

The Perry Family

Gibraltar Cottages, Bedfordshire, England. James Perry & family lived here 1881-1898

The Perry Family

This collection of photographs and documents spans 256 years of the Perry family. In the early years the family lived and worked around the hamlets of Pepperstock, Slip End and Caddington in Bedfordshire, England with the males usually employed as labourers and the females employed in the straw hat industry. Family members were probably illiterate during this period.

The birth of William Perry in 1869 saw the gradual emergence of middle class occupations within the family which has continued to this day. Also from this time the geographical dispersion of the family began and literacy became universal. These trends were reflections of changes taking place in society generally.

The family tree chart which accompanies this collection includes 294 individuals with the average age at: * marriage being 26 years * death being 68 years * birth of first child being 30 years with the average number of children in families being 3

Andrew Perry compiled this book; the family tree chart was updated in September 2011. In September of 2008 Andrew travelled to England to meet his relatives for the first time.

Contact Andrew at andrew.perry@people.net.au



Extract from Jeffery's Map (1765) of Bedfordshire showing Caddington and its hamlets and Luton Hoo (Earl of Bute). Gibraltar Cottages south east of Pepperstock.



Ordance survey map 2nd ed. 1901 showing hamlets of Slip End & Pepperstock and Luton Hoo. Gibraltar Cottage east of Heavens Wood (bottom of map) - James Perry & family lived here 1881-98.



Aerial Photo of Ancestor Locations

For the past 250 years the Perry family has lived, worked and died in a small area to the south west of Luton, Bedfordshire, England. The small villages of Caddington, Slip End, Woodside, Pepperstock and Pepsal End have been and were the focus of their activities. Each of these villages has always been surrounded by agricultural land which was a source of work for each generation. The Perry males of the 18th and 19th century were farm laborers although James Perry in his later life worked as an assistant gardener. He and his family lived at Gibraltar Cottages which were part of the Luton Hoo Estate. It's almost certain, although not proven, that he worked in some capacity on the Estate.

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1752

Marriage record of Thomas Perry (Snr) and Ann Braddin on 31 December 1752 at Caddington; Thomas died a "poor man" on 3 February 1795.

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1766

Record of birth of Thomas Perry (Jnr), son of Thomas Snr & Ann on 9 February 1766.

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1768

Record of birth of Ann Martin on 10 July 1768 at Caddington.

1787

Record of marriage of Thomas Perry (Jnr) and Ann Martin on 9 April 1787 at Kensworth.



Slip End



Woodside



Pepsal End



Pepsal End

The photographs at left, taken in September 2008, show some of the locations where members of the family worked or lived. David Clark, Elizabeth Perry's father, was a brick merchant, probably working from the brick making area in Slip End. The map on page 3 shows, top left, the location of associated clay pits at Slip End.

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1794

Record of birth of John Perry, son of Thomas Perry (Jnr) and Ann Martin on 30 March 1794 at Caddington.

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1797

Record of birth of Mary Bu(y)rch daughter of John & Elizabeth Burch on 11 June 1797 at Caddington; future wife of John Perry.

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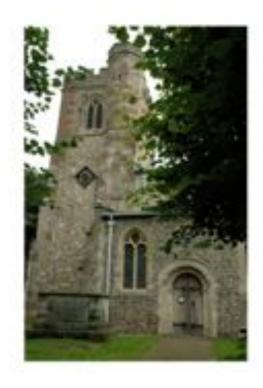
1818

Record of marriage of John Perry and Mary Bu(y)rch on 10 October 1818 at Caddington.

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1839

Record of birth of Amy Day, daughter of Richard & Anna Day on 31 March 1839 at Caddington; future wife of James Perry.









All Saints Church Caddington

Many of the early Perrys were baptised, married or buried in this Church. On the 11 September 2008 Andrew arrived at the church at the same time as the minister Ruth Pyke and was permitted to explore the church's interior. Ruth showed a book typed up in 1942 which included various baptism and death extracts, including one for Thomas Perry Snr who died in 1795 a "poor man"; so, no marked grave.

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Record of marriage of James Perry and Amy Ironmonger (Day) on 8 December 1867 at Caddington, James died at Gibraltar Cottages in 1898.



1869

Record of birth of William Perry son of James and Amy Perry on 12 July 1869 at Slip End. CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE



Gives at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE.

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1891

Record of marriage of William Perry and Elizabeth Clark on 15 May 1891 at Luton.





The Straw Hat Industry

Mary Byrch (1797-1863), wife of John Perry, was a straw plaiter while Elizabeth Perry (1869 -1954) was a straw hat machinist. The industry began in the area sometime at the end of the 17th century. From the 19th century straw plaiting was mainly found in rural areas while the sewing of hats was found in the towns. By 1850 a straw plaiter could earn between four and six shillings a week, while in " a large hat factory (employing between 100-500 persons) a swift, experienced sewer could earn approximately 18 shillings a week." By the end of century straw plaiting declined and disappeared by the 1930s while "the hat industry thrived on imported plaits and mechanisation".

The Changing Face of Luton. Stephen Bunker, Robin Holgate, Marian Nichols. The Book Castle, Dunstable, 1993.



Clark family 1894

William Perry 3rd from left back row;Elizabeth 2nd from left 2nd row, holding Arthur Perry.Elizabeth's father (Clark) 2nd from left back row;Elizabeth's mother 2nd row 3rd from left.





1891 Elizabeth Clark married William Perry 14 May 1891.

Elizabeth Clark as a young lady.



2008 The "new" church.



1974

The old church where William was deacon.

Park Street Baptist Church

William Perry was a deacon at the church for many years. Andrew visited the church on 12 September 2008 and spoke to the minister Michael Thomas who said there were several old record books in the church attic. Andrew and Michael sorted through several cupboards and filing cabinets before finding a minutes book which recorded the meetings of deacons. The extract on page 23 is one of many that mentions William Perry.



1916 (?)

From left at back: Arthur, Gladys, Eric Front: William, Edith, Gwen, Elizabeth, Clifford.

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1921

Extract from minute book of deacon meetings; July 1921.



51 Russell Rise, Luton (perhaps 1920's)

William and Elizabeth first lived at 30 Victoria St and later moved to Russell Rise with the previous address becoming the site of the painting & plumbing business run by William.



51 Russell Rise (17/9/2008)

In taking this photograph, Andrew was asked by an elderly woman whether he was from the developers. All these blocks are very deep and several houses have been bought to build houses at the back.





Edith Perry

Gwen Perry





Edith Perry

Gwen Perry





Arthur Perry

Gladys Perry





1927 Clifford Perry

Eric Perry



Arthur

The Perry Family - Arthur

Arthur Edward Perry

Birth:	1 Sep 1892, Luton, Beds, England
Death:	1928
Occ:	Minister Baptist Church
Educ:	BA [Regent's Park College], BD [Regent's Park College]
Father:	William Perry (1869-1944)
Mother:	Elizabeth Clark (1869-1954)
Spouse:	Mary Thompson
Birth:	17 Jul 1885
Death:	1976
Marr:	1919, Park St Baptist, Luton, Beds, England
Children:	Grace (1920-)
	Margaret Jeanne (1924-)



1919

Arthur Perry and Mary Thompson married1919 at Park St Baptist Church in Luton.



Margaret Perry (born 1924) and Grace Perry (born 1920), Arthur & Mary's daughters.



William and Margaret (daughter of Arthur) Perry; around 1929.

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1928

Memorial following Arthur Perry's death.



Back left: Edith and Gwen Sitting: Gladys Front left: Margaret and Grace.



Christmas 2008

From left: Kelly, George, Nigel, Chris, Margaret, John, Stephen, Paulinas - Peter took the photo.



31 May 2008

Margaret & John as told by Christine Chessum

"When Arthur died in 1928, the family moved back to Luton to 45 Russell Rise which was called Ridgemount (William & Elizabeth were living at no.51 Russell Rise). Granny (Mary Thompson) then took in lodgers to make ends meet. Mum (Margaret Perry) went to Luton High School until 16 and then went to Commercial School to learn book keeping and shorthand and worked in an accounts office in Luton. It is this type of work she returned to once us children (Peter, Christine, Stephen) were older.She at some point came away from the Baptist church to join the Church of England, being on the local councils involved with church and played the organ well into her 70's.

Going back in time again mum, volunteered for the Land Army in 1943 and after training went to Millow Hall Farm near Biggleswade to work. This is where she met Dad (Alfred John Chessum). She went to Moulton Agricultural College for a year and then went back to the Land Army to train the other land girls. Dad worked for the same employers all his working life as general farm worker, the farm mechanic and foreman. He eventually left when he was 70 years old. He still pops over to the farm every day and likes to keep his knowledge up to date."



1998 Peter and Kelly (Schroder) Chessum married 14/11/1998



2008

Nicole Jane (Chessum-daughter of Stephen & Jennifer) and Sean Dilley married 31 May 2008.



From left: Andrew (son of Stephen&Jennifer),Chris,George(son of Chris&Nigel Fox),Peter&Kelly Chessum,Sean,Nicola,Stephen&Paulinas Chessum,2 bridemaids,bestman, Margaret,John.





Peter and Christine and dogs Simon & Ross in Margaret and John Chessum's garden.

2008

From left: George Fox (Christine and Nigel's son) and Andrew Chessum (Stephen and Jennifer's son).



2008 Chris Fox (13/9/2008)



2008 Peter Chessum (13/9/2008)



2008 Kelly, Peter's wife (13/9/2008)



George Fox and Christine Fox at George's graduation. George gained a Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Diploma in Agriculture with Triple Grade Merit in July 2011.



Gladys

The Perry Family - Gladys

Gladys Helen Perry

Birth:Mar 1897Death:1985

Margaret and Ossie Folkes said they felt Auntie Gladys was the family 'matriach'. They believe she drove a car for several years and think she had no licence as she had started to drive before they were needed!!



April 1949 Gwen, Elizabeth, Gladys







Eric

The Perry Family - Eric

Eric William Perry

Birth:	4 May 1900, 30 Victoria St, Luton, Beds, England	
Death:	24 Oct 1965, Luton, Beds, England	
Occ:	Plumber & decorator	
Father:	William Perry (1869-1944)	
Mother:	Elizabeth Clark (1869-1954)	
Spouse:	Anne (Nancy) Payne	
Birth:	22 Mar 1904, Warboys, Huntingdon, England	
Death:	1980, Dunstable, Beds, England	
Occ:	Engineers inspector	
Marr:	25 Jul 1929, Baptist Meeting House, Luton, Beds	
Children:	Janet (1935-)	



Eric and Anne (Nancy) married 25 July 1929.



Eric and daughter Janet (9-10 months).



1937

William and Elizabeth Perry, Anne (Nancy) Perry (Payne) and Janet, daughter of Eric and Nancy.



Gladys, Janet and Elizabeth Perry.



Eric Perry with telescope -1936. Plaque on side states: Refigured by and Flat by H E Dall Luton Tube and mounting by E W Perry, High Mead, Luton

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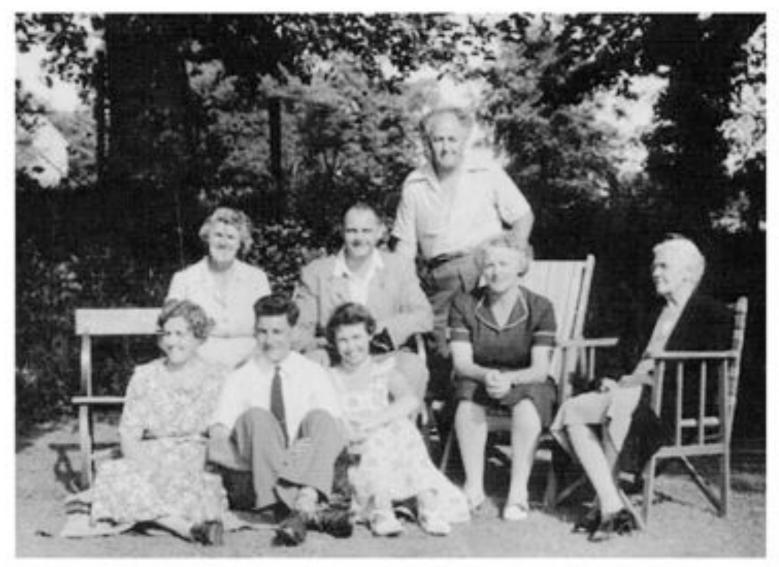
Article in Scientific American (October 1937 issue). This is the same telescope as the one on the left; still in existence and owned by a David Strange (david@dstrange.freeserve.co.uk).



1947 Eric & Anne (Nancy) Perry around 1947.



1960 Eric & Anne (Nancy) Perry around 1960.



From left: Gladys, ?, Eric(standing), Anne (Nancy), Elizabeth, Gwen, Peter Horstman and Janet. Elizabeth, Franz, Gwen and Gladys rented a farm house at Winkleigh in Devon.



Back:Peter Horstman,Nancy,Gwen,Gladys,Will Kightley:Front;Janet H,Elizabeth,Margaret K, Edith K at Winkleigh.

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Obituary of William Perry in the Luton news edition date: 2 March 1944.

	the church cemetery, preceded by a service at the house at 2.15.	
	MRS. E. PERRY The funeral of Mrs. Llizabeth Perry, 85, who died at the home of her daughter, 88, Cutenhoe- road, Luton, on Saturday, took place at the General Cemetery yesterday. Mrs. Perry was born near Luton and lived in the district until two years ago when she moved to north Devon. For over 66 years Mrs. Perry was a member of Park-street Bap- tist, Church, Luton, and had served on several committees. Her husband, Mr William Perry, died nine years ago. Two sons and three daughters surviv: her. A service at the house preceded	1 - 1
1	Funeral arrangements were by John Saunders and Son.	I W W W
	the same time there and an anomal framework in the state	

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Obituary of Elizabeth Perry in the Luton news edition date: 21 January 1954.



Gladys with Sarah Horstman Laddie was Gladys's dog.



2006

Janet and Peter Horstman in Sydney during their 2006 visit to Australia.



Married 29/1/1989 Emma Louise Horstman and Nicholas Richard Neill Caleb.





Married 9/4/1988

Jim Bardon and Lisa Mary Horstman.

Sarah Jane Horstman and Richard Jonathan Terry Wilson.



The Horstman Family 2008

Jonathan(husband of Sarah),Sam & Jake(sons of Emma & Nick),Jim,Alex(son of Sarah&Jonathan),Emma & Sarah(daughters of Janet & Peter),Max(son of S&J),Janet(wife of Peter),Lisa(daughter of J&P)),Nick(husband of Emma),Ben,Sophie & Hannah(children of S&J),Mary(family friend)



Lisa and Jim's wedding 2011 Ben, Peter, Sarah, Janet, Sam, Jim, Jake, Lisa, Emma, Sophie, Nick, Hannah, Jonathan, Alex



Janet, Jim, Lisa, Peter



Edith

The Perry Family - Edith

William Kightley

Birth:	17 Dec 1903, Luton, Beds, England
Death:	20 Jan 1979
Spouse:	Edith Elizabeth Perry
Birth:	2 Mar 1902, Luton, Beds, England
Death:	? May 1982
Father:	William Perry (1869-1944)
Mother:	Elizabeth Clark (1869-1954)
Marr:	1936
Children:	Margaret Ann (1948-)



William and Edith Kightley's wedding. This picture was taken in William and Elizabeth's back garden.



1977 Franz, Gwen, Mary Ada (Mollie-Clifford's wife), Edith and Will Kightley



Edith Kightley and Claire Folkes 1979.



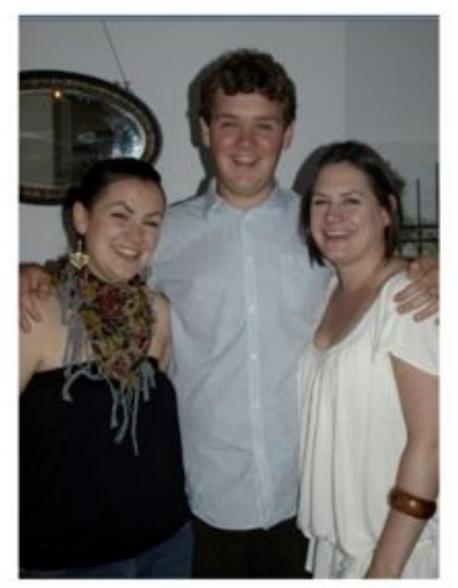
Margaret (Edith's daughter who married Ossie Folkes in August 1976) , Gwen, Gladys, Ben (Jackie), Claire 1982.



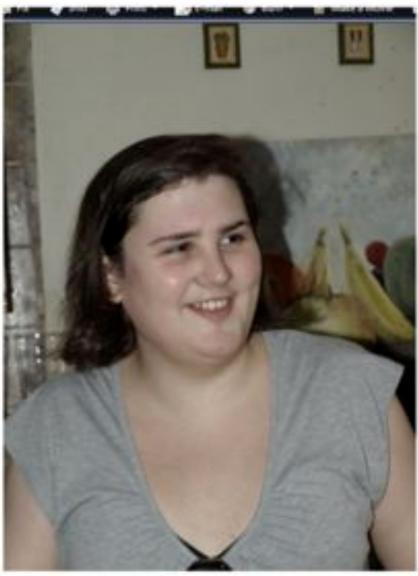
Back: Ben (Jackie), Rosie, Claire Front: Ellie, Harry.



Margaret and Ossie.



Rosie, Harry and Claire Folkes.





2008 Ellie Folkes.

2008 Jackie Folkes.



Gwen

The Perry Family - Gwendoline

Gwendoline Perry

Birth:Apr 1910, Luton, Beds, EnglandDeath:1983Spouse:Franz Palatzky



1977 From left: Mary Ada (Mollie),Gladys, Clifford, Franz, Gwen



Probably taken after 1945? Marriage of Franz and Gwendoline Palatzky. Photo taken in William and Elizabeth's back garden.

Philip thinks Gwen was a "Land Girl" (is that the term?) during the war (WWII). That's how she came to meet Franz, who was working as a PoW at that time. Philip thinks Franz was from Alsatia. When Rowena and Philip visited Franz in 1992, he was still grieving for her - although he did have a new girl friend at the time!

Philip remembers Gwen as a very "jolly" sort of person.



Clifford 1927

The Perry Family - Clifford

Clifford Hugh Perry

Birth:	3 Apr 1906, Luton, Beds, England
Death:	4 Jan 1980, Frankston, Victoria, Australia
Burial:	Springvale Crematorium, Victoria, Australia
Occ:	Painter & Decorator
Father:	William Perry (1869-1944)
Mother:	Elizabeth Clark (1869-1954)
Marrried from 51 Russell Rise, Luton, Beds, England	
First address as family Rayment Ave, Luton, Beds, England	
Second Clarendon Rd	
Third address as family 55 St Martins Ave, Luton, Beds, England	
Final address as family 2 Alvina Court, Frankston, Victoria, Australia [emigrated to Australia with wife	
and family in April 1949]	
Spouse:	Mary Ada Crew
Birth:	23 Apr 1908, Luton, Beds, England
Death:	4 Apr 1987, Frankston, Victoria, Australia
Occ:	House duties
Father:	William Crew
Mother:	Emma Tilly Rayment
Marr:	28 Jun 1930, Luton, Beds, England
Children:	Philip John (1934-)
	Robin William (1938-)
	Andrew James (1943-)



1928 (?)

Back: Mary Ada, Gwen, Edith. Front: Clifford, Gladys at 51 Russell Rise; Janet remembers playing croquet here.

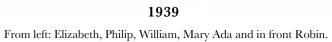


Marriage of Clifford and Mary Ada (Crew) 28 June 1930, Luton.



Ashridge Forest From left: ?, Elizabeth, Clifford,?, William, Gwen. But who took the photo?







From left: Robin, Andrew, Philip.



55 St Martins Avenue, Luton (10/9/2008)

Last home in England before Clifford Perry and family emigrated to Australia. In 1981 Andrew got a chance to walk through the house; the air-raid shelter had only just been demolished.



April 1949 Clifford & family left England



December 1949 Robin, Philip, Andrew & Clifford in Australia



Clifford Perry and family's home in Frankston; finally sold after the death of Mary Ada Perry in 1987.





11/5/1957

Philip John Perry (aged 23) and Rowena Devine married at Mt Dandenong, Australia.

11/11/1961

Robin William Perry (aged 23) married Gwenda McComb at Frankston, Australia.



21 January 1971

From left: Mary Ada & Clifford Perry, Chris Begg, Andrew, Jess, & Charlie Begg - wedding day for Andrew and Chris; East Melbourne, Australia.



1975

From left: Andrew & Chris's children Katherine Jane, Callum David, Rachael Ann and Clifford Perry.



1974

From back left: Gwenda, Robin holding Louise, Cliffrord, Andrew holding Rachael, Mary Ada holding Katherine, Chris holding Callum, Philip, Matthew, Rowena, Mark and in front Myrella Perry.



Taken around 1982

From back left: Philip, Matthew, Paul, Robin. 2nd row Rowena, Myrella, Mary Ada, Gwenda, Chris, Mark, Andrew. Front row: Katherine, Rachael, Callum, Louise Perry.



1980 Andrew, Philip, Clifford and Robin; Clifford Hugh Perry died 4/1/1980



1987 Mary Ada died on 4/4/1987 at her home in Frankston.



November 2006

Gwenda, Peter Horstman, Philip, Rowena, Robin, Janet Hortsman, Callum, Chris and in front - Andrew, Dylan & Rachael Perry.



2007

From left: Standing - Robin, Danny (in front is Alexander), Matthew, Dominic. 1st seated row Dylan, Rachael, Philip, Rowena, Fiona. 2nd seated row Gwenda, Kathy, Callum, Andrew, Chris.



4/5/2008 at Forster Ave

From left. Back: Dylan (Rachael's hus.), Danny (Kathy's hus.); Middle: Jess (Chris's mum-92), Rachael & Axel (b. 29/4), Kathy & Milena (b.27/4), Judy (Chris's sister); front: Andrew, Callum & Chris.



Lunch at Forster Ave January 2011

Jess,Axel,Rachael,Dylan,Callum,Chris, Andrew,Louise(Callum's partner),Danny,Katherine,Milena



Happy girls Katherine (Perry) Mohar and Andreja born 28/1/2011



Perry gathering 13 September 2008

Clockwise from front: Andrew, Chris, Lisa, Emma, Kelly, Peter, Ossie. Janet, Peter, Margaret.