THE HARDINGS

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER OF THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN HARDING, BORN A. D., 1567.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY WILBER J. HARDING.



1907 KENWOOD PARK PRINTING CO., KENWOOD PARK, IOWA.

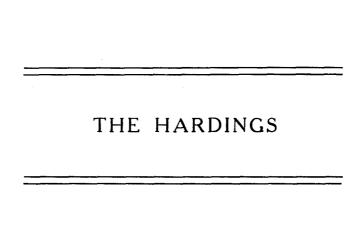


W. S. Harding



To the members of the Harding family throughout the United States, but more especially to the descendants of Amos and Phoebe Tripp Harding, whose assistance and encouragement have made possible the publication and preservation of this record of their "descent from the Immortal Puritans,"

This little volume is respectfully dedicated.





FOREWORD



SO far as the writer has been able to ascertain, there has been but one attempt to compile a complete genealogical history of the Harding family. In 1864, Rev. Abner Morse, A. M., member of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, issued from the press of W. H. Dutton & Son, Boston, a series of publications under the title of "A Genealogical Register of the Descendants of Several Ancient Puritans." Vol. IV of this series contained the Harding genealogy. The work was more or less incomplete and was intended for little more than an introduction to a more complete work contemplated for a few years later, but before this was accomplished death called the venerable author from the field of his labor, and in the great Boston fire of 1872 nearly the whole of the earlier edition was destroyed. Rev. Morse was a very able man, and was, perhaps, one of the most painstaking and careful investigators of old records New England has produced. He spent many years in compiling genealogical histories of old New England families, and the descendants of many "Ancient Puritans" owe to him a great debt of gratitude for preserving for their benefit the early history of the lives and affairs of their ancestors which might otherwise have never been recovered. Much of the material used in the present work concerning the early members of the family has been gleaned from his early work and supplemented with the additions and corrections which would have appeared in his later and finished work had he been spared to carry it to completion.

At its inception the present work was intended to comprise only that particular branch of the family to which the compiler's family belonged, but as the work progressed much material of historic value to the several branches collected until it was decided to enlarge the scope to embrace practically all of the branches descendant from Stephen Harding, the "Blacksmith of Providence," who was a son of the original Richard of "Brantry," the elder of the "three emigrant brothers" whose landing on American soil dates practically from the time of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth. That there has been omissions of names and dates in

the present work is obvious, but when one considers the vast number of branches which have sprung from the main trunk of the family tree it may be readily seen that an absolutely complete and correct family genealogy in a first edition is almost an impossibility. It is to the living members of the family that the compiler must turn to ask that omissions may be supplied and errors corrected, and to quote the language of the venerable author of the original work who recognized the imperfections of his compilation. " * * * to render aid the reader must banish mental laziness, prefer a work of love to cavils at imperfection, write plain and look for his reward in the acknowledgement and recollection of his service, and in the gratitude of posterity. If these will not move him, then let his posthumous character be insured against the reproaches of descendants for having, in his negligence, cut them off from the recovery of their genealogy and proof of their descent from the immortal puritans."

W. S. Farding

Cedar Rapids, Iowa. September 1, 1907.

PART I.

Origin of the Name.
Orthography of the Name.
The Hardings in Colonial Days.

CHAPTER ONE.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME.

Hardin is doubtless a Gothic word, being retained with only circumstantial differences in all the Gothic dialects. It was extremely early in Europe. It existed in Germany, Scandinavia and Britain prior to the introduction of the feudal system and the erection of permanent castles, and for many centuries before the adoption of surnames and the formation of the dialects of Northern Europe. The Gothic tribes, and especially the Saxons, seem to have delighted in the word, as though it was their sobriquet of some successor of Woden or son of Thor, or significant of such material qualities as they most admired, or commemorative of some historical event in which they gloried, for between the settlement of Hengist and Horsa in England, A. D. 469, and the Conquest, they had given it to seven and probably to nine localities in the south and central parts of the Kingdom. Doomsbook, written about A. D. 1086, mentions Hardintone (town) in Somertshire, Hardintone in Oxfordshire, Hardinstorp (village) in North-

amptonshire and Hardintona and Hardingtona in the west of England. These towns probably received their names about A. D. 600, when the Saxons began to erect towns and establish a form of feudalism which after 1068 was so improved upon by the Conquerer. These places have retained their names; for J. Adams, in his Index Villaris of England, published in 1680, mentions Hardingtone, Hardingham, Hardingdale, two Hardingtons, three Hardings, four Hardens and twenty-nine Hardwicks (a contraction of Hardenwick), which were then the seats of one Earl, two Baronets, two Knights, and about twenty-five Gents. The Normans, originally of one language with the Saxons, have left their Hardinghen in France, and the Danes have their Hardingborg, the Germans their Harburg, and the Dutch their Hardenberg. ancient towns which derived their names from castles and these probably from the feudal lords who built them, while the towns in England took theirs from their founders, the Saxon-Thanes, or members of the illustrious and heroic race Haddingjar mentioned in the old Norse and "supposed to have been an Eastlying people" of Danes and Swedes," and from whom the

author of Patronimica Brittannica derives the surname of Harding. But, however this may be, Hardin was a common name in England A. D. 1086; for at that time Doomsbook, in vulgar Latin, reports Hardinus, Hardine, Hardineus, Hardineus filius Elnodi, Hardingus and Hardingus filius Alnodi as proprietors or assignees of lands. These might have been Normans, wholly or in part, but were more probably Saxon-Thaner continued for the present in their previous possessions under the new regime of William the Conquerer.

Of the original meaning of the word we can only form conjectures from the objects to which it was applied and the sense in which its presumed derivatives have been retained. Canute I. of Denmark, A. D. 803, was by the Danes dubbed Hardicanute, in the sense of robust, as Hume supposes, from his lack of moral greatness. Canute III. who figured in England after A. D. 1035, was also called Hardicanute by the Saxons. In French, Hardi, derived probably from the Normans, signifies bold, courageous, daring, stout-hearted, and in these senses is now employed by Danish authors as a foreign word, they having either ignored the original in form-

ing their language or changed its orthography into "haard" and restricted its signification. In the Swedish and Dutch languages we have "hard," in the German, "hart," in the Icelandic "hardr," and in the English, "hardy," denoting "bold, brave, stout, daring, resolute, intrepid," and other words of analgous orthography and import, which Webster and Worcester leave us to regard as branches from the root of Hardin. In the eleventh century Hardin became a surname in circumstances evincive of distinction if not of noble rank.

In Abbreviatio Rotulorium Originaltum of the crowm, in the reigns of Henry III, Edward II and Richard I, among the grantees were Wattus and Willis de Harden of Wiltshire, Rogerus and Richardus de Hardene, Willis and Hugo Harding, and Theo de Arden of Norfolk. From some of these the modern Hardings, Harndens and Harradons of New England have probably sprung, but claims to any line of descent must be rendered doubtful by the fall and confusion of families that ensued, and records of so remote a period are out of the question. Even armorial bearings, supported by nothing better than tradition, as is commonly the case,

would be suspicious, although the heriditary use of arms was established or made general in the time of Henry III, and perhaps then legally confirmed to several Hardins. Burke, in his General Armory, gives no less than fifteen distinct coats of arms by the name of Hardin and Harding, several of which have simplicity enough to have been displayed in the Holy Wars A. D. 1096-1291, when heraldry was in its infancy. The same author, in his Landed Gentry. mentions a family seated at Baraset, Stafford on Avon, Warwickshire, who originated from the manor of Arden of Longcroft in Staffordshire, and who boast of Saxon blood and distinction for a century before the Conquest, deriving in direct descent from Siward de Arden, eldest son of Tirchell de Warwick, who about 1600 adopted the orthography of Harding. He reports another family who have their seat at Upcott, near Barnstable, who had their seat at a very early period at Comb Martin, in Devonshire, who derived their descent from Fitz (son of) Harding. Of this family was the learned Theo. Harding, D. D., and probably Lady Gorges, wife of Sir Robert, and not improbably the emigrant ancestors of the New England

Hardings.

He gives account of another family sprung from Nicholas Hardinge of the county of Derby in the time of Henry VII whose descendants claim to be descended from a Danish family who settled there. Of this family was Sir Richard Hardinge who for a naval exploit was created a baronet in 1801 and was presented with a coat of arms. Rev. Sir Charles is the present Baronet.

From the foregoing it is evident that the name has long abounded in dignity, and from the Bodleian Library and Athenae Oxonienses we see that it has made its mark in literature. In the former are found Harding's Chronicles and a curious map of Scotland, which seems to have been his presentation book to Edward IV who rewarded him with a pension of £20 annually for his "zeal and hazards" in a secret service to prove Edward's right to the crown of that kingdom and opportunity to enforce it. Samuel Harding, son of Robert of Ipswich in Suffolk, was of Exeter College, Cambridge, 1634, A. B. 1620, and the author of a tragedy published in 1640. John Harding, D. D., Dean of Rochester, was in the reign of Charles II,

president of Magdalen College, Cambridge. But the mose eminent of the name was probably Theo. Harding, D. D., the Reformer. He was born at Basconton, in Devonshire, 1512, educated at the town school and Wykham school near Winchester, became fellow of the New College, Cambridge, where he received A. B. 1536, and A. M. 1542, and afterwards by the favor of Henry VIII made Professor of Hebrew in the University of Cambridge, and next chaplain to Henry Gray, Marquis of Dorchester and subsequently Duke of Suffolk. In the time of Edward VI he became a protestant, seemed forward for the reformation, animated the people much to prepare for persecution and never to depart from the Gospel. But temptation became too powerful. After the death of Edward and the accession of Mary, he wheeled about, became prebend of Winchester, and in 1555 treasurer of the church of Salisbury. After the accession of Elizabeth he was (about 1559) deprived of the treasuryship and, relinquishing his other spiritualities, he went to Braband, settled at Lovian, became a zealous asserted of the protestant faith and the target of the Roman Catholics. He maintained a long controversy with John Jewell, Bishop of Salisbury. In 1562 he published an answer to Jewell's challenge and a rejoinder to his answer, and a second rejoinder against the sacrifice of mass. In 1563 and '65 he published a confutation of Jewell's apology for the church of England; also in 1568 a detection of foul errors, lies and slanders uttered and practiced by Mr. Jewell in his defense of his apology; and also other works addressed to the same Bishop. He was a learned man, and died Sept. 16, 1572, aged about 60, and was buried in the Church of St. Gertrude Lovian.

Rev. Stephen Harding was rector of Trinity church, Stratford - upon - Avon at the time Shakespeare was buried, as is recorded upon a brass tablet in the church.



CHAPTER TWO.

ORTHOGRAPHY OF THE NAME.

It will be noted in the early history of the name the orthography was usually "Hardin" and "Harding" but was later corrupted into Harden, Hardinge, Harradon, Harradan, Harnden, Hardie, etc. Very early in the history of our own branch of the family the name appears on public records spelled "Harding" which orthography it has retained with but one notable exception, down to the present time; yet all evidence tends to confirm the belief that all really belong to one family. Instances of a change of name in a slight degree on the records of the early settlement of the country are numerous, due no doubt largely to the fact that at that time names were as apt to be spelled by the way they were pronounced as by any other way, and keepers of the records then were not so particular in such small matters as they have since become.

Regarding this corruption of the name, Morse says: "The orthography of names is of little importance provided it favors uniformity of pronunciation. Harden is more euphonius than Harding, but it is an obvious corruption of an English name of great antiquity and distinction, has no existence in our Fatherland and as yet only a temporary one here, would it not be well for this branch of the race to restore the originial spelling? At home they may prefer the vulgar orthography but how will it be when they book their names at the principal hotels in London, Liverpool, etc., or visit the manor of Arden, explore the seat of their ancestors in Somertshire, Devonshire, or meet their more fortunate English cousins?"

Speaking of "Harradon," he says, "his name was early written Herringding, Harrendine and Harradon until the latter spelling became nearly uniform * * * while such as removed to a distance spelled their names Haredon, Harding, Hardin, Harden, Hardon, and every other way but Hardup."

CHAPTER THREE.

THE FIRST OF THE NAME ON AMERICAN SOIL.

We find the most probable source of the present family is from the Hardings reported by Burke in his "Landed Gentry" as having their seat at Uppcott, near Barnstable, deriving their descent from Fitz Harding. Of this family was the learned Theo. Harding, D. D., and all circumstances tend to show that from this family came also Wm. Harding, father of Mary Harding, who as Lady Gorges is the first of the name to be found in the annals of early colonial history, consequently believed to have been the first Harding on American soil.

Of the dates of the embarkation of the New England ancestors no records have ever been found. Cap. (Sir) Robert Gorges, "late of the Venetian wars" and son of Sir Fernando Gorges, of Redlinch, Somertshire, having received from the Council for New England the appointment of Governor General of the whole country and the grant of a tract of land four miles wide on Massachusetts Bay and extending pairty miles into the interior, arrived in August of 1623, with his wife—Lady Gorges—a

clergymen of the church of England and "sundrie passengers and families, intending there to begin a plantation," that being the "place he had resolved to make his residence." Sir Robert Gorges had married Mary Harding, "daughter and heir of Wm. Harding." Capt. Gorges pitched upon Wessagusset, already abandoned by Weston's people, later Weymouth Landing, partly in Braintree. Here were seated the most ancient Hardings of New England when our records begin and here for half a century was the geographical center of the race.

Early in the history of the Puritan settlement at Wessagusset are found the names and records of a number of Hardings, Harndens and Haradens, of which those most of interest to the present work were:

- I. Richard.
- II. Joseph.
- III. John.
- IV. Abraham.
 - V. Stephen.

The exact relationship of the five given has never been exactly determined, but facts obtained from ancient records and many theories advanced by well informed writers leads us to draw the following deductions:

- I. Richard.
- II. Joseph.
- III. John.

were three brothers, all being of Gov. Gorges' party in 1623, or immediately thereafter;

- IV. Abraham -- son of John.
 - V. Stephen son of Richard.

Morse in his work names but Richard, Joseph, Abraham and Stephen as immediately connected with the line, but suggests that Stephen—whom he places as a brother—might be a son of Richard, (a theory proven to be a fact by later investigation) and that Abraham, instead of being a brother may have been a nephew of Richard, and son of John.

As to the parentage of the first three and their relationship with Lady Gorges, individual investigation tends to disprove the theories of the family histories heretofore published. Morse believed them to have been brothers of Lady Mary, merely from the fact that they were supposed to have accompanied her and her influential husband to the new world. Mary was the "daughter and heir" of Wm. Harding. An authorative writer on the subject of early fam-

ily histories says that when a lady is described as an heir or heiress she is "a woman without brothers." Again, nowhere in the immediate families of either of the brothers occurs the name of "William" while "John" is early prominent in all. A short time ago a friend of the writer investigated the ancient "shire records" at Barnstable, Devonshire, England, and found therein a copy of the will of John Harding, dated 1636, in which was granted certain property to his brother William, and to his sons, Richard, Amos, John, Joseph, Lemuel and Oliver. A notation made at the time this will was filed states that the testator died 14 January, 1637. No children other than those mentioned are named, but it might have been as was often the case that other children had been previously provided for. The will mentioned states that the testator was then in his 70th year, thus fixing the year of his birth as 1567.

Of these brothers — sons of John — mentioned in their father's will, we find three:

- I. Richard.
- II. Joseph.
- III. John.

immigrating to the new world with Gov. Gorges' party, this being confirmed by early American

records and in harmony with the idea advanced by Morse, who from the records was led to believe the "tradition of three immigrant brothers, with whom neither Abraham nor Stephen were numbered."

Besides the five previously mentioned, we find mentioned in the colonial records at about the same time:

- VI. Richard Harnden.
- VII. Edward Haraden.
- VIII. Elizabeth Haraden.
- IX. Robert Harding—came with Gov. Winthrop in 1630, returned to England, leaving no descendants in New England.
- X. Philip Harding, died 1679, leaving only a daughter.
- XI. William Harding, New Haven, 1642, left in 1643, not further reported.
- XII. Thomas Harding, 1656, no child reported.
- XIII. George Harding, Marblehead, 1649, not further reported.
 - XIV. Margery Harding, Marblehead, 1649.

PART II.

John Harding of England.
Richard Harding of Braintree.
Joseph Harding.
Abraham Harding.

CHAPTER ONE.

JOHN HARDING.

Of John Harding, the head of the line so far as records can be traced, little is known, save what appears in the records of Devonshire, previously mentioned, and from which is learned that he lived in Devonshire, England, was born in 1567, and died in 1637. His children so far as appear of record were Richard, Amos, John, Joseph, Lemuel and Oliver, the names being given probably in the order of their ages. It also appears that he was an elder brother of William Harding, the father of Mary, afterwards Lady Gorges.

John Harding was probably a husbandman and direct descendant of Fitz Harding, previously mentioned.

CHAPTER TWO.

RICHARD HARDING.

Of the three immigrant brothers who came to America with the party of Gov. Gorges in 1623 — long a tradition in the family — Richard was undoubtedly the eldest, and at the time of his arrival here must have been upwards of forty years of age. The records of Braintree, where he lived and died cover only a portion of his time, as the tax records do not commence until 1633, in which year we find him taxed with a small amount of property. The next mention of his name of importance is May 10, 1648. when, with others, he was admitted to the freeman's oath, which implied church membership. It is evident that his first wife, who accompanied him to America, died previous to 1630, for in that year he married Elizabeth ——, by whom he had one child—a daughter, born in 1632. By his first wife two sons — Stephen and John — were born, the former in 1623, and the latter in 1625. Richard lived on his own premises in the south part of Braintree, near Weymouth Landing, the ancient Wessagussett where Gov.

Gorges planted his colony. There has always been more or less conjecture as to how and when Richard Harding obtained his title to the homestead held by him in Braintree. After the division of Wessagussett and the grant of Braintree to Boston, the proprietors in making the distribution of the land assigned no lot to him, nor has there been found any record to show his title. This leads eminent authorities on the subject to the conclusion that he came with Gov. Gorges' original party and held his lot by grant direct from him, and this original grant was respected by the Braintree proprietors in making their distribution of the lands. In support of this theory it is shown that his son John at the time of his death was the owner of a lot of the first division of Weymouth lands, which allotment was undoubtedly made as early as the administration of Gorges, and was settled by the father upon the son.

Richard was undoubtedly a mariner, engaged in fishing, as his son John also was, as the transcript of his will filed in Boston shows that he possessed no horses, oxen, or agricultural implements of any kind. It is evident that during his lifetime he had made provisions for his

sons, so that his will, made in 1657, made provision only for his widow, whom he named as sole executor, except a small legacy to his son John and granddaughter Mary. Previous to the death of Richard his two sons had left their father's home, John removing to Gloucester, where he engaged in the fisheries, and Stephen had become a resident of Providence, where he was early prominent in the councils of the church and civil authorities.

Elizabeth Harding died in 1664, leaving the entire estate willed her by her husband to her daughter Lydia, then the wife of Martyn Saunders, except small legacies to relatives, among them Elizabeth Saunders, her granddaughter.

RICHARD HARDING had by his first wife:

Stephen (see Chap. One, Part III).

John

and by his second wife:

Lydia, who married Martyn Saunders in 1651, and had one daughter, Elizabeth.

John Harding of Weymouth, took the freedman's oath May 13, 1640, and drew land in Weymouth in 1643. About 1650 he left Weymouth and removed to Gloucester, where in 1652 he bought four acres of land, and a lot in 1662; in 1664 he was chosen selectman but the following year he sold his lands in Gloucester and returned to Weymouth where he again drew land, and where he died in 1682. John Whitmarsh, his son-in-law, was appointed administrator of the estate which consisted of real estate, including the "common lot in the first division," which is supposed to have been assigned to his father by Gov. Gorges in 1623, and 31 acres in the second division, swamp land and meadow, books, cows, sheep and lambs.

John Harding had but one child, a daughter Mary, who married John Whitmarsh of Weymouth.



CHAPTER THREE.

JOSEPH HARDING.

Joseph Harding, according to all records obtainable, was a younger brother of Richard, and as he is not in the direct line of descent, but a brief outline of what has been learned concerning him will be given here. Morse has succeeded in tracing the descendants of Joseph Harding in every branch down to 1864, but states that owing to numerous omissions in public registeries of births, deaths and marriages, and the total destruction of church records prior to modern times in all the towns of Barnstable county where Hardings had lived, his chronicles of Joseph Harding's family were necessarily incomplete.

Joseph Harding, of Braintree, like his brother Richard, was probably a mariner engaged in fishing and after his marriage to Martha Doane of Plymouth, removed to Cape Cod. So far as the records can be found he was the father of but two children:

John, born about 1624.

Joseph, born about 1629.

He left a widow, Martha Harding, who died at Plymouth, 1633, leaving only personal property, and a young son — Joseph — to the care of John Doane, to whom she is supposed to have previously committed her elder son, John. Joseph Harding came with Gov. Gorges, he was probably one of the company who on being abandoned by him removed to Plymouth, or his family did so after his death, as his widow was there taxed 9s, Jan. 2, 1632, when the tax lists Her sons completed their minority at begin. Duxbury and Eastham, returning then to Braintree to occupy their patrimonial estate, of which neither the ignoring of the claims of Gorges nor the grant of Braintree to Boston and the assignment of her lands to others had deprived them.

In spite of the defective records, Morse has traced no less than 710 descendants of Joseph Harding, all or nearly all in Cape Cod at Wellfleet, Chatham and other places in Barnstable county.

CHAPTER FOUR.

ABRAHAM HARDING.

Abraham Harding, son of John, is first noticed in the colonial records in 1638, when he was admitted an inhabitant of Dedham, signing the social compact and received a houselot. This implies his majority and the endorsement of his character. While the subject of this sketch is not in the direct line of descent we are now tracing, the prominence of his descendants and the minuteness with which the line has been traced, leads us to introduce a chapter here concerning him. He married early in 1639, Elizabeth Harding, who embarked for New England in the ship Abigail in 1635, being then in her thirteenth year. She came to the colonies as a member of the family of Thomas Buttolph, a leather dresser and glover of Boston, with whom Abraham Harding was in early life an apprentice, and which trade he followed in after life.

Abraham Harding took the freedman's oath in 1645, and became by purchase the owner of a town-right, house, barn and 53 acres of land.

In 1650 he removed to Medfield where he erected what was in those days a costly house, and was thence in possession of the comforts and necessities of life. He died suddenly March 22, 1665, aged 48 years.

Without entering into details, we will mention a few of the most notable descendants of Abraham Harding:

Chester Harding, a grandson, was one of the most noted portrait painters of his time. From a struggling pioneer in the wildernees of New York state, where he was born, with no opportunity for self-improvement until after he reached the age of 23, he reached a point where his name was known among the highest circles of both the old and the new world. He served with distinction in the war of 1812. With only talent natural to him he began the painting of portraits and in after years studied in all the leading art centers of the world. Among his sitters may be mentioned Presidents Madison, Monroe, and J. Q. Adams; Chief Justice Marshall, Charles Carroll, William Wirt, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, J. C. Calhoun and Washington Allison in America, and Samuel Rogers, Lord Aberdeen, the Dukes of Norfolk, Hamilton and Sussex, in England.

Among the immediate descendants of Abraham Harding who are recorded as graduates, are:

Elisha, A. B., Harvard college, 1745.

Adelphus, A. B., Dartmouth, 1805.

Daniel Fish, A. B., Brown university, 1809.

Sewell, A. B., Union college, 1818.

Charles, A. B., Bowdoin college, 1821.

Elisha, A. B., Brown universit y,1819.

Fisher Amos, A. B., Harvard university,

John Russell, A. B., Brown university, 1832.

Willard Mason, A. B., Yale, 1837.

Chester, A. B., Harvard, 1847.

John Wheeler, A. B., Yale, 1845.

Horace, A. B., Harvard, 1848.

Henry Fisk, A. B., Bowdoin, 1850.

Charles, A. B., Yale, 1853.

William G., Williams college, 1854.

Edward, West Point, 1818.

James P., West Point, 1832.

Many of the descendants of Abraham Harding are now prominent business men of Boston. Abner Morse, the famous genealogical writer, was connected by marriage with one branch of this family.

PART III.

Stephen Harding, "The Blacksmith of Providence."

EXPLANATORY.

In compiling and arranging the genealogy of Stephen Harding, a great deal of the material has been gathered from the work of Rev. Abner Morse, and in order that those who might have access to a copy of that work may more readily trace any particular branch of the family there given, the same numbering of parents and descendants is herein retained as is contained in the original work, although many changes, additions and alterations have been made. The method of numbering employed by Rev. Morse and explained by him in his work is as follows: "On the left of names and next to the left hand margin are two columns of figures; the right hand column consisting of running numbers and the left hand of referring numbers. The latter, if before a father's name (and then it is ever less than the number to the right of it) refers back to the same figures in the running numbers where his name occurs as a child. If the referring number is before a child's name (and then it is always larger than the number to the right) it refers onward to the same figures

in the column of running numbers where he occurs as a father. When a name is moved or traced either forward or backward the figures before it merely exchange places. Names having no referring numbers before them are either traced no farther or they have their descendants arranged immediately below their names."



CHAPTER ONE.

STEPHEN HARDING.

About 1647, Stephen Harding, son of Richard Harding of Braintree, at that time about 23 years of age, by trade a blacksmith, left his home in Weymouth and joined the colony migrating to the settlements on the west established by Roger Williams a few years previous. The first settlement was made at Swanzev where Stephen was admitted to church membership in the first Baptist organization at that place, and where he married Bridget Estance, daughter of Thomas Estance, one of the earliest residents of Swanzev and later of Providence. A few years later Stephen became a resident of Providence, R. I., where he came into possession of the town right of an original grantee, and in whose right and name he and his heirs drew many lots, and this led to the permanent settlement of many of his descendants at this place.

The first mention of Stephen Harding on the public records of Providence is March 28, 1664, when he had land laid out; on Oct. 27, 1665, he had a grant of 25 acres of the common land for

10s: Aug. 7, 1669, he purchased of John and Mary Jones a right of commoning in Providence on the east side of the Nacunkeake; this deed was not recorded until 1710, when a final settlement of his estate was made by his son John, administrator; Nov. 16, 1674, then styled "Senior," he bought of Thos. Estance 1/4 of a "right of common" in all the undivided lands of Providence; May 24, 1675, he purchased of Wm. Hopkins 70 acres in Providence, "measured by an 18-ft. pole," and deeded this plat to his son John on Aug. 24, 1682; July 1, 1679, he and his son Stephen were taxed together 7s, 6d; prior to April 19, 1680, he gave to his son Stephen a house, orchard, lands and meadow near his brother Abraham's; on Jan. 15, 1695, he signed a deed for 8 acres of land to his son Abraham — previously sold and paid for specifying that he had not time to sign it in the lifetime of his son, but vet now does so "that it might hold good to the estate of Abraham." April 10, 1693, he and wife, Bridget, deeded to son Abraham, all homestead estate not heretofore given, including house, etc., and at their death he to have entire possession and to "take a special care to see after the estate of his father and mother that they fall not into any strait or wants, but will lawfully and faithfully provide for them such things as they cannot provide for themselves, as may be for their support and comfort in their old age, and as persons of their rank and quality, both in sickness and in health, etc."

Stephen Harding died Feb. 20, 1698, and on April 12 of that year administration of his estate was granted to his son John of Newport, who presented an inventory of the estate valued at £44, 16s, 6d.

His children as far as can be learned from the public records were as follows:

- 9. 2. John.
- 13. 3. Stephen.
- 14. 4. Abraham.
 - 5. Priscilla, m. Thos. Esten, and had Mary and Mercy.
 - 6. Mary, m. Samuel Winsor, and had Rev. Samuel Winsor, Elder of the Baptist church of Providence.
 - 7. Sarah, m. Henry Esten, brother of Thos. above, had Rebecca, Henry and Cornelius.
 - 8. Another daughter reported to have married Alex. Balcolm.

- 2. 9. John inherited from his father the land in Providence purchased from Wm. Hopkins in 1675, and in 1684 took the freedman's oath at Newport, R. I.; was appointed administrator of his father's estate in 1698. Had
 - 24. 10. Israel.
 - 26. 11. Richard.
- 3. 13. Stephen, like his father, was a blacksmith of Providence. On Jan. 28, 1679, he married Mercy Winsor, who died early in the following year; April 19, 1680, he made his will, leaving to his father all his personal property except so much as "shall satisfy my sisters for the tending of me," to his brother Abraham his house, orchard, lands and meadows, provided he pay remaining debts of the estate; Abraham was made executor and Alex Balcolm were made overseers. Stephen died May 31, 1680, leaving no children.
- 4. 14. ABRAHAM married Deborah ——; he died Nov. 23, 1694, and on Dec. 18, of that year the inventory of his estate was presented by his widow, who requested, but was not then granted administration; in 1695 she married Moses Bartlett, and on March 3, 1696, adminis-

tration was given to her and her now husband on her former husband's estate. All of Abraham's life was spent in Providence, where he followed his trade of blacksmith. According to one authority he was married twice, and his first four children were by his first wife whose name cannot be ascertained. Morse makes no mention of these four children, but the early records of Providence, both church and civil, make mention of them, together with the three younger children, and this omission in the earlier work results in a confusion of the genealogical line by confusing John 2 and Stephen 3 with the two sons of Abraham of the same name; a careful investigation of the records and a comparison of dates and names will make the error plain. Abraham had

- 14a. Israel.
- 18. 14b. Stephen.
 - 14c. John.
 - 15. Lydia, born Aug. 23, 1692; m. Dec. 2, 1713, John Whipple.
 - 16. Deborah; m. Dec. 3, 1719, Joshua Winsor, and had Abraham Winsor, born Oct. 4, 1720, pastor of First Baptist church in Providence.
- 35. 17. Thomas.

Stephen, Capt., was born at 14b. 18. Providence in 1681. On Dec. 31, 1712, he sold his brother John 73 acres in Providence, west of seven mile line, near Nipshachunk, laid out in the original right of Benj. Smith, "his now wife not to have any thirds in it." At the same date he bought three acres of meadow of Samuel and Thomas Whipple, and 50 acres in Providence from his brother John. He had laid out to him April 15, 1714, 6 acres of the common lands of Providence, and June 22, 1715, then styled "yeoman," bought 140 acres in several parcels from Joseph Smith of Providence. About this time he removed from Providence to Warwick. In his early life he was a tanner and currier, but it is probable that before 'eaving Rhode Island he had built and sailed his own vessel. In middle life he appears to have been a man of considerable wealth, as soon after his removal to Warwick he purchased from Col. Livingston, of New London, a son-in-law of Gov. John Winthrop, a highly improved farm of 400 acres, on which was located a saw mill, which was a part of the original Mohegan tract, near the site of Uncasville. Capt. Harding settled upon this farm, in company with his brother Israel, and engaged in commerce, sailing from New London. Sustaining heavy losses at sea he again resumed his early occupation and ended his days upon the farm, which was afterwards included in Waterford, and remained for many years the geographical center of the family. He was the father of

- 36. 19. John, who removed to Redstone, Pa., and later to Kentucky.
- 40a. 20. Abraham.
- 41. 21. Stephen.
- 52. 22. Thomas.
- 60. 23. Israel.
- 10. 24. Israel, born 1675; m. Mrs. Sarah Medbury in 1696; was a blacksmith of Swanzey, where in 1700 he was chosen petit juryman, and in 1702 surveyor; April 27, 1700, he bought land from John Medbury, and agreed to pay therefor to his two stepsons, Thomas and Nathaniel Medbury, and his own daughter Lydia, certain sums—in all amounting to 47:2:10—as each should come of age; in 1711 he was a resident of Warwick, R. I., and in 1715 was a shipright of Newport; on June 28 of that year he sold to Jabez Brown the 70 acres in Providence originally measured with an 18-ft. pole, which "his hon-

ored grandfather, Stephen Harding, deceased, purchased of Major William Hopkins." Sometime after this he removed to New London. Had 25. Lydia, born August 1, 1697.

- 11. 26. RICHARD, born 1678, died May 15, 1748, was the only man whose name is found upon the early records of Providence dignified with the title of "Mr." He was the first "Justice," having been appointed to that office in 1728; he often acted as moderator or chairman at the town meetings and was chosen petit juryman in 1726, and the next year grand juryman; he also served the town in various other offices. He resided in the west part of what is now Swanzey, which prior to 1722 embraced Harrington. He married Mary Thurber, daughter of Thos. Thurber, of Swanzey. She died, his widow, Dec. 26, 1759. Had.
 - 64. 27. John.
 - 65. 28. Richard.
 - 29. Elizabeth, born April 1, 1712, m. May 15, 1729, John Calendar.
 - 30. Mary, m. Sept, 17, 1738, Frances Rowlandson, of Swanzey.
 - 31. Esther, m. Jan. 4, 1737, Nathaniel Cowen, of Swanzey.

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- 32. Lydia, m. June 18, 1749, James Thurber, of Rehoboth.
- 69. 33. Eleazer.
- 17. 35. Thomas, blacksmith of Providence, April 21, 1719, for a valuable sum, sold to the heirs of John Crawford, 40 feet square on the west side of the town street between the third town street and the water. Various other transfers of real estate by him are recorded, the last in 1767, when he sold a lot in Providence for 102½ Spanish dollars. He married April 22, 1721, Alice Smith, of Providence. The descendants of Thomas in later years were among the most wealthy and influential planters of North Carolina.
- 19. 36. John, according to tradition, removed to Redstone, Pa., and later to Kentucky. He dropped the final "g" from his name and it is from him that many of the distinguished Hardins of Kentucky are supposed to have descended:
 - 37. Benj. Hardin, member of congress from Kentucky, 1815-17.

- 38. James P. Hardin, graduate from West Point, 1832, member of Kentucky legislature.
- 39. Aaron Hardin, member of congress from Kentucky, 1863.
- 168. 40. Col. John J. Hardin of Illinois.
- 20.40a. Abraham, son of Stephen, was born in Warwick, Rhode Island, June 14, 1720, removing with his father in 1732 to Waterford, Conn. In 1761, Abraham and family, together with others left their Connecticut home and after a long journey fraught with dangers and privations, arrived at a clearing in the wilderness in southwestern New York, now in Orange county, at a spot afterwards known as Deer Park, now Port Jervis. Here Abraham Harding continued to live until 1802, when he removed to Susquehana county, Penn., where he died in 1806, in the 84th year of his age. Abraham Harding served in the Revolutionary war as a second lieutenant in William Allison's regiment of New York militia, being commissioned by the provincial congress Dec. 1, 1775. In 1786 Abraham Harding was appointed captain and finally second major. In 1789 he was a highway master, and in 1790 a constable. (See chapter

"In the Revolution"). He married Anna Dolson. His children were:

129. 40b. Abraham.

40c. John.

40d. Amos.

40e. Lemuel.

40f. Oliver.

40g. Rice.

There were other children whose names have not been learned.

21. 41. Stephen, Capt., was born at Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1723. Married in 1748 to Amy Gardner, and the following year settled at Colchester, Conn., where his children were born. In 1774 he removed to the Wyoming valley, settled on the west bank of the Susquehanna, in what is now Exeter, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania.

At the time of the Wyoming massacre in 1778, Capt. Stephen Harding was in command of Fort Jenkins, which received the first attack, and had two sons killed by the Indians at that time. He died Oct. 11, 1789, aged 66 years. Had

83. 42. Stephen.

85. 43. Thomas.

92a. 44. Benjamin.

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92 a .	45.	Stukey.
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- 93. 46. Israel.
- 98. 47. Micajah.
- 102. 48. Elisha.
- 132. 49. John.
 - 50. William, born about 1767, died 1825.

There were also three daughters.

- 22. 52. Thomas, born May 16, 1727, died Feb. 20, 1804; married March 20, 1745, Mary Richard. Resided in Waterford, where he died. Had
 - 53. Thomas, who raised a family, of whom Jesse was the eldest.
 - 54. Mary.
 - 139. 55. Jeremiah.
 - 143. 56. James.
 - 57. Amy, married Simeon Cobb.
 - 58. Jemimah, married Daniel Richards.
 - 59. Daniel, died unmarried in Orange county, New York.
- 23. 60. Israel, according to tradition, resided in Connecticut until the breaking out of the Revolution when he sided with the British and at the request of his brother Thomas, was given permission by the governor of Connecti-

THE HARDINGS

cut to remove to Long Island. He later went to Nova Scotia where he died. Had.

- 61. Israel, later a merchant at Halifax.
- 62. Harris, who was a Baptist preacher.
- 27. 64. John, born Oct. 28, 1708; married Dec. 24, 1730, Amy Eddy, of Swanzey; he was a shipright and settled in Freetown. Married Elizabeth ———. Has descendants at Bristol, Rhode Island.
- 28. 65. RICHARD, born Aug. 28, 1710; settled in Rehoboth. Had.
 - 73. 66. Richard.
 - 80. 67. Daniel.
 - 68. Jona, married Mary Ormsbee.
- 33. 69. ELEAZER, of Providence, married Amy Ellis. Had
 - 151. 70. Walker.
 - 71. Sarah, married Tho. Stoddard.
 - 72. Amy, married Jona. Ellis; had Sally and Cyrus.

- 66. 73. RICHARD, born 1731; died Aug. 15, 1786. Settled first at Rehoboth, afterwards removing to Barrington; he married Anne Brown, born 1729, died Nov. 5, 1765; married 2nd, Abigan Kimnicutt, born 1730, died 1803. Had
 - 158. 74. William, the only son by first wife.
 - 160. 75. Richard.
 - 171. 76. Hezekiah.
 - 179. 77. John.
 - 78. Jonathan.
 - 79. Eddy.
- 67. 80. Daniel, first reported at Swanzey, later at Rehoboth, where he died. Married 1754, Anne Round, of Rehoboth. Had.
 - 81. Richard, born March 12, 1755.
 - 82. Priscilla, born Aug. 12, 1757.
- 42. 83. STEPHEN, born in Colchester, Conn., in 1749; removed to Luzerne county in 1774; died at Exeter, Pa., 1816; had but one son: 182. 84. David.
- 43. 85. Thomas, born 1751, died 1813; married 1st, ——Rogers; 2nd, Hannah Stark.

Was a soldier in the revolution, at the battle of Saratoga, and witnessed the surrender of Burgoyne. Had

86. Amasa.

264. 87. Stephen.

88. Benjamin.

89. Thomas.

90. Perry.

91. Jesse.

92. Hurlbut.

And several daughters.

44. 92a. Benjamin and his brother Stukey, were the first victims of the savage invasion of the Wyoming Valley in the summer of 1788. June 30, as they were returning from their corn fields some miles up the river from Fort Jenkins, where the family had taken refuge, they were attacked by an advance party of Indians. Being armed, they "fought as long as they could raise a hand, but were overpowered, shot, speared, tomahawked, scalped, and had their throats cut." Their bodies were recovered and taken to the fort (now West Pittson) and buried. In after years, Elisha, Sr., raised them a monument with the inscription "Sweet be the sleep of those who prefer death to slavery."

- 46. 93. Israel, born 1756, was a soldier in the Revolution through the whole conflict of seven years. He married Lydia Reed and died at Eaton, Pa., 1835. Had.
 - 94. Benjamin.
 - 95. James.
 - 96. Stephen.
 - 97. Israel Edward.
- 47. 98. MICAJAH, born 1761, died 1845; in an early day emigrated to Ontario county, New York, and from thence to LaGrange county, Ind., where he died. He was a captain in the war of 1812. Had
 - 99. Micajah.
 - 100. Jesse.
 - 101. Daniel.
 - 8-1-
- 48. 102.) ELISHA, born in Colchester, Conn. 1763; died 1839; married Martha Rider, who died 1838, aged 72. About 1788, Elisha removed to the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania, settling at Eaton, then a wilderness on the west side of the Susquehanna river. He was one the prominent men of his time and took a conspicuous part in the settlement of the troubles be-

THE HARDINGS

tween the Connecticut and Pennsylvania settlers. Had

- 103. Mary, born 1787, married, Thos. Mitchell.
- 104. Elisha, Jr., born 1790; married 1st, Amy Jenkins; 2nd, Nancy Jackson. Had
- 105. Hugh.
- 106. Lysander.
- 107. Benj. F. Hardin, born 1822.
- 108. E. J. Harding, born 1828.
- 109. Several younger sons.
- 110. Elizabeth, Emma, Nancy.
- 111. Samuel, born 1794, died 1856. Had
- 112. James H.
- 113. Hamette, Margaret, Lydia, Martha, Catherine, Mary, Sarah.
- 120. Martha, 1796, died 1850; married Elisha Newman.
- 121. Esther, born 1799, died ———; married Alfred Hine.
- 122. Jesse, born 1802: Had.
- 123. William.
- 124. Charles.
- 125. Cordelia, Gertrude, Chloa E.
- 126. Stephen G., born 1805, married Ruth Jenkins. Had
- 127. Stephen J., Benjamin F.
- 128. Pamelia, Amy, Martha, Esther.

129. ABRAHAM, born near Waterford, Conn., 1744, and came with his father's party to Orange county, New York, in 1761; the following year he returned to his old home in Connecticut and married Hulda Tryon, and settled on a farm adjoining that of his father in Orange county. Of his wife it is said she was a relative of Col. Tryon, who was with Arnold when in 1781 he burned the town of New London and massacred the garrison of Fort Griswold: whether this is more than mere family tradition remains unverified. About 1777 Abraham and family and two of his brothers left New York and went to Luzerne county. Pennsylvania. where other members of the family and the Tripp and Slocum family had preceded them, all settling near Wilkesbarre. Here they remained for many years and some of all three families were killed or captured by the Indians at the Wyoming massacre in the summer of 1778. Among those captured at that time was Francis Slocum, who was abducted by the Delawares and remained a member of that tribe for sixty years, when she was discovered by relatives. Her case is prominent in the annals of the Wyoming Valley, and much has been written of her in current historical works. Abraham Harding had several children, but no accurate records have been found which would throw light on their personal history with the exception of the eldest son, Amos, who as the head of another branch of the family, is treated of more fully in Part IV of this work.

49. 132. John, born 1765; married Affa Baldwin; died 1826, at Exeter, Luzerne county, Penn. Had

133. John.

254. 134. Isaac.

136. George.

137. Hiram.

138. Harry.

55. 139. Jeremiah, born Dec. 22, 1759, was a soldier of the Revolution, and was one of the few survivors of the capture of Fort Griswold by Arnold in 1781, and was taken a prisoner to New York. The name of his first wife, the mother of his children, has not been learned; he married 2nd, Sally Black, of New London. He died at New London. Had

140. Charles.

141. Edmund.

142. Harry.

- 56. 143. James, born March 11, 1762, died Nov. 5, 1835; in 1791 he married Christian Richards, his cousin; settled first in Waterford, but in 1807 removed to Exeter, Penn., where he died. Had
 - 144. Nancy, Lucy, Hannah.
 - 147. Daniel.
 - 148. James.
 - 149. Eliza.
 - 150. Charles.
- 70. 151. WALKER, settled in Providence, where he inherited a house at the corner of Waybossett and Orange streets; married Abigail Wilcox. Had
 - 152. Sally, married Hezekiah Harding (76).

Amy.

- 153. Mary, married Lemuel Field. Fannie.
- 154. Betsey, married Winterbotham.

Abby.

- 155. William.
- 156. Lydia, married Michael Sprague
- 157. Joanna, Jeannette.

74. 158. WILLIAM, born 1765, settled in Providence as a tailor; was long a member of St. John's church and acted as clerk in divine service. Had

159. Ether.

75. 160. RICHARD, born May 23, 1771; settled in Providence; married Aug. 23, 1794, Abigail Stoddard, who died his widow in Providence. Had ten children, only five of whom survived or have left issue, viz.:

161. Albert E., died Jan. 13, 1840. Married Caroline Ellery.

162. Abby, married Aaron Weld.

163. Francis, Eliza A.

165. William H., married Elizabeth W. Hicks. Had

166. William F.

167. Albert E.

40. 168. John J. Hardin, member of the Illinois legislature, 1840-41; member of congress,1843; candidate for congress in opposition to Lincoln in 1845, but withdrew from canvass before election; was the first volunteer from Illinois under the call by congress on May 11, 1845, for 50,000 volunteers, and was assigned to

the colonelcy of a regiment. Was killed in the battle of Buena Vista, 1847. It was in his honor that Hardin county, Iowa, was named.

- 76. 171. Hezekiah, settled at Providence; married Sarah Simon; 2nd, Sarah Harding, through whom he had a life interest in her father, Walker Harding's house. Had, by first wife:
 - 172. Sarah, married John Cory.
 - 173. George.
 - 174. Eliza, married John H. Taylor.
 - 175. Sophia; and by second wife,
 - 177. Edwin.
 - 178. George.
- 77. 179. John, Capt., who inherited the homestead at Harrington; married Ruth———, who died his widow, July 21, 1858, at Mason, N. H., aged 95. Had
 - 180. Esther, married ——— Allen. John J.
 - 181. Eddy.
- 84. 182. David, born in Colchester, Conn., (70)

1767; died Ripley county, Ind., 1837; settled in Luzerne county, Pa., 1774; was taken captive at the battle of Wyoming, June 30, 1778. He emigrated with his family to Ontario county, N. Y., 1798, and removed in 1820 to Ripley county, Ind., where many of his descendants still reside. He married Abigail Umphraville, and 2nd, Abigail (Brown) Hill. Had, by first wife:

- 196. 183. David.
- 203. 184. Aurelia.
 - 185. Nancy.
- 207. 186. Jane.
- 210. 187. Prudence.
- 215. 188. Abigail.

Betsy. And by 2nd wife:

- 219. 189. Stephen S.
- 228. 190. Myron H.
- 235. 191. Laura Ann.
- 250. 192. Lorenzo D.
 - 193. Mary Ann, married Eliphalet Williams.
 - 194. Marietta.
 - 195. Almira.
- 183. 196. David, Jr., born April 1, 1793; died March 20, 1846; married Eunice Sumner, Nov. 15, 1812; is buried near Belevue, Iowa, Had

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		Ransom M.
0.00	198.	Naomi.
269.		Sidney A.
		Selwyn, died at St. Louis during war of '61-'64.
275.	201.	Orlin Sumner.
	202.	Ann Marie.
		Ruth Eliza, married ————————————————————————————————————
184.	203.	Aurelia, married Nathan Wager. Had
	204.	Mary.
		Lawson.
	206.	Leroy.
186.		•
100.	207.	Jane, married John Davis. Had David H.
		Jane.
	209.	Jane.
187.	210.	PRUDENCE, married Asa Shat- tuck. Had
	911	Charles.
		John.
	212.	Aurelia.
	214	Pamelia.
	41 1.	i amena.
188.	215.	Abigail, married Sidney Robinson. Had
	216.	David H.
		Sidney.
		Ann.
	•	

- 189. 219. Stephen Selwyn, born in Ontario county, N. Y., Feb. 24, 1808, died 1900. Major General of United States army; appointed governor of Colorado territory by Lincoln in 1864; was also chief justice of Colorado. Married Alvine Sprout. Had
 - 220. Selwyn S., lives Bellevue, Ky. Had Perley S.

Addelia, married — Thomas, has Elbert Harding T.

Lillian A.

- 221. Gertrude.
- 222. Attila L.
- 223. Allicen, married Jos. Yater.
- 224. Mercador.
- 225. Altus M., resides at Indianapolis
- 226. Anna S., m. Connelly.
- 227. Lambertin.
- 190. 228. Myron H., M. D., married Lucy H. Plummer. Had
 - 229. Isadore H.
 - 230. Laura F.
 - 231. Douglas H.
 - 232. Lucy P.
 - 233. Myron H.
 - 234. David Arthur.

- 191. 235. Laura Ann, married Alanson Andrews. Had
 - 236. Josiah.
 - 237. Louisa.
 - 238. Cordelia.
 - 239. Myron H.
 - 240. Minerva.
 - 241. Albert.
- 192. 250. LORENZO Dow, born 1812, died 1850; married Martha Jane Stillman. Had
 - 251. Addison Erving.
 - 252. Lorenzo Elmore.
 - 253. Alphonzo Parley.
 - 134. 254. Isaac, married Nancy ———.
 - 255. Garrick M., judge of the Court of Common Pleas at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., from 1870 to 1880; died May 19, 1903. Had
 - 256. John Slosson.
 - 257. Harriet, married Wm. W. Curtin.
 - 258. Henry Mills.
 - 87. 264. Stephen. Had
 - 265. Stephen, married Elizabeth Gilbert. Had

- 266. Jones, born 1799; married Angeline Rowley. Had
- 267. R. R., born 1833, married Ella F. Hannuman.
- 199. 269. Sidney A., born Sept. 15, 1831, died April 3, 1893; married Lucy A. Richardson, Oct. 15, 1857. Had
 - 270. Bartlett A., born Oct. 17, 1860.
 - 271. Medora A., born Jan. 27, 1862; died Oct. 2, 1865.
 - 272. Theadotia A., born Dec. 9, 1864.
- 201. 275. ORLIN SUMNER, born Oct. 19, died Feb. 3, 1879; married Oct. 25, 1838; 1851; 1858. Had, by first wife:
 - 276. William.
 - 277. Eliza.
 - 278. David.
 - 279. Myron.
 - 280. Sarah.
 - 281. Benjamin J., and by 2nd wife:
 - 282. Stephen.
 - 283. Almyra.
 - 284. Nancy. And by 3rd wife:
 - 285. Mary.
 - 286. John.
 - 287. Charles.
 - 288. Dexter.
 - 289. Hattie.
 - 290. Minnie.

(Not Definitely Traced).

Stephen Harding, married 1st, Mary Russ, about 1792-3. Lived in Virginia in 1807; moved to Kentucky about 1823. Children by first wife:

- 1. Miriam, born about 1794.
- 2. Stephen.
- 3. Mary H., born in New York; married John Frazee, died about 1846.
- 4. Olive; never married, came west (to Ohio) in 1815.

Married 2nd, ——— Carpenter. Children by 2nd wife:

- 5. Carpenter.
- 6. Isaac C.
- 7. John, drowned in Tiff's cellar, Cincinnati, 1832.
 - 8. Johnson.
- 9. Benjamin F., drowned at New Orleans.
- 2. 10. Stephen Harding, son of Stephen and Mary Russ, was born about 1796-7, at Auburn, N. Y. Learned blacksmithing there, came west to Ohio; married Ann Terry; lived in Clermont, Ohio, until 1841; moved to southern Indiana; lived there a few years and then moved to Iowa, where he died. His children were:

- 11. Benjamin F., resides at Hanover, Ind.
 - 12. Charles, died in the Union army.
 - 13. William T., lives in Alma, Neb.
- 14. Mary Russ (Morrow) lives at Albion, Neb.
 - 15. Olive, Catherine, Phoebe, Sarah.
- - 17. Sarah Jane, born 1836.
- 18. Samuel V., born Feb. 26, 1838; married Christie Stark, May, 1860.
- 19. Johnson (Rev.) born 1840; resides at Florisville, Texas.
- 20. John, born 1842; died 1865; married Mattie Alberts.
- 21. Carrie, born 1844; married Dr. J. H. Davis.
- 22. Stephen, born in 1847, died 1865; served through Civil war in 67th Indiana Volunteers.

- 6. 23. Isaac C. Harding was a Free-will Baptist preacher; went from Ohio to Iowa soon after the Mexican war; later to Kansas and then to Missouri, where he died in the early sixties. His children were:
 - 24. Elizabeth (Petty), Alba, Iowa.
 - 25. William, Elma, Wash.
 - 26. John.
 - 27. Isaac.
 - 28. Frank.

(Information regarding any descendant of this family requested).



GENEALOGICAL RECORD

BIRTHS				
·				
(79)				

GENEALOGICAL RECORD

DEATHS					
(80)					

GENEALOGICAL RECORD

MARRIAGES (81)

GENEALOGICAL RECORD (82)



THE PIONEERS



"He who feared neither bear, Indian nor devil, the all-daring, all-enduring trapper," was the first western pioneer. It was his tale of the country beyond the mountains that tempted the first settler from the Atlantic coast to cross the Alleghanies. They traveled in small bands, often but a few families, rifle and axe in hand, their slender outfit on pack horses. Sometimes they had a few cattle, which they drove before them through a trackless wilderness. The women shared the dangers and hardships of the journey and the labors of a first rude home building in a virgin land.—W. L. Taylor.

The history of the Harding family in America is a history of the pioneers. From the time of the landing of Gov. Gorges' party on the bleak and almost unknown shores of the new world in 1623, when the first of the family found a foothold on American soil, among the first settlers in any part of the country there has been a Harding. Richard Harding was one of the original settlers of Braintree, and his homestead rights therein dated from one of the original grants from Gov. Gorges. When Roger

Williams, driven from the Puritan settlements around Weymouth, sought to establish a colony of his own and after long wanderings, picked upon a spot which was afterwards within the confines of Rhode Island, he found among his earliest colonists a son of the original settler of Weymouth — Stephen Harding. The sons and grand sons of Stephen Harding in time made their way westward and were always among the first settlers in the new colonies. First to Connecticut, then west again to Pennsylvania, where they with others so stubbornly contested the right of the early settlers against the savages, and later to the wilderness of Ohio where for many years — even to the present time their descendants were identified with the progress of the country. Mordecai Rice Harding came to the almost unknown country of Ohio in 1818, making the trip from Pennsylvania with a train of pioneers in their lumbering "prairie schooners' drawn by horses and oxen, and was many weeks on the road. His land was taken by the original squatter's right, and when it afterwards was offered for sale he purchased it. And so it has gone even to the states bordering on the Pacific — wherever there was a first settlement there was to be found at least one family of the name.

THE WYOMING MASSACRE

Scribner's Magazine.

It was highly characteristic of the hardy frontiersmen at Wyoming, that though they were fully aware that they were to be attacked by superior numbers and had only vague hope of the arrival of reinforcements, the idea of flight seems never to have occurred to them. Their forces numbered, all told, only about 300 men, and nearly all of these, according to the inscription on the monument erected in their honor, were "the undisciplined, the youthful, the aged." There were 230 "enrolled men" many, in fact, minors — and the remaining seventy were all either boys or old men. embraced six companies, and were mustered at Forty Fort, on the west side of the river, where the families of the settlers on the east side had taken refuge. Such was the situation on that memorable day, the 3d of July, 1778, when the British and Indians, having advanced deliberately down the valley, feeling sure that their victims could not escape them, were finally met

in battle. They had destroyed everything in their way. Jenkins's Fort had capitulated, a score of murders had been perpetrated, and Wintermoot's (which, as was afterwards learned, had been built to aid the incursions of the Tories) had at once opened its gates to the invading host.

The settlers, with a desperation of courage rarely equalled in the history of war, resolved to put suspense at an end, actually marched forth to meet the enemy that outnumbered them four to one. Some few had counselled delay, and Colonel Zebulon Butler was of that minority, but he acquiesced in the verdict of the majority and led them out, the little force of 300, in the middle of the afternoon, with drums beating, colors flying, and in true military array.

There were six companies, and the officers of the little force, under Butler, were Colonels John Durkee and Nathan Dennison, Lieutenant-Colonel George Dorrance, Major John Garrett, Captains Samuel Ransom, Dethic Hewitt, Asaph Whittlesey, Lazarus Stewart, James Bidlack, Rezin Geer, Aholiab Buck, —— Spalding, William McKarrican and Robert Durkee. They marched up the valley, with the river on

their right. On coming up with the enemy the column deployed to the left and formed in line of battle, with its right resting on the high bank of the river and its left extending across the plain to a swamp.

The enemy then advancing, the colonel gave the order to fire, and a volley rang out along the entire line with precision and some effect. The British flinched and actually fell back before the Yankee spartans, but it was only for a moment, and they pressed forward again. Then with quick alternations of the orders "Advance!"—"Fire!" the brave Butler performed the almost impossible feat of moving his thin line slowly forward against the overwhelming force that faced it. But this well-nigh incredible resoluteness was all in vain, for even as the line advanced the Indians slipped singly and by dozens into the brush of the swamp and flanked its left.

On the side of the invaders "Indian" Butler, his subordinate officers, the Seneca chiefs, and even Queen Esther in person directed the fight in different quarters. Butler, divested of his usual Indian finery, and with a flame-colored handkerchief bound round his head, darted among his men, shrieking in his high voice or-

ders to rangers and redmen alike, and wildly evinced his delight as he saw the certainty of success, while his round face, red with his frantic excitement and intense activity, shone with a devilish triumph. The Wyoming men's left became confused, though the old men and boys did not retreat, and the Indians, seizing the opportunity, rushed forward with their frightful whoops and tomahawked right and left those still left standing. Many had already fallen under the murderous fire of four times their number. Every captain commanding a company was dead. The little band melted like wax before a fire. The Indians pressed the survivors toward the river, along the bank of which wives and mothers of the brave fighters had crowded in agonized watchfulness. Some swam over and escaped. Others were pursued and tomahawked in the water or shot from the shore. promised quarter, returned, only to be treacherously struck down as they climbed the bank. Several found concealment on Monocacy Island, and others sought it only to be discovered and cut to pieces in their hiding-places, or dragged forth to be tortured at the leisure of their captors. It was there that one Tory killed his own

brother, and that several other almost unbelievable horrors attested the atrocious fury of the assailants of these poor patriot settlers.

Massacre began when battle left off. One hundred and sixty men had been killed, and 140 had escaped — some only to be subsequently captured. Crack marksmen among the Indians had brought down officers and conspicuous fighters by breaking their thigh-bones or otherwise incapacitating them, so that they could by no possibility escape, and thus were reserved for tortures a hundred times worse than death. Captain Bidlack was thrown alive on blazing logs, pinned down with pitchforks that happened to be at hand, and so held in spite of his powerful paroxysms until death relieved him. William Mason, a boy captain of a boy company, was similarly slain.

A debauch of blood followed for the especial delectation of Queen Esther. That seemingly insane savage ordered a score of the prisoners brought before her for torture, and her followers, springing to obey, quickly assembled them around a great bowlder, know to this day as "the bloody rock." They were bound and compelled to kneel about the rock, and then this

fanatic fury, who had once graced drawingrooms and been the admiration of gentle dames,
seized a heavy tomahawk, and, raising a wild
song, swept swiftly around the circle and
dashed out the brains of sixteen victims, while
the warriors, crowded close about the scene of
butchery, leaping and yelling, expressed their
fierce joy. Four escaped from sacrifice at the
hands of the savage queen, but fell not far away
for they were pursued by a hundred fleet-footed
Iroquois. After all was over, there were discovered near bloody rock nine more corpses, all
mutilated and scalped.

When night came on, the still insatiate savages built fires, and, stripping the remaining prisoners naked, drove them back and forth through the flames, finally thrusting them on the embers with their spears, when they fell from exhaustion, until all were despatched.

Altogether, in the battle and after, nearly 300 men were killed. Of the wretched people remaining, there were made that day in the valley 150 widows and nearly 600 orphans.

But a flight had already been begun while the massacre was in progress; and on the next day—after the arrival of ineffectually small (90) reinforcements, and the surrender of the detachments of militia at Pittston and Forty Fort, and when the entire valley had been given over to the pillage of the Indians (whom Butler afterward said he could not restrain)—all the survivors of the tragedy followed in the footsteps of those who had fled at first.

The Indians, dividing into small bands, passed up and down the valley, burning every building, and slaughtering every man, woman and child they found - except some children whom they carried into captivity. Finally they rendezvoused and withdrew to the northward in a swarming, savagely triumphant body, the squaws bringing up the rear on stolen horses, their bridle reins hanging heavy with strings of sodden scalps. As often the ludicrous treads hard on the heels of tragedy, so here with garish ghastliness these furies appeared fantastically garbed in the raiment of the slain settlers' wives and daughters - which they had abandoned in taking flight - while household spoils. pans, pots, kettles, ladles, and the like, clattered on the flanks of their horses and added to the discordant din amid which the wild horde departed.

Desolation reigned supreme throughout the valley. In all directions there were only the charred ruins of cabins and the unburied dead.





FRANCES SLOCUM



No stranger story than that of Frances Slocum, whose descendants have recently immortalized her memory in bronze, has ever been told since the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock.

Born of white parents, she was stolen while a little girl by the Indians. She was reared in an Indian wigwam, married an Indian chief, and was given up as dead by the surviving members of her family. Years afterwards her presence in an Indian village was accidentally discovered by a traveler, and in a most curious way the news finally reached her brothers and sisters. She, however, resisted all their efforts to persuade her to return to civilization, and died as she had lived, an Indian in everything but birth. Among the savages and the early settlers of the West she was known as the "White Rose of the Miamis," and as "The Lost Child of Wyoming."

Frances Slocum was the daughter of Jonathan and Ruth Slocum, Quakers, who in 1777

moved from Connecticut to Wilkesbarre, Pa., then a mere hamlet in the wilderness.

They were constantly exposed to the attacks of the Indians, but it was not until November, 1778, that three Delaware Indians, during the absence of Mr. Slocum, stole up to the dwelling and murdered two of the children and the son of a neighbor, who were at work outside.

Frances and her mother fled into the house and hid, but Frances was found in a closet and was carried away by one of the Delawares, while the mother followed the red men and implored them to restore her daughter. Mr. Slocum, on his return home, undertook to follow the trail of the Indians, but was obliged in the dense forest to abandon the pursuit. A month later the Slocum household was again assailed by the savages, who killed Mr. Slocum.

The Hon. Charles Miner, in his "History of Wyoming," after narrating the particulars of her abduction, wrote as follows: "The cup of vengeance was not yet full. December 16, (1778), Mr. Slocum and Isaac Tripp, Esq., his father-in-law, an aged man, with William Slocum, a youth of nineteen or twenty, were feeding cattle from a stack in the meadow, in sight

of the fort, when they were fired upon by In-Mr. Slocum was shot dead; Mr. Tripp wounded, speared and tomahawked; both were scalped. William, wounded by a spent ball in the heel, escaped and gave the alarm, but the alert and wiley foe had retreated to his hiding place in the mountain. This deed, bold as it was cruel, was perpetrated within the town plat in the center of which the fortress was located. Thus, in a little more than a month, Mrs. Slocum had lost a beloved child carried into captivity; the doorway had been drenched in blood by the murder of an inmate of the family; two others of the household had been taken away prisoners; and now her husband and father were both stricken down to the grave, murdered and mangled by the merciless Indians. Verily, the annals of Indian atrocities written in blood. record few instances of desolation and woe to equal this."

Repeated attempts were made to recover the lost child by Mrs. Slocum and her sons. They obtained clews to her occasionally through the reports of government agents, but when they visited the localities where she was said to be held she had disappeared, and the Indians them-

selves seemed to have entered into a conspiracy to prevent her return, for they refused to divulge the slightest information when questioned concerning her.

Long before the opening of the nineteenth century Frances had been carried West, as the Indians were forced to retire before the approaching civilization, and the discovery of her abiding place was purely accidental.

Colonel George W. Ewing, an Indian trader, whose home was at Logansport, Ind., chanced one night in 1835 to be overtaken by darkness in the vicinity of the Osage camp, known as Deaf Man's village, in the western part of Wabash county. He applied at the home of the chief for lodging, and was assigned the corner of the large room in the cabin occupied in common by the chief, his squaw, and the two daughters. Ewing could not sleep, and as he watched the movements of the squaw attending to the household duties he noticed that her demeanor difered somewhat from that of the Indians, and also observed, when she raised her arms and the sleeves fell away, that the skin was white.

Astonished at this, he questioned her in the Indian tongue, and after some hesitation she

admitted that she was not of Indian blood and spoke of her abduction and her journey from Pennsylvania west. Colonel Ewing returned home and later made another trip to Deaf Man's village, where he was again entertained by Frances, who went further into the details of her romantic life.

Colonel Ewing, with scarcely any hope of finding her relatives, wrote a letter to the post-mistress of Wilkesbarre, who was also the editress of a local paper, but she paid no attention to the story of Frances Slocum or the inquiry concerning her relatives, and threw the letter aside. Two years afterwards it was found by the editor of the paper, John W. Forney, afterwards of the Philadelphia Press, who printed the matter, and, a copy of the paper falling into the hands of friends of the Slocums, her brothers and sisters set out on a pilgrimage to Logansport.

They were met by Colonel Ewing, who accompanied them to Deaf Man's village, where an affecting interview between them and the lost sister took place. She was stolid and indifferent and regarded the visitors with suspicion. They questioned her closely and she

gave them the history of her strange career. The brothers and sisters asked her to go with them to Peru, but, evidently fearful of designs upon her, she refused. They went away and returned a day or so afterwards and pressed her to give up her Indian life and go back to Pennsylvania, but she firmly declined to do so. She said she was happy with her family and in the bosom of her tribe; that she was growing old and a change of conditions would shorten her days, and she desired, when she died, pointing to the cemetery where her body now lies, to rest with her husband and children in that spot. Sorrowing, the relatives bade her adieu and returned to Pennsylvania. One or two visits were made her afterwards, but she was not to be moved from her determination, and she died in the desolate Indian village in 1847 and was interred where she had directed her remains to be buried.

Frances had two daughters — Kickesequa, who married Peter Bondy, a Miami, and Osawshequah, who married a half-breed, John Broulliette. Both daughters are dead, but their children have often heard from Frances' lips the story of her abduction. This is the story as

she told it:

"The Delaware Indians, after taking me from the house, carried me over the mountains a long way and hid me in a cave. They had blankets and a bed of leaves, and made me comfortable for the night. We left early the next morning, the Indians carrying me in their arms. They gave me plenty to eat, and as I felt better I stopped crying. We finally reached an Indian village, where we staid some time, and the chief, Tack-Horse, placed me on a horse and we traveled a long ways. They dressed me up in Indian garments and covered me with bright beads. We went to Sandusky and Niagara and spent two years, and then went to Detroit. I was then about 13 years old. I was taught never to trust the white men and to avoid them at all times. When I saw a white man I always ran away out of sight. I became a good markswoman with a bow and arrow and engaged in all Indian sports. After three years at Detroit we went to Fort Wayne and staid there until after General Harmer's defeat by the Indians, at which time all the women and children were run off to the north. I lived with the Delawares and married Little Turtle, a chief. He was cruel, and I left

him and married Chepokenah, "Deaf Man," the Osage chief. I remember the defeat of the Indians by General Anthony Wayne. After peace we returned to Fort Wayne, and then, after the battle of Tippecanoe, we came here to the Mississinewa."

When the government order was made for the removal of the Miamis west of the Mississippi a special act of congress was passed excepting Frances Slocum and her family. She, in her last sickness, refused all medical aid. Her death, March 9, 1847, was due to pneumonia. Subsequently her relatives held funeral services in Sandusky, one of her brothers, a minister, preaching the funeral sermon.

Her grave is on a high knoll overlooking the valley of the Mississinewa river in Wabash county. The grave, at her request, was dug shallow, the foster mother of Frances having advised her that if the body were not buried deep it would be easy to throw off the earth in the event of burial alive.

The monument, dedicated May 17, 1900, at Wabash, Ind., is a plain white bronze shaft, nine feet high, appropriately inscribed, and was unveiled by two granddaughters of the "White Rose."



IN THE REVOLUTION



A short time previous to the beginning of the Revolutionary war a number of the descendants of Stephen Harding, notably members of Abraham (4) and Stephen's (14b) families, had left their early home in New York state and moved westward, settling in the Wyoming valley in Pennsylvania. Jenkins Fort, near Exeter, Luzerne county, the post mainly depended upon for aid and protection by the settlers in that part of the valley, was commanded by Capt. Stephen Harding (21). Among the brave defenders of that important post were: Benjamin and Stukey (44-45), sons of Capt. Stephen Harding; and Abraham, Lemuel and Oliver, sons of Abraham Harding (20).

David Harding (84).

Benjamin and Stukey Harding were the first victims of the savage invasion of that peaceful region in the summer of 1778. When warned of the unexpected uprising of the savages the two brothers left their farm a short distance up the river from the fort and joined the other mem-

bers of the post commanded by their father. On June 30, 1778, they left the protection of the fort for the purpose of looking after their fields of growing corn, and as they were returning to the fort at the close of day they were surprised by an advance party of Delawares, whom they "fought as long as they could raise a hand, but were overpowered, shot, speared, tomahawked and had their throats cut." Their bodies were found, taken to the fort (now West Pittson) and buried. In after years Elisha, Sr., raised a monument, with the inscription, "Sweet be the sleep of those who prefer death to slavery."

Thomas Harding (22) had command of a regiment of Connecticut troops during the war and his services to the commonwealth won for him many distinctions.

Jeremiah Harding (55) was a soldier in the Revolution and was one of the few survivors of the capture of Fort Griswold by Arnold in 1789, and was taken a prisoner to New York.

David Harding (34), a grandson of Capt. Stephen Harding, was a member of the post at (102)

Ft. Jenkins at the time of the Wyoming massacre and was taken a prisoner by the Indians June 30, 1778, while attempting to rescue his uncles, Benjamin and Stukey, who were slain. He afterwards made his escape.

Israel Harding (46) was a soldier throughout the whole conflict of seven years.

ABRAHAM HARDING (20).

The war department at Washington furnishes the following: "The records show that Abraham Harding served as a Second Lieutenant in Colonel William Allison's regiment, New York militia, Revolutionary war. His name appears on a certificate of the deputy secretary of state of New York, dated March 4, 1836, which shows that he resided on the west side of Walkill, in the county of Orange, and that he was commissioned by the Provincial Congress Dec. 1, 1775."

The comptroller's office at Albany, New York, furnishes the following: "The name of Captain Abraham Harding appears on the records on file in this office but is found only on a

certificate that one Lebbes Lathrop served in the Continental army."

The name of Abraham Harding, lieutenant, appears on an account of money raised by the exempts of Colonel Allison's Orange county regiment and delivered to him.

The title of "Captain" was evidently conferred after the war, as "Council of Appointment," State of New York, 1786, Abraham Harding was appointed Captain No. 5; page 283: Abraham Harding was promoted from Captain to Second Major, 1794. At the meeting of the council in 1803 another was appointed in his place, "Abraham Harding having moved away."

The census of 1790 and 1800 show but one Abraham Harding living in Orange county.



PART IV.

Amos Harding.

CHAPTER ONE. AMOS HARDING.

Amos, eldest son of Abraham and Hulda Tryon Harding, is the only member of the family of whom accurate data is obtainable. He was born at Deer Park (now Port Jervis), Orange county, New York, March 10, 1764. Leaving the scenes of his birth and early boyhood, he went with his father's party in 1777 to the historic Wyoming valley of Pennsylvania, the family settling in Exeter township, near Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county, in what was then known as the "Connecticut Reserve." Their home was close to the farm occupied by Jonathan Slocum and his father-in-law, Ebenezer Tripp. This region was at that time a dense wilderness but was rapidly populated by settlers coming in from Connecticut. The long series of contests for the possession of the land between the settlers and the Pennsylvania authorities culminated in the summer of 1778, when the Iroquois, Seneca and Delaware Indians, under the leadership of "Indian" Butler, a Tory, Queen Esther, of the Iroquois, and

other savage chieftains, took the warpath against the peaceful settlers of the Wyoming valley, advancing down the west side of the river. Destroying every settlement in their path, they came, June 30, 1778, to Fort Jenkins, at that time commanded by Capt. Stephen Harding. At this fort nearly all the immediate members of the several Harding families, warned of the approaching savages, had gathered for protection, and the history of that time records the fact that "every one able to point a gun fought with a desperation as only one can when fighting for life. For three days and nights the brave defenders of this post kept the savages at bay, and then, owing to a scanty supply of provisions and ammunition, and after the loss of several members of the party, the defenders under cover of darkness, fell back down the river to Forty Fort, where most of the settlers of that region had taken refuge."

It was near Fort Jenkins that Benjamin and Stukey Harding lost their lives, being the first victims of the savage invasion of that region. They were sons of Capt. Stephen Harding and had left their farm a few miles up the river with the intention of joining the force under command of their father at the fort, when they were surprised by a party of the allied tribes and killed, after a desperate struggle. Their bodies were afterwards recovered, taken to the fort (now West Pittson), and buried. In after years a monument was erected to their memory, with the inscription, "Sweet be the sleep of those who prefer death to slavery."

The defenders of Forty Fort, under Col. Zebulon Butler, numbered 230 enrolled men—many of them minors—and seventy boys and old men, a total of 300.

Such was the situation when on the third day of July, 1778, the British and Indians, having marched down the valley, were met in battle; 300 undisciplined troops, boys and old men, against a force of over 1,200 allies. The little force after a brave stand was flanked, and with tomahawk and club the Indians soon completed the work of slaughter. Of the 300 men only 140 escaped, and many of these were subsequently captured and slaughtered by torture.

The savages swept up and down the valley, burning and murdering on every hand, until the once peaceful settlement was but a blackened and ruined waste. The bodies of the murdered settlers remained where they had fallen until October 22d, nearly four months, when a military guard collected and buried them in one huge grave.

In the autumn of 1778 a large number of the refugees returned to the valley and began the work of rebuilding their homes so ruthlessly destroyed. Among them was the families of Abraham Harding and Jonathan Slocum.

Amos Harding helped his father clear a large farm in the wilderness, and in 1784 he married Phoebe Tripp, a daughter of Wm. and Sarah Slocum Tripp (born 1767), and at once commenced work on his own farm — a portion of the land he with his father had helped to clear. Amos Harding's wife was a cousin of Frances Slocum. (See Chapter Frances Slocum).

On this farm Amos Harding lived for sixteen years, and in the year 1800, with his wife and family of eight children, moved to Susquehanna county, Pa., settling near Clifford, in the township of that name. Here was the seat of this branch of the Harding family for many years, and at this time a large number of the descendants of Amos Harding, and relatives by

intermarriage continue to live in that part of the state. Amos Harding himself was identified with the settlement and development of that region for twenty years, removing with his wife and several of his children in 1820 to Richland county, Ohio, where his son Mordecai, had settled two years previously. Here he purchased land close to that of his sons, and here he remained until his death in 1839. His remains rest in the old cemetery in Blooming Grove (now Corcica), Morrow county, the site of which is on a part of the land he purchased on coming from Pennsylvania. His last resting place is marked by a plain marble slab, on which is inscribed:

In Memory of Amos Harding, who died Inly 10, 1839.
In the 74th Pear of his Age.

Phoebe Tripp Harding survived her hus-

band five years, and died at La Porte, Ind., in 1844, aged 77 years.

Amos Harding was the father of seventeen children, of whom twelve grew up and raised children. But one of the twelve — Benjamin — died under seventy; two—William and Wealthy — lived to be over ninety, and one — Mahala — was living in 1897 at the age of 84. Amos Harding had ninety-one grandchildren, most of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. The names of the children, with dates of their birth and death, so far as could be ascertained, are as follows:

Abilena, born 1785; died 1861.

Lydia, born 1788; died in childhood.

George Tryon, born June 15, 1790; died January 9, 1860.

William Tripp, born July 15, 1792; died February 4, 1884.

Ruami, born 1793; died in childhood.

Mordecai Rice, born November 18, 1795; died March 15, 1870.

Wealthy, born March 15, 1797; died 1887.

Ebenezer S., born 1799; died 1882.

Salomon E., born January 31, 1794; died-February 17, 1872.

Benjamin Franklin, born 1801; died April 3, 1838.

Huldah, born 1804; drowned when three or four years old.

Hilah, born 1905; died 1877.

John, born July, 1807; died 1884.

Chauncey C., born January 14, 1809; died December 8, 1880.

Jemima, born 1810; died in childhood.

Joseph, born 1811; died in childhood.

Mahala, born 1813.

By referring to the genealogical chart accompanying this book, the reader may at a glance trace the descendants of Amos Harding down to the third generation. This chart was prepared several years ago and while it contains some errors (which are corrected in the body of the book), and it may be, some omissions, it will be found in the main correct and will be of much assistance in tracing the descendants belonging to this chapter.

A REMINISCENCE OF AMOS HARDING.

A short time before his death, M. R. Harding, Jr., father of the writer, furnished the following reminiscence of his grandfather, Amos Harding, copying that portion of it relating to the family history from family records, furnishing what is now perhaps the most authentic record of the life of Amos Harding:

"I have a very clear recollection of my grandfather, Amos Harding, although I was but about 12 years old at the time of his death. He was tall and straight, with dark eyes, and his hair, originally black, was silvery gray, as I remember him. He lived about two miles from my father's house; I think he was living with his son Tryon. I remember that I was frequently at his house. When I was about 10 years old, father visited grandfather to obtain from him a statement regarding the title to a piece of land in Susquehanna county, Pa., which he formerly owned and over which there was at that time some dispute. I went with father that evening and well remember the occasion. Grandfather's memory at that time was very clear, although it failed badly a short time previous to his death. After securing the statement regarding the property in controversy, grandfather gave a brief outline of his life's history at father's request and which he afterwards recorded in the family Bible, from which I copied it many years afterwards. The record is as follows:

Amos Harding, born in Orange county, New York, March 10, 1764.

Son of Abraham Harding, born near Waterford, Conn., in 1740.

Son of Abraham Harding, born in Warwick, Rhode Island, in 1720. (Was a soldier in a New York regiment during the Revolutionary war).

Son of (Capt.) Stephen Harding, born in Providence, Rhode Island, 1681.

"Grandfather (Abraham) came to Connecticut from Rhode Island in 1732, where my father was born. In 1761 they left Connecticut and came to New York. The next year father married Hulda Tryon. I was born two years later.

"When I was 13 years old my father and two uncles moved to Luzerne county, Pa. Here all remained for many years. In 1778, when the Indians came down the river, our family had gone to Jenkins fort, which was under command of my father's uncle, Capt. Stephen Harding. (Here follows a description of the fight and retreat to Stroudsburg). We came back to the valley in September and rebuilt our house and sheds. Father and I had cleared a large tract of land and when I married Phoebe Tripp in 1784, he gave me one-half of the land. I lived on that farm sixteen years and then moved to Susquehanna county in 1800, and remained there twenty years, when I moved here."



GENEALOGICAL RECORD

THE HARDING REUNION.

The descendants of Amos Harding, residing in the vicinity of the original settlement in Morrow county, Ohio, have formed an organization and each year hold a picnic and reunion, bringing together a great many of the descendants for a day of visiting and pleasant social intercourse. The second of these annual events was held in 1907, in response to the following invitation:

The Second Annual Reunion of the Descendants of Amos Sarding

will be held at Blooming Grove, Ohio,

(Carsica V. (G.)

Thursday, August Fisteenth, Nineteen Hundred Seven, in the Village School Grove.

You and your family are invited to be present.

We are indebted to Mrs. L. D. Harding, of Galion, Ohio, the secretary of the organization, for the list of those present on this occasion, as follows:

DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE TRYON HARDING.

W. O. P. Harding's Family. W. P. Harding......Galion, Ohio John L. Graham Galion, Ohio Ord. L. Dudley......Lexington, Ohio Mrs. Mattie Dudley.....Lexington, Ohio Ray E. Dudley Lexington, Ohio Clyde I. Dudley Lexington, Ohio Cleo R. Dudley.....Lexington, Ohio Margaret R. Dudley.....Lexington, Ohio

Blanche M. Chambers	Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio
L. D. Harding Galion, C Mrs. Lucy J. Harding Galion, C Loren O. Harding Galion, C Loren O. Harding Galion, C Loren C. Harding Galion, C Fred C. Harding Lexington, C Mrs. F. C. Harding Lexington, C Arlene Harding Lexington, C Georgia L. Harding Lexington, C Ernest E. Copeland Galion, C Mrs. Alta Copeland Galion, C	Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio
Charles A. Harding's Family.	
Mrs. Phoebe Mitchell	Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio

Mrs. Caroline Marshman	nio nio nio nio nio
A. W. Dickerson	nio nio nio nio
Miranda Harding Bennett's Family.	
Chas. W. Bennett	nio an an io io io io io io io io io io io io io
(4.3)	

DESCENDANTS OF SALOMON HARDING.
Mrs. Lurenda BrownColumbus, Ohio
Mrs. E. E. McCleery
E. E. Harding Mt. Gilead, Ohio Mrs. E. E. Harding Mt. Gilead, Ohio Wilbur Harding Mt. Gilead, Ohio
Mrs. T. G. Harding
Mrs. Ella Matlock
DESCENDANTS OF ABBIE HARDING STEARNS.
DESCENDANTS OF ABBIE HARDING STEARNS. H. B. Stevens
H. B. Stevens
H. B. Stevens. Galion, Ohio Miss Nellie Stevens, M. D. Galion, Ohio A. L. Stevens. Galion, Ohio Mrs. P. R. Stevens Galion, Ohio H. B. Stone Galion, Ohio Mrs. Kittie Stone Galion, Ohio Hazel Stone Galion, Ohio Ethel Stone Galion, Ohio Myrtle Stone Galion, Ohio Alviere Stone Galion, Ohio Fred Stone Galion, Ohio Fred Stone Galion, Ohio
H. B. Stevens

CHAPTER TWO.

ABILELA STEARNES.

Abilena Harding was born in Luzerne county, Pa., in 1785.

Died in 1861.

Married in 1805 to James Stearnes at Clifford, Penn.

Removed to Ohio about 1820.

Children:

Amos.

Justice.

Lydia.

Rhoda.

Silas.

Mercena.

Otis.

Wealthy.

Mary-Polly.

Phoebe-m. Hiram Stevens.

(No further information regarding this branch of the family has been furnished for publication, but would be thankfully received for a future edition of the book.)

CHAPTER THREE.

GEORGE TRYON HARDING,

George Tryon Harding was born in Luzerne county, Pa., June 15, 1790; died at Corsica, Ohio, Jan. 9, 1860. Married Ann Roberts May 29, 1812, who died in Pennsylvania July 20, 1815. Married Elizabeth Madison (born July 26, 1800), May 1, 1816; died Feb. 8, 1866. The family moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio in 1820. The children of George Tryon Harding were, by first wife:

Huldah, born May 27, 1813.

Phoebe Ann, born May 11, 1815; died 1898. Children by second wife:

W. Oliver Perry, born Jan. 20, 1818; died March 28, 1901.

Charles Alexander, born April 8, 1820; died April 3, 1878.

Miranda, born Jan. 30, 1822; died Sept. 25, 1888.

Huldah Harding married 1831, Abraham Logan; children, Anna M., Abraham Y., Albert E., Elmsat M., Levi T., Edward P., Sarah A., Al-(124)



George Tryon Harding.

bino B., Clara M., Henry C. All of the ten children are living at this date. Huldah Logan died May 27, 1898.

Phoebe Ann Harding married Wm. Boyce 1833. Children: James, George, John, Lafayette, Eliza, Marion, Simon, Hiram, Eva, Isabena.

W. O. P. Harding married Isabena Mc-Gowan 1839. Children:

Amos T., born June 3, 1840.

Harriet R., born March 29, 1842.

Mary Adaline, born Feb. 14, 1845.

Augustus W., born Dec. 16, 1846.

Amanda I., born Oct. 13, 1854.

Lorenzo D., born March 13, 1849.

Amos Tryon Harding married 1st, Elizabeth Snyder, Feb. 9, 1865; and 2nd, Molly Jane Day, Aug. 16, 1883; resides at Corsica, Ohio. His children by first wife are Forrest, Dora, Mark and Clark; by second wife, one daughter, Hattie.

Harriet R. Harding married Henry E. Dudley; children Ord S. and Carrie.

Mary Adaline Harding married John Chambers Oct. 7, 1868; resides at Corsica, Ohio; children Dennis Perry and Isa Benda.

Augustus W. Harding married Lavina Groff; resides at Lexington, Ohio; children, Mallie, Murtie, Bernice, Claude, Gifford, Jennie, Anna.

Amanda I. Harding married George Edwards; resides at Mansfield, Ohio. Children: Jay, Perry, Donna, Addie, Hazel, Georgia.

Lorenzo Dow Harding married Lucy Jane Flint Dec. 25, 1849; resides at Corsica, Ohio; children, Loren O., born Aug. 24, 1875; Fred C., born March 8, 1877; Alta (Copeland) born Dec. 9, 1879; Lois, born Jan. 8, 1885.

Charles Alexander Harding married Mary Ann Crawford in 1841. They had nine children, eight daughters and one son.

Phoebe A., born April 21, 1841; married Thomas Mitchell, March, 1860; had one daughter, Minnie, who died while young.

Sophie, born Nov. 1, 1842; married Dec. 18, 1858, Simon Nunber (died 1894); had two sons,

Charles Tryon and Dr. Guy, and one daughter, Maude N. She later married M. Miller, who died in 1898.

George Tryon Harding, born June 12, 1844; married Phebe Dickens, May 7, 1864; children, W. G. Harding, born Nov. 2, 1865; Charity Malvin, born March 1, 1867; Mary Clarisa, born April 27, 1868; Elinor Priscilla, born Nov. 11. 1872; died Nov. 9, 1876; Daisy Abigail, born May 30, 1876; George Tryon, Jr., born March 11, 1878; is now a physician in Columbus, Ohio; Phebe Carrie, born Oct. 21, 1879; is now a missionary in Burma. She married Rev. Hebu Votun, Aug., 1903. Charity M., married Elton Bemisberg in 1890, at Marion, Ohio; have Nell Marie, Helen L. and Kathleen. W. G. Harding married Florence Kling, June, 1891. two terms in the Ohio senate, and one term as lieutenant governor; has edited the Marion (Ohio), Daily Star for twenty-five years. Dr. G. T. Harding, Jr., married Elsie Weaver, July, 1903; has two sons, George Tryon and Warren G.

Miranda Harding married Marcus Bennett 1845.

CHAPTER FOUR.

WILLIAM TRIPP HARDING.

WILLIAM TRIPP HARDING was born in Luzerne county, Pa., July 15, 1792; died at Buchanan, Mich., Feb. 4, 1884; married Minerva Martindale at Clifford, Pa., 1811; a year or two later his wife left home on horseback with a bundle of wool to go to a carding mill a few miles distant; the road was through woods and over mountains infested with wild animals and at times Indians; she was never seen nor heard of again, but some torn fragments of her clothing were found in the woods. William Tripp Harding afterwards married Polly (Mary) Otis. The family moved to Ohio in 1820, and many years afterwards removed to Michigan, Children:

Eldridge T., born March 27, 1824; died 1884; Children: Charles, Jessie (Grant), William, Caddie, Eva.

Eliza, born 1826; married — Knight.

F. Rice, born Nov. 23, 1829; married 1851. Children: Ellen G. (Hallock), Nancy Ann (Hastill), Otis G., Geo. F., Jennie (Howe).



William T. and Wealthy Harding.

CHAPTER FIVE.

SALOMON HARDING,

SALOMON HARDING was born in Luzerne county, Pa., Jan. 31, 1794. When six years of age he went with his parents to Susquehana county, where he was raised to manhood's estate, and in 1820 joined the Harding settlement in Richland county, Ohio, remaining there until his death. He was a licensed minister of the O. S. Baptist church, having joined that denomination before leaving Pennsylvania, and organized the Bethel church in Crawford county, Ohio, and was for vears its minister. Dissensions in the church led to the organization of Mt. Zion church but a short distance away, but the subject of this sketch remained true to the organization with which he was associated at its birth. He was afterwards excluded from Mt. Zion church for bailing a man for his appearance at court who in a fit of anger threw a chisel at another man and killed him. Bethel church called a council and decided he had done nothing wrong.

In 1819 Salomon Harding married Anna Wheat, and to this union eight children were born. He later married Eliza Lothrop, and to

them one child was born. He afterwards married Susan Mason. Salomon Harding died at Galion, Ohio, Feb. 17, 1872, aged 82 years and 18 days.

Children:

Amos Major;

L. Lothrop;

Tary:

Alexander Leighton; m. Carmelia Hubbell.

Delilah;

Charlotte.

Geo. Washington;

Harrison; m. Elizabeth Beards.

Alfred Avery.

Amos Major Harding married Emma Roberts. Children: Eliza J., married Samuel McCleery; Electa, married Wallace Kay; Anna, married Wm. Hazlehurst; Susan J., married J. J. Williams; Charles, married Nora Strawbridge. Eliza A. and Samuel McCleery had Cora A., married Guy Coulter, have Wilda Ruth; Emma W., married F. W. Phillips, have Leon R., Clyde and Frank; Isabel, married Chas. H. Green, have Esther E., Charles H., Dorothy E., and Isabel; Nellie M., married J. C. Martin,



Salomon Harding.

have Mildred V.; Charles, only son of Amos Major, has one son, Harry.

Lebbeus Lothrop, married, 1st, Elmira Reed; had Edmund, killed in battle at Pittsburg Landing; married, 2nd, Caroline Stearn, had Malissa, married Phillip Fetters, and Truman G., born Sept. 12, 1849, married Sept. 24, 1874, Sarah E. Lemon; has Rinaldo J, born Jan. 25, 1876, married Jan. 22, 1906, Louise Sweitzer; Estella M., born Jan. 25, 1877, married Jan. 21, 1903, James B. Pumphrey, have James C., born December, 1905; Elmer C., born April 4, 1881, married April 21, 1903, Estella Rider, have Roena B., born June 21, 1904; Glen M., born March 20, 1887, married Oct. 21, 1906, Margaret Wolfe; Gailard O., born Sept. 8, 1881.

Tary P., born Nov. 10, 1819; died Dec. 31, 1885; married 1857, Sarah E. Hilliard, born July 15, 1837; died Jan. 30, 1901. Children: O. S. Harding born March 17, 1860; married 1879, Mary Kelley; had Raymond, born 1884, died 1893. E. T. Harding, born July 20, 1862; married July 15, 1886, Kate M. Litzenburg; have Ila M., born April 16, 1887; Wilbur T., born Jan. 10, 1900.

Delilah, born Feb. 24, 1824; married Jacob Lortscher June 12, 1851. Children: Tary J., born May 19, 1852; married Bethany Gross, Oct. 21, 1880. Susanna B., born Aug. 18, 1854; married Hiram King, Sept. 14, 1873. Edward S., born Nov. 2, 1862; married Carrie Dunbar Sept. 21, 1881.

Children of Tary J. and Bethany Lortscher: Cora E., born Oct. 27, 1882. Jessie E., born Nov. 16, 1884; died Sept. 8, 1891. Daisy B., born April 24, 1887; married George Lally April 27, 1905. Bethany, wife of Tary J. Lortscher, died May 17, 1887.

Tarry J. Lortscher married Anna Rusk Aug. 4, 1889. Children: Blanche, born July 8, 1893. Tary J., Jr., born Feb. 23, 1898; died Jan. 4, 1901.

Children of Susanna Lortscher King: William J., born June 8, 1874. Edward B., born Dec. 7, 1880. Myrta C., born Jan. 30, 1882; Delilah, born July 18, 1890. Lucy, born April 19, 1892. Susannah died May 6, 1892.

Children of Edward S. Lortscher: Cad B., born June 24, 1882. Dot, born Feb. 6, 1884. Mae, born March 31, 1886. Edward, born June 27, 1902.

George Washington, born 1834, died 1859, en route to California; married Hannah Johns; had Mary, born March 13, 1852; married Jas. H. Dunham July 26, 1870. Children: Clara Agnew, born Sept. 20, 1871; died Feb. 28, 1881. Clyde May, born April 28, 1874; married John W. Ruhl April 18, 1898. Jay H., born Oct. 25, 1875; married Lillian May Hiller, Dec. 14, 1904. Virginia T., born Oct. 25, 1877; married Wm. H. Pfiffer Dec. 16, 1903. Mattie C., born May 6, 1880; married Henry S. Davis July 19, 1899. Marvalice, born June 23, 1890. Clyde May and John W. Ruhl have Dunham, born March 4, 1899; Kenneth, born June 3, 1907. Mattie C. and Henry S. Davis have Gerald, born Oct. 2, 1903.

Alfred Avery, born Sept. 18, 1838; died July 9, 1877; married Ella V. Crawford Jan. 23, 1859. Children: Della Sophia, born Nov. 25, 1859; died Nov. 3, 1865. Benjamin F., born Oct. 5, 1861; married Jennie May, Oct. 19, 1887; have Ruth Frances, born March 24, 1903. Benjamin F. is a practicing physician at Mansfield, Ohio. Ella V. Harding, widow of Alfred Avery, is still living at Mansfield, Ohio, at the age of 67 years.

CHAPTER SIX.

MORDECAL RICE HARDING.

Mordecai Rice Harding was born in Luzerne county, Pa., Nov. 18, 1795.

Died March 15, 1870, Corsica, Ohio.

Married Sept. 17, 1817, Susan Newton (nee Baker).

Married Jan. 15, 1852, Martha Steele.

Settled in Richland county, Ohio, 1818.

Children:

Thomas Newton.

James Harvey.

Lucinda.

Susan J.

Mordecai Rice.

Rosalinda.

Edward Sterge.

Louisa J.

Mary E.

(For continuation see Part V).



Wealthy Harding Wells.

CHAPTER SEVEN.

WEALTHY HARDING BAKER-WELLS.

Wealthy Harding was born in Luzerne county, Pa., March 15, 1797.

Died 1887, Santa Ana, Cal.

Married, 1816, Joseph Baker, son of Ebenezer Baker, who came with his family from Connecticut and settled at Clifford, Susquehanna county, in 1814.

(Joseph Baker was a brother of Susan Newton, first wife of Mordecai Rice Harding, Chapter 6).

Married January 24, 1835, Hiram Wells.

The family moved to Michigan in 1846, thence to St. Clair county, Mo., in 1867, and from there to California in 1881, where her husband died Jan. 24, 1885, on the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. She died two years later, in her ninety-first year. She had been a member of the Baptist church over 75 years.

Hiram Wells had been married previously to Liza Ann Newton, only child of Thomas and Susan Baker Newton, the latter mentioned above as the first wife of Mordecai Rice Hard-

ing. Children by Joseph Baker:

Harding A.—m. John Ross.

Emily Ann.

Stephen Parker.

Emmaus-m. Matilda Dunlap.

Artemissa.

John M.

Joseph Maurice

William Vinson.

Susan Levina.

Children by Hiram Wells:

Sidney.

Corydon Luther.

Charles Corwin.

Lewis Marion.



CHAPTER EIGHT.

EBENEZER SLOCUM HARDING.

EBENEZER SLOCUM HARDING was born in Luzerne county, Pa., 1799.

Died 1882 in Indiana.

Married Polly (Mary) Webster.

Married Naomi Wilson.

Was an O. S. Baptist preacher.

Children:

Wealthy.

Charles.

Clement.

Mary.

Ebenezer.

Lydia.

(No further information regarding this branch of the family has been furnished for publication, but would be thankfully received for a future edition of the book.)

CHAPTER NINE.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HARDING

Benjamin Franklin Harding was born in Susquehanna county, Pa., 1802.

Died April 3, 1836, Crawford county, Ohio.

Married 1824, Anna Jackson.

He was a carpenter and mill right; was a lifelong member of the Baptist church. Children:

Jackson.

Benjamin F.

Philena.

(No further information regarding this branch of the family has been furnished for publication, but would be thankfully received for a future edition of the book.)



Hilah Harding Webster.

CHAPTER TEN.

HILAH HARDING WEBSTER.

HILAH HARDING was born in Clifford, Pa., April 10, 1805; died at Perry, Iowa, Sept. 13, 1877; married Oct. 21, 1821. Amos Gillet Webster, born March 31, 1799; died Jan. 29, 1879. Children:

Westley L. Webster, born Sept. 24, 1823; married Ruth Helen Cole, April 5, 1849; died May 16, 1878.

Welcome A. Webster, born Feb. 17, 1826; died April 6, 1844.

Wilson J. Webster, born Feb. 25, 1828; married Mary Ann McKellips April 17, 1850; died Feb. 7, 1866.

Hilah Jane Webster, born April 19, 1830; married John H. Willis Oct. 17, 1847; died Jan. 14, 1904.

William Wirt Webster, born Sept. 24, 1832; married Margaret Ann Cockerill Oct. 17, 1855; died July 9, 1884.

THE HARDINGS

Celestia Webster, born June 27, 1835; died Aug. 22, 1835.

Zoradia Webster, born April 23, 1837; died June 1, 1837.

Amos Gillet Webster, Jr., born July 14, 1841; married Phila Letitia Romans Nov. 11, 1868.



CHAPTER ELEVEN. IOHN HARDING.

John Harding was born at Clifford, Pa., July 11, 1807.

Died at La Porte, Ind., April 22, 1884. Married Alvira Dunham 1830.

Came with his parents to Ohio in 1820, and in 1834 removed to La Porte, Ind., where several of his children still reside. Children:

Thomas Dunham.

Lucius Tripp, born Jan. 29, 1834; died Aug. 3, 1907; married Sarah Ann Baker Feb. 16, 1852. Children: Rosetta E., Ella C., William E., John H., Elmer E., Hugh G., Minnie M., Sarah E., Chauncey C., Flora L., Linda T., Arley C.

James Gamble, born March 27, 1838; died Jan. 9, 1846.

Benjamin A., born July 22, 1840; died Sept. 17, 1841.

Solomon E., born Sept. 8, 1842; killed on the

THE HARDINGS

battlefield of Chickamagua, Tenn., Sept. 20, 1863.

Mary E., born

Hugh G., born Dec. 29, 1846.

William Merritt, born

Sarah E., born

Martha Jane, born May 24, 1858; died May 23, 1880; married Frank Wasson. Had Willie, born Jan. 9, 1876.





Chauncey C. Harding.

CHAPTER TWELVE.

CHAUNCEY C. HARDING.

Chauncey C. Harding was born at Clifford, Pa., Jan. 14, 1790; died Huron county, Ohio, December 8, 1880. Married Feb. 22, 1830, Rachel Story (born in Oxford county, Maine, Jan. 22, 1809; died at Iberia, Ohio, March 10, 1869).

Chauncev Harding came to Ohio with his parents in 1820; soon after his marriage he settled in Marion county, Ohio, where he had the respect and confidence of a large circle of acquaintances. He was a farmer, a Free-will Baptist, and was noted for his liberality in religious matters, being at home in almost any sect of worshippers. Politically, he was a Whig (casting his first presidential vote for Henry Clay in 1832), until 1856, when he became a republican, and his last vote was for Garfield in 1880. His wife was a daughter of Nathaniel Nehemiah Story, a granddaughter of Joseph Story and Nathaniel Kittridge, and a great granddaughter of Benjamin Dows and William Low, all soldiers in the war of the Revolution. His children were:

THE HARDINGS

Nehemiah Story, born Feb. 12, 1831.

Horace Hosford, born July 31, 1832.

Harriet Story, born Nov. 12, 1834.

Jotham Dutton, born Sept. 17, 1836; died in army hospital at Lexington, Ky., Nov. 11, 1862.

Amos Joseph, born May 2, 1839.

Hiram Bennet, born Feb. 27, 1848.

Nehemiah S. Harding resides at Nebraska City, Neb. Married August 4, 1853, Mary King Baldwin, who died Sept. 15, 1900. Children:

Cora Baldwin, born June 10, 1854; married Chas. S. Nash, Oct. 3, 1876. Children: Mabel Harding, born July 20, 1881; died April 11, 1900; Elsie Hill, born June 17, 1885.

Bennet G., born Jan. 28, 1856; died in infancy.

Winona Irwin, born March 9, 1858; married Walter D. Hill Sept. 19, 1884. Children; Edward Harding, born July 12, 1885; married July 1907. Arthur Story, born Jan. 5, 1888; died

Oct. 29, 1893. Dorothy, born July 19, 1890. Donald Eugene, born June 4, 1893. Mary, born March 7, 1895. Frederick Gillette, born Aug. 6, 1896; died Jan. 5, 1897. Howard Harding, born Jan. 8, 1904.

Nellie Story, born May 4, 1860; died Jan. 22, 1899; married D. Wm. Schminke Sept. 19, 1884. Children: Helen Mary, born Nov. 2, 1886; Paul Kenneth, born Oct. 2, 1891.

Grace Harriet, born Dec. 15, 1863.

Frederick C., born Jan. 23, 1865; died Aug. 17, 1872.

Edyth May, born Jan. 12, 1868; married Wm. N. Dekker Dec. 19, 1895 (died July 3, 1906). Children, Chauncey Harding, born Dec. 7, 1897; William Nicholas, born Jan. 14, 1906.

Alice C., born Dec. 14, 1870.

Mary Rachel, born Nov. 8, 1872.

Willard Story, born Feb. 24, 1876; married Gisine Mary Foss Oct. 19, 1889. Children; Nehemiah Story, born Oct. 2, 1900; Weltha, born April 10, 1906.

(See biographical sketch, page 149)

Horace H. Harding, resides at Carthage, Mo. Married, 1st, Emily Kilbourne, May 2, 1855; she died Jan. 5, 1856. 2nd, Mary F. Webb, Sept. 17, 1857. Children:

Esther Stella, born Sept. 17, 1858; married A. S. Deacon; have one child, Frances, born Jan. 5, 1890. Resides at Harrisonville, Mo.

Fannie W., born Nov. 17, 1860; married Wm. B. Hill, Nov. 17, 1897. Resides at Kansas City, Mo.

Paul, born Nov. 20, 1863; married Margarita Auza Nov. 23, 1901. Children: Marie, born March 23, 1903; Stella, born April 10, 1904; Margarita, born Dec. 25, 1905; Lucia, born Jan. 17, 1907. Resides at Santiago, Cuba.

(See biographical sketch, page 153)

Harriet S. Harding resides at Galion, Ohio. Married Oct. 19, 1858, John P. Lininger; died May 28, 1907. Children:

Ida, born March 22, 1860; died Oct. 25, 1861.

William H., born Dec. 12, 1862; married (146)

Belle Maxfield Oct. 24, 1888. Children: Herbert Kittridge, born Sept. 20, 1889; Homer Dean, born Jan. 6, 1895; John Howard, born Jan. 10, 1897, died Nov. 9, 1902.

Horace H., born May 15, 1869.

Amos J. Harding, resides at Chicago, Ill. Married Dec. 20, 1864, Eliza H. Cowden. Children:

Lucien E., born Aug. 20, 1865; married Mary B. Goodsell Oct. 26, 1892.

Albert D., born March, 1867; died in infancy.

Rachel H., born May 3, 1870; married, first, E. M. Ray, Dec. 1, 1887; second, R. F. Russell, Feb. 2, 1907.

John C., born Dec. 4, 1873; married Elizabeth Pratt, May 23, 1901. Children: Margaret C., born May 19, 1903; Elizabeth, born May 26, 1907.

Dwight S., born April 18, 1878.

(See biographical sketch, page 157)

THE HARDINGS

Hiram B. Harding resides at Fredonia, Kan. Married May 7, 1868, Josephine E. Wilson. Children:

Frank V., born July 26, 1871; died Dec. 13, 1872.

Edith M., born Oct. 7, 1873; married Richard S. Oakford, Oct. 5, 1896. Have one child, Carl Harding Oakford, born June 15, 1904.

Nena M., born March 5, 1876; married Charles M. Saxton, Dec. 11, 1905.

Wealtha W., born Oct. 14, 1880; married Frederick W. Reynolds May 7, 1903. Have one son, Reynold Lee Reynolds, born Jan. 5, 1907.





Hon. Nehemiah Story Harding.

Nehemiah Story Harding.

Nehemiah Story Harding, pioneer and prominent man of business, Nebraska City, Neb., was born on a farm near Galion, Morrow county, Ohio, Feb. 12, 1831. Mr. Harding is of English descent; his ancestors were of Puritan stock and settled in Massachusetts in 1623. Several members of the family served in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. His father, Chauncey C. Harding, was a native of Pennsylvania; a worthy man of more than ordinary ability and intelligence.

He was a farmer and executor and administrator of several large estates and died in 1880, after a long and honorable career, at the age of 72 years.

Rachel (Story) Harding, mother of N. S. Harding, was a native of Maine, a daughter of a Baptist minister; a woman of strong and lovely character and greatly beloved by her six children. She died in 1869, aged 60 years.

N. S. Harding acquired his early education in the common schools, supplemented by partial courses in the Marion (Ohio), Academy and Central college in Franklin county, Ohio. He embarked in the mercantile business in Cincinnati in 1852 as a member of the firm of Wright & Harding, booksellers and stationers, at 131 Main street, from 1852 to 1855. He removed from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1855, and arrived in Nebraska City, Nebraska Territory, Nov. 28, 1855, where he has ever since resided.

He first served as deputy clerk of the United States district court for one year, and then became cashier of the Platte Valley bank, and agent for the Aetna Insurance company. He was the first insurance agent and wrote the first policy in the then territory of Nebraska, in July, 1857. He early engaged in the book and stationary business, which he followed for twenty-six years successfully. He has served for thirty-two years as state agent for the Spfignijre two years as state agent for the Springfield F. and M. Insurance company of Massachuetts, and is believed to be the oldest insurance agent in Nebraska.

In politics, Mr. Harding is a conservative democrat, and is entirely out of sympathy with the modern tendencies of the democratic party. While taking an active interest in political affairs he is not in any sense a politician, and has never been a seeker after political preferment and honors. He served as one of the first board of county commissioners of Otoe county, and as town clerk and member of the board of trustees. In 1875 he was named by the state legislature to secure a location for, and to build the institution for the blind in Nebraska City, and served as treasurer of the board of trustees during 1875 and 1876, while building the institution. Mr. Harding is a member of Western Star lodge No. 2. of which he has been several times master. He is also a member of Frontier lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F., and a member of the Nebraska Society Sons of the American Revolution. He is a prominent member of the First Presbyterian church of Nebraska City, of which he has been an elder for over thirty-one years.

Mr. Harding was married Aug. 4, 1853, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Miss Mary King Baldwin of Newark, Ohio, who two years later accompanied her husband to the new home in Nebraska City, where she exercised a benign and gracious influence in the social life of the community until her death, Sept. 15, 1900, at the age

of 67 years. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Harding, six of whom are now living: Mrs. Chas. S. Nash, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Walter D. Hill, Beatrice, Neb.; Mrs. William N. Dekker, San Francisco, Cal.; Grace H., Mary R., and Willard S., all residents of Nebraska City.

Mr. Harding has been an active and busy man during the fifty-two years of his residence in Nebraska, and has been an important factor in the business life of the city, where he is recognized as one of the influential and progressive citizens.—History of Nebraska, by J. Sterling Morton, 1905. Vol. 1, page 672.





Hon. Horace Hosford Harding

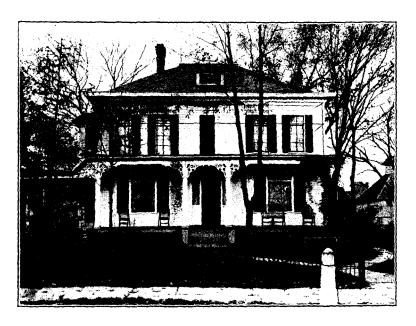
Con. Corace &, Garding.

One of the most accomplished and erudite members of the Missouri bar is Horace H. Harding. He was born July 31, 1832, in Morrow county, Ohio, the son of Chauncey C. Harding, one of the earliest settlers of central Ohio. His grandfather, Hon. Amos J. Harding, gave name to a large settlement in Richland county, known to this day as the "Harding Settlement." His mother before marriage was Miss Rachel Story, a lady of rare mental powers, who was widely known for her practical good sense and many Christian virtues. She was the daughter of Nehemiah Story, a near relative of the celebrated jurist, Joseph Story, of the United States supreme court. Nehemiah Story was a man of learning and high standing, socially and politically. His grandchildren scattered over many western states, embrace a score of lawyers, including the subject of this sketch.

Horace H. Harding was educated at Farmer's College, near Cincinnati, Ohio. He studied law in the office of Hon. Belamy Storer, of Cincinnati, and was admitted to the bar in the

United States circuit court, southern district of Ohio, in 1857, and came to Missouri that year, and was admitted to practice in the United States supreme court in 1866. He was connected with the law department of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad company, and its successor, the Saint Louis and San Francisco railway, fourteen years, and was several years general solicitor of the Missouri and Western Railway company. His practice has been very largely in corporate law.

In 1861, having in the meantime removed to Nebraska City, Neb., he was adjutant general of that territory with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He assisted in the organization of two regiments, which were sent to the front, and he afterwards served in the United States service as judge advocate in the department of the Platte until 1864. His health partially failing, he went to the western territories and the Pacific coast, spending several years there, and in New York. Finally, in 1868, he again settled in Missouri. He is permanently located at Carthage, where he has resided fourteen years, having acquired a competency, and he is regarded as one of the most substantial citizens in



Home of Hon, H. H. Harding at Carthage, Mo.

southwest Missouri. He always speaks out plainly and unequivocally on all public questions. In politics he is a very decided republican, but he has never held or sought public office except that he was mayor of the city where he resides.

In 1880 he was nominated by the republican party as a candidate for attorney general of the state, and made an active canvass of several congressional districts, at which election five republicans were elected to congress, and in 1884 he was the republican candidate for judge of the Missouri court of appeals.

As a lawyer Colonel Harding ranks high. He is very thorough in all of the departments of his profession, and as a corporation lawyer he has no peer in western Missouri. He is a close student of authorities, has a retentive memory, an analytic mind, and well-balanced judgment. He is a good trial lawyer, and his arguments to both court and jury are lucid, logical and convincing. The grace and propriety of his delivery are equal to the copiousness and felicity of his diction. He is an orator of considerable distinction, and a citizen who has the utmost confidence

of all who know him.

In 1857 he was married to Miss Mary Frances Webb, of Madison, Indiana. They have three children, Stella, Fannie and Paul, all of whom are living.—From "Bench and Bar of Missouri," 1884.





Hon. Amos Joseph Harding.

Hon. Amos I. Harding.

Amos Joseph, the fourth son of Chauncy C. and Rachel Story Harding, was born on his father's farm in Washington township, Marion county, Ohio, on May 2, 1839. His mother had intended to give him the name of Joseph Story, after her grandfather - who had been a patriot soldier during the war of the Revolution — but when about three weeks old his grandfather, Amos Harding, then seventy-six years old, walked down from his home near Blooming Grove, a distance of seven miles, to see the new grandson, stopping at Galion on the way to buy a suitable present for the name. He had on previous occasions declined to have any of his already numerous grandchildren named after him. Now, however, perhaps with a premonition of his own early demise, he requested that this one be given his name. So the name "Amos" was prefixed to the name already selected and from the latter the name "Story" was dropped, and he was christened Amos Joseph. Six weeks later — in July, 1839 — the grandfather, Amos Harding, died, after a brief illness.

There was nothing in his infancy or boyhood to differentiate him from other children. was neither unusually precocious, nor, on the other hand, stupid. Up to eight years of age he was delicate, though rarely, if ever, sick; in fact, his older sister was asked some years ago what peculiarities he manifested as a child, and she replied the only thing she particularly remembered was that he would never admit that he was ill, or in fact that there was ever anything the matter with him. This is deemed worthy of mention here because this same peculiarity has adhered to him during his entire life, and in the belief of the writer this is one reason for the good health which has been his during his nearly seventy years.

After his ninth year he grew robust in health and has always been unusually strong and muscular.

He began attending the district school at four years, which was then school age in Ohio, and continued until his twelfth year to attend school, three months in summer and three months in winter. After that, work on the farm precluded the summer term; besides, by that time he had made such progress that the average summer school teacher was not of much value. During his thirteenth and fourteenth years, when time permitted, he was taught surveying by his maternal grandfather, Nehemiah Story. He thus learned, not only the theoretical part, but also practical surveying, by going into the field, making surveys and from the field notes platting the work and computing the areas, and measuring distances by triangulation.

During the summer and fall of 1853 he was employed on the original survey of what was then the Atlantic and Great Western railroad, now a part of the Erie system, locating the line from Galion to Marion, establishing the grades and subsequently measuring up the work as it progressed. He had always manifested a taste and inclination toward mechanics, and in 1854 he went to Cincinnati for the purpose of entering Todd's Foundry and Machine shops as an apprentice, to become a thorough machinist. Arrangements for this had been made in advance, but about the time of his arrival, there were two or three bank suspensions, resulting in a financial stringency which caused the machine shop to greatly reduce its force and to cease indefinitely to take on apprentices.

Compelled to give up, at least for the time, his intention to become a machinist, he obtained employment in the book store of N. S. Harding & Co., then doing business at 165 Vine street, Cincinnati, where he remained for some months, without demonstrating any unusual capability or taste for the business. He then returned home and soon after entered Ohio Central College, taking up a two years' scientific course, made up of mathematics, the natural sciences and English. He walked from his home to the college, two and a half miles - daily to recitations, and occasionally made an extra trip in the evening to attend his literary society, of which he was a zealous and active member. At the end of five terms — being one term less than the usual two years — he completed the required course of study and received his diploma. then taught a district school during the winter of 1856-7, in a log school house four miles east of his home, in a German neighborhood, where in fact there was but one native American family in the district, though most of the children were native born. At this time he was seventeen vears of age and several of his pupils were older than himself.









At the close of his school in March, 1857, he had \$140, which was much more than he had ever before possessed. It might be mentioned that while in college he had utilized his summer vacations by working on neighboring farms and in the harvest fields at \$1.25 per day for money to pay college expenses. At home he did chores night and morning, including the milking of from five to seven cows, as a remuneration for his board. He was also allowed fifty cents a cord in cash for cutting cordwood on his father's farm. The money so earned was utilized for the purchase of books and periodicals.

After the close of his school he did his last work on the old farm where he was born, by making maple sugar and syrup. He got started late, but the season was late and the weather favorable, so that he had two good "runs" of sap and a fine yield of the sweet product. This, with many more potent reasons, brings to him sweet memories of the old home farm, which still remains in possession of the family.

There is a tradition to the effect that no young man can fit himself for the highest usefulness in after life until he had taught a district school for one or more terms. Our sub-

ject had filled this requisite as above related, and in addition it may be mentioned he taught another term in the Letimberville district eleven miles west of his old home, to which he walked every Friday night, returning Monday morning in the same manner in time to open his school at 9 a. m. When but thirteen years of age he had, owning to the prolonged illness of the regular teacher (his sister), taught as substitute what was known as the "Hill school," two miles southwest of Galion, for six weeks.

Concurring in the advice of Horace Greeley, he concluded to go west. With his cash capital of \$140, he embarked for Nebraska City, in the new territory of Nebraska, on April 16, 1857, where he arrived April 28th, making an unusually quick trip. At that time it required twelve days or longer, while it can now be made in nineteen hours and without the loss of a night's rest. The voyage was made by railroad to St. Louis, and thence by steamboat up the Missouri river. He remembers passing the site of what is now Kansas City, then occupied by two or three indifferent buildings and known as "Westport Landing."

With the funds then in hand he might have

purchased a large part of the site of the future great city. Evidently it did not occur to him. He was then a few days less than eighteen, and on his arrival received a warm welcome from his two older brothers, N. S. Harding and Horace H. Harding, who were old settlers, having lived there nearly two years. The former was teller in the Platte Valley bank, of which he was subsequently cashier, and it is worthy of note that it was the only bank existing in the territory of Nebraska prior to the Civil war, whose depositors lost nothing and whose outstanding issues were redeemed in gold even after all banks in the United States had suspended specie payment.

Horace H. Harding was practicing law as a member of the firm of Bennet, Morton & Harding. Mr. Bennet removed to Colorado, whence he served two years in congress. Hon. J. Sterling Morton resided there till his death in 1903. He was the founder of what is known as "Arbor Day," and gave a greater impulse to tree planting throughout the western states than any other influence. He served as secretary of agriculture in President Cleveland's cabinet from 1893 to 1897. Horace H. Harding afterward

formed a partnership with H. C. Blackman and later removed to Missouri, where he was, for many years, a prominent railroad attorney, but has withdrawn from active practice and is a retired capitalist residing at Carthage, Mo.

The above may seem an unwarranted digression, but it is family history that will be of interest to the descendants of at least one considerable branch of the Harding family.

Soon after his arrival, our subject secured employment in the general store of Hall & Baker, the leading merchants of the new town. But after a few weeks he concluded that he was not well adapted to the handling of ribbons and lace or needles and pins, and he retired, to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He soon found employment with a firm of civil engineers and surveyors as a draftsman and surveyor.

The exploiting of paper towns and selling of shares by the promoters was at that period one of the chief industries of the budding commonwealth, and the surveying and platting of new prospective towns furnished abundant business for the firm. His salary was liberal and he confidently anticipated the early accumulation of wealth. Unfortunately the firm, while of

the highest class in professional ability, were improvident and impecunious, and so at the end of six months he found that while his earnings were at least satisfactory in amount, his cash receipts were exceedingly small, with little prospect of collecting the balance due Meanwhile the stupendous failure of the Ohio Life and Trust Company and its allied banks precipitated a financial crisis that resulted in failure or suspension of nearly all Western banks, and all banks in Kansas and Nebraska except the Platte Valley heretofore referred to. These financial conditions in a day wiped out the value of nine-tenths of the circulating medium with which the business of the Upper Missouri Valley had theretofore been transacted and was perhaps some excuse for his employers' failure to pay their indebtedness to their employe. A large number of mercantile houses, unable to make collections, suspended and failed. Owing to the maintenance of its solvency by the local bank above mentioned Nebraska City suffered less than other towns in the territory and the only failure of importance was that of the drug house of Armstrong & Duncan, which was placed in the hands of a receiver. As it was the only drug store in the place, in order to accommodate the public, the court ordered the receiver to reopen the store in the hands of a trusty storekeeper. Our subject was so employed, and so Amos J. Harding for a few months at least added to his other accomplishments that of druggist.

One of the advantages of this employment grew out of his being instructed to write up and balance up the books of the concern. He was not a practical bookkeeper, but while doing the work, obtaining from time to time assistance in the way of advice from N. S. Harding he became a fairly competent accountant, which has been of great service to him all through life. After a few months the store was sold out for account of the creditors, and thus ended his career as a druggist, but the valuable knowledge acquired of the business and details relating to such stocks has remained with him and has often proved a valuable asset.

His next venture was in the domain of insurance. The first week in January, 1858, he, through the kindness of N. S. Harding, became a sub or surveying agent for the Aetna Insurance company of Hartford, Conn. Proceeding by

stage to Sidney, Iowa, he made a map or diagram of all the business part of the little town: he secured policies on several store and dwelling risks, upon which the premiums amounted to \$350, then took stage to Rockport, Mo., where he also made a map and secured risks - including \$10,000 on the court house — upon which the premiums aggregated about \$500. Thence by team to Brownville, Neb., where he found the Aetna had a local agent, hence he could attempt to do no business there, and he concluded to re-But as the stage ran only three turn home. times a week and it was not stage day, he started on foot for Nebraska City, twenty-five miles dis-Arriving at Peru, a half-way point, he found a blacksmith shop, a store and dwelling, all there was of the town. He was able to get a comfortable dinner, and secured a risk on the store stock and household goods of the storekeeper, who was also postmaster. Proceeding on his way, he arrived about dark at Otoe City, six miles south of Nebraska City. This town has long since disappeared from the map, but at that time it was an ambitious place and had three stores, a hotel and a number of dwellings. He remained there for the night, incidentally

securing two or three good risks, and next morning returned home. This was his first experience as a fire insurance agent. In six days, he had traveled sixty-eight miles by stage, private conveyance and on foot, and taken about \$1,000 in premiums. He continued to work up insurance, assisting his older brother, who was local agent for the Aetna, for some months.

In May, 1858, he engaged in the work of surveying of government land under a contract held by Charles W. Pierce, U. S. deputy surveyor, for townshipping and running standard lines in a large portion of northern Neb-This work was begun about June 1st raska. and continued till the middle of December following. The territory embraced extended from what is now the south line of Stanton and Madison counties to the Missouri river on the north and from what is now Dixon county on the east to the present Holt county on the west. It was a wild, uninhabited region, save for a few Indians, herds of buffalo, elk, deer, antelope and wolves, mostly of the covote variety, though there were some of the large gray species in the timber skirting the river.

Returning to Nebraska City, the winter was (168)

mainly spent in writing up field notes and platting the work for returns to the surveyor general's office, though he found considerable time to devote to the study of law in the office of Harding & Blackman, and also to do some work in insurance.

In the spring of 1859 our subject engaged with Messrs. Hawke & Naickoll of Nebraska City, to purchase and ship corn in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. While so employed he traveled on horseback from southeastern Nebraska to northwestern Iowa, taking in all the counties on both sides of the Missouri river, as far north as Sioux City. Owing to the "June rise" in the Missouri, the Iowa bottoms were flooded so that he rode through a continuous sheet of water from one to three feet in depth, fourteen miles in passing through Monona county, Iowa. The road was, of course, obliterated, and in a few places the water was found more than stirrup deep, but horse and rider came safely through. In September following he became the junior member of the firm of N. S. Harding & Co., engaging in the book, stationery and news business, of which firm he remained a member until 1868, though he gave but little personal attention to the business, which was carried on by the senior member of the firm for at least twenty-five years. He continued the study of law as time permitted until fairly well prepared for admission to the bar, had his age admitted. This deficiency could only be remedied by time and hence was postponed indefinitely, but his knowledge of law thus acquired has been of the utmost value to him all through life and he is convinced that the time spent in its study has yielded more valuable results than any other investment he has ever made.

In 1860 he found active employment as an assistant United States marshal, in taking the seventh census. During this year a militia battery of light artillery was organized, of which he became a member. The organization comprised a full battery of one hundred and fifty men, fully uniformed and equipped except that it had but one gun — a six-pounder — and equipments, but the men were thoroughly drilled both as infantry and in the manual of arms as well as in the artillery manual and battery evolutions. When the Civil war broke out the succeeding year the service of the battery was, through the

governor, tendered to the government, but it was declined with the statement that artillerv was not needed, but that a regiment of infantry would be acceptable. Thereupon the battery organization disintegrated and most of its memhers enlisted for service in the First Nebraska Infantry Volunteers. Amos J. Harding was one of the first three names signed to the enlistment roll in Nebraska City. The company organization was completed in May, but when early in June it was ordered to Omaha to be mustered into the U.S. service, our subject was critically ill with pneumonia complicated with pleurisy, from which his recovery was very slow. It finally ran into what his physician called quick consumption or tuberculosis. During all his illness there was no time when he was not able to sit up and even walk about his room. He personally insisted that there was nothing serious in his case and seemed confident of an early and full recovery. To others his condition appeared to be hopeless, and his brother, Horace H. Harding, took him back to his old home in Ohio to die. They traveled in easy stages by steamboat and rail, resting at St. Joseph, St. Louis and Cincinnati, finally arriving at his old home on the

Fourth of July. His health began to show a marked improvement as soon as he had started on the long journey, so that by the time he reached home he was fairly convalescent, but it was many months before he was so fully recovered as to enable him to join his regiment, which was then in the field in southern Missouri. He was assigned to Company "I," with which he continued until promoted the following year. The regiment was then stationed along the line of railroad from St. Louis to Springfield, then completed as far as Lebanon. While at Lebanon he first saw Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, then a captain of infantry, and acting quartermaster. He was a most efficient quartermaster, and the way he cleared out the clogged-up supply depot and forwarded supplies to the army in the southwest was inspiring, especially to the troops who were suffering for shoes, clothing and rations. He gave valuable object lessons to the regimental brigade and division quartermasters of that army, whose inertia had become monotonous, that lasted them through the war. A few months later Capt. Sheridan was promoted to colonelcy of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry and soon began to give object lessons in that branch of the service which were inspiring to the whole army and the country as well.

The regiment soon afterward - early in 1862 — was ordered to Cairo, where it was incorporated in Gen. Grant's first organization of the Army of the Tennessee. It was brigaded with the Eighth Missouri and Eleventh Indiana, commanded by Brig. Gen. John M. Thayer, former colonel of the First Nebraska, and in the division of Gen. Lew Wallace, and participated in the campaign and battles of Fort Donnelson, Shilo, Corinth and Iuka. Our subject during these movements was most of the time detached from his regiment and on duty at his brigade or division headquarters. After the capture of Corinth, Thayer's brigade, including the First Nebraska, was sent under Gen. Steele into Arkansas, which was soon cleared of confederates, and the First Nebraska was detached and became a part of the Army of Southeast Missouri under Gen. Davidson. It was a hard winter campaign, though there was little fighting except occasional skirmishes, until the battle of Cape Girardeau in April, 1863. Our subject was with the command and on duty at brigade headquarters all through the campaign, serving several

times as recorder for court martials, for which his knowledge of law especially fitted him, and in the meantime, he had procured copies of Benet's Military Law and Courts Martial and De-Hart's Military Law, which he had studied diligently. In fact, the former, which was then the recognized authority for military courts, he had almost committed to memory. It was due to this knowledge and his experience that immediately after the battle of Cape Girardeau he was detached from his regiment and ordered to St. Louis, where he was assigned to duty in the office of the judge advocate at district headquarters. He never saw or served with his regiment afterward. He remained in the department of military justice, most of the time as acting judge advocate, until the winter of 1863-4, when he was promoted to first lieutenant of Company L, Sixth Missouri Cavalry, and assigned to duty as aide-de-camp and judge advocate on the staff of Gen. Clinton B. Fisk, commanding St. Louis district, which embraced all of the state lying south of the Missouri river.

It is proper here to explain that the duties of a staff judge advocate are numerous and varied. He is legal advisor of the commanding officer (174)

upon all matters pertaining to military law. It is his duty to prepare the charges and specifications against all offenders against military law or army regulations or the legal orders of superior officers, for trial by courts martial, and in states where martial law prevailed (as in Missouri), he had to prepare charges and specifications against all civilians for offenses against military law as well as the laws of the state, to be tried before military commissions, which under martial law take the place of the criminal courts of the state, except so far as the commander-in-chief permits the state courts to exercise jurisdiction. This necessitated the keeping of one or more courts martial and military commissions always in session. After all trials by a military court the complete record of each case, which must be kept in writing, is returned to the staff judge advocate for review and to prepare the necessary orders for carrying into effect the judgment of the court or to order the release of the accused party if acquitted.

In April, 1864, General Fisk was assigned to the command of the District of North Missouri, which at that time was infested with swarms of guerillas. He was accompanied by his personal

staff and established his headquarters at St. Joseph. Lieut. Harding was assigned to duty as judge advocate of the district. A month later he was in addition appointed district provost marshal. In this capacity he had the custody of all military prisoners, most of whom were confined in the military prison at St. Joseph. He also had the direct supervision of eleven subdistricts, each in charge of an officer detailed as assistant provost marshal. From that time his labors became more strenuous than ever before, requiring at all times from ten to twelve hours and sometimes as much as sixteen hours per day of hard, close application. The hardest service that he saw during the war extended from May until December 1, 1864, at which latter date he was relieved from duty as provost marshal, but his duties as judge advocate continued heavy and exacting. This position he continued to fill to the entire satisfaction of the general commanding until May 1, 1865, when owing to the conclusion of the war, most of the cases pending were turned over to the civil authorities. During his incumbency as judge advocate he had drawn charges and specifications (corresponding to indictments in the state courts) in nearly

twenty-four hundred cases, and to his credit it may be said that in not a single case were the proceedings disapproved or reversed by the higher authorities on account of any error or deficiency in charges and specification, though many cases were appealed to the department commander and not a few carried up to the judge advocate general and secretary of war. While acting as provost marshal it became necessary in the line of duty for him to take charge at various times of the execution of five noted guerillas who had been tried by military commissions and sentenced to death. Three were hanged at St. Joseph and two at Macon, Mo. He also had charge of the execution of one soldier convicted of the murder of a comrade. This also occurred at St. Joseph and was by shooting, as is customary in the case of a soldier. The performance of these duties was more repugnant to him than any in his military career.

On May 1, 1865, General Fisk, and his staff were relieved from duty in Missouri and ordered to report to Gen. O. O. Howard in Washington for assignment to duty under the act of congress establishing the Freedmen's Bureau, of which Gen. Howard had been appointed com-

missioner by President Lincoln a few days before his death. In going to Washington they went by way of Boston, and while there had the privilege of listening to Senator Sumner's splendid memorial oration on Lincoln, delivered by request of the legislature of Massachusetts. It was a rare privilege. Upon reporting in Washington Gen. Fisk was assigned to duty as assistant commissioner to the Freedmen's Bureau for the states of Kentucky, Tennessee and northern Alabama, with headquarters at Nashville. In the meantime — March 13th — Lieut. Harding had been promoted to captain and he was now assigned to duty and designated in general orders as "Solicitor for Freedmen's Courts' in the district under Gen. Fisk's jurisdiction. Under the laws of Alabama and Tennessee a negro was not permitted to testify against a white man in the state tribunals and therefore became necessary to establish courts in those states where the black could be heard. The act of congress creating the Freedmen's Bureau authorized the establishment of such courts. Pursuant to this authority Capt. Harding established courts at Memphis, Clarksville, Chattanooga and Nashville. At the last

named place he personally held the court, and in doing so held the first court in the state of Tennessee wherein a negro could testify against a white. He occupied the bench in this court for nearly six months. His court room was usually filled from 9 a. m. till 4 p. m. with a large and varied assortment of "Fifteenth Amendment citizens" with all manner of complaints, most of them arising from non-payment of wages alleged to have been earned, but there were many cases of assaults and personal injuries and not a few of bastardy. Among those cited to appear was Andrew J. Donnelson, adopted son of "Old Hickory," on complaint of negroes employed at the Hermitage. In this case it was found upon investigation that the negroes were wrong and Mr. Donnelson blameless. Old Maj. Lewis, who had been a staff officer of Gen. Jackson during the Creek Indian war and was afterward second auditor of the treasury during the two terms of President Jackson, appeared on behalf of the colored men employed on his plantation.

About the 1st of October, 1865, tiring of army as well as judicial service in time of peace, he resigned and returned to his home in Neb-

braska City.

It is proper here to mention that while on duty in North Missouri he was married to Eliza H., the daughter of James H. and Margaret Wallace Cowden, at her home in St. Joseph, Mo., December 20, 1864. She was born in Madison, Ind., December 23, 1843. Her mother was a daughter of William and Margaret McFernan Wallace, and was born in Cincinnati in 1803. Her father was born in Georgetown, Kv., in 1798, and was appointed postmaster at Madison, Ind., by President Jackson in 1829, holding the office continuously until his death in 1847. His wife remained in Missouri while Capt. Harding was on duty in Tennessee, and his oldest son was born at Macon, Mo., August 20, 1865. After four years of service, during which he was not in hospital nor on "sick call" for a day, and with only fifteen days leave of absence, he now returned to civil life in full health and with a wife and baby.

Sobered and steadied by four years of arduous army service, much of the time with large responsibilities, and now the head of a family, he entered upon the serious business of life. He chose insurance as his life work. N. S. Harding had, as best he could, carried on his insurance business in connection with his book, stationery and news trade, which had grown to such proportions as to require nearly all of his time and energy. He had the agency for only two fire insurance companies, and for these the entire premium receipts for the year 1865 amounted to only \$6,400. This, with a few hundred dollars premiums on life insurance, comprised the business of the agency.

On the 1st of January, 1866, a partnership was formed under the name of N. S. & A. J. Harding, for the transaction of the insurance business, the junior member having meanwhile obtained the agency of four or five leading companies in his own name. He at once took sole charge of that branch of the business, N. S. Harding remaining in sole charge of the book trade, which continued in the old name of N. S. Harding & Co.

By the end of 1866 he had increased the insurance premiums of the agency to over \$18,000. The succeeding year there was a further increase to over \$20,000.

In the beginning of 1868 both firms were dissolved, the junior member selling his interest in

N. S. Harding & Co. to the senior and the latter selling his interest in the firm of N. S. & A. J. Harding to the latter. During that year he increased the fire and marine premiums to about \$23,000. This was only accomplished by securing at least five-sixths of the entire business of the town, though he had two or three competitors. He had also written a large amount of life insurance in the Equitable Life, writing as high as \$118,000 during the month of January alone. This attracted the attention of the officers of the company and in March following the president, Henry B. Hyde, who was making a trip through the west, requested Mr. Harding to meet him at St. Joseph, Mo., which he did, when he was offered and urged to accept the general agency of the Equitable Life Assurance Society for Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico, on most liberal terms. It was a tempting proposition, and while it meant hard work it meant wealth in the near future. He took it under consideration for a day, but he was wedded to fire insurance, of which he had already made a profound study. It accorded with his tastes and he had been urged by at least two of his companies to go into the field as a special

agent and adjuster; in fact, he had done a good deal of this kind of work for the companies he represented locally, and so he, with some reluctance, declined President Hyde's flattering proposition. He soon after engaged with the Home Insurance company of New York to give half his time to the supervision of its business in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Western Iowa. This arrangement continued for four years, during which he traveled for at least fifteen days each month, at the same time keeping up his local business in Nebraska City.

After the great Chicago conflagration of October, 1871, which wiped out of existence a large part of the insurance capital of the country, there was increasing demand for expert service in the field in the appointment and supervision of agents and the adjustment of losses, and, yielding to strong solicitation and the offer of a liberal salary he engaged to give his entire time to the service of the Phenix Insurance company of Brooklyn, of which he had long been local agent. He became their special agent and adjuster for the states of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and the western territories as far west as Utah. The territory now comprises nine states

and one territory and required a vast deal of travel. The business of the company in that field was not large and it contained about one hundred and fifty agencies. He continued in the position four years, during which the number of agencies was increased to nearly five hundred, and the amount of business transacted increased over 400 per cent. In the meantime he employed two assistants, one in Iowa and one in Missouri and Kansas, his own time being mainly employed in the adjustment of losses.

In November, 1875, while absent in the field, he received a telegram requesting him to go to Springfield, Mass., and make a contract for the management of a western department of the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance company. This was a great surprise to him, as he never had had any connection or acquaintance with that company and had never solicited such a position from that company or any other. Here it may not be out of place to say that he has never been an applicant for any place or position or a candidate for any public office.

He, however, went to Springfield, where he spent two days conferring with the officers and board of directors, at the end of which time the



secretary wrote out a letter of authority on a sheet of commercial note paper appointing him manager of the company for its western department, embracing all the state and territories west of Pennsylvania, as far west as Utah, and north of the Ohio river, with headquarters at Chicago. Arkansas and Texas were added to his field a year later. Under the brief authority the business of that company has been carried on for thirty-three years.

In all this vast region the company had up to that time less than one hundred agencies and about \$100,000 in business. He removed to Chicago and assumed his position on the 15th of December, 1875, but did not actually commence business until January 1, 1876. The company at that time had a cash capital of \$600,000, and total assets of \$1,390,000. On January 1, 1907, its capital was \$2,000,000, total assets of \$6,-936,000. In the western department, during the same period, its agency force had increased from less than one hundred to over thirty-six hundred, and its premiums from \$100,000 to \$2,-596,000. These were some of the fruits of Manager Harding's labors for the company. aggregate net premium income for the entire period was \$26,954,000, and he had paid for losses over \$14,500,000. For many years the business of his department has been about one-half of the entire business of the company.

His success has been marvelous and he is recognized among underwriters as one of the ablest managers in the United States. He was one of the founders of what is known as the Western Insurance Union in 1879, and it continues (up to 1907), as the most important organization of fire underwriters ever formed. Its membership comprises the officers and managers of all the leading fire insurance companies, both domestic and foreign, that are transacting business in the United States. Of this organization he has served as president and vice president.

At the close of a quarter of a century as manager, December 15, 1900, his fellow managers and officers of companies tendered him a banquet at the Union League Club, which was attended not only by resident managers, but there were many who came from New York, Cincinnati and St. Louis to do honor to the guest of the occasion. President A. W. Damon came from Springfield to represent the officers and

directors of the company he has served so long and well. Hon. Eugene Cary, manager of the German American Insurance company, presided at the banquet, and among other incidents of the occasion Manager Harding was presented by his fellow managers with a beautiful silver loving cup upon which the names of all present were engraved. On behalf of the board of directors of the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance company, President Damon presented him with a beautiful and very valuable watch and chain suitably engraved. Mr. R. S. Critchell, his Chicago agent, presented him a very handsome and valuable gold-headed cane. Harding was quite overwhelmed by the gifts. good words and manifestations of high regard, which he felt and insisted were more than he deserved, still he could not help feeling that his quarter century had not been spent in vain and that the labor, responsibility and anxiety of the years had been worth all they cost.

He had assumed his managerial position at thirty-six, in the prime of his early manhood; he was now a grey-haired veteran of sixty-one, but he does not regret the lapse of time, provided the years have been usefully and credit-

ably employed, and that while he has successfully built up the institution he has served, he has, as well, built up his own character, and has pulled no one else down, but has, when occasion offered, extended the helping hand. In this connection it is a matter of pride with him that among his sixty or seventy employes many of them have been with him since they left school as boys and are now in middle life, while half a dozen, at least, have now (1907), been with him from twenty-eight to thirty-two years and are his ablest assistants. Manager Harding believes that character is worth more than capital and he has, by precept and example, constantly endeavored to promote this idea and principle among his employes.

In his early manhood, while living in Nebraska, our subject was somewhat active in local and state politics. He had been brought up as an old time Whig, but when that party perished, after a period of uncertainty, he naturally gravitated into the republican party, casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, while in the army, stationed at St. Joseph, Mo., in 1864. He has been a zealous republican ever since.

After returning from the war in 1865, he was a delegate to nearly every republican county convention in Otoe county while he continued to live there. Between 1866 and 1875 he was a delegate to the state conventions for five successive vears. He was a member of the state Soldiers' and Sailors' convention held in 1868, and was president of that body. He was a member of the state republican convention of the same year and was by it elected a delegate to the national republican convention of 1868, held in Chicago, which nominated Gen. U. S. Grant for president. In 1872 he was offered the nomination for state senator (which at that time was equivalent to an election), but he declined it, believing that a young man having business ambition could not do worse for himself than get into the officeholding class, and he invariably refused to allow his name to be used for any office. After the acceptance of his present position and removal to Chicago, he ceased all active political work except to attend his ward primaries and to vote at every election. In local affairs he has not been governed by partisanship, but has held himself free to vote for the best men regardless of party affiliations.

In early years he devoted much time to temperance work, mainly in connection with the order of Good Templars, of which he was a member many years. In 1867, 1868 and 1870 he was a member of the grand lodge of Nebraska, and was a member of the Right Worthy grand lodge of North America at its Richmond, Ind., session of 1868, and Baltimore session in 1871. While in the army and stationed at Macon, Mo., in the winter of 1864-5, he brought about the organization of a lodge there, and as Chief Templar he initiated General Clinton B. Fisk and several officers of his staff. General Fisk became, after the war, an active temperance worker, and in 1888 was a candidate of the prohibition party for president of the United States. Manager Harding was a teetotaler until after fifty years of age, and is practically so still, although he talkes a little wine on public dinner occasions and at gatherings of his old comrades, the veterans of the Civil war, to many of whom he believes a little stimulant occasionally is needful and beneficial.

He narrowly escaped becoming a newspaper man, which would no doubt have changed mater-(190)

ially the current of his later life. In his callow vouth he occasionally contributed to the country newspapers, both in prose and verse, and in looking over his scrap book in mature years he was in some doubt as to which was the worst. After going to Nebraska he became a correspondent for the Cincinnati Times and an occasional contributor to the Scientific American. The New York Clipper and other papers. While in the army he was an occasional correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat and also for his home papers in Nebraska, and after his return home was a paragrapher on the News, not as a business but rather an amusement. His work, however, attracted the notice of Col. O. H. Irish, owner and editor of the Nebraska Press. 1866 Col. Irish was appointed consul to Dresden, and before going abroad he asked Mr. Harding to take general charge of the Press as editor and publisher, and coupled his proposition with such a liberal salary that he gave it serious consideration. He, however, reasoned to the conclusion that while it would give him an immediate income much larger than his business then afforded, the insurance business presented a more attractive future, and so, not without reluctance, he declined with many thanks the tempting offer.

He is not a member of any church, but is a believer in churches and religion, and his views are tolerant and liberal. He was raised in the Free Baptist church, of which his father and mother were members. After his marriage he was a regular attendant at the Methodist Episcopal church for many years. Since his removal to Chicago he has been a regular and constant attendant of the Presbyterian church, and was for some years a trustee of the Third Presbyterian church of Chicago. At the time he removed from Nebraska City there were thirteen churches in the town and he had contributed toward the building of eleven of them.

He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, of which he has been vice president, and of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, of which he has been vice commander, and has twice been a member of the congress of the order. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, deriving his right to membership from the following named ances-

THE HARDINGS

tors on the maternal side:

Great-great-grandfather Benjamin Dows. Great-great-grandfather Ensign Wm. Low. Great grandfather Joseph Story.

Great grandfather Nathaniel Kittredge, all of whom served one or more enlistments in the Patriot army. He is also eligible to membership in the Society of Colonial Wars, all of his ancestors having come to the Colonies prior to 1650 and they were "all fighters," as are their descendants. He has the record of several of them who served in the Colonial Indian wars.

He was one of the founders of the Union League Club of Chicago and served several years on its board of directors.

He was also one of the founders of the Western Adjustment and Inspection company of Chicago, of which he has been a director from the date of its organization in 1880, and much of the time its vice president. This brings down to date the record of a very busy life, which may be said also to have been fairly useful.

He is approaching three score and ten, but is hale and hearty, and it is to be hoped has some years of usefulness before him.

It is realized that this biographical sketch

THE HARDINGS

will be of little, if any, interest to many to whom it will come, but to one branch of the family it will not be without interest, and those who come after will perhaps be glad to learn, as they here may, what manner of man their grandfather or greatgrandfather was. This is written mainly for them.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN.

MAHALA HARDING FIELDS.

Mahala Harding was born at Clifford, Pa., 1813, and came with her parents to Ohio when seven years old.

Married Richard Fields, Oct. 19, 1834.

Living in Harrison county, Mo., in 1898. Children:

James E.

Mary A.

Mahala J.

Lorenzo.

George W.

Joseph E.

Artemissa J.

John D.

Julius E.

Lucius Tripp.

Wilson W.

Margaret A.

Richard A.

Florence E.

PART V.

Morderai Kice Harding.



Mordecai Rice Harding, Sr.

Genealogical Chart, Showing Descendants of

MORDECAI RICE HARDING.

1	J	K	L		
	20 /01 27 10	1. Helen M. 2. Edward N. 3. St. Clair	1 Geo, Chambers		
29. Thomas Newton b. Sept. 20, 1818 d. Jan. 24, 1888 m. Eleanor Johnston	4. Dick F.	2 Eleanor Grace 3 James Newton 4 Dick 5 Helen M. 6 Dorothy 7 Ruth 8 June			
2		5. Odelpha	9 Emma S. 10 John Harvey 11 Ora E.		
8, 181	30. James Harvey	6. O. Curtis	12 Mabel C. 13 Jessie E. 14 Leola F. 15 Roscoe M.		
tt.	b. Jan. 8, 1821 d. Nov. 15, 1892 m. Emily Flint	7. Rocella	16 Eva Sedora 17 Judson H. 18 Burton R. 19 Emily F.		
u 🕸	an 2301. That	8. A. Judson 9. Thos. Spencer			
ğemtı		10. Will E.	20 Clelia M. 21 J. Harvey 22 Harry F.		
म्बास क्र	31. Lucinda	11. Lewis N.	23 Ella 24 Jessie M. 25 William K. 26 Lewis N		
9 11	b. Sept. 13, 1823 d. Dec. 23, 1886	12. Ella L.	27 Warren E.		
4	m. Wm. H. Converse	13. Edith A.	28 Don D.		
30. James H b. Jan. 8, 1821 d. Nov. 15, 188 m. Emily Fl 31. Lucinda b. Sept. 13, 18 d. Dec. 23, 188 m. Wm. H. 6		14. Julia 15. Susannah	29 Otto B. 30 Edith I. 31 Mary D.		
ij.	32. Susan J. b. Oct. 3, 1825	16. Mary L.	32 Elbertine 33 SinClair 34 Ralph 35 Jesse K. 36 Bernice Ruth		
Harding	d. July 27, 1897 m. David Butler	17. Mordecai E.	33 Ayrtle 38 Laura 39 Ida 40 May 41 Pearl 42 Roy 43 Edith 44 Marie		
24		18. Bernice J.	45 Dee Butler 46 Clyde Vyrl		
Kir		19 Fra G.			

CHAPTER ONE.

MORDECAL RICE HARDING.

Mordecai Rice Harding, sixth child of Amos and Phoebe Harding, was born near Wilkes Barre, Luzerne county, Pa., Nov. 18, 1795. When a boy of five he went with his parents to Susquehanna county, Pa., where the family lived for many years. September 18, 1817, he married Susan Newton (nee Baker) and raised a family of nine children.

Mordecai was the first of the large family of children to leave the old Pennsylvania homestead and venture into the then new "west." In July, 1819, with his wife and all his worldly goods in an ox-cart, he, after a long and tedious journey, arrived at a place now within the borders of Richland county, in the north central part of Ohio, then on the borderland of western settlement. Here he "squatted" on a quarter section of school land which he afterwards "paid out," thereby becoming the owner. It was upon this old homestead, of which he retained possession over half a century, that all

his children were born and all but two reared to manhood and womanhood.

When Mordecai Rice Harding first arrived in that part of Ohio where he afterwards settled, the country was one great wilderness. He assisted in clearing the timber from what later became the "great highway." The country was then inhabited only by Indian tribes. Shortly after his arrival. Mordecai Harding while traversing the wilderness, wandered from the highway and became lost in the woods. After wandering for some time he saw the light of a campfire at some distance and going toward it, discovered it to be the camp of Chief Pipe, one of the ruling chiefs of that portion of the country. With little hesitation he approached the camp and was met by the chief who gave him a place to sleep and skins with which to protect him from the night atmosphere, and as soon as it became day the chief, with a party of braves, escorted him back to the highway and directed him on his way home. Many times after this Chief Pipe visited the home of Mordecai Harding, and was always welcomed and fed. In 1820, the Indians became restive and fearing for their safety all the members of the Harding settlement returned to their old home in Pennsylvania, returning the following year, making the trip both ways on horseback. On their return to their Ohio farms they found nearly all the homes of their neighbors in ashes and their crops destroyed, but not a parcel of damage had been inflicted on any of the property owned by the Harding families, it having been protected by the orders of their Indian friends. The friendship between the Harding families and Chief Pipe continued for many years and until the old chief was removed farther to the west.

About one year after he had established his home in the west, his father and several of his brothers and sisters came to the new state, all settling close together, and for many years that portion of the county was known as the "Harding settlement."

Mordecai followed farming all his life and by economy and good management became at one time the owner of over 300 acres of choice land—at that time considered an enormous tract. He served for many years in township official life and filled various positions the greater portion of his life on the district school boards, being somewhat noted for his earnest efforts towards the upbuilding of the country schools. He was a member of the Baptist church and for nearly fifty years — from the date of its organization, in which he was prominently identified, to the time of his death — he acted as deacon in the old Blooming Grove Baptist church. He was a leading anti-slavery man all his life.

Shortly before his death he sold his farm and made his home with his son, Mordecai Rice, Jr., where he died March 15, 1870, in the seventy-fifth year of his age, and his remains rest in the old family burying grounds at Blooming-Grove (now Corsica), Morrow county, Ohio.

Susan Baker was born in Connecticut March 24, 1794. In 1812 her father, Ebenezer Baker, came with his family to Pennsylvania and settled near Clifford, Susquehanna county. In 1813 she was married to Thomas Newton, son of Matthew Newton, who came also from Connecticut and settled with his family on what was known as the "Burns Place," a few miles west of Clifford, in 1805. To Susan Baker and Thomas Newton one child—Liza Ann—was born Aug. 4, 1814. She married Jan. 8, 1830, Hiram Wells. She died in August, 1834. Hira

Wells afterward married Wealthy Harding, a sister of Mordecai R. Harding. Thomas Newton died June 1, 1815.

Susan Newton Harding died March 3, 1851,

To Mordecai Rice and Susan Newton Harding nine children were born, as follows:

Thomas Newton, born Sept. 30, 1818; died

Jan. 24, 1888.

James Harvey, born Jan. 8, 1821; died Nov. 15, 1892.

Lucinda, born Sept. 15, 1823; died Dec. 23, 1886.

Susan J., born Oct. 3, 1825; died July 27, 1897.

Mordecai Rice, born Nov. 13, 1827; died March 22, 1904.

Rosalinda, born Dec. 23, 1829; died Sept., 1852.

Edward Sterge, born May 12, 1833; died Jan. 12, 1896.

Louisa J., born May 13, 1835; living in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mary E., born Dec. 27, 1839; died Sept., 1852.

Of the nine children, seven married and raised families. Of these five lived to be over seventy and two reached the age of sixty-three.

January 15, 1852, Mordecai Harding married Martha Steele (born Aug. 15, 1815), who survived him a few years.

CHAPTER TWO.

THOMAS NEWTON HARDING, oldest child of Mordecai Rice and Susannah Newton Harding. was born in Susquehanna county, Pa., September 30, 1818; when one year of age his parents emigrated to Richland county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood. While a child he evinced a great desire for learning and devoured all the literature that came in his way. Living in a heavily timbered country, where the inhabitants thought more of felling trees and clearing farms than they did of learning, his advantages for scholastic training were very limited — with few books and fewer newspapers. However, at the age of sixteen, he taught a district school. With the proceeds he went to a private school at Mansfield, Ohio, and was a classmate of John Sherman. After having finished the course at this private school, he entered Gambier (Ohio) college. After leaving Gambier he taught for a while, and with the proceeds took a course at Oberlin college. In 1840, after leaving Oberlin, he engaged in the mercantile business at Norwalk, Huron county, Ohio.

On May 31, 1846, he married Eleanor Coulter Johnstone at Blooming Grove, Ohio. 1849, he moved to Blooming Grove, Morrow county, Ohio, and in March, 1850, went to California, leaving his wife and daughter with his father on the old homestead in Richland county. On his homeward journey in 1851, he Ohio. was wrecked off the coast of Honduras and cast on Ruatan Island, from which he was taken off by a vessel bound for New Orleans, and he returned home by way of the Mississippi river, having been gone one year. This home-coming was a sad one for him, as he arrived the day after his mother was buried. He remained in Blooming Grove until May, 1854, when he disposed of his business and started in company with a number of his neighbors overland for California; they traveled as far as possible by public transportation, then each bought an outfit and started for Ft. Scott, where they hoped to join an overland wagon train; they were too late, as when they reached Ft. Scott the train had been gone three days. They held a consultation and the majority decided to push on and overtake the wagons. The subject of the sketch, however, returned to Blooming Grove, and remained until September, 1854, when he again started for California, taking passage at New York via the Isthmus of Panama.

The day he landed in San Francisco he met the party with whom he had started overland early in the spring; they had arrived the same day in San Francisco, and reported that they had endured terrible privations and dangers from thirst, heat, Indians and sickness. In 1857 he was joined by his wife and daughter and they returned to Ohio in 1858, and he again entered into partnership with his brother, J. H. Harding, at the old place, Blooming Grove, Ohio. In 1862 he bought out his brother's interest and the following year disposed of the entire business. The next ten years he spent at various places in the west and south, and in 1875 he again went to the Pacific coast, settling in the Willamette valley, Oregon, where he remained until 1885, when he went to Santa Ana, Orange county, Cal., where he died January 24, 1888, aged 69 vears, 4 months.

Eleanor Harding died at her home in Santa Ana, Cal., March 4, 1904, in her eightieth year.

To Newton and Eleanor Harding were born four children:

Helen Mar, born at Norwalk, Ohio, Nov. 18, 1847.

Edward Newton, born Aug. 20, 1851; died August, 1853.

St. Clair, born March 10, 1853; died August, 1853.

Dick Foye, born July 10, 1860.

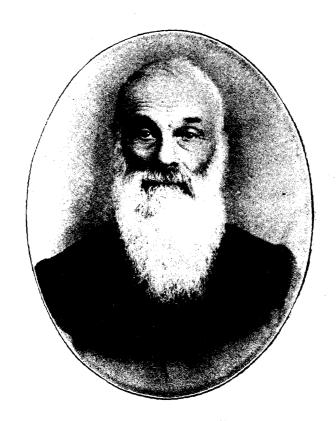
Helen Mar Harding, only daughter of Newton Harding, was born Nov. 18, 1847. She received an academic education in Ohio and was a successful teacher for many years. She was married in Ohio to George Chambers and has one son, who is now a resident of Kansas. She was married a second time to Thomas Meredith of Lewis, Iowa, and shortly after her marriage made a trip to England, Scotland and France. She now resides at Santa Ana, California.

Dick Foye Harding, only surviving son of Newton Harding, was born July 10, 1860. He received an academic education at Galion, Ohio; removed to Atlantic, Cass county, Iowa, where he engaged in teaching; afterwards entered the State University of Iowa at Iowa City, and completed the law course, receiving the degree L. L.

THE HARDINGS

B.; was a member of the class of 1881; was admitted to the bar before he was of age; he opened a law office in the county seat and has practiced his profession ever since. September 15, 1881, he married Mary Clark, a daughter of Capt. Geo. Clark, an old law practitioner at Iowa City. They have seven children living, as follows: Eleanore Grace (Hill), James Newton, Dick, Helen M., Dorothy, Ruth, Jane.





James Harvey Harding.

CHAPTER THREE.

JAMES HARVEY HARDING Was born on the home farm in Richland county, Ohio, Jan. 8, Died Nov. 15, 1892. He remained on the home farm with his father until 1856, when he moved to Blooming Grove (now Corsica), in Morrow county, and engaged in mercantile business with one Henry Baumann. This partnership continued about two and one-half years, when Baumann sold his interest in the business to Thomas N. Harding. The brothers continued in business together for about eighteen months, when both sold out and a short time later — in October, 1862 — James H. moved to Keokuk county, Iowa, and engaged in farming near What Cheer. In 1865 he moved to Adams township — same county — where he resided until a short time before his death, when he moved to What Cheer. His death occurred very suddenly Nov. 15, 1892, at the old homestead where he had gone to oversee some repairs then being made.

He married May 5, 1842, Emily Flint (born June 20, 1824; died Aug. 11, 1897), who contin-

ued to live in What Cheer up to the time of her death.

J. H. Harding was always a staunch Republican and a devoted member of the Baptist church, moving to What Cheer in 1889, in order that he might better enjoy the privileges of church worship.

During his lifetime he held many positions of trust and honor in the township in which he resided and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances throughout that section.

Children of James H. and Emily Harding:

Odelpha, born Aug. 21, 1843; died Sept. 4, 1907.

O. Curtis, born April 29, 1847.

Rocella, born Oct. 4, 1849; died April 30, 1889.

A. Judson, born Dec. 22, 1852; died Aug. 24, 1855.

Thos. Spencer, born April 27, 1855; died Feb. 11, 1872.

William E., born Sept. 25, 1858.

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Odelpha Harding married Sept. 16, 1861, Ruben Davis, who died Feb. 22, 1902. Children: Emma Solora, born July 16, 1863.

John Harvey, born April 10, 1866; married Nellie Cochrane; have one child, Inez.

O. Curtis Harding married Sept. 1, 1875, Clara J. Storey. Resides Everett, Wash. Children:

Ora Elda, born July 30, 1876; married Jas. Churchill, June 30, 1895. Children: Margaret Lucile, born Jan. 12, 1897; Clara Jauneita, born Dec. 18, 1898; Dorris Gail, born May 7, 1902; Roscoe E., born May 16, 1904. Resides Keswick, Iowa.

Mabel Clare, born Aug. 18, 1878; married Chas. K. Hodge, Feb. 7, 1897. Children: Blakeney Merritt, born May 25, 1898; Wilda Arline, born Aug. 16, 1902. Resides Everett, Wash.

Jessie Ethel, born Dec. 29, 1880; died Dec. 17, 1881.

Leola Fay, born Sept. 15, 1886; married J. H. Porter Oct. 18, 1906. Resides Everett, Wash.

Roscoe Merrill, born March 20, 1888. Resides Everett, Wash.

THE HARDINGS

Rocella Harding married Nov. 10, 1867, Frank Brown. Children:

Eva Sedora, born Sept. 26, 1868; died April 19, 1889.

Judson Howard, born Feb. 12, 1871; resides Pipestone, Minn.

Burton Ray, born May 13, 1874; resides Cleveland, Ohio.

Emily Francis, born April 21, 1877; died Jan. 30, 1891.

William E. Harding, married Aug. 3, 1881, Jennie Orr. Resides Keswick, Iowa. Children: Clelia May, born Aug. 27, 1882. John Harvey, born May 30, 1886. Harry Flint, born Aug. 16, 1889.





Lucinda Harding Converse.

CHAPTER FOUR.

Lucinda Harding was born in Richland county, Ohio, Sept. 13, 1823.

Married Jan. 8, 1843, William Converse (born 1822; died June 6, 1864).

Died at her home in Dubuque, Iowa, December 23, 1886.

Children of Lucinda and William Converse:

Lewis N., born Nov. 3, 1846.

Ella L., born Feb. 23, 1849.

Edith A., born July 25, 1855.

Lewis N. Converse married Dec. 14, 1882, Margaret H. Kiene. Resides at Dubuque, Iowa. Children:

Ella, born Sept. 4, 1884; died Aug. 2, 1885. Jessie Marie, born March 6, 1886.

William K., born Dec. 30, 1888.

Lewis N., born Jan. 13, 1894.

Ella L. Converse married Feb. 21, 1883, William H. Johnson. Have

Warren E., born Dec. 3, 1883.

Edith A. Converse married March 11, 1880, Don D. Hendee. Had

Don D., born Aug. 6, 1881; died Jan. 10, 1885.

CHAPTER FIVE.

Susan J. Harding was born on the home farm in Richland county, Ohio, Oct. 3, 1825. She was married in 1845 to David Butler, who later served through the civil war in an Ohio regiment. She was a devoted Christian, joining the Baptist church in early life. At the time of her death she was a member of the Baptist church at Atlantic, Iowa. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Stevens, in Lewis, Cass county, Iowa, July 27, 1897.

Children of Susan and David Butler:

Julia, born Jan. 7, 1846; died March, 1874; married Lewis Morton in 1865. Children: Otto B., Edith I., Mary D.

Susannah, born Sept. 20, 1847; died Oct. 1, 1847.

Mary L., born June 14, 1852; married Hiram Stevens in 1871. Children: Elbertice, Sin Clair, Ralph, Jesse Kra, Bernice Ruth. Resides Omaha, Neb.

Mordecai E., born Sept. 18, 1854; married Clara Rodocker in 1874. Children: Myrtle, Laura, Ida, Mary, Pearl, Roy, Edith, Marie.

Bernice J., born May 27, 1869; married Will E. Meredith in 1893. Children: Dee Butler, Clyde Vyrl. Resides Omaha, Neb.



Mordecai R. Harding, Jr.

CHAPTER SIX.

Mordecai Rice Harding, given the same name as his father, was born on the Richland county, Ohio, farm, Nov. 13, 1827, remaining there until 28 years of age. On Nov. 19, 1854. he was married to Catherine Snyder, and the following year went to Iowa, like his father, being the first one of the family to seek a home in the new west. From 1855 to 1858 they endured the trials and privations incidental to pioneer life in Cedar county, Iowa, living near Tipton. In 1858 he was called back to Ohio to assist his father and afterwards take charge of his affairs. and purchasing a farm in Richland county, not far from the old homestead he remained there until after his father's death in 1870, when he sold his farm and again moved to Iowa, settling at Hopkinton, Delaware county, in 1871. During the first year of his residence there he was engaged in buying and shipping stock. He then entered the dental profession, removing to Monticello in 1875, and for about four years practiced his profession at that place. Early in 1880

he removed to Greeley, Delaware county, where he remained until 1892, when he removed to Gladbrook, Tama county, and later to Kenwood Park, Iowa, where he died March 22, 1904.

Catherine Snyder, daughter of David Snyder (born June 1, 1779; died Oct. 3, 1872), and Leah Browneller (born Cumberland county, Pa., Oct. 10, 1805; died Jan. 8, 1885), (married March 22, 1827), was born at Shippingsburg, Penn., March 16, 1832. She came with her parents in 1833 to Richland county, Ohio, and in 1852 removed to Kosciusko county, Ind., where many of her relatives still reside.

Children of Mordecai R. and Catherine Harding:

Eva Gertrude, born Feb. 16, 1857; died Aug. 6, 1877.

Lulu Jenette, born May 16, 1860; died July 9, 1874.

James Ralph, born Oct. 23, 1863.

Wilber Judd, born Jan. 4, 1868.

Lewis Homer, born Aug. 15, 1870.

Freddie Rice, born April 9, 1876; died Oct. 18, 1876.

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James Ralph Harding.



Lewis Homer Harding.

Eva Gertrude Harding married Jan. 1, 1876, Wm. McArthur.

James Ralph Harding married Oct. 5, 1892, Sadie W. Wilbur. Have Anna Fern, born Aug. 11, 1893. Harry Holbert, born Sept. 7, 1902.

Wilber J. Harding married June 2, 1890, Lillie E. Lull. Have Edith Lull, born April 4, 1891. Ralph Rice, born June 25, 1892. Laura Mae, born May 7, 1894. Mary Marguerite, born March 19, 1898. Wilberta Janice, born Aug. 12, 1903.

Lewis Homer Harding married Oct. 19, 1896, Nellie M. Cross. Have Kenneth Homer, born Dec. 24, 1897.

CHAPTER SEVEN.

EDWARD STERGE HARDING was born May 12. 1833, in Richland county, Ohio, where he spent the first fifteen years of his life. His early education was received in the district schools and at the age of sixteen he entered Oberlin college. He had not been there long before a severe illness compelled him to give up his studies for the time and return home. Upon recovering he attended high school at Shelby, Ohio, where he made the acquaintance of Caroline Morton, who afterwards became his wife. At the age of eighteen he taught his first term of school. In 1851 he went to Iowa and "took up" 160 acres of land in Keokuk county. Returning to Ohio in 1855, he was married to Caroline Morton on April 1st of that year, and the young couple immediately moved to their new home in Iowa, where they resided until 1879, when they went to Rush county, Kansas. Six years later they moved to Chase, Rice county, where he died very suddenly January 12, 1896.

He taught school for three years when he first came to Iowa, and considerable of his time (218)



Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Harding.

was devoted to teaching vocal music. After his removal to Kansas he passed through all the trials and privations attendant upon the settlement of a new country, and died at the home he had made for himself in his declining years.

He was a lifelong member of the Baptist church, a leader in everything in which he was called to partake, and a man beloved and respected by all within the wide circle of his acquaintance.

Caroline Morton Harding, his wife, who survives him, was born January 13, 1836.

Children of Edward S. and Caroline Harding:

Rosalina, born Feb. 23, 1856.

Lewis F., born Dec. 5, 1857.

Inez H., born April 1, 1860.

Susan J., born Jan. 21, 1862.

Ullric D., born March 23, 1864.

Lydia C., born Sept. 4, 1866.

Mattie, born Nov. 20, 1868; died Feb. 3, 1870.

Guy M., born Nov. 18, 1870; died Sept. 20, 1871.

LeRoy D., born Feb. 22, 1873.

Ella L., born May 4, 1875.

Rosalina Harding married July 4, 1878, Wm. H. McArthur. Children:

Grace Eva, born Aug. 13, 1879.

Judson Edward, born Aug. 6, 1881.

Lulu Etta, born Jan. 25, 1884.

Lenna Esther, born April 4, 1886; died Sept. 14, 1886.

Edith Ella, born July 25, 1887; died Feb. 1, 1891.

Inez H. Harding married March 4, 1879, Owen P. Dabney. Children:

Maude Eva, born Feb. 12, 1880.

Albert Morton, born Aug. 18, 1881; died Jan. 16, 1882.

Arthur D., born Jan. 25, 1884.

Walter E., born Oct. 5, 1885.

Harold H., born Aug. 2, 1888.

Lewis F. Harding married, 1884, Rose Romaker. Children:

Edward, born 1885.

Ethel, born 1889.

Guy Ula, born 1892.

Fay Etta, born 1894.

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Susan J. Harding married July 14, 1887, Geo. C. Wolf. Children:

Vera Nell, born July 14, 1891. Georgiana C., born 1894.

Ullric Harding married 1888, Kate Engle. Children:

Inez, born 1890. Phillip, born 1892. Ralph, born 1894; died 1897.

Lydia C. Harding married April 10, 1890, Edward P. Kershner. Children:

Frank Ullric, born February, 1891. George Edward, born January, 1897.

LeRoy D. Harding married Sept. 1, 1896, Ella Peters. Children:

LeRoy Lewis, born June 10, 1897.



CHAPTER EIGHT.

Louisa J. Harding was born in Richland county, Ohio, May 13, 1835.

Married, October 16, 1854, to John H. Morton (born April 3, 1831).

On Oct. 16, 1904, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Morton celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding at their home in Cleveland, Ohio. About fifty relatives from various parts of the state were present.

Children of Louisa and John H. Morton:

Carrie L., born Jan. 30, 1856; died Feb. 5, 1857.

Martha A., born Dec. 30, 1857.

Melville E., born Aug. 18, 1859.

Lewis Ellsworth, born Nov. 10, 1861.

Mordecai R., born Sept. 26, 1865; died Sept. 29, 1868.

Ruth J., born Aug. 2, 1870.

Martha A. Morton married Jacob M. Starr Dec. 11, 1876; married, second, John Menard.

Melville E. Morton married Aug. 19, 1883, (222)



Mr. and Mrs. John H. Morton and Children.

Amelia Cloak, who died in 1899. Children:
Carrie S., born July 18, 1884; died 1886.
Laura J., born Nov. 11, 1886.
Leola May, born Jan. 23, 1890.
Anna.
John.

Lewis E. Morton married April 8, 1882, Kate Sames. Children: John Earl, born Oct. 22, 1885. Charles Howard, born Sept. 2, 1891.

Ruth J. Morton married Aug. 2, 1886, Theron E. Rice. Children:

Elma A., born Feb. 3, 1888. Cedric M., born May 31, 1890.



INFORMATION WANTED.

Any information regarding this branch of the family, particularly as to the early connections, will be thankfully received.

Charles Harding married Sallie Butts. Had Benjamin Harding, married Nancy Dement. Had

Lewis G., born Dec. 16, 1799; died November, 1880; married Mary Brennen, had Benjamin, Mary J., Lydia, Josiah, Frederick, Nancy E. William H., Eliza K., John Brannon; settled in Morgan county, Ohio, and afterwards Washington county, Iowa.

Elizabeth, born Sept. 7, 1801, died February, 1883; married Jacob Paul; had Sarah E., Nancy D., Joseph M., Louisa A., Benjamin D., Judson S., William P.; lived in Morgan county, Ohio, all her life.

William D., born July 28, 1803; died June 22, 1813.

Josiah, born Oct. 28, 1805; died June 20, 1813.

Jocasta, born Aug. 3, 1808; died Aug. 12, 1841; married Elisa Stephens; had Nancy, Francis, James, Sarah.

Louisa Ann, born Feb. 26, 1811; died Aug. 10, 1889; married Wm. McCarty; had Nancy J., Joseph, Eliza, Stephen, Elizabeth.

Sarah B., born Oct. 5, 1815; died March 29, 1886; married Harvey Supplee; had Franklin, Albert, Jocasta, Martha.

James Caldwell, born Sept. 14, 1818; died Oct. 3, 1845; married Rachel Knox; had Hulda, born 1840, lives in Beverly, Ohio; Joshua Johnson, born 1842, died 1883; married Margaret Hankins; had Chas. Knox, born 1868; John William, born Dec. 3, 1844, married Hannah Traer, had Ola Rachel, born March 11, 1871, died Dec. 5, 1876; Mabel Traer, born Sept. 10, 1872; George Clyde, born Nov. 5, 1873; Maynard Caldwell, born Aug. 18, 1878.

