

APPENDIX 1

RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL WOOD

1. As quoted in letter to John Baker dated 12 January 1989 (unless otherwise stated)

a) Analysis of Boyd's Citizens of London Index

Michael Wood consulted Boyd's "Citizens of London" Index at the Society of Genealogists in London. This source suggested that John Done, the son of Robert Done (the brother of John Done "whitebaker") was also John Done "sayler":

- who in 1626 already had a wife, Susan, and a daughter, Elizabeth;
- who, in November 1626, was "bound forth on a voyage in a ship called the *Globe of Poole*";
- who died at some time between 1626 and 1629
- who had his will proved in 1629; and
- whose widow, Susan, later married Richard Evans at St. Martin, Ludgate in 1629.

Michael Wood believed that there was no connection between this John Done "sayler" and the family of John Done "whitebaker". (This was subsequently found to be untrue. John Done "sayler" was the nephew of John Done "whitebaker" as suggested by Boyd).

Boyd referred to "Chan Proc 1/59 1631 Jun 23" in connection with John Done "whitebaker". Michael Wood attempted to check out this reference by looking at Volume 1, page 59 of Chancery Proceedings Temp. Charles 1 – Class C2, but it did not match.

The correct reference was probably C2 CHASI E1 59 – folio 1 (See Appendix4)

a) John Done "whitebaker" and the Bakers' Company

The first appearance of John Done "whitebaker" in the "quarterage book" of the Bakers' Company was in 1585/6 when his first quarterage due (membership subscription) was in the fourth quarter of that year.

c) Chancery Proceedings, Temp. Charles I

Cases listed by Michael Wood were:

D 5/35	Done v Done &c
D 20/63	Done v Dixon
D 22/10	Done v Mountstephens
D 31/60	Donne v Donne
D 38/2	Done v Southcott, Knt
D 51/59	Done v Dixon
D 52/5	Done v Rogers
D 52/42	Donne v Donne
D 53/9	Dowe v Dowe

D 54/42	Done v Rogers etc
D 55/9	Done &c v Done &c
D 58/18	Downe v Downe &c
D 58/48	Downe v Downe

Note: v is vs. and &c is etc

Michael Wood considered that the testamentary case we are interested in was more likely to be D5/35 or D55/9, both Done v. Done, although the “&c” indicated that persons with other surnames were also parties.

d) Will of Robert Done, brother of John Done “whitebaker”

The absence of a will for brother Robert (either in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury or amongst the wills of Londoners proved in a local ecclesiastical court) may be because he left no will, but may also be because he was not a Londoner and his will was proved locally elsewhere.

e) Will of William Done of East Ham

The document collection at the Society of Genealogists has a photocopy of the first two pages of the will of William Done of East Ham, Essex, dated 1627. This indicated that he was not of the immediate family of John Done “whitebaker”.

f) St Dunstan’s Parish Register

Michael Wood suggested a search of St Dunstan’s parish register for Done entries not on IGI (letter to John Baker dated 26 September 1988)

g) “Acts of Court” books

Michael Wood noted that the “Acts of Court” books are registers in which are summarised the proceedings before the Prerogative Court concerning testamentary disputes. He listed entries under codes PROB 29/28 and PROB 29/29 that refer to “Done v Done” (letter to John Baker dated 6 July 1989).

APPENDIX 2

RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY MARILYN LONDON WINTON

This research was inspired by the belief that Deacon John may have had some connection with the aristocratic Done family of Cheshire, centred on the Tarporley area of the county. Hence, in 1973, Marilyn London Winton “visited the Cheshire Record Office in Chester and extracted all Done/Donne entries up to about 1610 for the parishes of Tarporley (where Utkinton is located) and Tarvin (where Duddon is located)”. She also followed up sources referred to in Gilbert Doane’s article written for the DFA Reunion in 1976, especially that relating to his fifth clue. On the basis that the ages of very aged persons are frequently exaggerated, individuals born between 1589 and 1594 were considered possible Deacon “candidates”. Individuals identified as a result of her researches were:

a) John Done of Stableford

Only one John Done was recorded as having been born in the area covered by the Tarvin and Tarporley parishes between 1589 and 1591. He was John Done, son of Richard and Jane (Hatton) Done of Stableford (Bruen Stapleford on today’s maps), who was baptised on 9 November 1591. An “administration” was granted for the estate of a John Done of Stapleford in 1679, which if it is the same individual, would rule him out as being the Deacon. However, Ms Winton considered that “clarification is needed” and that further research should be undertaken in the Tarvin Parish Register to establish whether he remained in the Parish or not during the period that the Deacon was in America, and if he did, to rule him out as being the Deacon.

a) “John Done of Duddon in Cheshire, Esq”

This was the John Done discovered by Gilbert Doane as having taken “the oath of allegiance in London in 1635”. Ms Winton was unable to find further evidence of the existence of this John Done, but suggested a search of the Tarvin Parish Register in order to establish whether he continued to live in Duddon at the time the Deacon was in America. If he did, he could not be Deacon John.

b) John Done – son of “Thomas Done, Gent”

This John Done, baptised in 1594 in Tarporley, was the son of Thomas and Jane (Myncho) Done. John had a brother Raphe and a sister Dorothy. Ms Winton also found a will of a John Done of St Pancras, Soper Lane, London dated 1624, probate being granted in December 1625. Legacies recorded to brother Raphe and sister Dorothy and other details in the will make it clear that this John Done was one and the same as John Done - the son of Thomas Done, Gent. He could not therefore have been the Deacon or the “John Done of Duddon Esq” who took the oath of allegiance in 1635.

c) John Done – son of James Done of Tarporley

John Done, the son of James Done of Tarporley, was baptised in June 1593. He had two brothers, Richard (baptised:1587) and Robert (baptised:1590/ died:1592). Again, Ms Winton suggested

further research in the Tarporley Parish Register to establish whether or not this John Done remained in the area.

APPENDIX 3

LEGAL BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the 17th Century, the English legal system was extremely complex. Of relevance to our research is the fact that much legal activity relating to wills was conducted through the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), an ecclesiastical court (dealing only with matters covering the southern half of England and the Midlands) that granted “probate” to the executors of wills or “letters of administration” to others, e.g. where there was no executor, or where probate was revoked. The PCC could pass “sentences” of the following kinds:

- a) Granting letters of administration.
- b) Confirming the grant of letters of administration
- c) Revoking letters of administration
- d) Declaring in favour of the validity of a will
- e) Confirming a grant of probate
- f) Revoking a grant of probate

Many actions relating to disputed wills were also pursued through the courts of equity, including “Chancery” and the “Star Chamber” and the courts of common law including “Kings Bench”. Chancery was a court that, in the words of the official Guide to The National Archives, “promised a merciful justice not bound by the strict rules of the common law courts”. The Star Chamber was “effectively the King’s Council sitting as a tribunal to enforce law and order” but also used to adjudicate on “private disputes about property rights.”

It is clear that the legal activity surrounding the contesting of the will of John Done, “whitebaker”, involved several of these jurisdictions, including the PCC, Chancery and the Star Chamber.