



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1820-1829

1820 60 Geo III/1 Geo IV

T Holdgate resigned as Ferryman on 1st April and was replaced by George Warwick of Mapledurham (ref 43-227)

1821 1/2 Geo IV

The honour court of Ewelme was sold to George, fourth Earl of Macclesfield by Jacob Bosanquet. It included Purley Parva (ref 350)

John Engelberts Liebenrood of Prospect Hill died on 23rd September aged 67. He was buried at Purley church. He had been born Ziegenbein but had changed his name to Liebenrood so that he could inherit his great uncle's estate. He left two children and a widow Lucy (nee Handcock)

At the census the population of Purley was found to be 196 (ref 26-ii-242)

1822 - 2/3 Geo IV

Ann Sherman died at Purley. She was said to be aged 100 (ref 1-11/80)

The patronage of the church at Purley was transferred from the Crown to the Lord Chancellor (ref 22)

In October, Cecily Geddes was given the oversight of the Purley Ferries as well as keeping Mapledurham Lock at a salary of 70s per month (ref 43-224)

1823 - 3/4 Geo IV

A new coach service began operating between Highworth, near Swindon, to London via Wallingford and Reading. It ran three times a week (ref 17-60)

1824 - 4/5 Geo IV

1825 - 5/6 Geo IV

The Reading Water Company was floated in November with 2500 shares of £10 each (ref add ms 28673 fol 309)

Purley had been slow to pay its contribution towards the costs of the Turnpike. Nominally the Parish was supposed to provide labour, but this had been commuted to an annual payment of £8-5-0. In 1825 they paid for four years. (ref 1-12/82)

In January some repair work was carried out in Long Lane. Two men and two boys with two carts and three horses worked all day for a total cost of 13/6 which included 16 loads of stone at 6d per load. As Edward Sherwood was the chief employer in Purley at the time, as well as being Surveyor of the Roads, he probably used his own men at the expense of the parish to save him having to pay them when there was no other work for them (ref 1-1/83)

Thomas Canning died and was buried in the churchyard. He had been born in 1755 and was believed to have been related to George Canning, who was Foreign Secretary from 1822 to April 1827 when he became Prime Minister, only to die of overwork on August 8th 1827 (ref 3-iii-18)

The carrier Feather was taken to task for carrying passengers in his cart while he was delivering mail which was strictly forbidden (ref 210)

At the Berks Lent Assizes Anne Katherine Storer and Robert W Stewart, her butler, were charged with ill-treating Philip Thompson. Thompson was aged about 19 and had been a slave on the Storer estate in Jamaica. He had been brought to England in 1822 to work at Purley Park. Stewart was found guilty of hitting Thompson, but both he and Mrs Storer were found not guilty of flogging him (ref 8-5/3/1825; add ms 28673 fol 294)

1826 - 6/7 Geo IV

At the Archdeacon's visitation on August 23rd, the churchwardens paid 13/6 for 9 briefs. This was the last recorded payment by Purley on briefs as they were abolished in 1827 by Act of Parliament.

101 poles of Sulham Lane were diverted west (add ms 28673 fol 387)

The parish rate for the year from 25th March was set at 3/6 in the pound. It raised £183-18-6

Two flashes a week were to be allowed on the river. At Mapledurham Lock the first was at 7.30am on Wednesdays and the second at 10.30 am on Saturdays. The first flash started at Lechlade (St Johns) on Sunday at 2pm. A flash was a surge of water that was allowed to run through a lowered weir to permit transit of barges. The timetable system ensured that there was sufficient water above the weir to keep upstream barges afloat.

1827 - 7/8 Geo IV

The parish rate for the year commencing 25th March was set at 3/- in the pound. It raised £157-3-0

1828 - 8/9 Geo IV

The parish rate was set at 3/6 in the pound for the year commencing March 25th. It raised £186-0-6

In May Mrs Cecily Geddes resigned as lock-keeper of Mapledurham lock. She was succeeded by William Sheppard in June (ref 43-224)

1829 - 9/10 Geo IV

The parish rate for the year from 25th March was set at 4/- in the pound. It raised £212-12-0 (ref 50)

In March £10-17-2 was spent by the churchwardens to prosecute three men who had broken into the church and stolen a surplice and other items. This was the net cost after allowing a contribution from the county (ref 50)

Piercey took over the Penny Post delivery which operated from Alfred St in Reading to Streatley (ref 210)

Charles Manesty, the rector, was given leave of absence for 12 months and John Horsley Dakins was licenced as curate at a stipend of £75 pa (ref 236)