

cart plow & wheels	—	—	01 :
1 yoke & choin	—	—	00 :
1 plow	—	—	00 :
a farmer att	—	—	00 :
debt owing to him	—	—	00 :
sumpny stuyton			
Walter Harris			
Hopetill foster			
for the corn on the ground	—	04 :	
for 2 pigs	—	01 :	
for 1/2 small thing on ground	—	00 :	
for 35 acres of land w/ grain & etc	—	45 :	
to go home	—		

SIGNATURE OF WALTER HARRIS. SEE PAGE 5.

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WALTER HARRIS AND SOME
OF HIS DESCENDANTS

BY

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WALTER HARRIS AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

1. WALTER¹ HARRIS was among the earlier settlers of Weymouth, Massachusetts. It has been generally assumed that he arrived in Boston on June 5, 1632.¹ Hotten gives² the names of sixteen men, among them Walter Harris and Edmond Wynsloe, who took the oath of allegiance on March 7, 1631-2, preparatory to going "to New-England to be resident there upon a plantacon". John Winthrop states³ that the ship *William and Francis* left London on March 9 and landed in Boston on June 5, 1632, bringing about sixty passengers. He mentions the names of three, Welde, Batchelor (neither of whom is found in Hotten's list), and "Mr. Winslow of Plymouth". The last is evidently Edward Winslow, returning to Plymouth after a journey to Europe. He must be presumed to be the "Edmond Wynsloe" of the list. There is little reason to doubt that the sixteen who had taken the oath only two days before, as well as others not found on the list, sailed on the *William and Francis*.

Nothing has so far come to light about the life of Walter Harris in England. His place of residence there and his occupation are unknown. We are as ignorant about the antecedents of his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Fry. Their union certainly took place in England, for she mentions in her will, dated January 19, 1655, three married daughters, two of them with children. The older of the two sons was also married at the time of his mother's death. Some of her children were, therefore, born in England, but the date of birth of none of them is known.

Walter Harris was made freeman, that is, granted full political rights in the colony, on June 2, 1641.⁴ There is,

1. All dates are given as found in my authorities. The earlier ones are, of course, in Old Style.

2. *Lists of Emigrants to America. 1600-1700*, p. 149.

3. *Winthrop's Journal, "History of New England," 1630-1649*, edition by Hosmer, vol. 1, p. 80.

4. *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, vol. 1, p. 378.

however, nothing to show when he settled in Weymouth, whether immediately after he landed in Boston or later. He was one of the appraisers of the estate of his brother-in-law William Fry, who died October 26, 1642. Fry's nuncupative will and the inventory of his estate are on record in the Boston court house. The will has also appeared⁵ in print. The estate was inventoried at a trifle over £36. Among the bequests was "to Thomas Harris, Thomas Rawlens & John Meggs his three sisters youngest children, each of them a kid".

The third volume⁶ of the publications of the *Weymouth Historical Society* contains an account of the origin of a list of landholders, with description of their property, found in the earliest of the town records. Internal evidence clearly establishes the date of preparation of the list as about 1643. In the second volume the list itself is printed, and the holdings of Walter Harris are described in detail. Among the items mentioned⁷ are "Eyght acres lying in Harrises Raing first given to Walter Harris" and "Eyght acres in the mill furlonge first given to him the said Walter Harris". He owned these parcels, therefore, some years prior to the compilation of the list. He does not appear in a list⁸ of 1636, which includes, however, his brother-in-law William Fry, but this list evidently does not contain the names of all the settlers and is not conclusive proof that he was not then living in Weymouth. A *Copy of the 1st Vol. of the Old Town Record* and also the original record, now much faded, are in the office of the town clerk at East Weymouth. According to this record⁹, "at a Meeting of the Townsmen the 2d of the 12th mt (Fby) 1652" certain adjustments were ordered, and the names of those "that are to have lotts" are given, Walter Harris being among them.

5. *New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. 2, p. 385.

6. P. 92.

7. P. 255.

8. Vol. 2, p. 280.

9. P. 59.

At the time of his death he was domiciled at New London, where a house lot was granted to "Walter Harries of Dorchester" on May 20, 1652. Dorchester thus makes some sort of connecting link between Weymouth and New London, but when he went there and how long he staid are not yet definitely established. He was one of the appraisers of the estate of John Pope of Dorchester. The original inventory, with the signature of Walter (a reproduction of which serves as the frontispiece of this book), bears the date of June 1, 1649, and is preserved in the Boston court house. Preparatory to going to England, Edward Bullock of Dorchester made a will, dated July 25, 1649, in which he provided¹⁰ that Walter Harris should have, in payment of a debt, "a pecke of rye, for tryming for a hatt 7d or 8d".

The early records of Dorchester, which are now accessible in print, contain two allusions to Harris. In the first, the selectmen report¹¹ on "4 of 10 1648" that "for bro. Harris buildinge we have opposed it as not knowing him to have sufficient ground to set it up without further Leave from the Towne". This might refer to some other Harris, but the second passage¹² is indubitable. On "14 day of the 1 mo: 52 or 53" it was "voted that whereas Walter Harris desireth a little p'cell of land . . . which he form'ly have enjoyed . . . it is by vote left unto the select men". This is rather puzzling in view of the grant of land to him at Weymouth on February 12, 1652, though he was possibly not in actual residence there at the time, and the favorable action on his request for a house lot in New London. Perhaps he lived at Dorchester temporarily at least twice and was undecided about the future when he made his application at New London.

His removal to the latter town occurred in 1652 or 1653. It seems best to reprint here several passages from the *History*

10. *New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, vol. 6, p. 356.

11. *Fourth Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston*. 1880. *Dorchester Town Records*, p. 302.

12. Same, p. 315.

of *New London, Connecticut*, by Frances Manwaring Caulkins. The quotations within her text are matter taken by her from the official records and other authentic documents. All inclosures in brackets, except the one correcting the name Walter, are mine. These passages are:

“ ‘May 20. Water [Walter] Harries of Dorchester desires a house lot beyond the plot of land by John Coites. Granted.’

This house lot was at the south end of the town, toward Green Harbor. Additions were subsequently made to it from the ox pasture on the opposite side of the way, and a quantity of ‘hideous rocks’ near by were thrown in unmeasured”.¹³

“ ‘Dec. 5 [, 1653]. Goodman Harries for his son Gabriell hath given him sixe ackers of upland for an house lot ioyning next to his father’s.’

This was doubtless a preparatory step to the marriage of Gabriel Harris and Elizabeth Abbot, which took place at Guilford, March 3, 1653-4. Tradition adds to the simple record of the marriage many romantic incidents. It is said that a vessel with emigrants from England, bound to New Haven, put in to Pequot Harbor for a shelter in foul weather and anchored near the lonely dwelling of the Harris family, which stood upon the river side. Gabriel went off in his fishing boat and invited the emigrants to his father’s house. The whole party accordingly landed, and a great part of the night was spent in feasting and hilarity. One of the emigrants was a young female, to whom Gabriel was so assiduous and successful in his attentions, that when the company returned to the vessel they were betrothed lovers. Some, indeed, relate that a clergyman or magistrate was present, and the young couple were actually married that night. But the tradition that harmonizes best with fact is, that the emigrants went on their way; and the young man shortly afterward new painted and rigged his father’s pinnace and following the wake of the vessel through the Sound, came back merrily,

13. P. 84.

bringing a bride and her household gear.”¹⁴ [She adds in a footnote: “The record of this marriage was communicated by Ralph D. Smith, Esq., of Guilford. Elizabeth Abbot was probably a daughter of Robert Abbot, of Branford”.]

“‘June 2 [, 1654]. Goodman Harries is chosen by the Towne ordinary keeper . . .

Nov. 6. John Elderkin was chosen Ordinary Keeper. . . . Widdo Harris was granted by voat also to keep an ordinary if she will.’

Walter Harris died the day this vote was taken, and Elderkin was chosen as his successor”.¹⁵

“A vessel called the William and Francis, came to America in 1632, bringing among its passengers, Walter Harris, who settled in Weymouth, where he remained about twenty years, and then came to Pequot Harbor [that is, to New London]. On his first application for a house-lot, he is styled *of Dorchester*, which makes it probable that his last temporary abiding place had been in that town. He had two sons, Gabriel and Thomas. His wife, whose maiden name was Mary Fry, survived him less than three months; one inventory and settlement of estate sufficed for both.

The nuncupative will of Mrs. Harris will be given at large, omitting only the customary formula at the commencement. It is one of the oldest wills extant in the country, and is rich in allusions to costume and furniture. From a clause in this will it may be inferred that Thomas Harris had been betrothed to Rebecca, daughter of Obadiah Bruen. This young man, according to tradition, had been sent to England to recover some property that had fallen to the family, and was supposed to have been lost at sea, as he was never heard of afterward.

‘The last Will and Testament of Mary Harries, taken from her owne mouth this 19th of Jan. 1655.

14. P. 86.

15. P. 88.

I give to my eldest daughter, Sarah Lane, the biggest brass pan, and to her daughter Mary, a silver spoone. And to her daughter Sarah, the biggest pewter dish and one silken riben. Likewise I give to her daughter Mary, a pewter candlesticke.

I give to my daughter, Mary Lawrence, my blue mohere peticote and my straw hatt and a fether boulder. And to her eldest sonne I give a silver spoone. To her second sonne a silver whistle. I give more to my daughter Mary, my next brasst pann and a thrum cushion. And to her yongest sonne I give a pewter bassen.

I give to my yongest daughter, Elizabeth Weekes, a piece of red broad cloth, being about two yards, alsoe a damask livery cloth, a gold ring, a silver spoone, a fether bed and a boulder. Alsoe, I give to my daughter, Elizabeth, my best hatt, my gowne, a brass kettle, and a woollen jacket for her husband. Alsoe, I give to my daughter Elizabeth, thirty shillings, also a red whittle, a white apron and a new white neck-cloth. Alsoe, I give to my three daughters aforesaid, a quarter part to each of them, of the dyaper cloth and tenn shillings apeece.

I give to my sister Migges, a red peticoat, a cloth jacket, a silke hud, a quoife, a cross-cloth, and a neck-cloth.

I give to my cosen Calib Rawlyns ten shillings.

I give to my two cosens, Mary and Elizabeth ffry, each of them five shillings.

I give to Mary Barnet a red stuff wascote.

I give to my daughter, Elizabeth, my great chest. To my daughter, Mary, a ciffer and a white neck-cloth. To my sister, Hannah Rawlin, my best cross cloth. To my brother, Rawlin, a lased band. To my two kinswomen, Elizabeth Hubbard and Mary Steevens, five shillings a peece.

I give to my brother, Migges, his three youngest children, two shillings sixe pence a peece.

I give to my sonne Thomas, ten shillings, if he doe come home or be alive.

I give to Rebekah Bruen, a pynt pott of pewter, a new petticoate and wascote wch she is to spin herselfe; alsoe an old byble, and a hatt wch was my sonn Thomas his hatt.

I give to my sonne Gabriell, my house, land, cattle and swine, with all other goods reall and psonall in Pequet or any other place, and doe make him my sole executor to this my will.

‘Witness hearunto,	Witness my hand,
John Winthrop,	The mark of X Mary Harries.’
Obadiah Bruen,	
Willm Nyccolls.’	

The Harris family ranked in point of comfort and accommodations with the well-to-do portion of the community. They had a better supply of *pewter* than is found in many early inventories, and such articles of convenience as a grid-iron, chopping-knife, brewing tub, smoothing-iron, ‘four silver spoons and two cushions’. The house consisted of a front-room, lean-to, shop-room and two chambers”.¹⁶

In footnotes Miss Calkins explains that a *whittle* is “a kind of short cloak” a *quoife*, “a cap”, and a *ciffer*, “some kind of cap or head-dress”; and she also states that she took the will from “New London Records, lib. 3”. Mary and Elizabeth Fry were daughters of William Fry of Weymouth, being mentioned as such in his will. Caleb Rawlins was probably the brother of Thomas Rawlins, referred to in the portion of Fry’s will quoted above (p. 4). Meggs and Migges are, of course, variants of the same name.

Walter Harris died on November 6, 1654, and his wife on January 24, 1655,¹⁷ but as these dates are given in Old Style, she survived him more than a year. This is also con-

16. P. 269, f.

17. *Copy of the first book of Births, Marriages and Deaths, of the Town of New London*, MS., p. 2.

firmed by the fact that the inventory of the estate was taken on April 14 and affidavit made by Gabriel Harris on May 6, 1656, that it was "a true Invt. of all the goods that was left by his Father, Walter Harris, and his Mother, Mary Harris, both Decd."¹⁸ The estate was appraised at a little more than £79.

2. GABRIEL² HARRIS (*Walter*¹) was perhaps born in England. He was appointed ensign in the "Train Band at N: London" on May 11, 1665, and was made freeman on October 14, 1669.¹⁹ His kindness to Robert Bartlett, a near neighbor, was recognized by a legacy of two acres of land, deeded to him on December 19, 1674.²⁰

Confusion exists in the official *Copy of the first book of Births, Marriages and Deaths, of the Town of New London* regarding the baptismal name of his wife. In recording the birth of a child she is four times called Mary and twice, Elizabeth. Samuel is entered three times: first, as born July 14, 1665, only the name of the father being mentioned; second, as born July 14, 1666, to Gabriel and Mary; third, as born July 14, 1665, to Gabriel and Elizabeth.²¹ In the same book²² is a list, stated to be a record found on the last page of the original book, giving the date of birth of children of Gabriel and Elizabeth, as follows:

Elizabeth, June 5, 165[6]

Thomas, July 29, 1658

Peter, December 8, 1660

John, June 12, 1663

Samuel, July 14, 1666

Mary, May 21, 1667

Joseph, January 16, 1672

18. *Early Connecticut Probate Records*, vol. 1, p. 123.

19. *Colonial Records of Connecticut*, vol. 2, pp. 17, 116.

20. *Early Connecticut Probate Records*, vol. 1, p. 178; Caulkins, p. 396.

21. Pp. 4, 5, 19, respectively, the last of these being included in the entry of Samuel's marriage.

22. P. 67.

Evidently it is not a question of two wives but of two names for the same wife, as John, Samuel, and Mary are elsewhere entered as children of Mary, and the names of Elizabeth, Thomas, Peter, and Joseph seem to occur only in the one list. Possibly the confusion was caused by attributing the name of Gabriel's mother to his wife. In any event, it seems best to accept the version of Miss Caulkins that he married Elizabeth Abbot. The same book of records speaks of a son Walter who was born November 6, 1654 and died "in the beginning of December" of that year.²³ Savage²⁴ mentions also a son James, "baptized 3 Sept. 1671, probably died young".

The daughter ELIZABETH was married to Daniel Raymond and bore him two daughters, Elizabeth and Sarah.²⁵ MARY married Ebenezer Hubbell and "had a daughter Elizabeth, born in 1693, and a son Ebenezer, in 1695 . . . The son Ebenezer died in 1720, probably without issue".²⁶ A brief account of PETER and of his son of the same name is in the new *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*.²⁷

Miss Caulkins gives²⁸ additional information about Gabriel, as follows:

"Gabriel Harris died in 1684; Elizabeth, his relict, August 17th, 1702. The inventory of Gabriel Harris, compared with that of his father, illustrates the rapid march of improvement in the plantation. The homestead, consisting of a new house, orchard, cider-mill and smith's shop, valued together at £200, was assigned to Thomas, the eldest son, for his double portion. The inheritance of the other children, six in number, was £100 each. Among the wearing apparel are:

23. P. 2.

24. *Genealogical Dictionary*, vol. 2, p. 361.

25. Caulkins, p. 292.

26. Same, p. 338.

27. Vol. 8, p. 172.

28. P. 271.

'A broad-cloth coat with red lining.
 Two Castors, [beaver hats.]
 A white serge coat: a Kersey coat.
 A serge coat and doublet: a wash-leather doublet.
 Two red wescotes—a stuff coat and breeches.
 Four looms and tackling: a silk loom.
 An Indian maid-servant, valued at £15.
 Three canoes.' etc.

THOMAS HARRIS, oldest son of Gabriel, died in Barbadoes, June 9th, 1691, leaving an estate estimated at £927. His relict, Mary, (a daughter of Daniel Wetherell,) married George Denison, grandson of George the first, of Stonington. His only child, Mary, born, November 4th, 1690, was regarded as the richest heiress in the settlement. About 1712, she became the wife of Walter Butler".

3. SAMUEL³ HARRIS (*Gabriel*², *Walter*¹) was born July 14, 1655, or 1666, as already explained. The *Book of Births, Marriages and Deaths*, referred to above, gives on the same page²⁹ consecutive entries about his birth, about his marriage to Elizabeth Gibson on August 5, 1687, and about the name and date of birth of each of their children. These children, with the date of birth, were:

William, February 29, 1692
 Gibson, April 20, 1694
 Samuel, March 5, 1697
 Peter, May 9, 1699
 Ebenezer, July 6, 1703
 Elizabeth, May 7, 1690
 Lydia, August 2, 1706

Samuel Harris died about 1725, as his wife, with Joseph Harris and John Griffin as securities in the sum of £2000, was made administratrix of his estate on March 23, 1724-5.

The estate was inventoried at a few shillings less than £800 and was divided among the widow, William, Samuel, Ebenezer, and Lydia, but it was stated that the father had given away part of his property in his lifetime, which probably accounts for the omission of the other children.³⁰ No investigation was made by me with regard to any of the children except Gibson, but the *Copy of the second book of Births, Marriages and Deaths of the Town of New London* mentions³¹ the marriage of EBENEZER HARRIS and "Lydia Allin, daughter of Mr. Gideon Allin of Killingsworth", on March 20, 1729.

4. GIBSON⁴ HARRIS (*Samuel*³, *Gabriel*², *Walter*¹) was born April 20, 1694, as shown above. The records of New London contain a few references to his family, as follows:

"Phebe the daughter of George Denison and Mary his wife borne March 3d 1696-7".³²

"Gibson Harris & Phebe Denison was married the 12th day of January 1720".³³

"George the son of Gibson Harris & Phebe his wife was born the 21st of August 1720".³⁴ [This is an error, unless the recorder was already beginning the year with January, which is unlikely. The *Record of the Descendants of Capt. George Denison of Stonington*, gives³⁵ the date of George's birth as January 18, 1721.]

"Daniel the son of Gibson Harris and Phebe his wife was born the 27th day of May 1726".³⁶ [Earlier on the same page is mentioned the birth of a son Benjamin on the same day, an obvious error, as will be shown below.]

30. *Probate Records, District of New London*, MS., book B, pp. 601, 606, 608, 619; book C, p. 84.

31. MS., p. 58.

32. *First Book*, etc., p. 23.

33. Same, p. 58.

34. Same, p. 58.

35. By Baldwin and Clift, p. 35.

36. *Second Book*, etc., p. 36.

Phebe Denison was descended from Elder William Brewster, as follows: His oldest son Jonathan had, among other children, a daughter Grace. She was born November 1, 1639, married Daniel Wetherell on August 4, 1659, and died at New London, April 22, 1684. Her daughter Mary was born October 7, 1668, and died August 22, 1711. After the death of her first husband Thomas Harris (see above, p. 12) Mary married George Denison in 1694.³⁷

A few years after their marriage Gibson Harris and his wife settled on a farm near Norwich, Connecticut. The earliest record, known to me, pertaining to this change of abode is a deed, dated December 25, 1723, from Daniel Tracy of Norwich to Gibson Harris of New London, conveying forty acres.³⁸ The removal to Norwich probably took place within the next two or three years. At the time of his death Gibson owned 161½ acres at Norwich and still had 36 acres at New London, with an interest in a house.

The larger part of his land was, however, in another part of the state of Connecticut. The *Proprietor's Book*, kept at Falls Village, Litchfield County, recites³⁹ an act of October 13, 1737, ordering the sale and settlement of all the townships in the western lands and "among other things it is enacted that the Northwest town in said land bounding west by Howsatonick River shall be vendued and sold at the court house in New London to the highest bidder being inhabitation of this county". It also states that on January 4, 1737-8, Gibson Harris "of Norwich in the county of New London" bought for £140 one share, a share to consist of one fifty-third of the land not already occupied. This was the beginning of his acquisition of land in the present Litchfield County. His purchases there amounted eventually to 458 acres and a fraction, as shown in the inventory of his estate. Most of this land was situated on what several deeds then

37. E. C. B. Jones, *Brewster Genealogy*, vol. 1, p. 19; Caulkins, pp. 334, 363.

38. *Norwich Deeds*, MS., vol. 4, p. 20.

39. Pp. 65, f.; 81, f.

and later call the "great mountain" in the town(ship) of Canaan. This "great mountain", now called "Canaan mountain" is in the northwest corner of the state between Falls Village and Norfolk.

His actual residence to the time of his death was, however, his farm near Norwich in the present town(ship) of Bozrah, called earlier New Concord. In May, 1739, he was appointed "Lieutenant of the sixth company or trainband in the town of Norwich".⁴⁰ In the records there is an entry⁴¹ made by Isaac Huntington, Town Clerk, "at the desire of Gibson Harris, Feby 3d 1735-6", concerning "the names and ages of the children of Gibson Harris and his wife Phebe". The names and dates of birth were:

Daniel, May 27, 1726

Phebe, May 3, 1728

Ann, October 17, 1730

Mary, October 27, 1732

Elizabeth, November 1, 1734

This list includes only the children born up to its date after the removal to Norwich, with the possible exception of Daniel, who is also mentioned in the New London records. Reference has already been made to George. Another son, Benjamin, appears neither in this list nor in the records at New London. The *Hyde Genealogy* is silent about the other children but states that Benjamin was born July 23, 1724, and married Ann Waterman June 28, 1749.⁴² The *Denison Genealogy* has him born July 7, 1724. It mentions also George and Benjamin, and all of the list above, though with some discrepancies in the dates, and adds Joshua, born February 26, 1722.⁴³ Joshua and Ann probably died before

40. *Colonial Records of Connecticut*, vol. 8, p. 226.

41. *Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Town of Norwich*, MS., vol. 1, p. 179.

42. By R. H. Walworth, vol. 1, p. 127.

43. P. 35.

their father, as they received no share in his estate. Neither genealogy mentions Ebenezer, born after the date of the list.

Gibson Harris must have died in 1761, as his wife Phebe and son George were made on July 21 of that year administrators of his estate, which amounted to a little more than £2031. On November 20, 1761, the administrators filed⁴⁴ an inventory of the estate together with "an agreement made & contained between us the children and co-Heirs of our Honoured Father, Mr. Gibson Harris, late of Norwich, deceased, respecting the dividing the estate of said deceased among us". The heirs, in addition to the widow, were the four sons, George, Benjamin, Daniel, and Ebenezer, this being the order of their ages as set forth in the document, and three daughters, Phebe, wife of Jabez Hough, Anne, wife of Joseph Babcock, and Elizabeth, wife of Amos Walsworth. George and Benjamin received land in Norwich only; Ebenezer, in Canaan only; the others, in both places.

DANIEL and BENJAMIN both had dwellings on land owned by their father, as shown in the settlement of the estate. In deeds among the heirs, at varying dates, Daniel is described as being of Norwich; the WALSWORTHS, first of Norwich and then of "Barnardton in the State of Massachusetts Bay; the BABCOCKS, of "Hopkinton, Kings Co., Rhode Island"; the HOUGHS, of New London, though they seem to have afterwards lived on their farm near Norwich.⁴⁵

GEORGE received as his portion of the real estate the forty acres bought of Daniel Tracy, on which stood "the dwelling house, barn and orchard" of his father and three acres adjoining. He mortgaged his homestead to his brothers-in-law, Daniel and William Hubbard, on March 9, 1765, and sold it to William Cardwell on June 26, 1779.⁴⁶ The baptismal name of his wife seems to have been Sarah. Even before the date of this sale he was probably living in

44. *Journal of Probate Court of Norwich*, MS., vol. 2, pp. 1-3.

45. Caulkins, *History of Norwich, Connecticut*, p. 233.

46. *Norwich Deeds*, MS., vol. 23, p. 280.

New Hampshire. Coolidge and Mansfield⁴⁷ say: "Canaan, in the southern part of Grafton county, forty miles from Concord, was granted July 9, 1761, to sixty-two persons, most of whom belonged to Connecticut, and from Canaan in that state the name was derived. The settlement was permanently established during the winter of 1766 or 1767 by John Scofield . . . George Harris, Thomas Miner . . . were among the early inhabitants. The proprietors held their first meeting, July 19, 1768."

A descendant of George Harris still possesses a sheet of paper, handed down in the family for two or three generations, undated and unsigned, but pretty certainly compiled by Hubbard Harris, Jr., or his son Hubbard. The portion pertinent here runs: "Gibson Harris who was the father of George Harris who emigrated to New Hampshire, from Bozra Connecticut about the year 1777. He was one of the original proprietors of the town, to which they gave the name, Canaan. He died in the year 1790 aged 72 and was buried in the Cemetery, called the 'Cobble' in said Canaan."

"Hubbard Harris, third son of George Harris was born in Connecticut, December 31, A. D. 1769, and died at his residence in Canaan, N. H., October 19th, 1845, leaving three sons, Hubbard Harris, Jr., George Harris, Dexter Harris, and one daughter Eliza Harris. Hubbard Harris Jr. was born in said Canaan, November 27th, 1794. Hubbard D. Harris, son of Hubbard Harris Jr., was born January 16th, 1821, in Boston, Mass."

5. EBENEZER⁵ HARRIS (*Gibson*⁴, *Samuel*³, *Gabriel*², *Walter*¹) was born November 21, 1738, and died March 13, 1823, as shown by the entry in the family Bible of his son Gibson. He received as his share of his father's real estate, "Two Hundred & Seventy Eight acres & three quarters of land, lying & being in Canaan in the county of Litchfield &

47. *History and Description of New England. New Hampshire*, p. 432.

Colony of Connecticut, lying on the Great Mountain", according to the agreement of the heirs, cited above. Subsequently he bought the shares of the other heirs, in Canaan, and increased his holdings by other purchases. It is not definitely known when he took up his permanent residence there, but he is mentioned, in the records at Falls Village, as being of Canaan in a deed to him by Benjamin Cows of Canaan, dated September 5, 1764, though he is said to be of Norwich in a deed to him by his sister Elizabeth and her husband, dated April 5, 1765.⁴⁸ It is altogether probable that he was farming the land in Canaan before his father's death and so received his portion of the real estate there.

The entry in the Bible of his son Gibson also states that he married Abigail Burnham on October 21, 1779, and that she was born June 18, 1756, and died January 5, 1834. On a vacant leaf of an old cook book, long preserved in the family, were given the dates mentioned above for the death of Ebenezer and of Abigail and of their marriage, and also the names of their children with the dates of their birth, as follows:

Ebenezer, August 10, 1780

William, March 12, 1782

Nancy, April 21, 1784

Miriam, June 12, 1786

Sylvia, September 4, 1788

Gibson, March 7, 1791

Melinda, August 27, 1793

George, June 25, 1796

Abigail, April 1, 1798

To this was added the comment that William died December 3, 1838.

The date given for Gibson's birth agrees with the entry in his own Bible; that for Ebenezer, Jr., was confirmed, from some other source, by one of his grandsons; descendants of

48. *Town Records*, MS., vol. 2, pp. 202, 207.

Miriam, however, had June 11, 1786, as the date of her birth. The time of Ebenezer's death is further verified by the inscription on his gravestone and by a letter, still in existence, from his son George to his son Gibson, in which it is stated to have occurred "between the hours of twelve and one", that is, in the early morning of March 13, 1823. Another letter from George to Gibson establishes the date of the death of their mother Abigail as January 5, 1834, in agreement with the entry in the cook book but not with the inscription on her gravestone, which says January 6.

There is a family tradition that Ebenezer was a widower when he married Abigail. It is certain, however, that no children by a previous marriage shared in his estate. At the time of my first visit to the farm of Ebenezer it was owned by Elisha B. Gillette, a grandson, who was born in 1829 on the "great mountain" and had always lived there. He told me that he was called Elisha Burnham after his mother's uncle. Another grandson bore the name of Henry Burnham Harris. It has so far been impossible to trace with certainty the descent of Abigail Burnham, but at the time of her marriage she lived in or near Deerfield, Massachusetts. Elisha B. Gillette, who was the son of Nancy, remembered that his mother told him of visits to Deerfield, and that a Mr. Barnes, who knew Melinda and George Harris and had heard them tell about their parents, reported that Ebenezer used to go to Deerfield to buy or sell horses. It is possible, of course, that Abigail had also previously married, but her maiden name was certainly Burnham.

On his deathbed Ebenezer disposed of his property in the presence of witnesses. The children were to receive varying portions, based evidently on what they had already received and what they had done at home. The widow was to have for life one-third of the estate, the value of which was not given. The will was set aside on the ground that Ebenezer had not signed it. These facts and also a copy of the will are set forth in a letter from George to Gibson. The

heirs seem to have divided the property afterwards in accordance with the wishes of their father. Nearly all of the shares were eventually purchased by the youngest son, George. Deeds to him from several of the heirs are in my possession, including the one from Gibson. It is dated January 28, 1829, and was duly recorded.⁴⁹ It conveys about forty acres of land "on the Great mountain", beginning at "a corner of land distributed to Miriam Harrison from the estate of our late Father Ebenezer Harris . . . being the same land distributed to me from my father's estate". George's farm was bought a number of years afterwards by Elisha B. Gillette. A few years ago it passed entirely out of the hands of the family.

The farm is near the top of the "mountain". According to the government's topographical map the house is at an elevation between 1500 and 1600 feet above the sea. Probably it was built about the time of Ebenezer's marriage, though the present owner has the date 1786 on it. The house is well preserved. According to Elisha B. Gillette it had undergone no essential change since its first erection. Near by is a smaller house, also well preserved, built by Ebenezer, Jr., at the time of his marriage. Within sight, perhaps a mile distant, lies Wangum Lake, which serves as a reservoir for the water supply of Norfolk. The "mountain" is now almost depopulated. Not far from the house is the little community burial ground. The gravestones of Ebenezer and his wife were still quite legible at the time of my last visit there in 1919, and bear the inscriptions:

Capt
Ebenezer Harris
died March 13, 1823
in his 85th yr

Abigail
wife of
Capt Ebenezer Harris
died Jan. 6, 1834
in her 78th year

49. *Canaan Records*, MS., book 12, p. 236.

He is also styled captain in his will, and the family tradition has it that he was promoted to that rank in the Revolutionary War. Elisha B. Gillette remembered seeing in his youth Ebenezer's uniform and accoutrement, but the official records seem not to mention his appointment to the rank of captain. He was, however, made "Ensign of the 13th company or trainband in the 14th regiment" as early as April, 1775, this regiment being made up from the towns of Cornwall, Sharon, Salisbury, Canaan, and Norfolk.⁵⁰ Its colonel at that time was Charles Burrall, who was a resident of Canaan. Very little has appeared in print about the services in the Revolution of this regiment of Connecticut militia, and Ebenezer may have been promoted to a captaincy.

The records of old Canaan township, now kept at Falls Village, contain, in addition to entries of deeds and surveys, a few references to Ebenezer of more personal character. Thus, at a town meeting on December 25, 1780, he was appointed member of "a committee to class the Town to fill up the continental army agreeable to a late act of Assembly". He was made one of the surveyors of highways on December 11, 1780. The clerk certified on August 9, 1784, "that Ebenezer Harris hath joined himself to the Strict Congregational Meeting in Canaan and doth help to maintain and support the same."

Two of his daughters, SYLVIA and MELINDA, were never married. ABIGAIL married Abiram North and lived in Albany, New York. Their family is said to be extinct. GEORGE married Eleanor Lowry and died December 20, 1870, without issue. He was a man of considerable wealth for a rural community and left his property to be distributed among his nephews and nieces.

EBENEZER, JR., married Lucy Lawrence, October 7, 1799, and first lived near his father but removed afterwards to Harrisville, a diminutive hamlet, not far from Lodi, in Medina County, Ohio. He was both farmer and merchant.

50. *Colonial Records of Connecticut*, vol. 12, p. 607; vol. 14, p. 436.

A letter, still in existence, dated April 11, 1829, gave to his brother William, from whom he had not heard in fifteen years, information about his family. Two children, Adelia and Dewitt Clinton, had died in 1822. The death of his wife Lucy, which seems to have occurred about 1827, was also mentioned. Seven children were then living, Henry Burnham, Flavia, Althea, William, Lucius, Edwin, and Julia, the first three of whom were married. He had taken Pamela Vosberg, "residing in Mass.", as his second wife on October 28, 1828. A few years later he removed, with part of his family, to Princeton, Illinois. His grandson, H. E. Bacon, of Princeton, the son of Julia, who married Amos Bacon, informed me that Ebenezer's removal to Princeton occurred in 1839, that the children of his second marriage were Louisa and Vosberg, and that he died July 4, 1848, and his wife Pamela about two years later. There are numerous descendants of Ebenezer living, but they are widely dispersed, and information about them is lacking.

WILLIAM was a surveyor and did much professional work in Indiana and Ohio, attested by many maps formerly in the house of his brother Gibson. He settled finally at Hindostan, an extinct village of Martin County, Indiana, where he died December 3, 1838. The family name of his wife was Shelmire. She bore him only one child, Bedford, who died in early manhood, unmarried.

NANCY married Joseph P. Gillette. (The name is also spelled Gillett by members of the family.) They lived on their farm on the "mountain". She died April 6, 1861. He was born in 1783 and died December 9, 1855. These dates and the information about the children were given me by her son Elisha. These children were:

- I. Caroline, married Lyman Judd, died in Norfolk, April 13, 1859.
- II. Sylvia, A., born January 2, 1810, died in Pittsfield, February 29, 1892, unmarried.

- III. Melinda, born May 19, 1815, married Edmund Graves, died in Pittsfield, February 1, 1887.
- IV. Phebe, born June 21, 1817, married Lorenzo Hakes, died in Pittsfield, April 17, 1896.
- V. Susan, born April 1, 1821, died in Canaan, March 17, 1870, unmarried.
- VI. Gibson H., born October 13, 1825, married Frances Abels, died March 7, 1914, on his farm near Lime Rock.
- VII. George W., born October 8, 1826, died in Canaan, September 9, 1869, unmarried.
- VIII. Elisha B., born September 27, 1829, married Sarah Abels. The last few years of his life, after the sale of his farm on the "mountain", were spent in Falls Village, where he died June 6, 1913.

MIRIAM married Asahel Harrison of Litchfield Farms on April 20, 1808. He died March 31, 1823, and she, March 31, 1868. George Harris wrote to his brother Gibson shortly after Asahel's death and said that he had left their sister Miriam with "five little ones . . . in tolerably good circumstances as regards property". No information has come to me of three of these children. A daughter, Almira, seems to have died unmarried. Another daughter, Melinda, born August 23, 1820, married Daniel W. Wagner and died August 12, 1917, in West Haven, Connecticut, having almost rounded out her ninety-seventh year. She was born more than three years before the death of her grandfather Ebenezer and was in agreement with the statements, mentioned above, made by Elisha B. Gillette. She also gave me the dates of Miriam's marriage and death. Mrs. Wagner's daughter Estelle, widow of James Graham, survived her, and also a grandson, Harrison G. Wagner, whose father, S. Harrison Wagner, died about 1912.

6. GIBSON⁶ HARRIS (*Ebenezer*⁵, *Gibson*⁴, *Samuel*³, *Gabriel*², *Walter*¹) who was born March 7, 1791, seems, from an allusion in a later letter of his brother George, to have left home about 1814. He was certainly at Vincennes, Indiana, as early as 1817, on the evidence of a letter to him from his brother William from Cincinnati under date of September 18, 1817. The opening sentences of the letter are: "I arrived here a few days ago from running the State line. I have had a very tedious trip & and have seen more swamps than I ever saw in my life before. It will be some time before I can come to Vincennes". Gibson is said to have assisted his brother in his professional work. It could not have been for very long, however, as he presently removed to Albion, Illinois.

In the year 1817 Morris Birbeck and George Flower, both of England, bought a block of land in Edwards County, Illinois, and founded an English settlement, of which Albion, now the county seat, became the center. Considerable literature about this new community is still accessible. Just when Gibson Harris went to Albion is unknown, but it must have been in the first years of the settlement, certainly before 1823, as letters in existence show. He was engaged in general merchandising and acquired a considerable fortune for a pioneer. His house in Albion is occupied by a grandson. Unlike his father, he helped to "maintain and support" the Episcopal Church. He married Elizabeth Woods in October, 1826. She was born at Whitley, Surrey County, England, on March 1, 1804. Her father John Woods arrived at Albion in September, 1819, and presently wrote a book, entitled *Two Years' Residence in the Settlement on the English Prairie in the Illinois Country, United States*, which was published at London in 1822 and republished in 1904 in Volume 10 of Thwaites' *Early Western Travels, 1748 - 1846*. He removed to Shawneetown afterwards and died there September 9, 1831.

Gibson Harris died December 5, 1847, and his wife, September 9, 1864. Their children, all sons, were Gibson William, George, Chester, Francis, John (born August 25, 1835, died February 10, 1850), Levinus, Lucius, Morris, and Bedford Ebenezer.

7. A short account of each of the sons of Gibson Harris, with the exception of John, who died in boyhood, will be found in the paragraphs following, accompanied by lists, with brief data, of all their children and grandchildren, thus carrying the descent of this line of the family through the ninth generation:

1. GIBSON WILLIAM HARRIS, born January 21, 1828, was for many years in business in Cincinnati but went later to Holly Hill, Florida, where he died December 5, 1911. On April 18, 1850, he married Ann Henshaw of Albion. She was born in London, England, April 11, 1830, and died in Holly Hill on September 27, 1907. Children:

- I. Elizabeth, b. Jan. 27, 1851; d. June 4, 1852.
- II. Edward Gibson, b. Nov. 17, 1854; m. Thusnelda A. Doerner of Cincinnati, Nov. 21, 1882; res. Daytona, Fla. Child: *Cecelia Ann*, b. Sept. 16, 1883; res. Washington, D. C.
- III. John Woods, b. Feb. 12, 1857; m. Eliza Ronalds of Albion, Oct. 17, 1881; res. Grayville, Ill. Child: *Cyril Ronalds*, b. March 30, 1886; m. Ethel Irene Clinton of Postville, Iowa, Aug. 12, 1912; res. Chicago.
- IV. Charles Stewart, b. June 13, 1865; d. Aug. 24, 1920; m. Sarah Alice Carter, of Holly Hill, June 28, 1888; res. Daytona. Children: 1. *Cecil Hyde*, b. Jan. 27, 1890; d. Aug. 2, 1892. 2. *Zilpah Alice*, b. Dec. 17, 1895; res. Daytona.

V. Martha Henshaw, b. July 30, 1868; m. Arthur H. Carter of Holly Hill, April 18, 1894; res. Holly Hill.

VI. Lucy Brown, b. July 24, 1871; m. Frank E. Hand and, after his death, Charles Simmonds; res. Jacksonville, Fla.

2. GEORGE HARRIS, born July 25, 1829, carried on the family business at Albion, forming a partnership with his brothers Francis and Lucius after the death of their mother. He married Catharine Smith of Albion, June 28, 1853. She was born in Albion September 9, 1829, and died there October 23, 1891. He died in Cleveland on February 9, 1916, and was buried at Albion. Children:

I. Ida, b. June 20, 1855; m. Morris Emmerson of Albion, April 10, 1878; res. Mt. Vernon, Ill. Children: 1. *Anne Louise*, b. Jan. 15, 1879; res. Mt. Vernon. 2. *Raymond Jesse*, b. May 4, 1881; m. Marie Angela Schilling of Lincoln, Ill., April 14, 1909; res. Birmingham, Ala. 3. *George Harris*, b. Aug. 29, 1884; m. Ethel Blow of Knoxville, Tenn., June 22, 1919; grad. of Annapolis, in U. S. navy. 4. *Ethel*, b. March 8, 1887, m. H. Lee Green of Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 15, 1914; res. Mt. Vernon.

II. Ann, born July 31, 1857; d. Dec. 28, 1890, unmarried.

III. Charles, b. Nov. 19, 1859; m. Mary McCalla of Bloomington, Ind., Dec. 24, 1884; res. Cleveland. Child: *John McCalla*, b. Dec. 9, 1885.

IV. Herbert, b. Aug. 31, 1861; d. Oct. 5, 1919; res. Denver; m. Marry E. Fitton of New Harmony, Ind., Aug. 28, 1889; d. July 23, 1911. Children: 1. *Robert Fitton*, b. Sept. 20, 1892; res.

Denver. 2. *Catharine*, b. Aug. 9, 1896; d. Jan. 10, 1899. 3. *Mary Frances*, b. Feb. 12, 1899; m. Frederick E. Tibbetts of Helena, Mont., grad. of West Point and in U. S. army, Nov. 6, 1922.

V. Morris, b. Nov. 13, 1863; d. Nov. 21, 1864.

VI. Gibson William, b. Nov. 12, 1866; m. Helen Taylor Markham of New York City, Jan. 30, 1906; res. Ossining, N. Y. Child: *William Markham*, b. Jan. 2, 1907.

3. CHESTER HARRIS, born September 8, 1831, served in the Civil War. He was a druggist in Albion, where he died February 7, 1870. He married Isabella Henderson. They had one child, Francis, who died in infancy.

4. FRANCIS HARRIS, born April 21, 1833, was for many years a merchant in Albion, where he died August 25, 1891. On September 25, 1860, he married Anna Maria French of Albion. She was born February 18, 1840, and died January 8, 1920. Children:

I. Albert French, b. July 29, 1861; m. Carrie Gillespie of New Decatur, Ala., June 3, 1893; res. New Decatur. Children: 1. *Everett A.*, b. Oct. 26, 1895. 2. *Wanda L.*, b. Nov. 17, 1897. 3. *Kenneth G.*, b. March 7, 1901. 4. *Hilda H.*, b. Sept. 2, 1906.

II. Richard Ford, b. Jan. 3, 1864; m. Anna B. Stewart of Albion, Oct., 1889; res. Sedalia, Mo. Child: *Helen M.*, b. Oct. 14, 1891.

III. William George, born May 17, 1867; m. Laura Russell, Nov. 27, 1890; res. Fresno, Cal.

IV. Everett Francis, b. Oct. 18, 1870; m. Emma Curtis of Albion, Dec. 21, 1898; res. Albion. Child: *Francis R.*, b. Dec. 23, 1900.

V. Raymond, b. July 2, 1873; d. Aug. 3, 1875.

5. LEVINUS HARRIS, born February 27, 1837, served in the Civil War, teacher, now living at Albion. On April 26, 1866, he married Elizabeth Michels of Albion. She was born August 27, 1841, and died November 10, 1898. Children:
- I. Mary Constance, b. Sept. 4, 1867; m. Cayetano Serrano of Mexico, Jan. 19, 1898; res. Mexico City, Mex. Children: *Sarah C.*, b. Oct. 31, 1898; d. Dec. 25, 1904. 2. *Emma H.*, b. March 22, 1901. 3. *Levinus R.*, b. Dec. 19, 1904. 4. *Naomi*, b. Jan. 19, 1908. 5. *Serges Pablo*, b. Feb. 25, 1914.
 - II. Otis, b. Aug. 27, 1869; m. Charlotte Biggers of Albion, Jan. 10, 1901; res. Albion. Children: 1. *Arthur C.*, b. May 18, 1906. 2. *Vernon T.*, b. April 5, 1908. 3. *Bernice A.*, b. Feb. 7, 1910. 4. *Gertrude*, b. Oct. 4, 1912. 5. *Susan E.*, b. April 29, 1916.
 - III. Walter, b. Aug. 27, 1869; m. Dorothea Barnhart of Albion, Sept. 28, 1903; res. West Plains, Mo. Children: 1. *Maurice H.*, b. Sept. 29, 1894. 2. *Ralph*, b. April 9, 1896. 3. *Veva*, b. July 23, 1900. 4. *Halbert*, d. in infancy. 5. *Anna*, b. Feb. 22, 1910. 6. *Ernest*, b. Nov. 24, 1912.
 - IV. Helen, b. May 25, 1875; m. Kemp Crome of Albion, Dec. 15, 1896; res. Albion. Children: 1. *Alan*, b. Oct. 3, 1897; m. Ella M. Jennings of Albion, Aug. 20, 1919. 2. *Margaret E.*, b. Aug. 25, 1899; m. George D. Hortin of Albion, July 6, 1919. 3. *Helen*, b. Feb. 6, 1902.
 - V. Lizzie, b. May 25, 1875; m. Thomas Pritchard of Albion, Oct. 23, 1901; res. Pullman, Wash. Children: 1. *Earl*, b. June 5, 1907. 2. *Anna*, b. Dec. 18, 1910.

6. LUCIUS HARRIS, born July 19, 1840, served in the Civil War, was in business in Albion, and afterwards a fruit grower at Oleander, Cal., where he died January 12, 1903. On September 6, 1865, he married Constance K. Thompson of Albion. She was born November 29, 1845, and died January 31, 1910. Children:

- I. Morris Bedford, b. Sept. 10, 1866; m. Jessie Hayward Boggs of Springfield, Ohio, Feb. 21, 1899; res. Fresno, Cal. Children: 1. *Marjorie Hayward*, b. May 31, 1890; m. Frederick Muentner, May 5, 1917; res. San Francisco. 2. *Ronald Biddle*, b. Sept. 28, 1892; m. Frances M. McLane, Aug. 15, 1917; res. Fresno.
- II. Ronald Lister, b. April 27, 1870; m. Anna Munn, Jan. 30, 1895; res. Oleander.
- III. Lavinia Katherine, b. Sept. 30, 1874; d. March 25, 1877.
- IV. Edgar Maxwell, b. April 10, 1880; m. Ursula Nudd, April 6, 1904; res. Oleander. Children: 1. *Earl*, b. July 24, 1906. 2. *Everett*, b. Aug. 2, 1908.

7. MORRIS, born March 1, 1842, served in the Civil War, farmer, living near Albion. On April 23, 1873, he married Katie P. Phillips of Lockport, Ill. She was born August 8, 1856. Children:

- I. Chester Phillips, b. May 3, 1874; m. Lucy E. McCollum of Albion, April 7, 1904; res. Ellery, Ill.
- II. Lucius Phillips, b. Aug. 26, 1875; m. Katherine A. Scott of Grayville, Ill., March 20, 1902. Children: 1. *Fred S.*, b. March 11, 1903. 2. *Lura A.*, b. Nov. 23, 1904. 3. *Gibson W.*, b. Oct. 18, 1907. 4. *Mary Inez*, b. Oct. 10, 1911.

III. Adania Phillips, b. March 25, 1878; d. Aug. 24, 1878.

IV. Inez Phillips, b. March 25, 1878; d. Aug. 19, 1878.

8. BEDFORD EBENEZER, born August 3, 1844, served in the Civil War, teacher, living in Albion. On July 6, 1870, he married Sarah R. Brandon of Albion. She was born April 5, 1850. Children:

I. Edgar B., b. Oct. 3, 1871; d. Oct. 29, 1912; m. Ella Cocayne, Jan. 21, 1899. No children survived him.

II. Ella E., b. Oct. 23, 1873; d. Dec. 8, 1873.

Military or naval service is not mentioned after the seventh generation, though the ninth furnished its quota in the recent World's War. The record of the eighth and ninth generations gives one more illustration of the fact that the migratory instinct of our people is far from extinct. Gibson Harris went from Connecticut to the frontier. His sons, in part, left the new home in Illinois. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren are scattered from New York to California and from Illinois to Florida and Mexico.