

EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTERS OF MELLIS.

[READ DECEMBER 11TH, 1851.]

MELLIS is in the deanery of Hartismere, archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich. In the Register Books of the parish we find the names of many persons of note, indicated by the affix *generosus*, viz.: the Yaxleys, in the middle of the 16th century; the Clarkes, the first of whom occurs in 1570, and the last in 1778: they possessed and inhabited the mansion at the western extremity of the parish (the remains of which are now converted into a farm-house), which at the time of Speed's survey, 1610, was imparked, and within a few years of the present time, 1851, had upon its pastures some of the finest oaks in the county; Tostwood, 1582; Townsend, 1586; Poley, 1602; Feldegate, 1607; Smith, 1614, who for many years resided at Pountney Hall in this parish; Crane, 1614; Farington, 1624; Singleton, 1626; Hare, 1627; Dickson, 1628; Ashley, 1639; Chamberlyn, 1640; Peake, 1647; Peto, 1659; Copland, 1659.

A.D.
1569-70. Anthony Yaxlee was buried the xxviii of October.

Richard Yaxlee was buried the ix of March.

The Yaxley family were inhabitants of this and the adjoining parish of Yaxley. The elder branch lived at Mellis. Anthony Yaxley lies buried at the north-east corner of the church; an altar-tomb, now reaved of its effigies, and inscriptions, and coats of arms, formerly stood over the spot where his ashes were laid, but it was some years ago removed into the chancel: in the easternmost of the north windows is a carved memorial of wood, with the following inscription in gold letters:—

Antonius Yaxlee, ar., filius et heeres Joh'is Yaxlee, Sernientis ad legē, duas duxit uxores, prima em, Elizabetha, una filiarū Joh'is Garnish de Kentō, ar., secūdā' Brigitta nomine vero Penning. De Elizabetha, bis septē generavit liberos, octo etiā de Brigitta, conditur in hoc tumulo cū uxore sua Elizabetha, ex sumptibus Brigitte uxoris sue.

Obitus 28 Octobris, 1559.

Ætatis 75.

This date is wrong, as the entry of his burial in the register proves: the error is probably of the painter, for both this and Richard Yaxley's tombs appear to have been erected at the same time, and on both the dates are erroneous.

Richard Yaxley's monument is at the south-east corner of the church, being opposite to his father's. It consists of an altar-tomb built against the wall, under the easternmost window; above it is a wooden canopy sup-

ported by two pillars, between which is a tablet of wood bearing the following inscription in gold letters :—

Antonii Yaxlee fuerat qui natus et hæres
Richardus Yaxlee, conditur hoc tumulo,
Margarita cui conjux obvenerat heeres
Stokes Eboracensi quee patre nata fuit,
Viribus ingenii, legum studiis, pietate,
Stemmata, connubio, floruit ille suo,
Natales, rapidum comfatum sustulit illum,
Bis ter septenos, viderat ille, dies,
Cuius adhuc terris nomen renovare propago,
Tunc biui nati, nata relicta potest,
Quorum, qui primus Gulielmus condidit ista
Ut patris cari sint monumenta pia.

Ætatis, 42.

1558.

When "Tom Martin" visited Mellis Church in 1725-6, the armorial bearings were on both these tombs.

John Clark was baptized the six of June.

1570. Thomas Complema was baptized xxvi of November.

1574. Gorge, the sonne of John Gempeleman, was baptized the xvij of Sept.

1575. Margeratt, the wyfe of John Gildinsleve, was buryed the vi of April.

These and several other entries are extracted on account of the singularity of the names : Complema, Gempeleman, Gildinsleve, Runkettle, Sutherwhitt, and Apleyard, are all remarkable.

1576. Bridgett Yaxlee, the daughter of William, was baptized the vi of Julye.

Bridgett Yaxlee was the daughter of William Yaxlee, by his wife Eve, daughter of Sir Henry Bedingfield : in the Accompts of the Overseers of Mellis, 1630, is this item, "Received of Mr. Yaxlye, Esq., a legacie given to the towne by Eve Yaxley, widow, 40s."

1578. Roger England and Elizabeth his wyf, was maryed the xxvj of September.

Thomas, the soonne of Robert Runkettle and Audre his wyfe, was baptized the vj of Julye.

1579. Henricus Marlinge et Jane Mawlin conjuncti fuere matrimonio 13^o Octobris.

1580-1. Rob'tus, filius Rob'ti Marlinge et Katerina ux' ejus, baptiz. fuit 8^o Martij.

Mr. Robert Marlinge was instituted Rector of Mellis on the 7th of August, 1579.

Gorgius Sutherwhitt sepultus fuit 28^o Septembris.

1582-3. Thoma, filius Christopher Tostwood et Audrie ux' ejus, baptiz. fuit 31^o Januarij.

"Mr. Xprfer Tostwood" is mentioned in the Churchwardens' and Overseers' contemporaneous Accompts, and is styled "generosus."

1583-4. Edwardus, filius Rob'ti Marlinge et Caterina ux' ejus, baptiz. fuit 21^o Aprilis.

Fraunces, filia mulieris nescio ejus nomen, baptiz. fuit 2^o Julij. muliere remanente apud domino Thoma Wase.

A curious method of designating a stranger, "daughter of a woman, I know not her name."

- Maria, filia Edmundi Tounsend generosi sepult' fuit 3^o Septembris.
- 1587-8. Robertus Marlinge, rector de Melles, sepultus fuit vicesimo quinto die Junij.
Mr. Marlinge held the Rectory only eight years. He was succeeded by Mr. Nicholas Fanner, who was instituted 27 July, 1587.
Rob' Sendall et Bridgitt Tostwood was married by license of the ordinary, the 9^o Octobris.
The first mention we have in the Register Book of a license from this ecclesiastical officer, although such licenses were issued, according to 32 Henry VIII. c. 38, and 2 and 3 Edward VI. c. 23.
- 1588-9. Thoma, filius Peregrine , incerto nomine, baptiz. fuit 19^o Septembris.
- 1590-1. Phillipus Bray, cœlebs, sepultus fuit 18^o Junij.
The first entry which distinguishes the deceased as single.
- 1591-2. A man childe of Marye Thurlow was buried the 10^o Aprilis.
- 1592-3. Gorgius Pechell, vicarius de Eye, et Elizabetha Wyatt, vidua, sacro congio conjuncti sunt: 6^o Novembris cvm dispensa- c'one ordinarij. Luna v.
- 1593-4. Nich'us Arrowsmith, infans, ex muliere peregrine sepultus fuit 7^o Junij.
- 1595-6. Alicia, filia Humpherdi Fowler, Rectoris de Burgatt, et Anna ux' ejus, baptiz. fuit 18^o Maij.
It seems remarkable that the child of the Rector of the adjoining parish should be baptised here.
Nicholaus, filius Nichole Harrisonn et Hellena ux' ejus, natus die martis, viz. 17^o ffebruarij sine opificio: renatusque die sequente in domo Yonges, mortuus ac sepultus est die sabebati, viz. 21^o Februarii.
A most remarkable record.
- 1597-8. Johanes Yonges, annò ætatis suæ octoginto morte subetania solus in foss. periit 11^o Augustij. vespri humatusque die sequente.
The first entry which records the age of the deceased.
This observation shews the custom of burial on the day next after the death. In Norfolk, the third day is still adhered to for burial amongst the poor, in many parishes: a wholesome custom, which their small and inconvenient dwellings recommends for more general adoption.
- 1598-9. Anna, filia Anna Tyler meretricis insigne, sepulta est 13^o Decembris.
- 1600-1. Gulielmus Apleyard et Juliana Cheston sacro connubio copulat' sunt 2^o Novembris, quo die sacra synaxin receper'.
"On which day they received the holy eucharist." This was in compliance with the rubrics of the Liturgies of Edward VI., in 1549 and 1552, which say, "The new married persons (the same day of their marriage) must receive the holy communion."
- 1601-2. Anna Pilered, vidua, sepulta fuit 19^o Septembris post merid' hora 4^o. Saturni.
Why the hour of burial is mentioned I know not.
- 1602-3. Juliana ux' Gulielmi Apleyard in puerperio mortua est 8^o Januarij. Sepulta 9^o Januarij.
This and several other entries record the cause of death.

- 1602-3. Johanes Fenn sepultus est 1^o Februarij; ex vicar Poleye de Yaxley.
The first entry which records by whom the burial was performed.
- 1603-4. Gulielmus Apleyard, viduus, and Margareta Buxton, soluta, matrimonio copulat. sunt, 4^o Junij, viz. die martis penticostae.
T. fowler.
Rector of Burgate. In the Overseers' Accompts, 1620, is the following:
"It^m of M^r Fowler w^h he gave to the poore 5^s."
Mathias filius Richardi et Hellene Kyllit, baptizat fuit 25^o Februarij. Testes* fuerunt meipse. Phillip Kyllit et Elizabeth Girlinge.
- 1604-5. Elizabetha uxor Gulielmi Girlinge mortua est 20^o die Januarij, 1604; hora 8, post meridiem, et sepulta die sequente.
Gulielmus Gyrlinge viduus et Marieria Mydday soluta sacro conjugio copulat. sunt secūdo die Februarij cvm licentia ordinarij 1604.
In the Overseers' Accompts we find, amongst the receipts, "Girlinge's gift," "Archer's gift." We may conclude, with some reason, that the persons here named were the donors, though it is uncertain whether the "gifts" were mortuaries or not.
- 1605-6. Joh'es Tostwood filius Thome Tostwood, gen^{rs} sepult^s est ultimo die Augustii.
- 1607-8. Januar. 7^o. Thomas Stutt an'o ætatis suæ 91. sepult^s fuit. Februa. 7^o. M^{ra} Anna Felgate, vidua et lunatica sepulta fuit.
A singular entry of the insanity of the deceased. The Felgates (or Feldegates, as it is sometimes spelt) were of note in this parish, and also in Yaxley, where several monumental records of them still exist, particularly a brass, in the habit of a civilian, 1598, upon the tombstone of Andrew Feldegate.
- 1609-10. Decemb. 9^o. Will'mus Girling sepult' fuit. Februar. 13. Rodophus filius Roph'i Portman, baptizat est.
- 1610-11. Augus^s 24. Rob'tus Archer sepultus fuit. Januarij y^e 13. Rebecca fillia Susane Grene vid' et posthuma baptizata fuit.
This entry ought evidently to read, "Posthumous daughter of Susan Grene, widow."
- 1611-12. Septem. y^e 1^o. Thomas Ayers de Redgrave et Anna Browne de ist. parochia, sacro connubio copulat. sunt.
By what authority these persons were married at Mellis I know not; for the 62nd canon, 1603, requires that the marriage should be solemnized in "the church or chapel where one of them dwelleth."
- 1612-13. Octobris 20. Joh'es fillius Thome Smith, gen^t. et uxor baptizat est.
- 1613-14. Septembris 10. Fillia felicis Crane, presbiteri in Hibernia, sepulta est.
Crane is a name of note in Suffolk. Sir Robert Crane resided at Chilton Hall, in a hamlet of Stowmarket; others of the family lived at Stonham Aspal and Mellis, as appears by a subsequent entry.
- 1614-15. Februarij 7. Elizabetha Marlinge fillia Rob^t Marlinge sepulta est.
- 1614-15. Martij 20^o. Margareta fillia Thome Smith, gent. et uxor ejus baptizata fuit.

* The witnesses or sponsors.

- 1616-17. Decembris 4. Elizabetha Stannarde soluta sepulta est.
The donor of a gift to the poor, as appears by the Overseer's Accompts.
Martii 13. Joh'es Luff, paup. sepultus fuit.
The first entry which distinguishes the deceased as a pauper.
- 1617-18. Junii 7. Thomas filius Thome Smith, gen', et Margarete uxor suæ, sepultus est.
Octobris 19. Hellena filia spuria Elizabetha Grome baptizata fuit.
- 1618-19. Februarij 9. Katherina et Joanna filliæ et geminæ Thome Smith, gent. et Margaretæ consortis suæ, baptizati sunt.
- 1619-20. Decemb. 15. Hugo Isaac, an'o ætatis suæ 92, et viduus, sepultus est.
- 1620-1. September 27. Hengeams, vidua, sepulta fuit.
This person is thus spoken of in the Churchwardens' Accompts, 1613: "Pd to Roger Love for a merrament for the plough by the widow Hengeams iii." She was probably the "Bessy" in the "Fool-plough," of which mention is made in Strutt's Sports and Pastimes.
- Januarii 24. Thomas filius Mr. Thome & Margarete Smith, baptizat' fuit.
1622. 7 Majj. Samuell Smith, generos' et solutus, et Diana Mawling, vidua, matrimonio conjuncti sunt.
8^o Septemb. Samuel Smith, generos' sepult' est.
- 1625-6. 11^o Octobris. Etheldreda filia Georgii et Marie Dixin, baptizata est.
- 1626-7. 5^o Januarij. Carolus Singleton, generosus, ætatis suæ 88, sepultus fuit.
- 1627-8. 16^o Augustij. Elionora filia Roberti et Marie Hare, generos. baptizat. est.
The Hare family have long been settled at Stow Bardolph, in Norfolk; and enjoyed the rank of knight for several generations. Afterward, in 1641, a baronetcy was bestowed upon the possessor* of Stow Hall, which became extinct in 1764, and was revived in the person of the late baronet, Sir Thomas Hare, in 1818. Robert Hare here spoken of as "generos." was, I believe, a cadet of this house.
- 1628-9. 27 Majj. John Fenner filius Georgij et Marie Dickson baptizatus fuit, qui sepult' est 20 Julij proximi sequent. in cancella.
No monumental memorial of this burial now exists, unless the ornamented recess on the right hand of the door leading into the vestry marks the site of the monument. It appears to have been filled formerly by a kneeling figure.
- 1630-1. 16 Januarij. Puellus Johannis Drake et Anne ux' ejus sepultus fuit, non bapt'.
- A proof that burials of unbaptized children were celebrated by the Minister.
- Martij 13. Dionij Leonard sepulta fuit p' M^{rs} Rich'u. Peake.
By a subsequent entry we learn that Mr. Richard Peake was in holy orders, and, probably, curate of this parish; for Mr. Nicholas Fanner, the rector, must at this date have been old and incapable of officiating. He held the rectory from 1587 to 1635, viz., 48 years: the register of his burial occurs below, February 4, 1635.

* Sir Ralph Hare.

1632. Aprilis 29^o. Robertus filius Thome and Francisce Crane, baptizat' est p' me.
- 1632-3. 12 Maij. Susan Green, a poore maide, was drowned in the ditch by the Churchowse & was buried that night. Mr. John Dobbs, Coroner.
- By various items in the Accompts of the Overseers from 1627, such as, "It'm to the Chirurgeon for dressinge Susan Greene, 6s.;" "Paid to Greene's chirurgeon, 2s.," &c.; it would appear that this "poore maide" had been long afflicted.
- 7^o Junij. Henricus filius Richardi & Marie Peake, cl'ici, baptizat. est.
- 21^o Julii. Willm's filius Henrici & Edithe Flatman, baptizat fuit, & 22 Julij proximo sequent sepultus est solis die ante meridiē.
- See under 1597-8.
1633. 4 Junij. Thomas Clarke, generosus, obiit.
- 26 Junij. Eliza Clarke vidua Thome Clarke, sepulta fuit.
1635. Februe 4^{to}. Nicholas Fanner, Rector de Mellis, sepultus fuit.
1636. Octob. 13. Johannes Bends, filius Johannis Bends, baptizatus est.
- The following note is affixed to this entry in the Register Book:—
 "Primus qui baptizatus est p' me Robertū Harris, Rector de Mellis." This Robert Harris styles himself sometimes "Rector," sometimes "Parson." It seems that he was the intruded minister, for his name is not in the Institution list, and he it was who signed the "Solemne League and Covenant" taken by the minister and inhabitants of Mellis, on the 10th of March, 1643.
1637. Julij 3. Anna Harris filia Robert et Annæ Harris, Rectoris de Mellis, baptizata est.
- 1638-9. Febr. 23. John, the sonne of Robert Harris and Anne his wyffe, was baptized.
- 1639 40. January 23^d. A daughter of Giles Ashley & Elizabeth his wife, dying p'sently after the birth, was buried.
- 1640-1. Junij 29. Temperance, the daughter of Gascoigne Chamberlyn, gentleman, & Anne his wyfe, was baptized.
- Januar. 13. Mary, the daughter of Richard & Sarah Clarke, was baptiz^d.
- January 17. Sarah, the wife of Richard Clarke, was buried.
- 1642-3. Octr. 13. Mary, the daughter of Robert Harris, Parson of Mellis, and of Anne his wife, was baptized.
- 1643-4. Aprill 11. Edward Gibes, of Thrandeston, was slayne at a muster, being shot through the bowells, and another of Wortham was shot into the thighe, & three others were shot through theyre clothes.
- Every county was obliged to maintain a Muster-master appointed by the Crown, and a general muster took place once every year, but the men were called out for exercise three or four times in the year: hence the items in the Churchwardens' Accompts "for scoring the armes, 4d.;" "for a bow-string, 1d." In July, 1643, the Parliament issued an ordinance for raising an army, and musters took place to train the men, which this entry proves to have been highly necessary, as they were so unskillful as to shoot one another. In the contemporaneous Constables' Accompts we find items "paid to the Muster-master, 12s."

- 1643-4. August 5th. Richard Chittock, a recusant, dyed, and was buried at Redlingfield.

In the eighth Parliament of Elizabeth, which met 19th of February, 1593, laws were passed against recusancy. By the canons established in 1603, ministers were solemnly to denounce recusants and to present them; and by the Parliament which met on the 21st of January, 1606, the most oppressive laws were passed against Popish recusants. They were not to live in London, nor within ten miles of it; they were not permitted to remove more than five miles from their own home, without especial license signed by four magistrates; no Popish recusant could practise in surgery, physic, or law, nor act as judge, clerk, or officer, in any court or coporation; nor be administrator, executor, or guardian. If a marriage was celebrated by a Popish priest, the husband, being a Papist, had no claim on the property of his wife, and *vice versâ*; every Papist who neglected to have his child baptized by a Protestant minister, within a month after its birth, was fined 100*l.*, and 20*l.* was the price to be paid for burying a Papist in any other place than a churchyard of the Established Church; a householder keeping Popish servants, or entertaining Popish guests, had to pay 10*l.* per month for each; every Popish recusant was in all respects excommunicated, his house might be broken open and searched, his books and furniture burned, his horses and arms taken from him at any moment, by order of a magistrate.—*History of England.*

In the Churchwardens Accmpts, 1615, we find the following "It^m p^d at Bury Court for dismissⁿ fees for y^e Buriall of old M^{rs} Tostwood, being a recusant excomm^d, ij^s viij^d, and in the Overseers' Accmpts, 1638, we find amongst the receipts, "It. rec^d of recusants, 1*l.* 1*s.*," being the contribution called "recusants' money" levied on the Papists, in 1638, to maintain the war against the Scots. The collectors of this money from the Overseers in Suffolk were "Sir Francis Mannoek, Sir Roger Martin, Sir Edward Sylyard, Master Thomas Bedingfield of Bedingfield."—*Rushworth's Historical Collections.*

- Novemb. 27. A sonne of Robert Cooke and Mary his wife, being still-borne, was buried.

From this and numerous similar entries it appears that still-born infants received burial according to the rites of the Church.

- 1645-5. Septemb. 13 A sonne and a daughter, abortives, borne to George Colborne & Marye his wife.

Septemb. 14. They were both buried.

- 1646-7. Joseph, the sonne of John Bends, of Brockdish, and Elizabeth his wife, was baptized June 8, there being no minister then of Brockdish.

In 1642-3 the ministers had been ejected from their livings by the Puritans, and in the latter year the church service was discontinued: doubtless the minister of Brockdish had been ejected, though I do not find him in "Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy," and no "intruded minister" appointed.

- 1647-8. Reinold, the sonne of Gascoigne Chamberlyn, gent. and Anne his wife, was borne Septemb. 6, 1647, baptiz^d October 7, 1647.

John Frost, gent., of Woolpitt Norton and Martha Peake, gentlewoman, of Mellis, were married Novemb. 25, 1647, ille viduus, hæcq' vidua.

- 1648-9. William, the sonne of John Norman & Margaret his wife, was buried July 10, 1648. This child was drowned.

1649-50. Nicholas Nameless, a popish recusant, living at the Hall, was buried April 14.

See under 1643-4. By canon 114 (1603), "Every Parson, Vicar, or Curate, shall carefully inform themselves every year hereafter, how many Popish recusants are inhabitants or make their abode, either as sojourners or common guests, in any of their parishes; and shall set down their true names in writing (*if they can learn them*), and shall present them to their Ordinaries, under pain of suspension."

1650-1. Praxy, the daughter of Robert Harris, rect. of Mellis, and of Anne his wife, was borne April 3^{io}, baptiz^d April 18, 1650.

1653-4. William Betts, an olde man, was buried August 27, 1653.
Alice, the daughter of Christopher Peake, gent., was buried Septemb. 8, 1653.

1658. Thomas, the sonne of M. John Clarke and Alice his wife, was brought from Thrandeston & buried at Mellis, August 6, 1658.

1659-60. M^{ris} Edith Peto, widow, was buried April 19, 1659.

John, the sonne of John Clarke, gent., and of Alice his wife, was borne and baptized July 27, 1659.

Thomas, the sonne of William Copland, gent., and Katharine his wife, was baptized December 5th, 1659.

Matthew Wines, of Ipswich, gentleman, & Mary Smith, of Thrandeston, gentlewoman, were married May 17, 1660.

See under 1611-12. This is the last entry but one in the handwriting of Robert Harris. It is probable that he was replaced at the Restoration, 1660, by a regular clergyman; for the entries in 1661 are in a different handwriting, which is accounted for by the Rev. Richard Good being instituted on the 16th of April, 1661.

1661-2. Richard Clarke, the sonne of John & Alice Clarke, was baptized Febr. the 8th, 1661.

1663. Thomas, the sonne of M^r John Clarke & Alice his wife, was baptized Feb. 24th.

George, the sonne of Thomas Gardiner & Mirielle his wife, was baptized March the 5th, 1663.

This name is properly Mirabell, as appears by an entry in 1704.

Mr. John Neeve, wid. & M^{ris} Anne Feldegate, singlewoman, were married Febr. y^e 2^d.

Mr. Thomas Miradale, singleman, & M^{ris} Grace Feldegate, singlewoman, were married Febr. y^e 23^d.

1664. Thomas, the sonne of Mr. John Clarke & Alice his wife, was buried March 26th anno p[']dicto.

1666. Maria Clarke, filia Johan[']is et Aliciæ Clarke, baptizata fuit, 8^o die Majj.

1667. Margarita, uxor Thomæ Grundy, obiit 4^{to} die Januarij et die 7^o sepulta fuit in Palgrave.

Thomas Grundy was at this time Rector of Mellis: it is remarkable that the death is registered here, though the burial did not take place in the parish.

1668-9. Tho. Grundy, Rector de Melles, sep['] duodecimo primo die Decemb.

There is no mention of this Rector's institution in the list of Rectors in the Register Book.

- Tho. filius Joh. et Alice Clarke sepult. tertio Die Apr. 1669.
1672. Susanna Freer sepulta fuit vicesimo Maij.
1678. Thomas George was buried y^e 9th of August, an. 78 } Affid. taken by Tho. D'Eye, y^e 4th of Sept^r and witt^r by Mary & Alice Farrow and delivered within 8 dayes.
- The affidavit, here mentioned, testified that the corpse was buried in woollen, according to the Act passed in 1668.
1681. Sam. Flowerdew, curate of this Parish, dyed the 30th of October, & was buried the 1st of Nov^r at Eye. } Affid^t taken by Tho^s Burlingham Rector of Burgate, the 6th of Nov^r, and delivered within 8 dayes.
- Here again we have the death registered, though the burial took place in another parish. Edward Crew was Rector at this time.
1685. John Shilling et Elizabeth Cutmeer, sol. nūpti fuer^t duodecimo die Octobr anno p'dicto.
1686. Mary Clarke was buried the 26th day of August anno p'dicto. } Affidavit taken by Will. Hubart Rector of Brasworth, upon oath of Sarah Bery, & delivered within 8 dayes.
- William Clarke was buried the last day of September, anno p'dicto. } Affidavit taken by Will. Adamson, Rector of Gislingham, upon oath of Grace Carter, and delivered within eight dayes.
1687. Richard Clarke, gent. was buried July the 7th an'o p'dicto.
1687. Alicia Clarke filia Jo. Clarke gen^r sepult Julij 21^{mo}; affid. eodem.
1688. Baptized. Alice y^e daughter of John Clarke, gent. & Mary his wife Feby y^e 3^d.
Buryed in woollen according to y^e Act in y^t case made. Anno Dom. 1688.
Thomas Clarke, December y^e 14th.
1690. Edmundus filius Johannis Smith gen. et Eliz. uxoris ejus bap. 29^{no} ejusdem mensis (i. e. August).
Alicia Clark, gen. sepulta fuit Februarij nono.
1691. Johannes filius Johannis Clarke, gen. et Mariæ uxoris ejus, bap. fuit Martij 31^{mo}.
1691. Alicia fil' Joh'es Clarke, jun., et Mariæ ux' ejus sepult' decimo quinto die Septemb. anno p'dicto.
Maria ux^r Joh'es Clarke, jun., gen. sepult. tertio die Novembr. anno pr'd'.
1692. Johannes filius Johannis Clarke, jun., sepult. tertio die Maij pr'd'.
Elizabetha fil^a Johēs Smith, gen' et Eliz. ux' ejus bap. octavo die Februarij anno pr'd'.
1693. Thoma' Gardiner sepult. decimo octo die Martij anno pr'd'.
being killed by falling of a cart loaden with stakes & bushes.
1695. Elizabetha filia Johēs Clarke gen^t et Mariæ ux' ejus, bap^t decimo die Julij anno pr'd'.

1696. Julij 19^{mo}. Filius Johannis Clarke nat'. Jo' Malyn, Rector.
John Malyn was instituted to this Rectory on the 27th of May, 1696. It appears, by a subsequent entry, that he was also Rector of Occold. This year the Register is signed by the Rector and churchwarden, Jo. Martin.
1697. Alicia Clarke filia Jo' Clarke gen' sepult' Julij 21^{mo}. Affid. eodem.
Emm' filia Tho' Wines & Emmæ uxor' ejus bapt' fuit quinto die Sept'.
Filia Johanis Clarke, jun., gen. nat fuit Julij.
This and a preceding entry are remarkable, as recording the birth, not the baptism, of a nameless daughter and son of John Clarke.
1698. Maria filia Tho. Wines et Emmæ uxor's ejus bapt' fuit 30^{mo} Octobr.
1700. Johan'es Malyn, Rect' de Occolt & Melles et Anna Caton de Denham, spinst', nupt' sunt 7^{mo} Augusti
1703. Johan'es Clarke, sen., gen' sepult' Dec. 10^{mo}. Af. pr'd'.
1704. Mirabella Gardiner, vid', sepulti 20^{mo} Januarij.
1718. William Aggas and Ruth Warn both of Occolt, were married November 13th.
1719. 20 Septemb'. John Smith and Elizabeth Martin, both of Stowmarket, were married.
1724. 22 February. Emm' Wines was buried. Affidavit rec^d.
1726. 30 July. John Clarke, gent., was buried.
1727. 3 March. Cylus Symper was buried. Aff't rec^d.
Thus spelt in the Register. No doubt, Silas is the proper orthography; and, in all probability, both names are *nicknames*, given to some poor idiot.
1728. Aug. 21. Mary, the wife of John Clarke, was buried.
1729. 25 Jan. Rich^d Clarke was buried.
1734. 24 Oct'. Samuel Cooper & Jane Clarke were married.
1734. This is the last year that the Register is signed by "Robt Malyn, Rect'," who was instituted 29th August, 1727. The following year it is signed by Robt. Barker, Rector, who was instituted 20th May, 1736.
1738. Bans. John Ellener, wid' of Eye, & Anne Smith, wid. Feby 21st. Robt. Barker, Rect'.
- 1741-2. Robt son of Robt Barker, Rect' & Elizabeth his wife, born & baptized Jany. 8th, 1741.
1742. Burial. James Cooper, Clark of the Parish, April 9th.
- 1746-7. Burial. Old Gilb^t Cobb. May 17th.
- 1747-8. Burial. Feby y^e 19th. Robert Barker, Clerk. James Pawsey, Rector.
Rev. Robert Barker, Rector of this parish. This entry is signed by Mr. James Pawsey, who was instituted to the benefice March 10th, 1747-8, by Isaac Cowper, Vicar of Eye.
1753. Burial. Jan'y 12th. M^{rs} Emma Clarke.
1756. Burial. May y^e 9th. Prudence Beets.
1762. Burial. August y^e 23^d. John Clarke, Esq^{re}.

The following memorandum is taken from the second page of the Register Book:—

“ James Pawsey, Rector :

“ A vault was made in Mellis chancel, for six persons, with six small arches, by M^{rs} Clarke, widow of John Clarke, Esq^{re}, who died y^e 12th of August, 1762. The coffin of M^r Richard Clarke, who was buried in 1729,

and the coffin of Mrs Emma Clarke, who was buried 1753, being taken out when the vault was made, were put into the arch on the North side ; and John Clarke, Esq, who was buried on the 23^d of August, was put into the arch on the South side.

“N.B. The above-mentioned arches were all pulled down, and the form of the vault altered as soon as made.”

1763. Baptism. May y^e 15th. Mary D^r of John and Ann Alehouse.
 1764. Burial. Jan^y 7. Margaret, wife of Richard Collins.
 Burial. January 13th. M^{rs} Elizabeth Clarke, spinster.
 1766. Burial. March y^e 15th. Richard Collins.

The following memorandum is noted in the Register Book: “Be it remembered, that by the will of Richard Collins, bearing date December y^e 25th, 1764, which was proved at the Court, at Bury, in March or April, 1766, the owner of the estate at Mellis, for the time being, which the said Richard Collins died possessed of, and by will gave to his daughter Margaret, is to be at the expense of keeping up the gravestones and graves decently, from time to time, as they shall fall into decay, at their own charge and expense, of the said Richard Collins and Margaret his wife.”

1775. Burial. July y^e 18th. Elizabeth, wife of William Jest, of Little Thornham.
 1776. Baptized. May y^e 12th. Quarta, d^r of Thomas & Mary Kew.
 1777. Baptized. Feb^y y^e 23^d. Richard, son of Richard and Proteza Level.
 Burial. December y^e 11th. Elizabeth Barker, d^r of the Rev^d M^r Barker, late Rector of this Parish.
 1778. Burial. November y^e 28th. M^{rs} Mary Clarke, widow.
 1785. Burial. August 5th. William Bullock.

The Bullock family were respectable inhabitants of Mellis, as is recorded on a mural tablet on the (exterior) south side of Mellis church.

- Burial. July y^e 17th. Eliazabeth, the wife of the Rev^d M^r Thomas Barker, of Gislingham.
 1787. Baptism. April the 12th, William Luccan, a child brought from the East Indies by Captain William Bullock, in the year 1786, aged about ten years.

Captain William Bullock was a very eccentric character ; he was interred at Braiseworth, where a singular tablet is erected to his memory.

From 1783 to 1791. “An account of Baptisms of those children “whose parents were relieved by the Parish at the time they were “born,” was entered separately in the Register Book ; and also during the same period was entered a separate “Account of Persons buried “at Mellis at the Parish Expence.” I know of no reason why this invidious distinction was made between rich and poor.

HENRY CREED.