



Mr. Harry Dudgeon from Leicester, pictured with the manuscript

## Heirloom throws light on Shearsby's past

STEEPED in the history of Shearsby is Mr. Harry Dudgeon, as he browses through an heirloom left to him by his mother, Polly.

The well preserved manuscript dates back to 1538, and gives a complete history of the ancient village, that at one time had a population of only 19.

Mr. Dudgeon's mother was born in Shearsby, where her father, Mr. Richard Kimpin was the local carpenter and wheelwright.

There are no Kimpins living in Shearsby now, although the name is still remembered by some residents.

The manuscript tells some interesting stories about the village, especially at its formation.

Apparently, in the Domesday book there is reference to 10 ploughlands of land called Svesbi, that in the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) were worth 1/3 shillings.

It is believed by scholars that these ploughlands were the foundations of a tiny village called Sheavesby, so named because of its "fine soil for the produce of wheat".

This cutting is from a Leicestershire Newspaper "circa 1960's"