

THE PERROTTS OF FLADBURY

& PERSHORE

By Peter Perrett

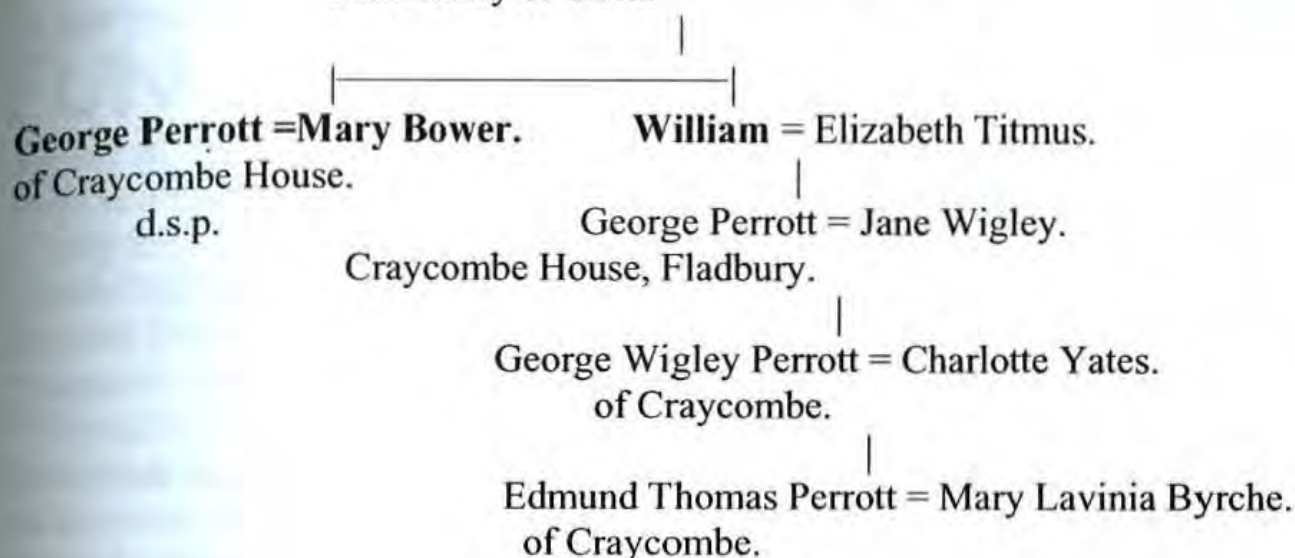
I was unable to make the mid-term meeting in Winchester so was unaware that the 19th A.G.M. would be at Fladbury in Worcestershire. (By the way did anyone realise whilst near to Winchester College that a Perrott was one of the co-founders? He changed his name to Wykeham {Wickham} and this is why old boys of the College are called 'Wykehamists') The location of Fladbury took me back to long before I started my family history, long before I met George, our late President, and well before we launched the Society in 1984.

My attention had been drawn to Sir John Perrot - probably the most famous and well known P - and I had looked up what I could then find out about him and the P*rr*tt families. I had written to the Pembroke R.O. and sent a letter to the local newspaper and had a couple of replies. This informed me of the existence of the Sir John Perrot Trust and I also heard from a local gentleman telling me he descended via a Perrott. This was a George Perrott of Craycombe House, Fladbury, who had at one time been a Baron of the Exchequer - a judge. I paid for some prints of photographs he had and also photocopies of some scribbled pedigrees. He was fairly certain that his and the Pembroke families were connected but probably only way back in the 13-1400's as he could find no confirmation that they were. The only common bond he found was that they both used the same coat of arms.

At that time the details he sent meant nothing to me as I could not see any connection with my family but at that time I knew very little. I had visited the Society of Genealogists on a day visit before joining and had spent quite a sum on photocopying many odds and ends in the hope that some connection would appear. What optimists we are when we start this fascinating hobby! ! I soon realised that there was no substitute to the necessary hard slog if one wishes to explore one's roots. The various odds and ends and other items I had collected were put away for many a year. They now become useful as we prepare to gather in May. The descent to George Perrott, and then beyond, is as follows:

John Perrott = Anne ???.
Citizen of London. Died 1603.
|
Revd. Richard Perrott = Dorothy Harris
Prebendary of York. Died 1640
|
Andrew Perrott = Martha Vaux.
York merchant. 20 children, yes 20!

Revd Thomas Perrott = Anastasia Plaxton.
Prebendary of York.



Their daughter, Eleanor, married a Benjamin Smith and were the grandparents of my contact, John Stimson, in Pembrokeshire. George, the Baron, died without issue. Craycombe House went to his nephew George, son of his brother William. The above is only a short pedigree leaving out dozens of sons and daughters from the various marriages. I will do my best to assemble a line pedigree to show at the A.G.M. I also have coloured prints of paintings, which show George, his wife, William & Geo Wigley Perrott. An account of this line, some inaccurate, appears on pages I copied from Barnwell's book in earlier Family Notes.

The question now to be solved is as to who was the father of the John Perrott at the head of the 'tree'. On one sheet I have, it says - with a question mark '*Simon Perrott of Worcester, Broadweaver*'. I can find no mention of that name on our databank, but that does not mean it is incorrect. I cannot find any mention of a John Perrott, citizen of London, but with the christian name of John there was very likely to be more than one alive at the time. Our will data does not help much either. The only certain clue that they had a connection with the armigerous Perrotts of Pembrokeshire, Worcestershire, (other areas covered in "Notes on the Perrot Family" by Edward Barnwell) is that they used the usual Perrot coat of arms, of which we are all familiar.

There could (?) be a Yorkshire connection via data concerning the Perrotts of Oxford and Northleigh. There is little doubt that these are connected with the Pembrokeshire lines although a direct written connection has not been proved as yet. (Unless Dr Roger Turvey has been able to do so. If so he will no doubt tell me.) Robert Perrott, who, as far as we know, was the founder of this Oxfordshire branch, was buried in St. Peters Church in Oxford, 1550. On his grave was placed the following epitaph: - "*Robert Perrot of Oxford, gent., ob. April 20, 1550, son of G. Perrot of Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire, and Alice Perrot, widow of Robert Perrot, buried by (near) her husband, Sept 1558.*"

His son, Simon, wrote in the family register that "*My father Mr. Robert Parret (sic) was born in Hackness in the Countie of York, his fathers name was George Parret, his mother's name was Isabell Langdall ---*" He also states that his father was 72 years old when he died, thus born c. 1478.

Barnwell says that the above George had two sons, John, a merchant in London dying without issue, and Robert. I cannot think that the epitaph or register was made up, as often happened when persons were trying to establish a "quality" pedigree. It would hardly be likely that one would put on an epitaph such details of his father in a University City where sons of prominent families would congregate and thus risk ridicule. Why should his heir enter details in the family registers that were incorrect?

John at the head of the pedigree is said to have died in 1603. From the dates he is therefore not the son of George P of Haverfordwest and Yorkshire. However, if he did not die 'without issue' as Barnwell says then he could be George's grandson. It is more than likely that George had other sons in Yorkshire and John could be descended from one of those. It is all conjecture until more information is available.

Apart from the possibility that the connection is via the Oxfordshire "P's" there are other possibilities that the John at the head of the pedigree who died 1603 was connected with other lines who used the usual Perrott coat of arms. In his will of 1526 John Perrott of Morton, Herefordshire, mentions a son John whose whereabouts we do not know after that date. A John Perrott of Westminster left a will dated 1572 who, from the estate, was one of the Northleigh Perrotts but he does not mention a John.

We found a Richard Perrott (Rhys) living in Sandwich, Kent, who left a will in 1571. This was the elusive son of Sir Owen Perrott, grandfather of Sir John of well known fame. He was thought to exist by Barnwell but he had been unable to find any definite mention of him. In his will of 1571 he states he was the son of Sir Owen and Lady Katherine (Poyntz) and asks for this to be inscribed on his memorial. He mentions Sir John and another John Perrott. Is he the one at the top of the tree above? Finally, there is a Roger Perrott of Luton who left a will dated 1535 who mentions a son, John, also one named Humphrey. One wonders if there is some connection with the Belbroughton Perrotts. There is a John in one of the family lines who has a son then disappears from Worcestershire. This line also used the same coat of arms. Now that more data is becoming available perhaps it would be time for Barnwell's book to be updated and a new history of all the armigerous lines be considered.

The above should whet the appetite. I will bring along the photographs of the Fladbury/Pershore P's so we can see what they looked like. An illustration of Craycombe House will also be available.