

# A HOUSE on BANBURY'S HORSE FAIR: Its Seventeenth Century owners and occupiers

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A collection of a dozen deeds relating to Banbury was recently donated to the Museum and, before they were passed on to the Oxfordshire Record Office [ORO], I was given the opportunity of examining them.

By an extraordinary coincidence, it turned out that ORO already held four more for the same property and series of transactions. They do not add significantly to what the others already show, but help to fill gaps and confirm details. Dated from 1658 to 1701, in fact the collection takes the property's history back to 1619.

The property is described as "a messuage or tenement situate on the east side of a certain street in Banbury called the horse faire". No further locational information, such as names of neighbours in adjacent houses, is added in later deeds. Apart from the former vicarage and the *Woolpack* inn, all buildings now on the eastern side are almost certainly post-seventeenth century, though approximate identification of the site seems possible.

The documents just acquired (together with the ORO deeds) fall into several groups. They are listed in detail in the Appendix, page 000.137.

## **Early history: the Perrin family before the Civil War**

The earliest deed (1658) records the acquisition of the lease of the property by Benjamin Hibberdine, of Banbury, apothecary. His immediate predecessor was Josiah Jakeman of Banbury, mercer, and his wife Zipporah. The house had been acquired by Josiah's father Anthony Jakeman of "Thrupp Mundeville", Northants. (deceased), from William Perrin.

Two assumptions: first, that the pre-Civil War building had survived. The nearby vicarage had been badly damaged; however, in a survey of Crown property in the town, it is in North Bar Street that "destroyed by fire in the late war", "burnt in the late war, whereof part is now built" is noted; but then there may not have been Crown holdings in Horse Fair!<sup>1</sup>

Second, that the Perrin family had lived there since before 1619. **John Perrin**, saddler (d.1623/4),<sup>2</sup> in 1619 deed-of-gifted all his goods etc to his

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<sup>1</sup> *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart*. BHS vol. 15, pp.190-92.

<sup>2</sup> Baptisms etc from *Banbury Parish Registers, 1558-1838*, BHS, various vols.

The Perrin surname appears in differing spellings; I have not standardised.