

Buracker & Boraker

Family History Research Newsletters

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Boraker & Harshbarger Families In Montgomery County, Indiana

IN March I went to see my mother in Everett, Washington who turned 93 years of age. On the way, I stopped off in Chicago and Warsaw, Indiana to see our son Daniel. He and I drove down to Crawfordsville on the 13th March and were able to see some of the cemeteries in the Crawfordsville area. We found the Oak Hill cemetery located on W. Oak Hill Road, but it was too large to find any ancestors there unless you know their exact location.

The Wesley Cemetery on Highway 136 near Waynetown was very interesting since we saw the Boraker gravesite with my great-great-grandfather **Daniel Boraker** and his wife Nancy (Jackson). When our son Daniel saw that tombstone, he said, "It is weird to see a tombstone with your own name on it." The tombstones for **George M. Boraker** and **Sanford G. Boraker** were next to it.. I took photos of them all.

We also saw the cemetery at New Richmond. Near the entrance we saw the new tombstone for Fauneil HERSHBERGER next to one for **Abraham HARSHBARGER**, "Born May 4, 1832. Died Dec 16, 1902. Age 70yr 7mo 12 da". I think Fauneil was the one who had sent me letters in the past with Harshbarger and Boraker information about the cemeteries where they were buried.

There are also Borakers buried at the Mt. Zion Cemetery in Union Township, but where is it? We also didn't get to see the Harshbarger cemetery where several

members of the Harshbarger and Boraker families were buried. Others have said it is in poor condition. A list of burials and map is on pages 2 and 3. Charles L. Jones told me that he had seen the stone there for Henry Boraker that said he "died May 19, 1876, aged 87y 4m 10d" just as it is stated on the list of burials. Notice that his wife was buried there too as "Mary A. Boraker, "died May 19, 1873, aged 79y."

The Boraker and Harshbarger families of Indiana are related because of three marriages: Christian Harshbarger II to Susanna **Burocker** on 10 July 1803 in Shenandoah Co., Va. **Henry Boroeker and wife Mary Ann (Barton)** were in Indiana by 1840 and their daughter Eva married **Christopher Harshbarger**, son of Christian II and Susanna. Eva and Christopher were therefore cousins.

A book about the Harshbargers was published in 1983 entitled, *Our Harshbarger Family From Christian I to Me* by Ralph R. and Wilma R.

BIRTHDAY 98 YEARS **Boraker**

Dema (Holeman) Boraker will celebrate her 98th birthday with a family dinner.

She was born May 14, 1907, in Bronson, Kansas, and came to Ferndale at the age of 6.

She enjoys knitting, crocheting, reading, Pinochle and church activities.

Her children are Donna Portrey, Charlotte Boraker and Everett Boraker. She has five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.



Bellingham Herald, March 2005

Harshbarger. It refers to the Harshbarger and Boraker marriages: “Christopher was the youngest child of **Christian II and Susanna Boraker Harshbarger**. Christopher was born April 9, 1819 in Champaign County, Ohio. He was a very small boy when his family moved to the Indiana Wilderness. Here he grew to manhood on the family farm and lived there after his first marriage to **Eva Boraker** and until he moved to Douglas County, Illinois sometime about 1868. Eva Boraker and Christopher were married Sept. 19, 1839 in Montgomery County, Indiana. Eva was born about 1820 in Champaign County, Ohio; died January 28, 1859 in Montgomery County, Indiana; buried in Harshbarger Cemetery, North Union Township, Montgomery County, Indiana. Eva was the daughter of Henry and Mary Ann Barton Boraker. On Henry’s marriage and probate records the Boraker name was spelled **Burailker**. Henry was a brother of Susanna Boraker, Christopher’s mother” (p. 243).

Henry and Mary Ann Boraker’s other daughter **Lydia** married **Abraham Harshbarger**. He was the son of **Isaac Harshbarger** and grandson of Christian Harshbarger II. Abraham was therefore Lydia’s cousin once removed.

I once received a letter from **Kenneth F. Boraker** who made an interesting comment about the Harshbarger family. He said: “In Newsletter No. 11 you refer to the Harshbarger family in the Crawfordsville area in Indiana and this stirred up a memory from long, long ago back to my very early childhood. I was just a little boy when I stayed for part of a summer with a relative on a small farm near Colfax, Indiana, and one day we piled into a Model T Ford and drove a little distance away to visit some relatives named Harshbarger. This was another and larger farm and about all I can remember is that there

were a number of people old and young, big and little. The house and barn were pretty well dilapidated and the style of living somewhat primitive.”

While in Indiana last March, I did some research at the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne. The Genealogy Section occupies an entire floor and one could spend days looking at all the books and records. They have several shelves about Montgomery County. Their large land atlases show the early land owners in Montgomery County. The property belonging to Henry, William and Daniel was together in Section 34 of Township 19, Range 5. Specifically, their farms were located on what is called today N 400 W and between W100 N and Division Road. The Harshbarger property and cemetery was nearby.

Christian Harshbarger II sold that property to his son Christopher in 1856. Before moving to Piatt County, Illinois a few years later, Christopher sold the land to the Union township, Montgomery County, Indiana.

The death and burial of Christian Harshbarger II is described by Ralph and Wilma Harshbarger in their book as follows: “Sometime in the early 1960’s, Thomas Livengood, a great-grandson of Daniel Harshbarger made a visit to the old abandoned Harshbarger Cemetery, west of Crawfordsville, Indiana in the hope of finding the graves of Christian and Susanna. After searching the cemetery, he couldn’t find the stones or the graves. About this time, a farmer working in the field close to the cemetery noticed him searching and came to see if he could help. He was using a disc-harrow and when he stopped, Thomas noticed he had grave stones wired to his disc for added weight. In checking the stones, Thomas found the stones to be Christian’s and Susanna’s. The farmer stated he had found them lying at the outer edge of the cemetery and

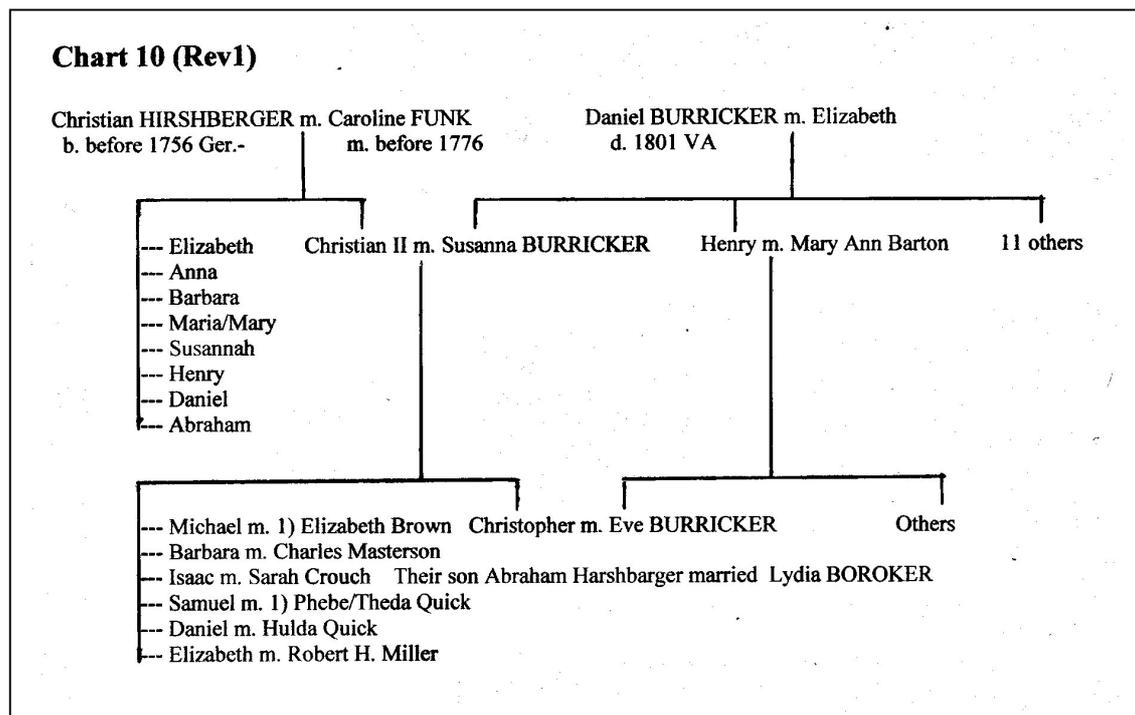
had no idea where the graves were. Thomas then decided to bring the stones back to Piatt County, Illinois and place them in the cemetery where three sons and a daughter of Christian and Susanna were buried. Thomas died before accomplishing this task. This past summer of 1982, due to the decisions of some of the Harshbarger descendants, the stones have been erected in the Lake Fork Cemetery, Piatt County, Illinois” (ibid. p.19).

Charles L. Jones was the great-grandson of **William and Lucinda (Jackson) Boraker**. He lived in Crawfordsville when he wrote me a letter in 1977 about the Boraker property in the area. He said:

“I have been studying the abstract of the three farms of Henry, William and Daniel [Boraker].... Recently I went to Daniel’s old farm and the present owner took me back to a large clump of trees and we examined the old house and spot where Daniel and Nancy had a sizeable ‘Green House’. The old dug well and pump is still there but very rusty and time worn.

“It was very interesting to examine the old abstract that the present owner had which was quite lengthy. It showed most all of the Borakers and their wives. It seems at one time a one acre plot of Daniel’s farm was sold to some people by the name of **Demorat** who has a daughter who is still living. I am going out to see her to see what she knows. The records show that Samuel and Arena Masterson sold Henry part of his farm 23 Sept. 1830 and another part 14 Aug. 1839 and the same man sold Daniel his farm 7th Sept. 1844. Henry’s old house is still standing and the farm is pretty much the same.”

Here is a map showing the location of the Boraker farms and Harshbarger Cemetery. The property Henry, Daniel and William purchased in Section 34, Township 19, Range 5 West was just south of Ebenezer Jackson’s farm. His daughters married Daniel and William. The Harshbarger Cemetery is in Section 35 nearby. Their property extended up into Section 27.



Montgomery County, Indiana USGenWeb Project Cemetery

HARSHBARGER Cemetery

There's a small Cemetery way back in the woods in Union Township, right on the border with Wayne Township, called Harshbarger. I went before things started growing up back there and was able to get a reading of all the stones that are still above ground. They're in suprisingly good shape because of the fact that it's such a heavily wooded area. I believe that the Cemetery might have been a family Cemetery for the Harshbarger's and the Crouch's and their related families. Isaac Harshbarger (the man I think originally owned this land) was married to Sarah Crouch, then there is the wife and child of Andrew Crouch and right next to them is Philip Ross whose wife Cynthia was a Crouch.

Philip Ross, husband of Cintha Ross
Died Dec. 16, 1838 (stone is broken and you can't read the age)

Ida N. Hartley
died Oct. 31, 1846 aged 72 yrs

Mary, wife of A. Crouch
Died March 12, 1844, aged 25 yrs 1 mo & 6 d

William, son of A & M Crouch
Died March 16, 1845 aged 1 yr & 7 days

Peter Willcox
died Jan 21, 1875, aged 59 y 6 m & 1d

Joseph McKinley
June 27, 1786 - Sep. _?_, 1845

_____ Jane, dau. of _____
Died Jan 10, 1856, aged 13y 2m 19d

Enoch Jackson
died Aug 22, 1878, aged 67y 4m 14d

Mary Jackson
died Feb. 25, 1853, aged 48y 4m 26d

Mary A. Boraker
died May 19, 1873, aged 79 y

Henry Boraker
died May 19, 1876, aged 87y 4m 10 d

Valentine Miller, David & Sintha Ann (doesn't say dau or son)

1860-1861 (this stone has clearly been replaced and may be incorrect or incomplete)

**Anna wife of John Nawman
died May 22, 1855, aged 73y 7m 12d**

**Joseph Nawman
died Nov. 17, 1848, aged 45y 11m 27d**

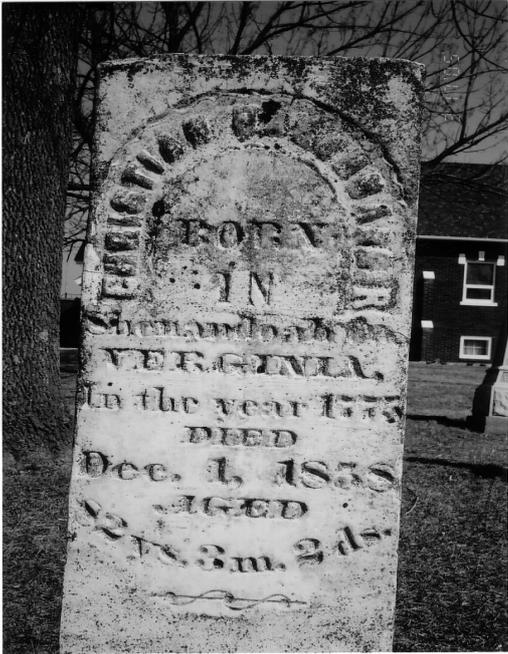
**Those were all the stones we were able to find,
although we did find some rocks and some sunken areas
that we believe to have been graves unmarked by
engraved gravestones.**

Hope that helps someone out there!

(Note, for unknown reasons I neglected to copy in the submitter information, if you submitted this I apologize, and will correct it, if you contact me [Jeff Scism](mailto:Jeff.Scism))



**LAKE FORK CEMETERY,
Atwood, Piatt County,
Illinois**
*Photos Courtesy of Wilma
Harshbarger*



SUSAN
Wife of Christian
HARSHBARGER
DIED
May 1, 1855
AGED
72 Years

HARSHBARGER

Burial was in neglected Harshbarger Cemetery in Montgomery County, Indiana. The tombstones were vandalized and recovered, brought here and placed in this cemetery where four of their seven children are buried. These children are Barbara Harshbarger Masterson, Samuel Harshbarger, Daniel Harshbarger and Christopher Harshbarger.

CHRISTIAN HARSHBARGER
Born in Shenandoah Co. Virginia
In the year 1776. Died Dec. 1, 1858
Aged 82 ys, 3m. 2 ds.