

1600 -- 1800.

The name Harris is from Harry's son. Early English variants Harryson, Harrys, Marries.

William Harris, born about 1609, sailed from Bristol, England, in the ship Lyon in 1631, and after two months' tempestuous voyage landed at Nantasket the year after Boston was settled. On the same boat with William were his brother, Thomas, and the Rev. Roger Williams. When Roger Williams was exiled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony (1636) for his unwelcome preachments on fairness to the Indians and on religious freedom, William Harris accompanied him and was a partner in the establishment of Providence, Thomas Harris joining them the next year.

William and his wife Susannah had five children, - Andrew (see below), three daughters, and Toleration who was killed by Indians on the family farm. William Harris was a successful lawyer, acquiring extensive holdings in Rhode Island and Connecticut. At one period he came into sharp conflict with Roger Williams who once even ordered his arrest. Their families, however, became closely united in the fifth generation (see below). William went to England three times on business, mostly related to his lands, and on a fourth voyage (1680) was captured by Barbary Corsairs. Sold as a slave in the market at Algiers in Feb., 1680 (aged 71), he endured more than a year of cruel slavery until ransomed for \$1300. After making his way through Spain and France he reached London only to die three days later (1681).

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