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978-1-108-01280-5 - Records of the House of Newbery from 1274 to 1910

Arthur Le Blanc Newbery

Excerpt

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## Of the Family of the Newberys from 1274. Edward I. and onwards.

**F**ROM the Indexes to be found in the Literary Search Room, Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, the following references have been taken:—

Vol. xi., Rotuli Hundredorum Com. Buk. Edw. I.,  
1274. anno 1274, Burgus de Marlawe, page 354: D'dca  
dua cowia tenet Henr' de Newbur unu burg redd' p.  
annu dce xvij d. D'dco J. tenet Henr' de Newbury  
unu wantam, &c., redd' eidem p. annu xvj d.

Vol. i., *temp.* Hen. III. and Edw. I., page 10,  
Rotuli Hundredorum Nywbyri. It wills clic balls  
Alic de la Marche de Nuibyr cepit cinq.

Vol. i., page 107, anno 19 Edw. I., 1274,  
Hen. III. to Edw. II. Calendarium, Inquis. Post  
Mortem Sive Escartarum, No. 83. Joh'es de  
Neubiry pro Hospital sancti Joh'is Jerusalem—  
Grenham terr', &c., Berks.

1292. Vol. i., page 165, 28 Edw. I., No. 125, anno 1292.  
Calendarium Inquis. Post Mortem Gervasius Newebury  
et alii pro Abb' e de Middelton, Catestok, &c.;  
Bystedon 3, virgat' terr' et in Upsydeleng; 4, virgat  
terr', Dorset.

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1293. Vol. i., page 107, 19 Edw. I., 1293. John de Newbiry, Berks.

1356. Vol. ii., page 195, 29 Edw. III., 1356. John de Newbury, Calendarium Edwardus Stocke, propavit Joh' en de Newbury. Capellanum (chaplain) et el' Rusteshale Maner, Stocke Maner, rewan eidem Edwardo, Wiltes. Calendarium Inquis. Post Mortem,

1413. No. 33, page 22, 4 Hen. 5, 1413. Will'us Newbury, Kynwersdon Mep. terr', &c., ut de maner de Templecombe, Somerset.

From the earliest years of Queen Elizabeth's reign, the names of the Newberys appear in the parish registers at Waltham St. Lawrence, near Reading, in the county of Berkshire.

There is still extant an old black-letter volume, entitled "A briefe exposition of such chapters of ye Olde Testament as usuallie are redde in the church at common praier on the Sundays, by Thomas Cooper, Bishop of Lincolne," colophon-imprinted at London by Henrie Denham for Rafe Newbery, dwelling at Fleet Streete, a little

1537. above the Conduite, anno 1537.

As this work is not enumerated in an early seventeenth century edition of the Bodleian Catalogue, it is reckoned to be very rare.

In 1543 Catharine Howard, wife of Henry VIII., died.

The following from these parochial records was kindly extracted in 1908 by the vicar, the Hon. and

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Rev. Grey Neville, who, after 350 years, found it rather hard to make out. It is the third entry on the first page, and reads thus:—

“1559. Mar . . . 9, Willim Newberry, fil. Willim, fuit Bapt . ur.” A few lines further down:—“1560, Feb. 22. Clementia Newberry, fuit Bapt . r.”

After this it seems that the name occurs on every page, sometimes two or three times.

1560. Ralph Newbery carried on business as a publisher in Fleet Street, a little above the conduit, in London; was made free of the Stationers' Company January 21st, 1560, Warden in 1583, again in 1590, Master in 1598 and 1601. He gave a stock of books, and the privilege of printing, to be sold for the benefit of Christ's Hospital and Bridewell. His name appears on many of the most important publications of his day: “The Dictionary of National Biography,” in the Library of the British Museum, contains a long and interesting list of them. He seems to have retired in 1605.

1563. Thomas Newbery was the author of “a Booke in Englysshe Metre of the great Marchaunt Man, called ‘Dives Pragmaticus,’ very preaty for children to rede, whereby they may be better, and more readyer rede and wryte about wares and implements in this world contayned.”

1594. John Newbery, the brother of the above-named Ralph, was a publisher at the sign of the “Ball,” in St. Paul's Churchyard, till his death in 1603.

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Nathaniel Newbery pursued the same occupation from 1616 to 1634, chiefly publishing Puritan tracts.

1608. Ralph Newbery bequeathed to the poor of Waltham, in the reign of Charles II., property, the proceeds of which, now about £50 per annum, are distributed annually to the poor of the parish.

In the reign of Charles I., Humphrey Newbery, "an utter barrester of Lincoln's Inn," was buried at 1638. Waltham St. Lawrence in 1638, his wife in 1640, their daughter in 1634.

In the churchyard are many resting-places of the Newberys, and, to judge by the several records in the church, they were persons of distinction in the parish.

1713. Robert Newbery, a landed proprietor in the neighbourhood, had a son named John, who was born in 1713, in the reign of Queen Anne; his baptism was registered July 19th. There he passed his boyhood. Being an untiring reader, he obtained a wide knowledge of literature. In 1730 he left his birthplace for Reading, and found congenial occupation as assistant to William Carnan, who the records at Somerset House, London, inform us was the proprietor and editor of the *Reading Mercury* and *Oxford Gazette*, which first appeared on July 18th, 1723, George I. being king. He died in 1737, leaving all his property to his brother Charles, and to John Newbery, appointing them his executors. The latter soon mastered the routine of the *Gazette* and *Mercury*,

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and, paying his addresses to the widow (his age was about 24), they were in due time united in wedlock. Their children were three—Mary, John, and Francis. Mary, born in 1740, married Michael Power, a Spanish merchant, in 1766, in George III.'s reign, and left a numerous family. John followed in September, 1741, living only eleven years. Christopher Smart, the poet, celebrated his memory by the following epitaph:—

“Henceforth be every tender fear suppress,  
Or let us weep for joy, that he is blest;  
From grief to bliss, from earth to heav'n remov'd,  
His mem'ry honoured, as his life belov'd;  
That heart o'er which no evil e'er had power,  
That disposition sickness could not sour,  
That sense, so oft to riper years denied,  
That patience heroes might have owned with pride;  
His painful race undauntedly he ran,  
And in the eleventh winter died a man.”

Their father, John Newbery, whose fame as a publisher is partly founded on the books for children he produced and his connection with Oliver Goldsmith and Dr. Johnson, left no field untried in his publishing ventures. He had shares in various magazines (and employed them both to contribute occasional essays) and in the *London Chronicle*, *Lloyd's Evening Post*, *Owen's Chronicle*, *The Westminster Journal*, and *Yeovil Mercury*.

The surviving Newberys have a list of the 1740. books published by their ancestors from 1740 to 1800, which occupies 79 pages in Welsh's History

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of John Newbery. It comprises theology, fiction, prose, poetry, scientific and educational works, and music; and, indeed, every department of literature is represented.

In the course of a journey by coach into Lancashire, he wrote to his wife—"At almost every parish in this county there is a very useful instrument called a Ducking Stool, where the women are cured of scolding," &c. After making a tour of England, his common-place books shed some curious light upon the manners and customs of his time.

1743. On July 6th, 1743, the youngest child, Francis, was born, and, as we shall see, succeeded to the business of which his father, John Newbery, was then so busy in laying the foundations. Three or four years afterwards he transferred it to London, for the more ready disposal of a variety of publications which were printed at Reading, and of which he was either the author, compiler, or publisher.

In 1743 John Newbery entered into and signed an agreement with John Hooper, Surgeon, of Reading, with a view of aiding and developing his practice. This project proved profitable to both of them; in some respects, it is holding good 168 years after they jointly signed it. The Newberys of to-day are its custodians, and other documents of like import are in excellent preservation.

1744. Having now opened a business house in London, on December 8th, 1744, in the 18th year of the

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reign of King George II., His Majesty sent “to his trusty and well-beloved” John Newbery, greeting, his royal privilege and license to publish a work entitled “The Circle of the Sciences,” in seven volumes. Vol. 1.—Grammar made easy. Humbly inscribed to His Highness Prince Wm. Henry. Price bound 6d. Vol. 2.—Arithmetic made easy. Humbly inscribed to His Highness Prince Edward Augustus. Price bound 1/-. Vol. 3.—Rhetorick made easy, and illustrated by several beautiful orations from Demosthenes, Cicero, Sallust, Homer, Shakespeare, Milton, etc. Humbly inscribed to His Highness Prince George. Price bound 1/-. Vol. 4.—Poetry made easy, and embellished with a great variety of epigrams, epitaphs, songs, odes, pastorals, etc., from the best authors. Humbly inscribed to Her Highness the Princess Augusta. Price bound 1/-. Vol. 5.—Logick made easy, to which is added a compendious system of Metaphysics, or Ontology. Price bound 1/-. Vol. 6.—Geography made easy, and embellished with cuts. Humbly inscribed to the Marquis of Blandford, as the last was to the Marquis of Tavistock. Price bound 1/6. Vol. 7.—Chronology made easy, to which is added a table of the most memorable events from the beginning of the world to the year 1747. Humbly inscribed to the Earl of Dufton. Price bound 1/-. His branch establishment was in Devereux Court, Temple, and was opened in this year.



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Newbery was probably one of the most ingenious advertisers of his day, and his ingenuity was in most cases rewarded with success. He was almost as great in the art of puffing his wares as the immortal Puff himself, and he employed the puff of every kind. "The *puff direct*, the *puff preliminary*, the *puff collateral*, the *puff collusive*, and the *puff oblique*, or the *puff by implication*," were all used in their turn, and no little skill was displayed in their concoction.

It may be interesting to give some specimens of how he applied his knowledge. The following are some of his methods of announcing his little books and keeping them before the world. From the 1744. "*Penny Morning Post*" of June 18th, 1744, we cull the following:—

"According to Act of Parliament (neatly bound and gilt) a pretty little pocket book, intended for the instruction and amusement of little Master Tommy and pretty Miss Molly, with an agreeable letter to each from Jack the Giant Killer; as, also, a Ball and Pincushion, the use of which will infallibly make Tommy a good boy and Polly a good girl. To the whole is prefixed a letter on education, humbly addressed to all parents, guardians, governesses, etc., wherein rules are laid down for making their children strong, healthy, wise, and happy. Printed for J. Newbery, at the Bible and Crown, near Devereux Court, without Temple Bar. Price of the book, 6d.; with a Ball and Pincushion, 8d."

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1751. Seven years later (March 1st, 1751) the following appeared in the public prints:—

“To all little good boys and girls.”

“MY DEAR FRIENDS,—You are desired not to be uneasy that the publication of your ‘Lilliputian Magazine’ is deferred till Saturday. The whole is printed, and all the servants of the Society are employed in making them up for you; but as the number is so large, ’twill be impossible to get them perfected before that time. I am, my dear friends, yours affectionately, R. Goodwill, Secretary. From my office at the Bible and Sun, in St. Paul’s Churchyard, February 28th, 1751.”

“It has been said, and said wisely, that the only way to remedy the depravity of human nature and the corrupt principles of mankind is to begin with the rising generation and to take the mind in its infant state and susceptible of any impression; to represent their duties and future interests in a manner that shall seem rather intended to amuse than instruct; to warm their affections with such subjects as are capable of giving them delight and of impressing on their tender minds proper sentiments of religion, justice, honour, and virtue.”

“When infant reason grows apace, it calls  
For the kind hand of an assiduous care;  
Delightful task! To rear the tender thought,  
To teach the young idea how to shoot,  
To pour instruction o’er the mind,  
To breathe th’ inspiring spirit, to implant  
The generous purpose in the glowing breast.”

THOMSON.