

**THOROTON SOCIETY. RECORD
SERIES. VOL. I. PARISH REGISTER
TRANSCRIPTS BELONGING TO
THE PECULIAR OF SOUTH BFF**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649464715

Thoroton Society. Record Series. Vol. I. Parish Register Transcripts Belonging to the Peculiar of South Bff by T. M. Blagg

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T. M. BLAGG

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Thoroton Society. Record Series.

VOL. I.

Seventeenth Century

Parish Register Transcripts

BELONGING TO THE

Peculiar of Southwell,

EDITED BY

T. M. BLAGG, F.S.A.

1903.

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY.

[300 COPIES PRINTED.]

These Transcripts were copied in the intervals of calendaring the Wills and Marriage Bonds at Southwell for the College of Arms, and the Editor desires here to express his great indebtedness to their custodian, the Reverend R. F. Smith, Minor Canon and Vicar Choral of Southwell, whose unfailing kindness and hospitality will always be to him a source of pleasant recollection.

INTRODUCTION.

To those who are unfamiliar with the existence of Parish Register Transcripts, the following extract from the 70th Canon of 1603 will be sufficient explanation :

" The Church-wardens shall once every yeere within one moneth after the 25 day of March, transmit unto the Bishop of the Diocesse or his Chancellor, a true copy of the names of all Persons Christned, Married, or Buried in their Parish in the yeere before (ended the sayd 25 day of March) and the certaine dayes, and moneths in which every such Christening, Marriage, and buriall was had, to be subscribed with the hands of the sayd Minister and Church-wardens, to the end the same may faythfully be preserved in the Registry of the sayd Bishop, which Certificate shall be received without Fee."

The extent to which this order has been neglected will be best gathered by a reference to Mr. Chester Waters' "*Parish Registers in England*," pages 11 and 96.

The County of Nottingham forming, with the parish of Rossington in Yorkshire, an Archdeaconry in the Diocese of York, the annual transcripts of parish registers were sent to the Archbishop's Registry in that city, except in the case of those places which possessed a 'Peculiar Jurisdiction,' that is, had power to prove wills, grant marriage licences, receive presentments, etc., independently of the jurisdiction of the Archbishop, in which cases the transcripts were retained by the 'Peculiar.' Sometimes, as in the case of Kinoulton, these 'Peculiar' exercised authority over only a single parish; while in others, like the Peculiar of Southwell, the parish register transcripts of which are here dealt with, the jurisdiction extended over a group. The *Peculiar of Southwell* must not be confounded with the *Liberty of Southwell and Scrooby*; the one was an ecclesiastical, the other a civil jurisdiction. Nor were they co-extensive. The *Liberty of Southwell and Scrooby*

embraced twenty places, ten within and ten without the manor of Southwell. The ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Peculiar, on the other hand, extended over twenty-eight parishes or townships, and it is the Register Transcripts of these places which should be found in the muniment room belonging to the Chapter, at the Collegiate Church of St. Mary. They are:—Beckingham, Bleasby, Blidworth, Calverton, Carlton, Caunton, Cropwell Bishop, Darlton, Dunham, Eaton, Edingley, Farnsfield, Halam, Halloughton, Holme, Kirklington, Morton, North Leverton, North Muskham, South Muskham, Norwell, Oxton, Ragnall, Rampton, Southwell, Upton, South Wheatley, and Woodborough.

One thing more: The Archbishop of York was, by Royal Statute, 'visitor' of the Collegiate Church of Southwell, and as, during the years when he made his visitations, the jurisdiction of all 'Peculiars' was inhibited, the parish register transcripts for those years were sent direct to York. A calendar of some of these is given in Appendix B (p. 88).

The 17th Century transcripts here printed are written on strips of parchment of various sizes, and are tied up in one bundle and kept in the muniment room at Southwell. They are fifty in number, and the fact that they are all for about the same period, ranging in date only from 1614 to 1641, points to their being merely a remnant of a large series of such documents once in the keeping of the Chapter. Indeed, so many of them being for the same years, such as 1623, 1638, and 1641, looks as if they are but the few remaining members of the former bundles for those years (the transcripts in Bishop's Registries are usually tied up in years, not in parishes), the vast majority of their comrades having long disappeared. The bundles for all years between 1641 and 1716 are also lost, while even then only a few stragglers are found until the end of the first quarter of the 18th century is reached. (See Appendix A, p. 85).

Meagre though these remains are, they are yet in some instances of great genealogical value, for in several cases,

such as Caunton, Holme, and North Muskham, the extant parish registers do not begin until the 18th century; so that these few Transcripts are all the record we possess of the Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials in these parishes for the years given. These cases, so far as it has been possible to ascertain them, are indicated in the list given in the Table of Contents.

With the exception of those at Worcester, the editor is not aware of any previous attempt to print a calendar of all the Transcripts in any one Registry, and of course it is only the very small size of the one here dealt with which has rendered it possible to print all the earlier transcripts verbatim.



CONTENTS.

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Places marked with an asterisk (*) are those for which the original registers are missing for the period covered by the transcripts.

REGISTER.	YEARS.	PAGE.
Beckingham	... 1634, 1637, 1641 ...	3
Bleasby	... 1633 ...	9
Blidworth	... 1638 ...	10
Calverton	... 1617, 1623 ...	11
*Caunton	... 1614, 1619, 1628, 1641 ...	15
Cropwell Bishop	... 1638, 1641 ...	20
Darlton	... 1622, 1633, 1641 ...	24
*Dunham	... 1641 ...	27
Edingley	... 1638 ...	30
Farnsfield	... 1623 ...	32
Halam	... 1622, 1637 ...	34
Halloughton	... 1622, 1637 ...	36
*Holme	... 1623, 1625, 1628, 1638, 1641 ...	38
Kirklington...	... 1622, 1638 ...	43
*Morton	... 1622, 1623 ...	46
*Muskham, North...	1623, 1633, 1638	48
Muskham, South	... 1623 ...	54
*Norwell	... 1638, 1641 ...	56
Oxton	... 1622 ...	60
*Ragnall	... 1623 ...	62
Southwell	... 1633, 1640 ...	63
Tithby (cum Cropwell Butler)	1625 ...	73
Upton	... 1633, 1638 ...	75
Woodborough	... 1623, 1627, 1637, 1638, 1640 ...	79
—+—		
Calendar of 18th Cent. Transcripts at Southwell prior to 1731	85
Calendar of Transcripts at York belonging to Southwell Peculiar	88

ADDENDUM.

The Rev. Chas. R. Round, Vicar of Beckingham, writes that his registers contain an additional burial in 1637, doubtless omitted from the transcript as it did not take place within the parish. It is the following:—

“Thomas Vicars, vicar of Beckingham and Walkeringham, was buried at Walkeringham on August the 17.”