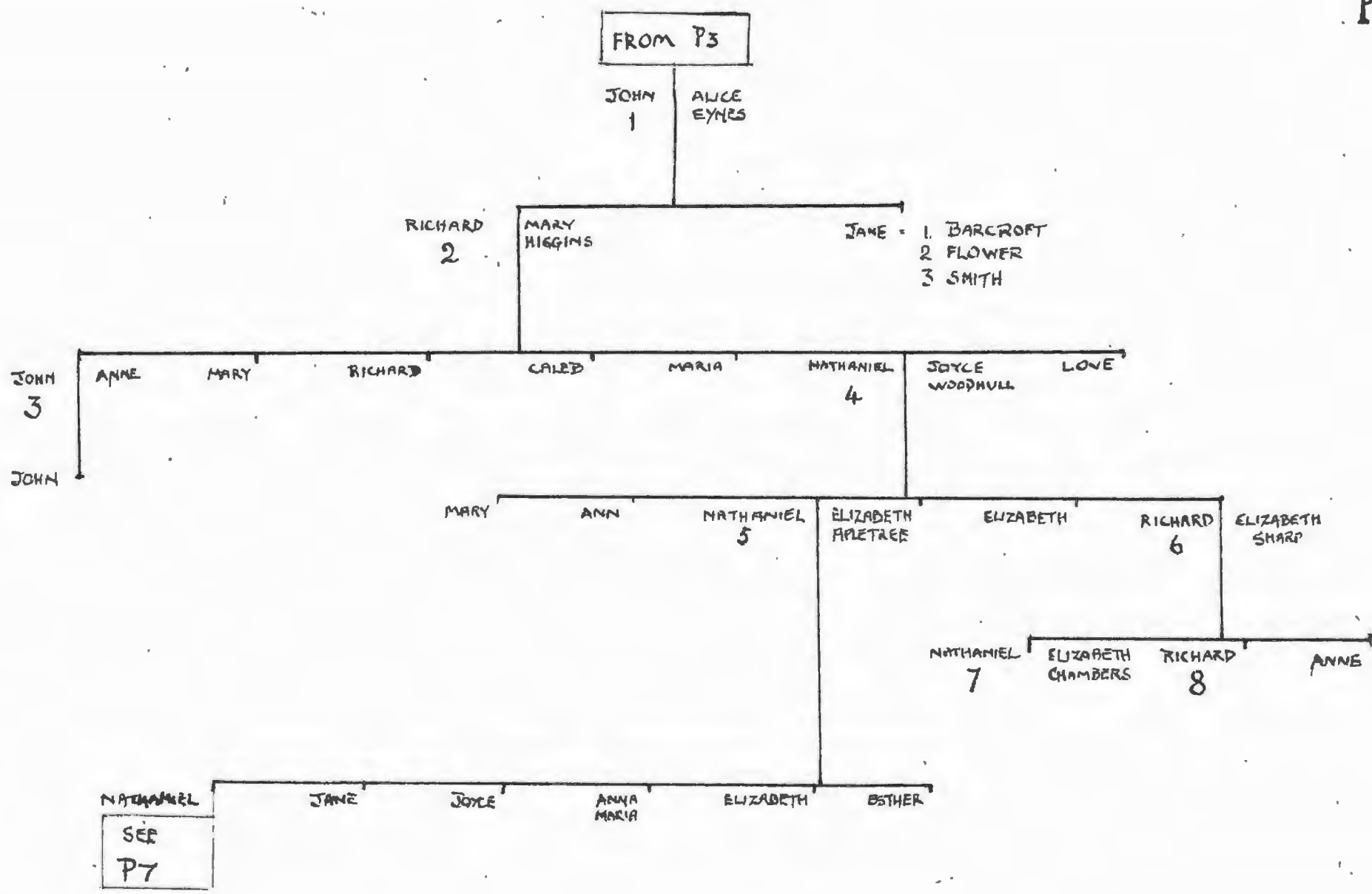




P.4.

John (1)

From the Herald's Visitation it is evident that John married Alice, the daughter of Richard Eynes of Cholbery in Oxfordshire, by whom he had a son Richard (2) and a daughter Jane. John lived in the Parsonage and farmed the 4 yard land part of Leaden Porch lease, some of which he rented out. He also had the tithes of Hempton which were given to his wife as her marriage portion. He was about 30 years of age when he died in 1615 and it is evident from his Will that neither of his children were then 18 years of age. Jane was to get £150 at that age or at marriage. She did in fact marry three times, John Barcroft, Thomas Flower and Arthur Smith. His brother-in-law William Calloway was to get 20 nobles a year to look after John's mother, Jane. Ralph Wilcox another brother-in-law was to have £30. Richard was to have the lease and tithes and the residue of his estate was to go to his wife Alice.

It is unusual to find an inventory attached to a Will but in the case of John there happens to be one which gives an interesting glimpse of the past.

"A true and perfect inventory etc." totalling £610.14s.0d.

Within the parlour one bed furnished with all hangings necessary thereunto belonging	£3.0.0.
Two chairs 9 wine stools and cushions one trunk one chest	26s.8d.
One grate of iron and one ditto to raise the grate, wood spit and wood dripping pans 2 brass pots 2 brass posnets 3 kettles one pair and one chaldron.	3s.4d.
Four coals with other copperie within the kitchen	6s.8d.
One cheese press	3s.4d.

Within the bolting house one trough one moulding board with other things in the same place	5. 0d.
Bacon and Beef of the house	£7.0s.0d.
In Silver plate a bowl and a double salt	£4.0s.0d.
In linen 19 pairs of sheets with best clothes and napkins and other naperie	£9.0s.0d.
One new press in the top chamber and one bedstead in the Chapel chamber with a feather bed furnished and one old ceiling of arras	£5.0s.0d.
For the benefit of one lease in the Parsonage for one year.	£30.0s.0d.
In the chamber over the parlour one chest one feather bed and one blanket in another chamber with certain other bedding there	£4.0s.0d.
In the servants chamber 1 coverlet with 4 blankets	10s.0d.
6 score quarters of malt in the chamber and on the floor	£160.0s.0d.
30 cheeses in the chamber	20s.0d.
23 quarters of barley in the barns	£26.13.4d.
In the barn at weigh 11 quarters of mastling	£14.0s.0d.
22 great and little beasts with hay and peas to keep them until grown	£44.0s.0d.
All the pigs about the house	£5.0s.0d.
20 bushels of barley	£3.0s.0d.
All the wood about the house	£13.13.4d.
12 quarters of seed barley and 7 strikes	£13.0s.0d.
3 barrells	5s.0d.
In pewter - one basin and two with other stuff	26s.8d.
175 Sheep young and old	£78.0s.0d.
For timber and wood about the farm	£6.13.4d.
For corn in the farm barn in valuation and ten quarters of mastling	£12.13.4d.

For two carts a pair of old wheels together with rakes harrows ploughs and other things belonging thereto	£6.0s.0d.
In debts that is to come in at the end of 8 years	£20.0s.0d.
14 horses and colts at £4 .an horse together with their furniture	£56.0s.0d.
14 acres or thereabouts of mastling and wheat	£20.0s.0d.
38 acres of peas or thereabouts	£14.0s.0d.
For monie in the purse with other debts	£10.0s.0d.
For the lease of a meadow ground with some hay	£30.0s.0d.
His apparel	£6.8s.4d.
One court cupboard with cupboard clothes	5s.0d.

Richard (2)

Richard the only son of John (1) married Mary the daughter of John Higgins. According to a pedigree taken from the Visitation of Oxfordshire, John Higgins' father had married Margaret the daughter of Philip Courteney, third son of Hugh Courteney, Earl of Devon. The Courteneyes were descended from Edward I and proud of their Plantagenet origins and never accepted the York and Tudor dynasties for they were often involved in rebellion and treason.

In **Deddington** Church is a brass showing the arms of the Higgins family - argent goutte de poix, on a fesse sable three towers triple towered or, translated this means three golden castles on a black band across a silver shield spotted with pitch. The latter is a most unusual "decoration" for a shield. The presumption is that an ancestor taking part in one of the many battles of medieval England successfully attacked a castle, despite the defenders pouring

boiling pitch over the assailant, for which he was granted an "achievement of arms".

In consideration of the marriage of his daughter Mary, John Higgins paid Richard the then handsome sum of £400 on 19th July 1632. Richard in turn devised his Windsor lease, having some 32 years to run, to John Higgins, who was to hold the premises and land in trust for the children of Richard and Mary.

Imagine the fury of John Higgins when he discovered that Richard, shortly after his marriage, was about to sell some of his land to a Gabriel Copland. John Higgins promptly stopped that transaction and probably never forgave Richard for it, for in his Will he left £8 a year to daughter Mary and "her husband to have no part of it". In fact he left Richard a mere 10 shillings.

According to **Deddington** Parish Registers the children of Richard and Mary were Mary born in 1634 and who died in 1642; John (3) born in 1636, Richard born in 1638 but who died in 1644, Caleb born in 1640 and who died in 1642. Nathaniel (4) born in 1644, Maria born in 1646, who died in 1649 and Love born in 1648. Love married John Lamb of Oxford at Adderbury in 1670. Caleb, Richard and Mary died one after the other in late November and early December 1642.

Richard was appointed High Constable of **Deddington** but when it became his duty to collect the Ship Money, a tax imposed by King Charles, he refused like many others who believed the King had no right to impose taxation without the approval of Parliament. Unfortunately for Richard though, he found himself a prisoner in

Oxford Castle. On 24th April 1640 he petitioned the House of Lords for release, which was eventually granted.

There was no hesitation in paying his tax when a subsidy was levied in 1642.

One wonders what he felt when His Majesty stayed under his roof at the Parsonage in 1644. Richard must surely have been impressed by the pomp and ceremony of the occasion and did it lead to Richard's own extravagance?

During the Civil War he had provided sustenance for Anthony (P2-12) and, as explained on page 19, had taken possession of his land in recompense for which he had a written transfer from Anthony dated 17th January 1649. After the War he tried hard to substantiate his legal title to it which required a release from the London Committee for Sequestration and Compounding. He died before his application was heard and it was left to his son to follow it to completion. London referred it to the Oxford Committee where the release was a foregone conclusion as two members of the family sat as Committee Members.

Richard died in 1654 intestate. His estate was administered by his principal creditors, so what happened to the wealth his father left him!

John (3)

John was baptised at **Deddington** on 29th January 1636. In 1640

his maternal grandfather left him £60 but when his Uncle Thomas Higgins died in 1661 he found himself with an unexpected load of trouble and a prize beyond his reach.

Thomas Higgins had a large and valuable estate in North Aston which he left to his young wife Joan Rawles (who he married in 1657) for life and thereafter to the eldest son of John or in default of such heir to the eldest son of Nathaniel (4). Neither were married at the time.

Sprightly widow Joan promptly married Thomas Gill. In 1664 John, being in need of money and as the expectant ultimate beneficiary, sold his reversionary interest for £520 to Thomas Gill even though John had no child at that time. Gill died in 1666 and in his Will left £40 a year to William Scott's Free School for ever and the residue to build a free school. Neither testamentary gift was possible as he died considerably in debt including £553 due to Joan his wife. The Executors refused to act so Court intervention took place and in 1676 ordered the reversionary interest, which Thomas Gill had bought, to be sold. This was effected in 1679 for £950. About 1680 Joan married William Higford. A series of transactions then took place switching the reversion from one person to another until it finally ended up with Sir Robert Jason. William Higford died in 1706 and Joan in 1712.

In the meantime John married Anne by whom he had a son John in 1668, but the testamentary interest failed when son John died in 1706, in the lifetime of the widow Joan. There were no other children.

on it for £200 with Charles Bentley.

Nathaniel had borrowed £200 from his brother John, who, when he heard about the mortgage required repayment of his loan, but Nathaniel was in obvious dire straits for John obtained an "outlawry" against him. Moreover Nathaniel owed Bentley £100 on the renewal of the lease in 1686. Nathaniel's plea in the Chancery Court in 1691 stated that as "Charles Bentley was threatening to enter into possession of Blunts Farm and Nathaniel having no other support for his wife and family for the preservation thereof the said John Apletree being willing to abate the interest of his said debt came to an agreement between themselves with the privity and approbation of the Trustees (i.e. the Guardian of Nathaniel's children) to charge the premises with the debt of £200 due to John Apletree and with the debt due to Charles Bentley so that the premises might be preserved for the benefit of Nathaniel's children, Nathaniel, Richard, Mary and Elizabeth all infants under the age of 21".

He probably wished he had never been appointed Thomas Higgin's Executor for in 1668 Churchwardens for Charities who were beneficiaries under the Will complained that they had not received anything from the estate. Higgins had left "£20 to put out apprentices of Deddington, £5 for an apprentice of North Aston and £5 for an apprentice from Fewcot four years next after his decease." The complainants said it was now 2 years past the four years of grace and nothing had been received. Nathaniel admitted in Court the justice of the claim and was ordered to pay the respective Churchwardens the legacies plus interest at 6% per annum.

In addition Thomas Higgins had lent Thomas Apletree £200. Thomas Apletree had died a few years after Thomas Higgins and Nathaniel sued his Executors for the debt in the Assize Court. Poor Nathaniel was "cunningly cast down" by the Executors producing his receipts for various sums as settlement of the debt. Nathaniel said he was under the impression these monies were the proceeds of the realisation of the Higgins estate when Thomas Apletree was acting for him in the Executorship.

In 1670 Nathaniel married Joyce Woodhull of Mollington by whom he had Nathaniel (5) born 1672, Mary born 1674, Ann who died at birth in 1675, Elizabeth born 1677 and Richard (6) born 1679.

Nathaniel was buried at Deddington on 3rd September 1695, letters of administration of his estate being given to his son Nathaniel on 23rd July 1700.

Nathaniel (5)

Nathaniel, the elder son of Nathaniel and Joyce was born at Deddington on 3rd January 1672. He married his cousin Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Apletree (P5-1). Their children were Joyce, born 1698 and who married Richard Horwood in 1725, Nathaniel (P.7) born in 1706, Anne Maria born 1711, who died in 1718, Elizabeth born in 1713, Esther born 1714 and Jane born in 1717 who died in 1718.

Under the Will of her father, Elizabeth was to have a half share, that is two yards, of the valuable 4 yard land leased from St. Georges Chapel Windsor (his residual property was to be sold for cash to meet the fine on the renewal of the lease). She was also to have £200 at age 20 and a share of his silver plate. Elizabeth's father Thomas died in 1692. By 1700 Nathaniel lost patience at the delay in administration of the estate and sued the Executors stating that Thomas had left a great estate of £5000 upwards and yet the Executors had insufficiently paid Elizabeth and she "having had goods on credit is now likely to be prosecuted at law" unless she received her maintenance. Elizabeth became 20 on 4th February 1696 and several times asked the Executors for a statement of account without success. The reply of the Executors was to state that the assets taken over at death amounted to £1200. They had the fine on the renewal of the Windsor lease to take into consideration as well as the beneficiaries under the Will which would require £1000.

Nathaniel's need for money was not to be satisfied by a steady income from the rents from tenants so he determined to sell Elizabeth's interest in the Windsor Lease.

His Aunt Lettice had married the well-to-do Reverend Francis Henry Carey and it was to him that Nathaniel turned. Nathaniel's letter to him on

2nd December 1700 illuminates the struggle he had to sell.

My urgent occasions for money (having brother and sister's portions and other debts to pay) force me once more to desire you will be pleased to buy the two yard lands which you shall have cheaper than any other by £50. I hope you will not take any advantage of my necessities and force me to get a decree for the sale thereof to another, when it may be sold to yourself without any such charge and likewise a more convenient purchase for you than any other person. I hope likewise you will have some regard and kindness for the name and family from whom you have justly had so plentiful an Estate and contribute as far as in you lies (without prejudicing yourself) to my advantage and prosperity. Most true it is that if I had a decree for the sale thereof I could have 16 years purchase which amounts to £720 but to avoid all trouble and disputes (which I wish were ended) if you will be pleased to accept of it at £650, I shall be very thankful for you, I am sure you cannot account it a dear purchase at that money, the rent being £45 per annum and the tenants hold by lease for 4 years. I hope you will be pleased to take these matters into your consideration and think without a prejudice it will be to me (perhaps my undoing) to force me to extremities, when I am so willing to do anything in reason. I was very sorry and extremely concerned that the college rent was not answered to you when here, had I had it or could have raised it you should not have been so disappointed and put off. I wish it be paid in London according to his promise, which I seldom or never found performed he has promised me an account of my wife's concerns above 4 years and I am as far off as ever from having my satisfaction so that I am now forced to prefer a bill in Chancery to call him to an account, all these matters falling out together crush me very much, but I do not question but my troubles will cause you to deal the more generously with me Good Sir pray a line in answer to him

who is and always shall be

Your humble servant

Nathl Apletree.

He appears as a witness on various deeds - 1702 and 1709 for Joan Bignell, 1706 for Thomas Rowse, 1709 for Thomas Toy and Bartholomew Churchill, 1713 for John Haynes and Richard Fowler and 1725 for Edward and Anthony Harris. In 1715 he was a party with Robert Buswell, Anne Hudson, John Burroughs and Silence Tibbetts to a quit claim of land in Banbury to Sir Robert Dashwood. It is intriguing that in 1704 he was a witness in a Chancery cause concerning a lease of land at Hook Norton by George Austin and Anthony Austin. Anthony Austin had two daughters, Anne, who married Henry Gray and Mary who eventually married Nathaniel's son Nathaniel.

One wonders why at the Oxford Quarter Sessions in September 1705, Nathaniel was ordered to keep the peace with Moses Durr, a tailor in Deddington.

In 1708 the Reverend Francis Henry Carey died leaving a legacy of £5 to his kinsman Nathaniel. The Windsor lease was devised to his brother-in-law Edward Loveden and son-in-law William Gydott as trustees for the testator's grandson Carey Hunt.

In 1710 Nathaniel was appointed Steward to the St. Georges Chapel Windsor lands and also Steward to Sir Robert Dashwood.

Did the death in 1712 of Joan Higford, once wife of Thomas Higgins, revive the hopes of Nathaniel of at long last obtaining for his son the North Aston estate, for he started a long battle with Sir

Robert Jason, who has already been mentioned on page 51. The Will of Thomas Higgins was apparently quite clear. If there was no son of John Apletree then the eldest son of Nathaniel was to have the estate on the death of Joan. And yet in 1717 Nathaniel lost his suit at law. Was it because John had sold his reversionary interest or because of the many confusing transactions that followed or even the lapse of time. It is interesting that Joanna's Will left North Aston property to her God-daughter Frances Jason, daughter of Sir Robert Jason and Anne Eyre his wife, the latter being the daughter of Joanna's sister Dame Anne Eyre nee Rawles. Confused?

On the floor of the nave of **Deddington** Church is a tombstone which reads:-

"Here lyeth the body of Nathaniel Apletree gent who departed this life ye 21st day of April anno domini 1730 in the 58th year of his age.

Here also lyeth the body of Mrs. Elizabeth Apletree wife of Mr. Nathaniel Apletree who died the 6th March 1763 aged 85."

The story of Nathaniel's son Nathaniel is continued on P.7.

Richard :(6)

Nathaniel's second son Richard was born at **Deddington** in 1679. In February 1701 when he was living in the Parish of St.Martin's Outwich London he married Elizabeth Sharp at St.Jame's Dukes Place, Aldgate.

In 1715 he attempted, with other relatives of his wife, to obtain some property called Broadlands at Westwell, Oxfordshire at one time in the ownership of William Sharp her father. As he had died in 1686, more than 20 years before they submitted their claim, the Court held it to be statute barred.

Richard returned to Deddington for a short while after his marriage where his son Nathaniel (7) was born in October 1702. But by 1704 he had returned to London. His son Richard (8) was born in April 1704 and baptised at St. Andrews, Holborn, as was his daughter Anne in February 1705. She married William Davis at St. Mary Magdalen Church on Fish Hill in 1735.

In giving evidence in the case of Martin v. Nutkins Richard said he was an upholsterer in business in the Strand and had been employed by Justice Edward Martin and Dame Annabella Howard his wife as such since 1722 and had been in the trade 2 years prior to that. Poor Nutkins, it seems, could no longer tolerate the clangour of the Hammersmith Church bell at 5 o'clock in the morning, and sought an injunction to have it stopped. Dame Annabella for the opposition compromised by agreeing to have a cupola built on the church.

Richard made another deposition in 1745 in which he said he was age 65 or thereabouts and was living at the house of Mr. Ernest Chandler of Exeter Exchange in the Strand. Not long after he returned to Deddington and died in March 1746.

Nathaniel (7)

Nathaniel the elder son of Richard also carried on the trade of upholsterer and in 1745 was lodging at the house of Mr. Kidminster, plasterer, in Exeter Street in the Strand. In 1735 he married Elizabeth Chambers at St. Mary Magdalen, Fish Hill. No further trace of Nathaniel or his brother Richard (8) has been found. There are probably missing links that could perhaps connect them up with Richard, a soldier living in Lincolns Inn in 1780, Richard the London butcher who was transported in 1796 for coining (see page 6) or Robert the butcher of New Court, Fleet Market, indicted in 1803 for offering meat for sale unfit for human consumption.