## $\mathsf{PRE}1949$ The Sayles Homestead



**1760** Sayles Homestead is founded in Pascoag

**1860** James Harris is born in Burrillville 



**1901** Sylvester Sayles dies, leaving the Sayles Homestead to Elizabeth Butler Sayles

**1930** Elizabeth Butler Harris dies

**1949** Judge James Harris dies, leaving the Homestead to the Diocese of RI



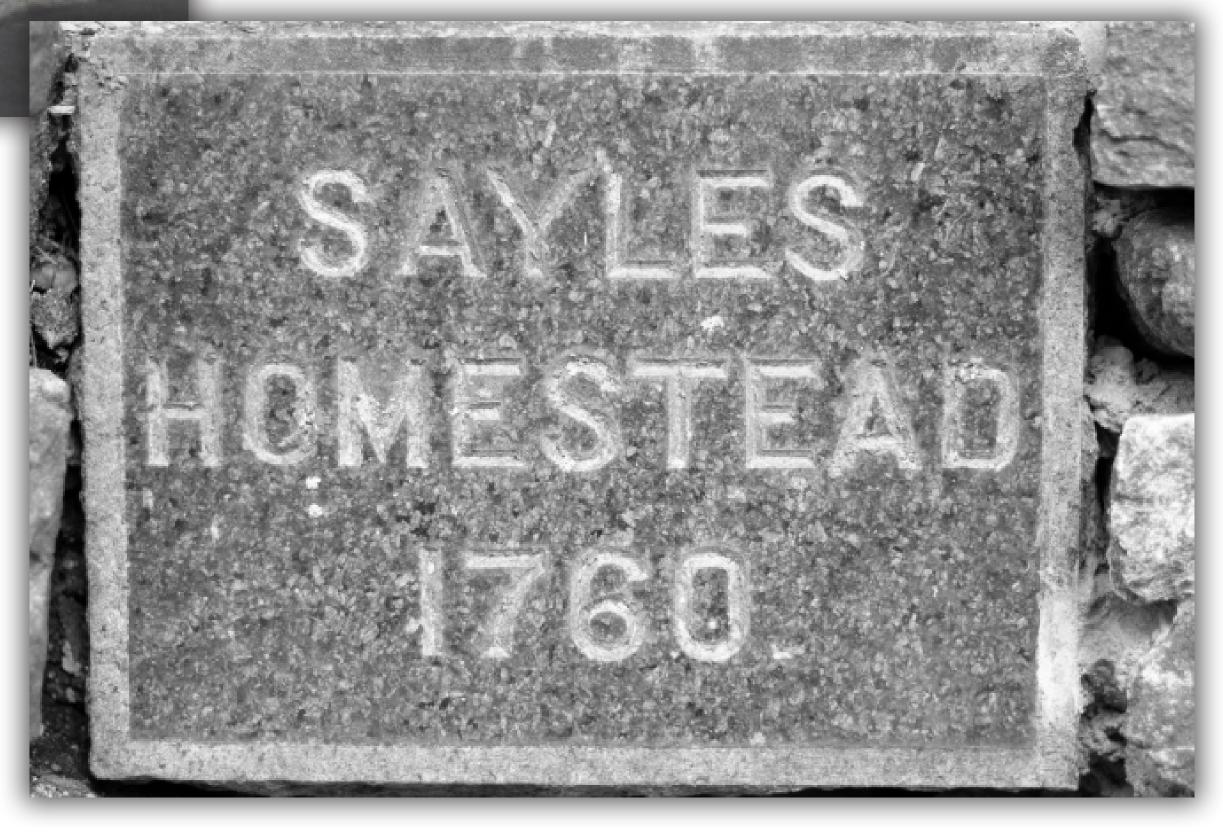
**1949** The diocese accepts the gift of the property at Diocesan Convention



The Sayles Homestead, a piece of property of over 170 acres and spanning the town line between Glocester and Burrillville Rhode Island, was established in 1760 under the ownership of Israel Sayles, great-great-grandchild of Roger and Mary Williams.



n 1880 Sylvester Sayles owned the homestead and ran a boarding house on the property. Catherine Butler, a divorcee, and her daughter Elizabeth "Lizzie" Butler came to work at the boarding house. Soon thereafter Syvlester adopted Elizabeth. Upon his death in 1901, Sylvester (pictured here) left the homestead to Lizzie.

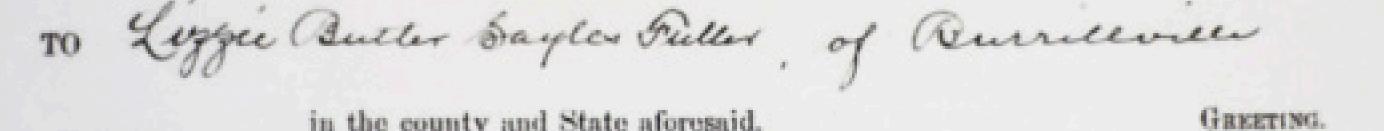


Clockwise from top: Original farmhouse, Sayles Homestead cornerstone, 1870s map of the Pascoag Reservoir, Main House in 1950.

## LETTER TESTAMENTARY.

## The State of Rhode Island and Probidence Plantations.

(LS PROVIDENCE, SC .- By the Court of Probate of the Town of Burrillville, in the County of Providence, and State aforesaid.



in the county and State aforesaid.

WHEREAS, this Court have this day proved, approved, allowed and caused to be recorded, the last Will and Testament of a yerester Daylos

late of Querelevele in st wherein you are named as the Executive thereof, bond as the law directs, are, by these presents, au take possession of the estate whereof said

according to law, and to the provisions of said last In Testimony Whereof, we have can this Swenty Third Signed and scaled, by order and in behalf of said Con

To to William

"While we don't know all the details, I am struck by two things: that Sylvester would adopt a young Elizabeth Sayles and leave his whole property to her, and that Judge Harris had a heart for helping troubled adolescents through his work. It indicates to me the value of caring for young people - particularly those who need a new sense of home - is part of the very soil of this homestead. I would not be the least bit surprised if the spirit that has always permeated ECC has simply been borrowed from its ancestors."

James Harris was born in Burrillville in 1860. As an adult he served as a judge in the 9th District Court in RI. Sometime in the early 1900s he came to stay at the Sayles Homestead, where he met Elizbeth Sayles. The two were later married. Judge Harris was known for his care of adolescents who came before him in court.

## Judge Harris Dies In Pascoag At Age 86; 62 Years On Bench had no chi active in

PASCOAG-James Harris, judge of 9th District Court Tomless we tomless we tomless we tomless we tomless we years ago, and Rhode Island's ranking jurist, today died in bar and ben

policies of the Republican organiza-Late "Boss" Charles R. Brayton. Although in falling health for the last several years, he sat on the bench in Harrisville as recently as bench in Harrisville as recently as two months ago when he handed Private Legal Practice

ot, the first suspended sentence in Bince 1881. Judge Harris m Scattered Intervals For the past two years, however, court system, Judge Harris was

have been at widely scattered in. I budy affecting the wise judgment tervals due to his physical condi- of Juvenile problems. He was long tion, the duties falling to the acting a devoted advocate of the confer-

ties to Cierk Davis.

named by the General Assembly as a stern jurist in coping with session at Newport, then bring he known for his treatment of only 23 years of age.

was educated in a Providence summoned for driving under the preparatory school. Because it was influence of liquor were given the aften very difficult for a relatively "preliminary cure" of a \$100 fine poor boy in Rhode Island to go and costs. During one campaig to law school in the early 1800's. Against drunken drivers. Judge Judge Harris did not appear before there doled out senicores of 30 days in jail. These penalties hid a

written examination. exception, rate tion in this state for many years and pointment as justice, he served in were accustomed was one of the closest friends of the General Assembly as represent friends, chosen at

is long career as a jurist, releasing lained his private legal practice in courtroom floor, paid for costs after arraignment for a traffic years associated in partnership with afterwards was exemplary 1 Before adoption of the juvenile called.

udge Harris' appearances in court recognized as a sludent of psycho-Lion, the duities failing to the acting judge. Frank F. Davis, clerk of the court.
Several years ago Judge Harvis gave up the task of presiding at the seasion of \$th District Court in Georgiaville, also leaving these duities to Clerk Davis.
ance method of procedure whereby the youngster in trouble was ind into his private chamber for a contents the problem was helpfully considered.
When deemed advisable, parents the talks and ware sizes advisable on advisor on the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks and ware sizes advised to participate in the talks advised to participate in the talks and the talks advised to participate in the talks advised to partis the talks advised to participate in the talks advised to parti

Survivors are three nicces. Fu- how to direct the youth into proper eral services are tentatively sched- channels. So effective were these ed Summay at 2 p.m. at the James methods that many juveniles who Tucker Funeral Home, Green- faced Judge Harris are today leading exemplary lives. . While leniont and understanding

He was the youngest judge ever with youngsters, he was regarded 1886, convened in a summer traffic violators. Particularly was drunken drivers.

Born in Burrillville in 1967, he When found guilty, motarists

Before adoption of the juvenile court system, Judge Harris was recognized as a student of psychology affecting the wise judgment of juvenile problems. He was long a devoted advocate of the conference method of procedure whereby the youngster in trouble was led into his private chamber for a conference during which the problem was helpfully considered.



- The Rev. Meaghan Brower Director 2012-present

Elizabeth died in a nursing home in 1930, where The Rev. Dr. C. Lennart Carlson served as chaplain. Dr. Carlson introduced Judge Harris to Canon Anthony Parshley, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Rhode Island, and an arrangement was made for the judge to leave the property to the Diocese of RI to be used for youth programming or as respite for the elderly.



In the fall of 1949, Canon Parshley brought a group of young people to Pascoag to start working on the property. Two of the counselors that weekend were Patricia Cook and Leila Nichols. Part of the weekend included planning the work camp that would take place in the summer of 1950: The First Senior Work Camp.