

Fire at Colerne - 1st April 1774

The fire raged down one side of the High Street setting alight building after building. In all 42 houses, 2 malt houses, 18 barns, 7 stables, 36 outhouses, 3 wheat ricks and 3 hayricks were 'reduced to ashes'. Sixty three families lost their homes and there were calls for immediate relief.

People were asked to leave their donations at the following places: "The Bath Bank", "Public Rooms", "Pump Room", coffee houses or booksellers in Bath.

The final amount would be distributed by the Right Hon. The Earl of Denbigh, The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Palmerston, Archdeacon Chapman, the Rector of Bath, the Mayor of Bath, James Clutterbuck Esq. of Lucknam House, Colerne and the Reverend Merewether, Minister of Colerne, amongst other notables.

Damages were estimated at £4246 6s. 5½d. The only house insured (at £300) was that of Thomas Southward

Churches often included 'briefs' in their sermons, asking for donations for help with the church roof, but also for events such as this.

It is very much apparent by the contrast of buildings and period styles that there was much rebuilding carried out within the village.

List of those who were compensated for their losses

Surname	Given Names	Occupation Or Status	Age Of Head Of House	Age Of Spouse If Married	Number Of Children	Total People In House	Estimated Damages		
							£	s.	d.
Aust	Daniel	Woolcomber	79	69		2	13	4	3
Baker	William	Labourer	25	26		2	1	14	0
Ball	Hannah	Spinner	22			1	1	0	3
Ball	Samuel	Labourer	54	53	1	3		14	0
Baver	Joan	Spinner	43			1	5	18	6
Blatchley	Ann	Woolpicker	17			1		17	3
Blatchley	Thomas	Labourer	16			1	1	17	6
Burgess	Joseph	Labourer	68	58	3	5	55	6	3
Butler	Robert	Carpenter	33	31	5	7		17	0
Cox	Samuel	Labourer	33			1	1	12	6
Cripp	Mary	Widow/Spinner	59			1	3	18	6

Davis	Thomas	Labourer	26	24	2	4	1	5	2
Fisher	George	Labourer	55	65		2	9	11	0
Ford	Thomas	Labourer	38	34	3	5	2	3	0
Fudge	Joan	Widow/Spinner	54			1	3	13	6
Gardner	Joan	Spinner	69			1	2	2	7
Greenway	Francis	Baker	57	55	2	4	42	10	0
Hulbert	Ann	Widow	65			1	9	8	6
Hulbert	James	Shoemaker	36	44	2	4	3	7	6
Hulbert	Thomas	Mason	32	30	3	5	33	13	0
Hulbert	William	Labourer	65		1	2	3	11	11
Johnson	Richard	Labourer	89		2	3	3	6	6
Jones	Ann		54		4	5	27	8	10
Jones	Thomas	Publican	56	55	1	3	60	10	9
Kingston	Daniel	Labourer	62	50	1	3	2	7	4
Littel	Jane	Spinner	47		1	2	5	13	7
Milsom	James	Butcher	32	41		2	38	15	9
Milsom	Richard	Baker	52	54	1	3	6	3	10
Moon	Joseph	Farmer	55	50	2	4	2	3	8
Moxham	Abel	Farmer	39	45	2	4	45	8	1
Mullings	John	Mason	17			1		19	0
Mullings	John	Carpenter	22			1	2	18	6
Mullings	Mary	Spinner	62		4	5	4	18	8
Mullings	Thomas	Labourer	35	36	4	6		19	0
Nowell	Benjamin	Scribbler	57			1		19	0
Orchard	Dorcas	Spinner	66		2	3	4	7	6
Osborne	James	Labourer	66	55	3	5	7	7	0
Osborne	John	Labourer	33	29	2	4	6	10	5½

Read	Henry	Farmer	34	23	1	3	106	0	8
Ricketts	George	Carpenter	74	54		2	45	7	9
Selman	Unity	Spinner	64			1	10	0	0
Showring	Betty	Spinner	34			1	10	17	4
Showring	William	Labourer	50	40		2	3	3	2
Simmons	Richard	Blacksmith	38	32	3	5	3	13	9
Smith	Isaac	Labourer	38	44	4	6	2	13	9
Smith	John	Sheerman	54	54		2	16	0	4
Smith	Thomas	Maltster	60			1	99	17	7
Southward	Tom	Maltster	58	26	3	5	269	14	9
Sumsion	Michael	Publican	46	43	7	9	3	17	6
Sumsion	Sam.	Publican	42		5	6	2	17	0
Sumsion	Samuel	Cooper	29			1	18	10	6
Sumsion	Sarah	Jnr./Spinner	34		1	1	13	13	10
Sumsion	Sarah	Widow/Spinner	64		2	3	31	15	7
Tanner	John	Farmer	57	60	1	3	215	12	6
Taylor	Ann	Spinner	21			1	2	9	4
Taylor	Daniel	Glasier	30	26		2	5	3	4
Tily	Thomas	Labourer	53	53	3	5	4	18	6½
Tucky	Richard	Blacksmith	20			1	22	16	9½
Walter	Ann	Spinner	59			1	6	9	6
Walter	John	Labourer	35	37		2	NK	NK	NK
Wiltshire	Will	Labourer	35	43		2	9	15	11
Woodman	John	Labourer	33	41	3	5	1	11	7
Woodman	Will	Scribbler	54	58	2	4	4	0	0