



GENEALOGY RECORD

Jamestown Rediscovery

Thank you for purchasing a Jamestown genealogy record. Today millions of people can trace their ancestry to this historic place. This record provides a summary of documented sources pertaining to an individual's life, which we hope will be useful as you trace your family roots.

In the seventeenth century, Jamestown Island was the arrival point for thousands of colonists first setting foot on soil in English North America. When James Fort was established in May 1607, tens of thousands of native Virginians were already living in the Chesapeake region as part of the Powhatan paramount chiefdom. In August 1619, the first documented Africans were brought to Jamestown. This confluence of cultures helped shape the foundations of modern American society.

Since 1994 the *Jamestown Rediscovery* project has sought to tell the stories of Jamestown's seventeenth-century residents—both known and unknown—through the material culture they left behind. The excavations have revealed evidence of James Fort's palisades, buildings, and landscape features as well as more than three-million artifacts.

Today visitors to the island can walk in the footsteps of these early ancestors, exploring the James Fort site and seeing thousands of artifacts in the Voorhees Archaearium Museum. And the archaeological team is often at work, weather permitting, so it is even possible to be lucky enough to witness the "moment of discovery" as an object is pulled from the ground after four-hundred years.

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting preservation, education, and the archaeological investigation of Historic Jamestowne. Your purchase helps to support this critical mission as well as our ongoing research about this significant place. Thank you!

Notes about the Genealogy Records

Each genealogy record presents a summary of documented information about one of Jamestown's seventeenth-century residents. The data presented are based on confirmed sources, but other information could be available at smaller repositories and in private holdings.

Names

A person's name might seem like the simplest piece of genealogical information, but even determining how best to refer to someone from the seventeenth century can be complicated. At the time, spelling was phonetic, so a name could be written in multiple ways across different documents. For consistency, we have adopted a standard spelling for each name, except when directly quoting a primary source. However common spelling variations in first and last names are included in parentheses in the name fields.

The genealogy records generally refer to individuals by their name at birth, if known. Consequently married women are listed by their maiden name, but they would have assumed their husband's last name at the time of their wedding, so additional surnames are recorded under marriages. If a woman's maiden name is unknown, then that is noted and she is listed with the surname most commonly associated with her.

Another convention that can cause confusion is that some seventeenth-century families repeated given, or first, names generation to generation (and even within the same generation). Superscript numerals have been added to help distinguish between individuals with the same first name. These numbers are only an aid within a specific record and do not necessarily indicate anything about a family's generations nor lineage. For clarity, superscripts may also be applied to first names, even if the individuals' last names may have been different. The numbering also may not match across records within the same family.

Dates

Prior to 1752, England and its colonies recognized March 25, or Lady Day, as the start of the New Year. This means that dates recorded in the seventeenth century between January 1 and March 24 were part of the previous year (old style) when compared to the modern calendar (new style). To remove any ambiguity about dates falling within this range, the year is often written with a slash between the old style and new style. For instance, January 25, 1624/5, would indicate that the

year was 1624 in the old-style calendar, but 1625 when modernized to reflect January 1 as the start of the year. The one exception is the commonly-known date of the Powhatan attack of March 22, 1621/2, which has been standardized to 1622.

Sources

Seventeenth-century genealogical research can be challenging for many reasons from incomplete information and difficulties accessing records around the world to deciphering seventeenth-century language and writing. Most of the primary subjects of the genealogy records can be found in one or more of these three commonly used secondary sources for this period:

John Frederick Dorman [editor], *Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607-1624/5*, 3 Volumes, 4th edition (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004)

Martha W. McCartney, *Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary*. (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007)

Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants 1623-1666, Volume One*. (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1963)

Some of the genealogy records may also note additional relevant sources at the end. When available, we have included current links to these resources when published online as a courtesy. However we cannot guarantee that these pages will be maintained or accessible in the future.

As interest in the European settlement of Virginia has grown over the past century, many genealogists and historians have combed through surviving county records, publishing books on land patents, deeds, and wills for specific areas. These volumes can be valuable for learning more about individuals through their land holdings and personal property, but they are often harder to access than the more commonly-used resources.

More Information

For more tips on researching Jamestown's seventeenth-century residents as well as to learn more about Jamestown's history and how to visit the island, please see the genealogy resource page at: <https://historicjamestowne.org/history/genealogy-resources/>.

Perry William Perry

Last Name: Perry

First Name: William

Marriages: *1:* name unknown; *2:* Isabell Smyth, widow of Richard Pace

Children: *by 1:* “infans” (son who probably died young); *by 2:* Henry

Arrival Date: 1611

Locations Settled: Pace’s Paines and Buckland in Henrico Corporation

Occupations/Positions: Planter; Commander; Lieutenant; Burgess; Councilor

Death Date: August 6, 1637

Biographical Abstract:

William Perry was possibly the son of Henry Perry christened at St. Andrews, Buckland Monachorum, Devon, on August 27, 1592. This possible family connection may be supported by William Perry naming his plantation Buckland as well as a John Perry staying with Capt. Perry in Virginia in the 1620s and asking him to witness his will.

William Perry came to Virginia in 1611. Shortly after the 1622 Powhatan attack, he returned to England on business for the colony. He was one of five planters who were bearers of a petition to the Company from Governor Sir Francis Wyatt, dated February 2, 1623/4, asking for relief from “paying any Custome, or Impost upon their tobacco crop until the said Plantation by peace become somewhat settled,” reciting the disaster that had overwhelmed the colony in 1622 and the year following. Perry took an Indian boy with him whom he exhibited before the Court of the Company in London and was authorized to solicit funds to bring him up “in Christianity.”

While William was in England, Perry’s first wife and child were listed as Mrs. Perry and “infans [infant] Perry” living with Francis Chapman in the 1623/4 census. Mr. Chapman owned land adjoining Pace’s Paines, where William Perry was a Commander.

Upon his return to Virginia after the 1624/5 muster, Perry reported to the Governor that the price of tobacco being so low and the imposts so high, that it was

unprofitable to take the shipments out of customs. He also reported that the Virginia Company did not give them full support when the petitioners resolved to present their appeal to King James I.

On the 1625/6 list of “Titles and Estates” sent to England, William Perry was credited with 100 acres in the Corporation of Henrico. The patent for his Plantation named “Buckland” was recorded September 19, 1633, and was referred to in a repatent by his son in 1637.

On March 7, 1628/9, the Court renewed Perry’s commission as Commander of Pace’s Paines and “Smyth’s Mount.” As Lieut. Perry, he was a burgess in 1628 and 1629 representing Pace’s Paines. In 1630 and 1632 he represented Pace’s Paines and Smyth’s Mount. In 1632 he was appointed to the Council and served until 1635.

His tombstone, now illegible, stands between that of Theodorick Bland and Walter Aston at the original site of Westover Church on today’s Westover Plantation. The stone bore a shield and was inscribed: “Here lyeth the body of Captaine Wm Perry who lived neere Westover in the Collony who departed this life the 6th day of August Anno Domini 1637.” This is one of the oldest tombstones in Virginia.

William Perry’s first wife may have been Richarda Playta, and he had one unnamed son who probably died in infancy. After his first wife’s death, Perry married Isabell (Smyth) Pace, the widow of his partner Richard Pace. They had one son, Henry.

Isabell Perry patented 200 acres adjoining Pace’s Paines, which had been inherited by her son George Pace. William Perry was living at Pace’s Paines when Chanco, a Christian Indian, told Richard Pace of the imminent attack by the Powhatans on March 22, 1622. Pace rowed across the James River and warned the governor, thus saving many lives, but 347 were still lost in the attack. William Perry and Richard Pace (who died in 1623) were partners and planned a large plantation on the Chickahominy.

Isabell married George Menefie following Perry’s death. Henry Perry was named son-in-law (stepson) in the will of George Menefie in 1645. He received title to “Buckland” while in his minority on December 18, 1637. At that time the Plantation had grown to 2,000 acres and was located in Charles City County, extending from Herring Creek, the site of the original Westover Parish Church.

In 1642, Henry Perry renewed the patent on May 10, 1654, adding 1,500 acres due to the assignment of headrights from George Menefie for 30 persons. Henry was a justice in Charles City in 1655, member of the House of Burgesses in 1652, and 1654-55, and was appointed to the Council in 1655-1661. On June 28, 1655, he was commissioned to go with volunteers “to discover the mountains.”

On February 7, 1658/9, he gave his friend Stephen Hamelin power of attorney, as he was traveling to England. He had returned by 1661, as he appraised the estate of Judith Parsons. He was dead by April 24, 1663, when the court ordered Robert Rouse to pay “the orphan’s or trustees of Capt. Henry Perry Esq.” 800 pounds of tobacco.

Henry Perry married three times: He and his first wife Elizabeth¹ Menefie, who was the daughter of his stepfather George Menefie, had two daughters, Elizabeth² and Mary. After Elizabeth¹ Menefie’s death, he married Elizabeth⁴ Clements, daughter of Jeffrey and Elizabeth³ (Fuller) Clement. His third wife Anna’s maiden name is unknown. There were no children from the subsequent two marriages.