



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1700-1719

1700

1701

1702

1703

Sir Henry St John, son of the LoM of Purley Magna was appointed Secretary for War. He had made himself conspicuous by his brilliant speeches in favour of the Occasional Conformities Bill. This appointment brought him into close contact with the Duke of Marlborough who had high confidence in him at the time he was sailing for Holland to the campaign which lead to the Battle of Blenheim.

John Piper, husbandman of Purley died. His will is preserved (ref 321-169.73/209.140)

1704

William Gostwick made a Glebe Terrier of the lands belonging to the church (S426-17)

Jane, the daughter of William Gostwick, was married to John Stevens of Oxford on 31st August. (ref 27)

Jane, the wife of William Gostwick, died in December and was buried in the chancel. (ref 27)

1705

1706

William Gostwicke replied to a circular from the Bishop about papists with a description of Purley hall. Francis Hyde, a widower and avowed papist, was the owner but he lived in Burghfield. The land was let to William Loader who lived in the farmhouse near the mansion. (S134, S426-41)

1707

A case was brought against the rector, William Gostwick by George Blagrove for failing to keep a bull for the use of the parish. William asked the advice of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland who was one of his former pupils at Reading School and won his case. (S27)

Sir Henry St John resigned as Secretary for War along with the Secretary of State, Robert Harley. The latter had been forced to resign by Marlborough who was grieved that Henry had to go as well, as he had treated him almost as an adopted son (S3-III-58)

Richard Lybbe was dealing with the Manor of Purley Parva. He was probably the grandson of Anthony Libbe mentioned in 1659. (S26-III-420)

As a result of an Act for the Discharging of Small Livings (from first fruits and tithes), all livings in the Sarum Diocese were valued. Although Purley was not affected by the Act it was assessed as worth £100, tax value £12/17/3 d , paying a pension of 3/2 d and with the tenth assessed £1/5/ 0d

(S158)

A collection of 'Trophy Money' raised 13/9 from 18 contributors in Purley, including the lords of all three manors (ref 27)

1708

Sir Walter St John died and was succeeded as Lord of the Manor of Purley Magna by his only son Henry, who became the 4th Baronet. (S26-III-419)

1709

1710

Henry St John became one of the two Knights of the Shire (MPs) for Berkshire in the Parliament called for on the 25th November. (S120)

Joan Gutteridge, widow of Purley died. Her will is preserved (ref 321-74/69)

1711

The Bishop of Salisbury made his triennial visitation to Reading on May 16th at which the report from Purley was presented.(S27)

The church register gives an account of the walls and rails around the churchyard with details as to who was responsible for the maintenance of each section. (S27)

In September Mrs Blgrave took a second cut of clover from her meadow and refused to pay the rector his tithes on the crop. After a protracted negotiation she finally paid up. (S10-1, S27)

The Great Farm House was occupied by a Mr Gower, a minister who had married the widow of Sir Walter St John who had died in 1708. (S27)

1712

Sir Henry St John, son of the fourth baronet, was created First Viscount Bolingbroke. His seat in the House of Commons for Berkshire was taken by Robert Packer who remained MP until he died in 1731. (S26-III-419, S120)

1713

Frances Anne Hawes was born in Purley, the daughter of Thomas Hawes. She later wrote 'Memoirs of a Lady of Quality' after she had become Viscountess Vane (S41-5/12/1970)

1714

A new highway was built between Reading and Oxford via Wallingford (S17-42)

Gilbert, Bishop of Salisbury made his triennial visit to Reading on 1st June at which the report from Purley was presented. (S27)

William Humphrey of Basildon made a survey of church lands which was copied into the parish register. (S27)

1715

1716

William, Bishop of Salisbury made his primary visitation to Reading on September 6th at which the report from Purley was presented

1717

1718

1719

William Gostwicke died and was buried on the 24th October. He was succeeded as Rector by Thomas Toovey who was also Vicar of Watlington. (S20)

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