

**Author:** John Nichols (1745-1826)

**Text type:** Varia

**Date of composition:** 1783

**Editions:** 1783

**Source text:**

Nichols, John. ed. 1783. "Parochial Queries for Berkshire. Circulated by Mr. [E. Rowe] More in 1759." *Collections towards a Parochial History of Berkshire. Being the Answers returned to Mr. [E. Rowe] More's Circular Letters and Queries for the Parishes of Bisham, Chadlesworth, Coleshill, Cumner, East-Garston, Shaw, Shifford, Sparsholt, Speen, Stanford, Suthamstede, and Yattendon....* London: Printed by and for J. Nichols: 3; 48; 50-51; 55-57.

**e-text**

**Access and transcription:** July 2014

**Number of words:** 800

**Dialect represented:** Berkshire

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SALAMANTINI

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COLLECTIONS  
TOWARDS  
A PAROCHIAL HISTORY  
OF  
BERKSHIRE  
BEING

The Answers returned to Mr. MORE'S circular  
Letters and Queries for the Parishes of BISHAM,  
CHADLESWORTH, COLESHILL, CUMNER, EAST-GARSTON,  
SHAW, SHIFFORD, SPARSHOLT, SPEEN,  
STANFORD, SUTHHAMSTEDE, AND YATTENDON

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

A few Particulars collected by the EDITOR for those of  
ALDWORTH, SHOTTESBROOKE, WHITE WALTHAM

LONDON,  
PRINTED BY AND FOR J. NICHOLS,  
PRINTER TO THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES;  
AND SOLD BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

MDCCLXXXIII.

[Price Five Shillings.]

[3]

...

17. What particular games, sports, customs, proverbs or peculiar words and phrases, are used in your parts.

[48]

COLESHILL

August 27,

1759

SIR,

The following is some kind of answer to your letter, from your humble servant,

THE VICAR OF COLESHILL.

...

[50]

...

17. ... Lastly. The grammar of the common people here and about the neighbourhood is very vitious; also their pronunciation: e. g. they will say "I goes" to bed — "He go" to bed, &c. &c. Which "woye", for which "way" went he? &c. &c.

[51]

SHIFFORD

SIR,

Aug. 27, 1759

I fear I am but meanly qualified to correspond with you in the articles you require, as my studies have lain in a very different way; however, as the things are all under my eye, I hope I shall do it tolerably well. If any thin should want mending, let me know

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it, and I will set it to rights. If you should have occasion to write to me, let your letter be left with Dr. Mather, at Whitechapel, with whom I hold correspondence.

...

[55]

All I can respond to the remaining part of your quaere is, that we are situated upon the borders of the Jowring country, and that our people have a strong tincture of that dialect. They use *thick* and *thack* for *this* and *that*; for *him* emphaticum they put *he*, and so for *her*, *she*. For *s* they use *z forte, vel potius sibilans*. The *f* they change into *v*; *â* broad, as in *small, tall*, &c. they pronounce the *a Anglicanum*: and so they serve the *aw*, as in *law, saw*, &c. nay, some times they invert this method, and turn the *a Anglicanum* into the *â*, as *rat, gnat*, they pronounce *rot, not*, &c. but this is not universal; for they pronounce *cat, brat, bat, pat*,

[56]

*mat*, aright. They pronounce the diphthongs very broad and distinct; and indeed they generally draw out their words very remarkably. If they say *yes*, they are as long in pronouncing it as I could do it three times. Whey they would say *nearly* or *thereabouts*, they say *anenst about the matter*; all sorts of the hog kind are *pigs*; *houses* and *pease* they call *housen* and *peasen*; *cloaths* are *clothis*, and *posts*, &c. *postis*. *Slocket* is used when a servant, &c. conveys any thing privately out of the house.

For	<i>cover</i>	they say	<i>beal</i>	For	<i>iron</i>	they say	<i>ire</i>
	<i>neigh</i>		<i>bray</i>		<i>garden</i>		
	<i>ghern</i>						
	<i>impregnate</i>		<i>serve</i>		<i>garner</i>		
	<i>garn</i>						
	<i>nasty tasted</i>		<i>feat</i>		<i>to bind sheaves</i>		<i>to</i>
	<i>grip</i>						

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<i>middling quantity</i>	<i>pretty fete</i>	<i>raisins</i>	
<i>figgs</i>			
	<i>parcel</i>	<i>figgs</i>	<i>lout</i>
<i>figgs</i>			
<i>clumsy</i>	<i>bungersome</i>	<i>shirts and smocks</i>	<i>changes</i>
<i>pilfer</i>	<i>mouch</i>	<i>sickish</i>	<i>queasy</i>
<i>thills</i>	<i>limbers</i>	<i>notable</i>	<i>deedy</i>

A sheep without horns is a *not* sheep, and a field well dressed is said to be *not*.

The *singeing* of a pig they call *sweeling*; by which it may be presumed, that in former times they scalded the, as they do still in the North; though not the least remembrance of ay such custom remains. Farm-yard dung, which they carry to the field in carts, is denominated *pot-dung*; which seems to intimate, that formerly they carried out their dung in hampers upon horses' backs, as they do still in the western parts.

*Frow* is *brittle*; though they pronounce *thôf*; *rough*, *tough*, &c. are pronounced as *plough* and *bough*; as are all words ending in *ow*; and so is the word *hoe*. I mean the instrument for weeding.

[57]

When people are extremely desirous of, or extremely solicitous for a thing, they very emphatically say, *they ho for it* (I presume *hone*, i.e. *sorrow for it*). When they should say, *I told him so to his face*, they say, *I told him so to his head*. *Lugg* signifies a *pole* or *perch*, both as a measure and a space measured. *Littocks* are *rags* or *tatters*. To *tole* is to *entice*. When we say a man is *in high spirits*, they say he is *in great spout*. A *quatch* is a *word*. If more occur to me before your work is finished, I will not fail to communicate.

...

Lastly... I am a stranger to this country, having not lived here ten years...

[58]

...

Rev. Sir

Your affectionate brother,

and very humble servant

RICHARD FORSTER.

Shifford,

Aug. 27, 1759.

