Mr. Josiah Hibberd

In our Churchyard in All Cannings Wiltshire we have buried Mr Joshua Hibberd who died as a result of an accident building Totley tunnel. On his tombstone we have the following inscription.

Joshua Hibberd.
In loving memory of Joshua Hibberd entered into rest May 9 1897 Aged 38. He was injured while working in Totley Tunnel 1892 and lay helpless crippled for over 5yrs setting a bright example of Christian patience till God took him. In strength he found Christ, in weakness Christ kept him. I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.

It's a long and sincere testimony but no word of who his nearest and dearest were. And although I have asked in the parish magazine no one seems to know who he was or what his circumstances were other than what is on the gravestone!
Out of pure curiosity is it possible that you have any other details of Joshua and how he was injured so far from Wiltshire where I am assuming he came from.
I will be most grateful if you are able to throw some light on his life.

***

Thank you for getting in touch with Totley History Group about the interesting gravestone in your Churchyard at All Cannings.

Let me say straight away that I have not been able to find anything about the accident to Mr. Hibberd in Totley Tunnel. Whilst deaths and subsequent inquests were invariably reported in the Sheffield and North Derbyshire press, non-fatal accidents were often either not reported at all or in many cases the injured man or men were not named.

However, I can tell you a bit about Mr. Hibberd whose forename was, in fact, Josiah. During the 1980s, volunteers from the Wiltshire Family History Society recorded the inscription on his gravestone and summary information has been passed to the online genealogy service FindMyPast (see attachment).

Josiah was born in 1858 in All Cannings and baptised at All Saints' Church on 7 August 1858. His father was George Hibberd, an agricultural labourer who was born in Stanton St. Bernard and baptised there on 18 May 1823, the son of Thomas Hibberd, a labourer, and Elizabeth Fowle who married on 6 December 1821 at Stanton St. Bernard. Josiah's mother was Eliza Ellis who was born in Allington and baptised at All Cannings on 14 June 1818, the daughter of William Ellis, a labourer, and Jane Chick who married at All Cannings on 3 April 1805.

Josiah's parents married at All Cannings on 28 November 1846. They had

six children that survived to adulthood all of whom were baptised at All Cannings: Jane on 6 February 1848, Ruth on 3 February 1850, Susan(na) on 1 February 1852, Thomas on 6 August 1854, Josiah on 7 August 1858 and Ellen on 7 July 1861. Another Ellen, who was baptised on 3 August 1856 died at the age of 9 months and was buried in the Churchyard on 1 May 1857. In the 1851 and 1861 censuses the Hibberd Family were shown as living on The Street, All Cannings.

By 1871 the three eldest daughters had left home. Jane had married George Rose Hiscox on 16 April 1868 at All Cannings. Ruth and Susan were domestic servants in the household of John Deverell, a baker, of 68 New Park Street, Devizes. Whilst Ruth would still be there in 1881, Susan married Mark Knee, a labourer, on 26 May 1877 at the Parish Church, Southbroom and was living in Devizes. In the 1881 Census Josiah, then aged 22, had become a bricklayer's labourer. His mother Eliza died in 1883 aged about 65. His youngest sister Ellen married William Ponting at All Cannings, on 20 July 1889. William was a labourer and a widower with three children from his first marriage to Sarah Goddard in 1866. In the census of 1891 the Ponting Family were living at Thorncroft, All Canning and George Hibberd, then aged about 67, was with them.

In 1891 Josiah Hibberd was lodging at 36 Aldred Street in Eccles, Lancashire. He was still single and was recorded as a general labourer. Like many in that town, he may have been working on the construction of the nearby Manchester Ship Canal which at that time also included dam building and diversion of rivers and railway lines. There was plenty of work for bricklayers and their labourers. Work on the canal had begun in 1887 and continued until 1894, the dates overlapping those of the construction of the Totley Tunnel. We know from other examples we have looked at that some of the tunnel navvies had earlier worked on the ship canal. They were usually to be found working from the western portal at Padley, near Grindleford, rather than at the eastern Totley end.

For Josiah to be injured in 1892, he could have only been in our area for a matter of a year. I have been unable to find any further mention of him, except perhaps, for one report in the Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser for 9 February 1895 which I have attached. Hibberd is a common name in Wiltshire. Indeed in 1881 the Wilton Poor Law Union had not only the highest number of Hibberds in the country (156) but also the highest density (1522 per 100,000). However, it appears there was only one other Josiah Hibberd recorded in the county, living at Steeple Langford.

The newspaper report would appear to indicate that a Josiah Hibberd had been in hospital for some time and that he could read and write. When our Josiah was a witness at his sister's wedding in 1874, whilst Susan and Ruth signed the register, Josiah made his mark with a cross. Perhaps in the intervening twenty years he had learned to read and write. There appears to be no newspaper report of his death, not even a family announcement, but by then his father had also died. Josiah's older brother Thomas had been at home with his parents in 1881. He was shown

as married although no wife was with him and I have so far been unable to trace what became of him.

I have saved all the screens of births, marriages, burials, censuses etc. in case you would like to see any of them for yourself. I hope you will allow us write a small piece for our website to encourage others to write in. And of course if you were able to provide us with a photograph of Josiah's gravestone, that would make all the difference.

Totley History Group

DEVIZES.

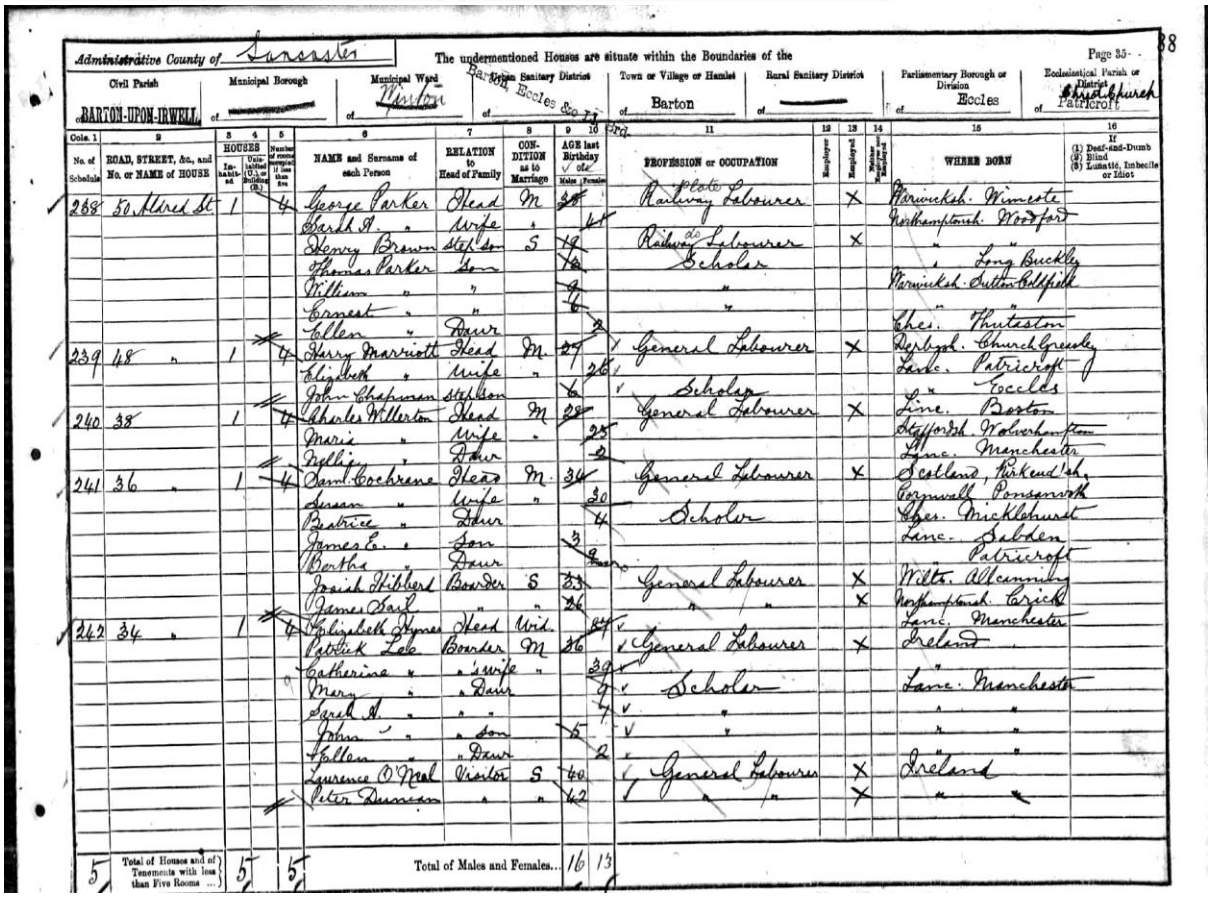
☞ E. PRICE & SONS have now received for the season a very large and superior stock of Pianos and Organs, with all the latest improvements, from the best English and foreign makers, at astonishingly low prices, the dates of payment to suit all customers. A large stock of Pianos, Organs and Harmoniums returned from hire, at less than half-price. Every instrument warranted. Send for price list. [5345

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

There was a large attendance on Tuesday. Mr. D. W. Butler presided. The principal business was the discussion of a report which had been made by Mr. Baldwyn Fleming, as follows:—

"The girls have not all been supplied with a change of boots. It is important that every child should have two pairs of boots, so that they may be changed when they get wet. The vagrant wards are very indifferent, and of late they have not afforded sufficient accommodation for the number applying here. The bathing arrangements are inadequate, and the vagrants have to go from the bath-room to the ward in the open. The men's ward is a poor place, and the women's is not much better. The latter has one large undivided sleeping pallet, covered with straw. I am afraid the time has arrived when the Guardians must consider how better provision may be made for the casual poor. This should be done in an adequate and satisfactory manner. The Medical Officer's recommendation about infirmary w.c.'s appears not to have been attended to. The soil pipes should be carried up of full size to the roof, instead of being continued by the existing small pipes. There is a sink with a bell-trap in the male infirmary downstairs. Bell-traps are quite unreliable. I was unable to satisfy myself that all the sinks and bath wastes have been disconnected from the drains. It is desirable that they should be examined under the supervision of the Workhouse Medical Officer. It is desirable that they should be examined under the supervision of the Workhouse Medical Officer, and if any of the pipes are found to run into the drains they should be cut off and made to discharge over gullies in the open. The top floors of the main building have a shoot fire escape at each end, but the first floors are unprotected in this respect. In the old men's sleeping room I could not see that any of the windows would be practicable for escape. Hose, hydrants, fire buckets, ladders, and the above-mentioned shoot escapes have been provided by the Guardians. I think, however, that each sleeping ward should be specially examined with regard to the possibility of escape, it being remembered that access to a single internal staircase cannot be relied upon as sufficient, because a staircase is always liable to be blocked by smoke. The porter's book does not contain regular entries of the exits and entries of the resident workhouse officers. This book should be a reliable record of all persons who enter and leave the house, and it is particularly important that the Guardians should be able to learn from it when their officers are in and when out of the house. There is no bell from the lying-in ward. Some tube bottles were in use for infants. Tube bottles are very difficult to keep clean, and should not be allowed. The dietary is not a very satisfactory one. On Sunday the dinner is bread and cheese. I learn that the children and the women often do not eat the gruels. I should wish the Guardians to consider the dietary drawn up by Dr. Downes and me, with a view to its introduction here. Josiah Hibberd, in the male Infirmary, asked me if there was any rule that letters written by him should not be sent daily. He was only allowed to send out letters once a week. This seems to me to be an unreasonable restriction. I can see no reason why letters should be detained after they are written. Hibberd also stated that he thought it hard that when people came from considerable distances to see him on visiting days there should be a rule that they should only stay 20 minutes. The Matron told me that there was such a rule, but that frequently it was not insisted upon. I think, however, that the rule is not a satisfactory one. Subject, of course, to the directions of the Medical Officer and of the nurses, in any particular case, it is desirable that visitors should have every reasonable facility for seeing their friends, so far as is consistent with the maintenance of proper discipline and order in the wards. Hibberd did not complain, but only asked that these rules might be revised. He said he was grateful for the kind treatment he received. The shoemaker's shop is imperfectly lighted, and probably another window could be put in without much trouble. It would be a great convenience to those who work in the room. Some bed-capes and bed-rests would add to the comfort of the patients. The Matron said they should be obtained. I explained to her how both articles might be conveniently and inexpensively made."

The Master gave suitable explanations of most of the points, and the report was referred to the House Committee for their consideration. The question of out-relief and of boarding-out pauper children was also discussed, and adjourned.



Administrative County of Lancaster — The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the — Page 33

Civil Parish: BARTON-UPON-IRWELL — Municipal Borough: — — Municipal Ward: Winton — Urban Sanitary District: Barton Eccles &c 74 — Town or Village or Hamlet: Barton — Rural Sanitary District: — — Parliamentary Borough or Division: Eccles — Ecclesiastical Parish or District: Patricroft

Cols. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited	HOUSES Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)	Number of rooms occupied, if less than five	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CONDITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males	AGE last Birthday of Females	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Neither Employer nor Employed	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
238	50 Alfred St.	1		4	George Parker	Head	M	36		Railway Labourer		X		Warwickshire Wimeote	
					Sarah A. "	Wife	"		40					Northamptonshire Woodford	
					Henry Brown	Step Son	S	19		Railway do Labourer		X		" "	
					Thomas Parker	Son		12		Scholar				" Long Buckley	
					William "	"		9		"				Warwickshire Sutton Coldfield	
					Ernest "	"		6		"				" "	
					Ellen "	Daur			2					Ches. Thurleston	
239	48 "	1		4	Harry Marriott	Head	M	29		General Labourer		X		Derbysh. Church Gresley	
					Elizabeth "	Wife	"		26					Lanc. Patricroft	
					John Chapman	Step Son		6		Scholar				" " Eccles	
240	38	1		4	Charles Millerton	Head	M	28		General Labourer		X		Linc. Boston	
					Mary "	Wife	"		25					Staffordsh. Wolverhampton	
					Nellie "	Daur			2					Lanc. Manchester	
241	36 "	1		4	Sam.l Cochrane	Head	M	34		General Labourer		X		Scotland, Kirkcudbrsh.	
					Susan "	Wife	"		30					Cornwall Ponsanooth	
					Beatrice "	Daur			4	Scholar				Lancs. Micklehurst	
					James Ed.d "	Son		3						Lanc. Sabden	
					Bertha "	Daur			9 mo.					Patricroft	
					Josiah Hibberd	Boarder	S	33		General Labourer		X		Wilts. Allcannings	
					James Earl "	"		24		" "		X		Northamptonsh. Carlton	
242	34 "	1		4	Elizabeth Agnes	Head	Wid.	44						Lanc. Manchester	
					Patrick Lee	Boarder	M	36		General Labourer		X		Ireland	
					Catherine "	" wife	"		39						
					Mary "	" Daur			9	Scholar				Lanc. Manchester	
					Sarah A. "	" "			7	"				" "	
					John "	" Son		5						" "	
					Ellen "	" Daur			2					" "	
					Laurence O'Neal	Visitor	S	40		General Labourer		X		Ireland	
					Peter Dunnan	"	"	42		" "		X		" "	
5	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms ...	5		15	Total of Males and Females...			16	13						

Administrative County of Wills

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Page 4

Civil Parish of All Cannings | Municipal Borough of | Municipal Ward of | Urban Sanitary District of Devizes | Town or Village or Hamlet of All Cannings | Rural Sanitary District of Devizes | Parliamentary Borough or Division of East Wilts | Ecclesiastical Parish or District of All Cannings

Cols. 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited	HOUSES Uninhabited (U.), or Building (B.)	Number of rooms occupied if less than five	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CONDITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males	AGE last Birthday of Females	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Number Employed	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
19	Thorncroft	1		4	Henry Lee	Head	M	29		General Labourer		x		Wilts All Cannings	
					Annie Do.	Wife	M.		33					" Do.	
					George Do.	Son		9		Scholar				" Do.	
					Caroline Do.	Daur.		6		Do.				" Do.	
					Elizabeth A. Do.	Daur.		4		Do.				" Do.	
					Fredrick W. Do.	Son		2		Do.				" Devizes	
					Arthur Do.	Son		1						" "	
					Henry J. Do.	Son		0	6 mo.					" All Cannings	
20	"	1		2	George Chamberlin	Head	M.		43	Agricultural Labourer		x		" Do.	
					Mary Do.	Wife	M		41					" Do.	
21	"	1		4	Sarah Anne	Head	Wid.		59					" Do.	
					Thomas Do.	Son	S	28		Do.		x		" Do.	
					Louisa Do.	Daur.	S		16	Nat Ans Cress		x		" Do.	
					Mabel E. Do.	Grand day			6	Scholar				" Do.	
22	"	1		4	William Pontin	Head	M.	45		Agricultural Labourer		x		" Devizes	
					Ellen Do.	Wife	M		38					" All Cannings	
					Fredrick Do.	Son		14		Do.		x		" Devizes	
					Mary J. Do.	Daur.			11					" Horton	
					James Do.	Son		9		Scholar				" Do.	
					Joseph Do.	Son		4						" All Cannings	
					George Hibberd	Father in Law	Wid.	87		Agricultural Labourer		x		" Horton	
														" Allington	
23	"	1		4	Isaac Tilley	Head	Wid.	72		Pauper					
					Rosetta Do.	Daur.	S		34	Needlewoman		x		" All Cannings	
					Alfred J. Do.	Grandson		2							
	Total of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms	5		5	Total of Males and Females			14	10						

Eng.—Sheet B.

91

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 11

Civil Parish [or Township] of All Cannings | City or Municipal Borough of | Municipal Ward of | Parliamentary Borough of | Town or Village or Hamlet of All Cannings | Urban Sanitary District of | Rural Sanitary District of Devizes | Ecclesiastical Parish or District of Lavington

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited	HOUSES Uninhabited (U.), or Building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CONDITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of Males	AGE last Birthday of Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	If (1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Idiot (4) Lunatic
57				James Gerden	Son	Unm	22		Farm Bailiff	All Cannings Wilts	
				James Gerden	Son	Unm	9		Scholar	Do. Do.	
58		1		Sarah Perkins	Head	Wid		75	Agricultural Labourer	Do. Do.	
				Mary Jane Do.	Daur	Unm		45	Do. Do.	Do. Do.	
				Nelson James Do.	Son	Unm	19		Do. Do.	Do. Do.	
				Edward Do.	Son	Unm	7		Scholar	Chippenham Do.	
59		1		John Garrett	Head	Mar	63		Agricultural Labourer	All Cannings Do.	
				Martha Do.	Wife	Mar		62	Do. Do.	Bishopstone Do.	
				Josh Do.	Son	Unm	19		Do. Do.	All Cannings Do.	
				George Do.	Son	Unm	21		Do. Do.	Do. Do.	
				Edward Do.	Son	Unm	17		Do. Do.	Devizes Do.	
60		1		George Hibberd	Head	Mar	58		Agricultural Labourer	Allington Bishops Do.	
				Eliza Do.	Wife	Mar		63	Do. Do.	Allington Do.	
				Joseph Do.	Son	Unm	22		Cowkeeper & Labourer	All Cannings Do.	
				Ellen Hibberd	Niece	Unm		20	Agricultural Do.	Do. Do.	
				Thomas Do.	Son	Unm	26		Shepherd	Do. Do.	
61		1		Jacob Hiscock	Head	Wid	75		Agricultural Labourer	Do. Do.	
				Mary Ann Do.	Sister	Unm		65	Do. Do.	Coate Do.	
				Sarah Do.	Mother	Wid		82	Pauper	All Cannings Do.	
62		1		Henry Garrett	Head	Unm	24		Agricultural Labourer	Do. Do.	
				Rebecca Do.	Sister	Unm		21	Do. Do.	Do. Do.	
				Stephen J. Do.	Nephew	Unm	2		— —	Do. Do.	
63		1		Harry Cossey	Head	Mar	46		Do. Do.	Allington Do.	
				Ellen A. C.	Son	Unm	17		Do. Do.	Do. Do.	
				Fanny Do.	Daur	Unm		15	Do. Do.	Do. Do.	
	Total of Houses...	16		Total of Males and Females...			16	9			

NOTE.—*Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.*

Eng— Sheet A.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 11]

Parish [or Township] of | City or Municipal Borough of | Municipal Ward of | Parliamentary Borough of | Town of | Village or Hamlet [or Tything &c.] of Allcannings | Local Board or Improvement Commissioners' District of | Ecclesiastical District of

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited	HOUSES Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CONDITION	AGE of Males	AGE of Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether 1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic
58		1		John Merrett	Head	Mar	60		Agr Laborer	Wilts Allcannings	
				Charlotte D.	Wife	Mar		62		Kent Wilds	
				Noah D.	Son	Unm	20		Agr Laborer	Wilts Allcannings	
				Elizabeth D.	Daur	Unm		20		D.	
				Henery D.	Son	D.	19		Agr Laborer	D.	
				Susanna D.	Daur	D.		16		D.	
				Louisa D.	Daur			11		D.	
				Thomas D.	Son		8		Scholar	D.	
				George D.	Son		11		Scholar	D.	
				Edward D.	Son		9			D.	
59		1		George Hibbard	Head	Mar	40		Agr Laborer	Wilts Allcannings	
				Eliza D.	Wife	Mar		52		Hants Wilds	
				Thomas D.	Son	Unm	20		Agr Laborer	Wilts Allcannings	
				Josiah D.	Son		16		D.	D.	
				Ellen D.	Daur			10	Scholar	D.	
60		1		George Carpenter	Head	Mar	42		Agr Laborer	D.	
				Mary D.	Wife	Mar		39		Wilts Allcannings	
61		1		Henery Masters	Head	Mar	31		Agr Laborer	Wilts Allcannings	
				Hannah D.	Wife	Mar		31		D.	
				James D.	Son		8		Scholar	D.	
				Sarah D.	Daur			11 Mth		D.	
62		1		Daniel Masters	Head	Mar	60		Agr Laborer	Wilts Allcannings	
				Hester D.	Wife	Mar		64		D.	
				George D.	Son	Unm	26		Agr Laborer	D.	
	Total of Houses..	5			Total of Males and Females..		74	76			

* *Draw the pen through such of the words as are inappropriate.*

Eng.- Sheet B.

Page 8

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish [or Township] of | City or Municipal Borough of | Municipal Ward of | Parliamentary Borough of | Town of | Hamlet or Tything, &c., of | Ecclesiastical District of

No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES Inhabited	HOUSES Uninhabited (U.) or Building (B.)	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males	Age of Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and-Dumb
41	Allcannings Street	1	—	William Burry	Head	Mar	53		Carpenter	Wilts Allcannings	
				Mary Burry	Wife	Mar		53	Do Wife	Do Ditt	
				Hezekiah Burry	Son	Unm		20		Do Allcannings	
				James Do	Son	Unm	17		Carpenter	Do Do	
				Thomas Do	Son		14		Scholar	Do Do	
				Elizabeth Do	Daur			12	Scholar	Do Do	
42	Do Do	1	—	George Hubbard	Head	Mar	38		Ag Lab	Do Clayton St Bernard	
				Eliza Hubbard	Wife	Mar		40	Do Do	Do Alvington	
				Jane Hubbard	Daur			13	Do Scholar	Do Allcannings	
				Ruth Do	Daur			11	Scholar	Do Do	
				Susanna Do	Daur			9	Do	Do Do	
				Thomas Do	Son			7	Do	Do Do	
				Josiah Do	Son			2	Do	Do Do	
				Infant	Daur			Week		Do Do	
43	Do Do	1	—	William Pottinger	Head	Mar	54		Ag Lab	Do Do	
				Elizabeth Pottinger	Wife	Mar		53	Do Do	Wilts Hants	
				James Pottinger	Son	Unm	21		Do Do	Do Allcannings	
				Thomas Do	Son	Unm	18		Do Do	Do Do	
				William Do	Son		13		Do Do	Do Do	
				Ruth Do	Daur			10	Scholar	Do Do	
44	Thorncroft	1	—	Edmund Giddings	Head	Mar	41		Ag Lab	Do Do	
				Rebecca Do	Wife	Mar		36	Do Do	Do Do	
45	Do Do	1	—	Stephen Masters	Head	Mar	71		Pauper	Do Do	
				Rebecca Masters	Wife	Mar		72	Pauper	Do Gloucestershire	
	Total of Houses...	5			Total of Males and Females...		12	12			

Eng.—Sheet D.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of All Cannings
in the County of Wilts in the Year 1850

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name. Christian.	Parents Name. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1850. April 24 No. 257.	Elizabeth Anne daughter of	George & Martha	Ellis	Allington	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector
April 24 No. 258.	Emily daughter of	George & Martha	Ellis	Allington	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector
May 2 No. 259.	Albert son of	George & Sinah	Tasker	All Cannings	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector
July 4 No. 260.	Alice Mary daughter of	John & Elizabeth	Hamlen	All Cannings	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector
July 4th No. 261.	Mary daughter of	Charles & Martha	Cawdry	Allington	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector
July 4th No. 262.	Elizabeth daughter of	William & Mary	Beale	Filton's Marsh near Westbury	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector
August 4th No. 263.	Josiah son of	George & Eliza	Hibbard	All Cannings	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector
September 5 No. 264.	Albert son of	Daniel & Harriet	Fyke	Allington	Labourer	Tho^s Ant^y Methuen Rector