

The Harlan Record

NO. 48

www.harlanfamily.org

Spring 2016

HARLAN HOUSE ON THE MOVE—FINALLY!

The 164 year-old Harlan House in San Ramon, California, may finally be on its journey to safety – if it lasts that long!

The house has been the subject of complex political battles over the last 25 years in this vibrant community east of San Francisco. The long-time owners of the house have sought to develop the land on which it sits, while the City of San Ramon has resisted efforts to take control of the structure and move it to city property.

The house is the oldest surviving structure in the city, according to local historian Bev Lane, and has had a peripatetic existence. First built in 1852 by Joel Harlan (2992) who came with one of the first wagon trains into the state before the Gold Rush, the house, called *El Nido* or *the Nest*, was located in the foothills west of what became San Ramon. Then several years later Joel's brother-in-law, Henry Clay Smith, used the house as a landmark to distinguish Contra Costa County from the newly created Alameda County. Harlan found himself receiving two different tax bills, so he decided in 1858 to dismantle the structure and move it several miles north to its present location on San Ramon Valley Boulevard. There it was the center of a thriving ranch for over a century.

In 1932, the ranch and house passed to the Geldermann family, Joel's granddaughter, Carmen Stolp, having married Alfred Geldermann. Their son, Harlan Geldermann (1923--1979) became a prominent developer in the area. As the community grew, the property of the original ranch was sold off until only the old house stood. While of historic interest, the structure had been modified over the

years. The city had already taken two other historic homes and outbuildings and created a park, Forest Home Farms. The old Harlan House, increasingly dilapidated, was too much of an additional financial burden for the city to undertake.

The Geldermann Trust, which controlled the house, was anxious to build on the original site and tried to get the city to take the structure. After futile attempts to relocate the house on public property, the Trust filed for a permit to demolish it in March, 2015. At this point, local landowner Dr. Timothy Starkweather stepped forward and proposed to take the house and move it about a mile away onto a lot which he owns adjacent to Forest Home Farms. Starkweather has been involved in other restoration projects in the area. He plans to restore the exterior of the house and upgrade the interior for his daughter's home. The old place will be available for occasional tours.



El Nido in the 1800's

The move will require zoning changes and elaborate engineering challenges. Although Starkweather purchased the house from the Trust, he is not allowed to enter the property. The Trust meanwhile is impatient to get rid of this impediment to their new building plans. To "encourage" the city to act, the people in charge of the Trust have opened all the second story windows in the middle of the El Nido

storm season. According to San Ramon Mayor Bill Clarkson, the Trust justifies this dubious move to "prevent neighborhood youngsters from getting trapped inside." Meanwhile the old plaster walls and floors are taking a beating.

Starkweather is hoping to have the house moved by March of this year. So it is a race to see if the historic Harlan House will rest in peace.....or in pieces.

(submitted by William Harlan, Walnut Creek, CA)



El Nido present day

President's Message

"There are so many stories buried on family trees."
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

I have just begun watching "Finding Your Roots", the PBS series hosted by professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. How fascinating it is to discover about a person's ancestors. It is amazing to me that over 100 years ago, Alpheus Harlan was able to trace the lines of so many Harlan family members and publish "The History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family."

After watching several episodes of "Finding Your Roots" I started thinking about how fortunate we are to have the list of names, dates, places, etc. which are in the "Green Book." But lists do not tell the stories. I encourage more of you to publish stories of your family members' lives in our newsletter. Have any of you found out more about who the Harlans were in England and what their lives were like? We would enjoy hearing about that. We would also like to know what any of you found out by having your DNA tested. Now let's begin to share the stories about the lives of those who came before us, as well as those Harlans alive today. After all, the Harlan family is still making history. *From Pat F.*

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account Balance (8/31/15)	\$6252.65
Income	
Contributions	\$1195.00
Cookbook Sales	\$20.00
Total Income	\$1215.00
Disbursements	
Newsletter printing/mailling	\$1,556.00
IRS tax exempt application	\$400.00
P.O. Box Rental	\$38.00
Total Disbursements	\$1,994.00
Checking Account Balance (2/29/16)	\$5473.65
Certificate of Deposit	\$10,135.83
Net Worth (2/29/16)	\$15,609.48

THE HARLAN RECORD

is published semiannually by
The Harlan Family in America
P.O. Box 284
Lionville, PA 19353

It is a permanent organization established to document the historical contributions made by Harlans in America. Submissions of articles are welcome. They are subject to editing and may be held for future use. Send email to: Dorothy Harlan Sperry at dorothysperry@mchsi.com or mail to 3230 Kingman Rd., Ames, IA 50014

To add or change your address for *The Harlan Record*, or to request an electronic copy via email, send the new information to The Harlan Family in America

P.O. Box 284, Lionville, PA 19353 or email: k.harlan@comcast.net. Current and previous issues of *The Harlan Record* are also available online at www.harlanfamily.org

Contributions to the Harlan Association or to the Remembrance Fund (be sure to note "In Memory of _____" or "In Honor of _____," should also be sent to the address above.

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*Donations received since August 31, 2015.
Your financial support is greatly appreciated.*

AZ	John Q. Elfers
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THANK YOU

The association would like to express our gratitude to all who have donated to the Harlan Family in America over the years. We could not exist without your generous support.

In September 2015, the IRS recognized the association for exemption from federal income tax under IRC section 501(c)3. All donors can now deduct contributions made to the Harlan Family in America Association under IRC Section 170.

Our semiannual newsletter lists our treasurer's report, but we would like to provide you more information on how your donations are used. Our largest expense each year is publication of *The Harlan Record*. The cost of printing and mailing it runs around \$1,500 per issue. We mail over 1700 newsletters, plus send electronically to about 300. We are always looking for more recipients, and to increase the number who would like to receive the newsletter electronically by email, in order to save on printing and postage.

One of our goals is to preserve our common family heritage. Each year we give support to the Harlan-Lincoln House in Mt. Pleasant, IA. In the past we have also donated to St. Peter's Church in Monkwearmouth, England where George (#3) was baptized in 1650; to All Hallows Church in Sutton Park, England where many Harlands worshiped and are buried; Old Kennett and Centre Meeting Houses

in Pennsylvania where George and Michael (#4) worshiped and are buried; plus other programs and places over the years. The association is a member of the Chester County Historical Society where many of our Harlan records are stored. Other expenses include a post office box and petty cash account to cover additional mailings and expenses.

The last item in the treasurer's report is the annual meeting of the Board. Members of the board pay for their own travel and lodging expenses to these meetings. The association covers only the cost of lunch on the day of the meeting. A large portion of our funds are used for the national reunions held every five years, to help defray expenses for the attendees.

We hope this provides everyone with more information on how your donations are used. Again, our heartfelt gratitude to all for the support you give to the Harlan Family in America Association. If you have any questions, please contact our treasurer, Bob Harlan (PA) at harlanrc@msn.com, or see mailing address on page 3. See you in Philadelphia.

Bob Harlan. Treas.

GOLD MEDALIST BRUCE HARLAN

With the 2016 Summer Olympics approaching, the Harlan Family may take pride in honoring the memory of one of its own, who brought home both gold and silver medals 68 years ago.

“With the grace of God, my dreams came true.” This was the wording in a telegram delivered to the parents of Bruce Harlan during the Summer Olympics of 1948, held in London, England. Bruce had just won the first Gold medal in the 3 meter springboard dive and a Silver Medal in the 10 meter platform dive. He then traveled throughout Europe, winning 13 European Championships, and between 1947 and 1950, he had won 19 U.S.A. national championships, 5 Big Ten, and 5 NCAA championships.



Throughout his childhood in Marple Newton and Springfield, PA, Bruce,

the son of William R.B. Harlan and Grace Noonan

Harlan, had been very athletic and adventuresome, most noted for standing on his head at every opportunity on tall structures such as barns and bridges. At Lansdowne (PA) High School he was a wrestler and pole-vaulter, but it wasn't until he was in the Navy that he received coaching in diving.

After his military service he enrolled at Ohio State where he was a member of the diving team, which achieved top honors in AAU and Intercollegiate competition. He had had only 3 years of training when he qualified to compete in the Olympics.

When he returned home, there was great celebration, and Bruce was honored with parades and speeches. But he soon headed for Columbus, OH, where he was due to be married to Frances Dillon.

After graduate work at Stanford and coaching in a high school in Redwood City, CA, Bruce coached at the University of Michigan (1954-1959), and during the summers, he and a fraternity brother, Hobie Billingsley, gave diving exhibitions all over the country and in Canada. Bruce was a born showman, according to his sister, the late Virginia Harlan Williams, and enjoyed clowning antics as much as serious diving.

In 1959, at the age of 33, Bruce and Hobie performed in Fairfield, CN, and while dismantling the 30' diving tower with a trampoline mounted on top, a piece of the platform broke, and Bruce fell to the concrete deck, hitting his head on the edge of the swimming pool. The injury was fatal.

At the time of his death, it was said that Bruce was the finest diver in the world, and was diving the best of his career. In 1973, he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Bruce had the distinction of being a descendant of both Harlan brothers who landed in New Castle, DE in 1687. Michael Harlan on the paternal side of his family, Bruce being a grandson of Ira Crane Harlan (8813); and George Harlan on the maternal side of his family. He was the 6th great grandson of Elizabeth Harlan (277) in The History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family.
(Submitted by Virginia Harlan Hess, Independence, MO)

***The generous and bold have the best lives.
Norwegian proverb***

Who WAS Robert James Harlan?

Part II

In the Fall 2015 issue of the Harlan Record, Robert James Harlan (1816-1897) was identified as a man who, although born a slave, became well known through his many achievements, namely, his 1870 inspiring speech in support of the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment (giving African-Americans the right to vote), his election as a state representative from Ohio in 1886 and two appointments to the U.S. Treasury Department by two presidents.

Robert lived as a black man, yet was raised with strong connections to a prominent white family, that of James Harlan (1800-1863). Although no definitive evidence exists, there is anecdotal and physical evidence that suggests Robert was the son of James.

Prior to the year 2000, DNA testing was done in order to confirm if James Harlan was Robert's biological father, as long suspected. Those results were inconclusive. Although we may never know for certain if James was Robert's father, it is interesting to explore other indicators that offer insight into that strong possibility.

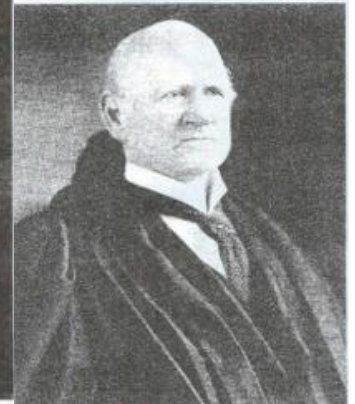
It was mentioned in the aforementioned article that Robert was permitted to take the Harlan name. It was rare for a slave to carry his/her owner's family name while in bondage. It has been said, "Such permission came very close to an informal acknowledgement of familial connection." It is significant that in the drawing of the Harlan Family Tree in two published books, Robert is placed as a child of James.

Robert's birthplace is uncertain and his birth record does not exist. Most sources give his place of birth as Harlan's Station, Kentucky, near Danville, Kentucky. Two sources report he was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia and brought to Harlan's Station although there is no supporting evidence of this. James would have been 15 when Robert was conceived. James had two older brothers who could have fathered Robert, but neither took him into their household when they married. Robert's middle name, James, may also indicate a connection to James as the father.

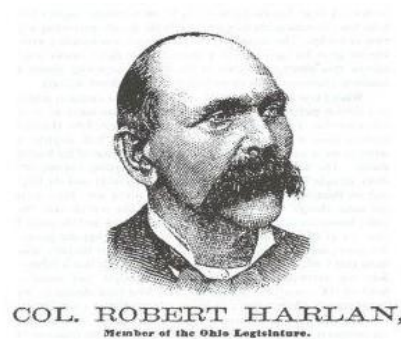
There is a strong physical and facial resemblance between James, Robert, and James' known son, John Marshall Harlan (1833-1911). Especially revealing are pictures of John Marshall and Robert at approximately the same age.



James Harlan



John Marshall Harlan



Both have a large forehead, receding hairlines, short straight hair, large ears, and a strong jaw. Their noses are quite similar, as are their heavy brows and squinting eyes. In

reading a description of James' portrait from a Kentucky historical article, he is described as "...a man with high forehead, and thinning red hair with the familiar Harlan nose and strong jaw line. His eyes appear to be grey or hazel." All three men had gray or blue eyes and were large of stature. James was over 6 feet tall, Robert was 6 feet and weighed over 200 pounds, and John Marshall was 6 feet and 2 inches in height.

One valuable resource into the life of Robert James Harlan is Malvina Shanklin Harlan's book, Some Memories of a Long Life, 1854 to 1911. Malvina was the wife of John Marshall Harlan. The book relates to their life together, from first meeting until John Marshall's death. In her book, she does not mention Robert by name but she does discuss two episodes that are likely references to him. In the first episode, she explains that "one of the freed men" of her father-in-law had gone to California in 1849

(which we know to be true of Robert and described in the previous article). The second episode tells the story of Robert's gift of a piano to James' daughter Elizabeth.

Robert Harlan, Jr. (1853-193?), son of Robert James, was employed at the U.S. Treasury Department. In 1917, while an employee, he wrote to William Howard Taft regarding a salary issue. At the end of the letter, Robert Jr. says, "because of a moral lapse made by my grandfather...why should I pay a vicarious atonement?" This statement suggests he knew a substantial amount about his grandfather (and I, the writer, assume he was referring to his paternal grandfather, James). Robert's statement indicates that Taft would have understood the inference about his grandfather. Indeed the Harlan-Taft connection is extensive. William H. Taft and Robert James Harlan had a political relationship in Cincinnati, Ohio. John Marshall Harlan and Taft became friends after 1897, after both had summered at the same retreat in Quebec.

If James was Robert James' father, and I am of that opinion, it was likely not discussed outside the family because there is a lack of evidence of this. There are other notable blacks who knew the identities of their white biological fathers and chose not to reveal their names. Due to the political ambitions and successes of all three of these Harlan men, public knowledge of James' possible moral indiscretion would have been, in the least, politically damaging.

It is possible Robert Harlan (born "below the color line") aided in shaping John Marshall Harlan's (potentially his half-brother born "above the color line") views about race, as so eloquently expressed in his singular dissention of "Plessy v. Ferguson" (1896). John Marshall stated, "The destinies of the two races in this country are indissolubly linked together, and the interests of both require that the common government of all shall not permit the seeds of race hate to be planted under the sanction of law." This dissention may be considered John Marshall Harlan's greatest achievement. It may also be said that Robert James Harlan's greatest personal achievement was his impact on the values and views of John Marshall Harlan.

We may never know with certainty the true biological connection between James, Robert James, and John Marshall Harlan. However, these articles do reveal a preponderance of evidence that Robert was quite likely a blood relative of James and John Marshall Harlan. (Written by Board Member Becky Hines, FL)

CELEBRATING A HERO FOR GIVING LIFE TO OTHERS

Wayne Harlan of Liberty, IN celebrated on May 5th, 2015 his **400th donation of a pint of blood** at the Richmond, IN Community Blood Center. Though the cake and balloons were ready on April 21st, he was deferred that day because of a low iron level, but he returned again two weeks later to make it official.



Wayne, who was 91 last October, admits he can't do some of the things he used to do, like chasing down a wayward hog on his wedding day, but he kept a slow but steady pace and didn't let disappointments keep him from reaching his milestone. He says he is fortunate to have been healthy most of his life. He first donated blood when he was a sophomore in high school, when he was asked by his high school coach if he would donate for the coach's aunt, who also happened to be a neighbor of Wayne's. Wayne states, "One reason I did it, I'm sure, was to get out of school for half a day." Wayne has been a farmer and truck driver all his life, and doesn't figure he'll retire until "everything's done." He is an 85-year member of Greenwood United Methodist Church, and a 70-year member of Liberty Masonic Lodge #58, having achieved the 33rd degree in 1996, and receiving the MSA Award in 1991. Looking back on his life with Betty, his wife of sixty-seven years, he says, "I wouldn't be much without her."

MARY HARLAN LINCOLN RETURNS TO IOWA

Last spring, Mary Harlan Lincoln came back to life and made a return visit to her home state of Iowa when C.J. King presented “in persona” for the Des Moines chapter of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

Mary Harlan Lincoln, daughter-in-law of President Lincoln and his wife, Mary, is descended from George of the original Harlan immigrants. Her line is: George 3, Aaron 8, George 37, George 180, Silas 677, James 2297, Mary Harlan Lincoln 5864. She shares much of that line with C.J., who diverges with Aaron 671, the brother of Silas 677.



C.J. King as Mary Harlan Lincoln, with Heath Lee, the Des Moines Colonial Dames Co-President. (Photo from the Des Moines Colonial Dames Facebook page)

It was during the course of her own family history research that C.J. discovered her link with the Lincolns.

During her lifetime, Mary Harlan Lincoln’s relationship with her famous mother-in-law was fairly strained, mainly due to the progression of the elder Mary’s mental health issues. In C.J.’s presentation, Mary Harlan reflected on that troubled relationship and provided a more compassionate perspective, gained, she said, over the course of the 130 years that have passed since the First Lady’s death in 1882.

The trip to Iowa also included another presentation in Mt. Pleasant, Mary Harlan’s hometown for many years before, during, and after her father’s tenure in the U.S. Senate. The Lincoln grandchildren spent summers there at their grandparents’ home. The national reunion of the Harlan Family in America was also held there in 1997.

While at Iowa Wesleyan University, C.J. visited the statue of Senator James Harlan, father of Mary Harlan, and former president of the college.



In Mt.

Pleasant, C.J. presented in her own persona to a gathering of local citizens, answering questions about the Harlan-Lincoln family dynamics and the individual women who are the subjects of C.J.’s book, *Four Marys and a Jessie: The Story of the Lincoln Women*. Those women are First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln; Mary Harlan Lincoln; the two Harlan-Lincoln granddaughters, Mary (Mamie) and Jessie; and Jessie’s daughter, Mary Lincoln (Peggy) Beckwith. C.J. chose to write about these five women because she found them to be interesting individuals, because their lives illuminated what it was like to be a Lincoln descendant, and because they helped to illustrate themes in women’s history.

While in Mt. Pleasant, C.J. attended a luncheon at Iowa Wesleyan University, hosted by the school’s president, Dr. Steven Titus, and his wife, Sara. She also spent time looking through the Harlan-Lincoln house archives with board members of the Friends of the Harlan-Lincoln House. The home has been maintained as a museum for many years.

C.J.’s Iowa trip also became a mini-reunion, as Harlan cousins Gerry Lundgren and Dorothy Sperry attended the Des Moines presentation, and after a short stay at Gerry’s farm in Stanton, Iowa, C.J. and Gerry drove to Independence, MO to visit with Ruth Harlan Lamb and to tour the Truman historical sites.

The second edition of *Four Marys and a Jessie* has just been published by Hildene, the Lincoln Family Home in Manchester, VT. It contains additional material about the First Lady’s “insanity period” and about Mary Harlan’s relationship with the Christian Science Church. The book is available from www.hildene.org. Upon request, books can be signed and dedicated.

REUNION 2017

The 2017 Harlan Reunion is getting closer and I hope you are all planning to come to Philadelphia. Start making your plans now and consider extending your stay to be able to include seeing many of the sites in the area. In the last two newsletters, I wrote about the sites and museums along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway near our hotel and then, in the last issue, about the historic area of Philadelphia. In this issue, I want to mention some of the other great sites to visit in the city. All of these would appeal to children as well as adults.

The U.S. Mint is located at 151 North Independence Mall East. The Mint was established by Congress in 1792 and opened in Philadelphia the following year. As the nation grew, the mint expanded accordingly and moved three times, with the current facility having opened in 1969. The Mint employs a team of sculptor-engravers who create designs and models for all the nation's coins and medals. Touring the Mint is a fascinating experience for all ages. Tours cover the present state of coin manufacturing and the history of the Mint. The tour is free and self-guided, takes about 45 minutes to complete, and is open Monday through Saturday from 9 to 4:30 – no reservations are needed.

www.usmint.gov

The Betsy Ross House at 239 Arch Street is purported to be the site where the seamstress and flag maker, Betsy Ross, lived when she sewed the first American flag. Betsy Ross outlived three husbands, but unlike many widows who were left without resources, her skills as a seamstress enabled her to support herself and her seven children. The Betsy Ross House interprets a working 18th century upholstery shop. The kids will love meeting Betsy. Open daily 10 to 5. Admission charged.

www.visitphilly.com/history/philadelphia/the-betsy-ross-house

Just north of Arch Street, between 2nd and Front Street, is Elfreth's Alley in the heart of Old City. During the 18th and 19th Centuries, many artisans and craftsmen lived on Elfreth's Alley, often living and working in the same building. Since 1702, the alley has been home to more than 3000 people.

Today 32 houses, built between 1728 and 1836 line the alley. They form one of the last intact early American streetscapes in the nation. While a modern city has sprung up around it, the Alley preserves three centuries of evolution through its old-fashioned flower boxes, shutters and Flemish bond brickwork.

www.elfrethsalley.org

The Independence Seaport Museum is located at 211 S. Columbus Blvd. along the Delaware River. The museum gives the visitor a chance to explore U.S. naval history, maneuver an underwater robotic vehicle, fire a mock cannon, visit two National Historic ships, the cruiser Olympia and the WWII submarine Becuna. Open daily 10 to 5. Admission is charged.

www.phillyseaport.org

At Columbus Blvd. and Walnut Street, the Freedom Ferry will take you across the Delaware River to the Camden, NJ waterfront where you can then visit the Adventure Aquarium and the Battleship New Jersey.

Adventure Aquarium is the 5th largest aquarium in the country with 2 million gallons of water and 8500 animals, including penguins and hippos, and a 40-foot suspended shark tunnel. Open daily 10 to 5. Admission is charged.

www.adventureaquarium.com

The Battleship New Jersey (BB62) was built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard and launched on December 7, 1942. The New Jersey is the U.S. Navy's most decorated battleship, serving during WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Beirut conflict and the Persian Gulf War. After decommissioning in 1991, the New Jersey opened as a Memorial in 2001. Open daily 9:30 to 5. Admission is charged.

www.battleshipnewjersey.org

(By Board Member Mary Murphy)

Genealogy Corner

Looking back to how my interest in genealogy came about must be attributed, in part, to the 1987 reunion in New Castle, PA thanks to my late uncle and Harlan Association treasurer for many years, John Harlan. His powers of persuasion encouraged our whole family (close to 40 members) to attend the reunion. Purchasing a copy of the "History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family" sealed the deal. It

wasn't until I had retired in the late 1990s and I had time to devote to research, that the bug really bit me. Having joined the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution initiated the awareness of the need for documentation to prove one's ancestry. I was very fortunate to have a friend who was very knowledgeable and taught me to go to courthouses to search for legal documents – land records, birth, death and marriage records. Those records aren't fool proof, but are acceptable for most purposes. Local libraries can be a very good source for local family history and larger libraries also many times have census records that are a valuable source of information. Historical societies are also another excellent resource. Many newspapers have volumes of old papers stored on microfilm which can provide obituaries.

I found several errors in the Harlan History just by being able to go to the actual location to get the records. Alpheus Harlan did an amazing job to document so many generations of Harlans; I have been in awe of the tremendous effort that must have been required over 100 years ago with the resources available at the time. Today our options are much greater but going to the actual location where our ancestors lived is usually the most reliable. Cemeteries give you the opportunity to see and photograph the gravestones. Just thinking about all of the places you can find information about our ancestors gives me the urge to want to get out and start digging again. There is so much more I'd like to tell you, but space and not wanting to bore you save me from elaborating more. If I can help in any way, feel free to contact me through email at (cr.rhoades@comcast.net) Please put "Harlan" in the subject line.

It has been very rewarding over the past several years to be able to help Harlans find their ancestors.

Cynthia Rhoades, Director of Genealogy

OUR SPECIAL 90-PLUS CLUB

By Ruth Harlan Lamb

The Ninety-Plus Club was established several years ago by Larry Harlan of Minnesota and is now coordinated by Ruth Harlan Lamb. Members of this exclusive club have their names and short bios on the Harlan Web site.

To recommend membership, send names, addresses, dates of birth and short bios to Ruth at harlamb@aol.com. Updated information helps us maintain our records and is greatly appreciated.

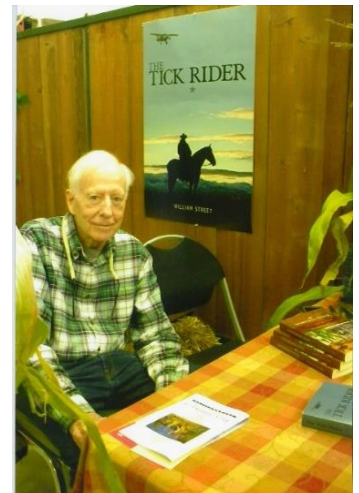
I WAS VERY LUCKY

I am very lucky, born in 1930, to have known my great grandfather, George Van Gorden, who was a baby himself when the Harlan Party arrived in California in 1846. His mother, Rebecca Harlan (2990), was the daughter of the wagon train leader, George Harlan.

My mother, Janice (Kergan) Street a granddaughter of George VanGorden, loved her grandfather and was exceedingly proud of him and our Harlan Family connection.

When I was a child, we often took trips from San Francisco across the Bay bridge to visit 'Monny and Poppy' on their 75 acre ranch near Danville where Poppy, then in his 80's, still bred race horses and had an extensive orchard of fruit and nut trees. The excitement of leaving the city to drive down a small highway near the ranch, where the trees formed a tunnel overhead of interlocking branches, remains a fond memory to this day.

I learned my great grandfather had led a life of real adventure through the stories told by my grandmother to me and my siblings, which made my eyes widen in wonder. From being a horseman of some note, to gold mining in California, going to Alaska during the Klondike rush, managing George Hearst's cattle and horse ranch at San Simeon for many years (before the palace was built by his son William Randolph), traveling to more gold mining operations in Mexico for Mr. Hearst, and lastly, actively raising race horses well into his eighties.



Impressed by these stories, at a young age I decided that a life of adventure was what I wanted and when I learned to read, I chose books about the exploits of heroes of the past, or adventure stories by authors like Jack London's "The Call Of The Wild," or James Craig's "Danger Is My Business."

From my uncle Dr. Edwin Bruck's home on Lake Street in San Francisco, we watched the building of the Golden Gate Bridge. My great grandfather, George Van Gorden, the last surviving member of the California Pioneer Society, was honored to drive the 'golden rivet' commemorating the completion of the bridge. He was 92 at the time.

The Golden Gate always fascinated me. Watching the gulls swooping up and down, the rip tides moving the water in and out between the bay and the Pacific, and the interesting ships heading out toward faraway exotic lands over the horizon, never ceased to move me, my imagination always in overdrive.



In trying to emulate my great grandfather, when I was a teenager, I made it to Alaska, working as a wrangler for hunting parties and then two winters running a dog team, trapping, then on to ranching and raising stock horses, and trips to Mexico for a company I was

invested in, all things that Poppy had done in the 19th century.

Love of literature finally compelled me late in life to write a memoir of my early years up to age 35, and it all started with the hand-me-down stories of the pioneer Harlan family, of whom I am a proud member, moving west by wagon train, and my great grandfather, George VanGorden. It is aptly titled "The Windmill Tilter," which is about what I was in many ways during those years.

Having completed the memoir, I set about writing a novel situated in Mexico along the Rio Grande, but including characters and places in Mexico that I was very familiar with. I started the book at about age 80, and published it in 2015 with iUniverse. It is a big novel with many characters and places in Mexico and Texas. It is titled "The Tick Rider." In closing, I'd like to say that you're never too old to take on a new challenge. I hope this book will induce others to try their hand at something new or different.

(Submitted by William Street, Lakewood, WA)

(Mr. William Street's book is available as an e-book or soft cover on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or Indigo Chapters in Canada.)

Reviews of "The Tick Rider: I volunteered to write a review of this book because the author is a member of the Harlan family, and I'm really glad I did.

In 1906, the U.S. Department of Agriculture started a group of tick riders whose job was to keep stock from coming across the Rio Grande River from Mexico. The Mexican cattle had developed an immunity to the fever tick, but if they were allowed to cross the river into the US, their ticks would infect the Texas cattle, who had no immunity. These riders were cowboys in the truest sense. They were each assigned an area to patrol along the 500-mile Texas border. This is the premise upon which the book is developed. In recent years, drug smuggling has created an additional problem.

I live part of the year in Yuma, AZ and am well aware of drug trafficking into the US. Almost every day, drug runners are caught and the drugs are confiscated. Authorities estimate that they are stopping only about 20% of the flow of drugs into this country.

Blending the tick riders and the drug activity into a plausible plot makes the book very readable. A love interest under extremely difficult circumstances adds to create the tension needed to keep the story flowing. Descriptions of scenes are well done. The author's experiences in ranching, piloting aircraft, and being a business executive all contributed to the credibility of the plot. The ending begs for a sequel if that should happen. Altogether, this was a very good read.

(Submitted by Tom Harlan, Olympia, WA)

I read the book, "The Windmill Tilter" by William Kergan Street, as I had met him at the Reno reunion, and it was very good. I wrote to him how much I had enjoyed the book and looked forward to his next one. If his new book is anything like "The Windmill Tilter" I would think it to be good.

(Submitted by Junior Harlan, Scottsdale, AZ)

One thing life taught me: if you are interested, you never have to look for new interests. They come to you. When you are genuinely interested in one thing, it will always lead to something else.

Eleanor Roosevelt

In Memory Of...

Charles George Harlan was born in Lake Arthur, Louisiana in 1935. He was a jet fighter pilot in the USAF in the '50's, and went on to have a 25-yr. career with the East Baton Rouge Parish Department of Public Works as Chief Construction Engineer. By the late-1970s, his mechanical skills were put to use at Barq's Beverages of Baton Rouge (his wife's family business), where he bottled in the evenings, ran delivery routes, repaired machinery, and eventually served as general manager. He was fond of taking his family cross country on Winnebago adventures, cooking his mother's amazing bread pudding, and in his retirement years, especially enjoyed genealogy. A descendant of George #3, he was able to eventually trace his heritage back to Stephen #887 (last relative found in the Harlan Genealogy book), who sired George Washington Harlan, Charles' great grandfather. When George Washington Harlan was 5 years old, his father, Stephen, joined a group of 10-12 men and headed west, never to be heard of again. It is presumed they were killed by Indians. George was then an orphan, as his mother had died previously, and was raised by a Dyers family. Charles died Nov. 26, 2015, and is survived by his four children Veni, Hansel, Jeff, and Gretel.

Thomas Clay Harlan (1925-2015) of Franklin, TN graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in engineering. He and his wife of 56 years, Margaret Louise Bacon, had 5 children. Tom and his brother, Bill, owned a horse breeding farm, founded in the late 1930's, called Harlinsdale Farm (see Issue 7, Winter'93 of The Harlan Record, pg. 3 for more information). He was a community leader, served on numerous boards, and was involved with the local education system in Franklin for many years. After Harlinsdale was sold to the city in 2004, the 200-acre farm was transformed into a public park and Franklin's first open-air public equestrian center was eventually built on the property. Mr. Harlan understood that heritage and legacy are important. He is survived by his brother Bill, and three children.

HARLAN COOKBOOKS STILL AVAILABLE

But they will likely sell out at the 2017 Reunion, so better get yours while you can! The cookbook includes a CD (PC's only) with all the recipes, a boon for the younger generation who like to turn to the computer, rather than an 'old fashioned book' when they're cooking! All of the 600+ recipes are tried and true, delicious offerings from YOUR extended family. Also included are interesting Harlan history and illustrations. Price is just \$15 + \$5 shipping (sorry, no credit cards). Send your order



and check, made out to "Harlan Family in America" to: Dorothy Sperry, 3230 Kingman Rd., Ames, IA 50014. Or call 515-292-8456 to speak to Dorothy.

JOIN THE HARLAN FAMILY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you searching for a long lost cousin? Perhaps you just want to learn about the history of the Harlan Family. Well, did you know you can contact the Harlan Family in America via social media?

In addition to our website, www.harlanfamily.org, we also have a Facebook account and Twitter account. To become part of our closed Facebook, go to



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/270599586289425/>

or enter 'The Harlan Family in America' in Search Facebook window. To follow us on Twitter, go to

<https://twitter.com/theharlanfamily> or type @theharlanfamily into Twitter search.

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

George Washington Carver, scientist

THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

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Harlan Family in America
Philadelphia: Celebration 330

Reunion July 13-16, 2017

Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel

201 North 17th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

A block of rooms has been reserved for the reunion. Watch for information in the Fall 2016 newsletter about how to reserve one.

While the Harlan Family in America Association works hard to minimize costs, contributions are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

