

## Calvin Lee Christman, Ph.D. (7/12/1942 – 8/24/2011)

Calvin Lee Christman, Ph.D. of Peyton, Colorado died on August 24, 2011 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was born in Lakewood, Ohio and attended Lakewood High School, where he was class treasurer, manager of the football, track and wrestling teams, participated in the dramatics club and was inducted into the National Honor Society. He followed the lead of his father, Herbert '30, and his uncle, Willard '29 to Dartmouth, where he majored in history and was equipment manager for the football team. He continued to follow Dartmouth football throughout his life.

After graduation Cal attended Vanderbilt University, where he received both an M.A. and an M.A.T. in history. Then he proceeded to Ohio State University where he earned a Ph.D. in history and was a Mershon Fellow for the Mershon Center for National Security Education. His academic interest was the history of WW II. He taught at several universities, including Mountain View College, William Penn College, and Ohio State, but his major commitment was at Cedar Valley College, where he received numerous citations, including one for excellence in teaching. He and his wife Nina, also a historian, led many tours of European battlefields in England, Italy, and Normandy, his favorite. In addition to teaching, Cal edited books about American wars, wrote academic articles and for thirty years was a book reviewer for the Dallas Morning News.

Cal and Nina have two children, Alexander, a high school history teacher, and Abigail, an architect historian and one granddaughter. For additional information [click here](#)

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Cal was a very dramatic person, who made the history he loved, WW II, come alive for his students, whether in class or on tours he led. Some of his students were very enthusiastic about Cal, who gave everything to his students in return for their working hard and grasping the subject. Those who loved him appreciated the study of history.

“Dr. Christman is one of the best things I've encountered at Cedar Valley. He's not easy, but he gives you all you need to do well. His teaching style makes eight o' clock in the morning easy to face.”

“He was an excellent lecturer. You have to do a LOT of reading and studying... It was worth it because he is a good person. If you want to actually have a class where you learn quite a bit of information, take Doc.”



**Dr. Christman with students at Ft. Hood**

Cal was a huge sports fan. Possibly he acquired that passion from his father, Herbert '30. Here he is shown with his father admiring his father's collection of Cleveland Indians' autographs. Cal ventured as far as football and was hooked. He loved Dartmouth and its football team, but he also loved the team from Ohio State. He and Nina went back to

“I had Dr. Christman for a couple of classes at The University of North Texas back in 1991 and 1992 and he was the best History professor I ever had. Here it is 18 years later and I still remember his Military History classes.”

“Doc is a true historian. He sleeps and breaths history. For someone like me that's not into history like he is, the class will be very difficult.”

Those looking for an easy grade went elsewhere.



Columbus to watch the Buckeyes at least once a year. Cal served on the scholarship committee at Ohio State.



Though Cal hadn't made it back to Hanover for class reunions, he did introduce his daughter Abigail to the Dartmouth campus when she was looking at colleges.

Here Cal and Abbey are rafting in Colorado at the celebration of his parents' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He was already conditioning her to the idea of Dartmouth, but she decided otherwise.

Cal and Alexander are riding the Cumbres and Toltec RR during the same anniversary celebration.





Cal is with his love Nina at Giverny, France in Monet's Garden. Fascinated by the history of WW II, Cal was also a romantic who loved his family, travel and football.