

William Harris, b. ca 1720, m. abt. 1740 Anne Coles, dau. of Joseph Coles. A list of Early Settlers of Georgia, by Coulter: "Will Harris - Lot 126, Savannah, granted April 1737. Anne, wife, on her husband's death, she and her son became inmate on Lot 68 with her mother, Ann Cassell Cole Salter. Lawrence Mellichamp possessed it before, who deserted 6/3/1736. Dead 1737. Will, son, born in Colony."

In 1737, William Harris and Thomas Salter with the Will of John Dearn, Savannah, freeholder, Chatham Co. Thomas Salter was 2nd husband of Anna Cassells Coles, mother of his w., Anne Coles. In 1742, William Harris owned 50 acres at Town of Frederica on "the road to the north end", which crossed Military Road from the fort. William Harris d. betwn 1742 and 1753, for his wid., Anne Harris, b. 1723, made her Will dtd 1759, Savannah, Ga., as Mrs. Daniel Demetre, wherein she named her grandson, William Thomas Harris. Will of Daniel Demetre, dtd 7/12/1758, pvd 8/10/1758, Savannah, Ga., named son-in-law, William Thomas Harris, and gave him the plantation of 750 acres, "Dickenson's Neck" in McIntosh Co, also named his gr-dau., Anne Harris. William Harris had inherited "Salter's Island" from his stepfather-in-law, Thomas Salter, which was about 3 mi. from Savannah. A List of Early Settlers of Georgia, by Coulter, "Salter, Thomas, arrived 1733. Lot 68 Savannah. Married Anne, the widow of Joseph Coles 9/9/1736." William Harris and Anne Coles were from London, England. He had a sister, Elizabeth, and bros., Francis Henry Harris, d. 10/8/1771, Merchant, Chatham Co., Ga., and Thomas Harris, verified from Will of Francis Harris, dtd 7/15/1771, pvd 10/29/1771, Savannah, Ga., which named his late bro., Thomas Harris of London and nephew, William Harris; also his sister, Elizabeth. Francis Harris was Clerk to Thomas Jones, storekeeper at Savannah over whom there was so much disdainment, Jones' bookkeeping methods, etc. being frequently challenged by the settlers. Mrs. Francis Harris died week of 2/14-21/1770, Chatham Co. Index to Deaths.

Anne Coles, b. 1723, England, m. 1st William Harris ca 1740, 2nd Daniel Demetre, her Will dtd 1759, Savannah, Ga., the dau. of Joseph Coles, b. 1704, England, Miller and Baker who m. ca 1722 in England, Anna Cassells. Joseph Coles d. 3/4/1734/5, Savannah, Ga. His w., Anna Cassells, b. 1704, left her Will dtd 1753 Savannah, Ga., m. 2nd 9/9/1736 Thomas Salter of Savannah. A List of Early Settlers of Georgia, by Coulter, "Joseph Coles, aged 28, Miller and Baker, Lot 27, Savannah. Dead 3/4/1734 or 1735. Anna Coles, wife." Joseph Coles embarked on ship "Ann" with General Oglethorpe, 11/6/1732, arriving Savannah 2/1/1733. Anna Cassells Coles second husband, Thomas Salter, was a saddler, who arrived 1733 in Colony, naming his wife's son, William Harris, in his Will, giving him Salter's Island. Anna Salter, the widow of Thomas Salter, in her Will, left legacy to her grandson, William Thomas Harris, "in care of my daughter, Ann Demetre, until he is twenty-one." Also left her dau., Ann Demetre, lands in Great Britain, naming her son-in-law, Daniel Demetre, and another dau., Penelope Cassell.

William Harris and his wife, Anne, lived at Frederica, the stronghold of General Oglethorpe, against the Spanish. A Spanish fleet was cited off shores of St. Simons Island [Frederica] 7/5/1742, and the Battle of Bloody Marsh ensued. No doubt, William Harris fought in this battle, and died shortly thereafter, for General Oglethorpe granted his widow, Ann Harris, a town lot in Frederica, for the use of herself, her orphan son, and mother. From this location, she ran a merchandise store, and was well-known in the colony for her business dealings with James Habersham and others, and in her name deed transactions. In 1750 General Oglethorpe's regiment left the colony and the town suffered, many families leaving also. Her 2nd husband, Daniel Demetre, whom she married in 1752, bought 500 acres on the Newport River, calling his plantation "Bethany". Ann Harris was granted Lot No. 27 in North Ward at Frederica by Oglethorpe 12/3/1742, the marker on this lot reading: "Ann Harris of Savannah was a widow left with many debts. She operated a freight boat to Frederica before Oglethorpe gave her this lot. Here she ran a store and became the outstanding business-woman of colonial Georgia." The name of her schooner was "Bethesda", worked by four negroes, Brutus, Harry, James. She was in the timber business, shipping logs from Savannah to Frederica, etc. Her store at Frederica had much inventory, so that a marriage contract was entered into with Daniel Demetre outlining her obligations to her mother, half and half, dtd 4/2/1752, at Frederica. Said contract is extensive, naming Daniel Demetre's holdings. After her mother's death, the lot at Frederica was to be used for Ann and her husband, Daniel Demetre, however, when her mother died, in 1753, Will dtd 12/19/1753, they removed to Savannah. The Will of Ann Coles Harris Demetre dtd 2/20/1755, pvd at Savannah 8/3/1758; Daniel's Will dtd 7/12/1758, pvd 8/10/1758. In 1759, the Gov. of Ga. visited the Town of Frederica reporting that "it was in ruins."

William Thomas Harris, b. ca 1741 or 1742 Frederica, Georgia, removed to the Liberty County plantation on Newport River, called "Bethany", of 500 acres, living the rest of his life there. His Will dtd 8/15/1785, pvd 1/20/1786, Liberty Co. Ga. He bequeathed to his son, William Thomas Harris, lot in Savannah to be his after twenty one years; remainder of his est. to be divided between three sons, William Thomas, John and James. All pers. prop. to daus., Ann, Mary, Jane and Sabra, and w., Mary.

Jane Harris, b. ca 1769 Liberty Co., Ga. m. 2/29/1790, Andrew Danielly, Richmond Co. Ga. Her bro., Jone, lived St. Simons Island in 1801, and was Sheriff of Glynn Co. 1812. Author descends from this lineage.



Harris Neck on the South Newport River  
in McIntosh County. The home of  
William Thomas Harris