Barham and Schofield have published extracts from the burial register of Barming, Kent, which contain unusually extensive details of the deceased. Such entries may be found in registers other than that of Barming. Between 1794 and 1812, the burial register of Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, contains several such entries, generally concerning the manner of death, although some supply background information of the deceased.

The extracts which follow have been selected to indicate the nature of the register.

1794, Feb 6  Moses Nock, of Cradley, who not having the Fear of God, notoriously illtreated two wives. He dropt down in his own yard on the 1st Inst. and lay exposed to very inclement weather untill the 3rd, when he was found in a shocking condition, in which he languished till ye 4th, 9 o’c. A.M.

1795, Mar 25  Daniel Bridgewater, who did not speak to his wife for many years till just before his death.

1797, Mar 15  Sarah, w. of Joseph Parkes, Cradley Heath, aged 96, married J. P., aged 64, in 1785, had a Paralitic stroke in 1793, when J. P. told the Minister if God took her he hoped to be resign’d, but if his Will he should rejoice to work for her a few years. Joseph Parkes taken ill the same day died in 3 weeks, buried by his first wife at Halesowen.

1801, Feb 22  A man, apparently about 50 years of age, who was found in this parish about [blank] years ago, helpless and speechless. Thus he continued, in the workhouse, till he died. Neither has it yet been known who he was, nor from whence he came.

1801, Mar 29  Joseph Windsor. He lived like an infidel, but yet was some years governor of the Workhouse in this Parish!!

1802, Sep 30  Alice, w. of Stephen Rolinson. She was murdered by a red-hot nailrod being thrust into her side while at work in a nail shop. It penetrated through her stomach & a considerable way into the right lobe of her liver. She died in about an hour after. The coroner’s inquest sat on the body from 12 o’clock at mid-day till 6 the next morning when a verdict was returned Wilful Murder. The murderer was acquitted at the following Stafford assizes.
1803, Oct 23  Henry, s. of Jno. & Mary Edmands. He was killed in a coal pit near Brierly Hill. His cloathes were caught by a hook, or something of that kind, of the skep, which took him up a considerable way; at length his cloathes tore, & he held by his hands till being unable to hang any longer, he fell & spoke no more.

1804, Dec 16  Mary Stokes, wid. She was a woman of a very discontented disposition, & a notorious passer of bad coin. At 10 o'clock on the evening of her death she was as well as usual, but at eleven death had reduced her body to a corpse, & her soul was ushered to an awful eternity.

1805, Jan 16  Edwd. Round, aged 84. He was remarkably hearty & active. About 10 o'clock on the morning of his death he left his own house in good health & spirits; & was observed by some of his neighbours to walk with peculiar speed & sprightliness; but he had not gone further than two miles when he was overtaken by death. His body was found before 12 o'clock in the foot road leading to Langley Green near Titford Bridge, but his soul had winged her way into eternity.

1805, Aug 1  Anne McMillan, relict of the late Mr. Geo. McMillan. Though she was far advanced in years, & for a considerable time unwell, & had a good property to dispose of, yet could she never be persuaded to make a will. The consequence was all her property descended to her heirs in equal portions, & a niece, who had lived with her many years, & to whom she had always promised a handsome provision, was left entirely destitute of everything, & unacquainted with any way in wh. to get a comfortable livelihood.

1806, Apr 13  Joseph Attwood. He rose in the morning about 7 o'clock in his usual state of health. The family saw no more of him, but thought he was at work & about 12 o'clock instead of being found in the shop at work he was found dead in his bed. An awful call to survivors.

1807, Feb 1  Elizabeth, d. of Joram & Mary Willetts, from Dudley Wood. She was scalded to death by boiling water being spilled on her head which ran into one or both her ears & soon put an end to her existence.

1807, Dec 29  Joseph Hackett. He was a man who spent all the money he got in ale, except a very small portion with which he procured a little food, but ale was the chief of his support. Of course he was a drunkard in the most proper sense of the word. The evening before his death, viz., Decr. 25, he left a public house in the lower side of this parish where he had spent a great part of the day, in a state of intoxication, uttering profane curses. He was found dead & cold early the next morning at a very small distance from that house. Let every drunkard beware.
1810, Oct 12  John, s. of Nancy [blank], 3 wks. This woman was an entire stranger who came to the house of Joseph Rose about 5 wks. ago & had lodgings, where her child died. She went away & left him unburied, never having told any name, but used to call him John, & said her own name was Nancy.

1810, Nov 29  John Goold, 74. He took cold in the damp, cold miserable church of this parish, during divine service, about three weeks ago, and attributed his death to that cause!!!

1812, Mar 8  Benj. Timmins, junr., 26. A bitter opposer of the intended new Church: he was taken ill while in the very act of opposition at a public meeting in the church & died raving mad in about a fortnight after.

NOTE