

THE LEIGHLITER... LEICHLITER... LICHLITER

# LANTERN

*Shedding a little light on our family tree*



Januaru 2009

## Dutch's Corner

This issue of the Lantern's a little late. I'd hoped the Lantern would be out about the first of the month each quarter. But holidays, and other intrusions prevailed this time. Hopefully we'll do better on the next issue.

\* \* \*

The Lichliter Family Association is up and running. If you haven't become a Member yet, I urge you to do so. Also, if you are so inclined and able, consider becoming a Sustaining Member for this year with a contribution of \$25 or more. We don't need a lot of money for LFA needs, but I feel we should raise at least \$500 per year. That's only 20 Sustaining Members. Be one if you can.

\* \* \*

February is a big birthday month for the boys in our family. I'm on the 11<sup>th</sup>, Steve on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Miles on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Rick on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Gabriel only missed it by a couple of weeks. So we have regularly had a little family gathering around Valentine Day to celebrate birthdays and honor our ladies with Valentines. It's a fun party. This year is bigger than most for Steve and me.

\* \* \*

Speaking of birthdays, I noticed that I share a birth date with an ancestor, William Henry Harrison Leichliter. He was born February 11, 1841. He is my half-2<sup>nd</sup>-great-grand-uncle. I assume that he was named for President William Henry

*(Continued on page 4)*

## LICHLITER FAMILY ASSOCIATION IS NOW A REALITY

By Bev Ricks and Beth Gillette

At the August 2008 reunion, family members approved the concept of the Lichliter Family Association (LFA) and voted in officers: John "Dutch" Lichliter, president; Kay Ann Cober, vice president; Beth Gillette, secretary; and Debbie Spencer, treasurer. The following family members volunteered to join the officers in forming a Steering Committee: Mike Blocher, Christa Cober, Emily Jane Hickson, Bob Lichliter, David Lichliter, Bob Miller, Beverly Ricks, Ronnie Riley, and Phil Leichliter.



The Steering Committee held its first meeting October 11 at the Pine Grill restaurant in Somerset, PA, to lay the foundation of the LFA. In attendance were: Mike Blocher (Flagstaff, AZ), Kay Ann Cober and Christa Cober (Berlin, PA), Beth Gillette (Rockville, MD), Emily Jane Hickson (Confluence, PA), (Bob Lichliter (Camp Hill, PA), Dutch Lichliter (Santa

Rosa, CA), and Bev Ricks (Takoma Park, MD).

**The Committee agreed to adopt the following Purpose:**

*To learn more about our ancestors. To consolidate and preserve for future generations the work that has previously been done. To make contact and communicate with persons who share our common ancestry. To organize family reunions, publish a newsletter, and to maintain a family website. To locate, restore, and preserve ancestors' tombstones.*

**Next, the Committee tackled a simplified version of by-laws as follows:**

**Membership** is open to all descendants of John Leighliter, (who came to Somerset County, PA, about 1795) their spouses, and friends of the family. In order to attract as many members as possible, dues are not required, but a one-time registration fee of \$5.00 qualifies individuals as LFA members.

**A Board of Directors** will oversee the activities of the LFA and consist of between seven and fifteen members, who will serve a 2 year term, and meet at least once a year (Board meetings will be held in conjunction with the Reunion when possible, and may be held by

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

phone or internet if necessary.) The Steering Committee is serving as the initial Board.

**Officers** will also serve a two year term. **Standing Committees** currently include, but aren't limited to: Membership, Reunion, Genealogy, Web Site, Newsletter, and Tombstone Restoration. Any LFA member may serve on a committee.

The Committee voted to have a **reunion August 8, 2009**, chaired by Kay Ann Cober. (See Kay Ann's article elsewhere for details.) At the family meeting following dinner, attendees will vote on when to hold the next reunion.

In order to have the **financial support** necessary for the reunion, website, newsletter, and tombstone project, the LFA will solicit annual contributions from members. Contributors of \$25 or more will be designated as **Sustaining Members**. In Deb Spencer's absence, Emily Jane reported that the LFA has opened an account at PNC Bank in Somerset, PA, with a balance of \$780 as of the meeting date. The LFA has also adopted a fiscal year of July 1 to June 30

After hammering out Association details, the Steering Committee also discussed the more enjoyable side of being part of the LFA. Mike Blocher, Webmaster, reported on the status of [Lichliter.com](http://Lichliter.com). He suggested moving the web server from his house to an on-line site and making access to most information on the site password protected. (Since the meeting, Lichliter.com has been placed with a web hosting service. **The user-name and password required to access the private areas are "lichliter" and "lichliter"**)

Dutch will continue to publish *The Lantern* four times a year, with Bev Ricks as editor. Both publisher and editor emphasized the importance of family members contributing articles. Also under consideration are regular features, such as quizzes on Lichliter history, family, and/or events, articles highlighting ancestors and living family members, and an "I Remember..." section.

Dutch has also located many of the oldest graves of early Lichliter ancestors in Somerset and Fayette Counties. But they are showing wear and should be cleaned, repaired, and preserved. The committee unanimously supported a **tombstone restoration** project and will be looking for help from interested family members in addition to considering hiring expert help if necessary. The work will

begin with Jacob and Martha Leichliter's graves in Normalville, PA. Work on the grave of Jemima Campbell, Jacob's first wife, is also being considered.

The final item on the agenda, the "piece de résistance"— **an LFA crest!** Designed by Rick Pepper, husband of Sheri (Lichliter) Pepper and son-in-law of Dutch, a classic gaslight style lantern will be used to represent the family and its heritage.

The officers and Steering Committee have put in a lot of hours to create the LFA, set up the website, publish *The Lantern*, and plan the reunions. And even though their gratification comes from knowing they have carved out a way to preserve the family's heritage that can be passed on to future generations, we want to say **Thanks!**



### THE LFA CREST

The crest incorporates the three main spellings of the Family name. The Lantern signifies the purpose of the LFA: to illuminate the Family history. 1788 is the birth year of Jacob Leighliter, our most prolific progenitor, and 2008 is the year the LFA was formed.



## AUGUST 8 THE DATE FOR 2009 FAMILY REUNION

By Kay Ann Cober, Reunion Chairwoman

The 2009 Lichliter Family Association Reunion is scheduled for the weekend of August 8, 2009. Many of the family are working on details to provide another memorable event. Because of the economy, it was decided to forego plans to hold our reunion at Hidden Valley Resort. At this time we are planning to have a Hospitality Room on Friday evening at a site to be determined; our main gathering will be held on Saturday from 12 to 4 at the Oakhurst Tea Room, a few miles west of Somerset. As in the past, a variety of activities are being

planned for those who wish to learn more about the family, get some exercise, or familiarize themselves with the area their forefathers settled in following their immigration.

As mentioned, the main gathering will be in the Baker Room at **Oakhurst Tea Room**, well known for its Smorgasbord. This restaurant has been a local tradition since 1933 and provides not only excellent food but also a comfortable atmosphere. We will feast at the Luncheon Buffet. The prices per meal are

\$11.25 for adults and \$5.75 for children 11 and under. These prices also include tax and gratuity. With the economy issues in mind, the committee has proposed that the LFA contribute \$1.25 toward each adult meal and \$1.75 toward each child meal to bring the cost to \$10 for adults and \$4 for under 11. Look for complete details and reservation information in the next newsletter. We hope that you have marked this weekend on your calendar and are planning to join us.

I can say, without equivocation, that Rick Pepper is my favorite son-in-law. I might even say that if I had more than one son-in-law. Rick has been so helpful in establishing the “look” of the Lantern. He designed the masthead, including recommendations for color schemes. And when I mentioned that we should have a crest, or logo, he jumped at the opportunity. (Well, at least he didn’t say no). Rick is so very creative and energetic. I really didn’t hesitate to ask him to do a crest for us.

He’s a special guy, and I love discussing meaty things with him. We talk politics and religion with abandon, to the embarrassment of our other family members. He loves a provocative encounter. We may be poles apart in our opinions, but it’s always a fun, energizing time.

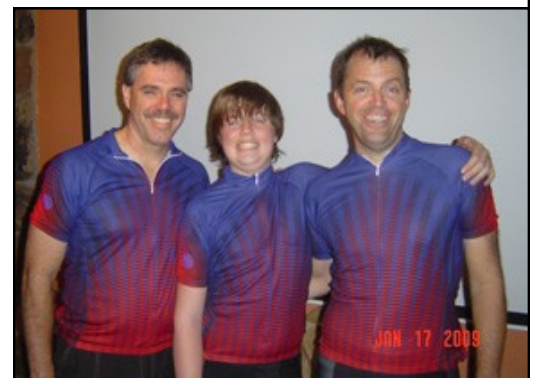
Rick met our Sheri in a bicycle repair shop in Long Beach. He is a huge cyclist. Still rides competitively (a 100 mile ride isn’t worth doing if it doesn’t include 8000 feet of vertical).

Rick is his own employer. His company is called Aha!Visual, and he specializes in computer animation for medical clients, and others such as NASA, and the History Channel. You can get an idea of his incredible talent if you visit his website at [Aha!visual.com](http://Aha!visual.com).

He also has a very successful sideline of cycling gear that he designed and markets on the internet. If you’re into cycling or needing a chuckle, you must check this out at his [elevegear.us](http://elevegear.us) website.

Rick, Sheri, Miles and Gabriel reside on their “farm” in Sebastopol with their dog and cat, chickens, goat, and Sheri’s new friend, her horse, “Tessie.”

By D. L.



Steve Lichliter, Miles and Rick Pepper share a laugh after a ride, wearing Rick’s “Doppler Shift” jerseys.



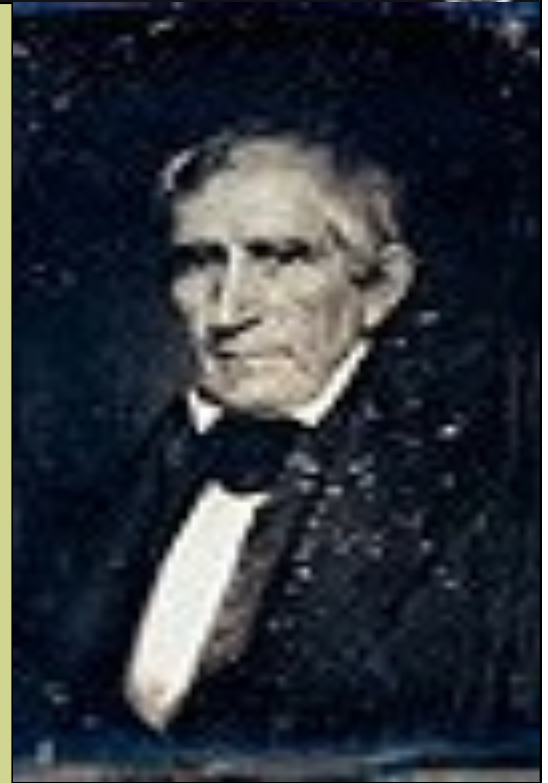
(continued from page 1)

Harrison, “Old Tippecanoe”, who was born on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1773. You may recall that Old Tip was the shortest serving of all our Presidents. He took the oath of office on March 4, 1841, on a cold and windy day, and didn’t wear a coat or hat. He caught pneumonia, and died one month later.

So we can speculate on the significance of Jacob and Martha Leightner naming their son after the newly elected, but not yet inaugurated, 9<sup>th</sup> President. A quick check with Wikipedia shows that Harrison was a soldier, an Episcopalian, and a member of the Whig party. The Whig’s opposed the policies of Andrew Jackson and the Democratic Party, and favored supremacy of Congress over the

Executive Branch. They favored a program of modernization and economic protectionism. The Whig Party only lasted about 20 years, and was succeeded by the Free Soil Party, the Know-Nothing Party and finally, the Republican Party. Can we infer that our early ancestors might have shared these political views? Fun to speculate.

PS: And, guess what? The great-grandfather of Edith Lichliter Clark (whose family is pictured below) was named Henry Harrison Lichliter. He was the brother of our Levi of Salisbury. He was born in October of 1841. So although he was now deceased, Harrison was apparently still popular enough that some people would name their son after him.



William Henry Harrison  
“Old Tippecanoe”, President of the  
U. S. from March 4 to April 4, 1841.



Floyd and Edith Lichliter Clark with their family at Christmas, 2008, in front of their home in Murphysboro, IL.  
The group includes 13 great-grand-children.

Have an event (birth, death, wedding, move or promotion?) you’d like to share in the Lantern? Send the information, with photos if possible, to:

Bev Ricks, Editor  
7505 Jackson Ave  
Takoma Park, MD  
20912-5706 or

[bevricks@hotmail.com](mailto:bevricks@hotmail.com)



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY COUSINS

### JANUARY

3- Kay Leichliter (64)  
 Rodney Leichliter (50)  
 Ruthe Leichliter (88)  
 Dann Tice (62)  
 Geneva McKarahan (94)  
 Angela Miller (58)  
 4- Susan Murphy (44)  
 Mary Murphy (74)  
 Linda Updegraff (56)  
 7- Christine Parker (32)  
 Rhonda Bowen (49)  
 8- Brent Thiessen (36)  
 9- Cathy Randall (60)  
 12-Bert Artice (51)  
 Effie Phelps (79)  
 13-Joanna Sanderson (56)  
 Krista Collins (45)  
 14-Marci Leichliter  
 16-Buddy Allen (61)  
 19-Beverly Jackson (47)  
 29-John Parker (50)  
 Robert Haggerty (77)  
 21-Darcy Leichliter (55)  
 Diana Coleman (57)  
 Rebecca Shoemaker (59)  
 22-Thomas Lichliter (55)  
 24-David Wilson (75)  
 Wayne Lichliter (57)  
 Warren Lichliter (57)  
 26-Deborah McClung (47)

James Leichliter, Jr (69)  
 Maxine Vessey (85)  
 28-Matthew Adair (31)  
 29-Steven R. Lichliter (45)  
 James Jones (79)  
 30-Clara Griggs (26)  
 Shirley Powell (59)  
 Matthew Kingman (26)  
 31-Albert Leichliter (85)

### FEBRUARY

1-Melody Lichliter  
 2-Marlana Geiger (67)  
 Clifford Laird (58)  
 3-Timothy Jones (30)  
 Emily Menhorn (77)  
 Myles Phelps (20)  
 4-Robert Winslow (70)  
 5-Robin Adamson (25)  
 8-Kathleen Haggerty (42)  
 Amy Ferguson (41)  
 Betty Leichliter (86)  
 9-Dale Netzel (33)  
 Ethyl Vessey (92)  
 11-William Griggs (50)  
 Gerald Jackson (43)  
 Sheila Harms (36)  
 Winifred Vessey (96)  
 Dutch Lichliter (75)  
 13-Donna Adams (86)  
 Conner Jones (16)

14-Debra Spencer (55)  
 J. Steven Lichliter (50)

15-Delores Steward (71)  
 Jean James (83)  
 Sean Phelps (24)  
 16-Patricia Welker (55)  
 David Bowman (69)  
 Judith Jackson (69)  
 Miles Pepper (14)  
 17-John Ambrosion (53)  
 19-Richard Pepper (46)  
 29-Nancy White (58)  
 Dorothy Lichliter (78)  
 22-Jessica Cron (22)  
 Angel Harms (33)  
 23-Jan Leichliter (68)  
 24-Ryan Leichliter (29)  
 25-Marilyn Ervin (46)  
 26-Stephanie Clark (38)

29-David Sanderson (53)

### MARCH

1-Robert Lichliter (73)  
 Christina Zebe (28)  
 2-John Leichliter (55)  
 Lori Haggerty (50)  
 3-Frank Adams (88)  
 Leslie Feeser (45)  
 4-Barry Ratzlaff (43)  
 Jeffrey Randall (42)

5-Beverly Ricks (62)  
 Cecilia Thorwart (16)  
 7-Debra Hugya (56)  
 9-Raymond Leichliter (78)  
 Richard Leichliter (78)  
 10-Cara Gadel (34)  
 11-Melba Griffin (76)  
 George Bell (79)  
 Olive Adams (91)  
 Brian Lichliter (28)  
 12-Sharon Cato (65)  
 Joel Haggerty (51)  
 13-Anthony Gubernator (12)  
 Steven C. Lichliter (47)  
 14-Gabriel Pepper (10)  
 Loraine Karpinski (61)  
 15-Betty Lint (80)  
 16-Neda Billard (40)  
 17-Clifford Laird (32)  
 John Kingman (66)  
 James Thorwart, Jr. (21)  
 18-Jerry Ashley (65)  
 Nina McKarahan (71)  
 20-Carolyn Haggerty (74)  
 23-Greg Gadel (36)  
 David Lichliter (10)  
 24-Jeanette Leichliter (53)  
 25-Roberta Jones (48)  
 Nyla Bell (79)  
 Stanley Wagner (48)  
 Arthur Maust (58)

## **JOIN THE LICHLITER FAMILY ASSOCIATION!!**

**Becoming a member of the LFA entitles you to continue to receive this newsletter and all other communications, and to receive the password needed to access the private portions of our website, Lichliter.com. Fill out this simple application and send it along with a check to the LFA for \$5.00 for each person that wants to become a member.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive communications via: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ US Postal \_\_\_\_\_

### **Mail to:**

Lichliter Family Assoc.  
 Dutch Lichliter, President  
 366 Singing Brook Circle  
 Santa Rosa CA 95409

**OR**

**I'd like to be a Sustaining Member of the LFA this year. Enclosed is my check for \$25.00 (or more), which I understand also makes me a Member for life. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ amount enclosed.**



*“You know, my memory isn’t as good as it used to be.  
And another thing,, my memory isn’t as good as it used to be.”*

**A couple here in Oakmont were having a quiet evening at home. The husband mused, “Honey, whatever happened to our sexual relations?” She replied “Well, I don’t know dear. I don’t think we even got a card from them this year.”**

**Epitaph in a Vermont cemetery:  
“Here lies an atheist.  
All dressed up and no place to go.”**

**The Lichliter Lantern  
366 Singing Brook Circle  
Santa Rosa CA 95409  
[DLichliter@aol.com](mailto:DLichliter@aol.com)**

Your Name Here