

--the second one to be mentioned in deeds from the box. It is at this time that George Barrett pays £50 to John Cook for part of the property. The property seems to have been held in trust by John Isaac.

Document 27: The Will and Probate dated 7 March 1811 of George Barret, weaver, leaving three freehold cottages in South Newington, currently in the occupation of William Holloway and Elizabeth French, to his daughter Sophia Taylor, his wife Mary to have the rent. He willed his loom to his son in law William Taylor – so weaving was still continuing in these premises.

Document 28: A Deed to Lease dated 15 September 1827. This document relates to the lease of a field by William Taylor of South Newington, weaver. Though the property named was of no particular interest it does show that there were still weavers active in the village at this time. There were no other documents in this deed box relating to weavers.

There are other records that help to confirm the existence of a fairly active weaving industry in South Newington in the eighteenth century.

In the Oxfordshire Record Office are copies of Lease and Release documents, both dated 1757, from William Stevens to Alexander Tredwell of three mills and mill houses with appurtenances, two fulling mills and a water corn mill.⁶ There are also documents in the New College Archive dated 1 June 1757.⁷ They concern the sale by William Stevens of Hornton, apothecary, to Alexander Tredwell of Shennington, blacksmith of the same: ‘*Three mills and Millhouses with the Appurts lately called Fulling Mills and a Water Corn Mill with Appurts Situate and being in South Newington*’. That there were two fulling mills in the village suggests a lot of activity in the weaving trade.

It is not clear precisely when there ceased to be weavers in South Newington. In 1841 there were two plush weavers and seven weavers.⁸ There are no weavers recorded in the 1851 Census.

⁶ O.R.O., Taylor VI/3 and Taylor VI/4.

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⁸ *VCH* vol. XI, *Wootton Hundred (North)*, p.153.