

Reading old handwriting

Session three 16th century

Mayor's book, Abingdon 1589

- First page of official borough record of mayors, other benefactors and leases of town property.
- Original is almost A4 size
- Professionally written and illuminated - initials possibly of the scrivener –EDWARD BATTEN
- Classic Secretary hand
- Larger letters in bold are the beginning of paragraphs or new sections
- NB use of i for y in Maiors y for i in is, and vice-versa in Conteyned; c not t in Corporacion; difference between f in of and long s in burgesses
- Use of tild (line above word) to indicate letter(s) as in Corporac[i]on, Ten[emen]tes. Use square brackets if you cannot be sure how the writer would have spelled the word.
- S with a 'tail' at end of word means es

Abingdon Mayor's book – first few lines



Booke:
Wherein is contained the names of all the mayors
ye hitherto from the beginning of this Corporation have borne the office
of Mayoralty with their proper additions; And a briefe
of all the leases and covenants therein contained at any time
granted by the Mayor Bayliffe and Burgesses of anye
their Landed Tenement or hereditament to them belonging
with a list of all a curse the same Landed Tenement
hereditament And also a remembrance of all such good
benefactors as have given or bestowed any thing to the benefit
of this Corporation, whereto thine and thine good quills may not
be hidden under the Table of oblivion. **made**
in the year of our lord god One thousand five hundred eighty
one, in the tyme of Thomas the first of James, for the benefit of
us the Burgesse, Thomas Smythe, Richard Wolfe, James
Gode, John Hyslop, Paulie Wynward, Anthony Coppall, William
Thomas, Richard Aconer, which is the full list of the
mayorall Burgesses of the said Burgesse

Hungerford parish register burials 1591-2

- Points to notice
- Date – legal year began on 25 March so burials we would place in February 1592 are placed here in 1591. Show correct date as February 1591/2
- Note frequent use of capital / upper case letters where we would use lower case - Daie, Buried, Servante
- use of 'e' at end of word in streete, Servante
- Spelling Februarie, Daie, sonne, wiffe, yeman
- Letter shapes – r –like upside down n, long s ʃ
- capitals The, Daie, Buried, Austen, Gibbes Richar , Susanna, Carpenter, Eddington

Hungerford parish register: burials 1591-2

Buriall of Anno Domini 1591
 1591 Apr 3 Day of Resurrection 1591 was Buried Thomas Child
 Apr 15 Day of Resurrection 1591 was Buried Richard
 Son of Richard and Barbara
 Apr 17 Day of Resurrection 1591 was Buried Thomas Roberts
 of fuller, And he was Buried 18 was found by wife of
 the said Thomas Roberts Buried
 Buriall of Anno Domini 1592
 1592 Apr 26 Day of Maye 1592 was Buried John the wife
 of Stephen Magittington
 Apr 2 Day of April 1592 was Buried Susanna the
 daughter of Jerome Magitt of Somerton
 Apr 19 Day of June 1592 was Buried Roger the son of
 John Maule a mason who died at Bishop's in prison for
 Apr 28 Day of June 1592 was Buried Agnes Cairnsford
 daughter of Roger Baxter
 Apr 30 Day of July 1592 was Buried Martin Maule of
 Edington Roman
 Apr same Day was Buried Elizabeth the daughter of
 Michael Garmon of Exton
 Apr 10 Day of August 1592 was Buried Simon Magitt
 a stranger who died at Bishop's in prison
 Apr 24 Day of August 1592 was Buried Thomas Earl
 Apr 30 Day of August 1592 was Buried one in the
 name of a woman who was buried in the church of St.

Childrey churchwardens' account for 1594

- Points to notice:
- Abbreviation for letter omitted is a tild, a line above word as in doe (do[[~]min]e n[[~]ost]re), com[[~]m]ing, Sum[[~]m]a, Su[[~]ummo]ner
- Roman numerals: i = 1, ij = 2 (last i always j)
- v = 5; x = 10; l = 50; xl = 40 (10 before 50)
- li libra pounds
- s with tail going up shilling
- d with tail going down denarius or penny
- Low(e)Sunday is Sunday after Easter Day
- ſ long s at end of word is 'es' as in Souldieres, Recusantes, lockes, handes
- idiosyncratic spelling – don't modernise

Childrey churchwardens' accounts

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Probate inventory of William Lawde, cloth worker of Reading 1594

- No will made by William Lawde – administration of estate
- Professionally written in sloping Secretary hand
- Use capitals in preamble as patterns – Lawde, Readinge, April, Edward, Burmingha[m], Dell, Philip
- Goods listed room by room so some useful letters like capital H in Hall and lower case h in hall on same line. Note the C
- abbreviation using letter p in *parler*. There is no need to use square brackets round ‘ar’ because the sign for the abbreviation is ‘ar’.
- i and j are interchangeable so ioyned = joined – made with proper joints by joiner
- extended ‘tail’ of e at end of dogges (5th item, 2nd line) means it is ‘es’.
- E at the end of words we would not use – payre (pair), tonges (tongs)
- Court cupboard – cupboard with ‘shelf’ above used to display plate etc
- Andirons, dogs, fyer shelve (fire shovel), (fire) dogs all equipment for tending a fire in a fireplace
- Wainscot (wooden panelling) and stayned clothes (cloths – painted thick possibly woollen hangings) are wall decorations.
- For more details of Lawde /Laud and his inventory see *Reading Book of Days* or my book *Reading: a history*

Probate inventory of William Lawde, clothworker of Reading 1594

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