

**THE REGISTERS OF
GARLEY, SHROPSHIRE.
1745-1812**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649305230

The registers of Garley, Shropshire. 1745-1812 by T. R. Horton

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T. R. HORTON

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GARLEY, SHROPSHIRE.
1745-1812**

**The Register of
Harley.**



The Registers

OF

Harley,

SHROPSHIRE.

1745-6--1812.

TRANSCRIBED BY

T. R. HORTON, ESQ.

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LONDON:

PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY,
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY,

1899.

Br 18.3

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
TREAT FUND

Sept. 16, 1925

Harley Registers.

THE Parish Register Abstract, published in 1831, contains the following account of these Registers:—"Harley R. Nos. I, II, Registers 1745-1812." As a matter of fact there are three Registers down to 1812, and not two. It is evident also that the earlier Registers hereafter referred to were missing in 1831. A tradition in the village states that they were thrown on the fire by the son of a former rector, in consequence of some dispute that arose about these Registers, or because of his vexation at his inability to read them. It is doubtful whether this tradition is really true. It seems more probable that, when Harley Church was being rebuilt, the Registers were removed to the rectory or to the residence of the then Churchwarden, and that at that time they disappeared, though how or why nobody can now say.

The existing Registers of Harley commence in 1745. Vol. I, which has no heading, contains entries of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials from 22nd February, 1745, to 1787, Burials and Baptisms from 1788 to 1801. Vol. II contains entries of Marriages from 1781 to 1812. Vol. III contains Burials and Baptisms from 1801 to 1812. Inserted in Vol. II is a loose paper concerning the rebuilding of the nave of Harley Church at a cost of £550, and dated 29th January, 1845.

Two earlier Registers, one commencing in 1590 and the other in 1631, must have been in existence in the last century, when a number of extracts were taken from them, apparently by William Mytton, Esq., or by the Rev. Edward Williams, but these Registers have long since disappeared. Indeed, Mr. Williams, who died in 1833, describes the 1631 Register as "now lost." Some extracts from these Registers are preserved in George Morris's manuscript Shropshire Registers, copied from the collections of Williams and Mytton in 1833, and are now given in this volume. An account of Harley Church, the Registers, etc., will be found in the Shropshire Archaeological Society's Transactions, vol. iv, pp. 329-344.

The most important entries in the Registers are those relating to the families of Harnage of Belwardine, Sprott, Corfield, and Lacon. Belwardine is really in Leighton parish, on the opposite side of the Severn. A tradition states that the Harnage family used to bury at Leighton Church, but that on one occasion, in taking a corpse across the river to Leighton, it was upset into the water, and on that account the Harnages were subsequently interred at Harley Church, to avoid crossing the river any more. On the walls are several monuments to this family, the earliest being one in memory of Edward Harnage, Esq., who died 26th February, 1677.

The following is a list of the Rectors named in these Registers :—

- 1590. Thomas Benil.
- 1652. Richard Wicksteed, buried 19 Nov., 1659.
- 1660. Robert Fowler.
- 1664. Richard Philipps, buried 6 Jan., 1667-8.
- 1668. Benjamin Jenks, buried 14 May, 1724.
- 1724. William Painter, buried 10 Oct., 1747.
- 1747. John Greaves, buried 13 May, 1775.
- 1775. James Dewhurst, buried 22 Nov., 1780.
- 1782. Edmund Dana.
- 1782. John Gibbons.

Benjamin Jenks was a divine of some note, and author of several theological treatises. He was a native of Eaton in Shropshire, where he was born *circa* 1647, and was educated at Queen's College, Oxford. He became chaplain to the Earl of Bradford, as well as rector of Harley. His monument is on the north wall of the chancel.

In Harley Church is a curious brass, representing a man in armour and his wife, probably one of the Lacon family, *circa* 1475, a full account of which is given in the Shropshire Archaeological Society's Transactions, Second Series, vol. vii, pp. 402-3.

The transcript of the Harley Registers was made by T. R. Horton, Esq., of Harley Tower, with the consent of the Rector, the Rev. J. C. Storey, who has kindly compared the proofs with the original Registers.

Harley Parish Registers.

[From Geo. Morris's MS. Extracts from Shropshire Registers.]

1590,	Nov.	17. s. of Thomas Benil (?), clerk, & Joyce	bap.
1594,	Mar.	31.	Jane, d. of Francis Harnage, of Belsar- dyne, esq.	bur.
1603 [circa]		22.	Roger Corbet	bur.
1605,	Dec.		Rebecca, d. of Timothy Panton, gen. ...	bap.
1607,	April	20.	Alice Charlton, widow	bur.
1608,	Jan.	16.	Francis, s. of William Lakyn	bap.
1610,	Oct.	7.	Margaret, d. of Thomas Crompton, gen.	bap.
1611,	Mar.	4.	Mrs. Mary Mason, widow	bur.
1622,	Sept.	29.	Richard Langley, gen.	bur.
"	Nov.	2.	Francis Sprot, of Wigwig, & Grace Serr- went, of Harley, mar. at Topley in Dioc. of Hereford, [by] George Bet Sprot, parson there.	
1623,	Aug.		Francis, s. of Francis Sprot, of Wygwygg, & Grace	bap.
1625			Thomas, s. of Jasper More & Margaret ...	bap.
"	Sept.	11.	Wyllyam, s. of Francis Sprot, of Wyge- wygg, & Grace	bap.
1652,	Aug.	28.	Sarah, wife of Richard Wicksted, rector	bur.
1652-3,	Jan.	30.	Mary, wife of Richard Detton, gent. ...	bur.
1653,	June	20.	Richard Sprott, of Wigwicke, gen. ...	bur.
1654,	July	24.	John, s. of John Cotton, gen.	bap.
"	Oct.	3.	John Wolley & Anne Jenkin mar. by or before Harcourt Leighton, of Plash, esq., J.P. for co. Salop, &c.	
1656,	Feb.	26.	Dorothy, d. of Edward Lee, gen. ...	bap.