

TADCASTER PARISH REGISTERS
incorporating
the Parish Register Transcripts

transcribed by
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C.W Sellars

TADCASTER PARISH REGISTERS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This transcription of the Tadcaster Parish Registers is taken from the originals which are held in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research of the University of York. It also incorporates the annual Parish Register Transcripts which were submitted by the incumbent to the Diocese of York: these are also held in the Borthwick Institute.

The Registers, which begin in 1570, do not form an unbroken series. The most notable gap is between the first volume of the Registers, which ends in 1624, and the beginning of the second volume which starts in 1653. This suggests that a former second volume (probably from 1624 to 1641) has been lost. After 1653 the entries are relatively continuous. Minor gaps in the series of entries are indicated in the introductions to the separate volumes of the Registers.

The first of the Transcripts is dated 1598 but then there is a long gap until 1632 and a second gap between 1641 and 1666. After 1666 there are only a few missing years. Fortunately, there is an almost unbroken series of Transcripts from 1632 to 1641 which goes some way towards filling the gap between the first two volumes of the Registers.

LAYOUT OF THE TRANSCRIPTION

Each page of the transcription of volumes 1 to 6 is headed with the volume number, the folio (or leaf) number and/or the Transcript year (where applicable) of the original to which it refers. (The Borthwick Institute has given a number to each complete folio in the early Registers: it is clearly indicated in the heading whether the front (recto) or the reverse (verso) of the folio is referred to). From 1754 (volume 6) each side of each folio has a separate number but the term "folio" is retained for each of these sides to avoid confusion with the page numbers below.

A page number is given at the foot of each page. These page numbers are used in the indexes which are provided for each volume.

Each entry in the Register and/or Transcript is presented in tabular form under the following eight heads:

1) TYPE:

This indicates whether the entry is a burial, christening or marriage as follows:

B = Burial
C = Christening (baptism)
M = Marriage

(These abbreviations commonly appear in the Registers themselves)

During the period of the Commonwealth and Protectorate (1653-1660) - and occasionally at other periods - dates of birth and death rather than dates of baptism and burial were entered in the Registers. These are shown by the following abbreviations (not used in the Registers):

BO = Born
DI = Died

Where an entry appears in a Transcript as well as in the Register this is indicated by the letter "T" in brackets after the type of entry:

e.g. B(T), C(T), M(T)

If an entry appears in a Transcript alone and not in the Register this is indicated in a footnote.

For the Transcripts from 1632 to 1641 which have no parallel Register entries it has not been thought necessary to add a "T" after each entry.

2) SURNAME:

This is shown with the spelling that it has been given in the Register or Transcript. In cases where the spelling differs between the Register and the Transcript the Register spelling is normally preferred except in the few cases where the Transcript spelling appears to be more logical.

Surnames are always given in upper case letters wherever they occur in the Registers or Transcripts:

e.g. GRANGER, BARKER.

3) FORENAMES:

There is normally only one forename.

The rules for spelling are the same as for surnames except that occasionally a different forename is given in the Transcript: in this case the Register forename is preferred and the Transcript forename is given in a footnote.

Forenames are always given in lower case letters:

e.g. Mary, Brian, Elisabeth.

4) RELATION:

This gives the relationship between the person to whom the entry refers and the person in column 5

The most common relationships are "son", "daughter" and "wife" but other blood relationships also occur.

Bastards:

Bastards are frequently specified in the Registers and Transcripts though there are a fair number of cases where bastardy is implied though not stated.

The mother's name is usually given as parent, with or without the name of the supposed father, but this is occasionally reversed with the father's name given as parent.

Twins:

Double entries of baptisms or burials of children on the same day are quite frequent and these are sometimes noted as twins. It is tempting to assume that all double entries of this kind are of twins but it is known that it was common for children born at fairly long intervals to be baptised on the same day. Internal evidence, however, suggests that there was a fairly high incidence of twin births in Tadcaster and all cases of double baptisms and burials of children are indexed as "twins" at the end of each volume. The reader must make his own judgement as to whether this is justified in each individual case.

Servants:

Servants are also included in this column (or occasionally in column 7). When this is accompanied by a name in column 5 it is the name of the master or mistress of the servant.

5) PARENT: SPOUSE ETC

The forename only of the parent or spouse is given in the majority of cases with the same rules of spelling as in column 3. The surname is given when it differs from that of the person in column 2. This is most frequent in the case of masters and servants.

6) DATE:

Dates are given as they appear in the Registers and Transcripts except that, until the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in 1752, the year is taken as beginning on 25 March in the early volumes of the Registers and the early Transcripts. Consequently, before 1752, dates which occur before the 25th March are shown as follows:

e.g 10 Jan 1624/25, 13 Mar 1713/14.

This convention is often used in the Registers themselves from the 1680's.

It should also be appreciated that the Julian calendar used in this country before 1752 was some eleven days behind the modern (Gregorian) calendar: this has not been allowed for in this transcription.

The new calendar begins with the first entries for January 1752 in volume 5 of the Registers.

There are occasional differences of date between individual entries in the Registers and Transcripts. These are noted where they occur.

7) RESIDENCE:
OCCUPATION
TITLE ETC

Places of residence, occupations and titles are to be found in this column when they have been given in the Registers and Transcripts. They refer to the person named in columns 2 and 3 except in the cases of children and wives where they normally refer to the father or husband respectively.

Residence:

The parish of Tadcaster, in the period covered by the early volumes of the Registers included the town of Tadcaster and the hamlets of Catterton, Hazlewood, Oxton, Ouston and Stutton. Before 1660 the general principle appears to have been to give the place of residence only when it was one of the hamlets rather than Tadcaster itself or when, particularly in marriages, it was outside the parish entirely. After 1660 the practice varies but the inclusion of Tadcaster as the place of residence becomes more common.

Occupation:

Occupations are given very infrequently in the early volumes of the Registers and the main purpose of their inclusion appears to be to distinguish between members of a particular family with similar forenames.

Title:

The social status of a person entered in the Registers or Transcripts is quite frequently indicated by a title.

The most common are:

"Mr."

"Mrs." (i.e. "mistress" - which does not necessarily indicate a married woman)

"gentleman" (normally abbreviated to "gent.")

Also included under this head are:

"widow" (sometimes in the Latin form of "uxor")

degrees of seniority in a family such as "the younger", "the elder", "senior", "junior", etc.

8) ENTRY NO:

The entry numbers in this column do not appear in the Registers or Transcripts but have been allocated to individual entries by the transcriber. Double entries such as marriages and double baptisms or burials have an entry number for each individual in the entry. These entry numbers are intended to be in chronological order throughout all the volumes of the Registers. (There are a few places where the numbers are not exactly in the order of the Registers and a few gaps in the series but each entry has a unique number). The entry numbers relate to a computer database which has been compiled by the transcriber for the purposes of statistical analysis and family reconstitution and they will be used as reference numbers in any material which results from such investigation.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL:

Anything which appears in an entry in the Registers or Transcripts which is not covered by the entries in the above columns is shown immediately below the entry to which it refers. This is normally reproduced verbatim and indicated as such by inverted commas.

There is also a certain amount of material included in the Registers which is extraneous to their main purpose: e.g pew registers, briefs etc. This is normally reproduced verbatim at the point where it occurs in the Register. The nature of this additional material is indicated in the separate introduction to each volume.

Most of the Transcripts are signed by the incumbent and/or other persons (generally the churchwardens). These signatures are noted at an appropriate point in the transcription when they occur.

EDITORIAL MATERIAL:

Footnotes are used to make editorial comment where necessary.

Additionally some editorial comments are made in the course of the transcription e.g. changes of hand. These are normally placed in brackets.

A number of editorial abbreviations are used throughout the transcription:

"?": Where some part of an entry has been omitted in the Register or Transcript which might have been expected to be present e.g. a forename.

This is placed in the relevant column in the entry.

"(?)": Placed after a word or words which are difficult to decipher where the transcribed version may be incorrect.

(indec): Where a word or group of words is indecipherable.

(blank): Where a blank has been left in the original Register or Transcript for the later insertion of a part of the entry (usually a name) but which has not subsequently been completed

ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF LAYOUT

The Register of marriages from 1754 (volume 7), in accordance with Hardwicke's Marriage Act* of that year, is entered in a pre-printed book which includes for each marriage a record of the publication of the marriage banns, the residences of the partners in the marriage and the signatures of the celebrant, the partners in the marriage and two witnesses. The publication of the banns is recorded even when the marriage subsequently took place elsewhere. A revised layout is used, omitting the headings RELATION and PARENT, SPOUSE, ETC which do not occur in marriage entries, and the additional information is shown below each entry. The revised layout is fully described in the introduction to volume 7.

The Register of baptisms and burials from 1777 (volume 8) to 1815 is a "Dade"+ register which includes much fuller information in each entry. Baptisms include both the dates of birth and baptism; the seniority of the child in the family; the name, occupation and residence of the father; the name of the mother and the descent of both father and mother (the names of both their parents in each case) with similar information about occupations and residence.

Burials show both dates of death and burial; seniority of a child; name, age, occupation and residence; cause of death and descent with similar information to that in a baptism.

This much fuller information necessitates revised forms of layout for both baptisms and burials. These revised forms of layout are fully described in the introduction to volume 8.

*See C.C. Webb - A Guide to Parish Records in the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research - 1987, p. viii

+Ibid. pp. v-vii

INDEXES:

Three indexes are supplied at the end of each volume of the Registers.
They are:

1) Index of Surnames:

All surnames which occur on each page of the transcription are listed in alphabetical order in their original spellings.
Where it is possible that a name has not been correctly transcribed a note in the index is used to suggest other likely alternatives.
For ease of search surnames which are probably variants of the same surname are grouped together and marked with an asterisk.
Suggested modernised spellings of surnames or groups of surnames are placed above them, in brackets.

2) Index of Placenames:

The same rules apply as with surnames.

3) General index:

This includes occupations and titles and other information which may be obtained from the volume in question.