

Rex Gallimore



Rex Gallimore, the second son of Seaph and Alice Gallimore, was born in the Jackson Creek area in Randolph County on 25 February 1923. The family soon moved to Julian Street, Thomasville where Rex completed his first two years of schooling. When the family moved back to Denton in 1932, Rex completed his education at Denton School and helped out on the family farm and dairy farm. Rex soon found out that he had to work hard for his money. He worked for his Uncle John Beck for ten cents an hour. He would load a truck full of rocks and sell them for \$1.00 a load at a local rock crusher where the rocks were crushed and used for railroad track ballast.

With many chores to do on the farm Rex still found time for fun with his siblings, cousins and neighbors. There was a large hill on Crousetown Road and all the young people would push the buggy up the hill. When they reached the top of the hill they would climb in the buggy and enjoy the ride down the hill.

When Rex was 16 years old, he was sawing wood on a circular saw when he cut off one of his fingers. He wrapped the finger up and placed it in a snuffbox and with the help of an uncle, Wade Gallimore, and a cousin, Fred Hughes, a funeral was held for the finger.



Rex joined the Army and on 13 February 1943 he went to Keesler Field, Mississippi. After serving only six months, he developed pneumonia and received an honorable discharge.

After Rex's initial recovery he went to Charleston, South Carolina to live with his aunt and uncle, Earl and Lillian Snider and was employed at the Charleston Navy Yard for approximately two years.

Rex continued to have complications from the pneumonia he had two years before and developed an infection and had to have a lobe of one of his lungs removed.



When Rex returned to Thomasville he began a seven-year career in the hosiery business working at the Wrenn Hosiery Mill and later at the Maurice Hosiery Mill where he was a supervisor over the looping room.

It was at Wrenn Hosiery Mill that Rex met Mozelle Foust. After a short courtship of only three months they married on 26 June 1947. Mozelle was the daughter of William A. Foust, Sr. and Gertie Mae Kinney Foust. They lived in an apartments on Davidson St. and Lexington Ave. in Thomasville until their first daughter, Jean, was born on 27 May 1948. Shortly after Jean's arrival Rex moved his family to Holly Grove Road, Thomasville where he still lives today. The land that Rex built his home on was purchased years before by his father, Seaph. Seaph had put up a sawmill on the land and sawed the trees off the land.

On 14 February 1953, Rex and Mozelle were blessed with a new "little" Valentine arrival, Deborah Ann. Debbie was the third Gallimore cousin born on a holiday within three months. Rex and Mozelle were married almost 27 years before she died of cancer on 15 May 1974.

One thing Rex did that both his daughters remember involved their birthdays. On their birthday, Jean and Debbie stood straight against the kitchen door frame as their Daddy would make a "notch" on their side of the door frame. This permanent measure of their height can still be seen in the kitchen.

Rex left the hosiery business to work at Eanes and White Plumbing and later got his plumbing license and started his own plumbing business. He was self-employed as a plumbing contractor for 20 years.

In 1964, approximately 70 years after his father Seaph had won a car, so did Rex. The Thomasville Merchants Association sponsored this give away during the Christmas season giving away three cars. Rex won a 1965 Falcon during the first drawing held on the day of the Thomasville Christmas parade in 1964.



In the late 1960's and early 1970's Rex was instrumental in forming the non-profit co-op water system, East Central Water, and was elected to serve as president on the board of directors. During construction of the piping system, he supervised the project. When construction was completed the Board of Directors hired him as an employee. East Central Water eventually merged with several other water systems to become Davidson Water, Inc.

Rex worked as a backhoe operator, an elevated tank inspector, operated and maintained over 60 pumps in the water system as well as working on complicated telemetering controls, altitude valves, sustaining valves and pressure reducing valves. He also inspected installation of water lines by contractors. Whenever there was water line break, be it noon or midnight, he was usually the first there to get the valves turned off and the leak fixed. In 1994 he was named State Employee of the year of the North Carolina Rural Water Association. In August, 1998, after 26 years with Davidson Water, Inc., Rex retired.

Rex has been very involved in community affairs. He served as Commissioner of the Little League Baseball in the Fair Grove-Pilot Area and followed the local little league baseball teams to all parts of the state when they advanced to state play-offs. He was a charter member of the Fair Grove Fire Department and served in many offices in that organization including Fire Chief. Rex was also a member of the Fair Grove Lions Club for many years. Rex supported the American Red Cross and has given 10 gallons of blood throughout the years.

Rex's daughter, Jean, married George Michael Hege on 25 November 1967. Mike is the son of Henry Ellis Hege, Sr. and Eunice Pauline Tysinger Hege. Mike and Jean have two children.

Their first child, Eric Michael Hege is following in his grandfather's footsteps and is employed at Davidson Water, Inc. Eric has a son from his first marriage, Zachary Michael Hege. Eric and his fiancée, Mary Todd, are planning a wedding for 29 December 2000.

Mike and Jean's second child, Rexanne Marie Hege was named after her grandfather and is employed at the Archdale Trinity News.

Debbie Gallimore married on 24 August 1973 Richard Boyd Slack, son of Arnold Boyd Slack and Evelyn Bartley Slack. They are now divorced. They have one child, Michele Bartley Slack.

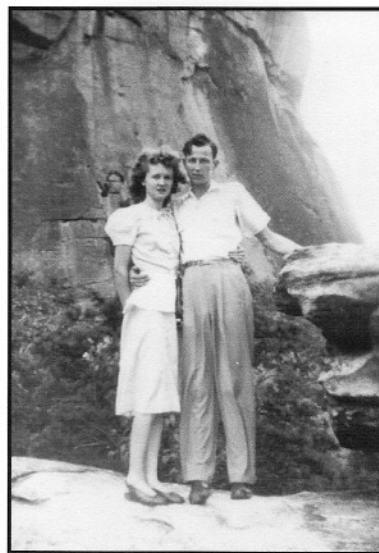
On 6 May 1977 Rex married Edith Rider Lambeth, daughter of Harrison Rider and Adeline Snider Rider. Since Rex's retirement in 1998 they have enjoyed taking many trips and spending time with their great grandson, Zachary Hege, and their great nephew, Cody Joyner.

Children:

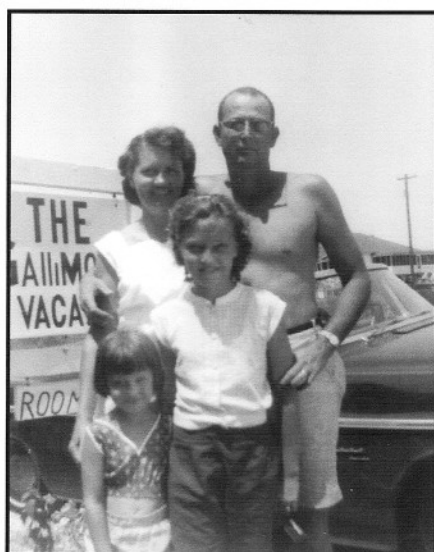
1. **Gloria Jean Hege**, b. 27 May 1948, m. Thomasville, NC, 25 Nov 1967, George Michael Hege, b. 5 Jul 1943.
 - A. Eric Michael Hege, b. 6 Jun 1970, m. 7 Dec 1991, Wendi Flowers.
 - a. Zachary Michael Hege, b. 10 Mar 1992.
 - B. Rexanne Marie Hege, b. 6 May 1973.
2. **Deborah Ann Gallimore**, b. 14 Feb 1953, m. 24 August 1973, Richard Boyd Slack b. 20 January 1951.
 - A. Michele Bartley Slack, b. 1 May 1975.



Rex Gallimore



Mozelle and Rex Gallimore



Rex, Mozelle, Jean
and Debbie Gallimore



Rex and Mozelle Gallimore



Jean Gallimore



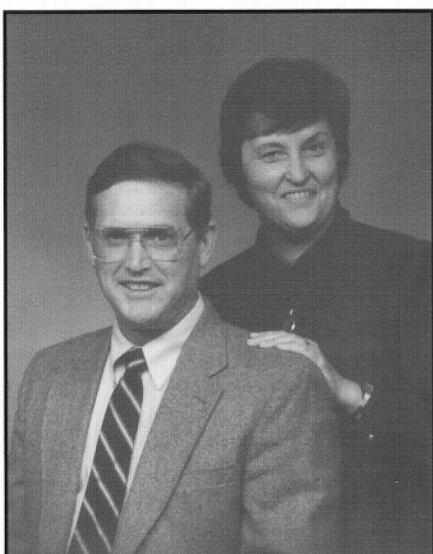
Debbie Gallimore



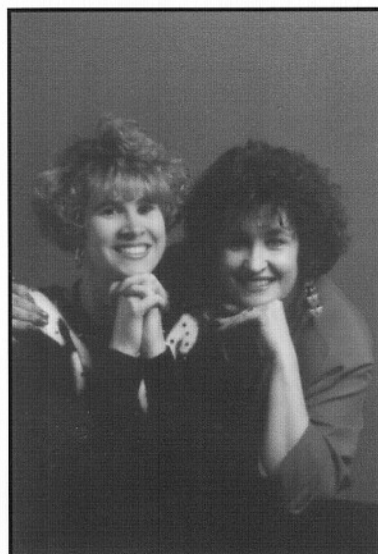
Rex and Edith Gallimore



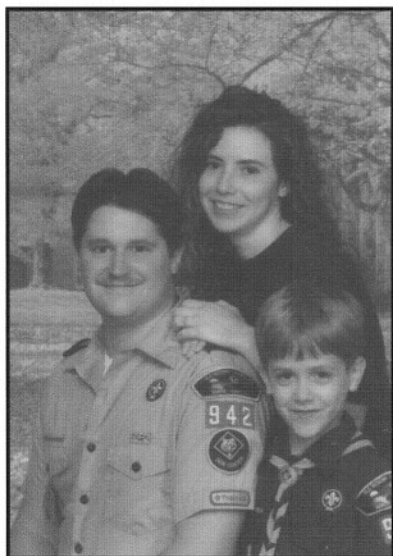
Rex and Edith Gallimore



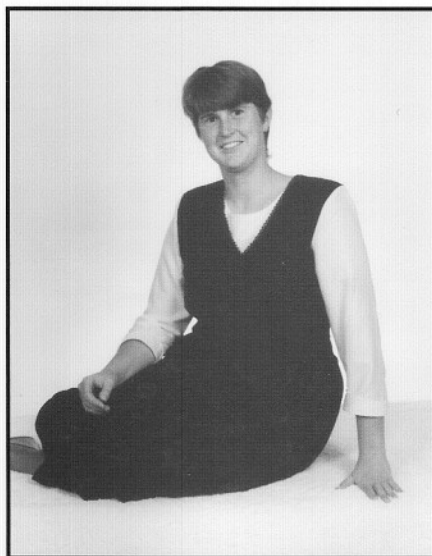
Mike and Jean Hege



Shelly and Debbie Slack



Eric, Mary and Zachary Hege



Rexanne Hege