

**JOHN HARVARD  
AND HIS ANCESTRY**

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John Harvard and His Ancestry by Henry F. Waters

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**HENRY F. WATERS**

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## PREFACE.

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**T**HE Committee on English Research of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, under whose direction Mr. Waters is now pursuing his investigations in England, have on more than one occasion asserted that the method of search adopted by him—so different from that of his predecessors—would without fail enable him to bring to light what had escaped the notice of all other antiquaries. Striking proofs of the correctness of this statement have been already afforded by the remarkable discoveries Mr. Waters has hitherto made, and the following paper, in which the parentage and ancestry of John Harvard are for the first time conclusively shown, will add still another.

In 1842, the late James Savage, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society and author of the "Genealogical Dictionary of New England," went to England for the express purpose of ascertaining what could be learned of the early history of John Harvard; but although Mr. Everett, then our minister to the court of St. James, rendered every assistance in his power, no trace of Harvard could be found, except his signature on taking his degrees at the University of Cambridge. Mr. Savage tells us that he would gladly have given five hundred dollars to get five lines about him in any capacity, public or private. Since that date others have made efforts equally unavailing.

The late Col. Joseph L. Chester, in a letter written the year before his death to the Editor of the REGISTER (REGISTER, xxxvi. 319), says that he had carried about with him daily for many years a bit of pedigree of Harvard in the hope of being able to perfect it; that he thought he had found the will of the father of John Harvard, but could not yet prove it; that he disliked to put forward a mere theory, but hoped to come upon further evidence some day.

At a meeting of the New England Historic Genealogical Society held in Boston June 3, 1885, a paper by Miss Frances B. James of Cambridge, Mass., was read, on "John Harvard's English Home, a Caveat in Behalf of Devonshire." It contained the results of some researches made by her in the summer of 1883, in Plymtree, co. Devon, England, where there formerly lived a family of Harvard or Harvard, but no claim was made by her that any relationship could be shown to exist between this family and that of John Harvard.

Mr. William Rendle, in an article in the "Genealogist" for April, 1884, on "Harvard University, U.S., and the Harvards of Southwark," gives a list of certain Harvards of the Parish of St. Saviours noted by him, but he failed to find the baptism of John Harvard, and was unable to connect him with this family of Harvards. In the South London Press for April 11, 1885, and in the Athenæum for April 18, 1885, Mr. Rendle has something further to say about the Harvards. He gives the date of baptism of a John Harvye, whom he says he believes to be the founder of Harvard College, but is unable to prove the fact, and offers no evidence to support it. These articles, however, contain nothing new. [Everything of importance in them had been previously made known to us by Mr. Waters. The record of this very baptism had been already found by him, and a copy of it sent to the Committee. Mr. Rendle's knowledge of it seems to have been obtained from a person to whom Mr. Waters had mentioned it as a discovery of his own, and its appropriation by Mr. Rendle without acknowledgment and its publication in this manner was certainly a most extraordinary proceeding.]

It had long been known that there was a family of Harvards in St. Saviours Parish, Southwark; that John, son of Richard, was baptized there 11 Dec., 1606; another John, son of Robert, baptized 29 Nov., 1607; another John, son of John, baptized 2 Feb., 1611; and still another John, son of John, baptized 10 April, 1614: but whether the benefactor of the College was one of these, or whether he was of Southwark at all, has not been known, until now at last the proof is presented to us by Mr. Waters. Col. Chester, as we have seen, years ago surmised that he was the son of Robert Harvard, but, like a true genealogist, waited for evidence before making a positive statement. Probably nearly every one in America who was interested in Harvard and had given the subject much thought, suspected,

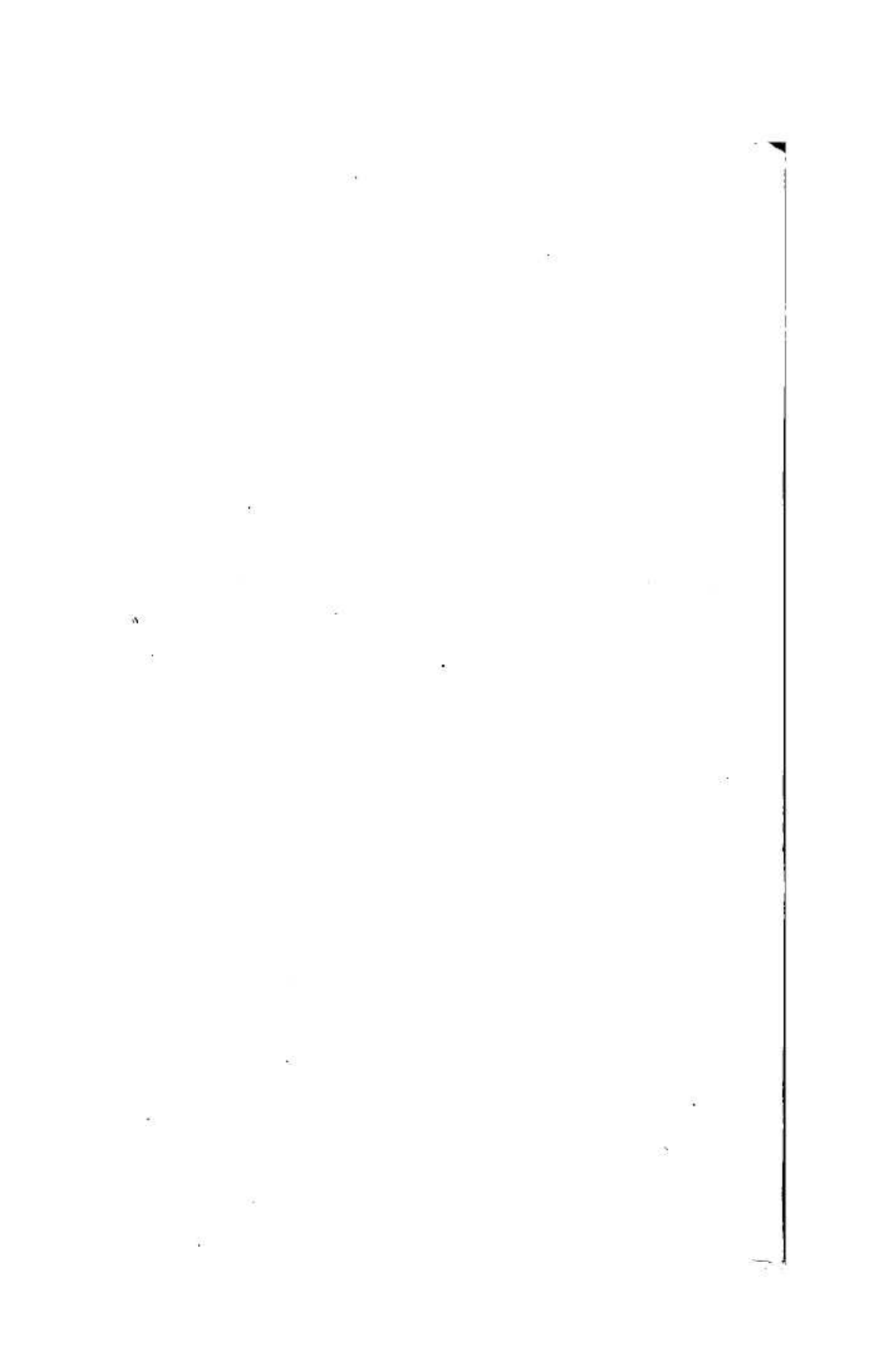
at least, if not believed, that he was the son of Robert Harvard of Southwark. So that Mr. Rendle offers nothing new and merely adds his belief to theirs, for which he fails to offer evidence. That Southwark was a field for persecution and therefore its people must have been ready to emigrate to New England, carries no weight, for there was persecution in other parts of England; and it would be difficult for Mr. Rendle or any other investigator to show that more people came to New England for religion's sake from the county of Surrey than from the counties of Somerset, Dorset or Wilts, in all of which Harvards were to be found. Could he say that John Harvard was not from either of these counties, or from St. Katherine's near the Tower in co. Middlesex where a family of Harvards lived, or that he was not the son of Robert Harvey, alias Harverde of Rugby in Warwickshire?

Mr. Waters, however, is the first to show conclusively that John Harvard, from whom the College takes its name, was one of the sons of Robert Harvard of the Parish of St. Saviours, Southwark, London, and Katherine (Rogers) Harvard his wife, and that he was baptized in that Parish Nov. 29, 1607. Ample proof of this is afforded by the documentary evidence now for the first time published, to which the attention of the reader is directed. The parentage of John Harvard is no longer a mystery. Mr. Waters gives us here, among others, the wills of his father and mother, his brother Thomas Harvard, his uncle Thomas Harvard, his aunt by marriage Margaret Harvard, his step-fathers John Elletson and Richard Yearwood, and his father-in-law John Sadler.

But although so much has been accomplished that a few months ago would have been thought impossible, much remains to be done. There are other fields of research as yet unexplored, which will richly repay all the expenditure of time and labor which a thorough investigation of them will require.

The expense of the search thus far has been met by voluntary contributions of the Alumni, particularly the Harvard Club of New York.

JOHN T. HASSAM.





## JOHN HARVARD AND HIS ANCESTRY.

### WILLS.

MEMORANDUM That the tenth daye of July 1611 John Harvard of the parshe of S<sup>t</sup> Saviour in Southwarke w<sup>th</sup>in the County of Surrey Butcher beinge then sicke and very weake in body but of good memory, beinge moved to dispose of his temporall estate uttered these or the like wordes in effect (in the presence of us whose names be subscribed) viz<sup>t</sup>, I give unto Francis Rodgers tenn poundes — And all the rest of my goodes and estate I give unto my broth<sup>r</sup> Thomas Harvard, and I make my said brother Tho: Harvard my sole Executor, And to witnes the same we haue hereunto sett our handes Tho: Harvard his m<sup>k</sup>e Ric<sup>t</sup> Yearwood Robert Harvard his m<sup>k</sup>e.

The above will was proved 21 July 1611 by Thomas Harvard brother and executor &c.

158, Berry

(Archdeaconry of Surrey).

Marche the 27. Anno 1622.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN. I Thomas Harvard of the precinct of S<sup>t</sup> Katherins neere the tower of London beinge sicke in bodie but of perfect memory thankes be to God doe ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge. first I doe bequeath my Soule into the handes of almightie god that gave it me, and to his sonne Jesus Christ that Redeemed me by whose death and merrits I doe trust onelie to be saved and my Sole receyved into eternall ioya. for my bodie to be committed to the Earthe from whence it came and to be buried at the discretion of my Executrix hereundernamed And for the rest of the porcion of goodes which the lorde hath lent me duringe my life my will is my welbelovd wife shall fullie and whollie enjoy it whatsoever and to give unto my children that the lorde hath sent me whatsoever it pleaseth her into whose handes after my decease I comitt all that my estate and porcion ether in England or elsewhere beyonde the Seas and this I ordaine as my last will and testament and disanull all former whatsoever making my deerly beloved wife Margarett Harvarde my sole executrix. In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hande. The marke of Thomas Harvard.

Subscribed and delivred by Thomas Harvard in the presentes of us hereunder named Edmond Swettenham the marke of Ann Blaton.

PROBATUM FUIT TESTAMENTUM suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro mag<sup>ro</sup> Richardo Clarke legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri domini Willimi Bird militis legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogative Cantuar-ens<sup>is</sup> mag<sup>ri</sup> Custodia sive Commissarii l<sup>it</sup>ime constituti. Vicesimo tertio die mens<sup>is</sup> Augusti Anno D<sup>ni</sup> Millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo secundo. Jura-mento Margarete Harvard relicte et executricis dicti defuncti in eodem testa-mento nominat. Cui Commissa fuit Administracio bonorum iurium et credi-torum dicti defuncti de bene et fideliter administrand<sup>is</sup> &c. Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Jurat. 78, Saville.

July the xxvi<sup>th</sup>: 1625

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of Margaret Harwar\* of S<sup>t</sup> Kath-erines widdowe sick and weake in bodie but in perfects memorie thanks be gee geven to god in this manner and forme followeing; first I bequeathe my soule into the hands of Almighty god that gave it me, and to Jesus Christ my saviour that redeemed me hoping and trustings only to be saved by his merritts death and passion and my bodie I commit to the earth from whence it came and to be buried att the discretion of my executors hereunder named And my worldly goodes I bequeathe in this manner and forme followeing; first my will and desire is that the howse I now dwell in, commonly called by the name of the Christopher scituat and beinge in S<sup>t</sup> Katherins neere the Tower of London be sould to the best advantage, And to him or her that will give most money for it, And beinge sould the money to be devided in this manner followeing, The money to be devided between my three daughters Margaret Harward Ales Harward, and Jone Harward, And if any of my said daughters doe chance to dye before their legacies come to their hands or growe due, my will is that their parte or parts shall come to the survivors of those three; Item my will is and I be-queathe unto John Walbank my sonne the some of Twenty Pounds of Cur-rant English money if he be livinge And if it please god that he be dead then my will is that this Sonne Thomas Walbancke my Grandchilde shall have it paid him when he comes to lawfull Age. It. my will is and be-queath unto my daughter Susan Walbank the some of five Pounds to be paid unto her when my said howse is sould It. my will and desire is that those worldly goodes that god hath blessed me withall shall be equally devided betwixt my said three daughters Jone, Margaret Harward and Ales Harward parte and parte alike; every one there share; And if any of them happen to dye before their part come to their hands my will is it shall come to the survivor or survivo<sup>rs</sup>. It. my will is and I doe give unto Tho-mas Walbank my grandchild the some of Tenn Pounds to be paid unto him out of my two daughters por<sup>ti</sup>ons Jone and Ales. It. I give and be-queathe unto Thomas Harward the sonne of Thomas Harward my late husband the some of Tenn Shillins. It. my will is and I bequeathe unto my friend Edmund Swettenham of East Smithfeild the some of fourty shillings to make him one gould ringe withall to weare for my sake; And I doe ordaine my daughter Margaret Harward my sole executrix of this my last will and testaments; And I doe appointe and desire my two lov-ing friends Robert Evebancke and Edmund Swettenham my two over-seers of this my will and I doe give unto Robert Evebanck for his paines twenty shillings;

*The marks of Margaret Harward.*

\* This name in the original will appears invariably as Harward.—z. v. w.

Witness Edmond Swettenham Rob't Kwancke The marke of Marie  
peons.

PROBATUM fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London corā Magistro Thoma Langley Clico Surrogato venerabilis viri domini Henrici Marten Militis legum doctoris Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Magistri Custodis sive Commissarii legitime constituti Nono die mensis Septembris Anno Dñi Millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo quinto, Juramento Thome Gouldan Notarii Publici Procufis Margarete Harvard filie et executricis in huius Testō nominat Cui Commissa fuit Administratio bonorum insum et creditorum dñi defunct de bene et fidelit Administrand eadem Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Jurat.

91, Clarke.

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. The eight and Twentieth daie of July Anno Dñi one Thousand six hundred Twentie five, & in the first yere of the Reigns of our Sovereigne lord Charles by the grace of God Kinge of England Scotland France and Ireland defender of the faith &c. I Robert Harvard of y<sup>e</sup> pish of S<sup>t</sup> Saviours in Southwarke in the Countie of Surrey Butcher, being not well in body but sound in minde in memory (and and praise bee to almightie god therefore) doe make and ordayne this my present last will and Testament in manner and forme following that is to saie, first and principally I bequeath and commend my soule unto the hands of almighty God trusting through his mercie and for the merits of his deere Sonne my lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to have forgivnes of all my Sinnes, and after this life ended to bee made ptaker of life everlastinge in the kingdome of heaven And I will that my body bee decently and Christianly buried in the pish Church of S<sup>t</sup> Saviours aforesaid, after the discretion of my executrix hereundernamed, And as touching that Temporall estate of goods and Chattles wherew<sup>th</sup> it hath pleased god of his goodnes to blesse, my minde and will is as followeth vjzt, Inprimis I give and bequeath unto the poore of the pish of S<sup>t</sup> Saviour aforesaid forty shillings and to bee payd and distributed according to the discreſſon of my said Executrix & Overseers hereunder mentioned Item I give and bequeath unto John Harvard my Sonne Two hundred pounds To bee payd unto him when he shalbee accomplish his age of one and Twentie yeres Item I give & bequeath unto Thomas Harvard my Sonne the like somme of two hundred pounds to be payd likewise unto him when he shall accomplish his age of one and Twenty yeres Item I give and bequeath unto Peter Harvard my Sonne the like somme of Two hundred pounds to bee payd likewise unto him when he shall accomplish his age of one and Twenty yeres And if any of them my said three sonnes depart this life before his said pte and porſſon shall growe due to bee payd by this my will, Then I give y<sup>e</sup> pte or porſſon of him deceasinge to the residue of them Surviving equallbe to bee divided betwixt them, or wholly to the Survivor yf two of them decease And if it shall happen all my said three Children to decease before they shall accomplish their severall ages of twenty and one yeres as aforesaid Then and in such case I give and bequeath unto my Cosin Thomas Harvard and his Children fifty pound to bee payd within three moneths next after the decease of the last Child Item I give and bequeath unto Robert Harvard my godson some of my said cosin Thomas Harvard Ten pounds to be payd unto him when he shall accomplish his age of one and Twenty yeres All the rest and residue of my goods and Chattles whatsoever my debts (if any be) beinge first payd and my funerall expences discharged I give and bequeath unto Katherin Harvard my welbeloved wife whom I constitute ordayne