



Seend Parish Church of Holy Cross

Mr. William Willshire, Parish Clerk and Charmer of Warts

“White Witchery” we believe to be prevalent all over the world. The late Mr. William Willshire, for nearly sixty years parish clerk at Seend, was reputed to possess this gift of charming away warts, sprains, thorns, etc., and to have healed many persons, some of whom would come from quite a distance; his son, the present clerk, is said to inherit the gift. I do not think that they used an (at any rate audible) incantation. We understand that the gift is lost if money be given for the cure, if the secret be revealed, except at the time of death, or if the charm, or whatever it may be, wrapped up in parchment, be lost.

Wiltshire Notes and queries, Volume 6, 1911

Seend Church



East Window of three lights, Boaz, David, Ruth, each inscribed with their name.

In memory of William Willshire, Parish Clerk, 1819 - 92.

The Genealogist, Vol. 28, 1912

In the 1851 census at Seend Street

William Willshire	head	43	Cordwainer
Harriet Willshire	wife	33	
Frances Willshire	daughter	13	
Eliza Willshire	daughter	7	
Ann Willshire	daughter	1	

William Willshire and his family are listed in later census at Seend.

Kellys Directory of 1889 lists William Willshire, Parish Clerk and Shoemaker.

The 1891 census at High Street, Seend, lists:

William Willshire, head, widower, 83, Shoemaker.

Kellys Directory of 1903 lists his son, Joseph Edward Willshire, Parish Clerk and Sexton