

SPRING 2016

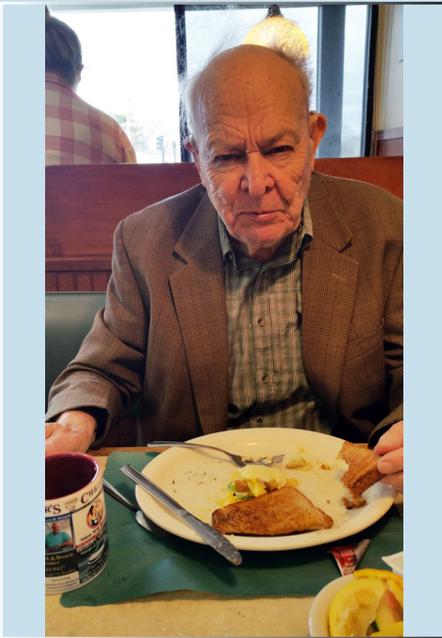
# GARDNER NEWSLETTER

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## Raymond Gardner

URNS 90



## *Family Sets Aside March 2016 to Celebrate Raymond Gardner's 90th Birthday*

**R**aymond Gardner, the youngest boy of the Original 10, turned ninety this year. March 23rd, 2016 was the exact day, but we, Raymond's kids, decided to celebrate Dad's Birthday during the whole month of March. Although Dad is still very active - winning at chess games, solving Sudoku puzzles, walking to buy groceries and keeping up email correspondence - hearing in crowds is very hard for Dad. So instead of a big celebration where he would be left out of all conversations, we decided to celebrate his birthday month with small intimate gatherings and a shout out for cards and emails!

Gloria and Cheryl sent out to our great family a request for memories and stamps to be sent to Dad with a birthday card! A BIG THANKS and with much appreciation to all of you that were able to send Dad emails, voice messages, cards, stamps, pictures, and/or memories to make NINETY a memorable birthday! Cards galore came in during the whole month! Dad so enjoyed reading the cards, filing pictures you sent into each family's album, and laughing and talking about his family and the interesting memories you sent.

### THE STAMPS

Dad got the biggest kick out of

receiving stamps. I was visiting the weekend of March 26 and Dad kept asking me "How does my extended family know I like stamps?" Many of the stamps that came out of your desks and drawers, he had never seen before!

To figure out what year the stamp was issued, Dad would look at the value of stamps and then look in his catalogues and books to find the special "Scott number" unique for each stamp. I used my smart phone to figure out some, but Dad preferred the old fashioned way. After figuring out the date, Dad meticulously affixed them in the correct albums. When he kept getting more stamps, he was so puzzled wondering how everyone knew he loved sorting stamps that I finally told him that his daughters sent out a suggestion to family to send stamps if they have any hanging around. Stamp collecting has been his hobby for a long time, as I remember Dad going through his Dad's, Will Gardner's, paper trash that was piled in the old cow stalls looking for 1 and 2 cent stamps. We thank you all for adding to his collections. He even received a framed picture of stamps.

### THE GATHERINGS

Granddaughters Robyn and Katrina with their kids started the gatherings on a beautiful 75-degree day on March 9. They went to the nearby

park and Robyn noticed all the dads out with their kids on a weekday. Raymond said "But I am the only granddad here!"

The next small gathering, was a homemade meal on March 13 with his granddaughters at the Blue House Restaurant. Dad lives in the Blue House and it has been at least a 7 year tradition for his granddaughters to cook a meal together to enjoy with their grandpa during the winter months. It all started when Gloria's daughters decided to give their grandpa a gift of home cooked meals for Christmas. Other granddaughters joined this Blue House tradition, and my own daughter has been part of it for the past 4 years since she is in Boston going to college.

Gloria took Dad out to eat for his actual birthday and he tackled a lobster, bib and all! Sharon visits Dad most Tuesdays, and I heard she let Dad win a scrabble game the day before his birthday. I drove from Ithaca, NY on the Easter Holiday weekend to celebrate with Dad! We had Harrow's pot pie and went out to Dad's favorite Reading restaurant. Steve and Brenda hosted a family gathering to celebrate Dad turning ninety. And Cheryl from California visited later to help celebrate!

~ By Raylene Ludgate

# HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, UNCLE RAYMOND

FROM YOUR EDITOR, PAUL GARDNER



**C**ongratulations to Uncle Raymond on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday!

My favorite memories of Uncle Raymond are around his many invaluable contributions to the *Gardner Newsletter* which began publishing in 1998. His interest in genealogy and family history spawned many articles over the years about his siblings, parents and grandparents. These stories have given us living links to the past.

Two of my favorite contributions are in the Fall, 2008 issue and in the Spring 2009 issue. The article in the Fall, 2008 issue was written by Uncle Raymond's son-in-law, Bob

**O**n a more personal level, though, when I see Uncle Raymond, he reminds me of my own father, Earl, who died in 1985. Since they are brothers, they even look alike! The four Gardner boys (Earl, Clayton, Adelbert, and Raymond) all served in World War II and should be recognized as part of "The Greatest Generation." Uncle Raymond admits that his part

in the conflict was small, as you can see for yourself if you watch the video that Uncle Raymond's granddaughter, Megan Ludgate, posted to the web, and is fully transcribed in the Summer, 2015 issue of the newsletter.

Although Uncle Raymond has given us many links to the past, he continues to inspire us now and in the future through

Parsons, under his guidance. This story gives us unusual insight into The Original Gang of Ten's grandmother on his father's side, Amy Jane Ripley. The Spring, 2009 issue published some excerpts from Ruth Sherborn's diary.

She was Uncle Raymond's (and The Original Gang of Ten's) grandmother on his mother's side. Furthermore, these great articles come with genealogical diagrams and interesting pictures which, in Ruth Sherborn's case, traced The Original Gang of Ten's lineage (and ours) all the way back to colonial times! Both of these unique narratives warrant a good re-read as we celebrate Uncle Raymond's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

his love of family, his indomitable spirit, quiet dignity, sense of humor, wry wit, and eternal optimism, a hallmark of the many gifts given to him by his parents, William and Olive Gardner, who are a huge part of who we are today too!

## COUSIN DICK METCALF WANTS BONAZAH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO REAP A BONANZA. YOU CAN HELP!



**A**S I LOOK AT THE PICTURE (LEFT), AND THE MANY OTHER IMAGES OF CHILDREN IN AFRICA IN NEED ON THIS WET PACIFIC NORTHWEST MORNING, AND THEN CONSIDER THE GREAT WORK BEING DONE BY AN ORGANIZATION CALLED BONAZAH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA, MY DESIRE TO HELP OTHERS "COMES FULL CIRCLE", SO TO SPEAK. I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO SEARCH OUT CAUSES, OR PREACH ABOUT MUCH OF ANYTHING, BECAUSE MY TRAVELS AROUND THE GLOBE HAVE SHOWN ME THAT QUITE OFTEN THOSE CAUSES ARE BEING SHEPHERDED BY SOMEONE WITH ANOTHER AGENDA ENTIRELY... POLITICIANS, PREACHERS OR OTHERS WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE TO APPEASE THEIR OWN GREED.

When my friend Benjamin Azah made me aware of this non-profit charity that promotes education and

## “BONAZAH PROMOTES EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR CHILDREN, WOMEN AND FAMILIES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES”

empowerment for children, women and families in several different countries in Africa (Cameroon, Uganda and Kenya, for example), I checked it out right away, but only because I had worked with Ben previously and was fully aware of his commitment to people, high integrity and dedication to doing the right thing... whether it's organizing fundraising for Bonazah's humanitarian efforts, providing food to folks who are hungry, helping to increase community awareness of the needs in Africa, or organizing micro-loans that help women start their own businesses...

I know from personal experience with Benjamin that it will be done honestly and aboveboard, something that many charity organizations can't say (yes, I receive the same emails you do from Nigeria and other places full of intelligent and greedy scammers)... like I said, I know this man and his family and have no doubt that every penny you donate to Bonazah goes right into programs that actively help those in need in Africa! You can also read Bonazah's 2015 report, which shows just how "transparent" and straight-forward they are!

Though I've donated to this effort myself, my funds are limited since retirement, so I volunteered my background with technology and Social Media... you can volunteer your services (whatever they may be), too... just visit the Bonazah main page and fill in the CONTACT FORM (on the right side of that page), or call their Customer Support Center (24/7) at 1-877-998-6999 (for U.S. Customers) or 1-804-454-4444 (for International callers). At a minimum, please post the link

to this article to your Social Media accounts to help us make this go viral!

Don't WAIT! Do your part today, so you can know in your heart of hearts that you've done something good for folks who truly need your help!

<http://www.bocodainc.com/>

## MORE ABOUT COUSIN DICK METCALF

**D**ick Metcalf was born in West Virginia and raised in western Pennsylvania, near Erie; he served in the U.S. Army for 24 years, then as a logistician and technical adviser for the Department of the Army Civilian for 18 years. During active-duty, he served as a Chief Warrant Officer in the Ordnance Corps, responsible for huge inventory, shipment and destruction of munitions across the globe. He graduated from Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri

with an Associate in Arts degree in Business Management in the early 1980's. His retirement from Federal service occurred in April, 2014. Since retirement, he has stayed actively engaged in his lifelong avocation of reviewing music, and started a small business that assists musicians with technical tasks they have little time to perform.

Dick is the Communications and Technology adviser for Bonazah, also

responsible for ensuring full outreach for social media and implementation of Enterprise-level collaborative databases and documentation that provide world-wide/world-class service to customers and donors across the globe. He is totally dedicated to customer service and the greater organizational mission of ensuring the needs of poverty-stricken people are met.

Mr. Metcalf's technical skills were honed during civilian assignments in Korea, where he served as the

## “DICK IS THE COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR FOR BONAZAH”

manager for a 15-man team that ensured U.S. Army logistics and maintenance systems across Korea were operating at peak levels. He later served as the lead for the Washington State Library effort that deployed over 250 computers to state

and Native American tribal libraries with Internet services, to include special equipment packages designed to meet the requirements of the American With Disabilities Act (ADA). You can reach Dick by emailing: [Dick@bocodainc.com](mailto:Dick@bocodainc.com).



## TERESA VASKO RECALLS HER BROTHER, COUSIN GLENN JOHNSON'S, MEMORIAL SERVICE ON APRIL 23, 2016



**W**e met at the Hillside Cemetery in East Charleston, VT by Grandma and Grandpa's headstone. Joan Johnson, Glenn's wife, spoke of Glenn's life, his closeness to Grandma, and about Will and Olive and their dedication to the Lord and the far reaching effects of their love of Jesus. We sang Amazing Grace and ended with the Lord's Prayer. It was cold and windy and we were all ready to join together at the Nazarene Church for a meal of many of Glenn's favorite foods. Glenn's family was there, Joan's family, many cousins from both sides of the family and Aunt Lois and Aunt Beulah. There were 40+ people and several shared their memories of Glenn. It was a very enjoyable day!

### GLENN A. JOHNSON

- Glenn A. Johnson 75, Born April 28, 1940
- Lived most of his life on the Back Center Road in Lyndon
- A huge Red Sox Fan, played softball wherever and whenever he could.
- Coached the Mets Little League Team in Lyndonville
- He shared a pig and window business with his father

- Worked for Johnson's Plumbing and Heating
- Traveled and worked around the US including Bell Mech.

He leaves his wife Joan Thompson Johnson, son Billy Joe (deceased), daughter Angela J. Johnson Daniels and husband, Jim. Sister Teresa Vasko and her husband, John. Four granddaughters, one grandson

Uncle Raymond Gardner, Aunt Lois Cardwell and Aunt Beulah Griffes. Three nephews and one niece.

Glenn was the baby boy that first made Mr. and Mrs. Will and Olive Gardner grandparents.

A graveside service was held on April 23, 2016 at Hillside Cemetery, East Charleston, VT, 10:30 a.m.



**TOP: PROUD PARENTS ELIZABETH AND HOMER JOHNSON WITH BABY GLENN, WILL AND OLIVE GARDNER'S FIRST GRANDCHILD**

**BOTTOM: JOAN AND GLENN JOHNSON AT AUNT LOIS' 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY IN NEWPORT, VT**

## DIANE GARDNER TALKS ABOUT HER UNCLE RAYMOND

*"I am glad to share and hope that Uncle Raymond had a great day. He is one of the kindest people I know and deserves to have a special celebration with his family. You can imagine what it was like having the two families together! Sometimes I do not know how our parents did it! The old houses were definitely more adventuresome for children than compared to now."*

When I was at elementary "school age-ish," I think, your parents would come up in August to spend a day or two with us. We were not the primary reason for their visit ... seems they went through a phase of square dancing and came up to Essex to participate in a hoedown. Your mother would put on a full petticoat crinoline under a brightly colored dress, with strapped white shoes that seem to loudly tap about the house. Your dad looked smart in a nice pant and shirt outfit topped off with a cowboy string tie. Whenever they went off to dance, they would have big smiles on their faces and I could tell they looked forward to their night out. How many summers they came up to square dance, I do not know. But it sure did put an impression on me.

Another memory of your dad occurred on one of those family trips you folks made to Essex. Your dad was great fun and could always make us younger children laugh somehow. It was natural for the me, Cindy, Milton, and Tommy to gravitate towards him. We just loved to surround any unsuspecting adult who paid attention to us. Again, I was very young and lugged a stuffed dog with me all the time. Somehow, while your dad was in a lounge chair, I decided to show him my

stuffed dog, I think. He let me place it on his lap. Strange thing was his lack of response to my kind gesture. He did not say anything and, even more strange, he became stiff and would not move a muscle. "How strange is that!?" Cindy thought out loud. Maybe if she got her stuffed dog and placed it on his lap; maybe, just maybe, he would move.



She ran upstairs and got her dog then gently put it on his lap. No response. So, as you would expect, Tommy, then Milton, having watched the unfolding of such a strange event ran upstairs and brought down their favorite animal toys and gently placed them on Uncle Raymond's lap hoping this final gesture would cure your dad from his affliction. . ."pause, snicker, snicker." Still Nothing! So we stood there for a moment, and, in unison, we decided to run upstairs, get all our stuffed animals, and place them gently on the quieted Uncle Raymond. Armful upon armful, we descended the stairs into the living

room.

Now there is only so much room a lap can hold even if he is a "giant." Soon we were placing stuffed animals on his arms, up his chest and, finally, around his head, even over his face. Each puffed treasure so delicately placed so as not to harm our most loved uncle! Yet, we all knew that at any moment this sleeping giant would wake up and scare us. We could not help but have excited laughs followed by cautious movements. There had to be a time when this man would wake up!!!! We had brought down our full armory of potential puff balls, of fake fur ... down to three...down to two...down to one. Then BAM! Your dad jumped from the chair and scared us to the most frightfully loud screams of laughter!

Finally, here's a story my family often tells about Uncle Raymond. Again, your family came for a visit on a day most rainy. It had been days of rain, and we all were so frustrated having been enclosed in our home without respite from sibling doom and gloom. We had it in our hearts to camp in the backyard managing to put up our family tent before the torrential rains began. We never got the opportunity to enjoy the adventures of imagined outdoor living because of the rain.

## DIANE GARDNER TALKS ABOUT HER UNCLE RAYMOND (CONTINUED)

When you folks arrived, it was a blessed break from our indoor depression, and we managed to all start indoor games, prepared for a fine meal together, and talked about all the events of our lives. Our gloom and doom lifted to clouds with silver linings. Now this is the part where things gets “fuzzy” for me, because I cannot remember if it was time for you folks to leave; or if it was time for all of us to eat?! No matter, for whatever reason, there was a moment when all of us wondered where your dad had disappeared to. We searched all the major rooms of the house: the bathrooms, the bedrooms, even the closets. We looked in the cars, but no Uncle Raymond. Meanwhile, in the back yard, a huge puddle developed in the low area of our backyard where we had pitched our tent. It was so deep a person would have to wear boots to move the tent up to higher ground. Maybe he went for a walk? No one knew. Not until someone in the family, unfortunately, I do not



remember who, came in laughing and saying they found our uncle.

At some point, Uncle Raymond had decided to check out the tent when the waters were low, and inside was an inflated air mattress. So welcoming ... he probably thought about taking a short nap away from the din in the house. He must have been a tired man, because, while resting, the rains had lifted the air mattress so much that your dad was afloat ... snoozing away!

It was nice to think back to the times with one of my favorite uncles. I do so hope he has a grand day to celebrate 90 years. I also hope he realizes how special he is to so many, and for what a special family he has.



## WHAT COUSIN RAYLENE LUDGATE SAYS ABOUT DIANE'S ARTICLE

**D**ad had a good laugh but thinks the floating mattress story got inflated over time! He was sure he was tired as he worked two jobs to support the family and just drove to Vermont with six kids in the car. Finding a place to sleep with our 2 families together was almost impossible so a quiet tent with a little water and air mattress looked lovely. But he swears that the air mattress never floated with him on it!



## BEULAH GRIFFES TALKS ABOUT HER BROTHER, RAYMOND GARDNER

**W**hen I went to High School in Island Pond, there was no school bus for students living in East Charleston, so we had to find our own way. Papa would fasten my bike to the back of the car and take me to school, then I would ride my bike home. So I was happy when Raymond came home from serving in the army and he let me drive his car to school and back. I appreciated so much his willingness to let me use his car.

Raymond was always so calm and collected. When I was learning to drive, Raymond was teaching me. At that time, you had to manually switch gears. I was concentrating so much on shifting the gears and letting the clutch out slowly so I wouldn't stall the engine, that I wasn't paying attention to steering the car and I was heading to the ditch. Raymond didn't say a word; he just let me get back in control.

When I was in college (I don't remember where we had been or where we were going) but I was driving Raymond's car in Boston. I was making a left turn (in error from right lane) and side swiped another car. True to form Raymond did not yell at me but calmly got out of the car to assess the damage. As I recall, there was no damage to the other car, so we went on our merry way. Raymond was and is a very giving and generous person as demonstrated in allowing me to drive his car to school and in Boston.



## WHAT COUSIN RAYLENE LUDGATE SAYS ABOUT AUNT BEULAH'S ARTICLE

**I** guess dad practiced driving patience with Beulah because the day I was to take my driving test, I drove right into a fence. I was shaken and didn't want to take the test. Dad said, "You hop right back into that car and try not to hit any more fences." I got my license that same day!



## LOIS CARDWELL TALKS ABOUT HER BROTHER, RAYMOND GARDNER

I had fun taking care of your children. I thank you for digging a place for my furnace.

You were always nice when I needed something. You were right there.

Love to you.

## WHAT COUSIN RAYLENE LUDGATE SAYS ABOUT AUNT LOIS'S ARTICLE

**A**unt Lois ,we always loved visiting you and your house in Ipswich!

Thanks for being there for us too!



## EVA JENKINS TALKS ABOUT HER GREAT GRANDFATHER, RAYMOND GARDNER

I love Great Grandpa. He is a nice man. He is old and he is fun!



## WHAT COUSIN RAYLENE LUDGATE SAYS ABOUT EVA'S ARTICLE

We all love Raymond Gardner! But 2-year old Eva sums him up - nice, fun and old!

## COUSIN TERESA VASKO TALKS ABOUT HER UNCLE RAYMOND GARDNER

**U**nkle Raymond you are special! I know for I have memories...

My earliest memory is when you were laid off in the spring and you would bring your family to Vermont and work with my Dad. I'm sure you were a big help and good company for Dad. We enjoyed your children, very much.

The couple of times that we came to visit you, Dad would drive to your place, hand you the keys and not drive again until we headed home. I remember going to the ice follies and the ocean (not same trip) when I was 12. These vacations would not have happened if it weren't for you.

Back to Vermont. Your family was larger now, so you got to stay at the camp. I am sure you had a good time. We could tell by the creative things you did while staying there. It was exciting to find chairs made out of stumps with twig arms and other changes around camp.

My favorite memory is our "road trip" to Maine. For one

thing, it was just you and me, and it was an adventure. As I recall, my Dad was in the hospital in Portland, Maine. You came to E.N.C. to get me and take me to see my parents. All was going smoothly until we got to the first toll booth on I 95 where you discovered that when you changed from your work clothes to dress slacks, you forgot to put your wallet in your pocket. Between us, we had a few bucks and some change. We took the scenic route. We had a great visit with my folks and then borrowed money to take the interstate back.



I love your interest in family history and the work you do on researching. At Lois' 90th birthday party you shared great memories and told of your pride in your children. It was a very touching tribute. Your story about getting your dog tags back after nearly 70 years is a great memory and very special for you.

Currently, I really enjoy playing cribbage with you at the camp at Willoughby, even though you usually beat me. Looking forward to making many more memories with you.



### WHAT COUSIN RAYLENE LUDGATE SAYS ABOUT TERESA'S ARTICLE

We all loved our vacations at Teresa's family's camp in Vermont and so many memories were made. We are all grateful for their family's generosity. Recently Teresa said, "Think about how much extra work it was for our parents to stay at the camp. It was no vacation for them."

Now I know why Dad always took the long way and went around all toll booths. He had so much fun doing it with Teresa, he continued to do it that way.

# EVEN MORE ... RAYMOND GARDNER'S 90TH!



## WHAT COUSIN RAYLENE LUDGATE SAYS ABOUT THESE PICTURES!



Top left: Nine candles, each one representing 10 years, pictured here at the Blue House Restaurant (65 Minot Street, Reading, MA 01867).

Middle: "Gloria took Dad out to eat for his actual birthday. He tackled a lobster, - bib and all!"

Right: Main course at the now famous "Blue House Restaurant."

There will be even MORE tributes to Dad's 90th year in the next issue of the newsletter when we will hear from Cousin Dick Metcalf and Rev. Reid, Dad's pastor.

## ***Congratulations to the Graduating College Class of 2016!***



***Left Top: Kelsie Griffes from Eastern Nazarene College***



***Left Bottom: Megan Ludgate from Simmons College***



**STAY TUNED!**



**HERE'S WHAT COMING UP FOR  
UNCLE RAYMOND!**