



Lyneham

Notes From The Parish Registers

The registers were deposited at Trowbridge Record Office in 1973 and are now held at Chippenham. The registers previous to those held disappeared when the incumbent was ejected by the Puritans in the Commonwealth period. There is a tradition that the priest stayed on at Lyneham as the gravedigger. Even so the registers have never come to light.

The registers that we have available gives an insight into village life as witnessed by some of the entries amongst the registers. We can quite accurately gauge residents occupations and their class. Also there are records of some of the local laws and customs as well as some of the national legal requisites of the periods.

One example of this is the often seen note in burial registers 'was buried in woollen, according to ye Act and Affidavit was made thereof'. This referred to a 17th Century Act designed to strengthen the wool trade.

This entry is to be found in the baptisms register.

1710 Note in the margin. "A Curious Memorandum" "Lyneham" **Sarah Watkins** a bastard child found Jan 18 hanged upon a tree in a basket Jan 21 baptised."

In the burial register can be found this information

Thomas Butler, Parish Clarke 1727-1787 Buried March 16 aged 89 years 7 months. At the front of the register is noted by **Thomas Smith**, Minister: '1708 **Thomas Butler** chosen Parish Clarke Jan 13 1727" **Thomas Butler** was a carpenter and it would appear from further entries in the registers that **James Butler** (possibly Grandson of Thomas) followed Thomas in office as Parish Clerk. An entry in the register reads: "The late **Mr. James Butler** was appointed Parish Clerk of Lyneham Church in the year 1788" From this we note that he held the position for 48 years. "He died Whit Tuesday May 24 1836 in his 79th year."

It would seem that two members of the same family held the position of parish clerk for a total of 108 years between them.

More extracts from the registers

1666

The **Lady Anne Button** died at Tockenham Court on Monday morning the 5th day of February and was buried upon Friday ye 9th of the same month at

1684

I gave **Mr. Mortimer** a certificate in order to have his son touched for the healing of the King's Evil.

The gift of healing scrofula otherwise known as the King's Evil was believed to be inherent in the legitimate Kings of England. The practice began in the days of Edward the Confessor and continued into the reign of Queen Anne. The service used was printed in the Book of Common Prayer up to 1719.

1706

The **Lady Ellinor Button** dyed February ye 13th: about 9 of the clock in the morning and was buried ye 25th day of the same about 6 a clock at night.

1707

Carlus Compton gent dyed at ? Tarmarton in the county of Gloster January 11th and was buried at Lineham Jan ye 15th. (Brother of **Lady Elinor Button**)

1716

Lyneham - **Mr. Ralph Broome** of the parish of London, son of **John Broom** of this parish. Yeoman. Gave by his will to this parish £450 to found a stipend of £20 per annum for the education of 30 poor children yearly whither males of females, in reading and Wrtg and Castg Accounts in the Principles of Religion acdg to the Constitution of ye Church of England; dyed here April 8th & was buried at Bremhill April 12th."

1758

Captain James Butten Walker, Son of **John Walker Esq.** was killed at St. Cas September 11 1758.

1806

Dec. 1st **William Hinton** late Master of the Free School in this parish. He was Master of the Free School nearly 20 years. (Note in margin: this was my affectionate father. Aged 80 years" The school was obviously the Charity school endowed by **Ralph Broome**.)