

19<sup>th</sup> century

1800 December 16th Benjamin Copeland Mr. age 41

In 1801, the death of Benjamin Copeland (1759-1800), described as an 'apothecary of Chinnor', was reported in the *Oxford Journal*. He had apparently died in December 1800 in straightened circumstances having contracted a fever whilst administering to the poor of the Parish. An appeal was launched for funds to support his family of six children, who had no mother and were now destitute, to prevent them going into the workhouse.<sup>1</sup> In the parish records Copeland is designated, Mr. a title which does not occur on any other records. No occupation was recorded beside Copeland's entry, but this title suggests that he would have been a surgeon-apothecary, a fusion of the roles of all branches of medicine which was common in the country. A search of local records and newspapers did not yield any further records of an apothecary attending in Chinnor, only one advertisement for an apothecary in Thame who appeared to have treated some Chinnor residents successfully.<sup>2</sup>

To the Charitable and Humane: a case of real distress is humbly submitted' *Oxford Journal*, 30 January, (1801). Enquiry at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries failed to find his name listed in their register of practitioners. Evidence for the existence of six children was not discernible from the parish records. An examination of the parish records for Chinnor indicated that he married, by licence, Sophia Ramsbottom in March 1800 although there is no record of her burial. From 1788 there were a number of baptism records of children from his first marriage to his wife Sarah, two appear to have survived but three died in infancy. It is possible that his second wife died in childbirth as there was a record of a baptism in May 1801 of a Elizabeth Copeland, daughter of the late Benjamin and Sophia this baby died a few months later. There were no entries in the parish records under the name of Ramsbottom. 'Abstract of Administration of Benjamin Copeland of Chinnor, Oxfordshire. Proved in the Court of Oxford. 1801. National Archives, Kew, [Discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D719588](https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D719588).

14

### **1801 first census, population of Chinnor 862**

1801 In September, *1 infant died of smallpox*, George West son of John of Spriggs Alley and in October, Thomas West age 40 of Spriggs Alley cause of death not recorded. In May 1802, John West of Spriggs Alley aged 3 died it is not recorded whether he died of smallpox.

Smallpox was the most widespread fatal disease during the eighteenth century. Spread person to person by droplet infection. First vaccination by Jenner in 1796 and the Vaccination Act was passed in 1861 which reduced the incidence but a further outbreak occurred in 1903 when 3 children

from Crowell were excluded from school as they had been exposed to smallpox. Further families became infected leading to the closure of the school in Chinnor.

1802

*5 cases of smallpox:*

Perkins/North Henry, s. Thomas and Lucy, infant'

Edmund Whitney of Oakley 55

Mary Keen 70

Sarah Stone 61

Hannah Folley, d. Edward 3.

1803 Robert Kerby 46 of Spriggs Alley accidentally killed.

1805 March, William Howlett, 45, killed by a fall from his horse.

1807 28 November, Elizabeth Meade, 42 w. John and in 13 December Nathanael age 5 s. John.

1807 Elizabeth Meade, 42 w. John and Nathanael Meade age 5 s. John buried with 14 days of each other. During this year four burials were recorded omitting the deceased's Christian name.

1808 On 13 June, Martha Marriott age 32, w. Joseph and Obidiah, 26 June, infant, s. Joseph were buried within a fortnight of each other.

In August Edward King of Sydenham, age 70, 'who in a fit of insanity, hung *sic*, himself on the windmill'

## **Population 875**

### **1809-1819**

During this period the total number of burials was: 189 m 52, f 80, inf, m 17, f23, ch. 10 m. 7f. The highest numbers were in 1810, 1816, at 22, and the lowest in 1813, 7. 46 < 1 year

An illustration of the complexities of the records is demonstrated by two entries:1810 on 4 February, Fanny Whitbread age 34, w. James, and in 7 March Mary Whitbread, infant, were buried. Another record of a Whitbread is a baptism in 6 August 1809 Marianne, d. of Frances and James Whitbread.

On 10 June, Thomas Holt, infant, died, not in baptism records and no family affiliation recorded and in July, John Holt, s. of Edward and Susan, age 7 died.

In November, 1810 Anne Mann age 18 was referred to as the 'natural' d. of Elizabeth.

1811 William Johnson infant alias Prater see other entries re Johnson and aliases.

1811/1812 December 1811, Clara Hester, infant not in baptism record, no family linkage, and November 29 1812 Thomas Hester baptism 10 November infant s. William and Jane.

August 2, 1812, William Eustace illegitimate s. Anna, infant, baptised 28 March and in October, Eliza Monger baptised 1 March, infant, illegitimate d. Mary Hearne.

**From 1813 the father's occupation was included in the baptism records.**

**1814-1821? no rector, stand in clergy from Aston and Bledlow. 1817 Musgrove recorded as rector.**

November, 1814, Edwin and Emma Webster buried 20 November, infants s and d. William and Mary, b. 16<sup>th</sup> November.

October 1815, Susanna Buckland a traveling gypsy age 62.

**1817-24, cholera outbreak, 1817-18, typhus**

1817 In May, Thomas Cox age 5 and John Cox age 2 buried on the same day..

In January, John Stevens of Oakley age 87 and in May, Mary Stevens of Oakley died age 80.

At the end of August 1817 the date of death was included in the records as well as the date of burial.

1817/1818, August James Little age 31 was buried and in 1818, James Little ( s. of John and Elizabeth baptised July 1815) age 2. in May and Rebecca Little age 16 was buried in November. Their relationship to each other is not recorded.

**1820-1830**

**1826-7 typhus outbreak**

Total burials in this period: 223 m 73, f 80, 54 < 1 year.

In December 1820, Richard Bloxam age 70 'died in a fit of apoplexy in his return from Wycombe Market.' Sic.

1821 Thomas and John Webster baptised 19 August, infant twins were buried October, ss of William and Mary.

1822, Thomas Hepburn age 78 'died suddenly when at Wycombe Market'.

In December Hanna Britnell, infant, died on the 11<sup>th</sup> December and Sarah Britnell, infant, died on the 19<sup>th</sup> December. Neither mentioned in the baptism register.

### **Population 1,097**

1824 Edmund Whitney, infant, not on the baptism register died on the 9<sup>th</sup> October and James Whitney age 7 died on the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Born March 1816 he could be the son of Thomas and Jane.

1825 William Whitney, infant, baptised 2 March died 13<sup>th</sup> March s. Thomas and Jane 1925/26

John Cooper s. John and Sarah (Wood) age 6 of Oakley died on December 13<sup>th</sup>. And on January, 24<sup>th</sup>, 1826 Sarah Cooper age 4 of Oakley died, not on baptism register,

On January 26<sup>th</sup> 1826, Samuel Cooper, baptised November 25, 1825 infant, s. of John and Sarah of Oakley died.

In 1826 two more young members of the Britnell family died, on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, Thomas Britnell, infant not in baptism register and June 14<sup>th</sup> Sarah age 3 d. Benjamin and Martha baptised 3 April 1843.

1828 Amelia, 10 months, d. John and Sarah and Ellen, d. John and Sarah infant, Stevens died a month apart in June and July.

1830 A number of deaths were recorded from Henton suggesting some infectious outbreak. In February 9<sup>th</sup> Mary Rogers age 77 and in March 14<sup>th</sup> Ann Rogers age 15 died. June 7<sup>th</sup> Thomas Rogers age 11, June 8<sup>th</sup>, Rachel Rogers age 41, June 10<sup>th</sup>, Rachel Rogers age 15. Fourteenth of June

Name	Age	Date of Birth	Location
Mary Rogers	77	9/2	Henton
Anne Rogers	15	14/3	Henton
Thomas Rogers	11	8/6	
Rachel Rogers	41	10/6	
Rachel Rogers	15	14/06	

March 31<sup>st</sup> John Cadle age 29, May 23<sup>rd</sup> Martha Cadle age 19 from Henton.

February 21<sup>st</sup>, Hannah Folley age 94.

### **Population 1,225**

**1831, influenza epidemic, 1831-2, cholera epidemic in UK, 1833 influenza epidemic**

**1831-1841** check pestilence and fever

Total number of deaths for this period: 237, m68 f 85, inf. m 16, f 12 chd. M30 f 26 the highest number in 1837 and 1840 of 26, the lowest 1839, 14. 41 < 1 year

1831 Three members of the Whitney family died in less than a month, Mary Whitney age 78, Elizabeth Whitney age 40 and Leah age 27.

Three young women from Winnal (Wainhill) died over a three year period. November 1832 Rachel Rogers age 27, March 1833, Sarah age 13 and in February 1834, Mary age 24.

**1837 beginning of national registration of birth marriages and deaths.**

***1837 influenza epidemic, outbreak of smallpox 1837-40 in England, in 1839 the Registrar General noted that TB accounted for 7.6% of all deaths.***

In 1837 two families in Oakley suffered multiple bereavements. In February John White age 13, Elizabeth White in March age 45, in April Lydia White d. George and Elizabeth of Oakley age 17, and in November, Eden (?Heden) White age 7 s. George and Elizabeth, all from Oakley.

The King family lost an infant Elizabeth born in October 1836 buried in May 1837 d. John and Susanna from Oakley but also in March, Rachel, age 5, and Jane age 3, buried in May but not recorded as being from Oakley. December 1838, William King, infant from Oakley baptised 11 December s. John and Susanna.

In December 1839, Benjamin Hester age 4 of Oakley died on the 13<sup>th</sup> December and James Hester age 2 baptised 17 June 1838 died on the 20 December 1839 ss Henry and Mary.

In 1840, In May, William Witney, of Oakley age 34, Ellen (Eleanor?) Witney 7 months, d. John and Sara and in June, Charlotte Witney age 6 d George and Lucy died within a month of each other. Other deaths in Oakley that year included: in June William Stevens age 1 year s John and Maria and Arabella and Caroline Hatton, twin infants in December d Benjamin and Rebecca.

January 10, 1841, James Witney, infant, died, Eden Witney age 3 of Oakley.

On February 4th, Sarah Rogers age 36 and on February 23<sup>rd</sup> Eli Rogers age 32. No family links recorded.

**1842-1852****1841 pop. 1,308.**

During this period the burial total 254, m. 68, f.109, inf. M 18 f, 16 chd, m.18, f.25, the highest number of deaths was in 1847 with 37 and the lowest 1850 with 7. 43 < 1 year.

In 1842 The Britnall family suffered loss in March Alfred age 14, s. Benjamin and Martha. In May, John age 18 months, not in baptism register parents not recorded, also in May, Susannah age 2 years nine months d. Lancelot and Caroline and buried and on the same day in May, Caroline d. Lancelot and Caroline age 1 year and 3 months.

Also, that year Henry Hilldon 'of riper years' was baptised.

In 1844 six residents from the Union Workhouse were buried in Chinnor,

In January:

John Smith age 85

Jane Perkins age 63

Edmund Smith age 26

In April

Jane Ratley age 3 months not on baptism register

Mary Smith age 73

October

William Cox infant not in baptism register

In October William Way age 54 was 'killed in the Thame Road over ridden by an horseman'. sic.

1845

December 29 1844 Mary King infant d. Susannah and John died and in September 1845 William King infant s. William and Ann. Also in December, Edward Buckland age 90 from the Union Workhouse was buried.

1846 two from the Union Workhouse were buried: Mary Seymour, infant, in January not on baptism register and William Willis, age 88, in May.

**1847-8 influenza pandemic the flu death rate was 459 per million.**

1847, 37 burials, flu death rate, 459 per million

In February 1847 two children from the Union Workhouse died one day apart, Thomas white age 7, and Henry White, an infant both buried on the same day.

In February, another member of the White family, William s. James and Maria, an infant, baptised 27 September 1846 died in march.

Additional deaths in the Union Workhouse:

December, John Loder age 4. ? s John and Susanna.

In October, 1848, James White age 3 months, s. Solomon and Charlotte in November, Thomas White age 3, s. Haden and Sarah and Rebecca White an infant from the Union Workhouse.

Additional deaths from the Union Workhouse 1848:

James East age 3 years 9 months not in baptism records

Sarah Hayes age 1 year 9 months

Sarah Loveday age 80

George Sulston, 11 months 17 June 1848

Jane Folly age 51.

On the 22 March Thomas and Rebecca Whitney had three children baptised: Elizabeth b. June 1842, George b. August 44 and Sarah b. November 47

### ***1849 cholera outbreak UK.***

1849 two deaths from the Union Workhouse, William Bates age 86, John King, 83.

### **1851 pop 1,257. First peak of Influenza outbreak**

In February Sophia White from Spriggs Alley age 33 and in March, Eliza White Spriggs Alley age 13. In July, Elizabeth Marriott age 26 and 9 days later Angelina Marriott d. Elizabeth noted in baptism records as deceased, and John, infant died. In September 30<sup>th</sup> Thomas Folly age 24 and October 7<sup>th</sup> Sarah Folley age 26 were buried. The name is spelt differently but could be the same family both from Oakley.

January 23 1851 Augustus Howlett age 24, in August his widow Elizabeth gave birth to Augusta ? Edward recorded as posthumous child, son, of Elizabeth.

### **1853-1863**

#### ***1854 out break of typhoid, 1855 second peak of influenza outbreak***

From 1852-54 no dates of birth were recorded

The total number of burials during this section total: 258 m 76, f 97, inf. M. 14, f. 12, chd m26, f. 22, highest number 1855, 38 and the lowest, 14 in 1862. 34 < 1 year.

5 th February 1853 Elizabeth Newell age 1 year and, 12 February, Clara, age 9 weeks both daughters of William and Charlotte and both baptised on the same day, second January 1853.

Two deaths from the Union Workhouse, James Barnes age 60, James Perkins 62.

In December, John Keen age 3 and Thomas Keen age 9 there were no family links recorded. No record in the baptism register.

1855 in spite of the high death rate, 38 in total, there were no clear clusters of deaths, In July John Witney 7 months, s. Mary Ann of Oakley, Mary Witney infant, not in baptism records and in October, George Witney age 36.

Starting in 1855 there was a sudden increase in multiple baptism within the same family for example, the Rush family had four children baptised: James b 1846, Mary Ann b.1848, Thomas b. 1851, Jesse b. 1854 all s. and d. William and Ann of Oakley.

Three sons of Thomas and Jane Southam born William 1850 Thomas 1852 and John 1854 were all baptised together in March 1855.

In October 1855 three members of the Rogers family: James Joseph and Eliza born 43, 45, 50 respectively.

The incidence of multiple baptisms increased during 1857 and early 1858. Whether this was due to the threat of infections is not clear.

Examples in 1857 include: the Currier family 2, s and d. of John and Mary Ann, in February 1857 William and Maria Seymour baptised their daughter Leah born 1841 and later in May baptised three more of their children, James born 1847, Alice Maria born 1850 and Rebecca 1853. In June two more of William and Maria's children were baptised: William b. 1838 and John born 1844. Also in May, three children of James and Mary Bunce: Ann b. 1842, Rebecca b. 1847 and Ellen b. 1844.

1856 In January, Ann White age 28 and Elizabeth White age 44 were buried and another Ann White age 61 was buried in April. Family links are not recorded. In August Elizabeth Eustace age 33 of Oakley and Charles Eustace s. James and Elizabeth, age 9 of Oakley were buried. Nov/Dec Emily Curryer age 4 d. John and Mary and Mary Curryer d. William and Ann, age 1 year and 11 months.

Mary Ann Witney age 3 baptised November 1856 'since dead'.

***1857-9 influenza epidemic, 1856-9 diphtheria outbreak, infection recorded in Thame.***

1857 During this year a number of members of the White family were buried. In January, Sarah age 58 and Esther age 88, in April Robert age 5 s. James and Maria.

In October Emma Hill age 7 months and in December, George age 25.

1858 The 10 burials recorded in January were all infants or children. Two were from Winnall, Ellen East age 21<sup>1/2</sup> and Sarah age 9 months d. George and Ellen. The

oldest was James Eustace age 7 from Henton s. Frederick and Hester Baptised 4 January and noted as 'since dead'. from Hempton. The youngest was Frederic Currier age 6 weeks s. George and Alice, annotated 'since dead' Louisa Rogers 5 months d. James and Louisa. .Charles Britnell 1 year 11 months, s. Jesse and Alice.

Recovered death certificates indicate that all these children died of whooping cough.

During 1858 the practise of multiple baptism continued and expanded. Branches of the Rogers family were prominent during this year. In January, Louisa Rogers d. James and Louisa baptised (see above) on 24th February, Sarah b. 1838 and John b. 1840 s and d, Joseph and Sarah John Sarah Anna and William born 45, 47, 53, 57 s and d. Thomas and Jana were all baptised. Also a George Immanuel born 55 s. Sarah father unknown. In April Sarah Anne d. James and Rebecca

### **1860-65 smallpox epidemic**

1860 Two members of the Stevens family from Oakley in August James age 2 and October Isabell age 24. No family linkage was recorded.

1861 population 1,296

In April, James age 6, and Sarah Eustace, age 3<sup>1/2</sup> both baptised the same day 27 June 1858, s. James and Jane were buried 11 days apart, and a Eustace from Oakley, James age 3 years 10 months was buried in September. In November another alias was recorded Georgina Green alias Witney age 2 years and 9 months.

1863 This year saw the deaths of two residents of the Littlemore Lunatic Asylum, in May John Fletcher age 71 and in Joseph Bishop age 22. On the second of March Elizabeth Green age 82 'burnt to death'.

### **1864-1874**

#### **1866 cholera outbreak.**

During this period the total number of burials was: 224, m81, f 81, inf m 13, f. 33 < 1 year

Stevens family from Oakley August 1864, Stephen age 7 months s. William and Rebecca, and eleven months later Elizabeth Stevens 5 months and in October, 1865 Harry Stevens age 9 months also twin s. Harry and Eliza d. of William and Rebecca noted as both 'since dead' but not in burial records.

1867 James Green age 30 died in the Littlemore Lunatic asylum

### **1870-75 smallpox**

1871 population 1,339

1871 31 deaths

In February Francis Britnell died age 91.

1873 was notable in that six adolescents died in one year. Normally one was recorded or at the most two. These adolescents were: Mary Folley age 11 died of 'fits' in February, Eva Hopkins, 15, June, decline, Fred Buttenshaw 15, June, no death certificate available, Louisa Stockwell, 14, August, gastric fever, Maria Brazell, 18, November, Phthisis (TB) Hannah Rogers, 19, dropsy (oedema secondary to heart failure).

### **1875-1885**

Total deaths: 200, m74, f 67, highest death rate in 1879 with 25 recorded burials and lowest 1876 13. 35 < 1 year.

In 1875 Two members of the Holland family from Winnall died in April, Ann age 5 <sup>¼</sup> and Albert aged 6 months baptised 5 April buried 25 April s. William and Anne. In April/ June, Ada Whitney age 8 and Kate Whitney age 21 were buried.

1878 April 17<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Cocks age 2 days and Frederick Cocks age 1 day were buried on the same day s. and d. John and Georgina. 1878/79 September William Rogers age 7 months and 1879 February Mary Rogers d. James and Rebecca 3 months. In April Lizzie Jane Stratford d. Joseph and Elizabeth age 1 was buried and 1880 in April another child names Lizzie Jane Stratford died age 1.

### **1889 diphtheria became a notifiable disease**

#### **1886-1896**

#### **4 successive epidemics 1890-94**

***1889-91 influenza epidemic by February 1890 had spread throughout uk three more waves, peak in May 1891 and January 1892 and December 1893..death rate high***

Total deaths 194 m 64 f 91 the highest in 1892 27 and lowest 1889 13. 20 < 1 year.

November 1886 Louisa Martha North age 35 was buried and 8 months later July 1887 Louisa Maria North d. Louisa and George age 8 months was buried. 1892 in August Edith Witney age 7 was buried and in September Hilda Witney age 16 months was buried. No family links were indicated in the record.

1895 a search of death certificates for under 40s indicates the causes of death see appendix

**1896 vaccination against typhoid became available**

Highest number of recorded burials was 21 in 1897 and the lowest number in 1905 9. 11 < 1 year. Plus the triplets not recorded in CP records = 14

In 1897 there was a cluster of 7 deaths in the first few months January to April in Oakley.

In 1899 there were 2 cases of death from whooping cough Alfred Witney age 16 months in October and Charles Witney age 10 months in November. In July and August three deaths from d and v in children under 2 years.