

**THE DISTRESSES OF AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY APOTHECARY:
Simon Mason in Market Harborough**

The next thing offer'd, was an Advertisement for a Man who understood the Business of an Apothecary, and was capable of visiting Patients, who for further information was to apply to Mr. *Smith*, *Chymist* at *Smithfield-Bars*; this Mr. *Smith*, when I liv'd in *Hatton-Garden*, was Journeyman to Mr. *Pead*, a *Chymist*, the very next Door to me; when I went to Mr. *Smith*, to enquire after this Place, he was exceeding glad to see me, and did not think I wanted it for myself; but when I told him that the many cruel and unfortunate Events of my Life had reduc'd me, and that it was for myself I apply'd, and beg'd his Friendship in securing the Place for me; this he readily promis'd me, and accordingly did, which brought me to *Market-Harborough* in *Leicestershire*, February the 18th, 1747-8.

I was directed by Mr *Smith* to one Mr *B-r-n* a Surgeon and Apothecary of that Town, whom I sent for to the Swan; He told me he was going to succeed an Apothecary at *Leicester*, and wanted a Person qualified to take care of his Shop and Business at *Harborough*, and I was recommended by Mr. *Smith* as such; I answer'd, I had been known some Years to Mr *Smith* when I was in a preferable Situation; he said he hop'd I should meet with things to my Satisfaction, and he was much better pleased that Mr. *Smith* had sent him a Person of some Years, than a young Man, as I shou'd be more capable, and more satisfactory to his Friends: He ask'd me if I went to the Meeting, I told him, no; he said he was sorry for that, as most of his Patients belonging to that Shop did; he had no other objection, than he fear'd that unless I went to the Meeting, we should lose some of the Business, I reply'd rather than we should lose the Business, I would go to the Meeting till I had establish'd myself amongst them, and the next Day we came to an Agreement, and he was to give me half a Guinea a Week, with board, washing, and lodging &c, which Agreement we both fig'n'd

In the evening came Mr. *Johnson* the dissenting Minister, a very good sort of a Gentleman, who was neither ignorant, nor reserv'd enough to please some of the rigid ones; I told Mr. *Johnson* at the same time I was inform'd by Mr. *B-n* that unless I went to the Meeting we should lose most of our Business, that I was really bred up to the Church of England, which worship I have always adher'd to; and I think I ought not to deceive you; either by telling you I am a Dissenter, or by my going to the Meeting; he said I did very right to speak so candidly, and he should have the better opinion of

me; he believed some Persons would have lik'd me better, was I of the same way of thinking with them, but for his part, it wou'd make no Difference, and honestly said, he would not have me upon any view of Interest go to the Meeting, tho' my not doing it, would be an hindrance to our Business; I told him as I was a perfect Stranger and came to serve Mr. *B-n*, I thought it at present most adviseable to establish myself in the good Esteem of those I was to be employ'd by, and with his leave I shou'd come and behave decently amongst them, and if I lik'd their way of serving God better than the Church of England, I should continue, otherwise he'd excuse me if I return'd to the Church; he said every Man ought to follow the dictates of his own Conscience; accordingly I attended their Meeting, and sometimes when out of Town, I went to Church, and thought I did right to make some set of People my Friends, who shew'd me respect and civility.

I had not acted in the capacity of a Journey man more than two months, before my new Master (discovering my general reception and approbation) offer'd me Partnership, and we drew up an agreement for that Purpose, by which agreement his Attorney well knows I cou'd have taken great Advantage of, had I been unjustly inclin'd: Soon after this engagement, by the advice of his Friends, he offer'd me the Shop and Business, and to let me the House at the same Rent, and for the same time he had to come; we agreed and he sold me the Shop, Medicines, Druggs, and Utensils, and let me the House, and once more I was Master for myself. It seems he had been treating with an Apothecary of the same Town before I was sent for, and they cou'd not agree; finding I had got the Shop and Business, and was likely to have more, it occasion'd the foul Play as I shall relate as it falls in Turn.

I agreed with this same Apothecary for the Shop and some Household-Goods; to the amount of one hundred Pounds, to be paid at four equal distinct payments, the first to be paid the *Harborough* Fair following, (this being made in *May* 1748,) and the other three payments were all to be paid in about a Year and half; for which purpose, Articles were made, which we executed, and his Attorney had made them with this Proviso, that upon five days default after the time fix't for payment of the first, or any other payments, the contract was to be void, and he should have it in his Power, to re'enter, seize, carry away, and dispose of the Effects, 'till he was paid the remaining part of what was due. This was a pretty hard engagement, yet from the Business I had, and the Prospect of more, I was under no apprehensions of not making good my payments, and this good Prospect induc'd me once more to send for my Wife and Children. After

they came, we liv'd very comfortably for about six Weeks, when she began to behave in such an insolent, noisy, tyrannical manner, as no one can conceive, which did me a great Prejudice, but proved lucky for Mr. C--s to renew his application in behalf of his Son, for he well knew that unless some advantages could be gain'd by these imprudences, I should soon make good my Purchase, and get into more Business than was consistent with their Interests; then this worthy conscientious Brother of mine, renew'd the Attack, and offer'd much more Money for the Shop than I had agreed for, and to pay it all down, in case he cou'd disengage himself from the agreement made with me; this was a strong Temptation to a Man who wanted the Money to pay for the Shop he had bought: Added to these, our domestick Contentions, which he thought would be a great check to the Business I had; and it was, in all probability, these considerations, with the Money paid down, which occasion'd Mr. B--n to listen to the new Proposals of Mr C--s; and then, ways and means were consulted, how to dispossess me, and to get the Goods again; all this I knew nothing of, but I was taking the utmost pains to make good my first payment, by a strict assiduity in Business. When an unlucky Circumstance happening, did me hurt with some of my Patients, and gave them an handle to side with Mr. B--n to use me as he did.

One Sunday Mr. *Bigland* of *Peterborough*, came to the three Crowns at *Harborough*, and ask'd Mr. *Sollers* if I did not live there; he told him yes; Mr *Bigland* then desir'd he'd send for me; Mr. *Sollers* answer'd he'd send for me, if he pleased, but he was sure I would not come to a publick-House of a Sunday; why so, reply'd Mr. *Bigland*, why don't you know he's a Dissenter, and they won't come out of a Sunday; I saw him go by since you have been here, from the Meeting; which made the Gentleman in a Passion, and order'd directly I might be sent for, and said I was no Dissenter, and would come if they told me his Name; I was sent for, and went to wait on Mr. *Bigland*, who made such a Discovery that I was from that very time look'd upon as a false Brother.

Harborough Fair being come, I saw Mr. B--n and told him the first payment would be due in a few Days, but if he wanted any Money, I could then help him to some, and if he would give me an order, I would pay Mr. *Talbot* ten Pounds for rent, and the little more that was wanting, I would pay within the time, to make up the first payment. He said, no; he should be at *Harborough* again in about a Week, and he with some of his Friends would meet me, and settle: Mr. *Marston*, who was one in company, promis'd to give us the Night fix'd upon, a fat Pig for supper, which was agreed to,

and we all consented to meet at the time appointed at that very House; little distrusting what was contriving for my destruction. The time fix'd being come, I went to meet according to promise, but neither my Gentleman, nor any of his Friends were there, no Pig, nor any sign of a Supper; I ask'd the Landlord after Mr. *B--n* and he had heard nothing of him, nor the fat Pig. I return'd, imagining some Business might have prevented his coming, never mistrusting what was in agitation.

About a Week after the time appointed, (being five Days) and five Days only over and above the twelve, which he staid away on purpose to take the advantage of this default, when the default was plainly of his own making, and absolutely contrary to my inclination, and express'd appointment; he then came and brought two Bailiffs with him, whom he put into Possession; I was at the same Time gone to *Farndon*, (about one Mile from *Harborough*,) and upon my return home, met a Messenger, who told me what was done, and to prevent his arresting me, I went to little *Bowden*, (it being out of that County,) fearing that since he had so treacherously acted by me, he would stick at nothing to compleat his cruelty. I sent to Mr. *Marston*, to tell Mr. *B--n*, I desir'd to speak with him before any thing was done, which he refus'd, and never came to me. The next Day Mr. *Marston* went with me to his Attorney, to talk with him about this Affair, and at last, we concluded to meet on Sunday to see if this Matter could be compromis'd. The Attorney promis'd the Goods should remain unremov'd upon the Premises, till the result of this Meeting: My Friend Mr. *Marston*, and I, took our leaves of this good Gentleman, relying upon his Fidelity, and I return'd to little *Bowden*; but on Saturday Night in violation of that promise, about eleven, a Person came to tell me Mr. *B--n* with his Assistants was pulling down, and carrying away, both the Shop and Household-goods, and had, at Midnight pull'd my Children out of Bed and laid them upon the Floor without a Rag to cover them, and had taken every individual thing and had left none of them a Bed to lie on.

Can it be thought in a Christian Country, any thing so base, so cruel and barbarous, would be transacted after so many pretensions of Friendship by one who pitied me, on the Account he had receiv'd of my former Sufferings from cruelty and oppression? Was he not convinc'd of my Diligence and Integrity? Had he discover'd any thing to have rais'd a Suspicion of my Fidelity, he would have been more excusable? But the Re-commendation he had from Mr. *Smith*, and the Character he receiv'd in answer to a Letter, he sent unknown to me, to Dr. *Mead*, which he shew'd to many Persons in *Harborough*; and declar'd at the same Time he would have

given an hundred Pounds for the same Character, from so great a Man; I say, had I in any Degree forfeited these Testimonials, then he might have had a greater Plea for his Cruelties; but such continued Misfortunes as these, sometimes incline me to think that all events are determin'd by an irresistable Fate.

To return; we were stript and nothing left but bare Walls, yet I thought proper to keep Possession, as a Gentleman to whom I apply'd, advis'd; and told me he'd make him glad to bring every thing back again, and make me Satisfaction for such illegal Practice, for he did not only take those things I had bought of him, but many more my Family had brought, and others I had bought; besides many valuable Medicines I had made, and added to Stock. But I being thus reduc'd in a strange Place, was oblig'd (without redress) to submit to these barbarities.

After several delusive attempts, by sending false messuages for me, first to one Place, and my Wife to another, in order to take Possession and lock us into the Street; he by the Advice of some ruling Puritans, apply'd to a Justice in regard to my settlement, tho' I was absolutely a Parishioner by hiring upwards of ten Pounds per Year; however, a Warrant was granted, and without time or notice I was hurried before a Justice, about fifteen Miles distant, escorted by a Guard, as if I had been taken up for a Highway-man, and when I came before his Worship, I gave him such an Account, and produc'd my Contract for rent, and shew'd him my Credentials from Dr. *Mead*, and Dr. *Schomberg*, that I receiv'd better usage then they desir'd; and they could that time meet with no great hopes of obtaining their End. But soon a second Application was made by a worthy Gentleman, who in regard to his Memory I shall say was the good Mr. *David Kidney*: He with some more leading Saints, got me again before his Worship; and twice more in obedience to Warrants, I was had before a Justice, in the midst of Winter, about fifteen Miles; who at last could do nothing to serve his good Friends. They afterwards told me, I should oblige the Parish by giving them a Certificate; which I accordingly did, and left the dispute betwixt *B--n* and myself, to arbitration: Mr. *Harper* allow'd me a year's Rent and seven Pounds, and for peace sake, I quitted the Premises, and gave him Possession, to take in the Person who had supplanted me; but had it been in my Power, to have brought this Affair before a Judge and Jury, my Antagonist and false Friend must have paid smart for his deceit and cruelty.

After this, I took a little House, but had neither House-hold nor Shop-Goods to put into it; I being desir'd by some Friends, who had employ'd me to

continue amongst them, and altho' the Person had got the Shop by such unfair proceedings, I retain'd some Business and got some few Shop-Goods, and wrote to Mr. *Sawtell*, an Apothecary in *London*, who directly sent me a Quantity of all Sorts of useful Druggs and Medicines, for which I shall ever own my Gratitude. By this supply I got more Business, but my Practice was chiefly amongst Incurables, or at least what had been so with others; and begging Pardon of my judicious Brethren of *Harborough*, I say, I have cur'd Patients after every one of them have fail'd; and I defie them all to produce one Instance of their curing any one after me, and was I to declare what success I have had since I have been in this Country about five Years, it will look like boasting; but I desire if they can find out among a number of three or four hundred People, that have been under my care, that more than thirty have died, or gone away uncur'd; or if any one of them have cur'd one after me, where I had a fair chance.

Among my difficult Patients, I beg leave (in regard to a Gentleman from *London*, that did me a Favour) to mention Mr. *Freeman* of *Lutterworth*, who had been a long time afflicted with a nervous disorder, and had apply'd to several, both in *London*, and in the *Country*, and at a great expence to no purpose; whom afterwards I soon cur'd. This same Gentleman had a Relation in *London*, whose care Mr. *Freeman* (some little time before) had been under, and seeing him so well recover'd, he ask'd him who had cur'd him; he reply'd, it was me, and said how hardly I had been used, and how greatly I was reduc'd, yet he believed, could I meet with a Friend to assist me with some Medicines, I should still come into Business.

This same Apothecary came in a Day or two, with Mr. *Freeman*, to *Harborough*, and call'd upon me, and ask'd me if I wanted any thing in his way, and he would readily supply me: I told him I had occasion enough, but my present Circumstances were such, that I could not desire him to give me credit, as I fear'd much, whether I should ever be able to pay him; he answer'd, he knew my Circumstances before he came, and found I had been ill used, and deserving of encouragement, which he came to give me; and said Mr. *Freeman* had spoke very handsomely of me and sent him to me, and he desired I would give him an account of what I wanted, and he shou'd send me the Goods the week following; tho' he told me, a certain Apothecary (who had been instrumental in getting me out of the other Shop) had said all he could to dissuade him from sending me any thing; which he look'd upon as malice, and should not regard him; he accordingly, the next Week, sent me as many Goods as I wanted, and exceeding good; this was in March 1749.

The good Apothecaries of *Harborough*, whose Friendship and judgment I equally esteem, and are equally surprising; seeing I had got a supply of Medicines, and was likely to get into Business; knowing I had a Bond in Mr. *Hall's* Hands, a Druggist in *London*, (due for Medicines when I was last demolish'd at *Cambridge*) for fourteen Pounds, took the pains to write Mr. *Hall* word, that I was settled at *Harborough* in good Business, and lately had a supply of Medicines &c. from *London*, and now was his time to be paid: Upon this information, Mr. *Hall* taking it ill, I had Medicines of any one else; (tho' he at the same time would not trust me for any) directly arrested me, and sent me to *Leicester-Goal*, which answer'd my kind brethren's desire; this being two or three Days before the new Fair, that it might the more effectually be spread about the Country: In *Leicester-Goal* I was confin'd about two Months, till Mr. *Hall* was fully satisfy'd about the malicious Representations, and nature of the whole Affair, when he order'd me out of Custody.

The Friendship I met with from Strangers while I was in Goal, I ought never to forget; and what introduc'd me so much to their Compassion, was, there happen'd at that time a very malignant Fever in the Prison, that was very fatal in many other Prisons in this Kingdom at the very same Time: The next Day after my admission, I went to see the Persons that were afflicted with this Illness, and told Mr. *Lambert*, the Goal-Keeper, if he would give me leave, I would soon recover those that were ill, and prevent it spreading: Mr. *Lambert* readily agreeing to it, I quickly clear'd the Goal of an Illness, which had made such a noise in the Town and Country, and made People fearful of coming near it: nay, this illness happening at the Assizes, the Judge was afraid to try the Felons, till I had certified to his Lordship, that the Goal was intirely free'd from the Illness.

My Practice being so successful in Goal, it brought me some Patients out of the Town, and raised me the Compassion and Benevolence of several Gentlemen; for which I am in duty bound to be thankful to Mr. *Recorder Wright*, Mr. *Wynstanly*, Mr. *Franks*, Mr. *Pine*, Mr. *Walter Crompon*, with the Benevolence of Mr. *Alderman Lee*, and I should be ungenerous to forget the genteel behaviour of Mr. *Lambert*; and to all I own myself under great Obligations.

By my *Harborough* Friends, my Landlord was sent for whilst I was in Goal, in order to compleat my Destruction, to seize for his Rent, when only one quarter was due, for which he seiz'd, and was paid; another Quarter would about a fortnight more become due, for which he staid, and seiz'd also;

and as soon as I came out, I paid that too: These were comfortable additions to my confinement and loss of Business; every contrivance was put in execution to destroy me; and when I return'd to starving without ever a Bed to lie on, for I solemnly declare it, that we all lay upon a Matt, without a Bed for near two Years, how many cold winter Days and Nights, have we sat without Fire and Candle, and often not able to get more than a penny Loaf among four of us, for a whole Day's support, with a draught of Water.

In this Miserable Condition, have I spent many days and nights, in a merciless Place, almost drove to despair, and these Circumstances aggravated with noise, insolence, and contention; how often have I wish'd somebody would send me to Goal! there I thought I should have the Goal-allowance in Peace, and if my poor Children had been sent to the Parish, they would have fared much better.

Notwithstanding all these Hardships, as I had fix'd a good reputation in Practice, I was in hopes of seeing better times; and in order to stem this torrent of Persecution, by the advice of a Gentleman, I hir'd a House of one *Smith*, a Baker, for which I covenanted for ten Pounds a Year, and gave him earnest for the same House before Witness, which we spent as such; and as my Circumstances were low, he let it me upon paying the first half year's-Rent down, when taking possession. This contract being known, set my Adversaries again to work, and *Smith* presently was threatened in case he let me have his House, one Apothecary would turn him off, and such an Inn he should not serve with Bread &c. that the poor Baker at all events, must not let me have the House, but he was oblig'd to let it to another Person, whom he put in possession; and these Persons who had insisted upon his not letting me have the House, promised to indemnify him in case I should demand my contract. I being disappointed of the House, and wore out with cruelty and oppression, and almost starv'd, I made application to teach the Free-School then vacant; but by some righteous good Gentlemen, that also was deny'd me, and oblig'd me to leave *Harborough*; and upon the death of Mr. *Ireland*, I, by the better sort of People was invited to come to *Wilbarston*; with great assurances of Friendship and Business; and to this Town of *Wilbarston*, I came November, 1751; but thought it most adviseable to leave my Wife at *Harborough*, almost a Year, at a great expence, in order so to establish myself, as not to suffer by any imprudence she might committ: One Day I was relating the disappointments I met with from *Smith* (which oblig'd me to leave *Harborough* just as the small-pox broke out, and I was likely

to come into good Business) to Mr. *Dexter*, whom I by chance met with at Mr. *Parker's*; he was of opinion, that if I could prove my contract, and if according to that contract, I made a tender of five Pounds upon the Day fixt, and demanded Possession, *Smith* would be glad to give it to me, or make me some satisfaction; which I approv'd, and was determin'd it should be done, and accordingly a tender was made, and possession demanded, when *Smith* refus'd, calling me poor beggarly Dog, and set me at a defiance. &c.

This gave *Smith* some uneasiness, notwithstanding some had promised to indemnify him, which brought him over, with his neighbour *S. N--t*, in order to compromise this affair, and we shou'd have done it much better for us both, had his Friend agreed to it, as Mr. *Green* proposed, that *Smith* shou'd give me five Guineas, and pay my Attorney, and give each other an acquittance; which I would have agreed to, but *Smith's* Friend took him away; I was bid to do my worst; and I by advice brought my Action, and *Smith*, thinking as I was poor, I must drop it, oblig'd me to proceed in order for Tryal, which I did by the kind assistance of some Friends, who desire not to be mention'd; and before the Tryal, which was last march was twelve-months, my material Evidence was making a visit, and could not be met with, to avoid being subpœn'd; which put off our Tryal for that Assizes: This contrivance to evade coming to Tryal, did not fully answer their designs; but in order to take an advantage of not trying the Cause, put out of my power to try, by sending my Evidence out of the way; yet they were so good to move in order to get me sent to Goal, and had done it too, had not I immediately sent up Affidavits to prove their sending my Evidence out of the way; very righteous indeed! After all this treatment, I was obliged to wait till the summer Assizes following, when care was taken, to subpœna this Evidence in time; but before the Assizes, they thought proper to apply for Terms, and I, well remembering how greatly I had suffer'd before, by a false witness; it gave me a mean opinion of trusting to such uncertain events: And in obedience to some Gentlemen who wish'd me well, I left it to reference, and my Referee, after I had given him a power to act, told me he should insist upon my paying a small demand to his Relation, and that I should give him a discharge for mine, and was in a great Passion; from such a Friend, I could have but small hopes.

But the two Arbitrators not agreeing, they fix'd upon a third, who absolutely advised me to hire the House; and when *Smith* first began to play loose, he blam'd him, complaining all along of the illegality of their Pro-

ceedings, and what Damages I ought to have; and was it left to him, I shou'd have too. But good Lord! how soon we frail Creatures, may alter our Opinions; for after it was solely left to him, I had twelve Pounds allow'd me, instead of an hundred, and I was to pay my Attorney out of that; and instead of having great satisfaction made me, I, and my Friends with one expence or other, are better than thirty Pounds out of Pocket; and I don't doubt but it cost him above twice the Sum; and those Persons who prompted him on to distress me, got their ends by driving me from *Harborough*, yet they were at no part of the expence, for *Smith* was at the whole.

A certain Neighbour, a man of excellent parts, and great sagacity, who calls himself Apothecary, Surgeon, Rum and Brandy-Merchant; I don't know whether he sells Cyder, fine Ale, or London Porter, I know he has them all, who has been at the Bottom of all the foul play I have receiv'd in the Country, was the other Day in company with a good sensible Tradesman in *Harborough*, which Tradesman, was speaking to this Haberdasher of small-Wares, in a kind manner about me, who made Answer; yes, *Mason* is an ingenious Man, but he is poor; he has nothing but his Lancet to trust to, he has no Medicines; no Medicines! reply'd my Friend; for God's sake, what does he cure People with? for this I know, he has more success than all the Apothecaries in the Country.

My fate, sure of all Men, is most hard; some have been encouraged for understanding their Business; but those few Abilities, which some have been pleas'd to allow me, have raised a Jealousy among others of the physical Tribe, who have taken all pains to do me hurt: But now I hope it appears, that I am neither Rogue, Fool, Drunkard, nor extravagant; but am very capable of being useful in my Profession, and could I wipe off that hateful odium of Poverty, I shou'd have as few faults as others.

Notes:

In 1754 Simon Mason published his autobiography under the following title:-

A Narrative of the Life and Distresses of Simon Mason, Apothecary. Setting forth the injurious Treatment he hath met with; with many other Transactions, in a Series of Events, both serious and diverting; Being an Answer to an Enquiry lately made; (*viz.*) *Why a Man of approv'd Knowledge in his Profession, with upwards of thirty Years Practice should be in adverse Circumstances? &c.*

Birmingham: Printed for the Author by T. Warren Junr. near the *New-Chappel.*

The above passages are copied from pages 92-107 and 114-15.

He was born in 1701 at Great Gransden in Huntingdonshire, the eldest of a large family of country gentry of declining fortune, and was apprenticed to a London apothecary. At each stage in his career, whether in London or in the provinces, a promising start was soon followed by disaster. He was at pains not to blame all this on his wife, 'this poor unhappy temper'd Woman'; but the fact was that by marrying imprudently before properly completing his term he ruined his prospects in London. Added to this he was cheated out of the promised dowry and was consistently ill-treated by his wife's family.

Among the places where he practiced it was perhaps Cambridge that, for a time, rewarded him with the most notable success. As he wrote later, '... if I wanted any Medicines the Apothecaries at *Cambridge* wou'd let me have them at prime Cost, and us'd me (not) as I have lately been by those very eminent Men of the Profession at *Market-Harborough.*' His Cambridge clients included senior academics. Indeed on his arrival there in 1740 he had a personal recommendation from his influential London acquaintance Dr Richard Mead, 'the chief physician of the day', to the Master of Trinity College, the great classical scholar Richard Bentley. He was employed generously by Bentley, but his luck changed when the latter died in 1742.

One of the letters of recommendation from Dr Mead, signed also by another London physician, Dr Meyer Löw Schomberg, read as follows:-

I have known Mr. *Simon Mason, Apothecary*, many Years, and have always found him to be an honest, industrious Man, and well qualified for his Business.

February the 7th. 1746,7.

} R. Mead
} M. Schomberg

Many of the names mentioned in connexion with his three and a half year stay in Market Harborough can be traced. The treacherous Mr B-r-n has not been identified, but the apothecaries Mr C--s and his son were probably Thomas Clowes, apothecary, and his son William, who was established on his own as a surgeon and apothecary some time before 1755. Mr David Kidney was a Harborough mercer or haberdasher of hats. Daniel Lambert was born in 1770 and became the keeper of Leicester gaol when he was only twenty one. Presumably his father, who preceded him in the post, or else another relative, was the obliging Mr Lambert in charge of Simon Mason in 1749.

Sources consulted:

D T-D Clarke, *Daniel Lambert*, 3rd ed 1973

J C Davies, *Georgian Harborough*, 1969

We are grateful to Mr Davies for his help in identifying Harborough men mentioned by Simon Mason.

J E Stocks, *Market Harborough Parish Records 1531 to 1837*, 1926

Dictionary of National Biography,

entries for Richard Bentley, Daniel Lambert, Richard Mead and Meyer Löw Schomberg

LINDLEY HALL FARM 1908-1915

Mrs H Tugby

I am going back sixty two years to when I was four years old. I can't remember much before that. And this is what I remember most. We, that's father, mother and I, living on a big farm called Lindley Hall Farm, Fenny Drayton, near Nuneaton, with my grandad and grandma. And one morning my father was breaking in a young horse and was putting it along side with another horse in chains. And the young horse jumped forward and ripped the guides in the middle of dad's hand with a hook on the chains. And seeing my mother place the middle of his hand and bandage it up and sending him to the doctor's at Nuneaton. I can see him this very day, in his grey trousers, black jacket and bowler hat, with his hand in a large silk muffler, because I watched him as far as I could see him. He had to go across four fields to Higham on the Hill station.