

**THE REGISTERS OF
LEDBURY. PART I.
BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES
AND BURIALS, 1556-1576**

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The Registers of Ledbury. Part I. Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1556-1576 by Co. Hereford & George Henry Piper & Charles Edward Maddison Green

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**CO. HEREFORD & GEORGE HENRY
PIPER & CHARLES EDWARD MADDISON GREEN**

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LEDBURY. PART I.
BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES
AND BURIALS, 1556-1576**

The Registers

OF

Ledbury

CO. HEREFORD

Issued by
THE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY.
(XVIII.)

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The Registers

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Ledbury,

CO. HEREFORD

Part I.

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND BURIALS,

1556—1576.

TRANSCRIBED BY THE LATE

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LONDON :

PRIVATELY PRINTED FOR THE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY.

1899.

INTRODUCTION.¹

In the following pages a commencement is made in printing the first two volumes of the Register of the town and parish of Ledbury, in Herefordshire, from a copy made by the late Mr. George Henry Piper, of Ledbury, well-known in his county as a distinguished antiquary and geologist, whose death on the 26th of August, 1897, at the age of 78, prevented him from carrying out the intention he had formed of passing his MS. through the press.

The former of these volumes is the original Paper Register extending generally from 1556 to 1631, and has been copied verbatim; the latter is the Transcript of the same, on parchment, made in accordance with the direction of the Convocation of Canterbury in 1597, and covers, with a small exception,² the same period as the former book, with the addition of subsequent entries carrying the contents nearly to the close of the 17th century.

In the copy now printed such variations as call for remark in the Transcript have been added in Italic letters to the contents of the paper volume. P. 1, P. 2, &c., in the margin, refer to the original paper Register, and *Fol. 1, Fol. 2, &c.*, to the parchment Transcript.

VOLUME I. This, in its present condition, consists of 214 paper folios, measuring, where perfect, 12½ ins., by 8 ins.; bound in a cover of rough brown calf, labelled "Ledbury Register, 1556 to 1631." It was apparently bound in the year 1774, as indicated by a memorandum on the fly leaf of the Transcript, and a former Vicar, the Rev. John Jackson, has written in it, "This is the original Manuscript of the Parchment copy in the large Book in this Chest. J. J."

¹This Introduction relates to the whole of the Registers between 1556 and 1637, but the volume here printed embraces only the portion between 1556 and 1576. The remainder will appear in subsequent Volumes.

²The Transcript of baptisms begins in November, 1558.

On some occasion, though long after the book was written, the pages have been numbered, and run on from 1 to 432 inclusive. It might be thought that this represents the exact number of pages in the book, but upon careful examination it appears that the fifth leaf (pages 9-10) is missing; and this hiatus is allowed for in the pagination, the *verso* of the fourth leaf being paged as 8, and the *recto* of the next surviving leaf as 11. The original entries thus lost are baptisms between Sept., 1558, and 18th March, 1558-9.

On progressing further in the volume, it becomes apparent that several folios, probably 4, are missing between pages 238 and 239, though the person responsible for the modern pagination has not noticed the loss, and has numbered his pages continuously. The entries here missing are baptisms from 24th June, 1614, to 1st Sept., 1616.

Another leaf has been torn out between pages 264 and 265, not noticed by the pager, viz: from the beginning of 1624 to the 14th October in that year.

Once more, a leaf is missing between 21st June, 1626, and the last day of April, 1627, also of baptisms. This is noticed in the modern pagination, from which pages 271-272 are absent. It is a fortunate circumstance that in each case the missing entries can be supplied from the Transcript, except it be that in the first hiatus some are still missing between Sept., 1558, and 20th Nov., 1558, at which date the Transcript, for some unaccountable reason, begins.

Thus it comes to pass that although the book is now numbered as containing 432 pages, there are in reality only 428, *i.e.* 214 leaves or folios. The condition of the leaves at the beginning and end of the volume is, as might be expected, defective, several of them being decayed at the corners and very tender, the two at the end in particular being torn, and the last of them loose.

There is no special title page, but the first leaf is headed "Liber Regestralis Ledburie Anno Dni. mccccvj primo die Julij"—showing that the book is complete at its beginning.

To turn to the contents of this volume, it may be noted that the entries are made in English, and are thus arranged:—

Baptisms begin on page 1 in July, 1566, and extend to the end of page 61¹, 8th Jan., 1576-7.

The lower quarter of pages 53 and 54 has been torn away, causing the loss of entries between 31st Jan., 1573-4, and 25th March, 1574, and between 6th June and 8th August, 1574, which, however, can be supplied from the Transcript.

Marriages begin on page 63 and extend a little more than half way down page 72, viz: from 4th July, 1556, to 19th Nov., 1576, inclusive.

Burials occur on page 73 and are continued to the end of page 98, viz: from 25th July, 1556, to 6th January, 1576-7, whereupon follows the note—"here endeth the Regyster boke of christenings

¹ This page has lost its lower half, but probably no entries are missing.

weddyngs and Burialls made in Sir hamnet malbons tyme for xx yeres."

Pages 99-100 contain various memoranda, which are printed hereafter.

Baptisms, headed "Baptizati p' Will'm Davis al's weaver vicaru' de Ledbury A° D'ni 1576 et 1577", reappear on page 101, and extend to the top of page 290 (this page being nearly blank), *i.e.* from 20th January, 1576-7, to 15th Sept., 1631, plus one entry in a different hand and ink for 20th Dec., 1640.

Marriages, entituled "Coniugati A° D'ni 1576 p' Will'm Davis al's weaver vicaru' de Ledburis," extend from page 291 to page 325, both inclusive, *i.e.* from 14th January, 1576-7, to 5th June, 1631.

It may be noticed that the space of about an inch is left on page 316, between the entry of 28th October, 1612, and the succeeding entry which is dated 23rd January, 1613. In this space is written in an old but different hand from the writing above and below it—"Hears is a great error otherwise there were non married in Ledbury betwixt the 28 of October 1612 and the 23 of January 1613 whiche was a full yere and almost 3 monethes."

Page 326, from which the bottom has been torn, is blank.

Burials, also headed by the name of William Davis al's weaver, recommence on page 327, and extend to the page 432, the present end of the book, *i.e.*, from 22nd January, 1576-7, to 18th May, 1624. Davis himself was buried 16th October, 1612.

From the foregoing description it would appear that, after the Transcript was made, the paper book still continued in use, the entries being recorded in both volumes.

It may further be observed that directly below the heading on page 1 is written—"Note that at the end of every yere . . . a crosse or a hand or a longe [line]." The cross and hand subsequently appear in the margin, and the line drawn across the page, calling attention to the end of one year and the commencement of another, of course on the 25th of March.

Also in the margin are occasionally written the words Donyngton, Marcle Parva, Aylton, Pyxley, and Courte de Parke. This is explained by a memorandum on page 101. "Donyngton, marcle p'va, Aylton, Pyxley, et Courte de Parke sunt Capellæ annexæ Eccl'ie p'ochi' de Ledburi." Sometimes the names of other places occur, and occasionally names of persons.

It is an interesting fact that the names of god-parents are given from the beginning of the baptisms to the end of Malbon's incumbency in 1576.

At the end of page 61, which has lost its lower half, we read, "m^d that at St. Lukes tyde last past, hamnet malbon vicar of ledbury died vizet 1576."

VOLUME II. This is a fine volume, of parchment, bound in rough brown calf, with clasps and corner pieces of brass, the leaves measuring 22½ ins. by 13¼ ins.

It is made up as follows:—

1. A blank flyleaf, on the *verso* of which is pasted a printed advertisement of "BOOKS in ALL LANGUAGES, SOLD BY CHARLES PUGH, in HEREFORD," &c., with the words added in writing "by whom this Register-Book was new bound 1774."

2. A second flyleaf, blank on the *recto*, with the following inscription on its second page.

"Leibury in the countie off Hereff."

[In margin]

"The canon englished for the keepinge of reiester bookes in churches of christnings weddings and burials made 39 Elizab: 25^o octobris 1597."

[In the text.]

"Because wee wolde have reiesters to be faithfully kepte in Churches, the necessary vse thereof soe requiringe.

Firste wee thincke good to appoynte that at every visitacon the mynisters and Church-Wardens be admonished to obserue more dilligently the Queenes Iniunctions in that behalf.

Secondly that the bookes appoynted to that vse maye more safelie be kepte and Contynued to the memoriall of the posteritie, lett them be hereafter made in parchm^t by the charges of the p'ishenors. And that there be written in them orderly at the p'ishnors Charges not onely the names taken out of the olde paper bookes of suche as have byn baptized maryed and buried synce the begininge of the Raigne of our Sou'aigne Lady Elizabethe, but the names of suche also whiche shalbe baptized married or buried hereafter. And that nothings be found to be done guilefully or omytted negligently, lett the names whiche are written every weeke in these bookes be roade openly and plainly by the mynister eu'y saboethe day, after morninge or eveninge prayer, the day and monethe beinge seu'ally named in w^{ch} they were p'formed and done. After the wrtinge of many names hath filled a whole leafe, the minister and Church-Wardens of the same p'ishe shall subscribe their names: the same shalbe obseruid in every leaffe taken out of the olde paper bookes. Neither shall that booke be reserved in the Custodie of any one man, but in a publike Chest locked wiche three seu'all lockes soe that neither the Church-Wardens without the minister nor the minister without boethe the Church-Wardens shall renewe or Change any thinge therein.

The last observacon is that the Coppie of the names encreasinge and written yearely be broughte over to the reiester of the Bushoppe of that dioces by the Church-Wardens within a monethe of the feaste of Easter, and be receaved without any fee, and faithfully kepte in the arches of the Bushoppe.