The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

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Hercules “Arti” Smith 01 Senior 1779-1871

1779 Hercules was baptised as “Hercules, son of Jasper & Sarah,” on Dec 26 1779 at Bletchington/Bletchingdon, Oxon.

The relationships between Hercules and his relatives are explored in the Gypsy Lore Society Journal – based on evidence given by Nanny, the wife of Hercules’ Grandson, Au/Gustin Smith. ¹

“The father in law (Nanny), Wisdom, who was a son of a Jasper Smith, had two brothers (or two half-brothers as his father had two wives and I do not know which was his mother) Arkless “Old Arti” who settled with some of his family at Tadmarton, and Tom, who founded the Gypsy Colony at Headington, who had already been there for some 15 years when Groome discovered it as an undergraduate in 1872... and both of these were reputed centenarians.”

This may be a little doubtful, as Hercules’ Mother is indeed listed as Sarah, but his brother Thomas’ Mother is listed as Catherine, the mother of all the other siblings. This makes him the only “half” brother.

1803 Nov 22 joined the 52nd Regt of foot (Oxfordshire Light Infantry Regt) at Silver Hill, in Sussex & recruited by Lord William Bentinck.

“5 foot eight and half inches tall, aged 24, dark complexion, long visage, dark eyes, black hair, born Bletchington, Oxfordshire. A labourer, previously served for three months.”

Lord Bentinck, who had recruited him in November 1803, was appointed Governor General of Madras in 1803. It may be probable that Bentinck’s link to India is the reason why Hercules, by his own words, travelled there – giving him time to learn to play the fiddle which was to feature quite largely in his life:

“At any rate, he told his great-grandson, Frank Biddle, that he was taught to play after he had entered the army by the officer to whom he was attached as a servant on the voyage to India. He soon surpassed his Master and was reckoned the best fiddler in India. But, as he used to add: “I came back thinking I was the best fiddler in the world, but when I got home I found lots of men who could CIV a bow up their BUL and fiddle better than I could. “ It would appear then that he did not consider himself a “deadly fine fiddler...” ²

Bentinck returned in disgrace to Britain after a mishandled mutiny at Vellore in 1806 – is this what caused Hercules’ return?

1806 Hercules is listed as “Deserted Sept 13.” The desertion coincided neatly with the Regiment moving on from several years at Hythe to service in Sicily from September.

² Who was he ? Ed.

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1810 – son Joseph, supposedly born about 1810 in Tadmarton. Baptism not yet found. He, in his turn, married Susannah Wood in 1832 in Banbury - and had a large family on the road including a son, Hercules (born 1833 Banbury) See below.

1814 – son Henry, bapt 6 Nov, at Little Lemmington, Gloucestershire “Henry, son of Hercules and Charlotte Smith, travellers”

According to the Journal of Gypsy Lore, Henry was married to Priscilla Bagley.⁴ Priscilla and Henry had one son Au/GUSTUN Smith (baptised 1838) who lived at Headington. (Gustin bpt 1838, md Sarah Tolley, 12/11/1860 at Headington, witnesses, Wisdom Smith and Ellen Tolley.)

1827 October 22 – Hercules acted as witness at the marriage of Harriet, the daughter of his brother Wisdom in Chipping Norton:

1841 Census not yet found.

Figure 1: 1851 Wiggington Census Hercules Smith (73 yrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1851 Wiggington</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hercules Smith</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Smith</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1852 Oct 21 Wigginton – Hercules and Charlotte were finally married – in their 70s and 80s!

“Archelaus Smith (x), 74 years, bachelor, traveller of this parish, son of Jasper Smith, traveller and Charlotte Bagley (x), 80 years, spinster, daughter of Robert Bagley, sailor; were married by Banns October 21, 1852. Witnesses: Charles William Moffat,”

Charlotte Smith was buried 4 months after her marriage, on the 5th of February 1853, in Wiggington, aged about 80.

Figure 2: 1861 Hook Norton Census– Hercules Smith (79 yrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1861 Census Hook Norton – Main Street</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hercules Smith</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

⁴ After Henry’s death she married Henry’s cousin Wisdom, the son of Thomas Smith of Headington Quarry. (Priscilla is discussed in full in the section on Wisdom and Priscilla’s children below.)

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The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Joseph Smith</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>54</th>
<th>Drovers</th>
<th>Tadmarton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td>Banbury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Smith</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Drovers</td>
<td>Woodstock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvey Smith</td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Smith</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Smith</td>
<td>GS</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1861 - The Banbury Guardian of 24th October 1861 recorded the 79 year old Hercules’ involvement in a Court Case – someone stole his Father’s fiddle. His father, of course, being Jasper, “the King of the Gypsy Fiddlers.”

1861 “Stealing a violin: George Harrington was charged with stealing a fiddle from Hercules Smith, of Neithorp, on Friday. Prosecutor stated that he went to the Rose and Crown, Calthorpe Lane, and the Company asked him to play a tune on his fiddle. He did so, and while he was subsequently in the act of lighting his pipe, the prisoner walked off with the violin. The instrument had not since been found. Remanded till the Petty Sessions to-day.”

The Jackson’s Oxford Journal of 26th October 1861 records again:

“24 October. BANBURY TOWN HALL COURT. “Banbury Division – Banbury, (Case heard) October 24th (1861) A man, named George Harrington, was charged with stealing a violin belonging to an old man named Hercules Smith, from a beer-house in Calthorpe Lane, Banbury. Two months imprisonment.”

The Banbury Guardian of 31st October 1861 records in fuller detail:

“Case Heard 1861 24 October BANBURY TOWN HALL COURT. Stealing a fiddle. George Harrison was brought up on the remanded charge of stealing a fiddle, the property of Hercules Smith, on the Fair Day. Hercules Smith, a venerable looking old gypsy, went to the Rose and Crown, Calthorpe Lane, with his fiddle, and the defendant stole it whilst he was lighting his pipe. The fiddle had been the property of the prosecutor’s father before him, and he would not have parted with it for any money. He had been offered £2.00 for it. George Holloway (sic) was in the Rose and Crown tap room when the prisoner took the fiddle away. He had previously wanted the prosecutor to lend the fiddle to him, offering two pence to have it for a little time. Mr. Rann, the landlord, said the prisoner brought him the fiddle, which he wished to leave as security for sixpence for a quart of ale he ordered without having the money to pay for it. Witness refused to take it and the defendant went out. P.S. Fry took the prisoner into custody at the bottom of the lane. Prisoner, who pleaded guilty, was sentenced to three month’s hard labour.”

Figure 3: 1871 Tadmarden Census - Hercules Smith (91yrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1871 Census Tadmarden</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susanna Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hercules Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1871 Nov 29 – Tadmarton burial “Hercules Smith, 92 of Tadmarton”

1871 30 Nov Banbury Advertiser – death notice of Hercules:

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The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

Hercules “Hearty” Smith 02 Junior (1833–1901)
Grandson Hercules, however, had a far more entertaining career, as recorded in the newspaper court proceedings of the SW “Banbury-shire” area.
There are two sets of references to Hercules Smith. One, the elderly Fiddler of Tadmarton discussed above, and the other, the far greater scoundrel – his grandson.

A series of Hercules references in court cases in Oxfordshire first came to light when Keith Chandler was researching for his book “Gypsies, Hawkers and other travellers” ⁶

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⁶ He emailed me some of the original material that later appeared in the published version by the Romany and Traveller Family History Society in 2005.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

Jasper Smith
“King of the Gypsy Fiddlers”

Hercules Smith 01
Senior “old Arti”
1779-1871
of Tadmarton
Had fathers’ fiddle
stolen from him in Banbury

Joseph Smith

Henry Smith

Hercules “Hearty” Smith 02
Junior bn 1833 Banbury
Horse straying,
Sheep stealing etc

Priscilla Bagley

Augustin Smith
of Headington Quarry
Drunkenness court cases

Wisdom Smith 02
Elder
Assaults and fracas court

Wisdom Smith 04
younger

Benjamin Smith
transported for
sheep stealing in a
robbery led by
Priscilla’s father,
brothers and sister.

Lucrecia
Smith raped
by Reconcile,
Priscilla’s brother

Figure 4: Family tree for criminal cases – Hercules Smith &c.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1833 Hercules (Hartles) was born in Banbury according to Censuses. Baptised January 10th.

1841 Census the family was in tents at Tadmarton, but with no sign of Hercules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Smith</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Hawker</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Banbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HERCULES MISSING</strong></td>
<td>c. 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register (female)</td>
<td>6m</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 5: 1851 Tadmarton Census - Hercules Smith (aged 17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Drover</td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>Banbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ag Lab</td>
<td>Banbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arkliss (Hercules) Smith</strong></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Ag Lab</td>
<td>Banbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Ag Lab</td>
<td>Chastleton ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Smith</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ag Lab</td>
<td>Tackley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cherrington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvey Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Smith</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas W. ??</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nephew</td>
<td>Banbury</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1854 Hercules' theft of a gelding at Stow-on-the-Wold Horse Fair. This is known today as a gypsy horse fair and was held at that time on the nearest Thursday to May 12 in the town square. 7

1854 July 1 Bristol Mercury | 1854 June 2 Coventry Standard

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7: “the gypsies always come to Stow-on-the-Wold on the nearest Tuesday to May 12th and October 24th. Often it’s easy to see which Thursday that will be after checking the calendar, but sometimes it could be the Thursday before or after the charter day.”

http://www.cotswolds.info/blogs/gypsy-horse-fair.shtml

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The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti" of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1854 May 23 the Cheltenham Chronicle reported:

1854 27 May the Worcester Journal reported:

1860 23 November. Oxford Chronicle, 1860 1st December. James Smith may have been his brother aged 13.

DEDDINGTON Police Office, November 23rd. Zachariah Davis, Hercules Smith and James Smith of Hook Norton were charged by Inspector Thorogood with having no visible means of subsistence and wandering abroad, and lodging in an outhouse in the parish of Deddington the same morning. James Smith and Davis were discharged and Hercules Smith was committed for 21 days hard labour.”

1861 Census shows him in close proximity to possible members of the Sherrif family of his future wife, and members of the Mole family who may yet prove to be related to her own marriage before she eventually married Hercules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>William Moles</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Wid</th>
<th>Chair-bottomer</th>
<th>Bn Deddington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Mole</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>Chair-bottomer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eliza Sherrif</th>
<th>Visitor</th>
<th>Unmarried</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>Bn Newbold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Mole</td>
<td>?????</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 m</td>
<td>Bn Stow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urcles Smith</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Drovers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bn Tadmarton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hercules and Esther had their own daughter Susannah in 1862, born November 19th in Hook Norton, a couple of days before their own marriage:

1862 MARRIAGE 23 Nov 1862 at Hook Norton.

“ARCULES Smith (so pronounced by the man who is illiterate), 27, Bachelor, Labourer (Gypsy) of Southrop, Hook Norton, of Joseph a Gypsy Cattle Driver TO Esther Mole, 28, Widow, of Southrop, of Isaac Sherriff, itinerant.

Esther had been married twice before, to Edward Gregory in March 1852 (died 1855) and to Thomas Moles in 1861 (died after about 6 months). She had certainly had three children: Ellen Gregory at Hook Norton, William Gregory at Shutford, and Thomas (perhaps Moles) Gregory at Hook Norton. These children were called Moles after their stepfather in 1861 and Smith after their next step-father Hercules in 1871.

Susannah was baptised there at Hook Norton on the 26th December.

1864 December 10 - the Oxford Journal reported a hitherto unknown grand-child of Hercules Senior, named Matilda, stealing a glass from a pub in Deddington:

1865 May 6th, Oxford Chronicle reported - case heard 3rd May, CHIPPING NORTON PETTY SESSIONS. Hercules Smith, a gipsy, allowing horses to stray, and was fined 3s. and 8s. costs.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

Jackson’s Oxford Journal of 26 October 1867:

1867 Case Heard 24th October - BANBURY Petty Sessions, Banbury Division – Banbury - Hercules Smith, of Tadmarton, for a similar offence (drunkenness) was fined 5s. and costs 10s.”

Oxford Times 18 April 1868, he was given 14 days imprisonment for his horses straying onto Mr Garrett’s land at Tadmarton on the 3rd and 4th of April – and then for taking them back:

1868 Oxford Journal, 18th April

1868 Oxford Times, of August 22nd - Offence of July 10th, - straying horse at Sibford. Wife appeared, husband Ill. 5/- fine.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1868 November 14th – Oxford Journal reported that on October 1st, Hercules’ horses wandered in Great Tew and that he was sleeping under the cart with a woman!

1869. Hercules let his horses stray on the highway at Tadmarton on the 5th of February. The case was heard at Neithorp Police Station on the 11th, where his wife represented him – and he was then summoned by a warrant. The case was reported in the Banbury Guardian on the 18th of February.

Banbury Guardian 18 Feb 1869:
1869 Case Heard February 11th. NEITHROP POLICE STATION Horse on the Highway. Hercules Smith, Tadmarden, was charged with allowing his horse to stray on the highway on the 5th of February. Hercules did not appear, but his wife did. When asked why her husband did not appear, she said that he had something else to do than always to be coming there. She wondered what they meant all by bringing him there so often. He was away trying to get bread for his family. Mrs Smith was told that her husband should have appeared and that a warrant would be issued for him.

1869. On April 12th he finally appeared personally in court at the Banbury Magistrates, where he was fined a pound, failed to pay, and was sent to prison for 14 days. This was reported in the Banbury Guardian of 15th April 1869.

1869 April 12th BANBURY MAGISTRATES Brought up on a warrant. Hercules Smith, Tadmarden, was brought up on a warrant charged with allowing a horse to stray on the highway there on the 11th of February, and also failing to appear when summoned on the 11th of that month. P.C. Aspin proved the case. Smith, who is a very old offender on this score, was fined 5s with 15s expenses, and in default went to prison for 14 days.

1869 April 17th – the Oxford Chronicle reported the same case on the 12th:

1869 15 May the Oxford Journal reported a May 12th case at Chadlington Chipping Norton Division about more horse straying at Great Rollright on 26th April.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

The Oxford Chronicle of the same day did the same, with a mention of a warrant.

1870 Jan 20th the Banbury Advertiser reported: INDEXED BUT NOT FOUND

In June and July of 1870 there came an amazingly detailed coverage of yet another one of his horse strayings – this time at a new home in South Newington.

1870 23rd June Banbury Guardian reported Hercules

June 17th 1870 DEDDINGTON Petty Sessions - Straying Horses at South Newington. Hercules Smith, South Newington. Was charged with allowing a horse to stray on the highway there on the 10th of June. Sergeant Barton asked for an adjournment, as Mr Bennett, the highway surveyor, was not present to prove the charge. Adjourned till next meeting.

24th June 1870 Banbury Beacon reported him being represented by his wife:

June 17th 1870 DEDDINGTON A horse straying. Hercules Smith, South Newington, was charged with having a horse straying on the Highway, on the 10th of June, in the Parish of South Newington. Defendant was represented by his better half, but the case was adjourned to the next court.

1870 June 25th the Oxford Chronicle (and Oxford Times) reported the same meeting on June 17th at Deddington,

7 July 1870 Banbury Guardian, his eventual appearance at Deddington on July 1st was reported

1 July 1870 DEDDINGTON PETTY SESSIONS STRAYING HORSES AT SOUTH NEWINGTON. Hercules Smith, higgler, was summoned for allowing his horses to stray on the highway at South Newington on the 10th of June. Mr Bennett, surveyor of the Highway board, said he say a horse on the road the above day. Defendant said it was his horse. There was no one with it. It was a quarter of a mile from the defendant’s home. Defendant now said the horse was just outside the stable. He was going with his horse to get an honest living, as near as he could, (a laugh) Mr Curme asked – has the defendant been seen here before? Mr Bennett, he is a stranger to our district. He was once convicted here for the same offence committed at Duns Tew. Mr Risley asked – how do you get a living? – by ragging and boning. I have 5 children, and nobody earning anything but myself. I had no wish to turn the horse out. Defendant was fined £1 with 10s costs and 4s police fees and was allowed a month to pay.

8th July 1870 Banbury Beacon

2nd July 1870 DEDDINGTON POLICE COURT
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

A HORSE ASTRAY. Hercules Smith was charged with allowing his horse to stray on the Highway at South Newington on the 10th of June. The animal was a quarter of a mile from him and out of his sight. Defendant said the horse got out of the stable, while he went from the house for a sack, when he came back from ragging and boning. In which business he tried to get an honest a living as he could. He was fined £1 14s, including costs, or in default of payment, one month imprisonment. A month was allowed to pay in.

1870 July 9th in the Oxford Times

1870, July 9th, the Oxford Journal reported the same case as being July 1st:

1870 9th July Reading and Abingdon Herald.

1870 July 2nd DEDDINGTON-COUNTY POLICE COURT, FRIDAY, JULY 2ND. Hercules Smith was charged with allowing his horse to stray on the highway, in South Newington, on the 10 June. The animal was a quarter of a mile from him and out of his sight. - Defendant said the horse had got out of the stable, while he went to the house for a sack, when he had come back from “ragging and boning” in which business he tried to get as honest a living as he could. - He was fined £1 14s. Including costs, or in default of payment, one month’s imprisonment. - A month was allowed to pay in.”

Quite a coverage for a simple horse straying!

Table 1: South Newington: 1871 Census - Hercules Smith (aged 43yrs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Newington, Charles Lane, 1871 Census, No 10 Cottage</th>
<th>Hercules Smith</th>
<th>H</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>43</th>
<th>Gypsy Land Man</th>
<th>Banbury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hercules Smith</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Glympton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Smith</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Hook Norton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen G(?regory) Smith</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Shutford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William G(?regory) Smith</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Stansfield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas M(?oles) Smith</td>
<td>S</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Banbury</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Smith</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Brafield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Sherrif</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>Razor Grinder</td>
<td>Badby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Davis</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Not stated.</td>
<td>Tachbrook</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Davis</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Tinker</td>
<td>Stretton on Fosse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonah Boswell</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Gypsy</td>
<td>Northam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Boswell</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Brafield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armantdine Boswell</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gypsy Sand Man</td>
<td>Shutford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catherine Boswell</th>
<th>Vis</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>Gypsy</th>
<th>Spilsby</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Boswell</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gypsy</td>
<td>Bloxham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Boswell</td>
<td>Vis</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Gypsy</td>
<td>Chippenham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1871 July 29th Warwick Advertiser and Leamington Spa Courier: Horse straying in Radway, before the famous Warwickshire politician, Mr Bolton King.

1872 April 29, daughter Esther baptism at Wigginton. “Arkles & Esther, labourer of the Heath”


5th June 1872 CHIPPING NORTON PETTY SESSIONS
Hercules Smith, of Wigginton Heath, was charged by Thomas Sellars, with trespassing in the day time in search of game, at Great Rollright, on May 24th. Fined 1s and costs 12s.

1873 21 August - Banbury Advertiser - horse straying at Tadmarton. Mrs Smith replied in “very strong language” – another case where Hercules failed to turn up.

1873 August 16th Oxford Journal straying as above at Tadmarton - “good plain English.”

1874 December 10th in the Banbury Advertiser: straying horses at Wiggington. This time, he was represented by his mother:
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1874 March 22 – baptism of Mozella at Wigginton “Hercules and Esther, labourer of Wigginton”

1876 October 12th an article in the Banbury Advertiser discussed a traumatic case where “Hearty Smith, a Sand Man” was prosecuted for causing the death, in a fight, of a Tinker, William Booth, at Wigginton. Not guilty after detailed description of the fight and the death declared to be from apoplexy and exposure. Also the Banbury Guardian on the same day, and on the 14th the Buckingham Advertiser gave a summary with the same details.

1876 October 12th, the Banbury Advertiser with the following witnesses:

Josiah Boswell, a travelling tinker and brother of the deceased – William Booth.
George Burgess, “horse keeper” on the Cheltenham and Banbury Railway;
Joseph Cross, “excavator” on the Banbury and Cheltenham railway.
William Derby Hyde, surgeon of Bloxham.
The descendants of Hercules Smith or “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

deceased and Mrs. Board, for Hercules Smith, who was in the hut, said he would not see Mrs. Board “put upon,” to use the language of Boswell. Thereupon Smith and the deceased had a fight, but how long it lasted we are unable to say. After the fight was over, the constables and their friends left Board’s hut and went to another one occupied by a man named Burgess, near which the hostilities were again commenced, and ultimately the deceased gave in to the superior fighting ability of Smith, and shook hands with him. Although the fight appears to have been witnessed by some navvies, by Boswell, and others, there is no more seen or heard of the deceased till Sunday morning, when he was found half-naked near where the fight had occurred, in an unconscious and dying state. Both of the men were, it is said, the worse for beer, pulled off their coats and shirts to fight, “struck one another very hard,” and yet there were no marks of external violence on the deceased, who was found with his head on the grass and his feet on the bank. After shaking hands with Smith, the deceased went away, and although some of those who witnessed the fight, must, from the evidence at the inquest, have passed the place where the deceased was found, they do not appear to have noticed him, or if they did they made no effort to see to him. The evidence of Boswell, who was the principal witness at the inquest, was of the confused nature, as might be expected from a man of his calling, and it was with difficulty he could be understood, owing to what we suppose is the gipsy potlou. When the deceased was found, he was put in a cart, and taken to the Swan public-house at Wigginton. Smith had decamped, so that we had not his version of the affair at the inquest. A post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased was made by Mr. W. D. Hyde, of Bloxham, and he found an extravasation of blood on the brain, which he said might have caused death, but added that it was possible deceased might have died from exposure or apoplexy. He, however, gave it as his opinion that the deceased died from natural causes, accelerated by exposure.

THE INQUEST.

The inquest was held at the Swan public-house on Monday afternoon at two o’clock, before C. D. Fazek- ner, Esq. Mr. Slatter was foreman of the jury, the other jurymen being Messrs. W. Coles, T. Coles, C. Shirley, S. Stanbra, W. H. Stanbra, E. Wyatt, A. Stanbra, E. Stanbra, M. Sharmar, W. Simms, and W. Warmington. Josiah Boswell deposed—I have no regular residence, being a travelling tinker. I have known the deceased, William Booth, since childhood. He was my brother, and was the eldest of nine children. I was with him when he died on Sunday morning between eight and nine o’clock. He died on the road at Wigginton, near Mr. W. Stanbra’s field. On Saturday I was at Hook Norton with the deceased. We were in the Bell...
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

Hook Norton with the deceased. We were in the Bell Inn, and had some beer. I left Hook Norton between seven and eight o’clock and deceased followed me towards Wigginton. When I got to Board’s railway hut, about half a mile from Hook Norton, I went up to it and found my wife. I told Hercules Smith (a sand man) and his wife. The deceased wanted to go into the hut, but Mrs. Board would not let him in. She doubled her fists at him, and with an oath said she would fight him. She went out, and Hercules Smith said he would not see a woman “put upon,” and he went out and “fit” (fought) Booth. I was as near the noise outside the hut, but I did not go out, as I thought I was better away. This took place after 9 o’clock. After that, I, Hercules Smith, his wife, and my wife, came out of the hut, and went on the road towards Wigginton. Both followed. We went to “Carly’s” Casswell hut, and Booth and Hercules Smith began fighting again on the road, pulling their shirts off. I don’t know who struck first. They both began fighting at once, and there was an old “disturbance” between them. The whole of the men were in beer, and Booth and my wife seemed to have had most. They fought for about half an hour. There were four or five navvies there, and I was struck by one on the side of the head. I did not interfere any further, and went back to the hat. The deceased gave in to Smith, who gave him “the best of it,” and then went away. He shook hands with Smith when he gave in. The next time I saw Booth was on Sunday morning. He was in Smith’s cart, and was being taken towards Wigginton Heath. He was dead. Smith was the biggest man, and “they both struck one another very hard.” I saw deceased die. He gave a gasp, and died at once. He could not speak, and could hardly open his mouth. He seemed to be something in his throat. I did not see the deceased from Saturday night at ten o’clock until Sunday morning at eight.

George Burgess, a horse-keeper on the Banbury and Chesham Railway, described: “I live in the Quarry Hut, on the Hook Norton Road. I was on Wigginton Heath on Saturday night, when Hercules Smith’s wife came and asked to remain in my hut all night, as she was afraid to go home. She afterwards went home. Before this I had seen two men fighting on the road for about ten minutes. I do not know who they were. On Sunday morning, about half-past seven, a man named Joseph Cross came to my hut, and told me that there was a man dangerously ill up the road. I went to see, and about 500 yards up the road, I found the deceased lying. He was nearly dead. I got him a glass of hot beer, a little of which he swallowed. Smith’s cart and pony were in the yard at my hut, and Cross and I put the deceased into it, and started the cart towards Smith’s house at Wigginton Heath. We left for him here. Ellen Gregory would not have him at her house. Deceased was dead as clay, and his (apologies) eyes were closed. He had nothing on but his trousers and boots, and a handkerchief round his neck. I did not see any bruises on him; there were some scratches on his body. I do not know where Smith was at all on the Saturday night. Where I found the deceased was very near the place where I saw the two men fighting on the Saturday night. There were no marks of a struggle on the road, and there was no marks of blood. By Joseph Cross, who said he was an “excavator” on the
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

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The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1878 August 3rd – The Oxford Journal reported stealing peat from Miss Cobb of Wigginton on July 23rd – 4 days locked up and 10/- fine after a hearing at Shipston Petty Sessions.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1878 August 27th - stealing half a peck of peas at Wigginton Heath from Miss Cobb and fined 28/-.
Reported in the Banbury Advertiser (Beacon) 12/14 December 1878 and the Oxford Journal of the 14th December.

Table 2: Wigginton: 1881 Census - Hercules Smith (aged 50)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>H</th>
<th>M</th>
<th></th>
<th>Agricultural Labourer</th>
<th>Banbury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hercules Smith</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Agricultural Labourer</td>
<td>Glympton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Smith</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td>Wigginton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozilla Smith</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td>Wigginton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1881 Oxford Journal reported on 20th August a Banbury court-case of the 16th where Hercules was in a dispute over 6/- and a pair of boots:
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1881 20 October the Banbury Guardian printed a report of a dispute over 6,000 skewers in Banbury County Court – again with J. Smith, of Wigginton

1884 June 21st, Hercules arrested for being drunk and disorderly in Hook Norton, according to the Oxford Journal of 5 July 1884.

1885 the Banbury Advertiser reported on the 18th of June a case on at Banbury Police Court on Thursday June 11th that on May 29th:


1886 24th November – Hercules’ step-granddaughter, Naomi Gregory, stole some jewellery in Cadoxton, South Wales, and the ensuing court cases involved Hercules’ mother, Susannah as a witness, Esther’s sister Eliza Biddell, as a witness and “receiving” charges against his wife, Esther, and her daughter, Ellen Gregory Eatwell.

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The descendants of Hercules Smith of "Old Arti" of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

Cases took place in Penarth Police Court, Banbury Police Court and the Oxford Quarter Sessions - the only sentence being 1 month's hard labour for Naomi.  

1887 June 2 Banbury Advertiser reported his horse straying (again!) at Wigginton for which he was fined 17/-

1889 straying horses at Wigginton on April 28th. Reported in the Banbury Advertiser of May 16th - a case in Banbury Police Court:

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The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1889 Banbury Guardian of 6th December, more details given a month for stealing the 6d of hay at Wigginton from Mr Stanbra.

1890 Banbury Advertiser on 13th of November reported, yet again, a horse straying – this time at Milton on October 25th: He was arrested at the Black Boy pub.9

1891 census of Wigginton – in a two room cottage in the village:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hercules Smith</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>Agricultural labour</th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Bn Banbury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Esther Smith</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bn Glympton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Smith</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bn Wigginton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Smith</td>
<td>Grandson</td>
<td></td>
<td>6wks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bn Wigginton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1893 13 April - Banbury Advertiser & 15 April 1893 and the same text in the Banbury Beacon – cruelty to a horse at Wigginton on March 16th. Fined £2 1s.

9 “Milton has one public house, the Black Boy Inn, that was a gastropub, owned by chef Marco Pierre White, who now no longer owns it. The public house has an outdoor garden and children’s climbing equipment.” Wikipedia.

10 One presumes this is the bastard child of daughter Esther.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of "Old Arti" of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1895, January 3rd the Banbury Advertiser reported the death of Esther, at Wigginton, 1895. (Also Oxford Journal Jan 5th 1895).

1895 October 25th Banbury Advertiser (Banbury Beacon, 26 October) for yet another straying horse, on the Wigginton to Swerford Road:
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

1901 Census Banbury in Tobin’s Lodging House in Calthorpe Street, shows Hercules Smith aged 65, a single man and a general hawker, bn Banbury. Is this him?

1901 May 31 – sudden death of Hercules in Calthorpe Street, Banbury, Banbury Advertiser printed 6 June 1901

Also in the same edition the Inquest was reported, with witnesses being: his Brother James Henry Smith, a chimney sweep of Byfield; Robert James Dickinson, a fiddler/pedler; Frank Tobin, lodging house keeper of Calthorpe Street; P.C. James and finally Innes Griffin, a Surgeon. The case was observed by a representative of the Pearl Assurance Company.

Banbury Advertiser - printed 6 June 1901
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

In slightly different details in the Banbury Guardian 6 June 1901

No present present reference to a burial.
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.
DATA "DUMP" - descendants of Hercules on KN Family Tree files.

Outline Descendant Report for Hercules Smith 01

Hercule


Charlotte Bagley Smith "Traveller" (1772 - 1853) b: 1772 in Slaughter, Oxford, England, m: 1852 in Wigginton; Charlotte Bagley Smith "Traveller" (x), 80 years, spinster, daughter of Robert Bagley, sailor; were married by Banns October 21, 1852. Witnesses: Charles William Moffat, E, d: 1853 in Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, Residence: 1851 in Wigginton, Oxfordshire, England; Relation to Head of House: Wife


Susannah Ward Smith (1811 - 1890) b: 1811 in Banbury, Oxford, England, m: 03 Dec 1832 in Banbury, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, Court Case: 1887 ; Acquitted in prosecution of daughter-in-law Esther Smith for theft of Jewellery, an aged woman of Tadmarton., Residence: 1851 in Tadmarton, Oxfordshire, England; Relation to Head of House: Wife; Marital Status: Married

The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.


Thomas Smith (1891 - ) \( b \): 1891 in Wigginton
The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.


Henry Smith (1835 - ) b: 1835 in Charleton, Residence: 1851 in Tadmarton, Oxfordshire, England; Relation to Head of House: Son


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The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.


+Arthur Bloxham


+Joseph Smith (1870 - ) b: 1870, m: 1895 in Aston Juxta Birmingham, Warwick, England

Emily Smith (about 1876 - ) b: Abt. 1876 in Birmingham, Warwickshire, England, Residence: 1881 in Aston, Warwickshire, England; Relationship to Head: Daughter


Ellen Smith (1877 - 1953) b: 21 Sep 1877 in Duddeston, Birm., d: 1953 in Alameda, California


+Ernest Young m: 1908 in Birm.

The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

  +Charles Rogers m: 1904 in Birmingham Registry Office.


  +Ernest Morson m: 1910 in Birmingham, Warwickshire

  +George Sydney m: Abt. 1920

  +[unknown spouse]


4Anon Smith
  +[unknown spouse]
The descendants of Hercules Smith or “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

Anon Smith
  +[unknown spouse]

Sue Stevens


+Martha Ann Vickers (about 1863 - ) b: Abt. 1863, m: 01 Sep 1884 in Tadmarton, Oxfordshire, England

Henry Smith (1814 - 1857) b: 1814, d: Oct 1857 in HEaddington, Oxfordshire, England; SPECULATIVE


The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.


+John Warland (about 1874 - ) b: Abt. 1874 in Islip, Oxfordshire, England, m: 1895, Residence: 1901 in Headington, Oxfordshire, England; Relation to Head of House: Head, Residence: 02 Apr 1911 in Headington, Oxfordshire, England; Marital Status: Married; Relation to Head of House: Head


+Constance Alice Attwood Smith Warland m: Mar 1955 in Oxford, Oxfordshire

+Victoria M Simmonds Warland m: Dec 1930 in HEadington, Oxfordshire, England

5Fredrick Warland (about 1901 - ) b: Abt. 1901 in Barton Headington, Oxfordshire, England, Residence: 1901 in Headington, Oxfordshire, England; Relation to Head of House: Son, Residence: 02 Apr 1911 in Headington, Oxfordshire, England; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

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The descendants of Hercules Smith or “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.

5 Frank Warland (about 1903 - 1996) b: Abt. 1903 in Barton Headington, Oxfordshire, England, Residence: 02 Apr 1911 in Headington, Oxfordshire, England; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Son

5 Emily Sarah Warland (about 1906 - ) b: Abt. 1906 in Barton Headington, Oxfordshire, England; Residence: 02 Apr 1911 in Headington, Oxfordshire, England; Marital Status: Single; Relation to Head of House: Daughter


4 Sarah Smith b: Heatingdon, Oxfordshire, England

2 unknown Smith

+ [unknown spouse]

The descendants of Hercules Smith of “Old Arti” of Tadmarton 1779 – 1871.