



April 2020

Reunion Cancellation Notice

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: It is with great disappointment that we must cancel our Henry Hendricks Family Reunion planned for June 26-28 in Monmouth, New Jersey. We hope to reschedule at some point in the future. The HHFO Committee members are praying for you and your loved ones during this pandemic and sincerely hope you are and continue to be safe and well.



From The Chairman

Dear Hendricks Cousins,
I am coming to the close of fifteen years as an officer in the Henry Hendricks Family Organization. Looking back, I see many changes. Most recently our membership voted to join with some of our eastern cousins and create a website together. The cost to create and maintain the website is much more than we originally thought. We also hoped we could communicate completely electronically, eliminating the need for a written newsletter, in hopes of minimizing costs. We found that many of our members don't access our information electronically, so we have tried to go back to a mailed newsletter once a year. These are all costly endeavors. We want to continue providing new Hendricks family research and other valuable notifications to all of you, but we need your financial support to do so. We will continue to do our best to make your donation of \$20 per year per family well worth it to each of you.

I am sad that we had to cancel our reunion in New Jersey due to the Covid-19 pandemic. LeAnn Hord and Harold Hendricks have worked so hard to arrange a remarkable reunion for us all to enjoy together. I was able to attend a similar gathering when the Hendricks cemetery was re-dedicated. Being where our grandparents settled and worked brings with it an awe and a reverence that somehow makes life more purposeful and insightful. And sharing it with family makes it even more profound. I hope that we will be able to gather together in the near future and walk together in our ancestors' footsteps. The greatest joy of serving as an officer in the Henry Hendricks Family Organization over the past fifteen years has been getting to know many of you, my cousins, and sharing delight in our heritage. Thank you for who you are and all the good I know you do.

Lucy Peterson
Chairman

Many Thanks for Years of Service

*The Henry Hendricks Family Organization Committee would like to express our great thanks and deepest appreciation to Lucy Peterson who has served on the Board of Directors for the past fifteen years - President Elect 2005-2010, President 2010-2015 and Chairman 2015-2020. Lucy Peterson is a source of wisdom with a steady guiding hand. She is our Obi Wan. Without her things would have faltered. She is loved by all who know her. We all owe her a great debt of gratitude.
Thank you, Lucy.*

From the President-Elect

Dear Cousins,

As both of our other officers have mentioned, the uncertain times we live in have prevented us from gathering this summer in the region our early ancestors lived. Though the number that would attend would certainly not be large, I was very much looking forward to meeting cousins I've not known before and seeing once again the homes, lands and church where our ancestors and their descendants lived, farmed and worshiped.

The reunion would also have been the time and place for the changing of officers. As the reunion will not take place, we have decided to make the change on June 1st. Lucy Peterson will retire from the HHFO Board after fifteen years of excellent service, and Mellanee Kilpack will take her place as Chair. I will become the president for the next five years, but at the present time we have no one willing to take on the position of president-elect. We have unsuccessfully searched for someone for almost two years. There are numerous reasons for this, but I thought I would address one of the questions that often arises and may be on your mind as well: "Why do we need a family organization anyway?"

The HHFO was born in the days when large family reunions were common. Back then, most of the old-timers who gathered their families for food and fun all remembered grandma or great-grandpa Hendricks and the family stories were told and retold around the campfire or over the picnic lunch. Today, a large majority of you reading this newsletter don't even have the last name of Hendricks and many of you may not even know exactly which great-great grandparent was the Hendricks out of the 8, 16 or 32 family lines in your pedigree where the Hendricks name begins to appear. In this fast-paced world

we live in, who has much time to even think about ancestors anyway? And when one does, isn't the internet full of information that can be quickly searched and found?

So the obvious answer to the question above is that hardly anyone "needs" a family organization today —until...until the day your son or daughter asks, "Dad, did we have any ancestors that fought in the Revolutionary War? I have a report due tomorrow." Or the day your DNA test gives you surprising results. Or the day your Relative Finder app tells you your neighbor is a third cousin. Or, when the genealogy bug bites and you become curious to know just who you descend from.

Yes, even today an organization is needed to publish the biographies, to maintain correct data on all those genealogy sites, to ensure your neighbor is really your third cousin and not a false match because of a bad merge, to prove the pedigree through DNA, or to hold a reunion where the rising generation can walk on lands their ancestors lived on while history was made around them.

Our desire and hope is to provide the resources so that when that day or time comes when you really want to know more about that Hendricks line in your pedigree you can turn to us and we will be there, on our website, our social media channels, our printed books, the Hendricks Herald, or in person at a cousin party or reunion. Please let us know how we can best serve you.
Sincerely,
Harold Hendricks
President-Elect

From the President

Hello Hendricks Cousins,

It is with great disappointment that we must cancel our Henry Hendricks Family Reunion due to Covid-19. We were so looking forward to gathering as Hendricks cousins, renewing acquaintances, meeting cousins we haven't previously known and learning more about our Hendricks/Hendrickson ancestors. The main focus of our organization has always been to learn about our ancestors. Knowledge of our ancestors and their accomplishments is a powerful thing. When we learn of the difficulties they surmounted, we learn that we too can do hard things. Our Dutch ancestors were courageous, stalwart, and steadfast.

Getting to know our living relatives can also greatly bless our lives. We can gain great strength, courage, and comfort from each other and we need each other now more than ever during this world-wide crisis and the difficulties we may face in the future. So, since we can't meet in person we have created a **Living Cousin Spotlight** column in order for you all to meet our 103 year old cousin **Olivia "Dollie" Hendricks Leibowitz**. **Dollie** is a devoted member of our Henry Hendricks Organization. She loves receiving and reading the newsletters from cover to cover. She is a constant delight. We are sure you will love her.

With love to you all and prayers for your safety,
Mellanee Kilpack.

LIVING COUSIN SPOTLIGHT

By Mellanee Kilpack, President

Our cousin, **Olivia “Dollie” Hendricks Leibowitz** will be 104 years old in August. She still lives in her own home. She is a constant delight to all who know her. She was born August 1, 1916 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where her father was employed making shoes for military personnel during WWI. Dollie is the oldest of four brothers and one sister.

Her father, Pleasant Gaines Hendricks, was born in Simpson, Kentucky on May 23, 1887. Dollie’s mother, Woodie May Miller, was born on November 16, 1895 in Owensboro, Kentucky. The story of Woodie’s name has given much delight to the family. Dollie said, *“When my Grandmother was expecting my mother, a traveling salesman came around almost every week in a wagon selling pots, pans, household items, lineaments, all kinds of medicines, salves, sewing materials, threads - a little bit of everything. His name was Woodie. He told my grandmother if she would name the baby after him, he would give her a bolt of cloth. Grandmother got her bolt of cloth.”*

Dollie was 16 months old when her family moved back to Nashville to be near extended family. Nashville was a fair sized city in the early 1900s. All local farmers would gather weekly in the town square, near the courthouse, to sell their goods - meats, vegetables, fruits, etc. Each week Dollie walked with her Grandmother Miller to shop at the Farmer’s Market. She said, *“Grandma Miller pulled a red wagon to haul her purchases in. We walked across the Cumberland River bridge to get to the market. The river runs right down the center of the city. We never lived in the country or outside the city where the farms were.”*

Being blessed to have both grandmothers living nearby, Dollie said, *“I loved going to Grandmother Hendricks’ house when I was growing up. She had a peach tree in her yard. I got a bowl of peaches when they were ripe every time I went over. Grandmother always had fresh tea cakes, too. She was a great cook. After every meal she would clean off the table and put a beautiful white cloth on the table. She taught me embroidery, quilting, and the love of reading books. She had been a school teacher in Kentucky prior to marriage. She was an avid reader. I inherited that. My momma did too. Our whole family seemed to love reading.”*

Dollie also loved to ride her brother’s bike. She said, *“One day he knocked me off because I wasn’t supposed to be on it. Only boys had bikes - not girls. My*

mother picked rocks out of my knees and my brother got a spanking.”

“We always went to church on Sunday - Southern Baptist. We had church almost all day with morning Sunday School. Then we went home, had dinner, then back to church at 6:00 PM for Baptist Young People’s Union, then evening service with the pastor. We lived 6-8 blocks from church. We walked everywhere.”

“My father was a shoemaker. He worked in a shoe factory. For a while he had his own shoe repair shop. He died in 1931 at age forty-four of cancer of the stomach. Nothing was known about cancer back then. No one talked about it.” Dollie’s Grandmother and Grandfather Hendricks were, understandably, completely devastated to lose their son. They had already lost a daughter in 1918 during the Spanish flu epidemic - Olivia Catherine Hendricks 1896-1918, after whom Dollie was named. Dollie said, *“Momma was thirty-six with six kids to raise right during the depression. We had a close family with lots of support. My mother was a good manager. She could stretch a dollar. Us kids went to work summers. We had to get working papers to do that. One brother had a paper route and one drove a market wagon. We brought money home to Momma.”*

The weather in Nashville was very hot during the summer. Dollie said, *“You could fry an egg on the sidewalk. We would cool ourselves with a hand held fan. We eventually got a ceiling fan. I would put a quilt by the door and sleep there to catch a cool breeze through the door at night. It was hard to dress, hard to put clothes on with sweating. We got used to it and just learned to live with it. In the winter we had an occasional snow fall. I got a bit cold in the winter and we needed warm clothing. I hated long underwear. We had a coal furnace to heat our house. Grandma Miller had a coal stove in her kitchen to cook. She would open the oven door. It was the only way to heat the kitchen. I would sit there by the oven door and eat things Grandma made for me.”*

The victrola and the piano were the main forms of indoor entertainment when Dollie was young. When she was about sixteen her family got their first radio. The family thoroughly enjoyed gathering around the radio to listen to stories. Dollie said, *“The local grocery store was owned by my girlfriend’s father. People called in orders and he would deliver them by horse and buggy during summer. My girlfriend and I liked to ride along with him.”*

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"When WWII came along we all learned to be very thrifty. Everything was rationed. It was hard to get food. We were lucky to get meat. Oleo margarine was used to replace butter. The kids loved to mix the color in." Three of Dollie's brothers volunteered to serve in WWII the day after Pearl Harbor was bombed. Dollie said, "Paul was only 17 at that time. Momma didn't want to sign for him but Paul begged and begged her to. He served on a ship in the Pacific that was dive bombed by the Japanese. Paul was blown off the ship. He was saved by another sailor who held him over an oil barrel until they were rescued. He had PTSD after that - nerve damage. He was in the hospital a short time, then right back in service. My brother Grant was in Patten's Army Transport Division in Germany and my brother John served on a supply ship. My younger brother Harry was ten years old. He served later in the military."

Dollie married Harold "Hal" Leibowitz on September 20, 1944, after a whirlwind courtship. They met at a dance in June, were engaged in August, and married in September. Hal was from Newburgh, New York. He was serving in the US Air Force, stationed at Smyrna Army Airfield near Nashville. Hal was in Colorado for training to serve in the Pacific when the atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, ending WWII.

When Hal completed his military service in February 1946, he and Dollie moved to his hometown, Newburgh, New York, where Hal returned to his job at Dupont and Dollie worked in the Credit Department at St. Luke's Hospital. They rented an apartment there until 1950 when they moved into their new home. Dollie's sister Edna and her husband, Sidney Weinheim also moved to Newburgh just so Edna and Dollie could be close.

Dollie and Hal had a wonderful, happy marriage. They loved to dance, especially during the Big Band era of the 1940s. They spent one evening a month playing Pinochle with three other couples. Dollie said, *"We played for nickels and dimes, and saved the pot for all to go to New York City to see a Broadway show together. Hotels were \$9.00 per night. Food was very reasonable and the shows were much less expensive than they are today."*

Hal passed away April 30, 1990, at age seventy-five. Edna's husband, Sidney Weinheim died July 8, 2013. Edna, age ninety-eight, and Dollie are closer than ever, and keeping each other company to this day.

Dollie has sixty-nine nieces and nephews, including great and great greats. She loves them as if they were her own. They continue to enjoy big family gatherings for all important events.

Dollie said the highlight of her life was her 100th birthday celebration, a huge event held in the Fellowship Hall at her church. One hundred seventy-nine people attended. Dollie performed a rap. She was overjoyed at seeing folks who came from all over the country to celebrate with her. She said, *"I was overwhelmed with such a wonderful experience. I never expected to share it with so many and be well enough and alert enough to know everyone that came."*

Dollie continually expresses gratitude for her blessed life filled with wonderful family, good health all of her life and good friends and neighbors who are currently going to great efforts to lift her spirits during the Covid-19 pandemic. She thanks God every day for her many blessings.

Hendricks Family Inheritance

By DeLynn Leavitt

We have all seen commercials where someone is portrayed as becoming like their parents. All of us have probably experienced this to some degree as we have grown older (perhaps much more than we realize depending on who you ask). It doesn't end there, however, as science has been able to trace such family traits back several generations even between family members who never knew each other. They call this transgenerational inheritance and to make a long and complex explanation simple, if you turned out a bit weird you might want to blame your ancestors! Of course we all have known this long before the science became fashionable as we are all familiar with the phrase, "the apple doesn't fall far from the family tree."

With all of that in mind you would think that we would be far more interested in these curious progenitors who preceded us. You don't have to look far to realize that we have our share of interesting branches in our family tree. For example, in our Hendricks line our immigrant ancestor Hendricks Willemze who married the widow Geesje Bradt Van Eeklen. He was often referred to as Hendrick De Oude or The Old Hendrick. It is not known just how old Hendrick really was or if this was just a title to designate him from the younger Hendrick Willemzes in the area. What is known is that Hendrick appeared out of nowhere and took over Jan Van Eckelen's business dealings after Jan died in 1668. Geesje's first husband was a purveyor of imported goods and other specialties and

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died leaving several financial obligations which Hendrick tried to resolve. When Hendrick and his wife died in 1677 Geesje's brother Storm Van der Zee tried to settle their estates. Storm's name originated when he was born during a terrible storm on the open Atlantic Ocean while his parents were immigrating to the New World. After struggling with many of the same lawsuits that dated back to Jan Van Eckelen, Storm suddenly cleared up and passed on also! With people dropping off around him like flies, Albert Adrianse Bradt--father of Geesje Bradt and Storm van der Zee--at age 71 petitioned the 1678 Albany court that he might be exempt from all of the taxes and assessments that he may owe since he really was an old man. His request was quickly dismissed. Albert was from Norway and they used to call him The Norseman because of his eccentric behavior. As far as we can tell Albert was a lumberjack who signed on with one of the ships to deliver lumber to Holland.

While in the Netherlands he signed on with Killian Van Rensselaer to build and run a lumber mill in his colony called New Van Rensselaerswijck. Al was about as independent as his Viking forebearers while his employer Van Rensselaer was a compulsive micromanager by way of his sharply quilled pen. Not only was Al expected to mill lumber but he was also supposed to grow tobacco in between chopping down trees. The first crop of tobacco met with Killian's inky disapproval as according to him, "the tobacco was so poor and thin of leaf that it could not stand being rolled."

Albert spent less time milling lumber and more time trimming the tobacco finally producing a leaf of such superior quality that he once again received Rensselaer's blotchy disapproval as he wrote, "You have caused me and yourself great loss by making me hold the tobacco so high. It would have been left entirely unsold and have spoiled and I should not have dared to sell it except for the advice of Huybert Jansen, tobacco roller, who had rated it so high. One must follow the market here..."

We can easily see how Albert could become quite dissatisfied with this ink-barbed bully, however, the truth of the matter was that Albert and several of these early settlers were spending most of their time making bank from trading for beaver pelts with the local native inhabitants. In fact, the fur trade became so profitable that the Dutch West India Company soon established a trading post just across the Hudson River from Van Rensselaer's settlement called Beverwijck. Albert soon became a trusted friend of the local tribes as he always proved a fair and honest trade partner.

In September 1650, a friend from the Tapaens tribe warned Albert of an impending attack by the Marques

tribe on nearby Fort Orange. Since the guard was doubled and great care taken the attack never materialized. The Van Rensselaers were seasoned diamond and pearl merchants and knew how to play a mean game of marbles. While most of the other Dutch colonies of the West India Company were bankrupt the Van Rensselaers were still turning profits. The reason for this was probably the high rents and assessments they charged their patrons. By 1667 Albert Bradt was sued by Nicholas Van Rensselaer for the sum of 3,956 guilders for arrears on his house and property. Albert acknowledged his debts, but since they had already divested him of almost everything he once had, except a small orchard behind his house, Albert could only pledge to pay twenty guilders a year from the apples he grew. Al most likely had a hard time selling those wormy apples as before long he was living in an old shack on the outside of the colony. If he was anything like me he probably didn't mind it much--at least it was quiet. Soon Al gained a reputation for being, well... half crazy from the surrounding community. Now I am not so sure that Crazy Al didn't mind being considered a bit wild and eccentric. At least it kept the salesmen and curiosity seekers away and maybe was kind of fun at night. It's probably a good thing that most of us don't take after Albert very much most of the time. But for those of us who have that grumpy old guy thing going for us we can take great pride in knowing that our skills have been highly refined and passed on over generations of time.

Financial Report

By Desiree' Frederick, Treasurer

The financial standing of the Henry Hendricks Family Organization for the year 2019 has shown a decline in the dues and other revenue streams such as the purchase of books and other donations that support the newsletters publications and website presence. In 2018, the family organization received \$1,152.17 in revenues, and expended \$2,599.56. In 2019, the family organization received \$2,789.94 in revenues and expended \$4,232.30.

The funds were spent as follows: newsletter printing \$1,888.39, postage \$42.52, credit card fees \$28.89, research \$250.00, website \$1,992.50. Our current funds will be depleted by the end of the year after paying the website and the publication of this newsletter.

Your continuing support of our wonderful family organization makes it possible to continue the research, publish the books, maintain the website and share information with you through the newsletter.

Remember the donations are a tax deductible.

HENDRICKS FAMILY HISTORY BOOKS

The Ancestral Archive of the Hendricks and Dorris Families Price: \$50

Author: DeLynn Leavitt

Publication date: 2015; 4th Printing: 2017

Pages: 226; Softbound, Color Pictures

Over the last decade or so a number of important corrections have been made and new information has been found, which is now included.

The Three Brothers Price: \$50

Author: DeLynn Leavitt

Publication date: 2015; 2nd Printing: 2017

Pages: 322; Softbound, Color Pictures

This book updates all the research information previously published in the Hendricks Herald and ties the family of the three Hendrickson brothers, Willem, Daniel, Hendrick and their Sister Francyntje and families together.

Anthology of Henry H Hendricks(on) and Sarah Thompson Price: \$50

Compiled by LeAnn Hord

Publication date: 2005; 2nd Printing: 2010

Pages: 382; Library Quality Hardbound;

The ancestors of Henry and Sarah come to life with a time line and copies of original documents from each of the families in the Henry Hendricks pedigree. There is no better way to understand the movement of our Hendricks family and to learn some of the stories.

Memorandum of Monmouth and Notes on North Carolina Price: \$40

Compiled by LeAnn Hord

Publication date: 2005; 2nd Printing: 2010

Pages: 170; Library Quality Hardbound.

To better understand our Hendricks family, and get a first-hand observation of their surroundings, lives, culture, food, clothing, and places of abode, take time to visit these wonderful places. Learn about the New Netherland Museum and the replica of Henry Hudson's ship, the Half Moon, commissioned by our Hendricks cousin, Dr. Andrew Hendricks.

The Netherlands Album Price: \$40

Compiled by LeAnn Hord

Publication date: 2005; 2nd Printing: 2010

Pages: 113; Library Quality Hardbound, Color Pictures.

The story of the Utrecht Dutch Settlers and how they left their mark on the United States. Find maps, recipes, and fun and interesting facts about Dutch culture including the true story of Santa Claus. Peruse these pages, cook up a fun treat, and enjoy learning more about our intriguing Dutch heritage and its important influence on each of us. Be able to see, touch, smell, and feel those who have gone on before.

History of James and Drusilla Dorris Hendricks

Price: \$35

Compiled by LeAnn Hord

Publication date: 2002; 3rd Printing: 2010

Pages: 95; Softbound, Color Pictures.

The autobiography of Drusilla Dorris Hendricks is a gem among autobiographies of early members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Permission has been granted from the Museum of Art at Brigham Young University to reproduce several paintings from the C.C.A. Christensen Collection of the Museum.

Commemorative Cemetery Rededication Price \$10

Commemorative booklet distributed at the Hendricks(on) Burial Ground Re-dedication ceremony. Includes history and timeline of the cemetery, list of burials, photos, map. Purchase the companion book Descendants of Daniel Hendrickson for more information about the Daniel Hendrickson descendants.

Descendants of Daniel Hendrickson Price \$10

This excerpt is taken from the genealogy publication of Dr. Andrew A. Hendricks distributed in 2010 at the Hendricks(on) Family Association reunion and is meant to be a companion to the Commemorative Cemetery Re-Dedication Book.

**HENRY HENDRICKS FAMILY ORGANIZATION
DUES and PUBLICATIONS**

“Thanks to all of you who support the Henry Hendricks Family Organization newsletter, website and research efforts with your dues and contributions. Without your help, none of these things would be possible.” Mellanee Kilpack.

Annual Dues (\$20 per household. Any contribution would be greatly helpful)		\$ _____
Anthology of Henry H. Hendricks(on) and Sarah Thompson	\$50	\$ _____
Memorandum of Monmouth and Notes on North Carolina	\$40	\$ _____
Netherlands Album	\$40	\$ _____
The Three Brothers and Their Sister	\$50	\$ _____
CD Version	\$25	\$ _____
The Ancestral Archive of the Hendricks and Dorris Families	\$50	\$ _____
CD Version	\$25	\$ _____
Commemorative Cemetery Rededication Book	\$10	\$ _____
Descendants of Daniel Hendrickson	\$10	\$ _____
History of James and Drusilla Dorris Hendricks	\$35	\$ _____
CD Version	\$20	\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Prices include shipping and handling. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery

Please update my contact information and ship orders to:

Name _____ Phone _____

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From the Archivist/Webmaster,

I would like to update you on the henryhendricks.org website. We have completed the programming phase of the website, which took more effort and money than we had first estimated. We now have a site that combines the three organizations affiliated with the descendants of Hendrick Willemsz. Most of the programming was needed to incorporate The Next Generation genealogical application into the WordPress site. We will continue making additions and improvements. We will still need to pay our professional hosting and development service a maintenance fee to maintain licenses and protection. This will be about \$100/month. We thank the many donors who helped us develop what we think is an informative website. Your suggestions on how to make it more useful are welcome. All of us hope you are safe and healthy during this time of crisis.

Harold H. Hendricks

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