

HFA Members Visit Uldale, England

STORIES FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HARRIMAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Uldale is located in Cumberland County in the northwest corner of England not far from the Scottish border. It is also not too far from York and Hull and the Humber River on the east coast. Based on extensive research in England and considering the naming patterns common at the time, we believe this to be the origin of Leonard and John Harriman who left for America around 1638. They may have traveled to York and left from there with the Reverent Ezekial Rogers expedition or they may have come separately and joined Rogers during his first winter in the New World. The story of how the early Harrimans were determined is given in the publication *Harriman History: Feudalism to Freedom*, available from the HFA. Although the work was done many years ago, nothing has been uncovered since then to contradict that narrative.

Harriman History: Feudalism to Freedom, © 1998, by Lois Ware Thurston, C.G.

The probable English ancestry of Leonard and John Harriman, 160 pages, 6"x9", hardcover, numerous pictures, maps, and an every name-place-topic index. Publication by Picton Press, funded by the HFA.

Order from the treasurer. See <http://harriman-family.org/publications.shtml>

Member price--\$28.00. Non-member price--\$31.50. Shipping included in price.

This hard-cover book contains the results of extensive research in England funded by the Association to try to pin down the origins of our Harrimans and pretty clearly establishing the father, grandfather and gr-grandfather of Leonard and John and their home in Uldale, England.

February 1996 Newsletter

A Visit to the Mother Country

By Lois Ware Thurston, C.G. [deceased]

Last fall my husband Ancil and I, along with our son Scott, visited England to see the town of Uldale where our Harriman family originated. It was from Ebsjerg on the west coast of Denmark that we took a cruise ship across the North Sea to Newcastle-on-Tyne in northern England.

At Newcastle-on-Tyne we picked up our car rental and headed west, following Hadrian's wall, built by the Romans in the year 122 AD. After an overnight in the town of Haltwhistle, we drove to Carlisle, the largest city in county Cumbria. There we saw Carlisle Castle, built in the 12th century. It was the first line of defense during the Scottish raids that ravaged this part of the Kingdom. In 1568, when the progenitor of our family, Matthew Herryman, was a young man, Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner in Carlisle Castle.

It was a beautiful day and an enjoyable ride through the countryside to the small towns of Caldbeck and Uldale. Matthew's son Leonard Harriman married, for his second wife, Janet (Scott) Cochran. When she died, she was buried in the churchyard at Caldbeck, probably with her first husband. The church at Caldbeck is called St. Kentigren's and was built about 1130-1150. Much activity was going on at the Church, for the people were preparing for a Harvest Fair. The churchyard was filled with many large gravestones, but we were unable to find one for Janet.

Uldale is just four miles beyond Caldbeck. The rural road becomes narrow. Rolling hills provide grazing land for the sheep who have been raised on these lands since the days of the Vikings. Suddenly we found ourselves at the crest of a steep hill and there before us, nestled in the valley below, was Uldale. The nearly treeless hills are covered with lush green grass. Hedgerows and slate stone walls dissect the land and enclose the sheep and cattle. Beyond the village the hills rise up to one of the highest mountains in England - Skiddaw. An awesome sight to behold!

We drove slowly down the steep incline, through a gate and into the village center where four roads meet. The road to the left took us past several homes, the "Old Schoolhouse and the art gallery.

Turning back into the center of town, we stopped for lunch at "The Snooty Fox." We soon engaged in conversation another customer, who was the churchwarden. He lives in the "Old Schoolhouse" built in 1690. He told us the long stone farmhouse across the street was built in the 16th century, when our Harrimans lived in Uldale; and directed us to the church - a fair distance from the village.

After lunch, we walked around the village, then drove to the church. It's a very small, simple Anglican church called St. James's church. Built about 1150, the nave and chancel were entirely rebuilt in 1730 and 1837. All that remains of the early church is some 12th century masonry and a 16th century stone arch that separates the nave and chancel. Surrounding the church are many large gravestones. Though no Harriman gravestones were found, it is certain that this is where they were buried.

Leaving Uldale, we drove south through the Lake District, then east across the Yorkshire Dales. The next morning we stopped at a Sheep Fair and continued our drive southeast to Rowley. There we explored St. Peter's church, where Rev. Ezekiel Rogers served, and saw the Rogers stained glass window. According to the information given, there was never a village at Rowley- only the Church and the old rectory, which served the neighboring communities of Little Weighton and Riplingham. Rowley is a very long way from Uldale!



October 1996 Newsletter

A Trip Into the Past: C. Jarvis Harriman Visits Uldale

By Sue Bixby

Charles Jarvis Harriman and wife Nancy are the third HFA members lucky enough to spend a holiday in Uldale, England, the home grounds of our immigrant ancestors, Leonard and John Harriman. Jarvis has given permission for his letter, written to Lois Ware Thurston, to be reprinted so that other HFA members can "experience" Uldale.

August 6, 1996

...Our visit to Uldale was just about perfect - all I had imagined and more.

We rented a car in Carlisle after getting a bed & breakfast room there because we had not been able to learn of any in Uldale. We drove south on B5299...topped a rise and began to see the village below us...

We parked at "The Snooty Fox" pub. Across the street a man was working on construction...'You can probably still get a cup of tea,' he said, 'if you go up to the old school house.' Always interested in tea, we scurried up the hill and found the place.

Midway through our tea I heard a distinctive sound outside, and went out with my camera to catch a herd of perhaps 20 Frisian cows sauntering past the tea room between the walls that flank the little road - driven by a fanner riding a 4-wheel ATV, with his daughter perched on the handle bars and a dog trotting behind...

In the next day and a half we were to meet many of the village people...they told us about the Cowx farm, south from the crossroads and on the right - farmed by the same family for some 400 years - which of course takes them back to the time of Leonard Harriman...We sat with him [Mr. Cowx] by his hearth in the low-ceilinged room just inside the front door...Healthy family, fairly large farm operation - milk cows, sheep, crops mainly hay and other feed crops.

We booked into the gorgeous new guest house of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Wilson, 'Cosy Farmhouse, Gate Farm'...just along from the main crossroads ... The new guest house is beautifully built and the cost was 22 pounds each for the best room in the house. We'd recommend it to anyone...

We took the Uldale walk, a 4-mile ramble that we absolutely loved, down the bridge beyond the schoolhouse, north through sheep pasture, crossing stiles, wending among the sheep, a long circle around through farm roads, along the 'boundary wall' which delineates the Uldale common - the sheep range they share in common...

We called on Dr. and Mrs. Wicker, down by the bridge...He had done some work when he first came to study the people and buildings of the village; the 'Pattinsons Uldale Hall,' he told us, was the original manor house of the village - where records such as the will of Matthew Harriman and tenant history would have been executed and stored (they are now, we understand, at the county archives in Carlisle)...

I can't think of a happier two days in our six weeks of living and travelling in Europe and Great Britain. We had good weather, with just a touch of rain...Land of my father Leonard

Signed: Jarvis Harriman

November 1997 Newsletter

The Harriman Genealogy: A Progress Report

By Lois Ware Thurston, CG [deceased]

At long last the English chapters are nearly finished! All that is needed is follow-up research for the Shepard and Scott families, and final editing.

For the last few years I have been researching and writing the history of England as it pertained to the Harriman family of Uldale, county Cumberland. And what an interesting history it is!

I do not want to give it all away before the book is published, but it is safe to say that because the Harrimans lived on the northern border of England they suffered greatly. Their lives were controlled by England's class structure, its long history of warfare, and poor economic conditions in the north. The Harrimans and their neighbors experienced plagues, harvest failures and violence. Some people also suffered starvation and poverty.

Feudal manor lords controlled the north --- much to the resentment of King Henry VIII. In 1539 the peasants and gentry rebelled in an uprising called the Pilgrimage of Grace. Henry demolished the monasteries and sold them to manor lords. The Harrimans were the tenants of the manor of Uldale that was held by the Dalston family for 250 years. The tenants held their lands by customary tenure -- meaning their lands were inherited from father to son -- from time immemorial. Eventually the monarchy gained control of the north, but the circumstances of the tenants were not much better.

Though the early generations of the Harriman family are firmly established, the loss of primary sources in Cumberland hampered the research of Matthew^A Harriman, who was probably the father of Leonard and John Harriman of New England. Most puzzling was determining what the circumstances were that made Leonard and John leave Uldale and emigrate to America. In the late 1880's Walter Harriman and others called them orphans. The following are some possible theories:

1. Their father, Matthew Harriman, lost his tenant lands due to high rents and fines. There would be no inheritance for his heirs. He and his family left Uldale between 1615 and 1642. They made their way south, settling in an urban area probably near the sea. Matthew may have sent his sons, Leonard and John, to New England or they could have been sent there as orphans after their father's death. Leonard and John became servants in Puritan families and migrated with their masters to Massachusetts Bay by 1639 or 1640.
2. Matthew Harriman lost his tenant lands due to high rents and fines. There would be no inheritance for his heirs. He and his family left Uldale between 1615 and 1642, settling in an urban area probably near the sea. Matthew died and his wife remarried. Leonard and John emigrated with their mother and step-father to Massachusetts Bay by 1639 or 1640.
3. Matthew Harriman died at Uldale between 1623 and 1641 and his wife remarried. When Leonard and John were teenagers they left Uldale and joined the multitude of other young single males migrating to urban areas. They became servants in Puritan families and emigrated with their masters to Massachusetts Bay by 1639 or 1640.
4. Matthew and his wife continued to live in Uldale and both died between 1623 and 1638. Leonard and John were now orphaned with no next of kin. They were still minors, and if they were very young, they were likely bound out to an Uldale family. When they were teenagers they left Uldale and joined the multitude of other young single males migrating to urban areas. They became servants in Puritan families and emigrated with their masters to Massachusetts Bay by 1639 or 1640.

Sue Bixby suggests another theory-that one of Leonard and John's parents died years before they emigrated to New England; the surviving parent re-married and then died in England. Leonard and John were about 18 and 16 years old when they emigrated. They were not yet old enough to be on their own, but they may have emigrated with their step-parent.

Which theory do you think is most likely? Can you think of other theories? I will be glad to consider any theories you may have.

Summer/Fall 1999 Newsletter

Visit To Uldale England - September 1998

By Harold Harriman

Our family had a very interesting fall to say the least with the highlight being the wedding of Milissa, our youngest, marrying Thomas Mac Cormick in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel, Moneyglass, County Antrim, which is located West of Belfast in Northern Ireland. The day went perfectly with the fickle Irish weather providing us with a fine fall day, a beautiful bride, a handsome groom dressed in his kilt, a wedding party dressed accordingly and a church reminiscent of a medieval chapel. Needless to say the reception lived up to the traditions of the Irish people with lots of song, dance and traditional Irish celebration for the big event.

We were blessed with the attendance of a total of 18 American friends and relatives who were with us at the wedding and who joined us for various periods of our stay there. Milissa, my daughter, Vikki, my granddaughter, Haley, and my brother, Leslie, and his wife, Shirley, were with us for the whole period and joined us on all of our side trips during the visit. The week before the wedding we toured the Irish republic visiting the southwest and west coasts of the beautiful area ending with a stay in Dublin. During the week of the wedding we made day trips to the largely tourist free areas of Northern Ireland. Don't tell anyone, but the area equals or exceeds the South for history, interest and beauty and the hospitality of the people is unbelievable.

Across, the Irish Sea to Scotland and England. We took the ferry out of Lame to the Scottish coast and by train to Edinburgh for a two-day stay and tour of the area. We were unable to rent cars in Edinburgh, so we took the train back to Prestwick, stayed there overnight and went to Northwest England the next day.

Fortunately I had E-Mailed Lois Thurston a few days before going that I would possibly be visiting Uldale again. She put me in touch with Christine Craghill, local historian of Uldale, who helped Lois greatly in the research for her recent book, *Harriman History, Feudalism to Freedom*. Chris has obviously become very interested in our family through her research for the book.

We arrived in Uldale just before lunch and located Ms. Craghill in the old Village school, just off of the center of Uldale and now converted into a tearoom, art gallery and history studio for the village. After meeting with Chris and discussing our visit we had a delightful lunch in the tearoom of soup and sandwiches enjoying the ambiance of the old school and the people who were there.

After lunch we started our great adventure in our probable ancestral home area. First Chris took us on a walking tour of the village, showing us so many sights, that I cannot possibly remember them all for this story. She showed where the old village walls were, some still standing and had been incorporated into some of the older buildings. The village once had a dovecoat that shows on the old maps of the area. She located the area that this once occupied and described the buildings that once occupied the area during our ancestors' period.

We completed our tour of the village with a walk through the back alleys and lanes meeting some of the local residents through the introduction of Christine.

From the Center we got into our cars for a tour of the more outlying areas. This brought us to two highlights of the tour. Leaving our vehicles at the side of a lane we went down an old road between farmers' fields to an area that had been farmed by a Leonard Harriman in the 16th century. Chris has found the records in her research, showing that a Leonard Harriman leased this area for the purpose of farming during this period. It was really a thrill to stand at that spot on the side of a hill, looking over the neighboring village and thinking that probably an ancestor far away in time had gazed at relatively the same scene during his daily chores.

Unfortunately we did not bring the video camera on this portion of our trip, but you can bet that I burned up a lot of film in the old 35mm on this excursion.

Near the end of this portion of the tour we came across St John's Church. On our previous visit to Uldale I had stopped here but was unsure of how to gain access to the inside. Subsequently Lois, and Jarvis Harriman and possibly others have seen the interior. Through Chris we went inside and saw the arch from the old church that would have been a part of where our ancestors probably worshipped. The graveyard is nicely kept, but any sign our ancestors may have been buried there vanished many years ago, with the oldest stones being from a period after our ancestors left Uldale.

We continued our tour to the East side of Uldale with Chris describing the local landmarks and their history. The whole area round Uldale is breathtakingly beautiful, being on the northern edge of England's famous Lake District. The tourist business in this particular area is not too well developed, but there are areas to stay, and several places to eat in close proximity to the village and neighboring villages. Thanks to the tip from Louis and the wonderful tour by Christine Craghill, our second visit to Uldale was unforgettable. I have a picture of my brother Leslie and I looking over the field our ancestor worked that to us is priceless.



January 2000 Newsletter

The Certainty of our English Heritage

By Lois Thurston [deceased]

Uldale, England is undoubtedly the place where our Harriman family originated. Based on manorial, probates, and other records, the earliest known Harriman was one James Herriman who lived there in 1505-1517. The next known Harriman was Matthew Herryman, who died before 30 March 1569. He had 5 children, Leonard, Matthew, John, Margaret, and James. Only two of these were found in the later records, Leonard and John. Leonard was the eldest child and he died before 13 October 1612. His only surviving child was Matthew Harriman. John, who died before 20 March 1625/6, did not have any children that survived. Leonard's son Matthew was living in Uldale as late as 1618. In this period many records were lost or destroyed, which prevented us from knowing if he had children and what happened to him after 1618. About 1638, our Leonard Harriman, born by 28 November 1621, and John Harriman born by 5 August 1623, emigrated from England to Massachusetts Bay. Leonard had sons named Matthew and John; and John had a son John and a grandson named Leonard. Because of the common names in this family and that of the Uldale Harriman families, it is possible that our Leonard and John were sons of Matthew Harriman of Uldale. We are in the process of continuing the research to find more information about Matthew, Leonard, and John.



November 2006 Newsletter

News From Uldale

Our English genealogist, Christine Craghill, did much of the research for the book *Feudalism to Freedom*. She is an authority on the Cumbria region and lives in Uldale, thought to be the ancestral home of the Harrimans. Her website at www.thehistorystudio.co.uk has fascinating glimpses into the geography and history of the region. Her home in the charming English tradition is called Watersplash Cottage.

November 2008 Newsletter

Visit To Uldale, England

Harold Lee Harriman [deceased]

I have about recovered from my trip to England. It was very interesting in spite of cold rainy weather. (I was informed that it was short sleeve weather. They probably had never lived in Florida.) I found that my copy of the Harriman History *Feudalism to Freedom* by Lois Ware Thurston, which I took with me, was a great starter of a conversation.

There are normally no organized tours of the Uldale area of Lake Counties. Visitors can depart Heathrow Airport by train, changing trains about four times, followed by taxi or private car to Uldale. There is one small Bed and Breakfast Inn. I would suggest using a rental car for touring around. No, I did not rent a car. I have not driven on the left side of the road since 1951 - 1954 when I was stationed in Japan. After taking my first taxi ride I definitely knew I was not qualified to drive on those narrow roads right or left.

Most of the people I interviewed by phone were in the hotels and museums. I am pleased that I did not receive any conflicting information.

I can only assume that any other members of John and Leonard Harriman's family were victims of illness and/or the fighting with the nearby Scotchmen who were raiding back and forth thieving and killing. I could not in the short time allowed investigate any deeper.

Although the weather was cold and rainy, everything growing was bright and green. The people were kind and thoughtful. Many times I was asked for my passport. The person examining the passport would ask if I was with anyone else. When I answered in the negative they would say "date of birth is September 26, 1918. Do you need any help?" I presume that they were not expecting people approaching 90 years would be traveling alone.

[editor's note: Harold Lee Harriman was a survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. His account of that day is in the July 2007 newsletter.]