

## Excise Duties Mid 1780s and late 1790s

From the mid-1780s excise duties were introduced on a whole range of items, including waggons, hats, saddle horses, gloves, medicines, perfumery, and even attornies and pawnbrokers. Deddington was one of the fewer than a dozen places in Oxfordshire where these taxes could be paid. Samuel Churchill, attorney, was the designated Deddington agent initially, but was soon replaced by his younger brother Henry Churchill, grocer.

In the late 1790s further excise duties were imposed, including on hair powder, personal legacies and armorial bearings. John Martin, grocer, was the designated Deddington agent for most of these taxes, replaced by 'Mr. Griffin', who may have been John Griffin, surgeon.<sup>(1)</sup>

In 1792 four Deddington tradesmen joined 16 retailers in Henley on Thames in protesting against the avoidance of the stamp duties on hats, gloves and perfumery. The Deddington signatories were John Hitchman [draper], Thomas Hudson, John Martin [grocer], and R[ichard] Richardson.<sup>(2)</sup>

### Deddington agents for Excise Duties

Duty	Date	Deddington agent
Bills of exchange, promissory notes &c.	3 August 1782	Mr. Samuel Churchill
Waggons, carts, &c.	14 February 1784	S. Churchill
Hats	25 September 1784	S. Churchill, attorney
Saddle horses	9 October 1784	King's Arms
Waggons, carts, &c.	30 October 1784	Sam. Churchill
Saddle horses	6 November 1784	H. Churchill, grocer
Waggons, carts, &c.	6 November 1784	H. Churchill
Gloves	30 July 1785	H. Churchill
Medicines	3 September 1785	H. Churchill
Attornies	29 October 1785	H. Churchill
Hats	29 October 1785	H. Churchill
Perfumery	15 July 1786	H. Churchill
Pawnbrokers	21 July 1787	Henry Churchill
Perfumery	21 July 1787	Henry Churchill
Gloves	25 August 1787	Henry Churchill
Medicines	15 September 1787	Henry Churchill
Hair powder	26 March 1796	Mr. Martin
Personal legacies	3 September 1796	Mr. Samuel Churchill, jun.
Hair Powder	4 February 1797	Mr. Martin
Hair Powder	31 March 1798	Mr. Martin
Armorial bearings	16 June 1798	Mr. Martin

<sup>1</sup> The Universal British Directory 1791 refers to John Griffin, apothecary.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* Hitchman, Hudson and Richardson are described as mercers.

Male servants, carriages, horses, mules and dogs	23 June 1798	Mr. John Martin, Grocer
Hair Powder	6 April 1799	Mr. Griffin
Armorial bearings	15 June 1799	Mr. Griffin

**14 February 1784**

**Notice regarding payment of stamp duty on waggons, carts, &c.  
Stamp offices in Oxfordshire include S. Churchill, Deddington.**

STAMP-OFFICE, LONDON, 22d Jan. 1784.

His Majesty's Commiffioners of the Stamp Duties do hereby give Notice, - That it having been directed by the laft Seffion of Parliament, laying a Duty on Waggons, Carts, &c. that the Proprietors of all fuch Carriages fhould take out Licences for the fame, within fixty Days after the Ift of November laft at fartheft, and it having been repreferented, that many Perfons liable to the faid Duties have neglected to pay the fame,  
.....

Perfons who have omitted taking out Licences, are defired to apply on or before the 2Ift Day of February next, to the following Perfons, viz.

[List of 7 stamp offices in Oxfordshire (excluding Oxford), including S. Churchill, Deddington.]

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17840214/001/0001>

**17 November 1792**

**Notice of Resolutions by Shopkeepers of Henley on Thames and Deddington, protesting against avoidance of stamp duties on hats, gloves, and perfumery. Deddington signatories John Hitchman, Thomas Hudson, John Martin, R. Richardson.**

HENLEY UPON THAMES, 17th October, 1792.

*Refolutions refpecting the Stamp Duties on Hats, Gloves, and Perfumery.*

AT a Meeting at the Town Hall in Henley, of the Retailers of Hats, Gloves, and Perfumery, held here this Day,

RESOLVED, That we whose Names are hereunto annexed, well aware of the great Injury sustained, not only to the Revenue of that Government under which we live, but to the fair Trader, by the very partial Method by which the Labels on Hats, Gloves, and Perfumery are at present made use of, do pledge ourselves to Government, to the Publick, and to each other, that we will not sell any Hats, Gloves, or Perfumery, without the proper Stamps being affixed.

[List of 16 signatories in Henley upon Thames.]

Names of Persons who have signed the above Resolutions at Deddington.

John Hitchman, Thomas Hudfon, John Martin, R. Richardfon.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17921117/005/0002>

**23 June 1798**

**Office for Taxes. List of 11 agents in Oxfordshire, including Mr. John Martin, Grocer, Deddington, for payment of duties on male servants, carriages, horses, mules and dogs.**

Notice by HM Commissioners for the Affairs of Taxes, Somerset Place, to facilitate payment of duties on male servants, carriages, horses, mules and dogs, by appointing local agents. list of 11 agents, including 2 women, in Oxfordshire, including Mr. John Martin, Grocer, Deddington.

Repeated 21 July 1798.

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000073/17980623/005/0001>

*Other references may be accessed by word searching the Index or the Compendium.*

