



*Fig 6: The Doctor's House – now Paines Hill House – built about 1806 on former Watson land and home to first cousins of Charles Harris.*

Lincs.) who was one of his informants. But this cannot be right, since the father, Dr John James Perry, was born about 1802 – either the date or the generation is wrong.

The Perry family are intimately connected to this story, however, because John James Perry's wife Avice, and her sister Louisa Mary (later Mrs Louisa Mary Cheere), were Charles Harris's first cousins, the daughters of his mother's brother, Marten Dew, gentleman, only son of Richard Dew, farmer, both of Somerton. Avice and Louisa Dew were John Marten Watson's co-heiresses at law; in other words, they would have been entitled to inherit his estate if Charles Harris failed to produce an heir. Had Marten Dew produced a son rather than two daughters, John Marten Watson might well have left the estate to him rather than to Charles Harris. As it was they and Avice's daughter received substantial money-bequests:

To Mrs Avice Perry wife of Mr John James Perry of Steeple Aston the sum of one hundred pounds independent of the said husband ... To Mary Louisa Perry their daughter the like sum of one hundred pounds ... To Miss Louisa Mary Dew the sister of Mrs Perry the like sum of one hundred pounds.