

**THE REGISTERS OF
CRESSAGE,
SHROPSHIRE, 1605-1812**

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The registers of Cressage, shropshire, 1605-1812 by T. H. R. Horton

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T. H. R. HORTON

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The Registers

OF

Cressage,

SHROPSHIRE.

Issued by

THE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY.

(XXVII.)



The Registers

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SHROPSHIRE.

1605—1812.

TRANSCRIBED BY

T. H. R. HORTON, ESQ.

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LONDON:

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Cressage Registers.

THE Parish Register Abstract, 1831, gives the following account of the Cressage Registers:—"Cressage C. One Book (Parchment), Bap. 1722-1812, and a few Marr. This being a Chapelry of Coumd Parish, Bap. only take place."

The same volume is still existing, and consists of eighteen leaves of parchment in a brown calf cover, 13 by 8 inches, of which twenty pages only are written on. The Register is in good condition, and in several hand-writings, a few entries 1729-30 and 1768-1770 being in an illiterate hand. From *circa* 1733 to 1757 most of the entries seem to be written by George Edwards, curate; from 1771 to 1808 by William Prosser, curate; and in 1809-10 by John Geary, curate.

With the exception of eleven marriages, the last in 1754, all the remaining entries are baptisms. The other marriages and all the burials will be found in the Coumd Registers.

There was an earlier Register, which commenced in 1581, but this has long since disappeared. It was evidently missing in 1831. It is said to have been lent by a former curate of Cressage to the then vicar of Leighton, and was never returned. When the Rev. F. Burd was curate of Leighton from 1851, he several times made search for the missing Register, but it was never found. A few entries from this lost Register are preserved in Mr. George Morris's MSS., and are here printed.

The only persons styled "Mr." or "gent." in the Register are Fowler, 1614-23, Shaw, 1630-1, and Hayward, 1759. Other names of interest that occur are Blakeway, Dager, Langley, etc.

The clergy, whose names occur in the Register, are:—

- 1605. Edmond Lodge, curate.
- 1748-54. George Edwards, curate.
- 1771-1800. William Prosser, curate.
- 1793-96. Dr. Gooding, rector.
- 1809. John Geary, curate.
- 1839-53. George Burd, curate.
- 1864-78. Frederick Burd, M.A., Christ Church, Oxford, rector; curate, 1853-64.
- 1878. Thomas Rickards, M.A., Worcester College, Oxford, rector.

Cressage until 1864 was a chapelry of Cound, with separate tithe, glebe, and poor rate. The present church was built, and burial-ground consecrated, 19th October, 1841. Prior to that year marriages and burials took place at Cound. The old church was in a field near the railway station, the line passing over the actual site. The floods from the Severn often found their way into the church, and boats not infrequently came into it. As early as 1232, Robert, parson of Cristeshethe, occurs as witness to a deed. No Incumbents occur in the Diocesan Registers.

The rectory is in the gift of the Thursby-Pelham family.

The etymology of Cressage is interesting. It is Cristesache in Domesday, the Saxon word Christ's-oak, originating at the time when the Gospel was first preached here by Christian missionaries to heathen Saxons. A "Lady-Oak" still exists here, on the road from Shrewsbury to Cressage. It was 42 feet high, but was partially destroyed by some gipsies lighting a fire under it. It is said that the manor courts were held under this venerable tree.

Sir Thomas Lodge, Lord Mayor of London in 1563, was son of William Lodge of Cressage. He was a member of the Grocers' Company, and is referred to in the *Diary of Henry Machyn*, published by the Camden Society.

Some account of Cressage, written by Henry Pidgeon, with a description of the old Church, is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July, 1852, vol. xxxviii, new series, pp. 58-60.

The Registers are here printed by kind permission of the Rev. Thomas Rickards, the present rector. They were transcribed by Mr. T. R. Horton, and the proofs as they passed through the press have been compared with the original Register by the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher.

Cressage Parish Registers.

[From George Morris's MS. Extracts from Shropshire Registers, etc.]

The Register begins 1581, but first leaf torn off.

1605,	Edw. Lodge, curate.		
1607, Mar. 14.	———— d. of Edmond Lodge	...	chr.
„ Mar. 16.	———— d. of Edmond Lodge	...	bur.
1609, Mar. 30.	Richard, s. of Edmond Lodge...	...	bap.
„ Oct. 7.	Margaret, d. of Rychard Lodge	...	bap.
1611, Aug. 17.	Ellin, d. of Edmond Lodge	...	bap.
1612, July 1.	Ellin, d. of Edmond Lodge	...	bur.
1613, June 20.	Ellyn, d. of Edmond Lodge	...	bap.
1614, May 28.	Mistress Fowler	...	bur.
1619, Jan. 28.	Ellyn Lodge, widow	...	bur.
1623, April 5.	William, s. of Mr. William Fowler	...	bur.
1626, Nov. 10.	Margaret Bevan, widow	...	bur.
„ Dec. 3.	Mem. That ye same Margaret Beavan left £5 to ye Township of Cressage for ye use of the poor at the discretion of Elner Rock and —————, and after them to ye Church Wardens, &c, &c.		
1630, ———	Mary, wife of Mr. John Shaw ... Richard Syner bequeathed £8 to use of poor of the Township of Cressage.	...	bur.
1631, July 14.	John Shaw ... He bequeathed 20s. for use of ye poor. Anne Blakeway gave in her lifetime £4.	...	bur.

[The existing Register.]

CRESSAGE REGIST^r.

	proscon droc [on the cover].	John Grainger [on fly leaf].	
1724, Jan. 2.	Mary, d. of Adam Dunn & Cathrine	...	bap.
„ Jan. 24.	Richard Griffiths & Dianah Blagrave	...	mar.
„ Feb. 27.	Eliz., d. of Andrew Lea & Margreat	...	bap.