

**THE REGISTERS OF
FORD, SHROPSHIRE,
1569-1812; PP. 63-113**

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The Registers of Ford, Shropshire, 1569-1812; pp. 63-113 by Various

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1569-1812; PP. 63-113**

**The Register of
Ford.**

The Registers

OF

Ford,

SHROPSHIRE.

Issued by
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(XXIX.)



The Registers

OF

Ford,

SHROPSHIRE.

1569—1812.

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY

MISS H. M. AUDEN.

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Ford Registers.

THE Parish Register Abstract published in 1831 contains the following account of these Registers:—"Ford P.C. No. I, Bap. Bur., 1589-1759; Mar., 1589-1753. No. II, Bap. Bur., 1760-1812. No. III, Mar., 1754-1812." This account reckons as one volume the early register book, which really consists of two portions, ten parchment leaves from 1589 to 1615 being inserted into the book begun by Thomas Smith, curate in 1616.

Ford did not possess a churchyard till 1862, and the burials mentioned in the register took place in the Church, other funerals being taken to Alberbury. The great care that is taken in the register of marriages to state that the ceremony took place in the "parish church" of Ford, is an assertion of the independence of the parish, and the long account given by the Rev. Thomas Amler of the christening of a child by himself at the request of the vicar of Alberbury is evidently a test case.

Ford is a village and small parish of 1194 acres, containing in 1891 357 inhabitants. In 1676 it possessed 88 inhabitants above the age of 16, one more than Shrawardine. The population of the latter parish was 161 in 1891, from which it seems that Ford has increased considerably in population in the last 200 years. Possibly the enclosure of Ford Heath brought fresh inhabitants. The parish of Ford takes up a very small portion of the large manor of Ford, which was the head of the Hundred formed by Henry I from the older Hundred of Ruesset, of which Alberbury had been head. Of the fourteen berewicks belonging to the manor in 1086, all are in the parish of Pontesbury; and Benthall and Little Shrawardine, which later became members of Ford, are in that of Alberbury. The parish of Ford does not, apparently, take in the whole township, as part of Alberbury parish is called "Ford in Alberbury" in the parish books. Ford, from being a manor of the Saxon Earl Edwin, passed to the Norman Earl Roger, and on the forfeiture of Robert de Balesme, it became a royal manor. It was finally granted in 1230 to Henry de Audley of Red Castle, and remained with his descendants till the sixteenth century. Ford never possessed a resident Lord of the Manor, and in early days the men of the manor enjoyed an unusually independent jurisdiction. As time went on the various members of the manor became in many cases seats of well-to-do families, and the village itself possessed some two or three houses of considerable size. In a manor roll of 1610, William Cross, of "the hall of Foord," and George Hosier, are the only freeholders apparently, in the parish, while the chief copyholders were the Waring and Amler families, several members of which are mentioned; John and Griffith Evans, Richard Wall, Robert Peers, gent., George and Henry Calcott, and Thomas Dax, Katherine Reignoldes, widow, George Browne, John Dovaston, Roger and William Griffiths, and Reece Pennall, complete the list, with the heirs of Leonard Dax. Many of these names continued in Ford for generations, and the two eighteenth-century houses of the Amlers and the Waring's still stand on either side of the church.

In the absence of documentary evidence, it is difficult to determine to whom the foundation of the church was due. Its architecture takes back its origin to about 1150, when the manor was in the hands of the Crown, and this may account for the "Chapel of Ford" being subject to that of St. Michael in the Castle of Shrewsbury. St. Michael's in the Castle was held with St. Julian's, Shrewsbury, which was also a Royal Free Chapel, hence Ford is sometimes