Richard [Nicholls] Harison / Harrison
b. 12 Jan 1747; d. 7 Dec 1829
Deputy Grand Master 1786-1788
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In many years of researching Lodge histories and Freemasons, it is all too common to find little or nothing about a Lodge or a Brother. Such records as may reveal information may have been destroyed by the many fires which swept away Lodge records, from the pillage of records during the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 or the Civil War, from the concealment of records following the Morgan Incident, or just the simple lack of interest in recording such information as may interest subsequent generations.

While recently preparing a compilation of the Franklin, Hamilton and St. Lawrence Masonic Districts I came across just the slightest hint of a name that somehow seemed familiar, that of Richard Harison. Having a recall of having read that name in the Grand Lodge Proceedings in the listing of past Grand Lodge officers I quickly found that there was ‘a’ Richard Harison who was Deputy Grand Master with Robert R Livingston from 1786 to 1788.

From the Grand Lodge Proceedings of 27 Jun 1786, a Grand Lodge of Emergency opened in due form, at which the proceedings record: “The Worshipful Brother Harison of Union Lodge informed the Grand Lodge by a letter from the Right Worshipful Grand Master of his appointment as Deputy Grand, Right Worshipful Brother Kerr having resigned.” . . . “Those appointed having met the approbation of the Grand Lodge, were regularly installed, and received the congratulations of their brethren.”

He next appears on 30 Aug 1786 when a Grand Steward’s Lodge was opened in due form, which records:

Present

The Right Worshipful Brother Harison, D. G. Master, in the Chair.

R. W. Brother Harison . . Union Lodge No. 3. [later named Mt. Vernon Lodge - On 21 Feb 1765, Union Lodge, of Albany, received its warrant from George Harrison, Provincial Grand Master; member no. 24 of Union Lodge is recorded as Richard "Hanfon or ‘Hanson,’” which owing to the handwriting of the time may or may not be Richard “Harison.”]

He was again in the Chair as D. G. M. at a Lodge of Emergency opened on 23 Dec 1786, and at a session of Grand Lodge on 7 Mar 1787. The proceedings an Extra Grand Lodge of 18 Jun 1789 record the following:

“Right Worshipful Brother [William] Malcom produced a letter from the Right Worshipful the Grand Master appointing him Deputy Grand Master, which, being read, was in the words following: “New York, 8th June 1789

“Brethren, - Our worthy Brother Richard Harrison, Esquire, having resigned the place of Deputy Grand Master of Masons for this State, I have turned my eyes to you as most capable of supplying his loss, and by your zeal, knowledge and diligence of continuing to the Lodges under my care the advantages they derived from his attention, I must, therefore, pray you to take upon you the office of Deputy Grand Master; to consider this your Warrant for so doing, and to cause it to be entered accordingly on the records of the Grand Lodge.

“I am, Brother, with the Sincerest wishes for your happiness and prosperity.

Your Affectionate Brother,

R. R. Livingston.”

Apart from the above, this is all that appears in the records of the Grand Lodge of New York regarding Bro. Richard Harison, with no personal information whatsoever.

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The ‘other’ Richard Harison

Quite the opposite appears regarding ‘another’ Richard Harison, for whom nothing appears to indicate he was ever a Freemason.

There does however appear to be reasonably strong collateral information from which it may conjectured that this ‘other’ Richard Harison is one and the same as the one who was the Richard Harison who was Deputy Grand Master under Robert R Livingston. Also, as further collateral information, Daniel McCormick, a known associate of Richard Harison, was Grand Treasurer the two years preceding [1783-84] Harison’s being Deputy Grand Master. This present work is an edited version of over 200 pages of notes relating to Richard Harison and his associates from this fascinating period of our country’s history during the time of the Federalist Party 1792 to 1816.

This ‘other’ Richard Harison was born 12 Jan 1747 and died 7 Dec 1829, would have been 21 years of age in 1768 and 39 years of age at time the Deputy Grand Master [Richard Harison] was under Robert R Livingston in 1786.

Little, if anything, is know of the early years of this ‘other’ Richard Harison until he steps on the stage of the remarkable founding times of our country as the only classmate of John Jay [12 Dec 1745 – 17 May 1829] at King’s College in the class of 1764 at the age of 17.

The Harison Family

In England the “Harisons were originally from Cumberland, afterwards of East Court and Hurst, Berkshire. They became of considerable importance in the reign of Charles I, and were most loyal supporters of that sovereign during the Rebellion.”

I. James Harrison b. ca 1455, res. Coupland, Cumberland; m. Margaret Bourchier
II. James Harrison b. ca 1480, res. Nuttbeams, Southampton and Finchampstead, Berkshire; m. Alice Pettipalce
III. Thomas Harrison, Lord of Finchampstead, Berkshire b. ca 1505; d. ca 1562; m. Elizabeth Slitherhurst
IV. Thomas Harrison, Lord of Finchampstead b. ca 1530 Berkshire; d. 25 Feb 1602; m1. Alice [Alse] Ward(e)
V. Richard Harrison b. 1558 Finchampstead, Berkshire; m. Elizabeth Anton; Richard’s son . . .

Sir Richard Harison, Kt. b. 1584, of East Court and Hurst; B. A. St. Mary’s Hall, Oxford, Member of Parliament Wootton-Bassett, Berkshire and Windsor, 1621-1640 (intimate friend of Archbishop Laud, and whose sister, Frances, married Thomas Howard, third Earl of Berkshire), married Frances, in direct descent from the Barons Darces of the North, daughter of Sir Henry Saville, Reader to Queen Elizabeth, Warden of Merton College, Oxford, Provost of Eton; Sir Richard’s son,

Sir Richard Harison, b. 1611; d. 1683; Bart, of Hurst House, Hurst; B. A. St. Albant’s College, Oxford (1629) Lincoln Inn, London (1631), Barrister, was father of

Rev. William Harison, d. 1694; M. A. (Oxon), Rector of Cheriton, Hants, [Lord of Hurst b. 1643 Berkshire, d. 1696, m. Dorothy (Dorotha) Morley whose son,

Francis Harison, d. 1740; B. A. (Oxon), Lincoln Inn, Barrister, settled in New York city in 1708. He figured prominently in connection with its history for many years and for over two decades was a member of the Colonial Council and Examiner in Chancery. Francis was the third son of the Rev. William Harison, Rector of Cheriton, England, Master of S. Cross Hospital, Winchester, and Prebendary of Winchester, and Dorothy (Dorotha) Morley [see Morley ancestry below], his wife, and grandson of Sir Richard Harison, of Hurst, Berkshire. He came to New York with Francis Lovelace, Lord Lovelace, Governor of the Province, in 1708. He was recommended to Governor Hunter by Henry St. John (afterward Lord Bolingbroke), and was appointed Sheriff of New York in June 1710, occupying this office until 23 Jul 1717, when he was appointed Surveyor and Searcher of the Port of New York. He was Farmer of the Excise and Examiner in Chancery, and on 15 Jan 1720, was advanced to the Governor’s Council by mandamus. On the death of Caleb Heathcote in 1721, he succeeded that gentleman as Judge of the Court of Vice-Admiralty in New York, his jurisdiction being subsequently enlarged so as to include Connecticut and New Jersey. In Jun 1724, he became Recorder of the City of New York, in which office he remained until 1735, when he returned to England. His son,

George Harison b. 1719 d. 1773; married Jane Nicholls, in direct descent [sic] from General Sir Richard Nichols, first governor under the English of the then North American Station, and who named New York in honor of his commander-in-chief, the Duke of York, in 1664. The Dutch bourgermaster, Peter Stuyvesant, with the wooden leg, surrendered to General Nichols.

His daughter Jane (d. bef Jul 1809) married 1739 to George Folliott (merchant and ship owner), third son of William Folliott. During the War of Independence he took the side of the Loyalists, with the result that all his property in lands and mortgages were confiscated. Forced at last to leave America, he and Jane and his emancipated slave Cato, sailed from New York, and arrived at Falmouth on 23 Jun 1784. George Harison’s son . . .

Richard Harison, b. 12 Jan 1747; d. 7 Dec 1829; A. B., Columbia University 1764 (John Jay only other member of graduating class of 1764); D. C. L. (Oxford); lawyer and federalist, acted with Hamilton, Jay and Livingston against Clinton and Burr; member of New York legislature, 1788-1789; member of constitutional convention, was first United States federal attorney under Washington at New York (1780), and recorder of the city of New York, 1788-1801. He served as vestryman, warden and comptroller of Trinity church, New York, from 1783 to 1827, and had sons, grandsons and great grandsons who graduated from Columbia University. He married . . . Frances [Ludlow], daughter of George Duncan Ludlow, chief justice of New Brunswick, in direct descent from Edward I of England, 1272, and his wife, Margaret, daughter of Philip III of France, through their son, Thomas, Earl of Norfolk, and his daughter, Margaret Plantagenet, who married John, third Lord Segrave (Burke, Haldan’s Ms.).
Child of Richard and Mary Jones, d/o of Evan Jones, M.D. of Philadelphia:

1. George Folliott Harison b. 5 Mar 1776; d. 5 Jan 1846.

Children of Richard and Frances Ludlow: 4 (Harison), 2 sons and 2 daughters [Jane and Frances]:

1. Frances, m. ?
2. Richard Nichols, m. Phoebe Champlin. A. B., Columbia University, 1804, counselor-at-law, resided in New York City and Canton, New York. Children: 8 (Harison), 5 sons and 3 daughters:
   i. Champlin, resided at Canton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.; d. unm.
   ii. Frances, b. d. unm., 1892.
   iii. Richard, b. 16 Mar 1816; d. 25 Feb 1896; m. 7 Jun 1847, Harriet Seton Ogden, d/o Gouverneur Ogden and Charlotte Curzon Seton, of Waddington, NY.
   iv. Isaac.
   v. Penelope, d. y.
   vi. William, Episcopal rector at Newark, NJ; d. at Atlanta, Ga.
   vii. Minturn, resided in Toronto, Canada; m. Susan Drake, born at Ithaca, NY, d/o Judge Beverly Drake, who served with distinction on the bench at Ithaca for more than four decades.
   viii. Ann, d. b. ; d. unm. in New York.
3. Francis Duncan, d. unm.
4. William Henry, b. 29 Apr 1795; d. 1 May 1860; m1. Gertrude H. Ogden, b. 1806; d. 1839. d/o Thomas Ludlow Ogden, (1773-1844); Children: 6 (Harison) sons:
   i. Thomas Ludlow, b. 1832 in New York d. 20 Oct 1899, unm.; M. A. Columbia College. President New York State Agricultural Society. Resided in Morley, NY. [see article and photo below about the Morley school house]
   ii. Richard Morley, b. 23 Sep 1833; d. 22 Dec 1895; m. 20 Feb 1866, cousin, Gertrude H., d/o Richard H. Ogden.
   iii. William Ogden, d. y.
   iv. George Duncan Ludlow, b. 1835; m. Elizabeth Nightingale. No issue.
   v. Francis R. W., b. 15 Dec 1839; d. 29 Dec 1885; m. 10 Jul 1867, Laura Johnson Phillip, of Claverack, NY. No issue. Rector for many years at St. Paul's Church, Troy, NY.
   vi. William, d. y.

William Henry, m2. Mary Hammond (dau. of Abijah Hammond and Catharine Ludlow Ogden).

Morley Family

Robert Morley of Holme, Lincolnshire m. Anne Tancred (dau of Richard Tancred of Pannell)

1. Francis Morley of London m. Sarah Denham (dau of William Denham, sister of Sir John (Baron of the Exchequer))
   A. George Morley, Bishop of Winchester (d 29.10.1684)
   B. Francis Morley (Captain) m1). Joane Collins (dau of John Collins of Northamptonshire)
      i. Richard Morley m. Anne Bradburn
      ii. Thomas Morley (Captain) m. Penelope Hunlock (dau of Denham Hunlock of London, widow of John Allen)
   iii. Francis Morley of Droxford, Southamptonshire (Hampshire) m. Jane Tancred (dau of Charles Tancred of Arden)
       a. Sir Charles Morley ‘of Droxford’ (b 1652-3, d 23.08.1697, Master of Requests, Chancellor of Winchester)
       b. Francis Morley (d by 1696, rector of Bishops Walton, prebendary of Winton) m. Penelope Allen (dau of John Allen)
       c. Dorothy Morley m. William Harrison (son/heir of Sir Richard)
       d. Alethea Morley m. Seth Ward (chancellor of Salisbury church)
   e. +issue - George (d young), George (b 1664-5, d 1711), Richard (a 1666), Thomas (a 1666), Jane (a 1666), Elizabeth (d young), Sarah (d young)

The Ludlow Family

VI. Gabriel Ludlow, b. Nov. 19, 1704; son of Gabriel; m1 Frances Duncan; m2 Elizabeth Croommelin. Gabriel Ludlow was a Member of the New York Assembly from 1739 to 1745, and a vestryman of Trinity Church from 1742 to 1769. He died Dec. 12, 1773.

Children: 6 (Ludlow), 4 sons and 2 daughters; by his first wife, Frances Duncan, 2 sons:

1. George Duncan Ludlow, b. 1734; d. Nov. 13, 1808. Councilor and one of the four Judges of the Supreme Court of the Colony of New York (1769-78); Senior Councilor and Governor of New Brunswick, Canada, and Chief Justice of the Province, 1784. He married his cousin, Frances Duncan, who was a daughter of Thomas Duncan. While in New York they resided in Pearl St. With other Royalists they were compelled to leave New York and they removed to St. John, New Brunswick. His estates at Hempstead Plains, Long Island, were confiscated. He became an extensive landowner at St. John, his principal estate being "Spring Hills," upon the St. John River near Fredericton, N. B., where he died.

Children: 3 (Ludlow), 1 son and 2 daughters:
   i. George Duncan Ludlow, b. 18 Jul 1773; d. 23 Jan 1847; m1 1825 Mrs. Carson; m2. in Paris, France, M. Camille Bernier.
ii. Frances Ludlow, m. 04 Sep 1783 Richard Harison, Counsellor-at-Law of the Supreme Court, New York. Children: 4 (Harison), 2 sons and 2 daughters, as shown above.

From the above family ancestries it may be noted that George Harison is shown as the father of Richard Harison.

George Harison

George Harrison b. 1719; d. 18 Apr 1773, was the fourth Provincial Grand Master of Masons, State of New York from 1753 to 1766 (and perhaps duties until 1771)

He changed the spelling of his family name which had contained two "r's." His father, the Hon. Francis Harrison, Esq. of Berkshire, England, came to New York with Governor Lovelace in 1708, where he served as a member of the provincial council, recorder of the City of New York, and judge of the admiralty court. He later fell into political disfavor and returned to England, leaving his family in America. Son George visited him in England in 1738, and returned home with an appointment to the office of surveyor of customs in New York. He married Jane Nicholls, d/o Richard Nicholls, a prominent NY citizen, on 3 Sep 1740. On 8 Jun 1753 he was made Provincial Grand Master of New York by Baron Carysfoot. He was in charge of the celebration of St. John the Baptist on 25 Jun 1753, at the King's Arms Tavern, and again that fall, at the celebration of the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. A full account of these ceremonies was published in the New York Mercury on 31 Dec 1753. The paper was owned by Hugh Gaine, Secretary of the Grand Lodge, and he took the opportunity to refute the charges against Freemasonry by drawing attention to their acts of public and private charity. Freemasonry grew under Harison's leadership, and by 1771 there were seven lodges in New York City, two at Albany, one at Johnstown, one at Fairfield, Norfolk, Stratford, and Stamford, Conn. and even one at Detroit, Mich.—all deriving their authority from New York. He was one of the original vestrymen of Old Trinity Church and was also the owner of the brigtantine, Charming Sally, with 12 guns, which his brother, Capt. Morely Harison, commanded. In 1765 he went into the brewing business with his father-in-law and James Leadbeater, a professional brewer. Bro. Harison died 18 Apr 1773.

A public service in Trinity Church on the festival of St. John the Evangelist is noticed in the Mercury of December 31, in the following manner:

"On Thursday last, at a Grand Lodge of the Antient and Worshipful Fraternity of FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, a Commission from the Honourable JOHN PROBY, Baron of Carysfort, in the Kingdom of Ireland, GRAND MASTER of England, appointing GEORGE HARRISON, Esq., to be Provincial Grand Master, was solemnly published, we hear, to the universal Satisfaction of all the Brethren present. After which, it being the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, the Brethren went in Procession, to attend Divine Service at Trinity Church. The Order in which they proceeded, was as follows. First walked the SWORD BEARER, carrying a drawn Sword; then four STEWARDS, with white Maces; followed by the TREASURER and SECRETARY, who bore each a crimson Damask Cushion, on which lay a gilt Bible, and the Book of Constitutions; after these the GRAND WARDEN, and WARDENS: Then came the GRAND MASTER himself, bearing a Trunchion and other Badges of his Office, followed by the Rest of the Brotherhood, according to their respective Ranks, MASTERS, FELLOW-CRAFTS, and 'PRENTICES, to about the Number of Fifty; all cloathed with their Jewels, Aprons, white Gloves, and Stockings. The whole ceremony was concluded with the utmost Decorum, under a Discharge of Guns from some Vessels in the Harbour; and made a genteel Appearance. We hear, they afterwards confer'd a generous Donation of Fifteen Pounds from the publick Stock of the Society, to be expended in Cloathing the poor Children, belonging to our Charity-School, and made a handsome private Contribution for the Relief of indigent Prisoners.

"In the Evening, by the particular Request of the Brethren, a Comedy called The Conscious Lovers, was presented at the Theatre in Nassau Street, to a very crouded Audience. Several Pieces of vocal Mustek, in Praise of the Fraternity, were performed between the Acts. An Epilogue, suitable to the Occasion, was pronounced by Mrs. Hallam, with all the Graces of Gesture, and Propriety of Elocution; and met with a universal and loud Applause."
Harrison Street was among the streets named by the Vestry of Trinity Church in 1790, laid out by the Common Council in 1795, and deeded to the City by the church in 1802. The street was first paved in 1811 and 1820. The name Harison, as it was spelled in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, had long been associated with the area of Harrison Street. The extensive brewery facility developed by George Harison, and others, between Greenwich Street and the North River appears on the 1766 "Plan of the City of New York." This facility was offered for sale in 1776, but the subsequent ownership of this property during the late eighteenth century remains undetermined. Perhaps the brewery site stayed in the Harison family, as suggested by the 1824 sale by Richard and Frances [Ludlow] Harison of several lots on the blocks bounded by Harrison, Greenwich, Jay, and West Streets, property which could have been the former site of the brewery. It seems likely that when, in 1790, the Vestry of Trinity Church was naming the street, it was honoring Richard Harison, the then prominent public official and officer of Trinity Church, rather than the George, former brewery owner.

The Brewery in the West Ward formerly called Vauxhall, which lately belonged to George Harrison, Richard Nicholls and James Leadbetter, was to be sold by [his wife] Mrs. Jane Harrison or [his son] Richard Harrison, Esq., attorney-at-law, in the Broadway.

Richard Harrison was born in New York, 23 Jan 1748, and died there 7 Dec 1829. He was graduated from Kings College in 1764. He married first, Catharine Jones, daughter of Dr. Jones of Long Island; second, Frances Ludlow, daughter of George Duncan Ludlow, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of the Province of New York, and afterward the first Chief Justice of New York.
Brunswick. Harison was inclined to the Tory side, but in 1789 he was chosen one of the delegates from the city of New York to the Poughkeepsie Convention that ratified the Federal Constitution, his colleagues being John Jay, Richard Morris, John Sloss Hobart, Alexander Hamilton, Robert R Livingston, Isaac Roosevelt, James Duane, and Nicholas Low. He was for many years one of the leaders of the New-York bar, and counsel in a large proportion of the more important cases, reported in the early New York reports. Upon the organization of the Federal Government he was appointed by General Washington U. S. District Attorney. From 1798 to 1799 he was Recorder of the city. For forty-one years - 1788 to 1829 - he was one of the Trustees of Columbia College, and in 1823 was Chairman of the Board. He also held the office of Comptroller of the Trinity Church Corporation.

The following biography gives additional insight into Richard Harison:

. . . Richard Harison, [the proprietor of Harison (later Malone), New York], was born in New York in 1747, and at the age of thirteen entered King's College (now Columbia University) in a class of which he and John Jay, the eminent jurist and statesman, twice Governor of New York, were the only members. The two remained friends and associates throughout their lives. Mr. Harison studied law after graduation from college, and was admitted to the bar as soon as he attained his majority. Almost immediately he won success and distinction, which not only placed him in the front rank in his profession, but brought him wealth also. He was at one time the law partner of Alexander Hamilton. In a work by the then president of Columbia College, in 1847, he is named with Mr. Hamilton, Aaron Burr, Broekholst Livingston and two or three others as having given to the bar of his time an eminence of character and talent comparing favorably with the high standing of the bench, and as one of "its brightest ornaments," to which was added: "Richard Harison was the most accomplished scholar of the group;" and "he was, moreover, a sound lawyer."

Historians generally of New York City, covering the period of Mr. Harison's activities, refer to him as "that great lawyer" or "that great man." He succeeded James Kent as recorder, "and his refinement and urbanity were as conspicuous on the bench as in private life." As bearing upon his scholarship, it is told that, naturally a student, he was a thorough master of Greek, Latin and French, and a reader of widest range: even after reaching his seventy-second year, he took up the study of Hebrew, and mastered that language.

Besides having been recorder of New York, he was secretary of the board of regents of the University of New York from 1787 to 1790; member of Assembly in 1787 and 1789; a member in 1788 with Hamilton, Jay and others of the convention which adopted the federal constitution; and from 1789 to 1801 United States attorney for the district of New York. Through the kindness of his great grandson, William Beverley Harison, I am privileged to have before me as I write a photographic copy of his commission as United States attorney, signed by George Washington, and also a photographic copy of a personal letter from President Washington, transmitting the commission, from which I quote: "The high importance of the judicial system in our national government makes it an indispensable duty to select such characters to fill the several offices in it as would discharge their respective duties with honor to themselves and advantage to the country." Mr. Harison was nominated to the Senate by President Washington to be judge of the United States district court, but declined the office. He died in New York 7 Dec 1829.

Richard graduated, as noted above from Kings College in 1764. This was from a class consisting of two persons, Richard Harison and John Jay. A contemporary account of the proceedings of the graduation exercise reads as follows:10

Richard Harison was graduated from King's College on May 22, 1764. That morning he joined the fifty boys from the college's new grammar school, his classmate, John Jay. President Cooper and the other faculty members in an impressive academic procession. They marched out the east gate of the college yard, along what is now Park Place, across Broadway, across the southern corner of triangular common, across Boston Road, and down to St. George's Chapel. The chapel was a new building, in the latest style, with elegant windows and a hexagonal steeple. It was crowded that morning, for the audience included the commander of the British troops in North America, His Excellency General Thomas Gage, "accompanied by several of the Members of his Majesty's Council, the Judges of the Supreme Court, the President and Governors of the college, and many of the Clergy and Gentlemen of the City and County." Jay's parents were not present; however; his father apparently decided to stay in Rye with his invalid wife and other children.

President [Myles] Cooper [portrait by John Singleton Copley] opened the ceremony with a prayer, related the events of the academic year, and then gave an "instructive exhortation to the young gentlemen who were to be graduated." After a speech by Harison, Jay gave a "spirited and sensible English dissertation on the happiness and advantages from a state of peace," no doubt touching on the recent end of the French and Indian War. The two young men then "entertained" the audience with a debate on "the subject of national poverty, opposed to national riches." After speeches by two graduates from earlier years, who by virtue of the passage of time were receiving their masters' degrees, Cooper closed the ceremony with another prayer. The academics then processed back to the college hall, where they "dined together in honor of the day." The bill from the previous year's meal suggests that it was a grand feast. On that occasion, fifty-nine diners managed to fifty six bottles of Madeira, eleven bottles of claret and fourteen bottles of cider. The food was probably equally extensive.

The first Commencement at which President Cooper presided was held in May 1764, in St. George's Chapel, Trinity Parish, corner of Beekman and Cliff streets, and was attended by General Gage and His Majesty's Council. On this occasion the salutatory was delivered by Richard Harison, then seventeen years of age, and an address on the blessings of peace was pronounced by John Jay, the other member of the graduating class.
Commencement in 1767 was held at the newly completed St. Paul's Chapel on Broadway, rather than St. George's Chapel in Montgomerie Ward. Again John Jay and his college classmate, Richard Harison, engaged in an English debate for the entertainment of the assembled dignitaries. The topic assigned to them was "Whether a Man ought to engage in War without being persuaded of the Justness of his Cause?" . . . He and Harison were then presented with their diplomas, carefully inscribed in Latin phrases drawn up by President Myles Cooper himself. The two men then retired with the academic procession presumably to enjoy a repast at the College Hall similar to that of 1764.

With reference to the above remark that Richard "inclined to the Tory" side, the following documents from 1778 and 1779 attest to this:

Zebulon Wallbridge, of Dutchess, and Richard Harison, of Ulster County, Refuse the Oath of Allegiance.

State of New York Ss,
To his Excellency George Clinton Esquire Governor of the State of New York General and Commander in Chief of all the militia, and admiral of the navy of the same.

In pursuance of an act of the Legislature of this State entitled " An Act more usually to prevent the mischiefs arising from the influence and example persons of "Equivocal and Suspected Characters in this State " We do hereby notify your Excellency that Zebulon Wallbridge of Dutchess County and Richard Harison Esquire of Ulster County, having severally appeared before us and being respectively by us tendered the oath in the said act contained did respectively refuse the same, and that unless your Excellency Shall think proper to detain them for the purpose of exchanging them for any of the subjects of this State in the power of the Enemy we shall cause them Respectively to be removed to some place within the Enemy's lines.


Richard Harison, Tory, Makes an Appeal in Behalf of His Family 12

N. York 9 April 1779.

Sir; Having obtained Permission from General Jones to remove my Family & Effects to this Place by a Vessel now going up the River with a Flag, I cannot entertain a Doubt of your not only allowing, but forwarding that measure. To accumulate Distresses upon those, whom for Reasons of mere Policy, it has been thought proper to banish under the circumstances in which we were, would be such a Violation of Humanity as I cannot in Justice, think you capable of. On the contrary, I shall want no Inducement to suppose that you will cheerfully promote, what may indeed conduce to the private Happiness of an Individual, but can have no Influence as to what regards the Public. Actuated by these Sentiments, I beg Leave to request that the inclosed Letters may be forwarded to my Family, with such further Instructions as you may thing proper; & permit me (in confidence that those Sentiments are well founded) to subscribe myself with all due Respect, Sir, Your most humble & obedient Servant

Rich: Harison.

Gov'r [George] Clinton.

Ibid.

Copy of a Pass Signed by the British Lieutenant-General, Jones.

By Lieutenant General Jones, Commandant of New York:

Permission is given to Thomas Cloudsal, to pass with a Flag of Truce up Hudson's River in the sloop Henry, navigated by Thomas Barker, master, and the two hands named in the margin (Gilbert Conklin, Isaac Burr) for the purpose of carrying out such Persons as have passes, and in return to bring to this City the Family and Effects of . . . Mrs. Harrison, Sen'r, & George Harrison, her Nephew with their Effects. The Family and Effects of Richard Harrison, Esqr., . . .

Given under my Hand & seal in the city of New-York the thirteenth Day of May 1779.

D. Jones Lt. Gen.

By Order of the Commandant John LeRoome, Sec'y. To all whom it may concern. Copy.

Places where the Persons are to be found mentioned in the annexed Flag . . .

Richard Harrison's Family,—at Bell Mount, near Goshen. Mrs. Harrison & her Nephew at the same place . . .
Relative to the Exchange of Prisoners and Removal of Tory Families to New York.

Pou'keepsie 19th May 1779.

Sir, I have rec'd yours of the 18th Instant, inclosing a Copy of a Flagg to Thomas Clousdal, granted for the Purpose of carrying to the Enemy the several Persons mentioned in it together with their Effects. I have no Objection to the removal of the Families of such Persons as were removed within the Enemy's Lines, in consequence of the late Test Act, & upon this Principle do consent that the Families of Richard Harrison, (including his Mother), and Samuel Mabett, and also Mrs. Skadden should be permitted to pass to New York, with such of their Effects as consists only in Household Furniture, Bedding, and Wearing Apparel; males capable of bearing Arms however to be excepted. With Respect to the other Persons mentioned in the Flagg, I am extremely sorry that the Conduct of the Enemy in their late mode of Warfare has made it my Duty to detain them to be exchanged for the Women and Children, which have been carried off from our Frontiers. As soon as these are released, and I have Assurances that the Inhumane and unmanly System upon which the War on our Frontiers is carried on, will no longer be pursued, I will readily suffer the Wives and Families of every Person with the Enemy to pass to New York.

You will oblige me in communicating, by the Return of the Flagg, the Contents of this Letter to the Commanding Officer in New York.

I am with much Esteem your most Obedt Serv't
G. C. The Hon'ble Major Gent. McDougal.

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Richard Harrison - Land Owner

Above it was noted that Richard was the proprietor of Harrison [now Malone], New York. This is but one of the land holdings attributed to him. Following the Revolutionary War there remained vast wilderness lands in what is now western and northern New York, clear title to which was not resolved until after the War of 1812. On June 22, 1791, Governor George Clinton and the Board of Land Commissioners began to plan on getting Northern New York settled. This set the stage for the "Macomb Purchase" of 1791. The purchase by Alexander Macomb [father of Bro. Gen. Alexander Macomb], on behalf of himself, William Constable and Daniel McCormick [who had been the Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge, just before Richard Harison became Deputy Grand Master from 1876 to 1878] was for 3,670,715 acres. The tract included much of northern New York, along the St. Lawrence River and eastern Lake Ontario, including the Thousand Islands, at about eight cents an acre. The purchase was divided into ten large townships. From this purchase are derived the deeds for all the lands that are now included in Lewis, Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, as well as portions of Herkimer and Oswego Counties.

On 15 Jul 1794, John Constable sold to Nicholas Low, William Henderson, Richard Harrison and Josiah Ogden Hoffman, of New York city, the land between the Black River and a line running in a course S. 81° E. 3100 chains, from the mouth of Sandy Creek to the river.

The Black river tract was divided by ballot between the owners on 11 Aug 1796. Low drew 2, 7, and 11, or Watertown, Adams and Lowville, and 1,578 acres of the surplus tract; Henderson took 3, 6 and 9, or Rutland, Henderson and Pinckney, and 649 acres of the surplus; and Harrison and Hoffman together, 1, 4, 5, 8, and 10, or Houndsfield, Champion, Denmark [now in Lewis County], Rodman, and Harrisburgh [large green area, now in Lewis County, comprising the Towns of Denmark, Pickney, Harrisburgh and Lowville], and 1283 acres of the surplus [Worth].13

These proprietors were tenants in common until May 1, 1805, but later on an instrument was executed, "securing certain interests of [Josiah Ogden] Hoffman to Thomas L. Ogden and Abijah Hammond, and on January 5, 1810, Hoffman conveyed to Harrison his interest in the towns" (Nos. 5, 8 and 10). In 1802 Simeon De Witt published a survey and map of New York State, east of the pre-emption line, in which he designated this town as Orpheus. In 1801 the proprietors caused the town to be resurveyed and divided into fifty-six lots, which, in turn, were subdivided into quadrants and offered for sale to settlers at an average of $3 per acre. . . . Proprietor Harrison had previously promised a gift of a hundred acres to the first child born in the town [of Rodman], and afterward conveyed fifty acres to Ebenezer Moody, though not till after the child's death.14 Rodman was organized as a town in 1804 from part of the Town of Adams. The town was originally called "Harrison" after an early landowner, but was later changed to "Rodman" in 1808, the name of the clerk of the legislature, due to confusion with other similarly-named communities.

Harrisburgh was named in honor of Richard Harrison of New York, former proprietor of the town. Mr. Harrison . . . a prominent lawyer. . . . He died December 6, 1829, aged 81 years. After the death of Hamilton he became counsel for [John] Constable and [Hezekiah B.] Pierrepont in their landed transactions.15 The Town of Harrisburg (originally "Harrisburgh") was formed in 1803 from the Towns of Lowville, Champion (in Jefferson County), and Mexico (in Oswego County). After its formation, Harrisburg gave up land to form the Town of Denmark (1807) and the Town of Pinckney (1808).

On 30 Jun 1797, Harrison and Hoffman sold the north part of Hounsfield (11,134.5 acres) to Henry Champion and Lemuel Storr, and on 10 Mar 1801, disposed of the south part (15,913 acres) to Peter Kemble and Ezra Hounsfield (for consideration of $4,000).
Harrison & Hoffman acquired 1,283 acres of land in Worth, New York. The remainder of the township (22,004 acres, as then bounded) also fell to Harrison & Hoffman, who caused it to be surveyed and laid out by Medad Mitchell in 1795. In Dec 1797 these proprietors made a partition of their lands in the town, Hoffman taking the north half. He then conveyed to Daniel McCormick in trust to sell the land and hold the proceeds until certain debts were paid.

In what is now Franklin County, Malone was erected from Chateaugay 2 Mar 1805, at Harison, so called because Richard Harison... was a leading member of the Macomb syndicate, and consisted originally of all of Great Tract No. 1 of the Macomb purchase and the St. Regis Indian reservation. Yet quite inexplicably a section of the act of 1808 by which the county was created annexed to Harison "all those parts of Plattsburgh and Peru lying within the county of Franklin west of the old military tract," when, as a matter of fact, such parts had been detached by the act of 1805. Thus all of the county's nineteen towns except Bellmont, Burke, Chateaugay and Franklin are offshoots, directly or indirectly, from Malone, which originally had an area of more than three-quarters of a million acres, exclusive of water. It now includes only two townships, aggregating 63,200 of assessed acreage.

The name Harison was changed in 1808 to Ezraville as a mark of Mr. Harison's respect for his friend, Ezra L'Hommedieu of Long Island, and on 12 Jun 1812, Ezraville became Malone. For nearly three-quarters of a century no one appears to have speculated concerning the origin or derivation of the latter name, but in 1885 Vice-President Wheeler believed that he had ascertained that it had been taken in compliment to Malone Constable, assumed to have been a daughter of William Constable. That theory was generally accepted as correct until Dr. C. W. Collins, undertaking investigation of the matter for the Historical Society, found that there had never been a Malone Constable, and learned from a descendant of Richard Harison that the name had been given to the township for Edmond Malone, the Irish Shakespearian scholar and critic, who was Mr. Harison's friend.

Great Tract Holdings ca July 1804:

Great Tract No. 1 Recap for Richard Harison:
All of Townships 6 [Malone] and 11 [Westerly]; the Northwest 1/4 of Township 13 [Dayton]; the North 1/3 of Township 17 [Gilchrist]; the South East 1/4 of Township 24 [Barrymore].

Great Tract No. 2 Recap for Richard Harison:
1/2 of Township No. 6 [Janestown] in joint ownership with Daniel McCormick, Abijah Hammond, Gilchrist Fowler and LeRay de Chaumont; All of Townships No. 9 [Kildare] and 16 [Islington]; and the North East 1/4 of Township 12 [Riversdale].

Great Tract No. 3 Recap for Richard Harison:
The South East 1/4 of Township 10 [Clifton].

CANTON and LISBON.---Macomb [conveyed] to [William] Edgar... Edgar to Alexander von Pfister, by deed June 12, 1794, for five shillings. This was doubtless in trust. In this was excepted a tract of 9,600 acres, sold by Macomb to John Tibbets, of Troy, Nov. 20, 1789, for £960.

Von Pfister conveyed, March 3, 1795, to Stephen Van Rensselaer*, Josiah Ogden Hoffman, and Richard Harrison, for £5,068, 16s. This is said to have been conveyed to them in payment for money loaned. On the 21st of January, 1805, Hoffman, by deed, released to Van Rensselaer his interest in the two towns.

By an agreement between the parties, [Richard] Harrison retained one-third of the eastern part of the tract (about 39,460 acres), and Van Rensselaer the remainder (78,932 acres). Stephen Van Rensselaer, by deed dated Sept. 13, 1836, conveyed all his estate in these towns to his son Henry Van Rensselaer . . .

* Stephen Van Rensselaer was Grand Master 1825-1829.
Not is all cases did Richard Harison hold land, but worked with his law clients to assist in theirs. Such was a case with Judge William Cooper, founder of Cooperstown, New York:

“Richard Harison, who had bailed out William Cooper’s third son and namesake in 1802 by taking the expelled collegian into his law office, confessed to Judge Cooper in 1807 that all the New Military Tract lots that had fallen to him in the division of the partners’ holdings had ‘been claimed under better Titles.’ He added, ‘I may therefore consider them as gone.’”

Morely, New York - Another case would be the Town of Morley, St. Lawrence, New York. What was once named Long Rapids was changed by the Post Office to Morley by the Post Office Department on 20 May 1839 was the request of some grandchild of Richard Harison, then a prominent citizen of the town. The various newspaper articles of period are somewhat at odds as who or why the name Morley was chosen, but it appears several times in the Harison family, one being the brother of George Harison which name was taken from the surname of their mother, Dorothea Morley.

Other Associates and Friends of Richard Harison

Richard lived in the very thick of things in early New York City. Some of his numerous friends and associates have already been noted above, but this present work can only lightly touch on the many references to him to found regarding his law practice, his term as Recorder of New York and his very esteemed neighbors in New York. One brief mention may serve to give a hint of some of the circles in which he lived. Among other things he was a pallbearer at the funeral of his law partner, Alexander Hamilton, and he was evidently as friend of Clements C. Moore, author of ‘A Night Before Christmas.’

“It was in the Harison mansion in Judson Street that that Clement C. Moore came to Canton on visits to the Richard Harison, the New York City family which, as an investment, bought the lands which comprised much of the town of Canton . . .”

Mr. CLEMENT C. MOORE,

Sir,

At a meeting of the Alumni of Columbia College, held at the College Chapel on Wednesday last, it was unanimously resolved, that the thanks of the meeting be presented to Mr. Moore, for the interesting and impressive address delivered by him this day [4 May 1825]; and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication.

By order of the meeting,

RICHARD HARISON, Chairman.

“In 1809 Richard picked up a ‘country place.’ It was a parcel of about seven acres on the west side of the Fitz-Roy Road (also called the Greenwich Road and the Road to Great Hills) . . . This would locate the Harison property a little west of the present Ninth Avenue and east of Eight, and it took in substantially what is now the whole block between those avenues and Thirtieth to Thirty-first Streets. Clement C. Moore’s ‘country house’ was near [by at] what is now the corner of Ninth Avenue and Twenty-third Street. Richard, as a further testament to his friendship with Clement C. Moore, appointed him as an executor to his will.”
Residence of Richard Harrison opposite corner of Broadway and Chatham Streets.
The block diagonally north of him was King’s College.
Robert R Livingston lives in the lower left corner of the map.
John Jacob Aster lived four blocks southwest of him on Broadway on the former plot of William Constable.
Alexander Hamilton is due east of Robert R Livingston. Aaron Burr lived next door to Richard.
Richard evidently also found time to show a lively interest in the improvement of the grounds of his college, for in 1764, after the site had been enclosed by a post and rail fence, he and Judge Benson, John Jay and Robert R Livingston themselves planted a line of sycamores behind this fence.  

The Harison Rose

By a codicil added to his will in 1827, he bequeathed to his unmarried daughters, Jane and Frances, children by his second wife, “all my green house plants and shrubs, all by bulbous roots and flower roots of every kind” and appointed “my excellent friend Clement C. Moore and my son William” as executors to those named in the will.

Since 1830 American gardeners have growing a bush rose commonly called “Harison’s Yellow, a hybrid of Austrian brier, *R. foetida*, and the Burnet or Scotch rose, *R. spinosissima*.

According to general accounts, the Harison rose was introduced in 1830, the year after Richard died. His son, George Folliott Harison was then fifty four, and it might well have been among those “flower roots” in Richard Harison’s garden left to George’s two maiden half-sisters. While old Richard took a lively interest in his horticultural possessions, as his will indicates.
Richard Harison  
Relationships to the Nicholls & Colden Family  
*Freemasons noted in blue*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cadwalladen Colen</th>
<th>Richard Nicholls</th>
<th>m. Margaret Tudor</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1668; d. 20 Sep 1776</td>
<td>b. ca 1698; d. 19 Aug 1775</td>
<td>b. ca 1699; d. 1772</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. Gov. of New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Alice Christy [ie]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>b. 1690; d. 1762</td>
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<th>Susannah Nicholls</th>
<th>Elizabeth Nicholls</th>
<th>Mary Nicholls</th>
<th>Jane Nicholls</th>
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<tr>
<td>m1. John Burges</td>
<td>b. 1725; d. 1774</td>
<td>m1. Thomas Tucker</td>
<td>d. aft 1773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m2. Nov 1766</td>
<td>m. Alexander Colden</td>
<td>m2. Rev. Sam'l Auchmuty</td>
<td>m. George Harison</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. 9 Jan 1781</td>
<td>b. 13 Aug 1716</td>
<td>b. 1725; d. 4 Mar 1777</td>
<td>b. 1719; d. 18 Apr 1773</td>
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<td>DGM 1771 to</td>
<td>d. 12 Dec 1774</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prov. GM of NY 1753-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Harison</td>
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<tr>
<th>Cadwalladen David Colden</th>
<th>Richard Harison</th>
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<td>b. 4 Apr 1769; d. 7 Feb 1834</td>
<td>b. 23 Jan 1747; d. 9 Dec 1829</td>
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<td>SGW 1801-1805; 1810-1819</td>
<td>DGM 1786-88</td>
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<tr>
<td>m. Maria Provoost</td>
<td>m. Frances Ludlow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Aug 1835</td>
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Epilogue

Again, owing that there is no personal information regarding Richard Harison in the archives of Freemasonry, and no reference in the abundant general literature that the ‘other’ Richard Harison was a Freemason, there is, nonetheless as significant amount of evidence that they ‘both’ shared a considerable commonality in dates, places, family and associates, such that one may readily concede that they were one and same person.

Richard lived in considerably exciting time in the history of our then new nation, contributing measurably to its development in the developing city of New York, the Constitutional Convention and the development of the northern wilderness of New York. We may be justifiable proud to call him Brother.

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Gary L. Heinmiller

Right Worshipful Gary L. Heinmiller [aka Lee Miller] was raised in Liverpool Lodge 525 [now Liverpool Syracuse Lodge 501] in 1987, where he has served as Master [1997-98] and Secretary [1996, 98-09]. He was a Trustee of The Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library of Grand Lodge of New York [1996-2002] and is a member of Royal Arch Masons, Cryptic Council, and Masonic Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis (MSRICF). He was previously published in the 1997 Transactions of the American Research Lodge.

Brother Heinmiller is Area 11 Historian for the Onondaga Masonic Districts GL NY, and is Director of the Onondaga & Oswego Masonic Districts Historical Societies [OMDHS], of which he was the Founder [1995]. He maintains the OMDHS website, by the good graces of a fine webmaster, at [www.omdhs.syracusemasons.com](http://www.omdhs.syracusemasons.com).

Author of *Freemasonry and a View of the Perennial World Philosophy*, 1997, he has actively studied allegory, symbolism, contemplative geometry, comparative religion, genealogy, ancient civilizations and related subjects for over 40 years. Brother Heinmiller has written and compiled numerous Masonic District Histories, essays, poems and other works. He has lectured for over 25 years. His favorite quote: “All of my best thoughts were stolen by the ancients.”

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End Notes

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1. “The Journal of the Michigan State Medical Society, Volume 3,” by Michigan State Medical Society, page 286. [http://books.google.com/books?id=UAUAAAYAAJ&pg=PA286&dq=%22jane+nichols%22+%22george+harison%22&hl=en&ei=4eCnTIHvI4KCIAlFeGk&sa=X&ved=0CBQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22jane+nichols%22+%22george+harison%22&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=UAUAAAYAAJ&pg=PA286&dq=%22jane+nichols%22+%22george+harison%22&hl=en&ei=4eCnTIHvI4KCIAlFeGk&sa=X&ved=0CBQQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22jane+nichols%22+%22george+harison%22&f=false)

“A history of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, New York . . .,” by Franklin Benjamin Hough, page 238. http://books.google.com/books?id=3sz58LOq02CC&pg=PR5&dq=%22ten+towns%22+%22st.+lawrence%22&hl=en&ei=UgDWTILYLoiq8Abk2Pm4DA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=6&ved=0CEMQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22richard%20harrison%22&f=false

Ibid. page 245.


http://www.morley.northcountryny.com/

http://www.northcountryny.com/richard_harison.htm

“Address delivered before the alumni of Columbia College, on the 4th of May 1825,” by Clement Clarke Moore, Columbia University. Association of the Alumni. http://books.google.com/books?id=HF9AAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA2&dq=%22clement+moore%22+%22richard+harrison%22&hl=en&ei=d87WTILySfou8Aad- YZ1DA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22clement%20moore%22%20%22richard%20harrison%22&f=false


Ibid. page 70.