



Edited by
Wally Howerton

Contributing Editors
John F. Howerton **Bryan R. Howerton**

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FROM THE EDITOR

Greeting Cousins:

I have contemplated for months as to how I would open this first millennium issue of Howerton Heritage. The only way possible is to pay homage to Howerton Heritage's "Founding Fathers," Bryan R. Howerton and John F. Howerton.

Many of our readers have been acquainted with the "dynamic duo" far longer than I have been. I am in total awe of both of them, not just because they are contributing editors, but because of their perseverance and dedication in their quest for knowledge - knowledge about our Howerton surname.

I have learned some of the pains of tracing my roots on my mother's side of the family. After a year and a half, I am at a standstill. During my search, I have spent many Dollars and Pounds, which I've been told, is to be expected. Luckily, through correspondence, I have met many distant cousins in England but their knowledge of genealogy is limited. I've been spoiled with our HOWERTON surname. My lineage has been handed to me on a platter dating back to the 1600s. I didn't have to buy a Howerton Book, a "coat of arms", or even pay for postage. I didn't even have to search!

Thank you Bryan and John, for all your homework. Through the internet, genealogy is becoming very easy with the amount of information one has at their fingertips. I can't imagine the countless hours you've spent in courthouses or libraries. I can't imagine the miles traveled or the money spent acquiring the data you have accumulated over four decades. I can't imagine the record keeping prior to the Personal Home Computer.

In an era where Howertons are spread "to the winds" you have brought many of us closer together, entertained us with stories of our past, and re-instilled Howerton Pride. You have set the framework for our Howerton Heritage. Hopefully, we can carry the ball half as good as you.

Thank you!

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Major Mite



Clarence Chesterfield Howerton
A.k.a. Major Mite



Left to right

Clarence's mother, Helen Howerton, Clarence Chesterfield Howerton, Deanna Howerton

(Deanna is the daughter of Manuel J. Howerton of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
and also the sister of Monte Howerton.



Deanna Howerton, "The Major", Dona Howerton

(Deanna & Dona are Monte Howerton's sisters)

Pictures were taken in 1953 at Northlands Coliseum Edmonton.

It was Major's last trip with the circus.

photos submitted by Monte Howerton

The following article was submitted to Howerton Heritage by the Ringling Museum in Florida

**Major Mite
from
"The White Tops"
September/October 1992**

**by Steve Willis
assisted by Charles Fattig**

Somewhere between all the circus hype and local legends there existed a unique little person who left only a faint trail of his life.

This article does not pretend to present a complete picture of Major Mite; it is rather like an unfinished puzzle. For now, it's all we have.

Clarence Chesterfield Howerton was born Feb. 9, 1913, the third child of Frank and Helen (Crawford) Howerton. His place of birth seems in some dispute, but he was probably born in the small lumber camp of McCleary, Wash.

McCleary was a one-man principality run by timber baron Henry McCleary. Old Man McCleary owned most of the homes, the utilities, the stores and the bank. Workers were paid in scrip. He hated unions and imported a large number of Creeks and Italians to work for nonunion wages.

Clyde Haney, who arrived in McCleary from Hoquiam, Wash., in 1913, described the town at that time as "a typical Western town. The Marshall Dillon type. And many a poker game I saw altho I didn't play--there were some wild ones. Altho there were no saloons, it being prohibition times--there seemed to be several bootleggers--altho I never heard of one being arrested."

Angelo Pellegrini, who arrived in McCleary as a child from Italy in 1913 and went on to become a noted author and scholar, described his first impressions:

"The town had a primitive and inhuman quality, even the appearance of instability, as if it had been hurriedly put together by some wandering tribe for temporary shelter. It appeared at once very old and very young."

Genoffa Tincani, who arrived from Italy in 1919, didn't put too fine a point on her first impressions: "It was a dump then. You weren't safe to walk."

Frank Howerton appears in a group photograph taken about 1913 of the McCleary Timber Company Cutting Dept. He appears as an intense thin man with a beard.

The Howerton family expanded, until five sons were born. All grew to normal height, except for Clarence. He stopped growing at 28 inches, if all the unofficial documents can be believed, and weighing just 19 pounds, according to a claim in *The Billboard*. A specialist declared his lack of growth was due to a "deranged ductless gland," but he might have inherited his height from his mother. She stood at just over four feet tall.

Clarence was highly protected as a child and did not attend public school. Very few local people can recall him as a child, although Ivan Anderson remembered that Howerton "liked to sit on his younger brother's shoulder and that way he could go along with the other fellows on rambles afield."

The "origin" of Major Mite was later described in a Collier's article: "... his father took him to a lodge entertainment. He was the hit of the evening, and was immediately signed up by the fraternal order to accompany its vaudeville show, then about to start a tour of the West. This led to an engagement with a circus."

Another version has Clarence being shown by California showman H.W. McGeary, who signed up his "discovery" to appear at his San Francisco amusement area known as The Chutes, because it was built around a Shoot the Chutes ride.

But Clarence soon found himself with a circus. Not just any circus, mind you, but the big one, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. The year was 1923. Although Major Mite in reality was a mere 10 years of age, the hype had him at 18. This could have been "embellishing" the truth for advertising purposes, or an effort to avoid child labor laws.



Ringling Golden Jubilee, 1933
Major Mite, Third from left, Top Row

He was an instant sideshow hit. He visited President Harding at the White House in 1922. Major Mite became the Tom Thumb of the Jazz Age. But other than being extremely little, Major Mite did not have the acting talent or presentation of Charles Stratton. His mere size, however, made him the star midget of the Ringling show for almost 20 continuous years.

Howerton was always accompanied by his mother during his circus tours. And rather than spending the winters in Florida, son and mother returned to McCleary every time the big top was put into hibernation. During one such McCleary stay, tragedy hit the Howerton family. In January 1926, Frank Howerton shot himself. He had been scheduled for an operation, but "had been in hopelessly poor health."

Shortly before leaving on his next tour with his mother and brother, Roy, in March 1926, Major Mite was sworn in as an honorary veteran by the McCleary VFW, proclaiming him "our diminutive claim to publicity."

The Major's years with Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey started in 1923 and continued off and on until 1946. In 1936 and 1948 he worked with Cole Bros. Circus. He was frequently paired with the giant Jacob Erlich, who was billed as both Jack Earl and Jack Earle.

Whenever Major Mite returned to McCleary, he instantly became a source of fascination. Dud Nelson recalled, "He had a wrinkled little face and a moustache, was a real curiosity to the town kids." As he grew older he developed a devilish sense of humor. "Major Mite liked to smoke cigars and drink beer," Russ McMillan said, "startling people who at first would think he was a small child."

Major Mite liked to wear his top hat and spats around McCleary, quite a contrast to his muddy fellow townsmen. He was also noted for his incredibly foul language and demanding nature.

A piano player for the silent movie theater in McCleary wrote: "The roof leaked and you just kept moving from a wet seat to a dry one. Sitting in the dampness didn't do the action any good and it was rough going. So many keys stuck it was like using a board but the people didn't seem to mind. They cheered the good guys and booed the villain and wolf whistled at the pretty girls of the old silent screen. Rats had free run of the place and often slid round my feet and the old kitchen chair that served as my piano stool."

The piano player might have added one more detail to this rustic scene--a midget with a top hat and spats using his cane to bat the head of the poor unfortunate sitting in front of him, demanding to know

what the captions said (remember, Clarence Howerton never went to school) by yelling, "Read that to me, you son of a bitch!"

When Prohibition ended, the Major would march into a tavern in full top hat regalia, kick the shins of the nearest person, and order, "Set me up on the bar, you bastard!" If he felt really mean, he would run the length of the bar, drop-kicking anything in his path.

This was the Major Mite of legend, of word of mouth. But even the local newspaper, The McCleary Stimulator, knew the Major was good copy, even if facts could not be confirmed. The Aug. 12, 1927, edition reported Major Mite had been married (he would have been 14 years old at the time): "Confirmation of his marriage could not be obtained at this late hour, but we are assured that his bride is another small person with whom he became acquainted while on tour." The report was pure fiction, as near as we can ascertain today.

From Nov. 11, 1938, to Dec. 28, 1938, Major Mite, along with almost 125 other little people, enjoyed a brief feature film career as a Munchkin in The Wizard of Oz motion picture. He plays the last of the three trumpeteers who herald the arrival of the Mayor of Munchkinland. Fellow Munchkin trumpeter Karl Slover recalled, "We were about the shortest of the bunch." The Major went on to appear in several Our Gang comedies.

The Howerton family appears to have left McCleary some time in the 1930s, shortly before Oz. Major Mite left MGM and returned to the big top for a few more years, but apparently his health was not good. After 1941, he went on only three more tours--with Ringling in 1943 and 1946, and Cole Pros. in 1948. At the ripe old age of 35, he retired.

Bruce Hawkins, who currently lives in McCleary, worked odd jobs with the Clyde Beatty Circus in the early 1950s. He recalls Major Mite, still accompanied by his unwelcome mother, making a brief public appearance when the circus went through Portland, Ore., in 1952-1953. He had the impression the Howertons were living in Portland.

While Major Mite may or may not have been residing in Portland, back in McCleary another figure of note raised eyebrows. Around 1943 Cecil "Primo" Poling stopped growing, reaching a height of 7 feet, 10 inches. To have two such extremes from such a tiny outpost gained national attention for McCleary, evoking a number of theories about the water. Primo had a brief career with the circus, but elected not to pursue the circus lifestyle.



No Caption in Article

Throughout the remainder of the 1950s and 1960s, Major Mite vanishes from the record. He turns up again in 1970, living with a niece in the small town of Dayton, Ore. He died of pneumonia on Nov. 18, 1975, in a hospital in McMinnville, Ore. Clarence was buried in Mountainview Cemetery in Oregon City, Ore. He had outlived all of his family except for one brother.

Special thanks to Fred Dahlinger, Jr., director of the Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo.

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THE CASE OF THE FEUDING FATHERS

By John F. Howerton



Lucinda (Lucy) E. Howerton and **Silas Allison** were married September 16, 1864, in Mt. Sterling, Brown County, Illinois. By March 1866, their fathers, **Reuben Howerton** and **Elijah Allison** were in a fuss over Lucy's estate. Just two months before the fathers got into their squabble, another of their children got married; **William Henderson Howerton** married **Mary B. Allison** on January 10, 1866, in Mt. Sterling, Illinois.

The two feuding fathers were my great-great-grandfathers and their actions remind me some other Howertons I have read about. Could it be possible that "feuding" is a Howerton trait? No! Howertons just believe one should always stand up for their rights.

The lawsuit between these two fathers provides some valuable information about one line of Howertons. There is embedded in the documents some important information.

The story begins with **Reuben Howerton** who was born January 1, 1817, in Virginia. He moved to Davidson County, North Carolina, sometime before July 8, 1838, when he married **Hannah Frank** (born 1822 in North Carolina). When the U. S. Census was taken on September 6, 1850 (the first U.S. Census when all members of the household were listed by name), the couple were living in the Southern district of Davidson County with their children. Their oldest child was **William Henderson Howerton** (born May 3, 1839 in the Salisbury district, Davidson County) and the second child was **Lucinda (Lucy) E.** (born 1841 in the place).

Sometime before May 29, 1857, apparently, Hannah died because Reuben, who was now living in Rowan County, North Carolina, married nineteen-year-old **Charlotte Owen**, the daughter of his neighbor, in Rowan County. The first of their children was **Marquis D. S. (Lafayette or Fate)** who was born December 6, 1857, in Rowan County and their second child, **George Washington Howerton** was born June 6, 1859, in Concord, Davidson County (information from his daughter Beulah).

Between the birth of George, the U. S. Census in Buckhorn, Lee Township, Brown County, Illinois on August 17, 1860, and the birth of **James Casper Howerton** on October 2, 1860, Reuben and Charlotte moved their family to Brown County, Illinois. In the U. S. Census for both 1850 and 1860 Elijah Allison from Kentucky and family were living in Brown County, Illinois. From the Census report it appears the Howertons and Allisons lived in the same general area.

Lucy Howerton met and married Silas Allison on September 16, 1864. Apparently, Silas Allison left for military service in January 1865 because his father claimed that Lucy had been living with him for ten months at the time of her death on December 7, 1865. The time, place and circumstances of the death of Silas Allison are uncertain. It is known that Lucy's brother, William Henderson Howerton, joined the Confederate Army and was captured on February 17, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. He took the loyalty oath and was paroled to the area north of the Ohio River. He went to Adams County, Illinois. The recollection of Howerton family members was that Silas was died during the Civil War.

When Lucy Howerton died on December 7, 1865, she was living in the household of her in-laws, **Elijah and Mary Allison**, in Versailles, Brown County, Illinois, the county seat. According to the evidence, Elijah Allison paid \$15.00 to have her body moved from Versailles to the village of Buckhorn, Brown County, where her remains were buried in the cemetery.

On March 19, 1866, Elijah Allison filed papers in Brown County to be appointed the Administrator of the estate of Silas Allison who died on a date and at a place no specified in 1866 (this may be a error) intestate (without a will) and "was justly indebted to this affiant [sic] in the sum of four hundred fifty dollars - that said intestate was left property in the County of Brown & State of Illinois & that this affiam [sic] is now the nearest kin to said decedde [sic] being his father. He therefore prays this court in view of the foregoing that he be appointed & granted letters of Administration on said estate." The request was dated March 19, 1866.

Reuben and Charlotte Howerton had moved to Adams County, Illinois, before July 1865 when an Illinois State census was taken. On December 11, 1865, Reuben Howerton of Adams County and John Davis of Brown County signed a \$1000 Administrator's bond for Reuben to serve as the Administrator of the estate of Lucy E. Allison, deceased. The bond was signed by both parties and properly recorded. The same day, Reuben took the Oath of Administrator in Brown County and the in the "Letters of Administration" it shows, Lucy E. Allison of Brown County, Illinois, died intestate on or about December 7, 1865, and that Reuben Howerton had been appointed Administrator of her estate.

Reuben filed a "A full and complete inventory of all . . . goods, chattels rights, and credits of everykind [sic] belonging to the Estate of Lucy Allison and which has as yet come to my hands, knowledge or possession" on April 9, 1866. There was a list of her property and monies in the document totaling \$550.94 with a balance of \$431.93 after the payment of eleven claims.

Elijah Allison filed a lawsuit against Reuben Howerton as the Administrator of Lucy's estate in the sum of \$275. The suit claimed forty-five weeks of board from 1864 to 1865 at \$3.00 per week; \$135 for taking care of her filly (female horse) for ten months;

doctor bills;
nursing attention;
tending to her business;
Philip Boss for hauling
corse [corpse] from Versailles to Buckhorn.

There is a second letter from Elijah to Reuben claiming \$300 that was not itemized. A number of receipts were filed showing the individuals who had a claim against the estate or payments that had been made by Elijah. A jury warrant was issued for the case to be heard at 11:00 A.M., on March 22, 1866. The jury awarded Elijah Allison \$177.50.

Before the case between Reuben and Elijah, Reuben conducted a sale of Lucy's property on January 27, 1866. The court records show the property sold and the names of the purchasers. All of her property was sold to her father and brothers for the sum of \$161.14. Lucy's property included the normal household goods in addition to:

222 pounds of pork,
seven geese,
one colt,
two young heifers,
and one shoat (pig).

The court records help to establish the residence of Reuben during the period from 1865 to 1868 when the final disposition of Lucy's estate was made. Each of Lucy's brothers received one share of her estate in the amount of \$16.21 5/11 and her father received two shares of \$32.42 10/11 for a total of \$178.36. The settlement listed the brothers of Lucy and included Marquis D. S. Howerton and **Isaac Howerton**. The name of Marquis does not subsequently appear in any records, but the name Lafayette or Fate does appear. There are also records that Isaac died before the amount awarded to him was paid out and Reuben receive his share.

As a footnote to this story, **John Allison**, an older son of Elijah and Mary moved to Clarksville, Red River County, Texas, prior to the War Between the States. During the war he served as a Captain. **William Howerton** who married John's sister Mary moved to Lamar County (county next to Red River, County), Texas, in 1873. When the U.S. Census was taken on June 19, 1880, John's mother was living with him in Clarksville. Even though Reuben and Elijah feuded over the estate of Lucy, it is apparent other members of the two families maintained a close relationship.

The court records in this case are a reminder to those who do family research that such records can provide valuable information. **Paul Nelson Howerton**, my third cousin, of McHenry, Illinois, became intrigued by the lack of information about what happened to Lucy Howerton. In 1994 he went to Brown County and uncovered the data on which this article is based, including the marriage record of Silas and Lucy.

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EARLY U.S. TRAVEL

By Bryan R. Howerton



Many historians have lead us to believe that people living in the early 1800s traveled very little and except for a journey of westward migration, would spend their entire lives within twenty-five miles of their birthplace. Our research has revealed that the early Howertons were either much unlike their contemporaries or some historians have misled us. Family records indicate that it was not uncommon for a family member to set off on horseback or in a horse-drawn buggy on a trip of several days or weeks.

The subject of this article made trips between tidewater Virginia to western Kentucky and return at a time when travel in that part of the country was extremely dangerous. The Kentucky wilderness was infested with outlaws and highwaymen who attacked, robbed, and often murdered people traveling alone or in small groups, much in the fashion of the notorious Harpe Brothers who had terrorized and murdered travelers from Blue Ridge/Smoky Mountains west to Cave-In Rock on the Ohio River and south to Natchez, Mississippi. By the time our subject arrived in Kentucky both Harpe brothers had been apprehended, tried and beheaded. Big Harpe had been caught near Ford' s Ferry and when executed, his head had been placed on a high limb of a tree along the trail, supported by a limb inserted through the eye socket. The skull whitened and remained in the tree for many years as a warning to outlaws. Little Harpe, brother of Big Harpe, was later apprehended near Natchez, Mississippi where he was tried, beheaded and the head placed upon a stake along the Natchez Trace, near Natchez, MS.

Thomas Howerton was born 9 Feb 1798 in Essex County, Va; the son of William Howerton and Catherine "Katy" Edmundson. He was a mechanic or wheelwright as a young man in Essex County. Although his father was quite wealthy he chose to seek his fortune elsewhere; the fact that he had sixteen siblings may have been a factor in that decision. Fortunately, some of the correspondence between Thomas and his siblings has been preserved and serves to enlighten us concerning the mobility and burial practices at that time.

Thomas Howerton left Virginia in 1825 and went to Kentucky to seek his fortune. He stayed in Hardin County, KY for two years and on 8 Mar 1827 there married Tena Roll, born 11 Oct 1804; the daughter of Michael and Christina Roll. They immediately went to Muhlenberg County, KY where he began farming. Thomas bought a 200 acre tract of land from Peter Scull and his wife, Sally in 1831. The land lay on the east side of Pond Creek and when added to land later acquired, became known as the "Howerton Farm"

In 1831, Thomas made a trip on horseback from Kentucky to Essex County, VA a few months after the death of his father. Apparently one purpose of the trip was to participate in the settlement of the estate of his father, who had died the previous September. Upon his safe return to Kentucky, he wrote a letter to his brother, Philip, which follows this article. The letter is included as it sheds some light on the mobility of people at that time, some of their concerns, and the burial practices of large landowners in tidewater Virginia. The Mr. LaFon with whom Thomas returned to Kentucky was probably a relative. Apparently, Thomas felt more comfortable returning in the company of Mr. LaFon and his hog-herders than attempting the journey alone.

After settling in Muhlenberg County, Thomas began trying to convince his siblings to join him in Kentucky. As was common among his siblings who had migrated to other parts of the country, he wrote glowing reports of the area in which he had settled and of the great future to be enjoyed there. In the early 1830s he convinced his brothers James and Eldred and their families, his sister Catherine and her

husband William (a cousin) and their family, and his brother Philip (whose family remained in Virginia) to form a party and come to Kentucky and personally see the possibilities. Thomas wrote a short summary of that visit in his Bible, an extract of which follows: Of this group, Catherine and William stayed in Kentucky for a year or so - then moved to Tennessee where William and three children died of cholera in 1835; James and Eldred stayed for a visit (and Eldred may have bought some land), but James moved on the Nashville, TN for a couple of years then moved to Mississippi and in 1850 moved to Texas with his family, where he remained; Eldred moved to Nashville, TN where he became a successful business man. Philip traveled around the western Kentucky area during his visit, but returned to his home, "Oakland" in Halifax County, VA where he was highly respected and active in local politics.

Thomas' wife, Tena, died in Muhlenberg County on 10 Jul 1838. Their children, all born in Muhlenberg Co, Ky were:

Edwin Edmundson, b 30 Dec 1827;
Mary Catherine, b 17 May 1829;
Alfred Thomas, b 18 Aug 1830;
William Roll, b 13 Jul 1832;
Abraham Vaught, b 17 Jan 1834;
Martha Ann, b 20 Aug 1836.

On 11 Jun 1839 Thomas was married to Elizabeth Benton (b 1816 in KY) in Muhlenberg County in a ceremony performed by Rev A Taylor. Elizabeth was born in Kentucky in 1816. From this union were born seven children, all in Muhlenberg County:

Margaret Edmundson, b 6 Sep 1840;
John Benton, b 8 Jan 1842;
Louisa Jane, b 15 Jul 1843;
Phillip Lafayette, b 1 Jan 1845;
Joshua James, b 8 Jul 1848;
Eldred Taylor, b 16 Aug 1850; and
America Washington, b 5 Mar 1853.

Thomas spent the remainder of his life in Kentucky and died 17 Feb 1854 on his farm near Paradise, Muhlenberg Co, Ky.

The following letter which Thomas wrote to his brother upon his return to Kentucky refers to the grave of their father and discloses a common burial practice which many families had followed since colonial times. When this writer first visited Howerton Baptist Church at Howertons, VA he immediately went to the old cemetery on the church grounds. A thorough search of the cemetery failed to reveal a single gravestone bearing the name, Howerton or any gravestones of early date. Although some of the descendants of the original immigrant to that area of Virginia still live in the Essex/King & Queen County area, few gravestones bearing the family name are to be found in churchyard cemeteries. A conversation with a very old tidewater-Virginia cemetery attendant revealed that numerous family graveyards are scattered throughout the area. Most of the established families maintained a small graveyard on their property. Wooden markers were affixed to family graves as stone was scarce. The plot reserved for the family graveyard was often enclosed with a wooden fence that was decorative, but provided little security. Over a period of several years the wooden fences and grave markers would deteriorate and perhaps the original owners would sell the property and the family plots slowly reverted to nature and are now almost impossible to locate. Thomas letter to his brother, Philip follows:

Muhlenberg, Kentucky 26th June 1831

Dear Philip,

I will write you a few lines to inform you of my arrival at home after a very cold wet time to travel in. I promised to write and let you know how I got home and how I liked my company. I reached home safe and thank God I found my family enjoying the smiles of Providence and was very well pleased with the company of Mr LaFon. We continued together until I got within 4 or 5 days ride of home. LaFon sold hogs on the Danville road and he was obliged to go that way to collect his money which prevented my going to see William and Catherine for which I have been afraid they do not like. But if I had left LaFon I no doubt would have had to travel home by myself and another thing, I was not properly at my self or in my right mind. My mind was completely frustrated so that I did not enjoy myself as I expected for I contemplated on enjoying myself with my brothers and sisters in conversing about things of importance. But to my great astonishment when I reached Essex all of the family seemed to be in doubt or dread of not getting their full proportion or a little more (rather than miss) of our poor old fathers labors. Philip, it has caused me serious reflection since I left there when I think how eager each one was to get his share. Not one thing about putting something around the graves of our father and mother to secure them from everything trampling over them or rooting them up. They certainly done enough for us to cause us to pay that much respect to them and as you are so much nearer than what I am I wish you to try to impress the rest of the legatees to have their graves paled in so as to include the children which are dead. Although I done a good deal of work for father and got nothing for it if I was convenient I would not hesitate to pale in his grave. I can confess that I am not altogether satisfied with some of the legatees when I think of the advantages they had of receiving help of father. Some one thing, some another, and I at a distance and must not have what I worked hard for. It seems uncharitable but I can do without it as well as some of them can with it. I have bought 200 acres of land, paid for it and got a general warranty deed for it and a hundred dollars left but I have never got the \$10.00 of Washington which I sent back. I must close by requesting a letter from you letting me know all the news. Remember me to James and family, to your wife and children, and all inquiring friends. My family are well at present I hope this will find you and family the same as it leaves us. When you write direct your letter to Greenville, Muhlenberg County. If you should see William shortly tell him I have bought the land he was talking about and if he intends taking it he must let me know immediately. Nothing more, but remains,

Your affectionate brother

Thomas Howerton

Thomas Howerton, Kentucky

To: Mr Philip Howerton, Halifax County Courthouse, Va

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CURRENT EVENTS

Chief Warrant Officer (W5) Donald R Howerton

Retires After 31 Years



Chief Warrant Officer (W5) Donald R Howerton

A retirement dinner was held at the Officer's Club at Fort Rucker, AL on 14 January 2000 in honor of Chief Warrant Officer (W5) Donald R Howerton. The ceremony was attended by Donald's wife, Linda K Howerton and her mother, Mrs. Elouise McLean; parents, Bryan R and Jean Howerton; his sister, Mrs. Peggy E Kifer; and his children, John Thomas, Lindsey Michelle, and Michella as well as over one hundred guests who had served with him at various times during his military career.

Numerous speakers recounted noteworthy achievements and accolades and he was presented with several mementos of his 31 years of military service. In his farewell address, Donald acknowledged many outstanding people with whom he had been associated and paid tribute to fallen comrades with whom he had served.

CWO-5 Howerton enlisted in the U S Army in 1969, graduated from flight school, and was appointed as a warrant officer in 1970. His divisional assignments included the 101st Airborne Division, 25th Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and 2nd Infantry Division. He had served as a standardization instructor pilot both in the field and at the Army Aviation Center, Fort Rucker, including a tour with the Attack/Aeroscout Branch of the Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization, also at the Army Aviation Center. He was an original member of Task Force 160 and has served over 16 years in special operations assignments. During the past four years he has served as Assistant Commandant and Director of Training at the Warrant Officer Career Center, Fort Rucker, AL.

During his long service to his country he has received numerous awards and medals and at his formal retirement ceremony on 1 Feb 2000 he will be awarded the Legion of Merit.

SCOTT HOWERTON



Walter Scott Howerton IV

Scott Howerton graduated from Fairmont State College in Fairmont, West Virginia with a BA in Education. He received a teaching position at Piney Grove Elementary School in Kernersville, NC.

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