

FROM THE ARCHIVE OF RINGMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PARISH NOTES taken by me, F.C.Hingeston Randolph from a Journal kept by Robert Randle, farmer, of Ringmore Cottage

1829 Great year of cider, more than for 52 years before, price under 10/- per hhd. (hogshead) - Great drought: scarcely any rain from Harvest till 31 Jan. Very severe frost for 6 or 7 weeks at Christmas.

1830 Very severe frost for 2 nights at Candlemas.

1833,4 From the beginning of November to the end of February, incessant rain for more than 100 days continuously. In the autumn of 1834 a great drought which lasted till 1835, February, when the rain came in torrents; no water up to that date to water the meadows; the Town-wall dry, and people living on the Cross obliged to go for water to the Lower Farm. In -

1836 Great gale from S.E. to S.W. on 12 October. Fire at Thurlstone, (Mr Sheath's) 170 bags of wheat, 1 horse, 1 calf burnt. On 29 November a complete hurricane; the wind upset many mows, blew down several chimneys, unroofed several houses, and more or less shattered nearly every house in the place (a Tuesday).

1837 On Good Friday, 24 March, a very heavy fall of snow, and severe frost, the like not remembered by the oldest inhabitant, Joseph Osborne, then 87 years of age.

- 4th and 5th of April, very heavy snow: Blackberry Lane impassable.

- 3rd August, John Ryder, farmer, attending the County Election at Kingsbridge, on his return home fell from his horse between Houghton and Row of Trees [only one of the row left now, (after 1860) in the corner against the hedge of Hele's] and never spoke again. He died at 8p.m. next day.

PARISH NOTES (cont.) taken by F.C.Hingeston-Randolph

1838 Jan. and Feb., very severe frost for 6 weeks.

15 Feb. Great gale from the E., which shattered the thatch of many houses: heavy snow all day.

28 Nov. Heavy gale from S.E. to S.W. On the morn of the 29th a French schooner on shore of Sedgewell Beach, bottom up, all crew lost. At 10, the same day, a brig drove on Bantham bar, and went to pieces in half-an-hour - 8 men drowned, 3 saved. Her name was the *Barbara*, of North Shields, 256 tons, from Constantinople, laden with seed, chiefly linseed.

1839. 13 May, - William Griffin, chief boatman, Challaborough, fell over the cliff this night on the Outer Down, and was dashed to pieces.

16 May, Severe frost; Plump Pool frozen over.

20 June. Great thunderstorm, with tremendous rain, which washed down many hedges. A bad hay harvest, and worse corn harvest; scarcely a farmer had a single bag of unstained barley. The wettest summer and Autumn ever recollected; unsaved barley to be seen on the 25th Oct. We removed 2 barley mows to dry them 26 Oct.

1840. 24 Jan. William, son of Robert Perraton, aged 13, hung himself at the entrance of Darky Lane.

13 Nov. Great gale from S.E. to S.W. by W.

1841. 6th Feb., Great gale from N.E. and heavy snow, which lasted several days.

1844. 9 Oct. The Brig, 'Deptford', of Barmouth, Capt.n Dedwith, driven ashore on Island Sand.

1846. 20 Nov. The 'Ellen', of Portsmouth, laden with bullocks, wrecked at Motbecombe, all drowned.

22 Nov. A Dutch vessel, laden with wine, wrecked on Battisborough Island; nothing heard of the crew.

MORE PARISH NOTES (extracted from another Memorandum Book by Robert Randle)

1814 7 Jan. - at night, the first deep snow fell. 10 Jan., at night, the second deep snow fell. The snow lay in places 10 and a half feet deep, and the surveyors of highways had to employ men to cut paths through all the roads in the Parish, from ten to fifteen men daily, the roads being quite impassable. Supposed to have been the deepest snow that had fallen here about for more than half a century.

1817. 20 Jan. remarkably high tide; it split the great door of the cellars at Challaborough, and carried away part of the same.

PARISH NOTES continued by H.C. Hingeston-Randolph

1881 5th Jan. A heavy snowstorm lasting 3 days. All the roads blocked.

1891. 9th March. The memorable blizzard began, roads and railways completely blocked, no letters or newspapers reached the Parish for more than a week. Whole flocks of sheep lost in snow on every farm.

1896. 16th July. Hubert Baker Ash, aged 22, thrown from his horse near Heles and never spoke again, died four days later.

1921. The rainfall this year was less than half the average. All wells for the parish dry throughout the Autumn and greater part of the winter.

The Reservoir, known as the Town Well alone held out.

1922. 8th March. Terrific gale. Two fine cedars and other Trees at the Rectory uprooted; great damage to buildings.

1927. Xmas Day in the Evening - a blizzard of snow began and continued throughout the next day; all roads to the village were completely blocked, no post or newspapers for several days. The funeral of James Miller, aged 86, who died at Churston Ferrers, was to have taken place here on Wed: Dec: 28th. but the roads being impassable he was buried at Brixham on the 31st.

1930. Dec. 12. Great gale. Roof of nave stripped of slates, much damage to property. Scores of great trees uprooted.

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