ALBERT BLUFORD HARRISON
By Don Knecht

He was my great grandfather on my mother's side. My grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Baning, was the first child of Albert and Ary Jane (Bailey) Harrison.

Mary Elizabeth was born in 1872 in Searcy, Ark. She married John H. "Sam" Baning Nov. 3, 1889. My mother, Josie Lee Baning, was born Feb. 26, 1894, in or near Heber Springs, and when she was about 12, the family moved to Monroe, Ok. where she met and married my father, Roy L. Knecht. My mother told me that she was named for the Doctor's wife, Josie. My future wife would also have that same first name and the last name of Bailey.

Dad was Supt. of Schools in Monroe, and our family moved to Heavener, Ok. in 1925 when I was two. He went into the automobile business and later became postmaster. Growing up in Heavener I heard my mother talk about her Grandpa Harrison. She said the Harrisons lived in several places in Arkansaw and that he did a lot of fishing on the Red River. She said he was a Methodist Circuit Rider, that he preached on Sundays in the small rural churches, and that his pay was produce from the peoples gardens and meat from the hogs they raised. They raised most of their food, and there was a lot of wild game, even large bears. One story told by my mother went something like this: One day while hunting, a large bear chased him and somehow he got away by climbing on top of this large rock, as big as a house. He called for help and eventually someone heard and brought a ladder to help him to get down. Still unexplained was how he ever got on top of that rock. Perhaps this is one time it helped to be a preacher!

My mother's sister, Aunt Ethel, said that Grandma Harrison was short and fat. She said that late in life Grandpa Harrison would live with the Banings for six months and with Ada six months. She said that sometimes my mother (Jo) would go with him in the buggy and play the piano and that all the kids in town would come to listen to his bear stories, and were held spellbound by them!

My dad is supposed to have said that Albert Harrison was the best man he ever knew, and that people passing by the Harrisons always found something to eat. I always thought that was a fantastic compliment.

George Harrison had a daughter, Sadie, who married Everett Holman, and they lived in Fort Smith. Since they were closer to us, there was more contact with them in our growing up years. However, the one that we heard a lot about was my mother's cousin, Gene Lambert, who was the head basketball coach at the University of Arkansas. My middle name is Eugene and that is his first name. I never heard where they got my middle name but it is possible there might be some connection. The first college football game I ever saw was in Fayetville probably while Gene was there. It was about 1940 when our football team from Heavener went on the bus to see AU play Baylor. Then in 1945, soon after our Division had returned from Europe and was stationed at Camp Chaffee near Fort Smith, some of us went on a bus to watch UA play Oklahoma A&M. I believe that Gene was basketball coach from 1942-50 but was at Arkansas University from 1937-50. While there he also served as tennis coach and Director of Athletics. He also was head basketball coach at Alabama University four years (two years before Bear Bryant was there), and then he was coach and athletic director at Memphis State.

Gene Lambert's mother was Ada Francis, who was 12 years younger than my grandmother, Mary Elizabeth. His father was W.F. Lambert and they had five children. One of these is Grace Huffaker who lives in Bald Knob. Grace, who is 10 years younger than Gene, plays golf and works at the Country Club.

Janie Quarles is working on a Harrison Family History and has provided the following summary of the "Harrison Lineage". She is the grandaughter of Sarah Melissa and lives at Mc Crory.

HARRISON LINEAGE

Mrs Janie Quarles
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1st Gen.

Daniel R.(Reece) Harrison - born about 1780 in N.C. - died after 1850
married - before 1801
Margaret Susannah Rucker (the name "Bluford" came from Rucker side).

their son

2nd Gen.

Reece Simeon Harrison - born 1812 in TN (Simeon also came from Rucker side)
married - before 1837
Mary Polly Sheffield or Sherfield - born 1813 in GA

their son

3rd Gen.

Albert Bluford Harrison - born July 7, 1849 in TN - died Jan. 9, 1927
buried in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery - White Co.
married
Ary Jane Bailey - born Apr. 20, 1852 in TN - died Apr. 18, 1914
buried in Mt. Pisgah

their children

4th Gen.

1. Mary E. - born 1872. Married John H."Sam" Banning on Nov.3, 1889
Had 8 children

2. George Washington - born Apr. 26, 1873 in AR. Married Susan
Frances Matthews. Had 8 children.
Both died Feb. 1940. Both buried in Mt. Pisgah.

Connie's father 3. James Moses - born Feb.20, 1875 in AR. Married Nola Frances Horn.
Had 7 children - both buried in Mt. Pisgah.

4. William Porter - born March 25, 1876 - died 1898 - buried Mt. Pisgah

my grandmother Ocea's mother 5. Sarah Melissa - born Apr.26, 1879 in AR. Married John H. Garner.
Had 8 children. After John's death she married
W. H. Lacy. Sarah and John are buried in
Union Cemetery-Woodruff Co.,AR.

Ruth's father 6. Calvin Brewer - born Feb.20, 1881. Married Leda M. Miller. 4 childr
Both buried in Evergreen Cemetery - Judsonia, AR.

"Billy's" mother 7. Ada Frances - born Oct.28, 1884. Married W. F. Lambert-5 children.
Both buried in Union Cemetery.

8. Noah Walter - born Oct. 9, 1885 - died 1897 - buried Mt. Pisgah.

9. Ethel May - born Feb.19, 1890. Married Roscoe Conklin Leasure.
Had 5 children. Both buried Providence Cemetery in
White Co.

I always call the 1st Gen. the one who is the furthest back that I know.

Albert Bluford Harrison

born - July 7, 1849
died - Jan. 9, 1927
buried - Mt. Pisgah Cemetery in White Co., AR

married: Sept. 1, 1870

Ary Jane Bailey

born - April 20, 1852
died - April 18, 1914
buried - Mt. Pisgah Cemetery in White Co., AR

their children:

1. Mary E.
   1872 - married John H. Banning

2. George Washington
   1873-1940 married Susan Frances Matthews
   both buried in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery

3. James Moses
   1875-1938 married Nola Frances Horn
   both buried in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery

4. William Porter
   1876-1898
   buried in Mt. Pisgah Cemetery

5. Sarah Melissa
   1879-1968 married John Henry Garner and W. H. Lacy
   All buried in Union Cemetery, Woodruff Co., AR

6. Calvin Brewer
   1881-1956 married Leda M. Miller
   both buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Judsonia, AR

7. Ada Frances
   1884-1956 married William F. Lambert
   both buried in Union Cemetery

8. Noah Walter
   1885-1897
   shares headstone with Wm. Porter in Mt. Pisgah

9. Ethel May
   1890-1978 married Roscoe Conklin Leasure
   both buried in Providence Cemetery, White Co., AR

Albert Bluford Harrison's parents were:

father - Reese or Reece S. Harrison
mother - Mary Polly Sherfield or Sheffield

They had nine children.

Albert's grandparents were:

grandfather - Daniel Reese (Reece) Harrison
grandmother - Margaret Susannah Rucker

They had 14 children.

Peter Rucker, an ancestor of Margaret Rucker, was a French Hugenot who came to America in 1690.

There are books on the Rucker and Reese (Reece) families. I haven't read them, but understand they can be found in the Genealogy Department of larger libraries.