

Centennial Year for Texas Cotton-Farming Harlans

By C.J. King

At the Harlan Farm in Bishop, TX, the 100th cotton crop is in the ground right now.

This branch of Harlans first came to Bishop in 1914, when the town itself was just a few years old. Aaron and Lela Harlan were the first Harlan settlers there. Raised as neighbors in Tapaloosa, AL, they married, and later came to Texas in 1902. They moved around a bit, looking for the best land, and then settled in Bishop. They bought 360 acres and Aaron began raising cotton.

That farm has grown to approximately 7,000 acres and is now in its fifth generation. If you attended the Texas national Harlan reunion last July, you may have heard Jack Harlan, age 78, and his son Steve talk about how cotton farming has changed over the past century.

In the beginning, cotton farmers relied on mules and horses for tilling the soil, planting, and cultivating to keep out the weeds. In those days, there was a tremendous amount of hand labor involved in raising cotton. When Jack was a boy, the family was farming around 1,500 acres, 1,000 of that in cotton. It took 22 families to raise the crops and care for the livestock. In 1934, the year Jack was born, his daddy bought two tractors, but even so, things didn't change too much during the next decade.

A day's work went something like this: Before daybreak, you'd



Then, and now



go out and catch the mules and horses and put on their harnesses. Then you took a break for coffee. Soon, you'd join the long line of mule teams heading out to the fields. You'd work several hours, then stop for breakfast when the women brought beans and tortillas to the fields. Then you'd work 'til midday, when you'd bring the teams back home, remove their harnesses, and let them cool down. Everyone enjoyed a siesta. Then, it was time to re-harness the teams and head back to the fields until dark.

At harvest time, even more hands were required to bring in the crop. Day laborers would drive around, looking for work. The farmers would flag them down, and if the pickers liked the looks of a farm and had not yet committed to go elsewhere, they'd come along. There might be 300 pickers hired in the course of a harvest season.

Over the years, all five generations of Bishop Harlans have taken their turns working the family land. Aaron worked with his youngest son, Sankie, and then Sankie took over, operating the farm until 1950. Then Sankie's sons, Kenneth, Joe (Bubba), and Jack, all worked together. In 1995, when the other two retired, Jack took the lead, working with his son Steve. Now Steve is the principal and his son Ryan has joined the operation. Other family members have helped with farm chores after school and during the summers to help keep the farm going.

Humans have been growing cotton for at least 7,000 years. Christopher Columbus found it growing in the Bahamas when he landed there in 1492. The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 saved so much labor that cotton production increased exponentially, overtaking all other textile production. Today, cotton is vitally important to the American economy. According to "The Story of Cotton" at www.cotton.org, when you add up all of the business revenue generated by cotton, it stacks up as the leading U.S. value-added crop, responsible for \$120 billion in annual income.

The basic tasks of farming cotton aren't so different than 100 years ago, but the tools are dramatically different. Jack still remembers the sad day when the mules and horses were loaded up

(Continued on page 4)

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if space is limited.

E-mail to: C. J. King, Editor
joking@sover.net

or Ruth Harlan Lamb, Layout
harlamb@aol.com
or mail to the
organization's address shown above.

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of *The Harlan Record*, e-mail your
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Remembrance Fund

in memory of . . .

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THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

FINANCIAL REPORT February 1, 2013

Account Balance Transferred:
9/4/2012 \$ 16,782.58

INCOME:

Contributions since 8/1/12	\$ 2,465.00
Cookbook sales	1,089.50
Cards & Coaster sales	31.40

TOTAL INCOME \$ 3,585.90

DISBURSEMENTS:

P. O. Box rental	\$ 35.00
Newsletter printing	1,551.68
Petty Cash Fund	50.00
Cookbook expenses	536.03

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$ 2,172.71

Checking Account Balance: \$8,195.77

Certificate of Deposit \$10,011.34

Harlan Family Fund Balance
2/1/2013 \$18,207.11

Contributors to The Harlan Family in America

Donations received since August 1, 2012

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If you have Genealogy
questions or comments,
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Cynthia Rhoades, at
cr.rhoades@comcast.net.



**Visit the Family Web site:
www.harlanfamily.org**

Association President Robert Harlan Steps Down

Effective this Spring, your Harlan Family in America Association will have new leadership. One of the changes is that I will be stepping down from the President's role after 14 years.

It has been a great joy to serve as your President, made so by the great group of people who have been with me on the board and have served in other volunteer capacities, along with the success of the three National Reunions I had been associated with during my tenure.

Sometimes a "changing of the guard" can be difficult and can cause setbacks in an organization. This won't be so in this case as your new President, Pat Fluetsch (CA), is a veteran board member and was the co-organizer for the marvelous 2007 reunion in Reno, NV, attended by more than 400 family members.

Pat has tremendous organizing skills, and she is a great communicator. I have every expectation that under her leadership, between now and our 2017 reunion, this organization will move to the next level. I am equally excited that Mary Harlan Murphy (PA), who was a co-organizer for the 2002 reunion in New Castle, DE, has agreed to be our incoming Vice President.

As I step down, I will remain on the board as a director and will continue to have a hand in planning our next reunion.

I am grateful for those who have made me "look good." One name which stands out amongst our sterling group is that of Junior Harlan (AZ), who has served as Vice President for 14 years. Junior has overseen many aspects of our organization and assisted me in the many "housekeeping" duties any board necessitates.

A couple of other items of note. First, as we mentioned in our



Robert (left) and Junior

last issue of *The Harlan Record*, Bob Harlan (PA) became Treasurer last year as he took over from John Harlan (GA). John was the Association's original Treasurer, dating back to 1986! Also, we are pleased that Gerry Harlan Lundgren (IA), will continue in her role as Secretary. And lastly, the board regretfully accepts the resignation of William K. Harlan (CA). Bill was the co-organizer with Pat Fluetsch of the Reno Reunion in 2007.

I look forward to continuing my service on the Harlan Family in America Association board for years to come.

— **Robert Harlan,**

The Harlan Family in America Association President, 1999-2013

A Message from Your Incoming President

The next Board meeting of The Harlan Family in America will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott North Hotel.

A discussion about the location for the 2017 Reunion is on the agenda. The organization makes an effort to hold the reunions near a place of Harlan historical significance. Please contact me at pfluetsch@comcast.net if you have a suggestion about the location for the next reunion.

As mentioned in Robert Harlan's article above, a new slate of officers will be installed at the meeting. Guests are welcome.

Vice President Mary Harlan Murphy and I will continue to expand our membership and help the descendants of George, Michael and Thomas make connections and form bonds with their relatives throughout the country. We will call on the expertise of all the former officers, including President Bob Harlan (CA), Vice President Junior Harlan, Secretary Ruth Harlan Lamb and Treasurer John Harlan and all the others who are the communal memory of the modern Harlan Family in America.

I look forward to meeting each of you at future family gatherings or on our family Facebook page, The Harlan Family in America.

— **Pat Fluetsch**

Harlan Cookbook Volume II



We still have plenty of copies left of the new Harlan Favorite Recipes. It is a lovely book, filled with 626 mouth-watering recipes from all parts of the country, along with family history and illustrations. The cookbook also includes a CD-ROM that contains every recipe in the book, for those younger "techies" who get most of their recipes from the web. Our apologies to Apple/Mac owners—the company was unable to make it compatible with your computers.

The book is bargain priced at \$15.00, plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. Single or multiple copies may be ordered from: Dorothy Harlan Sperry, 3230 Kingman Rd., Ames, IA 50014, phone 515-292-8456.

E-mail: dorothysperry@mchsi.com

Checks only, please, made out to "The Harlan Family in America."

Boone, Todd & Harlan at Blue Licks

By C.J. King

What do Daniel Boone, the family of Mary Todd Lincoln, and the Harlan family all have in common?

For one thing, they were all early Kentucky pioneers. Daniel Boone first came to Kentucky in 1769 and eventually built a fort named Boonesborough, about 25 miles southeast of Lexington. In 1774, two adventurous Harlan brothers, Silas (#215) and James (#216), traveled from Virginia to Kentucky by canoe and built a fort they called Harlan's Station, located near present-day Harrodsburg, about 35 miles southwest of Lexington. A year later, Levi Todd, the grandfather of Mary Todd Lincoln, arrived with his brothers John and Robert and settled in the area that would become Lexington.

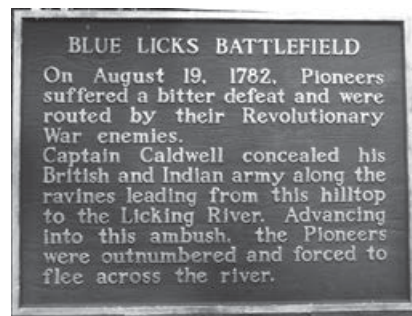
Soon thereafter, the Revolutionary War began. In order to weaken the colonists by taking control of the west, the British armed the natives and encouraged them to attack the settlers' forts. The colonists couldn't spare an army to defend the western region, so it was up to the settlers to resist. While James stayed put, elder brother Silas joined forces with General George Rogers Clark in 1779, helping during the Illinois Campaign that led to the capture of British forts at Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Vincennes.

Despite General Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown in 1781, these western skirmishes continued. Major Silas Harlan was with the troops who pursued the British and Indians after an attack on Bryan's Station, north-east of Lexington, in August 1782. Also among the 182 members of the Kentucky Militia who fought at Bryan's Station were Lt. Col. Daniel Boone, two of Boone's sons (Israel and Samuel), Major Levi Todd, and his brother, Col. John Todd.

After a two-day battle, the British troops retreated, following a buffalo trail. They crossed the Licking River at Blue Licks and hid in the woods overlooking the river. The Kentucky Militia pursued. Led by Col. Todd, Lt. Col. Boone, and Lt. Col. Stephen Trigg, the Kentuckians formed in three

columns and attacked. Within a few minutes, they were defeated, with 15 officers and 49 privates killed. Among the dead were Col. Todd, Col. Trigg, Major Harlan, and Boone's son, Israel. It was a bitter day, with only the distant consolation that eventually, Gen. George Rogers Clark arrived with troops and avenged the loss.

After his service during the Illinois Campaign, Gen. Clark had called Major Harlan "one of the bravest and most accomplished soldiers that ever fought by my side." Harlan was buried with the others who died in a mass grave at the battlefield, now marked by a monument and a historical placard.



Blue Licks Battlefield State Park now stands on the site of these events. Calvin Harlan, of Summer-ville, TN, visited there in 2011, and he took the pictures of the monument. Calvin, a retired auctioneer and real estate broker, has attended every Harlan reunion starting with 1987 and including San Antonio.

For more information, call (859) 289-5507 or visit www.parks.ky.gov. See also Alpheus Harlan's *History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family*, p. 40 and 105-107; *Harlan Record* #5 (1991) p. 3 and #7 (1993) p. 7; "The Saga of George Rogers Clark," *Sons of the American Revolution Magazine*, V. 39, #4; and *Major Silas Harlan: His Life & Times*, James S. Green, self-published, 1964 (limited availability).

Centennial Year...

(continued from page 1)

and carted away. He was about 11 years old. "It was a sad day, but times change," he says. "It wasn't practical anymore."

The Harlan Farm operates today with many fewer hands than in the

past. The farm employs six workers in addition to Steve, Jack, and Ryan. Instead of rounding up the mules each morning, they program the computers. The planting, cultivating and harvesting machines can be driven using GPS navigation. As Jack says, "They practically drive themselves!" The GPS coordinates can be saved so that all of the machines follow the same exact path down the rows and no plants are crushed in the process. Seeds are placed precisely at pre-assigned intervals. No fingers get hurt when the harvester's mechanical fingers pick cotton bits out of the prickly bolls.

The Harlan Farm operates today with many fewer hands than in the past. The farm employs six workers in addition to Steve, Jack, and Ryan. Instead of rounding up the mules each morning, they program the computers. The planting, cultivating and harvesting machines can be set using GPS navigation so they follow the same exact path down the rows. As Jack says, "They practically drive themselves!" The GPS coordinates can be saved so that all of the machines follow the same exact path and no plants are crushed in the process. Seeds are placed precisely at pre-assigned intervals. No fingers get hurt when the harvester picks cotton bits out of the prickly bolls.

The old way of farming cost many, many hours of hard labor, but there was no other choice. "My children, and especially my grandchildren, don't realize how hard people worked," Jack says.

This new way of farming is costly in terms of expensive equipment, seeds and fertilizers. Half a dozen men can now plant 300-500 acres a day, and with the new equipment, the rows will be precision-perfect with no wasted space. But the bills must be paid even when there's no rain. Farming is always done at the whim of the weather, and recent droughts have been devastating. In 2009, it was so dry that the crops just didn't come up. 2005 was equally unproductive. Last year was also bad. Crop insurance helps, but it's based on the ten-year average yield, and with so many bad years in the past decade, it's just barely enough.

Harlans: Sociological Profiles

(Compiled using two stories from
May 1989 and a third story from the
Spring 2004, Harlan Record)

A sociological profile of the Harlan family during its first five generations was compiled some years ago by Harlan Family in America founding member Dan Harlan. He used Alpheus Harlan's *History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family* to put together the following statistics.

At the end of five generations in America, a span of 197 years, there had been just over 1,600 descendants of George and Michael Harlan, the original immigrants. Of these 1,600 Harlans:

- 55% were male; 45% female;
- average # children per family was 6.2 (range of 0 to 17);
- of those whose marital status was known, 89% were married; 11% of those married more than once, but none because of divorce;
- 76% were farmers, 8% were millers, 16% other;
- 95% were Quakers, but 12% of those were disowned by the Society of Friends at some point during their lifetimes. According to Dan, "The first significant movement toward other religious bodies took place during the fourth generation."

Soon after the period covered by Dan Harlan's statistics, the first issue of the *Harlan Record* ever printed (in Dec. 1901) listed occupations of the newsletter's subscribers, including (see complete list, Spring 2004 issue):

- 2,376 farmers
- 187 teachers, 54 professors, 6 music teachers
- 151 railroad employees (conductors, clerks, detectives, and other)
- 146 physicians, 18 druggists
- 143 merchants, 22 dry goods clerks

- 116 mechanics, 16 electricians, 7 plumbers
- 82 traveling salesmen
- 76 attorneys
- 34 ministers
- 23 butchers
- 18 professional actors
- a few each: saloon keepers, horse traders, barbers, phrenologists
- one each: mattress maker, drugless doctor, corn doctor, boot black, historian, manufacturer of perfume.

After the Tricentennial Celebration in August of 1987, a sociological profile of Harlans attending was conducted by Kooros Mahmoudi of Northern Arizona University. In all, 205 heads of households attending the reunion filled out the survey, with the following results:

- The descendants of George and Michael Harlan were primarily in professional, service and clerical occupations, with above average incomes, consistent with these occupations.
- Harlan families had placed a high premium on education, especially higher education, passing this ideal on to succeeding generations.
- Harlans had expanded across the country, so that a majority of states were home to Harlans.
- Similar to national statistics, 75% of Harlans were married.
- Harlan families had slightly larger families than average, but only slightly.
- Despite their Quaker origins, by 1987, Harlan descendants were mostly Methodists, Presbyterians, Protestants, Baptists, and Episcopalians (in that order).

As Mahmoudi concluded, "The profile of a highly educated, professional, geographically diverse, and economically well off Harlan family is the essence of our survey results."

In Memory of ...

Dr. Jerry W. Harlan, 84, of Sedalia, MO, who passed away August 1, 2012. He was a chemical engineer for Standard Oil, Swift & Co., and Adco, Inc. He became chief of the Hides and Leather Laboratory for the US Department of Agriculture and conducted research in several foreign countries.

He and his wife, Marge, developed a horse breeding and show operation on their land. He was a supporter of civil rights and social justice causes.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by one son, three daughters, seven grandchildren and one brother.

Jerry, his brother Ken, and their father, A.J. Harlan, attended Celebration 300 in Delaware in 1987.

Jipsy Janice Nufer died September 29, 2012, at age 99. She met her husband, JK Nufer, at Junior College in El Dorado, KS, and they were married nearly 75 years before his death in 2008. The family resided in Wichita before she and her husband moved to Arizona in 1991.

Jan is survived by three daughters: Sharon Williams, Mary Tullis and Becky Nufer, as well as 12 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

Frances Mason Harlan Wright of Slaton, TX, passed away November 19, 2012, at the age of 100. She started teaching music lessons at age 14 to earn tuition for college and was a well known piano teacher who was devoted to her students. She played the piano and organ for her church for over 60 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James Austin Wright, and her son, James Harlan Ab Wright. She is survived by four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Justice Harlan's Impact on Civil Rights

A Book Review by C.J. King

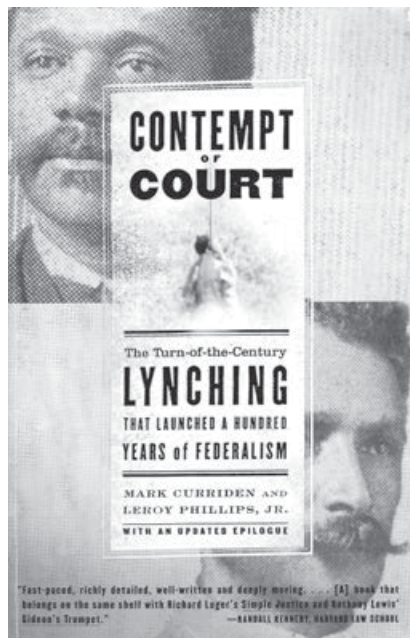
It's easy to imagine in a general way that our cousin John Marshall Harlan had great impact as a Supreme Court Justice from 1877-1911. Born into a slaveholding family in Kentucky in 1833, and a vigorous defender of slavery before the Civil War, he changed his mind during the 1860s and said in 1871 that, "I have lived long enough to feel and declare that . . . the most perfect despotism that ever existed on this earth was the institution of African slavery . . . I rejoice that it is gone . . . Let it be said that I am right rather than consistent."

Thereafter, he became a consistent supporter of civil rights for black Americans. He is most famous for his lone dissent in the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case in 1896, which upheld the "separate but equal" doctrine. In his dissent, he wrote: "[I]n the eye of the law, there is in this country no superior, dominant, ruling class of citizens. There is no caste here. Our Constitution is color-blind, and neither knows nor tolerates classes among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law . . ."

An interesting book by Mark Curriden and Leroy Phillips, Jr., details another less-famous instance whereby Harlan put this principle to work. Titled *Contempt of Court: The Turn-of-the-Century Lynching That Launched a Hundred Years of Federalism*, the book tells the story of Ed Johnson, a poor and unfortunate black man wrongly accused of raping a white woman in early 1906 and later lynched in direct defiance of a Supreme Court stay of execution.

As a result, the very first Supreme Court contempt of court case was initiated, and that case's conclusion clearly upheld the ultimate authority of the Supreme Court over state court decisions

and procedures, a precedent of federal jurisdiction that remains in effect today.



Curriden and Phillips' book is not only a fascinating look at legal history, it is a sad and compelling story about a dark part of America's history. According to statistics collected by the book's authors, lynching mobs claimed the lives of 4,708 people from 1882-1944. More than twice as many of these—3,417 vs. 1,291—were black. Mississippi can claim the notorious distinction of being the state where the most lynchings occurred, but Tennessee, where Johnson was lynched, was right in the middle of the pack, with 250 lynchings during this period.

The story of how Ed Johnson came to be accused and, 17 days later, convicted of the crime is chilling but not unique. Justice was often a stranger for blacks during this pre-Civil-Rights era. Despite a dozen witnesses serving as his alibi, Johnson was convicted and sentenced to execution in Chattanooga, TN, and several state and federal court appeals had been rejected when Noah Parden walked into the Supreme Court offices in March 1906, just 72 hours before Johnson's execution was scheduled to occur.

Parden was not one of the original case's lawyers, but he had

studied every aspect of the case, and he was convinced that Johnson was innocent and that his rights as a citizen had been denied. Still, the Supreme Court had not stayed an execution or reversed a murder conviction in years and had never saved a black man from the gallows. Parden knew his appeal was a long shot, but he was deeply convinced that he must try.

As fate would have it, the only Supreme Court Justice available on that cold and rainy Saturday morning in March was Justice Harlan.

Considered kindhearted toward ordinary citizens but gruff toward others in his profession, Harlan gave no hint of warmth to Parden, but he did listen to Parden's argument that his client had been denied the presumption of innocence and that the case involved violations of the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 14th Amendments (probable cause, due process, fair trial by an impartial jury, and equal protection, respectively). For the first time in history, Parden was asking the Supreme Court to intervene in the processes used by state courts in the conduct of their criminal cases. Until this time, there was no clear precedent that established that federal court actions superseded those of state courts.

How the case proceeded from there is the subject of this interesting book of social and legal history that shows yet again Justice Harlan's impact on how justice is provided for America's citizens. The book includes many citations for those who wish to pursue the subject further after reading this account. While the story has a sad ending, Justice Harlan's actions are a shining inspiration. As Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall states in the book's Preface, "At a time when racism and white supremacy ruled the day, the Shipp case demonstrated a real moment of courage by the Court, especially for Justice Harlan."

(*Contempt of Court* was published by Random House/Anchor Books, 2001).

THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

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Mulkey Meeting House

Between Tompkinsville (in southern Kentucky) and the Tennessee border is Old Mulkey Meeting House State Park. This meeting house has Harlan connections.

Preacher John Mulkey was the leader of the Baptist congregation there when the church building, a rough log structure, was built in 1804. His wife was Elizabeth (Betsey) Hayes (see *Alpheus*, p. 260), daughter of Elizabeth Harlan (#124) and Jonathan Hayes. Another relative, James Harlin, was on the building committee. Other Harlans among the congregation were Valentine Harlan and Mary Harlan Breed.

Five years later, the congregation split when Mulkey called his congregation to choose sides over theological interpretation. The majority went with him, leading to the formation of the Disciples of Christ sect. The rest remained Baptists and built another church a few miles away. During Mulkey's tenure, other fissures in the congregation occurred as well.

For more information about Mulkey and the Mulkey-Harlan descendants, visit:

www.therestorationmovement.com/mulkeymtnghse.htm

or read "Old Mulkey Church Was One of State's Earliest Pioneer Churches," *The Kentucky Explorer*, February 1993.

Editorial Team Still Needed

The *Harlan Record* needs both an editor and a layout designer. The current team would like to retire and turn the tasks over to others who are dedicated to The Harlan Family in America.

The editor collects and edits stories that are submitted and writes some of the articles. The layout person makes the copy printer-ready.

Please consider either of these assignments and then contact C.J. King at joking@sover.net or Ruth Harlan Lamb at harlamb@aol.com if you will help.

The newsletter is an avenue that holds the Family together. It is important to keep this link active.

Access to Alpheus' Book

The book, *History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family*, compiled by Alpheus Harlan, is no longer in print, and there are no plans to republish it unless there is a sizable demand.

If you wish to place your name on a waiting list for a possible printed copy, write to Peggy Harlan Talley, 104 Fern St., Poteau, OK 74953 or e-mail her at: talleyho65@hotmail.com.

Alpheus' book is now online:

www.archive.org/stream/historygenealogy00harl/

Click on "See other formats" and "Read online."

THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

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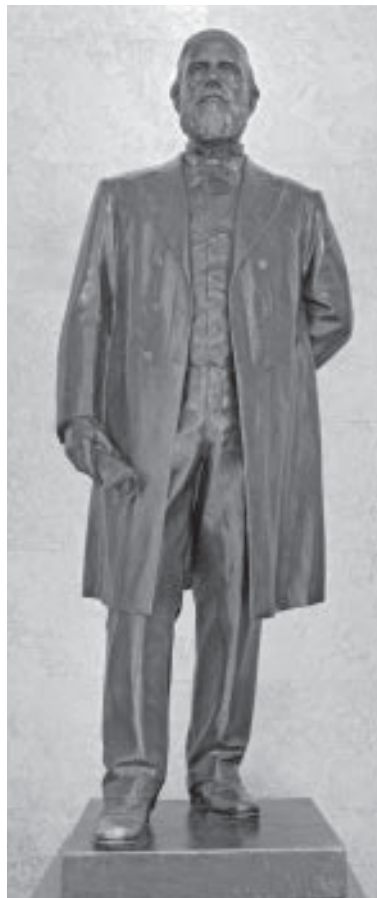
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UPDATE ON SEN. JAMES HARLAN STATUE

It came as a shock and dismay to many Iowans, and especially members of the Harlan Family in America, to learn two years ago that the larger-than-life statue of our beloved cousin, Sen. James Harlan of Mt. Pleasant, was to be removed from Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building and replaced by one of Norman Borlaug who died in 2009. (Borlaug became known as “the father of the green revolution” and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his contribution to world peace through increasing food supply.)

Senator Harlan's statue had stood in our nation's capitol building since 1907, one of two statues from each state of the Union, but the Iowa legislature voted to oust Harlan in favor of Borlaug, and “provide a suitable location for the statue within the Iowa statehouse.”

However, there is a move on to relocate Harlan's statue to Mt. Pleasant, a suggestion that most Harlans would surely approve of, whether it would be located on the lawn of the Harlan-Lincoln House, or across the street on the campus of Iowa Wesleyan College where



Harlan served twice as president. (It was due to his tenacity and fund-raising efforts that Old Main, the brick centerpiece of the campus, was built, and still, more than 150 years later serves the college as classrooms for the music department, and it houses the International P. E. O. Sisterhood Memory Rooms.)

As more details are learned about the relocation of the bronze statue, sculpted by Nellie V. Walker, readers of *The Harlan Record* will be apprised and may have the opportunity to contribute to the project if Mt. Pleasant is given the honor of bringing the senator home.