



*ISRAEL HARDING, U.E.L.*

*(1733 - 1794):*

*From New London, Connecticut*

*To Horton, Nova Scotia 1760*

*as a Planter;*



*To Connecticut,  
and Back Again 1783*

*as a Loyalist*

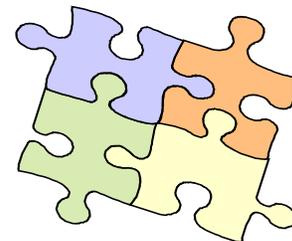


# Lieutenant Israel Harding 1733–1794

## Planter and British Loyalist to Horton, Nova Scotia:

*his life  
his family  
and their times*

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*Including one line of descent  
through their eldest son,  
Reverend Harris*

## Introduction and Disclaimer

First it was a few names, then spouses and children, which led to: “Where did they live? What happened to them? Are there photos, records, etc.?” Answers gave more questions, and curiosity grew.

In many ways I could have expanded the information on various members of several generations of our family tree. The book would have to be much bigger and take a great deal longer. That was beyond the scope of this work. The intention is to point researchers to areas of interest to them to enable them to move forward in their own tree, branch or twig beyond what I have done.

I am indebted to all the wonderful family researchers who have shared their own work with me over the years. I offer you my deepest appreciation. Thanks to cousin Gary Harding for proofreading, and for the photo of Edwin and Melvina’s children and spouses, as well as the headstone photos for Lena and Mabel’s family in Michigan. We would not have those except for Gary taking time to drive by and take them for us.

I would strongly encourage users to check sources referred to for themselves, and to quote the source, not me. I have endeavored to be as accurate as possible, but there may still be unintentional errors or omissions. However, wherever possible I have used original documents, some of which I have included copies of in part or whole, whichever seemed most useful. Not all documents referred to are copied here.

Land Records Offices were invaluable when it came to old deeds and wills. Acadia University library has an extensive collection of Planter and Baptist records which they freely share. Online sources are getting so much better, but special thanks goes to all the genealogical Archives of Nova Scotia that I have visited. I cannot say enough good things. I hope your very important and excellent work goes on forever. Nothing encourages a researcher like an afternoon of pouring over old books, maps, films, and records. And lastly, to Christine Jack at the UNB Harriet Irving Library Loyalist collections for locating the final document, the letter Lieutenant Israel Harding wrote while waiting to be evacuated out of New York at the end of the Revolution. It revealed much of what had happened to them during those extremely difficult war years. That seemed like the final piece of the puzzle.

May you find something meaningful and joyful within these pages.

Carol M. Harding

Chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

**4 John Smith HARDING**

b: aft 4 Apr 1857  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 m: 14 Jan 1877  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: bef Apr 1950  
 p: Unknown, poss. USA

**2 Edwin Stillman HARDING**

b: 2 Apr 1877  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 m: 22 Sep 1897  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 23 Nov 1913  
 p: shot in Lambert Lake, Maine, USA

**5 Elizabeth "Lizzie" HAMILTON**

b: 27 Feb 1857  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 24 Apr 1889  
 p: Yar Co NS "age 32 years 1 month and 27 d"

**1 Stillman Edwin "Johnny" HARDING**

b: 9 Oct 1909  
 p: Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 m: 15 Apr 1930  
 p: Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 7 Feb 1974  
 p: Digby, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**sp: Vivian Floris NICKERSON****6 Enos Gardner GAVEL**

b: 1 Jul 1860  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 m: 4 Sep 1881  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 1916  
 p: Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**3 Melvina Hatfield GAVEL**

b: 21 Apr 1881  
 p: Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 2 Oct 1974  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**7 Anne "Jane" BRITAIN**

b: 10 Sep 1863  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 22 Feb 1940  
 p: Richfield, Digby Co, NS

**8 John Smith VanBeuren HARDING**

b: 5 Jan 1826  
 p: Mary Ellen (Hamilton) Stanley  
 m: 7 Apr 1850  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 29 Sep 1911  
 p: Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**9 Emily GAVEL**

b: 17 Feb 1827  
 p: Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 5 Feb 1888  
 p: Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**10 Daniel HAMILTON**

b: 13 Apr 1823  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 m: 25 Dec 1844  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 9 Dec 1903  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**11 Anne KAVANAGH**

b: 12 Mar 1819  
 p: East Tusket River, Yar Co, NS  
 d: 21 Jul 1911  
 p: Canada, "Aged 92 yrs 4 months"

**12 John Wesley GAVEL III**

b: 6 Sep 1812  
 p: Gavelton, Yar Co, NS  
 m: 29 Mar 1835  
 p:  
 d: 10 Feb 1892  
 p: Gavelton, Yar Co, NS

**13 Ann Smith HATFIELD**

b: 12 Mar 1817  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 22 Nov 1893  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**14 William Henry BRITAIN**

b: 1 Jul 1840  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 m: 22 Mar 1862  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 29 Nov 1908  
 p: Aged 71

**15 Elizabeth ELDRIDGE**

b: 25 Jul 1838  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 d: 6 Mar 1916  
 p: Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada

**16 Smith Robert HARDING**

b: abt 1800  
 d: 1835

**17 Elizabeth "Mary" VANBEUREN**

b: 4 Jul 1803  
 d:

**18 Andrew GAVEL**

b: 18 Oct 1803  
 d: 4 Apr 1853

**19 Hannah CROCKER**

b: 9 Aug 1805  
 d: 21 Mar 1848

**20 David O. HAMILTON**

b: 24 Sep 1798  
 d: 2 Sep 1869

**21 Lydia 'Mary' GAVEL**

b: 12 Mar 1800  
 d: 20 Jun 1883

**22 Simon KAVANAGH**

b: abt 1790  
 d: 28 Feb 1870

**23 Sarah HURLBURT**

b: 3 Aug 1797  
 d: 16 Mar 1880

**24 John Wesley GAVEL**

b: Feb 1778  
 d: 18 Aug 1847

**25 Phebe HATFIELD**

b: abt 1780  
 d: 14 May 1846

**26 James HATFIELD**

b: 7 Feb 1790  
 d: 28 Feb 1867

**27 Elizabeth LENT**

b: 24 Aug 1798  
 d: 17 Sep 1878

**28 Horatio Nelson BRITAIN**

b: 8 May 1803  
 d:

**29 Edith COOK**

b:  
 d:

**30 Thomas ELDRIDGE Jr.**

b:  
 d:

**31 Sarah WHITEHOUSE**

b:  
 d:

Prepared 27 July 2012 by:  
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Chart no. \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>4 Israel HARDING</b>                  b: 1733                  p: Warwick, Kent, RI, USA                  m: 1759                  p: CT; listed in the Horton Towns                  d: bef 18 Jul 1794                  p: Nova Scotia, Canada</p>	<p><b>8 Stephen HARDING Sr.</b>                  b: abt 1681                  p: Providence, RI                  m: 8 Jan 1712                  p: Rhode Island, USA                  d: 3 May 1750                  p: New London Co, CT</p>	<p><b>16 Abraham HARDING</b>                  b: abt 1656                  d: 23 Nov 1694</p>	<p><b>32 Stephen HARDING</b></p>
<p><b>2 Harris HARDING</b>                  b: 10 Oct 1761                  p: Nova Scotia, Canada                  m: 28 Sep 1796                  p: Nova Scotia, Canada                  d: 7 Mar 1854                  p: Nova Scotia, Canada</p>	<p><b>9 Sarah Eliza[beth] KNIGHT</b>                  b: abt 1685                  p: Mass or Providence, RI                  d: abt 1759                  p: New London Co, CT</p>	<p><b>17 Deborah GARDNER</b>                  b: 1660                  d: 1720</p>	<p><b>33 Bridget ESTANCE</b></p>
<p><b>5 Sarah HARRIS</b>                  b: 18 Dec 1739                  p: New London, CT (Montville)                  d: 26 Mar 1836                  p: Nova Scotia (Hillgrove)</p>	<p><b>10 Lebbeus HARRIS Esq.</b>                  b: 11 Aug 1713                  p: New London, CT                  m: 20 Nov 1738                  p: New London County, CT                  d: bef 3 Mar 1792                  p: Horton, Kings County, NS</p>	<p><b>18 John ? KNIGHT</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p><b>34 Stephen GARDNER</b></p>
<p><b>1 Smith Robert HARDING</b>                  b: abt 1800                  p: Canada or "United States" on s                  m: 19 Mar 1825                  p: Nova Scotia, Canada                  d: 1835                  p: New York, NY, USA</p>	<p><b>11 Alice RANSOM</b>                  b: 6 Sep 1719                  p: Colchester, New London, CT                  d: bet 1756 and 58                  p: New London, CT. (Morgan)</p>	<p><b>19 Sarah UNKNOWN</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>35</p>
<p>sp: <b>Elizabeth VANBEUREN</b></p> <p><b>6 Benjamin HARRINGTON</b>                  b:                  p: Liverpool, NS                  m: abt 1771                  p:                  d:                  p:</p>	<p><b>12 Ebenezer HARRINGTON</b>                  b: 1725                  p: Exeter, Washington, RI                  m:                  p:                  d:                  p:</p>	<p><b>20 James HARRIS Jr</b>                  b: 4 Apr 1673                  d: 10 Feb 1757</p>	<p>36</p>
<p><b>3 Mehitabel HARRINGTON</b>                  b: 1778                  p: Nova Scotia, Canada                  d: 19 Nov 1859                  p: Nova Scotia, Canada; aged 81</p>	<p><b>13 Rebecca SPENCER</b>                  b: 1722                  p: East Greenwich, MA                  d:                  p:</p>	<p><b>21 Sarah ROGERS</b>                  b: 9 Aug 1676                  d: 13 Nov 1748</p>	<p>37</p>
<p><b>7 Bethia SMITH</b>                  b: 5 Jan 1758                  p: Chatham, Barnstable, Mass                  d:                  p:</p>	<p><b>14 Stephen SMITH</b>                  b:                  p:                  m:                  p:                  d:                  p:</p>	<p><b>22 Robert RANSOM</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>38</p>
<p>Prepared 22 December 2011 by:                  Carol Harding                  cmh44@eastlink.ca</p>	<p><b>15 Mehitabel ELDRIDGE</b>                  b:                  p:                  d:                  p:</p>	<p><b>23 Alice NEWTON</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>39</p>
		<p><b>24</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>40 James HARRIS</p>
		<p><b>25</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>41 Sarah DENISON</p>
		<p><b>26</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>42 Samuel ROGERS</p>
		<p><b>27</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>43 Mary STANTON</p>
		<p><b>28</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>44</p>
		<p><b>29</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>45</p>
		<p><b>30</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>46</p>
		<p><b>31</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>47</p>
		<p><b>32</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>48</p>
		<p><b>33</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>49</p>
		<p><b>34</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>50</p>
		<p><b>35</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>51</p>
		<p><b>36</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>52</p>
		<p><b>37</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>53</p>
		<p><b>38</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>54</p>
		<p><b>39</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>55</p>
		<p><b>40</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>56</p>
		<p><b>41</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>57</p>
		<p><b>42</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>58</p>
		<p><b>43</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>59</p>
		<p><b>44</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>60</p>
		<p><b>45</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>61</p>
		<p><b>46</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>62</p>
		<p><b>47</b>                  b:                  d:</p>	<p>63</p>

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*Melvina Hatfield Gavel*

*Edwin Stillman Harding (ca.1897)*



*“NANA”*

*Melvina Hatfield (Gavel, Harding) BETHUNE  
- 1974 -*



*Dedicated to my beloved grandparents pictured above as a young couple. Grandmother, or “Nana”, is \*pictured left at age 93. Grandfather Edwin Harding we never knew.*

*~ Carol Harding, BSN ~ 2012  
(Granddaughter)*

*\*Above photograph from Kelly Sanders,  
Melvina’s great-granddaughter*

*\*Left photo courtesy of Margaret Gray, granddaughter*



***“THROUGH THE YEARS” - The Family of Edwin & Melvina (Gavel) Harding***

**Father: Edwin Stillman “Win” HARDING**

Birth	2 Apr 1877	Forest Glen, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada	Twin to Edmund S.
Census	1911	Says he was b. April, 1877	
Death	23 Nov 1913	In a hunting accident, shot in Lambert Lake, Maine, USA	
Burial	28 Nov 1913	Forest Glen Cemetery, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Ref #		1520	
Birth		Marriage record says "age: 21; born: Forest Glen"	
Marriage	22 Sep 1897	by Rev JA Blackadar, Baptist Minister at Deerfield, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada, Forest Glen, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada <sup>2</sup>	
Father		John Smith HARDING (1857-1950)	
Mother		Elizabeth "Lizzie" HAMILTON (1857-1889)	



**Mother: Melvina Hatfield “Mellie” GAVEL**

Birth	21 Apr 1881	Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada.	
	<p><i>Johnny Vivian Claude Amy Margaret Minnie Kenneth (Kneeling) Mabel Walter Lena Jim</i></p>		
		<p><b>Children and spouses, 1966</b>  <b>Taken at Melvina's home in Richfield</b>  <i>(Smith in middle, plaid shirt)</i></p>	
Residence	1902	"I moved from Carleton to Richfield when Amy was 4 years of age" (1902) - application for delayed Birth Certificate for daughter, Amy.	
Education	1897	Richfield, Grade 6, attended only 2 days. Married on 22 Sept. 1897	
Death	2 Oct 1974	Yarmouth Hospital, Yarmouth, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada <b>OBITUARY:</b> MELVINA HATFIELD BETHUNE, RICHFIELD, DIGBY CO., Melvina Hatfield Bethune, 92, of Richfield, Digby Co. died at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital on Wednesday, October 2. Born in Richfield, she was the daughter of Enos and Jane (Brittain) Gavel. She is survived by three daughters, Amy (Mrs. Claude Nickerson) of Richfield; Mabel (Mrs. Walter Hanna) of Naples, Florida; and Lena (Mrs. James Gater) of Pompano Beach, Florida; also a brother, Loran Gavel of California. She was predeceased by her husband, William, three sons, Kenneth, Stillman, and Smith; one daughter, Lavina; six brothers and two sisters. The body rested at Sweeny's Funeral Home, where the funeral service was held on Saturday, October 5, 1974 at 2:00 p.m., officiating Rev. Lindsay Graves.	
Burial		Forest Glen, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Father		Enos Gardner GAVEL (1860-1916)	
Mother		Ann "Jane" BRITAIN (1863-1940)	
Other spouse		William V. BETHUNE (1896-1954)	
Marriage	3 Mar 1916	Zion Baptist Parsonage, Yarmouth, NS by Rev. JA Blackadar	



Melvina - 1974

**Children**

*Amy Gertrude HARDING*

Birth	18 Apr 1898	Richfield, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada <sup>3</sup>	  <p>Amy Gertrude Harding Nickerson</p>  <p>Amy &amp; Claude</p>
Death	31 Dec 1982	Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Burial		Carleton Cemetery, Yarmouth County., Nova Scotia, Canada	
Ref #		1197	
Spouse		Claude Eugene NICKERSON (1894-1993)	
Marriage	29 Sep 1920	Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada	

*Kenneth Lloyd Malcolm HARDING*

Birth	2 Jun 1902	Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada	  <p>Kenneth L.M. Harding</p>  <p>Minnie &amp; Ken</p>
Death	31 Mar 1974	Yarmouth Hospital, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Burial		Forest Glen Cemetery, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Ref #		1511	
Spouse		Minnie May NICKERSON (1910-1996)	
Marriage	31 Jul 1926	Deerfield, Yar Co, NS by Rev J.T. Gordon, Free Baptist Minister	

*Mabel Lillian HARDING*

Birth	5 Apr 1904	Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada
Residence	1930	1301 Niagara Crt., Flint, Michigan, USA
Death	4 Jan 1983	Flint, Michigan, USA
Ref #		1199
Burial		Sunset Hills Association, 4413 Flushing Rd, Flint, MI, USA Section 11, Lot 253, Graves 1&2 “Together Forever”
Spouse		Walter Norman HANNA (1901-1975)
Marriage	1925	Yarmouth, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada



Mabel Harding Hanna



Mabel & Walt

*Alena “Lena” Melvina HARDING*

Birth	27 Nov 1907	Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada
Residence	1930	1251 Niagara Crt, Flint, Michigan, USA
Naturalization	26 Jun 1951	Detroit, MI Cert. #6989493, Petition # 232560
Death	5 Jan 1995	Pompano Beach (Broward), FL, USA
Burial		Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens, Novi, MI, Lot 308c, Unit #2, Masonic Gardens, between her two husbands.
Ref #		1200
Spouse		Enos Patten “Newt” SAUNDERS (1899-1949)
Marriage	1925	Yarmouth, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada
Spouse		James “Jim” Anthony GATER ( 1900 -1974)
Marriage	21 Mar 1953	Flint, MI, USA



Alena “Lena”  
Harding (Saunders)  
Gater



Lena & Jim



*Stillman Edwin "Johnny" HARDING*

Birth	9 Oct 1909	Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada	 <p style="text-align: center;">"Johnny" Harding 1945</p>   <p style="text-align: center;">Johnny and Vivian</p>
Death	7 Feb 1974	Digby Hospital, Digby, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Burial	9 Feb 1974	Lakeview Cemetery, Havelock, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Alt. Name	nickname "Johnny"		
Ref #	526		
Occupation	Lumberman for HT Warne mill in Digby until early 1950's, then worked for Lewis Lumber Co in Weymouth, NS as Yard Foreman		
Spouse	Floris <u>Vivian</u> NICKERSON (1909-1999)		
Marriage	15 Apr 1930	Temple Baptist Parsonage, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada	

*Smith Enos HARDING*

Birth	9 Dec 1912	Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Canada	   <p style="text-align: center;">Smith Enos Harding</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Smith and Margaret</p>
Death	1 Aug 1968	Victoria General Hosp., Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.	
Burial		Forest Glen Cemetery, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada	
Ref #	1201		
Spouse	Margaret Virginia COSSABOOM (1913-2004)		
Marriage	1935	Deerfield, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada	

Preparer::	Comments
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*“The unknown soldier is unknown only to us*

*To those who loved him his name is*

*Brother*

*Son*

*Daddy*

*He is not forgotten” \**



© Free-B-Kins

\*(Newspaper Cartoon Caption)

## Lieutenant Israel Harding, U.E.L., 1733–1794, Planter and British Loyalist, to Horton, Nova Scotia, Canada twice: his life, his family, and their times.

The primary purpose of this story is to provide information regarding the life of Lieutenant Israel Harding, United Empire Loyalist (UEL), the youngest son of Stephen and Sarah (Knight) Harding of Warwick, Rhode Island and Colchester, Connecticut. Much history has been written of the life of his brothers Capt. Stephen Jr., Abraham, John, and Thomas. Also in Horton was a Lemuel Harding whose relationship to Israel remains undetermined. In researching over the years, publications found often simply say of Israel that 'he removed to Nova Scotia where he died'. This in itself is true, but not the end of the story by any means. When did he go to Nova Scotia and why did he leave? What became of him after the Revolution?

This essay is based on some of the records I obtained for Israel and Sarah in applying for membership in the Mayflower Association of Canada (Plymouth) and United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC). We descend through one line of the eldest son, Rev. Harris Harding. For history of the family before Israel and Sarah (Harris) Harding we must rely primarily on published works. Others may have additional records, memories, etc., and I would be delighted to hear of the availability of further documents. The purpose here is to show Israel's connection to the main family of Stephen and Sarah Knight Harding of Connecticut.

***Beginnings:*** This then is the story of the beginning of our Harding line, which has resided primarily in Nova Scotia the last seven generations, but began in England at least many years before that. The family in America we believe begins with a certain Richard Harding born 1597 in England who died 1637 in Massachusetts. From "[The History of Prospect, Maine, 1759-1979](#)" by Alice Verrill Ellis: *Lady Mary Harding Gorges and her husband, Sir Robert Gorges, came to America from Upcott, England in 1623, and settled in Wessagussett, MA. (Later known as Braintree.) With them came Lady Mary's cousins, John Harding, Joseph Harding, and Richard Harding.* Richard reportedly married Elizabeth Adams. From there it goes Stephen, Abraham, and Stephen I. Captain Stephen I, born 1681 in Providence, Rhode Island (RI), later settled in Warwick, RI. He reportedly married a Sarah Knight. I have little information about who her parents were, and I have no primary documents. An excellent book for reference seems to be Wilbur Judd Harding: *The Hardings in America: a genealogical register of the descendants of John Harding, of England, born A.D. 1567.* Keystone, Iowa: Harding Print Co. (1925). This may be a reference only book at the library since it is out of print. For early ancestry I also refer to "*The Ancestry of President Harding and its Relation to the Hardings of the Wyoming Valley...*" by Clara Gardner Miller (1928) (online).

Richard, John, Joseph, and Lord and Lady Gorges came to America to establish a home in the "new world" about three years after the 'Mayflower' arrived. The Hardings remained. Histories such as Wilbur Harding and Clara Miller relate details of their life as they settled in Braintree, later moving to Providence and Warwick, RI. Stephen who married Sarah or Eliza Knight moved to New London, Connecticut (CT) after buying a large farm near Uncasville (Waterville), CT from Elizabeth Livingston between 1729-1736 (NewLondon HS Newsletter Jul/Aug2009). The history of their family in New London, CT is as fascinating as any novel. Capt. Stephen I and Sarah/ Esther/ Eliza Knight had at least five sons per Wilbur Harding's book, and some of their story is on pages 35-40. The Shoemaker Book adds a son Lemuel. (pg 512) As a supplement, I recommend "*The History of New London*", available to read online at Google Books.

**Military:** Israel's father, Stephen I, died 03 May 1750 in New London, CT. when Israel was still a boy. A few years later during the French and Indian uprising Israel enlisted as a young soldier in His Majesties Service, Capt. Stephen Hosmer's Company out of New Salem, CT in 1755. Capt. Hosmer and a number of soldiers under his command served as a garrison at Pantusick, 30 miles north from Canaan, until 08 September 1755. In November, 1755, 'Serj. Harden' is on Capt. Noah Grant's garrison payroll until the next May. In June, 1756 Serj. Israel Harding is in Second Company under Lieut-Col. Nathan Payson, and that summer he became a Lieutenant in the Fourth Company under Capt. John Slapp. His final assignment was **Lieutenant** with the Third Regiment, also under Capt. Slapp, from July to December, 1756. Several men of this company were captured by Indians, and at least one was carried to Canada and kept captive 18 months. From: *Connecticut Historical Society records*. \*Note: \* No documents to date have been discovered to show he was a Colonel or Captain as some records imply.

**Marriage and Homesteading:** Arthur Wentworth Eaton states in "The History of Kings County (Nova Scotia)" (1910), pg. 683, "The earliest Horton HARDING family were descended from Stephen Harding, who is first certainly heard of in Providence, R.I. in 1669.... Primary documents before Nova Scotia are so far limited to deeds. In 1759 Lieut. Israel Harding married Sarah Harris in New London, CT, a daughter of Major Lebbeus Harris Esq. and Alice Ransom. No document has been located, but indirect records state they were married in New London, CT. Some of their children's marriages appear in the Horton Township Book, a vital statistic book kept in the early years of settlement.

The paper trail in Nova Scotia goes back as far as Israel and Sarah. They arrived in Horton, Kings County, Nova Scotia about 1760 along with her parents, family members, and many other people from Connecticut and other places in New England. They were called *Planters* - Colonists or Pre-Loyalists - and many were from Connecticut, invited by Proclamation of the Governor of Nova Scotia published in the *Boston Gazette*, offering free land in the sparsely settled Colony of Nova Scotia a few years after the Deportation of the Acadians.

Israel's name, along with Lebbeus Harris, Abraham Harding, Thomas Harding, and his nephew or brother, Lemuel Harding, appears on the Horton Town Plot as grantees in 1761. Israel was a member of the committee chosen to mark the boundary of Horton and Cornwallis Townships, "beginning at a tree marked H..." signed 27 March 1765. They had in total seven children - two sons, **Rev. Harris**, subject of this story; and **Israel Jr.** (married Rachel Fowler of White Plains, New York); and five daughters **Elphal** (1<sup>st</sup>, Benj'n Lee; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wlm. Allison); **Sabra** (Charles Dewolf); **Alice** (M.P.P. Joseph Allison Jr.); **Mary** (Benjamin III Peck); and **Sarah** (Joseph Starratt). Later, their families are enumerated in the 1770 census of Horton, Nova Scotia. The last two children were born after they departed Horton by April 1771 to return to New London, CT. It is not clear why they did return, but two possibilities come to mind. First, according to the *Harris Genealogy* written by Nathaniel Harris Morgan in 1878, pg.35, Sarah's father, Lebbeus, and two brothers visited Connecticut "as late as 1771" to attend to affairs of his late father's estate. His daughter, Sarah and her family may have travelled with them. Also is the fact the land grant of 1761 required tax to be paid after a decade. In any case, Maj. Lebbeus Harris returned to Horton, N.S. and stayed, while Israel and Sarah and their children remained in Connecticut. Land deeds of April 1771 to April 1774 show he lived in Colchester, Labanon, and Saybrook, CT. He later claimed their home in Saybrook was confiscated and sold for £1,000.00 No further deeds and no confiscation records in his name were located. No deeds were recorded in Horton Township for Israel HARDING between 1774 and 1783. In *Planter Nova Scotia, 1760-1815*, by Julian Gwyn, Volume 3: Horton Township, p. 61, we read: "In 1767 there had been 7 fishing boats owned in the Horton Township, but by 1770 there was but one owned by Obed Benjamin, one schooner owned by Lemuel Harding, and one square-rigged vessel owned by Silas Peck." From the 1770 census we know Lemuel had a wife and four children, and by the above record we

know that Lemuel Harding owned a Schooner. His relationship to the other Harding men of Horton is not certain, but since all the Harding men left after the 1770 census, one can imagine they may have left as a family for their return trip to Connecticut or elsewhere, possibly on this same schooner.

**Returning to Connecticut** again, according to a letter from New York in June 1783, and later his application to the British Commissioners for Compensation in 1786, Israel supported the British during the American Revolution and their life became difficult. The brothers took sides with those who fought for independence, and the family was divided politically and geographically. Israel was eventually forced to flee for safety to Long Island behind the British military protection. In 1783 they again left and travelled back to Horton with the evacuation of Loyalists from New York – to start again.

Having read stories about Israel's brothers, John, Abraham and Stephen II, and their escapades on the western frontier of America, it is clear this family was deeply divided by the American Revolution. Although his brothers were strong Patriots, Lieutenant Israel was just as strongly loyal to "His Majesty", and during the war, according to his Application for Compensation for Losses sustained in civilian war efforts for the British, he used his own resources and boat to deliver supplies and messages from time to time as he received orders, as well as other such activity as "carrying provisions to Admiral Arbuthnot's Fleet then lying in Gardner's Bay" and "observing the French fleet in Gardner's Bay" and "transporting cattle and sheep" to the troops. His depositions state he worked with his son, Harris and a Capt. Nehemiah Hayden who states he met him in 1777 when Israel was imprisoned in New England. No court, committee, or confiscation records have been located. In Israel's own words,

*"at the hazard of his life he often assisted in supplying the British Fleet and Army with fresh provisions and other supplies for which services and for being averse to the measures carrying on in America against His Majesty's government, he became obnoxious to the Americans, was apprehended, imprisoned, harassed, dragged from place to place by files of armed men and Constables, leaving a wife and seven children behind with no way to support them but by what money I had, which with defending myself before courts and committees and other expenses arising therefrom, amounted to a sum of five hundred and twenty dollars; also two boats which were taken from me I made use of in carrying sheep and cattle from*

*Connecticut to the Fleet and Army. That after your memorialist escaped to Long Island he had a house assigned him by Government from which house he was taken by Capt. Elijah Smith and a party of men, and robbed of goods, wearing apparel, and other effects to the amount of one hundred and twenty eight dollars; that your Memorialist by his attachment to His Majesty was dispossessed of a house and land in the Town of Saybrook in Connecticut which was afterward sold for eight hundred dollars...."*

Israel assisted the British Fleet and Army by supplying them with fresh provisions & delivering messages.

By 1777 he was in prison, detained by the rebels, and eventually had to flee with the help of his brother, Thomas, who got a permit from the Governor of CT. for him to go to Long Island behind the British line. (Luscomb)(Miller). Later, his wife and seven children joined him, and they were domiciled in a Rebel house likewise designated by the British military.

**Going Back to Nova Scotia,** Israel wrote a letter while waiting in New York harbor. Recently a copy was obtained from the Carleton Papers, Harriett Irving Library, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, dated 5 June 1783 and written by Israel Harding, now aged fifty years old, from on board the British Transport Symmetry in Sag Harbor, Long Island, New York waiting to sail for River St. John in Nova Scotia (Saint John, NB). It is a Petition to "His Excellency, Sir Guy Carleton, Chief of all His Majesty's Forces in North America" outlining their dire circumstances. His family was all together on board Symmetry, but "in a sickly condition and distressed situation".

He states they have been living on Long Island “close to two years” at the invitation of Admiral Arbuthnot, staying in a house assigned by General Robertson. He prays for relief from his very great suffering. While he was in the city to get promised support after the peace was signed, the family was robbed “of cash and moveables ... claimed for rent owed” worth about £75, by the owner of the house the Government assigned them to live in during the war. When Israel knew they had to leave New York he tried to get a small vessel for his own use to bring the family to Nova Scotia “by the East”, but instead found it necessary to spend £40 for their passage on the *Symmetry*, and altogether this left him nothing to take care of the family’s needs. According to the petition, the *Symmetry* sailed 9 June 1783 for River St. John, Nova Scotia (now New Brunswick); Israel was awarded \$100.00 for the family’s immediate relief by Mr. I.A. Coffin on the order of the Commander in Chief. His son, Harris, was twenty-one years of age when they came back to Horton, Nova Scotia.

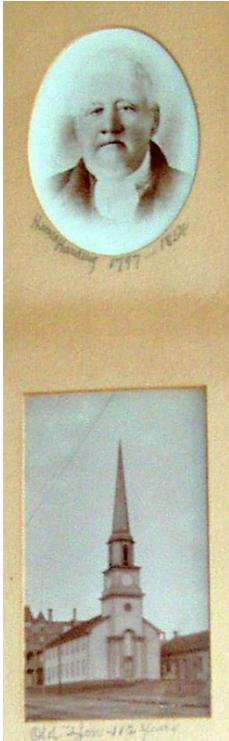
**HARDING, ISRAEL:** - 6.7.1784 - \*Lived Queens county, N.B., before moving to N.S.; A farmer from CT., arrived at Saint John, NB with Civilian Company 4 on board the 'Symmetry'. Family on board listed as one man & woman, 6 children above 10 years, one child below 10 years and one servant. Family on arrival was one man & woman, 5 children 10 and above and 1 child under 10. Granted 200 A., lot 8 on Saint John River, Wickham Parish, Queens County, N.B., 6.7.1784\*\* -(Vol. I, # 5)  
\*(Source lost, possibly Esther Clark Wright.) \*\* (arrived 1783; no records found for living in NB; applied for land grant Horton Dec. 1783; approved 7 Jan 1784)

They had escaped to Long Island, New York some two years before sailing back to Nova Scotia.

**AMERICAN LOYALIST CLAIMS**, 1980, by Peter Wilson Coldham, pg. 215-16 (Quote): **ISRAEL HARDING**, Saybrook, CT during war was driven from place to place because of loyalty, detained from his business, and had two boats (used to supply British) taken from him by rebels. In 1777, was imprisoned in N.E.; after being held under guard in several places, had to leave family and settle in Long Island. While there rejoined by family, served government by carrying cattle and provisions. While on L.I. with wife and 7 children was robbed by raiding party headed by Capt. Elijah Smith. Was also responsible on L.I. for receiving and forwarding despatches; worked with Capt. Nehemiah Hayden, formerly of Saybrook, and now of Chester, N.S., and Harris Harding, formerly of Saybrook and now of Cornwallis, N.S. Memorials: by claimant 20 Apr 1786 Horton; by Alice Harding 8 Mar 1786, Horton; Claim: House and land in Saybrook. Evidences: Deposition 8 Mar 1786 Cornwallis by Harris Harding that he knew claimant. Deposition 28 Mar 1786 Chester by Nehemiah Hayden that he has known claimant since 1777. Deposition 10 Apr 1786 Horton by Sabra Dewolf that she was at claimant's house on L.I. Sept 1777 when Capt. Elijah Smith of Haddam, CT broke down his doors at midnight, threatened family, and plundered house. Rejected. (AO13/25/262-270)

On Returning to Horton as a Loyalist, in late 1783 Lieut. Israel Harding applied for and was granted a 950 acre farm situated between the Gaspereau and Cornwallis Rivers in Horton Township. This was surveyed by 7 January 1784. It seems a rather large grant for a civilian Loyalist. In 1786 Israel applied before the British Commissioners in Halifax, Nova Scotia for compensation related to losses he sustained during the American Revolution. His depositions state he had planned to send his claim by Col. Lawrence earlier, but could not because he was unable to obtain his documents of proof due to distance. They had escaped to Long Island, New York some two years before sailing back to Nova Scotia. A number of the files of the Halifax Commissioners Dundas and Pemberton were stolen, thus we have only the claim and not the evidence and hearing file. Israel submitted his letter and the several depositions from his children and Capt. Nehemiah Hayden, by then living in Chester, Nova Scotia, but his claim was rejected. Israel and Sarah’s children married into various local families and have many descendants. He died before 18 July 1794 as seen by the administration of his estate granted to the widow Mrs. Sarah Harding 18 July 1794, which included the 950 acre farm land grant of 1784. His burial place is unknown.

Sometime after Israel's death his widow, Mrs. Sarah Harding, moved to Pleasant Valley, Digby County, later named Acacia Valley, in Hillgrove, Digby County, Nova Scotia. She died there 26 March 1836 "at the home of her daughter", Eliphah (Lee) Allison, and is undoubtedly buried in Hillgrove United Baptist Cemetery, in the old section facing Shelburne Road. Her stone has not survived, but those of her daughter, Eliphah Allison; her son-in-law and Eliphah's first husband, Benjamin Lee; and her grandson, William Henry Lee's wife Jesse have survived. At least part of this cemetery was bequeathed by her grandson, William Henry Lee, Barrister at Law. In his will he bequeathed five acres to the Baptist meeting, that being "... *the small piece of land on the side of the hill so called, for a burial ground*". It is still in use today.



"Old Zion 112 years"

***In Succeeding Generations,*** Israel Harding's eldest son, **Harris**, became a teacher in Cornwallis Township after returning to Nova Scotia. A few years later he had a remarkable religious faith experience that inspired him to become a preacher. In his time, the Baptists were not yet organized in Canada. He was known as a "New Light" preacher, often referred to as "Father Hardin", and is credited with starting several Baptist churches in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. This picture is in a frame hanging in the church hall at Zion Baptist Church, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia with other pastors who succeeded him. Much has been written on his life, including a biography called "*The Life and Times of Harris Harding, patriarch of Western Nova Scotia*" (1866) by Rev. John Davis, who knew him in his time. Rev. Davis succeeded him in the Zion Baptist church, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia as pastor and states he used Rev. Harris's papers with permission of Harris's son, Israel. This rare book is free to read online. He travelled around persistently through the dense woods and poorly marked trails by foot, on horseback, or in better times by boat to preach in tents, homes, or where ever he could to whoever would listen. Eventually, in 1797 he settled in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia where he was a New Light and later Baptist pastor for over fifty years at the same church. The first, Zion Baptist Church, is pictured at left. It sat parallel to Main Street near the current library and across from Frost Park.

On 28 September 1796 Rev. Harris married Mehitabel "Hettie" Harrington of Liverpool, Nova Scotia (Simeon Perkins Diary). According to "*A History of the County of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia*" (1876) by Rev. J.R. Campbell, pg.113, he came in 1797 from Horton and first settled in Chebogue near the town of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. In 1800-1803 he bought at auction several lots of land near Yarmouth town. The deeds state it was "on the road to Jegoggin", perhaps along present day Vancouver Street near the hospital since part of the boundary was along "Alder Cove" on "Bane's Pond" (Lake Milo) where he had a house and barn on opposite sides of "the road to Jegoggin" (Chegoggin). A painting of him done in 1846 hangs in the hall at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Rev. Harris and Mehitabel HARDING are memorialized in Mountain Cemetery, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia where a large monument was erected by the community; his will can be found at the Land Information Office in Yarmouth naming each of his children.

Rev. Harris married  
Mehitabel "Hettie"  
Harrington 28 Sept 1796 in  
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

They had eleven children - seven sons and four daughters. Their third child and son was **Smith Robert HARDING** who married in Tusket, Nova Scotia 19 March 1825 to Elizabeth "Mary" Van BEUREN born 4 July 1803 in New York, the daughter of John Van Beuren and Maria Van Dusen. Little is known of her family. The name of John repeats in many future generations, causing no small headache for family

researchers! Smith and Mary had five children. The baptism of four children on 5 September 1834 appears in the records of Trinity Anglican Church, Tusket, Nova Scotia. They are John Smith, Phebe Eliza, George Risers, and Francis/Franklin HARDING. Smith tried business as a merchant in Tusket 1824-1826, but met with financial losses and spent two years in debtor's prison. He was released by an act of parliament passed 30 March 1829, and at some later point in time went to New York. The last known letter from him was to his father dated 28 September 1834 in Utica, New York. On 17 October 1834, Mrs. Mary Harding sailed with her four recently baptised children to New York on the "*Yarmouth Packet*". Their youngest child, William H. Harding, was born 9 June 1835 in New York, the year Smith Robert Harding died there at the young age of 35 years, of unknown cause. Anecdotally, a grandchild of William H. visited the place of his burial in New York, but the information has now been lost to time.

From Reverend Harris's biography, "*Life and Times of Harris Harding*" (1866) by Rev John Davis, Charlottetown, pg. 213 (Out of print) we read:

*"In 1835, Mr. Harding lost another son, named Smith. Smith Harding, at the time of (his brother) Lodowick's death, had been visited by deep convictions. His father, however, had not been satisfied in regard to his spiritual condition. By and by he heard that his son, residing in the States, lay at the point of death."*

The letter describes a certain spiritual battle to believe in his father's God, finally saying he finds great joy, describing himself as

*"that your son, poor, miserable, hypocritical Smith, may hail you at the great day.... I am afraid I deceive myself... however, I feel at peace sometimes..."* signing himself "*Your most unworthy and undutiful son, Smith R. Harding*". (28 September 1834, Utica, New York)

Smith's eldest son, **John Smith VanBeuren (JSVB) HARDING**, married Emily GAVEL, a daughter of Andrew GAVEL and Hannah CROCKER, on 07 April 1850 in Argyle, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. John SVB Harding apparently was a Justice of the Peace for a time because he signed at least one early deed in Yarmouth County with "JP" after his name. John also may have spent some years at sea after his marriage to Emily - perhaps with Emily, as one son Charles was born in Gloucester, MA., USA in 1855. In the 1871, 1881, and later census, he is listed as a farmer living in Forest Glen, having returned in 1857 when his son Charles was two years of age. John and Emily eventually moved and settled in the nearby community of Forest Glen, Nova Scotia. He later bought land from John and Ann GAVEL, including saw mill and water rights, on the branch of the Carleton River in Richfield, Nova Scotia.

John SVB and Emily Harding's children, for the most part, all lived at least some of their life along (now) Highway 340. He and several of his sons owned large tracts of adjoining land between the Yarmouth County line and further north along the river.

They raised ten children: Capt. Robert: (unknown) - Said to have been lost at sea; Edwin (Unknown); George S. b. 1853 married Lila SAUNDERS. He died "in early 20's", and their son George S. Jr. married in Wakefield, Massachusetts; Charles F.B. (Frank Bradford) born 1855 in Gloucester, MA, USA, married in Yarmouth County, N.S. 1) Elizabeth J. HICKS; 2) Gladys VICKERY. They lived in Richfield, Digby County, Nova Scotia. "**John**" **Smith HARDING** b. 1857, married Elizabeth HAMILTON; Mary Elizabeth "Minn" born 1859, married Nathaniel Richard NICKERSON; William H. born about 1862, married Ellenor "Nellie" BRITTAIN; Sydney Van Buren born 1865, married Annie Sarah MOSES; Anna Gordon b. 1867, married Harry SANBORN; Jane Gray b. 1868, married Andrew A. DURKEE.

John and Emily's fifth son, "**John**" **Smith HARDING**, married Elizabeth "Lizzie" HAMILTON on 14 January 1877 in Forest Glen, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. She was the youngest daughter of Daniel and Ann (KAVANAGH) HAMILTON. Daniel and Ann were one of the earliest pioneer families to settle in what is now Forest Glen, Yarmouth County, N.S. On the A.F. Church map, Hamilton and Harding are the

only two names on that road. Daniel and Ann Hamilton and family came into the then wilderness by making their way up from Tusket via the Tusket River by boat with their friends, children and household goods. Eventually they found a good place to build a cabin and, with others, built a sawmill beside the waterfalls. Later, when the road, now Route 340, was opened up, he built beside the new road the homestead that is still standing in 2012. It has sheltered several generations of this Hamilton family, and although the house is vacant, is still owned by his descendants. This Hamilton family are Mayflower descendants of Giles, son of Stephen Hopkins.

**John Smith and Elizabeth (Hamilton) Harding** lived somewhere near the Hamiltons and across the road. There are no deeds in their name. They had four children: Edwin Stillman Harding (twin) Edmund S. Harding (twin) born 2 April 1877; Amy Gertrude Harding born 10 Feb 1879; Emma Harding born 7 Oct 1880. John abandoned this family when the children were young. Elizabeth died in 24 April 1889 at age thirty-two, and the four children were raised in various homes. In the 1881 census, the twins are with his parents, John (JSVB) and Emily Harding. Emma and Amy lived with Harris and Hannah Hamilton Gavel, cousins. Family stories say John went to live in the USA; there is no death record in Nova Scotia.

**Edwin Stillman HARDING** was born 2 April 1877 and married 22 Sept 1897 to Melvina Hatfield GAVEL born 21 April 1881 in Forest Glen, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia. Their families were neighbours. These were the writer's grandparents. They bought her uncle Foreman Gavel's house a few years later. It was built across the road from her father's home. Soon it burned to the ground and a small house was quickly erected. My grandfather, Edwin Stillman or "Win", went with the other men from the community to find work in the logging camps of Maine. There he died young, shot 23 Nov 1913 in a tragic hunting accident in Lambert Lake, Maine, USA. They had six children at this time, with the youngest less than one year of age. With the children so young and no income, life was a struggle. No social assistance in those days. Melvina married 2<sup>nd</sup> to William V. BETHUNE in 1916 and had another daughter, Lavina Doris Bethune. My father, Edwin and Melvina's fifth child and second son, was named **Stillman Edwin HARDING** for his father, and nicknamed "Johnny". My grandmother often said they called him that because he looked like his grandfather, and indeed he certainly resembled the picture of his father.

The youngest son of Smith Robert and Mary (VanBueren) Harding who was born in New York, **Captain William H. Harding**, also has descendants. Some records say he married Margaret Malone, widow of Joseph Nickerson. Recent records available on the Nova Scotia Historical Vital Stats website reveal one marriage to Margaret HUBBARD 13 March 1856 in Woods Harbour, Shelburne County, Nova Scotia, Canada. From his death certificate, William H. was born 9 June 1835 in New York. His father, Smith Robert, died the same year in New York. Capt. William and Margaret had a number of children whose descendants are living in the USA, and some perhaps also in Nova Scotia. The house they lived in is now gone. A number of the children are buried with William and Margaret in Charlesville Cemetery, Shelburne County, Nova Scotia. One headstone is inscribed : **"HARDING: Thomas M. 1870-1939; William H. 1835-1921; Margaret 1838-1917. 'Gone but not forgotten' "**.

On 10 November 1836 at Tusket, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, Canada by Rev. Grantham (Trinity Anglican), the same minister who married Smith and Mary Harding on 19 March 1825 and baptised their children 5 September 1834, married the thirty-four year old widow with five young children, Mrs. Mary Harding, to a Thomas WOOD. No further details can be found of him or of their life after their marriage - where they lived or if they had more children. Two of Smith and Mary's sons, John SVB and William H., lived their adult life in Yarmouth and Shelburne County, Nova Scotia, Canada. By some records, their brother George was "lost at sea", and Frank was "accidentally killed on board a ship

in New York”. Their daughter, Phebe, is reported to have married 1<sup>st</sup> to “William Harrison of New York” and had a daughter named Daisy, and married 2<sup>nd</sup> to a James G. Wilson.

Where did John Smith VanBeuren HARDING (JSVB) and his brother, William H. grow up? Did they stay with Thomas and Mary as his stepchildren? Did they live with extended family or in foster

Where did John  
Smith VB Harding  
(JSVB) and his  
brother, William H.  
live between  
1836 and 1850?

homes in Nova Scotia? Or perhaps they spent time with her family in New York? Fifteen years of silence. Family stories say two of the four brothers died unmarried. John SVB married in 1850 at Tusket, Yarmouth County, N.S.; William took up residence in nearby Charlesville, Shelburne County, Nova Scotia about 1856 at age 20 years when he married a young woman, Margaret Hubbard, from neighboring Woods Harbor. Records state Phebe Eliza married a man from New York named William Harrison. There were certainly many relatives in the Nova Scotia area where they might have been fostered. Still, there are no known records or family legends to assist. No records have been found related to whether Thomas and Mary continued to live in the Yarmouth-Tusket area or moved away.

2010 was the 250<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of the landing of the New England Planters in the Townships of Cornwallis and Horton, Nova Scotia and elsewhere in 1760. Israel and Sarah came as a young couple, grew their family, but by 1771 decided to return to Connecticut. They sold their main homestead in Horton by proxy after they were in CT, disposing of most of their land holdings, buildings, and acquisitions, perhaps influenced by ten years rent free on their grant land ending:

*“...to any person Lawfully Authorized to receive the same for His Majesty’s use a free yearly Quit Rent of one shilling sterling money for Michaelmas Day for every fifty acres so granted and so in proportion for a greater or lesser quantity of land granted. The first years payment of the same to be made on Michaelmas Day next after the expiry of ten years from the date hence of and to continue payable yearly thereafter forever.” (1761 Horton Land Grant)*

As Loyalist supporters, eventually they had to flee from Connecticut to escape persecution during the American Revolution. They left, this time because of the “troubles in America”, as Israel later described it when applying for compensation. They eventually returned to Horton, Nova Scotia after the great evacuation of New York in 1783. Sarah’s father, Major Lebbeus Harris, and her stepmother Eliphah (Noyes), had remained in Horton, and in 1783 Israel and his family once again was reunited with them. One can only imagine their joy and relief when Sarah and her whole family finally arrived safely in Horton the summer of 1783!

Marion Robertson stated in *“King’s Bounty: A History of Early Shelburne Nova Scotia”* (1983), Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, pg. 75:

*“... His Majesty had consented to grant every non-commissioned officer who settled in Nova Scotia after his regiment was reduced, 200 acres of land, to every private, 50 acres ‘exclusive of what he shall be entitled to in right of his family’, to be discharged of all fees of office and quit rent for the first ten years.”*

Israel’s petition for a Loyalist land grant is dated December, 1783, and on 7 January 1784 he was granted 950 acres of farm land laid out in Horton Township bounded as follows, “on the East by the Farm commonly called and Known by the name of Foster’s Farm, on the South by the Gaspero River and on the North by the edge of the upland adjoining the Marsh Land on Cornwallis River, on the West by Sundry Lots...”. There the family remained. Six of their seven children settled in Nova Scotia (one, Mary Harding Peck, relocated to Johnstown, Licking County, Ohio); all married and have descendants.

## **The Coming of the New England Planters to the Annapolis Valley**

R.S. LONGLEY

Department of History, Acadia University, 1929-64

(Read before the Nova Scotia Historical Society, April 1960)<sup>1</sup>

From Annapolis, Surveyor Morris sailed to Windsor where he arrived just in time to see six vessels under the command of a Captain Rogers come up the Avon river and dock a little distance from the fort. These contained the first contingent of between two and three hundred of the Connecticut Planters whose destination was the township of Horton. The ships had been hired by Lawrence and Council, as nearly as can be determined, at the cost of ten shillings per ton weight of the vessel per month. Thus a ship of eighty tons cost £40 a month.<sup>48</sup> In the case of the six ships, winds and high seas kept them hiding in coves and harbours, so that it took three weeks to make the crossing from New London to Windsor, and must have cost the Government nearly £200. The passengers arrived weary and half sick, and fodder for the stock had been exhausted. But once on land, the settlers regained their optimism, and they were soon off to their new homes, in true pioneer fashion, driving their cattle before them.<sup>49</sup>

On June 4, 1760, the main flotilla, consisting of twenty-two ships hired by the Government of Nova Scotia to transport the Connecticut Planters to Horton and Cornwallis rounded Cape Blomidon and anchored in the estuary of the Avon and Gaspereau rivers. It was escorted by a brig of war under the command of Captain Pigot. Assuming that the vessels were the usual sloops and schooners of average size, they must have carried an average of fifty passengers each, plus stock and equipment.<sup>50</sup> The total cost of the Rogers and Pigot ships was about £1500.<sup>51</sup>

The Cornwallis settlers landed at what was Boudreau's Bank, now Starr's Point, and the Horton settlers at Horton Landing. At first they lived in tents and temporary shelter. Almost at once they held Town Meetings, or assemblies of grantees, at which the usual lot layers and other officials such as clerk, constable, and herdsmen were appointed. The lot layers divided the land which was drawn for in the usual way. Most heads of families received the regular share of 500 acres, but some were granted a share and a half, and a few a half-share. Each had a town lot and a portion of marshland, upland, and woodland. Soon all were busy building houses and tilling the soil.<sup>52</sup>

An outstanding characteristic of the Planter settlements in Horton and Cornwallis was the central community of Town Plot. It was an inheritance from both old and new England, and was used here also for purposes of defense, trade, and social life. At Annapolis there was a fort near the settlements, but in Horton and Cornwallis it was necessary to construct a palisaded area, and it was desirable to have the families as near to it as possible. As danger from the Indians ceased, the Planters found it more convenient to live on the land they tilled. Thus the present community system replaced the town plot. To consolidate their holdings, the owners began a series of sales and exchanges in the process of which the shrewd often obtained the best lands.<sup>53</sup> Farming continued for some time extensive rather than intensive, with younger sons still seeking land. This resulted in the divisions of the original grants, and the occupation of ungranted areas west of the settlements. In the 19th and early 20th centuries many sons and daughters of Planters found their way back to New England. Here their descendants still reside.

By the end of the year 1760, Annapolis County had a new Massachusetts, Kings County a new Connecticut, and the present Hants County a new Rhode Island. The whole Valley was a new New England, with a population of nearly 2000 people.<sup>57</sup>

Governor Lawrence was so well pleased with his new settlers that he wrote Thomas Hancock he was prepared to receive further applications for land.<sup>58</sup> He visited the Minas settlements during the summer and found contentment and activity everywhere. His death on October 19th left the work well advanced, but incomplete. It was continued by acting Governor Jonathan Belcher. Today after two hundred years many Planter descendants are still in the area, some residing on the original grants. Other descendants have made places for themselves in politics, business, the professions, and in the church. Their contributions to Nova Scotia, Canada, and the United States justify the policy that brought the New England Planters to the beautiful Vale of Annapolis.<sup>59</sup>

**Original Names List of the 1760 Horton Town Grant (E-L) Reference: Horton Town Plot - 1761**

9	Eldredge James	13	Hall Jonathan
10	" Jonathan	4	Higgins Sylvanus
1	" Joseph	5	Hendrick John
2	Hatch Benjamin	6	Harris Lebbeus
3	Posta William	7	" Lebbeus Junr.
4	" Colonel	8	" Ephraim
5	Fuller Noah	9	" " Junr
6	" Nathau	110	" Thaddus
7	" " Junr	1	" Asa
8	" Amos.	2	" Daniel
9	Fitzsimmons Frances	3	" Alpheus
80	Fuller Ebenezer	4	" Pety Ransom
1	Forsyth Gilbert	5	" Gilbert
2	" Timothy	6	Hughes Capt Edward
3	Fox Ezekiel	7	Hoory Daniel
4	Gripping Samuel	8	" William
5	Godwin Timothy	9	" Israel
6	Godfrey David	120	Harding Israel
7	" Jonathan	1	" Abraham
8	Graves Ephraim	2	" Lemuel
9	Gray Joseph Cornish	3	" Thomas
90	Graves John	4	Hays Alexander
1	" Jonathan	5	Huntley Saby.
2	Hatch Patience	6	Hicks Caleb
3	" John	7	Kennee Nathan
4	" Alexander	8	Jordan Jedediah
5	Hamilton Jonathan	9	Johnson David
6	" John	130	" Thomas
7	" Jonathan Junr	1	Lisk Andrew
8	" Daniel	2	" Samuel
9	Hackett Joseph	3	Liz Thomas
100	" " Junr	4	Larrier Thomas
1	Hackley Marshall	5	Lockhart John
2	" Peter	6	Leggatt Thomas

Plan of Horton Town.  
 Surveyed and laid out in June 1760  
 By Chas Morris.  
 Chief Surveyor.

Each Town Lot contains 2 Roods  
 and 1/4 of a perch. or .5739

Contents of Town & Column of Streets & Parades

First Division

Second Division

Third Division

North 90° West

D

1	John Mudgett
2	
3	George Ellis
4	Andrew Leach
5	William Lathrop
6	Elisha Lathrop
7	John Gray
8	John Gray

1	
2	
3	Daniel Hamilton
4	
5	
6	Samuel Lathrop
7	
8	

1	
2	
3	
4	Ezekiel Cox
5	
6	John Grant
7	Benjamin Goryeth
8	

C

South 10° West

1	Robert West
2	James Stewart
3	Capt. Paul Friend
4	Capt. John Friend
5	Richard Friend
6	John Barber
7	John Barber
8	Benjamin Barber
9	Benjamin Barber
10	Colonel Barber
11	Major Barber
12	Colonel Barber
13	Capt. John Barber
14	James Barber
15	James Barber

1	Israel Harding
2	Thomas Harding
3	Thomas Harding
4	Thomas Harding
5	Thomas Harding
6	Thomas Harding
7	Thomas Harding
8	Thomas Harding
9	Thomas Harding
10	Thomas Harding
11	Thomas Harding
12	Thomas Harding
13	Thomas Harding
14	Thomas Harding
15	Thomas Harding

1	James Barber
2	James Barber
3	James Barber
4	James Barber
5	James Barber
6	James Barber
7	James Barber
8	James Barber
9	James Barber
10	James Barber
11	James Barber
12	James Barber
13	James Barber
14	James Barber
15	James Barber

Parade

B

South 10° West

1	
2	
3	John Maloney
4	Daniel Bart
5	Charles Dixon
6	Benjamin Hildgoth
7	Benjamin Hildgoth
8	Benjamin Hildgoth
9	Benjamin Hildgoth
10	Benjamin Hildgoth
11	Benjamin Hildgoth
12	Benjamin Hildgoth
13	Benjamin Hildgoth
14	Benjamin Hildgoth
15	Benjamin Hildgoth

1	
2	
3	Abraham Barber
4	Abraham Barber
5	Abraham Barber
6	Abraham Barber
7	Abraham Barber
8	Abraham Barber
9	Abraham Barber
10	Abraham Barber
11	Abraham Barber
12	Abraham Barber
13	Abraham Barber
14	Abraham Barber
15	Abraham Barber

1	John Barber
2	John Barber
3	John Barber
4	John Barber
5	John Barber
6	John Barber
7	John Barber
8	John Barber
9	John Barber
10	John Barber
11	John Barber
12	John Barber
13	John Barber
14	John Barber
15	John Barber

A

South 10° West

1	Thomas Barber
2	Thomas Barber
3	Thomas Barber
4	Thomas Barber
5	Thomas Barber
6	Thomas Barber
7	Thomas Barber
8	Thomas Barber
9	Thomas Barber
10	Thomas Barber
11	Thomas Barber
12	Thomas Barber
13	Thomas Barber
14	Thomas Barber
15	Thomas Barber

1	Thomas Barber
2	Thomas Barber
3	Thomas Barber
4	Thomas Barber
5	Thomas Barber
6	Thomas Barber
7	Thomas Barber
8	Thomas Barber
9	Thomas Barber
10	Thomas Barber
11	Thomas Barber
12	Thomas Barber
13	Thomas Barber
14	Thomas Barber
15	Thomas Barber

1	Thomas Barber
2	Thomas Barber
3	Thomas Barber
4	Thomas Barber
5	Thomas Barber
6	Thomas Barber
7	Thomas Barber
8	Thomas Barber
9	Thomas Barber
10	Thomas Barber
11	Thomas Barber
12	Thomas Barber
13	Thomas Barber
14	Thomas Barber
15	Thomas Barber

North 80° West

The Lots are 250. by 100. feet. Except 1.2.3.7.8.9 in Letter A. and 1.2.3.7.8.9 in

Scale



**27 May 1761 -- DEED for Horton Town Land Grant -- No. 31**(Pg. 35) *Nova Scotia* ~ ~*Jonath' n Belcher**To all whom these presents shall come greeting.**Whereas -*

William Welch, **Lebbeus Harris**, and Samuel Reed a Committee of the **Township of HORTON** within Kings County in this Province in behalf of themselves and other proprietors in said Township Apprehending same being advised that the grant for the said Township heretofore made to them and their Associates, would for many deficiency's be insufficient to secure to them their property therein. And therefore have in behalf of themselves and their Associates surrendered the said grant, and have requested of me that a new grant of the said Premises might be made out for the more fully assuring to them and their associates their rights and shares therein. Now know ye that I, Jonathan Belcher Esq., President of his Majesty's Council and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia for the time being by virtue of the Power and Authorization to me given by his present Majesty King George the third under the great seal of Great Brittain have erected and do by these presents by and with the advice & consent of His Majesty's Council for the said Province erect into a township a tract of Land situate, lying and being in the Bason of Minas as is thus abutted and bounded beginning at a point on Pisiquid River and thence measuring South sixty [60] degrees, West measuring one thousand six hundred and seventy [1,670] chains, and thence North thirty [30] degrees, West measuring eight hundred [800] chains, and thence North sixty [60] degrees East measuring eight hundred & twenty [820] chains to the River Habitant, and is further bounded Northerly by the River Habitant and the Bason of Minas and Easterly by Pisiquid River, according to the plan annexed, Containing in the whole by estimation, one hundred thousand [100,000] acres more or less according to a Plan and Survey of the same to be herewith Registered which Township is now called and hereafter to be known by the name of the **Township of Horton** in the said Province, And also that by virtue of the Power and Authority, and by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid have given, granted, and confirmed and do by these presents give, grant, and confirm (**pg 36**) unto the several persons hereafter one hundred thirty one and a half [131.5] shares or rights of two hundred [200] shares or rights whereof the said Township doth consist with all and all manner of mines unopened excepting Mines of Gold and Silver, precious stones, and Lapis lazuli, in and upon the said Tract of Land or Township situate as aforesaid --- unto Colonel Robert Dennison, Major Charles Dixon, Elisha Lathrop Esq., William Welch Esq., Silas Crane, **Lebbeus HARRIS**, Sam Reed, Brotherton Martin, Jonathan Hamilton, Joshua Welch, Elmatha Patmaster, **Abraham HARDING**, Asa HARRIS, William Colwell, Nathan Fuller, Gilbert Forsythe, Samuel Copp, Noah Fuller, Samuel ?Hinkland, Andras Davison, George Stocking, Jun'r, Caleb Bennet, Robert Avery, Cornelius Rich, John Davis, Ephraim Harris, Obediah Stark, Amos Fuller, Sylvanus Miner, and Joseph Mather one share and a half each. Jacob Burnham, John Witney, John Bishop, Thomas Spencer, William Dixon, Jonathan Chappell, James Webb, James Wickwire, **Lemuel Harding**, Daniel Dodge, Ephraim HARRIS, Labeus Tubbs, Amos Rathbon, Gilbert Harris, Zadock Bennit, Thomas Johnston, Christopher Strickland, Charles Morris Jun'r, John Taggart, **Israel HARDING**, John Turner, Jeremiah Comstalk, Rufus Comstalk, Samuel Winter, Jabez Huntley, Jonathan Graves, Amarath Lyon, ..... Hatch, Jacob Bacon, John Atwell, Darius Brown, Stephen Emmerson, Samuel Griffen, Obediah Jordan, Obediah Williams, Stephen Ransom, John Bishop Jun'r, Charles Randall, Peter Bishop, Else Browning, Jonathan Blackman, David Godfrey, Miner Clark, Silvanus Higgins, Anna Randall, Samuel Tubbs, Nathan Kenney, James Lockhart, Joseph Hacket, Marshall Hackley, Rowland Rogers, Thomas Laggat, Theophilus Sutherland, Zebediah Wickwire, Darius Miner, Samuel Clark, William Cooley, Thomas Dixon, Obediah Benjamin, Benjamin Woodworth, Samuel Clark, William Cooley, Thomas Larrabe, one share each. And unto William Bishop, James Reed, Samuel Dennison, Richard Sears, Samuel Reed Jun'r, Michel Mitchel, John Colewell, B... Peck Jun'r, **Thomas Hardin**, Timothy Bishop, John Hamilton, Jacob Bacon Jun'r, Ephraim Graves, Elipha Brown, Daniel Whipple, Benjamin Beckwith Jun'r, Joshua Stewart, Daniel Harris, Isaac Lathrop, William .....with, James Markham, Silas Crane Jun'r, **Lebbeus Harris Jun'r**, Ephraim Harris Jun'r, John Witney, Jun'r, John Randall, James Welch, Arthur Scovel, Jonathan Welch Jun'r, Nathan Fuller Jun'r, Patrick Moray, James Cote, Oliver Prentice, Parker Peabody, William Carr, Samuel Conniver, .... Townsend, John Lockhardt,

Joseph Hacket Jun'r, William Reed, Thaddeus Lothrop, Elijah Lothrop, Peter Hackley, Thomas Miner, (pg 37) Balah Coats, Martha Miner, Christopher Miner, and Elisha Nicholls one half share each. And unto the Rev. Mr. John Breghton two shares Ptem for the first Minister one share, and for the -- ?Glebe Dam?-- Six hundred acres, and for the School four hundred acres, making together two shares for the use of the Church & School forever Saving always the previous Right of any other person or persons to the Said tract of land or Township or any part thereof **To Have and To Hold** the said granted Premises in the said respective shares to each and every of the said grantees in the manner herein decreed with all the Privileges, Proffits, Commodities and Appurtenances therein belonging unto the said Col. Robert Dennison, Major Charles Dixen, Elisha Lothrop Esq., William Welch Esq., Silas Crane, **Lebbeus Harris**, Samuel Reed, Brotherton Martin, Jonathan Hamilton, Joshua Welch, ?Elmathan Patmoter?, **Abraham Hardin**, Asa Harris, William Colwell, Nathan Fuller, Gilbert Forsyth, Samuel Copp, Noah Fuller, Samuel Strickland, Andras Davison, George Stocking Jun'r, Caleb Bennet, Robert Avery, Cornelius Rich, John Davis, Ephraim Harris, Obediah Stark, Amos Fuller, Silvanus Miner, Joseph Mather, Jacob Burnam, John Witney, John Bishop, Thomas Spencer. William Dixon, Jonathan Chappell, James Webb, James Wickwire, **Lemuel Harding**, Daniel Dodge, Lebbeus Tubbs , Amos Rothbun, Gilbert Harris, Zadock Bennett, Thomas Johnson, Christopher Strickland, Charles Morris Jun'r, John Taggart, **Israel Harding**, John Turner, Jeremiah Comstock, Samuel Winter, Jacob Huntley, Jonathon Graves, Amariah Lyon, ----- Hatch, Jacob Bacon, John Atwell, Darius Brown, Stephen Emmerson, Samuel Griffen, Jedidiah Jordan, Jedidiah Williams, Stephen Ransom, John Bishop Jun'r, Charles Randell, Peter Bishop, Else Browning, Jonathan Blackman, David Godfrey, Moses Clark, Sylvanus Higgins, Anna Randall, Samuel Tubbs, Nathan Kinney, James Lockerby, Joseph Hackett, Marshall Hackley, Rowland Rogers, Thomas Laggat, Theophilus Sutherland, Zebediah Wickwire, Darius Miner, Thomas Dixon, Obediah Benjamin, Benjamin Woodworth, Samuel Clark, William Cooley, Thomas Larrebe, William Bishop, James Reid, Samuel Dennison, Richard Sears, Samuel Reid Jun'r, **Thomas Harding**, Timothy Bishop, John Hamilton, Jacob Bacon Jun'r, Ephraim [illegible] Elipha Brown, Daniel Whipple, Benjamin Beckwith Jr, (pg 38) Joshua Stewart, Daniel Harris, Isaac Lathrop, William Sutherland, James Markham, Silas Crane Jun'r, **Lebbeus Harris Jun'r**, Ephraim Harris Jun'r, John Whitney Jun'r, John Randall, James Welch, Arthur Scovel, Joshua Welch Jun'r, Nathan Fuller Jun'r, Patrick Moray, James Prentice, Oliver Prentice, Parker Peabody, William Carr, Samuel Conniver, Ezra Townsend, John Lockerby, Joseph Hasket Jun'r, William Reed, Mary Reed, Thaddeus Lothrop, Elijah Lothrop, Peter Hackley, Thomas Miner, ?Balah Coats, Martha Miner, Christopher Miner, Elisha Nicholls, and the Reverand Mr. John Breghton their heirs and assigns for ever each share and right of the said grantees shall unreasonably refuse to divide the said granted premises, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor nor Commander in Chief for the time being shall direct a partition to be made by such person or persons as he shall appoint and such partition shall be binding on each & every of the said Grantees provided always that to each share and right therein shall be allotted a full and equal proportion as one share or right is to two hundred shares or rights of all the cleared and improved lands Comprehended within the said Township (??Yicloind) and paying by the said Grantees their Heirs and Assigns which by the acceptation lines of each of the said grantees binds and obliges himself, his heirs, Executors and assigns to pay to his Majesty King George the Third his heirs or successors or the Commander in Chief of the said Province for the time being so to any person Lawfully Authorized to receive the same for His Majesty's use a free yearly Quit Rent of one shilling sterling money for Michaelmas Day for every fifty acres so granted and so in proportion for a greater or lesser quantity of land granted. The first years payment of the same to be made on Michaelmas Day next after the expiry of ten years from the date hence of and to continue payable yearly thereafter forever. But in case three years Quitrent shall at any one time be behind and unpaid and no dissent to be found on the premises, then this grant to the grantee failing shall be null and void and whereas the selling --- (pg 39) the shares or rights of the said township to any persons except brokers and settlers and inhabitants within the Province may be very Prejudicial to and retard the settling of the said Township in case any of the said grantees shall within ten years of the date hereof alienate or grant the premises or any part thereof except by Will without License from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Commander in Chief for the time being under the seal of the said province for which Licence no Fee or reward shall be paid then the ----- so alienating or granting the Premises or any part thereof except by will shall be null and void AND MOREOVER the grant hereby made is upon this exempt condition and each of the said grantees obliges and binds himself, his heirs and assigns to plant, cultivate, improve and ----- one third part of the land hereby granted within ten years, one other third part within twenty years and the remaining third part within thirty years from the date of this

*grant or otherwise to forfeit his right to such land as shall not be actually under improvement and cultivation at the time ---future shall be increased And each of the said grantees doth likewise hereby bind himself, his heirs, executors, and assigns to plant within ten years from the date thereof two acres of the said land with hemp and to keep up the same or a like quantity of acres planted during the successive years. In witness thereof I have signed these presents and caused the seal of the said province to be herein affixed at Halifax in the said Province this twenty ninth [29] day May in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland and Kings Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty one [1761]*

By

*order of the Commander in*

*Chief with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Council*

*Richard Bulkeley Secy*

*(Transcribed from original on film at Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax by: Carol M. Harding, BSN)  
[There may be some errors in spelling as a few names were barely legible. CMH]*



**Mouth of the Gaspereau River, Horton, Kings County, Nova Scotia in early days.**

**(from the Acadia University Planter website)**

CENSUS

40. 1770 Horton, Nova Scotia (Cont.)

HEAD	MEN	BOYS	WOMEN	GIRLS	TOTAL	PROT.	AMERICAN
Thomas Dunlap	1	3	2	2	8	8	8
Jonathan Darrow	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Andrew Davison	2	4	2	3	11	11	11
Andrew Denison	1	3	1	3	8	8	8
D. Sherman Denison	1	3	1	4	9	9	9
Samuel Denison	2	2	-	-	4	4	4
Mary Elderkin	1	2	2	1	6	6	6
Mary Emmerson	1	-	1	4	6	6	6
Laurance Eagell	2	1	1	-	4	4	4
Andrew Curry	1	4	1	-	6	6	6
Cyprian Davison	1	2	1	-	4	4	4
Nathan Fuller	3	-	1	3	7	7	7
Noah Fuller	3	1	1	3	8	8	8
Nathan Fuller Jr.	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Gilbert Foresyth	2	2	2	-	6	6	6
Samuel Griffing	2	-	1	-	3	3	3
Lebbeus Harris	5	1	4	1	11	11	11
Marshal Harkly	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Jonathan Hamilton	1	3	2	3	9	9	9
John Hall	1	1	1	2	5	5	-
Joseph Hacket	2	2	2	-	6	6	6
Joseph Hacket Jr.	1	-	1	2	4	4	4
John Hamilton	1	2	1	1	5	5	5
Samuel Hamilton	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
John Hatch	1	1	1	3	6	6	6
Lebbeus Harris Jr.	1	-	1	-	2	2	2
Israel Harding	1	1	2	3	7	7	7
James Harris	1	2	2	1	6	6	6
Daniel Harris	1	2	1	2	6	6	6
Abraham Harding	2	1	2	1	6	6	6
Lemuel Harding	1	2	1	2	6	6	6
Thomas Harding	1	2	1	1	5	5	5
Stephen Harding	1	1	1	1	4	4	4
Jonathan Harris	1	3	1	-	5	5	5
Enoch Hovey	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Thomas Jackson	1	2	1	-	4	4	4
Jeremiah Jordan	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
----	-	-	-	4	9	-	-
----	-	-	-	5	10	-	-
----	-	1	1	2	5	5	5
---- Markham	2	4	1	1	8	8	8

5 Irish

Loyalist Letter

His Excellency Sir  
 Guy Carleton Lt. G.  
 Commander in Chief of all  
 His Majesty's Forces in North  
 America N. H. X.  
 Memorial of Isaac  
 Harding 29 June 1783  
 Pleading for Relief  
 from his very great  
 sufferings  
 To be paid one hundred  
 Dollars by Mr. J. A. Coffin.  
 Payee of the Capt. in Chief.  
 Lt. Gen. John Mackenzie  
 9 June P. A. G. Genl  
 Ordered - 9 June  
 P. M.

1894 (4)

1844  
 To His Excellency Sir Guy  
 Carlton K. B. Commander in  
 Chief of all His Majesty's Forces  
 in North America &c. &c. &c.

The Petition of Israel Harding, a Native of  
 Seabrook in Connecticut but since an inhabitant  
 on the East end of Long Island Most humbly  
 sheweth.

That your Petitioner was at the time  
 His Excellency Admiral Arbuthnot lay in Gardiners Bay  
 under the necessity of making application to him, and  
 through the ill treatment your Petitioner received on account  
 of his loyal principles from the rebels, he was induced to  
 accept of Admiral Arbuthnot's kind invitation to remove his  
 wife and family (being in number nine) within the British  
 lines, on the Admiral's promise of protection.

That your Petitioner after having  
 brought his family to Long Island, obtained from General  
 Robertson, permission to reside in a certain house belong-  
 ing to one McGillson a Rebel, and at that time was  
 amongst them, and whose house Government had some time  
 since taken up.

That your Petitioner resided in  
 the said house untill the late news of Peace being restored  
 reached this Continent; being near two years, during which  
 time he indefatigably laboured by every industrious and  
 honest means, to support and provide for his said family,  
 thus driven in a manner from their own home, leaving  
 behind an estate the sole property of your Petitioner,  
 valued at one thousand pounds Current Money of New York.

That your Petitioner immediately  
 on hearing the above tidings repaired to this City, in order to  
 make humbly application for enjoying the benefit of His  
 Majesty's most-benevolent bounty (allowed for alleviating  
 the distresses of innocent but suffering loyalists, and  
 while on the execution of this business the aforesaid McGillson  
 came over and robbed your Petitioner's house of cash and  
 movables to the amount of about seventy five pounds on  
 pretences of rent dues, the your Petitioner was put into the  
 possession of <sup>the use of</sup> house by Government.

1894 (2)  
 That your Petitioner whilst in this City drew a Memorial, the prayer of which was that a small Vessel might be afforded him for the more safe conveyance of his family and effects from the Eastward by water, by which he received even then a promise in the favour of the Reverend Mr. [unclear] would be granted.

That your Petitioner, was in consequence of the Board, under whose consideration the said Memorial fell, deeming such a requisition impracticable, was under the disagreeable but unavoidable necessity of hiring a Vessel at Long Harbour for a very considerable and heavy expence being no less than forty pounds and which your Petitioner in depaying, has involved his family now on board the Transport Symmetry and in a sickly ~~sick~~ condition, in a real distressed situation without any hopes of relieving their wants independent of your Excellency's humane assistance, of which he has not the least reasons to doubt considering your Excellency's unparalleled piety and tender feelings for those unhappy objects who have unfortunately fell a victim to indigence and poverty, from a state of affluence and plenty, and whose greatest crime if it may be deemed so, has been love for their King and affection for the Parent Country.

Your Petitioner therefore, confiding in your Excellency's readiness to administer relief, as well as in the truth and justice of his case, Most humbly prays that your Excellency would permit his narrative to claim your more immediate consideration and himself and family, through your generous assistance, exempted from the extreme want, and your Petitioner will as in the strictest duty bound ever pray

New York June 5<sup>th</sup> 1783

Emb<sup>d</sup> the Ship Symmetry  
 North River

Israel Harding

7952 (1)

H.

May it please your Excellency

The Bearer Mr. Israel Harding  
having from his distressed circumstances been under  
the necessity of presenting a Memorial in behalf of  
himself, a wife and ~~and~~ seven children now on  
the Transport Symmetry and bound to the River  
St. Johns in Nova Scotia, to your Excellency which  
has not yet fell under your consideration we are  
induced from our personal knowledge of the facts  
therein contained as well as of the merit of the  
Memorialist most humbly to recommend his said  
Memorial as worthy your Excellency's immediate  
notice, the vessel in which the Memorialist and  
family are embarked being one of those who are im-  
mediately ordered to drop down.

We beg leave to assure your Excellency  
that we are with every loyal sentiment

Your Excellency's  
Most Obedient

Most humble &  
Devoted Servant

John Jay  
Joseph Thorpe

New York June 9<sup>th</sup> 1783

**British Headquarters Papers, (AKA Carleton Papers), Harriett Irving Library, University of New Brunswick  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada  
Document #7894 - pgs. (1) and (2); dated 1783/06/05**

**Petition of Israel Harding from onboard the British Transport ‘Symmetry’, 05 June 1783**

To His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton K.B. Commander in Chief  
of all His Majesty’s forces in North America &c, &c, &c.  
The Petition of Israel Harding, a Native of Seabrook(sic) in Connecticut,  
but since an inhabitant in the East End of Long Island

Most humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner was at the time His Excellency, Admiral Arbuthnot lay in Gardiners Bay under the necessity of making application to him, and through the ill treatment your Petitioner received on account of his loyal principles from the rebels, he was induced to accept of Admiral Arbuthnot’s kind invitation to remove his wife and family (being in number nine) within the British lines, on the Admiral’s promise of protection.

That your Petitioner after having brought his family to Long Island, obtained from General Robertson permission to reside in a certain house belonging to one Mr. Gillson a Rebel, and who at that time was amongst them; and whose house Government had some time since taken up.

That your Petitioner resided in the said house until the late news of peace being restored reached this Continent; being near two years, during which time he indefatigably laboured by every industrious and honest means, to support and provide for his said family, thus driven in a manner from their own home, leaving behind an estate the sole property of your Petitioner valued at one thousand pounds current money of New York.

That your Petitioner immediately on hearing the above tidings repaired to this City, in order to make timely application for enjoying the benefit of His Majesty’s most benevolent bounty allowed for alleviating the distresses of innocent but suffering loyalists, and while on the execution of this business the aforesaid Mr. Gillson came over and robbed your Petitioner’s house of cash and moveables to the amount of about seventy five pounds on pretense of rent due, tho’ your Petitioner was put into the possession of the said House by Government.

That your Petitioner while in the City drew a Memorial, the prayer of which was that a small Vessel might be afforded him for the more safe conveyance of his family and effects from the Eastward by water, which he received every kind assurance in the power of Reverend Mr. Sayres would be granted.

That your Petitioner, in consequence of the Board, under whose consideration the said Memorial fell, deeming such a requisition impracticable, was under the disagreeable but unavoidable necessity of hiring a vessel at Sag Harbour for a very considerable and heavy expense being no less than forty pounds and which your Petitioner in defraying, has involved his family now on board the Transport Symmetry and in a sickly condition, in a real distressed situation, without any hope of receiving their wants independent of your Excellency’s humane assistance, of which he has not the least reason to doubt considering your Excellency’s unparalleled(sic) piety and tender feelings for those unhappy objects who have unfortunately fell a victim to in\_ [?ignorance] and poverty, given a state of affluence and plenty, and whose greatest crime if it may be deemed so has been love for their King and affection for the Parent Country.

Your Petitioner therefore, considering in your Excellency’s readiness to administer relief, as well as in the truth and justice of his case, most humbly prays that your Excellency would permit his narrative to claim your more immediate consideration and himself and family through your generous assistance exempted from the extremest want, and your Petitioner will as in the strictest duty bound ever pray.

New York, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1783  
Onb’d the Ship Symmetry }  
North River}

(signed) ***Israel Harding***

**British Headquarters Papers, (AKA Carleton Papers), Fredericton, NB**  
**University of New Brunswick, Harriet Irving Library - Document #7952, pgs. (1), (2)**

**Deposition for Israel Harding, New York, June 9<sup>th</sup> 1783**

May it please your Excellency

The Bearer Mr. Israel Harding having from his distressed circumstances been under the necessity of presenting a Memorial in behalf of himself, a wife and seven children now onboard the Transport *Symmetry* and bound to the River St. Johns in Nova Scotia, to your Excellency which has not yet fell under your consideration we are induced from our personal knowledge of the facts therein contained as well as of the merit of the Memorialist most humbly to recommend his said Memorial as worthy of your Excellency's immediate notice, the vessel in which the Memorialist and family are embarked being one of those who are immediately ordered to drop down.

We beg leave to assure your Excellency that we are with every loyal sentiment

Your Excellency's  
Most Obedient  
Most humble of  
Devoted Servant

(Signed) John Sayre

Joseph --(?)

---

His Excellency Sir Guy Carleton K.B.,  
Commander-in-Chief of all his Majesty's forces  
in North America &c, &c, &c.

Memorial of Israel Harding 9<sup>th</sup> June 1783  
Praying for relief from his very great sufferings &c. –

*To be paid one hundred Dollars by Mr. I. A. Coffin*

By ord'r of the Com'r in Chief  
9<sup>th</sup> June \_\_\_\_ MacKenzie, D.A. \_\_\_\_

⇒ Ordered – 9<sup>th</sup> June - 'J.M.' ←

## **Confirmation of Survey of Grant**

In obedience to the within Warrant I have caused to be surveyed and laid out to Israel Harding Esq., nine hundred and fifty acres, in the Township of Horton  
To wit --

Situate laying and being abutted and bounded as follows, on the East by the Farm commonly called and Known by the name of Foster's Farm, on the South by the Gaspero River and on the North by the edge of the > upland adjoining > the Marsh Land on Cornwallis River, on the West by Sundry Lots laid out to Sundry persons, Containing Nine Hundred and Fifty Acres. Allowances being made for all such roads as may hereafter be deemed necessary to pass thro the same --

According to the Adjoining Plan --

N.B. Some cleared pasture land. The remainder Wilderness land producing Beech, Maple, Alder, Poplar, Spruce and Fir --

7th January 1784

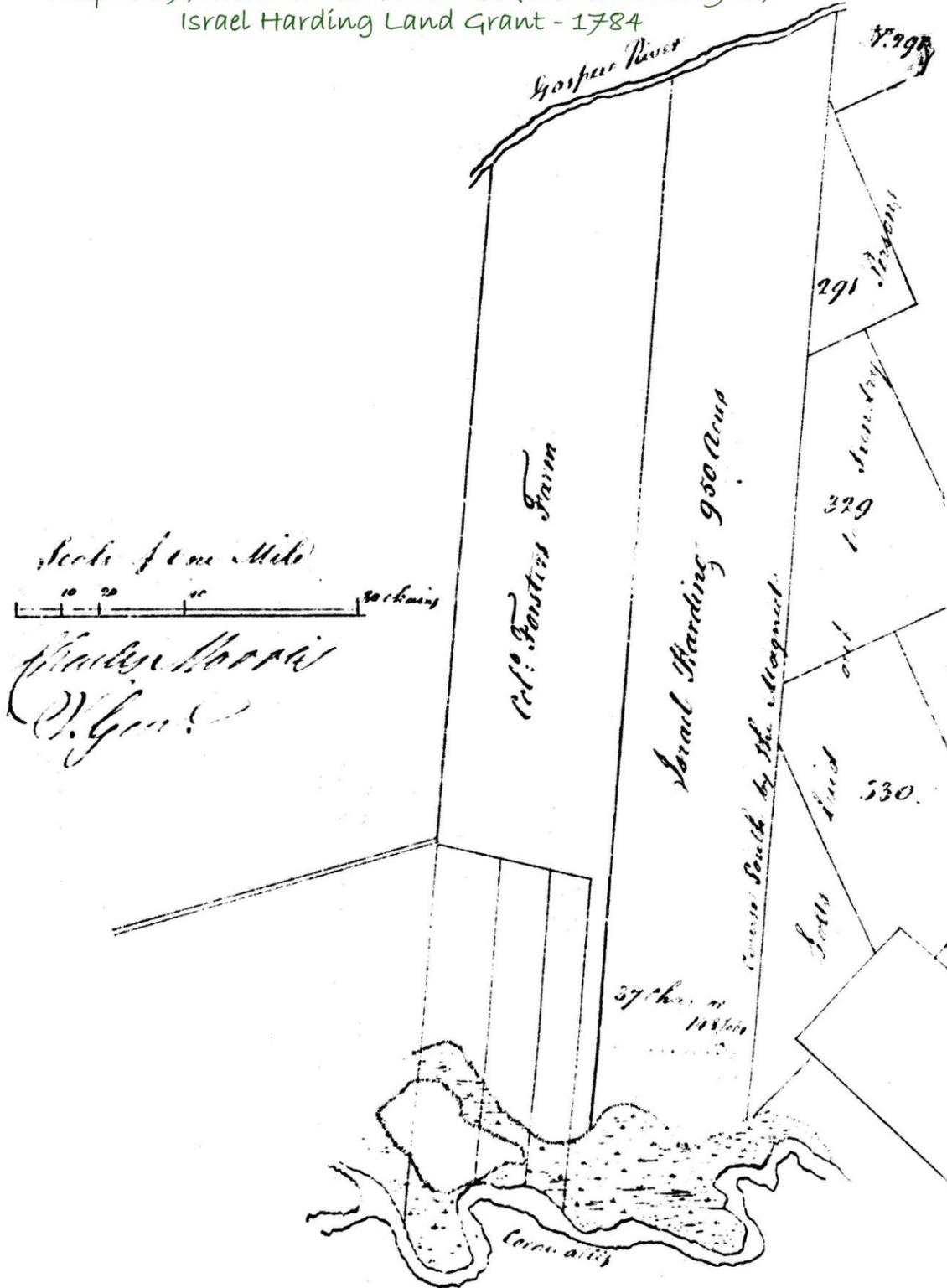
*Charles Morris*

*S. General \_*

## 1784 Horton Township Land Grant

In Obedience to the within Warrant  
 I have caused to be Survey'd and laid out  
 unto Israel Harding Esquire, Nine Hundred  
 and Fifty Acres, in the Township of Horton  
 To wit. *Situate* Laying and being *Abutted*  
 and bounded as follows, on the East by the  
 Farm commonly called and known by the Name  
 of Fasters Farm, on the South by Gaspers River  
 on the North by the edge of the <sup>upland adjoining the</sup> Marsh Land  
 on Cornwallis River, on the West by Sundry  
 Lots laid out to Sundry persons, Containing  
 Nine Hundred & Fifty Acres, Allowance  
 being made for all such Roads, as may hereafter  
 be deemed necessary to pass thro' the same -  
 According to the Adjoining Plan -  
 N<sup>B</sup> some Cleared pasture land. The Remainder  
 Wilderness land producing, Beech, Maple,  
 Poplar, Spruce & Fir -  
 17<sup>th</sup> January 1784  
 Charles Moore  
 S. General -

Map A-67, 3rd Division Farm Lot (Crown Land 1901)  
Israel Harding Land Grant - 1784



***[American Loyalist Application for Losses Sustained in the (British) American Revolution]***

**Claim Cover -- Page 270**

**Claim No. 71A  
of**

**Israel Harding**

**New Claim**

**D'd. 19 April 1786**

**(Written below)**

***Rejected 20 April 1786***

**(stamped/sealed)**

**The Deposition of Alice Harding of Horton** Page 262

This deponent being duly sworn deposeseth and saith that from the beginning to the end of the troubles in America Mr. Israel Harding was ever attached to his present Majesty and Government on which account he suffered greatly – and I do testify and declare that at the time the said Mr Israel Harding was persecuted for his attachment to his Majesty and Government that he had a large sum of money: this deponent did not count it and therefore cannot tell the exact amount which sum was expended in providing necessaries for himself and a numerous family – in consequence of this being drove from place to place, being kept from his lawful business, dragged before court and committees, etc, etc. Also had two boats taken from him which he made use of in carrying provisions to the British Fleet and Troops.

This deponent also saith that Mr Israel Harding aforesaid after removing to Long Island had a house assigned him by Government, and received and forwarded dispatches being Employed by Government for that purpose to observe the French Fleet and rebels at Rhode Island or elsewhere – The persons employed in this business were Capt. Nehemiah Hayden formerly of Saybrook in Connecticut but now of Chester in Nova Scotia and Harris Harding formerly of the same place now of Cornwallis, Kings County. And this deponent further saith she has frequently heard the said Israel Harding lament his losses and that he had lost at least two hundred and twelve pound dollars and five schillings – further saith not –

Sworn to before me this 8th day of March 1786  
Alice Harding

John Chipman, J. Peace

SOURCE: PRO Audit Office: Claims of American Loyalists; Series II 13/25

New Claims Nova Scotia, including re: sloop “JAMES”

Claim No. 71A, Israel Harding dated 19th April 1786

Microfilm at NSARM

**The Deposition of Harris Harding** Page 263

The deposition of Harris Harding of Cornwallis, Yeoman. Taken before me John Chipman Esq, one of His Majesties Justice of the Peace for Kings County. This deponent being duly sworn deposeth and saith that Israel Harding formerly of Saybrook Connecticut but now of Horton Kings County was ever from the beginning to the end of the rebellion attached to the present Majesty and Government, in which account he suffered greatly, and I do testify and declare that at the time the said Israel Harding was persecuted for his attachment to his Majesty and Government that he had a large sum of money. This deponent was not so particular as to count it, therefore cannot tell the exact amount which sum was expended in providing necessaries for himself and a numerous family, in consequence of this being harassed and drove from place to place, being kept from his lawful business, dragged before courts and committees, etc, etc. Also had one boat taken from him, which he made use of in carrying provisions to Admiral Arbuthnott's Fleet then lying in Gardner's Bay – and this deponent further saith from his arrival at Long Island until his Imbarcation for Nova Scotia his business was in carrying cattle and provisions from Connecticut into the British line and also had a house assigned him by Government where he received dispatches sent from Government to observe the moving of the French Fleet and Rebels – Capt. Nehemiah Hayden now of Chester and myself being Employed in said business ---- And this deponent being absent further saith not –

Sworn before me this 8th day of March 1786

(signed) Harris Harding

John Chipman, J. Peace

SOURCE: PRO Audit Office: Claims of American Loyalists; Series II 13/25

New Claims Nova Scotia, including re: sloop "JAMES"

Claim No. 71A, Israel Harding dated 19th April 1786

Microfilm at NSARM

**The Deposition of Capt. Nehemiah Hayden** Page 264

The deposition of Nehemiah Hayden of Chester taken before me Johnathan \_\_\_\_\_ of His Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the County of Lunenburg.

This deponent being duly sworn deposed and saith that he has been acquainted with Lieutenant Israel Harding ever since the year 1777 – he then being a prisoner in New England and known to him to be taken under guards and carried to several places by force on account of his Loyalty – that he ever refused to bear arms against his present Majesty and Government: for which reason he had his property taken from him and confiscated in a number of actions with great loss – and that he was obliged by his loyalty at last to leave his family and come into the British Lines – his family being transported to Long Island – and this deponent further saith that sometime after their arrival on Long Island they had a house allowed them by order of Government on account of his sufferings and Loyalty – soon after his settlement in said house a party from New England plundered him of a considerable amount. Mr Harding while living on Long Island was serving government in carrying cattle and provisions for the supply of the British Troops, also carrying dispatches what times for Government in particular emergencies. This deponent further saith not –

(signed) Nehemiah Hayden

Nehemiah Hayden personally appeared before me and made oath on the Holy Evangelist that the above deposition is just and true.

Sworn before me at Chester in County of Lunenburg this 28th day of March 1786.

Jon'n B \_\_\_\_\_, Justice of the Peace

SOURCE: PRO Audit Office: Claims of American Loyalists; Series II 13/25

New Claims Nova Scotia, including re: sloop "JAMES"

Claim No. 71A, Israel Harding dated 19th April 1786

Microfilm at NSARM

**Deposition of Israel Harding**

Page 265-266

The Memorial of Israel Harding of Horton in Kings County and Province of Nova Scotia

Humbly Sheweth

that your Memorialist from the beginning to the end of the troubles in America was ever Loyal to his present Majesty and Government – that at the hazard of his life he often assisted in supplying the British Fleet and Army with fresh provisions and other supplies for which services and for being averse to the measures carrying on in America against His Majesty's government, he became obnoxious to the Americans, was apprehended, imprisoned, harassed, dragged from place to place by files of armed men and Constables, leaving a wife and seven children behind with no way to support them but by what money I had, which with defending myself before courts and committees and other expenses arising therefrom, amounted to a sum of five hundred and twenty dollars; also two boats which were taken from me I made use of in carrying sheep and cattle from Connecticut to the Fleet and Army. That after your memorialist escaped to Long island he had a house assigned him by Government from which house he was taken by Capt Elijah Smith and a party of men, and robbed of goods, wearing apparel, and other effects to the amount of one hundred and twenty eight dollars that your Memorialist by his attachment to His Majesty was dispossessed of a house and land in the Town of Saybrook in Connecticut which was afterward sold for eight hundred dollars, and for this proof of the above mentioned feats your memorialist humbly offers to your Honor's consideration the under mentioned deposition, which though he has not been able to procure to full evidence of every particular as he would desire yet he prays your Honor would take his situation into your serious and wise consideration and grant him just relief as your Honor may think proper and as in duty bound.

Your Memorialist will ever pray.

Horton April 20, 1786

(please to turn over)

Evidences -----and in the foregoing memorials

Capt Nehemiah Hayden of Chester

Harris Harding of Cornwallis

Ellis (sic) Harding of Cornwallis

Sabra Dewolf of Horton

(Signed) *Israel Harding*

266

vide et aliorum in his deposition memorial  
 Capt Nehemiah Harding of Chester  
 Harris Harding } of Cornwallis  
 Sabra Dewolf }  
 Ellis Harding }  
 Sabra Dewolf of Horton  
 Joseph Harding

**The Deposition of Sabra Dewolf**

Page 267-268

The deponent being duly sworn Deposes and saith that from the beginning to the end of the Rebellion in America Mr Israel Harding was ever attached to his present majesty and government on which occasion he suffered greatly, both as to his person and estate, being forced by files of men and Constables from one town to another for no other amount but his attachment to the British Government, and further this deponent says that she was knowing to Mr Harding having a large sum of money he collected for the sale of land at his departure from Nova Scotia some time before as I understood to the amount of one hundred and fifty six pounds dollars and 6/ - the whole of which was expended in defending himself in the Rebellion's courts and providing supplies for a wife and seven children while kept from his lawful business – this deponent further says that said Harding had one boat taken from him which he made use of in carrying supplies to the British Fleet at Gardner's Bay so called. The deponent further says that Mr Israel Harding was obliged to flee to Long Island within the British lines for protection and had a house assigned him by Government and received dispatches sent by Government to observe the motions of the French Fleet at Rhode Island.

This deponent further says that Sabra Harding was there in September 1781 being at the house of Mr Israel Harding about 12 oclock at night Capt Elijah Smith of Haddam in Connecticut and his company broke down the door and after threatening language and many insults to the family took to the amount of fifty one pounds in goods and wearing apparel and am knowing to other robberies of less nature. This deponent further says that said Harding computed his losses at no less than two hundred and twelve pounds dollars and six shillings which this deponent thinks to be less than what might be justly computed.

(Signed) Sabra Dewolf

Horton Kings County April 10, 1786

Personally appeared Mrs Sabra Dewolf signor to the above and foregoing deposition and made oath to the truth of the same before me. Jonathon (Crane?), JP

**The Memorial of Israel Harding**

Page 269-270

*To the Honorable Thomas Dundas and Jeremiah Pemberton Esq's, Commissioners appointed by His Majesty to Examine and Enquire into the Claims before and sufferings of the Loyalists during the Late Rebellion in America in consequence of their Attachment to his present Majesty and Government etc....*

The information or Claim of Israel Harding late of Saybrook in Connecticutt now of Horton in Kings County in Nova Scotia ~

Humbly Sheweth -

That your claimant ever was from the beginning to the end of the Late Rebellion in America Loyal to his Majesty and his Government; that he had faithfully served his late Majesty as an officer in the former War and Continuing Loyal to his British Majesty and Government during the Late Dissentions in America, has been aiding and assisting to his Majesty's Fleet and Armaments to the utmost of his Vows in supplying them with fresh Provisions and other refreshments, and that often to the great hazard of his life, and that by reason of his being so attached to the British Government and so aiding and assisting as aforesaid he has suffered the loss of all his property for by his being apprehended and taken into custody and with files of men and Constables and drove from place to place leaving behind him a wife and seven children and no way to support them but by what money he could raise which with other expenses arising from defending himself before Courts and Committees, amounts to five hundred and twenty dollars; two boats taken from him which were employed in carrying sheep and cattle from Connecticut to the Fleet and Army of the full value of sixty two dollars; goods, wearing apparel and other effects plundered from him by Capt. Elijah Smith and party Commissioned from Connecticut to the amount of one hundred twenty eight dollars, making the whole seven hundred and ten dollars. The foregoing is a Just and True estimate of the losses which the said Israel Harding has sustained by reason of his Loyalty and Attachment to the British Government, which he is ready to verify and prays he may (be) heard upon.....

And the said Israel Harding in fact says that the reason why his claim was not Lodged in England agreeable to the Proclamation to that Purpose is that he had purposed and intended to have sent it by Col. Lawrance (sic), but his evidences being at a great distance he could not procure them seasonably to be forwarded by that Conveyance and thereof hopes but that he still have an hearing on the Premises.

Horton April 10th 1786 The consideration of which several matters is humbly submitted to your Honors, by your Honor's ever Dutiful and most obedient Humble Servant.

(signed) **Israel Harding**

Sworn before the Commissioner of American Claims at Halifax

The 19th of April 1786 (signed) P. Hunter Sect'y

**DEATH RECORDS RE: Sarah Harris HARDING:**

- **Source:** NS Vital Stats 1835-1839 by Jean Holder/Grace Hubley, pg 37, #732. "March 26, 1836 - d. at Pleasant Valley, Digby County, Nova Scotia, Sarah, w/o Israel, age 98."
- **Source:** Digby County Death Index online: "Sarah Harris died 1836, age 100". This is incorrect (typo). Born 18 Dec 1739, she was aged 97 and died 26 March 1836.
- **Source:** The Yarmouth Light, April 1836: "At Pleasant Valley, Digby, on the 26<sup>th</sup> March last, in the 99<sup>th</sup> yr. [sic] of her age, Sarah, relict of the late Mr. Israel Harding."
- **Source:** Yarmouth Genealogy 1761-1913, Geo. S. Brown: unpublished Manuscript, (NSARM), p.535, which states of Sarah: "d. aged more than 100 yrs. See Judge Savarys letter of 7th Aug 1905. Gravestone says 102. Buried at Digby Joggins. Died at home of daughter there." [letter missing]

*Acacia Valley (Pleasant Valley, Hillgrove) was as a thriving community in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The main or "old post" road to Bear River and Smith Cove went around the bay and crossed here where Acacia Brook empties into the bay. It was called Grand Joggin "because it was a long jog in" to go around by land. Later the Joggin Bridge was built, and Acacia or Pleasant Valley is now a beautiful winding country road passing the peaceful resting place of many first generation citizens of Digby.*

(Parker photo, courtesy of Yarmouth Archives, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada,



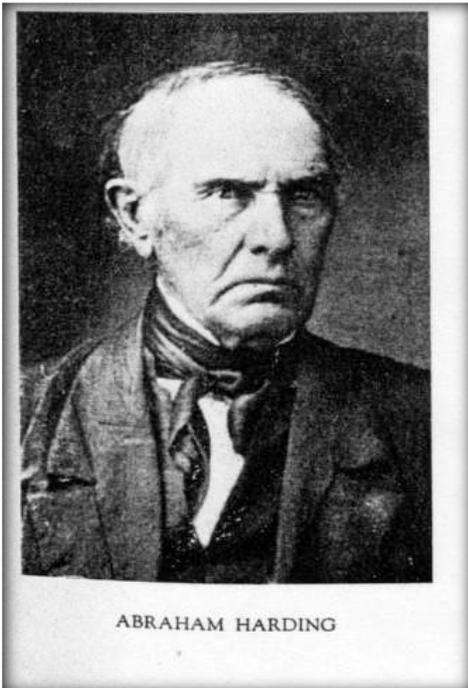


John Smith VanBeuren & Emily Gavel HARDING

Johnny's great grandparents



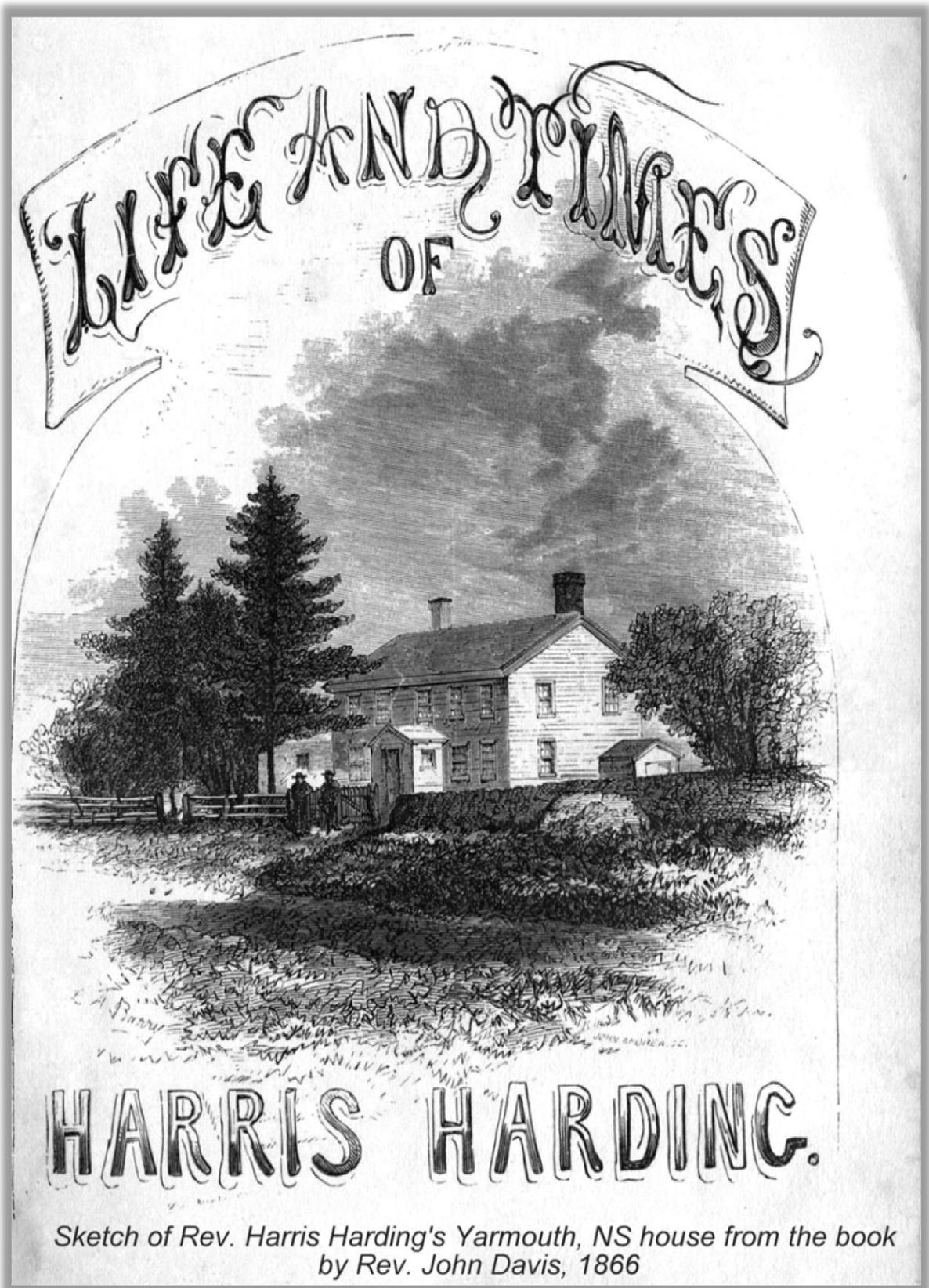
Stillman Edwin "Johnny" Harding  
1945 at Havelock, NS

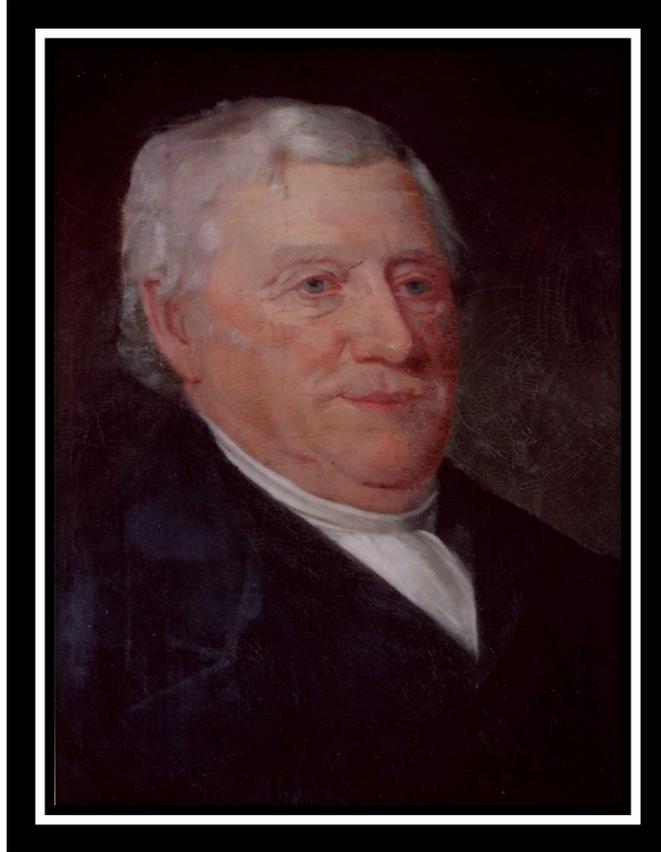


ABRAHAM HARDING



Hillgrove Cemetery, Digby, NS, where Mrs. Sarah Harding, daughter Eliphal and family are buried.



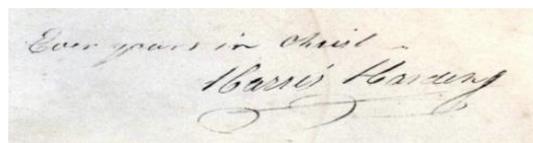


## The Reverend Harris Harding, 1846

10 October 1761 – 7 March 1854

Photograph of a painting that hangs over the stairwell in University Hall,

Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia



*"Where are the lands our fathers kept, A hundred years ago?  
The homes in which they sweetly slept, A hundred years ago?  
By other men, They knew not then,  
Their lands are tilled, Their homes are filled;  
Yet, nature then was just as gay,  
And bright the sun shone as today,  
A hundred years ago"*

-- Quoted by Dr. Farrish during his Yarmouth, NS Centennial speech, 09 June 1861

## THE LATE REV. HARRIS HARDING.

[Communicated.]

We dedicate a few paragraphs to the memory of the venerable man whose name stands at the head of this article. It seems almost needless. The memory of Father Harding will be ever fresh and fragrant in Yarmouth. Yet it were wholly unfitting that our village journal should permit a village worthy like him to pass away without some specific reference to his virtues and his deeds. Nor is it too late for such a reference, though perhaps we ought to ask pardon that it has not been offered sooner.

Mr. Harding was remarkable for his great age. Born Oct. 10, 1761, and dying March 7, 1854, he wanted little more than seven years to have completed his century. His early life gave no promise of longevity. When he became a preacher, thoughtless people would draw ghostlike caricatures of the zealous youth, and make sport of his attenuated form, and wan looks. He would expectorate blood too, and talk and feel like a man getting ready for the tomb. But he outgrew this feebleness; and having once mastered it, his habits of life, public speaking not excepted, strengthened his constitution, and hardened his frame to a capability of endurance, which he retained nearly, if not quite, down to the period of his last sickness.

—Mr. Harding's moral constitution was as hardy as his physical one. There was something yielding, conciliatory, natively polite about him. He was the personification of suavity. But he always had his purpose, and would by no means be diverted from it. He aimed at doing good in that lofty line of usefulness to which he had given himself. And if he seemed to mould himself to the wishes of others, it was that he might win them for his Master. His policy in regard to debt was a singular illustration of his firmness of purpose. We do not know whether he ever had his name on any man's books. But certain it is, that he would suffer great extremities and expose his family to trying inconveniences rather than permit himself to be compromised in money matters. A course the more singular when viewed in connection with his well known theory about ministerial salary. Means, or no means, he anxiously avoided debt; and whatever engagements he made he would be sure to meet them. There was great force of character here—a force tried by the pressure of more than three score years spent in this one vicinity. This one element contributed vastly to Mr. Harding's high reputation, a reputation which grew with his lengthening days, and was never higher than when he was taken hence. A reputation not only in the particular at which we have glanced, but which extended to the whole of his conduct.

the varied relations of life, and made all feel that if there were but one good man in Yarmouth, he was the man.

The gentleness of our patriarch's manners deserves more than an incidental notice. That gentleness was deeply wrought into his spirit. It sprang from a warm inner fountain of benevolence. It made him the friend of the sick, the soother of the aged, the companion of childhood. It rendered him an apt illustration of Paul's exquisite self-portraiture: he cultivated it upon principle. "We were gentle among you," says Paul, writing to the Thessalonians; "We were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the Gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. We exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children." These characteristics were perpetually brought out in that pastoral and domestic visitation which Mr. Harding maintained with such signal diligence, and to which he owed so much of the love which clung to him while living, and embalms the memory of the deceased household friend.

His doctrine and style of preaching pertain elsewhere. We may remark, however, that if his views were rigid, they were not sour. If he hated what he deemed error, he pitied and yearned over its victims. —If his matter was not various, it was warm. If he indulged in reiteration, he used it with so much of sincerity and earnestness and so aptly seasoned all with anecdote, that he made old things look like new, while his new things told with an effect better than that of mere novelty. If he knew not to reason deeply, he deeply felt, and could deeply stir the feelings of others. If he was not a schooled orator, he had an influence as a speaker which many a man of the schools might well envy. If, in fine, he seemed wanting in certain mental elements of great value, he made up for these by an uncommon shrewdness. Few men indeed have been more largely endowed in this respect. Here lay much of his efficiency. Take him for all in all, it will be long ere we shall have another such religious teacher as Father Harding.

"And as a bird each fond endearment tries,  
To tempt her new fledged offspring to the skies,  
He tried each art, reproved each dull delay,  
Allured to brighter worlds, and led the way."

Mr. Harding has left his mark upon the age. Few men have exerted a wider or more salutary influence than he. Heaven only knows how many minds have been reached, how many hearts renovated, how many souls saved, as the results of his efforts. At the com-

ment of his career in these parts he encountered something like persecution. - But he preached, and prayed, and lived it down. He has left behind him, in Baptist Churches formed under his auspices, and in other communities indirectly benefitted, ample evidences of the extent and value of his labours for the spread of the Gospel of Christ. He found this neighbourhood sunk into a frigid formality. He has left it imbued with a sentiment of high

regard for a religion of life, and warmth, and practical power.

A striking testimony to the unlimited estimation in which Father Harding was held was rendered on the day of his interment; when, as it will be well remembered, ministers and members of all the Protestant denominations in the vicinity gathered around his remains, and all, in the persons of their clergy, participated in the funeral solemnities. And peculiarly fitting it was that such a testimony should be rendered to one whose genial catholicity had ever overleaped mere party lines, and led him with his whole heart to love all who "love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

But we check ourselves. The rather since in due season a memoir of the departed patriarch may be expected. For that reason we have felt the less called upon to advert here to biographical facts; more concerned to supply a tribute to character than a record of events.

We may state also, that steps are about to be taken to erect a monument over the remains of Father Harding. It is proposed to do this by general subscription. We doubt not that our community will be well pleased to have an opportunity of illustrating their regard for the good old man by their contributions for the purpose here indicated. Of a truth "the memory of the just is blessed;" and we cannot take too much pains to give it perpetuity.

Now thanks be to the God who made Father Harding what he was, and then gave him to Yarmouth. Be it ours to profit by our recollections of him while we live, and when we die to be reunited to him in a world where the good never grow old, and the happy are never called to separate.

From: "The Yarmouth Light"  
Newspaper, Yarmouth,  
Nova Scotia, Canada  
1854

### Yarmouth Herald

September 7, 1854 -- page 2 -- column 3 -- top

#### Monument to the Memory of the late Rev. Harris Harding

A public meeting will be held on Saturday September 9<sup>th</sup>, in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting, Yarmouth, to consider the propriety of erecting a Monument to the Memory of the late Rev. Harris Harding. Proceedings will commence at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The friends of the deceased generally are respectfully and earnestly invited to attend.

J. Davis      Chairman Com

\*\*\*\*\*

#### IN MOUNTAIN CEMETERY, PARADE ST., YARMOUTH, N. S. - INSCRIPTIONS:



*"IN MEMORY OF the REV. HARRIS HARDING:*

*born Oct, 10, 1761 died March 7, 1854.*

*For nearly Seventy Years, Sixty of which were spent in this Neighbourhood, he proclaimed the Gospel which he loved with unwearied diligence, and extraordinary success.*

*'AND THEY THAT BE WISE SHALL SHINE AS THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE FIRMAMENT: AND THEY THAT TURN MANY TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE STARS FOR EVER AND EVER.' DAN. 12. 3.*

*Mr. Harding first visited Yarmouth in 1790. In 1797 he came hither to labour steadily in the Gospel.*

*In 1827 he and his Church, the members of which resided in all parts of this County, united with the Nova Scotia Baptist Association.*

*At his death he was the Senior Pastor of the First and Second Yarmouth Baptist Churches.*

*This monument is erected by the inhabitants of Yarmouth and its vicinity, and by the members of the various Churches which participated in the labors of the departed, as a testimony to*

*the worth of the Man,*

*the graces of the Christian, and the usefulness of the Preacher. "*

\*\*\*\*\*

*"In memory of MEHETABLE Wife of Rev Harris Harding who died Nov 19, 1859 Aged 81 years. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."*



[No Headline]

[No Headline] (Advertisement)

Date: 1783-02-28; Paper: Connecticut Gazette

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**T O B E S O L D,**  
And entered upon the 25th of March next,  
**THAT** very valuable Piece of  
Land, called the **HARDING FARM**, contain-  
ing 288  $\frac{1}{2}$  Acres, with a Dwelling-house and an  
excellent Orchard thereon; from which is cut  
annually, near fifty Tons of choice Hay, and  
hath a proportionable Quantity of Plow-land  
and Pasture; being Part of the Tract lately  
belonging to William Brown, Esq. For Parti-  
culars enquire of Major Theodore Woodbridge  
at Glastonbury, or Doct. John R. Watrous, at  
Colchester, by whom a warranted Title will be  
given.  
N. B. If said Land is not sold by the 20th  
of March, it will be leased.

Just which Harding farm this was is unknown at this time. - CMH

## Stephen Harding “The Blacksmith of Providence”

1620's through the 1750's, Providence, Rhode Island

*(Great Grandfather of Lieut. Israel Harding, U.E.L.)*

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

The first mention of Stephen Harding on the public records of Providence is March 28, 1664, when he had land laid out; On Oct. 27, 1665, he had a grant of 25 acres of the common land for 10s; August 7, 1669 he purchased of John and Mary Jones a "right of commoning" in Providence on the east side of the Nacunkeake; this deed was not recorded until 1710 when a final settlement of his estate was made by his son John, administrator; Nov. 16, 1674, then styled "Senior," he bought of Thos. Estance of a "right of common" in all the undivided lands of Providence; May 24, 1675, he purchased of Wm. Hopkins 70 acres in Providence measured by an 18-ft. pole," and deeded this plat to his son John on Aug. 24, 1682; July 1, 1679, he and his son Stephen were taxed together 7s, 6d; prior to April 19, 1680, he gave to his son Stephen a house, orchard, lands and meadow near his brother Abraham's; on January 15, 1695, he signed a deed for 8 acres of land to his son Abraham—previously sold and paid for—specifying that he had not time to sign it in the lifetime of his son, but yet now does so "that it might hold good to the estate of Abraham." April 10, 1693, he and his wife Bridget, deeded to son Abraham all homestead estate not heretofore given, including house, etc., and at their death he to have entire possession and to "take a special care to see after the estate of his father that they fall not into any strait or wants, but will lawfully and faithfully provide for themselves, as may be for their support and comfort in their old age, and as persons of their rank and quality, both in sickness and in health." Stephen Harding died Feb. 20, 1698, and on April 12, of that year administration of his estate was granted to his son John of Newport, who presented an inventory of the estate valued at 144, 16s, 6d. So far as can be learned from the public records, Stephen Harding was the father of

**1—John**, b. about 1652; inherited the property purchased of Wm. Hopkins by his father in 1675; took the freedman's oath in 1684; was appointed administrator of his father's estate in 1698; resided in Newport, R. I. Was the father of Israel, who married Sarah Medbury in 1696; and Richard who was born in 1678, d. May 15, 1748, m. Mary Thurber who died his widow Dec. 26, 1759; they had two sons—John, b. Oct. 28, 1708, and Richard b. Aug. 28, 1710, and four daughters.

**2—Stephen**, b. 1654, like his father was a blacksmith at Providence; married, Jan. 28, 1672, Mercy Winsor, a daughter of Joshua Winsor; made his will April 16, 1680, leaving all his property to his father except "so much as shall satisfy my sisters for the tending of me." Mercy Winsor Harding died early in 1680, and Stephen died May 31 of the same year; no children were born to this union.

**3—Abraham**, b. 1656, d. Nov. 23, 1694; m. Deborah.

**3a—Priscilla**, who married Thomas Esten and had Mary and Mercy.

**3b—Sarah**, who married Henry Esten, brother of Thomas, and had Rebecca, Henry and Cornelius.

**3c—Mary**, who married Samuel Winsor, a son of Joshua Winsor, and had Rev. Samuel Winsor, Elder of the Baptist church in Providence.

**3d—**Another daughter who married Alex Balcolm.

**3—ABRAHAM HARDING's** entire life was spent in Providence, R. I. where he followed his trade of blacksmith, as his father had done before him. His death occurred Nov. 24, 1694, and on Dec. 18th of that year Deborah Harding, his widow, presented an inventory of his estate and requested letters of administration, but this was not then granted; the following year she married Moses Bartlett and on March 3d, 1696, administration was given to her and "her now husband," to all her former husband's estate; had

**4—John** b. 1677, d. 1732.

**5—Mercy**, b. 1679, d. 1749; m. Samuel Winsor, Jan. 7, 1703.

**6—Israel**, of whom nothing further is known.

**7—Stephen**, b. 1681, d. May 31, 1750.

**7a—Lydia**, b. Aug. 23, 1690, m. John Whipple.

**7b—Deborah**, b. 1692, m. Joshua Winsor (b. May 25, 1682, d. Oct. 10, 1752), December 3, 1719; had Abraham, b. Oct. 4, 1720, d. 1798.

**8—Thomas**, m. Alice Smith, April 22, 1721.

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

**9- John**, who removed to Redstone, Penn., and later to Kentucky. He dropped the final "g" from the name, and it was from him that many of the distinguished Hardins of Kentucky have descended.

**10- Abraham**, born June 14, 1720, died 1806.

**11- Stephen**, Capt., born 1723, d. 1789 (See Part IV).

**12- Thomas**, b. May 16, 1727, d. Feb. 20, 1804; married Mary Richards March 20, 1745; had Thomas, Mary, Jeremiah, James, Amy (Cobb), Jemimah (Richards), and Daniel.

**13- Israel Col. (sic), b. 1733**, d. 1783 (sic); married 1759; **Sarah Harris**, (b. Dec. 18, 1739, d. 1839(sic)); had a daughter Sabra who married, Feb. 10, 1786, Charles DeWolf (b. 1765, d. 1833);

CH: 1. **Simon DeWolf** (b. April 10, 1788, d. Sept. 11, 1849), married 1810, **Clarissa Allen** (b. May 2, 1793, d. Nov. 8, 1861);

CH: 1. **Capt. David DeWolf** (b. April 1, 1822, d. *Battle of Corinth*, Oct\_ 3, 1862), married April 1, 1847; **Matilda Allen Greenwood** (b. Feb. 22, 1823, d. Feb. 9, 1905);

2. **Clarissa Allen DeWolf** (b. March 23, 1848, d. Nov. 4, 1886) married, Sept. 19, 1867; **Thomas Walter Cox** (b. Aug. 2, 1847, d. Jan. 4, 1915);

CH: 1. **Edwin Eugene Cox** (b. Mar. 23, 1868) married Oct. 16, 1895; **Florence Edna Huntsinger** (b. Aug. 20, 1872);

2. **Catherine Virginia Cox** (b. Jan. 8, 1899) married **Lawrence Campbell Merriam**.

*(This writer's note: The Michael Shoemaker Book, pg.511, suggests also Lemuel and possibly Henry as sons of Capt. Stephen Harding Sr.)*

**REFERENCE:** *Transcribed from the book "The Hardings in America" \*\* A Genealogical Register of the Descendants of John Harding, of England born A.D. 1567\*\* compiled and edited by Wilbur Judd Harding; published in 1925 by The Harding Printing Company, Keystone, Iowa. Includes Part II, Chapter 1, page 25-30.*

The complete volume can be found on interlibrary loan at most local USA library systems.  
A digital copy can be found at Ancestry.com.

**\*\* Israel's Older Brother, Stephen \*\***

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NE

## Pennsylvanians, Past And Present

Captain Stephen Harding, Veteran of French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars, Died October 11, 1789.

By FREDERICK A. GODCHARLES

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Among those who fought against the British Tories and Indians in the terrible battle at Wyoming July 2nd 3, 1778 which resulted in the greatest massacre known in American history was a brave officer named Captain Stephen Harding.

Harding was a native of Rhode Island where he was born in 1723. He was one of five sons of Captain Stephen Harding.

The father removed to that part of New London, Conn., which is now Waterford.

Here the son Stephen received his education and grew to manhood. In 1747 he married Amy Gardner and they settled in Colchester, Conn.

During the French and Indian war Stephen Harding served from April 6 to November 6 in the campaign of 1760 in the Second Connecticut regiment.

When the Susquehanna company was first organized young Stephen Harding became a purchaser of a "right" in the land bought from the Indians at Albany in 1754.

Accompanied by his father-in-law Stephen Gardner and his brother-in-law John Jenkins he came to the Wyoming valley with the original Connecticut settlers in 1762.

In the quarrel with the provincial government of Pennsylvania he was one of those taken into custody by the uprovincial authorities, conveyed to Easton and committed to jail. Upon his release therefrom under bail he set out for his home in Connecticut and did not again return to Wyoming until December, 1771.

In the spring of the following

year he was joined by his son Stephen, Jr.

When the township of Exeter was elected Stephen Harding and Stephen Jr., became proprietors and located there.

During the Revolution the patriot settlers organized military units for the continental service. One such organization was the 24th Regiment Connecticut militia and Stephen Harding Sr., was commissioned captain of the seventh company.

In May 1778 Captain Harding was also commissioned one of the justices for Westmoreland county of the Wyoming settlement.

When the British Tories under Colonel John Butler and their Indian allies swooped down upon the settlement of Wyoming July 1, 1778, through the perfidy of the Wintermute family the stockade known as Fort Wintermute was promptly surrendered to Tory Butler and he established his headquarters there.

The next morning Major Butler despatched his "Rangers" with a white flag to Jenkins fort to demand its surrender.

The occupants of this little stockade were mostly women and children and a few of the sick and wounded men. The garrison was in charge of Captain Stephen Harding and as no adequate means of resistance existed the fort was surrendered to Captain William Caldwell who drew up and signed with Judge John Jenkins articles of capitulation which surrendered all arms, ammunition and stores but preserv-

ed the lives of the men women and children.

The terrible battle of the following day the utter disregard of the articles of surrender and the cruelty of the Indians is a well known story. The scalps of 225 victims were taken by the savages, the homes of the settlers plundered and burned and the place made desolate.

Soon after the battle those who survived tramped back to Connecticut among them Captain Harding and his family.

On May 5 1781 Stephen Harding Stephen Harding, Jr., Elisha Scovell, Jonathan Scovell and William Martin all previously residents of Exeter township, Westmoreland Co. addressed a memorial to the Connecticut general assembly in which they set forth.

"That they belonged to Westmoreland and were inhabitants of the town in July 1778 when with others they were driven from their possessions and with great difficulty escaped with their lives whilst many of our families were killed by the enemy," etc. They further stated that they had fled to their former homes until such time as they could return to Wyoming; that they had been unjustly taxed as residents of Colchester when they were inhabitants of Westmoreland, etc.

The prayer of their petition was negatived.

With his family Captain Stephen Harding returned from the Connecticut to his lands in Exeter in 1784 and there continued to reside until his death October 11, 1789.

Captain Stephen and Amy Gardner Harding were parents of nine sons and three daughters. Stephen, the eldest served in the Revolution until discharged for disability. He died at Exeter August 4, 1816. Benjamin and Stuker, the third and fourth sons were both killed in the Wyoming massacre and Israel the fifth son, served throughout the Revolution and died in Wyoming county Pa., May 7, 1835.

It was from this patriotic family that the late President Warren G. Harding claimed his descent and well may he have been proud of his ancestors.

(error - was brother Abraham)

