

# Bible printed in 1775 inscribed with Gladney family records

By Gina Jett

Times-Georgian Staff Writer

Many people enjoy looking into their pasts and discovering who they are related to and how the family arrived in America.

Tracing family trees can be very hard work and take a great deal of time and money, but many have done it with worthwhile results. Cecil Gladney, of Carrollton, has discovered things about his family he would never have known had he not received a call from a distant cousin in 1976.

The Gladney Clan is about 400 strong and holds a family reunion every year in different locations around the country. A 215-year-old Bible has been the topic of many discussions at these gatherings, and Cecil now has possession of the treasured item.

The Bible, printed in 1775, was originally a

wedding gift to Jane Strong Gladney from her mother, Cecil said. It has been passed around for years, and in July found its way to Carrollton. The fragile, tattered pages hold a great deal of history for the Gladney family, and several marriage, birth and death dates are handwritten in the Book.

"I'm going to donate it to a museum in Winnsboro, S.C.," he said. "I'm in no big hurry to do it, but I will probably give it next July at the reunion."

The Gladney family reached the American shoreline when Jane Wilson Gladney and her four sons sailed to Charleston, S.C. in the 1750s, according to Cecil. Now, with over 400 members on the "Gladneys in America" mailing list, Cecil said new faces show up at each reunion.

"Some of the older ones don't come back, but there's always new ones there," he said.



Cecil Gladney points out verification of the age of his family's 215-year-old Bible. The Bible was printed in 1775 in the old English type which he says, makes it difficult to read.