

THE VILLAGE AND ITS PEOPLE



PEDLAR & BALLAD-MONGER EARLY 17thC.

KITCHENMAID 1640

MILKMAID 17thC

CERTIFICATES FOR YE SVIL.

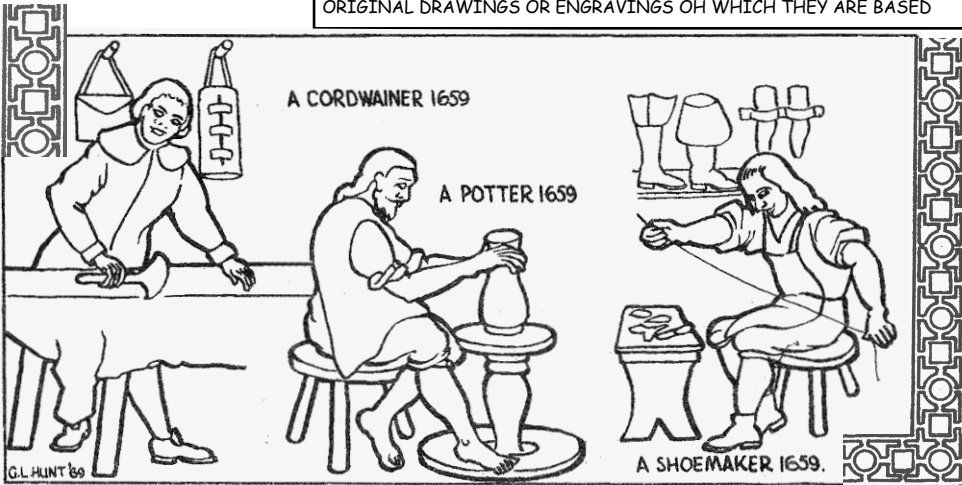
Mary, the daughter of Danial Courtness received a certificate May ye 20th 1668

The 17thC. registers show about 30 baptisms and 2 marriages a year indicating a parish with a population of 200 more or less. Burials averaged 5 or so a year but local disasters such as bad wells or epidemics caused large variations. The most severe of these was in 1665 the year of the plague in London when there were 20 burials between 9th September and 15th October. Something like a tenth of the parish died in just over a month.

Register extracts alongside reveal extremes of class and character in the village of those days. 'Ignatus' against Edmund Farnborough shows him to have been a foundling of unknown origin. The name of the parish was used for his surname.

The Earls of Anglesey became Lords of the Manor of Farnborough in the 17thC. Powerful and influential, they lived in Farnborough Place, the house which is now St Peter's School, from which an underground passage is supposed to lead to the church crypt where the first five Earls were buried, the last in 1737. In 'A Journey through England' John Mackoy tells about a stagecoach journey from Egham to Farnham through the worst bit of heath country he had ever seen except for Farnborough the seat of the Earls of Anglesey which was very well planted with trees. Some of these very fine trees remain in the School and Rectory grounds today.

THE DATES SHOWN AGAINST THE DRAWINGS ARE THOSE OF THE ORIGINAL DRAWINGS OR ENGRAVINGS ON WHICH THEY ARE BASED



A CORDWAINER 1659

A POTTER 1659

A SHOEMAKER. 1659.

Farnborough Parish Church

THE PARISH IN THE 17TH CENTURY

Although there are earlier references to Farnborough, as, for example, in the Domesday Book, it was when the rector began to write the parish registers in 1599 that the first records, telling about the people who lived here, were formed.

This is how the Registers start:-

1599
The Regestered churche booke of farmborowe for christeninges, weddinges, and Burrialls made the tenth Daye of aprill in the one & fortyth yeares of the Raigne of our moste gracious Souveraigne Ladie Elizabeth By the grace of god Queene of England Fraunce and Ireland Defendor of the aunciente Christian Catholique faith etc And nowe written in parchment for Diverse good and godly Consideracions
The Churchwardens names
Richard Thaire
Henry Gonner

In more modern script this reads:-

The Regestered churche booke of farmborowe for Christenings, Weddinges and Burrialls made the tenth Daye of Aprill in the one and fortyth yeares of the Raigne of our moste gracious Souveraigne ladie Elizabeth By the grace of god Queene of England Fraunce and Ireland Defendor of the aunciente Christian Catholique Faith etc. And nowe written in parchment for Diverse good and godly Consideracions

The Churchwardens names { Richard Thaire.
 Henry Gonner



THE PARISH REGISTERS

In 1538 during Henry VIII's reign all parish churches were ordered to keep records of births, marriages and deaths. However, the order was largely ignored. Queen Elizabeth I repeated it in 1597 adding that the new registers were to be retrospective to 1558 when her reign began and were to be written on parchment. This new order was more effective. Two years after it was issued Nicholas Pye, then Rector of Farnborough, (he was Rector for 31 years) bought a parchment book and began using it. He did not have details as far back as 1558 but he did go back to the year 1584 when he became Rector. He headed the register 1599, however, the year when he began to write it.

Ever since this first parchment book the parish registers have been preserved, and they throw much light on life and customs in village Farnborough in olden days.

Here are Nicholas Pye's first three baptismal - entries. Two cousins start the record and the father of one of them, Richard Thaire, was one of the churchwardens when the registers were begun. It will be seen that entries continue into January with the year still given as 1584, reminding us that in those days the year began on March 25,

CHRISTENINGS

1. Elizabeth Thaire the daughter of John Thaire was baptized the 28th day of December Anno Dm. 1584
2. Richard Thaire ye sonne of Richard Thaire was baptized the first day of January Anno Dm. 1584
3. Edith Johnes the daughter of W^m Johnes was Baptized 24th daye of January Anno Dm. 1584



THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE RESTORATION PERIOD

During Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate (1654-8) marriages were civil, not religious, and celebrated before a Justice of the Peace. Our registers show seven weddings of this kind.

Oliver's son Richard was proclaimed Protector when Oliver died but he lasted only a short time before Charles II returned as king, Farnborough celebrated the downfall of Richard by calling its inn the "Tumble Down Dick".

17thC. records are very brief giving little more than names and dates, but towards the end of the period occupations are some-times given in the burial records. So we find:— Yeoman, Husbandman, Butcher, Cooper, Potter, Clerk (Holy Orders) & Gent.

With the restoration of the monarchy there was also a revival of the belief that the king had the power to heal by touch. This power, claimed by the royal houses of England and France, to heal scrofula by touching the afflicted person, was attributed to the use of 'chrism', an oil of peculiar sanctity used at the coronation. Before the king could be approached, people had to receive a certificate from their parish and be entered on the register. Some 92,000 persons went to Charles II for healing and our registers show that 6 of them were from Farnborough.



CHRISTENINGS

- Richard ye son of Richard Seagrey, vulgo Siggery, was born October 4th and baptized ye 9th 1698
 Edmund de Farnborough ignatus was baptised June 2nd 1700
 Mary bastard daughter of Elizabeth Saunders was baptised October 8th 1700
 Katherine daughter of ye Rt Honb' James Earl of Anglesey was born Jan 7th and baptised ye 17th 1700.

