THE HARPER FAMILY

John Harpar (1)

John Harper (1) (Harpar), the first of his line of whom definite record is found, was of Noke, Oxfordshire, England. John married Margerie or Marjory whose last name has not been found. They both died at Noke in 1584.

Children of John and Margerie; order of birth not known:

1. John (died about 1575)
2. John (again)
3. Christian
4. Katherine
5. Margaret, who married Mr. Nashe
6. Elizabeth, who married Mr. Tommis or Tomes
7. Jane or Joane, who married Mr. Roberte or Roberts
8. John (again) my line
John Harpar (2)

John Harpar (2), son of John and Margarie, was probably the youngest of the three sons named John. He was born about 1575-1576, and died 22 August 1617. John (2) was buried in a vault beside the door of St. Giles Church at Noke, Oxfordshire, England. He made a will August 17, 1617. His wife was Bryget Greene and they married 26 Nov 1595. John described himself as “husbandman of Noke in ye countie of Oxon.”

At sometime before his death, John entered suit in chancery against Joan Bradshaw, who resided at the manor house with her grandson, Benedict Winchcombe. In this suit John recited that his father had been seized in fee of certain freehold land in Noke, and of “customary land held of the Manor of Noke,” which Henry Bradshaw and Joan his wife had agreed to purchase and make him a grant of copyhold. It is evident that the Harpers were a family of very considerable property in the parish.

Children on John Harpar (2) and Bryget Greene Harpar:

1. Margery: Christened 24 July 1596, and married John Day. She was living in 1667.

2. Alse or Alice: Christened 9 July 1598, and married 1 Feb 1619 to Richard Cox.

4. John: Christened 20 Oct. 1602. He apparently either took or was given the name of “George” later to distinguish him from his younger brother who was christened John. He moved to Beckley in the same parish in Oxfordshire.


*Pictures of St. Giles Church are available upon request.
John Harper (3)

John Harpar (3), son of John and Bryget (Greene) Harpar(2), was born at Noke, Oxfordshire, England. He was christened there 18 November 1604 and died the last week of November 1667. John(3) was buried 1 December in the family vault in the St. Giles churchyard at Noke besided the remains of his father. His will probated 21 December 1667 described himself as “of Noke in ye countie of Oxon, yeoman”. He married Charatie whose surname has not been found. She was buried at Noke 7 Feburary 1641.

Children of John Harpar (3) and Charatie Harpar:

1. Bridget Aston: Christened 1 January 1629 (This is the latest reference to the Harper family in the village of Noke).

2. Joan: Christened 3 November 1633 and married Mr. Trudy.
   Child: John

3. John (4) my line: Christened 5 March 1634.

4. Ralph: Christened 7 November 1636.

5. Josias: Christened 14 October 1638.

6. Charatie: Christened 26 April, 1640.
John Harper (4)

John Harper (4), immigrant ancestor, son of John Harper (3) and Charatie Harper was born in Noke, Oxfordshire, England and christened there 5 March 1634 by the rector of the parish, Robert Warland. John married Ann Butcher 6 April 1667, and when they moved to America he changed the spelling of his surname from Harpar to Harper. John (4) died in Pennsylvania 29 April, 1716. His will was dated 26 February 1714, and proved 4 May 1716; he and his wife were buried side by side in the churchyard of Trinity Oxford Church (Episcopal) Cemetery in Oxford Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Ann was born in King Sultland, North Hampshire, England in 1646. Her father was Charles Butcher and mother Ann(?). The inscription on the stones are as follows:

John Harper  
Son of John Harper  
of Noke, in Oxfordshire in Old England  
Arrived in Pennsylvania 2d of August 1682  
Who died ye 29th day of April 1716  
aged 83 years  

In Memory of  
Ann Butcher  
Widow of John Harper  
And  
Daughter of Charles Butcher  
Of King Sutton, in North Hamptonshire  
In Old England  
Who died ye 4th of March 1723/24  
aged 77 years

John joined the Quakers at a meeting in Barton, England, on February 3, 1682. The Quakers were not accepted by the monarchy. Many of them were imprisoned. John
and Ann brought their children to America on one of William Penn’s fleet, “Welcome”, arriving in Philadelphia August 2, 1682.

Children of John Harper (4) and Ann Butcher Harper:

1. Josiah (b. abt. 1669 in Bichester, Oxon, England, d. 1733) Oxford Twp. Phil. Co. Pa) m. Lydia Swanson, III about 1700. She was born in 1680. Lydia’s parents were: Ollie Svenson 1640 at sea; Lydia Ashmen b. abt 1645 in Philadelphia, Pa.


3. John (b. 1677 in Oxfordshire, England, d. 1714 in Phil., Pa.) m. 31 May, 1711 to Deborah Paver or Parver in Christ Church Phil., Pa. She died 1716. Children: John b. 25 June 1712, Deborah b. 1714.

4. Elizabeth (b. 28 Nov. 1684 in Oxford Township, Phil. Pa d. 16 June, 1761) m. Joseph Griffin or Griffeth.

   Children by Sarah: Sarah b. 1725 and Mary b. 1727.
   Children by Mary: Catherine b. 1743, Elizabeth b. 1746, Gregory b. 1747.


7. Joseph (my line) (b. 30 Nov. 1674 Chesterton, Oxon, d. 1746 Phil. Pa.) m. Sarah
(Moore) Jackson.

8. Bridget (b. in Noke 1669, doesn’t seem to have gone to America).

*The will of John Harper (4) may be obtained upon request.
Joseph Harper (5)

Joseph Harper (5) was the son of John Harper (4) and Ann Butcher Harper. He was born 30 Nov 1674 in Chesterton, Oxon, England and died 1746 in Philadelphia, Pa. He married Sarah (Moore) Jackson in 1708. Joseph was a joiner and cabinet maker.

Children of Joseph and Sarah:

1. Joseph ( b. 12 June 1714 d. 1752 ) m. Elizabeth Russell (b. 1718 in New Castle, Delaware d. 1805) They married before 1748.


*Joseph Harper’s will can be obtained upon request.
Josiah Harper (6)

Josiah Harper (6) was the son of Joseph Harper (5) and Sarah Moore Jackson Harper. He was born about 1725 and died in Frederick County Maryland 1768. His brother, Robert, was the executor of his estate. Josiah married Rachel Owings whose father was Robert Owings and mother Rachel Hook. Josiah owned Prospect Plantation in Frederick Co., Maryland.

Children of Josiah and Rachel:


2. Robert  (b. bet. 1765  d. 1841 in Tuscaloosa Co. Alabama) - Married 21 Dec. 1787 to Marjory Payne in Bedford, Va. Her father was John Payne and mother was Mary (?). Child: John Payne Harper b. 22 March 1790 in Va.  d. 30 June 1863 in Scottsboro, Jackson, Al. Married Martha Patsy Phillips 12 March 1813 in Madison, Mississippi Territory. She was born 22 Jan 1796 in Ky. and died aft. 1870 in Van Co., Tx. They had 10 children.

3. Sary (b. ? d. ?), her name is spelled like this in the will.

Josiah Harper (7) was the son of Josiah Harper (6) and Rachel Owings Harper. Josiah was born in 1762 and died 1838 in Smith Co. Tennessee. Josiah married Sarah Parrott 27 Dec. 1787 in Franklin Co. Va. Their minister was Thomas Douglas. Sarah was born in 1761 and died in 1839. They are both buried in Smith Co. Tn. in the Rock City community. Her father was Joseph Parrott and mother’s name was Winea (?).

Children of Josiah and Sarah:

1. John (b. 1788 in Franklin Co. Va. d. 7 Oct, 1846 Smith Co. Tn. Rock City Community). He was converted in Hogan’s Creek Baptist Church July 1827. His 1st wife was Miss Hodges and his 2nd wife was Jane Fleming Skelton. John and Jane are buried in the Harper/Sampson Cemetery in Smith Co. Tn. John established a church in New Middleton and Plunkett’s Creek Baptist Church. We visited their gravesite the summer of 2002.

2. Josiah Jr. (b. 1794 Va. d. 28 Sept. 1859 Fayette Co. Tx. m. Elizabeth (?) (b. abt. 1802 Ky.) Josiah was a Primitive Baptist Church Elder in Fayette Co. Tx. Children: Thomas (b. 1823 d. aft. 1874), Robert Hamilton (b. 1833 Al.) Benjamine Franklin (b. 1836 Ark), Rebecca Jane (B. 1841).

3. Thomas (b. 1802 Va. d. aft. 1860 Marion Co. Al.).


6. Rebecca (b. ? d.?) m. Nevel Hamilton Smith. Moved to Benton Co. Tn in 1840 and raised a large family.
7. Benjamin Franklin (b. ? d.?)

*The will of Josiah Harper (7) can be obtained upon request.
Robert Harper (8)

Robert Harper (8) was the son of Josiah Harper (7) and Sarah Parrott. Robert was born in Smith Co. Tn in 1805 and died in the Long Prairie Township of Mississippi Co. Mo. in 1879. He married Nancy Williams in 1832. Nancy was born in 1812 in Smith Co. Tn. and died in Mississippi Co. Mo. in 1879. She and Robert moved to Miss. Co. Mo. in 1873. Her father was Giles Williams and mother Agnis (?). Robert and Nancy are buried at Oak Grove Cemetery between Bertrand and Charleston Mo. We visited the gravesite in 2000.

Children of Robert and Nancy:

1. James (b. 1834 d. abt. 1864 in the Civil War) Had two children: James B. and John H. who were born in Benton Co. Tn.

2. Robert (b. 1837 in Tn. d. abt. 1864 in the Civil War) Robert was buried in his father’s orchard in Benton Co. Tn. He had two children: Willian F. and Robert H.


4. Maria Frances (b. 1841 d. 1915) Married 1st to Mr. Caleb Macken, 2nd to Samuel Walters.

5. John Bell (my line) - (b. 25 Dec. 1844 d. 8 Jan. 1928 in Nashville, Tn.). 1st wife was Laura Ann Yarbrough, 2nd wife was Rebecca Frances Harrison.


7. Thomas Jefferson (b. 22 Dec. 1848 in Benton Co. Tn. d. 16 March 1922 in Greenwood, Ark.) Married Elizabeth Susan Weeks in Carroll Co. Tn
in 1870. She died 30 Oct. 1905 in Greenwood, Ark.

8. David H. (b. 23 July 1851 Henry Co. Tn. d. 1948 in Liberty, Mo.). Lived in St. Louis in 1922) - 1st wife Mabel Dodge m. 1876, d. 1882, 2nd wife Lucinda Dodge m. 1884.


10. Green H. (b. 1855 Henry Co. Tn. d. (?) in Nutbush Tn near Tibbs). In 1922 he was living in Brownsville, Tn. Married Allie B. Love.

*The will of Robert Harper (8) may be obtained upon request.
John Bell Harper (9) was the son of Robert Harper (8) and Nancy Williams Harper. He was born 25 Dec 1844 in Smith Co. Tn. and died in Nashville, Tn. 8 Jan. 1928. John married his first wife, Laura Ann Yarbrough (b. 1851 d. 6 May 1898 in Nashville, Tn.) in 1869. Her parents were Issac S. Yarbrough and Mary Ann Burton. His second wife was Frances Rebecca Harrison who was born in 1858. Rebecca married John in Davidson Co. Tn. in 1916. The date of her death is unknown. John is buried in the Confederate Circle at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tn. Funeral services were held at Belmont Baptist Church, Nashville, Tn.

John worked with his father, Robert, and siblings on a 160 acre farm in Camden, Tennessee which is in Benton County. Their house was made of logs and planks and had 10 rooms.

While living in Benton, County Tn. he enlisted in Captain William A. Jone’s Battalion, Company A, Confederate Army which later became the 55th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. He fought under General Joe Jackson and was wounded 1 June 1864 at New Hope Church by a minny ball passing through his right lung which disabled him for life. John returned to Benton County and taught school for several years while also studying medicine. Later John moved to Bertrand Mo. which is in Mississippi County. There he worked as a shipper of watermelons, making many trips to Nashville, Tn. with the melons. John also taught school and went in the medical field as a pharmacist. He and his family moved to Nashville, Tn. in 1916, and worked at the Capitol as Commissioner in the Land Office Department until his death in 1928.
Children of John and Laura:


3. Loula Belle (b. 6 Jan 1882 in Bertrand, Mo. and d. in St. Louis, Mo. 13 Sept 1970). Married Charles Fred Jacobsmeyer 3 May 1905 and had two children, Robert and John. Fred b. 1881 d. 15 April 1964. Fred and Loula are buried in St. Louis at Oak Grove Cemetery. He and Loula were members of Bethal Lutheran Church at University City, St. Louis. Fred was the advertising manager for Majestic Range Manf. Co. in St. Louis for 49 years. They lived at 155 Linden Ave. Clayton, St. Louis. His brother was named August.

4. Quinnie Bush, Sr (my line) - (b. 4 Jan 1884, d. 1 July 1966 in Hendersonville, Tn.) Married Edna Cathryne Waltemate.
INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT JOHN BELL HARPER

1861 – Volunteered in Company A, Jones Battalion, Confederate Army, which afterwards became the 55th Tennessee Infantry.

1864 – Wounded at New Hope Church 1 June 1864 by a minny ball passing through his right lung.

1880- Lived in Bertrand, Mo with Laura A. Yarbrough his first wife. John was 36, Laura 29, and children Fannie (8) and Blanch (7). Worked as a drugest and shipper of melons from Bertrand, Mo. to Nashville, Tn.


1893 – Insurance Agent while living at 119 Belmont Blvd. Nashville, Tn.

1894 – Solicitor, Noel Block Bldgs. 125 McLemore, Nashville, TN.

1895-96 – Sold life insurance.

1897 – Lived at 125 McLemore St. and worked at 136 So. Market.

1898 – Salesman

1899 – Insurance salesman, Canvasser, r. 6&7 Twin Bldg.

1901 – Captalist

1902 – Collector

1916 – Married Frances Rebecca Harrison
1916 – 1928 - Lived at 1006 Gilmore St. Nashville, Tn. , Commissioner of the State Land Office. He also worked as a Travel Agent during this time.

1922 – Made picture at the Confederate Convention in Memphis, Tn. with his siblings: Thomas Jefferson, David, John Bell, Maria, Sarah, Josiah, Green H. Picture available upon request.

1928 – Died at 1006 Gilmore St. of the infirmities of his advanced age. Funeral services held at Belmont Baptist Church, Nashville, Tn. 2:30 p.m. on a Tuesday.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT BLANCE AND FANNIE HARPER

Blanch at age 18 began working at Tennessee Manufacturing Co. which was located at 108 Wheless near Filmore St. in Nashville, Tn. She worked there from 1890 to 1894.

Fannie began working for the same company in 1891 when she was 18.

From the Enterprise Newspaper in Charleston, Mo. 11 Oct. 1885, “Miss Fannie and Blanch Harper have just returned home from Tennessee, where they have been taking music lessons for more than a year. They were accompanied home by their grandfather, I. C. Yarbrough.”
Quinnie Bush Harper, Sr.  (10)

Quinnie Bush Harper, Sr (10) was the son of John Bell Harper (9) and Laura Yarbrough Harper. Quinnie was born in Bertrand, Mo. 4 Jan 1884 and died in Hendersonville, Tn. 1 July 1966. He married Edna Cathryne Waltemate 10 Sept 1905 in Columbus, Ky. Edna was born 15 March 1887 in Columbus, Ky. and died 4 Feb 1960. Quinnie and Edna are buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tn.

Children of Quinnie and Edna:


Quinnie Sr. and Edna Cathryne were affectionately called by many as Daddy Harper and Mama Harper.
Quinnie Bush Harper, Jr.(11)

Quinnie Bush Harper, Jr (11) was the son of Quinnie Bush Harper, Sr. (10) and Edna Cathryne Waltemate Harper. Quinnie was born 19 Oct. 1913 in Nashville, Tn. and died 3 June 1974 in Madison, Tn. He married Virginia Claire Cox 23 March 1938 in Franklin, Ky. Virginia was born 19 Feb. 1921 in Nashville, Tn. and died 18 Nov 2000 in Madison, Tn.

Children of Quinnie and Virginia:


Children of Dale and Suzanne:

   Children: Carson Williams b. 21 March 2004 in Johnson City, Tn.; Carley Suzanne b. 27 JULY 2005 in Johnson City, Tn.

   Child: Davis Jason b. 17 March 2005 in Atlanta, Ga.

3. Wallace Drew (b. 7 Feb. 1981 in Madison, Tn.)
Quinnie Bush Harper, III (12)


Children of Quinnie and Betty:


Children of Randy and Beth:

(1) Alexander Quentin (b. 29 Dec 1996 in Gallatin, Tn.)

(2) Charis Elizabeth (b. 19 June 1999 in St. Louis, Mo.)

(3) Kendal Elise (b. 12 Oct. 2002 in Sedalia, Mo.)
(4) Camden Asher (b. 27 Aug 2006) in Bristol, Tn.

2. Amanda (Mandi) Margaret (b. 8 April 1977 in Madison, Tn.)
REFERENCES

Friends:

1. The Friends of St. Giles, Noke, Oxfordshire, England, Dr. Anne Johnson
2. Frances Harper, Charleston, Missouri
3. Mississippi County, Missouri Abstract & Loan, Charleston, Mo., Mrs. Hazel Williams

Articles:

1. The Enterprise Courier, Charleston, Missouri
2. Death Notices From Mississippi County, Missouri Newspapers 1858-1899, Compiled by Joan Tinsley Feezor
3. Mississippi County Loose Probate Papers, 1845-1899, Dorothy Renaud

Books:

4. Tennesseans in The Civil War, A Military History of Confederate and Union Units with Available Rosters of Personnel, Published by the Civil War Centennial Commission, Nashville, Tn, 1964

5. Marriages of Mississippi County, Missouri 1888-1902 Volume 2

6. Tennessee Land Grants, Volume 1 A-K

7. Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy Volume 11


11. Marriage Bonds of Franklin County Virginia 1786-1858, by Marshall Wingfield

12. The 1787 Census of Virginia Volume 1, Compiled by Netti Schreiner-Yantis & Louis Manarine, State Archivist


Libraries & Archives, Etc.

1. Mississippi County Library, 105 E Marshall St., Charleston, Mo

2. Smith County Library, Carthage, Tn

3. Sumner County Archives

4. Archives of Nashville, Tn

5. Elmer Hinton Library, Portland, Tn

6. Jefferson County Virginia Historical Society


Fayette County, Alabama

~ Harper Family of Marion and Fayette Counties ~

Generously contributed by
Louise Smith Hanson

Thomas A. HARPER b. 1802, VA, m. (1) in TN, (Unknown), b. (1800/1810), d. (aft 1840), (Warren Co., TN), m. (2) Mary E. --?-- b. abt 1817, TN, d. (after 1850), Marion Co., AL, m. (3) Mary Jane GRIGGS, b. 1829, AL, (dau of Jesse GRIGGS and Rebecca TUCKER) d. 1890, AL, bur. Old Poplar Cemetery near Winfield, Marion Co., AL. Thomas died (after 1860), Marion Co., AL.

Thomas HARPER was the son of Josiah HARPER (1759-1838) and Sarah PARROTT (1761-1839) of Virginia and Tennessee. Very little is known of Thomas' early life. He was first married possibly in Smith Co., TN, where he was named in a lawsuit in 1835. By the 1840 U.S. census, he had settled in nearby Warren County [p. 341]. His daughter Sarah (see #1 below) married there in 1842 but moved to northwest Alabama before the birth of her first child in 1843. The HARPERs almost certainly arrived in Alabama at this same time.

The 1850 U.S. census finds the HARPER and McWHIRTER families living side by side in Marion Co., AL [p. 118]. Thomas clearly had remarried since the previous census, considering that his current wife (Mary E.) was only 8 years older than his daughter Sarah. Together, he and Mary had at least one child (see #11 below) and perhaps as many as four. The previous year (1849), Thomas had acquired from the federal government approximately 40 acres in Section 10, Township 13S, Range 11W — an area now bordered by Glen Allen to the west, Walker County to the east and Fayette County to the south.

The HARPERs attended Hopewell Baptist Church (located in present Fayette County), which Thomas represented as a delegate to the North River Baptist Association from 1855 to 1860. During this same time period, he acquired several more federal land patents to the north and south of the church. Thomas reported owning real property valued at $5,000 and personal property worth $1,500 on the 1860 census of Marion County [p. 615]. He then disappeared from the records and is supposed to have died before 1870.

If Thomas outlived the Civil War, his final years were plagued by tragedy and grief. Seven of his sons were old enough to have served in the conflict — three are known to have enlisted in the Union army, and at least two joined the Confederate army. Of these seven brothers, four died from illness or wounds received during the war, and one was hanged as a Union sympathizer. No military service records have been found for the other two brothers, but the evidence suggests that they too were lost during the deadly decade. In addition, at least one of Thomas' sons-in-law died in the war.


1/19/2007
Children by Unknown Wife:


2. Robert HARPER b. abt 1826, TN, d. 1862, Corinth, MS. [2]


Children by Unknown Wife or Mary E. --?--:


10. George M.D. HARPER b. abt 1845, AL, date and place of death/burial unknown.

Child by Mary E. --?-- (may be others):


Children by Mary Jane Griggs:


1/19/2007

13. **Nancy HARPER** b. 1855, AL, m./d. before 1870 [census].


*Please send additions/corrections to the compiler:*

Louise Smith Hanson

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**NOTES**

1) **Sarah Harper** was married at her father's home, according to her application for pension. Andrew McWhirter served in the First Alabama Cavalry, Co. K, USA, and died of measles in a Union hospital.

2) **Robert Harper** served in the First Alabama Cavalry, Co. B, USA, and died of wounds received in battle.

3) **James W. Harper** served in the First Alabama Cavalry, Co. G, CSA. He was wounded in battle and "sent home to die," which he did three years after the war ended. James was survived by his wife and eight children born between 1849-1865 (source: Widow's Pension application). Sarah Drucilla's maiden name, Byars, is proved by the death certificate of her daughter, Elizah (Harper) Love, who was born at Old Pikeville, Marion Co., AL.

4) **Mary E. Harper** was 18 on the 1850 census and was married a short time later. James and Mary Tucker were living in Astons Store Beat with other married children of Thomas A. Harper and very near to Thomas Harper's household in the 1860 Marion County census. James Tucker had remarried by the 1870 census to a Didemy or Deniece (maiden name unknown). Mary Harper had a son, Josiah Newton Tucker, who reared a large family in Fayette County.

5) **Josiah H. Harper** enlisted in the First Alabama Cavalry, Co. B, USA. On a return visit to his home, he was captured and killed by the Confederate Home Guards. He left a wife and four children (source: Southern Claims Commission, John Lyons, Case No. 20850, Marion Co., AL).

6) **Daniel W. Tucker** served in the Civil War for the Confederacy in Texas.

7) **Thomas W. Harper**, a soldier in the 43rd Alabama Infantry, Co. H, CSA, was killed in the Battle of Knoxville. His widow's pension application states that they had no children.


1/19/2007
Thomas Wade Harper must have married Mary shortly before he joined the army. He enlisted in 1862 and died about five months later, according to a request for bounty pay that Mary obtained for his service. Mary and family left for Texas about 1869; she remarried in 1871 to John BOREN from Texas. Her parents' full names were John Madison Lane and Phoebe Ann Walden (source: ADAH). [UPDATE]

8) Elisha Denton Harper married in the early 1860s and was last recorded on the 1866 Alabama state census. He and Lucinda Lyle had two children: Mary E. Harper (1863-1900/1910) and John Thomas Harper (1865-1930). Mary married James J. DUTTON, 1879, in Walker Co., AL – Lucinda Harper signed a handwritten note giving permission for her underaged daughter to marry (source: The Zachariah Dutton Genealogy Web); John T. Harper married Francis Evoline WELCH. Lucinda A. (Lyle) Harper was recorded in the household with her father, John P. Lyle, and family in the 1880 census. The nickname "Dent" was contributed by a great-granddaughter, June (Harper) Barton Symonds, of Jasper, AL.

9) Tennessee P. Harper served in the First Alabama Cavalry, Co. K, USA. His date of death was found in National Archives Service Records. [UPDATE]

12) Kimber F. Tucker served for the Confederacy in the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma).

13) Jesse and Sallie Harper had 15 children.

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