

# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Compiled and Written by Miles Harris



An updated painting of a quarry in Lime Rock by Vincent Bernsaconi (1885-1962)

Displayed as part of an exhibit of the artist works on the Blackstone Historical Society's Great Road Day

# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

### And the My Harris Family Connection

Compiled and Written by Miles Harris III

#### **Introduction**

When I first started this article I had found the research compiled in [Harris Family in Rhode Island Lime Works Research Notes \(reference as HFLWRN\)](#) by LRHarris (Randy) author of [Harris Family News](#). His research notes are sorted by contributors with some in a linear genealogy generational format. I've decided, using the research notes and their sources, to create a deeper somewhat genealogy generational date order presentation and augment the paper with my own family research as well as historical research related to the subject. Little did I realize what a rabbit hole I was about to go down. It has been quite an adventure of discovery these past three months as I've explored the history of my family's involvement in the lime industry of Rhode Island. As you read this article, I hope I have provided a more complete picture of what was one of Colonial America's first major industry.

Besides thanking LRHarris for his work on the notes, I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Lori Mellucci of Blackstone Historical Society who has provided me with information and links to information as well as her own personal photographs of the lime quarries and kilns of Lime Rock, Rhode Island. Since I'm some 3000 miles in Ventura away, and relying on the internet for my research, her knowledge of the area and subject were an immeasurable help.

It should be noted, as with any paper and especially with genealogy research, a great deal of the research was done by others and I've tried to give them credit, however, I could have missed some. If I did, I apologize and will correct if informed. I also don't intend to profit off this work, rather I will make it available to everyone at no cost. If someone's quoted work is in this paper, credited or not, and they aren't okay with it, let me know and I will rectify it.

Also realize that, while I strive for accuracy, I don't claim this paper to be a formal research paper with foot and end notes. While there are no foot and end notes, I have embedded reference links into the article as well as a list of some sources at the end. The links embedded in the name (example: [Thomas Harris Sr.](#)) will take you to that person's page on FamilySearch.com. There you will find supporting sources.

The organization and compiling of the information are entirely of my own doing. Again, if you see any errors, please let me know so I can correct.

I hope you enjoy this journey as much as I enjoyed researching, compiling and writing the paper.

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Ventura, Ca  
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**Name Note:** *Although name suffixes were not a common practice at the time, for the purpose of clarity, I will be using them. Thomas Harris (1613-1688) will appear as Thomas Harris Sr. His son Thomas Harris (1637-1711) will appear as Thomas Harris II and his son Thomas (1665-1741) will appear as Thomas Harris III. Any other father/son with the same name will be treated the same.*

*Also, not a common practice at the time, in some instances I've hyphenated female maiden and married names.*

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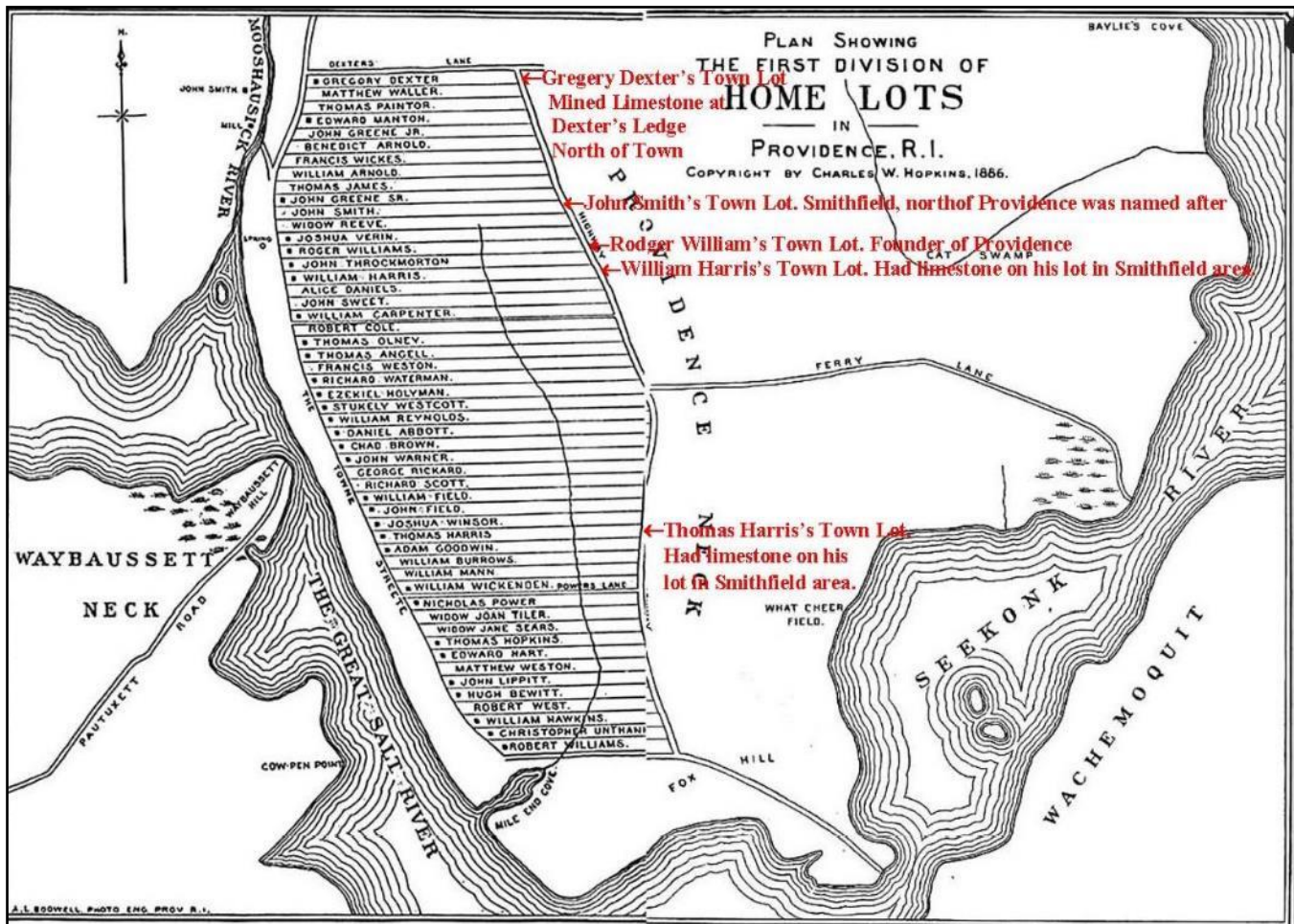


# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## The Founding of Providence Rhode Island

**Briefly:** Providence Plantation was founded 1636-1638 by Roger Williams who had bought the land from the Narragansett tribe. William Harris was one of the six persons who arrived in 1636 at the end of what would be called the Providence Neck at the junction of the Great Salt River (now Providence River) and Seekonk River and founded Providence Plantation, Rhode Island. Thomas Harris, William's brother and my ancestor, arrived a year later and was one of the twelve to whom Roger Williams deeded land to. He was among the original twelve to sign a compact to establish the local government of the new settlement. In 1640, along with Roger Williams, Gregory Dexter, Thomas and William (all players in the early mining of limestone) were among the thirty-nine signers of an agreement in 1640 for the formation of a government.

This new type of town government was under the leadership of Roger Williams..., Roger and his fellow colonist created on an egalitarian constitution following majority rule "in civil things," with liberty of conscience on spiritual matters. Believing that God had brought them to the area, he named the settlement Providence Plantation. ("plantation" was a synonym for "settlement" or "colony." In the 17 Century).



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## **Providence Rhode Island's Early Limestone History**



**Great Pyramid, Giza Egypt (2005)-Photo by Miles Harris III**

Lime was very valuable in colonial times. It was chiefly used for mortar and plaster for buildings. Its use dates back at least 6,000 years where the Ancient Egyptians used lime to plaster the pyramids. Examples of lime usage in Providence, Rhode Island area are found in the “stone ender” chimneys at the [Eleazer Arnold House](#) (1693) and the [Valentine Whitman house](#) (1694). Both built using local lime.



Besides being used dry for mortar, lime, when treated with water, in what is called slaked or hydrated lime, was used in the manufacture of glass, paper, whitewash, leather processing, sugar refining, bleaching, blacksmithing, candle making and as a neutralizer for acidic soils. Colonists originally made lime by burning seashells before the discovery of limestone in the area. Seashell lime produced an inferior material for building.

Lime deposits at the head of the Moshassuck River, in what would become Smithfield, Lincoln and Lime Rock, a village in Lincoln, constituted the most important mineral resource in the area. The mining and processing of lime for use in mortar began in the late 1660's on Gregory Dexter's land about seven miles north of Providence Towne and represented one of the earliest industries in the United States.



# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Sidenote: Dexter's Ledge (Quinsniket), Central Falls

I've found notes claiming Gregory Dexter first quarried limestone at Dexter's Ledge, which is a 110-foot-high hill in what is now Central Falls, Rhode Island. At the time Dexter's Ledge was known as Quinsniket, a rocky ledge that had a commanding view of the valley below and therefore played a key role in King Philip's War (1675-1677). Which was the result of a series of land disputes and broken peace treaties between the local natives and early English settlers and led to war erupting in 1675. It was at the base of Quinsniket that Nanunteenoo, (aka Canonchet) Chief Sachem of the Narragansett, held his council fires in preparation for one of the most notorious attacks in the war.

On March 26, 1676, from atop Quinsniket, Nanunteenoo's scouts spied the approaching colonial troops and allied Native Americans. Sixty-year-old Captain Michael Pierce, a former ensign under Miles Standish, was leading his band of 83 men. Spying what appeared to be a small party of wounded warriors, Pierce and all his men began their pursuit. The "wounded" warriors were but decoys and Pierce and his forces (like Col. Custer almost two centuries later) found themselves ambushed by Nanunteenoo's forces on the eastern side of the Blackstone River. When Pierce and his men tried to escape the ambush by crossing the river to its western side, they were attacked by hundreds of Narragansett warriors. What would become known as "Pierce's Fight," ended with Pierce and all but ten of his men dead, the survivors were taken away to be tortured, with one survivor left alive to tell the tale (don't know if the survivor managed to escape during the battle or escaped/let-go from captivity).

All indications are that the Nanunteenoo's were in control of Quinsniket and therefore no quarrying or burning of limestone could have taken place at this location.

I've also found the following quote from a 1859 lawsuit: "The term "Dexter Ledge of Lime-Rock," in the deeds of Kelly was the natural descriptive expression, signifying all the formation of that character upon the Dexter farms. No particular quarry or outcropping of lime-rock, on the Dexter farms, was ever known by the name of "Dexter Ledge."

Today Dexter's Ledge is the location of [Jenks Park & Cogswell Tower](#).

At a town meeting in Providence, Rhode Island on 27 January 1662 the first Hackeltop order was made (Hackeltop or Hackston is an old term describing the hacking and burning of lime rocks in a kiln):

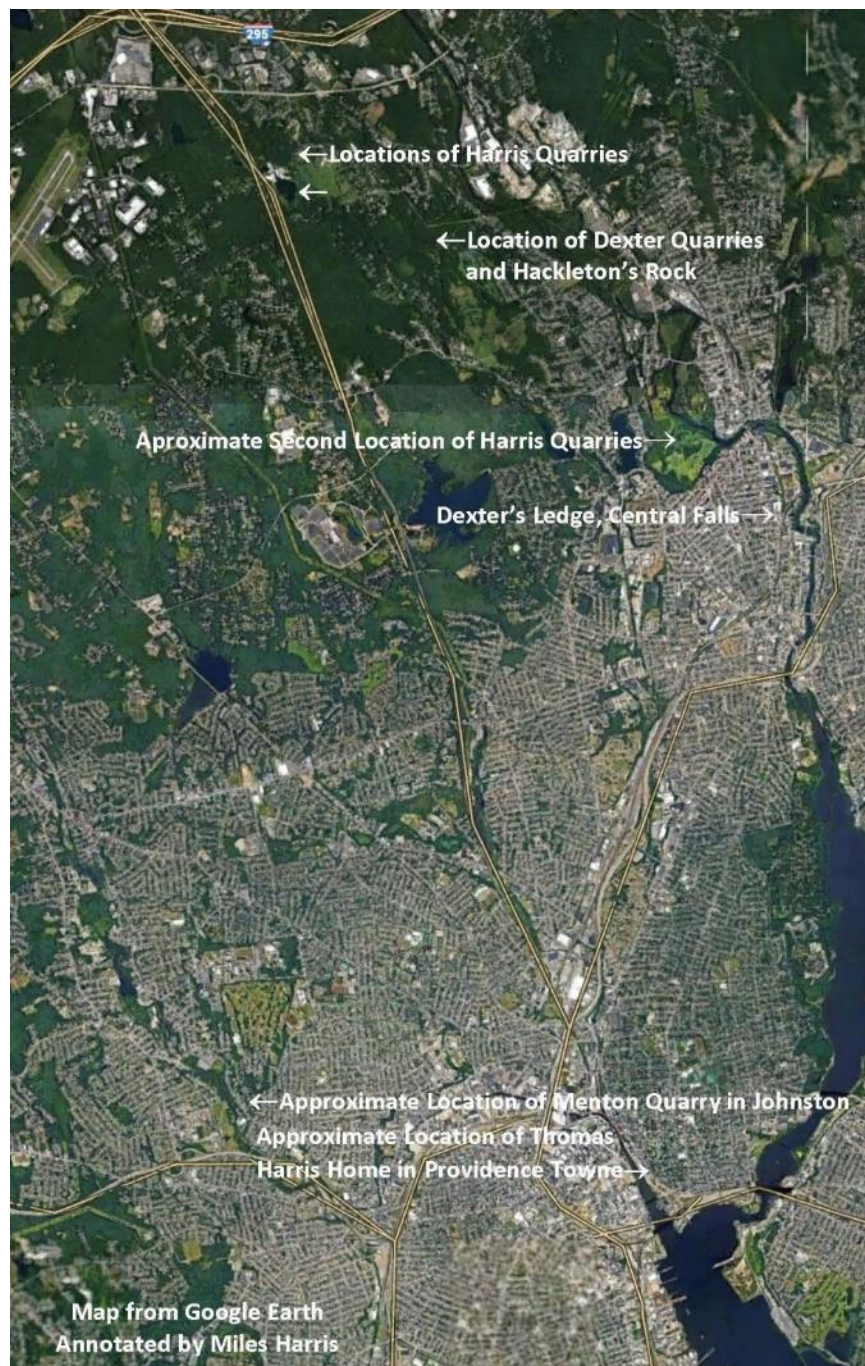
"\_\_\_\_\_ as (Thomas) Hackleton making his request unto the Towne \_\_\_\_\_ have liberty to burn lime upon the Comon neere about \_\_\_\_\_ and to take stones and wood for the same purpose \_\_\_\_\_ by vote that he may have libertye until \_\_\_\_\_ next and no longer." [HFLWRN](#)

It is believed that the first limestone quarried and burned in America was in 1662 at Manton, a village four miles west of Providence. In 1665 an order was filed in the Providence Early Records that the "lime rockes about Hackleton's *Rock* and lime kiln on shall be perpetually common" (*Heckleton's Rock is located on Gregory Dexter's farm in what would become part of Lime Rock*). The order was for the recognition and preservation of a small source of lime and a crude kiln for common access and free use by all in the community. This appears to be the beginning of what would become the limestone industry in the area. The large deposit of lime rocks, in what would become Smithfield and later Lincoln, had not been discovered at the time of the town meeting. Lime deposits were discovered early in Rhode Island colony's history with limestone being found in what is now Johnston, North Providence, and Cumberland. Discovery and subsequent claim of ownership by Thomas Harris or Gregory Dexter of large lime reserves on newly acquired lands north of Providence did not occur until about 1669.

It is not known when [\(Rev\) Gregory Dexter](#) (1610-1700), William Harris (1610-1681) or Thomas Harris (1613-1686) obtained titles to the lime rock quarries in areas north of Providence Towne (although in 1683 Thomas summited a deed he created in 1661 for 85 acres in North Providence), however, it is assumed that Dexter acquired the land at least three years before he deeded the land in an area around the kiln to his son [Stephen Dexter](#) (1647-1679) in 1672 on the provision that it remain in common to the people of Providence. In that provision Gregory reference 80 acres of land laid out by Thomas Harris. This occurred well after the

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Providence town meetings in 1661-2. The general consensus is that Thomas & William Harris and Gregory Dexter, having obtained individual titles to lands outside of Providence, would recognize the Hackston concession made years before to hack and burn lime free for anybody from the area.



In August 1670 Roger Williams wrote to Governor Winthrop about the Dexter Lime Rocks. He said, "Sir, I have encouraged Mr. Dexter to send you a limestone and to salute you with this enclosed. He is an intelligent man a master printer of London and conscionable, though a Baptist, therefore maligned and traduced by William Harris, a doleful generalist (*historically, Roger Williams and William Harris had a tumultuous relationship*). Sir if there be any occasion of yourself or others to use any of this stone Mr. Dexter hath a lusty team and lusty sons and a very willing heart being a sanguine cheerful man to do yourself or any at your word especially service upon my honest and cheap consideration".



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## First Generation of Harris's Owing Harris Lime Quarries

Sometime around 1665 [Thomas Harris Sr.](#), born 11 Jul 1613 in Northbourne, Kent, England, one of the earliest settlers in Providence, a land surveyor and the brother of William Harris, purchased land roughly seven miles from Providence, in an area just north of the Great Road in what would grow into Lime Rock Village in the township of what would become Lincoln. Thomas's land purchase was about the seven-mile line also. It does not appear that Thomas quarried the limestone. He probably abided by Hackston concession and allowed access to his property for others to use the stone.

### Sidenote: The Seven Mile Line

This line was established at a town meeting (not by the Town Council) of the Proprietors or Free Men of the town of Providence, 14th May, 1660 (Early Rec. 2, 128, 129). Thomas Harris, a brother of William Harris, was Moderator, or Presiding officer, of the meeting, or, as it called itself, "This present Assembly". The laws read "that the bounds of this town of Providence for the first division shall be set from the hill called Foxes Hill, seven miles upon a west line, and at the end of the west line to go upon a ' strait ' line north unto Pawtucket River, and upon a ' straight' line south unto Pawtuxet River. And all the lands beyond these bounds present fixed according to our Deeds to be disposed of as this town shall see cause, any former land, or clause therein to the contrary notwithstanding" (Early Rec. 2, 129). From: [The Lands of Rhode Island by Sidney Smith Rider](#)

Upon Thomas's death on 07 Jun 1686, all of his land including the land with limestone deposits passed to his son Thomas II, born about 1637 in Providence Plantation, Rhode Island. Thomas Harris II, his wife [Elnathan Tew- Harris \(1644-1718\)](#), and his sister [Mary Harris-Whipple \(1639-1722\)](#) and her husband [Samuel Whipple 1644-1711](#) (note that all Whipple's in this report are descendants of [John Whipple 1617-1685](#)), and his other sister [Martha Harris-Field \(1643-1617\)](#) and her husband [Thomas Field \(1648-1717\)](#) lived upward into areas surrounding the [Mohassuck River](#) and in the future Smithfield, Lincoln and Lime Rock areas, which was 7 miles northwest of his father's original settlement in the center of Providence on North Towne Street.

Throughout the years the Harrises acquired vast acres of land. Providence records show numerous purchases and transfers of parcels to the expanding members of the Harris families. In 1661, from "The Early Town Records of Providence" Thomas Sr recorded the following:

"Layd out a three score Acre lott (60 acres) for my Son Thomas Harris at The Record paugachauge ffeild (*I could not find any modern day reference to paugachuge field, nor its name in a list of Narragansett names, could be misspelled*), and a twenty five Acre lott , lieing on the south side , it Bounding on the Riuier on the west, and on the East with his land the land of William Carpenter, Bounded on the north West Corner with a Black oake tree, the South West Corner Bounded with a white oake, the northermost Corner Bounded with an Asppen tree, the South East Corner marked with a White oake tree, and this being layd out aboute the yeare :

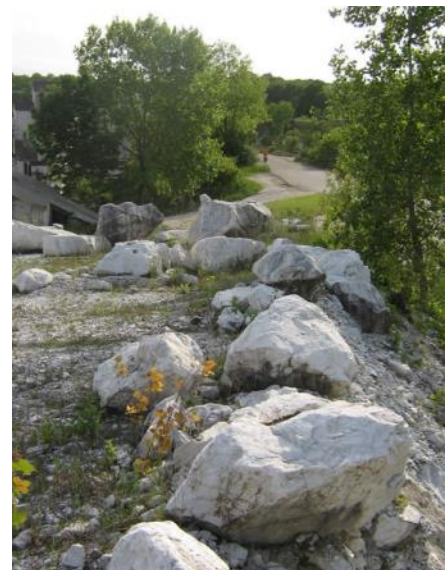
1661 : or there aboute,

Layd out by mee Thomas Harris serveior |I being then a Serueior for the Towne.

Returned to ye Towne meeting Aprill : ye: 27'b : 1683 : by me Thomas Harris senior serueior :

Recorded by and with the Townes Consent, Recorded May the first : 1683 : by me John Whipple Jun " : Clerke"

Thomas II, recognizing the value in the limestone in the Line Rack area, would begin mining limestone in earnest. By the end of the 17th century John Dexter Sr, Reverend Dexter's grandson, and Thomas Harris II seemed to have stopped honoring the concession and began mining and selling the limestone that would be used in mortar and plaster for buildings in Lincoln and other New England communities. Thus, creating one of the earliest industries in the New World where, overtime, many of the residents of Lime Rock worked in the extremely labor-intensive industry, either part or full-time, mining lime and burning it in the kilns, as well in the related work of woodcutting, charcoal burning, making barrels (coppering) to hold the finished lime and shipping the lime.



Harris Quarry in Lime Rock

Photo from:

[Harris Family News: Richard Harris Page](#)

# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **Limestone to Lime**

Limestone is a natural rock that is made up of mostly calcium carbonate and is common in many parts of the country. Limestone and its byproduct lime is used to create cement and many other products. Throughout history it has been an integral part of the building community and shows up in buildings as a stone as well as in cement and other materials.

Limestone is any rock that is made mostly from calcium carbonate, but there are several types. Limestone forms when carbonate rocks were deposited in seawater and continue to form as coral reefs in shallow seas. Marine limestone comes together when seawater with high concentrations of chemicals dissolve. The surface layer of the material is usually coral, clams, and other sea creatures that use the same chemicals in their shells. The composite of those things merges together and creates the limestone over a period of time.

There are many different types of carbonate rock. Chalk is a fine-grained, porous limestone while travertine is a freshwater, more sedimentary limestone that has thin layers. Marble is also a carbonate rock that has been squeezed down and formed into a different material with heat and pressure.

Limestone deposits can be huge and cover hundreds of square miles. It's usually uniform in quality and thickness, but limestone quarries can be long-lived because of the abundance. Mining can

be done under hundreds of miles of caves or quarried in open pits covering miles. It appears the limestone from colonial Rhode Island was quarried.



The actual extraction of limestone is made by separating the rock in quarry ledges and dividing it into

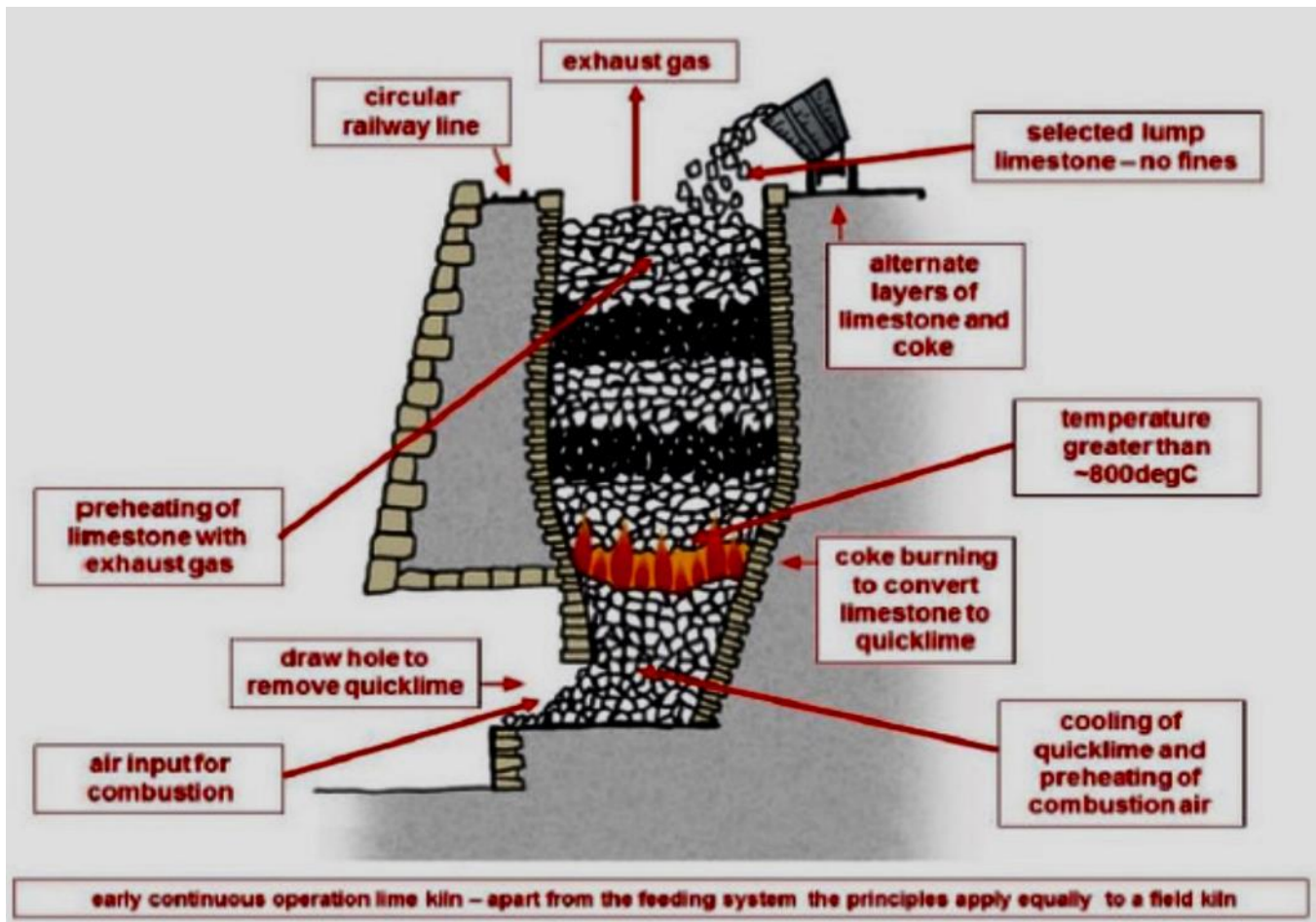
blocks. The stone is then crushed and sorted into different fractions by screening, after which it goes to be processed further. If it's not to be converted to lime it may go through a grinding process to produce a fine powder.

Lime is made by first burning chalk or limestone to form quick lime (calcium oxide) and then in a process called slaking, the quicklime is mixed with water (forming calcium hydroxide). If no clay is present in the original limestone or chalk, the resulting lime is said to be 'non-hydraulic'. To obtain lime, limestone is fed into the upper or "back end" of the kiln, while fuel and combustion air are fired into the lower or "front end" of the kiln. The limestone is heated as it moves down the kiln toward the lower end. As the preheated limestone moves through the kiln, it is "calcined" into lime.

In the 1600's a kiln would be constructed as such: The kiln was to be built at the side of a ravine. A circular excavation was made about eight feet deep and six feet in diameter. A door was built at the bottom which opened out into the ravine. Because the walls were made of stiff clay there appeared to be little danger of caving in.

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After the limestone had been broken into more manageable pieces, the stones would be loaded



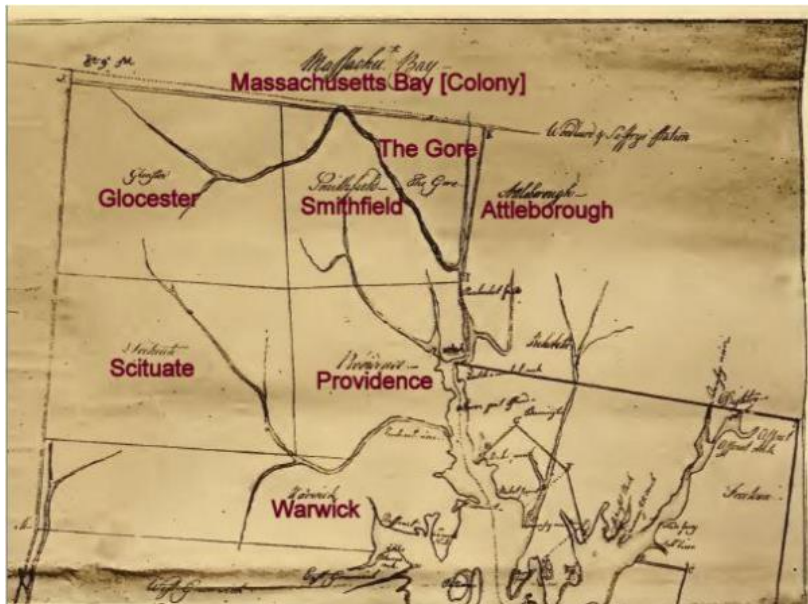
into the top of the kiln's cylinder in a cylindrical fashion. Care had to be taken to ensure that the rocks were not too tightly packed, as packing would restrict the circulation of air needed for the burning process. A fire was started at the bottom of the hole and kept burning until the stone was thoroughly burnt, and all the lime collected. Initially, nearly all kilns were fueled by firewood; later ones occasionally burned coal. Having a wood-burning limestone kiln involved more work, but allowed for the lime to burn at a lower temperature, which resulted in product of better quality. The lime would burn for up to one week (as little as one and a half to two days) at temperatures ranging from 1600 to 2100 degrees Fahrenheit. It also could take about one week for the kiln to cool depending on the design. In the burning process, the stones would break down into a fine powder that fell through the grate and collected at the bottom of the kiln. The lime was then removed from the kiln using a small shovel or hoe. The product was collected and distributed (sold) to be used to make cement and mortar, which is composed of lime (hydraulic, or non-hydraulic), water and an aggregate such as sand and is for building construction. The Smithfield lime was also used for tanning, bleaching, blacksmithing, sugar refining, candle making or a lime wash (sort of protective paint).

See "Everything You Wanted to Know About Limestone and Lime" in the  
"Sources not Embedded in Article and Additional References"  
at the end of this paper for references used in this section.



# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## A Little Rhode Island Limestone Geography:



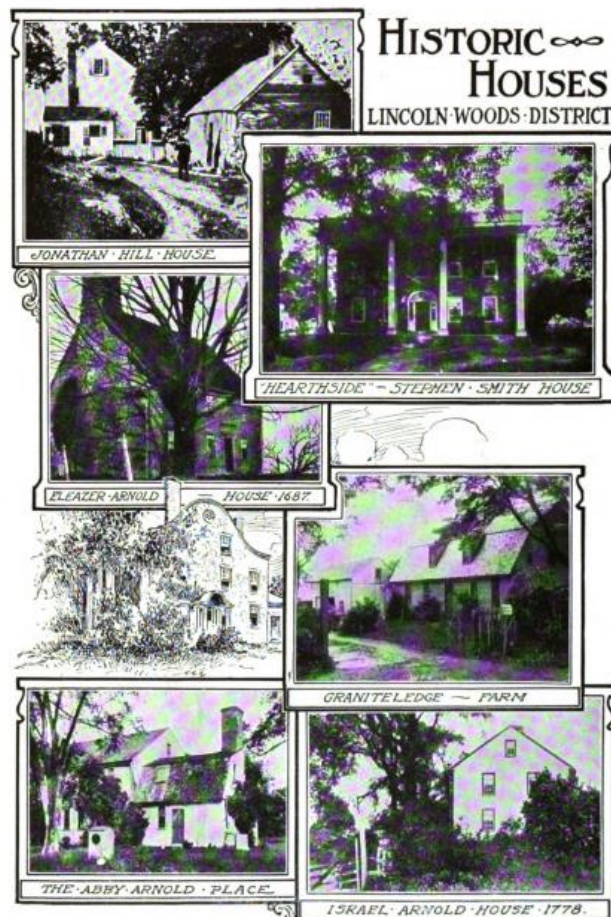
The area comprising modern-day **Smithfield** was first settled in 1663 as a farming community by several **British** colonists, including **John Steere**. The area was originally within the boundaries of **Providence** until 1731 when Smithfield was incorporated as a separate town. The town was named after **John Smith**, a first settler of Providence, according to the [town's official website](#).

[Smithfield, Rhode Island - Wikiwand](#)

**Lincoln** was a part of the town of **Smithfield** until 1871, when it was split off and named in honor of **Abraham Lincoln**. Lincoln became an important mill town in the late 19th

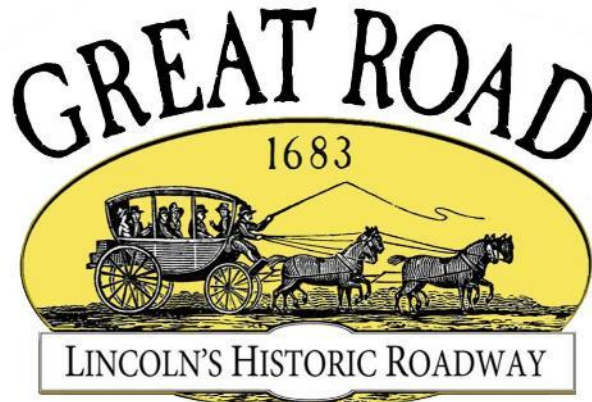
century, with many textile factories running along the **Blackstone River**. Lincoln's villages include **Manville**, **Albion**, **Lime Rock**, **Lonsdale**, **Fairlawn**, **Quinnville**, and **Saylesville**. [Lincoln, Rhode Island - Wikiwand](#)

**Lime Rock** (Limerock) is a **village** and **historic district** in **Lincoln**, **Providence County**, **Rhode Island**, **United States**, near **Rhode Island Route 146**. The village was named after the limestone quarries in the area, which started in the 17th century, and continue to the present where Conklin Limestone Company now operates. Because of the abundance of limestone in the area many houses had massive end chimneys and were called "**stone enders**," a distinctly Rhode Island style of architecture. The historic district includes 21 historically significant properties in an area extending from Wilbur Road (formerly Jeremiah Smith Hill Road), just west of its junction with Old Louisquisset Pike, eastward to Great Road, and then along Great Road as far as Simon Sayles Road. Among these properties are three quarries, and the ruins of three old **lime kilns**. It was listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** in 1974. [Lime Rock, Rhode Island - Wikiwand](#)



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

Flyer Courtesy of Lori Mellucci of the Blackstone Valley Historic Society



## EXPERIENCE 300 YEARS OF HISTORY IN ONE MILE

### *Lincoln's Historic Sites Include:*

#### Great Road Heritage Campus at Chase Farm Park

- Chase Farm Park & New Visitor Center – 671 Great Rd.
- Hannaway Blacksmith Shop (c. 1880) – 671 Great Rd.
- Pullen's Corner Schoolhouse (c. 1850) – 671 Great Rd.
- Moffett Mill (c. 1812) – 671 Great Rd.
- Hearthside House Museum (c. 1810) – 677 Great Rd.

Arnold House (c. 1693) – 487 Great Rd.

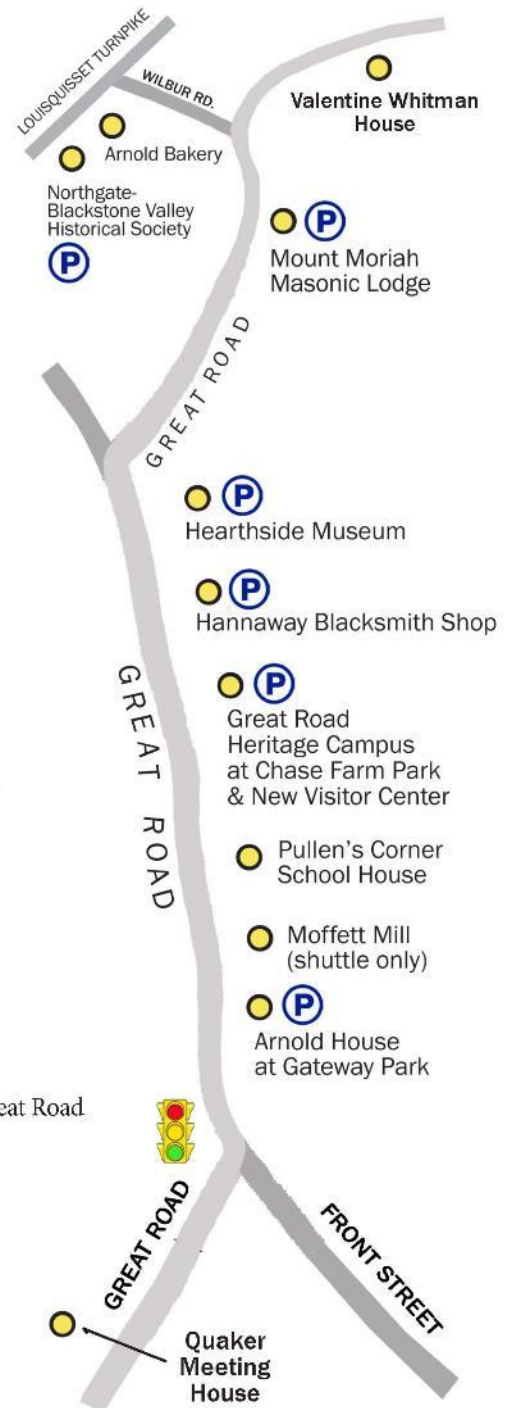
Saylesville Friends Quaker Meeting House (c. 1703) – 1147 Great Road

Mount Moriah Lodge (c. 1804) – 1093 Great Rd.

Northgate - Blackstone Valley Historical Society (c. 1807)  
– 1873 Louisquisset Pike

Arnold Bakery (c. 1874) – 1873 Louisquisset Pike

Valentine Whitman House (c. 1694) – 1147 Great Road



*The nationally-designated Great Road Historic District is located along Rt. 123 in Lincoln, RI,  
10 minutes north of Providence and one mile off Interstate Route 146.*

HEARTHIDE MUSEUM 401-726-0597 [www.hearthsidehouse.org](http://www.hearthsidehouse.org)



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **Second Generation of Harris's Owning Harris Lime Quarries**

**Thomas Harris II 1613–1686** (Thomas Sr.) a yeomen farmer, land owner and lime producer, died 27 February 1711 and his will was proved 16 April 1711. Thomas married Elnathan Tew of Newport, Rhode Island and the couple raised nine children in the area of the Mohassuck River north of Providence Town in what would become Smithfield and eventually Lincoln. At the time of his death, he left a large estate to his family which included at least, by my calculations, 720 acres, although one paper suggest more than 1,200 acres. Included among those acres was the land with the limestone quarries and kilns.

- His eldest son Thomas III received roughly 140 acres where he dwells except for 6 acres with a pit mine that his brother Henry received.
- Son Richard received 60 acres where he dwells and right of and one half of a Right of commonage within the seven-mile line Thomas II bought of John Rice and a third of orchard which is located on the land in Providence where Thomas Sr. lived.
- His son Nicholas received the land where he dwells, 150 acres, a division of land without the seven-mile line containing one hundred & fifty acres as it is laid out (note that Nicholas's portion is outside the seven-mile line while brother Richard's is inside the line) and one third part of an acre of land in Providence Town that as part of Thomas Sr orchard.
- To his son William Harris, he bequeathed him 12 acres of land in Providence Towne where he dwelled, one six-acre lot that Thomas bought of Thomas's uncle William Harris. Also, two six acre lots lying in Providence Towne neck, twenty acres of land which was Thomas Sr. and one half of land in Providence Towne below (south) the street where Thomas's father dwelled. In total William received roughly 30 acres of land all in the town of Providence.
- Son Henry received 130 acres, a division of land without the seven-mile line containing 150 acres, two parcels of meadows and one third part of an acre of land in Providence Towne which was part of his father's orchard (1/3 each to son's Richard, Nicholas and Henry). Henry Harris also received one half of the land & half of the housing where Thomas Jr dwelled in Providence (60 acres of 120 acres with the rest going to Thomas's wife Elnathan). The land is west of the land Thomas gave to his son Thomas. Henry appears to have received over 340 acres of land plus the 6 acres containing the pit mine.
- Thomas's daughters Amity Morse, Mary Harris and Elnathan Harris (both Mary and Elnathan were not married at the time of Thomas's death) did not receive any land but did inherit an assortment of goods and cash.

Based on the distribution of land, as stated in Thomas Senior's will, it is unclear as to who got the lime production business at the time of Thomas Harris II death. On the one hand, Henry Harris received 6 acres of his brother Thomas's 140-acre inheritance that had a pit-mine, but Richard, Nicholas and Henry all received acreage around the seven -mile line, which is in the location of the land with limestone deposits that Thomas II received from his father. It appears that Thomas's son Richard's land, within the seven-mile line, contained the limestone quarries and that Richard might have already taken over the lime production business from his father before his death. Regardless of how it happened, Richard would be the next Harris to run the Harris Lime Quarries.

It also should be noted that the **Harris Family in Rhode Island Lime Works Research Notes** erroneously, based on the 1790 US Census, puts forth the premise that Thomas's son Richard was the only brother who had sons to inherit Harris Line Quarries. The fact is all Thomas's sons had sons (I wouldn't be here otherwise). I believe that Richard got the land with the Limestone quarries because as a lad he took an interest in the business and took over the running of the business sometime before his father's death. Once he obtained the business (and land), it would pass onto his sons and their descendants and his nephews would not be in the inheritance equation.

In all probability, the descendants of Thomas Harris II's other children could have been involved in some aspect of the Harris lime business, whether it be quarrying, allowing limestone to be quarried on their land or just working in the many support jobs required in the lime business. In fact, I have found a few instances where that is the case. No reason to believe it was not a common occurrence.

### ***Sidenote: Count of Thomas Harris II Son's Children***

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Thomas Harris III: 5 sons, 3 daughters. | Richard Harris: 6 sons, 3 daughters |
| Nicholis Harris: 5 sons, 5 daughters    |                                     |
| William Harris: 1 son, 3 daughters.     | Henry Harris: 3 sons, 4 daughters   |



# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Third Generation of Harris's Owning Harris Lime Quarries

**Richard HARRIS Sr.** (Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 14 October 1668 in Providence, Providence, Rhode Island, British Colonial America. Richard, a yeoman, owned a significant portion of the land known as the Harris Lime Quarries near Lime Rock, Rhode Island. He married a **Miss (Elizabeth?) KING (1676–1733)** sometime before the birth of their first child in 1697. The couple had nine married (2) **Susannah (BURTON) GORTON (1665–1737)**, widow of Samuel Gorton, 25 July 1733 in Providence.

On 28 September 1733, John Whitman of Smithfield, blacksmith, and wife Sarah (Sprague), sold to **William Whipple** of Smithfield their rights in the land of their father Anthony Sprague (Jr), William's grandfather. William's business partner in the lime manufacturing business was Richard Harris. Sarah Sprague-Whitman was the sister of Lydia Sprague-Harris the wife of Richard's son Captain Richard Harris II

Richard Harris of Smithfield had his will dated 6 March 1738/9 and proved eleven years later on 15 September 1750. He mentions his sons Richard Harris II, Amaziah Harris, David Harris, & Preserved Harris and his daughters Amity Smith, Dinah Smith (wife of Son-in-law Jacob Smith) & Elnathan Gile. No mention is made of the Harris Lime Quarry business nor of his son Jonathan. It appears all his land including his farm where he lived went to his son Preserved Harris. He does mention that the land is "butted and bounded" on the northwest by land he gave earlier to his son David and on the west with land he gave to his son Richard. It appears, before the time of his death, his son David Harris became the chief business manager of the quarries and would go on to turn the Harris Lime Quarries into a major producer for the colonial and later the American Atlantic seaboard.

The Great Road (still exist today) served as the primary route for transporting the products of the growing lime industry from the quarries to Providence and beyond. Around the time of Richard's death, in 1738, the town of Smithfield passed a Highway Act which provided for surveyors and six days a year of mandatory service from the town's able-bodied men to maintain the road.

## Fourth Generation of Harris's Owning Harris Lime Quarries

**Captain Richard HARRIS II** (Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr.) was born about 1698 in Providence, Rhode Island. It appears that the land that Captain Richard received from his father (probably before his death) did not contain limestone deposits. Richard would marry three times (**Lydia Sprague: 1699-1736, Dorothy Brown: 1694-about 1761 and Sarah Phillips 1725-?**) and would have 12 children. Richard served in the military from 1742 to 1648. He died 20 October 1783 in Smithfield. He didn't move, the area once being part of Providence was incorporated as Smithfield in 1731.

While it does not appear that Richard was involved in the Harris Lime Quarries, his descendant Herbert Harris (1851-1939) would first lease the Harris Lime Rock Company in 1890 from Robert Harris (a distant cousin) and eleven years later, in 1901, he purchased the business outright while also purchasing the controlling interest in the Dexter Lime Rock Company. He was the last Harris to own the Harris Lime Rock Company.

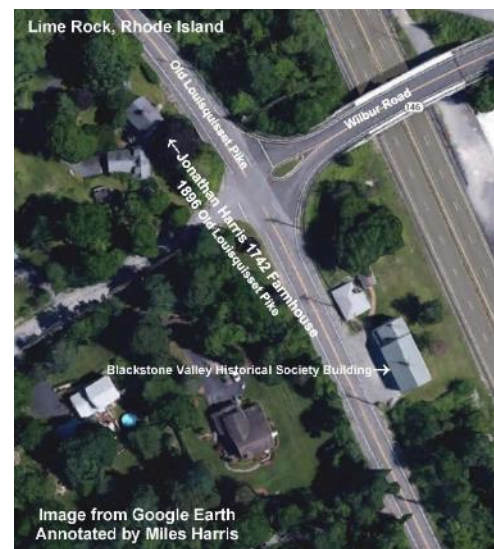
***The details of Herbert Harris's life will be covered further along in this report.***

**Jonathan HARRIS** (Richard/Thomas II/Thomas I) was born 12 June 1710 in Providence, Rhode Island. Jonathan would marry two times (**Mary Brown: 1710-1744 and Ann Whipple: 1720-1810**) and have seven children. Jonathan, a member of the Smithfield Society of Friends (Quakers), lived at the Old Louisquisset Pike and Wilbur Road intersection, where the house that he built in 1742 still stands.

For whatever reason, Jonathan was not mentioned in his father's will

Jonathan maintained a farm in Lime Rock that contained the 150 acres he purchased from his brother David (don't know if he had farmland before the purchase), as noted below in the David Harris section, Jonathan sold the rights to the limestone on his farm to his brother David Harris. Jonathan died 24 September 1785 in Smithfield.

When Jonathan died about 72 acres passed under his will in undivided thirds to his three grandsons. I don't know for sure which grandsons since he had at least five but I will present a theory later. I assume the 72 acres include the limestone quarries and kiln north of



## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

Jonathan's farmhouse.

Each grandson thereafter conveyed his undivided third to grantees who were to become subsequently the reservoirs of an estate in the limestone. In 1791 one grandson conveyed an undivided third to Jeremiah Smith, who appears to be a first cousin and son of their aunt [Dinah HARRIS-SMITH \(1702-1745\)](#), another in 1792 to brothers [Samuel Mann \(1766-1842\)](#) and [Thomas Mann \(1769-1852\)](#), and a third to [Simon Aldrich \(1743-1834\)](#) in 1800.

This land appears to be the land that Jonathan leased the limestone rights to his brother David and these transactions would be outlined in the 1964 lawsuit Mellor v. Conklin Limestone Co. The lawsuit was over who controlled the limestone on the property. I can assume in the 1800's the rights to quarry, burn and remove the limestone belonged to the Harris Lime Quarries under the 99-year lease between Jonathan and his brother David and subsequent arrangements with later owners of the land. If the lease was enforced, it would expire in 1841.

***Sidenote: Jonathan Harris House***

1742. c. 1810, remodeling. Additions, 20th century. 1896 Louisquisset Pk.  
(Northwest corner of Louisquisset Pk. and Wilbur Rd.)

The house goes back to the earliest date (1742) but was modernized seventy years after it was built. Then the simple window splays of the ground floor received ornamental keystones; the cornice, a continuous dentil molding (without the breaks of the preceding example); the old transomed door, a new frame under a porch with pediment and freestanding Doric columns. Jonathan Harris was the brother of David Harris, one of the principal entrepreneurs in the local lime business. A prosperous farmer, like others in the area, he owned stock in the company and sold the lime on his farm to the company. From: [SAH Archipedia \(Sociality of Architectural Historians\)](#)



**Jonathan Harris Farmhouse cira. 1742**  
**Photo By and Courtesy of Lori Mellucci**



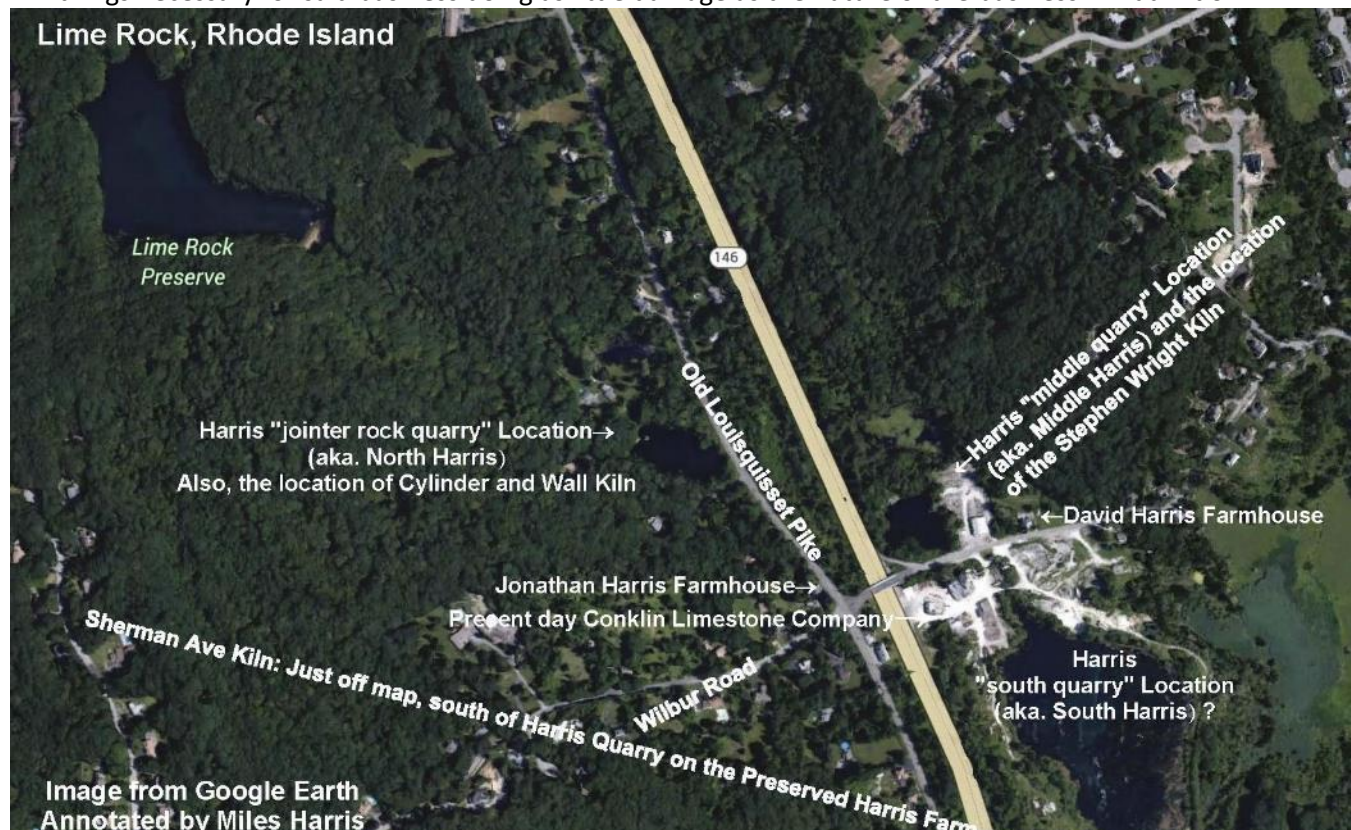
## History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

David HARRIS (Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born 17 January 1714 in Providence, Rhode Island. David was married two times. (Mary Jenckes: 1728-1473 and her distant cousin, Martha Jenckes: 1725-1826). David had a total of eight children, one with Mary and seven with Martha. At some point, as an adult, he became chief operating manager of the Harris Lime Quarries. One might assume that he worked his way up in his father's company, which he appears to have taken ownership of before his father's death (no mention of the business going to David in his father's will). Also, it appears David inherited a sizable amount of land from his father, Richard Harris, before his death, and then added to it by purchasing land and mineral rights from land owned by his brothers' Preserved and Jonathan Harris and possibly other farmers.

In 1740, per Rhode Island Supreme Court Reviews, a land transaction between brothers Jonathan and David Harris conceded that the properties now owned by complainants were part of a tract of land containing about 150 acres that and on December 17, 1740 David Harris conveyed in fee to one Jonathan Harris.

A year later, on January 12, 1741, Jonathan Harris, for 100 Pounds, granted David Harris a 99-year lease for the limestone in the 150-acre tract David earlier sold to Jonathan. This came with the right to dig and remove such stone as well as use of the lime kilns on the property. The pertinent portion of the deed reading as follows (note I've replaced "sd" with the word "said"):

"...covering all the lime stone I have in & upon that tract of land I bought of him the said. David Harris Scituate in said: together with the lime kiln now built on said farm together with Liberty to dig and cart said lime stone on said Farm to said Kiln in order to burn said stone in said kiln unto lime and also liberty to lay down wood and stone about said kiln and all other materials necessary for the caring on said lime business during said term and also, liberty to cart lime through said farm towards the market and any other thing or things necessary for said business doing as little damage as the nature of the business will admit of \* \* \*."



The statement gave David the lease rights to the limestone and kilns on Jonathan's property while Jonathan maintains the surface estate. David is also granted the easement rights for the purpose of moving the product off the property.

By 1773 there were 8 lime kilns operating and burning lime in the area. David owned two and his brother Preserved owned one with the Dexter family owning another one. The October 1778 book of assessed taxes for Smithfield listed lime kilns for Preserved, Jonathan and David Harris. David had the highest assessment with 336



## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

acres, Preserved had 166 and Jonathan owned 108 acres.

All the Harris quarries were located at the junction of Old Louisquisset Pike and Wilbur Road with the Harris "jointer rock quarry" (aka. North Harris) located on the west side of Old Louisquisset Pike and the "middle quarry" (aka. Middle Harris) and lime kiln abutting the north side of Wilbur Road and the "south quarry" (aka. South Harris) located just south of Wilbur Road across from the middle quarry. Numerous other pits were scattered in the area especially in the northern part of what would become Lincoln Woods State Park with the Dexter quarries located roughly 1-1/4 miles southeast of the Harris quarries.

The lime business was extremely labor-intensive industry requiring either part or full-time workers mining lime and burning it in the kilns, as well in the related work of woodcutting, charcoal burning, making barrels (coppering) to hold the finished lime, making the carts to transport and ship the lime and shipping the lime. Local farmers would augment their income by allowing limestone to be quarried on their land (leases) or quarry it themselves and sell it to the Harris Lime Quarries as well as working part-time in the supporting fields. They also sold or leased the interests in their lime kilns, and the rights to cut timber in their wood lots, as the lime kilns consumed wood in large quantities.

An example of this arrangement would be that of William Whipple and his nephew Jesse Whipple, who lived on Great Road in the eastern part of the Village. They owned land with limestone, part interest in a kiln, and a cooper's shop; undoubtedly, they sold their product to David Harris who would deliver the Whipple lime along with his own to market. This arrangement enabled David Harris and the Harris Lime Quarries to develop a monopoly over the lime business in the years prior to the Revolution. The Jenckes, and Arnolds were also involved in the business of producing lime and also sold their product to the Harris Lime Quarries.

### ***Side Note: The Benefits of the Lime Business for the Farmers of Lime Rock***

For a farmer in Lime Rock, I can see the advantages to selling your limestone or lime to the Harris Lime Quarries. In today's terms we'd call it cashflow. Farming is a seasonal business where your income is limited to harvest season and is at the whims of the weather. Can't plant your crops until the ground thaws or let your livestock out to graze and reproduce till spring. Quarrying limestone, burning lime and harvesting wood to burn in the kilns is pretty much a yearlong business, at least the burning of lime and cutting down trees. It whatever form they are selling the limestone product to the Harris Lime Quarries, including their labor, they are getting a much steadier income. The lime business of Lime Rock was a major benefit for all in the area.

Through David's efforts and apparent organizational skills all the aspects for producing the lime and getting it to market were brought together to make Harris Lime Quarries a leading lime producer in New England and the Atlantic seaboard including the West Indies. Smithfield lime was sold at a good price due to its high quality. The limestone was unique and could vary in color from gray to white and in fact, Smithfield stone is some of the whitest stone in the country.



### **Harris House**

More than likely David Harris's home since it is located just east of the Harris Middle Quarry

Assume the home was built around the same time as his brother Jonathan Harris's home west of his home on Wilbur and Louisquisset Pike around 1742.



Both are similar style five-bay, two-and-a-half story with gable roof houses.

The home retains that form but has lost its original doorway, portico, and clapboarding.

Screenshot from Google Earth Street View

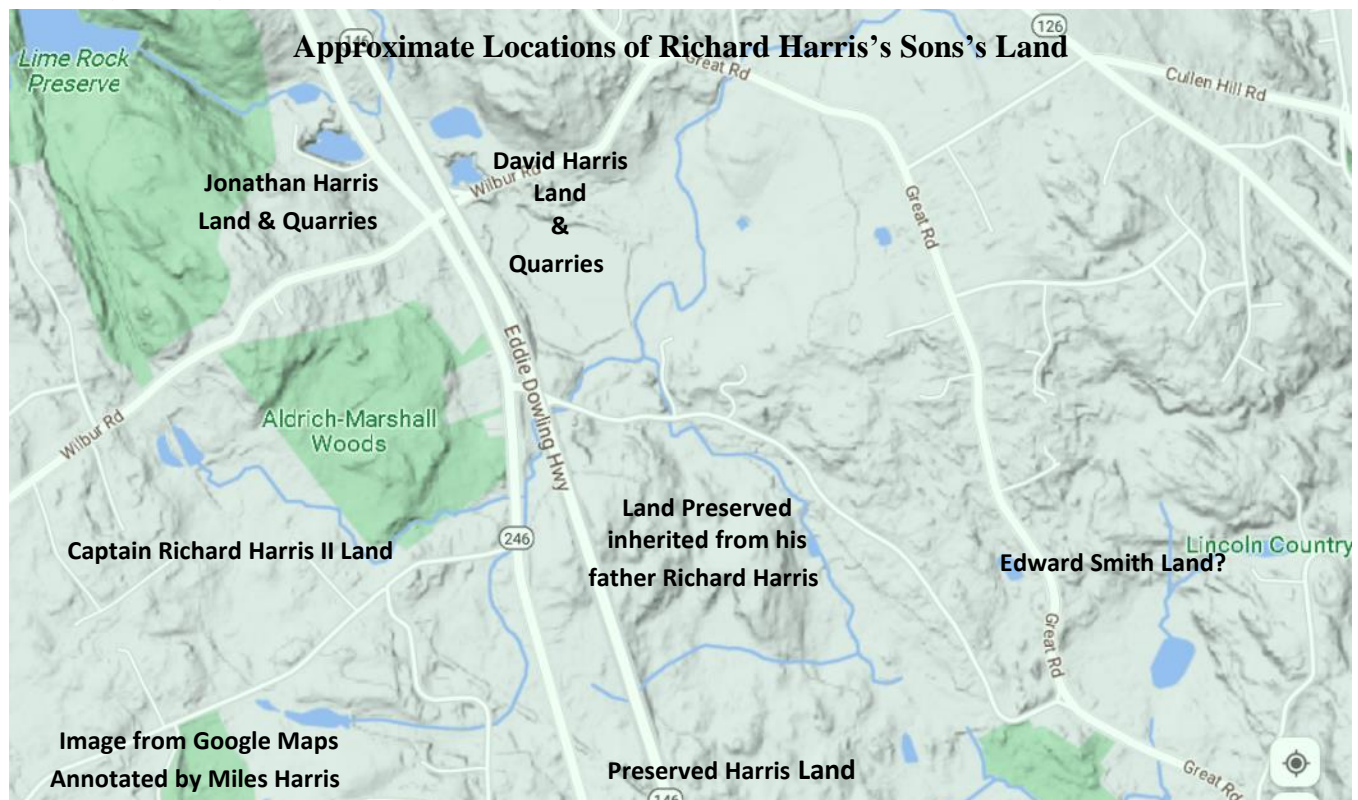
## History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

David Harris was responsible for transforming the part-time efforts of a few individuals in Lime Rock into the area's first major industry. The lime industry, as well as the village of Lime Rock, thrived for roughly one hundred years between 1750 and 1850.

David died before 11 Nov 1791 when his will was proved. In his will he left the lime kilns and lime houses on his homestead farm to his three sons (Stephen, George, Joseph) each with a third interest in the lime business. He also left provisions for his faithful black woman called Pink that he had some time ago liberated from the condition of slavery. (Smithfield Probate Records) His sons inherited three lime kilns, two at North Harris via lease the lease arrangement David had with his brother Jonathan and one at Middle Harris, a number of lime houses, and much still-to-be quarried stone at North Harris (again via lease arrangement), Middle Harris and South Harris, as well as any leases the company had with local farmers and landowners.

**Preserved HARRIS** (Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born 15 June 1715 in Providence, Rhode Island. He married once to a **Martha Mowry (1726-1744)**, and the couple had 9 children. Preserved is the ancestor of fellow genealogists Randy Harris (LRHarris) who is responsible for a great deal of the family information from Preserved back.

Per his father's will, Preserved inherited the following: "All my homestead farm whereon I now dwell, that is all that I have not given away by deed of gift already. Butted and bounded as followeth bounded on the north west with land I gave to my son David, on the west with land I gave to my son Richard, and on the south with land I gave to Preserved by deed (*deeded to son sometimes before his death*), and on the east with the land of Edward Smith, on the north with Masachet (Moshassuck) river, together with the housing, buildings and orcharding thereon standing, to him his heirs and assigns forever, always excepting liberty to and for my said son David Harris his heirs and assigns forever, and also for my son Richard his heirs and assigns forever, for both them their heirs to pass through said farm from their own farms to that drift way that (bounds?) to said farm on the east side.



In 1748 Smithfield divided road repair into 16 highway districts. The town had passed a "Highway Act" in 1738. This act provided for "surveyors to inspect the roads within the limits of their respective districts. Provisions were made, and every male inhabitant of the town, twenty-one years of age or older and able bodied, was required to work on the highways six days per year." The population of Smithfield in 1748 was 450 persons

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

and each road in a district was to be worked by the persons who appeared on a list for that district. The first person in the list being the surveyor. District No. 3 (Lime Rick area), began at Louisquisset Brook (near Lime Rock), and up the Highway, till it comes to where two roads meet on the Hill, which is a little southeast from the Little River Bridge. Among those listed in District No 3 were Preserved Harris and his brother Jonathan Harris.

On the 1790 census son Rufus is listed next to Preserved, which indicated he lived on same land and probably live with his father since there is no house listed for Rufus.

On 21 December 1791 Preserved conveyed land (about 29 acres) to his sons [Rufus HARRIS \(1749–1798\)](#) and [Jesse HARRIS \(1760–1803\)](#) to be held as tenants in common. Lime kilns are not mentioned. On 28 December 1791 Rufus, along with Joshua Jenckes, purchased a small amount of land from Zebedee Arnold for 14 pounds and 13 shillings.

Preserved died 6 May 1794 in Smithfield, Rhode Island. His will was proved 7 November 1794 with most of his land going to his son Israel with the balance to be divided up among Rufus, Jessie and Nathaniel (younger minor aged son), Son Nathan, having already moved to Palmyra, New York, was not mentioned in the will while daughters Lydia and Elnathan received money and some personal belongings. There was no reference to lime kilns.

On 6 October 1797 Jesse and Rufus partitioned land (about 180 acres) between them that had been willed to them by their father. The farmland contained lime kilns and lime houses and more than likely it was the land referred to in Preserved's will. I can assume that the lime kilns and lime houses were leased to Harris Lime Quarries. Jesse left the area for Plainfield, Windham, Connecticut, about 34 miles from Smithfield/Lincoln and raised his family there. Rufus stayed in the Lime Rock area.

On 30 May, 1798, Rufus Harris died apparently without a will. The Smithfield Probate Court appointed administrators for Rufus' estate. They were his brother, Jesse of Smithfield and David Hill of Rehoboth, Massachusetts. Among the many items of Rufus' estate were a quantity of white oak for lime staves and four lime casks. The inventory was approved on 25 June 1798.

It is unknown what happened to the land Jesse and Rufus inherited from their father. Their descendants are not mentioned in the incorporation of the Harris Lime Rock Company.



## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

### **Fifth Generation of Harris's Owing Harris Lime Quarries**

**Joseph HARRIS** (David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born in 1752 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, British Colonial America. Joseph HARRIS and **Hephzibah BUNKER (1757-1846)** were married on 25 October 1779 in Nantucket, Nantucket, Massachusetts, United States. The couple lived in Nantucket from 1779 until about 1788 when they moved back to Smithfield, Rhode Island. They had ten children with six born in Nantucket and the rest back in Smithfield. I don't know how much Joseph was involved in the operation of the Harris lime business once he returned to Rhode Island; however, his wife Hephzibah and his sons **David F HARRIS**, **Samuel Bunker HARRIS** and **Daniel Gardner HARRIS**, along with some of their cousins were involved to some degree in the Harris Lime Quarries business and the incorporation into the Harris Lime Rock Company.

Joseph died on 25 February 1823 at the age of 71 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. It can be assumed he left his portion of the lime business along with his land to his sons. Hephzibah died on 26 Sep 1846 at the age of 89 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States.

**Stephen HARRIS** (David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 28 December 1753 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, British Colonial America. Stephen and **Hannah MAWNEY (1755-1789)** married on 23 January 1775 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. The couple had three children before Hannah's death in Smithfield at age 34 on 13 November, 1789.

Stephen married his second wife **Abigail CUSHING (1769-1841)** on 25 July 1792 in Providence. The couple had seven children with five of them; **Benjamin Cushing HARRIS**, **Abby HARRIS**, **George Jenckes HARRIS**, **Charles F. HARRIS** and **Sarah Otis HARRIS-GREEN**, along with Sarah's husband **Samuel GREEN** and their mother Abigail, involved in the incorporation of the family lime business that Stephen, who appears to have run the business, passed onto them.

Steven died on 25 May 1817 at the age of 63 in Providence, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. His wife Abigail died on 9 Oct 1841 at the age of 72 in Providence.

**George HARRIS** (David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 22 February 1766 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, British Colonial America. George HARRIS and **Ruth BORDEN (1759-1792)** were married on 29 November 1787 in Tiverton, Newport, Rhode Island. Ruth died before 1792 at the age of 33.

Sometime before 1800 George married a women named **Susanna** and the couple had one known child, **Sylvia HARRIS**, born in 1800 in Newport, Rhode Island, United States and died 4 September 1827 in Providence, Rhode Island, United States.

George died 18 July 1822 at the age of 56 in Smithfield, Providence. Susanna died 9 January 1860 at the age of 91 in Worcester, Massachusetts, United States. It appears that 1/3 share George had in the Harris Lime Quarries had probably been sold to his brothers, if not willed to them upon his death since he had no surviving children.

Under the management of David's sons Joseph, Stephen and George (I'm thinking primarily Stephen) the Harris Lime-rock empire thrived and sold 1700 to 1900 casks of lime each year up until the War of 1812. Even after the war, and the economic slump caused by it, they continued a high-volume business. By the early 1800s the quarries were at their peak and Smithfield lime continued to be sold up and down the east coast and as far south to the West Indies.

With the increased volume of lime being carted to Providence and the developing Lime Rock settlement a more direct route was required. In 1805 The Louisquisset Turnpike Company was chartered to provide this shorter link. To cover construction and maintenance costs, the turnpike company was allowed to set shares and charge tolls to pay for construction. The Turnpike quickly replaced Great Road as the major route for lime products to Providence, however, since it terminated in Lime Rock, the Great Road remained an important thoroughfare north of the village.

## History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

Jonathan Harris Jr D  
To 1 Share in Louisquiset  
Turnpike @ \$50  
To Tax on one share 50  
\$ 50  
Sep 9 1806  
Dec 1807  
aug

David Harris Jr D  
To 2 Shares in Louisquiset  
Turnpike @ \$50 100  
To your Tax on two shares 10  
\$ 110

Shares to the Louisquiset Turnpike Company  
Courtesy of Lori Mellucci of the Blackstone Valley Historic Society

I'm not sure which Jonathan Harris and David Harris are the owners of the above Louisquiset Turnpike Company shares. They could be the grandsons of Jonathan Harris via his son [Alber HARRIS \(1730-1788\)](#). If so, they would be twins [Jonathan HARRIS \(1762-1830\)](#) and [David HARRIS \(1762-1837\)](#) and possibly two of the three grandsons of Jonathan Harris who sold their undivided third of their inherited land back in the 1790's.

[Jeremiah SMITH](#), a descendant of Thomas Harris Sr., (Dinah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born 11 February 1733 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. Jeremiah SMITH married [Lavinia OLNEY \(1738-?\)](#) on 4 October 1759 in Smithfield and the couple had at least five sons. Jeremiah lived in Lime Rock in the northern part of old Smithfield. Jeremiah operated a lime kiln near the Limerock quarries of the Dexter and Harris Families. He was a member of the Smithfield Society of Friends.



Jeremiah Smith House circa 1790  
Photo contributed by Glenn Craven

In 1807 one of undivided thirds related directly to a 44-acre tract that Jonathan Harris's grandsons had conveyed to Jeremiah Smith, Samuel and Thomas Mann, and Simon Aldrich was transferred by Thomas and Samuel Mann to [Winsor Aldrich \(1772-1826\)](#), son of Simon Aldrich who already had a third of the undivided shares, with the estate in the limestone being severed from the estate in the land by the following provision of the deed:

*" away excepting & reserving to ourselves our heirs and assigns forever all the Lime Rocks on said premises or belonging thereto and liberty to pass to & from said Lime rocks with teams and other ways and to dig said Rocks, Also all our right and title in & unto the Lime Kiln Limes & Lime Houses on said premises and liberty to repair or build a new said Lime Kilns and Lime Houses on said premises and*

Miles J Harris III  
Original Publish Date: 3/11/23

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

*liberty to lay Lime Rocks & wood around said Kilns and other materials for the purpose of burning lime or repairing or building a new said Lime Kilns and Lime Houses where it may be most convenient with doing least damage and liberty to pass to and from said Lime rocks to said Lime Kilns with teams & other ways where it may be most convenient with doing least damage."*

If I'm understanding this correctly, Thomas and Samuel Mann retain the right to all things related to the Limestone and Lime business, however, they may have been bound by the 99-year lease between Jonathan and David Harris.

Two years later, in 1809, Jeremiah Smith conveyed a third interest in 44 acres which were part of the 72-acre tract to Simon and Winsor Aldrich, retaining ownership of the limestone in that tract in the following language:

*"Always excepting and reserving to myself my heirs & assigns forever all the Right, Title and Interest I have or ought to have in and to the lime rocks, lime kiln and lime house on said premises, with liberty to pass to and from them with team & otherwise where it may be most convenient with doing least damage for the purpose of digging said lime rocks and carrying them away and liberty around said Lime Kiln & Lime House to lay wood and stone to burn lime and to rebuild and repair said Lime Kiln & Lime House."*

This last transaction gave the Aldrich family surface interest in the 72 acres of what once was Jonathan Harris's farm. But again, Jeremiah Smith and his heirs retained the right to all things related to the Limestone and Lime business, however, they may also be bound by the 99-year lease between Jonathan and David Harris.

These statements would become the basis for Conklin Limestone Company's appeal in the 1958 appeal of the lawsuit [Plante v. Conklin Limestone Co., Inc.](#) and 1964 lawsuit [Mellor v. Conklin Limestone Co.](#) Both related to Conklin retaining access to the limestone on the 44-acre tract.

The will of Jeremiah Smith was admitted to probate on September 26, 1818 and by the tenth clause he provided: "I give devise to five of my sons namely Jeremiah Smith, Obadiah, George, Willard and Edward all the right title Interest I have in unto the lime Kiln, lime House, and Lime rock to them their heirs assign forever in Equal shares." This is the only reference to limestone and lime kiln contained in his will and obviously relates back to the reservation in the conveyance to Simon and Winsor Aldrich and maintains Jeremiah's descendants' ownership in the limestone on the 44-acre tract.

In the 1820's and 1830's the Blackstone Canal and River Road were built, which further directed traffic away from Great Road.



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **Sixth Generation of Harris's Descendants Owning Harris Lime Quarries**

**David F HARRIS** (Joseph/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 17 August 1780 in Nantucket, Massachusetts, United States. David married **Lydia STREETER (1780-1837)** on 31 December 1800 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. The couple had six children.

It appears that David did not have much involvement in the day-to-day running of the Harris Lime Quarries. Until roughly 1806 he and his family lived in the Lime Rock/Smithfield area. By 1807 David's family lived in Dutchess, New York and by 1819 his family moved west to Ashtabula, Ohio. However, David F Harris must have had some stake in the Harris Lime business since his name appears on the incorporation papers in 1823 along with his son **Edward G. HARRIS**.

David's first wife Lydia died 11 February 1837 at the age of 57 in Geneva, Ashtabula, Ohio and was buried about 13 February 1837 in the Sexton Cemetery, Geneva, Ashtabula, Ohio, United States. Thereafter David married **Hannah WARRINGTON (1791-1865)** on 30 January 1839 in Columbiana, Ohio. David died on 13 October 1848 at the age of 68 in Salem, Columbiana, Ohio, and is buried in Salem. Hannah lived to the age of 74, dying on 4 May 1865 in Salem, Ohio, where she was buried.

**William HARRIS** (Joseph/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 29 December 1785 in Nantucket, Massachusetts, United States. William HARRIS and **Sarah GREENE (1789-1825)** were married on 4 January 1809 in North Providence, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. The couple had seven children before died on 1 November 1825 at the age of 36 in Pawtucket, Providence, Rhode Island. Sarah Greene is buried in Mineral Spring Cemetery, Pawtucket, Providence, Rhode Island.

William HARRIS married his second wife **Sarah WILKINSON (1802-1881)** on 25 October 1826 in of Providence, Providence. The couple had two children.

William, along with his son **Samuel Greene HARRIS** and daughter **Sarah Jane HARRIS**, was involved in the incorporation of the Harris Lime Rock Company. I don't know if William was involved in the daily operation of the family business or if any quarrying was done on his property.

In addition to the family lime business, William was involved with his brother Samuel in the textile industry that was just starting out. The textile industry would supplant the lime business as the major industry in northern Rhode Island.

William died on 14 November 1864 at the age of 78 in Cumberland, Providence, Rhode Island and is buried in the Mineral Spring Cemetery, Pawtucket, Providence. Sarah Wilkinson died in 1881 at the age of 79 in Providence, Rhode Island, United States and is also buried in the Mineral Spring Cemetery

**Samuel Bunker HARRIS** (Joseph/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born 7 May 1793, in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. Samuel married **Adeline SPROAT (1803-1843)** on 20 September 1828 in Taunton, Plymouth, Massachusetts. Adeline was born and raised in Taunton, which explains why the couple was married in Taunton. The couple had two children.

Under the stewardship of Samuel Bunker Harris, his brother, Daniel G. Harris and cousin Benjamin L. Harris, the Harris Lime Rock Company was incorporated from the Harris Lime Quarries.

Samuel was involved with his brother William in the fledgling Rhode Island textile industry.

Adeline died on 20 March 1843 at the age of 40 in Smithfield. The widower Samuel B. Harris died in 1884 at the age of 91 in what was now the Lime Rock area of Lincoln, Providence, Rhode Island.

**Daniel Gardner HARRIS** (Joseph/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 23 Oct 1795 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. Daniel G. HARRIS and **Phebe** (last name unknown) were married about 1817, before the birth of their first son William T. in 1818, in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. The couple had two children.

Daniel along with his brother Samuel and cousin David F. were instrumental in the incorporation of the Harris Lime business and Daniel owned the "Lime Cask Manufactory" located across from the Harris Middle Quarry and near the Harris South Quarry.

It is not known when Phebe died, perhaps relatively young in childbirth, Daniel died in July 1850 at the age of 54 in Glens Falls, New York.

**Benjamin Cushing HARRIS** (Steven/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 21 January 1797 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. Benjamin Cushing HARRIS and **Eliza GREENE (1800-1892)**

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

were married on 26 April 1821 in of North Providence (Smithfield). Benjamin and Eliza had nine children. Benjamin is one of the family members mentioned in the incorporation papers for Harris Lime Stone Company.

Benjamin died on 1 November 1872 at the age of 75 in Providence. His widow died twenty years later on 11 November 1892 in Rhode Island.

**Abby HARRIS** (Steven/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 3 Aug 1800 in Providence. She married **Arlon MAN (1797-1845)** sometime around 1823 in Providence. The couple seems to have had no children. Abby is one of the family members mentioned in the incorporation papers for Harris Lime Stone Company.

Abby's husband Arlon died 16 December 1845 at the age of 47. The widow Abby passed at the age of 81 on 27 July Providence, Rhode Island

**George Jenckes HARRIS** (Steven/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 10 July 1805 in Providence (probably Smithfield). George Jenckes HARRIS and **Sarah Hopkins HAWES (1812-1890)** were married 18 June 1833 in Providence. George and Sarah had eight children. George also was named on the Harris Lime Rock Company's incorporation papers.

George died on 9 December 1870 at the age of 65 in Providence. Sarah, his widow, died on 29 August 1890 at the age of 78 in Taunton, Bristol, Massachusetts. It appears she was buried in Providence.

**Charles F. HARRIS** (Steven/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 13 Dec 1809 in Providence. Charles was also involved in the incorporation of the Harris lime business. Charles died young at the age of 26 on 27 July 1836.

**Sarah Otis HARRIS** (Steven/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 30 January 1795 in Providence. Sarah married **Samuel GREEN (1791-1868)** on 10 Sep 1822 in Providence. Samuel and Sarah had five children. Both Sarah and Samuel were listed on the 1823 incorporation papers of Harris Lime Rock Company.

Samuel Green died on 1 October 1868 at the age of 77 in Woonsocket, Providence and was buried Saint James Cemetery in Woonsocket, however, it appears in his body was moved to North Burial Ground in Providence on September 14, 1869. Original burial date in St. James was October 5, 1868. Perhaps Samuel was involved in the Harris textile business. Sarah died on 7 September 1874 at the age of 79 in Woonsocket and was also buried in the Saint James Cemetery. No indication that her body was moved to the North Burial Ground.

### **Jonathan Harris 44-acre Tract: Jeramiah Smith**

As noted earlier, Jeramiah Smith, who was one of the purchasers of the 44-acre tract of land from Jonathan Harris, retained the rights to the lime on the property when he sold it to Simon and Winsor Aldrich. This right was passed to his children who would sell those rights to the Harris Lime Rock Company in 1848.

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

**Jeremiah SMITH II** (Jeremiah/Dinah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 29 June 1770 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. He married **Damaris HARRIS (1776-1859)**



(Thomas/Gideon/Capt. Thomas/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) and the couple had two children. His occupation is listed as a farmer, although per **SAH Archipedia (Society of Architectural Historians)**, he was a gunsmith (he could be both). He more than likely was involved in some aspect of the lime business (mining or leasing access) although not in the incorporation. Jeremiah was one of the parties quick deeding the limestone rights to the Harris Lime Rock Company.

Jeremiah died on 17 April 1854 at the age of 83 in Smithfield, Providence

Jeremiah Smith House  
42 Wilbur Road, Lincoln, Rhode Island  
Photo contributed to FamilySearch by Glenn Craven

and is buried in Jeremiah Smith Cemetery, Lincoln, Providence, Rhode Island, as is his wife. The Jeremiah Smith Cemetery (or Lot) is located at 41.92414, -71.46567 on Wilbur Road close to where his father's home is at 42 Wilbur Road. I assume Jeremiah II inherited the home from his father or purchased it from his brothers and raised his family there. Damaris died 1 July 1859 at the age of 83 and is also buried in the Jeremiah Smith Cemetery.

**Obadiah Chace SMITH Sr** (Jeremiah/Dinah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 15 March 1772 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. Obadiah and **Uranah CHACE (1778-1828)** were married sometime before the birth of their child in 1815. The couple had one son, **Layman SMITH (1815-1850)** who later was involved in the signing of the lime rights quick deed to the Harris Lime Rock Company. Uranah died on 26 September 1828 at the age of 49 in Providence, Rhode Island and buried in the Obadiah Smith Lot, Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island (Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Smithfield #21, map coordinates: 41.90610, -71.50130).

Obadiah married his second wife **Huldah Muzzy PHETTEPLACE (1794-1871)** on 25 October 1829 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. The couple had one son, **Obadiah CHACE Jr (1831-?)**, who, being a minor, was represented by James Phetteplace in the 1948 conveyance of his limestone rights to the Harris Lime Rock Company.

Obadiah and his family appeared to live in Smithfield roughly 2-1/2 miles from the home he grew up at 42 Wilbur Road. I assumed this fact based on the location of Obadiah Smithfield Lot (cemetery). He died on 9 September 1842 at the age of 70 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island and was buried in Obadiah Smith Lot Smithfield, Providence County, Rhode Island.

Huldah, signed the quick deed to the lime rights she inherited from her husband to the Harris Lime Rock Company in 1848. Huldah died on 12 May 1871 at the age of 77 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States and is also buried in the Obadiah Smith Lot.

**George Olney SMITH** (Jeremiah/Dinah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr), a farmer, was born on 14 April 1774 in what would become Lime Rock, Lincoln, Providence, Rhode Island. George Olney SMITH married **Mary FARNUM (1785-1868)** on 11 March 1804 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. The couple had six children. Based on the location of the George Smith Lot (cemetery) where George was buried, I assumed he lived around 6 Clark Road in Smithfield about 2-1/2 miles from where he grew up and near his brother Obidiah lived



## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

on Limerock Road. George was one of the parties quick deeding the limestone rights to the Harris Lime Rock Company.

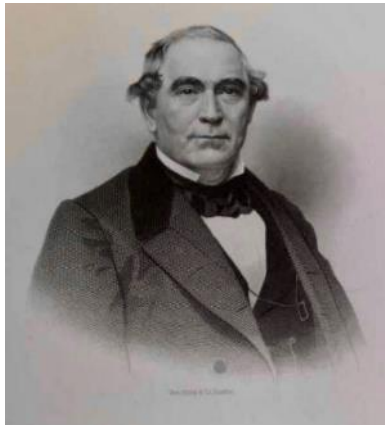
George died on 19 March 1856 at the age of 81 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States and is buried in the George Smith Lot, Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island (Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Smithfield #21 map coordinates 41.90530, -71.49760). His wife Mary died on 11 December 1868 at the age of 83 in Smithfield also buried in the George Smith Lot.

[Willard SMITH](#) (Jeremiah/Dinah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 6 June 1778 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. He married a [Rachel MOWRY \(1784-1856\)](#) sometime before the birth of their son [Mowry SMITH \(1806-?\)](#). William died 11 July 1845 in Smithfield. Rachel and her son Mowry were involved in the quick deed process with the Harris Lime Rock Company.

[Edward SMITH](#) (Jeremiah/Dinah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 4 October 1784 in Smithfield (Lincoln), Providence. Edward could have been married and had children, however, there are a number of Edward Smiths in Providence at the time and it is hard to say which one is in fact this Edward Smith. In 1848 Edward conveyed his inherited portion of the limestone rights to the Harris Lime Rock Company. Edward died on 3 August 1867 at the age of 82 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island and was buried in the Edward Smith Cemetery in Lincoln.

# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Seventh Generation of Harris's Owing Harris Lime Quarries



**Edward G. HARRIS**-(David F/Joseph/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born 3 October 1801 in Smithfield (later Lime Rock, Lincoln), Providence, Rhode Island and spent time in Ohio as a youth with his parents and siblings.

In 1823, at the age of 22, Edward returned from Ohio and became assistant to his uncle William Harris who was a manufacturer at Valley Falls, Rhode Island and is mentioned in the incorporation papers for Harris Lime Stone Company. Besides the family lime business, in the early nineteenth century his two uncles William and Samuel had ventured into the textile business with William's second wife's uncle, Isaac Wilkinson. In 1824 Edward went to work for Albion Mills.

He became the agent of the Harris Lime Rock Company in 1828 and worked there saving money until 1831. Using his savings and a loan he bought a small woolen mill, known as "No.1" of the Harris Woolen Company located on the Blackstone River at Woonsocket (about 7 miles north-northwest of Lime Rock) where he began manufacturing satinette (a fabric with a finish resembling satin but made partly or wholly from cotton or synthetic fiber).



Harris Woolen Company Mill #4  
55-69 Main Street (c.1846)

Edward married **Rachel FARNUM (1811-1646)** 2 December 1835 in Cumberland, Providence, Rhode Island. The couple had three children before Rachel died on 7 February 1846 at the age of 34 in Woonsocket, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. She was buried soon after her death in Oak Hill Cemetery, Woonsocket, Providence, Rhode Island.

Edward married his second wife **Abbey PECK METCALF (1824-1906)** on the 19 of April 1848 in Cumberland, Providence, Rhode Island. Edward and Abbey had four children.



Edward died on 24 March 1872 at the age of 70 in Woonsocket, Providence, Rhode Island and was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Woonsocket, Providence, Rhode Island. His second wife Abbey died in 1906 at the age of 82. She was also buried in 1906 in Woonsocket.

## The Dash Between: Edward Harris

From [Woonsocket: My Hometown on the Web](#)

"By the mid-nineteenth century, Woonsocket had become one of the greatest manufacturing centers in the United States, and its leading citizen was Edward Harris. A woolen goods manufacturer, Harris was a pioneer in the field and grew to become one of the foremost manufacturers in the country.

Edward Harris was born in 1801 in the village of Limerock in Lincoln, Rhode Island. While his family had been in the lime business for generations, two of his uncles - William and Samuel - ventured into the textile business in the early nineteenth century. Young Harris became a clerk in his uncles' cotton mills in 1822 and began manufacturing satinets in his own mill at Market Square in 1831. By the 1850's, Harris was producing high quality woolen cashmeres in his mill at Market Square and in three additional mills on Main Street. He also built a large warehouse on Railroad Street near Depot Square. His number 4 mill still stands today on Main Street as does his warehouse on Railroad Street.



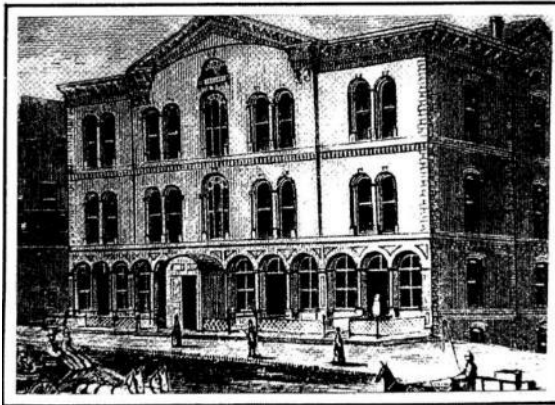
Harris Woolen Company Warehouse  
61 Railroad St today (c.1855)

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

In 1856, Harris constructed the Harris Block for use by the community. The three-story building is built in the Italianate style, it was Woonsocket's first major commercial building and the first public library in Rhode Island. Abraham Lincoln spoke in the building's Harris Hall in 1860. Harris also donated land for the city's first high school and for the Oak Hill Cemetery. He was active in civic and political affairs, represented Woonsocket in the Rhode Island legislature and ran for governor as an antislavery candidate.

In the 1860's Harris undertook his most ambitious project - construction of the Privilege Mill complex near North Main and Privilege Streets. Power for the mill was provided when Harris built a dam across the Mill River to

produce the Harris Pond. The vast complex included eighty tenements and a brick mill considered the largest and finest of the day. It was the capstone of his career.

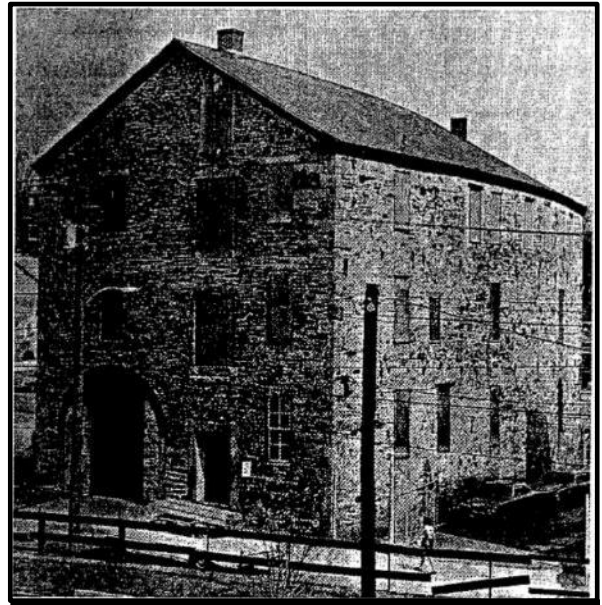


An engraving of the Harris Block on Main Street c. 1880.

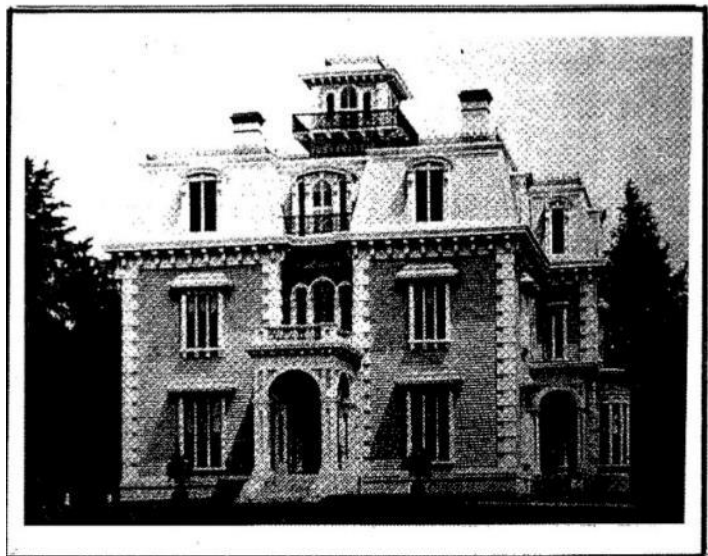


Harris Block today: City Hall, 169 Main Street

Harris lived in a beautiful mansion that he built on the corner of Harris Avenue and Blackstone Street in the North End. By the 1870's, his Harris Woolen Company operated six mills in Woonsocket and employed over 1,000 people. He died in 1872 and is buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery along with his family."



The Harris warehouse at 61 Railroad. Built in 1855 with rubble walls and heavy wood frame to make the building fire resistant and strong enough to handle the weight of wool and finished goods. It had an unusual curved plan to accommodate a railroad spur that running through an arch entry to handle the freight indoors.



Edward Harris's mansion, built around 1855 with roof modifications about 1870. The stately home overlooked Woonsocket and was part of the Harris Estate, which encompassed the entire North End. Abraham Lincoln stayed overnight March 8, 1860 after speaking at Harris Hall (photo c. 1890)



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **The Harris Lime Rock Company**

The descendants of Thomas Harris controlled this industry until 1823 when the family incorporated the Harris Lime Rock Company. In 1823 eleven owners of lime rock joined to form the Harris Lime Rock Company under the leadership of Joseph Harris's sons Samuel B. and Daniel G. Harris and Joseph's brother Stephen Harris's son Benjamin L. Harris. The company sold common jointa, and first quality lime to local individuals, sloops, and Fort Adams. Where the Conklin Limestone Company is today on the south side of Wilbur Road is where the Harris Lime Rock Company's "Counting House" stood. Also located near the Conklin Company was Daniel G. Harris's "Lime Cask Manufactory".

On 14 June 1823 the Harris Lime Rock Company was incorporated by the Rhode Island General Assembly. Incorporators listed were brothers: **David F. Harris** of Whiteburgh, Ohio; **William Harris** of North Providence; **Samuel B.** and **Daniel G. Harris** of Smithfield; **Samuel Green and his wife Sarah Harris-Greene** of North Providence; **Benjamin C., Abbey, George F., and Charles F. Harris**, all of Providence and **Edwin H. Harris** of Cumberland's. In addition to these eleven, the names of **Hephzibah Harris**, widow of Joseph, and **Abigail Harris**, widow of Stephen, are also on the document (part of the original Board of Directors?).

Besides quarrying company limestone on its own property, Harris Lime Rock Company continued the practice started by David Harris and drew up elaborate leases for the rights to quarry and burn lime on other lands on a yearly basis as well as providing full and parttime jobs for the residents of the area. The price of wood needed to fuel the kilns seemed to have increased during these years, resulting in the company constantly having to pay substantial sums for cutting rights. It was such a big business that a bank was needed, and the [Smithfield Lime Rock Bank](#) was founded in 1823.

In 1840 the state geologist, C.T. Jackson, reported that the Smithfield kilns could produce over 500 casks (a cask = 240-300lbs) of calcined lime per week. He also noted that due to the high magnesia content of the dolomitic marble, Smithfield Lime, because of its quick setting and bright white coloration, was held in very high regard by masons.

The completion of the Providence and Worcester Railroad in 1849 resulted in the village of Lime Rock ceasing to be a busy way station, and as Portland cement, which could be made much more cheaply, became more widely used, the extremely labor-intensive lime industry declined. The Harris Lime Rock Company and the Dexter Lime Rock Company continued to produce large quantities of superior quality lime, however, the lime industry, that had been so much a part of life in the community for almost two centuries, saw its sales slowly fall. The textile industry started by Samuel and Daniel Harris in the early 1800's appears to have replaced the lime business as a major commodity and employer in the northern section of Rhode Island.

While Portland cement in general construction gradually replaced the use of lime mortar, the soft and porous properties of lime mortar provided certain advantages when working with softer building materials such as natural stone and terracotta. Portland cement is commonly used in new constructions of brick and concrete, however, for the repair and restoration of brick and stone-built structures originally built using lime mortar it is not recommended. Lime mortar is more porous than cement mortars thus wicking any dampness in the wall to the surface where it evaporates. Salt content in the water crystalizes on the lime, damaging the lime and therefore saving the masonry.

### ***Sidenote: What is Jointa***

The name "Jointa" was given to lime rock by early quarrymen to describe the presence of hornblende rock of a dark-brownish green color; limestone in contact with hornblende rock is called Hard Jointer or Granular Dolomite.

[Hornblende](#) is a complex [inosilicate](#) series of [minerals](#). It is not a recognized mineral in its own right, but the name is used as a general or field term to refer to a dark [amphibole](#). Hornblende minerals are common in [igneous](#) and [metamorphic rocks](#).

# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **History of Cement**

Paraphrase from [cement - History of cement / Britannica](#) and [Portland cement-Britannica](#)

Hydraulic cements origin goes back to [ancient Greece](#) and [Rome](#). They used lime and a [volcanic ash](#) that slowly reacted when mixed with [water](#) to form a hard mass. Thus forming the cementing material, the Roman Empire started using more than 2,000 years ago in their mortars and concretes throughout their empire. The Volcanic ash that was mined near what is now the city of [Pozzuoli, Italy](#), was rich in essential aluminosilicate minerals, gave rise to the classic [pozzolana](#) cement of the Roman era. The term pozzolana, or pozzolan, to this day refers either to the cement itself or to any finely divided aluminosilicate that reacts with lime in water to form cement. (The term cement is from the Latin word caementum, which meant stone chippings (aggregate) and is not the binding material but rather the Roman mortar).



[Eddystone Lighthouse: Sir James N. Douglass's version](#)

The evolutionary path to Portland cement began 1756 when [John Smeaton](#) developed an hydraulic to erect the [Eddystone Lighthouse](#) off the coast of [Plymouth](#), Devon, England. He discovered the best [mortar](#) for underwater construction to be limestone with a high proportion of clay

About 1800 the next development took place in England and France, with a material obtained by burning nodules of clayey limestone. Shortly afterward in the [United States](#), a similar material was created by burning the naturally occurring substance called "[cement rock](#)." All the above materials belong to a class known as natural cement as does the product using the lime obtained from lime stone

[Joseph Aspdin](#) of [Leeds, Yorkshire](#), England is generally attributed to the invention of [portland cement](#) when in 1824 he took out a patent for a material that was produced from a [synthetic](#) mixture of [limestone](#) and [clay](#). The product resembled a portland stone (a [limestone](#) used for building in England) so he called the product "portland cement". Portland cement is a binding material in the form of a finely ground powder, usually gray, that is manufactured by burning and grinding a mixture of [limestone](#) and [clay](#) or limestone and [shale](#). When mixed with [water](#), the anhydrous calcium silicates and other [constituants](#) in the Portland cement react chemically with the water, combining with it (hydration) and decomposing in it (hydrolysis) and hardening and developing strength.

Some consider the product Aspdin developed to have been too lightly burned to be a true portland cement and that Isaac Charles Johnson of southeastern England created the real [prototype](#) about 1850. Portland cement manufacturer and use rapidly spread to other European countries and [North America](#). Thus, replacing lime-based cements and mortars. In the 20th century, cement manufacture has spread worldwide, and as of 2019 China and India have become the world leaders in cement production, followed by Vietnam, the United States, and Egypt.

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

### **Jonathan Harris 44-acre Tract: Transfer to Harris Lime Rock Company**

From [Plante v. Conklin Limestone Co., Inc.](#)

On January 4, 1848, Thomas Mann, Jeremiah Smith, George Smith II, Edward Smith, Lyman Smith and Huldah Smith executed and acknowledged a quick claim deed conveying to the Harris Lime Rock Company and its assigns forever the following described property: "\* \* \* all our right title and interest in and to a certain Ledge of Lime Rock situate in said Smithfield called the 'North Hill Jointa Ledge' with all our right, title and interest in and to the Two Lime Kilns and Lime Houses situate near said ledge, and all our other rights and privileges thereunto belonging. Also, all our right, title and interest in and to the Lime Kiln situated a little southerly of the dwelling house of Simon Aldrich II in said Smithfield called the 'Aunt Anna Kiln' with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging." This was recorded in the office of the Town Clerk in Smithfield, at book 25 at page 188.



**Cylinder Kiln, North Jointa Hole**

With the exception of Thomas Mann, all the grantors were either children or grandchildren of Jeremiah Smith and of the five children, Jeremiah, George and Edward are grantors in the deed. Obadiah had died, and he had left his widow Holda [Huldah] Smith, a son Lyman Smith, who was of age, and a minor son Obadiah, that would be Obadiah Jr. Holda [Huldah] Smith signed this deed, and Lyman Smith signed it."

On March 16, 1848, James Phetteplace, guardian of the person and estate of Obadiah Smith, a minor, conveyed to Harris Lime Rock Company the following:

"\* \* \* all the said Obadiah Smith minor's interest in the North Hill Jointa Ledge of Lime Rock and in the two Lime Kilns and Lime Houses situate near said Ledge in Smithfield, and also of certain rights in the 'Aunt Anna Kiln' (so called) in Smithfield." This conveyance was approved by the Smithfield probate court on March 25, 1848 and was received for record two days later.

The will of Willard Smith was recorded on probate book page 125, and recorded July 11th, 1845 and admitted August 30th, 1845. In his will he left one-half of his real estate to his widow Rachel and the rest and residue to his son Mowry. On January 6, 1848 Rachel Smith and Mowry Smith signed the deed conveying Jeremiah Smith's limestone rights to the Harris Lime Rock Company. With that action all the children and grandchildren of Jeremiah Smith joined in the deed conveying all their right, title and interest in the lime rock rights inherited from their father under his will, to the Harris Lime Rock Company.



**North Jointa Hole**

**All photos on this page by and courtesy of Lori Mellucci of the Blackstone Valley Historic Society**



# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

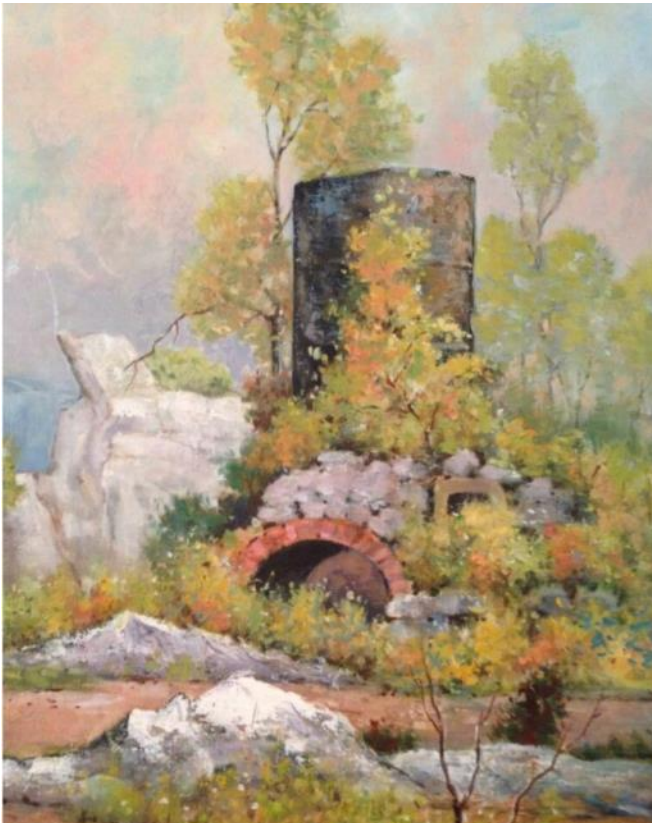
## Seventh Generation of Harris's Owning Harris Lime Quarries Continues



**Robert Harris** (Benjamin/Steven/David/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born 15 May 1835 in Warwick, Kent, Rhode Island. Robert does not appear to have been married. In reviewing the information for Herbert Harris, the last owner of Harris Line Rock Company, it says he bought the company from a Robert Harris. This Robert Harris is the only Robert Harris I found in FamilySearch that fits the date range, location and is the son of Benjamin Harris, one of the Harris's involved in the company incorporation. I'm taking an educated guess that this Robert Harris ran the Harris Lime Rock Company during the second half of the 19th century with the help of his distance cousin Stephen Wright. If so, he leased the company to Herbert Harris in 1890 and sold it to him in 1901. Robert died 1 May 1924 in Providence and his burial in the North Burial Ground in Providence.

By the 1870's, with added competition from the railroads, the Great Road was relegated to the status of a country lane. In 1871 the town of Lincoln was incorporated, splitting off from Smithfield. Lincoln was settled in the 17th century as part of the [Louisquisset](#) grant. Lime Rock village became part of the newly established town of Lincoln, Providence County, Rhode Island. The minerals on Harris Lands played a major role in the growth and prosperity of the area for over 250 years.

## Eight Generation of Harris's Owning Harris Lime Quarries



Stephen Wright Kiln  
Painting by Vicent Bernsaconi (1885-1962)  
from the Blackstone Valley Historical Society display of  
the artist's works on Great Road Day 9/27/2022

**Steven Wright** (Mary/Simon/Richard III/Captain Richard II/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born on 24 June 1819 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island. Steven married **Louisa Draper EATON (1821-1902)** sometime before the birth of the couple's first child in 1843. Steven and Louisa had seven children.

Steven died on 15 September 1902 at the age of 83 in Lincoln, Rhode Island. He was buried in the Wright Burial Ground, Lincoln, Providence, Rhode Island.

Per Lori Melucci and confirmed by the 1850 United States Census:

*"Stephen Wright, a farmer, also managed the quarry for a while in the late 19th century. There is cylinder kiln called the "Stephen Wright Kiln, a name given in the National Register. It is just east of the Middle quarry on the north side of Wilbur Road in the Conklin yard. The Conklin Quarry is on both sides of Wilbur Road, north and south, just as it was in the past."*

Stephen might have owned the middle quarry or at least the Stephen Wright Kiln since later information has Herbert Harris specifically purchasing the Kiln and Quarry.

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*



Harris Lime Rock Company Kiln and Storehouse, circa late 1800's

Photo provided to the Blackstone Historical Society courtesy of the late Everett Wilbur.

Consensus is that this photo is of the Harris middle quarry, on the northside of Wilbur, and shows the top of what is now called the Stephen Wright Kiln surrounded by a hexagon wooden structure that provides a staircase to load the limestone into the kiln with a storehouse in front.

Below I present Ira Harris, the father of Herbert Harris, the last Harris to own and run the business. You will note that for a time he worked at the Dexter Lime Rock Company.

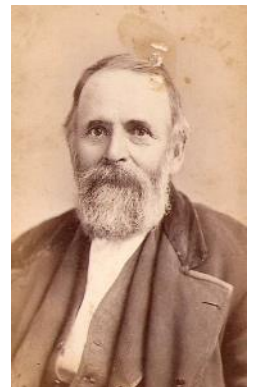
[Ira Harris](#) (Jeremiah/John/David/Captain Richard/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr) was born in Burrillville on 16 April 1816 and moved with family to Slatersville. He worked in the mill of the Slaters as well as their farm. He then moved to Smithfield, located at Lime Rock and learned the wheelwright's trade, as journeyman with John Burckett. He went into his own business, then accepted a position as farmer with Judge Charles Bradley for one year. Next, he worked at Dexter Lime Rock Company for several years.



Sometime in that period, before 1840, he married Fannie Clark (1815-1885) and the couple had six children including the aforementioned Herbert Harris.

In the late 1800's, Ira moved to Modesto, Stanislaus County, California where he built carriages with his son Ira for 9 years. He then returned to Lime Rock Lincoln and lived with daughter Mrs. Frank Gassett and there died on 20 February 1901 in his eighty-sixth year. He was buried in Moshassuck Cemetery in Central Falls, Providence. He was a liberal in his religious views and was a Democrat in political opinion (this information appears

to have come from his obituary).





# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Ninth Generation of Harris's Owning Harris Lime Quarries

This Herbert Harris section is from "History of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation: Biographical", NY: The American Historical Society, Inc. 1920. Corrections, edits and additions by Miles Harris appear in *Italics*.

**Herbert HARRIS** (Ira/Jeremiah/John/David/Captain Richard/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr), owner of the Harris Lime Rock Company and a prominent business man of Lincoln, Rhode Island, was born at this place, February 18, 1851 in *Burrillville area* before Lincoln had been separated from the town of Smithfield. He has always lived in the *Lincoln/Smithfield/Providence* area. He is the son of **Ira** and **Fannie (Clarke) Harris**, old and highly-respected residents of this region. Ira Harris, a descendant of Thomas Harris (1613-1636) one of the early settlers of Providence and land owner in Lime Rock, was a wheelwright and farmer and had a shop at Lime Rock. Herbert Harris was active in the affairs of the community and took a keen interest in the progress of his home town until his death, which occurred in the month of 29 November 1939, at the age of eighty-five years. His second wife died when sixty-nine years old.

Herbert Harris received his education at the local public schools and at the age of 17 and started learning the trade of wheelwright with Andrew Whipple at Greenville (probably unbeknownst to him, besides his father, his ancestor Andrew Harris of Northbourne, Kent England was a wheelwright).

After a year working with Andrew Whipple, Herbert got a job at Dexter Lime Rock Company where he worked until he started in business on his own, at the age of 19, and began work as a teamster. Going in debt for several hundred dollars, he bought a team of horses and for over a year did hauling between Providence and Harrisville (about four miles from Lime Rock) for John O. Wood, who operated a gristmill at Harrisville. He then teamed for Lonsdale Company, between Lonsdale and Providence. Later he was hired by Dexter Lime Rock Company, again, where he worked for the next 10 years. Next, he took a contract to haul stone for the new depot in Centredale, the retaining wall for the river at Providence, and the Fruit Hill reservoir.

Herbert was ambitious and full of enterprise and in 1890 leased the Harris Lime Rock Company from Robert Harris and continued that business very successfully. Eleven years later, when the lease ran out in 1901, he was able to purchase the business outright (could he had used an inheritance from his father Ira who died in 1901 to help him purchase the business?) and at the same time he purchased the controlling interest in the Dexter Lime Rock Company consolidating the processing of lime in the state and thus becoming Rhode Island's most extensive processor of lime. He also purchased the Stephen Wright lime kilns and quarries cementing his control of the lime business. By 1908 he produced more than 55,000 barrels. Over the course of time Herbert built three more cost effective kilns and put in modern machinery and equipment, developed a business in which he employed from twenty to twenty-five men and at one time producing an output of thirty-five to fifty thousand barrels of lime a year. His business was the only one of its kind in Rhode Island at the time, and Mr. Harris has established a position for himself as one of the substantial manufacturers of the community.

In addition to his lime plant, he also has three fine farms including the 30-acre Orin Hutchinson farm near Lime Rock, which he improved and where his home is situated. Like his father before him, he has always been keenly interested in local affairs, and has been a prominent figure in the politics of this region. He is a staunch supporter of the principles and policies of the Democratic party, has held a number of public offices, serving five years on the Town Council of Lincoln, and in January, 1917, was elected to represent this town in the State Legislature. He was active in Lime Rock Grange, No. 22 and was master thereof for nine years. He has been extremely interested in the subject of good roads for the community and has done much in that area.

Herbert Harris married his first wife, **Mary D. KEENE (1856-1884)**, daughter of **Phillip KEENE** and **Eliza**, on 19 March 1873 in Pawtucket, Providence, Rhode Island. Mary died 31 January 1884. Herbert and Mary were the parents of two children:

- I. **Sarah Jane (1872-?)**, who became the wife of Eugene Alson KNIGHT (1868-1932)



SON  
**Richard Harris**  
1668-1750  
LHNR-69G



SON  
**Richard Harris**  
1708-1783  
LZ26-G6P



SON  
**David Harris**  
1735-1807  
LC32-XCT



SON  
**John Harris**  
1762-1832  
L6L7-SKC



SON  
**Jeremiah Harris**  
1789-1874  
KCV-P61V



SON  
**Ira Harris**  
1816-1901  
LK46-956



SON  
**Herbert Harris**  
1851-1939



## History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

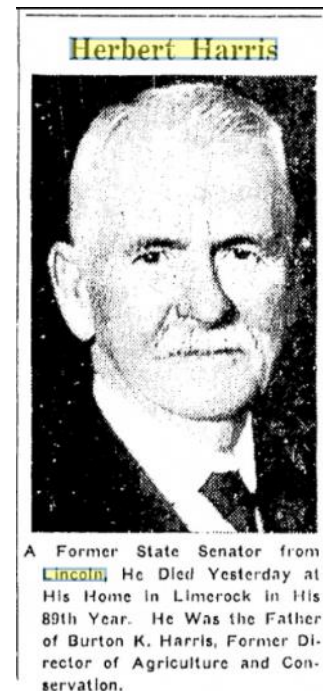
of Lime Rock in 1895, to whom she has borne one child, Irma.

- II. **Georgiana (1876-1901)**, who became the wife of **Albert Peck HOLLY (1872-?)** of Lime Rock on 14 October 1896 in Lincoln. The couple had no children and Georgiana died 1 January 1901 at the age of 25

Herbert Harris married *his* second wife **Lena KULZ (1836-1932)** on 31 January 1884 in Lincoln, and they are the parents of *five* children (*Bio source has three but I think it missed two that died real young*), as follows:

- I. **Sarah HARRIS** was born on 19 March 1883 in Lincoln. She died 12 days later on 31 March 1883
- II. **Carrie HARRIS** was born on 16 November 1884 in Lincoln. She died in 1887 at the age of 3 in Lincoln, Providence, Rhode Island, United States.
- III. **Albert K HARRIS** was born in 1888 in Lincoln, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. Assume he died young since there is no other mention of him.
- IV. **Burton Kenneth HARRIS** was born 8 January 1891 in Lime Rock, Lincoln. Burton married **Helena Mildred HAWKINS (1890-1940)** on 1 October 1913, North Attleborough, Bristol, Massachusetts, United States. The couple had four children. Bert K., a graduate of Kingston College, and, at the time of the biography, was a first lieutenant in a battery of heavy artillery in service in France with the United States Army (in WWI or WWII?).
- V. **Gertrude Alice HARRIS** was born 1 June 1892 in Lime Rock. She married **Adin Mowry CAPRON (1882-1967)** on 24 September 1913 in Lincoln. The couple had no children. Gertrude died 5 December 1974, at the age of 82 in Providence.

Herbert Harris lived all of his adult life in Lime Rock, Lincoln area. At the time of his death on 28 November 1939, at the age of 88, he lived in Louis Quisset Pike (Lime Rock?), Lincoln, Providence, Rhode Island. Herbert was buried in Moshassuck Cemetery, Central Falls, Providence, Rhode Island, United States.



A Former State Senator from Lincoln. He Died Yesterday at His Home in Limerock in His 89th Year. He Was the Father of Burton K. Harris, Former Director of Agriculture and Conservation.

# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Sidenote: A Word Concerning the Family and Ancestors of Mr. Harris

From "History of the state of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation: Biographical",  
NY: The American Historical Society, Inc. 1920. Corrections, edits and additions by Miles Harris appear in *Italics*.

A word concerning the family and ancestors of Mr. Harris will be here appropriate. He is a descendant of **Thomas Harris (1613-1686)** *originally of County Kent, England*, who with his brother, William, *immigrated from England to Boston in the year 1632 in the company (following) Reverend John Lothrop (Bio incorrectly states followed Roger Williams)*. William Harris was one of the six persons who arrived in 1636 *to what would be named Providence Plantation, Rhode Island*, and founded that city *with Roger Williams*. **William Harris** was also one of the twelve to whom Roger Williams deeded land that he had bought from the Indians, and one of the twelve original members of the First Baptist Church in 1639. Thomas Harris was one of the thirteen signers of the compact of 1637, incident to their inhabiting the town of Providence, and he and William were among the thirty-nine signers of an agreement in 1640 for the formation of a government.

**Thomas Harris** was a prominent man in the youthful colony and held a number of positions including that of commissioner, deputy, member of the Town Council, assistant, etc. He was the ancestor of numerous Harris families who have lived in and about what constituted the told town of Smithfield, and to one of which families Jeremiah Harris, grandfather of Herbert Harris, was a member.

**Jeremiah Harris (1789-1874)** (*John/David/Captain Richard/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr*) was a *great-great-great-great-grandson* of the original Thomas Harris, and was a native of the town of Burrillville, Rhode Island where he learned the trade of shoemaker. He later came to Herring Pond, where he made his home and followed this trade, being the owner of a small tract of land in that vicinity. From there he moved to Slaterville and from there again to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He maintained, however, a home at Smithfield and it is said frequently walked from Cape Cod to the latter place, a distance of seventy miles, to cast his vote. *Jeremiah* married (first) **Rhode Young (1795-before 1859)**, a native of Burrillville, and a daughter of **Othniel Young**, a soldier of the Revolutionary War. Mrs. *Rhode Harris* died at Cape Cod and was buried in the Acotes Hill Cemetery, *Glocester, Providence, Rhode Island*. Mr. *Jeremiah Harris* married (second) **Mary (Adams) Daniels (about 1819-?)**, the widow of Bena Daniels, *20 Feruary 1859 in Scituate, Providence, Rhode Island*.

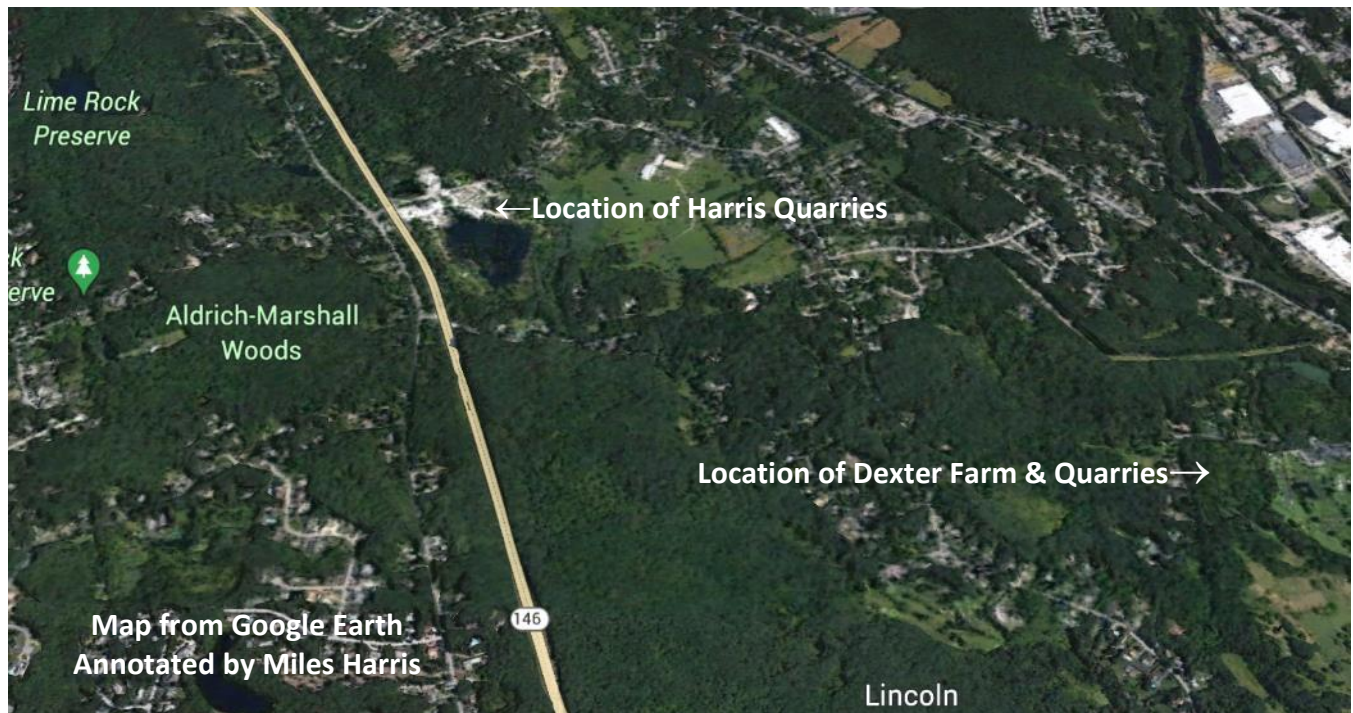
Jeremiah Harris' children were all born of his first marriage and were as follows: **Ira (1816-1901)**, father of Herbert Harris of this sketch; **Eliza (1818-1911)**, who became the wife of Allen Bishop, of North Scituate, Rhode Island; **William (1825-between 1861-1865)**, who died in service in the Civil War; **Sarah (1827-1898)**, who became the wife of **John Barker**, of East Providence; **Henry (1828-1908)**, who died in Montana; **Jeremiah (1833-between 1861-1865)**, who met his death by drowning and was a soldier in the Civil War; **Abby (1827-1884)**, who became the wife of **Talcott Curtis**; **Lucy (1830-1895)**, who married **George Buxton**; **Rhoda (1834-1901)**, who became the wife of **Amasa Esten**; **Thomas (1830-?)**, who died in early youth; and **Orin (1840-1920)**, a civil war veteran, who made his home at Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts.

# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **Dexter Lime Rock History**

**First Generation: Dexter Limestone Quarries (Dexter Lime Business)**

**Reverend Gregory DEXTER: 1610-1700**



The question is what was happening to the Dexter Lime Rock business for the over two centuries the Harris family dominated the industry? Obviously, they were in business up until Herbert Harris purchased the controlling interest in the Dexter Lime Rock business around 1901 and merged it with the Harris Lime Rock Company. I have found limited information on the Dexter company but I did find some information, via a lawsuit, of what was happening with the company.

From what I have found. It does not appear that the Dexter Limestone Quarries operated like the Harris Lime business. Where, once David Harris took over management of the company, Harris Limestone Quarries managed all aspects of the limestone to customer business, I do not see an indication that the Dexter business operated that way once the John Dexter Sr. owned farm and quarries passed, via his son John Dexter II, to his grandsons Jonathan and William. Jonathan's son Christopher ended up owning the eastern half of the farm and through agreement they worked the quarries and kilns in common. However, at the time of incorporation only the western side of John Dexter's farm, or what would be known as Jonathan Dexter Farm, was included in the incorporation, although the corporation laid claim to the limestone in the eastern quarry on what was called Christopher Dexter farm, which resulted in "The Dexter Lime-Rock Company v. Dexter Others" lawsuit in 1859.

I also see no indications of them operating a hauling company to deliver their product. They might have made use of the Harris hauling business by either contracting them or selling the lime to them. They also could have hired independent teamsters to move their product as well as coopers and purchased timber from the farmers in the area.

Whatever the case, Dexter Quarries was a major producer of lime in the Lime Rock area from the late 17th to late 19th century and part of the Harris Lime Rock Company in the first half of the 20th century.

As noted above, the first owner of the land north of Providence Towne where limestone was first quarried in the late 1660's was the Reverend Gregory Dexter.



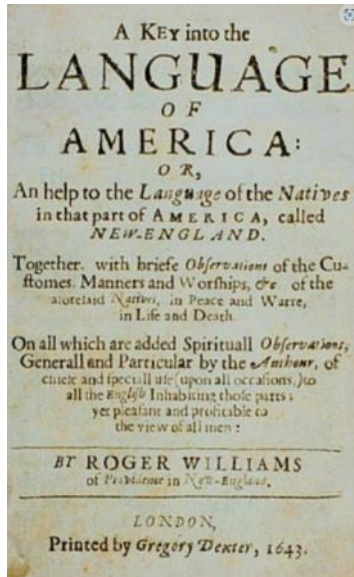
# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## A brief biography for the Reverend Dexter.

from: "The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island, (Providence, RI: National Biographical Publishing Co., 1881), 39-40."

[More details of his life can be found at: Gregory Dexter, American politician / From Wikipedia](#)

"Rev. Gregory Dexter, the fifth pastor of the First Baptist Church in Providence, is said to have been born in London early in the seventeenth century. He followed the stationery business in his native city with one Coleman. One of the authors he printed for was John Milton, writer, philosopher, etc. For printing a piece that was offensive to the government he was compelled to flee the country, and came to Providence in 1643. The same year he was received into the church, of which he subsequently became pastor. That he soon became a person of some importance in the infant colony is evident from the circumstance that he was elected town clerk a few years later after taking up his residence in Providence.



He was also among the fifty-four persons to whom 'town lots' were assigned. In 1648, he was chosen a 'commissioner' to represent the town in the General Assembly, and again in 1650. He was President of the two towns of Providence and Warwick one year, 1653-4. In Staples' Annals may be found, pp. 106-8, an interesting letter of Mr. Dexter's to Sir Henry Vane, in reply to the charge which that gentleman had made, that there were 'divisions, disorders, etc. in the colony which had sorely troubled him, their loving and steadfast friend.' In the subsequent history of the state, the name of Mr. Dexter occasionally appears, as taking part in the civil affairs of the colony. He was chosen Pastor of the first Church in Providence to succeed Rev. William

Wickenden, who died February 23, 1669. Morgan Edwards says of him: 'Mr. Dexter, by all accounts, was not only a well-bred man but remarkably pious. He was never observed to laugh, seldom to smile. So earnest was he in his ministry that he could hardly forbear preaching when he came into a house or met with a concourse of people out of doors.' The exact date of his death is not known, but it must have been not far from the close of the century in which he was born.

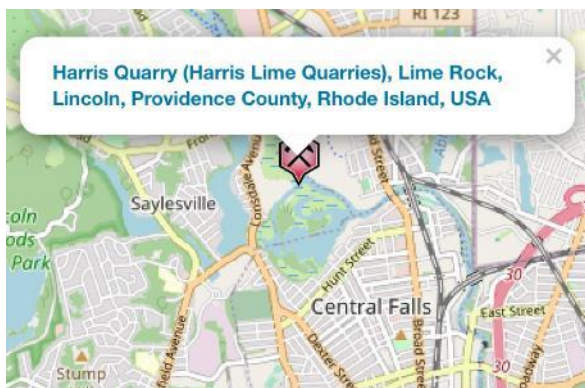
He lived to be over 90 years of age. 'The wife of Mr. Dexter was [Abigail FULLERTON \(1610-?\)](#), by whom he had three sons and one daughter, Stephen, James, John, and Abigail.'"

It should be noted that there is no mention of the lime rock business. All the information found for the quarrying and burning of limestone into lime is Providence town records and assorted records and stories related to the Harris's business and the 1859 lawsuit.

There is a reference to the mining and processing of lime having begun at Dexter Ledge in what would become Lime Rock. Not to be

confused with Dexter's Ledge (Quinsniket in the 1600's) a 112-foot-high hill in Central Falls, Providence, Rhode Island. The term "Dexter Ledge of Lime-Rock," in the deeds of Kelly was the natural descriptive expression, signifying all the formation of that character upon the Dexter farms. No particular quarry or outcropping of lime-rock, on the Dexter farms, was ever known by the name of "Dexter Ledge."

Per [Minedat](#), it does appear that Harris Lime Quarries had a mining operation north of Central Falls at map location 41.89984921048183-71.39999628067018



# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Second Generation: Dexter Limestone Quarries (Dexter Lime Business)

### Stephen DEXTER: 1647–1679 (Gregory Dexter)

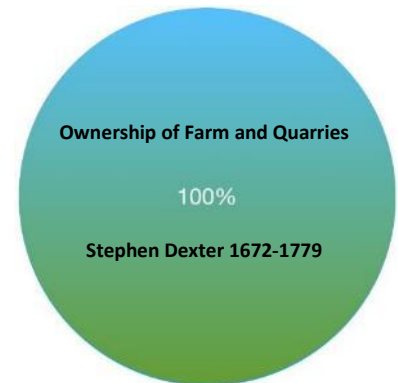
In 1672 the Reverend Dexter deeded the Dexter farmland that had the quarries and kiln, in what is now Lime Rock, to his son Stephen Dexter with the caveat that they remain in common to the people of Providence as (following the 1662 Providence Hackeltop agreement). Dexter's statement reads as follows:

Gregory Dexter, on the 27th, 11th mo, 1672, gave to his son Stephen four acres of land " at a place commonly called Soconoxit (*native name for the area?*), which was laid out to me by Thomas Harris — also — I give him my right of meadow in one share in the new division all I say of the said 80 acres I do give to my foresaid son Stephen for him and his heirs as their own proper inheritance whilst mortality lasteth with all the immunities and privileges upon and in those 80 acres, only excepting which I do really except, this privilege for the Inhabitants of the town of Providence to fetch for their use as much lime rock from the Rock called Hackelton's Rock as they please."

(Proy. Early Rec. 3, 229).

Stephen Dexter began manufacturing lime at the farmland before King Philip's War in 1675, however, when the Indian War broke out in 1675, Stephen took his wife and children to the "Garrison House" in Providence for safety. Stephen died in 1679 in Providence apparently never returning to mine the limestone.

This is where the information for the Dexter Lime business ends until 1854 when Dexter Lime Rock Company incorporated. This is based on the following statement:



"Agriculture was the mainstay of the economy in the 18th century with the requisite saw and grist mills to support farming. In addition, as early as the 1660s lime mining began in Lincoln at the Lime Rock quarries and evolved into a substantial industry by the late 1700s. The settlement that grew into Lime Rock Village was established ca. 1665 along the northern end of Great Road. By the end of the 17th century Gregory Dexter and Thomas Harris were mining limestone that was used in mortar and plaster in buildings in Lincoln and other communities. By the 19th century the descendants of each family had thriving companies that incorporated – in 1823 (Harris Lime Rock Company) and 1854 (Dexter Lime Rock Company) – and merged near the end of the 19th century." [HFLWRN](#)

However, I did find a court case:

### The Dexter Lime-Rock Company v. Dexter Others, 6 R.I. 353 (R.I. 1859)

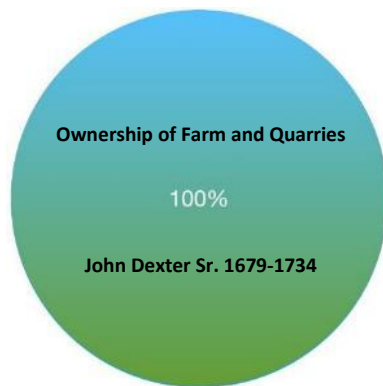
"The right of the plaintiffs (*Dexter Lime Rock Company*) to the injunction which they ask depends upon their title to the lime-rock, locally situate on the land of the defendants, where they are now digging, and propose to continue digging lime-rock. If they establish their claim to the exclusive right to the rock, the defendants must be enjoined from further excavating, burning, or using the limestone there."

Going through the 1859 case I was able to come up with following timeline for the Dexter Lime Rock Company and establish who was quarrying and burning lime on the Dexter land up into the 19th century.

I don't know who took over the Dexter Lime Rock business immediately after Steven Dexter's death since all his children were minors at the time. Perhaps Rev Gregory Dexter, but, because of the Hackeltop agreement the operation was limited to locals using it for their own purpose. Stephen did have a son John Dexter Sr with his wife **Abigail WHIPPLE (1628-1725)**. John was six at the time of his father's death. Stephen's limestone rich farmland did go to his son John who, as an adult, lived and raised his family in Smithfield. It appears, from how the Harris Lime business grew, that limestone quarrying in Providence during the late 17th century was somewhat limited, and quarrying probably happened under the Hackston concession, and didn't really become an earnest operation until the early 1700s. From the aforementioned court case, I've determined that when John grew up, he inherited his father's farmland and began mining the limestone and burning the lime. From that point on, the land and business would have been passed down through his descendants.

# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Third Generation: Dexter Limestone Quarries (Dexter Lime Business)



### John DEXTER Sr: 1673-1734 (Stephen/Gregory Dexter)

John Dexter Sr. married Mary Field (1673-1729) the daughter of **Thomas Field (1648–1717)** and Martha HARRIS (1673-1727). Martha is the daughter of **Thomas HARRIS Sr (1613-1686)** and sister of **Thomas HARRIS II (1645–1711)**, Harris Lime Quarries owner/s. John's children, besides being descendants of Reverend Gregory Dexter, were descendants of Thomas Harris Sr and, like their cousins, were involved in the Lime business. From John's and Martha's children on descendants of Thomas Harris Sr. ran the two major lime businesses in Lime Rock.

Eventually there would be two quarries on the John Dexter farm. "Great Rock Hole," or "Great Ledge," on the western side of the farm and "Little Rock Hole", (Little Ledge)" or "Hackelstone Ledge on the eastern side.

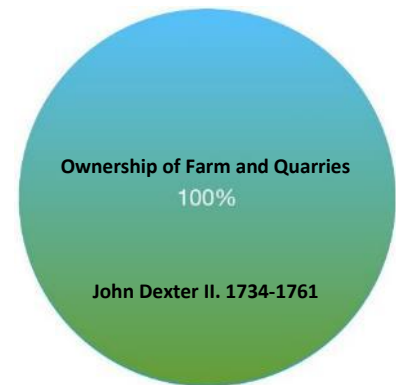
There at some point there were two kilns were on the property. However, I suspect in the early 1700's John would have worked the Hackelstone Ledge with one kiln.

John's eldest John Dexter II, who probably worked in the lime business, would inherit the farm and limestone quarries. His other sons could have worked the quarries and kilns, however, if they did exist, (sources are limited), they either died young or left the area.

## Fourth Generation: Dexter Limestone Quarries (Dexter Lime Business)

### John DEXTER II: 1701-1780 (John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter) and (Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

According to Dexter family histories recorded in the early 1800's, "this man John Dexter, "was known throughout a considerable portion of his life as 'Socknoset John', but why this name was attached to him" the recorder did not know (*Soconoxit appears to be the native name for the area of the Dexter Farm*). On the map of Cranston, Rhode Island in the early 1800's, there is a spot marked by this name that was once an Indian town and later, in colonial records, it is alluded to as "Socknoset Farm". This John lived 79 years at and died in the house where he was born, at the Lime Rocks, as stated in a paper left by his son, Jonathan. It is fair to conclude that he was a farmer, though nothing on that point was mentioned by his son Jonathan who left a brief account of his father."



John Dexter II married **Mary BROWN (1699-1770)** sometime before 1723 and the birth of his first child. The couple had ten children.

Sometime during John II's ownership, as demanded increased, the lime quarry operation on the Great Ledge would have begun. Jonathan, in 1753, leased for the term of ninety-nine years a portion of the great ledge or hill of lime-rock to certain parties, ten rods in breadth extending through the hill. In the lease he reserved the right to dig lime-rock sufficient for the use of one kiln, that he proposed to be built upon his own land. He agreed not to dispose of any other lime-rock which might be obtained from the farm, to the injury of the lessees who had the right to dig and burn lime during the lease. This agreement sounds similar to the one David Harris had with his brother Jonathan Harris; however, the lessees are not known.



Austin-Sayer-Gorton Lot: At 31 Sprague Ave, Lincoln  
Image from Google Earth Street View

John Dexter II, in 1761, divided this farm into two parts, giving to Jonathan Dexter, his son, the westerly part with the "Great Ledge", and at the same time granting the free liberty to dig limestone for burning lime on the other, or easterly part (William's) with the "Little Ledge". On the same day he conveyed to William Dexter, another son, the easterly part, with like free liberty to dig lime-rock upon the farm given to his brother, Jonathan. It appears the kiln was located on William's half just east of the Great Ledge.

Jonathan Dexter died 29 August 1780 in Smithfield and is buried in the Austin-Thayer-Gorton Lot now in Lincoln. His wife Mary died ten years earlier on 16 October 1770 and is in the same lot.

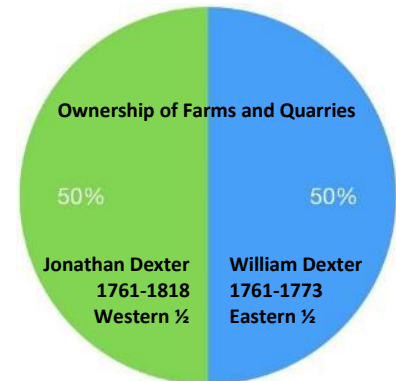


# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Fifth Generation: Dexter Limestone Quarries (Dexter Lime Business)

**William DEXTER: 1735-1773** (John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)  
and (John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

William Dexter, after having received the easterly half his father's farm in Lime Rock in 1761, died eleven years later in 23 May 1773 in Smithfield and like his mother and father is buried in the Austin-Thayer-Gorton Lot. He left behind a wife, **Phebe WARNER (1737-1826)**, and six children including his eldest son **Samuel DEXTER (1757-1832)** who evidently inherited half of his father's farm and deeded (sold?) the land to his uncle Jonathan on May 24, 1783. His next son, **Nathan DEXTER (1759-1846)**, appears to have inherited the other half of William's farm and at some point, before 1804, he deeded it to Christopher Dexter, the son of his Uncle Jonathan Dexter.



**Jonathan DEXTER: 1739-1818** (John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter) and (John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

Jonathan Dexter, received the westerly half of his father's farm with limestone deposits in 1761. In 1783 he obtained part of the eastern half from his nephew, Samuel. Jonathan married his wife **Alice LOW (1741-1822)** **31 December 1761** in Warwick, Kent, Rhode Island and the couple had ten children.

Sometime after 1783, and before 1804, he deeded the eastern part of his father's farm he had obtained from his nephew Samuel to his son, Christopher Dexter. In 1804 Jonathan and Christopher, who by 1804 owned the full eastern half of the eastern Dexter farms, came to a similar agreement as setup between Jonathan and his brother William by their father regarding being able to quarry the stone on the other's land. This agreement would be the basis of the 1859 lawsuit. Per the court case:

"there was a hill situated upon the westerly (*Great Ledge?*), or Jonathan DEXTER farm, a little southerly of the dwelling-house, descending easterly and coming to the level before reaching the westerly line of the Christopher DEXTER farm, and situate wholly on the Jonathan DEXTER farm. This hill was composed of lime-rock, and was, according to the testimony of the witnesses, from thirty to forty or fifty feet above the general level of the land, and had been excavated extensively, some parts of it below the surface, and there was a drift-way leading from the place where the hill had been excavated, easterly, to certain lime-kilns (*kilns build by Jonathan's father?*) upon the Christopher DEXTER farm."

It appears that in 1804, Jonathan and his son Christopher intended to make all that lime-rock on the farm of either, which was in the language of geology, "rock in place," common property. Both the "Great Ledge" and the "Little Ledge," the one what now would be known as the Jonathan Dexter Farm, and the other on the what now would be known as the Christopher Dexter Farms, were, by the proprietors, after 1804, worked in common, and the rock taken from any place, on either farm, was called "Dexter Rock," and the lime burned from it was called "Dexter Lime."

Jonathan died 31 July 1819 in Smithfield and his wife died 3 April 1822, also in Smithfield and both are buried in the Austin-Thayer-Gorton Lot. I'm not sure of who took immediate possession of the Jonathan Dexter farm. It appears that two of his sons died before he did and the other a Captain John Dexter might have had some ownership, however, I'm thinking that the Jonathan Dexter Farm came into the possession of Christopher Dexter via either inheritance or purchase and he would pass ownership on to his children Amey Dexter and Christopher C. Dexter (through inheritance or purchase).

# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Sixth Generation: Dexter Limestone Quarries (Dexter Lime Business)

**Samuel DEXTER** John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)  
and (Willaim/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

Samuel was born on 12 December 1757 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. Samuel DEXTER and **Candace WINSOR (1758-1846)** were married on 14 Jun 1778 in Smithfield. The couple had eleven children. At the age of 16, at the time of his father's death in 1773, Samuel inherited half of his father's farm and lime quarries. Ten years later he sold the farm to uncle Jonathan on May 24, 1783. It appears at this time he moved with his family out of state. He died on 22 April 1832 at the age of 74 in Herkimer, Herkimer, New York, United States.

**Nathan DEXTER** John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)  
and (Willaim/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

Nathan was born on 22 July 1759 in Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island, British Colonial America.. He married **Alcy Alice WARNER (1763-1808)** and the couple had one known child. At the age of 14, at the time of his father's death in 1773, Nathan inherited half of his father's farm and lime quarries. Sometime before 1804, Nathan sold his half of the land to his cousin Christopher. Probably at the time he moved out of state. Nathan died on 20 August 1846 at the age of 87 in Charlton, Worcester, Massachusetts and is buried in the Bay Path Cemetery in Charlton, Worcester, Massachusetts.

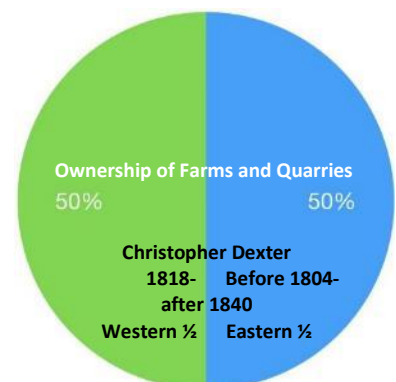
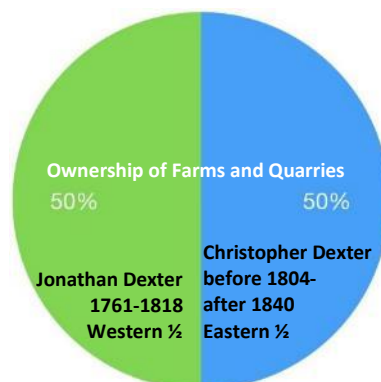
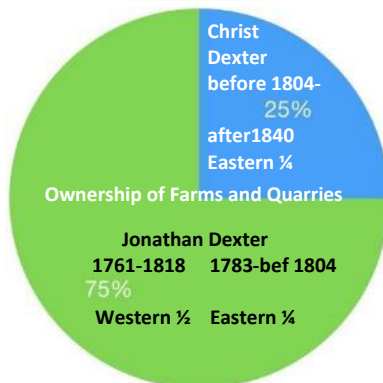
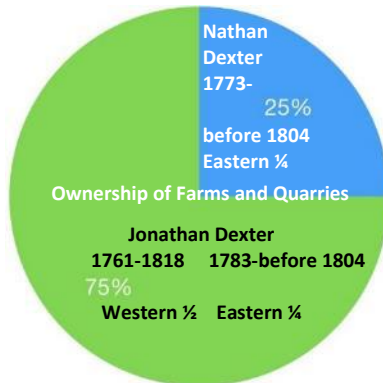
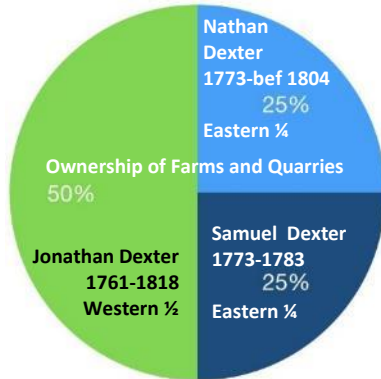
**Christopher Dexter: 1770-after 1840** (Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)

and (Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

Christopher Dexter, who was born in 1770 in Smithfield, married a **Betsey WHIPPLE (1768-1811)** on 10 December 1789 and the couple had seven children. Betsey's great-great Aunt Abigail Whipple is her husband Christopher's great-grandmother.

Christopher owned the eastern side of his grandfather John Dexter II's farm, or the William Dexter farm and know known as the Christopher Dexter Farm. He obtained the farm by purchasing half from his cousin Nathan sometime before 1804 and the other half from his father, who had purchased it from Nathan's brother Samuel. As mentioned in his fathers' biography above, in 1804 Christopher and his father came to an agreement to work the quarries on their property in common. He would have continued that agreement until the death of his father in 1818.

I'm working on the assumption that he inherited his father's western half of the farm when his father died. When Christopher died sometime between 1840 and 1850 (this theory is based on him not appearing in the 1850 US Census) I believed he passed the farms onto his children Christopher C. Dexter and Amey Dexter and his grandsons, the sons of his daughter **Mary DEXTER (1798-1837)** and her husband **Lodowick WALCOTT (1795-1841)**, **Charles Stuart Walcott** and **William Henry Walcott**. Both Charles and William are listed as Manufacturer of Lime in the 1850 census and in the home of Christopher C. Dexter, who occupation is that of farmer



# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Seventh Generation: Dexter Limestone Quarries/Dexter Lime Rock Company

### Amey DEXTER: 1791-before 1860

(Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)

and (Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

In 1850 Amey appears on the US Census in the home of her brother Christopher C. Dexter.

Amey Dexter, per the 1859 lawsuit, was a co-owner of her grandfathers, Jonathan Dexter, western portion of her great-grandfather John Dexter II farm and by in such was also co-owner of the Great Ledge mineral rights. Amey was involved, along with her brother Christopher, in the incorporation of the Dexter Lime Rock Company in 1854 and is mentioned in the 1859 lawsuit and might have been involved in the Dexter quarry operation up until the incorporation. Although Amey appears to be part of the Dexter Lime Rock Company's incorporation, based on the fact she did not appear in the 1860 US Census with her brother, I believe she might have already died by the time of the lawsuit.

### Mary DEXTER (aka Polly?): 1798-1837 (Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter) and (Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

Mary Dexter married **Lodowick WALCOTT** (1795-1841) 21 June 1825 The couple had two children, **Charles Stuart Wilcott** and **William Henry Willcott**. Both sons became owners in the Dexter farms after the death of their grandfather, Christopher.

Mary died 30 May 1837 at the age of 39 in Ashton, Cumberland, Providence, Rhode Island and her husband Lodowick died 23 February 1841 at the age of 45 in Manchester, Hartford, Connecticut.

### Christopher C. DEXTER: 1807-before 1870

(Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)

and (Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

Per the 1850 US Census Christopher lived in Smithfield, assume on some portion of the Dexter Family Farms, with his wife **Maria (1812-before 1860)?**, sisters Amey and Susan (1794-1882), nephews Charles and William Wilcott and William's wife **Jane Lomira DUDLEY (1835-1861)** and their daughter **Mary Louise Dexter WALCOTT (1857-1861)**.

I believe that Christopher, along with his sister Amey Dexter and sister Caroline Dexter-Kelly and nephews Charles and William inherited the entire Dexter Farm, western and eastern halves, and the Dexter Limestone Quarries from his father upon his death sometime before 1850. Based on later censuses it looks he inherited, or purchased from other family members, a major portion of the farms.

Christopher C. Dexter per the 1859 lawsuit, was a co-owner of his grandfathers, Jonathan Dexter, western portion of her great-grandfather John Dexter II farm and by in such was also co-owner of the Great Ledge mineral rights. Christopher was heavily involved in the incorporation of the Dexter Lime Rock Company in 1854 and is mentioned a number of times in the 1859 lawsuit and might have been involved in the Dexter quarry operation up until the incorporation.

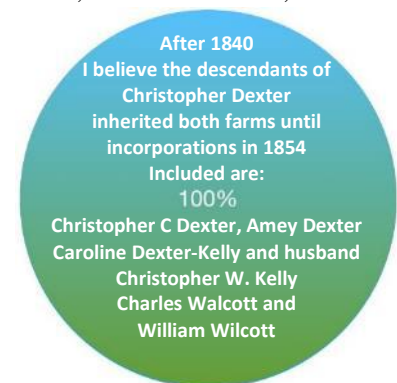
In the 1860 US Census Christopher C. Dexter is listed as living in Smithfield as head of household. I'm assuming he is living on the eastern portion of the Dexter farm and as in 1860 with his sister Susan, nephews Charles and William Wilcott and William's wife Jane Lomira DUDLEY and their daughter Mary Louise Dexter WALCOTT. Christopher's sister Amey Dexter appears to have passed away since she does not appear on the 1860 census.

Christopher, a farmer, has the largest share of the farm at \$6,000 (personal property at \$1,000) with his nephews' real estate value is listed at \$2,200 they had equal shares in the Christopher Dexter Farm. The nephews' occupation is listed as 'Manufacturer of Lime'

### Caroline Dexter-Kelly 1811-1866 (Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)

and (Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris) is the daughter of

Christopher Dexter and spouse of Christopher Whipple Kelly. She also appears to have inherited a portion of the



Ownership of Farms and Quarries



## History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

western portion of the Dexter property, which her husband might have taken control of before the incorporation, however, upon her husband's death in 1858 she would regain control of both the farm and I believe her husband's share of the Dexter Lime Rock Company. The real estate value in 1860 is listed at \$4,200 with her personal estate listed at \$4,000.

Caroline married [Christopher Whipple Kelly \(C.C. Kelly\) 1811-1858](#) (a fifth cousin once removed) and the couple had four children. Christopher Whipple Kelly (C.C. Kelly) was involved in the 1852 incorporation of the Dexter Lime Rock Company, Christopher died 30 March 1858 in Smithfield. Caroline died in Smithfield 6 June 1866. She left behind one minor child who was probably raised by her sister Maria Dexter who lived with her in 1860.

### ***Eight Generation: Dexter Lime Rock Company/Walcott Lime-Rock Quarry (Dexter Lime Business)***

#### **Charles Stuart WALCOTT: 1826-1871**

(Mary Dexter/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)  
and (Mary Dexter/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris)

Charles Stuart Walcott, based on the fact that he lived and died in Springfield/Lincoln, I believe he, along with his brother, are the defendants in the lawsuit. This is based on the text in the response by attorney Weeden Blake to a lawsuit. I believe Charles along, with his brother, was the owner of what was Christopher Dexter's farm and the people the Dexter Lime-Rock Company was to trying to stop from quarrying the limestone.

Charles married **Mary Catherine LEARY (1850-1913)** in Manhattan, New York where they had one child before returning to Lincoln where they had their second child.

In the 1860 US Census Charles is listed as living with his uncle Christopher C. Dexter with his occupation listed as a Manufacturer of Lime along with his brother William. Real Estate value is listed at \$2,200 as is his brother indicating they had equal shares in the Christopher Dexter Farm. CC Dexter appears to have the largest share of the farm at \$6,000 (personal property at \$1,000)

In the 1870 US Census Charles is listed as living with his brother with his occupation listed as (if I'm reading it correctly) "unreadable Lime" and real estate value as \$2,000. His brother seems to now own a major portion of the farm with his portion valued at \$6,000. Charles died 6 April 1871 in Lincoln.

#### **William Henry WALCOTT: 1828-1901**

(Mary Dexter/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter)  
and (Mary Dexter/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris Sr)

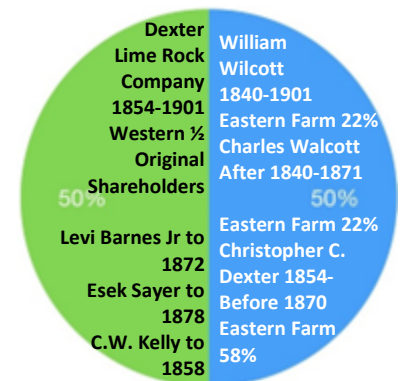
William Henry Walcott, who served in the United State Military in the Civil War, was an owner, along with his brother, in his grandfather Christopher Dexter's farm.

William married his second wife late Georgie Josephine Weaver (1852-1926) and the couple had seven children, all raised in Lincoln, probably on a portion of what was Christopher Dexter's farm.

In the 1860 US Census William is listed as living with his uncle Christopher C. Dexter with his occupation listed as a Manufacturer of Lime along with his brother Charles. Real Estate value is listed at \$2,200 as is his brother indicating they had equal shares in the Christopher Dexter Farm. CC Dexter appears to have the largest share of the farm at \$6,000 (personal property at \$1,000)

In the 1870 US Census William is listed as head of household living with his family including his brother and brother's wife. William's occupation listed as farmer and real estate value as \$6,000 which would indicate he owns a major share of the family farm. I believe he inherited (or purchased) the farm from his Uncle Christopher C Dexter who I believed died before 1870.

In the 1880 US Census William is listed as living in Lincoln (formally Smithfield) with his second wife and five children an Aunt Susan Dexter and a servant. His occupation is listed as Retired Officer USA. Assume he is still living on the family farm



Ownership of Farms and Quarries

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

By 1900 William is living in Washington D.C. with his second wife Georgia and three of their children. His occupation is listed as Retired US Army Officer. William died on 30 August 1901 at the age of 73 in District of Columbia, United States. He was buried on 2 Sep 1901 in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia.

Per the 1859 lawsuit, in 1852 Barnes, Sayers and C.W. Kelly became primary shareholders (owners) in the incorporated Dexter Lime Rock Company. The new company took possession of the Jonathan Dexter Farm, the Great Ledge on that farm and I believe one lime kiln. (I don't know if they owned the land or just had mineral rights, it appears that C.W. Kelly and his wife Caroline Dexter-Kelly, Christopher C. Dexter's sister, lived on the Jonathan Dexter farm). The new company was formed and shares sold by Christopher C. Dexter and his sister Amey Dexter who, along with other siblings and two nephews inherited portions of the entire Jonathan Dexter and Christopher Dexter farms

**The Dexter Lime-Rock Company v. Dexter Others** lawsuit was an attempt by the newly incorporated Dexter Lime Rock Company (1854) to have access to the limestone deposits on Christopher Dexter's farm and prevent the Walcott brothers from quarrying and burning said stone (a similar case to the 1964 Conklin Limestone Company lawsuit). At the time the Wilcott brothers were working a lime-rock quarry in a meadow and not working the Little Ledge.

The Dexter Lime Rock Company, owned by one Barnes, Sayles, and C.C. Kelly in 1859, would not prevail in their lawsuit per the following ruling:

The plaintiffs, having failed to establish their right to the lime-rock which the defendants are excavating, this bill, which prays that the defendants be enjoined from further excavating, must be dismissed with costs.

However, the Dexter Lime Rock Company would continue to operate as a separate entity until Herbert Harris took control of the company and merged it with Harris Lime Rock Company.

### **Sidenote: Dexter Lime Rock Company-All in the Family**

In doing some research I've come up with who I believe Barnes, Sayers and C.W. Kelly are the people are the people listed below and if they are they are also part of the Harris and Dexter families.

#### **Levi Barnes Jr. (Barnes) 1792-1872**

**(Hannah Waterman/John/Anna Harris/Andrew/William)**. If I'm correct in Levi being the Barnes in the lawsuit, he is a descendant of William Harris, brother of Thomas Harris Sr and also a descendant of Richard Tew, Thomas Harris II father-in-law.

#### **Esek Sayles (Sayers) 1793-1878**

**(Mary Harris/Jonathan/Amaziah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr)**. If I'm correct in Esek being the Sayers in the lawsuit, he is a descendant of Thomas Harris Sr.

#### **Christopher Whipple Kelly (C.C. Kelly) 1811-1858:**

**(Abbey E./Christopher Whipple/Anna Harris/Amaziah/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr)** is a descendent of Thomas Harris Sr. and the spouse of Caroline Dexter, daughter of Christopher Dexter and sister of Christopher C. Dexter.

#### **Caroline Dexter-Kelly 1811-1866:**

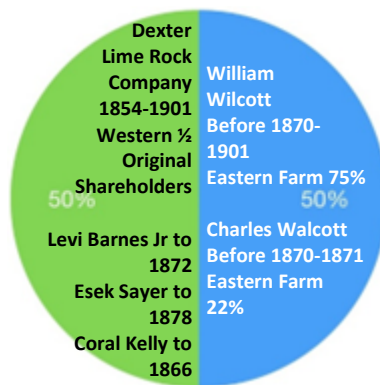
**(Christopher Dexter/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter) and (Christopher Dexter/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris Sr)** is the daughter of Christopher Dexter and spouse of Christopher Whipple Kelly. She also might have inherited a portion of the western portion of the Dexter property, which her husband might have taken control of before the incorporation and relinquished back to her upon his death. Per the 1860 US Census, Caroline's A women of means in the 1860's

### ***The Dexter Lime Business and Land after the Incorporation.***

With the now two lime quarry businesses, the question becomes who owned the land and quarries through the end of the 19th century and in the case of the eastern half into the first half of the 20th century. At the moment I can only offer conjecture based on the limited information available to me.

# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

## Christopher Dexter's Eastern Half



Ownership of Farms and Quarries

In reviewing US Census records it appears that Christopher C. Dexter and his nephews Charles S. And William H. Wilcott owned Christopher's father's eastern half of the Dexter farm in 1860. Christopher appears to own the majority share of the property, roughly 58% and the nephews owning roughly 21% each. While Christopher's occupation is listed as a farmer, Charles and William occupation is listed as manufacturer of lime, which, based on the 1859 lawsuit, would indicate they were quarrying limestone and burning lime on eastern farm meadow.

By 1870, after the death of Christopher C. Dexter before 1870, William now appears to owns 75% of the property and his brother Charles owned 25%. William's occupation is now listed as farmer and Charles appears to be managing or doing the mining of the limestone and burning the lime. Charles died in 1871. After that I don't know if the manufacturing of lime continued or how the property was split among the Wilcott. The last record of the Dexter's living at the property before the turn of the century is in the state census of 1885.

By 1900 Charles Stuart's two children had left the area. William Henry's family had moved to Washington D.C. and scattered across the country from there. William's son [William Henry Lodowick Walcott \(1879– after 1942\)](#) had returned to Dexter Rock Road by 1930 with his daughter Marion Dexter Walcott (1903-1980) daughter and are the only ones person listed as living on Dexter Rock Road in a home that he owned (per the 1930 UD Census). I don't know how William came into possession of the property on Dexter Rock Road. Maybe the property was always in his possession and leased to others. Maybe he purchased the old family home.

In 1935 and 1940 William is still living on Dexter Rock Road. On the same census page there's [Edwin H. Dexter \(1899-?\)](#) and his family living on Dexter Rock Road. While I haven't been able to link Edwin to the Gregory Dexter family, I'm pretty sure he is a descendant of Reverend Gregory Dexter. Edwin is in a rental property on Dexter Road and he lives next door to his sister Hazel H Dexter (1907 – 1999) and brother-in-law Henry W. Dupreu who own the property. Both he and his brother in law's occupation are listed as chimney builder. William Walcott, based on the listing order in the census, lives next door to Edwin and his occupation is listed as auto machanic. None of the properties on Dexter Rock Road are listed as farms, however, in the 1950 US Census Henry's and Hazel's property is listed as a farm. In 1940, Edwin's home is listed as a rental, while the other two properties are listed as owned. There are only these three homes listed on Dexter Rock Road in 1940. Did William sell portions of the land to Henry and Hazel or did they come by the property via some other Dexter connection? Can only speculate

By 1950 it appears that William Henry Wilcott had passed away and the Henry, Hazel and Edwin lived in the same location as in 1940. If I'm reading it correctly (enumerator went from Great Road down Dexter Rock Road to River Road) means the homes were on the north side of the road. There are four other properties listed (assume on the south side), however, none are occupied by Dexters, Wilcotts or Harrises for that matter.



Three homes on the north side of Dexter Rock Road that could have been used by the Dexter or Wilcott families.

**27 Dexter Rock Road**  
Corner of Dexter Rock Rd & Dexter Rock Rd Way

**41 Dexter Rock Road**

**33 Dexter Rock Road**  
House has a similar style to the 1700 Jonathan Harris House  
Could it have been updated or just a new build?

There are also two homes at 44 and 46 Dexter Rock Rd. They are located off the road, so no good Google Street View photos exist.  
Photos from Google Street View



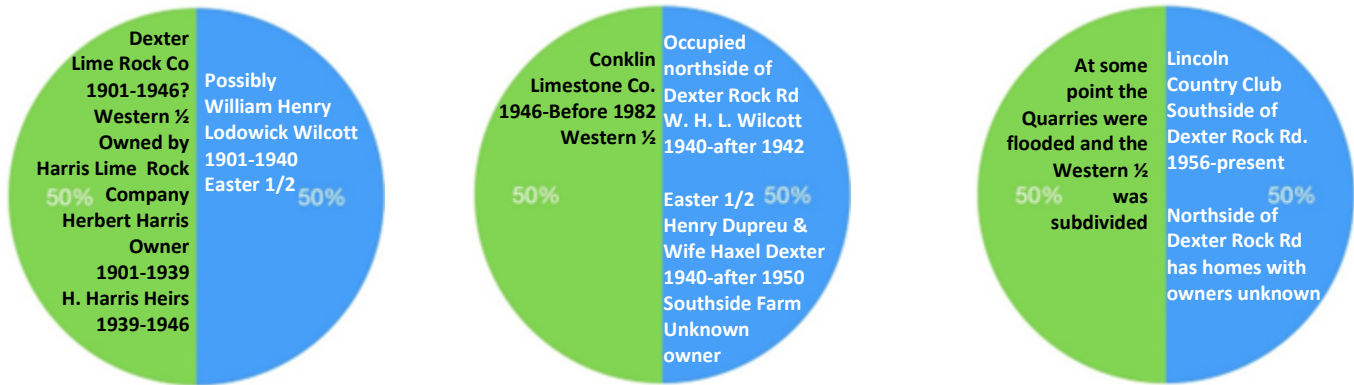
## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

By 1956 the Lincoln Country Club was incorporated. The club is located on the south side of Dexter at at 31 Dexter Rock Road and contains the ruins of a kiln. I'm assuming the kiln is located near the meadow that the Wilcott brothers mined since per the 1959 lawsuit the Walcott brothers were quarrying limestone in a meadow. That being the case, when the country club was built, I would assume they filled the quarry pit with dirt.

### ***Grounds of Lincoln County Club from Google Maps***



# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island



Ownership of Farms and Quarries

## Jonathan Dexter's Western Half

The western half was owned and mined by the Dexter Lime Rock Company. Who owned the company after the deaths of the original owners of Barnes, Sayers and C.W. Kelly is a bit of conjecture, however, the company operated as a separate entity until 1901 when Herbert Harris purchased controlling interest and merged it with the Harris Lime Rock Company.

Christopher Whipple Kelly died in 1858, so I assume the company as well as the farm went to his wife Caroline Dexter-Kelly based on the 1860 US Census and her stated worth: real estate property listed as \$4,600 and personal estate listed as \$4,000 (a woman of means in the 1860's). Caroline died in 1866 at which time her sister [Maria Dexter 1807-1889](#), who lived with her in 1860, probably took over at least the property and raised Caroline's youngest daughter [Caroline Dexter Kelly \(1848-1935\)](#). I don't know if at the time of Caroline's death in 1866 if her share of the Dexter Lime Rock Company went to any of her children or if the shares were sold and split among the children (could have been sold before her death).

In the 1880 US Census 73 year old Maria Dexter is living with her niece:

[Mary J. Dexter-Perrin 1822-?](#) (Anthony/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter), (Anthony/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Marth/Thomas Harris Sr). Also in the home is Mary's first cousin once removed:

[Gregory Dexter Walcott 1869-1959](#) (William Henry Wilcott/Mary Dexter/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory Dexter) and (William Henry/ Wilcott/Mary Dexter/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Marth/Thomas Harris Sr), who would earn a PHD and leave Lincoln before 1890 (Dr Gregory married but had no children. Mary's niece:

[Jennie Maria Smith 1863-1934](#) had three different family lines each that lead back to Thomas Harris Sr and Gregory Dexter. Those lines are:

1. Jeremiah L/Orin/Jeremiah II/Jeremiah Sr/Dinah Harris/Richard/Thomas II/Thomas Sr
2. Jeremiah L/Orin/Damaris Harris/Thomas/Gideon/Captain Thomas III/Thomas II/Thomas Sr
3. Jeremiah L/Betsey Dexter/Jonathan/John II/Mary Field/Martha/Thomas Harris Sr
4. Jeremiah L/Betsey Dexter/Anthony/Christopher/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory
5. Jeremiah L/Betsey Dexter/Mary Ann Dexter/Mary/Jonathan/John II/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory
6. Jeremiah L/Betsey Dexter/Mary Ann Dexter/Bejamin G/James II/James Sr/John Sr/Stephen/Gregory

Jennie would marry in 1883 and move to Pawtucket, Providence, Rhode Island where she lived the rest of her life.

I'm unsure if any of these people had a connection to the Dexter Lime Rock Company or the western Dexter farm. I'm also not sure if Mary J. Dexter-Perrin moved in wither aunt Maria and took over ownership of the property or elderly Maria moved in with her.

The next partner (I believe) in the Dexter Lime business to pass was Levi Barnes Jr. in 1872. In both the 1850, 1860 and 1870 US Census his occupation is listed as farmer with his property value respectively listed as \$2,000, \$2,000 and \$2,500 and personal estate in 1860 as \$400 and 1870 as \$2,000. How much of his worth is related to his ownership in the Dexter Lime Rock Company I can't say. Levi married [Joanna Paine \(1806-1859\)](#) in Smithfield 24 July 1823. The couple had seven children with six making it to adulthood.



## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

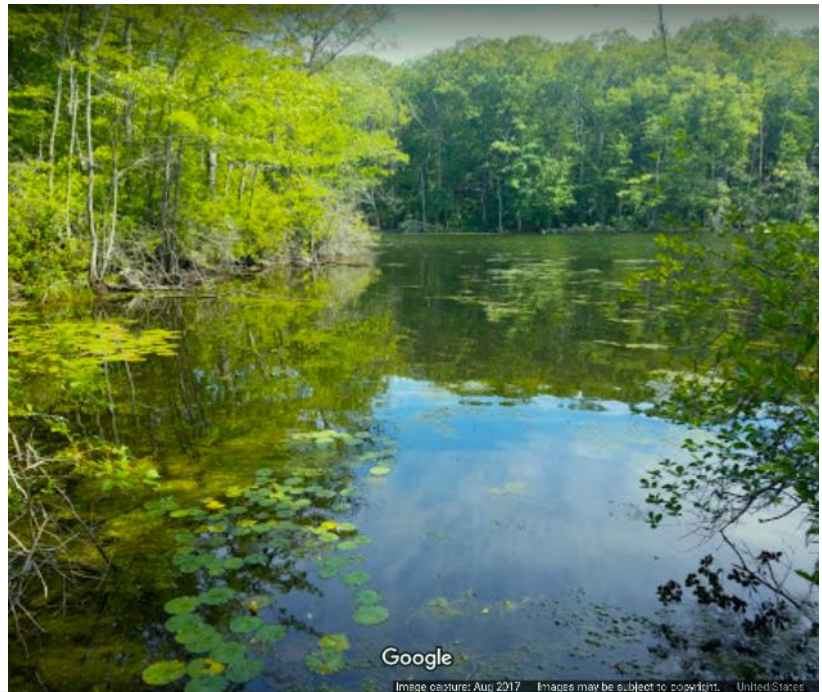
Only one of his sons, Orin Barnes (1828–1906) would marry and have a farm. All of his children, Smith W. Barnes (1823–1905), George W. Barnes (1826–1895), Orin Barnes, Levi Barnes III (1833–1899) and Abbie M. Barnes (1839–1892) lived with him on the family farm in 1850 and 1860. By 1870 Orin lived in his own home (possibly on a portion of the Barnes' farm) with his wife and some farmhands. All Levi's children occupation is listed as farmers and or laborers. In 1870 Orin's had real estate was valued at \$1,300 and his personal estate had a value at \$300. Again, how much of his worth is related to his ownership in the Dexter Lime Rock Company I can't say.

Smith Barnes was the only other son to have property value assigned to him. In the 1860 his real estate was value was \$500 with personal estate valued at \$200. In the US 1870 Census his real estate value had increased to \$1,000 and personal estate at \$500.

After their father's death all the Barnes siblings except Orin lived on the farm together with Smith listed as head of the household. Orin lived with his wife and family on a separate property. Both Smith and Orin, based on their worth, might have still had a stake in the Dexter Lime Rock Company and possibility involved in its operation until Herbert Harris took control in 1901. Without further information, it's just an educated guess.

Esek Sayers, possibly the other partner in the Dexter Lime Rock Company, appears to have never married and therefore no one to pass his shares to except to one of his siblings. Based on his real estate worth \$600 and personal estate of \$2,700 in 1870, he might have had ownership in the Dexter Lime business. What happened to his shares after his death is not known.

When quarrying was stopped on the now Harris Lime Rock Company's Dexter Road quarries I can't say. In 1982, per the National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, a kiln ruin was located on the property of a Mr. Robert Tucker, on the south side of Dexter Rock Road. I also don't know if the Dexter quarries were included in the sale of the Harris Lime business to Conklin or already sold to private parties.



**Per Google Maps these Photos are from the Location of the Dexter Lime Rock Company (41°55'08.3"N 71°25'59.9"W)  
Are these bodies of water filled in quarries?**



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **Harris Lime Quarries in the 20th Century**

Herbert Harris continued the operation of the quarries until the early 1930s when the operations at the quarries had ceased the quarries were flooded.

The business seemed dormant until On September 10, 1946 title and interest in the lime rock that Harris Lime Rock Company (the combined Harris and Dexter companies) might own, was conveyed to Ed Conklin and the [Conklin Limestone Company](#) from Herbert Harris's estate and was duly recorded in the town clerk's office in Lincoln September 18, 1946.

The pertinent provisions of this conveyance, are as follows:

"A certain tract of land, with all the buildings and other improvements thereon, and comprising five (5) acres, more or less, situated near the Village of Limerock, in the Town of Lincoln, bounded on the north and east by land now or formerly of David Wilbur, and on the south and west by land now or formerly of the Harris Lime Rock Co., the tract hereby described comprising all of the 'Middle Hill Ledge' of lime rock, near said Village of Limerock, including that portion formerly owned by the Harris Lime Rock Co. more fully hereinafter described.

Also that certain parcel of land with all the improvements thereon, belonging to Harris Lime Company, situated in said Town of Lincoln, about one thousand (1000) feet north of the Lime Rock Grange four corners, on the Louisquisset Pike, so- called, including land on the westerly side of the present Louisquisset Pike, known as the 'North Hill Ledge' bounded on the east by said present Louisquisset Pike and surrounded by land now or formerly of Charles R. Easton; also land on the easterly side of said present Louisquisset Pike bounded on the west by said present Louisquisset Pike, on the north and east by Edward F. Green estate and land now or formerly owned by Prescott S. Wilbur, on the south by Wilbur Road and by land now or formerly owned by Charles R. Easton. Said tract on the easterly side of Louisquisset Pike is bisected by land now owned by the State of Rhode Island to be used in laying out the new Louisquisset Pike.

Meaning and intending hereby to describe and convey all property and property rights, quarries, quarry rights and privileges, kilns, water rights and real estate now owned by the Harris Lime Company.

Also meaning and intending to convey quarry rights on the property of Frederick Wilbur known as 'South Hill'."

The provisions establish that the limestone rights originally stemming from the farm of Jonathan Harris, and was included in the conveyance of Jeremiah Smith to his heirs who in-turned conveyed it to the Harris Lime Rock Company, was included in the purchase of the Harris Line Rock Company by Conklin Limestone Company.

With the purchase, Conklin reopened the southernmost of the Harris quarries as the [Conklin Limestone Company](#) (if the quarry had been flooded, I assume they pumped out the water). Conklin operated the quarry producing marble chips and agricultural lime until 2004 when space ran out and the quarry was allowed to flood (again?).



Beginning in 1946 the Conklin Limestone Company exclusively sold agricultural limestone, which is primarily how the limestone is used today.

# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## [Mellor v. Conklin Limestone Co.](#)

In 1962 the Mellor v. Conklin Limestone Company lawsuit was brought against to Conklin to prevent them from having access and quarrying limestone on land that once belonged to Jonathan Harris. The decision opens as follows:

"The record discloses that complainants Arthur R. and Marion B. Mellor are the owners of two tracts of land in the town of Lincoln containing three acres acquired by them by deed from the conservator of the estate of Mabel R. Easton dated November 9, 1960. The record further discloses that the complainants John P. and Olga Z. Despres are the owners of tract of land in said town of Lincoln containing about four acres, which was acquired by them by a deed dated November 3, 1960. The instant suits were instituted as a result of respondent The Conklin Limestone Company, Inc., hereinafter referred to as Conklin, giving notice to complainants by letters dated April 20, 1961 of its claim of right to take limestone from their respective properties. It does not appear to be disputed that Conklin has acquired rights to limestone that had been reserved by Jeremiah Smith, Simon Aldrich, and Thomas and Samuel Mann, and it is on the basis of the rights so acquired that the notices referred to were given by Conklin to complainants."

The case references back to December 17, 1740 when David Harris conveyed in fee to one Jonathan Harris 150 acres of land followed on January 12, 1741 said Jonathan Harris granted David Harris a leasehold estate in the limestone in the 150-acre tract with a right to dig and remove such stone. In 1785 around 72 acres were deeded by Jonathan Harris in his will to his three grandsons undivided thirds. Later each grandson conveyed separately their undivided thirds to Jeremiah Smith in 1791, Samuel and Thomas Mann in 1792 and in 1800 to Simon Aldrich,

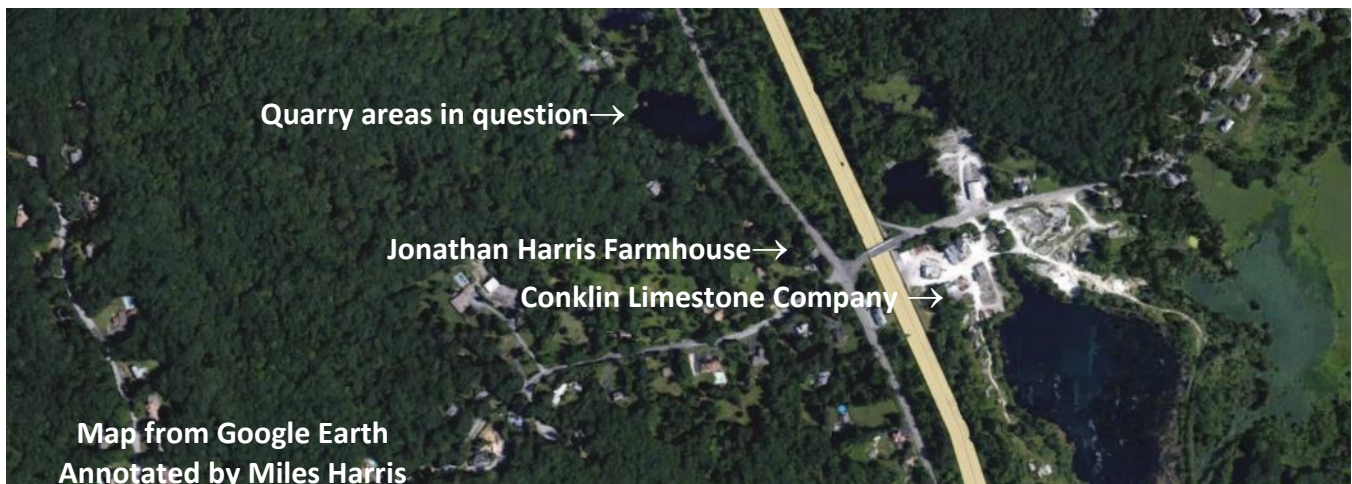
In 1807 Thomas and Samuel Mann conveyed third interest in 44 acres which were part of the 72-acre tract to Winsor Aldrich in undivided thirds in the land while maintaining the deed and estate in the limestone for themselves and their descendants. The provision of the deed reads as follows:

"always excepting & reserving to ourselves our heirs and assigns forever all the Lime Rocks on said premises or belonging thereto and liberty to pass to & from said Lime rocks with teams and other ways and to dig said Rocks, Also all our right and title in & unto the Lime Kiln Limes & Lime Houses on said premises and liberty to repair or build a new said Lime Kilns and Lime Houses on said premises and liberty to lay Lime Rocks & wood around said Kilns and other materials for the purpose of burning lime or repairing or building a new said Lime Kilns and Lime Houses where it may be most convenient with doing least damage and liberty to pass to and from said Lime rocks to said Lime Kilns with teams & other ways where it may be most convenient with doing least damage."

In 1809, Jeremiah Smith did the same when he conveyed a third interest in 44 acres which were part of the 72-acre tract to Simon and Winsor Aldrich while maintaining ownership of the limestone in that tract with the following:

"Always excepting and reserving to myself my heirs & assigns forever all the Right, Title and Interest I have or ought to have in and to the lime rocks, lime kiln and lime house on said premises, with liberty to pass to and from them with team & otherwise where it may be most convenient with doing least damage for the purpose of digging said lime rocks and carrying them away and liberty around said Lime Kiln & Lime House to lay wood and stone to burn lime and to rebuild and repair said Lime Kiln & Lime House."

The retaining ownership in the limestone is the bases for Conklin claiming the can quarry the stone on the petitioners, Arthur R. and Marion B. Mellor property. Without going into a blow by blow of the ruling (long and at time confusing for a non-lawyer like me).



"The complainants' appeals are denied and dismissed, the decrees appealed from are affirmed, and each cause is remanded to the superior court for further proceedings."

For further detail see [Mellor v. Conklin Limestone Co.](#) Also note that the historical information provided in the case was used as one of the sources for this article. Also see [Plante v. Conklin Limestone Co., Inc.](#), a earlier case that also provided sources for this article.



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## What Remains of the Lime Industry



Stephen Wright Kiln

[All Photos on this page from Mindat.org](#)

The remains of Lime Rock's lime industry can be found today. Just north of Jonathan Harris House on Louisquisset Pike are the remains of a stone furnace dug into a hillside for burning limestone, a later furnace rusting metal boiler and just beyond it a pond that inundates an old quarry site. The furnaces hard to see in the summer.

The core of the industry can still be found along Wilbur Road just west of the Great Road. Today's Conklin Limestone Company quarries, crushers, and furnaces, which operates on the south side of Wilbur Road, mingle with the antiquated remains of the Harris Lime Rock Company operation, which operated on the north side of the Wilbur Road across from Conklin. With the ruins of the lime kilns spread around the area.

The flooded Harris and Conklin quarries are situated at the junction of Old Louisquisset Pike and Wilbur Road while the location of the filled Dexter quarry (either with water or dirt) is on both sides of Dexter Rock Road. The south side is now part of the Lincoln Country Club.



Northeast View Conklin quarry floor



Conklin Limestone Company

Flooded Conklin quarry floor





## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

Photos on this page by and Courtesy of Lori Mellucci of Blackstone Historical Society



**Top: Conklin Limestone Company Crusher**

**Bottom Left: Conklin Limestone Company**

**Bottom Right: Middle Hill Quarry**



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **Lime Kiln Ruins of Lime Rock**





# History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

Photos in this section By and Courtesy of Lori Mellucci of Blackstone Historical Society

Today there are the ruins of six lime kilns in Lincoln that are listed on the [National Register of Historic Places as part of "Limerock Village Historic District"](#) registration in 1974 and as part of the ["Historic Resources of Lincoln, Rhode Island; Partial Inventory-Historic Architectural Resources"](#) registration in 1982. This seems to account for five of the eight lime kilns having existed in 1773 with David Harris owning two, brother Preserved Harris owned one and the Dexter family owning another one. The October 1778 book of assessed taxes for Smithfield listed lime kilns for Preserved, Jonathan and David Harris. A bit confusing, however, I assume that the 1773 inventory is treating the Jonathan Harris kiln as David Harris's since he was working the leased quarries from his brother Jonathan.

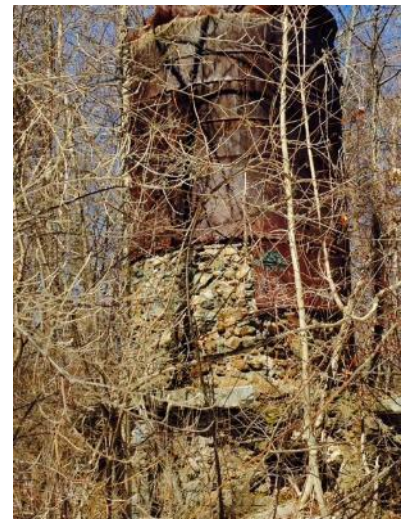
- A. Wall Kiln-North Quarry (Jointa Hole). The wall kiln, located north of the Jonathan Harris farmhouse off of Old Louisquisset Pike in Lincoln, is probably one of the oldest remaining kilns in the area. The kiln is a single-arched opening cut into the edge of an embankment. This kiln was listed on the National Register in 1974 and was probably one of the eight kilns listed in 1773. If so, it would be assigned to David Harris in 1773 and Jonathan Harris in 1778.



- B. Cylinder Kiln-North Quarry (Jointa Hole). The cylinder kiln, located north of the Jonathan Harris farmhouse off of Old Louisquisset Pike in Lincoln, is younger than the Wall Kiln near it. The kiln is a stone cylinder base with four arch openings and steel top. This kiln was also listed on the National Register in 1974, however, I'm pretty sure it is not one of the eight kilns listed as existing in 1773. At the moment, I can't find any indication as to when the kiln was built. In the National Register 1982 report I did find the following: "...similar kilns in the Lime Rock Historic District were modernized with brick and sheet iron in the nineteenth century." I also did find that in 1856, Englishman Henry Bessemer invented the Bessemer process, which allowed for mass production of steel from molten pig iron. Thus, reducing the cost of making steel by more than 50%. The first American steel mill to use the process was constructed in 1865 in Troy, New York. Steel production has been around since 1800BCE, with production begun in earnest in the 13<sup>th</sup>

century BCE, and it existed in the new world, but I'm not sure if higher cost of steel before 1865 would have prevented the Harris Lime Quarries from constructing a cylinder kiln with a steel top.

- C. Stephen Wright Cylinder Kiln. The cylinder kiln is located north of Wilbur Road on the Middle Harris quarry. The kiln, like the north quarry cylinder kiln, had a stone cylinder base with four arched openings and a steel top. This kiln was also listed on the National Register in 1974, however, I'm pretty sure it is not one of the eight existing in 1773. Like the north quarry cylinder kiln, the availability of the steel top creates the question. I'm surmising that, since the kiln is named after Stephen Wright, who ran the Harris Lime Rock Company in the mid 1800's, Stephen built the kiln and surrounding building sometime after 1865. I'm also guessing that the Stephen Wright kiln might have replaced an earlier wall kiln in the middle quarry and, if it existed, that wall quarry was one of the eight mentioned in the 1773 inventory. The wall kiln at the north quarry and this wall kiln would be the two assigned to David Harris in 1773 and the one counted as his in 1778.





## History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island

- D. Sherman Road Kiln. Located just south of Sherman Road and east of Old Louississet Pike (at approximately 41°55'15.4"N 71°27'13.7"W) and is located just outside the boundaries of the Lime Rock Historic District. The Sherman Road kiln is the best-preserved of the three kilns being nominated in 1982. The Sherman Kiln is built against an embankment and constructed in an oval shape and used an embankment as the back wall. The bank has apparently slid into the center of the kilns and small trees now grow from it. The wall of the kiln, eight feet high in 1984, were once taller, and are constructed of heavy dry-laid rubble stone. Three semi-circular openings are still visible at its base. I'm pretty sure this kiln was included in the eight kilns listed 1773. I'm also surmising that, since the kiln was near the Harris quarries and located just south of the Moshassuck River on what was Perserved Harris's land that it was the one assigned to Perserved Harris. In 1982 the kiln was on Mr. Gerald Olean's property.

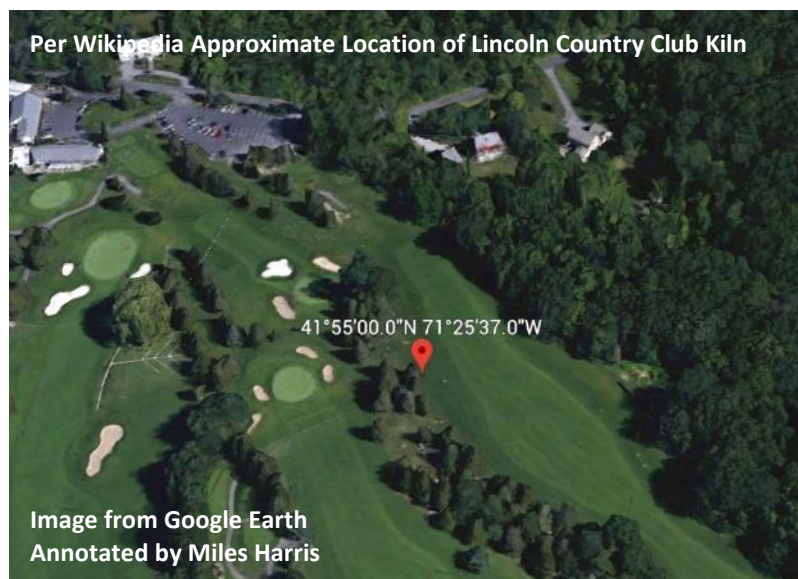


- E. Dexter Farm Kiln: Per Lori Mellucci there are two lime kilns located in the area of what use to be the Dexter Limestone Quarries. This one is presently located on private property. In the 1982 "Historic Resources of Lincoln, Rhode Island..." the kiln is listed as being on the property of Robert Tucker. I found a 1950 US Census record for a 16-year-old Robert Tucker living on River Road in Lincoln. This could be the Robert Tucker who owned the land the kiln was on in 1982.

I'm thinking this kiln is the Hackington's Lime Kiln, which, per LRHarris research, is the most ancient structure built by English hands now existing in Rhode Island and while not named as such is the one in the National Register.

Per the Register: The kiln is a ruined lime kiln located on the south side of Dexter Rock Road. The kiln was a semi-circular cylinder built of un-mortared rubble with only a single section of wall remaining. In 1984 a small brook flowed through the kiln's face with its course running through the still visible single semi-circle opening. The inside of the kiln is overgrown and filled with detritus that has been deposited by the stream making the kiln barely recognizable. This kiln, being one that has not been modernized with brick and steel, I believe it is the one listed in 1773 as being owned by the Dexter Family.

Per the Dexter Lime-Rock Company v. Dexter Others, (R.I. 1859) lawsuit: "That full one half of all the



great ledge or hill of lime-rock was situated a little southerly from the formal Nathan Dexter dwelling-house and one half of all the ledge of lime-rock lying easterly from said dwelling-house, and northerly from the drift-way leading from said great ledge to the lime-kilns."

- F. Dexter Rubble Kiln. Located south of Dexter Road, now part of the Lincoln Country Club (at approximately 41°55'0"N 71°25'37"W). This kiln, not on a register, was probably built by the Wilcott brothers in the mid 1800's near the meadow where they were quarrying limestone.

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

- G. Jenckes Kiln-Flanagan Campus Rubble Kiln (my name). The kiln is located on the west side of Old Louisquisset Pike and south of the intersection of Jenckes Hill and Breakneck Road, on the grounds the Flanagan Campus of the Community College of Rhode Island. At almost twenty feet in diameter, the kiln is the largest yet located in Lincoln. Judging by the ruins, the kiln had a basic cylindrical form and was a rough stone work build of un-mortared rubble. In 1984 large trees surrounded it and even grow from center and smaller vegetation



of

its

grows in its walls. This kiln could have been one in the 1773 listing; however, I don't know, at this time, who owned the land when it was in operation, probably a member of the Jenckes family. This kiln appears to be located far from any limestone quarry. The speculation is that they were placed near timber supplies since kilns were voracious consumers of wood. This made the timber an important component of the limestone economy thus, the surrounding woods around the village were quickly cleared in the eighteenth century and cutting rights at more distant locations would be sold to the quarry operators.

Dating the kilns with much accuracy is not possible without more archeological evidence. Since the Wall Kiln-North Quarry, Sherman Road Kiln, Dexter Rubble Kiln and Flanagan Campus Rubble Kiln have not been modernized with brick and sheet iron, as was done to the Cylinder Kiln-North Quarry and Stephen Wright Cylinder Kiln in the nineteenth century, The consensus is that they were built sometime in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

If I'm interpreting the information correctly, I've accounted for five of the eight kilns listed as existing in Lime Rock in 1773. The others could be that might have existed in 1773 and are not on the register are:

- H. 'Aunt Anna Kiln'. Which sat just south of the Simon Aldrich Home on at the junction of where Sherman Road hits Old Louisquisset Pike.
- I. The other kiln might have been on the property of Jesse Whipple, who lived on the Great Road and home is listed on the National Register, and along with his uncle William Whipple owned land with limestone, part interest in a kiln, and a copper's shop.

Some of the kiln listed in Lime Rock area in 1773 could have been dismantled with the stone being used for other purposes. They could, being unused, have been taken over by nature to a point that they are not recognized as once being a kiln.

### ***How the Kilns Worked***

The quarried limestone was placed in the kilns then:

1. Set in alternating layers with wood or charcoal.
2. The whole mass was then set alight and the fire regulated through several arched openings at the base which admitted air.
3. Once fired, the kilns were tended for several days by two men (lime burners), working twelve-hour shifts until the stone had been reduced to usable lime.
4. The product was then shoveled out through the base openings, loaded into casks and carried to the village to await shipment along the turnpike.

Since the area of the 1984 registered kilns is limited to a ten-foot radius around the kiln therefore no archeological investigation was conducted outside the perimeter, it is not known what structures surrounded the kiln and if the lime burners lived at the site between shifts or returned to their home.



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## **The Future of Lime?**



Pantheon, Rome

[Photo from Walks in Rome](#)

### **Why have Roman buildings survived so long?**

**Mystery unraveled by a group of scientists from the United States, Italy and Switzerland**

From: [Mystery of why Roman buildings have survived so long has been unraveled, scientists say.](#)

Written by [Katie Hunt](#), CNN Updated 9th January 2023

Ancient Rome's majestic structures have survived for millennia. This is primarily due to Roman engineers, who perfected the use of concrete. Roman concrete has been shown to be longer-lasting than its modern equivalent in many cases. Modern day concrete structures can deteriorate within decades. Scientists, who have been investigating the reasons, have uncovered the mystery ingredient that allowed the Romans to make their construction material so durable. This ingredient enabled them to build complex structures in difficult places like docks, sewers and earthquake zones.

The scientists analyzed 2,000-year-old concrete samples taken from a city wall at the Privernum archaeological site in central Italy. The composition is similar to other concrete found throughout the Roman Empire. They discovered that white chunks (they called them lime clasts) in the concrete, gave the concrete the ability to heal cracks that formed over time. Originally the lime clast had been thought to be sloppy mixing or poor-quality raw material and were overlooked.

Study author Admir Masic, an associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology said, "For me, it was really difficult to believe that ancient Roman (engineers) would not do a good job because they really made careful effort when choosing



## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

and processing materials," and added, "Scholars wrote down precise recipes and imposed them on construction sites (across the Roman Empire),"



Accept as noted, all photos in this section were taken by the author Miles Harris

Masic also said "Concrete allowed the Romans to have an architectural revolution," and "Romans were able to create and turn the cities into something that is extraordinary and beautiful to live in. And that revolution basically changed completely the way humans live."

The evidence of the strength and durability of Roman concrete can be seen in buildings like the Pantheon, with the world's largest unreinforced dome, the Colosseum which has stood for more than 2,000 years,





## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*



the Roman aqueduct and the Forum. Could this new finding help make manufacturing today's concrete



more sustainable, potentially shaking up society as the Romans once did?

## *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

### ***Lime Clasts and Concrete's Durability***

Masic said, "Concrete is essentially artificial stone or rock, formed by mixing cement, a binding agent typically made from limestone, water, fine aggregate (sand or finely crushed rock) and coarse aggregate (gravel or crushed rock). Roman texts had suggested the use of slaked lime (when lime is first combined with water before being mixed) in the binding agent, and that's why scholars had assumed that this was how Roman concrete was made,"

The researchers concluded that lime clasts arose because of the use of quicklime (calcium oxide), which is the most reactive and dangerous dry form of limestone, when mixing the concrete, rather than or in addition to slaked lime. They also found that the lime clasts formed at extreme temperatures, which was expected from the use of quicklime, and "hot mixing" was key to the concrete's durable nature.

"The benefits of hot mixing are twofold," Masic said in a news release. "First, when the overall concrete is heated to high temperatures, it allows chemistries that are not possible if you only used slaked lime, producing high-temperature-associated compounds that would not otherwise form. Second, this increased temperature significantly reduces curing and setting times since all the reactions are accelerated, allowing for much faster construction."

To determine if the lime clasts were responsible for the Roman concrete's apparent ability to repair itself, the team conducted an experiment. They mixed two samples of concrete; one they followed the Roman formulations while the other was made to modern standards. Once set they deliberately cracked them. Two weeks later water could not flow through the concrete made with a Roman recipe, whereas it passed right through the chunk of concrete made without quicklime. These results seem to indicate that the lime clasts can dissolve into cracks and recrystallize after exposure to water, healing cracks created by weathering before they spread. The researchers feel this self-healing potential could pave the way to producing longer lasting more sustainable modern concrete. Concrete's carbon footprint, which accounts for up to 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions and using the Roman formula would reduce that footprint, according to the study.

For many years, researchers have thought that Roman concrete was made strong by the volcanic ash from the area of Pozzuoli, on the Bay of Naples. This Pozzuoli ash was transported across the vast Roman empire to be used in construction, being described as a key ingredient for concrete by architects and historians at the time. Now, the long-overlooked lime has been shown to be just as important.

The research was published in the [journal Science Advances](#).



# *History of Lime Production in Lime Rock, Rhode Island*

## Sources not Embedded in Article and Additionnel Reading

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- [Lincoln,](#)
- [Providence County,](#)
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### Internet Archive: History of Smithfield, Providence, Rhode Island

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### Blackstone Valley Historical Society:

- [Great Road History](#)
- [About the Lime Kilns of Lime Rock: An Exhibit](#)

### The Lands of Rhode Island: As They Were Known to Caunounicus and Miantunnomu By Sidney Smith Rider, Page 267-270.

### Harris Family News:

- [Thomas Harris Sr](#)
- [Thomas Harris II](#)
- [Richard Harris Sr](#)
- [Perserved Harris](#)

### *Everything You Wanted to Know About Limestone and Lime*

- [Unity Lime Products: What Is Lime Mortar?](#)
- [Do it Yourself: How to Make Lime Mortar](#)
- [How is lime made from limestone?](#)
- [How Limestone is Formed](#)
- [History of lime kilns in Monroe County](#)