

Harless Family - Cemetery Pictures & Histories

MARGARET ELIZABETH OLDHAM married COLUMBUS S. BENTON

Margaret's mother was MARTHA M. HARLESS a daughter of HENRY HARLESS, JR. and MARGARET "PEGGY" BASORE. Henry Harless Jr. was born in 1777 in Virginia and died in 1859 in Shelby County, Alabama.

HENRY HARLESS, SR. was born in 1752 in Augusta County, Virginia. He served in the Virginia Militia under Captain James Byrne, Captain John Taylor and Captain John Preston during the Revolutionary War. He died sometime before May 16, 1815 in Madison County, Mississippi Territory (Now Alabama) He is buried in Madison County, Alabama in the Bellview Cemetery. On October 29, 1989, a memorial marker was placed in the cemetery by trustees of the cemetery honoring his memory. He married CHARITY (maiden name unknown) about 1770 in Virginia.

JOHAN PHILIP HARLESS, was born in 1716 near Heidleburg, Germany. He married ANNA MARGARETHA PREISS on February 17, 1738 in Offenbach, Germany.

On September 5, 1738, he and his wife sailed aboard the ship, "Winter Galley", to settle in the American Colonies. He did not sign his full name on the ship's record but instead of marking an "X", he signed with an "H" for his mark. They lived several years in Lancaster, Pennsylvania before migrating to Virginia. They settled in the area known as the German New River Settlement of Virginia. Johan Philip Harless was one of the founders of the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, (1750-1885) in Virginia. This was the first Protestant Church established west of the Allegheny Mountains. The St. Michael Lutheran Church now stands on the site of the first church. He died on May 19, 1772, and is buried in the Harless Cemetery in Longshop, Virginia.

ANNA MARGARETHA PREISS, daughter of DAVID PREISCH and AGNES HOFFMAN, was born in Germany and is buried in the Harless Cemetery in Longshop, Virginia. The name PREISS was later changed to PRICE.

SOURCE: SLC FHL film #1035660, item #3, "A Open Letter" dated January 1979; SLC FHL film #1036816, item #4, "The HARLESS Family Association Bulletin", pgs. 3 & 4; SLC FHL film #1421655, item #4, "The HARLESS Family Genealogy" by J.L. PRITCHARD, M.D.; Lutheran Marriage Register in Germersheim, Germany showing her marriage date to be 21 Feb. 1738.

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/4542/d710.htm>

BIOGRAPHY: Philip Harless came to Philadelphia, Pa, from Palatines (Germany) on board the ship Winter Gallery, Edward Paynter master, 9-5-1738. It is believed that all Harless in the U.S. are descendants of this Philip Harless, who was one of the first settlers in the New River Settlement Montgomery Co., Va. Philip Harless had patents (grants of land) over 1000 acres of land on Thomas Creek, Montgomery Co., Va.

Philip Harless arrived 5 Sep 1738 in Philadelphia from Rotterdam, Germany in the Winter Galley. See Heavener, p. 61, German New River Settlement (Baltimore: GPC, 1981). Philip Harless I was one of the very first settlers in the New River Settlement. Name given as John Philip Harless in Harless Family Bulletin, Vol. 9 no. 1 (1971), p. 4. Yates & Price, Increase in Prices, p. 2. will dated 21 Mar 1772, probated 19 May 1772, recorded in Will Book 4, p. 493, Augusta Co., VA. Augustine, Henry, Daniel Price and Charles Rush were named administrators to his will.

Notes for John Philip Harless, Sr.:

According to Patricia Givens Johnson in her book The New River Early Settlement, Philip Harless was a German immigrant "who had arrived Sept. 5, 1738 in Pennsylvania on the Winter Galley out of Rotterdam" (80) ; they lived in Lancaser County, Pennsylvania before moving to the New River Valley in 1748. Philip and Anna Harless' first child "was christened in a Moravian church in Lancaster town though the Harlesses had been Lutherans at Muhlhofen, Rheinland Phalz" (80).

According to P. G. Johnson's book James Patton and the Appalachian Colonists, Philip Harless (the anglicized version of the German "Horlash") was aboard the ship "Winter Galley" when it docked at Philadelphia Sept. 5, 1738. "Michael and Augustine Price, Adam Wall, and Philip Harless came [to New River] in 1748 and settled near Israel Lorton who had bought from Patton in 1745. They settled on Stroubles (Strupel's) Creek and Tom's (Thom's) Creek, branches of New River.

PGJ: New River, Early Settlement: Many New River settlers fled the area around 1755, after brutal Indian attacks. "Near the Peaked Mountain Augustine Price, brothers Henry and Daniel, the Harlesses, Lingles, and others from New River found safety" (120) ("The Germans called this "Pinquit Mountdan" on "Chanithor" in "Agoste". Philip Harless was still living on Cub Run in 1760. (Cub Run was near Elkton, Rockingham County.)

More About John Philip Harless, Sr.:

Buried: Harless Cemetery, Long Shop, Montgomery County, Virginia

Harless Family History

Our Harless story began in the upper section of Rheinland Pfalz (Rheinland Palatinate) of Germany, in the Landau City District of Muhlhofen, at the village of (unknown) Offenbach, Landau, Rheinland Germersheim.

The Palentine area of Germany had been devastated by religious wars between Lutherans and Catholics and overrun by invading armies in wars considered to be some of the most fierce and cruel fighting Western Civilization had ever seen. The area was not so much involved in the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) as were other areas, but it became the battleground for the French, Swedish, Spanish and the German Imperialists wars. Because of this there was widespread destruction of both people and property in this area between 1622-1707. During those years there were shiploads of German emigrants coming from Germany to America to avoid religious persecution.

In 1683, a group of German emigrants from the Palatinate founded the first permanent German settlement in North America at Germantown, Pennsylvania. This started a mass emigration into Pennsylvania. There were three major reasons for the emigration out of Germany in the late 1600's and early 1700's. The first was that religious persecutions were carried out by both the churches and the government. After the Treaty of Westfalia (1648), which ended the Thirty Years War, the Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed Lutheran or Calvinist churches were the only churches officially recognized by the existing kingdoms. All others were still persecuted.

The second reason was economic and environmental conditions. In Germany there were always economic problems due to the constant wars and overcrowded conditions that existed. But, the worst by far was seen during the Thirty Years War. During this time, towns were continually being ravaged and plundered by German, as well as foreign armies. In 1707, during the War of Spanish Succession, the Pfalz was destroyed for the fourth time.

The third reason for the mass emigration was the political conditions that existed in Germany during that period. Often the people were heavily taxed and oppressed in order to support the nobility and to provide a military force. When enticing stories of the new world were spread around, of being able to worship freely, being free from the threats of war and oppression, and being able to own as much land as they wanted, the people began leaving by the thousands.

In 1738, our ancestor, Johann Phillip Harless, age 22, and his brother-in-law, Johann Phillip Preisch/Price, age ?? , took their families to Rottersdam, the Netherland, where they boarded the ship "Winter Galley", with Edward Paynter as commander. They set sail, first for Deal England, and then for the New World. They would no doubt miss their homeland, but were excited and eager to begin a new and better way of life in America.

On September 5, 1738, the ship, the "Winter Galley" was the first of 5 Ships, carrying Palatines from Germany, landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. All ships had sailed from Rottersdam, via Deal England, to Philadelphia and carried the first of our Harless ancestors to set foot on American soil.

On the same day, Philip(Johan) Harless and Johan Michel Preisch, along with the other male members of the ship, were at the court house of Philadelphia, did take and subscribe the oaths to the government, which at that time was British. After immigration the Prices and the Harlesses stayed for a time in Lancaster County, PA. The first child of Philip(Johan) Harless and Anna Margaretha Preisch was christened in a Moravian church in Lancaster town though the Harless's had been Lutherans at Muhlhofen in Germany.

They then settled down in Orange County, Virginia, on the Shenandoah River. They were there for some eight or ten years, and then they moved near Lexington (on Cow Pasture River about 4 miles from Natural Bridge). Then we find them in the German New River Settlement, southwest of the present city of Roanoke. There Phillip(Johan) Harless acquired considerable land, raising a family of 5 son's and 2 daughters, and was among those who in 1750 built the first Luthern Church west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Johan Phillip Harless born 1716 in West Germany, and died 1772 in Montgomery Co., Va. married Anna Margareta Preisch(Price) Feb 1738 in West Germany. She was the daughter of Hendrick Preisch and Agnus Hoffman, born 1718 in West Germany and died 1784 in Montgomery Co., Va. It is believed the voyage from Germany to America was spent as their HoneyMoon.

(It was a common practice in those days to baptize a child within one week of it's birth. Also, it is worthwhile to note that the name Johann is the German equivalent of the English name of John. And there was a German custom of the middle name being used as the calling name.)



St Peters Monument This monument sits on the lawn in front of, what is now St. Michael's Lutheran Church and reads: Site of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. 1750 - 1885.



Harless Cemetery-LONG SHOP1 Christenburg, VA taken 1998. Submitted by Georgia Hornbuckle Hendrix (Georgiamhh@aol.com)



Full Shot Photo of the graves at Long Shop Cemetery of Johan Philip Harless and wife Anna Margaretha Price(Preisich) Submitted by Jim McCormick (jemack1@mindspring.com)



1)HEADSTONES of Johan Philip Harless and Anna Margaretha Price(Preisich) at Long Shop Cemetery. Their Son is 2)Ground Marker Philip Harless DAR Marker. Submitted by Jim McCormick (jemack1@mindspring.com)



HEADSTONE OF Johan Philip Harless and wife Anna Margaretha Price(Preisich) Submitted by Ramel Price-Brown (Ramel99@JUNO.COM)



Grave marker at BELLFACTORY CEMETERY: The grave marker of Henry Harless, Sr. (Born 1752 Died 1815) In recent years a Veteran's Administration marker was placed in the cemetery honoring the Henry Harless, Sr. for his service in the Revolution. The marker indicates incorrectly that he served in the Alabama Militia. His service was performed in the Virginia Militia during the Revolution. Henry Harless, Sr. and wife Charity were living in VA when they prepare to move to TN. In 1801 they were in Knox Co. (now Anderson Co.), TN. Records of Anderson Co., TN in 1806 indicate that he owned land in that county. Most of his family stayed together and prior to 1815 migrated to Mississippi Territory (now Alabama) into the area north of Huntsville, Madison Co., AL. The family migrated to Shelby Co., AL shortly thereafter. Submitted by Fred Olive (folive@uab.edu)



Bellview Cemetery-located at Bell Factory Rd., Huntsville, Madison County, Al. Georgia Hornbuckle Hendrix is standing by Henry Sr. Harless's Headstone. Henry Sr., John, Rachel Ann, Catherine Hornbuckle, G. J., Hornbuckle and me. Photo was taken by Jim Hendrix (Georgia's Husband) Submitted by Georgia Hornbuckle Hendrix (Georgiamhh@aol.com)