

Smithsend Family - Early ancestors before 1600

Updated – August 2020

This is the history of the Smithsend family which originates in and around Tewkesbury in the 14th Century. This document describes the early origins of the Smithsend family from about 1320 to 1540.

For these early dates the records are fragmentary and it is not possible to connect all the individuals but they do seem to be part of one family prospering in Tewkesbury and the surrounding area from the 14th to the 16th centuries.

The various branches of the Smithsend/Smithin families are covered in separate documents.

Most records are from public sources and there is only limited information on those born after 1920.

Dates before 1751 are based on the Julian calendar. In some cases the calendar used by the source is not clear so dates from 1st January to 25th March are may refer to one year or the other, e.g. 1705/1706.

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Smithsend name

This is probably derived from the Anglo Saxon expression 'Smiths End', that is, the district where a 'Smith' or the 'Smiths' lived. 'End' is Old English for a district or area and 'Smith' is an Old English occupation name for any sort of metal worker (not just a Blacksmith). Interestingly around Tewkesbury there is quite a high concentration of place names ending in 'End' so the preservation of the name in this form (which is very rare, compared to Smith, Smithson, or Smeaton) may be something to do with the local dialect.

In a few cases the name was being written as 'Smithins' and 'Smisens' in Tewkesbury in the 17th Century although the family name was 'Smithsend'.

The earliest reference to the Smithsend name identified so far is Robert Smethesende born in about 1320 near Tewkesbury.

Early Smithsends in Tewkesbury

Richard Smetzher (c.1320). Of Fiddington. This was possibly a reference to a Smithsend who are later recorded as living at Fiddington, Walton Cardiff and Tewkesbury. Richard was listed as present as a secular acolyte at a service in Tewkesbury Abbey on the 21st May 1345.

Tewkesbury Abbey was the owner of one part of the manor of Walton Cardiff.

John Smithsend (c.1390). Also Smythsend. Possibly a descendant of Richard.¹²

John is mentioned on a Walton Cardiff manor document in 1419.

John Smithsend held a house and 6a in Walton Cardiff as a customary tenant of Tewkesbury Abbey in 1419.

A particular of the Manor of Walton Cardiff - 1419

Between the Abbot and Monks of Tewkesbury and Thomas Bassett and his wife Elizabeth.

" ... William Balkerne als Baweryne holds a messuage and 6 acres according to the Captain of the manor at 13s rent and suit of heriot and Peter Clarke holds as much by the same service [...] and John Smythsend holds as much by the same rents and services ... "

A John Smithsend, carpenter, was granted an annual pension of 26s. 8d. by the Lady of the Manor of Walton Cardiff. He was also paid for erecting a gallows at 5d. a day with a total cost of 5s. 10d.³

John Smithsend (c.1455). Possibly the grandson of John (c.1390). He was a serf or villein, that is, bound to his holding and obliged to do agricultural work for his Lord, the abbot of Tewkesbury (Henry Beoly). A villein had certain rights and could, for example, pass his house and holding on to his son.⁴

John married in about 1490.

A John Smythsend appeared at a Cirencester commission of inquiry, with others, to protest about the inclosure of land near Wincombe.⁵

John was mentioned on his son's manumission document of 1528.

John had five children: William (c.1480-c.1560), John (c.1490), Thomas (c.1480), Richard (c.1490), George (c.1500).

Robert Smethesende (c.1320). Of Forthampton. He was listed as one of those 'ordained to the first tonsure' at Bredon on the 22nd May 1345; this was the start of a clerical career.⁶

This list was part of the diary of Bishop Wulstan de Branford who was bishop of Worcester from 1339-1349. This is the earliest certain reference to 'Smithsend' we have found so far.

George Smetheman (c.1350). Of High Meadow, Staunton, Gloucestershire. He was mentioned in a deed for a land transfer in Staunton, Gloucestershire in 1385.⁷

Richard Smethesende (c.1370). He was described as a Chaplain in the Will of Adam Bradewell a vicar of Whrydlington in Somerset; proved in Somerset on the 9th July 1407. Richard was one of the three executors. The Will made a bequest to Longdon church which is near Tewkesbury so perhaps both Adam and Richard came from the Tewkesbury area.⁸

Smithsends in Tewkesbury – 15th/16th Centuries

William Smithsend (c.1480-1560). The son of John Smithsend (c.1460). He married Eleanor in about 1510. They had possibly four children: Nicholas (c.1525), Richard (1507-1567), Anne (c.1515-c.1574), William Smythsyn als Andrews (c.1515-1555). The Smithsends in Tewkesbury in the 19th Century are descendants of Richard and the Smithin family are possibly descendants of William. *These families are covered in a separate document.*

Contemporary with William and Eleanor are several other names who probably represent their aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters etc.

George Smithsend (c.1495). The son of John Smithsend. The 19th century antiquarian David Royce suggested George was the brother of William. George owned a messuage and appurtenances and land in Northway field (Ashchurch) on the 16th December 1538.^{9 10}

The Reverend David Royce (1817-1902) was a noted Victorian antiquarian interested in history and families in Gloucestershire.

Richard Smithsend (c.1530-1604). Also Smythend. Possibly the son of of George. He may be the 'Richard Smithins' who witnessed the Will of John Smithsen (d.1587).

Richard died in 1604 and was buried at Ashchurch on the 11th November.¹¹

Joan Smithsend (c.1550). Also Smithesen. Possibly the daughter of Richard.

Joan married John Crosse at Tewkesbury on the 14th February 1575.^{12 13}

Nicholas Smithsend (c.1560). He was born in about 1560 in Tewkesbury.

Nicholas possibly had three children.

Alice Smithsend (b.1583). Also Alles. Possibly the daughter of Nicholas. She was christened on the 17th May 1583 in Ashchurch.¹⁴

Bridget Smithsend (b.1585). Also Beriet or Brigit. The daughter of Nicholas. She was christened in Tewkesbury on the 12th December 1585.¹⁵

Elizabeth Smithsend (c.1585). Also Smithsens. Possibly the daughter of Nicholas. She married Henry Wilshere on the 28th January 1617.

Elizabeth Smithsend (c.1555). Possibly the daughter of Richard.

Elizabeth married Rowlande Wrighte in Tewkesbury on the 21st June 1572.¹⁶

A Rowlande Wright is mentioned in April 1583 in the Churchwardens accounts.¹⁷

Of Rowlande Wright (for a buryall) 6s 8d

John Smesend (c.1490). He was recorded on the Military tax roll of 1522 at Bishop's Cleeve. His tax was assessed at £7.

Richard Smethesend (c.1490). He was recorded as a tax payer at Bishop's Cleeve on the Henry VIII tax roll of 1522. His tax was assessed at £3.

Richard Smythson (c.1490). He was recorded on the Military tax roll of 1522 as a tax payer of Forthampton near Tewkesbury.

John Smithsend (c.1490). Possibly the son of John Smithsend (c.1460). John appeared on the Gloucestershire Military tax roll of 1522, at Fiddington. His tax was assessed as 53 shillings and 5 pence. He was described as 'able' which implied that he was fit and available for military service.

John Smithsen (c.1515-c.1545). Possibly the son of John Smithsend (c.1490).

John married Margaret in about 1540. John may have died fairly young and Margaret re-married to a Mr. Taylor.

John and Margaret had one son John (c.1541).

John Smithsen (c.1541-1587). The son of John Smithsend (c.1515) and Margaret.

A John Smythen is mentioned several times in the Tewkesbury Churchwardens' Accounts; these probably refer to John.¹⁸

To John Smythen for planke and for bordes for the seates. 12s 2d. 1575/76.

To John Smethen (for) a dayes worke thate Flecher dyd before he died in setting up the lead wher it was stolen away the year before. 10d. 1576/77

A John Fletcher was mentioned as working regularly on the church and providing solder and lead from 1570 to 1576.

A John Smitten joiner was made a freeman of Tewkesbury in 1576.

The list of Tewkesbury freeman included Richard Flatcher who became a freeman in 1593 and was previously apprenticed to a John Smythsend, joyner.¹⁹

John is mentioned in the Tewkesbury Churchwarden's accounts.

Of John Smithsend for 2 roomes in the seate where Nestes wife in the kay lane knelith. 2s. 1584-1585.

for the belles at John Smythesendes buriall. 2s. 1587-1589.

to Smythende for boordes 14s. 1583

There is a Will for a John Smithsen of Tewkesbury in 1587. It mentions his wife Elizabeth and his mother Margaret Taylor and his brother Frances Taylor so perhaps his mother had re-married.²⁰

Will of John Smithsen, Tewkesbury - 1587

In the name of God Amen. The twentieth day of August in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred eighty seven. And in the nine and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queen of England France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith.

I John Smithsen of Tewkesbury in the County of Gloucester. [Being] sick and weake in body but of good and perfect memory God be praised therefore. I do make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and form following:-

*First. I bequeath my soule to Almighty God my blessed Maker Redeemer and [---].
And my bodye I commit to the earth to be buryed in [---].*

*Item. My corporall goods and [---] I give and dispose in [---] as followeth. I give
and bequeath unto the [---] of the parish church of Tewkesbury aforesaid three
shillings four pence of lawfull money of England.*

*Item. I give and bequeath to the poor people of the town of Tewkesbury aforesaid
tenne shillings of lawful money of England.*

*Item. I give and bequeath to Margaret Taylor my mother tenne pounds of lawful
money of England.*

*Item. I give and bequeath to Francis Taylor my brother fifty three shillings and four
pence of lawful money of England.*

*All the rest of my Goods and Chattels moveable and immoveable not above given
and bequeathed my debts [] and funeral expenses defrayed and paid I give and
bequeath to Elizabeth Smithsen my wyfe whom I make and ordayne my sole and
wholle executrix of this my last will and testament to appoint performe and doe all
things [according] to my true meaning and trust [] in her.*

Witnessed [---] Richard Smithins, Thomas [---], William Manson.

It is not clear who the Richard Smithins witnessing the Will was; possibly Richard Smithsend (d.1604).

John and Elizabeth had one child: John (b.1568).

John Smithsend (b.1568). The son of John and Elizabeth. He was born in Tewkesbury on the 27th September 1568.²¹

William Smithsend (c.1530). Possibly the son of John and Margaret.

William had one child: John (c.1555).

John Smithsend (c.1555-1573). The son of William. John died in 1573 and was buried at Tewkesbury on the 27th Februrary.²²

Thomas Smithsend (c.1530-1578). Possibly the son of John and Margaret. Thomas died in 1578 and was buried at Tewkesbury on the 3rd September.²³

Robert Smithsend (c.1530-1579). Possibly the son of John and Margaret. He was born in about in 1530 and lived at Londgon near Tewkesbury.

Robert married Joan.

His Will mentions four sons although it does not directly say they are his sons.²⁴

Will of Robert Smithsend - 1579

*In the name of God Amen. I Robert Smithsend of Longdon beinge sicke of bodie
but thanks be unto Almightye God in good & perfect remembrance I do make this
my last will & Testament in manner & forme followinge, that is to say.*

Item. I geve & bequethe to William Smithsend two ewes & two hoggs.

Item. To James ? two ewes and two hoggs.

Item to Jo Smithsend two ewes and two hoggs

To Robert Smithsend two ewes and two hoggs.

All the rest of my goodes bequeathed my debts & legacies & funerall expenses discharged I geve to Joane my wyff whom I make my executrix.

Witnesses to the making thereof. John [---], Thomas Seymore, Johan Griffens

A Robert Smythsend is also mentioned in the will of Margaret Hyches of Tewkesbury of 7th July 1562.²⁵

Also I geve and bequeathe all that my tenement with the shoppe and chamber belonginge to the same with thappurtances sett and lying in Salter's lane within the towne of Tewkesbury aforesaid which Robert Smythsend now occupied

The way the will is written suggests the sons are not minors and were born in 1550's.

Robert and Joan had four children: William (c.1553), John (b.1555), James (c.1557), Robert (b.1559).

William Smithsend (c.1553). The son of Robert and Joan.

John Smithsend (b.1555). The son of Robert and Joan.

James Smithsend (c.1557). The son of Robert and Joan.

Robert Smithsend (b.1559). Also Robart Smythsend. The son of Robert and Joan.

Thomas Smithsend (c.1480). Thomas was mentioned on a Walton Cardiff document of 1505.²⁶

View of frankpledge and court of the lord king held there 6 Oct, 21 Henry VII (1505) before John Savage, Knight, Steward. Walton Kerdyf

Thomas Smythessend removed from the Office of Constable, and Richard Pym elected and sworn

He may be the same person as the 'Nicholas Smithsend' mentioned by the Victoria County History; which is confused.²⁷

In 1578 Berrow sold the larger part of his estate to the occupier, Nicholas Smithsend. Nicholas was the son of Richard and grandson of Nicholas Smithsend, who was constable of Walton in 1505, received manumission from the Abbot of Tewkesbury in 1528, and held a copyhold estate from William Basset in 1530.

Smithsends in Cirencester c. 1520

There are a few references to Smithsends near Cirencester in the early 16th Century.

Thomas Smethesend (c.1490-c.1552). He was recorded on the Military tax roll of 1522 as a tax payer of Turkdean near Cirencester. His tax was assessed at £4 and it records that he also had a 'harness'. A harness was a suit of armour for a foot or a mounted soldier. He was probably also the Thomas Smithsend who appeared in a case at the Gloucester Diocesan court versus an Agnes Kyrby in 1553.^{28 29}

Turkdean, 1553

Gloucester Consistory Court

Agnes Kyrbye, of Turkdean v. Walter Greneweve, executor of the will of Thomas Smythsende, Subtry[?] Legacy.

2 May, said Greneweve confessed the legacy prayed and is monished to paye sume before next court, or, etc. (GDR 7. P.257)

1 June, Greneweve appeared and paid over to said Agnes the legacy and so was dismissed. (7, p.265)

John Smythsend (c.1492). He appeared at a Cirencester commission of inquiry with others to protest about an inclosure of land near Winchcombe in 1517.

Smythsend (c.1526). Gloucester record office has a reference for the name Smythsend at Bibury near Cirencester in 1551.³⁰

Smithsends in Bushley c. 1450-1580

Bushley is a small hamlet a few miles east of Tewkesbury.

In 1476 a Richard and Thomas Smythsend were mentioned in an agreement between John the Abbot of Tewkesbury and the parishioners of Bushley.³¹

Indenture between John, abbot of Teukesbury and Thomas Payn of Bushley, John Beele, John Crokker the younger, John Wiltshire, Thomas Wiltshire, John Crokker the elder, Thomas White, Wat Hugons, Richard Reve, John Botell, Robert Bedull, Richard Harries, Joshua Waleys, John Mart, Thomas Mart, John Barston, John Downton, Richard Smythesend, Jamys More, Thomas Smythesend, John Bedull, Thomas Grene and Robert Ball, parishioners to the chapel of St. Peter of Bushley, whereby the said chapel and certain grounds thereto appertaining were to be made into a burial ground in return for assurance that a tenement built by the parishioners in the south side of the said chapel be held by the abbot and convent of Tewkesbury for use as a priests house.

The Smithsends mentioned were probably born around 1450. Several other Smithsends were recorded in the parish registers at Bushley.³² The list of Smithsends in Bushley is as follows.

Richard Smythsend (c.1450)
Thomas Smythsend (c.1450)

Elizabeth Smesyn. Widow, buried 26th August 1547

Nycolas Smesyn. The son of Thomas Smesyn, baptised, 13th March 1550

An Smesyn. The daughter of Thomas Smesyn, baptised, 29th March 1553

John Smyssynde. The son of John Smyssynde (Smesyn) and Marget Smyssynde, baptised 23rd January 1561. Godparents: William Nuttynge, Thomas Dennes, Jone Wyther.

John Smessend (Smesyn). The son of Thomas Smisend, and Marget Dennys (daughter of John Dennys), married 8th October 1563

Nicholas Smythyn. Also Smesyn, buried, 17th April 1578

Anne Smesyn. She married Henry Buckingham, 6th November 1578

Smithsends in Cropthorne c. 1450-1550

In the later 16th Century there were several 'Smithsends' living in Cropthorne, Worcs.³³

Elisabeth Smithsend daughter of Richard Smithsend, baptised, 11th August 1560

Anne Smysen married John Bromall on 7th April 1570

Margaret Smisend, buried, 6th November 1561

John Smithsend and Johan Smithsend sons of John Smithsend, buried, 3rd January 1577

Jone Smithsend daughter of Johi Smithsend, baptised, 8th March 1586

Anne Smithesone daughter of John Smithesone, buried, 5th July 1587

Jone Smithsend married William Tysoe, 9th November 1589

Elizabeth Smithend married Thomas Laurence, 20th May 1593

Jone Smisend buried, 7th February 1591. Spouse. Richard Smisend³⁴

There was a Will for a John Smithsend of Cropthorne (died 1545).³⁵

Will - John Smithsend of Cropthorne - 1545

In the name of God Amen the ? day of October in the ? year of the reign of our Sovereign lady Queen? Elizabeth ?of England, France, ... of England, Defender of the faith, and of ? England, France by ? .

I John Smithsend of the parish of Cropthorne in the County of ? being sick in body do ordain? and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.

I commend my soul unto Almighty God and my body being buried in the Parish church? of Cropthorne.

Item I bequeath unto the ?

And the remainder? of my goods not ? bequeathed I give to ? my wife whom I make my joint? executor ?

In witness whereof ?

Inventory

The inventory of the all the goods of John Smythsend of the parish of Cropthorne [remainder not readable]

Smithsends in Ripple

Ripple is a village on the borders of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire a few miles from Tewkesbury. Some Smithsends were living there in the 16th Century.³⁶

Isble Smithend was christened in Ripple on 15th March 1576

Thomas Smithin was christened in Ripple on 20th March 1571

Anne Smithsend married Morice Gilbert on the 28th December 1576 in Ripple

Magertt Smithend married William Putor in Ripple on the 6th January 1580

Other early Smithsends

These are some other early references to Smithsends.

*William Smythende, Bengeworth. Will of 23rd March 1554*³⁷

*Thomas Smyston married Elizabeth Hawse, widow, Alcester in 1569*²¹

*Richard Smithsend of Deerhurst mentioned in the Gloucester Diocesan records in 1565*³⁸

Commission for Ecclesiastical cases Bristol 1574 - a court set up to deal with church offences from 1574 to 1576. Thomam Goulde an Alderman of Newnham (Forest of Dean) brought a case against a Thomas Smythestone.

*Johnes Smythisend baptised on 20/11/1546 - Hanley Castle, Worcs*³⁹

Thomas Smythinge married Joan Lawton (parents of Johnes above?) at Hanley Castle on 5/10/1545

Registers Elmstone Hardwicke, Gloucestershire

(3 miles North West of Cheltenham)

13 Mar 1571, William Smythsend was buried

6 Oct 1572, Willm Dilling and Agnes Smythsend were married

12 Aug 1572, Margaret the daughter of William Smethsend was baptized

5 Jan 1567, Richard the sonne of William Smythesende was baptized

Anno Dni 1587 reginae Elizabethae xxix

Nuptiae inter Richardum Harte huius poch et Margeriam Smithemstom huius poch 30 October

Over Areley Parish register

John Smyhton son of Richard Smyhton baptised on 4 July 1613

John Smyhton son of Richard Smyhton buried on 11 July 1614

Tax roll of 1523-1527

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Lay Subsidy of 1523-1527. MA Faraday Ed. BGAS 2009.

Second payment 1526

Stoke Orchard

Ricardus Smetheshend, xls, B, xiid (value of goods, source, tax)

'B' stands for 'in bonis' (on goods)

s. stands for 'set at' (on goods)

The Anticipation 1523

Bradley Hundred

Thomas Smethesend de Turkdean xL £, B, xls.

Second Payment 1525

Turkdean

Thomas Smethesend xL £, s, xls.

Second Payment 1525

Walton Cardiff

Thomas Hyett, Cs, B, iis vid

Willielmus Smetheshend, xls, B, xiid

Thomas Wilkynson, xls, B, xiid

Robertus Kemell, xls, B, xiid

Robertus Mathewe, xxs, B, iiiid

Summa subsidii huius ville, vs xd

Vicar

Richard Smythsend

Vicar of Beeding (or Upper Beeding), Sussex (North of Shoreham). 1440

CP40/983: Hilary Term 1508

993 Glos debt Pauncefote, John, esq Smethesende, Robert, of Busshaley, Worcs, husbandman

Parish Registers Of West Stow & Wordwell 1558-1850

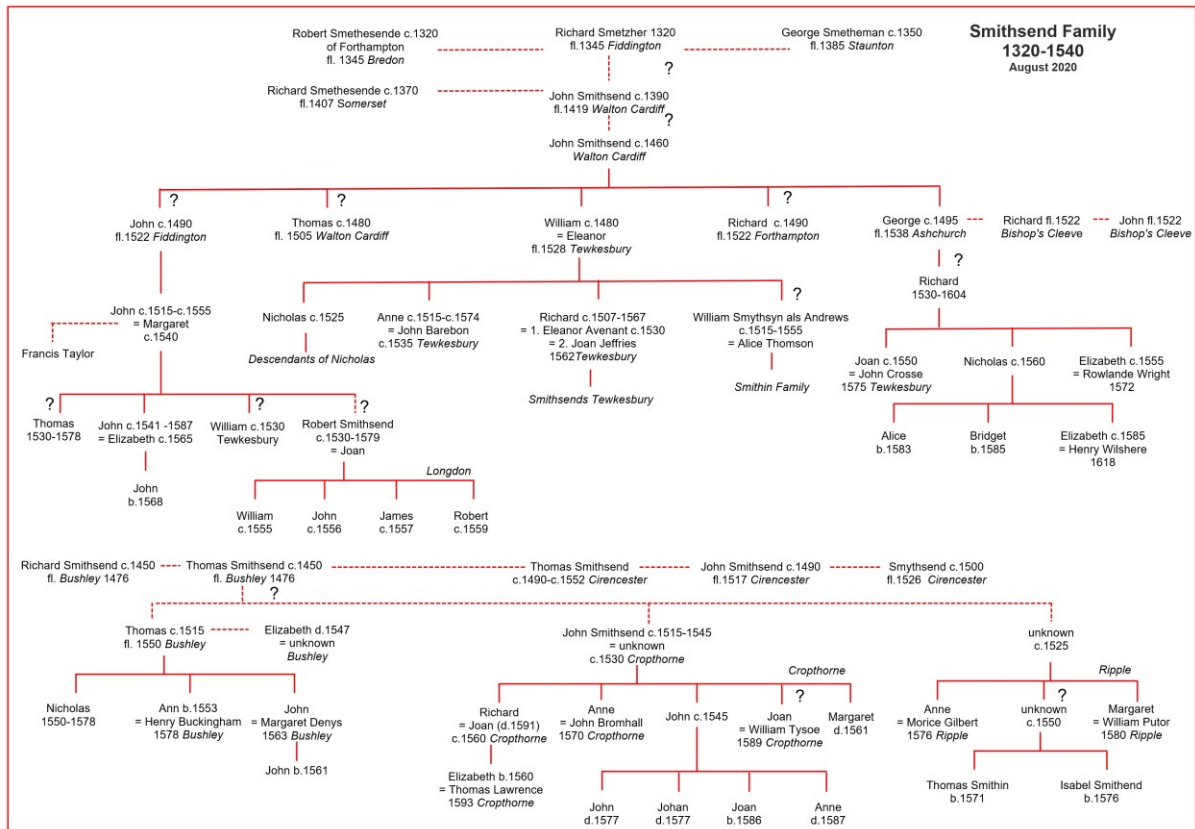
Edward Progers. A Bed-chamber man ; not born to a farthing.

1662. Sept. 30. A grant was made to Henry Progers, groom of the bedchamber, of certain treasure found in St. James' park and secreted by Jane Smithsend and others. C.S.P There must be some mistake here. Henry Progers was not a groom of the bedchamber, but an equerry. Either Henry is a mistake for Edward, or groom for equerry. 1663

A John Smithsend was christened on the 22nd May 1572 at Shipton Ollife parents Robert and Jonne Smithsend.⁴⁰

Robert Smithsend. He was christened in Shipton Oliffe on the 10th October 1574.⁴¹

Family Tree ⁴²



- ¹ GLRO: D6755/1/1/21 Particular of the Manor of Walton Cardiff, 1419
- ² Walton Cardiff, Victoria County History, Vol 8
- ³ The Tewkesbury Register and Agricultural Gazette 11th April 1958
- ⁴ Gloucestershire Military Tax Roll 1522
- ⁵ BGAS Transactions Vol 25, p 187-188
- ⁶ Diary of Bishop Wolstan 1339-1349
- ⁷ George Smetheman of Staunton (High Meadow), 1385, GLRO D2244 /76
- ⁸ Will of Adam Bradewell, Medieval Somerset Wills, Harelean Society
- ⁹ Royce, GLRO D6755
- ¹⁰ Gloucestershire Military Tax Roll, 1522
- ¹¹ ASPR: P19 IN 1/4. 11 Nov 1604. Richard Smythend
- ¹² IGI - Gloucestershire
- ¹³ TWPR: 14 Sep 1575, John Crosse and Jone Smithesen. P329 IN 1/1
- ¹⁴ TWPR: 17 May 1583, Alles Smythend, d. of Nycolas Smythend. P19 IN 1/4
- ¹⁵ TWPR: 12 Dec 1585, Breiet [Brigit?], d. of Nicholis Smethsen. P329 IN 1/1
- ¹⁶ TWPR: P329 IN 1/1. 21 June 1572, Rowlande Wrighte and Elizabeth Smithesend
- ¹⁷ TCWA. p.48
- ¹⁸ Tewkesbury Churchwarden's Accounts 1567-1624
- ¹⁹ List of Apprentices - They lived in Tewkesbury
- ²⁰ GLRO: Will of John Smithsen, 1587
- ²¹ TWPR: P329 IN 1/1. 27 Sep 1568, John, s. of John Smithsend
- ²² TWPR: 27 Feb 1573/4, Jonne, s. of Wylyyam Smethesen P329 IN 1/1
- ²³ TWPR: 3 Sep 1578, Thomas Smythesen P329 IN 1/1
- ²⁴ Tewkesbury Wills 1543-1600. Will of Robert Smithsend – 1579
- ²⁵ Tewkesbury Wills - 1543-1600
- ²⁶ GLRO: D184/M14/6
- ²⁷ Parishes: Walton Cardiff, A History of the County of Gloucester: volume 8 (1968), pp. 236-242
- ²⁸ GLRO: GDR, Vol 11
- ²⁹ GDR 12, p.21,26,32,40
- ³⁰ GLRO: Note from archivist.
- ³¹ Worcester Record Office: 850BUSHLEY/9107/3/ii
- ³² Bushley Parish Registers
- ³³ Cropthorne Parish Registers
- ³⁴ IGI: England Deaths & Burials 1538-1991. Cropthorne, Worcestershire.

³⁵ WRO: 1545 File 1 No.244 John Smythend, Cropthorne,

³⁶ IGI: Gloucestershire

³⁷ WRO: Wills and Administrations

³⁸ GDR Vol. 21 p.279 (1565)

³⁹ WRO: Hanley Castle Parish Registers

⁴⁰ IGI: Gloucestershire

⁴¹ IGI: Gloucestershire. Robart Smythsend, ch. 10 Oct 1574, Shipton Oliffe

⁴² PRO: Public record office

GRO: General registry office

NBI: National burial index

IGI: International Genealogical index

TWPR: Tewkesbury parish registers

ASPR: Ashchurch parish registers

WRO: Worcester Record Office

Some of these records can also be found at ancestry.co.uk and findmypast.co.uk