

THE EDWARD HARRIS FAMILY

ITS LINEAGE AND TRADITIONS

BY

MRS. MARIE HARRIS KEY

1963

## FOREWORD

FAMILY HERITAGE SHOULD BE A GREAT INTEREST TO EVERY AMERICAN, particularly those who have reason to believe themselves descendants of early American heritage.

Daniel Webster wrote this on our ancestry- "It is wise for us to recur to the history of our ancestors. Those who are regardless of their ancestors- do not perform their duty to the world." And from the Holy Bible, this admonishment: "Enquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of their fathers." Job 8:8

This contribution of my efforts has been entirely a labor of love with no thought of commercial exploitation. As to the reliability- I can only state- where vital records lacked positive verification, the most logical chain of circumstantial evidence has been used.

The results of my research have covered a period of many years. Missing links, blind spots and lost tribes have required much time consuming correspondence and hours of research but certainly not time wasted, for I have gained much knowledge of the early history of our country. This search is far from complete. I am certainly not satisfied as yet, but time is fleeting and it is my desire to pass on this "Harris Line" with the hope that sometime some member of the family will take up the search and may bring to light many things that I have been unable to find.

I acknowledge, with appreciation, the many relatives and others who have helped me to make this history possible. I, especially, want to thank Mr. W. Lee Harris of Tennessee, who has spent much time in Virginia collecting the early records of this "Harris Line" that were available. He has given me many valuable notes and thinks this early "Harris" is our line because the names are identical in both families. Mr. Poe of Lenoir, N.C. has been most helpful in giving me early records of Burke County that were available. He has spent his entire life in this section and is considered authority on early settlers of the County of Burke. Mrs. Hersey Montgomery of New Mexico has made it possible for me to have the Edward Harris, Jr. line. Mrs. Ozelle Locke has patiently gotten up the lines of the family that migrated to S. Western Ark. For all of these I am most grateful. Older members of the family now gone on, whose memories extended back, have given me traditional stories. These gave me the desire to unravel.

Please bear with me, if errors are found. Sometimes typical errors, sometimes mistakes were in original copies, etc. The copying of these notes and the arranging of them has been a difficult task.

To the "Posterity of EDWARD HARRIS," our intrepid forebear, this labor is also dedicated and entrusted to the keeping of you his descendants and to the rising generations. May someone take up where I have left off and keep "Our Harris" forever alive to the many descendants.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Marie Harris Key  
1002 Miramar Pl.  
Corpus Christi, Texas

TO THE MEMORY OF  
MY FATHER AND MOTHER

JAMES DAVID HARRIS

GEORGIA ANNA (HARRIS) HARRIS

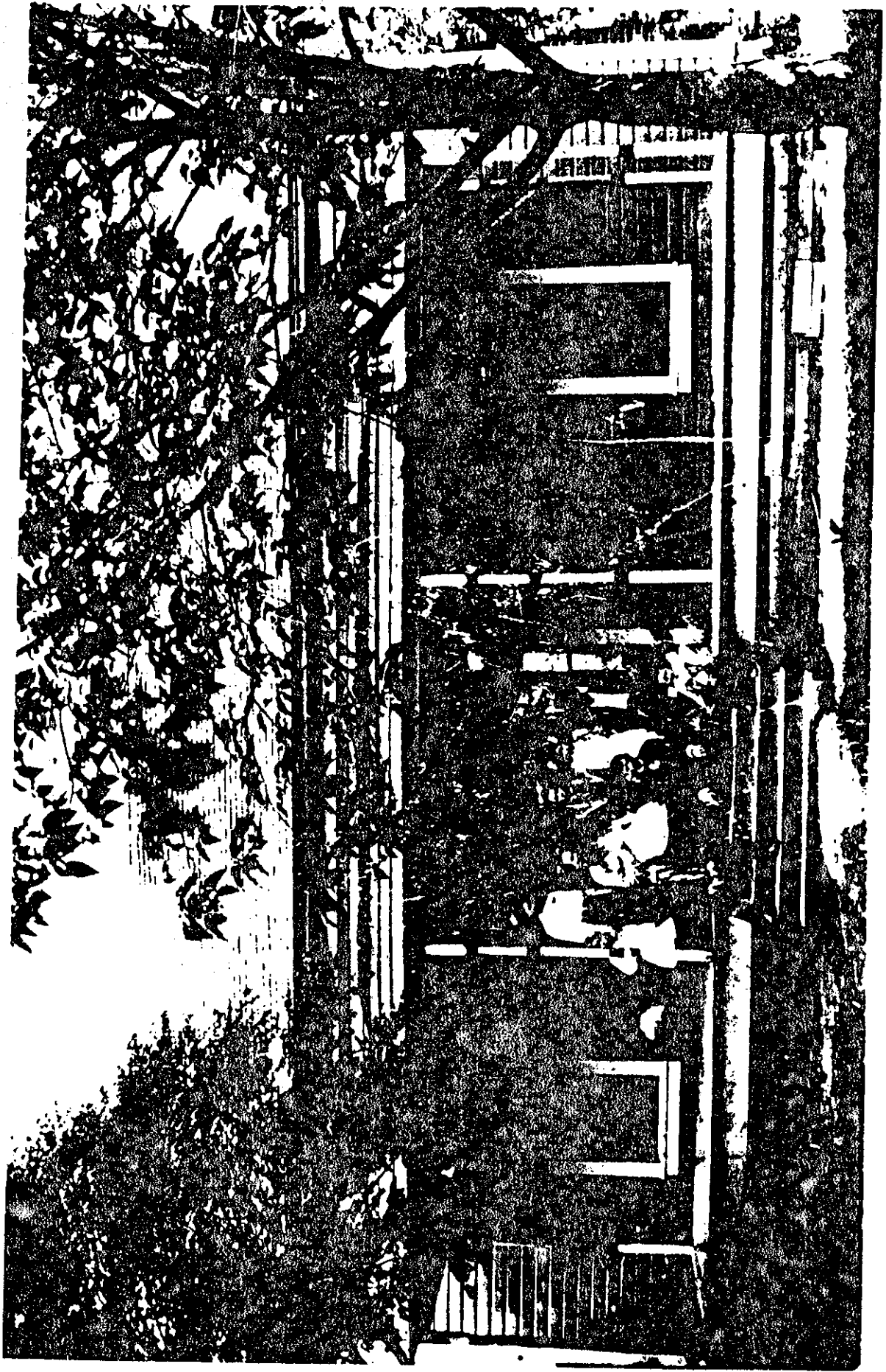


GEORGIA ANNA (HARRIS) HARRIS  
b. 1869, d. 1943



JAMES DAVID HARRIS  
b. 1861, d. 1950

Top. (Kirsch and I) May Brothers. Half Sister)  
West. (Kirsch and I) May Brothers. Half Sister)  
West. (Kirsch and I) May Brothers. Half Sister)



## AMERICAN HERITAGE

This is a short history and biography of a family- a more or less typical very early American Family; its ancestral roots could be, as well may not be, Aristocratic or distinguished.

Most all Harris Families seem to be descended from Colonial stock coming from three sources: John Harris of Pennsylvania, founder of Harrisburg, Thomas Harris of Isle of Wight County of Virginia, and Capt. Thomas Harris, probably the first Harris to come to Virginia and landed at Jamestown in 1611.

It is said that the "Harris family are one common English Stock." The original seat is said to have been Wales. Some of these Welsh Harris families moved into North Eastern Ireland, just across the Irish Sea from Wales. The Irish Harris's became blended with the Welsh and also the Scotch and from these, many migrated to the Northern States of America.

In examining the line of Thomas Harris of Isle of Wight, I found at first what I thought was a real find but after some correspondence and reading his Will, I found that his grandson Edward, son of his Edward, died before his father died and the father had taken his three children to rear. I discovered that this Edward was not in his fathers Will and his son Nathan was the administrator. This was a very illustrious family and would have liked to tie on here, alas!

My next effort was to trace the first "Thomas, who arrived in Jamestown in 1611." This family seems to fit into our line the best of all. The names are, after the third generation, the same in the families. I will give copies of charts sent to me by Mr. Lee Harris of Tenn. who thinks that our lines join with the sons of William b. 1673 and 1675. Mr. Harris, also sent me copies of Court Records, etc. of Edward b. 1775 and his brother William b. 1773.

Below is a letter from Mr. Harris, Lebanon, Tenn.

July 17, 1962

Dear Mrs. Key:

Your letter of the 7th is just now getting attention. I sympathize with you working on the Edward Harris Ancestry. There are so many Edwards and found in several different families. My reason for thinking that you might be a "Kinsman" to me is the fact that you have "Giles" attached to a Harris name. I have been suspicious and have found my suspicion borne out every time.

The first Edward in my family was the son of Major William Harris who had two children by his second wife, Alice. When he made his Will 1678 (approved 1679) he left two minors, William and Edward. They were to have certain lands left in the hands of their mother. She was to keep these children until they were 16, if she married again, but if she did not marry, to keep them until they were 19.

After that she should turn land over to them. It seems that the two sons, William and Edward became very fond of their stepfather as they cooperated in business and land deals much thereafter. I will give you all you can find in Virginia Records up to the death of Edward, 1735 (ca) Edward was b. 1675, his brother William was b. 1673.

Major William Harris was the son of Thomas Harris the Immigrant. Major William Harris was b. 1629 and d. 1678-9, having been wounded and died therefrom in battle with the Indians where Richmond now stands. In his will, which must have been made after he was mortally wounded, "to my younger sonnes, who are infants, William and Edward, I give the rest of my land. William to have the plantation where I now live and Edward to have ye land running along the Ashen swamp to him and his heirs forever. Now William and Edward are not to sell unless to each other. My will is that my wife live on the plantation during her lifetime, provided she does not marry."

I will now pull my notes on Edward Harris.

I would be glad to help you in this search, but realize that it is like a needle in a haystack.

Signed Mr. L. Harris,  
Lebanon, Tenn.

Mr. Harris of Tenn. has spent much time in Virginia tracing this family through land deeds, etc., and other available information. The widow of Major William Harris married George Alves and they moved into New Kent County from Henrico. After a few years Hanover was formed from New Kent and this placed them in Hanover County. Most of the early records of Hanover County were destroyed by fire.

The families began pushing southward mostly into Amelia, Louisa, Powhatan, Cumberland and Prince Edward Counties. By 1740 Edward b. 1710 was thirty years old; the writer surmises that he migrated into Lunenburg County gradually, marrying "Widow Gilliam" along the way, perhaps Prince Edward County. There were many Gilliams in this County. It was formed in 1753 from Amelia, however, and many of the Gilliams were there before 1753.

The charts on the following pages were given to me by Mr. Harris of Lebanon, Tenn. Please note the same names running through the William Harris family and the Edward Harris family and believe it or not those same names are in many of the families today. Through the writers grandfather, my mother's father, I do not believe there has been a single generation since Edward of 1675 that the name Edward has not been handed down in the family.

I have marked the names with \* to call attention to repetition of family names in both families. This almost proves to me that this is our line.

Also note: The name Mary Giles is given for wife of both William and Edward. This evidently is an error, that is if they were sisters. If not sisters they could have been first cousins. So many errors were made in copying names, etc. at that time. It could have been an error.

Also note the number of Gilliams in both families. There was a close relationship between the Gilliam and Harris families. Many marriages back and fourth in Edward Harris Jr. son of Edward 1710, among Gilliams and Harrises.

This chart of the "Harris" family was given to the writer by Mr. L. Harris of Tenn., who thinks our line joins with William 1673 and Edward 1675.

Thomas Harris  
immigrant, 1611  
b. 1587; d. 1649  
m. 1st Adria  
m. 2nd Joane  
(Gurgany or Virginy)

Mary Harris  
b. 1625; d. 1703  
m. Thos. Ligon

Maj. William Harris  
b. 1629; d. 1678  
m. 1st Lucy  
m. 2nd Alice

A history of this family by  
William D. Ligon, 1957

By Lucy  
Dau. m. George Archer

Thomas Harris  
b. 1669; d. 1692(ca) d.s.p.  
by. Alice  
WILLIAM b. 1673; d. 1740  
m. Mary Giles  
EDWARD HARRIS, b. 1675; d. 173  
m. Mary Giles

William Harris  
b. 1673; d. 1740

\*William Harris  
seven sons, one Edward.  
\*THOMAS HARRIS  
b. will 1762  
m. Elizabeth  
\*DAVID HARRIS ---  
b. 1705; d. 1775  
GEORGE HARRIS  
\*STEPHEN HARRIS  
\*EDWARD HARRIS  
\*JOHN HARRIS ---  
b. 1709-1786  
m. Mary Tinsley

Edmond Harris  
b. 1770; d. 1835  
\*Giles Harris ---  
b. 1728; d. 1775  
Claiborne Harr  
b. 1772; d. 1862  
\*Lewis Harris  
b. 1730; d. 1784  
Obidiah Harris  
m. Elizabeth b. 1774  
\*Elizabeth Harris  
b. 1740; d. 1818  
\*David Harris,  
b. 1761; d. ?  
m. Miss Watts.

\*Lewis Harris  
b. 1740; d. 1814  
m. Elizabeth Harris  
b. 1740; d. 1818

\*GILES HARRIS  
b. ca 1762; d. 1840  
\*JOHN HARRIS  
b. 1764; d. 1827  
m. Elizabeth Winn

**PATRICIA HARRIS**

b. 1768; d. ca 1818

**\*LEWIS HARRIS (blind)**

b. 1770; d. 1850

m. Anna Wright

**GIDEON HARRIS**

b. 1772; d. 1860

m. Martha Gilliam

**\*MARY (POLLY) HARRIS**

d. s. p.

**JANE HARRIS, d. 1829**

**Frances Hopkins Harris**

**\*David Rice Harris**

**\*Elizabeth Lewis Harris**

**\*James Gilliam Harris**

Gideon Lindsey Harris

**\*John Gardner Harris**

**\*Giles Claiborne Harris**

**\*Sarah Giles Harris**

Martha Jane Harris

**\*James Gilliam Harris**

b. 1811 Tenn.; d. 1882

m. Susan Hill

**\*William Thomas Harris**

b. 1853-1913 Tenn.

m. Elizabeth Garrett

**W. Lee Harris**

b. 1875 Tenn.

yet living

m. Nell Ferrell



**EDWARD HARRIS**

b. 1675

EDWARD HARRIS, son of Major William Harris and his wife Alice was b. ca 1675. He was taken to New Kent County and lived there with his mother, after she married her second husband, George Alves.

There are several deeds in the old records of Henrico County, which show that he disposed of his lands left him by the will of his father (Major William Harris).

**DEEDS**

Aug. 10, 1696, Deed Book 5, page 647 (New Kent) Deed to Edward Skerme, the land in Henrico County, received of his father, the late Major William Harris, 150 acres on the east side main road to falls of Appamattos, adjacent to Peter Ashbrooke.

**EDWARD HARRIS**

**WITNESSES:**

George Alves

James Cooke

July 28, 1696, Henrico Deed Book 5, page 647.

William Harris, brother of Edward Harris and son of the late Major William Harris, consents to the sale of the above land near the Ware on the S. Side of the James River.

**William Harris**

Witt: George Alves

John Rees

Aug. 1, 1696, Henrico Deed Bk. 5, page 647.

William Harris, son of ye late Major William Harris of Henrico County, dec'd, unto Edward Harris and son of Major William Dec'd and younger brother of William Harris, Jr.

Sept. 27, 1698 Record Book of Henrico County, 1697-1704, page 117.

Edward Harris of New Kent County and Mary his wife to George Alves of New Kent County 366 acres of land in Henrico on the south side of James River known by name of "Ware," a part of 576 acres bequeathed to said Edward by his father, Major William Harris late of Henrico County, dec'd.

These deeds afford the major part of our knowledge of Edward Harris.

He was made surveyor of a road in St. Pauls Parish, New Kent, on Tottopotomoi Creek 1704. St. Pauls Vestry Book Page 4.

He was named or made a proccessioner until 1731 in St. Pauls Parish. He was made a proccessioner in St. Peters Parish before St. Paul was cut off from St.

Peters Parish in 1689. It is evident from the records that they were in the New Parish St. Paul after 1704.

No records in Vestry Book after 1731. This would place him as b. ca 1675; d. ca 1731.

### THOMAS HARRIS, IMMIGRANT, 1587-1649

Edward Harris  
b. 1675; d. 1735

m. Mary Giles

Edward was son of Maj. William

Harris son of Capt. Thomas Harris.

\* Nathan Harris

b. 1699 (ca)

Agnes Harris

b. 1701 (ca)

\* Benjamin Harris

b. 1704 (ca) left will.

\* John Harris

b. 1706

Ann Harris

b. 1708

\* Edward Harris

b. 1710

No proof of the above names. However, St. Peter's Parish Vestry Book of Kent County list Ann and Edward, dates are not right. Could be children of another Edward.

Mr. Lee Harris says, - "One reason it is so hard to trace the Harrises is the fact that from the time Thomas arrived in Virginia 1611 to the beginning of the Revolution 1775 there were over 200 immigrants by the name of Harris coming to Virginia. Then another trouble was the fact that the records of New Kent and Hanover cannot be had. Hanover records were destroyed by fire in 1865 and the New Kent records have been lost. This is where our people were after the first generation through the third generation. The Harrises through the South and the West are mostly from Hanover County originally." He says that he has worked at odd times since 1914 and has come to the conclusion that it is impossible to get records back to Thomas, 1611, to be absolutely sure.

The writer has picked the names above from many references I have seen and always looking for some possible clue as to names of brothers and sisters of Edward b. 1710. I will explain some of the names, my reason for thinking they could be right.

Worth S. Ray in his book "Mecklenburg Signers" states "William Gilliam b. 1699 m. Agnes Harris, who was probably a daughter of Edward Harris or John Harris. (I found no record of John Harris that these dates fit). He also mentions Benjamin Harris that was a brother to Agnes Harris. Benjamin m. Anne Egges, who was an aunt of Mrs. Thos. Jefferson. He left will in Cumberland County 1757. He had a son named EDWARD."

I have found lines of Harris families in D.A.R. records that say they descended from Nathan Harris, Edward Harris, William Harris, Thos. Harris.

This William Gilliam that married Agnes Harris owned a plantation at Edwards Edward Harris, 1710, in Charlotte County, Va. They migrated into Greene County, N.C. about same time Edward migrated into Burke County, N.C.

The writer found a John Harris inventory in Charlotte County (not much of worlds goods) that might possibly be a brother to Edward 1710. It was dated ca 1778.

Nathan E. Harris b. Jonesboro, Tenn. moved to Georgia and later became Governor of Georgia, is said to have descended from Thomas Harris Line. Perhaps through Nathan. Take these suggestions with a grain of salt, at least it is "Food for thought." These names fit well into the next generations.

The charts of Edward Harris 1710, his son Miniard, will be found later in this book.

THOMAS HARRIS, 1586-1649

MAJOR WILLIAM HARRIS, 1629 ca 1678-9

EDWARD HARRIS, 1675 ca 1635

The above Edward Harris was the youngest son of Major William Harris by his second wife Alice. Major William Harris was the son of Thomas Harris, Gent. the Immigrant.

Dr. Alexander Brown stated in his "Genesis of the United States," Vol. 11, Page 913 that Thomas Harris, Gent. subscribed to the second Virginia Company in Jan. and Nov. 1609 and paid twenty-five pounds. Brown also states that he may have been the son of Sir William Harris or Herries of England.

In the will of Sir William Herries (or Harris) of Crixie, dated Dec. 21, 1615, his sons Thomas and John are given 1500 Pounds, the same as the other younger children but no place of residence is shown. Will was probated Nov. 20, 1616 by Sir Arthur Harris the eldest son. It appears, although not directly proven, that Thomas Harris may have been the third son of Sir William Harris. There is no direct proof in Virginia that Thomas and John of Charles City were brothers.

Capt. Thomas Harris, came to Virginia during the time of Sir Thomas Dale and is said that they were related. Capt. Thomas Harris m. first Adria who came to Virginia in 1621. She only lived about three years and then he married Joanne Gurgany or Virgany. He was married to Joanne before 1625. Their daughter Mary, who married Thomas Ligon, was b. 1625 and their son Major William was b. 1629. Captain Thomas Harris was a patentee of lands in Henrico County. He was in the Indian War 1622. In the House of Burgesses 1623-4 again 1629 to 1647. He took out his first patent in 1635 for himself. Later patents were in 1655 to 1658.

It is said that Thomas Harris and John Chew are the only members of the early House of Burgess that are known to have descendants in America.

Major William Harris was also married twice. His first wife was Lucy. He had two children by Lucy, a daughter who married 1st a Geo. Archer and a son

THOMAS HARRIS, 1586-1649  
MAJOR WILLIAM HARRIS, 1629-1678  
EDWARD HARRIS, 1675-1735

Thomas Harris b. 1669, d. 1692. The writer has found many descendants listed from this Thomas. But proof has been given to me that this Thomas died unmarried and that his inheritance from William was divided among Williams two sons- William and Edward. Major William married second to Alice. There were two sons born to this union; William, b. 1673 and Edward b. 1675. They were small children when their father was killed in battle with the Indians near where Richmond now stands. Major William, like his father, was also a member of House of Burgess 1652-3; again served 1656-7-8. He was appointed by the assembly in 1636 as Major for Regiment of Henrico and Charles City Cos.

Major William made his will in 1678 (probably after he was wounded). He left two minors, William b. 1673 and Edward b. 1675. The sudden death of William probably accounts for the informal type of Will, which remains.

Copy of Will  
Major William Harris

Not knowing what the Lord hath ordained or at what time he may take me out of this life, I do hereby settle my estate of lands as followeth:-

I give and bequeath to my son Thomas- below the Ware and to keep the Ware run for his bounds till it shall come to ye spring at ye hed and then to follow a bottom on ye lower side of the clearing of John Rabon to the hundred road path, and then on a straight road or course to the land of Col. Ashbrooke, but in no case to cross Pockett's path.

To my younger sonnes, William and Edward Harris, I give the rest of my dividend, William to have the plantation where I now live and Edward to have ye land next to Ashbrooke. But William to extend out 100 yards beyond the clearing of John Rabon on the path called Pockett's Path; and thence on a straight course to ye Red Water, and Edward the hed visdt: to Peter Ashbrooke his line as also ye Ashen swamp above, to them and their heirs.

Neither to sell unless one to the other and if either die without issue the land to come to the survivor.

My two youngest sons to live with their mother till the age of sixteen if she marry, if not till age of nineteen years.

My will is that my wife live on the plantation during her life but not to hinder my son William at the head of ye ware if he come to himself.

I desire my friends, Mr. Thomas Cocke and Mr. William Randolph to see my will performed.

In witness of every part hereof I put my hand this 20th day of Apr. 1678.

Signed-- William Harris

Signed in Presence of

Richard Ligon

Ye mark of

X

Ann Stewart.

Proved in Henrico Court,

First day of Feb. 1679 by oath

of Henrico EC 1677-1692 page 69.

The writer starts the numbering of the generations with Edward Harris (1) born 1710 (ca) d. Oct. 7, 1780. This is proven, etc. I do feel, however, that the above line could be exactly right. Maybe someday this can be proven.

Earliest records of Edward Harris (1) were found in 1751 in Lunenburg County. Just how long he had lived there prior to 1751 is not known. He could have migrated there around 1740 about the time he married "Widow Gilliam". All of his children could have been born in Lunenburg County.

Vestry Book of Lunenburg County 1751 TITHES were taken by Lydell Bacon.

EDWARD HARRIS----One tithe in Cumberland Parish.

TITHES 1764 Cornwell Parish after Charlotte Co. taken from Lunenburg

EDWARD HARRIS ----- 1 TITHE 400 acres Taken by Thomas Bedford.

MAYNARD HARRIS ----- 1 TITHE

STEPHEN HARRIS ----- 1 TITHE

The writer would like to mention here that Mary Ligon, sister to Major William, had a granddaughter named Mary Ligon Coleman that married the Thomas Bedford, who took the Tithes in Cornwell Parish, Charlotte County in 1764. They lived near Edward (1). Edward (1) and Mary Coleman Bedford were third cousins (perhaps).

Maynard and Stephen were the two oldest sons of Edward (1) 1710-1780.

Charlotte County was formed from Lunenburg County in 1764. This found Edward Harris (1) 1710-1780 and his family living in Charlotte.

Name spelling at that early date was precarious. Men even signed their names with different spellings on different occasions, or a clerk frequently spelled the name as he heard it rather than to be bothered with asking how to spell it. The name Miniard, for instance, had many spellings. Minyard (The writer believes this must have been the original spelling and that the name was taken from a surname. Miniard Harris could have gotten his name through his mother). Then there was Mainyard, Menyard, Manard, Minyard and the modern spelling Maynard.

Some of our kith and kin spell Harris with ss at end of name. (Here the writer thinks this must have been added in same manner as above or it made their name

EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)

look different from all the others by adding ss. A grandson of the writers great aunt told me that they added an e to their name- Bean (Beane) so their name would be different from the rest of the family.

LUNENBURG COUNTY RECORDS

HARRIS

Robert Gilliam of Prince Edward County, deed to Edward Harris of Lunenburg County, Va.

DEED BOOK #7, PAGE 279

"Whereas, Hugh Miller, Apr. 21, 1755 sold to John Gilliam, 1588 acres of land lying in Lunenburg County on both sides of Twilly's Creek. It is coventanted that the said John Gilliam do lay off and convey unto Edward Harris when thereto required by good and Lawful Deed at the said Harris costs, 400 acres of the above tract of 1588 acres including and adjoining the Plantation whereupon the said Edward Harris now lives, in fee simple the estate of in and to the said 1588 acres of land with like proviso and conditions. Now the said Robert Gilliam sells to Edward Harris of Lunenburg County the said 400 acres aforementioned lying on both sides of Twilly's Creek, etc.

Witnesses, Henry Isbell, William Gilliam, Richard Ellis.

The complete deed says that Robert Gilliam sold land to James Gilliam at the same time and that it joined Edward Harris's land. Also William Gilliam's land joined Edward Harris's land. These Gilliams were all related, but how?

The writer found in Worth S. Rays, "Mecklenburg Signers" that William Gilliam married Agnes Harris in New Kent County. She was b. ca 1701. He also said she was the daughter of Edward or John Harris of New Kent County. (Hanover County was formed from New Kent County 1720. Edward Harris and family were living in Hanover County after 1620. Key) Mr. Ray also stated that they migrated to Lunenburg County. The writer found that William Gilliams Plantation and that of Edward Harris joined. Seems very logical that Agnes Harris and Edward Harris were sister and brother. The Gilliam family migrated into Granville Co., I.C. about the same time that Edward and families began migrating to Burke Co., I.C. The children of William Gilliam and Agnes Gilliam were: Richard, Harris, William, Winifred, Agnes and Amy.

Edward Harris 1710-1780 (ca) had the following children:

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| ⑤ Edward Harris   | (2) Miniard Harris,      |
| 1710-d. 1780 (ca) | b. 1742; d. Oct. 7, 1780 |
| . "Widow Gilliam" | *(2) Stephen Harris,     |
|                   | b. 1744; d. ca 1810      |
|                   | *(2) David Harris,       |
|                   | b. 1746; d. Oct. 7, 1780 |
|                   | *(2) Edward Harris,      |
|                   | b. 1746; d. 1820 (ca)    |

EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)

(2) Braddock Harris,  
b. 1752-5  
No record of daughters.

2  
Miniard Harris  
b. 1742; d. 1780  
m. Sarah Johnson, Va.  
1764 (ca)

\* (3) Lewis Harris  
b. 1765; d. 1845 (ca) Va.  
(3) daughter  
b. 1766, Va.  
(3) Miniard Harris,  
b. 1768, b. Va.  
\* (3) Elizabeth Harris (Betsy) Va.  
b. 1770; d. 1845  
m. Moses Sanders, N.C.  
\* (3) daughter (Possibly a Mary or Sarah)  
b. 1772  
\* (3) John Harris,  
b. 1774 (ca) Va.; d. 1830  
m. Dicy Harris, a cousin.  
\* (3) Giles Harris (Nathan),  
b. 1776, N.C.  
\* (3) Edward Harris,  
b. 1778, N.C.  
\* (3) David Harris,  
b. 1780; d. 1849 (ca) N.C.  
m. Rebecca Gilbert N. C. 1811

(2) Miniard Harris, b. 1742, d. Oct. 7, 1780, was born in Virginia. His fathers residence was not definitely established until 1751, when he was found in the Vestry Book of Lunenburg County, Cumberland Parish. Hanover County was the original home. He, Miniard, could have migrated into Lunenburg as early as 1740, and all of his children could have been born in Lunenburg County.

Deed Book #3, Page 473

Dated Feb. 6, 1775

Maynard Harris and wife Sarah of Charlotte County, Va. sell to Stephen Harris for the sum of 100 Pounds current money, a tract of land lying in the County of Charlotte on Twilley's Creek beginning at Nehemiah Franks and Robert Davis's corner running North to Edward Harris's line with all appurtenances belonging thereto. (Acreage not mentioned)

His sign

Maynard X Harris  
(Seale).

The children of Miniard Harris are listed on previous page.

(1) The following History of Edward Harris (1710-80 ca) was given to the writer by Mrs. Hersey Montgomery, Monument, New Mexico. Mrs. Montgomery's husband, Worthy Montgomery, is a direct descendant of Edward Harris, the brother of Miniard Harris.

"This is a traditional account."

Quote: "I, John Harris, at the age of seventy-two, (1890) in writing the account of the origin of the 'Harris Family', have to write from memory and from statements made by my father (Johnson Harris, a son of Edward Harris, Jr.) and by my grandfather, Edward Harris (2).

Our ancestors were from Wales, a woman with two sets of children, one by name of Gilliam and one by name of Harris, settled in or near Charlotte County, Va.

Great Grandfather, Edward Harris (1) generally called "Ned" had five sons, whose names were: (2) Miniard Harris, (2) Stephen Harris, (2) David Harris, (2) Edward Harris, (2) Braddock Harris. Gr. Grandfather lived in Virginia in the time of the Revolutionary War.

(2) Edward Harris, Jr. was my father. He lived in Virginia in the time of the Revolutionary War. They moved to North Carolina and settled in or near Buncombe County. How long they lived there I have no recollection." End of Quote.

The writer has spent sometime tracing the buying of land and the selling of land in Va. and N.C., and my findings indicate that the Va. families migrated into North Carolina before the Revolution, perhaps in 1775. Buncombe County was not formed until 1791. Think Mr. John Harris grandfather must have been in Wilkes County after it was taken from Burke in 1777. They were in Rowan Co. in 1775. Burke was formed in early 1777. They were all neighbors but later in the year Wilkes was cut off part of Burke and this found part of them living in Wilkes County. The 1790 Census bears this out. Below I am listing land purchases and sales of Edward Senr. Maynard and Stephen Harris in Va.

#### CHARLOTTE COUNTY, VA.

1761 Edward Harris from Robert Gilliam, Lunenburg 1761, 400 acres on Twilley's Creek. Witnesses were Henry Isbell, William Gilliam, Richard Ellis

1767 Edward Harris, Senr. to Henry Isbell	Book #1	page 123
6-3-70 " " " to Stephen Coleman	" #2	" 444
2-6-75 " " " to Stephen Harris	" #3	" 474
2-6-77 " " " to Andrew Lee	" #4	" 40
2-6-75 Maynard Harris to Stephen Harris	" #3	" 473
2-28-71 Stephen Harris from James Lain	" #2	" 435
2-6-75 " " " Maynard Harris	" #3	" 473
2-6-75 " " " Edward Harris (Sen)	" #3	" 474
10-2-75 " " " Jas. Butler	" #3	" 548
1-5-78 " " " to Andrew Lee	" #4	" 42
11-2-78 " " " to Edward Keeling	" #4	" 105

The above taken from the general index in the clerks office of Charlotte County, Va.



EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)

Copies of deeds of Edward Harris, Sr. and Stephen Harris, also Maynard Harris are in the writers possession. Edward's and Stephen's Deeds do not give the name of wife. Maynard Harris's deed has wife Sarah Harris.

Edward Harris (1) Sr. was living as late as 1777 according to his last deed to Andrew Lee in Charlotte County, Va. Dated Feb. 10, 1777.

The writer's opinion is that Miniard Harris, soon after he sold his plantation in Charlotte Co., Va. in Feb. 1775, with his brothers Edward, David and Braddock migrated into North Carolina, into what was then Rowan County, but early in 1777 Burke was formed from Rowan County and this found them in Burke Co. Seems that Edward, David and Braddock did not own land and they were free to make the move with Miniard.

Edward Harris (1) Sr. and Stephen sold their land Nov. 10, 1777 and Nov. 2, 1778 Respt. They probably went into North Carolina at the same time. The writer has no proof of these moves except through their sales of land in Va. As Mr. Worth S. Ray says in his Book, "Mecklenburg Signers" "The Genealogist (I am not one) must know how to interpret records and analyze their meaning. What Records? All records that tend to throw light on meaning of such fragments as are available to be interpreted. Selah." The general idea is when all the families sold their holdings, it meant they were seeking "greener pastures" and the trend at that time was to migrate South or West.

After I found that all who owned land had sold I began to study the North Carolina Records for Land Grants, etc. Many records were burned during the Civil War. The few remaining records do shed some light. However, it is presumed that Miniard bought land from an individual as I could find no record of Land Grant. There are no records of this, however, but one of the land grants to one of the others state that land is bounded on one side by Minyeads line. A genealogist and one who is very familiar with land records, deeds, abstracts, etc., in Caldwell County tells me he feels convinced that the clerk who wrote the record left off the name of Harris.

There are records of Land Grants in Raleigh of different counties. The writer wrote to Wilkes County to find out when Edward sold his land in Wilkes County. I have a copy of the Land Grant, but there was no record whatsoever of when it was sold. Burned during Civil War.

A grant of land was made to Edward Harris in Wilkes County on March 3, 1779, for 230 acres lying on the North Fork of Fishes Creek. He was listed in the 1790 Census of Wilkes County, Morgan District.

Edward Harris

1 male over 16 (this was Edward)

1 male under 16 (his son Johnson)

6 females (wife Mary was one of six)

Edward had seven daughters and one son. Last two daughters born after the 1790 Census. So many Edwards- but when you find a Census with the exact number of children- boys and girls- you have something.

Stephen Harris bought land in 1781 in Wilkes County along Fishes Creek, a neighbor to Edward. He sold in 1789 and migrated into Laurens County, S.C. Edward and Braddock did not go to Laurens County, S.C. until 1796-1798.

The father Edward Harris (1) and sons had sold their land in Charlotte County, Virginia by Dec. 1778. Miniard Harris and wife Sarah sold their plantation first in Feb. 1775. Evidently, this must have been the year that Miniard Harris and family, Edward Harris and family (note: their wives were sisters), David Harris and family and Braddock Harris and his family migrated into North Carolina. Edward, David and Braddock evidently did not own any land, so it was easy for them to pull up stakes and go along with Miniard. They must have been in Rowan County at that early date. Burke and Wilkes were formed from Rowan in 1777. They were pioneers into a sparsely settled country. The Indians had been pushed back to the Mountains by this time. However, they were practically out of reach of governmental authority. These independent, daring pioneers were trained to rely on their own personal strength and prowess and felt, perhaps, less need for government authority than any other one thing. Worth S. Ray, in his book, "Lost Tribes of North Carolina," says- "Those migrating into North Carolina from Va. and Maryland were restless creatures, disgusted with slave-packed plantations, neighborhood Overlords and State -supervised and Tax-supported religious institutions to which they did not belong to or subscribe."

Rumple in his "History of Rowan County" says- "The people of Western North Carolina were a liberty-loving people, who came to the wilds of North Carolina for the express purpose of escaping from Political and ecclesiastical oppression. The population in those days was hopelessly plunged into 'Dissent' and resisted every effort to settle a parish minister over them and thus refused to subject themselves to additional taxation."

The white occupation of North Carolina had extended only to the Blue Ridge Mtns. when the Revolution began. In 1775, when it is thought that the Harris men came into North Carolina, they were neighbors as at that time it was customary for them to settle near each other. In 1777 when Burke and Wilkes were formed into counties, it found some of them in Wilkes and some in Burke. In Burke, some lived along the John's River. This part of Burke became Caldwell County in 1841.

There were a great many men at this time who fought as frontiersmen, protecting their homes and families; whose names have gone unrecorded. Many of these men fought later in the battle of "King's Mountain," which was said to be the turning point of the Revolution. By 1780 the Colonists of this part of North Carolina had become extremely serious. Georgia and South Carolina had been overrun by the British. Cornwallis felt that the time was ripe for taking North Carolina. He sent Ferguson into the western part. Here Ferguson heard that the frontiersmen were arming themselves. It is said about this time there was not a regular soldier south of Virginia.

EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)  
MINIARD HARRIS - 1742-1780

The Militiaman of Western North Carolina was unique in his way- in words of Governor Graham- "as well as a self-supporting institution, he went forth to service generally without thought of drawing uniform, rations, arms and pay. A piece of white paper pinned to his hunting cap was his uniform, a wallet of parched flour or a sack of meal was his commissariat; a tin cup, a frying pan and a pair of saddle-bags his only impedimenta; a horse capable of long subsisting on nature's bounty, was his means of rapid mobilization or hasty change of base; a sense of manly duty performed- his sense of propriety would have been rudely shocked by any suggestion of reward for serving his country, ---" (Taken from "Western North Carolina" by Arthur).

Upon hearing of the approach of Ferguson in this part of N.C. with his large force, Maj. McDowell hurriedly went over the mountains to obtain assistance and to consult with Col. Sevier and Col. Shelby. Two paroled men arrived about this time to inform these officers that if they did not desist from their opposition to the British Arms and take protection under his standard, Ferguson would march his army over the mountains, hang their leaders and lay waste the country with fire and sword. It was decided very hurriedly by each of the Colonels to raise all the men that could be enlisted and that this force when collected should meet on the Watauga on the 25th of Sept. Jimmie Blair, a son of pioneers of Burke Co. was dispatched by Col. McDowell to alert the men in the Burke and Wilkes area. Many Tories were lurking along his route and he was wounded on this trip. (Notes taken from "Here Will I Dwell," by Nancy Alexander).

It was agreed that Col. Shelby should give intelligence of their movements to Col. Campbell of the adjoining County of Washington in Virginia, with the hope that he would raise what force he could and cooperate with them. They met at Watauga on the 30th of Sept., 1780, where they were joined by Col. Cleaveland from Wilkes and Surry Counties. Their force in numbers were 1390 men. Burke and Rutherford under Maj. McDowell raised 160 men. It was agreed that Col. William Campbell, who had the largest regiment (400 men), should take command until the arrival of a General Officer. Maj. McDowell should take command of Burke and Rutherford Counties until the return of Col. Charles McDowell.

On the evening of the 6th of Oct. the Colonels in council unanimously resolved that they would select all the men and horses fit for service and immediately pursue. Nine hundred and ten men were chosen to march before and the rest of the men were told to follow as quickly as they could. They met Col. Williams of S. C., with near 400 men. Also Col. Hambrite of Lincoln County with 60 men. These men rode all night long. It is said they were in the saddle some 30 hours. On the morning of the seventh of Oct. before sunrise, they crossed the River and marched about two miles to the place where Ferguson had encamped on the night of the fifth. They ate what breakfast their saddle-bags would afford. The day was showery and they were obliged to use their blankets to protect their firearms from getting wet. Their plan was to divide the forces, one-half to the right and occupy the Southeast side- the others to advance to the Northwest side. The troops were led in the following order: To the right, Major Winston, Col. Sevier, Col.

Campbell Col. Shelby and Maj. McDowell. To the left, Col. Hambrite, Col. Cleaveland, Col. Williams of S.C. Some of the regiments suffered much galling fire of the enemy before they were in position to fight. The men with Shelby and McDowell were soon closely engaged and the contest from the first was very severe. Williams and Cleaveland were soon in their places and with the utmost energy engaged the enemy. Ferguson made furious charges upon Shelby and McDowell, charging down some 200 yards. He was soon compelled to order his men back to the top of the mountain to ward off the deadly attack from Col. Williams (S.C.). Ferguson again charged fury down the mountain. When Shelby's men saw this they raised the cry "Come on men the enemy is retreating." Ferguson returned from the charge against the South Carolinians, renewed their fire with great resolution. He again charged upon Shelby and McDowell but not so far as before. Col. Williams men called out, "The enemy is retreating, come on men." At this stage of action, Hambrite's men and Winston's men had met and a brisk fire was poured upon Ferguson's men. All around the mountain he would advance toward Campbell, Sevier, Winston and Hambrite. He was pursued by McDowell, Williams and Cleaveland. Then when he would turn, he was pursued from the other side. Ferguson was killed. Col. Shelby demanded that the enemy lay down their arms. A guard was placed over the prisoners and all remained on the mountain top during the night. This battle was of short duration, about one hour. Col. Hambrite was wounded, Maj. Chronicle was wounded and Col. Williams was killed. It is believed the loss of the Whigs was not exactly ascertained, but said to be about thirty men killed and fifty wounded. The enemy had 150 killed and all the rest were taken prisoners. (From "Sketches of North Carolina," by Footel. It is said that this battle of King's Mountain was the most decisive, the most gloriously fought and although few in numbers, was of the greatest importance of any one battle that ever was fought in America. (Historical Sketches of North Carolina by Col. John H. Wheeler).

This expedition "The Battle of King's Mountain, Oct. 7, 1780, conceived and organized and with the aid they sought from Va. and the Watauga Settlement, carried to success at King's Mountain, thwarted all the plans of the British Commander and restored the almost lost cause of the Americans and rendered possible its final triumph at Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781." (Taken from "Rowan County," by Rumble).

"This expedition was without reward or the hope of reward. Undertaken and executed by private individuals at their own insistance - who furnished their arms, conveyances, and supplies, bore their own expense, achieved the victory and then quietly retired to their homes - leaving the benefit of their work to all Americans and the United States their debtors for independence." ("Western North Carolina, by Arthur).

It is not known what kind of service the three brothers, Miniard Harris, David Harris, and Edward Harris, were in during the Revolution. There are no records in the office of Adjutant General of the United States. We do know, however, that these three men fought and two of them lost their lives in the Battle of "King's Mountain." This has been handed down through the generations in each family. The writer could not refrain from giving place in this book, to the story of "The Battle of King's Mountain" (from Sketches of North Carolina by

EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)

MINIARD HARRIS - 1742-1780

Footnote). After finding that these men were gathered from Burke, Wilkes and Surry Counties and that McDowell of Burke Co. started the movement, it clearly indicated to the writer that our Harris men were among those 160 men gathered in haste. There is a "Traditional" story handed down in the Edward Harris line that he, Edward, saw Miniard fall but they were moving with such speed and fighting so furiously that he had no chance to stop. He later went back but could not find Miniard's body. The writer thinks this "Traditional" story fits the above story of King's Mountain perfectly. We thank God that we do have some Traditional Stories handed down in our families that are true and authentic.

There is also a "Traditional" story in the Edward Harris line that Edward, the father of Miniard, David, Edward, Stephen and Braddock, was taken prisoner probably around 1780 by the Tories and perhaps he died soon afterward. He is not listed in the 1790 Census.

(2) Miniard Harris b. 1742, d. Oct. 7, 1780, oldest son of Edward Harris, was killed in the battle of "King's Mountain." He m. Sarah Johnson in Charlotte Co., Va. ca 1763-4. According to land sales in Virginia in Feb. 1775, it would indicate that he, his family and his two brothers, Edward and David, and their families, migrated into N.C. in the year 1775. More to follow on this family.

(2) Stephen Harris, the second son of Edward Harris, b. ca 1744. He married and lived in Charlotte Co., Va. until after 1778, at which time he sold his farm of 395 acres and Land Deeds in Wilkes County show that he bought land there in 1781. Stephen's father Edward sold his land in Charlotte Co. in 1777. It is not known where he went but the writer presumes he migrated with Stephen a year later into N.C. Stephen sold his land in Wilkes Co. in 1789 and with his family migrated into South Carolina (Laurens Co.). He was found in the 1790 Census there. It is presumed that he died in Laurens Co. The 1790 Census listed one son over 16, one son under 16, and one daughter under 16, under Stephen Harris in Laurens County.

(2) David Harris b. ca 1746, d. Oct. 7, 1780. Killed in the battle of "King's Mountain." Tradition says he married Nannie Lane, perhaps in Charlotte Co., Va. The writer presumes that he migrated into N.C. at the same time, along with Miniard. No land deeds were found in Charlotte Co., Va. to establish his residence there nor in North Carolina. As he was killed in battle of King's Mountain, the writer thinks he must have been living near Miniard in N.C. and they all went together with McDowell and the Burke Co. men to fight in this battle.

(2) Edward Harris b. 1748, d. 1810-20. He also lived and married in Charlotte Co., Va. to Mary Johnson, a sister to Miniard's wife. He also migrated into N.C. along with Miniard. He was granted 250 acres in Wilkes County in 1779. Edward Harris was found in the 1790 Census of Wilkes County. At this time he had one son and five daughters under 16. His only son's name was Johnson. In 1795-6 he and family migrated into Laurens County, S.C. He was in the 1800 Census also the 1810 Census of Laurens County but died before the 1820 Census.

EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)  
MINIARD HARRIS - 1742-1780

Most of his descendants migrated into Tennessee and some into Perry Co., Ill., where many of them still reside. More on this family later.

(2) Braddock Harris, youngest son of Edward Harris, b. ca 1750-5, was found in the 1790 Census of Wilkes Co., N.C. He had one son under 16 and one daughter under 16. Braddock Harris migrated to Laurens Co., S.C. before the 1800 Census was taken.

1803 Tax List of Burke County, N. C.

Captain Coleman's Company: John Harris - no land - 1 white poll  
Lewis Harris - 300 acres - 1 white poll  
Reuben Estes - 1350 acres - 1 white poll-6 black poll  
Lott Estes - 250 acres - 1 white poll  
David Harris - no land - 1 white poll

1804 Tax List of Burke County, N. C.

Captain Coleman's Company: Lott Estes - 250 acres - 1 white poll  
Reuben Estes - 1400 acres - 6 polls - 1 stud horse  
David Harris - no land - 1 poll  
Lewis Harris - 300 acres - 1 poll  
John Harris - no land - 1 poll

There was a Hugh Harris and Benjamin Harris living in Burke, 1803-4.

1818 and 1819 Tax List of Burke County, N. C.

1818 Tax List of Captain Elijah Moore's Company: John's River Section.  
Lott Estes - 550 acres, \$600 - 1 white-1 black poll  
Miniard Harris - 0 acres - 1 white poll  
John Harris - 200 acres, \$500 - 1 white poll  
David Harris - 0 acres - 1 white poll  
Lewis Harris - 200 acres, \$300 - 1 white poll

1816 Tax List of Burke County, N. C. Capt. White's District.  
Lewis Harris - 547 acres, \$800 - 1 poll  
Miniard Harris - 0 acres - 1 poll  
John Harris - 0 acres - 1 poll  
David Harris - 0 acres - 1 poll

1819 Tax List of Burke County, N. C. Capt. Elijah Moore's Company:  
John Harris - 200 acres, \$500 - 1 white poll  
David Harris - 0 acres - 1 white poll  
Lewis Harris - 60 acres, \$150 - 1 white poll  
Miniard Harris - 250 acres, \$500 - 1 white poll

③ EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)  
③ MINIARD HARRIS - 1742-1780

1837 Tax List of John's River District:

③ Lewis Harris - 0 acres - 1 white poll  
Minyard Harris - 270 acres - 1 white poll  
75 acres - 1 white poll

Miniard Harris above was son of Lewis Harris, who was oldest son of Miniard Harris, killed in battle of King's Mtn. 1780.

John Harris and David Harris were also sons of Miniard, killed 1780.

Lott Estes above is son of Reuben Estes, Lott Estes' daughter, Lora, m. Edward ⑪ Harris, son of Lewis Harris above.

Sarah Harris was left with a large family of children after Miniard Harris was killed in battle of King's Mountain, Oct. 7, 1780. A traditional story in the Edward Harris line is that the brothers of Miniard helped Sarah with her children. The writer found that Elizabeth "Betsy" Harris, dau. of Miniard and Sarah Harris, b. 1770, must have been in Stephens home in Wilkes County when she married Moses Sanders, as Stephen was Witness and bondsman for her. Betsy Harris Sanders and Moses Sanders migrated to Laurens Co., S.C. along with Stephen Harris and his family in 1789. They were found in the 1790 Census there.

It was the custom at that time for the oldest son to become the head of his father's home after his death. Here we find Sarah and her family listed in the 1790 Census of Burke County under the name of her oldest son, Lewis. Lewis had been married about one year and had an infant son named "Miniard" for his grandfather Miniard.

1790 Census Burke County, Morgan District.

Lewis Harris  
2 males 16 and upward,  
5 males under 16,  
4 females.

The two males were Lewis and Miniard, Sarah's son who migrated to S.C. probably with Braddock and Edward Harris, his Uncles. The five males under 16 were the four sons of Sarah; and the infant "Miniard" son of Lewis. The four females were two of Sarah's daughters, Sarah and Lewis's wife. One of Sarah's daughters, Betsy, had married in 1788-9 and had migrated into S.C., Laurens Co., with Stephen Harris. Sarah was head of her house by 1800.

(3) Lewis Harris b. 1764-5, d. 1845-50, m-? He had eight children at home by 1810. He had three boys born between 1800 and 1810. One of these boys was Edward Harris b. 1804. The names of the other children are not known with the exception of Miniard b. 1790. Edward Harris line follows next in this book. He is the gr. grandfather of the writer (maternal father's side).

(4) Edward Harris, son of Lewis Harris, b. 1804, d. 1869, m. Lora Estes of John's River Section, Burke Co., N.C., where some of the Harris family settled in 1775. The Estes family migrated into N.C. from Va. in 1777. Lott Estes, the father of Lora, was born that year, the first of the children to be born in N.C.

EDWARD HARRIS (1) - 1710-1780 (ca)  
MINIARD HARRIS - 1742-1780

He was son of Reuben Estes. Lott Estes married Lora Gilbert, a daughter of Michael Gilbert b. in Va. Michael Gilbert lived in Lincoln County, N. C. for a few years and then moved into Burke County after the 1790 Census. They were neighbors to the Estes family, also the Harris family. A sister of Lora Estes, Rebecca, married David Harris in 1811. Another one of the Gilbert girls, Clarrissa, married a brother of Lott Estes.

The Gilbert family was also from Virginia, Bedford Co. The Estes family trace back to Abraham Estes or Eastes who settled in King and Queen County in the latter part of the Seventeenth Century.

- (+) Edward "Lindsey" (?) Harris
  - b. 1804
  - d. 1869
  - m. Lora Estes
  - b. May 15, 1806
  - d. 1875
- (5) Mary Harris
  - b. Oct. 25, 1825; d. Mar. 15, 1915
- (5) Eveline Harris
  - b. Aug. 9, 1829; d. Feb. 6, 1919
- (5) Miniard W. Harris
  - b. 1830; d. Aug. 4, 1860
- (5) Sena Harris
  - b. 1836; d. ca 1900
- (5) Richard Harris
  - b. 1837; d. betw. 1850-9
- (5) Andrew Jackson Harris
  - b. Oct. 21, 1839; d. Nov. 13, 1844
- (5) William Benjamin Harris
  - b. Aug. 11, 1842; d. Apr. 8, 1911
- (5) Rhoda Francis Harris
  - b. ca 1845; d. betw. 1900-10
- (5) Elizabeth Ann Harris
  - b. 1849; d. ca 1910

Oct. term 1804 - a deed from Reuben Fletcher to Lewis Harris (father of Edward Harris) for 347 acres (John's River) is proved by the oath of John Harris (Lewis's brother) a witness thereto.

Edward Harris and Lora Estes Harris and their children were living in Cherokee Co. in 1845. The oldest daughter, Mary, met and married John Albert Henry there in 1845. They settled in Haywood Co., N.C. near Waynesville, and lived there all of their lives. She was the only child of Edward Harris that remained in N. C.

Edward Harris and Lora Estes Harris and family migrated into Murray Co., Ga. and were there when the 1850 Census was taken. In 1859 a number of Harris families were migrating to Texas and Arkansas. Edward Harris and family were among them. Edward and Lora went to Southwest Ark., Hempstead Co., near Ozan, along with their daughter Eveline Harris Robins and her husband John Bush Robins. Edward Harris and wife Lora both died there and are buried in the Zion Cemetery near Ozan, Ark.