

JOHN LOVELACE (1717-1797)

John LOVELACE was born in Exeter in 1717, the eldest surviving son of Jacob LOVELACE and his wife Grace ROCKETT and was baptized at St. Stephen's, Exeter:

19 May 1717 John son of Jacob LOVELACE. (St. Stephen's Parish Register).

John lived his early life at Exeter but completed his education at Oxford University. Alumni Oxoniensis records:

LOVELACE, John, s. James (sic) of Exeter (city), pleb. Exeter Coll., matric. 25 March 1737, aged 18; B.A. 1740 (? Vicar of Great Waltham, Essex, died 20 March 1797).

After leaving Oxford John entered the church. The Ordination Book of Exeter Cathedral records:

Sacred Orders and General celebrated in the Blessed Virgin Mary's Chapel within the Palace of Exeter by the Right Reverend father in God Stephen (WESTON), Lord Bishop of Exeter on Sunday 24th May 1741.

John LOVELACE B.A. Ordained into the sacred order of Deacons.

The following day John was appointed perpetual curate of Colebrook.

Four months later the Ordination Book records:

Sacred Orders and General celebrated in the Blessed Virgin Mary's Chapel within the Palace of Exeter by the Right Reverend father in God Stephen, Lord Bishop of Exeter on Sunday 20 September 1741.

John LOVELACE B.A. Admitted and ordained into the sacred order of Priesthood.

One would normally expect to remain a deacon for at least a year before getting a curacy. John LOVELACE was either extraordinarily lucky or had friends (or a father) with the Bishop's ear, for he got a vicarage less than seven months after being ordained a deacon:

Aylesbeare, a vicarage in the County of Devon – 18th December 1741. George BAKER, clerk, by virtue of a commission, admitted John LOVELACE, clerk, bachelor of arts, to the perpetual vicarage aforesaid, void by the death of Edward LOCKE, clerk, the last incumbent there, on the presentation of Anna Maria LOCKE, daughter and heir at law of the said Edward LOCKE deceased, the true and undoubted patroness as 'tis said of the said vicarage

Anna Maria LOCKE was only fourteen when her father died and left Aylesbeare in need of a vicar. John BAILEY, who claimed to be the patron of the living, presented Jonathan DENNIS to fill the vacancy. However, Anna Maria and her mother presented someone else. Bishop WESTON's register noted that an Inquisition was held at Exeter Cathedral on 16th September 1740 to decide on the merits of the rival presentations. The register records:

..... Vicarage is void by the death of Edward LOCKE, clerk and John BAILEY of Northleigh, Esq. has, as true patron, presented Jonathan DENNIS, clerk, M.A. Anne LOCKE, widow and administratrix and Anna Maria LOCKE, daughter and next of kin, as patronesses, presented Edward LANGMAN, clerk.

In the enquiry into BAILEY's presentation – Article No. 5 asked "Is the person presented (DENNIS) free, lawful, fit and honest." To this and also to Articles 4 and 6 the Jurors' verdict was "We say not."

As it happened LANGMAN was not appointed vicar either and so Aylesbeare remained without a vicar for another fifteen months.

The Aylesbeare parish register recorded John LOVELACE's appointment:

John LOVELACE was admitted on 18th December 1741 on the presentation of (Anna) Maria LOCK, eldest daughter of the late incumbent, in right of her father. An inquisition holden on Tuesday 16th September 1740 had found a verdict for the lady's right of presentation.

One wonders whether John LOVELACE's attraction to his patroness preceded or followed her presentation of him to the vicarage. Fifteen months after his appointment John married Anna Maria LOCKE at Sowton Church.

15th February 1742/3 John LOVELACE, clerk & Mrs Anna Maria LOCKE, both of Aylesbeare. (Sowton Parish Register).

John was then 25 years old and Anna Maria was only 17. The marriage was to last for 52 years. John recorded the event again in the his own parish register:

15th February 1742/3 John LOVELACE, clerk, vicar of Aylesbeare, married Miss Anna Maria LOCKE, daughter to the late incumbent Edward LOCKE, at Southton. (Aylesbeare Parish Register).

Their one and only child was born nine months later.

Anna Maria LOCKE was born at Thurlestone in 1725, where her father had been curate since 4th October 1723. The Register records:

Anna Maria daughter of Edward and Anne LOCKE was born 3 May and baptized 26 May 1725. (Thurlestone Parish Register).

Edward LOCKE was appointed to the vicarage of Aylesbeare on 8th September 1728, under the patronage of John BENNETT of Rosamondford, Aylesbeare. Anna Maria was three when the family left Thurlestone. Edward recorded her birth again in the Aylesbeare register:

Anna Maria daughter of Edward LOCKE, vicar and Anne, born at Thurlestone 3rd May 1725 and baptized about a month later.

Edward LOCKE died at the age of 48 and was buried at Aylesbeare:

Edward LOCKE, vicar, buried 26 March 1740.

His wife Anne continued to reside in Aylesbeare and may well have lived with the LOVELACEs at the vicarage. She died at Aylesbeare nearly 10 years later:

Anne LOCKE, widow of Rev. Mr Ed. LOCKE, late vicar, buried 13 Feb 1749/50.

The books of the Principal Registry of the diocese of Exeter record that on 12 Feb 1749/50 a grant of administration of the goods of Edward LOCKE, late of Aylesbeare, clerk (unadministered by Ann LOCKE, relict) was made to Anna Maria LOVELACE, wife of John LOVELACE of Aylesbeare. On the same day John LOVELACE of Aylesbeare, clerk, put up a bond of £200.

The LOCKE family had a long association with Hockworthy, where the parish registers contain records of many of that name. "*Edward the sonne of Richard LOCKE was christened the 2 Sept 1691.*" Alumni Oxoniensis records that he attended Balliol College, Oxford and matriculated on 18th February 1709/10 at the age of 18. The University records provide the additional information that he paid caution money on 20th February and was admitted a batteler of the college on 17th March 1709/10. He was listed as a servitor in September 1711, 1712, 1713 and September 1714. Edward obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree on 13th October 1713 and subsequently entered the church. He was ordained a deacon by the Bishop of Exeter on 6th June 1714 and admitted to the curacy of Huntsham, the adjoining parish to Hockworthy, the following day. On 27th May 1716 he was admitted and ordained a priest by the Bishop of Exeter. When he was 30, Edward married at Axmouth: "*Edward LOCKE of Hockworthy, curate and Mrs Ann SHARPE married 25th March 1722.*" Edward and Anne had 3 children, of whom Anna Maria was the eldest. Caroline, the second child, who married John CARTER, was born at Thurlestone in 1728. The Aylesbeare register records the birth and death of the third child: "*Walter son of Edward LOCKE, vicar and Anne, born 29 December baptized 15 February 1732/3.*" and "*Walter son of Edward and Anne LOCKE buried (in woollen) 21 June 1733.*" Anne also came from Hockworthy, where the register records: "*Anne SHARPE the daughter of Mr John SHARP was chrystened the 28th day of November in the yeare 1689.*" John the son of Robert SHARPE was born in 1646 and died in January 1708/9. He was vicar of Hockworthy from 1675/6 to 1707.

Edward's father and grandfather were Hockworthy men, as the registers show: "*Richard LOCKE the sonne of John LOCKE was chrystened 2 March 1660/1.*" "*Richard LOCKE and Mary CARNE weare marryed the 24 day of July 1685.*" "*Richard LOCKE was buryed 21 Sept 1740.*" Richard was Churchwarden of Hockworthy in 1723. "*John LOCKE marryed Anne COLLMAN 5 Jan 1657/8.*" "*John LOCKE senior was buryed 28 Nov 1694.*" "*Anne LOCKE, widow, was buryed 13 Apr 1700.*"

Reverting to LOVELACE, John is recorded as a subscriber to a book "*The Four Gospels Harmoniz'd*" by Arthur HELE in 1750. A few years after burying his father at Aylesbeare, John successfully applied to be a Freeman of the city of Exeter, by virtue of patrimony. The Roll of Freemen records:

22nd September 1759, Rev. John LOVELACE, clerk, son of Jacob LOVELACE, was admitted a freeman of Exeter, by succession.

As part of his living John was entitled to the small tithes of the parish, the rector being entitled to the great tithes. In Aylesbeare a modus had operated on certain commodities for over 200 years, whereby, in place of payment of tithes in kind, a monetary value was substituted. With the passage of time, the fixed scale of monetary amounts had become worth a lot less than the market value of the various items of produce subject to tithes. One of John's first acts as vicar was to try to re-establish the payment of tithes in kind.

This brought a furious response from the tithes payers and at Easter 1742 Joseph WALLER, surgeon, Samuel DRAKE and John HALL, gents. and Wm. TAYLOR, yeoman, filed a bill in the Exchequer Court against John

LOVELACE, to confirm the operation of the modus. In evidence, a similar case, settled at the Ecclesiastical Court of the Bishop of Exeter in favour of the parishioners of Aylesbeare in 1598, was cited. Six Easter books covering the period 1630-35, when James WATSON was vicar, were produced in evidence to show the payment of tithes in money, as were books kept by previous vicars John WELSMAN (1638-70), Richard COURTIS (1670-81), John KNIGHT (1681-1728) and John's predecessor Edward LOCKE (1728-41). Aylesbeare Vicaridge Book 1642-90 provided further confirmation.

Faced with such overwhelming evidence John wrote a letter to John HALL agreeing the parishioner's position. The matter was settled by Articles of Agreement dated 19 November 16 George II (1742), which were drawn up, enrolled and sealed on 11th January 1742/3. This agreement was cited in a similar case in 1812, when Thomas PUTT was vicar. The agreement set out, inter alia, the following moduses:

Landgrass per acre	2d.
A fuer calf	2d.
A heifer and calf	2d.
Every other cow and calf	4d.
A hogshead of cyder	4d.
A colt	1d.
Hearth penny	1d.
Garden penny	1d.

From John LOVELACE's time onwards there was a composition for tithe of 7d. in the £ with the exception that occupiers of cottages and gardens paid their Hearth and Garden pennies and, if they made cyder, the modus of 4d. This was much lower than the more usual composition of 1s. 0d. in the £ in other parishes and it was Thomas PUTT's attempt to raise the amount to 1s. 0d. that initiated the litigation in 1812.

By 1763, at the end of John's incumbency at Aylesbeare, the tithes were worth £34. 9.10 for Aylesbeare plus £36.18. 0 for Newton Poppleford. The amount from Newton Poppleford comprised the greater tithe as well as the small tithe.

John remained as vicar of Aylesbeare for 21 years. During that time he occasionally officiated at neighbouring churches, burial services at Venn Ottery in 1761 and 1762 being typical examples. John officiated at the marriage of his sister in law Caroline LOCKE to John CARTER in 1758. Little did he know that this union would perpetuate the LOVELACE name in successive generations of John and Caroline CARTER's family.

In the front of the Aylesbeare register is "A table of fees paid to the vicar of Aylesbeare for services performed at the church of Aylesbeare or at the chapel of Newton Poppleford, a member of the said church of Aylesbeare." This was "copied from the Rev'd Mr LOVELACE's original and transcribed for the benefit of future vicars the 8th day of February 1765 by Carolus SALTER, curate of Aylesbeare." The list included:

For churching in time of service at the church 6d. Ditto out of service at the church 1s. 0d. For christening at church in time of divine service 0d. Ditto in church out of service 0d. (one shilling being paid for the churching). Ditto at church out of service in every case where 1s.0d. is not paid for churching 1s.0d. On marrying by Banns at church in time of Divine Service 2s.6d. For marrying by Banns at Church privately out of service 5s.0d. Certificate of marriage or other thing 1s.0d. Certificate of Banns published 2s.6d. A funeral sermon 10s.0d. Ditto if the text be given £1.1.0d. For leave to bury in the Church 10s.6d. For burying an inhabitant of the Parish in the Churchyard 0d. For performing part of the service in the church, the corpse introduced, there being no sermon 2s.6d. Ditto in time of service if no funeral sermon 5s.0d. For leave to erect a monument in the churchyard 10s.6d. Ditto a Head Stone only 1s.0d. For officiating when a corpse from another parish is buried in the chancel of the church 10s.6d. For a copy of the year's register of christening and burials for the Bishop's register to be paid by Churchwardens 2s.0d. Ditto of the new register of marriages 1s.6d.

Notes state that the vicar is not obliged to perform duties outside Divine Service for churchings, christenings or marrying by Banns. The extra fee is for such services when "private".

An excellent book by Canon Howard SENAR published in 1986 entitled "Aylesbeare – A Devon Church and Parish" provides much information on the period when John LOVELACE was vicar.

John LOVELACE's son went up to Oxford in 1762 and that same year John engineered an exchange of parishes with William BURROUGH, who was vicar of Great Waltham in Essex. The last entry signed by BURROUGH in the latter marriage register was dated 24th June 1762 and the first signed by John LOVELACE was on 27th January 1763. However there was a change of hand in the baptism and burial registers between June and July 1762. According to a booklet by Rev. Brian JUKES – Great Waltham Parish Church through the Centuries John LOVELACE was vicar from 1762 until his death in 1797. The Aylesbeare register records a later change:

William BURROUGH, B.D. admitted as vicar on 8th March 1763 on the cession of LOVELACE and on presentation of the said LOVELACE, patron 'tis said of the vicarage.

BURROUGH seems to have lived in Dorset, where he was rector of a parish and had the care of two churches. From the time of his appointment as vicar the pastoral care of Aylesbeare was entrusted to a curate, Charles SALTER. Canon SENAR states in his book that John LOVELACE transferred the advowson of Aylesbeare to BURROUGH, who sold it to Henry MARKER in 1777. However, the Aylesbeare register differs:

John LOVELACE and Anna Maria his wife sold the advowson to Henry MARKER 7th May 1768.

Anna Maria died in December 1795 and was buried at Great Waltham:

Dec 31 1795 Anne (sic) Maria, Wife of the Rev'd John LOVELACE, Vicar of this Parish. (Great Waltham Burial Register)

For many years John and Anna Maria had Anne BOWDEN living with them. She died just three weeks before John LOVELACE in 1797. Rather bizarrely John referred to Anne BOWDEN as his aunt. The fact that James Bowden LOVELACE was her niece, allows one to identify Anne BOWDEN as John's niece. Anna Maria's niece Anna Maria CARTER also lived with him after his wife's death until his own.

John died on 21st March 1797 and was buried at Great Waltham, where the register records:

25 March 1797 The Reverend John LOVELACE, Vicar of this Parish. (Great Waltham Burial Register).

In reporting John's death to his son, Ann CARTER wrote: "*Nature in your father gradually decayed; he was confined to his bed but 3 days & died the 21st March. My sister, who is left executrix, buried him in such a manner as I am sure you would have approved of, had you been present and gave him great pleasure and satisfaction by her constant care & attention during his illness & confinement.*"

The Exeter Flying Post of 22nd June 1797 reported that:

On Tuesday last the Rev. George Somers CLARKE, B.D., Fellow of Trinity College was presented by the President and Fellows of the Society, to the Vicarage of Much Wall, in the County of Essex, vacated by the death of the Reverend Mr LOVELACE.

John's Will dated 26th November 1796 and Codicil of 15th February 1797 was proved on 4th April 1797 by Anna Maria CARTER, the executrix and residuary legatee. John was a wealthy man and apart from an interest in an estate at Longacre in London he left £3,500 of 5% Bank of England Annuities. Bank of England records show that the 5% Bank Annuities were in fact 5% Navy Stock and that John first acquired £800 of such stock on 10th May 1786. At his death John LOVELACE was owed £600 by Mr DANIEL of Little Waltham, £200 by Anthony LOVELACE and £85 by George LOVELACE, all of which was irrecoverable. His personal estate therefore proved to be little more than £3,500 plus Household Furniture. John's Will and Codicil are transcribed below:

The Reverend John LOVELACE, Clerk.

In the name of God Amen, I John LOVELACE of the Parish of Great Waltham in the County of Essex, Clerk, being of sound mind, thanks be to God, but considering the uncertainty of human Life, do make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following.

In the first place I recommend my spirit into the Hands of Almighty God, hoping for salvation through Christ, and I commit my Body to be buried at the discretion of my Executrix hereafter mentioned.

Also I give to my Nephew William LOVELACE at Charles Square, Hoxton all my Right and Title to a Share in the Rent of the Estate of Longacre, held by Adam WRIGHT in Saint Martin's, Westminster from Lady day next after my decease to the compleat end of the term for which it is held, that is to say, till Lady day in the year one thousand eight hundred and seven, provided he has paid to me or to my Executrix all the Rent due to that time of my decease, which he has Power by Warrant of Attorney to receive for me.

Also I give to my dear Aunt Anne BOWDEN of Great Waltham in the County of Essex, and now living with me, five hundred pounds, part of my Interest or Share in the Capital or joint Stock of Five Per Cent Annuities in the Bank of England, together with the proportional Annuities attending the same, the alienation or transfer thereof to be made after Christmas or Midsummer day, whichever shall follow next after my death.

Also I give to my dear Son John LOVELACE, Merchant at Malaga in the Kingdom of Spain, Two thousand Pounds, a share likewise in the same joint Stock of Five P. Cent, with the proportional annuity attending the same, his Interest however in the same is not to commence till Christmas or Midsummer day, whichever next follows after my decease.

I expect and do desire likewise that the Legacy duty, which my Executrix shall have been obliged to pay for these Legacies, shall be subtracted from the Legacies when paid.

Also I give unto my dear Niece Anna Maria CARTER, now residing with me, she being the Niece of my late dear Wife, all the Rest, the Residue and Remainder of my said joint Stock or Share therein with its proportional annuities attending the same. I give her also all such Goods and Chattels as may be found in my house, whether it be Money,

Plate or Household Furniture of all kinds or other kinds of Valuables, as also all Bond debts, Tithes or Compositions for Tithes, she paying all my just debts and Funeral Expences and, being constituted and appointed by me Executrix of this my last Will and Testament and all former Wills being by me revoked, I do declare this to be my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof I set my Hand and Seal this twenty sixth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety six. (Signed) John LOVELACE.

Signed, sealed, Published and declared to be the last Will and Testament of the said John LOVELACE, by himself, in the presence of us, who have hereunto subscribed our Names as Witnesses in the presence [of] the Testator and of each other. (Signed) Jno. SMITH, Benj. DEVONISH, William ADAMS.

I John LOVELACE of Great Waltham in the County of Essex, Clerk, do make and publish this as a Codicil to my last Will and Testament bearing date the twenty sixth day of November last and I desire the same may be deemed and taken as part thereof.

Whereas by my said Will I have given to my aunt Anne BOWDEN, who for many years resided with me, Five hundred pounds, part of my share or Interest on the Capital or Joint Stock of five per Cent Annuities in the Bank of England but, she having since the Execution of my said Will quitted my House, Now I do by this Codicil to my said Will revoke the Legacy or Bequest given to her in and by my said Will, and my Will and desire is that the Legacy sink into and become part of the Residuum of my Personal Estate.

And Whereas I have by my said Will given to my Son John LOVELACE, now residing at Malaga in the Kingdom of Spain, Two thousand Pounds, a share likewise in the same joint Stock of Five Per Cents, Now I do by this Codicil to my said Will revoke the Legacy given by my said Will to my said Son. And I hereby give to my said Son John LOVELACE Two thousand Pounds Capital Stock in the Five Per Cent Bank Annuities, part of my Stock in the said Fund but, as I have not heard from my said Son for a considerable time and there is a probability that he may not be now living, I do hereby declare my Will and Mind is that the said Legacy is given to him upon the express Condition that he shall not be entitled thereto unless he shall return to England and Personally claim the same of my Executrix or her Executors or Administrators or in the Church Porch of the Parish of Great Waltham in the presence of two Witnesses. And in case my said Son shall not return to England and claim the said Legacy in manner aforesaid, within the space of seven years from the time of my decease, then my Will and Meaning is that he shall be presumed to be dead and in such Case the said Legacy hereby given to him shall be deemed a Lapsed Legacy and sink into and become a Part of the Residuum of my Personal Estate. And I hereby Will and direct that the said Legacy shall be continued in the Bank by my Executrix for the time aforesaid after my decease or until sufficient Proof [of] the death of my said Son shall be Produced or such Claim thereof shall be made in manner aforesaid within that period, and that the dividends, which shall from time to time become due thereon, shall be received and vested in the same Fund to accumulate, together with the dividends which shall become due upon such accumulated Fund, for the benefit of my said Son, in case he shall make his Claim thereto in manner and within the period aforesaid or otherwise of my residuary Legatee.

And I give all the Rest and Residue of my Estate and Effects, whatsoever and wheresoever, to Anna Maria CARTER, now residing with me, the Niece of my late dear Wife, whom I have by my said Will made my Executrix, and in every other respect I confirm my said Will.

In Witness whereof, I the said John LOVELACE have to this Codicil to my last Will and Testament set my Hand and Seal the fifteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven.

(Signed) John LOVELACE.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by the above named John LOVELACE, as and for his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, who at his request, in his presence and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our Names as Witnesses thereto, the four Interlineations above written being first made.

(Signed) J.O. PARKER, Benj. DEVONISH, Will'm ADAMS.

This Will was proved at London with a Codicil the fourth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven before the Right Honourable Sir William WYNNE, Knight, Doctor of Laws, Master Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, lawfully constituted by the Oath of Anna Maria CARTER, Spinster, the sole Executor named in the said Will, to whom administration of all and singular the Goods, Chattels and Credits of the deceased was granted, she having been first sworn by Commission duly to administer.

Despite what his Will said Rev. John LOVELACE received a letter from his son shortly before his death. On his receiving it, Anna Maria CARTER said "*Sir, I presume you would now wish to alter your Will, as you know your son is alive.*" But John the father immediately replied "*No. I will not alter it, for he has been undutiful to me.*" Relations between father and son do not appear to have been particularly cordial. Anna Maria CARTER said that Rev. John LOVELACE "*frequently declared to her that his son was so neglectful of him that he could seldom or never get a letter from him, even in answer to letters which he used to write to him and could scarcely ever get any information from him, unless by applying to the WARDs [his son's agents in London] and for such misconduct and inattention he would disinherit him.*" Only Anna Maria's powers of persuasion prevented Rev. John LOVELACE from carrying out his threat. Ann CARTER wrote to John LOVELACE junior, informing him of his father's death and amongst other things wrote: "*Mr LOVELACE never received any letter from you after Mrs LOVELACE's death (in 1795), until a fortnight before his death; it gave him great uneasiness & he could account for your silence by no other means than your death.*" Young John's reply to Ann CARTER four

year's later was somewhat testy: "*I observe that I am considered probably among the dead, which was absurd enough, even though he had not received a letter from me for ten years prior to the date of his Will, because I had frequently told him that I was in full correspondence with John & George WARD Esquires of London, to whom I wrote several times in the course of a month and from whom he might have tidings of me as often as he pleased &, when he could not personally see Messrs WARD, he might have ordered some of his Debtors in London to have called on them, in his name, for intelligence & even see my signature at the foot of my letters to them, with the dates thereof, which would have been a sufficient certificate of my existence in this life, to anyone except such as was to pay a rent depending on my life. I shall drop the useless subject.....*"

After John LOVELACE's death, Ann CARTER stayed with her sister Anna Maria at the vicarage in Waltham until August and helped her clear up John's affairs. Anna Maria CARTER married Richard HOULDITCH later that month.

Anna Maria HOULDITCH (CARTER) got more than she bargained for as John LOVELACE's executrix. John's son had owed James Stuart TULK, his former partner, £1,900 and this was still outstanding 5 years after the latter's death. After his father died, John LOVELACE junior was pressed for payment by Love Stuart TULK, the administratrix of James Stuart TULK's estate. Unable to settle immediately, John LOVELACE junior agreed to secure the debt on anticipated legacy of £2,000 Bank Annuities under his father's will. Love Stuart TULK accordingly obtained an injunction, restraining Anna Maria and the Bank of England from transferring the Stock until the TULK debt was settled. John LOVELACE junior died within seven years of his father's death without claiming the legacy. Accordingly it became a lapsed legacy, and Anna Maria HOULDITCH, became entitled to the Stock, as residuary legatee. However it was over fifteen years before she finally got her hands on the money.

Their child

1. John LOVELACE was born in 1743 (see that line).