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## **My Ancestry: The Perry/Paré Line Janine (Perry) Wilson**

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### **Ahira Perry and Harriet Cooley**

My father's father, Roy Eldon Perry, was the great-grandson of Ahira Perry, born in 1779, perhaps in Vermont; and Harriet Cooley, born in about 1788, also likely in Vermont. Apparently no one in the family knows who their parents were, although there were both Cooley families and Perry families in the area where Ahira and Harriet Cooley Perry lived, in Willsboro, Essex County, New York. I believe I have found the families that they belong to, or at least have reasonable guesses.

For Ahira, the evidence was a Y-DNA test taken by my brother, which proved that the Perry families living in the area, who were of English ancestry, were NOT related to Ahira. In fact, he was a descendant of Robert Paré, one of the early settlers of Nouvelle France, whose path crossed with at least one of the other early settlers that is a direct ancestor, Noël Simard. Children of Noël Simard married children or grandchildren of two of my direct ancestors, Pierre Tremblay and Robert Paré.

For Harriet, I have found a Cooley family with members who had the same names that she used for her children. I believe that a Levi Cooley living nearby in Willsboro was probably her father, based not only on being geographically close, but also based on the names she gave her children.

If my conclusions are correct, I believe I can trace both families back to the 1600's. I didn't add these ancestors to the family tree at Ancestry.com for Ahira at this point, because I don't want others assuming that I have proof. I did add the ancestors that I believe I have found for Harriet at Ancestry.com, because I think the conclusions are reasonable, and I don't think it's likely that additional proof of her parentage will be found.

### **The Search for Ahira Perry's Family**

Ahira was born in 1779, based on the date shown on his gravestone, in Memorial Cemetary in Willsboro, New York. Since his gravestone also gives his age in years, months, and days, his date of birth was apparently May 11<sup>th</sup>. His parents are unknown. My family thought we were from the same family as Oliver Hazard Perry, an English Perry family from Devon, England; but my brother (a male Perry) took a Y-DNA test at familytreedna.com, and they found an exact match to an individual whose last name is Paré.

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Information at familytreedna.com says that a Y-DNA37 result with a perfect match indicates a 90% chance of having a common male ancestor within 5 generations; and a 95% chance of a common ancestor within 7 generations.

The person whose Y-DNA matched my brother's Y-DNA gave his grandparents' names as Norbert Pare (born 1880) and Marie Hurtubise, who would be the second generation prior to the Y-DNA match. He also said that his earliest known ancestors were Robert Paré and Françoise LeHoux. He did not give the names of his ancestors between his grandparents and Robert Paré.

Based on my research, the previous generations for my brother's Y-DNA match are:  
3 generations back: Stanislas Paré, born 1854, married Delia Desormeaux  
4 generations back: Stanislas Paré, born 1828, married Eulalie Labelle  
5 generations back: Charles Paré, born 1799, married Melanie Gravel  
6 generations back: François Joseph Paré, born 1759, married Marie Thibault  
7 generations back: Jean Paré, born 1719, married Hélène Gagnon  
8 generations back: François Paré, born 1670, married Claire Lacroix  
9 generations back: Robert Paré, born 1626, married Françoise LeHoux.

I have found documentation for each of the generations, either church or civil records of birth or marriage, or the Quebec Genealogical Dictionary of Canadian Families 1608 – 1890. I found well-documented trees at Ancestry.com that support the information above for each generation. That doesn't guarantee that this is all correct, but this is the best information I can find at this point.

I created a document about the Y-DNA test, and listing the generations above, and added it to Ahira Perry's profile, as his profile picture, on my family tree at Ancestry.com. In the document, I suggested that other Perry or Paré males may want to take a Y-DNA test and join the Perry family project at familytreedna.com. It would be helpful if we could find other Paré and Perry families that are matches. The person who is my brother's Y-DNA match did not join Perry family project, and did not reply when I sent an email to him.

Ahira Perry is the fifth generation back from my brother. So our common ancestor is likely to be Ahira's father, or perhaps his grandfather.

The common ancestor can't be Charles Paré, who, if my research is correct, is the fifth generation back from my brother's Y-DNA match, since Charles was born after our earliest known ancestor Ahira. The common ancestor could be Charles' father François Paré, born 1759. Ahira was born in 1779, in May, based on the age given on his gravestone. François married Marie Thibault on 8/5/1782, three years after Ahira's birth. François lived in Montreal, about 90 miles from where Ahira lived in 1803 (Willsboro, New York). François had a brother named Jean Paré, born about 1751. He married Marie-Françoise Ouellet on 1/24/1780. Their first child was born 10/26/1780 and died the same year. They had two other children who both died as infants.

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If the ancestry of my brother's Y-DNA match is correct, there is a 95% chance that the father of François and Jean, also named Jean (born 1719, married Hélène Gagnon), is a common ancestor, so it appears very likely that one of his sons was the father of Ahira Perry, most likely François. We may never know for sure who Ahira's mother was, where he was born, or who raised him.

It may be that Ahira did not know his father was French Canadian. Perhaps he didn't know where he was born, since his children gave conflicting information in later census records. Many French families changed their name to an English spelling when moving to the United States from Quebec, and many of them couldn't write anyway, so it wasn't unusual for the spelling of French names to change to an anglicized version. So we also don't know if Ahira knew his father's name was Paré rather than Perry. If he did know, the change in the spelling of the name may have seemed just an unimportant change to conform to the English spelling. But the name Ahira is unusual. It is a biblical name. According to Wikipedia, Ahira was the son of Enan, and head of the tribe of Naphtali at the time of the first census of Israel (Numbers 1:15). The name means "brother of evil", or "unlucky", or "my brother is friend".

Ahira's son William indicated in the census record of 1880 that his father had been born in Vermont (Ahira died in 1842, so this was long after Ahira's death). Ahira's daughter Lucy indicated in the 1880 federal census that the birth place of both of her parents was unknown. The federal census record of 1900 shows that both of Lucy's parents were born in New York. A book called "The History of Essex County", by H. P. Smith (I found that the initials stand for Henry Perry, but I am guessing that he probably was from an English Perry family) says that Lucy's father Ahira was born in Onandaga, New York. This is in a section that was about the family of Lucy's husband, the Daniels family. I don't know where the author got his information about the birthplace of Lucy's father. I did find a Perry family in Onandaga, New York, but they were of English descent. I wonder if the author knew of that family and assumed Ahira was related to that family. None of the references to Ahira's place of birth seem reliable.

The earliest record of Ahira Perry that I can find is a tax record dated 1803 in Willsboro, New York. At that time, Ahira would have been 24 years old. The tax assessment showed Ahira as owning 25 acres, Lot #10 on Judd's Patent.

There were other Perry families of English descent living in the area. James and Nathan Perry are shown in Willsboro in the 1803 census; and when I visited nearby Lewis, New York, twelve miles from Willsboro, I saw a memorial for Abijah Perry. Nathan and James were from the same line as Abijah Perry.

Although it seemed likely to me at the time that Ahira was from the same family, DNA testing has proven that he was not related to them. Based on a family tree at ancestry.com, that Perry family was descended from John Perry (1644-1724) from

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London, England, who married Sarah Clary. His family had been from Northamptonshire. Abijah Perry (1742-1819), son of John Perry's son Ebenezer (1708-1790), had sons named James (1769 -1867) and Nathan (1773-1849). So apparently it is the sons of Abijah who are shown in the 1803 tax assessment for Willsboro. Confusingly, Nathan had a son who he named Oliver Hazard Perry (1820-1866), but this is NOT the naval hero; and this Perry family is not closely related (if at all) to the Perry family from which Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry was descended. I saw a history of Elizabethtown, New York, published in 1905, that says this family were cousins to the naval hero; but the Perry Family project at familytreedna.com groups this family as a separate family group from the group that includes Oliver Hazard Perry. I suspect that the author was taken in by the fact that the family had named one of their children after the naval hero. Commodore Perry was born 1785 in Rhode Island. Commodore Perry's family traces its roots back to Edward Perry (1630-1695) of Devonshire England, who married Mary Freeman. I have not seen any indication of a connection between Edward Perry of Devon and John Perry of London. If there was a connection, it seems it must have been quite a few generations in the past, before the two separate families came to America. Perhaps the Perry family that lived near Ahira Perry, with the child who had misleadingly been named after Oliver Hazard, is where the family story about being related to Oliver Hazard Perry has its origins.

Interestingly, there was an Enos Perry in New York, who is also a descendant of Robert Paré. His name had originally been Ignace Paré. Since Ignace is pronounced "Ee-nyas", it is easy to see how that might have evolved into the English name Enos.

I have seen several descendants of Enos Perry showing up as being DNA matches at Ancestry.com.

Enos Perry (1813 – 1904) moved from Canada to Redford, New York, in Clinton County, in 1836, more than 30 years after Ahira Perry first appears in New York records, in 1803. Redford is on the Saranac River, about 50 miles from Willsboro. I saw an obituary that says that Enos Perry moved to Redford when the glass factory was in full bloom. The obituary says he was probably Saranac's oldest resident when he died in 1904.

I found several articles about the Redford Glass Company. There had been an old Indian ford of red stones, so the area became known as "Red Ford". Gershom Cook and Charles Corning of Troy, New York chose the site for the glass company, and they had the backing of the Champlain Glass Company of Vermont. The building of the glass factory was completed in 1831. The population of the town of Saranac increased from 315 in 1830 to 1,463 ten years later. Another glass factory called "Redwood" was founded by one of the original John Foster, who had been a superintendant at Redford. He apparently made the name similar to purposely create confusion, and he used the same formula for the glass. An article about that factory mentions French Canadians who were coerced to come to chop wood for the furnace. The obituary for Enos Perry implies that he came to work for the glass

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factory. Since my Caillé/Coyer ancestors moved to Saranac in the 1830's, it seems quite possible that they came for the same reason: work available at the glass factory.

Saranac and Redford are near each other in Clinton County, New York, both along the Saranac River. Enos married Henriette Tremblay, who was from L'Acadie, in Quebec, the same as François and Madeleine Caillé, who moved to Saranac, New York in the 1830's also. The census of 1850 shows them there as Frank and Madeline Coyer. Madeleine Caillé had been born Tremblay. It seems likely that Henriette and Madeleine knew each other. They were distantly related, according to my research. It appears that Frank and Madeline Coyer remained in Saranac until their deaths, sometime before 1860 and 1870 respectively (based on their absence in the censuses for those years). So here is a connection between the Paré, and Tremblay families, with the marriage of Henriette Tremblay and Ignace Paré; and that family changed the spelling of the family name to Perry.

Decades later, in 1867, the grandson of Ahira, Albert Perry, would marry Sophronia Coyer, the granddaughter of François Caillé and Madeleine Tremblay. Sophronia, daughter of Moses Coyer (born Moïse Caillé) was born in 1850, in Lewis, New York, about forty miles from Saranac, New York. Did she know the Perry/Paré family that lived near her grandparents? It seems she must have known the English Perry family that lived in the Lewis, New York area. Since I don't know whether Ahira knew who his father was, I don't know if his grandson Albert, who married Sophronia, thought he was related to the English Perry family that lived nearby; or whether he knew he was actually distantly related to Enos/Ignace Perry/Paré.

Since the Y-DNA evidence is the best evidence I have, and is probably actually more reliable than written records of birth, it seems fairly certain that my Perry family is descended from Robert Paré and Françoise LeHoux; so the next section is about their history.

## **History of the Paré ancestors**

### **First Generation**

#### **Robert Paré**

**b. 10/20/1626, St.-Laurent-en-Solore (Saint-Laurent-Rochefort), Rhône-Alpes, France**

**d. 11/17/1684, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec**

#### **Spouse**

#### **Françoise LeHoux**

**b. 07/09/1621, Ventrouze, Orne, France**

**d. 04/09/1684, Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec**

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Many of the sources I used were in French, but here is a link to one in English:

<https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=2418584&id=I6107>

Robert Paré was the son of Mathieu Paré, a cloth merchant, and Marie Joannet. Robert came to Nouvelle France around 1651. The town where he was born was west of Lyon, in a remote area. It is likely that he went to Nouvelle France because he was engaged in a three-year-contract as an indentured servant. The earliest written record of his presence is a contract dated 1653, showing he owed Michel Blanot 285 livres for the delivery of materials. Robert was a carpenter, and, being unable to write, he signed documents with his mark in the shape of a carpenter's square.

Robert married Françoise LeHoux on 10/20/1653, on the Ile d'Orléans, an island in the St. Lawrence river, east of Québec, which was one of the first parts of the province to be colonized. They were married in a chapel that had been built for the Huron Indians who had been relocated there. In 1651, in Tourouvre, Orne, in France, Françoise had signed a contract of indentiture to Jean Juchereau for a term of five years; and she arrived in Québec on 10/13/1651. Jean Juchereau was the brother of Noël Juchereau, with whom another of my ancestors, Pierre Tremblay, had signed a contract in 1647. Françoise was released from the contract after only two years, apparently so that she would be free to marry.

In 1654 Robert Paré signed (with his mark) a contract with René Robineau, squire of the Côte de Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, to build a small house, 26 feet long and 16 feet wide, for which he received 405 livres tournois (one of the currencies used in France in the Middle Ages).

In 1655, Robert Paré received a grant of land with 4 arpents of frontage at Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré. At the same time, Pierre Simard dit Lombrette received a grant, becoming Robert's neighbor. Pierre was the father of Noël Simard dit Lombrette, one of the seven earliest settlers of Baie-St.-Paul, memorialized in a statue there, along with my ancestor Pierre Tremblay. Noël's granddaughter Louise married Pierre Tremblay's grandson, my ancestor Nicolas Tremblay. One of Noël Simard's children married a Tremblay, and two of his sons married Paré daughters. It's interesting to me that the Paré family had known the Tremblay and Simard ancestors of the family that would later marry into the Caillé family, when François Caillé married Madeline Tremblay, from which union came my great-grandmother Sophronia Coyer, who married Albert Perry in 1867.

It seems that the Simard family connects the two branches by marrying into both the Tremblay and Paré families. All three of those families settled in the area along the St. Lawrence river, northeast of Québec City (Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré and Baie-St.-Paul), whereas the Caillé family settled in La Prairie, across the St. Lawrence River from Montréal, over 150 miles southwest of Québec City. Françoise LeHoux, the wife of Robert Paré, was the godmother of Françoise Simard, one of the daughters of

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Noël Simard. Pierre Tremblay was the godfather of Paul Simard, one of the sons of Noël. Pierre Simard and his son Noël, originally from Angoulême, France, returned to France for the marriage of a relative, and came back to Nouvelle France in May of 1657 on the ship "Le Taureau", arriving June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1657. My ancestor Ozanne Achon, who married Pierre Tremblay in October of 1657, arrived in Nouvelle France on that same voyage. Wow.

Apparently, there are multiple records existing that document various contracts involving Robert Paré. Here are descriptions of some of them:

In 1657, Jean Espaisse, a neighbor of Robert Paré, borrowed 200 livres from Robert, so that he could return to France. Robert accepted as a guarantee of repayment a house in the lower town of Québec. Jean Espaisse never returned, so Robert became the owner of that house. In 1668, in Robert's name, Étienne de Lessard defended the title to a property in the lower town of Québec, which apparently was that same property. It had a room with a fire, a basement, and an attic, and was between the properties of Toussaint Toupin and Noël Pinguet. In 1669, Robert's property was rented to Moïse Hilarest for a period of two years, for 60 livres a year. Two years after Robert Paré died, his heirs sold the house for 1585 livres.

In 1661, Robert Paré helped in the construction of the second church at Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré.

Robert and his wife are found in the census records for the Côte de Beaupré of 1667 and 1681. In the latter one, they owned 4 rifles, 14 horned beasts, and 30 arpents of land to cultivate.

There is a document dated 1666 showing that the wife of Robert Paré (spelled "Paret" in this contract) had been contracted to do some work for the church for which she was due 40 livres and 6 sols. The nature of the work is not known.

In 1667, Robert Paré and his associate Jean Poulin entered into a contract to deliver 1000 planks of pine to the religious community of Québec, for which they received 500 livres to share.

The first home that Robert Paré had built at Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré was made of wood. It burned shortly after his death. A few meters away from where that had stood, a house of stone was built by his son. It was occupied by the Paré family until 1929. In 1953, a plaque was erected in honor of Robert Paré and his family, according to one source. I could not find any picture of that plaque, unless they are referring to a plaque in Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré that is called "Terres et Arpents" that lists the names of the early settlers and the dates of their land concessions. In addition to listing Robert Paré and his concession in 1655, it lists Jean Paré and a concession in 1657. None of the sources I am using for Robert Paré mention that land concession. I'm guessing this might be a brother of Robert, who arrived later,

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since the sources all say that Robert arrived alone, without any family, in Nouvelle France.

I found a picture of a plaque in Place Royale in the lower town of Québec City, which says he constructed his first home there (which is not correct; I don't think he ever lived there, although he did own a house there). A plaque was also erected to Robert Paré in the entrance of the church in the French town that he came from, now called Saint Laurent-Rochefort.

Based on the Y-DNA evidence, my Perry family are descendants of Robert's son François, whose second wife was Claire Lacroix; and of their son Jean, who married Marie-Hélène Gagnon in 1747. Apparently Jean Paré and his wife moved from Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré to the Montréal area, around 1759, where his son Joseph François was born in that same year.

Based on my research using the Y-DNA match, the next three generations were most likely these:

**Second generation:**

**François Paré**

**b. 01/05/1670, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec**

**d. 04/13/1746, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec**

**Spouse**

**Claire Lacroix**

**b. 01/29/1688, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec**

**d. 12/01/1749, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec**

**Third Generation:**

**Jean Paré**

**b. 03/11/1719, Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, Québec**

**d. 05/11/1762, Sault-au-Récollet, Québec**

**Spouse**

**Hélène Gagnon**

**b. 09/28/1719, Château-Richer, Québec**

**d. 07/26/1791, St Vincent Paul, Ile Jesus, Québec**

**Fourth Generation:**

**Joseph François Paré**

**b. 08/07/1759, Château-Richer, Québec**

**d. unknown**

**Spouse:**

**Marie Thibault**

**b. 11/26/1759, Laval, Québec**

**d. Unknown**



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Here is where there is a gap in the story. Joseph François married Marie Thibault in 1782 in Montréal, when he was 23. Ahira Perry was born in 1779, possibly in Vermont, when Joseph François was 20 years old. Where Ahira was between his birth and the first record of him in 1803 may never be known. Since he was born before the marriage to Marie Thibault, it appears that he was born out of wedlock, likely to another woman.

### **Fifth Generation:**

#### **Ahira Perry**

**b. 05/11/1779**

**d. 08/27/1842, Willsboro, New York**

#### **Spouse:**

**Harriet Cooley**

**b. 1788**

**d. April, 1870, Lewis, New York**

Ahira Perry first appears in written records in Willsboro, New York, in the tax assessment of 1803, when he was 24 years old. Willsboro is located on the western shore of Lake Champlain, about 30 miles south of Plattsburgh, and about 90 miles south of Montreal. Ahira's was one of 313 properties assessed. He owned 25 acres of land, lot number 10 of Judd's Patent, valued at \$100, and taxed 21 cents. There is also a line for James and Nathan Perry, which is strangely listed on the page with those whose names begin with 'B'. I certainly would have assumed that they were likely related to Ahira, if DNA evidence had not proven otherwise.

Family trees on Ancestry.com say that Ahira married Harriet Cooley in 1810, but I don't know what they base that date on. The 1810 census does show that there are two adults living in the household, one male and one female. There are two children shown, one male between 10 and 15 years old, and one female under age 10. Ahira and Harriet had a child in November, 1810 that they named William Cooley Perry; but that must have been after the census was taken since no infant male is counted. Harriet would have been 22 in 1810, so the male between 10 and 15 years old could not have been her child. And who was the female child under the age of 10? Did Ahira and Harriet have a daughter that died young?

None of the family trees that I have seen on Ancestry.com showed parents for Harriet Cooley. The census of 1800 for Willsboro, New York (which was then just recently established and only had a few hundred families) lists Levi Cooley. The record says there are three females and one male under the age of 10; one female between 10 and 15; and one female and one male between 26 and 44 years of age.

Many family trees show this Levi Cooley (1761-1864) as being the son of Joel Cooley (1735-1819) and Sarah Olcott (1739-1825). Levi's wife's name was Betsey, but no

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last name is given on any tree I saw. The date of their marriage is given as 1790, but I was unable to find any record of it. Levi was born 10/30/1761 in Springfield, Massachusetts. His parents had married there in 1755. His parents were later living in Cheshire, New Hampshire, until their deaths in 1819 and 1825. The book previously mentioned, by H. P. Smith, "History of Essex County: with illustrations and biographical sketches.." says that Levi Cooley kept a sort of tavern in a low building on the east side of the Boquet River. Levi's family can be traced back to Benjamin Cooley (1615-1684), who was born in Hertfordshire, England, and came to Massachusetts in about 1643.

Family trees show William, born in 1794, as the first child of Levi and Betsey Cooley; then Lucy, born in 1800; and Emalina in 1811. It appears there must have been more daughters born to them, based on the census of 1800. Since Harriet was born around 1788, she would have been 12 in 1800. She could have been the daughter shown in the census as being between the ages of 10 and 15. This would mean that she was born before the alleged date of marriage, but I don't have any proof for that date.

Ahira Perry was not shown in the census of 1800 for Willsboro, New York. He first shows up there in the written records in tax records, the assessment of 1803, at the age of 24. Harriet would have been about 15 then. Levi Cooley is listed as having a house and a fulling mill, real estate value of \$250 and personal property value of \$72, with a tax of .67 levied.

Apparently Ahira Perry and Harriet Cooley married around 1810, when Ahira was 31 and Harriet was about 21. Their first child, born in 1810, was named William Cooley Perry. They had a child named Mafar in 1815; a daughter named Betsey in 1818; a son named John P. in 1818; and a daughter named Lucy in 1820. So their first child had the same name as Harriet's brother, assuming she is the daughter of Levy and Betsey. The third child appears to have been named for her mother, Betsey; and the last child appears to have been named for Harriet's sister Lucy. The 1830 census, not in alphabetical order as some census records are, shows Ahira Perry and William Cooley on the same page, as if they might have lived not far apart. So although I have no absolute proof of Harriet's parentage, all of these things add up and are the best evidence to date.

The 1820 census for Willsboro for Ahira Perry shows one male adult, one female adult, two females under the age of 10, and 2 males under the age of 10. This census does not quite account for all the known children of Ahira and Harriet: William Cooley, born in 1810; Mafar, born in 1815; Betsey, born in 1818; John P, also born in 1818; and Lucy, born in 1820. There should have been 3 boys and 2 girls, assuming it includes Lucy, born in May of 1820. It appears that John and Betsey may have been twins, since they were both apparently born in 1818. The months of their births are not known. All the other children are spaced at least two years apart.

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## **History of Willsboro (Willsborough), New York**

Ahira Perry was born in 1779. This era was a tumultuous time in the history of the land that was just in the process of becoming the United States, and in the part of New York where Ahira lived, at least from the age of 24. I was interested to learn a little about the area where Ahira lived, especially since so little is known about him.

Britain gained control of the French colonies in Canada with the Treaty of Paris, signed 02/10/1763, ending the French and Indian War. In 1775, American revolutionaries attempted to gain control of parts of Québec. In the area around Montréal and St. Jean (south of Montréal), there was significant support of the effort of the American Patriots. The Patriots captured Fort Saint-Jean and Montréal in 1775, but efforts to take Quebec City failed. When the Patriots were driven south from Québec by the British, some Québécois left with them. Some Québécois joined the Patriots in defeating the British in the battle of Yorktown in 1781, which was the last major land battle of the Revolutionary War.

It is possible that Ahira had been born or was raised in Vermont, although I'm not at all sure about that. It's also possible that he was born in the area of Montreal, where the Paré family from which he came lived. The first road to Willsboro was built in 1789, now the old State Road. A ferry service from Basin Harbor (where some of my Perry relatives, descendants of Ahira, are buried), in Vermont, was started in 1790. It would be interesting to know which route Ahira traveled to come to Willsboro.

Vermont was first established because of a land dispute. The provincial government of New York had sold land grants in the area that is now Vermont, which conflicted with earlier land grants from the government of New Hampshire. The Green Mountain Boys militia protected the interests of the New Hampshire land grant settlers, and those settlers established the Vermont Republic in 1777. The Vermont Republic partially abolished slavery before any of the other states. It became the fourteenth state admitted to the newly established United States in 1791.

The town of Willsboro, then called Willsborough, was formed in 1788, and was named for and by William Gilliland. Gilliland was a prosperous New York merchant of Irish descent who wanted to create a baronial estate in the Champlain Valley. He had begun buying land along the lake in 1765. He bought the land from James McBride, who apparently was granted these lands by the King of Great Britain for military service. At that time, the town of Willsborough included the territory that now includes the towns of Lewis, Essex, Chesterfield, Elizabethtown, Westport, Jay, and others, an area of about 900 square miles. At that time, the area was thickly forested wilderness. I had noticed how relatively close together the towns of Lewis, Elizabethtown, and Westport were, when I visited them because my Coyer and Perry ancestors had lived in those towns; and I also noticed how sparsely populated and wild that area still is today.

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Gilliland laid out lots which he granted to settlers so that they could farm in the area, raising cows, sheep, chickens and pigs, in addition to fishing. Gilliland searched for areas where mills could be built. It is believed that the house that Gilliland built there in 1765, in the area Gilliland first called Milltown (renamed to Willsborough in 1788), was the first dwelling built by a white man on the west shore of Lake Champlain in the area between Canada and Crown Point. One of the oldest buildings remaining in the area is the Adsit cabin, built in 1779 by Samuel Adsit.

The Boquet River flows through the town. During the Revolutionary War, in June 1777, General Burgoyne had a camp that was located near the mouth of the river. He was on his way to defeat at Saratoga, which was a turning point in the war. The colony called Milltown that had been built around the area where Gilliland had first settled was destroyed in the Revolutionary War.

In the War of 1812, the British attempted an attack up the Boquet, but they were repulsed by General Wadhams of Westport, who led the militia. This was during the period that Ahira and his family lived in the area. The land that Ahira owned at the time of the 1803 tax assessment was around 6 miles south of the Boquet river, on the land called Judd's Patent, which had been patented prior to the time that Gilliland patented his land. In the book called "The History of Essex County", written in 1885 by H. P. Smith, there is a chart (see below) showing part of Gilliland's land, extending along Lake Champlain down to the area called Split Rock, which is where Judd's Patent was located.



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In 1810, the population of Willsboro was 663. There was a distillery which helped supply the army with whiskey in 1812. There was a blacksmith shop, but no shoe-shop. There were itinerant shoemakers who stayed with families who needed their services. There were two sawmills, a grist mill, and two stores. There was much damage to properties along the river during the War of 1812.

Ironworks were built in Willsboro in 1800, with the iron being shipped by boat to Albany. By 1835, there was one grist mill, eight saw mills, one wool fulling mill one carding mill, two ironworks, and one ashery, and a district school; and there was a thriving quarry industry.

**Sixth Generation:**

**John P Perry**

**b. 1818, Grand Isle, Vermont**

**d. 05/03/1863, Bank's Ford, Virginia (killed in battle near Fredericksburg)**

**Spouse:**

**Mary Longware**

**b. about 1808, Canada**

**d. 12/15/1890, Basin Harbor, Vermont**

John P. Perry married Mary Longware on 11/25/1837, in Lewis, New York. They had four sons and daughter. Henry was born in 1838, Albert in 1841, Levi in 1845, William H. in 1847, and Ellen Elizabeth in 1851.

Mary had been born in Canada. Her brother Edward's naturalization record says he was born in St. John's in Canada. Her parent's names were Joseph Longware and Roselle or Rosilla. I found a St. John's in Newfoundland, and that area had been settled by the British. I'm not sure of the origin of the Longware name.

John is listed in the 1860 census as a laborer.

I have a family story that was written based on the recollections of John Perry's great-grandson, Ellery Perry. Ellery's grandfather was John's son Albert. Ellery says that his grandfather Albert's brother, Henry, was a colorful character about whom he had heard several tales. Albert and Henry enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and their father John enlisted too, so he could watch out for his two sons. According to Ellery, Henry loved his liquor, and he had a way of getting into trouble and out again. He would go over to the southern lines at night and play cards, and then leave before daybreak to go back to his own regiment and fight the coming day. Ellery was told that Henry fought in every battle that his regiment was engaged in, and came out without a scratch. Their father John was not so lucky. A cannon ball took off the top of his head, and he was buried at Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Ellery also mentions visiting his grandmother, Sophronia Coyer Perry, when he was young. He says he loved her right away, because she was kind and loving.

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**Seventh Generation:**

**Albert Perry**

**b. 12/10/1841, Lewis, New York**

**d. 08/16/1899, Basin Harbor Cemetary, Ferrisbug, Vermont**

**Spouse:**

**Sophronia Coyer**

**B. 02/13/1850, Lewis, New York**

**D. 11/30/1829, Randolph, Vermont**

As mentioned above, Albert fought in the Civil War, along with his father and his brother. He would have been about 21 when he enlisted.

In 1870, Albert filed for and received a disability pension due to his service in the Civil War. Albert had been shot in the right thigh at the battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia, on May 10, 1864.

Albert married Sophronia Coyer on 01/01/1867. I wrote two documents about her ancestry, one about the Caillé family and one about the Tremblay family, also stored in the folder mentioned at the beginning of this document. Sophronia's father had been born Joseph Moïse Caillé, and had come to New York from Canada with his parents, François Caillé and Madeleine Tremblay, in the 1830's. Sophronia's mother was also French Canadian. Her name was Mary Dugau or perhaps Dugas.

Sophronia and Albert had twelve children, but five of them died of diphtheria within a few weeks of each other, in January 1889.

There is a memorial stone in Basin Harbor Vermont, showing the names of Sophronia's father-in-law, John Perry (who was killed in battle in 1863 at Fredericksburg, Virginia), and John's five grandchildren who had died in 1889. One side of the stone says "Children of A. and S. Perry", and the names and ages of the five children are engraved on the sides of the stone: "Arthur Died AE 20"; "Mary Died AE 14"; "Maud Died AE 13"; "Herbert Died AE 10"; "Berthy E Died AE 5".

The seven children who survived were:

John C, born 12/28/1867; died 7/15/1923

Moses Levi (Melvin), born 11/8/1870; died 9/24/1942

Irvin, born 1/6/1874; died 2/5/1923

Nellie, born 5/24/1878; died 8/1/1928

Vivian Pearl, born 3/1/1883; died 12/17/1936

Gilbert Judson, born 5/4/1887; died 3/25/1952

Roy Eldon, born 9/12/1889; died 4/22/1969

After Albert died, in 1899 at the age of 58, his wife Sophronia received a pension as his widow. An article in the Burlington Weekly Free Press, dated 8/24/1899, said

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this about Albert's death: "Sudden death in Vergennes. Vergennes, Aug 17. Albert Perry, a veteran of the civil war, a member of the 2d Vermont Regiment, Co. K., and a farmer well known in this vicinity dropped dead Thursday afternoon at 5 o'clock of heart failure. The funeral will be held at his late residence today."

**Eighth Generation:**

**Roy Eldon Perry**

**b. 09/12/1889, Ferrisburgh, Vermont**

**d. 04/22/1969, Phoenix, Maryland**

**Spouse:**

**Leah May Shipley**

**B. 05/05/1893, Bentonville, Indiana**

**d. 07/25/1977, Towson, Maryland**

My grandmother Leah May Shipley had been born in Indiana, and had started to go to college there. But she became ill with what they thought might be leukemia, but turned out to be only anemia. She came to Vermont, where her mother was then living, to recuperate, and that's where she met my grandfather.

I have the impression that Leah somehow knew Zoe (Cofrin) Perry, who had married Gilbert Perry in 1911, and that through her, she met Gilbert's brother Roy, my grandfather. Maybe Zoe was a neighbor of her mother's there in Vermont. I have a vague memory of Grandma Perry telling me the story of how she met Roy. If I remember correctly, Zoe intended to introduce Leah to someone other than Roy (maybe another member of the Perry family), but Grandma didn't like the one that Zoe had intended for her.

From the letters I have that my grandfather Roy Perry wrote to her from Randolph Vermont, dated April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> 1913, Leah was staying in Northfield Vermont at that time. Roy apparently was trying to persuade Leah to marry him in June or August, but was concerned about her health and whether she could be ready in time. He must have been very persuasive; they married April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1913.

Leah and Roy had four children: Avis Eldora Perry, Merle Sophronia Perry, Erma Mae Perry, and my father, Richard Samuel Perry.

According to a handwritten history from Aunt Avis, Roy and Leah lived on a farm in Brookfield Vermont that was apparently jointly owned by Roy and Gilbert, along with Roy and Gilbert's mother Sophronia (Coyier or Coyer) Perry. Sophronia was a Seventh Day Adventist. Leah and Roy moved into the town of Randolph, and then moved to a farm north of Randolph. Another of Roy's brothers, Moses (called "Uncle Sing" by Roy's children) and his wife Josie, lived with them, and also some of Roy's nephews, all working on the farm. Then Roy and Leah and family moved to a dairy farm in Billerica, Massachusetts, which is where the picture below was taken (in about 1921).



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Roy's brother Gilbert, his wife Zoe, and their sons Donald and Gordon also moved to the dairy farm. Gilbert and Zoe's third son, John, was born at the dairy farm in 1924. But that same year, when the barn burned down, it was the end of the dairy farm, and Roy and Leah and family moved to Florida, and invested in land there in Eau Gallie, on the Indian River. According to Aunt Avis' memoir, Grandma Perry had inherited \$10,000 from her father. After a couple of years, they moved to Melbourne and had a truck farm there. Later they moved back to Eau Gallie.

Apparently, they were having financial difficulties, and they moved to Maryland, where Roy's brother Gilbert had become manager at Mt. Ararat Farm in Port Deposit. Then Roy managed a farm in Churchville for a while, and then later, they moved to a small farm in Towson. In the 1930 census, Leah and her family were in Cecil County, Maryland.

I don't know what year Roy and Leah moved to Paper Mill Rd in Phoenix, MD, where they lived for the rest of their lives. My cousins Lawrence and Jeanette were born there in 1938. Roy started a business buying hay and straw from farmers that he would sell and deliver to the stockyards in Baltimore. What I remember most about Grandma Perry is her beautiful garden, and how much she enjoyed working in it. I

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remember seeing a vase of irises from her garden, and thinking what strange and exotic flowers they are. Whenever I cut irises from my own garden, I think of Grandma Perry.

Roy died of a stroke in 1969. Leah died of colon cancer in 1977.

### **Ninth Generation**

**Richard (Dick) Samuel Perry**

**b. 10/17/1920**

**d. 8/17/1980**

I don't know a lot about my father's childhood. He would have been only four years old when the family moved to Florida. While living in Florida, he lost an index finger playing with dynamite. I believe my father said that he had to quit school after eighth grade, because he needed to work to help support the family, so that would have been after they moved to Maryland.

Below is a picture of Grandma Morgan with her four grandchildren, Avis, Erma, Merle, and Dick, taken in about 1935. In her memoir, Aunt Avis mentioned a visit to Vermont with her siblings and with Bryce Brown, the man she later married. They visited some of the Perry relatives, and some relatives from Indiana were also there. I'm guessing this picture was taken during that visit, unless Grandma Morgan came down to Maryland to visit at some point.

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Dick enlisted in the Marines 9/3/1942 and served until 11/14/1945. I have the letters he wrote to his brother-in-law Bryce during that time. Bryce and Avis' daughter Margaret sent them to me. Below are pictures of Dick in uniform, one with his parents and another with Bryce.



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Some of the letters mention how tough the training was, and that he was already proud to be a Marine. During the early part of his service, in 1942 and 1943, the return address for my father's letters was Portsmouth VA, at the MB Navy Yard, and he was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Guard Company. I looked this up and found that the Marine Barracks Naval Shipyard provided perimeter security for the shipyard and the Naval Ammunition Depot. He complains of boredom and the strict discipline. From one letter:

"There's one thing I don't like to see, and that is all the fellows in the brig here from trying to go over the hill. This damn guard duty is hell, you can't talk on duty. The worst thing I find of all the things is I can't smoke."

Dad was promoted to Corporal. In 1944, the return address in his letters showed that he was then in Pioneer Co., 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines Regiment. According to Wikipedia, 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines landed on Guam on 7/21/1944, and after 20 days of fighting the island was declared free of organized resistance. On 8/23/1944, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment sailed back to Guadalcanal.

My father fought on Guam, but apparently received some kind of leg injury, although it wasn't from a bullet, since he says he was lucky he didn't stop any lead in battle there. A letter to Avis from sick bay dated 8/7/1944 mentioned sending a Japanese battle sabre to Bryce, and "a little Jap money" to remember Guam. The money is still in the envelope. That letter also said that he had quite a bit of "Jap stuff" but lost it

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on the battle field. He was in sick bay with an infected leg, but he said was nothing to worry about, he guessed he was just too mean to die; and that having survived what he went through in battle, he thought he could survive anything. Also that he would probably not talk about what war is like when he got home. He promised to send Bryce a native girl, in his next letter.

Later letters show Co. B, 6<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Battalion, 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. Wikipedia says that the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division was activated on Guadalcanal in the southern Solomon Islands on 9/7/1944. The 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division earned a Presidential Unit Citation for "extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault and capture of Okinawa, April 1 to June 21 1945."

Dad didn't talk about the war much, but I do remember him saying that he fought at Okinawa, and I remember that once he said that the bombs pounded the beach so hard that the sand tore up your chest.

In one of his letters home, Dad said he wasn't sure what he wanted to do when he got back home, that he might want to start his own business. But what he did was to work with his father as Roy E. Perry and Son, buying hay and grain from farmers and selling to the stockyards. In later years, Roy had various health issues, including diabetes and perhaps depression, so my father took over running the business. I remember the big tractor-trailors loaded high with bales of hay or straw, and the barn across the road where my brothers and I would sometimes make forts among the bales.

Dad met my mother in 1948. Her maiden name was Mary Madeline Hart; but she had previously married Donald McCormick and had two children with him. Sadly, her first child, Christine Marie McCormick, born 11/8/1943, had died 1/2/1948. I believe she had been born with spina bifida, and had been unable to walk. Her second child, James (Jim) Michael McCormick, was born 6/21/1946. The story I heard was that when Dad first saw my mother (which I believe was at a bar), he said "I'm going to marry that blonde." They got married later that year.

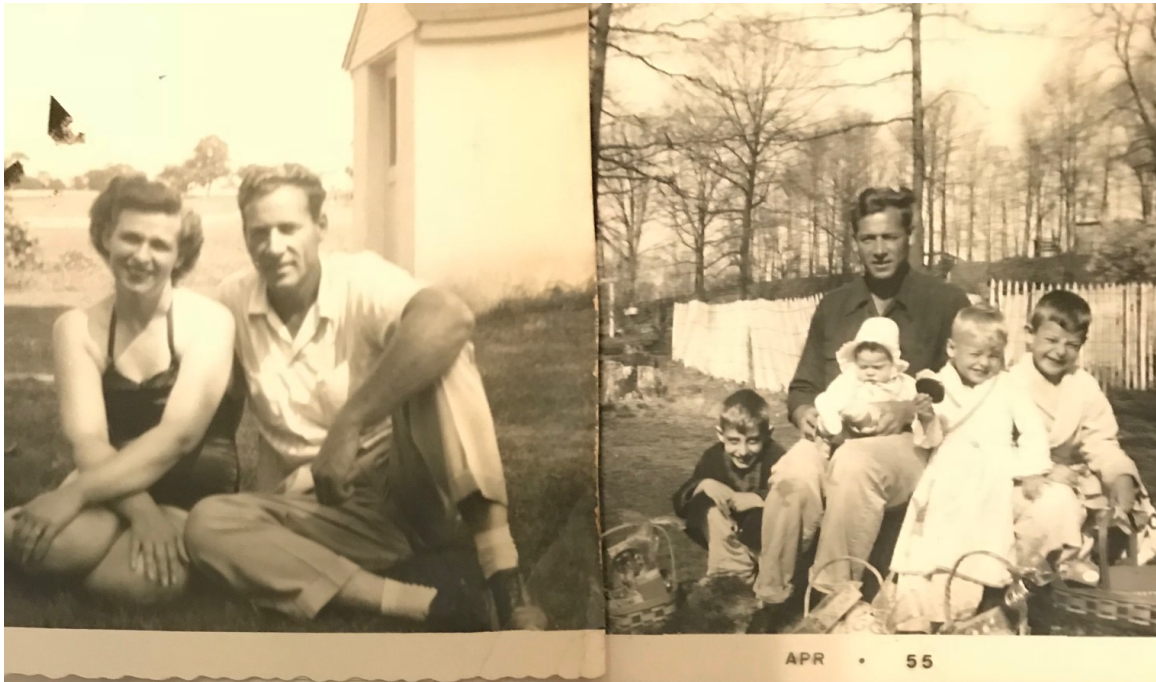
With help from his brother-in-law Bryce Brown, Dad built a home for his new wife next to his parents' home in Phoenix MD. That was where my brothers and I grew up.

### **Tenth Generation**

Dick and Mary Perry had three children: Richard Hart Perry, Steven Glenn Perry, and me, Janine Lee Perry.

Below is a picture of my parents Dick and Mary Perry; one of my father Dick with the four kids, taken on Easter Sunday 1955; and a picture at my grandparent's house, probably about 1958 or 1959. My parents are standing in the center at the back. I'm sitting on my Grandmother Perry's (Leah) lap, next to her husband Roy. My brothers Steve, Rick and Jim are sitting on the floor in the front.

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Roy E. Perry and Son was liquidated in about 1967 because the business was no longer profitable. After trying a few jobs that didn't work out, Dad spent the last years of his life developing the thirty acres of land across the road. There were



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some lots that had not yet been sold when he died of a heart attack in 1980, so my brother Rick had to take over and finish the project.

My brother Steve did a lot of traveling, and especially loved the wide open spaces out west. He died of a heart attack on 2/19/2012 at the age of 59, while camping in the desert in Arizona. He was so loved by the people at the homeless center where he sometimes volunteered that they made a memorial garden for him. Some of his ashes were scattered in the desert, and some were buried in the memorial garden. Incredibly, the couple from the ministry who conducted Steve's memorial service happened to be from the Sykesville area, near where I live; so while visiting home, they stopped by my house to give me a copy of the sermon from Steve's memorial service, pictures from the service, and other mementos from Steve's belongings.

My oldest brother, Jim, was fortunate to have had a long relationship with a devoted partner, Scot Morehouse. Jim and Scot moved to New York to be near Scot's mother. Jim had health issues related to asthma for as long as I can remember. He passed away 10/15/2016, at the age of 70, from esophageal cancer.

My brother Rick lives in Florida and just celebrated his 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of his marriage to his amazing wife, Deb. My husband Mark and I enjoy visiting them and playing golf with them every year after the Christmas holidays.

I am retired from a career as a mainframe computer programmer with the Social Security Administration. I recently celebrated my ninth wedding anniversary with my wonderful husband, Mark Wilson, and we live in Eldersburg, in Carroll County MD. We are both retired, and lead a very busy and active life, with activities including ballroom dancing, golf, book club, and wine club.

### **Eleventh Generation**

I have two sons of whom I am very proud, Greg and Sean, from my first marriage with George Crouse. Greg lives in Westminster with his lovely and talented wife, Glenda. Greg works as a software developer, and plays lead guitar in a band; and Glenda teaches violin. Sean lives in Reisterstown, and is an assistant vice president at Bank of America.

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