



# THE HARPER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 13

SPRING 2008



## Dr. Eli Akim Harper Diary

Through the generosity of Harper cousins, Rick Harper and Greg Adamson, we have copies of the diaries of Dr. Eli Akim Harper of San Diego. One describes Dr. Harper's visit home to West Virginia in 1889. Following is an interesting excerpt.

**May 27, 1889**

Heavy Rain last night.  
Cloudy over head this morning.  
On the Road to Harman at crossing of Black fork took shelter in vacant House near the

Bridge over River. Heavy Rain & short Thunder. Got Mr. A G[?] Hedrick To put Two shoes on my Horse & got Dinner 25¢ son of Addam Hedrick, has 9 children, poor man  
At Smith Shop of A. G.[?] Hedrick met Watson Harper and one of Jacob C. Harpers [sons] on their way to Davis.

Crossed Red Creek and up Dry fork of Cheat to Harness Harper's, making 15 miles [we traveled today]

Wedding of Arkadiusz Piekarz & Nicole Yonke, granddaughter of Wilma Mae "Toni" Montoney Lund



It's really fun when you can go through your great-grandmother's photo collection... and find a postcard written 80 years ago...and be able to call up the woman who wrote it to laugh about it together. I found a postcard that Nela (Harper) Carter wrote to her aunt, Elizabeth Harper Cooper



(my great-grandmother), telling about her visit home during a college break in 1927.

**Annual Harper Reunion**  
**May 25, 2008 1:00 pm**  
**Harman, West Virginia**

# Changes in Our Family Tree



## Births

- Kylan Andrew, born to Carl Ray & Rebecca Jean (Ferguson) Phillips, on Feb. 8, 2007 in Martinsburg, WV.
- Madeline Elizabeth, born to Hoy Adam & Teresa Lynn (Mayo) Ferguson, on Aug. 18, 2007 at Buckhannon, WV.

## Marriages

- Wilma Mae "Toni" Montoney, granddaughter of Elmira (12th child) & Jason Harman, celebrated her own granddaughter's wedding on May 19, 2007. Nicole Yonke married Arkadiusz Piekarz in California. In Toni's words, "My oldest granddaughter married a super nice and very intelligent young man in May. Nicole then graduated from medical school in Portland, Oregon, with the honor of being the outstanding senior of the class." (see photo on page 1)

## Deaths:

We lost two more grandchildren of Jacob C. & Susan Harper:

- Erma (Montoney) Teal, daughter of Scott & Virginia (Harper) Montoney, on February 14, 2007 at 88 years of age. Her daughter, Susan Churchill, reports that "She was diagnosed in 2006 with myelodysplastic syndrome - a disease where the bone marrow ceases to function. This required many blood and platelet transfusions but she maintained a positive attitude and will to survive until the end."
- Albert Jacob Harper, son of Minor & Clara Harper, died March 23, 2008 at the age of 99 years. He was born on the Harper farm on Nov. 15, 1908, and married Gladys Smith on Aug. 1, 1931. They lived on their Bonner Mountain farm for 74 years, and celebrated their 75th

Does anyone know who Margaret Byers or William Byers were? I have photos of them I would like to give to their descendants.

wedding anniversary at the Dry Fork community center in 2006. Albert was survived by two sons, Harold Harper of Copley, Ohio, and David Harper of Silver Spring, MD; three daughters, Collene Eyth of Mentor, OH, Rosalie Barber of San Clemente, CA, and Phyllis Nelson of Accokeek, MD; two sisters, Nela C. Carter (100 yrs. old) of Medina, Ohio, and Sally Head (97 yrs. old) of Akron, Ohio; 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Albert was a lifelong farmer and carpenter. He was a charter member of the Dry Fork Assembly of God Church and a member of Randolph County Farm Bureau. As one of his Cooper cousins and neighbors said, "Albert lived a long life and was a blessing to everyone who knew him."

- One week after the death of her father, Rosalee Ella (Harper) Curtis Barber, daughter of Albert Jacob & Gladys (Smith) Harper, passed away on March 30, 2008 in Riverside, California. She was born June 4, 1933 in Dryfork, WV. Her 1st husband, Dale Curtis, died in 1981. She is survived by her 2nd husband, George Barber, three children, Sharon, Daliene and Keith Curtis, and 7 grandchildren.

### DON'T FORGET

If your email address changes, be sure to send the new address to me, so you don't miss out on the newsletter.

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

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is published once a year by  
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### Historical Records of Pendleton County, WV

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## Letters from Harpers



### From Mike & Mike Harper, Louisiana:

Michaele Ann Harper and husband, Mike, "gypsied" on to Louisiana this year where he is working for FEMA in the continued aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. They write, "we are happy to spend time with our son, Buddy, and wife, Sara, and our grandsons, Jonah and Ari, who live in the area. We have a new friend in the family - Sunshine, a male black toy poodle whom we adopted from a rescue group before we left Virginia. He is very bossy!"

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

In mid-June we traveled to Seattle to be on hand when daughter Sandy's oldest son, Douglass, graduated from a community college nearby; we finally got him to admit he had made mostly A's. The next day her 2nd son, Thomas, graduated from high school. Our son Gary flew over from Austin for the occasions and we all celebrated his 50th birthday at breakfast the several days later. In September, Douglass started at a four-year college east of Seattle and seems to be doing well. We brought home tapes of Thomas in some college plays - he is an aspiring drama major, it looks like.

We had a serendipity visit in mid-Oct. with a Harper kinswoman with whom Muriel shares great-great grandparents. Sue Major Holmes lives in Albuquerque and works for Associated Press. She and her husband, Juan, drove east to see a daughter in Tennessee and made the drive over the Smokies to visit us. Discovering Sue was a happy result of Muriel's midlife interest in genealogy. We met her once before when we were on our way to Chaco Canyon. They are both really special people, aside from being relatives, and Muriel was touched at how many interests she and Sue have in common even though they are only third cousins.

We continue to be involved in the life of Trinity Presbyterian church in Hendersonville, with Mac especially busy with the congregation's Faith Link families in cooperation with Interfaith Assistance Ministry in the county. Muriel has pulled back from being heavily involved this past year, trying to catch up on reading, which she has not had time to do in years.

Special greetings to you all from our house to yours. It looks like 2008 is going to be an interesting year for our country's politics. Hope you all and the rest of the country fare will throughout.

### From Buzz and Frances Harper, West Virginia:

Not many things have changed for us since we last reported. John and David are with the same employers and the kids are doing well.

David and family went with Mamaw and Papaw to Disney World for a fun-filled week. We went to the Magic Kingdom, Epcott, Animal Kingdom, MGM, and Down Town Disney. There were a couple of days there that the little legs and the big legs did not want to walk anymore.

We got to see John and Sarah several times during the fall since we are all season ticket holders to the WVU home football games. The team played well all season and it was a shame that they got disappointed with a key loss to Pittsburgh in the last game.

John and Buzz went to Canada fishing during June. Buzz's brother, Willard, flew to Ottawa and joined the fishing crew. We didn't catch loads of fish but had a great time.

Frances, Buzz, and Buzz's sisters are going to San Antonio in January to help Willard through the crisis of turning sixty. Since we have all accomplished that in years past, we felt that we could help (harass) him on the day.

### From Twyla Stemple, St. George, WV:

This last year has come and gone so quickly, and so have my birthdays. My 89th birthday will happen on December 28.

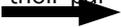
While I'm thankful to the Good Lord for allowing me all these years, I keep losing more of my vim and vigor.

I am so thankful to Larry and Emma for letting me live here with them all this time - since early 2007. They take me for doctor and dental appointments, etc.

I have a "granddog" named Duke who visits often and helps make living more interesting. When he visits at night, he lets his presence be known by standing on a chair on the deck and looking in the window. That tells us he wants to come inside.

### From Phyllis & Don Nelson:

2007 has been a very busy year, especially for Phyllis, with a visit to sister Rose in California early in the year, numerous trips to her folks on the farm in WV, helping brother David put finishing touches on his rehab houses, and entertaining four very active grandchildren when needed.

In November, her folks, Gladys (93) and Albert (99), were invited to spend two weeks in Mentor, Ohio, with Phyllis's sister, Collene and husband Vic. Albert was hospitalized while there, and stayed under doctor's care at Collene's. Meanwhile, Phyllis and brother Harold closed and winterized their parents' farmhouse. 

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send an email to: [mfuller@fred.net](mailto:mfuller@fred.net)  
or a postcard to the above address



Harper Cemetery Association  
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Hendricks, WV 26271

## Letter from Harpers—cont.

### From Tom & Jan Bell, California:

In May, Jan went to Las Vegas with 3 of my best high school buddies. We saw two Cirque du Soleil shows, shopped non-stop, and talked until 2 am. In 2008, we plan to visit New York City and do the same. It's great to act like teenagers again!

This fall, I attended a state Chamber of Commerce business conference at the Greenbrier Inn. Tom decided to come with me so he could work on his genealogy research in WV, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

In his ongoing effort to make me a country girl, Tom added to our farm animals this year by buying two mules. Yep, that's what I said, mules. They mow our grass and protect our sheep from coyotes and mountain lions. We have fun kidding each other about whose relatives they are.

### From Doug Harper:

It seems such a short time ago we were worrying about entering 2000 and here we are 7 years later and the turning had nothing bad happened to us.

**Mark Your Calendar for Next Year!**

**Harper Reunion—May 24, 2009**



At the coldest time in February both of my heat pumps failed. It was a blower on one and the auxiliary heater on the other. Unfortunately I had not gotten my gas logs hooked up so it was cold for a few days in my nice house.

Travel was to Greece, Greek Isles, Turkey and Rome with Frank and Margaret Cannon over Easter. Fortunately for us, two days before we were to board the ship to the Greek Isles, the boat sank. I went to Biloxi to see the damage from Katrina and visit my friends in July. In October, I had a 7-day cruise from Ft. Lauderdale on the Caribbean Princess with the Wholly Genes Genealogy Program Users for a great time. On the way down I visited with several friends and had lunch with friends in St. Thomas, VI. The Filson Club Civil War Field Institute was in Murfreesboro, TN.

Organization involvement was with Blue Grass Military Officers Association of America, AFA, Military Order of World Wars, KY Genealogical Society, KY Historical Society, Sons of Union Veterans Civil War, Scott Chapter SAR in Georgetown, Central Kentucky Computer Society and St. Luke UMC. I was elected to the board of the KGS, Secretary of AFA Chapter and to the board of SUVCW chapter for 2008. I volunteered with the KGS to help put out an index of births in Kentucky in 1870s and post the attendance of the St. Luke UMC on Sundays.

From the Harper Cemetery Association Board of Directors, Saturday, March 12, 2008

Dear Family and Friends:

Our Family Reunion is fast approaching and will again be held on the Sunday of Memorial Weekend. The Harper Pavilion is located on the Harper Farm, 2.2 miles East of Harman, West Virginia, on US Route 33. Turn in at the Jacob C. Harper Cemetery sign and continue on a gravel road bearing right to the white farm house. The pavilion is located to the right. Parking is anywhere around the pavilion, except directly in front. (We take a picture of the group in front of the pavilion before the meal.) To reach the cemetery, take the road to the right of the big barn - follow the gravel road through the gates (which will be open on reunion day) and you will arrive at the cemetery. We put gravel on it a week or two in advance of the reunion to try to maintain it for your ease of access. The gates are generally closed, to keep the cows in, but are not locked (in case you want to visit on any other day). You are welcome to come at any time. If you find the gates closed, please close them as you pass through them. If they are open, just leave them open.

The picnic lunch is a covered dish dinner to begin at 1:00 pm. Bring your favorite dish - and an appetite - to join in great fellowship while renewing our family ties. If you are traveling, and cannot prepare anything, please come anyway. There is always more food than we can eat - from some of the best cooks in the world.

When you arrive, please register, and get a name tag and a door prize ticket. The door prizes are graciously donated every year by Nela Harper Manning. If there are changes in your address, or if this is your first time, it is essential to have your complete address recorded. The newsletter is sent electronically to those with email addresses, which cuts down on postage expenses.

Donations are accepted for the care and upkeep of the Cemetery, Pavilion, and the road to the cemetery. Descendants are encouraged to consider the Cemetery in their estate planning. If you cannot attend the Reunion and wish to make a donation, you can use the form below.

We hope we have pretty weather this year. Sometimes it is chilly. We hope to see you there.

## Perpetual Care Fund

The Board of Directors meets after the Reunion every year to discuss the business of the family. The Association continually strives to ensure the sustainability of the Perpetual Care Fund. Funds are invested through Huntington Banks.

Donations are accepted for the fund and for current expenses. This past year was the first year that donations were not enough to pay expenses. We had to take \$1,000 from the fund to cover bills.

Expenses include:

• Gravel for road to cemetery	\$ 329.93
• Mowing of cemetery	\$ 776.58
• Harper Family website	\$ 189.00
• Newsletter printing and postage	\$ 471.83
	<hr/>
	\$1,767.34

Funds donated:

\$ 565	June '06 - April '07
\$ 525	May '07
<hr/>	
\$1,090	



Mail to: Harper Cemetery Association, HC66 Box 10B, Hendricks, WV 26271

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_