



Old Parish Register

There has lately been restored to the parish of Bremhill by the Marquess of Lansdowne under interesting circumstances, the original parish registers covering the years 1653-1678

In the course of his search of the register, the Vicar (Canon E A G Peters) had noticed that the records for this period were defective. It was described as "a fair copy", and bore the date 1659 at the heading.

The restoration of these records, lost for over 200 years, completes the parish register from 1590 down to the present day.

In 1765 William William Earl of Shelburne, who afterwards became the first Marquess of Lansdowne, and who had lately succeeded to Bowood, purchased from Clare College, Cambridge, a small property near Bowood, known then as Woodlands, but now part of Loggus Farm.

At the beginning of the 18th century this land had belonged to the Rev John Wilson, Vicar of Bremhill, who, on his death in 1724, had left it by will to the Master and Fellows of Clare College, for the maintenance in perpetuity of two poor scholars at the College. This Trust still exists.

The newly found portion of the Bremhill register, comprising 41 pages of parchment, was found by Lord Lansdowne in a box containing documents relating to this Woodlands property.

Lord Lansdowne has also written a brief summary of the circumstances concerning the restoration of the register.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 17 September 1932