

The earliest ancestors of the Harvey family that we have information of were Deacon John Willis and his wife Elizabeth who were first recorded at Duxbury, Mass., in 1637. He was an original proprietor and one of the first settlers of Bridgewater, Mass., and was the first Deacon there. (Bridgewater was incorporated in 1656). He sustained many town offices, both at Duxbury and Bridgewater and he represented Bridgewater at the Old Colony Court for 25 years. John Willis sold his estate to William Peabody in 1657, was appointed to solemnize marriages and administer oaths to witnesses and others. His will was dated 1693 and proved in 1693. Children therein named nine, among them Elizabeth Willis who married a Harvey. (From a Diary found at the farm).

Mary, 1759-1843, 6th generation, married Edmund Harvey, 1757-1807, her second cousin in Bridgewater, Mass., in 1782. Edmund was born in Attleboro, Mass., in 1757, where he spent his boyhood. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary War he enlisted in a company under the command of Captain Goldsmith and served a portion of the war. Having finished his period of service in the Army he came with his father's family to Hartland, Vermont, whence he found his way into Woodstock about 1781. In the early part of 1782, he married in Bridgewater, Mass., his second cousin Mary Harvey and the next year in the month of February started for Woodstock with family and stores. On his way he left baggage and stores at "No. 4" (Fort at Charlestown, N. H.) and pushed forward with wife and child to Cornish, N. H., where he put up at Chase's Tavern. After being weather-bound here for a few days, taking the ferry-boat the 5th day of March, they succeeded in crossing the river safely. Wife and child now pushed forward to Hartland and put up at the house of Mr. Luce, while Mr. Harvey returned to "No. 4" for baggage and stores. It took him from between four and five weeks to get through and back to Cornish again. No need of ferry-boat now. Such had been the severity of the weather during his trip to "No. 4" and back that the Connecticut River, though in high flood earlier and it was now the second week of April, was frozen over solid so that he crossed it with his loaded teams on the ice. He then pushed on to Hartland, picked up wife and child and reached and camped down on his own farm - just six weeks after the first crossing of the river at Cornish.

The farm consisted of 25 acres of land purchased from Josiah Clark the year before, not a rod of which was cleared as yet and the snow still plentiful and deep though it was past the middle of April. They occupied at first the log hut which Clark had vacated, situated in Happy Valley. Edmund and Mary had seven children, four girls and three boys: Olive, Lucy, Persis, Mary, Nathaniel, Nathan and Oliver. They remained in the log cabin for about two years and then moved into a log house he built a little further up the brook. This log house had two large rooms on the ground floor in which the family ate and slept and performed all their domestic labors, including spinning and weaving, making of butter and cheese and preparing fowls for market. In 1795, Mr. Harvey put up a frame house about 15 rods further down the road. He was drown-

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ed before he quite completed this house.

On the 29th of April, 1807, Mr. Harvey went with his son Nathan over to Mr. Burtch's store in Hartford to settle an account. On his return in the afternoon he attempted to cross the river above Taft's Dam in a canoe. The river was high from a spring flood, the current proved to be too strong for the men and the boat was swept over the Dam. The young man escaped but Mr. Harvey was carried down the stream and drowned. Fortunately, the son, about 20 years of age, after being carried down the falls for some distance was preserved by means of some flood wood from receiving any material injury. Edmund's body was accidentally found on Tuesday, May 12th, following, near the mouth of the Quechee River. (Spooners Vermont Journal, May 18, 1807).

Edmund was 50 years old at the time of his death. Mary lived on and remained here until her death in Taftsville, Vt., on March 18, 1843, aged nearly 84 years. (Dana's History) Both are buried in Cushing Cemetery, as well as daughter Mary, 1792-1881, who was 89 years old when she died.

Edmund Harvey had a brother Nathan who purchased a piece of land joining his on the South and a short distance from the brook are the remains of a cellar and stone fireplace and chimney. It seems he made an effort to start in for life there but gave up and nothing has been heard from him since, except that he left the land in the hands of the family to pay taxes and keep the title good. However, a Nathan Harvey, 6th generation, was listed as taking the Freeman's Oath, among 19, on March 3, 1778, prior to the first election under the Constitution and was listed as from Hartland. (History of Windsor County by Aldrich and Holmes).

A Joseph Harvey was listed in a muster roll of the company under the command of Captain Thos. Mitchell, Regiment of Thos. Clapp, Esq., Col., that marched on the alarm for the relief of Fort William Henry, August 1757.

Widow Millie Weston, a sister to Edmund Harvey and a well-taught woman for the times, married Charles Killam, Jr. It is a little remarkable that her two husbands, Weston and Killam, were both drowned in the Connecticut River while engaged in rafting. Millie was Charles first wife and they had three children, two died as babes and the third, Charles, was born the 7th of November, 1781. Mary died in November of 1781, and was buried at the corner of the Cushing Cemetery where the roads meet. (Mary and Charles lived somewhere near the Cushing Farm, now known as Maplewood Farm). Charles came to his death October, 1785, while in company with Solomon Emmons and a man named Doyle. They started a raft down the Connecticut for Old Hartford (Conn.) and reached Bellows Falls in safety. As yet neither dam nor locks had been built at this spot but rafts were accustomed to shoot the falls. In this case the men found they were going to be swept down the rapids on the raft so to save themselves they leaped into the water - Killam and Doyle feet first, and Emmons head first, who thus escaped to tell the story while the other two drowned. Killam's body was born down as far as Old Hartford where it was washed ashore, picked up and buried.

After Edmund's death, Oliver, youngest son of Mary and Edmund, stayed and lived on the farm - bought out some of the

of the Estate and married Elizabeth Ransom. died here, on May 23, of his birth or his parents research done by Mrs. son George W., born May 16, 1920.

George W. remained Conant Brown on May 31 July 17, 1831). George born at Woodstock October Alice G. During their married life they lived was listed in Child's and Joiner, Breeder of Jersey cattle, Sugar C. At the same time his and Public School Teacher sheep and sold wool in Ray M. Harvey in the fire when stored Caroline Harvey died age of 72 years and 8 ery).

Next in line was Hartland. Frank farmer Brickyard and also had four children all born 1892, Ray M., November and Evan, May 30, 1899 Harvey Doubleday and a Shurtleff is the only Evan died of the Flu

Ray M., son of Frank married Marion Smith children, all born while Jane, born July 25, 19 Wilfred, born Dec. 17 of an automobile accident born July 15, 1943 and fire at the farmhouse. Ray mainly farmed with Marion were active in as were their children

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of the Estate and made some additions to the farm. He mar-
ried Elizabeth Ransom. While Oliver was born, married and
died here, on May 23, 1865, there is no record at Woodstock
of his birth or his parents or childrens names according to
research done by Mrs. Ruth Harvey Shurtleff. They did have a
son George W., born March 24, 1829, in Woodstock - died April
16, 1920.

George W. remained on the farm and married Mrs. Caroline
Conant Brown on May 31, 1859. (She was born in Goshen, Vt.,
July 17, 1831). George and Caroline had a son Frank H.,
born at Woodstock October 2, 1864, died in 1943, and a daugh-
ter Alice G. During the nearly forty-five years of their
married life they lived on the home place. George W. Harvey
was listed in Child's Gazetteer in 1883-84 as a "Carpenter
and joiner, Breeder of Grade Merino Sheep, 30 head of Grade
Jersey cattle, Sugar Orchard of 600 trees and Farmer 95 acres".
At the same time his daughter Alice G. was listed as "Music
and Public School Teacher." Evidence that the family raised
sheep and sold wool in Boston at this period was found by Mrs.
Ray M. Harvey in the form of sales slips which were later lost
in a fire when stored in her mother's home in Woodstock.
Caroline Harvey died on March 18, 1903, of the grippe, at the
age of 72 years and 8 months. (Internment is in Hillside Cemet-
ery).

Next in line was Frank H. who married Mabel Tracy of
Hartland. Frank farmed a little and worked in the Spaulding
Brickyard and also made butter to sell in Woodstock. They had
four children all born on the home place: Wendell T., May 27,
1892, Ray M., November 2, 1895, Ruth H., January 30, 1898,
and Evan, May 30, 1899. Wendell T. was the father of Patricia
Harvey Doubleday and at the present writing Mrs. Ruth Harvey
Shurtleff is the only surviving one of George W.'s children.
Evan died of the Flu during World War 1.

Ray M., son of Frank H., remained on the home place and
married Marion Smith of Woodstock in 1937. They had five
children, all born while they lived there, as follows: Nancy
Jane, born July 25, 1938, Joan Ruth, born Nov. 23, 1939, Ted
Wilfred, born Dec. 17, 1941 and died August 8, 1958, result
of an automobile accident in Ormond, Florida, Susan Marguerite,
born July 15, 1943 and died in May of 1945, result of a tragic
fire at the farmhouse, and Thomas Frank, born Jan. 21, 1948.
Ray mainly farmed with about 35 head of cattle. Both he and
Marion were active in all local doings, being very well liked,
as were their children.

An old Cello found in the barn by the Ray Harveys was
given to the Woodstock High School when they needed instru-
ments. It was sent to Boston for repairs and was said to have
been made during Revolutionary War times so was very old.
Mrs. Marion Clendaniel says the Cello is still stored at the
school but not in use. It proved to be what was called an old
Church Bass (more a Bass than a Cello, but not really either)
and a hand-made sort of instrument of odd size, very hard to
play or teach on but nevertheless an interesting instrument
of Historical value she said.

Ray M. Harvey died quite suddenly of a heart attack on
February 12, 1952, leaving his wife and four young children.
Marion sold the stock, equipment and the farm and the follow-

ing September moved to Ormond Beach, Florida, where she still resides, now as Mrs. Clinton Walker, having remarried. This was the end of about 170 years of a direct Harvey line living on the farm in Happy Valley.

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Hastings, Sr. purchased the farm in 1952, from Marion Harvey, moving here from West Lebanon, N. H. Scott, Sr., born 1904, has been a salesman for the Twin State Fruit Company of White River Junction, Vt., since 1928. His wife Joesphine Fontana, born 1901, is a former school teacher. The land is no longer actively farmed, however, it is let out for pasture for horses and young stock to different people. The Hastings tore down some of the barns and built a new garage. They have two sons, Robert, born 1928, and Scott, Jr., born 1924. Robert lived here with them for a time and then Scott, Jr., with his wife Elsie Richards, born 1927, with two sons lived here for about three years, coming from Newport, N. H., while building their own new home. Their children are: Scott Oliver III, born 1949, Alec William, born 1951, and Duncan Edward, born 1954, while here in Taftsville.

The Hastings Sr. sold the property to Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Struass, a young couple from New York State, in 1966. He is a teacher of Anthropology at Canaan College and Dona is an instructor in Math at Dartmouth College, being an Assistant Professor. Dona originally came from the Union of South Africa while Ed's home was in Missouri.



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