

# CASS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter June 2019

## From LaVon

Harrisdale Homestead was a Bed and Breakfast welcoming guests from across the United States from 2004 to 2012. I managed the home.

It was and is owned by the great-great granddaughter of James who settled the land in Pymosa Township in 1856. She and her husband live and farm now called Harrisdale Farmstead. They grow a wide variety of nut trees, fruits and vegetables sharing the bounty in various ways with people hungry for locally grown food. They also raise sheep.

The Harris family records are in a heavy notebook in the genealogy room in Atlantic Public Library. The book begins with William Harris Senior born about 1730. It is believed that William came to the United States from England and settled in Virginia.

William Harris Junior was a prosperous land holder, planter and slave owner. He inherited much of the land but also acquired over 5000 acres.

Upon his death, he left most of the land to sons, sons-in-law and grandsons. Less than two years after William's death, most of the family had migrated west to Ohio. This was shortly before the start of the Civil War. It is believed that the move was made because family members were against slavery.

William and his wife Jane became parents to ten children, nine of whom grew to maturity. One of the children was Benjamin.

Benjamin and his wife Susan had fourteen children in Indiana. Many of the children were residents in Cass County at one time or another.

One of those children was James who was born in Virginia, moved with his parents to Ohio and shortly after, moved to Indiana. His next move was to Cass County, Pymosa Township to begin his farming career in 1856. A few years later his son by his first marriage, Wilson, also moved to the farm.

By 1894 the homestead had grown to over 500 acres which included purebred shorthorn cattle, flocks of sheep and angora goats, Brahmah chickens and apple orchards.

In 1907, three acres of this land was transferred to the Atlantic Northern and Southern Railroad. The stop on the railroad to load cattle was named Harrisdale. You will find it on maps indicating railroad in that time period.

Wilson's son, Raymond, and grandson, Kenneth, continued the farming heritage. The legacy is carried on today at Harrisdale Farmstead.

*This information was gathered from the Cass County History book published in 1980. The book was a project of the Cass County Genealogical Society. The group originated in 1976 named Memory Writers. Much of the Harris family history was gathered by Docia Butler Botkin and organized by Jane Andrews Bedke with the assistance of various family members.*

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## JUNE MEETING

The program will be an opportunity to view a section of the DVD, Discovering Your Roots: An Introduction to Genealogy. The topic will be "Genealogy Online=Gems and Junk"

There will be no business meeting.

The meeting is to be Thursday, June 27. 1 PM at the Atlantic Public Library.

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Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Look into it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear.

A genealogist's bad heir day is when you can't find what you are looking for.



**SHIELD  
ON THE  
"THIRTY MEMORY TREES"  
DEDICATED AT SUNNYSIDE PARK  
ON MAY 30, 1923  
IN MEMORY OF THE THIRTY CASS COUNTY  
VETERANS  
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
IN THE WORLD WAR**

Thirty elm trees were planted along the driveway south of the bathing pool at Sunnyside Park by the local Lions' Club to honor the thirty men who gave their all for their country. "Tomorrow the thirty elm, grown to stately trees, will make an avenue where those to come after may be reminded of the cost of the things they hold dear and pay respect and homage to the heroes whose sacrifices are written into the fabric of our country's story." Atlantic News Telegraph May 31, 1923 by E. P. Chase

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Following are the Cass County men who lost their life in World War I and were honored by the dedication of the elm trees planted at Sunnyside Park on May 30, 1923.

- Cecil M. Conley, Atlantic
- Fred D. Turner, Atlantic
- Irwin O. McConelee, Atlantic
- Lloyd L. Morrill, Atlantic
- Max L. Hubbell, Atlantic
- Phil A. Brooks, Atlantic
- Norbert Wilson, Elliott
- Charles E. Donahoe, Anita
- Oscar Henry Bartley, Anita
- Guy H. Peters, Lewis
- Clyde A. Smeltzer, Massena
- James Howard South, Massena
- Leo Jennings, Massena
- Clyde J. Harris, Atlantic
- Frank H. Enfield, Lewis
- Ray Enfield, Lewis
- Joseph A. Baller, Lewis
- James P. McCourt, Atlantic
- Samuel L. Hazard, Atlantic
- Sam A. Miller, Anita
- Glen G. Blanchard, Griswold
- Andrew M. Anderson, Atlantic
- Vernon Purvis, Cumberland
- Louis C Schuler, Griswold
- Carl J. Lechner, Cumberland
- Edward N. Hansen, Atlantic
- George A. Stengel, Atlantic
- George A. Ihnen, Cumberland
- Frank Pieken, Atlantic
- Bernard W. Keffer, Lewis

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Can anyone identify the women in this picture, the date or the organization putting up the sign? Vera Christensen Kirk has been identified as the lady on the far left. This picture was taken from "Around Atlantic" facebook page.

Mary Hoegh