



Account of Purley on Thames **Chronicles 1640-1659**

1640 15/16 Chas I

1641 16/17 Chas I

Purley Forge was built at the corner of the Oxford Road and Long Lane.

Richard Watts certified that (all the men of Purley have made protestation, promise and vow according to the form commanded, except for Edward Bagley, son of Edward Bagley who is scarce compos mentis.)

1642 17/18 Chas I

Charles I commandeered all tailors living within six miles of Reading to make clothes for his army. It is not known whether Purley had a tailor at the time, but there had been one in the village in 1578.

Prince Robert with many of his forces was camped at Pangbourne on 25th Feb. They were renowned for plundering the countryside of horses, sheep and any provisions they could lay their hands on and undoubtedly Purley suffered from their deprivations.

In March the road between Reading and Purley was severed by a large ditch. There was a drawbridge opened in the day time.

On June 2nd Prince Rupert marched to Pangbourne but returned to Abingdon the same day

On November 14th a warrant was issued to the High Constables for each Hundred (including Theale) to send all their carts and teams to Reading.

1643 18/19 Chas I

Thomas Simons of Purley died. His will is preserved

1644 19/20 Chas I

William Noble, the son in law of the rector Richard Watts died and was buried at Purley. A memorial plaque was erected to his memory in the church.

1645 20/21 Chas I

1646 21/22 Chas I

1647 22/23 Chas I

Richard Child of Purley died. His will is preserved

1648 23/24 Chas I

Sir John St John died, the Lordship of the manor of Purley Magna passing to his grandson John who became the second baronet. Three of his sons had been killed in the Civil War. The family were staunch Royalists. He had married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Leighton (Governor of Jersey),

who had died in 1628. He later married Margaret Whitmore. Anne had given him fourteen children of whom William was killed at Cirencester, Edward at Newbury and John in the North.

There was a terrible harvest in Berkshire with very many bad floods and near starvation in many villages

William Green of Purley died. His will is preserved

1649 24 Chas I/ 1 Chas II

King Charles I was executed 30th Jan. During the Commonwealth period which followed regnal years were not used in documents but are shown for reference.

1650 1 / 2 Chas II

1651 2/3 Chas II

The estates of the late Sir Charles Blount of Mapledurham, which included lands on the Berkshire side of the river were sequestrated for supposed recusancy. Two thirds of his woods were ordered felled and sold. His mother Elizabeth Blount had been returned as a recusant in 1605 and he had paid heavy fines between 1623 and 1626. He had died in 1644.

1652 3 / 4 Chas II

1653 4/5 Chas II

Richard Lybbe died. He was succeeded as Lord of the Manor of Purley Parva by his grandson Anthony. His son, Anthony's father, had been killed in 1614

Gabriel Taylor acting as receiver for the Trustees who were disposing of the late King's estates, summoned the Lord of the manor of Purley Parva to attend at the Bear Inn in Reading on the 24th of April to pay 40 shillings for the two years ended Michaelmas 1650 which was his dues as castlegard rent at Windsor Castle.

1655 5/6 Chas II

1656 6/7 Chas II

1657 7/8 Chas II

Sir John St John died unmarried. His heir was his uncle Walter.

1658 8/9 Chas II

1659 9/10 Chas II

Anthony Lybbe dealt with the manor of Purley Parva by fine. At the time it was known as Westbury or Westbrooke

Richard Watts died aged 78. He had been an MA of Trinity College Cambridge and had been rector of Purley since 1623. His successor was Daniel Reynor (d1685).

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