



# THE HARPER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 12

SPRING 2007



## Nicholas Harper Descendants

In last year's newsletter, I told you that descendants from all three of Nicholas & Susan (Skidmore) Harper's children had contacted me during the previous six months. They journeyed to Seneca Rocks, and we rendezvoused at Harpers Old Country Store on the day before the Reunion. Our car caravan spent the day traveling through Pendleton County, visiting Harper family sites and getting to know each other.

The day provided many heartwarming experiences. You may remember when *Harper Hero* Greg Adamson rescued the papers of Dr. Eli Akim Harper by purchasing the bulk of the collection on eBay. One of the highlights of our car caravan was when Greg produced a box of photos he had bought, saying, "these aren't really historic—they're from the 1950s and



Rick Harper holding a photo of his ancestor, Dr. Eli Akim Harper

**Descendants of Nicholas & Susan (Skidmore) Harper**  
David Harper Martin with wife, Dena and daughter, Victoria; Rick & Patty Harper with son, John; Michaela Harper & husband, Mike; Greg Adamson

**Annual Harper Reunion**  
May 27, 2007 1:00 pm  
Harman, West Virginia



1960s—but I bought them because I hated to see them get out of the family." Rick Harper, direct descendant of Dr. Eli Akim Harper, immediately identified them as *his* own baby pictures and childhood photos!

Greg continued to act as tour guide and we visited the homeplace of Philip & Anna Elisabetha Harper, cemeteries of Jacob & Margaret (Simmons) Harper, and Nicholas & Susan (Skidmore) Harper, as well as numerous other sites around Pendleton County. A good time was had by all!

# Changes in Our Family Tree



## Births

- August Keenan Harper, born July 29, 1999, to Daniel and Ashley Harper. (Peter, 3rd Child)
- Lucas Shriver Martin, born December 14, 2006 in Massachusetts, grandson of David Harper Martin of California.
- Wyatt Martin Payne, born August 24, 2006, to Rob & Kathryn (Martin) Payne, great-grandson of Henry & Ginny (Michael) Martin of Michigan.
- Liam Bergeron, born April 8, 2005 in Los Angeles, great-grandson of Myra (Golightly) Ott.
- Geraldine (Montoney) Leitner reports two new great-grandchildren. Nevaeh Leitner, born October 25, 2004, to Michael Leitner, and Melia Leitner, born October 25, 2006, to Shawn Leitner.

## Marriages

- Nicole Joy Yonke will marry Arkadiusz Piekarcz on May 19 th in Huntington Beach, CA. They'll have a 2nd wedding on May 27 in Tulum, Mexico, and Nicole will finish medical school on June 8. She is the granddaughter of Wilma "Toni" (Montoney) Lund.
- Bill & JoAnne Woods of Texas will celebrate 55 years of marriage on June 7, 2007. Bill is the grandson of Ambrose & Mary (Harper) Lawrence.

## Deaths: (2007)

- Paul L. Zeiher, husband of Darlene Harper (descendant of Henry, 10th Child) on December 23, 2005. He leaves two sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.
- Vaughna Amyce Keenan Harper, on March 8, 2004 at the age of 97. She was the wife of Maxwell Tilman Harper (grandson of Peter, 3rd Child).

- Mary Ellen (Harper) Swineford on August 11, 2006, 90 years, daughter of Daniel Boone Harper & Anzina Vandevender. Her daughter, Nancy Miller, relates that "she loved to cook, bake, work crossword puzzles, and make people happy."

Descendants of Jason & Elmira (Harper) Harman suffered many losses this year:

- Carroll Herbert Harman on Sept. 13, 2007 in Weirton, WV. Carroll preserved many important Harper papers from his mother's collection, and will be sadly missed by his four children.
- Ben Holmes, husband of Mary Alice (Harman) Holmes (sister of Carroll Harman) on January 11, 2007.
- Jerry Radvich, husband of Betty Jo Harman, on February 11, 2007.
- Cynthia Harman, wife of Tom Harman, on February 24, 2007, in Morgantown, WV. She is survived by her husband of 46 years. Thomas M. "Tom" Harman, Sr., two sons, Thomas M. Harman, II and Timothy M. Harman.

The Edward Harper Reunion will be on Sunday, June 24, at the Ruritan Club in Franklin, WV at 1:00 pm. Driving south from Franklin, turn left at the Dickenson Mountain Rd. sign, cross the bridge, then turn right. Contact Jim Bowers: rwa16a@corlink.com

May we be known by our deeds  
and not by our mortgages.

*The Harper Family History 1713-1995*  
(\$46) is available. To order, send checks  
to Marsha Fuller, at the address below.

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## Letters from Harpers



### **From Muriel & Mac Hart, North Carolina:**

This year, Muriel “declared burnout” after four years of running the K-5th grade Church School. Her year as secretary of the Art league unfortunately coincided with our purchase of a new computer and printer with minds of their own. Mac taught an adult class for five weeks in the spring and continues to work with the local churches’ “war on poverty” effort to mentor single mother families and to use that experience to advocate for the plight of the working poor.

We worked hard on the election and were elated with the results. Our hope is that the American people are waking up to our responsibilities in the world rather than trying to control it for “our interests.” If we don’t, what a lot of resources God has wasted on us!

**From Larry Ferguson, Elkins, WV:** I’ve been very busy with the Odd Fellow’s Lodge again this year. In March, I attended the Middle Atlantic Conclave in Washington, DC with a group from WV. In May, I went to the ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery. In June, the Grand Encampment in Ripley, and the Sovereign Grand Lodge in Winston-Salem. In October, I was elected the Grand Treasurer for the Grand Lodge IOOF for a 3-year term.

### **From Wilma “Toni” Montoney, California:**

The older I get, the faster Christmas arrives. This year I couldn’t be any less ready. A part of my excuse is the fact that I missed having a dog so much that I did adopt one on Friday the 13th (October). Because I had enjoyed the border collie, Fannie, that Grandpa Montoney gave me (she was so intuitively smart), I decided to get another. The difference is that Fannie was an adult dog, and my new Beutee is only 1 year old. She can shred and make messes far faster than I can clean them up. I have told my daughter, Paula, that my house will never be clean again. By far the worst mess was the day she dug 9 plants by the roots from pots on the patio, brought them into the house, and deposited them over half of my living room carpet.

### **From Tom, Jan, and Matt Bell, California:**

Remodeling was our theme for 2006...we had our house painted, and removed our overgrown landscaping to replace it with pavers and low maintenance plants. Tom remodeled our San Luis Obispo condo—he took out everything but the drywall and then put everything new back in! We’re happy with the results but definitely tired of having everything out-of-place. So, in 2007, we think we’ll just enjoy our house and watch the plants grow.

In January, we went to Disneyland with Tom’s nephew, wife and twins. We had a blast. It was great fun to go with the “kids” since they are in their twenties and don’t have kids of their own yet. We could just run around and ride lots of rides with no little ones. Who said Disneyland is for kids???

Jan finally had the nerve to go to her high school reunion (40th) and had a wonderful time...since her buddies all came. They hadn’t all been together since high school. It was just like old times and now they’re planning a PJ Party for just the girls in Las Vegas in March.

Tom continues to teach engineering at Cal Poly and comes home on weekends. Matt started a master’s program at California State University, Sacramento, and is living near campus with his high school buddy. Jan continues to run the publishing business at the California Chamber of Commerce.

**From Dave & Nancy Harper, Silver Spring, MD:** We have celebrated two major milestones this year. Dave’s mom and dad, Albert and Gladys Harper, celebrated their 75th Wedding Anniversary. We had a wonderful celebration on August 19 in the Dry Fork Assembly of God Fellowship Hall. The Women’s Ministry of the church prepared all of the food for 185 people. We planned all of the decoration for the hall. One person said it was so pretty they thought they were at a country club.

We told the story of how Albert and Gladys eloped as well as the highlights of their 75 years together. It was truly a wonderful event. Gladys was 92 in August and Albert was 98 in November. They have lived on their farm for 73 years. While they are starting to slow down, they still have a garden, preserve their own food, make apple butter, and keep the area up around the house.



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### Letter from Harpers—cont.

Nancy has started to coordinate several functions of the National 4-H Curriculum system that includes soliciting proposals for curriculum development, and a national jury review process to insure the quality of the curriculum being developed. She continues to manage a \$2 million grant per year to improve programs for youth in rural areas. The money goes to the National 4-H Council, Future Farmers of America, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. She also continues to work with after-school programs across the country.

Dave's sister, Phyllis and husband Don, joined us for a week's vacation at Gatlinburg, TN. We really enjoy that area with the shows, Dollywood, Smokey Mountains, and arts and crafts shops. Our friend, Reita, was supposed to go with us, but decided instead to go to Mississippi to assist families who were impacted by last year's storms.

**Mark Your Calendar for Next Year!**  
**Harper Reunion—May 25, 2008**



Rick & Patty Harper with son, John, and a friend at the top of the mountain

