

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**

JULY 1939—DECEMBER 1942



VOLUME XL

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**Cambridge :**

Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society

By BOWES & BOWES

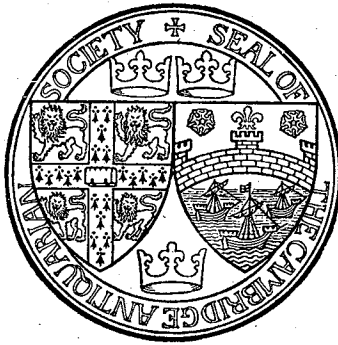
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# A MARRIAGE REGISTER AT QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

By REV. J. F. WILLIAMS, M.A., F.S.A.

BEFORE the passing of Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act in 1753, it was legal for a marriage, by a duly authorized minister, to be celebrated in a College chapel just as in an ordinary parish church. Apparently all that was required was either a licence from the Bishop's registrar, or else certificates from the incumbents stating that banns had been published in the parish churches of the parties concerned. After the ceremony the marriage was registered in the ordinary way in a book provided for the purpose, and it is with one of these College registers that this paper deals.<sup>1</sup> It is a paper book, measuring about 15 in. × 8 in., bound in parchment, and it is preserved in the treasury of Queens' College, over the gateway. It is in good preservation, and on the cover is inscribed: "Queens' College Register Book for the Chapel. 1728. Walter Post, Dean." It contains, however, earlier entries from 1723, and altogether it covers a period of thirty years. It records 140 marriages which took place in the old chapel between 17 January 1722-3 and 28 October 1753. Eighty-two of these were by licence, and the rest apparently after banns, though only in two cases are banns actually mentioned—in 1729 and 1740-1, when it is noted that the banns had three times been published in both parishes. Probably the banns were not read in the College chapel at all, but only in the parish churches from which the parties came.

Most of the people married seem to have had no special connection with the College, though it may be noted that every one of the brides came from some place in *Cambridgeshire*. Twelve of the bridegrooms came from elsewhere, mostly from the neighbouring counties of Beds, Herts, Essex and Hunts, and the three *most distant* came, two from London, and the other from Trentham, Staffs. The majority of the parties seem to have been ordinary folk in humble walks of life, the only exceptions apparently being Caesar Hawkins, surgeon, of London (1737) and Richard Kirby, of St Sepulchre's, London, who married a sister (presumably) of one of the fellows.

Four College servants appear as bridegrooms. In 1742 we have the marriage of James Barker, "ye College Butler", followed in 1744 by his successor, John Sharp; and in the same year Thomas Eate (appropriate name!), "ye College Cook", was married, and in all three

(continued on p. 20)

<sup>1</sup> A similar register containing a long list of marriages contracted in the old chapel of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, is quoted by H. P. Stokes, *History of C.C.C.C.*, 1898, p. 113 n.

	Date	Bridegroom	Abode	Bride
1722 $\frac{3}{4}$	17 Jan.	Edw. Cataline	Casington, Herts	Ruth Brown
1723	10 July	John Whitehead, widower	Cottenham	Ann Page, widow
1724 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 Jan.	John Graves	Milton	Eliz. Chambers
1725	18 Oct.	Saml. Jaggard	W. Wrattling	Hannah Corbee
1727 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 Jan.	Rich. Kirby	St Sepulchre, London	Eliz. Crownfield
1727	14 Sept.	Saml. Kilby	Castle Heding- ham, Essex	Sarah Harris
	15 „	Thos. Ellis	Orwell	Ann Leet
1728	28 July	Rich. Thurloe	St Edward's	Hannah Major
	26 Dec.	John Lynton	Oakington	Sarah Morlin
1728 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 Feb.	Crisp Allen	Willingham	Mary Peacock
1729	29 April	Matt. Clark	Hilton, Hunts	Julian Carter
	10 June	Wm. Harden	Shelford	Jane Osbourn
	15 „	Edm. Marshall	Cambridge	Eleanor Barker
	15 Sept.	Thos. Leech	St Michael's	Mary Chess
	14 Oct.	Wm. Townshend, widower	Sawston	Mary Jeffery, widow
	17 „	Rich. Prophet	„	Mary Corby
	21 „	Robt. Elbourn, widower	„	Mary Hockley
	4 Nov.	Wm. Ladson, widower	Potton, Beds	Mary Scott
	2 Dec.	John Barber	Grantchester	Eliz. Seeby
1730	28 May	John Linton	—	Ann Warren
	2 June	John Seale	Sawston	Mary Corbe
	17 Aug.	Thos. Richardson	Landbeach	Jane Rippon
	24 Sept.	Abraham Norman	Histon	Sarah Peachey
	1 Oct.	Hen. Wakelin	Oakington	Sarah Brasier
	21 „	John Salman	St Botolph's	Mary Holland
	5 Dec.	Jas. Carter	Fen Ditton	Mary Smith
	25 „	John King	Lit. Shelford	Mary Corbee, widow
1730 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 Jan.	Rich. Hills	Sawston	Margt. Seale
	11 Feb.	Rich. Seymour	Westwick	Susan Linton
	21 „	Wm. Battley	Cambridge	Mary Pitches
	27 „	Wm. Dobson	Landbeach	Mary Churchman
1731	27 April	Thos. Pain	Girton	Sarah Carter
	15 June	Chas. Holder	Comberton	Sarah Godfrey
	17 July	Robt. Christmas	—	Susan Kidman
	13 Sept.	Thos. Levereld <i>alias</i> Leverett	St Ives, Hunts	Sarah Selby
1732	10 Oct.	John Leet	Lit. Eversden	Eliz. Wallis
1733	11 Sept.	Wm. Carter	Dry Drayton	Sarah Linton
	9 Oct.	Benj. Godfrey	Lit. Eversden	Ann Day
	3 Dec.	Joseph Wood	Cambridge	Mary Robinson
1733 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 Jan.	Robt. Ward	St Botolph's	Mary Salmon
1734	16 Sept.	Wm. Warboys	East Bumpstead, Essex	Eliz. Cornell
	18 „	Saml. Blacklock, widower	Gt Eversden	Sarah Gaylor
	8 Oct.	Thos. Paget	Histon	Eliz. Tall
	31 „	James Butler	Royston, Herts	Mary Cole
	1 Dec.	James Hinkin	—	Jane Crowther
1735	11 April	John Armsted	Elsworth	Sarah Stallibrass
	1 July	Thos. Barons, widower	Cambridge	Mary Chambers, widow

Abode	How married	Officiating minister
Melbourn	lic.	H. Crownfield, C., Sawston
St Botolph's	lic.	" "
Impington	lic.	" "
Sawston	lic.	" "
St Botolph's	lic.	" "
Holy Trinity, Ely	lic.	" "
Lit. Eversden	lic.	" "
St Botolph's	—	Rich. Newcome, R., St Botolph's
Oakington	lic.	Walt. Post, V., Oakington
Oakington	—	" "
Westwick	—	" "
Whittlesford	lic.	" "
Cambridge	lic.	Rich. Newcome, R., St Botolph's
St Botolph's	lic.	" "
Sawston	—	H. Crownfield, C., Sawston
"	—	" "
"	—	" "
Lit. Eversden	banns in both p.p.	Morley Unwin
—	lic.	John Sayer, C., Grantchester
—	—	Walt. Post, V., Oakington
Sawston	—	H. Crownfield
Barton	lic.	"
Oakington	lic.	Rich. Newcome
Oakington	—	"
St Botolph's	—	"
"	lic.	"
Sawston	—	H. Crownfield, C., Sawston
"	—	" "
Oakington	lic.	Walt. Post, V., Oakington
Cambridge	lic.	Rich. Newcome, R., St Botolph's
Oakington	lic.	Walt. Post, V., Oakington
Westwick	—	" "
Eversden	lic.	" "
Oakington	lic.	Mr Sedgwick
Cambridge	lic.	Morley Unwin
Lit. Eversden	lic.	H. Crownfield, R., Lit. Eversden
Oakington	—	Morley Unwin
Lit. Eversden	lic.	H. Crownfield, R., Lit. Eversden
Cambridge	lic.	Wm. Everard, R., St Botolph's
St Botolph's	—	" "
Castle Camps	lic.	Morley Unwin
Gt Eversden	lic.	"
Oakington	—	Wm. Sedgwick, V., Oakington
Lit. Eversden	lic.	H. Crownfield, R., Lit. Eversden
—	lic.	Wm. Everard, R., St Botolph's
Elsworth	—	Morley Unwin
Cambridge	lic.	Morley Unwin, Dean

	Date	Bridegroom	Abode	Bride
1735	30 Sept.	Thos. Carrington	Bourn	Esther Carrington
1736	1 Jan.	Thos. Porter	St Botolph's	Eliz. Leek
	16 Mar.	John Walker	Teversham	Alice Page
	22 „	John Allen	Lit. Eversden	Mercy Cambridge
1736	26 Mar.	Stephen Hornsby	„	Mercy May
1737	30 April	Rich. Seymour, widower	Westwick	Susan Kidman
	20 July	Thos. Young, widower	Cambridge	Ann Stockwell
	8 Aug.	Caesar Hawkins, Surgeon	London	Sarah Cox
	8 Sept.	Thos. Wilmot	Haslingfield	Mary Elborn
	1 Oct.	John Bell	—	Mary Peppercorn, widow
	1 Nov.	Wm. Linton	—	Sarah Seymour
	21 „	Wm. Hopkins	—	Alice Westman
	30 „	Thos. Smith	Westwick	Sarah Whiskin
	10 Dec.	Isaac West	—	Sarah Litchfield
1738	17 April	Wm. Rogers	Bartlow	Dorothy Mills
	28 July	Saml. Coxal	Melbourn	Ann Papworth
	1 Oct.	Thos. Jepps	Orwell	Sarah Reed
	2 „	John Bowde	Melbourn	Francis Newman
	31 „	Hen. Hatchet	Oakington	Alice Lolly
1739	8 Oct.	Joseph Barber	St Botolph's	Sarah Pool
	8 Nov.	Wm. Powers	Stretham	Ann Ogle
	26 Dec.	Wm. Dovey	Foxton	Eliz. Phipps
1739	2 Jan.	Edw. Goodwin	St Botolph's	Mary Shearman
1740	10 April	Thos. Clee	„	Dennis Newby
	22 „	Wm. Headley	Grantchester	Ann Aylmer
	22 May	John Dimock	Stretham	Sarah Read
	4 June	John Seymour	Westwick	Ann Webb
	3 July	John Gunnell	St Botolph's	Ellen Furbank
	13 „	John Smith	„	Eliz. Gunnell
1740	16 Feb.	Geo. Savil	Ickleton	Mary Jones
	1 Mar.	Wm. Coote	Cambridge	Jane Palmer
1741	29 „	John Murrel	Oakington	Mary Ames
	12 May	Joseph Nightingall	Barton	Hannah Ivett
	14 June	Robt. Leech	Oakington	Ellen Jude
	9 Aug.	Matt. Frohock	Chesterton	Alice Canham
	28 „	John Rose	Oakington	Alice Winder
	1 Oct.	John Cann	Barton	Mary Driver
	5 „	John Crow	Cambridge	Eliz. Carter
1741	21 Jan.	John Cob	Fen Stanton, Hunts	Ann Smith
	2 Feb.	Robt. Lagden	Norton, Suffolk	Alice Smith
	15 „	John Butler	Oakington	Susan Peacock
	15 Mar.	Geo. Vere	St Clement's	Eliz. Hurst
1742	29 April	John Belgrove	Wimpole	Mary Scott
	25 May	James Barker, "ye College Butler"	St Botolph's	Cath. Nicholson
	25 Nov.	Wm. Simons	Harston	Sarah Corke
1743	27 June	James Leach	St Giles'	Kezie York
	24 Aug.	Joshua Mitchell	St Botolph's	Eliz. Jones
1743	26 Oct.	Thos. Simons	Harston	Esther Webb
	29 Dec.	Chas. North	Litlington	Ann Harvey

Abode	How married	Officiating minister
Bourn	lic.	Peirce Dixon
St Botolph's	—	Wm. Everard, R., St Botolph's
Abington	—	Pierce Dixon
Lit. Eversden	lic.	Pierce Dixon, Dean
"	—	Pierce Dixon
Oakington	lic.	Rich. Shaw
Trinity parish	lic.	"
Haddenham	lic.	Wm. Everard, R., St Botolph's
Harston	lic.	Chas. Plumptre
Gt Eversden	lic.	Rich. Shaw
Oakington	lic.	"
"	lic.	"
Longstanton	lic.	"
Shepreth	lic.	Wm. Everard
Cambridge	lic.	"
Melbourn	lic.	Wm. Everard, R., St Botolph's
Gt Shelford	lic.	Hen. Rand
Melbourn	lic.	Tob. Coyte
Oakington	—	Rich. Shaw
St Botolph's	—	Wm. Everard, R., St Botolph's
St Edward's	lic.	"
Barton	—	Tobias Coyte
St Botolph's	lic.	Wm. Everard
"	lic.	"
Gt Shelford	lic.	Pierce Dixon
Stretham	lic.	Wm. Everard
Over	lic.	Morley Unwin
St Botolph's	lic.	Wm. Everard
"	lic.	"
Trinity parish	banns 3 times in both p.p.	Morley Unwin, V., Oakington
Cambridge	lic.	Hen. Morris
Oakington	—	Abel Ward
Barton	—	John May
Oakington	—	Abel Ward
Chesterton	lic.	Robt. Cooper
Oakington	lic.	Hen. Morris
Barton	—	"
Cambridge	lic.	"
Conington	lic.	Wm. Everard, R., St Botolph's
St Botolph's	lic.	Hen. Morris
Oakington	—	Morley Unwin
"	lic.	"
Lit. Eversden	—	"
St Botolph's	lic.	Wm. Sedgwick, President
Harston	—	Chas. Plumptre
St Clement's	lic.	John Bringham
St Botolph's	—	John Bringham, R., St Botolph's
Harston	—	Chas. Plumptre
Litlington	—	Mr Roper, V., Melbourn



	Date	Bridegroom	Abode	Bride
1744	19 Jan.	John Grey	Barton	Eliz. Skinner
	26 Jan.	John Humphreys	Oakington	Eliz. Gilbert
1744	26 July	John Sharp, "ye College Butler"	—	Jane Richards
	4 Sept.	Peter Ayliffe	Widgell, Herts	Jane Sell
	29 Sept.	Timothy Morris	Dry Drayton	Ann Woods
	1 Oct.	Joseph Mennes	Oakington	Eliz. Butres
	12 Nov.	John Coot	Landbeach	Sarah Jude
1744	17 Feb.	Thos. Eate, "ye College Cook"	St Botolph's	Eleanor Preston
1745	9 Nov.	Robt. Marshall	"	Martha Miller
1746	7 July	Gilbert Blunt	Haslingfield	Mary Mitchell
	7 Oct.	Barth. Vessey	—	Eliz. Wilmot
	5 Nov.	Jonas Roper	St Botolph's	Eliz. Palmer
	15 Dec.	John Webb	Bottisham	Anne Waters, widow
1747	15 June	John Venters	St Botolph's	Eliz. Jude
	6 Sept.	Robt. Silk	Dry Drayton	Martha Gifford
	10 "	John Hand	Trentham, Staffs	Martha Avey
	29 "	Robt. Milnes	St Edward's	Susannah Thick- peny
	8 Nov.	Wm. Robinson	St Botolph's	Alice Pesgood
	21 "	James Barnes	Barton	Eliz. Sparrow
1748	13 Aug.	Wm. Hunt	Barnwell	Eliz. Cothcote
1748	18 Feb.	John Smith	St Botolph's	Sarah Hambleton, widow
1749	18 June	Robt. Fowell	St Michael's	Mary Rudd
	21 "	John Few	Willingham	Mary Ancell
	25 July	Wm. Cole	Toft	Mary Asplin
	26 Sept.	Wm. Simpson	St Botolph's	Eliz. Caney
	2 Oct.	Edw. Dowse	—	Mary Saville, widow
	14 "	Wm. Bass	Croydon	Hannah Barker
1750	26 Jan.	John Rose, widower	Oakington	Eliz. Stibel
1750	9 April	John Moyers, widower	Trinity parish	Eliz. Feltwell, widow
	9 "	John Eaton	Swaffham Prior	Susannah Richman
	23 Aug.	Thos. Negus	St Botolph's	Jane Stubbings
	11 Oct.	John Healy	Lit. Eversden	Eliz. Barton
	29 Nov.	Thos. Head, widower	St Bene't's	Eliz. Boston, widow
	13 Dec.	John Chapman	Trumpington	Eliz. Hallden
	26 "	Robt. Bodger	Kingston	Anne Skinner
1751	17 Oct.	Wm. Richards	Gt St Mary's	Sarah Stocking
1751	28 Jan.	Saml. Gifford	Oakington	Eliz. Ratford
1752	19 Oct.	Geo. Tittle	—	Anne Howard
	27 Dec.	James Peck [or Peek]	—	Anne Pinckard
1752	13 Jan.	Rich. Brooks, "the College Porter"	—	Anne Billups
	30 "	Snary Ding	Swavesey	Mary Reeve
1753	8 July	Banyard Gotobed	St Botolph's	Grace Pate, widow
	26 "	Robt. Grumbold	"	Edith Palmer
	28 Oct.	Edw. Sharp	St Bene't's	Eliz. Clements

Abode	How married	Officiating minister
Barton	—	John May
Oakington	—	R. Cooper
Gt St Mary's	lic.	Wm. Sedgwick, President
Bassingbourne	lic.	R. Cooper
Dry Drayton	—	John May
Oakington	—	R. Cooper
Oakington	—	John May
St Botolph's	lic.	Wm. Sedgwick
Gt St Mary's	—	"by Mr Hughes in the absence of John Bringham, Rector of St Botolph"
Kingston	lic.	John Bringham
Whaddon	lic.	David Hughes, Dean
St Botolph's	—	John Bringham, R., St Botolph's
Bottisham	lic.	David Hughes, Dean
St Botolph's	—	John Bringham, R., St Botolph's
Oakington	—	Rich. Shaw, V., Oakington
Oakington	—	Rich. Shaw, V., Oakington
Gt St Mary's	lic.	David Hughes, Dean
St Botolph's	lic.	Owen Manning
Barton	—	John May, C., Barton
St Botolph's	—	David Hughes, Dean
"	—	Owen Manning, Dean
"	—	" "
Willingham	—	Hen. Morris
Lit. Eversden	lic.	David Hughes, R., Lit. Eversden
St Botolph's	lic.	Hen. Venn
Ickleton	—	David Hughes, Dean
Lit. Eversden	—	" "
Oakington	—	Hen. Morris, V., Oakington
Trinity parish	lic.	J. Michell
Swaffham Prior	lic.	" "
St Botolph's	lic.	David Hughes, Dean
Lit. Eversden	—	" "
St Botolph's	lic.	" "
Barton	lic.	Owen Manning
Lit. Eversden	—	David Hughes, Dean
St Andrew's	lic.	" "
Oakington	lic.	Hen. Morris, V., Oakington
Barton	—	David Hughes, Dean
St Botolph's	—	" "
"	lic.	" "
Oakington	lic.	" "
St Peter's	lic.	" "
St Botolph's	—	" "
"	lic.	" "

(continued from p. 13)

cases the President, Dr Sedgwick, performed the ceremony. In 1752 Richard Brooks, "the College Porter", was married, but in his case he had to be content with the Dean as officiating minister. It is noticeable that in every case but one, when, in 1743, Mr Roper, Vicar of Melbourn officiated, the officiating minister was a fellow of the College, though he might also be incumbent of a neighbouring parish, and signs as such. In some cases one cannot help feeling that it was for the convenience of the minister that the contracting parties were asked to come to the College chapel to be married, rather than in their own church. For instance, Henry Crownfield, who held the vicarage of Sawston together with his fellowship, between 1723 and 1731 officiated at fourteen marriages in the College chapel, and in seven of these the brides were from his own parish of Sawston, where one would have expected the marriages to have taken place. The same thing happened after 1731, when Crownfield was appointed Rector of Little Eversden, still retaining his fellowship. Between then and 1734 he took three marriages in the College chapel, and in each case the bride came from Little Eversden. It is the same in the case of Walter Post, fellow of the College 1721 to 1732, who was appointed Vicar of Oakington in 1727. In half of the marriages at which he officiated in the chapel between 1728 and 1731, the bride came from the parish of Oakington.

The entries have been arranged in chronological order and have been set out in a tabular form in order to facilitate reference, and the whole is printed by permission of the President and Fellows of Queens' College.

[NOTE. Thomas Eate was most likely mayor of Cambridge in 1761. See *Biographical Notes on the Mayors of Cambridge*, by J. Milner Gray, p. 49. J.H.B.]

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