

## THE SEARCH FOR JONAS MAN'S BAPTISM AND EARLIER MANS

It is known that Jonas MAN married in 1625 at Hambleton, Bucks. This is shown in an indexed transcript of the parish register of Hambleton as well as being seen on a filmed copy of the parish register.

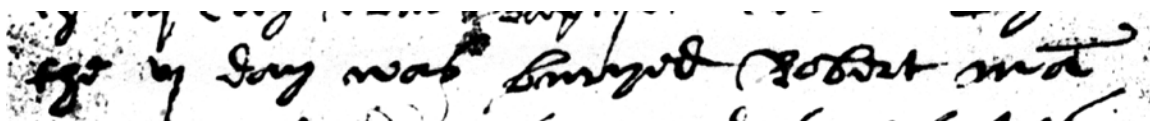
Based on that record a search was made for his baptism, circa 1600. Though the parish register for Hambleton starts in 1566, neither the indexed transcript nor a search of the film of the parish register identified such a record. Obviously, that could mean no more than he wasn't born in Hambleton, but searches of nearby parishes have not yielded such a record either.

However, the following has been prepared to justify the interpretation of a record found in 1596 as being that of 'Jonas MAN', rather than 'Jonas MAY', as it has been transcribed.

[It is very difficult to interpret the handwriting of this period (ca 1600). Thanks to Mr. David Watts of the Bucks Record Office, I have been able to study samples of handwriting for this period from pages of "*Examples of Handwriting, 1550 – 1650*," compiled by W. S. B. Buck and published for the Society of Genealogists by Phillimore. It turns out that the final interpretation rests on distinguishing between a handwritten lower case 'n' and a lower case "y". I build my case with the following observations.]

I started by studying the filmed parish register (Family History Library Film # 1967097/Item 6). My searching was greatly aided by the fact that Item 7 of this same film is a transcript of the register prepared by the Rev. Scawen Kenrick, who was the rector of Hambleton from 1722 to his death in 1753. In that transcript the writing is more easily read.

I first noticed this entry on the first page –

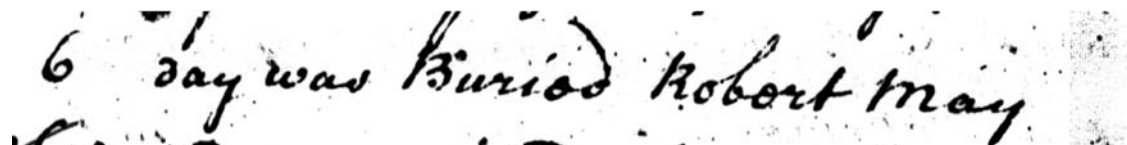


The year is 1566 and the month is September, the entry reads - *the vi [6] day was buried Robert Mā*

Mrs. Sue Baxter, a palaeography expert at the Bucks Record Office, reports that the horizontal line over the 'a' in 'Robert Ma' represents an abbreviation mark for a single or double 'n' or 'm'. Therefore, the entry can be read as 'Robert Man' or 'Robert Mann'. In a subsequent e-mail, Mr. David Watts of the Bucks RO interpreted this entry as 'Robert Mann'. Naturally, I tend to view it as 'Robert Man'.

So this entry indicates the presence of the surname MAN(N) in Hambleton in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century - at the time parish records were introduced.

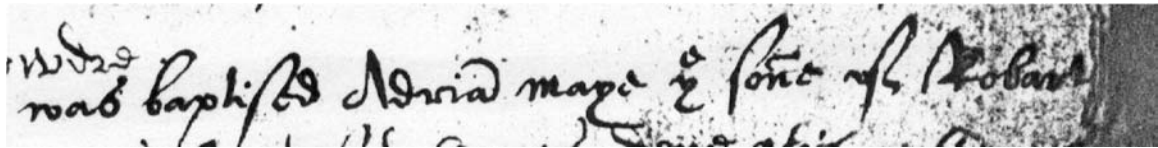
The transcription done by the Rev. Kenrick of this entry as shown below –



It would appear that the Rev. Kenrick has transcribed the name as Robert MAY. So, already with the first studied entry there is confusion in the transcription between the letters 'n' and 'y'.

I will return to further reviews of entries that may or may not be for MAN family members, but first I pursue the interpretation of the record found in 1596.

In the course of my study I noted that there was a baptismal record for an Adrian MAYE on 23 October 1592, son of Robert. An enlarged scanned image appears next –

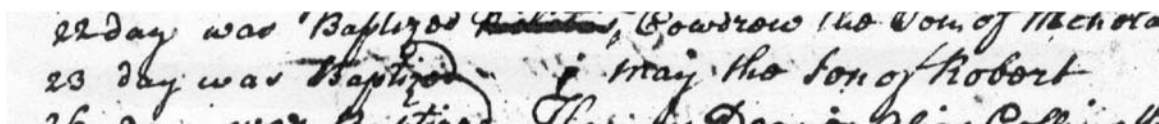


Note the way the letter 'a' is written in the given name, Adriã, represents an abbreviation for a single or double 'm' or 'n'. This has been interpreted as a 'n' giving us the first name as 'Adrian'. (Note also the spelling of the word 'soñe'.) Note closely the formation of the 'y' in the family name MAYE. It closely follows the format of the 'y' shown in the first row, third from the right of the samples below (taken from the book mentioned above) -

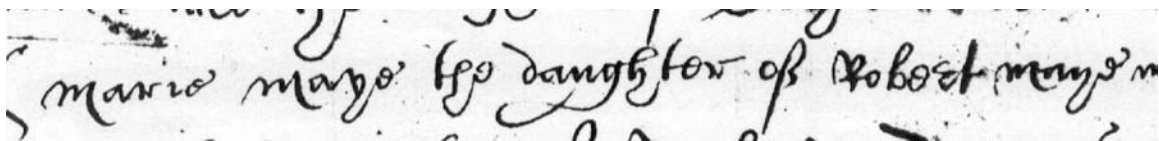
Handwritten examples of the letter 'y' in cursive script, showing various forms.

Handwritten examples of the letter 'y' in cursive script, showing various forms.

The next image is from the transcription where the Rev. Kenrick has decided not to interpret the first name and has shown the family name as MAY –

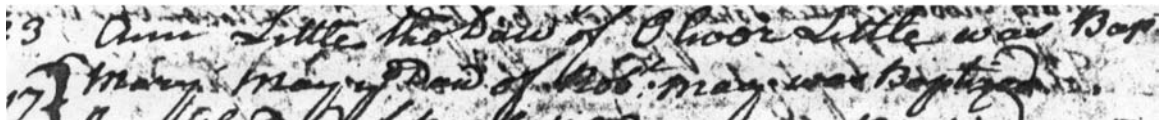


In 1593, there is a baptism for Marie MAYE, daughter of Robert MAYE, on 17 March 1593/4. Her record is shown next –

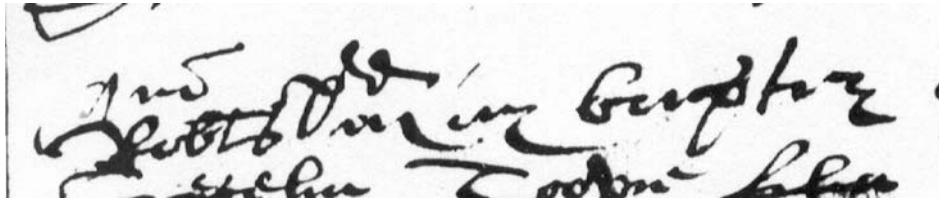


This time the formation of the 'y' is more like the sample shown in the second row, third from the left in the extraction above.

The Rev. Kenrick transcribes this entry as Mary MAY, Dau of Robt MAY –

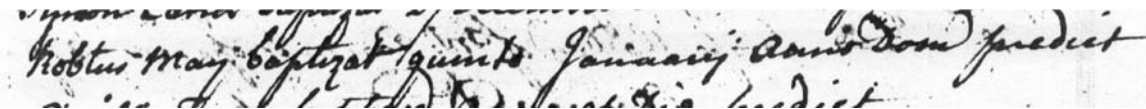


There is a baptismal record on 5 January 1595 for a Robert MAY. Note that the handwriting has changed, which probably accounts for the fact that the entries are now in Latin and the fathers' names are not given. But it seems obvious that Robert would have been the son of Robert MAY. This record is shown next –

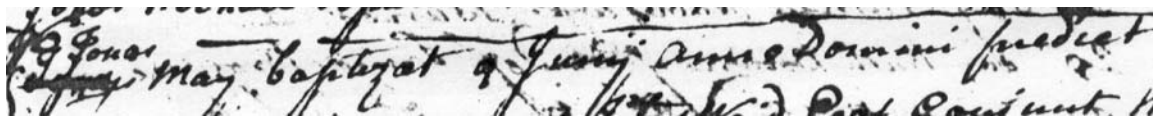


Although the name does not end in an 'e', the formation of the letter 'y' is exactly as in the last name of Adrian.

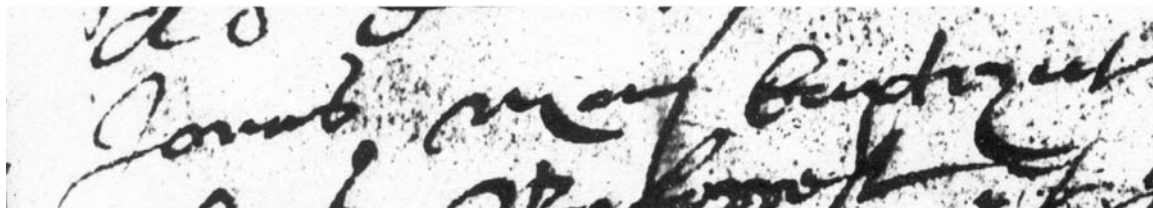
The Rev. Hendrick has faithfully transcribed the Latin words –



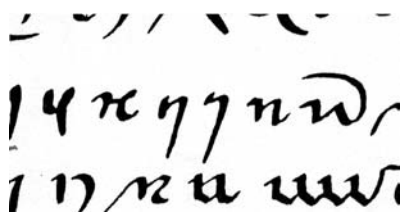
On the same page is a baptismal record that has been transcribed by the Rev. Kenrick as follows –



But if one looks closely at the last letter of the surname in the parish register –



it would seem that the letter more closely looks like the sample small letters 'n' reproduced below (from the same source) than the sample small letters 'y' shown above.



If so, the surname is MAN and I have found the baptismal record for Jonas MAN.

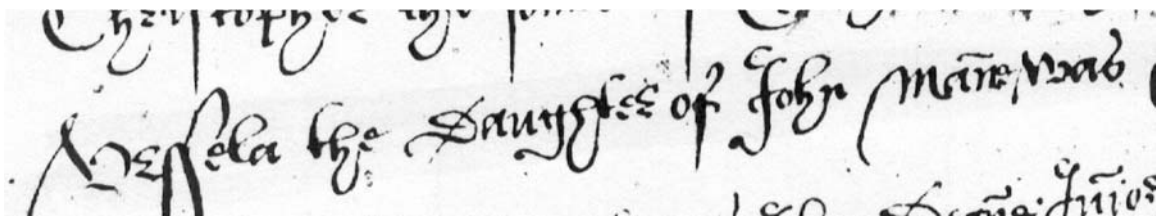
As further argument that this is an 'n', examine the record on the same page for a marriage of a John MAN (MAY) on 16 June 1596 –



Here the last letter in the surname is even more clearly an 'n' than a 'y' as shown in the examples.

The transcript records this name as John MAY.

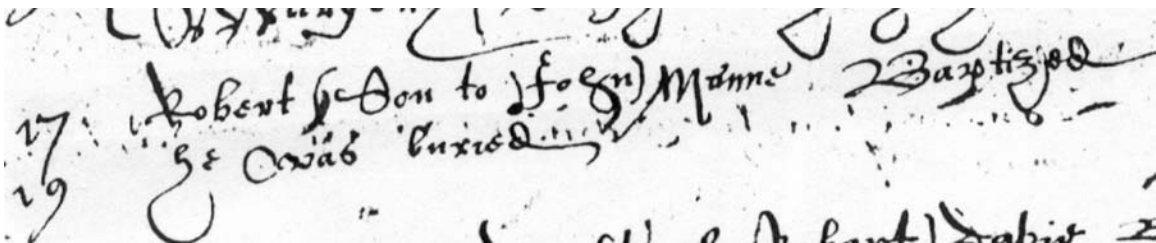
As further evidence that I am on the right track, on 24 July 1597 Ursella, the daughter of a John MANE was baptized –



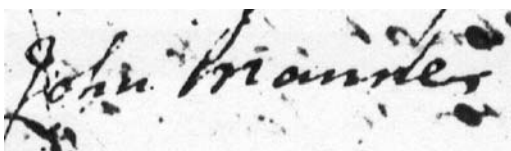
Again, note the bar over the 'n' in the surname that could indicate that the spelling was to be MANNE. Also, it is significant to note that the handwriting has changed once more and with that, the spelling of the surname. This has to be the daughter of the John MAN married the year before.

The transcript records the surname as MANE.

On 17 February 1599 Robert, son to John MANNE, was baptized. I think it is clear that this is the same father as for Ursella.



However, it is interesting to note how the Rev. Henrick records the surname in this case -



So, between the register and the transcript we have noted the same surname written as MĀ, MAN, MAY, MANE, MANNE AND MANNER.