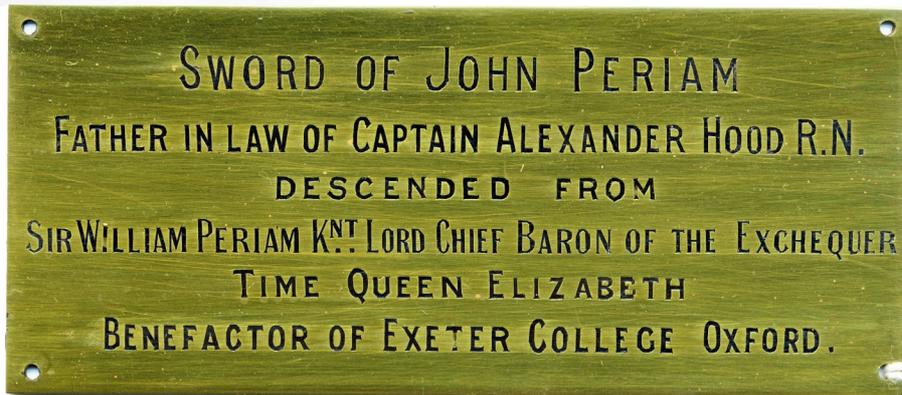


THE SWORD OF JOHN PERIAM OF BUTLEIGH WOOTTON HOUSE



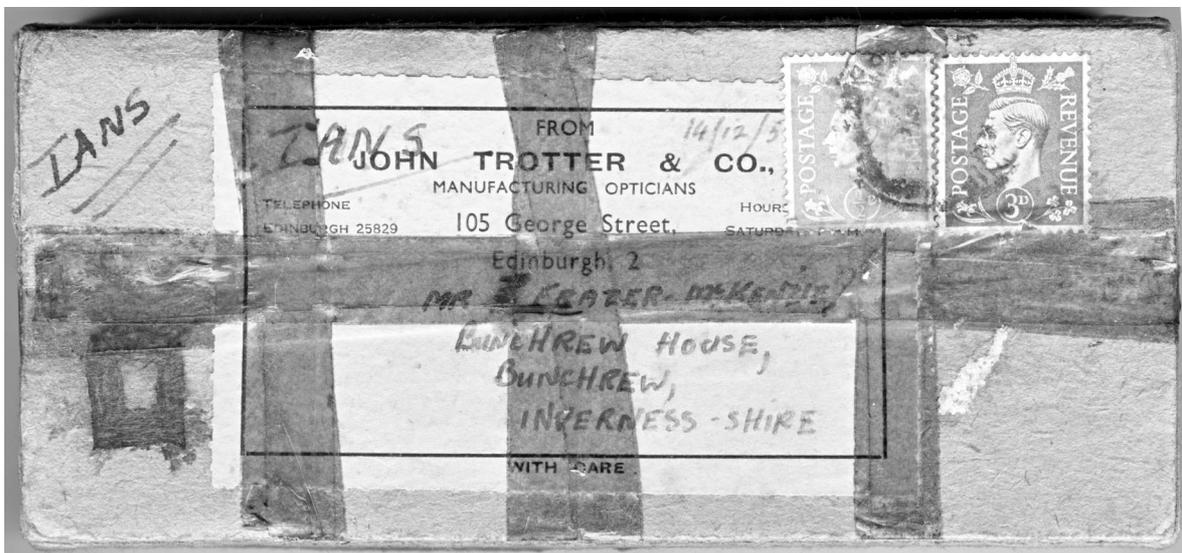
Above – sword and scabbard

Below – obverse and reverse of label attached to the sword



Plaque that belongs to the sword and, below, the box in which it was contained

Emily Isabel Acland Hood [1859 – 1934] married Francis Alexander MacKinnon [1848 – 1947] in 1888 and their first child Aline Emily Hood MacKinnon [1889 – 1971] married John Ord Alistair Fraser MacKenzie of Bunchrew [the name on the box below] in 1953. This latter couple had no children and Aline passed the Hood family memorabilia in her possession to her nephew **Ian Kroyer MacKinnon** [1929 – 2015] who also died childless. [see under MacKinnon]





Butleigh Wootton House was built by **James Periam** [1669 – 1731] in 1722, the estate coming to him on his marriage to the heiress Joan Pope. Their son **John Periam** [1714 – 1789] improved the house and his marriage in 1767 to the heiress Agnes Smithfield, his cousin, meant that he was later able to claim that all his debts were paid and he owed nothing. Their son

John survived just over two months and thus their daughter **Elizabeth Periam** [1770 – 1855] became the sole heiress to the estate. In 1792 she married **Captain Alexander Hood**. The estate has been in the hands of the Hood family since that date.

The brass plaque which came with John Periam's dress sword of c. 1750 states that the family is 'descended from **Sir William Periam** Knight, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer - time of Queen Elizabeth, benefactor of Exeter College, Oxford'. This claim to be related to Sir William Periam is first mentioned in regard to **John Periam** of Milverton in Debretts Peerage 1819, whose daughter Sarah married Thomas Lethbridge. The link to **Sir William Periam**, benefactor of **Exeter College**, claimed by the Milton and Butleigh Periam families, is probably fictitious since William only had daughters and no link can be found either to him, his brothers nor his traceable ancestors.

The Butleigh Periams all studied at Exeter College whereas the Milverton branch of the Periams all studied at St. John's College. I suspect that when **John Periam** was at Exeter College in the early 1730's he saw the portraits of their benefactors, Sir William and his brother, and thought that there may be an ancestral link somewhere. Somehow, this imagined link was transferred to the Milton Periams and the Butleigh Wootton Periams further reinforced it when Burkes/Debretts were giving the genealogical history of Sir Alexander Hood and wished to elevate the Periams to the status that the Hood family had acquired by their naval exploits.



The sword Thomas Del Mar Ltd Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria including the Property of a European Prince Sale 02 Dec 2015 12:00 GMT

Lot 118 AN ENGLISH SMALL-SWORD WITH CHISELLED AND GILT HILT, CIRCA 1750, BY TRADITION THAT OF JOHN PERIAM OF BUTLEIGH with tapering blade (not visible, seized in its scabbard), gilt brass hilt cast and chased in low relief against a punched ground, including double shell-guard decorated with differing scenes of putto, quillon-block and pommel decorated en suite, and the grip bound with plaited silver wire, in its leather scabbard with gilt-brass locket and chape, the former with a belt-hook (loose), together with an early paper tag inscribed in ink 'Dress sword of Mr Periam'

68.8 cm; 27 1/8 in blade – acquired by Robert Senior, Butleigh.

The sword has now been freed from the scabbard and restored to something like its original condition.