

Dwayne Ballard – Sept 2019 – Sept 2024 (Update)

The last five years have really flown by. Time has been spent learning a new sport, keeping in touch with our six grandchildren, traveling, taking up a new hobby that I thoroughly enjoy, and avoiding COVID. But not necessarily in that order!

After moving into our new home in Broomfield, Colorado, a 55+ community called Anthem Ranch, I began two new endeavors – Pickleball and Genealogy. There are over 100 clubs which you can join within our 55+ community. The pickleball club has the largest membership – now over 400 people. You can join as a “player” or as a “social” member. Social members are entitled to join the players for all the social activities held throughout the year. We have expanded from 4 to 10 outdoor courts since we moved here. I play year-round. We have “younger” members, both male and female, who voluntarily clean the snow off the courts in the winter.

I also joined the Genealogy Club right after we moved to Anthem Ranch. Genealogy consumes a great deal of time when one has to be indoors. But the results are very rewarding, with some great stories emerging from my ancestors. My 9th paternal great grandfather, William Ballard, emigrated to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. In addition, I have proven that I am a descendant of two passengers on the Mayflower. Passengers on the Mayflower were divided into two groups – the “saints” and the “sinners”. My 11th great grandfather, Steven Hopkins, was the leader of the “sinners”. His 14-year-old daughter, Constance Hopkins, eventually became my 10th great grandmother. I have proven my Ballard family lineage from myself back 12 generations to Constance Hopkins. Accordingly, I was accepted as a member of the Mayflower Society on Dec 20th 2020.

The last 5 years has definitely seen a drastic reduction on international travel. We did take a coach trip to the Canadian Rockies in July 2023, but came back with Covid. Up until that point in time we had avoided Covid even though we took a number of shorter domestic road trips. Most of those trips were to help celebrate the various milestones of our 6 grandchildren, including 5 high school graduations (all in Michigan), 3 college graduations – Michigan, Virginia and Utah, and one wedding in Utah. And we will still have to celebrate one more high school graduation in Michigan and three more college graduations, probably two in Michigan and one in Utah. Who said retirement was easy!

In additions to these road trips, we also ventured to the South visiting Georgia, and the Carolina's. We also took 3 different Genealogy research trips to Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

We did enjoy a fantastic family Christmas trip in Dec 2022 to the big island of Hawaii. Believe it or not - all 13 of us arrived within two hours of each other at the Kona airport on Christmas eve from four different states (Colorado, Michigan, Utah and Virginia) without a single delay. And returned on various dates, depending on work and school schedules, without any problems. It does pay to go to church!

In the last couple of months, we enjoyed entertaining friends from New Zealand. They concluded their around-the-world trip in Broomfield, Colorado. We were friends in Hong Kong when we lived there between 1980 – 1984. We visited them during our 50th wedding anniversary trip to Australia and New Zealand in 2017. I love their accent.

Since this is our last formal class reunion, I am speculating this will probably be my last update. Best to all my surviving class mates! Dwayne Ballard

Dwayne Ballard – June 2014 to Sept 2019 (Update)

The last five years have been busy, but more relaxing than the first 12 years of retirement. My prostate cancer returned in the summer of 2014. Since I didn't have a prostate to remove this time, the treatment of choice was 8 weeks (Monday thru Friday) of radiation treatments. Being heavily involved in the 50th reunion planning helped me keep my mind on positive events. So far all of our prayers have been answered and I have been cancer free since then. This episode was the driving force behind me gradually removing myself, throughout 2015, from the Estes Park Library and Glen Haven Volunteer Fire Department Non-profit Boards. After being set free of my "nonpaying" jobs, in 2016 Georgia and I enjoyed two major events. We took the Rick Steve's "Best of France" tour in September and then celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with our children and grandchildren with an upper Michigan Christmas holiday. We continued celebrating our 50th anniversary throughout 2017 beginning in January with a 6-week trip to Australia and New Zealand, followed by a two-week Rick Steve's tour of Eastern Europe in September. When we weren't traveling and making new friends, we began looking around the country for 55+ communities that would get us out of isolated mountain living and back into civilization - with better health care and closer neighbors. In early 2018 we decided to build a house in the Anthem Ranch 55+ community in Broomfield, CO. We sold our Glen Haven house in June and moved to an apartment in Berthoud until our new house was completed in late September. For those of you who have moved into a new house, you pretty much know what we have been doing during 2019. We did take time off in June for a visit to Michigan to celebrate two high school graduations (grandsons #2 and #3) and the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for grandsons #1 and #2. The following month we were able to join our two children and their spouses for a 12-day cruise from Rome to Barcelona. (The six grandchildren were not happy they weren't invited!) It was ever so welcome to spend so much time with "our kids". We probably hadn't spent that much continuous quality time together since before they were in high school.

All in well with our family. We are very proud of our children and grandchildren!

Our son and family moved back to Milford, Michigan from Pennsylvania. Brian is still working for Merck Pharmaceuticals. His wife Kristine is an elementary school teacher. Their oldest son just graduated with honors, was a 4-year letterman in track and cross country and is now attending Michigan State University (Dad's and Mom's alma mater). Number two son is a junior in high school, has lettered in Lacrosse and runs cross country. Their daughter is in 8th grade and is a very good volleyball player.

Our daughter and husband still live in Troy, MI. Kristin is now the editor of two trade magazines. Her husband Bill is a middle school teacher, athletic director, assistant principal and a volunteer fireman. Their oldest son, after completing his freshman year at BYU, is currently in his second year of his Mormon mission. He is in Ukraine and is now fluent in Russian. Their second son just graduated with high honors, was a 3-year letterman in football and basketball and will be playing Division III football this fall for Southern Virginia University on an academic scholarship. Their daughter is a freshman in high school and is already challenging her older brother's athletic and academic accomplishments. She made the JV girls volleyball team as a freshman. It should not go untold - but I'm positive all the grandchildren's athletic skills were passed down from their grandfather, and all of their academic skills were inherited from their grandmother!

Am looking forward to a fun 55th class reunion!!

Dwayne Ballard – June 1964 - June 2014

Accounting for the 50 years since high school graduation is relatively straight forward: 4 ½ years at Colorado State University, 33 years working in the computer industry and 12 ½ years retired!

While at CSU, I married Georgia Schadegg (LHS Class of '65). We will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in December of 2016. During our life together we have had the pleasure of moving a number of times to a variety of interesting places. Beginning in Ft. Collins (3 years) we moved to Denver (2 years), then to Las Vegas, NV (3 years), then to Tucson, AZ (1 year), back to Littleton, CO (5 years), then to Hong Kong (4 years), then to Troy, MI (6 years), to Lansdale, PA (12 years) and finally to Glen Haven, Colorado (12 years). We have been very blessed and remain in contact with the many friends we have made in each of these cities.

My 33 years in the computer field were with two companies, three years with RCA, followed by 30 years with Burroughs / Unisys Corporation. I worked in a variety of functions including software technical support, project management, program management and marketing. All of these activities were connected with the company's mainframe computer product line.

After graduating from CSU, Georgia was a stay-at-home mom until the kids were in school. While living in Las Vegas, she earned a teaching certificate and was a Junior High English teacher in Colorado, Hong Kong and Michigan. While living in Michigan, she earned a Masters of Library Science Degree and became a middle school librarian in Michigan and Pennsylvania. After we returned to Colorado in 2001, she worked part time for the Great Plains Library District in Greeley until she retired in 2010,

We have two grown children and six grandchildren. Our daughter Kristin graduated from Notre Dame University and currently lives in Michigan. She works for Business News Publishing as a magazine editor. Her husband, Bill Johansson, is an elementary physical education teacher and high school track coach. They have 2 sons, Will and Matthew and a daughter Tessa. Our son Brian graduated from Michigan State University and now resides in Pennsylvania, only about 30 minutes from where we lived while living there. He works for Merck Pharmaceuticals. His wife Kristine is a former 3rd grade teacher. They also have 2 sons, Grant, and Luke and a daughter, Ellie.

After surviving Prostate Cancer in 2001, I had the opportunity to retire early and did so at the end of the year. My retirement years have been extremely active. We have been very fortunate and have traveled quite a bit both domestically and internationally. Between business travel and retirement travel I have visited 42 of the 50 states, and 37 countries. Our most recent escapades took us to Machu Picchu in Peru and The Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador in early 2013. I have spent a great deal of time volunteering for non-profits. After handling all accounting and registration duties for the Estes Park Relay for Life for 7 years, I decided to try something different. I am currently on the Board of Directors for the Estes Valley Library Foundation and the Glen Haven Area Volunteer Fire Department. I also have had the pleasure of chairing the Class of '64 reunion committee for the 45th and 50th reunions. September 12th has become my unlucky date. On September 12th 2012, my 89-year-old mother passed away. On September 12th 2013 we were caught up in the Colorado floods. We were very fortunate we had no property damage, but were displaced for 4 months. No road to the house, no electricity when we finally got a road, and no telephone/internet once we finally got electricity. The Glen Haven area is gradually getting better, but it will be another year before County Road 43, the road in front of our house, is fully repaired. Living on a dirt road leaves a bit to be desired.

A Loveland memory from 1950/60 era!

My memories of Loveland began early in life. I was born in a doctor's office above Draper Drug in downtown Loveland. We lived across the street from the original Garfield grade school at 7th and Grant. I remember walking across the street to kindergarten and 1st grade, then having to walk all the way down the railroad tracks to the new Garfield school at 8th and Colorado for the rest of my elementary school years. Garfield School ruled the track and field events each spring during the late 50's. I remember the first day of school during 5th and 6th grades taking note of who was in each class to determine which class would have the better track team 8 months later. Becoming a patrol boy and wearing that patrol belt during 6th grade was one of early life's greatest rewards. I also remember taking part in the Minute dance program. I haven't been able to dance since. My Junior High memories are a blur. I do remember undefeated football teams, girls starting to grow boobs and some kid driving to school in the 8th grade because he just turned 16. High School was dominated by sports, studying, and dating, pretty much in that order. Being selected a Rag Day clown, along with Jerry Starck, falls into the greatest rewards category. I can't remember if we were funny, but we had a great time. I also remember buying 4 gallons of gas for a dollar (4 guys chipping in a quarter a piece) and then spending the rest of a summer evening cruising between the two A&W root beer stands. Life was simple, life was good!!