

The Harris Family Part 3 – The Wedding

-An interesting wedding day for Nathan and Lilly Ward. Read more below.

In this section of the family history, we will begin to discuss the children of James and Mary Anne (Pearl) Harris, starting with Jeremiah who was born in July 1867 in Colchester. He married Emma Leona Ward on August 20, 1898 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Emma was born in 1881 in Indiana and was the daughter of Nathan Ward (born circa 1854 and the son of John and Julia Ward) and Lilly Smith (born 1861 and the daughter of Garrett Smith and Mary Jenks).

An article from the *South Bend News* in October 1881 discusses interesting details of the wedding day of Nathan and Lilly. It says “The invitations to the wedding were issued from Sheriff Johnson’s office, where the bridegroom has been visiting for some time, anxiously awaiting the arrival of his friend Judge Noyes, to settle a little misunderstanding between himself and Lillie. The fair bride, in fact, was afraid that Nathan’s love was not so warm as of yore, and being especially desirous that the marriage ceremony should take place within a stated period, she ... had him placed in Sheriff Johnson’s keeping in order to give him an opportunity to reflect. Nathan reflected, and concluded that he was willing that the wedding day should be fixed at any time, without asking Judge Noyes’ opinion in the matter.”

The article continues “Consequently, the time was set for this forenoon at 9 o’clock. Only a few relatives and immediate friends of the parties were present. The groom was accompanied by Sheriff Johnson, and the bride was attended by her sister, Mrs. Hannah Smith Patterson Henderson, whose smile of satisfaction was broad and deep, and wide and far-stretching, even gorgeous. The officiating justice dispelled his judicial frown for the moment, and his face shone with a radiance suitable to the occasion, as he arose dignifiedly and requested the two candidates for matrimonial honors to do the same and join their right hands. Nathan jumped up, facing the

northwest, and Lillie arose calmly and looked seriously towards the southeast. Harbou spit and was about to begin the words of the ceremony when he noticed the predicament his couple were in. The frown returned to his brow as he remarked authoratively [sic], pointing to the groom: 'Here you, git around on the other side.' Nate let go Lillie's nankeen palm and ... Around to the other side, while Lillie sashayed slightly to the left and soon they waltzed on to the caller again in proper position."

The article ends by saying "The ceremony was then pronounced impressively amid a solemn stillness, and at its close the happy couple went forth from the place with the benediction of the officiating justice and the hearty congratulations of the assemblage, and Hannah's smile grew deeper and wider and broader and more gorgeous than ever."

Emma's parents, Nathan and Lilly, were married for a few years, but according to the Harris family history book, Nathan passed away while travelling in Northern Michigan after a wagon rolled over on him. This occurred between 1885 and 1889. Following his passing, Emma's mother Lilly married William Parker in 1889.

Emma and Jeremiah had eight children: Charles Franklin, David Leonze, Ernest, Chester, Sylvere, Fitzgerald 'Jerry', Howard and Betty June. Charles Franklin was born in September 1899 in Ypsilanti, while David Leonze was born on September 24, 1900 in Detroit.

What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week for part 4 where we will share more about David Leonze Harris.