

THE BELBROUGHTON PERROTTS.

I continue the article which started in the Winter issue of the Journal, part two of which was in the Spring 1990 issue.

"John Bradley, the husband of Lucy Perrott was a glassmaker; Lucy was his second wife, and by her he had an only child, Thomas, who was born 27th March and baptised at Old Swinford on 3rd of April 1708. He died in his infancy, and was buried June 19.1710. By his first wife John Bradley had an only daughter and heiress, Frances, born 1704, who was married in 1732 to Charles Fox, Esq., of Chacombe Priory, Northamptonshire.

HUMPHREY PERROTT.

Humphrey Perrott, of the Inner Temple, the eldest son of William Perrott, of Wollaston, was possessed of a considerable landed estate, most of which he must have acquired either 'jure uxoris' (Through marriage) or by purchase. It was he who purchased the Bell Hall Estate, including the manor of 'Belne, alias Bryan's Bell', from the Conway family. I have not been able to ascertain the exact date of this purchase. Nash (History of Worcestershire) says that the estate was sold by Sir Edward Conway, Knt, gentleman usher to King Henry VIII., who had acquired it in marriage with the heiress of Burdett. But it is clear from an old terrier of 'temp' Elizabeth, preserved in the parish chest at Belbroughton, that the 'demesnes of Belhall' and other lands afterwards in the possession of Humphrey Perrott, were then the property of Sir John Conway, Knt., son of Sir Edward, and the Hall was then occupied by Gilbert Lyttelton, Esq, who died in 1599.

In 1596, Perrott (being then, it is said, steward to the Lyttelton family) was concerned in a riot at Prestwood, Staffordshire, together with Edw. Marrowe, Gilbert Lyttelton, Stephen Lyttelton, and others, for which he and his fellow rioters were prosecuted in the Star Chamber. Full details of this affair will be found in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' for December, 1856, p. 719. In 1613 he was steward of the manor of Berkswell, County Warwick, and in 1623 he presented an incumbent ("per assig. Edw. Marrow, Esq. Aur.") to the living of Berkswell. In 1616 he purchased a moiety of the Moor Hall estate in the parish of Belbroughton. In 1628 he acquired the next presentation to the rectory of Birmingham; (I copy the following from the 4th report of the Historical MSS. Commissioners - House of Lords Papers - p. 19. " 1628, Aug 13. Indenture by Michael Davison and Francis Phipps, granting to Humphrey Perrott the next presentation to the Rectory of Birmingham. Annexed - Indenture by Sir Edward Marowe and Humphrey Perrott granting to Michael Davison and Francis Phipps the next presentation to the said rectory. 14 Oct. 1615. Recited in preceding..) and about the same date he purchased of Sir Edward Marrowe the estate of Rotton Park, Edgbaston.

In 1630-2 his name appears in the list of Worcestershire gentlemen who were fined for not taking upon themselves the order of Knighthood at the Coronation of Charles I.; and he died shortly afterwards, being buried at Belbroughton on the 27th of August, 1632. He had married, at Belbroughton, April 11. 1582. Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of four, and coheiresses, of Henry James, of Forfield Court, Belbroughton, by Bridget, his wife the daughter of Roger Lyttelton, of Grovely, a younger brother of Sir John Lyttelton of Frankley. She could not have been more 15 or 16 at her marriage, for at her father's death in 1585 (he was buried at Belbroughton 17th March, 1585) her three younger sisters, Dorothy, Anne, and Martha, were aged respectively 14, 13, and 12. The will of Henry James, Esq., is dated 12th March 1585, a few days before his death.

It is set out in a Bill in Chancery filed in 1586 by George Corbyn and Walter James, as next friends of the infant daughters of the testator, against Bridget, the widow, and Humphrey Perrott and his wife, who it

was alleged were illegally in possession of the estate. They had caused the will be proved in the names of Dorothy, Ann, and Martha, the three executrixes named in the said will, who were infants "of a very small and tender age", and (says the Bill) "unless relief be granted by this honorable Courte, the poor infants are very likely to be defrauded." Dorothy afterwards became the wife of Henry Greswolde, of Yardley; Anne was the third wife of Thomas Rudyerd, of Rudyerd; and Martha married "John Perrott of Worcestershier"- no doubt Humphrey's brother. "Elizabeth Perrott, generosa," Humphrey's widow, was buried at Belbroughton on the 11th of August, 1635.

The will of Humphrey Perrott. "of Bell Hall, in the parish of Belbroughton in the county and diocese of Worcester, gentlman", is dated May 12th, 1631, and was proved in London by Elizabeth, the relict and sole executrix on the 13th of September, 1632. (A PCC will of which the Society has a copy.) He refers to an indenture dated 1631 made between him (the testator), Sir Edward Marowe of Berkswell, co. Warwick, Knt, John Persehouse of Walsall, Frances Walsted of the Middle Temple, and Humphrey Greswolde of Yardley, by which and other deeds most of his lands were settled so that "he had little to dispose of by will". He also refers to a lease granted by him and his wife to John Sparry "then our servant," also to lands called Lawne Barn in Forfield, and to lands in Belbroughton called the Moorhall, alias the Moore Farme, which he had purchased (in the names of John Persehouse and Francis Phipps) of William Barneby, Esq, and John Barneby. Also to an estate called Rotten Parke in the parish of Edgbaston, co Warwick, which he had purchased of Sir Edward Marowe, Knt., and Samuel Marowe, Esq., his son. All these and others his lands he devises to his grandson Humphrey Perrott, son of his 'unfortunate' son James Perrott, and his heirs, and in default of issue to the 2nd, 3rd, &c., sons of James, &c., &c.,

In what respect his son James was 'unfortunate' does not appear, but whenever he is mentioned in the will he so described. The sons, grandsons, and other relatives he mentions are his eldest son James; his second son John; Humphrey and Conyers the two sons of his third son William deceased; his fourth son Humphrey; his nephew James Perrott -son of his brother John (baptised at Belbroughton 3.5.1601) of Over Arley; his 'brother' Francis Phipps, his 'sister' Anne Rudyerd; his grandsons John and Francis, sons of his son John; Alice, Anne, and Elizabeth the daughters of his son James; the Revd. Mr John Wood, vicar of Clent, "whose wife Bridget was sometime wife of my son William, Deceased; his nephews William Persehouse and Francis Walsted; and his godson Benjamin Phipps. He desires that his grandson Humphrey should be educated at Oxford or Cambridge, and that he "be put to study the com'on lawes of this Realme in the Inner Temple". He leaves to "a child that Mr Richard Witton keepeth" £5. His loving wife Elizabeth to be executrix, and the following to be overseers:- Sir Edward Marowe, Knt., John Wild, John Persehouse, Francis Walstead, and Humphrey Greswolde. The will is witnessed by Humphrey Perrott, Edward Marowe, John Persehouse, Anth. Rudyerd, John Wood, Michael Davison, and Richard Pardo. (Audley 94)

The will of "Elizabeth Perrott, of Belhall, widdowe, late wife and executrix of Humphrey Perrott, gent.", is dated 20th April, 1635 and was proved in the P.C.C. on the 18th of September following. She desires to be buried in the chancel of Belbroughton Church near to her late husband. She bequeaths a lease for 1000 years of Forfield, which had been left by the last will of Henry Smith to Elizabeth, his wife, and to John Westwood, and which had been purchased by her late husband, to her son James and his wife for their lives. Refers to the next presentation to the Rectory of Birmingham being within her gift. Desires that a large bell and clock should be placed on the top of the Hall for the use and convenience of travellers and parishioners.

(To be continued.)