

Atkinson Family—Resume



Dick is the patriarch of the family. He began an interest in acoustic bluegrass music at a young age. His father introduced him to bluegrass on the record player with the sounds of Flatt and Scruggs, Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers and traditional country music, with the songs of Jimmy Rogers, Hank Williams, Sr., Ernie Tubb, and Roy Acuff to name a few. He leads the band with his own style of syncopated banjo playing. Dick plays a

Deering Tenbrooks and is an endorser for Deering banjos, a Gibson Gold Star and a 1928 Gibson arch top. He also finds himself playing guitar on a few numbers with the Tama that belonged to his father. Dick has written numerous songs which you will find on one of the many recordings the Atkinsons have produced. He also finds time to produce and record the projects of the Atkinsons in the studio over the past few years. He has also started to build banjo bridges.



Liza is one of the original members of the Atkinson Family Band. Growing up in the Atkinson house, there was always music, and band practice once a week in the living room. Liza grew to love the music and performed at a young age in the school concerts. Liza is an accomplished guitar player and drives the family band with her strong chunk on the mandolin. Liza's vocal ability is second to none and it is

stated she can peel paint of the wall with her vocal power! She sings lead and any harmony vocal you want. Liza helps to make the unique family sound. Liza is also a songwriter and brings to the band songs not in the traditional bluegrass genre, but suited to the family band.



Shelene is the matriarch of the family, playing rhythm guitar, and singing lead and harmony. She plays an HD28 Martin most of the time, but switches off to a small bodied "Atkinson" guitar built by Dick, or a small double 0 Martin. The Atkinson guitar is built with cherry from the family property, has a spruce top and Dick cut and inlaid the shell into the neck of the guitar. Shelene started playing guitar and singing

after the children were grown. When the children were growing up, Shelene spent her time listening to Emmy Lou Harris, Linda Rondstat, New Grass Revival with John Cowan, and other acoustic music. She has written several songs that are on the Atkinson's recordings. Shelene does the graphic work on the projects and designs and develops the web page.



Sara, the youngest of the Atkinson family clan has come on board to play bass and sing. When the band needed a bass player, Sara stepped up to the plate and learned an evenings worth of music in a very short time. She keeps excellent time and keeps the band right in the pocket. She plays an old Kay bass and most recently a half size bass more suited

to her size. With Sara also being a good singer, there will be family harmony with her sister and mother to make a unique three part female harmony vocal.



Dave comes to us from the eastern Adirondack Mountains, finding his home in the small town of Chilson. In 2003, he ventured to the National Resonator Guitar contest in Todd, NC and took 1st place, making him the 2003 National Champion! We are honored to have him as part of our family band! He is one of the most tasteful inventive players in the northeast. Dave's dobro playing will stand up to any player in the country. Dave plays a Gordan resonator guitar., built by Gordon Lyon and has become an endorser for his instruments. Dave is also an endorser for the Walworth resonator capo. He has performed with some of the best musicians in Nashville, including Dan Tyminski, John Cowan, the Country Gentleman to name a few. He is a north country man and finds his roots in the Adirondack Mountains, like the Atkinsons. Dave is a part of our family!