

**THE REGISTERS OF
BANSTEAD, IN
THE COUNTY OF
SURREY, 1547-1789**

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The Registers of Banstead, in the County of Surrey, 1547-1789 by F. A. Heygate Lambert

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F. A. HEYGATE LAMBERT

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The Registers
OF
Banstead, Co. Surrey.

Issued by
THE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY.

(1)

The Registers
OF
Banstead,
In the County of Surrey.

1547-1789.

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY
F. A. HEYGATE LAMBERT, Esq., F.S.A.,

WITH THE PERMISSION OF
THE REV. E. V. BUCKLE,
VICAR OF BANSTEAD.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE Parish of Bansted, or Banstead, is situated in the County of Surrey, in the Bishopric of Winchester, the Archdeaconry of Surrey, and the Rural Deanery of Leatherhead. It belonged at the Conquest to Richard de Tonbridge, who held it of the Bishop of Bayeux, and in the reign of King Henry I., Tirel de Maniers, the then owner, granted the Rectory to the Prior and Convent of St. Mary Overies, in whose possession it remained until the dissolution of the Monasteries. A list of Rectors and Vicars since that date will be found at the end of the book.

The Transcripts now published are contained in the first two volumes of the Registers, and date from their commencement in 1547 down to the following dates: Baptisms, to 1750; Marriages, to 1753; Burials, to 1789.

The first volume is a small vellum-bound book, in poor condition, the writing very much faded, and occasionally illegible. It measures about $8\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and contains entries from 1547 to 1618. Volume II. is a thick square volume, about 14 inches square, bound in old sheepskin with clasps. It contains Baptisms, 1620-1783; Marriages, 1616-1753; and Burials, 1617-1789. The entries are often carelessly and ignorantly made, and in many instances the original entry has been corrected or added to in another hand. It appears to have been a common practice for the Clerk to make rough notes at the time of the ceremony, filling them into the Register Book at a later date, and this practice will account for the dates of the entries not always following one another chronologically. The Editor has some of these rough notes among his papers.

The Parish Church dedicated to All Saints is an early English building of stone, faced with flints, and consists of a chancel and nave, and two side chapels and side aisles. The South Chapel was formerly the Lady Chapel. The Church has undergone the usual vicissitudes—plundered by Edward VI., whose Commissioners took everything, including the bells, "for the King's use," and left only a "chalice and a grene cope for the communion table"—again, by

the Roundheads—"ornamented" in 1631, when Aubrey writes: "On the north and south sides of the chancel is 1631, W. M. (i.e., William Moys), who repaired this chancel and adorned, or rather defaced, it with ill sign-post painting"—and finally restored by Mr. Street, 1861-1872.

There are eight bells—the two last recently added. The six older ones bear the following inscriptions:—

1. "Robertus Mot, hoc fecit, 1585."
2. "William Caruer made MEE, 1613."
3. "Gloria Deo in Excelsis, 1638, B.E."
4. "William Eldridge made MEE, J. L. and S. L., Churchwardens, 1661."
5. "This bell was cast by subscriptions—Lester and Pack of London, fecit, 1756."
6. "Thos. Mears, late Lester, Pack and Chapman of London, fecit, 1791. John Harrison and Daniel Newet, Churchwardens."

The monuments are not of great interest. There are no brasses left, and it is rather remarkable that the De Bures family, who owned Burgh and Nork from 1220 to 1410, and the Merlands, who succeeded them there, from 1480 to 1618, have not a single brass or tombstone in the Church to their memory. The Moys family, Lay Rectors from 1550 to 1659, have only one, and the Lamberts none older than 1633. No doubt there were many brasses of all these families, and of many of the pre-Reformation Vicars, but they probably disappeared during the Commonwealth.

There are six Manors in the parish, viz.: Bansted, Great Burgh, Tadworth, Perrotts, Little Burgh, and Preston. The Manor of Bansted for some time formed part of the dowry of the Queens of England, and it was granted by Henry VI. to Eton College, but the grant was revoked by Edward IV., and in Henry VIIth's reign it was given to Sir Nicholas Carew of Beddington, in whose family it remained until 1762. It is now owned by the Trustees of Lady Lavinia Bickersteth. The Manor of Great Burgh, held by Hugh de Port at the time of the Domesday Survey, passed to the families of the De Bures and Merland, from the last of whom it was purchased in 1614 by Christopher Buckle, Esq., son and heir of Sir Cuthbert Buckle, Kt., Lord Mayor of London in 1593. It remained in the Buckle family until 1847, when it was sold to the sixth Earl of Egmont. Perrott's Manor was bought by the Lamberts in 1515, and is now the property of D. H. Lambert, Esq. Tadworth belongs to Lord Russell of Killowen.

It remains to say a few words concerning the principal families whose names occur in the Registers. The Merlands were settled at Burgh since the year 1460. They intermarried with the Trappes, Leighs, and other Surrey families, and sold the property to the Buckles in 1614. The Moys descended from Richard Moys, "fermarius Prioris Beatæ Mariæ apud Overey," at the time of the dissolution. He obtained a grant of the Rectory of Bansted for his son Robert. The male line died out about 1640. The Wilmots were a branch of the Oxfordshire Wilmots of Stodham and Chiselhampton. They came to Bansted about 1600, and the male line became extinct in 1750. The eldest daughter and co-heiress married Edward Lambert of Bansted. The Harris family resided at Yewlands in Bansted from the time of James I. until 1746, when they became extinct. The Trappes early settled in Bansted. They descended from a Yorkshire family, and owned a good estate in this county. The direct male heir died at Leatherhead in 1709. The present family of Trappes of Clitheroe, county Lancashire, traces from Francis, third son of Robert Trappes, who died in 1560. The Brownes were a branch of Browne of Bechworth Castle in this county, afterwards Viscounts Montague. The Bests were a Merstham family, and held Alderstead Manor and Merstham Court for several centuries. The name often occurs in the Register and in the Court Rolls of the Manor. The Lamberts descend from Roger Lambert, second son of John Lambert of Woodmansterne, in this county, *temp.* Henry VII., of a family settled at Lamberts Oaks in that parish from 1301 till the end of the last century, when they sold the property to the Earl of Derby, the founder of the "Derby" and "Oaks" Stakes at Epsom. The Buckles descend from Sir Cuthbert Buckle, Lord Mayor of London in 1593. They owned the Manor of Burgh and the Advowson of Bansted. Of this family was Admiral Matthew Buckle, who greatly distinguished himself in various naval engagements towards the end of last century.

The Editor wishes to record his sincere thanks to the Rev. E. V. Buckle, Vicar of Banstead, who most kindly allowed him to make the transcript some years ago, and has now given permission to the Parish Register Society to print it.

The Indexes Nominum and Locorum are the gratuitous work of Sidney Madge, Esq., F.R.A.S., to whom many acknowledgments are due.