

## No 8 Bridge Street “The Indian Queen”

The following is an extract from a booklet uncovered by Jack Dennis

*The Gee family of Deeping St James had a sense of history. When they renovated their home at 8 Bridge Street in 1846, they hid a series of documents about their house. After 127 years later, in 1973 these documents came to light when renovation work again was being carried out.*

*The cottage was found to be at least 500 years old, and a stone dated 1796 proved that alterations had been carried out at that time and again in 1846 when the documents at that time were placed in the roof. Among them was a Stamford Mercury and a note that Nathaniel Gee was the owner, and had lived there for 48 years, coming from Olney in Buckinghamshire. He was a harness maker but the house was also known as “The Indian Queen”, and a brew house was also on the premises.*

*A delivery slip referring to the Oudle Brewing Company shows that William Gee was the company’s agent, and a note stated that he lived in the house and had never lived anywhere else.*

*A transport slip showed the Gees were agents for the Peterborough Depot of the London and Birmingham Railway Company, and a business card refers to Nathaniel Gee as saddler and harness maker, and his age of 84 years.*

*When the cottage was reroofed in 1846, a note was made that the thatcher was Richard Attwood of Deeping St James and he had replaced the stubble roof with reed. Yaxley reeds were used at eight shillings per 100, and 1,400 bundles were bought for the job.*

*In 1973 it was found necessary to completely rebuild the cottage, but it does stand on the exact site of the old “Indian Queen”.*



**The Indian Queen**

The Indian Queen is on the extreme left of the above photograph. To the far right is the Bell Inn which sits opposite the bridge over the River Welland.

It appears that Nathaniel Gee (born 1763) lived here from 1796 to his death in 1848. His son William Gee (born 1799) probably remained at 8 Bridge Street until the mid-1860s when he moved to his daughter’s home in Spalding.



Map of Deeping St James

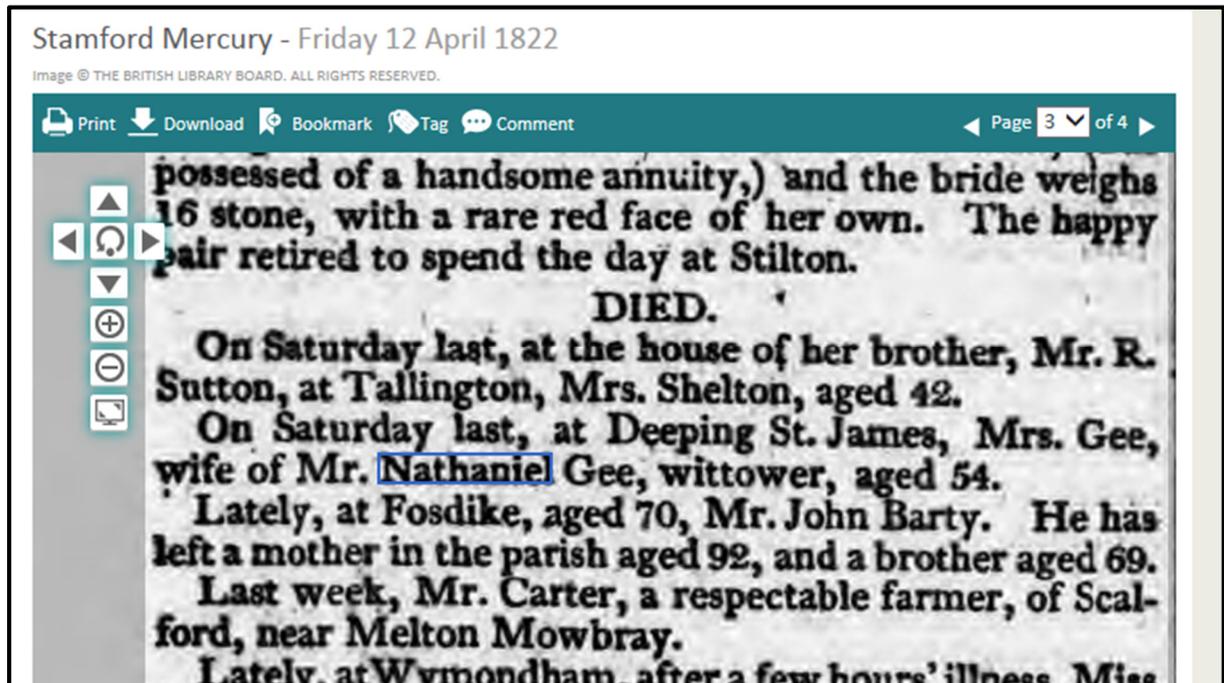
hand labour.

**Riot at Deeping St. James.**

HOWARD PATRICK, THOMAS CLARKE, and EDWIN NOON (three respectable-looking young men who were not on bail) were charged with having, on the 20th of May last, been guilty of riotous proceedings and maliciously destroying divers shrubs in the garden of Nathaniel Gee.—Mr. Wilkinson appeared for the prosecution; Mr. Atter for the defence.—Mr. Wilkinson, in stating the case, observed that there were two persons living at Deeping St. James, Mr. Gee and Mr. Nurse, who were so unfriendly as to have some dispute between them respecting a wall. That that was not the court to which parties should come to try title to a wall, or to try any other title—nor did he (Mr. W.) intend to raise a question respecting the ownership of the wall. His present object was to be a peaceable and lawful manner the law justified him, but if he did it in a manner calculated to excite terror by using threatening language, or any weapons of offence, so as to amount to a breach of the peace, that the offence became a question for the jury. On Monday the 20th of May, the three defendants, being armed with pick-axes, spades, shovels, and other fitting implements for such a purpose, assembled at Fence Deeping, and commenced the destruction of the wall between Mr. Nurse's and Mr. Gee's premises. They commenced their work partially unarmed, and afterwards had some ale. A concourse of from twenty to thirty persons assembled, and the work of destruction was accompanied with repeated shouts on the part of the defendants and the populace assembled around them. The consequence was that Mr. Gee, son, Mr. William Gee, and several persons were put into considerable personal hazard. After the wall had fallen down in Mr. Nurse's premises their common threat

William Gee, and several persons were put into considerable personal hazard. After the wall had fallen down in Mr. Nurse's premises they commenced throwing the whole of the rubbish, stones, mud, dirt, tiles and bricks of which it was composed into Mr. Gee's premises, and accompanied the throwing over of these materials with threats and menaces against any one that should interfere to prevent them. Eventually some shrubs growing upon the premises were wantonly and unaccountably destroyed. Trees or fourteen panes of the window of a brewhouse at some short distance from the wall were also broken.—Several witnesses were examined in support of Mr. Wilkinson's statement. Mr. Atter addressed the jury on behalf of the defendants. He contended that as the case arose out of a disputed right to a wall, and as no further injury had been done than was necessary for the removal of the wall the defendants were entitled to a verdict of not guilty.—Several witnesses were called whose evidence went to prove that there was no riot, and that no further damage had been done than was necessary.—The Chairman having summed up the jury found all the defendants guilty.—In pronouncing sentence the Chairman said as the defendants might have acted under a mistake the court would not be harsh towards them, but a check must be put to such outrages.—To be each imprisoned for one month without hard labour.—THOMAS CHAFFRON, who was imprisoned for want of practice to keep the peace towards his father and mother, William and Sarah Crampton, was discharged, neither appearing against him.

Deeping Riot



Death Notice of Elizabeth Gee, nee Hardy in 1822

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poultry market at the back of the hall. It has been  
 decided to open negotiations with a view to purchasing  
 the property.

*Deeping St. James.—ALARMING FIRE.—*On  
 Saturday morning, about 11, an alarming fire took  
 place upon the premises of Mr Charles Parsonage, of  
 the Indian Queen. The fire is supposed to have ori-  
 ginated through a half-witted lad, who was engaged in  
 the yard doing odd jobs. It appears he struck a match,  
 and then threw it down on some straw, which was im-  
 mediately ignited, and before anyone was aware of the  
 calamity, a large stack of oat straw was in flames.  
 The parish fire engine, in charge of Captain Bennett,  
 was on the spot without delay, and a large number of  
 willing workers were soon throwing water on the burn-  
 ing straw; but the fire had got too firm a hold, and  
 before it could be extinguished a great amount of  
 damage was done. Two large stacks—one of oat  
 straw and the other of hay—were consumed, a fat pig  
 weighing about 16 stone was burnt to death in its sty,  
 and the outhouses in the centre of the yard were com-  
 pletely destroyed. Fortunately the wind was blow-  
 ing in a contrary direction, or several thatched houses  
 in the main street between the Indian Queen and the  
 Bell Inn must also have been destroyed. Much  
 difficulty was experienced in getting the engine to draw  
 the water, as the river was exceedingly low, and the  
 bed choked with mud.

Fire at The Indian Queen 1897

Lincolnshire Chronicle - Friday 19 March 1841 BREWERY, OUNDLE, 17th March, 1841. THE Oundle Union Brewing Company respectfully inform their friends and the public generally, that they have appointed Mr. Nathaniel Gee, of St. James Deeping, Wholesale Agent for the Sale of their superior Ale, Porter and Stout, which can be obtained of him in Casks of 9, 18, and 36 Gallons each.



No 8 Bridge Street in 2015, the site of The Indian Queen



Two stones in the gable of No 8 marking its refurbishment in 1846 and 1974



The Indian Queen is to the extreme left and the Bell Inn is in the distance



The Bell Inn from across the Bridge