

Beardshall Merry Christmas Letter

MS: 109 Gleneagles Drive, Hattiesburg MS 39401 (601-544-7896)
VA: 8150 Little Creek Hwy, Dublin, VA 24084 (276-228-5991)

December 23, 2021

What We Did in 2021

Events of 2021

- **Jan—March 2021 - We spent the winter months in H'burg.**

January/April 2021 — As 2021 began, we settled into our lovely new home and waited to see how the pandemic would play out. We were able to get our Pfizer Covid-19 shots in January and February. We decided that we would resume our normal lives and take our chances with the effectiveness of the first vaccines and the new treatment options that were being offered. So far, neither of us has contracted Covid-19. Elmer rode his bike, worked on his Red Cross volunteering (online only), read, and took lots of online courses. I continue to work on the Trilogy that I described in last year's newsletter. I am just about finished with Part I (Section 1) : *Places Our Ancestors Called Home* that includes Elmer's side of the family. The places I have written about are Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, England (Beardshalls); Svedlar, Slovakia (Gastgebs); Crook, County Durham, England (Linsleys) and the Grays (also County Durham, England). In 2022 I will be working on Part I (Section 2) that includes the places my family called home. *May/June 2021—* We returned to our cabin in Bland County VA in early May. I worked on my book in earnest because I wanted to finish Elmer's family before we left on our trip to the Northeast in September. Elmer's brother, Tom, came for a visit. He brought with him a real gem. His wife, Carol, had discovered a diary that Elmer's Dad kept while he was part of a band entertaining on cruises on Cunard Ships going to/from New York and Liverpool in 1934. They toured London and Paris during their layover. I was able to transcribe the diary and find pictures of the places they visited and YouTube versions of the shows/bands they saw. I have provided most of the family with an electronic copy, but will be happy to share with any of you who are interested. You can also view the diary by using this link: <http://www.elanbcs.com/Bland/ParisCruise1934/Diary1934.pdf>

- **May 2021—The mountains were calling and it was time to return to the beautiful mountains of Southwest Virginia.**

- **July 2021—We returned to Hattiesburg to watch the streaming version of the Tour de France.**

- **August 2021-We returned to Virginia for our summer stay in the cool mountains.**

July—August 2021— One of our July activities each year is watching the Tour de France. We enjoy it because of the bike racing, but also because of the wonderful tour one gets of France. Our TV reception is not that great in Virginia and streaming over satellite internet is even more problematic. So, since we also had some unfinished new house projects, we decided to return to Hattiesburg to watch the streaming version. It was more enjoyable than watching on cable TV because there were no commercials and they show all of the race and spectacular scenery. When it was over, it was hot in Hattiesburg so it was time to return to the cool, mountain air of Virginia. I spent the month of August writing and getting my final questions ready for the trip to the Northeast. *September 2021* — The first 2 days of our trip to the NE were spent in Pittsburgh. We visited the Historical Societies in Bridgeville PA (where Elmer's parents were raised and where Elmer first lived) and Carnegie PA where Elmer's mother's family resided. I was able to find very helpful information at both of these historical societies. We were able to have dinner with Elmer's brother Tom and sister Sue's families while we were there. When we left Pittsburgh, we headed to upstate New York to visit Elmer's cousin, Donna Linsley. They had not seen each other since the 1950s. Donna provided much information and pictures for our book. We were blown away at the hospitality that Donna and her sons, Kevin and Colin Stokes and their families, showed us while we were there. Kevin and Molly Stokes prepared an outdoor feast for us and all their children came over to meet us; Colin and Gayle Stokes spent a whole day with us showing us the Lake Ontario area. And of course, Elmer and Donna had a ball reminiscing about the old days. While in NY, we went to the Corning Glass Museum which was fabulous. And finally, on our way back to Virginia, we stopped for an enjoyable visit with David and Linda Guy in their new home near Harrisburg. (Pictures of our trip are on the following pages.)

- **September 2021—Our trip for the year was to Pittsburgh and upstate New York near Lake Ontario with visits to relatives in Pittsburgh, Williamson, New York, and Harrisburg PA**

- **October—November 2021—We enjoyed the most beautiful Fall we have ever experienced in Bland County VA**

- **November 2021—Returned to Hattiesburg for Thanksgiving and Christmas**

- **December 23 2021—We celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary**

October—December 2021— The 2021 Fall Season in Virginia was the most wonderful time of the year. It was very beautiful and lasted for the entire month of October. We went to several festivals, then bade our Virginia friends goodbye in mid November and returned to equally wonderful Mississippi for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We'll be here until May.

Beardshall Happy New Year Letter

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Family Updates: In March our grandson, JR Michael, moved to Denver Colorado where he is working for a math tutoring service. *Anna Michael* is in her senior year at the University of Washington, Seattle, scheduled to graduate in June 2022. She is majoring in biology and physiology. She has an internship at the University of Washington Hospital in research and will continue to work part-time at **a vet's office**. *Brooke Beardshall* is in her senior year at the Challenge–Early College HS in Houston TX. Her interests are music and plants. *Bryce Beardshall* is also in his senior year at the Challenge–Early College HS in Houston, TX. Bryce has an interest in majoring in engineering. The twins are on track to graduate from high school in May. They have completed all their college applications and are **eagerly awaiting word of acceptance. They both prefer Texas A & M, their Dad's alma mater. I was also able to visit with my siblings this year while in Virginia. My brother Sam Hardy is living full-time at his house on Little River in Floyd. The excitement for him and his friend, Rita Roberts, was a bear on their deck. For his birthday, I gave him a canvas version of the picture that Rita took of the visiting bear. Sam and I visited my sister Betty Hardy Hubble on her birthday. She lives near Greensboro NC. She does beautiful quilting and she showed us her "pandemic quilt" which was made from materials that she had collected over the years.**

Elmer's Activities/Interests: He continues to work on his websites, take lots of courses from Great Courses and Hillsdale, and do a few freelance computer jobs. He continues volunteering with the Red Cross by auditing benefits given victims of disasters in Virginia such as house fires and other misfortunes. He has also put many miles on his bikes, both mountain and recumbent.

Ann's Activities/Interests: On the first page I reported on some of the progress toward writing our memoir. This coming year I hope to finish Part I: Places Our Ancestors Called Home and get started on Part II: Places We Called Home. I continue to sell my books and other items on Amazon. I am still helping one of our friends, Dr. John Pendergrass, a long time collector of Political Memorabilia sell some of his items on eBay. We will continue until the collection is depleted. You can look at what we have to sell at: <https://www.ebay.com/usr/beard-27>

In Memoriam: We have lost several friends this year. In Hattiesburg, Sonny Jarrell and Ed Crockett died and in Pearl River LA, a good friend Jim Stoltz also died. In Bland, one of our neighbors and another former sheriff of Bland County, Tom Roseberry passed away in October. One of my high school classmates, David Morehead (a regular at our reunions) passed away just this month.

My final thoughts about 2021: I feel pretty much the same as I did this time last year. The disheartening election of 2020 has put us on a path to socialism, the main stream media's reporting for the most part is "misinformation" and/or is ignoring the facts altogether, and public health officials have left us confused about the vaccines and treatments for Covid and its variants. One positive note this year was the election in Virginia. Hopefully, this trend will continue in the mid-year elections for member of Congress. **It's time for conservatives to stand up and speak out, otherwise the USA is lost.**

December 2021—Elmer and I are celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary on December 23. The kids and grandkids are coming right after Christmas. Then it's on to 2022 and we start all over again! Here's hoping for a happy, healthy year for everyone.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Ann and Elmer Beardshall

Winter 2021 - Home in Hattiesburg 109 Gleneagles Drive



Linsley, Bill, Ann and Elmer enjoy the fire pit
Christmas 2020



Our friends, Carol & David Connell, joined us for
dinner on our porch during our stay in Hattieburg



Our first goslings of 2021 at our new house.



Geese and turtles proliferate in our little lake.



Several Beautiful Sunsets from our porch overlooking Hole 17 at Timberon Golf Course

Scenes around Little Creek Cabin in Bland County VA



Gate is open for our arrival & Welcome Sign: "Cabin Sweet Cabin"



Our "deer" friends were still there when we arrived in May 2021. We left about 9 deer and we had about 6 when we returned in the Spring. Several had fawns (note spots in picture.) We had a very nice buck this year, but he probably won't be with us next year. We still have only one doe (and we think it is the same one from last year) that will eat out of a cup.

July 2021 in Hattiesburg 109 Gleneagles Drive



Watching the 2021 Tour de France



Magnificent bike racing & views of
The French Countryside



The Beardshall Men
Bill and Bryce came for a short visit in July



Leaving "hot" Mississippi for "cool" Virginia
In July

Our Trip to the Northeast in 2021 —Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania home native son, Elmer



Dinner at Tom/Carol Beardshall's home in Bridgeville with Sue and Pat Varriano while in PA



Ann & docent at Carnegie Historical Society looking scale model of Carnegie streets in late 19th century



Ann and Mary Weise (and other volunteers) at Bridgeville Hist. Soc. discussing family genealogy issues about Beardshalls/Linsleys



David and Linda Guy's home in Aspers PA near Harrisburg. The upstairs balcony has a "peep" hole for their new puppy.



Our Trip to the Northeast in 2021—New York



Cousin Donna Linsley



The Cousins: Donna and Elmer



Erie Canal in Fairport NY



Molly and Kevin Stokes



Molly with children Jack & Shay Stokes, Shannon



Ann with Jack, Molly, Kevin, Donna



Elmer with Colin Stokes



Colin's wife, Gaye by Lake Ontario



The apples, pumpkins, mums were magnificent!!!



Scenes from the Corning Museum of Glass: Clockwise: Entrance, Glass Christmas Tree, Fall (lots of glass pumpkins, 50th anniversary of Corelle Ware (display of shapes & patterns). Ann in front of a solar chandelier.



Fall Scenes around Little Creek Cabin in Bland County VA



As future caretakers of the cabin, Lin and Ryan came for a training session in the Fall.



Elmer rides in Tour de Bland –passing Courthouse



Early Fall Driveway Scene—yellow leaves come first



Cabin in all its Fall Splendor—Best fall yet!



Elmer locking the gate, cabin buttoned up for winter
We're heading back to Mississippi

Back Home in Hattiesburg For Thanksgiving and Christmas 2021



Family Pictures 2021



Grandchildren: JR Michael (Denver Co)



Anna Michael in Puerto Rico



Brooke & Bryce (HS Seniors)



Ann with Linsley & Ryan at the Penley Cemetery



Linsley leaving the cabin



Elmer & Tom at the Amish Store in White Gate
Note: Humorous Covid Sign: Sorry We're Open



Bill and Amydell's house in Houston was on the Houston Heights Christmas Tour. Theme: *A Christmas Story*.

Family Pictures 2021



This past summer we visited Sam and Rita at his Little River House in Floyd. Kim and Mike were there also for Sam's Birthday Party. House with new garage is pictured below. Rita snapped a picture of a visiting black bear. He ate the cat food and left.



Sister Betty Hubble made this "Pandemic Quilt" from leftover fabric she had on hand. No need to leave the premises to shop for fabric.



My generation at the Wohlford Reunion. Earl Henritze, Melinda Compton, Molly Penley, Johnny Hetherington, Jean Penley, Jo Ellen Hetherington, Vicki Hetherington, Me, Mary Nell McPherson, and Jim McNiel.

David and Linda Guy with their new puppy.



Our Wedding—Bland Virginia—December 23, 1961



Wedding Party

(L to R: Lt (j. g.) Art McManus (USN Flight School Classmate), Sammy Hardy (brother), Martha Penley (cousin); Betty Hardy (sister), Lois Bradley Queen (Ann's college friend who introduced us), Betty Beardshall (sister), Sue Beardshall (sister), Tom Beardshall (brother), Lt. (j. g.) Hank Ocon (USN Flight School Classmate), Bill Queen (Elmer's college friend who introduced us), Ann Hardy, Lt. (j. g.) Elmer Beardshall and Flower Girl, Becky Hoge.

**TODAY IS OUR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
December 23, 2021**

Our Wedding—Bland Virginia—December 23, 1961



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