



HOLMES FAMILY

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With acknowledgement to many sources, including online information (genealogy websites) from Robert Stendall, Nancy Holmes Simpson, "SW" and Lois Masters, and various articles and books:

- Rosemary ffolliott's contribution *James Holmes's Family Notebook* published in *The Irish Ancestor*, 1974, Vol.VI, No.2;
Francis M. Carroll's *The American Presence in Ulster: A Diplomatic History, 1796-1996*, Catholic University of America Press, 2005;
Maurice J. Bric's article *Patterns of Irish emigration to America, 1783-1800* in *Eire-Ireland: a Journal of Irish Studies*, 22 March 2001;
Thomas A. Daly's *The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick*, F.McManus, Philadelphia, 1920;
John H. Campbell's *History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and of the Hibernian Society for the Relief of Emigrants from Ireland, March 17, 1771-March 17, 1892*. Philadelphia, 1892;
Vere Langford Oliver's *The History of the Island of Antigua*, London, 1896;
John Anderson's *History of the Belfast Library and Society for Promoting Knowledge: commonly known as The Linen Hall Library ...*, Belfast, 1888;
Dictionary of Irish Biography, Royal Irish Academy / Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Please note that I have assembled the following details from many different sources, some likely to be more reliable than others. I would welcome any further details that might clarify, confirm or add to this initial listing. Clearly there are relationships to be resolved, not least with the Philadelphia connection of Hugh Holmes, on pages 9-11 of this document.

- Brothers:
- (1) James Holmes (02.06.1693 – 23.10.1732)
 - (2) Hugh Holmes (1694 – 23.10.1762)
"... died at his House [in] Dorset Street [Dublin], & the 25 took his Corps to Belfast where it was Interd. The May following he would have been sixty nine."
 - (3) Robert Holmes (07.06.1699 – 1787), Drumcondra, Dublin
 - (4) John Holmes (30.07.1703 – 04.07.1779)
"buried Wednesday 7 inst. in St James's Church". His nephew, James, presumably meant St. James Church, Dublin, though I can find no record.

- (1) James Holmes (02.06.1693 – 23.10.1732), married ?? (unknown).

The few details so far have been gleaned from the second will of Hugh Holmes
(see below on page 7)

- Children: Thomas How Holmes ("How" perhaps short for Howard?)
Mary Holmes, on 21.11.1747 married Rev. Dr. John Palliser,
Rector at Rathfarnham, Co.Dublin; later Chancellor of
Cloyne (1771). They had one son and three daughters.

(2) Hugh Holmes (1694 – 23.10.1762),

“late of Antigua, merchant, now of Drumcondra Lane, Dublin”

On 10 August 1723 he married Rebecca Hanson at St John’s Antigua.

Rebecca, born c.1708, was buried on 19 June 1724.

Child: John Holmes (presumably by his “negro woman Maria,
alias Mary Ann” – see the will on page 7 for details)

Source: Vere Langford Oliver’s *The History of the Island of Antigua*, London, 1896, pages 57 and 58.
Accessed online, 04.03.2013, at <http://archive.org/details/historyofislando02oliv>

Hugh Holmes’ details are recorded in V.L. Oliver’s section on the Hanson family.

The details of Hugh Holmes’ wills (transcribed on Page 4 of this document) give useful details of other family members, including helpfully naming his brother John’s children as John, Mary and James. Does that then mean that the other Hugh Holmes of Philadelphia (see page 8 below) is not another son of John (*pace* Maurice J. Bric)? Perhaps that Hugh Holmes of Philadelphia might be Hugh, the son of Robert Holmes (see (3) below), though that also looks unlikely. Any other suggestions?

This is from Maurice J. Bric’s *Patterns of Irish emigration to America, 1783-1800 in Eire-Ireland: a Journal of Irish Studies*, 22 March 2001:

“... several Irish merchants, through either full or occasional partnerships with houses in America, owned much of the tonnage that sustained this flaxseed/linen roundabout and managed it through networks of personal, family, and church connections that were geographically split only by the Atlantic. For example, the Belfast firm of John & James Holmes sent its ship *Barclay* on at least one trip to the Delaware every year, principally because the Holmes’s brother, Hugh, was a partner in the Philadelphia-based firms of Holmes & Ralston and Holmes & Rainey.” (Many more details about Hugh can be found on Page 9 below.)

**(3) Robert Holmes (07.06.1699 – 19.06.1787), goldsmith, Castle Street, Dublin
and Drumcondra, Co. Dublin**

married (i) Ellinor Robinson (20.07.1706 – 4.06.1755) in St Andrew’s, Dublin on
14.05.1725. She was the daughter of James Robinson (1676-1747).

married (ii) on 30.10.1756, Sarah Jellett (11.09.1724 [old style] – 1805), daughter
of Mathew Jellett and brother of Morgan Jellett, Tullyard, Co. Down.

Children of marriage (i):

13 children were born, of whom the five then surviving were named in Robert’s
brother Hugh’s will: Samuel, James, Hugh, Elinor (sic) and Robinson Holmes. This
is the complete list (from James’s diary).

James Holmes (09.03.1726-26.03.1728)

Jenet Holmes (03.06.1727 – 22 01.1731) She died of smallpox.

Samuel (16.09.1729 – 07.10.1794)

“... died at Com Waddles Springfield, Co. Down ... aged 65.”

NB: a link to Theodosia Waddell, of Springfield, who married Arthur
Crawford and lived at Bloomfield!

Eldest son: Robert Holmes

James Holmes (16.11.1731 – ??)

married Mary Waring (1741-1781),

daughter of Rev. Thomas Waring, rector of Moira, Co. Down.

The marriage in St Werburgh’s, Dublin, on 23.12.1758, though James
states “at my Father’s House in Castle Street.”

James was apprenticed to his father (gold and silversmith) and he was
also known as a watchmaker.

Children:

Hester Holmes (27.07.1760 – ??)

married in June 1783 in St Mary's, Dublin, John Jellett (c.1750-1792), jeweller, eldest son of Morgan Jellett (c.1722-1797) of Moira

Robert Holmes (04.12.1763 – ??)

Eleanor Holmes (no date given, though might have been a twin of Robert. "She died at my House Newtown Mt Ken & was buried at Delgany.")

Mary Holmes (22.03.1771 – ??)

Hugh Holmes (18.11.1733 – ??)

married Mary Smith (1728-1795) from Waterford

Freeman's Journal, 19 May 1764, Marriages: "A few Days ago, Mr. Hugh Holmes, of this City [Dublin], to Miss Molly Smith of Waterford."

Their son Robert Holmes (1765-1859), the radical barrister, famously challenged Henry Joy for which he was arrested and imprisoned. In 1799 Robert married Mary Anne Emmet (1773-1805), a poet, opposed to the Union like her husband, friend of Dr William Drennan and brother of Robert Emmet. Holmes defended John Mitchel in 1848 and made an impassioned closing speech condemning centuries of English repression in Ireland.

Jacob Holmes (16.04.1735 – 21.01.1738) He died of smallpox.

Robinson Holmes (16.04.1737 – 07.12.1737) He died of smallpox.

Robert Holmes (05.11.1738 – 05.04.1739)

Jenet Holmes (24.12.1739 – 18.03.1742) She died of smallpox.

Elizabeth Holmes (30.04.1741 – 05.10.1742) She died of smallpox.

Eleanor Holmes (25.10.1742 – 21.11.1762) She died of "a Fever".

Robinson Holmes (12.09.1747 – ??)

"He died in the East Indies of a wound recd in the Compy Service."

Baby Holmes, male (stillborn 18.12.1750, Drumcondra)

Children of marriage (ii): none

Walker's Hibernian Magazine, June 1787, page 336, has a listing of Deaths, including –

At Drumcondra [Co. Dublin], aged 88, Robert Holmes, Esq., many years an eminent Goldsmith in Castle-street [Dublin]

(4) John Holmes (30.07.1703 – 04.07.1779) married Mary Willson [Wilson] (1714-1779).

NB: This is "John Holmes I" on the website.

Children: John, Mary, James (see bullet points below)

- John Holmes (c.1745 – 06.09.1825)* Donegall Place, Belfast; merchant and Partner, Belfast Bank, founded 1787. He married July 1769 Isabella Patterson, Comber, Co. Down

NB: This is "John Holmes II" on the website.

* The *Belfast News Letter* has the death of "John Holmes, merchant and banker of this town", 6 September 1825. It also has the death of Mrs Holmes, "wife of John Holmes of Belfast", 22 April 1823. NB: These dates are the BNL publication dates. The actual dates will be some days earlier. The same applies to John Holmes' death date above.

Children of John and Isabella Holmes as follow:

Mary Isabella Holmes, born 14.05.1771, died 07.10.1832, eldest daughter

married Henry Joy (1754-1835), proprietor *Belfast News Letter*.

Henry's sister was Ann Joy, the mother of

Henry Joy McCracken, executed in 1798.

Children of Henry and Mary Isabella:

Robert Joy (1798-1813) eldest son

William Bruce Joy (??-c.1876), M.D., a physician in London and Dublin. Married Arminella Vance in St George's, Dublin, 20 May 1836. Two remarkable sons: a sculptor and an artist. They're worth exploring.

Henry Holmes Joy (1805-1875), a barrister

He married Catherine Anne Ludlow, 08.09.1830, Westbury on Trym, Gloucestershire. Their second son was Robert Joy of Belfast (1838-1905)

Frederick Joy (??-1853), Belfast, a solicitor

John Holmes Joy (1810 -), BA, clergyman – Deacon for Cushendun and Culfeightrin, Co. Antrim, in 1839.

Susan Bruce Joy (1812-1832) youngest daughter

John Holmes, jun. (likely late 1773 – 17 May 1825)

NB: This is "John Holmes III" on the website.

married Anne Lindsay Daniel on 1 April 1802, at St Mary's Church, Snettisham, Norfolk. Anne was the only daughter of Thomas Daniel, attorney-general of Dominica. She was under 21 at this date.

Morning Post, Friday, 24 May 1805

DIED – On the 9th instant, in child-bed, at Cheltenham, Mrs Holmes, wife of John Holmes, jun. Esq. of Belfast, only daughter of Thomas Daniell, Esq. Attorney-General of the Island at [sic] Dominica.

Her death was widely reported in several newspapers, including in Gloucester, Oxford and of course Belfast. On 21 May 1805, the *Belfast News Letter* had the death of Mrs Holmes, at Cheltenham, wife of John Holmes jun. of Belfast.

On 18 May 1825 the *Belfast News Letter* listed the death of Mr John Holmes jun., at Honiton in Devonshire, 'formerly of this town'.

John Holmes, jun., had been a party to the post-nuptial agreement in Donaghadee in 1806 of a Dr Wilson (but was it John Holmes II or John Holmes III?).

PRONI at EDOL/795 has a probate document dated June 1825, with testator: John Holmes [III]; and executors: John Holmes [II, his father] and John Holmes Houston [his cousin].

This will reveals that John Holmes III also had three sons by Bridget Sophia Perry. See p.11 below. Perhaps JH III was visiting relatives of Bridget in Honiton when he died.

Children by his wife, Anne Lindsay Daniel:

Anne Lindsay Holmes (c.1803 – 04.06.1884)

married (07.02.1826) John Agnew (?1790 – 04.08.1844)

Children:

John Agnew (22.01.1830 – 16.11.1855)

Anne Lindsay Agnew (28.11.1826 – 15.05.1881)

Isabella Holmes (10.05.1805 – 17.05.1899) unmarried

Children by Bridget Sophia Perry (1796 – 1845), a 'single woman':

See more details about this family grouping on page 11 of this PDF.

John Holmes Perry (c.1813-1883) See page 11.

Charles Holmes Perry (c.1817 - ?) See page 11

Henry Holmes Perry (c.1818 - ?), married three times, see page 11.

Jennet [Jane] Holmes (09.10.1774 – 1848)
married William Russell (1775-1840) of Edenderry, Co.Down.
Jennet was baptised in 1st Presbyterian Ch., Belfast

Children included Eliza who married Capt. Robinson

Note: See below re William Russell's brother John marrying Jennet's sister Catherine Helen Holmes. William and John's sister, Jane Russell (1782-1812), married John McCance (1772-1835) of Suffolk who was associated with John Agnew in various financial dealings.

Elizabeth Holmes (11.10.1775 – 11.05.1849)
married John Holmes Houston (c.1767-1843), her cousin,
of Greenville and Orangefield
she was baptised 13.10.1775, 1st Presbyterian Ch., Belfast

Children:

Elizabeth Houston (1797-1844)

Harriet Houston (1798-1817)

Mary Isabella Houston (c.1802-1873)

who, on 11.07.1827

married Richard Bayly Blakiston (1793-1857)

who assumed the name Blakiston-Houston in 1843

Their children were:

Anne B-H (?-1927)

John B-H (1829-1920)

Richard Matthew B-H (??-1847)

(Capt.) Thomas B-H (1833-1860)

Charles William B-H (1836-1861)

Eliza B-H (?-1847)

James Holmes (09.02.1777 – February 1796)
baptised 13.02.1777, 1st Presbyterian Ch., Belfast.

Henry Holmes (03.06.1778 – ??)
baptised 07.06.1778, 1st Presbyterian Church, Belfast

Catherine [sometimes Katherine] Helen Holmes (1780 – 1817)
married John Russell (1777-1852) of Newforge on 20.02.1801.

Children:

Isabella Russell (1802-1860)

married William McCance (1801-1865) of
Suffolk on 30.04.1824

John Russell (1804-1854)

Holmes Russell (1805-1834)

Henry Russell (1807-1869)

Catherine Helen Russell (?? – ??)

married Rupert Lonsdale

- Mary Holmes (c.1747-1830) married Thomas Houston (c.1736-?) of Dublin

Children include:

John Holmes Houston (c.1767-1843)

married Elizabeth Holmes (1775-1849)

– see above.

- James Holmes (c.1753-1832) of Ballymenoch, Holywood, Co. Down
 Partner, Holmes & Davis, Belfast linen merchants, and the first US Consul in Belfast
 married Jane Davis (c.1762-27.03.1838),
 daughter of James Davis of Newry;
 she's buried in St Patrick's C of I graveyard, Newry.
 Children:
 Anna Maria Holmes (17.06.1783- ??)
 baptised 1st Presbyterian Ch., Belfast.
 In 1809 she married William Isaac Corry
 (??-1853) of Ivy Lodge, Newry
 The Rev. Professor Frederick Holmes (1791-1850)
 Shrewsbury, MA 1825, St. John's, Cambridge,
 3rd professor and Bursar, Bishop's College,
 Calcutta, married Anna Maria Loxdale
 (1792-1863)
 Frances Holmes (??-1863) married James Coates
 (1794- ??) Kilkeel, Co. Down
 (marriage in BNL 16.08.1822, St Mary's Newry)
 Sidney Holmes (26.07.1797-27.02.1878), youngest
 daughter, married James Gammell (1797-1893)
 (marriage listed in BNL 27.09.1825). See more at:
https://www.gammell.net/james_gammell_1797.html

Some baptisms, marriages and burials from St Anne's, Belfast (Shankill, Antrim), 1745-1761 (from PRONI, T679/237)

These may not be relevant to the specific Holmes family under review, not least because I'm not able to fit any of them into the listings on the previous pages!

I've copied them here in case someone is able to make the connection.

They would mainly relate to the generation after John Holmes I (1703-1779) and James Holmes (1693-1732). The bracketed dates refer to old style/new style dates.

The Holmes families under investigation on this website were Presbyterian but these entries in a Church of Ireland register (St Anne's, Belfast), wouldn't necessarily rule that family out - they have been required to abide by the then current Penal laws and so avoid any stigma of illegitimacy.

Births

Jane Holmes, daughter of John Holmes, merchant, 21 March 1747-[1748].

Catherine Holmes, daughter of John Holmes, merchant, 21 March 1747-[1748].

Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of John Mears Alexander, 27 September 1748.

Andrew Holmes, son of John Holmes, 2 October 1748.

John Holmes, son of James Holmes, 9 March 1748-[1749].

Holmes, son of John Holmes, 8 April 1749.

Alexander Holmes, son to John Holmes, 21 October 1750.

Deaths

Grizel Holmes, wife of James Holmes, 17 March 1746-[1747].

John Holmes, 10 July 1751.

Mary Holmes, wife to James Holmes, 29 October 1751.

Nathan Holmes, 28 September 1752.

Anne Holmes, widow, 5 June 1753.

Mary Holmes, wife to John, 19 November 1757.

William Holmes, 29 April 1760.

The Wills of Hugh Holmes, late of Antigua.

Source:

Oliver, Vere Langford. *The History of the Island of Antigua*, Mitchell & Hughes, London, 1896.

Accessed online, 04.03.2013, at <http://archive.org/stream/historyofislando02oliv#page/n7/mode/2up>

NB: al's = alias (or aka)

(1) Hugh Holmes, merchant. Will dated 8 March 1751.

My negro woman Maria al's Mary Ann & my son Jn^o Hughson al's Holmes to have their freedom. Mary Ann to have £15 a year out of the rent of 2 houses in Nevis Street.

To my son Jn^o Hughson al's Holmes £500 st. at 21 provided he do not return from Europe to the West Indies.

To my Ex'ors £10 each.

All residue to Sam., Jas., Hugh, Nelly, & Robinson, children of my bro. Rob^t Holmes, goldsmith, of Dublin, equally at 21.

To my cousin Jean Timms of Dublin £50 st.

All residue to my bro. Rob^t Holmes & Jn^o Smith, bookseller, in trust to invest.

My bro. Ro^b Holmes and Jn^o Smith, both of Dublin, & Fra. Delap, Sam. Martin of S^t John's, & Jn^o Dunn, M^s of Antigua, Ex'ors.

Witnessed by Michael Lovell, Jas. Alley, Simon Aske. Sworn and recorded 20 June 1765.

P.C. Ireland. [sic – I presume this to be the Prerogative Court]

(2) Hugh Holmes, late of Antigua, merchant, now at Dublin. Will dated 8 May 1759.

To be bur. at Belfast with my father & mother.

To my son Jn^o Holmes £1,000.

The lease of my house at Drumcondra Lane to Hugh Holmes, son to my bro. Rob^t Holmes, also my mother's wedding ring with this motto, "In Christ and thee my Comfort be," & a signet ring.

To my bro. Rob^t Holmes & his 2 sons Jas, & Hugh their bond for £434, dated 28 June 1758.

My 2 houses at St. John's, Antigua, & a legacy that was left my wife on Hawksbill estate in Five Islands to my godson Tho. Hanson, son to my bro.-in-law Tho. Hanson of Antigua.

To my goddau. Rebecca Hanson, dau. of my bro.-in-law Jas. Hanson, cooper, of S^t John's, £5.

To my cousin Tennatt Tims, now my housekeeper, £50.

To Jn^o Hamilton, Merch^t in Dublin, £50.

To the poor of Belfast £100.

To my late bro. Jas. Holmes' son Tho. How Holmes & to his sister, now Pallasier, 1s. each.

To my bro. Jn^o Holmes & to his sons Jn^o & Jas. & to his dau. Mary Holmes 1s. each.

All residue to my bro. Rob^t Holmes' 5 chⁿ, Sam., Jas., Hugh, Elinor, & Robinson Holmes at 21.

My bro. Rob^t Holmes of Dublin, goldsmith, & cousins Tho. Allen & Sam. Smith, both of London, M^{ts}, Ex'ors.

Witnessed by Joseph Malone, James Innes, Thomas Wallace.

Adm'on to Robert Holmes 26 Oct. 1762; probate reserved to others. Recorded at St. John's 1791.

Hugh Holmes (c.1750-1817) of Philadelphia – details on the next page.

Hugh Holmes (c.1750-1817) of Philadelphia.

Probably unmarried. He was a leading merchant in Philadelphia and closely associated with Philadelphia's Irish community (more information on this below).

Bear in mind M.J. Bric's comment that "the Belfast firm of John & James Holmes sent its ship *Barclay* on at least one trip to the Delaware every year, principally because the Holmes's brother, Hugh, was a partner in the Philadelphia-based firms of Holmes & Ralston and Holmes & Rainey."

The *Belfast News Letter* certainly carried advertisements for the *Barclay* in 1790 and 1791.

There is room for confusion here, not helped by the same names recurring in successive generations. Perhaps this Hugh might be the son of Robert Holmes (1699-1787), goldsmith of Dublin. So Philadelphia Hugh is trading with his cousins, John and James.

Hugh Holmes and Robert Rainey, merchants, of 36 South Front St., Philadelphia, are listed in *Stephen's Philadelphia Directory for 1796* (Philadelphia, 1796(?)).

That same year they are mentioned by Wolfe Tone in his diary:

"I should have mentioned that I gave yesterday to Skipwith a packet, directed to Holmes & Rainey, Philadelphia, containing two letters, one for Hamilton Rowan, and the other for my dearest love, in which I repeat my orders for the removal of my family and property with all possible speed to France. Skipwith promised me to put them in a way of going with speed and security ...", 30 July 1796 (Volume 2, page 258, *The writings of Theobald Wolfe Tone, 1763-1798: America, France and Bantry Bay*, edited by Moody, T.W., McDowell, R.B. and Woods, C.J, OUP, 2001).

"Mr. Hugh Holmes, Pennsylvania", was one of the subscribers to *The American Museum: or Repository of ancient and modern Fugitive Pieces, etc., prose and poetical*, 1789, Volume 5, published in Philadelphia by Mathew Carey. Volume 6, for the second half of 1789, listed him more specifically as "Mr. Hugh Holmes, Philadelphia".

Holmes and Rainey bought Section 4 of Porter township, Delaware County, Ohio, presumably as an investment (1809 has been suggested as a date for this – but Robert Rainey's death has been given as 1801!). The section was known as the *Irish Section* "for the reason that the legal representatives of Hugh Holmes and Robert Rainey, who located this section, were residents of Ireland, and the patent for these lands was issued by President James Monroe on the 28th day of November in the year 1817, to the heirs at law of Hugh Holmes and Robert Rainey, who at that time lived in Ireland."

"These parties, by their attorney in fact, on the 10th day of April 1837, conveyed this section to George C. Bumford, of the city of Washington, and, in 1837, Col. Bumford conveyed by deed this section to John W. Worden, and soon afterward Worden conveyed one-half of this section to Benjamin S. Brown, of Mount Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio. Mr. Brown died late in the autumn of 1838, and it was not until about this date that this section was brought into market." (Chapter 27, page 578, *History of Delaware County and Ohio*, O.L. Baskins & Co., Chicago, 1880).

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, based in Philadelphia, was founded in 1771, and described by J.H. Campbell as beginning with "the association of the merchants of Irish parentage, who were leading men in Philadelphia circles as early as 1765 ... [they] met informally at 'Burn's Tavern' once a week to play backgammon or whist, and finish the evening with a supper and punch."

Many of those who founded the Society eventually played major roles in the Civil War in support of American Independence (or as Campbell has it, they were “patriots in the Revolution” and continuing “to be valuable citizens after its glorious termination”). Only one, Captain Thomas Batt, was expelled (March 1776) “for taking an active part against the Liberties of America.” In December 1781, General George Washington was invited to become a member of the Society, and his acceptance letter thanked the Society for the “firm adherence of its members to the glorious cause in which we are embarked.”

Hugh Holmes and Robert Rainey were elected as members of the Society on 17 March 1791. There was a name change in April 1792 when the members of The Friendly Sons merged with a new Society incorporated as “The Hibernian Society for the Relief of Emigrants from Ireland”. The lengthy list of incorporators includes the names of Robert Rainey and Hugh Holmes. Holmes was also one of those listed in an advertisement, dated 4 March 1790, about that proposed name change and Society reorganisation.

Both Hugh Holmes and Robert Rainey were signatories to the *Address to the President of the United States by the Subscribers, Merchants and Traders of the City of Philadelphia in support of the recently negotiated treaty with Great Britain* (1794). This was the *Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, between His Britannic Majesty and The United States of America, by their President, with the Advice and Consent of their Senate ratified on the part of the USA at Philadelphia*, in August 1795 and by Great Britain in October 1795 – it’s often known as the Jay Treaty.

The Hibernian Society’s first President, the Hon. Thomas McKean LL.D., served for ten years from 1790 to 1800. Its second President served for 18 years, 1800-1818 and was none other than Hugh Holmes.

Page 115 of J.H. Campbell’s *History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick ...* (1892) provides a brief pen sketch of Hugh Holmes. He is described as “a native of Antrim, Ireland and partner of Robert Rainey, [elected] 1791, in the firm of Holmes & Rainey, merchants. On June 17, 1786, he advertises himself in Carey’s *Pennsylvania Evening Herald* as a dealer in cotton goods, linens, etc., late of the house of Ralstone & Holmes. He was one of the twelve founders of the Hibernian Society, March 17, 1791 and took a very prominent part in its affairs and was its President from March 17, 1800 until his death. He died April 7, 1817 aged 68 [? 65?] years and was buried in the First Presbyterian Cemetery ...”

The *Belfast News Letter*, 13 June 1817, has the death on 2nd April, aged 65, of “Hugh Holmes, Esq., (late President of the Hibernia Society of this city; and from the year 1784 a respectable merchant of Philadelphia)”

A shorter biography (Hood, S., Campbell, G., Jones, J., *A Brief Account of The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick*, Philadelphia, 1844) states that he was “a member of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. He was Vice-President of the Hibernian Society, 1796-1800 and President, 1800-1817.” He was also “amiable, sociable, good-tempered, and a *bon vivant*.”

Robert Rainey, “a native of Ireland, and a partner with Hugh Holmes ... in the house of Holmes and Rainey, largely engaged in the Irish linen trade. He was an amiable and worthy man. He married Miss Kepley of Philadelphia, and was one of the founders of the Hibernian Society.” He had also

belonged to the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the First City Troop and the Hibernian Fire Company. He died in 1801.

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in style each year. The 1807 dinner was held in the Mansion House Hotel where everyone "partook of an excellent dinner prepared by Mr. Renshaw, and served up in excellent style. Benevolent and patriotic toasts, interspersed with wit, sentiment and song, kept them together until they hailed the morning of Shelah's day."

The following year, at the same hotel, "Dinner removed, the exhilarating juice was kept in free circulation, whilst with toast, song and conversation, emanating from hearts filled with benevolence, patriotism, and respect for the Fair, due honor was done to the memory of St. Patrick."

In 1898, the Society reverted to its original name: "The Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick for the Relief of Emigrants from Ireland".

More details on the second family of John Holmes III

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has a copy of the will and two codicils of John Holmes Jun. of Lansdown Crescent, Bath, Esq. The will is dated 28 May 1822; codicil 1 is dated 4 June 1822 and codicil 2 is 6 May 1825.

John Holmes III died on 17 May 1825. The two executors were (1) his father, named as John Holmes of Donaghadee, who died in the first week of September 1825, and (2) his cousin, John Holmes Houston of Belfast.

The will was 'proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 30 June 1825'.

'I, John Holmes the Younger of Lansdown Crescent in the parish of Walcot adjoining the city of Bath Esq., do make publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament ...'

After the payment of any debts, funeral charges and the executors' costs, he bequeathed £5,000 to his two executors to be put in trust by them for his second family (more of this shortly). He also left 'all my freehold, leasehold and real estates and all my Reversionary Interest in freehold and real estates And also all the Rest Residue and Remainder of my personal estate and effects monies in the funds and securities for money' to the two executors to be put in Trusts 'for all and every my children lawfully begotten or to be begotten who shall live to attain his her or their ages of 21 years or marriage solemnised with the consent in writing of my executors ...'

These latter Trust funds provided for his 'lawful' daughters, Anne Lindsay and Isabella.

The £5,000 was split. £2,000 of it was to be put in Trusts, with the annual interest paid to 'Bridget Sophia Perry of the City of Bath, single woman, for and during the term of her natural life to and for her own use and benefit'. After her death, the principal £2,000 was to be added back to the £3,000.

That £3,000 (later to revert to £5,000 upon Bridget's death) was also to be invested 'and the securities whereon the same shall be invested unto John Holmes Perry, Charles Holmes Perry and Henry Holmes Perry being three of my natural children by her the said Bridget Sophia Perry equally to be divided between them share and share alike when and as they shall severally attain his or their ages of 21 years'.

During the ‘minorities’ of the three boys, the trustees must pay Bridget Sophia Perry the annual interest from the £3,000 ‘for the maintenance and support, education and bringing up of her said three children during their respective minorities’.

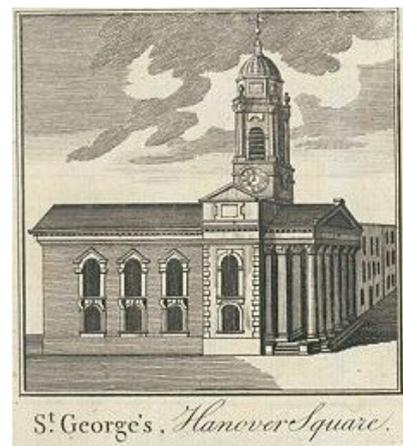
Codicil 1 (4 June 1822) underlined John Holmes III’s intention that after Bridget’s death, the interest from the £2,000 be added to that of the £3,000 for the three sons (or the surviving sons).

Codicil 2 (6 May 1825) refers to Bridget as his wife. He specified that his gold watch and chain were ‘to be delivered to him [John Holmes Perry] at such time as my wife shall consider it fit for him to wear it ...’ All three sons are left ‘my plate table linen and bed linen which I shall have in England at the time of my death to be delivered and divided between them on the death of my said wife who is to have the use thereof for her life ...’

Bridget Sophia Perry died in 1845. The death was registered in the district of St George Hanover Square, London, in the second quarter (i.e. April-June) of that year.

She had been listed in the 1841 Census, living in South Street, Broadwater, Worthing, Sussex. Aged 45, she was a lady of independent means, living with her son John [Holmes] Perry, said to be aged 25, whose profession was given as a surgeon.

Both said ‘no’ to the column ‘Born in the same county’ [i.e. Sussex], but they both left blank the column for ‘Born in Scotland, Ireland or Foreign Parts’.



John Holmes Perry, the eldest son, is listed in the 1851 census, born in Bath, Somerset and now said to be 38, born around 1813. He had been granted a Certificate of Qualification by the Examiners at Apothecaries’ Hall, 4 May 1837.

In 1850, he was a general practitioner in 36 High Street, Worthing. The house had been newly built in 1838 with a consulting room and surgery for Dr William Harris who lived there until 1841. See here (including pic of the house): <http://www.oldworthingstreet.com/page220.html>
See also the book: *Glimpses of Old Worthing* by Edward Snewin.

JHP may have moved house again in 1851, unless the houses were renumbered. The 1851 census entry has him at 48 High Street, Worthing. He’s listed as a general practitioner, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London. He’s now married with a 22 year old wife, Fanny Perry, born in Worthing as Fanny Lucas. They were married in Worthing in the fourth quarter of 1849.

Was Fanny Lucas one of the ladies mentioned in this newspaper report?

The *Sussex Advertiser* for Tuesday 10 October 1848 carried a report of a court case with JHP, surgeon, as the plaintiff:

Police Report, Wednesday – Present: Captain Pechell, R.N., M.P., and Edwin Heaty, Esq.

(JHP had taken two ladies to the theatre and Mr John Oliver Surtees, a young law student, had struck him as they were leaving the theatre. JOS was charged with assaulting JHP.)

Plaintiff deposed as follows :— I have been resident in the town ten years, and have to complain of an assault committed on me on Thursday night last, by this person, who struck me on coming out of the theatre without any provocation on my part whatever. He made a violent blow at my face, but luckily it fell on my arm. I had taken a lady to the theatre, and this person brought himself close up to her, entered into a loud, interminable conversation with her, greatly to the expressed annoyance of her, myself, and others sitting around. She requested me to ask him to desist, which I did: and on my own account I said, “as you have so much to communicate, you should take a private opportunity.” He replied that as the lady wished it, he would leave; but he said he would punch my head, and pull my nose as soon as I came out, and he should lie in wait for me.

Had you any previous acquaintance with him? —I never spoke to him before, and only knew him by repute. He waited outside half an hour. A gentleman whom I shall call as witness knew that an assault was contemplated, and meanwhile tried to persuade him not to commit it.

By Capt. Pechell — The defendant was sitting immediately behind me, and the lady next me. Had she any acquaintance with him? — Certainly not; and there was no other communication but between her, myself, and defendant. Whilst I stood on the steps of the theatre he said, “Now, have you anything to say?” I replied, “No,” when he repeated that he would punch my head and pull my nose. Directly afterwards, he made the violent blow at me, which I received on my arm.

Was he sober? — I can’t say he was not.

Cross examined. — There was another lady whom I accompanied to the theatre. Defendant came to that box from a different part of the house. It was Helen Faucit’s night. His manner was improper; his conversation I did not listen to.

How improper? — It was loud and persevering, after the lady had requested him to desist. I broke up the conversation, as it was an annoyance, and we could not attend to the performance. It was a subject of general observation through the theatre. I did not hear him address himself to the other lady. Her sister offered him an opportunity to call at her house privately to entertain the subject of his conversation. I saw him in the pit afterwards. I went out before the performances were over, as it was late, and not to give him a fair chance of putting his threat into effect; but I was in hopes that the man was gone away. I made some reply to his threat, but I don’t recollect what it was, under those circumstances.

Mr Edmunds — Didn’t you say “That’s what I want you to do?” — Certainly not.

Mr Edmunds — It was a positive invitation to strike, if I am rightly informed.

The defendant paid the fine and 27s costs, “and a great number of gentry and tradespeople, in whom the case had created an interest, having now satisfied that interest, immediately withdrew.”

The death of a John Holmes Perry was recorded in Worthing in the fourth quarter of 1852. This would have been the couple’s son, seemingly their only child. He was born in the second quarter of that year and so barely survived three or four months.

In 1861, certainly on the evening of the census, Fanny Perry was a lodger in Brighton and described as a ‘Surgeon’s wife’. She was 33 years old and the residence then was 40 [undecipherable] Street, Brighton. No trace that year of JHP. Was he away on business?

In the 1871 Census, the couple are alive and well. They're living at 130 Islingwood Road, Brighton. He is 58, she is 42. Fanny died in Brighton, in the first quarter of 1878, aged 50.

In the 1881 census, John Holmes Perry is still living in Brighton, described as 'Surgeon & Apothecary & member of R.C.S'. He is aged 68, a widower, and is living with a boarder James C. Baker, aged 56, whose wife Eliza, aged 61, is described as 'Housekeeper to a Surgeon'. Mr and Mrs Baker were both born in Worthing.

John Holmes Perry died in Brighton, aged 71, in the first quarter of 1883.

Charles Holmes Perry, the second son was probably born c.1816, unless he was a twin. He remains elusive.

I suspect that when his mother died in 1845, the Holmes/Houston executor did his best to find Charles's whereabouts by placing the following advertisement in New York's *The Evening Post* on Friday 24 October 1845 and again on Monday 3 November 1845:

\$50 REWARD. – Whereas Charles Holmes Perry, a sailor, formerly of the city of Bath, in England, who sailed as a passenger from the port of Liverpool, in or about the month of March 1836, on board a vessel called the Jane, belonging to Plymouth, in England, to New York, in the United States of America, and has not since been heard of by his friends, who reside in England; any information concerning him will be gratefully acknowledged, and should it lead to any final discovery of him, either living or dead, the above reward will be given. Address or apply to Abraham Bell & Son, 117 Fulton st., N.Y.

I have so far failed to track down any passenger on such a vessel. Was he ever found?

Henry Holmes Perry (c.1817-1887), by contrast, has left behind a considerable footprint in terms of his three wives, many children and brushes with financial ruin!

On 22 December 1838, Henry Holmes Perry (HHP) married Hannah Maria Harwood (1819-1845). They lived in Liverpool in Queen Anne Street. Their first child, Sophia Holmes Perry, was born on 15 November 1839. When she was baptised in St Peter's Church on 20 November 1839, HHP's profession was given as a brewer.

St Peter's (pictured on the right) was Liverpool's Parish Church. Built in 1704 it was demolished in 1919.



A second daughter, Hannah Perry was born in 1841.

A son, Henry Harwood Perry was born in 1845.

HHP's first wife died that same year, possibly in childbirth.

HHP married his second wife the following year. She was Eliza Hammond (1825-1851) from Liverpool.

Times were tough. The *York Herald*, Saturday 18 September 1847, quoted a listing from the *Gazette* of Friday, Sept., 10 [1847]:

Insolvent Petitioners

Henry Holmes Perry, of Everton, Lancashire, attorney's clerk

The recently married couple had two children: John Perry (1848-), born in Liverpool, and Eliza Perry (1850-), born in Birkenhead, Merseyside.

HHP's second wife, Eliza, died in 1851 in Liverpool.

On 11 September 1853 in St Peter, Liverpool, HHP married his third wife, Mary Coleman (1834-1906). Interestingly the groom's father was given as John Perry, Gentleman (= John Holmes III). HHP was a book keeper; so too was the bride's father, William Coleman. HHP was living at Lawson Street, his bride at Upper Beau Street.

More children followed: Amelia Perry (c.1855-?); Charles F.W. Perry, born in York c.1857; George Coleson Perry (1860-1947) born in Kingston-upon-Hull; Sidney C. Perry (1864-?) also born in Kingston-upon-Hull, and Elizabeth H Perry, born in Hull in 1875 and married a Mr Robinson.

In the 1861 Census, HHP and family was living at 8 Willington Land Boverley Road, Sculcoates, Yorkshire. Then came disaster:

The London Gazette, September 7, 1866

Henry Holmes Perry, of Wellington-lane, in the borough of Kingston-upon-Hull, Accountant, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Yorkshire, holden at Kingston-upon-Hull, on the 3rd day of September, 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to Mr. Charles Henry Phillips, the Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 18th day of September instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the Office of the said Court, No. 77, Lowgate, Hull. The said Mr. Charles Henry Phillips, of No. 77, Lowgate, Hull, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Herbert Archibald Gibson Mends, of No. 7, Land of Green Ginger, Hull, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.

And worse:

York Herald, Saturday 01 October 1870

Deaths

PERRY.— On the 24th ult., aged 25, Henry Harwood, eldest son of Mr Henry Holmes Perry, accountant, Hull

And better:

York Herald, Saturday 13 May 1876

Marriages

Blythe—Perry.—On the 7th inst., at the Wesleyan chapel, Bridlington Quay, William Blythe, provision dealer, Bridlington Quay, to Amelia, fourth daughter of Henry Holmes Perry, of Hull.

Until, finally:

Hull Daily Mail, Thursday 29 December 1887

Deaths

PERRY.—Hull. December 27th, at his residence, aged 71 years, Henry Holmes Perry, accountant