

Our Honorary member, Dr. Roger Turvey, has sent the following article for publication in the Journal. He hopes to let us have further items from his Thesis as and when he has time to extract interesting parts from it which he knows will be of particular interest to many of our members. Our thanks to him for this first one.

"It is perhaps inevitable that the attention of genealogists and historians alike has, for generations focussed upon the life and career of Sir John Perrot and his family. There is no doubting his historical importance, Sir John dared to tread where others of his generation feared to go. The result was a remarkable rise to prominence in the Elizabethan Court. However, his rise to power was matched equally by his fall from grace which condemned the Perrot family to relative obscurity.

Unfortunately, contemporary historical literature has tended to ignore the various minor Perrot family lines which co-existed with that of their more illustrious cousin. On the other hand, this has left a rich untapped source for those members of the Society wishing to seek out their Perrot antecedents. Recent enquiries, particularly regarding the relative obscure Perrots from Laugharne, have pointed out the difficulties involved for those determined to fly in the face of historical and genealogical neglect.

Though not intended as an exhaustive study, this article will hopefully shed a little light upon those cadet lines that form an indispensable part of the Perrot 'family'. The labels chosen to represent these branches of the family are the names of the residences of the original founders: Woodstock, Caerforiog, Cheriton, Kidwelly and Laugharne.

1. Woodstock.

Woodstock is a small hamlet situated in the heart of the Pembrokeshire countryside some ten miles north-east of Haverfordwest. During the 15th century it formed part of the largest block of territory owned by the ancestors of Sir John Perrot. This cadet branch, the Perrots of Woodstock, was the earliest of the five mentioned above. It was founded in the 1460's by John, the youngest son of Sir Thomas Perrot (c.1398-1461) of Haroldston near Haverfordwest. Although largely ignored by both historians and genealogists, the Revd. E.L. Barnwell does briefly note John and his immediate successors. John first makes his appearance in March 1462, when he was given the estate of Woodstock, with other scattered lands, for life. The evidence suggests that John was the son of Sir Thomas Perrot by his second wife which would put his date of birth after 1442. Of all the members of the minor Perrot lines, his is the best documented life. It is known that he acquired property in the town of Haverfordwest, to which his son and heir transferred the family home after the death of John in June 1493. The Woodstock properties then reverted back to the main line of the Perrot family of Haroldston.

His son and heir was also called John but little is known of his life and activities after 1495 other than the fact that he was firmly established as a burgess of Haverfordwest. However, the importance of this 'Woodstock line may lie in its links with the so-called 'Oxford branch of the Perrots. The founder of this latter branch of the family was a George Perrot. Described as of Haverfordwest, George claimed descent from Sir Owen Perrot (c.1470 - 1521) of Haroldston, grandfather of the famous Sir John Perrot. In May 1549, the Crown granted 'armes to George Perrott lawfully descended of Owen Perrott, the third brother of the house of Perrott'. That George was granted the right to bear the Perrot coat of arms, suggests that he was indeed closely connected with the main Haroldston branch of the family. What prompted George, and his son and heir, Robert, a year later, to seek the legal right to the heraldic coat of the Perrots can only be surmised. Had Sir John Perrot, or someone on his behalf (he had yet to legally attain his majority) raised an

objection to George's rights in this respect. (But see Editor's note at the end of this article concerning the report from the College of Arms sent to the Society 23.10.1984.)

There is no evidence to support George's claim to be descended from Owen Perrot and the description of Owen as the third brother of the Perrot family, is certainly erroneous. However, this lack of evidence need not disqualify George claiming descent from the Haroldston branch. In terms of chronology and his original residence in Haverfordwest, George may well have been a cousin of Sir Owen, but he was certainly not descended from his near contemporary. It may be ventured that George may have been the son of John Perrot of the Woodstock line and, as a result, a second cousin of Sir Owen and third in descent of the Haroldston line.

Cheriton.

This branch of the family has remained hidden from the gaze of historians until now. Even so, little is known of its history or descent. In March 1517, Mathew Perrot of Cheriton, husbandman, received a 99 year lease of property at Cheriton. Since Mathew was concerned with property in an area known to contain land in the possession of the Haroldston line, it is reasonable to suppose that he himself was descended of that line. He may well have been a son of Thomas Perrot esquire (c.1420-74), son of Sir Thomas, by his second marriage to Isabella Wogan, to whom Thomas Perrot's son and heir, William, made a specific grant of property in Carew in 1474. On the other hand, the decline in status suffered by this particular branch suggests that they were descended from illegitimate offspring. In an undated document which can be assigned to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Lewis Perrot of Hodgeston, husbandman, executor of the estate of his late father, Mathew, granted his property at Cheriton to Sir John Perrot.

Caerforiog.

This branch of the family was founded by the younger brother of Sir Owen Perrot, Jankyn (or in English, John.) However, earlier in the fifteenth century another younger son, Henry, the son of Sir Thomas by his second marriage, held the Caerforiog estate, though it seems he did not necessarily live there (as stated by Barnwell.)

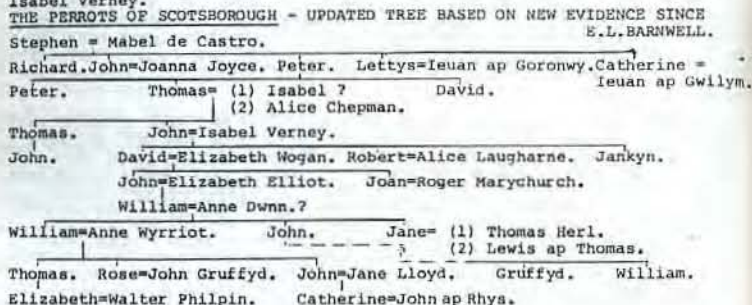
The estate reverted to the Haroldston family by grant of Henry's widow in March 1498, while in July 1502 there was a dispute over a small part of the property between Sir William Perrot of Haroldston (c. 1445-1503), the nephew of Henry and John Waryn. Thus, the estate had not yet been given to William's son Jankyn, though in the following year, in May 1503, it would seem that Jankyn had received possession of it, hence his being omitted from his father's will. It seems that Owen Perrot had attained his majority by 1501, and so Jankyn may have attained his between July 1502 and May 1503.

Unfortunately, there is no contemporary evidence for the existence of Jankyn. He was mentioned by Lewis Dwnn, genealogist, antiquarian and near contemporary, whilst Barnwell, and more recently, P.C. Bartum made use of the genealogies of other Pembrokeshire families to confirm his existence by virtue of his daughters' marriages. The Caerforiog branch was short lived, for Jankyn was succeeded by three daughters; but the estate later passed back into the possession of the main Haroldston line. Jankyn probably only had a life interest and on his death, around April 1514, his brother Owen resumed control.

Kidwelly.

The earliest appearance of this family is April 1488, when Thomas Perrot, a layman, petitioned the Pope for a dispensation to marry his third cousin, Agnes Lightfoot of Haverfordwest. This means that Thomas's great grandfather had married into the Lightfoot family towards the end of the fourteenth century. This would seem to rule out a link with the Haroldston line and suggests, rather, the Scotsborough branch, if only because of its inconclusive pedigree.

The most likely candidate from whom Thomas of Kidwelly was descended was Thomas, the son of Peter, the founder of the Scotsborough branch. It is known that Thomas son of Peter married twice; his first wife, Isabel, may have been a Lightfoot. If so, by whom did Thomas of Kidwelly descend? There are two candidates chronologically possible: John, the son of Thomas the Younger, and chancellor of the county of Pembroke (Dd 1461.); and his cousin Jankyn (Dd 1469) the brother of David and son of John and Isabel Verney.



It is clear from a town rental of Kidwelly for the years between 1498 & 1503 that Thomas had a brother Robert and that both were burgesses in the town, and owning a few scattered properties in the vicinity. Throughout the sixteenth century, a number of Perrots appear in the town records, but it is impossible, as yet, to connect them with either Thomas or to Robert; suffice it to say that in all probability they were descended from one or both of them. During the 1540's and 50's, the family was represented by John and Robert Perrot, the latter by far the most prominent. The only evidence which seems to link Robert and the earlier Thomas (the first to be mentioned as being of Kidwelly) is the fact that both owned the property of Halkybchurch. This same property seems to have passed from Robert after 1570 to his son son, John William Perrot. Members of this family seem to have survived into the early eighteenth century as important townmen of this declining borough of Kidwelly. Nevertheless, this did not mark the end of this branch of the family for the Perrots of Kidwelly increased in size and migrated to the growing industrial town of Llanelli. Today, there are a large number of Perrots living in Llanelli and its immediate environs, many of whom fully aware of their possible connection with the family of the famous Sir John.

Laugharne.

Virtually nothing is known of the Laugharne branch of the Perrot family. In Sir John Perrot's deed of settlement of his estates in 1584, there appears among the witnesses a 'Thomas Perrot of Brook, one of the cousins of the said Sir John'. This suggests a close family relationship, certainly a great deal closer than that enjoyed between the Haroldston and Scotsborough branches by this date. Thomas Perrot of Brook may have been the son of the hitherto unknown son of Sir Owen Perrot, namely Rhys Perrot. This would have made him a first cousin of Sir John.

Certainly a residence in the neighbouring county of Carmarthen seems to have been the lot of the younger son in the sixteenth century. Sir John settled his own son, Sir James Perrot, at Westmead in the lordship of

Laugharne which formed part of the Perrot family possessions in that locality. It is significant that the manor of Brook itself lay a mere half a mile from Westmead to the east. The Perrots of Laugharne and Eglwys Cusmain flourished throughout the seventeenth century. At least one branch living at Llansadurnen (which incidentally contained Brook) had fallen in status to be described as yeomen. The last male of this line, David Perrot, died soon after 1677 though his widow Amy was still living in 1699. However, a branch of the family continued to thrive in the declining port of Laugharne which suggests that Anne Rees (member No. 228.) may well find it possible to connect her ancestor, George Perrot, born 1778, with these local Perrots whose descent cover the late sixteen and seventeenth centuries. (See page 103 of the Spring/Autumn Journal of 1989)."

ooOoo

Roger has now extended some branches of the Perrot family for us for which we are very grateful. I have lately come into possession of some data which purports to show the connection of the Herefordshire Perrots and which is detailed later. I would like to know if Roger has found any possible link between the Belbroughton or Worcestershire Perrots & the Pembrokeshire ones. They used the usual Perrot coat of the three pears.

Referring to Roger's suggested connection of the Oxfordshire Perrots & the Pembrokeshire lines, the Society has some details of this. Early members will recall that we spent some of our funds on an investigation by the Somerset Herald at the College of Arms and received details from their holdings. I intend to spend some further money during this year on a further search which will cover the period before that investigated.

The 1984 report included the actual transcript of the grant of Arms to the Northleigh Perrots, although the Somerset Herald stated that he had put the wording into more modern English. The most significant sentence in this transcript is - and I quote - " - amongst which number George Perrot is lawfully descended of Owen Perrot being the third brother of the house of Perrot in Pembrokeshire and that the said George Perrot had issue by his wife Isabell Langdall of Langdall Hall in Yorkshire John Perrot sometimes of the City of London and Robert Perrot now of the City of Oxford which Robert had issue Clement Symond John and Leonard Perrot the which Robert not only by mine own knowledge in mine office but also by the laudable report of Sir John Perrot knight that he is descended as is aforesaid - " - "dated the 4th of January in the third year of the reign of King Edward the Sixth by grace of God, etc."

This would be the 4th of January 1549/50 (We would say 1550) or about three and a half months before Robert Perrot died. (Sir John Perrot was only knighted in 1549 by Edward VI.) Robert Perrot was 72 years of age when he died, according to the Perrot register of Northleigh, He made his will on the 18th of April 1550 - the Society has a copy - but it was not proved until 1573 due to the protracted legal dispute between two of his sons. However, he was buried on the 20th of April, 1550, as his epitaph in St. Peter's Church clearly shows.

The Herald's reading of the grant of Arms, and Roger's article tends to suggest that George Perrot was still alive at the date of the grant. If so he must have been well into his nineties as Robert was 72 when he died or he must have been married very young which was allowable in those days, boys being able to marry at 14 and girls at 12.

As readers of the last issue will know we have found a Rees/Richard Perrot will in Kent which clearly states he was the son of Owen Perrot. Roger has also found a reference to a Rhys Perrot and in his thesis has shown him as a son of Sir Owen. They must be one and the same person. Although Roger does not think that George was a son of Sir Owen I wonder if he knew about Sir John's statement to the College of Arms. It is all very

intriguing. I should perhaps state that the Somerset Herald was of the opinion that although the records state the grant of arms to George Perrot, he favours the view that they should have been to his son Robert. This would tie in with the dates and ages. Robert would have been born c1478 if his age at death is correct. If he was the second son of George then allowing that George was about 24 when Robert was born, then George would have been born c1454. How this fits in with any dates known by Roger Turvey I am unable to say.

Regarding the (Seabournes) pedigree mentioned on the previous page, I have been in correspondence with a lady researching this line. She found a very old pedigree in the National Library of Wales relating to this family and employed a qualified researcher to decipher the writings on it. The part that interests the Society is that it shows the connection of John Perrott of Moreton-on-Lugg in Herefordshire with the Pembrokeshire Perrots. I have sent it off to Roger to see if this fits in with anything he has that might prove it one way or another. It states that this John Perrott was the son of William Perrott of Pembrokeshire. We have a copy of John's will in which he details all his children and by which of his two wives he had them. (One of his daughters married a Seabourne which is probably why John Seabourne was made one of the executors.) The Seabourne pedigree shows exactly the names and chronological order that they are mentioned and by which wife. Also shown is a bastard son and the fact that a daughter was born posthumously - John mentions that his wife 'is with child' and makes a bequest to him or her. As the date of the pedigree is much later than John's will it shows that some knowledge was known at this later date.

If John Perrot of Herefordshire had been the son of Sir William Perrot, father of Sir Owen, then I would have thought the pedigree would have stated that he was a Sir. However reference to Barnwell's book, "Perrot Notes", shows that Sir William Perrot had an uncle called John (Roger thinks married to an Ellen ?)

Since typing the above I have received a letter from Roger concerning the Seabourne pedigree which he is busily investigating. This is shown later in the Journal and it would appear that there may be some truth in it and further investigation may show that the Perrots of Morton in Herefordshire were a branch of the Pembrokeshire families. I have always thought that the properties, etc, left by Sir James Perrot to Sir Herbert Perrot of the Herefordshire line, were not left due to the similarity of the name as suggested in Barnwell's book, but because of a family tie. Hopefully, I shall be proved correct.



ST. DAVIDS CATHEDRAL.

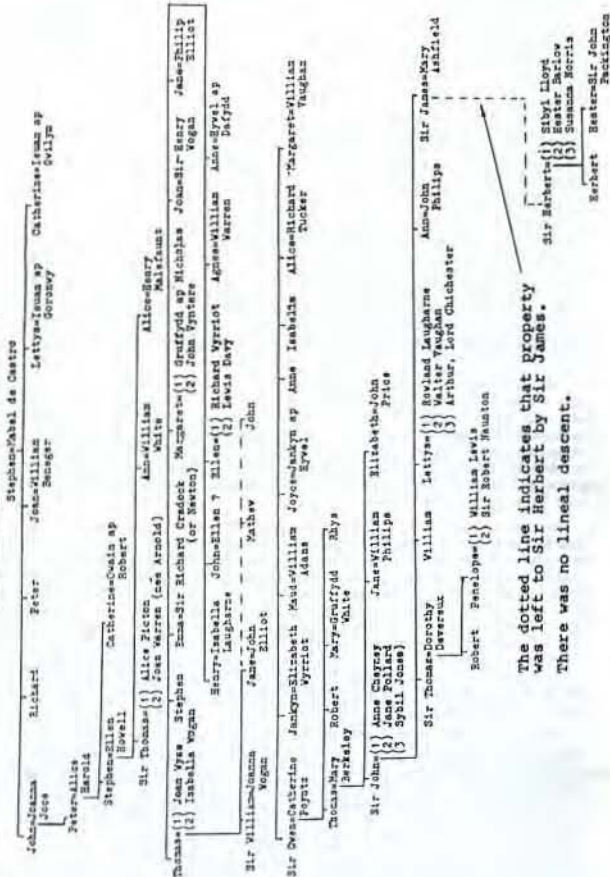
PEMBROKE SHIRE.

For the benefit of those who did not attend the AGM at Narberth, here is a picture of the Cathedral at Saint Davids, where we all worshipped on the Sunday.



The latest up-date on the Perrot pedigree supplied by R. Turvey.

THE PERROTS OF HAROLDSTON AND EASTINGTON.



The dotted line indicates that property was left to Sir Herbert by Sir James. There was no lineal descent.