



# THE HARPER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25

SPRING 2020



## Jacob Harper 1752-1826, son of Philip Harper

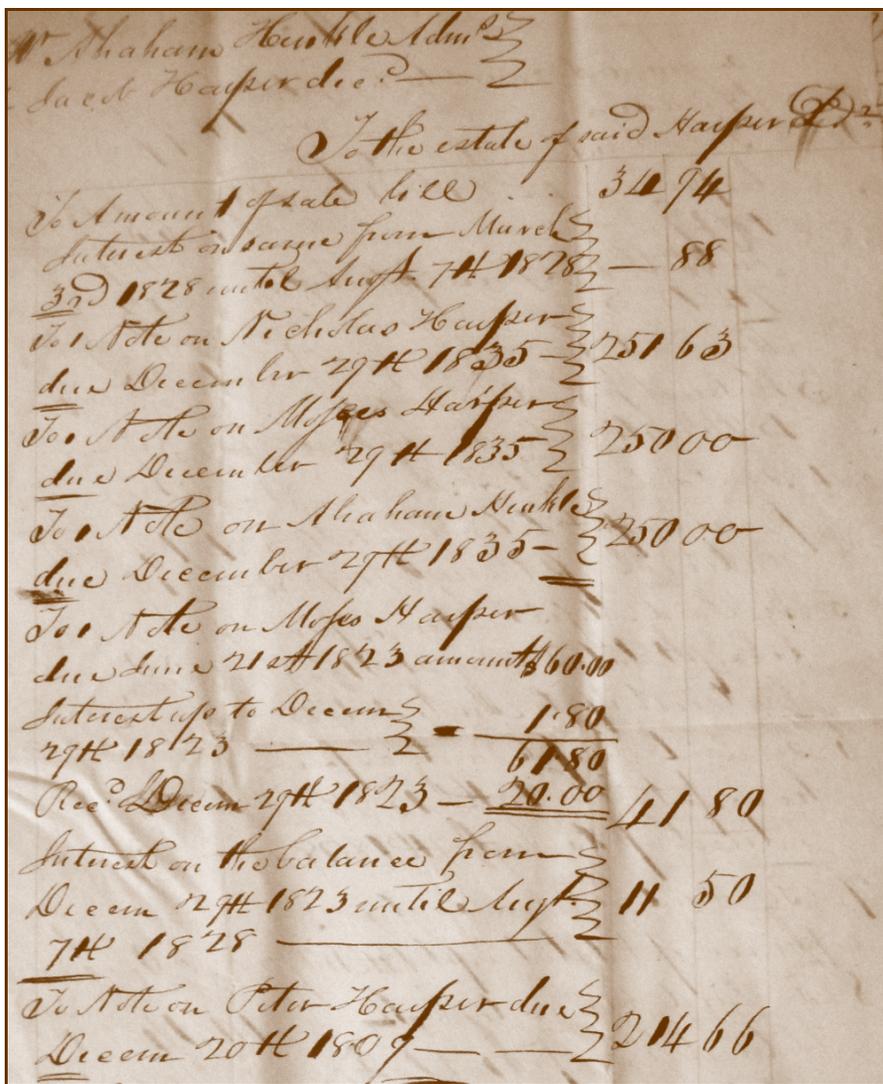
While at the Pendleton County Courthouse a couple of years ago, I managed to locate an *original* probate record of Jacob Harper's. Apparently, he lent money to several of his sons and son-in-law, and these are listed. Although there is no official record of his death, his

gravestone reads, "J.H. Dec. No. 2, 1826." This is interpreted as "Jacob Harper, deceased Nov. 2, 1826." This date is consistent with his estate sale being recorded 4 Apr 1827. Family legend tells that he was killed by a "widow maker" - a tree limb that fell on him while felling a tree - at the age of 74 years!

Mr. Abraham Henkle, Adms. [Administrator of]  
Jacob Harper, decd. [deceased]  
To the estate of said Harper

To Amount of sale bill	\$ 34.94
Interest on same from March 3rd 1828 until Augt. 7th 1828	\$ .88
To a Note on Nichlas Harper due December 29th 1835	\$251.63
To a Note on Moses Harper due December 29th 1835	\$250.00
To a Note on Abraham Henkle due December 29th 1835	\$250.00
To a Note on Moses Harper due June 21st 1823 amount	\$ 60.00
Interest up to Decem. 29th 1823	\$ 1.80
	<u>\$ 61.80</u>
Recd. Decem 29th 1823 [Balance is]	\$41.80
Interest on the balance from Decem 29th 1823 until Augt. 7th 1828	\$ 11.50
To Note on Peter Harper due Decem 20th 1809	\$214.66

[Abraham Henkle, the administrator of the estate, was the husband of Jacob's daughter, Mary.]



# Changes in Our Family Tree



## Births:

- Katalina Harper Myers, born Jan. 10, 2020 in San Diego.
- Alexandra Claire Lindsay born 2/20/2020 to Jennifer Lynn (Leitner) & Simon Alexander Lindsay in St. Petersburg, FL. Descendant of 12th Child Elmira (Harper) Harman.

## Marriages:

- Geza Carr & Deirdre Yee on Aug. 17, 2019. Geza is Phillip Carr Jr.'s son, Bruce (Phillip Sr.) Carr's grandson, and Georgie Harper Carr's great-grandson.
- Chelsey Mowery, granddaughter of Roger & Emma Roy, to Shawn Lawrence on June 22, 2019.
- Matthew Bell to Hannah Dodd of Maryville, Tennessee. (son of Tom & \_\_\_ Bell of California)
- Kate Harman Lally and Paul Solomon were married on February 22, 2020 in a beautiful ceremony at their home in CA. (granddaughter of Myra Ott)

## Deaths...or, as Bill Darr says,

### Go Harpers and Beyond!

- David W. Harper, son of Albert & Gladys Harper of Dryfork, WV, left this earth on April 19, 2019.
- Van Wymer passed away at his home in Joppa, MD on Dec. 2, 2018. Born in Harman, WV, he was the son of Leona (Wymer) Harman and husband of Billie Ann Wymer of Joppa. He was a member of Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren, Jephthah Lodge 222, Boumi Shriners, Scottish Rite Masons and Boumi Shepherds. He served as President of Hamilton Shrine Club of Boumi Shriners International in 2015.



- Byron "Bud" Bland, Jr. died May 1, 2019. Born in 1926 in Seneca Rocks, WV and was a son of the late Byron Stanley Bland and Erma (Harper) Bland. In addition to his parents, Byron was preceded in death by his wife Eula Frances (Vance) Bland in 2006; two brothers, Harper Bland and Thomas L. Bland

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!

Expanded obituaries continued on page 5 of the online version of the newsletter. The printed version only has 4 pages due to cost of printing and mailing.

- Robert "Bob" Worrell, grandson of 5th Child, Seymour Harper, left us on April 15, 2017.
- Thomas "Tom" Rugguri, Jr., grandson-in-law of 5th Child, Seymour Harper, passed away May 1, 2019.
- Evelyn Lorraine Harper, 81 yrs., passed on Sept. 27, 2019. Born at Mill Creek, WV, she was a long-time resident of Beverly. Married to Howard Harper, they have three surviving sons, Chuck of Beverly, David & wife Macel of Beverly, and Greg & wife Barbara of Harrisonburg, VA. Also a daughter, Methilda & husband Don Shifflett of Beverly. Proceeding her in death was a daughter, Darlene Felton. Mrs. Harper was a homemaker, and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She was laid to rest in the Jacob C. Harper Cemetery.



- Jessie Messina is the daughter of Carl Harman and left this earth on 6/2/2019 at the age of 74 years old.
- Fern Eileene Muse, widow of Edward Muse, died March 16, 1919. Edward was a descendant of 12th Child Elmira.



- Don Harman's wife, Jo, died in December 2019. Don is a descendant of 12th Child Elmira.
- Joseph O. "Joe" Harper of Seneca Rocks departed this life on February 19th.

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## From the Harper Cemetery Association Board of Directors



March 15, 2020

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

Dear Family and Friends:

Hello family and friends. As our country, and the world, struggles with the health issues surrounding the coronavirus, we have our own issues. We are going to have to make personal choices as to what we do. As of now, the Reunion is a go. At this time, the CDC is advising to postpone or cancel events for at least 8 weeks. - This current advisory ends a week or two before the Reunion. These guidelines may change. Please check back regularly for status updates regarding the reunion.

This year's reunion is scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 2020, at the Harper Pavilion located on the Harper Farm, 2.2 miles East of Harman, WV 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](http://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 spouse who wish to be buried there.

Our meal will begin at 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 the 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 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, if the Lord is willing, and the situation is stable! Stay well.

During 4th Child Albert Harper's visit back home in December 1911, they weighed 17 of the 20 children on the cattle scales. (Florence and Jeremiah were deceased by then, and Gettie Lee was expecting her first child.) After the weighing, they found that the boys averaged 210 lbs, and the girls 160 lbs. each.

The inestimable Shirley Yokum once again won as "Oldest Harper at the Reunion" last year, and she turned 100 years young on January 2nd of this year.

A close second, Irene Velma (Kisamore) Nester, turns 100 on May 27, 2020.

Way to go, girls!!



## Perpetual Care Fund



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

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

Street & City: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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or a postcard to the above address



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

### A Civil War Story

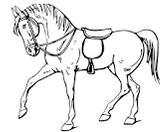
Written by  
Minter I. Harper  
(contributed by  
grandson, Mark Sanford)



During the Civil War, my father, David Andrew Harper, kept the Union army informed as to the location of Rebel troops, and acted as a guide for the Union soldiers when they would march through the vicinity in which he resided [Braxton Co., WV]. The Rebel forces considered my father a spy for the Union Army, and twice captured him - but both times he escaped. After his 2nd escape, he came home thinking he would get a night's sleep and then leave - but his sleep was disturbed by a dream that six Rebel soldiers marched him out into the yard and shot him. He got up and went up against the hill, and slept there the rest of the night. The next morning, he left for Parkersburg. That night, six Rebel soldiers pushed the door open to his house, went in, and searched for him. His dream probably saved his life.

### Nantura 1795-1905

by Jonelle Fisher, 2004



A Kentucky author writes the story of Nantura farm, John Harper and family, and American thoroughbred horses in Woodford County, Kentucky. The Harpers left Pendleton County, WV in the 1790s and went to Kentucky, where they became famous breeders of racehorses. Marsha saw the horses' graves when she visited there in 2000.

**Annual Harper Reunion**  
*maybe* May 24, 2020 1:00 pm  
Check our website to be sure!

Please send us your email address if you have one. It saves lots of money in printing. You can still print the newsletter out if you want a paper copy. You'll also get an expanded version if you email (6-8 pages instead of only 4).

## Deaths:

- Joe Harper - He is the eighth generation to own and operate the family farm, and he and his wife, Carolyn, operated a country store built by his great-grandfather in 1906. As a youth, he was involved in 4-H and FFA, and raised sheep and cattle. After graduation from Circleville High School, he earned a B.S. Degree (Jan 1965), and M.S. Degree (Jun 1966) in Animal Science at West Virginia University. During his career, he was appointed to three terms on the USDA National Wildlife Advisory Committee. He also received seven appointments from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. Serving as a director in the National Cattlemen's Association, he was also appointed to the National Farm Bureau Sheep Advisory Committee, and served as National Chairman for one term. Joe will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Friends from North Canton, OH had this to say: "Seneca Rocks will never be the same. Whenever we arrived, all we had to do was find Joe. His wide, dimply grin (and, sometimes, dangling cigar) assured us that we were home."
- Byron "Bud" Bland, Jr. - was a US Navy veteran of World War II. He was a member of Potomac Highlands VFW Post 6454. He was a Teacher and Principal at Seneca Rocks Elementary School for 35 years and retired in 1988. He was a member of the Retired School Personnel Association. He was on the Board of Directors of Upper Potomac Agency on Aging, the Pendleton County Senior and Family Services and Pendleton Manor Nursing Home. He was a member of Seneca Rocks Presbyterian Church and the Gidions International. He was a member of Spruce Mountain Ruritan Club and was a board member of the Grant County Bank in Riverton, WV. He leaves three sisters: Shirley Yokum of Seneca Rocks, WV, Judith Sponaugle of Knoxville, TN, Billie Tubaugh of Des Moines, Iowa; one daughter: Deborah Judy and husband Roy Lee of Circleville, WV, and two sons, Michael C. Bland and wife Shirley of Keyser, WV, and Ronald L. Bland of Onego, WV.
- Thomas L. Rugguri, Jr. - 85, of Reisterstown, MD, passed away on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at Gilchrist Hospice in Towson, MD. Born on May 29, 1933, in Baltimore, MD, he was the

son of the late Thomas L., Sr., and Mary NiCastro Rugguri. He was the loving husband of the late Jane Ellen Worrell Rugguri, who passed away in 1984. Years ago, Tom worked at the former Naarden/Quest International. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army. Tom enjoyed going to the beach, traveling, and loved to make people laugh. Surviving him are children: Mark T. Rugguri, Leslie J. Helton, David B. Rugguri and wife Amanda, and Daniel B. Rugguri and wife Kimberly, grandchildren: Alexandra, Brett, Andrew, Shaina, Shelbi, Madison, Julia, and Connor, great-grandchild: Karson, special friend: Phyllis Green, siblings: Gloria "Jean" Bain and Antoinette "Toni" Rugguri, and numerous nieces and nephews.

- David Warren Harper - 75, of Silver Spring, Maryland, formerly of Dry Fork, died Friday, April 19, 2019, at his home. Born on May 7, 1943, in Dry Fork, he was a son of the late Albert J. and Gladys G. (Smith) Harper. He also was preceded in death by a sister, Rosalie Harper Curtis. When in West Virginia, he taught driver's education at East Fairmont High School, Fairmont, and was the associate director for Insurance and Risk Management at West Virginia University in Morgantown. Dave is survived by his loving wife of 23 years, Dr. Nancy Valentine Harper; his devoted children, Stacia J. Harper and Christopher D. Harper, both of Morgantown; two sisters, Collene Harper Eyth and husband Victor of Mentor, Ohio, and Phyllis Harper Nelson and husband Don of Accokeek, Maryland; a brother, Harold Harper and wife Carol of Akron, Ohio; nine nieces and nephews, Susan (Eyth) Szanyi, David Eyth, Daliene Shafer, Sharon Curtis, Keith Curtis, Julie Steele, Clara Fitzgerald, Charlie Harper and Laura (Harper) Atherton and several grand nieces and nephews. The marriage to his first wife, Karen J. Vance Harper Dorton, also formerly of Dry Fork and currently in Morgantown, ended in divorce.
- Jessie Mae Messina - daughter of Carl and Julia Harmon., she is survived by the following; her daughter, Debbie Lee Roud, two sons; Anthony Messina Jr., and David Charles Messina Sr. Two brothers; Howard Harman, Jerry Harman, and Sister Julia Anne Whittemore. She will also be missed by her 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.



### Coronavirus Crisis - Weathering the Storm

From Carol Cooper: Hope all is going well for you. We are home bodies due to our age and the virus. Hope the warmer weather puts an end to it but no one really knows for sure. Our malls and restaurants are closing so the only shopping is online and groceries. Good luck finding toilet paper and paper towels. What did we do before toilet paper?

Marsha's reply: I hear ya! I've self-quarantined for at least the next several weeks. Went out the middle of last week and stocked up on food, disinfectant, toilet paper, and paper towels.

Oh, and you shouldn't have asked what we did before toilet paper - that's created a mental image I'll have trouble getting rid of! LOL

Her reply: Sears Roebuck catalog was always in the outhouse at my grandpa's in Michigan. We hated visiting him especially in the winter. Take care, too!

From Rick & Patty Harper: We are in Punta Arenas, Chile, aboard the HAL ship Zaandam. Just a heads-up that our attendance at this year's family reunion probably won't happen with all that is transpiring worldwide. Our ship is prohibited from docking (no known illnesses), so we may have to walk/drive/motorcycle back to the states. Thank goodness for the PanAmerican Highway.

Marsha's reply: Oh no!!!! I can't believe you got stuck in this!! I'm so sorry. This is a whole lot of craziness. The State of Maryland has basically been shut down. Libraries, schools, restaurants, bars, gyms, etc. have all been ordered closed by the governor. And no groups of over 50 people are allowed. (I find this unsettling on a "...abridging the right of the people to assemble peaceably" level.) Not sure what's going to happen with the Reunion since we clearly have more than 50 attendees, not to mention the problems of travel for lots of folks. Buzz and I discussed today and decided to play it by ear, and post a decision on the website when we get closer to the time.

I'm working on a mental picture and you and Patty with your thumbs out, waiting on the side of the PanAmerican Highway!

His reply: We are all well, the entire ship having passed medical examinations without indications of virus. Your point regarding peaceable assembly is spot on. When I heard Justin Trudeau tell Canadians to return home, the hair on the back of my neck raised. We are eating gourmet food, cruising the coast of Chile, probably safer than anywhere else on the planet. We visited Iguazu Falls, where malaria, dengue fever, chikunguya (sp) and yellow fever are

endemic. We wished that we could have stayed in the jungle, but we always bounce. The Falklands were amazing, and we kayaked in the Straits of Magellan with humpbacks, Magellan penguins and dolphins.

This trip I planned in November ahead of the virus, but we estimated our risk/reward was greater on the cruise. Of course, travel is in my blood, right? If we are allowed ashore, Patty and I will buy a motorcycle and shoot the Darien Gap. We actually prefer Mexico as a vacation spot. Peace and good wishes to all. -Rick "Horatio Hornblower" Harper, at anchor in Santiago, Chile

March 24: "Thanks for the update, stay healthy, stay positive. Our best wishes go out to you and all our family. John our eldest has taken a role with the Yurok tribe to support relief and food efforts in Humboldt County,

Mari, Patty's sister, is aboard still, even though she was scheduled to disembark in Santiago, Chile. We are under lockdown, not allowed out of our staterooms, but we are delighted to have an ocean view. Last night we completed the deep water crossing from Santiago to Lima, across the Nazca trench. We have been at sea since our March 14th departure from Punta Arenas, Chile.

Yesterday, we had a general alarm sound, the result of a small fire aboard in the laundry room. Our lockdown is the result of an increase in passengers and crew reporting an increase in flu-like symptoms. Patty, Mari and I continue to feel hale and hearty, although we miss access to fresh air during this quarantine.

The Rotterdam is steaming towards us and we are expected to rendezvous off Panama. They are bringing a full medical team and supplies to further replenish our stores. If tests indicate the presence of Covid-19, we will enjoy an extended stay aboard. Today, many passengers will become 'shellbacks', as we cross the equator. News re the efficacy of hydroxychloroquine is heartening, especially for hard hit regions like New York and Washington state.

Our ration of two bottles of wine per day and the fresh deck of Holland America playing cards ameliorate the boredom, as does chronicling our adventures. Holland America Line, our captain Ane Smit, the crew and the passengers have conducted themselves with grace and compassion."

Marsha's reply: Day 14 of Self-Quarantine - Finally went out in the car today after 2 weeks. (In my 50 years of driving, I think that's the longest time I've ever gone without being behind the wheel. It was a little weird. Seemed like I was going soooo fast. Ha ha. I've been used to my 3 mph walks with a neighbor for the last 14 days.

Just drove around to see the empty parking lots at

the shopping center and the mall, and then to see this beautiful field of daffodils that blooms every year on the wide median strip on Rt. 40.

After 1/2 hr., I was ready to go home! I'm kinda enjoying this slower, quieter lifestyle.

One thing I was amazed at - how many stores are using the "groceries" loophole to stay open. Like the regular discount stores who happen to have a few cans of food on the shelves. Seriously?

The Governor shut down all daycare centers, effective tomorrow. Whoa, what are all the working parents going to do with their kids?

Numbers of infected people rose sharply in Maryland today. When they tell us that we're in the calm before the storm... it's a little unsettling.

Hope you're enjoying your 2 bottles of wine per day!

His reply: Wonderful hearing you're out and about. Driving after sailing is an odd vibe, so I can relate- it does feel fast.

After our Wednesday night covert operation to acquire critical medical supplies off Ecuador, last night we onboarded a medical team and more supplies in a blue-water exchange with the Rotterdam. Today, the two ships are sailing together for anchorage and a public exchange of stores, under the watchful gaze of Panamanian authorities.

We are well, wearing masks constantly, and still confined to our quarters. HAL has reduced our food and grog to school cafeteria levels - we do not prefer white flour and baked goods, rice and barley. Other than that first-world complaint, we pass our time pleasantly chatting with Mari, and our children.

Today, the Captain will reportedly have an announcement from HAL regarding our destination: Honduras is lovely in Spring, we hear. If we hear anything substantive, we'll let you know. -Bond, James Bond

My reply: I saw some TV coverage of your ships off the coast of Florida. Can you land?

His reply: Thanks, we're on the Rotterdam, waiting for our sister ship Zaandam to complete disembarkation. We were transferred here because we were healthy and fit enough to jump across the gap to the tender., at night, in swelling seas - whew.

We traveled together, law of friends and mariners, we are waiting to be docked. Thanks, cousin. Next adventure is the journey home.

From Marsha's non-Harper cousin in Laramie, Wyoming:

ming: We are definitely aware of the situation and although we don't have mandatory stay-at-home, it is being strongly encouraged. In other words go out as little as possible and only for necessities. I think we only had 166 confirmed cases in the State yesterday. but it goes up each day. We also have next to no test kits so very few people are being tested

unless they are sick enough to be hospitalized. A number of friends and relatives have had illnesses that could have been the virus, but they were not able to get tested because of the short supply. This means the number of cases is very much understated. Since my wife and I are in the high risk age, 79 and 80 respectively, only I leave the house. She has a history of respiratory problems and has had pneumonia in the past, so she stays put. I will be wearing a face mask from today on when I go out, but not an N95 type. Our peak is predicted to be in May and our only upside is that there are only about 550,000 people in Wyoming and many are in very rural settings. Cheyenne and Casper are our two largest towns with about 60,000 people each. The other side of that is that we don't have many hospital beds in the state and they will be overwhelmed if things get really bad.

From Reece & Marie Harper, Buford, Georgia:

I have now retired. Last June 1, 2019, Trench Shoring Services sold their family owned business to a hedge fund company in California. I had worked for them for 20 years and we were a very customer oriented business. We always concentrated on service and satisfaction and making the customer as our top priority. Within two weeks, I could see that none of that was the way of business for Trench Plate Rental Co., and I knew I was not going to be a good fit. After a 3 week struggle, they finally sent me a COBRA letter. Their layers of paper work is too much for me!!

I went home to Elko, NV that month for my 50th High School Reunion but, on the last day, found I was not doing well. I went to the Elko Hospital and they immediately made arrangements for me to go to Salt Lake City or Reno. Since I have a lot of relatives in Reno, I choose Renown Medical Center and they found that I had a Upper GI Bleed and took care of it. It was a long trip back to Atlanta, but we made it. Upon returning home, It was evident that I was not going to be able to return to work, so I retired!!

Marie and I have decided we are no longer at the age where we will be doing any more long distance trips. Dad is still at the Senior Manor Center in Elko and he fully understands. I now communicate via letters and the phone when possible. I have learned (since Mom passed away) that Dad hates to talk on the phone. He is doing very well and will be 95 this May!!

After retirement, I have lots of time on my hands but this new virus keeps Marie and I at home all of the time. We did a reverse mortgage on our house, so I no longer have a mortgage to pay and that helps a lot. Along with several other changes in our lives, we are settled in and very happy.



## Karickhoff Family

We are forever indebted to Mike Karickhoff, Sr., who gave us so many historic photos of our Harper family over the last several years. (They have been deposited at West Virginia University Archives for preservation.)

His son, Mike Karickhoff, Jr. has served for 10 years as an Indiana State Representative, and is the Speaker Pro Tempore in the House of Representatives. He currently serves on five committees and is Budget Subcommittee Chair for Ways and Means. Mike has been an active member of his community for more than 30 years. From 1985-2002 he was Superintendent of Parks in Kokomo, and he has served as Ivy Tech Community College's Region 5 Executive Director of Facilities since he left the parks department. He and his wife, Kelly have four daughters and nine grandchildren.

### Susan (McDonald) Harper

Walter Fuller's 1923 journal shows his Christmas gift list. At the bottom, he notes that he is buying an Umbrella for Grandma H [Harper]. Susan (McDonald) Harper spent much of her time in the 1920s and 1930s staying at her daughters' houses in Cumberland. In fact, she had to be taken out in a rowboat when the river flooded her daughter, Lizzie's, house one year.

Mother -  
Parasol, Hose, Handkerchiefs,  
Home Journal, Sheers

Blanche - [dau. of Lizzie 16th]  
Cedar Chest, Hose, Cologne,  
Hankerchiefs, s.stretcher, Bag

Mira -  
Writing paper, Hose, s.stretcher  
Handkerchiefs, Stamps

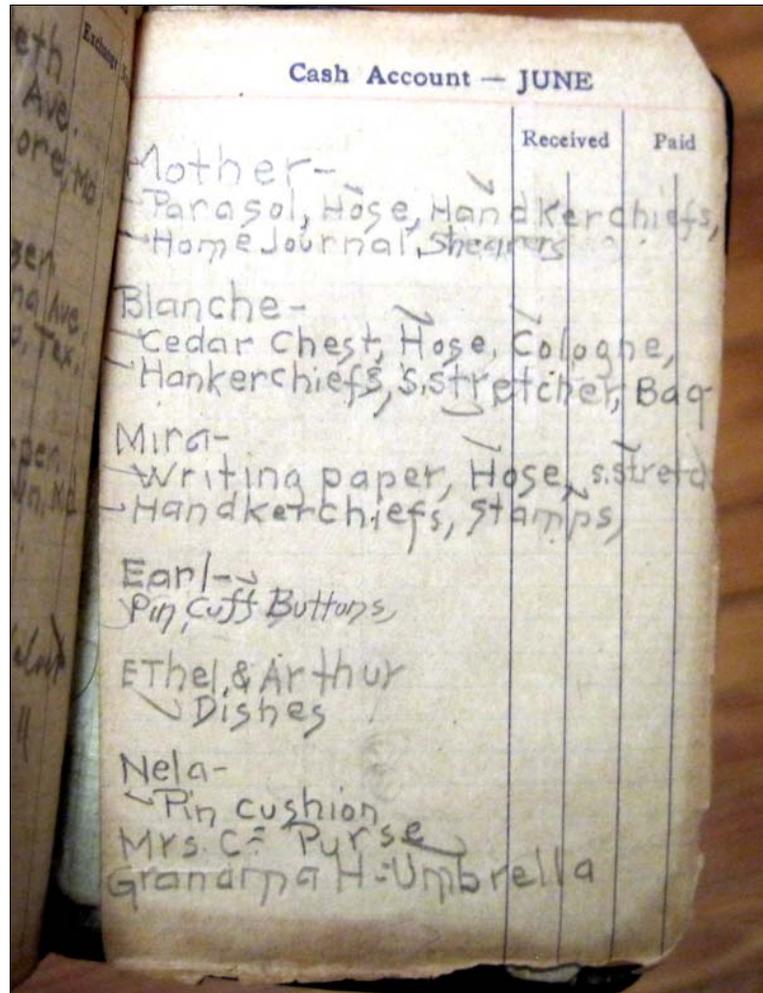
Earl -  
Pin, Cuff Buttons

Ethel & Arthur  
Dishes

Nela - [dau. of Mary 7th Child]  
Pin cushion

Mrs. C [Cooper]= Purse [Lizzie 16th Child]

Grandma H = Umbrella



These newsletters came back last year as No Known Address. Does anyone have an email or address for these folks?

Ella Bergdoll  
John & Virginia Dilks  
Richard & Dawn Harper  
Evelyn Edwards