

## Parson Woodforde's Reepham Connections

Parson James Woodforde was resident in Weston Longville from 1774 until his death in 1803. He had several connections to Reepham, notably his long case clock made by John Symonds (1734?-1815).



Visits to Reepham were made for the 'Generals' which were regular ecclesiastical meetings, consisting of a church service followed by meals at the Kings Arms (host Mr. Bell).

Woodforde's servant Briton was a Brettingham Scurll from Reepham. Brettingham had relatives who were bakers, notably his younger sister Lydia, recorded as a baker & flour seller in the premises on Church Street once known as Echo Antiques and a Thomas Scurll on Back Street (relationship not discovered yet).

Parson Woodforde also records family dinners with the Priest family in Reepham. Richard Priest was rector of Reepham from 1757 until his death in 1799. Richard and his brother Robert often exchanged hospitality with Parson Woodforde. Richard's son St. John Priest succeeded his father as rector of Reepham. St. John Priest died in 1818 and was followed by a John Matthew who may, or may not, have been St. John Priest's illegitimate son.

*Further information contained in the following items:-*

*Towards a Life of Brettingham Scurll*

*More About the Scurll Family*

*Scurll Family Graves*

*John Symonds : Biography*

*John Symonds, Watchmaker*

*The Priest family of Norwich & Reepham*

and online @ [www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk](http://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk)

*In 2002 a visit to Reepham was arranged by the Parson Woodforde Society (the society's Annual Frolic). Includes brief, unsourced display notes relating to that visit, prepared by Kate Nightingale, and correspondence from Ann Williams of the Parson Woodforde Society. Ann mentions that she had a Symonds clock which was a family heirloom.*

*More information @ [www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk](http://www.parsonwoodforde.org.uk)*