



# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

## IN THIS ISSUE

2024 Reunion .....	1
Join the Harris Family Organization .....	2
President's Message.....	2
Nathan Harris and Revolutionary War.....	3
Harris Family History Books Available .....	3
HFO Webpage and Email .....	4
Future Reunion Plans.....	5
Roots Tech .....	5
Nathan Harris/Rhoda Lapham Memorial .....	5
HFO Officers.....	5

Hello Cousins! It was wonderful to meet up in person for those who were able to gather for the Nathan Harris and Rhoda Lapham Family Reunion on June 29th! For those who were unable to attend, we invite you to watch the meeting and all the fabulous presentations on YouTube on:

<https://youtu.be/onMcXWf-ReE>

The Harris Family Organization Board continues to meet to plan future events, prepare newsletters, discuss family history, and gather our family members.

Please share and use our website (and if you are willing to help work to expand the website, please let us know!):

<https://harrisfamilyhistory.org/>

Last note, if you are receiving this email, you have already joined our email list. If you have not yet provided your family history connection to the Harris family for future descendant tree mapping, please fill out our additional form to connect with The Nathan Harris and Rhoda Lapham Family Organization <https://forms.gle/8fcR6bPq99ojFJHS9>

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at [nathanharrisfamily.org@gmail.com](mailto:nathanharrisfamily.org@gmail.com) and please spread the word about the organization's work to all our cousins!

Want to join the  
Harris Family Organization?  
[Click Here to Join Our Email  
List](#)

Or join on our webpage at

#### Presidents Message

A few days ago, I completed the first annual renewal of our non-profit corporation for the Utah Department of Commerce. Taking care of this formality caused me to reflect on what we have accomplished in the short time we have been functioning as an ancestral family organization, uniting the branches of the Nathan and Rhoda Harris family. Our activities have included the following:

- \*Contributed to FamilySearch.org's development of an application which will allow family organizations such as ours to oversee the additions and edits to our family tree. This is known as a controlled editing tree. This will help family organizations preserve their research and analysis.

- \*Established an internet website for the family: [harrisfamilyhistory.org](http://harrisfamilyhistory.org)

- \*Sponsored Harris Family Reunion 2024 held at Harrisville, Utah. A video recording of the program is available to view. The YouTube link is provided at the website under "News." There are several excellent presentations, including Randy Harris's report on how the ancestry of the initial colonial Harris brothers was discovered.

- \*Starting this family newsletter. This is the second, and we are planning to produce a quarterly newsletter.

One of our principal plans is an activity to honor Nathan Harris's contribution to the Revolutionary War effort. 2026 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country's Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. We are planning an event in June 2026 at Kirtland and Mentor, Ohio to honor Nathan Harris's service in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island (Battalion) Regiment during the war, and to place a commemorative gravestone in the Mentor, Ohio Municipal Cemetery.

We invite you to get involved in our activities. In addition to considering a visit to Kirtland, Ohio in June, 2026 to participate in the events mentioned above, there are many areas where help is needed: helping to organize your part of the family, to identify and record the descendants of Nathan and Rhoda Harris, and to help create and preserve the family's stories. To get involved, you can volunteer on the website, or you can send an email to any of the officers listed in this newsletter. Mark

## Nathan Harris and the Revolutionary War

After years of relative peace and friendship with Great Britain, the relationship between Britain and the colonies deteriorated following the French Indian War. The war between the French and English amassed a huge debt which Britain wanted the colonies to help pay for. They imposed taxes as a way for the colonists to pay their share. The colonists clashed with Britain over the regulations of trade, representation, and taxes. In 1775, the tension reached a boiling point and both sides prepared for war.

The shot that rang out in Lexington and Concord marked the beginning of the war of Independence. Men came from all thirteen colonies to serve in the war. Most men were between the ages of 15 and 40 years old. Before the war, these men were farmers, merchants, and laborers. These farmers were not versed in war like the British who had years of experience in battle.

One of the 231,000 men who fought in the Revolutionary War was a man by the name of Nathan Harris.

Nathan Harris was born in 1758 in Providence, Rhode Island, enlisted in 1777 at the age of nineteen. Nathan was a Corporal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island Regiment under the commanding officer Colonel Israel Angell with eight companies, the first commanded by Captain Tew.

History of the of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Rhode Island can be found in the following links:

["A Short History of the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment of the Continental Line"](#), by Roy P. Najecki, 1983.

Nathan Harris took part in several famous battles of the American Revolutionary War such as:

[Red Bank \(Fort Mercer\) New Jersey](#)

[Valley Forge PA](#)

[Barren Hill](#)

[Monmouth New Jersey](#)

[Rhode Island](#)

The war ended in 1783 when the Continental Army led by George Washington forced the British to surrender at Yorktown.

### **BOOKS:**

**Harrisville Horizons** Price: \$10.00

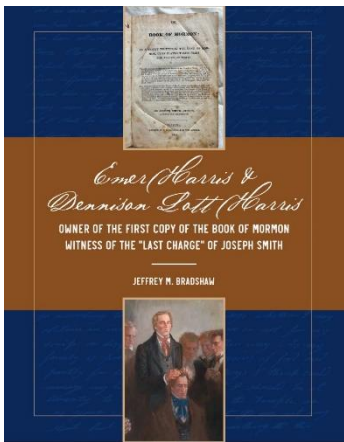
The collection of the material for this volume was a volunteer effort of the Harrisville Historical Committee over a period of approximately ten years. It has been prepared using personal accounts, journals, letters,

biographies, and other written histories of the area. The authors interviewed long-time residents of Harrisville for insights into the community and its people from their perspective.

The book contains research into the early settlement of Harrisville and Farr West. It includes early troubles with Native Americans, the establishment of Bingham's Fort, and research on railroads through the area. It describes the education, trials with sickness and death, and persecution for polygamy in Harrisville, all documented by journals. It gives a verbal account of early farm life including agriculture in the area and the transition into a more urban lifestyle. Included is the land acquisition from Harrisville by the federal government to establish Defense Depot Ogden and the POW encampments as well as the effect the war years had on the area. The book is interwoven with stories and pictures to add interest.

**Harrisville Horizons is available for purchase at the Harrisville City Office.**

**Emer Harris & Dennison Lott Harris: Owner of the First Copy of the Book of Mormon, Witness of the "Last Charge" of Joseph Smith, by Jeffrey M. Bradshaw** Price: \$19.80



In this book, you will find the full story of two little known heroes of the Restoration: Emer and Dennison Lott Harris.

Emer said he received the first bound copy of the Book of Mormon from his brother Martin and recorded unique details of some of the events in its lost pages. But that is only the beginning. Emer's acceptance of the truths and covenants of the Gospel frequently left him and his family impoverished, in peril, and physically worn down. It was Emer's knowledge of the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon and the divine call of the Prophet who brought it forth that enabled him to lay down his all for the Lord.

Referring to Emer's son Dennison Lott, Joseph Smith once said, "There's the boy I can trust." Dennison's personal narrative describes the harrowing events in 1844 when he risked his life to protect Joseph Smith from dissidents plotting against his life. Much less known is Dennison's role as the only independent witness to events surrounding Joseph Smith's "Last Charge" to the Quorum of the Twelve as he prepared to "roll the kingdom off [his] shoulders" onto theirs. The encounters of Catholic scholars John M. Reiner and Stephen H. Webb with the restored Church of Jesus Christ highlight the importance of the keys received by the apostles, then and now.

**You can also find the Emer Harris Book on Amazon linked here: [Emer Harris & Dennison Lott Harris: Owner of the First Copy of the Book of Mormon, Witness of the "Last Charge" of Joseph Smith](#)**

For more information about our organization, visit our webpage!



Harris Family Organization

[HarrisFamilyHistory.org](http://HarrisFamilyHistory.org)

Or you can reach us by sending an email to [nathanharrisfamily.org@gmail.com](mailto:nathanharrisfamily.org@gmail.com)

## **Future Gatherings and Reunions:**

Please join us for a general virtual meeting for the Harris Family Organization on January 19, 2025, at 4pm. More details to come.

2026 – Mentor, Ohio

Nathan Harris and Rhoda moved to the Kirtland Ohio area in 1831 along with their 3 oldest sons and their families. Nathan and Rhoda lived with their 3<sup>rd</sup> son, Preserved and his wife Nancy Warren, in Mentor just 4 miles north of Kirtland. In 1835 Nathan died at age 77. Joseph Smith preached at his funeral held in the Harris home in Mentor. It is likely Nathan was buried on this same land owned by his son Preserved. Rhoda died in 1849 at age 90. Again, she was likely buried near her husband on Harris land. The Mentor Municipal Cemetery was not established until 1854. And Preserved Harris purchased several lots for his family, all of which have not been used for burials.

The Nathan Harris and Rhoda Lapham Family Organization has plans to place a memorial on site at the Mentor Cemetery to honor the legacy of Nathan and Rhoda. The monument will contain a brief history and list their 8 children. Efforts are underway to secure the location, raise funding to construct the monument and plan an onsite event to commemorate the place of the memorial. June 2026 has been set for the event which will be live streamed for those who cannot attend.



## **Nathan Harris and Rhoda Lapham Family Organization officers:**

Mark Taylor, President [tmjtbat2@gmail.com](mailto:tmjtbat2@gmail.com).

Brent Belnap, Vice President [brent@brentjbelnap.com](mailto:brent@brentjbelnap.com)

Randy Harris, Vice President, Genealogist [email@randyharris.com](mailto:email@randyharris.com)

Suzanne Adams, Vice President, Descendancy [suzanneradams@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneradams@gmail.com)

Tod Harris, Treasurer [todrharris@gmail.com](mailto:todrharris@gmail.com)

Erin Ethington, Secretary [erethington@gmail.com](mailto:erethington@gmail.com)

Teri Paice, Newsletter Editor [paiceteri62@gmail.com](mailto:paiceteri62@gmail.com)

Jeff Bradshaw, Tree Platform, Technology [jbradshaw2@me.com](mailto:jbradshaw2@me.com)

Kenyan Allan, President Martin Harris Family [kenyanallan@gmail.com](mailto:kenyanallan@gmail.com)

Susan McLean, Events Planning, Newsletter [susanmclean12@gmail.com](mailto:susanmclean12@gmail.com)

Tara Hall, General Officer [thall04@gmail.com](mailto:thall04@gmail.com).

Jan West, General Office, History [jan@libertyknee.com](mailto:jan@libertyknee.com).