

## Cottage leases and Alms

There are many references to leases of cottages to local people. In most cases it is not possible to ascertain with any certainty where these properties were situated. However, it may be possible when taking into consideration other clues within the lease, approximately where it was located. Moreover, these leases will certainly be of interest to genealogists and keep our history of Beckett firmly local in nature.

Leases of Cottages on Reserves Rents. Schedule of Leases granted by the Barrington Family of Cottages and Gardens within the Hundred of Shrivenham in the County of Berks for lives or for years determinable on Lives.

Thomas Looker, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William Lord Barrington, dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1767, of a Cottage in Shrivenham, late in the occupation of William Pound with Garden Ground adjoining containing 10 perches. From the date for 99 years, determinable on lives of the said Thomas Looker aged 40 years. John his son, aged 1½ years and Merriam his daughter, aged 6 years.

Isaac Willoughby, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 28<sup>th</sup> September 1769, of a Cottage where the said Isaac then lived. From 27 September for 99 years on the lives of Isaac Willoughby, Martha, his wife and William, the son of George Lewis, aged 5 years. (See Listing No N926 in SHS online catalogue for more information on this cottage).

Joshua Thatcher, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 1771, of a Cottage in the occupation of John Brown. From 25<sup>th</sup> March 1772 for 99 years on the life of Robert Thatcher, Mary Thatcher, wife of Joshua Thatcher and Ann her daughter aged 6 years.

William Lake, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 1771, of a Cottage. From 10<sup>th</sup> October 1781 for 99 years on William Lake, son of William ages 3 years and Ann, his daughter, aged 4 years.

Betty Thatcher, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 1771, of a Cottage occupied by Thomas Wheeler and adjoining to a Cottage in the occupation of John Brown. From 25<sup>th</sup> March 1772 for 99 years on the lives of Robert Thatcher, 33 years, Betty, wife of Thomas Wheeler, aged 32 years and Betty Wheeler, granddaughter of the said Betty Thatcher aged 6 years.

Gilbert Woolward, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 1775, of a Cottage with a Garden in Shrivenham having a Close called Common Close, West, and the Common Highway, East, late in the

possession of William Barrett and held by Ann New Woolward deceased, for years determinable with lives then expired, 29 September 1775. Gilbert Woolward, Mary, wife and Thomas the son. (Probably Wisteria Cottage. See SHS Listing N949 for more information).

George Lewis, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 10 April 1777, a Dwelling House and garden in Shrivenham then late in the possession of Christopher Sheppard, bounded by a Garden of John Brown on the East, by a Close of Mrs Blagraves on the South, by the Lane on the West and by garden ground of Lord Barrington on the North. 25<sup>th</sup> March 1777, on the lives of George Lewis ages 60, and Thomas Lewis, ages 12 years, son of George.

John Sharps, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 29 September. 1780, a Cottage in Shrivenham in possession of John Seale, having a Cottage of William Sharps on the West and the road on the South. For 99 years on the lives of Ann Sharps, aged 32, Betty Sharps, aged 28, daughter of the said John Sharps, and John Sharps, aged 12, son of Martha Sharps, daughter of the said John Sharps.

Henry Mulcock, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 1782, a Cottage and Garden in Shrivenham in possession of the said Henry Mulcock and Elizabeth Moulden, the Cottage or Tenement and Garden of William Hedges, East, the lands of Lord Barrington, South, the Messuage of Thomas Hughes, West and the Street, North and also liberty to go to and from the Well near the premises to draw water. For 99 years on the lives of Henry Mulcock, ages 30, Obadiah Mulcock, son aged 6 and William Jenner aged 6 years.

John Powell, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 28 February 1786, a Cottage and Garden adjoining containing 6 perches in the occupation of John Powell, having a House and Garden in the occupation of Thomas Akerill, East, a House and Garden in the occupation of Henry Mulcock, West, and a Close of Lord Barrington called Horse Ground, North. From 29<sup>th</sup> September 1785, for 99 years on the lives of John Powell, aged 42, and John Powell aged 18 and William Powell, aged 3, sons of John Powell.

Thomas Akerill, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 1786, of a Cottage and garden containing 6 perches in the occupation of Thomas Akerill, having a House and Garden in the occupation of Thomas Powell, West, and a Garden called Kitchen Garden of Lord Barrington, East, and a Close of Lord Barrington called Horse Ground, north.

Thomas Trotman, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 9<sup>th</sup> February, 1789, of a Messuage in Shrivenham lately built by the said

Thomas Trotman then in his occupation with Garden adjoining containing in length 12 perches and in breadth 4 perches having a Stable, Out House and Garden in the occupation of Thomas Hughes, East, a Garden in the occupation of John Angell, West, a Close of Lord Barrington called Sandy Ground, South and the road leading through Shrivenham to Longcott, North. From 29<sup>th</sup> September 1788 for 99 years on the lives of Thomas Trotman, aged 9, Susannah Trotman, aged 5 and William Trotman, aged 3, sons and daughter of the said Thomas Trotman.

John Sealey, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 12 October 1789, of a Cottage and Garden adjoining containing 8 perches in the occupation of John Sealey, having a Garden in the occupation of Grace Lewis, East, a Cottage in the occupation of Grace Lewis, South, the road from Shrivenham to Ashbury, West and a Garden in the occupation of Robert Clarage, North. From 10 October 1789 for 99 years on the lives of Thomas Sealey, aged 18, Mary Sealey, aged 14, Winifred Sealey, aged 12, son and daughters of John Sealey.

Thomas Lewis, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington, dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 1791, of a Cottage in Clay Pitt Lane, Shrivenham, with a piece of ground adjoining, North containing in length 36 feet, breadth 27 feet, and a piece of ground adjoining to the NW corner of the piece of ground before described, as same as had been lately taken from a piece of ground in the occupation of John Knapp containing in length 28 feet and in breadth 11 feet and which premises were then in the occupation of Henry Moulding. From 25<sup>th</sup> March 1791 for 99 years on the lives of Thomas Lewis, aged 30 and John Lewis, aged 4 and Thomas Lewis aged 2, sons of Thomas Lewis. (This is likely the cottage that stood where modern day Yew Tree House now stands. See SHS Listing No N946 for details).

Joseph Bliss, Shrivenham. By lease granted by William, Lord Barrington dated 31<sup>st</sup> October 1792, of a Cottage and Garden then late in possession of William Willoughby alias Twilly. From that date on the lives of Mary Bliss, aged 17, and Charlotte Bliss, aged 13, daughters of Joseph Bliss.

Daniel Powell, Shrivenham. By lease granted by the Lord Bishop of Durham, George Barrington, Clerk and William Price Esq, dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 1808, of a Messuage or Tenement then lately erected by the said Daniel Powell near Dods Lane in Shrivenham with the Garden adjacent then occupied by the said Daniel Powell. Covenant by said Daniel Powell his Heirs, Executors etc, to pay the yearly rent, to keep the premises in repair and so leave them etc. From 29 September 1808 for 99 years on the lives of Daniel Powell then aged 33, Amelia his wife aged 30, Daniel Powell, aged 10, John Powell, aged 13, Charlotte Powell, aged 7, Martha Powell, aged 5, Mary Powell, aged 2, sons and daughters of Daniel Powell and his wife, Amelia. (This cottage once stood at the southern end of where the Memorial Hall now stands. See SHS Listing No N82 for more details.)

## Alms

Throughout their dynasty in general, the Barringtons consistently displayed their propensity for benevolence. As major employers in the district they seem to have been very aware of their moral responsibilities with regard to charity. The Estate Accounts of the 18<sup>th</sup> century list many examples of their generosity and this continued into the 19<sup>th</sup>. (D/EX52/E1) lists numerous donations and assistance given to worthy causes: -

An entry for August 1818 noted that, '*The cottage of Henry Skinner, late of Richard Wheeler (now burnt down).*' The payment is to Susannah Lucas for the beer provided by her at a cost of £3.4.9, by the order of Mr Berens (the Vicar) to the populace who assisting to extinguish the fire of two cottages and to protect the neighbouring buildings from the fire.

Other entries read in June 1818: '*A number of Poor People, 2 Bushels of Lime to whitewash their cottages. £0.1.6.*'

'*Hannah May, a sick woman £0.2.0.*'

'*Richard Butler's son, late of Galley Hens Farm, who came a begging. £0.1.0.*'

'*8 Alms House People. £14.0.0.*' Sept 1818.

'*Thomas Trotman's 2 years Stipend £10.0.0 (salary of clergyman)*

'*Joseph Hughes teaching Sunday School. £6.6.0.*' December 1818

'*Giles Skinner/to Revd E. Berens £5.0.0.*'

'*John Hollyhock a pair of shoes extra for Joseph Sealey's daughter £0.5.0'*

'*Farm in hand for potatoes to the poor people at Xmas £3.6.2.*'

'*Thomas Rich 854 lb Beef at 3½ pp lb to the poor at Xmas £12.9.1.*'

'*William Horne, 4 sacks of potatoes for the poor people £1.12.0.*'

'*Xmas gift to Thos Ackrill sum of 1 shilling, same to William Ayres, Almond, Green, 2 boys, George Knapp, Luker, William Luker, Sly and Warren.*'

'*John Hollyhock, shoes for Lady Barrington's Charity Children. £18.0.*' 23 January 1819.

'*Carriage of Lord Barrington's Charity Boys Caps. £0.2.8.*' 14 March 1819.

'*Elizabeth Canfield, clothing. £14.4.7.*' 25 March, 1819.

'*Wages to William Ayres while sick 31 shillings.*'

'*As above to Charles Powell 12 shillings.*'

'*Mary Saunders teaching Lady Barrington's Charity Girls £11.4.0.*' April 1819.

'*Shoes for the son of Thomas Greenaway. £1.10.0.*'

*Thomas Ackriel, a Pensioner at 4 shillings per week from June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1818, which he has received by weekly payments, 47 weeks £9.8.0.' May 8, 1819.*

*'Same as above for William Lake and William Radaway.'*

*'Mary Saunders, teaching Lady Barrington's Charity Children, £4.0.0.' May 10, 1819*

*'Joseph Dickson. Schoolmaster at Longcot, £0.15.9.' June 24, 1819*

*'Joseph Hughes, teaching at the Sunday School. £6.6.0s.' Oct 27, 1819*

*'The 8 Poor persons at the Alms Houses £1.15.0 each.' Nov 4, 1819*

*'Thomas Burchell who had his leg broken in felling timber £1.0.0.' Jan 11, 1816*

*'3 Bushels of Lime given to Poor People to Whitewash their houses.'*

*'James Fidel, for a very large ladder £2.7.0. N.B. The Village has hitherto been accommodated with the large Church Ladder, but the present Church Wardens refuse lending it to anyone. 'June 22, 1819*