

# The Harlan Record

NO. 55

[www.harlanfamily.org](http://www.harlanfamily.org)

Fall 2019

## SHE TOOK A WAGON BUT WE TOOK A BUS CUZ AIN'T GOT TIME FOR THAT

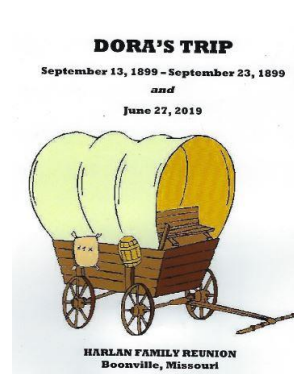
This haiku describes very briefly what took place in late June of this year in Missouri. Here's the rest of the story!

*“On Wednesday morning, September 13, 1899, with sad hearts we bade farewell to a host of friends and our dear old home in the northeast corner of Randolph County, the Eden of Missouri.”*

This was the opening line penned by my great-grandmother, at the age of 20, in a journal she kept during an eleven-day covered wagon trip with her parents, siblings, and the family dog, as they relocated to what she described as “the Land of Promise” in southern Missouri’s Howell County.

The journal has been passed down through generations of Harlans. Its author, Dora Anna Adams (22 Nov 1878 - 20 Nov 1957), would marry William J. Harlan (30 Sept 1877 - 19 Sept 1948) just after the turn of the century, in February of 1900. (The Adams family had returned by then to Randolph County; the details surrounding the decision to move south and then return in a short time are not known to us.)

Dora and William, who raised five sons and a daughter in Salisbury, Missouri, became the grandparents of eighteen children and were adored by all of them. Family was important, and the Harlans hosted frequent get-togethers at their Salisbury home after their children were grown and gone, which meant the eighteen cousins born



William J. and Dora Adams Harlan

between 1929 and 1953

have enjoyed an unusual closeness throughout their lives, despite being geographically scattered. From her death bed in November of 1957, Dora exacted a promise from her children that they would carry on the tradition of annual family reunions.

Her children not only kept their promise but kept actual records of the ensuing reunions! Their son William M. Harlan (1 Oct 1910 - 23 Mar 1995) kept detailed documentation showing the family held reunions annually between 1958 and 1985, nearly all of them in Salisbury. Though locations changed and a few years were skipped after 1985, there have been at least fifty reunions since Dora’s death, the most recent of which occurred this past June.

A few years ago, Dora and William’s oldest grandchild, Virginia Harlan Hess of Independence, Missouri, began sharing her grandmother’s journal entries via e-mail with three generations of Dora’s descendants. This was a fascinating glimpse into the life of a beloved grandmother, and a way for Dora’s great and great-great grandchildren to get to know her and William, and to gain an understanding of how Harlan family values have passed from one generation to the next.

The diary entries, which covered a span of decades, led to much correspondence and conversation, and eventually sparked an idea from Dora's granddaughter, Mary Margaret Harlan Olney of Mill Creek, Washington (daughter of reunion record-keeper Bill Harlan, if you're keeping track.) Margy suggested the cousins plan a reunion in the Midwest and retrace the route taken by Dora and family in 1899 . . . but with more modern transportation than a covered wagon!

Cousin Virginia, who had started the whole thing, jumped on that idea and because she lived in Missouri, volunteered to plan the trip for the summer of 2018. Designating herself and daughter Susanne Hess Moon as "Harlan Head Honchos", a whirlwind of plans was put into motion. Correspondence flew back and forth by telephone, e-mail, snail mail, and texts, in the effort to get a head count and settle on a date. Routes and itineraries were established, secondary activities planned, hotel inquiries made, and money earmarked for a chartered bus to provide the moving venue between Randolph and Howell counties, with stops along the way at landmarks described by Dora.

In September of 2017, Virginia, nearing her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, sent out a loving letter to her family with detailed information about the reunion plans and a colorful map depicting the route of the planned bus trip. She admonished all to make sure that no "doctor's appointment, wedding, birth, death, or anything else" interfere with this event which was to take place the following July, and joked that "I am so excited about it, I decided to stick around another year."

Alas, just three months later, I believe Dora was waiting with open arms as Virginia, her eldest grandchild, joined the family fold already gathered in Heaven. Consequently, the next earthly reunion between the cousins happened at a Celebration of Life service for Virginia, held in January 2018, which was attended by eleven of the fourteen living cousins. The decision was reluctantly made at that time to cancel "Dora's Trip", due to the logistics involved for so many cousins to travel from all corners of the country to Missouri twice in a matter of months, as well as growing health concerns with some of the cousins.

Somewhere there is an old photograph of Dora Adams Harlan, holding the great-

granddaughter who was born three months before Dora departed this life. The baby in the photo is Virginia's daughter (and my sister), Susanne. Susie picked up the reins in early 2019 and began re-orchestrating the plans for Dora's Trip, to honor the memory of both her mother, Virginia, who had put her heart and soul into the original planning, and that of the woman cradling her in the photograph, her great-grandmother, who had ventured out as a 20-year-old woman in a covered wagon, in search of a better life with her family.

And so it was that members of four generations, including seven of Dora's grandchildren from seven different states, 33 in all, gathered in Boonville, Missouri for a few days in late June to celebrate the legacy of our branch of the Harlan family. The main event was a chartered bus trip that first took us north, closer to the original starting point of Clifton Hill, and then circled back and made its way south along the same paths that Dora traveled so long ago and described in detail in her diaries.

Imagine our smiles and tears as we were thinking of Virginia, our recently departed matriarch, when our beautiful bus pulled up, and out



stepped our driver, wearing a ballcap with "Virginia" emblazoned along the bill. He couldn't have known our story, but we knew it was Mom's nod to us that she was with us in spirit.

Between stops, we enjoyed the comfort of our bus as we tried to imagine the scenery along the same route as seen from a covered wagon 120 years ago. Conversation, songs, trivia quizzes and even the movie "The Greatest Showman" kept us occupied. We were well-fed first at Burgers' Smokehouse in California, where owners Morris and Dolores Harlan Burger (Dolores was a member of the planning committee for the 1997 national reunion in Mt. Pleasant, IA) provided us with first-class service and gave us an interesting history of their establishment, and then at Bootlegger's BBQ in West Plains, our destination point. Even with stops,

our round trip took about 14 hours, compared to the one-way trip of eleven days made in 1899. We couldn't help but picture Dora and her family marveling at the progress in transportation (an air-conditioned bus, complete with bathroom and movie screen!) and all the modern conveniences they never dreamed of that we now take for granted.

Our long weekend at a motel in Boonville was filled with the things that make up all Harlan family reunions; stories and reminiscences, games, a family skit, Harlan quizzes, food, fun, laughter, hugs, and maybe a few tears. Ruth Harlan Lamb of Independence brought her meticulously organized photo albums that contained memories of past family gatherings, which was a big hit. Ruth's children Kathy Brick and Mike Lamb provided a large galvanized tub, filled with bottles of soda submerged in ice, for an afternoon picnic in the park. It was just the way we remembered the sodas from those reunions in Salisbury long ago. And of course, there was watermelon!



*William and Dora's grandchildren who made the trip—  
Front-Marjorie Harlan Haught, TX, Ruth Harlan Lamb,  
MO, Connie Harlan Ward, OH, Roberta Harlan McKaig,  
NC. Back-Joe Robertson, AR, Theresa Harlan Eason, IA,  
Bob Harlan, PA*

The other seven surviving **grandchildren** who were unable to make the journey were with us in spirit and contributed in many ways to its success. They are Bill Harlan of Arizona, who has more recently joined the Heavenly Harlans, Sarah Robertson Surratt of Georgia, David Robertson of New York, Mary Margaret Harlan Olney of Washington, who conceived of the trip, Elizabeth Harlan Prasad of

California, Dorothy Harlan Sperry of Iowa, and Mary Ann Harlan Graeve of Alabama.

I think it's safe to say that Dora's children kept the promise made to her in 1957, and her children's children not only kept the torch lit but held it high. I hope my generation and the ones beyond continue to follow in these traditions and will always remember those who walked life's paths before we did, leaving a legacy of love in their footprints.

*(Haiku and article written by Robin Hess)*

## THERE'S A HARLAN RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT!

He doesn't have Harlan for a last name, but there's a Harlan descendant from Texas running for President of the United States. Board member Fred Harlan pointed this out at the recent Harlan Family board meeting with the following genealogy of the candidate.

From the Green Book (the published Harlan genealogy) #1 George, #3 George, #11 James, #44 John, #207 Isaac, #797 Isaac, and #2720 John William Harlan. John married Sarah Minerva Beard. The Green Book states "no further record." John and Sarah were the candidate's great-great-great grandparents. Here is the continuation of the line to the candidate: John and Sarah had a daughter Lucinda Susan Harlan (1840-1888). Lucinda married Godfrey Dressler. They had a daughter O'Nora Belle Dressler. Nora married Newton Marion Jasper. They had a daughter Mildred Rowena Jasper. Mildred married John Francis O'Rourke. They had a son Pat Francis O'Rourke. Pat married Elissa Martha Williams, and they had a son ..... Robert "Beto" O'Rourke.

No matter what party you are, or who you are supporting, you must admit it is quite special to have a HARLAN running for President. I wonder if any other Harlan has ever run for the head of the nation before. **Does anyone know?** Please contact the editor if you do.

## HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

*(Donations received since 3/1/19)*

MA Charles Burlin

MS Ruth Carter

NJ Thomas Buckingham

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TX Harriet Burke

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

(3/1/19) **\$ 8,270.64**

### INCOME

Donations \$ 2,293.84

Cookbook CD \$ 10.00

**TOTAL \$ 2,303.84**

### DISBURSEMENTS

Spring Newsletter \$1432.49

Harlan-Lincoln House \$1000.00

Chester Co. Historical Society \$ 125.00

Board Meeting \$371.62

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$2,929.11**

### CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE

(9/1/19) **\$7,645.37**

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$4,116.07**

**NET WORTH (9/1/19) \$11,761.44**

*(If you'd like to help reduce the cost of the semiannual newsletters, please use the form on pg. 11 to request an electronic copy of the newsletter)*

### REMEMBRANCE FUND

*In memory of...*

**Ruth C. Carter**

by Gracie Jackson (MS)

**James Norman Harlan**

by Dorothy Harlan (MO)

**Jonathan Harlan**

by Gerry Lundgren (IA)

**Sammy P. Harlan**

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**Jesse W. Saxon**

by Mary Lou Jobes (TX)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The board had a busy time in Lexington on the weekend of June 14-16. We all thoroughly enjoyed exploring the city and the horse farms nearby. This was my first visit to Kentucky. The countryside is beautiful, and the city of Lexington is vibrant. I was so impressed with the Visitors Center in Lexington (<https://www.visitlex.com>). The walking map they provided led me on an informative tour of the area surrounding downtown, where the historical markers erected by the Commonwealth of Kentucky gave meaning to buildings and neighborhoods. I learned about people and places that played a significant role in the advancement of equality in our country by following the trail and reading The Downtown African American Heritage Interpretive Signs.

Saturday was taken up with our board meeting. It was one of the largest groups we have had at a board meeting with 18 people in attendance. Board members present were: Pat Fluetsch, Mary Murphy, Bob Harlan (PA), Gerry Lundgren, Nancy Gooding, Peggy Hewitt, Dorothy Sperry, and Bob Harlan (CA).



Family members attending were Bob Hewitt, Annette Harlan, Robin Harlan and Bob Sperry. Giving me the most joy as president were the people attending who came because of interest in helping with the reunion and of becoming more involved with the family. From Lexington, Kentucky were Curtis and Judy Harlin. Mike Harlan and Ed Hill came from Louisville, Ky. Denise and Bob Walters joined us from PA, having been part of the group which toured England and Ireland last year. Chris Hayward Goetz of NC was so enthusiastic about connecting with her newly found “cousins.” It helps

your board to get new perspectives and insight from guests at our meetings. I hope more of you from the area will join us next summer. I am very happy to announce the election of Mike Harlan from Louisville, KY to our board. As a business leader he brings with him organizational and leadership skills which will help us grow as a board. Mike has graciously submitted an article in this issue about Monroe County, KY bicentennial activities, so get your calendars marked, Kentuckians!

Thank you to all who have made donations to the family organization. We rely completely on your donations which can be made by going to <http://www.harlanfamily.org> and clicking on the blue “Donate” word on the lower right side of the home page. On the next screen, click on either of the orange “Donate” buttons, which will lead you to a PayPal donation page. Just start typing in the amount you wish to donate (check the box if you want to make it a monthly donation), then click on “continue”, and on the next screen, under “Add a note”, you can specify if your donation is in memory of or in honor of someone, or for a specific purpose. Enter your credit card information and select “Donate Now”. You may also donate by mail, using the form on page 11.

*(from Pat Fluetsch)*

### ***THE HARLAN RECORD***

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**The Harlan Family in  
America P.O. Box 333  
Pleasant Unity, PA 15676.**

A permanent organization established to document the historical contributions made by Harlans in America. Submissions of articles are welcome and are subject to editing and may be held for future use. Send articles to the Editor--Dorothy Harlan Sperry at [dorothysperry@mchsi.com](mailto: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:

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[gerrylun@myfmtc.com](mailto:gerrylun@myfmtc.com). Current and previous issues of *The Harlan Record* are also available online at [www.harlanfamily.org](http://www.harlanfamily.org)

# HISTORY OF HARLANS IN REMOTE CALIFORNIA

(review by Bill Harlan of Walnut Creek, CA)

Stanley Harlan's new book, *My Mom and Dad on the Coast South of Big Sur* is a rare glimpse into one of the most unusual branches of the Harlan family tree. In the book, Stan chronicles the adventures of George and Esther Harlan who raised three boys on a cattle ranch in one of the most remote parts of the West – Big Sur in California.

A one-time neighbor of the Harlans, the famous writer Henry Miller, described the setting: "It was always a wild, rocky coast, desolate and forbidding to the man of the pavements.... The homesteader never failed to unearth fresh sorrows." Despite Miller's warning, it was homesteading which brought the first Harlan over the Santa Lucia Mountains.

Wilber Harlan was born in Indiana (his father was Aaron #2331) and came West by way of Texas. As a young man he heard about land available for homesteading along the rugged coast in Monterey County, California. In the 1880's he crossed the wilderness, started a cattle ranch and married his neighbor's daughter, Ada Dani. They had 10 children, George was his third son. The Harlans and a few other settler families were proud of the one-room schoolhouse they built. In 1913 Esther Smith came to teach at Redwood School and after a few years she married George. She continued to teach at the school intermittently until it closed in 1942. George and Esther had three sons, Donald, Gene and Stanley, who grew up helping raise cattle and pigs on the family ranch at Lopez Point near Lucia.

It was an isolated life. Much of their time was taken with caring for the animals and clearing brush to create more pasture. Contact with the outside world was 50 miles by trail over the mountains to the nearest railroad at King City. In 1927, when it was time for Esther to give birth to her third child, Stanley, she returned to her parents' home near San Jose. When Stan was only one week old his mother put him in a carrier made of a kerosene can, strapped him to the back of the most trustworthy mule and hauled him back to Lopez Point. When the Harlans wanted to sell their cattle,

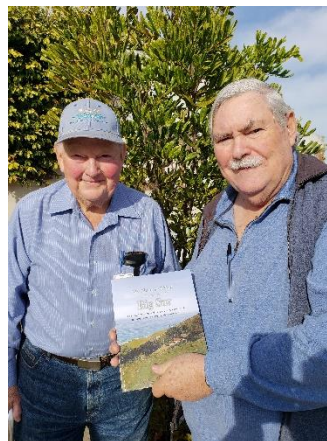
they drove them by hoof to market. Pigs were fattened on wild acorns, and it took a full week to go the 50 miles to the stockyard. They had to travel slowly but still ended up with sore feet.

The splendid serenity of the pastoral life was disrupted by three events from the outside world. The first was the State Route 1 highway built down the coast from Carmel to Cambria, a spectacular achievement, rounding rocky headlands and crossing deep canyons on iconic bridges. The work was done using local contractors and convict labor and was completed in 1937. With the highway came motor vehicles and more direct contact with the larger world.

The second contact came in 1942 with World War II. Concerned by a possible Japanese invasion, the Coast Guard stationed a small outpost at George's ranch throughout the war to keep track of ships and planes. The Harlan boys hung out with the service members and took them hunting and fishing.

The third disruption came more slowly. With the introduction of more modern fire prevention measures which discouraged controlled burning, the pastureland gradually returned to brush and timber. Wildfires became more devastating as a result. In 1985 the Harlans lost a lot of cattle in the Rat Creek Fire, and many of the old buildings were burned.

Over 100 photographs enliven Stanley Harlan's unique account of his time on the wild coast. They document everything from the animals to the artifacts on the ranch at Lopez Point. They help make this fascinating history even more immediate.



Stan Harlan with Bill Harlan

Stan Harlan's book, [My Mom and Dad on the Coast South of Big Sur](#), may be ordered from [Amazon.com](#) .

## DR. RICHARD HARLAN RENAISSANCE MAN

Richard Harlan (1796-1843) (#1199) was a direct descendant of Michael Harlan (1660-1729) (#4). He was born in Philadelphia, the eighth of ten children born to Quakers Joshua Harlan (1757-1839) (#306),



a wealthy merchant, and his wife Sarah. He was a person with wide interests: physician, naturalist, zoologist, herpetologist, physicist and paleontologist and was an expert in each of these--a true Renaissance Man.

He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, interrupted his medical studies to sign on as a ship's "surgeon aboard" for a thirteen-month voyage to Calcutta, then completed his medical training when he returned to Philadelphia in 1818.

He worked at Peale's Philadelphia Museum as a professor of comparative anatomy and was a physician in the Philadelphia Almshouse. While teaching anatomy at Joseph Parish's private medical school, he published *Anatomical Investigations and Inquiry into the Functions of the Brain in Man* and began collecting human skulls. By 1839, he had 275 skulls, the largest collection in America.

During the cholera epidemic of 1832, Harlan and two other Philadelphia physicians went to Montreal to study the disease and to collect information on its treatment; this to find better ways to avert or treat the disease. For his services, the city awarded Harlan a silver pitcher.

Harlan toured Europe two times, in 1833 and in 1839, meeting with naturalists and medical researchers and visiting hospitals and museums.

Perhaps his most well know achievement to the lay person was his discovery of a jawbone in 1835, while hunting fossils at the Big Bone (salt) Lick, Kentucky. He identified it as from a prehistoric ground sloth which would bear his name, *Paramylodon harlani*. These herbivores evolved in South America, migrated north when the Isthmus of Panama joined the Americas three million years ago, and inhabited North American grasslands. It was mid-sized, averaging 10 feet in length and weighing 3,500 pounds, about the size of a large ox,

precluding its hanging about in trees. They likely lived alone and had limited social interactions.

They "waddled" on the backs of their front feet and the outsides of their hind feet and were slow moving and clumsy. They were massive, powerfully built, with enormous chests, strong fore and hind limbs and claws, a short neck, and an elongated head with blunt nose and flat grinding teeth, with massive jaw muscles for serious chewing. They were also thought to have coarse shaggy coats of hair. Because sloths had a hard time regulating their body temperature, they were much less active than



other mammals. The result was a seeming lethargy, and the term "sloth" today means laziness, indolence, and a disinclination to work.

Their diet included grasses and likely trees, shrubs, and roots.

*Christine Goetz with life-size sculpture of a Giant Sloth Breat Tar Pits, Los Angeles*

Based on associated radiocarbon dates, Harlan's ground sloth became extinct roughly 11,500 years ago, due to overkill by Palaeoindian hunters such as Clovis Man and/or climate change after the retreat of the glaciers.

In December 1842, he moved to New Orleans, becoming vice president of the Louisiana Medico-Chirurgical Society. He died suddenly in September 1843, some say of yellow fever, others, apoplexy (stroke). He was survived by his wife, Mary Hart Simmons Howell, a widow he had married in 1833 and by four young children, one of whom, George Cuvier Harlan (1835-1909) (#3728) became a distinguished ophthalmologist.

Other accomplishments of Harlan's--in 1815, at the age of 19 he was elected to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; he helped found the Geological Society of Pennsylvania and worked to establish a state geological survey. As a physician, he was a member of medical and scientific communities in England, France, Russia, Austria,

Sweden, Scotland, and the U.S., and he published 64 works, few that had greater impact, or were more controversial, than his *Fauna Americana*, published in 1825. The first comprehensive systematic zoological survey of North America, it included even a few fossil forms. He was criticized for everything from being wrong to plagiarism.

Though an interesting and colorful man himself, Harlan had an infamous younger brother Josiah (1799-1971) (#1200) who was an adventurer, the first American to visit feudal Afghanistan, and is reputed to be the real-life inspiration for Kipling's, *The Man Who Would Be King* (refer to No. 25, Fall 2004 of the *Record*).

*(submitted by Gene Goetz, husband of Christine Harlan Goetz).*

## 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. Did you know you can contact the Harlan Family in America via social media? In addition to our website,

[www.harlanfamily.org](http://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.



If you have genealogy questions or comments, please contact the **Director of Genealogy, Cynthia Rhoades**, at [cr.rhoades@comcast.net](mailto:cr.rhoades@comcast.net)  
Please put "Harlan" in the subject line when sending emails. Visit the family website  
[www.harlanfamily.org](http://www.harlanfamily.org)

## KENTUCKY HORSE COUNTRY

*(by Nancy Gooding)*

Each year, your board members try to arrive at least a day early before the annual board meeting in order to take in some of the sites to see in the area of the next reunion. This year, for the board members who were interested, I arranged a trip into horse country. Well, let's just say everyone was interested! We had a wonderful day visiting two very different facilities and they were both delightful.

We started off at Taylor Made Farm. Carly Moulden was our guide and she really knew her stuff. We viewed a video to help us understand the history of thoroughbred breeding and how the industry has evolved. Then we loaded into our cars and started the tour. One of the first things we did was visit the Stallion Complex and meet California Chrome. California Chrome is the two-time Horse of the Year champion (2014 and 2016), Kentucky Derby winner (2014), Preakness winner (2014) and Dubai World Cup winner (2016). He is the all-time leading North American horse in earnings (\$14,752,650!). He is a magnificent chestnut, standing 16 hands high with white stockings and a blaze (white mark) down his face. Across the way was another thoroughbred named Graydar who was a beautiful dapple gray and quite friendly.

Next we went to the Mare and Foal barn. We got up close and personal with Let Faith Arise and her foal, who happened to be the oldest in the barn with a January 23rd birthday. All the mamas and babies were sweet and made good photo ops.

Then we were off to the Yearling Complex, where we got to see the up and comers, and had "who's who" lessons on lineage and who to watch for in the future. We ended this tour back at Daddy Joe's Bar and Grill for a delicious lunch. The whole Taylor Made experience was terrific, including 1100 acres with miles of dark fencing, winding creeks and stunning views from any location and in any direction.

Our next stop was Adena Spring Farm, a thoroughbred horse breeding operation. We REALLY were educated on this trip. We got to meet Awesome Again, Mucho Macho Man and Ghostzapper.



A horse cannot be registered as a thoroughbred unless it is conceived by “live cover” (the witnessed natural mating of a mare and a stallion). Artificial insemination and embryo transfer are not allowed. A stallion has a limited number of mares who can be “serviced” by live cover. But apparently a sought-after stallion in his prime can service up to 3 mares a day, have 125 girlfriends, and make \$85,000 for every live foal he produces. Who knew? Bill Drury was our guide and he was very informative and very funny. You can imagine this type of tour and discussion might get uncomfortable. But not with Bill. They have many ways to facilitate a successful pairing and keep the horses comfortable and safe. They have ways to get the mares “in the mood”, ways to protect the stallion if the mare is a “kicker”, and ways to protect the mare if the stallion is a “biter”. We learned stuff we didn’t know we wanted to know but were glad to learn. And more horse names were dropped (this is a very successful breeding operation) than we could ever appreciate!

Overall it was a great outing. These two tours were so different, but both unique and interesting. We have not yet been to Keeneland Racetrack or the Kentucky Horse Park, and frankly, there is so much to do in Lexington that the board is going to have a hard time narrowing down what we want to offer as tours during the next reunion. You should start planning **your** trip to Lexington, KY for the next national Harlan Family in America Reunion in 2022.



## MONROE COUNTY, KY 2020 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

(by Mike Harlan)

Many readers of *The Harlan Record* are aware that George and Michael Harlan were among the early settlers of the Brandywine Creek area, long before the state of Delaware was established. But fewer may know that Harlans were also among the early settlers of Kentucky, and specifically in the area that later became Monroe County, officially

established in 1820, and located in south-central Kentucky, on the Cumberland River in the Pennyroyal region and on the border with Tennessee. Early settlers included:

Sarah Harlan (#192) and sister Mary Harlan (#193) who moved with their families to the Monroe County area in 1796, less than 4 years after Kentucky was made a state on June 1, 1792.

James Harlan (#199) moved to the Monroe County area with his family in about 1800. In 1807, his wife’s sister Rachel, who was the widow of his brother Jacob (#198), also moved there (so two brothers were married to two sisters).

Aaron Harlan (#799) and his brother Jacob (#800) moved to Lincoln County, KY in 1782; later Aaron moved his family to the Monroe County area in 1803, and Jacob followed in 1807, where he married Aaron’s wife’s sister (again, two brothers married to two sisters.)

John Harlan (#208) had also moved to Lincoln County, KY in 1782, and then moved to the Monroe County area around 1818.

To celebrate the Bicentennial of Monroe County in 2020, some special events are planned that Harlans (especially those whose family lines trace back through Monroe County) may want to consider attending:

**May TBD: Pioneering Days** – at Old Mulkey – 18+ interactive activities, demonstrating making soap, butter, candles, working leather, rendering lard, cooking cracklins, etc.

**July 18: Old Mulkey’s Genealogy Fair** – Several Harlans are reportedly buried in the Old Mulkey Burying Grounds, and the local Monroe County Historical and Genealogical Society has many old records and documents. There may also be a SAR dedication in July 2020.

**Oct. 16-18 Battle of Tompkinsville Civil War Reenactment** - To be held at the Harlan House on Cap Harlan Road. Hosted by the 9th KY Infantry Volunteers, Co. 'B' (Union) and 1<sup>st</sup> TN, Co. 'D' "Williamson Grays" (Confederate).

Check for updated information at <https://www.monroecounty2020.com/>

Anyone planning to attend, please contact Mike Harlan at [mikeharlan.40222@gmail.com](mailto:mikeharlan.40222@gmail.com) and we’ll try to coordinate some Harlan/Harland/Harlin mini-gatherings.

## NINETY-PLUS CLUB NEW MEMBERS

**Sadie Harlan** was born June 25, 1926 and grew up in West Virginia. She attended Peabody College in Nashville, TN where she met Louis Harlan, who was doing graduate work at Vanderbilt. They married and had two boys, Louis Knaffl Harlan and Ben Harlan. Sadie edited and proofread several publications for her husband Louis and was supportive throughout his continued studies and career as a professor and author. One of Louis' publications was "A Brief History of the Harlan Family in America," which he presented onstage at the 1987 reunion in Mr. Pleasant, IA and was subsequently included in both of the Harlan Family cookbooks.

**Dr. Curtis Chester Harlin Jr.** (yes, that is Harlin) was born in Plainview, Texas on October 26, 1920. He received his B.S. and M.S. as a Civil Engineer from Texas A&M, and his SCD from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He currently lives in Lexington, KY with his wife Judy.

**Mina Ruth Cummings Carter** was born on February 21, 1926 in Pheba, Mississippi. She is the daughter of Leonard Cummings St, and Mina Emma Jenkins, and is descended from both George and Michael Harlan. She attended the national Harlan Reunions in 1987 and 1997. She has 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 15 great grandchildren.

**Mary Louise Nash Harlan** was born on May 16, 1929. She is proud to be a member of the Harlan family, according to her daughter Linda, and enjoys receiving the Harlan newsletter. She lives in Tucker, Georgia.

**Charles William Burlin, Jr.** "Bill" was born in Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D.C, on December 12, 1921. His mother, Eva Jane was a Harlan of the Wilmington, DE branch. He lived in the Philadelphia area from 1935-40. During WWII he went to the Naval Academy and then into the war. He served on submarines, was a Navy pilot, and subsequently traveled extensively around the world. He lives now in Chatham, Massachusetts, and is writing a book on WWII submarines.

Members of this exclusive club also have their names and short bios on the Harlan website under "Ninety-Plus Club." There are currently 18 members, representing 13 states and Ontario, Canada.

To recommend membership in the Ninety-Plus Club, please send names, addresses, dates of birth and short bios to Peggy Hewitt at [hewittgang@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hewittgang@sbcglobal.net) (please note address correction from the previous newsletter). Address changes for members may also be sent by snail mail to Peggy via **The Harlan Family in America**, P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15767. Updated information helps ensure that the Ninety-Plus Club members receive birthday cards each year from the Harlan Family.

### *In Memory of ...*

**James C Jennings** passed away at age 91 on April 23, 2019. His mother was Alice Lattimore Harlan Jennings, born in Texas. Her father was Carter Jesse Harlan. James' daughter, Hazel Jennings-Catania, is proud to be a member of DAR as a descendant of Aaron Harlan (#194).



**William (Bill) S. Harlan, 84,** passed away on August 7, 2019 at his home in Phoenix, AZ. He was born April 8, 1935 to Joseph Wayne and Elizabeth (Sims) Harlan in Kansas City, MO. His grandfather was William J. Harlan, and great grandfather was Josiah W. Harlan (#6807). Bill graduated from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, served in the U.S. Air Force, and had a long career in banking in Kansas City, MO and Phoenix AZ. Bill loved to play tennis all his life, enjoyed time with family (especially with his only granddaughter, Harlyn), watching sports, tracking the stock market, keeping up with new car models and taking long car drives, especially to see family and friends across the country. Bill was involved in the very early formation of the Harlan Family organization, and was a brother to Virginia Harlan Hess and Ruth Harlan Lamb, who both served on the early boards of the Harlan Family Association. He attended

several of the national Reunions, including driving by himself from Arizona to Delaware for the inaugural one in 1987. In the Celebration 300 Reunion program, he is listed as both a Planner and a Patron. Bill was another of the grandchildren of Dora Adams and William J. Harlan (see pg.1).

## MORE ARTICLES NEEDED

Do you like reading about interesting Harlan families and figures! I'll bet your family has had some interesting figures over the years, too. An explorer? A settler of the West? A soldier or a sailor or a decorated veteran? A survivor of the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, or of the Dust Bowl in the 30's? A successful business owner? A professional well known in his/her field? A great philanthropist? Every family has stories to tell! Please send stories about your family line to me at [dorothysperry@mchsi.com](mailto:dorothysperry@mchsi.com), or direct mail to me at "The Harlan Family in America, P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676", or phone at 515-292-8456. As your editor, I would be glad to develop your story and even write the article, with information provided by you. Just get in touch with me. Remember, history is being made every day, somewhere, by a Harlan descendant! And the rest of us would like to know about it!

*Dorothy Sperry, Editor*

*"(The headmistress) took one look at me and said, in such a way that I have never forgotten it, "Beware of fear." It took me many years to understand the power and importance of that observation. Fear sometimes stops you from doing stupid things. But it can also stop you from doing creative or exciting or experimental things. It can cloud your judgment of others and lead to all kinds of evil. The control and understanding of our personal fears is one of the most important undertakings of our lives."*

*Helen Mirren, actress*

## CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Use this form to be added to our mailing list, update your contact information, request electronic copies of *The Harlan Record* or mail your contribution to The Harlan Family in America.

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*Thank you!*

*"Hard work pays off. I am so annoyed at my father for being right about that." Lena Dunham, actress*

*"Success is never so interesting as struggle—not even to the successful." Willa Cather, writer*

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## GENEALOGY CORNER

Before information was so readily available through modern resources people tended to live within a much smaller area. The local papers didn't have the AP services or other means to gain news. Thus, they reported more news about the people that lived in the town and surrounding locale.

Recently I was given an article about a local Revolutionary War veteran. The article told about the soldier, including the fact that a man by the same name had purchased land in the local area in 1815. A common practice in those days was to be buried on one's own property. So, based on those premises it stands to reason the man (presumably the Revolutionary War soldier) was buried on the land

he had purchased. And yet no stone has been identified as one marking his grave. That was what prompted the article written in 1957 (62 years ago) and was recently found in old clippings.

All of this leads up to the point that old newspapers many times will provide clues about our ancestors. This article did not reference the man's descendants but many times they are mentioned to provide clues to search for other information. Yet the land records along with the soldier's pension records very likely would provide clues about his family.

Thinking about all of this makes me want to go the county courthouse to search through land records, look for a will or other information that might provide some clues. But I kind of got away from my original thought and that is the kind of information that might be found in old local newspapers, especially in more rural locales. These are some avenues to try and some points to ponder. Good luck with your research and maybe I'll see you at the courthouse!

*Cynthia Rhoades #6326-522  
Director of Genealogy*