

# *Account of Purley on Thames*

## The Hyde Connections

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*By John Chapman - first published in the Project Purley Newsletter no 26 May 1991*

We all know of the memorial to Ann Hyde in Purley Church. She died in 1629 of smallpox and was buried at Purley. Her husband, Edward Hyde, went on to be Lord Clarendon, Chancellor of England 1657-1667 and the father of Anne Hyde who married the Duke of York, later James II whose daughters were Queen Anne and Queen Mary II.

The second Anne Hyde had a sister Frances who married Thomas Keightley of Hertfordshire. Their daughter married Lucias O'Brian of county Clare, Ireland and from them was descended Edith Annie Selfe who married John Henry Dudley Matthews in 1871. John became Rector of Purley in 1902 and we have vivid recollections of Purley at the time written by two of their children, Rose and Frederick.

Edward Hyde's father was Henry Hyde of Wiltshire and one of Henry's brothers was Sir Nicholas Hyde of Marlborough. There appears to be a connection between Sir Nicholas and the Hydes who lived at Purley Hall from the late 16th century until 1720. From this branch of the family we can trace the origins of the Manor of Purley La Hyde back to the early 13th century. (This was the manor around what is now Purley Hall).

Another interesting connection is between Edith Selfe and Bishop Samuel Wilberforce of Oxford who contributed towards the rebuilding of Purley Church in 1870. Edith's Grandfather, William Spooner, had a sister Barbara who married William Wilberforce the well known opponent of the slave trade. Their son Samuel became bishop of Oxford in 1849 and when the appeal for funds was made he promised to contribute £10 towards the new church. He became Bishop of Winchester in 1869 just before the re-opening so we hope he made good his promise.







