

the Archidiaconal visitation held March 1543. R. Newnam (NEWNHAM) capella Whitwell. A badly written note by the side of the name refers to a grant for repairs. He was a churchwarden for that year. Two years later Richard and Thomas NEWNHAM appear as parishioners in the Subsidy roll 36 Henry VIII (1545).

In 1545 Richard NEWNHAM holds office as churchwarden. Two of their descendants Nicholas and William are entered in the "Noate of freeholders" given by Worsley's history page 109, of those who held of His Majesty's Castle of Carisbrooke in 1606.

1627 -

Thomas NEWNHAM'S name appears in the Knighten court for 1625. In 1627 Nicholas Numan (NEWNHAM) of Nyghton had to provide a light horse for Island defense. Rectors of old church St Lawrence at Ventnor; - This incumbent was one of the eight I of W clergy removed at the time in consequence of the action taken by Parliament and was superseded by NEWNHAM whose name is mentioned in Calamy's memorial. Reprisals followed and the intruding clergy were driven from their cures. NEWNHAM of St Lawrence though deprived of that benefice was not silenced but continued to preach in various places, particularly at the church in his charge at Road Bridge and Stroud Green between Chale and Shorwell.

On Sunday Nov. 4th 1688 an outdoor service was being held and upon hearing that the Dutch armament conveying William of Orange was sailing past the Island, he set aside the subject he intended to have discoursed upon and gave his people a talk suited to such an event of providence. Thomas NEWNHAM minister of St Lawrence son of Thomas was born at Gotten, Chale in 1631, an ancient seat belonging to his family.

His education in the island was first at Kingston school and afterwards at the Free school at Newport where he made proficiency in grammar with a brother of his who was designed for the university and later went to Oxford where he took his degree in 1658. He and Dr Pettis returned from Oxford to the island and were ordained together by presbyters in Newport church.

Thomas NEWNHAM was ejected from his living in 1662 for non-conformity. Parishioners shewed a marked respect for him by carrying in their corn before Bartholomew day on purpose that he might have the tithe of it. After his ejection he sometimes went to Whitwell church to hear Mr Harrison. One Lord's day Mr Harrison not arriving, the people desired Mr NEWNHAM to officiate and he complied and preached from the seat in which he was sitting. He made much trouble on account of his non-conformity and was fined etc, but bore all with invincible patience, courage, and constancy of mind. He died of smallpox at Whitwell and was interred there in 1689 in the 58th year of his age.

On his deathbed his faith was strong and his resignation to the will of his Heavenly Father was remarkable. His father survived him and by a partition deed is shown to have left several grand-children to inherit. A grandchild, son of the minister, attained his majority in 1704. The deed (original in Dr Whitehead's hands) is very lengthy, it deals with the family estates in Niton-- Whitwell and Chale, and from it the following is deduced-- dated Septr. 1689; - Thomas NEWNHAM the elder married Elizabeth---- of Whitwell and Gotten- living at 1689, buried at Whitwell.

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