

# MARWOOD Past & Present

# 1 332

#### STARTING AT THE LYCHGATE

"Meet me at the Lychgate" had a very different meaning in times past! All of parish life passed through here, every Baptism, Marriage & Death.

Every young couple celebrating the start of their lives together.

Every precious baby brought forward to be welcomed into the arms of the church.

Every mourner sheltering under its roof keeping a vigil over the deceased.

A lychstone would have been situated in the centre of the shelter to place the shrouded body on with stone or wooden seats for the mourners to sit. The Rector would greet the assembled mourners at the lychgate and read the first part of the burial service before leading the procession to the grave. The gate depicts the passing into consecrated ground and is sometimes referred to as the Resurrection Gate.

People were still superstitious and local folklore was that the soul of the last departed kept a watch at the lychgate to welcome the next deceased in.



The churchyard walls were originally much higher but, as in all churchyards, soil levels had been raised to allow for more burials. The walls prevented 'beasts' from desecrating the graves. After all when the church was built there would have been bears, wolves and wild boar roaming the countryside. Plague victims were the only ones permitted to be wrapped in a traditional shroud and were buried 6 feet deep.

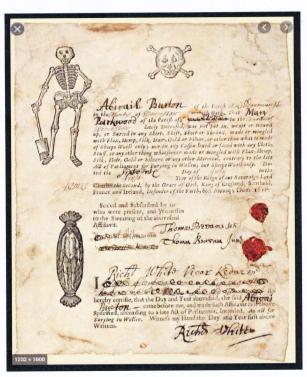
The great and good (titled and wealthy) didn't need to worry about such matters; they were permitted to be buried inside the church, no doubt with a substantial donation for the parish. Inscribed Ledger stones were placed over the graves and possibly gave rise to the term 'stinking rich'. Several such slate or marble slabs can be seen in the church such as that of RICHARD MERVIN on the Chancel floor (left).

#### **Unbaptised children**

Stillborn babies and infants that had not been baptized could not always be buried on consecrated ground.

According to the Book of Oaths dated 1649, a midwife had to swear that 'if any childe bee dead borne, you your selfe shall see it buried in such secret place as neither Hogg nor Dogg, nor any other Beast may come unto it, and in such sort done, as it may not be found or perceived, as much as you may; and that you shall not suffer any such childe to be cast into the Jaques (privy) or any other inconvenient place.'

A fairly common practice amongst the poor, in order to allow the child a burial on consecrated ground, was to hide it in the coffin or grave of somebody about to be buried. Sometimes a Parish Minister allowed the child to be buried just within the walls of the churchyard, but without any funeral, register entry or memorial marker. In Marwood, however, there is evidence of several double burials recorded in the Parish Burials Register by more than one Rector. There is some thought that children were placed into the arms of the recently deceased.





Burial in Woollen Act came into force in 1666 and was finally repealed in 1814. It was intended to preserve stocks of silk, linen and cotton to save import costs and to raise funds for war. Paper could be made from rags and was in short supply. Each family had to pay 15/- for an Affidavit stating that their deceased had been buried in wool. If anyone suspected that this had been ignored then they could (if proven) claim a £5 reward, half going to the parish poor and half for themselves.

Burials were originally on the South side of the church, laid to rest facing east with feet towards the rising sun, except for the Clergy who were buried facing west towards their congregation as they had done in life. The north ground was for 'Godforsaken' souls, suicides, criminals, unbaptised or stillborn children or paupers. Ancestor stones that have fallen stand shoulder to shoulder with their backs to the wall encircling the churchyard.



#### PASSING UNDER THE PORCH INTO THE CHURCH

Above your heads is the sundial made by local mason **John Berry** in 1762, the finest of several in the locality. Life was lived 'by the sun' few people had watches or clocks and church bells played a crucial role in gathering the parish together. John and his descendants were very much a part of the fabric of the village and several stories weave their way through local tales.

Over the porch of Marwood Church, Devon. The "Exeter Daily Gazette," April 29th, 1891, gives an account of this dial and of its maker, John Berry, a mason who lived at Muddiford in the parish of Marwood, and died February 20th, 1790, aged seventy-three. He is still remembered, as the local masons trace their skill through two or three generations back to him.

His sundials may be seen over the church porches in the neighbourhood, and in the gardens of private houses. The Marwood dial has one curious feature. The style carries a needle placed about four inches from its upper extremity, and by its shadow shows the position of the sun in the zodiac. The signs of the zodiac are shown on the dial, and also the hour of noon at Vienna, Berlin, Jerusalem, and other places.



The inscription reads:

#### TEMPUS FUGIT, MORS VENIT, NOS UT UMBRA

Time flies, death comes, we (are) as a shadow

John Berry and his son Thomas made sundials for most of the local churches, Heanton Punchardon, Yarnscombe, South Molton, East Buckland, Stoke Rivers, Combe Martin, Berrynarbor, Pilton, Landkey, Tawstock, Kentisbury & Bittadon. He was also a monumental mason if you look at the monument on the North wall for John Thorne of Ley (Lee House) you will see at the centre bottom edge a small cup-shaped stone carved with the maker's name John Berry.



#### THE PORCH

We now enter the porch which also served as the Parish Office. Porches were used for all secular business. Meetings to discuss parish or communal matters would be held here. Business and legal documents and wills could be compiled, signed and witnessed here for the literate, or verbal contracts such as Apprenticeship indentures made in front of witnesses for the illiterate. Payment of baptism, marriage & death fees and the handing out of Pauper payouts. It served to keep the finances separate from the main part of the church, yet still under the control of the Parish.

Godparents took the vows here before carrying the child into the church for immersion in the font at baptisms. Until as late as the 16th century, at least part of the marriage service was conducted here. In earlier medieval times the service was conducted wholly at the church door.

Everyone in the Community passed through here at least once a week so it was the ideal place to put up notices. Conscription notices for signing up to the Devon Militia and any legal documents would have been signed here.



Drawn up by the Constables of the Hundreds and the Parish Overseers a list was affixed to the door of the church, men between the ages of 18-45 were selected following the listed criteria:

- 1) Men under 30 & childless
- 2) Men over 30 & childless
- 3) All men having no children under 14
- 4) All men having but 1 child under 14
- 5) All men whatsoever

**1801** invasion notices detailing every person who was not in the Militia and in the event of Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion, which cart they were allocated to for evacuation. Written instructions were given to the Conductors, Drivers & Overseers of Stock & Supplies.

## To the Persons appointed to the Charge of the Dead Stock.

Mr. William Berry of Middle Marwood.

You are to remain in your parish and to act as you shall receive orders from the general officer or deputy lientenants of your division. If the enemy should approach very near you before you can receive orders so to do, you are to destroy the hay and corn and the cattle of all descriptions, particularly the horses, not retained for public service and render usaless all the unemployed carts and waggons before you remove yourselves, but this step is not to be taken, unless in the last extremity : and you are to assure all those whose property in thus destroyed that they will be repaid for their losses, provided it shall appear that they have complied with the proposed regulations of Government and lent their best aid to promote the public sarvice.



To Mr. Robert Bament of Townridden.

On receiving orders you are to proceed to Hewish Down, there to take on you the charge of conducting the stock under your care to such place and by such route as shall be pointed out to you by the superintendent of your parish, and you are to take with you provisions for yourself for a few days and a blanket, as your route, in all probability, will be either towards the open grounds about Somerton in Somersetshire in one case, or towards Dartmoor in the other; you will proceed by the roads that are pointed out to you below, taking care in all cases to avoid the public roads which are to be left open for the troops, amountion waggors, &c., and for this puspose you will take with you proper tools for breaking down hedges, &c.

Robert	Robert Bament's	With
Bament		Watte
Townrid	iden 3 children	
Ist cart		
2nd	Jane Roger's 2 children	John
cars	Margaret Cook	WAIN
	Elizabeth Cutoliffe	

Note the carved initials on the stone pillars. Who I wonder was LD 1889, was he here to sign up for the Militia and wanted to mark his existence or was he here to pay fees for the baptism of his child, to register a family death or to publish banns of marriage or maybe idling away time before meeting his sweetheart?



# 4

#### AT THE REGISTER

Villages are rooted in the soil, a community holds the dwellers together with the parish wrapping its arms around them.

In 1602 by order of the King each church must record the life events of all its parishioners so that it could identify its own and care for their needs (of this parish was a common phrase). The Overseers of the Poor were charged with raising funds for this purpose. Paupers were supported provided that they agree to their children going into service or apprenticeships once they reached the age of 8 years.

Relief was either Outdoor in the form of support allowing the pauper to remain in their home or Indoor where the Pauper and family were received into the Parish Poorhouse and later into the District Workhouse.

Each pauper had to wear a cloth badge on their right coat sleeve with a 'P' to denote their status and a 'M' to signify the parish. On marriage a woman became the responsibility of the parish of her husband, even if he died. People dying elsewhere would be returned for burial at the cost of their birth parish.



Hence, the register was a valuable document. The King had further decreed in an act that the register should be locked away in an iron chest in a secure and locked room and on every Sunday after the last service the Rector and 2 overseers would all assemble with their keys and release the triple lock. Visualise these three in the dingy light of a tallow candle in a bitterly cold winter in 1607/8 (when the River Taw was frozen solid for 6 weeks) recalling the week's events before the Rector opens the register on the parchment page of dried sheepskin, dipping his scratchy goose feather quill in a pot of oak gall ink and recording the happenings of the week. Hard to imagine that was almost 420 years ago!

Nothing was wasted from a sheep. The mutton provided necessary protein, the wool was used for burial shrouds, the tallow fat was rendered down for candles and the skin was made into parchment.

The sheep skin was soaked in a lime solution to strip off any remaining wool, then uric acid (urine) was added to bleach the hide along with vegetable matter to soften it, then it was stretched on a tenter frame to dry using hooks (hence the phrase 'on tenterhooks') to make it as thin as possible.

Oak gall ink was made from the ground down galls that a tree produces when an Oak Gallfly or Oak Apple Wasp lays its eggs on a twig. Mixed with this was 'mine water' that contained iron or copper and thickened with resin from an Acacia tree. Wine and/or vinegar were added to preserve the liquid. The resulting ink was slightly acidic, which was enough to burn into the parchment but without dissolving it which is why it has lasted so long, paper would not have fared so well.

Quills were fashioned from the moulted first five flight feathers of geese or swans and other large birds in the spring. These are the largest and strongest. Quills from the left wing were favoured because the feathers curve outward and away from a right-handed writer.

The register yields a list of dates and names which in isolation are of little further interest but Headstones and Monuments are like ancient clue nuggets. Every corner of the churchyard holds a story just waiting to be discovered. Newspaper articles, documents and genealogy resources along with Census details unlock tales of tragedy, success and loss and give us a glimpse into the challenges of life in **Marwood Past**.

#### THREE MONUMENTS ON THE SOUTH WALL



#### THE REVERENDS RILEY

We start with the life of **Reverend Richard Riley** who one would assume to be a regular rural clergyman, but not this one!



#### MARWOOD.

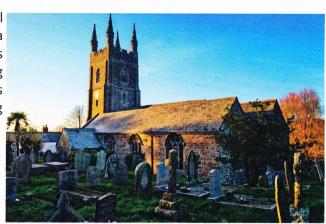
A HANDSONE mural tablet to the memory of the late Rev. R. Riley, for forty-nine years Rector of Marwood, who died in 1853 at the ripe age of ninety, is about to be placed in the parish church. The tablet (which contains a suitable Latin inscription,) is of white marble, which stands in relief on a ground of black marble. Messrs. Youings and Sons, of Barnstaple, executed the work, and the tablet (which has been made at the expense of a daughter of the deceased clergyman who is now residing at Marwood) has been on view at their establishment during the past week.

Here he is remembered as the longest serving 'Clerk' or Rector in Marwood's history. He died at 90 yrs in 1853 having taken up his incumbency in 1804 and marrying his wife Sarah Gower in 1805. He spent 2 years in Exeter Gaol for insolvency, before returning to Marwood to resume his post. The case against him was brought by his brother and uncle in Cambridgeshire in 1814. We can build up quite a picture of his

daily life and who he traded with from the long list of debtors, below are just a few of the local ones: He bought his wine from William & Mary Cotton of Barnstaple, beer from Thomas Scott & Thomas Baker & drank at Edward Dicker's inn in Boutport Street. He purchased candles from Thomas Greenslade a Barnstaple tallow chandler. Michael Harris was his tailor & he dealt with Joseph Evans, Barnard Loader & Messrs Pyke & Cooke for his linens and drapes. For his groceries he used Robert Linnington, William & Tobias Weeks of Barnstaple. His butcher was William Fairchild. Thomas May of Muddiford (Son in-law of John Berry) and James Pearse of Marwood made shoes for the family. His stationery came from William Syle. His blacksmith was Thomas Hill of Prixford and he used Thomas Berry as his stone mason (son of John who made the sundial) He owed school fees to Ann Rixer, Mary Ann Moss & Richard Passmore to list just a few of his many debtors! Together Richard Riley and his wife Sarah produced seven children but the one we are interested in is:

#### Richard William Riley.

We know that he was single and the Rector of Poughill near Bude in 1841 aged 33 yrs. He had served as a curate for Marwood, living in the parish for 2 years to gain his certificate. The next indication of anything unusual is that he is charged at Cornwall County Assizes with a Bastardy Order with a charge of 'administering poison to procure miscarriage'.



Poughill Church



Church House, Poughill

Shortly after acquittal from this charge he travels to Cadoxton near Barry in Glamorganshire with Rebecca the daughter of Abel Rowland, the Union Inn landlord's daughter who was 17 years his junior. They marry and return to Poughill where 2 months later their first child Ann is born. Anne is baptised July 24 1848 at Marwood Church. They have 8 more children some born when he was once again a curate at Marwood, some returning here to be

buried in the family grave, which is the large ostentatious one to the left bottom corner at the front of the churchyard!



#### TROOPER FREDERICK WILLIS

Turning our attention to the middle of the three monuments in this section we know quite a lot about Frederick Willis who was killed in action in the Boer War at Moedwill, South Africa.



SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
FREDERICK WILLIS
OF THIS PARISH
TROOPER 27T CO. 1. Y.
KILLED IN ACTION IN SOUTH AFRICA 1901.
THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY THE OFFICERS OF
THE ROYAL N. DEVON I. Y.

Frederick was the 2nd son of William Grigg Willis & Mary Ann Prideaux of Higher Muddiford, born 2nd July 1876. He started at Marwood School on 1st August 1881. By 1891 he was a farm servant for Humphrey Hunt at Ruggaton Farm, Cock Hill, Berrynarbor.

On 18th February 1901 he signed up for the 27th Imperial Yeomanry. We know from his attestation papers that he stood 5′5  $\frac{1}{2}$  " with

A young Gandhi

a chest measurement of 35", he had grey eyes with light brown hair and a fresh complexion. He is buried with his fellow troopers in an Imperial War Cemetery at Moelwill Farm.

His nephew Stanley John Willis (illegitimate son of his eldest sister Elizabeth Ann) died in action in Jul 7 1917 and is commemorated on the War Memorial here at Marwood and at Ypres on the Menin Gate Memorial. Frederick's parents are buried near their grandson at the Grave marked C/F2 in the lower section of the churchyard.



One other interesting fact to note is that Winston Churchill was in South Africa as a War Correspondent during the 2nd Boer War as was Mahatma Gandhi who created the Natal Indian Ambulance Corps to support the British by rescuing and treating casualties.

A young Winston Churchill

#### **PASSMORE FAMILY**

Finally before we move outside our grateful thanks must go to the bequest made for the upkeep of this church by Mary Jane Passmore, wife of Noah and daughter of John Gore & Rachel Kelly Skinner. Mary Jane died (childless) at aged 90 in 1959 and the monies invested are still today helping to maintain the church. Mary Jane & her sister Annie Kelly (who

REMEMBER NOAH PASSMORE AND MARY JANE HIS WIFE WHO GAVE DEVOTED SERVICE TO THIS CHURCH AND BEQUEATHED IN TRUST A SUM FOR THE - -MAINTENANCE OF THE FABRIC 1960

married a Blacksmith **Ernest Edward Harding**-no offspring)were the only children of John Gore who was a renowned 'striker' believed to possess special healing powers on account of him being the 7<sup>th</sup> son. Noah was a gardener and small holder of Guineaford having arrived in Marwood from Torrington with his parents, he was an active Parish Councillor and a local sportsman winning the 150yds hurdle & Flat Race at the Annual National Deposit Friendly Society Festival in 1897 held at William Henry Geen's field.

Mary Jane was a sewing mistress at the National School for the Headmaster Adolphus W Main before her marriage to Noah in 1897. Their grave is located at **C/A6**, Annie Kelly & Ernest Harding are buried at **C/F26**. Annie left her estate to her sister in her will. The parents of Mary Jane & Annie Kelly-**John Gore & Rachel Kelly** to be found commemorated at **W4** 

**Heading outside to GRAVE W4** 

The Headstone for John & Rachel Kelly Gore(known as Jane), the parents of Mary Jane & Annie Kelly Gore. John practised the White Witchcraft of striking. He was believed to hold special healing powers on account of him being the seventh son with no daughters born in between. His elder brothers had all died young and are buried here at Marwood. 3 Johns, 2 Richards and a George.



**HEADSTONE W1 South Perimeter Wall** 

A newspaper article in 1847 states that 'A Mrs Chappell of Honeywell, Marwood gives birth in a quarry on her way home-it is her 18th child'. That was Daniel who died in 1849 and is buried here in the churchyard. Of the 18 children (9 boys, 9 girls) the only boys to survive past 2 years of age were Dennis & Emanuel. Dennis Chapple 1843-1932 was the 15th and last surviving son of John Chapple & Mary Gould. Mary was formerly of Knackers Hole in Berrynarbor! She died in 1885 at the age of 80 and is buried here. John died in September 1882 aged 88. In the 1881 census they are living in Muddiford, listed as paupers and looking after their grandchildren.



At GRAVE F2 in Block C

Here lie the parents of Trooper Willis, William Grigg Willis & Mary Ann Prideaux within sight of their grandson Stanley John Willis (illegitimate son of their eldest daughter Elizabeth) who is commemorated on the War Memorial and on Panel 12 at the Menin Gate, Ypres, his body was never recovered. There were 7 other children in the Willis family and four of their sons, William, Samuel, George & Thomas were away at the same time serving in the First World War but all came home safely. William & Mary Ann were staunch Congregationalists. After their funerals they were buried in Marwood Churchyard. They were agents for the North Devon Journal and much respected in the church and the local community.



#### **ANGEL SCULPTURE Block C B12**

Elizabeth Jane (Bessie) Crang was baptised at Marwood Church on 17 May 1860 daughter to John Crang, a Gentleman Farmer of Prixford and his wife Elizabeth Tamlyn. Bessie married Alfred John Jury of Sidmouth in 1894 and died in 1897 in childbirth.

#### MARWOUD.

A SPLENDID and most artistic memorial has just been erected in the quiet and sweetly pretty little God's acre that lies around the ancient loth century parish church of St. Michael, at Marwood. It marks the spot where all that is mortal of the late Mrs. Jury, who died under such distressingly sudden circumstances in the spring of last year, hes awaiting the arising of the just. The deceased lady was the wife of the manager of the Devon and Comwall Isank at Sidmouth, and to the deep grief of a wide circle of friends, died atchild birth. The monument is all in white marble, and consists of a bold base of three steps, upon which stands a lofty Calvary cross, in front of which is a colossal angel, sculptured in a solid block (angel, steps and cross alike), one of the largest and purest blocks of Carrara marble we ever recollect seeing. The pose of this guardian angel is admirably conceived, and exquisitely modelled. Standing with the right foot upon the second step, and the left upon the top one, this lovely conception of one of the "Angels of Jesus, angels of Light," casts, as it were, a cut filly, with one hand upon the green grave sod beneath, whilst, looking with reassuring face downwards, it points with outstretched arm to the bright land above, where the Redeemer of the world is waiting, with open arms, to receive the soul of the departed. The drapery shown in the one single robe worn by this ethercal being is exquisitely arranged in delicate and well-considered folds, that look so light, they might also be expected to be lifted by the lightest puff of wind. A star, emblematic of the Bleesed Virgin, is carved and sition to Marwood gravevard bears the following inscription, in raised characters, upon the base:—"Thy will be done. In loving memory of Bessie, the beloved wife of Alfred J. Jury, of Sidmouth, and daughter of the late John Crang, of this parish, who died auddenly, 17th May, 1897. Aged 37 years." The statue, and its surroundings and accessories, have been carried out in their entirety by Messrs. Harr

loved ones. In Messrs. Harry Hems and Sons' yard in Longbrook-street there is now a splendid specimen of the sculptor's art. It is of marble, and represents a sculptured Angel (slightly over life s ze) standing at the foot of the cross with finger pointing Heavenward. The sweet pensive face and every line of form and graceful drapery seem to tell of nought but calm repose and peace. I under tank it is to be placed in Marrood Churchyark, near Barnstaple, to the memory of a lady deeply lamented by many friends in Exeter.

"A Volunteer" asks to be supplied

Exeter Flying Post May 21st 1898



Harry Hems signed his sculptures with 'IXL' literally 'I Excel' but to the innocent bystander it would look like a date or sculpture number!



Harry Hems



Henry Hems, now world famous as a sculptor, arrived in Exeter to work on the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in 1866. As he ascended St David's Hill from the station, he picked up a horse-shoe that had been shed from a passing animal, and promised himself that one day he would nail the shoe over the entrance of his own workshop.

Exeter Flying Post 21 May 1898



Hems's 'Ye Lucky Horseshoe Studio Longbrook Street, Exeter

IXL 1881 is still visible on the side wall of the restaurant called Harry's that now occupies his studio, and the horseshoe remains prominently displayed on the front facade.



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#### **HEYWORTH GRAVE Block C/C30**

This unmissable rock is most unusual and commemorates the life of Lawrence Heyworth & his wife Rosina Kate Mortimer. Whitefield Barton was the seasonal family home of Rose inherited from her father, John Baskerville Mortimer who drowned at sea on his way home from

India along with her one year old sister **Elizabeth Caroline**.





Rose and Lawrence Heyworth





The Heyworth stained glass window in the Lady Chapel. The original window was donated by Rose Heyworth in 1910, in honour of her late husband. It was later altered and re-dedicated in honour of their son, Potter, who died in 1915. The current window represents St Lawrence (left) with the words 'Be thou faifthful unto death'; Christ the Comforter (centre) with the words 'Come unto me ye that labour'; and St George (right) with the words 'I have fought the good fight'.



### **RILEY GRAVE D/C3**

Sarah Leonora Riley daughter of Richard William Riley of Launceston and granddaughter of Rev Richard Riley died aged 33 yrs.



### THE TRICK FAMILY GRAVE D12

Jane Bray married William Trick in 1829 and they had 7 children before Jane gave birth to twin boys in 1845. Sadly neither the babies nor Jane survived, leaving William to raise the 5 year old Sarah & 2 year old Eliza. Times were hard and many families were tempted to seek their fortunes in new lands.

William's sister Ann(Nancy) Trick married John Huxtable of Bideford and in 1839 they applied for and were accepted onto the fateful Emigration ship *Java* that sailed from Plymouth for South Australia in 1839.



# EMIGRATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Her Majesty's Colonization Commissioners having determined to dispatch in the course of a few weeks a large number of Emigrants, all eligible persons may obtain, by making an IMMEDIATE application, a

# FREE PASSAGE!

Agricultural Laborers,
SHEPHERDS, CARPENTERS
BLACKSMITHS

STONE MASONS
And all Persons connected with Building.
Application to be made to

Mr. L LATIMER, Rosewin-row, TRURO.

E. HEARD, PRINTER AND BOOKSINDER, BOSCAWEN STREET, TRURO



Nancy Trick and her husband

Ann (Nancy) and her husband took Nancy's illegitimate daughter with them to Australia, she was Eliza Trick baptised at Marwood on 16th December 1827, a few months before their marriage in 1828.

Eliza married Stephen Kellia Pittaway (20 years her senior) in 1843 witnessed by her mother and step father.

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wa.	WHEN MARRIED, AND WHERE,	NAME AND BURNAME.	AUE.	EANE.	230N OF PARTIES.	CLAYING MINISTER, CH.	MEGISTRHED.	TRAR OR OFFICIATING MINISTER.	
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Eyle	This Marringe was between to	ha Toned Charce he had by bake selection of the he will be the he will be the he had been been been been been been been bee	a Pettaw Creek her	es has			extal extal		

Stephen Pittaway Marriage Certificate

Stephen Kellia Pittaway arrived in South Australia in July 1838 on board the ship *Henry Porcher*. Tailor, Adelaide and Glenelg; farmer, Skillagree Creek; wine store proprietor, Hoyle's Creek.

Excerpts from the log of the emigration ship Java (fuller account see p19)

Journal of a Voyage on the "Java" to South Australia

1839

Monday October 28th

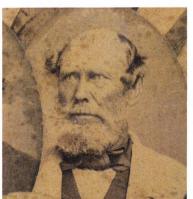
Left Plymouth Sound half past four o'clock pm. Wind NE 40 miles west of Scilly 8 o'clock am.

October 30th

Passing the skirts of the Bay of Biscay, 600 miles long.

Stephen (a tailor from Swinbrook, Oxford) was a deserter from the 89th Foot Regiment and listed as such in 1829 & 1838 in the Police Gazette and was married with 3 children. He emigrated on the Henry Porcher from Falmouth on 26th February 1838 arriving in Adelaide on 1st August. His first wife referred to herself as widowed in the 1841 census and re-married in 1842 to Joseph Washford.

He is listed as one of the celebrated 'Old Colonists of 1836-1840



Stephen Kellia Pittaway

#### November 22nd

Mr Bernard, Gentleman passenger died 7 am committed to the deep 5 pm. The carpenter only bored holes in the foot of the Coffin, which when thrown overboard, went off erect never sank.

December 27th

Little Caroline ill with the hooping cough very cold Ther: 060 December 28th

Strong gale and squally rounding the Cape, Gaff cracked in two, Hail showers.

December 29th

NW Squally passed the Cape 100 miles off 12 noon. Mr Axford of Bideford died with inflammation in the lungs, leaving a wife and 4 children and near her confinement again. He has property on board with £300 in Cash --

#### Page 14

#### December 31st

Row this Evening with the Sailors one who was drunk attempted to stab the 2nd mate. He was seized and when about to be put in irons, the crew rushed in and rescued him. The Captain and 4 mates then took their swords and pistols and at last secured him.

#### January 5th

Could get nothing for the children to nourish them. January 6th

NW Rain, Dear little Caroline died this morning about 5 am committed to the deep 12 o'clock about 4000 miles west of Australia, for 12 days she made use of nothing but cold water. 3 days before her death when she could eat something we had nothing to give her but red herring or salt Pork which was poison for the complaint. Medical comforts all done.

#### From the 7th to the 27th

E 6 children died\* 1 woman confined, child stillborn. Scotch woman delivered of Twins --

Great blame is attached to the Commissioners in London, and Dr Bloomhead for sending so many children (3 to each adult) without a sufficient quantity of Food. 6 Vessels have arrived since, and not a single Death, with better treatment. The term here is that horried ship the Java. She certainly was the finest ship that could be selected for Emigrants on account of the Gun Deck having the Port holes constantly open but it appears good food is the principal thing.

28 child deaths plus several others after the Java's arrival.

1 still born child

4 adults --- Messers Bernard, Watson & Axford Mrs Carbins

Captain Alex Duthie had intended to settle in South Australia but after the neglect of the emigrants under his care, he was not allowed to stay. He returned home and never went to sea again.



Captain Alex Duthie

#### **GRAVE E8**

Jill Eleanor Farwell co-founded the Children's Hospice Southwest with her husband Eddie. Jill



is buried alongside two of her children, Katie & Tom who had a life-limiting disease that inspired the family to fundraise for a much needed hospice to care for sick children in the South West. Little Bridge House opened in

LOVING MEMORY
OF

JILL ELEANOR FARWELL M.B.E.
9-3-1950 - 21-9-2004

CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SOUTH WEST
LOWING PINISH OF
KATHERINE HIDMARA AND ELIZABETH
THOSE IN COMMUNICATION
ENGLISS IS IN LICENSE.

ENGL



1995 with a second much needed hospice opening near

Bristol in 2004. In 2011 Little Harbour followed in Cornwall.

#### **GRAVE E6**

The Riley family grave is hard to miss being placed prominently in the North East corner of the Churchyard. It commemorates Edward Gower Riley son of Rev Richard Riley & Sarah Gower.

Edward died while at Caius College Cambridge and there is a memorial plaque inside the church. Three of their daughters are remembered, Elizabeth, Mary & Anne who were all spinsters.



#### **SMART FAMILY GRAVE E8**

Dr James Smart, the creator of Marwood Hill Gardens, died aged 84 in 2002, and was buried in the family grave alongside his father and sister, who had died many years earlier after a tragic car accident, and his mother.



#### **CRANG GRAVE A10**

Here lie the parents of Elizabeth Jane Jury (nee Crang). John Crang and his wife Elizabeth Tamlyn alongside her paternal grandparents Richard & Maria. John was described as a Gentleman Farmer.

The inverted torch symbolizes death, and the burning flame, which would normally be extinguished when the torch was turned upside down, represents the flame of eternal life. Christian society in the 19th century may have been a little fixated on death and mourning, but believed in resurrection.



#### **STOYLE GRAVE A2**

In April 1835 a young woman named Grace Stoyle was buried, the daughter of Edward Stoyle & Elizabeth Hobbs Gloyen.

1835 BARNSTAPLE - An accident, as afflictive in its consequences, as fatal in its results, occurred at Derby, in the environs of this town, on Thursday last. A young woman, called **GRACE STOWELL**, nineteen years of age, in preparing a solution of beeswax and turpentine, to polish her furniture, unfortunately overturned the vessel which contained it into the fire, and the flame occasioned thereby communicating to her apparel, set it on a blaze, in which state she ran into the yard, and from thence to a neighbour's house, where assistance was rendered

her to extinguish the flames, but not until she was so much burnt as to occasion her death on the Saturday following. This unfortunate girl was highly esteemed for her modesty and piety, and was shortly to have been married to a young man who is mate on board a



trading vessel, which arrived in this port from a voyage a day or two before the occurrence of the accident. A Coroner's Inquest was held on the body, which returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The remains of the deceased were buried at Marwood, of which parish she was a native, on Tuesday; the corpse was borne by eight sailors, dressed in blue jackets with white trousers and gloves, and followed by a train of several hundred sympathizing individuals. Edward & his wife Elizabeth moved to Barnstaple with their son John who was a Publican at 24, Vicarage Street, Barnstaple in 1851.

Her nephew Edward is buried with her.

#### **Statistics**

We know that the total number of parishioners laid to rest in the churchyard from 1602 to 2018 is 4,444. We have no way of calculating figures before the date of the first register.

From 1813-1867 ages at death were recorded. In that period there were 799 deaths with 208 being of children under 5 years of age.

From 1602-1812 there were 781 Marriages 2,611 Deaths and 3,040 Births

Popular names for baptisms varied little with JOHN & WILLIAM being by far the most popular choice for a male child.

MARY & ELIZABETH consistently topped the girls' chart.

There was a spattering of GRACE & CHARITY for girls with BARTHOLOMEW & THEOPHILUS being the more unusual names for the boys.

Middle names were rarely used, but sometimes the mothers maiden name was. If a child died then the next born of the same gender would often take their name as a way of remembering the deceased.

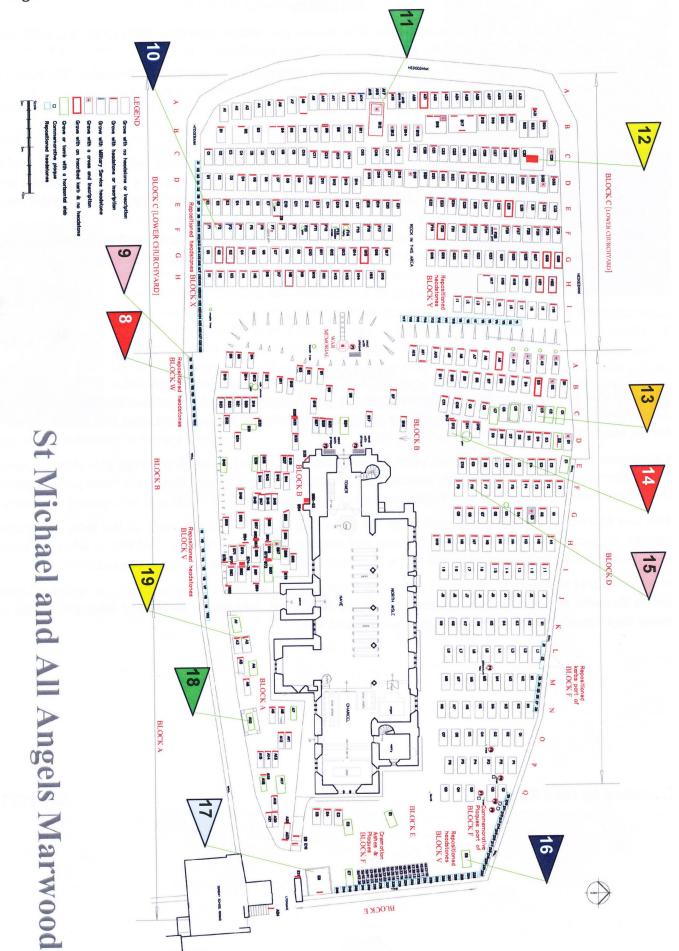
#### **Marwood Past**

We hope that this has provided a snapshot of village life, of a community brought together in adversity and held together by strong family bonds, loyalty and duty. A tapestry of interwoven village life, where we have found, over the centuries, people described as:

Gentleman, rector, parish clerk, farmer, yeoman, husbandsman, school master & mistress, ploughboy, cooper, shoemaker or cordwainer, blacksmith, wheelwright, dressmaker, tailor, mason, carpenter, straw joiner, cabinet maker, shopkeeper, miller, maltster, innkeeper, laundry, parlour & kitchen maids and agricultural labourers.

This was Marwood, a village community, just like others all over rural Britain, with all the skills and trades needed to sustain itself, at a time when travel and communications were very different to what we know today, when time was measured by the sun and people lived their lives according to the seasons.

From the secret signature on the angel to the quotations on the sundial, there must be many more snippets yet to discover, of births and marriages, and stories of scandal, adventure, travel and emigration, and so many lives devastated by tragedy, disease, poverty and war.



### An account of the voyage from Plymouth to South Australia aboard the Java.

William Richards (1796-1868) D4718 (L)

Transcribed by Neil Thomas

#### Journal of a Voyage on the "Java" to South Australia

1839

#### Monday October 28th

Left Plymouth Sound half past four o'clock pm. Wind NE 40 miles west of Scilly 8 o'clock am.

#### October 30th

Passing the skirts of the Bay of Biscay, 600 miles long.

#### October 31st

Becalmed 12 days very warm, Rudder band gave way 10 at night. made a sad noise. Had dancing in the evening on the quarter deck.

#### November 2nd

NE Fresh Gale driving on in style, all recovered from sick-

#### Sunday November 3rd

NW Strong Gale all night, driving before the wind.

#### November 4th

Fine weather, heavy sea, little wind - (child died) An owl lighted in the rigging, starlings, larks and blue birds caught. November 5th

SW Stiff breeze 10(?) degrees hotter than last Sunday.

#### November 6th

NW fine, thermometer 2 degrees below summer heat.

#### NOvember 7th

Coats, neck cloth, 2 stockings off.

#### Novmber 8th

Rain. Stormy Petrel showed an approaching storm.

#### November 9th

Vivid lightening (sqalls) heavy sea, ship labouring a good deal, lost our breakfast 2 mornings. Teapot and cups rolled off the table.

November 10thNE very fine, passed Madeira.

#### November 11th

Passed Canary Islands - caught the Trade Winds -\*child died + with the hooping cough very warm.

#### From the 12th to the 21st

NE Trades, nothing particular occurred except woman confined

(Doctor Ward's, child died - twins died child died) passed the Island St Antonia.

#### November 22nd

Mr Bernard, Gentleman passenger died 7 am committed to the deep 5 pm. The carpenter only bored holes in the foot of the Coffin, which when thrown overboard, went off erect never sank.

#### November 23rd

Appearance of a sqall, heavy showers,

#### November 24th

Calm, thunder and lightening, heavy rain Ther: fell to 80 caught plenty of water from the awning, filled 10 barrels of 180 gallons each very warm, shirt and pantaloons only \*child died\* November 25th

Caught the SE Trades \*child died\*

- Mr Watson, gentleman passengeydied leaving a Wife and 3 children... (margin note):Mr Watson was in the habit of spitting blood and nothing but a milk diet prevented it. Previous to his leaving England he paid £250 for his passage with a written agreement signed by the owners and Captain that he should be supplied with a quart of milk per day. This he had for a week or two when it was cut off, that the calf might be reared. He soon flagged.)
- ... bound to Bathurst having purchased Land there previous to leaving England. When the coffin was thrown overboard, owing to the 5 18 lb shot which ran to the foot, the lid flew open, the coffin with the body went off erect under water and did not sink. Ship in sight going west, the first we have seen since the 10th.

  November 26th

Fine and squally. This day while at dinner a large ship bore on us, an alarm was given to get letters ready for England. She turned out to be a Dutchman homeward bound. Several vessels seen ahead. We are all covered with a rash which prevents fever. We are in the best part of the ship having free air from the Cabin windows which are kept open at night. The Captain is very careful when the squalls come to avoid them and recover his course again.

#### November 27th

Crossed the line, Neptune came on board 7 pm which was announced by a Tar barrel sent out to sea on fire, and by buckets of water thrown from the Tops.

#### November 28th

This morning 9 am Neptune with his wife was drawn on his Car by 2

men dressed in sheep skins which resembled donkies attended by a band of music. The shaving commenced, no respect to persons was paid, those that resented were treated very bad, had the razor with teeth like a saw applyed and bedaubed with Tar all over, blind folded, made to take pills of sheep dung, and bitter draughts, bled, and thrown into a large Cistern of water; they came after me 3 times but I kept the door locked. A French Gentleman was served so bad that he ran into the Captain which put an end to such a foolish custom. -- A wife to Mr Carbins of St Anns died\*

#### November 29th

SE Ther: 082 no nourishing food on Board for the Sick.

#### November 30th

Doctor Ward's wife brought to our Cabin very weak. We found them very pleasant companions. The intermediate Cabins are insufferably hot, full of cockroaches which destroy the Clothes. \*child died\*

#### December 1st

-- Ship ahaed, 2nd ship to Leeward which we saw last evening.

#### December 5th

\*child died\*

#### December 6th

\*child died\*

#### December 8th

\*child died\*

#### December 9th

\*child died\*

#### December 11th

\*child died\*

#### December 12th

\*child died\*

#### December 13th

In latitude of the Cape, but far west, lost the Trades, got a fine wind to work up the longitude.

#### December 14th

N Ther: <sup>0</sup>71 rather cold more pleasant than the Tropical heat. Several whales passed us spouting water.

#### December 16th

Spoke with a Dutchman bound to Batavia, very cold 1500 miles Longitude to make up for the Cape, being far West,

#### December 17th

SW Squally and cold.

#### December 19th

E wind ahead

#### December 20th

SW fine, several albatross killed.

#### December 21st

E ahead Great complaints about the provisions, beef thrown overboard, Pork stinking, Doctor Martin very haughty, the supposed Ladies in the Cuddy discovered to be bad characters.

#### December 23rd

Xmas Eve Double allowance of Grog ½ 1b Flour 1 oz Raisins ½ oz suet to each.

#### December 24th

Xmas Day, Puddings Drunkards discovered too many on board breaking out in boils.

#### December 25th

\*child died\*

#### December 26th

Strong gale going before the Wind had one roll after dinner away went boxes, pans, kettles everything that was loose.

#### December 27th

Little Caroline ill with the hooping cough very cold Ther: 060 December 28th

Strong gale and squally rounding the Cape, Gaff cracked in two, Hail showers.

#### December 29th

NW Squally passed the Cape 100 miles off 12 noon. Mr Axford of Bideford died with inflammation in the lungs, leaving a wife and 4 children and near her confinement again. He has property on board with £300 in Cash --

#### December 30th

Driving on in fine style to our adopted Land Ther: 075 NE by N December 31st

Row this Evening with the Sailors one who was drunk attempted to stab the 2nd mate. He was seized and when about to be put in irons, the crew rushed in and rescued him. The Captain and 4 mates then took their swords and pistols and at last secured him.

#### 1840 January 1st

New Year's Day. This morning the man received 3 doz lashes. The Captain gave a slice of plum pudding to all the children as a New Year's Gift. \*child died\*

#### January 3rd

Wind died away heavy swell plenty of fun with the rolling of the vessel.

#### January 4th

N fine breeze, woamn confined. \*child died\* Laura, George and Cyrus very ill with the hooping cough.

#### January 5th

Could get nothing for the children to nourish them.

#### January 6th

NW Rain, Dear little Caroline died this morning about 5 am committed to the deep 12 o'clock about 4000 miles west of Australia, for 12 days she made use of nothing but cold water. 3 days before her death when she could eat something we had nothing to give her but red herring or salt Pork which was poison for the complaint. Medical comforts all done.

#### From the 7th to the 27th

E 6 children died\* 1 woman confined, child stillborn. Scotch woman delivered of Twins --

#### January 28th

Discovered the Main hinge of the Rudder broken. Rudder supported by the chains. Wind changed with the SE 330 miles further to go \*child died\*

#### January 31st

Girl to Bastian of Crowan died aged 11 years.

#### February 1st

Child to Gahan 1 birth 5 pm made land in Fowler's Bay, tacked to the South -- wind ahead.

#### February 3rd

Wind changed in our favour to the SW fine breeze

#### February 4th

This morning 8 am saw land, all hands rejoiced. Headland entrance to St Vincent's Gulph, tacked, gained 3 points, tacked every 4 hours --

#### February 5th

Made Kangaroo Island Midday Vessel hove in sight, overtook us. Proved to be the Regesthran with Emigrants, from London, sailed 3

days before us, got in breast of the Island 6 pm. February 6th

No sleep all night. Got up 3 o'clock. Beat the Regesthran, went up the Gulph in fine style, anchored in Holdfast Bay opposite Glenelg 2 before 8 am and the Regesthran 20 minutes after us along side, had a shower of rain just after we anchored. We did not go on shore before Saturday afternoon. The Governor came on Board, very disgusted at seeing the starved faces of the children and the laying in women. We were permitted to go on shore on account of the 3 children with the hooping cough, poor little things nearly starved. Had we been a week longer at sea they must have died, George and Laura we had no hope of, but the change of air, with good nourishing food soon got them about again. The rest of the Emigrants were not allowed to come on shore for a week or more, several of the children have died since on shore, but I did not keep the account. I have abridged my Journal to make room for writing and omitted to expose the shameful conduct and treatment of the Doctor, Captain, and 3 officers or mates towards the Emigrants and crew. The Crew left the ship, some are in Jail and the rest in the Mountains -- the doctor of the ship Mr Smith has staid behind in love with Miss Watson, he was obliged to keep close, untill the ship sailed. The Captain and the Emigrants' Doctor Martin, took their trial before the Governor, the Doctor is sent back again in the ship without his certificate or money, he intended to settle here, but was not permitted. I did not appear against him. Doctor Ward who was under Martin was treated by him like a dog. The Governor has taken him and Mrs Ward in his house to instruct his children. Great blame is attached to the Commissioners in London, and Dr Bloomhead for sending so many children (3 to each adult) without a sufficient quantity of Food. 6 Vessels have arrived since, and not a single Death, with better treatment. The term here is that horried ship the Java. She certainly was the finest ship that could be selected for Emigrants on account of the Gun Deck having the Port holes constantly open but it appears good food is the principal thing.

28 child deaths plus several others after the Java's arrival.

1 still born child

4 adults --- Messers Bernard, Watson & Axford Mrs Carbins

# FREE EMIGRATION PORT ADELAIDE, South Australia.

An opportunity now offers itself to all MARRIED persons, of useful occupations, particularly to AGRICULTURAL LABORERS, CARPENTERS, BUILDERS, STONEMASONS, SHEPHERDS, and BLACKSMITHS, of obtaining a

## PREE PASSAGE PORT ADELAIDE, South Australia.

A FREE COLONY, where there are no convicts sent, and where every person who emigrates is as free as he is in this country.

Besides the classes of persons enumerated above, Bakers, Blacksmiths, Braziers and Tinmen, Smiths, Shipwrights, Boat Builders, Wheelwrights, Sawyers, Cabinet Makers, Coopers, Curriers, Farriers, Millwrights, Harness Makers, Boot and Shoemakers, Tailors, Tanners, Brickmakers, Lime Burners, and all persons engaged in the erection of buildings are always in great request. The applicants must be able to obtain a good character as honest, sober, industrious men. They must be real laborers going out to work in the Colony, of sound mind and body, not less than 15 nor more than 30 years of age, and married. The rule as to ago is occasionally departed from in favor of the parents of large families. As a general rule, each child is considered as extending the age one year. The sisters of married applicants are allowed to go free, if of good character.

The province of South Australia is a delightfully fertile and salubrious country, in every respect well adapted to the constitution of Englishmen, and is one of the most flourishing of all our colonies. It is well watered,—and there have never been any complaints from the colonists of a want of this valuable element; on the contrary, the letters from Cornishmen who have written home are very satisfactory on this point. It should be borne in mind that complaints of a scarcity of water do not relate to Port Adelaide, but to other settlements not connected with South Australia.

Emigrants wishing to obtain a free passage this year may now have that opportunity if they apply **IMMEDIATELY** to

## Mr. I. LATIMER, Truro,

who is empowered by her Majesty's Colonization Commissioners to engage for that fine firstclass teak-built ship the

## JAVA, of 1200 TONS.

This ship's accommodations are unusually spacious and lofty, and are so arranged as to insure the comfort of all the passengers. She will carry two Surgeons, and two Schoolmasters, the latter of whom will be regularly employed in teaching the emigrants and their children. The vessel will call at **PLYMOUTH** to take in Cornish passengers, on or about the 16th of OCTOBER; but in order to ensure a passage, application should be made forthwith. Every kind of information, and the necessary papers may be obtained of Mr. Latimer.

E. HEARD, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, &c., BOSCAWEN-STREET, TRURO.

# The Burial in Woollen Act 1666 the form of affidavit



of the Parish of

in the

maketh Oath, That

of the Parish of

lately Deceased, was not put in, wrapt or wound up, or buried in any Shirt, Shift, Sheet, or Shroud made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold, or Silver, or other than what is made of Sheeps Wooll only, nor in any Coffin lined or faced with any Cloth, Stuff, or any other things whatsoever made or mingled with Flax, Hemp, Silk, Hair, Gold, or Siluer, or any other Material contrary to the late Act of Parliament for Burying in Woollen, but Sheeps Wooll only. Dated the

Day of in the Year of the Reign of our Sovereign

by the Grace of God, of Greatnce, and Ireland, Defender of the

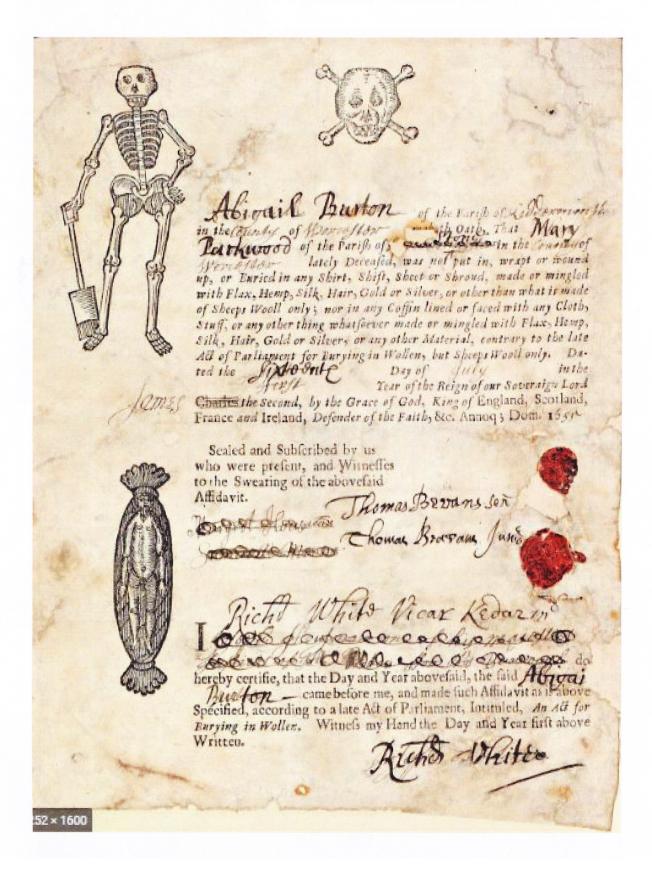
Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of a Faith, &c. And in the Year of our Lord God 17

Seated and Subscribed by us who were present and Witnesses to the Swearing of the abovesaid Affidauit.

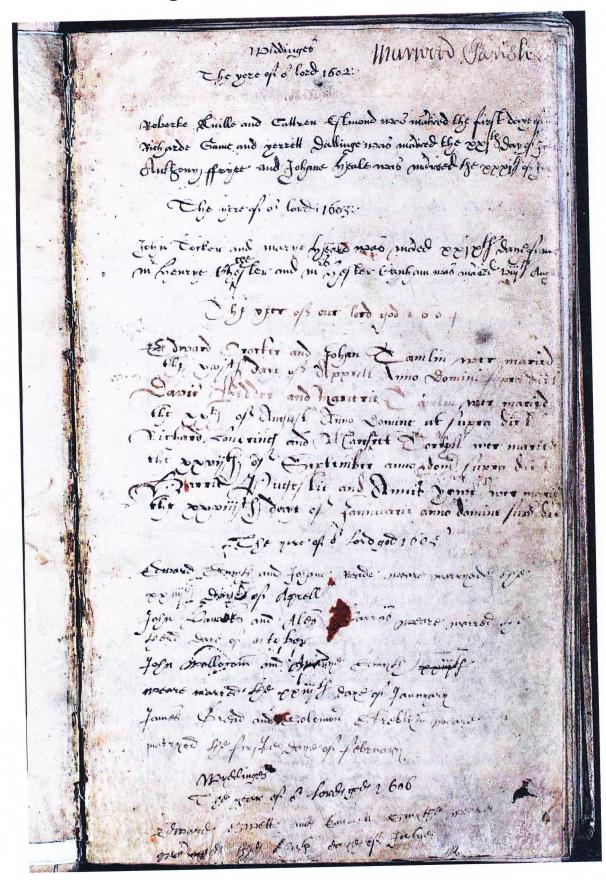
do hereby Certify, That the Day and Year abovesaid, the said came before me, and made such Affidavit as is above-mention'd, according to the said late Act of Parliament, intituled, An Ast for Burying in Woollen. Witness my Hand the Day and Year above-written.

Printed for P. Barret Stationer, over-against Chancery-Lane in Fleetstreet.

# The Burial in Woollen Act 1666 a completed affidavit



# The beginning of Marwood Church's Register of Weddings 1602 -1606



## The Parminter Memorial



In memory of William Parminter esquire. Inquisitor General for the Hon South Sea Company in Terra firma Strickly moral, and in his Integrity Unbiased. In Business Close and Indefaticable. In his life actions plain and exemplary. Lover of his country and tender Brethren and a firm friend. He died in Panama August 9th 1737 aged 36 Near this place is interred ye body of Mrs Mary Parminter, his mother, who died 13th June 1739 aged 67 years. This monument was erected at ye expense of Henry Parminter only surviving son and brother. This monument having lost its hold on the wall where it had been fixed fell on the floor and was much marred. A grateful recollection of a respectable Ancestor imposed the necessity of its re-erection on a surviving descendant who made the following additions. Also of Mary sister of the above Henry Parminter and wife of George Ley Gent of Prixford originally of Combemartin who died July 6 1726 aged 31. Also of George Ley Gent son of the above George & Mary Ley who died April ye 25th 1786 Aged 70 Also of George Ley Gent son of the last mentioned George Ley and father of George Ley of Ley in this parish at whose expense this monument was reerected in the year 1821 soon after its fall.

The arms of Mary Newcombe the mother of William Parminter Esquire

Two escallops with a crown above on which sits a Cornish chough with raised wings.



## The Peard Memorial



TO THE MEMORY OF
WILLIAM AND ANTHONY
PEARD SONS OF ANTHONY
PEARD AND PRUDENCE
HIS WIFE. WILLIAM
DEPARTED JANUARY 1652
AGED 19.
ANTHONY DEPARTED
6 FEBRUARY 1652
AGED 16

Anthony Peard & his wife Prudence Harper of Berrynarbor also had 2 daughters, Prudence born 1631 who married Edward Fleming. Margaret born 1638 who died at Marwood in 1712.

Anthony & Prudence are buried at Marwood. The Peards were a Mercantile family, Oliver Peard was mayor of Barnstaple in 1565 before trading as a Linen Merchant in Tiverton.





1 Peter 1:24-25

All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

To each side of the tablet inscription are painted medallions with references to biblical inscriptions which appear to be a hand holding a scythe cutting down a flower on the left and on the right a hand sewing seeds,



1 Cor 15:36

How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

## The Thorne Memorial



In Memory of JOHN THORNE of Ley in this parish Gent who died July 28 1763 aged 62 years

Unfortunately the inscription below is undecipherable.

Ley was the former name of Lee House, Prixford, home of the Ley family.

The memorial surround is topped by an urn and a pedestal supported by intricate Doric columns. The medallion below the ledge of the inscription tablet is carved with spreading palms (depicting triumph over death) and a raised empty hour-glass which depicts the 'sands of time' -the passing of time, mortality and death. The flaming urn at the top of the memorial depicts new life.

Beneath the medallion is a small cup shaped stone, on this is the inscription of the stonemason John Berry.

John Berry was a stonemason who created intricate sun dials. This is the only monument attributed to him that we know of. He lived at Higher Mudford (Muddiford) within the parish of Marwood and created sundials for many local churches and some private families. The images on some of the headstones in the churchyard bear resemblance to the angel carving at the top of the sundial over the church porch. John's son Thomas worked with him and some later sundials are jointly attributed.

Baptism records show a John Thorne son of Adam (a farmer) baptised on 28 October 1700 at Marwood Church

