



In-Depth First Settler Profile: *Daniel Harris (1653) / Mary (Weld) Harris*

Name: Daniel Harris (Capt.)

Birth: About 1626, near Hatherup, Gloucestershire, England (GMB)

Emigration: From Bristol, England on the ship "Lion" of the Winthrop fleet to Boston, Mass. 1630. He came with both parents, four brothers, and one sister. Removed to Salem, Mass., then Rowley, Mass. by 1643. (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*) To Middletown before 1653. (FFS)

Death: November 30, 1701, Middletown, Conn. (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*)

Occupation & Public Service: Wheelwright, innkeeper (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*). "In 1659 he was appointed to keep an ordinary. He was one of the persons who had charge of the town stock of powder and arms. In 1664 he was chosen Lieutenant of the train band and in 1677, Captain. He was four times a deputy to the General Court." (FFS)

Marriage: m. Mary Weld about 1648, Rowley, Mass. (b. about 1627, England; d. September 5, 1711, Middletown, Conn.) She was the daughter of Joseph Weld & Elizabeth (Shatswell) Weld of Sudbury, Suffolk, England, and Roxbury, Mass. (SAV) (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*) (TAG)

Parents: Thomas Harris (1590-before 1634) & Elizabeth (unknown surname) Harris (1578-1670) of Hatherup, Gloucestershire, England, and Boston (Charlestown), Mass. (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*)

Children (MVR, Land Records, vol. 1, page 21; BCVR) (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*):

(1) Mary Harris, b. April 2, 1651, Rowley, Mass.; d. August 1, 1740, Middletown, Conn.; m. Isaac Johnson, Jr., October 26, 1669, Roxbury, Mass. (9 children)

(2) Daniel Harris, Jr., b. July 16, 1653, Middletown, Conn.; d. October 18, 1735, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Abigail Barnes, December 14, 1680, Middletown, Conn.; m.(2) Elizabeth Cook, January 5, 1726, Middletown, Conn. (5 children)

(3) Joseph Harris, b. February 12, 1654, Middletown, Conn.; d. before 1699, Middletown, Conn.

(4) Thomas Harris, b. May 20, 1657, Middletown, Conn.; d. August 22, 1700, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Zipporah (unknown surname), before 1689, Middletown, Conn.; m.(2) Tabitha (unknown surname), after January 8, 1689, Middletown, Conn. (1 child)

(5) Elizabeth Harris, b. March 22, 1659, Middletown, Conn.; d. Aft. 1699, Middletown, Conn.; m. John Honeywell of Wethersfield. (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*)

(6) Sarah Harris, b. February 17, 1660, Middletown, Conn.; d. March 15, 1661, Middletown, Conn.

(7) Sarah Harris, b. September 30, 1663, Middletown, Conn.; d. before 1699, Middletown, Conn.; m. Samuel Bidwell, after 1690, Middletown, Conn. (1 child) (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*)

(8) William Harris, b. July 17, 1665, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown, Middletown, Conn.; m. Martha Collins, January 8, 1690, Middletown, Conn. (4 children)

(9) John Harris, b. January 4, 1667, Middletown, Conn.; d. November 29, 1754, Middletown, Conn.; m.(1) Susanna Collins, March 8, 1702, Middletown, Conn.; m.(2) Mindwell Lyman, March 11, 1749, Middletown, Conn.

(10) Hannah Harris, b. February 11, 1668, Middletown, Conn.; d. unknown, Rhode Island; m.(1) John Cook (3 children); m.(2) Jonathan Sprague of Providence, R.I. (*Ancestry of Bethia Harris/Davis, 1934*)

Residence/Property: "Located on the east side of Main Street." (FFS) The will of Daniel Harris enumerates 281 acres in various parcels, plus several parcels in which the acreage is not noted.

Will: Vol. 2, p. 72 (MAN). (Estate inventory, December 19, 1701: 501-09-00, i.e. 501 pounds)

Burial Location: Unknown, but most likely in Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn., where many of the earliest grave markers do not survive.

Notes:

(CAF): "William and Daniel Harris came to Middletown from Rowley, Mass." (Field, pg. 146)

(SAV): "DANIEL, Rowley 1643, perhaps br. of Anthony, m. Mary, d. of Joseph Weld of Roxbury rem. a. 1652, to Middletown, there in 1660 was appro. to keep an inn, a lieutenant in 1661, and capt. after, had large fam. Of his ds. Mary, b. 2 Apr. 1651, at Rowley, m. 26 Oct. 1669, Isaac Johnson, Jr. of Roxbury; Elizabeth 22 Mar. 1660, m. John Hunnewell; Sarah, 17 Feb. 1661, d. soon; Sarah, again, 3 Sept. 1663, m. Samuel Bidwell; Hannah, 11 Feb. 1670, m. first, a Cook, and, next, 5 June 1714, a Sprague. The s. were Daniel, b. 15 July 1653; Joseph, 12 Feb. 1655; Thomas, 20 May 1657; William, 17 July 1665; and John, 4 Jan. 1668. He d. last of Nov. 1701, and in his will, of 1699, names all the ch. ns liv. except d. Bidwell wh. he refers to as d. and Joseph, prob. d. His wid. Mary d. 5 Sept. 1711. [[vol. 2, p. 361]] DANIEL, Middletown, s. of the preced. m. 14 Dec. 1680, Abigail Barnes, had Abigail, b. 7 Feb. 1683; Mary, 11 Jan. 1686; Daniel, 2 Oct. 1688; Joseph, 1 Mar. 1691; and Patience, 15 May 1693. His w. d. 22 May 1723, and he m. 5 Jan. 1727, Elizabeth wid. of Samuel Cook of Wallingford, was a capt. and d. in 83d yr. 18 Oct. 1735."

(SAV): "WILLIAM, Middletown, s. of the first Daniel, m. 8 Jan. 1690, Martha Collins, prob. d. of Samuel, had Mary, b.



Daniel Harris (1653) / Mary (Weld) Harris
Page 2-2-2

19 Feb. 1692; Sibil, 30 Apr. 1695; William, 20 May 1697; and Prudence, 1 Jan. 1701.”

(The Ancestry of Bethia Harris, by Walter Goodwin Davis, Portland, Maine, Southworth Press, 1934): “CAPT. DANIEL; m. Mary Weld, daughter of Capt. Joseph and Elizabeth Weld of Roxbury; wheelwright; granted a house-lot in Rowley after 1643, and settled there and took the freeman's oath Sept. 30, 1651; removed about 1652 to Middletown where he was an inn-keeper in 1660; Lieutenant of the train-band in 1661; d. Nov. 30, 1701; will, dated March 13, 1698/9, left his homestead and all appurtenances, including his negro

Mengo, to his son John in return for care and support of his parents during their lives, and devised large acreages to sons Daniel, Thomas, William, daughters Mary Johnson, Elizabeth Honeywell, Hannah Cook, and grandchildren Thankful Bidwell and Abial Honeywell, his son John and son-in-law Samuel Bidwell being named executors; the widow Mary Harris d. Sept. 5, 1711.”

For further reading:

The Ancestry of Bethia Harris, by Walter Goodwin Davis, Portland, Maine, Southworth Press, 1934)

Jacobus, Donald Lines. “Early Harris Families of Western Connecticut.” *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 23, No. 3, January 1947, pg. 153-162.

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***Abbreviation code used in SMFSD
biographical sketches and in-depth profiles:***

(MVR) Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(BCVR) *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

(MLR) *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(MAN) *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

(CBRMC) *Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families*. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903.

(MUH) *Middletown Upper Houses* (Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.)

(FFS) Frank Farnsworth Starr (“The Settlers of Mattabesec 1650-1660.” *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

(CAF) *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

(GMB) *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996.)

(SAV) *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862.)

(GFHC) *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.)

(HMC) *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

(RPCC) *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

(HCCM) *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005.)

(NEHGSR) *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register)*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007. (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)

(TAG) *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)