

Harris Family

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The following was written by Mrs. Corinne Harris Rust to her great nephew, Elbert F. Harris, after his request for a brief record of her knowledge of our common ancestry. It was written in 1953 when she was about 87 years old.

OBITUARY OF DR. GEORGE E. HARRIS

(Written by Judge Garnet Andrews of Yazoo City, a life long friend and school-mate of my father's)

From the Washington, Ga. Gazette

"From the Yazoo, Miss. Banner of the 17th inst. we learn of the death of Dr. George E. Harris, a native of this county. A son of Mr. Elbert Harris, who resided 5 miles east of this place. Dr. Harris was an intimate friend of the editor of the Gazette in the years long gone by, and was associated with^{him} in the study of medicine. Many of old friends in Wilkes County will hear with pain, the news of his death. We copy from the Yazoo Banner the following tribute to his memory.

'The death of this gentlemen is a severe loss to the community, to his profession and to his friends. Dr. Harris was born and reared in Wilkes County, Georgia where he was distinguished during his youth and early manhood for his bright intellect, sterling moral qualities and genial, affectionate manners, which endeared him to a large circle of friends. He moved to Desoto Parish, Louisiana where he invested a handsome fortune, which was entirely swept away by the misfortune of war. A few years since, he settled in Yazoo County near Pickens, where his dauntless energy, high professional skill and excellent qualities of heart, had already given him the fine social position which he has always had wherever known.

He was an acquisition to any community, an ornament to his profession. His life presents one of those peculiar fates that excite the sympathy of all good men. For years he had battled most manfully against a series of adversities for which he was in no ways responsible. With victory and success at last in sight, he was called to follow a beautiful little daughter who preceeded him to the land of rest only two months. He leaves an afflicted widow and 4 orphan children to mourn his loss'.

(Papers at Washington, Georgia, and Mansfield, Louisiana, Please copy)

As I promised you Elbert, I've copied my father's obituary, and hope you being his own great-grandson, you'll preserve it for, if interested, future generations. His mother was Miss Amelia Ray. He was related to some very fine people in Georgia, and I don't believe there was any shoddiness in my father. This is all I know of his side of the house, but will write a skit about the other side and enclose with this. Aunt Corrine.

(I am his only direct decendent living).

Drew H. Temple
- Pockrandt

Thinking that it may be of interest to my grand children, am telling what little I know of our ancestry, most of it hearsay.

My parternal grandfather, Elbert G. Harris - whose ancestry was from Holland, settled near the Town of Washington, Wilks County, Georgia, where he and his wife Amelia Ray, acquired quite a bit of property, real estate and slaves, which property was left to their two sons, George Elbert and William Crawford Harris, the only surviving heirs, who later migrated to and settled in DeSoto Parish, Louisiana, bringing their slaves with them in the year 1859. From what I, as a child, have heard the old slaves say, My Grandmother Ray, must have been a woman of deep religious convictions, as they (the old slaves) loved to tell about "Old Miss reading the Bible and holding Prayer services in the slave quarters at least once a week."

My maternal grandfather, Thomas Winne, a Highland Scot, married Colista Pearson, daughter of Overton Pearson and Jennie Mohony, near Warrenton, North Carolina, and later migrated to the State of Mississippi, where he died before the Civil War. My grandfather Winne, whose Scottish ancestors (of "Clan McAlpin") expoused the cause of "Bonnie Prince Charley" (who lost his cause and his head too) were forced to flee from Scotland, and migrate to America.

I, your grandfather, William Ray Harris, am the son of George Elbert Harris, and Mary J. Winne Harris. My father died in Yazoo County, Mississippi, September 28, 1873, when I was just past thirteen years of age. Your grandmother, Nena Hale Harris was the daughter of Abner McGraw Hale and Laura Rembert, daughter of Dr. Rembert, a native of Paris, France, and Amelia Hale. After buying several thousand acres of land in Desoto and Sabine Parishes, Louisiana, the Hales, McGraws and Bensons (all kin-folks) migrated from Alabama to Louisiana, in the late 1840's, bringing their slave property with them and have remained in Louisiana until all the older ones have died out, and all buried in the old Phillips Chapel Cemetery, located in the north eastern quarter of Section Thirty Five, Township Eleven North, Range Thirteen West, Desoto Parish, Louisiana.

Dr. Rembert's home was in the Town of Mansfield, Louisiana, but he owned a plantation stocked with slaves just east of where the Town of Mitchell, Sabine Parish, Louisiana is located.

* Pockrandt
* E. H. Temple