



## ***Account of Purley on Thames***

### **Chronicles 1780-1799**

#### **1780 20/21 Geo III**

Henry Wilder, as curate of Purley, reported to the Bishop of Salisbury that there was one papist but no popish school in Purley (S134)

The Reverend Charles Chambers MA died aged 32. A memorial was erected to his memory in the nave of the church. (S12)

#### **1781 21/22 Geo III**

#### **1782 22/23 Geo III**

#### **1783 23/24 Geo III**

Philip Worlidge died aged 70 and was buried in Purley on 9th April. He had been Lord of the Manor of Purley Magna and a memorial tablet was erected in the church. (S12, S20, S27)

The response to the questionnaire sent out by Shute Barrington in anticipation of his first triennial visitation was completed by Henry Wilder acting for Benjamin Skinner who was absent. He gave a list of services held and noted that there were on average 8 communicants with 12 at Easter. Others who did not attend regularly were fined one shilling for non attendance as he was also a magistrate. (S133)

#### **1784 24/25 Geo III**

#### **1785 25/26 Geo III**

#### **1786 26/27 Geo III**

The Thames Commissioners tried to rename the lock as Purley Lock as it was in fact in the Parish of Purley. However established usage was so strong that the new name never caught on. (S43-222)

In a Parliamentary Return it was stated that there was a sum of £6 in the hands of the overseers, given by a person unknown to the poor, producing an income of 6/- per year. It was known as Cow Money.

On 23rd October a General Court Baron for Purley was held by Robert Macreth at the house of John Emmons 'At the sign of the Red Lyon' Robert was acting as Lord of the Manor as had Philip Worlidge before him even though the estate had not yet been finally relinquished by the St Johns. At the same time a perambulation of the parish was held starting at the Roebuck, following the boundary finishing with a boat trip down the Thames. A map of Purley Magna was drawn up at this time suggesting that Robert had only recently come into possession of the estate.

#### **1787 27/28 Geo III**

Edward Sherwood was granted a gamekeepers licence by Robert Macreth, Lord of the Manor of

Purley Magna.

Frederick, second Viscount Bolingbroke died. He was succeeded by his son George Richard who became third Viscount.

Benjamin Skinner died after a long illness and attacks of gout on 3rd March (S20)

The fifth bell in the ring in the church tower was recast by Thomas Janaway of Chelsea. Presumably this was the one reported as cracked in 1731 and 1734 (S68)

On the 28th may Jane Grundy was ordered to be sent from the Parish of St Giles in Reading to Purley under a Poor Law Removal Order. She was single and pregnant. Her baby, Mary, was baptised at Purley on the 8th of July. Two months later she married Charles Hopson. (S426-36)

### **1788 28/29 Geo III**

James Manesty was commended to the Bishop for the rectorship of Purley. The post went to John Cooper, rector of Bix in Oxon who was inducted on 1st June. In fact it was James who served, as curate, and John hardly ever even visited Purley. (S20, S135)

John George Liebenrood gave a new treble bell to the church. It was cast by Thomas Janaway of Chelsea (S1-1/82)

Charles Hopson and his new wife Jane (Nee Grundy) were ordered removed to Tilehurst under the Poor Laws (S426-37)

### **1789 29/30 Geo III**

George Richard St John, Third Viscount Bolingbroke sold the manor of Purley Magna to Robert Macreth who had been in occupation for several years. Robert took out a mortgage for £7000 from a couple in Worcestershire.

### **1790 30/31 Geo III**

At the Court Leet held at Tidmarsh on 19th October before John Lee, Deputy Steward of the Honour of Ewelme, Charles Pearcey was appointed Constable in place of Joseph Scrace, William Lukeman was appointed Tithingman and Hayward in place of John Green. Among the other inhabitants of Purley named were: Richard Simmonds, John Burger, James Bucklen, Joseph Lambourn, William carter, John Smith, Benjamin Humphries, William Lookman, Benjamin Jerrom, and Edward Pocock (ref 350)

A trustee for Robert Macreth bought the manor of Purley Magna off him for £18,375 and assumed the mortgage.

There was a free fishery in the Thames as an appurtenance of the Manor of Purley Parva (Easter 30 Geo III rot 20, S26-3-420)

### **1791 31/32 Geo III**

Godwin started a carrier route between Reading and Streatley. He had an unofficial arrangement with the Reading Postmaster to deliver and collect letters en route (S210)

At the Court Leet held at Tidmarsh on 19th October before John Lee, William Butler was appointed

Constable in place of Charles Pearcey and Benjamin Humphrey was appointed Hayward and Tithingman in place of William Lukeman. Among the other inhabitants of Purley recorded were John Sherwood, Edward Sherwood, Jeremiah Hope, Richard House, William Minall, John Burgess, James Buckland, George Doe, William Henwood, John Smith, William Carter, John Green, Benjamin Jerom, Richard Millard and Joseph Lambourn

### **1792 32/33 Geo III**

The manor of Purley Magna was offered for sale. It was said to be about 400 acres and had an annual revenue of £600. It was held by John Martindale

There was an auction of furniture and other effects at the Great Farm House of the manor between the 3rd and 10th September. (S9-10/1792)

The Act for the toll bridge over the Thames between Whitchurch and Pangbourne was passed. Richard Southby was one of the first 'Company of the Proprietors' It was made illegal to operate a ferry there once the bridge was opened. (S299)

At the Court Leet held at Tidmarsh on 16th October before John Allnut, deputy Steward, Edward Sherwood was appointed Constable in place of William Butler, Joseph Lambourn was elected Tithingman and Hayward in place of Benjamin Humphrey. Among the inhabitants of Purley were John Green, Barnard Ballard, Benjamin Jerom, Benjamin Burges, Thomas Allum, John Smith, William Carter, Richard Millard, Benjamin Browning and James Buckland. each paid a penny fine. (ref 350)

### **1793 33/34 Geo III**

The Manor of Purley Magna was bought by Anthony Morris Storer from John Martindale for £15000. He paid off the mortgage and sold a field known as Browns Yard to the Powys Lybbes of Hardwick.

At the Court Leet held at Tidmarsh on 15th October before John Hedges Edward Sgerwood was re-appointed Constable, James Buckland was appointed Tithingman and Hayward in place of Joseph Lambourn. The list of inhabitants for Purley included John Green, Barnard Ballard, Benjamin Jerom, William Lukeman, John Baker, Benjamin Humphris, John Smith, Richard Millard, William Carter and Edward Pocock (ref 350)

### **1794 34/35 Geo III**

Francis Humphries was ploughing with a team of horses on 10th March when they started because a tree fell. He fell to the ground and the plough was drawn over his head. He died five days later of terrible injuries. (S203)

The Thames Commissioners decided to set up a double ferry at Purley and the Roebuck to get around the problem of the towpath at Purley Farm which started in 1777. (S43-226)

At the Court Leet held at Tidmarsh on 14th October before Henry Manley, Edward Sherwood was re-appointed Constable, James Buckland was replaced Barnard Ballard as Hayward and Tithingman. (ref 350)

In December, Edward Sherwood of Purley and Richard Southby of Pangbourne were issued certificates to kill game under an Act of 31 Geo III (S9-12/1794)

### **1795 35/36 Geo III**

Mr Doe said he planted a larch tree and a cedar on the lawn of the rectory. This cedar is likely the one burnt and destroyed in 1970. (S1-7/80)

Benjamin Cottrell of Pangbourne, a towing contractor, complained about the dangers introduced by the two new ferries at Purley. (S43-226)

John George Liebenrood died on 5th Jan aged 83. He had come from Ellrich in Saxony to marry Ann Southby of Pangbourne. He had lived at Purley Lodge before his death. In his will dated Feb 1794 he left most of estate to his adopted Great Nephew John Ziegenbein on condition he change his name to Liebenrood. He left elaborate instructions for his funeral and a number of bequests to poor people in Purley. (S12, S204-14/1/1795, S1 5/1983, S9-12/1/1795)

At the Court Leet held at Tidmarsh before Henry Woodham, on 13th October, Edward Sherwood was re-appointed constable, John Baker replaced Barnard Ballard as Tithingman and Hayward. (ref 350)

### **1796 36/37 Geo III**

At the General Election held between June 1st and 6th, George Vansittart (1332 votes) and Charles Dundas (also 1332) were elected MPs for Berkshire. Not elected was Edward Loveden-Loveden (846). Four persons from Purley voted. (S117; add ms 28674 fol 156)

At the Court Leet held on 18th October at Tidmarsh before Henry Woodham, Edward Sherwood was re-appointed Constable, Richard Millard replaced John Baker as Tithingman and was also appointed Hayward. (ref 350)

### **1797 37/38 Geo III**

At the Court Leet held at Tidmarsh on 17th October before Henry Woodham, the deputy Steward, Edward Sherwood was re-appointed Constable, Joshua Franklin replaced Richard Millard as Tithingman and Joshua Frankiln was also appointed Hayward. (ref 350)

### **1798 38/39 Geo III**

The Thames Commissioners ordered a 'watch box' for Mapledurham Lock. Alex Geddes was named Lock Keeper at a salary of 24s monthly (S43-223)

Mr A.M.Storer had charge of Purley Ferry at a monthly fee of 32s (S43-226)

Anna, the infant daughter of Reverend Charles Hall died and was buried at Purley on August 4th. Her father went on to become Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford and Dean of Christchurch (S12)

### **1799 39/40 Geo III**

Anthony Morris Storer died aged 54. He had purchased the manor of Purley Magna in 1793 with money he had inherited from his father Thomas Storer. He had been restoring and improving the grounds but had died before James Wyatt could build his new house on the top of the hill overlooking the Thames. He left £20,000 to ensure the completion of the house and his estate passed to Anthony Gilbert Storer, his nephew who died in 1818. (S12)

The old road from the Roebuck to the village was closed because of the construction of Purley Park. Parts of it can still be seen in the grounds of Purley Park. It used to join the Highway (Oxford Road) at about the point where the WW2 pill box now is. At about the same time the line of the Highway was pushed south to its present alignment, it had previously run straight and would have passed directly in front of the new mansion.

In August George Reynolds took charge of the Purley Ferry at the same fee as Mr Storer, ie 32s per month (S43-226)

At the Court Leet held in Tidmarsh on 15th October Edward Sherwood was re-appointed Constable, Bernard Ballard replaced Richard New as Tithingman, Bernard Ballard was also appointed Hayward. (ref 350)

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