



THE HARPER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 24

SPRING 2019



Jacob Harper, son of Philip Harper the Pioneer

Jacob Harper's wife was Margaret Simmons, who was captured by the Indians during her younger years. She escaped and returned home to marry Jacob Harper.

Greg Adamson of Onego, WV, sent these excerpts from *A Chronological Life of Paul Hinkle: From Journals, Letters, Minutes of Synod, Etc.* Selected and translated by the Reverend William J. Finck. D.D., New Market 1935-1937. (Copy made by Richard R. Renalds, Timberville, VA in 1986).

Page 186:

"Sunday the 12th [July 1807]. This morning I visit the wife of Jacob Herber, who finds herself in very remarkable circumstances. This poor woman has been lying lame for a number of years, and now she has become possessed of the idea that she is lost and must die without grace. I earnestly seek to minister to her effectually. . . ."

Page 240:

Sunday the 8th [April 1810]. Preached in the home of Jacob Herber on the North Fork on the text 1 John 3:1. Baptized four children.

- This is the only mention we have of Margaret's life after she married Jacob Harper. How sad to think that she was lame for some period of time prior to her death. It is unknown when Margaret died, but it was between 7 Mar 1818 (when she is listed on a deed where she and Jacob sell 211 acres to their son, Nicholas Harper) and 27 Aug 1821 (when she is *not* listed on a deed where Jacob Harper sold 113 acres to his son, Moses Harper). - Pendleton County Deed Books 7:120, 8:67

A special shout-out to the treasurer, Eleanor Nestor, who pays for the postage on the Harper Newsletter out of her own pocket!



My Real Wild, Wonderful West Virginia

- We're the northernmost southern state and the southernmost northern state.
- We were born out of the Civil War and have seen our share of struggles - but we always come back stronger and with more resolve.
- We lay claim to the NBA logo.
- We are the birthplace of the first American woman to win the All Around Gold Medal in women's gymnastics in the Olympic games.
- We were the first to fly faster than the speed of sound.
- We have an astronaut - and the original Rocket boy.
- Gilligan lived here and Barney Fife was born here.
- John Denver wrote a song about us and country superstar Brad Paisley learned to play guitar here.
- We have more trees than we do people and we are called the Mountain State for a reason.
- We are down-to-earth and prefer things that are real.
- We grew up eating farm-to-table and we make exquisite things with our hands.
- We choose to get married in family churches, barns, and homes - where our families do the decorating and make the wedding cakes.
- We spend one day every year jumping 876 feet off the New River Gorge Bridge - the second highest steel arch bridge in the United States - just for fun.
- We are proud.
- Appalachia is our home and we know how to pronounce it.
- We choose these magnificent hills and plunging valleys because within these mountains is something you can't duplicate or imitate.
- My West Virginia is real - Wild and Wonderful.

- Reprinted by permission from Amy Shuler Goodwin, Mayor of Charleston, WV

Changes in Our Family Tree



Births:

- Myra Ott proudly tells us of the birth of her great-granddaughter, Rose Lally Solomon, daughter of Kate Lally & Paul Solomon, on Jan. 13, 2018. "So she is over a year old now and adorable, per pictures from CA."



Marriages:

- Kevin Scott Young, son of Steven Harper Young, was married April 1st to Kayleigh Aure at Center Ice, Los Angeles Kings (Hockey) Rink - 5 hours before the Los Angeles Kings - Calgary Flames hockey game. They are all BIG hockey fans!



Harper's on the Go

Dave & Nancy Harper took a 2-week cruise of the British Isles. We went to Blarney Castle for the specific purpose of kissing the Blarney Stone. After waiting in a really long line, we had to navigate a very narrow, steep winding stairway of 110 pie-shaped steps to get to the stone. Once we started up the steps, it was 'one way only.' After kissing the stone, we had to continue down a different set of stairs. We didn't know if we could kiss the stone and get back to the bus on time, but we took a chance and we made it. As per the legend, Nancy thinks she can speak more eloquently now, but Dave hasn't seen a change... since he decided he didn't want to kiss the stone. We also had a very nice tour of the town of Cork, the last port of call for the Titanic.

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!

Check out the memorial that's posted for Philip Harper the Pioneer's father:

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/154743849/adam-harper>

When in Dublin, we visited Trinity College where we went to the Old Library to see "The Book of Kells," a thousand-year-old Irish Medieval illuminated manuscript.

We traveled by bus through many scenic areas of Scotland, seeing many craggy hills and lochs (lakes). In the lowland region, we stopped in the town of Aberfoyle to watch a sheepdog demonstration. To our surprise, the sheepdog herded ducks instead of sheep! He successfully navigated the ducks through obstacles such as a bus, tunnel, duck hotel - all without trying to eat them!

From Doug Harper: Had another American Queen Paddle-wheeler cruise down the Illinois River from Chicago to St. Louis this year. The trip was supposed to have been on the Mississippi, but the waters were too high for the ship to be able to pass under bridges.

Went to the 758th AC&W reunion at Charleston, SC., the Cummins Family reunion in Kentucky, the Iceland Radar Sites Reunion in Memphis, TN, the Air Force radar reunion in Bellefontaine, OH, and finished off the year with a cruise on Holland America Lines in November. to the Panama Canal - as a birthday present to myself. At the Iceland Radar reunion, I was presented with a Quilt of Honor - which was a surprise and delight to receive.

Attended a number of seminars on genealogy this year, and went on the Filson Historical Society trip to follow the trail on John Hunt Morgan in Indiana and Ohio that ended up in his capture in Ohio. Went with Witnessing History to Gettysburg

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From the Harper Cemetery Association Board of Directors



March 28, 2019

Dear Family and Friends:

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

Hello to you, family and friends. We Have experienced a very wet year here in West Virginia. It seems as if everyone over the country has had the same. Our reunion is on Sunday, May 26, 2019, at the Harper Pavilion, as usual, located on the Harper Farm, 2.2 miles East of Harman on Route 33. Turn in at the Jacob C. Harper Cemetery sign and drive up the gravel road keeping to the right at the farmhouse where you will find the pavilion.

Please visit our website at www.jacobcharper.org where you will find information that has been posted for your use. John Harper is the website director. Marsha Fuller provides the newsletter and maintains the information. Danie Ours 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 descendant and spouses who wishes to be buried there.

Our meal will begin a 1:00 pm after the family photograph and the blessing. It is a covered dish affair with lots of good food. Those attending from far off who 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. 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!

- cont. from page 3

and then to Shiloh. Both were very good trips and most enjoyable.

Baked a number of rum cakes during the year that are met with smiles and good eating.

Big move for the year was my decision to go into an independent living apartment at here in Lexington. Signed up for it on 23 October and moved into

my one bedroom apartment on 9 November. Am enjoying it so far. Have an outside entrance as well as one into the hallway. Have two meals a day and we have a daily wine get-together for chatting with other residents. I will take the coming year to get rid of stuff in my house, eventually sell it, and get out from under home ownership.

Perpetual Care Fund



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

Name: _____

Street & City: _____

Donation amount: \$ _____

From Marsha Fuller: Spent my usual week in Almost Heaven West Virginia in May for the Reunion but, once again, it rained every day and I couldn't get into some of the remote cemeteries. Spent the first two nights in Buckhannon with Cousins Sue & Zeke Wolf. They treated me to lunch in Helvetia, a small Swiss village in a remote mountain valley. The original Swiss and German settlers arrived in 1869 and their descendants remain. Due to the isolation of the area, the traditions of dance, music, food, and holidays have survived through the generations. Popular events include: Fasnacht, Ramp Supper, Follow Your Bliss Festival, Swiss National Day, Helvetia Fair, and monthly Square Dances.

In July, I went to the thriving metropolis of Cranesville, WV, where my grandfather was born in 1888. It's so small that you won't find it on a map, but it's ten miles from Terra Alta, WV (population 1,500). My cousins had kindly invited me to share their rental cottage for a few days - replete with miniature horse, mules, deer, and a rooster who crowed every morning to wake us up. Also got to visit the still-standing one-room schoolhouse that my grandfather attended.

On the way home, I spent the afternoon taking a grand tour of the cemeteries where my father's and mother's ancestors are buried - great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, and great-great-great-grandparents!

Went on a Ride-Along with my local Hagerstown police this summer. Amazing experience! I had initially planned to stay for the standard visitor 4 hours, but found it so intriguing that I continued for the entire 10-hour shift! Had no idea what these officers go through on a daily basis. Learned that patrol officers wear more than twenty pounds of equipment every day, and that our 53-officer patrol division responds to 87,000 calls per year. They get spit on, screamed at, and threatened. The officer who was my "tour guide" for the evening had been with the department for three years - risks her life every day - and makes \$43k/year. I sure wouldn't do that job for that amount of money. In fact, after spending the evening with her, I am sure that I wouldn't do that job for ANY amount of money.

Attended my 25th annual turkey dinner at a small church in rural Pennsylvania the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Something that struck me during my time there - There wasn't one single cell phone being used during the evening - not by the folks



At the Reunion, I finally met Harper cousin, Paula Yonke, from California for the first time. (I had visited her mother, Wilma Lund, when I was there in 1995.) A couple of weeks later, Paula and her daughter, Noelle, came through Hagerstown on a long distance bike ride from Pittsburgh to DC, and we were able to meet up for dinner.

waiting in the auditorium (for up to 45 min.), nor in the basement during the meal. (I know that they had them, because they took them out long enough to take photos, but then they were put away.) Children and adults of all ages were there, yet none were looking at their phones - they were talking and interacting with each other! And none of the children were whining, screaming, fighting with each other, complaining, or running around. They were polite, well-behaved, and were clearly having a good time. Isn't that refreshing?! And it proves it can be done!!

From Phyllis & Don Nelson: It was a year of travel for us. Early in March, we flew from Baltimore to JFK, from there to Los Angeles, and on to Honolulu. The tour of the islands consisted of 3 days at each of the four islands, with flights in between. The scenery was beautiful, the hotels first-class, and our fellow tourists very friendly. Early in August, we flew to Edinburgh, Scotland where we toured the Royal Yacht, Britannia, and attended the spectacular Edinburgh Tattoo on the parade grounds of the Castle. More bagpipers, bands, and dancers than you can imagine! Our tour included a week in Scotland, followed by a week in Ireland, ending with a day-long, upper-level bus tour of Dublin.

From Larry Ferguson: I had another busy year with family, church, lodges, and volunteer work. Also raising a garden, housework, and lawn work in the summer. In the winter months, I work on my family history. I have been collecting information for over 60 years.

I've been very busy with the Odd Fellow's Lodge again this year, attending the Grand Lodge of California in March. May found me in Minnesota for

Annual Harper Reunion
May 26, 2019 1:00 pm
Harman, West Virginia

Deaths:

or, as **Bill Darr** says, **Go Harpers and Beyond!**



Sylvia "Darlene" Harper Felton, 61, a resident of Mill Creek, passed from this life on Dec. 20, 2018, at Cleveland Clinic in Ohio surrounded by loved ones. Born July 6, 1957, in Elkins, she was a daughter of Howard Hampton Harper and Evelyn "Sis" Defibaugh Harper, and a granddaughter of Silvia and Carney Harper.

She is survived by husband, Steve M. Felton, son, Scott Murphy Felton of Dailey, and two grandchildren. A graduate of Elkins High School, and Wesleyan College, she was the owner and operator of Felton's Tax Service for 35 years. She was a second Mother and Grandmother to any child that came in contact with her child or grandchildren. She spent her life in service of her family, friends, and community. Darlene made a life of always putting others before herself.

Paula Whiteman, daughter of Pauline Harper Whiteman, passed away in January.

Dr. Kurtz Alderman, husband of Carol Walters Alderman passed away on 1/15/2019. Carol is the granddaughter of the late Wm. W. Harper, the g-granddaughter of Wm. S. Harper, and g-g-granddaughter Peter Harper, Sr. Dr. Alderman was Medical Director of a clinic in Clintwood, VA for many years and was the High School team doctor. They had three wonderful children and numerous grandchildren in a loving family.

Fern Eileene Muse, age 89, passed away on March 16, 2019. She is survived by two sons, Jim and wife, Karen of Raleigh, and Gary and wife, Elaine of Springfield, OH; four grandchildren, whom she loved dearly: David, Colleen, Joel, Ben and extended beloved family of Gary and Elaine. Entombment will be held at Sylvan Abbey Memorial Park, Clearwater, FL next to her beloved husband Edward.

Charlotte Maxwell tells us that her father **Rolland Henry Degler**, son of Dorothy Harper Degler, passed away March 13, 2018. Born in Davis, WV on Nov. 13, 1918, he died in St. Francisville, Louisiana, at the age of 99 years and 4 months.

Day before the Reunion
at Harper's Old Country Store

We had 171 people at last year's Harper Reunion. Hope you can join us this year!





James "Randy" Ormand, 92, of Weesatche passed away Thursday Jan. 4, 2018. James was born in Jourdanton, TX on February 11, 1925 to the late James Stephen and Louise Harper Ormand. He was a retired Veteran of USAF after serving 30 years.

He is survived by his wife Rosalie Teter Ormand, son James (Julie) Ormand of

Medford, OR and daughter Jasmine (Glen) Graves of Biloxi, MS. He is also survived by his brother Paul Ormand of Conroe, TX, grandchildren Kristin Ormand, Elora Ormand, Micah Graves, Chantal Graves and great granddaughter Valley Graves.

He is preceded in death by his parents James and Louise Harper Ormand, first wife Junko, brother John "Bud" Ormand and sisters Jane Ormand and Barbara Neil.

Robert "Bob" Chester Harper was born in Kent, Washington on November 10, 1932 to Isaac Lloyd & Ruth Lavina (Goldsbary) Harper, Jr.. In 8th grade, he left home and went to work for Issaquah Valley Dairy and for the Bergsma family. Bob milked cows, helped bottle milk, and delivered it.

After graduation from high school, he attended Washington State College for a semester before being drafted by the Army. Bob was sent to Basic Training and Signal Corp School at Camp San Luis Obispo, CA. He was stationed at 321st Sig BN Corps at 7th Corps HQ in Stuttgart, Germany from 1951-1954 during the Korean War.

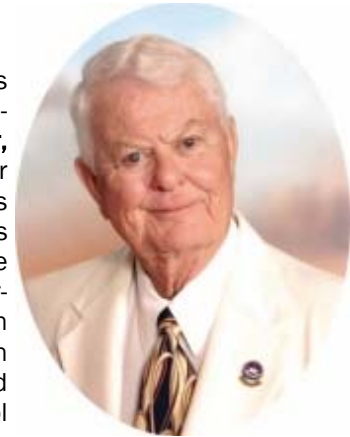
He was a 71-year member of Issaquah Valley Grange, and he was honored to hold the title as Master of the Grange a record 12 times. A charter member of Sammamish Valley Chapter Order of DeMolay, he was made Honorary Master Councilor. He received multiple awards and, after majority, served as Dad Advisor and District Deputy for many years. Bob joined Myrtle Lodge No. 108, Free & Accepted Masons in Issaquah in 1956 and served as Worshipful Master in 1964. He joined the Scottish Rite in Seattle in 1960, where he also held a life membership. He was a life member of Century Chapter #66, Order of Eastern Star since 1959 where he served as Worthy Patron a total of 8 times.

He served as Rainbow Dad for many years with Issaquah Assembly #54 International Order of Rainbow for Girls where he was loved and respected. He received the Grand Cross of Color for his contributions and service.

Bob was a lover of the outdoors and spent countless hours in his home garden and flower beds. His love of the outdoors extended to the many youth he mentored throughout the years. He nurtured and taught young people horticultural and labor skills. He had an affinity for Western movies and simpler times. Proud of his Harper Heritage, he was a descendent of Phillip Harper, the pioneer, dating back to the early 1700's. He traveled to Harper Reunions in Harmon, West Virginia and Circleville, Kansas making friends out of distant relatives.

His favorite holiday was Christmas and he helped usher it in with delighted children as he visited homes dressed as Santa Claus.

Bob is survived by his wife of 60 years, Florence and his three children Rob (Chris) Harper, Deanne (Norm) Weinberg, and Darlene (Ron) Nelson, brothers Jerry, Tom and sister, Ginger Sweet.



Elisabeth Carr-Jones reports that her father, **Philip Bruce Carr**, left this life on October 13, 2018, and was laid to rest at Parsons City Cemetery. The son of Riley and Georgie Carr, he was born in Hendricks, WV in 1927. He attended Parsons High School and was inducted in the PHS Hall of Fame. He served in the US Army 1945-47.

After graduating from LaSalle University, he became a Special Agent of the FBI. Over his career, he was assigned to the Atlanta, New York City, Pittsburgh and Miami offices, working numerous high profile cases.

He was elected President of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. While President, he established a relationship with the RCMP Veterans Association, becoming an Honorary Member.

He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and served as President of the Florida Society. He was also an active member of the local Fraternal Order of Police and International Police Association.

He was a Mason and member of the Shrine and Royal Order of Jesters. In 2005, he became a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason. He is survived by his sisters: Phyllis Carr and JoEllen Wilson, his wife: Sheila Davis Carr, his children: Phillip Carr, Jr. and Elisabeth Carr-Jones, and his grandson: Geza Carr.

Shirley A. Howard, age 83, of Walhonding, OH passed away on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at the Knox Community Hospital. Born on March 27, 1935 in Centerburg, Ohio, she was a daughter of Coy and Bessie (White) Harper.

Shirley is survived by her longtime companion William Brate; her daughter Sharon (Terry Barnes) Nelson; her companion's daughter Sue (Paul) Stilgress; her companion's two sons, Michael Brate and Patric (Theresa) Brate; five grandchildren, Justin, Jennifer, Brian, Sean and Cailyn; and two great-grandchildren Hannah and Hailey.

In addition to her parents, Shirley was preceded in death by her son Scott Hogle; her daughter Terri Knop; and four brothers.

Her niece, Kathy (Harper) Parker, says, "Shirley was an amazingly strong woman she always stood up for what she believed in I will miss her."

