

NO. 52

www.harlanfamily.org

Spring 2018

HARLANS HAD EARLY INVOLVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

On November 11, 2017, Dr. William Harlan of Walnut Creek, CA gave a presentation to the staff and visitors at the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma, California. Participants learned about the part the Harlan family played in the beginnings of the California Gold Rush, and the connection between Harlans and Peter Wimmer, who was instrumental in the momentous event in January of 1848:

"Wimmer and his family were working for Captain John Sutter, helping to erect a saw mill in the Sierra foothills at the hamlet of Coloma that winter. Wimmer was previously married to Mary Harlan [856] until her death in 1844 in Missouri, but he stayed in touch with her brother, George Harlan [852], of Niles, Michigan. In 1845, George set out for California with his wife, children Rebecca, Mary Ann, Joel, Nancy, Elisha, and Jacob, extended family members and others, and 12 covered wagons. They spent the winter in Missouri and made contact with Wimmer and his new wife, Jennie Bais. George convinced them to join the Harlan Party for the 2,000 mile-journey [recounted in "*The Great Trek*" on the Harlan Family website].

After the emigrants crossed the Sierras, Wimmer and his family stayed at John Sutter's while Peter headed south to serve in Fremont's army, which was trying to wrest control of California during the War with Mexico. After his service Wimmer returned to Sutter's Fort in Sacramento and was hired in 1847 to accompany James Marshall into the foothills and help build a mill. He took his wife and four children with him.

It was while inspecting the excavated channel for the new saw mill that a gold nugget was discovered. There are different accounts of who first found that lima bean-sized pebble which set off the Gold Rush. The official history has James Marshall, the superintendent of the project, finding it. Some accounts claim Wimmer the discoverer. Jacob Wright Harlan declared that it was one of Peter's little boys who picked it up. Everyone agrees on what came next: Peter's wife, Jennie took the rock and put it in a pot of lye she was boiling to make soap. It was she who declared that it really was gold. While Marshall rode to tell Sutter the news, the Wimmer boys collected another two ounces of gold flakes from the channel demonstrating the importance of the discovery.

Sutter realized that news of the discovery would upset control of his growing empire, and he swore all his employees to keep the secret. Predictably, that did not work. In the spring of 1848, Peter wrote to his and George's mutual nephew Jacob Wright Harlan [2984] and Joel Harlan [2992] about the find and urged them to come to Coloma. Joel and Jacob were running a livery stable and dairy in the village of Yerba Buena (soon to become San Francisco). They sold their property and borrowed money to buy supplies to sell in the gold diggings. Once in Coloma they built a cabin for their store and were soon joined by George and Mary Ann Harlan [2991] and her husband Henry Smith. The Harlans panned for gold and sold their supplies to the hungry miners at inflated prices. Two of their most lucrative sales involved local Indians: Mary Ann sold all her dresses to Indian women for gold dust; Jacob created serapes for the Indian men by cutting up swathes of colorful carpeting and putting a slit in the middle.

By the fall of 1848 the number of Harlan family members had grown to include Jacob Wright Harlan's newborn child (the first born in Coloma) and George Harlan's mother-in-law, who was 93 and blind. With the advent of the colder weather and without adequate shelter for the frailer members of the extended family, the Harlans decided to sell their wares and store site and return to the Bay Area. Of course, by abandoning their Coloma venture, they managed to miss out on the real Gold Rush of 1849 when hundreds of thousands of potential customers from all over the world poured into the Sierra foothills.

After their brief moment in the spotlight of history, Peter and Jennie Wimmer moved to Southern California; for the rest of her life Jennie carried the famous nugget in a small sack around her neck. Jacob Wright ran a ferry over the San Joaquin River for some years. Mary Ann went on to operate one of the first hotels in Virginia City, during the Silver Rush. And Joel Harlan returned to the traditional Harlan occupation of ranching in San Ramon, California, where the 1860 census shows two of Peter Wimmer's sons living, quite possibly one of whom found the original Wimmer nugget."

Other Harlan members who attended the event at the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park in Coloma are pictured below.



Gene Harrison, Helen Fluetsch, William Harlan (Bill), Will Harlan (Bill's son), a representative of the State Park, and Pat Fluetsch.

Words to Live by...

"Be a good steward of your gifts. Protect your time. Feed your inner life. Avoid too much noise. Read good books, have good sentences in your ears. Be by yourself as often as you can. Walk. Take the phone off the hook. Work regular hours." Jane Kenyon, poet

HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

President - Pat Fluetsch 1003 Hamlet Ct., Stockton, CA 95209 Vice President - Mary Harlan Murphy 414 Old Lancaster Rd. #304 Haverford, PA 19041 Secretary - Gerry Harlan Lundgren 2517 - 190th, Stanton, IA 51573 Treasurer - Robert A. Harlan 326 Firestone Rd., Greensburg, PA 15601

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TREASURER'S REPORT

		by Dorothy Sperry		
CHECKING ACCOUNT BAL	ANCE	Wilbur Harlan		
(9/1/17)	\$ 9346.02	by Paul S. Harlan (CA)		
()/1/1/)	φ 9940.02	Betty Harlan Harrison		
INCOME		by Pat Fluetsch (CA)		
Donations	\$ 3555.00	Frances Harlan Henson		
Cookbook Sales	\$ 200.00	by Darrell and Kay Williams (CA)		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3755.00	Virginia Harlan Hess		
		by Pat Fluetsch (CA)		
DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,455.53	Richard Harlan (FL)		
Fall Newsletter		Annette Harlan (GA)		
Cookbook Expenses	\$ 25.58	Gerry Lundgren (IA)		
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 4,000.00	Dorothy Sperry (IA)		
TOTAL DISBERSEMENTS	\$ 5,481.11	Mary A. Harlan (ME)		
	¢ ¢,ющ	Ruth Harlan Lamb (MO)		
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE		David Robertson (NY)		
(3/1/18)	\$ 7,691.91	Robert Harlan (PA)		
		Pat McCurdy		
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	\$ 4,016.35	by Patty Millin Baker (FL)		
NET WORTH	\$ 11,636.26			

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

Donations received since 9/1/2017.

- AZ Lillian Green
- MA Donna Harlan
- MO Virginia Harlan Hess Estate
- TX James Cantrell
- Robert Powers
- UT Evelyn Yockey
- VA Kathi Weaver
- WA Tom and Marylee Harlan Kathleen Sizer

REMEMBRANCE FUND

In memory of Benjamin Harlan by Joseph & Caroline Chambers (CA)

Enoch L. Harlan, Jr. by Nancy Harlan (MD)

THE HARLAN RECORD is published semiannually by The Harlan Family in America P.O. Box 333 Pleasant Unity, PA 15676.

James D. Harlan

It is 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 <u>dorothysperry@mchsi.com</u> 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 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676 or email: <u>gerrylun@myfmtc.com</u>. Current and previous issues of *The Harlan Record* are also available online at

www.harlanfamily.org

President's Message

My mind is now on the Harlan Family Tour of England and Northern Ireland. April 26th is the big date for 18 fellow Harlan pilgrims from 7 states to gather in Manchester, England. I think of us as family pilgrims visiting sites which are well known in our history.

Sutton Park, the site of the Harland House pictured in Alpheus Harlan's book (page 3) and "Harlan Favorite Recipes" ("Starters" section). <u>http://</u> <u>en.wikipedia.org/wiki/</u>

All Hallows Church, across the road from Sutton Park contains the remains and memorial plaques of several generations of Harlands from Sutton Hall. The Church is pictured in "Harlan Favorite Recipes" ("First Course" section).

http://www.britainexpress.com/attractions.htm?attra ction=4611

St. Peter's Church, in the town of Monkwearmouth, is where we will attend Sunday Eucharist. This is where George (#3) was baptized in 1660. It is now a World Heritage Site.

Lurgan Friends Meeting House, just outside of Belfast, Northern Ireland, is where George, Elizabeth, and Michael attended meeting. Members will tell us about the history of the Friends in Ireland and our ancestors. http://

www.lurganancestry.com/quakers.htm

In addition to visiting places important in our Harlan Family history, we are also visiting some "must see" places for world travelers. In the book "<u>1,000 Places to See Before You Die</u>", Patricia Schultz lists the following places:

Chester, England where we can walk the 2-mile footpath atop its Roman wall. The largest Roman amphitheater is also located here.

York, England is where we will visit the largest medieval cathedral in Great Britain, the York Minster.

<u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/York_Minster</u>. The wall around this city leads visitors on a 3-mile walk with beautiful views of the city.

Jorvik Viking Center gives visitors a look into what life was like in Jorvik (York) in the 10th century.

There are friends to be made, many more sites to be explored, and knowledge that we will all come back

home feeling a closer bond with family members and family history. I look forward to sharing photos and highlights with all of you in the fall newsletter.

Blackburn Connection

Among the largest branches on the Harlan family tree is that of Rebecca (Harlan) Blackburn. Rebecca's parents, Moses Harlan (1683/4-1749) and Margaret Ray, left Kennett Township (Chester County) in 1737, and settled in Menallen Township in what is now Adams County, PA – about ten miles north of Gettysburg. It is there that Rebecca met and married John Blackburn, son of John Blackburn and Rachel Morton.

Rebecca Harlan and John Blackburn Jr. had a family of 13 children, most of whom married and had families of their own. As of today, more than 63,500 direct descendants of this couple have been identified, spread out across North America. John and Rebecca settled on the property first acquired by her father, Moses Harlan, and took it over after her father's death in 1749. The young couple built a homestead on that property after they were married, and that homestead still stands today, with a few additions.



John and Rebecca Harlan Blackburn Jr.'s home

The Blackburn Family Association (BFA) website at <u>www.blackburn-tree.org</u> provides quite a bit of history on these early Blackburn families. The website, under the tab Research Tools, has a genealogical database that outlines the descendants of John and Rebecca (Harlan) Blackburn, as well as the descendants of the other Blackburn siblings. The descendants of the Harlan family, as detailed in the Alpheus Harlan genealogy, have alsocompletely incorporated into this database, as has early information on many Quaker families that lived and migrated with the Blackburn and Harlan families. The database holds more than 720,000 unique names. The Blackburn Family Association hosts a family reunion every three years, with the next reunion to be held in Denver, CO over the weekend of Aug. 2-5, 2018. Information about the reunion can also be found on the website referenced above.

For more information about the website, reunions or cousins, please contact the BFA at <u>khowley@aol.com</u>. Also, please send information to this email address if you are interested in bringing your line of the tree up to date for inclusion in the database noted above.

Submitted by Ken Howley

THE HARLAN ADOBE

by Steve Harrison

South of Fresno, California is a small farming community now known as Riverdale. When Elisha Harlan (#2995) started acquiring land there in 1869, the area was known as Liberty. He eventually acquired over 1,200 acres which he farmed and ranched for decades. Elisha, and his wife Lucy, had four children. When he retired in 1906, the property was divided among their children. The two sons, Jerome (#7445) and Leroy (#7447) bought the land of the two daughters, Irene (#7446) and Aleda (#7448). Jerome's grandson Brad, still owns and farms his land. Leroy's grandson, Bob Harlan, still lives in an adobe house on a small portion of Leroy's land. This is the story of that unusual adobe house.

Leroy Harlan married Ada Harrison and they had six children, all raised on the farm. The oldest, Donald Harlan, married Mary Campos on February 25, 1941. After a short four-day honeymoon to northern California, the newlyweds moved into a furnished rental house in Fresno. They stayed in that house for only about four months before moving to Riverdale to begin building their own home.

Leroy and Ada Harlan had given Donald and Mary five acres nestled on the Harlan Ranch. In about June or July of 1941, the couple were living in the Riverdale home of Leroy and Ada. They convinced Ada's brother, Fred Harrison, who did construction in Southern California, to come north and oversee construction of the couple's new house, which was to be built of adobe bricks. Mary drew up plans for a two-bedroom house with a living/dining room, kitchen and utility room. There was a long porch along the front and a carport on both sides. Fred Harrison passed his approval on the plans and the house was started in July 1941. Fred oversaw the project and a local man, Mr. Hernandez, was hired to make the adobe brick, using clay from a mudhole on the ranch.

Mary and Donald themselves went out to the sticky adobe ground, poured water on the dirt, and stomped on the dirt to mix it with the water to make the adobe mud. They would then dig up the mud and pour it into the rectangular wooden frames, to make the bricks for the house.



Construction was well under way when this photograph was taken in 1941. Notice that the window and door frames were already in place.

Leroy came out to help them one or two times, but he said it was too cold on his feet so he wouldn't do more. It took about six months to get the house built. Not only did it take a long time to build, but it required a lot of mud. The house has double walls, the interior walls being about 8 inches thick, and the exterior walls that are about 12 inches thick. The house was finished in January 1942.

By 1949, Donald and Mary, with four young children (Bob, Ann, Fred, and Judi), decided it was time to add two bedrooms to the north of their bedroom. In her original plans, Mary had planned for this later addition. A window on the north wall of their bedroom would be filled in. The closet in their bedroom was between their bedroom and the bathroom and would be opened up to become the opening of the hallway; new closets would be built along the wall in their bedroom where the window had been; and two bedrooms and an additional bathroom would be built at the north end of the hallway. Fred returned to oversee the building of the addition and a local man, Shorty Thompson, and his crew built the addition. More adobes were made from the same area on the ranch.

The adobe house still stands today. In 1995, Bob Harlan, the eldest child of Donald and Mary, and his wife Terry bought the property from Mary. Twenty-three years later, they continue to live on the property and have made improvements, but have maintained the original house in its entirety with few changes.

So after nearly 150 years, some of Elisha Harlan's land is still in the Harlan family and two Harlan descendants still live there. It is appropriate that the land is on Harlan Avenue, a small reminder of an early California pioneer.



An unusual aerial photograph of the adobe after the rear addition. The large valley oak, the largest of North

American oaks, still shades Bob and Terry's yards. It was probably already very large in 1941 and the shade of the tree may have been a factor in the location of the house. The mudhole, where the adobe bricks were made, was beneath the airplane that took the photo.

NINETY-PLUS CLUB UPDATE

The Ninety-Plus Club was established several years ago by Larry Harlan of Minnesota and is now coordinated by Ruth Harlan Lamb. No new members have been reported in the past six months. Ruth currently sends hand-done personalized birthday cards to 15 people over the age of 90, three of which are over 100, representing 10 states. If you have a family member you'd like recognized in the Ninety-Plus Club, please send their name, address, date of birth and a short bio to Ruth at harlamb@aol.com. Address changes for members should also be sent to Ruth via **The Harlan Family in America,** P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676. Updated information helps us maintain our records and is greatly appreciated.

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P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676 or email: <u>gerrylun@myfmtc.com</u>. Current and previous issues of *The Harlan Record* are also available online at www.harlanfamily.org

WE NEED HELP!

The Harlan Family in America is needing some web page design and website maintenance help to supplement our current one-person volunteer staff. If you have web design skills and enjoy working with and maintaining websites, you may be who we are looking for. The commitment will only take a little time every month as the site gets a lot of traffic, but it doesn't change very much. If you are able and willing, please send some examples of your work to Fred Harlan at <u>fredharlan@verizon.net</u>.

There are SIX (6) Harlan Family Cookbooks—San Antonio edition--still available. Once they are gone, there will be no more available of either of the 2 editions. Price is \$20 (includes postage). If interested, contact Dorothy Sperry at 515-292-8456 or <u>dorothysperry@mchsi.com</u>, or 3230 Kingman Rd., Ames, IA 50014.

AN INTERESTING MODERN-DAY HARLAN

Will Harlan is editor-in-chief of the Asheville, NC-based *Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine* and is an award-winning journalist. He has written for *National Geographic Adventure* and appeared in *Sports Illustrated, The Wall Street Journal*, and on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

Will is also one of the country's top trail runners. He is the five-time champion of the Mount Mitchell 40-Mile Challenge, a race to the top of the highest peak in the East. He holds the record for the fastest unsupported run of the Appalachian Trail through Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Will was the 2009 champion of the Caballo Blanco Copper Canyon 50-Mile Ultramarathon, made famous by the bestselling book "*Born to Run*".

Will's book, "Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America and the Fight for Cumberland Island", is about Carol Ruckdeschel and her uncompromising lifelong quest to save sea turtles from extinction and to protect the wilderness of Cumberland Island from human progress. It is described as "a moving homage and an adventure story that artfully articulates the ferocities of nature and humanity." The book was selected by Barnes and Noble as one of the 18 Discover Great New Writers books for 2014. It was the only biography selected and one of only five nonfiction works on the list for that year.

Will spent 19 years researching for the book and shadowing Carol. He has lived on Cumberland Island, worked as an island park ranger, and in 2001, he knelt on its sandy, windswept beach and proposed to his wife, Emily Diznoff.



Will Harlan and Dr. Emily Dinzoff with their first son, River, as a baby.

They and their two sons, aged 10 and 3 now, live on a farm in the mountains of North Carolina, which provides produce to Appalachian

families in need, and also assists indigenous Tarahumara farmers in the Copper Canyons of Mexico. The off-grid organic farm is modeled on a Tarahumara homestead. '*Barefoot Farm*'s' water is gravity-fed to the farm from a pristine mountain spring. The house and farm are powered and heated completely by solar energy. Their sons help with berry picking and seed planting. Three dogs protect the goats, guard the beehives and berry brambles, chase away critters, and occasionally snack on the compost pile. Dairy goats provide fresh milk daily, and five hives of honeybees keep fields and forests well pollinated.

The farm has established seed banks, goat herds, scholarships, and clean water projects for the Tarahumara, who scratch a living out of barren, rocky soil, growing ancient varieties of corn and beans. Most live in caves and tiny huts scattered throughout four monstrous, river-carved chasms each deeper than the Grand Canyon.

Each year, Will journeys to the Tarahumara's ancestral lands to help their farmers. He also shares the trails with the legendary, huarache-clad Tarahumara, running traditional ball races and ultra runs. Long before "*Born to Run*" became a national bestseller, Harlan was running with Mexico's indigenous Tarahumara, some of the best distance athletes on the planet. They often run for hundreds of miles through their ancestral canyons, some of the steepest on the continent, and they have consistently bested some of the world's top ultrarunners.

William Stephen Harlan Jr. graduated from Parkway West High School in 1993 from Ballwin, Missouri, a western suburb of St. Louis. He attended Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia and was able to complete both his bachelor's and master's degree in only four years. Harlan has been motivated by the Tarahumara to live life through the spirit of "korima," their philosophy of giving without expectation of getting something in return. "They truly embody that in everything they do," Harlan says. "It's the idea of giving without even expecting a thank you. Conversely, when you give them something they don't say 'thank you,' because it's human nature to them, to give without any expectations."

"You go through life wondering what it is all about but at the end of the day it's all about family." Rod Stewart Page 7 **Review of "Untamed":** "*Untamed"* is not only a page-turner but also a show-stopper. It's engaging protagonist, Carol Ruckdeschel—a combination of Jane Goodall and Annie Oakley—is kaleidoscopic in her paradoxes: brutal and benevolent, savage and sympathetic, cutthroat and compassionate. Harlan has written an environmental classic that belongs on the shelf alongside Carson, Leopold, Muir, and Thoreau. This crafty, adventurous biography reads like a good novel and leaves readers in tears. It's a tale of an American hero told by an American hero, and the collaboration is luminous." Thomas Rain Crowe, author of "Zoro's *Field: My Life in the Appalachian Woods"*.

INFORMATION FORM

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

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_			

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Please check the appropriate blank below: Address addition/change/or correction

Please send newsletter via email:

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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,

we also have a Facebook account and Twitter account. To become part of our closed Facebook, go to:



https://www.facebook.com/groups/27059958628942 5/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.



ARE YOU A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL HARLAN (1833-1911)?

Looking for descendants of Justice John Marshall Harlan who might have personal information which has been passed down through the years in your family, such as anecdotes, stories and 'tall' stories, previously unknown quotes, etc. If anyone has any such information, send to: The Harlan Family in America, P.O. Box 333, Pleasant Unity, PA 15676, Attn: Dorothy Sperry, or email her at <u>dorothysperry@mchsi.com</u>.

From Mark Twain...

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."

"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read."

AN OUTLAW'S PERSPECTIVE

Nearly 50 years ago, I had my first serious encounter with a Harlan. Sure, I had heard the name around my small southwest Iowa town, but I really had no idea of its significance in my future. But this fine young Harlan lady (with whom I had just had my first date), was full of spunk, a bit sassy, and LOVED to laugh! She had SUCH a positive attitude and an adorable smile that I was quickly smitten! Her immediate family was also very friendly, outgoing and intertwined, much like those that lived in the mythical Lake Wobegon that made Garrison Keilor so famous.

As I became more involved with this family and their activities, I quickly and easily recognized that the familiarity and closeness that they shared was also offered freely to their siblings, and extended family, including cousins. The fact that they held frequent family reunions, often at one's home for a day or a weekend, with the adults simply visiting and the kids getting to know each other (by playing games or sharing common interests), really intrigued me. When my brothers and I were growing up, we always disliked family reunions and usually made our parents so crazy and distressed (either getting ready for, or on the way to OUR reunions), that our folks either turned around and went home, or we left very shortly after arriving. 💬

Throughout my marriage to the magical lass I met so long ago, we have laughed, loved and continued to keep attending HER family's reunions, not only with her cousins and their families, but also the national reunion events that started up again in 1987. I have found all the folks that attend these events to be delightful people, sharing the same genuine friendliness, caring and conversational qualities that drew me to the Harlan family in the beginning. Simply stated, they are just wonderful people! I have begun to look forward to their upcoming get togethers as much as my bride does!

At a recent event, I was commiserating with yet another "outlaw" about these phenomena and after considerable discussion (but little debate), we agreed!! We had both MARRIED UP!!!! ③ (Submitted by Bob Sperry)

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

"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 Fluetsch)*

START PLANNING FOR THE NEXT REUNION



In Memory of ... VIRGINIA LEE HARLAN HESS

One of the biggest cheerleaders for Harlans and the Harlan Family in America passed away on December 21, 2017. Virginia Lee Harlan Hess was



born on October 29, 1929, the day the stock market crashed, and was an adventurer, a wanderlust, and a proud member and sponsor of the Harlan Family in America Association. Her memorial service on January 13, 2018 which was attended by 11 of her 14 surviving first

cousins, who came from all over the country to central Missouri, in the dead of winter, epitomized the love and respect her community and her family had for their family matriarch.

Virginia was one of the first reunion organizers, having returned the postcard that her mother had received from Dan Harlan in 1985. traveled with her sister Ruth Harlan Lamb to meet Dan in Santa Fe, NM in June of 1986 to size up both him and the undertaking he was proposing. She then attended an early organizational meeting in St. Louis and became one of the very first board members of the Harlan Family, helping to plan the first modern national reunion which was held in Wilmington, DE in 1987. It was Virginia who proposed the location of the second national reunion to be in Mount Pleasant, IA. Virginia had sponsored a reunion of her own nuclear family there in 1989, and appreciated the Harlan connection of Senator James Harlan, who had lived there and held the position of President of Iowa Wesleyan College, along with several other national prominent positions. That reunion, in 1997, was the secondbest attended national reunion, with 525 Harlan descendants in attendance. Virginia had the distinction of attending all national reunions, except last summer's in Philadelphia, due to declining health.

Virginia loved to travel, and was often in New Mexico, where she was married in 1956, but also traveled to Nova Scotia, northern England, Ireland, and she especially enjoyed taking younger family members on train trips across the USA. She was on the first Harlan Family Tour to England and Ireland, the initial idea of which was birthed at the '87 reunion and came to fruition in the fall of 1994. She also submitted articles to "*The Harlan Record*" from time to time.



Back row—Robin, Bob, Virginia, Susanne Front row—Nancy, Johanna

Virginia lived most of her life in Missouri, especially in Windsor, where she and her veterinarian husband Bob Hess (who died in 1987). raised their four girls. She also managed the veterinary office, worked as the librarian in the schools for 20 years before becoming a real estate agent, and was an active member and leader in her church and various other organizations. The eldest grandchild of William J. and Dora Adams Harlan, and the oldest child of Joseph W. and Elizabeth Sims Harlan (siblings are Ruth Harlan Lamb of Independence, MO and William S. Harlan of Las Cruces, NM), she was always very close to her extended family of cousins, on both maternal and paternal sides, as well as her own grandchildren and great- grandchildren. She will be greatly missed. (Virginia's lineage number was 6807-311, and goes back to George #3)

The annual Board meeting of the Harlan Family will be held in Lexington, KY at the downtown Hyatt Regency, 401 West High Street, on the weekend of June 15-17, 2018. Anyone is welcome to attend, but we especially encourage any people in the area who might be interested in helping with the planning of the 2022 Reunion.

MORE PHILADELPHIA REUNION 2017 SNAPSHOTS



Old Kennett Meeting, Chadds Ford, PA



Sara Jo Reynolds (FL) stepping up onto the horse mounting platform at Kennett Meeting



Kentucky Harlans – Mike Harlan on the right, with children Joseph, Jnifer, and Sadie (from the left)



Kathi Weaver (VA) having fun with a Rocky statue



Members of the largest family representation at the reunion--Treasurer Bob Harlan's (PA) cousins and descendants (not all pictured)



Reunion attendees waiting to enter the Race Street Friends Meeting on Sunday morning.

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THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA P.O. Box 333

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GENEALOGY CORNER

HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE HARLAN FAMILY

Often when individuals contact me about tracing their ancestors they ask where or how they can purchase a copy of the Harlan book. The Harlan Association sold all copies they had previously printed and chose not to order more due to the high cost involved, which

would take a long time to recoup the money. But the book is available through a few resources that may change from time to time. The book is available at no charge online at the website:

http://archive.org/details/historygenealogy00harl. The book can then be read online and the pages can be enlarged to make reading easier. Check it out and see how easy that is.

I also found some options on Amazon.com. I was surprised to learn the book is available for the Kindle at a very low price. I am going to order it for myself very soon. The book is also available in hardback and paperback although they are much more expensive. I also found a couple of other book sellers online: *bookfinder.com* and *AbeBooks.com* that have the Harlan book listed for sale.

The book is a wonderful resource to have for the Harlan genealogy although I must warn you it is not without a few errors. But considering the volume of research Alpheus did over 100 years ago, it is still a tremendous reference.

Cynthia Rhoades #6326-522 Director of Genealogy