

Extracts from  
Bufton's Diary  
1678 -1715  
Taken from  
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by Bryan Dale  
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*Social.*

1678, Feb. 12. Being Shrove Tuesday, Abram Emming roasted a small bullock whole on *Church Green*. 1679. Ab. Emming, comber, alehouse keeper, drummer, was buried soldier-like. Moses Love, weaver, cryer, *clerk of the market*, was buried.

1678, Sep. 11. The *Bishop of London* came to Coxall, and walked on foot to Church, where Mr. Jessop read divine service; then he came down again and rode to Markshall to dinner.

1679, Feb. 4. A *watch-house* was set up in Mr. Hubbard's corn-field. Oct. 21. Robert Giggins came from Colchester in the road, backwards.

1680, Sep. 22. Mr. W. Gladwin being drunk, fell from his horse and died soon after. 1681, Feb. 1. There was a man, a stranger, whipt up Church Street at the cart's tail. 1682, Dec. Y<sup>e</sup> widdow Mootone paid £15 because she had had a bastard. £10 of it was given to the poore. July 26. John Ilger, weaver, was married to widow Ringer, she was his *sixth* wife, she was Nich. Browning's sister. In April, 1682, there was y<sup>e</sup> floore of a chamber fell downe at y<sup>e</sup> White Hart at Bocking, where y<sup>e</sup> Justices sat and about 200 people in y<sup>e</sup> roome, and one man broke his leg.

1684. In Dec. it was said 7 butchers were robbed by 4 thieves of above 500 pounds, above 200 of it of Nicholas Foster's, and above 40 of Roger Mullings.

1685, March 5. The poore that take collection had badges given them to weare, which was a P & C cut out in blew cloth. In the latter end of May, 1693, the poor had badges given them to wear, which 'tis said were made of pewter, and 'Coggeshall poor, 1693,' set upon them. 1686, Feb. 25. The roof of the back part of the *shambles* fell in. About March, the *meal men* first began to come to Coxall *market*, and had their meal cryed 15 pounds for a shilling, and the bran was taken out and 14 pounds of fine flour for 14*d.* 1686, Nov. 9. Mary Taylor, a low wench, was buried. 1687, Dec. 16. Old widdow Cowell was buried, said to be above 100 years old. 1688, Aug. 13. The old widow York was buried; she was called upright York. 1689, July 2. Philip Parker of the Abbey, miller, was buried.

1687. In the latter part of the summer there was a great talke of a little boy at Brinkley within 6 miles of Haverhill, that was the 7<sup>th</sup> son and did great cures upon those that were bursten, lame, deaf, had the evill, &c.; and several went out of this town to him, but it did not prove true, for they were not cured.

1688, Jan. 15. *Sir W. Wiseman* was buried in the night. [of Rivenhall, married daughter of J. Lamotte Honywood.] 1689. Mr. Honywood, being high sheriff, went through Coxall with his men to the assizes. 1692, Feb. 15. There was a bon-fire made at the Crown, for joy that Squire Honywood got the day of Sir Eliab Harvey, and was not cast out of Parliament; and when he came home from Chelmsford the night after he was chosen, abundance of candles were lighted up for joy. 1693, Jan. 23. John Lamott Honywood was brought downe from London to be buried at Markshall [buried by Richard Tillesley, curate of St. Sepulchre's in London: he dying there.] 1696, April 2. Mr. Robert Honeywood came to live at Markshall.

1688, March 1. There was a *guard house* set up for the soldiers at the market house. 13. The soldiers went away. There was a great fire at the kilne at Hovell's, so that a man was forced to run through the fire to save himself, and burnt his face and hands. 1689. In June, the *church pond* was cast: it cost 50*s*. [now filled up and enclosed from Church Street by a brick wall.] 1696, Sept. *Peter's well* was very well repaired by the constables.

1690, July 27. Two companies of the Trainbands which lay here, were marched up to the Church in the forenoon, being Sunday, with their arms and drums beating and flags flying.

1691, June 5. A maid, daughter of the widow Chilton, was buried, and a garland carried before her. 25. The widdow of Matt. Waters was buried. She had been drunk, and fell down stairs and died. July 24. Old Moses Richardson at the *gate-house*, was buried.

1692, Sep. 8, being Thursday, and the same day that Jacob Cox dyed, about 2 o'clock there was an *earthquake* at Coxall, and many towns beside hereabouts, and at London, and severall other countries we heard, and the news-letter said it was at the same time in Holland and y<sup>e</sup> rest of y<sup>e</sup> provinces in y<sup>e</sup> Netherlands. I was in our garret at that time, and heard the house crack and perceived it shake, and was afraid it would fall, and therefore ran down staires.

In 1693, Mr. Mayhew sold Coxall lordship to Mr. Nehemiah Lyde. May 11. He first came for his rent, and June 5th, being Whitsun Monday, kept court, and counsellor Cox was his steward. 1st Sept. Old Mr Augustine Mayhew was carried through Coxall to be buried at Passwick.

May 1. The soldiers set up a May-pole at the *Woolpack* door. May 18. The poor did rise because the bakers would not bake,

because some of the bread was cut out the day before for being too light. 1695, Oct. 8. The poor did rise at Coxall in y<sup>e</sup> evening to hinder y<sup>e</sup> carrying away of corne, and Jonathan Cable beat a drum to gather them together, for which he was carried before a Justice but not sent to Jaile. The poor did rise at Colchester and other places about the same time, and it was said, burnt several waggons.—The combers broke up their purse. It was occasioned by Jonathan Cable being so unreasonable. It was thought if he might, he would have had all the money belonging to the purse.

1694, March 8. Mr. H. Ennew's house was robbed of above £100. 1697, June 15. Old Mr. *Buxton* was robbed on the London road. 1696, May 4. Richard Pemberton set out to go to Bath, and came home again in June, and had little or no good. 1698, Oct. 26. I received a letter from my brother John (in Ireland) by *Lieut. Grimes* [see p. 112]. My brother John's part of Mr. Diodate's *composition* money was £3. 14s. 4d., so I have 13s. 4d. in my hands for him still, and this I sent him by *Lieut. Grimes*.

1697, March 29. There were a great many fighting cocks carried through Coxall on horseback, in linen bags or clothes.

April 18. There was brave singing in Coxall church: it was said to be by youths that came from Bocking and Braintree.

1695, Nov. 6. The widow Comon was married to one Pudney in y<sup>e</sup> hamlet. 1699, July 13. The widow Comon was put into the river to see if she would sink, because she was suspected to be a witch, and she did not sink, but swim. And she was tryed again July 19, and then she swam again, and did not sink. July 24. The widow Comon was tryed a third time by putting her into the river, and she swam, and did not sink. Dec. 27. The widow Comon, that was counted a witch, was buried.

*Public.*

1683, Sept. 9. Being Sunday it was kept as a day of *thanks-giving* for the discovery of a *plott* [Rye House], about 3 months before, against the king's life; and there was much ringing of bells, and beating of drums, and shooting off muskets, and ye drakes [small pieces of artillery], and making of bonfires. 1684, June 19. Our two great guns were fetched away from the church. 1687, Jan. 29. Prayers were read in the church for Queen Mary, upon the account of her being with child. June 10. King James had a son borne. Prayers were read in the church to give thanks for the birth of the prince.

In 1688, about Sept. 28, *King James 2nd* set out a proclamation y<sup>t</sup> ye Dutch would speedily invade England, and the PRINCE OF ORANGE came with an army, and began to land in ye west of England, about Dartmouth, about ye 5th Nov., and took the city of Exeter soon after. It was said the King went out from London to meet him as far as Salisbury, but he came toward London again, and on Dec. 11 went away and left Whitehall. Dec. 12, we were in a fright at Coxall in ye night, and in many places, by reason of lies y<sup>t</sup> were raised about some Irish soldiers y<sup>t</sup> were coming, they said. Dec. 16. The King came to Whitehall again, and on the 18th went down into Kent, on the same day that the Prince of Orange came to Westminster, to the palace of St. James. King James, 'after several days' continuance at Rochester, withdrew himself with a slender train about 12 o'clock in the night, 22nd Dec., with great secrecy, to the seaport, where he embarked, and was afterwards known to be landed in France.' He stayed sometime, and then went to Ireland, where he called a parliament, which, as was said, began May 7, 1689.

The Prince of Orange being at Westminster, by the advice of some lords and others that had lately been parliament

men, sent out letters over all England for an election of knights and burgesses, as is usual for a parliament, and this convention met 22nd Jan., where, after several debates, they voted King James had abdicated y<sup>e</sup> government, and y<sup>e</sup> throne was vacant. Feb. 12. The Princess of Orange landed; y<sup>e</sup> next day the House of Lords and House of Commons prayed the Prince to accept of the crown, and so he did, and y<sup>e</sup> same day the Prince and Princess were proclaimed, in London and Westminster, King and Queen of England. Feb. 14. There was a day of thanksgiving kept over all the nation, by order of the convention, (as there was in London 14 days before), for our great *deliverance from Popery and Slavery* by y<sup>e</sup> coming of the Prince of Orange; and the same day at Coxall they made a shift to ring y<sup>e</sup> bells after a fashion, and after sermon the effigies of a Pope was carried about y<sup>e</sup> town, and at night burnt in a bonfire; and, Feb. 21, King William and Mary were proclaimed at Coxall (it being Thursday). The coroner came, and it was a bailiff read the proclamation, and a great many guns were shot off here that day, and bonfires made at night.

Apl. 11, being Monday, King William and Queen Mary were crowned at Westminster. On y<sup>e</sup> same day at Coxall a garland was made, and *oranges* hung on it, and carried about y<sup>e</sup> town, and a drum beat before it, and y<sup>e</sup> bells were rung as well as they could ring them then, and a great many bonfires were made at night.

Many deliverances we, in this land,  
 Have had vouchsaf'd us by God's mighty hand,  
 But if in wickedness we still remain,  
 Can we expect deliverance again?  
 Our sins for vengeance call,  
 And on us it may fall.

In May, 1689, King William proclaimed war with France, and June 5 was kept at London, and 19th in the country, as a fast to pray for success in that war.

The Parliament (w<sup>ch</sup> of a convention was made so not long after King William was proclaimed) made an act for *Toleration of Dissenters*, whereby the penall laws against them were taken off.

This Parliament gave King William 6 months' assessment, which came to 400,000 pound; and this year poll money was paid to reduce Ireland; also a subsidy was paid.

In the latter part of summer, 1689, the Duke of Schomberg went over with an army to Ireland, as generall for King William, some relief having been sent before by Maj. Gen. Kirk. In 1689-90 King William assembled another Parliament, w<sup>ch</sup> met March 20, and this year it was ordered that a fast should be kept every month, to pray for success in the war. A subsidy was paid; also in this year was a review of y<sup>e</sup> poll, whereby those were rated who were left out before, and every one was to be rated 20s. y<sup>t</sup> was worth 300£, 40 was rated on y<sup>t</sup> account in Coxall, but many of them got off againe. In May, 1690, another rate was made here for poll money, and men thereby were rated 10s. for a 100£ stock. But that was taken off againe, because it was said men were not rated for stocks in other Townes.

In 1691 a great tax was given to y<sup>e</sup> King in the nature of an assessment—there was above six score pound a quarter paid in Coxall.

In June, 1690, King William went into Ireland, and there, about y<sup>e</sup> first of July, he routed King James his army, and gained Dublin, w<sup>ch</sup> was presently yielded without fighting; afterwards he besieged Athloan and Limerick, but did not take them; but in Sept. came into England againe, and set over a fresh army, who quickly took Cork, and not long after Kinsale. July 12. Here were bonfires for King Wm.'s victory in Ireland; and Sept. 9, bonfires and ringing of bells for King Wm.'s arrival in England. On y<sup>e</sup> 19th of October, 1690, was a thanksgiving for King William's success in Ireland, and safe returne to England.

1690-1. In January King William went over into Holland, and stayed till April before he came to England againe.

1691, May 1. King William came down from London, and went *through Kelvedon* to Harwich, and so went to Holland againe, and stayed there all ye summer, and then came home againe; but the French would not fight, and so there was little done: but this summer Ireland was wholly reduced to King William, for which a general day of thanksgiving was kept, Nov. 26. Againe he went through Kelvedon, March 4. In May the French were beat at sea. This year also a general fast was kept and Nov. 10 general thanksgiving for the victory at sea, and King William's preservation and safe returne.

1692, May 23. There were bonfires at Coxall for a victory over the French at sea. June 21. I saw a ship launched at Wivenhoe. 1692, Oct. 20. King William went through Kelvedon, and then he stayed and dined at the Angel. In 1692 King William did fight with ye French once in Flanders, and many were killed on both sides.

King William went againe through Kelvedon, Mar. 24, 1693, and went to Harwich, and when he came there, the wind lying contrary, he came back the 28th, and soon afterwards went over to Holland. And he went through againe, Oct. 30, 1693. (There was six times King William went through Kelvedon; but I find no more that I recorded. But in 1700 he was at Colchester, I think it was in October, and then he went through Kelvedon as he went to London, and that makes seven times.)

In 1693 was a great fight in Flanders, wherein the French 'tis said lost most men, and yet won ye field.

Nov. 26, Sunday forenoon, being general thanksgiving for ye King's preservation and safe returne, Mr. Boys preached from Ps. cxxxvi. 33. 'We were in a low and mean condition, we



had fasted in dissimulation and returned to our sins, and provoked God, and he scourged us by his providence, so that part of our trading fleets miscarried at sea, and we partook of the merchants' loss and disappointment in the deadness of trade. We laboured and had no profit, and our enemies increased in strength and overpowered our armies, and at the same time we had scarcity of bread. Our sins deserved we should be brought much lower, but God has remembered us in mercy. Though he discouraged our army, he did not destroy it. We are in a fair way, under Providence, of recovering our former state. Our counsels are at present united, and if we will repent, God will still pity and help us.'

In 1694, in May, King William went over to Flanders againe. A great assessment was paid againe of 4*s.* in y<sup>e</sup> pound, and another poll-tax was paid of 12*d.* a quarter for a head. Besides several other taxes were laid on salt. And a general fast was kept.

1694, June 13. On Wednesday, being a general fast to pray for the success of the war, Mr. Boys preached from Is. liv. 4. Also Sept. 19, being a general fast. King William came home in November, and on Sunday, Dec. 16, was kept a general thanksgiving in y<sup>e</sup> country, for King William's preservation and safe return, and y<sup>t</sup> measure of success that God gave this summer to y<sup>e</sup> forces of our King and his confederates by sea and land, so far as to put a stop to y<sup>e</sup> proceedings of y<sup>e</sup> French. Mr. Boys preached from Ps. xcii. 11. 'Though our enemies have less truth than we, yet if they be more virtuous than we, God may give them commission to scourge us, for not living up to the truth we profess. And if we would see our desires accomplished on our enemies, we must ascribe all the glory and praise of it to God. We must praise him that we can live peaceably in our habitations, and that our enemies are impoverished, and their courage fails, their counsells are nonplussed, and their fame and

honour diminished; and that our soldiers and fleets are in heart and vigorous, and in a capacity to defend us.'

It was said we gat ground of the French this yeare, and burnt two townes in France, and took some part of Flanders from them that they had conquered before. But Dec. 28 Queen Mary dyed of ye small-pox, and was buried on Tuesday, Mar. 5 following, on w<sup>ch</sup> day our great Bell was tould for 2 or 3 hours at severall times in y<sup>t</sup> day.

In 1695 King William went over to Flanders againe in May, and there was a tax paid this year also of 4s. in y<sup>e</sup> pound, and another tax laid upon births and burials, and marriages, and widdowers and batchelors.

June 19. On Wednesday, being a general fast to pray for success in the war, Mr. Boys preached from Is. lviii. 4. 'Before we undertake to fast, we may be sure our enemies fast and pray as well as we, and are more strict in keeping fasts than we, and more earnest in their prayers. They call much upon the Virgin Mary and all the angels and saints. But one nation must be in a wrong cause. Now our enemies seem to aim only at empire and dominion. They have invaded and conquered part of the neighbouring countries, and driven many of the Reformed religion out of their land, and tortured many more to death; but we stand up only in our own defence, that we may enjoy our peace and liberty in the country God hath given to our forefathers. Our enemies have been great oppressors in this part of Europe, and have threatened us, and on occasion endeavoured to ruin us; but we would live in peace. . . . Then as we contend with them by the sword, let us contend with them by prayer; and if we can prevail that way, it will be most noble.'

This summer King William besieged and took the citty and castle of Namur; and some other townes were bombarded in France. In October King William came home againe, and dis-

solved his parliament and called a new one, and the 18th Dec. was kept as a generall fast, to pray for a blessing on the proceedings of the parliament. About the latter end of February, 1695-6, a great plot was discovered against y<sup>e</sup> King's life, and for y<sup>e</sup> invasion of y<sup>e</sup> realme, for which severall were tryed and executed, some of which were knights; and the 16th of April following was kept as a thanksgiving for y<sup>e</sup> discovery of y<sup>e</sup> plot, on which day Mr. Boys preached the same sermon which he did in the afternoon on Sunday, Oct. 19, 1690, which was a thanksgiving day also. Then the King went over to Flanders againe. The year '96 a great assessment was paid as before, and a tax was laid on windows, to make good ye deficiency of y<sup>e</sup> clipped money, which was called in and new coined.

1697, April 28, Mr. Boys, which was a general fast, preached the same sermon, or much like it, from Is. x. 21, which he did from Ezra ix. 14. on Aug. 9, 1693.

This year was much talk of peace, which was concluded at last, and certain news of it came first in Sept., for which there was great rejoicing severall times. The King came home in November, and Dec. 2 was kept as a general thanksgiving for the peace.

1698. This year was the latest harvest that was ever knowne almost, and there was great scarcity of corn in all countries, but blessed be God we had good crops hereabouts; yet it held up at a great price, because they said a great deal was carried away.

1701-2. King William died 8th March, and on 18th March following, Princess Anne of Denmark was proclaimed Queen at Colchester.

1703, Nov. 26 and 27. There was an extraordinary great wind, which did more hurt by sea and land than ever was known

to be done by one wind, by any person now living. *Besides* some persons were killed, many houses blown down or much damaged, many trees blown down, and many ships and seamen lost, which occasioned besides, a prayer read every Sunday for sometime, and a general fast to be kept on the 19th Feb. following.

1714, Aug. 1. Queen Anne died, and the same day George, Elector of Brunswick, was proclaimed. Sept. 18. King George landed at Greenwich.

1715, April 22. Was a great eclipse of y sun, the middle of it was about half an hour after 9 o'clock, when it was a totall eclipse and very dark for some minutes, so that people could not see to work, and severall stars were plainly seen in y<sup>e</sup> sky.

1715-16, Mar. 6. Was seen a meteor (as it was called). It was a great light in y<sup>e</sup> aire. It was seen first soon after candle-lighting, and continued great part of the night, more or less; some said it was a sign of *drought*.

The more of worldly wealth we do possess,  
The harder 'tis to Heaven to have access."