



THE HARPER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 29

SPRING 2024



Robert McClure Harper, MD



“ROBERT M. HARPER, son of Ambey and Elizabeth (McCLURE) HARPER, was born in Pendleton County, (now) West Virginia, May 26, 1854. His parents were both natives of that county, his father born in 1819, and his mother in

1826, and they are still residents there. Robert M. HARPER was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Maryland, March 7, 1880, and entered into practice at the mouth of Seneca [Seneca Rocks], Pendleton County, West Virginia. In November, 1881, he cast his fortunes in with the people of Greenbrier County [WV], and he is now a very successful practitioner at Falling Spring, and its vicinity, having his residence and post office address at Falling Spring.”

Source: Hardesty, Henry H., *Hardesty's Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia*. New York: H.H. Hardesty and Company, 1884.

Obituary: Dr. R.M. Harper, a practicing physician of this county, died suddenly at his home at Falling Spring, on Saturday night last, and his remains were buried in the cemetery at Frankford on Monday last.

It appears that the Doctor had been out during the day visiting patients, and had had a hard day's ride. He came home about 8 o'clock and ate a hearty supper, after which he complained of headache and chilliness. He had hot irons put in his bed, then poured some chloroform on a handkerchief and retired to his bed-room alone, his wife being away on a visit. The next morning he was found dead, lying on his left side with the handkerchief clutched in his left hand close to his nose, and his head closely covered with the bed clothes. His lips and part of the face were livid, and froth was issuing from his mouth. The irons had blistered one leg and foot. A Coroner's jury was summoned, and after viewing the body and hearing the testimony of the witnesses and the comments of a physician, they rendered a verdict of 'death by inhalation of chloroform, administered too freely by his own hand to relieve pain and produce sleep.' Deceased came to this county some years ago from Pendleton county, settled at Falling Spring, and three or four years ago, married Miss Blanche Beard, who, with one child, survives him. He was 35 years old, had succeeded well, and his death will be much regretted.

- from *Greenbrier Independent*, 13 Dec 1888



Blanche (Beard) Harper

7

REGISTER

Line Numbered.	DATE OF BIRTH.	NAME OF CHILD IF NAMED.	WHITE.	COLORED.		SEX.			BORN.			PLACE OF BIRTH.	Father's Name in full if Child be free and in wedlock, or Name of Owner if Child born a Slave.
				Free.	Slave.	Male.	Female.	Alive.	Dead.				
36	May 26												Philip Harper

OF BIRTHS.

Line Numbered.	FATHER'S OCCUPATION.	FATHER'S RESIDENCE.	MOTHER'S NAME IN FULL.	How many at a Birth.	DEFORMITY OR ANY CIRCUMSTANCES OF INTEREST.	SOURCES OF INFORMATION.	
						NAME OF PERSON GIVING INFORMATION OF BIRTH.	Relation of Informant to Person born, whether of kindred and its degree, kind of a family, friend, neighbor, or mistress, &c., &c.
36			Elizabeth Harper	1		J. Harper	Father

Robert's birth record in Pendleton County, WV (He hadn't been named when his birth was registered - the space under "Name of Child" is blank.)



Mary Harper, only child of Dr. Robert M. Harper

Philip Harper the Pioneer
/
Jacob Harper & Margaret Simmons
/
Nicholas Harper & Susanna Skidmore
/
Amby Harper & Elizabeth McClure
/
Dr. Robert McClure Harper
1854-1888

Robert & Blanche's marriage record in Greenbrier County, WV

94

REGISTER OF

Line Numbered.	DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE.		FULL NAME OF THE PARTIES.		AGE AND CONDITION BEFORE MARRIAGE.						PLACES OF THEIR BIRTH.			
	DATE.	TOWN OR COUNTY.	HUSBAND.	WIFE.	HUSBAND.		WIFE.		SINGLE or WIDOWED.		HUSBAND.	WIFE.		
					Yrs.	Mos.	Days.	Yrs.	Mos.	Days.			HUSBAND.	WIFE.
172			Robert Harper	Blanche Beard	31			21					Pendleton Co	



Robert McClure Harper
& his wife,
Blanche (Beard) Harper

The medical school which Dr. Harper attended was the College of Physicians and Surgeons (CPS) in Baltimore. It was established in 1872 with 43 students, and graduated its first class in 1873. In 1878, it absorbed the Washington University School of Medicine and moved to a new location, beside Baltimore City Hospital. Three years later, this combined school had 336 students - all male. That same year, the Maryland Woman's Hospital was established in a building next to the City Hospital, and under the control of the College of Physicians and Surgeons. Baltimore's Mercy Hospital was built beside the college in 1891. In 1915, the CPS closed by merging with the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The Carnegie Flexner Report*, published in 1910, notes that the entrance requirement for CPS was "less than a high school education," and only "One teacher devotes his entire time to medical instruction." "The school completely controls the adjoining hospital, of which some 210 beds, including a maternity ward, are available for teaching. The clinical laboratory is open to the students."

*Flexner, Abraham, *Medical Education in the United States and Canada, A Report to The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching*, New York, NY: The Carnegie Foundation, 1910.

Robert's death record in Greenbrier County, WV

85 REGISTER													
Lines Numbered.	NAME IN FULL.	WHITE.	COLORED.		NAME OF THE OWNER OF SLAVE.	SEX.		DATE OF DEATH.	PLACE OF DEATH.	NAME OF DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE.		
			Free.	Slave.		Male.	Female.				Years.	Months.	Days.
77	Harper, Robt M.	1				1	Male	Dec 8 88		Chloroform	34		

OF DEATHS.							85
Lines Numbered.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	WHERE BORN.	OCCUPATION.	CONSORT OF, OR UNMARRIED.	SOURCES OF INFORMATION.		
					Name of Person giving Information of Death.	Designation of Informant, whether Physician, Surgeon, Coroner, Head of the Family, Friend, etc.	
77	A & E Harper	Pendleton Co	Mechanic	E B Harper	E B Harper	Wife	
78	W & C Schenck	Greenbrier Co					

Changes in Our Family Tree



Births:

- Merrick Owen Myer, son of Katherine Marie Harper Myer, (and grandson of Rick & Patty Harper of San Diego, CA) was born on Oct. 8, 2022.
- Matthew & Hannah Bell, son of Tom & Jan Bell, moved to Johnson City, TN just in time for the birth of their second son, Owen Thomas Bell 12/22/23.
- From Jim Muse (Grandson of Nan) - My daughter, Colleen, had a daughter - Aven Fern Keefe was born 10/31/23.

Marriages

- Brian Steele married Madelyn Melchert on 4/29/23 in Richmond, VA. They are stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO for the remainder of the year. Brian is a descendant of Minor (11th Child).
- From Jim Muse (Grandson of Nan) - My son, Joel, married Crystal Austell on 4/22/23.
- From Bob & Lolita Fansler, The Philippines - Our two sons, Zane and Quint are both married and each have a son - Alexander Aboitiz Fansler (born May 19, 2015) and Robert Lucas Fansler (born Nov 6, 2023). Both boys live here in Manila and run our various investments (metal foundry, beach resort, solar farm, office/apt rentals.) They visit us in the summer in WV and we always take time to revisit our old farm on top of Allegheny Mt. (Jacob C. & Susan's homeplace) where they spent their summers. Hopefully, our grandsons will learn their mountain legacy.

Deaths:

- George Harper Hershberger passed away March 7 2024.
- Irene Velma (Kisamore) Nestor, mother of Nancy Boseman, passed on 7/3/22 at the age of 102 yrs.
- Betty Jo (Harman) Radvich's grandson, Ben Heath, died 3/1/24 as a result of a motorcycle accident.



- Jack Edward Judy, 85, was born on 8/17/1937 in Pierce, WV, a son of the late Garman and Helen (Wratchford) Judy, and passed away on July 16, 2023 in Harman, WV. He had been in declining health. He married Kitty Harper on August 8, 1958 at Oakland, Md. Jack worked at Cleveland Crane and Engineering until 1964 when he returned to

Harman to become owner and operator of Jack's Ashland Station. This was his occupation until selling the station in 1977. At that time, he became employed by Kermit Butcher Construction. Jack was a heavy equipment operator and paver until his retirement in 1997. Jack enjoyed playing his mandolin - whether on his front porch, jamming at the Parson's Bluegrass Festival, or playing with friends. His favorite activity was spending time with family at his hunting camp. Surviving is his wife of sixty four years, Kitty (Harper) Judy; children, Anita Judy of Fairmont, WV, Cliff and Amy Judy Reedsville, WV, Rosanna and Ron Lantz, Bowden, WV, Vince and Becky Judy of Elkins, Clint Judy and companion Lisa Carr Owens of Elkins, and Rick and Nancy Higgins of Fairmont, WV. Grandchildren, David Bennett, Darren Judy, Emily and Zack Baker, Caleb Lantz, Evan Judy, Olivia Judy and Zoey Judy; one sister, Bonnie and Bob Humphries of Ohio as well as many nieces and nephews also survive. Interment at Jacob C. Harper Cemetery

- Carol Jean Harper, 85, passed away peacefully on June 3, 2023, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on November 13, 1937, in Cassville, West Virginia to the late Harland and Reta (Everett) Murphy. She married the love of her life, Harold, on December 24, 1959, in Star City, West Virginia. Carol worked as a bookkeeper and church treasurer. Carol and Harold owned rental properties and enjoyed refurbishing homes. She was a 55 year member of Copley United Methodist Church. She is survived by her husband, Harold; son, Charlie (Ophelia) Harper; daughter, Laura Atherton; grandsons, Dylan and Drew Atherton; nephew, Pat (Erin) Cunningham; and niece, Joann Cunningham. Interment will follow in the Jacob. C. Harper Cemetery.



- Elsie Louise (Wade) Wamsley, 88, of Colonial Hts., VA, passed away on 1/4/24. Born 9/30/1935, she was the wife of the late John Curtis Reginald Wamsley (1935-2013). John Wamsley was the great-grandson of Mary Harper (great-granddaughter of Philip Harper the Pioneer) and Andrew Marcellus Wamsley of



From the Harper Cemetery Association Board of Directors



March 10, 2024

Greetings - from Stelman E. Harper, President, Board of Directors

Dear Family and Friends:

Greetings to family and friends. We hope that you are doing well and are thinking about the upcoming reunion during Memorial weekend on May 26.

Please visit our website at <www.jacobcharper.org> where you will find information that has been posted for your use. We try to take an annual photograph of the attendees and post it there for your access. John Harper is the web site director. Marsha Fuller provides the newsletter and maintains the information. Danie Ours and family keeps the family cemetery in great condition which is located further up the road on the farm. We try to maintain it with donations and a perpetual care fund. We encourage donations and bequests to keep the fund growing for future needs. The cemetery is for any Jacob C. Harper descendants and spouses who wish to be buried there.

Our meal will begin at 1:00 pm, on May 26, 2024, after the family photograph and the blessing. It is a covered dish affair with lots of good food. Those attending from far off and do not have means of preparing a dish should not worry about coming. There will be plenty. Please register when you arrive so that we can keep our contacts updated. Those who have email addresses will receive the newsletter and letter electronically. Those not having electronic connections will receive a mailing. The Board of Directors will meet following the door prize drawings, which are graciously provided by Susan Waters, daughter of Margaret (Harper) Stemple. Anyone wishing to communicate and send donations can mail their donations to our treasurer, Eleanor Nestor, 7936 Dry Fork Road, Hendricks, WV 26271. We thank all of you for your donations and continued interest in our family. Put this on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there if the Lord is willing and you can make it. Stay well. Any changes and or cancellations will be posted on our web site listed above or by word of mouth. Check on the web site or with members of the family.

Annual Harper Reunion
Sunday, May 26, 2024
1:00 pm

If you're in the Harman area on the day before the Reunion (Sat., 1 pm), we could use your help with setting up the picnic tables at the Reunion Pavilion!

Perpetual Care Fund



Mail to: Harper Cemetery Association, 7936 Dry Fork Rd., Hendricks, WV 26271-8016

Name: _____

Street & City: _____

Donation amount: \$ _____

To stop receiving this newsletter,
send an email to: mfuller@fred.net
or a postcard to the above address



Harper Cemetery Association
7936 Dry Fork Rd.
Hendricks, WV 26271



Yokum's Vacationland

If you're coming in from out-of-town, a great place to stay is our cousin's motel, cabins, and campgrounds in beautiful downtown Seneca Rocks. There's also a General Store and Grill.

Harper's Old Country Store is right next door, and horseback riding to the top of Seneca Rocks is only a mile away at Yokum's Stables.

Nearby attractions are Green Bank Telescope, Seneca Caverns, Cass Scenic Railroad, Rock Climbing Schools, Dolly Sods, Blackwater Falls, and Spruce Knob.

www.yokum.com
304-567-2351
yokumsvland@spruceknob.net

Mark Your Calendar for Next Year!
Harper Reunion is *always* the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend



To order a copy of
The Harper Family History
send check or money order for \$48 to:

Marsha Fuller
912 Oak Hill Ave.
Hagerstown, MD 21742

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Changes in Our Family Tree

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Randolph County, West Virginia. She is survived by her four daughters, Wanda Balducci (Robert), Wendy G. Wamsley, Denise Underhill (Roger), and Lynette Pomaville (Alan), and grandchildren, Paol Balducci, Lisa Balducci Sprague (Jason), Joe Balducci, Nick Balducci (Victoria), Mike Balducci, John Carty, Chad Underhill (Amber), Carolyn Underhill (Brett), Caitlin Blaisdell (Mike), Christiana Pomaville, Madeline Pomaville, A.J. Pomaville; great-grandchildren, Alyssa, Zach, Mackenzie, Julianna, Bricen, Samuel, Curtis, Natalie, Matthew, Brayden, Blake, Regan, Layla, Annabelle, and Evelyn.

- On July 24th, 2021, Nicole Ann Bowers of New Windsor, MD passed away at 26, from autoimmune disease. She was the daughter of Christine A (Waskey) Bowers and the late RT Bowers Jr., and granddaughter of the late Patricia A Waskey (Bland) and the late Richard C. Waskey Sr. and great-granddaughter Lulu Bland (Harper). She is survived by her brothers Sean and Brian Bowers and her niece Lela and nephew Justin. She will be missed by her aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.
- On November 25th, 2023, Christine A. (Waskey) Bowers of New Windsor MD passed away at 67, from pancreatic cancer. She was the wife of the late RT Bowers Jr., the daughter of the late Richard C. & Patricia A. (Bland) Waskey, Sr., and the granddaughter of Lulu Bland (Harper). She is survived by her sons, Sean and Brian, and granddaughter Lela, and grandson Justin. She will be dearly missed by her twin sister, Cathy Maben, brothers Rick and Greg, and many other family members and friends. Predeceasing her was her daughter, Nicole Ann Bowers.
- Mary Alice (Carr) Lane went to be with her Lord and Savior on 24 Jan 2024 at Carnegie Village Senior Care in Belton, MO. She was 89 years old. She was a descendent of Jacob & Margaret (Harper) Carr and Jacob Carr. She was the last of her generation of the Tuckwood Cousins of Stafford, KS. Mary was born 23 Sep 1934 in Elkhart, KS, to Elmer Claude and Mary Evalettha (Tuckwood) Carr. She graduated from high

school in Dodge City, KS in 1952, then graduated from Nursing School. She started working at St Luke's Hospital in Kansas City in 1964. She met George Alanson Lane Jr. at St Luke's Hospital and they married in 1971. They were married for 30 years when he died in 2010. She was a member of St Paul's Methodist Church in Raymore, MO. Burial in the Antioch Pioneer Cemetery in Meriam, KS. She leaves to love and remember her: nephews, Jeff L. Carr (Linda) of Converse, TX, Ralph E Brown (Juanita) of Hutchinson, KS, Dara J Carr of San Antonio, TX, and Eric A Carr.

- On 3/8/24, Phyllis Faye Carr; loving wife, mother, and grandmother, passed away at the age of 88 in Evansville, IN. Born 4/8/1935, in Elkins, WV, to Riley and Georgie (Harper) Carr, Phyllis spent many years touching hearts in the food service department for the school district of Henderson County, KY. She was married for 49 years to her husband Don Carr, and raised their two children, Myra (Carr) Blair and Don Carr, Jr., and her grandson, Bill Blair. Phyllis was a proud member of both the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Order of the Eastern Star. She was a positive, outgoing, people-person who "never met a stranger." She endlessly supported and encouraged her children and grandchildren in all of their endeavors. She loved attending live music shows and concerts, especially seeing her son playing with the Oak Ridge Boys. She was an avid churchgoer and loved to travel to reunite with extended family; sharing stories with them and bringing stories back to share with her local family. She greeted everyone with her beautiful smile and spread joy with her infectious laugh, two of her many wonderful qualities that will not be forgotten. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Donald Carr, and her brothers: Jack, Phillip (Bruce), and Don Carr.

