



HFRR 2024 Reunion Recap

The HFRR (Harper Family Reconnection Reunion) was advertised as a time for the family to reconnect as a group for the first time since covid. It was a 5-hour event in celebration of our 35th Anniversary. It was a time set-aside for us to honor our past, update family history, discuss where we go from here, and recognize one of our ancestors—John Thomas Harper's birthday—at his home cabin located inside Brookside Nature Center (the reunion location). It was not intended to be a full-blown reunion or picnic as we've had in the past—but time to come together to discuss the future. Reunion attendees agreed they want to continue our reunion tradition. However, we still have some work to do to secure a renewed planning team that includes descendants of both John Thomas and George Columbus (2nd generation Harper's); every family branch; every age bracket; and every generation, (especially areas with large concentrations of family members).

If you weren't there, the day went a little something like this...

It was an overcast day with an awesome backdrop of greenery. The Harper Cabin was on full display.

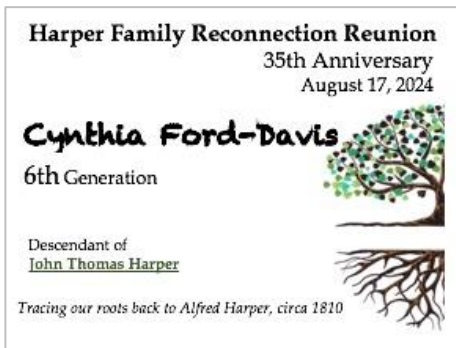


Harper Cabin



Fire Pit and Smokehouse

Name tags identifying which brother family members are descendants of AND what generation they are, were available for all who attended.



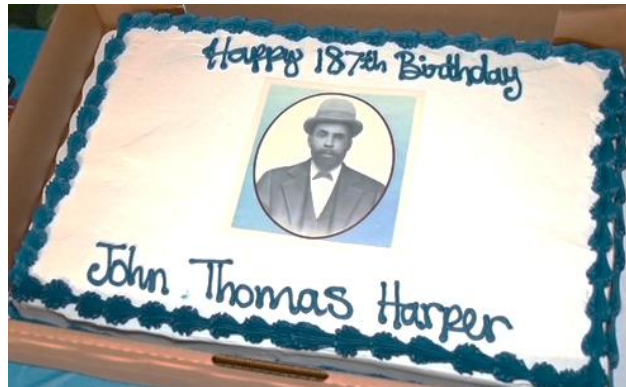
An Icebreaker in the form of a **SCAVENGER HUNT** presented a list of descriptions that fit attending family members. Those participating in **The Hunt** needed to search out family members who fit each description. The prize? Everyone who attempted or completed it learned more about their family members.

[CLICK HERE FOR A COPY.](#)

66 Harper family members and friends attended, including 6 Generations (4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th).

[CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS](#) or visit <https://harperfamily.online/2024-reunion-photos>

We ate. A lite breakfast of donuts, croissants, fruit salad and beverages were available. A lite lunch of fried chicken, potato salad, ham sliders, pizza, chips, cookies, cake, fresh peaches and beverages. And, birthday cake in tribute of John Thomas Harper—after we sang **Happy Birthday**.



Reunion souvenirs were available including: 2024 Reunion shirts, baseball caps and bucket hats; John Thomas Harper shirts and fans; Harper Cabin fans.



HFR T-Shirt



John Thomas Harper T-Shirt



Cap



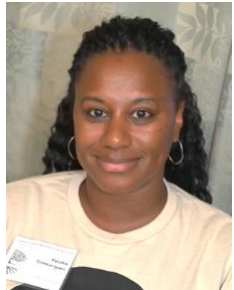
Bucket Cap



William "Billy" Roy prayed over the food. **Keisha Dominguez** was on-hand to update family members info on the database. **Beverly Harper-MD** was the host for the day's programming, along with **Beverly Harper-PA** and **Sekea Murray**. **Cynthia Ford-Davis** provided the **Family Tribute** for family members who have passed, whose names were read out loud accompanied with the ringing of a bell, followed by an overall prayer for all of our deceased loved ones.



Billy Roy



Keisha Dominguez



Beverly Harper-MD



Sekea Murray & Beverly Harper-PA



Cynthia Ford-Davis

Harper Family History: PowerPoint + Speakers : Guest speakers **Quame DeJonge**, Naturalist, Environmental Science & Policy Major, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks employee, and **Shirl Spicer** Cultural Resources Museums Manager, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks provided detailed descriptions of the Harper Cabin—one of two "first generation" log homes preserved from the Jonesville and Jerusalem communities—and insight to the 18th—and 19th-century African American history in Montgomery County, MD.



Shirl Spicer and Quame DeJonge

Sekea Murray, Billy Roy, Tyria Bander and Marcus Brooks responded to questions during the **Family Chat**, including activities young adults would like to see included in upcoming reunions.



Tyria, Billy, Sekea and Beverly Harper-PA.

We took the traditional family picture (not everyone was present for the photo)...



Line danced...



And caught-up with one another.



We wrapped the day up with Door Prizes.

THANK YOU to the following folks for making it all happen:

- Brookside Nature Center Staff, Quame DeJonge and Shirl Spicer
- Sarah Bell, Cheryl Clarke and Denise Herbert (Faith Harper's friends) who helped set-up, serve, clean-up, etc.

Everybody on the HFRR team who fulfilled tasks (in alpha order - please let me know if I forgot anyone):

- Both Beverly Harper's for hosting
- Billy Lee for helping with the behind the scenes organization
- Billy Roy for his prayers
- Cathy Harper Hogan for securing the t-shirts, hats and fans for sale; and providing gloves and masks
- Cindy Murray for being our Lonnie for the day
- Clinton Hogan for being the DJ and photographer
- Cynthia Ford-Davis for the tribute to family members and for designing the descendant / generation name tags
- Faith Harper & Evelyn Harper for the lunch and arranging a ride for Philly Bev to the DC Train Station
- Karen Copeland for the fruit salad, donuts and door prizes
- Keisha Dominguez for the database updates and cookies
- Lisa James for the gloves and masks
- Sekea Murray for co-hosting with Beverly Harper-PA
- Sylvia for securing the hotel and helping organize the reunion

And, Thank You to everyone who attended...without you there is no reunion!

Names are listed in alpha order by first name, followed by the brother each is descended from, and their generation.

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| 1. Addison Perry - George - 7th | 34. Karen Copeland - George - 5th |
| 2. AJ Dominguez - George - 7th | 35. Keisha Dominguez - George - 6th |
| 3. Andre Dominguez - George - 7th | 36. Khalif Peyton - George - 7th |
| 4. Anna Smith - Guest | 37. Khloe Peyton - George - 7th |
| 5. Antonio Dominguez - George - 7th | 38. Lacey Smith, Jr. - John - 7th |
| 6. Ariel Dominguez - George - 6th generation husband | 39. Lance James - John - 7th generation husband |
| 7. Ashley Harper - George - 6th | 40. Letitia Goodwin - Guest |
| 8. Beverly Harper/MD - George - 5th | 41. Linda Edwards - John - 6th |
| 9. Beverly Harper/PA - John - 6th | 42. Linda Ford - John - 6th |
| 10. Britney Addison - George - 6th | 43. Lisa James - John - 7th |
| 11. Camera Hogan - John - 7th | 44. Marcus Brooks - George - 6th |
| 12. Carmen Bander - George - 6th | 45. Maurice Battle - George - 7th |
| 13. Cathy Harper Hogan - John - 6th | 46. Michelle Finta - Guest |
| 14. Cedric Wright - John - 8th | 47. Moses Brooks - George - 7th |
| 15. Charles DuShawn Harper - John - 8th | 48. Nikia Davis - John - 7th generation wife |
| 16. Cheryl Clarke - Guest | 49. Quame DeJonge - Guest |
| 17. Clifton Bander - George - 5th generation husband | 50. Raynita Addison - George - 6th |
| 18. Clinton Hogan - John - 6th generation husband | 51. Sarah Bell - Guest |
| 19. Cynthia Ford-Davis - John - 6th | 52. Sekea Murray - John - 7th |
| 20. Cynthia Murray - John - 6th | 53. Sharee Bander - George - 6th |
| 21. Cynthia Wimbush - John - 7th | 54. Shirl Spicer - Guest |
| 22. Delores Harris - John - 6th | 55. Sunni Alleyne - guest |
| 23. Denise Herbert - Guest | 56. Sylvia Ford-George - John - 6th |
| 24. Elsie Copeland - George - 4th | 57. Tonjua Bander - George - 5th |
| 25. Ethel Malone - Guest | 58. Troy Jackson - George - 5th |
| 26. Faith Harper - George - 5th | 59. Tyara Battle - George - 7th |
| 27. Glen Rouse - Guest | 60. Tyria Bander - George - 6th |
| 28. Jahiem Brooks - George - 8th | 61. Vicki Alleyne - guest |
| 29. Janice Smith - John - 6th | 62. William "Billy" Lee - John - 6th |
| 30. Jason Walton, Sr. - George - 5th | 63. William "Bill-Bill" Harper - George - 5th |
| 31. Joaquin Davis - John - 8th | 64. William Davis - John - 7th |
| 32. Julia Wilkins - John - 6th | 65. William Roy - John - 9th |
| 33. Kailia Rector - George - 7th | 66. Zoey Davis - John - 8th |

P.S.: Notice anything missing or needing correction? Text or call Sylvia 215.490.2707. Thank you.