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CAPTAIN THOMAS HARRIS

1586 TO 1658

ENGLISH IMMIGRANT

IN 1611

BOOK ONE

By - -

Dr. Malcolm H. Harris

Prof. W. Lee Harris

Olive & Joe C. Harris

And Other Contributors

1966

iii

FAMILY ARMS OF SIR WILLIAM HARRIS, KNT., (1)
Parish Cricksey, County Essex, England

Coat:- Quarterly; one and four or, on a bend engrailed azure, three cinquefoils or of the first; two and three, argent, gutty de larmes.
Helmet:- Steel, profile, visor closed, no bars or grille.
Crest:- A winged hare, demi - salient.

Explanation: "Quarterly", divided into quarters, showing more than one Family Coat of Arms.

"Or": The color of gold.

"Bend": Usually formed by two diagonal lines from upper dexter (left) to lower sinister (right) of the field.

"Engrailed": Partitioned by irregular lines, as series of letter "U"s, with points turning outwards.

"Azure": The color of blue.

"Cinquefoils": A five pointed design patterned from the Potentilla Plant, or Wild Strawberry.

"First": The main Arms, or Harris Arms.

"Argent": The color of silver or metal color.

"Gutty": Covered or sprinkled with droplets.

"Larmes": Sprinkled with red or blue drops.

"Winged": Representing wings of a bird or a facsimile.

"Hare": A rabbit. A "Hare" most likely for "Harris".

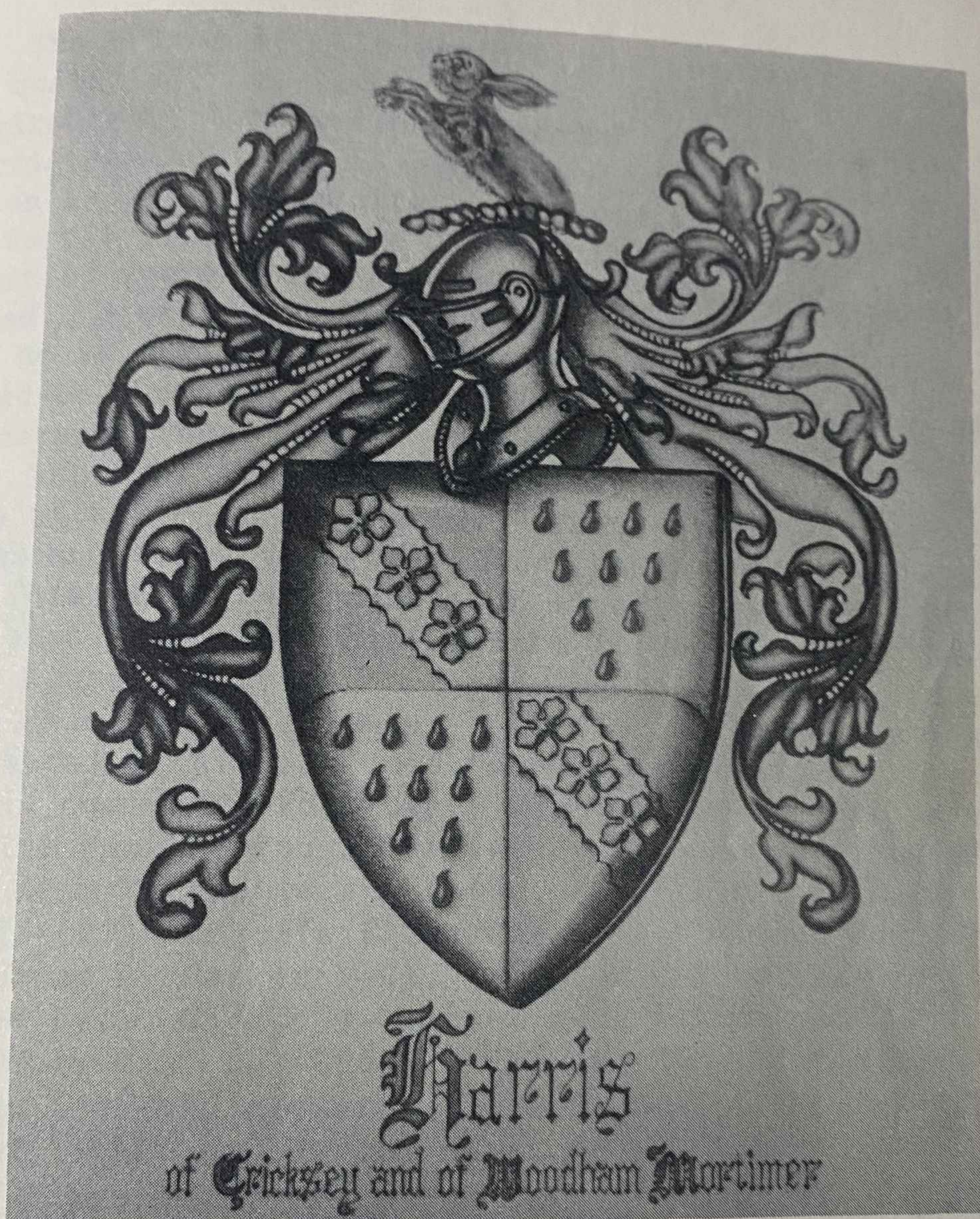
"Demi": Halved, only half of animal or design shown.

"Salient": Beast or animal standing on hind legs with both feet upon the ground or the base.

"Mantle": To represent a cloth covering worn over the shields formerly but more recently for ornamentation.

The Coloring: The first and Fourth Quarters of gold background; Second and Third Quarters of a silver background; the Bend of blue; the Cinquefoils are of gold; the Droplets of red; the Helmet of a steel color; the Wings of blue and gold; the Hare of natural brown; the Mantle is of a blue and gold color with a vine design.

The Helmet; as is shown, represents an Esquire or a Gentleman and was not issued to Sir William Harris, who was Knighted, but to one of his male Harris ancestors.



Coat of Arms for Family of Sir William Harris, Knt., (1)
Authority: College of Arms, London, where it is recorded

INTRODUCTION

1

The writer of this article, W. Lee Harris, feels he is qualified, at least in part, by time, location and environment, to write an account of this branch of the Harris Family. He is acquainted with five generations, in an isolated community, from his grandfather, James G. Harris (40), down to his own grandchildren. This is a period approaching ninety years, where families have lived, died and are buried.

He is the great grandson of Gideon Harris (33), who moved on the head waters of Silver Creek in Maury County Tennessee, about 1817, from Virginia, via. Wilson County. Two brothers, Lewis Jr. (32) and David (36) either came with him or soon after. They all secured adjoining farms and spent their remaining years near each other.

This writer's grandfather lived, reared his family, and died upon an adjoining farm to the others. In this same house the writer's father was born and never moved more than two miles away. In fact, the writer himself was born in this same old house and lived in this close family community for twenty eight years before leaving.

The Family brought a very good account, handed on down from Thomas Harris (16), about 1782, through Lewis Harris (23) and wife Elizabeth (24), Gideon Harris (33) and James G. Harris (40), each adding to the data as it passed by. Gideon's account covers from 1820 to 1850 and James G's to 1880. Without this information that Gideon (33) had preserved and brought from Virginia the writer likely could have never made a connection.

The present paper began about 1914, but it drifted along rather slowly until 1938, when the writer made a trip to Prince Edward County Virginia to prove what the others had written and clear up some clouded points for himself. He made another trip, in later years, to verify several other lines of confusion.

The information of Thomas Harris (2) down to Thomas Harris (16) is mostly taken from findings of others.

I, W. Lee Harris, submit this to your pleasure and enlightenment of our ancestors and trust some one will, in the years ahead, keep the family chain intact.

Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee, 37087.

107 North Greenwood Street.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- 1730 Act to Dock the Entails of Land, (London Record).
 1782 Journal or Family Diary, by Thomas Harris (16).
 1829 Papers left by Gideon Harris (33), and His Kin.
 1895 Virginia Historical Magazine, Dr. W. G. Stanard.
 1907 History and Genealogy, by William Harris Miller.
 1914 Harris History and Genealogy, by Gideon D. Harris.
 1928 Harris Family Pamphlet, by Judge Milus K. Harris.
 1934 Cavalier and Pioneer Extracts, by Nell M. Nugent.
 1936 History of Louisa County Va., Malcolm H. Harris.
 1947 Ligon Family and Connections, by William D. Ligon.
 Adventures in Purse and Person, Several Writers.
 The Valentine Papers, by Several Writers.
 Government Media Research Bureau, Washington.

Persons giving assistance and encouragement:-

- Dr. J. D. Eggleston; President, Hampden-Sidney College,
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 Dr. John Royal Harris; President, Cumberland University,
 Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee.
 George Harrison Sanford King; Genealogist of Virginia.
 Joe C. Harris and wife, Olive; T. V. A., Florence, Ala.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all and
 to the many others who have given me much help

PERSONAL NUMBERING SYSTEM

3

To save confusion, we have given here an individual number to each person, to better identify him, since there are so many by the same name. Not continued after the fifth generation. Double names used then.

Sir William Harris, Knt.	(1)	- - Crixey, Co. Essex England	
Captain Thomas Harris	(2)	- - son of Sir William	(1)
Major William Harris	(4)	- - son of Capt. Thomas	(2)
Thomas Harris - - - -	(8)	- - son of Maj. William	(4)
William Harris, Gent.	(9)	- - son of Maj. William	(4)
Edward Harris - - - -	(10)	- - son of Maj. William	(4)
William Harris Jr.	(15)	- - son of William	(9)
Thomas Harris - - - -	(16)	- - son of William	(9)
David Harris - - - -	(17)	- - son of William	(9)
George Harris - - - -	(18)	- - son of William	(9)
John Harris - - - -	(19)	- - son of William	(9)
Stephen Harris - - - -	(20)	- - son of William	(9)
Edward (Ned) Harris	(21)	- - son of William	(9)
Giles Harris - - - -	(22)	- - son of David	(17)
Lewis Harris - - - -	(23)	- - son of David	(17)
Elizabeth Harris - - -	(24)	- - dau. of John	(19)
David Harris - - - -	(25)	- - son of John	(19)
Edmond Harris - - - -	(26)	- - son of Giles	(22)
Claiborne Harris - - -	(27)	- - son of Giles	(22)
Obediah Harris - - - -	(28)	- - son of Giles	(22)
Giles Harris - - - -	(29)	- - son of Lewis	(23)
John Harris - - - -	(30)	- - son of Lewis	(23)
Patience E. Harris - -	(31)	- - dau. of Lewis	(23)
Lewis Harris Jr. - - -	(32)	- - son of Lewis	(23)
Gideon Harris - - - -	(33)	- - son of Lewis	(23)
Mary T. (Polly) Harris	(34)	- - dau. of Lewis	(23)
Jane Harris - - - -	(35)	- - dau. of Lewis	(23)
David Harris - - - -	(36)	- - son of Lewis	(23)
Frances H. Harris - - -	(37)	- - dau. of Gideon	(33)
David R. Harris - - - -	(38)	- - son of Gideon	(33)
Elizabeth L. Harris - -	(39)	- - dau. of Gideon	(33)
James G. Harris - - - -	(40)	- - son of Gideon	(33)
Gideon L. Harris - - -	(41)	- - son of Gideon	(33)
Giles C. Harris - - - -	(42)	- - son of Gideon	(33)
John G. Harris - - - -	(43)	- - son of Gideon	(33)
Sarah G. Harris - - - -	(44)	- - dau. of Gideon	(33)
Martha J. Harris - - -	(45)	- - dau. of Gideon	(33)

HARRIS - THE ORIGIN AND ADVANCE

The origin of the word HARRIS likely came up from Anglo - Saxon word HARRA, meaning wealth. This word became Henry in German, while Harry in English. The sons of Harry were designated as HARRY'S, the apostrophe was later dropped and the "y" changed to "i". Harris was sometimes spelled HARRISS or Herries but later HARRIS.

After the invasion of the Normans in 1066, there was a need for identifying individuals, for the purpose of taxes and military services. This led to given names or numbers being used. In fact the writer here has numbered several generations for making it easier to trace the families and show their kinship.

This Harris Family spread so fast that there was to be scarcely a Register in England, by 1600, that did not record from one to several by the name of Harris. So as to better follow up our American Harris advance, a short discussion should be made upon the early English efforts to settle in America and our Harris connection with it.

The first English venture to permanently colonize in America was in 1584, just two years before Thomas Harris (2) was born. The Patent was transferred to Sir Walter Raleigh (1552 - 1618), by Queen Elizabeth, from Sir Humphrey Gilbert, the original Patantee, who had been lost at sea in 1583. In 1584, Raleigh sent out two ships and colonists who landed and settled on Roanoke Island, in Albermarle Sound, now the east coast of North Carolina. He named the area Virginia, for the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth, and the following year sent seven vessels and 108 settlers, under Sir Ralph Lane as governor. They debarked on Roanoke Island also but spent their days in search of gold instead of preparing for the rough winter ahead, so starvation and disease were soon depleting their numbers. Sir Francis Drake stopped by the island on a return from a West Indian raid, and shipped the survivors back to England. They left just a few weeks before another expedition, under Sir Richard Granville, arrived with new recruits and supplies. He left fifteen men and supplies to hold claim to the deserted post and proceeded upon a raid to the West Indies, also.

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Sir Walter Raleigh rallied the support for English merchants and influential men to form another expedition under John White, as governor in command. In July 1587 they landed at Roanoke Island, but found no trace of the men left by Richard Granville. The governor set ashore the Colonists, including his wife, daughter and grandchild in America, and hurried back to England for more needed supplies. The English war with Spain in 1588 detained his return until 1590. Upon White's arrival at the settlement not a trace of the people could be found, although most of the buildings remained and few supplies. The governor returned to England and it remains a mystery even today just what happened to the settlers. They are still known as "White's Lost Colony". Thus ended, in failure, the first English Colony in America.

In 1602, Sir Walter Raleigh, in an effort to regain his lost fortune, restore his high standing and prestige in England, tried a third time to colonize Virginia, but once again was unsuccessful. James I, then King of England, had him imprisoned for twelve years and finally executed upon a created charge of treason.

THE SETTLEMENT OF JAMESTOWN

In 1606 two companies were formed in England for the purpose of colonizing in America, "The London Company" and "The Plymouth Company", so named for the towns in which they were formed. The London, chartered to colonize between the 34th. and 38th. North Parallels, (near Charlottesville and Louisa Virginia, and southern tip of North Carolina, as of today), while the Plymouth was chartered between the 41st. and 45th. North Parallels (between Central Pennsylvania and Central Maine). Failures of the Raleigh Expeditions were noted and the companies better organized and prepared for the tasks ahead, or so they thought. One of the first four Councilors appointed by the King was Sir Thomas Smith (Smythe), 1558-1625, an uncle of Thomas Harris (2). Smythe was a prominent

merchant and Governor of the English East Indian Company, formed December 31st. 1600, thus a man of considerable experience and standing in the company.

On December 19th. of 1606, three small ships, the Susan Constant, the Godspeed and the Discovery, in all not more than 160 total tons, with 104 new settlers and supplies, left England for the Virginia coast, under the command of Christopher Newport. They entered, what is now Chesapeake Bay, in May 1607 and sailed up the James River, so named for the King, fifty miles and selected a site they called Jamestown, for their settlement. Newport returned to England, and the colony was left under the command of John Smith (1579 - 1631). It was soon to be learned that their site selection, choice and quality for settlers and preparation for the venture was not so good as expected. Few were prepared for such a life of hardship, physically and mentally, so shortly dissention broke out among them. By January of 1608, when Newport returned, only thirty eight settlers were still surviving. John Smith is well known to historians and students but he created many enemies in the Colony, by his harsh, positive methods, even though it perhaps saved them from complete extinction. He was finally driven out of the Colony in 1609 and returned to England, leaving behind about five hundred settlers.

A second, revised, more liberal Charter, was once again drawn up in 1609. Some historians believe it was recommended by Thomas Harris (2), who was known to be on a visit to the Colony at that time. The Smiths and the Harrises are known to have invested heavily in this Charter. An assembly of 500 settlers, with some women, and supplies, left England late in 1609 for Jamestown, under the command of Lord Delaware. During the severe winter of 1609 - 1610, the poorly prepared settlers, without strong leadership, had so starved and died of disease and exposure that by spring only sixty remained of the near 500 when John Smith left for England. These sixty survivors decided to abandon the Colony and try to return to England. They fitted out four, barely seaworthy vessels, as best they could, and started the voyage. At the mouth of the bay, however, they met Lord Delaware

and returned to Jamestown again and back to the Colony. Lord Delaware proved to be interested mostly in his personal gain so was replaced as governor, by Sir Thomas Dale, who arrived in May of 1611, and assumed command. Our Thomas Harris (2) had passage on same ship, Prosperous, with the governor, this time to establish his permanent home. Under Dale's strong, but sometimes harsh, leadership, with his advisors, the Colony grew and expanded into other settlements of the vicinity until his death in 1619. This was accomplished, in a large part, by forming a third Charter, known as the "London - Virginia Charter", in 1612. It was incorporated by men of better understanding of conditions and visions of the future, with the idea of developing the Colony as a new country in which to live and not for the purpose to seek gold and personal fortunes. Sir Thomas Smythe (Smith) was made treasurer of the company and served it capably. The Smiths and Harrises again invested much in the company, and finally the Colony was established on a firm, secure basis. There were many more hardships, privations, disappointments and deaths to follow as it continued to grow and expand. Conditions that we of today cannot imagine or could not endure. It was from this beginning that our Harris Ancestry became a part of the "New World", as we follow them to the present date, 1964.

Powhatan was a chief of a friendly tribe of Indians. He also was the father of Pocahontas, whose legend in history is well known to all school children. The Chief had warned the white people that there were other Indian tribes hostile to them and that they were planning the destruction of all whites. The old Chief died in 1618 and the Indians did fall upon the whites in 1622 killing 347 of them, about one third of their number. Thomas Harris (2) took an active part in that uprising, serving as second in command. He was thereafter known as Captain Thomas Harris. The Indian massacre aroused the settlers to make preparations to better protect themselves. They divided the territory into Shires; Henrico; Charles City; Warwick River; Charles River; Warresquoakes; Accomack; and York, added later. These shires were formed

into companies, organized protection groups, stored up food, supplies, and ammunition and made general preparation to meet any future emergency. The shires led later to formation of counties; Henrico; New Kent; Hanover; Albermarle; Goochland; Cumberland; Amelia; and others. These counties have since split up, formed new ones and changed their boundries several times.

To make locations and identifications more easily we use rivers and creeks quite extensively, York; Pamunky; Little; Anna; Appomattox; and Buffalo Rivers, Falling and Vaughn Creeks, all in Virginia. They do not change.

Early records here in the American Colonies show the Harrises were here very soon and got an early start into settling of the country. They made good and successful pioneers. In most cases they were adventurous, daring and brave but preferred the wide open country. Our branch of the family were inclined to stay together, - somewhat clannish, and so quite often moved together in family groups. This branch seemed to have great potency and moved so fast that we have found many spread all over the South and West in numerous and unending numbers, that came from Henrico, Hanover, Prince Edward and other Eastern Counties of early Virginia.

Our **Thomas Harris (2)**, is the first Harris of record to make a permanent settlement in America, although his younger brother, John Harris, is known to have moved in early, before 1624, and was reported to have left many descendants in Surry and Isle of Wight Counties, in Virginia. There were reported, also, to have been two of the Colonists in the ill fated expedition of Sir Walter Raleigh in 1584, by the name of Harris, and two others, a William and a Thomas Harris, with Roger Williams when he landed in Massachusetts, in 1631.

There were many Harrises, who migrated early here, from England or Ireland, so it may be seen the name of Harris had a very early start in the pioneering of our first American Colonies.

Note: For early English - American details of settlements, see Colliers History of Nations, Vol 23, 51 - 68.

S T A T E M E N T
b y
Malcolm H. Harris M. D.

Captain Thomas Harris, of Henrico County, Virginia, has been the subject of several very worth while research efforts. The work of Dr. W. G. Stanard, of the Virginia Historical Society, was done about 1895. It followed the lines of Thomas Harris, who he concluded to have been a grandson of Captain Thomas Harris, on down through several generations..

The material collected in the Valentine Papers contained a few of the Wills of this Thomas Harris Line.

More recently, the Chapter of Captain Thomas Harris printed in the "Adventures in Purse and Person" appears more definitive, but since it's publication new material has been found, which raises some more questions.

The following notes have been collected and their sources given. The deductions are based on fair knowledge of the localities and facts are set down, and the interpretations are based entirely on a personal insight into these facts.

It is probable that new facts may even yet appear that will change some of this or, in some measure, may clarify some of these points over which authorities have so far not yet fully agreed.

May 1962

THE MAN AND HIS ANCESTORS

There has been an extensive effort made to trace this Harris Family and genealogists claim an accurate line on back to Arthur Harris, who married Lady Joann Percy, the daughter of the Knight Sir Thomas Percy, and a sister to the 6th. Earl of Northumberland. This Arthur Harris is reported to be a great, great grandfather of our Thomas Harris (2), the immigrant to Virginia in 1611.

Genealogists claim, also, that the Royal Descent of Lady Joan Percy goes back to both Henry III and to Edward III, Kings of England. (Americans of Royal Descent, by Browning, Volume II, pages 800 - 806). This writer has not followed this to prove the claim of several genealogists, but King Henry III of England is known to be directly descended from "William The Conqueror", the Norman invader of England in 1066. He was Duke of Normandy at the time of his invasion. Duke William is known also to be a direct descendant of Rollo, the Viking Chief, who became the first Duke of Normandy in 911. This can be traced back that far by the "Encyclopedia Britanica" and Collier's "History of Nations". This would carry Harris Family ancestry back quite a very long way in history.

The father of Thomas Harris (2) was known to be Sir William Harris (1) of Crikey County Essex, in south east England, near London. There is a tradition in the Harris and Smith Families that they originated in Wales whereon they acquired considerable wealth by selling large quantities of coal deposited lands before moving to England.

The Sir William Harris (1), above, married to Alyce Smythe (Alice Smith) about 1582, a daughter of Sir Thomas Smith of Weston Hangan, County Kent, England. The Harris and Smith Families were interested in the development of the colony of Virginia. Alice's brother Thomas Smith Jr. was treasurer of the Virginia Company in London. He was one of the most industrious of workers for the settlement and its development, and exerted great influence in sending over men and supplies to the early colony. He was an incorporator and subscriber to the "Second Charter", as was the above Thomas Harris (2) and others of the family.

The Sir William Harris (1) made his Will dated December 21st. 1615 and was probated on November 20th. 1616. (Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 119 Cope)

NO WILLS
SMITH MARY CLARK

Sir William Harris (1) and his wife had issue, known eight

- 1- Sir Arthur Harris, 1584 - 1632, a member of 3rd. Virginia Charter, Knighted in 1606, member of the English Parliament, 1624, 1625, 1628, 1629. He and wife buried in Cemetary, Parish Church, Crixey, County Essex England, married twice; (1) 1606, Anne Cranmer, (2) 1615, Dame Ann Slater Bawyers, widow of Sir Henry Bawyers.
- 2- William Harris Jr., 1585 - 1622, unmarried and died without issue, entered Pembroke College in 1608, A.B. Degree in 1611, admitted to Lincolns Inn in 1612, perhaps as attorney, he made Will in March 1622, probated May 1622, by Giles Brown Executor, his brother-in-law, buried in Cemetary of Parish Church, Crixey Co. Essex.
- 3- Captain Thomas Harris (2), 1586 - 1658, a more detailed discussion of him will follow on these pages.
- 4- John Harris, 1588 - 1638, member of the 3rd. Virginia Charter, m. Dorothy, said to be from House of Lymbrey, he is reported to have come to Virginia, settling near his brother Thomas Harris (2) and to have left many of his descendants in Surry and Isle of Wight Counties.
- 5- Alice Harris, dates not known, m. Sir Henry Mildmay, County Essex England, from prominent English and early American family, member of 3rd. Virginia Charter and a cousin of John Winthrop, early Massachusetts Governor.
- 6- Mary Harris, dates not known, m. Sir Giles Brown, of County Essex England. He, also, was a member of the 3rd. Virginia Charter and an early incorporator.
- 7- Frances Harris, dates not known, m. Oliver Raymond, a member of the English House of Parliament from 1653 to 1656, died in 1679, buried at Walter Belchamp Church.
- 8- Elizabeth Harris, dates not known, m. to a Mr. Roope. Not much is known of her, husband or her family.

(Historical Southern Families, V.4, P.190-193, by Boddie)

These Harrises and the Smiths were interested in the Virginia Colony. Thomas Harris (2) and his uncle, Thomas Smith Jr., each took 25 shares in the company that formed the Charter. It proved to be a very wise and successful investment, as later history shows us this was the first permanent English Settlement in America, at Jamestown.

Sir Thomas Dale, the newly appointed governor of the Virginia Colony, fitted out a fleet of three ships :::- The Starr, The Prosperous and The Elizabeth, carrying 300 persons and supplies. This fleet left Lands End, on the south west tip of England, County Cornwall, on March 10th. 1611. Thomas Harris took passage on "The Prosperous". On the same ship was the new governor, Sir Thomas Dale. He and Thomas Harris (2) became very good friends. The fleet landed May 10th. 1611 at Algernon, now known as Old Comfort, in Virginia.

It might be related here that Thomas Harris signed a receipt to a Will of Folk Lee on February 10th. 1611, being a beneficiary to that Will, to what extent I do not know. Folk Lee was a mariner of Stepney, London England.

It also might be stated that since Thomas Harris had inherited 1500 lbs. from his father and 400 lbs. of his brother, William Jr., that he did not come to Virginia empty handed neither was he likely to be seeking fortune.

The governor Thomas Dale and Thomas Harris had a very common interest in the government of the new Colony ::-- Governor Dale in politics and Thomas Harris in economics. Harris contended that men would not stay and take an interest in the Colony without women, and that they would have to have health and to produce something to sell for making a living, to be able to expand and prosper.

This idea led :- To first, establishing a quarantine camp to rest and condition new comers, so as to better withstand the dangers of this wild new country.

Second:- The cultivation of corn and tobacco so as to have something to eat and to market for trade or barter.

Third:- The governor had a ship load of maiden brought to Jamestown, after screening for morals and for thrift, before being allowed passage. Any man who could win the love of one of these maiden would pay her passage then marry her so as to establish a home and family.

It appears that Thomas Harris married Adria, before he came to Jamestown. He went before the Land Office with an affidavit that his wife, Adria, had passed away during the time of Governor Dale, and then, September of 1626, since she was an ancient planter and settler, living in Charles City at the 'Neck of Land', and according to the order of the Court, entitled to 100 acres of land.

Settlers commonly made trips back and forth from Virginia to England, and so this is likely to have been the case when Adria, Thomas' wife, debarked from the 'Marmaduke' in 1621. Thomas and Adria were both present at the Muster of 1624, giving their ages as 38 and 23 years. They were living then at Charles City at 'Neck of Land'. (Adventures in Purse and Person, also other sources)

We know Adria Harris was dead before November of 1626 for on that date a case of witchcraft was being tried in Charles City, against a Mrs. Wright. A witness, Greye, swore that the defendant, Wright, told Thomas Harris he would 'burye' his first wife, to whom he was betrothed, at the birth of their child. This did come to pass.

It is known that Thomas Harris was married twice:-- First, to Adria ?? ; Second, to Joane ?? Writers and genealogists have never fully been able to agree on just who these wives were before marriage. Circumstances do lead to believe the first was Osborn and the second was Gurgany. Some writers believe it was Virgany, originally.

Adria Gurganey

Thomas Harris (2) became a prominent and influential citizen in Virginia. He served in the Indian uprisings of 1622, being promoted to Captain as second in command in the militia. He was called Captain Thomas Harris after that. He served several terms in the House of Burgesses, and acquired a large estate of land, lying along the upper side of the James River toward the York River, the Boemos Divide, Longfield, Diggs Hundred, 'The Neck of Land', and Curles, upwards of 2500 acres of land.

Reference to the Will of Thomas Harris was found among Colonial Papers in the Archives of London, filed by the Colonial Governors. This Will was dated in 1649 and devised 200 acres to his only daughter, Mary Harris Ligon, wife of Thomas Ligon. This was to go to her male heirs only, but in case of default, was to go to his only son, William Harris, and his heirs forever. The finding of this reference upset much of early opinions and writings.

By following the transfer of the large tract of his land we can follow his descendants down through several of the later family generations.

Longfield or Curles
(Swamp and Marshes)

This well known plantation is located upon the upper side of the James River, in Henrico County, and bears the name of Curles today, 1964. It was so called from the many bends in the river. It is likely that the early name of Longfield was given because of the long open tract, perhaps an old Indian field that runs parallel to the river. Captain Thomas Harris established his home here, married his second wife Joane, who owned land next to Longfield. He reared his two children here, Mary Harris, born in 1625, by his first wife, Adria, and William Harris who was born in 1629, by his second wife, Joane. This was the land devised by his Will of 1649 unto his children. The Captain Thomas Harris owned this land several years before the English Government issued him a Patent to it.

Captain Thomas Harris (2) was first settled at 'Ye Neck o' Land' in Charles City County, and was there on January 24th. 1624 at the muster. He was appointed one of the Commissioners for the upper part of Henrico County in 1626, and moved to Longfield, later called Curles, where he secured Patents and lived out all the remaining years of his life. It is not known as to just where he is buried, perhaps somewhere near his last residence.

* LAND PATENTS *

March 11th. 1635.

"Thomas Harris, of Henrico County, Virginia, 750 Acres of land, upon land of Edward Virgany, thence extending north upon land of Joane, his wife; west upon Run; and east into the woods. Also 100 acres due him as an ancient Planter in the time of Sir Thomas Dale". (Henrico Co. Patent #1, Page 304 & Nugent Page 35)

July 12th. 1637.

"Captain Thomas Harris, 700 acres, called Longfield. 400 acres granted to Edward Virgany, by order of the Court, October 1st. 1617, from the late treasurer etc. and bequeathed by Ann Virgany, widow of Edward Virgany, to Thomas Harris as her last Will, date 11th. February 1619. Also 300 acres for transporting eight persons". (Presumably from England)

(Henrico Co. Patent Book #1, Page 438 & Nugent Page 60)

February 25th. 1638.

"Captain Thomas Harris, 820 acres, commonly known as Longfield, in Henrico County. Also 100 acres as a personal adventure and 100 acres for his wife, Adria, (now deceased), as being an ancient Planter.

(Henrico Co. Patent Book #1, Page 615 & Nugent Page 101)

As may be noted, above, his land ownership was in excess of 2500 acres, a considerable amount, even back in those early colonial days.

SOME COMMENTS

Genesis of the U. S., by Brown, Page 913,
"Captain Thomas Harris went to Virginia with Sir Thomas Dale in 1611, and was living with his wife, Adria, in February 1624, in Charles City County, on the 'Neck of Land'".

At that time his age was 38 years and that of his wife, Adria, was 23 years".

Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. 4, Page 79,
"Captain Thomas Harris was born in 1586 or 7, and came into Virginia during the government of Sir Thomas Dale and settled on the "Nesk of Land", in Henrico County. He was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1623, 1624 and again from Henrico County in 1647. He married first to Adria - - - , and second to Joan Gurgany.

Issue:- Mary Harris born 1625, married Thomas Ligon.
William Harris born 1629, married first, Lucy -
- - , second to Alice - - - ."

Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. 25, Page 227,
"Captain Thomas Harris arrived on the ship PROSPEROUS, in 1611, Adria his wife, arrived on the MARMADUKE in the year of 1621.

Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. 26, Page 12,
"Thomas Harris submitted a deposition in General Court that his wife, Adria, died between the census of 1624 and 1626. This deposition presented by her husband, Captain Thomas Harris, states that he is due land on the account of his deceased wife being an ancient planter".
(Land Office Book #1, Page 615)

Above are but a few comments about Captain Thomas Harris, an early immigrant to the Colony of Virginia, in 1611, at Jamestown.

GEORGE HARRISON SANFORD KING
1301 Prince Edward Street
Frederickville, Virginia.
April 6th. 1959.

Dr. Malcolm H. Harris

Dear Mr. Harris;

Some time ago you addressed me on the subject of the Harris Family. I have not made a study of the original records, and those who have seemed to differ in their analysis of them.

As you know Henning placed in his volume, "Statute at Large of Virginia", many acts for docking the entails of various lands, but appears that he, by no means, printed all of the said acts, and since the destructions of the Records of the General Court of Virginia (in 1865), it is impossible to say if he printed all available (in 1819) or just why some certain ones were omitted. However, this is beside the point. There exists in the British Colonial Office various papers relative to Virginia, and among them is an act to dock the entails of land, dated May 1730, which it is recited as follows:-

"Thomas Harris, gent., of the County of Henrico, in the Colony of Virginia, by his last Will and Testament, dated 1649, devised 200 acres on the north side of the James River, then called Longfield but now Curles, to his only daughter, Mary Harris Ligon, the wife of Thomas Ligon, to her heirs male, and in default of same, to his only son, William Harris, and his heirs, forever.

The said Thomas Ligon and Mary, his wife, had issue. (1) Thomas Ligon Jr., who died within the lifetime of his mother without issue. (2) William H. Ligon, who died in the lifetime of his mother, with issue. Thomas Ligon and wife, Mary, had other children.

Thomas Ligon Jr., the eldest son of Thomas and Mary Ligon, entered upon the land at Curles in question and

held same. However he died without issue, and the next in line is his brother William's son, Joseph Ligon, for his brother William, is already dead. So Joseph Ligon, the grandson of Thomas and Mary Ligon, is now the present heir entail. (May 1730).

Upon a recent survey the 200 acres devised by Thomas Harris Gent., in his Will of 1649, to his daughter, Mary Ligon and her heirs male, and now held by another grandson, William Ligon, was found to be only 178 acres, and the said William Ligon is seized in fee simple with 178 acres of land on the south side of the James River and 150 acres more in Henrico County, called 'Baldwin'.

And he being above the age of twenty one has agreed to settle the last mentioned lands, and agreed to the docking of the entails of the lands descending unto his father, William H. Ligon, through Mary Ligon, his grand mother, and from Thomas Harris, Gentleman, deceased".

It appears from the direct statement of this act, to dock the entails of this, according to the Thomas Harris Will of 1649, date of probate not given, that he left only two children, viz., Mary Harris, wife of Thomas Ligon, Gent., his only daughter, and William Harris his only son.

This, then, seems to make it certain that the Thomas Harris who died in 1679, was not a son of the Captain Thomas Harris of Henrico County, the immigrant of 1611.

Sincerely,

(Signed) George H. S. King.

It is not known by the writer just how William Ligon Jr. became owner of the above land, whether it was by purchase from his brother Joseph Ligon or by becoming an heir at the death of his brother, if Joseph Ligon left no male heirs. It is known to have been sold several years later, by William Ligon Jr., to Richard Randolph, Gent., the 200 acres willed unto Mary Harris Ligon by Thomas Harris in 1649, rather 178 acres. It is not known if Richard Randolph was related to the Ligon.

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In the name of God Amen:- I, Mary Ligon, of Henrico County, of Virginia, being weak of body but of perfect memory, praise to God, do Will, make and ordain this my last Will and Testament, in manner and form, as will follow.

Imprimis:- (First) I give and bequeath my soul to God, my Creator and Redeemer, my body to be buried at discretion of my daughter, Johanah Hancock, in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection, at ye last day.

Item I:- I give and bequeath to my son, Hugh Ligon, my house hold goods, and all my hogs he now hath in his possession.

Item II:- I give and bequeath to my son, Hugh Ligon, to him and his heirs forever, 100 acres of land, lying and being in the County aforesaid, known as the name of Curles, and adjoining the river, and the aforesaid land given to my son, Richard Ligon.

Item III:- I give and bequeath to my grandson, Thomas Farrar, my own bed and furniture belonging to it, two pair of sheets, four pewter dishes, half dozen plates, one chamber pot, one pewter tanker, two pewter porringers, one pewter basin, and my wedding ring, to be delivered to him on the day of his marriage, or at his beginning to keep house, or else when he shall arrive at the age of 21 years. But, if the Thomas Farrar depart this life before he comes to the age of 21 years, then the same is to remain into possession of my daughter, Johanah Hancock, in whose hands they are now.

Item IV:- I give and bequeath to my son-in-law, Thomas Farrar, my Indian boy, Robin, being in lieu of an Indian boy given to his wife, Mary Ligon, by her father, which Indian I desire that Thomas Farrar would be so pleased to give unto my grandson, Thomas Farrar Jr., to enjoy after me.

Item V:- I give and bequeath to my son, Richard Ligon, and my daughter, Johanah Hancock, my mare known by the name of Tiny.

Item VI:- I give and bequeath to my son Hugh Ligon and to my daughter Johannah Hancock, all my sheep, to be equally divided between them.

Item VII:- My will is that whatever I have given or have bequeathed to any person that they may quickly and may peacefully possess and enjoy the same without molestation or trouble.

Item VIII:- I do hereby will and constitute and ordain my son-in-law, Robert Hancock, and my daughter, Johanah Hancock, full, whole and sole Executor and Executrix, of this my last Will and Testament.

Witness my hand and seal, this 18th. day of March 1702/3.
 Mary Ligon, (Seal)
 (Sealed in red wax)

Signed and sealed in
 the Presence of :---
 Abraham Womack.
 John Hatcher.
 John Brown.

Probated February 1st. 1703/4, in Henrico County, Va.
 Record Book, 1695 to 1704, Page 365 and 366.

The Will of Thomas Ligon, husband of Mary Ligon, dated January 10th. 1675, gave Mary Ligon the right to dispose of his property at her discretion.

WM 16 (2) 31, (Henrico Vol. #1, Page 35)

It may be noted here, we know there were at least six children of Thomas and Mary Harris Ligon, four sons and two daughters. Thomas Ligon Jr. and William H. Ligon are named in the 1730 act to dock the entails of land, and the Will of Mary Ligon, above, names two sons, Hugh and Richard Ligon and two daughters, Johanah Ligon, who married Robert Hancock, and Mary Ligon, who married to Thomas Farrar. From other sources are known to be a son, Mathew Ligon, who died young, unmarried. There also may have been others of which we have no record. Brothers Thomas, William and Mathew were dead at writing of above Will. Thomas left no heirs but William did and it is not known why they were not mentioned in the above Will.

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PERSONAL WILL OF THOMAS HARRIS
Of Henrico County Virginia

21

In the name of God, Amen:- I, Thomas Harris, of Henrico County, Virginia, being very ill and very weak, make this my last Will and Testament, being of sound mind and memory.

First:- I give my soul to God who gave it, and my body unto the earth from whence it came.

Second:- I give to my sister-in-law, Love Harris, my land at the Ware, according to the bounds set in my father's Will, to her and her heirs forever, and I give as much power over the foresaid land as I myself had in my lifetime.

Third:- I give to my cousin, Richard Ligon, all of my horses, mares and foles that can be found to be so or prove to be mine, to him and his heirs forever, they not being given by my grandfather into the hands of overseers for time of honesty, of this my last Will.

Fourth:- I have set my hand and seal in this year of our Lord, February 10th. 1678/9.

Witness:- - (Signed) Thomas Harris. (Seal)
Alice Harris.
Mary Ligon Jr.

Proven in Henrico County Court, June 2nd. 1679.
(Henrico Record Book #1, Page 199)

Above printed in Mr. Stanard's Thomas Harris Pamphlet. This Thomas Harris has been a source of considerable confusion and speculation among researchers and of genealogists as to just who he is. All agree he must be a very close relative of the Captain Thomas Harris Line but cannot establish for sure just who his father and grandfather were. It may be noted that the witness, Mary Ligon Jr., above, was, no doubt, the daughter of our Mary Harris Ligon, before she married Thomas Farrar, and the witness, Alice Harris, was most likely the widow of Major William Harris (4), brother of Mary Harris Ligon. Major William Harris (4) was killed in battle in 1678. This Thomas Harris is one mentioned in Mr. King's letter.