

HARRIS OF VIRGINIA AND GEORGIA

Absalom Harris, son of Faithy and Benjamin Harris, was born in Southampton, Virginia, May 27, 1752, and died in Hancock County, Georgia, November 9, 1824. In Southampton he married on December 21, 1774, Elizabeth, the widow Jordan, daughter of Andrew Tarver. (Wills, Northampton County, N. C. , March 1780.) Elizabeth died between 1783 and 1784 in Greenville County, Virginia, and Absalom later married Clara Jeter.

Issue of Absalom Harris and wife Elizabeth:

1. Benjamin Harris, born Dec. 7, 1775, m. Mary Rosser.
2. Rebecca Harris, born March 28, 1777, m. (1) Joel Reese, (2) Joseph Turner.
3. Elizabeth Harris, born Feb. 15, 1779, m. Wiley R. Blount.
4. Henry Harris, born May 15, 1781, m. (1) Mary E. Harris, (2) Mary Sasnett.

Note: cf. H. S. F. , Vol. I, p. 317. Three more children are named in the Henry Harris family Bible, (now in the possession of the surviving grandchildren of Henry R. Harris), viz:

11. Rebecca Frances Harris, b. in Greenville, Ga. , Feb. 25, 1826.
 12. Josephs. Harris, b. Sept. 5, 1831.
 13. Absalom Harris, b. March 22, 1833.
5. Dorothy Harris, b. Jan. 7, 1783, m. (1) Joseph Chappell (2) Bernard Young.

Issue of Absalom Harris and wife Clara (Jeter):

6. Edmund Smith Harris, b. Oct. 24, 1786, m. (1)

Frances Hall, (2) Mary Hamilton Church, (3) Mary Richardson; of whom later.

7. Jane Jeter Harris, b. Dec. 30, 1788, m. Chappell Sledge.
8. Brittain Dixon Harris, b. Nov. 22, 1794, m. (1) Jane Sanders, (2) R. Kirk.
9. John Griffin Harris, b. June 16, 1797, m. Elizabeth Sanders.

Edmund Smith Harris, son of Absalom and Clara Harris, was born Oct. 24, 1786, and died Oct. 31, 1863 at LaGrange, Georgia. He was a planter. He married (1) Frances Hall, who was born 1797, died 1830. He married (2) on June 30, 1833, Mary Hamilton Church, who died April 7, 1859. He married (3) Mary R. Richardson on November 8, 1859, who died after 1861. Edmund Harris made his will May 27, 1861, probated in LaGrange, Oct. 24, 1863, in which he names his wife Mary(Richardson) and eight of his children. He states: "If my beloved wife Mary R. Harris outlives me, I settle on her as a homestead. . . . the place whereon we now live, and 300 acres; also bequeath her for her natural life a negro man Clem, a blacksmith by trade, and Eliza, a cook, his wifethe whole of my estate except the legacies heretofore createdshall be divided between my eight children: Absalom G. Harris, Clara E. Matthews, Mary J. McCurdy, Edmund J. Harris, Brittain D. Harris, Frances C. Allen, John T. Harris, and Joseph H. Harris. " His children Mariah, Martha, and Sarah, shown in the 1850 census of Troup County, Georgia, were not named in the will, so presumably had died between 1850 and 1861.

Issue of Edmund Smith Harris and first wife Frances Hall:

1. Absalom G. Harris, born April 6, 1813, of whom later.
2. Clara Ann Eliza Harris, b. June 3, 1815, m. Matthews.
3. Mary Jane Harris, b. Aug. 14, 1817, m. Edward Sellers McCurdy; (Cemetery records, Oakbowery, Alabama).
4. Mariah Thomas Harris, b. Sept. 1819.
5. Edmund Jackson Harris, b. Dec. 29, 1821.

6. Brittain Dixon Harris, b. Dec. 25, 1823, d. March 31, 1877, m. Rebecca, who was b. Oct. 28, 1823, d. Dec. 22, 1856; (Oakbowery Cemetery Records).
7. Frances E. Harris, b. Jan. 19, 1828, m. Allen.
8. Martha Rebecca Harris, b. March 14, 1830.
Issue of Edmund Smith Harris and wife Mary Hamilton

Church:

9. John Thomas Harris, born April 4, 1834, m. E.A. McTyeire.
10. Sarah Hamilton Harris, b. Dec. 31, 1835, m. Richard P. Lockhart.
11. Joseph Henry Harris, b. Feb. 1, 1838 in Troup Co. , Georgia, d. March 3, 1920, m. (1) Caroline Stone, (2) Cornelia Houser, b. June 5, 1838, d. March 8, 1927, (Oakbowery Cemetery Records).
Absalom G. Harris, son of Edmund Smith Harris and Frances Hall, was born April 6, 1813; he was a planter. The name of his wife is not known, but they had the following children: (Census records, Troup County, Georgia, 1860-70):

1. Frances Harris (Fanny), born 1839, Troup County, Georgia, m. F. A. Kimbell.
2. Edmund Smith Harris, born 10 March, 1842, Troup County, died 8 Feb. 1914, m. Martha Pitts. (Of whom later.)
3. Absalom G. Harris Jr. , born 1846 in Troup County.
Edmund S. Harris, born 1842 in Troup County, died 1914 in Meriwether County, Georgia. He is buried in Ogeltree Cemetery, Durand, Georgia. He was a farmer, and served in the Civil War with the 37th Battalion, Georgia State Troops. He married July 19, 1866 in Russell County, Alabama, Martha Dixon Pitts, born 23 March, 1844 in Harris County, Alabama, died 2 May, 1927 at Columbus, Georgia. She was the daughter of Lewis Gardener Pitts (b. Feb. 26, 1813 m Warren County, Ga. , died Feb. 7, 1892 in Alabama) and wife Martha Hines Marshall (b. March 11, 1820 in Putnam County, Ga. , d. April 10, 1902 in Alabama).

Issue of Edmund S. Harris and wife Martha:

1. Frances Harris (Fannie), b. 1867 in Troup County, m. M. H. Williford.

2. Sterling Pitts Harris, b. Dec. 3, 1873 in Stewart Co., Ga. , d. Sept. 2, 1934, m. Alice L. Stratford, who was b. Oct. 15, 1871 in Alabama, d. Jan. 27, 1920 in Columbus, Ga. , the daughter of William Eli Stratford (1850-1916) and wife Martha Amanda Godwin (1855-1931). Of whom later.
3. Martha Harris, (Mattie), b. 1877 in Stewart County, m. M. C. Crowder.
(Refs: Civil War Pension Records, census records, cemetery records.)

Sterling Pitts Harris, son of Edmund S. Harris, was born 1873 in Stewart County and died 1934 at Columbus, Georgia, buried in Riverdale Cemetery. He married June 2, 1903 at Oswichee, Alabama. Issue of Sterling P. Harris and wife Alice:

1. Ruth Vernon Harris, born Aug. 31, 1904, not married.
2. Martha Helen Harris, born 26 April, 1908, m. James E. Newton 18 June, 1929, chn: James, Alice and Mary Newton.
3. Sterling Pitts Harris Jr., born Jan. 8, 1911, m. Ruth Swearingen Nov. 29, 1934. Chn.: Edmund and Frances Harris.
4. Alice Stratford Harris, born Oct. 28, 1913, m. Hugh Eugene Deaton April 19, 1941. Children: Hugh Jr. and Alice Deaton.
5. Catherine Louise Harris, born Oct. 6, 1916, m. May 29, 1937 Russell Bernard Patch, born Dec. 17, 1909 in Michigan, son of Wallace B. Patch and wife Pearl E. Walker. Children: Carole (m. Robert N. Mathis 1958, 2 chn.), Susan and Nancy Patch.
6. William Edmund Harris, b. Oct. 7, 1919, d. s.p. Aug. 23, 1942, while in military service, W. W. II.
7. 8. Twins, b. 1909, died young.

Note: For other branches of the Harris family of Virginia, see HISTORICAL SOUTHERN FAMILIES, Vols. , 1, IV. and VIII.