

THE NEWTON FAMILY – CHADDESSEN’S FORGOTTEN SQUIRES

INTRODUCTION

Many families originally derived their surnames from the name of the village in which they lived, and since ‘Newton’ is one of the most popular English place-names there are innumerable families sharing this surname, yet mostly unrelated to each other.¹ From the latter half of the sixteenth century to the first decade of the seventeenth century three generations of the Newton family of Chaddesden were the village squires, yet you will search in vain for any trace of them here today. There are no memorials to members of the family in St. Mary’s Church, none of their gravestones can be seen in the churchyard, and it is not known for certain whereabouts they actually lived. A separate PDF file entitled ‘The Newton Family Tree’ is available on Chaddesden Historical Group’s website and charts the relationship of the various people mentioned in this article to one another.

At the beginning of the Tudor period, the largest land-holdings in Chaddesden were held by various different families, for example Twyford, Pole, Curzon, Dethick and Sacheverell, who, by and large, lived outside the village. In addition there were also some institutional and ecclesiastical landowners such as the Crown (in the form of the Duchy of Lancaster) and foundations like Darley Abbey, Dale Abbey, Chaddesden Chantry, and the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, which was based at Burton Lazars in Leicestershire with its preceptory or administrative centre at Locko.

However, with the aim of demonstrating his royal supremacy as well as appropriating the vast wealth of the country’s religious communities, Henry VIII suppressed all the abbeys and monasteries between 1536 and 1540 and the Crown seized their estates and assets.² To ensure the Crown’s revenue could be increased as much as possible, the Court of Augmentations was created in 1536 to exploit the lands and revenues of these former ecclesiastical properties. In practice, the land freed at the time the abbeys and monasteries were suppressed was frequently sold off to speculators (typically well-connected courtiers or members of the Tudor gentry) at around twenty times its annual value. The new purchasers might then in turn split their investments into smaller portions, re-selling some at a profit to other investors. Just a few years later in 1547 the chantries were also forced to close, with the Crown once again taking all their land and possessions.

With so much former ecclesiastical land now available on the open market to anyone with a deep-enough pocket, the decades from the late 1530s onwards must have witnessed some incredible scenes as individuals attempted to use whatever influence they could bring to bear in order to acquire land at favourable prices. Certainly it is around this period that unfamiliar names begin to feature as owners of land in Chaddesden.³ Like many of the established Chaddesden landowners, these new people were mostly absentee landlords, simply content to let, sell or lease their new estates for the greatest possible profit. Occasionally, however, someone would actually take up residence here and so in the 1560s we first come upon the name of Robert Newton as a resident of Chaddesden.

ROBERT NEWTON AND HIS FAMILY

Unlike many of the other people who had bought estates in Chaddesden around this time, Robert Newton was actually a local man, whose father, Thomas, lived at Horsley Woodhouse only some six miles away to the north. In turn, Thomas was apparently the son of John Newton of Derby and Horsley, who was the Member of Parliament for Derby in 1472/3 and 1477/8.⁴

It was possibly his father’s death in 1558/9 that eventually prompted Robert to leave Horsley and move to Chaddesden, for Thomas Newton had been involved in numerous legal actions (mostly as plaintiff) in the courts of Star Chamber, Requests, and Chancery, all concerning Horsley or the Manor

1 The website <https://britishsurnames.co.uk/> calculates that ‘Newton’ is the 183rd most common surname in the UK.

2 The Act of Suppression in 1536 closed the smaller abbeys and monasteries with an income of less than £200 p.a. although some were allowed to purchase a temporary exemption. The Second Act of Suppression of 1539 closed the remaining larger abbeys and monasteries.

3 For example, Thomas and William Calton, goldsmiths of London, Sir Edward Molyneux and Robert Broke.

4 This John Newton might perhaps be identified with the man of the same name who was a churchwarden of All Saints, Derby in 1509–10. See Rev. J. C. Cox & W. H. St. John Hope, *The Chronicles of the Collegiate Church or Free Chapel of All Saints’, Derby*, London & Derby, 1881, p.32.

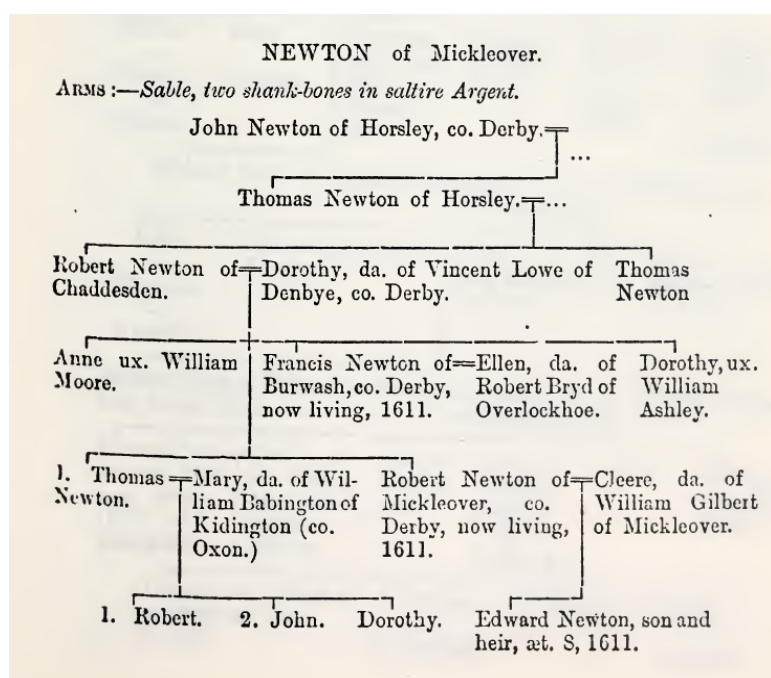
of Horsley.⁵ Whether this was because Thomas was an extremely litigious individual or simply unfortunate in his choice of neighbours is unclear!

There appears to have been a Newton presence in Horsley a decade later, for a list of the 'Gentlemen of Name and Arms in Derbyshire' compiled in 1569 contains over one hundred names, including a reference to 'Newton de Horsley', however it is not clear whether this relates to Robert Newton, who might have retained some property there, or to his younger brother Thomas.⁶

Any attempt to create a definitive genealogy of the Newtons of Chaddesden is hindered to a significant degree by the fact that there were other families with the same surname living in the village at the same time. Were they related in any way? This is extremely difficult to determine more than 400 years later, so I have placed their details (marked Fragment 1 and Fragment 2) alongside the main family tree shown in the accompanying PDF file. Further information about these two fragmentary Newton family trees will be given at the end of this paper.



The Newton family, as represented by Robert and his descendants, were wealthy enough to be entitled to use a coat of arms, albeit a somewhat gruesome one, i.e. *Sable, two human shin-bones in saltire, argent, the sinister surmounted of the dexter*, in other words a black shield with a diagonal cross comprised of two silver shin-bones.⁷ Note how the bone from top left to bottom right overlies its companion.



A basic pedigree of the family is to be found in the Heraldic Visitation of 1611 reproduced here.⁸ Such visitations were conducted by heralds from the College of Arms in order to note the devices and pedigrees of families properly entitled to bear arms, as well as to correct irregularities and admonish those using arms without due authorisation.

Some pedigrees claim the Newton family of Chaddesden can be traced to East Harptree, a small village in Somerset and via a descent from Sir Richard Cradock of Newton, Chief Justice of England in the reign of Henry VI, all the way back to Howell ap Grono, Lord of Tref Newydd (Newtown or Newton) in Powys. A manuscript copy of the heraldic visitations of Derbyshire in 1569 and 1611, written up by Jacob Chaloner in 1615, states that the father

of John Newton of Horsley was Thomas Newton, the second son of Sir John Newton of Somerset.⁹ Whilst this may or may not be correct, impressive-looking pedigrees were not at all uncommon from the Tudor period onwards as families sought to enhance their prestige by 'adopting' the genealogy of another unrelated family with the same or similar surname but who lived in a different part of the country.

5 The National Archives 'Discovery' catalogue for the search terms Newton + Horsley lists 12 such instances, frequently with Sir Henry Sacheverell as defendant.

6 Rev. H. Lawrance, 'A Derbyshire Visitation Manuscript, 1687', *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 32, 1910, 33–72, p.41.

7 Interestingly, Sir Isaac Newton used a similar coat-of arms with the bones usually reversed.

8 W. C. Metcalfe, Ed., 'Pedigrees contained in the Visitations of Derbyshire, 1569 and 1611', *The Genealogist*, New Series Vol.8, 1892, 17–24, 65–80, 174–180, p.23.

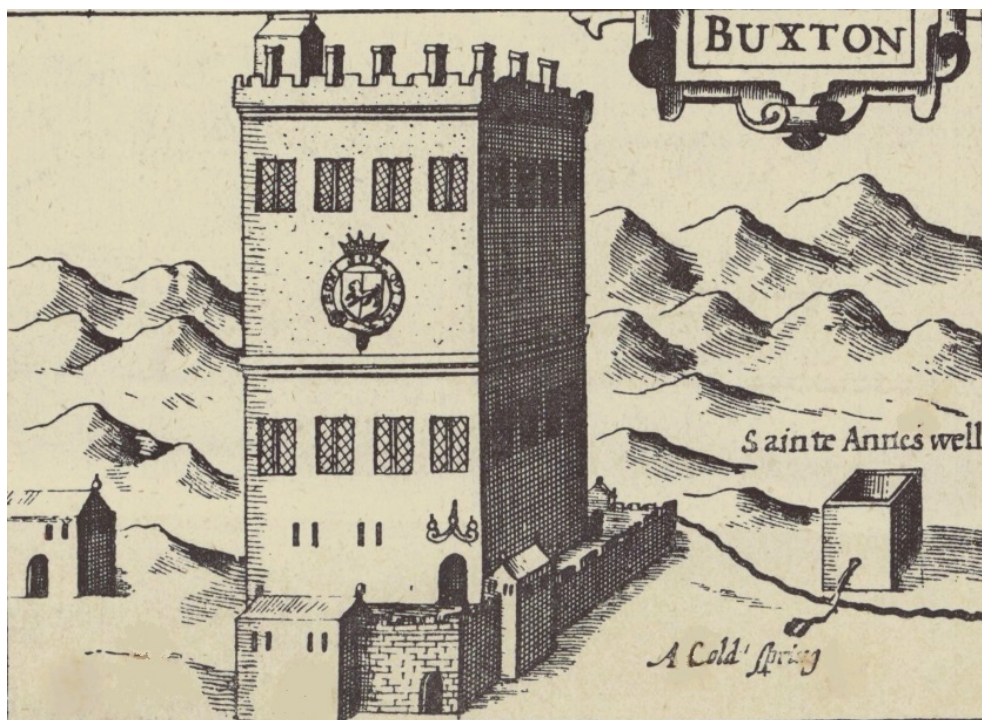
9 Derby Local Studies Library (DLSL), *The Visitacon of the Countye of Darbye*, Jacob Chaloner, 1615.

In 1568 Robert Newton of Chaddesden first features in a land transaction and then in 1573 he purchased a substantial property portfolio from Thomas Swinnerton (alias Byrley or Birley), which appears to have included parts of the estate once owned by Chaddesden Chantry. Thomas Swinnerton's father, also named Thomas, had moved to Chaddesden after acquiring land here in the years following Henry VIII's reforms. Thomas Swinnerton senr. died in 1565 after making generous provision in his will to local poor people and requesting burial in Chaddesden Church.¹⁰ Thomas junr. inherited his father's land in Chaddesden, Breadsall and Cawood (Yorkshire), but evidently had no intention of continuing to live here, hence the sale to Robert Newton.

Over the next quarter of a century Robert Newton continued buying and selling property, not always in Chaddesden. For example, he dealt in land at Earl Sterndale and Crowdicote near Hartington (1573), King Sterndale (1575), Bakewell, Tideswell and Hope (1575/6) and Buxton (1576), all in the north of the county, although exactly why he had landed interests here is not clear – perhaps there was a family connection somewhere. The Buxton transaction is particularly interesting; here is a summary, taken from Wolley Charter xii.106 in the British Library:

Grant by Robert Newton of Chaddesden, co. Derby, gentleman, and Thomas Newton, his son and heir apparent, to Anthony Heathcote of Buxton, co. Derby, yeoman and Dorothy his wife, and Francis Heathcote, second son of the said Anthony Heathcote, in accordance with certain articles agreed between the said parties in an indenture of even date, of a capital messuage called Le Newhall, alias Le Inne of the Signe of the Talbot in Buxton aforesaid ...

From this document it appears that Robert Newton of Chaddesden and his son Thomas were selling the New Hall otherwise known as 'the Inn of the sign of the Talbot' to Anthony Heathcote of Buxton.¹¹ However, the New Hall at Buxton had been constructed by George Talbot, 6th Earl Of Shrewsbury only three years previously, seemingly to provide accommodation for wealthy visitors, and was so-named to distinguish it from the nearby Auld Hall which had belonged to Henry Sacheverell of Ratcliffe-on-Soar before it too was bought up by the Earl in the late 1570s.¹² Mary,



Queen of Scots was kept prisoner in the New Hall on at least five occasions between 1573 and 1584, enabling her to take the waters at Buxton to relieve her rheumatism. The original appearance of the New Hall, four square and four stories high, is captured in this drawing of 1610 found on John Speed's Map of Derbyshire. Quite how Robert Newton had become its owner is a complete puzzle, for it seems rather unlikely that Shrewsbury would dispose of his brand-new property within three years of its construction.

Newton continued to develop his Derbyshire property interests with deals at Litton (1581) and Kniveton (1582). What seems to have been his biggest single purchase was made in February 1584

¹⁰ P. F. Cholerton, *Chaddesden Wills and Inventories 1533–1868*, Unpublished MS.

¹¹ The inn's name is of course a reference to its builder, George Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury. The inn sign visible in the centre of the building depicts a talbot – a large hunting dog – and the motto of the Knights of the Garter, *Honi soit qui mal y pense* (Shame to he who thinks ill of it). The property has survived to the present as the Old Hall Hotel.

¹² R. Thornes & J. T. Leach, 'Buxton Hall', in *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 114, 1994, 29–53, p.29.

when he paid £660 to buy an estate from George, Earl of Cumberland, and his brother Francis Clifford, comprised of various lands in Spondon, Chaddesden, Locko, Borrowwash and Twyford. In that same year he also bought 600 acres of land in Chaddesden, Spondon, and Breadsall together with a few cottages from Francis Curzon. Later in 1584 he sold some of his surplus Chaddesden property to John Scattergood of Chaddesden, seemingly in order to fund the purchase of remnants of John Swinnerton's estate that were still held by his daughter, Gillian Swinnerton. The next few years saw no let-up in Robert Newton's property activities when he bought a 100-year lease of lands in Chaddesden and neighbouring villages formerly belonging to German Pole of Radbourne (1585), and then another lease from Francis Beaumont of Grace Dieu, Leics, of one-third the Manor of Litchurch with its lands in Chaddesden, Osmaston and Derby (1586).

Robert had married well, to Dorothy, the daughter of Vincent Lowe of Denby, and the couple had nine children – three boys and six girls – one of whom, Andromeda, seemingly married Thomas Swinnerton's eldest son, also named Thomas (see above).¹³ Of Newton's other children, eldest son Thomas married firstly Mary Babington, the daughter of Sir William Babington of Kiddington, Oxfordshire and then secondly Sara Cradock, daughter of Matthew Cradock, a Staffordshire MP,¹⁴ Francis Newton matriculated from Magdalen Hall, Oxford in 1586 aged 17 and went on to marry Ellen, daughter of Robert Bird of Over Locko, whilst the youngest son Robert gained a BA from Merton College, Oxford, in 1590 and entered the Inner Temple, London, as a student in 1591, later marrying Cleere, daughter of William Gilbert of Mickleover.¹⁵

Young Thomas Newton is actually on record as one of the participants in Queen Elizabeth I's 'Lottery General' – England's first ever national lottery – inaugurated in 1567 to raise funds for the repair of harbours and similar works, and drawn two years later. Priced at ten shillings each the tickets were hugely expensive; by way of comparison a farmer of that period could buy a good cow for something like fifteen shillings! As Thomas Newton was then only around 10 years old, his father probably bought ticket number 133494 for him. Each lottery participant was expected to place a 'posy', a motto or short verse on their ticket, to be read out when drawn, Thomas' somewhat cryptic posy read, 'If I have good hap [fortune] I hit. Per Thomas Newton, Chadsden.' It seems he did win one of the many prizes on offer, but the details of what it was and how much it was worth are lost to history!¹⁶

The Lottery General described above failed to produce the expected revenue, and some twenty years later the Crown's finances were once again found wanting as the result of heavy expenditure at the time of the Spanish Armada (July/August 1588) and then the preparation for the equally unsuccessful English Counter-Armada one year later. With the aim of generating some much-needed income, the Privy Council chose members of the wealthy gentry classes in each county and informed them they had been selected to lend the Crown a lump sum, usually £25 or £50. Given Queen Elizabeth's fiery temper, the number of individuals who protested about this were probably comparatively few in number, but some did manage to wriggle out of paying, claiming for example, that they were heavily in debt, or their farms had not yielded well. It therefore must have been an unpleasant surprise for Robert Newton in 1589 when he learned that the Privy Council would be expecting him to pay the £25 formerly assigned to John Fitzherbert of Tissington, who had somehow managed to be excused!

Here at Chaddesden, the affluent lifestyle of Robert Newton was occasionally disturbed by legal action, though not to the same extent as his father! For example, Robert Newton and Henry Scattergood (apparently the son of John Scattergood, to whom Newton sold land in 1584) were defendants in a case brought before a Duchy of Lancaster court in 1589 by Clement Leaper of Derby and others, concerning a dispute involving the right to a watercourse and the highway to Osmaston Piece over Holme Ford. The ford was an ancient route across the River Derwent, which could be accessed from the Chaddesden side of the river by walking or riding down Meadow Lane, travelling

13 From Chaloner's copy of the 1569 and 1611 Visitations, see above

14 After Thomas died in 1600, Sara Newton (nee Cradock) married William White of Duffield. Coincidentally, some branches of the Newton family claimed descent from a Sir Richard Cradock of Newton, *temp* Henry VI (see above).

15 William Gilbert of Mickleover was the Escheator for Derbyshire in 1592, see Robert Newton's IPM below.

16 P. S. Ball, *Gambling in Elizabethan England: Perspectives on England's 'Lotterie General' of 1567–69*, Ph.D Thesis, University of Tasmania, 2018, p.354. Less than one-twelfth of the 400,000 tickets were sold!

upstream for a short distance and then crossing the water at this shallow point in order to reach the fields of Osmaston.

Robert's younger brother, Thomas Newton, sometimes known as 'The Parson', lived for a while in the Rectory at nearby Morley, of which parish he was curate in 1579.¹⁷ At some stage, Robert Newton had actually acquired a lease of the rectory and the advowson (right of patronage) of Morley, but in 1590 he assigned these to William Clowes of Elvaston.

Chaddesden was badly affected by an outbreak of the plague in the autumn of 1592, with Robert Newton being one of those who caught the contagion and died as a result. Probably then aged in his mid-60s, his will, written on 11 September 1592 a few weeks before his death, states that he was 'sicke in bodie' and calls to mind 'the failures & uncerteintie of mens life.'¹⁸ He requested burial 'in the Chappell at Chadsden neare unto that place whereas my wife ys buried', and specifically mentioned some of his property including the land in Chaddesden in the holding of John Bamford called 'the Lord of Shrewsburie lands & Mr. Poole [Pole's].' He evidently did not think particularly much of the husbands of his daughters Andromeda Swinnerton and Anne More, noting that their spouses were 'lyke to waste' their legacies! His will was eventually proved on 4 December 1593, the delay perhaps attributable to the lasting effects of the plague upon the normal functioning of the probate court. Bearing in mind that Robert Newton bought much of his Chaddesden property from Thomas Swinnerton back in 1573, he rather curiously bequeathed the very substantial sum of £13 6s 8d to Dorothy Swinnerton, but gave no indication as to his connection with her, nor indeed whether she was related to either of the two Thomas Swinnertons – senior or junior – in any way.¹⁹

As Robert Newton had held property directly from the Crown and was therefore a tenant-in-chief, a special Inquisition Post Mortem was arranged for 5 December 1592. Such an inquisition had nothing to do with a post mortem examination to discover the cause of death, rather it was to determine the date of death, what lands were held by the deceased, and the identity and age of his heir. The official Escheator for the county, a Crown appointee, was expected to determine how much tax, known as a relief, the heir needed to pay the Crown before taking possession of his estate. The Inquisition's findings are given below:

Inquisition Post Mortem. Taken at Derby before Wm. Gilbert, eschaetor of the county of Derby, and John Bullock, esq., feodary of the Queen²⁰ for the said county, on Robert Newton late of Chaddesden, co. Derby, esq., by the oaths of [15 named individuals].

They say that Robt. Newton died seised in his demesne as of fee in the chantry of Chaddesden and a capital messuage in Chaddesden, also a manor in Chaddesden which he had by gift of Fras. Curzon late of Kedleston, esq., dec'd., and another manor in Chaddesden bought of George, Earl of Cumberland, and another one belonging to George, late Earl of Shrewsbury and Germain Pole, esq, also in divers other messuages, etc., in Chaddesden, Derby, Spondon, Alvaston, Osmaston and Breadsall.

They say that the said chantry and capital messuage in Chaddesden are held of the Queen as of her honour of Tutbury, co. Staff., parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster and are valued at £4 yearly; that the manor had of Fras. Curzon and all the other said manors and messuages, etc., in Chaddesden, Spondon, Alvaston, Osmaston and Breadsall are held of the Queen as of her honour of Tutbury, parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster, and valued at £5 and £10 respectively; that the lands in Derby are held of the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Derby and valued at 20s; Robt. Newton died 14th October last past, and Thos. Newton is his son and next heir and is aged 36 years and more²¹

17 In his will dated 5 January 1569, Sir William Bill, 'clerk, parson of the church of Morley' made a bequest of 10s 'to my friend Thomas Newton' (D. G. Edwards, *Derbyshire Wills 1393–1574*, Derbyshire Record Society, 1998, p.186).

18 P. F. Cholerton, *Chaddesden Wills and Inventories 1533–1868*, Unpublished MS.

19 When Thomas Swinnerton senr. drew up his will in 1564, he had a daughter called Dorothy.

20 Feodary of the Queen – The monarch's representative who attended the inquisition to prevent fraud.

21 *Inquisitions Post Mortem for Derbyshire, 1485–1602*, Derby Local Studies Library MS 9200, fo.319 [Spellings modernised]. DRO D3155/6338 entitled 'A Note of Newton's Office' contains similar information.

Thomas Newton duly took his place as heir to his father's estate and was soon embroiled in Chancery proceedings to recover some Chaddesden property in the occupation of Thomas Bamforth or Bamford (son of John Bamford referred to above) that had been purchased by Robert Newton. Unfortunately Thomas' time as squire of Chaddesden was abruptly cut short when he died in 1600, aged only in his mid-40s, leaving his son (by his first wife), Robert Newton, as heir, who was to have the lease of the Duchy of Lancaster lands in Chaddesden and Spondon, and his siblings, Dorothy and John. Thomas Newton's son by his second wife (Sara) was to receive Stamford's Farm and Bamford's farm (including the portion bought of the Queen). In his will, Thomas requested 'Christian buriall in the parishe church of Chadsden aforesaid nere unto the place where my late deare and loving father and mother weere buried and my funerall to be duly and decently performed.'²² Rather tellingly, Thomas' will also notes that because 'my detts and Legacies are greate and such as my goodes and Chattells will not suffice to pay and dischargd', he would make a lease of all or part of his lands for 21 years to his executors 'for the better dischargd of my said debtes and Legacies.'

It appears that immediately prior to his death, it had been determined that Thomas Newton would be one of the seventy or so members of the Derbyshire gentry contributing towards the cost of equipping horsemen to fight in Ireland. A return giving 'The names of those gentlemen with the sums of money they are to pay' was made at Derby on 16 May 1601. Newton was assessed at the minimum amount of 15s, whereas Henry Sacheverell at nearby Morley was down for £2 10s. It is unclear whether the liability for this amount would have been passed on to his eldest son or not.

However, as heir to the Chaddesden estate, Robert Newton soon had more important things to worry about. It seems that he was not the astute man his like-named grandfather was, for in 1608 he was bound to repay merchant bonds for £2,400 and £1,200 respectively. The first being due to Robert Wilmot, then residing at Osmaston, and the second to Edward Shrigley, of Ashe near Etwall, Wilmot's brother-in-law. Newton quickly became the defendant in Chancery law suits that were brought against him by Robert Wilmot, and soon began selling large portions of the Chaddesden estate to Wilmot, presumably to pay off the debts and within the space of a decade the Wilmot family had replaced the Newtons as the squires of Chaddesden.

Around the time Robert Newton and Eleanor his wife had begun to sever their connection with Chaddesden, Robert's brother, John Newton, was seemingly featured in a 1607 marriage licence with 'Rachael Willymote' of Radford, Notts, the daughter of Edward Wilmot, a deceased woollen-draper of Derby, and almost certainly a direct relation of the Chaddesden Wilmots.²³ Unfortunately I have not been able to trace proof that the marriage ever took place.

Perhaps the most perplexing thing about the Newtons' time at Chaddesden is not knowing exactly where in the village they lived. However, there is a clue in a document dated 28 June 1616, which is a release from Robert Newton of Chaddesden to William White of Duffield 'of his late house called Chantrie House in Chaddesden, now occupied by Robert Willmot or Edward Shrigley.'²⁴ William White was the second husband of Sara Newton (nee Cradock), the mother of Thomas Newton, and Edward Shrigley was the brother-in-law of Robert Wilmot. From this it could be inferred that the Newton family might well have used the former residence of Chaddesden's four chantry priests as their family home once they acquired much of the chantry's property from Thomas Swinnerton in 1573. The priests' house must have been quite imposing for it is known to have possessed a gatehouse and four stables; in later years it could even have been converted by Robert Wilmot into the forerunner of Chaddesden Hall.

Other members of the extensive Newton family did enjoy success elsewhere. For example, Thomas Newton, the son of Thomas Newton (died 1600) and his second wife, Sara, used his inheritance to move to Duffield, where he built Duffield Hall, familiar to many people as the former headquarters of the now-defunct Derbyshire Building Society. Another Robert Newton, a younger son of Robert

22 P. F. Cholerton, *Chaddesden Wills and Inventories 1533–1868*, Unpublished MS.

23 Nottinghamshire Marriage Licences: 11 March 1606/7, John Newton of Chaddesden, gent, and Rachael Willymote of Radford, daughter of Edward Willmote of Derby, woollen-draper, deceased. At Radford.

24 DLSL, DD 15415.

Newton and Dorothy Lowe was a successful barrister at the Inner Temple, London, and resided at Mickleover.

A particularly noteworthy connection between the Wilmot and Newton families appears in Robert Wilmot's will of 1638. He wrote, 'I doe give & bequeath unto John Newton lyveing with my sonne Edward Willimott the sume of Fortie pounds to be paid unto him or unto such person or persons as my said sonne Edward shall appoint at his full age of Twenty & one yeeres.' From this we can deduce that John Newton must have been born sometime after 1617. Edward Wilmot, on the other hand, was born in 1606, obtained his MA in 1630 and by the time his father drew up his will, had been serving as the minister of All Saints' Church, Derby (now the Cathedral) for some six years.²⁵ If this John Newton was a member of the Chaddesden family he does not feature on the accompanying PDF file, but may perhaps have been the son of John Newton of Chaddesden and Rachael Wilmot of Radford, Nottingham, who were the subjects of the 1606/7 marriage licence referred to above. Robert Wilmot evidently held him in sufficient regard to leave him the substantial amount of £40.

FRAGMENTS 1 AND 2

As mentioned at the start of this article, Robert Newton's family co-existed with two other Newton families at Chaddesden. Was this simply coincidence given the fact that Newton is a very common surname or were these families related to one another? Some of the individuals in both Fragments 1 and 2 that are shown in the related PDF file 'The Newton Family Tree' seem to have held local positions of importance or had influential friends or connections.

In Fragment 1, for example, William Newton (died 1540) was a churchwarden at Chaddesden²⁶ and his son Richard, who died in 1566, had married into the prosperous Gregson family of Thurvaston, near Sutton on the Hill, and left bequests to Thomas Bird of Over Locko and Francis Curzon, both people of considerable local influence. Additionally Richard had also acted as surety when the village of Chaddesden was fined 5s 4d after the county authorities judged the parish highways to be in a poor condition!

If anything, Fragment 2 is even more interesting for Edward Newton features quite frequently in Chaddesden's recorded history. For example, the will of Chaddesden baker Raphe Outram, written on 19 November 1613, provides the information that Edward was Raphe's neighbour, one of the overseers of the will, an appraiser of the inventory of his goods made the next month and was also one of the seventeen or so people to whom the deceased was indebted, being owed £12.²⁷

Although Edward Newton is usually described simply as a yeoman, he shows up several more times throughout the 1620s and 1630s.²⁸ In 1627 King Charles I attempted to circumvent Parliament's authority by directly raising a levy (described as a 'loan') from wealthier Derbyshire citizens.²⁹ This 'Aid to His Majesty' was collected across the whole county by 'Robt Wyllimott of Cheddesden, Gent', so we can assume the five entries for Chaddesden were accurate. In addition to Wilmot himself, whose 'loan' was stated to be £6, Edward Newton was assessed at £1. King Charles never intended to repay the loans and many people had to be cajoled or threatened into paying; curiously one of those whose names were marked 'Not paid' was that of Robert Wilmot himself!

Edward Newton (variously written as Edmund) had a daughter Mary, who was the executrix of the will of her husband, Robert Wilmot of Chaddesden (died 1630). This particular Robert Wilmot was the son of Edward Wilmot who was a wealthy mercer of London Bridge and the younger brother of Robert Wilmot (died 1638), the head of the Chaddesden family. The Derbyshire Record Office holds a release by 'Ed Newton & his dawghter Mary Williamott' to Henry and Robert Holden of Shardlow,

25 Clergy of the Church of England Database, <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/>

26 Newton's will states his desire to be buried in the church of St. John the Baptist in Chaddesden, a reference to the church's original dedication.

27 P. F. Cholerton, *Chaddesden Wills and Inventories 1533–1868*, Unpublished MS. In comparison, 'Mr. Williamot' was only owed £4.

28 Edward Newton seemingly died after 1641.

29 Rev. R. J. Burton, 'Hundred of Appletree & Wapentake of Wirksworth – Ayd to His Majesty King Charles I, 1627', in *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 21, 1899, 69–83.

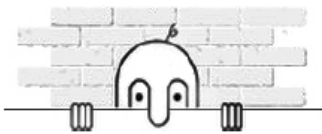
dated 30 Sep 1636 in which Newton is referred to throughout as Edmund.³⁰ It is not uncommon to find the names Edward and Edmund used interchangeably, even though they have different derivations. In this document Edward Newton appends his mark, implying that he was not able to write; if he also could not read he would have had little chance to comment on the name used!

Edward Newton also features in William Senior's 1632 survey of the Harpur Crewe estate at Chaddesden where we learn he was tenant of 'the Rowe close (2a 1r 10p), Half the hie wood (47a 3r 10p) and Hibbard wood close (5a 3r 28p)', a total of 56a 0r 8p in all.³¹ The very next year, a list of freeholders in the county was drawn up for an unspecified purpose, possibly to show individuals liable for jury service. The entry for Chaddesden has just eight names including that of Edward Newton so evidently he owned some land of his own in addition to renting from other landlords.³²

According to the Wilmot pedigree exhibited by Glover there was another marital connection between the Newton and Wilmot families, for he shows the eldest son of Robert Wilmot and Dorothy Shrigley as 'Robert Willimott, an Utter Barrister of Grays Inn, of Chaddesden, esq. Obt. S.P.'³³ married to 'Mary, dau. of William Newton, of Chaddesden.'³⁴ This Robert Wilmot was indeed a barrister, who lived in the first half of the seventeenth century but never actually married. Joseph Tilley, the well-known Derbyshire historian, included this particular Robert Wilmot (and the imaginary marriage to Mary Newton) in his manuscript notes now in Derby Local Studies Library, commenting that he was born in 1604 and died in 1651 or 1657 (the date is not clear). The marriage first seems to have been mentioned in *The Baronetage of England* in 1771, where there is a reference to Robert Wilmot marrying 'the daughter of William Rowton [sic] of Chaddesden, Esq.'³⁵ This however was a complete mistake and duly highlighted as a 'gross error' in Nichol's *Leicestershire*,³⁶ which stated the entry should be deleted, but it seems that Glover (and some succeeding genealogists) paid no heed!

Members of both these two Newton fragments were of some social standing in Chaddesden and it is unfortunate that our surviving parish registers and bishops' transcripts do not cover the period in which they lived. Further research may one day determine whether or not they were linked in any way to the main Newton family tree.³⁷

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30 DRO, D779/E/2/7. The Holdens were early relatives of the Wilmot family. In Robert Wilmot's will (dated 15 February 1630) his father-in-law is referred to as both Edward and Edmund Newton.

31 DRO, D2375/E/S/1/1.

32 S. O. Addy, 'A List of the Villis and Freeholders of Derbyshire, 1633', in *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 6, 1884, 49–74, p.60.

33 'Obt. S.P. – *obiit sine prole* – died without issue.

34 S. Glover, Pub. & T. Noble, Ed., *The History, Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Derby*, Vol. 2, p.208, Derby, 1829. Other later pedigrees seem to have simply copied from Glover at this point.

35 E. Kimber & R. Johnson, *The Baronetage of England*, London, 1771, Vol. 3, p.469.

36 J. Nichols, *The History and Antiquities of the County Of Leicester*, London, Vol. 4, pt.1,1807, p.415

37 The Newton family tree can be seen here: www.chaddesdenhistorygroup.co.uk/people/newton-family-tree.pdf