



## ***Account of Purley on Thames*** **Chronicles 1760-1779**

***1760 - 33/34 Geo II/1 Geo III***

The first Enclosure Acts were passed. ((S17-46)

***1761 - 1/2 Geo III***

***1762 - 2/3 Geo III***

***1763 - 3/4 Geo III***

The first Act for the Shillingford, Wallingford and Reading Road Company was passed. It stated that the road was in a ruinous condition, narrow in many places and incommodious to passengers. The trustees of the new Turnpike were empowered to widen the road and build a bridge at Shillingford to replace the hazardous ferry. (S1-12/82, S10-9)

***1764 - 4/5 Geo III***

Francis Hawes of Purley Hall died aged 85 on 15th September.

***1765 - 5/6 Geo III***

***1766 - 6/7 Geo III***

Christopher Wells died on 15th April. He was also rector of Remenham in Bucks. He was succeeded as Rector of Purley by the Rev Benjamin Skinner of Worcester College Oxford who came from Footscray in Kent. He was instituted by Bishop Thomas on 10th June. His wife was the sister of Archbishop Moore (S20, S27)

***1767 - 7/8 Geo III***

Benjamin Skinner reported to the Bishop of Salisbury that he could find no-one in the parish who was either a professed or reputed papist (S134, S426-42)

***1768 - 8/9 Geo III***

At the General Election Arthur Vansittart (1515 votes) and Thomas Craven (1391) were elected MPs for Berkshire. Mr Stone (634) was not elected. Four persons from Purley voted (S117)

***1769 - 9/10 Geo III***

***1770 - 10/11 Geo III***

***1771 - 11/12 Geo III***

***1772 - 12/13 Geo III***

***1773 - 13/14 Geo III***

A Manor Court for Purley Parva was held at Westbury Farm (ref 1-3/86)

Philip Worlidge (d1783) of Battersea claimed to be Lord of the Manor of Purley when his wife Ann was buried at Purley in January. (S12, S27)

Purley Hall was sold to the Reverend Doctor Henry Wilder, Rector of Sulham (S10-5)

On 13th November John Sharman was arrested for poaching and kept at the Red Lyon in Purley. There was a fracas there later and John Sharman escaped. Two days later five persons from Purley were accused of participating in a riot (S1-11/83, S203)

John Emons and Elizabeth his wife entered into an agreement with John Sherwood of Purley for them to pay a fine re the Red Lyon Inn. This appears to have been a way of getting around the laws of entailment which effectively prevented the sale of property. (S426-25)

### *1774 - 14/15 Geo III*

Benjamin Skinner noted in the parish register on March 11th 'The greatest flood in the river Thames remembered to have happened within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. The water ran into the church which is an event of which there is no tradition ever to have happened before. The water in the church was ankle deep and continued there for several hours' (S1-6/80, S27)

### *1775 - 15/16 Geo III*

### *1776 - 16/17 Geo III*

There was a very severe frost lasting from January 7th until Feb 2nd. The Thames was frozen over from Mapledurham to Whitchurch. Very heavy falls of snow were reported in January and local farmers were employing poor labourers to shift it. There was another very heavy snowfall on March 20th. (S9-29/1/1776, S9-157)

Warren Hastings came to live at Purley Hall which he rented from the Wilders. He was the former Governor General of India and had been accused of corruption and ill dealings. He stayed there preparing his defence for his trial which began on 17th Feb 1788 and lasted until 23rd April 1795 when he was honourably acquitted. (S199-9-715, S425, S9-4/5/1789)

Joseph Blount, son of Michael Blount of Mapledurham House, was married to Miss Canning of Foxcote, Warks. (S9-26/2/1776)

Frances Hawes formerly of Purley Hall died in London aged 31. (S9-4/3/1776)

On March 9th Richard Taylor of Mapledurham brought a suit against Joseph Scrace of Purley. Taylor claimed Scrace owed him £1181 and that receipts for £1097 were almost all forgeries. Examples of handwriting were examined and Taylor lost his case. The judge observed that at age 80 one is liable to suffer from forgetfulness (S9-11/3/1776)

On April 17th Joseph Scrace was robbed by a footpad outside Purley Hall. Eventually Robert Wise of Henley was apprehended and sent to gaol on 13th April. (S9 20/4/76, 6/5/76, 13/5/76)

A house believed to be Purley Lodge was advertised to be let in the early summer. (S9-20/5/76)

The Pangbourne Revel was held at the White Swan on 18/19 July. Some rather rough games were played. (S9-8/7/1776)

John Morley, aged 15 was drowned in the Thames near to Mapledurham House where he worked. (S9-19/8/1776)

Dr. James Monckton who practised in Pangbourne but lived in Purley offered to inoculate the poor within three miles of Pangbourne gratis. (S9-7/10/1776)

### *1777 - 17/18 Geo III*

The bargemasters held a meeting at the Kings Arms in Reading on 14th Feb to protest about the charges for passage on the river. (S9-10/2/1777)

Theodore George Gleickman died at Purley aged 33. He was a merchant from Rotterdam and the nephew of John George Liebenrood of Purley. (S12)

The first pound lock at Mapledurham was opened in the summer. The Thames Commissioners had been making improvements all along the river and a special petition had resulted in the Mapledurham scheme being included, despite an acute shortage of funds. The old lock was closed in July. A toll of 3d per ton was levied on all barges going upstream which included 1½d for the downwards passage charged to 'downwards barges not returning' (S43-222, S24-39)

The Thames Commissioners were desirous of extending the horse towpath to Tilehurst, but in June Mr Worlidge claimed exemption under an Act of 1770 from selling or letting meadow land in Purley for a towpath. (S43-226)

### *1778 - 18/19 Geo III*

### *1779 - 19/20 Geo III*

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