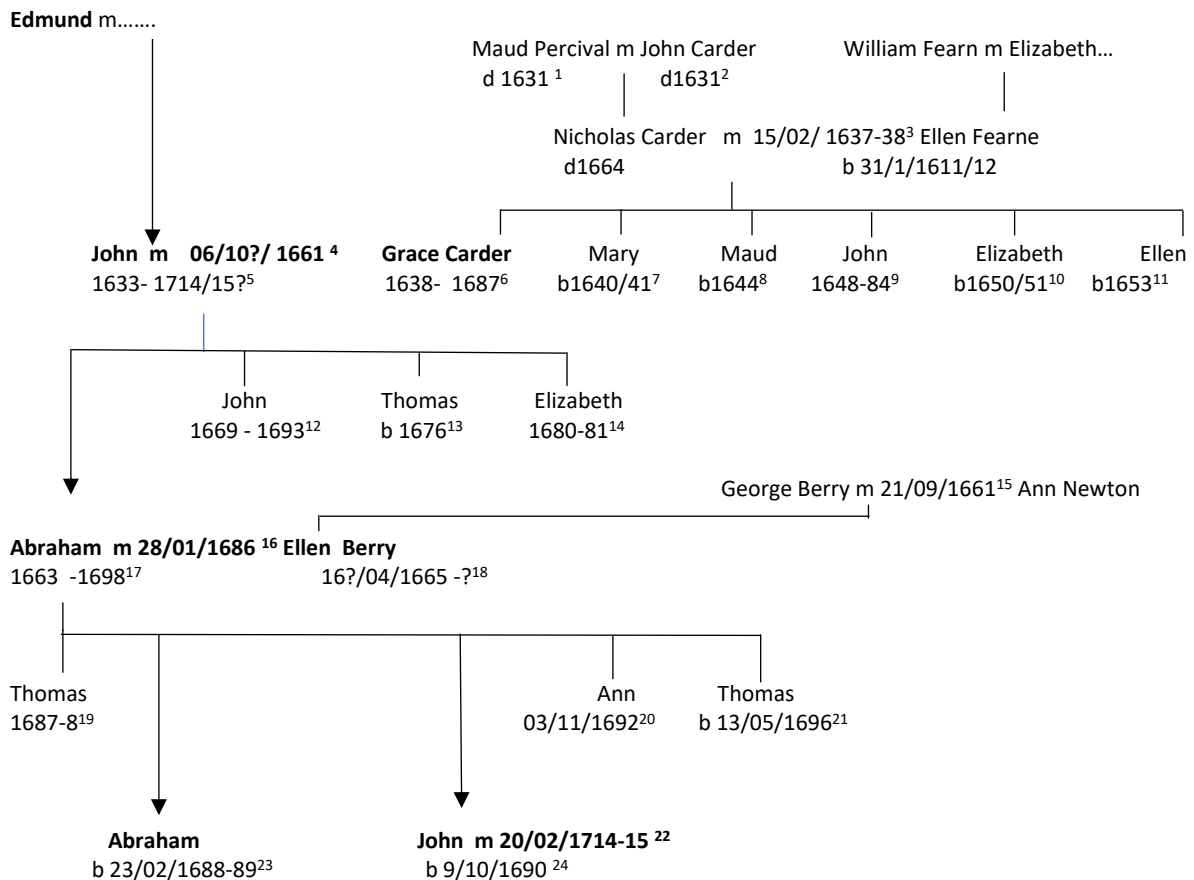


The John Harrisons and the Appearance of Wealth : Tenants of Whitle pre 1666 -c.1730



¹ Hartington St Giles Parish Registers (HPR) 1631 July 13 : ' Sepult Matilda uxor Johis Carder de cad villa (Ludwell) defunct'

² HPR 1631 April 17: Sepult Johis Carder fratris pfat?(abbreviated latin) Nichi de cad' (Ludwell) (Nicholas Carder sen. died just before him)

³ HPR 1637/38 : ' ffebr 15 Matr inter Nichola.. Carder de Ludwell et Elenam ffearne de heahcote istie? poch'

⁴ HPR 1661 : 'Oct? 6 Matr Inter Johnem Harrison de whitle in poch de Sheene et Gratia Carder ?st?? pochia'

⁵ Sheen Parish Registers (SPR) 1633 : ' B Johan filii Edmundi Harrison vicessimo quinto Augusti'; SPR 1714/15 : S Johannis Harrison de Whitle septimo die Martii'

⁶ HPR 1638 : 'November 18 Bapn Gracia filia Nicolai Carder de Ludwell et Elena uxoe eius.'; SPR 1687 : 'S Gracia Harrison decimo quarto die Aprilis'

⁷ HPR: 1640/41 Jan 17 'Bapt. Maria filia Nicho Carder de Ludwell'

⁸ HPR 1644 Dec 12 : 'Bapt. Matilda filia Nicholai Carder et Helene ux euis de Ludwell'

⁹ HPR 1648 May 21? : 'Bapt Johnis filii Nicholai Carder de Ludwell ei Helena ux eius'; Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521- 1860 (PD) : Peculiars Hartington PD Will written 1October 1684, probate granted April 1685

¹⁰ HPR 1650/51 Feb 18: 'Bapt Elizabetha filia Nicholai Carder de Ludwell'

¹¹ HPR 1653 (date illeg) : Bapt Helena filia Nicholai Carder de Ludwell'

¹² SPR 1669: 'B Johan filii Johan Harrison & Gracia uxoris eius 5 die Aprilis'; SPR 1693 : 'S Johan filii Johan Harrison de Whitle 18 die Augusti'

¹³ SPR 1676: 'B Thoma filii Johan Harrison & Gracia uxoris eius 28 die Januarii'

¹⁴ SPR 1680: 'B Eliz filia Johan Harrison & Gracia uxoris eius 7 die Novembris'; SPR 1681 : ' S Eliz filia Johan Harrison eodem die' (15 June)

¹⁵ Taddington St Micheal and All Angels Parish Registers (TPR): George Berry & Anna Newton was married September the 21 day'

¹⁶ TPR 1686/87 : 'Abrahami Harrison et Ellena Berry de Balckwall in matri ...noio? conjuniti Jan(uary) 28 Annointo?'

¹⁷ SPR 1663 : 'B Abrahami filii Johan Harrison & Gracia uxor eius 20 die Aprilis'; SPR 1698:'S Abrahami Harrison decimo cctavo die Septembris'

¹⁸ TPR 1665: B 'Ellen the daughter of George Berry & Anne his wife was baptised the same day' (16th?18? April)

¹⁹ SPR 1687/88 : ' B Thoma filii Abrahami Harrison octavo die Marchii; SR 1688: ' S Thoma filii Abrahami Harrison eodem die (May 1st)'

²⁰ SPR 1692: 'B Anna filia Abrahami Harrison & Ellena uxor eius 3 die Novemb(er)'

²¹ SPR 1696: 'B Thoma filii Abrahami Harrison & Ellen uxor eius 13 die Maii'

²² Butterton by Hulme End Parish Registers (transcription) 1714 /15: Hannam Miott married Johan Harrison 20 February 1714. NB Staffordshire Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry: marriage allegations and bonds 1636-1893 Licence granted 15 Feb 1714-15 to John Harrison single, about 21, and Hannah Mead single, same age and both from the parish of Sheen.

²³ SPR 1688/89 : 'B Abrahami filii Abrahami Harrison & Ellena uxor eius ffebr 23 1688'

²⁴ SPR 1690: 'B Johan filii Abrahami Harrison nono die Octob(er)'

John and Grace (Carder) Harrison: Tenants of Under Whitle: at or before 1666 - 1714?

Increasing debts and losing the lease of Under Whitle?

John Harrison was Edmund's eldest son who was baptised at Sheen in 1633. He and his siblings were brought up during the Civil War but it is not known how they were affected or if they were involved, but they would have known about skirmishes nearby, may have had food and animals sequestered and would have had to pay higher taxes. As a young man he lived under the Commonwealth with its changes to religious and social customs and practices.

After the restoration, in October 1661 John Harrison married Grace Carder at Hartington. Grace was part of the complex Carder families who lived at Ludwell. Speculative, but an Elizabeth Carder had an illegitimate child in 1680/81, whom she called 'Harrison' Carder.²⁵ It implies the father was a Harrison- but which one?

John Harrison and Grace had four, known, children but sadly, only two survived to adulthood - Abraham and Thomas. Their daughter, Elizabeth, dies as a baby and their son, John, lives for just 13/14 years. There are large gaps between children but, so far, we haven't found evidence of baptisms elsewhere.

By 1666, it looks as John and Grace are more prosperous farmers. The Hearth Tax records show them living in house with three hearths, when most of the local population had one or even none.²⁶ This implies a level of prosperity and a desire for prestige but, also, the desire to have a more comfortable lifestyle. However, information from arrears accounts and rentals show, in 1666, John is £11 2s in arrears, by 1670 this has increased to £28 10s. By 1671, he had managed to reduce the debt to £5 but in a 1673 account of '*The names of severall persons (charged?) to bee in arrears of rent to Sir John Harpur of Swarston who have not appeared to make any answer or satisfaction*' top of the list is John Harrison of Sheen owing a massive £44 02s 00d. Not only did he owe a lot on money but also, he did not bother to turn up to discuss it.²⁷

Though he is on the rent roll for Whitle in 1674, the next surviving rent roll of 1681-82 shows Mr Chambers is renting the messuage instead.²⁸ It is not yet known who or what Mr Chambers was though the title 'Mr' implies he had some status so was either a professional, independent or a larger yeoman farmer. It is not known if Mr Chambers lived at the farm, whether he farmed it, whether he was a relation, whether he paid off the debts, or whether he took over the lease completely. Though the family may have had to move out/have been evicted, there is evidence that John Harrison was continuing to farm there. Though Mr Chambers is the sole name on the 1686-1694 rent rolls, both Mr Chambers and John Harrison's names are against the farm on the arrears account of 1687-1693 but this time no money is owed! When his son is buried in 1693 it also records that his father John Harrison is at Whitle.

Although the actual date is not clear, in 1694, John Harrison is again in debt -though only by 15s implying he has missed a rent payment. Rather ominously a different hand has written against it '*Mr Wardle (the rent collector/ bailiff for the area) to answer*'. This pattern of being behind with a rental continues with another note in 1696-97 for '*Mr Wardle to answer*'.²⁹

By the turn of the century Mr Chambers' name has disappeared and John Harrison's name is on the rent roll,³⁰ but even if he has control back of the family farm, the regular delay in paying the rent implies that money is tight. Certainly, there have been tragedies in the family.

Abraham, John and Grace's eldest son, had married Ellen Berry from 'Blackwall' at Taddington in January 1686/87. It's not clear what he was doing there in Taddington or how he met her. Whether the families escalating debts had meant he had had to move out to find work or other reason, they were living in Sheen soon after their marriage when their children were born between 1687-1696. Then at the early age of 35, Abraham died leaving a widow and four young children. Though he

²⁵ HPR 1680/81 Jan 10: 'Harrison Carder illegitimy Eliz Carder'

²⁶ Collections for a History of Staffordshire, 1925, pp. 155-242, 'Lay Subsidy 256/31 Hearth Tax. Totmonslow Hundred', pp. 203-4. The tax registers the presence of William Horobin and John Harrison, and also several families who had links with Whitle.

²⁷ See Bundle Harpur Crewe Family and Estate papers Rent Accounts DRO D2375M/168/22 ; D2375M/174/1/50(ii) D2375M/171 22,33,34,35

²⁸ Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) Harpur Crewe Family and Estate papers Rentals D2375/E/R/5/10 (D2375/M/189/7/4) 1674-Lady Day 1675 D2375/E/R/5/11 (D2375/M/281/10) Michaelmas 1681 - Lady Day 1682

²⁹ DRO Harpur Crewe Family and Estate papers Rent Accounts (D2375M/171 33,34,35) D2375/E/Q/2/3/6 (D2375/M/171/1/7)

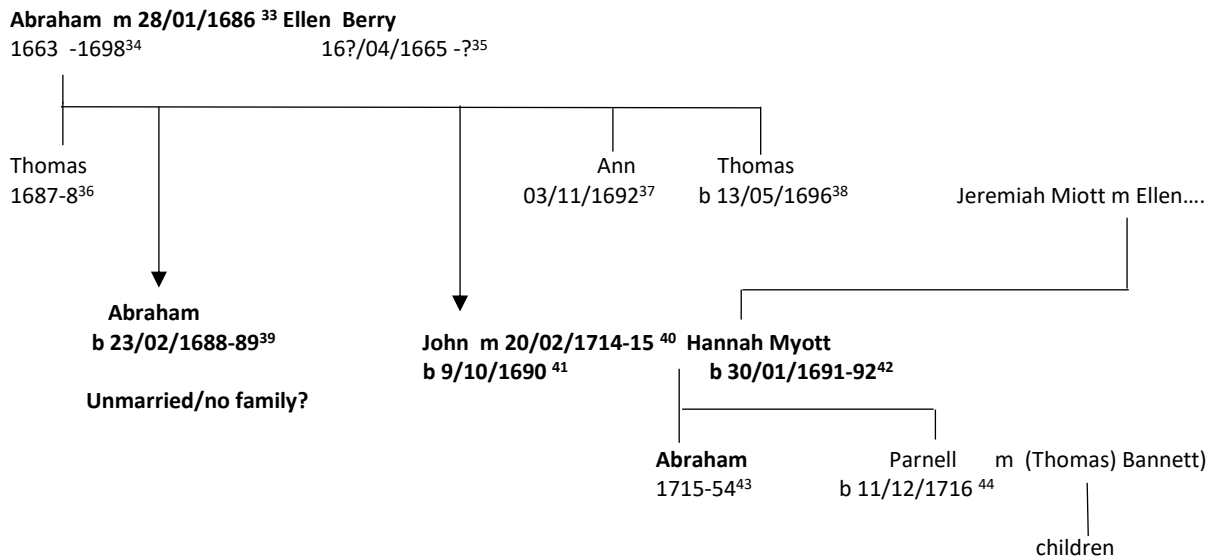
³⁰ DRO Harpur Crewe Family and Estate papers Rentals D2375/E/R/5/18 (D2375/M/104/2) Lady Day 1701

could have died due to a number of reasons, an epidemic affected the area late 1698 and 1699 when burials noticeably increased, especially at Longnor.³¹

John Harrison would have been in his 60s at the time Abraham died. His wife Grace had died ten years previously. It is not known what happens to his other son, Thomas, though a Thomas and Mary Harrison have a son Thomas baptised at Sheen in 1694, they disappear from the parish records after this. Until his grandsons were more capable of looking after the farm, John would have had to do most of the hard, physical work unless they could afford a servant. Towards the end of his life with three grandsons in their 20s it may have become a little easier, and it appears that they are finally paying their rent on time. In March 1714/15 John dies.

John Harrison and Abraham Harrison

John Harrison: Tenant 1714 ? Abraham Harrison: Tenant 1719- 1730 The same John Harrison: Tenant 1730 -³²



In 1714/15, John Harrison died. The following year, a memo in the Harpur Crewe records notes that the lease had expired and subsequently it was increased to £10 pa.⁴⁵ For the following 2 or 3 years John Harrison is still recorded as the tenant on the rent roll but, by 1719-20, it changes to Abraham Harrison whose name is given as the tenant for the next ten years, though John Harrison's name appears on an account dated 1725.⁴⁶ From 1730 John Harrison is recorded as being the

³¹ Longnor St Bartholemew Parish Registers

³² Research into dates when it was held and relationship between the two is still ongoing

³³ TPR 1686/87 : 'Abrahami Harrison et Ellena Berry de Balckwall in matri ...noio? conjuniti Jan(uary) 28 Annointo?'

³⁴ SPR 1663 : 'B Abrahami filii Johan Harrison & Gracia uxor eius 20 die Aprilis'; SPR 1698:'S Abrahami Harrison decimo octavo die Septembris'

³⁵ TPR 1665: B 'Ellen the daughter of George Berry & Anne his wife was baptised the same day' (16th?18? April)

³⁶ SPR 1687/88 : ' B Thoma filii Abrahami Harrison octavo die Marchii; SPR 1688: ' S Thoma filii Abrahami Harrison eodem die (May 1st)'

³⁷ SPR 1692: 'B Anna filia Abrahami Harrison & Ellena uxor eius 3 die Novemb(er)'

³⁸ SPR 1696: 'B Thoma filii Abrahami Harrison & Ellen uxor eius 13 die Maii'

³⁹ SPR 1688/89 : 'B Abrahami filii Abrahami Harrison & Ellena uxor eius ffebr 23 1688'

⁴⁰ Butterson by Hulme End Parish Registers (transcription) 1714 /15: ' Hannam Miott' married 'Johan Harrison 20' February 1714. Staffordshire Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry: marriage allegations and bonds 1636-1893 Licence granted 15 Feb 1714-15 to John Harrison single, about 21, and Hannah Mead single same age and both from the parish of Sheen.

⁴¹ SPR 1690: 'B Johan filii Abrahami Harrison nono die Octob(er)'

⁴² SPR 1691/92 : 'B Hanna filia Jeremiah Miott & Ellen uxor eius 30 die Januar(ii)'

⁴³ SPR 1715 : 'B Abrahami filii Johan Harrison & Hanna uxor eius octavo die Novembris'; SPR 1754 : ' Feb 10 Abraham Harrison bur:'

⁴⁴ SPR 1716: 'B Parenella filia Johan Harrison de Whittle & Hanna uxor eius undecimo die decem'

⁴⁵ Derbyshire Record Office, (DRO), Harpur Crewe Family and Estate papers Memorandum D2375/E/L/3/1/4 (D2375/M/103/64) 1st January 1716

⁴⁶ DRO Harpur Crewe Family and Estate papers Rentals eg D2375/E/R/5/45 (D2375/M/103/14) MM 1719-LD 1720 ; D2375/E/R/5/54 (D2375/M/103/20) MM1729-LD 1730 ; D2375/E/R/5/55 (D2375/M/103/21) MM1730-LD 1731); DRO Harpur Crewe Family and Estate papers Account D2375/E/Q/2/3/13 (D2375M/171/1/9) Dated LD 1725 refers to John Harrison. **NB Much fuller details of rentals and accounts, relating to the Harrison's and others of Whittle, can be found in Harris S. Peeling Back the Layers pp104-109**

tenant. It is not clear if the John Harrison recorded in 1716 and 1717-18 was simply a continuation until a new lease/tenancy arrangement had been agreed or if it was his grandson John who was being named as the tenant. It is likely that the Abraham Harrison, who is the named tenant 1719-30, is John Harrison's eldest grandson.

John had married Hannah Myott at Butterton, a few weeks after his grandfather's death. She was the daughter of Jeremiah Myott who lived in Sheen by his first? wife Ellen. The licence states that they are both from Sheen and about 21, but Hannah's last name is given as Mead.

Jeremiah Myott seems to have originated in Hartington but moved to Sheen Moor End.⁴⁷ He was a wealthier farmer and his will records purchases of land. He married at least twice and had a large number of children, with his youngest son, Timothy taking over Sheen Moor End after his death. Whether Hannah had a substantial dowry, or not, she is only left 12d (along with his two oldest sons) implying that he had given them their portion earlier.⁴⁸ His will is witnessed by William Horobin senior and William Horobin junior, despite having John Harrison as a son in law. Her brother, Timothy, however will leave the children of his nephew, Abraham Harrison, £20 between them, and the children of his late niece, Parnell Bannett, the same in his will of 1777.⁴⁹

Despite Abraham Harrison being the tenant of Whittle, it is John Harrison who seems to have status in the parish. In 1720, John Harrison is paying for one of the most 'high status' seats in the church, having the second seat on the south side of the Chancel.⁵⁰ His name is on the list of the more substantial inhabitants of Sheen who were agreeing an assessment of 1d per acre to be paid for the poor? John Harrison's name is recorded as paying 1s 10d – the same as William Horobin. Abraham Harrison is not mentioned.⁵¹

Soon after their marriage John and Hannah had two children, Abraham baptised 8th November 1715 and Parnell, a year later, in December 1716. There are no records of any other children. John's brother Abraham does not appear to marry – there are no known records of any children or a marriage.

Despite the apparent high status in 1720, by 1728, John and Hannah are being paid to look after a sick and dying man Richard Housley. The overseers accounts record Hannah Harrison being paid 2s 6d 'for making clean Richard Housley's clothes'. John Harrison is paid £4 14s, 'for boarding Richard Housley 47 weeks at 2s per week'.⁵² Whether this was being done out of kindness, a sense of duty, because with a smaller family they had room, or because they needed the money is unclear but it seems unlikely they would not be doing it if they were wealthier. An Ann Harrison is also receiving help and board from William Gould during this period but her connection is unknown.

In 1730 John Harrison is recorded again as the tenant of Whittle. There is no record of Abraham's death so it is unknown what happens to him. There is also no record of John's or Hannah's burials. The only possibility is that the burial, at Sheen, of Anne Harrison wife of John Harrison, 16/07/1755, refers to Hannah. John was still alive in 1737, when Joseph Bradley is accused of stealing hay from him. 'Joseph Bradley, stocking weaver, Sheen charged with the theft in Sheen of hay belonging to John Harrison'. Joseph's wife Ann also has to appear in court 'and keep the peace between John Harrison and his family of Sheen.' Joseph Bradley and James Brindley of Leek, husbandman, were bondsmen.⁵³ Joseph and Ann Bradley are known to be living in a part of Whittle from the 1770s so may well have been living near him in 1738.⁵⁴

Their daughter Parnell married Thomas Bannett and had children by the time her Uncle wrote his will, but it is as yet unknown where she was living.

⁴⁷ HPR Records a Richard Myott born to Jeremiah and Ann in 1682, Followed by John and Ellen born to Jeremiah and Ellen Miott in Nov 1688 and May 1690 respectively. Hannah and her younger siblings, including her sister Parnell, were born in Sheen. In his will, Jeremiah states he is living at Sheen Moor End. Diocese Of Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860 (PD) Jeremiah Myott Sheen 1725 June 10

⁴⁸ Ibid His will refers to his eldest sons Jeremiah and Richard.

⁴⁹ Diocese Lichfield and Coventry Wills and Probate 1521-1860 Of Timothy Myott Sheen Sept 3 1777

⁵⁰ Staffordshire Record Office (SRO) D5523/2/1 (CD341/2/1/1/1) Sheen St Luke's General Accounts Parish Book 1720-1802

⁵¹ Ibid pp3-5

⁵² Ibid p22

⁵³ SRO Q/SR/563/15 and SRO Q/SR/568/12

⁵⁴ SPR 1773 Feb 9 Joseph Bradley of Whittle buried ; 1777 May 19 Ann Bradley of Whittle buried