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Contents

In this Issue: Continuing Service to the Genealogical Community	3
1800 Personal Property Tax List, Randolph County <i>Frankie Liles</i>	5
Revolutionary War Accounts at Virginia's Shipyards on the Chickahominy and Pamunkey Rivers <i>Eric G. Grundset</i>	11
Slaves from Mecklenburg County, Virginia, Taken to Perry County, Alabama in 1832 <i>Lynda Childers Suffridge</i>	19
A Reexamination of the Relationships among the Parrott Families in the American Colonies in the 17 th Century <i>Harald Reksten and Wayne Parrott</i>	21
Defense of the Western Frontier <i>Barbara Vines Little, CG</i>	44
Unpaid Taxes on Free Negroes, Portsmouth, 1858–1860 <i>Leslie Anderson Morales</i>	51
Oaths of Allegiance, Goochland County <i>Barbara Vines Little, CG</i>	55
George Harrison Sanford King's Card File <i>Susan B. Chiarello</i>	58
The "Lost" Wills of Valentine Hoofman (Hoffman/Huffman) and Samuel Baker of Rockingham County <i>Dorothy A. Boyd-Bragg, PhD</i>	71
Bedford County Fee Book, 1754–1761 <i>Barbara Vines Little, CG</i>	74
William Montgomery's Naturalization <i>Wesley E. Pippenger, FVGS</i>	ibc1

A Reexamination of the Relationships among the Parrott Families in the American Colonies in the 17th Century

by Harald Reksten and Wayne Parrott*

Since its publication, Evalyn Parrott Scott's *Links That Bind* and her subsequent quarterly *Parrott Talk* have been the most comprehensive and well-known compilations of information on early American Parrott families.¹ Nevertheless, new information discovered in the forty years since the publication of *Links* makes it necessary to reevaluate the long-established assumptions of the relationships among the various Parrott families. Because they frequently crossed paths with each other, married into the same families and used similar names, Evalyn Parrott Scott declared that the earliest Parrott families were "kinsman all." She also asserted that they all descended from the Perrots of Pembrokeshire, Wales, or one of the English branches of that family.² In fact, on page 2 of *Links*, Scott displays the coat of arms of Sir Stephen Perrott, and on page 4 she indicates that the "arms of the three pears is on a seal of Richard Perrot's will in the Middlesex County Court House in Saluda, Virginia."

The following is an attempt to inventory the current state of knowledge of the colonial American Parrott families and their living descendants. All of these Parrotts were originally discussed in *Links that Bind*. However, the scope of this study is not as broad as that of *Links*, and instead focuses on the following families:

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¹ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967). Evalyn Parrott Scott and Roberta L. Robinson, eds., *Parrott Talk*, Volumes 1-8, 1973-1980 privately published quarterly; Evalyn Parrott Scott, ed, *Parrott Talk*, Volumes 9-14, 1991-1999 privately published annually.

² Edward Lowry Barnwell, *Perrot Notes, or Some Account of the Various Branches of the Perrott Family*, (London: J. Russell Smith, 1867).

- Richard Perrot of Middlesex County, Virginia, and his apparent kinsmen, Nathaniel and Luke;
- William, Gabriel and Francis Parrott of Talbot, Calvert and Anne Arundel counties, Maryland; and
- Lawrence Parrott of Gloucester and Lawrence Parrott of Northumberland counties, Virginia, Francis Parrott of Albemarle/Bertie County, North Carolina, and Benjamin Parrott of Rockingham County, North Carolina.

While *Links* presented these individuals by state, this study presents them by family groups as they are currently understood. New evidence is presented that hopefully will put to rest some Parrott myths that have taken on a life of their own over the last 120 years since Richard was first linked to the arms of the three pears. Nevertheless, while many questions have been answered since the publication of *Links*, a large number of questions remain unanswered, and these need to be the target of additional investigations.

RICHARD PERROT OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Richard of Middlesex County, Virginia, is the best documented of the early Parrotts. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, president of Middlesex County court, and a large landowner in Virginia and Delaware.³ Four developments during the last ten years have added a wealth of new information about him.⁴ The first is the publication by the Sparacios of almost all of extant Middlesex and Lancaster County court orders for the period from 1652 to 1745. The second event was the publication of the article, “*Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives*,” by Rudolf Loeser in 1998.⁵ Loeser clarified the marriages of Richard Perrot and concluded that Perrot had only one biological child, Richard Jr., living at the time he wrote his will. Loeser also indicated that he knew nothing of Perrot’s origins in England, but thought that Perrot was a “self-made” man.⁶ Loeser was familiar with the three-pear coat of arms but was not convinced that Richard Perrot was entitled to them. The third event was the discovery of Richard’s actual seal, and the fourth, the advent of DNA testing. The last two will be discussed later.

³ William G. and Mary Newton Stanard, *The Colonial Virginia Register* (Albany, N. Y.: Joel Munsell’s Sons, 1902), 82. National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Virginia, *The Parish Register of Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia from 1653 to 1812*, (1897; Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1988), 31. Rudolf Loeser, “Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives,” *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998): 8. C.H.B. Turner, *Some Records of Sussex County, Delaware*, (Philadelphia: Allen, Land and Scott, 1909), 8–10.

⁴ This manuscript uses the spelling *Perrot* instead of *Perrott* or *Parrott*, even though all three spellings are contained in the Middlesex and Lancaster records. When Richard Perrot himself signed his name, he used a single *t* more often than not. As a senior justice of the commission of peace he followed the convention of signing the court records at the end of the proceedings for the month. He typically signed them *Rich Perrot*.

⁵ Rudolf Loeser, “Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives,” *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998):3–17.

⁶ Rudolf Loeser, “Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives,” *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998):6.

Richard Perrot first appears in York County, Virginia, records in January 1647/8, when he was ordered to pay restitution to Richard Simmons for mistakenly killing one of his steers:

24 January 1647/8 By several oaths and confession of Richd. Parrett, that by order of Capt. Wm. Brocas, Esq., he killed a steer, which by mistake belonged to Rd. Simons. Parrett to pay Simons and Capt. Brocas to be notified.⁷

William Brocas was the brother-in-law of Ralph Wormeley.⁸ Brocas first married Mary, who was the widow of Ralph Wormeley's brother, Christopher. Brocas married second Eleanor Eltonhead, who was the sister to Agatha Eltonhead, the wife of Ralph Wormeley. Richard Perrot described Ralph Wormeley's son, Ralph, as his good friend and made the younger Ralph "overseer" of his will in 1686.⁹ The Wormeleys were arguably the most influential family in Middlesex County and one of the wealthiest in Virginia.¹⁰ William Stanard notes that the younger Ralph "was a man of great weight in the government and is described by a contemporary writer as 'the most powerful man in Virginia'"¹¹ Connections to families such as the Wormleys no doubt helped Richard establish his position in early Middlesex society.

An educated man, Richard became a justice a few years after his arrival in Virginia.¹² He married Sarah Key,¹³ widow of Nicholas Dale, by August 1648.¹⁴ He

⁷ Beverley Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, Vol. 3, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 85. Cited as taken from York County court orders, 1646–1648, Record Book 2:323.

⁸ Darrett B. and Anita H. Rutman, *A Place in Time, Middlesex County, Virginia 1650–1750*, (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1984), 48.

⁹ Rudolf Loeser, "Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives," *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998):11.

¹⁰ Darrett B. and Anita H. Rutman, *A Place in Time, Middlesex County, Virginia 1650–1750*, (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1984), 153.

¹¹ William G. Stanard, "The Wormeley Family," *Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Volume IV* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), 888.

¹² The first record of Perrot being a justice is Lancaster Court 6 June 1655. Beverley Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Volume 1* (1944; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), p. 217; referencing Lancaster County Deed Book 1, p. 196.

¹³ Rudolf Loeser, "Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives," *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998):15–16.

¹⁴ 24 August 1648 Richd Parrott and Sarah, his wife, give, for natural love and affection, certain cattle to the children which she had by her former husband Nicholas Dale viz Mary Dale, Thomas Dale, Joane Dale, and Sarah Dale. ... "To our Daughter In Law, Mary Dale" "To my Natureaall Sonn Thomas Dale, one heifer called Mouse", "To my Natureaall Daughter, Joane one brown heifer,", "To my youngest Natureaall Daughter, Sarah Dale, one blake heifer," ... The children to have the cattle when of age or married. Signed: Richd. Perrett, Sar[*torn*] Witnesses: John Smith (X), Law. Hulett. Beverley Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Volume 3* (1945; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 108; citing York County court orders, 1646–1648, Record Book 2, p. 405.

married as his second wife Margaret Haywood, widow of Henry Dedmon by May 1655.¹⁵

RICHARD PERROT'S CHILDREN.

The number of Richard Perrot's children has never been fully determined.¹⁶ The birth of Richard Perrot Jr. in 1650 is documented in the church records.¹⁷ A record from Gray's Inn in London in 1674 identifies Henry Perrot as a son of Richard Perrot of Virginia,¹⁸ but the birth of Henry is not documented in the Christ Church Parish records. Loeser agrees with Fleet who suggests that Henry was actually Henry Dedmon, son of Richard's wife Margaret, and that Richard Perrot raised him as his own.¹⁹ It is assumed that Henry Dedmon died before 1686, since he was not named in Perrot's will in 1686 nor in that of his mother's the next year.²⁰

Marcus Buford wrote in 1903 that Richard Perrot had another child, Elizabeth, who married his ancestor, John Beauford.²¹ The records of Middlesex County do not substantiate this. In fact no record has been found in Middlesex or Lancaster County that associates the Parrotts with the Bufords in any family way.

In January 1672/3, before his son Richard married the widow Sarah Halfhide, Perrot made him a deed of gift. He provided several contingencies should his son die without issue. No mention was made of any daughters.

¹⁵ Rudolf Loeser, "Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives," *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998):4-5. See also, 28 April 1655: Rich Perrott of Rapa. to Margaret Dedman, spinster, "for ye use of Henry Dedman, son of ye said Margaret, 100 pounds Sterl. mony of England, which is for a valuable consideration in hand received this money to be paid to the said Henry at his age of one and twenty years. The consideration of the obligation is such that if the above said Parrott shall not provide for the above Henry in furnishing all manner of necessary and provide for the bringing of him up in learning till such a time as he comes of age that then the above said sum of money be present paid down upon such default made to the said Margaret to be put out to use for the maintenance of the said child. But if the said Parrott shall prove [provide] for the said child as above said till he come of age and after he is at age to make his estate equal with the estate of any of his own children then this bond to be void and of none effect but otherwise to be of full force and virtue... ." Signed: Richard Perrott (Seal). Witnesses: William Underwood, Rice Jones (RI). Recognized: 6 June 1655. Recorded: 25 June 1655. Beverley Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Volume 1* (1937; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 115; citing Lancaster County, Virginia, Deeds, etc., No. 2, 1653-1702, p. 102.

¹⁶ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 60.

¹⁷ National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Virginia, *The Parish Register of Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia from 1653 to 1812*, (1897; reprint, Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1988), 41.

¹⁸ Joseph Foster, *The Registers of Admissions to Gray's Inn, 1521-1889* (London, 1889).

¹⁹ Rudolf Loeser, "Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives," *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998):4-5. Beverley Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Volume 1* (1937; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 115.

²⁰ Middlesex County, Virginia, Wills, Etc., 1675-1698, Part 1, pp. 36, 51. For transcriptions, see Rudolf Loeser, "Margaret Dedman Perrott and Some Relatives," *Virginia Genealogist*, 42 (1998):10-13.

²¹ Marcus Bainbridge Buford, *History and Genealogy of the Buford Family in America*; 1903 ed., updated 1924 by George Washington and Mildred Buford (La Belle, Mo.: Minter, 1924), 33.

I Richd. Perrot of the County of Middlx. Gent . . . give & grant unto my s^d sonne Richd. Perrot & his heirs forever all th^t tract or devident of Land in my possession next to the mouth of Rappa. River . . . containing . . . eight hundred Acres . . . But if it should happen my s^d sonne sh[ould] departe this life wth out Issue this last mentiond Tract . . . remain continue & abide in th^e possession of Sarah Halfhide . . . for her naturall life as only parte of her th^e s^d Sarahs Dower & not anyw[ay] relating or intending part of a joynture to debar her for from her [torn] . . . But as before declared if my s^d sonne Rich^d Perrot happen to depart this [torn] wth out Issue then all th^e lands before mentioned to belong unto Henry [torn] my second sonne [probably Henry Dedmon] & to his heires forEver & in . . . he not ha[ve] Issue to my B^f Robert Perrotts two eldest Sonnes & to their heirs for[torn] . . . fourth day of Janu^a 1672 [signed] Richard Perrott [witnesses:] Robert Bristow, Miles West; [recorded 3 Jan 1680/81]²²

It appears that Marcus Buford simply assumed that the 11 April 1662 marriage of John Blewford to Elizabeth Parrat indicated that Elizabeth was a child of Richard Perrot and that Richard Perrot had been married before he came to Virginia “probably in England or Barbados where their first child Elizabeth was born.” This assertion was repeated a few years later by Lillie DuPuy VanCulin Harper.²³ The Barbados records do contain the name *Richard Parrett*, but the references are all for men younger than Richard Perrot of Middlesex.²⁴ Richard Perrott was not an unusual name in the 1600s. A search of the P*rr*tt Society database for Richard Perrots born between 1600 and 1630, the possible time frame for Richard’s birth, produced 37 baptismal records for P*rr*tts using a forename of Richard.²⁵

If Perrot’s only heir was his son Richard Jr., then can Elizabeth be accounted for other than as a daughter of Richard Perrot? In February 1665 a certificate was granted in York County to Lt. Col. Thomas Beale for 2950 acres for the importation of fifty-nine persons, including one “Eliz. Parrett.”²⁶ There is no way to determine from the certificate when Elizabeth actually arrived in the colony or if the importation referred to Buford’s wife; however, this record does point to other possibilities for her origin.

²² Middlesex County, Virginia, Deed Book 2, p. 15.

²³ Lillie DuPuy VanCulin Harper, *Colonial Men and Times: Containing the Journal of Col. Daniel Trabue, the Huguenots, Genealogy, with Brief Sketches of the Allied Families* (Philadelphia, Innes and Sons, 1916), 516.

²⁴ W. E. Pullen, *John Perratt, Sr. of Barbados 1654–1729, Ancestor of the Steger and One Branch of the Mayo Families of Goochland County, Virginia* (n.p.: the author, 1976); Joanne Mcree Sanders, *Barbados Records Marriages 1643–1800, Volume I*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 325. Joanne Mcree Sanders, *Barbados Records: Baptisms, 1637–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), 51, 56, 59, 62, 65, 117.

²⁵ The P*rr*tt Society in England was founded in 1984 and is a member of the Guild of One Name Studies, www.p-rr-tt.org.uk/. Members-only database, www.p-rr-tt.org.uk/pass.asp.

²⁶ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *York County, Virginia Records 1665–1672*, (Richmond, Va.: the author, 1987), 20.

In November 1659, in Lancaster County, Virginia, one John Perrott, 14 years of age (born c1645), came into the country and became a servant to Richard Perrott.²⁷ No further mention of John Perrott occurs in the Lancaster or Middlesex records; it is presumed that he died or moved on. It is unlikely that Elizabeth was the widow of this John Perrott, as his time of service would have lasted until 1666.

Unhappily Buford's statements have been repeated in other publications. In 1957 Mrs. Mary Hoss Headman questioned some of Buford's conclusions. She noted, among other comments, that there were several distinct Richard Bufords who immigrated to Virginia at about the same time, as well as a Thomas Buford who immigrated to Maryland, disproving Buford's assertion that the only early Buford emigrant was Richard from Hotten's list.²⁸ Headman also noted, "Unhappily the incorrect statements made in the Buford genealogy were printed in the Magna Charta Series compiled by John S. Wurts, published by the Brookfield Publishing Company."²⁹

In 1958, Buford's work was embellished by Lulu Crosland Ricaud, who stated that Elizabeth was born in 1645 and a daughter of Richard Perrot.³⁰ Ricaud cited Buford's book without any further proof. She also took Buford's assertions to a new level by describing Richard Perrot as a Huguenot.³¹ A check of the known Huguenot ancestors listed on the website of the Huguenot Society of America found only Jacques Perot.³² The National Huguenot Society's List of Qualified Ancestors includes the same Jacques Perot.³³ The website for the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia does list Richard Perot as one of the Huguenots settling in early colonial Virginia.³⁴ A separate list of ancestors of members of the society does not include Richard Perrot.³⁵ This makes sense as Perrot died in 1686 and Manakin was founded after 1700. A request for the

²⁷ 30 November 1659 "John Perrott, Servant to Mr. Richard Perrott, coming into this Countrey without Indenture and appeareinge at this Cort: is adjudged to be fourteene yeres of age and to serve seaven yeres from the arrivall of the Ship accordinge to the Acte of Assembly." Lancaster County, Virginia, Orders, 1656–1666, p. 94, Lancaster County Clerk's Office, Lancaster, Virginia.

²⁸ John Camden Hotten, *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality; Emigrants . . . Who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600–1700 . . .* (1874; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1986), 118.

²⁹ Mary Hoss Headman, "Buford Corrections," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 111 (1957): 119.

³⁰ Lulu Crosland Ricaud, *The Family of Edward and Ann Snead Crosland 1740–1958* (n.p.: the author, 1958), 92–93.

³¹ Elizabeth Baker Fowler, "Some Members of the Huguenot Family of Beaufort, Beauford, Buford in Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee," *The Huguenot*, 13 (1945–1947): 123.

³² Huguenot Ancestors (A Partial List)," *The Huguenot Society of America*, huguenotsocietyofamerica.org/huguenots.php.

³³ "List of Qualified Huguenot Ancestors," National Huguenot Society, huguenot.netnation.com/ancestor/default.htm

³⁴ "Huguenot Ancestors," *The Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia*, manakin.addr.com/founders.htm#p.

³⁵ Registered Lineages," *The Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia*, manakin.addr.com/lineage.html.

reference cited by Ricaud was made to the Manakin Huguenot Society. An initial reply from Ann Woodlief indicated that the Huguenot ancestry of Richard Perrot was not proven.³⁶ A subsequent email noted an article by Elizabeth Baker Fowler was used by Ricaud in her research.³⁷ No proof was given in the Fowler article, nor did Fowler cite Marcus Buford's book. But apparently she had used the Buford book as her source³⁸ and concluded on her own that Richard Perrot was also a Huguenot.³⁹

Ricaud and Buford were not alone in attributing additional children to Perrot. Thomas Scharf stated twice that Berkley Codd was a descendant of Richard Perrott, via a marriage between St. Leger Codd and another, unnamed daughter of Perrot's. He described Barclay Codd, as twice a justice, a resident of Cedar Creek Hundred, and a descendant of Richard Perrott, who, in 1672, emigrated from Maryland.⁴⁰

This assertion was repeated by Scott.⁴¹ No evidence has been found to prove Scharf's assertion. On the contrary, St. Leger Codd was married three times, and none of his wives were Parrotts.⁴² Thomas Scharf's second reference relates to the history of Cedar Creek Hundred, the area in northern Sussex County, Delaware, where Perrot patented his land.

“EARLY SETTLEMENTS.— A tract of land one thousand by four hundred and eighty perches, containing three thousand acres, and lying between Prime Hook and Slaughter Creeks, was patented June 21, 1671, by Governor Lovelace to Richard Perrott, of Virginia, concerning whom more information will be found in a letter from him to Governor Lovelace in the “General History of Sussex County.” The large tract obtained by Richard Perrott in part descended to his grandson, Richard Parrott, who conveyed his interest to Berkley Codd, who was a descendant of Perrott,

³⁶ Ann Woodlief, National Librarian, Huguenot Society of Manakin, email to author, dated 4 January 2008: “... I see on our Huguenot list that there is a Richard Perrot listed with a question mark, meaning that he has been proposed as a Huguenot but questions of documentation have been raised.”

³⁷ Elizabeth Baker Fowler, “Some Members of the Huguenot Family of Beaufort, Beauford, Buford in Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee,” *The Huguenot*, 13 (1945–1947): 123.

³⁸ Marcus Buford had a death date of 1722 for John Buford; however, John Buford is described as deceased in a Middlesex deed dated 6 May 1700. Fowler gives the 1722 death date, indicating she used Marcus Buford's work instead of actually checking the records. See Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Middlesex County, Virginia, 1694–1703* (McLean, Va.: Antient Press, 1989), 95–6, referencing Middlesex County Deed Book 2, pp. 347–8.

³⁹ In Fowler's words, “John Beauford of Christ Church Parish, Lancaster County, Virginia, son of Richard Beauford, married April 11, 1662, Elizabeth Perrot (Parrott) daughter of Richard Perrott, Sr., a Huguenot and Vestryman of Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia.”

⁴⁰ Thomas J. Scharf, “Cedar Creek Hundred,” *History of Delaware, 1609–1888*, Volume One (Philadelphia: L.J. Richards and Co., 1888), 536.

⁴¹ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 51.

⁴² John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607–1624/5*, 4th ed., Volume 3: Families R–Z, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007), 108. Thanks to Peggy Parrott Feige for tracking down this reference.

on October 29, 1718. With the exception of the lands resurveyed for John and William Bellamy, reconveyance[sic] were made to the owners by Codd. At his decease the property vested in his widow, who devised it to her great-grandson, Thomas Till, whose widow afterwards married George Read, of New Castle, signer of the Declaration of Independence.⁴³

The suspicion, in lieu of other information, is that Thomas Scharf misread the Sussex deeds that show several times the lineage of grandson Richard Perrott to Richard Perrott Sr. Unfortunately Crozier must have been aware of Scharf's assertion. When Crozier discusses the Codd arms, he indicates that Col. St. Leger Codd "was married twice, his first wife being a daughter of Richard Perrott of Lancaster County, Virginia, by whom he had two sons, James and Berkeley."⁴⁴

Dorman clears up the issue by identifying St. Leger Codd's wives as 1) by 1670 Ann (Mottrom) Wright Fox, born 1639, daughter of Col. John Mottrom and widow of Richard Wright and David Fox; 2) Anne (Bennett) Bland, who died November 1688; and 3) Anne (Hynson) Randall Wickes. Dorman states that James and Berkeley Codd and sister Sarah were all children of Ann Fox.⁴⁵

Just as Elizabeth Parrat was never mentioned in any will, deed or court record associated with Perrot, no mention of another daughter or additional Codd grandchildren appears in any document written by Perrot or his wives.

RICHARD PERROT'S ARMS

As mentioned earlier, Richard is reported to have used the arms of the three pears on his seal. His use of arms, however, is as misrepresented as his marriages and his children. The illustration at right depicts the traditional three pears arms of the Perrot family. It is described as "*Gules three pears or on a chief argent a demi-lion rampant issuant sable armed and langued gules*"⁴⁶ — that is, three golden pears on a red background, below a silver (white) area with the top half of a black lion standing on his hind legs, and showing a red tongue. As arms came into common use, one of the predominant ways designs were chosen was by picking objects that phonetically resembled the name of the bearer. Such practice was known as canting arms, and the Perrot arms are one of the best examples.



⁴³ Thomas J. Scharf, "Cedar Creek Hundred," *History of Delaware, 1609–1888*, Volume Two, (Philadelphia : L.J. Richards and Co., 1888), 1247–1255.

⁴⁴ William Armstrong Crozier, *Virginia Heraldica, Being a Registry of Virginia Gentry Entitled to Coat Armour, with Genealogical Notes of the Families* (New York: Genealogical Assoc., 1908), 23.

⁴⁵ John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607–1624/5*, 4th ed., Volume 3: Families R–Z, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2007), 108.

⁴⁶ Sir Bernard Burke, *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; Comprising a Registry of Armorial Bearing from the Earliest to the Present Time*, (London: Harrison and Sons, Printers, 1884), 793–4.

Ricaud cited articles written by Lyon Tyler in the *William and Mary Quarterly* in 1892 and 1896 respectively, to prove that Richard Perrot used the arms of the three pears.⁴⁷ Tyler reiterated the existence of the seal with the coat of the three pears in the *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography* in 1915.⁴⁸ Harper referred to Tyler's assertion in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, and claimed she personally saw the seal itself.⁴⁹ Scott printed a letter by Mrs. L. Z. Hicks, dated 1952, who claimed that her nephew, Lynch Montague, had actually seen the three-pear arms on a seal on a deed of Richard's stored in the Saluda court house while still a high school student.⁵⁰

The 1892 article titled "Coats-of-Arms in Virginia" by Lyon Tyler attempted to provide clarification of the usage of coats of arms by early families in Virginia. It contains a list of locations for coats of arms that included one for Richard Perrott of Middlesex County.⁵¹ The location for Perrot's coat of arms was the seal for Perrot's 1686 will. In 1896, a description of seal was given:

"The name Perrott has always been pronounced *Parrott*, and the arms as preserved on a seal of Richard Perrott in Middlesex represent three pears."⁵²

Tyler's list became institutionalized by William Crozier through the publication of *Virginia Heraldica* in 1908. Under the surname Perrott, only one entry was given: Richard Perrott of Middlesex County, using the arms of the "Three Pears."⁵³ This description is remarkably short and vague, as compared to the descriptions of other arms provided by Crozier. Furthermore, mention of the demi-lion issuant that should be over the pears is altogether absent. Crozier provides crests and mottos for other seals, but not for the Perrott seal. Thus Crozier provided no further information than what was already given by Tyler in 1892 and 1896.

⁴⁷ Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., "Coats-of-Arms in Virginia," *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 1(1892):112–121. "Historical and Genealogical Notes," *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 4(1896–1897):135.

⁴⁸ Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, Volume I*, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1915), 303.

⁴⁹ She states, "I saw the Will of Richard Perrott Sr. at Saluda the County Seat of Middlesex Co, Va, and it has the seal of wax on it." Although she implies it, she does not give any indication that she could actually make out any distinguishing features of the seal. Lillie DuPuy VanCulin Harper, *Colonial Men and Times: Containing the Journal of Col. Daniel Trabue, the Huguenots, Genealogy, with Brief Sketches of the Allied Families* (Philadelphia, Innes and Sons, 1916), 435–6.

⁵⁰ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 6. A search at the clerk's office in Saluda for all documents relating to Richard Perrot by researcher Kevin Lett in 2005 uncovered no such deed.

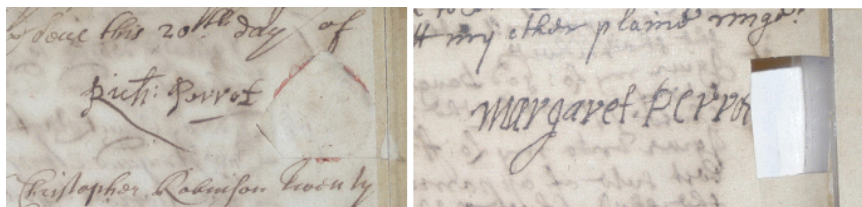
⁵¹ Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., "Coats-of-Arms in Virginia," *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 1(1892):112–121.

⁵² "Historical and Genealogical Notes," *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 4(1896–1897):135.

⁵³ William Armstrong Crozier, *Virginia Heraldica, Being a Registry of Virginia Gentry Entitled to Coat Armour, with Genealogical Notes of the Families*, 1908, 55.

The significance of finding Richard using the “Three Pears” coat of arms is that it would identify him as a member of the Perrot family of Pembrokeshire, Wales, or, more likely, one of its English branches. After all, Richard was known as an Englishman, not a Welshman. The combination of the unrelated Parratt-Beauford marriage, and Richard’s alleged use of the arms of the three pears, has led to a line of descent accepted for membership by the Colonial Dames and the Barons of the Magna Charta.⁵⁴

It has been impossible thus far to verify Richard’s use of the three-pear seal as stated in these reports. Both Richard’s and his wife’s original wills survive as part of a larger book of wills, most with their seals still intact. However, the wax seal on Richard Perrot’s will was intentionally flattened and covered by another piece of paper as seen in the photo below.⁵⁵ The seal on his wife’s will was cut out by some unknown vandal.⁵⁶



Fortunately some years ago, the Churchill family donated some old documents to the University of Virginia Library’s Special Collections. Among these documents were transactions made in 1683 from Richard Perrot and his son to Charles Curtis, brother of Richard Perrot Jr.’s wife Sarah.⁵⁷ Richard’s seal on these documents is still legible. The picture on the following page shows the signatures and seals of both Richard Perrot Sr. and Richard Perrot Jr.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ Lulu Crosland Ricaud, *The Family of Edward and Ann Snead Crosland 1740–1958* (n.p.: the author, 1958), 88.

⁵⁵ Photographs of the original wills of Richard and Margaret Perrot, located in the Middlesex County Courthouse in Saluda, Virginia, were taken in 2005 by Kevin T. Lett. The wills are preserved in Middlesex County, Virginia, Wills, etc., 1675–1698, Part 1, pp. 36, 51.

⁵⁶ In 1980 Margaret’s will had the seal intact. See Middlesex County, Virginia, Wills, Etc., 1675–1698, Part 1, p. 51 (microfilm reel 86), The Library of Virginia, Richmond. The author’s first copy of Margaret’s will was obtained in July 1995. Thus the destruction occurred sometime between 1980 and the middle of 1995. Unfortunately the microfilm shows no details of the seal.

⁵⁷ 2 April 1683 Richard Porrot the older and Richard Porrot the younger both of Middlesex County, Virginia, Gentlemen, indebted to Charles Curtis of Glouster County, Virginia, Gentleman for 280 pounds of Lawful money of England. Signed: Rich. Purrat, Richard Perrot Jr.. Witnesses: Richard Robinson, James Curtis, Rob. Price (X). Acknowledged: 2 April 1683. Churchill family manuscripts, 1666–1777, Accession no. MSS 1197, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

⁵⁸ Churchill family papers, 1666–1777, Accession No. 1197, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. Reprinted with permission.



This Perrot transaction was fairly complicated and there were several sets of documents. The second seal to the right was taken from a different document within the same transaction. The seal has separated due to age, but the picture is more distinct; it does not contain any pears. However, there is a definite serif on the crescents, so they might represent the initials CC.

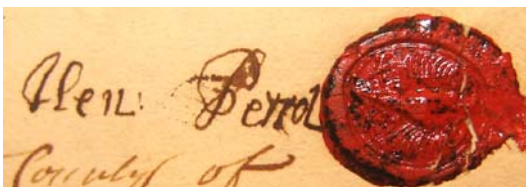


These digital pictures were taken at the University of Virginia by Joseph Parrott of Midlothian, Virginia.⁵⁹ Joseph provided the following account via email:

I'm sitting next to the papers as I write this, quite a rush actually. Anyway, the two Richard Perrot seals are in good condition, but they do not have any pears on them. They are a set of crescent moons, with a eight pointed star above and below in the spaces where the moons almost meet. The Henry Perrot seal is in less good condition, but it is definitely different, looking like some kind of palm branch or leaf, though it is a bit worn to identify. The Curtis seal is probably the most worn, but I can make out a few shapes - a half circle, a dot and a squiggle. . . . Finally, there seems to be a fourth piece, and additional Indenture (I assume a land sale from the content) signed by the two Richard Perrots in 1683. There is only one seal, the crescent moon one, but it is in excellent condition with the exception that some pieces have flaked off.

⁵⁹ Joseph was a student at the University of Virginia in 2007. A cousin to Harald Reksten, Joseph is a descendent of Richard Perrott Sr. proved via paper trail and by another cousin that is identified as individual 62651 in the Parrott DNA surname project.

The picture to the right was taken from a transaction in 1697 between Henry Perrot, son of Richard Perrot Jr., and William Churchill, in which Perrot became indebted to Churchill, for money using 140



acres of land as collateral.⁶⁰ The most interesting part of this seal is that it is not the same as the seal used by Henry Perrot's father and grandfather. Henry Perrot's seal contains what appears to be a fish on top and bottom or a palm branch as Joseph Parrott noted above. Thus Henry Perrot chose to create his own seal rather than use the seal of his father and grandfather.

Despite all reports to the contrary, there is no documentation that shows there was any attempt by any Perrot in Middlesex County to show allegiance to any arms. The Perrots of Middlesex County were business men who, following the custom of the day, used seals in their business transactions.

It is not clear whether anyone who wrote about the seal with the three pears actually saw the seal on Richard's will in the Middlesex County courthouse and even if they had, the paper covering it completely obliterates any image leaving the determination of the image to the imagination of the viewer. What Margaret's seal showed, we will never know. Whether it was removed by a someone wanting a family memento or someone interested in obscuring information is also a question that remains unanswered.

RICHARD PERROT'S ANCESTRY

Having proven the inaccuracy of much of the existing published information about the ancestry of Richard Perrot, the question becomes, if Perrot does not belong to the three pears group, then to whom does he belong?

We know that Richard traveled to England at least once. He was present at the Christ Church Parish vestry meeting on 31 December 1666.⁶¹ By the next month, as noted by the vestry minutes, he was in England:

30 January 1666/7. At a Vestry held for Christ Church P[ar]ish the 30th of January An. 1666 . . . "This Vestry Takeing into Consideration our present want of a Minister have Ordered and Desired Major Genrll. Robert Smith and Henry Corbin Esqr. to Write to Mr. Richard Perrott now in England

⁶⁰ Abstract by Harald Reksten, 29 January 1696/7 Henry Perrot of Middlesex County, Virginia, planter, indebted to William Churchill of same for 100 pounds of Lawful money of England. Collateral: 140 acres land. Signed: Hen. Perrot. Witnesses: John Jones, Paul Thilman, Tho. Stapleton. Acknowledged: 5 February 1696/7. Churchill family Manuscripts, 1666-1777, Accession No. 1197, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.

⁶¹ C.G. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, Virginia, 1663-1767* (1927; reprint, Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, n.d.), 6.

to procure us a Minister to come over upon Such Tearmes as they Shall Judge Convenient, or to Treat wth any other on that affaure as Occafion Shall prsent.”⁶²

The trip, however, does not provide any clues to his origin.

Peter S. Perrett, founding member of the P*rr*tt Society, found the first tangible evidence⁶³ of Richard Perrot’s origins. During the process of transcribing old wills for the P*rr*tt Society, he noticed that John Perrot, merchant taylor of London, in his 1665 will left a bequest to his brother Richard and to his brother Robert’s two sons. Richard’s 1672/3 deed of gift to his son Richard Junr. described earlier in this article also references a brother Robert’s two sons. In addition, John’s sister Mary Harding received a legacy from him and Richard acted as an attorney for Ann, Mary and George Harding of Northumberland County, Virginia, in 1675:

9 January 1675/6 Whereas it appears to this Court that there is due to Mr. Richard Parrat, Attorney of Anne Harding, Mary Harding, George Harding and Thomas Orley the heyres of Thomas Orley, late of this County, deceased, an Estate according to Appraisement amounting to the sume of 14523 pounds of tobacco. Judgment is granted Mr. Richard Parrat Attorney as aforesaid, for ye sume out of the Estate of Thomas Orley als Execution, and orderd that the Sherriffe possess Mr. Parrat with the land of Thomas Orley in right of the heyres.⁶⁴

Thomas Orley died in 1662, leaving a will providing legacies to his wife Rebecka and sister Mary Harding, wife of George Harding of London.⁶⁵ In 1664 the legacies had not been paid:

22 7ber 1664 By this Publck Instrumt: of procuracon or Lre. of Atorney. Be it Knowne unto all people yt: on ye 22th day ye month 7ber: Anno Dom: 1664, . . . before me Frederick Ixem, sole Notary and Tabellion Publet to & for ye sd. Sovereigne Lord ye King, admitted and sworne, dwelling in this City of London, in ye p:sence of ye witnesses hereafter

⁶² C.G. Chamberlayne, *Vestry Book of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex County, Virginia, 1663–1767* (1927; reprint, Easley, S. C.: Southern Historical Press, n.d.), 9.

⁶³ Peter S. Perrett, “The Perrotts of Virginia,” *The P*rr*tt Society Family Notes*, 6(1990):100–102. Peter S. Perrett, “The Perrotts of Virginia, Wills of Bedfordshire,” *The P*rr*tt Society Family Notes*, 7(1990):15. Peter S. Perrett, “Profiles”, *The P*rr*tt Society Family Notes*, 12(1996):170–171.

⁶⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Northumberland County, Virginia, Order Book, 1674–1677*, (McLean, Va.: Antient Press, 1999), 49, citing p. 250..

⁶⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Northumberland County, Virginia, Deed and Will Abstracts, 1658–1662*, (McLean, Va.: Antient Press, 1993), 114–115, citing p. 81: 11 August 1662 Will of Thomas Orley in Cherry Point Neck to Loving Wife Rebecka Orley; Sister Mary Harden, ye wife of George Hardin 400 pounds tobacco; John Hardens son ; ___ of Mary Harden his wife; for want of such issue to ___ Orley of WhiteChappell Middlesex and his heirs. Executors: John Tingey, Nicholas Owen and Walter Weekes. Witnesses: Jno. Garner, Rich: Browne. Proved: 8 8ber 1662.

named personally appeared Geo: Hardinge. Citizen & Grocer of London, & Mary Hardinge his Wife, Daughter of Tho: Orley & Anne his Wife, deced., & Sister of Thos: Orley late of Cherry Poynt in Potomack (). Planter. deced., have made & doe make Capt. Wm: Ball of London, Mariner, there & either of there lawfull Attorneys giveinge unto him special charge to receive from Rebecca Orley, late Wife & Exrx. of ye Last Will and Testamt: of the sd. Tho: Orley of Cherry Poynt aforesd. deced., & of & from Wm: Jollins of Cherry Poynt aforesd.: Planter, her now Husband, or of either of them or there heyres or: goods whereso they shall be found all summes of money debts goods & things wt:soever as ye sd: Wm: Jollins & Rebecca his Wife or either of them noe doe or hereafter shall owe & be indebted unto ye sd: Constituants by Bill Book Legacy specialty or other wayes . . . In Witnesses whereof the sd. Constituants have put there hands & seales. This was thus don & passed in the City of London in ye p:sence of Wm: Scorey & Robt: Barson in Clarkes. Signed: Geo: Hardinge, Mary Hardinge (the mke: of). Witnesses Toby Michell, John Frodskain, Jam: Syer. P:sence Wm: Scorey, Robt. Barson. . . .⁶⁶

The record also notes that “Mary Orley, the Daughter of Tho: and Anne Orley, was Babtised in ye Parish Charge of St. Mary White Chappell on ye 25th day of April 1622.”⁶⁷

Nothing further seems to happen until William Jolland, who married the widow Orley, died in late 1675.⁶⁸ It was then that Richard Perrot became involved. In 1686 Mary Harding’s will was probated in London. The will does not name her deceased husband but does mention his brother George:

In the Name of God Amen I Mary Harding of the Parish of Christ Church, London widow being sick and weake in body but of good and sound mind . . . give to my sonne in Law Mr. Thomas Waddington and to my Daughter Mary his wife Tenn pounds for mourning And I give to my late husband’s Brother George Harding five pounds in money And to my Goddaughter Mary Griffith five pounds in money . . . Dated the thirteenth day of March Anno Dom one thousand six hundred eighty five . . . in the presence of us John Harding, Robert Wilkinson, Sarah May. Probated [Latin]: 27 September 1686.⁶⁹

⁶⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Northumberland County, Virginia, Deed and Will Abstracts, 1662–1666*, (McLean, Va: Antient Press, 1993), 73–74 citing p. 145–6.

⁶⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Northumberland County, Virginia, Deed and Will Abstracts, 1662–1666*, (McLean, Va: Antient Press, 1993), 73–74 citing p. 145–6.

⁶⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Northumberland County, Virginia, Order Book, 1674–1677*, (McLean, Va: Antient Press, 1999), 40, citing p. 240. 17 November 1675 Will of William Jolland proved by Edmund Shakeshaft and Leah Riscott.

⁶⁹ Will of Mary Harding, widow of the Parish of Christchurch, London 27 Sep 1686, PROB 11/384 Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers, *The National Archives*, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/details-result.asp?Edoc_

In addition to the previous references, John's will provides other clues to Richard's origins in England.

In the Name of God Amen I John Perrott Citizen and Merchantaylor of London being in good health of Body and of sound and perfect mind . . . I give . . . unto the two Sonns of my Brother Robert Perrott each of them the sume of one hundred pounds of Lawfull money of England.
. . . unto the Eldest daughter of cousin Dobson the sume of Tenn pounds of like money
. . . unto Robert Boulton, the sume of Tenn pounds of like money for the use of the poor of that church of whereof the said Robert Boulton is a Member
. . . unto Brother Richard Perrott the sume of fifty shillings of like money to buy him a Ring
. . . unto the Poor of the town of Potton in the County of Bedford the sume of fifty shillings of like money
All the rest . . . of all my Goods Shattels moneys plates Debts and personall Estate whatsoever I give . . . unto my Loveing wife Sarah Perrott whom I do hereby make ordain and appoint Sole Executrix . . .
And I do hereby Desire and appoint my Loveing friends John Fullerton, William Jestey to be overseers of this my Last Will and Testament and I doe give and bequeath to each of my said Overseers the Sume of five pounds of like money for their use.
. . . in case of my said wife Sarah shall not be liveing at my Decease . . . I doe give and bequeath the . . . Remainder of my said Goods, Chattels, moneys, plate, Debts and Estate as following: [*he repeats the earlier bequests with the exception of the bequest to his brother Richard and the poor of the town of Potton and adds the following:*]
. . .unto Jeremiah Ives for the use of the Poore of that church whereof he is a member the sume of five pounds of like money.
. . .unto Sarah Jackson, daughter of Israel Jackson of Boston, the sume of one hundred pounds of like money and all my Plate
. . .unto my Sister Lenox Jackson all my wife's best wearing Clothes and Rings.
And to the wife of Nathaniel Swindon choice ordinary clothes.
. . . unto my late apprentice John Stevenson all the above B___ and Shandlory ware and commodities both in the Shopp and cellar.
. . . unto my Sister Mary Harding five pounds to buy her a ring.
. . . unto John Bleake in Boston, New England fifty pounds for the use of the children of Nathaniel Wood, Decd.

. . . unto the two youngest Sonnes of my Brother Nathaniel Jackson fifty pounds apiece.

. . . one hundred pounds to bee Distributed equally to tenn young men to beginn the world with To such as my said Brother Robert Perrott and the said John Fullerton and William Jestey and the Survivors or Survivo^o of them or the Executro^o or Administratores of the said Robert Perrott shall think fitt.

. . . appoint my said Brother Robert Perrott Executor . . . Dated the fifteenth Day of August and June Dom 1665. . . in the psence of Jno. Houghton Sen and John Austin, his Servt. Probated [Latin]: 20 September 1667 by Sara Perrott.⁷⁰

John's will does not indicate where he resided in London, but Samuel Jackson in his will written 7 August 1642 did when he directed his sister Sarah Jackson to "paye unto John Perrott Citizen and Marchant taylor of London who liveth in Abchurch lane in the parish of S^t. Nicholas Acons the summe of twentie shilling which I borrowed of him."⁷¹ The parish records for St. Nicholas Acons include the following:

p. 72. 2 February 1642(3) John Parrett of this parish and Sara Jaxson searvant to Jams Taplin Married.

p. 110. 3 October 1643 John Parett, the sonne of Jon. Parett and Jane his wife Buried.

p. 26. 13 June 1644 John Parett the sonne of John Parett and Sara his wife baptized.

p. 110. 6 May 1646 John Paret, the sonne of John Parett, and Sara his wife Buried.

p. 110. 9 August 1646 [blank] Parett, the sonne of John Parett, Chanler, and Sara his wife Buried.

p. 111. 28 September 1647 [blank] Parett, the sonne of John Parett, Chanler, and Sara his wife was stillborn Buried.

p. 115. 8 August 1657 Sarrah Perrett, the daughter of John Perrett and Sarrah his wiff, in church yarde Buried.⁷²

⁷⁰ Will of John Perrott, Merchant Tailor of London 11 September 1667, PROB 11/325, Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers, *The National Archives*, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/details-result.asp?Edoc_Id=908392&queryType=1&ndresultcount=1. A special thank you to Ronald Hill, FASG, for help in deciphering some of the wording.

⁷¹ John Anderson Brayton, "From One Boston to Another: Notes on the Ancestry of Mary (Jackson) Woodward," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 158 (2004): 214, online database, "Databases and Research," *NewEnglandAncestors.org*,

⁷² William, B.A. Brigg, *The Register Book of the Parish of St. Nicholas Acons, London, 1539-1812*, (Leeds: Walker and Laycock, London, 1890).

A Chandler was “a trader or dealer in supplies, provisions, and one who makes and sells candles.”⁷³ A merchant tailor was an armour maker/dealer or anyone who dealt in military camp equipment and clothing.⁷⁴ Thus as John became more prosperous, he branched out into items that were more profitable for him. John’s wife Sarah Jackson was the sister of Samuel Jackson and both were children of Edmund Jackson, mayor of Boston, Lincolnshire, in the 1630s. Israel and Nathaniel Jackson were brothers to Samuel and Sarah.⁷⁵ Although the parish records provide information about John, they do not mention Richard or other Perrotts.

John Perrott gave a legacy to the town of Potton in Bedfordshire. It seems unlikely that this was a random act, but possibly a gift to the town where John was born. The church records for the town of Potton are extant (with gaps) for both the parish and Bishop’s returns. The Bishop’s transcripts start in 1602 and the parish records start in 1614. There are no published transcripts, but the records have been microfilmed and indexed.⁷⁶

A Richard Perrott of Potton had a son John baptized 27 March 1626 which would make him too young to marry Sarah Jackson in 1642. There is an entry that shows that John, son of Richard the elder, became a draper’s apprentice on 15 October 1647.⁷⁷ He apparently died shortly after that. In his will written in 1653, Richard the elder of Potton did not list John as a son nor Mary as a daughter.⁷⁸ He did name a son Richard who appears to be well entrenched in Bedfordshire. So this family is not suitable as a candidate for John (d 1667) or for Richard of Middlesex County, Virginia.

However, a Thomas of Potton, also had a son John. The parish entries include the following references to Thomas’s children. Dates for other Perrets as well as

⁷³ Polly McGinty, *Rowan County Genealogical Society*, Vol 22 #1, 2008, p 20.

⁷⁴ Mary Wooldridge to the author, email 2 April 2008. Mary is a member of the Bedfordshire Family History Society. We are grateful to her for her transcriptions of some of the old Bedfordshire documents contained in this article.

⁷⁵ John Anderson Brayton, “From One Boston to Another: Notes on the Ancestry of Mary (Jackson) Woodward,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 158(2004):217, online database, “Databases and Research,” *NewEnglandAncestors.org*.

⁷⁶ Parish Church of Potton, Bedfordshire, Parish Registers, 1614–1948, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1614–1801, microfilm no. 0826465; Frederick Kurr, Transcripts of Parish Registers and Bishop’s Transcripts for Potton, Bedfordshire, England, 1602–1708 microfilm no. 0450473, Family History Library. Kurr appears to have created an unpublished document of combined information sorted by event and date (e.g. baptism, marriage, burial). He notes the discrepancies between the Bishop’s transcripts and the parish records.

⁷⁷ R. G. Perrett, “Drapers Apprentices 1615–1750,” *The P*rr*tt Society Family Notes*, 15(1998): 259.

⁷⁸ Will of Richard Parratt, Gentleman of Potton, Bedfordshire, 2 May 1656. PROB 11/255 Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers, *The National Archives*, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/details-result.asp?Edoc_Id=909595&queryType=1&resultcount=1. Transcription made with assistance of Mary Wooldridge of Bedfordshire Family History Society.

individuals shown in the chart at the end of this article can be found in the cited record.⁷⁹

- 18 April 1613 Joan, daughter of Thos: Perrett Baptized - Bishop.
- 11 June 1615 John the sonne of Thomas Parratt Baptized
- 13 February 1615/6 Joan Parrett Buried
- 21 September 1617 Margaret the daughter of Thomas Parrett Baptized
- 25 January 1619/0 Thomas the sonne of Thomas Parratt Baptized
- 10 February 1621/2 Richard the sonne of Thomas Parratt Baptized
- 9 May 1624 Mary the daughter of Thomas Parratt Baptized
- 24 December 1626 Bridget daughter of Thom: Parratt Baptized
- 30 October 1631 Walter the sonne of Thom: Perratt Baptized
- 1 June 1654 David sonne of Tho: Paratt Baptized - Bishop

Thomas Perrot of Potton is the most probable father of Richard of Virginia, John the merchant taylor, Mary Harding, and the Robert who had two sons. There are baptismal entries for Richard, John and Mary, but none for Robert. However there also is not a baptismal entry for Henry Perrott, eldest son of Richard the elder of Potton. Logically Robert Perrot would also be the eldest son, since he had at least two grown children at the time of John's will in 1665. So the absence of Henry's record indicates that it is possible that Robert's record is also missing.

Richard Perrott the elder and Thomas Perrott the elder of Potton were brothers. This is shown by the will of John Perrott transcribed below:

In the name of God Amen The Sixteenth day of June in the fouer and forty
 yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne Ladie Elizabethe . . . I John Perrett
 of Potton in the countye of Bedford malster⁸⁰ being sicke in bodie . . .
 Item I give and bequeathe unto Margaret my wyfe and to her assignes all
 that my message or tenement wherein I now dwell in Horslow Streete in
 Potton aforesaide with the appurtenances . . .
 And after the decease of the saide Margaret my wyfe Then I give and
 bequeathe my saide message or tenement in Horslow Streete with the
 appurtenances unto Thomas Perrett my youngest sonne and to the heires
 of his bodie lawfullie begotten And for want of suche issue the remainder

⁷⁹ Parish Church of Potton, Bedfordshire, Parish Registers, 1614–1948, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1614–1801, microfilm no. 0826465; Frederick Kurr, Transcripts of Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts for Potton, Bedfordshire, England, 1602–1708 microfilm no. 0450473, Family History Library.

⁸⁰ Pamela Birch, Conservator, Premises and Projects Officer, Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service, in an email on 31 March 2008 provided a description for a maltster: someone who produces and supplies malt (i.e., a sprouted grain, often barley, that has then been dried to stop it developing). While brewing was probably the main market for malt it could be used for other things and so it was a separate occupation to that of brewer. Although in many cases maltsters and brewers were linked I think the fact that John chooses to call himself a malster would suggest that he saw himself as a maker and supplier of malt rather than a brewer.

therefrom to my sonne Rychard Perrett and to his heires and assignes forever. . . .

Item I give unto Rychard my sonne the somme of fifteene pounds of good and lawfull monie of England to be put forthe to the best use of the saide Rychard my sonne at his age of sixteene yeares, . . .

Also I give morover unto Katherine my daughter Tenn pounds of lawfull Englishe monie to be put forthe to her best use at her age of Sixteene yeares,. . . Syne John Parort.

Witness the marke of Alice Farmer (X), John Thomas alias Moodie, Henrie Tarrie, the marke of Thomas Cornelis alias Hankin. Probated (Latin): 5 October 1602.⁸¹

The Margaret Perrett, who married Thos. Britton in 1602 Potton, was probably the widow of John who died in 1602.⁸² Richard Perrott, oldest son of John, apparently married three times and took over the family business. His will indicates he was very prosperous.⁸³ His descendants were living in Potton at least through 1700.

There is a will for Thomas Parrett in Potton, but this Thomas is the son of Richard the elder, and not the elder Thomas, who had children John, Richard, and Mary among others. It appears that none of the children of the elder Thomas settled in Potton, making it possible that the elder Thomas left the area shortly after his last child, Walter, was born in 1631. John Perrott, born in 1615, had to meet Samuel Jackson sometime before 7 August 1642 in order for him to be the John Perrot who died in 1667. Samuel Jackson lived in Boston, Lincolnshire. John Perrot's wife Sarah was Sarah Jackson, sister to Samuel. Samuel's will indicates she was single on 7 August 1642, and John and Sarah were married 2 February 1642/3 when John was 27. Sarah was baptised 8 January 1625/6,⁸⁴ so she would have been 17 on her marriage day. Unlike those of Potton, the microfilms of the Boston records are very difficult to read and therefore subject to errors of interpretation.⁸⁵

⁸¹ 1602-51, will of John Perrett probated 5 October 1602, Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service, www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/archive.

⁸² Parish Church of Potton, Bedfordshire, Parish Registers, 1614–1948, Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1614–1801, microfilm no. 0826465; Frederick Kurr, Transcripts of Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts for Potton, Bedfordshire, England, 1602–1708 microfilm no. 0450473, Family History Library.

⁸³ Will of Richard Parratt, Gentleman of Potton, Bedfordfordshire 2 May 1656. PROB 11/255 Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers, The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/details-result.asp?Edoc_Id=909595&queryType=1&resultcount=1.

⁸⁴ John Anderson Brayton, "From One Boston to Another: Notes on the Ancestry of Mary (Jackson) Woodward," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 158 (2004): 217, online database, "Databases and Research," NewEnglandAncestors.org.

⁸⁵ St. Botolph's Church, Boston, Lincolnshire, Parish Registers, 1557–1983, microfilm no. 1542028; Bishop's Transcripts for St. Botolph's Church, Boston (Lincolnshire), 1561–1921, microfilm no. 421930, Family History Library.

Luckily, the early Boston church records from St. Botolf have been published. The page numbers cited below are from the book by Besant and Foster, who had access to the original records. Thus their transcription is expected to be very reliable. There were multiple Parrott families living in Boston. The main Parrott family from Boston seems to stem from Henry Parrott who married Frances Morton in 1582. There is no evidence that this family is related to our Thomas of Potton. Thus those records were not transcribed below. The first record from our presumed Thomas of Potton occurred in 1634/5 documenting the wife of Thomas being buried. Thomas immediately remarried but died shortly later in 1639. The marriage record for Thomas of Potton is not extant, so it is not possible to state for certain that Margaret is the mother of John the Merchant Taylor and Richard of Virginia, but it seems likely if this is our Thomas.

- p. 177. 1634/5 February 20 Margrett ye wyfe of Tho: Parratt Buried
- p. 180. 1635/6 March 3 James ye son of Thomas and An: Parrat Baptized
- p. 180. 1635 May 1 Thomas Parrat and Amye Thornton (Thornton) Married
- p. 197. 1637 December 10 A still borne child of Thomas Parratt Buried
- p. 198. 1637/8 March 8 Edward Jackson alderman Buried
- p. 206. 1638/9 February 16 Thomas Parrott Buried⁸⁶

There is no extant will or probate for Thomas, but there in an Inventory. According to Mary Wooldridge, “Thomas was a Cob maker or builder, which was a craftsman builder who specialized in building house walls from layers of a mixture of soil, straw and water. This proved to be very durable, surviving ancient thatched houses are usually made of cob.”⁸⁷

A true and perfect Inventory of all the goods and chattels of Thomas Parratt late of Boston in the County of Lincoln Cob maker deceased praised by John Bydall, Thomas Parkin, George Yarwood and John Clark this first twentieth[?] of February Anno Domini 1638.

Item his purse and apparell

In the Hall. Item one Bedhead with coverings[?] and 2 Blanketts, one pare of sheets, 2 bolsters, 2 pillowes and one feather bed, Item one Cubbord?, Item 20 peeces of pewter small and great, Item foure potts and seaven[?] pans, Item Two candlsticks and one brazen skellitt, Item one small table and one chaire

In the Parlour. Item one Bedhead with the[?] Furniture, Item three paire of flaxen sheets, and three[?] paire of hempen sheets and two par [pair] of

⁸⁶ Frank Besant, C.W. Foster, ed., *The Parish Registers of Boston in the County of Lincoln, Volume 2, 1559–1638* (Saltergate, Lincoln: W.K. Morton and Sons, 1915).

⁸⁷ Mary Wooldridge to the author, email, 1 July 2008.

fusden[?] [fustian] sheets, Item six pillow beares [another name for pillow slips], Two table clothes and six napkins, Item two towells a pe[?] [this may be another way of saying pair] of linnen containers, and three course pillow beares, Item tow [two] cheste, one desk and a table, Item one hoe one barrell and a churne with six milkpans

In the Chamber. Item Sixteene yards of Woollen cloth, Item one little flock bedd coverlet, pillowes and a pe[?] of sheets, Item one lode of matts, Item foure byne and a little rich of hay, Item Nyneteene sheepe.⁸⁸

The inventory shows that while Thomas Parratt was not a rich man, he was not a poor one either. Although nothing to date has been found to show conclusively that Thomas was the father of John Perrot, the Merchant Taylor of London or Richard Perot of Middlesex County, Virginia, he is certainly a likely candidate.

Edmond Jackson, father of Sarah (wife of John Perrott), Samuel, Nathaniel and Israel among others died a year earlier than Thomas Parratt. Edmund Jackson was the mayor of Boston, gentleman and a merchant thus an important man in Boston.⁸⁹

John Perrot (d 1667) mentions in his will a sister, Lenox Jackson of Boston, Lincolnshire, who herself left a will dated 17 April 1705 and probated 3 December 1706.⁹⁰ Lenox Jackson was the wife of Israel Jackson who left a will dated 1 October 1681 and probated 21 November 1681.⁹¹ Neither will clarifies the relationship (sister or sister-in-law) of Lenox to John Perrot.⁹² In all of the wills referenced in this report, the word “in law” was never used. For example, John left a legacy to his *brother* Nathaniel Jackson, who was actually his brother-in-law and

⁸⁸ 148-42 Inventory of Thomas Parrott 1638, Lincolnshire Archives, St. Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB, England, www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/archives. Transcribed by Mary Wooldridge of Bedfordshire Family History Society. “I have got stuck in a few places where the person who originally wrote the inventory kept changing his style of writing, very off putting. Where I am not certain that I am correct I have put a question mark, the scribe also had a habit of shortening words and missing whole ones out, this was not uncommon in those days. Also it seems strange to have some of things listed under The chamber, so I think he may’ve missed a line above the Byne and hay rick”.

⁸⁹ Frank Besant, C.W. Foster, ed., *The Parish Registers of Boston in the County of Lincoln, Volume 2, 1559–1638*, (Saltergate, Lincoln: W.K. Morton and Sons, 1915), 70, 73, 76, 81, 91, 135, 143, 151, 156.

⁹⁰ Will of Lenox Jackson, widow, of Boston, Lincolnshire, 3 December 1706, PROB 11/491, Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers, *The National Archives*, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/details-result.asp?Edoc_Id=656995&queryType=1&resultcount=1.

⁹¹ Will of Israel Jackson, merchant of Boston, Lincolnshire 21 November 1681, PROB 11/368, Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers, *The National Archives*, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/details-result.asp?Edoc_Id=811732&queryType=1&resultcount=1.

⁹² Mary Wooldridge feels there is enough information in the will of Lenox Jackson to indicate that she is not a sister to John Perrott.

the brother of his wife Sarah. It is likely that Lenox Jackson was also his wife's sister. If Lenox was an actual sister to John, then there is no record of her birth, and it is unlikely that she would have been significantly older than Israel, who was born 21 October 1624 in Boston.⁹³

The proposed ancestry assumes that Thomas Perratt, son of John, moved to Boston, Lincolnshire, a port city, shortly after the birth of his last son Walter. After arriving in Boston his first wife died and Thomas remarried. Shortly after that Thomas died. Around that time son John got to know the Jacksons well enough to lend Samuel Jackson money and later marry Samuel's sister Sarah. John then moved to London where he became a merchant taylor. Mary also moved to London and married a Harding. Somehow Richard, son of Thomas, learned of an opportunity in Virginia. Perhaps this was through his Jackson connections since Edmond Jackson had been mayor of Boston and a merchant. Since his parents were now gone Richard seized the opportunity to emigrate to the new world.

It would be ideal if the elusive Robert Perrott, who had two sons according to John and Richard Perrot, could be found. In order to get an idea how many Robert Perrotts might have been alive in the time period in question, a search was done using the P*rr*tt Society database for Robert Perrots were born between 1600 and 1615. This is the possible time frame for Robert's birth, assuming that he had to be older than both Richard and John to have grown children by 1665.⁹⁴ There were twelve baptismal records for P*rr*ttts using a forename of Robert in that fifteen-year time span. But this period is also the time when many parishes started keeping records, so this is most likely a smaller number than the actual number of Robert Perrotts who were born then. To date, a paper trail for Robert, brother to Richard and John, has not been found. Thus, the search continues for proof of the English roots of Richard Perrott of Middlesex County, Virginia.

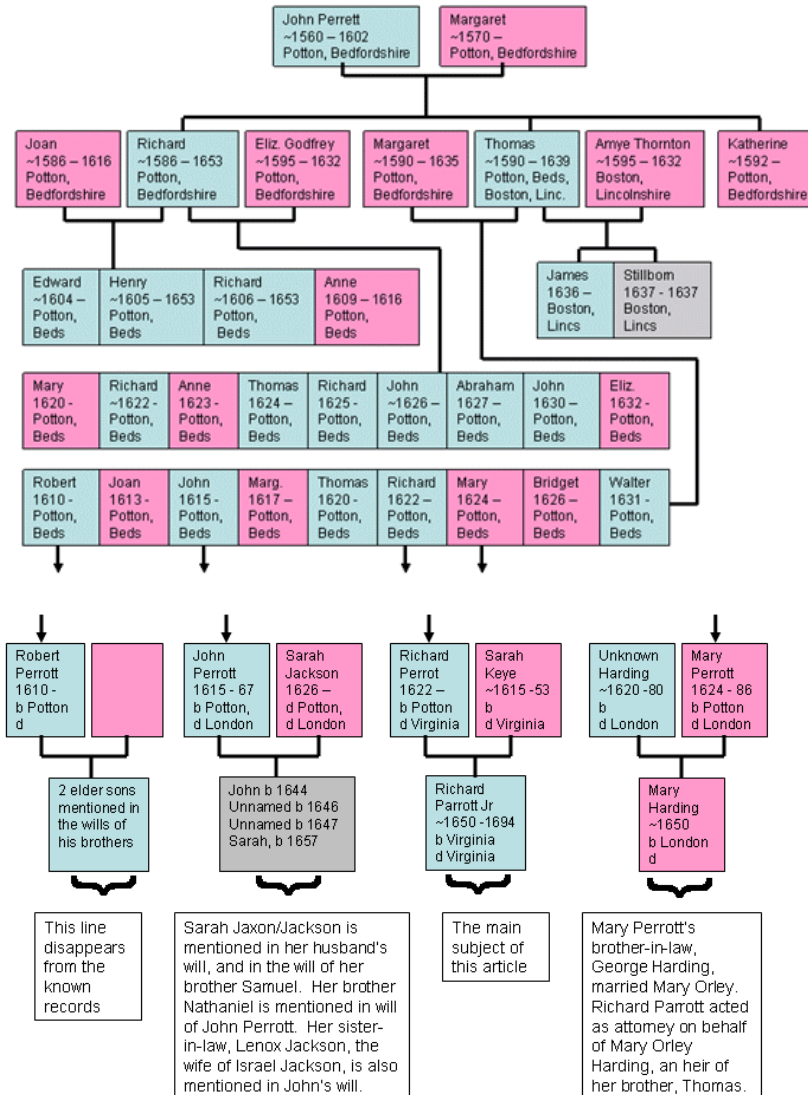
Note: Full transcriptions of many of the records referenced in this article are posted online at

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/parrotlines.shtml>

⁹³ John Anderson Brayton, "From One Boston to Another: Notes on the Ancestry of Mary (Jackson) Woodward," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 158 (2004): 217, online database, "Databases and Research," *NewEnglandAncestors.org*.

⁹⁴The P*rr*tt Society in England, members-only database, www.p-rr-tt.org.uk/pass.asp.

The following diagram shows the possible ancestry of Richard Perrot Sr. of Middlesex County, Virginia.



(to be continued)