



Maria Louisa Davis

My GGG Grandfather was George William Harrison, born in 1824 somewhere near Cincinnati Ohio. Her married Maria Louisa Davis in Cincinnati in 1845. They had two children while still living in Cincinnati, William C in 1845 and Hannah M, my GG Grandmother in 1848. Shortly after that they moved to Yorkridge, Dearborn County Indiana, just outside of Guilford. George bought a 30 acre farm but was also a carpenter and building contractor. While living on Yorkridge George and Louisa had nine more children, Mary E, Charles Henry, Katy Marie, George Ludlow, Edgar C, Hosea Morton, Jesse Horace, Lulu, and Alexis. William, Hannah, Katy, George L were all married while the family was still living in Dearborn County. In 1885, for a reasons unknown to me, George and Louisa sold their 30 acres and the whole family, married and unmarried picked up and moved. Around half ended up in



George William Harrison



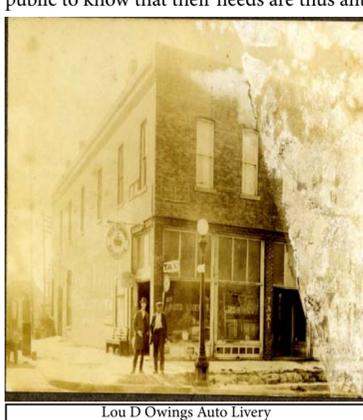
The Harrison Siblings

Flora, Clay County Illinois and the other half in different places around Benton County Indiana. George and Louisa, Katy and her husband Ralph Jackson, Jesse, Hosea and Alexis went to Flora. Hannah had married Joseph Grigg, an English immigrant, who had a farm in Sycamore Township, Hamilton County Ohio, just north of Cincinnati in 1872. They had two children, Mamie Jane, born in 1873 and my G Grandmother Carrie born in 1876. Joseph died in 1890. Hannah took Mamie and Carrie and moved to Flora.

In 1896 both Mamie and Carrie married. Carrie married Albert Adams in Flora, a clerk/accountant for W.A. Karr Lumber Company in Flora.

They had one child, my Grandmother Gladys Irene Adams. Mamie on the other hand married Elmer Newton Harkrider in Benton County Indiana. They ultimately settled on a farm in Brook, Newton County. They had five children, Pearl, Velma, Georgia, Raymond Harrison and Luther Dean. Carrie and Albert divorced in 1900 and Carrie, Hannah and Gladys moved to Fowler. In 1901 Carrie married Luther D Owings. The following is a bio of Luther taken from "A Biographical history of Tippecanoe, White, Jasper, Newton, Benton, Warren and Pulaski counties, Indiana by Lewis Publishing Company in 1899.

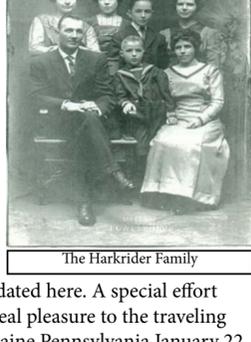
"If there is any public institution in Fowler except her model school of which the town ought to be proud it is the livery business of Owings & Eller, a large and conveniently arranged brick barn kept as clean as a house supplied with fine driving animals and high steppers if required and a large display of handsome rigs sufficient to satisfy the most exacting. Should the patron require a careful driver to pilot him to some friend in the country or to another town he can be accommodated here. A special effort is made to supply the best stock and best service to be found anywhere and it is a real pleasure to the traveling public to know that their needs are thus anticipated. Luther Owings was born at Blaine Pennsylvania January 22



Lou D Owings Auto Livery

1869 and is a son of William and Mary Fitsel Owings also natives of that place. Luther Owings received an English education in the schools of his native town and began life's struggles on his own account at the age of seventeen He first worked a year on a farm in the vicinity of home and used the means thus procured to make a trip to the west He secured a place on a farm near Forrest Illinois and continued in the employ of one man for three years He then followed farming on his own account near Chatsworth one year and was thus employed for two years near Forrest. He saved his money and on coming to Fowler in March 1893 he had nine hundred dollars to put in business He first bought a half interest in the stock of George Fisher and became a partner of HO Fuller William Eller bought Fuller's interest and the firm has been Owings & Eller since January 1 1896 They have purchased the building which they formerly rented and have this season 1898 erected a large addition to the original plant at a cost of two thousand dollars The buildings and stock are valued at ten thousand dollars The business produces a

revenue of from three hundred to four hundred dollars per month The patronage is largely transient sient since the introduction of the wheel yet they have a fair local trade They also operate a bus line between Fowler and Barce making all passenger trains on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad Mr Owings has always been an admirer of the horse and this fact was probably the cause of his entering his present business He is an excellent judge of horses and this capacity enables him to buy and sell to advantage He is a gentleman of genial disposition quiet and unassuming in manner is in the enjoyment of perfect health and is a splendid specimen of physical manhood Like his ancestors he is stout and heavy built even tempered and free from corrodng vices His future promises a successful career As to the marriage relation Mr Owings is heartwhole and fancy free enjoying the freedom and independence of single blessedness He was reared by Lutheran parents but makes no religious profession and in politics he has always voted the Republican ticket"



The Harkrider Family

Hannah, a nurse, continued to live with Lou and Carrie until her death in 1929. In 1910 Carrie gave birth to her last child Ivan. Gladys eloped in 1912, just 14 years old at the time, with my Grandfather Alfred Patrick Shaw, 22 years of age from Elgin Illinois. They settled in Fort Wayne Indiana and had three children, George Stewart, 1913, Robert Alfred, my father, 1914 and Carolyn Ethyl in 1916. In about 1918 the Shaw's moved to Toledo Ohio. Alfred and Gladys's marriage was always rocky and Gladys returned to Fowler often with the children. They divorced in 1923. My father and his siblings stayed with Carrie, Lou and Hannah in Fowler for periods of time. My Dad stated in his autobiography:

" We kids had spent many of our summer months with Gladys' mother (Grandma Owings) in Fowler, Indiana. We three thoroughly enjoyed those visits with Grandma, Step Grandpa, Lew Owings, and Uncle Ivan (3 years my senior). Several of those visits extended into the school year when Mom would leave Pop Shaw, and I recall most of the first grade was in school at Fowler. Apparently the competition was easier in the small town school as I completed the year tops in the class.

The three Shaw kids not only enjoyed the small town atmosphere, we felt the deep affection of Grandma Owings and Great Grandma Griggs when she resided there. There was none of the bickering and fighting which permeated the home in Toledo — the constant separation and reuniting of Pop and Mom Shaw. It was at the age of eight in Toledo that I had my first paper route and learned from Pop Shaw to save every penny earned. And when I was eight, Mom left home for the last time. Eventually, we three were taken to Fowler to live with Grandma Owings where I attended the fifth grade. We were not as happy, however, when Grandpa Owings decided to sell his garage and taxi business and move to a farm which he owned near Monon, Indiana. The house had burned down and Lew Owings had another old house moved onto the foundation and then expanded on that, doing most of the work himself and with the help of his son our cousin Ivan. Unfortunately, there was no electricity, no running water, an outside toilet and only heat from the kitchen. George and I were called upon to pump water to the livestock, pump the hand-pump washing machine, hand-churn the butter and do many of the lesser chores around the farm. It was quite lonely since we had never lived far from other kids, but a neighbor did take us to and from school each day. I was in the sixth grade at Monon School and on several occasions walked the seven miles home when I wanted to do something in town after school. I am glad for the exposure to and understanding of those rugged months, but certainly would not want them for my children. "

Carolyn remained close to Carrie, Lou and Hannah coming back to live with them after high school. In a paper she wrote later in her life she states:

"Caroline Griggs, the youngest daughter of Joseph and Hannah Harrison Griggs, was born on August 6, 1878 at Sharonville, Ohio. After her father died when she was only three, Caroline and her sister moved to Illinois with their mother. Hannah's family had relocated there shortly after the Civil War. Grandmother Harrison watched over Caroline and Mamie while Hannah continued her nursing profession, tending the sick at nearby farms and towns.

Caroline and her sister grew up on the Harrison farm, attending school nearby. At seventeen, Caroline was married to Albert Adams who owned a lumber company. This marriage was short-lived, however, as Caroline did not appreciate living with Albert's mother. That's when IT happened! Caroline took the first step that set off a chain reaction that ran through each succeeding generation of Harrison women. She did the unthinkable. She divorced Albert and his mother! Taking Gladys, their baby girl, Caroline moved back to the Harrison farm.

But Hannah had other plans. She and Caroline and Baby Gladys moved to a small town in Indiana near the Illinois border. Hannah continued her nursing and Caroline opened a millinery shop in Fowler. I'm sure that she must have turned out many a beautiful feathery creation. Later on, she married Luther Owings, a Dutchman from Pennsylvania. He helped raise Gladys as if she were his own. Caroline and Luther lost their first two children, one at birth and the second at two years. Finally, when Gladys was fourteen, a beautiful boy arrived, Luther and Caroline's pride and joy, Ivan Luther Owings.

Years later, when I visited Caroline and Luther, their livery stable had been converted into the town's only garage for horseless carriages. The top floor of the brick building was a meeting hall for the towns- people. This is where the lodges met, and social functions and dances for the towns- By the time the horse, Ivan had the age of twelve, he was driving. With no drivers' restrictions or licensing, Ivan had he only "taxi" in town, meeting all the incoming trains. Luther encouraged his son in any venture, business or otherwise. As a teen- ager Ivan, in connection with a local grocer, had a grocery route that took him to all outlying farms. I'm sure that all the instrumental in his becoming a successful businessman in later life.

When I was eight years old, I spent a year and a half with Caroline and Luther. Caroline was a handsome woman with brown eyes and dark hair that never showed traces of gray even when she died at seventy- three. She prided herself at being the cleanest housekeeper and the best cook around Fowler. She believed that there was a proper way to do everything. When dusting the antique furniture, I would ask, "Do I need to dust the legs?" "Don't say 'legs,' say 'limbs,'" she would answer. "A man is here to see you," I called. "Don't say 'man,' say 'gentleman,'" she replied. At times, her tongue had a little sting. That is when Hannah's sugar cubes were usually doled out. Life in Fowler was very rewarding for Caroline's family. Luther enjoyed talking with the cronies who sat on the benches in front of the garage. The stories exchanged there were not always in the best of taste or veracity. Because of the risqué language used, I was usually hustled out of earshot. Caroline was happy with all the ribbons won at bake sales and fairs. Although a staunch Baptist, Caroline was asked to cater the dinner for the Catholic Women's Club. In his spare time, Ivan was working in the new movie house. He successfully organized the town's first boy scout troupe and was scoutmaster at age 13. Hannah was no longer working in "the field."

Her nursing skills were confined to members of the family or friends. Then the lightning struck. The phone on the well rang out in the dead of night: two longs and two shorts, two longs and two shorts. Luther's farm had burned to the ground. The old barn and all the surrounding buildings were gone, along with all the livestock. Away at the time, were the renters who farmed on consignment. The only thing that withstood the fire was the frame farmhouse. Luther and Caroline decided that their only alternative was to sell their town property and move out to the farm. This was the beginning of a long, hard struggle. With determination end courage, Caroline set about putting things in order. She scoured and cleaned until everything shined. Luther had the heartbreaking task of clearing away the ravages of the fire. I can still smell the stench of the burnt cattle bones that had to be buried. The crops failed as did Luther's health. Additional hands had to be hired with additional expense. The Great Depression came with financial reverses.

One day, the faithful farm horse came from the fields, pulling the wagon with Luther in it. He had suffered a stroke. After the third stroke, Luther was bedfast, and Caroline decided to give up the struggle. Ivan, who had a prosperous business in town, helped them move from the farm.

In a little bungalow that her son built, Caroline nursed Luther to the end. A few years later, Caroline, my grandmother, was buried next to Luther in the little cemetery not far from the town's first garage for horseless carriages."

On August 18, 1935 Carolyn married Morgan Lee Sterett Jr. of Rensselaer, Jasper County, Indiana. Lou and Carrie lived continued to live in Monon for the rest of their lives. Hannah, Carrie and Mamie were not the only one's of the Harrison line to settle in or around Benton County.

William C. Harrison was born October 24, 1847 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He married Elizabeth Almira Dunn in Dearborn County Indiana February 1, 1876. George W Harrison was a farmer and a carpenter. The Harrison boys were split in their choice of occupations, some becoming farmers and other carpenters. William C was a carpenter. William and Elizabeth had three children, Florence, Katherine May and Henry C. In 1900 they were living on Bell Street, Oak Grove, Benton County but shortly afterward resettled in Muncie, Delaware County Indiana.

Charles Henry Harrison married Mary A Bowman in 1882 in Dearborn County and by 1900 was living in Bolivar, Benton County. Like his father and brother William, Charles was a carpenter by trade. In 1910 Charles and Mary were in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. They had one son Emmet Morton born 1886.

George Ludlow Harrison was born in 1858 in Dearborn County, married Rosella Susan Bright in 1883 and had their first child Nellie Regina in 1885 while living in Benton County. The rest of their children, Jesse Lewis, Clarence Bright and Alta Rosella were all born in Lafayette Tippecanoe County. The family eventually settled in Chester, Wabash County where George and Rosella bought a farm.

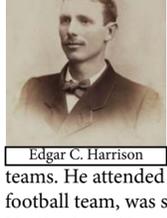
Edgar C Harrison, born in 1864 in Dearborn County, married Margaret A Gornall in 1895 and they settled in Oak Grove, Benton County where the couple owned a farm. They had two children, Emory Gornall born in 1898 and Roland Thomas born in 1904. They continued to farm and live in Oak Grove until 1935 when they bought a house in Oxford, Benton County. Their son Emory, born October 17, 1898 in Oxford, attended Oxford High School, graduated in 1916 and was a member of school's track and basketball teams. He attended Purdue University where he played center and guard on varsity football team, was shot-put man for track team, a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He Graduated in 1921. Emory was an assistant varsity football coach for Rensselaer High School in Jasper County from 1921-1924, then head varsity coach 1924-1929, with a record of 26-5-2; head football coach at Watseka, IL, and Speedway and Mentone, IN, 1929-1943; also served as Rensselaer HS freshman football, basketball, and varsity track coach 1944-1967. Coaching Honors included having undefeated seasons in 1925 and 1927. Special Recognition: In 1965, honored by Indiana State Track Association for more than 30 years of service as track coach; on October 18, 1974, honored with dedication of "Emory G. Harrison Athletic Complex" at Rensselaer, consisting of a football facility, an all-weather track, and a baseball facility. Coach Harrison passed away March 1, 1978.

Lulu Harrison was born in Dearborn County in 1870 and in 1886 married John O Wattles, a lifetime resident of Benton County, in Fowler Indiana. Lulu and John were members of the Fowler Presbyterian Church. John was raised on a farm in Benton County and John and Lulu continued to farm in Oxford Benton County until John's death in 1928. Lulu and John had three children, Geneva Jane, Charles J and Claude A. Geneva married Perry Allen Anderson in Oxford Benton County in 1911. They settled in Boswell, Benton County. John uncle John Wattles, brother of John O's father Charles W. Wattles, was the initial trainer to the great Dan Patch, the noted American Standard pacer. At a time when harness racing was one of the largest sports in the nation, Dan Patch was a major celebrity.

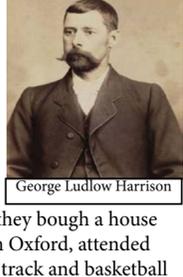
And that, as I know it, is the history of my Benton County ancestral roots. I have never stepped foot in Benton County Indiana, though I hope to someday. I write this all down now for three reasons. One: I want to contribute to this website and to help encourage others to research their Benton County roots. Two: I don't want my ancestors of Benton County to be forgotten. I believe our family histories are important and should be documented and passed down to the next generation and to all generations after that. And three: I would hope that someone reading this would have more information than I on some of the people and families mentioned here and would be kind enough to contact me and help me to continue to solve the never ending, ever expanding puzzle that is our family tree.

Thank You

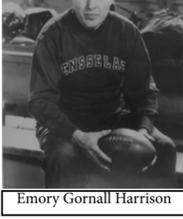
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Edgar C. Harrison



George Ludlow Harrison



Emory Gornall Harrison



Lulu Harrison Wattles



Gladys, Carrie, Hannah & Carolyn



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