



Abraham Byron Harris

September 7, 1828 – March 27, 1902

Iowa Veteran:

Mexican War (Mexican-American War)

Civil War (Union)

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## From Ohio to Denton, Texas

Abraham Harris' American heritage began with James Harris (1/1/1700 – 4/6/1763), born in Bristol, England who voyaged to Essex, New Jersey, New England by 1725. At age 50, James had a son, John Harris (7/1/1750 – 1816), born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. John was associated with the Minute Men of his town, across the river from New York, New York, and by the age of 25 was a soldier in the start of the “War of the Revolution” (American Revolutionary War) between 1776 to 1778.<sup>1</sup> John had a son, James Harris (3/22/1792 – 1/6/1834) born in Washington, Pennsylvania. James married Mary Logan (3/19/1782 – 3/8/1864) in Knox County, Ohio on December 26, 1816. The following year, James and Mary moved to Richland, Ohio and started their family. Abraham was the youngest of child of six children, three which survived childhood.

### Mexican – American War Service

Abraham Harris was born on September 7, 1828 in Bloomfield Township, Richland, Ohio. His father, James Harris, died at age 51 in Bloomfield, Ohio when Abraham was five years old. He grew up with his mother and at age 19 enlisted on January 20, 1847 in the US Army to serve in the Mexican War, now referenced as the Mexican – American War.<sup>2</sup> His service record reflects his entry in the US Army as:<sup>3</sup>

Full Name: Abraham B Harris  
Rank: Private  
Service Year: 1846  
State: Ohio  
Military Unit: 3rd Ohio Vols., Capt. William McLaughlin  
Land Grant Warrant Number: 47-160-14869  
Rejected: FALSE  
Conflict Period: Mexican-American War

For his year in service during 1847, he is provided a land grant as payment referenced as warrant number 47-160-14869 and a military pension awarded in 1852:<sup>4</sup>

Year: 1852  
Full Name: Harris, Abraham  
File Number: H351  
State: District of Columbia  
Conflict Period: Mexican-American War  
Served For: United States of America

Land Warrant Application:  
Full Name: Abraham Harris  
Rank: Private

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<sup>1</sup> U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970, Application Date 21 Sep 1936, Accepted.

<sup>2</sup> Enlistment: <https://www.fold3.com/image/310838678?rec=299850399>

<sup>3</sup> Military Service: <https://www.fold3.com/record/641351194-abraham-b-harris-private>

<sup>4</sup> Letters Received by the Adjutant General – warrant & pension: <https://www.fold3.com/image/293915017>

Service Year: 1847  
State: United States  
Military Unit: 8th US Army Infantry, Capt. Maclay, Brig Gen Garland  
Warrant Number: 47-160-76357  
Rejected: FALSE  
Conflict Period: Mexican-American War

Military Pension:  
Full Name Harris, Abraham B  
Conflict Period Mexican-American War  
Military Branch Army  
Pension Type Veteran Pension Application (SO)  
Served For United States of America

### Return to Ohio

Harris returned to Ohio on his discharge and married Eliza B Jaques from Shelby Ohio in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio on February 2, 1849. Eliza B Harris (1827 – 1898) gave birth to twin daughter, Mary and Martha, on December 16, 1849. Martha died shortly after birth and Mary died within a year. The 1850 US Census shows Abraham at age 22 as “Farmer” and Eliza at age 24 at home in North Bloomfield, Morrow County, Ohio with their 6 month old daughter Mary.<sup>5</sup> By 1852 the Harris family with Abraham’s mother, Mary, had moved to Eldora, Hardin County, Iowa.<sup>6</sup>

### Harris Family - Civil War Service

Eliza and Abraham Harris had nine children in Eldora, Iowa, five which survived childhood:

- Twins - Mary & Martha Harris; (Hardin County, Iowa) 12/16/1849; Mary survived for less than a year, recorded in the 1850 Census.
- William Logan Harris; (Hardin County, Iowa) 10/19/1852 – 1853
- Abigail Vanluah Harris (Eldora, Hardin County, Iowa); 12/14/1854 – 11/3/1863 (age 9)<sup>7</sup>
- Margaret Florence "Flora" Harris; (Iowa) 9/27/1857 – 12/14/1940 (age 83)  
Married in Eldora, Iowa; 11/1/1875 to John Sangston Richards, moved to Ft. Worth, Texas
- Mary Alice Harris Alred; 2/26/1860 – 9/13/1891 (age 31);  
Married in Denton, Texas in 1885 to John Thomas Alred; Buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Denton<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> 1850 United States Federal Census, Census Place: North Bloomfield, Morrow, Ohio; Roll: M432\_716; Page: 399B; Image: 107.

[https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8054/4204508\\_00107/14299420?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/88220838/person/46569890388/facts/citation/323719430617/edit/record](https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/8054/4204508_00107/14299420?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/88220838/person/46569890388/facts/citation/323719430617/edit/record)

<sup>6</sup> Abraham Byram Harris, family tree. <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/88220838/person/46569890388/facts>

<sup>7</sup> Eldora IA Cemetery - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/111743651/abigail-vanluah-harris>

<sup>8</sup> Oakwood, Section 7/8 - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/12648126/mary-alice-alred>

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Abraham Harris – Civil War Service: May 21, 1861 – January 2, 1863

- Abraham Loyal Lincoln Harris; 10/13/1863 – 1905 (age 42)  
Married Dora May Howard (3/18/1878 – 1/27/1912; buried in Tarrant County, Texas
- James Jaques Harris; 3/20/1866 – 12/25/1910 (aged 44) – bought the cemetery lots for his parents and his family at the IOOF cemetery in Denton, Texas<sup>9</sup>  
Married Mollie E. Alred Harris of Denton; 5/12/1873 – 11/22/1918 (age 45)<sup>10</sup>
- Josephine Mignonett Harris; 1869 – after 1910 but unknown (age 41+)

### Union Service in the Civil War Service

Harris re-enlisted as a Union soldier in the War of the Rebellion, now referenced as the Civil War. The local paper reflects his service in His service record shows Harris:<sup>11</sup>

Enlisted: May 21, 1861 as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in Iowa

Service: 6th Infantry Regiment Iowa, organized July, 17 1861 in Iowa

- Enlisted in Company C, Iowa 6th Infantry Regiment on 17 Jul 1861.
- Promoted to Full Captain on 22 Feb 1862.
- Mustered out on 02 Jan 1863 at Holly Springs, MS.

Civil War Battles:

- Fought on 6 Apr 1862 in Tennessee at the Battle of Shiloh
- Fought on 14 Oct 1862 at Hopefield, Arkansas
- Fought in 1863 around Holly Spring and Jackson Mississippi

Harris was mustered out of service on January 2, 1863 as a Captain, just before his regiment was engaged as part of the siege on Vicksburg near Jackson Mississippi and then pushed on to the battles of Lookout Mountain at Chattanooga, Tennessee continuing on to Atlanta, Georgia in 1864.

### Relocation to Denton, Texas

The 1880 US Census records Abraham Harris and his family living in Denton. Harris reports himself as a “farmer” at age 51 with his wife, Eliza as “keeping house” at age 53, both born in Ohio. Four of their children live at home, all born in Iowa, which include Mary as “at home” at age 20; Abraham L. as “laborer” at age 16; James J. as “laborer” at age 14; and, Josephine as “at home” at age 11.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> IOOF, Section K, 27, 1 – <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15447022/james-jaques-harris>

<sup>10</sup> IOOF, Section K, 27, 2 – <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15447023/mollie-e-harris>

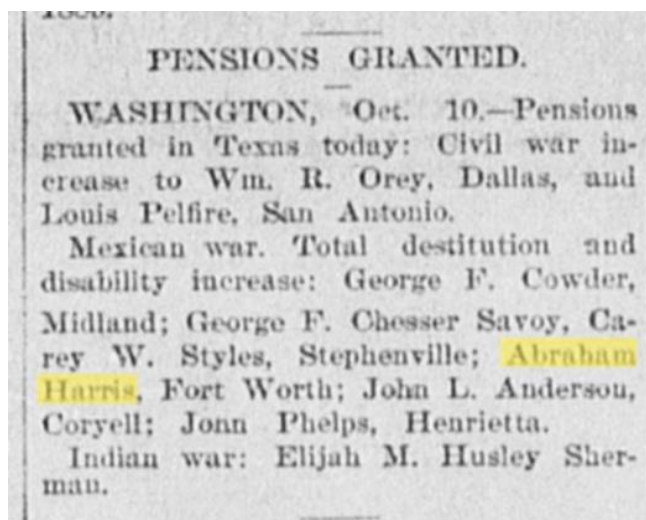
<sup>11</sup> Roster & Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of Rebellion Roster 6th Iowa Vol. Infantry: 1888; <https://archive.org/details/historyofsixthi00wrig/page/n285>

<sup>12</sup> 1880 United States Federal Census, Denton, Texas. <https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/6742/4244720-00215/6719134?backurl=https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/88220838/person/46569890389/facts/citation/323719426661/edit/record>

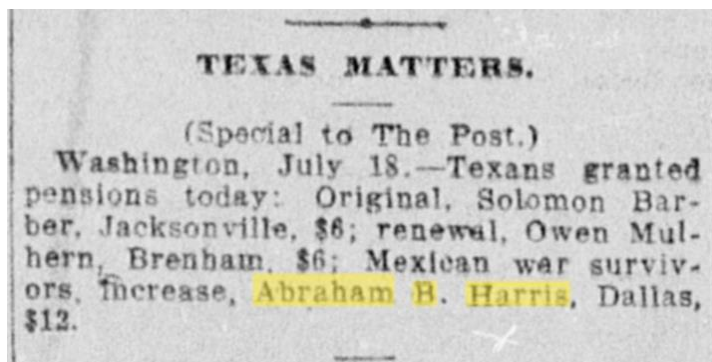
Abraham and Eliza lived in Denton until 1898. During this time, their oldest daughter, Mary Alice married John Thomas Alred in 1885. The Alred family was well established in Denton and must have also drawn the attention of James, who married Mollie E. Alred. The Harris' son, Abraham Loyal married Dora May Howard, born in the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. Abraham and Dora moved to the Fort Worth, Texas area while Josephine, the youngest daughter remained with her parents. On September 13, 1891, Mary Alice died in the Denton area. The Alred family included her in their family plot at Oakwood Cemetery in Denton. Eliza died at age 73 on December 27, 1898.

#### Mexican – American War Pensions

In 1893, Harris received a disability increase to his pension from the US Army for his initial service.<sup>13</sup>



In 1900, Harris received an increase to his pension for his early service to \$12 a month.<sup>14</sup>



Harris was elected as First Vice President of the Mexican War Veterans association to service in 1903.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Fort Worth Daily Gazette. (Fort Worth, Tex.), Vol. 17, No. 322, Ed. 1, Wednesday, October 11, 1893, newspaper, October 11, 1893; Fort Worth, Texas, Page 1.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph90237/m1/1/?q=%22Abraham%20Harris%22>

<sup>14</sup> The Houston Daily Post (Houston, Tex.), Vol. XVith Year, No. 106, Ed. 1, Thursday, July 19, 1900, newspaper, July 19, 1900; Houston, Texas, Page 2.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph83297/m1/2/?q=%22Abraham%20B.%20Harris%22>

<sup>15</sup> The Southern Mercury. (Dallas, Tex.), Vol. 23, No. 24, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 4, 1903, newspaper, June 4, 1903, Page 1. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph186000/m1/1/?q=%22Abraham%20Harris%22>

The 1900 US Census shows Abraham living in Dallas reporting himself as a building contractor. He is recorded as widowed with Josephine living at home with her father, the last known information for her. Captain Abraham Harris died in Lawton, Oklahoma on March 27, 1902.<sup>16</sup> He was returned to Denton by James who purchased burial lots at IOOF for his parents, recorded in the IOOF cemetery record retained by the City of Denton. Eliza and Abraham are together in Section A, the original and oldest part of the IOOF cemetery in Denton.<sup>17</sup> His head reads: Captain, Company C of the Sixth Regiment of the Iowa Infantry; MEXICAN WAR / CIVIL WAR.<sup>18</sup>



<sup>16</sup> <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LQR9-2W5/abraham-byram-harris-1828-1902>

<sup>17</sup> IOOF, Section A - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14636258/eliza-b-harris>

<sup>18</sup> IOOF, Section A-3-10 - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14636245/abraham-b-harris>

### Third Ohio Regiment, Mexican War History<sup>19</sup>

The United State declared war on the Republic of Mexico on May 13, 1846. The volunteer infantry regiments were organized in Ohio for one year of service under General Zachary Taylor. The Third Regiment travel by boats from Ohio down the Mississippi River to New Orleans, then across the Gulf of Mexico to Brownsville, Texas to occupy northern Mexico.

The regiment was garrison in Matamoros, Mexico in a peace keeping capacity during the summer of 1846. The role was to enforce laws and statutes for the volatile mix of rowdy personnel in this border city. During February 1847, the regiment moved to Camargo to protect the military supplies warehoused in this village to support soldiers at Monterrey and Saltillo. This position became an observation post, detecting General Santa Anna's forces attempt to trap General Taylor's army. The regiment was assigned to Saltillo, Mexico to support Taylor, who defeated the Mexican army efforts for entrapment.

By June 1847 the initial year enlistment period for the regiment expired. The Mexican Army was defeated in Mexico City as recorded in the "Marines' Hymn" of the official song of the United States Marine Corps, referring to "The Halls of Montezuma" denoting the Battle of Chapultepec during September 12 and 13, 1847. The Third Ohio Regiment was mustered out of service during 1847.

### Sixth Infantry IOWA, Civil War Regiment History, US Army<sup>20</sup>

Sixth Infantry.--- Cols., John A. McDowell, John M. Corse, Alexander J. Miller, Lieut.-Cols., Markoe Cummins, John M. Corse, Alexander J. Miller, William H. Clune; Majs., John M. Corse, John Williams.

This regiment was organized at Burlington, and was mustered in July 15, 1861. It moved to Keokuk soon after and a detachment of the regiment was sent to the assistance of Col. Moore at Athens, Mo., but reached there too late to take part in the fight and returned to Keokuk. It then moved to Tipton, Mo., joined Fremont's. forces and marched to Springfield with the army late in October. It was placed on railroad guard duty at Lamine bridge, but later was ordered to Tipton, where six companies were placed on garrison duty the others being sent to Syracuse for similar service. Col. McDowell was in command of the brigade in the meantime, leaving Lieut.-Col. Cummins in command of the regiment.

It took part in the battle of Shiloh, where it held an advanced position with tenacity until all support had been driven back, and retired under a terrible fire. Lieut.-Col. Cummins was retired from command during the battle and Capt. John Williams led the regiment through the most desperate part of the fight until wounded, when Capt. Walden took command. Out of 650 in action, 64 were killed, 100 wounded, and 47 missing, most of them captured. Maj. Corse was at the time on the staff of Gen Pope, but was soon afterward made Lieutenant-Colonel and took command of the regiment with Capt. John Williams.

It was in the siege of Corinth, was present at the evacuation of that place, accompanied a detachment of the army to the interior of Mississippi under General Sherman, marched from Holly Springs to Memphis, where it remained during the summer and most of the fall. In 1863, it accompanied Grant's army in the campaign against Vicksburg.

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<sup>19</sup> Joseph Chance, Editor. Mexico Under Fire: Being the Diary of Samuel Ryan Curtis, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Regiment During the American Military Occupation of Northern Mexico 1846 – 1847. Texas Christian University Press, Fort Worth, 1994.

<sup>20</sup> Roster & Record of Iowa Soldiers in the War of Rebellion Roster 6th Iowa Vol. Infantry: 1888.  
<https://archive.org/details/historyofsixthi00wrig/page/n285>



**Late News from Mexico---Friendly Disposition of Mexico Toward the National Government---Permission to March our Troops Across Her Soil.**

We are enabled to state on the authority of a private letter from Gov. Corwin, dated at Mexico 29th June, and just received here, that the nature of the troubles in the U. S. are now well understood by the people of Mexico, and that all the leading minds are favorable to the National Government.— The Mexican Congress has exhibited this in a substantial manner by a decree granting our Government the right to march troops over Mexican territory, if necessary, in operations in the South-west. We are not at liberty to state the places named in the decree. It was passed in secret session by an unanimous vote. A copy has been transmitted by Gov. Corwin to the State Department at Washington.

The efforts which the Confederates made to forestall the favor of Mexico, to furnish ports for their privateers and prizes, have entirely failed and in spite of their treacherous advances, Mexico has made a closer alliance with the National Government.—  
*Cin. Gaz.*

**6th Regiment**

Is now organized as follows:

Col. JOHN ADAIR McDOWELL.

Lt. Col. \_\_\_\_\_

Major JOHN M. CORSE.

Company A, Linn county—Capt H. W. Gray, 1st Lieut. Tarleton Caldwell, 2d Lieut. Willard H. Harlan.

Company B, Lucas county—Capt. Daniel Iseminger; 1st Lieut. Emmet B. Woodward; 2d Lieut. Eugene E. Edwards.

Company C—Capt. David M. Stamp; 1st Lieut. Abraham B. Harris; 2d Lieut. Philander Lockard.