

CENTRE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE STUDIES

THE HIDDEN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PROJECT began in April 2018 and will run for two years. The aim is to catalogue over 11,000 items collected by Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (BAS). Many of these items are deeds to property but there are other things as well – such as D-BAS/22/375/43/2, an affidavit by Henry Langley of Winslow, gentleman.

A CASE OF RIOT AND ASSAULT

Langley had received a rule of the court of the Manor of Winslow with Members given to Robert Messenger, Theophilus Fookes the younger, Thomas Hall, John Elmer], Thomas Page the younger, John Brown and John Hale to show cause why an information should not be exhibited against them for riot and assault. Langley states that he had served the ruling on Robert Messenger, Theophilus Fookes and John Elmer on 20th April 1711 personally. He had served the ruling on Francis Tomkins for his servant Thomas Hall and to Thomas Page, father of Thomas Page the younger *"who could not be spoken with and gave this Deponent other unsatisfactory Answers"*. He gave the ruling to John Browne's mistress (his employer) and to John Hale's father *"who at first told this Deponent his said son was within but afterward pretended his said son was gone out"*.

Human nature does not change. Langley was clearly intimidated by some of the people to whom he was charged with giving the ruling and went about with a bodyguard, explaining that he believed those to whom the rule had not been given personally: *"cannot without great Difficulty or Danger be personally served therewith for that had not this Deponent had a Guard with him he had been in great Danger of receiving mischeife from some of the persons personally served with the said rule as this Deponent verily believes because he the said Messenger held up a Hatchet at this Deponent when he served the said rule upon him the said Messenger and required this Deponent not to give him the Cobby thereof and other Brawling Languadge this Deponent had from him"*. It is the reply of Theophilus Fookes which lives longest in the memory: *"he would not have the Cobby of the said rule which this Deponent had Left in his house and bid this Deponent wipe his britch therewith or words to that effect"*.