

# Estill family hosts nine 2021 Harvard University grads

An Estill County family has been the host for the past week for nine 2021 graduates of prestigious Harvard University, a private Ivy League research university in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The nine students from all parts of the world were week long guests of Jack and Teresa Stickney of Lilly Ferry Road and included their son, John "Caleb" Stickney who is one of the graduates.

The students were able to spend the week on the Stickney's farm where they could enjoy the outdoors, including the scenic Red River. Saturday night, the students were treated to a catered banquet which was attended by the Stickney's neighbors and friends and their church family from St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Ravenna. Jack Stickney said all of the students were devout Catholics.

The Stickney Family Farm is located at the end of Lilly Ferry Road, off KY-82, in northern Estill County. Although the area may seem remote now, this was the site of one of the first settlements in Estill County as early as the late 1700's. Pioneers from the Log Lick area of Clark County crossed the Red River into Estill by means of the Lilly Ferry which was nearby and also downstream at a ford known as Vienna Crossing. One of the few remaining one-room Estill County schools, the Twin Creek School, is still standing on the Stickney's property and used for storage.

The Stickneys have been on this farm for about 34 years and are well-known for making use of good conservation practices. The family was honored in 2016 at the "Kentucky Tree Farmer of the Year." They also raise shittite mushrooms

for sale and personal use.

They live in a log house located above the Red River which they moved to the property and placed on a rock foundation that Jack built. Their house was flooded for the first time this Spring with water about knee high above the floor. Jack said it was the only Estill County house that was flooded by the Red River. They are still working on restoration from the damages.

The students, their hometown and (major) includes: Ralph Estanboulieh, Aleppo, Syria (chemical and physical biology and computer science); Pedro Paulo Weizenmann, Sao Paulo, Brazil (government); Ryan Gimmino, Fairfield, Connecticut (physics and math); Gabriele Oliaro, Milan, Italy (electrical engineering); Caleb Stickney, Estill County, Kentucky (environmental engi-

neering); Joey Barisas, Buffalo Grove, Illinois (classics); Pawel Rybacki, Bydgoszcz, Poland (economics); Johannes Lang, Vienna, Austria (government); and John Tatarka, Bozeman, Montana (computer science).

Harvard has an acceptance rate of only 4.6%. Students are generally required to have a 4.18 high school gpa and a 1500 on the SAT. The average ACT score is 32-35 of 36 total points possible.

The students were varied in their after-graduation plans with some expecting to work a couple of years before returning to college and others considering continuing their college education.

Teresa Stickney who is an Estill County teacher, was proud say that Caleb was a 2017 graduate of Estill County High School. He attended ECHS for his freshman and sopho-

more year and completed the final two years with studies at the Gatton Academy at Western Kentucky University at Bowling Green. Caleb was in Gatton's 10th graduating class and was recognized as a Gatton Community Scholar for completing two semesters of research with a research outcome that is presented to a professional audience after being accepted through a vetted process OR four semesters of participation in STEM+Critical Languages, and documenting 60 hours of service.

Dr. Lynette Breedlove, director of The Gatton Academy in 2017, called Caleb's class "a remarkable group," and went on to say, "Kentucky has a wealth of exceptional students of whom the state can be proud." Estill County does as well.

**See Harvard students' photo on Page 15.**

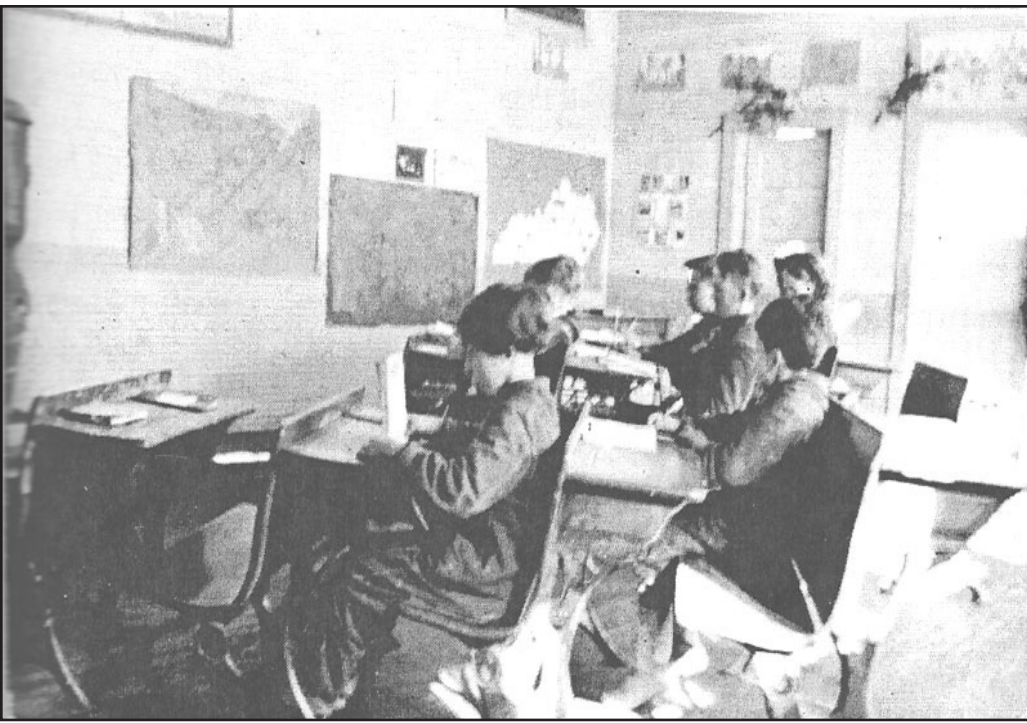
## Twin Creek is one of Estill Co.'s last one room schools

One of the few remaining one-room schools in Estill County is the Twin Creek School which is located near the end of Lilly Ferry Road and not far from the Red River on the property of Jack and Teresa Stickney.

Twin Creek was last used in 1939 and was one of several schools incorporated into the county's first consolidated school, Hargett Elementary, along with Bogie, Corinth, Dry Ridge, Forks, Fox, Ivory Hill, and Kimbrell. There were some other one and two room schools in the district but some were not closed until later, including Stump, Lower White Oak and Upper White Oak. (Story and photos are from the book, "Estill County, Kentucky Schools" courtesy of Joe & Sonja Estes & ECG&HS.)



Twin Creek School, one of county's last one-room schools



The photograph above was taken inside the class room at Twin Creek School. Students identified are the following, the girl on left front is Faye Stamper; on the left, back side, Charlie Williams Jr.; and the boy on the right, front side is Elton Clay Stone. The remaining students are unknown. (Photo from Schools of Estill County, Kentucky)



Twin Creek School, 1938. Left to right, back row, Fannie Olyn Charles, Cecelia Charles, Ada Mae Stone, Ann Liza Stevens, Tracy Stamper, Charlie Williams Jr., Frank Snowden. Front row, Nannie Bell Barnes, Virginia Faye Stamper, Billy Snowden (?), Charlie Barnes, Jack Snowden, Elton Clay Stone, Hubert Charles. The little girl in the very front between Nannie Bell Barnes and Faye Stamper is thought to be Faye's sister, Betty Jean Stamper. She may have been a visitor on that day. (Photo from Schools of Estill County, Kentucky)



The picture above was taken at Twin Creek School on the last day of school, January 1939. At this time, most rural school terms started in July and ended after a six month session. Identified from left are Nannie Bell Barnes, Ann Liza Stevens, Ada Stone, Charlie Williams Jr., Frank Snowden and possible Bill Snowden. The students were helping their teacher, Hickman Patrick, carry school supplies to his car. The road to the school was impassable at that time for automobiles. (Photo from Schools of Estill County, Kentucky)

**Elisha Witt Chapter of NSDAR**  
Invites you to the dedication of a  
Grave marker for Phoebe Witt.

**Date: June 12, 2021 Time: 10:00 AM**  
**Place: Witt Cemetery**  
**N Sulpher Wells Road**  
**Irvine, Kentucky**

**Reception Time: 11:30 AM**  
**Place: Fellowship Hall New Beginnings Church**  
**813 Cedar Grove Road, Irvine, KY**

Elisha Witt and his wife Phoebe traveled to Kentucky after the Revolutionary War. He served in the Continental Army from 1776 until 1781 where he was at the Battle of Yorktown. A gravestone was placed for Elisha by DAR members several years ago. Phoebe's grave was only marked by a rock. Thanks to work by local volunteers, and Witt descendants, a grave marker has been purchased and set on Phoebe's grave.

**Note:** We will have a golf cart for those who are not able to walk to the cemetery. We suggest that you wear comfortable walking shoes.

**Directions to cemetery:** From Irvine turn right onto Sand Hill Rd and continue for 3.4 miles. Turn right onto North Sulpher Wells Road. It is a little over a mile till you get to the end of the road. The cemetery will be on your left. From Richmond take 52 East, you will turn left onto Sand Hill Road and follow above directions.