

WC# 505,796
SARA J. HARRISON
WIDOW OF
SAMUEL HARRISON

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Hampden, ss.

At the Supreme Judicial Court, begun and holden at Springfield, within and for the County of Hampden, on the fourth Tuesday of April, being the twenty-eighth day of said month, and from day to day to the first day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five.

Present Hon. William Allen Justica.



us copy of the record.

Attest:

Robert O Morris

Clerk.



J. Groom, Libt.

vs.

George H. Groom

Copy

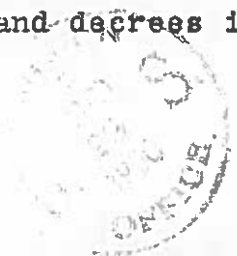
To the Honorable the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, next to be holden at Springfield, within and for the County of Hampden, on the second Monday after the second Tuesday of September A. D. 1884.

Humbly shews Sarah J. Groom of said Springfield that she was lawfully married to George H. Groom, then of Chicopee in said County, now of Saint Paul, Minnesota at said Chicopee by Rev. Mr. Gaylord on the thirteenth day of May A. D. 1877, that they have since lived together as husband and wife in said Springfield & not elsewhere and she has ever conducted towards him as a faithful, chaste and affectionate wife yet the said George H. Groom regardless of his marriage vows and obligations, at said Springfield on or about the sixth day of April A. D. 1882 & also on or about the thirteenth day of said April committed the crime of adultery with one Rachel Toomey of said Springfield & on divers other days between her said marriage with him & this date committed the crime of adultery with divers lewd women to your libellant unknown. Wherefore she prays that the bonds of matrimony heretofore existing between her and the said George H. Groom may be dissolved, and for such further orders and decrees in the premises as to law and justice may appertain.

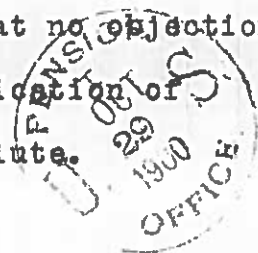
Dated at said Springfield July 2, 1884.

Sarah J. Groom

The foregoing libel was filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, in vacation, to wit: on the second day of July, in the year of our Lord one



and eight hundred and eighty four, and it was ordered by the said
Court, that the libellant notify the said George H. Groom, to appear at
next Term of this Court, to be holden at Springfield, aforesaid, on
the second Monday after the second Tuesday of September next, by pub-
lishing an attested copy of said Libel and this Order, once a week, in the
Springfield Daily Union, a newspaper printed in Springfield, three weeks
successively, the last publication to be thirty days at least before the
sitting of said Court, also mailing to him at his last known place of abode
a copy of said newspaper containing said publication; that he may then
and there show cause why the prayer of said Libel should not be granted.
And at said September Term, the said libellant appeared by her attorney,
J. E. McIntire, and entered her said libel, but the said George H. Groom,
although duly notified of the pendency of said libel according to said
order, and being publicly called, made default of appearance. And after
a full hearing of the evidence, it was ordered, that a decree of divorce
nisi from the bonds of matrimony be entered in favor of the said Sarah J.
Groom, for the cause of the adultery of the said George H. Groom, to become
absolute on application of either party to the Court, or any Justice
thereof, in term time or vacation, after the expiration of six months from
the entry of this decree, unless, the Court had for sufficient cause, on
application of any party interested, otherwise ordered. And this libel was
continued to this term, and in vacation, to wit: March thirty-first,
eighteen hundred and eighty-five, it appearing to Hon. Chas. Allen, a Jus-
tice of said Court, that said six months had expired, and that no objection
had been made, it was ordered by said Justice, upon the application of
said libellant, that said decree of divorce nisi become absolute.



Declaration for Widow's Pension.

Act of June 27, 1890.

To be executed before some officer authorized to administer oaths for general purposes. The official character and signature of any such officer not required by law to use a seal must be certified by the clerk of the proper court, giving dates of beginning and close of official term. If certificate on file so state.

State of Massachusetts, County of Berkshire, SS:

ON THIS 18th day of August, A. D. one thousand ~~and~~ ^{nine} hundred ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~eighty~~ ^{eighty}

personally appeared before me, a Notary Public within and for the County and State aforesaid, Sarah J. Harrison

aged 62 years a resident of the City of

Pittsfield County of Berkshire State of Mass.

who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that she is the widow of

Samuel Harrison who enlisted under the name of Samuel Harrison

at Marion Island - S. C. on the 8th day of September

A. D. 1863 in 54th Mass. vols. - as Chaplain
Here state rank, company and regiment, if in the army; vessel, if in the navy

and served at least ninety days in the late War of the Rebellion, who was HONORABLY DISCHARGED March 14 - 1864 and died August 11 - 1900
the cause of death need not be stated

That she was married under the name of Sarah J. Grover to said Samuel Harrison on the 12th day of April 1885 by Rev. Wm. A. Lynch at Springfield, Mass.

there being no legal barrier to such marriage. Claimant and soldier were both formerly married - soldier's first wife died
If there was a former marriage of claimant or her husband, state it here and how dissolved

Claimant's first marriage dissolved by divorce
That she has not remarried since the death of the said Samuel Harrison
Name of soldier or sailor

That she is without other means of support than her daily labor. That names and dates of birth of all the children now living under sixteen years of age of the soldier are as follows:

-, born, 18.....
-, born, 18.....
-, born, 18.....
-, born, 18.....
-, born, 18.....
-, born, 18.....

That she has heretofore applied for pension and the number of her former application is

Be careful to fill this part of the blank correctly

That she makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the Act of June 27, 1890. She hereby appoints

James McKenna of Pittsfield, Mass. her true and lawful attorney to prosecute her claim, and she directs that the sum of Ten Dollars be paid him for his services.

That her post office address is Pittsfield, Mass., 82 - Third St
County of Berkshire State of Mass.

E. H. Nash Sarah J. Harrison
Signature of Claimant

Allen Peck
Two witnesses who can write sign here



ATTY FILED

Act of June 27, 1890.

AA

DECLARATION FOR INVALID PENSION.

AA

To be executed before a Court of Record or some officer thereof having custody of its seal, a Notary Public or Justice of the Peace, whose official signature shall be verified by his official seal, and in case he has none, his signature and official character shall be certified by a Clerk of a Court of Record, or a City or County Clerk.

STATE OF Massachusetts }
COUNTY OF Berkshire } ss.

On this 25th day of March, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three personally appeared before me, a Justice of a Court of Record

Samuel Harrison within and for the county and State aforesaid, aged 75 years, a resident of the City of Pittsfield county of Berkshire, State of Massachusetts, who, being

duly sworn according to law, declares that he is the identical Samuel Harrison who was ENROLLED on the 8 day of September, 1863, in the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers as Chaplain in military service, or vessel, if in the Navy.

in the service of the United States, in the War of the Rebellion, and served at least ninety days, and was HONORABLY DISCHARGED at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, on the 14th day of March 1864. That he is Totally unable to earn a support by manual labor by reason of Nerve & Kidney disease & Vertigo

That said disabilities are not due to his vicious habits, and are to the best of his knowledge and belief of a permanent character. That he has not applied for pension under application No.

That he is a pensioner under Certificate No. [If a pensioner, the Certificate number only need be given. If not, give the number of the former application if one was made.]

That he has not been employed in the Military or Naval Service otherwise than as stated above.

That he makes this declaration for the purpose of being placed on the pension roll of the United States under the provisions of the Act of June 27, 1890.

He hereby appoints

of, State of, his true and lawful attorney to prosecute his claim and receive a fee of \$ That his POST-OFFICE ADDRESS is Pittsfield county of Berkshire, State of Massachusetts

Samuel Harrison (Claimant's signature.)

Attest: (1) David L. Evans (2) Lewis W. Taylor

3-402.

Certificate No. 64465 Department of the Interior,
 Name, Samuel Harrison BUREAU OF PENSIONS,

Washington, D. C., January 15, 1896.

SIR:

In forwarding to the pension agent the executed voucher for your next quarterly payment please favor me by returning this circular to him with replies to the questions enumerated below.

Very respectfully,

W. H. Grandt

Commissioner of Pensions.

First. Are you married? If so, please state your wife's full name and her maiden name.

Answer. I am, Sarah J. Harrison Sarah Jane Davis

Second. When, where, and by whom were you married?

Answer. April 12, 1885 Springfield Mass

Third. What record of marriage exists?

Answer. Springfield Town Clerk Rev James A Lynch

Fourth. Were you previously married? If so, please state the name of your former wife and the date and place of her death or divorce.

Answer. I was, my former wife's name Ellen M. Harrison died Dec 27, 1983

Fifth. Have you any children living? If so, please state their names and the dates of their birth.

Answer. I have two children, George B. Harrison
Oct 24, 1858 Lydia T. Harrison Dec 5, 1861

Date of reply, June 3^d, 1896

Samuel Harrison
 (Signature.)

0-8

5301b750m1-98

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE.

CITY OF PITTSFIELD.

Copy of Marriage Record.

Book 4 Page 116

Date of Marriage Jan. 12, 1885

Names of (groom) Samuel Harrison (Bride) Sarah J. Adams (Davis)

Color (groom) B (Bride) B

Place of Marriage Springfield, Mass.

Residence at time of Marriage (groom) Pittsfield (bride) Springfield

Age (groom) 66 (bride) 47

What Marriage (groom) 2^d (bride) 4th

Occupation (groom) clergyman (bride) laundry

Birthplace (groom) Phila, Pa (bride) Babylon, L.I.

Names of Groom's Parents William - Jennie

Names of Bride's Parents James Davis - Sarah

Person by Whom Married {

Name W. D. Lynch

Official Station clergyman

Residence Springfield

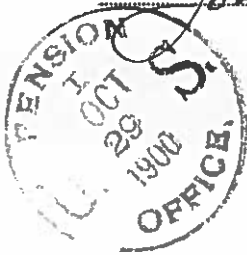
Date of Record May 10, 1885

I CERTIFY that the above is a true copy of the record of the marriage of Samuel Harrison and Sarah J. Adams (Davis) and I further depose and say that I hold the office of Clerk of the City of Pittsfield aforesaid, and am the keeper and custodian of the records of Births, Marriages and Deaths in and for the said City of Pittsfield.



Joseph Ward Lewis
Clerk of the City of Pittsfield.

Date of Sept 8, 1900



GENERAL AFFIDAVIT.

State of Massachusetts, County of Hampden, ss:

IN THE MATTER OF Sarah J. Harrison
Claimant vs the Illinois War 725900.

ON THIS 19th day of October A. D. 1900, personally appeared before me, a

Notary Public in and for the aforesaid County, duly authorized to administer oaths,

Martha H. Thomas aged 65 years, a resident of Springfield

in the County of Hampden and State of Massachusetts

whose Post-office address is 117 1/2 Bridge St. Springfield, Mass.

well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and who, being duly sworn, declares in relation to the aforesaid case as follows:

I have been well and personally acquainted with the Claimant, Sarah J. Harrison, for over thirty years, and from this acquaintance know and testify:

That she lived with the soldier, Samuel Harrison, until his death, that they were not divorced, and that she has not remarried since his death.

That Mrs. Harrison is the owner of a small house and lot situated on Lombard St., in the city of Springfield, valued at \$1100, from which she receives a gross rental of ten dollars a month; that she has no other property, income, or means of support, apart from her own labor, except a little more than two hundred dollars received from ~~from~~ the estate of her late husband, in full settlement of her interest in said estate.

Post-office address is

she further declares that she has no interest in said case and is not concerned in its prosecution.



Martha H. Thomas
Signature of affiant

If affiant sign by mark, two witnesses who can write sign here

For record of
Assignment
See Book 375
Page 281.

Know all Men by these Presents, That I Sarah
G. Adams of Springfield Hampden County Massa-
chusetts In consideration of Seven Hundred Dollars
paid by John West of said Springfield one of the
surviving Executors of the last will of James W.
Hall late of said Springfield deceased the receipt
whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give,
grant, sell and convey unto the said West his Heirs
and Assigns

A certain tract of land situate on the North
side of Lombard Street in said Springfield, and be-
ing lot number 28 on C. A. Winchesters Plan of
Lots Recorded in Hampden Registry of Deeds Book
221 Page 557 See Mortgage recorded in said Registry
Book 240 Page 513 in the place of which this is given

Do I have and to Hold the afore-granted premises to
the said Grantee his Heirs and Assigns, to their use
and behoof forever.

And I do, for myself my Heirs, Executors and Admin-
istrators, covenant with the said West his Heirs
and Assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of
the afore-granted premises; that they are free of all
incumbrances: That I have good right to sell and
convey the same to the said West and that I will
warrant and defend the same premises to the said
West his Heirs and Assigns forever, against the law-
ful claims and demands of all persons.

Provided nevertheless, and this deed is on the following
condition, that whereas I the said Sarah G.



Adams have executed my Promissory Note of Hand bearing even date herewith for the sum of Seven Hundred Dollars payable to said John West Executor or order on demand with interest at the rate of Seven and three tenths per cent. Therefore if I the said Adams or my representatives, shall pay the full amount of said Note according to the tenor thereof, then this deed shall be void; otherwise in full force.

But if default shall be made in the payment of any portion of said Note or interest according to the tenor thereof, the Grantee and his legal representatives are hereby constituted my lawful attorneys for me and in my his or their names to sell and dispose of the aforesaid lands at public auction, on or near the premises; having first posted up notifications of the time and place of the intended sale, thirty days at least before the sale, in two public places in the town where the premises are situated, and publicly advertised the same once a week for three successive weeks in some newspaper printed in said County. and in my his or their names to execute and deliver to the purchasers thereof good and sufficient deeds of conveyance for the same; and of the money arising therefrom to retain a sum equal to the amount remaining unpaid on said Note and all expenses incurred in the matter, rendering unto me or my representatives a true and particular account of the same, with any over-

that may remain thereof. And until such default, the Grantee shall allow me and my legal representatives undisturbed possession of said estate.

In Witness Whereof, I the said Sarah G. Adams (unmarried) have hereunto set my hand and seal this 5th day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

Executed in presence of

Chas. L. Long

} Sarah G. Adams + Seal

Hampden ss. April 5th 1877. Then the within named Sarah G. Adams acknowledged the within instrument to be her free act and deed before me.

Chas. L. Long Justice of the Peace.

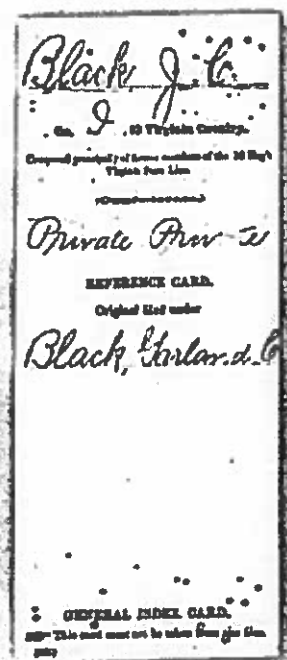
Received April 6th 1877 and registered from the original by James E. Russell Register.



Detailed Soldier Record

Click on the question marks for help with this form.

Samuel Harrison (First_Last)
Regiment Name 54 Mass. Inf. (Col'd).
Side Union
Company ?
Soldier's Rank_In ? Chaplain
Soldier's Rank_Out ? Chaplain
Alternate Name ?
Notes
Film Number M589 roll 38
African American Civil War Memorial
Displayed as: Samuel Harrison ★
Plaque Number: E-154



Much of the soldier information on is taken from a *General Index Card* like this one. (SAMPLE)

NAME OF SOLDIER:					Harrison, Samuel				
NAME OF DEPENDENT:					Widow: Harrison, Sarah J.				
SERVICE:					Chaplain 5-4 Army, Inf.				
DATE OF FILING:									
CLASS:		APPLICATION NO.		CERTIFICATE NO.		OFFICE FROM WHICH FILED.			
Widow		1148-487		864-465		Main			
Widow		725-968		506-796		Main			
Widow									
ATTORNEY:									
SIGNED:					[Signature]				
DATE:					[Date]				

Harrison of Northern Virginia: (Stafford County)

1. Cuthbert Harrison, son of Cuthbert Harrison, was baptized at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, London 11 Jan. 1607; the Parish Register also shows:

2. Burr Harrison, son of Cuthbert and Susan Harrison, baptized 3 Jan. 1637, and his brother, Alexander Harrison, baptized 1644. Burr Harrison emigrated from London to Virginia where he married ^{Mary} the widow of Edward Smith; he was Justice of the Peace in Stafford County, dying intestate in 1706; their son:

3. Thomas Harrison, born in Virginia 7 Sept. 1665, died 13 Aug. 1746, included in a list of military and civil officers of Stafford Co. dated 10 July 1700; known as "Thomas Harrison" of Chappowamsie; ^{he married Anne Barnes and} had four known sons (of 10 children):

- William Harrison (see below)
- Burr Harrison, ^(father of Thomas Harrison who married Anne Weyer Peyton in 1747.)
- Thomas Harrison, Justice of Prince William 1731, Sheriff in 1733, Burgess for Prince William 1742-1769, died in Jarquier 1773; Thomas and Ann had issue:

(1) Thomas

(2) Burr Harrison, born in Va. 1738, moved to S.C. after the Rev. War, died in Chester Co.,

S.C. 1822; served under Gen. Lafayette; married Elizabeth Dargan; 12 children:

- Benjamin Harrison married Nancy Hart
- Mary Harrison married Benjamin May
- Jonathan Harrison married Sally Tyler
- Kate Harrison married Samuel Johnson
- Elizabeth Harrison, d.s.p. unmarried.
- Rebecca Harrison married Nathaniel Cockinell
- Susan Harrison married William Head
- Sophia Harrison married Christopher Thompson
- Doreen Harrison married (1) James Rummell (2) Hartwell Macon
- Narcissa Harrison married James Ragsdale
- Mordecai Harrison married Susan Alston
- Ann Harrison married Mr. M^c Clelland of Charleston

(3) Susannah Harrison

(4) Mary Harrison

(5) Ann Harrison

(6) Benjamin Harrison

d. Cuthbert Harrison

4. William Harrison, eldest son of Thomas Harrison of Chappowamsie, Justice of Prince William Co. 1731, Vestryman of Old Wharton Parish, Stafford, 1746, died 1746; Inventory of Estate in Deed Book Index 1729-1748; married Sarah Hawley; issue:

(a) William Harrison, died 1750

(b) Thomas Harrison, deacon at Eucaur 1752; Will dated 3 May 1755 in Charleston.

(c) Susannah Harrison, born c. 1702, died ^{Dec.} 1780, married (1) William Sams (c. 1685-c. 1738);

^{John Stone}
^{Susannah}
^{widow} Their daughter, Mary Stone, born c. 1720, died. 1804, married (1) Paul Grimball of Edisto Is. (5) ^{Jan.} 1708-^{29 Nov.} Jan. 1750, (2) Captain William Lawton of Edisto Is., died. Oct. 1757 (their son, Rev. Soldier, Lt. Joseph Lawton was born ¹⁸ Oct. 1753), (3) Samuel Fickling of Pr. Wm. Parish. ^{15 Jan. 1759} Susannah ~~Carri~~ married (2) as his second wife, Thomas Winborn; issue: Susannah Winborn, born 1742.

Harrison of Northern Virginia:

1. Cuthbert Harrison, nephew of Sir Cuthbert Buckle (P.C.C. 55 Dixey) who mentions him in his 28 June 1594 Will, was father of: ^{of Acaster, Caton & Flaxby in Yorkshire (Cyclopedia of Va. Biography, Tyler p. 253)}
2. Cuthbert Harrison, baptized at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, London 11 Jan. 1607, was father of:
3. Burr Harrison, baptized at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster 3 Jan. 1637, son of Cuthbert and Susan Harrison; his brother Alexander Harrison was baptized 1644. Burr Harrison emigrated from London to Virginia where he married Mary, widow of Edward Smith; Burr was Justice of the Peace in Stafford County, dying intestate 1706; their son:
 4. Thomas Harrison, born in Virginia 7 Sept. 1665, died 13 Aug. 1746, was included in a list of military & civil officers of Stafford Co. dated 10 July 1700; known as "Thomas Harrison of Chappewamsic", he married Anne Barnes by whom he had 10 children, including 4 known sons:
 - a. William Harrison (see below.)
 - b. Col. Burr Harrison who died 1722, father of Thomas Harrison who married in 1747 Anne Weyer Peyton.
 - c. Thomas Harrison, Justice of Prince William 1731, Sheriff in 1733, Burgess for Prince William 1742-1769, died in Fauquier Co. 1773; by his wife Ann he had:
 - (1) Thomas Harrison
 - (2) Burr Harrison, born in Va. 1738, moved to S.C. after the Rev. War in which he served under Gen. Lafayette; he died in Chester Co., S.C. 1822, having married Elizabeth Dargan by whom he had 12 children:
 1. Benjamin Harrison, married Nancy Hart
 2. Mary Harrison, married Benjamin May
 3. Jonathan Harrison, married Sally Tyler
 4. Kate Harrison married Samuel Johnson
 5. Elizabeth Harrison (not married) d.s.p.
 6. Rebecca Harrison married Nathaniel Cockrell
 7. Susan Harrison married William Head
 8. Sophia Harrison married Christopher Thompson
 9. Doreen Harrison m. (1) James Rummell, (2) Hartwell Ma
 10. Narcissa Harrison m. James Ragsdale
 11. Mordecai Harrison m. Susan Alston
 12. Ann Harrison m. Mr. McClelland of Charleston
 - (3) Susannah Harrison
 - (4) Mary Harrison
 - (5) Ann Harrison
 - (6) Benjamin Harrison
 - d. Cuthbert Harrison, had 1350-acre grant in Fauquier Co., Va. 1775.
 5. William Harrison, eldest son of Thomas Harrison of Chappewamsic, Justice of Prince William 1731, Vestryman of Over Wharton Parish, Stafford 1746, died 1746; Estate Inventory in Deed Book Ind 24 1724-1748; married Sarah Hawley; issue:
 - a. William Harrison, died 1750.
 - b. Thomas Harrison, deacon at Eucaw 1752; Will dated 3 May 1755 at Charleston, S.C.
 - c. Susannah Harrison, born c. 1702 in Va., died Dec. 1780 in S.C., married (1) William Sams (c. 1685-c. 1738); ~~their daughter, Mary Sams (c. 1720-c. 1804 Pr. Wm. Parr., S.C.)~~
 - m. (1) Paul Grimball of Edisto Island (5 Aug. 1703 c. 1700 16 Jan. 1750), m. (2) ^{c. 1751} Captain William Lawton of Edisto Island (died Oct. 1757) and their son, Rev. Soldier, Lt. Joseph Lawton was born 18 Oct. 1753, m. (3) ^{15 Jan. 1759} Samuel Fickling of Pr. Wm. Parish, ^{Carriere Stone} ~~Susannah Harrison Sams~~ married (2) as his 2nd wife, Thomas Winborn by whom she had a daughter, Susannah Winborn, born 1742.

JOHN & SUSANNAH (W. HARRISON) STATE, M. (1) 21 NOV. 1701 NEW BRUNSWICK

Mary Stone

Cuthbert Harrison, son of Cuthbert Harrison, was baptized at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, London 11 Jan. 1607; the Parish Register also shows:

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 - 6. Rebecca Harrison married Nathaniel Cockinell
 - 7. Susan Harrison married William Head
 - 8. Sophia Harrison married Christopher Thompson
 - 9. Dorcas Harrison married (1) James Runnell (2) Hartwell Mason
 - 10. Narcissa Harrison married James Ragsdale
 - 11. Mordecai Harrison married Susan Alston
 - 12. Ann Harrison married Mr. McClelland of Charleston
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- (b) Thomas Harrison, deacon at Eucaus 1752; will dated 3 May 1755 in Charleston.
- (c) Susannah Harrison, born c. 1702, died ^{Dec.} 1780, married (1) William Sams (c. 1685-c. 1738); their daughter, Mary Sams, born c. 1720, died 1804, married (1) Paul Grimbald of Edisto Is. (c. 1700-Jan 1751), (2) Captain William Lawton of Edisto Is., died Oct. 1757 (their son, Rev. Soldier, Lt. Joseph Lawton was born Oct. 1753), (3) Samuel Fitching of P. W. Parish. Susannah Harrison married (2) as his second wife, Thomas Winborn, issue: Susannah Winborn, born 1742.

"Early Va. Immigrants" by Greer

Ann Hawley transported in 1641 by her husband, Henry Hawley, to
Isle of Wight Co., Va.

Leonard Hawley arrived in James City Co., Va. in 1643

Grants:

Isle of Wight Co.

James Hawley	1641	300 acres
James Hawley	1643	300 acres
James Hawley	1648	300 acres

Westmoreland Co.

James Hawley 1666 700 acres

Lancaster Co.

1659/60 James and Edward Hawley witnessed assignment of
power of attorney.

Harrison arms: (Col. Burr Harrison of Stafford Co., Va.) + 1722

Azure, three demi-lions rampant or.

Crest: A demi-lion rampant holding a laurel branch (choplet) vert.

Motto: In Omnia Paratus.

Crest wreath = blue & gold twisted

✓ demi-lion = silver

Ribbon = gold; motto = black

Mantle = blue lined with gold.



HARRISON

HARRISONS IN VIRGINIA DURING THE REIGN OF
 JAMES I (CONCLUDED)

By FRANCIS BURTON HARRISON

LIEUTENANT GEORGE HARRISON.

George Harrison lived in Virginia for six years and died there in 1624. Abstracts of two letters he wrote from the young Colony to his brother John in London are preserved in the *Calendar of State Papers, Colonial*, as well as various records of his landholding in Virginia, of his goods and indented servants and finally of his death.

Dr. Alexander Brown identified¹ the brother to whom George Harrison wrote the letters as John Harrison (later Sir John) who lived at St. Olave Hart Street in London and became a farmer of the customs. Mr. Charles P. Keith, writing² shortly after Brown, states that in this identification "Brown was right." With the decision of these two authorities we must rest content.³

Dr. Brown has given us an excellent biography of John Harrison the farmer of the customs. A reference to him in his old age is pleasantly preserved by Samuel Pepys in his *Diary* for September 5, 1662.⁴ Thus, as it is were by chance, Sir John attained a degree of immortality.

George Harrison arrived in Virginia in the year 1618. We learn this fact from the following record in the *Calendar of State Papers Colonial* at page 25:

"Southampton Hundred, March 6, 1620/21. 53. Grant by Sir George Yeardley, Governor of Virginia, to Geo. Harrison, of

¹Brief Biographies in the *Genesis of the United States*.

²The *Ancestry of Benjamin Harrison*.

³The father, William Harrison of Adcliffe, Co. Lancs. had twelve sons of whom John, born in 1589 was the youngest. By 1624 John states that George, recently dead, had been his "only brother." This seems to be an unusual mortality in one family, even for those days, but we know that sometimes the plague swept away whole families in England during such epidemics as that of 1603.

⁴"Where I found all the officers of the Customs, very grave fine gentlemen, and I am very glad to know them; viz., Sir Job Harvy, Sir John Wostenholme, Sir John Jacob, Sir Nicholas Crisp, Sir John Harrison, and Sir John Shaw: very good company."

Charles City, Gentleman,⁵ who hath abode in the Colony three years, of 200 acres of land, situate on the opposite side of the river over against the Governor's Mansion House to be doubled by the Virginia Company when sufficiently planted and peopled; 50 in his own personal right, and the other 150 for having transported at his own charge three servants, Jeremy Whiniard, Jas. Taylour and Will Broomeman."

A more precise location for this plantation may be found in an 'extract of all titles and estates of land' sent home by Sir Francis Wyatt in May, 1625. 'Upon the Easterly side of Chapocks Creek is appointed 500 acres belonging to the place of Treasure [i.e. the tract assigned Jan. 17, 1624 to George Sandys, the Treasurer of the Colony] by order of the Court; John Martin, 100 acres, George Harrison 200 acres, Samuel Each, 500 acres. On the other side of Chapocks Creek was "Marttin Brandon belonging to Capt. John Marttin by pattennt out of England"⁶

Before leaving the matter of Lieutenant George Harrison's property, reference should be made to the settlement of his estate after his death in 1624. A letter⁷ written by George Menefie at that time to John Harrison in London refers to George's property both in Virginia and the West Indies. To the words "West Indies" Alexander Brown adds the conjecture "Bermuda?"⁸ It would be

⁵In 1616, George's father, William Harrison and George's brother John had both had arms granted, or confirmed to them, viz., Harrison, Atcliff, Co. Lancaster and Elkington, Co. Northampton, September 10, 1616. Or on a cross az 5 Pheons of the field. (*Burke's General Armory*).

⁶It is perhaps worth noting that this first Harrison who is known to have been a landowner in Virginia, was settled on Chippoakes (Chappocks) Creek, on the other side of which the later famous estate of Brandon began. In 1636 Benjamin Harrison the immigrant was a landowner at Upper Chippoakes Creek, as is evidenced by the terms of patents to Edward Minter, May 31, 1663 and to Jeremiah Dickenson on June 14, 1636 (*Cavaliers & Pioneers*, Nugent).

⁷By 1639, Benjamin Harrison was appointed tobacco viewer for the Upper Chippoakes district. Meanwhile he had taken out patents for two tracts there. We do not know how he acquired the land he was already holding in that locality in 1636; it has been said that he patented a tract in the vicinity in 1632.

⁸*Calendar of State Papers, Colonial*, p. 61.

⁹Brief Biographies op. cit. In 1628 there was a Ben Harryson in Bermuda, who with many others, including a Robert Harrison and William Bennet have their names signed by the Revd. Robert Staples to the "Poor Planter's Petition." See Mr. C. P. Keith's interesting passage on this subject (*Ancestry of Benjamin Harrison*, op. cit.) Both Brown and Keith agreed that the Benjamin of Bermuda of 1628 was the Benjamin who a few years later appeared in Virginia.

rash to speculate what Dr. Brown had in mind. Lieutenant George Harrison is not known ever to have been in Bermuda.

The probable explanation of George Harrison's *property* in the West Indies is to be found in his petition to Governor Wyatt and the Council on March 11, 1623/4.⁹ Certain goods and four men (indentured servants) had been shipped to him in the *Marmaduke*, Mr. Dennis, Master, by his brother John Harrison. The Charter party had been signed in London on September 16, 1623, but it was a long voyage, via Spain and the West Indies. A certain Lieutenant Ben asked to have the four servants consigned to George Harrison in Virginia help get goods ashore for him in the West Indies, and one of the servants was left behind. He probably ran away, having been terrified by the sailors' yarns of the massacre in Virginia two years before. The term of service under indenture of this runaway would be considered property.

Let us turn now to George Harrison's brief career in Virginia. Through his brother he had a considerable influence in the inner circles of the Virginia Company of London. On August 21, 1616, John Harrison of St. Olave Hart Street, gent. bachelor, 27 had taken out a Bishop's license to marry "Margaret Fanshawe of same, spinster, 25, her father died, she now servant to John Wostenholme Esq., at Barking, Co. Essex." The license adds "Lived with said John Wostenholme these five years."¹⁰

Margaret was the daughter of the late Robert Fanshawe of Ware Park, Hertfordshire, an important family from Derbyshire which through two generations filled the Office of Remembrancer of the Exchequer, and which was allied by marriage both to Sir Thomas Smythe and to John Wostenholme, so long the leading spirits of the Virginia Company.

Moreover, John and George Harrison had influential relatives of their own. Lady Fanshawe, wife of a noted diplomat in the reign of Charles the Second, left us, in her *Memoirs* the following account of her father John Harrison. He was born at 'Bemond,' in Lancashire. She continues: "He was the twelfth son of his father whose mother was the daughter of Mr. Hippom (Hei-

sham, Heigham?) cousin german to the old Countess of Rivers."¹¹ I have little knowledge of my father's relations more than the families of Aston, Irland, *Sandes*, Bemond and Curwen, who brought him to London with my Lord Treasurer Salisbury, then Secretary of State who sent him to Sir John Wostenholme's family and gave him a small place in the Custom House. He came to London with only 20 marks and became very rich."¹²

With this imposing backing in London, George Harrison progressed rapidly in the Colony. He was a Lieutenant of Militia, with two hundred acres to plant on Upper Chippoake's Creek, and was trading through Edward Bennet the great London Merchant. Although living adjacent to Martins Brandon, where most of the settlers were killed in the massacre by the Indians on March 22, 1622, George himself escaped.

In a letter written to his brother John in London three months after the massacre he states "For all their hard misfortunes (he) hopes to have a good crop of tobacco this year." He also mentions his "Cozen Bennet"¹³ through whom he is trading.

¹²And thus related to Elizabeth Woodville, the first Englishwoman since the Norman Conquest to share the throne.

¹³Even as a young custom's agent, and before he became Mr. Customer Harrison he must have been thrilled at the magnificence of the prospect before his eyes. John Chamberlain in a letter of Dec. 31, 1612 records the following little comedy: "The King was not out of his chamber in three or four days x x x he gave hearing to a controversy betwixt the farmers of the customs and the lord Mayor who was there present, and accused them of defrauding the King of more than £70,000 a year. But upon ripping up the matter, they went away acquitted, and he commended for his good meaning to the King's service." (Birch, *Life and Times of James First*, 217).

The stout lord Mayor, with his pat on the back, went back to the place whence he had come. The King, largely dependent upon the farmers of the customs for ready cash, evidently preferred the bird in the hand.

By the year 1642, Mr. Customer John Harrison was able to lend £200,000 to Parliament.

"Cousin" in that age, might mean either nephew, or cousin of the blood, also it might indicate the husband or wife of either of those classes of relatives. Relationship was even sometimes covered by the use of the word "friend"—a custom still surviving today in the villages of Scotland, where the remark: "He's no friend of mine" may mean simply "He's no relation."

In the note-books of the present writer there are at least a dozen entries from the old English records showing connection in Tudor and Stuart times between those of the names Bennet and Harrison. Of these only two will be given here as most likely, for various reasons, to apply to the families under discussion.

1. The marriage Register of Conington, Co. Camb. records the wedding on October 26, 1555 of Robert Harrison, son of Christopher and Helen, daughter of Thomas Bennet. Two of the close relatives of the Surrogate

⁹Records of the Virginia Company of London, IV, 469.

¹⁰Chester's London Marriage Licenses.

¹¹Beaumont is 3 miles north of the town of Lancaster.

Again on January 24, 1623 he writes to his brother that "More have died since than were slain in the massacre; and they cry for mercy for their sins. God has cast a heavy hand upon them." He then proceeds to business and announces that he is sending three hogsheads of tobacco by the *Little James*; x x x also he recommends that his brother and the latter's wife should make a private adventure by the next ship, of good wines, butter, cheese, sugar, soap etc., and that his brother and James Sampson should furnish a ship with fifty men and provisions for the Colony; the profits will be 200L or 300 L. Begs him not to delay sending over his own [George's] men.

It was a year later when his new men arrived, and, as we have already seen, one of them had escaped en route. With the three new indented servants to add to the four already on hand, his prospects were excellent. With the *Marmaduke* came also a large invoice of goods for George Harrison, a list of which is preserved in the records of the Virginia Company. If the young men of that day were like those of our time, we can safely state that the first of the chests in this shipment to be opened by George was number eleven, for that contained "Two rundletts of aquavite; one long fowling peece of five foote and a halfe in the barrell marked with an Iron on the end with G.H. two short gunns of 4 foote and an halfe, &c."

George Harrison had a less amiable side than is displayed in his two surviving letters home. He had at least two controversies with his fellow settlers, the records of which have come down to us.

The first is recorded in the Minutes of the Council and General Court of Virginia for the year 1628 (*Va. Mag.* XXI, 55).

"Whereas Anna Cooper complayned in Coorte by [torn] tion yt. her late husband James Harisone did lend a shallop to Livt. George Harrison late deceased which boate the said Anna Cooper

Sir John Bennet, namely, his nephew, Sir Thomas Bennet, and a daughter of the Surrogate's first cousin Sir Simon Bennet, herself married to a John Bennett, Esq., are found living in Cambridgeshire in the middle of the XVII Century. Moreover, the important family of Harrisons of Cambridgeshire seem to have been related to Sir John Harrison, farmer of the customs.

2. The will of Sir Cuthbert Buckle (P. C. C. 55 Dixey) 28 June 1594 names "Cozen John Bennet, and "Cousin Christopher Harrison," "Cuthbert Harrison my nephew" and "Cozen Thomas Garth" whom we know to be the one who had married Ellen Harrison at St. Mary Woolnoth, London in 1581.

often demanded of the said Livt. Harysone but could never get the same or satisfaction for it. Upon the testimony of Capt. Hainer, that Ensigne Harisone did lend the said shallop to Livt. Harisone in the Right of the saide Anna Cooper—It is in court ordered that George Menefry administrator for ye said Livt. George Harisone shall presently pay to the saide Anna Cooper in satisfaction for the said shallop some of one hundred pound weight of marchantable tobacco."

However discreditable the refusal to return the dinghy to the widow of the friend who had lent it to him, George Harrison paid no penalty for his misdeed during the brief term of life which remained to him. The results of his next quarrel led to far more serious consequences.

In the spring of 1624 Lieutenant George Harrison became involved in an angry dispute with Captain Richard Stephens in later years a prominent member of the Council. "Words" passed, a challenge was given and accepted. The meeting took place near Jamestown, and George Harrison received a slash between the garter and the knee. Two weeks later he died. An autopsy was performed and the Coroner's jury decided that George Harrison had already been far advanced in disease before the duel. Accordingly, their verdict was "death from natural causes."

It should be noted that this was the second duel in our early records, and that for many a year thereafter the duello was almost unknown in the Colony.

George Menefie, supervisor of the will of Lieutenant George Harrison in Virginia wrote to John Harrison offering to administer the estate. This, however, did not suit the latter, who instead a few months later sent out a power of attorney,¹⁵ granted to James

¹⁵A copy of this power of attorney was made from 2 *Bancroft Transcripts*, pp. 525-29, New York Public Library by Mrs. Henry Lowell Cook and by her very kindly sent to the present writer. It reads:

"To all Christian people to whom their presents shall come I, John Harrison of London gentleman send greeting in our Lord God everlasting, Whereas it hath pleased God to take to his mercie out of this miserable life my late deare and onely Brother George Harrison late planter in Virginia unto whom within the space of two years last past, at severall tymes I sent over from hence seaven men servants bound to me by severall indentures to serve me for a certain term of yeares in Virginia, vixt, [here follows the names of the men] and whereas all and singular the estate is in lands and goods whereof the said George Harrison died seized or which were due or belonging to him at the time of his death are lawfully to descend and come unto me, as