In late 1755, a batch of the theological and chronological papers from the Newton collection was sent to Arthur Ashley Sykes, an Anglican religious writer ; Newton

1767,8 the

Northamptonshire, signed on 2 September and proved on 2 October 1693, ¹⁸ contains details of bequests to his children, daughters Elizabeth, Mary, Jane, Barbara, Katherine and Margaret, eldest son Geoffrey¹⁹ and Robert, his youngest son (brother of the whole blood of Katherine/ Catherine and Margaret), and his loving wife Hannah. ²⁰ The will closes with Robert appointing as his executors, Hannah - and my trusty friend I seac Newton of Trinity Colledge in Cambridge Esq., to whom he gave twenty pounds for his trouble in seeing this my will performed. Robert Barton was, therefore,

It is also possible to determine how the Newton papers came into confirmed in a letter of 27

possession. He

Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms Amended, detailing the rise and history of ancient civilisations such as Egypt, Babylon and Persia, had first been published posthumously in 1728. This second volume consists of many miscellaneous papers (arranged in no particular order as a later note informs the reader) which would probably be described by most people viewing them today as pieces of scrap paper! Many pages had already been used by Newton as drafts for letters, especially concerning his work at the Royal Mint and relating to various accounts; others were used for calculations and other notes. The working notes related to his research for the Chronology are written in every available blank space, on these sheets as well as over and around correspondence that had previously been sent to him, his postal address still clearly visible; many of these date from the period 1703-1726.

er note at the front of MS 361/2 describing the contents, May 1729

Remarkably, the leaf of paper containing the famous image of the prism experiment is no exception, bound amongst the other papers unobtrusively and without fanfare, roughly a fifth of the way into the volume.

comparing the chronological part of them with similar papers from the Portsmouth collection will be one of the last parts of my work. He assures Ekins that he will get them transcribed as soon as possible and when the copy is finished I will deliver the originals to Ld. Carlisle; he will publish no part of the papers I received from you without your consent.

2. MS 361/4, fol. 144

A further letter from Samuel Horsley, dated 29 August 1780, explaining that, for want of an intelligent transcriber, he could not get a copy of the manuscripts done so he decided to do it himself. He will return the papers wherever you shall be pleased to appoint when he is in town in October. The papers he has copied are the three letters on corruption of the Scriptures, which are entire in your MSS and, I believe, nowhere else and a very long discourse on the antient history of Egypt, most of which has already been Chronology.

3. MS 361/4,

A handwritten note preceding the codicil indicates that it was printed from this MS in 1845 by Sr David Brewster in his Memoirs of Sr Isaac Newton vol.II. There are further points of interest concerning this codicil. It is notable that it took over 15

to be carried out. The reason is not apparent, but it is interesting that no mention of the codicil is

members, especially her daughter Catherine, and provision for the payment of debts. She wrote in the codicil that the papers must be carefully kept, that no copys may be taken and printed, otherwise a £2000 bond left by John Conduitt to the seven nearest of kin to I seac Newton to ensure against such an eventuality would be forfeit. Could this have been a factor in the perceived reluctance to part with them? It seems clear that the codicil itself went with the papers to Arthur Sykes, and this is presumably the reason it is to be found to this day with the Ekins Newton collection at New College.

4. MS 361/4, fols. 126-133 and NCA 2844/4

Further binding family ties become evident from the Newton pedigree published in *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Monthly series, no. XIV, July 1871, and other sources.

Robert Barton (1684-1711) was the only son of Robert Barton and Hannah Smith, the brother of Catherine Barton Conduitt and half-uncle of the Reverend Jeffery Ekins (1699-1773). He married Catherine Greenwood and they had three children Newton (b. 1707), Robert (b. 1709) and Catherine (b. 1710). Newton Barton married, on 9 June 1758, Elizabeth Ekins (b. 1735), the daughter of the Reverend Jeffery Ekins. Elizabeth died on 2 December 1804 and was buried near her brother, the Very Reverend Jeffery Ekins Dean of Carlisle, in Fulham Church; Newton Barton had died in October 1768. They had two sons, however John Barton (1759-1803) and Charles William Newton Barton (1762-1808). They were, therefore, the grandsons of the Reverend Jeffery Ekins. There is a note in New College Archives [NCA 2844/5], written by Warden Sewell in 1873, recording that Charles William Newton Barton, son of Newton Barton, matriculated at New College at the age of 17 on 30 August 1779, as a Four s Kin Fellow (c.f. footnote 27 of this article).

²⁹ The Early Journals of Fanny Burney, 5 vols., ed. by Lars E. Troide and Stewart J. Cooke (Oxford, 1988-2012), vol. 5, p. 137.

were Received of the Revd. N.B. Young & exec[utor]s of the Revd. J. Ekins. The Reverend Newton Barton Young was also a Fellow of New College, from 1827 until 1852. He matriculated on 10 March 1827 at the age of 19. He was awarded BA in 1830, MA in 1834, was Dean of Arts in 1834, served as Bursar in 1835 and was Sub-Warden in 1842. He was, therefore, a contemporary of the Reverend Jeffery Ekins (1803-

grandmother was Elizabeth Allicocke,³⁰ daughter of John Allicocke of Loddington, Northamptonshire and the sister of Susanna Allicocke, who was the second wife of the Reverend Jeffery Ekins (1699-1773) the mother of his children including Elizabeth Ekins, wife of Newton Barton, and the Very Reverend Jeffery Ekins, Dean of Carlisle.

A pedigree chart of the relevant members of the Barton, Ekins, Smith and Newton families referred to in this article is includ

5. MS361/4, fol. 146

A short note written by Miss Susan Ekins, the daughter of the Rev. Jeffery Ekins (1699-1773) and sister of the late Rev. Jeffery Ekins, Dean of Carlisle, dated 29 September 1803. She explains that her father

or left to him by her will. She explains that the m

mother. Mrs

Conduitt, was Barton. Her father, Mr Barton, married two wives, one of which was the sister of Isaac Newton while the other [was] an Ekins by which means there was a family connection betwixt my father & Sir Isaac . There was clearly a slig (as has

daughter who married an Ekins), but this note could be the basis, at least in part, for the explanation given by Sr David Brewster in his Memoirs of the life, writings, and discoveries of Sir Isaac Newton (1855) for how the Newton papers came into the possession of Jeffery Ekins.

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The authr Memoirs of the life, wri17li2 re76935

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Catherine Greenwood

> Robert Barton b. 1709

Catherine Barton b. 1710

