



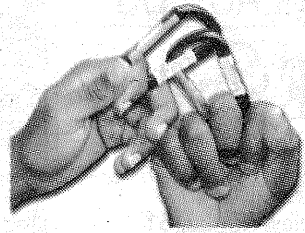
FRIDAY

APRIL 15, 2005

SHELBY

# THE STAR

A  
CommUnity  
update



COMING SATURDAY

CTIONS, 32 PAGES

THE NEWSPAPER OF CLEVELAND COUNTY FOR 112 YEARS

FIFTY CEN

*Legend has it that the Boiling Spring on Gardner-Webb campus actually stopped boiling when a group of students tried to blast the spring with some dynamite.*

## Law legacy

### Gardner family follows lead of school's namesake

Alan Jenkins

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SHELBY — O. Max Gardner IV doesn't consider himself aggressive enough to be an attorney. So, he became a legal assistant and works for his father:

His cousin, Bill, just passed the bar last August. He's working upstairs in the Gardner law offices, 10 feet from O. Max Gardner III.

The law is a Gardner family tradition that has included attorneys, judges and governors. It's a tradition that precedes the couple who gave a university its name — O. Max and his wife, Faye Webb Gardner.

Gardner III tells of a New York reporter who asked his grandfather, a North Carolina governor, what the greatest moment of his political life was. The governor replied, "When Faye Webb Gardner said 'yes.'"

Now, most of their descendants still call Shelby home.

Gardner IV has a wife, a son and two stepdaughters. He decided not to name the boy number five.

"I think four was pushing it anyway," Gardner IV said. "I always got picked on for being the fourth."

The dad has found contentment as a director of the Max Gardner Foundation.

"That's pretty exciting," Gardner IV said. "There's a lot of community involvement there."

Gardner IV has a brother, R. Webb Gardner II, who



Jeff Melton / The Star

**Descendants of O. Max Gardner** include, from left, Bill Gardner, O. Max Gardner III and O. Max Gardner IV. All three are involved in law. Gardner IV is a legal assistant and the other two are lawyers.

lives in Chapel Hill and works with the university. His sister, Sarah Olivia Naftolin, lives in Raleigh and is a stay-at-home mom.

Bill Gardner decided to follow more in his father and uncle's footsteps. It's a career field he feels a passion for.

"A lot of it had to do with the heritage," Bill said. "I enjoy it. There wasn't really a lot of pressure to do it."

He also works with the foundation and says the group has done a good job managing its funds.

"I'd like to keep that up," Bill said.

Bill's father, John, has served as a Superior Court judge and now teaches law at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Bill's brother, Cameron, works as a

city planner in Fredericksburg, Va.

Bill's uncle, O. Max Gardner III, focuses on consumer bankruptcy law.

That focus has been good for Gardner III. He was named national Consumer Advocate of the Year in 2004 and his walls are lined with accolades.

Gardner III attended Gardner-Webb University for a semester, but earned the rest of his education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Unlike his grandfather, Gardner III has never run for political office.

"I like politics," Gardner III said. "I've never run for office and I don't intend to."

That hasn't stopped him from being involved. Every governor during Gardner

III's lifetime, except for Mike Easley, has visited the Webbley, the family's ancestral manse.

"He's promised me he's going to be here sometime before this four-year term is up," Gardner III said.

Gov. Gardner, who served from 1929-1933, focused on education and he supported the rights of women and minorities. The family continues to support education through the Gov. Max Gardner Award, given in the UNC system that the patriarch helped form.

And, of course, there's the university that bears the grandparents' names.

"The Gardner family has given millions and millions of dollars to Gardner-Webb University," Gardner III said.

## GWU ALUMNI SEC



Mrs. Barb

Class o

Occupation: Investr  
Residence: Bostic  
Married with two chil  
GWU for my educatio  
welcome with my Edu  
in Boiling Springs.

Larry & Melissa Drum

Melissa Drum - Executive Sec  
Larry Drum - Human Resource Pro  
Cramerton, NC

Congratulations to Gardner-Webb Un  
100 years of excellence in education, gro  
and developing the community. Our pr  
next 100 years be as bright as the pre  
thank you for all you have done

## Happy Birth Gardner-We

GWU Alumni Assoc

## Congratulations Gardner-

for providing 100  
Years of  
quality education.

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