

EXTRACTS FROM THE PAPER
BOOK OF ROBERT LEBAND,
VICAR OF ROLLESTON,
1583-1625.

Transcribed by the late T. M. BLAGG

Edited by K. S. S. TRAIN¹

IN the year 1597, it was ordered that registers were in future to be kept on parchment and parchment copies were to be made of all the older registers. This was duly done at Rolleston by Robert Leband, the vicar, but unlike nearly every parish it retains a large portion of the original paper register.²

This consists of thirty-seven paper folios with a loose fragment of an earlier leaf, for the year 1585, and begins with folio 17, ending with folio 59. It has entries from 1588 to 1615, but five folios are missing containing entries for the years, or parts of the years, 1600-1601/2, 1606-1608, 1612-1614. The book is unbound, but was roughly stitched together before most of the missing leaves were removed. In spite of the incomplete condition of this register, it is one of the most interesting and valuable in the country as Robert Leband used it, not only as a register, but as a commonplace book and continued it for several years after 1599 when the parchment transcript was made. We see the life of a Nottingham parish in the late sixteenth century with comments on the weather, prices of corn, classical tags and peculiarities of the parishioners through the eyes of a devout, learned, kindly, yet occasionally critical, parish priest.

Robert Leband was born September 20, 1554, the son of John Leband, husbandman of Morton, Lincs.³ He matriculated sizar from Trinity College, Cambridge, at Michaelmas, 1572, and proceeded to his B.A. 1577/8.⁴ The Bishop of Lincoln ordained him deacon February 6, 1577/8. From that time we lose sight of him till March 19, 1582/3, when he was instituted vicar of Rolleston

¹My thanks are due to Rev. A. E. Dawe, vicar of Rolleston, for permission to examine the original; to Mr. T. C. Blagg who has allowed me access to his father's transcript; and for generous assistance in transcription and translation from Miss V. Walker, Dr. W. F. Elvidge, Messrs. N. Higson, I. J. O'Dell, G. H. Poyser and C. J. Train.

²Now deposited in County Record Office, Shire Hall, Nottingham.

³Rolleston Registers.

⁴Venn—*Alumni Cantabrigienses*.

on the death of Roger Marten, and by the presentation of William Ballarde, farmer of the rectory. In 1609, when he was 55, he married at Rolleston, Mary Sanderson, probably the Mary (daughter of Bartin Sanderson) who was baptised there August 14, 1575. It is interesting to note that the book is far less discursive after the date of his marriage and that a number of derogatory comments have been crossed out in the earlier pages but, fortunately for our curiosity, most of them are still readable. He was buried at Rolleston July 15, 1626, and the following note occurs in the register: "He was drowned between this Town & Upton falling of a Bridge into ye ditch, wch now bears his Name." A copy of his characteristic will is preserved in the Archbishops' Registers¹ at York. It was made July 4, 1625, and proved June 28, 1627. He wished his body "to be decently buried in the Chancell of the Church of Rolston aforesaid, if freely it may be, or els in the Churchyard of the said Rolston, so neare to the south wall of the said Chancell as conveniently may be." The first bequest was two pounds to Rolleston and one pound to Fiskerton, "to be bestowed on some good thinge to continue to the profit or comfort of the parish of Rolleston aforesaid." He left Thomas Leband² of Armethorpe³ in the parish of Morton, Lincs., "all my Bookes & Apparell save what I give by name pticularly; one of my silver spoons of which I have sixe and a little, my bedstead whereon I usually lye; and three pounds of lawfull English monie." He left a silver spoon to each of the following: John Leband, the son of his brother John; Richard Leband of Armethorpe his kinsman; Thomas Leband of Ripplingdale, Lincs.; while the rest "two & a little one" went to his wife. There were seven gold angels, each worth 15/-, and a gold spur-royal worth 16/6. The angels were given to Elizabeth Green of Dunby, Lincs.; Margaret, wife of Edward Drurie of Morton, Lincs.; the wife of the above mentioned Richard Leband; Elizabeth in Holland, daughter of his brother John; Robert Harwood of Stainsett, [sic] Lincs.; John Dawell of Fiskerton, and to the daughter of his brother Henry of Holland. Mr. Wilson, vicar of Upton "by us", had 10/-; the children of Edward Gardois⁴ of Rolleston three pounds; Christopher Pinchbecke 5/- and his maid-servant Katherine 8/- beside her wages. His wife Mary was executrix and residuary legatee on condition that she "shall have nothing to doe with my freehold in Armethorpe, nor anie grounde or commodities to me in anie wise belonginge or apperteininge." He also states that by "anie goodes bequeathed to my forenamed Executrix, I meane all my

¹Vol. 31, fol. 256.

²The name is written Lebaud throughout the registered copy of the Will.

³Now Hantorpe, a hamlet of Morton-by-Bourne.

⁴Edward Gardois or Gardus married Elizabeth Leband at Rolleston, April 28, 1597.

chattall all manner of graine and corne sowne in the feilds Territories & Lordships of Rolston Fiskerton & Morton", Notts.

Mr. Blagg's transcript has been checked with the original and except for extending normal abbreviations the exact spelling and punctuation have been retained. Certain passages from the above transcript have been printed in *The Village and Church of Rolleston*¹ but much fuller extracts are given in the following pages. The whole of the observations on national events, weather records and commodity prices are inserted whilst the most interesting comments on the parishioners and a wide selection of quotations and original verses are included.

EXTRACTS FROM ROLLESTON REGISTER.

Margerie Deconsonne, ye wife of Bartholmew Deconsonne . . . fiftie yeares of age a tall, slender woman frugi admodum . . . provida ne magis fuerit an parciore nescio², [*completely thrifty: whether she was more provident or mean I do not know*] shee leavinge thi . . . life on Munday was buried on Tuesday the 30 of April. [1588.]

Richard Walker aboute 23 or 24 yeares of age somewhat tall, slow of speech, a still, quiet, & gentle yonge man diligent in servinge his maister dwellinge with John Guill since Martinmas last & keepinge his sheepe, was buried on Teusday in crosse wecke³ the xiiiith of May. [1588.]

Johannes Leband pater meus amicissimus de Morton comit' Lincoln' husbandman die lune prime post pentecosten vel crastino pentecostes sexto kalendas Junii huius vitae cursum terminavit caelestibus spero ut gaudiis frueretur. [1588.]

[*My father, John Leband, my dearest friend, of Morton, Lincs. husbandman, died on Whit Monday, May 27th, or the day after Whitsuntide. I hope he will enjoy heavenly bliss.*]

On saturday ye xxii of June such abundance of raine came yt neither ye sunday nor midsommer day I could get to the church without boots⁴ more abundance fell on wednesday the tenth of Julie, but most abundance of raine fell on wednesday the xvii of Julie which raised such a floud both by land & by meanes of the Trent yt ye new banke made the summer beefore with great paines, beeinge a deare yeare with poore men, rie beeinge—vs iiiid barlie & peason iiiid viiid the strike & dearer, was ye most of it taken away & all the hay & gras . . . in the meadowes mowne, above a hundred akers I am sure . . . marshe Willowholme,

¹By E. H. S. Longhurst and F. B. Freckingham; Horncastle; W. K. M. and Sons, 1931.

²Latin partly crased.

³Rogation Week.

⁴Boats?

Smeethinge, Key, Withames . . . fleet landes quite carried away, no hay to speake on gotten . . . of continuall raine & unseasonable weather the. meadow . . . so . . . that I feare it bee utterlic . . . favour toward us againe that we may finde grace when wee come to appeare beefore his judgment seat that our saviour may receive us into blisse from the miseries of this world. Rolston thy faire feeldes never more plentifullic enriched with blessings from god ar now consumed, thy great, thy two great store of horses halfe pininge poore mens cattle, with thy beastes & sheepe will now be pined to death and thou thy selfe wilt bee famished: beethinke thee therefore how thou maist obtaine godes favour settle thy hart aright, let mercie and faithfullnes alway alway [sic] p'serve thee, that god may bee thy god unto the end and in the ende [1588.]

Ottivell Rie a yonge man about 22 yeares of age, a mighty growne fellow servinge Mr. W. Lodge¹ about husbandrie fallinge sicke the aforesaid Weddensday in ye morninge dyed that after noone towards night & was buried the next day the eighteenth of Julie 1588.

God by abundance of raine and unseasonable wether doth still continue to punishe us. But save our soules good lord though all worldlie things perishe. Salvos nos fac, Domine pro infinita misericordia tua in christo dilecto filio tuo. [*Preserve us, God, in accordance with thine infinite pity in Christ, thy beloved son.*]

Edwinus cognomine Sandes Ebor, archiep.

Feria secunda² quam die Martis vocamus decimo septimo kalendarum Sextilis reverendissimus pater Edwinus Ebor archiepiscopus doctissimus parit³ [sic] et studiosissimus, per quem divinum eloquium non in ista solum ecclesia, sed in omnibus vicinis resonuit ad Dei aeternam gloriam: corpore relicto terreno in pulverem ad tempus convertendo, salvatoris nostri presentia in perpetuum fruiturus [sic] Ascendebat, in ecclesia apud Southwell collegiata decimo octavo kalendarum Septemb tumultus honorifice [1588.]

[*Edwin Sandes, archbishop. On the second day which we call Tuesday, the 17th of the kalends of August (July 16), the very reverend father Edwin, the most learned, skilled and zealous Archbishop of York, through whom the divine eloquence resounded, not in that church alone, but in all neighbouring churches, to the eternal glory of God, leaving his earthly body to be turned to dust eventually, ascended to enjoy the presence of our Saviour for ever: buried with honour in the collegiate church at Southwell on the 18th of the kalends of September (August 15).*]

¹Rolleston Manor sold to — Lodge, alderman of London, in the time of Queen Elizabeth. Thoroton's *History of Notts.*

²Feria secunda usually means Monday, but in 1588, July 16 fell on a Tuesday. Sandys actually died on July 10.

³Peritus?

On Wednesday ye last of Julie an other great raine fell which raised an other floude not so hie as the former but such an one as drowned againe & marred all the grassing and meadow unmown, so that now I see no hope that men can save alive their cattell if god deale not mercifullie with us & send seasonable weather that straw may be good & harvest well gott. fiat voluntas Dei ne recedat a nobis misericordia tua infinita. Benedic nobis Domine. [1588.]

[*God's will be done; let not thine infinite mercy depart from us; Lord, bless us.*]

Harvest this yeare 1588 was god bee thanked well gotten yet great wante and . . . tie of all kinds of victuall will cause great dearth to the punishment . . . great offences. God for thy m'cie sake in christ thy sonne our Saviour comfort us againe now after the time yt thou hast . . . so wee yt bee thy people & sheepe of thy pasture will praise . . . lasting.

Willm Bishe about xxvii yeares of age a man of low stature John Guill his shepheard, a gentle yonge man & a good servante—was buried the xiiiiith of Septemb. beeinge Tuesdaie. [1588.]

John Gardus alias Shaw a tailer, about 60 yeares of age, a plaine & a good poore man, fearinge god, & livinge simple, died on Michaelmas day at even beeinge Sunday & was buried the next day. [1588.]

A deo nobis beneficit. Cui¹ ecclesie dei Anglicane hostes interfuntur quidam, quidam capiuntur profiguntur reliqui sive Hispani, sive Itali, sive Galli; dei laudem celebremus honorifice, et honorem supplices numem divinum, cuius sub alis protecti Angli, brachioque forti defensi, mirifice a Papatus tyrannide et idololatriae servitute conservantur.²

[*Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 6 1588.*]

[*God is good to us. In that of the enemies of the English church of God some are slain, some are captured, and the rest are overthrown, be they Spaniards, Italians or French; let us sing the praise of God with honour, and let us humbly honour the divine power, under the protection of whose wings and by the strength of whose arm the English are miraculously saved from papal tyranny and idolatrous slavery.*]

Nicholas Darwin a tall man but crooked throughe age beeinge foure-score & tenne at the least, a painfull labourer in ditchinge, mowinge & other laborious woorkes, whom I have heard of him selfe report a thinge strange as mee thinke that hee was never day sicke in his whole life to his remembrance, & in truth hee lay & sat up in his last sicknes as one that felte litle or no paine for

¹Quia?

²Defeat of the Armada.

ought yt could be perceived, but by his forsaking of meat etc. this said Nicholas Darwin deceased this life on Munday Decemb. 23. & was buried on Christmas eeven. [1588.]

Deus conseruet ecclesiam suam et Reginam nostram Elizabeth.
[*May God preserve his Church and our Queen Elizabeth.*]

Homo homini fera pessima. Ut Mr. Lodge et Eduardus Barham¹ papista et neuter.

ut Mr. Lod. papista et Eduardus Barham neut, et ambo dexter mihi iniustissimi.

[*Between Jan. 12 and Jan. 15. 1588/9.*]

[*"A man is the worst wild beast to a man." The remainder is obscure.*]

Margaret Scarbrough a maide xl yeares of age or aboove beeing diseased with a great swellinge in her whole bodie, which gettinge issue at length in her legge, was almost cured, whereupon the greese as might bee thought for want of issue stricke to her hart, so that shee died on Tuesday June xviith and was buried the same day. [1589.]

Edward Bull ye sonne of Richard Bull & Ellen Leband ye sister of Robert Leband vicar, were married on Munday the xxviiiith of Julie [1589.]

The Thursday after was ye cart bridge borne downe with ye land floodes & much hay lost on ye west of ye towne. [*This entry follows the preceding one.*]

Longe beardes hartles painted coats witles daintie fare needlcs maketh England thriftles	} Eduardi 3 an ^o 7 ^o The Scotchman to ye Englishe anno Domini 1326.
Long beardes hartles painted hoodes witles gay coates graceles	

Long beardes hartles painted hoodes witles gay coates graceles	} maketh England thriftles.

[*The first rhyme is erased. Between Sept. 26 and Sept. 28, 1589.*]

Marie Langwith an infant the daughter of John Langwith was buried the xviiiith of Februarie, when was extremitie of could, winde, snow & frost [1589/90.]

The last day of March the frost havinge continued from beefore Martinmas for the most part, was chaunged into fruitfull and warme showers for a plentifull springe so that a more seasonable Aprill till the sixth day thereof which was Easter day hath seldome beene seene. almightie god bce praised for his blessing after his chastiment. who grant us his grace to please him that this bodie (though punished) not perishinge may withe the soule

¹Living at Fiskerton mill in 1598.

²Edward III came to the throne 25 Jan., 1326/7.

all trouble & vexacion overpast, bee received into foclicitie not subject to alteracion which ye enimie can not minishe. [1590.]

Succure mihi domine in gravi isto corpore.

Barham¹ thou hast fawned as a freinde & beewrayed thy selfe at ye last to mee a strange enimie ;
but gods rod I will take patientlie. God grant the repentance unto salvacion [*erasure*] fare well I wish thy prosperitie for seaven yeares entertainment I hartilie thanke thee,

God send thee a parson¹ more worthie then I yet have I not hurt thee as god knowes on hie

Gods grace which I crave I hope I shall have
this worlde I detest Gods ioeye is the best

Few daies lord here send, but thy blis in th'ende.

Strange hap have I had mee thinke in my minde
that Barham¹ should proffer as a freind verie kinde
To ride & to speake in my cause, to attaine
[*erasure*] for me p'tendinge my gaine.

And so to enthrall mee (suspectinge no ill
but thankfull to shew mee for each mans good will
Was my good intent as god knowes my harte)
that hee by his cunninge my state might subverte,
Whome I never wronged by woord nor by deede,
but wishte him & all men in good thinges good speede.

If I had then knowne his nature as now
his fraude had beene feeble my estate for to bow.

But god my defence protecte mee from hence
that life may be freed from greater offence. [Between April 19
and April 26. 1590.]

[*Greek notes in margin—"Nabal was a churlish man, a poor man is no wise noble."*]

Edmunde Caley the younger, the sonne of Edmund & Alice Lambe iunior ye daughter of Nicholas Lambe, deceased ; were married on thyrday Julie the seconde when was a fine shower delayinge the extremitie of ye drought. [1590.]

Yester eveninge was thankes bee to god a shower againe abayinge somewhat the burninge heat, which hath consumed woonderfullie both grasse & corne, especiallic peason & that in all places yt yet I heare of so that longer but not a more extreeme drought hath beene hard of, for in crosse weeke & ye weeke beefore was plentie of seasonable raine & on Whitsunday a good shower, yet burninge heat hath made woonderfull change from great plentie to great want. God be mercifull unto us. [Between July 17 and July 22, 1590.]

Rie is all gotten, & men have beegun to mow barlie, a thinge

¹Erased.

strange & seldome hard of at this time of ye yeare. the price of rie hath beene this yeare now past for ye most part at ten groates the strike malt at xxs the quarter, & other corne like wise deare. God in mercie thinke upon us & grant that this yeare followinge it bee not dearer. [Between July 22 and July 26, 1590.]

The droppinge season since Magdalene hath revived grasse well, & thanks bee to god, which beefore was even burnte away. god grant a seasonable time if it bee his will for ye rest of harvest that wrathe may bee changed into mercie. that we perish not. [Between July 26 and July 29, 1590.]

Thomas Thornewton about threescore & twelve yeares of age or aboove a bonesetter, dwellinge at Morton within this parishe was buried on Munday the seaventeenth of August [1590.]

Nicholas Nidde about 60 yeares of age a little fellow a smith & a horseleache for divers diseases, was buried on St. Bartholomewes day beeing Munday. [1590.]

Since the beeginninge of Julie untill this day August 26 their hath beene sick in Rolston aboove fortie¹ p'sons youngue & ould, no house free but one or moe sick. Deus misereatur nostri. [1590.]

Thomas More almoost threescore yeares of age the townes pinder and swinheard beeing stricken with lamenes in his last dayes was buried on Munday. Septem. the seaventh. 1590 Elizab. 32

The sicknes still doth last, godes rod is yet not past. [Before Sept. 13, 1590.]

	rie iis viiid	} mault—xxiii s ye quarter the strike
Corne still deare	whcat iis vid	
	pease iis vid	
		barlie -iis iiiid ye strike.

[Between Sept. 13 and Sept. 19, 1590.]

Joane More widow the wife of Thomas More late deceased, a slender woman about three score years of age or verie neare a small paine taker, was buried on Weddensday Septemb. 23. [1590.]

Robert Bower aboove fortie years of age the swineheard at Fiskerton & a good thresher haveinge a gret swellinge on the one side of his necke face & head which some thought came through cutting a swine for the murren thercon died on Sunday at night & was buried the next day Septemb xxviiith [1590.]

Equites bello parati Newarkiam convocantur
ut spectentur et approbentur.

Die Martis Octobris sexto pedites ut spectentur etiam Nottingamiam convocati sunt duce. Guil. Sutton armigero.	} Duce Robto Markham armigero Antistete dno Talbut comitis De Shrosburie filio. [1590.]
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¹59 written between the lines.

[Horsemen prepared for war are summoned to Newark to be inspected and approved. On Tuesday, October 6, foot soldiers have been assembled at Nottingham also to be inspected under the leadership of William Sutton esq. Under the leadership of Robert Markham esq. and under the command of Lord Talbot, son of the Earl of Shrewsbury. 1590.]

The ague still continuinge from Midsommer till now, hath scarce lefte one in aine house, not forst to him to bow. [Between Oct. 9 and Oct. 23, 1590.]

Christopher Bettinsonne about threescore years of age a man of low stature a painefull woorkman in ditchinge & mowinge, but beeing in his last years weake through sicknes hee was the townes neatheard untill his death was buryed on Weddensday the fourth of Novemb. [1590.]

wheat	iiis	viid	} the strike
rie	iiis	iiiiid	
peason	iiis	iiiiid	

[Between Dec. 16 and Dec. 20, 1590.]

On Sunday at night december 20. 1590 beeing St. Thomas eeve a great snow fell, which insued such a frost especiallie on The morrow after St. Thomas day that bread & all moist things were frozen in extremitie. since which time there hath beene scarcelie anie moisture fallen untill the snowes in March. [1590/91.]

Edmund Bishe iunior about lx years of age a very honest & painfull husband, the sonne of Raph Bish: was buried on thursday the eleventh day of March, an extreeme cold & snowie day friday woorse & Sat'day woorst of all. [1590/1.]

John More the sonne of Edward More was baptized on Friday the xixth of March. when was an other extreame great snow & the Friday and Saturday after that an other, so that Marche was whollie extreme cold, frost, & snow. the first spring like day was Easter day. The couldest lent that ever I abode. 1590. [1590/91.]

Since the xxvth of March there hath not beene untill this day the xxvth of June anie shower of raine an hower longe, so that the last summers drought, was not so dangerous as this to cause great famine, which yet hath made great numbers of pov'tie to bee driven to extremitie, but that punishment though sharpe hath not had the effect wherefore no doubt it was sent from the almighty viz. to woorke true repentance accompanied withe faith & vertue, but godes hand is still stretchd to aggravate our punishment god grant it so effectually that in icie succeedinge may wipe away our offences, god turninge to us that wee may bee effectually turned unto him, so shall salvacion take away confusion, so shall vengeance not last for ever, so shall due glorie, bee yeilded to the trinitie. [1591.]

God for thy m'cie
 save mee ungodlie
 guide mee in pietie
 to beehould the dietie

} amen amen Robt. Leband-artium
 bacchalauius. [1591.]

William Bettinsonne the sonne of Thomas Bettinson the elder was buried on Friday June xxvth an infante about foure yeares of age. The extreeme drought continuinge. [1591.]

God from heaven water us, withe the dew of his grace. amen.

On Monday St. Peter's eeven¹ was, god bee therefore thanked, a shower of raine about an hower longe, since which time there hath been clowdie weather but no raine untill Munday night Julie 19. 1591, so that grasse in the medowes was eeven burnt away for lacke of moisture & the whole fieldes brought to such extremitie that greatlie it is to bee feared that come especiallie peason & barlie will come to small prooffe. god in m'cie graunt us pardon of our offences which provoke his indignacion.

The driest summer that ever I knew. [1591.]

Harvest god bee thanked is well gotten—August xxxiith but barlie is verie scante, yet our peason, the best that I heare of in the cuntry were god bee thanked, indifferent. So that the price of come havinge continuod this yeare now past at tenne grotes eleven grotes & iiiiis ye strike. I trust in god almighty will somethinge fall. if plentifull showers change the parched medowes & pastures into their kindelie colour againe freshe & greene. which god of his goodness graunt, least famine consume all. [1591.]

God graunt these windes raise kindlie raine.
 that groundes may yceld their store againe. Septemb. 2. [1591.]

Robt. Leband serve god truclic } Take well, well ment, }
 God rewardeth his most duelic } Good time, well spent. }
 Christian godliness }
 bringeth all ioyfulnes }

Read whoso list. None but good are blist. [Sept. 1591.]

The extreame drought is abated wt some comfortable showers. [After Sept. 26. 1591.]

Nicholas Needham a tall man about threescore years of age havinge beene the parish clerk for the space of thirtie years by report, succeedinge his father Robt. Needham in the clerkship, dyed on Munday Octob. 4 1591 & was buried the next day.

Willm Forrest about 60 years of age a cunnige fellow non dicam versutum fide pusillum, spei aeternae, si ex verbis, mentis indicibus, coniecturam facere liceret, minimum. [I will not say crafty, small in faith, with very little hope of eternal life, were it possible to conjecture from his words, the indications of the mind] but in handie woorke as ditchinge, mowinge, sheip-clipping & such like, skilfull: was buried december xxviiiith Tuesday [1591.]

¹June 28.

On Saturday Februarie 12 fell ye first snow, havinge beene no winter wether this winter till now. Sunday, Munday & Tuesday were great frost & snowes everie day. [1591/2.]

The seasons change their kind The Summers extreame wett
 the winter like the springe or drought in woondrous wise
 the springe with frostes doth binde makes harvest small to gett
 from groth each livinge thinge which makes great famine rise

Such plagues hath god abovee
 set forth for this our age
 whome mercie will not moove
 godes vengeance is their wage. } [1591/2]

In each good beegininge I hope well to speede,
 Through god the good help of good men in neede.

In each good beginninge god prosper mee still
 to bee the fulfiller of his holie will.

The cheefest gyfte to woman kinde, is modestie & discreete minde.
 most loovelie is that maide or wife, which huswifelie doth lead her
 life.

Faire beautie meetinge godlie witt, hath treasure great conteinde
 in it.
 they shall still find with all due loove, which vertue keepe & still
 doe proove.

God authour of goodnes bee my guider still
 my writing & readinge to frame to thy will.
 that as thou art onelie the fountaine of grace,
 thy goodness may guide me all vice to deface.

A vizard disguiseth to make men unknowne,
 more fitt for false fellowes till gallowes bee growne.

The cheefest gift which men may get
 is learning free from chances set.

The water fire & theeves oft spoile
 mens goods, enviroind with turmoile,
 but learnings gift is free, & sure
 with him that hath it, to endure.

In peace there is plentie, in strife & discorde
 is plentie made deintie browne bread on the board.

Robt Leband. 1592.

Blagrove Lodge a childe almost three years ould, the sonne of Willm Lodge armigeri departed this life on Friday morninge May 26. and was buried the next day.

Still dreadfull death will dooe his woorst
 to us poore mortall men,

Whose force no creature ever durst
 repress, or time set when
 his dart should flie to stop the breath
 that pants in humane breast

but all must waite the time of death
trees, flowers, man & beast. [1592.]

On Weddensday Septemb. the sixt a tempestuous winde from the north west blew downe the middle pinnacle on the sowth side of this steeple, without other harme dooinge, thankes bee to god. [1592.]

George Deconsonne an housholder about 27 years of age fallinge out with Thomas Heifield at the boules, was by the said Thomas stricken upon the head with two boules in a bagge on Satday Septemb. ixth at night, whereby havinge his braine pan broken as was supposed, dyed on Munday in the night Septemb. xith, & was buried the day followinge. 1592.

Trinitie Sunday¹ was the last day that anie shower fell abooove an houre longe so that this third years drought hath passed the former, yet corne is & hath beene since christmas last. cheap god bee thanked. rie 14d ye strike barlie xd wheat xvid & better cheap. [After Sept. 14, 1592.]

Margareta peregrina quaedam labore victum queritans cum Johanne Langwith commorata vitam terminavit hanc naturalem Octob. 18 sepulta [1592.]

[Margaret, a stranger, seeking her livelihood with her labour, who lived with John Langwith, ended this mortal life and was buried October 18.]

Hoc eodem tempore aegrotabat soror mea dilecta ita ut de vita hac desperabam sed misertus est mei deus [Jan. 28, 1592/3.]

[At this time my beloved sister was so ill that I despaired of her life but God pitied me.]

Peria advene cuiusdam iuxta molendinam parturientis filia tricesimo primo die Mensis Januarii baptizata fuit, quam a fonte suscepit Petrus Simons, Josiam Plasted et Francisca West, secundum mandatum mri Lodge armigeri.

[Peria, the daughter of some strange woman who gave birth beside the mill was baptised January 31. and Peter Simons, Josia Plasted and Frances West stood godparents in accordance with the order of Mr. Lodge, esquire.]

Dicta Peria infans Februarii secundo sepulta fuit. [1592-3.]

Humfridus Parke piscator annos natus circit septuaginta homo procerus frugi et laboriosus. Aprilis vicesimo secundo dominica prima post pascha sepultus fuit [1593.]

Humphrey Parke, a fisherman about seventy years old, a tall man, honest and industrious was buried April 22nd, the first Sunday after Easter.]

¹May 21, 1592.

Juvenis quidam molendinarius cuius nomen nescio, mortem obiit naturalem Maii 7 postridie sepultus. [1593.]

[A certain young man, a miller, whose name I do not know, died a natural death May 7 and was buried on the following day.]

The wett summer ended [Sept. 5, 1594.]

October the sixte, Sunday, the raine began againe & continued till Novemb. 12. 1594.

Edmunde Bracebridge about xl years of age was on Friday in the after noone Januarie 17. 1594. [1594/5] found drowned in his owne well, but, acquitted of his owne death by the coroners iurie. & buried the next day.

Corne deare	Rie iiis	}	malt ye quart. 23s.
	peason iis		

[Between Jan. 22 and Feb. 17, 1593/4.]

Rie iiiis	iiiiid	}	the strike. Mault 30s the quart.
	peason iis 4d		

[Between August 3 and August 11, 1595.]

Alice Browne about lx yeares of age was buried the next day [Feb. 26] which Alice was the wife of ye same Willm browne. Elizab. 38. 1595. [1595/6.] Mulier laude digna, cuius mores honestos quidem, non dedignentur superstites imitari.¹

[A woman worthy of praise whose honest character let those who survive her not disdain to imitate.]

On Palme-sunday Aprill 4th 1596 fell a great snow. May & June hithertoee so wett & could that they are lyker by far to winter then summer. [After June 14. 1596.]

Mense Junio—1596. Elizab. 38, optimates quidam duce comite Essexiae, Hispania versus profecti: victoriam nauali terrestrique bello (si nonne mentiatur fama) splendidissimam reportarunt honorifice, in Angliam ad suos Mense Augusto remeantes gloriosi.²

In the month of June, 1596, the 38th year of Elizabeth's reign, certain noblemen under the leadership of the Earl of Essex set out for Spain: they gloriously won a most splendid victory (if report lie not) in a war by sea and land, returning to their own people in England in the month of August, full of renown.]

Willm Deepinge a singleman about 50 yeares of age fallinge from the top of a corne hovill in Willm Gurnill's yarde in Fiskerton on Satday the fourth of Septemb. 1596 was therebie slaine & the next day buried.

¹The whole of this sentence partly erased.

²The Winning of Cadiz.

Corne deare	{	Wheat 6s	} the strike &	
		rie 5s 4d		soometime dearer
		barlie 3s 4d		
		peason 3s		

[Between Sept. 25 and Oct. 13, 1596.]

Whereas Robt. Oliver gent, attendant on the right honorable the earle of Essex, captaine generall of her maiesties forces for defence of this realme of England especiallie against Spaine where the said Robt Oliver as it is said was slaine & ended this mortall life, the soone of Willm Oliver late of [Elston erased] Stoke in the countie of Nottingham husbandman deceased & Joane now the wife of Edmund Caley of Rolston in the countie aforesaid husbandman, did by his last will & testament made about the middest of May last past geve & becqueath to the poore people of three townes in Nottinghamshire xvli of good & lawfull monie of England. viz to the poore of Rolston five poundes, to the poore of Stoke vli, to the poore of Faringdon [Farndon] vii. Know you therefore to whomsoever it may appteine that wee Robert Leband cler. vicar of Rolston aforesaid, & Nicholas Lodge gent & John Guill yeoman church-wardens of the said towne of Rolston, have the fourteenth day of the Month of Octob. 1596. Elizabeth 38. in the beehalfe & to the use of the said poore of Rolston, received & had of Thomas Oliver of Faringdon in the countie of Nottingham aforesaid yeoman, brother & sole executour of the last will & testament of the aforesaid Robt Oliver deceased five pounds of goode & lawfull monie of England. whereof & everie part & p'cill thereof wee the said Robt Leband, Nicholas Lodge & John Guill in the name and beehalfe of ye said poore & the rest of th'inhabitants of Rolston aforesaid acknowledge our selves fullie satisfied contented & paid & thereof dooe clearelie acquite and discharge th'aforenamed Thomas Oliver his heires executors & administratours for ever by these presentes. And bee it further knowne unto you whomsoever it concerneth that wee th'aforesaid Robt Leband Nicholas Lodge & John Guill as much as in us lyeth, dooe covenant & promise in the name & beehalfe of the rest of th'inhabitants aforesaid to & with the said Thomas Oliver his heires, that if a yearelie summe of lawfull Englishe monie, viz so much as is or can lawfullie bee taken for ye use of ye said vli bee not yearlie distributed to the poore people of Rolston aforesaid, but the said five poundes or anie part thereof, or of the use thereof, bee taken from the said poore or diverted or imployed to anie use or uses other then the said poore, or the more part of them, together with the vicar & churchwardens then beeing, shall thinke meete & convenient, that then it shalbee lawfull for the said Thomas Oliver and his heires, the said five pooundes from the said towne of Rolston & the poore thereof to recover & have againe, & the same to hould occupie & enjoy as his or there owne and proper goodes, anie thinge in the said last will & testament of th'afore-

said Robt Oliver deceased to the contrarie notwithstandinge. In witnes whereof wee the vicar & churchwardens aforesamed have here unto subscribed Octob. 14. 1596 Elizabeth. 38.

Thomas Parker of Cleypoole in Lincolnshire rydinge Decemb. xith 1596 in the medowes beeing a flood, was drowned in Smeethinge poole the horse escaping & buried on Sunday Decemb. 12. Elizabeth. 39. Hee was accompanied with Robert Tailer of Newwarke upon Trent.

Peason iiiis iiuid the strike Febr. 23. 1596. [1596/7.]

Senex quidam mendicus cum Willmo Thorneton de Fiskerton pernocians natura succubuit, et spiritum exhaustit ultimum Martii decimo septimo sepultus. [1596/7.]

A certain old man, a beggar, while staying the night with William Thorneton of Fiskerton succumbed to nature and breathed out his last breath and was buried March 17.]

Mulieri ne credas ne mortuae quidem¹ [1597.]

[Do not trust a woman, not even a dead one.]

Eduardus Gardus et Elizabeth Leband Aprilis vicesimo octavo matrimonio fuere copulati 1597.

Maii 17 1597. Peason vs viiid. the strike & dearer.

[Below this in Greek: — Let those who are in need of lamps pour out the olive oil "Cantabrig'"]

Julie xxth 1597.	{	peason the strike—vis	& soometimes
Elizabeth. 39.	{	malt the quarter—iiili	dearer.

Joane Peele about lxx yeares of age the wife of John Peele was buried on Tuesday in Easter weeke April 18. Eliz. 40. So singular a huswife as Rolston could not match. [1598.]

The drie & most comfortable wether in March, seemed to promise a plentie for want, but God that all gou'neth in most iust maner, hath made a change answerable to the monstrosnes of our iniquitie, by Aprilles frost & snow with windes most stronge & boisterous, killinge the growth of thinges beefore most forward: & May his wett continuinge in unseasonable sort. So shewinge what in m'cie hee would have doone for our good, and performinge in deede our iust deserved punishment. [1598.]

Barlie & peason vs. vis. viis. the strike, was in March changed to 4s. 3s. 2s. the strike. but seasons unseasonable threaten derthe againe

[Between April 23 and June 26, 1598.]

The price of corne well abated	{	Wheat 3s 4d
		Rie 2s 8d
		barlie 22d
		peason 18

¹Partly erased.

[Between Jan. 13 and Jan. 15. 1598/9.]

Hibernie bellum. Bellum ex virtute spolia nulla Ducit. Stilpo.

[March 4, 1598/99.] [The Irish War. War brings no spoils from virtue. Stilpo.]

Juvenis quidam in piscina iuxta manerium de Fiskerton (ut asseritur) immersus: Februarii octavo sepultus fuit. [1599/1600]

[A certain young man was drowned in a fishpond beside the manor of Fiskerton (as is alleged), and was buried February 8.]

On Weddensday March. xiith 1599. [1599/1600] peason were at xvd the strike, the Weddensday after Easter March 26. 1600. peason 18d & 20d the strike.

On the first day of Mai, beeing the feast of th'ascention of our lord, the wether having continued long, extreemlie could & frost-like, with bitter nipping windes, so that the growth of grasse & all other springing thinges, was greatlie hindered: (God in m'cie turne his anger from us, & renue to us againe his gracious blessings) the 7 of May fell a could & sletie raine, so that the springe was yet verie back-ward, untill May. 19. 1600, when fell a comfortable rainie season for 4 or 5 dayes, but on Satday Mai. 24 was an extreme & great raine drowning the waithes in such sort that cattell could not pasture there, & on Tuesday Mai. 27. was an other great raine continuinge the flood untill Sunday June 1. when, thanks bee to God, began hott and summer like weathr, by northerne winds soone cooled & abated.

Rodulphus Swifte annorum ad minimum octoginta, probus is quidem et meo iudicio deum timens senex: naturae debitum ultimum Maii decimo octavo soluit, die eodem sepultus.

1601 Eliz. 43.¹

[Ralph Swifte, aged at least eighty years, an honest and in my judgement a Godfearing old man, paid the last debt to nature May 18, and was buried the same day, 1601, Elizabeth 43.]

Rie	iiiiis	} the strike. August 4. 1602
peason	iiis	
barlie	11s vid	

& beefore cheap.

Januarii 19. 1602. Eliz. 45 nix cum pluvia, postridie nix quam sequebatur gelu ingens usque ad primum Februarii.

Januarii 22. 1602. aquarum inundacio magna, et Febr. 6 minor.

[January 19, 1602/3. Snow together with rain, and on the following day snow followed by a great frost lasting until the first of February. Great flood of waters on January 22, 1602/3, and a lesser one February 6.]

Martii vicesimo quinto 1603 die que veneris, Elizabethae serenissimae reginae nostrae mors, a multis suspecta; Martii vicesimo

¹From parchment register.

sexto ad aures nostrae p'venit, animosque multorum meique inter ceteros moerore nobis mediocri affecit. Martii vicesimo sexto 1603 Jacobus Scotorum rex, Angliae Francie et Hibernie rex, Nottinghamiae proclamatus fuit eiusdemque Mensis tricesimo Newarchiae etiam publice Vivat Jacobus rex Anglorumque prosperitati studeat.

The death of our most serene Queen Elizabeth suspected by many on March 25, 1603,¹ being Friday, came to our ears on March 26, and affected the minds of many, myself among others with the less grief to us. March 26, 1603, James, King of Scotland was proclaimed King of England, France and Ireland in Nottingham and on the 30th of the same month at Newark also publicly. Long live King James and may he be zealous for the prosperity of the English.

This Thursday Aprill xxith 1603 came Kinge James toward evening to Newarke castell, where hee lodged that night and the next day beeing good Friday departed towards Beaver castell.² Where neither lawes have force. nor water hath course there will no good man desire to dwell. Diogenes. [June 1603.]

Pileus quadratus ex ecclesiae constitutione iniunctus. [Between Feb. 1 and Feb. 23, 1604/5.]

[A square hat required by a statute of the church.]

Thurstan Tongue, a wright, about or neare three-score years of age, timens Deum et laboriosus was buried August the thirtieth 1605. Jacobi tertio.

Veniienti occurrite morbo. Beefore sicknes take phisike. [1606.]

[The following in Greek "Although usually, decision is the fruit of ignorance, hesitation of reflection." Thucydides.]

Joane Jill, called ould Jill wife was buried on Saturday Novemb 12 1608.

A yonge man the ferrie-mans servant of Gunthorpe beeing drowned was taken up within this lordship & buried Septemb. 4. 1609.

Robtus Leband istius ecclesiae vicarius et Maria Sanderson Septemb. 5. Septemb. quinto matrimonio copulati fuere 1609. Jac. 7.

Joane Caley an ould woman by her own accompte 100 yeares of age, relicta Edmundi Caley defuncti, of the linage of Elston of Elston comit Nott, a giver of much almes, & amongst other shee gave twentic shillings to the poore of this towne of Rolston added & continued to & with five pounds beefore given by Robert Oliver hir sonne, & twentie shillings beequathed by John Peele of this same towne yeoman, shec was buried Februarie xxiiith beeing Friday 1609. Jacobi septimo.

¹She died on March 24, 1603.

²On his way from Scotland to London.

[As illustrating the greater interest and fullness of the entries in this paper register it may be noted that the only particulars of the above interesting entry given in the parchment transcript are as follows:

"Joane Caley an ould woman was buried February 23. 1609. Jacobi 7."]

Thomas Clarke housholder, June 3. 1610 in the morninge, was suspected by his clothes found on the stannill against the hill to be drowned in the Trent, as it fell out, his bodie found on Munday June 4 and the same day buried. hee was thought to miscarie, by occation of washinge him selfe as is said.

The great flood was Januarie the second 1610. [1610/11.]

Jane the daughter of a poore northern fellow, naming him selfe John a Glendinnin was baptized Januarie 6. 1610. Jac. 8.

[1610/11.]

Hithertooc a verie drie springe. Junc 5 a fruitefull shower [1611.]

Margaret Turner the daughter of Willm Turner a poore man, a wanderer abroad, of the kinred of the Turners of Fiskerton was baptized Septemb. 4 1611 Jacobi nono.

Then viz festo Michaelis beeing Sunday was a verie greate snow, which bended and brake manie branches from trees with the waight thereof & so followed three or foure nightes & daies extreme frost on carth and waters. [1611.]

Great and could winds [Between April 4 and April 8. 1612.]

Edward Parke the sonne of James Parke was baptized tempore pestis in Rolston church-yard Maii 5. 1612.

[From December 9, 1611, to May 16, 1612, twenty people died of the plague.]

Sextilis decimo, regno sui decimo—1612. Jacobus Anglie Scotiae Franciae et Hibernie rex, fidei defensor, Newarkiae in castello cum filio Henrico anno actatis suae (ut fertur) decimo nono, per . . . et¹ In ecclesia parochiali dictae Newarkiae concionem coram dicto rege et principe, habuit, D. Parker Lincolniae cantor, Vulgo Chaunter. Regis principisque aspectum desiderantes, confluebant . . . pecus, Barones, equites, armigeri, ignobiles . . .

[On August 10, 1612, in the tenth year of his reign James, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith is staying the night at Newark in the castle with his son Henry who is in the nineteenth year of his age, as is said. In the parish church of the aforesaid Newark, Dom. Parker, the precentor of Lincoln or chanter in common parlance, preached a sermon in the presence of the aforesaid King and Prince.

Wishing to get a glimpse of the King and Prince there flocked together . . . crowds of barons, knights, squires, commoners . . .]

¹Pernoctet? James I only stayed one night at Newark.

An extreme drougtie summer. All kinds of corne were gotten. Aug. 15. [1612.]

On Sunday morning Septemb. 20 was God bee thanked a fructfull shower, moistening the scorched grasse.

The new Bible bought and brought from Newarke Octob. 14. 1612. First red on at Yarwoods buriall [Oct. 16, 1612]

Hithertoe the drie summer. Ric drie sowne [Between Oct. 17 and Oct. 25, 1612.]

Nature }
Fortune } Theis three I hould to bec the inevitable will of God.
Destinie }

God may dislodge his tenantes at will, without warninge at anie time.

Wee would faine die the death of the righteous
Let us bee as willinge to live the life of the righteous.

Henoch, Helias, Abell, Josias, Onias had no long warninge to p'pare them selves.

Pray against sodaine death, that thou maist set thy house
As God willed Hezechias. Esai 38.

Sic conjurati veniunt ad classica venti.¹
So winds conur'd descended to our sailes.

Ille magis gratae letatur mentis odore
quam consecrato sanguine mille bovum
nam prece non alio gaudet honore Deus.
God better looves a thankfull minde
then manie Oxens blood,

For poore mens prayers he p'ferrs
beefore the rich & proude.

E tumulo violae, fortunataque favilla
Nascentur, cippusque levis sua conteget ossa.²

Out of his grave fine violetts shall bloome
& a light stone shall his sweete bones entoombe.

Tunc cum lapidosa chirargra
Fregerit articulos, veteris ramalia fagi.³
The knottie cramping gout, their ioynts do gripe about,
which like ould beechen bowes, it breaks wt often throwes.

Guttire sulphureas lente exhalante mephites¹
Their throats exhaling lazilie
Sulphureous smells most lothsoomlie.

¹Claudian, A. D. 395-404.

²Persius Flaccus, A. D. 84-62.

³Persius Flaccus, A. D. 34-62.

Testaqu }
Lotoqu } through thicke & thin.

[All written during November 1612.]

John Wharme alias Swarme : a cottiger, I think foure score years of age & yet followed his labour painfullie, yeeldinge alwaies the churches due in accustomed time, was buried on Thursday Septemb. 22. 1614. Jac. 12.

A great snow falling on Friday Januarie 20. 1614. [1614/1615.] lay and covered the ground, continued with manie snowes after, so thick . . . that nothing gett aine reliefe from the ground . . . Weddensday March 8. 1614. [1614/15.] When havinge beene another great snow that night it began to thaw on the day but froz at night . . . Sunday March 12. 1614. [1614/15.] when the Trent . . . risinge untill Wednesday & then began . . . to fall but was not downe untill March 26. 1615. Jac 13.

. . . Seaven weekes together . . . & deare & the waters . . . after until March 24 1614 [1614/15.] Jaco 13. The greatest & longest flood that anie alive can speake of. The snowes & waters covered the medowes nine weekes together. God blesse us in heaven & in carth . . . he floode untill Maie continued frostie, windie & extremely drie . . .

[With this fragmentary entry the Paper Book ends.]

LOCAL LETTERS, 1586-1812.

Letter from
George, Earl of Shrewsbury,
concerning the Countess of Shrewsbury
15th June 1586

Good Mr Secretorie¹ I ame gladd to heare you wilbe shortlie at the Courte wher I hope to fynde you afavoured of Justice. I knowe righte well you have favoured my wief hytherto in her causes, but nowe that shee hathe so apparantlie manifested her develishe disposition in mayntaynyng and deffendinge her wicked servant Beresford in practissinge the utter ruine and distruction of my self, and defamacon of my house and name so longe contynewed in honour and loyaltie to a Prince and Countrie by his false and detestable speeches and brutes, whereof nowe he ys convicted and by lawe standeth condempned. my truste ys that as in honour and Conscyence yow are bounde, yow will leave her to herself and accordinge to justice yow will further my suyte to her Majestic that shee maye be punyshed as a procurer and maynteyner of the sclaunder and distruccon of her husbände, and to be banyshed the Courte as a woman not fitt for that honourable place. Sir yt maye be that with her money shee will buye Friends in Court to speke in her behalf but to theym I wishe noe other revenge then to have such a Wief. Sure I ame that no man of honeste fame can for shame speke for suche a person, nor in suche a cause, agaynste the verie Lawe of nature, but of this noe more I am greeved to speake, and ashamed to thinke of my choyce made of suche a creature. Nowe Sir toucheinge my sonne Gilberte Talbott whome I knowe yow love and I hartelie thancke yow for yt. I praye yow advise him to leave that wicked Womans compaynye, who otherwise wilbe his distruction, and teache him I praye yow to knowe that as godes blessinge ys uppon those children that are obeydent to their parentes, so to the disobedient falleth his curse, which deliver him from. And I shall take as great joy of his reformacon as was of that Child wherof the scripture maketh mencon, Thus good Mr Secerytorie speeke nothinge but justice, and in honour yt oughte not be decayed me in suche a Cause as yf yt should goe unpunished the example were to perillus. for yt maye incorage other stronge harted

¹Sir Francis Walsingham.