

## PARISH REGISTERS (EXTRACTS)

"MARGARET GRAVET, widow, a poor woman was buried in woollen ye 1st of July 1701"

"1718/9 THE COUNTESS OF ANGLESEY was buried the (?) of Jany. Affidavit made ye same day that she was buried in a coffin laced with velvitt contrary to the Act of Parliament"

Records begin to show age at death. We learn that between 1875 and 1810 a quarter of those buried were children under 4 and only half the people lived to be over 36. Consumption, smallpox, measles, putrid fever, given in some cases as cause of death.

There are details of money sent to places struck by misfortune or disaster. 10 shillings was sent when Lisburn was burnt. Other places helped included Brighthelmstone (Brighton), St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol; St Albans; Halifax; Hexham; All Saints Derby; Bampton; Ormskirk, Help was sometimes given for personal loss, eg. to Charles Empson for loss by fire and water.

Multiple Christian names first appear in 1766 when a child was baptized Valentine Henry.

HANNAH MORE  
1745-1833

We have a letter written by Hannah More when staying as guest of the Wilmots at Farnborough Place in 1777. David Garrick, a fellow guest produced her play "Percy" the next year.



Later she was among the pioneers who started Sunday Schools and famous for her pamphlets upholding Sunday worship and Christian morals.



The symbols carved on the tombstones of Mr and Mrs Shorter show the fashion of the day and the formal "Mr" and "Mrs" make us think of Jane Austen.

Vestry Meeting records tell us that Mrs Shorter spent 28 shillings on bread for the poor in 1765.



Early in the century the burial records always say whether people were 'buried in woollen' or not. The Act of Parliament protected English cloth and stopped imports. Burial in a shroud of velvet or linen led to a £5 fine.

In 1582 Catholic countries adopted Pope Gregory's calendar which made January 1 New Year's Day instead of March 25. Some Protestant countries went Gregorian in 1700 but England kept the Julian year until 1752. For 20 or 30 years our books show alternative years for entries from January 1 to March 24.



JOHN WESLEY

1703-1791.

He spans the century. With his followers he brought religious revival at a time when the Church of England had become dull and institutional.

Thousands found new life in Christ as a result of their meetings. John Wesley formed the Methodists, a new Non-conformist body, in 1784. It was not until the 19thC that Farnborough had a Methodist church.

Charles Wesley, John's brother, wrote over 6000 hymns. Many are still firm favourites.

JESU, LOVER OF MY SOUL  
LET ME TO THY BOSOM FLY

Garrick's memorial to  
Hoppy, the Wilmots' cat.

NINE LIVES IN SIN AND SORROW SPENT  
FINISH THEIR COURSE BENEATH THIS STONE.  
HERE LIES A WRETCH, ON BLOOD SO BENT  
'SHE, LIKE MEDEA, SPILT HER OWN.

DEATH SAW HER DEEDS AND JEALOUS GREW  
TO HAVE A RIVAL IN HIS TRADE  
WITH ENVY SAW THE HEAPS SHE SLEW  
AND ALL THE HAVOC SHE HAD MADE.

IN RAGE THE FATAL DART HE DRIVES,  
NOT HER NINE LIVES HIS HUNGER PALL.  
HAD HOPPY'S EVERY HAIR BEEN LIVES,  
DEATH HAD A STOMACH FOR 'EM ALL.

Original  
G.L. Hunt July 1970

## Farnborough Parish Church THE PARISH IN THE 18TH CENTURY

From 1726 we have a better idea of life in Farnborough because the records of the PARISH VESTRY are available to supplement the PARISH REGISTERS. The earliest VESTRY records are extremely brief and little more than an account of moneys spent. Later, as the work of the Vestry became more involved, the meeting notes become fuller telling first about the election of officers to take care of the community and then something of the affairs of the parish and the problems which needed attention.

### HIGHWAY ACT 1555,

This made every parish responsible for roads within its boundaries. The officer who dealt with things which arose was the WAY-WARDEN, who was elected at and paid by the Parish Vestry.



Drawing based on a watercolour by  
Thomas Rowlandson, 1784

### THE PARISH VESTRY

This existed long before the 18C. Its original purpose was to provide a parish assembly where Churchwardens could be chosen (usually on the day after Easter and things like repair of the church fabric could be discussed.

In 18C England most of the people lived in one of the 9000 country parishes like Farnborough where the Vestry was the only forum for discussing things of general interest and non-church matters were added to its responsibilities. It could levy rates for church expenses, poor relief, road repairs, etc. As its power grew there was a decline in royal and central authority so that, by the end of the 18C, many parishes were like small independent republics with the Vestry a petty parliament.

By about 1800 the methods used by different Parish Vestries varied widely. In the last part of the 18C corn prices rose from 40 shillings to 104 shillings a quarter and widespread poverty increased their difficulties but they continued to be local government authorities in the face of growing complexities until the Local Government Act of 1874 led to the creation of such bodies as the Farnborough Urban District Council, and later Rushmoor District Council.

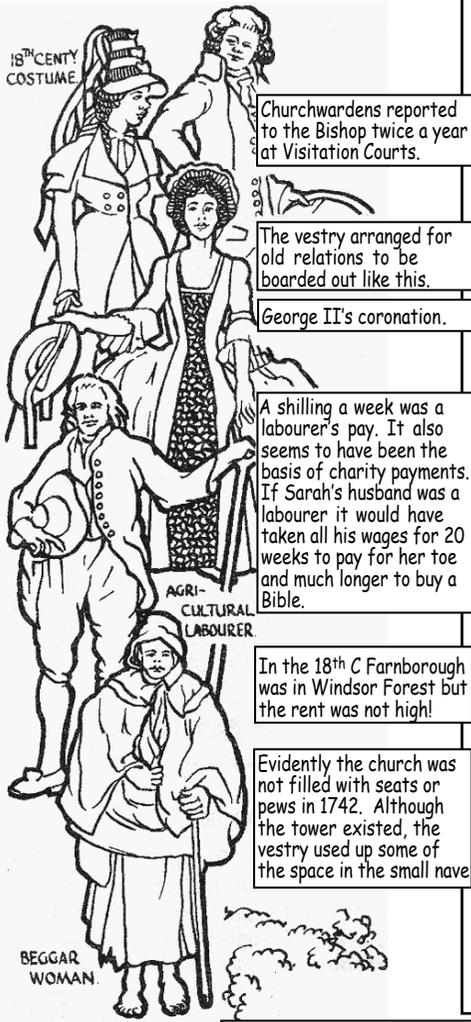
### POOR LAW ACT 1611

Became the basis of poor relief for over 200 years, It made each parish responsible for its own poor. A man "belonged" to a parish to which he could be sent back if unable to pay his way. He was given a "pass" for help on the road.

Relief was given to the aged and infirm. Able bodied poor were, set to work on tasks like road-mending. In Farnborough they could get 1 shilling per 1000 for digging turfs from the Common (now the airfield) for use as poor relief fuel.

The OVERSEER OF THE POOR was elected at the annual meeting of the Vestry.

# EXTRACTS from VESTRY MEETING RECORDS, 1726-1802



18<sup>TH</sup> CENTY COSTUME

Churchwardens reported to the Bishop twice a year at Visitation Courts.

The vestry arranged for old relations to be boarded out like this.

George II's coronation.

A shilling a week was a labourer's pay. It also seems to have been the basis of charity payments. If Sarah's husband was a labourer it would have taken all his wages for 20 weeks to pay for her toe and much longer to buy a Bible.

AGRI-CULTURAL LABOURER

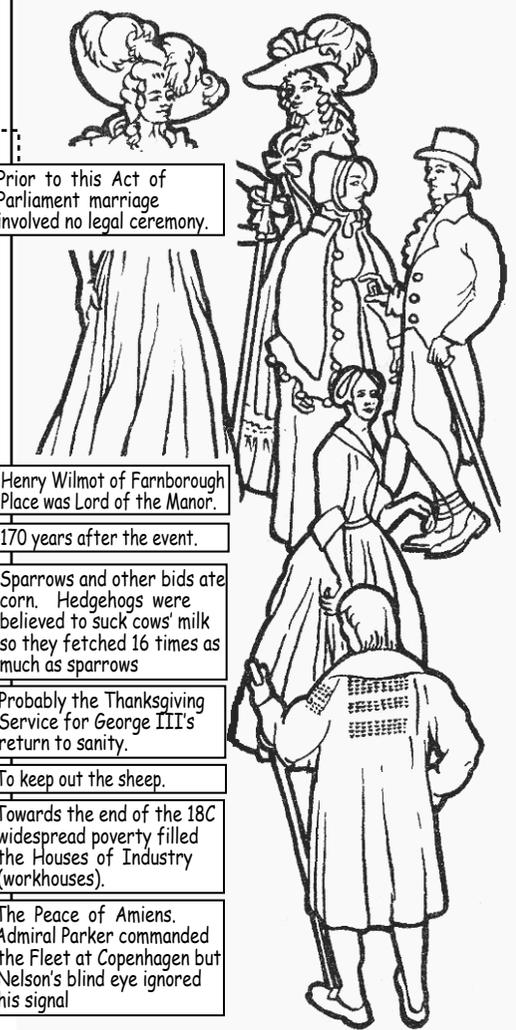
In the 18<sup>th</sup> C Farnborough was in Windsor Forest but the rent was not high!

Evidently the church was not filled with seats or pews in 1742. Although the tower existed, the vestry used up some of the space in the small nave

BEGGAR WOMAN

1726 Visitation Charges	0 - 16 - 0
To ye constable	0 - 14 - 6
Ringers and boys	0 - 5 - 5
Joal and marshal money	0 - 5 - 0
	0 - 5 - 5
Paid to John Dee for keeping Mother for thirteen weeks	0 - 13 - 0
1727 Bell Ropes, 28 lb at 8 <sup>d</sup> a lb	0 - 17 - 0
King's coronation ringing	0 - 5 - 0
For Gunpowder Treason	0 - 4 - 0
1728 A Bible	3 - 11 - 0
Given to Vaggebonds	
Memo: That nothing hereafter shall be allowed to the officer to give to Vaggabonds.	
Windsor Forest money	0 - 3 - 3
Paid to surgeon for curing Sarah's toe	1 - 0 - 0
To Goody Antrap for curing sore hand	0 - 7 - 6
1729 For a pew to church ye women in	0 - 4 - 2
1730 Cort money	0 - 3 - 0
To a poor woman	0 - 1 - 0
To ye boys on ye 5th November	0 - 0 - 4
For straw for the Almshouse	0 - 13 - 0
1742 Leave given to Thos. Little, the Rector to erect a seat or pew to be appropriated to the use of the family in the house called Coulford House. To be built on the north side of the church opposite the vestry.	
1750 For Corte Rente	0 - 2 - 6
Prayer for the Royal Family	0 - 8 - 4
Given to woman	0 - 0 - 6

1753 Several entries like :-	
Gave to a man/woman with a pas	
Paid for the Notice of Act of Parl <sup>t</sup> .	
To prevent clandestine marriages	0 - 2 - 6
Register Book for Marriages	0 - 10 - 0
1755 Gave away to pases	0 - 1 - 3
For new shingelen and mending the ould shingelen of the stepel.	15 - 19 - 4
1757 Pd. form of prayer for ye fast.	
1761 There were 68 ratepayers at 2 <sup>d</sup> in the £	
Paid a disabled sailor with a pas and his wife and four children	0 - 1 - 0
1769 Agreement made with Henry Wilmot. Parish Church gives up part of churchyard.	
1775 Ringing at gunpowder treason.	
1776-95 Entries for vermin killing, e.g.	
To 32 hedgehogs at 4 <sup>d</sup> each	0 - 10 - 8
To 80 dozen birds' heads	1 - 0 - 0
A sparrows' net	0 - 3 - 0
1790 For book for the Clark for the King's restoration	0 - 0 - 6
1794 A gate to church porch	1 - 4 - 3
1796 Vestry resolved:- Alms-houses belonging to the Parish to be sold by auction and the proceeds to go towards payments due from Parish for furniture in the House of Industry	
1801 1½ Dozen Hat pegs	0 - 3 - 6
1802 For Ringers for Peace and Admiral Parker's victory	



Prior to this Act of Parliament marriage involved no legal ceremony.

Henry Wilmot of Farnborough Place was Lord of the Manor.

170 years after the event.

Sparrows and other birds ate corn. Hedgehogs were believed to suck cows' milk so they fetched 16 times as much as sparrows

Probably the Thanksgiving Service for George III's return to sanity.

To keep out the sheep.

Towards the end of the 18C widespread poverty filled the Houses of Industry (workhouses).

The Peace of Amiens. Admiral Parker commanded the Fleet at Copenhagen but Nelson's blind eye ignored his signal

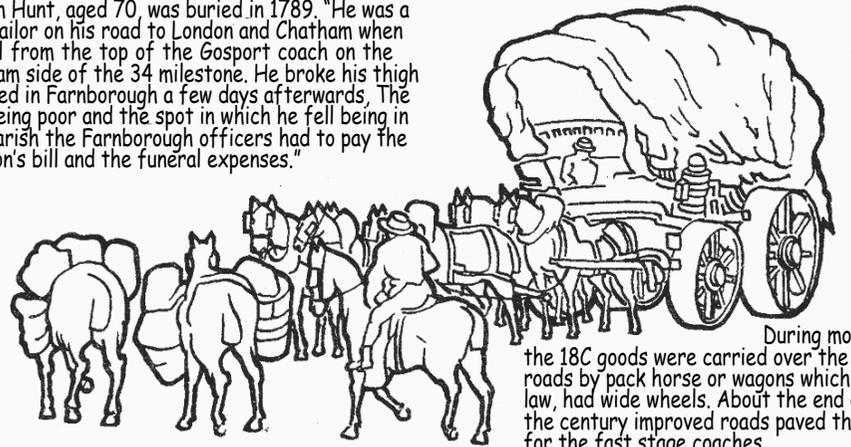
GOD BLESS THE SQUIRE AND HIS RELATIONS AND KEEP US IN OUR PROPER STATIONS.



Rowlandson caricatured the well-to-do Farmer here seen going to his local town by pony and trap

The yeoman farmer on his pony

William Hunt, aged 70, was buried in 1789. "He was a poor sailor on his road to London and Chatham when he fell from the top of the Gosport coach on the Farnham side of the 34 milestone. He broke his thigh and died in Farnborough a few days afterwards. The man being poor and the spot in which he fell being in this parish the Farnborough officers had to pay the surgeon's bill and the funeral expenses."



During most of the 18C goods were carried over the bad roads by pack horse or wagons which, by law, had wide wheels. About the end of the century improved roads paved the way for the fast stage coaches.