



THE HARPER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Jacob Harper, (1752-1826)

A paper delivered to the Randolph County Historical Society in 1929 tells us about the Revolutionary War service of Jacob Harper (son of Philip Harper the Pioneer):

"Family tradition, also says, that he was a scout for Gen. Morgan and was present when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. (When a small boy, it was told me that Leonard Harper, who lived on Upper North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac, had in his possession an order signed by [General] Daniel Morgan directing that his grandfather, Jacob Harper, Sr. be paid twice the amount (\$3.33) allowed a Revolutionary soldier for furnishing a rifle, "because its extreme range made it more valuable to his army." [Full story on Harper's Big Gun is in *The Harper Family History 1713-1995*]

Wikipedia's article on "Morgan's Riflemen" gives us this information:

"Morgan's Riflemen or Morgan's Rifles, previously Morgan's Sharpshooters, and the one named Provisional Rifle Corps, were an elite light infantry unit commanded by General Daniel Morgan in the American Revolutionary War, which served a vital role executing his tasks because it was equipped with what was then the cutting-edge rifle instead of muskets, allowing for a Rifleman to have an effective range of double that of the average Infantryman

"Daniel Morgan got his start in the Revolutionary War in 1775 as the captain of a small rifle unit set up by the state of Virginia, one of 10 such units commissioned by Congress. Morgan recruited 96 men (80 men and 16 officers), marched 600 miles, arriving in Boston on August 6, 1775. They gave an exhibition as described in the Virginia Gazette of September 9, 1775 quoted; "A man held between his knees a board 5 inches wide and seven inches long, with a paper bulls-eye the size of a dollar. A rifleman at 60 yards without a rest, put eight bullets in succession through the bulls-eye. From the same

source we are told that the rifleman gave an exhibition "in which a company, on a quick advance, placed their shots in 7 inch targets at 250 yards."

"The rifle or more properly, the Pennsylvania Long Rifle and later known as the Kentucky Rifle made by German immigrants was cutting edge at the time as it had grooves called rifling to spin the ball greatly improving accuracy. In early 1777, when Morgan was freed from captivity, he was commissioned as a colonel and assigned command of the 11th Virginia Regiment, and a few months later was also instructed by George Washington to form a Provisional Rifle Corps, men skilled with the use of the long rifle, from his and other nearby regiments.

"Having done so, his first

- cont. on page 3



Virginia Rifleman, 52d Regiment of Foot,
drawn by Richard St. George in 1777
Used with permission - Harlan Crow Library, Austin, TX

Yes, we're a Go!!
Harper Reunion will be held
Sunday, May 30, 2021
1:00 pm
Harman, West Virginia

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assignment was to harass Colonel William Howe as he retreated through New Jersey. Morgan did so by having his 500 riflemen snipe the enemy troops as they moved, using their longer range to do so from safety, an unusual tactic for that day.

“Sent to join the northern army headed by General Horatio Gates, Morgan's Riflemen helped establish better conditions for the coming Battle of Saratoga, by a series of quick attacks on their Indian allies, driving them back in order to interfere with British intelligence of the American troops' movements. His Riflemen proved pivotal in several engagements, including driving back an advanced unit all the way to the enemy's main forces, and later helping turn the main battle by attacking from the right flank, and is credited with forcing the British retreat.

“After a series of similar successes, Morgan left active service for a year, then joined the southern army with Nathanael Greene.”

- online <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morgan%27s_Riflemen>

More about these rifles can be found in “The Rifle in the American Revolution,” by John W. Wright, online <<https://historicfloridamilitia.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/the-rifle-in-the-american-revolution.pdf>> [courtesy: *American Historical Review*, Jan.1924; vol.29, no.2, pp.293-299]

A military journal, published in 1827, has this account:

Feb 10, 1781-Accounts have been received, that an action has been fought at a place called the Cowpens, in Carolina, between a body of the enemy, under the celebrated Colonel Tarleton, with one thousand one hundred men, and a party of about eight hundred Americans, under the command of the equally celebrated General Morgan; the enemy were totally routed, and pursued upwards of twenty miles. Of Tarleton's party, ten officers and one hundred rank and file were killed, and two hundred wounded, twenty-nine officers and five hundred rank and file were taken prisoners, with two field pieces, two standards, eight hundred muskets, thirty-five wagons, seventy negroes, one hundred dragoon horses, one travelling forge, and all their music. The loss on Morgan's side was not more than twelve killed, and sixty wounded. Morgan and his party have acquired immortal honor, and in this action, Lieutenant Colonel Washington, and Lieutenant Colonel Howard were most highly distinguished for their brave and gallant conduct.

- from *A Military Journal During the American Revolutionary War From 1775 to 1783, Describing Interesting Events and Transactions of this period*;

with numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes From the Original Manuscript By James Thacher, M. D., Second Edition, Revised and Corrected, Boston: Cottons & Barnard, 1827.

The National Park Service website tells us about Daniel Morgan:

“Perhaps Morgan's most memorable moment came on January 17, 1781. It was at the Cow Pens, a well-known pasturing area for cattle in the upcountry of South Carolina, that Morgan with his experienced, but untrained, militia and 300 Continentals defeated the better-trained British army under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Morgan knew his men and his opponent, knew how they would react in certain situations, and used this knowledge and the terrain to his advantage. The Americans camped on the battlefield the night before the battle. Morgan went amongst the men: encouraging them, telling them what he expected of them, and showing them his back, complete with the scars from his flogging.

“On the morning of January 17, Morgan deployed his men in three main lines of defense. He knew that the militia had a tendency to run. Therefore he divided them into two groups and placed his sharpshooters on the top of a gentle rise and ordered them to fire twice and then retreat behind the second line. The second line of militia were positioned just behind the crest of the hill and were to fire twice and then retreat behind the Continentals who were about 150 yards behind them. Morgan knew he could count on the Continentals to take the hardest part of the fighting and that they would not run. He prepared them for the militia's retreat. He placed his reserves, Washington's cavalry, in a swale that hid them from the British view. He knew that Tarleton's aggressive nature would lead him to drive straight into the Americans.

“The British arrived about dawn, and Tarleton sent them into battle before they were fully deployed. The militia fired as ordered and retreated. The British pressed on valiantly, engaging the Continentals and fighting hard.

“Tarleton ordered the 71st Highlanders to advance. They threatened the American right side, and Lieutenant Colonel John Eager Howard ordered the men on the right to turn to face the new threat. The order was mistaken, and the entire line began an orderly retreat. Morgan used the mistaken order to his advantage. He ordered the 3rd line to retreat to a place which he chose and then to fire. Meanwhile, thinking that they had won the battle, the British broke ranks and charged forward. The Patriots surrounded the British. The Americans won.”

- from “Daniel Morgan,” National Park Service, online <<https://www.nps.gov/cowp/learn/historyculture/daniel-morgan.htm>>

Exactly two centuries ago - in 1821 - our Harpers in Pendleton County were assessed for property taxes. I came across the original tax book while at the courthouse a few years ago, and photographed it. (There weren't any headings for the numbers.)

Harper Philip Sr.	209	North Fork	16 n. w.	3	06 1/4	43	75	600	06	59
Do [ditto]	50	"	"	"	87 1/2	"	"	40	75	04
Do [ditto]	66	"	"	3	50	"	"	201	"	21

8 1/2 from land Harpers part of 123 acres

Harper Philip Sr. 209 acres North Fork
 Do [ditto] 50 acres " [ditto marks - North Fork]
 Do [ditto] 66 acres " [ditto marks - North Fork]
 From Jacob Harper Senr. part of 123 acres
 [Philip Harper the Pioneer was dead by 1821 - this is his son who was formerly referred to as "Jr.", and is now a "Sr." because there's a younger Philip.]

Harper Jacob Senr.	100	North Fork	18 n. w.	17	50	437	50	1750	160
Do	100	"	"	3	"	"	"	300	28
Do	160	Timber Hills	"	1	31/4	"	"	210	19
Do	46	North Fork	"	1	75	"	"	80	50
Do	23	"	"	4	37/2	"	"	100	62
Do	45	"	"	1	31/4	"	"	57	06
Do	10	"	"	1	31/4	"	"	15	75
Do	55	"	"	1	75	"	"	96	25
Do	30	"	"	5	50	"	"	165	15

Harper Jacob of Adam	50	Allegany Mountain	25 n. w.	1	31/4	60	62	06
Do	23	North Fork	20	4	92	09	10	

Above: Harper Jacob of Adam [he was the son of Adam Harper]
 Below: Harper Adam Sr. Estate

Harper Adam Sr. Estate	104	North Fork	19 n. w.	12	12 1/2	350	1065	175
Do	72	"	"	13	13 1/2	17	50	86
Do	20	"	"	1	75	"	"	35
Do	71	Allegany Mountain	"	1	31/4	90	18	09

Harper Peter	"	"	400	East. South Branch
do	"	"	90	South Branch
do	"	"	54	same
do	"	"	50	same
Harper Samuel B			280	110

Harper Peter	400 acres	East. South Branch
	90 acres	South Branch
	54 acres	same [South Branch]
	50 acres	same [South Branch]

112 M. S. W.	50		200	18		From J. Canull
144 " "	10	150	900	82		From John Cook
" "	1		54	05		From same
" "	1		50	05	1 10	From same
144 M. S. W.	20		460			From same

CDs of court records available at
<http://users.fred.net/mfuller/CDs.html>

Note from a Harper Cousin

I descend from the Jacob Harper who migrated to Crawford County, Missouri.
 Jacob->Noah->John W->John T->Howard->Henry->Laura
 My Dad's brother Jimmie has taken a Y DNA test. He matches with several men and I was hoping the testing to help determine who Jacob's father is but I am still unsure at this time.
 I was wondering if you know of any Harper men who have also taken the Y DNA test. If so, would it be possible to have them contact me? Also, would any male Harper might be willing to take the Y DNA test?
 I could supply the test if needed.

- Laura Harper <lsharper@swbell.net>

Changes in Our Family Tree



Births:

- Declan Kai Waters, son of Luke & Hannah Waters, born 2/27/2020. Descendant of Minor Harper through Tom and Margaret (Harper) Stemple.

Marriages:

- Daniel Moore writes: My son, Jacob Daniel Moore, married Emily Marie Walls on September 26, 2020 in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. He is the 7th great-grandson of Jacob Harper and Margaret Simmons, through their daughter Sarah Margaret Harper who married George Teter.

Deaths:

- Born in Duluth, MN in 1937, Cleve Kimmel's wife, Adonna, passed away on June 20, 2019 - just 4 months shy of their 65th anniversary. She was 87.
- Janet Ellen Harman, daughter of Lester Harman, Jr., (Elmira (Harper) & Lester Harman) died March 18, 2121 in Huntington Beach CA.
- Marian, wife of Jack Corrick, passed away on August 10, 2020, after 67 years of a wonderful marriage. Jack writes, "We met in high school in our sophomore year so we were together for over 71 years."



- Shirley Beatrice (Bland) Yokum, age 100, of Seneca Rocks, WV passed away on Aug. 8, 2020 at Grant Rehabilitation & Care Center in Petersburg, WV. She was the daughter of Byron Stanley & Erma (Harper) Bland. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Adam Yokum in 2008; one son, Charles Jackson Yokum, and three brothers, Harper Bland, Thomas L. Bland and Byron S. Bland, Jr.

Shirley is survived by one son, Samuel D. (Laura Kim) Yokum of Seneca Rocks, WV; two daughters, Patsy (Craig) White of Fairmont, WV, and Sharon (Joe) Maluo of Honolulu, Hawaii; fourteen grandchildren, twenty-four great grandchildren, and seven great-great grandchildren. Also, two sisters, Judith Sponaugh of Knoxville, TN, and Billie Tubaugh of Des Moines, Iowa.

Shirley graduated from Circleville High School

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>

in 1938, attended the Akron Business College and, later, the Greenbrier Cooking School. She loved to travel to all corners of the world and received a certificate from the North American School of Travel as a tour guide.

She was a member of Seneca Rocks Presbyterian Church, former co-owner of the Elkins Stockyards, loved designing buildings, and was an EMT for the Grant County Ambulance.

Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from Pendleton County Chamber of Commerce, she was considered to be one of the most formidable and accomplished business women in the eastern part of West Virginia. Shirley was co-owner of Yokum's Vacationland in Seneca Rocks, WV for over 82 years, and was a proud matriarch of a large and accomplished family.

- Shirley Ann Lambert, age 84, passed away on Aug. 26, 2020, at her home in Riverton, WV. Born June 25, 1936, in Harrisonburg, VA, she was the daughter of Hansel and Virginia Ruth



(Harper) Hedrick, and was married to Robert Kee Lambert in 1955. Mrs. Lambert was a 1956 graduate of Circleville High School. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, and a dedicated poultry farmer. Shirley was an active member of the Riverton United Methodist Church, Pendleton County Farm Bureau, and WV Poultry Association, and was a long time member of Home Extension Clubs. She is survived by 3 daughters: Beverly Rexrode (Larry) of Franklin, WV, Debra Kay Wise (Joel) of Ringgold, GA, Jeannie Lambert of Stone Ridge, VA; and a son, Steve Lambert (Melissa) of Riverton, WV.

[Note from Marsha: Shirley had a wonderful collection of old Harper photos which she graciously shared with me one time so that I could digitize them.]

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





From the Harper Cemetery Association Board of Directors



April 11, 2021

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

Dear Family and Friends:

As we continue to deal with all the issues with the CoVid 19 pandemic, it does look to be "opening up" for us to be more social. However, there are issues out there for consideration. First, that we get vaccinations to protect us and others, second that we remain vigilant in protecting ourselves and others by wearing face masks and social distancing, and lastly that we have gatherings in a safe manner. Of great concern are our young persons who have not had the opportunity to get the vaccine and whom we must protect. In talking with some of our Board members, they feel that we can have the Reunion. It will be up to you to decide what is safe for you and if you wish to attend. Please visit our website at <www.jacobcharper.org> for any updates that may occur between now and the date of the event.

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 descendants and spouses who wish to be buried there.

Our meal will begin at 1:00 pm, on May 30, 2021, 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 up to date. 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 picnic. 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.

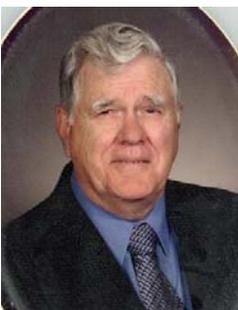
Put this on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you there if the Lord is willing and the situation is stable! Stay well. Any changes and or cancellations will be posted on our website listed above.

Irene Velma Kisamore Nester will turn 101 on May 27, 2021



Deaths:

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



• John Harman Golightly, 80, of Cumberland, passed away Apr 6, 2021, Born Jan. 17, 1941, in Davis, WV, he was the son of the late Reginald and stepmother, Marie Golightly, and Eva (Harman) Corrick and stepfather, James Leo Corrick. John received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in accounting from

University of Maryland, College Park. He was an United States Naval veteran, and retired from Kelly-Springfield as senior accountant. An active

member of New Covenant United Methodist Church and Grace United Methodist Church, he served as treasurer for many years. He previously coached little league baseball and was a Cub Scout leader. John was the owner/operator of J.G. Sports, and was an avid fisherman.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Alice (Graham) Golightly, sons, Doug Golightly and wife, Dawn, Thomas Golightly and wife, Mary Ann, and Dave Golightly and wife, Anne; and grandchildren. Also by his sister, Myra Ott; stepbrother, Jack Corrick; and his half-brothers, Reginald and William Golightly; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Interment will be in Maryland Veterans Cemetery at Rocky Gap. Military Honors will be accorded at the cemetery by the Post 13 Veterans Honor Guard.