



Hello Family,

I know this may seem long but read it so you'll know what's happening on our 35th Anniversary Reconnection Reunion weekend. Thank you.

The Harper Family Reconnection Reunion is on Saturday August 17, 2024, 10:30 am - 3:30 pm.

It is the 35th Anniversary of our first reunion held in 1989.

It is a 1-day event at Brookside Nature Center, Wheaton, MD where the historic Harper Cabin is located and identified as the home of John Thomas Harper. John Thomas Harper's birthday is also on August 17th. He was born in 1837, 187 years ago.

This will not be a typical Harper Family Reunion.

It is the first gathering of family members since covid (5 years ago).

The theme of the gathering is: *Building on Our Heritage, Tradition & Legacy.*

It is an opportunity for us to reconnect, examine where we are as a family, update our family history, consider where we go from here and ultimately, identify "who's got next", because time waits on no man, woman or child.

All of the family members pictured on that first reunion group photo in 1989 ([click here to see it](#)),

have aged 35 years, which means the children captured are now adults. The rest are seniors, elders, or no longer with us. The clock is ticking. Many of those pictured worked hard to see that the Harper Family Reunion happened—year, after year, after year. And if we don't want the work that's been done thus far to come to an end, we've got to plan for the future and develop a strategy to build on the heritage, tradition and legacy that embraces and transcends Alfred Harper and his descendants.

Join us on Saturday, August 17th (*times are approximate and subject to change):

- 10:00 Set-up: DJ, T-shirt area, PPT, AM Snacks, Family Updates, Sign-in's (include Cabin Info + prize coupons, Scavenger Hunt w/team members on clipboards)
- 10:30 Start: Meet & Greet, Sign-in's (available all day), Purchase T-Shirt (\$10 cash-while supplies last), **Update** your branch of the family tree (available all day), **Take selfies** around the Cabin and post for the whole family to see, Take part in the **Scavenger Hunt** by identifying miscellaneous facts about the family.
- 11:00 Tribute to Our Past
- 11:15 Harper Family History with The Harper Cabin: PowerPoint + *Guest Speakers*
-Quame DeJonge, *Naturalist, Environmental Science & Policy Major, works for M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks*
-Shirl Spicer, *Cultural Resources Museums Manager, M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks*
- 12:00 Family Chat: *Where Do We Go From Here, Who's Got Next*
- 1:00 Family Group Photo
- 1:30 Lite Eats & Refreshments
- 2:00 Continue Meeting & Greeting, Family Updates, Sign-ins, T-Shirt Purchases, etc.
- 3:00 Wrap up, Door prizes, Closing

Come represent your branch of the family. Stay the whole day or just drop by.

The little ones can also enjoy the Wheaton Regional Park train and carousel. Click below for pricing and additional information. [Wheaton Miniature Train & Ovid Hazen Wells Carousel - Montgomery Parks](#)

Ms. Shirl Spicer has invited family members to visit the Josiah Henson Museum and Park during the weekend.

Josiah Henson is said to be the inspiration for 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'. The Museum is located on the grounds of the former plantation where Henson was enslaved prior to self-emancipating to Canada. The site includes a visitor center, historic house with an attached log kitchen dating to 1850, and a 4-acre landscaped park with accessible walking paths. Anyone wishing to visit should see Ms. Spicer on Saturday for free admission tickets.

Josiah Henson Museum and Park is located at 11410 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda, MD 20852

FYI #1. Covid is trending up in Maryland. Be covid alert. Masks, hand sanitizer and wipes will be available for those in need. Fist bumps and elbow taps are welcome. Please stay home if you don't feel well. And, don't forget your bug spray and sunscreen.

FYI #2. We were able to negotiate a room block with the DoubleTree by Hilton Washington DC

North/Gaithersburg, 620 Perry Pkwy, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301.591.9596 for \$99 a night plus fees/taxes for Friday 8/16 and/or Saturday 8/17 (with ability to extend before or after). Family members are responsible to make and pay for their own reservations. **The deadline for making reservations is Wednesday, August 14th.** Click the highlighted link below to make reservations. Contact Sylvia ASAP at 215.490.2707 if you're having trouble making a reservation. Thank you.

Booking link>>> [Book A Room](#)

