Shabir Ravji

How useful was the inventories in finding the extent of the great rebuilding in Orton Waterville?

An inventory of Ye(the) goods and chattls(belongings) of Robt Harrison of overton(Orton) Waterville in the county of huntingdonshire taken and appraised(listed) (on) this ninth day of February 1696 by us whse(whose) are underwritten:

	£	S (chilling)	d (Bonso)
Impris purse(Money) and apperil(Clothes)	(Pounds) 01	(shilling) 00	(Pence) 00
In the hall:			
One bedstead with Ye	00	13	04
furniture, 1 cupboard 1 table One little table with other	00	02	00
small things Puuter(Putter)	00	03	00
In the chamber(bedroom?):			
Wheat, Rye and Barley In the kitchen:	01	04	00
A cheese press and bacon	01	00	00
Best(?) yarns	00	05	00
Lynnon	00	05	00
One arce of till(farmland)	00	10	00
Total:	05	02	04

This is a true inventory to the best of our knowledge.

Wittiness our hand
Frans Bloodworth

Willm Smart

The old English is difficult to translate in this inventory again we ask questions about the inventory. However in deciding weather this mans house is part of the great rebuilding it seems very useful because it does not indicate upstairs by saying "chamber above". He is also poor he is worth around £5 where as the average was around £87. The evidence suggests he lived alone so he had no reason to rebuild.

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An Inventory of the goods, chattells and chrodils of: Henry Bate Deceased, December Ye $7^{\rm th}$ 1707

Taken December ye 13 th : 1707	£	S	d
His Purs and aparrill	03	00	00
For 3 horsis	04	00	00
For 11 Corns	_	_	_
For 3 Bales of straw	01	00	00
For 2 sows and 19 pigs	02	10	00
For 45 Sheeps	05	00	00
For Brass and putor and the	02	10	00
remaining parts of the goods			
in ye hall			
For the furnotors(furniture)	05	00	00
in the parlor			
For the	02	00	00
furnotors(furniture)in Ye			
chamber over the hall			
For the heay(hey) in Ye barns	02	10	00
For the corn of barly(barley)	12	00	00
at Ye farm			
For ye beefe(beef) in Ye	06	00	00
Maltin			
For Ye Lanos Wheat in the	06	00	00
Maltins			
For Ye rye in Ye Maltins and	07	00	00
other thing not mentioned			
For ye Furnotuors(Furniture)	01	00	00
in ye parlor at ye farm			
For a plow and gears	00	05	00
For 12 arces of wheat at ye	15	00	00
farm			
For 6 acres of tilling	02	00	00
For 16 acres of barkland	04	10	00
Total	100	15	00

Taken by us: Dimos B. Bate and William Sutton Again several translation problems arose but everything seems to be listed.

A true and just inventory of all the goods and chattls (belongings) of independent Nathaniel Tomlinson of overton (Orton) Waterville in the county of huntingdonshire

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deceased taken and appraised(listed) (on) this 3d day of August 1747 by us whse(whose) are underwritten:

Taken December ye 12 th :1747	£	S	D
His purs and apperrill	10	0	0
In the house Brass and pewter at	5	0	0
An oval table at the value of	0	15	0
Chairs Earthen ware and lumber	1	0	1
In the parlor one bed and bedding at	3	0	0
A parcel of plate to the value of	6	0	0
two tables at	0	8	0
A chest of drawers at	0	10	6
A clock and a clock case at	1	10	0
Chairs a glass and lumber	1	0	0
In the chamber over the	4	0	0
parloour and beds and bedding			
A chest of drawers	1	0	0
Two truks a coffer and linnen	0	7	6
In the chamber over the house	0	15	0
A cuboard a parcell of cheese and lumber	0	10	0
In the barn a parcell of hay at	1	5	0
In the yard two cows at	1	10	0
A pigg at	0	9	0
In the field an acre of wheat	1	0	0
Half an arce of barley at	0	15	0
An acre of pease at	1	4	0
Total	48	19	0

This is a true inventory to the best of our knowledge.

Witness our hands: Frans Bloodworth Willm Smart In this inventory we had the same problems as before. However what stuck out to me was that nothing was recorded in the kitchen. So unless he

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had an empty kitchen we can only assume something's, for ever reason some thing were not recorded. This man was worth £48 as opposed to the average £87.

I think this mans house was part of the great rebuilding due to the highlighted quotes from the inventory "chamber over".

Conclusion

The three inventories is a great amount of information. Overall I think I can conclude the great rebuilding was extensive. However 1 or 2 buildings were not re-built. It is clear that most houses were re-built. We know from our field work 20 or 30 houses were rebuilt in Orton Waterville. However across what time scale? From my field work I obtained the following dates of when houses were re-built: 1692, 1635, 1608,1744 and 1639. When I compare these dates to the inventory dates 1696 (non-rebuilt), 1707 (rebuilt) and 1747 (rebuilt) the dates add up. From my earlier work I know the plague was in 1665/1666 during this time the village was isolated as it said in the plague warning. In this period no rebuilding took place as the inventory shows when put together with field work that most cottages were re-built except that of poor laborers such as R. Harrison. The main use was in the field work which was backed put by the inventories. The field work was a greater sample. The 1747 and 1707 inventory both the same.