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Records of A.T. Ginns and Son,
Blacksmiths, of
The Forge, Church Lane, Yeldon, Beds.

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Adam Tirrell Ginns began his blacksmith business in 1870 at 8, High Street South, Rushden. The premises consisted of a six room cottage and a blacksmith's shop containing a workshop, forge, store and a shoeing shed with an overhead loft. Adam Ginns rented the premises from the Sartoris family of Rushden Hall.

In the 1920's Adam's son William took over the business and, when Rushden Hall Estate was sold in 1929, he bought the business premises and the two adjoining stone cottages, numbers 4 & 6, High Street South. These cottages had two rooms downstairs and two upstairs and were previously occupied by Mr. H. Bozet and Mrs. Bailey who along with William Ginns had paid a gross rent of £42.11s.4d. to the Sartoris family. All three of the cottages were demolished in 1975.

The Contract Book of 1929-1949 shows William Ginns sharpening a pick for the Northants County Council for 2½d. In 1937 a set of horseshoes cost 12s.6d., today a similar set costs £6.00.

William had two sons, but neither of them were interested in continuing the blacksmith business, so, in 1955, an employee of Ginns, Mr. James Guinee from Ireland, took the business over, buying all Mr. Ginns' machinery and equipment for £350. In 1972 the firm moved to Church Lane, Yeldon where there was plenty of room to expand on the disused Chelveston U.S. Airforce Base, in the World War II prefabricated sheds. Mr. Guinee uses the old bar for his office and the dance hall for his main workshed. The firm undertakes many types of forging today. This includes horseshoeing, welding, lockmaking, fancy and wrought ironwork and repairing or rebuilding agricultural and industrial machinery and tools. Two apprentices are employed, who come to work each day from Roade, Northants and Cambridge.

Important work done by the firm includes making the gates of Bromborough Hall, near Rushden, and making the anchor for testing the "Phantom" jet in the 1950's.

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A.T. Ginns & Son

Books

1. Contract Book:
This is the only book surviving from the period when the Ginns family ran the business.
It contains: a) Daily account of contracts, giving the customer's name, the job done, equipment used and the cost of the work, Jan 1929-Sept 1949. b) Listed prices of nuts and bolts, (no date). c) The total cost of building a shed at the back of the Rushden shop, in 1955, by Mr. Guinee. d) Machinery Stock List, 1955, of all stock bought by Mr. Guinee from Mr. Ginns for £350.
2. Daybooks: 1955-1977
Gives a daily account of work done, for whom, and the cost. Items crossed out when the customers came to collect them.
3. *Daybook: May 1961-Aug 1962
Description as for other daybooks.

Photographs

1. *Mr. James Guinee and a friend at Rushden forge. (Mr. Guinee shoeing a horse.) 1946
2. Mr. James Guinee and schoolchildren at Rushden forge. 1949-1950
3. Mr. James Guinee and another man at Rushden forge. c.1949
4. Mr. James Guinee and another man at Rushden forge. 1949-1950
5. The last man to own a horse and cart in Wymington at Rushden forge. c.1949

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A.T. Ginns & Son (cont.)

Horse Shoeing Price Cards

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| 1. | Price card of the National Master Farrier's and Blacksmith's Association, showing minimum prices of shoes for different types of horses. (Photocopied.) | Nov 13th. 1922 |
| 2. | As above. (Photocopied.) | Sept 17th. 1929 |
| 3. | *As above. (Photocopied.) | Jan 1st. 1946 |
| 4. | As above. (Photocopied.) | no date |
| 5. | As above. (Photocopied.) | Jan 1st. 1945 |
| 6. | As above. (Photocopied.) | Jan 1st. 1948 |

Magazine Articles

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|----|---|----------------|
| 1. | Article from News Echo, "Our Line of Business" - about the Yeldon forge, with pictures of the apprentices at work. | June 5th. 1975 |
| 2. | Article from Evening Telegraph - about Chelveston Air Base; Clark Gable was once stationed there. Shows pictures of planes. | Nov 1st. 1975 |
| 3. | Advertisement in the Bucks Standard, for A.T. Ginns and Son - pipe welding. | no date |

* gift to the Northants Record Office

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