

HARRIMAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the
HARRIMAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION
(Harriman Genealogical Research Association, LLC)

Stephen Gauss, Editor e-mail: newsletter@harriman-family.org
1226 Bast Lane
Shady Side, Maryland 20764
Technical consultant: Sue Bixby



www.harriman-family.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Harold Harriman

As usual we are looking forward to the annual HFA reunion in September. We combine several things to do in our trip up from Florida in addition to the HFA reunion. Perhaps the most important is to visit our daughters and grandchildren who mostly live on Cape Cod, where we lived for 32 years while I worked for the Canal Electric Company in Sandwich as a plant operator. We will have the pleasure of attending the wedding of our oldest grandson, Tyler Thomas, to his long time girlfriend, Shelly Philie. He is the son of our first daughter, Robynne, and her husband, David Thomas. Milissa, our youngest daughter, and her husband, Tom MacCormick, also live in Sandwich with their brood of 4 all under 8 years old. We will also visit our middle daughter, Vikki, and her husband, Ray Blanchard, in Fayette, Maine; many of you met them at the Portland meeting.

In the evening after the HFA meeting we will attend Evelyn's 55th high school reunion in nearby Haverhill. On our calendar also is a luncheon with my former co-workers in Sandwich and a trip to Maine to visit Vikki and Ray as well as seeing my brother and sister and Evelyn's sisters and visit old friends. Yes, we keep busy.

We will be electing officers for the next two years at the annual meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted for all of the positions – president, treasurer, secretary, newsletter editor and archivist/researcher.

During last year's trip we stopped to visit Leonard's memorial stone in Rowley and Jonathan's grave in the Union Cemetery in Georgetown. We

noticed that Leonard's stone was covered with lichens and Jonathan's stone seemed to be deteriorating rather rapidly. I have been in contact with some of the board members about this and with some gravestone restorers. Opinions vary as to what can be done, so suggestions are welcome as to what to do about the Jonathan stone; we will have to determine what right we would have to proceed. Leonard's stone is a modern one placed by the HFA as one of its first actions. It can be cleaned and restored to good condition.

I look forward to seeing a big crowd in Georgetown and hearing any input you may have as to how we should proceed with Jonathan's stone.

2013 HFA REUNION PLANS

Stephen Gauss

Our reunion this year will be held at the historic Byfield Parish Church in Georgetown, Massachusetts. The church is located in the midst of the area where the second generation of Massachusetts Harrimans (Mathew and Jonathan) lived having moved onward from Rowley. Pastor Bill Boylan is a noted historian and will speak to us about the early days in Haverhill and Georgetown. We will have plenty of time for old and new relatives to enjoy meeting each other and the usual session for you to bring any Harriman-related mementos or stories to share with your "cousins". We have made arrangements for lunch to be brought to us for those who wish it, but you **MUST** order ahead of time. See the details on page 4. You, of course, are free to bring your own lunch. The church is very pleasantly in the country meaning no McDonalds nearby. We look forward to seeing you in New England in the fall.

HARRIMANS NO LONGER WITH US

We extend condolences to Charles Harriman of Falmouth, Maine, co-chairman of the 2010 HFA reunion, who lost his son, **Rhys Miles Harriman**, to a tragic accident on Wednesday, June 6, 2013. Rhys was born on January 15, 1960, in Boston, Massachusetts. He was an avid back country skier and windsurfer and worked for several outdoor companies in Wyoming and Oregon. He coached soccer, ice hockey and worked as a dorm parent at Red Top, a residential treatment center for young boys in Wilson, Wyoming. He was a fervent environmentalist, who was committed to maintaining the trails on which he loved to ride and testing the quality of the water of the Columbia River through his volunteer work at Riverkeepers. Rhys is survived by his wife, Kelly Dennis; sons, Tobin and Dillon Dennis; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Melinda Harriman and John Barry of Littleton, Colo., Katrina Harriman Conde and Juan Conde of New Canaan, Conn., his brother, Graham Harriman of New York City. He was predeceased by his mother, Ann Rees Harriman.

Elsie (Hatch) Parker, formerly of West Poland, Maine, passed away peacefully at the Hospice House in Auburn, Maine, on April 1, 2013.

She was born in Lewiston, Maine, December 20, 1915, the daughter of Fred and Grace (Adams) Hatch. After graduation from Edward Little High School, she trained and worked as a hair dresser. On May 20, 1939, she married Leo G. Parker in Nashua, NH. He passed away on June 22, 1999, they having been together for more than 60 years.

Elsie was a counselor at the Florence Crittenden League and later she became a teacher's aide at the LARK School in Lowell, Massachusetts. She was a dedicated homemaker who loved to cook, bake, garden, sew and knit and who adored animals, especially cats. She was an avid reader and loved her Boston sports teams.

In her later years, she had lived with her sister, HFA member Marion Emery, of West Poland, Maine, and is remembered fondly by her niece and HFA secretary, Betsy Whitcomb, of Falmouth.

Everyone who was touched by her life remembers her as a loving, caring and very kind lady with a mischievous sense of humor.

Stephen I. Harriman of Saco and Kennebunkport Maine, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at the age of ninety. He was born in Kennebunk, Maine, on December 2,

1922, the son of Florence Jewell and Stephen E. Harriman. After graduating as salutatorian from Kennebunkport High School, he served in the Army Air Corp/Air Force during World War II and then in the Korean War.

Stephen worked for over forty years as a mechanical engineer and a senior manager for what is now the General Dynamics Corporation in Saco, retiring in 1984. He enjoyed mountain climbing and created many topographical maps for AMC's White Mountain Guide.

Stephen was predeceased by his first wife, Patricia Washburn, in 1970, his second wife, Jean McKinney, in 2008, his sister, Iva Harriman, and his daughter, Barbara. He is survived by his brother George Alden Harriman of Cape Porpoise; sister Janice Witham of Portland; daughter Judith Foss and her husband John of Weare, New Hampshire; daughter Deborah Harriman and her fiancée Stephen Tarbox of Buxton; daughter Penelope Dillane and her husband Kevin of Alfred; and daughter Marjorie Padula and her husband George of Westwood, Massachusetts. Stephen is also survived by three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Stephen's sister, Iva, authored "Descendants of Leonard Harriman" and Iva's husband, Kenneth, and son, David, are HFA members and regular attendees at the reunions.

BRAND NEW HARRIMANS

Kathleen Harriman informs us of the birth of her granddaughter, Olive Ann Boselli, on March 27, 2013, to Lisa (Harriman) and Paul Boselli. Olive¹³=>Lisa Boselli¹²=>Sterling G. ¹¹=>Willard H.¹⁰=> John Nelson⁹=> Thaddeus Howard⁸=>Benjamin⁷=> Benjamin Buck⁶=> Asa⁵=> Stephen⁴=>Matthew³=> Matthew²=> Leonard Harriman¹

THE HFA AT THE NERGC

Stephen Gauss

Manchester, NH, was the location for the biennial New England Regional Genealogical Conference held in April. This was the fifth such meeting that I have attended and it was one of the best. Since it is focused on New England and all my ancestors are from there, it is a very efficient way to learn from the experts and to meet others with similar interests. Along with three days of talks on everything from old photographs to land records to skill building, there is a Society Fair, a Genealogical Road Show and an exhibit hall of vendors.



The opening session keynote speaker was HFA life member Sandra Clunies, a nationally recognized and very popular speaker, who did not disappoint. The theme of the conference was the New England mill towns and Sandy spoke about the history of the mills and the workers from the perspective of three of her own ancestors who worked in the mill towns, including a mill foreman who married one of the mill “girls”. The mills attracted many young women from the farms to the city and, while the work was hard and the hours long (70 hours a week), the mills provided clean accommodations, social opportunities, good food and a reasonably good wage for the time. The mills were so progressive that numerous VIPs came to see them, including Representative David Crockett and author Charles Dickens, who was amazed that children were not being employed. Although I have no mill worker ancestors, we had toured the exhibit in Lowell National Historical Park last summer, which gave me a good background for the talk.

Over the course of the next few days I heard excellent presentations on dating old photographs, describing how the clothes that people are wearing can often determine the decade; analyzing deeds, in which often details about the family and neighbors can be gleaned; records in the National Archives that are NOT on-line and need to be teased out by understanding the filing and record categorization system; maps showing the territories during the French and Indian wars and how the boundaries changed; World War I records and the many places to look besides the obvious draft and military records; similarly for the Civil War and its records in many different places; techniques for finding ancestors with unusual, unclear or common names – a poll showed that half the room had ancestors or had researched someone named James Smith; and many others. With only one exception the speakers were excellent; they spoke clearly, were lively, often humorous and knowledgeable and I came away with pages of notes, even from subjects in which I considered myself well versed.

At the end of the first day the Society Fair opened. This is a 2-hour event where family groups, lineage societies, and local historical groups are provided a table to display their accomplishments and products, although no selling is allowed.



The Harriman Family Association has had a table at each of the recent conferences, except for the last one (our application was mislaid and there was no space left). We have met a few Harrimans over the years, but it is mainly a chance to show and to compare what we are doing with other similar groups and to share ideas. Biased though I may be, I think we can stand with the best of them.



After the Society Fair has been open for an hour, it is time for the exhibit hall to open. Here there are numerous vendors and societies, such as the NEHGS, historical societies from each New England state, Maia’s Books, Old Maps, Irish Ancestral Research and many more. Here products ARE for sale and it is hard to resist picking up new books, old maps, archival supplies, and so forth. The exhibit hall is open throughout the conference and is a busy place during the breaks and lunch periods.

Another popular activity is the Genealogical Road Show, where one can make an appointment to spend 20 minutes with an expert in the subject of your choice. In the past I used this opportunity to get some excellent advice that helped me in writing my own book and to discuss the more arcane aspects of Y-DNA testing. In some cases simply having a recognized authority tell me “I don’t know either” is worth it. (continued on page 6)

HARRIMAN FAMILY REUNION 2013

Annual Reunion of the Harriman Family Association

All Harriman Descendants and those interested in the Harrimans are Welcome!

When: Saturday, September 21, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Byfield Parish Church

132 Jackman Street

Georgetown, Mass.

Preliminary Agenda – the order may change

9:00 am		Registration; Coffee & Social Hour
9:30 am		Welcome by Harold Harriman
10:00 am		Annual Business Meeting and election of officers
11:00 am		Haverhill – the Early Days – Dr. Bill Boylan
12:00 pm		Lunch
1:00 pm		Show and Tell – bring Harriman mementos to talk about
2:00 pm		Early Harriman Properties in the area

Harriman Family Reunion Luncheon Reservation

Saturday, September 21, 2013

We have found that everyone enjoys having lunch together in the meeting facility. All the more time to visit with relatives! You may bring your own lunch, if you wish, in which case no notice is needed.

Use the on-line form at our web site www.harriman-family.org or mail the following. Send one for each person.

Name..... Phone.....

Address..... City..... State..... Zip.....

The lunch will include potato chips, cookie and drink; please choose a sandwich and a drink.

Choose one: Tuna Salad Roast beef Smoked Turkey

Choose one: Bottled water Coke Diet Coke Iced tea

The cost will be \$11.00 per person. Do not send money with this form, but we must know how many to prepare for. This form is for the lunch only – the meeting does not require a reservation.

Reservations **must** be **received** by September 18, 2013.

Mail to: Stephen Gauss
1226 Bast Lane
Shady Side, MD 20764

E-mail Address: reunion@harriman-family.org

Harriman Family Reunion Luncheon Information

There are no places to eat near the church, so as we have done in the past we have arranged for lunch to be available in the meeting hall. It will be provided by a caterer who must have the order ahead of time. All lunches include chips, a cookie and a drink. Please mail the form on the previous page OR order on-line at <http://harriman-family.org/hfa2013.html>
Orders must be received no later than September 18, 2013.

Directions to Haverhill Hotels:

From I-495 heading north: Take exit 49 – River St, also called Rt. 110 and Rt. 113. There is a traffic signal at the end of the exit ramp. The Best Western is in front of you straight ahead. For the Hampton Inn turn right onto River St. and go past the 99 Restaurant and Dunkin Donuts on your right. The entrance to the Hampton Inn is beyond the Dunkin Donuts on your right. The Hampton Inn was formerly a Comfort Suites, but has been completely renovated. There is a nice pool, breakfast room and fitness center. The Best Western is also nice, although not quite as fresh. In the shopping area next to the Best Western are a CVS and Walgreen's and there are McDonalds, Dunkin Donuts and 99 Restaurant nearby.

Directions to Byfield Parish Church:

The Byfield Parish Church (132 Jackman St., Georgetown) can be reached by several routes from the hotel area, none of which are particularly direct. You can take the highway, which is longer or go through Haverhill, which is shorter, but each takes about the same amount of time. Going north on I-495 will take you to I-95 where you will go south. From I-95 south take the Central Street exit – exit 55 – where there is a sign to the church. Follow Central east bearing right whenever you have a choice. There will be several signs pointing you to Byfield Parish Church. As you approach the church there will be a cemetery on the left – but no Harrimans buried there. The church is immediately on your right. You can also continue on Central to School Street to the STOP sign where there is another sign to the church pointing to the right.

Alternatively you can go through Haverhill by following River ST./Rt.113 through town. You will cross the river on a bridge that is under construction, but follow Rt. 97 (right) on the other side into Georgetown. Go left on North St. and follow it bearing right to Jackman St. The church will be on your left.

Here is a map and more details about the reunion. Any late changes will be shown on the website at

<http://harriman-family.org/hfa2013.html> .

Lodging:

Here is a basic list of some hotels in the area. Please reference travel guides for a better resource on these and other hotels in the area.

- **Hampton Inn** – 106 Bank Rd, Haverhill, MA.
- **Best Western Plus Merrimack Valley** – 401 Lowell Ave., Haverhill, MA.

Because Georgetown is close to I-95, hotels in Seabrook and Hampton are about the same travel time as Haverhill.

- **Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites** – 11 Rocks Rd, Seabrook, NH.
- **Hampshire Inn** – 20 Spur Rd, Route 107 Seabrook, NH.

Questions: Contact Reunion Organizer Steve Gauss at newsletter@harriman-family.org

If you have any questions about your lodging, please contact the hotels or inns directly

There are also Special Interest Group sessions and I have attended those in the past, but they were late – 7:00 – and after a long day I decided it was time to stalk the wild lobster roll (another benefit of coming home to New England).

Many of the conference organizers have filled the same roles year after year and they are to be commended. Having experienced volunteers is key to a smooth-running event and it certainly showed. The facility – Radisson Hotel – was a good one and there were extra provisions for the conference. An excellent buffet was set up to allow attendees to get a quick lunch without having to go to a restaurant and discount parking was available for those of us not staying in the hotel. Even wireless internet was available for non-guests at a nominal fee. We were there during the tragedy at the Boston Marathon and there were TVs in the public spaces to allow us to keep up to date as events unfolded. Stickers were quickly produced proclaiming support for Boston and everyone was wearing them. When it was announced that a suspect had been apprehended the rooms burst into applause.

The next NERGC will take place in 2015 in Providence, Rhode Island – I'll be there.

MINING EARLY HARRIMAN DEEDS

Stephen Gauss

Old land records are difficult to read and even more difficult to interpret. But they can provide clues to relationships and the names of neighbors and partners in property ownership. They can prove the existence of children not found in vital records.

Our early Massachusetts Harrimans lived in Essex County and records of most of their land transactions exist in the county deed books. We should remember that these are copies entered into the deed books by a clerk – often long after the event. For example, a 1702 deed of a land sale by Mathew, Senior, to Mathew, Junior, was not recorded until 1708. We do not know if the spelling of names was in fact the spelling used by the individuals or even whether they knew how to spell. In some cases the documents are marked “signed & sealed” with the name and in other cases with “his/her mark”. The former seems to imply that he did write his own name on the original deed whereas the latter certainly shows that, instead, the person made a mark.

The pens used varied in quality so there are often blots or letters smeared to illegibility. Some letters were not formed as we do them today – the famous “perfute of happineff” of the Declaration of Independence is an example. Terms did not always

mean the same either. Uncle, father, son may or may not mean what we think of today. Probably a high way was not a stretch of interstate, but a dirt track. Most common is the evolving use of the old English letter thorn, þ. This letter is pronounced as “th” and was being replaced by a lower case “y” followed by a superscript, for example y^e and y^t. y^e was not pronounced as “ye”, but as “the”. However, there seems to have been a (to us) strange habit of making similar contractions out of other words. Examples are s^d for said, w^t for what, Sen^r, Jun^r, and Maj^{ties}. Another custom is to use “:” to indicate a shortened word; eg., “Nath:”. The argument goes that they were saving effort, but sometimes only one letter was left out of a word, but the document is full of long redundant words fully spelled.

Capitalization appears to be at random. The same words used in successive sentences may or may not be capitalized. Punctuation seems to be non-existent. This makes it sometimes very difficult to decipher the meaning of the text, especially when legal or surveying terms are being used.

The pre-revolutionary documents usually give the date and then the year of her/his Majesty's Reign; for example, “I the abovesaid Mathew Her- riman Sen^r have set my hand and seale this nine-teenth day of February Seventeen hundred and two or three and the first year of her Maj^{ties} Reigne Anno Domini.” It is a nice diversion to track down the Royal being referred to; in this case, Anne, became Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1702 and Queen of Great Britain upon the Union of England and Scotland in 1707. The double year comes from the fact that the British calendar started the year on March 25 at that time.

Many of these old deeds are now on-line through familysearch.org and the quality of the images is quite good. Although, you cannot search them by name, the book indexes are also on-line.

So, then, what can we learn of the Harrimans?

First, of course, is to know that the Harrimans re-used names over several generations, so it is important to know which Mathew, Leonard or John is being discussed. The first Leonard Harriman does not appear in the deed books, but his sons, Jonathan and Mathew do. The earliest deed is one involving Mathew's wife, Elizabeth Swan. In 1697 Robert Swann, Senior, of Haverhill, planter, divided up some of his land among his children and grandchildren. He gave to his daughter, Dorothy Dalton, twenty acres next to land that he had previously given to her. He then provided equal shares of a specific piece of land for the “two eldest daughters of my five daughters” and names the five daughters

– but not the granddaughters. The daughters named are Ruth Douett, Sarah Hartshorne, “my daughter Horriman”, Ann Ayer and Dorothy Dalton. Ruth Douett was a mystery to me, as his daughter Ruth married another Hartshorne. I finally realized that Ruth had died in 1690 and the word was not Douett but “Deceased”. It is interesting that he neglected to use Elizabeth’s given name and called her Horri-man, although later in the document she is named as “Elizabeth Horriman”. He similarly provided for and named his sons, so we have a complete record of his children living in 1697. There was no mention of his wife, as Elizabeth Acie had died in 1689.

In February 1724 we find a deposition from Matthew Herriman testifying to the boundaries of some property that Robert Swan originally laid out as one of the “ancient Lott Layers”. In it Matthew refers to his “Father Robert Swan”, his “Brother Joshua Swan” and his “Brother Robert Swan”. We know that Mathew’s wife was Elizabeth Swan, daughter of Robert Swan, and that she had brothers Robert and Joshua. These documents give us independent evidence as to the family of Mathew’s wife and shows that terms cannot be taken at face value in the old documents. Clearly, these were father-in-law and brothers-in-law and probably nothing should be read into the use of the more familiar terms. In the same way we often see Senior and Junior applied to the older and younger of two names at the same time and not necessarily that they are related.

Similarly, in 1711 a deed of land contains the line “Jonathan Herriman & Margaret his wife Relict of y^c parent of said Thomas viz¹ Sam¹ Wood”. While we may have deduced from the vital records that Margaret had a son, Thomas, by a previous marriage to the now deceased Samuel Wood, this again is independent proof of the relationships.

This same document shows the folly of reading too much into the spelling of names. Here, Matthew is always spelled with two “t”s, Herriman appears with an “e” and Swan has only one “n”. In a deed of division written in the same year, Mathew is spelled with one “t”, as it is in almost all other deeds. As shown above, Swan had two “n”s in 1697. The earliest spelling of Harriman with an “a” that I find is of John Harriman in 1737/8, who sold land next to land that he had sold to his brother, Nathaniel Harri-man. These are probably the sons of Jonathan Harriman. After the mid-1700’s the name appears to have changed from Herriman to Harriman, according to these deeds.

Beyond the body of the deed are other important clues. The names of witnesses may be friends and

neighbors or, just as today, may simply be whoever was in the courthouse at the time. Most deeds contain a phrase such as “Said Jonathan Herriman & Margaret his wife personally appeared & acknowledged the above instrument to be their act and deed”. This shows that both were alive at that date.

We will have more to say about these deeds in the next issue.

HARRIMANS IN THE WAR OF 1812

(continued from the previous issue)

4034 Alanson Harriman – (1793 -)

Alanson⁶=> Nathaniel⁵=> Nathaniel⁴=> Matthew Jr.³=> Matthew²=> Leonard Harriman¹
Private, NY militia, 10th Regt., Prior's command; also Corporal, 6th Regt. Mounted Dragoon, NY militia (as Alanson "Hereman").

4640 Richard Herriman – (1788 – 1871)

Richard⁶=> Richard⁵=> John⁴=> Joseph³=> John Jr.²=> John Harriman¹
Served as a Sergeant in the same company (that of Asaph Perry) as his possible brother or cousin, Marcus B. Herriman; was in the 66th Regt., "Richard Herriman," ensign, per the Annual Report of the Adj. Gen. of NY in 1816; promoted to captain of the company by 1818; both Richard Herriman and Harriet Barber, widow of Richard Herriman, are on a list of pensioners who served in the War of 1812 and then moved to Franklin County.

4661 David Harriman Jr. – (~1794-)

David⁵=> Nathaniel⁴=> Leonard Jr.³=> Matthew²=> Leonard Harriman¹
He or his cousin, David L., #4702 (who would only have been 16, so less likely), enlisted as a private for 3 months of Conway in Fisk's 1st NH Regt.; enlisted on the same day as his "cousins," Moses of Conway, and Marshal and Samuel of Eaton.

4738 Thomas Harriman – (1793 - 1839)

Thomas⁶=> Joab⁵=> Jaasiel⁴=> Abner³=> Matthew²=> Leonard Harriman¹
Corporal (listed in History of Kennebec Co. as one of the Windsor [ME] men in the War of 1812).

4845 David E. Harriman – (1793 - 1861)

David E.⁶=> Asa Jr.⁵=> Asa⁴=> Samuel³=> Jonathan²=> Leonard Harriman¹
Enlisted in Capt. Joseph Smith's Co., (Davis') 1st NH Regt., for one year; discharged 4 Feb 1814; bounty land #16983; also Col. McCobb's Regt., US.

(to be continued)

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ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

Due to its isolation and only 320,000 people, most Icelanders are related to each other. Moreover, they do not use Western-style surnames, but rather the first name of the parent with –son or –daughter appended. So accidental incest is a real problem. The Book of Icelanders database contains family connections going back 1200 years. Now there is a new mobile phone app that allows two Icelanders to bump phones and know immediately whether they are closely related. There is even an alarm to alert the users to VERY close relationships. In its first few days of release in April, it had been used over 4,000 times.

Reported in News of the Weird by Chuck Shepherd

If your newsletter is received in poor condition, please contact the editor and a replacement will be sent.

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F. Stephen Gauss, editor
1226 Bast Lane
Shady Side, MD 20764

