

Pidcocks in Derbyshire

Margaret, our English Pidcock historian, provided this alternate clustering and perspective on the inter-relationship amongst early Pidcock/Pitcock families in Derbyshire.

"There doesn't appear to be any connection between the Darley Dale Pidcocks and the Bakewell ones based on early Parish Registers. Bakewell is about six miles from Darley, while Matlock is only two miles away from Darley, so a cluster between the latter two would seem more likely; for exp. Wm Pidcock of Matlock (1639-1705) married Elizabeth Ward of Darley and seemed to settle there as his children and grandchildren were baptised at Darley."

"Also, the Ashbourne/Wirksworth cluster, these towns are eight miles apart. The first mention in the Wirksworth registers of a connection with another town is when Wm. Pidcock of Bakewell (1630-1692) married Elizabeth Holland of Wirksworth; they baptised the first three children at Wirksworth but then moved back to Bakewell. One of their sons, another Wm., married Elizabeth Henzey of Oldswinford in Worcestershire (about 50 miles away) in 1698 and their children were the first Pidcocks to be baptised at Ashbourne. (Bakewell to Ashbourne is about 24 miles). The [Henzeys](#) were Hugenot fugitives from France during the religious persecutions of the late 1500s; they were involved with glass-making and with several other French families set up factories in Worcester, England. So the Pidcock family most likely met with the Henzeys through business."

"This [Pidcock family](#) were plumbers and glaziers for several generations, Wm. the elder (glazier) did work on Bakewell church and Wm. the younger re-roofed the church at Ashbourne (leaded) and also did glazing work on the almshouses there. Wm. the elder's older brother Robert had the most Hearths in Bakewell (11) at the time of a 'Hearth Tax' in 1670, and I suspect that many of these would be hearths for melting lead or producing glass; Wm. had 2 Hearths, which would be normal in an average house of that period when only the wealthy had a house with 4 or more hearths. (A Pidcock widow at Wirksworth had 4 hearths.) "

"There is mention in various documents of Pidcocks at Ashbourne, Bakewell, Darley, Matlock and Wirksworth all being connected with the lead industry, so it is highly likely that the various branches of the Pidcocks were in contact with each other. "

"However I haven't been able to find many actual family connections in the records that survive and also my research so far shows several of these families have no surviving male descendents so there's no chance of using DNA to link them, more's the pity."