



Sources for the History of Purley on Thames in Berkshire

Part 2 - Items 24-38

Sciant. p̄. 7 fu. Car. Scatell
q̄ ego Scabella de Syfiewast
p̄. c. m. ofir. deo 7 scē aiane
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Project Purley Publication 2

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Front cover: Extract from Isabella de Sifrewast's deed of gift (see item31)



SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF PURLEY ON THAMES, BERKSHIRE

Part 2

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Introduction

This is the second part of a series of booklets reproducing documents that have been found by members of Project Purley in various archives. They are in no particular order. This part contains items 24 to 38. An index to the first three parts can be found in Project Purley Publication 4.

24 John Emons' Will (1794)

Contributed by John Chapman. Found in Berkshire Record Office (ref D/EX 576/48/2. Transcribed by John Chapman.

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me JOHN EMONS of the Parish of Sonning in the County of Berks, Yeoman, which I make, publish and declare in manner following that is to say I give and demise unto my son Richard EMONS of Bullmarsh Heath in the said Parish of Sonning cordwaine. All that my messuage situate and being at or near Tilehurst Common in the Parish of Tilehurst in the said County with the land hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or appertaining TO HOLD the same unto and to the only proper use and behalf of my said son Richard EMONS his heirs and assigns for ever.

ALSO I give and bequeath unto my five children the said Richard EMONS; Elizabeth HUSSEY wife of John HUSSEY of Burghfield in the said County of Berks, Shopkeeper; Ann THATCHER, wife of William THATCHER of Bullmarsh Heath aforesaid, Labourer; Lucy TAYLOR, wife of Joseph TAYLOR of Bullmarsh Heath aforesaid, Farmer; and Charlotte SHANKS wife of Thomas SHANKS of the same place Labourer All my ready money Securities, Money goods, Chattels, Personal Property, Estate and Effects whatsoever and wheresoever which I shall or may be possessed of, interested in or whether unto at the time of my decease equally to be divided between and amongst them share and share alike after deducting and paying thereout all my just Debts, Funeral and testimentary expenses

AND I do hereby expressly declare that the provisions I have hereby make for my said four Daughters is by me intended for their respective separate and peculiar use and benefit and I accordingly direct that neither the same or any part thereof shall be subject or liable to the debts, control or intermeddling of their said present Husbands or any husband or husbands with whom they or any or either of them may at any time or times hereafter happen to intermarry but that the receipts of my said Daughters alone respectively shall (notwithstanding any such coverture) be unto my said son his heirs, executors and administrators; good and available discharge in Law and Equity; but also for their respective parts and portions of my said Personal estate which I have hereinbefore given and bequeathed to them as aforesaid

AND I do hereby constitute and appoint my said son Richard EMONS Sole Executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all and every former and other will and wills by me at any time heretofor made and declaring this to only to be my last will and testament

IN WITNESS whereof I, the said John EMONS, the testator, have hereunto set my hand and seal this fourteenth Day of June in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninety four.

The Mark (+) of John EMONS

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said John EMONS the testator as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his request and at the request and in the presence of each other have subscribed names as witnesses hereto

Joseph CHASE Reading esquire Matthias DEANE Reading Atty

George F KIRKMAN Clerk to Mr. DEANE

25 Deed of the Red Lyon (1773)

Contributed and transcribed by John Chapman. Berkshire Record Office (ref D/EX 576/48/1). Note that this document is written continuously without any form of punctuation and thus the punctuation and paragraphing have been applied to aid its reading by the editor. The Red Lyon is referred to as lying on the north side of the turnpike and is believed to have been demolished to make way for the building of the Purley Park Mansion.

(on reverse)

Dated the 27th day of March 1773

Mr EMONS and his Wife to Mr SHERWOOD

Deed to lead to the uses of a fine.

NB The estate of Purley was sold to William CARTER of Purley and properly conveyed by Indenture of Lease and Release 22nd and 23rd June 1790

Sealed and delivered by the said John EMONS and Elizabeth his wife in the presence of

(Signed)

Jno DEANE

Jno DEANE Jnr

(On face)

THIS INDENTURE made the second day of March in the thirteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France

and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy three.

BETWEEN John EMONS of Purley in the County of Berks victualler, and Elizabeth his wife of the one part and John SHERWOOD of Purley aforesaid, yeoman, of the other part.

WITNESSETH that for the barring, docking and cutting of all Estates, Tail, Reversions and Remainders of and in the Messuages or Tenanted Lands, Hereditaments and Premises herinafter mentioned and for settling, conveying and assuring the same Messuages or Tenements, Lands, Hereditaments and premises to and for the several uses, intents and purposes and in such sort, manner and form as is thereafter mentioned, expressed and declared and for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings of lawfull money of Great Britain to the said John EMONS and Elizabeth his wife in hand paid by the said John SHERWOOD at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and for divers other good causes and considerations him the said John EMONS the run to moving.

He the said John EMONS for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators and for every of them and for the said Elizabeth his wife doth covenant, promise and agree to and with the said John SHERWOOD, his heirs and assigns by these presents that they, the said John EMONS and Elizabeth his wife, shall and will at the proper costs and charges in the law of the said John EMONS before the end of Easter Term next or in some other subsequent term in His Majesty's Court of Common Pleas at Westminster before His Majesty's Justices of the same court or before some other person or persons thereunto lawfully authorised in due form of Law; acknowledge and levy one or more Fine or Fines Sur Connuzance de Droit Come Ceo etc. with proclamations to thereupon had and made according to the form of the statutes in that case made and provided and according to the usual course of Fines in such case used and accustomed unto the said John SHERWOOD and his heirs of:-.

ALL that messuage or tenement, and one acre of land with stable, garden, orchard the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Parish of Purley aforesaid on the north side of the turnpike road leading from Reading to Pangbourne in the said County of Berks and called or known by the name or sign of the Red Lyon and now in the tenure or occupation of the said John EMONS.

AND also of all that Messuage or tenement, garden and one acre of land with the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Parish of Tilehurst in the said county of Berks, formerly in the tenure or occupation of Richard EMONS Great Grandfather of the said John EMONS party to these presents, afterwards of John EMONS, grandfather of the said John EMONS, party to these presents and late of William EMONS his father and also of all ways and water easements, commons, common of pasture, feedings, priviledges, advantages, emoluments and other hereditaments whatsoever to the said messuages, lands, tenements, hereditaments and other the premises or to any part or parcel thereof belonging to or in

any wise appertaining or therewith, now or at any time heretore held, used, occupied or enjoyed or accepted, reputed, taken or known as part, parcel or member thereof or any part thereof and of the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, fines and profits thereof and of every part thereof and of all the estate, right, title, interest, use, trust, property, challenge, claim and demand whatsoever of them the said John EMONS, party to these presents, and Elizabeth his wife, or either of them of, in and to the same premises and every or any part of parcel thereof by such apt and convenient name and names, quantities and qualities of lands and other descriptions to ascertain the same as shall be thought fit and requisite.

Which said fine so covenanted to be levyed as aforesaid and all and every other fine or fines already had or levyed or hereafter to be had or levyed of the said messuages or tenements, lands, heriditaments and premises or any part or parcel thereof by or between the said parties to these presents or any of them or whereunto they or either of them shall be party or parties shall be and were and shall be adjudged, construed, deemed and taken and was and were intended to be and were of the several uses, intents and purposes hereinafter mentioned and expressed that is to say to the use and behalf of any person or persons and for such estate and estates and under such provisos and conditions and in such manner either with or without power of reversion as the said John EMONS party to these presents alone by any deed or writing deeds or writings whatsoever to be by him from time to time, signed, sealed and executed in the presence of two or more reliable witnesses shall as to the whole or any part of the said premises limit, direct or appoint. And for want of such limitation, direction or appointment, limitations, directions or appointments and as concerning such part or parts of the said premises whereof no limitation, direction or appointment shall be made to the only proper use and behoof of the said John EMONS party to these presents, his heirs and assigns for ever and to and for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever.

In witness whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year set first above written.

(signed)

The mark (X) of John EMONS

the mark (X) of Elizabeth EMONS

26 Order to Not meddle further with the Estate of Little Purley (1324)

Contributed by John Chapman. Close Roll of 17 Edward II from the printed version, series D volume 4 page 97.

May 13th. 1324, The Tower

To Richard le WAYTE, escheator in Cos Wilts, Southampton, Berks, Oxford, Bedford and Buckingham.

Order not to intermeddle further with the manor of Little Purley, Co Berks, or with the other lands of Henry de MALYNS, and to restore the issues thereof, as it appears by inquisition taken by the escheator that Henry and Cicely his wife held the same manor at the time of his death, to them and the heirs of Henry, of the King in chief by knight service and by the service of 5s. yearly for ward of Wyndesore Castle, by fine levied in the late King's Court by his licence between Henry and Cicely, and that Henry held no other lands in chief by reason whereof the custody of his lands ought to pertain to the King, but that he held divers other lands of other lords.

27 Poor Law Settlement Certificate for John Chapman (174)

Contributed by Cliff Debney. A printed pro-forma with particulars entered in handwriting. Berkshire Record Office ref D/P 110/13/3/55

Berkshire to wit.

We John ALLEN and Edward SHERWOOD and William VINER, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Purley in the County of Berks aforesaid, do hereby own and acknowledge John CHAPMAN and his three children namely James of about the age of thirteen years, David of about the age of eleven years and Richard of about the age of eight years to be our inhabitants legally settled in the Parish of Purley aforesaid. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this twenty fourth day of January in the 19th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland; King, Defender of the faith. And in the year of our Lord 1745.

(signed by)

John ALLEN, Edward SHERWOOD, William VINER (x) his mark

Attested by

John MARTIN, John POVEY (x) his mark

To the Church wardens and overseers of the poor of the Parish of Shinfield in the county of Berks aforesaid or to any or either of them.

We whose hands are hereunto subscribed, two of His Majesty's Justices of Peace for the County of Berks aforesaid, do allow of the above-written certificate. And we do also certify that John POVEY one of the witnesses who attested the execution of the said certificate, hath made an oath before us that he did see the churchwardens and overseers whose names and seals are to the said certificate subscribed and set, severally sign and seal the said certificate, and that the names of the said John

MARTIN and John POVEY his mark whose names are above subscribed, as witnesses to the execution of the said certificate, are of their own proper handwriting. Dated the twenty fifth day of January in the year 1745.

(signed)

Henry Lanndy HUNTER Benj. GRIFFIN

Notes

At the time this document was written (and until 1751) the year ended on March 25th (Lady Day) rather than on December 31st as today. Thus the year is actually 1746 not 1745.

Purley has no Poor Law records preserved and such as exist are copies from the records of other parishes.

28 Death of Miss Hawes (1776)

Contributed by John Chapman. Reading Mercury March 4th 1776.

Reading March 2nd.

Wednesday died after a long illness at her mother's home in Charles St. London aged 31 Miss HAWES formerly of Purley Hall in this County.

29 Drowning of John Morley (1776)

Contributed by John Chapman. Reading Mercury dated August 19th 1776.

Sunday se'nnight John MORLEY a youth aged fifteen servant to Michael BLOUNT esq of Mapledurham was unfortunately drowned in the River Thames near that place in attempting to swim and the next day the coroners inquest sat on the body and brought in their verdict - Accidental death.

30 Advert for Innoculation (1776)

Contributed by John Chapman. Reading Mercury dated October 7th 1776.

INNOCULATION

James MONCKTON, surgeon and apothecary in Pangbourne acquaints his friends and the public in general that his houses will again be opened for the reception of patients under innoculation on Monday 17th October when those persons who chuse to put themselves under his care may depend on being duly attended.

Any family will be waited on at their house.

NB Poor people within three miles of Pangbourne will be inoculated gratis.

Note. Dr Monckton occupied the house on the site where now Farm Close stands.

31 Isabella de Sifrewast grants land in Purley (c 1185)

Contributed by John Chapman and mostly translated by him. The charter derives from the time of Henry II and is dated around 1185. It was recorded in Latin in the cartulary of Reading Abbey and a copy is preserved in the British Library in Harley 1708 fol 63. It is referred to by Doris Mary Stenton in her book 'English Society in the Early Middle Ages' (Pelican 1951)

Know all men present and future that I, Isabella DE SIFREWAST, give and yield and by these presents confirm to God and Saint Mary of Reading and the monks therof, servants of God, for the health of my soul and for the soul of my father Robert DE SIFREWAST and Emma my mother and for the soul of my husband who held lands in Reading and for the souls of all my antecedants and descendants: half a virgate of land in Purley, which is held in villeinage by OSBERT son of GODWIN the fisherman, with all its appurtenances; in perpetuity and granted free of alms and free and peaceful of all customs and exactions and demands and immune from all secular obligations.

And to the Abbot and Chapter of Reading I hand over the aforesaid OSBERT and his sons to their wishes and disposition; whether to work in villeinage, or to pay an annual amount. I however, and my heirs, will be responsible for any foreign service whatever which may be required at any time in the future.

Wherefore to ensure the agreement lasts forever; my signature hereon will confirm it.

These witness:-

JOHN the chaplain Thomas SOREL

and many others.

Note a half virgate of land would approximate to 15 acres. It is believed the land in question ran westward from Purley Lane and northward from Purley Rise.

32 Olivia de Auvers claims lands in Purley (1212)

Contributed by John Chapman, translated from the Latin by John Spriggs. From Curia Regis Roll 56 preserved at the Public Record Office.

Berchsir, Surr, Oxon.

Olivia de ADVERS per Roelandum Attornatutum suum petit versus Thomam HUSCARLE' terciam partem ij carucatarum terre pertinenciis in Purle et terciam partem servicii j militis in Fugelscot in Berchsir et terciam partem j carucate in Bedington et terciam partem servicii j militis in Chissindon in comitatu Surr et tercioam (partem) j carucate terre cum pertrinenciis in Brictwell in comitatu Oxon ut datem suum unde Roelandus HUSCARLE quondem vir suus eam dotavit etc. et Thomas venit et congrovit et concessitei dotem suam scilicet terciam partem tocius. Et ideo habeat breve etc.

(translation)

Olivia de AUVERS claims through Roland her Attorney against Thomas HUSCARLE a third prt of two carucates of land with its appurtenances in Purley and the third part of the service of one knight in Fulscot in Berkshire and a third part of one carucate in Bedington and the third part of the service of one knight in Chessington in the county of Surrey and a third part of one carucate of land with appurtenances in Brightwell in the county of Oxon. as her dowry wherewith Richard HUSCARLE her former husband endowed her etc.

And Thomas came and agreed and granted her her dowry that is a third prt of everything.

And for this let her have a writ etc.

Notes

Richard Huscarle who died in 1211 was Lord of the Manor of Purley Magna and the father of Thomas Huscarle. On the death of her husband she would have been entitled to a share of the estate as her dower for her life. She had presumably married Gilbert De Auvers after Richard's death.

The main residence of the Huscarle family was at Beddington in Surrey and included what is now Purley, Surrey which appears to have been named after Purley in Berkshire.~

A third part of two carucates of land would be equivalent today to around 40-50 acres.

33 Claim on Half Virgate of Land in Purley (1220)

Contributed by John Chapman. From the Curia Regis Roll no. 56 preserved in the Public Record Office. Translated from the Latin by John Spriggs. It could well refer to the same half virgate donated by Isabella de Sifrewast in item 31 above. The name actually recorded is Gilbertium de Aubernum and it has been assumed it is the same family name as Olivia in item 32.

Magna Assisa venit recognitura per (several names) et Gilbertyum de AUBERNUM utreem abbas de la Hide qui petit majus jus habeat tenendi dimidiam virgatem terre cum pertinentiis in PirIe' in dominico an Willemus de PIRLE qui tenet, tenendi illam de eo etc.

Juratores dicunt quod Willemus de PIRLE habet tenendi terram illam de ipso abbate abbas in dominico. Et ideo consideratum Willemus ety heredes sui teneant in pace abbate inperpetuum: majus quam est de jus idem quod ipso

Et abbas in misericordia.

(translation)

The Great Assize came to examine by (several names) and Gilbert de AUVERS whether the Abbot of La Hide who is making the claim has the greater right to hold a half virgate of land with its appurtenances in Purle in desmesne or William DE PIRLE who is holding it, to hold it from him etc.

The jurors say that William de PIRLE has the greater right to hold that land from the the same Abbot than the Abbot in Desmesne, and that it is considered that William and his Heirs may hold it in peace from the Abbot himself in perpetuity: and the Abbot is in amercement.

Note William de PirIe is presumably William De Sifrewast who was Lord of the Manor of Purley Parva at the time. He was the grandson of Isabella de Sifrewast.

34 Poor Law examination of Daniel Radborn (1765)

Contributed by Jean Debney. Berkshire Record Office ref D/P 132/13/4

Berks

The examination of Daniel RADBORN of Westwood Row in the Parish of Tilehurst, labourer. Taken before me, Joseph CHASE Esq. one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said county, this twenty eighth day of August 1765.

The said examinant on his oath saith that he was borne at Hackney in the parish of

Brightwell in the county of Berks.

That at the age of thirteen or fourteen years according to the best of his knowledge, he went to live with Edward SHERWOOD, yeoman of Purley, as his boy to the under team at thirty five shillings a year.

He then went to Harding in the county of Oxford and was hired by Joseph JENMETT, yeoman, as boy to his best team.

He then went to Farnham Royal in the county of Bucks and was hired by Joseph LANGTON, yeoman as his best team boy at two guineas and a half a year.

He then went to John SHEARE of Little Whitnam, yeoman and lived there about six months.

From thence to Setworth to Elisha BURCH, husbandman, as his taskman about five months.

He then went the Michaelmas following to Chargrove in the County of Oxford and was hired by William BROWN, husbandman of the said place, as his carter for the sum of five guineas a year, that he lived in the said service one whole year & recv'd his wages.

He then went home to his family where he staid about three quarters of a year.

He then lived with John JUSTICE, husbandman of Lorington in the county of Berks three months.

From thence he went to Wm. LOVEGROVE, husbandman of Purley in the said county as his carter and lived with him one year and received his wages.

He was then hired by Daniel MAY, miller of Pangbourne Mills in the county of Berks, as his servant at six guineas a year, that he lived with the said Daniel MAY residing one whole year and recv'd his wages.

And he was on Monday last married at Tilehurst to Mary RIVERS, spinster of Westward Row in the said parish and county of Berks.

Taken the day & year first above written before me Thos CHASE.

(signed)

Daniel Radborn

Notes

Daniel Radborn was probably examined to see if he could support his already pregnant bride and if not then to determine his parish of settlement which would pay him parish relief. He was 25 years old at the time of the examination and he remained in Tilehurst to raise a family of at least 4 children.

Village names have changed their spelling over the years thus Chargrove is assumed to be Chalgrove and Little Witnam to be Little Whittenham.

35 Protestation Report of Richard Watts (1642)

Contributed by Jean Debney. Berkshire Record Office (ref T/A 40/139).

PURLEIGH, Co Berks Feb 21 Ano 1641

Theise are to certifie, whomsever it doth or may concern, that all the men in Purleigh aforesayde have made protestation, promise and vow according to the forme commanded except Edwarde BAGLEY the sonn of Edward BAGLEY, who is a man scarce compos mentis.

(Signed)

Richard WATTS, rector.

Note: This return was required by Parliament in the 'Protestation Act' of May 3rd 1641 whereby every man had to declare on oath that he supported the maintenance of 'the true reformed Protestant religion expressed in the doctrine of the Church of England against all popery and papish innovations within the realm contrary to the same doctrine.'

36 Poor Law Removal Order for Jane Grundy (1787)

Contributed by Jean Debney Berkshire Record Office ref D/P 96/13/2/137. This was a printed form with the details filled in in handwriting.

Borough of Reading in the County of Berks. To wit.

To the church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Saint Giles in the said Borough of Reading, and to the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Purley in the said county of Berks and to each and everyone of them.

Upon the Complaint of the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Saint Giles aforesaid, in the said Borough of Reading, unto us whose names are hereunto set and seals affixed, being two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Borough, and one of us of the quorum, that Jane GRUNDY single woman hath come to inhabit in the said parish of Saint Giles not having gained a legal settlement there, nor produced any certificate, owning herself to be settled elsewhere and that the said Jane GRUNDY is become chargeable to the said Parish of Saint Giles.

We the said Justices upon due proof made therof, as well upon the examination of the said Jane GRUNDY upon Oath as otherwise, and likewise upon due consideration had of the premises, do adjudge the same to be true, and we do likewise adjudge that the lawful settlemet of her, the said Jane GRUNDY is in the Parish of Purley in the said

County of Berks.

We therefore require you the said Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Saint Giles or some or one of you to convey the said Jane GRUNDY from and out of your said Parish of Saint Giles to the said Parish of Purley and her to deliver to the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor there, or to some or one of them, together with this our order, or a true copy thereof, at the same time shewing to them the original. And we do also hereby require you the said Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Purley to receive and provide for her as an inhabitant of your said parish of Purley.

Given under our hands and seals the twenty eighth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven.

(Signed and sealed by)

Thos HANSON Mayor

John RICHARDS

John SHERWOOD

Note Jane GRUNDY was single and pregnant. If her baby had been born in St Giles Reading, they would have been responsible for its maintenance. Mary GRUNDY, Jane's Baby was baptised at Purley on 8th July 1787. Two months later Jane married Charles HOPSON.

37 Poor Law Removal Order for Charles Hopson and his wife (1788)

Contributed by Jean Debney. Berkshire Record Office ref D/P 34/13/8/30. A printed form with details completed in handwriting.

Berks to wit.

To the Churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Purley in the said county of Berks and to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Chieveley in the said county of Berks and to each and every of them.

Upon the complaint of the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the parish of Purley aforesaid in the said county of Berks unto us whose names are hereunto set and seals affixed, being two of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said county of Berks and one of us of the quorum, that Charles HOPSON and Jane his wife have come to inhabit in the said parish of Purley not having gained a legal settlement there, nor produced any certificate owning themselves to be settled elsewhere, and that the said Charles HOPSON and Jane his wife are likely to become chargeable to the said parish of Purley.

We the said justices upon due proof made thereof as well as upon the examination of the said Charles HOPSON upon oath, as otherwise, and likewise upon due consideration had of the premises, do adjudge the same to be true; and we do likewise adjudge, that the lawful settlement of them the said Charles HOPSON and Jane his wife is in the said parish of Chieveley in the said county of Berks.

We do therefore require you the said churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the said parish of Purley, or some or one of you, to convey the said Charles HOPSON and Jane his wife from and out of your said parish of Purley to the said parish of Chieveley and them to deliver to the churchwardens and overseers of the poor there, or to some or one of them, together with this our order, or a true copy thereof, and we do also hereby require you the said churchwardens and overseers of the said parish of Chieveley to receive and provide for them as inhabitants of your said parish of Chieveley.

Given under our hands and seals the seventeenth day September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight

(signed and sealed by)

Chs MARSH

Henry DEANE

38 Church Briefs paid by Purley from 1669 to 1683

Contributed and transcribed by John Chapman from the Parish Register (1662-1773) deposited in the Berkshire Record Office (ref D/P 93/1/1). The subject is covered by W

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Purpose etc</i>
		<i>£-s-d</i>	

A BEWES in his book 'Church Briefs' (1896). The reference numbers are appended for easier identification, they do not appear in the register.

1	1669 May 30	2-3	John STUKELEY of Paddington, Middlesex [<i>Fire loss of £500</i>]
2	1669	1-2	Loughborough [<i>Fire loss</i>]
3	1670 Nov 18	1-16-6	Redemption of slaves in Turkey [<i>£30,000 paid - see Historical Manuscript Commission report 1876 page 575</i>]
			Mr Francis HYDE 10-0
			Mr BLAGRAVE 2-6

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i> <i>£-s-d</i>	<i>Purpose etc</i>
		Thomas BLAGRAVE	8-0
		George BLAGRAVE	2-6
		Thomas CHILDE	2-6
		Thomas DRAPER	1-9
		Widow JUSTICE	1-9
		Widow HIGGS	1-0
		John GUTTERIDGE	6d
		John TAYLOR	6d
		Richard BAGLEY	3d
		John MARTIN	1-0
		William GILGRAVE	1-0
		Grace DRAPER	1-0
		Elizabeth SIMONS	6d
		Katherine KESSEL	6d
		Griffin KESSEL	6d
		John ELMES	6d
		John KNAPPE	6d

			1-16-6
		Thomas BLAGRAVE rector	
		Jno BUSHNELL church warden	
4	1671	Mar 5	3-3
			John WICKENS and Lidia ARLAND, two of ye inhabitants of ye parish of Ufton in ye county of Berks
5	1671	Mar 8	17-0
			Marshall Fowler of Great Chart, Kent [<i>Loss of £400</i>]
6	1671	May 28	1-6
			Mere, Wiltshire
7	1671		4-8
			Oxford [<i>Church, either St Aldates or St John's</i>]
8	1672	May 19	1-8
			Nettlestead, Kent [<i>Mary PEARSON, widow</i>]
9	1672	June 2	3-3
			Ligrave, Bedfordshire [<i>Near Luton, fire loss of £2946</i>]
10	1672	Sept 8	1-10
			Heston Middlesex [<i>Fire loss by SCRATTAGE</i>]

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount £-s-d</i>	<i>Purpose etc</i>														
11	1672	1-11	Thomas COX of the hamlet of Ham in the parish of Kingston upon Thames Surrey [<i>Loss by fire of £659</i>]														
12	1672	Oct 27 3-1	For ye refining of sugar in ye city of London [<i>For loss by fire (£70,000) by Matthew SHEPPARD, John LUNN, Gents; Edward PROBEN refiners of sugar and bakers of the sugar house, Upper Thames St, Allhallows, London</i>]														
13	1673	Mar 30 3-6	Fordingbridge in the county of Southampton [<i>Loss by fire of £13,633/9/9</i>]														
14	1673	May 11 17-5	John SMALL, spicer of Guildford Surrey [<i>Loss by fire to John or Job SMALLPEECE of £695/7/3</i>]														
15	1673	2-1	For the fire at St Catherine's in London [<i>Loss by fire of £25,355/5/0</i>] as follows:- <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Mr Francis HYDE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6d</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomas BLAGRAVE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8d</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thomas CHILD</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4d</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elizabeth JUSTICE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">4d</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary HIGGS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2d</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John GUTTERIDGE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1d</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">sum of 2-1</td> </tr> </table> </div>	Mr Francis HYDE	6d	Thomas BLAGRAVE	8d	Thomas CHILD	4d	Elizabeth JUSTICE	4d	Mary HIGGS	2d	John GUTTERIDGE	1d	sum of 2-1	
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Elizabeth JUSTICE	4d																
Mary HIGGS	2d																
John GUTTERIDGE	1d																
sum of 2-1																	
16	1673	Jul 27 1-5	Fires in the Theatre Royal in St Martins in the Fields [<i>Fire loss of £11,488/2/0 - Theatre Royal and other buildings at Covent Garden</i>]														
17	1673	Aug 3 1-3	Edward SINGER of Littleton, Middlesex [<i>Edward SINGER's loss of £1159/5/0 by fire</i>]														
18	1673	1-0	Lawrence Waltham, Berks [<i>Fire</i>]														
19	1673		Nether Wallop, Co Southampton [<i>Fire loss of £7756/0/0</i>]														

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount £-s-d</i>	<i>Purpose etc</i>	
20	1674	June 14	3-6	Benenden, Kent [<i>Church - fire loss of £3920/14/0</i>]
21			2-1	Watton, Norfolk [<i>Fire loss of £7450</i>]
22	1674		1-11	Basingstoke, Co Southampton [<i>Fire loss</i>]
23	1675		1-10	Great Bedwyn, Wilts [<i>Fire loss</i>]
24	1676	Mar 26	11-9	Northampton [<i>Fire loss of £152,008/4/6 - In Sept 1675 fire destroyed 600 homes chiefly built of wood and covered in thatch. It burned for 6 hours and 700 families were made homeless. All Saints Church was subsequently rebuilt to a design by WREN.</i>]
25	1676	Apl 16	1-8	Church of Oswestry, Salop [<i>Damage to church and steeple during Civil War, loss £1500</i>]
26	1676	Apl 30	1-10	Newent, Glos [<i>The church fell down, loss £2000</i>]
27	1677	Apl 15	2-0	Eaton, Bucks [<i>Fire loss</i>]
28	1677	July 18	1-9	Harlington, Middlesex [<i>Fire loss £1046</i>]
29	1677	July 22	3-0	Rickmansworth, Herts [<i>Fire loss £822</i>]
30	1677	Aug 26	11d	Blandford Forum [<i>Fire loss £15,348</i>]
31	1677	Nov 25	1-4	Cottenham, Cambs [<i>Fire loss</i>]
32	1677	Dec 19	3-0	Wem, Salop [<i>Fire destroyed the church, market house and a whole range of buildings, loss £23,677</i>]
33	1677	May 20	3-6	Southampton [<i>Fire loss</i>]
34	1678	Apr 28	1-8	St Mary Magdalene, Bermonsey, Surrey [<i>Fire loss £2000</i>]
35	1678	May 18	1-6	Pattingham, Staffs [<i>Fire loss, collected from house to house</i>]
36	1678	Sept 18	12-0	Building of St Pauls Church in London [<i>It had been destroyed in the Great Fire of 1660. Five inhabitants of Wrotham in Kent refused to contribute on the grounds that they alleged it was a hot-bed of popery</i>]

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount</i> <i>£-s-d</i>	<i>Purpose etc</i>
			Thomas BLAGRAVE rector 10-0
			Thomas CHILD 1-0
			John BROOKES 1-0
37	1679	Apr 20 1-6	Dover [<i>Fire loss by Tho. OSBORNE</i>]
38	1679	1-10	Windlesham, Kent [<i>Fire loss, church and steeple</i>]
39	1679	Jul 27 2-6	Ludgershall, Wilts [<i>Fire loss £1292</i>]
40	1680	Mar 3 1-8½	East Derham [<i>Fire loss, collected door to door</i>]
41	1680	June 25 1-6	Weston in the Parish of Bulkington, Warks
42	1680	Aug 29 14-2	Collected in the Parish of Purley towards ye redemption of ye captives in Algiers, safely delivered. [<i>971 persons were in captivity in Algiers having been captured by pirates. Some were en route to the Straits, others to Virginia. A horrible account was given of the cruelties practiced upon them and a petition on their behalf was lodged in the House of Commons in 1678.</i>] as follows:
			Mrs & Mr Francis HYDE 1-0
			Mrs & Mr BROOK 1-0
			Tho CHILD 1-0
			Tho BLAGRAVE rector 10-0
			Samuel COMBER 6d
			Richard PETHER 2d
			John TAYLOR 2d
			John NICHOLS 2d
			John GUTTERIDGE 2d

			14-2
			Tho BLAGRAVE rector
			Richard BAGLEY X warden
43	1680	Oct 31 2-2	Duxford, Cambs [<i>Fire loss of £1865/19/0</i>]

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount £-s-d</i>	<i>Purpose etc</i>	
44	1681	Jul 10	8-0	Collected for ye Protestants of Poland Tho BLAGRAVE rector 5-0 Mr Francis HYDE junior 1-0 Mr BROOK 1-0 Farmer CHILDE 1-0
45	1681		2-8	Stafford [<i>Fire loss</i>]
46	1681	Oct 2	1-7	East Budleigh, Devon [<i>Fire loss £2251/19/6</i>]
47	1681	Dec 4	3-0	Broad Chalk, Wilts
48	1681	Dec 18	1-0	St Albans [<i>Church repairs</i>]
49	1681		12-6	French Protestant refugees [<i>Collected from house to house</i>] Thos BLAGRAVE rector 9-0 Eliz his wife 2-6 Tho CHILD 1-0
50	1682	Mar 19	19-2	Ye Maze, Southwark [<i>St Thomas and St Olaves parishes, fire loss</i>]
51	1682	Apr 16	1-6	Bishton, Staffs [<i>Fire loss £2176/16/0</i>]
52	1682	May 11	2-6	Cullompton, Devon [<i>Fire loss £9263</i>]
53	1682	June 11	3-6	New Windsor [<i>Fire loss £5135</i>]
54	1682	July 9	1-6	Thomas NICHOLLS suffering fire in London [<i>In the warehouse of Thos NICHOLLS lying under Dyer's Hall in Thames St. London, Fire loss of £2600</i>]
55	1682	Aug 6	1-11	Caistor, Lincs [<i>Fire loss £6786</i>]
56	1682	Nov 8	1-4	Presteign in Radnorshire [<i>Fire loss £6150</i>]
57	1682	Nov 12	1-4	Eynsham, Oxfords [<i>Fire loss £1330</i>]
58	1682	Nov 19	1-10	St Katherines, London [<i>Fire loss £4799</i>]
59	1682	Nov 26	1-6	Stoke by Clare, Suffolk [<i>Fire loss £1100</i>]
60	1683	Jul 29	1-8	Brentford in Parish of Hanwell [<i>Flood loss £718</i>]
61	1683	Aug 8	1-3	Preston Candover [<i>In Hampshire, Fire loss of £1276 or £11,000</i>]

<i>Ref</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Amount £-s-d</i>	<i>Purpose etc</i>	
62	1683	Aug 18	1-3	Bassingborne [<i>Fire loss £963 (in Cambridgeshire?)</i>]
63	1683	Aug 22	1-0	Llanubdufery [<i>Fire loss (Llandover?)</i>]
64	1683	Aug 26	3-11	Wapping [<i>Fire loss £56,346</i>]

Notes

Briefs were issued to compensate people for 'Acts of God' eg fires and accidents. The theory was that if the loss was occasioned by an 'Act of God' then the people of God should pay compensation. The notes in italics are taken mainly from Bewes's book and give additional details on the losses.

This was an early form of insurance. The person suffering the loss could appeal to the Archdeacon, the bishop or the archbishop, depending upon the scope of the appeal, and a writ would be issued to be read in all the churches in the county, diocese or country and a target set for each church.

