



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1800-1819

1800 (40/41 Geo III)

Charles Manesty was inducted as rector on 23rd March (ref 20)

1801 (41/42 Geo III)

Charles Manesty completed the visitation questionnaire sent out by Bishop John Douglas on May 29th. He reported that he lived permanently in the parish and held services there twice each Sunday, at 11am when he preached and at 3pm for prayers only (ref 133)

In the first national Census Purley was reported as having 27 inhabited houses and one uninhabited. There were 27 families and 153 persons. The population of Berkshire was given as 109,215 (ref 32-172)

Alex Geddes, the lockkeeper at Mapledurham, asked the Thames Commissioners for an increase in salary, currently 24 shillings per month. He offered to do other work, like maintenance. Consideration was given to putting the Purley Ferry in his charge but it was decided that they were too far away. He was given an advance to 47 shillings and a lock house was decided upon, however there was no site immediately available. (ref 43-223)

A vessel called the Banbury Dick had sunk across the navigable channel near Warwick's Eyot which is believed to be the eyot opposite Hardwick House. The barge was raised and sold to defray expenses (ref 43-223)

1802 (42/43 Geo III)

1803 (43/44 Geo III)

The Parish rate was set at 3/-. It raised £159

On June 5th one of the Wilder children living at Purley Hall, invited Mary Champ, then a 90 year old widow, to point out where the parishes of Purley, Sulham and Whitchurch met in their dining room. She also said that the original road from Pangbourne to Sulham went straight across the ground which was dug out for the canal and that when the canal was made the road was turned. The old track known as Nan's Lane was substituted in its stead as the public road. Mary recalled that this was about when she was 10, ie around 1723 (ref 17-56)

1804 (44/45 Geo III)

1805 (45/46 Geo III)

Alex Geddes resigned as Keeper of Mapledurham Lock. His son John applied to take over (ref 43-224)

1806 46/47 Geo III

1807 47/48 Geo III

1808 48/49 Geo III

1809 49/50 Geo III

Bishop Fisher made his primary visitation on 27th July.

The River Thames was short of water for navigation between July and November over the stretch from Windsor to Wallingford (ref 17-56)

Mr Sherwood used considerable quantities of oil cake in fattening his cattle although this was no longer regarded as a satisfactory practice. (ref 209-379)

The sheep in Purley were bought as store and fattened off. They were mostly of Wiltshire and South Downs breeds (ref 209-390)

The road from Pangbourne through Purley to Reading was noted as a 'turnpike which lead off the Oxford to Chichester road which crossed Berkshire from Shillingford via Wallingford, Pangbourne, Engelfield and Aldermaston' (ref 209-425)

K1800 5/10/2011