

THE STORY OF LEONARD AND JOHN

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Our immigrant ancestors, Leonard and John Harriman, arrived in America around 1638 and between them left over 20,000 descendants, according to the Harriman Family Association database. However, almost everything we know of Leonard and John is anecdotal.

Leonard and his wife, Margaret Harriman, are listed in the 1840 publication, *History of Rowley* by Thomas Gage, but with no details. In 1875 the *History of Raymond, N.H.* by Joseph Fullonton first mentions that they were brothers and Yorkshire Puritans, emigrating "from England about the year 1640" when Leonard was 16 years old. Walter Harriman of Warner, N.H., who would have been alive at the time of the publication of Fullonton's book, wrote about the family in his history of Warner. The story of the Harriman brothers as Puritan immigrants is repeated in several other books, including the 1885 *History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, New Hampshire* by Secomb and Hammond. The 1882 *Sketches of Successful New Hampshire Men* by John B. Clarke states for the first time that they were orphans. The Harriman sketch in that volume is by S. C. Beane, who later spoke at the funeral of Walter Harriman. Presumably, Beane got his information from the Governor. In 1888 Amos Hadley wrote the *Life of Walter Harriman*, probably with the assistance of Walter, and states that "in 1638 orphan brothers Leonard and John accompanied Rev. Ezekial Rogers." We do not know where this information came from – it may have all originated with Walter Harriman and been handed down to him over the five generations between Leonard and Walter.

The earliest mention of Leonard in the Essex County, Massachusetts, records occurred in 1643 when in the allotment of Crane Meadow - land in Rowley - Thomas Abbott received "three Acres & an halfe of Meadow lying on the south side of Leonard Harrimans Meadow..." From that time there are regular appearances in the records of Leonard and his wife, Margaret, as children were born. We assume that they were married before their first son, John, was born in 1650. We can put Leonard's birth date at or about 1622 from a deposition dated 28 November 1676, where he states he was then "aged about fifty-four years"; also, he was at least age 21 when he became a landowner in 1643.

Although we find that Rowley town records include the birth records for their children, no one has found a Rowley or Massachusetts record of the marriage of Leonard to his wife, Margaret, nor any evidence as to her family name. In accounts and genealogies she is often named as Margaret Palmer, but with no sources given. No reliable records have ever been found to back up the assertion of Palmer as her maiden name. Some records, such as the LDS Personal Ancestry Files (PAF), list her parents as Thomas and Anne Palmer of Rowley and even give a birth date for Thomas that would make him eight years old when Margaret was born and ignoring the fact that Thomas and Ann were married only a few years before the birth of Margaret's first son. Furthermore, the will of Thomas Palmer names his three sons and his wife, but no daughters. The births of all three Palmer sons are recorded in the Rowley vital records. Several internet accounts of the Palmer maiden name cite sources that do not provide the information attributed to them. For example, some cite *The Hazen family in America : a genealogy* by Tracy Elliot Hazen for Margaret's last name of Palmer. But, in fact, that work does not give her surname. The LDS Personal Ancestry Files frequently cite each other, so a single incorrect entry gets propagated through records year after year. Another source often cited by inaccurate LDS files is *Seventeenth Century Colonial Ancestors Supplement Number One 1975-1979* published in 1981 by the National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century. However, a 1991 compilation of the original with all supplements by Genealogical Publishing Company did not contain that listing. In a conversation with their genealogist at their headquarters in Washington, D.C., we were told that there were numerous errors in the original book and that early data had been accepted from members with no checking. Their files now refer to our Harriman Family Association publications for the facts. In 1938, Mary Lovering Holman, in *Ancestry of Charles Stinson Pillsbury and John Sargent Pillsbury*, stated that "there seems to be no clue obtainable to the maiden name of his [Leonard's] wife, Margaret. It seems probable that either Leonard or she was connected with the family of Hugh Smith of Rowley, since two of his children chose Leonard for their guardian but it has not been

possible to establish this.” Lois Thurston in researching for the two publications *Feudalism To Freedom* and *Research in Progress* found no credible records to supply Margaret’s family name nor has anything been found by our researchers since that time.

Leonard and Margaret are probably buried in the Rowley Burial Ground, where this association erected a memorial stone in 1992. There are few gravestones from those early days. Even Ezekiel Rogers has no actual marker. The HFA’s memorial stone was placed in the Rowley Burial Grounds before the completion of Lois Thurston’s English research. The stone records that he was born in Rowley, Yorkshire, England, but we now know they were probably from Uldale, Cumbria, England.

John Harriman took the Oath of Fidelity in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1644, which implies that he was at least of legal age and therefore born no later than 1623. He would have been about seventeen when he arrived in America. As with Leonard, we find records of the births of his children with his wife, Elizabeth, but no record of her family name. Again there are internet and PAF records indicating that she was Elizabeth Scott, daughter of Thomas and Ann Scott. The claim is that she was born in Ipswich and died in Rowley, Mass. But John Harriman lived all his life in New Haven and the *New Haven, CT: Vital Records, 1649-1850* record that “Elizabeth ye wife of Jno Harriman dyed ye 10th January 1680.” An Elizabeth Scott, born in Ipswich, England, did arrive in Massachusetts with her parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Scott, on the ship *Elizabeth* in 1634, when she was nine years old (per Savage’s *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England...*). However, she did not marry a Harriman. She married, first, John Spofford and then secondly, Ezekiel Rogers, being his third wife. As is the case with Leonard’s wife, Margaret, we again find many PAF and LDS files recording a maiden name for John’s wife, Elizabeth, with no good source work as proof.

Leonard and John Harriman have always been called brothers. The Harriman Y-DNA project is another significant accomplishment to the credit of the HFA and the project participants. It has allowed us to conclude without a doubt that Leonard and John were very closely related. Because their birth dates are unknown and their ages are only approximations, there is some question as to who was the older, although the general consensus is that Leonard was the older of the two. They are not listed as passengers on Rogers’ ship, *John of London*, nor among the first settlers of Rowley. It is greatly regretted that on the evening of his third marriage, Ezekiel Rogers’ house burned down, taking with it all the records of the voyage and of the founding of Rowley. While it is often said that the Harriman boys came with Rogers, that is probably not the case. Rogers had twenty families with him when he landed in the fall of 1638, but very quickly upon his arrival other families joined him and by the following spring there were sixty families. It is still possible that the Harrimans came on the original ship as servants, but more likely that they came shortly afterwards and joined the group during that first winter in Salem. *The Great Migration Project* finds that over 30,000 people came to New England in the 1630’s. That Leonard and John were with Rogers very soon after his arrival is evidenced by the two brothers’ travels. Rogers was invited to set up a church in the newly settled town of Quinnipiac (New Haven, Connecticut) and sent some of his company there to get the lay of the land. Other Puritans had sailed from England to Boston intending to establish a colony at Quinnipiac. In the spring of 1638 they headed south and some others from Massachusetts joined them. In October Rogers sent a group of his followers to Quinnipiac expecting to follow them. But due to changes in the terms of his agreement, he decided not to join them and instead sent a pinnace to bring his followers back. For whatever reason, some of the Quinnipiac settlers decided to stay in the new town. Rogers negotiated for land north of Boston and established the town of Rowley. John Harriman evidently liked it in New Haven, remained there, married, and by 1646 was a “well-to-do inn keeper.” Leonard either remained in Massachusetts or returned there in the pinnace, settled in Rowley, married and became a prosperous weaver and maker of looms. So we can see several possibilities as to the travels of Leonard and John. They may have both joined Rogers in Massachusetts, and either John went to New Haven and stayed or both Leonard and John went to New Haven and only Leonard returned. Or they may have both originally arrived in New Haven and Leonard decided to join the group returning to Boston in the pinnace.

We have made significant findings during our twenty-five years as an association. We can conclude from Y-DNA studies that Leonard and John Harriman were indeed very closely related

and probably were brothers, as early stories relate. But we can also state that it is unlikely that Leonard and John originated from Rowley or Yorkshire, England, as these early stories recorded, but instead, based on naming patterns uncovered by the research of Lois Thurston and the British researchers she worked with, our Harrimans were more likely from Uldale, Cumberland, England. It appears that Leonard was the older of the two. While we still do not know the maiden names of either Margaret, Leonard's wife, or Elizabeth, John's wife, we do know that any work or personal ancestral file claiming either the Palmer name for Margaret or the Scott name for Elizabeth is not supported by factual research.