

# THE COLLISON'S OF PIRTON, HERTFORDSHIRE

*By Janet Davis 2021*

## INTRODUCTION

I have been researching our family history for many years and recently opted to collate everything I had with snippets of history and put it into books for my family. One of our ancestors being William Wilmer Collison baptised in Pirton, Hertfordshire in 1737 his parents being "Robert Collison" and "Dorothy Underwood", I then found a "William Collyngson" who died in 1602 but finding if or how our ancestry connected was a surprisingly revealing and interesting venture and only possible thanks to the research, surveys and transcriptions by **Helen Hofton and the Pirton Local History Group**.

The history of Pirton has been very well researched, nearly every document relating to the village and its inhabitants has been transcribed, the old houses surveyed and many archaeological digs have taken place. The Manor Court Rolls of the 1300's contains the surnames Sam, Smyth and **Caleson** - all names relevant to our ancestry [the Court Rolls also names Communal Ale tasters!]. In the early 1500's some of its land and properties was sold to Eton College - again relevant to the Collison history.

Of course, the research wasn't straight forward, as per tradition of the time, William had a son, three grandsons and many descendants named "Robert" and like every family historian finds - there are vital records missing, however through Wills, Manor Court Rolls, surviving parish records, Hertfordshire Archives and the National Archives, I have been able piece the family together, visualise how and where our ancestors lived - Yeoman, initially living in a two storey cottage with 28 acres of land rented or retained from Eton College, some strips of land, a few animals and pewter tableware; gradually, their wealth grew over the generations, they had grander houses built, extensions to properties, swords and daggers, by the mid to late 1600's, they were farmers / gentlemen with "Drinking houses", china and silverware bearing their own mark and hearths to pay tax on.

So back to William Collyngson, on the next page you will see the family tree and the following pages - evidence gathered for each male descendant and how properties were passed down through the generations.

IMAGE RIGHT: ELMTREE COTTAGE: PASSED DOWN THROUGH COLLISON GENERATIONS FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS. PHOTO COURTESY OF PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.



William Collyngson [c. 1535 – 1602] m. Elizabeth Smythe [c. 1535 – 1610]. with Issue :	Elmtree Farm & Crabbes Cottage
Elizabeth Collison [c. 1565 – 1635] m. Christopher Farmer and had issue: [Not researched]	
Robert Collison [c. 1564 – 1632] m. Agnes Auncell [c. 1564 – 1618] with issue:	Elmtree Farm & Crabbes Cottage
Robert Collison [1586 – 1657] m. Joane Sam [1600 – 1664 / 71] with issue	Elmtree Farm & Crabbes Cottage
Robert Collison [1638 – 1713] with issue [wives ? x 3]	Elmtree Farm
Robert Collison [c.1668 – 1710] m. Ann Marshall [1676 – aft 1710] with issue	Elmtree Farm
Susannah [1698 – unknown], Ann [1700 – unknown], John [1709 – unknown]	
Robert [1701 – 1778] m. Dorothy Underwood [1703 – 1743] with issue	Elmtree Farm
Elizabeth [1722 – bef 1773] m. John / Thomas Burnell, issue unknown	
Ann [1724 – 1724], Charles Bowls [1725 – bef 1743] Robert [1740 – 1742], Joseph [1742 – 1742]	
John [1729 – 1799] m. Ann Lyle with [c. 1726 – 1799] with issue	Elmtree Farm
Ann [1733 – aft 1773] m. John Hoggard issue unknown	
William Wilmore [1737 – 1805] m. Sukia Skillin [wid.] with issue	
m. Sarah Witherley with issue	
Sarah [1746 – 1748], George [1751 – 1751], Sarah [1752 – 1752]	
Robert [1748 – 1803] [surgeon]	Elmtree Farm sold to fund his apprenticeship
Edmond [1753 – aft 1778]	
Benjamin [1755 – aft 1778]	
George [1756 – c1890]	
William Collison [1588 – 1629] m. Elizabeth [c. 1590 – 1641] with issue	Unknown
Elizabeth [1615 – aft 1632] m. George Sam with Issue: Elizabeth [aft 1632]	
James [1618 – 1619], Mary [1619 – 1620]	
Robert [1621 – 1659] m unknown, issue Elizabeth Degg [unconfirmed]	
Mary [1625 – aft 1659] m. Peter Warner with Issue - 3 children	
John Collison [c. 1615 – 1659] m. Mary Bigge [c. 1620 – bef. 1658] with issue	Crabbes Cottage
Elizabeth [1651 – 1678] spinster, no issue	
Mary [1653 – aft 1688] m. William Russell with issue Sarah [1677, William 1679, Elizabeth 1683, John 1688	
John [c. 1650 – 1710] m. Elizabeth Ansell [c.1646 – 1718] with issue	Crabbes Cottage
Elizabeth [1680] m. Ralph Fordham	Crabbes Cottage
Elizabeth Collison [1589 – after 1632 ] m. William Bigge , issue unknown	
Bennet Collison [1600 – 1685] m. Joane Sex [1597 – 1668] with issue	Bury End & 16 Great Green
Joan [1627 – bef 1685] no record of marriage or issue } not named in fathers will	
Robert [1635 – unknown ? 1657] m. or issue unknown } " " " " "	
Bennet [1629 – 1674] m. Elizabeth Stringer [c. 1650 – bef 1685] with issue	
Joane [1671 – ?1658] m Stephen Constable with issue	Bury End & 16 Great Green
Elizabeth [1673 – unknown] m. Abraham Burrow	16 Great Green
• Note: <u>pre 1752 – Julian Calendar</u> [January – March 24 <sup>th</sup> could be the following year depending upon transcription]	
• 25 <sup>th</sup> March being "Lady Day" [New Year's Day] <u>Post 1752 – Gregorian Calendar</u> [1752 2 <sup>nd</sup> September followed by 14 <sup>th</sup> September]	

## FIRST GENERATION:

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### WILLIAM COLLINSON / COLLYNGSON [C. 1535 - 1602]

#### William Collinson / Collyngson:

Yeoman

Birth / Baptism:	c. 1535	Buried:	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 1602	Probate Granted: 14 <sup>th</sup> December 1602
Wife:	Elizabeth [Smyth] [c.1535 - 1610]	Marriage:	c. 1560	
Issue:	c.1565 Robert c.1565 Elizabeth			
Residence:	Elmtree Farm & Crabbes Cottage	[Ref: 6 & 7]		

- William and Elizabeth's date of birth and marriage is an estimate based on his son Robert being about 21 years old when he married in 1685. Eldest children were traditionally named after their father, therefore it is unlikely Robert was their eldest son but the only surviving son at the time of William and Elizabeth's decease
- **Elizabeth Smyth** - I believe her maiden name was Smyth, as she names her James Smythe as her kinsman in her Last Will and Testament. [Ref:2]
- William and Elizabeth were born before the dissolution of the Monasteries when many records were destroyed, if they were made in the first place.

Evidence: PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP      Ref: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 14  
[REFERENCES](#)

**SUMMARY:** William and Elizabeth appear to have old family links in Pirton as there are 14<sup>TH</sup> Century Court Rolls which document the names "Caleson" and "Smyth" [Ref: 3]. Their date of marriage and how many children they had remains unknown but evidence from their Last Will and Testaments name their son **Robert** [1][born c. 1565] and his 4 children - Robert, William, Elizabeth and Bennit, plus daughter Elizabeth who married Christopher Farmer [buried 29<sup>th</sup> May 1600]. [Ref: 1 & 2]

William was a Yeoman which meant he was of an "intermediate" class - neither gentry nor a labourer, usually a land owner or a "retainer" which also meant he was not being required to bear arms. [Ref: 4] His Will records he owned some land [or strips of land] and the family also rented / retained land owned by Eton College [a possible collaboration with the local "Hammond Family" [Ref: 1]

The family were not listed among the wealthy land owners of the village but William would have employed some labourers to help him on the land. Prior to 1586 William, Elizabeth and his family lived at Elmtree Farm. In 1586 and 1596 William is named in the Pirton Manor Court Rolls of Elmtree Farm as owner of Crabbes Cottage with 6 acres of land and 28 acres of land which I believe was Elmtree Farm. [Ref: 6], According to building surveys Elmtree Farm was a 2 storey cottage consisting of one room on each floor with a ladder as access to the upstairs and had a large fireplace on the ground floor, Crabbes cottage was a single storey cottage consisting of one room and a hearth with possible similarities to the image right.





*I believe the "ownership" was a lease from Eton College for a period of twenty-one years and a payment of £10 2shillings plus a portion of the crops grown and a sheep or a pig, a person could lease up to the value of £20 for land / property per year [Over £1740 today]*

*Note: In 1516 Eton College was granted much of Pirton, Ikylford, Offley and Ramerwick, which included 20 properties, 14 tofts [cottagers yards], 600 acres of arable land, 200 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood and 300 acres of heath. [Ref: 3]*

Like many families of the time they owned a few animals, pigs, sheep and cows for their food, William also had an Orchard, Malt House and grew Barley indicating that he brewed his own mead or ale. [Ref: 1] It was customary at the time for parents to gift property / land or money to their sons and daughters at the time of marriage or coming of age; his son Robert married in 1585 and in 1586 William and Elizabeth are recorded in the Pirton Manor Court Rolls "holding *messuage*\*: Crabs and 28 acres"; suggesting William and his wife Elizabeth moved from Elmtree Farm to Crabbes for his son to take over the farm.

- *Messuage - a dwelling house with outbuildings and some land assigned to its use*

Towards the end of William's life, he surrendered some of his land in Ballands to Thomas Dowcra [A large local land owner] in 1596. Animals weren't included in his inventory which suggested William gifted the animals to his family prior to his death. William had his Last Will and Testament written in 1601. [Ref: 14]

**. WILLIAM COLLINSON WAS BURIED 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 1602, AT THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, PIRTON**  
**Probate was granted on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1602**

**EVIDENCE FROM: LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF WILLIAM COLLYNGSON, PROVED 2ND DECEMBER 1602**  
**TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: See Ref: 1**

**Wife:** Elizabeth  
**Children:** Robert  
**Grandchildren:** William, Bennit, Robert and Elizabeth

**WILLIAM BEQUEATHED:**

**William [son of Robert]:** 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of free land lying in the Clay way called the Mill Way,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre lying on Lowe Furlong,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre lying on Harthill,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre being a headland on Priors Hill, 1 Ewe and 2 quarters of Barley to be paid within 1 year of decease

**Bennit [son of Robert]**  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of free land on Priors Hill, 1 acre of free land on Egles mare The Reed Faced ewe and her lamb, 2 quarters of Barley to be delivered 1 year of decease

**William and Bennit** to be 21 years old when they enter the land

**Robert [son of Robert]** A great wether to be received 1 month after his decease 1 quarter of Barley to be delivered 1 year of decease

**Elizabeth [daughter of Robert]** 1 ewe to be received 1 month after decease 1 quarters of Barley to be delivered 1 year of decease

**His wife Elizabeth** 2 Acres of the best Wheat and 7 acres of Barley yearly during her life, to pay Robert to keep it and bring it home and place in the mault house, 2 kyne [cows] and 2 hoggs yearly and to choose when they are fat enough, And to be provided with 20 shillings of fire wood yearly, To have the benefit of the Orchard, The grain in the barn should be sold to pay rents and reparations, if any left my wife to have half. William bequeathed 4d to every household of the poor. His Last will and Testament was likely written by the village Priest or Cleric.

The Will is incomplete

William's wife Elizabeth continued to live at Crabbes Cottage another eight years, she wrote her Last Will and Testament on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1610. Elizabeth's Inventory describes her living in a one roomed house and owned four acres of land, valued at £6 6 shillings and 8 pence, animals were worth £2 3 shillings and 4 pence which consisted of two cows, Elizabeth was owed £28; her clothing was valued at £3 6 shillings and 8 pence and she had £1 of ready money in her house, her household goods were valued at £8 3 shillings plus grain and barley. [Ref: 2 & 14]

ELIZABETH COLLISON WAS BURIED 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1610 AT THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, PIRTON,

EVIDENCE FROM: LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ELIZABETH COLLINSON, WIDOW DATED 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1610  
TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP See Ref: 2

Husband:	died before Elizabeth [confirmed]
Son:	Robert [confirmed]
Daughter	Elizabeth late wife of Christopher Farmer deceased [did Elizabeth die before 1610? - unconfirmed]
Grandchildren	[Children of Robert] William, Bennit, Robert and Elizabeth [confirmed]

ELIZABETH BEQUEATHED:-

Grandson Robert	? £15 three months after her decease
Grandson William	? £5 three months after her decease
Grandson Bennit	? £3 three months after her decease

"Joane Licett wife of Andrew Licett x shillings to be paid aforesaid, James Smyth my kinsman x shillings aforesaid Christopher Okely shall have £3 of the £11 owed to her to bestow on the poor"

"I give x shillings to the children of Elizabeth Farmer late wife of Christopher Farmer deceased The unbequeathed to pay for my funeral expenses and the rest to her son Robert her sole executor".

- **St Mary's Church, Pirton was an early 11<sup>th</sup> Century Cruciform Church** with rebuilding over the years, the layout changed in 1839 [Ref: 9]
- William and Elizabeth saw a huge change to England during their lifetime, the closure of the monasteries, Henry VIII died in 1547, with Edward VI, the book of Common Prayer in 1547 was introduced, Over 300 Protestants were burnt at the stake, Mary Queen of Scots beheaded, the Armada, William Shakespeare [1564 - 1616]. A poor law introduced in 1601 where people had to support the poor, taxation was high, the church had much of its wealth taken away and in 1603 Elizabeth I died and James I came to the throne, and in 1605 there was the Gunpowder Plot. There was a lot of tension in England and village disagreements were dealt with Quarter sessions - one of Pirtons village revolts had to be sorted out by the London Courts, none of the Collison family were involved.
- **The Poor Law 1601** Prior to 1601, if you were poor it was considered your own fault but with the fear of rebellion, crime, fear the poor may spread disease in the late 1500's vagabonds could be whipped or hanged. The Poor Law imposed a nationwide tax where everyone had to contribute. Begging was banned and if caught, sent back to their place of birth which would provide for them [by standing before the local community leaders and asking for a shirt or food]. Alms houses were established for the genuine poor to live in.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> GENERATION

### ROBERT COLLINSON SON OF WILLIAM & ELIZABETH

#### Robert Collinson / Collison [1]

Birth / Baptism:	c. 1564	Yeoman		
Wife:	Agnes Auncell [c. 1564 – 1618]	Buried:	25 <sup>th</sup> January 1632	St Mary's Church, Pirton
Issue:	1586 Robert Baptised 1st November 1586	Marriage:	10 <sup>th</sup> November 1585	" "
	1588 William Baptised 6th October 1588,			St Mary's Church Pirton
	1589 Elizabeth Baptised 21st August 1589			St Mary's Church Pirton
	1600 Bennett Baptised 15th March 1600			Married William Bigge Before 1629
Residence:	Elmtree Farm & Crabbes Cottage			St Mary's Church Pirton

- Robert and Agne's date of birth is an estimate based on their year of marriage -
- Agnes Ancel /Auncell / Ansell** was the daughter of Richard and Martha Auncell [both buried in 1600] Pirton [Ref: 3], she had many siblings. The Auncell's / Ansell's [many different spellings] were a big family in Pirton and there is a huge amount of information on the Pirton website relating to the family, they had a hand in everything, Church Wardens, Jurors, land owners, tenements and the village pub. There is a record of baptism for an "Agnes Auncell" baptised on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 1584, twelve months before the marriage of our Agnes, her parents weren't documented [it raises the question - could they have been ex-catholic?]

Evidence: **PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP** Ref: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14  
[REFERENCES](#)

**SUMMARY:** Robert and Agnes were married on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 1585 at the church of St Mary in Pirton, they had three sons named Robert [1586], William [1588] and Bennet [also spelt Bennit] [1600] and a daughter named Elizabeth [1589].

The family lived in Pirton like generations before them and like his father, Robert was a Yeoman, he owned some freehold land and rented / retained additional land. In 1586 Robert's parents William and Elizabeth lived at Crabbes Cottage and leased Elmtree Farm where Robert and Agnes lived after their marriage, they owned a few animals, an orchard, grew wheat and barley and owned a Malt house, indicating that the family brewed ale, beer or mead [the favoured drink of the time]

*In 1588 there was a village revolt where some of the villagers rose up against the local landlords, most disputes were dealt with at a local level however the Pirton revolt was taken to the "Court of Star Chamber" held at the palace of Westminster by the Privy Council [Elizabeth I was on the throne]. Robert Copcote and William Hammond [local Gentry / land-owners] bought charges against Robert Auncell, John Sex and Thomas Hanscombe, the men were found not guilty; but at a Quarter Session later the same year, Thomas Auncell bought charges against Robert Copcote and William Hammond - stating their initial charges were revenge following an incident where weapons were drawn following insults instigated by Robert Copcote's wife - who had been accused of adultery by the church wardens [the Ancell's were both Church Wardens and Juror's] resulting in Robert Auncell's wife spending a night detained at the local parsonage. The local gentry were also accused of abusing their power with regards to rights of the common land and the effect on the poor of the village. The Auncells had enough and were fighting back - but the common man had little say back then, the dispute went on for months which must have caused tension within the village. The Collison's were not mentioned in the dispute; the Auncell's were Agnes's brothers. [Ref: 10]*



In 1600 Agnes's mother [Martha Ancell] died leaving Agnes a Brass pan, bedding and £10 [a large amount of money back then] [Ref: 11], Roberts father William died in 1602 leaving lands and a few animals to his grandchildren Robert, William, Elizabeth and Bennet and his mother [Elizabeth] died in 1610 leaving money to all her grandchildren [Ref: 1 & 2]

Robert and Agnes's wealth in the village was growing, in 1603 Robert purchased 1½ acres of pasture and 6 acres of arable land plus Crabbes Cottage, Church End, Pirton from George Copcote [the same family who had been in a dispute with Agnes' brother]. Robert's residency is again documented in the Manor Court Rolls of 1610 "Property, Church End, has land named "Crabbes", Rent 6 shillings" and Elmtree Farm [Ref: 6 & 7]

In 1617 ownership of a house named Bury End was passed to Agnes by John Ansel, Agnes transferred her ownership to their son Bennet, the transcription states the transfer was in 1660 but Agnes died in 1618, I therefore believe she actually transferred the ownership prior to her death. [Ref: 12]

*"1660 Manor of Pirton Doddingselles - Agnes Collison transferred ownership to Benedict Collison. Benedict is the son of Agnes Collison"*

**AGNES DIED IN 1618 AND WAS BURIED AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, PIRTON ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1618, [Ref: 3]  
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT - NOT FOUND.**

In 1628 Robert then aged about 65 is attributed to having the "dilapidated Crabbes Cottage" [consisting of one room] demolished and a new "brick" house was built in 1629, 1629 *House with 6 acres called crabs, Church End old house demolished and new one built, Church End and Robert Collison holds 1 property with 6 acres of land called Crabbes, rent 6 shillings* [Ref: 7 & 8]

The new house consisted of 3 rooms on 2 floors, the central room downstairs being the main entrance hall, a meeting room and having stairs to the upper floor [The house was passed down through generations until 1738 and continues to be lived in.]

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1629 Robert had his Last Will and Testament written in the presence of John Hammond, Luke Gaddeson and Robert Maeger; Robert signed his will, indicating he was educated. [Possibly taught in a room at the local church]. He named all his family in his will, his second son William had recently died and Robert ensured that provisions were in place for his widowed Daughter-in-law "Elizabeth" to be secure [providing she didn't remarry] and his Grandchildren would have a good start in life. [Ref: 13]

Robert's Inventory described his six roomed house with a hall, a room over the hall, a chamber over the hall, a parlour, kitchen and buttery; he also owned two barns. His farm consisted of 33 acres of barley, oats, wheat, peas, thatches, horse corn, hay and wood to the value £118 16 shillings and 8 pence. Agricultural equipment - 4 carts, 4 pairs of wheels and 3 ploughs were valued at £18 10 shillings and his animals - 3 horses, 3 hogs and 3 geese were valued at £22. Robert's clothes were valued at £5 3 shillings and 4 pence and his Household goods valued at £11 6 shillings and 4 pence - a total value of £151 3 shillings and 8d [Today's value nearly £20,000] His Sword and Dagger were listed as valuables [Ref: 14]

*At the time of Robert's death, his children all had their own cottages,*

- I. son - Robert had the leasehold of Crabbes Cottage and Elmtree Farm transferred to him,*
- II. late son - William, Elizabeth his widow and family living at unknown*
- III. son - Bennit lived at Bury End.*
- IV. daughter Elizabeth married William Bigge [also spelt Bygge] son of a local Yeoman William Bygge, they married in Willian, a neighbouring village on the 21st November 1611, they had their first child baptised in Pirton but subsequent children were baptised in Willian*

Pirton Local History Group were able to reconstruct the house with its contents due to the detailed inventory carried out after Robert's death, which included his valuables - a sword and dagger! [A sign of the troubled times] [Ref: 7, 8, 13 & 14]

# ROBERT COLLISON WAS BURIED 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1632 [PIRTON]

## EVIDENCE FROM THE LW&T OF ROBERT COLLISON

## TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### ROBERT COLLISON THE ELDER YEOMAN WRITTEN 20TH FEBRUARY 1629 [Ref: 13]

Wife	not mentioned	[confirms wife died before him]
Sons	Robert, William [married Elizabeth, died before 1629] and Bennett	
Daughter	Elizabeth married William Bigge -	
Grandchildren	Children of William - John, Robert, Elizabeth and Mary	
	Children of Bennett - Bennett and Jone	
Bequests		
Son Bennet	20 shillings to be received within 12m of his decease	
Elizabeth, widow of son William	20 shillings as above, Elizabeth bequeathed £4 annually for the rest of her natural life if she remains unmarried	
Grandson Robert [son of William]	£30 within 3 yrs of his decease [a different transcription says £60]	
Granddaughter Elizabeth [daughter of William]	£30 within 2 yrs of his decease	
" " Mary " "	" " " "	
Grandchildren Robert and Mary	to be decently brought up until their 16th Birthday	
Grandson and Granddaughter Bennett and Jone [children of Bennett]	20 shillings each	
The Poor	40 shillings to be shared among the families as per the discession of the chief men	
The rest bequeathed to his eldest son Robert and his nephew John [son of William]		
Executor's	Oldest son -	Robert
	Grandson [son of William]	John
Witnesses	John Hammond, Luke Gaddeson & Robert Maeger	

## 3<sup>RD</sup> GENERATION & DESCENDANTS OF ELDEST SON - ROBERT COLLISON

### ROBERT SON OF ROBERT, SON OF WILLIAM

#### Robert Collison [2] Yeoman

Birth / Baptism	baptised: 1 <sup>st</sup> November 1586 St Mary's Church, Pirton,	Buried: 14 <sup>th</sup> February 1657
Wife:	Joane Sam [1600 - 1671]	Marriage: 30 <sup>th</sup> August 1637 St Mary's Church, Pirton
Issue:	Robert Baptised 16th August 1638 St Mary Church, Pirton	
Residence:	Elmtree Farm & Crabbes Cottage	



- **Jone / Johane Sam** [Spelt Jone, Joan & Johane] was also born in the village of Pirton, I thought she was Baptised on the 27th July 1600 and was the daughter of John Sam but a Will written by Thomas Sam states Joane was his daughter [Possible transcription error was Thomas her brother? - FURTHER RESEARCH REQUIRED].
- *The "Sam's / Same's" were a large family who had been in the village for centuries, they were named in the Court Rolls of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and in 1500 a Thomas Samme was admitted to the Court Rolls "as owns of 3 howesynges, Hobbesyngs and Bakkesters"; they also owned / leased land and property in the village and rented Crabbe Cottage in 1553. On the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1629 at the Quarter Sessions a Robert Samme the village constable was removed from office as it was considered that he was unfit to serve as he lived with his father and was little more than a servant so Pirton had to elect another more suitable constable. [Ref: 3]*

Evidence:

PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Ref: 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 13, 16, 17, 27, 28, 30, 31

### REFERENCES

**SUMMARY:** Robert [2] was baptised on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1586 and was the eldest son of Robert [1] and Agnes. At the age of 16 in 1602, Robert's Grandfather William, bequeathed him a great wether [a castrated male sheep] and a quarter of Barley. In 1603 his father purchased land and Crabbes cottage and in 1610 he was bequeathed money by his grandmother, his mother Agnes died in 1618.

The Manor Court Rolls record of 1628 record his father had Crabbes cottage demolished and a bigger house built in its place and in 1629 Robert was made executor of his fathers will with his cousin **John** [eldest son of his Uncle William]; his father died in 1632 and his properties and land was transferred to *Robert and his wife\**. [Ref 6 & 7]

- *I have not found a record of marriage, issue or burial of a wife prior to his marriage in 1637*

Possibly a widower without issue, Robert [2] was about 51 when he married Joan, [who was at least 37], they married on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1637 and twelve months later they had a son whom, as per tradition - they named Robert [3]. I have not found evidence of other children. [Ref: 3]

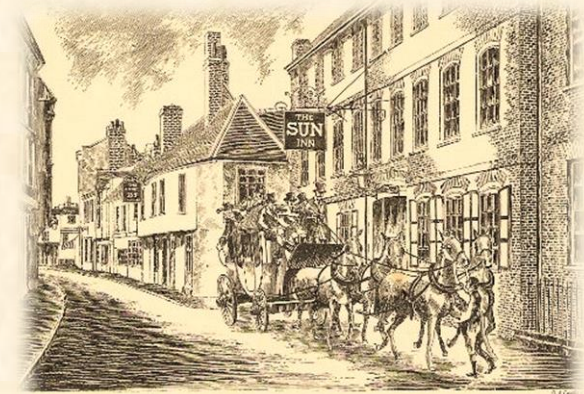
Robert [2] and his family lived at Elmtree Farm and rented "Crabbes" to his nephew John and his wife Mary. The family's wealth continued to grow and Elmtree farm had been extended as in his lifetime it was described a 6 roomed house. In 1647 Jone, was bequeathed 13 acres of land by her father Thomas Sam [Ref: 6 & 7]

- **NOTE: IN 1650 - living in Pirton and all related:**

	<b>Robert Collison [1586 - 1657]</b>
▪ His son	<b>Robert [1638 - 1713]</b>
▪ His nephew	<b>Robert son of William [c1620 - 1659]</b>
▪ Another nephew	<b>Robert son of Bennet born 1635 [possibly died in 1657]</b>

*In 1645 Oliver Cromwell based his headquarters in the Sun Hotel [Image: Right] in Hitchin [not far away], many of his militia were stationed in and around Hitchin; unlike many local families of the time Roberts's family were prospering... There is evidence in previous and future generation that the family were involved in the brewing and selling of Beer, Mead or Ale, so was the family supplying Cromwell's militia with Ale?*

By 1655 Robert was 69 years old and was putting his affairs in order by attending to his Last Will and Testament, he referred to himself as the "Elder of Pirton" and a Yeoman; his Will was brief and written on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1655 leaving everything to his wife and son Robert [confirming that he had no other living children] [Ref: 17]



- *This was the time of the Civil War, the local vicar Henry Dene became a Baptist and joined Cromwell's army and headed a mutiny against the King and his superior officers in 1649, later he was condemned to death but pardoned.* [Ref: 16]

According to Robert's inventory **ROBERT COLLISON DIED 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1657 [BURIAL NOT FOUND]**

- *There is a record "Robert Collison buried 5<sup>th</sup> September 1657" at St Mary's Church, Pirton,* [Ref: 3]
- *According to the inventory Robert died 14<sup>th</sup> February 1657* [Ref 17], *I have therefore excluded September 5<sup>th</sup> to be Robert's [2] burial.*
- *Robert son of William [Robert's [2] nephew] was buried in 1659 [evidenced by LW&T plus burial records which state he was the son of William]* [Ref: 28]
- *I therefore believe the September burial to be that of his nephew "Robert son of Bennet Collison" [baptised 1635] as he is not mentioned in his father's LW&T of 1884 or any other documents.* [Ref: 3]

Robert's Inventory describes his 6 roomed house with a hall, loft over the hall, parlour with 1 hearth, loft over the parlour, kitchen and a loft over the kitchen; his clothes were valued at £4 and household goods £18 3 shillings and 6 pence; his farm consisting of wheat, Barley, peas, oats, 70 sheep, 3 horses, 6 cows, 4 stores and chickens was valued at £127 9 shillings and 6 pence, his equipment consisting of ploughs, 5 harrows and 2 roubles was valued at £12 5 shillings. Roberts's total estate was valued at £210 17 shillings and 6 pence [over £22,000 today] {Ref: 3} Prior to Roberts's death he transferred Elmtree Farm to his son Robert [3]

- 1659 Pirton Court Rolls the ownership of Crabbes Cottage was passed to his nephew "John Collison" [son of his brother - William]
- *John Collison died in 1659 so it would have been passed on to John's son also named John.* [SEE [JOHN \[1\] COLLISON](#)]

St Mary's Parish records cite "Joane Collison wife of Robert Collison buried on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1664, there is another entry for the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1671 again citing Joane wife of Robert Collison. I found an Inventory at HALS dated 1671 [Ref:31], which contains the will of Robert dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 1655, confirming his death on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1657 and the Inventory dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1671, less than a month after the second entry burial of "Joane wife of Robert Collison"; **I therefore conclude that Joane Collison [maiden name Sam] died in 1671.**

**JOANE COLLISON WIFE OF ROBERT WAS BURIED ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1671** [Ref: 3 & 31]

**EVIDENCE FROM THE LW&T OF ROBERT COLLISON YEOMAN  
TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

**WRITTEN 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 1655  
REF: 23HW81 [Ref: 17]**

Robert	refers to himself as a Yeoman and the Elder of Pirton,
Wife	Joane
Son	Robert, [no other children documented or alive at time of LW&T]
Bequests	He left everything to his wife Joane and son Robert

Executor: Robert Collison [his son]

Inventory Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> May 1671 Total Value of Goods & Chattels owned by Robert Collison £200 5 shillings and 13 pennies

- The inventory appears to say 13 pennies but there were 12 pennies to 1 shilling...
- The Inventory was signed with the mark of Bennitt Collison
- **Inventory taken within one month of the burial of his wife Joane [buried 19<sup>th</sup> April 1671]**

## 4TH GENERATION

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### ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF WILLIAM

#### Robert Collison [3] [1638 – 1713]

#### Gentleman

Birth: 1638	Baptism: 16 <sup>th</sup> August 1638 [Pirton]	Buried: 1713 [Hitchin]
Wives:	Joan Unknown	Marriage: c. 1659
	Susan Hammond	Marriage: c. 1671
	Jane Rogers	Marriage: 1689 [Ref: Boyds Marriage Indexes 1538 – 1850 Cambridgeshire] date not given
Issue:	c. 1668 Robert [4]	Baptism not found,
	After 1690 Daniel	" " "
	After 1690 Jane	" " "
Residence:	Elmtree Farm	

- **Joan** *Evidenced from Burial records, marriage not found.* Married Robert married Jone / Joane about 1659 she died in either 1664 parish burial records state " Jone / Joan wife of Robert" buried 17<sup>th</sup> August 1664 and the 19<sup>th</sup> April 1671, The Inventory of his father was dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1671, I therefore conclude Joane was buried in 1664 and his mother died in 1671.
  - *As previously mentioned, in 1650 there were four Robert Collison's by 1659 - his father and cousin [son of William] had passed away but whilst there is a record of baptism in 1635 for Robert Collison - son of Bennit, I believe he died in 1657, therefore by 1664 there was only 1 Robert Collison living in Pirton.*
- **Susan Hammond** *Evidenced from LW&T Robert Hammond & Eton College Archives.* In 1672 Robert Hammond, a local land owner wrote his Will that said "and to my Daughter Susan Hamond the new wife of Robert Collison" [Ref: 18] and in 1673, Eton College record:- A "Robert Collison was the guardian of Richard Hammond" - the son of a deceased local gentleman of the same name and they jointly leased lands off Eton College. [Ref: 5 & 19]
  - *I have found no record of marriage to Susan Hammond, issue or Burial in Pirton or the area.*Susan was the daughter of Robert and Susana Hammond born 7<sup>th</sup> September 1642 in Pirton, she had a sister Elizabeth born on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1645 and her brother was baptised on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1655 in Pirton; their mother was buried on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1672 and their father a few months later on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1672, her brother Robert would have been 17 when his parents died, therefore Robert [3] Collison would have been his guardian until he was 21. [Ref: 3, 18 & 19]
- **Ann Blows** The only reference to "Ann" is in the Manor Court Rolls Transcription as " Ann Blows mother of Robert", I have no further information - *was Ann his mother or guardian after his mother died?* [Ref: 6]
- **Jane** Again, I can find no record of a marriage locally to Jane but there is a record of a Robert Colson marriage to Jane Rogers in 1689, Stanton Long St Michael, Cambridgeshire. Robert names his wife as "Jane" in his Last Will and Testament with young children named Daniel and Jane born after 1690, they were considerably younger than his son Robert [4] who had children of his own at the time of his death.

Evidence: Ref: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 31, 32 & 41  
[REFERENCES](#)



**SUMMARY:** *From the mid to late 1600's we had the English Civil War, Charles I beheaded in 1649, Anglo-Dutch War, Oliver Cromwell, Christmas cancelled, Richard Cromwell, Charles II crowned in 1660, the Plague, Typhoid, Cholera and the Great Fire of London of 1666, radical groups emerged like the "Seekers, Ranters, Diggers and Levellers" and the power of the church was reduced allowing other religions to emerge,. Pirton being relatively close to London saw much of the "goings on" but few were involved.*

Robert [3] was the son of Robert Collison and Joane Sam, baptised in Pirton on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 1638, he grew up on Elmtree Farm which had been in the family for generations, his father died when he was 18 leaving him and his mother the Farm to be officially in his name in 1658. Whilst his childhood was more comfortable than most, living through the Civil war with Cromwell's troops on the doorstep etc. I think it was a time to keep your head down for fear of being executed.

*At this point evidence is chiefly obtained from Manor Court Rolls, Eton Archives and Wills and from this, however this period is confusing, I believe Robert married at least 3 times. Most marriages in this period were at the age of about 21, it was only the noble families which tended to marry younger and based on burial records I believe Robert married his first wife named Jone / Joane about 1659, she died in 1664 was buried at the Church of St Mary, Pirton. [Ref: 3 & 31], **Between 1660 and 1673 Robert had a son, whom as per tradition was also named Robert [4], Baptism Record not found [Ref: 6, 20 & 33];** in 1671/2, the Last Will and Testament of Robert Hammond cites "his daughter Susan Hammond was recently married to Robert Collison" [3]. [Ref:18] [Parish record not found] and the Manor Court Rolls of 1698 "Ann Blowes" is named as the mother of his son Robert. Divorce was unusual with exception of the Nobility, so was his son "illegitimate"?*

*On Lady's Day 1672 [25<sup>th</sup> March] Robert [3] and Robert Hammond signed a leasehold to share "the Manor of Pirton and 2 woods named Oddingsells with exception of the great trees. From Lady Day for 21 years"*

*Rent £14 4shillings and 4 pennies plus 10 quarters, 5 bushels, 2 pecks of wheat, 14 quarters, 2 bushels of Malt or their monetary equivalent 20 good wether [castrated] sheep or 6 shillings and 8 pennies, 1 good boar or 33 shillings and 4 pennies*

*A counterpart of the lease stated Robert [3] Collison was the Guardian of Robert Hammond [Ref: 19]*

The Hammond's and Collison's had known each other for many years, they had been witnesses at the writing of Wills, inventories, whilst the Hammond's featured amongst the wealthy of the village, there was obviously a degree of mutual respect for each other demonstrated by the marriage to his daughter Susan and Guardianship of his son.

Whilst Robert lived at Elmtree Farm he had the house extended, it was now a 10 roomed house with a Hall, chamber over the hall, a "Best" chamber, dairy, parlour, kitchen, dairy, Brew house and drink house and he kept bees; according to his inventory his house had 1 hearth yet he was subjected to Hearth Tax for 5 hearths in 1663 plus Rent. [Ref: 3 & 6]

I found no record Susan's death however I did find a possible marriage for his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife Jane... When Robert was about 51 he married Jane, [Jane Rogers in 1689], she was much younger than Robert and possibly younger than his son Robert, they had two children named Daniel and Jane both born after 1690 [Ref: 20].

In 1694 Robert's son [Robert 4] married Ann Marshal in a neighbouring village, they went to live in Hitchin and in 1698 Robert started to put his affairs in order, according to the Manor Court Rolls, he transferred Elmtree Farm to his son - Robert [4] and a year later his son, wife Ann and mother Ann Blows were entered into the Court Rolls and at the Quarter Sessions of 1699, Roberts Estate was valued at a rateable tax of £10 per year...

Robert [4] his son, died in 1710 in Hitchin [Ref: 21 & 33]. Robert [3] had his Last Will and Testament written in 1711 leaving lands and properties to his "Loving Wife Jane" to be shared with his children Daniel and Jane when they reached the age of 21 and in 1712, he wrote a Codicil [amendment]. He referred to his son Robert deceased of Hitchin and names his younger two grandchildren [he had at least five].

Robert's Inventory described his 10 roomed house with 1 hearth, household goods valued at £28 11 shillings, cash £53 plus 65 acres of land with crops of chaff, wheat, barley, peas, oats, thatches, dung, straw valued at £165; his 3 carts, 3 rows, 6 harrows, 3 ploughs, 3 cart ladders, 2 ladders and 2 drag rakes were valued at £105. Robert's Horses, 2 cows, 2 hogs, hive of bees and poultry was valued at £18 3shillings and 6 pence; total value £279 8 shillings and 6 pence [about £30,000 today]

**ROBERT COLLISON DIED BEFORE 30TH JUNE 1713**  
**[EVIDENCE – LW&T PROBATE 20, 21 & Hitchin Parish Records], Date not found for his burial;**

**POSSIBLE BURIAL:** *29<sup>th</sup> May 1713 Burial: Mr. Robert [surname illegible] St Mary's Parish Church, Hitchin*

[Found via visual search of Parish records [FMP], The surname is illegible but "Robert" is unusually preceded with "Mr" and the squirls could represent a "C---",

**EVIDENCE FROM THE LAST WILL & TESTAMENT OF ROBERT COLLISON 1638 - 1713**  
**TRANSCRIPTIONS BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP 1711**  
**WRITTEN 20TH APRIL 1711 CODACIL: 31ST DECEMBER 1712**

**OF PIRTON – GENTLEMAN**  
**HALS REF:26hw32[Ref: 20]**  
**PROVED 30TH JUNE 1713**

<b>Robert</b>	Refers to himself as Gentleman of Pirton
<b>Wife</b>	Jane: <b>MARRIAGE NOT CONFIRMED</b>
<b>Children</b>	Robert Collison [of Hitchin - deceased] [BURIED 1ST MARCH 1711 HITCHIN] [Mother Jane] Daniel & Jane [Under the age of 21]
<b>Grandchildren</b>	John & Elizabeth <b>THE YOUNGER 2 CHILDREN OF HIS SON ROBERT]</b>
<b>Bequests</b>	He left properties and land in Pirton and Shillington Bedfordshire to his wife Jane, to be passed on to his children Daniel and Jane when they reached the age of 21, Several Manors of Pirton Manor Rectory to be passed on to his daughter Jane Lands and Properties in Shillington and Ickelford to be passed to his son Daniel If Jane and Daniel die All to be passed to Jane and then to the children of his late son
<b>Land named</b>	Spittes Furrow, Millway, Millpiece, Mawme Field, Mad Furlong, Beane Furlong, Dane field, Rackpitt Shot, Charmwell headland [next to that belonging to the late John Collison], ½ Windmill Field [arable], Stoneylands in Clayfield and Hasely Balk, plus all the hedges, ditches, field fences, common ways and water.
<b>Property named:</b>	Several manors of Pirton, Doddingsells Rectory with Ickleford & Ramerick

**FURTHER INFORMATION RE: JANE & HER CHILDREN JANE AND DANIEL [LITTLE FOUND]**

- *Robert's wife Jane re-married in 1717. I have found no evidence that Jane or their children [Jane and Daniel] lived or took over property in Pirton*
  - *Daniel Collison paid Land Tax 18 shillings and 4 d in 1753 [database no LTX-19 [Ref: 21& 42]*
  - *Daniel Collison [1755 bachelor] Hitchin, Administration Bond Allegation H23/539*
- *Land and properties possibly relinquished due to her re-marriage; I surmise that his son Robert's family took over all their land and lease agreements.*

**RECORD TRANSCRIPTION: HITCHIN, REF: BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH & PARISH RECORDS, HERTFORDSHIRE BANNS & MARRIAGES ENGLAND MARRIAGES**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> August 1717 Were married Richard Ravens of Langford in the County of Bedford Yeo-man and Jane Collison of this parish Widow by licence**

There is no further entry in the Pirton Manor Court rolls until 1720 when Dorothy Collison is named, "Dorothy was the wife of Robert's grandson" - her husband's name was Robert [6] Collison

## 5TH GENERATION -

### ROBERT SON OF ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF WILLIAM

#### Robert Collison [4] [c.1668 - 1710]

Birth:	Estimate 1668 - 1673 [Baptism / Mother unknown]		Burial: 1 <sup>st</sup> March 1710/11	
Wife:	Ann Marshall		Marriage: 30 <sup>th</sup> October 1694 [Ippollitts]	
Issue:	1698	Susannah	Baptised 4th January 1698 [Fathers Occupation Malster]	Hitchin
	1701	Robert	Baptised 14 <sup>th</sup> November 1701 [Fathers Occupation Malster]	Hitchin
	1700	Ann	Baptised 13th April 1709 [Aged 9]	Hitchin
	1702	Elizabeth"	" " " [Aged 7]	Hitchin
	1709	John	" " " [Aged Not Stated, Assume Newborn]	"
Residence:	Hitchin			

- Evidence obtained from Pirton Manor Court Rolls and his father's Last Will and Testament which suggests Roberts estimated year of birth was between 1668 and 1673. His mother is possibly Joane, Susan Hammond or Ann Blows.
- **Ann Marshal** "Anna" was baptised in Ippollitts on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 1676, daughter of Nicholas and Susanna, [Evidence: Hertfordshire Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records] she had many siblings and her family appear to go back several generations in the village. Ann would have been 18 when she married Robert.

Evidence: **Ref: 3, 6, 20 & 33**  
[REFERENCES](#)

**SUMMARY:** *England was unsettled post Civil War, taxes were high and disease rife including the Plague, Christmas was even cancelled for a few years, New religions were emerging and the power of the church gone. Life in England had changed. I have found evidence of "Crowdfunding" in the back of Parish record books, where each week the Parish Priest would ask for donations for one cause or another [including the Great Fire of London].. however as we have seen, vital parish records are missing and during this period I have been reliant on Wills and Manor Court Rolls*

The Collison's had moved from Pirton to Hitchin but kept the leasehold of lands and properties in Pirton, Ippolitts and Bedfordshire. The area was known for its Malting and Brewing, relevant to the Collison's as we have seen evidence in the Last Will and Testament of **William Collyngson** [died 1602] Roberts' Great Great Grandfather having a Malt House and growing crops used for making ale / mead, plus the inventory of his father Robert [3] [1638 - 1713] owning a "Brew House and Drink house" and in 1714 there is an apprentice record for his son that states Robert was a "Malster" [a person dealing in the selling of alcohol or the cereals required for the brewing of beer etc.].



ROBERT COLLISON MARRIED ANN MARSHALL 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1694 AT IPPOLLITTS, HERTFORDSHIRE  
RECORD TRANSCRIPTION: IPPOLLITTS, , REF: BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH & PARISH RECORDS,  
Robert Collison & Ann Marshal were married Tuesday ye 30 of October 1694

In 1698 the Manor Court rolls record the transfer of Elmtree Farm from Robert [3] to his son and in 1699 the court also admits Ann his wife plus Ann Blows Roberts mother. Roberts' occupation was a Maltster [Evidence: baptism of children and apprentice records of son - Robert [5]

Robert and Ann married in the village of Ippollitts in 1694, they lived and attended church in Hitchin where they had four children baptised, Susannah 1698, Ann, Elizabeth and John who were all baptised together in Hitchin in 1709], they had other children, one of whom was named Robert [5], who was their eldest son but I have been unable to find his baptism [Evidenced by Apprentice records and Manor Court Rolls].

In 1698 Robert's [3] father transferred the ownership of Elmtree Farm to Robert [4] and Ann his wife and in 1699 Robert, his wife Ann and *Ann Blows*\* his mother were admitted to the Court Rolls...

ROBERT COLLISON DIED IN 1710, HE WAS BURIED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1710 IN HITCHIN  
• 1710 - JULIAN YEAR, GREGORIAN CALENDAR 1711.

RECORD TRANSCRIPTION: HITCHIN, REF: BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH & PARISH RECORDS, HERTFORDSHIRE BANNS & MARRIAGES ENGLAND MARRIAGES  
1710 MARCH The 1 Day was buried Robert Collison

The following document is held at the Hertfordshire Archives [not seen]:  
Robert Collison 1711 Hitchin other administration bond inventory H23/490 HRT Reference: 18911 [Ref: 21]

I have found no Will for Robert, indicating that his death was unforeseen / sudden, but his family had been well provided for by his father despite only his younger children named in his Last Will and testament.

I have found no further records of his wife Ann

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

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ROBERT, SUSANNAH, ANN, ELIZABETH, AND JOHN CHILDREN OF ROBERT SON OF ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF WILLIAM

Evidence: Ref: 3 & 6, 15, 20, 21, 22, 34, 35, 39, 42, 43, 44 & 45  
REFERENCES

**Susannah Collison [1698 – unknown]**

Birth: Before 1698      Baptised: 4<sup>th</sup> January 1698 [Hitchin] [Ref: 15]      No further information found

**Ann Collison [c. 1700 – after 1724]**

Born: c. 1700,      Baptised: 13<sup>th</sup> April 1709 [Hitchin], [Ref: 15]      Burial: Not found  
 Husband: John Wilmer of Minorities, London      Marriage: 20<sup>th</sup> September 1724 by licence Lilley, Hertfordshire [Ref: 15]      Further research not done

**Elizabeth Collison [c. 1702 – after 1712]**

Born: c. 1702,      Baptised 13<sup>th</sup> April 1709 [Hitchin], [Ref: 15]  
 1712 - Named in Grandfathers Last Will and Testament - "Bequeathed: 1 acre of arable land at Greenlow Hill, [Comment: Daughter of late Robert Collison] -  
 No further information found

**John Collison [1708 – after 1712]**

Born: c. 1708,      Baptised 13<sup>th</sup> April 1709 [Hitchin],  
 1712 named in Last Will and Testament of Grandfather - "Bequeathed - 6½ acres copyhold or customary land in Pirton Doddingsells of which 1 acre of arable land in Greenlow Hill,  
 [Comment: Son of late Robert Collison]. I have found no other records that I can verify relate to this John Collison, died after 1712,

**Robert Collison [5] [1701 – 1778]**

Birth / Baptism:	Baptised 14 <sup>th</sup> November 1701	Buried:	5 <sup>th</sup> March 1778 Ippollitts
Wife:	Dorothy Underwood [1703 – 1743]	Marriage:	30 <sup>th</sup> April 1721, Gravely cum Chisfield
	Sarah Witherley [c. 1720 – After 1778]	Marriage:	28th December 1746 at the Parish church of St Ippollitts by License.

**Issue with Dorothy Underwood:**

- 1722 **Elizabeth**, Baptised 18th April 1722, M: John Burrell of Ippollitts on the 3rd June 1845 at Baldock, Hertfordshire. Ref: 21] Issue: Unknown.  
 Died before 20th November 1773 [Burial not found]
- 1724, 1736, 1740 & 1742      **Ann**: Baptism Not Found, Buried 30th March 1724 [Robert: Last Maker], Hitchin, **Mary**: Baptised 29th August 1736, Buried 6th September 1736, **Robert**: Baptised 18th January 1740, Buried 24th August 1742, Ippollitts, **Joseph**: Baptised 4th September 1742, Buried 7th September 1742
- 1726 **Charles Bowls**      Baptised 2nd February 1725[6] [Robert: Lastmaker], Hitchin, [Died Before 1743], No evidence of Marriage or Issue.
- 1729 **John**      Born 13th December 1729, Baptised 25th September 1730, Pirton, M: Ann Lyle of Ippollitts by Licence: 8th February 1759. 1760 Manor Court roll 48682  
 Robert Collison transfers ownership to John Collison, John Collison, seedsmen and admitted to land on surrender of his father Robert Collison St Ippolyts.  
 1764 Manor Court book 48516      John Collison transfers ownership to John Midwinter      Richard Everett      John Collison, coal merchant of Hitchin, surrenders to John Midwinter, surgeon of Hitchin, now in the occupation of Richard Everett. House and 30 acres and close called homestall. Buried: 16th February 1799 In Hitchin, Probate of John Collison granted in August 1799, Ann [widow of John] Collison died and was buried on the 28th December 1799, Hitchin. [See Ref: 45, Quaker sufferings] [SEE: 7<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION]
- 1733 **Ann**      Baptised 22nd August 1733, M: John Hoggard 11th October 1773, 1773: Documented as a widow named Ann Gardener. further records not researched

- 1737 William Wilmore** Baptised 6th September 1737, M: *Sukiah Skillin* [widow] 10th August 1761 by licence at All Saints Church, Northampton], Issue: Robert [1762 - 1806] m. Elizabeth, Issue: 5 children, Sarah [1764 -1764], William [1766 - 1767], Fanney [1768 - bef 1841], William [1771 - bef 1841], John [1774 - 1845] no record of marriage or issue, William Collison Coach Builder Buried 13th February 1805 Northampton, [Kezia Wife Of William Collison Buried 3rd January 1804,]

**Issue with Sarah Witherley**

- 1746, 1750, 1752 Sarah** Baptised 8th December 1746, Buried 14th March 1747[8], **George:** Baptised 3rd January 1750[1], Buried 30th January 1750[1], **Sarah:** Baptised 22nd May 1752, Buried 31st May 1752,
- 1748 Robert** Baptised 22nd March 1748[9], 1764: Apprentice Surgeon In London [Master: John Midwinter] National Arhives Reference Ir/I 24 Of 60 [Britain & Country Apprentices 1710 - 1808], Buried 1803 Or 1829, Further Research Not Done But Many Documents And Newspaper Articles Relating To A Robert Collison - Surgeon In Later Years Suggesting He Had A Son Also Named Robert See: Possible Son  
<https://Buckschurches.Uk/Glass/Window.Php?Windowid=870> Possible Further Information: <https://Discovery.Nationalarchives.Gov.Uk/Details/R/Aebaac56-3265-4db8-B5d0-3658f457ac02>
- 1753 Edmond** Baptised 15th July 1753 - alive in 1778 - see LW&T of father - left 1 shilling per week to be collected from the South Porch of Hitchin Parish Church
- 1755 Benjamin** Baptised 8th June 1755 - alive in 1778 - bequeathed £50 No Further Information Found
- 1756 George** Baptised 19th December 1756 - bequeathed house in Gosmore, Ippollitts [Records State "Ommitted In The Proper Place"] Document Type: Registered Will, Document Reference: 24HR9, Additional Information: , HRT Reference: 18906 [HALS]  
 Document Type: Filed Will, Document Reference: 31HW13, Additional Information: Affidavit, HRT Reference: 1890

ALL BAPTISED AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST IPPOLLITTS

**Residence:** Pirton, Hitchin & Gosmore, Ippollitts

- Baptism: *FOUND VIA VISUAL SEARCH OF ST MARY'S DIGITALISED PARISH RECORDS [HITCHIN] HAS NOT BEEN TRANSCRIBED BY SUBSCRIPTION SITE [deemed illegible?]*
  - **1701 14<sup>TH</sup> Nov** *The 14<sup>th</sup> Day was Baptised Robert the son of Robert Collissown Maltster*
- On the 28<sup>th</sup> April 1714 Robert Collinson of Hitchin [father - Robert Collinson - Maltster deceased] began a seven year apprenticeship with Richard Bailey - Master Draper [staymaker] in London; the fee was £6.00 [Evidence: Records of London's Livery Companies online] <https://www.londonroll.org/search> and BRITAINS COUNTRY APPRENTICES 1710 - 1808].
- Robert's connection to the Collison's of Pirton is also confirmed by the following records:
  - His father was a Maltster [Evidence: siblings's baptism records and Robert's apprenticeship records]
  - His father entered his son Robert in the Manor Court Rolls as owner of Elmtree Farm,
  - in 1720 [Julian Year] Dorothy wife of Robert Collison name is entered [1721 Gregorian Calendar]
  - 1760 - Robert's eldest son John's name is entered into the Manor Court Rolls
- **Dorothy Underwood** was baptised on the 10th January 1703, daughter of George Underwood [Gentleman of Weston, Hertfordshire] and Elizabeth Smith. Both of Dorothy's parents died before 1717 when Dorothy was still considered a minor so she would have had a "Guardian" which was most likely John Goodwyn of Baldock [Malster] and Thomas Bowles of Wallington [Gent], both were executors of her father George and Grandfather William Underwood's estate and upon her marriage, Dorothy received a legacy from both her father and Grandfather. On the 31st April 1721 John Goodwyn of Baldock, Thomas Bowles of Wallington [Gent] and John Draper consented to the marriage of Robert and Dorothy. [Not seen, description below].



TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	DOCUMENT REFERENCE
Discharge of Legacy for 200	Robert Collison of Hitchin, mealman, and Dorothy, his wife, to John Draper, gent, executor of George Underwood, John Goodwyn of Baldock, maltster, Thomas Bowles of Wallington, gent, executors of William Underwood, gent, executor of George Underwood of Weston, gent, for legacy to Dorothy Collison from George Underwood, her father. (Endorsed with John Draper's acknowledgement of his consent to the marriage of Dorothy and Robert Collison)	31 Jul, 1721	77161 Level: File Held At: Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

- **Sarah Witherley:** Not researched

**Evidence:** Ref: 3, 6, 15, 20, 21, 39, 42, 43, & 44  
**Records of London's Livery Companies online** <https://www.londonroll.org/search>  
**BRITAINS COUNTRY APPRENTICES 1710 - 1808].**  
**FIND MY PAST**  
[REFERENCES](#)

**Summary:** Robert [5] was born in 1701 in Hitchin, his father died when he was about nine years old and his grandfather died before June 1713. I am confident the record of baptism and apprenticeship for "Robert Collinson" is the same person, his father was a "Maltster"; the name Collison was spelt many ways over the generations [spellings of names not formalised until the registration of births, though there were still variations during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century].

If Robert completed his apprenticeship, he would have done so by 1721 but in 1721 Robert was recorded as a "Mealman" a dealer of grain, corn, wheat and flour, all the main ingredients for the dietary requirements of the day. In all the Baptism records of his children, Robert was a "Last maker"; by 1752 Robert is recorded as a Yeoman - a farmer / owner of properties and lands and finally at his burial Robert is described as a Gentleman Farmer... He was never referred to as a "Staymaker", but all records are confirmed by later evidence found in Wills and Manor Court Roll documentation.

*Last Maker: maker of a mechanical form to make a foot which was used by shoe makers / cordwainers to make or repair shoes. A last maker was a highly skilled occupation [I wonder if he owned the business]*

#### **ROBERT COLLISON MARRIED DOROTHY UNDERWOOD 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1721 AT THE CHURCH OF ST MARY AT GRAVELY CUM CHISFIELD, HERTFORDSHIRE**

In the Pirton Manor Court Rolls for Elmtree Farm in 1720 Dorothy, wife of Robert is named and there is also documentation in 1722 of Robert Collison of Hitchin owning the property and 30 acres but rented to Edward Lacy. They also owned property in Weston, Hertfordshire

Robert and Dorothy had at least 9 children 5 of whom died in infancy, the first three were baptised in Hitchin but between 1726 and 1729 the family moved to Robert's ancestral home of Pirton and is named in the Pirton Manor Court rolls of 1735 as the occupier of Elmtree Cottage. As previously mentioned Robert's occupation was confusing, early apprentice records suggest he went to London as an apprentice to a Draper [to a Staymaker], baptism records of his older children suggest he was in the shoe trade and later records state he was a Mealman and a Farmer. The years around 1732 document Robert as being an "Overseer" in the village, making payments from the village purse to the poor, workers employed by the village etc. The family were moving away from their traditional family home of Pirton.

Early in October of 1743, Dorothy wife of Robert died and was buried on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 1743 at Ippollitts; she would have been about 40 years old, she left a Last Will and Testament which was the cause of a legal dispute between her children and a local land owner in Weston [Further research required].

#### DOROTHY COLLISON WAS BURIED ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 1743

##### RECORD TRANSCRIPTION: PARISH RECORDS: IPPOLLITTS, HERTFORDSHIRE

LEFT SIDE OF PAGE	1742	Buried	Aug 24 Robert the son of Robert Collison & Dorothy his wife
		Buried	Septr 7 <sup>th</sup> Joseph the son of Robert Collison & Dorothy his wife
RIGHT SIDE OF PAGE	1743	Buried	Oct 9 Dorothy wife of Robert Collison

Their daughter Elizabeth married in 1745 and moved to her mother's home in Weston, Hertfordshire,

In 1746, Robert [aged about 46] married Sarah Witherley on the 28th December 1746 at the Parish church of St Ippollitts by License.

Robert and his new family settled down to the life of a gentleman farmer in Gosmore, Ippollitts. In 1753 he paid Land Tax of £1 10 shillings [Ref: 42] and in 1760 he passed the ownership of Elmtree Farm to his eldest son John who was a Coal Merchant in Hitchin.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1776 Robert began to put his affairs in order and wrote his Last Will and Testament

##### RECORD TRANSCRIPTION: IPPOLLITTS, HERTFORDSHIRE,

Burials 1778 Robert Collison (Gentleman Farmer) March 5<sup>th</sup>

Robert Collison [5] Last Will and Testament and is held by Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies

#### EVIDENCE FROM THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ROBERT COLLISON

Year 1778 County Hertfordshire Place St Ippollitts Gosmore

Document Type: registered will,

Additional Information: , HRT Reference: 18914,

WRITTEN 8TH JULY 1776

Court Archdeaconry of Huntingdon (Hitchin Division)

Document Reference: 18HR416, Reference: 30HW1,

Additional Information: , HRT Reference: 18915

Robert Collison Of Gosmore, Ippollitts,		Yeoman
Children	George	Confirmed
	Edmund	"
	Robert	"
	John	"
	William Wilmer	"
	Benjamin	"
	Ann	"
Wife	Sarah	"

BEQUESTS	GEORGE	Land named "Sighs Close" plus properties, stock, crops, land implements, farming, husbandry for him and his heirs
	EDMUND	Weekly payments of 1 shilling to be made in the south porch of the parish church of Hitchin
	JOHN	}
	WILLIAM WILMER	} One Pound and One Shilling
	ANN WIFE OF JOHN HOGGARD	}
	ROBERT	}
	BENJAMIN	Fifty Pounds
	WIFE SARAH	All bedding, Plate, China, Brewing Vessels & all other household goods, to live with George in Gosmore for all of her natural life
EXECUTORS	WIFE SARAH & SON GEORGE	
WITNESSES	LAWRENCE FINES, ANN NASH & JAMES WHITNEY	
PROVED	At Hitchin 24th May 1778	

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

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### ADDITIONAL NOTES: JOHN SON OF ROBERT AND DOROTHY

SON OF ROBERT SON OF ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF ROBERT, SON OF WILLIAM

#### JOHN COLLISON [1729 - 1799]

1729 Born 13<sup>th</sup> December 1729, Baptised 25<sup>th</sup> September 1730 in Pirton. Occupation Coal Merchant, Hitchin, Married Ann Lyle of Ippollitts by Licence on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 1759

Issue: **John** [1762 - unknown] marriage or issue not found, **Mary** [1763 - 1766], Hitchin, **Sarah** [1765 - 1769] Hitchin, **George** [1766 -1823], New England, Hitchin

**Mary** [1768 - bef 1832], Hitchin, *spinster, LW&T [national archives] - proved January 1832, sister Ann's children executors and beneficiaries. Ann* [1770 - 1833], *M. Thomas Carter of Isleworth 30th November 1797, lived in Isleworth Middlesex, issue: William Frederick Carter, Wilhelmina Frederica carter [born 5th November 1798] and Marianne [born 3rd April 1800] both baptised 6th may 1800, Ann died 1833 buried: St James Piccadilly, London, Brown* [1771 - 1850], Hitchin, "esquire of New England, Hertfordshire"

LW&T proved 16th September 1850

1760 Robert Collison transfers ownership to John Collison, John Collison, seedsmen and admitted to land on surrender of his father Robert Collison St Ippolyts

1764 **John Collison transfers ownership to John Midwinter Richard Everett John Collison, coal merchant of Hitchin, surrenders to John Midwinter, surgeon of Hitchin, now in the occupation of Richard Everett. House and 30 acres and close called homestal**

**NOTE: John's half-brother Robert [1748 - bef 1828] began his apprenticeship as a surgeon with John Midwinter in 1764 - was this payment?**

#### FURTHER INFORMATION OF THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND ANN COLLISON

- **Brown Collison** baptised 14<sup>th</sup> June 1771, Hitchin, son of John and Ann - worked as a Cashier for Hoares Bank of Fleet Street, London. Died 10<sup>th</sup> August 1850 aged 80. Mentioned in "Through the Years" Tales from the Hoare's Bank Archive: Brown Collison was one of the four clerks to be a member of the Loyal London Volunteers from 1797 and awarded three to four pounds per annum for military expenses. In his Last Will and Testament, he refers to himself as Brown Collison Esquire of New England in the County of



Hertfordshire, Guildford Street, Russell Square, Middlesex and of Fleet Street London [SEE REF: 35]. Brown and his wife had at least 5 children, 2 of his daughters married priests. Last will and Testament available at National Archives

MILL FARM <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1102506>

- **Mary Collison** baptised 9<sup>th</sup> September 1768 Hitchin, daughter of John and Ann, remained a spinster. Died before 14<sup>th</sup> January 1732. Made her Last Will and Testament [available at the National Archives], bequeathed her niece Wilhemina Fredrika Carpendale [daughter of her sister Ann who married Thomas Carter] **a gold broach containing her mother's hair, 6 tea spoons, a Silver Sauce x, a Gravy spoon left by her Aunt, two Silver table spoons with our mark - Mr C., my largest silver mug with our mark, my work table linen with green and any money you find in my clothes, choice of clothes from my chests and a Silver Salt left by her aunt. Bequeathed her niece Mariane Parkinson [sister of Wilhemina] a third of my money, my pearl broach, small silver high candlestick, my best hair bracelet and choice of clothes. William Frederick Carter was the executor of her will proved on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1732 [Ref: 44]**

## BACK TO THE :-

### 3RD GENERATION

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#### WILLIAM SON OF ROBERT SON OF WILLIAM WILLIAM COLLINSON [1588 - ABT 1628]

William Collison [1588 - 1629]

Yeoman

Birth / Baptism: Baptised: 6<sup>th</sup> October 1588 Pirton,

Wife: Elizabeth [c.1588 - 1640]

Issue: John [c. 1615 - 1659]

Elizabeth [1615 - aft 1632]

James [1618 - 1619]

Mary [1619 - 1620]

Robert [1621 - 1659]

Mary [1625 - aft 1659]

Residence: Unknown, Pirton

Evidence: Ref: 1, 2, 3, 13, 21, 23, 24,  
[REFERENCES](#)

Death: 1629

Marriage: Not found [between 1610 - 1615]

**Summary:** William was the second son of Robert and Agnes, Grandson of William and Elizabeth was baptised 6<sup>th</sup> October 1588. He lived in the village of Pirton on his father's farm. When he was 14 years old in 1602 his Grandfather William Collyngson bequeathed him  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in Clayfield called Mill way,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre at Hart Hill,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre at Priors Hill, 1 ewe, 2 quarters of Barley. When William was 22 in 1610, his grandmother Elizabeth died leaving him £3 to be received three months after her death.

William married Elizabeth between 1610 and 1615 [marriage not found], they had at least six children but two of them died. It is unknown where William and his family lived. In 1623 William is documented In the surrender of land in Goldcrofte to John Hammond

1623 *Copy of Court Roll This record is held by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies*

Reference: DE/X983/71808 Title: *Copy of Court Roll Description: Admission of Thomas Hammond on surrender of William Collison.*

*1r of arable in Goldcrofte, adjoining land of College of St John, Cambs, in tenure of John Hammond, farmer of the manor. Manor of Oddingselles*

Witness - Wm Norton, steward Date: 9 October 1623

#### WILLIAM DIED BEFORE FEBRUARY OF 1629 AGED ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD, [BURIAL NOT FOUND]

- William's father Robert [1] wrote his will in February 1629 and refers to his daughter-in-law Elizabeth as a Widow

I have not found a Will or a burial for William, just an Inventory dated 1630 [his death may have been unexpected].

#### WILLIAM COLLISON [1588 – 1629]

##### AN INVENTORY of William Collison

1630

H22 241

#### TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 1630

[Ref: 23]

The Inventorrie of the goode & chattells of William Collison late of Pirton in the Countye of Hartford yoman deceased made prised & valued the twelveth daye of Aprill in the Sixte yeare of the raigne of our Sovraigne Lord Charles by the grace of God of England Scotland Ffrance & Ireland Kynge Defender of the Faith &c by Thomas Sex of Pirton aforesaid yoman & Thomas Lowe of Pirton aforesaid laborer as followeth videlicet

Imprimis one long table & frame sixe joyned stooles	13 sh	4 d	
Item tenn pewter platters & other small pewter		16 sh	
Item one chaire		7 d	
Item one presse one chest one cofer one boxe		30 sh	
Item one bedsteade	12 sh	4 d	
Item one coverlett one blankett one matteris			
one bolster & one pillowe		30 sh	
Item one featherbed two blankett two bolsters			
three pillowes		30 sh	
Item one chest		2 sh	
Item tenn paire of sheetes & other linnen	11 sh		
Item his wairing Apparrell		30 sh	
Item two tubbs & two barrells	5 sh		
	£12	1 sh	2 d
Sum totalis			
Signed THOMAS SEX			
Signed THOMAS LOWE			

Proved 14th April 1630 by Elizabeth Collison widow and Robert Collison lab

Williams Inventory included a long table with 6 joined stools, 10 Pewter platters with other small pewter, 1 chair, a bedstead and bedding plus 1 feather bed with bedding, two chests, a presse, cofer, his wearing apparel, tubs and barrels; its value amounted to £12 1 shilling and 2 pennies.

In 1632 Williams children Robert, Elizabeth and Mary were bequeathed Thirty Pounds each by their Grandfather [Robert Collison \[1\]](#) to be received 3 years after his death and stated that they were to be bought up decently and maintained until they were over 16. Elizabeth their mother was left an annual income of £4, providing she didn't remarry. William's eldest surviving son John was made joint executor of his uncle's estate.

#### ELIZABETH COLLISON HIS WIFE DIED AND WAS BURIED IN PIRTON ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 1641

### INVENTORY ELIZABETH COLLISON, WIDOW 1640 H23/417 TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Inventarie of Elizabeth Collison widdow the eleventh of Januarie 1640

[Ref: 24]

Imprimis one long table & frame six joynd stooles	xij sh
Item tenn pewter platters & other small pewter	xiiij sh
Item one presse three cofers & one box	xxx sh
Item one trundle bed	ij sh
Item one fether bed a mattris three blankets one coverlet, one boulster three pillowes xxx sh	
Item one fetherbed tickes	xx sh
Item eyght paire of sheetes & other linnen	xxxiiij sh
Item two tubs and two barrells	v sh
Item one cow	xxxij sh iij d
Item her wearing apparrell	li sh
Item in money	x li
Summa totalis	xxi li viij sh iiij d
THOMAS SAM, WILL SAM, THOMAS SEXX, ROBERT SAM	4TH day January anno domini 1640 .....usual latin

The Inventory after her death taken in 1640 [Julian Calendar] lists Animal value at £1 13 shillings and 3 pence, Money £10, Clothes £2 11 shillings, household goods at £7 5 shillings, 1 cow and a total amounting to £21 8 shillings and 4 pence

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

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### ELIZABETH / MARY / JOHN and ROBERT CHILDREN OF WILLIAM [2] SON OF ROBERT SON OF WILLIAM

#### John Collison [Between 1611 & 1620 - 1659]

Born / Baptised:	between 1611 & 1620 [baptism not found]	Died / Buried:	10 <sup>th</sup> March 1659 [Pirton]
Wife:	Mary Bigge [c. 1620 - bef. 1658]	Marriage:	4 <sup>th</sup> July 1645 [Ippollitts]
Issue:	John [between 1646 & 1655, Baptised 26 <sup>th</sup> January 1655 [Pirton] Elizabeth c. 1651 baptism not found Mary c. 1653 baptism not found		



**Residence:** Crabbes Cottage

**Evidence:** Ref: 3, 13, 15, 21, 26, 27,  
[REFERENCES](#)

**Summary:** John was the eldest son of William [2] and Elizabeth was born between 1611 and 1620 [baptism not found]. In 1629 he was recorded in the Last Will and Testament of his uncle Robert Collison [2] and named as an Executor of the Will along with his cousin - also named Robert [2]. His grandfather died in 1632 and he went to live at Crabbes Cottage as he is named in the Manor Court Rolls where he was recorded paying tax to relieve the British Army in Ireland [His cousin Robert Collison [2] retained ownership].

John's mother Elizabeth died in 1641 and he married Mary Bigge in 1645 in the neighbouring village of Ippollitts [The Pirton vicar had become a Baptist and fled the village]. Between 1646 and 1658 they had three children John, Elizabeth and Mary.

Mary his wife died before 1658 when John wrote his Last Will and Testament on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 1658 [Julian calendar] John "Coloson" was buried on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1659 [? Julian Calendar]

- 1659 *Robert Collison transferred ownership of Crabs to John Collison, Messuage. 1 acre & 3 roods John Collison is nephew & heir of Robert Collison*
- 1668 **See 5<sup>th</sup> Generation: Mary Collison, Collison [Mary] v. Collison [Bennet] Mary contested her fathers will. Summary found in 5<sup>th</sup> Generation [Mary Collison](#)**

## **EVIDENCE FROM LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JOHN COLLISON TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **JOHN COLLISON [1620 - 1659] LAST WILL & TESTAMENT John Collison PROB11/2911658 written 5<sup>th</sup> March 1658**

Wife	Mary	passed away before 1658
Son	John	under the age of 16
Daughters	Elizabeth and Mary	under the age of 16 in 1658
Bequeathed	daughter Elizabeth	£100 when she reached 16 years old
Bequeathed	daughter Mary	£100 when she reached 16 years old
Bequeathed his 3 children		all household stuff when they reached 16 years old
Bequeathed his son John		6 acres of land in Pirton and Ippollitts to have when he was 16 years old
Executors to take care of Rents, Properties, Lands [the "coppie"]		
Executors	Father-in-law	Christopher Bigge and Brother Robert Collison * His brother Robert died a few weeks later [29th June 1659]
Witnesses	Matthew Driver and Bennett Collison Senior	
Proved	7th May 1659	

### **Elizabeth Collison [1615 - 1658]**

**Born / Baptised** 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1615, Pirton  
**Husband:** George Sam  
**Issue:** Elizabeth

**Buried:** 9<sup>th</sup> June 1658  
**Marriage:** 1632

**Evidence:** Ref: 3, 28,

**Additional Information:**

- 1629 her father William died and a few years later in 1632 her Grandfather Robert died leaving her £30 to be received 3 years following his death
- 1659 Elizabeth mentioned by association of marriage in LW&T of [Robert Collinson](#) her brother who instructed the following:-
- o Bequeathed niece Elizabeth Sam [Daughter of Elizabeth and George] wife of William Wells £30 within 6 months of his decease
  - o Bequeathed George Sam who married his sister Elizabeth, lopps and tops of trees of Pirton

**Mary Collison [1625 – after 1659]**

**Born / Baptised** 12<sup>th</sup> March 1625,

**Husband:** Peter Warner

**Issue:** 3 children

**Died / Buried**

**Marriage:** c1640 not found

**Additional Information:**

Elizabeth's father William died in 1629 and her Grandfather Robert died in 1632, he bequeathed her £30 to be received 3 years after his death

- 1659 Mary mentioned in LW&T of Brother [Robert](#)
- o Bequeathed sister Mary the wife of Peter Warner £5 plus 50 shillings to be paid twice a year at the feast of St Michael the Archangel and the Feast of St Mary the blessed virgin
  - o Bequeathed the 3 children of Mary £5 to be paid by my nephew John my only heir when they reach the age of 21
  - o Above children to take over properties from brother [John](#) If he doesn't pay them

**Robert Collison [1621 – 1659]**

**Born / Baptised** Baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1621

**Wife:** no evidence of marriage

**Issue:** ? Elizabeth Degg [Ref: 3]

**Died / Buried** 29<sup>th</sup> June 1659 Pirton

**Residence:** Holly Cottage

**Evidence:** Ref: 3, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28

**REFERENCES**

**SUMMARY:** The Pirton Manor Court Rolls for Holly Cottage, Hambridge Way, record that between 1640 and 1659 Robert took over ownership from a Katherine Carter. There are no records of marriage or children for Robert and his will only names siblings and their children.

Robert's older brother John died and was buried on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1659 and made Robert one of the Executors of his will to ensure his son and daughters were well looked after. Robert soon found that land bequeathed to John's son was infact "Leashold" and therefore could not be part of the inheritance [Ref: 26]. A few months later Robert himself became ill, he

transferred ownership of Holly's Cottage to his nephew John and made his will on the 26<sup>th</sup> June when he referred to himself as "Robert Collison the elder, Yeoman" [both his uncle Robert and cousin died in 1657], he died days later, buried on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 1659.

- See Collison v. Collison 1668 – Summary [Mary Collison](#) [5<sup>th</sup> Generation]

**HOWEVER:** John Collison, Robert's nephew retained ownership of Holly's cottage for a few years until "John Sheppard" was documented as owner in 1675. The Sheppard family had ownership until 1684 when "Thomas Burrowes" takes over the cottage for "Dorothy How" [widow] of St Gregory's London. The Manor Court Rolls state that a William Hancombe was the tenant of Holly's cottage but was evicted as Dorothy wished to live there taking over the house plus 20 acres of land, 2 acres of meadow and 5 acres of pasture. In 1697 the Manor Court Rolls document that Dorothy passed on ownership of Holly's Cottage plus land to Elizabeth Degg on the basis that Robert Collison was Elizabeth's father. [Dorothy also had a son named Samuel Howe]

As documented above Holly's cottage was passed on to John the nephew of Robert in 1659, in 1710, Roberts nephew John made his daughter Elizabeth Fordham [married to Ralph Fordham in 1703] the owner of the cottage and in 1735 Elizabeth Fordham [daughter of John Collison] transferred ownership to Edward Wilson - the court rolls also record that her father John lived in the house prior to his death But in 1738 the Manor Court Rolls say that Dorothy How transferred ownership to a Mrs Ray - heir of Dorothy Howe and Dame Elizabeth Sanderson [Dorothy's daughter] widow..... **SO:** Questions...

1. The Court Rolls are describing 2 properties [Holly's Cottage] with John Collison owning & renting out 1 house and Dorothy How living in the other
2. John Collison probably owned 2 properties, Court Rolls record him living at Crabbes cottage, therefore he wasn't living at Holly's cottage - a smaller residence.
3. Elizabeth Degg - was she an illegitimate daughter of Robert Collison ? Evidence not found to support this theory
4. Elizabeth Degg married William Sanderson in 1722 in the London region [Boyd's] if have found no reference for a "Dame" Elizabeth Sanderson
5. Mrs Ray - appears to be unconnected to the family

## EVIDENCE FROM LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ROBERT COLLISON [1621 - 1659] TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

WRITTEN 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1659  
[Ref: 28]

Refers to himself as	Robert Collison "The Elder, Yeoman" [has a cousin born about 1638]
Wife	not mentioned [confirms not married at time of LW&T]
Children	not mentioned
Sister	Mary [confirms we have the correct Robert Collison] Elizabeth [died before 1659]
Nephew J	John [Son of Brother John]
Niece	Elizabeth Sam [daughter of sister Elizabeth who married George Sam]
Bequests	Sister Mary the wife of Peter Warner £5 plus 50 shillings to be paid twice a year at the feast of St Michael the Archangel and the Feast of St Mary the blessed virgin The 3 children of Mary £5 to be paid by my nephew John my only heir when they reach the age of 21. Above children to take over properties from the above John If he doesn't pay them Bequeathed niece Elizabeth Sam wife of William Wells £30 within 6 months of his decease George Sam who married his sister Elizabeth lopps and tops of trees of Pirton

All the rest to be given to his executors  
Executors Bennett Collison the Elder of Pirton [Brother of his father William]  
Christopher Bigge [Father in law of his Brother John]  
Witnesses T Vaux and George Sam [His late Sister Elizabeth's husband]



- NOTE: Robert was the executor of his brother John's Will with the responsibility of ensuring bequests and funding for the education and upbringing of his children: John, Elizabeth and Mary, the will proves that he passed on the responsibility to Bennet Collison and Christopher Bigge [Ref: 26 Collison v. Collison]

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

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### JOHN, ELIZABETH & MARY COLLISON, CHILDREN OF JOHN SON OF WILLIAM SON OF ROBERT SON OF WILLIAM

#### John Collison [C1650 - 1710]

Born / Baptised	1646 - 1655 [baptism not found]	Died / Buried:	5 <sup>th</sup> October 1710 [Pirton]
Wife:	Elizabeth Ansell [c. 1646 - 1718]	Married:	26 <sup>th</sup> October 1677 [Pirton]
Issue:	Elizabeth baptised 16 <sup>th</sup> September 1680		
Residence:	Crabbes Cottage		
Evidence:	Ref: 3, 7, 21, 26, 27		
	<u>REFERENCES</u>		

**SUMMARY:** John was born at Ippollits or Pirton between 1646 and 1655 and baptised on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1655 at Pirton and was the son of **John Collison and Mary Bigge**; he had two sisters Elizabeth and Mary. His mother died before 1658 and his father died in 1659 when John was still a minor, his Uncle Robert and Grandfather Christopher Bigge were guardians of John and his sisters. His uncle Robert died later in 1659 leaving them under the guardianship of his Grandfathers brother Bennet Collison and their Granfather Christopher Bigge who lived at St Ippollitts [a neighbouring village], Christopher died in Ippollitts in 1661.

In 1659 John was bequeathed 6 acres of free land to have when he was 16 years old and Robert Collison transferred ownership of Crabbes Cottage to John, However he did not receive the land bequeathed to him as the land was "Leasehold" and did not belong to his father. In 1677 John married Elizabeth Ansell at Pirton on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, Elizabeth was possibly a descendant of one of his Great Grandmothers brothers [Agnes Auncell]. John and Elizabeth had a daughter Elizabeth baptised 16<sup>th</sup> September 1680, I have found no evidence of other children baptised or buried.

**1668** See Collison V. Collison [Ref: 26] Mary Collison

1699 Quarter Sessions: John's estate was valued and ordered to pay £10 a year tax

In 1703 their daughter Elizabeth married Ralph Fordham on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December and in 1704 John Collison transferred ownership of Crabbes Cottage to her. John wrote his Last Will and Testament in 1710 leaving everything to his wife and daughter and was buried in Pirton on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1710, his wife died in 1718 and was also buried in Pirton.

John's daughter Elizabeth Fordham inherited Crabbes Cottage which she sold in 1738

JOHN COLLISON WRITTEN: 1710  
26HW13 [Ref: 3]

Bequests	Wife Elizabeth	£20 and Bed, bedding, goods, furniture from his best room, and napkins
		Lands in Wymondly, Little Wymondly and Ippolits inherited from his cousin John Bigge
	Daughter Elizabeth	Lands and property in Doddingsells, Pirton, and Court Rolls
	4 children of sister	Mary Russell                      £5 each

**Elizabeth Collison [c. 1651 - 1679]**

### REFERENCES:

**Mary Collison: [c. 1653 – Aft. 1688]**

## REFERENCES

**Summary:** Mary was born about 1653 [Ref: 26], her mother died at or shortly after her birth and her father died when she was about 6 years old in 1659. I have not found any record of baptism but she is named in the Last and Testaments of her father John [c. 1620 - 1659] her Uncle Robert and Christopher Bigge her grandfather were made executors of her fathers Will, [it is unclear if they were her guardians],

Her father John [c. 1615 - 1659] had made provision for Mary and her siblings [her older brother John and Elizabeth], her brother was to receive 6 acres of land but the land was found to be leasehold, therefore the land was not inherited. Elizabeth and Mary were also bequeathed One Hundred Pounds to be received on their Sixteenth birthday. Monies from the sale of Bonds and properties were used to pay for John, Elizabeth and Mary's education and upbringing until they were of age [sixteen years old].

**In 1668 Mary wrote a letter to the Rt Honourable Orlando Bridgman, Knight and Keeper of the Great Seal of England; [Ref: 26]. Mary felt cheated of their inheritance and put the responsibility with Bennet Collison and Christopher Bigge [A George Collison of Bedfordshire is also named, it is unclear how he is related]. [Ref: 26]**

In brief: Mary accused her Grandfather's brother Bennet Collison of mishandling her father's estate and withholding one hundred pounds and household stuffs bequeathed to Elizabeth and Mary in his will of 1659. It was dealt with by the "Prerogative Court of Canterbury" and the documents are held by the National Archives. Mary was about 16 years of age when she wrote the letter and clearly had a good education, a subsequent enquiry took place.

The documentation held by the National Archives include: Mary's initial letter, accounts and correspondence relating to the outcome. I am unable to transcribe but from my knowledge of her Father and Uncles Last Will and Testament I understand that:-

*One of the executors of her father's will [her Uncle Robert] discovered bequeathed land left to her brother John was "Leasehold" therefore could not be included in the will, her Uncle died just a few months after her father and he passed on the responsibility to Bennet Collison [brother of her Grandfather William]; The other executor Christopher Bigg [Father of her mother] died two years later in 1661, he passed on his responsibilities to his son also named Christopher - the findings of the inquiry detailed costings for the children's upbringing and education but also stated "Christopher Bigge had little understanding of the bequests made".*

I have not found any information relating to Mary or her sister Elizabeth in the Manor Court Rolls of Pirton therefore I assume the legacy from her father was accounted for and Mary lost her appeal.

Mary married William Russell in 1676 in Enfield, Middlesex, London; they had four children. Elizabeth her sister also lived in Enfield, she died in 1679. In 1710 her brother John bequeathed five pounds to each of her children. I have been unable to find a death for Mary.



BACK TO THE: -

### 3RD GENERATION

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**BENNET COLLISON SON OF ROBERT, SON OF WILLIAM BENNET COLLISON AND JOAN SEX [1597 - 1668]**

**Bennet Collison [1601 - 1685]**

Birth / Baptism:	Baptised 15 <sup>th</sup> March 1691	Died / Buried:	c. 1685 [Burial not found]
Wife:	Joan Sex [1597 - 1668]	Married:	15 <sup>th</sup> June 1626
Issue:	Joan baptised 16 <sup>th</sup> December 1627		[possibly died in infancy, further records not found]
	Bennet baptised 27 <sup>th</sup> January 1629		[married with issue, buried 1674]
	Robert baptised 10 <sup>th</sup> March 1635		[possible burial 5 <sup>th</sup> September 1657]

Evidence: Ref: 1, 2, 3, 12, 13, 21, 26, 29, 38

**REFERENCES**

1617 Bequeathed by his mother Agnes Collison Bury End / Doddingsells [Manor Rolls say 1660 - Agnes died in 1618]  
1626 Married Joan Sex, Pirton 15<sup>th</sup> June 1626 [Joan baptised 1597 daughter of John Sex]  
**1627 daughter Joan baptised 16<sup>th</sup> December 1627** [Further records not found]  
1629 Bequeathed by his father Robert 20 shillings  
**1635 son Robert baptised 10<sup>th</sup> March 1635** [further information not found, assume died in childhood]  
**1668 Joane wife of Bennit buried 12<sup>th</sup> October 1668**

**SUMMARY:** Bennet [also spelt Bennitt and Benit] was the youngest son of Robert and Agnes born about 1601 and baptised at the Church of St Mary, Pirton. In 1602 his Grandfather William died shortly after his birth but Bennit was included in his Last Will and Testament where he was bequeathed 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of freeland,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre at Priors Hill,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre at Egles Mare, a Reed faced ewe and her lamb and 2 quarters of Barley to be received when he reached the age of 21. Bennet's grandmother Elizabeth, left him £3 to be received 3 months after her death which was in 1610. Bennit lived with his parents and siblings at Elmtree Farm, his mother died in 1618 but prior to her death the ownership of Bury End, was transferred to Bennet. In 1626 Bennet married Joan Sex [another family with a long history in the village] and in 1627 they had a daughter Joan, 1629, a son Bennet and in 1635, son named Robert, all names in keeping with tradition of the times. I have found no further reference to "Joan or Robert" in any of Bennet's or Pirton's documentation, I therefore assume they died [Robert possibly died in 1657].

Bennet had been well provided for early in life, he was a farmer, be it on a small scale and held respect within the village; his Brother William died in 1629 and his father Robert died in 1632 and left him 20 shillings plus 20 shillings each for his son Bennet and daughter Joane.

Prior to 1663 Bennet also acquired a property now known as 16 Great Green which was rented out to a man named Parkinson and subject to Hearth Tax [Bennet was taxed on 6 hearths but I think that was for all the properties he owned rather than just one] The house at Great Green appears to be of early 17<sup>th</sup> Century construction and a similar plan to Crabbes cottage.

**In 1668 Bennet's wife Joane died and was buried at the Church of St Mary, Pirton - she would have been 71 years old.**

1668 Bennet was accused by Mary Collison [Grandaughter of his brother William] of withholding property bequeathed to her in her fathers will. The case was conducted by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, it appears no charges were filed against Bennet.

1770 his son married Elizabeth Stringer from Bedfordshire, they had two daughters Joan and Elizabeth but his son Bennet died in 1674 and shortly after his wife with 2 young daughters remarried John Davis.

During Bennet's life his name appeared in many inventories in the village and around 1685 Bennet started putting his own affairs in order, ownership of 16 Great Green was passed to Joan Constable and Elizabeth Burrows [his Granddaughters, daughters of Bennet], Bury End was transferred to John Davis [the 2<sup>nd</sup> husband of Elizabeth his daughter in law]. Death duties were high and by transferring ownership of property and land was a way to avoid some of the cost. There appears to be no date on Bennet's Last Will and Testament but probate was been filed as 1685. I have found no burial for Bennet Collison

*Item found in the Hertfordshire digital archives collection of Sessions Rolls 158x to 1698*

*675. Jan. 17th. Letter from J. Docwra to Mr. Chancey concerning one, Bennet Collison, who is indicted for "witholding a booke of the constables accounts from the present constable," and stating that " he did nothing in it but by my express order, there being such extravagant accounts in that booke that both myself and others of the best interest in the parish were not willing it should be longer made use of as a precedent by the succeeding constables." He requests the said Collison's discharge, and states the concurrence of Sir Humphrey Gore with the request. [https://archive.org/stream/b24878315\\_0001/b24878315\\_0001\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/b24878315_0001/b24878315_0001_djvu.txt)*

**16 Great Green** Joan Constable transferred ownership to Thomas Wilsher in 1705  
**7 - 13 Bury End** in 1687 who transferred it to Joan Constable in 1693 [Joan was Bennet's granddaughter and daughter of Bennet and Elizabeth], Joan's husband Stephen Constable appears to have transferred ownership to a John Turner in 1707

## **EVIDENCE FROM LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF BENNET COLLISON TRANSCRIPTION BY PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

**WRITTEN: C 1684      PROVED: UNKNOWN**  
**HALS Ref: 24HW55      [Ref: 38]**

Self:	Bennet Collison	Yeoman of Pirton
Wife:	Not named	[died in 1668]
Son:	Bennet	deceased [died in 1674]
Daughter:	Joane	not mentioned - assume died in infancy
Son:	Robert	not mentioned - assume died in infancy or the civil war
Son's Wife:	Elizabeth [nee Stringer] [re-married a John Davis]	- Alive at time of writing LW&T
Grandaughter:	Joane [daughter of son Bennet and Elizabeth]	
Grandson-in-law	John Davis [spelt Davice] [Son of Elizabeth]	

#### Bequests

Daughter-in-law Elizabeth      Lands and properties in Pirton, Doddinselles, including Copy of Court Rolls to be held until his Granddaughter Joane is 21  
Granddaughter Joane      1 ½ Acres Freehold Arable land, 1 acre at Idlesmeer and the rest at Priors Hill  
Grandson-in-law John Davis      [spelt Davice]

1667      Quarter Sessions      7<sup>th</sup> October

Bennet Collison was discharged from serving on the Jury due to the smallness of his estate [was this Bennets son?]

## 4<sup>TH</sup> GENERATION

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### JOANE, BENNET & ROBERT CHILDREN OF BENNET AND JOANE COLLISON:

Joane Collison [1627 - before 1685]      I have found no further reference to their daughter, possibly died before 1685 without issue.

#### Bennet Collison [1629 - 1674]

Born / Baptised	Baptised 27th January 1629	Died / Buried	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 1674
Wife:	Elizabeth Stringer	Married:	12 <sup>th</sup> November 1670, Stofold, Bedfordshire
Issue:	Joane      Baptised 4 <sup>th</sup> December 1671	Married:	Stephen Constable before 1701
[Record of marriage 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1698 @ Shillington needs checking - transcription states Stephen Constable married Eleanor Collins]			
Elizabeth Baptised 10 <sup>th</sup> April 1673			

Evidence:      Ref: 3, 21, 29, 39

#### REFERENCES

**Summary**      It is unclear if Bennet fought in the Civil War but it does appear he was away from the village at the time in question. Bennet married Elizabeth Stringer in Stofold, Bedfordshire in 1670 and came home to Pirton where they had a daughter who they named after his mother Joane, in 1671 and a daughter Elizabeth baptised in 1673 a year later Bennet died and was buried in Pirton on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1674; I have not been able to find an inventory or Last Will and Testament.

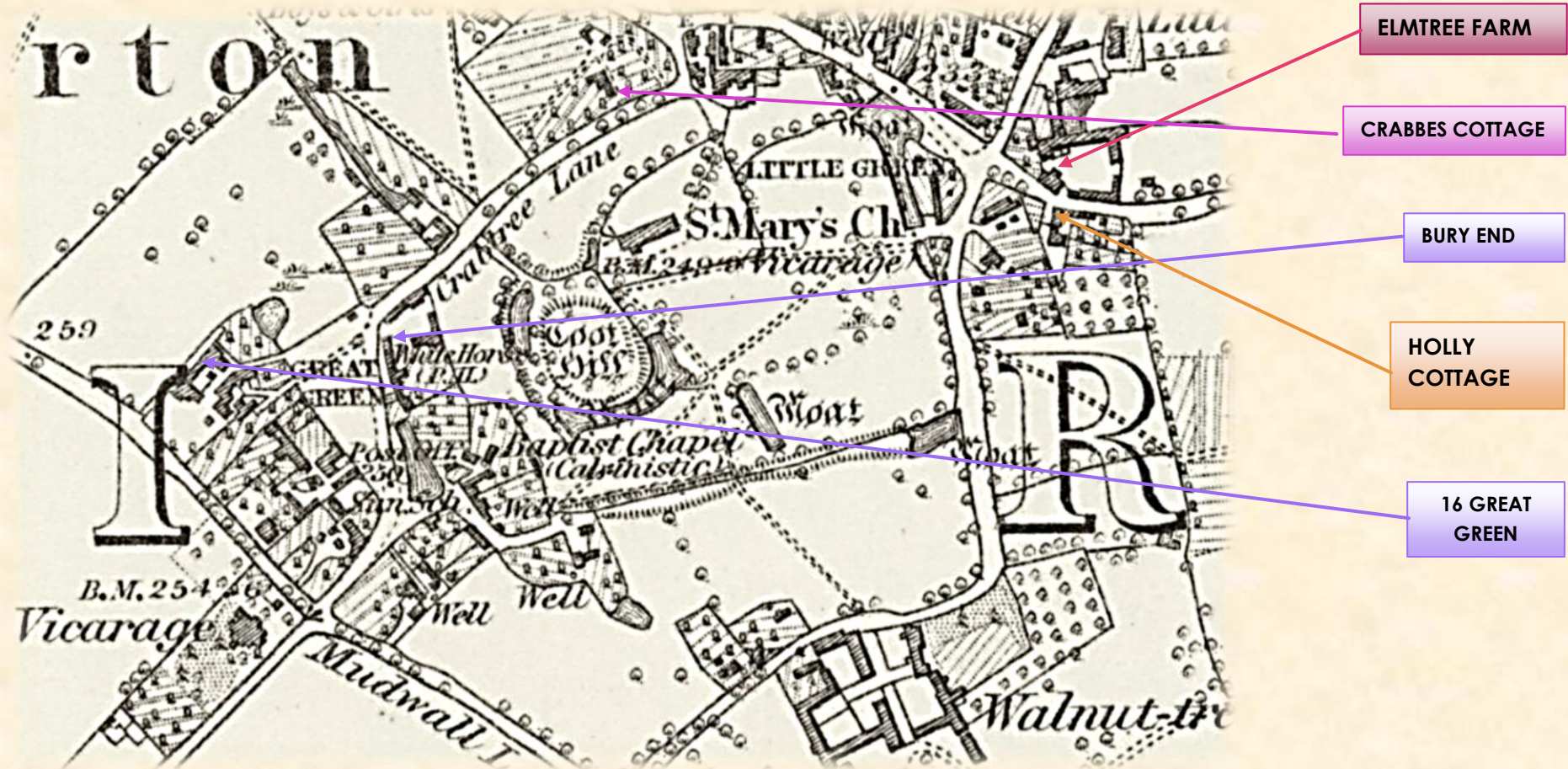
Following the death of Bennet his wife Elizabeth married John Davis with whom she had a son who they also named John. Elizabeth died after the writing of Bennet's LW&T but before 1685.

#### Robert Collison [1635 - 1657]

Born / Baptised	Baptised 10 <sup>th</sup> March 1635	Died / Buried	Possible burial 5 <sup>th</sup> September 1657
Evidence:	Ref: 3	No further information found	
END OF MALE LINE			



PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE COLLISON FAMILY



'Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland' <https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

# ELMTREE FARM HAMBRIDGE WAY, PIRTON

EXTRACT FROM: <https://pirttonhistory.org.uk/houses/elmtree-farm/>

A survey of the house states the oldest part of the house is very old but no date is given, it was a two storey construction with a ladder to access the upstairs. It had a large fireplace and windows with sliding shutters. Robert (1) had the property extended as described in phase 2 of the Architectural detail. Robert's (2) Inventory describes a 6 roomed house which suggests the property had moved into phase 3 of its extension. Robert (3) [1638 - 1713] paid hearth tax for 5 hearths in 1663 plus manor rental of 12 shillings. Evidence from his inventory record a 10 roomed house indicating Elmtree Farm been extended again and he paid hearth tax for 5 fireplaces suggest phases 4, 5, 6 and 7 occurred during his ownership, however the architectural survey states the fireplaces and extensions were added in the 18th Century - one hundred years later. John Collison sold Elmtree Farm in 1764 to a John Midwinter Surgeon of Hitchin.

NAME	DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS
<u>WILLIAM COLLISON</u>	1586	48461	William Collison William and Elizabeth Collison hold one Messuage called Crabs and 28 acres of land
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1610	rental 48545	Robert Collison Robert Collison holds mess and land ,rent 12sh
	1629	rental	Robert Collison Robert Collison holds mess and land, he dwells in ,rent 12sh
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1632	48482	Robert Collison transfers ownership to his son Robert Robert Collison surrenders to the use of his will, to Robert his son and his wife
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1658	RC163848487	Robert Collison transfers ownership to his son Robert, Robert Collison the younger is admitted
	1662	48488	Robert Collison Robert Collison lives in the messuage and home stall
	1663	Hearth tax	Robert Collison
	1663	Manor rental	Robert Collison Twelve shillings
	1663	Manor bylaws	Robert Collison Robert Collison is an old cottager
	1663	Hearth tax	Robert Collison Robert Collison has five hearths
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1698	48500	Robert Collison transfers ownership to his son Robert, Robert Collison senior leaves property to son Robert Collison, and Ann wife of Robert Collison senior
	1699	48621	Robert Collison Robert Collison and Ann his wife, and Ann Blows Robert's mother were admitted
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1720,	Manor Court book 48500 p74	Dorothy Collison Dorothy wife of Robert Collison and held the house for life after Robert died in 1720?
	1722	48500	Robert Collison Edward Lacy Robert Collison of Hitchin owns mess and 30 acres in the tenure of Edward Lacy
	1735	48500	Robert Collison Messuage is occupied by Robert Collison
	1753	48500	Robert Collison transfers ownership to Mary Lucas Edward Lacy Robert Collison of St Ippolyts. surrenders messuage and 30 acres in tenure of Ed Lacey to Mary Lucas
<u>JOHN COLLISON</u>	1760	48682	Robert Collison transfers ownership to John Collison John Collison, seedsmen and admitted to land on surrender of his father Robert Collison St Ippolyts.
	1764	48516	PROPERTY SOLD John Collison transfers ownership to John Midwinter Richard Everett John Collison, coal merchant of Hitchin, surrenders to John Midwinter, surgeon of Hitchin, now in the occupation of Richard Everett. House and 30 acres and close called homestal NOTE: John Midwinter [Master Surgeon] was whom John Collison's half-brother Robert Collison served his apprenticeship



## CRABBES COTTAGE, 2 CRABTREE LANE, PIRTON

<https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/houses/2-crabtree-lane/house-ownership/>

In the early Manor Court Rolls of 1373 there are references to a Luke and John Crabbe, who possibly originally owned the land of which "Crabbes cottage got its name. 1586 William Collyngson [1535 - 1602] and his wife were documented living at Crabbes cottage Elizabeth died in 1610; according to Elizabeth's inventory, the property consisted of one room. In 1628 Robert had the old cottage demolished and a brick 6 roomed property built in its place. Once again the property is well researched, as per Elmtree Farm, the original part of the house remains but it has been extended over the years.

See:

<https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Case-study-of-the-house3.doc>

<https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/record-types/inventories/>

NAME	DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS
<u>WILLIAM COLLISON</u>	1586		SEE ELMTREE FARM
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1603	Rental/ HALS	George Copcote transferred ownership to Robert Collison Tenement. Crabbes 1 and a half ac close of pasture and 6 ac arable
	1610	Rental/ HALS	Robert Collison Messuage. Church End Robert Collison holds land called Crabbes rent 6 shillings
	1628	Rental/ HALS	Robert Collison House with 6 acres called crabs
	1628	Rental/ HALS	Robert Collison Messuage. Church End old house demolished and new one built
	1628	Rental/ HALS	Robert Collison Messuage. Church End Robert Collison holds 1 mess with 6 acres of land called Crabbes, rent 6 shillings
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1642	Tax to relieve British army in Ireland	John Collison living in Pirton
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1650	Manor of Pirton Court roll/HALS	Robert Collison James Collison Messuage. Church End John Collison and Mary live at Crabbes
<u>JOHN COLLISON</u>	1659	Manor of Pirton Court roll/HALS	Robert Collison transferred ownership to John Collison John Collison Messuage. • John Collison would have been a minor
	1663		Church End John Collison admitted to hall and chamber, next to it barns ,outhouses as nephew of Robert Collison
	1663	Hearth Tax/ National Archives	Robert Collison Robert Collison 2 hearths
<b>ELIZABETH FORDHAM</b>	1704	Manor of Pirton Court roll/HALS	John Collison transferred ownership to Elizabeth Fordham John Collison Messuage. Church End John Collison who dwells at Crabbes House dies and leaves it to his granddaughter Elizabeth & husband Ralph Fordham gent
	1704		[JOHN COLLISON PASSED ON OWNERSHIP OF CRABBES TO HIS GRANDAUGHTER ELIZABETH FORDHAM WHO SOLD THE COTTAGE IN 1738]
	1738	Manor of Pirton Court roll/HALS	Elizabeth Fordham transferred ownership to William Townsend Messuage. Church End Elizabeth Fordham of Therfield left Crabbes House to William Townsend of Hertford, watchmaker but he died before being admitted. Therefore her nephew Thomas Carrington was admitted



## 16 GREAT GREEN, PIRTON

<https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/houses/16-great-green/>

NAME	DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS
<u>BENNIT COLLISON</u>	1663	Hearth tax	Bennit Collison      Parkinson
	1694	manor court book	Bennit Collison      transfered ownership to Joan Constable and Elizabeth Burrows      Thomas Stringer      Messuage on Great Green. Joan and Elizabeth are his married daughters
	1705	manor court book	Joan Constable transfered ownership to Thomas Wilshere      Thomas Stringer      Messuage on Great Green

## HOLLY COTTAGE, HAMBRIDGE WAY, PIRTON <https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/houses/holly-cottages-hambridge-way/>

NAME	DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS
<u>ROBERT COLLISON</u>	1659	Manor of Pirton Rectory Court book/HALS	Robert Collison transferred ownership to John Collison Messuage. 1 acre & 3 roods John Collison is nephew & heir of Robert Collison
<u>JOHN COLLISON</u>			
	1684		Thomas Burrowes is admitted, & surrenders to use of Dorothy How of st. Gregory, London, widow. 1 messuage, 20a. land, 2a. meadow & 5a. pasture.
	1697		Dorothy How transferred ownership to Elizabeth Degg      Messuage. 20 acres of land & 2 acres meadow & 5 acres of pasture Elizabeth Degg's father is Robert Collison Samuel Howe and Elizabeth Degg both of London are the children of Dorothy Howe widow.
<b>ELIZABETH FORDHAM</b>	1710		John Collison transferred ownership to Elizabeth Fordham      Messuage. 1 acre & 3 roods Elizabeth (wife of Ralph Fordham of TherField) is heir of John Collison her father dec
	1712		Samuel Howe and Elizabeth Degg both of London are the children of Dorothy Howe widow.
	1735		Elizabeth Fordham transferred ownership to Edward Wilson      Messuage. 1 acre & 3 roods Elizabeth is Ralph's widow, the house was formerly occupied by her father John Collison
	1738		Dorothy Howe transferred ownership to Mrs Ray      Messuage. Mrs Ray is heir of Dorothy Howe dec and Dame Elizabeth Sanderson [Dorothy's daughter] widow
	1739		Elizabeth Fordham transferred ownership to William Townsend      Messuage. 1 a

## 7 - 13 BURY END, PIRTON

[https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-442-1/dissemination/pdf/heritage1-117593\\_1.pdf](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-442-1/dissemination/pdf/heritage1-117593_1.pdf)

<https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/houses/7-13-bury-end/2560-2/>

In 1598 when the property described as two cottages and in the ownership of the Ansell family, relatives of Agnes Ansell wife of Robert Collison (1), in 1617 the property was transferred to Agnes who died in 1618. In 1660 the transcription records Agnes Collison transferring ownership to her son Benedict [Bennet] Collison, [Agnes died in 1618],

SEE: <https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/houses/7-13-bury-end/>

[https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-442-1/dissemination/pdf/heritage1-117593\\_1.pdf](https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-442-1/dissemination/pdf/heritage1-117593_1.pdf)

NAME	DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS
AGNES COLLISON	1617		John Ansell transferred ownership to Agnes Collison Agnes is the wife of Robert Collison
BENNET COLLISON	1660		Agnes Collison transferred ownership to Benedict Collison Benedict is the son of Agnes Collison
	1670	Rental/ HALS	Bennet Collison
	1687		Benedict Collison transferred ownership to John Davis Messuage Chipping Green an acre & a rood of pasture in Hatch Furlong gave lands and house to his daughter in law Elizabeth, wife of his late son Benedict. Elizabeth remarried [John Davis] and died so the house etc goes to Benedict's granddaughter Joan when she is 21. Until this time the husband John Davis is admitted
	1693		John Davis transferred ownership to Joan Constable Messuage Chipping Green with an acre & a rood of pasture in Hatch Furlong Benedict gave lands and house to his daughter in law Elizabeth, wife of his late son Benedict. Elizabeth remarried [John Davis] and died so the house etc goes to Benedict's granddaughter Joan when she is 21. Now Joan is admitted and she has married Stephen Constable.
JOAN CONTABLE	1687		TRANSFERRED OWNERSHIP TO JOHN DAVIS 2 <sup>ND</sup> HUSBAND OF DAUGHTER - IN-LAW UNTIL THEIR SON - JOHN CAME OF AGE
			GRANDDAUGHTER OF BENNET APPEARS TO HAVE SHARED OWNERSHIP AFTER 1693, HER HUSBAND STEPHEN CONSTABLE
			TRANSFERRED OWNERSHIP TO JOHN TURNER AFTER CONVERTING THE PROPERTY TO 2 HOUSES IN 1707
	1697		John Davis transferred ownership to John Davis Thomas Stringer Messuage Chipping Green
	1701		Stephen Constable transferred ownership to Francis Sharpe Stephen Constable Messuage Chipping Green with an acre of arable one end abutting upon the lane leading towards Priors Hill east & a pightle of pasture conditional surrender to be void on payment of £46 4s
	1703		Francis Sharpe transferred ownership to Stephen Constable Stephen Constable Messuage Chipping Green with an acre of arable one end abutting upon the lane leading towards Priors Hill east & a pightle of pasture payment made so house returns to Constables
	1704		Stephen Constable transferred ownership to John Wilsheir Messuage Near Or At Chipping Green the kitchen, buttery & 2 rooms & roof over the same, part of a messuage late Stephen Constable & Anne his wife .to the north part of the yard & backside of the mess belonging to it & to or part of the Great Barn which is divided from the other part[ lately surrendered to John Turner and his wife]& to all other parts of the mess and homestall which were not before surrendered to John Turner and his wife this mess has been divided into 2 and this is 1 part
	1707		Stephen Constable transferred ownership to John Turner messuage Near Or At Chipping Green to a parlour& hall & rooms over them being the north east part of a tenement, and a parcell of the yard & backside to the messuage belonging being the south part of yard containing 1 pole in breadth & 6 poles in length, & to the stable & barn at the west end thereof with passage for cartstthro the gateway john Turner is heir of John Turner .this mess has been divided into 2 and this is 1 part

## SUMMARY

**Elmtree Farm** was owned / rented by **William Collison [c. 1535 – 1602]** prior to 1584, at some point over the next few generations it appears to have been purchased by the family and during the mid 1600's extended [an additional 8 rooms added -]. The farm remained in the family until 1764. Evidence: Manor Court Rolls, Inventories & Building Survey

**Crabbes Cottage** was rented by **William Collison [c. 1535 – 1602]** and his wife **[Elizabeth c. 1535 – 1610]** from about 1586 to 1610 but purchased by his son **Robert Collison [c1564 – 1632]** in 1603 who is attributed for the re-building of the cottage in 1628, the cottage remained in the family until 1738. Evidence: Manor Court Rolls, Inventories & Building Survey

**16 Great Green** looks to be of a similar construction to Crabbes Cottage and is first mentioned in the Hearth tax of 1663 in the ownership of **Bennet Collison [1600 – 1684]** and the building survey dates the property to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, did the Collison's have this house built too? It remained in the family until about 1705. Evidence: Manor Court Rolls, Inventories & Building Survey

**Holly Cottage** appears to have been purchased by **Robert Collison [2] [1586 – 1657]** possibly due to its close proximity to Elmtree Farm, it remained in the family until 1739

**Bury End** was previously owned by the Ancell family and passed onto **Agnes Collison [1564 – 1618]** who bequeathed it to her youngest son Bennet [no building survey available to date the building] and it remained in the family until 1707

The Collison's certainly made their mark in Pirtton and despite some Baptism, Marriage and Burial records being missing, the family has been brought together using Manor Court Rolls, Last Will and Testaments, records held by HALS and the National Archives confirming their ancestry and family ties; It has been a fascinating journey through time but a **SPECIAL THANKS** must go to the hard and dedicated work by the **The Pirtton Local History Group** and help and assistance of **Helen Hofton** without whom this research would not have been possible. It is unusual to get such an insight into our ancestors lives and to know the actual houses they built and lived in is an absolute bonus especially our connection to **Elmtree Farm** and **"Crabbes Cottage"** [2 Crabtree Lane]

## LINKS BACK TO:

[William Collyngson](#), [Robert Collison \[1\]](#), [Robert Collison \[2\]](#), [Robert Collison \[3\]](#), [Robert Collison \[4\]](#), [6<sup>TH</sup> Generation](#), [7<sup>TH</sup> Generation](#), [William Collison](#), [John Collison](#), [Robert Collison \[a\]](#), [John Collison](#), [Bennet Collison](#)

## REFERENCES:

	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
1	<b>WILLIAM COLLYNGSON LW&amp;T</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 3HW213	<a href="http://search.pirttonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667994&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirttonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667994&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
2	<b>ELIZABETH COLLISON LW&amp;T</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 21HW11	<a href="http://search.pirttonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667982&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirttonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667982&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
3	<b>PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY WEBSITE HOME PAGE	<a href="https://pirttonhistory.org.uk/">https://pirttonhistory.org.uk/</a>



4	<b>YEOMAN</b>	Yeoman, in English history, a class intermediate between the gentry and the labourers; a yeoman was usually a landholder but could also be a retainer, guard, attendant, or subordinate official. The word appears in Middle English as yemen, or yoman, and is perhaps a contraction of yeng man or yong man, meaning young man, or attendant. Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (late 14th century) depicts a yeoman who is a forester and a retainer. Most yeomen of the later Middle Ages were probably occupied in cultivating the land; Raphael Holinshed, in his Chronicles (1577), described them as having free land worth £6 (originally 40 shillings) annually and as not being entitled to bear arms.	<a href="https://www.britannica.com/topic/yeoman">https://www.britannica.com/topic/yeoman</a> REF: <b>ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA</b>
5	<b>ETON COLLEDGE ARCHIVES</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP, HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, TRANSCRIPT & CATALOGUE: GRANT OF THE MANOR OF PIRTON, HERTFORDSHIRE TO ESTABLISH CHANTRY	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Eton-College-Archive.docx">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Eton-College-Archive.docx</a>
6	<b>ELMTREE FARM, HAMBRIDGE WAY</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: ELMTREE FARM MAP, ARCHITECTURE, IMAGES, HOME OWNERSHIP 2D OVERHEAD ARCHEAOLOGICAL SURVEY	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk">Elmtree Farm Hambridge Way - Pirton Local History Group (pirtonhistory.org.uk)</a> <a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk">2D Overhead - Pirton Local History Group (pirtonhistory.org.uk)</a> <a href="http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-751-1/dissemination/pdf/archaeol2-24350_1.pdf">http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-751-1/dissemination/pdf/archaeol2-24350_1.pdf</a>
7	<b>CRABBES COTTAGE</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: 2 CRABTREE LANE MAP, IMAGES, HOUSE OWNERSHIP	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk">2 Crabtree Lane - Pirton Local History Group (pirtonhistory.org.uk)</a>
8	<b>HOUSE STUDY - CRABBES</b>	EVIDENCE OF THE GREAT REBUILDING IN PIRTON BY HELEN HOFTON 2006 CASE STUDY OF CRABTREE HOUSE	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Case-study-of-the-house3.doc">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Case-study-of-the-house3.doc</a>
9	<b>ST MARY'S CHURCH PIRTON</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: GUIDE TO ST MARY'S CHURCH BY DAVID & TERESA JAMIESON 1975	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk">GUIDE TO ST. MARY'S CHURCH, PIRTON - Pirton Local History Group (pirtonhistory.org.uk)</a>
10	<b>VILLAGE REVOLT</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: STUDIES: A VILLAGE REVOLT GENERAL BACKGROUND TO PROTEST	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/VillageRevolt.doc">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/VillageRevolt.doc</a>
11	<b>LAST WILL &amp; TESTAMENT OF MARTHA AUNCCELL</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 3HW146 MARTHA AUNCCELL: 1600: MOTHER OF AGNES AUNCCELL: WIFE OF ROBERT COLLISON [1]	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667913&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667913&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
12	<b>BURY END</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: 7 - 13 BURY END OTHER INFORMATION, MAP, IMAGES, HOUSE OWNERSHIP	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk">7-13 Bury End - Pirton Local History Group (pirtonhistory.org.uk)</a>
13	<b>ROBERT COLLISON [1]</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 22HW32 ROBERT COLLISON [1] 1631 YEOMAN	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667987&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667987&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
14	<b>INVENTORIES</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: PEOPLE: 3: PROBATE: INVENTORIES: FEATURING ROBERT COLLISON [1] HALS REF: 22HW32	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/record-types/inventories/">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/record-types/inventories/</a>
15	England Marriages 1538-1973, Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records	transcriptions by Family Search	
16	<b>HENRY DENNE</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: INFORMATION: ARTICLES: HENRY DENNE ST MARY'S CURATE THAT FOUGHT IN CROMWELL'S ARMY	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/articles/6530-2/">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/articles/6530-2/</a>
17	<b>ROBERT COLLISON [2]</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 23HW81 ROBERT COLLISON [2] 1657 ELDER YEOMAN	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667990&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667990&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
18	<b>ROBERT HAMOND</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 54HW104 ROBERT HAMOND 1672 YEOMAN	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2668120&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2668120&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
19	<b>ETON COLLEGE ARCHIVES</b>	SEE REF: 5	

		<p>Indenture of lease, Date 4 August 1673</p> <p>by the Provost and College to Robert Collison, of Pirton, co. Herts, yeoman, and Robert Hamond, son of Robert Hamond, of the same, gentleman, of their moiety of the manor of Pirton with their two woods called Odingsell woods, except all great trees. From lady day 1672 for 21 years. Rent £14 4s 5d and 10 quarters 5 bushels 2 pecks of wheat and 14 quarters 2 bushels of malt or their money equivalent and 20 good wether sheep or 6s 8d for each of such sheep and one good boar of 33s 4d. The College seal and tag missing. Endorsed with an assignment by Collison dated 1 February 1677 to Hamond of the foregoing.</p> <p>Signature of Collison. Witnesses: George Sayer, registrar, John Sampson.</p> <p>Fragment of seal, red wax, applied.</p> <p>Title Pirton, Hertfordshire: Counterpart of lease      Reference code ECR 57 016</p> <p>Date 4th August 1673      Content description</p> <p>Counterpart of lease, by the Provost and College, upon surrender of a lease to Robert Hamond, deceased, to Robert Colison, of Pirton, yeoman, guardian of Robert Hamond, son of the said Robert Hamond, late of Pirton, gentleman, deceased, of the site of their moiety of the manor of Pyrton with all the demesne lands belonging, also the moiety of their two woods there called Odyngsyles woods, and all manner of rents and profits appertaining in as ample manner, except all perquisites of courts and leets and the keeping of the same, but reserving the great trees. From Lady Day 1672 for 21 years. Rent £14 4s 5d and 10 quarters of malt or their money equivalent after the rate of Windsor Market, and 20 sheep (or 6s 8d each) and one boar or 33s 4d.</p> <p>Signatures of lessee. Seal, round, 13mm, red wax, applied. Armorial, a bar between three lilies, two and one.</p> <p>Witnesses: Thomas Vauxe, Joseph May (mark).</p>	
20	<b>ROBERT COLLISON [3]</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 26HW32 ROBERT COLLISON [3] 1713 GENT	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667992&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667992&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
21	<b>HALS</b>	HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES	<a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.aspx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.aspx</a>
22	<b>GRAVELEY CUM CHISFIELD</b>	HERTFORDSHIRE GENEALOGY: GRAVELEY	<a href="http://www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk/">Hertfordshire Genealogy: Places: Graveley (hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk)</a>
23	<b>INVENTORY WILLIAM COLLISON</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: H22/241 WILLIAM COLLISON 1630 YEOMAN	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667995&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667995&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
24	<b>INVENTORY ELIZABETH COLLISON</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: H23/417 ELIZABETH COLLISON 1640 WIDOW	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667985&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667985&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
25	<b>HOLLY COTTAGE</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: HOLLY COTTAGES, HAMBRIDGE WAY HOUSE OWNERSHIP, IMAGES, MAP, OTHER INFORMATION	<a href="http://pirtonhistory.org.uk/">Holly Cottages Hambridge Way - Pirton Local History Group (pirtonhistory.org.uk)</a>
26	<b>COLLISON V. COLLISON</b>	Short title: Collison v Collison. Plaintiffs: Mary Collison. Defendants: Benet Collison.... Reference: C 5/463/66 Short title: Collison v Collison. Plaintiffs: Mary Collison. Defendants: Benet Collison. Subject: property in Pirton, Hertfordshire. Document type: Bill, answer, schedule.	<a href="https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3921026">https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3921026</a>
27	<b>JOHN COLLISON [1620 - 1659] LW&amp;T</b>	NATIONAL ARCHIVES: WILL OF JOHN COLISON YEOMAN OF PIRTON REF: PROB 11/291/206 DATE: 7 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 1659	<a href="https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D834875">https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D834875</a>
28	<b>ROBERT COLLISON [1621 - 1659] LW&amp;T</b>	NATIONAL ARCHIVES: WILL OF ROBERT COLLISON YEOMAN OF PIRTON REF: PROB 11/296/219 DATE: 6 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1659	<a href="https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D846411">https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D846411</a>
29	<b>GREAT GREEN</b>	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: 16 GREAT GREEN IMAGES, HOUSE OWNERSHIP, , MAP, OTHER INFORMATION	<a href="http://pirtonhistory.org.uk/">16 Great Green - Pirton Local History Group (pirtonhistory.org.uk)</a>
30	<b>HERTS MEMORIES [CIVIL WAR]</b>	HISTORICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO HERTFORDSHIRE DURING THE CIVIL WAR	<a href="http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/civil-war/">Hertfordshire and The Civil War   Herts Memories</a>

31	ROBERT COLLISON INVENTORY 1671	HALS	<a href="https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.aspx">https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.aspx</a> Ref: 23HW81
32	SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FARMING	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: RESEARCH, STUDIES: A STUDY OF SEVENTEENTH CENTURY FARMING PRACTICES IN PIRTON	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SeventeenthCenturyFarming.doc">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SeventeenthCenturyFarming.doc</a>
33	ROBERT COLLISON [4]	Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies	Ref: Wills Ref: ADMINISTRATION BOND H23/49
34	Receipt	from Robert Collison for payment of the churchwarden's rate for Ippollitts	16 Sep 1746 DE/R/F131/25 Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies
35	HOARES BANK	THROUGH THE YEARS	Tales of Hoares Bank <a href="https://www.hoaresbank.co.uk/sites/default/files/styles/Documents/sc_rpts/Years/Through%20the%20Years.pdf">https://www.hoaresbank.co.uk/sites/default/files/styles/Documents/sc_rpts/Years/Through%20the%20Years.pdf</a>
36	SEVENTEENTH CENTURY WILLS	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: RESEARCH: STUDIES A STUDY OF SEVENTEENTH CENTURY WILLS AND INVENTORIES FROM A NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE VILLAGE: INCLUDES: WILLIAM COLLISON & ROBERT COLLISON	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SEVENTEENTHCENTURYWILLS.doc">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/SEVENTEENTHCENTURYWILLS.doc</a>
37	HIGHDOWN FARM & OTHER INFORMATION	The Delme Radcliffe Family and the Village of Pirton A walk around the village 2009	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/houses/highdown-and-farm/other-information/">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/houses/highdown-and-farm/other-information/</a>
38	BENNET COLLISON [1602 - 1685] LW&T	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP TRANSCRIPTION. ORIGINAL DOCUMENT HELD BY HALS. REF: 24HW55 BENNET COLLISON 1685 YEOMAN	<a href="http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667979&amp;RecordType=PROBH">http://search.pirtonhistory.org.uk/DisplayRecord.aspx?PersonRefID=2667979&amp;RecordType=PROBH</a>
39	ROBERT COLLISON [5] LW&T	HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHIVES & LOCAL STUDIES REF: WILLS REF: 30HW1 & 18HR416	
40	ETON COLLEGE ARCHIVES:	Title Miscellaneous: Indenture of lease                      Reference code ECR 47 138	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Eton-College-Archive.docx">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Eton-College-Archive.docx</a>
41	ARCHEAOLOGICAL SURVEY ELMTREE FARM	SURVEY CONDUCTED IN 2006 PRIOR TO BUILDING ON THE FARM	<a href="https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-751-1/dissemination/pdf/archaeol2-24350_1.pdf">https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archiveDS/archiveDownload?t=arch-751-1/dissemination/pdf/archaeol2-24350_1.pdf</a>
42	LAND TAX	PIRTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP: STUDIES: RECORD TYPES: 7: LAND TAX INCLUDES: ROBERT COLLISON [c. 1700 - 1778] & DANIEL COLLISON [c. 1690 - 1755]	<a href="https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/record-types/pirton-land-tax-records/">https://pirtonhistory.org.uk/record-types/pirton-land-tax-records/</a>
43	Will of John Collison, Merchant of Hitchin , Hertfordshire	Will of John Collison, Merchant of Hitchin , Hertfordshire	08 August 1799 The National Archives, Kew PROB 11/1328/133
44	Will of Mary Collison, Spinster of Hitchin ,	Hertfordshire Will of Mary Collison, Spinster of Hitchin , Hertfordshire	16 January 1832 The National Archives, Kew PROB 11/1794/94
45	John Collison Quaker Sufferings	John Collison: Claimant      Baldock      Date: 05/02/1781      NQ2/4A/1 P. 93 "      "      "      "      "      10/08/1767      "      "      " P. 71, 2 & 3 "      "      Warrant Signatory Hitchin      "      26/09/1798      "      "      /2 P. 12 J      "      "      "      "      "      11/03/1799      "      "      P. 13 • John Collison died in Feb 1799 - last entry ? his son??	HALS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION <a href="https://quakerstrongrooms.org/2012/06/06/quaker-sufferings-records-an-embarras-de-richesse/">https://quakerstrongrooms.org/2012/06/06/quaker-sufferings-records-an-embarras-de-richesse/</a>



**FURTHER INFORMATION:****HELD BY HERTFORDSHIRE ARCHIVES Held At:****Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies**

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REFERENCE
Copy of Court Roll Description:	Admission of Elizabeth Collison, Ann Collison, John Collison and William Wilmer Collison according to the uses of the Will of Dorothy Collison, their mother. Manor of Weston	21 Oct, 1748	Document Reference: 77764 Related Material: Property as in DE/Pr/77755
Copy of Court Roll	Surrender. 1. William Wilmer Collison of Northampton, Northants, coach-maker. 2. John Collison of Hitchin, coal-merchant. Manor of Weston	2 Jul, 1772	77772 Related Material: A fourth part of property as in DE/Pr/77755
Title: Copy of Court Roll	Admission of John Collison of Hitchin, coal-merchant, following the surrender of <b>William Wilmer Collison</b> . Manor of Weston	20 Nov, 1773	Document Reference: 77775 Related Material: A fourth part of property as in DE/Pr/77755
Copy of Court Roll	Admission of John Collison, as brother and heir of late Elizabeth Burrall (formerly Elizabeth Collison, spinster). Manor of Weston	20 Nov, 1773	Document Reference: 77773 Related Material: A fourth part of property as in DE/Pr/77755
Copy of Court Roll	Surrender and Admission. 1. Surrender of John Collison, eldest son and co-heir of Dorothy Collison, deceased. 2. Admission of Thomas Whitehurst of Hitchin, clerk. Manor of Weston	20 Nov, 1773	Document Reference: 77776 Related Material: Property as in DE/Pr/77755
Copy of Court Roll	Copy admission (5 September, 1735) of Dorothy Collison, wife of Robert Collison of Pirton, farmer, according to uses expressed in the Will of William Fletcher, gent. (Note stating that, at the same court, Dorothy and Robert Collison surrendered the property to the uses of her Will). Manor of Weston	16 Dec 1775	Document Reference: 77779 Related Material: Property as in DE/Pr/77755
Copy of Court Roll	Copy surrender (March, 1776) (and counterpart). 1. John Collison of Hitchin, merchant, son and heir of Dorothy Collison, deceased, (devisee of William Fletcher of Clothall, gent, deceased). 2. Joseph Adams of Weston, cabinet-maker. Manor of Lannock	Date: late 18th century	Document Reference: 77787-77788 Related Material: Property as in DE/Pr/77768
Letter to Richard Tristram, Hitchin from Sir Charles Farnaby Radcliffe, Kippington, Kent	Concerning twelve year lease to Collison and deputation for Holwell manor for Collison's son	19 Aug 1784	Extent: 1 item Document Reference: DE/R/C546/2

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS HELD IN ARCHIVES:**

NAME		DATE	HELD BY & REFERENCE
Poor law settlement records HALS	Thomas Collison William Collison	12/10/1744 31/01/1772	D/P 24A/13/6 D/P 24/13/2/65 HALS
Will	Ann Collison widow Hitchin	1800	30HW58 21HR103
Insured:	Insured: Ann Collison, wife of John Collison of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, yeoman, and Mary Lyle of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, spinster Other property or occupiers: New England, parish of Hitchin, Hertfordshire (John Collison); Dixon; Gaddesden	29 September 1792	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/390/605331

Insured:	John Collison, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, yeoman Other property or occupiers:... Insured: John Collison, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, yeoman New England, parish of Hitchin: New England, parish of Ippolitts, Hertfordshire	29 September 1792	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/390/605332
Unexecuted lease	By Sir Charles Farnaby Radcliffe and wife Penelope to John Collison of Hitchin, merchant: 88a 1r 3p land listed in schedule	1 Nov 1784	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies DE/R/E27
Copies of wills	John Collison of Pirton, yeoman; Ralph Fordham of Therfield, gent; John Hobbs of Henlow, Beds, gent; John Malein of Purwell Mill, Great Wymondley, miller; Matthew Foster of Little Wymondley, gent (draft will); Stephen Rowley of Little Wymondley, yeoman; Richard Rowley of Cambridge, fellmonger	1710 - 1831	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies DE/Fs/F1
Letters	About lease of land in Alton Mead, Purwell Field, Burford Field, and Great Welchman's Croft, Hitchin, to John Collison, and sale of timber; notices about reletting of same land. Property of Francis Mannyng, nephew of William Baker	1781 - 1784	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies DE/X270/E2
Warrant of satisfaction (Draft)	John Midwinter of Hitchin, surgeon apothecary, to stewards of Pirton Manor on receipt of sum secured by conditional surrender of messuage and lands in the manor by John Collison of Hitchin, coal merchant 1763 July 22	May 1764	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies DE/Ha/75919
Copy of Court Roll	1. William Wilmer Collison of Northampton, Northants, coach-maker. 2. John Collison of Hitchin, coal-merchant. Manor of Weston	2 July, 1772	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies DE/Pr/77772 & DE/Pr/77755
Copy of Court Roll	Admission of John Collison, as brother and heir of late Elizabeth Burral (formerly Elizabeth Collison, spinster). Manor of Weston	20 Nov, 1773	Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies DE/Pr/77773 & DE/Pr/77755
Insured:	Brown Collison of New England, Hitchin, Hertfordshire esq	8 November 1838	Held by London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/563/1286649
Insured:	Brown Collison 22 Great Ormond Street gent Other property or occupiers:... Brown Collison 22 Great Ormond Street gent	6 December 1808	This record is held by London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/446/823625
Insured:	Brown Collison at Messrs Hoare's 37 Fleet Street esq, and Seth Charles Ward, as... Insured: Brown Collison at Messrs Hoare's 37 Fleet Street esq, and Seth Charles Ward, as executors of the late Charles Cooper Other property or occupiers: Great St Helens Bishopsgate	14 September 1836	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/554/1231432
Insured:	Brown Collison of New England Hitchin in Herts esq	11 November 1828	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/513/1082549
Insured:	Brown Collison, New England, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, esq	6 November 1833	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/536/1163497
Insured:	Brown Collison 17 Guildford Street Foundling esq	10 March 1823	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/492/1001867
Insured:	Brown Collison, 27 Great Ormond Street, gent	16 January 1815	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/464/901492
Letter:	Brown Collison, Fleet Street to Lord Winchilsea Note of 3 sums paid by D of... Note of 3 sums paid by D of Montrose 1815 - £100. - £2000. 1818 - £100.	8 Sept 1837	Northamptonshire Archives FH4512
Insured:	Brown Collison, New England, Hitchin, Herts, esq Other property or occupiers:... Other property or occupiers: Hitchin Herts (Brown, Forster); Days Farm Hitchin (Kingsley); Silver Street, Hitchin (Abbott, Pearce); Ippolets Pound, Hitchin; Sloe Hill (Theobald)	21 October 1829	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/518/1098195
Insured:	Insured: Brown Collison and Charles Seth Ward, executors of the late Charles Cooper, Angel Place, Edmonton, Middlesex, esq Other property or occupiers: 14 (Backhouse) and 20 (Jacobson) Great St Helens, Bishopsgate Street	17 October 1837	London Metropolitan Archives: City of London MS 11936/555/1259274

Lease for a year of messuage in Newport Pagnell.	James Adkins to Robert Collison Lease for a year of messuage in Newport Pagnell. James Adkins to Robert Collison	26 Aug. 1793	Buckinghamshire Archives D-X21/19
Will of Robert Collison or Collinson,	Surgeon of Newport Pagnell , Buckinghamshire	11 July 1803	The National Archives, Kew PROB 11/1395/223
Letter	R. Collison, Newport Pagnell (physician), thanks for "the very handsome present" and other favours.	16 May 1811	Buckinghamshire Archives D-U/9/3/34
Letter / Folio	Content: Folios 234-237. Letter from R Collison, CH Kipling and Edward Daniell, Medical Officers to the Newport Pagnell Poor Law Union to the Poor Law Commission enclosing a statement of the remuneration given to them for attending the parishes of the union and stating that despite repeated applications to the board of guardians for more ample stipends, these had been refused. If the Commission feels that it should not interfere, they would not wish to press the matter and place themselves in an uncomfortable position with the board of guardians. Annotated: by Robert Weale that the remuneration to medical officers in this union is unusually low. He suggests the Commission send a copy of the letter to the board of guardians, advising them to make contracts for half a year only in anticipation of the presumed uniform plan resulting from the renewal of the Commission by Parliament. A copy of this letter would be sufficient reply to the medical officers. Attached is a table of average expenditure for the parishes of the Newport Pagnell Poor Law Union amended to be a list of the medical expenses of the parishes for the years 1835 and 1840. Paper Number: 1851/A/1840.	20 Feb 1840	The National Archives, Kew MH 12/488/160
Indenture Conveyance	Robert Collison of Newport Pagnell, Surgeon and Apothecary to Jn Pearson of Piddington, Shopkeeper and his Trustee, Geo Tite of Piddington, Yeo for £100 of messuage in Piddington and new erected messuage Witnesses - Jn Tite Mark Malim Also Bond (to Indemnify against Dower) Also Receipt of Mr Jn Pearson for 12/6 paid to Phoenix Assurance Company 22 December 1791; 14 May 1799 Physical condition: 1 Seal (human head); Parchment; 1 Seal (human head); Paper; Signed - G Osborn, Agent; Paper	22 Dec 1791	Northamptonshire Archives G(H)704