

William Harlan Lee
AEHC featured person for the week of July 4, 2021

William Harlan Lee
July 8, 1835 – July 7, 1914

Born and died this week in 1835 and 1914, respectively; William Harlan Lee is buried in our cemetery's Section 3, Lot 9, Space 13.

Summary of our research: William Harlan Lee was born on July 8, 1835, to Elzey Culpepper Lee (1795-1846) and Sarah Ann (Murphy) Lee (1803-1854).

William Harlan's father Elzey C. Lee was born in Ohio and was the son of Peter Perrine Lee (1756-1848) and Ruth Huntington (Gard) Lee (1764-1819). Elzey and Sarah Lee were married in 1823 in Ohio. Elzey purchased land in Rush County in 1825. Elzey and Sarah are buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery in part of Section 3 that was once known as the Lee Burying Ground.

William Harlan's paternal grandfather Peter Perrine Lee was born in New Jersey (some records have New York) and was the son of Thomas Lee (1728-1805) and Dinah (Perrine) Lee (1731-1791). Peter served as a Private in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Peter and Ruth were married in 1785. Peter and Ruth settled in North Bend, Ohio in 1791. They are both buried in Ohio.

William Harlan's paternal great-grandfather Thomas Lee (1728-1805) was born in Portland Manor, New York. Thomas Lee served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. He also served in the New Jersey Militia. Thomas and Dinah were married in 1750. They are both buried in New Jersey.

William Harlan's mother Sarah Ann (Murphy) Lee was believed to be born in Ohio. Her lineage was not found during our research.

William Harlan Lee was born in Rush County on July 8, 1835. He received common school education and then attended a higher education academy near Hartsville (Bartholomew County). William Harlan taught school for 4 years and then the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in 22nd Indiana Light Artillery and served throughout the war. He was involved in some notable engagements: Siege of Nashville, TN; Battle of Kenesaw Mountain, GA; Franklin, TN; and Siege of Atlanta, GA.

In 1865, William Harlan Lee married Catherine Susan (Nelson) Lee (1837-1914). She was the daughter of Captain Christian Nelson (1797-1866) and Felicia Ann (Cooper) Nelson (1820-1846). Captain Nelson married Margaret (Brown) Nelson (1810-1881) in 1848. After Captain Nelson died, Margaret married John Alsman.

Captain Christian and Margaret (Brown) Nelson Alsman are buried in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Felicia Ann (Cooper) Nelson's grave location was not found.

William Harlan and Catherine Susan farmed and remained in Rush County. They were members of the Arlington Christian Church. William Harlan died two months after Catherine Susan, hours before his 79th birthday. They had six children survive them: Adenia (Lee) Ellison (1867-1941), Arthur Lee (1869-1926), Fannie (Lee) Benjamin (1870-1919), Florence (Lee) Hinderleiter (1872-1927), William Rush Lee (1875-1918), and Thomas Royal Lee (1878-1931). William Harlan's obituary did not mention grandchildren.

Adenia (Lee) Ellison is buried next to her husband Alonzo P. Ellison in Rushville East Hill Cemetery. Arthur Lee is buried next to his wife Maude in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Fannie (Lee) Benjamin is buried next to her husband Allen in Missouri. Florence (Lee) Hinderleiter is buried next to her husband Marion in Florida. William Rush Lee is buried next to his wife Lorena in Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Thomas Royal Lee is buried next to his wife Ruth in Arlington East Hill Cemetery.

We want to thank the Lee Family for the service of William Harlan Lee during the Civil War and of their ancestors' service during the Revolutionary War.

(Sources: Ancestry, Find-a-Grave, Newspaper archives, USGenwebsites, and Arlington East Hill Cemetery records)

More information about our cemetery and its history can be found at www.arlingtoneasthillcemetery.com

