

Hello,

My name is Meaghan Farrell. I am doing some genealogical research on a John Harrison for an episode of the PBS show *Finding Your Roots II*. I'm trying to find out as much information I can about John Harrison who was a very rich plantation owner in Fairfield. I believe the Dixon House is the original house where his plantation may have been. I found some records showing he was born in 1789 and died 1865. He apparently had a huge estate with over 150 slaves so I'm guessing there must be some sort of record of him in the county. If you have any information or maybe know someone else who could help me out, I would be very appreciative! Hope you have a wonderful Tuesday!

Meaghan

--

**MeggFarrell**

201 403 5075

[www.MeggFarrell.com](http://www.MeggFarrell.com)

Hey Pelham,

Megg is fine! So the man in question is a Nick P. Harrison who married a Lenora. We believe they moved to Florida at some point. Sharon actually had once talked to a descendent of a Nick P Harrison so we may have a lead with her! I'm calling her tonight because all her notes are at home. Thanks again for putting me in contact with her. I'll keep you in the loop as we find out the story of these Harrisons. Basically once we find our Nick P Harrison then we will move backwards from there. Thanks so much for all your help! You guys are a great contact for this project!

Megg

On Wed, Jan 29, 2014 at 1:54 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Megg (Meaghan? Which do you prefer?),

I let slip the African American's name that you referenced. I think you said he may have been the son of this John Harrison and that John was the son of Reuben of the Rev. War service. I have spoken with Eddie about coming in tomorrow late morning or early afternoon to start working on this and will send him some preliminary clues at home to bring him up to score on the colonial to 19<sup>th</sup> C. Longtown area Harrisons. As I may have mentioned, there were more than one Virginia Harrison family to come in early like Reuben's family. My own were descendants of Burr Harrison who settled 20 miles further west of this group in Fairfield County. That family connected later to the Harrison ancestry of our SC Wade Hampton family. I have not been able to study the connections back in Virginia with Reuben's line, but can clear that off the study desk for Eddie before he gets into our files. Sorry for sidetracking here---you will find that we Southerners are notorious for making connections, connecting our own histories to others', etc.

I am eager to hear if you were able to contact Sharon Avery and what leads she may have had. I would love to be kept in the loop in the ongoing discovery as this is a great part of our local history. As I mentioned, the African American Harrison family had some very prominent members and a number who are well-known today. I am attempting to contact present-day representatives of the family who can bring us up to par...ou may

The phone number at the museum is [803-635-9811](tel:803-635-9811).

Pelham

That is really interesting. So do you know where the Peay Plantation was? I'm confused about who is Starke vs. who is Peay. Are they separate plantation owners? Or are they somehow working together? I'm confused of how the Harrison Plantation is related to this slave. Are they neighbors who intermarried slaves often. And that fire she spoke of, the Yankees who burned down the plantation , would that have happened to John Harrison's as well?

On Wed, Jan 29, 2014 at 4:06 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

I would guess that Nick's middle name is Peay as that is my family which were close neighbors and intermarried. Nick Peay was a name that repeated through the family and my great grandmother was the sister of Nick Peay whose famous ostentatious mansion was one of the first that Sherman's troops made haste to burn in Feb. of 1865.

Read this former slave's testimony (1936-37 WPA Slave Narratives) and see how many John Harrisons pop up:

## Rosa Starke

Ex-Slave 83 years old

Rosa's grandfather was a slave of solicitor Starke. Although she has had two husbands since slavery, she has thrown their names into the discard and goes by the name of Rosa Starke. **She lives in a three room frame house with her son, John Harrison, two miles south of Winnsboro, S.C. on the plantation of Mrs. Rebecca Woodward, she still does farm work, hoeing and picking cotton.**



"They say I was six years old when de war commence poppin' in Charleston. Mammy and pappy say dat I was born on de Graham Place, one of de nineteen plantations of **my old marster, Nick Peay**, in 1854. My pappy was named Bob and my Mammy name Salina. They had b'longed to old Marse Tom

Starkes befo old Marse Nick bought them. My brudders was name Bob and John. I had a sister name Carrie. They was all older then me.

"My Marster, Nick Peay, had nineteen places, wid a overseer and slave quarters on every place. Folks dat know will tell you, dis day, dat them nineteen plantations, in all, was twenty seven thousand acres. He had a thousand slaves, more or less, too many to take a census of. Befo' the numerator git 'round, some more would be born or bought, and de nominator had to be sent 'round by Marse Nick, so old Miss Martha, our mistress say. Her never could know just how many twas. Folks used to come to see her ask how many they had and her say it was one of them sums in de 'rithmetic dat a body never could take a slate and pencil and find out de correct answer to.

" Her was an Adamson befo' her marry old marster, a grand big buckra. Had a grand manner, no patience with po white folks. They could'nt come in the front yard, they knowed to pass on by to de lot, hitch up dair hoss, and come knock on de kitchen door and make deir wants and wishes knowed to de butler.

"You wants me to tell 'bout what kind of house us niggers live in then? Well, it ' pend on de nigger and what him was doin'. Dere was just two classes of de white folks, buckra slave owners and poor white folks dat did'nt own no slaves. Dere was more classes 'mongst the slaves. De first class was the house servants. Dese was de butler, de maids, de nurses, chambermaids, and de cooks. De nex' class was de carriage drivers and de gardeners, de carpenters, de barber and the stable man. Then come the nex'class, de wheelwright, wagoners, blacksmiths and slave foremen. De nex' class I members is the cow men and de niggers dat have care of de dogs. All these have good houses and never have to work hard or get a beatin'. Then come the cradlers of the wheat, de threshers, and de millers od de corn and de wheat, and de feeders of the cotton gin. De lowest was the common field niggers. A house nigger man might swoop down and mate wid a field hands good lookin'daughter, now and then, for pure love of her, but you never see a house gal lower herself by marryin' and matin' wid a common field-hand nigger. Dat offend de white folks, specially de young misses, who liked de business of match makin' and matin' of de young slaves.

"My young marsters was Marse Tom, Marse Nick and Marse Austin. My young misses was Miss Martha, Miss Mary, and Miss Anne Eliza. I knows Marse Nick, Jr. Marry and Cunningham of Liberty Hill. Marse Tom marry a Lyles and Marse Austin marry and move to Abbeville, after de war. Old Marster die de year befo' the war, I think, ' cause my mammy and pappy fell in de division to Marse Nick and us leave de Graham place to go to

de home place. It was called de Melrose place. And wat a place dat was! 'Twas on a hill, overlookin' de place where de Longtown Presbyterian Church and cemetary is today. Dere was thirty rooms in it and a fish pond on top of it. A flower yard stretchin' clean down de hill to de big road, where de big gate, hangin' on big granite pillars, swung open to let de carriages, buggies and wagons in and up to de house.

"Can I tell you some of de things dat was in dat house when de Yankees come? Golly no! Dat I can't, but I 'members some things that would stonish you as it stonished them. They had Marseille carpets, linen table cloths, two silver candlesticks in every room, four wine decanters, four nut crackers, and two coffee pots all of them silver. Silver castors for pepper, salt, and vinegar bottles. All de plates were china. Ninety eight silver forks, knives, teaspoons and tablespoons. Four silver ladles, six silver sugar tongs, silver goblets, a silver mustard pot and two silver fruit stands. All de fireplaces had brass firedogs and marble mantelpieces. Dere was four oil paintings in de hall, each cost, so Marse Nick say a hundred dollars. One was his ma, one was his pa, one was his uncle Austin and de other was of Colonel Lamar.

De smokehouse had four rooms and a cellar. One room, every year, was filled wid brown sugar just shoveled in wid spades. In winter they would drive up a drove of hogs from each plantation, kill them, scald de hair off them, and pack de meat away in salt, and hang the hams and shoulders, round and bout the smokehouse. Most of de Rum and wine was kept in barrels, in de cellar, but dere was a closet in de house where whiskey and brandy was kep' for quick use. All back on de east side of the mansion was de garden and terraces, acres of sweet taters, and water millions (watermelons) and strawberries and two long rows of beehives.

"old Marster die. De praisers of de State come and figure dat his mules, niggers, cows, hogs, and things was worth \$ 200,000. Land and houses idisremember'bout. They, anyhow, say de property was over a million dollars. They put a price of \$1,600 on mammy and \$1,800 on pappy. I member they say I was worth \$ 400.00, Young Marse Nick tell us dat the personal property of the estate was praised at \$288,168.79.

"De Yankees come set all the cotton and de gin house afire. Load up all de meat, take some of de sugar and shovel some over de yard, take all the rum, wine and liquor, gut the houses of all the silver and valuables, set it afire, and leave one thousand niggers cold and hungry, and our white folks in a misery they never got over to de third generation of them. Some of them is the poorest white folks in the State today. I weeps when I see them so poor, but they is spectable yet, thank God.

**"After the war I stuck to the Peay white folks, 'till I got married to **Will Harrison**. I can't say I love him, though he was de father of all my chillun. My pappy, you know, was a half white man. Maybe dat explain it. Anyhow when he took the fever I sent for Dr. Gibson, 'tend him faithful but he die and felt more like I was free, when I came back from the funeral, then I did when old Marse Lincoln set us free. My brudder Bob, had done gone to Florida.**

**"I nex marry in a half hearted way, John Pearson, to help take care of me and my three chillun, John, Bob and Carrie. Him take pneumonia and die, and I never have a speck of heart to marry a colored man since. I just have a mind to wait for de proper sort, till I git to Heaven, but dese adult teachers' stroy dat hope. They read me dat dars no marryin' in Heaven. Well, well, dat'll be a great dissapointment to some I knows, both white and black, and the ginger-cake woman lak me.**

**" Is I got any more to tell you? Just dis: Dere was 365 windows and doors to Marse Nicks house at Melrose, one for every day in de year, my mistress, my mistress 'low. And dare was a peach tree in de orchard so grafted dat dat peach tree have ripe peaches on it in May, June, July, August, September and October."**

Then, also the narrative of [Frank Adamson](#) tells more about the Peays.

## **FRANK ADAMSON**

### **EX-SLAVE 82 YEARS OLD.**

... "I b'longs to de Peays. De father of them all was, Korshaw Peay. My marster was his son, Nicholas; he was a fine man to just look at. My mistress was always tellin' him 'bout how fine and handsome-like he was. He must of got use to it; howsomever, marster grin every time she talk like dat.[Pg 14]..... "Was marster rich? How come he wasn't? He brag his land was ten miles square and he had a thousand slaves. Them poor white folks looked up to him lak God Almighty; they sho' did. They would have stuck their hands in de fire if he had of asked them to do it. He had a fish pond on top of de house and terraces wid strawberries, all over de place.[Pg 15] See them big rock columns down dere now? Dats all dats left of his grandness and greatness. They done move de whippin' post dat was in de backyard. Yes sah, it was a 'cessity wid them niggers. It stood up and out to 'mind them dat if they didn't please de master and de overseer, they'd hug dat post, and de lend of dat whip lash gwine to flip to de hide of dat back of their's..." "I ain't a complainin'. He was a good master, bestest in de land, but he just have to have a whippin' post, 'cause you'll find a whole passle of bad niggers when you gits a thousand of them in one

flock....."My young marsters was: Austin, Tom, and Nicholas; they was all right 'cept they tease you too hard maybe some time, and want to mix in wid de 'fairs of slave 'musements....."Now what make you ask dat? Did me ever do any courtin'? You knows I did. Every he thing from a he king down to a bunty rooster gits cited 'bout she things. I's lay wake many nights 'bout sich things. It's de nature of a he, to take after de she. They do say dat a he angel ain't got dis to worry 'bout...."I fust courted **Martha Harrison**. Us marry and jine de church. Us had nine chillun; seven of them livin'. A woman can't stand havin' chillun, lak a man. Carryin', sucklin', and 'tending to them wore her down, dat, wid de malaria of de Wateree brung her to her grave.

I really know nothing about the Harrisons. I think we can have the meeting tomorrow if you wish to do so. Just let me know. Ben

What is the subject for the Harrisons? What is one trying to prove, etc.?

---

From: [fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)  
To: [robertekillian@yahoo.com](mailto:robertekillian@yahoo.com); [bhornsby@hotmail.com](mailto:bhornsby@hotmail.com)  
Subject: FW: Plantation at Dixon House  
Date: Wed, 29 Jan 2014 13:28:23 -0500

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/aalives/credits.html> is the series with Henry L. Gates, Jr. that we will be working with...

Ben and Eddie,

Here is the letter from Megg Farrell about helping on the Harrison research. She called me back a few moments ago to say that the production company would be glad to give us a donation for our help--- which we will consider pay for Eddie to devote time to looking through everything we have at the museum that may help them.

Ben, I gave her Sharon Avery's contact information as I think I remember her saying she had done some research on the black Harrison family and where they connected to the white plantation owners in Longtown. Val has a copy of **The Venturers: The Hampton, Harrison, and Earle Families** that he is looking through to see if that branch of Virginia Harrisons connects to the Reuben Harrison group who settled in colonial Fairfield near the Wateree River and Longtown area. Meg mentioned the connection to Reuben. She also mentioned the name of the slave who is supposed to be the son of John, but I have already forgotten it. I have referred her to the Caroliniana library collections and SCDAH. She was going to try to reach Sharon after our last phone conversation.

Eddie, I'll make plans to be at the museum as soon as I can get on the road tomorrow morning or perhaps by midday. It looks like by afternoon, things should be clear with the weather. We have scheduled an executive board meeting at 4 which may or may not be canceled (Ben, what do you think?).

Ben, can you think of the famous black Harrison members that we may be able to get in touch with? One was a famous network sportscaster or news anchor, a lady, but I can't remember who. I'll try to contact some of the locals I know who are Harrison kin (Janet Mason, etc.).

-Pelham

did not read the entire email. I apologize for asking stupid questions. I know the Harrisons have great monuments and are buried at Longtown Presbyterian Church.

One other thought. Who is the wife of the funeral director of Gibson's funeral home? Was she a Harrison? I can not remember her name, Ruth????

=Ben  
Hey Pelhem,

The stuff you are sending us is amazing! We are all getting so excited to finally find some info. So we were studying the map you sent us and we found something pretty amazing. So the person we are trying to find Nicholas P. Harrison married a Lenora Boyd who was the daughter of a Dr. Boyd. And there is a Dr. Boyd on the map!! Do you have any information about him? Hey I'm not sure what this is. Is this just four slaves of Reuben Harrison?

## Slave Ownership History for HARRISON, Reuben in Petition 21383607

<a href="#">Harry</a>	male	before 1836			Title Ownership.
<a href="#">Maria</a>	female	before 1836			Title Ownership.
<a href="#">Letty</a>	female	before 1836			Title Ownership.
<a href="#">Peggy</a>	female	before 1836			Title Ownership.

© 2000-2009 All rights reserved. [The University of North Carolina at Greensboro](#).  
Maintained by [ERIT](#), [University Libraries](#), UNCG

Hey Pelhem & Ed,

I didn't hear much from you guys after you did some research at the museum. Were you able to find anything interesting on our Harrison? I also wanted to check in and see if you could give us anything on the Dr, Boyd who lived next to the Harrisons. We saw him on the map and we believe he is also a relative of our guest.

We have another request as well. Sharon gave me the information on a court case between John Harrison and the family of his grandkids over some slaves he was in charge of. She listed a few places that may have he documents and said you guys may have that.

Here is what she wrote to me:

"

**Fairfield District  
Court of Equity  
Bills, 1860-9**

John Harrison, Jr. and Mary Harrison, by their uncle Robert H. Edmunds, Jr.  
vs.  
John Harrison, Sr.

Notes from Answer of John Harrison, Sr. (**grandfather** of Mary Harrison and John Harrison, Jr., children of Richard B. Harrison and Mary Edmunds Harrison, now both deceased). John Harrison Sr. had acted as the children's guardian and kept their slaves at his plantation.

Answer dated: 02 July 1855.

Harrison admits (that the slaves) have been very unfortunate since they came into his possession five or six having died, but he denies any willful neglect or mismanagement on his part.... for within the same time on the same plantation he has lost a great many of his own negroes, to wit about forty...

The Defendant submits in further answering the names and ages of the surviving negroes...Robbin about forty years of age. Mary about thirty-three years of age. Harriet about nineteen years of age. Harry about thirteen years old. Rhoda about eleven years old. Turner about nine years old. Maggy about five years old. Charity about eleven years old. Reuben about eighteen months, and Creasy about two years of age.

Defendant cannot speak of the ages of those who have died further than that they were all children except one who was a grown woman.

Court Order.

The court ordered that the slaves belonging to John Harrison Jr. and Mary Harrison be sold...as they were losing money on their slaves which they had inherited.

Report on Sales:

Robin, purchased by Robert H. Edmunds	\$1005
Mary and her child, Creasy, purchased by Robert H. Edmonds	\$800
Harriet and her two children, purchased by John Harrison, Sr.	\$1240
Harry, purchased by William Kelly	\$750
Rhoda, purchased by John Harrison, Sr.	\$720
Turner, purchased by Robert H. Edmonds	\$705
Charity, purchased by Robert H. Edmonds	\$760
Maggy, purchased by Robert H. Edmonds	\$630

*When I was taking notes concerning this equity case I was primarily concerned with researching the slave identified in the documents as Harriet - later known as Harriet Edmunds who married Peter Harrison, one of John Harrison, Sr.'s slaves; however, I remember the court documents as including information regarding Harrison's management of his plantation, housing provided to slaves, etc.*

This court case is available at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia. The records have been microfilmed so they may also be available in Winnsboro at the Fairfield County Museum or the Winnsboro Public Library.

"



As for Dr. Boyd. Lenora Boyd is Nicholas P. Harrison's wife and she was the daughter of a Dr. Boyd from South Carolina. Basically we know that because her death certificate she put a Dr. P. Boyd as her father, but the only physician we found in the area was a John Boyd. So we've put her father down as Dr. John or P. Boyd.

As for there descendants, Nicholas P. Harrison and Lenora Boyd had a Tillie or Lillie Harrison who was born in Fairfield but died in Duval County.

The biggest thing we could use help with is finding that court case. If you have happen to have it in your file that would be amazing!

Meaghan

On Mon, Feb 3, 2014 at 3:48 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Megg, I will be out of town tomorrow and was out all of this morning, but Eddie will be in to work on this early tomorrow. I think he had tried to get in touch with you on Friday.

Please refresh my memory about who married Dr. Boyd. I glanced at the Boyd files, but as the Boyd file is about as full as the Harrisons, we need a few more clues. Eddie might have to do some land research at the court house to follow up on this particular Dr. Boyd who appears on the 1876 map in the Longtown area.

I am copying this to my friends Marilyn Murphy and Leonard Caldwell as they both are related to the Harrisons. Marilyn has done a good bit of research on the Harrison ancestors of her husband, so can perhaps weigh in on any connections she may have made to John Harrison, Jr., Nicholas P. Harrison, etc. I copy here my questions from my Friday email to you: *I am wondering if it would help in our research to know some key known facts. If Mr. Gates is interviewing a descendant of Nicholas P. Harrison, it would help for us to be able to pull up more recent census records, perhaps in Florida to track backwards in some of the records we might have here. Do we know of any siblings of his, or of later generations? Also, Eddie needs to know your time frame as he will not be in the museum regularly until next Tuesday, but can come in on Monday to continue working if need be. I am sending his telephone number in case you need to contact him over the weekend. It is [803-747-9906](tel:803-747-9906).*

If you can give us any leads on the Florida information, it might help us. I'll be back in on Wednesday and hopefully you will have gotten a good bit of information by then!

Hello,

So we are researching Nicholas P. Harrison and his ancestors. We are trying to find out if his father really was John Harrison. If any of you have any evidence of John Harrison fathering slaves that would be really helpful.

We are basically researching Nicholas p. Harrison for a relative of Tillie Harrison his daughter.

Hello,

So we believe that Lenora, Nicholas P. Harrison's wife, was the daughter of a Dr. John or P. Boyd. We saw a Dr. Boyd on the map of Longtown sent to us by Pelham. We are also trying to find proof that John Harrison did in fact father slaves. If any of you have any information on that, that would help greatly. The descendant we are researching is related to Nicholas's daughter Tillie or Lillie Harrison who was born in Fairfield 1884 and died in Jacksonville in 1964.

We are also trying to hunt down a Michelle Daniels who apparently has a photo of Nicholas P. Harrison with a Reuben Harrison. Sharon Avery, who is a friend of Pelham's has a copy of it but got it from Michelle. We do not have a recent contact for this woman but are desperately trying to locate her to get a hold of this photo. If any of you were in contact with her in your research we would love to get a hold of her. I believe she was related to Nicholas P Harrison via his daughter Ella. Ella had Marguerite who married a Daniels and there is one son of hers, Rudolph, who must have been Michelle Daniel's father.

Any info on these inquiries would be wonderful.

Meaghan Farrell

We actually found Michelle Daniels! Which is great! And we believe Dr. Boyd was working as a teacher for Nicholas Peay and was listed as a physician John Boyd. His wife may or may not have been Cherokee

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 4:50 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

We have a couple of Af. Am. Harrison family reunion files. I am going to ask a volunteer to see if the address of Michelle Daniel. I am trying to track down the Dr. Boyd, but there appear to be several candidates.

-Pelham

Do you have any documents on Reuben Harrison other than the runaway slave articles?  
Also last thing! Sorry I just keep thinking of things.

I read an anecdote about Reuben Harrison on a genealogical website but now that website is down! But I wanted to know if you had ever heard of something like this. I'm actually going to CC Sharon on this because maybe she has some ideas as well.

So I read that Reuben Harrison wanted to marry this young woman after his first wife died. His children were very much against it. They apparently took the wheels off his carriage so he couldn't go into town and get married. They basically were trying to shut him up in the house. But apparently he got away on horseback and ended up marrying her.

Have you ever heard this?  
Hey Pelham,

We are mainly looking for info on the Revolutionary War Reuben Harrison, John Harrison's father. We want to paint a picture of his story. What it was like in the Revolutionary War for him and what his role in the community was. Because we can't prove a connection to Reuben Harrison (Harriots son) we probably won't be using information on him.

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 5:21 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Responses below in red...

**From:** Megg Farrell [mailto:[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 5:11 PM  
**To:** Fairfield Museum  
**Cc:** Avery, Sharon [DCA]

**Subject:** Re: Info/ Court Case

Also last thing! Sorry I just keep thinking of things.

I read an anecdote about Reuben Harrison on a genealogical website but now that website is down! But I wanted to know if you had ever heard of something like this. I'm actually going to CC Sharon on this because maybe she has some ideas as well.

So I read that Reuben Harrison wanted to marry this young woman after his first wife died. His children were very much against it. They apparently took the wheels off his carriage so he couldn't go into town and get married. They basically were trying to shut him up in the house. But apparently he got away on horseback and ended up marrying her.

Have you ever heard this? **Not sure if I saw this, but I'll get someone to go back through the Reuben H. papers in the files**

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 5:05 PM, Megg Farrell <[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)> wrote:

Do you have any documents on Reuben Harrison other than the runaway slave articles? We have lots on the Rev. War Reuben Harrison as he was a big landowner. We tried to fine tooth comb most of it for anything relevant. There were several generations of Reubens in different offsprings' families, which gives a lot to finetooth comb.

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 4:52 PM, Megg Farrell <[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)> wrote:

We actually found Michelle Daniels! Which is great! And we believe Dr. Boyd was working as a teacher for Nicholas Peay and was listed as a physician John Boyd. His wife may or may not have been Cherokee Eddie found a John Boyd, teacher in the census records. Will pass this to him to relate to you...

I'll be sending you scanned pages from the 2007 Harrison family reunion publication. There is a picture of a Reuben Harrison who appears to be of the early 20<sup>th</sup> C. or just before and is very light skinned as are many of the Harrisons.

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 4:50 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

We have a couple of Af. Am. Harrison family reunion files. I am going to ask a volunteer to see if the address of Michelle Daniel. I am trying to track down the Dr. Boyd, but there appear to be several candidates.

-Pelham

**From:** Megg Farrell [mailto:[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 3:01 PM  
**To:** Fairfield Museum  
**Cc:** [horsemurph@yahoo.com](mailto:horsemurph@yahoo.com); Leonard Caldwell; Eddie Killian  
**Subject:** Re: Info/ Court Case

Hello,

So we believe that Lenora, Nicholas P. Harrison's wife, was the daughter of a Dr. John or P. Boyd. We saw a Dr. Boyd on the map of Longtown sent to us by Pelham. We are also trying to find proof that John Harrison did in fact father slaves. If any of you have any information on that, that would help greatly. The descendant we are researching is related to Nicholas's

daughter Tillie or Lillie Harrison who was born in Fairfield 1884 and died in Jacksonville in 1964.

We are also trying to hunt down a Michelle Daniels who apparently has a photo of Nicholas P. Harrison with a Reuben Harrison. Sharon Avery, who is a friend of Pelham's has a copy of it but got it from Michelle. We do not have a recent contact for this woman but are desperately trying to locate her to get a hold of this photo. If any of you were in contact with her in your research we would love to get a hold of her. I believe she was related to Nicholas P Harrison via his daughter Ella. Ella had Marguerite who married a Daniels and there is one son of hers, Rudolph, who must have been Michelle Daniel's father.

Any info on these inquiries would be wonderful.

Meaghan Farrell

-- Also what was Fairfield county like during the Civil War and after? I know it was a big plantation area and that Sherman may have come and torched a lot of it. We know that our Nicholas was working as a farmer in 1880 after the war. We are trying to see what Fairfield was like during this period just to give us some context.

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 5:30 PM, Megg Farrell <[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Hey Pelhem,

We are mainly looking for info on the Revolutionary War Reuben Harrison, John Harrison's father. We want to paint a picture of his story. What it was like in the Revolutionary War for him and what his role in the community was. Because we can't prove a connection to Reuben Harrison (Harriots son) we probably won't be using information on him.

Hello Jayne,

We are trying to find evidence that John Harrion did in fact father slaves. We believe he is the father of Nicholas P. Harrison, the person we are researching, but we have no hard evidence. Do you have any sort of evidence that John Harrison may have practiced this form of "breeding" as they put it. Any information may have would be very helpful.

Meaghan

Oh great! That's just the information I was looking for. I can't wait to hear from Eddie.

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 5:49 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Devastated! All plantations dissolved, although some houses remained. Young men were depleted from the devastations of war, mules and livestock killed by Federal troops, etc. As I am leaving work now, will forward this to Eddie. He can scan for you the account written up in the Julian Bolick Sketchbook about Reconstruction and the dire circumstances of the late 1860s when agriculture was hampered by depleted resources and also climatic conditions that followed the war (drought, etc.). Both blacks and whites dealt with starvation and had to eat grass and whatever they could scrape together... Things were starting to revive by the 1880s and tenant farming was the system that kept families going.

-P

Sorry Meaghan but I have no information on the matter you questioned.

Jayne

-----Original Message-----

From: Megg Farrell <[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)>

To: Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)>

Cc: jayneko <[jayneko@aol.com](mailto:jayneko@aol.com)>; TheHelixballerone . <[lcaldwell2012@yahoo.com](mailto:lcaldwell2012@yahoo.com)>; savannah.overton <[savannah.overton@gmail.com](mailto:savannah.overton@gmail.com)>

Sent: Tue, Feb 4, 2014 2:47 pm

Subject: Re: Jayne Harrison Kennedy Overton - Harrison Story Research

Hello Jayne,

We are trying to find evidence that John Harrison did in fact father slaves. We believe he is the father of Nicholas P. Harrison, the person we are researching, but we have no hard evidence. Do you have any sort of evidence that John Harrison may have practiced this form of "breeding" as they put it. Any information may have would be very helpful.

Meaghan

On Tue, Feb 4, 2014 at 5:44 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Jayne,

I am passing this on to Megg Farrell as she is the researcher for the project and will probably want to ask you some questions in regards to the individuals she is seeking.

Thank you for contacting us.

-Pelham

**From:** [jayneko@aol.com](mailto:jayneko@aol.com) [<mailto:jayneko@aol.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 04, 2014 5:36 PM

**To:** [fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)

**Cc:** [lcaldwell2012@yahoo.com](mailto:lcaldwell2012@yahoo.com); [savannah.overton@gmail.com](mailto:savannah.overton@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Jayne Harrison Kennedy Overton - Harrison Story Research

Dear Fairfield County Museum and Director Pelham,

My cousin, Leonard Caldwell, has forwarded to me communication that you are interested in including me in your research of the Harrison Family for the Fairfield County Museum. I would love to be included in the formulation of the story of our GREAT FAMILY. I am copying this to Savannah Overton, Media Director for WAO Communications, Inc. She will follow up with all the coordinating of where we go from here.

Savannah Overton  
WAO Communications, Inc.  
[savannah.overton@gmail.com](mailto:savannah.overton@gmail.com)

Do you also know if Nicholas Peay or John Harrison's plantation were part of this looting and torching by Sherman's troops?

Hi Pelham -

I don't if Megg Farrell is still interested in researching the possible Boyd connection to Lenora Harrison. Michelle Daniel's also told me many years ago according to her family's oral tradition Lenora's mother was a full Cherokee.

The Fairfield Boyds -

I do not know if the "Dr. P. Boyd" who is reported to have been entered on the death certificate of Lenora Harrison could be Dr. John Boyd. I have never come across a Dr. P. Boyd or a Dr. P. Boyd researching Fairfield County. Since Lenora Harrison consistently states that she was born in North Carolina - perhaps her father was a Dr. Boyd living in North Carolina. She was born circa 1850.

There was a Dr. John Blakely Boyd whose family was from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; he moved to Fairfield as a young man. I believe he is the John Boyd listed in the census of 1850 as a teacher in the household of Nicholas Peay.

[Ten years later,] in the 1860 census he is listed as a physician and had just married his wife, Lucy Rives Bryant, in May 1860. She was the grand-daughter of John Harrison, Sr. Her parents were Sarah Rives Harrison and John Bryant. Her parents were also first cousins - with her father the son of Sarah Rives Harrison and her mother the daughter of John Harrison, Sr. - who were sister and brother (both children of Reuben Harrison).

In 1870, John Boyd is listed as a farmer; he and Lucy and their family are listed on the same census page as Nicholas and Lenora Harrison.

In the 1880 census he is listed as Dr. John Boyd, farmer. John and Lucy Bryant Boyd lived their entire married life in Fairfield and had a very large family. It appears that they continued to live in the eastern part of the county. Dr. Boyd was well known throughout the county. Both Dr. Boyd and his wife, Lucy, are interred in Aimwell Cemetery, Ridgeway. One of the Boyds son's, William Clarence Boyd, married Bessie Lyles, daughter of John Woodward Lyles; another son, John Blakely Boyd, married Delphine Des Portes.

Pelham, I'm curious as to where the John and Lucy Boyd lived? Did they live in one of the Harrison houses?

I have entered on ancestry.com a Harrison family genealogy which thus far includes 308 descendants - beginning with William Harrison and Nancy Ann Kirkland parents of Reuben Harrison. Let me know if you would like access to this family tree.

Hope all is well with you.  
Sharon

In 1870, John and Lucy Boyd are listed on the same census page as Nicholas and Lenore Harrison.

Hello Megg,

Below you will find some of the Harrison information found so far for Reuben, John (son of Reuben), and John R (son of John) and Dr. John Boyd:

“Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution”, Bobby Gilmer Moss  
Reuben Harrison while residing on the Catawba River, he served as Colonel. He served in the militia during 1781 under General Henderson. A.A.3380, S584, 5DD41

Fairfield County Equity Court Records 1807-1870

Frame 75 – 1825 #5 – Bill for Partition – Filed February 11, 1825  
Robert Rives and wife vs. Eliz. Harrison and others  
James Perry – deceased – lived in Kershaw District – executed Will on April 14, 1806  
Ann Perry – daughter – died in the Fall of 1816 – married William Harrison  
Amelia Harrison – daughter – married Robert Rives  
Elizabeth Harrison – daughter  
James Harrison – son  
Sarah Harrison – daughter  
Martha Harrison – daughter

Frame 92 – 1837 #6 – Bill for Injunction and Discovery – Filed July 28, 1835  
Charles Moore vs. Vincent Bell and Mary Bell his wife  
Reuben Harrison – died  
Nancy Harrison – married Vincent Bell – lived in Alabama  
David Harrison – brother-in-law of Charles Moore

Frame 128 – 1840 #6 – Bill for Relief and Accounts – Filed February 25, 1840  
Robert Rives and wife Amelia and others vs. Jas. Harrison and others



Rueben Harrison – died in 1835

William Harrison – son – died in 1836

Ann Harrison – 1<sup>st</sup> wife

Phoebe Trapp Harrison – widow – 2<sup>nd</sup> wife

Amelia Harrison – daughter of William and Ann – married Robert Rives

Elizabeth P. Harrison – daughter of William and Ann – married John A. Rives

Sarah A. Harrison – daughter of William and Ann – married John A. Crumpton

Martha W. Harrison – daughter of William and Ann – married William Gale

Lewis

Mary Harrison – daughter of William and Phoebe – married – William Draughton

James Harrison – son

David Harrison – son

John Harrison – son

Frame 496 – 1846 #28 – Bill for Discovery, Partition, Account and Relief – Filed August 28, 1844

Kirkland Harrison et. al. vs. John Harrison

Rueben Harrison – died in 1835 – Will on Frame 517

Nancy Harrison – widow

David Harrison – son – died on August 31, 1840 – Will on Frame 522

Kirkland Harrison – son – lived in Dallas County, Alabama

Frances Harrison – daughter – married (1) a Brevard (2) Thomas Starke

Nancy (Ann) Harrison – daughter – married Anderson Rochell – lived in Alabama

Mary Harrison – daughter – married Charles Moore – lived in Texas

William Harrison – son – deceased

Amelia Harrison – daughter – married Robert Reeves - lived in Alabama

Elizabeth Harrison – daughter – married John G. Reeves – lived in Texas

Martha Harrison – daughter – married William L. Lewis – lived in Alabama

Sarah Harrison – daughter – married John Crompton – died leaving two infants

Mary Harrison – daughter – married William W. Draughton – lived in Alabama

Richard Harrison – son – deceased – never married

John Harrison – son – lived in Fairfield County

Willighuley Harrison – son – deceased

Richard Harrison – son – lived in Lowndes County, Alabama

John Harrison – son – lived in Lowndes County, Alabama

Reuben Harrison – son – lived in Lowndes County, Alabama

Frances Harrison – daughter – married James Harold – lived in Lowndes County,

Alabama

James Harrison – son – lived in Fairfield County

Frame 211 – 1852 #10 – Bill for Account and Relief – Filed May 31, 1850

Elizabeth Tidwell vs. John Harrison

David Harrison – died in August 1839 – left no lawful wife or children

Elizabeth Tidwell – daughter – mother was Mary Tidwell

John Harrison – brother

Frame 166 – 1854 #26 – Bill for Legacy – Filed May 17, 1853  
John S. Tidwell and Elizabeth A. Tidwell his wife vs. John Harrison  
David Harrison – died in August 1839 – Will on Frame 175

John Harrison – brother – admin. of his estate  
John Harrison was to take Elizabeth Tidwell, daughter of Mary Tidwell, and raise her.  
Elizabeth Tidwell married John S. Tidwell on March 16, 1851

Frame 384 – 1860 #2 – Petition for Guardianship – Filed November 14, 1859  
Eli Harrison appointed guardian of his niece, Lucy R. Bryant – age 19 and his nephew,  
Benjamin F. Bryant – age 17

Frame 325 - 1867 #36 – Bill for Dower and Account – Filed April 13, 1866  
Lucy Harrison vs. John P. Harrison, Eli Harrison  
John Harrison, Sr. – died October 5, 1865  
Lucy Harrison – widow  
John R. Harrison – son  
Eli Harrison – son

This book contains marriage notices and implied marriages from the Fairfield Herald, August 1, 1866 to October 5, 1876, and The News and Herald, October 12, 1876 to February 24, 1916. Both of these newspapers were published in Winnsboro, South Carolina. These papers had a tri-weekly edition and a weekly edition. Because more issues of the weekly edition remain, the vast majority of the marriage notices are from the weekly edition, which was published on Wednesday. Because of missing issues there are gaps in the notices. The main gap is between 1907 and 1916. There were no issues for 1907 through 1910 and only a few for issues for 1911 through 1916.

March 8, 1881 Issue

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Mellichamp, **H. W. Edwards**, of Loundes County, Alabama to **Miss Sallie A. Boyd**, daughter of Dr. John Boyd.

September 24, 1884 Issue

On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., at the residence of Dr. John Boyd, father of the bride, **Miss Ella Boyd** to **Mr. M. H. Traylor**, of Alabama. They left for their home near Benton, Alabama, on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

May 26, 1887 Issue

On Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> inst., at the Baptist Church, **Mr. Geo. M. Hicks** to **Miss Belle Boyd**, daughter of Dr. John Boyd, by the Rev. J. Howard Carpenter.

June 20, 1894 Issue

**Mr. J. Spann Edmunds** to **Miss Marion Boyd**, both of Ridgeway, on last Wednesday in the Baptist Church, by the Rev. Mr. Ferris. Miss Marion Boyd is the daughter of Dr. Jno. Boyd.

September 6, 1894 Issue

**John R. Harrison** married **Miss Woodward**, daughter of Osmund Woodward.

November 19, 1895 Issue

Cards are out announcing the marriage of **Mr. J. B. Boyd** to **Miss Delphine Desportes**. Mr. Boyd is a son on the late Dr. John Boyd. Miss Desportes is the daughter of Mr. Jno. A. Desportes. The marriage will take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. in the Methodist Church at Ridgeway.

December 3, 1901 Issue

At Ridgeway, on Wednesday last, in the Baptist Church, **Miss Lulie Boyd** to **Dr. Olin Sawyer**, by the Rev. Freeman. The bride is a daughter of the late Dr. John Boyd.

These death notices are from the Fairfield Herald, July 4, 1866 to September 6, 1876, and The News and Herald, October 19, 1876 to February 24, 1916. Both newspapers were published in Winnsboro, South Carolina. These papers had a tri-weekly edition and a weekly edition. The majority of the death notices are from the weekly edition, which was published on Wednesday. Because of the missing issues there are large gaps in the death notices. This is especially true from 1907 to 1916, as there are no issues for the years 1907 through 1910 and a very few for the remaining years.

The notices in this book have names, dates, place of birth, place of burial, cause of death, etc. The entire notice may be seen on microfilm in the Fairfield County Library in Winnsboro, South Carolina.

The majority of the notices are for deaths in Fairfield County, although there are many for the surrounding counties as well as Fairfield County Natives who died in other states.

Every effort was made to copy the names exactly as it was printed in the newspaper. As a result be sure to check any spelling that is close to the name you are researching.

September 8, 1881 Issue

**Mrs. Lucy R. Harrison**, relict of the late **John Harrison Sr.**, died at the residence of **Dr. John Boyd** in this county on Tuesday at the age of eighty-eight.

September 6, 1894 Issue

**Capt. John R. Harrison** died at the residence of his son in Florida on August 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 75. He was the eldest son of **John Harrison Sr.** of Longtown and married as his first wife the eldest daughter of **Osmund Woodward** of this town. He served in the 6<sup>th</sup> S. C. V. and after the war moved to Georgia where he has since lived.

May 10, 1901 Issue

**Dr. J. J. Boyd** died Saturday in Spartanburg at the age of 83 from bronchitis. He was a native of Fairfield County and married a daughter of **Richard Thomson**. Of the five children born unto them only two are living. Some time after the war he married the widow of **Col. O. E. Edwards**, who survives him.

## **Aimwell Presbyterian Church Cemetery**

This cemetery is located on Highway 34 about 1 mile west of Ridgeway.

Boyd, John

July 9, 1828 – December 4, 1894

Boyd, Lucy Bryant

September 13, 1840 – December 7, 1904

Wife of Dr. John Boyd

Please find attached the following:

Obit for Capt. John R. (Rives) Harrison son of John Harrison, Sr.

Obit for John Harrison, Sr.'s wife Lucy Wyche Rives Harrison

**The Late Invasion of Fairfield District  
by Sherman's Army**

---

Historical Sketch Taken From  
The Winnsboro News  
Published April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1865,  
By J. B.

---

*This article was first published in the Winnsboro News on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1865 and  
republished in the local Winnsboro newspaper on August 1, 1935.*

*The article reads as follows:*

About the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, immediately after the fall of Columbia, Sherman's army entered the south-western boundary of Fairfield, sweeping over it like a hurricane or tornado, carrying destruction in its progress, leaving behind it smoking ruins and an insulted, robbed people, many impoverished families and desolated homes. Long will the inhabitants remember the last ten days of February, 1865. A people are not likely to forget the memorable period when they were pillaged and plundered and perhaps burned out. They can never forget the day when their homes – upon which they had spent the labor of a lifetime, and where they had collected many comforts and cherished reminiscences – were reduced to ashes. With the exception of a narrow strip in the upper part and a few houses over Cedar Creek, near the line of Richland – all of Fairfield has suffered. This plundering, pillaging, house burning horde spread all over the country for a space of forty to fifty miles, exploring field and forest, high lands and low lands, old fields, new grounds, briar thickets and pine thickets, broom grass fields, meadows, gardens, orchards and grave yards. Instead of marching in heavy columns along the highway or in squads along by paths of country roads, as many erroneously conceived they would do, they extended out to right and left in respect to the roads, taking one broad sweep of the country. Not

and broken open in quest of concealed treasure. Horses and mules were driven off. Colts and young horses that could not be caught and bridled were shot down. Fairfield is stripped of horses and mules. With the exception of a few here and there and some broken down and sore backed, emaciated animals left by the invaders, there were no horses in the district immediately subsequent to the departure of the Yankees. There are now some collecting from the adjacent districts. Planters generally have next to no means of making a crop so far as horsepower is concerned. Men who formerly made over 2,000 bushels of corn and 100 bales of cotton are now in condition to do little or nothing on their farms. A few acres of corn, perhaps, are now planted in partially prepared grounds by oxen, feeble army horses and by hoes. The country for the time being is paralyzed.

In the absence of soldiers, who are scouring the country in different directions, grass would grow upon some of our highways this summer. Many of the usual operations of the country are for the present suspended. There is little or nothing doing in the shops or tan yards. Some of the customary errands are dispensed with or are performed on foot. Some of the doctors are visiting their patients on foot. Men, who before the invasion were mounted on all occasions, visiting their nearest farms and neighbors as well as the most distant on horses, and ladies who could scarcely visit friends or go to church though ever so near, without a driver, a carriage and all the appurtenances of a fashionable traveling establishment – have to stay at home or become pedestrians. Corn in many instances is carried to mill in small parcels on the shoulders of men, not on the backs of mules or in wagons. We have mentioned the subject of mills, and there are but few of them. With but few exceptions they have fallen victim to the spoiler. All the gin houses were burnt and all the cotton, amounting to thousands of bales. In many instances barns, corn cribs and stables, with their contents were burned. Unoccupied dwelling houses were consumed and in quite a frequent number of cases houses occupied by their owners shared the same fate. The premises of Capt. Stitt, William Brice, John Adger, Dr. McMaster, Richard Cathcart and James Turner, and many others whose names we are not prepared at present to give, were swept as with the besom of destruction. An aggravating circumstance connected with the case of Mr. Turner was that the weather compelled him to burn some of the most valuable

political opinions afforded any exemption from rudeness and maltreatment. If you were a high toned secessionist you must be punished for that political crime, your house burnt over your head, your person insulted and your means of sustenance destroyed. If you were neutral in reference to the present war, caring little for either party, you were cursed for your lukewarmness and ridiculed as a drone. If you were a Union man, and expressed your satisfaction in receiving them, you were denounced as a hypocrite and treated as a malefactor. Widows and orphans in destitute circumstances were pillaged of their little all. The Negroes for whose benefit the federals professed to wage this war, were robbed. Tell not in Gath, publish it not in Askelon. Nor was this robbery limited to a few isolated cases. It was perpetrated all over the country. Their shoes were taken from their feet, their coats and shirts from their backs, their hats from their heads, their knives and money from their pockets. An invalid Negro woman of 85 or 90 years of age had her blanket taken off her person while lying in bed.

Gentlemen of the first respectability were collard with rudeness, pushed about over the house and yards, cursed and threatened to be shot with pistols, pointed and snapped at their heads, while others, one of them being 74 years of age, were actually hung up by their necks by a rope and kept suspended until they were past consciousness.

A clergyman had his premises destroyed with his dwelling house, together with more than two-thirds of his library, consisting of hundreds of volumes of theological, literary, historical, scientific and classical books, reviews, pamphlets, old select newspapers, over a thousand letters received from correspondents in the various parts of the country and some 450 manuscripts, sermons of his own production, pretty fully written out.

The air of decency and refinement much more than that of piety were shocked with the profanity of the federal army. The testimony in the case is, the invaders were horribly shockingly profane.

They cursed in good humor, they cursed in bad humor, they cursed old men and old women, they cursed young ladies, they cursed those who did not try to please them – they cursed white and black, the good and the bad, pouring out their bitter execrations upon all in their presence. In view of these facts it is much to be regretted that a nation of civilized men should

Hi Pelham -

I don't if Megg Farrell is still interested in researching the possible Boyd connection to Lenora Harrison. Michelle Daniel's also told me many years ago according to her family's oral tradition Lenora's mother was a full Cherokee.

The Fairfield Boyds -

I do not know if the "Dr. P. Boyed" who is reported to have been entered on the death certificate of Lenora Harrison could be Dr. John Boyd. I have never come across a Dr. P. Boyed or a Dr. P. Boyd researching Fairfield County. Since Lenora Harrison consistently states that she was born in North Carolina - perhaps her father was a Dr. Boyd living in North Carolina. She was born circa 1850.

There was a Dr. John Blakely Boyd whose family was from Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; he moved to Fairfield as a young man. I believe he is the John Boyd listed in the census of 1850 as a teacher in the household of Nicholas Peay.

[Ten years later,] in the 1860 census he is listed as a physician and had just married his wife, Lucy Rives Bryant, in May 1860. She was the grand-daughter of John Harrison, Sr. Her parents were Sarah Rives Harrison and John Bryant. Her parents were also first cousins - with her father the son of Sarah Rives Harrison and her mother the daughter of John Harrison, Sr. - who were sister and brother (both children of Reuben Harrison).

In 1870, John Boyd is listed as a farmer; he and Lucy and their family are listed on the same census page as Nicholas and Lenora Harrison.

In the 1880 census he is listed as Dr. John Boyd, farmer. John and Lucy Bryant Boyd lived their entire married life in Fairfield and had a very large family. It appears that they continued to live in the eastern part of the county. Dr. Boyd was well known throughout the county. Both Dr. Boyd and his wife, Lucy, are interred in Aimwell Cemetery, Ridgeway. One of the Boyds son's, William Clarence Boyd, married Bessie Lyles, daughter of John Woodward Lyles; another son, John Blakely Boyd, married Delphine Des Portes.

Pelham, I'm curious as to where the John and Lucy Boyd lived? Did they live in one of the Harrison houses?

I have entered on ancestry.com a Harrison family genealogy which thus far includes 308 descendants - beginning with William Harrison and Nancy Ann Kirkland parents of Reuben Harrison. Let me know if you would like access to this family tree.



Hope all is well with you.  
Sharon

In 1870, John and Lucy Boyd are listed on the same census page as Nicholas and Lenore Harrison.

Jayne,

I realized that in trying to explain our request I used my words in the exact opposite overtone I was going for. I'm so sorry if you took my meaning the wrong way as another person had. I used the word "breeding" which I find disgusting in this use because it is what our reports used. I wrote the words "as the put" it not to be casual but to show that this is not my own words. I rewrote that sentence over and over again because I knew it was a difficult one to express and I did not want anyone to think that I would ever use that word but that in these historical records that is how they described these actions by plantation owners. Once again I'm sorry if you mistook my meaning.

I don't think anyone is saying that Dr. Boyd's genealogy has a Native American connection – although anything is possible.

What Michelle Daniels was referring to is her family oral tradition that her great great grandmother Lenora Harrison's mother had Native American ancestry. Even if Lenora's father was Dr. John Boyd this would not make him related to Lenora's mother.

Sharon

**From:** Fairfield Museum [<mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:58 AM  
**To:** Avery, Sharon [DCA]  
**Cc:** 'Megg Farrell'; 'Robert E Killian'; 'fairfield genealogy'; [horsemurph@yahoo.com](mailto:horsemurph@yahoo.com); Leonard Caldwell  
**Subject:** RE: News accounts of Dr. John Boyd's Death

Interestingly, several years ago, some volunteers from Longtown Presbyterian hosted an archaeology field day for children and families for the museum outreach programs. There are the foundation remains of a brick school that stood just west of Longtown Church out in a field. It appeared to have existed until the 1930s or 40s and the stories were that it was the community school for a number of years, probably back to the time of the Peay family tutorage.

I am delighted to get the clue that Dr. Boyd's ancestry may trace to a Native American parent. I will relay this to my Boyd cousins and see if they had any family stories.

Sitting in the doctor's waiting room with my laptop, so probably will have to shut down shortly.  
-P

**From:** Avery, Sharon [DCA] [<mailto:Sharon.Avery@iowa.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:46 AM

**To:** [fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)

**Subject:** News accounts of Dr. John Boyd's Death

Last night I was searching for information on Dr. John Boyd - I came up with these newspaper accounts of his death. Here is the link:

The Fairfield News and Herald, December 12, 1894 (image 3) and the Fairfield News and Herald, December 19, 1894 (image 3)

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/pages/results/?lccn=2012218613&dateFilterType=range&date1=1894&date2=1895&language=&ortext=&andtext=&phrasertext=Dr.+John+Boyd&proxtext=&proxdistance=5&rows=20&searchType=advanced>

I love being able to search the Winnsboro newspapers from Des Moines.

Sharon

Hello Megg,

Not sure yet. If it was not burned by Sherman's troops; it most likely was lost from the devastated economy.

Not sure yet. Still looking for obit.

Pelham may be able to answer these questions; while I keep looking.

Eddie

**From:** Megg Farrell [<mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 05, 2014 2:02 PM

**To:** fairfield genealogy

**Subject:** Re: Some Info

Hey some clarifying questions,

Can you not say for certain whether John Harrison's plantation was destroyed?

Also, do you have an obit for John Harrison Sr.? Just his wife and son?

We are mainly focused on the harrisons at this point. So I would worry less about the boyds.

Now that we are getting close to deadline we've decided to stick more to the John Harrison and Reuben Harrison stories.

On Thu, Feb 6, 2014 at 12:33 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Megg,

Looking for any mention of Longtown houses that got burned and came across a Longtown Store ledger in the collection in fragile condition. We need some time, but will go through entries as it is full of Harrisons. We will look for Boyds and any other names mentioned in our research. Cross your fingers we may find a slave entry.

It will take some time here as lots is going on and the book is falling apart...

-P

Megg, to answer an earlier question, township 5 is the area you found Nick H. living in and he is shown on this 1876 Township map. This area is just north of Longtown and considered a part of it.

Eddie found these possibly relevant clues Friday before we left. John R. Harrison (and wife Eliza L., born in GA) are listed in the 1880 census in Marshallville, Macon, GA with in the household John R. (age 13), Lucy L. (age 11) and Wm. H. (age 8). John was 61 and Eliza was 32 (her name appears to be Eliza Lavinia Cook from family trees on Ancestry). He is the head of household. But in 1870, John and Eliza (then listed as being 20 years old) are (Post Office is Oglethorpe) with John (3), Lucy (1), John (? 16- from the first), Lunsford S Harrison (20), Clarissa Dorsey (28), Arabella Dorsey (6), Eliza Dorsey (8), and Daniel Dorsey (7 ½). Then, John R. dies in Clearmont, FLA, 325 miles south (near Orlando) on Aug. 5, 1895. Why did he leave GA. And end up so far away?

His cousin John Rochelle Harrison, son of Willougby B. and Elizabeth Rives Harrison should not be confused in the records. He was about 5 years younger.

I will be back in the museum early this afternoon. Hopefully, Eddie will have come across other connections for that period of time between the 1880 census and his death in 1895.

I hope this map is helpful for visualizing the neighborhood and nearby families.

-Pelham

I've forwarded all of this onto Nicole. Also I was wondering do you guys have a rough estimate of how many acres John Harrison actually owned?

On Mon, Feb 10, 2014 at 3:52 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Looking through deeds, it appears that John R. owned little land. WE looked for plats for his or Reuben's lands and have not located any that might show adjacent owners or any clues. Perhaps J. R. may have been the renegade in the family, for having crossed the "color line". Hmmm!

-Pelham

Hey

You've already given us so much information, its wonderful! I think we are fine without the court records don't worry about heading there. You've already given us plenty of information to process.

On Mon, Feb 10, 2014 at 3:13 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Looks like Nicholas's death notice is the most definite paternity proof that we can find, barring finding descendants of John, Sr. for a DNA check. Eddie and I are headed down to the courthouse shortly to do some deed chain investigations to see if anything turns up there. We are expecting winter storm weather late tomorrow and will probably be closed Wednesday. SC does not function when the roads and electric lines ice.

Back at you.

Someone called Eddie earlier wanting to know something about Cornwallis in Winnsboro. Can he direct a query to my email. Is this just a background description of Fairfield County history?  
-Pelham

What I would really like to do is set up a research data base to enter all of the records of slaves on Fairfield plantations. I think this information should be readily accessible for genealogy and local history in general. I think all of the Fairfield District Probate records, court records, and conveyance books should be systematically gone through and indexed to every slave name which appears. I would also include indexing of all plantation ledgers, journals held in archival repositories which include information pertaining to slaves on Fairfield plantations. Private individuals could also be encouraged to bring in plantation records to be indexed and hopefully filmed, copied, or scanned. The slave data base I envision would include the name of the slave, plantation owner, date of record, source of record, etc. If relationships between the slaves is recorded in the inventory such as Maggie and three children Eli, Amelia, and Peter - this information should also be noted in the data base.

I have done a little research on slaves from Peay plantation but not on white Peay connections; you really need DNA testing for this.

I really enjoyed Reginald's story and happy that you shared it with me. I'm assuming that Rebecca Starr is the Rebecca Starr that I remember from Columbia - I think that she did some work at the State Archives for the Historic Preservation section.

I meant to respond to your e-mail yesterday - but I received word that my brother had passed away - he was in poor health for sometime but the news was unexpected and very sad.

Sharon

**From:** Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)>

**To:** 'Sharon Avery' <[sharon.c.avery@att.net](mailto:sharon.c.avery@att.net)>; 'Megg Farrell' <[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)>; 'Nicole Bozorgmir' <[nbozorgmir@gmail.com](mailto:nbozorgmir@gmail.com)>; 'Robert E Killian' <[robertekillian@yahoo.com](mailto:robertekillian@yahoo.com)>; 'fairfield genealogy' <[fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 9, 2014 8:10 AM

**Subject:** RE: Nicholas Peay's Probate Records

Forwarding this on to Eddie to look on Monday. I will be out of the office the first half of Monday, and this sounds like something that might prove interesting.

Sharon, are you going to publish the slave information anywhere? Have you done any research on the Peay slaves and white Peay connections? I remember your mentioning suspecting that the father (my

great great great great grandfather) Austin Peay fathered some of his slave children. I would love to know more. I don't know if I told you, but I brought our Af. Am. Lyles cousins into the DNA Lyles project and Robert Lyles, recently deceased, was a perfect match to my brother's DNA. Rachel Foote, a slave, had two children by my great great uncle Belton Lyles just previous to 1861 when he joined the Confederacy along with his older brothers.

I have attached Reginald's story here, written by a genealogy member. Sadly, Reginald later took his and his wife's lives in a murder/suicide.

I would love to have copies of this information for the museum, in addition to anything you can think of that would benefit our research room. We will be ribbon cutting soon as the LDS church has given us a microfilm reader and we are to become a satellite lending library for their microfilm.

I just got word Friday that the county is going to come up with a little more funds to pay Eddie as research room manager, still just a part-time position though. Every little bit helps and I think the county is getting the message about ancestry research/heritage tourism being an important part of economic development for our community.

-Pelham

**From:** Sharon Avery [<mailto:sharon.c.avery@att.net>]

**Sent:** Saturday, February 08, 2014 8:48 PM

**To:** [fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)

**Subject:** Nicholas Peay's Probate Records

Pelham -

Nicholas Adamson Peay died in 1857; an inventory and appraisal of his slaves was made following his death. I have handwritten notes of the names all of his slaves organized by plantation land track; a total of 227 slaves. My list of slaves from the inventory does not include either a **Nick** or **Nicholas**. Since I want to make sure that my list is correct. Could you have someone check the Probate Records for Nicholas Peay and look for **Nick** or **Nicholas** in the slave inventory. Also have check for a **Lenora** or **Nora**. I'm believe that you have the Probate Court, Estate Records on microfilm as well as index which should provide the probate case number.

If Nicholas and Lenora are not on this slave inventory list, I think we can rule out that either was a slave on the Peay plantation.

Sharon

Hey

I just found out we need to fact check the fact that cotton was the main cash crop in Fairfield in 1880. Do you have any sources that can prove on paper the fact that cotton was the main cash crop in 1880?

Meaghan  
Pelham,

I have some minor questions. Is the assumption that John Reeves Harrison son of John Harrison (plantation owner) might be Nicholas' father? I too have located John R. in Macon County, Georgia in 1870 and 1880 and have seen references to his dying in Clearmont, Florida in 1895. This must be Clermont, Florida. Have we actually found a record of his death - I've seen a couple of ancestry.com family trees listing a date and place of his death - but they are not linked to a record nor do they indicate a source.

His son, John R. Harrison Jr. , was living in Miami, Dade County, Florida in 1900 - perhaps he had headed south to Florida with son.

It will be difficult to locate information on John R. Harrison between 1880-1895. His mother, Lucy Wyche Rives Harrison, died in the fall of 1881. Are their estate papers for her - its possible that if she had an estate it might have taken a little time to settle it and John R. Harrison's name and address may have been included in the estate packet. If he purchased land in Macon County, Georgia - when did he sell it? Also if he was living him Clermont, Lake County, Florida did he purchase property there? Is there an estate packet for him in Lake County, Florida? Could there be an estate packet for him in Macon County, Georgia?

Also, not only was his cousin, John Rochelle Harrison, five years younger. His cousin had moved to Louisiana; he is listed in the Caddo County, Louisiana 1850 census with a four year old son born in Louisiana.

I'm also just a little bit concerned if the N. Harrison listed indicated on the 1876 Elkin Map of Fairfield is Nick Harrison? Has anyone checked to see if he purchased land in Fairfield prior to his move to Florida? Generally the names included on county maps in SC at the this time aren't African Americans. He would have been only 26 or so in age. However, it could stand for Nick Harrison - I haven't been able to locate any of the white Harrison's with the initial of N. living in the area at the time. There is a Nathan Harrison, listed as black, who 10 years older than Nick who also is living in Township #5 in 1870. I wonder if Nathan owned any land; I think that you would most likely have needed to be a land owner to have your name placed on map. My concerns are probably not too important - as Nick Harrison definitely lived in the general location which is cited as "N. Harrison".

Sharon

**From:** Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)>

**To:** 'Fairfield Museum' <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)>; 'Sharon Avery' <[sharon.c.avery@att.net](mailto:sharon.c.avery@att.net)>; 'Megg Farrell' <[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)>; 'Nicole Bozorgmir' <[nbozorgmir@gmail.com](mailto:nbozorgmir@gmail.com)>; 'Robert E Killian' <[robertekillian@yahoo.com](mailto:robertekillian@yahoo.com)>; 'fairfield genealogy' <[fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2014 9:14 AM

**Subject:** some findings

Megg, to answer an earlier question, township 5 is the area you found Nick H. living in and he is shown on this 1876 Township map. This area is just north of Longtown and considered a part of it.

Eddie found these possibly relevant clues Friday before we left. John R. Harrison (and wife Eliza L., born in GA) are listed in the 1880 census in in Marshallville, Macon, GA with in the household John R. (age 13), Lucy L. (age 11) and Wm. H. (age 8). John was 61 and Eliza was 32 (her name appears to be Eliza Lavinia Cook from family trees on Ancestry). He is the head of household. But in 1870, John and Eliza (then listed as being 20 years old) are (Post Office is Oglethorpe) with John (3), Lucy (1), John (? 16- from the first), Lunsford S Harrison (20), Clarissa Dorsey (28), Arabella Dorsey (6), Eliza Dorsey (8), and Daniel Dorsey (7 ½). Then, John R. dies in Clearmont, FLA, 325 miles south (near Orlando) on Aug. 5, 1895.

Why did he leave GA. And end up so far away?

His cousin John Rochelle Harrison, son of Willoughby B. and Elizabeth Rives Harrison should not be confused in the records. He was about 5 years younger.

I will be back in the museum early this afternoon. Hopefully, Eddie will have come across other connections for that period of time between the 1880 census and his death in 1895.

I hope this map is helpful for visualizing the neighborhood and nearby families.

-Pelham

Hey,

Nicole says that Ark will write a letter and send it to you by the end of the week. She is going to see what she can do with Henry Louis Gates this weekend as she is in leaving for LA today to go to the shoot.

Meaghan

On Thu, Feb 13, 2014 at 11:41 AM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Megg,

Thanks for the donation. You can send it to Eddie Killian, C/O Fairfield County Museum, P. O. Box 6, Winnsboro, 29180.

As I have mentioned, it would be most helpful to us to have some documentation of our help in this project. Would Mr. Gates be willing to sign his name to a letterhead letter of thanks addressed to the County Council and Administrator of Fairfield County? It would do so much to further the standing of our facility in the face of small-town attitudes about spending public funds on cultural amenities. We are hoping in the future to receive funding to construct a ground-floor ample facility behind the museum, as it is presently located in two large rooms on the second floor of our 1830 brick building. Stairs are hard for elderly patrons to climb and the space is limited. We feel that a genealogy research

facility in our community would bring heritage tourism dollars into our local establishments as our town is historical and many Revolutionary through Nineteenth C. buildings still grace our streets and we have many potentials to develop as a tourism site.

If it would help, I can even pen a suggested text for the letter as I know you are all busy...

-Pelham

I've forwarded all of this onto Nicole. Also I was wondering do you guys have a rough estimate of how many acres John Harrison actually owned?

On Mon, Feb 10, 2014 at 3:52 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:  
Looking through deeds, it appears that John R. owned little land. WE looked for plats for his or Reuben's lands and have not located any that might show adjacent owners or any clues. Perhaps J. R. may have been the renegade in the family, for having crossed the "color line". Hmmmm!  
-Pelham

-----Original Message-----

From: Fairfield Museum [mailto:[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)]

Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 3:14 PM

To: [fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net); [meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com); [fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldgenealogy@truvista.net)

Subject: RE: John & Nick Harrison

Looks like Nicholas's death notice is the most definite paternity proof that we can find, barring finding descendants of John, Sr. for a DNA check. Eddie and I are headed down to the courthouse shortly to do some deed chain investigations to see if anything turns up there. We are expecting winter storm weather late tomorrow and will probably be closed Wednesday. SC does not function when the roads and electric lines ice.

Back at you.

Someone called Eddie earlier wanting to know something about Cornwallis in Winnsboro. Can he direct a query to my email. Is this just a background description of Fairfield County history?

-Pelham

Hey,

I just reminded the producer and she said she would have it out today!

Meaghan

On Mon, Mar 24, 2014 at 1:22 PM, Fairfield Museum <[fairfieldmus@truvista.net](mailto:fairfieldmus@truvista.net)> wrote:

Hi, Megg!



I don't want to appear mercenary, but you had mentioned that your production company would reward the volunteer work that we had to double-time to try to help on the Harrison family research. As we hadn't heard anything more on this, I hope you don't mind my asking about it here.

-Pelham Lyles

FaiAlso,  
Did you receive the letter we wrote?

Megg

On Mon, Mar 24, 2014 at 1:52 PM, Megg Farrell <[meggfarrell@gmail.com](mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com)> wrote:  
Hey,

I just reminded the producer and she said she would have it out today!

Meaghan  
Hey Pelham,

Who should we make the donation out to? I bet the producer was waiting to send the letter with the donation. Should we make the check out to Pelham Lyles or to the Fairfield County Museum?

Megg

Rechecking your questions below. We did establish that Nick did live in TWSP 5 but that he only rented land. Also, from what I can find on John R. in Georgia, he leased his land (although it could have been his new wife's family land). The gap in documentation for the 1890s is daunting, but I'll refer the probate/estate clues on to Eddie to search when he returns.

The research team for HLG seems to have concluded that we had enough proof and I wrote to let her know we are still looking for more definite information and that I hope it won't be too late if we do find something.

Thanks for all your help in this. It has been fun.

-P

Megg, I know you are trying to wrap this up, but Sharon Avery and I are still following research to try to find more proof. I hope we can come up with something and it is not too late to include.

So far, it appears that the main proofs we have come up with are in the death record for Nicholas where his father is listed as John Harrison (no middle initial) and any family traditions of the descendant. It is only too bad that most official records were burned with the 1890 census fire, as that is where John R. Harrison's death could be found. I found a family tree online that said he died in 1898, but there was no documentation and no place indicated. A death document or obit would certainly help in this case.

-Pelham

Sharon,

Sending on these that I pulled from Ancestry as we have been iced in since Tuesday and more snow is falling now. All roads are closed and all county

offices and schools have been closed the whole time. We have had one weather related automobile death in Ridgeway. All counties except the coastal counties are under a state of emergency by the Governor due to the icing. Thank goodness most of ours fell the last couple of days as dry snow and some sleet, so, with the exception of some frozen limbs, Fairfield County is not having the power outages that Columbia and further south are experiencing due to more of the wetter stuff. We can't get to the probate or other records until probably tomorrow or next week.

*I am sending what's below and attached on and will continue to look. Send any other clues I should look for that are accessible online...*

The attached death notice in 1918 for Nick lists his father as a John. Notice also that Lenora's notice lists her father as John Boyd.

The Georgia census records have John R. as marrying an Eliza L. Cook (I have to locate the record I found with her surname) who is half his age. I don't know if it would be profitable to see if there is a death notice on her with any clues. Her information is:

Eliza Lavinia Cook

Birth 07 OCT 1849 in Marshallville, Macon, Georgia, USA Death 02 SEP 1920 in Marshallville, Macon, Georgia, USA, buried at Marshallville Methodist.

Her father's information from an ancestry tree. Note the wife's name at the bottom, although the tree says that Eliza's mother was Lavinia Adeline Hollingshead:

John Raiford Cook

Birth    Death

Parents

♂

No Father

♀

No Mother

Spouse & Children▼

♀

Lavinia Adeline Hollingshead□

♀

Eliza Lavinia Cook1849 - 1920□

♂

Philip Cook1850 - 1892□

.

Spouse & Children▼

♀

Sarah Strother Woodward1822 - 1907□

...

[View Family Group Sheet](#)

The 1880 agricultural census says he was farming 200 acres as a tenant (in-laws?) In 1870, John R. is married to Eliza L. who is just 20 and there are two children ages 1 and 3 (pervert!!) in addition to two of his older children and some boarders (Dorseys). There is another child John R. Harrison apparently with a single mother and they are listed as black in the Perry, GA. Area (next to Marshallville). I wonder if John R. is still running around...

Name:

John R Harrison

Age in 1870:

4/12

Birth Year:

abt 1870

Birthplace:

Georgia

Home in 1870:

Houston, Georgia

Race:

Black

Gender:

Male

Post Office:

Perry

Value of real estate:

[View image](#)

Household Members:

Name

Age

Ann Harrison 23

Frances Harrison 15

Mary Harrison 12

Tody Harrison 5

John R Harrison 4/12

A family tree on ancestry says of his son John of that union: Birth: 27 Jan 1867 - Fairfield, United States  
Death: 15 Jan 1947 - St Lucie, Florida, USA  
Parents: John Reeves Harrison, Eliza Lavinia Cook Harrison

As Megg at PBS asked me if everyone in 1880 depended on cotton as a cash crop so I looked up Nicholas in Township 5 in the agricultural census of 1880. . The 1880 ag. Census says that Nicholas was a tenant farmer, owning 5 animals (pigs and a mule, most likely) and farming 30 acres. The estimated value of his crop was \$150. He had 24 chickens. 16 acres were planted in corn (animal feed and home consumption probably—with his bootlegging tendencies in Florida, he likely made some whisky too) and 16 acres grew cotton with 3 bales produced. At best, he might have made 7 bales at ½ bale per acre in the best circumstances, according to my boyfriend who grew up in the cotton rearing area of Lee County near here. His father was a soils chemist

<http://www.census.gov/history/pdf/agcensusschedules.pdf> tells about the census agricultural schedules that were taken and these can be studied on ancestry. The 1880 ag. Census says that Nicholas was a tenant farmer, owning 5 animals (pigs and a mule, most likely) and farming 30 acres. The estimated value of his crop was \$150. He had 24 chickens. 16 acres were planted in corn (animal feed and home consumption probably—with his bootlegging tendencies in Florida, he likely made some whisky too) and 16 acres grew cotton with 3 bales produced. At best, he might have made 7 bales at ½ bale per acre in the best circumstances, according to my boyfriend who grew up in the cotton rearing area of Lee County near here. His father was a soils chemist and the statistics are well-known on what rampant cotton farming had dealt with the erosion and poor practices of land husbandry. My grandfather was a cotton buyer of the 1930s-40s and I am familiar with the stories of how most of our red clay land was eroded by the 1930s because everyone grew cotton anywhere they could. In 1938, the US began aerial photography for topographical recording of the land. I have seen the photos which are remarkable for the vast cotton farming openness that eventually would grow only pine trees as a crop. The boll weevil eventually ended all cotton farming by the late 1940s. .

The cotton manufactures of SC over the 1850-1903 period are seen in a chart at

[http://books.google.com/books?id=XiEaAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA433&lpg=PA433&dq=cotton+production+statistics+in+sc+in+1870s+through+1900&source=bl&ots=Y8UGSkbmak&sig=mbSoEz2yUuKvUXQqZlhgEdo4o44&hl=en&sa=X&ei=d-b7Uv\\_2D7LisATpmYHICw&ved=0CDMQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=cotton%20production%20statistics%20in%20sc%20in%201870s%20through%201900&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=XiEaAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA433&lpg=PA433&dq=cotton+production+statistics+in+sc+in+1870s+through+1900&source=bl&ots=Y8UGSkbmak&sig=mbSoEz2yUuKvUXQqZlhgEdo4o44&hl=en&sa=X&ei=d-b7Uv_2D7LisATpmYHICw&ved=0CDMQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=cotton%20production%20statistics%20in%20sc%20in%201870s%20through%201900&f=false)

Furthermore, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_South\\_Carolina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_South_Carolina) , one reads:

The Civil War ruined the economy of SC, making it one of the two or three poorest states for the next century. Educational levels were low as public schools were underfunded, especially for African Americans. Most people lived on small farms and grew cotton. The more affluent were landowners, who subdivided the land into farms operated by tenant farmers or [sharecroppers](#), along with land operated by the owner using hired labor. Gradually more industry moved into the [Piedmont area](#), with textile factories that turned the state's raw cotton into yarn and cloth for sale

on the international market. Wave after wave of revivals made most people quite religious; most people, white and black alike, were Baptists.

Although <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/T/TE009.html>

Is about Oklahoma, it talks about the trends across the "cotton belt" of which our area was a part.

A good article by archeologist M. Trinkley on cotton share cropping is at

<http://www.sciway.net/afam/reconstruction/economic.html>

From another article at <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/sharecropping>

Is

## Rise of the Sharecropping System

Despite giving African Americans the rights of citizens, the federal government (and the Republican-controlled state governments formed during this phase of Reconstruction) took little concrete action to help freed blacks in the quest to own their own land. Instead of receiving wages for working an owner's land—and having to submit to supervision and discipline—most freedmen preferred to rent land for a fixed payment rather than receive wages. By the early 1870s, the system known as sharecropping had come to dominate agriculture across the cotton-planting South. Under this system, black families would rent small plots of land, or shares, to work themselves; in return, they would give a portion of their crop to the landowner at the end of the year.

The sharecropping system also locked much of the South into a reliance on cotton, just at the time when the price for cotton was falling. In addition, while sharecropping gave African Americans autonomy in their daily work and social lives, and freed them from the gang-labor system that had dominated during the slavery era, it often resulted in sharecroppers owing more to the landowner (for the use of tools and other supplies, for example) than they were able to repay. Some blacks managed to acquire enough money to move from sharecropping to renting or owning land by the end of the 1860s, but many more went into debt or were forced by poverty or the threat of violence to sign unfair and exploitative sharecropping or labor contracts that left them little hope of improving their situation.

For proof of cotton being the main cash crop though, one would need to study the agricultural census for the very obvious facts that everyone grew cotton. I couldn't find any specific articles about Fairfield County, but think one could deduce from the Cotton Belt information above, that this was true.

I hope this helps.

-Pelham

**From:** Megg Farrell [<mailto:meggfarrell@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2014 2:58 PM

**To:** Fairfield Museum; fairfield genealogy

**Subject:** Cotton 1880

Hey

I just found out we need to fact check the fact that cotton was the main cash crop in Fairfield in 1880. Do you have any sources that can prove on paper the fact that cotton was the main cash crop in 1880?

Megg, to answer an earlier question, township 5 is the area you found Nick H. living in and he is shown on this 1876 Township map. This area is just north of Longtown and considered a part of it.

Eddie found these possibly relevant clues Friday before we left. John R. Harrison (and wife Eliza L., born in GA) are listed in the 1880 census in Marshallville, Macon, GA with in the household John R. (age 13), Lucy L. (age 11) and Wm. H. (age 8). John was 61 and Eliza was 32 (her name appears to be Eliza Lavinia Cook from family trees on Ancestry). He is the head of household. But in 1870, John and Eliza (then listed as being 20 years old) are (Post Office is Oglethorpe) with John (3), Lucy (1), John (? 16- from the first), Lunsford S Harrison (20), Clarissa Dorsey (28), Arabella Dorsey (6), Eliza Dorsey (8), and Daniel Dorsey (7 ½). Then, John R. dies in Clearmont, FLA, 325 miles south (near Orlando) on Aug. 5, 1895.

Why did he leave GA. And end up so far away?

His cousin John Rochelle Harrison, son of Willougby B. and Elizabeth Rives Harrison should not be confused in the records. He was about 5 years younger.

I will be back in the museum early this afternoon. Hopefully, Eddie will have come across other connections for that period of time between the 1880 census and his death in 1895.

I hope this map is helpful for visualizing the neighborhood and nearby families.

-Pelham

Interestingly, several years ago, some volunteers from Longtown Presbyterian hosted an archaeology field day for children and families for the museum outreach programs. There are the foundation remains of a brick school that stood just west of Longtown Church out in a field. It appeared to have existed until the 1930s or 40s and the stories were that it was the community school for a number of years, probably back to the time of the Peay family tutorage.

I am delighted to get the clue that Dr. Boyd's ancestry may trace to a Native American parent. I will relay this to my Boyd cousins and see if they had any family stories.

Sitting in the doctor's waiting room with my laptop, so probably will have to shut down shortly.

-P