

Interview of Mary Harsin on Trip to Scott's Ridge

August 2013



Joyce, and her mother Mary Rea Harsin at Caledonia Church Cemetery.

Mike : We are recording Mary Harsin and I on a trip to Scott's Ridge in Shelby Township. She wanted to go to the Scottish Cemetery of the Caledonia Church where her parents and ancestors were buried. She also wanted to see the stone house that Robert Glen built on Tate Ridge Road. She had never seen it, but she is related back in time to Robert Glen (1799 – 1881). Her grandfather was Robert Glen; they called him Bob, “she said”.

Mike: That was Olive Branch Road. These roads all look a like to me.

Mary: I was raised straight through there on the Graham Road. We had a 48 acre farm. We were living there when Bertha Lanham swatted me around for being truant.

Mike: Who was your Dad?

Mary: His name was Rolle Rea. He lived in a hollow on Scott's Ridge.

Mike : what was your mother's name?

Mary: It was Lillie, She was a Glen. She was Bob Glen's daughter.

We did not start taping until we passed the Olive Branch Cemetery on Old 62. Mary said as we passed the cemetery that there was a little bit of corn there. As we start the tape Mary is talking about her Father . He had a very good job at the Madison Cragmont State Hospital and they sent him to Purdue University to learn all he could about raising chickens. He got a good education. He had taught school for several years before that. He just did not care much for teaching. He managed the chickens. He worked there for several years as the head poultryman. Every morning they would send over an order of how many chickens he should kill. He had all these patients to help him. It was a real good job for that time, because they picked up all his bills to go to Purdue University.

Mike: When your father went to Purdue, "Did you stay at home with your mother?"

Mary: Yes, I stayed with her in North Madison, just about where the Post Office is now, right almost on the railroad.

Mike : There is Scott's ridge 7470, We are at the top of the ridge now.

Mary: We are just getting started. Your wife might start worrying about you.

Mike: No I have been to Canaan before. She knows it is a long way. Well we already used up 45 minutes of tape.

Mary: Have you ever been to Pleasant.

Mike: Lee Rogers may have taken me to Pleasant .There is an old Eagles Lodge there, I think. His wife had a picture of her being there. It is up Bee Camp Road.

Mary: Now we are getting to the older part.

Mike: Here is a nice two story brick house here. Now we have to make a real sharp turn here. They have a sign, IU Hoosier's Avenue. It is nice to be up on top of the ridge. We can see on both sides of the road. We are now passing Shaw Hollow Road. It is not paved. There is a nice Jersey cow laying there. There is corn out there in the field.

Mary: It sure is, but the Johnson Grass is taller than the corn. Here are three or four horses standing here and swatting flies. Herbs and

Mike: Here is Jake N. Schwartz "Herbs and Vitamins". This must be where the folks come from town to get their medicines.

Mary: Lee would turn over in his grave if he saw something like that on his place.

Mike: The signs for Herbs and Medicines?

Mary: No! Hey see all tobacco. They have sprayed the tobacco to make the leaves spread.

(See Robert Scott's discussion of spraying tobacco at the end of this interview.)

Mike: You mean they spray tobacco to make the leaves spread?

Mary: Sometimes. We never raised tobacco much; we had a tobacco base. We only raised tobacco one year, then we had someone else raise it. That is really heavy tobacco.

Mike: It is as tall as you are isn't it.

Mary: That is really good tobacco. I hope it cures out good. As I started to say, we raised it one year and then one of the neighbors raised it every year. Of course we got our little share of it. There is a lot of work to that. You start out in the spring , you make your tobacco bed and then you have to weed it two or three times to get it clean and keep it clean.

Mike: Did you help with the tobacco?

Mary: I did the year we raised it, but not after that.

Mike: I will stop and take a picture here. I will get up here on the corner and get a little closer so we can tell what it is.



Mary: I have stripped tobacco. We are turning the corner. Now we are really close. He is spearing the tobacco.

Mike: Say can I take a photograph? (I always try to ask permission before I start taking pictures.)Thank you. Thanks a lot. He is working hard.



Mary: It is hard work. The real hard work is when they put it in the tiers. It is so heavy to handle. That is a beautiful home.

Mike: Wow look at the corn over there. I am six feet tall and that corn is over my head. It is probably eight or ten feet tall.

Mary: Now we turn kinda to the right. You missed it didn't you.

The next taping session was at the John and David Glen house. They were uncles that farmed together. The current occupants invited us to use their picnic table for lunch. Mary was noticing a weeping willow that she used to climb when she was a child. We were informed that that tree died and another one was planted there, but we still ate under the shade of the tree.



Mary, Joyce, Cheryl Scott , Phil Stewart, and Jerry Eaton are talking about the John and David Glen Brothers under the shade tree at the John and David Glen House.

I don't know why they have been interested in my great grandfather, The Jefferson County Historical Society. His name was Robert Glen.

Mike: He built a stone house that folks say is wonderful.

Mary: No, My Great Grandfather's house is still standing. No one lives there, but we are going to try and get permission to go in it. We are going to see his stone at Caledonia Cemetery. We are going end to end on Scott's Ridge. We are going to back track. The Jefferson Historical Society

had a tour out there several years ago, But Joyce and Lee went, but I had a broken ankle and I could not go. I had to sit home alone, so I have never stopped to see it. Joyce did and she said that it had broken down inside. It seems that some important man built this house. His Name was Robert Glen. His Son's name was also Robert Glen, He went by Bob Glen. He was my Grand Father. Now His house burned down when My Father and Mother married.

Mike: Which house was that?

Mary: It was Bob Glen's house and it was made of Brick.

Mike: Well, we are still on Scott's Ridge road.

Mary: Oh! As I was about to tell you earlier about the Johnson Grass. I called someone for some straw. We had about 12 chickens. I asked the guy where he lived and he told me. I asked him if he had Johnson Grass in the straw. He said yes. I said then I don't want it. He said well where you going to get it. I said that I don't know, but I don't want it. I then called Don Campbell where I could find some. He worked at Scottsburg as one of the Deputies. He said that I have straw that does not have Johnson-grass. I said how much is it? He said \$3.00 a bale. I asked him for 30 bales, because we used it up around the trailer and at a place across the road, we owned 384 acres. It was in three farms.

Now we want to turn right.

Mike: Now we are at the intersection of 129 and 250. A lot of cars here. I guess the Swiss Wine Festival is going on now at Vevay. Here is Pleasant. Boy this is a nice road now. Moorefield is four miles. Now right up here not too far, we will have to watch for the sign on the right. We are looking for the Caledonia Road. I don't ever come this way. I come up Scott's Ridge partly and drop off a hill.

This road up here is Pohmrehn Road.

Mary: That was the name of my second grade school teacher. Annette Pohmrehn was her name. she and her mother lived in North Madison. I missed three days of school. My mother kept us home, because we had to walk ½ a mile and my older sister had just gotten over pneumonia and she kept us home at that time. That was about 1924 or 1925. Bertha Lanham swatted me. It really hurt.

Mike: She did not explain to Lanham the truant officer?

Mary: She did not see the officer.

Mike: We are now coming into Mooresfield. A lot of mowing going on here. Nice modern houses.

Mary: I did all the mowing until Lee retired, then he mowed.

Mike: When Lee worked at the Proving Ground, did he come home and farm after the job.

Mary: He did not hire much. We had three boys. I would go out and help him too. We raised hogs. Six or eight sows that we raised hogs.

Mike: That little sign says Caledonia there.

Mary: Turn right there. We will go to the Cemetery there.

Mike: When you told me that you lived up here on Scott's ridge, I had no Idea that you were talking about Switzerland County.

Mary: The main part of Scott's Ridge Road is in Jefferson County.

Mike: We are now on a country road called Caledonia Road, just off of Road 129. You said that you were baptized in Hebron Baptist Church. Did you ever go to the Caledonia Church.

Mary: My mother was raised in that Church. My Dad went here to Church after they were married, Then when we moved to the Graham road, Mother went to the Baptist church. I was just a little tyke when we left Scott's Ridge. My younger sister was born on the Graham Road.

Turn here on Caledonia Road. Most of my mother's family has all been up in here. The Shaws and the Harts are all related to us.

Mike: Now here is a cemetery here. Here is the Church, (Caledonia).

Mary: Turn here.

Mike: Dow Ridge.

Mary: Now go close to that little building. Turn into the cemetery. Just park. Now my mother and father are buried in the other part down there. Is Joyce (her daughter) behind us? Joyce and Phil Stewart are behind us.

Mike: Yes, there is plenty of room for two cars. Here let me get your roller out will it go on the grass.

Mike: I am at Jane Rea's grave, wife of Robert R. Rea born August 16th 1825, March 2, 1902 Sleep in Jesus. Next to her is her husband Robert R. Rea (cannot read well) about 1840 died age.

Agnes Kirkwood, Wife of Robert Glen died November 17, 1849, the 44th year of her age. We cannot find the grave of Robert Glen, but Mary said she has seen it out here. Note: the DAR Census lists a grave for Robert Glen 1799 - 1881 .



Note: Here we have a little confusion. When I got home, I typed Mary Harsins name and her birthdate in and the program started adding to her genealogy. Ancestry.com lists Robert W. (Bob) Glen 1851 – 1923 as the nephew of this Robert Glen 1799 – 1881. There is more than one Robert Glen. It is confusing.

Now we are going over to see the grave of Bob Glen and then on to Mary's parents. Robert W. Glen 1851 – 1923 and Alice 1855 – 1908 (Mary's Grandfather and Grandmother).

Mike: there are a lot of Ralstons buried here.

Mary: Oh yes. They are

Joyce: Here is uncle David and Uncle John Glen. Here are my grandparents related too. I know they are here and we must have passed it. I am stuck.

Mike: Oh, I will get you.

Mary: and over there are my Great Grandparents. Alma Nay died in Childbirth.

Mike: It is nice to have everybody like this very close by. I will now take a picture. You all ready? Cool I got it.

Note: We left the Cemetery and drove to the Robert Glen House. While we were looking at the house and taking pictures, the owner Mr. Carl Reynolds came out and gave us more details on the history of the house. The tape was off during this interlude.

GLEN HOUSE



Robert Glen House; Joyce and Mary stand in front. Right, inside of front room.



The "Apple House" where the Glen Family lived for two years while building the Stone House to the left and above.

Mike: (We drove a few miles and then we turned the tape on again)

Mary: It used to be cleared over there.

Mike: You mean there were no trees.

Mary: Yes. You could see the creek down there if it were not for these trees. I was baptized down there.

Mike: My Gosh, right in the creek.

Mary: Yes

Mike: What happened? Did the preacher just dunk you in the water?

Mary: Yes, He came pretty well up on me. It came up to his waist.

Mike: How old were you?

Mary: Oh, about ten.

Mike: What was his name?

Mary: Singleton. I don't remember what his first name was.

Mike: I wonder what the Church's name was?

Mary: It was Hebron Baptist.

Mike: That is a long way from the church.

Mary: My Grandfather Rea, There is the creek now. Oh this is where Keith Stewart grew up. My father told me that way back there we are related.

Mike: 5498 China –Mansfield Road is where we are now.

Mary: Dr. Matthews lived over there. He had two daughters Agnes and Ruth. Ruth was my Sunday School Teacher and then she became one of my high school teachers in history. We changed her name from Ruth to Miss Ruth.

Mike: We are now at Dry Fork by Geyman Hill Road. We have Soy Beans on the right, big old Pine Trees on the left. What is that great big old purple flower over there.

Mary: I cannot remember, but you don't want to handle these flowers, because they are poisonous.

Mike: Okay, I am really allergic to Poison Ivy, so I don't want to get into that.

Mary: I all ways bought Ivy Dry and that cleared up the blisters in three or four days. I get Poison Ivy also. Those big purple flowers are called Ironweed.

Mike: Well here is Turkey Branch Road.

Mary: When I was a kid there were Furnishes in there. Now it says here that it is the Booth place.

Mike: It looks like the Sheriff has a pickup truck out here. We are now at 4295 China-Manville Road. This house is 4206. We are going over another little bridge.



Mary; I was telling you earlier about my dad. When he was a child he had to walk to Sugan to get their mail.

Mike: Was Sugan a little town.

Mary: A little town. A teeny tiny town and I have never known where that was.

Mike : One time when I was with Eddie Taylor, I saw a sign that said Sugan Hollow. We are crossing the creek again. Here is Madison Consolidated Bus Number 61.

Mary: Now you are meeting someone.

Mike: Yes, I guess we had better slow down. This is almost like a one lane road.

Mary: Oh, you have plenty of room. You don't know what a one lane road is.

Mike: Here we came to a stop sign. The Manville Christian Church is on the right.

Mary: We go straight ahead. This will go back to Madison. Only we are not going to Madison. I am going to take you on the wildest ride today.

Mike: That is true. This is called Brushy Fork. There is more Johnson-grass. We had that down in Texas. Macedonia Church up on a hill. We turn here. We are going East. This is Phil and Joyce. They are pulling up beside us. They passed us and went on to Madison.

Mary: When I was a real small child, I was going from the Graham up to my Grandfathers there were so many spring flowers about the size of a dime, bright red. I never knew any of my Grandmothers. I knew my Grandfather and he died in 1923. That was Grandfather Glen. Grandfather Rea died before that.

Mike: This was quite a drive from the Graham road to your Grandfathers. Did you have horses or a car or what?

Mary: We had horses, but then we had an Overland car. It was made in Indianapolis. We are crossing the creek and going on a gravel road. There is more Johnson-grass.

Mike: In Texas we called it John-grass and some people baled it and fed it to their cows. Some of them would founder if they got into a green pasture.

Mike: what did you do to fight it.

Mary: Oh, we sprayed it.

End of Tape

I took out a 60 minute audio tape. A good lesson. I need to bring more tapes.

Mike Moore

August 22, 2013

Mike,

The house is on (Taite's) Tate's Ridge Road. You can get to it from Madison by going to Mannville and following the Brushy Fork, or by going through Canaan to Pleasant, where you take route 129 south for 2 miles to the Caledonia Church Road. You could also pick up route 129 in Vevay and go north 10 miles to the Caledonia Church Road. We are two miles west of 129. ----Carl Reynolds---

Note: from Bob Scott:

You spray tobacco to remove the suckers (which is different from spraying it for tobacco worms)

When I was a kid, we snapped them off by hand (we did the same with tobacco worms. Fling them to the ground and they break open.

Tobacco starts to bud in late summer. It sends up a stalk with fuzzy green leaves. If you let that grow, it blooms. So you take those off. That's called topping

After that, the suckers start to grow at the base of leaves. They are also fuzzy green (and not smoking material). If you don't top or sucker, growth goes into that instead of to the leaves. There's a guy near us in New Jersey who raises tobacco in pots on his front lawns. He didn't top and he ended up with tall, skinny plants with pretty flowers. I ran into him before last summer and told him he should top.

That results in a bigger leaf that ripens. If you don't top the plant starts green until it freezes

Bb

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

From: Mike Moore <mikemoore28@hotmail.com>

To: Bob Scott

Sent: Fri, Feb 21, 2014 10:28 am

Subject: Robert Glen Family Stone House

Dear Robert: Ron Grimes gave me your e-mail address. I volunteer at the Jefferson County Historical Society when it is open. I mostly archive Jefferson Proving Ground materials and photos. I have been friends with Mary Rae Harsin for about 25 years, I worked with her husband, Leroy at JPG. Mary is 95 years old and she was born on Scott's Ridge and she asked me to take her out on Scott's Ridge. She was going to have a pace maker battery replaced and she thought she might not make it, so she wanted to see her place of birth on Scott's Ridge. She also wanted to see the Robert Glen House, because she said that she was a descendant thru the Glen family and she had never been to the house.

I did take her out and we went to David and John Glen's house, her uncles and we had a picnic there and met the young couple there that were doing some kind of organic farming. I believe a lady that might be your aunt came over and talked about the Glen family. We went out to the Caledonia cemetery and she showed me Agnes Glen's tombstone (1806 - 1849 and Mary's grandfather and grandmother's stones. They were Robert (Bob) Glen and his wife. Then we went to her dad's grave, Rolle Rea and she showed me her uncles and aunt's grave.

We then went to (Tate's) Tait's ridge and stopped at the Robert Glen house and were lucky enough to meet with Carl Reynolds, the owner of the Robert Glen House. We could not go in the house, because Carl told us that it was in danger of falling down.

I came back a week or so later and interviewed Carl for an hour or so and he told me a lot about the Robert Glen and his family.

I went into ancestry.com and typed Mary's Family into the program and all of a sudden I got all of these ancestors of the Glen family. I started corresponding with Angie Fore another descendant of Robert Glen from Missouri. I found that Ancestry's version was slightly different than what I recorded from Mary. Ancestry.com listed her line from a John Glen who was a brother to The Robert Glen of the Stone house. It is really confusing, because there are so many Robert and John Glen families listed.

This brings me to the reason for this e-mail. Angie Fore contacted me from ancestry.com. She lives in Missouri. Her grandmother is related to Robert Glen of the Stone house. I e-mailed her photos of the Glen

house and I e-mailed her the interviews that I had transcribed. She is going to come to Madison when the Jefferson County Historical society opens up.

I told her that I would take her on a tour and I told her what little that I know. I would like to give her your e-mail and let her correspond with you.

Just by accident, I saw Thomas Cranston's loom over in the Science Hall at Hanover College. I have been trying to put all of this together and Ron Grieves told me about the work you have been doing on the folks out at Shelby Township. I have seen a couple of books that you have written on the subject.

I wonder if you would mind corresponding with Angie Fore.

Mike Moore