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PERROT NOTES; or some Account of the various Branches of the Perrot Family. By EDWARD LOWBY BARNWELL, M.A. Printed for the Cambrian Archæological Association. London: J. Russell Smith, 36, Soho Square. J. H. and J. Parker, 377, Strand. M.DCCCLXVII. Royal 8vo. pp. iv. 216.

The line "Printed for the Cambrian Archæological Association," in this title-page has a different meaning from what might *primâ facie* be imagined. The *Perrot Notes* have been already printed for the Cambrian Archæological Association in their *Archæologia Cambrensis*, and in the present form they are re-issued to the public to the limited number of one hundred large-paper copies.

By all who are interested in the genealogy of South Wales they will be highly valued. For so long a period did the Perrots flourish in Pembrokeshire, and so numerous were their marriages with the leading families of "little England beyond Wales," that there are few descendants of those families still remaining within the Principality, or elsewhere, who are not connected by blood with the Perrots.

The name of Perrot, common in France under various forms of spelling, and plainly derived from the baptismal name of Pierre or Peter, is not unknown in Ireland, and exists in many parts of England. It occurs in the Battle Abbey Roll, among the followers of the Conqueror; but probably others of the name came from the continent in subsequent times. It still exists, as Perrott or Parrot, in Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire. It is said to linger in Pembrokeshire among the humble classes, and is not entirely unknown in Brecknockshire. A family of the name resided in Kent until the sixteenth century; and the Perrots of Oxfordshire rose to some eminence. It was however in Pembrokeshire that the family flourished so extensively and so vigorously from a period soon after the Norman invasion till the reign of Elizabeth, and it is of the Pembrokeshire Perrots that our author has most to tell.

The *Peerage and Baronetage*[1] of Burke still continues to give as authentic the genealogy of the present Baronet of the name, but which is in reality a tissue of mendacious absurdities. Fenton, in the Appendix to his *History of Pembrokeshire*, alludes to what appears to be this same composition, but merely notices the introductory myths of Castle Perrot and the intermarriages with the daughters of a duke of

[1] We believe this history of the family has been handed down in the Baronetages from that edited by Kimber and Johnson in 1771, in which it was inserted as an appendix, thus introduced: "On examination of these volumes, I perceive that the family of Perrott is omitted; but, wishing to do strict justice to all mankind, I now insert a short account of Sir Richard and his family, from a curious pedigree left by him in the hands of the late Mr. Kimber." A foot-note explains that the person who thus supplied the deficiency was "Mr. T. L." which initials we take to be those of Thomas Lowndes the bookseller.—[EDIT. H. AND G.]

Normandy and a king of Arragon, whereas the other absurdities recorded in Burke are not mentioned by him. Of these absurdities the following may be taken as samples:

Stephen, the first of the family in Pembrokeshire, is said to have married Eleanor the *daughter* of Howell Dda, being in reality removed by six degrees of descent from him. Again, Stephen's son Andrew, in virtue of this extraordinary marriage, claimed *all* Wales, and was only persuaded by a sum of money from the English king, paid through a bishop of St. David's, to give up his pretensions. In addition to this he was rewarded with land to the extent of twenty miles round his camp. He then built the castle of Narberth, the ruins of which, we are informed, still remain in *Pembroke*. We are next informed that his wife, Janet Mortimer, had for her paternal grandsire William the Conqueror; and for her maternal one John. To add to this absurdity, a statement is volunteered that her father Llewelyn died fighting against Edward I.—that is, against his own great-grandfather-in-law. Before a new edition of Burke's work is issued, it is to be hoped that the editor will find out that Llewelyn ap Yorwerth and Llewelyn ap Griffith are not one and the same individual.

In similar statements of the same value we are told that William Perrot (better known as William of Wickham) was of the Pembrokeshire line; and that Lady Dorothy Devereux, daughter of Walter Earl of Essex, married her cousin James Perrot of Wellington. Lady Dorothy did not marry James Perrot, but Sir Thomas, the last of the Haroldston line.

After many generations of the Pembrokeshire Perrots we arrive at Sir John Perrot, of whom it is said that—

There is little doubt but that he was the son of Henry VIII. by Mary Berkeley the wife of Sir Thomas Perrot. Her father was attached to the court, where she, from her beauty and wit, no doubt attracted the attention of her royal lover. Sir Robert Naunton, who married his granddaughter Penelope Perrot, says in his *Fragmenta Regalia*, "If we compare his picture, his qualities, his gesture, and voyce, with that of the King, whose memory yet remains among us, they will plead strongly that he was a surreptitious child of the blood royal." There is a well-known portrait[1] of Sir John Perrot in existence, and which strongly confirms the statement of Naunton.

The Life of Sir John Perrot was published by Rawlinson in 1728: it is chiefly occupied with the history of his transactions as Lord Deputy in Ireland. In 1592 Sir John was so far overcome by his political enemies, that he was found guilty of high treason, and actually condemned to death. The sentence was not executed, but he died three months after in the Tower of London. It is said that on his return to the Tower after his condemnation, he exclaimed with an oath to the Lieutenant, Sir Owen Hopton, "What, will the Queen suffer her *brother* to be offered up a sacrifice to the envy of my strutting adversaries!"

His son Sir Thomas Perrot married Lady Dorothy Devereux, the sister of Robert Earl of Essex, the favourite of Elizabeth. This marriage took

[1] The frontispiece to the History of his Government in Ireland, 1626. 4to. 2. Mezzotinto by Valentine Green, in Nash's History of Worcestershire. 3. Copy by W. Richardson.

place in 1583. Lady Dorothy became the mother of Penelope, the wife of Sir Robert Naunton; and, having taken for her second husband Henry ninth Earl of Northumberland, she was also the parent of two other remarkable women, Dorothy, wife of Robert Sidney Earl of Leicester and mother of Algernon Sidney the patriot; and Lucy wife of James Hay, Earl of Carlisle. With the Countess Penelope terminated the main line of the Pembrokeshire Perrots.

2. Mr. Barnwell next treats of the PERROTS OF SCOTSBOROUGH, also in Pembrokeshire, in whose descent there is considerable obscurity. It terminated with Catherine, who conveyed Scotsborough in marriage to her cousin, John ap Rhys, or Price, of Richarston, sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1582.

3. The PERROTS OF CAERVORIOG, near Solva, in the same county (pp. 75-79), were a branch of less importance, in the early part of the sixteenth century.

4. The PERROTS OF NORTHLEIGH in Oxfordshire (pp. 71-101) are supposed to have descended from those of Haroldston near Haverfordwest. A conspicuous member was Robert Perrot, bachelor of music, who became principal of Trinity Hall at Oxford, and whose picture, kneeling at his devotions, was in the church of St. Peter in the East. His widow left property to Magdalen college, for the foundation of an annual obit in their chapel: and the family continued their connection with the same college until they became extinct in the male line, in 1765; for William Perrot, esq. the last of Northleigh (where he succeeded his nephew in 1759) had in his youth been a chorister of Magdalen (p. 99).

5. There was another branch of the same race who are described as THE PERROTS OF DRAYTON AND NORTHLEIGH (pp. 101—106). Edward Perrot, of Northleigh, who died in 1684, aged 92, and James Perrot of the same place, were both great-grandsons of Robert the bachelor of music. James was of Amersham in 1664, when Sir Edward Bysshe, Garter, granted him the Perrot coat, with the pears *argent* instead of *or*.[1] He afterwards came to Northleigh, and Mr. Barnwell (pp. 87, 103) has been led by Anthony à Wood to suppose that his relationship was ignored or denied by the Perrots already resident there:—

> The new comer's house was at the bottom of the hill, and near the church. That of the others was on the top of a hill, above the village, whence they are sometimes called "the Hill Perrots." (p. 103.)
>
> The Perrots on the Hill Anthony Wood distinguishes by the name of "gentlemen Perrots," while he speaks of the other family as a "bye-blow from Herefordshire." There appears to have been so little intercourse and so much rivalry between these two families that in Anthony Wood's time the connexion was ignored or denied: hence his error in hinting that the new comers were an illegitimate branch of the

[1] Corresponding alterations were made in the crest: which was a parrot holding in its claw a pear proper. To Perrot of Amersham was granted a parrot proper, *collared silver*, holding in the dexter claw a pear *argent*.

Herefordshire Perrots. There is a tradition still retained by the descendants of the Hill Perrots that they denied their cousins the privilege of bearing gold pears in their arms, asserting that silver ones were their proper bearing, and that the herald, during his visitation, decided in their favour by erasing the assumed gold pears from the shield of the new comers. Such a tradition may have some foundation, although there were no grounds for the dispute, as they were both descended from the same stock.[1] (p. 87)

It appears to us most probable that there was no dispute at all, so far as the arms were concerned, Sir Edward Bysshe having, whilst the junior branch was still at Amersham, merely assigned a difference of tincture, after the old fashion (of which there are many instances), rather than the minute difference of a crescent or mullet which was becoming more customary in the latter part of the seventeenth century.[2] It is not likely that the consanguinity of the two families was actually forgotten, considering that Edward and James were the grandsons of two brothers, and Mr. Barnwell shows that James was the legitimate offspring of Richard Perrot and Winifred Luxford.[3]

Henry Perrot, the grandson of James, became a man of considerable importance, for he represented the county of Oxford from 1721 until his death in 1740.[4]

Charles, an uncle of the last, had previously represented the university. Being a fellow of St. John's, he was in 1679 returned by a majority of 224 votes over Sir Leoline Jenkins, the munificent benefactor of Jesus college. Anthony Wood in his *Life* says, "the black-pot men carried for Perrot, a thorough-paced soaker." He died unmarried, in his college, at the age of forty-seven, his death perhaps hastened by his "soaking."

The Perrots of Northleigh are now represented by the Rev. Sir William Augustus Musgrave, Bart. in whom the estate is still vested.

6. The Perrots of Yorkshire. They commence with Richard Perrot, B.D. Prebendary of York and Vicar of Hull in 1615, the son of John Perrot, citizen of London. His third son, Andrew, was Lord Mayor of York in 1693, and was father of Charles, Lord Mayor in 1710. The Rev.

[1] Mr. Barnwell proceeds to state that James Perrot in 1664 "had the *gold* pears confirmed to him by Sir Edward Bysshe, as if he wished thereby to maintain his claim to the true Perrot coat." Although "in Wood's MSS. they are given as argent," Mr. Barnwell appears to have preferred the authority of Guillim's Heraldry, edit. 1724, p. 185; but Guillim is wrong, and Wood right, as to this point.

[2] Burke actually gives for Perrot of Northleigh, Gules, three pears or, *a mullet for difference*, on a chief argent a lion rampant [*not* issuant] sable. Crest, a parrot vert. In his description of the bearings of Perrot of Amersham he follows the misdescription of Guillim.

[3] Luxford of the county of Sussex (p. 103), not Lux*more*, as twice misprinted in the next page.

[4] He died at Paris 6 Jan. (*not* July) 1740, and his widow Oct. 11 in the following year. (Gentleman's Magazine.)

Thomas Perrot, younger brother of the last, and rector of St. Martin's in York, was father of George, who became one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and died in 1780. The posterity of his nephew still continue at CRAYCOMBE, in WORCESTERSHIRE.

7. Another family (p. 109) has flourished at BELL BROUGHTON in the latter county. Mr. Barnwell states that the first purchaser, Humphrey Perrot, married Elizabeth daughter and coheir of Brockhill Taylor, of Ballyhouse, co. Cavan; and had three sons, William, John, and Humphrey; of whom William continued the family.

We observe that Betham (*Baronetage*, v. 600) states that Humphrey Perrot, who married Elizabeth daughter and coheir of Brockhill Taylor,[1] had a son, Brockhill Perrot, who had two daughters and coheirs, Bridget and Letitia, and that the latter married William Newburgh, and had two daughters and coheirs, Letitia, married in 1782 to Sir William Burrough, Bart. and died 1803, and — wife of Sir William Richardson, Bart. [qu. when was there a Baronet of that name?]

"Humphrey Parrott of Bell Hall, gent." was fined for not taking knighthood at the coronation of Charles the First.

Thomas Perrot of Bellbroughton was sheriff of Worcestershire 7 Anne; John Perrot of Pedmore[2] was sheriff 6 George I. and John Perrot of Bell Hall 2 Geo. II.

We may add that the Perrots had also a considerable estate at Edgbaston near Birmingham, where one of them erected that curious structure in Monument Lane, politely known as The Monument, but vulgarly termed Perrot's Folly. Mr. Noel of Bell Hall (the representative of the Perrots) sold the property there for about 80,000*l.* to Mr. Gillott the penmaker about eighteen years ago.

8. The Perrots of BRECKNOCKSHIRE AND MONMOUTHSHIRE (pp. 113-119) are supposed by Jones the historian of the former county to have come out of Herefordshire in the reign of Henry VIII. They produced many

[1] In Burke's *Extinct Baronetage*, art. Taylor, and in his *Commoners*, iv. 237, Brockhill Taylor has two daughters and coheiresses, but they are differently disposed of. In the former book, Brockhill Taylor 1619 has two coheiresses—Elizabeth m. Hum. Perrot, and Jane; and his brother Thomas has a son, another Brockhill Taylor, ob. 1636, who has issue *Mary* wife of Thomas Newburgh. In the latter work, Thomas is stated to have died s. p., whilst Brockhill his brother ob. 1636, and has issue Elizabeth, m. Hum. Perrot, and *Jane* m. Thomas Newburgh.

[2] Mr. Barnwell (p. 111) describes Pedmore as a chapelry of Swinford (Old Swinford), whereas it is a parish and rectory, and has been so for many centuries. He also remarks that Swinford was *once* celebrated for the glass manufacture. There are two parishes adjoining, Old Swinford and King's Swinford. In the former the town of Stourbridge is included, and it extends into Staffordshire. This immediate neighbourhood is just as much celebrated for glass-making now as it was in 1720, the date at which Benjamin Perrot (of whom Mr. Barnwell is writing) obtained a patent for an improved kind of vessel for melting glass.

clergymen. In the church of Llandegveth are various memorials of them. Jane, their heiress, was married in 1769 to William Nicholl, esq. of Tredunnoc, who was sheriff of Monmouthshire in 1775; their only daughter and heiress was married to Anthony Montonnier Hawkins, M.D., and his son Henry Montonnier Hawkins, esq. is the present proprietor of the estates of Tredunnoc and Llandegveth.

9. A family of Perrot was seated at MORTON ON LUGG in Herefordshire, in the early part of the sixteenth century, and was distinguished by coat-armour very different from the usual coat, viz. Quarterly per fess indented or and azure.[1]

It was against Robert Perrot of Morton, his brother Francis, and his son Sir Herbert that proceedings in the Heralds' Court were taken for assuming the usual Perrot coat, they not being entitled thereto. The plaintiff was Thomas Perrot, a merchant of London.[2] Reference is made to the case in Dallaway's Heraldry, p. 302; but the record itself has not been found, although Mr. T. W. King, York Herald, with his usual courtesy, has caused diligent search to be made for it. Herbert Perrot is described as of Gray's Inn simply, without reference to his Wellington or Haroldston property.

It is stated the plaintiff set forth that Sir Owen Perrot of Hardleston (Haroldston) had four sons only, and exhibited his own descent from that family, which he proved by the bearings, and the depositions of divers witnesses. It is supposed therefore that Thomas Perrot, esq. the plaintiff, may have descended from John, fourth son of Owen, but this descent has not been ascertained (p. 122).

Mr. Barnwell is of opinion that this suit must have taken place between the year 1636, when Sir Herbert Perrot acquired Haroldston, and 1642, when his uncle Francis died. Whatever was its result, Sir Herbert did not relinquish the disputed arms, as they appear on his monument at Wellington, and on the seal attached to his will, where they quarter Paly of

[1] This coat was in fact a more ancient one than the other. Rauf Parot or Pirot, who originally bore it, lived in the thirteenth century, as it occurs with his name in three of the rolls of that period printed in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxix. According to the Roll of Edward II. (edit. Nicolas, p. 33) he was of Bedfordshire: Sir Raff Perot, quartile de or e de azure endente; and his name is still retained in that of Edward III. (edit. Nicolas, p. 38):—Monsire Rauf Per[o]t, quarterly endente, or et asur. From these blasons it must be concluded that the coat was indented per pale as well as per fess, like that of Langley, and not divided by a plain line in pale, as Perott is drawn in Glover's Ordinary.

[2] By some accident Mr. Barnwell has transposed the designations of the parties in this suit: "Thomas Perrott of London, Esq. libels against Robert Perrott of Moreton, co. Hereford, Herbert Perrott of Gray's Inn, co. Middlesex, son of the said Robert, and Francis Perrott of London merchant, for using his coate of armes, not being of the same family." (Dallaway, *Researches*, p. 302.) That Francis Perrot, gentleman, was uncle to Sir Herbert, was a merchant of London, and, dying in 1642, was buried at St. Mary Woolchurch, appears by Sir Herbert's will in p. 215.

six or and azure, on a fess gules two mullets argent. The pears also appear on his seal affixed to some municipal papers at Haverfordwest, now in the hands of the mayor of Tenby.

Haroldston had first come into the family in the fourteenth century, on the marriage of Peter Perrot with Alice daughter and heir of Sir Richard Harold (p. 13).

It belonged to Sir James Perrot, who was a natural son of the great Sir John, but how he acquired it is not known. Sir James was a busy Member of Parliament, and was author of a book on the *Life and Character of Sir Philip Sidney*. He died in 1636, leaving Haroldston to Sir Herbert Perrot of Wellington, merely it would seem as a namesake, for (as just mentioned) he was no relation.

Sir Herbert Perrot[1] was sheriff of Pembrokeshire in 1666, and was buried at Wellington in August 1683. By his will he endowed an almshouse and school out of the tithes of that parish. This will is printed entire in Mr. Barnwell's appendix. It is remarkable for directing several monuments to be erected to various members of his family, and to himself, dictating the inscriptions that were to be placed upon them:—

1. In St. Mary's church, Haverfordwest, a monument or comely gravestone over the bodies of Sir James Perrot of Haroldston, Dame Perrot his wife, and James Perrot, gentleman, the brother of the testator.

2. In the cathedral church of Hereford an epitaph on brass to his grandfather, Richard Perrot of Morton upon Lugg, esq. and his family.

3. In the parish church of Titley, co. Hereford, another plate of brass to his father Robert Perrot, of Morton upon Lugg, gentleman.

4. In the church of St. Mary Woolchurch in London another brass to his uncle Francis Perrot gentleman, of London, merchant.

5. In the Round of the Middle Temple church another plate of brass to his deceased only son Herbert Perrot, esquire.[2]

[1] There is a contemporary engraving of Sir Herbert's portrait, "HERBERTUS PERROT, Eques Auratus. *Shoulder-knot, arms, &c. R. White, sc.*" Granger's Biographical History of England, 5th edit. 1824, v. 169.

[2] "Herbert Perrot, a man of refined parts, who wrote many lampoons on Charles, and other severe satires, on his neglecting the families who had sacrificed their fortunes, and exposed their persons, in espousing the cause of their sovereign. On this account it is supposed that Captain South was the more readily pardoned, after his condemnation, for stabbing Herbert in the back as he turned from him in the passage of the Devil Tavern, Fleet Street, London; in which place he had vanquished South, and, on his knees, delivered him his sword, bidding him thank his daughter for his life." (Kimber's Baronetage, 1771, iii. 465.) The name of South is misprinted *Smith* in Mr. Barnwell's book, p. 123. The date of this unhappy affair is not stated. Nor are we informed whether any of Herbert Perrot's satiric poetry is in print. In the projected epitaph the grieving father characterised him as "Summi ingenii, omnibus gratissimus, universis animi et corporis dotibus egregiè pollens, et qui non neminis suffragio ad ardua tantum natus videbatur."

6. In the parish church of Haroldston a monument for himself; and

7. In the parish church of Wellington "another monument for me."

We are not informed that any of these monuments were erected, except the last, and of that (as we hear) the inscription is now illegible.

10. The last branch of which Mr. Barnwell treats is Perrot of HUNTINGDONSHIRE, who bore the usual coat. Its annals are brief, extending from the reign of Charles II. for three generations to the name of the Rev. Charles Perrot, a Fellow of New college, Oxford, the date of whose death is not stated.

The appendix contains a considerable number of documents relating to the Perrots derived from the Public Record Office, together with several curious wills, inventories, and charters.

We cannot omit remarking, before we leave this subject, that Mr. Barnwell's book contains no account of the family of Perrott which now appears in Burke's *Peerage and Baronetage*, and in Debrett's *Baronetage* (1868),—but not in *Dod*, as the holder of a title of Baronetcy conferred in the year 1716. We have already quoted Mr. Barnwell's opinion on that pedigree: and the only further allusion we find to it is to the following effect:

> The Perrot pedigree, already mentioned as given in Burke, states that a patent of baronetcy was granted to Sir Thomas Perrot on the 29th of June 1611, and that he died before it was completed, but the whole of this pedigree is such a compound of fiction and blunders that any of its statements must be considered as of very doubtful accuracy. (p. 61.)

Upon the baronetcy said to have the precedency of 1716 we do not find that Mr. Barnwell has made any remark. We shall supply the history of it in a future page.

AMO UT INVENIO.