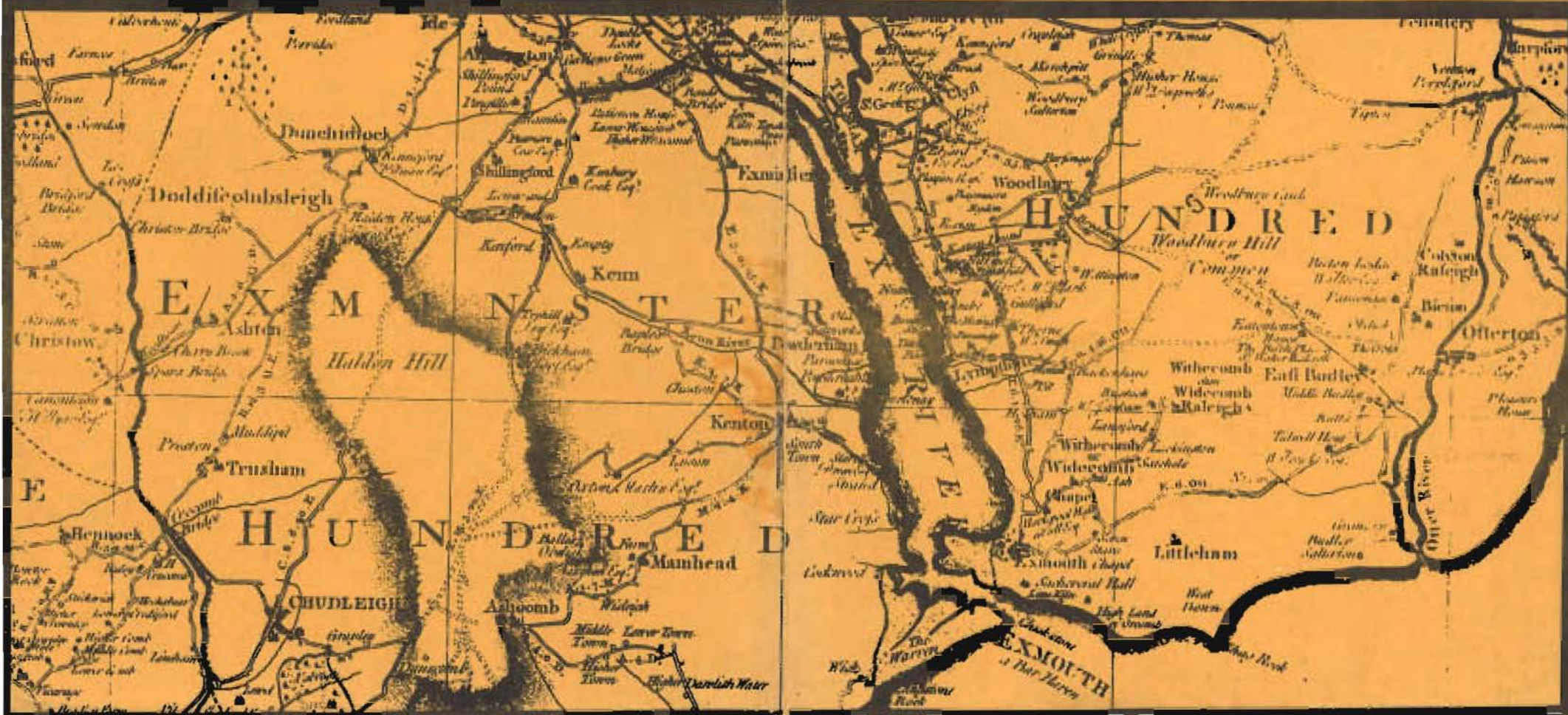


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# The Devon Historian

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The map on the cover is part of Benjamin Donn's 'Map of the county of Devon' first printed in 1765 and reprinted in 1965 jointly by the University of Exeter and The Devon and Cornwall Record Society. It is available from the Academic Registrar, University of Exeter price £2.25 post free and from bookshops.

## THE ELIZABETHAN CHURCH

John Roberts

It is noteworthy that Devon produced several outstanding figures of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation and yet the Church in Devon during the late 16th century has not been studied in detail. This is perhaps an oversight, since many contributors to the 'Transactions of the Devonshire Association' have been parish priests and their contributions to local history have often been of immense value. Frequently, however, they have concerned themselves with particular parishes during long periods of time rather than with their diocese at large.

Let us consider a series of scholars and clerics of the time:

1. John Jewell, Bishop of Salisbury and author of the 'Apology for the Church of England', who came from near Barnstaple.
2. Thomas Harding, his former school-mate and long-time Catholic adversary. Their theological duel filled volumes.
3. Cuthbert Mayne, again from North Devon, who became the first Catholic martyr. The others were from Exeter or nearby.
4. Richard Hooker, whose 'Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity' constituted the classic statement of the Anglican position.
5. John Reynolds, who emerged in the 1604 Hampton Court conference as the leading Puritan spokesman and became one of the translators of the Authorized Version of the Bible.
6. William Reynolds, his brother, whose massive literary efforts during his years at Rheims produced a huge volume 'Calvino-Turcismus' written against heresy, and he was also a translator of the Bible into English.

Apart from Mayne, whose talents lay in a different direction, this is a list with massive intellectual power. The efforts of mind and pen that went into their works were of the highest significance to most of their contemporaries. In an age when theology is less regarded, it is easy for us to underestimate their importance.

It would be hard to parallel this list from any other county, at any other time. The religious ferment in Devon must have been profound. It will be instructive to know much more about the state of the church there during the period. Although in 'Devon & Cornwall Notes & Queries', vol. XXX, during 1965 a series of notices gave an account of the diocese in 1563 and George Oliver's 'Ecclesiastical Antiquities' gives a mass of facts, there is need of further investigation. The following lines would be worth pursuing:

- i) How many livings were held by pluralists?
- ii) What can be said of the education of the clergy e.g. what proportion are known to have graduated?
- iii) What was the proportion of cures served by rectors, vicars and curates?
- iv) What was the size of the average stipend?

- v) Was church discipline maintained consistently by each of the bishops?
- vi) What social classes provided most of the clergy?
- vii) How does the diocese compare with others of the time in its administration and attitudes?
- viii) How much anti-clericalism was noted and repressed by the Church courts?
- ix) Who were the recusants and their sympathisers?

Such a study would be of considerable interest and value, both in relation to the growth of support for the established Church and to the later history of antagonism to it that culminated in the Puritan Revolution. It might be worked on by a number of parish historians.

## NOTES

### DEVON BIOGRAPHIES

The first meeting of a group interested in the compilation of a collection of Devon Biographies took place on Saturday 18th September at Streatham Court, Exeter University under the leadership of Mr. J. Thorne, an experienced biographer. Anyone interested in joining this group should get in touch with Professor W.E. Minchinton, Department of Economic History, Exeter University. The ultimate aim and intention is to compile a Dictionary of Devon Biography as suggested by Professor W.G. Hoskins in his inaugural address to the Standing Conference.

### WATER MILLS

Help is wanted in the study of Water Mills in Devon. Information and the appropriate forms can be obtained from the Department of Economic History, Exeter University.

## THE BIDEFORD POTTERY INDUSTRY Part Two R.H. Phillips

The Bideford Borough Rate Books record that in 1823 there were eight working potteries in the town. Of these, five were in the Potters Lane / Strand area, and three at East-the-Water. Of the latter, one was located near the Ship on Launch public house in Barnstaple Street, and another the well-known Torrington Lane works. The location of the remaining East-the-Water pottery is not known, but there is reference later in the century to one at Cross Park on the outskirts of the town.

Names of owners and working tenants of all these works are known, one being the redoubtable Samuel Crocker (at this time in The Strand and not at the Potters Lane works that generally bears his name), and another John Bird, several of whose pieces still exist.

The Strand at this time was aptly named, there being a pill extending from the River Torridge along the valley now occupied by the Kingsley Road and the Sports Ground. The waters lapped the shore where the Bowling Club now has its green, and opposite the bottom of Willet Street was the Potters Pill, where barges unloaded clay from Fremington for the nearby works.

Subsequent Rate Book entries reveal changes of ownership and tenancy for various potteries, and by 1827 one, the Barnstaple Street works, had disappeared from the record. The year 1850 begins to show the decline in demand for domestic ware (the "bread and butter" of the local works; commissioned decorative ware being the "jam and cream"), for the number of works drops to five. Sam Crocker still at The Strand, two only in Potters Lane, and two East-the-Water.

Bryant Ching, owner of one of the latter, also had another works at Hallsannery, some few miles outside the town, and an advertisement in what must be the earliest local guide book, published in 1862, proclaims the wares of his two potteries, especially the "celebrity of his ovens [which] stand unrivalled for baking bread with peculiar sweetness and flavour" - "For home consumption or exportation".

John Phillips Hoyle appears in 1860, probably working in Potters Lane, and leaving a number of pots to remind us of him. Henry Phillips, of Torrington Lane pottery, also begins to make himself known. By 1866, Sam Crocker, with Bedford Ching as his partner, had moved a short distance from The Strand to Potters Lane.

The North Devon Pottery, run by Bragington & Co, was in operation in 1862, at Hallsannery, manufacturing sewer pipes and sanitary ware from ball clay from Marland. Most of their ware was shipped to London and other big cities.

W.H. Crocker succeeded old Sam about 1876, and thereafter Crockers appears to have fallen upon bad times, there being for the next twenty years much changing of ownership, each new owner, no doubt, trying to find a formula which would bring back the halcyon days of yore. In 1896, Crockers closed its doors, Milton, its last owner, being "an unsuccessful potter who made coarse common ware only". This left only the Torrington Lane works operating - of the others, there is no record of their passing.

The Parish Registers for the first half of the nineteenth century gives the names of many men whose trade is given as "potter", and there is one solitary brickmaker, William Marshall. Yet many bricks must have been made in the town - indeed, the Torrington Patent Brick Company operated at Cleave House from 1870 for some ten years - and a number of local bricks have been found in buildings in the district where alterations have been carried out.

Of the many nineteenth century pieces extant, probably one of the most interesting is that made in 1860 by John Phillips Hoyle, to commemorate the full rigged ship "Sarah Newman", at 1,220 tons the largest vessel to be built in the port. This is at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, but an excellent collection of contemporary work can be seen at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter.

Apart from potteries already named, there were several others nearby, at Annery Kiln and two sites between Sea Lock and Wear Gifford Bridge; of all these hitherto industrious works, hardly a trace remains today.

So, in 1896, Bideford was left with only one pottery, that at Torrington Lane, worked at the time by James Redcliff. But earlier in the century Henry Phillips had run it, and of him (possibly because he was the writer's great grandfather) more has been learned than of any other local potter. Henry himself, was also, in all probability, great grandson of that John Phillips who potted in Bideford a century earlier.

Even so, of Henry's early days little has been learned. He was born in Bideford in 1835, married Margaret Walter of Hartland in 1856, and had eight children. How he became a potter we do not know, but possibly there were family connections with other local potters. We do know he was potting at the age of 33, for he left a ship jug dated 1868, which is still in the family.

He lived at Industrial Place - now Torrington Mount - directly opposite the Torrington Lane works where all his known work was done; next door lived one of his daughters, and next again, at a later date, his partner, James Redcliff. Although no other evidence has been found, it would appear that the few houses in Industrial Place were included in the lease of the pottery.

A fascinating habit of Henry's was that of making named decorative pieces for his children, three of which are still known; that for Ernest (1874), Samuel Walter (1876) and Florence (1885).

From about 1880, Henry was engaged in experiments to bring more colour into the traditional ware, and several pieces, showing an increasing use of blue, and of less massive, more graceful, proportions, can be seen in the Burtou Art Gallery, Bideford, and elsewhere.

With regard to these experiments, he was a friend of James Brannam, who was carrying out similar experiments at Lichdon Street Pottery, Barnstaple, and it appears likely that they sometimes compared notes, for Henry's will contained a clause that should he die first, his experimental note books be handed on to Mr. Brannam. As far as is known, this was done on Henry's death.

Several other potters worked in partnership with Henry at different times, notably James Redcliff, and also, for a while, John Backway. It was during the partnership of these three, that a sailing lighter, the "Devonia", was built for the pottery at one of the East-the-Water yards, for conveying clay from Fremington to Bideford.

On market days, Henry's wife, Margaret, would sit at a stall in the market, surrounded by pots, pans, and some decorative ware, for sale to passers by. However, Henry's health broke down, and about 1890 he sold out to Redcliff, and died within a few years.

Redcliff carried on for some twenty years, part of this time with John Backway again as partner. The output was almost entirely utilitarian, slipware being made as required, but of inferior quality to that of earlier days. After all, the demand had diminished, and with it the skill.

Work at the pottery started at 6 a.m., and finished at 6 p.m., and for this a boy, at the turn of the century, would be paid the princely sum of 1/- per week. Men and boys were employed to cut and faggot furse on the hills and cliffs around the town, this being ricked and carted in as required, for flashing the kiln in the traditional manner.

In 1911 James Redcliff sold the business to two members of his staff, J. Davis and R. Branch, and these two carried on for a few more years. The sale of the lease included the pottery horse, Prince, at £1 per leg, a horse complete for £4.

Firings were made at about four weekly intervals, and with luck (dependent upon the weather for drying the ware ready for the kiln), thirteen firings could be made in a year. The kiln was first "soaked" (heated slowly) using small coal purchased at 8d. or 9d. per cwt, and hauled across the bridge to the works by the long suffering Prince. Five tons of coal, and a large number of furse faggots were needed to complete this job, which, in all, took thirty six hours or so.

At this time, the ware was fired once only, the body and glaze together.

When the kiln had cooled, the ware was unloaded and either stored for future sale, or disposed of immediately. Much was sent to Redruth by rail, well packed in straw, and more was collected by a Mr. Fishley, carrier for Putford, Stratton and Bude. He travelled to Bideford and loaded up one day, stayed overnight to rest his horse, and returned the following day, unloading at various places en route.

By now, however, the introduction of enamelled ware had hit the potters hard; enamel pots and pans were more durable, cheap, and easy to clean, and gradually they were superseding earthenware for domestic use.

Came World War I, things became more and more difficult, the labour force eventually consisting almost entirely of unskilled Belgian refugees. Under the circumstances, the odds were heavily weighted against any reasonable chance of survival, and so, in 1916, the last Bideford pottery was closed.

An industry with a tradition of, perhaps, four centuries had died, and the war left no time to mourn its passing. The Torrington Lane kiln and building remained as mute evidence to former industry for some four or five years, then, in the early 'twenties, they too were swept away.

The site is now occupied by a shop and several houses.

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#### WHAT'S IN A NAME? FROM THE PARTICULAR TO THE GENERAL IN POPULATION STUDY.

Iris M. Woods

- 1826 Silvester Mann, aged 81, Burial Register.  
1770 Sylvester Mann - Overseer of the Poor.  
1761 Silvester Mann, signatory to a Parish Meeting memorandum.  
1742 Silvester Man & Mary Stancombe, Marriage Register.  
1709 Silavester Man s, of Silvester, Baptismal Register.  
1706 Sylvester Man, Churchwarden.  
1645 Silfester Man, Burial Register.

What is the local historian to make of these records? Can he reconstruct the family tree of which these men, bearing the same name, are members? The main source of evidence are the Parish Registers, but a break of a single year can disrupt any attempt at accurate reconstruction. It is not that there is too little information, it is continuous, unbroken information that is lacking. Unfortunately most registers have breaks from time to time, sometimes covering several years. This is not surprising when one considers that the records were originally kept on single sheets which might be easily lost or mislaid. Neither can one believe that the registrars maintained absolute accuracy. It is easy to account for a sudden rise in the number of burials - say from an average of fifteen up to thirty or more. But what if the number should drop one year to three? The only rational explanation seems to be that the registrar failed in his job.

When this has been said it still remains that there is information to be extracted, even if the results appear as trends rather than as firm percentages. One therefore looks for some method that will make it easy to answer as many questions as possible using a single piece of apparatus. For very detailed work the Card Index is the best system, but most local historians have to deal with records that are incomplete and it may be useful to have some means of recognising quickly the points at which the breaks occur, and at the same time to answer as many questions as possible. For this a tedious but ultimately time-saving piece of work has to be done. All future labour will be reduced to a minimum if an alphabetical list of families is made and the Marriages, Baptisms and Burials are entered each year under the appropriate names. It is essential to distinguish between the three types of entry, (probably by the use of coloured inks) and also between the sexes, selecting standard signs. The eye can quickly be trained to pick out a particular capital letter from a page of the Parish Register entries, and the time expended in making the list will subsequently be saved many times over. A break in the record can be indicated by a line of the appropriate colour ruled down the page against the years covered by the break.

There are some questions which can be answered directly from the List. A glance will show which families were increasing and which were dying out in any period, which were the new arrivals and whether and for how long they were established. The numbers of individuals born, married or buried can be simply counted.

Unusual names, occurring rarely, possibly with a single entry are immediately distinguishable. They often denote the marriage of a parishioner with a non-parishioner, and if the non-parishioner happens to be the bride her surname may not occur again. If the Baptismal Register records a single birth of a marriage this probably means that a girl has "gone back to mother" for the birth of her first child. So that a lapse of three or four years between a marriage and the first birth registered may indicate that the second and subsequent children were born in the parish where the couple had settled, while the first had been born in the parish from which the mother had come.

By itself the Family List cannot yield much more information, but it can be used in conjunction with the Parish Register in a number of ways. Possible cases of infant or maternal mortality can be detected by the occurrence of a death following immediately on a birth - consultation of the Register will give the answer. Studies in population need to establish the trends in age at marriage and number of children born. When age at marriage is to be traced, the Family List can save time and effort if it shows that no births in the name and sex of one partner or the other have been registered within a reasonable limit of years. Similarly the List reveals whether it is worth trying to establish how many children were born in individual marriages - if no births appear in the list, there is no point in searching the Register. Up to this point the theoretical uses of the Family List have been mentioned, it may be worth showing how it has been employed - together with the Parish Register and the Census Returns for a single parish, that of Widecombe-in-the-Moor.

Churchwardens were obliged to keep records of marriages, baptisms and burials from 1538, but very few of these early records remain, no doubt because they were not kept on sufficiently durable material. The Widecombe registers date from 1560 for Burials, 1570 for Baptisms and 1573 for Marriages. The present records are not the originals but were copied from an older register on to single sheets, which may account for some of the gaps. No records survive for the years 1583-1587 or 1679-80. Marriages are also missing in 1579, 1648, 1678, 1681, and 1699. Baptisms are missing for 1588-99, 1612-33, 1661, 1687 and 1704. There are no Burials for 1571-74, 1597-1600 and 1693-97. Some of the gaps have been made up from the Bishops' Transcripts. These were lists that had to be sent annually within a month of Easter to the Episcopal Registry as a safeguard against alterations, erasures or loss of the originals. Unfortunately no provision was made for payments to the copyists or keepers of the transcripts, and the resulting negligence in writing and preserving them has made it impossible to use them for filling in more than a few of the gaps in the official registers.

Another limiting factor in the use of the registers is in the lack of details given. The Marriage Register gives only the names of the parties, with very rarely a note that one was a non-parishioner. From 1762 the word "sojourner" is used to describe men and women who were employed on farms or in other occupations but who were non-parishioners. The name of the father only is noted in the Baptismal Register up to 1718, thereafter the mother's name is given as

flourished for some generations and then disappeared; which latterly became established, and which appear as names that are rare. There are 17 surnames appearing continually in the Register from the opening of the 17th century to the Census Returns of 1861. It may be worth while listing them - Beard, Brooking, Caunter, French, Hamlyn, Hannaford, Hext, Leaman, Mann, Nosworthy, Norrish, Smerdon, Townsend, Tremills, Widecombe, Willcocks and Windeatt. All of these are to be found also in the last third of the 16th century except Townsend and Tremills. Since 1861 Brooking, Caunter, Hext, Leaman, Tremills, and Windeatt have disappeared; French, Hannaford, Mann, Nosworthy, and Smerdon still flourish. There were about 80 families which were numerous for a limited period, among them Abraham (to 1730), Apton (to 1800), Cater (to 1760), Horsham (to 1670), Jarman (to 1750), Langworthy (to 1710), Rugg (to 1740), Torr (to 1790) and Wickett (to 1810).

Other families have established themselves since the early 18th century - Cleave, Coaker, Easterbrook, Hern, Kivill, Langdon, Potter, Stancombe, Warren. Not all of these are still to be found in the parish, though the names appear in the Census Returns for 1841, '51 and '61. A few names appear in the registers intermittently. They are usually names that are common in neighbouring parishes - Andrews, Meade, Merton, Palke, Roberts, Stooke, Stidston, Turner and White.

Finally there is the very large group which appear a dozen times or less. Something has already been said to account for them, and that they are most frequent in the Marriage Register, indicating that the couple returned to another parish to live. A single name death may be that of someone visiting friends, or of a nurse-child sent up to the moor for its health. In the late eighteen thirties Scots names appear suddenly. In 1834 Eliza Macdougall died at Spitchwick Park, and a year later Peter Macdougall, widower, married Elizabeth Stancombe. In 1836 Henry Caunter married Susanna MacDowell and in 1837 John Hamlyn married Mary MacMillan.

The situation throughout the period of the Registers is of a few surnames occurring in great numbers, a few intermittently, and a greater number flourishing for part of the period.

Christian names are of small assistance in identifying individuals. It is true that some families are characterised by unusual names - the Gabriel Aptons, Shadrach Frenches and Silvester Manns shine like stars in a maze of names like Andrew, John, James, George, Richard, Robert and William. There is actually a preponderance of Biblical names for men, fifty-three including Mordecai, Pharaoh and Archelaus - each of these used only once. The name Charles is first used in 1716, and Frederick not till 1823. The origin of the name Pertizer is obscure.

The total number of women's names is slightly higher but more of them are only given once, and only 24 are Biblical in origin. There are sixteen men's and twelve women's names which occur regularly and frequently from 1570 to

well. From 1813 the occupation of the father and the place of residence is also mentioned. The most frustrating lack of detail occurs in the Burial Register where the usual entry is of the Christian and surname alone, with the rare addition of "wife of", "son of" or "daughter of". However from 1793 the age at death is noted, and the place of residence from 1813.

These are the restrictions under which any population study of Widecombe Parish has to be carried out. With the aid of the Census Returns some light can be shed on the movement of population. From 1762-1799 the names of 62 non-parishioners and 39 sojourners appear in the Marriage Register, and for the years 1800-1837 the numbers are 60 and 94 respectively, giving totals of 101 and 154 for the two periods. This shows the influx into the parish but gives no clue of how many were leaving it. Since 1801 a decennial census has been taken, establishing a definite figure for the population for one night of the year. If there were no movement in or out of the parish in the decade, then the Census Returns for 1811 should be equal to the return for 1801 plus baptisms 1801-1810 minus burials 1801-1810. To turn this into actual figures: 843 (1801 C.R.) + 389 (1801-10 Baptisms) - 181 (1801-10 Burials) = 1051. In fact the Census Return for 1811 gives a population of 901, a difference of 150. This calculation can be made for each decade up to the 1841 Census:

Year	Census Return	C.R. + Bapts. - Burs.
1801	843	
1811	901	1051
1821	934	1074
1831	959	1074
1841	1106	1040 (to 1837)

Both sets of figures show a rise in population, but also a smaller rise in actual population than would have been expected if no one had left the parish. The flight to the towns had already begun in spite of the non-parishioners and sojourners noted in the Marriage Register. The Census Returns of 1851 and 1861 give the place of birth of each name entered and there are 197 non-parishioners in 1851 and 215 in 1861, (some of the same names will appear in both totals). When these figures are compared with the total population - 974 in 1851 and 854 in 1861 it is obvious that there was a considerable movement in and out of the parish. There is nothing surprising in this, as those on the north of Widecombe were nearer to Manaton, on the east to Buckland, and on the south to Holne than they were to the opposite confines of their own parish - and it is true that the majority of those coming in came from a distance of 25 miles or less. We have no means of knowing how far afield the outgoing population travelled. Some work has been done on determining the age at marriage, number of children per marriage, and average age at death, but the results are too meagre to be of general interest. The reason for this is the final limiting factor in these studies - the extreme difficulty of identifying individuals with any degree of certainty.

It has already been stated that the Family List shows which families have lived in Widecombe for the whole period covered by the Parish Registers; which

to 1837. Obviously where the numbers of surnames and of Christian names is limited, the number of combinations will also be limited. In October 1761 John Hamlyn married Grace Stancombe, and in November of the same year another John Hamlyn married Grace Langworthy. Thereafter the children of both marriages are registered as HAMLYN, . . . s/d of John and Grace, with no clue as to which couple they belong to. This may be an extreme example, but there are very many more of couples whose marriages took place within a few years and whose names are the same, often rendering the exact identification of individuals impossible.

It may be worth noting some of the more unusual women's names. Using the Baptismal entries only, between 1571 and 1741 eight girls were called Dunes (Dewnes), between 1577 and 1741 nine were called Beaton and the name Wilmot persists sporadically from 1570 to the beginning of the 18th century. Between 1643 and 1833 there are nine instances of girls being called Rawling with no other given name. Richard is a common name for girls from 1570 to the end of the 17th century as Richard is for boys throughout the Registers.

Nothing has been said about orthography. When a name has reached the register filtered through the speech of the owner and the ears of the registrar, and has been transcribed by someone not specially literate, the final result is usually recognisable even if not according with standard practice.

One often reads in the papers these days of the discovery in some attic, loft or disused barn of a lost work of art, piece of antique furniture, coins or documents and perhaps rather ruefully reflects that "it could not possibly happen to me". This is the story of such an event which did in fact happen to me this year and the only reason it did happen is because, of all extraordinary interests, I have had a lifelong love of Latin, through school days, to the Australian outback, during twenty-five years in the far East, in the rat race of London and finally in the depths of Devon in retirement as a branch librarian in a market town.

One afternoon early this year a member came into my library with a parchment and asked if I could tell her anything about it as other attempts had failed. A cursory glance showed me it was in Latin, period George II and referred to the lease of some lands round Boscastle in Cornwall which had belonged to her family. I offered to translate it for her and she left it with me. A few days later I was examining this document when a man came in to change his books and glancing at it asked what I was doing. I explained and he then said that he had in fact come across some similar parchments, all in apparently unintelligible script, and asked would I like to see them. Within an hour he was back with three documents, all in Latin. The first was a will, the second a roll of the Axminster Hundreds of late 17th c., but it was the third that held my attention and is the subject of this article.

On my enquiry as to how he had come by these he told me that he was a school master at the local secondary school adjacent to which there stood a disused stable which had in the recent past been taken over by the school. An official of the school had learned that children were known to play in the stable and on entering one day he found them playing darts with what appeared to be pieces of stiff paper they had found lying around. On closer examination however he found the material was parchment and appeared to be in script. He collected what he could find. Some two months later the school master happened to go into the stable and found these three documents which appeared to have been missed and took them home for safekeeping. These he brought in to me.

Now, the subject parchment was exceptionally well preserved, about eighteen inches by ten inches, in beautiful regular mediaeval script, which could hardly be matched by modern machinery, with large illuminated capitals. The first few words had that ring of gracious authority only encountered in regal transactions - 'Philippus et Maria dei gratia Rex et Regina Anglie...' followed by a string of all their domains, titles, Archdukedoms, Dukedoms and then - '... OMNIBUS... SCIATIS...' - '...Be it known to you all that... to our beloved subjects John Drake of Musbury esquire and his son Bernard Drake, gent.' Here was sufficient to whet any appetite as whatever happened in the short turbulent reign of Philip and Mary is of more than passing interest, added to which few who live in these parts have not heard of John and Bernard Drake of Musbury. But

more was to come. There was the naming of '...the manor of Kingsbridge...' and by description '...which formerly belonged to the Abbey of Buckfast alias Buckfastleigh'. Then came interminable lists of lands, fields, orchards, pastures, buildings, dovecots and stables followed by a reference to '...frankpledge...' and further down in heavily enlarged script came the punch line - '...HABENDUM et TENENDUM eidem Willelmo Petre militi...' - '... to have and to hold to the same William Petre knight...'. Finally '...issued as patents...on the seventh day of September at Westminster in the fourth and fifth years of our reign for a payment of five pounds twelve shillings five pence and one halfpenny to be paid into our hanaper...'.  
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I knew I had many fascinating hours ahead of me deciphering the script, much of which was complicated by a kind of shorthand and made more difficult by its legal terminology. At this point I did not realise that I had anything of unique interest but at the same time I was absorbed and I felt I needed help with a translation. It was convenient that Easter was coming up and time for my annual visit, in common with many others, to our old school in Yorkshire attached to a famous Benedictine Abbey where erudition is a commonplace rather than the exception. The Headmaster, an erstwhile contemporary and a Latin scholar, spent several hours with me puzzling out and transcribing it.

It was now that things began to move. He hastened me down to the college library where he picked out Vol. 25 of the Dictionary of National Biography where we learned a lot more about Sir William Petre (1505?-1572). A cross reference to Dugdale's 'Monasticon' took us to the bowels of the Monastery library to extract a vast tome. There we read, in explicit Latin, of Sir William's uneasy haste to regularise his new acquisition of monastic lands by an application to Pope Paul IV for confirmation of tenure by him as a layman, which the latter gave by his Bull of 4 December 1555.

At this point we could get no further, so my learned friend outlined a course of action. I should approach Buckfast. On my return to Devon I had the document photographed and enlarged and sent the result to the Abbot of Buckfast with a request for a translation in view of the probable interest to the Abbey. He replied to say that he had passed it on to no less an authority than Dom John Stephan, O.S.B., F.S.A. who had expressed his opinion that it was of unique importance. During two subsequent visits to Buckfast Dom John explained to me that this document was (I could scarcely believe it) the one he needed to fill the known gap in tracing the tenure of Buckfast lands from King Edgar, who deeded them to a thane in 982, to Domesday - then this significant gap at the Reformation - up to the present day. It was of course known that the lands had come into the Petre family at the dissolution but the actual instrument deeding the gift had not come to light in modern times. This was it. He was overjoyed and has now completed the translation and written an article on the Charter for the Western Morning News.



Now, how did this document come to be lying in a disused stable in Axminster? If I may hazard a guess which appears tenable it is that the Petre family is known to have held the manor of Axminster subsequent to this period and when the manor changed hands this document, and who knows what others, was stored away and forgotten. The circumstances of its chance preservation in such excellent condition can only be described as miraculous.

In conclusion my small part in pulling together the threads has given me untold pleasure and could not have been accomplished but for a simple and abiding joy in the Latin language. Who knows what other discoveries may not be around the corner for anyone given the interest and patient prosecution in one's own particular past time?

EDITOR'S NOTE. A photograph and full translation of this document will appear in 'Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries' shortly.

THE COLLECTIONS OF LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY IN THE CITY MUSEUMS, EXETER

Susan M. Pearce.

All the collections of local material, both those on display and those stored as research collections, in Exeter Museums are housed at Rougemont House, Castle Street (next to the City Library). Rougemont House itself was built originally by Doctor John Patch about 1770. Patch, who was a surgeon at the Devon and Exeter Hospital, leased the ground on which the house and gardens now stand from Frederick, Prince of Wales, in 1768. The land had been part of the Duchy of Cornwall since 1337. Patch was a keen amateur gardener, and he used the natural un-evenness of the site to create a very fine landscaped garden below the castle wall. The interior of the house is very typical of the time at which it was built, with its graceful staircase and its ceilings decorated with moulded plaster work. One of its most unusual features is the fine slate fire-place in the room leading off the left hand side of the Hall. Here the chimney flue is taken to the left of the fire-place so that a broad window could be built directly above the fire.

In 1793 the lease was passed to Edmund Granger, a clothier who owned several mills at Exwick. Granger was able to buy the house and gardens outright in 1798. A print of 1794 in the City Library shows Rougemont House in its original shape. The front of the house faced into Castle Street, and instead of the present high walls, there was a little lawn between the house and the street. The house was converted at some time in the early nineteenth century, and the northern entrance was blocked up, while a new main doorway was opened on the eastern side. The hillside was excavated out, so that what had been a basement became the ground floor on the northern side, facing onto the small cobbled courtyard which still exists.

After Granger's death, the house passed into various hands, until in 1911 it was bought by the City of Exeter for £7,000. The grounds were opened to the public in the following year. In 1913 the ground floor was opened as the Exeter Historical Museum, and until the out-break of the Second World War it housed small collections of finds from Roman Exeter. During the bombing of Exeter in 1942 the house was saved from destruction by the efforts of the museum attendant, but the City Library was badly damaged, so Rougemont House became its temporary headquarters. As soon as the new Library was finished in 1965, Rougemont House was returned to the City Museums, and plans were put in hand for its complete renovation, and for a display scheme considerably more ambitious than anything which had been there before. The new museum was finally opened in May 1969. It has nine rooms of material on display, on the ground floor and the first floor, and the remaining two floors are devoted to storage, and a conservation laboratory and photographic studio. After a good deal of thought, it was decided that a chronological scheme of Devon and Exeter history, following consecutively through the nine rooms, would be the best way of presenting the material intelligibly to as many people as possible.

By 1969 the local collections had grown very considerably from their beginnings in the last decades of the nineteenth century. Archaeologically, they begin with a very extensive series of Acheulian handaxes and associated types from the Hoxnian interglacial river terrace at Broom, near Axminster. There are flint artifacts from the Mesolithic sites on Dartmoor, and from those around the shore of Barnstaple Bay and Baggy Point. Only a tiny proportion of this material is on display. The museum is fortunate in having all the material excavated by Miss D. Liddell from Hembury Fort, 'P.D.A.E.S.', 1930, 1932, 1934-5 and that from Hazard Hill excavated by Mr. Houlder, 'P.D.A.E.S.', 1963. There are also a considerable number of the Neolithic hard-stone axes traded eastwards from Cornwall. In store, there are the very considerable collections of flint work from all periods from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, made by Mr. G. Garter from the area behind Sidmouth, and the late Captain O. Greig from the area around Week St. Mary. The barrow cemeteries of eastern Devon, representing an outlier of the rich bronze age culture of Wessex, are well represented in the museum, and the finds include the two fine cups of Kimmeridge shale from the barrows of Broad Down (discussed by Lady (Aileen) Fox in 'P.D.A.E.S.', vol. 4, 1948) and material from the probably equally important cemetery near Upton Pyne, excavated by the late Rev. R. Kirwan at the end of the nineteenth century, and by Mrs. S. Pollard, 'D.A.S.', No. 27, 1969. The museum also possesses about a third of the total number of pieces of bronze age metal work found in Devon and Cornwall, including the hoards from Bloody Pool, and from Washfield near Tiverton, and parts of the hoards from Plymstock and Talaton, the rest of which are in the British Museum.

The museum has the complete sequence of material excavated by Lady Fox from Dean Moor, 'Devonshire Association Transactions', vol. 89, 1957, and from Kestor, *ibid.* vol. 86, 1954, and further Iron Age material from Hembury Fort, and from Blackbury Castle, 'P.D.A.E.S.', 1954-55. One of the largest rooms is devoted to the finds from Roman Exeter, and all the important material excavated by Lady Fox ('Roman Exeter', Manchester University Press, 1964, and 'D.A.S.', No. 26, 1968) and the Exeter Excavation Committee ('P.D.A.E.S.', vols. 1, 1929-32; 2, 1933-36) is on show, while the rest of the finds are in store. On display also is the bronze mount from the top of a folding table, depicting Achilles mounted on the back of his tutor Cheiron the Centaur, who is teaching him to attack a wild beast. This is the most important Roman bronze so far found in Devon.

The finds from the medieval city of Exeter are almost equally well represented, and they include the Exeter Puzzle Jug which was found almost intact in South Street, Exeter, in 1843. It was made about 1400, in Italy or the South of France, and the extremely elaborate treatment makes it quite likely that it was an apprentice's master-piece. There is also what is probably the finial of a roof gable, from the fifteenth century, moulded hollow in the form of a very lively animal figure. Cooking pots from the kiln in Bedford Street, Exeter, are on show, and again, a great deal of this material is in store. There is a fifteenth century carved alabaster tablet of the type made in Nottingham, showing the head

of John the Baptist on a charger, which was dug up in Exeter. On display also are some of the coins from the Anglo-Saxon and Norman mint in Exeter, and some pieces minted by Charles I when the mint was revived in 1643, although not apparently on the original medieval site.

The chronological sequence of the collections on display ends with material from the Volunteer Units raised in Devon, who have now lent their entire collection of material and records to the Museum, and a display of Honiton lace. This is of necessity a brief sketch of the material relating to the pre-history and history of Devon and Exeter housed at Rougemont House, but I hope it will give some indication of the richness of the collections available for study, and the extent to which some of them can be used to complement documentary evidence from other sources.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL PAROCHIAL CHECK-LISTS

A seminar group led by Mrs. Henrietta Miles will meet occasionally on Saturdays throughout the winter. The first meeting will be at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday, 23rd October in the University Building, Gandy Street. The purpose of the group will be to compile archaeological check-lists for certain areas of Devon. It is proposed to start with parishes in the Honiton area, but any areas that members of the group are interested in may be chosen for study. The work involved in compiling the check-lists consists of:- working through Tithe Apportionment and other maps for field and place names which may give some indication of archaeological sites; scanning early publications for any mention of archaeological material or sites; studying air photographs; walking the areas being studied field by field, noting any indications of archaeological sites. It is most convenient to produce the lists parish by parish. In Cornwall the system has been in operation for some time and has resulted in the discovery or rediscovery of very many sites. The completed lists for each parish should form a complete record of all possible archaeological sites in it, and so provide a firmer basis for distribution maps of prehistoric settlement etc. than has been available up to date. At the present time when archaeological sites are fast being destroyed by development of all kinds, it is essential for archaeologists to have as complete a record as possible of archaeological sites so that the maximum amount of rescue work can be done before development.

It is hoped that some readers of the Devon Historian will be interested in joining the seminar group; those with experience of Record Office work and in the study of place names will be particularly welcome. It is hoped that the group will publish the check-lists it produces.

Anyone interested should either come to the first meeting or contact Mrs. H. Miles, Exeter University Department of Extra Mural Studies, who will gladly supply more information about the compilation of the check-lists.

In this article, the reader is invited to accompany Mr. X who has an appointment with the County Archivist to spend a day in the Record Office in order to find out about its organisation and its contents.

Mr. X is shown into the Record Office's general work room and thence into the Public Search Room, where the needs of visitors wishing to consult the records are met. These are normally the only rooms that the ordinary visitor will see. Here the County Archivist introduces himself and his team of specialists to Mr. X. There is a Deputy County Archivist and four Assistant Archivists, whose duties include the sorting, listing and storage of records, answering enquiries whether they are by telephone, letter or personal callers, and producing records for inspection by the public. There are two skilled Conservationists or Document Repairers, who mend maps, parchment deeds and paper documents when these have become too fragile to be handled safely. The Modern Records Clerk is responsible for the intake of current records from certain other departments of County Hall. The Typist not only types letters and lists, but has secretarial duties which make her an important member of the team.

Mr. X is then taken to the strong room where 5,700 feet of shelving containing some 160 tons of documents are stored. The County Archivist explains that the Record Office is responsible to three separate groups of people. It is the official repository for the records of the County of Devon, the County Council's going back to 1888 and those of the court of Quarter Sessions to 1592. With exceptions, these records are open to public inspection once they are over thirty years old. Certain specified records are received into the office for the express purpose of being available to public inspection.

The second role of the Record Office is as custodian of the records of the Diocese of Exeter. These go back to the year 1258, but not in an unbroken run. They include material relating to Cornwall up to 1876 when the Diocese of Truro was formed. The County Archivist takes some books and bundles from the shelves to show how inextricably mixed entries to the two Counties are. Current records of the Diocese are still held at the Diocesan Registry. There is no uniform dividing date, though the majority of records earlier than 1850 are at the Record Office, and the majority of those later at the Registry.

The Record Office's third role is as a trustee for the special purpose of preserving records. Typical of those making use of this service are the Trustees of the Bedford Settled Estates and Clinton (Devon) Estates Limited at one end of the scale and the Incumbent and Churchwardens of a small west Devon parish or a lady in Torquay owning a dozen deeds of title going back to the reign of Elizabeth I on the other. To all these the Record Office offers its services without any cost to the owner and without becoming owner of the documents, the County Archivist explains to Mr. X.

the years 1812-1857 were brought to the Devon Record Office a few years ago from the Public Record Office. Copy wills among private "deposits" and material from the Bishop's Court cases could sometimes be used to fill the gaps. Asked if any other sources were used by genealogists, Mr. X is told that they sometimes found old voters lists (back to 1832), Land Tax Assessments (1780-1832), old Directories, or even title deeds of use, but that these yielded less certain results than the parish registers and Bishop's Transcripts.

Shortly after this two further "Searchers" entered. Both lived in a west Devon town, and both wished to follow up the history of their homes. For one, who lived in a former farm house, whose fields were now worked as part of another farm, the Archivist brings a number of documents. Ordnance Survey maps of 1905, 1889 and 1809 (25 inch, 6 inch and 1 inch scales respectively), the Tithe Map of 1840 and Donn's map of 1765 all show the house or its site. The Tithe Apportionment also gives information about the 60 acres which went with the farm house in 1840. The records of a large estate added a map made in 1830, the accounts of a partial rebuilding of the house in 1865, rather less informative rentals back to 1782, and a series of deeds and leases to prove that there was a homestead of some kind there in 1540. Finally, a volume on the "Place names of Devon" refers to a document of 1330 at the Public Record Office, which was the earliest known reference to the place. This searcher's friend, living in a cottage in one of the older streets of the town, is shown a similar series of documents, but in spite of this, is unable to identify her property positively before the year 1830. Changes of occupier, in the numbering of the street, and the habit of those who kept the records of referring to "Roskilly's Cottage" foil all attempts to do so, though the property was clearly at least 100, possibly 200 years older than its last positive identification in the records. Such difficulties in relating the evidence of the records and that of the houses themselves were common, the Archivist explains to Mr. X. Sometimes additional information could be gleaned from the Transactions of the Devonshire Association or official lists of Historic Buildings. Building accounts were very rare indeed, and could not be expected for the average cob-and-thatch cottage, for its builders were probably illiterate. Even if a farm is mentioned in Domesday, we would be more likely to be shocked than thrilled if we could turn back the clock and see the buildings that existed in 1086.

While the enquirers after their respective houses are being attended to, three "searchers" arrived. One is the incumbent of a small parish in east Devon, famous for its cliff scenery. He had heard that the Record Office undertook to mount and display exhibitions of documents. The registers and some other of the parish's records were in the Record Office's custody, he explained, and he wondered if an exhibition could be arranged in the parish hall, in connection with an appeal in aid of his church's fabric. He was taken to see the County Archivist, who asks how long the exhibition was to last, and, if it was not a one day stand, what security arrangements had been made. These points being settled, the County Archivist tells the Incumbent that it would be possible to bring an exhibition based not only on the parish's records, but, with suitable safeguards, from the Diocesan and County records, those of a large estate and

Mr. X is then taken to the cleaning room. Devon is famous for its damp relaxing climate, which however beneficial it may be to humans, is quite the worst enemy of paper and parchment. Dust and dirt can be dealt with comparatively easily; damp and the resulting mould rot away the very materials the records are made of. A special chamber has been built to dry out the documents. By means of fumigation with thymol vapour, the mould is killed.

The next point of call is the Repair room, where documents unfit to be handled are taken for first aid. This may be due to damp and mould, to tearing or collapse of old bindings in books or the backing of old maps. Going round the Repair room, Mr. X may see sheets of paper and parchment in various stages of the repair process. By staying for twenty minutes he may watch progress being made in the sewing up of an old volume, the repair of a large seal of the reign of King Charles II; or watch as a big sheet of linen stretched vertically up one wall of the repair room has first one section and then another of a vast Tithe Map laid across it.

Those Archivists not employed on outside calls or attending to the needs of the public may be seen by our Mr. X sorting documents, or in one or other of the stages of preparing lists of the different groups of documents. It is seldom that a document is copied out in full, the emphasis is given to providing a guide to the documents. The visitor, having found the documents he will need is encouraged to read and use them himself. Mr. X exclaims that this may be a not over-generous policy. For answer, the County Archivist takes him to the Public Search Room.

Two Archivists are on duty here. One answers postal enquiries and keeps a check on the removal and return of documents from the strong room. The other assists the visitors, who, Mr. X learns, are usually referred to as "Searchers" or "Readers", and goes to fetch the documents they need. Mr. X sees three people in this room already. They are a family group and have come to trace their ancestry. One of the Archivists relates that, as they were new visitors, it was her duty to show them the best way to go about this. This is to work their way back generation by generation, from their oldest known information, in this case, a grandfather born in Bideford in 1852. Having found information as to this gentleman, to the date of his marriage and to the baptisms of his eight children in the original parish registers of Bideford, they drew a blank trying to find the great-grandfather's date of baptism. The registers of the neighbouring parish of Northam are tried in vain, and also those of Littleham in North Devon. The searchers are then advised to fall back on the Bishop's Transcripts (yearly copies of the parish registers preserved among the Diocesan records). Those for Abbotsham give the answer - though the parchment sheets had been near casualties in the Exeter Blitz of 1942. The link re-established, the group now progress slowly but steadily into the eighteenth century, and would ask questions now and then about letters and words. Mr. X asks about the wills which had been destroyed in 1942. All had perished, and of these only the Record Society's Printed Calendar of 1908 by E.A. Fry, and a considerable body of random notes made by Miss O.M. Moger before 1942 survived. Copy wills, made for tax purposes, and covering

more from a solicitor's office in the nearest market town. Dates are fixed for the loan and return of the documents, which are always to remain under the eye of at least one of the Record Office Staff. The Incumbent makes notes in his diary and then left to keep an appointment in town.

The other two are university students engaged on projects requiring original research. After signing the register each spends some time with the Archivists discussing these projects and the sources available for them to work on. The first is working on the history of road transport in the County. Mr. X joins the group to hear that the most useful source was the series of plans deposited with the Clerk of the Peace. These covered all schemes involving public works and went back to 1792. The great majority of the turnpike road schemes of the period 1800 to 1840, which entirely altered the road system of the County were here, as were the A 30 improvements of the 1930's. Records of sales of turnpike houses in the 1880's, returns of Turnpike Trust balance sheets, the records of the Exeter Turnpike Trust and of the Teignmouth and Dawlish, all survive among the County records. The records of the Court of Quarter Sessions give information on the upkeep of bridges back to 1592; a series of three bound volumes of scale drawings give an exact record of such bridges as Jews Bridge and Drum Bridge (A 38) destroyed in recent improvement schemes. The same source gives details as to the career (sometimes stormy) of the County Surveyor from 1809 to 1844, James Green. Private sources add records of the Barnstaple and Pilton Trust and of the Cullompton Trust, Deeds Poll (equivalents of share certificates) for a number of the Turnpike Trusts in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset. A small amount of material is available for the Highway Boards of 1862. Many parishes preserved at least some of their books and papers of the local officer known as Surveyor of the Highways. Turning to the traffic on the roads, the diaries of John Swete (1789-1801) contain references to pack animals, and coach-makers' bills are to be found in the records of the Acland, Rolle and Russell families. Records of all kinds include references to horse-hire (the eighteenth and nineteenth century equivalent of the garage bill). Traction engines are recorded in the Order Books of the Court of Quarter Sessions and early vehicle registers from 1903 onwards include motor-bicycles, cars, buses, lorries, traction engines and engines used for purposes other than locomotion.

The second is studying Devon landownership and agriculture. Here it is the large groups of records of certain large Devon estates which filled in the picture. West Devon is well covered by the estates of the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Devon and Earl Fortescue, but there are a number of owners of less spectacular rank whose local rating within that area was quite as important as these three, among them Calmady Hamlyn of Leawood, Bidlake of Bidlake, and Tremayne of Collacombe. North Devon, from Torrington to Chittlehampton is covered by the Rolle estates, which in the area from Barnstaple to South Molton are intermixed with the estates of the Dukes of Bedford in Bishop's Tawton and neighbourhood, and with the home estate of the Fortescues centred on Castle Hill. East Devon could be covered by the Rolle, Acland and Kennaway estates, with some others, rather smaller, such as that of the Lords Sidmouth (confined to Uptonery). In South Devon there are the Courtenay estates, centred on

Powderham Castle, again with a group of middle-sized owners - the Ilberts, Pitts, Holes, and the series of owners at Mamhead Park. All these are to be found recorded at the Devon Record Office. Three important estates are not represented; the student is referred to Plymouth City Library for the Morley and Roborough estates and to Exeter City Record Office for Palk of Haldon. Coverage of farming methods is given by the "husbandry" clauses in many leases of farms between 1760 or so and 1850, and the Tithe Maps and Apportionments of about 1840 taken together provide a land-use survey for the greater part of the County at that time.

Towards the end of the day, an Archivist who had been out on duty returns. He had been listing records and advising on their care to a private owner of deeds who did not wish to lose personal control of his documents. The service is provided free of charge or obligation.

About the same time, a 'phone call is received from a well-known teacher-training college with respect to the organisation of a guided tour of the Record Office, during the course of the next three weeks. After some consultation, the Deputy County Archivist named a date at which this could be done.

Our visitor, having seen some of the work and services offered by one Record Office, typical of those of dozens up and down the country, said his farewells and went on his way.

This article was written before the Devon Record Office's removal to new premises. The address is now:

Devon Record Office, Devon County Council, Concord House, South Street, EXETER. EX1 1DX

#### NEW ADDRESSES

The Historical Association, Plymouth Branch  
New Secretary: Mrs. G.M. Simpson, Annanfield, 5 Stefan Close, West Hooe Farm Estate, Plymouth.

#### CORRECTION

Ilfracombe Museum. Admittance charges. Adults 5p; Children 3p; Organised School parties free. Open daily Easter to September from 10 a.m.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHOLERA IN EXETER IN 1832 by Thomas Shapter (new edition) Wakefield; SR Publishers, 1971, 333 pp. £3.15.

In 1826 a worldwide epidemic of cholera began in India and moved westwards across Asia and then across Europe. The first English cases were reported in Sunderland in the autumn of 1831 from whence the dreaded disease spread through the country, coming late to the south-west. Although precautions were taken in Exeter, because no one yet knew how to deal with the disease they were unavailing and the first deaths occurred there in July 1832. Although exact figures are not known, probably over 50,000 people died during this epidemic in the British Isles, of whom 402 died in Exeter between 19 July and 24 September. Following the next major outbreak in 1848 an account of the 1832 epidemic in Exeter was published, written by Thomas Shapter, a doctor who came to the city during the outbreak. His record, the longest and most thorough of the local histories of the epidemic, provides a lively record of the fluctuating reactions to the outbreak of the disease, reveals the inadequacy of local government at a time of rapid urban growth to deal with such an emergency and shows the difficulties faced by local people who tried to deal with the epidemic. The re-issue of this book is welcome since, as Robert Newton states in his new introduction, Shapter's book provides a vivid and informative picture of a community in crisis. It is not only a valuable contribution to local history but also an important early work on epidemiology and public health.

Walter Minchinton.

REPRINT OF THE FIRST EDITION OF THE ONE-INCH ORDNANCE SURVEY OF ENGLAND AND WALES; Sheet 74 (Barnstaple and Lundy Island), 82 (Bideford), 83 (Tiverton), 90 (Tavistock), 91 (Exeter and Dartmouth) and 97 (Plymouth) with cartographical notes by J.B. Harley. Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1969, 75p each.

These six sheets, which cover virtually the whole of Devon, were amongst the first of the sheets of the first edition of the Ordnance Survey which David & Charles are in course of publishing. The sheets have been renumbered for this edition, sheet 74 was sheets 27 and 28, 82 was 26, 83 was 21, 90 was sheet 25, 91 brings together sheets 22 and 23 and 97 was sheet 24. The basic survey for these maps was carried out in two periods between 1795 and 1796 and between 1801 and 1807 and revisions were periodically made. All these sheets have been reproduced from the post-1860 printings but they vary in date: sheet 97 is from the printing of 1865, sheet 90 from the printing of 1866, sheet 82 from printings in the 1860's, sheet 74 from 1882, sheet 91 from 1884 while sheet 83 has detail added to 1890. Thus the maps record most of the railway building in Devon. The engine houses of the atmospheric railway are marked at Countess Weir, Turf, Starcross, Summerhouse, Newton Abbot, Paignton and Torre but not at Exeter, Dawlish or Teignmouth. Place names are in the contemporary form: thus Beer and not Bere Alston, St Mary's Clist and not Clist St Mary and Totness and not Totnes. The Ex (sic) Estuary reveals its mid-nineteenth century appearance.

Exeter has engulfed St Leonards but is still surrounded by a ring of settlements such as Heavitree, Alphington and Pinhoe which are not yet linked up with the city.

Printed on the folder of each map is an account of the history of the old series of ordnance survey one inch maps by J.B. Harley, now of Department of Geography, University of Exeter. He also provides notes which trace the history of each map, dealing in turn with the survey, the drawing and engraving and the publication history of the individual sheets: the early printings (1809-24), the John Gardner printings (1824-40), the addition of geological information (c1836-40) and the electrotypes from the 1850s. Although Dr Harley has done something to unravel the complexities of this subject, much still obviously needs to be done. The reconciliation of the topographical contents of each map with the date of its printing is, Dr Harley suggests, a task for local researchers. They will no doubt be able to throw light on Ordnance Survey practices. So this series of maps provides yet another task for readers of the Devon Historian. Since the Devon sheets were printed, the standard of reproduction in the series has improved considerably. Hachuring, as employed for Dartmoor, is particularly difficult to reproduce clearly. Even so these maps are obviously indispensable for the study of many aspects of Devon History. Formerly not easy of access, they have now been produced at a relatively modest price. They should in consequence be in the possession of any serious student concerned with the evolution of the county during the past one hundred and fifty years or so.

Walter Minchinton

We would like to draw attention to the publication of two volumes of the 'Proceedings of the Plymouth Athenaeum', volume I (1962-1965), 84 pp. £1.25, and volume II (1965-1969), 88 pp. £2. These volumes are a continuation under another title of the 'Transactions of the Plymouth Institution'. Together they give details of the activities of the Plymouth Athenaeum, which is one of the oldest literary and philosophical societies in the country, for most of the 1960s. The greater part of the first volume is taken up with an account of the history of the society since its establishment in 1812 and of the rebuilding of its home after its wartime bombing. In the second volume are to be found summaries of a number of papers read to the Plymouth Athenaeum dealing largely with the history of Plymouth and its neighbourhood. Among them are articles on the early history of medicine in Plymouth, the early history of Plymouth post, some aspects of Plymstock's history, the story of Stonehouse and an account of recent excavations in Plymouth. Both volumes are nicely produced and well illustrated. Copies can be obtained from the editor, Mrs Alison Wilson, 49 Torland Road, Plymouth PL3 5TT.

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Correspondence relating to the Devon Historian or for possible publication therein or contributions for publication should be sent to The Editor, The Devon Historian, Culver House, Payhembury, Honiton.  
Contributions for the next issue should be sent to the Editor by 1st February 1972.

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