

**NOTES ON THE ANCESTRY
OF THE CHILDREN OF
JOSEPH SMITH HARRIS AND
DELIA SILLIMAN BRODHEAD**

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Notes on the Ancestry of the Children of Joseph Smith Harris and Delia Silliman Brodhead by
Joseph Smith Harris

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OF

JOSEPH SMITH HARRIS

AND

DELIA SILLIMAN BRODHEAD

[HARRIS, JOSEPH SMITH]
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To my Children:

I have undertaken the work of making a permanent record of the persons from whom you are descended, because it seems to me desirable that you and those who may follow you should know as much of your origin as can now be ascertained.

It seemed necessary that I should do this, because no other person of my generation was sufficiently interested to undertake it, and because I felt that almost all knowledge of our family history, except that which has been reduced to writing, must pass away with the generation next older than mine. My investigations commenced in 1874, when several of my mother's family were yet living who had held frequent and intimate intercourse with their grandmother, Mrs. Colonel Frazer, whose recollections of revolutionary times were clear and full, and who had great knowledge of the traditions of her family. Much of what she said was written out by them, and the manuscript is now in my possession. These and the great stores of papers of her ancestors, the Taylors, are the chief authorities for her family history. The taste for antiquarian research, which these conversations and papers stimulated in Mrs. Frazer's grandchildren, led also to the collection and preservation of everything that related to the history of several of the other branches of my mother's family; and an inquiry into the history of the Parrys, made about forty years ago to discover the heirs to a supposed English estate, produced full records of that line of her ancestry.

In my father's family, the generation next older than mine had mostly died before I undertook this study, but my father, who spent most of his life at the old Chester County homestead, and who was the custodian of all the old family papers, left sufficient documentary evidence to form a basis for further research. I interviewed several of the older members of that family, and procured some information from them, but they had not done much to preserve the family records.

Both my father's family and my mother's have always lived within thirty miles of Philadelphia, and this permanence of abode has kept the family papers together. Both families have included persons with a desire to preserve their family history, and there are in both of them persons to whom reference is made in the published records of the State of Pennsylvania, and of the counties of Delaware and Chester; while there are

several old family Bibles which contain accurate records of a limited number of persons with whom we are related.

In your mother's family, the Brodhead records have been well preserved, and the history of New York by John Romeyn Brodhead contains a good deal relating to Capt. Daniel Brodhead, the emigrant. Most of your mother's other ancestors were of New England origin, and the published and private records of the families belonging to that section are voluminous, while the records of the Vanderpool family of Albany, N. Y., have been carefully studied and preserved by its members.

I have made most diligent inquiry and search among all sources of information for all facts bearing upon the subject of this paper, and while such an investigation can never be assumed to be absolutely finished, I feel that but little more than I have gathered will ever be known upon this subject.

There are some discrepancies among the data I have used. In such cases I have tried to arrive at the best attainable conclusion. Upon some points in the remoter history of the family I have inferential rather than absolute information, but I think I can fairly claim to have acquired some skill in making deductions from obscure data, and what I have recorded is not mere guessing, but careful conclusions drawn from all the information within my reach.

You will find in these pages few people whose lives are specially distinguished, but it is a great gratification to me that your ancestry, so far as I can ascertain, is without blemish; that your progenitors have been very generally God-fearing, honest, intelligent, patriotic men and women, and I trust that the contemplation of their lives may be a constant incentive to all their descendants to play well the parts which Divine Providence may assign to them.

JOSEPH S. HARRIS.

FEBRUARY 24th, 1898.

THE HARRIS FAMILY.

IN THE commencement of the reign of James I. of England, the King had recourse to an issue of "the King's Majesties privy seals" as a means of raising money for the expenses of his Government. This was a common device in those days, when Parliament had not acquired the undisputed right to grant all supplies of money, when the royal prerogative was used much more freely than in later years, and when there was no regular provision for the expenses of the State. It was simply a forced loan from the richer of his subjects, whose only comfort was that but a moderate sum was exacted from each, and that the tax was laid with reasonable impartiality.

Among those to whom the privy seals were sent in 1604, in Buckinghamshire was one "Thomas Harris, Gent.," who is the earliest person that I have found bearing the family name whom there is any reason to consider one of our progenitors.

A contribution of £20 was demanded from him, but it is doubtful whether it was paid, as Thomas Harris appears a little later among those who were discharged by the Lords of the Council, being apparently exonerated from the required payment. Richard Harris, rector of Hardwick, was taxed £30 at the same time, and paid that amount; but when in 1626, in the reign of Charles I., another forced loan was demanded, there were no persons named Harris on the Buckinghamshire list, Thomas Harris appearing by that time to have removed to London. A little later, when the contest between the Crown and the Established Church on the one hand and the Puritans on the other commenced to grow serious, a society was formed in England to buy "impropriations," which were benefices in the hands of laymen or lay corporations, which could be relied on to produce an annual revenue, and which were, therefore, available for purposes of endowment. These, after purchase, were used for the support of lecturers in the churches, who, being subject to no episcopal authority, were generally zealous teachers of Puritanism. Archbishop Laud, full of zeal for the suppression of the sects, procured a decree of the Court of Exchequer to abolish this society and to forfeit its property to the King.

This action, of course, caused vigorous remonstrance, and in 1636 the Mayor, bailiffs, and townsmen of High Wycombe petitioned the Archbishop to grant to the church there the revenue of £40 per year in lieu of the impropriations to the amount of £280 which they had purchased for that

purpose and which had been forfeited by Laud. Among the twenty signers of this petition appear the names of Samuel Harris, one of the two bailiffs of the town, and the poet Edmund Waller. So early had the Harris family taken the side of dissent from the Church of England, which it has ever since maintained.

When, later in the same unfortunate reign, the controversy between Charles I. and his subjects grew more grave, Ireland, which had national and religious grievances to avenge, thought that the time had arrived when it might throw off the English yoke, and in the Winter of 1641-2 the Irish rose in rebellion throughout the island and massacred the English who were living among them. As Parliament would not trust the King with an army to subdue Ireland, lest he might use it to overawe his English subjects, and as the Irish disorders were intolerable, it resorted to the expedient of raising a volunteer army, and in 1642 offered two million five hundred thousand acres of Irish lands, which were to be forfeited on account of the rebellion, as security to those who should advance moneys towards raising and paying a private army for subduing the rebels. The subscribers, or "Adventurers," as they were called, were to have estates or manors of one thousand acres each given them, at the rates of four shillings per acre for lands in Ulster, six shillings in Connaught, eight shillings in Munster, and twelve shillings in Leinster. This subscription was commenced in 1642 and closed in 1646. The land Adventurers numbered eleven hundred and eighty-eight and subscribed £249,305 19s. 8d., and the sea service had one hundred and seventy-two subscribers for £43,406 5s.

No great change was wrought in Ireland as the result of this undertaking, the army of five thousand foot and five hundred horse under Lord Wharton, which was raised for this duty, being detained in 1642 to do battle with the King on English soil, and Ireland remained a prey to anarchy till 1649, when Cromwell took the anarchy in hand and avenged the massacre of 1641 by measures scarcely less cruel.

After the restoration of peace the Irish lands were partitioned, and the Adventurers of 1642 shared with the soldiers who subdued the land in the division of the forfeited estates.

The names of John Hampden and Oliver Cromwell, with a great many members of Parliament, knights, and gentlemen, appear on the list of Adventurers, of which No. 533 was Thomas Harris, of London, merchant; No. 545 was Thomas Harris, of London, grocer; and No. 82 was John Harris, of London, girdler; each of whom subscribed £100, the latter name also appearing—No. 1304—as a subscriber for £150 for the sea service. Thomas Bailey, of Marlborough, No. 875, was a subscriber for £150.

This is the first record which I have found connecting the Harris family with Ireland, and the first which associates the names of Harris and Bailey, and it shows both families as being at that early date on the side of Parliament and opposed to the Established Church.

There is no reason to suppose that many of those to whom lands were allotted in Ireland chose at once to reside there. The country was too much disturbed and had been too recently desolated to be a pleasant residence, and it is probable that half a century elapsed before any of the Harris family thought it well to settle on their Irish possessions.

Some change of fortune, associated, perhaps, with the reverses that befell the parliamentary party and led to the restoration of Charles II., seems to have caused our progenitors to leave London, and in 1701 we find John Harris, of Goatsacre, Wiltshire, clothier (maker of cloth), "son of John Harris, late deceased," and Edward Harris, of Goocham, in the same county, yeoman, selling to Philip Roman for £100, Pennsylvania money, one thousand acres of land out of fifteen hundred acres which the elder John Harris had acquired by virtue of a contract made July 11th, 1681, "between William Penn, Esq., of the one part, and the said John Harris, deceased, and others, purchasers of lands within the said tract or province, of the other part." The deed for this land, which is in my possession, is curious as being a transfer from one whom I suppose to be my father's ancestor to one whom I know to have been a progenitor of my mother, and as showing again in my father's ancestry a disposition to embark in "adventures" for lands over seas; this latter transaction referring apparently to one of a series of sales by William Penn, to what would now be called a "syndicate," of privileges entitling the purchasers to take up lands in his newly-granted transatlantic domain.

We next find the Harris family in Ireland early in the eighteenth century, and we are now at least on the solid ground of fact, for we have the direct evidence of family records and traditions that John Harris, born in 1717, and Thomas Harris, born in 1722, in Ireland, were brothers, and that the latter was our direct progenitor.

I conjecture that they were sons of the John Harris who was of Goatsacre, Wiltshire, in 1701, and that he, some time previous to the birth of his sons, had decided to move to the Irish lands which his family had held unused for half a century. I believe that the family were resident in Ireland but a few years, and that John and Thomas were the only sons, because recent diligent search fails to show any trace or recollection of the family in the county of Antrim, where they resided, or in the adjoining counties. A member of the family of Bailey, into which family Thomas

Harris married in 1747, was found, whose recollection could run back to 1780, but she had no knowledge that any persons named Harris had ever resided in that district.

I suppose that the Baileys emigrated to Ireland at the same time the Harris family went there. They seem to have been ancient allies, joint contributors to the Adventurers' fund in 1642, neighbors in Wiltshire, where Thomas Bayley and Edward Bayley were living in 1685, and neighbors in Ireland, where Elizabeth Bailey (the name has several spellings), who was an orphan brought up by her uncle, Edward Bayley, D. D., rector of Killmegan and Killeow, County Down, married Thomas Harris in 1747.

It may be well, before leaving the earlier history of the Harris family, to restate briefly what are my reasons for conjecturing that the persons of whom I have hitherto spoken were progenitors of John and Thomas Harris, who emigrated from Ireland to Pennsylvania in the middle of the eighteenth century:—

1. The persistence of the names of Thomas and John.

We shall find later that these two names were repeated in the family in the succeeding generations with a frequency which leads to the belief that they had the value which is often attached to names that have been repeatedly used in family history, and which were perhaps first borne by those who were regarded as the founders or as the most distinguished members of the family.

2. All these names occur in the same section of England—Buckinghamshire, London, and Wiltshire being almost contiguous; while Wiltshire, the last English home of the family, was the locality from which came a large part of the emigration to or toward Pennsylvania in the beginning of the eighteenth century.

If the Wiltshire Harrises and Baileys were the emigrants to Ireland about 1710, they would be the more likely, having once broken up their old home, to emigrate in company, as they did about 1745, to the land of peace and plenty, where so many of their old neighbors had recently gone, in Pennsylvania.

3. In England, as in Ireland and in Pennsylvania, the Baileys were associated with the Harrises, and it is likely that those who thus together braved the perils of the seas and the hardships of distant lands were hereditary friends and neighbors.

4. Dissent from the Established Church seems likewise to have been a characteristic of these people for several generations, and it is noteworthy