

DIXON FAMILY

I have been very pleased to make contact with Shirley Combs of The Dalles, Oregon. Shirley is researching the Dixon family and has taken the line back to Humphrey Dixon. His son Thomas Dixon lived at Northfrith, Tonbridge, Kent, England. The line descends through Humphrey who married Elizabeth Hallendon and John Dixon who married Joan Launce to Henry Dixon Justice of the Peace of Hilden, Kent. It is here our sources conflict. Shirley shows Henry's wife as Mary Blower of London while I show his wife as Ann ??

This Henry Dixon of Hilden, Kent is the father the Edward Dixon who married Cecily the daughter of Sir James Whitlock (1570-1632). The only Dixon mentioned in Sir James Whitlock's *Liber Familicus* is William Dixon "died a beneficed man in Kent". We assume this is William Dixon, Rector of Cowden b.1555 d.pre1602.

Sir James records the birth of his daughter."CECILL, MY DAUGHTER, was born in Fleet Street house, 10 Martij, 1607, 5 Jacobi. She was christened in St.Dunstan's church, 26 Martij, being Ester even. Her godfather was sir John Harrington, Knighte of the bathe, sun and heir to the lord Harrington, and on of the prince's gentlemen ordinarye; her godmothers, my wife s sisters Cecill and Dorothy Bulstrodd, gentlewomen of the queen's bed chamber."

His son, Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke's Diaries are of more help with numerous references to 'Brother Dixon' (Edward) and 'Old Mr. Dixon' or 'Cousin Dixon' (Edward's father Henry). Page 68 (1632) "Mr Dixon desired the consumation of his marryage & to see the Judges Will how the portion might be secured, butt Whitelocke told his the Will was not materiall, bicause the Judge had by deed of guift (which he produced) conveyed all his personall estate to his son, & for the portion Whitelocke offered to secure to them £1,300 to make up the £1,200 they had already received, [to] the summe of £2,500 being the portion agreed uppon, with which they then seemed to be satisfied, & preparations for th wedding went on, the writings for settlement of Mr.Dixons estate & for the jointure were sealed, & old Mr.Dixon with his sons and friends, & Whitelocke with his sister & friends were ready to goe into the Chappell att Fawley Court, to see the marryage solemnised betwixt them."

The issue here was that The Judge had put his daughter's inheritance into his will at £2,500. The wedding plans were underway and £1,200 had been paid over to Mr. Dixon when the Judge died (Jun. 22, 1632). When the will was read the son refused to pay his sister £2,500 as £1,200 had already been paid. The wedding would not proceed until Bulstrode had secured the remaining £1,300 and his sister and her fiancée had signed that was their full inheritance. The couple were married July 2, 1632 at Fawley in Buckinghamshire.

Ruth Spalding in her *Contemporaries of Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke 1605-1675* quotes papers at Longleat House showing Anne (d. 1660) wife of Henry Dixon resented her husband's generosity towards the Whitelocke family, *Diary* 13 Aug. 1655; 12 Jan. 1655/56. She and Whitelocke were joint executors to her husband's estate; a small account for disbursements names them both in that capacity. [Long. W.P. xix, 135]

Ruth also mentions Henry Dixon; "of Hilden, Kent, of Wandsworth, and of Braughing, Herts. He is shown in the church at Little Rollright, Oxfordshire, as Patron of the living in 1622, 1630 and 1640. Husband of Anne and father of Edward; he was an old friend of Judge Sir James Whitelocke. [Bulstrode] Whitelocke signed a bond to him for £2,000, conditioned for payment of £1,400, June 1632, [Long. W.P. v, 238] Dixon in due course, borrowed from Whitelocke and, in return settled land in Wandsworth and Braughing on Whitelocke's son Willoughby, *Diary* 1641.1642. fol. 55v."

One of the items held in the archives at Longleat House is the bills for Cecily's wedding. Ruth quotes them in *Contemporaries*. "Her 'milliner's' bill before the wedding amounted to £46.18s.3d. which included: rolls of taffeta to line, £1.1s.0d.; 'Left unpaid of the last workinge £7.3s.3d.'; binding for petticoats 2s.; making petticoats and waistcoats 3s.6d.; 20½ yards of straw-yellow satins £15.7s.6d.; three rolls of taffeta to line, 'at 14d the elle', £1.4s.6d.; 16 yards of material for Lady Muston (i.e. Mostyn, Cecilia's elder sister), 3 Feb. 1631/32, [Long. W.P. v, 210]"

Bulstrode's Diaries only mention "Nephew & Niece Dixon" as children of Edward & Cecily. Niece Dixon married Mr. Barker. Shirley Combs mentions a son Henry Dixon and I will be interested to see what details she has on him. Shirley descends from Edward's brother William Dixon whose son Ambrose died in Maryland April 12, 1687.

Our thanks to Shirley for this interesting look at the Dixons. Hopefully as more information is uncovered we will be able to add to this part of the family.

Sources: X2530; X2531; R467; R468