

Women of Highworth

The returns of an inquest for Highworth and Cricklade hundred in the northern tip of Wiltshire in 1352-3 reveal sixteen women amongst the total of fifty-five individuals presented for taking excessive wages. The occupations of thirteen of these women are given. Eight of them are described as brewster and another two as pedler. The other three women, however, are presented along with one of their husbands and another two men with having taken 5d each day with courtesy 'in the autumn'. The implication is that these women were helping with harvest.

Female Wage-Earners in Late Fourteenth Century England pgs 6-7

Nov 12, 1763 Mr **Hughes**, Attorney at Cheltenham, to Miss **Eliza Bridges** of Highworth, a fortune of 7000£. *Royal Magazine Nov 1763 pg 279*

The following curious article is copied verbatim from the BATH CHRONICLE

"Last olly Thursday was marred at lwurth Miss **Annah Opkins** of Anny, a most haggribl yung Humman seventeen year old with a ansom fortien and hevery haccumplishment to make the marriage state appy to Mr **Enery Hatkins** a sensibull yung Farmer hand the opes of his family: and we ere they hare both goening to live in Erefordshir at is fathers ous who is a opp merchant: in the chirch befor she cam to the halter the father paid her down four hundred pound in speche and heity pound in nots when they came ome to ous."

This paragraph we apprehend may be thus literally translated into the English language.

"Last Holy Thursday was married at Highworth, Miss **Hannah Hopkins** of Hannery, a most agreeable young lady, seventeen years old with a handsome fortune and every accomplishment to make the marriage state happy to Mr **Henry Atkins** a sensible young farmer and the hopes of this family: and we hear they are going to live in Herefordshire at his father's house who is a hop-merchant. In the church, before she came to the altar, the father paid her down four hundred pounds in specie and eighty pounds in notes when they came home to the house."

Leeds Intelligencer Tues 10th Jun 1777

At Highworth, **William Frampton** Esq of Bourton Grove to Miss **Edwards**, only daughter of ---**Edwards** Esq of the parsonage, Highworth. *Monthly Magazine Nov 1806*

On Saturday last, at Highworth, Wilts, Mr **John Smith** of the Common Farm to Miss **Curtis** of the former place. *The Examiner Sun 12th May 1811*

Mary Crowdy married Rev **James Hartley Dunsford** on 22 Feb 1813. *She emigrated with her husband and ten children to Ontario in 1838 and lived in a log house by Sturgeon Lake, Bobcaygeon. **Archives of Canada*

June 30, 1815 At Gloucestershire, Mrs **Marsh**, relict of Dr **Marsh** of Highworth, Wilts. *Gentleman's Magazine Jul 1815 pg 84*

Aug 7, 1820 **Mary Anne Matilda**, wife of **James Crowdy** jun Esq of Hannington, near Highworth, Wilts. *Gentleman's Magazine Sep 1820 pg 281*

Elizabeth Rowden nee **Wetherell** died 09 Sep 1825 in Highworth aged 45 years...1st wife of Rev **Edward Rowden**.

Ellen Rowden nee **Trenchard** died 08 Sep 1834 at Cheltenham aged 38 years...2nd wife of Rev **Edward Rowden**.

DIED – Mrs **Descrambes**, relict of the Rev **J Descrambes**, Vicar of Wroughton, Wilts. *Oxford Journal Sat 21 Jun 1823*

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MARRIED At Highworth, Mr **John Chowles**, grocer, Swindon to Miss **Reason**, eldest daughter of Mr **Reason** of Highworth. *Jackson's Oxford Journal Sat 5th Feb 1825*

MARRIED On Monday last at Highworth, by the Rev **Edward Rowden, William Henry Hitchcock** Esq of 47 Gower Street, Bedford Square to **Eliza**, eldest daughter of **James Crowdy**, Esq of the former place. *The Morning Post Thurs 14th Jun 1827*

MARRIED Mr **W Higgs** of Coleshill to Miss **P Marlin** of Highworth.
Jackson's Oxford Journal Sat 23rd May 1829

On Saturday week, at Highworth, Wilts, the Rev **F Robinson**, Rector of Little Staughton, Bedfordshire to **Sophia Elizabeth**, eldest daughter of the Rev **E Rowden**, Vicar of Highworth.
Bury and Norwich Post Wed 21 Sep 1831

MARRIAGES July 16 at Highworth, Wilts by the Rev **F Robinson**, the Rev **John Ellill Robinson**, M.A. of Christ Church, Oxford to **Maria**, third daughter of the Rev **Edward Rowden**, Vicar of Highworth. *The Standard Thurs 17th Jul 1834*

Harriet Morse was born 10 Aug 1785. *She was not legally married to her 'husbands' **John Dicks** or **John Ayliffe**, the father of her four children who was transported to NSW in 1835.
*WSHC Ref 1033/119

HIGHWORTH WORKHOUSE 1836

Elizabeth Smith, widow of Bishopstone and mother of 4 children (2 born out of wedlock)
Honor Nash, of Bishopstone (husband transported) and mother of 3 children (1 born out of wedlock)
Elizabeth Collett of Rodbourne Cheney was given a loan.

Mothers of 'baseborn' children were deemed "of bad character" and women with more than one child born out of wedlock could only receive relief upon admittance to the workhouse.

(Contact me for details of these records)

Crowdy, Emily eld. d. of late **Wm** ---, Esq of Westrop House, Highworth to **J F Bernard**, jun. Esq of Stamford Hill; Highworth January 7. *The Court Magazine and Monthly Critic Sat 1st Feb 1840*

June 20, 1840 At Westrop House, Highworth, **Henrietta Elizabeth**, youngest dau of the late **Wm Crowdy** Esq. *Gentleman's Magazine Aug 1840 pg 216*

On the 13th instant at her son's at Highworth, Mrs **Martha Flanagan**, late of Abingdon, in the 49th year of her age. *Reading Mercury Sat 19th Sep 1840*

Nov 14 1841 At Highworth, the widow of **R Marsh** Esq MD. *Gentleman's Magazine Jan 1841 pg 104*

Aug 9 1844 At Westrop House, Highworth, **Charlotte**, dau of the late **William Slater**, Esq of Nassau, New Providence. *Gentleman's Magazine Sep 1844 pg 333*

At Highworth, Wilts, on the 7th inst **George Frederick Crowdy** Esq of Faringdon, Berks to **Maria Kate**, youngest daughter of **James Crowdy**, Esq of the former place. *John Bull Sat 9th Nov 1844*

Of Lord **Radnor's** love for the poor there exist on record some striking illustrations. In the year 1838, Lord **Radnor** prosecuted a woman, eighty years old, for the crime of gleaning in one of his Lordship's fields. Of this crime the poor woman had, it was proved, been guilty for more than forty years. Lord **Radnor** not merely prosecuted this helpless creature; he sat as a magistrate to determine the cause.
Dundee Courier Tues 22nd Oct 1844

Mary Ann Matilda Crowdy nee **Slater**, widow (husband **William** died 21 Apr 1838 at Westrop House) died 05 Dec 1844. *Date of Probate 12th Feb 1916 **England & Wales National Probate Calendar*

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Crowdy, Mary Anne, relict of the late **Wm Crowdy**, Esq of Westrop House, Highworth, Wilts where she had gone for the benefit of her health; at the Hotwells, Clifton, Dec 5.
The Court Magazine and Monthly Critic Fri 1st Aug 1845

Caroline Gibbs nee **Hedges** wife of David

INQUEST - At Hampton, in the parish of Highworth, on the body of **Caroline Gibbs**, 42 years of age. Deceased arose early in the morning in her usual appearance of health and strength and having taken her breakfast, she was then about to walk several miles to Swindon Fair with her daughter; but just before starting, she suddenly fell down at her door and immediately expired. Verdict - Visitation of God.
Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thurs 23rd Sep 1847

Eliza Halick (Hollick/Haylock) from Iworth, Wiltshire, England - with her two sons is desirous to obtain information concerning her husband and son **Charles** (by trade shoemakers) who came to this country about a year ago, settled in the Village of Simcoe, Talbot District, but afterwards left and their place of residence is now unknown. Any information will be thankfully received. Address c/o **John Barnes**, Simcoe, Talbot District. Toronto 7th Sept 1848 "*Information Wanted*" *London Times, Canada West, Oct 1848*

COMMITTED TO MARLBOROUGH BRIDEWELL

Eliza Smith for six weeks for damaging the ceiling of a room in the union workhouse at Highworth.
Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thurs 12th Feb 1846

Elizabeth Constable, for one month for stealing wood at Highworth.
Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thurs 5th Mar 1846

Susannah Dawes, for one month and **Ann Ponting**, for six weeks for a misdemeanour in the union workhouse at Highworth.
Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thurs 19th Mar 1846

Emma Hewer and **Elizabeth Hewer**, for trial, charged with stealing money from the person of **James Woodham** at Highworth.
Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 2nd Apr 1846

Emma Hewer 6 months for stealing from a person at Highworth and **Elizabeth Hewer** 2 months for feloniously receiving.
Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 16th Apr 1846

At Warneford Place, Highworth, Wilts, the Hon. **Elizabeth Warneford** relict of the late Col. **Warneford**. *Illustrated London News Sat 10th Apr 1847*

Warneford, the hon. **Elizabeth**, relict of the late colonel **Warneford**; at Warneford Place, Highworth, Wilts, at an advanced age, lately.
The Court Magazine and Monthly Critic Thurs 1st Jul 1847

May 31, at Edmonton, **D Culhane**, Esq MD of Dartford, Kent to **Rosalind**, third daughter of the late **William Crowdy** Esq of Westrop House, Highworth.
John Bull Sat 3rd Jun 1848

On the 26th ult at Eastrop near Highworth, Wilts, after a few hours illness, **Sarah**, the beloved wife of Mr **W Hedges**, aged 86 years.
Reading Mercury Sat 3rd Mar 1849

June 23, at Highworth, the wife of the Rev **Robert Bamford**, of a daughter.
John Bull Sat 28th Jun 1851

Nov 6th 1851 At Highworth, **John Duggan Patterson** Esq of the General Register Office, Somerset House to **Fanny**, second dau. of the Rev **Edward Rowden**, Vicar of Highworth, Wilts.
The Gentleman's Magazine Vol 37 Pg 182

On the 16th inst, at Highworth, Wilts, the wife of the Rev **William C Sawyer**, prematurely of a son. *The Morning Chronicle Sat 26th Apr 1856*

Dec 17th 1858 At the Vicarage, Highworth, Wilts aged 44, **Fanny** relict of **J D Patterson** Esq and second daughter of the Rev **Edward Rowden**.
The Gentleman's Magazine Vol 204 Pg 118

Mary Woolford aged 39 years died 25 Jan 1860. *She was a housemaid in the service of Mr **G Alexander** Esq, Magistrate of Highworth. Following a post mortem examination, an inquest was held into the nature of her death. A Mr **Hind** of Bath, Somerset was committed for trial and found guilty of manslaughter.
**The Lancet 25th Feb 1860*

April 5, 1864 At Highworth, Wilts, **Richard Edmund Elkins Davies** Esq of Swansea, to **Ellen Trenchard**, youngest dau of the Rev **Edward Rowden**, Vicar of Highworth.
Gentleman's Magazine May 1864 pg 650

On the 21st inst at St Mary's Church, Cheltenham, by the Rev **T V French**, the Rev **William Hayes Dynham** of St David's Exeter, eldest son of the late Rev **William Burton Dynham**, rector of St Swithin's, Winchester and royal chaplain to **Emily Maria**, third daughter of the late **John Chamberlen** Esq of Hill House, Highworth, Wilts. *Alnwick Mercury Sat 30th Jun 1866*

HIGHWORTH...amateur concerts were given on the 9th and 10th instant which were attended by the *elite* of the neighbourhood. The performers consisted of members from the highest ranks of society, including the Hon **Augusta Barrington**. A splendid Broadwood grand pianoforte was supplied for the occasion by Mr **Ann** of Swindon. The whole affair went off with *éclat*.
The Bristol Mercury Sat 19th Jan 1867

Ann Farr was found guilty of the manslaughter of her 9 month old daughter **Jane Farr** (born 8 Apr 1866) at the Highworth and Swindon Union Workhouse on the 24 January 1867. *She was sentenced to life in penal servitude on the 26 Mar 1867 at the Devizes Court of Assize. *England and Wales Criminal Registers 1791-1892

INQUESTS BEFORE CORONER MR **WHITMARSH** – At the Golden Lion, Rose Lane in the parish of Highworth, on the body of a new-born female child, two days old, whose mother came from service at Oxford and was confined with twins at her married sister's house without medical assistance. The mother found the child dead on her arm. Verdict - Accidentally Overlain
Western Daily Press Sat 1st Jul 1871

A serious accident befell Mrs **Crowdy**, the wife **H.C. Crowdy** Esq. a solicitor on Monday last. She was driving in a low phaeton from Blundson to Highworth with some of her children, when the spirited little pony took fright, threw the occupants into the road, the carriage falling on Mrs **Crowdy**. We regret to say that she sustained considerable injuries, but, under medical treatment she is progressing favourably. The children sustained no material injury beyond some slight bruises.
Reading Mercury Sat 11th Mar 1871

Caroline Frances Kingscote

On the 16th inst, at Eastrop Grange, Highworth, the wife of **Edgar Hanbury** Esq of a daughter.
The Times Tues 20th Aug 1872

May 20, at Highworth, Wilts, the wife of the Rev **Carlton Olive** BA, of a son.
Jackson's Oxford Journal Sat 31st May 1873

On the 11th inst at Eastrop Grange, Highworth, the wife of **Edgar Hanbury**, Esq (fourth daughter of the late Colonel **Kingscote**) aged 33. *Illustrated London News Sat 17th Jan 1874*

On the 6th May, the wife of the Rev **C H Deane**, Chaplain Madras Presidency, at Highworth Wilts, of a son. *The Times Sat 8th May 1875*

On the 25th inst, at St Michael's Highworth, Wilts by the Rev **A Macdonald, Frederick Woolger**, third son of the late **Richard Woolger** of Steyning, Sussex, to **Ellen**, the only daughter of **James Selwood** of Westrop, Highworth. *The Times Thurs 29th Dec 1881*

On the 28th Feb, **Rebecca Haines**, relict of Mr **John Haines**, Highworth, aged 65.
The Times Tues 4th Mar 1884

Aug 30 at Church House, Highworth, Wilts, the wife of the Rev **Francis C Master** of a son.
John Bull 6th Sep 1884

On the 26th Feb, at Eastrop Grange, Highworth, **Rose Octavia**, wife of **Edgar Hanbury**.
The Times Tues 1st Mar 1887

Long-Smith – February 16th at Davidson Street Chapel, Madras, by the Rev **W Joss**, the Rev **Sidney Joseph Long**, of Coimbatore, South India, to **Susie**, only daughter of **T Angell-Smith** of Hill View, Highworth, Wilts. *The Chronicle of the London Missionary Society Sun 1st May 1887*

On the 12th inst, at 5 Norfolk Square, Hyde park, **Julia Pauline**, beloved wife of **J P Thomas**, Warneford Place, Highworth, Wilts and Calcutta, daughter of the late Sir **Richard Plasket** KCMG, aged 53. *The Times Thurs 15th Jun 1893*

Arkell – November 28, at West Hill house, Highworth, Wilts, the wife of **James Arkell** of a son.
The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post Sat 9th Dec 1899

THE LORD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER

Miss **Grace Hayward** of Highworth, writes, sending 1s 4d for the Famine Fund: "Enclosed is an order for 1s 4d being the result of an appeal for the weekly money spent on sweets &c to a class of girls in the Sunday School. Will it be troubling you to ask you to acknowledge it in the Herald as then it can be shown them and may possibly stir up others in Sunday Schools to go and do likewise? Even a small gift like this from numbers of classes would mount up to a good sum and teach our scholars a little healthy self-denial." *The Missionary Herald of the Baptist Missionary Society Wed 1st Aug 1900*

"BOMB' IN A CHURCH – AMUSING INCIDENT AT HIGHWORTH

What appeared at a glance to be a bomb with the inscription "Votes for Women" caused some sensation – which afterwards turned to amusement – among the members of the Congregational Church choir on Tuesday evening, when they met a practice. The article which was covered with red tape was placed under the communion table and attention was attracted to it by a twisted cord which was attached to it and fastened to one of the gas brackets of the Church. The find was carefully handled and those who impetuously blamed the suffragettes were annoyed on finding that they were the victims of a practical joke. *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Sat 17th May 1913*