



ALUMNI NEWS

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Education for Time and Eternity

A newsletter for alumni of Oneida Baptist Institute

January 2012

Clayton Arnett, class of 1949



Clayton Arnett, son of **Roosevelt** and **Bertha Burns Arnett**, was born on October 25, 1930 in Seth, Kentucky. He had six siblings—five brothers and one sister. They lived on a farm on Bullskin Creek, five miles from Oneida.

After completing elementary school, Clayton enrolled at Oneida Baptist Institute for his high school years. Some of Clayton's special memories of those years are the annual class picnics, the box suppers to raise money for the senior trip, and his senior trip to Ft. Harrodsburg on a Black Brothers Bus driven by **Daniel Davidson**.

Several months after graduating from Oneida in April 1949, Clayton joined the U.S. Army. He was assigned to Fort Knox, Kentucky for basic training, where he earned \$72 monthly.

When he completed basic train-

ing, Clayton was assigned to Camp Charles Wood in New Jersey, followed by Radio Repair School at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. During this time, March to October 1950, Clayton saw the Atlantic Ocean for the first time and visited New York City several times.

When the Korean War started in 1950 Clayton was sent to Korea. He rode the "California Zephyr", Union Pacific's best train to Pittsburg, California. At Camp Stoneman he boarded the USS Darby to Japan, where he would board the USS Randall to Incheon, South Korea. He was assigned to the 205th Signal Company and soon after the Chinese entered the war, they were sent to Pusan, South Korea.

In January 1951, Clayton's company was sent to Japan. They ported in Sasebo, on the way to Nara City. After two months in Japan, they were sent back to South Korea where they were assigned to Team D, 205th Signal Company. Clayton recalls that he repaired his first radio in Suwon. He served 14 months, working with a mobile repair shop in Yongdongpo, Korea.

After experiencing his first R & R at Yokohama, Japan, in 1952, President Harry Truman extended his company's assignment for six months. Clayton waived the extension and extended his time for one year so he could return to Japan. He was assigned to the 8037th Radio Relay Company and flew to Eto Jima, Japan (his first plane ride) for additional training. After completing his school, he was sent to Camp Hakata in southern Japan where he served until 1953. Clayton returned to Fort Knox in June 1953 where he was promoted to Sergeant First Class, (SFC). After he was dis-

charged from the army on November 14, 1953, Clayton returned home to Big Bullskin and married **Shirley Herd** on April 7, 1954.

The Arnetts moved to Richmond, Kentucky so Clayton could attend Kentucky State Teachers' College from 1954-1956. Their son, **John Douglas**, was born June 21, 1955. The family moved to Oneida in 1956. Clayton taught one year at Big Dan Bowling School.

Clayton was in the U.S. Army Reserves, 1954-57. He served as First Sergeant in Company M 100 Infantry Division in Manchester and Sergeant Major in the 344th Ordinance at Blue Grass Ordinance in Richmond.

In September 1957, Clayton returned to active duty, serving in the 142nd Signal Battalion 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Texas. For the first time his family was able to join him. His daughter, **Pamela**, was born September 22, 1958.

Two years after Clayton returned to active duty he was sent to Ft. Dix, New Jersey, to ship out to Germany. Clayton was assigned to the 32 Signal Battalion and later to the 143 Signal Company 3rd Armored Division. He boarded the USS Buckner and spent one night ashore in England before arriving in Darmstadt, Germany. For a while Clayton served in the same division as Elvis Presley until Elvis was sent to another company.

After completing his assignment in Germany, Clayton was sent to Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey where he was promoted to Warrant Officer. From there he was assigned to a Missile Master Unit in Oakdale, Pennsylvania.

(continued on page 2)

(Clayton Arnett, continued)

Clayton served in the Vietnam War from 1964-1965 as an advisor to the South Vietnam Army Signal Corps. In 1965, Clayton returned to the United States and was stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia from 1965-1966.

Clayton's next country to serve in was the Kingdom of Jordan. He served as an advisor on signal business to the Jordan Army, 1966-1968. Clayton returned to South Vietnam for a second tour of duty and was assigned to the 362nd Signal Repair Company in Cam Ran Bay.

Clayton's final four years in the Army were spent at Ft. Knox. He was assigned to the 314th Maintenance Company where he supervised a Signal Equipment Repair Shop.

Clayton retired from the military, as a Warrant Officer CW 3 on October 1, 1973, having served his country for 24 years. His family had been with him at Fort Hood, Texas; in Germany and Jordan; and at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

After retiring, Clayton and his family returned to Oneida where he bought a gas station. For the next 25 years, the Arnett family spent most of their summers in Centennial, Wyoming.

Clayton served as the Magistrate for Oneida from 1990-1993. In later years, beginning around 1996, Clayton and Shirley have spent the winter months, November until April in Florida. The rest of the year they live at their home in Oneida built in 1987, 200 feet from where they spent their wedding night. Clayton stated, "After traveling so much, I wouldn't live anywhere else." □

Letter from a grateful alumnus David Bernard, Class of 1957

Dr. Underwood:

You wouldn't have any reason to know me and I hope that my reputation has not lived on over the years where you would have had any reason to have read anything about me. I love the time I spent at OBI, both the good and the bad. I will always have fond memories of Oneida and I think of it as my home. I am 73 and want to make a PAYBACK. I hope this check will help some others as I was helped.

I attended school there in 1954-1956, coming as a sophomore. My freshman year was spent at Bell County High School. My father, Jerome Bernard, was a country preacher and was Dean of Boys at OBI the second year I was there. I don't know how OBI became known to my folks, but it was a last resort to reign me in. I was a wild youth full of anger and destined for big trouble. I worked on the farm to pay my room and board and took to it like a duck to water. My day at OBI started at 3:45 a.m. I don't remember how we woke up, but I do remember that we had a good breakfast fixed by Bertha, the cook, before going to the farm to feed and milk. Educationally speaking, a farm is the best place to learn work ethics. Dr. D. Chester Sparks was president in my day but his wife, Mai Mai, ruled the roost. She was indeed a great lady in every respect of the word.

After learning that I needed too many credits to graduate with my class (1957), I enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1956 and in all honesty it was probably the best thing that could have happened to me. I took the high school equivalence test in the military, earning my GED. In January 1957, OBI issued me a diploma so I'm listed as a graduate with the class of 1957. In the Air Force I was trained in communication equipment repair, which was mostly mechanical in the beginning but mutated into purely electronic by the time I retired in June 1978.

When I was stationed in New Jersey I saw Barkley Moore being interviewed on TV, having returned from Iran after setting the record for the longest service in one place with the Peace Corps. I had no doubt Barkley went to Iran to be with his good buddy and high school roommate, Manoutchehr. I was amazed when I heard Barkley had become president at OBI. I always meant to write him, but I never did.

While home on a 30-day leave in 1962 I met a young lady in church. The following week I asked her to marry me, which she did on October 6, 1962. We had been married for 48 years when she passed away from cancer on November 15, 2009.

As I look at OBI and the farm on Google Earth's web page, I have trouble believing what I see. The place looks like something from another world compared to what I remember. What you have accomplished is remarkable! I wanted to make a trip to Oneida for Homecoming but it wasn't possible. I'm still hoping to visit Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky sometime in the near future.
Until that time...David Bernard

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The following classes will have special reunions at **Homecoming** June 30:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1942.....70 years | 1977.....35 years |
| 1947.....65 years | 1982.....30 years |
| 1952.....60 years | 1987.....25 years |
| 1957.....55 years | 1992.....20 years |
| 1962.....50 years | 1997.....15 years |
| 1967.....45 years | 2002.....10 years |
| 1972.....40 years | 2007.....5 years |

Heather Strickland, Peace Corps Volunteer



Heather (center) and her Ukrainian host family

Heather Strickland was an OBI student from 1994-1995. She graduated first in her class from the Christian Academy of Louisville in 1997. In college Heather majored in Cognitive Science and Music. She earned her BA at the University of Virginia in 2001 and her MBA at the University of Phoenix in 2006.

After college Heather spent six years working for United Parcel Service (UPS) as warehouse trailer unloader, package delivery driver and industrial engineering supervisor. In 2005 Heather spent two months in Mississippi working for UPS's Hurricane Katrina recovery operations. This experience led to her decision to join the U.S. Peace Corps in 2008.

Heather shared, "I became a Peace Corps Volunteer because I wanted to use my skills to help other people. I also wanted an opportunity to live in another country as the local people live, seeing the real culture--not just what tourists see." Heather was sent to Ukraine, where she served for 27 months from 2008-2010.

As a Community Development volunteer, Heather was responsible for advising non-profit organizations. She lived with a host family in Chernihiv and spent the first three months learning about the culture, the language, and the business environment. At first her host family was hesitant about ac-

cepting an American into their home, and communication was difficult. They had never before met an American, but had many misconceptions that they had learned from TV and Soviet propaganda. Heather had also been apprehensive about living with a Ukrainian family.

The most valuable things Heather gained as she served in Ukraine were the relationship she developed with her host family and the language skills she acquired in Ukrainian and Russian. She shared many experiences with her host family as she learned their language. Throughout her two years of service after she moved to other cities, Heather continued to return to their home for holidays. She became proficient in both Ukrainian and Russian, and often received compliments on her language skills.

When Heather went to Berdychiv in 2009, she found that their educational community center, the Star Center, had been closed due to lack of funding and a failed business plan. She assisted in the reopening of the center, which now offers courses in English, computer skills, leadership and professional development, in addition to conducting social initiatives and events that benefit the local community. The center's programs have served over 300 local individuals.

During her two years in Ukraine,

Heather also served as the chairperson and founding member of the Special Needs Working Group, a collaborative group of Peace Corps Volunteers working on issues related to people with disabilities. In this capacity, she helped pioneer partnerships with Special Olympics and other national organizations, developed lesson plans and materials available to all volunteers, recruited additional volunteers to become active members of the Special Needs Working Group, and conducted a specialized training seminar in the village of Koryukivka. Heather acknowledged, "One of my greatest accomplishments in my Peace Corps service is seeing this group continue to grow more active and serve as a resource for other Peace Corps Volunteers in Ukraine, more than a year after I completed my term of service."

During the two years Heather served in Ukraine, she lived and worked with ordinary people in Berdychiv, Chernihiv, and Kovel--just like she had envisioned. What did she gain from her Peace Corps years? Heather stated, "My experience as Peace Corps volunteer in Ukraine broadened my understanding of the world and strengthened my understanding of myself. When I hear news about people in far-off places, I try to think of them as individuals with families and hopes, everyday lives and their own points of view. I am also more confident in choosing my own path in my life; I know that I am resourceful and I can have a rich life without a lot of money or things."

What is Heather doing now? We weren't surprised to learn that she's off on a new adventure working as a dialysis technician in Juneau, Alaska. Heather is also a volunteer coach for youth hockey goalies ages 8-18. About her one year at Oneida, Heather shared, "During my time at OBI, I had roommates, classmates and teammates from many countries around the world. That experience helped me learn to build friendships despite cultural differences, and was a great factor in my success as a Peace Corps volunteer." □

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Dear Friends,

By the time you read this it will be January 2012. **Dr. Underwood** will be retiring on March 31, 2012. Our Board of Trustees are in the process of selecting the next OBI president. Please keep them in your prayers, as it is a huge responsibility.

We registered 402 people at Homecoming 2011. A portrait of **Martha Coldiron Hogg**, who gave the land for our school, was unveiled and hung in the chapel with the portraits of our nine previous presidents.

Dr. Underwood announced at Homecoming 2011 that the renovation of Anderson Hall would not be completed by Homecoming 2012 as we had anticipated. I am happy to report that the alumni fund for the renovation now has \$11,683. When the renovation is complete, that money will help with furnishings.

This past year I attended the memorial service for **Lizena Davis Powell** '28. She was 101 years old when she died June 17, 2011. I also attended funeral services for **Coy Powell** '65, **Donny Combs** '61 and **Melvin Smallwood** '59.

Homecoming 2012 will be June 30. The class of 1962 will celebrate their 50th anniversary. Mark your calendars and plan to gather for another great Homecoming! May God richly bless you in 2012.

Sincerely,
Myrtle Webb Cooke '60
OBI Alumni Director

Athletic Hall of Fame

As of Homecoming 2011, we have inducted 59 athletes/coaches into the OBI Athletic Hall of Fame. Would you like to nominate someone? The January/February *Oneida Mountaineer* will include the 2012 nomination form. The deadline for nominations is April 1. Following is a list of alumni who are currently in the Hall of Fame.

Ladies: Kathy Carmack, Debra Thomas Carrejo, Charlotte Craxton, Deborah Ledford Gross, Donna Lanham Hampton, Pauline Hudson Holmes, Pam Banks Oler, Gina Carmony Smith, and Laura Underwood Stockton.

Men: Preston Baker, Roy Baker, McKinley Bishop, Paul Bowling, Donald Burns, Darrell Chambers, Billy Combs, A. T. Davidson, Bruce Davidson, Carmon Davidson, Daniel Davidson, Glenn Davidson, Paul Davidson, Brooks Doyle, Ben Franklin, Jack Frost, Jennings Gilbert, John Gilbert, Joe Tom Gregory, Larry Gritton Sr, Larry Gritton Jr, Levi Hacker, Tony Hacker, Jeff Hasty, Omer Hensley, Theo Hensley, Oscar Hornsby Jr, Walker Hornsby, Ivory Hoskins, Bob Houchell, Jeff Kelsey, Winston Kilgore, David Mills, Ray Mills, Eddie Moble, Charles Patrick, Ivory Reed, Walter Reed, David Robinson, Gilbert Samples, Elmer Sams, Scott Self, David Sharp, Rudolph Shepherd, Hugh Spurlock, Melvin Smallwood, Kenneth Smith, Lawrence Thompson, Harvey Travis and Bob Turner. □

Hazel Burns '32 (right), Oneida's oldest living graduate, celebrated her 99th birthday on October 31, 2011. All six of her children graduated from OBI. Four are still living: **Joe (J.L.) Burns** '53, **Sylvia Lou Robinson** '56, **Ortis Burns** '57 and **Carolyn Sue Brown** '59. Deceased are: **Orville Burns** '58 and **Bill Burns** '63.

In Memoriam 2011

Lizena Davis Powell '28
Belva DePew Foster '29
Cora Davidson Wilson-early '30's
Mayme Wilson Robertson-'30's
Lena Sams Britton '33
Laura Reynolds '33
James P. Bishop '37
Glenna Sams Davis '39
Raymond Wilson '44
Glenna Sizemore Cavins '52
Lattie Jane Bowling Sams '53
Carl Woods '53
Thelma Mills Stiers 1952-54
Troy Douglas Martin '54
Ramona Hensley Woods '56
Robert Baker '59
Melvin Smallwood '59
Donny Combs '61
Kelly Johnson '62
Carolyn Roark Combs 1961-63
Coy Powell '65
Jake Bishop '69
Phil Bush '78
Larry Hensley 1983-84
Mike Hensley 1984-86
Jeffrey Roberts '98
Tyler Parker 1999-02
Peggy Coleman - former teacher
Evelyn Garland - former teacher
Beatrice Kendrick - former teacher

