

The Perry Family

Michael Gregory's ancestors, Ralph Abram and Mary Ann Perry (his 4th great grandparents), were known to have married on the 20th August 1823 at Holy Trinity, Liverpool. A copy of this entry was obtained from the Bishop's Transcripts held at Lancashire Record Office. One of the witnesses was George Peter Perry, who was possibly a relative of the bride. In 1851, Ralph Abram had been found in the census with seven children aged between 22 and 10. They were at 6 Brougham Terrace, Derby Road (HO107/2190, fol. 229, p. 60). Mary Ann was not present and, indeed, Ralph's condition was described as "widower". Mary Ann had clearly died sometime before this census was taken. She may in fact have been dead for some time, as the youngest child of the family, Edward, was ten years old. In order to investigate this further, the family was sought in the 1841 census. They were found to be living at Brougham Terrace, West Derby Road, Everton (HO107/519/2, fol. 19, p. 2). Again, Mary Ann was not present, although in this census, fewer details were given and we are not told whether Ralph was already a widower. The youngest child was again Edward, here aged just five months. Had Mary Ann died shortly after giving birth, sometime between Edward's birth and the taking of the 1841 census in June?

Free BMD (Births, Marriages and Deaths) includes a reference to the death of a Mary Ann Abram in the March quarter of 1841 in West Derby registration district (20/734). A copy of the certificate was ordered and it proved to relate to Michael Gregory's ancestor. Mary Ann Abram who died on the 4th February 1841 in Everton. She was 39 years-old and the cause of her death was said to be "decline through child birth". The informant was Betty Halsall of Brougham Terrace, West Derby Road. This woman was still living with the family at the time of the 1841 census and is described as 70 years-old and of independent means. The birth of Mary Ann's last child, Edward, was also registered in the March quarter of 1841 (W Derby 20/853). Now that Mary Ann's age was known, a search was made of the IGI for possible baptisms in the years 1799 to 1803. Those in Liverpool were:

12 Jan 1801 (born 28 Nov 1800)	Mary Ann Parry	d/o Rowland Parry & Ann Mercer	St Thomas
17 Jul 1801	Mary Ann Perry	d/o George Perry & Elizabeth Marrow	St. Nicholas
25 Mar 1803	Mary Ann Perry	d/o David & Gwenn Perry	St. Nicholas

The witness at Mary Ann's marriage, George Peter Perry, had already been found in an index to the 1851 census (HO107/2190, fol. 147, p. 15). The index suggested that George Peter had been born in Sheffield. However, when the original image was examined, this proved to be incorrect. George Peter's birthplace was actually enumerated as Liverpool. He was aged 51. It appears that Sheffield had been erroneously entered by the indexer looking at the head of the next household on the page. The baptism of George Peter Perry was then sought, again using the IGI, and considering events taking place in Lancashire between the years 1797 and 1802. Only one George Peter was found. His surname is indexed as Parry and he was baptised on the 23rd October 1799 at St. Thomas, Liverpool. His parents were George Parry and Elizabeth Marrow. This seems to confirm that Mary Ann and George Peter were sister and brother. *Family Search's* parent search facility suggests that no other children were baptised to George Perry and Elizabeth between the years 1790 and 1810. The baptisms of St Nicholas and St Thomas, Liverpool are available on film at the LDS library (films 0093833 and 1068942). In the case of St Nicholas, it is the original parish registers which have been filmed and in the case of St Thomas, the bishop's transcripts only are held. The baptisms of both siblings were copied. At the baptism of George Peter, his father, George was described as an architect. The surname is indistinct but appears to be Parry. At that of Mary Ann, her father was described as a merchant. In 1801, the family lived at Camden Street. It has not been possible to identify George and Rosa Perry in any census after 1851. Neither has it been possible to identify their deaths in the indexes, nor any re-marriage of Rosa. However, it is believed that Rosa died in 1850 in West Derby. This needs to be checked in official records.

The marriage of George Perry and Elizabeth Marrow does not appear on the IGI. However, on searching back from the date of George Peter's baptism in the bishop's transcripts of St. Thomas, Liverpool, the marriage was found to have taken place there on the 16th August 1798. A copy was made from the same film as above. George was described as a gentleman and Elizabeth was a spinster. Both were living in the parish. Possible baptisms of George Perry were sought on the IGI¹ and BVRI² in Liverpool between 1740 and 1780. This search produced two results:

25 Apr 1766	George Charles Perry	s/o George	St. Thomas
20 Aug 1780 (born 28 Jul 1780)	George Parry	s/o John	St. Nicholas

A submitted entry on the IGI gives the mother of George Parry as Ann Waring. Both these entries were copied from the above mentioned films. The baptism of George Charles gives no additional information. That of George, son of John, states that his father was a shipwright and their address was Bixteth Street. Only one other child of George Perry was included in the same filmed batch for St Thomas. This was William, who was baptised on the 25th November 1767.³

¹ International Genealogical Index.

² British Vital Records Index.

³ As surmised below George Perry, Michael Gregory's ancestor's father was also called George. George jnr may also have had a brother called William.

There are several children of John Parry or Perry included in the same batch for St Nicholas as George:

7 May 1778	Agnes Parry	d/o John Parry
29 Dec 1782	Ann Parry	d/o John Parry & Ann
19 Oct 1783	Hannah Perry	d/o John Perry & Hannah
11 Jul 1784	Joseph Parry	s/o John Parry & Elizabeth
27 Nov 1785	Sally Perry	d/o John Perry & Hannah
28 Feb 1786	John Parry	s/o John Parry & Catherine
25 Mar 1787	John Parry	s/o John Bolton & Mary Parry

It was not possible to identify either George or Elizabeth Perry on any census. Entries for their possible deaths were sought on *FreeBMD* between 1837 and 1880 in Liverpool registration districts:

Candidates for George Perry were:

<u>Quarter</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Jun 1838	Liverpool	20 331
Sep 1852	W Derby	8b 323
Sep 1863	Liverpool	8b 38

Copies of these three certificates were ordered, requesting that they be produced only if the age of the deceased was such that he had been born before 1780. None of the certificates was produced.

Candidates for the death of Elizabeth Perry were:

Sep 1840	W Derby	20/683
Mar 1853	Prescot	8b 352
Mar 1855	Liverpool	8b 167
Jun 1859	Liverpool	8b 188
Mar 1863	Liverpool	8b 213
Mar 1864	Liverpool	8b 462
Jun 1864	Liverpool	8b 65

There were no wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury for any George Perr(e)y in Lancashire from 1800 and 1858. Indexes of wills of Lancashire testators proved at Chester were examined at the Society of Genealogists' library and all those with the surname Perr(e)y, who were described as being of Liverpool between 1768 and 1837, were listed:

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Will/Admon</u>	<u>Date</u>
George	mariner	admon	1767
William			1768
George ⁴	gentleman	admon	1771
William			1772
David	mariner	admon	1775
Thomas	mariner	will	1785
John	wedge maker		1791
Thomas	mariner	admon	1793
Thomas	mariner	will	1794
Lydia Ann		admon+will	1801
Mary	widow	admon	1801
John	cooper	will	1802
Edward	cooper	admon	1803
William	mariner	admon	1806
Thomas (Perrey)	gentleman	admon	1809
Thomas	mariner	admon	1812
Elizabeth (Perrey)	widow		1815
Mary	widow	admon	1816
George (Perrey)	gentleman		1817
William	flour dealer	will	1825
Mary	widow		1830
John	marine store dealer	admon	1832
William ⁵	surgeon		1835

⁴ A copy of this will should be obtained.

James Fleetwood	master mariner		1836
Joseph	watch case maker	admon	1836

Further indexes, covering the years 1838 to 1857, are held at Lancashire Record Office. In this case, those for any men who were mariners were not listed.

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Will/Admon</u>	<u>Date</u>
Martha	Liverpool	widow	admon	Apr 1838
Ann Jane	Liverpool	spinster	will	Dec 1838
Richard	Liverpool	tailor	admon & tuition bond	Apr 1840
Mary	Toxteth Park	spinster	will	Oct 1841
Elizabeth	Liverpool	widow	admon	Aug 1843
Frances	Manchester	widow	admon	Sep 1843
Samuel	Liverpool	gentleman	will	Jan 1844
Mary	Everton	widow	admon	Feb 1844
John	Liverpool	mariner	will	Jun 1845
John	Kirkdale	gentleman	will	Oct 1845
William	Salford	brewer	admon	Nov 1846
Thomas	Liverpool	pawnbroker	admon	Dec 1848
Hugh Hamilton	Portsmouth	master mariner	will	Apr 1849
John	Liverpool	master mariner	admon	Sep 1851
Ann	Liverpool	widow	admon	Oct 1851
Elijah	Salford	furniture broker & cabinet maker	will	Jan 1853
Thomas	Liverpool	builder	admon	Oct 1855
Thomas	Bolton	bookkeeper	will	Jul 1856

Of particular interest would be any document for a George who was a gentleman, merchant or architect or an Elizabeth who could have been his widow.

The will of George Perrey (1817) and the administration for Elizabeth Perry in 1843 were considered to be of interest and copies were obtained. The will of George Perrey of Liverpool, gentleman, was made on the 15th January 1817. He named as his executor and sole beneficiary his sister, Alice Mawdsley, the wife of Barton Mawdsley of Liverpool, also a merchant. George Perrey died on the 6th March 1817 and probate was granted at Chester on the 18th of the same month. Administration of the estate of Elizabeth Perry, a widow of Liverpool, was granted at Chester on the 17th August 1843 to Hugh Evans, plasterer, Edward Evans, sawyer, and William Roberts, plasterer, all of Liverpool. Hugh Evans was the husband of Elizabeth, the daughter and next of kin of the deceased. Neither of these two appears to be related to Michael Gregory's Perry ancestors.

The parish registers of St John, Liverpool are held on film at the Society of Genealogists' library. However, the registers are not indexed and the parish is very extensive. It was not therefore practicable to conduct a search of the burial registers for George and Elizabeth Perry without having some idea of the dates of their deaths.

The Society of Genealogists holds a collection of historical directories, including two published by Gore relating to Liverpool in the late 18th and mid 19th centuries. The edition for 1859 contains no mention of any George Perry in Liverpool. That of 1766 mentions George Perry, an ironfounder of Duke Street Walk. Historical directories are also available to search on the internet at <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/>. This collection includes two volumes of Gore's Directory of Liverpool. That of 1825 contains no George Perry. The 1827 edition includes a George Perry at 15 St John's Market.

It may be very difficult to extend the Perry family any further. At this stage of the research, there is no clue as to whether George Perry was a native of Liverpool or came into that city from some distance away. It is also not known how old he was or when he died. Research into his wife's family may be more productive as she had a far more distinctive surname. It would be worth viewing the will of Elizabeth Perrey, a widow, whose will was proved in 1815. Could she have been George's wife?

Following this supposed proposition, subsequent research on the Perry family on the World Wide Web found an interesting website. This showed the pedigree of Elizabeth Marrow⁶, Michael Gregory's ancestor. This confirmed that she was married to a George Perry, architect and sculptor (this is likely to be a stone mason) at St Thomas, Liverpool. The source reference for this is not given. Further research indicates that a George Perry of Liverpool was also an amateur naturalist who authored books and anthologies. It is certainly unlikely that there were two people both called George Perry who were Liverpool architects at the same time. This George Perry was possibly the son of another George Perry, a merchant of Liverpool who died on 3 Feb 1771

⁵ A copy of this will should be obtained (noting comments below of a William Perry, surgeon being a signatory to the will of Lydia Ann Perry).

⁶ The marriage of George Perry and Elizabeth Marrow was confirmed through parish records. See: Gregory, M.P., (2009), "Marrow Family", Personal Family History Report.

aged 52). He founded the Phoenix foundry in Liverpool. According to various texts of old Liverpool found on Google.com, he married late to Lydia Ann de la Croix who was likely to have been younger than him, for they had children. There is some confusion of George Perry's antecedents, with some reports of an ancestry from London⁷, and others with him coming from Scotland. There is a dearth of information about George Perry junior in the records. Perhaps detailed bibliographic research into Liverpool archives, gazettes and company records might hold the key to unlocking whether there is a connection with these people in Michael Gregory's ancestry. It would be worth obtaining copies of the will of George Perry in the Lancashire records, dated 1771 and for Lydia Ann Perry (nee de la Croix), Lancashire records, 1801 to ascertain if these people could be the ancestors of Michael Gregory.

Official records at the Lancashire Record Office located the administration of George Perry who died intestate in February 1771. The administration was granted to his widow, Lydia Ann Perry. George Perry died on 3 February 1771. Lydia herself made a will, dated 10 Sep 1791. This was extracted in full from Lancashire Wills. Administration of the will was granted to one of the surviving legatees, William Perry, on 27 February 1801. He was a surgeon of the County of Liverpool and together with his brother George Perry, a merchant of Liverpool, was one of the signatories to the attestation of Lydia's Will, which she made on 10 Sep 1797. One of the witnesses of Lydia's will was, interestingly, an Elizabeth Marrow. In the will, Lydia makes a bequest to "Mrs Marrow" of five guineas. George Perry, Michael Gregory's ancestor was married to an Elizabeth Marrow⁸. The Mrs Marrow referred to in Lydia's will may therefore be the mother perhaps or another relative of the Elizabeth Marrow who married George Perry.

Lydia's Will is interesting for a number of other reasons. She refers to her father, who she calls Peter Lacroy of Hearn, Kent. She mentions a niece, Sarah, and also, as would be anticipated, makes large bequests to her sons William and George. She leaves a small bequest to her daughter, Mary Perry, who it is assumed was unwedded at the time of the Will.

It has already been discovered that the George Perry who married Elizabeth Marrow was variously described as gentleman, architect and merchant, and speculated that he was the well-known, but largely ignored (in his own life-time) amateur naturalist and author of a work on conchology and contributor to a natural history series. Recently there has been more scientific appraisal of his works and they are now given greater scholarly recognition. The genealogical connection with Michael Gregory, is not however, proven through any official record yet. However, obscure references on the Internet refer to the possible birth of a George Perry (naturalist) around 1771 (which is also the year of his father's untimely death, another George Perry – see below). If this George is the same man who died intestate, perhaps his death was sudden and untimely; or there may be the possibility that he died overseas and records of this have not yet been found.

The speculation that George Perry's father was another George Perry is drawn from a bibliographic reference in a text dated 1825⁹ and which is reproduced below:

"George Perry, who, during his life-time, formed a design for publishing a history of Liverpool, was a native of Somersetshire and a descendant of Micajah Perry, Lord Mayor of London in the year 1747, and Member of Parliament for that city in 1739, of an ancient family of West Waters in Devonshire.

He was originally sent to college and intended for the church¹⁰, which destination appears to have been changed, for we find him engaged in the iron-works at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. He afterwards removed to Liverpool and established an iron-foundry in Lydia-Ann Street, which takes its name from Lydia Ann Lacroy, a descendant from the old Huguenot (sic) family of La Croix, which fled from France at the revocation of the Edict of Nantz and settled in Canterbury. In the year 1758 there appeared an essay, with his signature, in the *Gentleman's* magazine.

He was buried in the Park Chapel, near the Dingle, on the walls of which is a tablet inscribed "*Sacred to the memory of George Perry, merchant of Liverpool, who died, universally respected, February 3 1771, aged 52*".

Several of his descendants and relatives are resident in the town and its environs.

George, one of the sons of the preceding George Perry, and an architect, published a work on conchology".

At present, the above connection is unproven in official or parish records. However, there are several references to bibliographic details about the assumed family. Many more references may exist in primary sources located in Liverpool and national libraries, special collections, newspaper announcements and specialised listings etc. Therefore, what follows is largely conjectural at this time and needs to be proved or disproved through further research. An extract about George Perry snr is reproduced below¹¹:

⁷ Smithers, H., (1825), "Liverpool, its Commerce, Statistics and Institutions: with a History of the Cotton Trade", p.420. Found on googlebooks.com.

⁸ See: Gregory, M.P., (2009), "The Marrow Family", Personal Family History Report.

⁹ Smithers, H., (1825), "Liverpool, its Commerce, Statistics and Institutions: with a History of the Cotton Trade", p.419/20, extracted from Googlebooks.com on 1 November 2009.

¹⁰ Implying he was possibly the second son.

¹¹ Ibid., Smithers.

"Published a history of Liverpool. Native of Somersetshire. Descendant of Micajah Perry (III), Mayor of London. Early life worked at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire. Patron of Liverpool library" (plus other references to him as above).

Interestingly, a reference was found in a text called "An Inventory of Non-Conformist Chapels and Meeting Houses in the North of England"¹²:

"....on the NE wall George Perry, merchant of Liverpool, 1771, Lydia ? (Anne) his widow and Peter Lacroy her father, 1788, with shield of arms".

An intriguing mention is therefore made of the Lacroy family. Also, in Ancestry.com, a reference is made to a Mr Lacroy, of Hearn, Kent, 1751-75 subscribing to an *Essay towards the History of Liverpool*, drawn up by papers left by the late Mr George Perry¹³. Could this person be a brother-in-law, nephew or other relative of George Perry through his wife Lydia (nee Lacroy) who named her father as Peter Lacroy of Hearn? This, together with other details previously obtained, could further enable the Lacroy family to be located in genealogical records.

There are still uncertainties in the research to date on the origins of George Perry, snr. There is a reference in the National Archives to a George Perry, b. ca 1718 in Scotland who was sent to Liverpool in 1758 to head up a new foundry by Coalbrookdale Co., and that he died in 1771 aged 52. The British Museum Collection Database holds a reference to a George Perry, publisher, printer, painter, and draughtsman, 1758, who worked with Thomas Smith of Derby on industrial landscapes.

In Hussey (2008), the following reference is found to George Perry¹⁴:

"The origins of the Fawcett Foundry in Liverpool can be traced as far back as 1758 when an established engineering company in Shropshire needed the impressive title of Coalbrookdale Ironworks and decided to have subsidiary outlets to sell their goods. Outposts of the Coalbrookdale empire sprang up in Liverpool, Bristol and London. George Perry, born in 1719 in Scotland, was the man chosen to head the Liverpool part of the firm. Perry took an interest in a girl of an old Huguenot family and later married Lydia Ann de la Croix in 1765. He died at the early age of 52 years in 1771"

There are vague references, mentioned above, that it was this George Perry who was descended from Micajah Perry III (whose grandfather, Micajah Perry I was baptised in New Haven, the Americas), Lord Mayor of London. Attached to this is a conjectural pedigree, including Internet based source material only from Micajah Perry whose family appears well documented to the latter's Devon ancestry.

A further stage of research into the Perry family, ancestors of Michael Gregory, commenced in late 2009. It was known that George and Elizabeth Marrow were the ancestors of Michael Gregory. This couple were the parents of two known children: George Peter, baptised in 1799 and Mary Ann, baptised in 1801, both in Liverpool. It was believed that George Perry senior may have been baptised as George Charles on the 25th April 1766 at St Thomas, Liverpool, the son of another George Perry. A possible brother to George Charles, William, was also baptised there on the 25th November 1767.

Probate material had been obtained which strongly suggested that George Perry and his wife, Lydia Anne, were the parents of these two brothers. The will of Lydia, a widow, was annexed to letters of administration granted to her son, William, on the 27th February 1801. The bulk of her estate was left to her two sons, named as William and George, both of whom entered into a bond to administer their mother's estate in the required way. One slightly surprising aspect of these documents was that William always appeared to be named first, suggesting that he was the older son. This contradicted the evidence of the two baptisms found at St. Thomas's. Lydia also left small bequests to several friends and relatives, including a daughter, Mary Perry, a niece, Sarah, and a Mrs Marrow, who may have been her son George's future mother-in-law.

Lydia Anne Perry had also taken out letters of administration on the estate of her husband, George Perry, on the 13th February 1771. Lydia's co-signatories on the bond were Joseph Rathbone, merchant, who was to take over the running of the Phoenix Foundry in Liverpool, and Abram Darby, presumably Abram Darby III (1750-1791), the famous ironmaster of Coalbrookdale.

Various sources available on the Internet suggested that George senior, the husband of Lydia, had come to Liverpool from Coalbrookdale, to set up a branch of the renowned ironworks in the growing city. It had been suggested that he was descended from Micajah Perry, a former Lord Mayor of London and Member of Parliament, and had been born in either Scotland or Somerset.

At this point, a most interesting source of information was located. A query had been posted, as long ago as 2004, on the Genforum website, requesting information on the family and origins of George Perry who married Elizabeth Marrow. A reply to the e-mail address given was promptly answered by Professor Hugh Torrens, Emeritus Professor of History of Science and Technology at Keele University (e-mail: h.s.torrens@esci.keele.ac.uk). He had conducted a considerable amount of research into the Perry family and had written an essay, so far unpublished, on the subject of the two George Perrys, whom he clearly believed

¹² Extracted from Googlebooks.com.

¹³ UK and USA Directories, 1680-1830. Source date 1773.

¹⁴ Hussey, J., (2008), "Cotton and Confederates: Liverpool Waterfront in the Confederacy", Countywise Ltd., Wirral. ISBN: 9781906823030.

to be father and son. Professor Torrens readily agreed to share his work. The essay contains a huge amount of material directly relevant to this research and has been added in full in this report, with a summary of his main points below:

George Perry Senior

Was of Somerset, not Scotland. Professor Torrens believes that the citing of Scotland as the birthplace of George Perry senior came from an error made by Horace White, author of 'Fossets, a Record of Two Centuries of Engineering', the 1958 history of the Fawcett's engineering business which grew out of Perry's original premises in Liverpool (see below).

Micajah Perry was Lord Mayor of London 1747, Whig MP for London 1727-41 and of an ancient Devon (West Waters) family (Smithers 1825). Professor Torrens believes this information probably came to Henry Smithers from William Perry junior, the son of this George.

A genealogist called Oliver (1899, 20-24) has argued that Micajah died without issue. Jacob Price's study of the family of Micajah Perry in 1992, seemed to confirm this although other sources believe George was descended from the same Devon family.

Micajah had a brother, Philip (died 1762) whose will demonstrated that he also had no children (see below).

George senior had a brother, William (born 1713, died 1763 Liverpool) who married Mary and they had one daughter, Dinah (baptised 12 Jul 1755, St Peter Wolverhampton; married 29 May 1780, Wincanton). These two events appear on the IGI as submitted entries. Dinah's marriage provides an interesting connection with Somerset.

An uncle, Levy Perry was named as an executor in the will of his nephew, William, made in 1759. Levy was born about 1700, fl. 1762. His marriage licence states him to be of Madeley, Shropshire, age 28, to Elizabeth Smith, 22 Jan 1729/30, married at Barrow, Shropshire, 12 Mar 1729/30 (IGI submitted entry). They had issue:

Levi baptised 15 Jun 1733 Little Wenlock
George born & died Jan 1738
George baptised 1 Apr 1742 Madeley

(These baptisms are all on the IGI and there is a burial for little George on 24 Jan 1738 as a submitted entry).
Married secondly Philepia Stacey, widow, on 26 Nov 1750 at St Antholin, Budge Row, London.
Declared bankrupt (Gentleman's Magazine, May 1762, vol. 32, p. 243).

George (son of Levy) was in 1772 involved in provisioning and providing charts for Captain James Cook.

George Perry senior arrived in Coalbrookdale in 1736, as tutor to the children of Richard Ford I & Mary Darby. Was Darby's London agent by 1753.

George's address when writing to Emanuel Mendes Da Costa, a naturalist, in the 1750s was Madeley Lodge, Shropshire.

Several Perrys of Somerset subscribed to George's 1758 publication on the Coalbrookdale Works. (There are more on the IGI for Shepton Mallet.)

He moved to Liverpool in 1758.

The marriage licence allegation for George and Lydia (31 Dec 1764) survives at the National Library of Wales. They were bachelor and spinster and George was of St Peter, Liverpool. There were iron works nearby at Tintern, which may account for George's presence in the area.

George started planning a History of Liverpool in about 1764. The map, which was to be a part of this history, is the one reproduced in White's "*History of Fawcett's*" (see below).

George's death was reported in the Liverpool General Advertiser. Both he and Lydia were buried at the 'ancient non-conformist chapel of Toxteth'. A monumental inscription gave his date of death as 3 Feb 1771.

Lydia ran schools from 1772 to about 1790. She died 8 Feb 1801 (Liverpool Advertiser).

George Perry Junior

He was born 30 April and baptised 12 Jun 1771 at St Thomas, Liverpool.

His brother, William, a surgeon and dentist in Liverpool, was born 31 Oct 1767. William married Mary Edmundson on 23 Jun 1795 at Plemstall, Cheshire.

They had seven children baptised at St Thomas, Liverpool. This clarifies the bequests in William's will (see below). Their children were:

William Duncan (1797 - 1860)	doctor
George (1798 – 1805)	
John (born & died abt 1800)	
Elizabeth (1801 - 1823)	married Rev. Samuel Wootton Perkins 1822
Lydia Anne (1802 – 1867)	married Charles Armstrong 1829
Mary (1804 – 1809)	
Emma (1806 – 1831)	married John Henry Cooper, banker

William died 13 Jan 1835 (Liverpool Mercury) and was buried at St James, Toxteth.

George junior was designing monuments in 1796, particularly one for John Tarleton, Mayor of Liverpool in 1764, in St Nicholas's church. The church was destroyed in WWII.

His wife, Elizabeth, died 1 Jan 1806, aged 29 (Liverpool Gazette).

He was declared bankrupt 18 Feb 1807 (Liverpool Chronicle), when he was described as a 'marble dealer and chapman'. He moved to London soon after. His address on correspondence indicated that he was living at 27 Sherrard St, Golden Square, in 1809 but he did not appear in the rate books for this address held at Westminster Archives.

George died between 1811, when his last published work appeared, and 1823. He was described as 'the late George Perry of this town' on a report of the marriage of daughter, Mary Ann, in local Liverpool newspapers.

George's son, George Peter, married on the 24 Jun 1837. He died 10 Dec 1857 Montevideo, Uruguay, age 57. (Liverpool Albion newspaper). Their children were Elizabeth 1838, George 1839, Rosa Maria 1847-1850, all born in West Derby RD.

The information from Professor Torrens would appear to confirm that the two George Perrys were father and son but also disputes any direct ancestral connection with Micajah Perry, the Lord Mayor of London. Clearly, many of the sources for this essay have been found in Liverpool but some additional research has now been carried out to confirm and expand on Professor Torrens's work and is detailed below.

The will of Philip Perry of Greenwich, who was believed to be the brother of Micajah Perry, was written on the 20th March 1756. It is a very brief document in which he left his whole estate to his widowed sister, Sarah Heysham. The will was witnessed by James Sperling, John Flood and James Wildbore. Probate was granted in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 16th June 1762 to Sarah Heysham, the sole executrix. This would appear to suggest that Philip did not have any surviving wife or children.

An article written by George Perry senior about the River Severn, which was published in the Gentleman's Magazine in 1758, has been copied.

The marriage of George Perry and Lydia Anne Lacroya (sic) appears in the IGI. It took place on the 1st January 1765 at Chapel Hill, Monmouthshire. The LDS London Family History Centre has a film of the bishop's transcripts, from which the IGI extraction was taken (0104863), and the entry has been copied. It does not provide any additional information about the couple.

The British Library has a copy of Horace White's 1958 book, *Fossets, a Record of Two Centuries of Engineering*. Chapter 1 is entitled 'George Perry' and describes how George was sent to Liverpool to establish firstly a warehouse and later a foundry on behalf of the Coalbrookdale Ironworks. The chapter includes a reproduction of Perry's map of Liverpool. Chapter 2 begins with the passing of the works to Joseph Rathbone after George's early death. The relevant pages have been copied.

Also held by the British Library is the book *An Inventory of Non-Conformist Chapels and Meeting Houses in the North of England*, Christopher Snell, HMSO, c1994. This book was examined and found to contain, on pages 101-103, a description and photographs of the Ancient Chapel of Toxteth (SJ 364876). The chapel eventually became Unitarian, but was licensed as Presbyterian in 1672 and it appears to have been used by this denomination at the time of the deaths of George and Lydia Ann Perry in 1771 and 1801. Reference is made to a memorial, on the north-east wall of the interior, to:

'George Perry, merchant of Liverpool, 1771 and Lydia (?Anne) his widow and Peter Lacroy her father 1788 with a shield of arms.'

Lydia's will included a request that she be buried 'in the Chapel Yard' and a stone to be erected for herself and her husband. Unfortunately, no image of this memorial is included in the book, so it has not been possible to identify the 'shield of arms'.

The will of William Perry, the brother of George senior, who died in 1763, was proved at Chester in 1768. A copy has not been obtained at this stage. Hugh Torrens says that his estate was "administered" by his sister-in-law, Lydia Ann Perry, and was left to his widow, Mary, and their only daughter, Dinah.

Reference to the bankruptcy of Levy Perry was located in the Gentleman's Magazine (May 1762, vol. 32, p. 243). He was described as Levy Perry senior, of Brook's Wharf, ironmonger. The baptisms of Levy and Elizabeth Perry's children are included on the IGI:

25 Jun 1733	Levi Perry	Little Wenlock	
19 Jan 1738	George Perry	Madeley	(buried 24 Jan 1738)
1 Apr 1742	George Perry	Madeley	

An attempt was made to copy the baptism of George Perry junior, which was said to have taken place at St Thomas, Liverpool on the 12th June 1771. The bishop's transcripts for this parish are held on film at the LDS London Family History Centre (1068942). Unfortunately, the returns for the year 1771 are missing and therefore could not be filmed. It has not been possible to examine the original baptismal entry at this stage. This would need to be copied at Liverpool.

Lydia Anne Perry left a small bequest in her will to Mary Perry, whom she described as her daughter. Hugh Torrens suggested that this daughter might be the Mary Perry who married William Wilson at St Peter, Liverpool on the 12th February 1793 (I.G.I.). Lydia wrote her will in 1797 and it is thought unlikely that she would refer to her daughter by her maiden name after she had married. It is also slightly surprising that she would leave such a small amount to an unmarried daughter, for whom she might have been expected to provide, were she to remain unmarried.

No reasonable baptism has been found for any Mary Perry in Liverpool. The IGI includes no baptism of Mary, the daughter of George and Lydia, between 1760 and 1780 anywhere in the British Isles and no Mary, daughter of George, in Lancashire. Another possibility is that the Mary Perry mentioned in the will was not Lydia's daughter, but her daughter-in-law, the wife of her son, William. He had married Mary Edmundson in 1795.

Lydia's older surviving son, William Perry, wrote his will on the 18th November 1831. He was described as a surgeon, late of Liverpool and now living in Everton. He named the following members of his family as beneficiaries:

Mary	wife
Lydia Anne Armstrong	daughter and wife of Charles Armstrong
William Duncan Perry	son
Mary (Elizabeth) Perkins	granddaughter

William was clearly a wealthy man and had extensive holdings of property in Liverpool. He named as executors his wife, Mary, his son, William Duncan Perry and his son-in-law, Charles Armstrong. The document was witnessed by Joshua Walmsley, John Follitt and James Fogg. A codicil relating to income from rents was added to the will and the whole document contains many alterations. William died on the 13th January 1835 and probate was granted at Chester to all three executors on the 30th of the same month.

A Mary Perry, spinster of Toxteth, left a will which was proved at Chester in 1841. A copy of this will was obtained, in order to check if this testator could be the sister of William and George junior. Mary Perry wrote her will on the 3rd January 1828. The beneficiaries were Sarah Speak of Cardington, Shropshire, wife of Edward; Elizabeth Crone, wife of Archibald Crone, a flour dealer of Liverpool, and their daughters, Mary and Elizabeth Crone. Archibald Crone was the sole executor. The will was witnessed by R.A. Payne, J. Robinson and Richard Grattis. Mary died on the 3rd September 1841 and her will was proved at Chester on the 29th of that month. Mary did not appear to name any relatives in her will and it contains no evidence that she was related to Michael Gregory's ancestors.

Many London parish registers held at the London Metropolitan Archives and the Guildhall Library have been digitised and can now be viewed online at www.ancestry.co.uk. Additionally, baptisms and burials for 1813 onwards and marriages from 1754 can be searched by name and also by various other fields. It is believed that George junior died between 1811 and 1823, after leaving Liverpool to live in London. A search of all burials on the above site from 1813 to 1823 revealed only one George Perry of the right age. This man was buried at St Luke, Chelsea on the 5th January 1823. He was 52 years-old and lived at Leader Street. Other registers, which appear to relate to the purchase and use of burial plots, have also been made available and three pages relating to this George Perry have been copied. He died from asthma and appears to have purchased his own burial plot.

There is no particular evidence to suggest that this is the correct George Perry and, of course, he may have died in 1811 or 1812. He did not appear to have left a will which was proved at either Chester or in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, but it would also be useful to search the calendars of the London probate courts operating at that time.

Indexes to death duty registers 1796-1903 (TNA IR/27) have been indexed by *Find My Past*. There is no entry in the registers from 1823 to 1825 for the George Perry who was buried in 1823 in Chelsea. In order to complete the period 1811 – 1823, it would be necessary to search additionally for any PCC administration and also in the Inland Revenue indexes for the years 1811 - 1822.

The London Burial Index also includes the burial of a George Parry on the 27th December 1822 at St Luke, Old Street. This man was aged 56 and had been living in the workhouse.

No further candidates were found in the National Burial Index. Neither could any entry be found in the London Burial Index or the National Burial Index for George junior's wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1806. The parish registers of both St Nicholas and St Thomas, Liverpool contain no burial for Elizabeth Perry in January 1806. Nor could any reference to either George or Elizabeth's burial be found in the non-conformist registers included on the BMD Registers website.

The Gentleman's magazine contains no reference to George Perry's bankruptcy in 1807, nor does it contain an obituary of the man who died at Chelsea in 1823. Reference to George's bankruptcy was, however, found among the newspapers recently digitised by the British Library and available on their website. The Liverpool Morning Chronicle for 23rd February 1807, quoting from the London Gazette (21st February 1807), has among its list of bankrupts:

George Perry of Liverpool, marble merchant, March 14, 16 & April 4 at twelve at the Globe Tavern, John-street. Attornies Mr Peter Woods, Lord-street, Liverpool, Mr Thomas Blackstock, St Mildred's-court, Poultry.

The London registers on Ancestry.com were also searched for any possible remarriage of George after he came to the capital. All those men called George Perry, whose marriages were found to have taken place between 1806 and 1826, were bachelors. George's wife, Elizabeth, died in 1806.

From research on the Internet, it was suggested that the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales for 1902 might contain information relating to a life of George Perry junior in an article by Hedley. The abstract of these Proceedings was examined at the British Library (shelfmark Ac.310/2). The naturalist, C. Hedley, F.L.S., gave a series of six presentations to the Linnean Society during 1900 – 1902, entitled 'Studies on Australian Mollusca'. Part 5 is the only one of these to mention Perry by name, and that is in connection with a particular species of shell which had been renamed, 'Gyrineum Australasica, Perry'. He concluded part 6 by stating that certain Australian species described in 1811 had been discussed and the restoration of the names then imposed was advocated. This date presumably relates to work done by George Perry junior, as it matches with the publication dates of his two major works. Hugh Torrens's essay explains that the Arcana was published in monthly parts in 1810 and 1811 and the first edition of Conchology was published in April 1811.

George Peter Perry died on the 11th December 1857 in Montevideo but did not leave a will. Letters of administration on his estate were obtained on 26th July 1859 by James Clemens Thompson, merchant, the attorney of Rosa Maria Perry, widow, who was also living in Montevideo.

A search of the IGI and BVRI for possible baptisms of George Perry senior in Somerset between the years 1713 and 1723 provides two possibilities:

26 Feb 1716	Geo Perry	s/o Wm	North Cadbury
20 Jul 1719	George Perry	s/o John and Mary	Bruton
(b 12 Jul 1719)			

The second entry was submitted by an LDS church member. A search of the North Cadbury extracted batch was made to try to locate any brother called William, whose father was also called William. One such baptism was found, but it took place on the 16th February 1701. This is too early to be the brother of our George senior.

The detailed research of Professor Torrens¹⁵ is published below.

THE TWO GEORGE PERRYS, FATHER AND SON; NATURALISTS OF SOMERSET, SHROPSHIRE, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON FROM 1736 TO 1811

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For Philip Joyce and Paul Laxton - in gratitude

ABSTRACT

Biographical data are presented on two forgotten, father and son, naturalists, both named George Perry. The elder has been known from his involvement in the iron and engineering industries at the English, Shropshire, 'birthplace of the Industrial Revolution', and later in Liverpool. But his natural history activities have been forgotten. Even more forgotten has been his younger son, author, architect and sculptor in Liverpool, who later, after bankruptcy, renewed authorship in London. There he published three more books, one a Catalogue of paintings (1807) and two on natural history, the Conchology (1811) and the serial publication Arcana (1810-1811). After this he completely disappears from historical sight, but was dead by 1823.

INTRODUCTION

It is strange how easily, and completely, some people slip through the pages of history. Such has been the case with the two naturalists of the Perry family, active in Shropshire, Liverpool and London between 1747 and 1811. This paper attempts to record what has been

¹⁵ Emeritus Professor of Industrial History, Keele University, who has kindly given his permission to use his research. His papers related to the Perry family will be deposited in the Lancashire Public Records Office.

uncovered about them. They unfortunately share a common name, which has certainly obscured some facets of their complex and unusually itinerant lives.

ORIGINS OF THIS PERRY FAMILY

One early source claimed that George Perry [senior] who, during his life time, formed a design for publishing a history of Liverpool, was a native of Somersetshire and a descendant of Micajah Perry, lord mayor of London in the year 1747, and member of Parliament for that city in 1739, of an ancient family of West Waters, in Devonshire (Smithers 1825, 419-420).

Henry Smithers was almost certainly given this information by George Perry junior's surviving brother, William Perry (1767-1835) surgeon-dentist, then still living in Liverpool. Micajah Perry (died 1753) was a London merchant who, in 1738-1739, was indeed Lord Mayor of London. His official diary for this period has been published (Treloar 1920, 229-259). Micajah had also been a whig M.P. for London between 1727-1741 (Sedgwick 1970, vol. 2, 341-342). Donnan has described his important, but complex, American trading connections in some detail (Donnan 1931a). A Perry pedigree by a renowned genealogist has also long been available. This demonstrated that this Micajah Perry died without issue (Oliver 1899, 20-24).

Micajah's only known brother, the London merchant Philip Perry (died 1762) of Greenwich, Kent, from whom these George Perrys might instead have directly descended, also died without leaving any children, according to his will (Public Record Office - hereafter PRO, Prerogative Court of Canterbury - hereafter PCC, will, Kent June 267, proved 1762).

Jacob Price's fine recent study of this branch of the Perry family, detailing their extensive trans-Atlantic trading links with north America, again confirms that this branch of the family "died without known issue" (Price 1992, 26). His study gives detailed pedigrees of this Perry family down to the above Micaiah Perry the third (Price 1992, figs 1 to 4). Price again traces this family back to Devon but it is not clear how any Somerset progeny could have intervened. Whatever, Smithers, in claiming a direct descent for our George Perrys, must be discounted. The unusual name Micajah Perry is also found in 1792, when a man of that name, born c. 1774, of an Irish (county Tipperary) family, since at least 1710, was admitted to Trinity College, Dublin (Burtchaell & Sadleir 1924, 664). His man's eldest brother Samuel (1765-1829) was interested in new Irish mining technology (Torrens 1997, 70-72).

Another later, again Liverpool, source instead notes of the origins of this Perry family, and certainly with more accuracy:

George Perry [senior]... born in 1719, a native of Somersetshire, was descended from an old Devonshire family one of whose members, Micaiah Perry, was Lord Mayor of London in 1739, and represented the city in Parliament. The name Micaiah indicates the Puritan proclivities which the family always maintained. [This confirms his Devonshire origin, but indicates that George Perry senior was no direct descendant of the Lord Mayor]. George Perry was sent to College with a view to the [non-conformist] ministry, but his inclinations led him rather in the direction of science and engineering. He was transferred to the Coalbrookdale Iron-works, then in full development under the enterprising brothers John and William Wilkinson and Abraham Darby, whose notice he attracted by his intelligence and ability (Picton 1875, vol. 2, 283).

This rightly emphasizes the non-conformist origins of this Perry family. These have made tracing them more difficult.

PERRY'S SOMERSET ORIGINS

It is now clear from these two sources, at least, that the immediate origins of this family should be sought in Somerset. The two brothers, William Perry and George Perry senior, were born in Somerset in about 1713 and 1718 respectively. These ages are calculated from their recorded ages when they died in Liverpool. They were both buried in the old English Presbyterian, later Unitarian Chapel there, which still stands at Toxteth Park, Liverpool.

WILLIAM PERRY (c.1713-1763) George senior's brother

The Monumental Inscription for George's elder brother William Perry reads:

William Perry, late of Liverpool, died beloved and regretted, November 23 1763, aged near 50. Having above seven years endured a most painful indisposition with amazing fortitude and resignation (Gibson MSS, 5, 598-9).

The two brothers had clearly remained in close contact, since William was one of many Perry family subscribers to George Perry senior's Shropshire publication of 1758 (see below). William's earlier arrival in Liverpool must have encouraged George Perry senior's move to follow him there, late in 1758. After William's death some of his property at Mount Pleasant, Liverpool was sold by auction ([Liverpool General Advertiser](#), hereafter [LGA](#), 24 June 1768, 2, col 2) by his wife then living in Park Lane. More such Perry property, in Everton, is noted in 1771 ([LGA](#), 2 August 1771, 1, col 3).

William Perry's will (Lancashire Record Office, dated 15 August 1759 when already of Liverpool, with codicil 1 October 1763), was proved 1768, but not administered until April 1772 by Lydia Ann Perry - George senior's widow). It names William's wife Mary and their only daughter Dinah. This may help confirm the Somerset connection as a Dinah Perry married Isaac Vining at Wincanton (both of that parish) on 29 May 1780 (Somerset Record Office, hereafter RO, D/P/Winc/2/1/6). As we shall see, the nearby town of Shepton Mallet provides other Somerset Perry connections. A "Dinah, daughter of William Perry" had been baptised in Wolverhampton on 12 July 1755 (International Genealogical Index, hereafter IGI) which may indicate where William was between leaving Shropshire before his move to Liverpool by 1759. His will also allows us to extend this Perry family back one further generation.

LEVY PERRY (c.1700-fl.1762) George senior's uncle

In his first will (1759), William had appointed his brother George senior as an executor and trustee. The other was to be his "uncle Levy Perry [then], of London". Levy Perry was born in about 1700, according to his 1729 marriage licence. Levy was already involved with the famous Coalbrookdale works in Shropshire before his Shropshire marriage. In 1726 Joshua Serjeant had made an indenture with Richard Ford I (1689-1745) to make provision for the orphaned children of Abraham Darby I (1678-1717). This involved a payment of £100 to Levy

Perry (Raistrick 1989, 51). The same "Levy Perry of the parish of Madeley, Shropshire, aged 28" was next licenced to marry Elizabeth Smith of the same parish on 22 January 1729/30. This licence was signed by his friend, the surgeon Samuel Boden (Herefordshire Archive Service, Marriage Licence, Film 24). They were married at the nearby parish of Barrow on 12 March 1729/30 (IGI). Three of Levy Perry's children appear in the IGI for Shropshire; 1) Levi junior baptised Little Wenlock, 15 June 1733, 2) George (born and died January 1738) and 3) the second George baptised 1 April 1742, Madeley. Little Wenlock, where the first is recorded is where disputed mining, cited below, later took place in the 1740's.

By 1733 Levy was an agent for the Coalbrookdale Company. The first payment to him in the surviving Coalbrookdale Cash Book, for 1732-1749 (Shropshire RO 6001/331) dates from 13. 8br. [October] 1733 when Levy Perry was paid £5.5.0, the first of many such payments which continue until September 1747. Raistrick is thus wrong to suggest that payments made in "1745 to L. Perry visiting Wrexham and Chester fairs" to get orders, were to any "new individual" (Raistrick 1989, 9). Other Perrys named in these Cash Books include William, "a mason", from 1733 to 1739; many to Richard from 1736 to 1747; Samuel from 1741 to 1745. Payments to our George [senior] start in 1746 and continue till the end of the period 1747 when George was clearly now working at their London Warehouse.

In 1745 we have evidence that both Levy and Samuel Boden were involved with Edmund Darby I (1712-1756) in the manufacture of "British Oil" in Shropshire (Torrens 1994, 4). This had been carried out here under patent protection since 1694 (English Patent 330) and then, by the Betton brothers, under a second patent granted in 1742 (Patent number 587). This last patent was successfully revoked in March 1745 by Edmund Darby and Samuel Boden of Coalbrookdale (Macleod 1988, 59 & Directions [1745?], 2-3) when only Darby and Boden are named as the partners. But in four advertisements published between 29 April and 20 May 1745, the makers and vendors of this true British Oil, now warning that Betton's alternative oil was "counterfeit and invalid", now include Levy Perry as a third partner (Aris' Birmingham Gazette). It is not known how much longer Perry was involved. By 1746 similar adverts now name only Samuel Boden and "Edmund Darby & Co." (Aris' Birmingham Gazette, 26 May - 2 June 1746) which could have still have included Levy Perry. But by early 1753 the partnership of "Samuel Boden, surgeon and others" was by mutual consent dissolved and Boden alone was now making and selling this British Oil from Madeley Wood, Shropshire (Aris' Birmingham Gazette, 29 January - 12 February 1753).

Levy Perry had by now left Shropshire to work in London and there to trade as an ironmonger. He, "of the parish of St Michael, Queenhithe, London, widower, had married Philepia Stacey of the parish of St. Antholin, Budge Row, London, widow on 26 November 1750" (St. Antholin Register, Guildhall Library, London). In 1758 when George Perry, his nephew, produced his description and drawings of Shropshire, "Mr Levy Perry, London" heads the Perry family subscription list (for six copies) with his Shropshire-born son "Levy junior" (1733-?) taking two copies.

But by October 1763 when William Perry, his other nephew, wrote the codicil to his will, this now named "Joseph Steedman of Moreton Forge, Salop, in place of my uncle Levy Perry", as his other trustee and executor. This was because Levy senior had recently gone bankrupt, as the May 1762 issue of the Gentleman's Magazine (vol. 32, 243 - hereafter GM) duly confirms that month; "Levy Perry senior, of Brook's Wharf [London], ironmonger" in the City of London. Levy's fate thereafter, as so often with bankrupts, is uncertain. Philip Joyce has kindly pointed out that a 30 June 1766 Birmingham newspaper notice names a Levy Perry as occupying a property near St. Bartholomew's Chapel there. A Levy Perry next appears in the 1767 Birmingham Directory as "Linen Draper and Toy Maker in the High Street, and in the 1781 Directory a Levy Perry "Dye Sinker, 20 Jennings Street" appears. These might be our Levy senior and junior, but this is impossible, since the IGI records a separate Levi Perry here, who had married a Martha. Their daughter Elizabeth was baptised on 12 November 1750 and son Levi on 11 March 1757, both at St Martin's, Birmingham.

GEORGE PERRY SENIOR (c.1718-1771) AND HIS WORK AT COALBROOKDALE, SHROPSHIRE

George Perry senior was a few years younger than his elder brother William and born circa 1718. He had first arrived at Coalbrookdale in 1736, aged only about 18, following his uncle there. He then acted as tutor to some of the children of the quaker Richard Ford I (1689-1751) and his wife Mary née Darby (1700-1751), the eldest daughter of the more famous Abraham Darby I, the industrial pioneer of Shropshire. These details come from an Exchequer Deposition, to which I was kindly led by Barrie Trinder. This involved a dispute about mining in Little Wenlock, Shropshire in the late 1740's (Trinder 2000, 33-35). The children George taught included some of the next generation of Shropshire ironmasters, Richard Ford II (1721-1792 - see Labouchere 1988, 273-274; 1993, 369-370) then aged about 15. He, and his brother Edmund, both went bankrupt in 1764 according to Raistrick (1989, 67 & 76). In fact Richard's bankruptcy, as "ironmaster, Coalbrookdale" was announced in January 1759 (GM, 29, 47) and in May it was "Abraham Ford, ironmaster, Coalbrookdale" who followed him (GM, 29, 243). Edmund, last heard of in 1773 (see below), is not recorded as a bankrupt between 1759 and 1765.

Richard Ford junior next became clerk to the Coalbrookdale Company, in 1745 and Perry, after teaching the Ford children, became, in 1749, accountant to that same Company (PRO Kew, E 134, 27 Geo. II, H 8 of 1753-1754). It is unfortunate the Company's surviving Cash Books only go up to 1749, and so no later, Perry-constructed, records survive. Other surviving Darby of Coalbrookdale records show George Perry witnessing a February 1752 document involving a Darby inheritance of Shropshire properties (Shropshire RO 1987/14/5).

George Perry had already shown an interest in local Shropshire topography by 1747. He later recorded that he had then published "A short account of the burning well at Broseley in the Birmingham paper [clearly Aris's Birmingham Gazette]" (Perry 1755), from a source that supplied his uncle's British Oil. George also kept a pet Bull Finch whose merits he described in a 1745 poem, later published in Liverpool (Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser, 7 October 1774, 3, col. 3).

From 1753 we get a view of Perry's close involvement with the quaker Darby family of Coalbrookdale from the published diaries of Abiah Darby (1716-1794), second wife of Abraham Darby II (1711-1763) (Labouchere 1988, 63, 155). On 8 June 1753, while at the London Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, Samuel Maude, Abiah's nephew, had noted how he had been "with Uncle [Abraham] Darby [II (1711-1763)] with his Agent [George] Perry beside Queen Hyth" [a dock on the River Thames, near St. Paul's Cathedral]. Later, on this same visit to London, they went together in a boat to Buck's Wharf, "at which place they were joined by Perry and proceeded to Chelsea to Don Salteries [i.e. Saltero's] Coffee House". Here they saw the curiosities and "got a dish of Coffee" (Labouchere 1988, 63). This shows that Perry was by now acting as a London agent to the Darby's Shropshire concerns.

The London Museum, or 'collection of curiosities', that they then visited was that founded by James Salter (died 1728 - see [Oxford Dictionary of National Biography](#), hereafter [ODNB](#)). It was one of the most renowned meeting places then in London and held collections of both natural and artificial curiosities. This note provides the first evidence that Perry had, by 1753, a serious interest in studying and collecting 'natural and artificial curiosities'.

The surviving Coalbrookdale Cash Book for 1732-1749 (SRO 6001/331) carries a note, on its front flyleaf, reading "In exchequer between William Hayward, Serjeant-at-Law plaintiff between Thomas Goldney and others, defendants - 7 January 1754 - This book was shewn to [Edmund Ford, Gent. - deleted] George Perry Gent. at the time of his examination in this cause before us". Edmund Ford had presumably moved away by then so Perry had been a substitute. Perry witnessed another document relating to a Darby Shropshire mill property in October 1754 (Shropshire RO 1987/35/9).

It is no surprise that Perry's interest in 'curiosities', especially fossils is soon revealed in a fascinating correspondence with Emanuel Mendes da Costa (1717-1791 - see [ODNB](#)), F.R.S. 1747, of London, from early 1754 (British Library - hereafter BL - Add MSS, 28540 f. 201-212, 1754-1763). Da Costa was then busily trading in shells, fossils and minerals with the many collectors of such natural history material, then active across Europe (see Whitehead 1977; Rousseau & Haycock 2000; Cantor 2001; Siemer 2001 & Cantor 2005). The first surviving letter to Perry from da Costa, dated 26 March 1754, thanks Perry for the 'fossils' he had sent him from Shropshire. Such 'fossils' could then have been anything 'dug up from the earth', but, bearing in mind the abundance of true fossils here, it seems certain these are what are mainly referred to. One of these may have been the trilobite illustrated by Da Costa (1754). This, from the "iron mines of Coalbrookdale", he thought, was "of a crustaceous animal" (Torrens 2002, X, 2-3). This was one of the swarm of famous "Dudley locusts" (Mikulic & Kluessendorf 2007, 144-145).

Da Costa's next letter, of 10 June 1755, mentions "our mutual friend", the Flintshire naturalist and fossil collector, Thomas Pennant (1726-1798) F.R.S.. His collections were presented to the British Museum in 1912 (now the Natural History Museum, London). Here fossil material from Shropshire, on which Pennant published, like Wenlock Limestone corals from Coalbrookdale, which may well have originated from Perry, survives (see Smith 1913 & N[ewton] 1913), along with their accompanying MSS catalogues. Three letters from Perry senior sending Pennant, and supposedly his son David (1753-1841), such fossils and a "curious antique inscription", dated 1755, 1759 and undated, also survive in the Pennant papers (Warwickshire RO, CR 2017/TP331/1-2 and TP492). Perry's ability to have written to this son seems unlikely, in view of these dates, but these letters show that Perry's address was then Madeley Lodge, Shropshire.

The first surviving reply from Perry to da Costa is dated 27 August 1755 from Coalbrookdale and notes his more recent memoir on the same Shropshire Burning Well in the [Gentleman's Magazine](#) (Perry 1755). It also gives a sketch of another fossil trilobite he had found there. The next letter from Perry, dated 29 January 1756, recorded that he had now been introduced to another fossilist, Gustavus Brander (1719/20-1787), the author of *Fossilia Hantoniensia* (see [ODNB](#)), published in 1766. His same letter accurately noted how, to Perry, "one good fossil specimen was better than a bushell of trash". Another letter, of 18 November 1762 from da Costa, mentions another fossilist who had now joined their circle, Thomas Haviland (c.1706-1770), apothecary of Bath (Torrens 2002, III, 222). All of these, with many other such 'fossilists', were soon subscribers to Da Costa's *Natural History of Fossils* [still anything dug up from the earth], volume 1, part 1, (all published) in 1757. The preface of this carefully noted how "Mr. G. Perry of Coal-brook-dale in Shropshire", was one of those who had favoured da Costa "with observations and specimens" (p. vi). There are several mentions of Coalbrookdale lithological specimens in da Costa's text. These include a sandstone, there unusually "made no use of" (p. 133), a hard stone called "Plain Pelwill" (p. 158) or another called "Flowered Pellwyll... capable of some polish" (p. 164), all rock types found in the collieries there. Many of these same "fossilists" also appear in the long subscription list to Perry's Shropshire publication (Perry 1758a).

The extraordinary legacy of the Darby family, forming a 'Dynasty of Shropshire Iron Founders', for whom Perry was an agent, much later led to the early designation of their Ironbridge Gorge as a World Heritage (industrial) Site (Anon. 2003 - UK site number 3). Several of the standard works on the family, and the area, record how Perry senior next produced one of the drawings from which came the famous "two earliest prints" of these iron works, engraved by T. Vivares in 1758 (Smith 1979, 14-16; Trinder 1988, 23; 2000 & Raistrick 1989, 72, which used one on its cover). Perry's drawing may be either of these two plates. Plate one, entitled "A view of the Upper Works at Coalbrookdale", is reproduced here. Both plates have been widely reproduced in recent years, in colour as plates 2 and 3 in Smith (1979) or by Vanns (2003, 12). Perry was the co-publisher of these drawings, with his fellow artist Thomas Smith (died 1767) of Derby.

Perry contributed the accompanying text to what is now his best known publication (Perry 1758a - copy in BL K.Top.XXXVI.26.a). This project was "originally intended only for private Amusement" and first proposed in 1756. Perry's text is entitled "[A description of Coalbrookdale in the county of Salop, with two Perspective Views thereof](#)". This printed [Description](#) is a rare piece of early jobbing printing by the later famous Birmingham printer and typefounder, John Baskerville (1706-1775) (Pardoe 1989). Perry here again mentions the abundant "extraneous Bodies,... of Fossil Shells and Corals, found here. These have been of late Years much in Request and have found a place in the Cabinets of the most curious Persons". Perry's text has been reprinted by Trinder (1988, 22-24). The most interesting feature of it, for our purposes, is the long, and fascinating, list of 448 subscribers which is added to his [Description](#). Among them, apart from Abraham Darby II who took 20 copies, are his partner Thomas Goldney III of Bristol (1696-1769), and many other industrialists and collectors. Goldney's payment, also for 20 copies, in 1759 is recorded in his Account Book (Rogers 1976, 35). A set had cost 10 shillings each.

The following members of the Perry family, excluding his uncle's family Levy Perry senior and his wife, Levy junior and daughter, as already mentioned, also subscribed.

Mr William Perry, Liverpool, four copies [elder brother]
Mr James Perry, Bristol
Mr Edward Perry, Shepton [Mallet], Somerset
Mr Joseph Perry, ditto
Another listed Shepton subscriber is Zacariah Bayley.

These three Perrys undoubtedly hold clues to the precise Somerset origins of this Perry family. The Perrys of Shepton Mallet include another "Levi Perry baptised there in 1755, son of Benjamin and Mary Perry" (IGI). Several other Perrys appear here in the IGI from 1720 to 1759 and later, in 1789, one who may yield a more significant clue as to why this Perry family's ancestry has escaped scrutiny.

James Perry, brewer of that place, who had long been in a desponding way, had made several attempts on his life, and at length drowned himself in a large cask of beer. One Shepherd, a clothworker, in attempting to save him, unfortunately shared the same fate. The verdict of the coroner's jury on the former was lunacy, on the latter, accidental death ([GM](#), 59 (1), 467, May 1789).

This double tragedy may well have involved a member of our Perry family and so would certainly have dissuaded attempts to record more of them at that time.

George Perry soon became a Shropshire iron-master in his own right. From July 1758 he is listed, as 'gentleman' and principal partner, with others, in the Lightmoor Ironworks (Shropshire RO, 1681/183/10 & Trinder 1981, 26, 271). In 1758 these works, notably known as "George Perry and Company", to show he was the principal, had supplied the first coke iron to the Wolverley Forge, near Kidderminster (Ince 1991, 41 & 119).

Perry's third publication on Shropshire, discussing the navigation on the river Severn, was published in mid 1758 (Perry 1758b; Farr 1946). In this Perry discussed the need for a complete system of waterways throughout England, from London to Bristol and from the Mersey to Hull. Part of the descriptive text from this, on the Severn river, has again been reprinted by Trinder (1988, 25-26). In this same year Perry was a subscriber to William Borlase's book [The Natural History of Cornwall](#) and to the fine edition of Milton's [Paradise Lost](#), also printed by John Baskerville.

Another Shropshire map, but which Perry produced only in MSS, is his "Plan of the Iron Works at Madeley Wood in Shropshire". This is preserved in a volume of Shropshire views and maps (BL, King's Topography 36.16.1). It is signed "G. Perry delint" and shows these works and the roads and railroads leading to, and near, them. The scale is 1: 240, or 20 feet to one inch. It is dated in the library's own catalogue as circa 1760. These furnaces were erected in 1757-58 (Trinder 1981, 26) and Trinder reproduces part of this map (p. 25) but dates it as 1772, following Smith 1979, 14. The problem with this date is that it postdates the man who drew it. This map must at least date from between 1758 and 1770, and the earlier date is the more probable.

George Perry was a partner, by January 1759, in the iron Forge at Moreton in the parish of Shawbury, North Shropshire. This was a project in which Joseph Steedman, named in the addition to William Perry's will of 1763 when he replaced his bankrupt uncle Levy, was also involved. Joseph Steedman was an iron master here who married twice at Shawbury, first in 1754 and again in 1761. This second marriage produced a son Joseph Steedman junior in 1762. According to a later lease (1790) of Moreton Forge, on 7 January 1759, John Hazledine the elder, Moreton Corbett, millwright, Arthur Davies of Great Dawley, Gent., and George Perry of Coalbrookdale, Gent. were the new lessees, with Steedman, of this Forge (Shropshire RO 1396/3). By 20 October 1759 Perry was still involved, but no longer of Shropshire, having moved to Liverpool, and the famous John Wilkinson (1728-1808) was the new partner (Assignment dated 1775 - Shropshire RO 1496/424). "Mr Joseph Steedman of Moreton Forge" had been buried on 2 April 1766 at Shawbury. So by November 1768 George Perry had become the sole surviving executor of his brother William's will of 1763.

One other notice of Perry's period in Shropshire is the later note that

in early life, we find him engaged in the iron-works, at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, where he became acquainted with John and William Wilkinson, the great iron masters, and made some successful experiments for boring of cannon from the solid [metal] (Smithers, 1825, 420; Picton 1875, vol. 2, 283).

Perry's part in these experiments is however nowhere recorded in the standard source on this (Edwards 1991). Another Perry-Wilkinson connection was recorded by the late Janet Butler (Butler c. 1992, 110). This came as a result of the dispute between John and his father Isaac (1695-1784) over control of their Bersham Works, near Wrexham, Denbighshire. This went to the King's Bench for arbitration in 1766. The famous Rotherham iron-master Samuel Walker (1715-1782 - see [ODNB](#)) was chosen as arbitrator and when all the parties met at Wrexham on 6 August 1766, George Perry appeared in support of John Wilkinson. This indicates his considerable stature among contemporary ironmasters.

PERRY SENIOR MOVES TO LIVERPOOL.

Late in 1758 George Perry moved to Liverpool. This was to establish a new branch of the Coalbrookdale Ironworks operation there. This resulted in the later foundation of the once-famous Liverpool engineering firm of Fawcett's, which has its own historian, Horace White (1958). White clearly used the same Liverpool sources as used here in his short chapter on George Perry, but somehow he misread Somerset for Scotland, as Perry's supposed birthplace (White 1958, 13). The Liverpool engineering branch that Perry set up was initially at 17 York Street. This was first little more than a depot for Shropshire-made iron goods. The Darbys soon decided to have many of these cast in Liverpool, as well as in Shropshire, so a new foundry was started. A February 1771 advert, just after their agent Perry's early death, named this as "The Coalbrook-dale Company, known in Liverpool by the name, or firm, of George Perry and Co." (White 1958, 15). Examples of the firm's activities are recorded in the local press, as in February 1766, when Perry offers, and lists, "all sorts of cast iron wares available at his Iron Foundry in Duke Street Walk, near Dye House Well" ([LGA](#), 7 February 1766). In July 1766 Perry demonstrated a "new Pump for use in ships, invented by John Grindrod and Thomas Barber of Liverpool" which he had on display "in his foundry yard, discharging 100 gallons of water a minute through a 4 1/2 inch pipe from a well 22 feet deep" ([LGA](#), 25 July 1766). In 1770 Perry offered "a large pair of second-hand Bellows" for sale ([LGA](#), 22 June 1770, 3, col. 3).

In 1759 Perry had been one of a new Shropshire-based partnership which purchased the old Carr Furnace and iron works, north of Saint Helen's, not far from Liverpool, in Lancashire, in a move clearly connected with Liverpool. This furnace became the first coke-iron, as opposed to charcoal, furnace in Lancashire, probably using local ironstone in its future iron-making (Awty 1957, 112; Langton 1979, 178).

Perry was also reported on his death to have been "concerned in a separate capacity [from the Coalbrookdale concern] in the buying and selling of Pig Iron, Guns, Bolts etc" and other, some unquakerly, products in Liverpool in the advert placed by Abraham Darby ([LGA](#), 22 February 1771, 2, col 2 - see White 1958, 15). Sugar boiling pans for the West Indian sugar trade soon became a Liverpool speciality, foreshadowing the period when Fawcetts there became the leading sugar machinery manufacturers in the world. Perry's house was in Duke Street Walk and his iron foundry in what is still called Lydia Ann Street in Liverpool. This last was later so named by him to commemorate his own wife; a fascinating way to remember a spouse. It is shown as the new "Anne Street" on his own 1769 Liverpool map (see below).

LYDIA ANN PERRY née LACROIX (c.1731-1801), George's wife.

The damaged obligation for their marriage licence, dated 31 December 1764, survives (National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, 30/50). It notes that "George Perry, bachelor and Lydia Ann Lacroix of the parish of Chapel Hill, in the county of Monmouth, spinster may lawfully solemnize marriage together". The marriage allegation of the same date records that Perry was then of the parish of St Peter's, Liverpool. They married at Chapel Hill on 1 January 1765, a small parish, 4 miles north of Chepstow, on the border between Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire. Within the parish then were iron works at, and near, Tintern (Rees 1969, 77, quoting a 1763 mss) and perhaps the Lacroix family were involved here. Among the subscribers to Perry's 1758 publication (Perry 1758a) is also "Mr Edward Jorden, Abbey, Tintern, Monmouth" who, in the 1773 Liverpool [History](#) list, is now "Edward Jorden Esq., Tintern".

The Lacroixs (or Lacroys) were a Huguenot family which had first settled in Kent. Lydia Ann's father was Peter Lacroix (c. 1704-1788). He died 22 November 1788 aged 84 (Gibson, vol. 5, 542-3), and his will dated 1784 survives (PRO, PCC will proved March 1789, copy will PROB 11/1177). This describes him as "late of Hearne, Kent, barber and peruke maker but now residing in Liverpool". When he subscribed to the 1773 [History of Liverpool](#) he was confusingly listed as "Mr Lacroix Hearn, Kent". He may well be the source of Perry's report on "the transit of Venus taken at Canterbury" on 3 June 1769 ([LGA](#), 21 July 1769, 3, col. 3). The name of Peter's first wife, George Perry's mother, is unknown but his younger second wife, whom he married at St Alphege, Canterbury in 1750, was Hester Marrable, daughter of Thomas Marrable and his wife Hester. She had been baptised at the same church in 1727 (see IGI). Lydia Ann (born c.1731) was Peter Lacroix's only surviving child and Peter left all his estate to her, amounting to about £1,000. This was to be divided on her death into three parts; of which his two grandsons, William and George Perry junior, were each to receive one part.

GEORGE PERRY SENIOR'S WORK ON LIVERPOOL

Perry senior was soon as highly active in the cultural life of Liverpool as he had been in Shropshire's. Perry appears in Liverpool's first [Directory](#) of 1766 as "George Perry, ironfounder, Duke Street Walk" (Shaw 1907, 44). He continued to subscribe to books, as in 1763, when he subscribed to John Wright's [The American Negociator](#), published in London (Wallis & Wallis 1993). His trade with America is confirmed by the report that "Goods imported into the Port of Liverpool, on the *Speedwell* from Philadelphia" in 1770 included "2 Casks of Black Lead for George Perry" ([LGA](#), 3 August 1770, 3, col.4). Perry had also taken up his old correspondence with Emanuel Da Costa in 1761 after a five year break. His first surviving letter to Da Costa from Liverpool is dated 26 November 1762 and notes "he had been assaying iron ores for 4 years", clearly a new interest consequent on his move to Liverpool. His next letter of 22 December 1762, again from Liverpool, notes he was returning to Shropshire to collect further geological specimens. His last surviving letter to Da Costa is dated 10 June 1763 and has been annotated by Da Costa; "I did as [he] desired [by sending specimens to Dr Matthew Turner] but did not return an answer to this letter" (BL Add MS 28540, f. 212). Having now been elected clerk to the Royal Society in London, Da Costa clearly now had less time for such activities. His clerkship was however, soon to lead to his imprisonment in the King's Bench Prison, in London from 1768-1772, for embezzlement and fraud. By the time Da Costa was freed, Perry was dead.

Matthew Turner was the Liverpool surgeon, chemist and radical theologian named above. He practiced there and died (probably there) in 1789 (see [ODNB](#)). Turner is most famous for having treated Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795), the Staffordshire potter, for his injured leg in 1762. Through this, Wedgwood was introduced to his future partner Thomas Bentley (1730-1780), a Liverpool merchant, and these friendships later extended to include the Perry family, as we shall see.

PERRY'S HISTORY OF LIVERPOOL PROJECT

Perry had started to gather material for his planned history of his adopted city from about 1764. This project has been discussed in an unpublished TSS by Paul Laxton (Laxton 1989) from which he has kindly allowed me to extract much information. It includes a fascinating analysis of the financial viability of Perry's project. Perry's was initially intended to be amalgamated with several others. One was Peter Perez Burdett (1734/5-1793)'s

ambitious but financially unprofitable venture with George Perry, ironmaster for the Coalbrookdale Company, to publish views of Liverpool by Michael Angelo Rooker [1746-1801]. A map (1769) and a history of the town was completed after Burdett withdrew to chase more promising interests, but his drawings of public buildings, engraved by [Edward Rooker [Michael's father] appeared in the history, published in 1773 ([ODNB](#) - sub Burdett).

Peter Perez Burdett was a cartographer, draughtsman and artist then resident in Liverpool. Burdett had intended to undertake a survey of the whole of Lancashire but his plan failed, for lack of subscribers, and eventually he emigrated to Germany where he died in Karlsruhe (see Harley 1964; Harley & Laxton 1974 & Egerton 1990, 87-91).

Philip Joyce and Paul Laxton have uncovered details of the progress of Perry's Liverpool history project in the correspondence of the antiquary Rev. Samuel Pegge (1704-1796) between 1768 and 1769, now preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (Add. MSS 28087, 113-139). This gives a good indication of the constant whirl of business which now occupied Perry. At an earlier stage, Perry had entered into an agreement with Burdett to publish "An Accurate Plan of Liverpool; with two perspective views of the town: together with its Geographical Description and Commercial History" (Add. MSS 28087, 137). These proposals are undated, but the plan was "almost ready for engraving". They must predate the March 1766 appeal to "Subscribers to Burdett and Perry's Plan, Views and History of Liverpool, who were desired to excuse the delay attending the proposed publication" ([LGA](#), 28 March 1766). Perry issued an appeal in the Liverpool newspapers in April 1768 asking for subscribers and "those with historical records, MSS or memoirs relative to the antiquities, natural history, commerce or manufactures of this town" to communicate with him ([LGA](#), 29 April & 10 June 1768, 3 & 1, col. 3). Burdett had

withdrawn by mid September 1768 (Laxton 1989) as a letter from Perry to Pegge, dated 12 September 1768, explains (Add MSS 28087, 127).

Perry's project was to have comprised separate 1) Plan, 2) Views and 3) a History of Liverpool which subscribers could take separately or as complete subscriptions. The first item to be published first was

1) GEORGE PERRY'S MAPS/PLANS OF LIVERPOOL

Perry published two important maps of the city and the region (Cowell 1908). These were

a) A New and Accurate plan of the Town and Port of Liverpool, wherein all the streets, squares, courts, wyents, lanes alleys, yards, passages, fields and docks are carefully drawn from an actual survey and finished March 25 1769 by George Perry, engraved by Thos. Kitchin, published July 7 1769, 4 sheets, 39 x 53 1/4 inches (BL maps K.18.73). This was advertised in Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser (7 July 1769, 3, col. 2) and LGA (21 & 28 July 1769, 2 & 1, cols 2 & 3) which added that 2) "two perspective views engraved by Mr Rooker will speedily be published" and, "as soon as the author's other Avocations will permit, [3] A Natural and Commercial History of Liverpool". This 1769 map of Liverpool itself has also been widely reproduced, as by White (1958, 12-13) and it is discussed more recently by Powell (2003), who helpfully reproduces the section showing the site of Perry's iron foundry in Lydia Anne Street, now named after his wife.

b) A Map of the Environs of Liverpool, drawn from an actual survey taken in the year 1768 by Wm. Yates and Geo. Perry, scale of 2 inches to a Mile, engraved by Thomas Kitchin, published Aug. 29 1769, 13.5 x 17 3/4 inches. This map, "being an actual survey of Fifty Square miles" was advertised in the LGA (24 November 1769, 2, col. 2 and 12 January 1770, 3, col 3), as "just published... & intended to illustrate the proposed History of Liverpool, the Subscribers to that Work, on purchasing the Environs Map, will receive another in that Book [in 3] - below], without any additional Expense". This same map was issued in An Essay towards the history of Liverpool (1773) published by William Enfield after Perry's death (BL, 578.i.11). Perry having died, as we shall see, in early 1771. This map of "The Environs of Liverpool" has been reproduced by Spiegl (1978).

2) ROOKER'S VIEWS OF LIVERPOOL

Rooker's fine two "Views of Liverpool" were the next to be published, by Perry on 20 August 1770. They are a) "Liverpool from the Bowling Green, near Mount Zion" and b) "The south East prospect of Liverpool from Seacombe Boat House" [across the Mersey]. They have been reproduced by Conner (1984, 35-37) and the first appears on the cover of Brooke (2003). A notice advertising these two forthcoming engraved panoramic views (each 30 inches long and costing 4/-) with Perry's Plan and intended History appeared in the LGA (28 July 1769, 1) and their continued availability (now at 10/6 the pair) was announced in the LGA by Perry's widow on 5 April 1771 (3, col. 1).

The Lancashire historian, Matthew Gregson (1748/9-1824) noted in 1814, how

Michael Angelo Rooker about 1770 published two excellent engraved views of Liverpool, the best engraved of any we have, to accompany the History of Liverpool by Perry. He also engraved for that history, the principal buildings in the town drawn by P.P. Burdett, then resident here, but in Rooker's View of the town taken in 1770, he has drawn warehouses that were then *to be* built, but were not built (G[regson] 1814).

Rooker's originals survive in the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, having been purchased from the executors of the Estate of the 7th Earl of Sefton in 1974 (Anon. 1975, 43-44). Intriguingly, the Liverpool historian James Boardman (1790-1861) later recorded how, in 1856, Perry's grandson "Dr. [William Duncan] Perry, of Everton was then in possession of the original drawings" (Boardman 1856, 12). This grandson died in April 1860 (see below), so this gives us a first clue as to the fate of any 'Perry archive'. These drawings must have been sold to the Earl between 1856 and 1903.

PERRY'S DEATH

Perry senior died prematurely on 2 or 3 February 1771, aged only 51 or 52, leaving plans for his History of Liverpool unfinished.

Perry, during his short career in Liverpool, displayed extraordinary activity in a variety of pursuits, to which he brought a cultivated mind and extensive attainments. He was the promoter of every useful institution, amongst others of the Liverpool Library, then in its nascent state. He made collections for a History of Liverpool (Picton, 1875, vol. 2, 283-284).

Perry had also celebrated the rise of commerce in Liverpool in verse, reproduced by White (1958, 14). The LGA noted his death

on Saturday the 2nd February, after a few days illness, in his 52d year of his age,... iron master; in whom the different characters of the Man of Business, and the Scholar, were most happily united. His numerous attainments in various branches of science, were ever readily exerted in the service of his friends, his country, and mankind. He lived beloved by all who knew him; and his loss, by those who knew him most, is much lamented (8 February 1771, 3, col. 3)

Another Liverpool historian, John Holt (1743-1801 - see ODNB), later devoted a page of notes to this

eminent person who, if he had fortunately lived to have finished his work would most likely have rendered the present undertaking [Holt's own planned History of Liverpool] totally unnecessary [sic] - an extensive knowledge of the Arts, both useful and polite were happily united in his person - and a willingness to employ these talents in the service of the Public, rendered the loss of so valuable a member of Society more severely felt (Holt MSS, Liverpool RO, 942 HOL vol. 9/203).

Perry was buried in the Ancient non-conformist chapel of Toxteth. Here his Monumental Inscription records him instead as "merchant" and gave his death as on 3 February and his age as 52. He left no will and the administration of his estate had to be dealt with by his widow, 1) Lydia Anne Perry, and his two partners in the Liverpool foundry; 2) Joseph Rathbone (1746-1790) merchant, who had married in 1768, Mary Darby (1748-1807) (Picton 1875, vol. 2, 283), sister of the third administrator, and 3) Abraham Darby III (1750-1789), iron master of Coalbrookdale. This administration was effected in the Consistory Court of Chester on 13 February 1771 (Lancashire RO, WCW 1771, Perry). A building plot on the Everton Heights owned by Perry was soon sold at auction on 9 August 1771 ([LGA](#), 2 August 1771, 1, col 3). The Perrys also occupied Park Lodge, Park Lane, Toxteth, near the chapel where he was buried, as a country retreat. This was advertised to be let by his widow Lydia in April 1774 ([Gore's General Advertiser](#), 22 April, 13 May, & 17 June 1774).

After Perry's early death, the management of the foundry was taken over by the above Joseph Rathbone, son of William Rathbone (1696-1750) of Liverpool. Then, in 1784, its management was taken over by William Fawcett (c.1761-1844), who was Joseph's nephew (William being a son of Joseph's sister, Elizabeth Rathbone - born 1740, and Peter Fawcett of Liverpool, whom she had married in 1763 - Labouchere 1993). These Fawcetts continuing connections, both with Quakers and with Coalbrookdale, are further proved by the burial at the latter place, in the Friends Burial Ground, of William's younger brother, Joseph Fawcett (c.1765-1784), "of Coalbrookdale, late of Liverpool" (SRO, 4430/Bur/1). This soon famous engineering concern in Liverpool was later called the Phoenix Foundry, from 1816, or more frequently thereafter simply "Fossetts". Its bicentenary history 1758-1958 has been published (White 1958).

POSTHUMOUS PERRY and 3) THE HISTORY OF LIVERPOOL PROJECT

Much of the material which Perry had gathered for his intended [History of Liverpool](#) was now used by his friend, Rev. William Enfield (1741-1797 - see [ODNB](#)), the Unitarian whom Perry had met while Enfield was minister of Benn's Garden chapel, Liverpool. Enfield's dissenting friend Rev. William Turner (1761-1859) later noted how Enfield's *Essay towards the History of Liverpool*, first published in 1773, was "a neat topographical sketch, compiled from papers collected by a deceased friend [i.e. Perry]" (Turner 1957, 38). The many subscribers to this volume, include many from Shropshire and Lancashire, and many in industry, with P.P. Burdett, Abraham and Samuel Darby of Colebrookdale, the Wilkinson brothers, John of Broseley, Shropshire and William of Bersham and only a single relative, "Mr G. Perry of the Victualling Office in London".

This is George, son of his bankrupt uncle Levy, Shropshire-born in 1742 (see above). He was in July 1772 involved in provisioning, and providing charts for, James Cook (1728-1779 see [ODNB](#))'s second voyage of discovery in *Resolution and Adventure* 1772-1775 (Beaglehole 1961, 944-945). A "George Perry Esq, Westminster" next appears as a subscriber to John Whitehurst's 1778, *An Inquiry into the original state and formation of the Earth* (London: for the author), so perhaps this George continued his uncle's interests in science? Whitehurst, then of Derby, had subscribed to the 1773 Perry-Enfield [History](#) project.

This [History](#) book's imminent publication was duly advertised.

On the first of July will be published, by subscription, for the benefit of the late Mr. Perry's widow, price 12 shillings, in folio, drawn up from papers left by the late Mr. George Perry of Liverpool and from other materials since collected by the Rev. Mr. Enfield ([LGA](#), 4 & 11 June 1773, 2, col. 3 & 1, col. 2).

It was published on the 2 July ([LGA](#), 2 July 1773) by when, as "the whole number printed off had been subscribed for, so a second edition was now under consideration". This volume duly reached a second edition, "with additions", in 1774 published in London by the Liverpool-born Unitarian publisher and radical, James Johnson (1738-1809) - see [ODNB](#). The first edition was reprinted in 1972 (Liverpool: Rondo Publications).

LYDIA ANN[E] PERRY (c.1731-1801), George's widow

George's widow had opened a school in Liverpool from 1 May 1772. Here

young ladies will be taught English, French, Geography, and Needle-Work, at 18 guineas per Annum, in which their Board, Candles and Fire will be included. Tea Breakfast One pound Seven per Year. Writing and Accounts, Drawing and Musick also taught. A House in the Park, with pretty Gardens, a Mile and Half distant from the Town is engaged, with Assistants proper for this Undertaking, by Lydia Anne Perry ([Gore's General Advertiser](#), 6 March 1772, 3, col. 2, & [Manchester Mercury](#), 10 March, 4, col. 2 & 17 March 1772, 3, col. 1).

Her school continued to function until February 1773 when she announced "she is removed from Park Lodge [which was soon let - see above] to a more commodious house in Mount Pleasant... where she will continue to Educate Young ladies" ([Gore's General Advertiser](#), 12, 19 & 26 February 1773). She continued to teach until at least 1790 when she advertised her services again ([Gore's General Advertiser](#), 22 July 1790, 1, col. 3). But this notice was now immediately followed by another from a "Miss E. Chapman (late teacher for nine years at Mrs Perry's) who begs leave to inform her friends and the Public that she proposes to open A Ladies Boarding and Day School in Clayton Square, on Monday 9 August with the assistance of her eldest sister". On 10 June 1793 Lydia renewed her Lease from the Liverpool Corporation on her Cleveland Square property which she still occupied (ex inf. Philip Joyce). Of the three lives named in the lease two are her sons, William and George junior. The third was a Liverpool merchant friend, John Menzies (c.1768-1845) who died, aged 77, on 11 June 1845, at Wyke near Weymouth (Wyke Regis burials, Dorset RO). Edmund Ford, formerly of Coalbrookdale, was the life first named in the original lease. After his departure from Shropshire to Lancaster, Edmund was still there in 1773 according to the subscription list to Perry's posthumous [History](#). But he had clearly died by 1793.

Little else is known of Lydia, save that she maintained Perry's friendship with Thomas Bentley (1731-1780 - see [ODNB](#)), who had been a prosperous merchant in Liverpool before becoming partner of potter Josiah Wedgwood, in 1769. In a surviving letter of 1775 which she addressed to Bentley in London

Mrs Perry presents her kind compliments to Mr and Mrs Bentley, hopes they are well, cheerful and happy as when she saw them... She hopes Mr Bentley will contrive to spend a day with a few select at The Hill and if Mrs Bentley could be with him it would make the most agreeable addition she could wish to the party.

A clue to this location comes from the 1773 Liverpool History subscribers, which include the "Miss Clarkes, of The Hill, Herefordshire". This is The Hill, near Ross-on-Wye, where three Clarke sisters lived until the last survivor, Jane, died in 1806 (Robinson 1872, 277). Lydia also then sent payment to Bentley for some pottery she had ordered (Wedgwood MSS 9589-11, Keele University Library).

Lydia Anne died in Liverpool on Monday 8 February 1801 "aged 69... few persons ever deserved, or received, a more general esteem" (Billinge's Liverpool Advertiser, 16 February 1801, 3, col. 4). She was also buried in the Ancient non-conformist chapel of Toxteth. Here her Monumental Inscription records her as "Lydia Anne Perry, his Relict, who died February 8th 1801, aged 69" (Gibson, 5, 542-3). Her will, dated 4 September 1797, left her personal possessions to her "two sons William Perry of Liverpool, surgeon-dentist and George Perry junior of Liverpool, merchant" (Lancashire RO, WCW 1801, Lydia Anne Perry). She particularly asks that her sons enquire if her niece Sarah Thomasin de Trabraise, who must provide a clue to her own parentage, was still living. If she was, one third of the £800, left her by her father, was now to go to her (or her child or children) and another third each to her own two sons. If she was dead, each son was to receive one half of this sum and an equal share of her property. She also "entreats my Dear Sons to unite themselves by the strictest bonds of Friendship"; implying that this was not already the case...

Lydia Ann also asked that gifts be made to the following friends, within one year after her death. These were:

- 1) Mr John Rose, Five Guineas [He had been a Liverpool witness to her father's will in 1784]
 - 2) Mary Perry, her [only] daughter, Five Guineas [She might be the woman of that name who had married William Wilson at St. Peter's, Liverpool on 12 February 1793 - see IGI]
 - 3) Peter Gambier of Canterbury, Two Guineas [Gambier, who was clearly a friend from the Lacroix's earlier days in Canterbury, had married Susanna Potvain there in 1771 - see IGI]
 - 4) William Yates senior [c.1738-1802], Two Guineas [Yates was the land surveyor who had helped her late husband, with their joint 1768 Map of the Environs of Liverpool mentioned above. It has previously been assumed that William Yates was a Lancashire man, and a Liverpoolian, but the discoveries of Phillips (1988) relating to the survey of Staffordshire which Yates began later in 1769, now suggest that he may, like George Perry, have been another man similarly attracted to Liverpool, by its rising prosperity, from the mid eighteenth century on, from the West Midlands. Phillips demonstrated that other Yates land-surveyors were then active at Stowe by Chartley in Staffordshire. Since William Yates died in late 1802 and was then buried in Liverpool at an age which gives his birth as circa 1738, it seems certain he is the William Yates, son of William Yates who was baptised at Ingestre, near Stowe, in Staffordshire on 17 October 1738 (see IGI). Subscribers to the 1773 Enfield Liverpool volume include these two; "Mr. William Yates, Customhouse, Liverpool and Mr. Thomas Yates, Stow, Staffordshire", who are almost certainly brothers in confirmation].
 - 5) Mr Marrow, Two Guineas [probably Peter (1756-1809), close relative of Lydia's future daughter-in law, Elizabeth Marrow (1777-1806). An Elizabeth Marrow was also one of the witnesses to Lydia's will. From the similarity of signatures it seems likely this last is this Elizabeth's mother, also Elizabeth (died 1813), whose will survives (Cheshire Archives, Chester, WS 1813)].
- All these payments were "to convince these respectable friends they were affectionately remembered by me".

GEORGE AND LYDIA PERRY'S SURVIVING CHILDREN

George Perry senior and Lydia had at least four children, two surviving sons (Picton, 1875, vol. 2, 285) and the daughter, Mary, mentioned in her will.

1) GEORGE CHARLES PERRY (1765-?)

He was born 6 December 1765 and baptised at St Thomas, Liverpool on 25 April 1766 (Liverpool RO, THO 283 1/1). He must have died before 1798.

2) MARY PERRY (dates unknown)

only recorded in Lydia Ann's will but nothing more known. She was not baptised at St Thomas' church unlike their sons.

3) WILLIAM PERRY (1767-1835)

Their eldest surviving son was William Perry, born 31 October 1767 and baptised 25 November 1767. He became a surgeon and dentist, Liverpool, practising at 55 Seel Street, and a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London. He married Mary Edmundson (c.1770-1844) on 23 June 1795 at Plemstone [Plemstall], Cheshire (Billinge's Liverpool Advertiser, 29 June 1795, 3, col. 2). He became a highly successful practitioner (acting as dentist to the Liverpool-born, future Prime Minister, W.E. Gladstone - Brooke & Sorensen 1971, 19) and a wealthy landowner in Everton (Syers 1830, 336). They had the following seven children:

- 1) Dr. William Duncan (1797-1860). He graduated M.D. at Edinburgh University in 1818 (Anon. 1846, 56). He practiced with his father in Seel Street, Liverpool and died on 6 April 1860, aged 63, in Everton (Liverpool Journal, 14 April 1860, 8, col. 6) having inherited some of his grandfather's drawings (see above). This is confirmed by an undated letter in the Gregson MSS (Liverpool RO, 920 GRE 2/26/17) which reads

Dr. Perry presents his Compliments to Mr. Gregson, his father being from home, he relies upon every care of the drawing he [his father had] promised to lend him, being taken by Mr Gregson and that it shall be returned as soon as possible. As it is the only architectural drawing he possesses of his father's [probably George Perry senior] it would be extremely gratifying to Dr. Perry if his name could be attached to the plate to be made from it, as it exhibits the Castle in a perfectly original point of view. Peel Street, Liverpool [This letter must date from between 1818 and 1835].

- 2) George (1798-1805 - who died of scarlet fever).

3) John (born and died in 1800).

4) Elizabeth (1801-1823) who married Rev. Samuel Wootton Perkins (1795-died before 1852), in April 1822. Their only child, Mary Elizabeth Perkins (c. 1823-1881 - *Times* 25 August 1881, 1) duly married, in 1852, Lt Col. John Hickinbotham Chambers (1827-1904), who was on Garibaldi's staff during his Italian Campaign in 1866 (Picton 1875, vol. 2, 378; Walford 1878, 185).

5) Lydia Ann (1802-1867) who married Manchester merchant Charles Armstrong (c.1799-1854) at St George, Everton in 1829.

6) Mary (1804-1809 - another victim of scarlet fever).

7) Emma (1806-1831) who married the Bridgnorth banker John Henry Cooper (1799-1872), of Cooper, Purton and Sons founded 1810, at St George's, Everton in 1827.

These children were all baptised at St Thomas, Park Lane, Liverpool, where they were registered either as Parry or Perry (details above have been constructed from the registers of this church and from Perry wills etc).

In "about 1804 William Perry [senior] had erected a mansion [called Priory House and long since demolished] in a very lonely and secluded position, on one of the fields called Hungry Croft" at Everton, near Liverpool (Picton 1875, vol. 2, 378). This was later numbered 7 Church Street, Everton. William Perry died on 13 January 1835, aged 67 or wrongly "in his 67th year" [i.e. 66] (*Liverpool Mercury*, 16 January 1835, 19, col. 2 and *Liverpool Journal*, 17 January 1835, 23, col. 2). He was buried at St James, Toxteth. Here his monument confirms his age and records the deaths of his wife, son-in-law Armstrong and of his eldest son (Gibson, 7, 373). The wills of both William Perry senior and his wife Mary survive both in the Lancashire RO, and among PCC wills at the PRO. They give full details of his family, but make **no** mention of any of his only brother George's family!

4) GEORGE PERRY JUNIOR

The plethora of data available for the well-heeled William Perry is not available for George Perry junior, his younger brother. William long followed one profession and stayed in Liverpool, unlike George junior, who had a succession of careers and moved from Liverpool to London. Their mother's will had counseled them both that "Nature has bound them as Brothers, let them always be ready to assist each other with their purse or advice". There is no evidence this advice was ever taken.

George junior was born on 30 April 1771, clearly named after the eldest brother, who had died, and was baptised on 12 June 1771 (Liverpool RO, THO 283 1/1). He was thus born 12 weeks after his father's death, in February 1771. A standard work on Liverpool records that George was

an architect, [who] published a work on conchology in folio: the plates were coloured by himself. It is now very scarce and valuable. In 1792 he published two views, of the Exchange and of St George's Church, from his own designs, soon after the great improvements which took place in Castle-street (Smithers 1825, 420-421).

Picton too later thought his conchology book was "of considerable value", and noted of his other drawings that they comprised "several views in aquatint of the Town-hall, St George's Church and Castle Street, after the improvements in 1786" (Picton 1875, vol. 2, 285). These early aquatints are

1) A General view of Castle Street from the upper [North] end of Pool Lane, now South Castle Street, showing Preeson's Row, Tarleton's obelisk, St. George's Church and the Town Hall and

2) A view of the West Side of Castle Street from the end of High Street (corner of Town Hall)

both "drawn by G. Perry and engraved by T. Malton, March 1792" (copies in Binns Collection, Liverpool Library, with the artist's outline proofs, FF 69 and C 102 to C 105, see Cowell 1908, 44, 114 & 162). The second view has been reproduced in monochrome by Chandler (1953, plate 73). Perry, of King Street, Liverpool, soon advertised his "thanks for the patronage and encouragement" he had received in publishing these, and their continued availability, in August 1792 (*Williamson's Liverpool Advertiser*, 6 August 1792, 3, col.1). There can thus be no doubt of George's competence as an artist, whether of buildings or later, of shells and other natural history objects. Chandler also reproduced a coloured "drawing by W. Herdman, after a drawing by George Perry, of Dale Street [Liverpool] in 1790 from the Town hall, showing the Golden Lion inn" (Chandler 1953, plate 8).

These were not, however Perry's first publication. He had two letters on Roman coins and antiquities recently found at Manchester in 1788, published in *GM* during 1789 (Perry 1789a & b). It seems likely Perry had already started by then to gather data for his own *History of Liverpool* (following in his father's footsteps). "Some notes, in the Holt and Gregson MSS in the [Liverpool] Public Library, apparently written by George Perry in the year 1791", are referred to by Stewart-Brown (1909, 37). These are certainly by George Perry junior and comprise five notes dated 29 December 1791:

- 1) on Ralph Peters' Drawing of Liverpool,
- 2) his father's failure to mention the Liverpool Free School in his own *History*,
- 3) how Thomas Pennant's *Tour through Wales* (1773) had recorded Liverpool's take over from Chester as a Sea Port,
- 4) notes, with a drawing, on a George Bennett Liverpool trader's token of 1666,
- 5) respecting the derivation of the name of the Town of Liverpool (Liverpool RO, 920 HOL 19/165-167).

John Holt (1743-1801 - see *ODNB*) was also planning his own history of Liverpool in the 1790's, with help from George junior. This is confirmed by George Perry's letter in the same collection to "Mr Holt, Walton, near Liverpool", which reads

London, 28 April 1792

Dear Sir, I should have answered your kind letter sooner, but I have been extremely ill with a Fever for these 2 or 3 Weeks, which has reduced my Strength a great deal... I had the Courage to take a Friend's Arm today & walk as far as the Duchy [of Lancaster] Office, being curious to know what there was [there]. I saw Mr [Robert John] Harper [1764-1846 - see [ODNB](#)]... he said he had a Charter of Liverpool but did not know in what Reign, of this I can inform you in my next & if you have a Duplicate of it, there will be no occasion for me to copy it. As soon as ever I have a little more strength, you may depend on me doing the Business, in the mean Time Sir, I wish you all possible success in your Undertaking.

The letter is endorsed "G.P., at Mr Wolley's, No. 2, Wine Office Court, Fleet Street" (Liverpool RO, 920 HOL 11/325-327). Holt later bequeathed these MSS collections to the Liverpool antiquary, Matthew Gregson, who re-appears in the Perry story, as an antagonist of George Perry's. These two Liverpool history plans must both have suffered from the severe financial crisis which hit Liverpool, in particular, early in 1793 (Hyde et al. 1951).

Things had recovered by 1796, when we have the first evidence of George Perry's additional skills as a mason and sculptor.

A most elegant monument to the memory of the late Alderman [John] Tarleton is about to be erected in St. Nicholas Church, Liverpool. To the left side of the altar on each side of a sarcophagus richly ornamented with suitable emblems - the figures of commerce and science, expressive of mutual connection to be executed after the design of Mr George Perry ([Gore's General Advertiser](#), 8 December 1796, 3, col. 3).

John, "Great", Tarleton (1719-1773), Mayor of Liverpool in 1764, had died as a long ago as 1773, but such was his legacy that this additional tribute was now to be paid to him. It is worth noting, as we celebrate the bicentenary in 2007, of the abolition, at least in the trading of slaves, in Britain, that "members of the Tarleton family were active in the Liverpool Slave Trade, and in opposition to its abolition, throughout the entire period of the contest" to abolish it (Donnan 1931b, vol. 2, 656-7). Sadly this pier head church, in which this was erected, was destroyed in the Second World War, so no further details of this monument are known.

In directories of this decade only William Perry appears. In both 1794 ([Universal British Directory](#), sub Liverpool, p. 679 - a list dated after June 1794, see p. 730) and 1796 ([Liverpool Directory](#)) he is "Surgeon and Dentist at 9 (1794) or 10 (1796) King Street". It would seem from the address given above for George Perry that in this period the brothers shared the same property here. This changed in 1798 when George Perry, "gentleman of Liverpool", married Elisabeth Marrow of Liverpool, on 16 August 1798 at St Thomas' Church, Liverpool according to the Register. In [Billinge's Liverpool Advertiser](#), 29 August 1798, 3, col. 2, [Gore's General Advertiser](#), 23 August, 3, col. 3 and [Monthly Magazine](#), 6, for August 1798, 151) he is now described instead as "architect and sculptor". Their marriage bond and allegation survive (Cheshire Archives, Chester, MF 243/100). The three witnesses to their marriage, Mary Marrow, Peter Marrow and William Edmondson, all sign. His double occupations were confirmed, when his eldest son George Peter Perry was baptised in 1799 at St Thomas (see below).

According to a Marrow Family History, kindly provided by Jeremy Archer (19 Amerland Road, London, SW18 1PX), which builds on and extends that printed in Townend (1969, vol. 2, 426), George's wife must have been the Elizabeth Marrow who was baptised May 1777 at St Nicholas, Liverpool. She was the second daughter of Robert Marrow (1740-1781) broker of Liverpool and his wife, Elizabeth Rimmer (died 1813), of Formby, whom Robert had married there in 1774. Their daughter Mary (1779-1802) was one marriage witness, the other was Peter Marrow (1756-1809), her uncle, fellow broker of Pitt Street, Liverpool. The third witness, William Edmondson, was either brother or uncle to George's elder brother William's new wife, Mary Edmondson of 1795 (see above).

According to [Liverpool Directories](#), and Morton (1894, 25), George junior lived in Camden Street from 1800 to 1806 where he is listed as sculptor and architect. In 1800 he lived at 3 Camden Street, Liverpool with a yard in Lime Street Infirmary. By 1805 he was at 2 Camden Street, but there is no entry for him in 1807. As we shall see, he had now left Liverpool for London. Sadly George Perry fails to appear in either of the standard [Dictionaries](#) which list either British sculptors (Gunnis [1968]) or British architects (Colvin 1995). This may be, in part, because of his short careers as either. One clue to his changing activities was provided at the birth in March 1801, and later baptism, of his second child, and only daughter, Mary Ann Perry at St Nicholas. He was now described as of "Camden Street, Merchant". Probably the settlement of his mother's will just before, in February 1801, had given him financial independence.

George junior was active in the cultural life of Liverpool, just as his father had been. Kelly (1960, 10) noted how "a Mr G. Perry was offering a lecture course on natural history, mineralogy and botany" in Liverpool in May 1805. This new interest had arisen through the encouragement of Liverpool banker and abolitionist, William Roscoe (see below), although George's more immediate incentive to offer, and deliver, such a complex lecture course could have come from the earlier courses in Liverpool of either

a) the botany lectures, in July 1803, given by the founder of the Linnean Society, James Edward Smith (1759-1828 - see [ODNB](#)), arranged there by Roscoe. These were "numerously and brilliantly attended, and seem to stir up a great taste and ardour for botany" there (Smith 1832, 2, 302-303) or

b) the "eight lectures on chemistry and galvanism" offered by the Lecturer in Chemistry at the Middlesex Hospital, London, John Standcliffe (1774-1816) the next year ([Liverpool Chronicle](#), 20 June 1804, 1, col. 4). Among the many subscribers to this course is "Mr Perry", who must be George junior.

Details of Perry's own lecture course are given in May 1805. Perry

at the suggestion of some literary friends in Liverpool, proposes to deliver a course of twelve lectures on natural history, mineralogy and botany in June 1805 at £1 11s 6d for the course ([Liverpool Chronicle](#), 15 May 1805, 1, col. 3).

Fuller details were soon given.

The principal object [of the course] is to open to the inquisitive mind a pleasing and easy path to the study of Natural History, the most interesting, and certainly one of the most important, branches of human science... to those who think a general acquaintance with some of the most striking and popular branches of human knowledge a desirable acquisition; not incompatible with the ordinary pursuits of business or pleasure ([Liverpool Chronicle](#), 22 & 29 May 1805, 1, cols. 3 & 5 see also Inkster 1997, X, 38-39).

Some evidence of Perry's activities as a stone mason and or sculptor also survives. A lease of property in Great Charlotte Street, Liverpool, preserved in the Lancashire RO (DDX 450/1), names "George Perry of Liverpool, marble mason and Benjamin Bromfield of Burton by Kendall, Westmorland". It is dated 13 March 1805. Some notes in the Matthew Gregson MSS show that Perry had also worked on the Pantheon at Ince Blundell, near Liverpool, erected there from 1801 by the art collector Henry Blundell (1724-1810 - see [ODNB](#)). Gregson notes how he had been

astonished when George Perry - January 18 1806 [immediately after Perry's wife's death] - told me, when he was working for Mr Blundell at Ince [as] a marble mason, that he [Blundell] sent for the Marble gravestone of Lady Anderton from the Abby close by [at Lydiat] and that his men sawed it up to go round the Plinth of the Pantheon then building at Ince Hall (Liverpool RO, Gregson MSS 5, 87).

Blundell's Pantheon, started in 1801, is discussed, with illustrations of the Pantheon, inside and out, in 1959, in a paper by Southworth (1991).

But this was not Perry's only connection with Gregson. In 1806 a new [History of Liverpool from the Earliest Records to the year 1806](#), "dedicated to the inhabitants of Liverpool and its vicinity" started to appear, in parts, at 5 shilling each. This is usually credited to the Northern Irish-born John Corry (fl. 1793-1836) alone, and as having been published by Thomas Troughton in 1810 (see Corry's short entry in [ODNB](#)). But copies of the original first two parts in their original, undated, paper wrappers survive, both in Liverpool Library and Liverpool Athenaeum Library. These record that part one was "by John Corry, author of [A \[Satirical\] View of London](#) etc, [fifth edition; 1799] And G. Perry, Liverpool". The initial prospectus, printed on the back cover, gives further details of the publisher's intentions, and the Introduction writes of "the editors" in confirmation (Corry & Perry 1807). Part two, issued later, perhaps in 1807, is however by Corry alone.

Perry junior had clearly been hoping to follow in his father's frustrated footsteps, as a historian of Liverpool. But Matthew Gregson had also now started collecting materials for a planned [History of Lancashire](#) and, as soon as he saw the first part of Corry and Perry's production, he wrote to Perry to complain about some of their facts. On 27 August 1806, Perry replied to Gregson. His letter, from Liverpool, reads:

I am happy to have it in my Power to answer your Objections in a candid & open Manner. About 45 years ago a Gentleman [George Perry senior] resided in Liverpool whose Character as a Man of great Research in Antiquities was & is to this Day well known, from his papers we have obtained Transcripts of [all the Charters](#) you mention & two others of Henry the 5th which you omitt. The original Charter of Henry 2d is now remaining in the Corporation Chest of Liverpool (at least it was there previous to the late fire) & is inscribed on the Cover as belonging to Henry 4th, though every one must perceive by the Style and Titles that it belongs to Henry 2d, as Henry 4 was never Earl of Anjou & Aquitain, the same Charter is also in the Tower of London at this very Day.

Secondly as to the Castle, its Form was square, flanked with round Towers, according to the Custom of the 13th Century, the Printer has made an Erratum in that Part, as Printers sometimes do.

Lastly as to the other Materials about Salford, Blackburne and Leyland & other Particulars and Charters [we](#) [i.e. Corry and Perry] thought them too minute for our Work & as not being sufficiently interesting to readers in general.

As for Serjeant Adair never having seen the oldest Charters or having any Transcripts of them (I should think a gentleman of your Discernment might easily find out the Reason) the Corporation knew well that the oldest Charters were those which speak most plainly of the Liberties of the Burgesses, to have them delivered to the Counsell on the opposite Side & Mr Erskine for the same reason was not likely to make any Quotation from them [This relates to the Lancaster law-suits in 1791, involving the disputed rights of Liverpool burgesses, see Picton 1875, vol. 1, 233. Such political injustices continued until terminated in 1835].

I remain Sir, Your most obedient servant,

George Perry, August 27 1806

(Liverpool RO, 942 HOL, vol. 19/111).

Gregson then wrote to Thomas Troughton, the publisher of this projected volume. Gregson's draft reply to this Perry letter survives (Liverpool RO, 942 HOL, vol. 19/265-267). It notes that a plan of Liverpool Castle in the British Museum shows it had been of polygonal shape, not square, and observes of Perry. "Let him rather [confess](#) he knows nothing of the matter. He has not much more information than I gave him & knows not where to get further Information". Gregson then complains of the small size type used in part one and finally comments on Perry's

very ingenuous chapter II of Heraldries - of which it is impossible to conceive what he meant to show, except it was that he knew little or nothing about what he meant to write - for he titles it 'the Principal Families in this part of Lancashire from the time of William the first to the Reign of Henry VIII' [which omissions Gregson then lists] (Liverpool RO, 942 HOL, vol. 19/265-267).

This contretemps was only one reason for the next stage in Perry's life, and his departure from Liverpool. Perry had recently suffered one major tragedy. On 1 January 1806 "Mrs Perry wife of Mr George Perry, architect, died in the prime of life" ([Liverpool Chronicle](#), 8 January 1807, 3, col. 4 & [Monthly Magazine](#), 21 (1), 91, February 1807). She was only 29.

A second disaster soon followed. This was Perry's own bankruptcy, announced on 18 February 1807 ([Liverpool Chronicle](#), 18 February 1807, 2, col. 5 and [ditto](#), 4 March 1807, 2 col 2). This called him "Marble Merchant, Dealer and Chapman". He had to "surrender on 14, 15 March and 4 April, for examination by the Commissioners". On 19 February the sale of his property, by order of the Assignees, was already announced (in a newspaper notice, located by Philip Joyce, but which I have failed to trace). This sale was to be held on his premises in Camden Street, on 24 February. It listed his house contents, including "paintings, drawings, prints, microscope, and elegant marble chimney pieces". A dividend, from such sales, was later announced in May 1808 to be paid to his creditors ([Staffordshire Advertiser](#), 15 May 1807, 2, col. 4).

Just as Perry's bankruptcy was being announced in Liverpool, the local papers were full of debate on the proposed abolition of the trade in slaves in Britain, a measure passed by Parliament the following month. This greatly polarised Liverpool society, where the slave trade was enormously remunerative. This perhaps provides another possible reason for Perry's departure to London.

WILLIAM ROSCOE'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN LIVERPOOL 1806-1807.

William Roscoe (1753-1831) is Liverpool's best known "philanthropist, anti-slavery campaigner, historian, politician, botanist, religious reformer, poet, artist and patron of the arts" (to quote a 2003 Liverpool Exhibition which marked the 250th anniversary of his birth and see also Edmondson 2005).

CAPTION An engraving of Roscoe in 1822 (from the [European Magazine](#) - original in author's collection)

As Dawson Turner wrote in 1830 when annotating an 1806 letter from John Pinkerton to J.C. Walker,

Roscoe, in a manner most flattering and honorable had [just] been returned Member of Parliament for his native town [Liverpool] in the winter of 1806. [He had] only relinquished the charms of Italian literature for the more important task of taking a leading part in the politics of his country, and particularly with the object of putting a stop to that nefarious traffic in human blood which was so long the opprobrium of England in general, and in particular of Liverpool (Turner 1830, vol. 2, 351-2).

Liverpool then still played all too prominent a part in the slave trade. Roscoe had fought since at least 1777 for its abolition (Sellers 1969, 49). Another prominent member of the original 1788 Liverpool branch of the Anti-Slavery Society was William Rathbone (1757-1809 - Chandler 1953, 53), now managing George Perry senior's former engineering works there.

But "Roscoe's [new] parliamentary career, begun so auspiciously [in November 1806], turned out to be a bitter and agonizing experience... He soon found himself drawn into political alignments which were bound to have serious repercussions in Liverpool" (Sellers 1969, 59). It is clear from Perry's 1809 letter to Roscoe (reproduced below) that Perry had aligned himself within Roscoe's nonconformist circles in Liverpool. Roscoe's experiences in 1807 after his election as M.P. are revealing. He spoke in the House of Parliament in favour of abolition on 20 and 23 February 1807 (Thorne 1986, 5, 44). The Linnean Society's president, James Edward Smith (1759-1828), immediately wrote to congratulate him, on "the glorious majority in favour of the abolition of the Slave Trade" on 26 February 1807 (Smith archives, vol. 17, 92, Linnean Society, London). The abolition of the trade in slaves became law on 1 May 1807, which for Roscoe had been his "one great object" according to Smith (1832, vol. 2, 337-338). But

Roscoe's public entry into Liverpool the next day was disastrous. Enraged slave traders masquerading as protestant zealots [there] assailed him.... Lord Holland, one of the many Whig sympathizers who wrote to him, assured him that "his [later] rejection [as M.P. in his second election] at Liverpool is considered by us all as one of the greatest disgraces to the country, as well as misfortunes to the party, that could have happened" (Thorne 1986, 5, 44-45).

As Roscoe wrote to Smith on 6 May 1807,

the part I took in the discussion of the question of the slave trade gave some offence at Liverpool and pains were taken to distribute [there] a very erroneous account from one of the London papers, in order to raise a popular clamour against me (Smith Archives, vol. 17, 99, Linnean Society, London).

Roscoe enclosed this printed address, dated 5 May 1807, to his Liverpool constituents which he had been hurriedly forced to issue in his own defense (copy in Smith Archives, vol. 17: 98). A further letter from Roscoe dated 18 May 1807 noted how "great animosity prevails against me on account of the Slave Trade" and it was clearly this which drove Roscoe from standing for election to Parliament again. His massive defeat in the second, May 1807, election was only after he had been nominated to stand *against his will*, and to his great regret (Sellers 1969).

The question is, might Perry too have suffered as a direct result of these highly political events in Liverpool? Might these have helped force him to leave Liverpool for London in that same period in 1807 and was this also one reason why he received so appalling a press as a conchologist soon afterwards (Petit 2003)? We may never know. But it is notable that the Liverpool antiquary, Matthew Gregson, who had been so critical of the first part of Corry & Perry's planned [History of Liverpool](#) in 1806, was one who supported the slave trade "and annoyed the leading radicals [like Roscoe - and perhaps Perry?] in Liverpool by his support" (see [ODNB](#)).

GEORGE JUNIOR MOVES TO LONDON

Clearly all these evil happenings in 1806-1807 explain why Perry left Liverpool, stopping his joint [History](#) project after only part one. Perry's move to London is confirmed by his next literary production. This is "[A Descriptive Catalogue of the Pictures in the collection of the Marquis of Stafford in London](#), 8vo, 1807, by George Perry, Architect" (Perry 1807, first listed by [Watkins and Shoberl] 1816, 269). A, probably unique, copy is preserved in the National Art Library, Victoria and Albert Museum, London (pressmark 39.F.12 - 31 p.) and carries the MSS date of 24 November 1807.

Colvin confirms how the London architect Charles Heathcote Tatham (1772-1842) had designed additions to Cleveland House in St James, London for George Granville Leveson-Gower (1758-1833), this second Marquis of Stafford, between 1803 and 1806 (Colvin 1995, 957). The Marquis had then had a new gallery built, to accommodate his own, as well as his uncle's earlier, fine art collections. This gallery was opened in May 1806 (Sheppard 1960, 30, 494). Perry was clearly the first, but by no means the last, to catalogue its extraordinary contents. Perry's Catalogue was dedicated to Sir George [Howland] Beaumont, [7th] Bart. (1753-1827 - see ODNB), "for his patronage of the arts of England". A second Catalogue was soon published in 1808 by the antiquary John Britton (see Jones 1849, 177-178).

Perry had clearly moved to London soon after his bankruptcy was announced. Here, his only known manuscript letter, on natural history, was written, on 19 June 1809 to William Roscoe. Perry added to his letter "please direct to No. 27 Sherrard Street, Golden Square, London", an address at which he had now clearly taken temporary lodgings.

This letter noted that Perry had been "more particularly" engaged in such natural history investigations these "last two years", i.e. since leaving Liverpool. As we have seen Perry had lectured on this field in May 1805. London would prove highly advantageous to one with such a new interest. Perry now needed to be nearer better experts, dealers, museums and collections in that field, and to publishers and printers for his planned publications in this field, which again followed his father's earlier interests. It is notable that in his books Conchology and Arcana, when he names those from whom he acquired specimens for illustration, he nowhere lists any from Liverpool.

One major Liverpool connection might have been with the once famous Liverpool Museum of William Bullock (c.1773-1849 - see Alexander 1985). This had been both based in, and called after that city, between at least 1801 (at 24 Lord Street) till 1805 (then in Church Street, nearly opposite the Post office), until 1808, "when it was removed to London, probably from want of encouragement" (Picton 1875, vol. 2, 146-147; Morton 1894, 20-21). Perry is not mentioned in the lists of Donors to that museum, in the seventh to tenth editions of Bullock's Companion (1809-1811). But he certainly used these collections after they reached London (Petit 1990, 28).

The 1809 letter from Perry to Roscoe, about his planned book on conchology (Perry 1811), reads:

Dear Sir,
I take the Liberty of addressing You upon a Subject in which I hope I shall meet with your kind Concurrence, as it will be the conferring of a very considerable Favor upon me, for whom I believe you formerly was so good as to feel a Regard. I first derived my Love of Natural History & Taste for Botany from some Praises which you accidentally bestowed upon my Drawings, added to some natural Thirst which I had for those subjects before. I therefore wish to pay you back the great & divine Pleasures which I have received from those Studies, by dedicating & inscribing to your Name a Work upon Natural History upon which I have been engaged for Six Years [i.e. since 1803] & for the last two more particularly.
I am conscious how great an Honour I solicit in the Dedication of a Work to the Author of Lorenzo, but this is one Reason why I selfishly desire it, I have however other Reasons, I trust, besides the Ambition of letting my little Bark
"attend and Sail,
Enjoy the Triumph &
partake the Gale",
[a paraphrase of part of Alexander Pope's Essay on Man, 1734] as I believe there is no one to whom the Arts & Learning are more indebted than to yourself - the Muses hail you as their own! & History has woven for you a never dying wreath of Fame!
But to avoid the Appearance of Flattery where I only meant to do Justice, I shall briefly attempt to describe the Work before us which is to be upon the Subject of Conchology in two large Volumes with elegant coloured Plates painted from the natural Objects, with a scientific Arrangement & Description of each Shell.
I am much encouraged by the assistance which I have received in this difficult but pleasing Work, it is with Pain that I say I am obliged to alter & modify the System of the great Linnaeus, but this was absolutely necessary, & I have invented a New Method of Conchology, analogous to that great Author & which has received the Approbation of some of the most learned Conchologists in this Part of England.
I should be happy if it will be any Amusement to you to send you a Copy of the Novus Methodus if agreeable, & to find that it has also your Approbation.
If I should be so fortunate as to be able to dedicate my Work to your Name, I am certain that it will be a powerfull Stimulus to my Mind to execute all the parts of this difficult Work with greater Zeal & Perseverance than before, & my greatest wish will be "laudare Laudato Viro". I beg Respects to your son, to Mrs Roscoe and your Family & I remain Sir, with the greatest Regards, Your very ob[edient]t Servant,
George Perry, 27 Sherrard Street, Golden Square, London.

George Perry is not listed in the rate books for this address (at Westminster Archives, London) so he may have been only a temporary lodger. This address, just north of today's Piccadilly Circus, was then in an area appropriately versified in 1812,

What various swains our motley walls contain!
Fashion from Moorfields, honor from Chick Lane;
Bankers from Paper Buildings here resort,
Bankrupts from Golden Square and Riches Court.
(Smith 1812, 106)

CLASSIFICATORY METHODS CIRCA 1810

William Roscoe notably did not accept this dedication to Conchology. He was a firm believer in Linnean classificatory methods and wrote an important paper on botanical classification, in 1810, in their support (Roscoe 1815). He could not have approved of Perry's 'new arrangement'. Perry's Novus Methodus or his "New Method of Conchology, altering and modifying the System of the great Linnaeus" did

not appear, or in this two volume form. But it is noticeable that Perry proved a great enthusiast, in his Conchology book, for the newer methods of Lamarck, and others from France, with its equally "new arrangement" as announced in its title.

The honour of having properly distinguished [*Pyrula*] is to be attributed to the French naturalists Brugière and Lamarck to whose distinctions the Author confesses himself very highly indebted in several parts of the work (Perry 1811).

A member of the next generation of British naturalists, George Johnston (1797-1855 - see ODNB), later noted how, at this period, "in Britain, conchology was thoroughly Linnaean; and the very names of Cuvier and Lamarck were scarcely known to its followers when, in 1815, the peace opened up access to the continent" (Johnston 1855, 554). This again ignores Perry's earlier work but, as Petit (2003, 9-10) has suggested, Perry's adherence to French, non-Linnean systems, seems highly likely to have been one reason behind the general silence concerning Perry's Conchology before 1827, and the appalling treatment Perry's books received after that. 1827, as we shall see, was after Perry had died. Dance (1986, 81-85) and Petit (2003) have discussed this classificatory problem and shown how it remained a major problem in British conchology until the 1820's.

Another English author, pre 1815, who regarded the Linnean System in conchology as seriously flawed, was the English naturalist Edward Donovan (1768-1837 - see ODNB) who, in November 1807, published the long, unpaginated, article "Conchology" in Abraham Rees' Cyclopaedia. He there noted

an opinion is pretty generally prevalent that less attention was devoted by Linnaeus to the history and arrangement of the testacea [shells], than any other order of nature; and that he even thought them unworthy of becoming objects of scientific arrangement... the early attempts at the classification of shells, which the Systema [Naturae] presents, do not afford that happy result to be expected from the industry, and superior genius of Linnaeus... while in Lamarck's more important undertaking Système des Animaux sans Vertébrés [1801] we meet with a new arrangement of testaceology more comprehensive and satisfactory than has perhaps hitherto appeared upon this interesting subject (Donovan 1807).

This notice appeared in time to have been read by Perry in London. Donovan repeated his comments on Linneus' failings as a conchologist in 1817 (Donovan 1817).

By 1811, such 'French methods' had also been adopted in Britain, in the field that was soon to be named palaeontology, by the London surgeon/naturalist and Donovan's friend, James Parkinson (1755-1824).

No really systematic arrangement of fossil shells had appeared; the classification of shells, therefore, by Lamarck, in which particular attention is paid to those in a fossil state, became highly estimable. So clear and comprehensive is the arrangement of this naturalist, that of the numerous fossil shells which were unclassified, there are hardly any which may not now be placed under an appropriate genus (Parkinson 1811, ix-x).

In other pages in the same work (48-49), Parkinson also castigated the old 'Linnean' system of arranging shells. Parkinson was a member of Perry's London circle of naturalists and is cited in Perry's books. Yet another in this field, if not in this circle, was the English pioneer of stratigraphy, the geologist William Smith (1769-1839) from 1816 on (Eyles 1967, 199-200).

Another early non-Linnean British conchologist was Samuel Brookes F.L.S. (c.1769-1839) - see ODNB); William Smith's exact contemporary. He too was almost certainly another member of Perry's circle of the "most learned Conchologists in this Part of England" [London]. He too, soon after Perry, espoused Lamarckian methods in his Conchology book of 1815 (Dance 1986, 85).

PERRY'S NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS

The two natural history works which Perry published in London are

a) The Arcana, or the museum of Natural History, published in monthly parts between 1 January 1810 and September 1811 and discussed here (Petit 2007) and

b) Conchology, or the natural history of shells, an expensive folio volume, published in April 1811 at £16 16s (Anon 1811). The molluscan taxa in this have been discussed by Petit (2003), who demonstrates that there were at least three "easily identifiable editions". These includes a second edition, dating between 1818 and 1821, and a third issued as late as 1836. We can only be sure that Perry junior can have played no part in the third edition.

But it is probable that Perry might still have been responsible for the second edition. Some copies of this survive on 1818 watermarked paper, with the colophon "printed by J.M. M'Creery, Black-Horse-Court, Fleet-Street", London (e.g. the Cambridge University Library copy, S 388.bb.81.1). John M'Creery (1768-1832 - see ODNB) came from Northern Ireland. He had become a talented Liverpoolian printer from 1792. Here he became a close friend and confidant of Roscoe, where he, too, was "connected with the abolitionist movement in Liverpool" (Barker 1961, 83-84). M'Creery had also moved in London, in 1805. The choice of a Liverpool friend to print at least some copies of his second edition, in or after 1818, clearly implies that Perry was a) still alive, and b) probably still in London. More intriguingly this decade, 1810-1820, was a harsh one for M'Creery's printing business (with, in 1817, only one compositor at work) and his own radical political activities at that time seem, at least, to have been partly to blame (Barker 1961, 94-95). This again suggests a possible, political, link to Perry's own problems.

THE MYSTERY OF PERRY AFTER 1811.

It is conceivable that Perry returned to Liverpool after 1811. But this seems unlikely. First, there is no record of him in the surviving archives of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society (founded 1812), or the Liverpool Royal Institution (founded 1814), or of the Athenaeum library of 1798 (see Kitteringham 1982). This is in contrast to his brother William, who certainly appears among the last two,

or to George's own son, who was a proprietor of the last. Second, Philip Joyce kindly tells me that in his detailed examination of Liverpool newspapers in the 1950's, for data on all Perrys, he never came across any mention of George's death (in lit.). My own search of the Monthly Magazine, in which such information was abstracted, also failed to reveal any details of Perry's death there. Lastly, we have the opinion of Perry's fellow naturalist, William Swainson (1789-1855), based in Liverpool in 1816. Swainson was then busy building up the newly-founded Royal Institution's museum (Dawson 1958, 797-798; Ormerod 1953, 32). Of Liverpool's natural history provision then, he wrote

the opulent town of Liverpool, supposed by some to be superior [to Manchester] in a commercial view, can bear no comparison with its neighbour in those intellectual pursuits of which we are speaking. There is, indeed, a Royal Institution... We were encouraged, some years ago, to devote much time and trouble in the formation of a museum attached to this building, but, with the death of that illustrious historian [Roscoe in 1831] to whose exertions and influence this town is chiefly indebted for its public institutions, expired that zeal for following up what had been so well begun (Swainson 1834, 326).

Sadly, with the destruction of the majority of the Institution's archives, it has not been possible to demonstrate any link between that Institution and George Perry junior. But surely Swainson would have mentioned him if he had by then returned to Liverpool?

So exactly when George Perry junior "died is unknown", as Morton noted (1894, 25). The only information we have is that Perry junior died between about September 1811, when the last part of his Arcana volume was published, (but perhaps after 1818 as suggested above), and 20 August 1823¹⁶. Then, on the occasion of his only daughter's marriage in Liverpool, the local newspapers recorded he was "the late George Perry of this town". Unlike his only surviving brother William, and his wife, who both prospered and carefully left wills, no sign of any will by either George or his young wife, Elizabeth, has been found, despite extensive search. Maybe he came to 'a sudden end'. Perry would then only have been between only 40 and 52 years old¹⁷.

GEORGE PERRY JUNIOR'S TWO CHILDREN

a) George Peter Perry (1799-1857)

The first known child of George and Elizabeth was George Peter, wrongly registered in the St. Thomas church register, Liverpool as "Parry", with George senior still "architect". He was born on 24 or 29 June 1799 (LRO, 283 THO 1/3). He is first heard of in Liverpool in February 1822 when he was admitted a proprietor of the Liverpool Athenaeum, which still survives (Athenaeum records; Carrick & Ashton 1997). His share was transferred to Ralph Abram in August 1825. Abram had by then become George Peter Perry's brother-in-law (see below). "George Peter Perry, late of Liverpool, married 24 June 1837 Rosa, daughter of Mr Hyne of Buenos Ayres" (Philip Joyce in lit. 2006), apparently in Buenos Ayres. This may be one reason why his brother-in-law, Ralph, removed him as a trustee of his own will in 1848. By 1848, this Perry was now described as "book keeper of Liverpool".

In 1852 George Peter left a MSS to the Liverpool Public Library, which he annotated:

This Portion of Roscoe's Lorenzo de Medici [a book first published in two volumes in 1795] in the author's autograph was given me August 25 1823 by Mr John Jones, Principal Librarian of the Athenaeum, Liverpool [1822-1831]... In memory of the author and of its first possessor, this MS was presented to the Free Public Library, Liverpool, 23 October 1852 G.P.[erry].

This suggests Roscoe was still held in high esteem within the Perry family. The last we hear of George Peter is recorded in the [Liverpool] Albion newspaper.

Died on 10 December [1857] at Monte Video [Uruguay] suddenly, aged 57, George Peter Perry Esq, late of this town (22 February 1858, 3, col. 4).

Trade must have taken George Peter to Argentina, back to Liverpool between 1847 and 1853 (when he is described in the Directories as merchant, commission agent and finally book-keeper), and then to Uruguay. When George Peter's estate was settled he is recorded as "formerly of Liverpool, but late of Monte Video, who died there on 11 December 1857". Administration was granted to "James Clemens Thompson of Liverpool, the lawful attorney of Rosa Maria Perry, the lawful widow now residing at Monte Video - effects under £1,500" (Principal Probate Registry, London). Her estate was not settled in London between 1857 and 1880. George Peter and Rosa had had at least three children (all registered at West Derby, Liverpool) 1) Elizabeth (1838-?) 2) George (1839-?) and 3) Rosa Maria (1847-1850).

b) Mary Ann Perry, later Abram (1801-?)

The only other recorded child of George and Elizabeth was Mary Ann Perry. Her birth is recorded in St Nicholas baptismal registers as "born 21 March 1801, daughter of George Perry and Elizabeth of Camden Street, merchant". She married Ralph Abram (1785-1852), salt proprietor, at Holy Trinity, Liverpool by licence on 20 August 1823 in the presence of her brother. Two Liverpool newspapers both then record that she was the "only daughter of the late George Perry of this town" (Billinge's Liverpool Advertiser, 26 August 1823, 3 & Gore's Liverpool Advertiser, 28 August 1823, 3). Ralph Abram died 8 December 1852 and his will survives (Lancashire RO), with Mary Ann seemingly outliving him. His will was proved in December 1852 at under £4,000 and mentions only his unnamed daughters. His uncle William Perry (1767-1835) was an initial trustee, replaced in 1848 by his wife's brother, who was himself replaced in 1849 by William's son,

¹⁶ We should note that the George Perrey of Liverpool whose will was proved at Chester in 1817 is not 'our man'.

¹⁷ George Perry, broker of Bethnal Green, London, will in PRO (PROB 10/4409) and proved November 1818, also seems not to be our man, even if our George junior had married again.

Dr W.D. Perry. There must be a number of living descendants of this Abram couple. Ralph's son, George Peter Abram (1835-1912), for example was Head Master of Wells Grammar School ([Times](#), 6 November 1912, 1). Several of his children can still be traced in the 1901 Census of Britain. It is possible their descendants may have Perry memorabilia which might uncover much of the mystery which still surrounds George Perry junior.

THE PERRY COLLECTION

The only references to any survivals from George Perry junior's own natural history collection come from obscure pamphlets published between 1897 and 1905 (as, for example, [Calvert] 1897 - copy in Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, USA). All relate to the infamous Calvert Collection, supposedly the "Finest Conchological Collection in the World". One ([Calvert] 1897, 7) recorded that the collection then included the "Trilobite, the very large Dudley specimen figure[d] in Perry's *Arcana*" (plate 42, *Monoculithos gigantea* Perry 1810). This collection is that of the extraordinary John Frederick Calvert (1825-1897) "Collector, Con-man and Crank" - see Cooper 2006, 85-105 & Cooper and Blackburn, in preparation). This collection was eventually purchased in 1938, by the American dealer, Martin Ehrmann (1904-1972) for £2,000, whence many of its fossils went to the US National Museum of Natural History. Sadly search for Perry's trilobite there, by Robert Purdy, shows the USNM has five trilobites from this Calvert collection but not the specimen figured by Perry (email 10 August 2005).

Abbreviations

BL = British Library, London

GM = [Gentleman's Magazine](#)

IGI = International Genealogical Index see <www.familysearch.org>

LGA = [Liverpool General Advertiser](#)

ODNB = [Oxford Dictionary of National Biography](#) see

<www.oup.com/oxforddnb>

PCC = Prerogative Court of Canterbury records at PRO

PRO = Public Record Office, London

RO = Record Office¹⁸

This information from Professor Torrens would appear to confirm that the two George Perrys were father and son but also disputes any direct ancestral connection with Micajah Perry, the Lord Mayor of London. Clearly, many of the sources for this essay have been found in Liverpool but some additional research has now been carried out to confirm and expand on Professor Torrens's work and is detailed below.

The will of Philip Perry of Greenwich, who was believed to be the brother of Micajah Perry, was written on the 20th March 1756. It is a very brief document in which he left his whole estate to his widowed sister, Sarah Heysham. The will was witnessed by James Sperling, John Flood and James Wildbore. Probate was granted in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 16th June 1762 to Sarah Heysham, the sole executrix. This would appear to suggest that Philip did not have any surviving wife or children.

An article written by George Perry senior about the River Severn, which was published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1758, has been copied.

The marriage of George Perry and Lydia Anne Lacroya (sic) appears in the IGI. It took place on the 1st January 1765 at Chapel Hill, Monmouthshire. The LDS London Family History Centre has a film of the bishop's transcripts, from which the IGI extraction was taken (0104863), and the entry has been copied. It does not provide any additional information about the couple.

The British Library has a copy of Horace White's 1958 book, 'Fossets, a Record of Two Centuries of Engineering'. Chapter 1 is entitled 'George Perry' and describes how George was sent to Liverpool to establish firstly a warehouse and later a foundry on behalf of the Coalbrookdale Ironworks. The chapter includes a reproduction of Perry's map of Liverpool. Chapter 2 begins with the passing of the works to Joseph Rathbone after George's early death. The relevant pages have been copied.

Also held by the British Library is the book 'An Inventory of Non-Conformist Chapels and Meeting Houses in the North of England', Christopher Snell, HMSO, c1994. This book was examined and found to contain, on pages 101-103, a description and photographs of the Ancient Chapel of Toxteth (SJ 364876). The chapel eventually became Unitarian, but was licensed as Presbyterian in 1672 and it appears to have been used by this denomination at the time of the deaths of George and Lydia Ann Perry in 1771 and 1801. Reference is made to a memorial, on the north-east wall of the interior, to:

'George Perry, merchant of Liverpool, 1771 and Lydia (?Anne) his widow and Peter Lacroy her father 1788 with a shield of arms.'

¹⁸ Grateful thanks is given to Professor Torrens for permission to reproduce this work.

Lydia's will included a request that she be buried 'in the Chapel Yard' and a stone to be erected for herself and her husband. Unfortunately, no image of this memorial is included in the book, so it has not been possible to identify the 'shield of arms'.

The will of William Perry, the brother of George senior, who died in 1763, was proved at Chester in 1768. A copy has not been obtained at this stage. Hugh Torrens says that his estate was "administered" by his sister-in-law, Lydia Ann Perry, and was left to his widow, Mary, and their only daughter, Dinah.

Reference to the bankruptcy of Levy Perry was located in the Gentleman's Magazine (May 1762, vol. 32, p. 243). He was described as Levy Perry senior, of Brook's Wharf, ironmonger. The baptisms of Levy and Elizabeth Perry's children are included on the IGI:

25 Jun 1733	Levi Perry	Little Wenlock
19 Jan 1738	George Perry	Madeley (buried 24 Jan 1738)
1 Apr 1742	George Perry	Madeley

An attempt was made to copy the baptism of George Perry junior, which was said to have taken place at St Thomas, Liverpool on the 12th June 1771. The bishop's transcripts for this parish are held on film at the LDS London Family History Centre (1068942). Unfortunately, the returns for the year 1771 are missing and therefore could not be filmed. It has not been possible to examine the original baptismal entry at this stage. This would need to be copied at Liverpool.

Lydia Anne Perry left a small bequest in her will to Mary Perry, whom she described as her daughter. Hugh Torrens suggested that this daughter might be the Mary Perry who married William Wilson at St Peter, Liverpool on the 12th February 1793 (IGI). Lydia wrote her will in 1797 and it is thought unlikely that she would refer to her daughter by her maiden name after she had married. It is also slightly surprising that she would leave such a small amount to an unmarried daughter, for whom she might have been expected to provide, were she to remain unmarried.

No reasonable baptism has been found for any Mary Perry in Liverpool. The I.G.I. includes no baptism of Mary, the daughter of George and Lydia, between 1760 and 1780 anywhere in the British Isles and no Mary, daughter of George, in Lancashire. Another possibility is that the Mary Perry mentioned in the will was not Lydia's daughter, but her daughter-in-law, the wife of her son, William. He had married Mary Edmundson in 1795.

Lydia's older surviving son, William Perry, wrote his will on the 18th November 1831. He was described as a surgeon, late of Liverpool and now living in Everton. He named the following members of his family as beneficiaries:

Mary	wife
Lydia Anne Armstrong	daughter and wife of Charles Armstrong
William Duncan Perry	son
Mary (Elizabeth) Perkins	granddaughter

William was clearly a wealthy man and had extensive holdings of property in Liverpool. He named as executors his wife, Mary, his son, William Duncan Perry and his son-in-law, Charles Armstrong. The document was witnessed by Joshua Walmsley, John Follitt and James Fogg. A codicil relating to income from rents was added to the will and the whole document contains many alterations. William died on the 13th January 1835 and probate was granted at Chester to all three executors on the 30th of the same month.

A Mary Perry, spinster of Toxteth, left a will which was proved at Chester in 1841. A copy of this will was obtained, in order to check if this testator could be the sister of William and George junior. Mary Perry wrote her will on the 3rd January 1828. The beneficiaries were Sarah Speak of Cardington, Shropshire, wife of Edward; Elizabeth Crone, wife of Archibald Crone, a flour dealer of Liverpool, and their daughters, Mary and Elizabeth Crone. Archibald Crone was the sole executor. The will was witnessed by R.A. Payne, J. Robinson and Richard Grattis. Mary died on the 3rd September 1841 and her will was proved at Chester on the 29th of that month. Mary did not appear to name any relatives in her will and it contains no evidence that she was related to your ancestors.

Many London parish registers held at the London Metropolitan Archives and the Guildhall Library have been digitised and can now be viewed online at www.ancestry.co.uk. Additionally, baptisms and burials for 1813 onwards and marriages from 1754 can be searched by name and also by various other fields. It is believed that

George junior died between 1811 and 1823, after leaving Liverpool to live in London. A search of all burials on the above site from 1813 to 1823 revealed only one George Perry of the right age. This man was buried at St Luke, Chelsea on the 5th January 1823. He was 52 years-old and lived at Leader Street. Other registers, which appear to relate to the purchase and use of burial plots, have also been made available and three pages relating to this George Perry have been copied. He died from asthma and appears to have purchased his own burial plot.

There is no particular evidence to suggest that this is the correct George Perry and, of course, he may have died in 1811 or 1812. He did not appear to have left a will which was proved at either Chester or in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, but it would also be useful to search the calendars of the London probate courts operating at that time.

Indexes to death duty registers 1796-1903 (TNA IR/27) have been indexed by Find My Past. There is no entry in the registers from 1823 to 1825 for the George Perry who was buried in 1823 in Chelsea. In order to complete the period 1811 – 1823, it would be necessary to search additionally for any PCC administration and also in the Inland Revenue indexes for the years 1811 - 1822.

The London Burial Index also includes the burial of a George Parry on the 27th December 1822 at St Luke, Old Street, This man was aged 56 and had been living in the workhouse.

No further candidates were found in the National Burial Index. Neither could any entry be found in the London Burial Index or the National Burial Index for George junior's wife, Elizabeth, who died in 1806. The parish registers of both St Nicholas and St Thomas, Liverpool contain no burial for Elizabeth Perry in January 1806. Nor could any reference to either George or Elizabeth's burial be found in the non-conformist registers included on the BMDRegisters website.

The Gentleman's magazine contains no reference to George Perry's bankruptcy in 1807, nor does it contain an obituary of the man who died at Chelsea in 1823. Reference to George's bankruptcy was, however, found among the newspapers recently digitised by the British Library and available on their website. The Liverpool Morning Chronicle for 23rd February 1807, quoting from the London Gazette (21st February 1807), has among its list of bankrupts:

George Perry of Liverpool, marble merchant, March 14, 16 & April 4 at twelve at the Globe Tavern, John-street. Attornies Mr Peter Woods, Lord-street, Liverpool, Mr Thomas Blackstock, St Mildred's-court, Poultry.

The London registers on Ancestry were also searched for any possible remarriage of George after he came to the capital. All those men called George Perry, whose marriages were found to have taken place between 1806 and 1826, were bachelors. George's wife, Elizabeth, died in 1806.

It was suggested that the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales for 1902 might contain information relating to a life of George Perry junior in an article by Hedley. The abstract of these Proceedings was examined at the British Library (shelfmark Ac.310/2). The naturalist, C. Hedley, F.L.S., gave a series of six presentations to the Linnean Society during 1900 – 1902, entitled 'Studies on Australian Mollusca'. Part 5 is the only one of these to mention Perry by name, and that is in connection with a particular species of shell which had been renamed, 'Gyrineum Australasica, Perry'. He concluded part 6 by stating that certain Australian species described in 1811 had been discussed and the restoration of the names then imposed was advocated. This date presumably relates to work done by George Perry junior, as it matches with the publication dates of his two major works. Hugh Torrens's essay explains that the Arcana was published in monthly parts in 1810 and 1811 and the first edition of Conchology was published in April 1811.

George Peter Perry died on the 11th December 1857 in Montevideo but did not leave a will. Letters of administration on his estate were obtained on 26th July 1859 by James Clemens Thompson, merchant, the attorney of Rosa Maria Perry, widow, who was also living in Montevideo.

A search of the IGI and BVRI for possible baptisms of George Perry senior in Somerset between the years 1713 and 1723 provides two possibilities:

26 Feb 1716	Geo Perry	s/o Wm	North Cadbury
20 Jul 1719	George Perry	s/o John and Mary	Bruton
(b 12 Jul 1719)			

The second entry was submitted by an LDS church member. A search of the North Cadbury extracted batch was made to try to locate any brother called William, whose father was also called William. One such baptism was found, but it took place on the 16th February 1701. This is too early to be the brother of our George senior.

The object of this stage of research into the Perry family was to try to discover more about the origins of George Perry senior, the ironmaster, mapmaker and naturalist. He died in 1771, aged 52, which would suggest that he was born about 1718/9. It was known that he had an older brother, William, who was said to have been 50 at his death in 1763. William would therefore have been born about 1712/3. The parents of these brothers were unknown but it was known that they had an uncle, Levy Perry, who, according to his marriage licence allegation, was aged 28 when he married in 1729/30 and therefore would have been born shortly after 1700.

Various written sources had suggested a number of possible birthplaces for George. These included Scotland, Somerset and also that he was in some way related to the family of Micajah Perry, Lord Mayor of London in 1738/9, which originated in Devon.

The suggestion that George Perry was born in Scotland came from Horace White, author of 'Fossets, a Record of Two Centuries of Engineering', the 1958 history of the Fawcett's engineering business. This company grew out of the ironworks initially founded by George in Liverpool after he moved there from Coalbrookdale, where he had worked for the Darby family. There is certainly some evidence that both George and his brother, William, were nonconformists. Although their children were baptised in Anglican churches, both brothers were buried in the Toxteth Park Presbyterian Chapel, as was George's wife, Lydia, whose family was Huguenot.

The Scottish OPR index on the Scotland's People website includes only one birth or baptism of anyone with the surname Perry between 1695 and 1725. This was John Perry, the son of John, on the 27th December 1722 at Paisley Abbey, Renfrew (559/0020 0100). The IGI does, however, include a number of people called Pirry and Pirie, mostly in Aberdeenshire. There are several entries for children called George and William but none called Levy or Levi.

Two major sources have examined the genealogy and business interests of the family of Micajah Perry. These are:

'Perry of London: A Family and a Firm on the Seaborne Frontier, 1615-1753', by Jacob Price, published in 1992.

'The History of the Island of Antigua', by Vere Langford Oliver, published in 1899.

These are the two works quoted by Hugh Torrens, which provide his evidence that Micajah Perry III had no known issue. Both of these volumes are in the Society of Genealogists' Library and were examined for evidence of any connection between this family and Michael Gregory's Perry ancestors. They contain much genealogical information and relevant chapters and pedigrees have been copied. Copies have also been made of two contributions made to the journal, 'Notes and Queries', July 1895, pp. 17 & 73, by Oliver and others, which contain comments relevant to this Perry family.

These works confirm that Micajah Perry III died intestate in late 1752 or 1753. Limited administration of his estate was granted to his brother, Philip Perry, by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) on the 14th August of same year (PROB6/129), with a further grant on November 1757. A copy has been made. This is a lengthy document, concerned largely with the marriage settlement of Micajah's sister, Sarah. It confirms that Micajah was a widower with no children and that his heirs were his mother Sarah, his brother Philip and his two sisters, Sarah Heysham and Elizabeth Cade. We have already seen from the will of Philip Perry that he also had no children. It is therefore likely, as noted by Price, that the only known line of descent from Micajah Perry I was via his granddaughter, Elizabeth Cade.

The family of Micajah was descended from Roger Pery, a sixteenth century freeman of Exeter and if George Perry was related to this family it must have been through one of Roger Pery's other male descendants.

Only one testator with the name of Micajah Perry left a will which was proved by the PCC. This man was of Londonderry and his will was proved on the 14th August 1804 (PROB11/1413). He lived too late to be of interest to this investigation.

In 1758, George Perry published a work on Coalbrookdale. Hugh Torrens stated that the subscribers to this work included a James Perry of Bristol and Edward Perry and Joseph Perry, both of Shepton Mallet. It seems highly likely that these three, bearing the same surname as the author, would have been related to him in some way.

In order to explore this possibility, the parish registers of Shepton Mallet were searched at the Society of Genealogists' library, where they are available in microfiche format (SO/REG/119700/1-98). IGI coverage of this parish extends only to the earlier years, with both baptisms and marriages included for 1566-1679. There does not appear to be any other published index to these registers and it was therefore necessary to conduct all searches in the microfiche of the original volumes, some sections of which are difficult to read.

Initially, baptisms were examined for the years 1696-1700 (for Levy Perry), and 1710-20 (for William and George). Frustratingly, from 1716 onwards, some entries were feint and illegible, including the whole of February to April, September and October 1718/9 and most of 1720. None of the three was found, but the following Perry baptisms were noted:

15 Nov 1696	Amy daughter of Robert Perry
19 Feb 1698/9	Joyce daughter of Robert Perry and Joan his wife
27 Sep 1710	Joseph son of Edward and Sarah Perry
23 Oct 1712	John son of Edward and Sarah Perry
11 May 1713	Elizabeth daughter of Robert and Joan Perry
15 Oct 1715	Robert son of Robert and Jone Perry
1 Jun 1716	James son of Edward and Sarah Perry
25 Dec 1717	John son of Edward and Sarah Perry
6 Dec 1718	James son of Robert & Jone Perry
? Jan 1718/9	Elizabeth(?) of Edward and Sarah Perry

The discovery of an Edward Perry was of some interest. He may have lived long enough to have been a subscriber in 1758. His son, Joseph, baptised in 1710 was a similar possibility. Perhaps these men were cousins of George Perry.

The IGI contains a submitted entry for the possible baptism of Edward Perry on the 18th March 1682/3 at Shepton Mallet. He was the child of Edward and Joice. This entry was checked in the parish registers and a search was made for any siblings of Edward from 1677 and 1687. Any male siblings could have been the father or grandfather of George and William.

Edward was confirmed to have been baptised on the 18th March 1682/3 and this entry has been copied. Unfortunately, the only other child baptised to this couple between 1677 and 1687 was a daughter, Mary, on either the 27th or 29th July 1679.

The marriage of Edward and Sarah Perry was also located and has been copied. Edward Perry married Sarah Heath on the 25th June 1706.

Further investigation of the collection of family histories contained in the Society of Genealogists' library revealed another very interesting and useful work. This was a bound volume of handwritten notebooks entitled 'Perry Wills' (FH/PER). This purported to be a calendar of wills and administrations in the name of Perry in the P.C.C., 1439-1813. It is indexed by name and place and is actually much more than a chronological calendar, as all the entries appear to be abstracts, which in some cases contain a great deal of genealogical information.

Shepton Mallet had three entries in the placename index and these were all investigated.

Probate document number 245 related to the will of Joan Perry of Blackford, Somerset, a widow, whose will was proved on 5th December 1659. She mentioned cousins called Beaton and kinsmen named Dampier. She may have been the widow of Richard Perry, yeoman of Blackford, whose will was also proved in the P.C.C. on 23rd May 1650.

Document number 898 was the will of John Perry of Shepton Mallet, sergeant of marines, proved in 1799. This man died in the Royal Naval Hospital in Jamaica. He left his entire estate to his widow, Sarah, also of Shepton Mallet but now residing in Wiveliscombe.

Of much more interest was the will numbered 610, which was that of Richard Perry of Mile End, proved 2nd May 1754 and this document has been copied. Brief details are as follows:

PCC will of Richard Perry dated 9 Mar 1753

of Mile End Old Town in the parish of St Dunstan, Stepney, gentleman

Estate includes property in St Mary, Whitechapel, St George in the East and St Dunstan, Stepney.

Related beneficiaries:

Elizabeth Perry, daughter in law
James Stevens, nephew

Sarah Stevens, sister of Shepton Mallet
her grandchildren:
Joseph Stevens, nephew and son of Sarah, brother of James

George Brice, cousin, stockingmaker of Wilts
his sisters

Robert Perry, cousin, clothworker of Shepton Mallet
Elizabeth Perry, daughter of Robert
other unnamed children of Robert

Abraham, son of Edward Perry of Shepton Mallet
Margaret Perry, sister of Abraham
more unnamed brothers of Margaret
Sarah Perry, mother of Abraham and Margaret

Beneficiaries where no relationship is stated:

Ann Phillis of Shepton Mallet
Josias Applin (under 21) son of Josias Applin, late of Shepton Mallet

Richard Crouch of Mile End Old Town
Levy Perry, wharfinger of Brooks Wharf, Queenhithe
Levy, George and Maria Virgin Perry, children of Levy
Phillipa Perry, wife of Levy
Margaret Emblin
Benjamin Lenton? of Whitechapel, vintner and Elizabeth his wife
Mrs Sherwood, wife of Mr Sherwood, butcher of Westminster market
Admiral Carey
Joseph Carey
Margaret Jeffries
Henry Dawson, corn chandler of Mile End Old Town
John Crowder of London, gentleman
James Nolley?, cordwainer of St Giles in the Fields

Executors:
John Crowder and Levy Perry
Probate granted 2 May 1754 to both executors

This man had obvious close family ties with the Somerset parish of Shepton Mallet. More interestingly, he also named Levy Perry, making him one of his two executors and bequeathing £5 to his three children and £10 to his wife. It was already known that Levy and George were the two surviving children of Levy senior by his first wife, Elizabeth Smith, and that he had married, secondly, 'Philepia' Stacy at St Anthony, Budge Row, in London in 1750. Presumably, Maria Virgin was the daughter of Levy and Phillipa.

Although the testator details his relationship to all the other beneficiaries who share his surname, he did not say if or how Levy was related to him. It seems highly unlikely that they were not related in some way.

No entry for the burial of Richard Perry appears in the National Burial Index. Nor does the IGI contain any Perry children baptised by any Richard Perry in St Dunstan Stepney between 1702 and 1752, although a Richard Perry, son of Richard and Susanna, was christened at St George in the East on the 27th May 1731. No marriage of any Perry male to a bride called Elizabeth can be found on the IGI or BVRI from 1700-55.

From the name index of this collection of probate abstracts, all references to the those called Levy, Lydia and George were then investigated. Levy/Levi only occurs once and that was in the will of Richard Perry of Mile End, as detailed above. There were several references to Lydia but none appeared to refer to the wife of Michael Gregory's ancestor, George. Likewise, of the many references to George in the name index, of which those appearing in wills proved 1699 to 1858 were checked, none was apparently relevant to Michael Gregory's family.

Returning to the parish registers of Shepton Mallet, a complete extraction of the rest of the Perry baptisms and also the marriages and burials was now made from 1695 to 1720.

Baptisms Jan 1701 – Mar 1709/10

25 Dec 1701	Thomas s/o Robert Perry & Joan his wife
18 Dec 1703	Amy d/o Robert & Joan Perry
4 May 1706	Mary d/o Robert & Joan Perry
30 Apr 1707	Margaret d/o Edwd & Abigail Perry
8 Jul 1708	Elizabeth d/o Edward & Sarah Perry

Marriages Mar 1695 – Mar 1720/1

25 Jun 1706	Edward Perry & Sarah Heath
8 Oct 1713	Abraham Perry & Dinah Syms
19 Apr 1720	Robert? Perry & Elizabeth? Oatby?
9 Aug 1720	George? Perry of Riverston? & Agnes Webb

Burials Mar 1697 – Mar 1720/1

6 Aug 1698	Richard Perry?
11 May 1699	Thomas s/o Robert Perry
30 Sep 1700	Amy d/o Robert Perry
6 Apr 1701	Edward s/o Simon Perry
14 Mar 1704/5	Edward s/o Edward Perry
2 Oct 1705	Hannah wife of Richd Perry
? Mar 1708	William s/o Simon Perry
12 Feb 1708/9	Edward Perry
11 Nov 1711	Elizabeth d/o Edward Perry
12 Mar 1717	John s/o Edward Perry
2 Jun 1718	Elizabeth wife of Edward Perry*
6 Apr 1720	Richard Perry

* Some of these entries were very difficult to make out and the surname on this burial could be Penny, a name which also appears fairly frequently in Shepton Mallet. There is a possible marriage for this couple as Penny on the 15th April 1716 and a remarriage of Edward Penny to a Mary Penny in 1718.

Analysis of the parish register entries, in conjunction with the abstract of Richard Perry's will, reveals several anomalies, indicated in red on the accompanying pedigrees, and it appears likely that the testator used the word 'cousin' in a more general sense, meaning merely a relative or kinsman.

The National Burial Index purports to cover the records of the parish of St Peter & St Paul, Shepton Mallet, from 1615-1899 but further investigation reveals that there are large gaps, including the whole of 1681-1736. The first Perry entry is in 1778. There is a burial of Margaret Perry, aged 81, on the 17th December 1785. This could be the daughter of Edward and Sarah, who was baptised in 1707, and was mentioned in the will of Richard Perry of Mile End.

There is no marriage of Edward Perry and Abigail on the IGI or BVRI. Neither is there any issue of Abraham Perry and Dinah.

These two sources were next searched for any issue of Robert Perry and Elizabeth, anywhere in England, between 1720 and 1740. There are many entries but those baptisms taking place in either London or Somerset are:

14 Nov 1722	Daniel Perey	St Andrew, Holborn	
7 Jun 1730	James Perry	St Clement Danes	
26 Mar 1732	Hannah Perrey	St Olave, Southwark	born 6 Mar
14 Oct 1740	Betty Perry	Charlton Horethorne, Somerset	

Online indexes of marriages and marriage licence allegations at originsnetwork.com were searched for:

Richard Perry	1700-53	Somerset
Edward Perry & Abigail	before 1710	Somerset
Edward Perry & Joyce	before 1680	Somerset
Robert Perry & Joan	before 1695	Somerset
Sarah Perry & Mr Stevens	1700-45	London or Somerset

There were too many Richard Perry marriages to list in London, without having the bride's name, but none was in east London. The following were noted:

1668	Robert Perey & Jane Walton	St Alphage, London Wall
1692	Rob Pery & Joan Tomas	Wellington, Somerset
1723	Richard Perry & Dy Stacey	Hillfrance, Somerset
1723	Ric Perry & Mgt Spearing	Bath & Wells Diocese

(a submitted entry on the IGI gives the date as 6 Jan 1723)

This last entry relates to the issuing of a licence. Marriage allegation bonds of the Bishop of Bath and Wells to 1755 are indexed on microfiche (SoG SO/REG/76555/1-9) and a bond was included, dated 6th January 1723/4, relating to the intended marriage of Richard Perry of St Cuthbert's, Wells, and Margaret Spearing of the same parish. The marriage was to take place at St Cuthbert's.

The above mentioned book, 'Perry Wills', was again consulted and all references to Edward, Joseph or Abraham Perry after 1650 were checked. None mentioned Shepton Mallet.

Before 1858, the parish of Shepton Mallet came under the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Consistory Court of Bath and Wells and also the Consistory Courts of the Archdeaconry of Wells, the Dean of Wells and the Dean and Chapter of Wells for probate purposes, in addition to the higher court of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, which had already been searched. All probate records for the Diocese of Bath and Wells were deposited at Exeter and destroyed by enemy action in World War II. There are, however, many published indexes and calendars as well as copies of some of the original documents which have been gathered together from various sources. These are all now available at the Society of Genealogists and were searched for any Perry testator who was said to be of Shepton Mallet. Although there were a number of Perry families in Somerset, notably in Wellington, no Perry of Shepton Mallet appeared to have made a will which was proved in any of these courts.

A further volume in the Society of Genealogists' Library, 'Somerset Newspaper Indexes 1773-8 and 1831-2' (SO/G 76) was located. Despite its title, this book only appeared to have indexed articles from two Somerset newspapers. The period 1773-8 was covered by the Sherborne & Yeovil Mercury. A notice on the 11th November 1776 read:

Perry, Edward, Shepton Mallet, bankrupt, clothworker

This was followed by two further identical notices appearing on the 30th June and 21st July 1777:

Perry, Edward, Shepton Mallet, cloth worker, bankrupt dividend

A possible burial for this man appears in the National Burial Index at Shepton Mallet on the 12th April 1821. He was said to be 86 years of age, giving a probable date of birth of around 1734/5.

References to the name Perry in both the Surname Collection and Document Collection of the Society of Genealogists were investigated and several sets of documents were examined in detail. With the exception of one

mention of the family of Micajah Perry, nothing of relevance to this research was noted. No Perry of Shepton Mallet was found and no new information came to light.

Attention now turned to James Perry of Bristol, who also subscribed to George Perry's publication of 1758. The A2A (Access to Archives) website has references to documents deposited at Bristol Record Office, dated 1739 and 1765, which mention James Perry, a hooper in that city.

The Society of Genealogists' library holds a reprinted copy of Sketchley's Bristol Directory of 1775 (GL/D 1775). The following men named James Perry were listed:

Perry, James	cooper	9 Hallier's Lane
Perry, James	victualler & cooper (Ship & Castle)	Baldwin St
Perry, James	cooper	18 Maryport St
Perry, James	clockmaker	16 Limekiln Lane
Perry & Haynes	American merchants	10 St James Square

The first three entries could all relate to the same man.

This man appeared to have left a will which was proved in the PCC (PROB11/1577) and a copy has been made.

James Perry, a hooper of Bristol, wrote his will on the 15th August 1810. He named a wife, Elizabeth, one son, James, who was his executor and a servant, John Appleby. He also mentioned grandchildren but did not name them. The document was witnessed by T. E. Leman, a Bristol solicitor, Joseph Rositer and Wm Gregory, clerks to Mr. Leman. Probate was granted to the named executor on the 22nd February 1816.

James Perry's burial does not appear in the National Burial Index. This collection contains no James Perry burial in any part of Gloucestershire between 1750 and 1790.

James, the testator, could be the son of Edward and Sarah who was baptised at Shepton Mallet in 1710. The IGI has several submitted entries which may refer to this man. He may have married Catherine Cooper at Shepton Mallet on the 26th December 1743. This couple baptised several children there from 1744 to 1759. There is another marriage to Ann Brice on the 5th January 1755 and two baptisms for children of this couple. The probable burial of one of these James Perrys took place in the parish in 1780.

There was a James Perry who baptised a son, also James, in Bristol in 1743 with a wife called Mary. This child died as an infant. Again, this IGI entry was submitted by a patron. I.G.I. coverage of Bristol by parish register extraction is very poor and there were many ancient parishes in this large city. It is not therefore surprising that this index does not contain the baptism of any James Perry who might have been the son of James (the hooper) and Elizabeth. The only possible baptism in Gloucestershire is one at Tidenham on the 17th August 1788. There are other possibilities in Somerset, but none of these are in Shepton Mallet.

All Bristol parishes and a number surrounding the city were in the jurisdiction of the Consistory Court of Bristol. An index of wills proved in that court 1571-1857 is held on film at the Society of Genealogists (mf 905). The only James Perry listed between 1758 and 1857 appears in 1795.

Administrations are indexed on film 734. No-one called James Perry appears as the subject of an administration. The index does, however, mention a James Perry who was administrator of the estate of a Benjamin Perry in December 1779.

A copy of the will proved in 1795 was ordered from Bristol Record Office.

This man was also a hooper of Bristol. He wrote his will on the 6th June 1795 and named as trustees and executors his two friends, John Yeates and James Ingram, both gentlemen of Bristol. His estate was to be divided between three sons and three daughters, none of whom were named. The will was witnessed by Wm. Broan and Wm. Cox. Probate was granted at Bristol on the 29th August 1795 to the two named executors. The value of the estate was said to be under £600. It is possible that this man was the father of the hooper called James Perry whose will, described above, was proved in 1816.

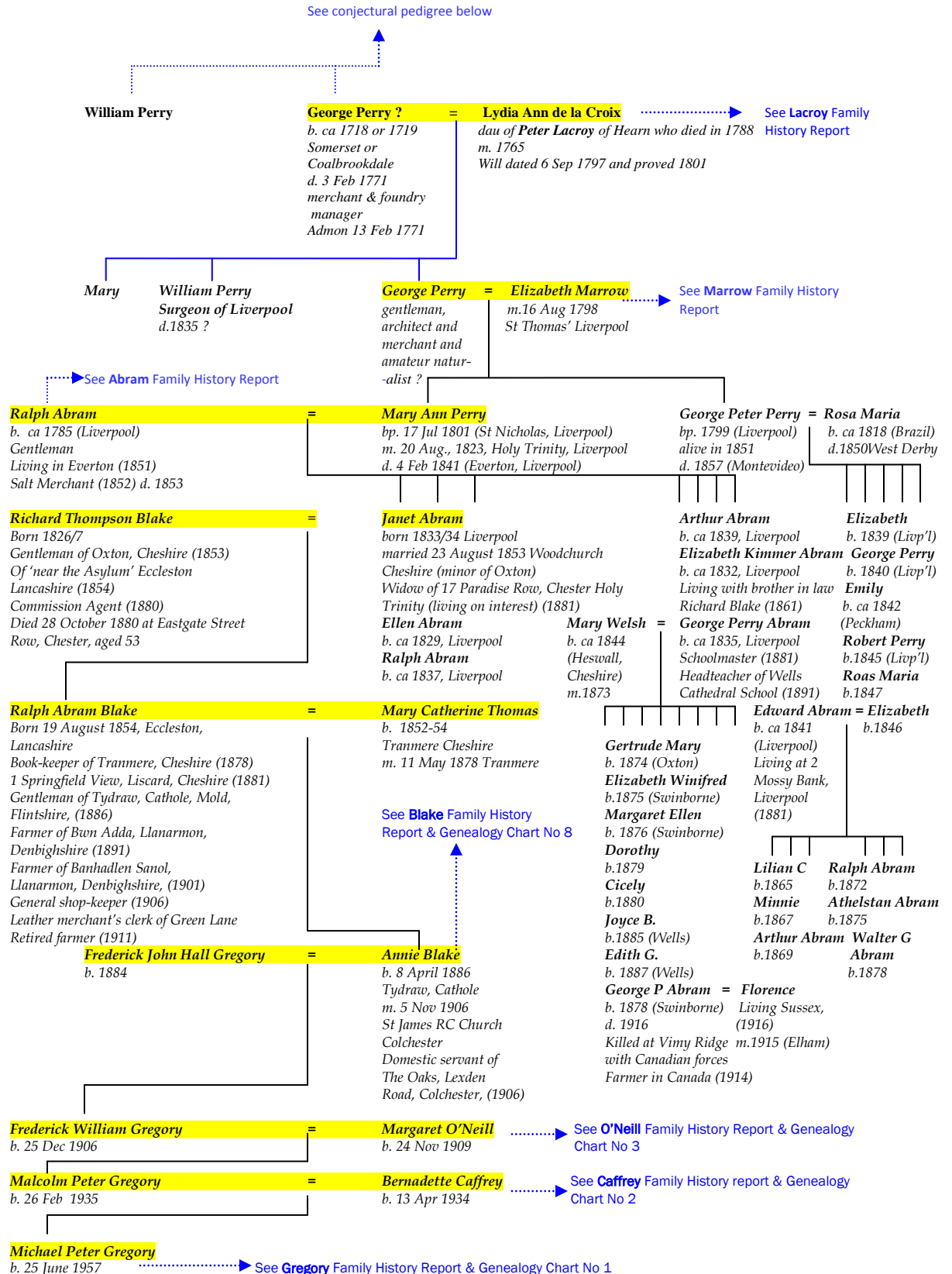
As a postscript to the previous stage of research into this family, a search was made for any will or administration of George Perry in either the Commissary Court or the Consistory Court of London. The period 1806-1840 was searched in the former jurisdiction and 1810-1826 in the latter. No George Perry was found.

Document List

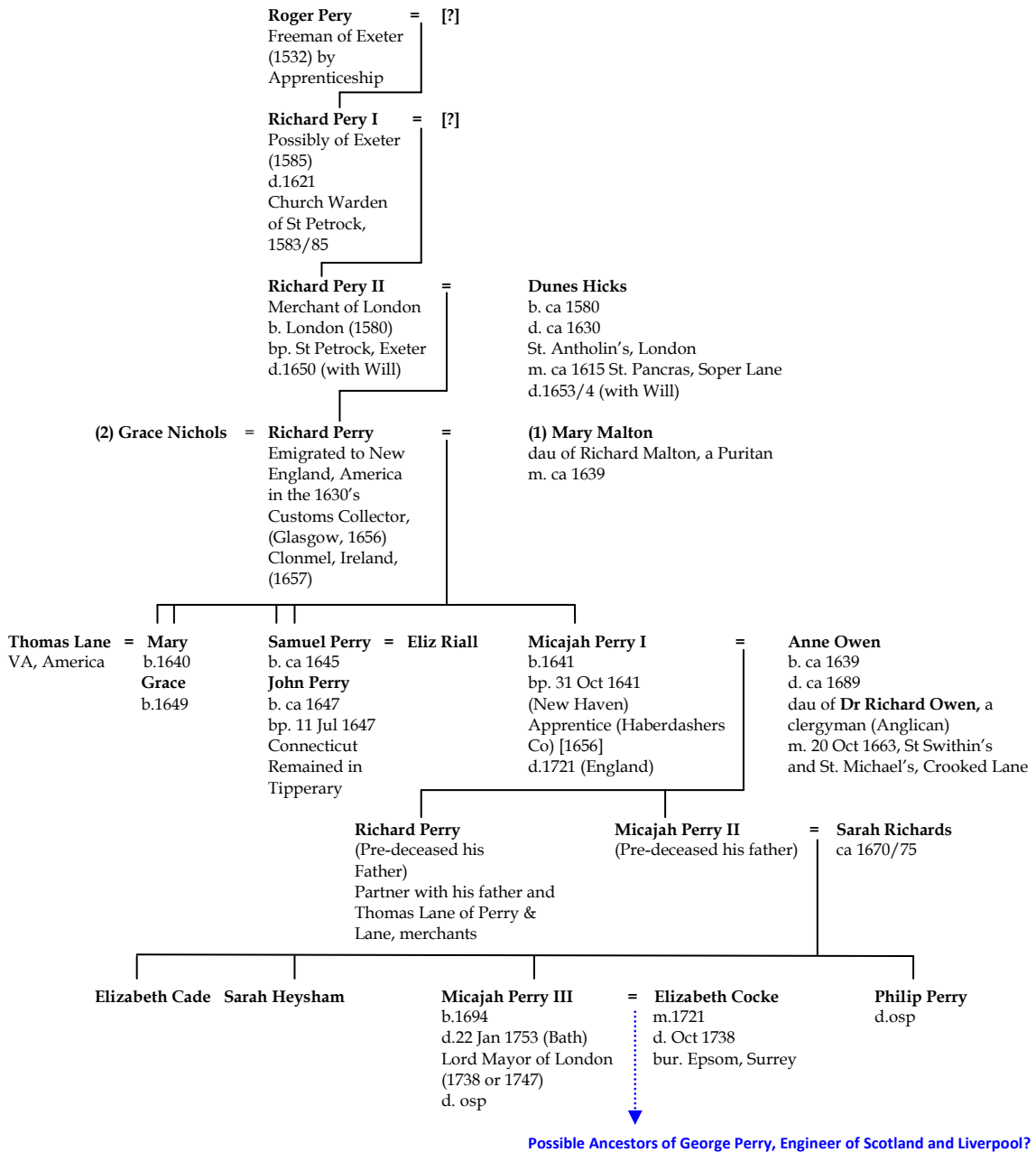
Perry of London: A Family and a Firm on the Seaborne Frontier, 1615-1753 by Jacob Price	9 pages
The History of the Island of Antigua by Vere Langford Oliver	5
Notes and Queries July 1895	2
Admon Micajah Perry 1753	6
Baptism Edward Perry 1682/3	1
Marriage Edward Perry & Sarah Heath 1706	1
Will Richard Perry 1754	3
Will James Perry 1816	2
Will James Perry 1795	2

Date of Report: 16 May 2010

The Perry Family of Cheshire



Conjectural Pedigree of George Perry, Possibly of Scotland or Liverpool to Roger Pery, Freeman of Exeter



Sources:

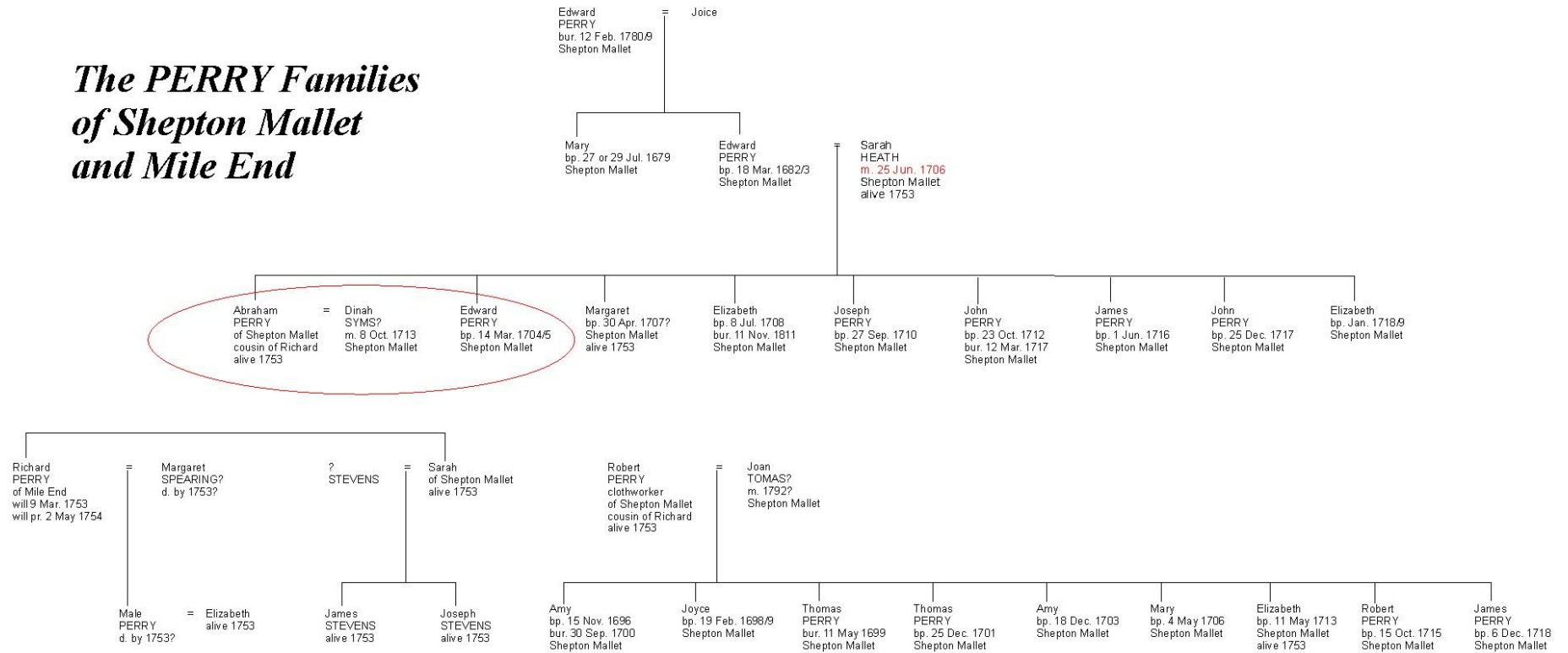
Micajah Perry, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Extractions from Ancestry.com: Marriage Licence Allegations, Dean of Westminster, 1558-1699 and Vicar-General the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, 1660-1679 (Marriages)

Other publications unproved by records:

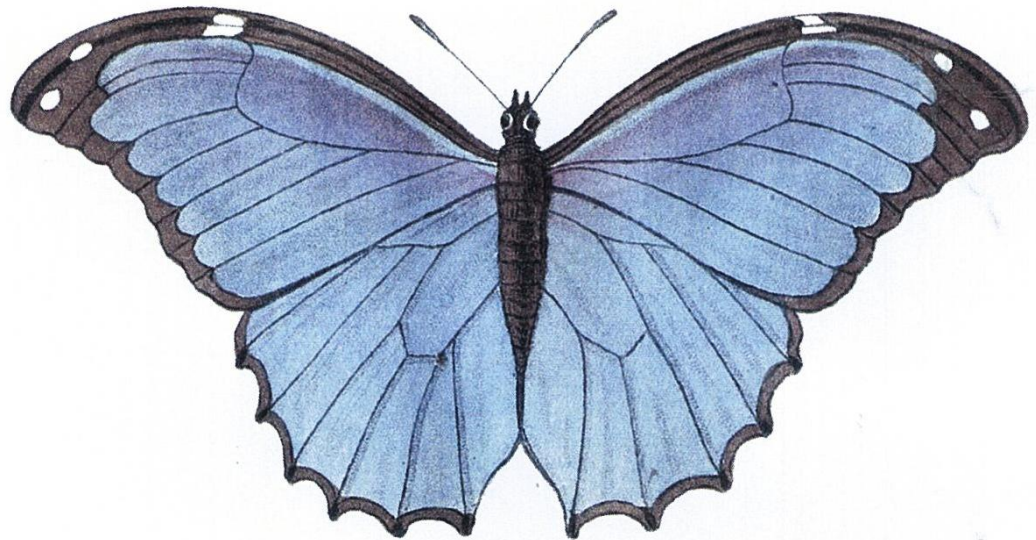
- <http://sallysfamilyplace.com/neighbours/perrywm.htm>
- "The Perry Family of Woodcroft and Cork", <http://www.jessandra.de/woodruff.htm>

The PERRY Families of Shepton Mallet and Mile End



Appendix

Copies of engravings published in George Perry's *Arcana* and
Book on Conchology



Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by J.L. Busby.

ARCUATUS CÆRULEUS.

Pub. by J. Stratford Decr. 1850.

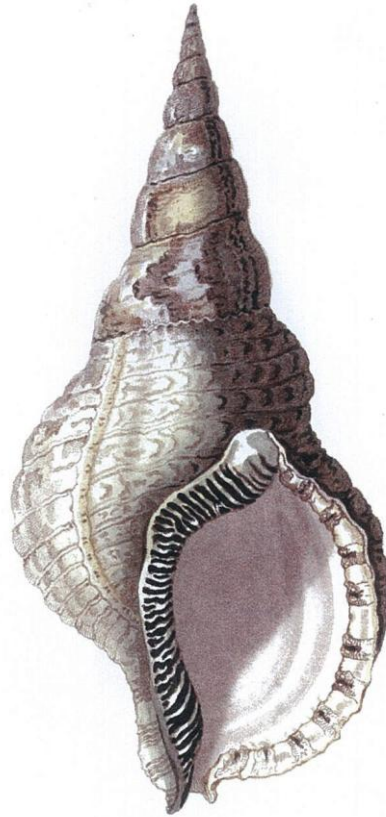


Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T.L. Busby.

TROCHUS ZEBRA.

Pub. by J. Stafford, March, 1861.

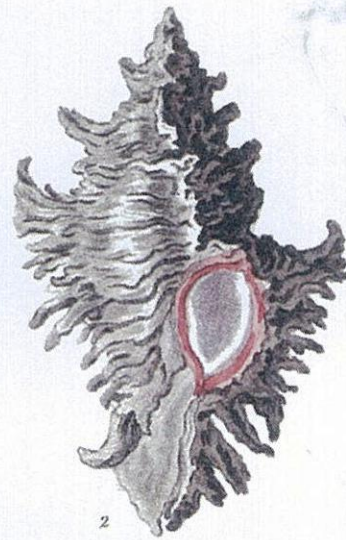


T.L. Busby sculp.



G. Perry del.

1

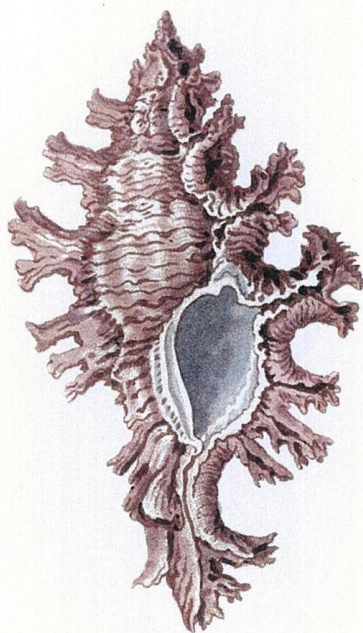


2

T.L. Busby sculp.

TRIPLEX.

Pub. by J. Stafford, Sept. 1860.

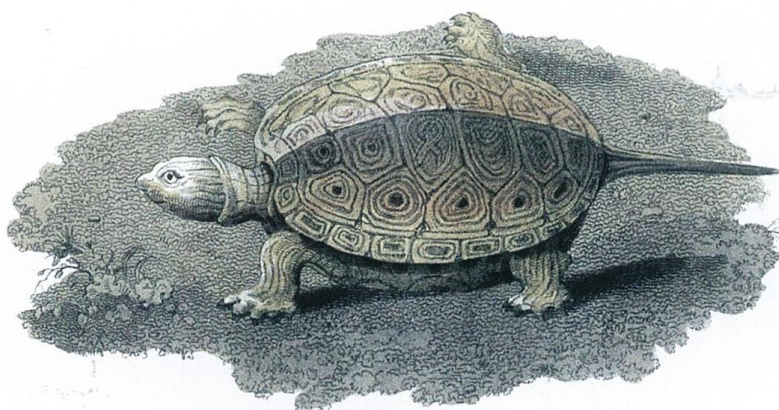


G. Perry del.

T.L. Busby scilicet.

TRIPLEX FOLIATUS.

Pub. by J. Stratford, June 1810.

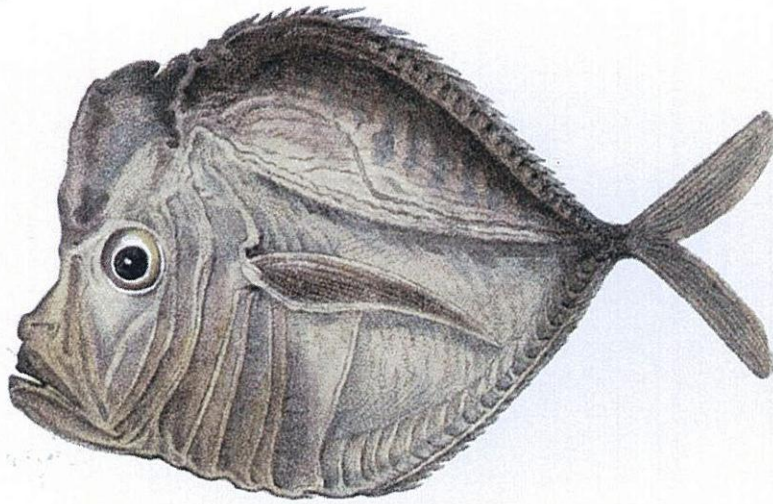


G. Perry del.

T.L. Busby scilicet.

TORTOISE.

Pub. by J. Stratford, Sept. 1810.

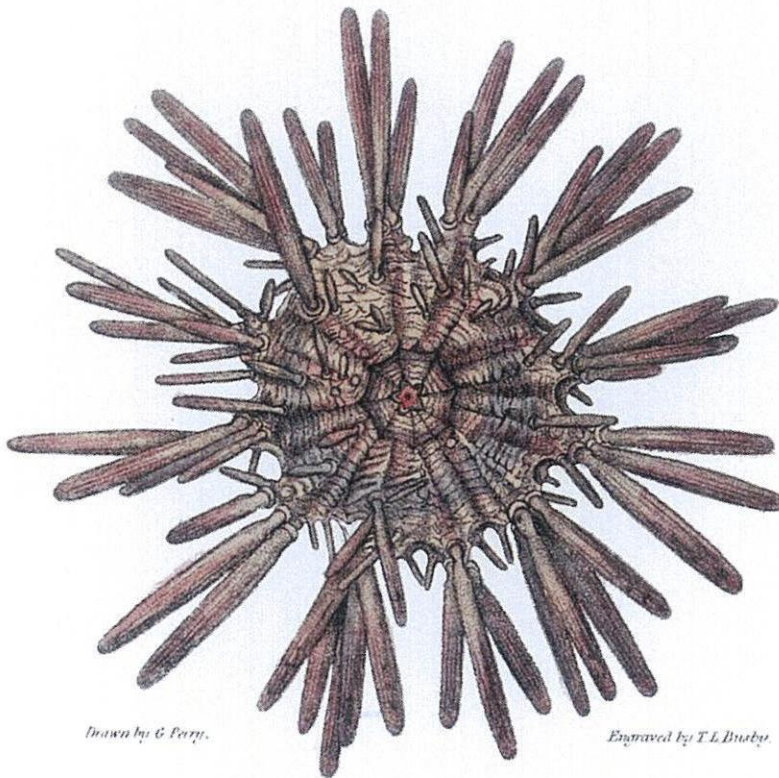


G. Perry del.

T. L. Burby sc.

STROMATEUS.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, July 1850.

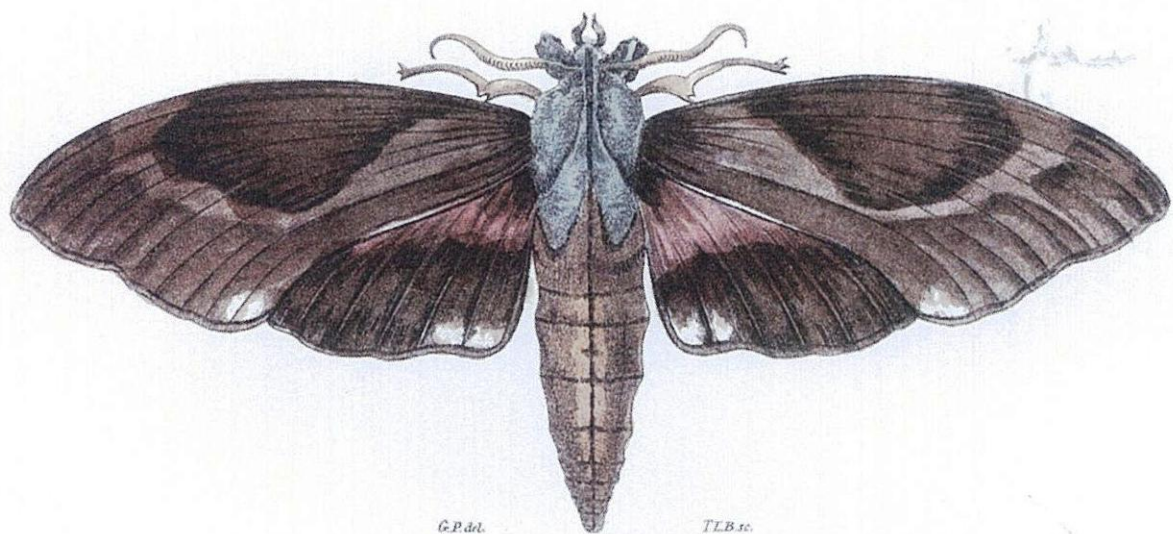


Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T. L. Burby.

ECHINUS STELLARIS.

Pub^d by J. L. Stratford, Oct. 1850.

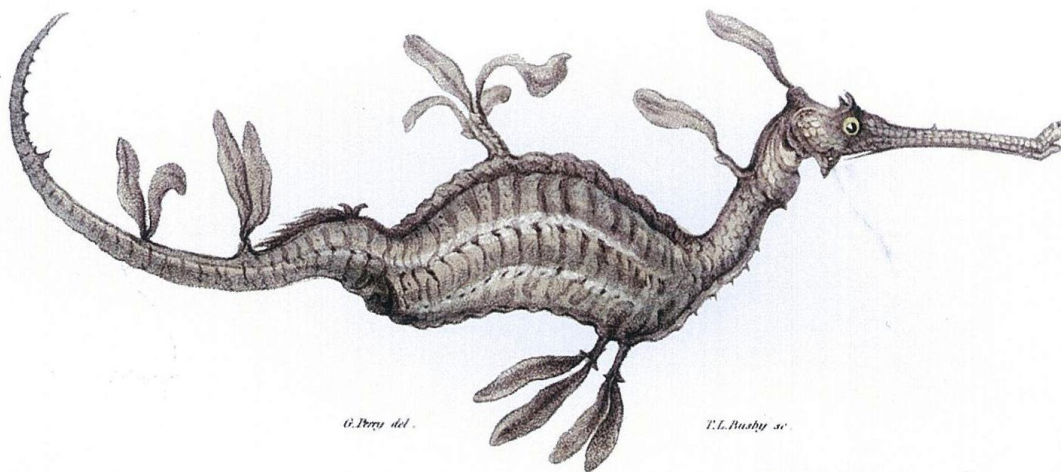


G.P. del.

T.L.B. sc.

SPHYNX CASTANEUS.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, June 1. 1822.

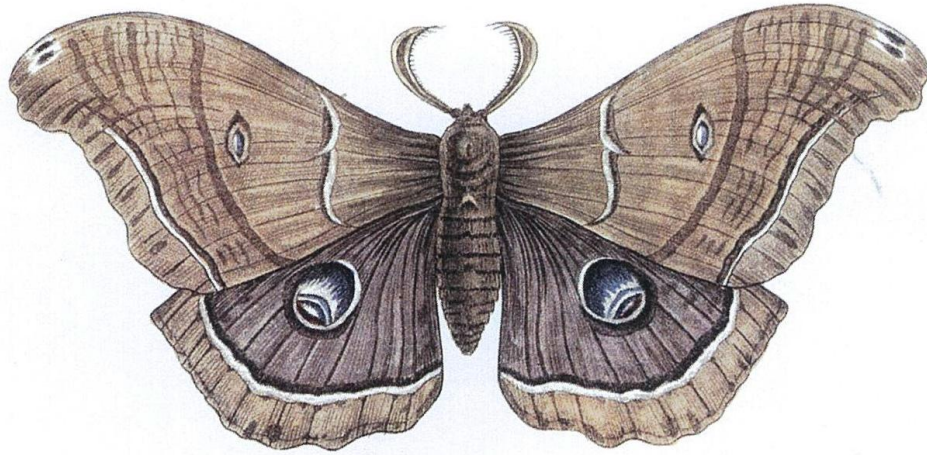


G. Perry del.

T.L. Busby sc.

SEA HORSE.

Published by J. Stratford, Holborn, May 1. 1820.

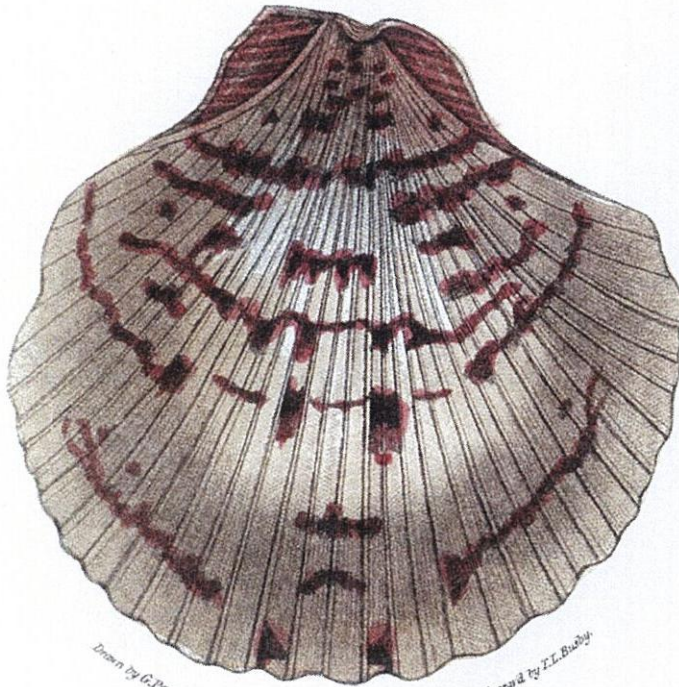


Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T.L. Budg.

PHALŒNA FENESTRA.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, July. 1st. 1811.

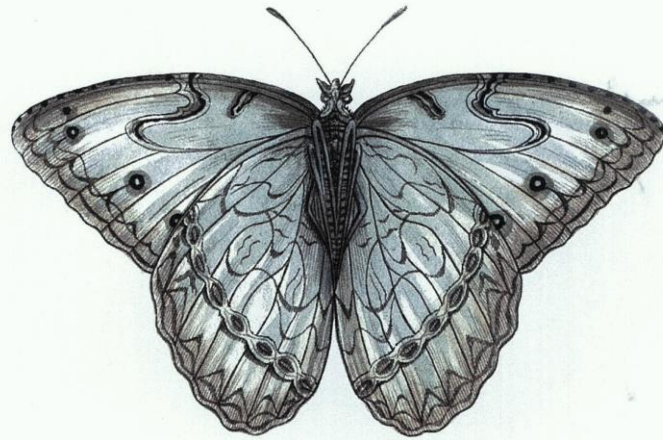


Drawn by G. Perry.

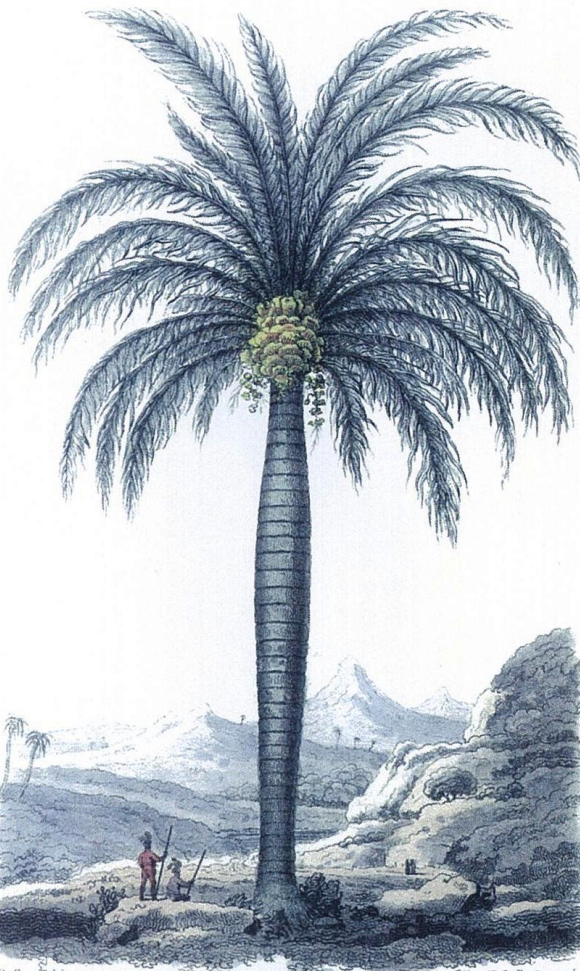
Engraved by T.L. Budg.

PECTEN SANGUINEUM.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, June. 1. 1811.



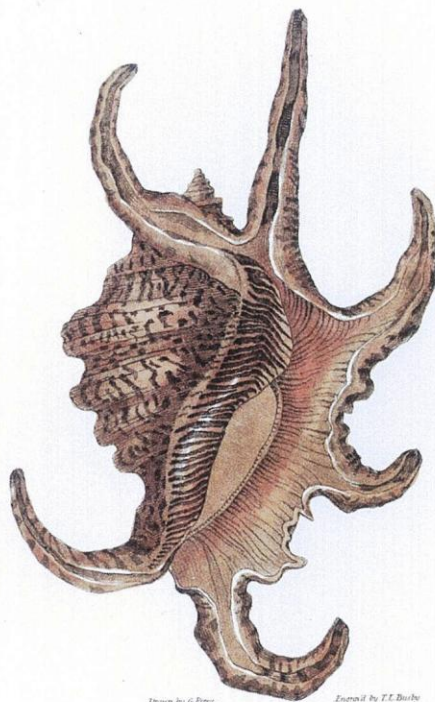
Drawn by G. Eury *Engraved by T.L. Dufay*
PAPILIO CATENARIA.
Publ. by J. Stratford, March 1810.



G. Perry del. *T.L. Dufay sculp.*

PALM TREE

Published by J. Stratford, Holborn, Jan. 1st 1810

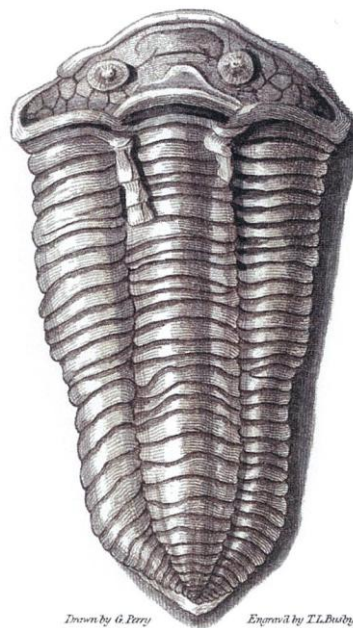


Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T.L. Busby.

STROMBUS DIVERGENS.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, July, 1850.

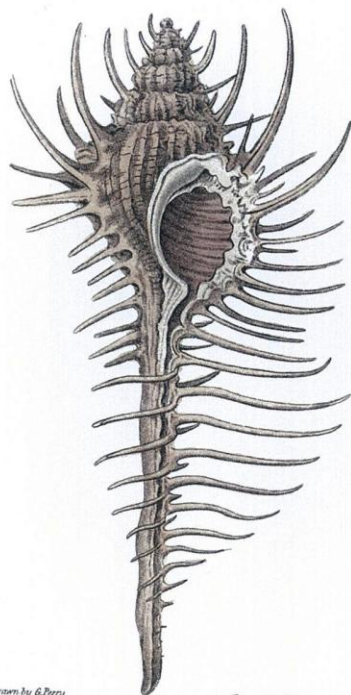


Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T.L. Busby.

MONOCULITHOS.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, Nov. 1850.

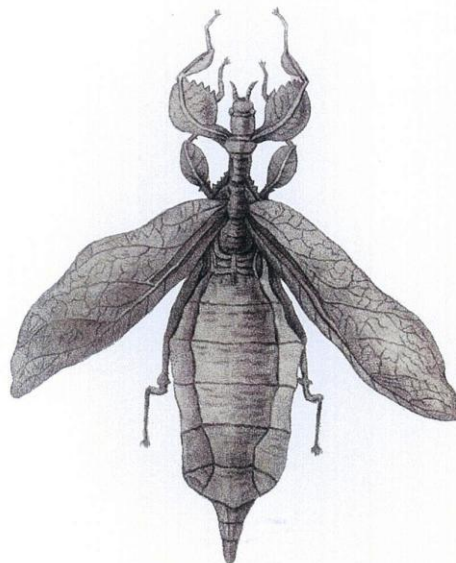


Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T.L. Busby.

ARANEA GRACILIS.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, Dec. 1850.

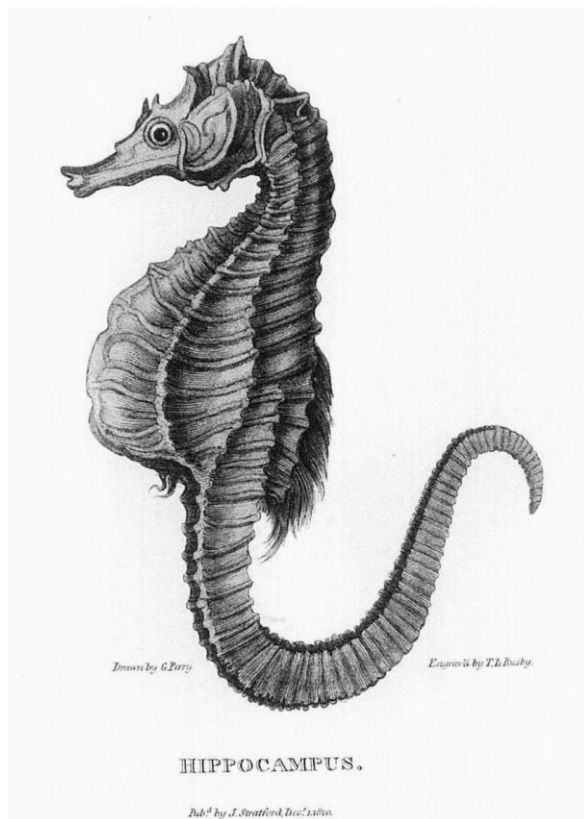


G. Perry del^t

T.L. Busby sculp^t

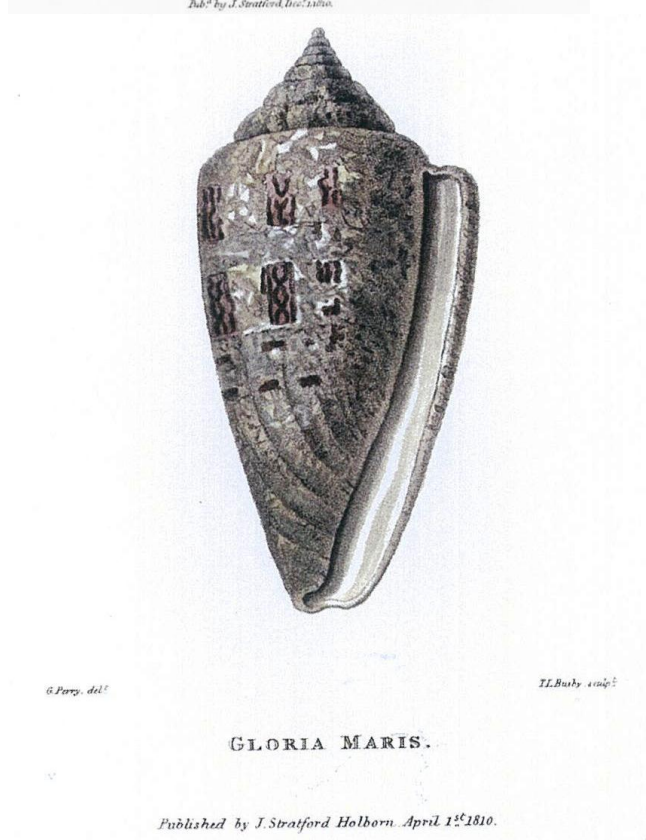
MANTIS FOLIATUS.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, June 1851.



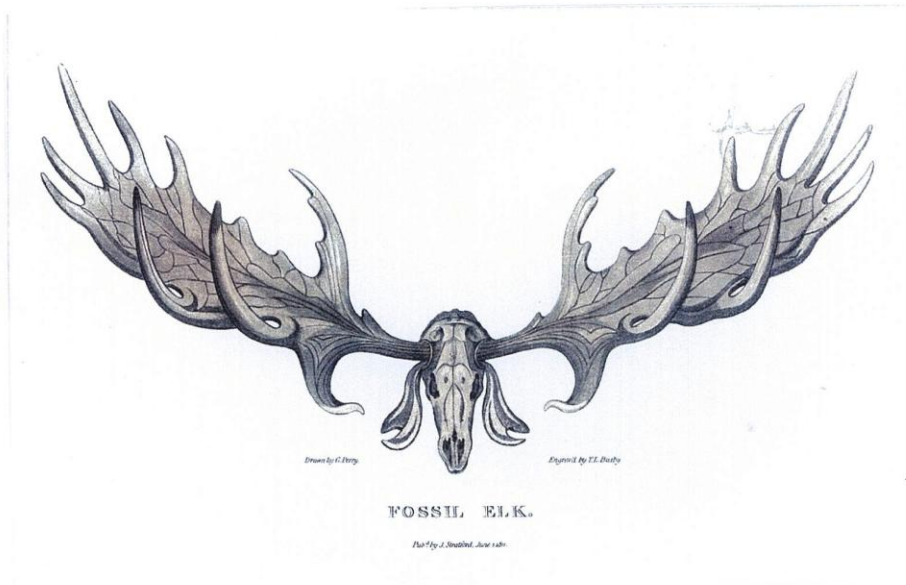
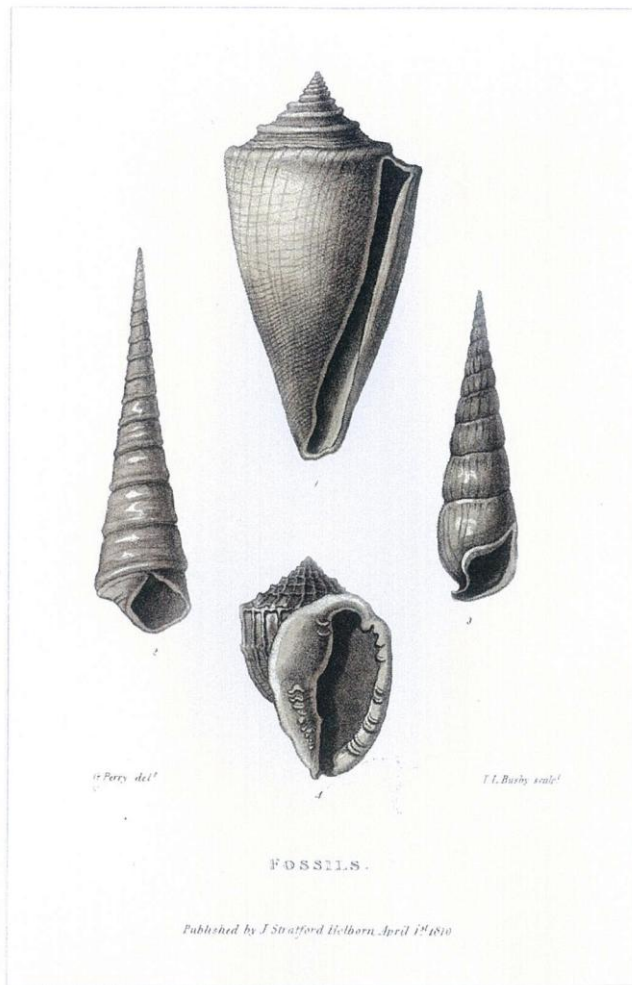
HIPPOCAMPUS.

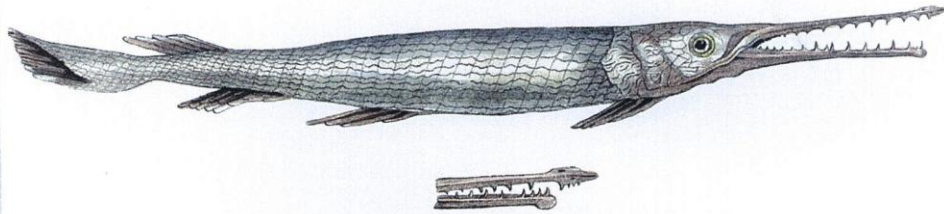
Pubd by J. Stratford, Linc. 1810.



GLORIA MARIS.

Published by J. Stratford Holborn April 1st 1810.





Drawn by G. Perry

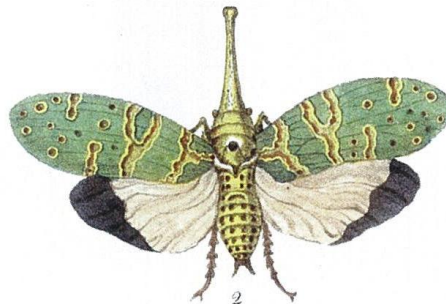
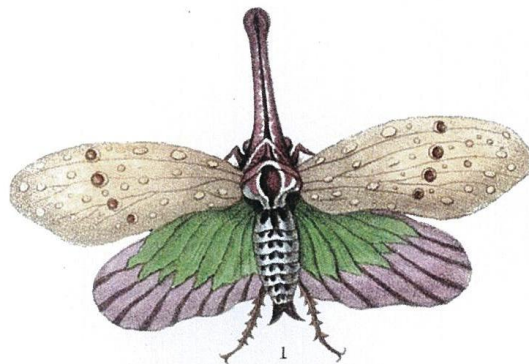
Engraved by T.L. Busby

ESOX NILOTICUS.

Pub. by J. Stratford, Mar. 1. 1810.

ENTOMOLOGY.

Fulgura



Perry del.

T.L. Busby sculp.

Published by J. Stratford, Holborn Jan 1st 1810.



Drawn by G. Perry

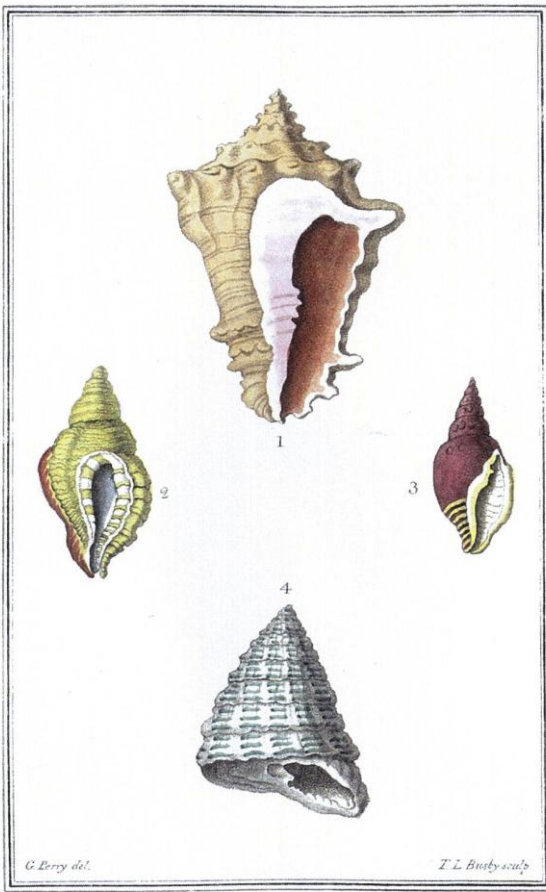
Engraved by T.L. Busby

CONUS PARTICULAR.

Publ'd by J. Sturges Oct. 1840.

CONCHOLOGY.

Pl. 1



G. Perry del.

T.L. Busby sculp.



CAMELEOPARD.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, Jan. 1. 1812.



2



2

Drawn by G. Perry

Engraved by T.L. Burby.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, Oct. 1810.



Drawn by G. Perry

Engraved by T.L. Burby

BULIMUS PHASIANUS.

Pub^d by J. Stratford, Nov. 1810.

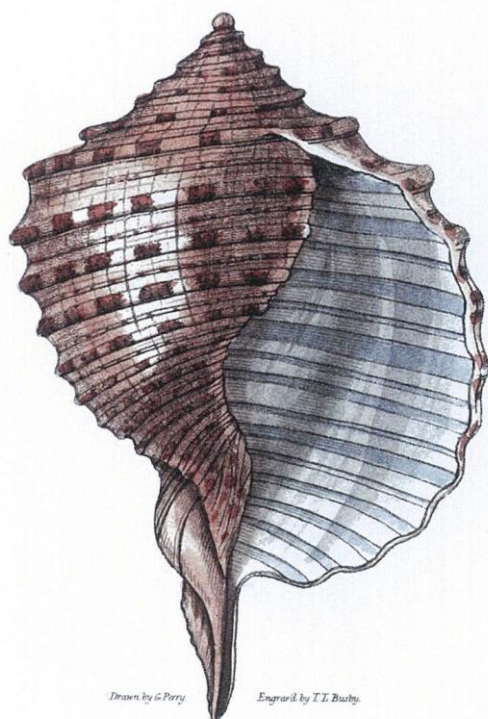


Drawn by G. Perry

Engraved by T.L. Burby.

BUCCINUM DISTENTUM

Pub. by J. Stratford, May. 1. 1811.



Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T.L. Busby.

BUCCINUM DILATUM.

Pub. by J. Stratford, March, 1851.

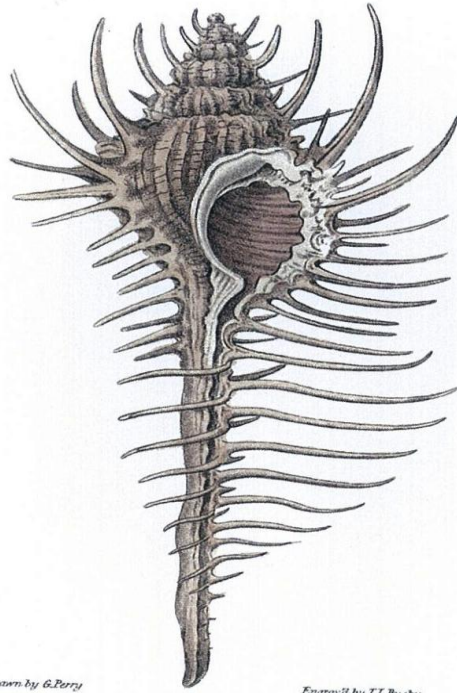


Drawn by G. Perry.

Engraved by T.L. Busby.

BABYROUSSA.

Pub. by J. Stratford, May, 1851.



Drawn by G. Perry

Engraved by T.L. Busby

ARANEA GRACILIS.

Pubd by J. Stratford Dallas.

