

**THE REGISTERS OF  
FARNHAM,  
YORKSHIRE, 1569-1812**

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The Registers of Farnham, Yorkshire, 1569-1812 by Francis Collins

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**FRANCIS COLLINS**

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# Farnham,

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(LVL)



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TRANSCRIBED BY

FRANCIS COLLINS.

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## P R E F A C E .

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The Parish of Farnham in Yorkshire includes the Townships of Farnham, Ferrensby, Scotton and that portion of Arkendale, formerly spelt Erkenden, known as Arkendale Loftus or Dogget Loftus. The Church, dedicated to St. Oswald, is situated in the Village of Farnham, a little more than two miles to the north of the Burgh of Knaresborough. The parish formerly contained the residences of several families of importance. To have seen the Village of Scotton thirty years ago—there has been some building going on there lately—it could never have been supposed that during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was the abode of members of the Bainbridge, Danby, Gifford, Jennings, Percy, Pullen and Vavasour families, all dwelling there at the same period, the only traces of whose residences, now existing, are Scotton Hall, then belonging to the Pullens and at present a farmhouse, and within a stone's throw the house, now a mere cottage, in which the Percies dwelt. At Farnham stood the residence, for many centuries, of the Bickerdikes, who belonged to the gentry of the neighbourhood. Their property passed into other hands on the marriage of Elizabeth Bickerdike with Colonel

Robert Harvey in 1799. The Roundells also made Farnham their headquarters in the reigns of James I. and Charles I. and II. A branch of the ancient family of Knaresburgh migrated from Killinghall to Walkingham Hill in the time of Henry VII., and to Ferrensby early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, if not in that of Edward VI. or of Mary. They remained here until the end of the seventeenth century, and early in the eighteenth this family became extinct.

Perhaps, the most notable entries in the Farnham Register are the marriages of Elizabeth Falxe in 1594 and Ann Fauxe in 1599, sisters of the Conspirator. Their mother, some years after the death of her first husband, became the second wife of Dionis, the son of Peter Bainbridge and Frances, his wife, who was the widow—curious enough—of Anthony Fawkes of Farnley and daughter of John Vavasour of Weston. Bainbridge, who was therefore a gentleman well connected, lived on a small property of his own at Scotton. There is documentary evidence showing that Guy's mother was living after Michaelmas, 1605; she must have died within a twelve-month of the collapse of the conspiracy, for a short time later her husband took a third wife, and their eldest child was baptised at Farnham, 1607. Bainbridge was buried there in 1623, and his third wife in 1630. Their descendants continued to live in the parish for quite one hundred years after their deaths.

The Farnham Register is not only interesting genealogically and otherwise, but it is complete. There are no gaps.

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The earliest volume is well written, and, except here and there, very legible. The writing and spelling in the later volumes becoming worse as the nineteenth century is approached, does not say much for the education of the Parish Clerks; the Latin will be found faulty in odd places. During the Commonwealth period the parish had the advantage of its Incumbent being appointed to fill the office of "Regester," and though the marriages were signed by the Justices of the Peace, there is reason to suppose that most, if not all, were solemnised in Church. The Register was well kept during his period of office. The first page, owing probably to its having been used as a wrapper is much rubbed and scarcely decipherable.

The first volume really consists of three separate volumes, which have been bound together. The Baptisms and Burials commence in 1569, and the Marriages in 1570. The former and latter extend to 1721, the Burials to 1720. Volume II. brings the Baptisms and Burials down to 1765 and the Marriages to 1752. The latter are continued down to 1812, in a paper book, printed according to Act of Parliament, which may be called Volume III.; and Volume IV., which, like the earlier volumes, is a parchment book, brings the Baptisms and Burials down to the same date.

A very complete list of Briefs is to be found on pages 35, 36, 81 and 82 of the earliest Register, but entered in sad confusion. These have been collected together and arranged, as nearly as possible in chronological order (*see* pages 106 to 110). A few marginal notes referring to the cost of the casting of the