

Harper Family Reunion June 24-29, 2008 from Harpersfield, NY to Harpersfield, Ohio

We'll start our reunion in New York and end it in Ohio much the same as our ancestors settled Harpersfield, New York and then moved on to start Harpersfield, Ohio. Rick Harper has designed two wonderful days in New York. He even has a travel log that tells us every street and highway to take so that we can visit many of the historical sites in the area.

New York— Tuesday, June 24th, 2008

The Holiday Inn Express will provide a buffet supper for us in the hotel at \$20 per person so that we can gather and visit casually in the comfort of a meeting room all to ourselves.

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Day 1 Trip: Visit the Old Stone Fort in Schoharie (\$5.00 adults, \$4.50 seniors, \$1.50 children) for about 2 hours. Then drive to Middleburgh for a very short stop. Col. John Harper and Alexander used the Middle Fort located here as a base of operations during the Revolution. On to some cemeteries in Harpersfield, a visit to the Shaver-Hill Maple Sugar Farm run by the family of the Harpersfield Historian Barbara Hill, and then to the Col. Harper Grange Hall where we will have dinner provided by Col. Harper Grange members. Rick has agreed to provide us with one of his outstanding reenactments during the evening. Julie Noble, our family treasurer, will take reservations up to May 31st via your check for the dinner at Grange Hall on Wednesday night. The cost is \$16 per person. Possible side trips for this day for those interested: Revolutionary battle locations including approximate location of Capt. Alexander's capture, McKee cabin massacre and Abigail Harper DAR Chapter in Stamford. Time permitting, the Iroquois Indian Museum- Howes Cave, New York.

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Day 2 Trip: Stop for a few minutes to see William Harper's home in Fort Hunter. Then on to Fonda for some genealogical research for the time period between Tyron County and Delaware County formation. On to Johnstown for those who would like to see the Sir William Johnson Home (adults \$3.00, NYS seniors \$2.00, children \$1.00). Next to the Cherry Valley Historical Museum (adults \$5.00, seniors \$4.50, ten or more \$3.00 each). From Cherry Valley to Roseboom and the location of the Harper homestead. Finally, to Cooperstown for research at the New York State Historical Association (\$5.00 library fee). For those that wish to spend less time on the road and/or less time on research, Cooperstown has a grand Farmers' Museum, an indoor-outdoor walk-through museum. And of course, some sports fans might want to take in the Baseball Hall of Fame and/or the Soccer Hall of Fame. We'll gather for dinner at the George Mann Tory Tavern near Holiday Inn Express; it is the perfect place for an early American, reunion dinner. Julie and Pierce Noble invite you to be their guests for this evening meal. Your dinner reservations are needed by May 31st. If you want a copy of Rick's two-day travel log, email Julie Noble at jcpnoble@aol.com, and she will email you the travel log in a ".pdf" attachment.

Both days we will eat lunch somewhere along the way, each person paying for his/her own food. Each person will also pay any entrance fee for sites we visit, that is why fees were listed above with historical sites.

Everyone is responsible for making their own room reservations in New York. We have reserved a block of 10 rooms at the Holiday Inn Express in Schoharie with a group rate of \$115 per night for the nights of June 24-26. The hotel offers complimentary hot breakfasts. Our daily tours start and end each day at the Holiday Inn Express. To book at the Holiday Inn Express, please give the code HFR (Harper Family Reunion) to the reservation desk: 518-295-6088 or www.hospitality188.com. If you wish to check the Internet for hotels in the Schoharie, NY area, just google for Schoharie, NY hotels. We came up with some you might want to look into: Best Western Inn of Cobleskill (\$126 a night), Super 8 Motel Cobleskill (\$60 a night), Econo Lodge Richmondville (\$81 a night). We encourage anyone interested in joining us in New York to book your room now. You can always cancel your reservation one month in advance without penalty.

Everyone is responsible for providing their own transportation to and from New York. If you wish, you can drive yourself through Rick's wonderful travel log each day. Or, if you prefer, we will make arrangements for you to travel, at your cost, in a local van with some other Harpers. You might be able to find a seat in a cousin's auto. We can have a mixture of cars and vans. Either way, we can travel in a caravan. We want everyone to feel free to do as much or as little as they choose. We hope everyone will want to go at least to the Shaver-Hill Maple Sugar Farm and the Wednesday and Thursday dinners together. If we cannot find another cousin driving from the airport when you arrive, we can make arrangements, at your cost, to have someone pick you up at the airport. Most of us will be flying into Albany. There is very good research work that can be done at the New York State Library in Albany before or after the New York leg of our reunion. Rick can give you information on the library if you are interested: rharper@newmediamarkets.com.

An airline deal for the reunion. American Airlines will give anyone flying to and from the reunion a 5% discount off the lowest airfare. The discount is available if you attend only the New York leg of the reunion flying in and out of Albany, if you fly into Albany and out of Cleveland or if you fly in and out of Cleveland any time between June 21 and July 2, 2008. To take advantage of this discount, call 1-800-433-1790 or go to www.aa.com. The code for our reunion discount is A8868AC. The airfare from Albany to Cleveland is prohibitive on American, \$200. Therefore, we will drive from Schoharie to Geneva on Friday June 27, 2008— a six to eight hour drive. If enough family cars are not available to take care of those flying to and

Ohio leg of the Harper Reunion June 27-29, 2008

Ohio– Friday, June 27, 2008

This will be a day of gathering. Some of us will be driving or flying from the New York leg of the reunion. Some of us will be driving or flying in for just the Ohio leg of the reunion. Or, some of us who live in the Harpersfield, Ohio area will join the travelers for the reunion.

Whatever your circumstance may be, you might want to consider research at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, 10825 East Boulevard– 216-721-5722. The library is open on Friday and Saturday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. If you are not a member of the Western Reserve Historical Society, admission is \$8.50 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and \$5.00 for students. The fee includes entry to the History Museum and Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum. All library guests must sign in at the Library Registration Desk and present two forms of identification such as a driver's license, school ID, Social Security card, Work ID, etc. Members must present their current membership card. To park in the museum lot is a \$8.00 flat fee. Lockers are available for personal belongings. You might want to go to the Western Reserve Historical Society web site to see what other attractions might be going on during our reunion: www.wrhs.org.

Wine Tasting & Dinner at the Grand River Cellars– Our cousin Beverly Cowles who runs her own wine tour company has made arrangements for our evening at the winery. What a great place to get together for our first night in Ohio. Family Secretary/ Treasurer Julie Noble will accept reservations for the supper by your check; \$12 per person. Wine tastings are 50 cents each. Wine will be at your own expense.

Saturday, June 28, 2008

Several activities will be offered in the morning so that you can choose how you want to spend your time.

1) A few have shown interest in a golf outing at one of the many near-by golf courses. Let us know if you want to have such an outing and let us know if you will need to rent golf clubs. Each person is responsible for their golf fees.

2) Some of you have shown interest in visiting an Amish community. Betty Johns has set up a tour including lunch in an Amish home. We will gather at 9:30 AM in the Shandy Hall parking lot and expect to return about 3:00 PM. We plan to see horse-drawn buggies, a bulk food store and a cheese factory, maybe even pick up some homemade bread and salsa. The cost for the tour and lunch is \$36. Minimum of 10 people on the tour for this price.

3.) The Geneva Public Library, 860 Sherman Street in Geneva, where the Ashtabula County Genealogical Society is housed is open on Saturday from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. We will make certain that someone will be available to help you if you want to do some research there. Let us know on the reservation form.

By 3:00 PM in the afternoon it would be grand for all of us to gather at the Old Unionville Cemetery, Rt. 84 and County Line Road diagonally across from the Old Tavern, where Alexander and Elizabeth Harper are buried. Beverly Cowles is working to get Elizabeth's gravestone restored as she did Alexander's for our reunion five years ago.

Then on to Shandy Hall, 6333 South Ridge Road West (Rt. 84), Geneva for a tour of the old homestead before heading to the Harpersfield Community Center on Cork Cold Springs Road east of Hwy. 534 for our catered supper and family meeting. Guests may arrive at the Center as early as 4:00 PM to view our family genealogical books and visit with cousins. Family secretary/treasurer Julie Noble will take reservations via check for the meal, \$15 per person. No alcohol provided.

Sunday, June 29, 2008

We hope many of you will join us for the church service at the Unionville United Church, 6870 South Ridge East in Unionville. This is the very special church that Harpers and other pioneer settlers started in the early 1800's. The church has been growing the last few years under the direction of their enthusiastic pastor, Rev. Bob Cunningham. They always welcome the Harper family. In the summer, the service starts at 9:00 AM. After the service, several of us will gather at Best Friends for brunch. The restaurant is located on the north east corner of I-90 and Highway 534. Brunch is at your expense.

Everyone is responsible for making their own room reservations in Ohio. We have reserved a block of 10 rooms in the new Lodge and Convention Center in Geneva-on-the-Lake, Highway 534 at 531. The room rate will be \$149 per night plus tax. I encourage you to make your reservations now. You may cancel as late as 45 days before the reunion and receive no penalty. Scott Longert, Shandy Hall site manager, has worked with these folks to promote visits to Shandy Hall, and he hopes you will stay in the new facility: 440-466-7100, www.thelodgeatgeneva.com. Tell them you are with the Alexander Harper Family Society. Other places in the area you might check out are: The Lakehouse Inn (B&B) 440-466-8668 www.thelakehouseinn.com, WarnerConcord Farms(B&B) near Shandy Hall 440-428-4485 www.warner-concordfarms.com, Polly Harper Inn (B&B) 440-466-6283 www.pollyharperinn.com, Holiday Inn Express (\$129 a night), Sleep Inn and Hampton Inn (\$99 a night) – all three in Austinburg at the I-90 and Highway 45 intersection.

Everyone is responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Ohio. See air deal on back of this page. If you need transportation from the airport or around the Geneva area, let us know on the reservation form.

There is plenty of fun and discounts for families in Geneva-on-the-Lake: Adventure Zone, miniature golf, etc. There are parks along Lake Erie. You might even want to eat some buffalo products and/or send some to friends and family: Buck's Grill & Bar is located on Hwy. 45 one fourth mile south of I-90. You can drive by the near-by bison farm, too.