KINGSLEY PERRY

SPRINGFIELD, CAMBRIDGE, FALMOUTH, GRAFTON AND AMHERST · 1907–1962

On Romeo, Ventriloquists, Summer Stock and Such

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, AS YOU LIKE IT

Regina's father was the principal of Amherst High School for nearly twenty years, and almost everyone in the town under forty had at some point stood in front of his desk. That is how Daniel knew of him: as a title and an outcome. "Her father had died the year before, two years before I met her," Daniel said. "Her father died when she was a senior at Amherst High. He had been principal of Amherst High for 20 years." He never met the man. The records, as it turns out, met him a good deal, and long before he was anybody's principal: on the stage of a Springfield high school, on the cover of a Harvard concert programme, under the lights of a summer theatre on Cape Cod, and in the classified columns of the *Saturday Review*, renting rooms in Vermont.

He was born on February 19, 1907, named Kingsley Arnold Perry, and grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts. His father was Charles A. Perry. His mother, Etta, had been a Brill, the daughter of John Henry Brill, a New Yorker by birth who spent twenty-five years at Chicopee Falls and ended his working life as a foreman at the Wright & Ditson-Victor sporting-goods factory, and of Juliette De Cowin, his wife. When the old man died at his bench in the summer of 1923, the *Springfield Republican* listed among his survivors his daughter, "Mrs Charles A. Perry," and "a grandson, Kingsley A. Perry." Kingsley was sixteen and halfway through high school, and the family lived at 50 Sycamore Street.

The high school was Central, which printed a yearbook called *The Blue and White* and took its theatre seriously. In January 1922, when he was fourteen, the school gave *Romeo and Juliet*, and the yearbook judged it "one of the best amateur productions of Shakespeare ever seen in Springfield." Kingsley played Romeo. "Kingsley Perry, the dashing Romeo," the reviewer wrote, "urged his suit in true Romeo fashion." That May he was Charley Wykeham in the farce *Charley's Aunt*.

He also sat in the school's mock House of Representatives, and later served as treasurer of its Senate. When his class came to write up its history, it put the beginning of everything at a minstrel show in the freshman year: "Kingsley Perry starts dramatic career." By the senior year the class had a line for him in its book of quotations, borrowed and bent to fit: "His voice is heavy and terribly grave, / And sounds like the ocean's mournful wave."

His own entry among the seniors ran to fourteen lines, nearly all of them plays: *The Monkey's Paw*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *King Henry the Fourth*, a one-act called *Three Pills in a Bottle*, treasurer of the school Players, winner of the declamation contest. Under it the editors printed the line he must have chosen for himself: "The play's the thing, on with the play." Under "College" they wrote "Harvard."

In the autumn of 1924 he went to Harvard. He lived at first at 29 Holyoke Street, a few doors from the Yard. The class's *Freshman Red Book*, which the family still has, gives him a page with every other boy of 1928: a dark-haired, serious face; "Age: 18"; "Prepared at Central High School"; "Activities: University Instrumen-



KINGSLEY ARNOLD PERRY — *Harvard College*

B. A. A. (1, 2, 3); Hi-Y (1, 2, 3); House (1, 2); Players (1, 2); Class Minstrel Show (1); "Romeo and Juliet" (1); "Charley's Aunt" (1), "The Monkey's Paw" (2); "Man Who Married a Dumb Wife" (2), "Merry Wives of Windsor" (2); "The Perfect Tribute" (2); Treasurer of Players (2); Class Orchestra (2); "King Henry the Fourth" (3); "Nursery Maid of Heaven" (3); "Three Pills in a Bottle" (3); Winner of 3B Declamation Contest (3); History Pageant (3); Stationery Committee (3); Class Day Assembly Committee (3); Class Will (3); Treasurer of Senate (3); Recorder Staff (3).

The play's the thing, on with the play.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD, CLASS OF 1924

tal Clubs"; and, for his second year, a room in the Yard itself, "Weld 22."

He did not have money behind him: in his junior and senior years the university's catalogue printed his name among the holders of Harvard College scholarships, a few lines from another Class of 1928 scholarship boy, Nathan Marsh Pusey, who would one day be the university's president. He arrived as an actor and he stayed one. In April 1926 the Boston papers listed him, "Kingsley Perry, Springfield," among nine undergraduates picked to compete for the university's speaking prizes. By his junior year he was president of the Harvard Dramatic Club.

In May 1927 the club and a party of Radcliffe women put on *The Taming of the Shrew* in modern dress, "reinforced by jazz music and lyrics," and the Associated Press found it worth a paragraph in papers across the country: Kingsley played Petruchio as a cowboy, in a leather shirt and the rest of the trappings, and "twined a long cattle whip about the shoulders" of his Katharina. Two weeks later he was an ogre.

Radcliffe's Idler Club gave Benavente's fairy play *The Blue Prince* in the open air, on the steps of Agassiz House, with Charles Leatherbee as the King and "the Ogre, Kingsley Perry." That December, in the club's autumn production, *The Chisholm Trail*, a play about cattlemen and homesteaders in Nebraska in 1886, the *Crimson* listed "K. A. Perry '28, playing the part of Jim Morgan, elderly cattleman and father of the hero." The hero, his son, was played by Leatherbee. A news-picture agency photographed the cast in costume, cowboy hats on and hands in the air, and the picture travelled as far as the Sunday picture pages of the *Chicago Tribune*, which captioned it "And ah'm a bundle o' nerves."

It opened at Brattle Hall, with dancing after each performance, and finished at the Fine Arts Theatre in Boston. In April 1928, in his last term, the *New York Times* announced the cast of the club's spring production, a play of "ancient Oriental mystery and romance," and among the leading men was "Kingsley Arnold Perry, '28, of Springfield, Mass." The play was *Hassan*, and he was the Caliph, Haroun-al-Raschid. "Perry is a former president of the Dramatic Club," the *Crimson* added, "and has played in nearly every production for the past four years." Leatherbee, his stage son that winter, was in the spring cast too, and was already planning a summer theatre.

The scholarship came with a letter on the Corporation's paper, which he kept for the rest of his life and which his family keeps still: "My dear Sir: I am glad to inform you that you have been appointed to a Class of 1863 Scholarship for the academic year 1927-28. Sincerely yours, F. W. Hunnewell, Secretary."

He had another act, and it was the one that travelled. Kingsley was a ventriloquist. At Christmas 1927 the Harvard Musical Clubs went on tour, the banjo, mandolin and glee clubs with the Gold Coast Orchestra and a pair of specialty acts, and the papers on the route billed him by name. In Atlanta he was "ventriloquist and president of the Harvard Dramatic club" and also, it turns out, leader of the Mandolin Club.

In Washington, where the clubs played the Mayflower Hotel, the *Evening Star* promised that he would "present his inimitable 'Tommy' and 'Nemo,' whose discussions have caused number-



"AND AH'M A BUNDLE O' NERVES"—Melodrama from "The Chisholm Trail," to be put on the boards at Cambridge this week by the Harvard Dramatic club. Left to right, Robert Jones, Kingsley Perry, Charles Leatherbee, and Miss Jessica Hill of Radcliffe. (Photograph from Pacific & Atlantic.)

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL, HARVARD DRAMATIC CLUB, DECEMBER 1927: ROBERT JONES, KINGSLEY PERRY, CHARLES LEATHERBEE AND JESSICA HILL (PACIFIC & ATLANTIC PHOTOGRAPH)

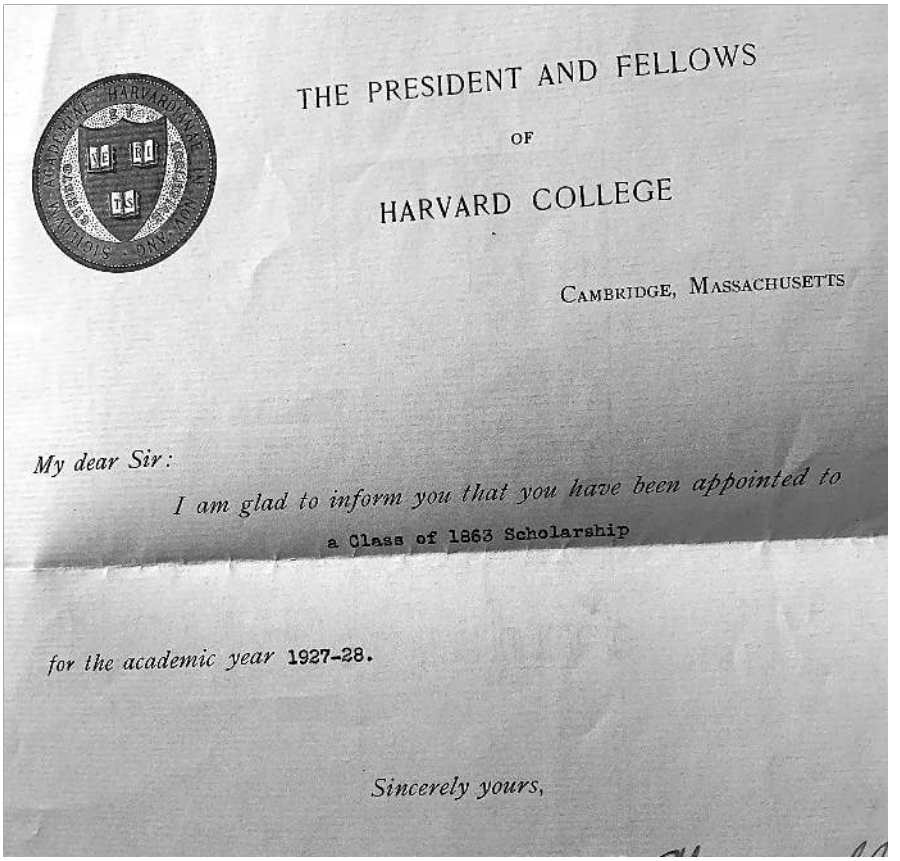
less audiences to rock with laughter," and the *Post* reported afterwards that he "kept the audience



PERRY, KINGSLEY ARNOLD. Age: 18. Shepherd 1.
Home Address: 50 Sycamore St., Springfield, Mass.
College Address (1925-26): Weld 22.
Prepared at Central High School.
Activities: University Instrumental Clubs.

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THE HARVARD FRESHMAN RED BOOK, CLASS OF 1928 (PORTRAIT DIGITALLY RESTORED)



THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS

OF

HARVARD COLLEGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

My dear Sir:

I am glad to inform you that you have been appointed to

a Class of 1863 Scholarship

for the academic year 1927-28.

Sincerely yours,

"A CLASS OF 1863 SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1927-28"

puzzled with his skill at this vocal art." The clubs came back two years later and he was still at it; the *Washington Times* wrote that "anyone who knows the least about the tricky voice art could appreciate the clever feats he performed." In June 1928 a New York paper's report of a Harvard concert, with "Kingsley Perry '28 did a ventriloquist act," struck *The New Yorker* as sly enough to reprint.

That month he graduated with honours. The *Springfield Republican*, proud of its own, put him among four Springfield men "sharing the highest scholastic distinction," which was generous: the summa had gone to four others. The university's own list is plainer. Under "A.B. cum laude (Honors)," between Paul Henry Nitze, in economics, the future arms negotiator, and a young man from Oak Park, it reads: "Kingsley Arnold Perry (Philosophy)."

The philosopher-actor went straight on to the Harvard Law School, where the catalogue for that autumn lists him among the first-year men, "Perry, Kingsley Arnold, A.B. 1928," and took its LL.B. in 1931; much later he would go back to Harvard a third time, to the Graduate School of Education. The Amherst yearbooks would print all three degrees under his photograph for years: "Harvard, B.S., Harvard, LL.B., Harvard Graduate School of Education, M.Ed."

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The summer he graduated, Kingsley went to Cape Cod and helped start a theatre. The idea came to him by way of Charles Leatherbee, who had followed him as president of the Harvard Dramatic Club. That Christmas Leatherbee had met Bretaigne Windust, president of the Princeton Theatre Intime, and the two of them had dreamed up a summer company made up entirely of college students. Back in Cambridge, Leather-

bee told Kent Smith and Kingsley, and they took to it at once.

Leatherbee went to New York and came back with the blessing of Eva Le Gallienne, Winthrop Ames and Robert Edmond Jones. Then the Princeton men came up to his room on the Harvard Gold Coast, and Windust laid out the plan. Norris Houghton, who wrote the company's history, gives the first practical question to Kingsley: "How many people do you estimate we'll need?" About twenty, Windust said, since they meant to do everything themselves. Windust and Erik Barnouw each put up a hundred dollars, and Leatherbee and Kingsley matched them. Four hundred dollars and a family's good credit in Falmouth were the company's capital.

He was keeping a diary that spring, and twenty-five years later the *Falmouth Enterprise* printed part of it under his name. He should have been studying for an oral examination in ethics, he admitted. Instead, after *Hassan* closed in Boston in May, five of them drove through the night to Leatherbee's camp at Woods Hole, six hours instead of two and a half. He called it "the laughingest ride in the world." Next day they called on the *Enterprise* and bargained with Robbins, who owned the Elizabeth Theatre. Robbins offered Monday and Tuesday nights for eight weeks from July 9 and an even split of the takings. Kingsley worked out what a full house would bring and argued for sixty-forty.

They called themselves the University Players Guild, and that first summer there were twenty-two of them, from Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Vassar, Radcliffe and Smith. They meant to do every job in the theatre: "directing, acting, set designing and construction, costume making and business, even the cooking." The men lived aboard Robert W. Leatherbee's motor yacht, the *Brae Burn*, moored in Falmouth harbour, and the women in a rented house at Quissett under a chaperone from New York. Houghton's sketch of the Harvard men is affectionate and exact. Kingsley was Leatherbee's "fellow stockholder in the venture," and "a rather lugubrious, moody chap with a gift for ventriloquism." The company made him its treasurer. Houghton thought a ventriloquist's talent for double talk might come in handy there.

Nothing about the summer was ready for them. The yacht had lain idle for two years, and the young men pried open its hatches, broke the rusted hinges and scrubbed it out before they could sleep aboard. The Elizabeth Theatre on Falmouth's main street was a cinema, and it had footlights and a row of old-fashioned border lights and nothing else. One of the Princeton men drove the Theatre Intime's lighting equipment up from New Jersey in the back seat of his car, four round trips in ten days.

The company had no scene shop. It built and painted its scenery in the alley beside the theatre and the lot behind it. Among the new arrivals was a large freshman from Shreveport, Louisiana, named Joshua Logan, who had been allowed to come though he was young.

The treasurer's first crisis came ten days into rehearsals for the first play. The four hundred dollars had shrunk to a hundred and sixty-eight, and the opening was still more than a week away. The four contributors sent the company up on deck to study their lines. They had made themselves an informal board of directors, and in the yacht's cabin below they held a council of war with their business manager. The company survived it. Kingsley also helped find the actress for the first play.

He went with Leatherbee and Windust to recruit a Vassar graduate a few years older than themselves, and Houghton tells how she baffled the three of them by asking how many "sides" her part had. The play was A. A. Milne's comedy *The Dover Road*, at the Elizabeth Theatre in Falmouth in July 1928.

The scientists of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, a few miles down the shore, had a summer newspaper, *The Collecting Net*, and it reviewed the students. It liked *The Dover Road*, and it liked Kingsley best: he, as Mr. Latimer, and a Vassar graduate in the part of Anne gave "the best individual performances in a well-directed cast." When the Episcopal church at Woods Hole gave its annual social for the laboratory in July, "Kingsley Perry, Harvard '28, a member of the University Player's Guild gave a clever exhibition of ventriloquism during the intermission. His little act was loudly applauded by young and old alike."

They celebrated the opening at Leatherbee's camp and began rehearsing the next play the following day. None of them had played stock before, and it came as a surprise that one play followed another so fast. The second play was Eugene O'Neill's tragedy *Beyond the Horizon*, chosen so that the summer audience would not think them merely light-minded. For the third production the company gave him the direction. The play was *The Torchbearers*, George Kelly's farce about amateur theatricals, and it was, Houghton says, the play that won the summer audience over.

The Collecting Net explained the joke to the laboratory: the play concerned "the difficulties of a certain type of Little Theatre group in the production of a play," and anyone who had sat through an ordinary dramatic club would recognize the types. The paper thought the company had been wise to choose it, "a splendid antidote" to the O'Neill of the week before, and reported "frequent applause and laughter." Elizabeth Fenner took "the premier honours of the evening" as a young wife who briefly believes her future is on the stage.

Helen Field played Mrs. Pampinelle, the self-satisfied director of the amateurs, and Logan, as an earnest and hopeless amateur actor, "was responsible for many of the laughs." Windust, Barnouw and John Swope took the small parts. Kingsley was not in the cast. For once, the director stayed off the stage. It suited the company's rule, borrowed from the Moscow Art Theatre and the Abbey: no stars, and everyone did everything. This week's leading man might be next week's walk-on. This week's director might be helping the prop man next week.

After the shows the company performed for itself, and these parties went on far into the night. At them, Houghton remembers, Kingsley "hauled out his dummy and ventriloquized." At the end of the summer the treasurer balanced the books. Sixteen performances had taken in about twenty thousand dollars, the cinema's owner had kept eleven thousand of it under the lease, and the eight productions and the whole company's keep had cost less than eight thousand. That left a profit of about twelve hundred dollars.

The town's paper, which called him the company's business manager rather than its treasurer, had watched him all summer. "Upon Kingsley Perry fell the brunt of the evening's acting," it said of the opening night, and at the season's end it ranked his Mr. Latimer with Windust's Giannetto in *The Jest* as "the most memorable acting of the repertory." In the last play, Bayard Veiller's thriller *The Thirteenth Chair*, he played the detective. "Kingsley Perry, ever a favorite," the *Enterprise* wrote, "was very good."

Nobody had been paid more than room and board. The obvious question followed: why not a theatre of their own? That autumn Kingsley entered Harvard Law School. In January 1929 he and Tom Smith went with the company's Boston lawyer, Irving McC. Garfield, to argue before the Falmouth Planning Board for turning a disused power plant on the Inner Harbor into a playhouse. The neighbours feared a theatre that was half a night club, the town meeting in February withheld the two-thirds vote, and the company built its theatre instead at Old Silver Beach in West Falmouth.

The place they found instead was Old Silver Beach, in a remote corner of West Falmouth. There were some privately owned bathhouses and a dance pavilion, with a hot-dog stand underneath it opening onto the sand. The owner, Mr. Crowell, agreed to let them build a theatre against it. The pavilion would become a tearoom and night club, with dinner before the play and a college band for dancing after, and the company would do its own catering. A Princeton student, Bob MacKinnon, drew the plans, and a local man turned them into blueprints. The boys were betting that their audience would follow them that far out of town.

He went back every summer he could. Houghton lists him among those who could be counted on for 1929, with Fonda, Kent Smith and Logan: nothing, he says, would have kept them away. They opened the new playhouse with Tom Cushing's comedy *The Devil in the Cheese*, with Margaret Sullavan as the daughter and Fonda as the steward she loves. A bus ran out from Woods Hole on show nights, and Wednesday was the

laboratory's night at the theatre. *The Collecting Net* went on reviewing.

In *The Donovan Affair*, a murder mystery in which the lights went out and a cat's eye glowed green, Kingsley was the district attorney, "violent and effective in his role." In *Outward Bound*, Fonda had the part Alfred Lunt had made famous in New York. Kingsley was "the self-righteous man of affairs who comes aboard ship with his brief-case and who snorts at the absurd notion that he is dead," and the paper thought him "well played." In August, in *Merton of the Movies*, he played a frantic film director and got a notice any actor would keep: "Mr. Perry is one of the most versatile of the Guild Players and when he knows his cues, as he did so thoroughly in this play, his vigorous acting sweeps any criticism to the four winds."

He did not always know his cues, and the stage did not always know its own. The play that followed *Outward Bound* was *The Last Warning*, a thriller set in a theatre, in which sandbags fall mysteriously from the flies. Kingsley played the producer who will not be frightened out of his theatre. On the opening night he stood beneath the rigging, arms spread, and dared whoever was up there to drop a sandbag on their heads. The bag was meant to crash down a foot away.

Nothing fell. "You see? Nothing," he ad-libbed, and the scene went on with the bag swaying overhead, stuck on its cord. The Woods Hole paper, which knew nothing of the rigging, scolded the men for their lines. Between that summer and the next the stock market crashed, and the company hardly noticed. The 1930 season opened on June 30 with Leslie Howard's comedy *Murray Hill*, and the audience could now dine in the tearoom before the curtain. The year's box office matched 1929's, about twenty-five thousand dollars.

The Woods Hole paper printed the company list that July, thirty-one names from Harvard, Princeton, Radcliffe, Vassar and Smith, and Kingsley's was among them, a few lines from Fonda's. A group, it explained, "endeavoring to establish a close connection between the universities and the professional stage." Curtain was at 8:30, with a Wednesday matinee, and seats cost seventy-five cents to two dollars.

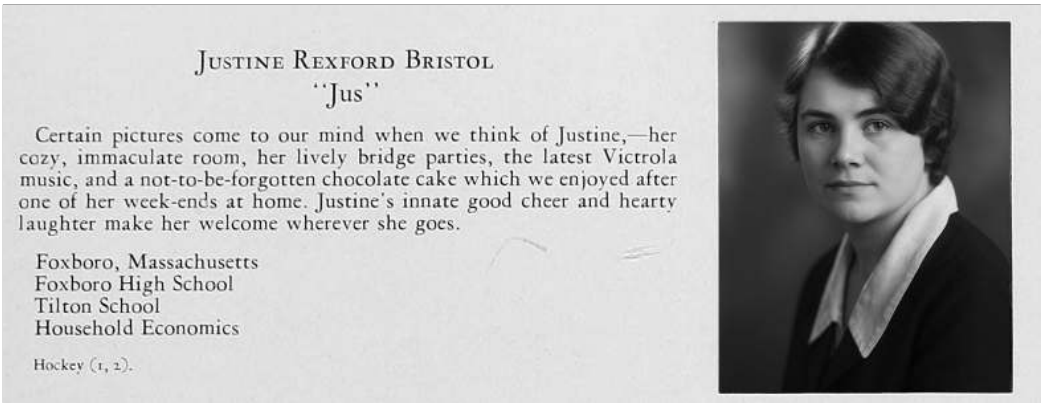
That summer's one frank bid for the box office was a thriller, *The Wooden Kimono*. The Guild offered free seats to anyone who could name the villain before the third act, and Kingsley did the howling from the cellar, Houghton says, "as only a Harvard ventriloquist can." The cast lists that survive give his range. He played Polverino in *The Firebrand*, Edwin Justus Mayer's comedy about Benvenuto Cellini, opposite Logan's Duke of Florence, in the week of August 11, 1930.

He played Charles Churchill in a drawing-room comedy, Ethan Malcom opposite Kent Smith, and a priest, Father Clement, in a play led by Sullavan and Fonda. Like most of the company he took his turn directing. A photograph in Houghton's book shows him at the dinner table of a French chateau in Noël Coward's *The Marquise*, between Logan and Leatherbee, with Sullavan and Fonda at the other end.

His last appearance was at the end of the 1930 season, in J. M. Barrie's *A Kiss for Cinderella*, the week of September 1. Sullavan played Cinderella, Fonda her policeman prince, and Kingsley was in the cast. The company called him King. Houghton names him with Bart Quigley, Elizabeth Johnson and Margaret Cook as the ones for whom that night was the last on the Old Silver Beach stage. They were out of college and had decided not to make a life in the theatre: "For them it had only been an interlude."

To cover the parting the company held a treasure hunt after the final curtain, and Kingsley and Quigley wrote the clues. Carloads of actors raced through the dark anywhere between Buzzards Bay and Hyannis. The next spring, when Windust set the company on a professional footing, it said goodbye to those who would not make the stage their life. Kingsley, Houghton notes, was to finish law school.

The University Players lasted until 1932 and became, in hindsight, one of the famous nurseries of the American stage: Fonda, Logan, James Stewart, Margaret Sullavan, Mildred Natwick and Kent Smith all passed through it. Kingsley did not go on to Broadway, but he never quite left Falmouth. It was there, the town's historian wrote, that he met the woman he was "later to marry": Justine Bristol, daughter of E. H. Bristol,



JUSTINE REXFORD BRISTOL

"Jus"

Certain pictures come to our mind when we think of Justine,—her cozy, immaculate room, her lively bridge parties, the latest Victrola music, and a not-to-be-forgotten chocolate cake which we enjoyed after one of her week-ends at home. Justine's innate good cheer and hearty laughter make her welcome wherever she goes.

Foxboro, Massachusetts
Foxboro High School
Tilton School
Household Economics

Hockey (1, 2).

JUSTINE REXFORD BRISTOL, SIMMONS COLLEGE, 1928 (PORTRAIT DIGITALLY RESTORED)

whose family spent its summers at Falmouth Heights.

Justine Bristol had graduated the same June he did, from Simmons College in Boston, in household economics. Her class book gave her a nickname, "Jus," and a portrait: "her cozy, immaculate room, her lively bridge parties, the latest Victrola music, and a not-to-be-forgotten chocolate cake which we enjoyed after one of her week-ends at home." On May 5, 1934, Kingsley Perry married her. She was a year older than he, the youngest daughter of Edgar Hiel Bristol, president of the Foxboro Company and one of the brothers whose story is told in the next chapter.

By then Kingsley was a lawyer, with an office on State Street in Boston, the street of banks and trust companies that runs down from the Old State House to the harbour. He had entered the Law School on September 24, 1928, and left in 1931 with his LL.B. On November 4, 1931, the Supreme Judicial Court admitted him to the bar, one of a long list of new lawyers admitted that day. A year later, when his law class published its first report, he gave his home as his parents' house at 50 Sycamore Street in Springfield and his office as 53 State Street, where he was "associated with" the firm of Abbott, Drew, Rogerson & Carr. The lawyers' directory for 1933 lists him in room 716 at No. 53; by 1937 he had moved down the street to No. 10.

One of his cases went all the way to the Supreme Judicial Court, and it is the kind of case a young lawyer gets.

A Middlesex County man named John Pederson, who kept an underground tank on his premises, had bought his gasoline for most of the



KINGSLEY PERRY'S CLASS: THE THIRD-YEAR MEN OF THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, OCTOBER 1930, ON THE STEPS OF LANGDELL HALL. THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S KEY NAMES 236 OF THEM BUT NOT KINGSLEY; IF HE IS HERE, HE IS ONE OF THE FOUR MEN IT LEAVES UNNAMED, NUMBERS 72, 85, 130 AND 226 (S. ARAKELYAN; HARVARD LAW SCHOOL LIBRARY)

1920s from Henry Bursaw, whose drivers filled Pederson's 565-gallon tank and worked out how much they had put in by dipping a marked stick into it. The stick, the court noted, "was not a sealed measure." Pederson grew suspicious, had a new stick made, emptied the tank and refilled it from sealed five-gallon cans, marking the level every ten gallons, and "the marks on the rods did not correspond."

He refused to pay, and Bursaw sued. The court's docket enters the defence in the name of Kingsley's firm, Abbott, Drew, Rogerson & Carr, and Kingsley was junior counsel, under F. B. Turner, and the defence's argument was that sales by an unsealed measure could not be collected on. The court disagreed: such sales were lawful "if such sales are made in good faith and the purchaser is not injured thereby," and nothing showed otherwise. "Exceptions overruled." The account in dispute, three hundred and twenty-four items, came to $2,617.61, and Kingsley's client lost. The case had never gone before a jury. An auditor, Arthur P. Hardy, heard the evidence, including the test, which a disinterested man named Harlow E. Tuttle had spent something over five hours making, and found for Bursaw: $2,574.61 with interest. The defence's bill of exceptions, printed over the names of Abbott, Drew, Rogerson & Carr and Francis B. Turner, carried it to the Supreme Judicial Court, and lost there.

He practised law, the Amherst yearbook said later, for eight years (his obituary says "about six," in a firm), and "at the same time he gained further experience in the business world from owning and operating a summer hotel." The hotel was The Tavern at Grafton, Vermont, a village of white houses in the hills of Windham County that had once had sheep, woollen mills and a soapstone quarry and by the 1930s had mostly memories.

From 1939 to 1944, at least, the advertisement ran every summer in the *Christian Science Monitor* and the *Saturday Review*, and in 1942 in the *New Republic* too: "The Tavern, Grafton, Vermont. Kingsley A. Perry, owner-manager." Rooms were "from $16 weekly," then "from $18," then "from $27 per week, American plan," and "trains are met." By 1944 the copy had found its voice: "Quiet living in an old-time New England inn in one of Vermont's loveliest villages; no sports or activities other than those offered by village life." Four children came over the next decade, the youngest a daughter, Regina.

Nemo kept working too. In May 1938 six hundred members of the Bird Club, the club of Bird & Son, the box and roofing makers of East Walpole, a few miles from Foxboro, sat down to a turkey dinner in the Norwood Armory, and after it came six acts, one of them "Kingsley Perry—Ventriloquist." In November 1939 he entertained at a children's matinee in Newton, "with his clever impersonations of Nemo and his brother," and a fortnight later at the Newton Rotary Club's anniversary dinner, where the local paper billed him as a rival of Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy: "Ventriloquist Perry and his dummy from Foxboro." That winter, it seems, home was Justine's town.

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In 1940, at thirty-three, he changed course again and became a schoolteacher. He taught English for a year at Kingston High School, and in 1941 he joined the faculty of Amherst High School. In his first year he was faculty adviser to the Hi-Y club, and in May the boys held their house party "at Mr. Perry's hotel in Grafton, Vermont," which the yearbook called "this unusual and pleasant outing." In 1943 the principal, Ralph Haskins, left for Brockton, and Kingsley Perry took his place.

He had been running the school for some time already: the town directory for 1942 lists him as "acting principal A. H. School," living with Justine at 33 Dana Street. In September 1942, the first harvest of the war, the school committee let the high-school boys out for two weeks to pick apples, "entirely an emergency measure." Growers who wanted pickers were told to "get in touch with Kingsley Perry at the high school, telephone 591, or at his home on Dana street, evenings." The boys would be ready at five minutes to one, the pay was forty to fifty cents an hour, and the orchards sent the trucks.

In June 1943 the seniors dedicated a page to him. "Our new principal is a man with courage enough to face change," they wrote, and then they wrote him a poem:



"PRINCIPAL KINGSLEY A. PERRY," THE GOLD BUG, 1943 (DIGITALLY RESTORED)

> *We leave to the English their good Mr. Chips.*
> *We'll take Mr. Perry's fun and his quips.*
> *He's full of good stories, adventures and trips.*
> *We'll take Mr. Perry, a smile on his lips.*
> *He has vigor and charm and a power that grips.*
> *All hail to "King" Perry, "Good-bye Mr. Chips".*

"King" stuck. He spent that summer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and in time took its master's degree; in 1946 Smith College, across the river in Northampton, listed him as an instructor in education. He went on running the school through the war and the boom that followed it. Each June he wrote a few lines for the seniors, and they read like a man who had once played Petruchio and had settled, without complaint, into playing Polonius.

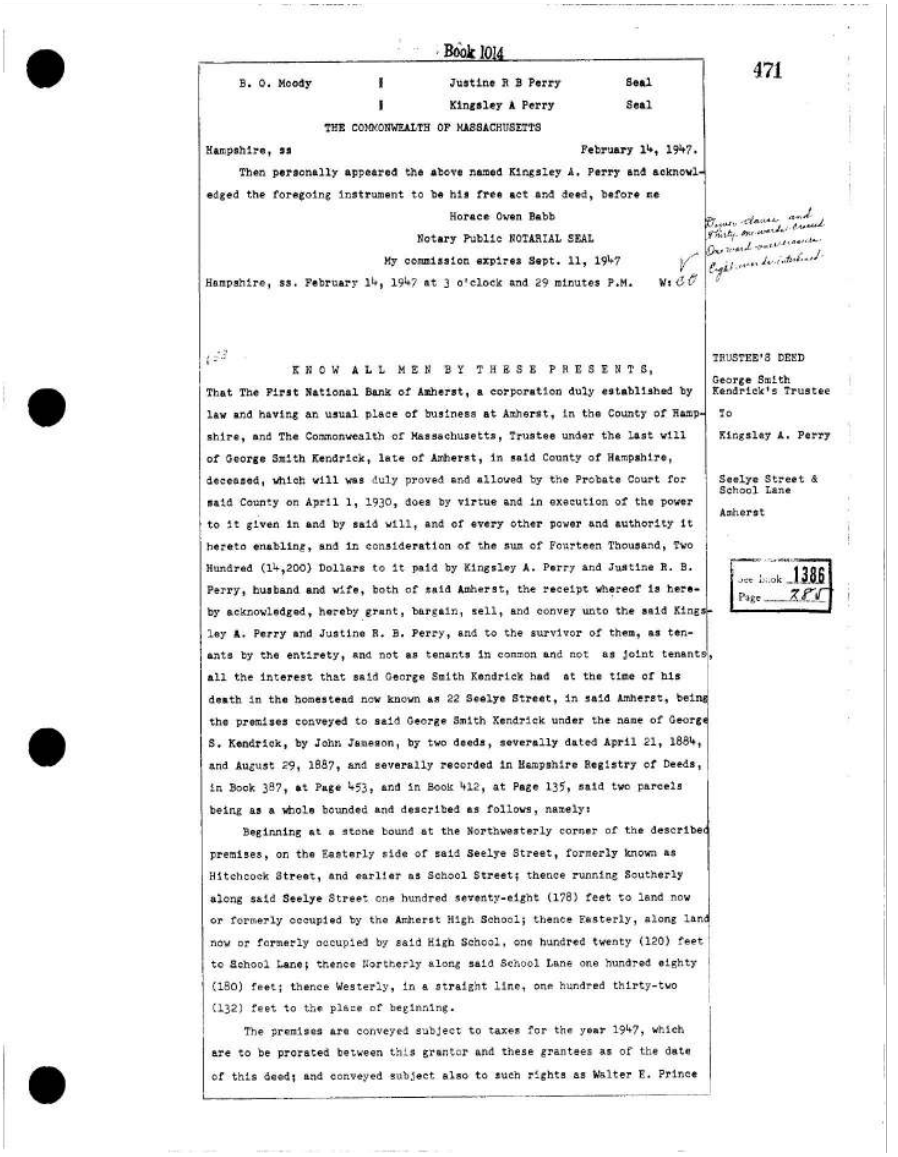
Polonius kept a dummy in the cupboard. In May 1944, when the Amherst fire department gave a farewell dinner for one of its men, "Entertainment was furnished by Kingsley Perry, ventriloquist," and that college year the student paper at Massachusetts State College promised that the "surprise hit of the evening" at one of its programmes would be the principal of Amherst High School and his "talking dummy, 'Nemo'." He took photographs as well: the *Gold Bug* of 1946 thanked him among those who had supplied its pictures.

In 1949 it was the freedoms the country promised, and then: "Do your part." In 1954 it was Immanuel Kant, "that no one should do that, which if everyone did, would destroy society." In 1959 he allowed that "these are parlous times for

education in the United States" but insisted that "anyone who seeks to excuse his own laziness or lack of application by blaming it on the exigencies of modern life should give careful thought" to the matter.

On Valentine's Day 1947 Kingsley and Justine bought a house. It was 22 Seelye Street, an old homestead that the First National Bank of Amherst was selling as trustee for the estate of a George Smith Kendrick, and they paid fourteen thousand two hundred dollars for it. The deed's description of the lot explains the choice better than any letter could: from a stone bound on Seelye Street it ran 178 feet south "to land now or formerly occupied by the Amherst High School," and then 120 feet along the school's land to School Lane.

The principal had bought the house next door to his school. The town directory found him there every time it was printed, in 1948, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1954 as "principal AHS," in 1957 as principal of the new regional high school, and



Book 1014 471

B. O. Moody | Justine R B Perry Seal
| Kingsley A Perry Seal

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampshire, ss February 14, 1947.

Then personally appeared the above named Kingsley A. Perry and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his free act and deed, before me

Horace Owen Babb
Notary Public NOTARIAL SEAL
My commission expires Sept. 11, 1947

Hampshire, ss. February 14, 1947 at 3 o'clock and 29 minutes P.M. W: E B

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS,

That The First National Bank of Amherst, a corporation duly established by law and having an usual place of business at Amherst, in the County of Hampshire, and The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Trustee under the last will of George Smith Kendrick, late of Amherst, in said County of Hampshire, deceased, which will was duly proved and allowed by the Probate Court for said County on April 1, 1930, does by virtue and in execution of the power to it given in and by said will, and of every other power and authority it hereto enabling, and in consideration of the sum of Fourteen Thousand, Two Hundred (14,200) Dollars to it paid by Kingsley A. Perry and Justine R. B. Perry, husband and wife, both of said Amherst, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hereby grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said Kingsley A. Perry and Justine R. B. Perry, and to the survivor of them, as tenants by the entirety, and not as tenants in common and not as joint tenants, all the interest that said George Smith Kendrick had at the time of his death in the homestead now known as 22 Seelye Street, in said Amherst, being the premises conveyed to said George Smith Kendrick under the name of George S. Kendrick, by John Jameson, by two deeds, severally dated April 21, 1884, and August 29, 1887, and severally recorded in Hampshire Registry of Deeds, in Book 387, at Page 453, and in Book 412, at Page 135, said two parcels being as a whole bounded and described as follows, nazely:

Beginning at a stone bound at the Northwesterly corner of the described premises, on the Easterly side of said Seelye Street, formerly known as Hitchcock Street, and earlier as School Street; thence running Southerly along said Seelye Street one hundred seventy-eight (178) feet to land now or formerly occupied by the Amherst High School; thence Easterly, along land now or formerly occupied by said High School, one hundred twenty (120) feet to School Lane; thence Northerly along said School Lane one hundred eighty (180) feet; thence Westerly, in a straight line, one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to the place of beginning.

The premises are conveyed subject to taxes for the year 1947, which are to be prorated between this grantor and these grantees as of the date of this deed; and conveyed subject also to such rights as Walter E. Prince

TRUSTEE'S DEED
George Smith Kendrick's Trustee
To
Kingsley A. Perry
Seelye Street & School Lane
Amherst

See Book 1386 Page 280

THE DEED FOR 22 SEELYE STREET, 14 FEBRUARY 1947

in 1960, written out in full, as "prin Amherst-Pelham Regional High School h 22 Seelye."

In the summer of 1954 the principal and Justine set out for Alaska by car, and for eight weeks he sent letters home to the *Amherst Journal Record* from the road. One stop is on the record far from Amherst. On July 7 the Wien flights from Fairbanks, by way of Kotzebue, brought a list of visitors to Nome, and the *Nome Nugget* printed it a week later: among them, "Kingsley A. Perry, Amhurst, Mass."

The theatre never let him go. In the summer of 1950 a summer theatre workshop opened at Highfield, the old Beebe estate in Falmouth, and its advertisement in *Variety* named "Kingsley Perry (co-director original University Players)" as general director of the playhouse, with Henry Fonda, Joshua Logan and Margaret Sullavan listed as advisers.

He gathered a company of collegians on the old University Players' rules, named the theatre Highfield, and opened with *Ladies in Retirement*. Then, early in July, he left, "due to pressure of other business interests," and his assistant director, Richard Maxson, ran the season and the theatre for years after. Amherst noticed all the same: when Frank Prentice Rand wrote the town's history in 1958, he listed Kingsley Perry among the townspeople who had "operated summer stock."

At school he was general chairman of the big productions, with committees for publicity, tickets, make-up and lighting under him. In 1956 Amherst built a new regional high school, and he became its first principal; the yearbooks printed his three Harvard degrees beneath his photograph every spring. The school's teams, by then, were the Hurricanes, a name that first appears in the yearbook of 1942, his first year in the building.

His last message to a graduating class was in June 1961. "In times as uncertain as ours seem to be at present," he wrote, "it behooves each graduate to exert his rights of citizenship and education to the fullest." The next class to graduate was his daughter's. Regina Allyn Perry was a senior that year, in the band, the orchestra and the chorus, on the basketball team, a member of the American Field Service club; her yearbook entry calls her a "Deutschland Experimenter," a "traveler," and adds, "strummin' the ole guitar."

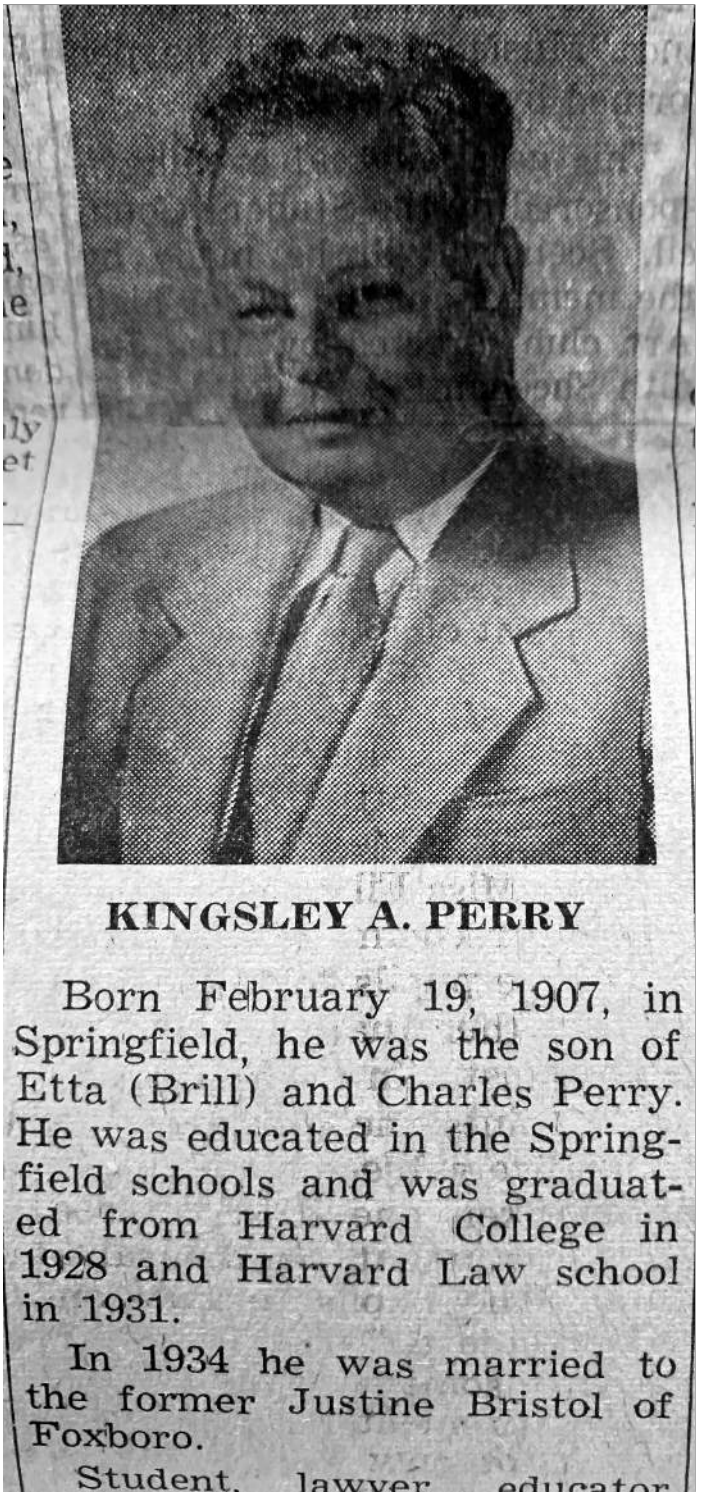
Kingsley Perry died on April 18, 1962, at fifty-five, two months before she graduated. The yearbook that came out that June opened with him. "The death of Mr. Perry saddened all of us," it said. "He was our principal for the last twenty years. During that time our school has grown in size and stature." A scholarship was set up in his name.



Kingsley A Perry
Principal
Harvard B S
Harvard Graduate School of Education, M Ed

AT HIS DESK, 1955

The newspaper's obituary, which the family cut out and kept, summed him up in four



KINGSLEY A. PERRY

Born February 19, 1907, in Springfield, he was the son of Etta (Brill) and Charles Perry. He was educated in the Springfield schools and was graduated from Harvard College in 1928 and Harvard Law school in 1931.

In 1934 he was married to the former Justine Bristol of Foxboro.

Student, lawyer, educator

FROM THE OBITUARY THE FAMILY KEPT, APRIL 1962

words, "Student, lawyer, educator and actor," and filled in what the yearbooks had left out: summers of travel with Justine through "many countries," summer courses in San Francisco, in Spain and at the "Oslo summer" school, membership in the First Congregational Church and the Amherst Golf Club, and service in the national associations of school principals. At the funeral the pastor of the First Congregational Church, Thayer Greene, offered a prayer that the yearbook printed, and it is the best description of the man that survives:

> *We remember with gratitude and appreciation many of the qualities which made him a unique person: a keen mind alive to ideas, a mind eager to read, to know, to explore; a love of art and the theater where much of the feeling locked up within his soul could find expression; his talents as a teacher; his impulsive generosity; his years of service to this community.*

He was buried at Grafton, in the Middletown Cemetery, in the hill village where he had once met the trains. Daniel's account of how he died is the only one in this book; no record yet found says more than the date. "And so her mother, the widow, had some worries about me," Daniel said, for the young man who turned up two years later was, as he put it, "clearly a radical student." The widow came round. When Daniel and Regina left for Berkeley in the summer of 1966, with a baby on the way, it was in "a nice Plymouth with air conditioning" that Mother Perry gave them. Her own father's story, and the company his family built, come next.

Justine kept the house on Seelye Street for a year and a half more. On December 27, 1963, "having no husband living," as the deed put it, she sold it to a young couple from Acton, and the deed recorded the reason in one plain line: "Said Kingsley A. Perry died on April 18, 1962."

THE RECORDS

Jones Library Special Collections, Amherst (Katherine Whitcomb), 10 Oct 2026: Amherst town directories 1942, 1948, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1957, 1960 (Perry entries); Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, trustee's deed to Kingsley A. and Justine R. B. Perry, 14 Feb 1947, Book 1014, p. 471, and deed of sale by Justine R. B. Perry, 27 Dec 1963 (recorded 20 Jan 1964). Copies in work/first-pass/archive-replies/jones-library/.

Family papers (Perry–St. John), photographed by Rex St. John, 9 Oct 2026: letter of the President and Fellows of Harvard College to Kingsley Arnold Perry, Class of 1863 Scholarship, 1927–28 (signed F. W. Hunnewell, Secretary); *The Harvard Freshman Red Book 1928*, p. 124; obituary clipping, "Kingsley A. Perry," April 1962 (newspaper not identified). Originals' photographs in work/first-pass/archive-replies/family-kingsley-perry/.

Cambridge Directory (Cambridge, Mass.), 1925 and 1927: "Perry Kingsley A student H U res 29 Holyoke." link

Harvard University, *The Harvard University Catalogue*, 1926/27 (p. 415), 1927/28 (pp. 109, 413) and 1928/29 (pp. 116–117, 765), HathiTrust, public domain. 1928/29 1927/28 1926/27

The Christian Science Monitor, 19 May 1927 ("'Blue Prince' will be played tonight"). link

Simmons College, *The Microcosm*, 1928, pp. 57, 203. link

Massachusetts Lawyers' Diary (Alice Winifred O'Connor Professional Diaries), Directory of Massachusetts Lawyers, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1937, 1938. 1933 1938

Bursaw v. Pederson, 284 Mass. 471, 188 N.E. 233 (1933), Caselaw Access Project. case.law CourtListener

Bulletin of the National Association of Secondary-School Principals, Jan. 1945 and Jan. 1947, membership lists. link

Kevin Sweeney, *Henry Fonda: A Bio-Bibliography* (Greenwood, 1992), University Players casts (snippets). link

Amherst High School, *The Gold Bug*, 1955, p. 8. link

Central High School, *The Blue and White (Central High School yearbook), 1922*, 1922. link

Central High School, *The Blue and White (Central High School yearbook), 1924*, 1924. link

Springfield Republican, *Springfield Weekly Republican, 9 Aug 1923, p. 14 (death of John Henry Brill)*, 1923-08-09. link

Boston American, *Boston American, 9 Apr 1926*, 1926-04-09. link

Christian Science Monitor, *The Christian Science Monitor, 2 May 1927*, 1927-05-02. link

Evening Star, *Evening Star (Washington), 4 May 1927, p. 1 (AP: modern Taming of the Shrew)*, 1927-05-04. link

Evening Star, *Evening Star (Washington), 11 Dec 1927, p. 88*, 1927-12-11. link

Atlanta Constitution, *The Atlanta Constitution, 25 Dec 1927*, 1927-12-25. link

Washington Post, *The Washington Post, 30 Dec 1927*, 1927-12-30. link

New York Times, *The New York Times, 5 Apr 1928 (cast for Hassan)*, 1928-04-05. link

The New Yorker, *The New Yorker, 23 Jun 1928*, 1928-06-23. link

Springfield Republican, *Springfield Weekly Republican, 28 Jun 1928, p. 9 (Harvard commencement)*, 1928-06-28. link

Marine Biological Laboratory, *The Collecting Net (Woods Hole), vol. 3, 1928*, 1928. link

Marine Biological Laboratory, *The Collecting Net (Woods Hole), vol. 4, 1929*, 1929. link

Marine Biological Laboratory, *The Collecting Net* (Woods Hole), vol. 5, 1930: "The University Players Guild" (5 July 1930, company list) and weekly advertisements. link

Chicago Daily Tribune, 4 Dec 1927, picture section p. 7: *The Chisholm Trail* (Pacific & Atlantic photograph). link

Simmons College, *The Microcosm*, 1925, p. 190 (Freshman Hockey). link

Bird & Son, *The Neponset Review*, 1938 ("Bird Club Banquet is Big Success"). link

The Newton Graphic (Newton, Mass.), 10 and 24 Nov 1939; 16 Feb 1940. 1939 1940

The Christian Science Monitor, 1 Jul 1944 (The Tavern advertisement). link; *Saturday Review*, 1940–1944, and *The New*

Republic, June–July 1942, classified advertisements (full-text search snippets of lending-library scans).
Springfield Weekly Republican, 17 Sep 1942, p. 14 (Amherst: apple picking). link; 25 May 1944, p. 14 (Amherst fire department dinner). link
The Massachusetts Collegian (Massachusetts State College), 1944–45. link
Amherst High School, *The Gold Bug*, 1946. link
Frank Prentice Rand, *The Village of Amherst: A Landmark of Light* (Amherst, 1958), pp. 219, 303. link
DeWitt C. Jones III, "Curtain Rising: Theater in Falmouth Over the Past Seventy Years," *Spritsail* 9:2 (Summer 1995), Woods Hole Historical Museum. link; *Variety*, 7 Jun and 5 Jul 1950 (Highfield, snippets).
William Sloane Associates, *Norris Houghton, But Not Forgotten: The Adventure of the University Players*, 1951. link
W. S. Sullwold Publishing, Taunton, Mass., *George L. Moses, Ring Around the Punch Bowl: The Story of the Beebe Woods in Falmouth on Cape Cod*, 1976. link
Wikipedia, *Wikipedia, University Players*, 2026. link
Saturday Review, *Saturday Review classified advertisements (The Tavern, Grafton, Vermont)*, c.1939-1942. link
Christian Science Monitor, *The Christian Science Monitor, 15 Jun 1939; 28 Aug 1940; 28 Jun 1941; 20 Jun 1942 (Tavern advertisements)*, 1939-1942. link
(Bristol family), *Bristol Genealogy*, 1967. link
American Historical Company, *Men of New England, vol. 4: Edgar Hiel Bristol*, c.1945. link
Amherst High School, *Gold Bug (Amherst High School yearbook), 1942*, 1942. link
Amherst High School, *Gold Bug, 1943*, 1943. link
The Nation's Schools, *The Nation's Schools, March 1943*, 1943-03. link
Springfield Republican, *Springfield Weekly Republican, 1 Jul 1943, p. 14*, 1943-07-01. link
Smith College, *Smith College Catalogue, 1946-47*, 1946. link
Amherst High School, *Gold Bug, 1949*, 1949. link
Variety, *Variety, 3 May 1950 (Highfield on Cape Cod advertisement)*, 1950-05-03. link
Amherst High School, *Gold Bug, 1954*, 1954. link
The Falmouth Enterprise: "Farewell to Players," 30 Aug. 1928, p. 10; "University Players Guild Opens New Theatre," 20 June 1929, p. 10; "Capek's Drama Presented," 31 July 1930, p. 2; review of Houghton's *But Not Forgotten*, 25 Jan. 1952, p. 5; Mail Away Edition, 8 May 1953, p. 3, "College Boys And Girls Brought Us Our First Summer Theatre" and Kingsley A. Perry, "Diary Tells How University Players Got Their Start." Pages supplied by Falmouth Public Library, 17 Oct. 2026; Enterprise archive (falmouth.historyarchives.online).
The Nome Nugget (Nome, Alaska), 14 July 1954, p. 3, "Tikighaght" (visitors to Nome on the Wien flights, July 7). Library of Congress, Chronicling America. link
Amherst High School, *Gold Bug, 1955; 1956; 1957*, 1955-1957. link
Amherst High School, *Gold Bug, 1959*, 1959. link
Amherst Regional High School, *Gold Bug, 1961*, 1961. link
Amherst Regional High School, *Gold Bug, 1962*, 1962. link
Wikipedia, *Wikipedia, Amherst Regional High School (Massachusetts)*, 2026. link
Find a Grave, *Find a Grave, Kingsley A. Perry (1907-1962), memorial 153935949*, 2026. link
Washington Times, *Washington Times, 31 Dec 1929, p. 7*, 1929-12-31. link
Further sources consulted: The Blue and White (Central High School yearbook), 1923 link Billboard, 13 Jul 1929 link Wikipedia, Grafton, Vermont link Educational Theatre Journal, Dec 1950 link Geneanet, Kingsley A. Perry (tree by jerqueen) link (blocked); Wikipedia, Bretaigne Windust link

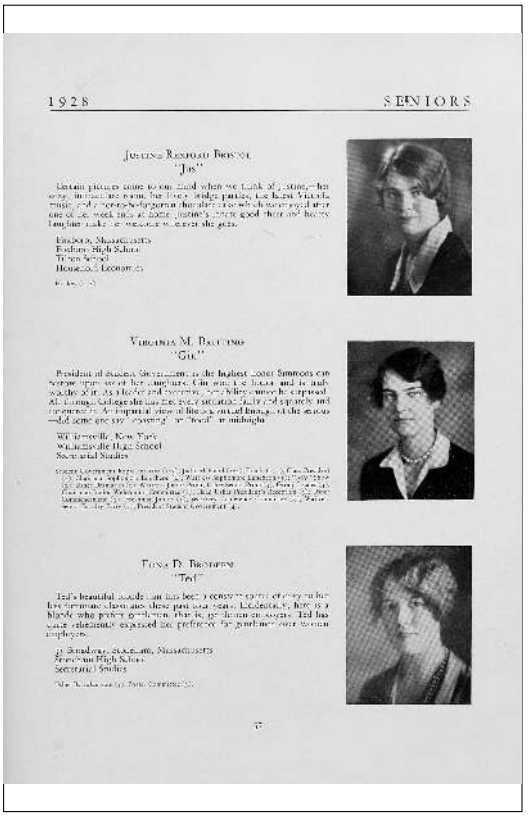
ADDENDUM: THE KINGSLEY PERRY PAPERS

School and college yearbooks, the Harvard University catalogues, the Massachusetts lawyers' directory and the report of his one case in the Supreme Judicial Court, each with a transcription. Spelling and punctuation are the originals'.



1. The Blue and White*, Central High School, Springfield, 1924, p. 49*

Kingsley Arnold Perry. Harvard College.
B. A. A. (1, 2, 3); Hi-Y (1, 2, 3); House (1, 2); Players (1, 2); Class Minstrel Show (1); "Romeo and Juliet" (1); "Charley's Aunt" (1), "The Monkey's Paw" (2); "Man Who Married a Dumb Wife" (2); "Merry Wives of Windsor" (2); "The Perfect Tribute" (2); Treasurer of Players (2); Class Orchestra (2); "King Henry the Fourth" (3); "Nursery Maid of Heaven" (3); "Three Pills in a Bottle" (3); Winner of 3B Declamation Contest (3); History Pageant (3); Stationery Committee (3); Class Day Assembly Committee (3); Class Will (3); Treasurer of Senate (3); Recorder Staff (3).
The play's the thing, on with the play.
The numbers are his years in the school. On the same page are Barbara Florence Pease (Mount Holyoke), Maude Alice Perry (Simmons), Austin William Phelon and Frances Elizabeth Pratt.



1928 SENIORS

JUSTINE REXFORD BRISTOL
"Jus"

Certain pictures come to our mind when we think of Justine,—her cozy, immaculate room, her lively bridge parties, the latest Victrola music, and a not-to-be-forgotten chocolate cake which we enjoyed after one of her week-ends at home. Justine's innate good cheer and hearty laughter make her welcome wherever she goes.

Foxboro, Massachusetts
Foxboro High School
Tilton School
Household Economics

VIRGINIA M. BACCINO
"Gin"

President of Student Government, in the highest sense Simmons can bestow upon one of her students. Gin wins the honor and is truly worthy of it. Its a lovely and convenient way to express it. Liking College she has the ever stimulating ability of squeezing out experiences to the utmost, also of finding a kindred spirit in the strangest—and sometimes very surprising—"freaks" at midnight.

Williamsville, New York
Williamsville High School
Secretarial Studies

FLORA D. BRISTOW
"Tex"

Tex's beautiful Saxon hair has been a constant source of envy to her less fortunate classmates these past four years. Incidentally, here is a blonde who prefers gentlemen, that is, gentlemen as escorts. Tex has some definitely expressed but preferences for gentlemen-over-forty as employers.

31 Broadway, Stoneham, Massachusetts
Stoneham High School
Secretarial Studies

57

2. The Microcosm, *Simmons College, 1928, p. 57*

Justine Rexford Bristol. "Jus"
"Certain pictures come to our mind when we think of Justine,—her cozy, immaculate room, her lively bridge parties, the latest Victrola music, and a not-to-be-forgotten chocolate cake which we enjoyed after one of her week-ends at home. Justine's innate good cheer and hearty laughter make her welcome wherever she goes."
Foxboro, Massachusetts · Foxboro High School · Tilton School · Household Economics · Hockey (1, 2).
Elsewhere in the book (p. 203), among the Commencement chairmen: "Class Day Supper, Justine Bristol." She married Kingsley Perry on 5 May 1934.

3. Harvard, in the University's own catalogues (*The Harvard University Catalogue*, Cambridge, 1926/27–1928/29, HathiTrust, public domain).
1925 and 1927, Cambridge Directory: "Perry Kingsley A student H U res 29 Holyoke."
1926/27, p. 415, Holders of Fellowships and Scholarships (Harvard College): "... Kingsley Arnold Perry, '28; Nathan Marsh Pusey, '28; ..."
1927/28, p. 109, Seniors. — Class of 1928: "Perry, Kingsley Arnold." *p. 413, Holders of Fellowships and Scholarships:* "... Francis Henry Pepper, '30, Kingsley Arnold Perry, '28, James Vance Pickering, '28, ..."
1928/29, p. 116–117, Degrees conferred in 1928, A.B. cum Laude (Honors): "... Edward Meyer Nathan (Biology). Paul Henry Nitze (Economics). Kingsley Arnold Perry (Philosophy). Oliver Stanton Picher. ..."
1928/29, p. 765, the Law School, Students. — First Year: "... Perlman, Harold Leanard, Ph.B. (Univ. of Wisconsin) 1928. Perry, Kingsley Arnold, A.B. 1928. Peterson, Thomas Francis, Jr., Ph.B. (Brown Univ.) 1928. ..."



Freshman Hockey, 1924–25. Back row: G. Kock, M. Caplan, E. Marcy, H. Woodside, P. Ripley. Front row: J. Bristol, A. Franks, L. Barker.
Justine Bristol, Simmons class of 1928, is at the left of the front row. Her senior entry three years later lists "Hockey (1, 2)." Public domain (published 1925).

2a. The Microcosm*, Simmons College, 1925, p. 190*



"'AND AH'M A BUNDLE O' NERVES'—Melodrama from 'The Chisholm Trail,' to be put on the boards at Cambridge this week by the Harvard Dramatic club. Left to right, Robert Jones, Kingsley Perry, Charles Leatherbee, and Miss Jessica Hill of Radcliffe. (Photograph from Pacific & Atlantic.)"
A wire photograph, published 1927; public domain.

2b. Chicago Daily Tribune*, 4 December 1927*

4. The lawyer. *Directory of Massachusetts Lawyers*, in the *Massachusetts Lawyers' Diary* (Boston): 1933 and 1934: "Perry, Kingsley A., 53 State St., rm. 716." · 1936: "Perry, Kingsley A., 53 State St., rm. 703." · 1937 and 1938: "Perry, Kingsley A., 10 State St., rm. 703."

Henry W. Bursaw vs. John Pederson, 284 Mass. 471 (Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, Middlesex). Argued October 6, 1933; decided November 28, 1933. Present: Rugg, C.J., Crosby, Pierce, Donahue, & Lummus, JJ.
Counsel: "F. B. Turner, (K. A. Perry with him,) for the defendant. L. G. Dennett, for the plaintiff."
The court's docket (Law, 1933, no. 7494): "Henry W. Bursaw v. John Pederson. Contract." Defendant's counsel: "Abbott, Drew, Rogerson & Carr." "Entered July 1. Oct 6. Argued. Nov. 28. Exceptions overruled. Rescript November 28, 1933."
The case papers (Defendant's Bill of Exceptions, Superior Court, Middlesex, allowed June 8, 1933): heard by an auditor, Arthur P. Hardy, who found for the plaintiff in $2,574.61 with interest; signed "By his Attorneys, Abbott, Drew, Rogerson & Carr, Francis B. Turner."
Admissions to the Bar (Supreme Judicial Court, Suffolk, 1931): "Perry, Kingsley A., November 4, 1931."
From the opinion (Pierce, J.): "This is an action to recover upon an account annexed for the sale of gasoline, oil and motor accessories. ... The deliveries of gasoline by the plaintiff to the defendant were made by the plaintiff's drivers from a tank wagon into a tank owned by the defendant and located under ground on the defendant's premises. The method of ascertaining the number of gallons ... was for the driver ... to insert a stick into the tank ... The stick was not a sealed measure. ... the defendant became suspicious that he was not receiving the full amount of gasoline for which he was being charged; he, therefore ... caused an experiment to be conducted by a disinterested person ... The tank was then filled with gasoline by means of five-gallon cans which were sealed measures. ... The two sticks or rods were introduced at the hearing as exhibits and the marks on the rods did not correspond. ... Sales and delivery of goods, wares and merchandise may be made without measuring and weighing devices described by law, if such sales are made in good faith and the purchaser is not injured thereby. G. L. (Ter. Ed.) c. 98, § 28. There is nothing in the evidence contained in the bill of exceptions to show bad faith by the plaintiff or injury to the defendant. Exceptions overruled."
Court opinions are public records; text from the Caselaw Access Project.

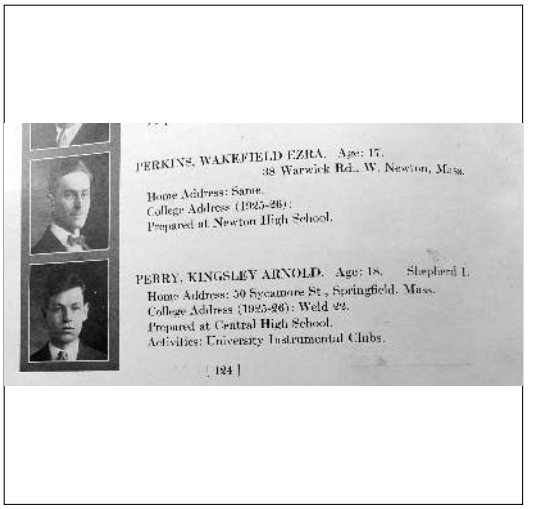

Photo—Lacroix

PRINCIPAL KINGSLEY A. PERRY

OUR new principal is a man with courage enough to face change. Although successful in all things dramatic during his college days, he chose law as a profession, which he followed for eight years. At the same time he gained further experience in the business world from owning and operating a summer hotel. But how "can our works and thoughts, if they are always to be the fittest, continue always the same?" In 1940 Mr. Perry became instructor of English in the Kingston High School. In 1941 he joined the faculty of the Amherst High School; in 1943 he became our Principal. Fortunate, indeed, are we to have as a guide through these days, when more than ever before circumstances have altered our lives and our thinking, a man who moves ahead with confidence and judgment.

5. *The* Gold Bug, *Amherst High School, 1943*

Principal Kingsley A. Perry. (Photo—Lacroix; signed.) "Our new principal is a man with courage enough to face change. Although successful in all things dramatic during his college days, he chose law as a profession, which he followed for eight years. At the same time he gained further experience in the business world from owning and operating a summer hotel. But how 'can our works and thoughts, if they are always to be the fittest, continue always the same?' In 1940 Mr. Perry became instructor of English in the Kingston High School. In 1941 he joined the faculty of the Amherst High School; in 1943 he became our Principal. Fortunate, indeed, are we to have as a guide through these days, when more than ever before circumstances have altered our lives and our thinking, a man who moves ahead with confidence and judgment."



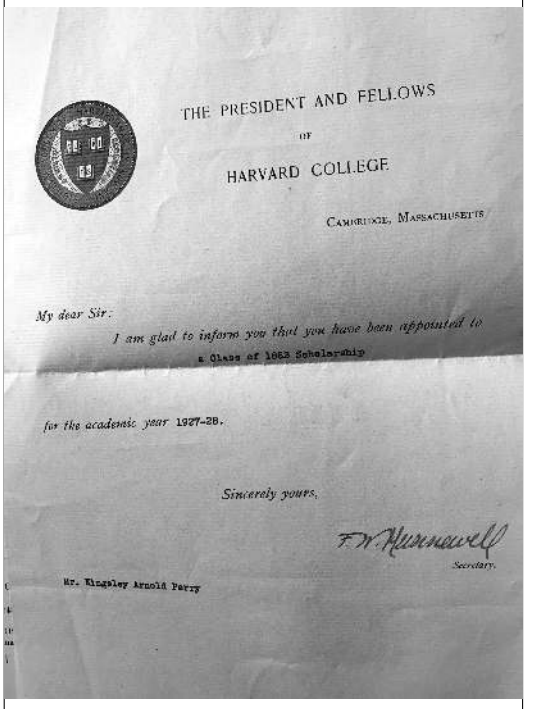
PERKINS, WAKEFIELD EZRA. Age: 17.
38 Warwick Rd., W. Newton, Mass.
Home Address: Same.
College Address (1925-26):
Prepared at Newton High School.

PERRY, KINGSLEY ARNOLD. Age: 18. Shepherd 1.
Home Address: 50 Sycamore St., Springfield, Mass.
College Address (1925-26): Weld 22.
Prepared at Central High School.
Activities: University Instrumental Clubs.

[124]

7. The Harvard Freshman Red Book 1928, *p. 124 (family copy)*

"PERRY, KINGSLEY ARNOLD. Age: 18. Shepherd 1.
Home Address: 50 Sycamore St., Springfield, Mass.
College Address (1925-26): Weld 22.
Prepared at Central High School.
Activities: University Instrumental Clubs."
(Above him on the page: Wakefield Ezra Perkins, of West Newton.)



THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS
OF
HARVARD COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

My dear Sir:

I am glad to inform you that you have been appointed to
a Class of 1863 Scholarship
for the academic year 1927-28.

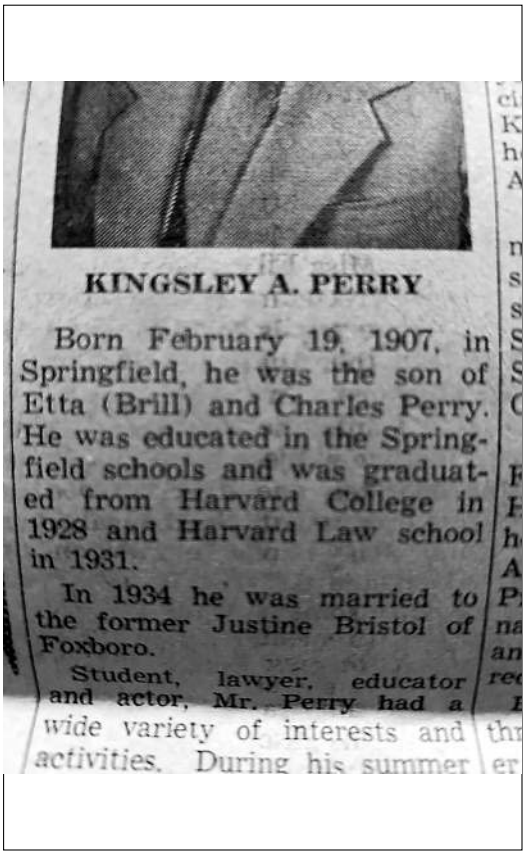
Sincerely yours,

F. W. Hunnewell
Secretary.

Mr. Kingsley Arnold Perry

8. Letter from the President and Fellows of Harvard College, 1927 (family papers)

Letterhead: The President and Fellows of Harvard College · Cambridge, Massachusetts (with the College seal).
"My dear Sir:
I am glad to inform you that you have been appointed to a Class of 1863 Scholarship for the academic year 1927-28.
Sincerely yours,
F. W. Hunnewell, Secretary."
Addressed: "Mr. Kingsley Arnold Perry." The scholarship name, the year and the addressee are typed into the printed form; the signature is in ink.



KINGSLEY A. PERRY

Born February 19, 1907, in Springfield, he was the son of Etta (Brill) and Charles Perry. He was educated in the Springfield schools and was graduated from Harvard College in 1928 and Harvard Law school in 1931.

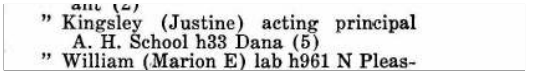
In 1934 he was married to the former Justine Bristol of Foxboro.

Student, lawyer, educator and actor, Mr. Perry had a wide variety of interests and activities. During his summer

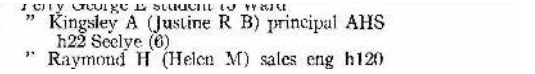
9. Obituary, April 1962 (family clipping; newspaper not identified)

Kingsley A. Perry.
"Born February 19, 1907, in Springfield, he was the son of Etta (Brill) and Charles Perry. He was educated in the Springfield schools and was graduated from Harvard College in 1928 and Harvard Law school in 1931.
In 1934 he was married to the former Justine Bristol of Foxboro.
Student, lawyer, educator and actor, Mr. Perry had a wide variety of interests and activities. During his summer[s] ..."
The next column survives only in part, cut at the fold: "Following ... law school he ... firm and pra[cticed] ... about six year[s] ... he became keen[ly interested in] the field of edu[cation] ... back to Harvar[d] ... tended the grad[uate school of] education and re[ceived his mas]ter's degree ... Mr. Perry joi[ned the Am]herst school sys[tem] ... [his]tory teacher in ... year's experienc[e] ... [so]cial studies a[t] ... Kingston high ... he was appoin[ted] ... Amherst high ... Mr. and Mrs. [Perry] ... many countri[es] ... summer travel ... studied at th[e] ... San Francisc[o] ... Spain, and at ... Oslo summer s[chool]. He was a ... First Congre[gational] ... He also belon[ged] ... [Am]herst Golf clu[b] ... Assn. of Se[condary School] Principals and ... national edu[cation] ... and served on ... [di]rectors of AAA ..."
Words in square brackets are restored by the editor.

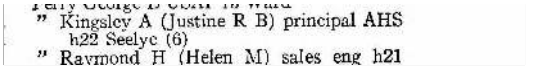
11. *The Amherst town directories, 1942–1960 (Jones Library, Amherst): Kingsley's line in each*


" Kingsley (Justine) acting principal
A. H. School h33 Dana (5)
" William (Marion E) lab h961 N Pleas-

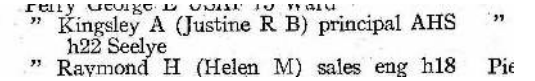
1942


" Kingsley A (Justine R B) principal AHS
h22 Seelye (6)
" Raymond H (Helen M) sales eng h120

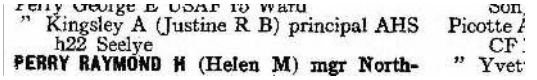
1948


" Kingsley A (Justine R B) principal AHS
h22 Seelye (6)
" Raymond H (Helen M) sales eng h21

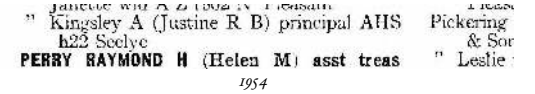
1950


" Kingsley A (Justine R B) principal AHS
h22 Seelye
" Raymond H (Helen M) sales eng h18

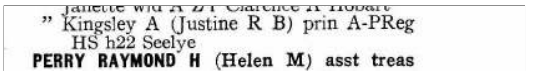
1951


" Kingsley A (Justine R B) principal AHS
h22 Seelye
PERRY RAYMOND H (Helen M) mgr North-

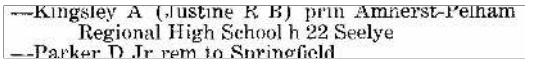
1952


" Kingsley A (Justine R B) principal AHS
h22 Seelye
PERRY RAYMOND H (Helen M) asst treas

1954

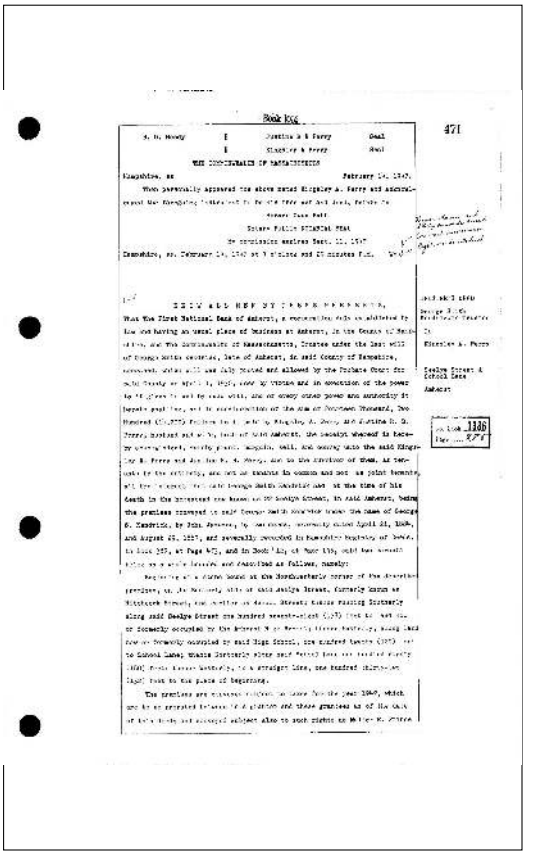

" Kingsley A (Justine R B) prin A-PReg
HS h22 Seelye
PERRY RAYMOND H (Helen M) asst treas

1957


—Kingsley A (Justine R B) prin Amherst-Pelham
Regional High School h 22 Seelye

1960

As printed (h = householder): 1942, "Kingsley (Justine) acting principal A. H. School h33 Dana (5)" · 1948 and 1950, "Kingsley A (Justine R B) principal AHS h22 Seelye (6)" · 1951, 1952 and 1954, "Kingsley A (Justine R B) principal AHS h22 Seelye" · 1957, "Kingsley A (Justine R B) prin A-P Reg HS h22 Seelye" · 1960, "Kingsley A (Justine R B) prin Amherst-Pelham Regional High School h 22 Seelye." The directory was not printed every year.



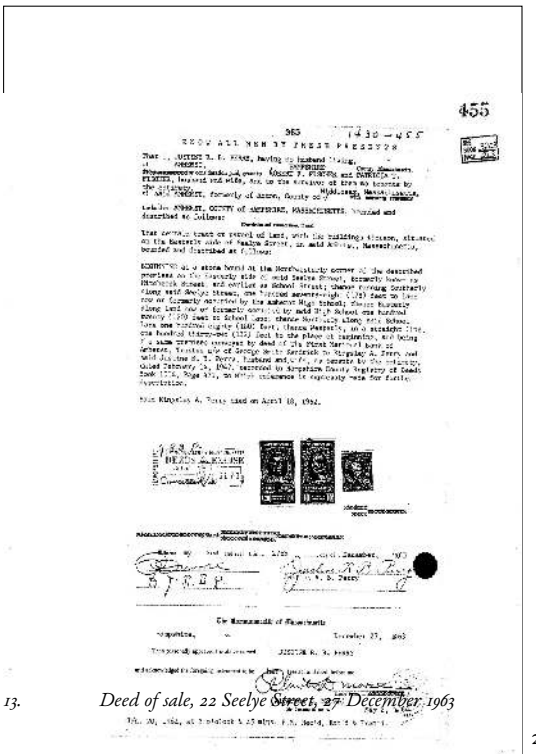
Book 1014

471

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS,

12. Trustee's deed, 22 Seelye Street, 1947 (Hampshire Registry of Deeds, Book 1014, p. 471)

"Know all men by these presents, That The First National Bank of Amherst ... Trustee under the last will of George Smith Kendrick ... in consideration of the sum of Fourteen Thousand, Two Hundred (14,200) Dollars to it paid by Kingsley A. Perry and Justine R. B. Perry, husband and wife, both of said Amherst ... hereby grant, bargain, sell, and convey unto the said Kingsley A. Perry and Justine R. B. Perry, and to the survivor of them, as tenants by the entirety ... the homestead now known as 22 Seelye Street, in said Amherst ... Beginning at a stone bound at the Northwesterly corner of the described premises, on the Easterly side of said Seelye Street, formerly known as Hitchcock Street, and earlier as School Street; thence running Southerly along said Seelye Street one hundred seventy-eight (178) feet to land now or formerly occupied by the Amherst High School; thence Easterly, along land now or formerly occupied by said High School, one hundred twenty (120) feet to School Lane ..."
Acknowledged by Kingsley A. Perry, Hampshire, February 14, 1947, before Horace Owen Babb, Notary Public; recorded the same day at 3:29 p.m.

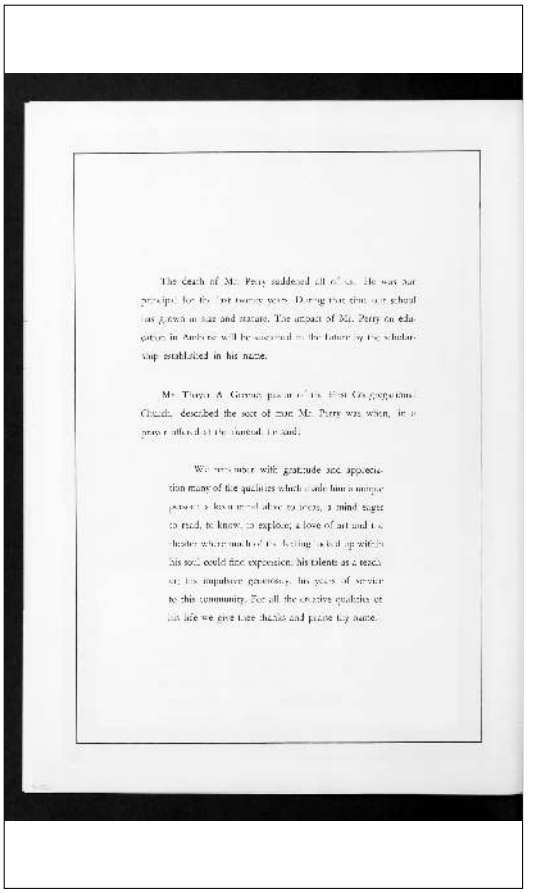


455

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

13. Deed of sale, 22 Seelye Street, 27 December 1963

"Know all men by these presents That I, Justine R. B. Perry, having no husband living, of Amherst, Hampshire County, Massachusetts ... grant to [the buyers], husband and wife ... the land in Amherst ... on the Easterly side of Seelye Street ... being the same premises conveyed by deed of The First National Bank of Amherst, Trustee u/w of George Smith Kendrick to Kingsley A. Perry and said Justine R. B. Perry, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety, dated February 14, 1947, recorded in Hampshire County Registry of Deeds Book 1014, Page 471 ...
Said Kingsley A. Perry died on April 18, 1962."
Signed and sealed December 27, 1963, Justine R. B. Perry; acknowledged before Alvertus D. Morse, Notary Public; recorded January 20, 1964, at 3:45 p.m. (The buyers are named in the record.)



14. *The* Gold Bug, *Amherst Regional High School, 1962, p. 4*

"The death of Mr. Perry saddened all of us. He was our principal for the last twenty years. During that time our school has grown in size and stature. The impact of Mr. Perry on education in Amherst will be sustained in the future by the scholarship established in his name. Mr. Thayer A. Greene, pastor of the First Congregational Church, described the sort of man Mr. Perry was when, in a prayer offered at the funeral, he said: 'We remember with gratitude and appreciation many of the qualities which made him a unique person: a keen mind alive to ideas, a mind eager to read, to know, to explore; a love of art and the theater where much of the feeling locked up within his soul could find expression; his talents as a teacher; his impulsive generosity; his years of service to this community. For all the creative qualities of his life we give thee thanks and praise thy name.'"
The same yearbook carries the senior entry of his daughter, Regina Allyn Perry.

THE ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographs in this chapter are printed digitally restored: dust and scratches removed, noise reduced, contrast evened, nothing added or changed. These are the raw files, as received.



AT HIS DESK, 1955
The unretouched original.