

*Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company,*

Louisville, Ky., March 31, 1915.

IN YOUR REPLY REFER  
TO DATE AND FILE NO.

Miss Irene Harlan,  
Godfrey, Ills.

Dear Cousin Irene,

Reply to your letter of March 20th has been delayed because of my absence from this city. I have been in the south and just returned a day or two ago and this is the first opportunity I have had to reply to you. You wished to know something about the history of the Harlan family. I expect I could furnish it to you in detail, but perhaps you do not want so much data; it might not be interesting to you and not just what you want. So I will give you a brief history of the family and if there is anything further that you want in the way of information concerning the relatives, I will furnish same, so far as I am able to do so, later.

The Harlan family came to the United States from England in the Seventeenth Century and settled in Virginia and Pennsylvania. We descended from the Virginia branch of the family. My father was a son of James Harlan and my mother was a daughter of Jesse Harlan. My mother and father were second cousins. Jesse Harlan, my mother's father, was your great grand father and he and his family lived in Fluvanna County, Virginia, near Palmyra.

Your great grand father was a miller by profession, as well as a millwright, one who builds and also operates mills. He operated the Solitude Mills near Palmyra and later on operated the Old Middleton Mills at Shores, Va. on the James River, and he died at that point. The Old Middleton Mills are now operated by your fourth or fifth cousin on your father's side, A. L. Seay. This old mill has been in the Harlan family since the eighteenth century.

Your great grand father had six sons and two daughters, and your grand father, Thomas Harlan, was the youngest of the family. He left home when he was about fifteen years of age and went west with some of his elder brothers. He never returned; in fact, his immediate family never heard from him from the early 40's until 1882 when I learned of his whereabouts in Nevada and opened up correspondence with him in the summer of that year. I thought seriously of joining him in the silver and gold field of the west but was not sufficiently encouraged and abandoned my plans. Shortly thereafter he made a trip to Cincinnati, on business, and although he was within eighty miles of us he did not come to see us. As a matter of fact my mother who was his only sister never saw him after he left home when a boy. He was fifteen and she was eighteen years old and they were very devoted. In this same way I located your father some years ago in St. Louis and called on him and have been trying to keep in touch with him ever since.

The entire Harlan family on both sides of the house are all dead with the exception of my mother. She is eighty four years of age. Her last brother died about five years ago at

the age of eighty three. All of the rest of them on both sides of the house are dead and have been for quite a number of years. None of the Harlan name are now living in old Virginia, all of the relatives remaining there are distant ones. We have some second and third cousins there, the Seays and the Moons. Mr. A. F. Moon of Tamworth, Va., Cumberland County, and his family are very fine people and quite well to do. Mr. A. L. Seay and his family live at Shores, Va. who are about fourth cousins, are prominent people for that section.

The Harlans before the Civil War, were considered very high toned people. My grand father on my father's side was well fixed financially, owning considerable property and about 150 valuable slaves, but the war entirely broke up both my grand father and my father. There were only two sons, my father and my uncle, John B. Harlan, for whom I was named. My Uncle John Harlan was killed in the war at the Battle of Boonesboro, Md. There was a large family of girls who married and scattered all over the country.

Your great grand father, Jesse Harlan, never accumulated much property. He was a high liver and good spender. His sons were all fine young business men. They all went west with the exception of three, Rice John and Christopher. Rice died in early manhood; John died shortly after the War, and Christopher Harlan died about five years ago at Tamworth, Va. He remained in Virginia and engaged in the milling business. all of his life.

If there is anything further that you wish to know concerning the old relatives, I would be glad to write you further