

## From the Chair

At this time of year thoughts of summer are a pleasant distraction for your committee, which has been considering what events to organise for our members.

May and June look like being a busy months. For Saturday 15 May we are arranging a visit to the canal centre at Stoke Bruerne. We will let you have the details when we have them. If you need information urgently, please contact Moira Byast on 338637.

The weekend following we have agreed to host the annual event known as Oxfordshire Past, on behalf of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society. It is

quite a feather in our cap to be asked, and we are delighted to have the opportunity. It will be a day-long event at the Windmill Centre on Saturday 22 May. There will be a full day's programme of presentations, including a summary by the County Archaeologist of the past year's archaeological work in the county and an exhibition at which local societies and other organisations will display their recent work and publications. It will be a great opportunity to publicise Deddington, to meet people from around the county, and to exchange information and ideas. Not least, it will be an opportunity for our society to raise funds since any profit we make on the day will be ours to keep. We certainly hope for a good turn-out from Deddington in support of the event. I recommend anyone with Internet access to visit the excellent OAHS website at [www.oahs.org.uk](http://www.oahs.org.uk)

On Wednesday 9 June our annual social will comprise a private visit to Banbury Museum and Tooley's Boatyard. Again, we will provide full details nearer the date. Our May speaker, the well-known Banbury historian Brian Little, has been asked to talk specifically about the history of that area of Banbury, so as to prepare us for our visit. For late June (date to be confirmed) we are hoping to arrange a visit to Chalgrove, to include historic Chalgrove Manor—not normally open to the public.

Finally, before we all take a well-earned rest, Moira Byast has agreed to lead another historical walk. Last year (on what seemed to be one of the warmest days of an exceptional summer) we had a most enjoyable walk from Burford to Fulbrook and Widford. We can promise a similarly interesting walk this year, but we make no commitment about the weather!

Chris Day

## Using local resources for family research

One of my hobbies is researching my family tree. My father was an orphan and I was not even sure of his parents names when I started. However, with some help from the Family Records Centre and my mother's memories, I managed to get started.

The Family Records Centre, in London, was my starting point and I obtained my father's birth certificate from them. This led me to my grandparents and eventually, using the internet and the Suffolk Family History Society, I have now traced in a direct line, my fathers family back to a marriage in 1780. I have been aided by the fact that most of the surnames are unusual ones. If you come from a long line of Smiths its much harder. But it's been very enjoyable and I've met some relatives I didn't know and made friends amongst other searchers.

I was asked to research a family from Deddington by a friend of a friend in Indiana, USA. His family name was Gibbs. So I started my search at the excellent Family and Local History Centre in Banbury library.

Here I found copies of all the parish registers for Deddington and managed to trace a line of Gibbs for my friend in Indiana. When he received my information by email, he was so excited he came over to Deddington and looked up the records for himself. We took him on a tour of the area, looking at churches and places connected with his ancestors. He went back, with lots of film and other lasting memories.

From this point, I became interested in other Deddington families. This interest increased when, during a visit to the Northamptonshire Record Office, I found an interesting document. This document is part of the Cartwright family papers

## Programme for the rest of 2004

**March 10** David Vaisey: Victorian and Edwardian Shopping

**April 14** Martin Rowling: the village smithy

**May 12** Brian Little: the canal area of Banbury

**May 15** Visit to Stoke Bruerne

**May 22** Oxfordshire Past meeting at Deddington

**June 9** visit to Banbury Museum

*And to start the new season*

**September 8** Alan Roseveare: Turnpike roads

Except for May 22 and June 9 our meetings take place at the Windmill Centre at 7.30 on the second Wednesday of the month.

A page from the Deddington parish register showing deaths in July 1644. [MS DD Par Deddington c1] in the Oxfordshire Record Office.

and consisted of a 'Bill of the Inhabitants of the Manor of Dadington, 1623'. It was, in fact, a list. It purported to be of the 'Inhabitants of Dadington', but as was the custom of the time, there were no females included. The list was compiled by 'Commissioners' who had signed the end of the document and was possibly taken by visiting on a house to house basis.

It listed first name, surname and occupation. There is a lot of social history to be got from the document and has given me many hours of interest. The occupations alone throw an interesting light on life in Deddington at that date.

However, many of the surnames listed are still those of villagers today and I decided to research some of the people in the document.

My first step was to consult the probate record, for wills which were recorded, with the same name as that of someone in the 1623 document. Doing this alphabetically, the first name which appeared in both the 1623 document and the probate records was that of John Hiorns.

The name Hiorns seems also to be spelled Hirons. The parish register lists both together so I made an assumption that the two were the same family.

## The History of the Hirons/Hiorns Family

The 1623 document lists John Hirons sen, a farmer, and his son, John jun. This probably means that John jun was adult, certainly as considered adult at the time. The probate records show a will of John Hiorns, farmer, dated 1644. Assuming both are the same, this gives me a farmer, John Hirons/Hiorns, who had a grown-up son in 1623 and who died in 1644.

Now to the parish records. For Deddington these start in about 1631. John Hirons/Hiorns sen was married before 1623 (he had a grown up son by then), so his marriage would not be found in the parish register of marriages. My next port of call was the parish register of baptisms, looking for children born to John Hirons/Hiorns.

I found a complete family, born between 1631 and 1643.



It is more probable that this family is that of John jun, who was adult enough in 1623 to be recorded in the inhabitants of Deddington.

The mother of this family is Elizabeth and it is probable that John and Elizabeth were married in about 1630. However, as this happened in Elizabeth's parish, there is no record in the Deddington marriage register.

The first recorded child is a still-born son in 1631, followed by a daughter, Millicent who was baptised on 10 March 1633.

Next, came a son, John, baptised on 6 December 1635; a daughter, Elizabeth baptised on 28 October 1638; Mary was baptised on 8 November 1640 and Richard on 5 March 1642. There was another daughter, Anne, born after this, but no baptism is recorded. I searched in the baptism register until 1700, but there are no further entries for the family, so they either moved out of the area, or stopped producing

children. This gives a probable family tree for the Hiorns family as shown at the top of the next page.

Next I turned to the burial register, to find the burial which went with the will of John Hirons/Hiorns in 1644.

I found the following deaths recorded:

7 January 1644: Millicent, daughter of John Hirons/Hiorns

29 January 1644: An un-named daughter of John Hirons/Hiorns (Elizabeth/Mary?)

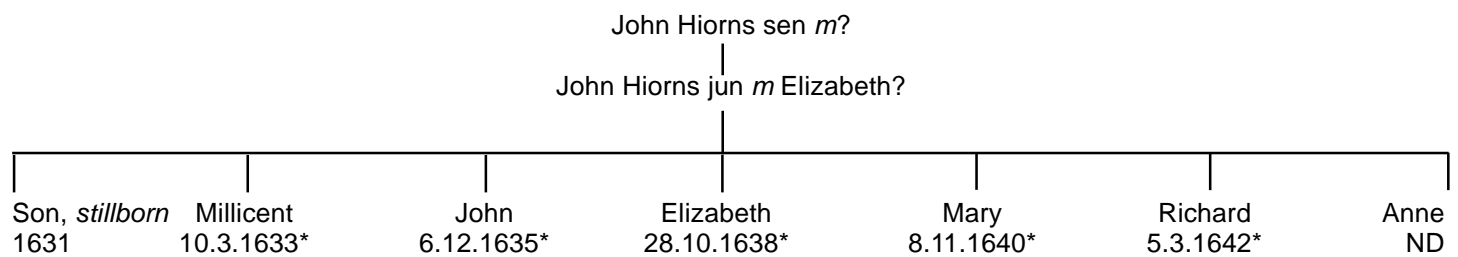
31 January 1644: Anne, infant daughter of John Hirons/Hiorns

2 February 1644: Elizabeth, wife of John Hirons/Hiorns

4 February 1644: John Hirons/Hiorns, Farmer.

Undated entry: A manservant of John Hirons/Hiorns, together with Richard, son of John and an un-named daughter of John (Elizabeth/Mary?).

In the space of one month five out of six children, their parents and



*\*Dates are of baptism, not birth*

their manservant died.

There are many mysteries here. Why a gap of three weeks between the death of Millicent and 'an unnamed daughter of John Hirons/Hiorns'?

The deaths of the other seven family members happen within a week.

The only member of the family to survive appears to be the John, who was baptised on 6 December 1635, who would be about eight or nine years old.

Did he survive? Why did he survive? What happened to him?

What killed the family? Accident? But the timings seem more likely to be an infection, brought into the house by Millicent, with an incubation period of about three weeks.

Whatever happened, the name of Hirons/Hiorns did not occur again in the village for over 100 years.

There are many uncertainties in the deductions I have drawn so far. As a working hypothesis, I have

assumed that the father of the family of children born during the 1630's and 1640's was John Hiorns Junior. I have done this on a basis of projected ages alone. If John junior was adult enough to be included in the Bill of 1623 then I have assumed he is the father of the family born after this date.

My next step must be to find and consult the Will of John Hiorns, known to exist, made and executed in 1644.

*Moir a Byast*

## Deddington in the year 1623

The document 'The Bill of the Inhabitants of Dadington' (see previous article) dated 7 October 1623, provides an interesting snapshot of life in 'Dadington' at that time.

Firstly, although it is called 'The Bill of the Inhabitants of Dadington', it lists only males and probably only those who had reached adult status.

It lists names and occupations of the inhabitants. There are 213 names listed. Some relationships are given, father and son, son in law, etc.

A multiplier of five (an approximate family size) gives a maximum population of 1,065. An unknown number of poor families is unrecorded.

Secondly, the order in which the names are listed is of interest, as it is possible that the census takers worked around the village in order, going from neighbour to neighbour. But no addresses are given.

Thirdly, I was struck by the number of names in the list which still have relevance for the village today. Rose and Malins, Franklin, Gibbes, Stilgoe, Deeley, Steevens, Beere, Hirons/Hiorns Appletree, Jewster, Nibbs, Kempster, French, Fetherston, Saunders, Busby.

It will be possible to research further into people listed in the document, but that will take time.

If anybody is conducting family research, I will pass on any information that I have.

### Occupations in Deddington in 1623

#### *Farming related occupations*

Deddington was a thriving community, if the number of shopkeepers listed is anything to go by.

There are three gentlemen listed, at the start of the list. These are Thomas Appletree, John Higgins and Anthony Newman. The next entries are of labourers.

Agriculture was a large employer. As well as farmers listed (14 farmers, six farmers' sons), labourers are numerous, (39 listed) together with two old labourers and one labourer, Edward Large 'who sells acquavit'. There are eight shepherds (one is Henrie Fetherston) and a wyrriner (rabbit catcher, Edward Rand) and two wantketchers (mole catchers, father and son, Nicholas Coney Senior and Junior). There are two yeomen, Henrie Beere and Ralph Appletree.

There is a collarmaker, probably for horse collars, Thomas Garner and a hayward, George Waterman.

#### *Strong Drink*

Surprisingly, thinking of 'Dirty Drunken Deddington' of ditty fame, there is only one Innkeeper listed in 1623. This is William Malins, together with his son Edward. However, other drink-related trades are

listed. There are three coopers, William Morley, Thomas Smith and William Durran and his son Edward. William Mason is listed as a maltster, and there is also Edward Large, our labourer, one who sells acquavit.

#### *Building*

Deddington seemed to be busy with building work in 1623, if the number of builders and tradesmen listed is anything to go by.

Three slaters, William Jones, Phillip Taylor and John fforme are there. It is tempting to think that slate roofing was a modern innovation and that William Jones was a Welshman who had followed the trade. But Stonesfield slates had been used as roofing material for centuries, and the slaters were probably working with local slates. No thatchers are listed.

Only two masons, John Robbins and Thomas Boddie are included and two glaziers (Roberte Hitchcock and his son Edward)

John Minstrelley, Robert Laurence, Thomas Greenes, Samuel Wase, Ralph Drye and Robert Mattheve are carpenters. There seems to have been more call for them than any other tradesmen.

#### *Clothing*

Deddington appears to have been well dressed in 1623, for Robert Nicholson, John Neale, Abraham Maule, Peter Hall, Robert London,

Thomas Saunders, Thomas Pratte and Johnathan Jewster are all listed as Taylors. Thomas Coxe was 'Under Bayley and Taylor'.

There are five glovers, Symon Busbye, Thomas Barnes, William Kerwoode and his son William and William Busbie. Were these outworkers for the Woodstock glove industry?

Six shoemakers appear, John Trentam, Thomas Trentane and his son William, John Elliot, Thomas Mellowes and Hugh Davies. Trentam and Trentane could be variations on the same name.

There are also three cobblers, engaged on repairing footwear, Roger Ayris, Tymothie Harris and William Hatton. Again, allowing for unformalised spelling, Ayris and Harris could be the same.

There are four mercers, William Eves and his brother John, Thomas Gyles and John Kempster. Two weavers lived in the village, Thomas Fletcher and Zachary Hoones and one fuller, John Williams.

#### *Foodsellers and shopkeepers*

Far more people than now were engaged in food trades, if the number of food related tradesmen are anything to go by. Nine are listed as victuallers. These are William Steevens, James Morris, Thomas Appletree, Richard Large, Bennet Smith, John Pockins, Phillip Porson, William Matthews and William Scroggs. William Scroggs was also the Barber. Nicholas Simott was a baker and Elizeus Baseley and Thomas Loe butchers. Did most people bake their own bread at home?

Other shopkeepers are listed, with no clue to what they sold. Michael Scope and Thomas Mellowes (jun), John Harris, Maximillian Arys and Thomas Trentam (jun).

#### *Miscellaneous Trades*

This was a horse-powered society. As is to be expected, there were many smiths, six in total. John Mason jun, father of William Mason is

listed as a smith. William was the Maltster. Francis and William Rose, father and son were smiths, as were John Tredwell, George Wase and George Turner.

Three carriers, William Stonne, Philip Merrie and John Cycill worked from the village.

Some people had servants; Thomas Nibbs, Edward Dowson, John Lie, Richard Andrewes, Edward Manninge and Robert Richardson are named as servants.

Robert Rands was apprenticed to

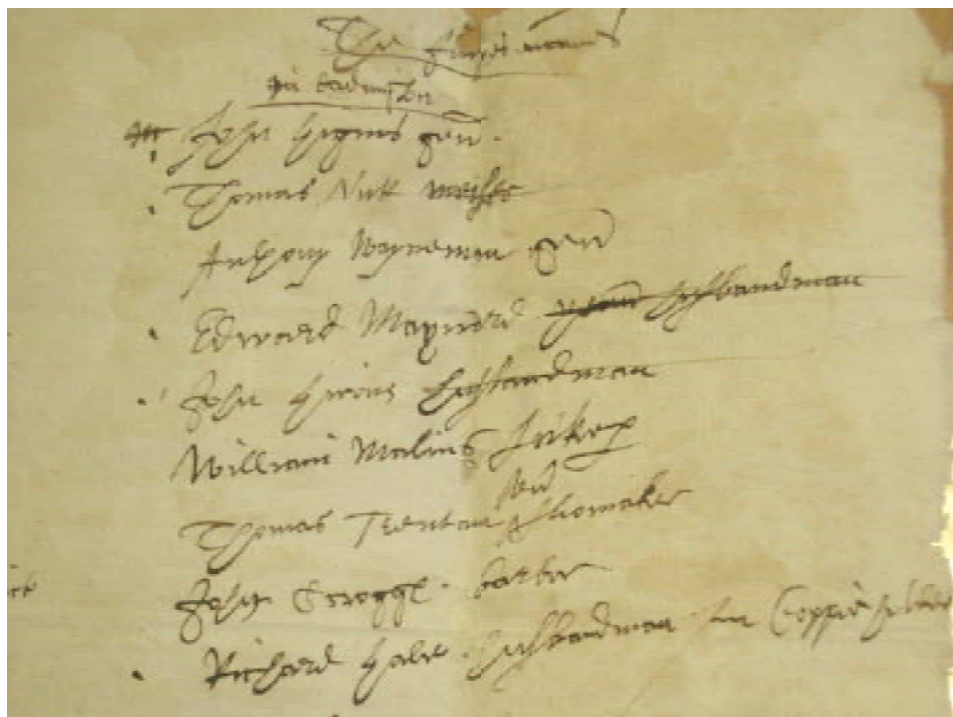
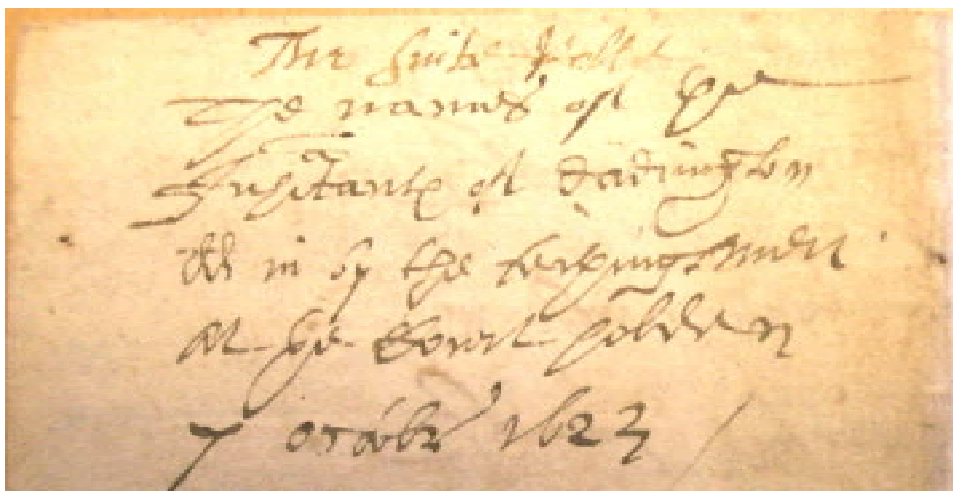
Anthony Mercer, but at what trade?

John London was the only chaundler, John Scroggs was a barber, with his father William, who was also a victualler. John and William Sheiler (father and son) were ironmongers (as opposed to smiths) and William Ludloe was the wheelwright.

And every village seems to have had one: Edward Smith is listed as drunkard.

*Moiria Byast*

*A section of 'The Bill of the Inhabitants of Daddington', 1623 [C (A) 3226] in the Northamptonshire Record Office, and its 'cover'*



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