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K.T.'s Blessing is a Blessing for Jane Beson and for Others

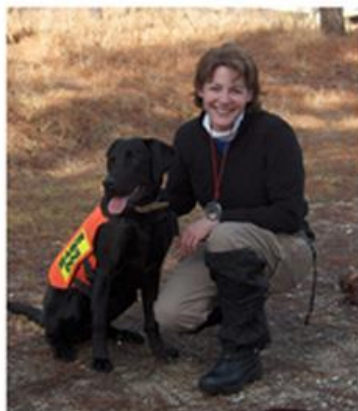
By C.J. King

Cousin Jane Harlan Beson, of Summerville, S.C., is one of a select few Americans who spend their extra time and money training search dogs to help others. And now, Jane belongs to an even more special group as the 2010 recipient of the Hernandez Search Dog Sponsorship award.

According to the National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA) web site, Kai Thompson Hernandez established the Hernandez Search Dog Sponsorship award in memory of those who died, including her husband, in the World Trade Center attack on September 11, 2001.

Kai watched as searchers sifted through the World Trade Center's remains for weeks on end, and she was especially touched by the tireless efforts of the search dogs and their handlers. She decided to give something back in the form of the sponsorship, a yearly \$1,000 award given to a handler to help with purchasing and training a new Search and Rescue (SAR) K-9.

Jane Beson has been working with her first search and rescue dog, Buck (short for Bucketful of Blessings), since 2002. She gives most of her vacation time and extra money to this effort, paying for trips to seminars—sometimes as a teacher, sometimes as a student—and paying for her own gas and



other expenses when called out on a search mission. She says she felt "called by the Lord" to do this work. She wanted to do it for six or seven years before beginning, but she waited until her two young sons were older and the right dog came along.

Jane explains that the search dogs on her South Carolina Search Dog team work in three disciplines: 1. Human Remains Detection, used for homicides, suicides, and water recovery; 2. Trailing, with the dogs starting at the last known location of a person and following that person's trail; and 3. Airscent. Jane and Buck's specialty is airscent. The dogs in this discipline are trained to catch a person's airborne scent. These dogs "clear" an area by searching to determine whether a specific person has been there or not.

It takes a special kind of person to do this kind of work. While Jane and Buck are trained to do "live" work, sometimes their search brings them to people who are recently deceased but still retain their unique "live" scent.

"It is hard finding folks deceased—I chose to do 'live' work, but those who have died still need to be brought home. It is so important for the family," she says.

Buck is now eight years old. Jane applied for the award last year because she knew it was time to start training his replacement. It takes as much as two years for a dog to be fully trained. Jane has been saving money for this eventuality for several years, but as a single parent, she was worried that the expenses of a new dog would be too much for her. "It was really a financial blessing to receive this award. It's a huge gift," she says.

With the sponsorship money, she purchased a yellow lab puppy, born last fall in Nebraska. Nicknamed Katie, the dog is officially named "K.T.'s Blessing." Jane flew to Nebraska and picked up her new dog on Halloween 2010. Katie has already started her SAR training.

In her award application letter, Jane wrote, "I feel blessed to have spent most of my life helping other people both in my vocation and as a volunteer. As a search dog

(Continued on page 8)

THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

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if space is limited.

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request to: harlamb@aol.com.

The e-mail newsletter will be sent
close to the time that printed news-
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The Harlan Record is also avail-
able on the Harlan Web site:

www.harlanfamily.org
under the link "Newsletter."

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Remembrance Fund in memory of . . .

Eva Jane Harlan Burlin
by son, Charles William Burlin - MA

Ridge L. Harlan
by nephew, Tim Harlan - MO

Melba Harlan King
by daughter, C. J. King - VT

Hazel M. Harlan Woelm
by daughter,
Sharon Woelm Medlock - TN

THE HARLAN FAMILY IN AMERICA

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 1, 2011

Checking Account Balance:
9/1/2010 \$4,825.28

INCOME:

Contributions since 9/1/10 \$2,109.00
Harlan Gen'logy Bk. Sales 810.00
Interest from CD 55.03

TOTAL INCOME \$2,974.03

DISBURSEMENTS:

Newsletter Print'g/Mail'g \$1,550.00
Kennett Friends Mtg. Marker 250.00
Book Shipping 86.32
Board Meeting expense 661.50
Chester Co. Historical Soc. 125.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$2,672.82

Checking Account Balance:
2/1/2011 \$5,126.49

Certificate of Deposit \$30,000.00

Net worth 2/1/11 \$35,126.49



**When sending e-mails with
Harlan information or if
making inquiries, please put
"Harlan" somewhere in the
subject line of your e-mail.**

Texas State Travel Guide

This summer, the Harlan national reunion planning committee will send out details of the next reunion, to be held July 5-8, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas. We hope you can attend!

As you make your plans, you might find it helpful to write for a free *Texas State Travel Guide*. This book is available from the Texas Department of Transportation by calling 800-452-9292, by requesting one via the Web site www.TravelTex.com or by writing for one at P.O. Box 149249, Austin, TX, 78714-9249.

This book has lots of helpful information, including maps, sightseeing information for each town, contact information for chambers of commerce and visitor bureaus, and a list of lakes and state parks. The information is conveniently organized into seven regions. San Antonio is located in the northern part of the "South Texas Plains" region (see map bottom right).

Depending on the amount of time you can spend in Texas, you may find that even San Antonio has more than enough for one trip. Among the highlights described in the *Travel Guide* are:

- The Alamo, called the most famous spot in Texas, a mission and fort that fell to the Mexicans in 1836. An IMAX theater across from the rear entrance to the Alamo features a movie that tells the history of this famous landmark.

- The Buckhorn Saloon and Museum, with 4000 items in its collection, plus a saloon that serves meals and offers authentic Old West entertainment, including gun fighters.

- La Villita, one of San Antonio's original settlements, this restored village includes authentic adobe houses.

- Market Square, a two-block-long Mexican style market.

- Natural Bridge Caverns, which offers a half-mile easy tour or a more physically-demanding Adventure Tour.

- River Walk, which features hotels, art galleries, gift shops,

2012 Harlan Family in America Reunion



Howdy, Harlans! Round up your kids, boots, and hats and get ready for a Texas-size Reunion in 2012! Mark your calendars for July 5-8, 2012, in San Antonio,

Texas, at the Marriott Plaza San Antonio, walking distance from the famous Riverwalk and the Alamo.

Look forward to a lot of fun events: a Welcome Reception on Thursday evening, Saturday banquet, workshops, outings, tours, boot-scootin', two-steppin', and family round-ups.

More details will follow later this year, but start planning now for a great time Deep in the Heart of Texas!!

Contact: Ann Harlan Whitis: annwhitis@hotmail.com for more information.

restaurants, cafes, live music and boat tours.

- In addition, San Antonio has a 33-acre underground Botanical Garden, a zoo, Sea World, Six Flags, and much more.

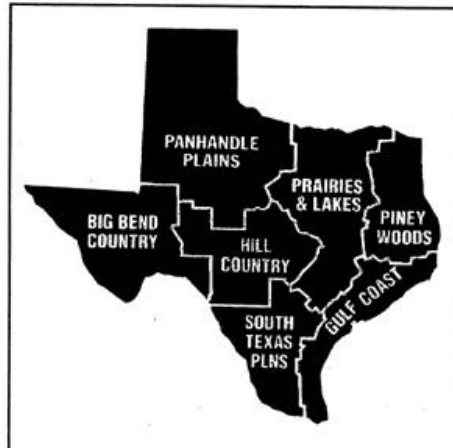
The *Texas State Travel Guide* provides details about San Antonio and its environs, and it can also help you find your way if you have time for adventure in other Texas regions. The Rio Grande River travels the whole western border of Texas, from the tumbleweeds and cacti of the northwest, to the tropical Gulf of Mexico. Central Texas is wide open with rolling hills, and northeastern Texas is plush and green.

You might also like to travel northeast of San Antonio to Marlin, Texas, home of the Blue Ridge Baptist Church that has been hosting Harlan reunions for over 100 years. Some of our Harlan cousins still live in the area. Marlin is near Waco, Texas. The town of Marlin was established in the 1830s, and in the 1890s, drillers struck a hot artesian well there. Thus, Marlin was a popular spa and health resort for many years. The Blue Ridge Baptist Church and Cemetery are about 11 miles east of Marlin. **Please note:** There is a small town named Blue Ridge northeast of Dallas, a long way from

Marlin. Don't get confused!

If you drive from San Antonio to Marlin, you can visit New Braunfels, a city that mixes German, American Indian and Hispanic culture and has a Snake Farm with more than 500 reptiles; San Marcos, where the Aquarena Center features glass-bottom boat rides and Wonder World offers a look at America's only earthquake-formed cave; Austin, the state capital; and Georgetown, home of the Inner Space Cavern, with remains of mastodons and other Ice Age animals in addition to stalactites and stalagmites.

These ideas just scratch the surface of the information available in the *Texas State Travel Guide*.



Map courtesy of Texas Dept. of Transportation

THE HARLAN RECORD 3

DC Church Bells Donated by Harlans

Editor's Note: Thank you to Dan and Mary Ann Harlan, who provided the idea and some documentation for this story.

Every 15 minutes, four brass bells in the graceful spire of Washington, DC's New York Avenue Presbyterian Church ring as an ongoing testament to the connection between the Harlan and Lincoln families. The church is located a couple of blocks from the White House, and Abraham and Mary Lincoln attended this then-brand-new church during their years in the nation's capital.

According to the church's web site (www.nyapc.org/history, "Civil War"), the church building was completed and dedicated in 1860, the same year Lincoln was elected. The President and Mrs. Lincoln rented a pew and attended services there frequently.

The church's pastor, Dr. Phineas Gurley, had a "strong relationship with President Lincoln during the years of the Civil War and his preaching would have a profound influence on the President," according to the web site, which also reports that Lincoln consulted with Dr. Gurley as he drafted the Emancipation Proclamation. Today, in the church's Lincoln Parlor, an original draft of the document is on display, a gift to the church in 1951 by Barney Balaban, then president of Paramount Pictures.

Abraham and Mary's eldest son, Robert, was away at college during most of the White House years, but he may have attended the church with his parents or later, when he and his own family lived in Washington. Many notables have attended the church over the years, including Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan, who served as a church elder and trustee, as well as founding and presiding over the church's Harlan Bible

Class from 1896 until his death in 1911.

Robert Lincoln died in 1926, and in 1928, his widow, Mary Harlan Lincoln, gave the church money to rebuild its bell tower in Robert's honor. The original tower had been destroyed in a storm, according to the organization Abraham Lincoln Online (<http://showcase.netins.net/web/creative/lincoln.html>). Mary Lincoln Isham, Robert and Mary's oldest daughter, gave money for the tower's four brass bells in 1929.

A story written by Bill Broadway and published in the Religion section of the *Washington Post* on June 29, 2002, records the inscription on the church bells as the following:

To The Glory of God
And In Memory Of
Abraham Lincoln
Who Worshipped In This Church
When President of the
United States
This Set Of Bells Was Presented
By
Mary Lincoln Isham
February 12, 1929
New York Avenue
Presbyterian Church
Washington, DC

To this day, services at the church begin with the ringing of these bells.

Slightly Damaged Copies of Alpheus Harlan's Genealogy Book Are Discounted

Some slightly damaged copies of Alpheus Harlan's *History and Genealogy of the Harlan Family* are still available at half-price, at \$30 per copy (includes shipping). There is some mold/mildew damage, but the words are legible.

The \$30 copies may be purchased by sending a check payable to The Harlan Family in America, c/o Peggy Harlan Talley, 104 Fern St., Poteau, OK 74953.



At the 1987 Harlan Celebration 300 in Wilmington Del., where nearly 800 people came from near and far to attend a national reunion, a permanent Harlan organization was founded. At that time, it was decided to have a newsletter that would be published at least annually and which would serve as the principle national communication medium.

The first newsletter after the reunion (January 1988) was published by Tom and Marylee Harlan, who at that time lived in Virginia. An appeal for "a good name" for the newsletter was made.

Over 20 suggestions were submitted from Harlans around the country, with the most persuasive case coming from those suggesting that it be called "*The Harlan Record*," as the name appeared on a 1901 edition of a Harlan newsletter. A copy of Vol. 1, Issue 1, dated December, 1901, exists, but no other known issues have been presented to the current editors.

Tom and Marylee Harlan served as editors of *The Harlan Record* until 1999. They now live in Washington State.

Mason-Dixon Story Includes Harlans

A reader of *The Harlan Record*, Freddie Tucker Wright, has forwarded a copy of an article about the connection between the Harlans and Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon. Entitled "Walking the Line," the article appeared in the Nov.-Dec. 2008 issue of *Preservation*, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Read it online at <http://www.preservationnation.org/magazine/2008/november-december/mason-dixon.html> or call 800-944-6847 for a back issue.

Murder in Woodland: The Case of Joseph Helm Harlan

by Steve Harrison

On a quiet Sunday, Feb. 7, 1886, Joseph Helm Harlan (#3065) walked into the lobby of the Byrns Hotel in Woodland, California, and within minutes, shot Everett L. Craft, a young man of just 29 years. Harlan, a wealthy and well-respected 64-year-old citizen of central California, had served on the Yolo County board of supervisors and was twice elected to the California State Senate. The news of the shooting spread quickly through the small agricultural town and was generally met with shock and disbelief. The *Sacramento Daily Union* reported that "Sentiment is very much divided, about half believing it was a cold-blooded, premeditated, dastardly murder, the other that the murderer was justified in slaying the traducer of the character of his daughter, and that young Craft deserved his sad fate."

Everett Craft had courted the 28-year-old daughter of Joseph Harlan, Victorine "Vic" Harlan (#7600): "[Craft] had been keeping company with Miss Harlan for many years; in fact, they had been keeping company since childhood, and had been ever regarded by their friends, until quite recently, as lovers." It was reported that Craft had proposed marriage to Miss Harlan and had been rejected. Instead, Vic married Stephen J. Sill on February 1, 1886, setting in motion events that ended with the shooting on February 7. The jealous Craft spread a rumor that Vic Harlan had become pregnant and had an abortion. Vic, according to one witness at the trial, "charged Craft with being the father of the child and asked him to help her out of the difficulty." Craft told one witness that he was the father of the child. But after the marriage, Craft said he believed Sill was the father, and Craft wanted a written exoneration from Vic. One witness



Joseph Helm Harlan

testified that Craft "told me she [Vic] was a ***, and called her many vile names - everything, in fact, that he could say detrimental to a lady's chastity and character. He said revenge was very sweet, and he would have it."

Such scandalous talk would have spread quickly through the community and shocked the well-respected Harlan family. It especially angered Joseph Harlan, who went to the hotel with his brother-in-law, Frank Barnes; both men were armed. Everett Craft was sitting in the lobby when Harlan and Barnes entered.

The newspaper reported that the proprietor of the hotel, who was reading a newspaper at the front desk, looked up after the first shot. He saw Craft jump off the bootblack stand and start running toward the door with Harlan close behind. Harlan was shooting and Craft fell fifty feet or more from the front door, about nine feet from Harlan. Harlan walked up to the side of Craft, put his pistol down close to his head and fired again.

The shooting lasted just a few minutes and not a word was spoken. Four shots were fired. Harlan shot three times, all of which hit Craft. Craft shot once and hit a wall.

Immediately after the shooting, Joseph Harlan walked out of the hotel and went directly to the Sheriff's office, where he turned himself in and surrendered his self-loading Smith & Wesson pistol.

The investigation and two subsequent trials were sensational news on the Pacific Coast. Special correspondents for the Sacramento and San Francisco newspapers provided complete coverage. Harlan hired six prominent defense attorneys, including one from San Francisco. The defense claimed it was self-defense when the first trial started in June 1886. They claimed that Craft "made a motion, quick as lightning, to draw a pistol," and Harlan "defended his own life." However, the testimony in court suggested that Joseph Harlan fired the first shot. The first trial ended without a verdict. A second trial in November 1887 also ended without a conviction. The failure of the jury to convict supports the Sheriff's statement immediately after the shooting: "I don't think anyone blames Mr. Harlan much for what he did. No one will blame a man for defending the reputation of his daughter or of any other woman of his family."

Upon his death on May 5, 1905, Joseph Harlan was buried in the Woodland Cemetery, the same cemetery that already held the body of Everett Craft.

NOTE:

The Harlan Family in America is currently looking for a qualified Harlan relation to fill the Webmaster position.

Interested individuals should contact the Site Coordinator Junior Harlan.

E-mail: harlanjay@cox.net;

Phone: 480-991-4337;

or mail to:

Junior F. Harlan
6218 E. Betty Elyse Ln.
Scottsdale, 85254-1947

Remembering Martha & Elgene

Those who attended the Celebration 300 Reunion in 1987 probably remember Martha and Elgene Smith. They were residents of Chadds Ford, Pa., and were experts on local history in the Delaware/Pennsylvania area. As part of the Tricentennial Celebration, bus tours of Harlan sites were conducted by Martha and Elgene for around 325 people. Years later they were honored guests at the 2002 Harlan Reunion banquet in the Brandywine area of Delaware and Pennsylvania.



Elgene and Martha in 2002

After losing touch with the Smiths, we've discovered that both have passed away — Elgene, 95 years, in 2005; and Martha, 96, in 2009.

It seems appropriate to honor the couple by some remembrances. Dan Harlan, the organizer of the 1987 Reunion, used these words to express appreciation to Martha and Elgene "for serving as our resident historians, for sharing with so many the local Harlan sites and for your infectious enthusiasm for the places where it all began."

At a 1987 planning meeting, Annette Harlan (GA) soon realized that Martha knew more Harlan history than anyone. Annette told her husband, John, and Dan Harlan that Martha was the person to set up the tours as she was so enthusiastic and excited for the family.

Junior Harlan has fond

memories of Martha. She kept telling him that he reminded her of her father. Martha even asked for a picture of Junior, which he sent.

Martha was a gracious host to anyone who came to visit, often inviting visitors to share a meal with the Smiths.

And for anyone attending the 1987 banquet in the Raddison Hotel in Wilmington, Del., remember the table favors? They were little pinch pots made from clay soils collected at various locations around the country. Grasses from Harlan ancestral lands were inserted into the miniature clay-fired "vases." Martha handmade all 750 individual keepsakes.

As a result of action taken at Celebration 300, Martha and Elgene made arrangements to have memorial markers for George and Michael Harlan and their wives installed at Centre and Old Kennett Meeting Houses. A dedication service was held May 14, 1988, with several in attendance. The next day, church services were held at Centre Meeting, and this is part of a letter written by Martha:

"Strangely, all during the weekend, and especially at the Quaker service, I felt our founding father's presence. In his will and in the few letters which have survived him, he frequently expressed his 'fatherly love' for his children. I think it is his love and concern for us which has bound us as a family these past 18 months. May such love ever be with us as we go our separate ways."

It turns out that Martha was interested in the Harlans partly because she was one! Martha's lineage, according to Alpheus Harlan's genealogy book, is:

George #3
Aaron #8
George #37
George #180
George #672
Cornelia #2258
Emma Augusta Vickroy #5764
Hermann Lewis Suter #5764-7
Martha Stephens Suter Smith #5764-76.

A Neighbor Recalls Geldermanns

Firsthand Account by Chris Herauf

I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of the Geldermann family in early 1970. I settled in San Ramon in 1971, very near El Nido. I was always fascinated by the beautiful home and the surrounding property dotted with horses and cattle.

I met Harlan Geldermann when I was invited to visit the property to look at purchasing one of his horses. I met the other members of the family, Joel, Jim and Jim's mother, Audrey, who lived in a separate house on the property. I became friends with Jim's wife (Wendy) and she worked for Harlan's real estate firm as a real estate agent.

In the 70's, there were still many remnants of the ranching life including barns, corrals, and caretaker's quarters. I did purchase one of Harlan's horses and enjoyed many years on the ranch riding in the hills and the adjoining property owned by the Weidman family. I even rode with Harlan a number of times, but his favorite thing was to drive his old blue Jeep to the top of a hill, under two oak trees, and gaze at the valley below. I often noticed that familiar silhouette as I started my ride through his property. I stumbled onto an old structure located deep in the hills and learned that it was built as a refuge in case of an invasion of some sort. I think it was built at the request of Harlan's mother.

Today, I am in the real estate business, living in a community developed by Harlan Geldermann called Roundhill Country Club. My, how things have come full circle. I was showing property the other day in the San Ramon community surrounding El Nido. It brought back many fond memories, but I was saddened that the once glorious house was stripped of all that made it special. Then there was an article in the *Contra Costa Times* about the property and the efforts to restore and preserve the structure. I hope your organization is successful in preserving the history of this wonderful home and the fascinating history that it represents.

Re-Zoning Decision Helps Save El Nido

San Ramon's five planning commissioners took a big step toward preserving the historic California home of pioneers Joel and Minerva Harlan when they voted unanimously in February to rezone the land on which the house sits.

The El Nido Trust, current owner of the home, has been lobbying for the zoning change for the past year, arguing that relocation is the best way to ensure that the historic home is saved.

Until the recent zoning change, the 0.7 acre El Nido parcel was zoned for a park, but the area surrounding it is residential. The zoning change will allow for the construction of 4-9 housing units on the El Nido site. In exchange for that, the El Nido Trust has promised to pay for the home's relocation and for the repair of its foundation.

The Harlan home known as El Nido is the "oldest standing structure in San Ramon," according Sophia Kazmi, reporter for the *Contra Costa Times*, who cites Beverly Lane, curator of the Museum of San Ramon Valley, as her source.

The Fall 2010 issue of the *Harlan Record* carried a story outlining the history of the San Ramon Valley home built by Joel and Minerva in the 1850s. Joel (#2992) was the oldest son of George Harlan (#852), leader of the Harlan group who traveled by wagon train from the Midwest to northern California in 1846. The story of their journey is told in the book *Eyewitness to the Settlement of the West* (available from Squire Cheney Books, P.O. Box 439, Downingtown, PA 19335).

After successful ventures that included gold mining, Joel and Minerva settled in San Ramon, east of Oakland, and built their first

house in the early 1850s. The house was originally located on the border between Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, and when both counties assessed him for taxes, Joel had the house moved a few miles north into Contra Costa County. A few years later, he built El Nido (which means "nest" in Spanish) at that new location.

Ownership of the house passed down through the family to Joel's great-grandson Harlan Geldermann and is currently held by El Nido Trust, a family trust. The house has fallen into disrepair and needs to be restored. The trust has agreed to pay as much as \$2 million to move the house and restore its foundation in exchange for this zoning change.

San Ramon Historic Foundation President Jean Ohman told SanRamonPatch.com reporter Jennifer Wadsworth that she hopes the El Nido house will one day be part of a historic village in an area of town called Forest Hills, serving to preserve the legacy of the area's

early pioneers. Ohman told *Contra Costa Times* reporter Eric Louie, "The position of the historic foundation is that we clearly want to preserve this home."

The El Nido house has been on a waiting list for state designation as a historic site. In addition to its significance to the Harlan family, El Nido is a fine example of Italian Gothic architecture and has served as a backdrop for social events in San Ramon's history.

One San Ramon planning commissioner, Donna Kerger, told Wadsworth she was against the rezoning request until she recalled the Easter egg hunts once hosted there and her daughter's delight on those occasions. She told Wadsworth that, "You can't get another house like this. I just want to put a big plastic bag around it and scoop it up and protect it."

For more information about the progress of the El Nido's relocation and restoration, contact William K. Harlan at orsinox@comcast.net or call him at (925) 932-8298.



The "El Nido" house, meaning "nest," was completed in 1858.

K.T.'s Blessing is a Blessing...

(continued from page 1)

handler, I always strive to be a good partner to my dog, a strong team member, and a valuable asset to my community ... I made the decision many years ago, with the support of my boys, to view this as my charitable giving and to give my time and talent to my community this way."

Jane is a practice manager for a large OB/GYN practice in historic Charleston, S.C. Her two sons are John, age 13, and McLean, age 15. Jane's parents are Annette and John Harlan. John is the Harlan Family in America Treasurer; his Harlan lineage is: George (3), Aaron (8), Aaron (41), James (199), John (739), George (2508), John (6326), and George Guy Harlan (John's father and Jane's grandfather). Jane and her sons attended national Harlan reunions in Delaware in 1987 and 2002 and in Reno in 2007. She also went on the Harlan-Hollingsworth England-Ireland trip in 2005.

Jane is a master gardener and a landscape design consultant, and she also enjoys target shooting and has a concealed carry permit valid for 28 states. "I feel safer in the backwoods and on the road with a weapon. On some searches, law enforcement will ask you to carry a weapon... You may come across meth labs, wild dogs, and just crazy people while out searching," she says.

Jane is a member of the National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA). She says that there are only about 5,000 SAR dog handlers in the country. When she started, there were no certified teams within South Carolina. She and her team mates got started in the field by reading lots of books and attending seminars because there were no mentors nearby. NSDA formed in March 2007 with the mission of providing education, mentorships, and certifications for search and rescue canines and their handlers. (continued on next column)

The Hernandez Search Dog Sponsorship award has been given each year on September 11, starting in 2007. Only five SAR canine handlers have received the award.

John Luther Harlan 1857 - 1935

Extracted from An Updated Genealogy of the Descendants of #194 Aaron and Elizabeth (Stuart) Harlan, 1990, Joydell Garrett Wolfram, compiler, Volume IIA, p. 209, known as the Texas Red Books.

John Luther Harlan, farmer, gin owner and Baptist, was born August 22, 1857, in Red River Co., Texas; died November 26, 1935, in Falls Co., Texas, and is buried in the Blue Ridge Cemetery at the Blue Ridge community, Falls Co., Texas.

He married Elizabeth Strawdy McGlasson on December 26, 1893, in Troy, Texas. She was born May 3, 1872, in Hardin Co., Kentucky; died March 23, 1947, and is buried beside her husband.

John Luther is the sixth child of nine children of Thomas Daniel Harlan (b.1831; d.1910) and Rebecca Charity Jackson (b.1834; d.1914) who were married July 31, 1853. His parents brought their family to Texas after the War Between the States. (See article in the Fall 2010 issue of the Harlan Record about Thomas Daniel Harlan.)

John Luther attended school at Central Academy (Blue Ridge school), Stranger and Salado, Texas. He took over the gin established by his father and ran it until 1919 when his oldest son, Thomas Daniel Harlan (1894-1939) took over until his death. John Luther's second son, Lloyd Wesley Harlan (1897-1977) then ran the gin until it closed.

The family home at Blue Ridge is still standing and in an excellent state of repair and preservation.

John Luther had an excellent peach orchard and watermelon patch throughout his life.

Mystery Painting

An e-mail was recently received with this message:

I found a painting at a thrift shop here in Florida a few months back. I fell in love with the "snow scene" landscape. From the looks of it, it appears to be old and in original frame. The signature on the painting says M. Harlan. I have been doing some hunting for this artist, but nothing comes up.

I found your association on the Internet and wondered if you might know anything about the artist?

I have photos I have taken of the painting that I can send along.

Just trying to solve the mystery of who might have done this beautiful painting.

C.L.

Can any of our readers help solve the mystery of the artist? If so, you can e-mail Ruth Harlan Lamb at harlamb@aol.com.



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(cut) -

Ninety Plus Club Has New Members

John Willard Ash was born August 26, 1916, in Jourdan, Texas, son of John A. Ash and Rachel Harlan Ash. At age four, he left Texas and went to California, where he has lived for 90 years. Willard met his late wife, Anna M. Ash, at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, while serving in W.W.II. They were married for 60 years. Willard has two brothers, James Ash, who was a pilot in W.W.II and the Korean War where he was killed, and Warren Ash, a veteran pilot of W.W.II and the Korean War, living in California. He also has one sister, Rae Ash Thompson, a skilled horsewoman living in Washington. He has two sons: Gregory and Kevin, and two daughters: Jane and Corinne, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Willard has al-

ways been a big University of Southern California sports fan and sent all four of his children to USC for their education.

Henry Crawford Harlan was born January 21, 1918, in Arkansas. He is the son of Lee O. Harlan and Ollie W. Doak. H.C. served in the Philippines and was captured by Japanese at the fall of Corregidor in May 1942. He later married Mary Louise Holland in Arkansas, and they are the parents of two daughters, Judith Harlan Chaffin of Tennessee (featured on page 1 of the Fall 2010 *Harlan Record*) and Marilyn Harlan White of Missouri. H.C. and Mary Lou live in Trumann, AR, on the family farm.

Marvin McDow was born in Portland, Oregon, October 20, 1918. He had a twin sister, Ezane, who is now deceased. Marvin came to California when he was about four years old from Spokane, Washington. He served 5 1/2 years in W.W.II and graduated from the University of the Pacific. Marvin worked as a school teacher and administrator in Stockton, California, schools. He and his wife, Roberta, have two sons, Mikkell and Stephen, and one grandson, Elijah Stephen. Marvin is a world traveler, enjoys his retirement and is active in civic organizations.



GENEALOGY CORNER

New resources are constantly becoming available to do online research. Although I have had no time recently to do any research, I am always looking for easy ways to do research as well as actually going to a facility that has records. For those who like to travel and enjoy digging through old volumes of courthouse records and the tombs in other places that house historical records, I can relate to that too. As a Harlan "cousin" recently told me, *"I certainly enjoy courthouses and can identify with your enthusiasm. Here in Virginia, ALL the courthouses' records*

have been filmed and are held at the Virginia State Library. One can order the films through the public library for no charge at all. Now what fun is that??"

But for those people who don't have the time or energy to actually visit other locations for their research, Google Books has now made available many research materials. To find the site it is **HYPERLINK** "<http://www.google.com>," then type in "google books." There are a number of ways this Web site can be beneficial. Taking the information directly from the Web site:

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I wish you well in your online research and hope this proves to be beneficial to some of you.

Cynthia Rhoades, Director of Genealogy

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