Melton. Jeff lived there until his house burned down, probably in the late '40's.



The Alf Leftwich house and the Arthur Combs house

Both of these houses were modern for their time. The Alf Leftwich house originally had white weather-boarding. The Arthur Combs house appears unchanged but perhaps no longer in use.



The Susie Hawks Cemetery

From 608, about ½ mile past the Arthur Combs house, turn left on Rt. 700 and go about 1 mile to the driveway of the cemetery. There is a nice view of the Piedmont just beyond the tree line.

Pauline Felts Surratt was buried here beside her first husband, Coy Hawks. Walter Hawks owned a house and quite a bit of land just past the cemetery driveway. He willed the property to his two grandsons, Coy Hawks and Clyde Jones. My mother's brother, Rufus Jones, father of Clyde, and some of his family are buried here too.

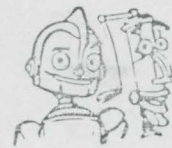


The Jim Felts house at the Crossroads and the Lawrence Melton house

Jim Felts' grandfather was Thomas Crawford Felts, who was a brother to my great-great-grandfather Theodore. Lawrence was the son of Albert and Lillie Felts Melton. Albert lived in an older house on the same location.

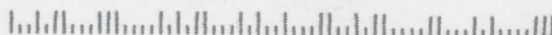
From the Crossroads, Rt. 608 and 775 run together for about a mile, until they intersect with Rt. 620, coming up the mountain from Lamsburg. A short ways past the intersection, 620 turns north and goes cross-country to Woodlawn. This section of 620 is known as the Crooked Creek Road, and it is where our first Felts ancestor in Carroll County, Crawford Felts, owned property, beginning in 1809.

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The Felts – Melton Family

Newsletter # 17

Summer 2006

FAMILY NEWS

Melvin visited on the phone with Mildred Felts Warren. She is the daughter of Pearlie Jones Felts. Pearlie, who was Melvin's mother's sister, married Melvin's grandfather's brother Roscoe. Mildred lives in Burlington, NC. She and her husband Thomas are both undergoing cancer treatments, and we keep them in our thoughts.

Dea visited on the phone with Robin Felts. Robin and Russell live in Spencer, VA. Robin had foot surgery a year ago and a back operation in December. The foot has healed, but she will need to have the pins taken out next month. She says her back is doing fine, though it is stiff. Robin is busy making and selling pocketbooks of various patterns as well as custom. Russell is hanging in, though he is in the late stages of COPD (emphysema). He has gained weight and is now 105 lbs after being down to 82 lbs a year ago. Their daughter Callie is doing great and loving married life. She works as a cosmetologist (self-employed) at the Forum in uptown Martinsville.

While Melvin was visiting Hallie Hall and her son El Ray Felts at Fancy Gap, he noticed this family group picture and scanned it into his computer so we can share it with you.

Back: Pauline and Coy
Hawks; T.R., Hallie
(holding Edward), Ina,
Heymon, and Vauda Felts

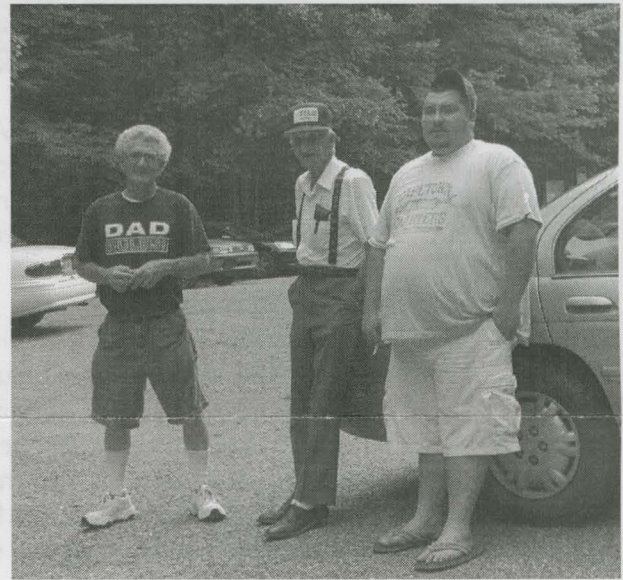
Middle: Lula (holding Billy
Hawks), Inez, Mary, and
Sadie Felts

Front: Carl, Faye, Clinton,
El Ray, Elvin, and
Heywood Felts



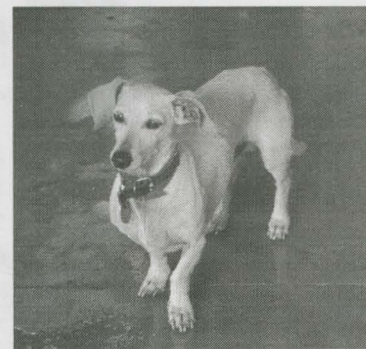
Mary Felts Galyean celebrated her birthday with a picnic given by her two granddaughters, Stacy Drake and Christina Rojas, in Mount Airy. We enjoyed seeing her extended family, especially the young people who are often away and busy when we go to visit. Stacy and Christina sent us this description for the newsletter.

On July 15, 2006, at 3 PM we gave our nanny (Mary Galyean) a surprise 71st birthday party. My sister (Christina) and I started planning back in June. I (Stacy Galyean Drake) told her that I was giving my two sons (Hunter and Seth) a surprise birthday party at Westwood Park (because her birthday was on the 14th of July and Hunter's was on the 17th and Seth's was the 22nd) and to invite people, and as she would invite them I would call and tell them the truth which was: that it was for her. I told them not to tell her. Just to go along with her. On the day of the party we told her not to bring the boys to the party until 3:30, but I told her that because I wanted everyone there when she got there to surprise her. When she got there she still didn't know it was her party until we told her, and boy the look on her face said she was surprised. We really pulled one over on her. The turn-out was good; there was about 50 people there. I think she really enjoyed herself.



Above: Mary Galyean, Hunter and Seth Akers, Carolyn Bartley; Ronald and Troy Galyean, Jeffrey Bartley

Left: Randy and Carolyn Bartley and Family



Sara Melton Sumner is the granddaughter of Minnie Felts Melton. She lives in Oak Ridge, TN, and attended the reunion two years ago. We keep in touch with her by e-mail. She sent us this biography of an aunt who was special to her.

Biography of Lena Gladys Melton Frandsen
By her niece, Sara Melton Sumner



Gladys Melton was born February 25, 1919, to Eldridge and Minnie (Felts) Melton. She grew up amid many siblings, and her sister Grace remembered that the two sisters enjoyed playing together often, sometimes pretending to be other people—usually richer people! “We lived in a dream world,” says Grace. As Gladys grew up, she helped out her father on the farm, while the older girls helped with the “inside work” like the cooking. When she was about sixteen, Gladys went to work at Paul Mill in Pulaski as a looper.

When World War II began, good jobs for women became available on the Home Front. Gladys, who was not very happy with her job at the mill, went to Washington, D.C., and found a job at the Navy Yard. She was joined in D.C. by her sisters Grace and Margaret Melton, who also found work there. It was an exciting time to be in that city: Washington in those days was filled with newcomers who were anxious to help with the war effort; women particularly flocked to the city to be clerks, secretaries, assistants, and even Army WACs. *Good Housekeeping* Magazine affectionately called these women “the army of the Potomac” when it featured them in a fashion spread in 1942. Gladys worked in the Tool Room at the Navy Yard and kept inventory; she enjoyed her work there until the end of the war. When the soldiers came back from the war, many working women lost their jobs so that the men could resume their lives and jobs back home. At that time, after losing her job at the Navy Yard, Gladys found work at a bank, and lived at Arlington Farms, a federally funded project (nicknamed “Girl Town”) built to address the terrible housing shortage in wartime Washington. Arlington Farms housed 8,000 women during the war, each of whom paid \$24.50 a month for a single room. In November of 1944, *Reader’s Digest* described the atmosphere of Arlington Farms in a story titled “28 Acres of Girls”:

So popular are its glamorous buildings, full of Venetian blinds and the chintz dear to so many female hearts, that 90 percent of new Government girls want to move in.... Most Girl Towners are slick chicks and bobby soxers in their teens and 20s. They left small towns or farms because they wanted to see the world, because the war had taken their boyfriends, or through sheer patriotism.... Washington, their jobs, and Girl Town have them in a daze of excitement – eating seafood for the first time, seeing Eleanor, wearing high heels, discovering that hotels wrap sugar lumps in paper. But they turn into young cosmopolitans after a few months of grown-up life and responsibility. (Qtd. in Rosenfeld A1)

Presumably, some of that exciting atmosphere would have remained even after the war, though the numbers of women living there would probably have diminished somewhat. It was at this time that Gladys met Joe Woods, her first husband. Joe was in the army, and at this point, she began to travel—the beginning of many travels she would experience in her adult life. She traveled with Joe to Hawaii, where he was stationed for a while. Always an animal lover, Gladys rescued and adopted several injured cats while she lived in Hawaii. Then, in the late 1950s, Joe left the army and the two moved back to D.C., where Gladys found work as a book keeper. She paid to have her cats flown home with her.

After her marriage to Joe Woods was over, Gladys remained in Washington, where she met her second husband, Scotty Frandsen. He was working at the time as a manager for the George McGovern campaign for President. They married and obtained the two Bedlington Terriers who would share their lives and travels for many years: Prince and Ulynda. Most of the extended family met these dogs at one time or another.

In the 1970s, Gladys and Scotty set off with Prince and Ulynda across country in an RV, and settled for a time in Indigo, California, and later in Mazatlan, Mexico. When Scotty began having health problems, however, they decided to return to southwest Virginia so that Gladys could be closer to her family, most of whom had settled around Mt. Airy, NC, and Pulaski, Virginia. After Scotty died, Gladys moved to Mt. Airy with her sisters Grace, Mae, and Ila; later, she moved with Grace to an apartment in Pulaski. Only in the last few years of her life, when her health had seriously deteriorated, was Gladys without a pet, and she pined for them. Any time I would see her, she would ask about my dogs, and talk about how she missed her own dogs so much, and how she so wished she was able to have another.

Gladys and Scotty were in fact responsible for my first dog—a Bedlington Terrier named Penny who needed a home. Gladys and Scotty knew that I was fascinated with dogs, and loved their dogs, and wanted a dog of my own, and they just brought Penny for me when I was about eight years old. With the exception of a period of about one year or so after Penny died, I have never been without a dog since that time—right now I have three! I have for some time thought, then, that perhaps Gladys and Scotty were partly responsible for my lifelong love for dogs.

My Aunt Gladys was a big part of my childhood; she and Scotty visited with us often, particularly during the time just before they left for California. I thought they were fun, and *cool* because they had dogs. She had many adventures and travels during her life. Our whole family misses her very much, particularly her sister Grace, who lived with Gladys for many years before her death in 2003 and feels her loss most keenly. It was Grace who gave me the information for this biography.

Sources:

Melton, Grace. Personal Interview. November 2005.

Rosenfeld, Megan. "Government Girls': World War II's Army of the Potomac." *The Washington Post*. May 10, 1999. A1

QUILTING AT MABRY MILL



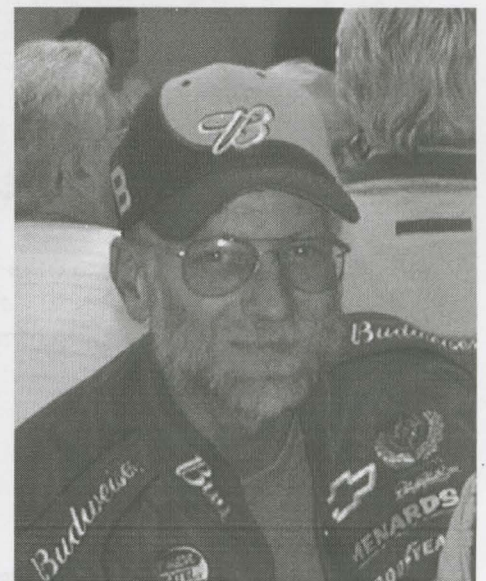
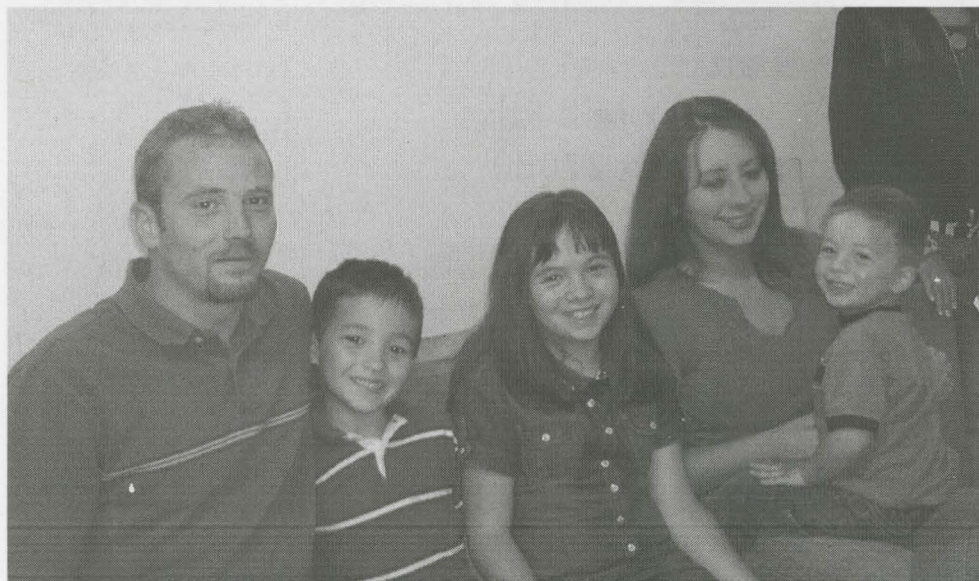
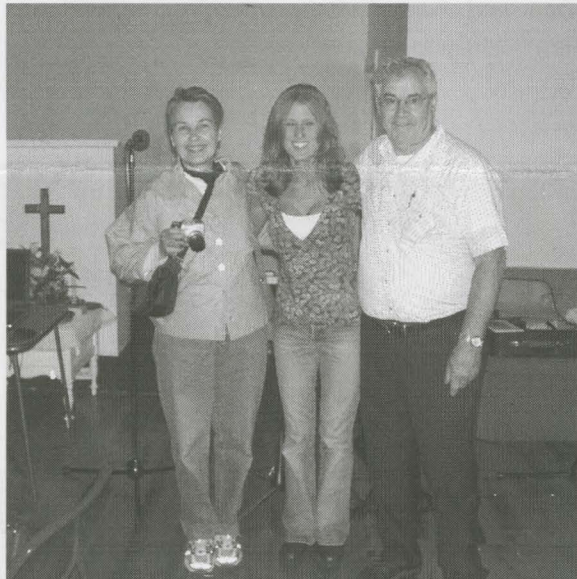
Fan quilting

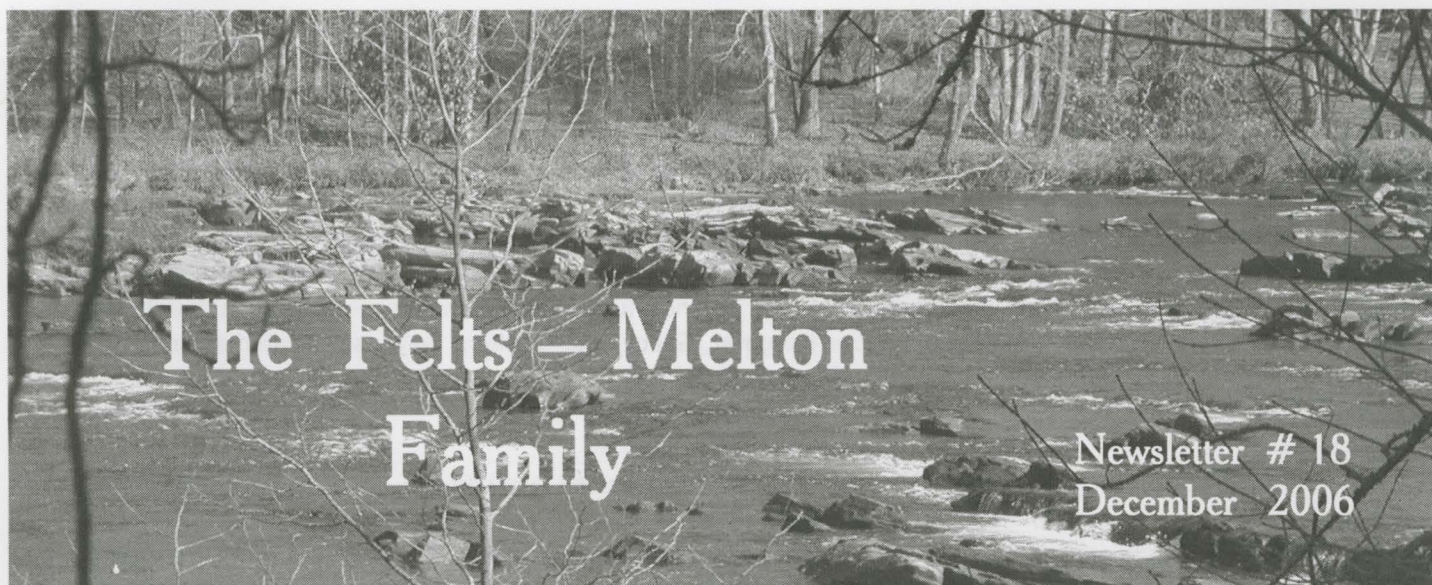
We have been glad to have Melvin's sister Inez Felts McRoberts join us at Mabry Mill this season. She is demonstrating quilting on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 5 PM. Inez uses the patterns she learned from her mother as well as patterns from quilting magazines that she has seen and liked. She finishes them with the fan quilting that is traditional in this area. Many of you have quilts at home that are done in this same style. We hope that our readers will photograph and save family quilts, for they are a history of people's needs and how they lived.

Photos from Reunion 2006



Above: Clinton Felts, Sadie Harris, Elvin Felts hosting the reunion this year; Betty and Marvin Crowder, here for the first time
Center: Dea Felts, Christina Rojas, Melvin Felts; Hallie Hall and Donald Surratt
Bottom: Lennie Melton, his children Austin, Morgan, and Brandon and fiancée Taska Menius; Rodney Felts





The Felts - Melton Family

Newsletter # 18
December 2006

We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Through the Newsletter we try to keep our readers informed of any family news that we are able to gather. Though we don't have a feature story for this issue, we have visited or talked to people from various branches of the family in recent weeks and will share their news and add a few photos from our collection. We hope to hear from you.

New Arrivals

Melvin's granddaughter **Stacy Felts Utt** and her husband **Joe** of Cana, VA, are expecting their first child, a girl, in March. We visited them about a week ago and saw sonograms of the baby. Stacy is the daughter of Melvin's son Roy, who died in 1992.

Christina and **Tim Rojas** are expecting their first baby in July. They live in Fayetteville, NC near Fort Bragg where Tim is based. Christina is the granddaughter of Troy and Mary Galyean.

Jacob Church and **Amanda Bailey** have a baby girl due in December. Jacob is the son of Jeannie Bryant Holder, Gladys Felts's second daughter. Jacob and Amanda also have a boy named Zackary Caleb, born in December of 2004.

Chad and **Dana Felts** are expecting their second child. Chad is the son of Edward Felts and grandson of Hallie Hall.

Visits

We had a visit with **Cathy** and **Tony Dix** in Mt. Airy, NC. Cathy has been caring for her father, Nelson Bryant, in her home. Cathy's mother was Gladys Felts.

We had Thanksgiving dinner with **Inez** and **Willard McRoberts** and their family. Their daughter **Shirley Everhart** says her winter plans are "to survive the holiday blitz and to get my house cleaned out. We've been remodeling for the last year." Shirley and Rodney live in Winston-Salem, NC. Inez and Willard's daughter **Lois Rogers** says she is "working on a post-graduate class and spending time with my little family." We see Lois quite often when we are playing a dance with our band. Lois teaches kindergarten in Galax, VA. Her son **Brian** is in the fourth grade.

Melvin had a short visit with **Elray Felts** and **Hallie Hall** at Fancy Gap. Hallie, 86 years old, is the widow of Heymon Felts and of her second husband Carlos Hall.

Melvin and Dea visited with **Russell** and **Robin Felts** by phone. Robin is busy caring for Russell and has a lot of trouble with her back (sciatica), but she continues to work on her crafts, making pocket books, window treatments, and especially Christmas ornaments at this time of year. Their daughter **Callie** and her husband Jason Richardson are living in Eden, NC. Callie and Jason just celebrated their first anniversary with a week in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Callie visits home often to help with Russell's care.

Melvin visited with **Jolene Huckabee** by phone. Jolene is the granddaughter of Deck Felts. Her son **Chris** is finishing his first semester at Surry Community College, studying computer engineering.

Dea visited with **DeeDee Thompson** by phone. Ricky and DeeDee's daughter **April** is a junior at Carroll County High School and busy with cheerleading. Her team is #1 in the district, runner-up in the region, and 12th in the state this season. Their son **Cody** is in the 7th grade at Woodlawn. He played fall baseball every weekend through October.

Melvin and Dea often see **James** and **Myrtle Melton** when they play music for the Cana Golden Agers on the first Wednesday of the month. Myrtle has had a difficult time with chemotherapy but now her treatments are finished and she is on the mend. Their daughter **Vickie** and her husband Ed Barnes have adopted a daughter, Maggie Malane, born May 1. They have another daughter, Grace, age 4, whom they also adopted as an infant. The family lives in Cary, NC.

Obituaries

Mildred Felts Warren, daughter of Pearl Jones Felts, passed away on Oct. 29, 2006 in Burlington, NC. We received the news via e-mail from R.J. Felts, her half-brother, who lives in Raleigh, NC.

Though he was not a family member, Melvin lost a good musician friend, **Lonnie Cole**, on November 18. Melvin grew up close to Lonnie and his family at Fancy Gap and played at a jam session with him just a day before he died of a sudden heart attack.

Health

Melvin's sister **Mary Galyean** is receiving hospice care for advanced cancer. She is still up and about on most days and is receiving visits from friends and family. We try to visit her each week. If you would like to send a card, the address is 168 Rosebud Lane, Low Gap, NC, 27024.

Clinton Felts has recovered from surgery for appendicitis.

Faye's husband **Dan Williams** had gall bladder surgery earlier this fall.

Melvin is receiving immunotherapy treatments for his bladder cancer so we are not making a lot of plans for the holidays. The treatments will be finished in early January.

Correction

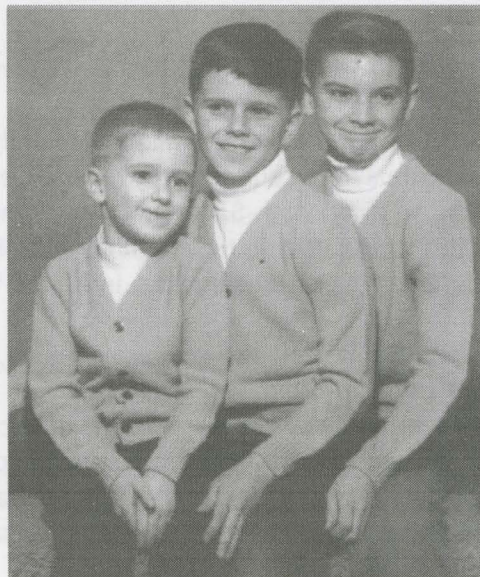
In our last newsletter we stated that Betty Spurlin Crowder was the grand-daughter of Stella Baker. She is actually Stella's daughter, thus the grand-daughter of Betty Felts Baker.

Donations

Since the last newsletter we have received a donation from Parlie and Betty Robertson. Thank you for your Christmas card, Betty. Yours is always the first one.

Mystery Photos

Answers are on the last page.



More Photos

We hope you enjoy these photos from our collection.

Back row: T.R. and Heath Felts
Front: Frank, Deck, and Heymon Felts

Both Sara Melton Sumner and
Frances Irvin sent us copies of this
picture.

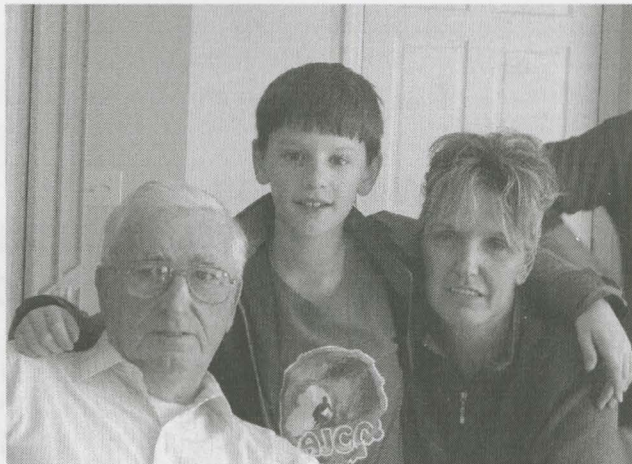


Left: Earlie and Melvin with
their mother Lula Felts

Right: Faye and Inez Felts



Photos from our house parties, 2002:
Mary Felts Galyean



Donald Surratt, Raven and Jane Hawks



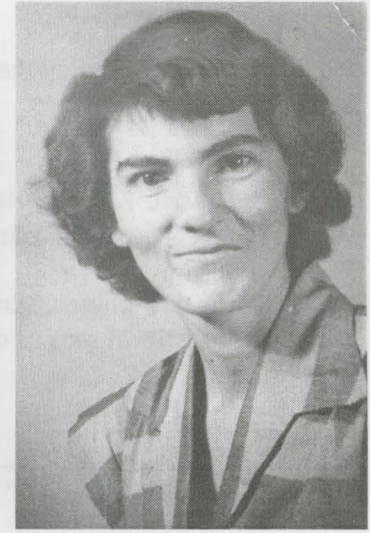
Estil Harris



Gladys Felts, left and right



Gladys' son Kenneth



We would like to hear from our readers during the holidays. Our home phone is (276) 238 - 1921 and our e-mail is mdfelts@adelphia.net.

Mystery Photos:

Roy, Allen, and James Felts

Pauline, Mamie, and Marie Felts

Mamie was the daughter of Roscoe and Bessie Felts.

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333

ROANOKE VA 240

11 DEC 2006 PM 2 T



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

27050+9780



The Felts - Melton Family

Newsletter # 19

Spring - Summer 2007

FAMILY NEWS

Birth

Melvin's granddaughter Stacy Utt and her husband Joe had their first child, Majestic Mae Utt, on March 16. They are living in Cana, VA.

Marriage

Virginia Felts, daughter of Fred and Cora Felts, married Guy Weeks of Rhiner, VA, on March 22.

Deaths

Lillie Pearl Melton Bedwell, daughter of Roy and Hazel Melton and sister of Lucille Bonn, passed away on Oct. 9, 2006.

Mary Frances Felts Galyean passed away on Jan. 6, 2007. Mary is survived by her husband Troy, two of her sisters, Inez McRoberts and Faye Williams, and her brother Melvin Felts. Mary and Troy have three children, Larry, Carolyn, and Ronald. Mary and Troy were very active in caring for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Jerry Wayne Felts died on Jan. 14. He had one daughter, Holly. Jerry's parents are W.B. and Maxine Felts of Fancy Gap.

Belva Edwards Felts passed away on Mar. 28. She was the widow of Calvin Felts.

Reverend Harris Easter, a friend to the Fancy Gap families over many years, passed away on Apr. 23.

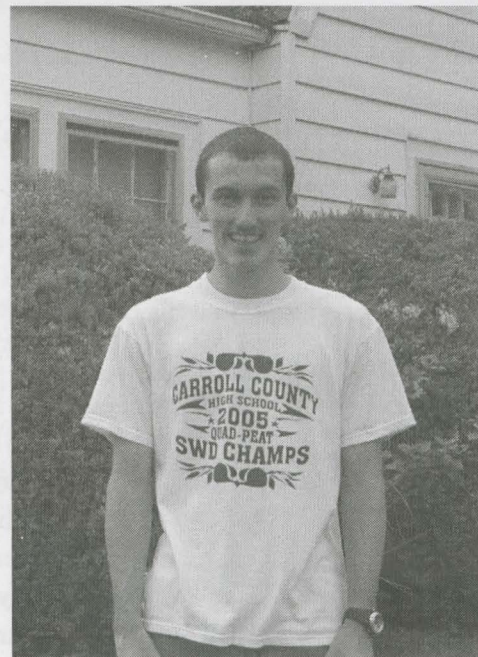
Graduation

Melvin's grandson Aaron Felts (right) graduated from Carroll County High School and will attend Radford University this fall. At Carroll County, he was named to the National Honor Society and also went to regionals in track this spring. Aaron plans to major in math and statistics and hopes to participate in cross-country and track when he gets to Radford. He celebrated his 18th birthday on May 31.

Donations since the last Newsletter

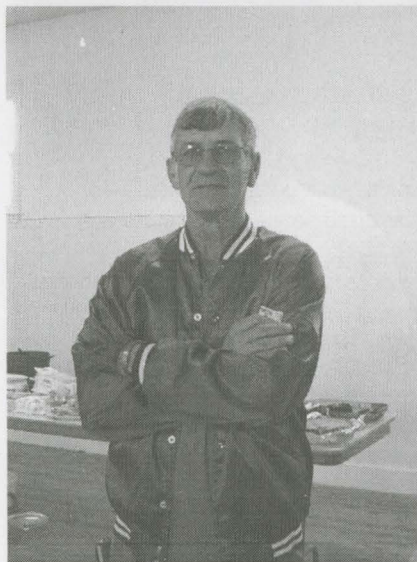
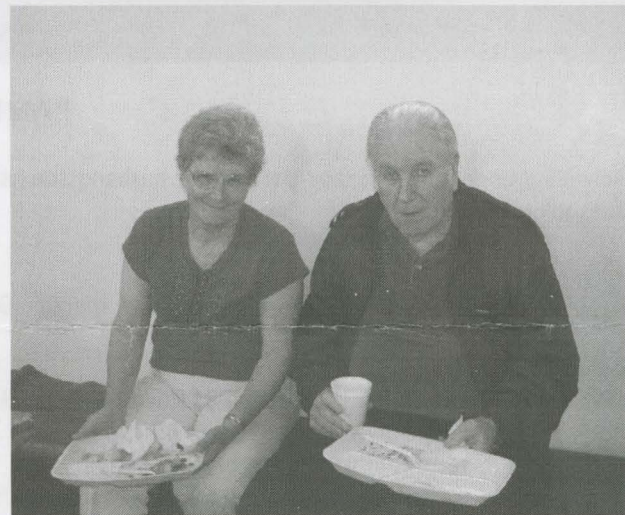
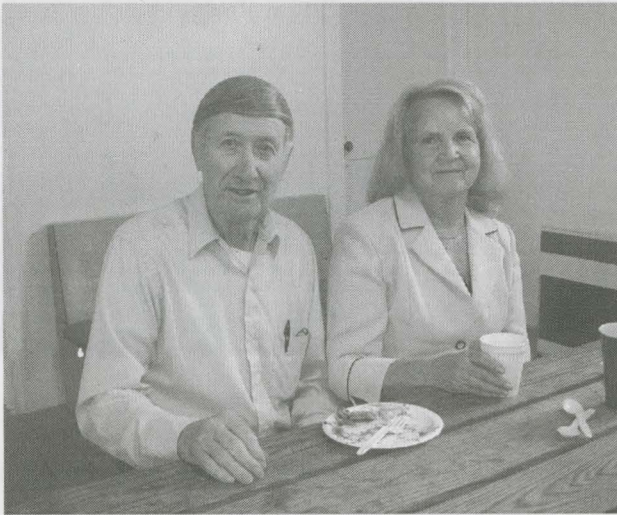
James and Myrtle Melton
Sara Melton Sumner
Sallie Mae Rigney Amstutz
Troy Felts
Betty Voigt

Our e-mail server has changed! Please put the corrected address in your records.
mdfelts@comcast.net



2007 REUNION

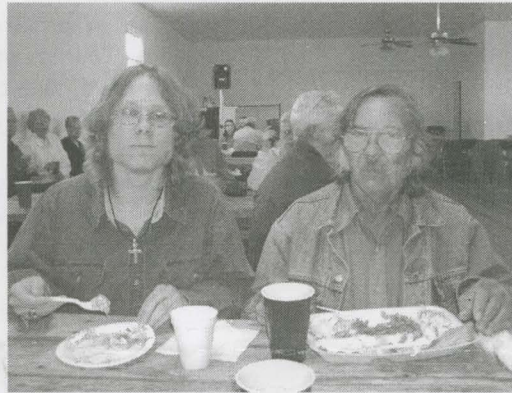
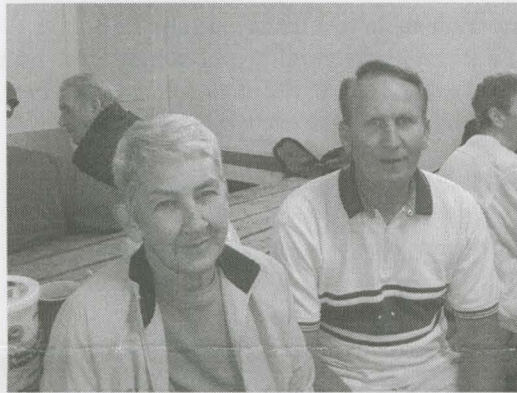
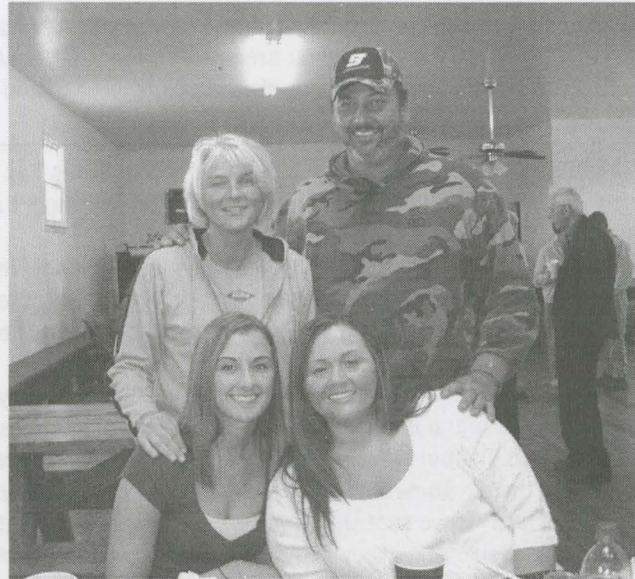
John and Shirley Bullion (right) attended the reunion for the first time this year. John is the great-grandson of Floyd and Candice Felts Padgett. Candice was the daughter of Theodore and Avis Farmer Felts. Melvin and John became acquainted through e-mail.



Guy and Virginia Weeks (top left)
Edith Anderson and Bill McRoberts (middle right)
Inez and Willard McRoberts (middle left)
Faye and Dan Williams and daughter DeeDee Thompson (bottom right)
Larry Galyean (bottom left)

Billy and Dana Melton and their daughters

Billy and Dana shared pictures from their family album, including this one of their uncle and aunt, James and Myrtle Melton.



Connie Maude Burcham and Virgil Melton (left)
Chris Huckabee and Joe Felts (right)

Here's a story we got in the e-mail from one of our family (some incidents may have been changed).

Those Born 1930 – 1979

TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED the 1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's, and 70's:

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant. They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can, and didn't get tested for diabetes. Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-based paints. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets, not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking. As infants and children, we would ride in cars with no car seats, booster seats, seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pick-up on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and NOT from a bottle. We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and NO ONE actually died from this. We ate cupcakes, white bread and real butter and drank koolade made with sugar, but we weren't overweight because WE WERE ALWAYS OUTSIDE PLAYING! We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back in time to milk the cows and feed the animals, chop wood and carry water from the spring. No one was able to reach us all day. And we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem. We did not have Playstations, Nintendo's, X-boxes, no video games at all, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's, no surround-sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet or chat rooms ...

WE HAD FRIENDS, and we went outside and found them! We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. We ate worms and mud pies made from dirt, and the worms did not live in us forever. We were given BB guns for our 10th birthdays, made up games with sticks and tennis balls, and, although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's house and knocked on the door or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them!

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment. Imagine that. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke the law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law. These generations have produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors ever! The past 50



years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned HOW TO DEAL WITH IT ALL! If you are one of them, CONGRATULATIONS! You might want to forward this to your kids so they will know how brave, and lucky, their parents were. Kind of makes you want to run through the house with scissors, doesn't it?

The internet story in most parts was true, that times has changed considerably from when I was a teenager until now. Back when I was between 12 and 15 years old, my father wasn't able to give us an allowance, and we had to make our own spending money. We had several ways of doing this.

In the fall, when chinquapins would open in the woods, me and Charles McMillan (a neighbor boy) would pick about a quart a piece. We could stand on the side of the road and sell them to the people passing by. A lot of people wanted chinquapins; they weren't hard to sell. Sometimes we'd batch them out, and sometimes we'd sell the whole jar. Seems like we sold them for about 25 cents for half a pint.

Another way we collected money for the weekend was my brother Earlie and I would make rabbit gum traps out of boards or a hollow log and bait them with apples, salt, sometimes onions. We would have probably 12 or 14 traps setting out. We would trap 2 to 7 rabbits every day in the late fall. We'd take them to Elbert Bunn's store at Fancy Gap. He'd give us 20 cents a piece for them. Sometimes we would keep a couple out and skin them and dress them, and Mom would make rabbit stew with dumplings. If we shot the rabbits, we could use them at home but we couldn't sell them. To sell them, we would kill them by breaking their neck. They couldn't have any wounds, and we also had to check them for warbles (worms under the skin).

The movies in Hillsville cost 34 cents (under 12, 17 cents). When we got ready to go to a movie, me and Carl McMillian would go out on the Parkway and play fiddle and banjo. Tourists would see us at the parking overlook and give us a nickel or dime, sometimes a quarter. They'd put the money in our hand. One time the ranger observed us closely, but he never said anything. We didn't know that it was against the rules of the Parkway to do that. We'd make enough to go to the movies and take Charles (Carl's brother) with us.

At that time, transportation to Hillsville from Fancy Gap was easy to get. You got out on the road and usually the first vehicle to pass would give us a ride. Mostly it would be somebody we knew. We had to walk about 2 1/2 miles out to Fancy Gap because most people on the Parkway were tourists and they wouldn't give us a lift.

Melvin Felts

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333

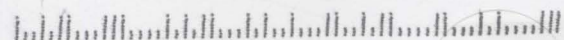
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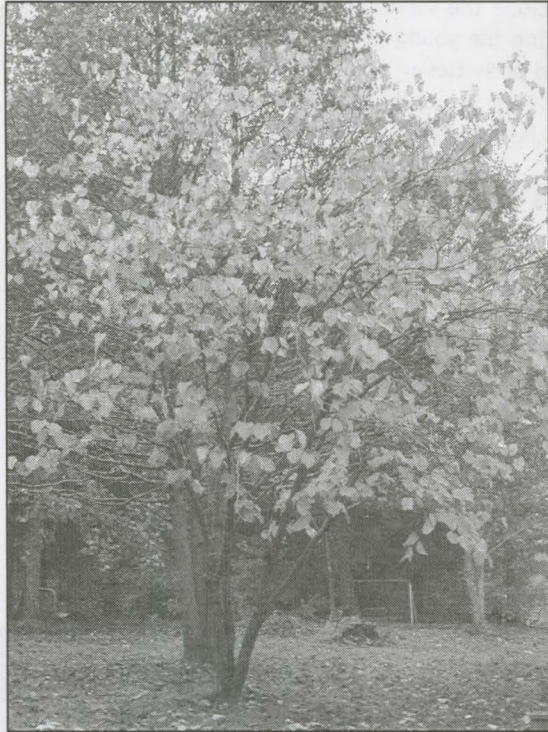
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Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

2705039780





The Felts - Melton Family

Newsletter # 20

Fall - Winter 2007

*redbud tree in fall
Mary and Troy Galyean's home,
Low Gap, NC*

*We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
good health and enjoyment of the season.*

Family News

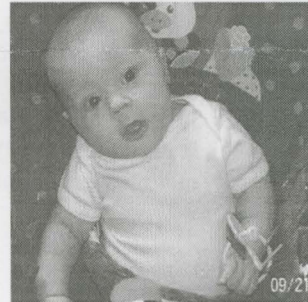
We spoke with Stacy Drake on the phone. Her brother, Ronald Galyean, Jr., is doing basic training in Texas for the National Guard. They will teach him to operate the army tanks. Ronald Galyean, Sr. had open heart surgery and an aneurysm repaired, and is doing well.

Lora Felts Rippey passed away on Oct. 28. She is survived by her husband James and by her brother and sister-in-law Roby and Anita Felts. She and her family regularly attended the family reunion.

Pauline (Polly) Melton Breedlove and her husband Cecil, of Pulaski, VA, both died in November, about a week apart. Pauline was the daughter of Eldridge and Minnie Felts Melton.

Melvin spoke with Elzie Speas on the phone. Her brother Herman Felts is in the nursing home at Laurel Meadows. Cards can be sent to Heritage Hall Laurel Meadows, 16600 Danville Pike, Laurel Fork, VA, 24352.

W.B. Felts has been in the Golden Living nursing home in Mt. Airy, NC. His wife Maxine has told us that he will be coming home at the end of November if there are no further complications.



Logan Brayden Rojas was born to Christina and Tim Rojas on July 5, 2007. Logan is the great-grandson of Mary and Troy Galyean.



Melvin and Dea continue to be busy with the band. We have played as the "Mountain Ivy Band" for the last few years, Melvin on banjo and Dea on fiddle. Annie Primm plays guitar, Walt Quesenberry, bass, and Kermit Waller, harmonica. Annie and Walt do the singing. Here we are in front of the Mabry Mill Restaurant; Elmen Quesenberry is playing the banjo on the right. This season we played at Mabry Mill (2nd and 4th Sundays), we played several reunions and dances, and we helped with school kids at the Blue Ridge Music Center. We play for several senior citizens' groups, and Melvin goes to one or two jam sessions each week.

Beginning with this newsletter, we are making a special effort to include the school age kids in the family. We are urging parents or grandparents to send us a picture and write a few lines telling the young person's age, grade in school, and name of the school he/she attends. Also tell the student's favorite subject and activities in or out of school, and anything you are especially proud of. We would like to hear from the students themselves if they can be persuaded to write us. Our e-mail is mdfelts@comcast.net. This is a simple thing to do, as you can see from this issue. Please help us by sending us your family news so that we can keep the newsletter going.

Below is an outline of the relationships among the young people in this newsletter.

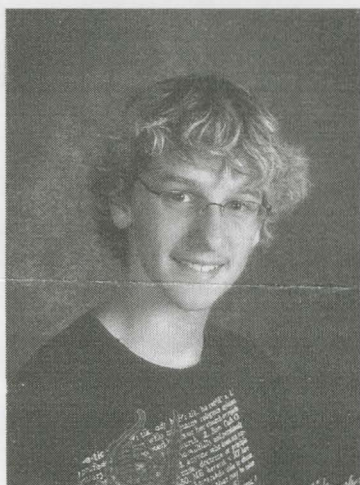
Two of the nine children of Lloyd and Frances Felts were T.R. and Vauda. T.R. Felts (1906 – 1989) married Lula Jones (1909 – 1991), and Vauda Felts (1916 – 2003) married Ina Hawks (1919 – 1989). Of their descendants, the following are represented in this newsletter:

children of T.R. and Lula Felts

- Pauline her great grandchildren Raven Hawks and Jeremiah Goings
- Gladys her great grandchildren Morganne, Austin and Brandon Melton
- Mary her great grandchildren Tyler Galyean, Hunter and Seth Akers
- Inez her grandchild Bryan Rogers
- Faye her grandchildren April and Cody Thompson

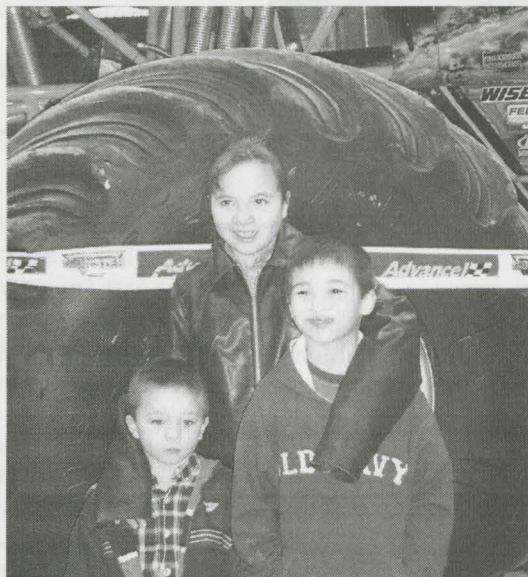
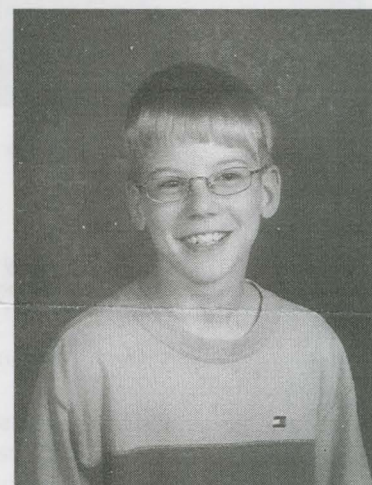
children of Vauda and Ina Felts

- Sadie her grandchildren Taylor and Paige Isom



Raven Hawks is in the 10th grade at North Surry High School in Mt. Airy. He has been on the honor roll ever since he's been in school. Raven likes art and music. He played bass clarinet in his school band for 4 years. He plans to be a veterinarian. As soon as he gets his driver's license he will have a job assisting a veterinarian in Mt. Airy.

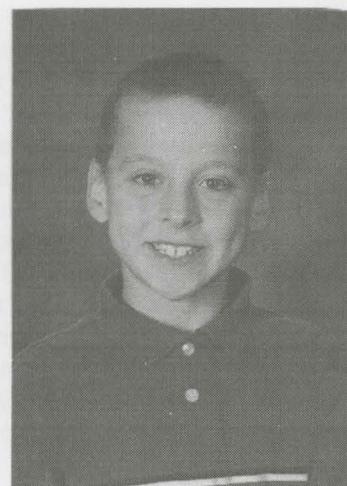
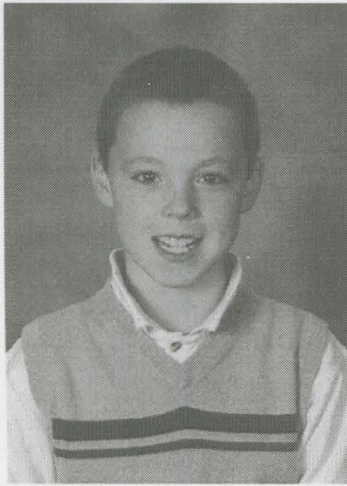
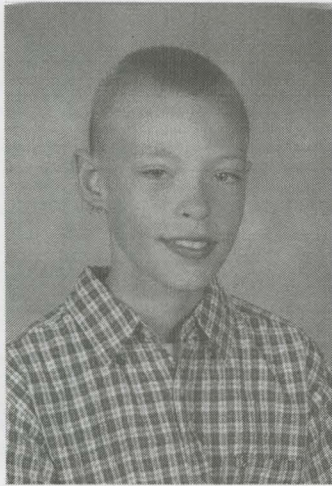
Jeremiah Goings is 12 years old and attends Meadowview Middle School in Mt. Airy. He likes video games and music, and he likes to build things. He likes to play "Magic Gathering," a card game. His grandpa is proud of the way he helps with projects such as building a deck for his mother's house.



Morganne Melton, age ten, attends Faith Elementary School in Faith, North Carolina where she is in the fifth grade. She is the daughter of Lenny and Patty Melton and the granddaughter of Kenneth and Terri Melton. Morganne is an A-B Honor Roll Student and the past two years she has scored Fours, which is the highest score possible on the End of Grade Tests. Math is her favorite subject but she also likes to read. She takes horse-riding lessons and enjoys hanging out with friends. Morganne someday hopes to be a veterinarian.

Austin Melton, Morganne's brother, attends Faith Elementary School in Faith, North Carolina. He is seven years old and in the second grade. Austin is an A-B Honor Roll Student. His favorite subject is reading. Math is not high on his list of favorite things to do. He enjoys jumping ramps and doing wheelies while riding his motorcycle. Austin hopes to become a truck driver like his grandpa when he grows up.

Their younger brother Brandon, also in the picture, is four years old.



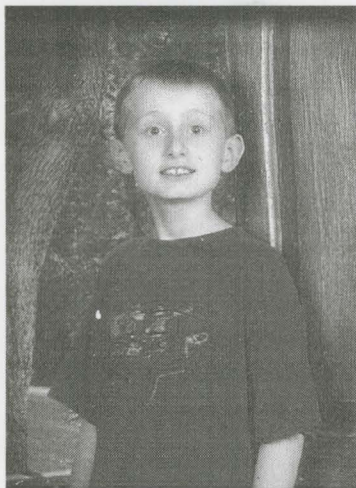
My boys, well, I would like to think they are the best in the world!!

My oldest son, Tyler Reed, is 11 years old. He attends South Davie Middle School. He enjoys 6th grade and makes good grades. He plays the trumpet in the school band. We just finished playing football. Our team, "Mocksville Rams," came in first place, undefeated!!! Now we are getting started with basketball. Tyler also does Boy Scouts and he plays baseball in the spring! He loves sports and he cares a great deal about his school work. He has been given the Citizenship Award by his teachers and I think that says a lot about the person he is!!!

My middle son, Hunter Blake, is 9 years old. He goes to Mocksville Elementary and is in the third grade. Hunter made the "A" Honor Roll this quarter. I think he is off to a great start! His favorite subject is social studies, history. He loves to read about wars. When his friends come over they play war and army! Hunter is a Bear Scout. He enjoys that a lot! He also played football for Mocksville (JV). His team came in second place. Now he is playing basketball! Hunter is an all around great child!!

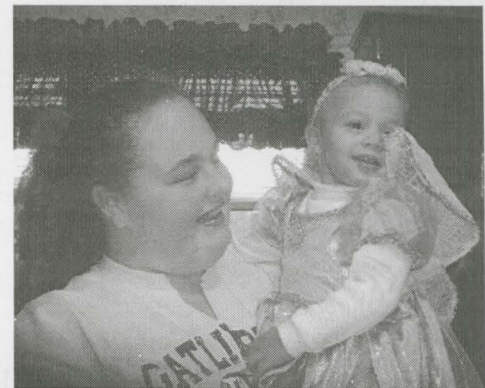
My youngest son, Jason Seth, is 8 year old. He goes to Mocksville Elementary and is also in the third grade. Seth is a very lovable boy who doesn't like school!! His favorite subject is art!! Seth loves to draw cars. He plays the PlayStation 2 all the time and enjoys riding his gocart!! He plays soccer and basketball. He played on the same football team as Hunter this year! Seth also does Cub Scouts. He is my true boy!!!

their mother, Stacy Drake



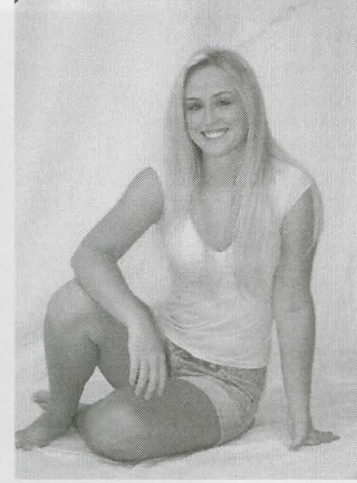
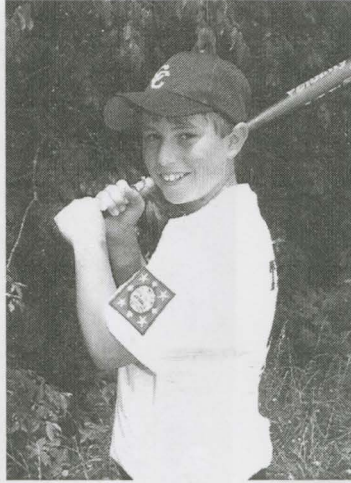
My name is Bryan Rogers.

My mom and dad are Lois and Frank Rogers. We live in a log cabin in the woods. I am 10 years old and am a fifth grader at Galax Middle School. I have several good friends. We like to ride our four-wheelers and play video games on my Nintendo. Of all my classes, I like science best. I like to invent things. When I grow up I would like to work in the field of science.



Taylor Isom and Paige Isom are the grandchildren of Sadie and Estil Harris. Taylor is the oldest, with curly hair. She's 13. She enjoys music, church, fishing, and babysitting her cousins, Nevaeh (pictured) and Ianna. Paige is 12. She's the one in the picture of the deer she killed this year. She enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, horseback riding, and playing her guitar. Both girls are crazy over animals. They love their white poodle named Nikki.

Cody Thompson is 13 years old and attends Carroll County Intermediate School. Cody has been playing ball for the recreation dept. for 5 or 6 years now and has been chosen for the "All-Stars" team several times. He has also been playing for a USSSA team for 2 years. We do quite a bit more traveling with the USSSA team. This year we went to Patrick Springs, Collinsville, Dublin, Greensboro, just to name a few. Cody is a very talented young man. The coach brags about being able to put him anywhere on the field and he does a good job. They won several trophies in their season. He hopes to keep playing but also wants to participate in the fiddlers' conventions next year as baseball kept him from doing so this past year.



April Thompson, age 18, is Cody's sister. She is a senior at Carroll County High School. Her competition cheerleading team won first place in the Southwest District Competition on October 27, 2007 in Tazewell, VA. Their routine lasted about 3 minutes and April helped in some of the choreographing. She works very hard to achieve her goals. She is known as a flyer which means that they throw her up in the air. It is a very difficult move but she is a pro at it! She and three others tried out for the "All-Stars" team at camp in Boone, NC this past July and all of them made it. They will leave the day after Christmas to go to London for a week to march in the parade with the Queen. What an honor!!! They have all worked very hard fundraising for this trip and continue to do so. Also I'd like to say that last summer her team went to Florida and participated in the Citrus pre-game Bowl. So she is getting to do a lot of traveling also. We are all so proud of both of our athletes.

their mother, DeeDee Thompson

Donations since the last newsletter: Billy C. Melton, El Ray Felts

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

HUSBAND	NAME <u>Crawford Felts</u>	OCCUPATION:
	BIRTH/CHR. <u>date c 1770 place VA</u>	MILITARY SERVICE:
	MARRIAGE _____	War _____
	DEATH _____	From _____ To _____
	BURIAL PLACE <u>Grayson Co., Va.</u>	Rank _____
	FATHER _____	OTHER WIVES:
MOTHER _____		
WIFE	NAME _____	
	BIRTH/CHR. <u>date _____ place _____</u>	
	DEATH _____	OTHER HUSBANDS:
	BURIAL PLACE _____	
	FATHER _____	
	MOTHER _____	

CHILDREN

Order of Birth	FULL NAME OF CHILD		DATE OF Birth, Marriage & Death	PLACE OF Birth, Marriage and Death
	Sex M-F	Name of Child's First Spouse		
1		Randolph Felts	B _____	Grayson Co., Va. (Mar. Bond)
	M	Polly Burnett	M 10 Jun 1815	
2		Joshua Felts	B c 1800	
	M	Mary (Burnett or Jones)	M c 1826	
3		Jordan Felts	B c 1804	NC Grayson Co., Va. (Mar. Bond)
	M	1-Sarah Kester 2-Prudence Smith	M 27 Jun 1827	
4			B _____	
			M _____	
			D _____	
5			B _____	
			M _____	
			D _____	
6			B _____	
			M _____	
			D _____	
7			B _____	
			M _____	
			D _____	
8			B _____	
			M _____	
			D _____	
9			B _____	
			M _____	
			D _____	
10			B _____	
			M _____	
			D _____	

<p style="text-align: center;">SOURCE OF INFORMATION</p> <p>Carroll Grayson Marriages Book</p> <p>Settlements Book</p> <p>Mary Felts Columbine 8-95</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PREPARED BY</p> <p>Wilma Jarrell Hiatt</p> <p>3265 Spainhour Mill Road</p> <p>Tobacoville, NC 27050</p> <p>(910) 983-5229</p>
---	--

HUSBAND Joshua Felts
 Birth c. 1800 or 1805 Place NC
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death _____ Place _____
 Burial _____ Place Crooked Creek Cem.?
 Father Crawford Felts Mother (Maiden Name) _____
 Mar. 1828 1828 Place _____
 Other Wives (if any) _____

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?
 Gerald Cook (1995)
 Mary Felts Columbine (1995)
 Reavis Lyons (1995)

WIFE Mary (Gonzales)? or (Burnett)
 Birth c. 1804 Place VA
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death _____ Place _____
 Burial _____ Place Crooked Creek Cem.?
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) _____
 Other Husb. (if any) _____

Name and address of person submitting this sheet:
 Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
 3265 Spainhour Mill Road
 Tobaccoville, Nc 27050

Use Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side

Sex or Family	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	
M	1 Jordan			1833							Date _____ To Nancy Payne
M	2 James C			1836							Date _____ To _____
M	3 Iredell C (Ira)			1839							Date _____ To Cynthia Norman
F	Selah A.			1840							Date _____ To _____
F	5 Rosie L			1842							Date _____ To _____
M	6 William H			1846					1929		Date _____ To Martha Jane Owen
F	7 Sarah Jane	08	Dec	1827			VA	18	Dec	1901	Date 17 Aug 1848 To William Golding (br. to Thoma)
F	8 Charity (grave) (fam.)	20	Jan	1828							Date 12 Mar 1850 To Thomas Golding (br. to Wm.)
F	9 Elizabeth H (Betty)			c 1832							Date 30 Mar 1848 To Ransome H Lyons
F	10 Elisa (Eliza)			1826							Date 16 Feb 1847 (MB) To George W. Jones
F	11 Polly										Date _____ To _____
	12										Date _____ To _____
	13										Date _____ To _____

HUSBAND	NAME	Jordan Felts (Jordon)		OCCUPATION:	
	BIRTH/CHR.	date	1833	place	
	MARRIAGE				
	DEATH				
	BURIAL PLACE				
	FATHER	Joshua Felts			
MOTHER	Mary				
WIFE	NAME	Nancy Payne		MILITARY SERVICE:	
	BIRTH/CHR.	date	1832	place	
	DEATH	1898			
	BURIAL PLACE	Columbine Church Cem. Camb. Co.			
	FATHER				
	MOTHER				

CHILDREN

Order of Birth	FULL NAME OF CHILD		DATE OF Birth, Marriage & Death	PLACE OF Birth, Marriage and Death
	Sex M-F	Name of Child's First Spouse		
1		Ambrose	B 1855	VA
	M			
2		Harriett M.	B 1857	VA
	F			
3		William A.	B 1860	VA
	M	Celia E. Fulks		
4		Celia E. H.	B 1863	VA
	F	<i>Miss Ambrose</i>	M 19 Aug 1880	<i>Surry</i>
5		Isaac D.	B 1865	VA
	M			
6		Floyd	B 1868	VA
	M			
7		Charity R.	B 1871	VA
	F	<i>Thomas M. Williams</i>		<i>Surry</i>
8		Mattie L.	B 1874	VA
	F			
9		India S.	B 1878	VA
	F			
10			B	
			M	
			D	

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Mary Felts Columbine 8-95	PREPARED BY Wilma Jarrell Hiatt 3265 Spainhour Mill Road Tobaccoville, NC 27050 (910) 983-5229
--	--

HUSBAND	NAME	Iredell (Ira) C. Felts		OCCUPATION:	
	BIRTH/CHR.	date	1839	place	VA
	MARRIAGE				
	DEATH	Between 1880-1900			
	BURIAL PLACE	Carroll Co., VA Crooked Creek P. Bapt. Ch. Cem.			
	FATHER	Joshua Felts			
MOTHER	Mary				
WIFE	NAME	Cynthia Norman		NC	
	BIRTH/CHR.	date		place	
	DEATH				
	BURIAL PLACE				
	FATHER				
	MOTHER				

CHILDREN

Order of Birth	Sex M-F	FULL NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF Birth, Marriage & Death	PLACE OF Birth, Marriage and Death
		Name of Child's First Spouse		
1		Alexander Monroe	B 1868	
	M	Edna J. Greenwood	M 23 Dec 1872	Surry
2		Joshua Christopher	B 1869	
	M	Malissa Phillips	D 1934	
3		James Columbus	B 2 Jan 1871	
	M	Nancy Phillips	M c 1900 D 10 Apr 1925	
4		Eliza E.	B 1874	
	F	Jesse Phillips	D	
5		Rosannah M.	B 1876	
	F		D	
6		Medie E. (Media)	B Jun 1879	VA
	F	Elbert M. McCraw	M c 1897 D	
7			B	
			M	
			D	
8			B	
			M	
			D	
9			B	
			M	
			D	
10			B	
			M	
			D	

<p style="text-align: center;">SOURCE OF INFORMATION</p> <p>Mary Felts Columbine 8-95 1900 Surry Census</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PREPARED BY</p> <p>Wilma Jarrell Hiatt 3265 Spainhour Mill Road Tobaccoville, NC 27050 (910) 983-5229</p>
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HUSBAND	NAME	James Columbus Felts		OCCUPATION:	Farmer
	BIRTH/CHR.	date	02 Jan 1871	place	or Nc
	MARRIAGE	c	1900 (1898)	MILITARY SERVICE:	War _____
	DEATH		10 Apr 1925	From	To _____
	BURIAL PLACE				
	FATHER	Iredell C. Felts			
	MOTHER	Cynthia Norman			
OTHER WIVES:					

WIFE	NAME	Nancy F. Phillips (Frances)		OTHER HUSBANDS:	
	BIRTH/CHR.	date	04 Jul 1881	place	Vf
	DEATH		09 Apr 1965		
	BURIAL PLACE				
	FATHER	John W. Phillips (1845-1940) (Winston)			
	MOTHER	Sabrina Elizabeth McCraw (1845-1925)			
	OTHER HUSBANDS:				

CHILDREN

Order of Birth	Sex M-F	FULL NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF Birth, Marriage & Death	PLACE OF Birth, Marriage and Death
		Name of Child's First Spouse		
1		Johnny	c 1901	Surry Co., NC
	M			
2		Roy Spurgeon	24 May 1902	Surry Co., NC
	M	Ethel Webb	18 Oct 1971	
3		Ida E.	1903	Surry Co., NC
	F	Ed Taylor	c 1990	
4		Joseph Sidney	1907	Surry Co., NC
	M	Margaret Duncan	Dec 1935	
5		Maggie	1910	Surry Co., NC
	F	Tyrie Bowman	02 Nov 1928	
6		Sarah	c 1908	Surry Co., NC
	F	Harvey Bryant		
7		Franklin		Surry Co., NC
	M	Josephine Culler		
8		Beulah	1916	Cana, VA
	F	Elmer Jones	1980	
9		Brady	1913	Surry Co., NC
	M	Kathleen Riggs		
10		Kenneth		Surry Co., NC
	M	Vanie Childress		

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Mary Felts Columbine (7-95) 1900 Surry Census	PREPARED BY Wilma Jarrell Hiatt 3265 Spainhour Mill Road Tobaccoville, NC 27050 (910) 983-5229
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HUSBAND	NAME	Roy Spurgeon Felts		OCCUPATION:	
	BIRTH/CHR.	date	place	MILITARY SERVICE:	
	MARRIAGE	24 May 1902		War	
	DEATH	28 Oct 1928		From	To
	BURIAL PLACE	18 Oct 1971		Rank	
	FATHER	James Columbus Felts		OTHER WIVES:	
MOTHER	Nancy F. Phillips		1. Cleo Tise of Forsyth Co. She later mar. a Sidden.		
WIFE	NAME	Ethel Webb			
	BIRTH/CHR.	date	place		
	DEATH				
	BURIAL PLACE			OTHER HUSBANDS:	
	FATHER	Charlie Burton Webb			
	MOTHER	Penelope Horton			

CHILDREN

Order of Birth	FULL NAME OF CHILD		DATE OF Birth, Marriage & Death	PLACE OF Birth, Marriage and Death
	Sex M-F	Name of Child's First Spouse		
1		Ruth Aveline	B Aug 1929	
	F	Julius F. Reece (Franklin)	M D	
2		Mary Frances 3-John Columbine	B 29 Sep 1932	
	F	1-Wm.C.Shaw2-Rudolph Hall	M D	
3		Homer Anderson	B Sep 1934	
	M	Lois Driver (Annie Lois)	M D	
4		Warren Columbus	B 1937	
	M	Louise McKnight	M D	
5		Charles Marvin	B 03 Dec 1942	
	M	Barbara J. Pendry (Jean)	M D	
6		Wallace Sidden (Felts)	B 1924	Forsyth Co.
	M	Melba Burgess	M D	
7			B	
			M D	
8			B	
			M D	
9			B	
			M D	
10			B	
			M D	

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Mary Felts Columbine (7-95)	PREPARED BY Wilma Jarrell Hiatt 3265 Spainhour Mill Road Tobaccoville, NC 27050 (910) 983-5229

HUSBAND James Ellis Felts
 Birth 17 Nov 1867 Place
 Chr Place
 Death 13 Sep 1943 Place
 Burial Carroll Co., VA Place Blue Ridge Chapel Baptist Ch. Cem.
 Father William H. Felts Mother (Maiden Name) Martha Jane Owen
 Mar Place
 Other Wives (if any)

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?
 Carroll Co., VA School Census
 (1905 and 1910)
 Carroll Co. Cem. Book

WIFE Almeda Lane
 Birth 20 Aug 1867 Place
 Chr Place
 Death 17 Feb 1944 Place
 Burial Blue Ridge Chapel Baptist Ch. Cem.
 Father Mother (Maiden Name)
 Other Wives (if any)

Name and address of person submitting this sheet:
 Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
 3265 Spainhour Mill Road
 Tobaccoville, Nc 27050

see Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side

Sex or Female	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	
F	1 Mary J.		c	1891							Date _____ To _____
M	2 Sidney Clyde	1	Apr	1893				29	Sep	1977	Date _____ To Helena Branscomb
M	3 Carley (Carlie)		c	1894							Date _____ To _____
F	4 Zeller		c	1896							Date _____ To _____
F	5 Eller (Ella)		c	1898							Date _____ To _____
M	6 Friel		c	1900							Date _____ To _____
F	7 Myrtle		c	1902							Date _____ To _____
M	8 Emit		c	1903							Date _____ To _____
	9										Date _____ To _____
	10										Date _____ To _____
	11										Date _____ To _____
	12										Date _____ To _____
	13										Date _____ To _____
											Date _____ To _____

NAME William Golding (brother of Thomas) Farmer
 date 24 Apr 1826 place NC
 BIRTH/CHR. 24 Apr 1826 NC
 MARRIAGE 17 Aug 1848
 DEATH 22 May 1903
 BURIAL PLACE Crooked Oak, Surry Co.
 FATHER William Golding, Jr.
 MOTHER Lucy Jones Golding

OCCUPATION: Farmer
 MILITARY SERVICE:
 War _____
 From _____ To _____
 Rank _____
 OTHER WIVES: _____

NAME Sarah Jane Felts (sister to Charity Felts)
 date 08 Dec 1827 place Va.
 BIRTH/CHR. 08 Dec 1827 Va.
 DEATH 18 Dec 1901
 BURIAL PLACE Crooked Oak, Surry Co.
 FATHER Joshua Felts
 MOTHER Mary

OTHER HUSBANDS: _____

CHILDREN

Sex M-F	FULL NAME OF CHILD Name of Child's First Spouse	DATE OF Birth, Marriage & Death	PLACE OF Birth, Marriage and Death
	Christopher Columbus	B 25 May 1849	NC
M	Laura Cox	M 22 Nov 1887	
	Mary	B c 1850	NC
F	Julina	M c 1852	NC
F	Thomas H. Cave	M 24 Dec 1871	Surry Co., NC
	Nancy (Nannia)	B 29 Aug 1854	NC
F	Alv Oakley	M 1 Jan 1874	Surry
	Lucinda	D 24 Jun 1921	
		B c 1856	NC
F	Floyd Gardner	M 27 Dec 1877	Surry
	Sarah E	D	
F	William Gardner	B 29 May 1858	NC
		M 03 Apr 1917	
		B	
		M	
		D	
		B	
		M	
		D	
		B	
		M	
		D	

SOURCE OF INFORMATION
 Info given to Betty Marshall
 1860 Surry Census
 1870 Surry Pop. Sched.

Additional Children or Spouses,
 prepared by:
 Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
 3265 Spainhour Mill Road
 Tobaccoville, NC 27050
 (919) 983-5229

HUSBAND Thomas Golding (Tommie)

Birth 10 Aug 1823 Place Surry County, NC (Mt. Airy)

Chr. Place Surry County, NC

Death 25 Mar 1884 Place Surry Co., NC (Imogene Church Rd.)

Burial Golding Cemetery Place Surry Co., NC (Imogene Church Rd.)

Father William Golding, Jr. Mother (Maiden Name) Lucy Jones

Mar 12 Mar 1850 Place Surry Co., NC

Other Wives (if any) (Bond date)

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?
 Records of Zona B. Jarrell
 1860 Surry Census
 1880 Surry Census
 Betty Golding Marshall
 Frances Chesser
 Index of Deaths - Surry

WIFE Charity Felts (birth date on grave is 20 Jan 1828)

Birth 25 Jan 1829 Place VA

Chr. Place Surry County, NC

Death 24 Mar 1884 Place Surry Co., NC (Imogene Church Rd.)

Burial Golding Cemetery Place Surry Co., NC (Imogene Church Rd.)

Father Joshua Felts Mother (Maiden Name) Mary

Other Wives (if any)

Name and address of person submitting this sheet:
 Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
 3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
 Tobaccoville, NC 27050

Sex or Family	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED	
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	1	2
M 1	William Robert (or W. R.)			1852			NC	Surry Co.	06 Jun 1882	07 Jan 1889		
								13 Mar 1915			To Sarah Hawks	Ruth Marshall
M 2	Cried (Creed)			1858			NC		29 Jul 1884	Surry		
											To Elizabeth Hawks	
F 3	Rosamond (Rosa)	10	Feb	1856			NC		05 Dec 1923			
											To Ira Creed Jones	
M 4	James Reyton			1859			NC					
F 5	Elizabeth (Betty)	12	May	1865			NC		30 Sep 1909			
										05 Dec 1883	Surry	
											To Hilery Barker	
F 6	Celia			c. 1854			NC		04 Jun 1907			
											To William Allen Barker	
M 7	James T (Jimmy) (Jim)	26	Mar	1860	Surry Co.		NC	Surry Co.	11 Jan 1920			
										19 Apr 1883	Carroll Co.	
F 8	Charity			c. 1850			NC					
											To (Bettie) Mary Elizabeth	McCr ^g w
M 9	Alfred (twin of Sidney)	26	Aug	1865	Mt. Airy	Sur.	NC		17 Mar 1942			
										30 Mar 1890		
											To Annie Catherine Day	
M 10	Albert Sidney (Sid)	26	Aug	1865	Mt. Airy	Sur.	NC		03 Nov 1942			
										Jan 1893		
											To Lizzie Zeiglar	
F 11	Caladona (Dona)	26	Sep	1866		Sur.	NC		20 Jan 1945			
											To Enoch McDaniel Cox	
F 12	Frances (Fanny)	10	Oct	1868			NC		18 Mar 1884			
										(age 16)		
M 13	Emet (Emmitt)			1875			NC					
F 14	Susan (Susana)			Oct 1869			NC					

Place Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side

HUSBAND Ransome H. Lyons (Rance)

Birth c 1828 Place VA
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death c 1870 Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) _____
 Mar 30 Mar 1848 Place Carroll Co., VA
 Other Wives (if any) _____

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?

Reavis Lyons
Carroll Co. Heritage Book

WIFE Elizabeth H. Felts

Birth c 1832 Place _____
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death 28 Nov 1911 Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father Joshua Felts Mother (Maiden Name) Mary Burnett
 Other Husb. (if any) _____

Name and address of person submitting this sheet:

Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Road
Tobaccoville, Nc 27050

see Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side

Male or Female	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	
M	1 Charles Wesley	25	Feb	1849		Carroll	VA	13	Feb	1931	Date <u>22 Jul 1872</u> To <u>Amanda Carolina Kelly</u>
M	2 Isaac			1851		Carroll	VA	8	Sep	1861	Date _____ To _____
M	3 Osborn Spencer (Spence)	Mar		1852		Carroll	VA			1923	Date <u>03 Sep 1872</u> To <u>Louella V. Ward (Eller)</u>
M	4 Jordon S			1853		Carroll	VA				Date _____ To _____
M	5 Ira Craig	20	Oct	1856		Carroll	VA				Date <u>28 Sep 1876</u> To <u>Sarah M. Payne</u>
F	6 Sarah Jane			1860		Carroll	VA				Date <u>12 Jan 1882</u> To <u>Benjamin F. Jones</u>
M	7 James M			1860		Carroll	VA	23	Aug	1868	Date _____ To _____
	8										Date _____ To _____
	9										Date _____ To _____
	10										Date _____ To _____
	11										Date _____ To _____
	12										Date _____ To _____
	13										Date _____ To _____

HUSBAND	NAME <u>George W. Jones</u>	OCCUPATION:
	date _____ place _____	
	BIRTH/CHR. _____	MILITARY SERVICE:
	MARRIAGE <u>16 Feb 1847 (MB)</u>	War _____
	DEATH _____	From _____ To _____
	BURIAL PLACE _____	Rank _____
	FATHER _____	OTHER WIVES:
MOTHER _____		

WIFE	NAME <u>Eliza Felts</u>	OTHER HUSBANDS:
	date _____ place _____	
	BIRTH/CHR. <u>1826</u>	
	DEATH _____	
	BURIAL PLACE _____	
	FATHER <u>Joshua Felts</u>	
	MOTHER <u>Mary</u>	

CHILDREN

Order of Birth	Sex M-F	FULL NAME OF CHILD	DATE OF Birth, Marriage & Death	PLACE OF Birth, Marriage and Death
		Name of Child's First Spouse		
1		Ira Creed	B 1855	
	M	Rosemond Golding	M	
2		Rosemon (stepdaughter)	B 1857	NC
	F		M	
3		Thomas	B 1859	
	M		M	
4		James L.	B 1861	
	M		M	
5		Stephan M.	B 1866	
	M		M	
6			B	
			M	
7			B	
			M	
8			B	
			M	
9			B	
			M	
10			B	
			M	

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Mary Felts Columbine 8-95 Betty Golding Marshall	PREPARED BY Wilma Jarrell Hiatt 3265 Spainhour Mill Road Tobacoville, NC 27050 (910) 983-5229
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HUSBAND Creed Felts
 Birth 28 Jan 1834 Place _____
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death 4 May 1917 Place _____
 Burial Jordan Felts Place Felts Memorial Cemetery
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) Sarah Kester
 Mar _____ Place _____
 Other Wives (if any) _____

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?
Felts Memorial Cem. Records
Mary Felts Columbine 8-95

WIFE Celia Edwards
 Birth 12 May 1844 Place _____
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death 17 Feb 1922 Place _____
 Burial _____ Place Felts Memorial Cemetery
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) _____
 Other Wives (if any) _____

Name and address of person submitting this sheet:
Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Road
Tobaccoville, Nc 27050

See Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side

Male or Female	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	
M	1 James Monroe	27	Jun	1867				06	Oct	1893	Date _____ To _____
F	2 Alice E.	04	Aug	1874				12	Apr	1904	Date _____ To _____
F	3 Sarah E.	29	Jul	1877				26	Aug	1879	Date _____ To _____
M	4 Thomas L.	16	Oct	1868				9	Sep	1933	Date _____ To _____ Elizabeth E. Houserman
M	5 Legrand Crockett			1872						1927	Date _____ To _____ Lula Blair
M	6 Albert C.			1878						1927	Date _____ To _____ Earthel Grove
F	7 Laura	1	Jun	1883				11	Dec	1918	Date _____ To _____ W. W. Blair
	8										Date _____ To _____
	9										Date _____ To _____
	10										Date _____ To _____
	11										Date _____ To _____
	12										Date _____ To _____
	13										Date _____ To _____
											Date _____ To _____

HUSBAND John W. Felts (James Wesley)
 Birth 1830 Place _____
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death 1880s Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father John Lindsey Felts Mother (Maiden Name) Ruth Sprinkle
 Mar 4 Nov 1857 Place Wilkes County, NC
 Other Wives (if any) _____

Where was information shown on this family record obtained?
Delwood Jackson 1-95 (Ohio)

WIFE Martha E. Woodruff (Mat)
 Birth c. 1836 Place Surry County, NC
 Chr _____ Place _____
 Death 1880s Place _____
 Burial _____ Place _____
 Father David Henry Woodruff Mother (Maiden Name) Elizabeth Davis
 Other Husb. (if any) _____

Name and address of person submitting this sheet:
Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Road
Tobaccoville, Nc 27050

see Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side

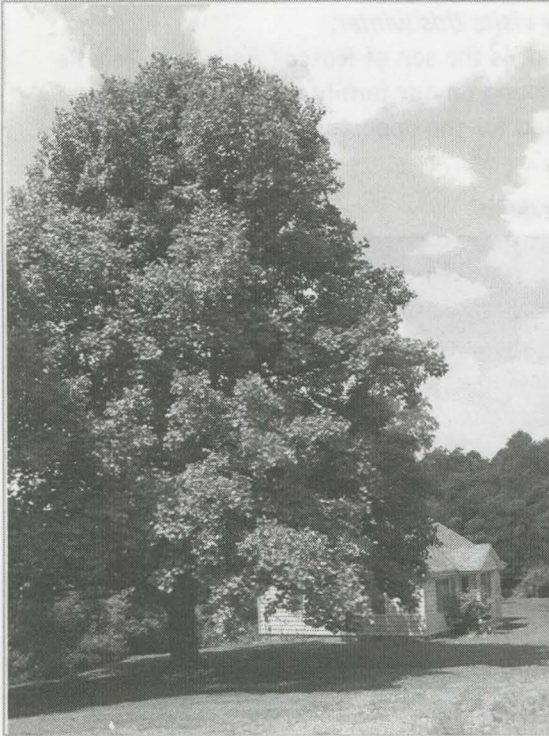
Sex or Sample	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	
M	1 Lindsey B.		c	1859							Date _____ To <u>Julia A.</u>
M	2 Robert H.		c	1861							Date _____ To _____
M	3 James Wesley (John) Jr.		c	1863							Date _____ To _____
M	4 William E. Felts		c	1868							Date _____ To _____
F	5 Florence Hattie		c	1868							Date _____ To <u>Smith</u>
F	6 Eugenia E.		c	1873							Date _____ To <u>John Stacey Barnes, Sr.</u>
	7										Date _____ To _____
	8										Date _____ To _____
	9										Date _____ To _____
	10										Date _____ To _____
	11										Date _____ To _____
	12										Date _____ To _____
	13										Date _____ To _____
											Date _____ To _____

HUSBAND Willie Felts (Willie) Where was information shown on this family record obtained?
 Birth 10 Sep 1795 Place Wilkes Co., NC Gerald Cook
 Chr. _____ Place _____ 1850 Surry Co. Census
 Death 27 Jun 1860 Place Yadkin Co., NC _____
 Burial _____ Place _____ _____
 Father John Felts Mother (Maiden Name) Mary Caton Walker _____
 Mar. 17 Sep 1817 Place Surry Co., NC (now Yadkin Co.) _____
 Other Wives (if any) _____

WIFE Matilda Harvell (Howell) Name and address of person submitting this sheet:
 Birth 17 Oct 1799 Place Iredell Co., NC Wilma Jarrell Hiatt
 Chr. _____ Place _____ 3265 Spainhour Mill Road
 Death _____ Place Wilkes Co., NC Tobaccoville, Nc 27050
 Burial _____ Place _____ _____
 Father _____ Mother (Maiden Name) _____ _____
 Other Mch. (if any) _____

Sex or Family	CHILDREN (Give names in full in order of birth)	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN		State or Country	DIED			MARRIED
		Day	Mo.	Yr.	Town	County		Day	Mo.	Yr.	
F	1 Mary Adeline	22	Oct	1818		Wilkes	NC	05	Jun	1896	Date <u>21 Apr 1836 Surry Co.</u> To <u>James Abednego Stokes</u>
F	2 Patsy (Patey) Mariah	10	Dec	1819		Wilkes	NC				Date _____ To _____
F	3 Charlotte C.	13	Jun	1821		Wilkes	NC				Date _____ To _____
F	4 Elizabeth Caroline	13	Jun	1821							Date <u>12 Mar 1843 Surry Co.</u> To <u>James H. Stokes (?)</u>
F	5 Nancy E.	22	Jan	1823		Surry	NC	25	Aug	1823	Date _____ To _____
M	6 John	25	Aug	1824							Date _____ To <u>Hannah Sparks</u>
F	7 Elvira (Elmira)	22	Sep	1826		Surry	NC	02	Jan	1827	Date _____ To _____
F	8 Rebecca Jennetta	30	Mar	1828		Surry	NC	01	Nov	1852	Date _____ To <u>John Melvin Messick</u>
F	9 Sarah Melissa	06	Mar	1830		Surry	NC				Date _____ To _____
M	10 Elisha Madison	03	Feb	1833		Surry	NC	03	Jun	1868	Date _____ To _____
M	11 James Ervin (Irvan)	17	Apr	1835		Surry	NC	before	1880		Date <u>24 May 1860 Yadkin Co.</u> To <u>Cynthia Louisiana Messick</u>
F	12 Matilda Almira	26	Jul	1837		Surry	NC				Date <u>1 Jun 1854 Yadkin Co.</u> To <u>Benjamin Franklin Sparks</u>
F	13 Eliza Ann Felts	24	Oct	1838		Wilkes	NC				Date _____ To <u>Cornelius Jones</u>
M	William Harrison	27	Nov	1840		Surry	NC	04	Jul	1862	Date _____ To _____

See Additional Genealogical and Historical Data on Reverse Side



The Felts – Melton Family

Newsletter # 21
Spring 2008

*poplar tree at the Fancy Gap home place of Vauda and Ina Felts
now owned by their children, Sadie Harris, Elvin, and Clinton Felts*

**Now is the time to put the 2008 Reunion on your calendar for Sunday, May 4
at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap, VA.**

From I-77 take VA Exit 8 or from US 52 take Road 148. Just west of I-77, take Road 778; it will be the first state road going north. The building is less than ½ mile on the right. The reunion is hosted by Elvin Felts, his brother Clinton, and his sister, Sadie Felts Harris. The reunion starts at 11 AM. Bring pictures, family keepsakes, and a covered dish.

Melvin and Dea again have available their family stories, "The Felts Family of Fancy Gap, VA." They are no longer printing the genealogy with the book, so they have lowered the price to \$25 for the new edition. Their genealogy research is available to anyone who has "Family Tree Maker" version 2005 or later. Old newsletters can be printed on request. A small charge will be made for these items, to cover cost.

Newcomers:

Shannon Perdue is expecting her first child in October. She is the grandchild of Mary and Troy Galyean. Her husband Larry has two children by a previous marriage. The couple lives in Pine Ridge, NC.

On the sick list:

Troy Galyean had a stent put in his heart at the beginning of April and still has 80% blockage in his leg, but he is out of the hospital and staying at home.

Marie Felts Dowell is at Waddell Nursing Home in Galax and doing poorly.

We have lost several family members in the last few months.

Roby Chester Felts passed away on Jan. 30 at age 64. He was the son of Sherman Felts and grandson of Richard Felts. He is survived by his wife, Anita Weatherman Felts.

Estil Woodrow Harris, age 79, died on Jan. 31 and was buried in Independence Cemetery at Fancy Gap. He was the husband of Sadie Felts Harris. Sadie is the daughter of Vauda Felts. Children of Estil and Sadie are Lois Glavin, Sylvia Donithan, and Gary Harris.

Roger Fred Felts passed away on Feb. 21 and was buried in Independence Cemetery. He survived by his son Robbie Felts and several step-children, as well as his sister, Virginia Weeks, and brother, W.B. Felts.

Murry Phibbs, a neighbor from Fancy Gap days and close friend of Earlie Felts, passed away on Apr. 10 in Winston-Salem.

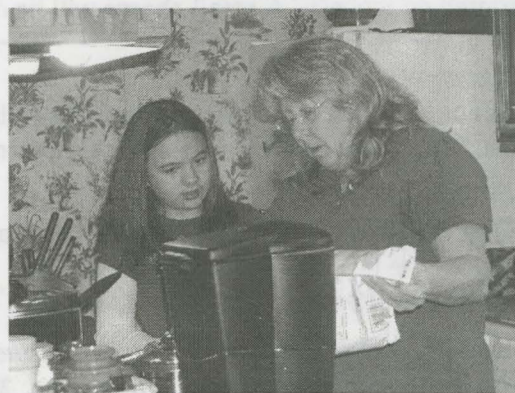
Melvin and Dea and Melvin's son Allen made a couple of family visits this winter.

In February, we visited R.J. and Janice Felts in Garner, NC. R.J. is the son of Roscoe Felts and Pearlle Jones Felts, so he is a cousin to Melvin on both sides. R.J. has been working on our family genealogy. He and Melvin shared their information and visited about old times and were glad for the opportunity to get reacquainted. Dea visited with Janice about quilting, a hobby they both enjoy.

Below: Allen, Melvin, and R.J. Felts; Janice Felts with a couple of her quilts



In March, we visited Kenneth and Terri Melton in Salisbury, NC. Kenneth is the son of Gladys Felts and Leonard Melton. We were treated to a family cook-out and enjoyed an afternoon with the young people in their family. Present at the cook-out were Kenneth's daughter Wendy, her husband Tracy Maynor, and their daughter Isabella, born in February. Kenneth and Terri's older son, Lennie, was at work, but his fiancée, Taska, came with their daughter Destiny, a year old, and Lennie's children, Morganne, Austin, and Brandon. Also present was Kenneth and Terri's younger son, Lonnie. Kenneth and both his sons restore antique cars and some race cars as a business. We got to see some of the work they were doing at the garage beside their home, and we stopped at Lennie's work place to visit with him and see some of the cars. Terri has been a teacher's aide for many years and is now finishing up the course work for her teaching certificate. Dea and Terri visited about teaching, and Allen was very interested in the restored cars.



Allen, Melvin, Wendy, Kenneth, Terri
Morganne and Terri preparing the meal
Austin and Brandon on the 4-wheeler



Recently we have been making a special effort to include school age kids in the newsletter. Parents or grandparents, please send us a picture and a paragraph that tells the young person's age, grade in school, and name of the school he/she attends. Also tell the student's favorite subject and activities in or out of school, and anything you are especially proud of. We would like to hear from the students themselves if they can be persuaded to write us. Our e-mail is mdfelts@comcast.net.

Family of Frances Irvin

Frances is the daughter of Junior and Marie Felts Dowell.

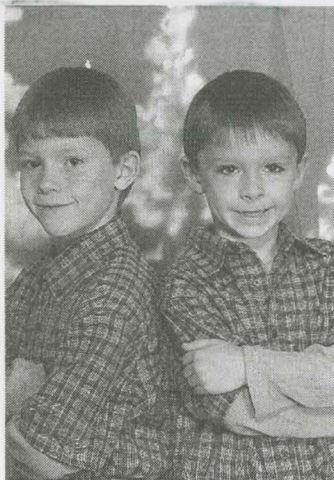


These are my kids and grandkids. Standing left to right are Chris Isaacs, myself Fran, my husband Mark Irvin, and Kevin Isaacs. Sitting are Chris' son, Canon, age 12, and Kevin's children, Haley Grace, 11, and Lucas, 10. Cannon scored perfect in his history SOL, came in runner-up in Geography-Bee, and is an avid weight-lifter and a very good football player. Haley Grace is always on the A-B honor roll, loves to skate, and is on cheerleading squad. Lucas also scored perfect on his history SOL, is a straight A student, plays football, and was recently baptized. I am real proud of all of them. Thought maybe you could use this in the newsletter. By the way, my Grandpa Felts, my brother Trenton, and my son Chris all share the same birthday, April 14. I hope you and Dea are doing well, and have a great new year.

Love, FRAN

Matthew and Levi Neal

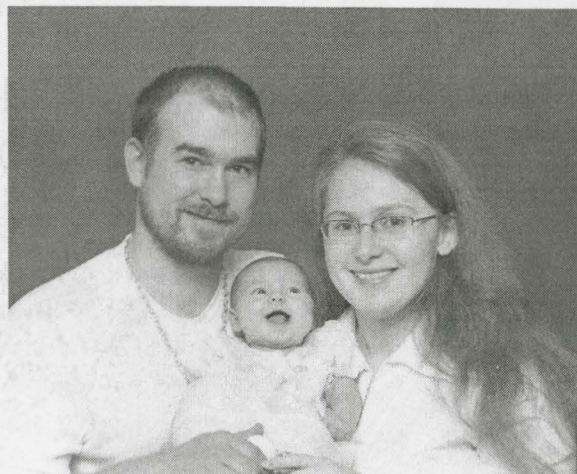
Matthew and Levi are the children of John Neal and Jennifer Felts and great-grandchildren of Melvin Felts.



My name is Matthew. I will be 10 years old in May. My favorite thing to do is skateboard. I am in 4th grade and I am on the A-B honor roll. One day I would like to be a pro skater and have my own skate park.

My name is Levi, and I am 7 years old. I am in 1st grade at Hillsville Elementary. One of my favorite things to do is ride my bike. I also like looking for arrowheads and cool rocks. When I grow up I want to own a pet store because I love animals.

The newest members of Melvin's family: Stacy and Joe Utt with Majestic Mae; Morgan Lee Felts, daughter of Jim Felts and Nicole Dalton.



STOBGATBO ROOS

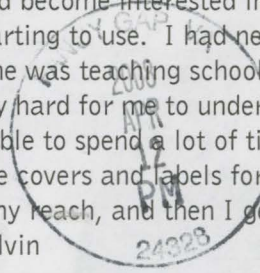


Most all my adult life I have been handicapped by not having the education that I really needed. When I first started school, you had to wait until the beginning of the school year after your seventh birthday, so by then, I was almost 8 years old. I was held over a year in the second grade because the teacher got mad with my dad. This was because he could not afford to buy books. My dad went to court and the county furnished us books after that, but I had lost the year. When I was ready for high school I didn't have a way to go and come as there were no buses running anywhere close to our house. I lived about ten miles from the high school. I had to take the seventh grade again until I became sixteen years of age and could quit school.

While in the Army I took a high school course and got my GED diploma, but English and literature were my hardest subjects because my reading was so slow.

I got my first computer ten years ago when I was sixty-seven. I had become interested in genealogy, and the genealogy computer programs and internet were what everyone was starting to use. I had never touched a computer before. My wife Dea had used some of the older models where she was teaching school, but she had never used Windows either. Neither of us knew anything about it. It was terribly hard for me to understand the instructions because of my slow reading, but because I was retired, I was able to spend a lot of time experimenting with it. Now I can do my genealogy, and I also make music CD's and make covers and labels for them. My spelling is very bad. When I start to write, I have to keep a dictionary in my reach, and then I get Dea to proof-read it. We do the Newsletter together this way.

Melvin



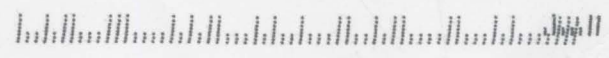
Donations since the last Newsletter:
Carli and Ethel Combs, Julian and Margaret Felts, Clayton Stockner

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

2705039780 R002





The Felts – Melton Family

Newsletter # 22
Summer 2008

photographing butterflies on Inez' summer flowers

We look forward to hearing from our readers and visiting them when possible. In our recent newsletters we have been trying to feature school age children. Please write and tell us what your children or grandchildren are doing. Tell what year they are in school, what their favorite subjects are, and what their hobbies are. We would like for them to write their own stories if possible. If you have not seen yourself in our newsletter yet, please come to visit! We hope we have included something that will interest you.

Melvin lost his second youngest sister, Inez Felts McRoberts, on June 14. A memorial is on page 2.

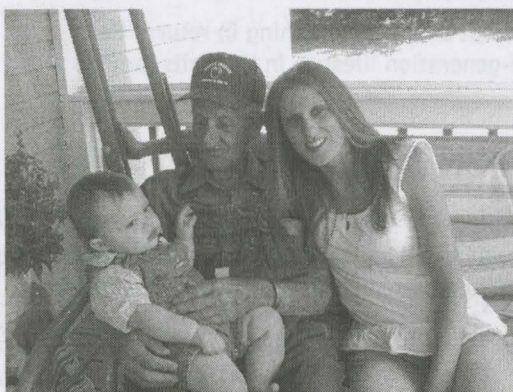
On May 1, Melvin's son Allen had a bad motorcycle wreck, broke his back and shattered his arm. He was in Baptist Hospital for 10 days. He is getting around pretty well but will not go back to work for some time yet. We hope he is enjoying the time away from his job.

Earlier in the spring, Sara Melton wrote us this e-mail:

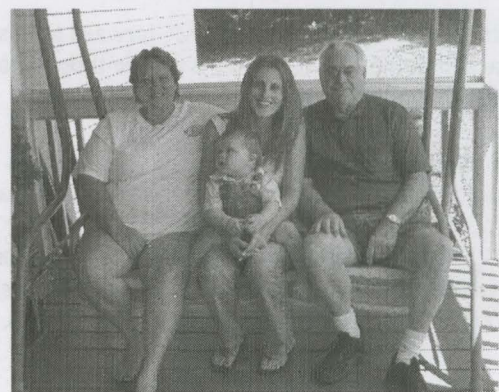
Hi Melvin and Dea:

I wanted to tell you that I really enjoyed the last newsletter and was especially touched by your last-page note on your education, Melvin, and your effort to learn to use computers. I teach English, and I often think how much young people take education for granted and forget how much of a privilege it is. My grandma only made it through seventh grade – even though she loved school and her dad was a teacher – because she was the oldest daughter and had to stay home and take care of the younger kids. I try to remind myself how lucky I've been because it's been easy for me – my mom in fact was the first in *her* family to finish high school (she was the youngest). I'm the first generation it's been so easy for (especially for the women!).

In July, Melvin and Dea took a trip to Ivor, VA to visit Julian and Margaret Felts. We met them through our genealogy research and have adopted them into our family. Julian's family was featured in our summer 2003 newsletter and we have visited back and forth several times.



In June, we visited Christina Rojas and her son Logan at Carolyn Bartley's house in Low Gap, NC. Logan is shown on the left with great-grandfather Troy Galyean, who lives beside his daughter Carolyn. On the right are Carolyn, Christina, Melvin, and Logan.



On July 4, Inez's daughter Shirley, who works for a catering service, put on a delicious cook-out at Cumberland Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway. We appreciate the work she has done to keep the family together after losing her mother.

We asked Inez's daughters, Lois and Shirley, to write about their mother. They sent us this memorial.



Inez Felts McRoberts was born on December 31, 1938, to Lula and T.R. Felts. Born into a rural farming community of Fancy Gap, Virginia during the Depression era, Inez was the next to the youngest of seven living children.

She grew up along the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway and always appreciated the beauty of the land surrounding her childhood home. Inez spent her elementary school career at Ivy Hill School, which served kindergarten through seventh grade. She transferred to Hillsville High School. After spending a year in a larger school environment she decided to leave Hillsville High School behind before completing her secondary education (she never recommended that course of action for other students).

Inez met Willard McRoberts and later married in December 1954. The McRoberts family made their home on Peaks Mountain Road in Grayson County. Inez would affectionately refer to the view from her front porch as God's country, as there is a beautiful view of Fisher's Peak to the left and Mount Rogers to right and rolling green hills all around. Inez worked at various vocations before gaining employment at Wonderknit, Inc. (textile industry) where she put in thirty years of service. Willard and Inez raised two daughters, Lois (Rogers) and Shirley (Everhart). Once Lois and Shirley had started school at Fairview Elementary, Inez decided to pursue her GED certificate and enrolled in Wytheville Community College as a Psychology major.

Lois has one son, Bryan Franklin Rogers. He is at the center of his grandparent's universe. Bryan is a rising sixth grader at Galax Middle School. Lois earned her Masters degree at Emory & Henry. Lois is a Kindergarten teacher at Galax Elementary School. Lois and Bryan also live in Grayson County. Lois' hobby is dancing and singing along to Appalachian heritage music, and gardening - she inherited Lula's green thumbs.

Shirley (Everhart) lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina with husband Rodney. Shirley is an event planner for Salem Kitchen, a catering and retail firm located across from Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center campus. Shirley has been on staff there for eight years. Rodney is employed by Computerway Food Systems in High Point, North Carolina as a computer engineer. Computerway Food Systems specialize in the poultry industry providing inventory/processing control products.

Inez had the privilege of growing up in a large colorful family with lots of siblings. Now it goes without saying there was some sibling rivalry. The Felts clan may have picked on each other, but an outsider would have been wise to think twice about joining in the fray as the Felts brood are if nothing else loyal to each other.

In recent years, Inez served on the Board of Directors for Devil's Den Nature Preserve, and she volunteered for National Park Service through the Blue Ridge Parkway at Mabry Mill providing living history demonstrations via the art of quilting techniques. She met many wonderful people whose lives she touched through her artistry. Inez used her craft to teach her children basic lessons in life. Any endeavor in life worth doing take your time and do it right – do it once. Always do your best and follow through with what you promise to others – have a servant's heart.

Inez lived her life by the pay-it-forward philosophy; helping someone you can without expecting anything in return. Be accountable for your actions and to those who your actions affect. This is a third-generation lifestyle in the Felts family (Grandpa, we know you are reading this).

Inez endured an illness for fifty-seven days in a hypoglycemic coma and resulting neurological complications. She had been a diabetic patient for twelve years and the disease had been managed until recently.

While Inez's family misses her fiercely, we need to remember that she is happy and healed in heaven. She has also attended the greatest family reunion ever and is no doubt sitting underneath the chestnut tree listening to her father spin a yarn with all of our family members who have gone before us.

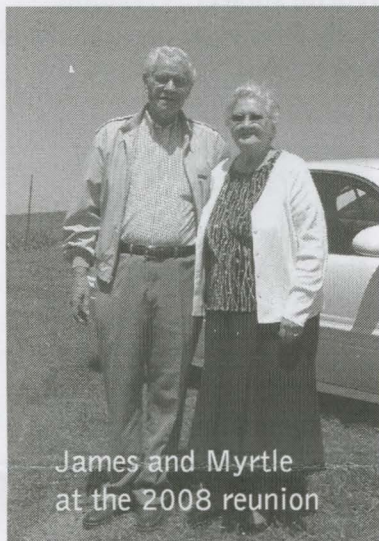
Younger Generations

James and Myrtle Melton descendants

During the time that the Parkway took our land and home, and while they were building a new house (1937 - 38), my parents rented a house belonging to Jeff Melton, next door to him. I went to school with all Jeff's children, Ruth, Edgar, James, Juanita, Burley, Edith, and Irene. My father and Jeff were first cousins, but since we went to school with their children, we seemed more like first cousins ourselves. James and the younger ones were in school with me for several years.

Melvin Felts

An interview with James and Myrtle can be found in Newsletter #12, summer 2004. In this issue, they share some news of their children and grandchildren.

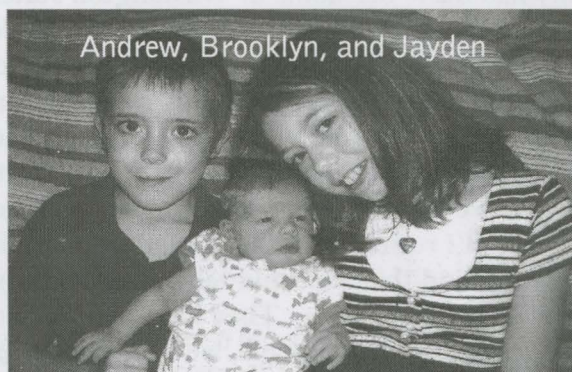
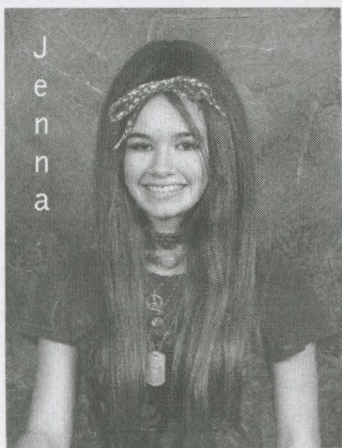


Our oldest daughter **Bonnie** (b. 1951) is married to Sherman Easter. They have a daughter, Ashley, who is 25. Sherman has a son, Michael, by a previous marriage. Michael is married to Dawn and they have a young son named Cameron. Bonnie and Sherman have two foster boys. The older one is starting college classes and the younger one is in high school. Sherman works for DLB construction in Hillsville.

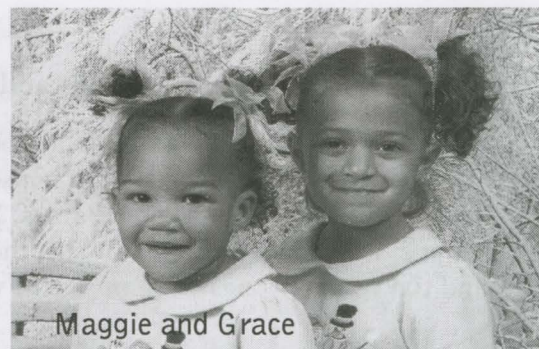
Our son **Terry** (b. 1953) is not married. Terry likes to use his computer, and he enjoys gardening. He also does things to help the family. He helps his brother Leslie, who is ill.

Our third child is **Leslie** (b. 1957). He is divorced but has a daughter, Misty, who is married to Lorne Stanley. Leslie worked at Cross Creek in Mt. Airy but now he is in a struggle with cancer.

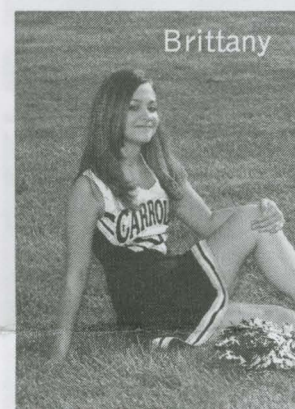
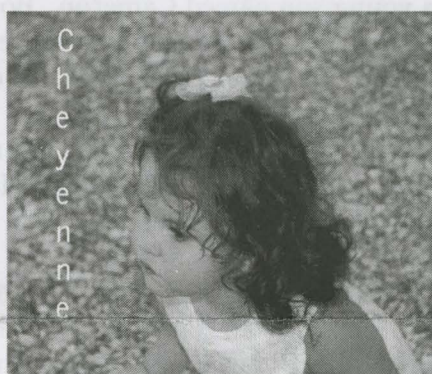
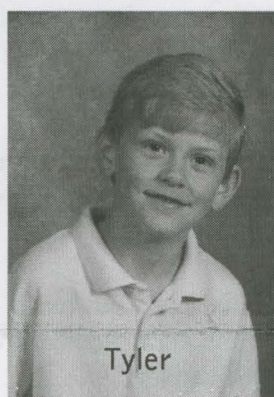
Our daughter **Tammy Lea** (b. 1959) is married to Hurley Lee Upchurch. Their children are Darian Lee, Heather Lea, Justin Lee, and Jenna Lea. Darian is 30 years old, and Jenna is just 16. Hurley has a grown son, Kevin, by a previous marriage, and Kevin has a daughter, Chelsey. Heather has three children, Brooklyn and Andrew Bowman and a new baby, Jayden Bowman. Brooklyn is in the sixth grade at Meadow View Middle School in Mt. Airy, NC. She is 11 years old. Andrew is in the third grade at Flat Rock School. He is 8 years old. Jayden was born July 31, 2008.



Our fifth child, **Vickie** (b. 1964) is married to Edward Barnes. They have adopted two girls, Grace, age 6, and Maggie, age 2. Grace was adopted while they were living in Arizona, and Maggie was born in North Carolina. Both girls were adopted as infants. The family now lives in Cary, NC. Grace is in the first grade in Cary Elementary School. She knows her birthmother and the family keeps in touch with her. Vickie is a stay-at-home mom.



Our youngest child, **Trudy** (b. 1966) is married to Tim Towe. They have two children, Tyler, age 7, and Cheyenne, age 3. Tyler goes to Fancy Gap Elementary School. His favorite subject is reading. Trudy has two girls by a previous marriage, Tisha Freeman, age 20, and Brittany Freeman, age 16. Tisha recently married Keith Jarrell. Brittany is a cheerleader at Carroll County High School. Tim has a daughter, Kristen, by a previous marriage.



Cousins

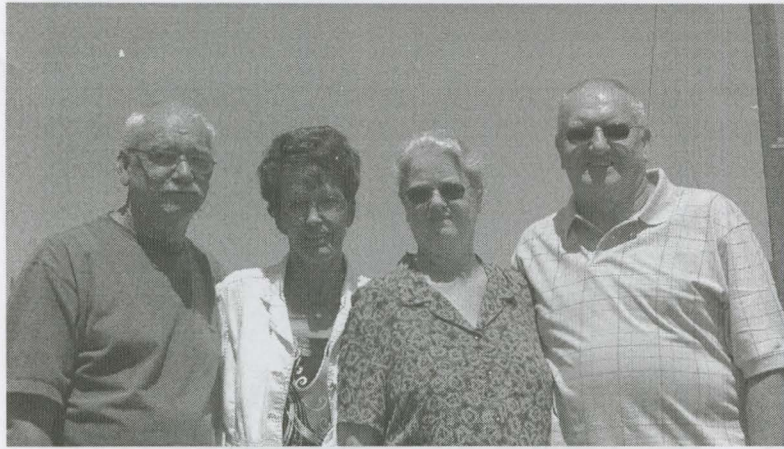
My life growing up in California was very different from Melvin's. I was an only child, and the family of my father's second oldest sister was the only one we visited regularly. Of that family, Candy, actually my second cousin, was closest to my age. I would see her maybe twice a year; she was a good-natured kid to play with. When we grew up and went away to college, we saw each other less, and finally not at all, as Candy had made her home in Washington state. Still, I would always find out from my parents and my aunt how she and her sisters were getting along. So indirectly, we knew about each other's lives. Then after an absence of about 35 years, Candy and her husband, recently retired, turned up on my doorstep here in Virginia. We hugged each other and couldn't stop talking. We had to sort out all the things that had happened in the family, compare what we had been told, and try to figure out what was true. She told me about her sisters, and I told her about visiting her mother, who lives in Arizona, and the other cousins that I had contacted in later years but neither of us had really known.

After Melvin and I retired, we managed to visit cousins in Texas and California whom I had never met. I was surprised to find that we could talk easily and compare memories and household treasures we had saved from the older generations. They have promised to visit me someday in Virginia. So even though the cousins are not in my daily life, we have helped each other to see where we have come from and how the expectations of our shared older family have shaped our lives.

Dea

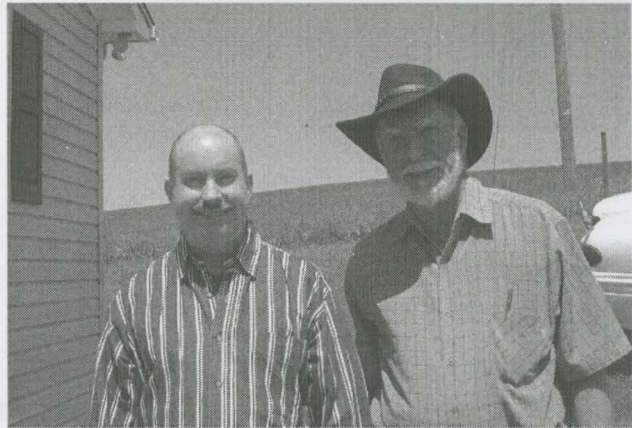
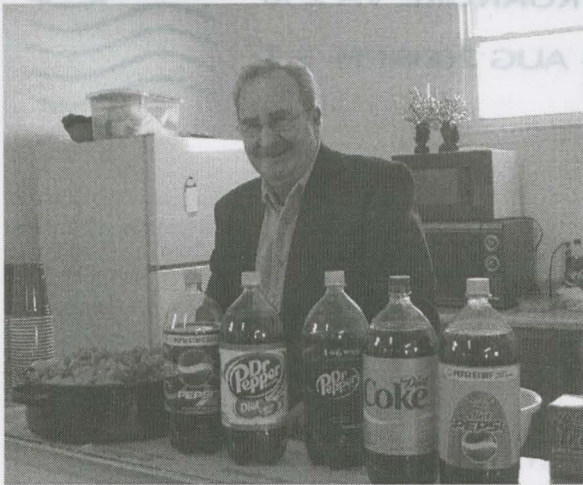
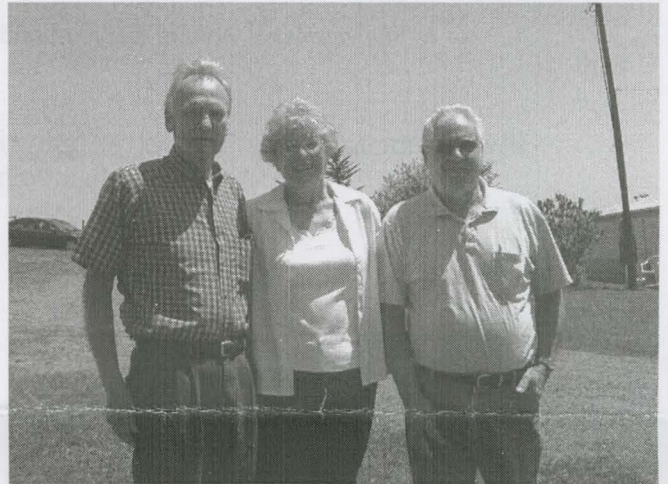
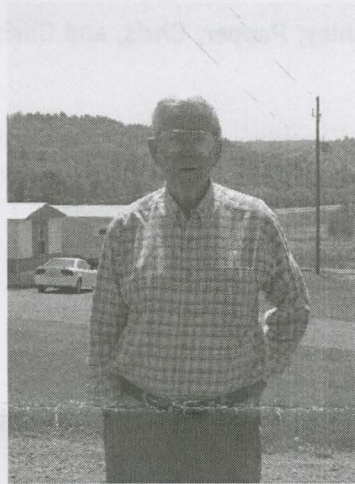
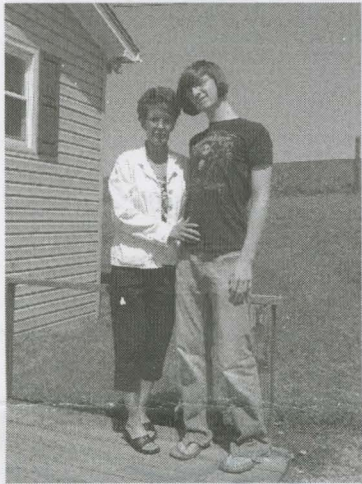
Donations to the newsletter have recently been made by James and Myrtle Melton, Billy C. Melton, Sara Melton, John and Shirley Bullion, Elray Felts, Clinton Felts, and Linda Raasch.

Reunion 2008 Photos



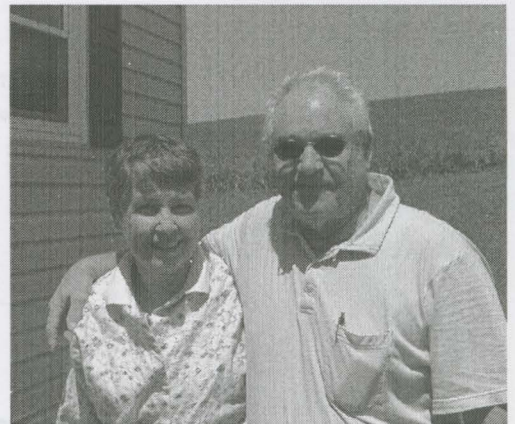
Left:
Tommy, Jane, Geneva, and Coy Hawks

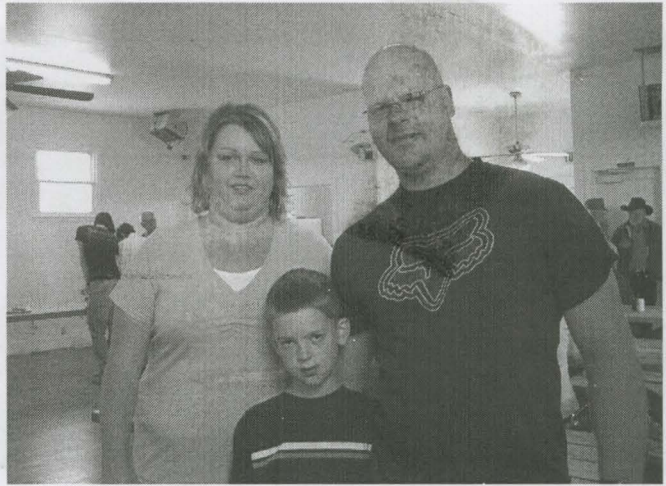
Below:
Jane and Raven Hawks
Elray Felts
John and Shirley Bullion, Melvin Felts



Above:
Clinton Felts
Steve and Elvin Felts

Right:
Kenneth and Terri Melton
Dea and Melvin Felts





At the reunion: Ronald Galyean and Ashley; Pepper, Chris, and Christopher Galyean

If you come to Mabry Mill on the following Sundays, 2 - 5 PM, be sure to say hello to us!
August 24, September 14 and 28, October 12 and 26

Melvin and Dea
mdfelts@comcast.net
(276)238 - 1921

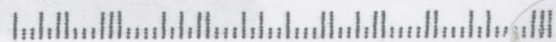
Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333

ROANOKE VA 240
14 AUG 2008 PM 3 T



Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

27050+3780



The
Felts – Melton Family
Fall 2008 Newsletter # 23



**Winters past:
Melvin blowing snow, Dea's Christmas cactus
What will this winter bring?**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Newsletter readers

Family News

Dan Williams, husband of Faye Felts Williams, had surgery on his lung for cancer on the day before Thanksgiving. The surgery went well, the pathology report was good, and he is beginning his recovery. He would appreciate cards sent to his home at 2134 Pipers Gap Rd, Galax, VA, 24333. On the Sunday before the surgery, Faye and Dan hosted an early Thanksgiving dinner at their house. We appreciated the excellent food and enjoyed seeing their daughter DeeDee, son-in-law Ricky Thompson, and grandson Cody.

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Inez's daughters Lois and Shirley hosted a dinner at Lois's house in the Fairview community (Grayson County, VA). In the picture at right: Allen Felts, Lois Rogers, Rodney and Shirley Everhart, just before dinner was served.

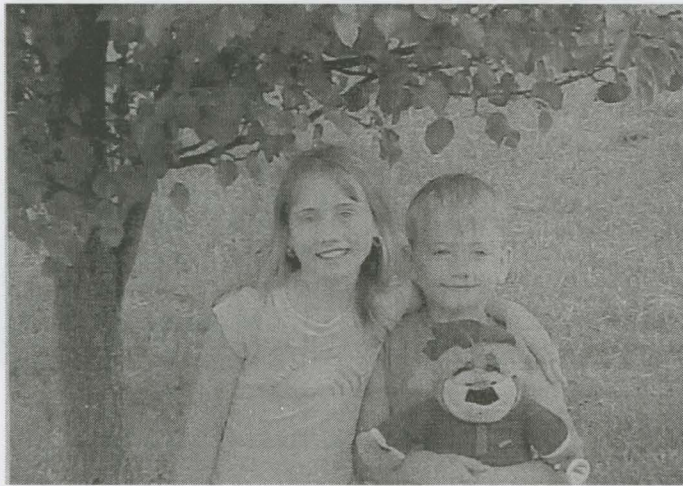
We visited by phone with Mary and Troy's daughter Carolyn Bartley. She tells us that Troy is doing pretty well and gets out often. Carolyn's daughter Shannon and her husband Barry Pardue had their first child, a son, Caden Wyatt Pardue, on Aug 11. Carolyn's son Jeffrey and his friend Nicki Brown are expecting a child in July. We also spoke with Mary and Troy's granddaughter Stacy. She tells us that all three of her boys are on the honor roll. Her oldest son Tyler is in 7th grade. He is wrestling for South Davie Middle School. Hunter and Seth are in 4th grade at Mocksville Elementary. They are playing basketball and are in the boy scouts. Christina's son Logan is walking now. Her husband Tim Rojas has been promoted to m-sgt jumpmaster instructor and is training paratroopers. He is stationed at Fort Bragg.



We visited by phone with Robin Felts. She tells us that Russell is "hanging in." He turned 81 on Nov. 25. Their daughter Callie is "doing great." She and her husband Jason Richardson celebrated their third year anniversary on Nov. 26. Jason works for the Coca Cola Company in Danville. Callie is a Mary Kay consultant in addition to her hairdressing business. She specializes in doing hair for weddings. She often goes to the church, or wherever the couple is getting married, to do the hair and make-up for the wedding party on the day of the wedding.

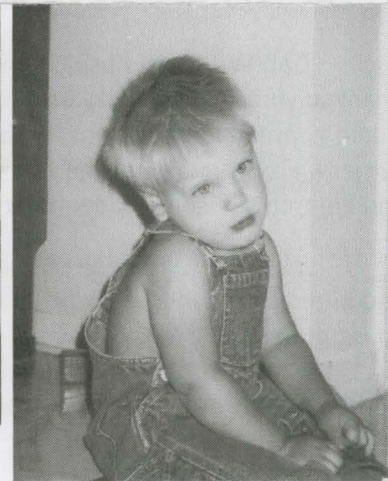
Grandchildren

We recently visited Cathie and Tony Dix in Mt. Airy, NC. Cathie is the oldest daughter of Gladys Felts. Pictures of Cathie and Tony are in Newsletter #15 from 2005. On this visit we talked about the grandchildren and we have some pictures to share with you.



Taylor and Cody Jones (left) are the children of Cathie and Tony's daughter Lisa. They live in Winston-Salem, NC. They spend the weekend with their grandparents quite often. Tony is a computer nut, and Taylor (age 9) likes to use the computer when she visits. She likes the website Millsberry, where she can play games to earn money for play clothing and things to decorate her house. Cody (age 8) likes to ride bikes and play on the trampoline, and he wants to play football at school. He likes to race cars on the computer and look up things about dirt bikes.

Kaylyn and Ethan Dix (right) are the children of Cathie and Tony's son Tony and his wife Audrey. They are age 6 and 4 (will be 5 in December). They live in Winston-Salem also.



Tony (senior) has two children from a previous marriage, Tammy Dix, who is married to Dean Mabe, and Perry Dix, who is married to Renee Felts. Tammy has two children, Faith and Tyler Mabe, ages 16 and 4 (the picture on the left is from about 2 years ago). The family lives in Kernersville, NC.

Please write, call, or e-mail us and tell us your family news! We would do more newsletters if we had more news from you, our readers.

mdfelts@comcast.net

(276) 238 - 1921

In August we had a visit from John and Shirley Bullion. John is the great-great grandson of Theodore and Avis Felts, thus the same generation as Melvin, who is also the gg-grandson of Theodore and Avis. John and Shirley attended our reunion for the first time in 2007 and again this year. Melvin met them through the internet. Both John and Shirley are lung cancer survivors. Here they share a bit of their own lives and also tell about their grandchildren.



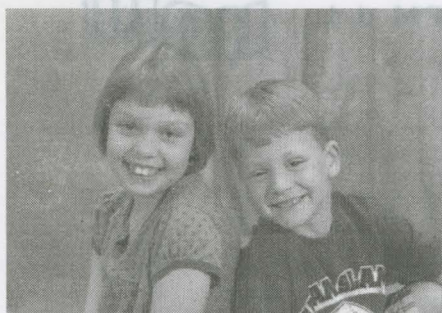
John Lucas Bullion, Jr., great-great grandson of Theodore Felts, was born in Carroll County, Virginia to John Lucas Bullion, Sr. and Hazel Cain Bullion in 1937. I attended school in Galax and started working for Wonderkmit Corporation in 1953. I joined the US Army in 1957. After basic training at Ft. Benning, GA, I spent 16 months in Germany. Returning in 1959 as an active reservist with the 343rd Medical Unit, I went back to work for Wonderkmit Corporation. I was called back to active duty with the US Army in 1961-1962 and was honorably discharged in 1963.

We moved to North Wilkesboro, NC in 1963 to work for Modern Globe Corporation. I left Modern Globe and started to work for Lowe's Companies in 1975, staying with Lowe's in various capacities until I retired in 1993.

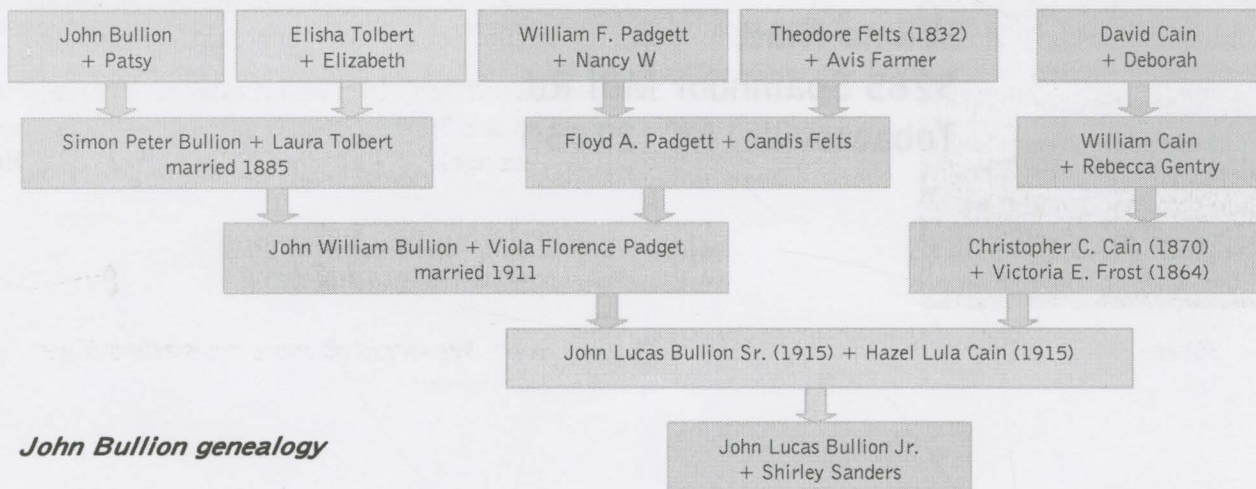
I met my wife Shirley in September 1959. We were married in October 1960. We have two children, a son Jeffrey born in Galax who now lives in Ekalaka, Montana. He moved to Montana to be a hunting guide, met a local girl, got married and now also works for Carter County. Our daughter Teresa born after we moved to North Carolina lives in Mooresville, NC and works at Lowe's corporate offices. We have two grandchildren, Gwyneth Ann and John Thomas Williams. They live with their father, a Major in the US Air Force currently stationed in Monterey, California. They spend several weeks with us each summer.

I enjoy gardening, collecting coins and traveling. We have been to Hawaii, Mexico, Bahamas, Scotland, England and Ireland as well as extensive travel within the continental United States.

My wife and I still live in North Wilkesboro and are members of Baptist Home Church. I am also an active member of the Mulberry-Fairplains Ruritan Club and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, James B. Gordon Camp 810.



June 2008
Gwyneth Williams, age 8 and John Williams, age 6 of Cheyenne, Wyoming recently spent five weeks with their grandparents, John and Shirley Bullion. While there, they enjoyed a week at the beach, a trip to the NC Zoo in Asheboro, as well as numerous other outings. Later this year, they will be moving to Monterey, California, where their father, a Major in the United States Air Force, will be attending school.





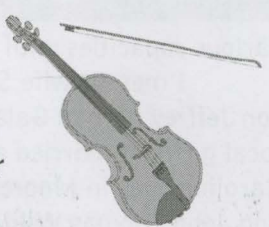
Growing Up a While Ago

Dea Felts

I grew up an only child in California. When I was very young we didn't have television or portable radios to fill up a day. I didn't have many chores; I just had to pass off a lot of time by myself. Our house was on a quarter-acre lot: room for a lawn with flowers and shrubs around the edges. I had my toys for playing indoors, but it was much more fun to be outside when the weather was nice, as it was most of the time. Now I live in a neighborhood with plenty of room for children to play, but I seldom see them outside unless they have a 4-wheeler or at least a basketball hoop. Here are 12 things that even I, a timid girl, could do by herself outdoors.

- Hunt for four-leaf clovers
- Make bows and arrows out of twigs and string
- Make miniature paths through the flower beds
- Collect caterpillars in my wagon and feed them fresh leaves every day
- Sneak up on butterflies and pluck them off a flower when their wings are folded, and then let them go
- Catch birds in a chicken wire trap (hide behind a bush, jerk a string to close the trap), then let them go
- Float twigs and walnut shells in puddles after a rain
- Use a magnifying glass on a sunny day to burn designs in a piece of paper
- Braid leaf blades and stems to make bracelets and various trinkets
- Make imaginary towns from moss and twigs and rocks
- Melt old crayons in the sun and model things with them
- Put salt on snails and slugs

Nowadays it looks like everyone has to be either working or shopping all the time, or else the economy will collapse. And in case it does collapse, and the suggestions above don't work for you, you can always try fiddling!



Melvin and Dea Felts
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Galax, VA 24333

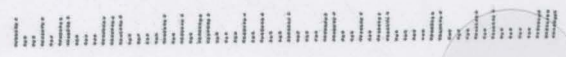
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Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
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The Felts – Melton Family

Newsletter # 24
Spring 2009

Sawmill belonging to James Felts



Spring is here, and it's time to put Reunion 2009 on your calendar for May 3.

The reunion is held at Ruben's Red Lantern, Fancy Gap, VA., starting at 11 AM. From I-77 take VA Exit 8 or from US 52 take Road 148. Just west of I-77, take Road 778; it will be the first state road going north. The building is less than ½ mile on the right. The reunion will be hosted by Elvin and Clinton Felts and their sister Sadie Felts Harris. Clinton tells us that this is the last year they will host the reunion. It is their fifth year. Before that, Melvin and Dea hosted it for five years. If anyone wants to take it over, they should be prepared to put their name in.

Bring pictures, family keepsakes, and a covered dish.

Family News

James Leslie Melton, son of James and Myrtle Melton, passed away on Feb. 23 after battling cancer. He was 52 years old and had one daughter, Misty.

Annie Ruth Felts Flippin died March 12, 2009. She is survived by her husband, James Monroe Flippin, their daughter Deborah Akers, and two sons, Tony and Richard.

Clinton Felts' wife Dorothy (Dot) has been out of work with an illness which has been difficult to identify. She was first diagnosed with cancer, but later tests did not confirm it. Clinton tells us that she has been showing some improvement.

Betty Voigt has been battling cancer for well over a year. Betty is the daughter of Fannie Felts Testerman, who was a sister to Lloyd Felts. Betty and her husband Bobby live at Southport, NC. The Voigts have attended our reunion as often as they could, and they would be happy to hear from family members. Her address is: 4776 Trace Court S.E., Southport, NC 28461.

Dan Williams is recovering from lung cancer surgery which he had shortly before Thanksgiving. He is still suffering quite a bit of pain but he is up and around. Faye has been having problems with her hip and has been in quite a bit of pain also.

Troy Galyean recently spent some time in the hospital with pneumonia. He celebrated his 80th birthday on March 29.

Willard McRoberts was walking with Melvin in the recreation center in Galax on Jan. 14 when he collapsed with a heart attack. The staff at the rec center started CPR immediately, and it was continued by members of the rescue squad for a total of 57 minutes. He spent several weeks in Baptist Hospital and was on his way to a full recovery, when he had to go back for triple by-pass surgery on Mar. 19. He was able to come home and stay with his brother Bill in Galax for several weeks, but he is now back in the hospital.

After the scare with Willard, Melvin and Dea, Allen, Laurie Felts, and two of their friends took a CPR class together.

A Party in the Waiting Room

A couple of days ago I went for a CT scan. While Dea and I were in the waiting room, Dea immediately greeted a friend of Inez's who had sometimes played music with us. She was talking to another couple and asked if they knew me. They were not sure, but they knew who my dad was, and started talking. Then another lady spoke up and said that she used to work with me at Burlington Industries. There were about a dozen people on the left side of the waiting room, and come to find out they all knew each other by their first name. The receptionist even called for some of them by their first name. Then when I got ready to leave, a lady on the other side of the waiting room hollered at me. She turned out to be Mary Boling, a cousin who sometimes comes to the reunion, and her sister was there with her. I guess we have come to the age where we do a lot of our visiting in doctors' offices and waiting rooms.

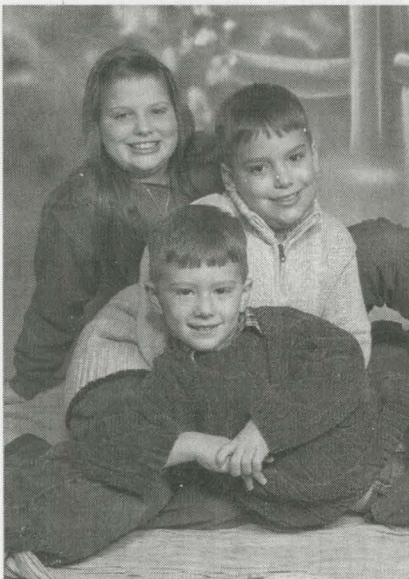
Several years ago, when Arnold Spangler was our band manager, he had to take his son to the emergency room in the middle of the night. We had a program the next morning, and he had gotten only about two hours sleep. We asked him if he was tired. He said yes, but while he was in the waiting room, he had sold several CD's and gotten two more bookings for the band.

In the Old Days

With the economy down and gas prices unpredictable, we remember the old days when most people, especially the women, stayed at home all day. The family usually just had one car, and we all couldn't jump in and go to town whenever we felt like it. Dea grew up in a suburban neighborhood in California. She remembers that, even into the '60's, a delivery man would come around with milk, eggs, all the fresh dairy products each week. They had a milk box where these goods would be left, and they would put their payment in an envelope along with a note telling what they would need for the next week. Also, a man selling fresh produce would drive slowly down the street, and the women would come out to look over what they needed. It was a little more expensive than what was in the supermarket, but it saved a trip to town. When Melvin lived in Arlington, VA during the '60's, his children would meet the ice cream truck, which rang a bell as it passed through the neighborhood. For Dea, the ice cream truck was a special treat on hot summer days.

The price of postage stamps is going up again, on May 11. At Fancy Gap in the 1940's, Melvin's family had a mailman, Rawdon Weddle, that passed their house at 12:10 every day. They didn't have a radio, just had a wind-up clock, and sometimes they would set the clock by him. The mailman sold stamps (3 cents for a letter, 1 cent for a stamped postcard) and delivered packages to the door, and if you needed a money order, you would meet him at the box.

Melvin's oldest son James is married to Laurie Londrie. James has two grown children from his first marriage and Laurie has two young children from her previous marriage. They have one child together, Justin. Laurie sent us this family story for the newsletter.



James and I have 5 children between the two of us, Jennifer, Jim, Brianne, Quinn, and Justin. James and I live in Wytheville with the 3 youngest. Last June we took a trip to Missouri to visit my aunt and uncle. On our way we stopped at Branson for a visit to Silver Dollar City, and we really enjoyed the park. We also went to Arkansas for an overnight stay with my cousins. Then we went on to Ulrich, Missouri and spent a few days with my aunt and uncle. The kids had a great time riding all the go-carts my uncle has, and they spent as much time as they could on them. This past fall we went camping over at Old Timey Days at a farm in Carroll County and we all really enjoyed all the events and especially the camping. Jim was helping out with organizing the events and helping with several of the activities. We all participated in the activities and really enjoyed listening to all the different music groups. Dad and Dea and their band were also there playing. It was a really good turn out and great family fun except for the nights were extremely cold. It was down in the thirty's at night, yet it was still great fun.



Hi, my name is Brianne. I am 11 years old. I go to school at Scott Memorial Middle School in Wytheville. I'm in the 6th grade. My favorite subject in school is math. I loved being a cheerleader last year. I also enjoy playing soccer. I really like to travel. My best friend is Katie S. I enjoy playing my D.S. and my favorite game is Cooking Mama 2. I love to collect elephants. I have over 100, and I started collecting them when I was 8. I have 3 brothers and 1 sister. I have a pet turtle named Speedy and he is 6 years old. I also love wrestling with my brothers. I love to read animal books. I also love to sew and I am working on a small quilt right now.

Hi, my name is Quinn. I am 9 years old and I am in the 4th grade. My favorite subject is spelling. My school is Spiller Elementary. My favorite sport is baseball. My favorite movie and game is Star Wars. I like to play the PlayStation 2. I collect dragons of all kinds and I started collecting when I was 7. I have over 60.



Hi, my name is Justin. I am 5 years old and I am in kindergarten. I really like school. I have a really nice teacher, her name is Mrs. Clyburn. My favorite thing in school is reading and recess. I love to play Bookworm on the computer, and I like to play the PlayStation 2 also. I like building with Lego's, and I collect bears of all sorts. I have about 26, and I have been collecting since I was 3. I really like to play a dice game with Mommy and Dad, Brianne and Quinn. It is called U Blew It. My favorite food is spaghetti. That's all.

I Enjoy my Computer and the Genforum

I don't do any leg work on my genealogy any more, but I use the internet to get information. The Genforum is a good source. I can bring up the Genforum of most any county I type in, or I can type in individual persons. For example, I made an inquiry about Gordon Jennings, who was descended from my great-grandma Ellen Pillars. He had visited Grandma Felts one Sunday in the early '40's. Vauda took Dad's truck to Blowing Rock, North Carolina, on the Parkway. About 8 or 10 of us rode the back of the truck, including Gordon. I had heard him play on the radio. He was a semi-famous country and bluegrass musician from the late '30's through the '50's. For a time, he was lead singer for the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers.

Yesterday I received an e-mail from Peggy Sublett, who has done quite a bit of research on the Pillars. She was able to tell me the names of Gordon's wife and their two children. She also sent me links to several articles where Gordon was mentioned in the music business. So I was able to add to my Family Tree Maker and make the acquaintance of a "thirty-fifth cousin."

Melvin



Pictures of interest

Left: Floyd and Dora Edwards Bunn. Floyd Bunn was the one who preached Floyd and Claude Allen's funeral after their electrocution by the state. Over five thousand people attended. Dora was the sister of Eliza Edwards Felts, Lloyd Felts' mother.

Right: Frances Pillars Felts, taken probably before she and Lloyd were married.



We're not asking for donations for the newsletter, but it pleases us to know that quite a few people are willing to help. Since the last newsletter, we have received donations from Wayne and Wanda Sawyers, Clayton Stockner, James and Myrtle Melton, Carli and Ethel Combs, and Sara Melton.

We hope to hear from you. mdfelts@comcast.net

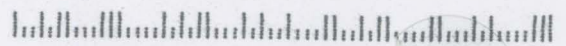
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The Felts – Melton Family

Newsletter # 25
Late Summer 2009

Family News

Ethel Felts Combs passed away on Apr. 7, 2009. Ethel was born in 1926, the daughter of Heath and Callie Felts. She is survived by her husband Carli, who cared for her during a long illness, and by two sons, Gary and Donnie. Ethel and Carli made their home in Spencer, VA, near Horsepasture.

Russell Felts passed away on July 22, 2009. Russell was Ethel's brother, born in 1927. He lived with his second wife, Robin, a few steps down the road from Ethel and Carli. Robin took care of him for many years while he was nearly housebound. Russell is survived by his son Desmond and a step-son Larry, also by Robin and their daughter Callie Richardson.

Marie Felts Dowell passed away on Aug. 30 at Waddell Nursing Home in Galax, VA. Marie was the daughter of Lloyd and Frances Felts, the sister of Heath Felts, and aunt to Ethel and Russell. Marie was born in 1923, the youngest and last one living of a family of nine. She was married to Nathan Junior Dowell; they lived for many years on Chances Creek Road, a few miles west of Fancy Gap. She is survived by their daughter Frances Irvin and son Nathan.

Betty Testerman Voigt, daughter of Fannie Felts Testerman and niece of Lloyd Felts, passed away on May 30. She is survived by her husband Robert and their daughter Angela and also children from her previous marriage. She had cancer for more than sixteen months. She and Robert lived at Southport on the North Carolina coast, coming quite a distance to attend the family reunion.

On the sick list:

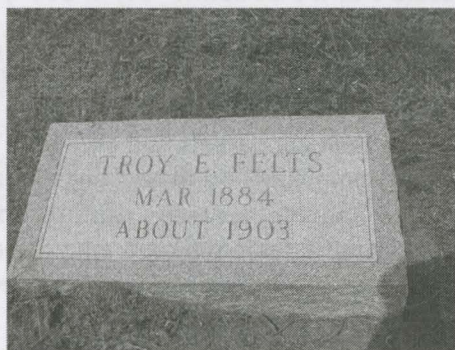
Rodney Felts is having problems with numbness of the face and dizziness. So far, the cause is not known, though tests and scans have been done.

Virgil Melton is recovering from a stroke.

Dorothy Felts has been back in the hospital with a high fever, and tests have not determined the cause of her problems.

Rodney, Virgil, and Dorothy all attended the reunion this year. Look for their pictures on the next pages.

Independence Cemetery at Fancy Gap is the resting place for many of the Felts ancestors. Troy and Cleo Felts were brothers of Lloyd Felts and died before age 20. The graves had been marked just with field stones, and one was missing. At the reunion this May, a collection was taken up for new markers, shown in the photos at right.



Lois Rogers, Melvin's niece and the daughter of Inez Felts McRoberts, was the first of Melvin's immediate family to go to college. We asked her to tell what made her decide to go for a college degree, also to reflect on what that decision has contributed to her life and what it has left unchanged.

Our family has always been a resourceful, hard-working group of persevering people with strong mountain principles, values, and a strong work ethic. When I was growing up, it seemed to me that everything revolved around family, and the center of our family was Grandma and Grandpa Felts (Lula and T.R.). Many of my cherished memories and life lessons are framed by the time I spent with various members of my family at my grandparents' home. I learned a lot from the quiet, insightful talks I had with Aunt Gladys, from the dry humor of Aunt Pauline, from the fascination of Uncle Early on what makes things work, from Uncle Melvin's stories and music, from the meekness and gentleness of Aunt Mary, from my second mother, Aunt Faye, and so much from my momma, Inez.

I learned how to be organized, how to be resourceful in using the supplies that I had, how to be saving with what money I had, how to grow a garden, how to cook, how to sew, how to knit, how to can and preserve your harvest, how to grow beautiful flowers, how to make a quilt, how to take care of yourself and your family, how to be a good friend, how to be honest, responsible, caring, hard-working, and persevering.

At the same time, I grew up with friends from church and school who lived in town. They did not do things the way I had been taught. I realized I was being raised differently, and that was okay. Sometimes people made fun of my home-made clothes I wore to school. That was okay because I was proud of the beautiful dresses my mom and grandma made for me. Sometimes people made fun of the country way I talked, and that was okay, too. I loved to hear people speak the way my grandparents and my parents spoke. I just realized I had to speak a different way in different places to be acceptable. I was flexible.

I was also an avid reader. I devoured books, couldn't read enough. In high school, everyone swore I would be a writer because I always had my nose in a book. Reading opens up the world like nothing else can. When you are immersed in a story, you can go anywhere, do anything, and be anybody. And I learned so much about people and the world around me.

I had some wonderful teachers in school and I would often play school in my free time, modeling the teaching strategies those terrific teachers used in the classroom. I realized that not everyone is college material, but my teachers pushed me along encouraging me to go to college. My parents said, "You are going to college." My mom dropped out of school in the eighth grade because of a bad experience she had with a teacher who picked on her, and she regretted that decision for the rest of her life. She wanted to make sure that didn't happen to me. I wasn't sure I should go to college. No one else in my family was on their way to college, and sometimes I was made to feel I was getting above my raising. The girls in my family were expected to get married, get a job at the mill, and have children. I was moving into uncharted territory.

I earned an Associate in Arts degree from Surry Community College while working part-time at North Surry High School helping out in the office and even in the classroom. That job experience sealed the deal in deciding to become an educator. After earning a Bachelors of Science degree in Education from Radford University in 1991, I was hired to teach Kindergarten at Galax Elementary School. I soon realized that I loved to teach those boys and girls how to read more than any other part of teaching. Everybody still says, "Why don't you move up to a higher grade. Your job would be easier." And miss seeing the light bulb come on when they break that reading code, and they learn how to read? No way! In 2002, Emory & Henry College offered a Masters in Reading program in which they would come to Galax. How could I turn that down? So, in 2004, I graduated from Emory & Henry with a Masters degree in Education as a Reading Specialist.

Having a college degree opened up a whole new avenue of life for me. I was able to help my parents out a little. I was able to establish more credit than I would have been able to otherwise. I was able to build the log cabin home of my dreams and purchase a car newer than my parents had ever been able to afford. I have a steady, well-paying job. I will have a retirement I can rely on. Now I do those things I learned from my family like making quilts, knitting, growing a garden, canning, sewing, etc. because I want to, not out of necessity as it was when I was growing up. But seeing the turn our economy is taking, I know what I learned from my family may be more valuable in surviving in the future when times get tough than just a college degree alone could ever provide.

I feel as if I come from two very different worlds sometimes. Jane Hicks, a southern Appalachian poet, who also graduated from Emory & Henry, perhaps puts what I have been trying to say better than anyone else could when commenting on her poem "How We Became Cosmic Possums," which was first published in 1986.

"The poem spoke of the experience that many of our generation had when we became the first high school and college graduates in our families. Most of us were the first that grew up 'out of the holler' or 'off the ridge.' We lived in suburbs and working class neighborhoods. Our grandparents still lived in out-of-the-way family farms or mining camps. We all spent a lot of time there growing up. We had a foot in both worlds. As the late James Still said, 'We talked smart, but we had hillbilly all over us.'

The poem, 'How We Became Cosmic Possums' grew out of these reflections of our lives. We were educated, sophisticated people who went to college... but still appreciated and respected our Appalachian roots."
(www.cosmicpossum.com)

Lois Rogers

Introduced by Sharyn McCrumb in her book, The Songcatcher, the expression "cosmic possum" refers to a child who was born to the first generation out of the holler or off the ridge. He/she lives in the modern world but knows what has been lost. DF

Reunion 2009 Photos



Kenneth Melton, Allen Felts, Lois Rogers, Larry Galyean



Lois Glavin, Debbie Akers, Melvin Felts



Harley and Frances Felts
Harley is the son of Heath and Cora Felts.
This is their first reunion with us. They
live at Fancy Gap.



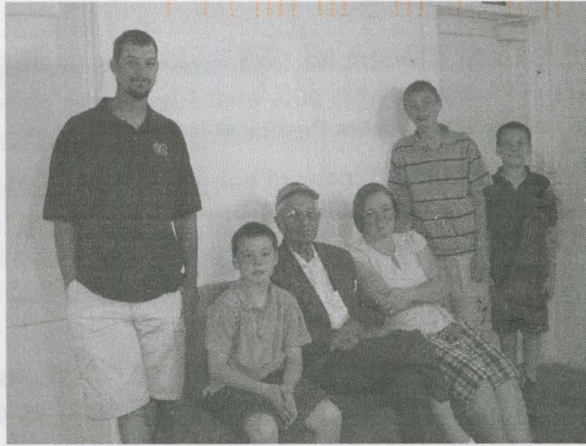
Shirley Bullion, Dot and Clinton Felts

We have received Newsletter donations from Billy C. Melton, John and Shirley Bullion, Edward Felts, and Sadie Harris.

Please send family news to Melvin and Dea Felts, 283 Commonwealth Rd., Galax, VA 24333
mdfelts@comcast.net (276) 238 - 1921



Sadie Harris with daughter Lois and grandchildren

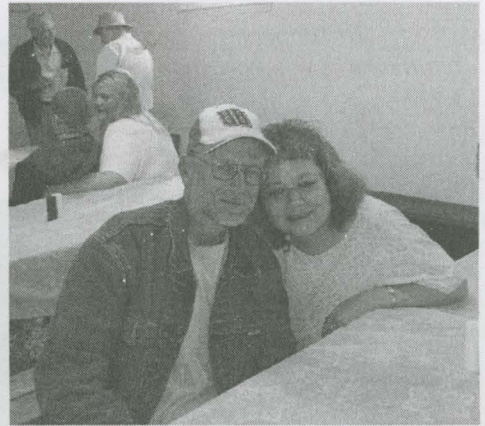


Troy Galyean with granddaughter Stacey, great-grandchildren Seth, Tyler, and Hunter, and Tyler's father Kevin Southern

Clayton Stockner, Melvin and Dea Felts, Virgil Melton



Rodney and Kathy Felts



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The Felts – Melton Family

Newsletter # 26
Fall – Winter 2009

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Family News

Mildred Baker Smith passed away on Nov. 7. Mildred was the granddaughter of Betty Felts Baker. Betty (1873 – 1956) was the daughter of Theodore Felts and aunt to Lloyd Felts. We visited Mildred several times at her home in Galax, and she gave us the only picture we have of Theodore.

Connie Maude Melton Burcham passed away on Nov. 18. She was the granddaughter of Lloyd's sister Lillie Felts Melton and the sister of Virgil Melton. Connie attended most of our family reunions.

Virgil Felts, son of Frank Felts, has liver cancer and is in Baptist Hospital. They are waiting until his condition gets better before they do surgery.

George Bonn fell on some steps and broke his shoulder and a rib. He spent four days in the hospital and some time in rehab. He is now back at his home in Galax.

Willard McRoberts was back in Forsyth Hospital with a blood clot for a few days in November. He was back home in time for Thanksgiving.

T.R. and Lula's Family: Younger Generations

Melvin recently had a visit from Coy Hawks, son of Pauline Felts Hawks Surratt. They studied the family tree on the computer and visited about the family and their computer projects. Coy and Geneva have one grandchild, Jeremiah Goings. Jeremiah is in the 9th grade. He is doing the early college program, which will give him both his high school diploma and an associate degree (2 years of college) in 5 years. His favorite subjects are math and science. At home, he enjoys his play station and computer games. Jeremiah's mother Angie got her CNA license in October, making her eligible to work as a nursing assistant.

Gladys's daughter Cathy Dix tells us that her father, Nelson Bryant, has been doing somewhat better lately. She is caring for him in her home. She also cares for two of her grandchildren, Taylor and Cody Jones, after school and on Saturdays. Taylor is in the 6th grade and Cody is in the 5th grade.

Mary's daughter Carolyn Bartley gave us news of her three children. Kayla married Brandon Nester on Oct. 17. Jeffery and his girlfriend Nicki had a baby girl on July 4. Her name is Madilyn Noel Bartley. Shannon is married to Bert Pardue, and their baby Caden is 15 months old now.

Carolyn and Elaine and the grandchildren put on a Thanksgiving dinner at Troy's house. Ronald Sr. was able to be home for Thanksgiving and was doing well. We saw Troy recently when we played for the square dance at Beulah. Carolyn tells us that he is able to go out visiting almost every day.

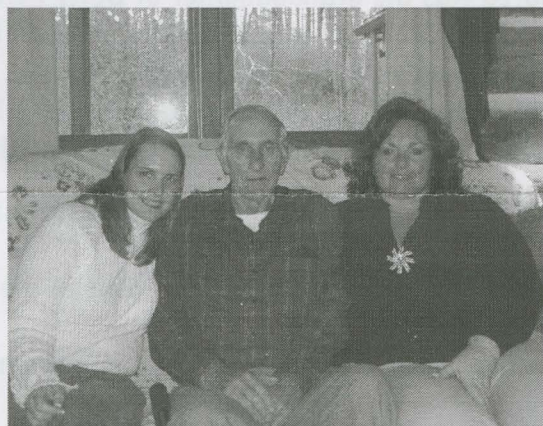
Chris and Pepper Galyean had their second baby, Lucas Trey, in October.

Stacy Drake wrote us this e-mail as we are enjoying our first snowfall.

HI MEL AND DEA !!!!!

Hope that you two are doing good and oh how I wish we could have some snow!! I am currently attending Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, then in 2011, I will transfer to Catawba University to get my bachelors degree in social work. I am working on my transfer courses now, taking a full load so that I am considered a full time student, which is 12 semester hours. The boys are good. They made the honor roll again this nine weeks. Seth plays basketball, Hunter just started taking karate and already has got his orange belt, and Tyler is playing football and doing wrestling again. This is his last year at South Davie Middle School. Next year he will be a freshman and go to Davie High. As for Ronald Jr., he is going to be a dad!! Ronald and Angel are expecting their first child in May 2010. He is still working at Libby Hill and in the National Guard. As for Christina and Logan, they are doing great. Logan has had a lot of ear infections and they go see the ENT doctor on Dec. 15 to see when he will get ear tubes. Well, thanks for keeping in touch. We miss you all and hope to see you soon. Take care and Merry Christmas!! Love, Stacy

Inez's daughters Lois and Shirley put on an elegant Thanksgiving dinner at Lois's house and included us. The pictures below show Shirley and Lois with their father Willard, and the holiday table.



Faye and Dan Williams put on a dinner the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We enjoyed visiting with DeeDee, Ricky, April, and Cody. We could see that Cody is doing very well on the guitar, but he is more interested in baseball. DeeDee has been very busy with the grand opening of Red Hill Store in Hillsville. April is a certified massage therapist at D-Zire's Edge Hair Studio in Hillsville. She also works at Lemon's Jewelry.



Melvin's grandson Travis married Elsa Funk on Oct. 17. Travis's son Dylan is in second grade and his daughter Makayla is in kindergarten. Elsa has a son, Austin Spencer, from her previous marriage. Austin is also in the second grade. The photo shows Travis and Elsa at the Thanksgiving party.

Donations since the last Newsletter: Sharon Smith Greene

Making Music

On Saturdays when Daddy would come in from his produce business, about the first thing he would do is go to see how Grandma was. He would sit with Grandma and Grandpa and visit a while. I usually went with him. From time to time he would pick up Grandma's banjo and play a tune. At the age of about 6 years old I had gone with Daddy to my grandparents, and Grandma's banjo was sitting in the corner. While they and Daddy were talking I got the banjo and was plucking it. Grandma came over and said, "Let me show you some," and she showed me a few notes of "Ellen Smith." About a few months later Daddy bought a banjo and fiddle, and I remembered what she had showed me on the banjo. Then I started learning the fiddle.



Melvin, 2nd from right, in his country band in Germany, 1953

Radio was the only entertainment we had at home unless someone came and played music. Listening to the radio, I learned the songs before I learned the instruments. We listened to the Grand Ole Opry and the hillbilly stations. When I was learning fiddle and practicing the "Orange Blossom Special," Mom would run me out of the house and I'd have to go down in the mountain to practice.

I played music with some of my friends that I grew up with. We played just for fun and sometimes to earn pocket money for the movies. When I went in the army in the early '50's and was stationed in Germany, I played fiddle with a country band. About 1973 I joined Calvin Cole's band and played fiddle while he played banjo. In late '75 I met another fiddler, Dea Baumgarten, and I started playing banjo. We formed the Blue Sky Ramblers soon after that. We kept that band until about 1993 when Dea and I joined with Arnold Spangler to form the Laurel Fork Travelers. We played with Arnold until he died in 2004, and now we have the Mountain Ivy Band. When we joined Arnold in '93, we started playing at Mabry Mill on the Blue Ridge Parkway on Sunday afternoons from late May through October. We have continued at Mabry Mill on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, and we hope to do so next year if health permits. We also play at jam sessions, parties, and the local senior centers, as well as some square dances.

Music has been my main form of recreation for most of my life. Lately I have picked up another hobby of transferring old LP albums to CD's using my computer. I copy the covers too. Of course I can't sell these. It's just a hobby for my personal use.

Melvin Felts

I was captivated by folk songs and tunes as far back as I can remember. My family, in California, was not at all "musical." When the family bought a console radio/78 rpm record player in the late 1940's, my dad bought a few records for me. What were sold there as children's records were actually songs and some fiddle tunes performed very well by people whose voices suggested the long familiarity of tradition rather than something contrived for the moment. Some were "western" songs, a close musical kin to what we have in the Blue Ridge today. Though I had some lessons in classical music, it was the melodies that always held my attention, and words which fit the melodies and fit the natural patterns of speech. It was like someone talking to you, resolving feelings with graceful, sometimes humorous, words. Bad feelings could dissolve away through the music.

My parents had no idea that those old records would eventually send me across the country to a different life.



What Melvin and I play today, what we call "old-time" music, has probably flourished and died back several times during its development in this country. It was almost forgotten where I grew up, but now it has gained widespread recognition. When I started trying to fiddle, during my time in college, I guess I was catching a wave that came out of the 1950's and '60's. Young people were trying to include different traditions in their lives, not just accept what was commercial or what was socially correct at the time. Old-time music was played with great enthusiasm by a few stubborn people who didn't have much if any prospect of marketing it. They opened up the world of the Appalachians and Blue Ridge, where this music and its accompanying traditions still live.

Today, with Melvin, I'm playing music that goes far back into my life. My best tunes are a memory of the many different times and places where I've heard or played them. I guess a lot of people, or most people, have a sound track to their lives. Being able to play old-time music is an instant connection to other people who have cared about the same things. It's a bond next closest to family.

Dea Felts

Sometimes when we put together the Newsletter, we feel like we are "pulling teeth" to get stories from people. Then when they see their story in print, I think most of the time they are proud of it.

Our families have done a good job of telling the circumstances and events of their lives, and it has been an enjoyment for us to work with them. But ... We need more participation if we are to keep the Newsletter coming. We want to encourage people to tell about their families, their traditions, and the things that have had meaning in their lives.

Write, call, or e-mail us at:

283 Commonwealth Rd., Galax, VA 24333, (276) 238 - 1921, mdfelts@comcast.net

Melvin and Dea Felts
283 Commonwealth Rd.
Galax, VA 24333

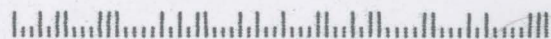
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Wilma Hiatt
3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

27050+9780



Christmas Greetings from Melvin and Dea 2010

News of the Felts and Melton families of Fancy Gap and their descendants

We wish all our friends and kinfolks a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope that you will call or visit, and we hope to see you at the reunion in 2011.

Deaths:

Grace Edith Melton, 89, of Pulaski, VA was born Oct. 3, 1920 and died Feb. 24, 2010. She was the daughter of Eldridge and Minnie Felts Melton.

Herman Felts passed away Oct 9, 2010 at the age of 89 and was buried at Skyview Cemetery in Carroll County.

Back in the summer, Melvin had a visit with Rita Sizemore, granddaughter of Roscoe and Bessie Felts and daughter of Kermit and Mamie Towe. Clinton and R.J. and Melvin met Rita at Independence Cemetery. Melvin showed her the location of her grandmother Bessie's unmarked grave. Rita lives in Mt. Airy, NC.



When we start the newsletter, we try to call someone from each family group to find out how they are doing. Sometimes we get a lot of news, sometimes just a word or two.

Pauline's family:

Coy Hawks tells us just that everyone is OK. He and Melvin like to compare notes on their genealogy and computer adventures. Coy sends us jokes on the e-mail every few days.

Tommy's grandson Raven Hawks graduated from North Surry High School on June 12.

Gladys's family:

Gladys's son Kenneth lives in Salisbury, NC. His wife Terri tells us that everyone is doing well. Kenneth recently had surgery for a hernia but he is ready to go back to his job transporting mobile homes. Terri has been working as a teacher's aide and going to college. She will graduate in June with a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Lonnie has become a deputy sheriff for Rowan County. Lennie owns his own business, Melton's Hot Rod Shop, in Salisbury and cares for his four children. Wendy works for Food Lion at their corporate office.

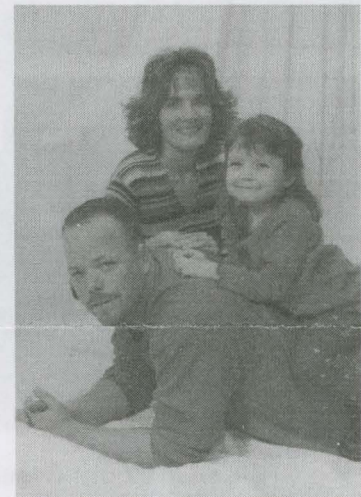
Mary's family:

Carolyn tells us that all the kids and grandkids fixed up a big Thanksgiving dinner at Troy's house. They are all doing well except for a stomach bug going around. Troy is still able to drive and goes out about every day.

Shannon and Kayla both live close enough that Carolyn sees them every day. Kayla and Brandon Nester are awaiting their first baby any day now; it will be a boy. Shannon and Bert's son Caden was two years old this summer. Shannon has two stepdaughters; one of them is living with her.

Ronald Jr. is working at Walmart in Mt. Airy. He has a son, Carter Reed Galyean, close to a year old. Stacy is living in Mocksville with her three boys and Tyler's father, Kevin. Christina and her three-year-old son Logan are living in Fayetteville.

Larry visits with his daughter Tina about every weekend. His son Chris has been working at the Mt. Airy granite quarry for several years. Chris's son Christopher is 9 years old and Lucas is just over a year old.



Tina and Chad Jordan and daughter Hannah

Inez's family:

We enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at Lois's house again this year – turkey with all the trimmings. Shirley was responsible for the beautiful table decorations. Brian is taller than his mother now.

More about Lois on the next page.

Brian Rogers and his mother Lois

Dylan and Makayla Felts, children of Travis Felts



Faye's family:

April is working as a receptionist at the Carroll County governmental complex. She continues to do massage and hair styling when she is not at her new job. Cody is a junior in high school and is thinking about attending New River Community College to become an auto mechanic.

Donations since the last Newsletter: Clayton Stockner, Parlie and Betty Robertson

We've asked the families to report their news of the last year. This is Lois's contribution.

My life has gone through a few changes in the last few months - some stressful, some liberating. After being granted a divorce after two-and-a-half years, I have been cleaning up my home and property as I wish. After recovering from having a massive heart attack, in November 2009, Dad suffered two strokes. Shirley (my sister), Edith (Uncle Bill McRoberts' fiancée), and I work together to take care of Dad. It's a full-time job keeping him out of trouble. I am teaching my 19th group of kindergarteners. It reminds me daily that I am not as young as I used to be, but I refuse to give in to age.

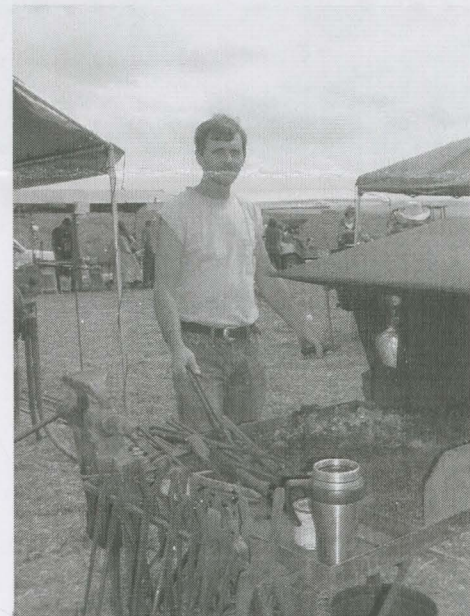
To relax, I enjoy working in my yard and home. I love to shop for antiques. I just finished restoring my Grandma McRoberts' Hoosier cabinet. Dad loves old-time music. He has a difficult time playing anymore, but loves to listen. Allen and I frequently take him to square dances on the weekend. I enjoy dancing and have made many new friends in the process.

My son, Bryan, turned 13 this past year. I cannot believe he is a teenager. Where did the time go? He is a member of the Galax High School Marching Band. This is his 3rd year on the saxophone. The band has been busy this fall - playing in parades, at ball games, at band competitions, and in concerts. He is taking weekly lessons learning to play the electric bass. He hopes to play in the school jazz band when he is older. Being the typical modern teenager, Bryan likes to spend time text messaging his friends and hanging out - playing games on the iPod Touch, Nintendo DSi, or the Wii. He's asking for an X-Box 360 for Christmas.

Allen is kept busy with his job at Mohawk. He works 2 days on and 2 days off and every other weekend - 12 hours a day. During the summer and fall, Allen has mowed many yards for his family and neighbors. Now the mowing season is winding down, he has been free to pursue his other hobbies on his days off. He and Dad have worked their beehives together this summer, taken off the honey, and have treated their bees for the winter.

During Old-Timey Days at Shockley's Farm in September, Allen stopped by to visit with his friend, Billy Phelps, who is an accomplished blacksmith. (Billy may have come from a branch on the Felts family tree. Uncle Melvin may have some information about this.) Allen had apprenticed some under Billy's tutelage to learn blacksmithing, and on this day, he gave Allen free reign over his forge to make a few interesting things. Allen has since visited with Billy a few more times to learn more of the craft.

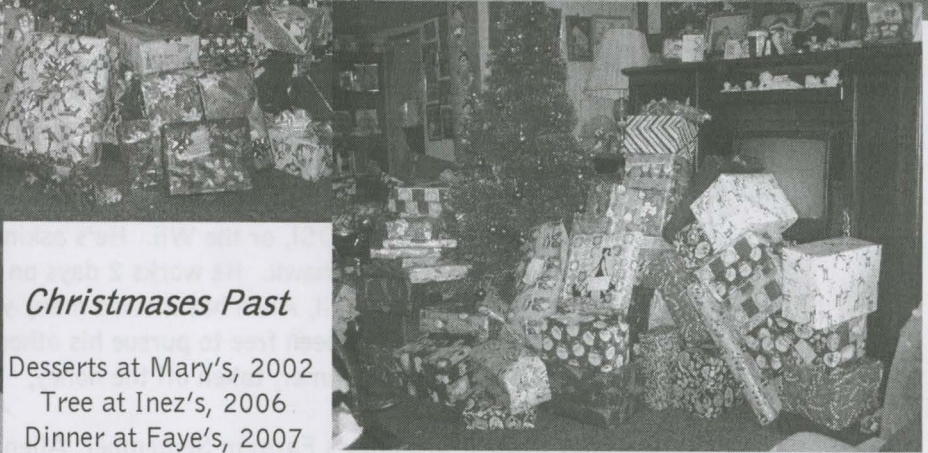
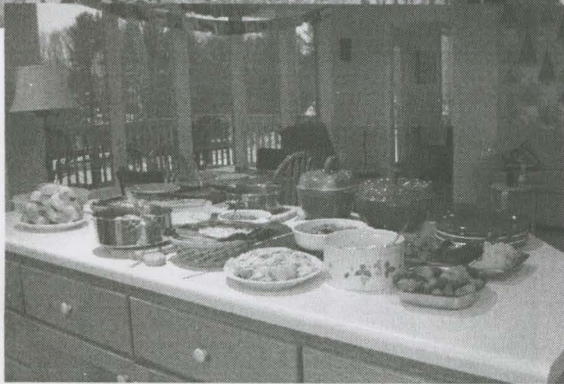
This fall Allen, his son Travis, and grand kids, Dylan and Makayla have gone out hunting a few times. Travis bagged an 8-pointer and a 10-pointer, and Allen got a turkey. Allen also has some woodworking projects going on. He made a new rabbit gum. He also made a neat, old-timey wheelbarrow and a barbed wire picture frame out of barn wood. He is currently building me a small pie safe inspired by one we saw in an antique store. This winter he plans to build a set of Adirondack chairs to go around the fire pit. No moss grows under Allen's feet.



Melvin's son Allen Felts

News of Melvin's son James's family from his stepdaughter Brianne:

Hi, it's Brianne. My mom asked me to send you the highlights of this year, so let's see. This year I am in marching band for the Mighty Maroons. We got several first and second place trophies. I'm in Spanish and algebra 1 this year. This is Quinn's first year in concert band. He plays the trumpet. He is in a slightly advanced math class for sixth grade that is new this year. Justin is a second grader who can read on a third grade level. He loves to read. He is a straight A student. Over the summer we went to Myrtle Beach, and Justin found a crab. In Myrtle Beach everyone tried crab legs and we went to many different attractions including Ripley's Aquarium. We browsed around Broadway at the beach, which is where the aquarium is located.



Christmases Past

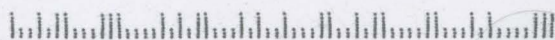
- Desserts at Mary's, 2002
- Tree at Inez's, 2006
- Dinner at Faye's, 2007
- Christmas Eve at Melvin's, 2009
- Presents at Mary's, 2006

Melvin and Dea Felts
 283 Commonwealth Rd.
 Galax, VA 24333



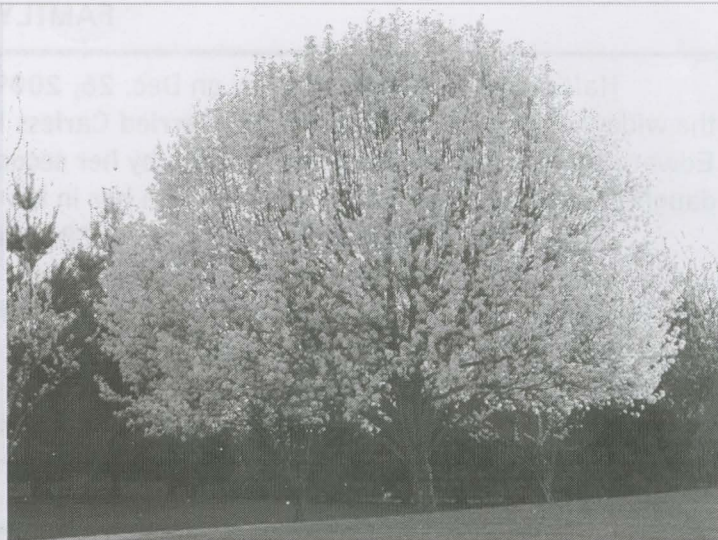
Wilma Hiatt
 3265 Spainhour Mill Rd.
 Tobaccoville, NC 27050

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The Felts – Melton Family

Newsletter # 27
Spring 2010



Reunion 2010 was hosted this year by Inez's daughters Lois Rogers and Shirley Everhart. Allen Felts and Rodney Everhart were busy helping throughout the day. The tables were decorated with antiques and real flowers. Melvin prepared a slide show of family photos with captions and had them projected onto the wall. He has the photos available on a CD. Elvin Felts gave thanks for the food. While we were finishing the meal, Debbie Akers sang a couple of gospel songs a capella with harmony by Lois Jean Glavin. Both Lois's were joined by Edith Anderson to continue the singing.

At the reunion for the first time are Laura and Leroy Wilder, 1st and 3rd from left. Laura is a first cousin to John Bullion, so they are both great-great grandchildren of Theodore and Avis Felts. Shirley and John, 2nd and 4th from left, attended our reunion for the first time in 2007.

Shirley Everhart is shown setting up the tables, below at right.

More reunion photos are inside.



FAMILY NEWS

Hallie Felts Hall passed away on Dec. 26, 2009. Burial was at Independence Cemetery. Hallie was the widow of Heymon Felts and later married Carless Hall. She is survived by her two sons Elray and Edward Felts. She was preceded in death by her second husband and by two sons Carl and Haywood and a daughter Frances. Her son Elray lived with her in her home at Fancy Gap during her later years.

Hazel Felts Lundy passed away on Dec. 28. She was the daughter of Heath and Cora Felts.

Julian A. Felts of Ivor, VA passed way on Jan. 27. Julian and his wife Margaret became friends with us while we were researching the Felts families of eastern Virginia.

Ruth Hawks Stockner passed away on Jan. 29. She grew up at Fancy Gap and was a distant cousin of the Felts and Meltons.

Virgil Felts passed away on April 3. He was the son of Frank and Callie Davis Felts.

On the sick list:

Elsa Speas fell a month or two ago and broke her arm in two places.

James Felts had three stents added in his heart on April 12, making a total of four. He is back at work now.

Rodney Felts was given some medicine which dropped his blood pressure dangerously low and caused a small stroke. He is still feeling weak, but he was able to go back to work recently.

Clayton Stockner, a good friend and a schoolmate of the Felts's at Fancy Gap, has been battling lymphoma. He is having chemotherapy and is not able to work at this time.

A big anniversary:

James and Myrtle Melton celebrated their 60th anniversary on Jan. 13.

A surprise family:

Larry Galyean recently learned that he had a daughter by a previous marriage and has had several opportunities to visit with her and with his grandchildren. We hope to meet them soon.

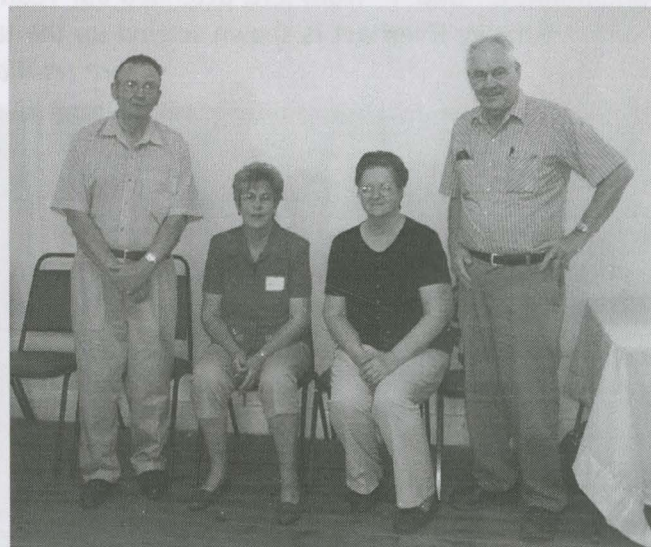
A special honor

When the Parkway was being built along by Fancy Gap, Melvin and his brother Earlie were just old enough to see the adventure of what was happening. Earlie, at age 12, drew detailed pictures of the machinery and carved out cars and trucks to play with. One of his drawings has been saved, and a copy will be on exhibit at Cumberland Knob during the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway this year.

In his adult life, Earlie made a career of road construction and Melvin was also a heavy equipment operator for a time.



Above: Coy, Tommy, and Jane Hawks, Faye Williams
Right: Harley Felts, Faye Williams, Frances Felts, Melvin Felts



For a long time we have been asking family members to contribute their stories to the Newsletter. Recently we have been trying to get them to send us their reflections about the things which have been most important to them in their lives. Dea offers her contribution as an example.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

The reason I went to college was basically very simple: it was interesting, challenging, and it gave me a sense of independence. I was a capable but indifferent student until up in high school. Then my classes became more interesting, and I had more choices.

My parents did not graduate from college, but they were caught up in the great depression of the 1930's and the world wars. They were determined that I should go to college and have a better position in life. It's lucky that we came to an agreement on the subject, because college does not work for everyone. I had a lot of struggles growing up, but I was well aware that I had some big advantages: my parents made sure that I could read well at an early age, and they saved money for me to go to college, making my way a lot easier.

I majored in chemistry, worked hard, did well, and went on to graduate school for a while. I was naturally curious about how things work, and I liked all my classes, not just the ones in my subject. But in graduate school and the later phases of learning, the goal is to produce new ideas, to do research in a specific area. For me, it became a lonely and too narrow pursuit. My real desire was to share the excitement of understanding basic concepts about our world, that is, to teach.

School worked for me, and college was the right choice, but it is with mixed feelings that I talk about being a teacher. In a class for teachers, I was once told that there are seven kinds of intelligence; school is all about just two or three of them. Kids who are differently talented, who get a poor start on their basic skills, or come from a home that doesn't emphasize education, can have a terrible time in school. By the time I got them in the 8th or 9th grade, we were on a collision course. I suffered with them, just in a different way. It was terribly painful to me when I could not break into their curiosity or desire to understand the world of science and ideas.

College opened doors to a better paying, more secure job. But I have come to understand the lure of working in a factory, of being able to walk away at the end of a shift. Possibly the hardest part of teaching for me was the unending responsibility of lesson plans, extra duties, and dealing with problems. Sometimes I would sit down for an hour at the end of the day, sometimes I couldn't. I hardly ever had time to read for fun. I hardly even had time to daydream.

More than a route to a career, college opened doors to learning how people have imagined and experienced the world in different places and times. Now that I have retired and begun to read again, I have a renewed appreciation for the privileges I had. If I could have a wish, it would be that every young person in the family would try, if not for college, at least for vocational training and the advantages of a skilled job. I would wish for them good reading skills, for to go through life without the basic skills of school is like being without an arm or an eye. I would wish for them to recover the curiosity and enthusiasm that we are all born with, and put them to use.



Elzie Speas and Debbie Akers



Mary Parsons, Elvin Felts, Sadie Harris



Lois Jean Glavin



The Felts clan: Coy Hawks, T.R. Felts, Edward (baby), Hallie, Ina, Heymon, Vauda Pauline, Lula, Billy? (baby), Inez, Mary, Sadie Carl, Faye, Clinton, Elray, Elvin, Haywood (holding Heymon's hand)

Donations for the Newsletter: Billy C. Melton, John and Shirley Bullion

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Greetings from Melvin and Dea Thanksgiving and Christmas 2011

News of the Felts and Melton families of Fancy Gap and their descendants

FAMILY NEWS

If you have news that you want to share, please call us at (276) 238-1921 or send us an e-mail at mdfelts@comcast.net.

Ronald Galyean and Angel have a son Draper, born in June.

Stacy Galyean and Kevin Southern are to be married on November 11.

Ronald and Stacy are children of Ronald Galyean and grandchildren of Mary and Troy Galyean.

Elizabeth and Eugene Jennings have two children, Noah Gabriel, born March 21, 2006, and Jocelyn Raye, born Nov 20, 2009.

Emma Lou Felts married Brad Stone on Feb 3, 2011.

Elizabeth and Emma Lou are children of Michael Felts and grandchildren of Earlie and Katherine Felts.

Billy C. Melton has a granddaughter about a year old, named Lillie after her great-grandmother Lillie Felts Melton.

Callie and Jason Richardson have a son named Cale Monroe Richardson (pictured), born June 24.

Callie is the daughter of Russell and Robin Felts.

Leonard Ray Melton, son of Kenneth and Terri Melton, married Taska Dawn Menius May 14 in China Grove, NC.

George Bonn, husband of Lucille Melton Bonn, was injured in a fall and is recuperating at home in Galax.

In recent months, Melvin and Dea have enjoyed visits with Cathie and Tony Dix in Mt. Airy and John and Shirley Bullion in North Wilkesboro. Last week we visited Clinton and Dot and R.J. and Janice Felts in Burlington and Graham and all of us went out to lunch together.



DEATHS

Pauline Melton Bartley, 81, granddaughter of Albert and Lillie Felts Melton, passed away on Jan. 23. She was a sister of Lucille Bonn, who attends our reunion.

Terri Melton, wife of Gladys's son Kenneth, passed away suddenly on March 5, three days before her 53rd birthday. She is survived by her husband, two sons Lenny and Lonnie and a step-daughter Wendy. The family lives in Salisbury, NC.

Troy Galyean, 81, passed away on March 11. He was the widower of Mary Frances Felts Galyean. Troy and Mary are survived by their three children Larry, Carolyn, and Ronald, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Much of the family still lives in Low Gap, NC.

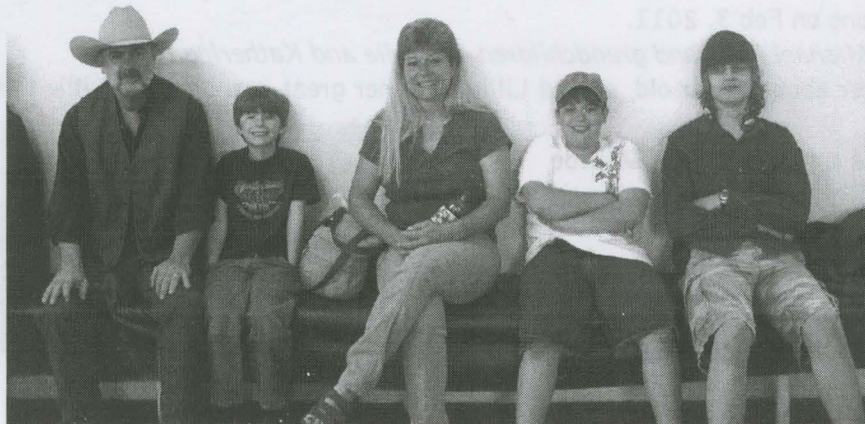
Elray Felts passed way on April 6 at age 73. He is survived by his children Kathy, Anthony, and Kimberly, several grandchildren, and his brother Edward. Elray lived at Fancy Gap, in the home which had belonged to his mother Hallie.

Katherine Felts, 78, widow of Earlie Felts, passed away on July 29 in Galax, VA. She was preceded in death by their two children, Michael and Sandra. She is survived by Michael's two children, Elizabeth and Emmy Lou.

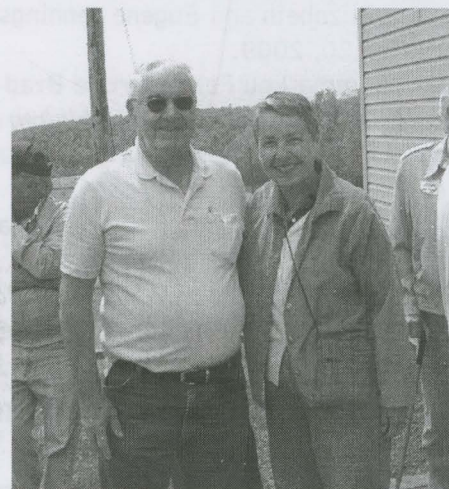
REUNION 2011



The reunion is currently being hosted by Inez's daughters Lois Rogers and Shirley Everhart with help from Lois's best-friend-forever Allen Felts and Shirley's husband Rodney.



James Felts, Justin, Laurie, Quinn, Brian



Melvin and Dea

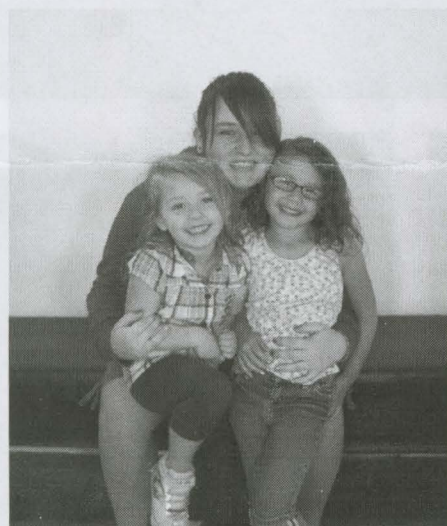


Above: Jane, Stacy, Christina



Right: Dot and Ruth

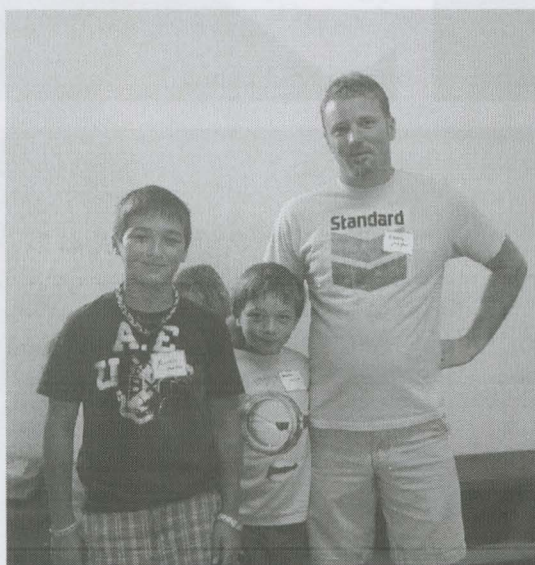
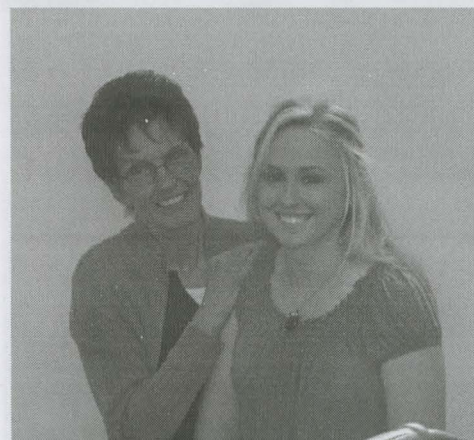
Elaine Galyean and her father Rufus Ayers



Left: Ianna, Page, Neveah

Right: Jane and April

We can send any of our pictures via e-mail, in color, if you have a request.

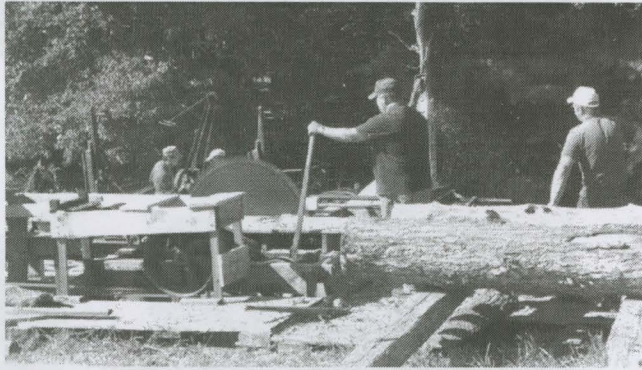
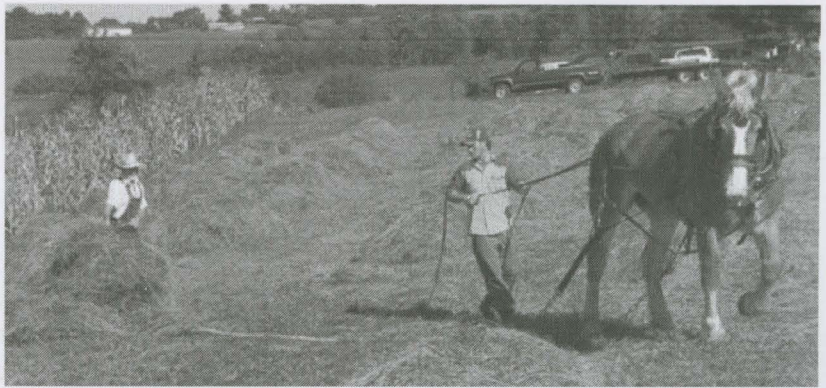


Left: Lenny Melton and children Austin and Brandon

Right: Brian and Brianne



Shockley's Old Timey Day is a local event that our family has enjoyed for several years. Among these pictures you will find Jim Felts getting ready to drag hay on skids and Allen Felts blacksmithing. There are demonstrations of sawmilling, plowing, and corn shocking, all types of farm work, as well as displays of tractors and farm equipment. Also churning, soap making and spinning. DeeDee Thompson might be working at the Red Hill Store display. We have enjoyed playing for dancers with our Mountain Ivy Band.



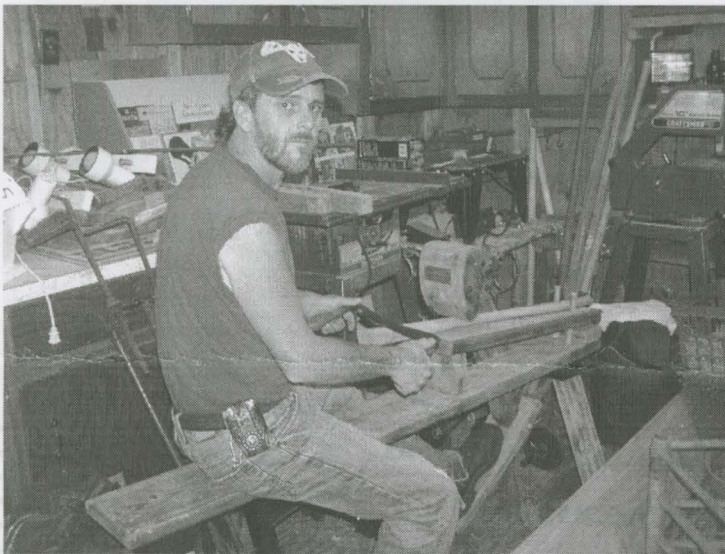
Melvin's son Allen has been collecting tools for a long time. We asked Allen to tell what started his interest in antique tools and how he has used them. We have photos and Allen's comments to share with you.

I like the old ways. When I was young I didn't have a whole lot of power tools so I had to work with what tools I had. And today I'll still use a handsaw if it's a small job. When I go to the flea market or an antique store I'll see something that is a little different, like a pair of pliers with finger grips, something a lot of people wouldn't have. I look for home made tools and tools with an unusual company name.

A whole lot of tools Daddy got off of Grandpa Felts and then he gave them to me. The crosscut saw in the photo was Grandpa's, also a brace bit, planers, a hatchet, and a bucksaw. I have an old cobbler's bench and shoe lasts. One is Grandpa's which he used for re-soling shoes. Dad and Grandpa used to buy leather at the store and cut it to fit their shoes. I have hay hooks I may have got off of Grandpa Davis.

I've tried using most of the tools. I made a box for my horse shoeing equipment. I've used it a few times. In the photo I'm smoothing a handle with a drawing knife.

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Newsletter donations: Carli Combs, Billy C. Melton, Stacy Drake.

A lot of the steel traps are those that I had as a teenager. When I got them, I'd paint them black to keep the rust down, so they're still in good condition. I saw some steel wolf traps at the flea market selling for \$75 apiece. They were about \$12 when I got them. Dad bought me some traps when we were living in Robin Hills, when I was 12 or 14. He was working shift work at Radford, so I had to get myself to school. I'd wake up about six every morning and go check my traps. If I had anything, I'd skin them out and put them on a board. Then I'd get James and Roy up and run to school. I've trapped muskrat, coon, possum. I've occasionally caught mink and foxes. One time I got a skunk. I skinned it out and sold it, got paid pretty good for it. Before I went to school I threw my clothes in the washer but I forgot to change my shoes. I had to sit all day with my feet propped up under somebody else's desk so they wouldn't think the smell was coming from me.

For a while I had a pair of ferrets. Sometimes people would call me to get the rats out of their houses. Just the scent of the ferret would run them out. If the ferret caught something to eat, it would sleep for a long time afterward, in a hole somewhere, and I would have to wait on it. When it came out, it would come right up to me and I could take it home.



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