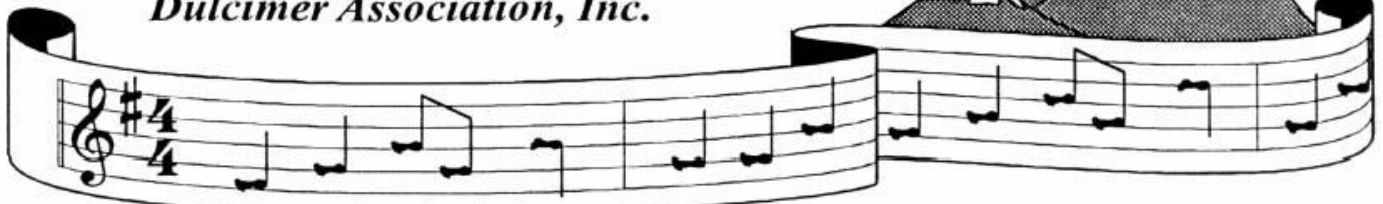


*North Georgia Foothills
Dulcimer Association, Inc.*



Foothills Footnotes

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In Memorium



Gary L. Sager, 72, of, Waverly, Ohio, passed away peacefully with his family by his side on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, after an extended illness.

The dulcimer world has lost another wonderful friend. The “Dulcimer Doctor” could fix anything we dulcimer players broke. His talent as a musician, teacher, and luthier will be missed, as well as his kindness and sense of humor.

Gary was a retired electrician for RCA/Thomson Consumer Electronics and the former owner of Prussia Valley Dulcimers Music Shop. He was a member of several Dulcimer clubs and began building dulcimers in 1992. Having built nearly 500 dulcimers, he has also built one for a band member of pop artist Kenny Loggins. However, the two he was most proud of were two box shaped mini dulcimers he built for his grandchildren, Taelyn and Cohen, to share his love of music.

If you would like to share your memories, please go to Gary’s tribute wall:

<https://www.boyerfuneral.com/obituaries/Gary-L-Sager?obId=27518864>

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All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Jan Stone** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the July issue is **June 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About the Tablature...

This month's tab is a favorite song of Nancy Larson, the well-known hymn, "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Wondering who Nancy Larson is? You can read an interview with Nancy and her husband, Dean, on page 6 of this newsletter.

While the hymn itself is well-known, the history of the song is somewhat cloudy. The words are attributed to William W. Walford.

One story begins with a newspaper article published on the front page of the New York Observer, 13 Sept. 1845, unsigned, describing a man named W.W. Walford, a blind preacher in Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, who wrote poems and committed them to memory.

For the N. Y. Observer.
THE HOUR OF PRAYER.

During my residence at Coleshill, Warwickshire, England, I became acquainted with W. W. Walford, the blind preacher, a man of obscure birth and connections and no education, but of strong mind and most retentive memory. In the pulpit he never failed to select a lesson well adapted to his subject, giving chapter and verse with unerring precision, and scarcely ever misplacing a word in his repetition of the psalms, every part of the New Testament, the prophecies, and some of the histories, so as to have the reputation of "knowing the whole Bible by heart." He actually sat in the chimney corner, employing his mind in composing a sermon or two for Sabbath delivery, and his hands in cutting, shaping and polishing bones for shoe horns and other little useful implements. At intervals he attempted poetry. On one occasion, paying him a visit, he repeated two or three pieces which he had composed, and having no friend at home to commit them to paper, he had laid them up in the storehouse within. "How will this do?" asked he, as he repeated the following lines, with a complacent smile touched with some slight lines of fear lest he should subject himself to criticism. I rapidly copied the lines with my pencil, as he uttered them, and send them for insertion in the Observer, if you should think them worthy of preservation:

As the story goes, Mr. Walford knew much of the Bible by heart and was sometimes called upon to speak. When he stepped into the pulpit, he was able to quote scripture passages word for word, giving chapter and verse, with hardly a slip.

One day in 1842, an American clergyman named Tom Salmon visited Mr. Walford's little shop. Apparently, the old man talked with him about the theme of prayer, and the delight he took in fellowship with the Lord. Then he asked if Pastor Salmon would write down some lines of verse he had composed.

It's possible that Salmon embellished his story to the editor of the New York Observer. It is also possible that William W. Walford of Coleshill and William Walford of Homerton are one and the same.

However, another story states that some scholars have attempted to connect Walford's name with the Rev. William Walford (1772-1850), a Congregational minister who lived near Coleshill. But in Rev. Walford's autobiography, this Walford is never described as being blind, nor a poet. According to this version, the true author of "Sweet Hour of Prayer" has yet to be identified.

The tune was written by the famous American gospel song writer, William Bradbury in 1861, and Mr. Walford's poem became the hymn "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

Whatever the "real" story is, enjoy the tablature. A big "Thank you!" to **Steve Smith** for the arrangement. The beautiful tones resonate throughout the melody. You can play the hymn in DAD or DAA. Give it a try.

Dixieland Dulcimers

A short report from the Dixieland Dulcimers:

- The group took much of 2023 off and are just getting back into the swing.
- Frank, one of the group's gifted musicians, celebrated his 90th birthday with a gathering of the Dixieland Dulcimers at his home.
- The group is practicing for the annual **Bluebirds & Bluegrass Festival** held at Dauset Trails Nature Center near Indian Springs, GA on Saturday, April 22nd.

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Club

The new year has started out with three long standing members volunteering to provide leadership and some new ideas to the group. Practices are now scheduled for every Wednesday morning with the last practice each month devoted to working on new songs. The group's two playouts each month continue focusing on bringing music to the seniors in the community.

The group has been playing some of Joe Collins hymns for several years and had a virtual workshop with Joe on March 29 on "Classic Hymns."

Editor's note: If any groups are having a virtual festival and anyone can join, please send me the information so we can get the word out!

LaGrange Troupers



The Dulcimer Troupers of LaGrange, GA, played at The Azalea Storytelling Festival on March 5th. The festival is held in LaGrange yearly and features nationally known tellers.

The Troupers were invited to play at the festival for the first time in 2001 and have played every year since then except for 2020 and 2021 when the festival was cancelled due to COVID. The Troupers traditionally play favorite hymns before the Sunday morning sacred stories.

Peach Pickers

The Peach Pickers Fayetteville group recently played some old love songs for the Senior luncheon at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church.



Pictured is a dulcimer made by John Stockard that is for sale. If you are interested, please email Pat Hobson at pohobson@gmail.com.

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club



The New Year Brings Changes to the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club. A world pandemic did not deter the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club from playing music together. Like other devoted dulcimer musicians, members from the Middle Georgia club embraced the virtual world via Zoom conferencing for playing their music. This club that held monthly in-person meetings found that meeting virtually allowed them an opportunity to hold biweekly jams throughout the pandemic. The club returned to meeting monthly in-person in mid-2022 at the Young America Music Schools in Macon. But they have continued to also meet twice a week on-line. This allows members who have relocated to other areas to connect via Zoom and play music with their Middle Georgia club from their residences in Florida, South Carolina, and northern Georgia. The club welcomes other dulcimer players to join their biweekly virtual jams. The club

members missed gathering in-person where they could include members who are unable to join via Zoom meet-ups. Even though the travel time one-way for most of the club's members is 1 to 2 hours to attend their in-person meeting in Macon, they agree that it is worth the long drive to meet other musicians face-to-face to play as a group. The new year has also ushered in another change for the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club – new leadership.

For the past decade, Jeanne Gibbs and Barbara Stevens have shared their musical expertise while serving as the club's co-leaders. Jeanne has now stepped back as a leader but continues to be a vital part of the club membership. Barbara Stevens has relocated to Fort Myers, FL. Stepping into their new co-leadership roles for the club are: Vicki Allen and Laurie Wilson. The club also had three other members to move away during the pandemic era. Meeting virtually has been a blessing to be able to include all the club members who have relocated.

Emmett Young, a talented, professional multi-instrumentalist, who has owned the Young America Music Schools in Macon for 30+ years, welcomed the return of the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club following their pandemic hiatus. Mr. Young encourages a diversity of music continuously playing in his store. His mission is to inspire music, the same calling of the dulcimer club. Various instructors at the music school and store teach music lessons to both music hobbyists and budding professionals of all ages. The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club meets the second Saturday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Free private lessons for new players are offered during the first hour of the club's meeting and jam. Come join us!

Questions? Contact either Laurie Wilson
229.389.9611/Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com
or Vicki Allen 478.463.3369/
vallendublin@hotmail.com



Don Tussing and Vicki Allen provide music for The Parks at Chehaw Frontier Festival in Albany in January.

Legacy Interview – Nancy & Dean Larson

The NGFDA is celebrating individuals who have impacted the dulcimer community; we want to share their stories. Do you have someone in your group that you would like to interview?



How did you get started play the dulcimer?

In the early 1980's, we were in Berea, Kentucky attending the wedding of Dean's uncle. In the town was a dulcimer shop. At the time, we had never heard of the dulcimer. Upon entering the shop, we met dulcimer builder, Warren May. After learning that you didn't have to read music, Dean was ready to buy one and he walked out of the shop with a dulcimer. It wasn't until 1996, more than ten years later, after moving to LaGrange, Georgia, that we attended the Powers Cross Road Festival in Newnan, Georgia. We saw John Stockard playing the dulcimer and he told us about the upcoming NGFDA Fall Festival in Helen, Georgia. We signed up for classes and the rest is history. We organized the LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers in 1998.

Is your family musical?

Nancy: My father took violin lessons. His teacher said that he would rather join the army.

Dean: At an early age, my father played the accordion and clarinet, and my mother sang in the church choir.

Do you play any other instruments?

Nancy: I played the organ for 35 years in the Methodist Church in Hollywood, Florida. I also play the piano, steel drums and bowed psaltery. On a trip to England, we visited the home of Charles Wesley, and I had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play the organ that he played.

Do you read music or play by ear?

Nancy: I read music Dean: Neither

What is your favorite song?

Nancy: I have two favorite hymns – "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Dean: The hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and the popular song, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" (voted the favorite song of the 20th century.)



Who would you like to play a duet with?

Both: Each other

Have you taught the dulcimer to others?

Nancy: More people than I can count.

What advice would you give to a beginning dulcimer player?

Nancy: I always told the members of a new class, "Don't compare yourself to others." If you can play today better than you played yesterday, that's good! And if you make a mistake, give the person next to you "the Look."

What else do you do when you're not playing the dulcimer?

We bowl twice a week, including playing in the Recycled Teenagers League, serve as Hospice volunteers and are active in our Sunday School class, church, and prayer ministry at First United Methodist in LaGrange. We have a large family and enjoy being with them as much as possible.



Sweet Hour of Prayer

Mountain Dulcimer: D-A-dd and D-A-AA

Arrangement: Steve Smith

D	G				D				A							
Notes	F# - G		A - A		B - C#		D - B		A - F#		F# E D		E - F#		E - D	
D-A-dd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	5	3	3	2	3	2	3	2
	0	2	3	4	5	6+	7	5	4	2	2	1	0	1	2	1
D-A-AA	0	4	5	7	7	10	11	12	10	9	4	4	3	2	3	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	5	6	7	7	8	9	10	8	7	5	5	4	3	4	3

D	G				D				D							
Notes	F# - G		A - A		B - C#		D - B		A - F#		F# E D E		F# - E		D - A	
D-A-dd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	6	5	3	3	2	0	2	3	5
	2	3	4	4	5	6+	7	5	4	2	2	1	0	1	2	4
D-A-AA	4	5	7	7	10	11	12	10	9	4	4	3	2	3	4	9
	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	6	7	7	8	9	10	8	7	5	5	4	3	4	5	7

D	G		D		D		G		D		A					
Notes	D - C#		D - B		A - F#		A - A		D - C#		D - B		A - F#		E - D E	
D-A-dd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	5	6	6	3	3	5	5	5	5	6	6	3	3	2	0
	7	6+	7	5	4	2	4	4	7	6+	7	5	4	2	1	0
D-A-AA	9	9	10	10	9	7	9	9	9	9	10	10	9	7	4	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10	9	10	8	5	7	7	7	10	9	10	8	7	5	4	3

D	G				D				D							
Notes	F# - G		A - A		B - C#		D - B		A - F#		F# E D E		F# - E		D -	
D-A-dd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	6	5	3	3	2	0	2	3	3
	2	3	4	4	5	6+	7	5	4	2	2	1	0	1	2	0
D-A-AA	4	5	7	7	10	11	12	10	9	4	4	3	2	3	4	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	6	7	7	8	9	10	8	7	5	5	4	3	4	5	3

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SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Not meeting at this time			
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	Weekly Thursdays	2:00-4:00	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off Cove Road.	Marlin Ferrell 706.301.9395 Mferrell777@earthlink.net
Dalton Dulcimers	Dalton, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	2:30	First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave.	Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 Sspatts6@gmail.com
Dixieland Dulcimers	Griffin, GA	Weekly Mondays	10:00	Crestview Baptist Church Fellowship hall, Griffin, GA	Nancy Good 224.715.8619 Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
Dusty Dulcimers	Danielsville, GA	Monthly – 2 nd and 4 th Mondays	1:00	Danielsville Public Library 1315 Hwy 98 Danielsville, GA 30633	Mark Stricklett email: mstricklett@windstream.net
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	Monthly – 2nd Monday	7:00-9:00 7:00-9:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogobill@aol.com
Gold Country Players	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs.	11:00-1:00	First Baptist Church Room 235, 751 Green Street, NW, Gainesville GA 30501	Sandy Lesli goldcountryplayers@gmail.com
HAMMERED DULCIMER CONTACT					Julia McDermott 706-207-5685 HammerPlaying@aol.com
Hilltop Strummers	Woodstock-Canton, GA	Weekly – Tues.	1:30-3:30	Canton First UMC 930 Lower Scott Mill Road, Canton, GA Exit 16 at I-575	Martha Raby 770-893-3453 Mraby@tds.net
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3 rd Sat.	1:00	St. Luke's Lutheran Church 3264 Northside Parkway Atlanta, GA 30327	Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179 davis@bellsouth.net
LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers	LaGrange, GA	Weekly, Thurs. mornings	10:45-12:15	First United Methodist Church for jamming/practice	Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 perrywilder@bellsouth.net
Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players	Brevard & vicinity, NC	Weekly Wednesdays	10:00-11:30	St Philip's Episcopal Church (in the basement) 256 East Main St Brevard, NC	Leader: Linda Schieve 828-885-2328
Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club	Macon, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sat.	1:00-2:00 Lesson 2:00-3:30 Jam	Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road	Laurie Wilson 229-389-9611 Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com Vicki Allen 478.463.3369 vallendublin@hotmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Murphy, NC	Bimonthly 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays	1:00-3:00	Foster Flea Market 100 Blairsville Hwy (Hwy 129) Murphy, NC	Pam Johnson Mountain.Sounds@aol.com Facebook page: Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club
Peach Pickers	Sharpsburg, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	3:00-5:00	Bridge Community Ctr 4 Center Drive, Fayetteville 225 Willowbend Rd Peachtree City, GA	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com
Peach Pickers INSTRUCTION	Bridge Community Ctr	Tuesdays	11:00		
Roman Sunshine	Rome, GA	Weekly, Monday	10:00	Charles Parker Senior Center Kingston Rd	Dee Russell 706-346-6318
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	1 st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30pm	1 st United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd.	Elizabeth Garrett, 478-225-8071 elizabeth@comsouth.net Jean Noble, 478-971-1782 jeannoble@cox.net
Tugalo Valley Strummers	Toccoa, GA	2 nd & 4 th Monday evenings Beginners Novice Intermediate	5:00-5:45 5:45-6:30 6:30-8:00	Ebenezer Baptist Church Family Life Center 49 Rose Lane Toccoa, GA 30577	Margo Taylor 706-297-9509 Margotaylor808@gmail.com
Whistle Stop Pickers	East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn-Opelika area)	2 nd & 4 th Saturdays	1:00-3:00	Lee County Historical Society Museum 6500 Stage Road (Hwy 14) Loachapoka, AL	Allen & Deborah McCord 334-821-1301 334-703-3646 (cell) mccord0304@gmail.com
Yonah Pickers	Clarkesville, GA	2 nd & 4 th Fridays.	2:00-4:00p	Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 yonahpickers@yahoo.com Brenda Sue Whitmire Bswhitmire@windstream.net

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures.

Last Updated 12/28/2022

NGFDA Membership Form

Please start/renew my membership in NGFDA, including a subscription to the monthly *Foothills Footnotes* newsletter. Tab books available to members only, one copy per member at a cost of \$10 (if mailed, add \$2 mailing fee). Individual membership: \$20. Family membership: \$30. Please make checks payable to NGFDA. Dues, according to NGFDA bylaws, are renewable each November regardless of when you join.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail address*: _____

Membership Status (check one): New Renewing

Playing Level (check one): Beginner Intermediate Advanced

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Please add \$13.00 for Tab Book and postage

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Membership Fee \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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