

WHEPSTEAD VACCINATION LIST 1833

Amongst Whepstead's Church records has been found a handwritten list of 81 people, mainly children, vaccinated in 1833. The original is now lodged in Bury Record Office. The vaccinations were carried out "by me, **W.E. Image**, Mem. Roy. Coll. Surg. London". He was the son of **Revd. Thomas Image**, Whepstead's Rector from 1798-1856, and a plaque in the Great Churchyard, Bury St Edmunds records that he lived in a house directly behind St Mary's Church. Sadly soon after 1833 several of his own infant children were to be buried in Whepstead.

The list records that "in all, the arms went through the regular stages of the disease" but "an other, **Henry Payne** was vaccinated but did not succeed". One name is unclear, but the remainder are listed below, with ages where recorded. The ages should be used cautiously. For example **Sophy Cook** is said to be 16, whereas the parish register gives her date of birth as 1827. Also the ages of the **Bielt** children require an explanation.

There is nothing to indicate whether the 1833 vaccinations were a one-off event or part of a regular programme, (though one entry "worked well but unsafe before" suggests there were other occasions). However, something of the social context is known. This was a time of high unemployment throughout Suffolk, and the cost of Poor Relief in Whepstead had doubled since 1800. From 1830 to 1833 some 90 households received help from the village's Allen Charity. Only two of the vaccinated children's names appear in the village Burial Register, though it was to be at least another decade before there was any real decrease in the village's infant and childhood burials. Judging by the 1841 census it was probably only a minority of the children who were vaccinated.

September 14th. **Farrow**. John 12yrs, William 10, James 8, Sophia 5, George 3.

Boreham. Robert 15, Margaret 10, Lionel 8, Thirza 5, Henry 1.

September 22nd **George Boreham**, 33, "arm worked"

September 23rd **Bird** Harriet 3, **Collins** Robert 8, **Grimwood J.** 9 and Mary 12, **Tuffin** Samuel 4, Jemima 1.

Bielt George 1week, Susan 7wks, Martha 12 wks.

Harrold Betsy 16, Stephen 7, Henry 3, Cornelius 3.

Mrs **Bird** and Mrs **Howe** (no ages stated) "worked well and unsafe before".

Mary **Clarke** and Ann **Clark** (no ages)

Copsey Rob 4, Harriet 3 Susan 6m., **Bumstead** Mary Ann 5, George 2y 6m.

Hardy Emily 2y 6m, **Underwood** George 2y 6m., **Sneazell** Mary Ann 4,

Wells M. 8, Phil 5, Joseph 4, Betsy 6m.,

Pearsons Fanny 16, Sarah 8, John 5, Thomas 4, Eliza 6m.,

Cook Sophy 16, Mary Ann 13, **Fitch** Chas. 5, **Boydton** Eliza 3, Wm., 3m.,

Hardy Mrs (no age) and Matilda 6m.,

September 27th **Hardy** James 26, **Clarke** of Stone Cross (no age)

Collins Dorothea 7, Sarah 5, Emma 1yr 6m.,

Root Eliz 8, Harriet 7, Wm., 6, Hannah 3, Lucinda 1yr 6m.,

Bumstead James 7, Henry 1yr 6m., Wm. (no age)

Suttle M. 5, Susan 3, Robert 6m.,

October 8th **Borcham** Bridgett (no age), Ellen 2, George, infant

Sparke George 4, Mary Anne 2, Elizabeth 3m

Bumstead John 10, Chas 10, **Payne** (no age).

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