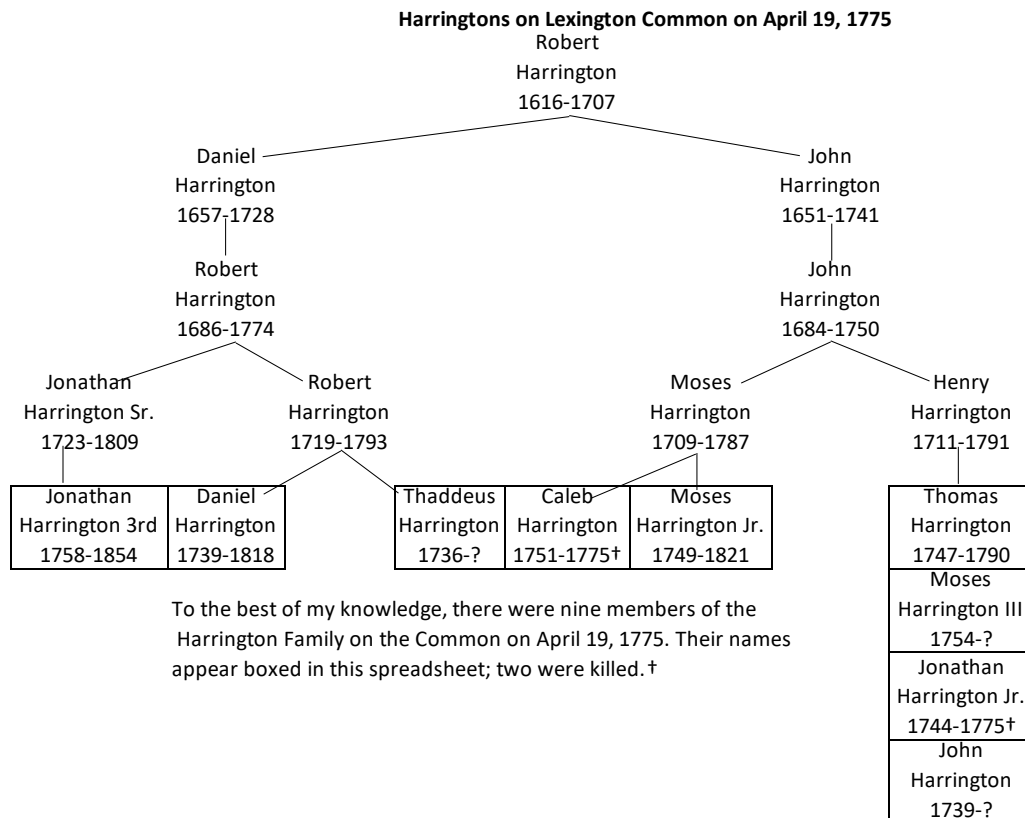


Thomas Harrington
A Brief Biography
By Bill Poole

Thomas Harrington was , as were all the other Lexington Harringtons, a descendant of Robert Harrington — the first of the Harringtons to come to Massachusetts. Robert settled in Watertown in 1642 where he married Susanna George on October 1, 1649. Susanna predeceased Robert on July 6, 1694, and he died May 17, 1707.¹ Their gravestones can be seen in the Old Burying Ground in Watertown.² Robert and Susanna had thirteen children, the second of whom was John, born August 24, 1651. He married Hannah Winter at Watertown on November 17, 1681. She died July 17, 1741 and he followed on August 24, 1741.⁴ They lived in that part of Watertown that became Waltham and are buried in Grove Hill Cemetery in Waltham.⁵ They had twelve children, the second of whom was John, born October, 1684, died November 29, 1749-50.⁶ He married Elizabeth Cutter of Cambridge Farms (Later Lexington) on April 12, 1705. Elizabeth was born March 5, 1680-81 and died February 8, 1749-50.⁷ Their burial site is unknown. John and Elizabeth had nine children the fourth of whom was Henry born January 8, 1711-12, died December 25, 1791.⁸ Henry married Sarah Laughton in Lexington on June 4, 1735. He and Sarah had eleven children, the sixth of whom was Thomas, the subject of this biography.⁹

On April 19, 1775 Thomas was joined on Lexington Common by eight other Harringtons — two first cousins, three third cousins, and three brothers [See flowchart below]. We do not know if the brothers stood side-by-side on the Common where they experienced the devastating volleys of the British Regulars. If they did, they would have seen their Brother, Jonathan, Jr, receive a fatal wound [See the Jonathan Harrington Jr. Biography on this site].



Along with his brothers, John and Moses, Thomas would have seen their brother Jonathan Jr. placed in a hastily constructed wooden coffin and then hurriedly buried along with the other victims of that morning in a common grave at the rear of the Old Burying Ground. The site was then covered with branches to hide it from the returning Regulars for fear they would desecrate the bodies.¹⁰

Thomas served on several occasions with the army:

He was a Private, in a detachment from Lexington militia co. command by Capt. John Parker; service 5 days; detachment reported on command at Cambridge from May 6 to May 10, 1775, by order of Committee of Safety.

also, Private, in a detachment from Lexington militia co. commanded by Capt. John Parker; service 1 day; detachment reported on command at Cambridge from May 6 to May 10, 1775, by order of Committee of Safety. [Name appears twice on roll.]

also, Private, in a detachment from Lexington militia co. commanded by Capt. John Parker; service 2 days; detachment reported on command at Cambridge from June 17 to June 18, 1775, by order of Committee.

also, Private, Capt. John Bridge's co., Col. Eleazer Brooks's regt.; service from March 4 to March 8, 5 days; company stationed at Roxbury.

also, Private, List of men who guarded the cannon at Lexington and thence to Cambridge; warrant for pay allowed in Council April 26, 1776. [This warrant was issued much later than the service rendered. These cannon were those brought from Ticonderoga by Colonel Henry Knox to support the siege of Boston.]

also, Private, Capt. Phineas Stearns's co; service 5 days; company marched from Watertown by order of General Washington to reinforce the army at the time of the taking of Dorchester Heights in March, 1776. [This would have been the fortification of Dorchester Heights and the mounting of the cannon brought from Fort Ticonderoga by Colonel Henry Knox.]

Private, Capt. Daniel Harrington's co., Col. Jonathan Reed's regt. of guards; enlisted April 1, 1778; service to July 3, 1778; 3 mos. 2 days, at Cambridge, enlisted, 3 months from April 2, 1778.¹¹

Thomas married in Lexington on July 1, 1771, Lucy Perry of Bedford, MA. She was the Daughter of Thomas and Abigail (maiden name unknown), born in Lexington on September 25, 1750. Thomas and Lucy's daughter, Elizabeth, was born in Lexington on December 19, 1773.¹² That is the last entry for Thomas in Lexington, and Charles Hudson's states:

No record of his family except the birth of one child. Perhaps he moved 'into the country.' His name is upon the tax list in 1775 but was omitted in 1778."¹³

Many Lexingtonians left town for greater opportunity, some during the Revolutionary War, but most at its conclusion. Land was scarce in Lexington, all arable areas were taken and parents with several sons could not further divide their land to provide for all. Charles Hudson was correct in assuming that Thomas moved "into the country." He most likely left town sometime in 1778 after his April enlistment was over.

We can trace the family's movements through the births of their children. Three children were born in Marlboro, VT: Micah, born May 18, 1781; Abigail, born December 4, 1783; and Lucy, born February 23, 1787. The next child, William, was supposedly born in Fitzwilliam, NH, about 50 miles from Marlboro, but I have not found his birth in the records of Fitzwilliam. The birth of their last child, Daniel, born December 11, 1789, is found in the records of Royalston, MA, about 9 miles from Marlboro.¹⁴

Not only did Thomas and Lucy move westward, so did Lucy's parents, Thomas and Abigail Grover Perry who settled at Royalston. Abigail died there on May 30, 1806 at age 76, and Thomas died in Royalston on January 9, 1818 "in his 91st yr." There are no deaths of Harringtons recorded in Royalston.¹⁵ One source states that Thomas Harrington died in Albany, New York and some claim that Lucy Perry Harrington died at some unknown location at age 83. The fact that three of Thomas and Lucy's children moved to New York, may support the claim that Thomas died there, but no direct evidence has been found.

Children of Thomas and Lucy Perry Harrington

Micah married Hannah Smith, and he died on April 19, 1831 in Albion, NY. He is buried in Mount Albion Cemetery.¹⁶

Abigail it is claimed, married George Washington Hawkins and had six children, dying in childbirth delivering her last child on April 2, 1823 in Plattsburg, NY. I have not been able to confirm this.¹⁷

Daniel died on December 11, 1789 in Somerset, New York and is buried in the Somerset Cemetery¹⁸

Lucy, however, married Samuel Richardson, moved to Roxbury, VT and died there on January 8, 1863.¹⁹

Elizabeth, the only child born in Lexington, may have been the **Betsy Harrington** who married Charles Garfield in Royalston on March 16 1797. She would have been twenty-three.²⁰

William, has escaped detection.

Footnotes

¹Charles Hudson, *History of the Town of Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts from Its First Settlement to 1868, Revised and Continued to 1912*, Two Volumes, Lexington Historical Society, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1913, Volume II, *Genealogy*, pp. 275-6;

²Henry Bond, *Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Massachusetts, Including Waltham and Weston: To Which is Appended the Early History of the Town, With Illustrations, Maps and Notes*, New England Historic-Genealogical Society, Boston, 1860, pp. 272-3.

³Photos of their gravestones can be seen at:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=20992084>

⁴Bond, p. 273

⁵*Ibid.*, pp. 273-4.

⁶A photo of their gravestone can be found at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34308448/john-harrington>

⁷Bond, p. 273; Hudson, *Genealogies*, pp. 272-73.

⁸*Ibid.*

⁹Hudson, *Genealogies*, p. 275-6.

¹⁰Letter of Elizabeth Clarke, daughter of Reverend Jonas Clarke, written to her niece, Lucy Ware Allen on April 20, 1835, describing the events of April 19, 1775 and the burial of the victims, collection of the Lexington Historical Society.

¹¹Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War, A compilation from the Archives Prepared and Published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth in Accordance with Chapter 100, Resolves of 1891, Boston, Wright & Potter, 1896-1908, Volume 7, pp. 332-33.

¹²Hudson, *Genealogy*, p. 278; *Vital Records of Lexington, MA from 1692-1897* at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Lexington/aBirthsP.shtml>; and *Vital Records of Lexington, MA from 1692-1897* at <https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Lexington/aMarriagesP.shtml>; and *Vital Records of Bedford, MA to the End of the Year 1849* at <https://mavitalrecords.org/MA/Middlesex/Bedford/aMarriagesP.shtml>

¹³Hudson, *Genealogies*, p. 278.

¹⁴The births of the five children born outside of Lexington are recorded in *Royalston Births*, p. 40 at https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Worcester/Royalston/Images/Royalston_B040.shtml

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶ A photo of Mica's gravestone may be found at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/111045265/micah-harrington>¹⁵

¹⁷ This information was found at <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hawkins-9414>

¹⁸A photo of Daniel's gravestone can be found at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/26575673/daniel-harrington>

¹⁹A photo of Lucy's grave can be seen at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232663239/lucy-richardson>

²⁰https://ma-vitalrecords.org/MA/Worcester/Royalston/Images/Royalston_M116.shtml