

A genealogical story

A short note from the Thomas Henry Clark family organization in Grantsville, Utah, reports a very unusual story in their search for information on a certain family member. The family was having difficulties working each parish and county library in England so they had a special "day" for fasting and prayer. The note says:

"Researchers were able to keep an appointment at Withington parish, but were disappointed in not finding the particular information for Rebecca Carwardine Probert — wife of Thomas Probert, clerk of Holy Orders. They had been informed by the family group that Rebecca's mother was born at Preston Wynn, two miles from Withington. The roads weren't too good and there was difficulty in finding the church, in fact they wound up finding the church in the middle of a cow pasture and found an old brass key in the door. To their surprise it did unlock the door, and they checked the pews for family names — the first was Rebecca's family — John Carwardine. Other records of the family were noted on plaques.

"The church seemed to be still in use so researchers tried to find the vicar so records could be searched. They stumbled upon an old metal box by the door. They lifted the lid and peered in, and on top of the papers was the marriage certificate for Thomas Probert, clerk of Holy Orders, and Rebecca Carwardine. This ended a 20-year search for the certificate. Researchers reminded the family that keys are not left in church doors, nor parish records left on the floor by the doors as a general rule."