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

(Continued from Volume 47, No. 1)

by
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NATHANIEL & LUKE PARROTT

As mentioned previously, in the 4 January 1672 deed to his son, Richard Perrot referred to his brother, Robert and Robert's two eldest sons [unnamed]. There has been endless speculation as to the identity of Richard's nephews. Recent evidence provides new clues that may shed light on the identity of one of the possible nephews (or grandnephew), Nathaniel Parrott, whose origin has long been a mystery.

The earliest record for Nathaniel Parrott is as a witness to a will in Prince George County, Virginia, in 1721.¹ He had lost his right hand by 1722,² and by 1726 he was serving as clerk of Bristol parish which until 1735 included a

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¹ Benjamin B. Weisiger, *Prince George County, Virginia, Wills and Deeds 1713–1728* (Richmond, Va.: the author, 1973), 125. 6-943. 19 January 1721 Will of Peter Jones Jr. of Bristol Parish. Wife Mary, my plantation I live on during her widowhood, but only $\frac{1}{3}$ if she marries; Son Abraham, a part of my land on the South side of Brickhouse Run joining my son in law Peter Jones's land, 70 or 80 acres; Son Peter, the remaining part of the land I live on; Son William, land on the upper side of Basses Branch, 100 acres; Son Thomas, plantation on the great creek of Nottoway River, 150 acres, to be taken out of my tract of 400 acres; Son John, 150 acres, part of the above 400 acres, adjoining Indian Will; Son Wood, 100 acres joining my son Thomas; Son Abraham, two slaves; Daughter Mary Jones wife of Peter Jones, a mulatto named Matt and my silver tobacco box; Daughter Ann Jones, slaves and items; Daughter Margaret Jones, slaves and items; Daughter Martha Jones, slaves and items. Executors: Trusty friend Maj. Robert Munford, son Peter. Witnesses: Nathaniel Parrott, Daniel Jones, George Williams, James Thompson. Recorded: 10 January 1726.

² Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720–1789* (Richmond, Va.: the author, 1898), 10. 10 June 1722 It is ordered that Nath. Parrot being lame his right hand cut off be acquitted from paying parish levies.

portion of Henrico County south of the James River.³ Since the occupation of clerk, required the ability to read and write, he must have had some education. His first known child was born in 1725, thus he was likely married to Penelope Irby a year or two before that date. Nathaniel's birth date was probably about 1700.⁴

Nathaniel's wife Penelope was the daughter of Joshua Irby.⁵ Irby made it clear in his will dated 1745 that he was unhappy with his daughter. Perhaps this had to do with the fact that Nathaniel and Penelope uprooted their family and moved to Craven County, North Carolina, by 1737, where Nathaniel and Penelope witnessed a will.⁶ Nathaniel died in 1742 and Penelope moved the family back to Virginia.⁷

There are some land patents in Henrico County that are interesting in that they show Henrico County residents transporting Parrotts to the colonies in the late 1600s. Of course there is nothing to suggest that these Parrotts actually went to

³ Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720-1789* (Richmond, Va.: the author, 1898), 29. 10 November 1726 Ordered that Nathl. Parrot be Clerk for ye chapple at Sapponey and he be allowed 2000 pounds of tobacco annom by the parish.

⁴ Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720-1789* (Richmond, Va.: the author, 1898), 350. Tho. s of Nath. & Penellope Parratt born 30th xbr last baprt March 28th 1725.

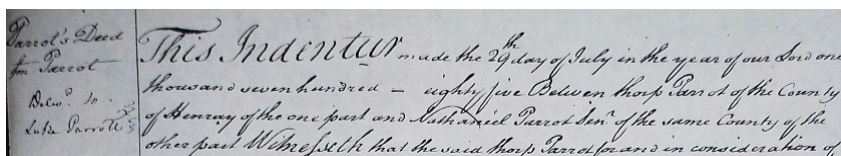
⁵ Benjamin B. Weisiger, *Colonial Wills of Henrico County, Virginia, Part Two: 1737-1781* (Richmond, Va.: the author, 1977), 23. ?-139. 28 August 1745 Will of Joshua Irby of Henrico County. To Edmund Irby, son of Anthony Irby, 200 acres at lower end of my land, beginning at the river, bounded by Capt. Henry Anderson and Cedar Creek. If he dies, then land goes to his sister Wilmoth Irby. To my wife Jane, my land for widowhood, and then divided between John Worsham and Joshua Worsham, sons of George Worsham, 100 acres to Joshua and the rest to John. To said Joshua Worsham the tract I bought of Richard Womack. To my daughter Sarah Worsham, 2 negroes. Wife to have dwelling, etc. for life. The remaining part of my upper tract that my son John lives on, to him, also items after my wife's death. To daughter Mary Dewberry, a negro. My land on lower side of great branch of Naqua Creek in Brunswick County to 2nd son of Mary Dewberry, who was born in my house. My land at fork of said creek to 3rd son of said Mary. To son Peter, one negro. To my granddaughter Wilmoth Irby, daughter of my son Anthony, negro after my wife's death. Personal estate to be divided between my sons John and Peter and daughters Mary and Sarah. To George Worsham, all stock at my Quarter, provided he live there or put someone there. My part of the mill and privileges to Edmund Irby, son of Anthony. As for my daughter Penelope Parrot, let her keep what is in her possession and that is more than she does deserve. To my son Joshua Irby, 1 shilling and it is my desire he be turned out of doors by the last of November next. To Elizabeth Moickey, 1 shilling. To son William Irby, 1 shilling. All my money in England to George Worsham and his heirs. Executors: wife Jane and George Worsham. Trustees: Mr. Abraham Green, Mr. Richard Bland, Mr. John Povall. Witnesses: Peter Wankeir, William Beazley, William Herringham. Recorded: May 1746.

⁶ Wynette Parks Haun, *Craven Precinct-County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1730 thru 1741, Book II* (Durham, N. C.: the author, 1981), 59.

⁷ Wynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1742-1748, Book III* (Durham, N. C.: the author, 1983), 3.

Henrico County or that they are connected to Nathaniel, but the names Robert Perrot in 1690,⁸ and Richard Perrot in 1683,⁹ may be more than just coincidental.

According to a 1783 Halifax County record, Nathaniel Parrott Jr., born in 1726, son of Nathaniel and Penelope,¹⁰ had a son Thorp Parrott. Scott considered Nathaniel to be the descendant of Francis Parrott of Chowan precinct, North Carolina (discussed later), by virtue of the fact that Nathaniel's son, Thomas, married Elizabeth Hardy, while her cousin, Lamb Hardy, married a daughter of Francis.¹¹ Tempting as this assignation is, it is not supported by additional records and DNA information found since the original publication of *Links*. The main clue comes through another Parrott, Luke (d. 1838), whose origins have also remained a mystery until now.



A 1785 Pittsylvania County record links Luke Parrott to both Nathaniel and Thorp Parrott via a “Delivered to Luke Parrott” notation on the left margin of the deed.¹² Whether the deed to Nathaniel was from his son Thorp who could have received the land as part of his legacy from James Martin, or an older Thorp Parrott who first appears in the records of Halifax County about 1769¹³ is unclear.

⁸ Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*, Volume II, 1666–1695 (Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Library, 1977), 344. Patent Book 8, p. 53: 21 April 1690 Jeremiah Benskin, 780 acres on south side of James River above land of Honble. Wm. Byrd, Esqr. at a place called Powhite Swamp, Importation of 16 persons: ... Robert Perrot,

⁹ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*, Volume II, 1666–1695, 256. Patent Book 7, p. 250: 16 April 1683 Mr. Joseph Tanner & Mr. Richard Wamocke, 206 acres in Henrico County in Bristol Parish on North side of Appomattock River ... Transportation of 5 persons: Tho. Bayes, Richd. Perrot, David Salisbury, Tho. White, Hen. Boyce.

¹⁰ Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, *The Vestry Book and Register of Bristol Parish, Virginia, 1720–1789* (Richmond, Va.: the author, 1898), 350. Nathaniel Son of Nathaniel & penilopy parrot born febr 12th bapt 29 May 1726: 1725.

¹¹ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 78.

¹² Gayle Austin, *Abstracts of Pittsylvania County, Virginia, Deeds, 1783–1790*, (Easley, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 2007), 231. Pittsylvania Co. Deed Book 8, p. 352: 29 July 1785 Thorp Parrot of Henry County to Nathaniel Parrot Sr. of same for 33 pounds, 220 acres bounded by Barber's path. Delivered to Luke Parrot. Signed: Thorp Parrot (X). Witnesses: Peyton Smith, Henry Atkinson, George Ramsle. Recorded: 16 January 1786. Photo by Douglas Parrott in 2007 at the Pittsylvania County clerk's office, Chatham, Virginia.

¹³ *Halifax County, Virginia Court Orders, 1767–1770* (Miami Beach, Fla.: TLC Genealogy, 2000), 202. Order Book 6, p. 314: March 1769 Thorp Parrot assignee of Andrew Wade vs William Covington and Samuel Cox. Debt. Dismissed.

The relationship of Luke Parrott to Nathaniel Parrott is also not certain.¹⁴ However, DNA indicates Luke is related to Richard Perrot of Middlesex¹⁵ County.¹⁶ The first Nathaniel is not the right age to be a grandson or great-grandson of Richard, and the children of Richard Perrott Jr. are well known via the Christ Church parish register.¹⁷ Thus the most plausible explanation is that Nathaniel is descended from Richard's brother, Robert. However, Richard Perrot of Virginia had a presumed uncle Richard Parratt of Potton, who also had many male heirs. When looking at the Potton church records,¹⁸ it is not obvious that any of these male descendants could be the ancestor of Nathaniel. But at this point, it is not possible to rule them out either. A DNA test from one of Richard Parratt of Potton's descendants would be a tremendous help, as that would also confirm the ancestry of Richard Perrot of Virginia.

John Perrott's will did not indicate where his brother Robert Perrot was living, so the presumption is that Robert was living in London in 1665 and capable of acting as executor in case John's wife Sarah was dead at the time of probate. A Robert Parrott witnessed the will of George Smith of London, Gent, dated 10 January 1658.¹⁹ Thorpe Parrott, son of Nathaniel Parrott Jr., was given a first name suggesting a Thorpe heritage. The Thorpes mentioned in Smith's will are probably too old to be directly tied to Nathaniel Parrott Jr. Thus the association of Robert Parrott to a will in which Thorpes are named could be mere coincidence. But it is also possible that some Thorpe and Parrott descendants immigrated to the area where Nathaniel Parrott lived. Further research is needed on Robert Parrott to clarify the issue.

Today, Richard's direct male living descendants, who still bear the name Parrott or Parrett, number over a thousand. Most descend from Richard's grandson

¹⁴ Michael Parrott, "The Parrott Family and Relatives: Luke Parrott," *Ancestry World Tree*, <http://awt.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=mlparr&id=i0040>: updated 1 March 2004; accessed 2009).

¹⁵ A descendant of Luke Parrott matches descendants of Richard Parrott in a 12-marker DNA test; additional testing needs to be done to determine the closeness of the relationship.

¹⁶ "Descendants of Richard Perrot of Middlesex Co., Virginia," <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/family-a.shtml>.

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), 41–42.

¹⁸ A complete list of Parrots in these records is posted at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/parrotlines.shtml>.

¹⁹ Henry F. Waters, *Genealogical Gleanings in England Vol 1*, 1907, p 697–698. Will of George Smith of London, Gent., To Anne Cox, sister to my beloved wife deceased. To Margaret Thorpe, another of my wife's sisters. To Elizabeth Thorpe, daughter of the said Margaret. To John Thorpe. ... Beloved & trusty friend Capt. John Silverwood of St. Giles Cripplegate, London, Gentleman, my lawful executor and my truly beloved friends and brethren Master Abraham Jesson and Master Trustran May to be overseers, both of them being members of Master Wallye's church. Witnesses: Robert Parrott, Lenye Mountgomery. Proved: 11 February 1658.

Robert or his grandson Curtis. However a significant number descend from either Robert or another Potton Parrott.

JOHN OF PARRAKETO POINT ON THE NANSEMOND RIVER

The earliest Parrott to arrive in Virginia was John Parrott, who arrived onboard the *Providence* in 1623. The information presented here is little changed from that presented in *Links*. He was listed as John Parrett in 1624, Elizabeth City,²⁰ and as John Parratt, servant, aged 36, in the muster of Mr. Danniell Gookins, 1624/5 at Newport News.²¹ This puts his birth date at ca. 1589. It is interesting that another servant listed with Parratt was Thomas Curtis, age 24. He later became Major Thomas Curtis, a justice and large landowner in Gloucester County at Mobjack Bay. He married Avarilla and they gave birth to many children, including Sarah Curtis on 16 August 1657 in Ware Parish, Gloucester County.²² It was Sarah Curtis who married William Halfhead at the age of 14 or 15 in Gloucester County,²³ and then Richard Perrot Jr. (son of Richard Perrot) of Middlesex County on 11 February 1672/3, at the age of 15.

In 1635, John Parrott obtained his first grant of 450 acres along the Nansemond River, which he called Parraketo Point, using nine headrights that included himself and his wife Prunella.²⁴ In 1650, he obtained a second patent for 900 acres.²⁵

According to Scott, John of Nansemond was possibly the son or grandson of Sir John Perrott, the Lord Deputy of Ireland discussed previously.²⁶ Sir John had a son, John, born ca. 1565, based on the Inner Temple Register, where an entry, dated 5 June 1583, reading, “John Perot, of Haryve, Co. Pembroke, 3rd son of John Perot, Knight” is found.²⁷ Three years earlier, John had entered Broadgates Hall school in Oxford.²⁸ There are no other records that can be definitely linked to this John Perrot.

²⁰ John Camden Hotten, *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality 1600-1700*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1980), 186.

²¹ John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607-1625/5*, Volume One, 4th Edition, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004), 48.

²² 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.

²³ Henry R. McIlwaine, *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, 1622-1632, 1670-1676* (1924; reprint, Richmond, Va.: Virginia State Library), 310: “30 September 1672 Orderd that Mr. George Halfhead doe pay unto Mrs. Sarah Halfhead twenty pounds Sterl or the Value thereof in good as shall Agree in lieu of his Demand for to Peraphanalia and all other Demands.”

²⁴ Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume One: 1623-1666* (1934; reprint, Richmond, Va.: Va. State Library and Archives, 1992), 21-22.

²⁵ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Volume One*, 197.

²⁶ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 16, 23.

²⁷ “Parrotts at Oxford and Cambridge”, *The P*rr*tt Society Family Notes*, 4 (1988): 111.

²⁸ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History*, 23.

Scott²⁹ noted that John of Nansemond disappeared from Virginia records after his second patent in 1650, when he was 61. This is the period when John the Quaker,³⁰ a well documented character from history, was active in Europe. John the Quaker and his wife at the time moved to Barbados in 1662. He died in Jamaica in 1665.

There are no known descendants of John, although there is speculation on the Internet that the Perritt family of North Carolina might descend from John. Additional information on this John, along with Perritt DNA samples, would help clarify several Parrott relationships. If John of Nansemond and John the Quaker were one and the same, then there is a tentative link to the other Quaker Parrott family of Maryland, described next.

WILLIAM, GABRIEL AND FRANCIS PARROTT OF MARYLAND

The best known early Maryland Parrotts were William of Talbot County,³¹ and Francis of Talbot & Calvert Counties, along with Gabriel of Anne Arundel County, and their descendants. All are described in *Links that Bind*, though Scott was careful not to specify the nature of their relationship. This group of Parrotts appears to be a self-contained, interrelated set. The ways in which they are interrelated has been summarized in the chart on the next page.

Francis of Calvert and Talbot counties first appears in the record retroactively on 8 November 1663, when James Ashborne mentioned headrights obtained by transporting Francis Parrott in 1655.³² Next, on 27 August 1658 (commonly reported as 1648), Francis Parrott purchased 100 acres from Thomas Meares in Calvert County on the Chesapeake Bay.³³ Francis later purchased 300 acres on 14 April 1663 from Andrew Skinner.³⁴ In the interim, he transported himself and two servants, receiving three head rights in return.³⁵

²⁹ Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History*, 27.

³⁰ L. Stephen and S. Lee, eds. *The Dictionary of National Biography from the Earliest Times to 1900, Volume XV* (Oxford, England: Owens-Poekrich, Oxford University Press, 1917), 912–914.

³¹ “William Parrott of Talbot Co., Maryland,” *RootsWeb* (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/williamquaker.shtml>; updated 25 January 2008).

³² Liber AA, fol. 403, MSA SM215-3, microfilm no. SR 8200; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. The text reads: “I James Ashborne doe assigne over unto Tho. Bradley or his Assignes all my title of land for service done in this province by my selfe whoe came in the yeare 1650 Elizabeth Ashborne 1650 Francis Parrott 1655 Peter Wren 1657 [??] Cobb 1657 Mary Gosse 1659 Geo. Barber 1661. Witness my hand this 8th Novem 1663.”

³³ Liber Q, ff. 103–104, MSA S920-5, MdHR 17,338-1; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. Note that the actual document is dated 1648, but the same document mentions that the Province of Maryland had received its seals at arms in 1649. Both dates cannot be correct. Since the 1649 date is repeated in other dates, the 1648 date must be a transcription error.

³⁴ Liber 5, ff. 546–548, MSA S11-8, MdHR 17,338-2; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

³⁵ Liber AA, ff. 317–318, MSA SM215-3, microfilm no. SR 8200; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. The text reads, “These prnts wittniseth yt I Francis Parrott have transported my selfe free into this Province of Maryland & Two servants ye one named Thomas Evans, wch. came into this Province Ano 1660 ye other called by ye name of Willm. Waker wch came in the yeare 1662. All these rights I doe assigne over unto Francis Armstrong & Hopkin Davies. wittnes my hand 25th feb 1662.”

William Parrott lived in Talbot County. Two tracts of land were surveyed on William Sr.'s behalf in 1653: one for 250 acres,³⁶ and one for 400 acres, called Charley.³⁷ In 1658 he obtained the 250-acre tract for transporting three servants,³⁸ and the 400-acre tract for transporting himself and his family.³⁹ One or both of these tracts were referred to as The Cage by 1669.⁴⁰ William also acquired 500 acres, called Poppingay in 1659. This land had been assigned to him in 1651, surveyed in 1654, and patented in 1659.⁴¹

A relationship between Francis of Calvert/Talbot and William of Talbot was assumed by Scott partly on the basis that they owned the same tracts of land. As related in *Links that Bind*, a land patent for 100 acres, now called Partlett, ends up in William's ownership in 1659. Marshy Point, which is owned by William by 1665, was part of the 100 acres patented by Francis, as were the 300 acres later (1670) owned by Gabriel Parrott.⁴² In reality, these patents were never certificated, and *Links That Bind* confuses the acreage patented with certificate numbers, and therefore assumed these were the same land parcels previously owned by Francis Parrott. Though William did patent both Partlett, which he obtained for transporting Rebecca Lee,⁴³ and Marshy Point Addition, which he obtained from John Edmondson, these are really different tracts of land from those owned by Francis; their only similarity is their acreage.⁴⁴ The only land Francis owned during this time period ends up in possession of Hopkin Davies and Francis Armstrong.⁴⁵

While a relationship among these Maryland Parrotts cannot be inferred based on land tenure, there are other indications that these Parrotts were related. The will

³⁶ Land Office (Patent Record) William Parrott, certificate of survey, 29 Jul 1653, Liber AB & H, fol. 303, MSA SM2-5, microfilm no. SR 7344; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

³⁷ Land Office (Patent Record) William Parrott, certificate of survey, Charley, 22 Sep 1653, Liber AB & H, fol. 358, MSA SM2-5, microfilm no. SR 7344; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

³⁸ Land Office (Patent Record, Original) William Parrott, land patent, 19 Jun 1658, Liber Q, ff. 53-54, MSA S920-6, MdHR 17,336-2; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

³⁹ Land Office (Patent Record, Original) William Parrott, land grant, 19 Jun 1658, Liber Q, ff. 52-53, MSA S920-6, MdHR 17,336-2; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

⁴⁰ Land Office (Patent Record, Original) John Grammer, resurvey of "Wards Neck," 7 May 1669, Liber HH, fol. 375, MSA SM215-9, microfilm no. SR 8206; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis: "where it Intersect [on?] A Parcell of land formerly laid out for William Darratt Called ye Cage."

⁴¹ Land Office (Patent Record) George Bussey, certificate of survey, 5 Jul 1654; William Parrott, land patent, Poppingay, 7 Nov 1659, Liber 4, ff. 182-183, MSA SM2-7, microfilm no. SR 7346; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. Transcription of Land Office (Patent Record, original) Liber R, ff. 81-82.

⁴² Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 95.

⁴³ Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History*, 95-6.

⁴⁴ Land Office (Patent Record) William Parratt, certificate of survey and patent, Marshy Point Addition, surveyed 23 May 1665, grant dated 12 Sep 1665, Liber 8, ff. 230-231, MSA SM2-11, Microfilm no. SR 7350; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. Transcription of Land Office (Patent Record, Original) Liber DD, ff. 267-268.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

of Francis Parrott of Calvert County was written in 1669 and proved in 1671. He married Sarah, who is thought to be an Abraham and the sister of William's second wife, Ann Abraham.⁴⁶ However, there is no documentation to prove that Ann and Sarah were sisters, as Sarah's maiden name has never been recorded. The inference has been drawn from the fact that Ann's brother, Isaac Abraham, provided 40,000 lbs of tobacco as bond for Sarah to settle her husband's estate.⁴⁷ Such bonds were commonly provided by the widow's relatives.⁴⁸

A second Francis Parrott, absent from *Links That Bind*, had his estate inventoried on 10 January 1710 in Queen Anne's County, Maryland,⁴⁹ which was formed in 1706 from parts of Talbot, Dorchester and Kent counties. It is possible this Francis was the son of the first Francis, who died ca 1671. Although a deed to this Francis' land has not been found, his inventory shows he owned tobacco and livestock,⁵⁰ suggesting that he owned land as well. Other families connected to the descendants of William of Talbot, such as Pratt and Silvester, are mentioned in the administration bond or in the administration account.⁵¹

William died on 11 May 1669 in Talbot County, Maryland. His original will is still in existence, with its seal intact.⁵² Other seals survive as well. They are that of

⁴⁶ Ann is mentioned several times in William's will in 1668. Her last name is known because he appoints 'my loving brother [i.e., brother in law in today's terminology], Isaak Abraham' as an executor of his will. Isaac in turn receives 150 acres of land assigned to William Parrott by Thomas Harwood (Land Office (Patent Record, Original) Thos. Harwood, assignment of rights to William Parrot, and descentance to Isaac Abraham, 14 Dec 1670, Liber WT, fol. 41, MSA SM215-12, microfilm no. SR 7547; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis.

⁴⁷ The probate text reads, "uppon the foregoing last will & Testamt. of ... Francis Parrat Late of Talbot County Dec'd Administracon of all and Singular the Goods Chatles Rights and Debts of the Said Deceased was unto Sarah Parrat widdow and Relict of the Said Francis Parrat committed. Then the Said Sarah Parrat and Isaack Abraham became bound unto the Right Honoble. ye. Lord Propytry. in the Sume of Fourty Thousand Pounds of Tobacco for her due Administracon." Prerogative Court (Testamentary Proceedings) Francis Parrott will, 26 Jul 1669, proved 10 Feb 1671, Liber 5, ff. 208-209, MSA S529-12, MdHR 961; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. Transcription by Michael Hait, 2008, www.haitfamilyresearch.com.

⁴⁸ Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 2006), 271. Thanks to Peggy Parrott Feige for providing this reference.

⁴⁹ Queen Anne's County Register of Wills (Estate Papers) Francis Parrott estate, estate papers inc. administration bond, inventory, and account, folder 429, MSA C1341-5, MdHR 8878-429; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. Transcription by Michael Hait, 2008, www.haitfamilyresearch.com.

⁵⁰ *Ibid*, "To 306 Pownd of Tobaco ... To 2 : Cows Att ... To 2 young Stears 2 : year old pr. heed ... To : 1 Larg mare"

⁵¹ Queen Anne's County Register of Wills (Estate Papers), "KNOW all Men by these Presents that We Rebekah Parrott of Queen Anne's County Widdo., William Cooper & James Silvester of the Same County Planters..." William Parratt and Thomas Pratt signed as relations.

⁵² Talbot County Register of wills (Wills, Original) William Parrat, original will, 1669, Box 18, folder 41, MSA C1926-22, MdHR 9053-18-41.

Gabriel Jr. (will dated 5 May 1698),⁵³ Henry (will dated 24 June of 1685) son of William,⁵⁴ and William (will dated 8 May 1720), grandson of William of Talbot.⁵⁵

As was the case for the seals of the Middlesex County Perrots, these seals are also symbolic, rather than heraldic. As shown by the seal of Henry, sons did not have to use the seals of their fathers; much like Henry Perrot of Middlesex County did not use the same seal as Richard Perrot Jr.

Gabriel Parrott Sr. has been said to be the son of William Sr., but the relationship between them has never been firmly established.⁵⁶ Although the seal of Gabriel Sr. has not survived, that of Gabriel Jr. still exists. Both William Sr. and Gabriel Jr. used the same design on their seals, differing only by the characters flanking the tree—characters that might be *M & 2* for William, and *R & L* for Gabriel. Likewise, Francis has also been said to be a son of William.⁵⁷ However, neither Gabriel nor Francis is mentioned in William's will, even though both were alive at the time the will was written. Perhaps William and Gabriel Sr. were brothers.

Unfortunately, most seals from this family have not survived, having been removed, or covered with piece of paper and flattened, much as happened to the seal on the will of Richard Perrot mentioned previously. The photographs of the seals on the following documents are available online at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/william-family-wills.shtml>. Spellings are as they appear in their respective signatures:

- Will of John Parrott, grandson of William Sr., will dated 13 April 1720⁵⁸
- Will of Abner Parratt, great grandson of William Sr., will dated 14 November 1760⁵⁹
- Will of Francis Parrott, brother of above Abner, will dated 9 June 1761⁶⁰

⁵³ Prerogative Court (Wills, Original) Gabriell Parrott, original will, 5 May 1698, Box P, folder 10, MSA S540-18, MdHR 1330-18-10.

⁵⁴ Prerogative Court (Wills, Original) Henry Parrott, original will, 24 Jun 1685, Box P, folder 12, MSA S540-18, MdHR 1330-18-12.

⁵⁵ Talbot County Register of Wills (Wills, Original) William Parrott, original will, 8 May 1720, Box 19, folder 2, MSA C1926-23, MdHR 9053-19-2.

⁵⁶ Charles Francis Stein, *A History of Calvert County Maryland*, (Baltimore: Calvert County Historical Society, 1960), 303.

⁵⁷ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 108.

⁵⁸ Talbot County Register of Wills (Wills, Original) John Parrott, original will, 13 Apr 1720, Box 19, folder 3, MSA C1926-23, MdHR 9053-19-3. Photos of this and the other Maryland wills noted below were taken by Michael Hait, 2008, www.haitfamilyresearch.com.

⁵⁹ Talbot County Register of Wills (Wills, Original) Abner Parratt, original will, 14 Nov 1760, Box 19, folder 37, MSA C1926-23, MdHR 9053-19-37.

⁶⁰ Talbot County Register of Wills (Wills, Original) Francis Parrott, original will, 1761, Box 19, folder 38, MSA C1926-23, MdHR 9053-19-38.

- Will of Lydia Parratt, wife of Aaron Parratt, grandson of William, will dated 13 February 1766⁶¹
- Will of William Parratt, relationship undetermined, will dated 26 April 1770⁶²
- Will of Benjamin Parratt, great grandson of William, will dated 1 March 1773⁶³

The religious affiliation of William of Talbot is debatable. Scott believes him to have been a member of the Church of England, who converted to the Quaker faith before his death,⁶⁴ which would coincide with the time when Quakerism was just becoming established in Maryland.⁶⁵ However, there is no documentation that would support William's affiliation with the Quakers.

Gabriel Jr. was of the Church of England. That much is particularly apparent from his will and that of his widow, Elizabeth Lockwood Parrott, both of whom make explicit reference to "the Compulcon of the Church of England."⁶⁶

Likewise, there is no direct record that either Francis was a Quaker. However, there is no doubt that William's children joined the Quaker faith, and there are frequent references to his descendants and their widows in their records.⁶⁷

Parrotts who can trace their ancestry to William of Talbot are still live in Maryland and Iowa, and probably other locations as well. It does not appear that Francis and Gabriel have direct-line male descendants. Recently, the results from a DNA test from one of these descendants of William of Talbot appears to rule out a connection between Richard of Middlesex and William of Talbot. Another branch descended from William of Talbot still needs to be tested to confirm the results, in keeping with current standards for genealogy by DNA.

FRANCIS OF CHOWAN AND LAWRENCE OF GLOUCESTER

In contrast to Richard of Middlesex County and to William of Talbot County, the early generations of the Lawrence and Francis Parrott families are the ones with the least amount of surviving documentation. As mentioned previously, one

⁶¹ Talbot County Register of Wills (Wills, Original) Lydia Parratt, original will, 13 Feb 1766, Box 19, folder 44, MSA C1926-23, MdHR 9053-19-44.

⁶² Talbot County Register of Wills (Wills, Original) William Parratt, original will, 26 Apr 1770, Box 19, folder 48, MSA C1926-23, MdHR 9053-19-48.

⁶³ Talbot County Register of Wills (Wills, Original) Benjamin Parratt, original will, 1773, Box 19, folder 51, MSA C1926-23, MdHR 9053-19-51.

⁶⁴ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 19, 99.

⁶⁵ Kenneth Carroll, *Quakerism on the Eastern Shore* (Baltimore: Md. Historical Society, 1970).

⁶⁶ Will written 1 May 1698; probated 17 May 1698, Ann Arundell Co. Prerogative Court (Wills, Original) Gabriell Parrott, original will, 5 May 1698, Box P, folder 10, MSA S540-18, MdHR 1330-18-10. Prerogative Court (Wills, Original) Elizabeth Parrott, original will, 5 May 1698, Box P, folder 10, MSA S540-18, MdHR 1330-18-10. Transcription by Michael Hait, 2008, www.haitfamilyresearch.com.

⁶⁷ Lucy Kate McGhee, *Maryland Quaker (Friends) Records of Third Haven (Tred Avon) Talbot Co.*, Vol I (Washington: the author, 1950).

or more persons named Francis Parrott were transported to Maryland between 1655 and 1662.⁶⁸ The assumption has been that these reports all refer to one person, namely the same Francis described previously, and who obtained the previously described, non-existent land patent for 100 acres in 1648 mentioned in *Links that Bind*. Furthermore, the Francis Parrott who appears in the Chowan Precinct of Albemarle County, North Carolina, in 1691 has been widely asserted to be the son of the Francis of Talbot and Calvert counties⁶⁹ who was described in the previous section.

At this point, there is no evidence, other than coincidence of time and space, to support the presumption that Francis of 1655, 1658, and 1662 were the same person. There is even less evidence to support that Francis of Calvert was the father of Francis of Chowan. Instead, inferences were drawn from the fact that Francis of Calvert wrote his will on 26 July 1669, and mentioned his pregnant wife, Sarah.⁷⁰ If the child was male and survived, it is more likely this child was the Francis who died ca. 1710 in Queen Anne's County and not the Francis who appeared in North Carolina and whose descendants have a different DNA profile from that of the Maryland Parrotts.

Lawrence Parrott was transported to Maryland ca. 1662 by John Singleton.⁷¹ This Lawrence is said in *Links* to have sold headrights in Maryland in the

⁶⁸ Liber AA, fol. 403, MSA SM215-3, microfilm no. SR 8200; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. The text reads: "I James Ashborne doe assigne over unto Tho. Bradley or his Assignes all my title of land for service done in this province by my selfe whoe came in the yeare 1650 Elizabeth Ashborne 1650 Francis Parrott 1655 Peter Wren 1657 [??] Cobb 1657 Mary Gosse 1659 Geo. Barber 1661. Witness my hand this 8th Novem 1663."

Liber Q, ff. 103–104, MSA S920-5, MdHR 17,336-1; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. The actual document is dated in 1648, but the same document mentions that the Province of Maryland had received its seals at arms in 1649. Both dates cannot be correct. Since the 1649 date is repeated in other dates, the 1648 date must be a transcription error, making the 1658 date the more likely one.

Liber AA, ff. 317–318, MSA SM215-3, microfilm no. SR 8200; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. The text reads, "These prnts wittnisseth yt I Francis Parrott have transported my selfe free into this Province of Maryland & Two servants ye one named Thomas Evans, wch. came into this Province Ano 1660 ye other called by ye name of Willm. Waker wch came in the yeare 1662. All these rights I doe assigne over unto Francis Armstrong & Hopkin Davies. wittnes my hand 25th feb 1662."

⁶⁹ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 96, 109.

⁷⁰ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 94–5.

⁷¹ Land Office (Patent Record) John Singleton, enters rights, ca. 1662, Liber 5, ff. 238, MSA SM2-8, microfilm no. SR 7347; Maryland State Archives, Annapolis. Transcription of Land Office (Patent Record, Original) Liber X, ff. 302., Transcription by Michael Hait, 2008, www.haitfamilyresearch.com. "This day came John Singleton and Enters these Rights for himself Edward Hooke, Lawrence Parrott, Ann Hallyard, Willm. Singleton, Thomas [...] Richard Joanes, Mary Joanes his Wife, Richard Joanes in all 9 persons, and now transported and demds. Warrant for the same. Warrant vide to Surveyor Generall to lay out for John Singleton, and Richard Joanes 450 Acres of Land return ult: Augusti next."

1660s,⁷² though no documentation to support this assertion has been found. However, Lawrence did sell headrights in Virginia. He received 137 acres⁷³ in Kingston Parish, Gloucester/Mathews County, on 26 September 1678 for transporting three persons.⁷⁴ He received an additional 203 acres on 23 October 1690 for transporting 5 persons,⁷⁵ and paid taxes accordingly on 340 acres in 1704.⁷⁶ A Michael Parrott obtained 110 acres adjoining the land of Lawrence for three headrights on 20 October 1704, and a Richard Parrott obtained 43 acres adjoining that of Lawrence for one headright on 16 June 1714.⁷⁷ One possibility is that Michael and Richard were sons of Lawrence.

No documentation has been found to support assertions circulating around the Internet that Francis and or Lawrence arrived in Baltimore on 12 February 1662 aboard the good ship *David*, or that Lawrence patented land in Baltimore.⁷⁸

The destruction of all Gloucester County records in an 1820 fire has made it very difficult to research Lawrence, though a few records survive from other counties. A Lawrence Parrott co-paid a £400 security bond in 1704 Richmond County on behalf of Margaret Bronaugh, widow of Richard Cary.⁷⁹ These actions suggest Richard died intestate. As the administratrix, Margaret would have had to post a bond equal in value to the worth of the estate. As mentioned previously, such

⁷² Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 68.

⁷³ Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History*, 68, gives 150 as the acreage, but the figure 137 is present in both this patent and the subsequent one from 1690.

⁷⁴ Virginia Patent Book 6, 1666–1679, page 660, Land Office Records, Library of Virginia., Richmond.

⁷⁵ Virginia Patent Book 8, 1689–1695, page 98, Land Office Records, Library of Virginia., Richmond.

⁷⁶ Annie Laurie Wright Smith, *The Quit Rents of Virginia, 1704* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975), 68.

⁷⁷ Virginia Patent Book 9, 1697–1706, page 615, and Virginia Patent Book 10, 1710–1719, page 127, Land Office Records, Library of Virginia., Richmond.

⁷⁸ For example, “Parrott Documentation, (<http://www.bjhughes.org/parrdoc.html>: updated 19 May 2002), “Found that in 1662 that Francis and Lawrence (sic) came from England on The Good Ship David. Lawrence was grated (sic) 50 acres in Baltimore Co 1662.”

⁷⁹ Beverley Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, Vol. 1, Richmond County Records, 1692–1704 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1961), 281: Page 23-A Power of Atty. 3rd of 8ber 1704. “Margaret Carey of the parish of Kingston in the County of Gloucester Admin’r of my dec’ed husband Richd Cary have named and Constituted and by these presents do name Ordaine appoint and make my Trusty and well beloved Brother David Bronaugh of the County of Richmond my true and Lawfull attorney” to collect debts. Signed Margaret x Cary. Wit: Alex’r Doniphon, John x Tidee[?]. Att a Court held for Gloucester County on wednesday the 16 day of Feb’ry 1703. Margaret Cary Widow of Richard Carey Deced upon her petition hath order granted for administration of all and singular the Estate of the said Richard Cary giving Security according to Law. Whereupon Jeremiah Bronaugh and Lawrence Parrott having Entered into bond of foure hundred pounds Sterl with the said Margaret Cary for her due administration Came into Court and acknowledged the same. A True Copy Test P Beverly Cl Cur. Recordat Test James Sherlock Cl Cur.

bonds can indicate a relationship between the widow and the person posting the bond.⁸⁰

A generation, or more likely two generations, after Lawrence arrived in Maryland, a Lawrence Parrott appears in Northumberland County, Virginia,⁸¹ and a Francis Parrott appears in the Chowan district of Albemarle County, North Carolina, in 1691, when he witnessed the will of Francis Hartley, Esq.⁸² The speculation that is quite prominent on Parrott postings on the Internet is that Lawrence of Gloucester descended from the Lawrence of 1662, and that Francis of Chowan descended from Francis of Maryland. However, as has been discussed, there is no supporting evidence that Francis of Maryland had a son who moved to North Carolina.

The DNA of their descendants shows that Francis of Chowan and Lawrence of Gloucester almost certainly were related to each other. One possibility is that both could have descended from the Lawrence who arrived in Maryland. They could have been brothers or cousins, among other possibilities. The exact nature of their relationship cannot be determined based on DNA alone.

It has been pointed out in *Links*, that Parrott records are altogether absent in the records of St. Stephen's parish in Northumberland County, suggesting that the family may have been Quaker rather than belonging to the Church of England.⁸³ If so, it would suggest a relationship with William Parrott of Talbot County. However, it must be pointed out that Lawrence lived in Wicomico parish, not St. Stephen's. Lawrence appears in the vestry record for Wicomico Parish in Northumberland County on 2 August 1743, when it was ordered that Lawrence Parrott be one of the land processioners for the precinct.⁸⁴ Two years later, Laurence Parrot was recorded as owing the parish £200 at a vestry meeting on 12 October 1745.⁸⁵

It has also been speculated that Lawrence was the son of Robert, brother to Richard Perrot of Middlesex County.⁸⁶ DNA results have now confirmed beyond doubt, that Lawrence of Northumberland and Francis of Chowan precinct were not related to Richard of Middlesex County. DNA has also confirmed for the

⁸⁰ Loretto Dennis Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 2006), p 271. Thanks to Peggy Parrott Feige for providing this reference.

⁸¹ 10 Jul 1733, Northumberland County Order Book 3, 1729–1737, p. 101: “Kate a Negro girl belonging ot Lawrence Parrot judg to be Tenn years old.”

⁸² Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 109.

⁸³ Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History*, 75.

⁸⁴ John L. Overholt and Arthur C. Johnson, *The History of Wicomico Parish including 1703-1795 Vestry Minutes* (Wicomico Church, Va.: Wicomico Parish Church, 1999), 77.

⁸⁵ Overholt and Johnson, *History of Wicomico Parish*, 81.

⁸⁶ Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History*, 68–9.

moment,⁸⁷ that William of Talbot represents another Parrott family that is unrelated to Richard of Middlesex or to the Lawrence/Francis branch.

But DNA testing has shown a third line of Parrotts to be related to the descendants of Lawrence and Francis, though the connection between them is unknown. The earliest known member of this third lineage is Benjamin, who appears in Guilford (later Rockingham) County, North Carolina, first on 18 August 1778 when he obtained a land grant for 500 acres on both sides of Wolf Island Creek. This grant is part of the land which Benjamin Parrott Sr. sold to Abner (his son?) on 9 May 1789.⁸⁸ Perhaps Benjamin was descended from the Michael who patented land adjacent to that of Lawrence. Such a relationship is hinted at by the unusual name given to Benjamin's granddaughter, Michael.⁸⁹

Today, Lawrence, Francis and Benjamin still have hundreds of living Parrott and Parrotte descendants. They are primarily concentrated in various Southern states.

CURRENT STATUS OF PARROTT FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES

According to the 1990 census, Parrotts account for 0.005% of the US population, or about 12,000 individuals. The suggestion of "Kinsman all" is no longer a possibility, but the majority of Parrotts found so far belong to just two families. One family comes from Richard of Middlesex, with additional descendants possibly from his brother Robert or cousin from Potton. The second family comes from Lawrence, Francis and Benjamin. Additional Parrotts descend from William of Talbot. Others descend from Parrotts both in New England and in the South who appear in the record in the 18th century, although all of these are unrelated to each other, as determined by DNA testing. Thus there are numerous smaller Parrott families in addition to the two major families.

Nevertheless, the picture is still incomplete. There are Colonial-era Parrotts with living descendants who may be members of one of the above families, or they may represent totally different families. In the absence of a paper record, DNA testing will be necessary to determine if there are any blood relationships.

⁸⁷ As mentioned previously, additional DNA testing of another descendant of William of Talbot County is needed to confirm the preliminary results.

⁸⁸ Mavis Parrott Kelsey, Mary Wilson Kelsey, Clarice Stover Carmichael and Opal Parrott Stover, *Benjamin Parrott c. 1795–1839 and Lewis Stover 1781–1850/60 of Overton County, Tennessee, and their Descendants* (Houston, Tex.: the authors, 1976). Rockingham County Deed Book C, page 39, cited in Kelsey, Mavis Parrott, no date, Notes on the proposed ancestry of Abner Parrott (1760(±5)–1797) of Rockingham County, North Carolina, father of Benjamin Parrott (ca. 1795–1839) of Overton County, Tennessee, an addendum of information acquired since 1979 when we published Benjamin Parrott, ca. 1795–1839, and Lewis Stover, 1781–1850/60, of Overton County, Tennessee, and Their Descendants.

⁸⁹ Hypothesis by Dr. Mavis Parrott Kelsey, in letter dated 4 February 2008. Mavis is close to celebrating his centennial birthday and any further information regarding his connection to Michael or Lawrence would be most welcome.

THE ULTIMATE ORIGIN IN ENGLAND

Based on DNA results, there are at least a dozen unrelated P*rr*tt families in the United States. Any one of these— or none— may be descended from the previously mentioned three-pear Perrot family of Pembrokeshire and its English branches.

Other than the possible Bedfordshire connection noted earlier for Richard Perrot of Middlesex, the process of connecting the American Parrotts to their English relatives has thus far been an exercise in futility. No paper records that can offer definitive proof connecting any English and American Parrott have ever been found. Furthermore DNA testing on P*rr*tts who still live in England is limited to just two individuals, and they have no known relatives at this time in the Americas. Until paper records or DNA samples from England are forthcoming, all relationships between English and American Parrotts must remain strictly in the realm of speculation.

A legend, which has persisted in some branches of the Lawrence of Northumberland family, is that the family was descended from a Robert Parrott, reinforcing the speculation was that this Robert was the brother of Richard Perrott of Middlesex County. Since the names of Richard's brother Robert's two eldest sons were never given, and Lawrence and Francis had a presence in Gloucester County adjacent to Middlesex, many loose ends would be tied up if Francis and Lawrence were descended from Robert, brother of Richard of Middlesex. But given the current DNA evidence, Robert, brother of Richard of Middlesex, can not be an ancestor of Lawrence of Northumberland.

One version of the Robert-as-ancestor story dates back to the Civil War era, when the story was that Robert had helped steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London.⁹⁰ In fact, a Robert Perot did help steal the jewels,⁹¹ and the list of prisoners in the Tower of London does show that a Robert Perrot was jailed there in 1671.⁹² An Edward Parrot was jailed at the same time for helping Captain Thomas Blood steal the Crown Jewels. Edward and Capt. Blood were released— apparently the king was amused by their sheer brazenness—but there is no record of Robert's fate, though he is thought to be the rebel by that name that was executed at Taunton, Somerset, in 1685, for participating in the Monmouth Rebellion.⁹³

⁹⁰ Related to her grandchildren by Martha Parrott Estes, b 1853, Orange County, Virginia—d 1940, St. Louis, Missouri. In turn, her parents relayed the legend to her as a child.

⁹¹ "Colonel Blood's Raid," *Historic Royal Palaces: Tower of London* (<http://www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon/stories/anattempttostealthecrownjewels.aspx>: 2009).

⁹² "Prisoners," *Camelot International: The Tower of London* (http://www.camelotintl.com/tower_site/prisoners/index.html: 2009)

⁹³ "Prisoners," *Camelot International: The Tower of London* (http://www.camelotintl.com/tower_site/prisoners/index.html: 2009)

OTHER PERROT ARMS IN AMERICA

It has been widely assumed until now that the Perrot family of the three pears had made it to America in the person of Richard Perrot and his descendants. As described earlier, this assumption is not correct, raising the question as to whether the Perrots of the three pears ever made it to America.

Besides the ill-fated reports that Richard Perrot of Virginia had used the seal of the three pears, there is an additional report that Francis Bradly used them in North Carolina.⁹⁴

“In the Tombstone records of North Carolina Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Mechlenberg (sic) Co., 1765 is found the Parrott family arms with a parrot for a crest ‘Francis Brady (sic), A friend to liberty and was privately slain by the enemy of the his country, 11-14-1780, age 37 years. His wife Abigail died 9-23-1817, 69 years.’ Brady could have been of the Parrott descent through the female line; or his wife may have been of the family descent and he used her coat of arms.”



The answer to Scott’s speculation is that there is no relation between Francis Bradly and the Parrott family. His original tombstone is still on display at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church. It had been lost for while, during which the tombstone was reproduced from original drawings, one of which is shown in the photo.⁹⁵ While it displays birds (perhaps eagles), it is not the Perrot family arms.

The final report on the Perrot arms in America is from the tombstone of John Perratt in Barbados. The inscription on the tombstone reads, “Here lyes ye Body of Mr. John Perratt who departed this Life June the 7th 1729 aged 74 years Here also lyes the Body of Mrs Ann Perratt wife of ye abovesaid who departed this Life March ye 16th 1728/9 Aged 63 Years of thereabouts” The seal was described as “...three pears out of a chief a demi-lion rampant; impaling, A fesse and in chief three roses”.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ Evalyn Parrott Scott, *Links That Bind, Volume II: The Parrott Family History* (Sudan, Tex., Sudan Beacon-News, 1967), 4.

⁹⁵ Photo taken by Paul D. Buckley, 2008, pauldbuckley@bellsouth.net.

⁹⁶ V.L. Oliver, *Monumental Inscriptions in the Churches & Churchyards of the Island of Barbados, British West Indies*, (London: Hughes and Clarke, 1915).

Unlike the reports for Richard Perrot and for John Bradly, it has actually been possible to verify this report. Though the carving has weathered considerably in the 280 years since it was erected, an outline of the three pears is still easily discernable in the lower left quadrant of the carving.⁹⁷



MORE DNA BREAKTHROUGHS

As described for Luke and Nathaniel Parrott, DNA testing has been key to filling in the gaps in the paper record, and has played a major role in clearing up the relationships between the various Parrott families. We know the DNA signatures for the major immigrant Parrott families:

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

Over the years there has been confusion on whether James and John Parrott of Halifax County, were descended from Lawrence Parrott of Northumberland County,⁹⁸ Nathaniel Parrott of Henrico County,⁹⁹ or Richard Parrott of Middlesex County.¹⁰⁰ We now know that both James and John Parrott carry the same DNA signature as Richard Perrot Sr. of Middlesex County.¹⁰¹

Researchers have tried to find the roots of Perrott Pringle born 1720/1 in Middlesex County to no avail.¹⁰² This line also migrated to Halifax County. DNA shows that researchers need to look at the Richard Perrot line of Middlesex

⁹⁷ Photograph by Jenny Randall, Barbados, 2008, jenny_randall@sunbeach.net. The photograph has been posted at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~parrott/barbados.shtml>.

⁹⁸ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside Lists of Tithes Lunenburg County, Virginia 1748–1783*, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 287. John Parrott is listed with Elisha Betts, a relative of Lawrence Parrott of Northumberland County.

⁹⁹ Minerva Letton, *The Parrott Family*; (private correspondence, no date), Probably written in the early 1970s. Copy in possession of Harald Reksten.

¹⁰⁰ 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), 106, 111. “John Son of Robert and Catherine Perrott born Novemr ye 12 baptised Decemr 7 1720”; “James Son of Robert and Catherine Perrott. born Novemr ye 11 baptised Decemr 18 1722.” Robert is the grandson of Richard Perrot Sr.

¹⁰¹ The paper trail for the Halifax County Parrotts is out of the scope of this article. A future article is planned.

¹⁰² *The Parish Register of Christ Church, Middlesex County, Virginia from 1653 to 1812*, 107. “Periot an illegitimate Son of Ann Pringle Born March ye 1719 baptised Ap. 23 1721.”

County to locate the male ancestor of Parrott Pringle.

There has been much confusion over whether Calvin Parrott/Dossett was a Parrott or Dossett at birth.¹⁰³ There are tombstones in Campbell County, Tennessee, that show some descendents used Dossett and some used Parrott. DNA proves that Calvin Parrott is a descendent of Richard Perrott Sr.

Armstead Parrott was legitimized on request of Joel Parrott and his wife Sukey by the Tennessee State Legislature in 1831.¹⁰⁴ DNA shows that Armstead's father is truly Joel Parrott, who is a descendent of Richard Perrott Sr. of Middlesex County, Virginia.

The parents of James Forrester Parrott, dropped him off a wagon train as a child in 1832 in Overton County, Tennessee, as he had measles, so he never knew the identity of his parents. DNA from two descendents matches no known Parrott lines, but does match the Doss line. Thus researchers of those Parrotts are now analyzing the genealogy of the Doss family.

DNA testing is painless and bloodless. DNA testing for genealogical purposes is very specialized, and thus of little use for any thing except genealogy. For more information, see <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~parrott/>.

A note on the authors: Wayne Parrott is a 7th great-grandson of Lawrence of Northumberland. Harald Reksten is an 8th great-grandson of Richard of Middlesex. Evalyn Parrott Scott, author of the oft-cited *Links that Bind*, is the 6th great-granddaughter of Francis of Chowan.

Acknowledgement: The authors wish to thank Michael Hait for reviewing the manuscript and helping ensure its accuracy.

¹⁰³ Campbell Co, Tenn., Deed Book 31, p. 295. 12 March 1894 J.M. Parrott (Dossett), A.J. Parrott (Dossett), Nancy Parrott (Dossett), Jonathan Boulinger & Wife Daisey, Martha Goins formerly Parrott, of Campbell County & Union County to Alfred Dossett & Frank Dossett also known by the name of Parrott of Campbell County for \$40.00 each, 150 acres in Campbell County in the Eighth Civil District of Campbell County, Tennessee. Beginning...in A.G. Spangler's line ... to a pine on A.J. Dossett's line ... to a chestnut in Joseph Willoughby's line ... to a white oak, a corner of Joseph Willoughby & the land herein conveyed to a black oak marked Joseph Willoughby's corner to A.G. Spangler's corner ... to a stake above the spring ... to the dogwood the beginning. Signed: J.M. Parrott, A.J. Parrott, Nancy Parrott (X), Jonathan Bowlinger (X), Disey Bowlinger (X), Martha Goins (X) formerly Parrott or Dossett. Witnesses: Alfred Dossett, J.P. Irwin. Acknowledged by the parties on 12 March 1894.

¹⁰⁴ 24 October 1831 Petition of Joel and Sukey Parrott (to the state legislature) praying the passage of a law making Armstead Parrott their lawful heir. "To the honorable General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. Whereas their oldest son Armstead Parrott being an illegitimate child and not entitled by law to heirs our estates with our other children your petitioner humbly pray your honorable body, that the above named child, be made a lawful heir to all intents and purposes, to our estates on equality with our other children the same as if he had been borne in the true bands of wedlock leaving it to the discretions and wisdom of your most honorable body. Joel Parrott, Sukey Parrott." *Journal of the Senate of the State of Tennessee at the 19th General Assembly Held at Nashville* (1831).