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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 £3.00 post free and from bookshops.

THE STUDY OF FIELD SYSTEMS

H.S.A. Fox

When William Marshall, an agriculturalist with a keen historical sense, travelled through Devon at the end of the eighteenth century, he began to speculate about the origins of regional contrasts in the size and shape of fields and the lay-out of farms. Ever since, the county's past field patterns and farming practices have intrigued and fascinated local and national historians alike. For most, the study of field systems has a two-fold interest. In the first place, it can lead to the reconstruction of past landscapes; and most historians, even before they start to look into the life and work of a local community, find themselves asking about the backcloth of fields and farms against which its history was acted out. Secondly, field systems cannot be investigated in a vacuum. When we come to ask why a village's fields assumed a particular form, or what caused them to change over time, we are forced to seek answers by examining almost all aspects of the community's structure. Indeed, changes in the pattern and management of fields are often a useful index of a variety of other changes taking place in rural society; and therein lies a large part of the importance and fascination of field system studies.

The form and management of a field system

On the first page of 'English Field Systems' (1915), H.L. Gray defined his subject matter as 'the manner in which the inhabitants of a township subdivided and tilled their arable, meadow, and pasture land' - a definition which is still accepted today. It is useful, perhaps, to think of the analogies between a field system on the one hand and a domestic heating system on the other. The latter comprises a set of objects or forms (burners, tanks, pipes and so on) each functioning according to capacity and design, and interconnected by flows of energy. The form and function of the heating system is determined by the nature and volume of inputs (water, heat from coal or electricity etc.) which come into it from outside. In the same way, a field system consists of a set of physical forms which are inter-related by flows of energy through the system - its function or management - and which vary in character according to variable external influences.

Confusion can arise (and has arisen in the past) if the student of field systems does not bear in mind the very important distinction which exists between their form and management. This distinction deserves emphasis here. Form implies the physical appearance of holdings, fields and field boundaries. Whether we are studying the field system of a single manor, of a group of manors, or of a whole region, we should first turn to its assemblage of forms - parcels of arable, pasture and meadow, the holdings of lords and tenants, waste (if any), and the boundaries between parcels; and then go on to ask ourselves about the attributes of these forms. What was the shape and the average size of the parcels of arable, pasture and meadow respectively? In what proportions were the total acreages of parcels under each of these three land uses? Did a typical holding comprise a compact block of

parcels surrounded by a ring fence, or a scatter of parcels dispersed among the land of other holdings? Were the boundaries between parcels strong and permanent (massive earthen banks, quickset hedges, slate fences like those which still survive in parts of the South Hams) or slender and easily obliterated, such as furrows, merestones and balks; in other words, are we dealing with an enclosed landscape consisting of small hedged-in closes, or a so-called 'open field' landscape of relatively larger fields subdivided into numerous unenclosed strips? These and some of the other questions which should be asked about the attributes of the forms in a field system are indicated on the left hand side of Fig. 1. The answers will vary according to the type of system under study, and will give some impression of the principal landscape features which that system engendered.

Consideration of a field system's management leads us to ask an altogether different set of questions (Fig. 1, right hand side). These concern the annual and diurnal round of work on the land; daily movements of men and implements from farmsteads to fields, seasonal movements of livestock from arable stubbles to permanent pastures, from pastures to meadows and from meadows to rough waste within the system or perhaps (as when lowland stock migrated to Devon's great central waste of Dartmoor) to moorlands outside it. Investigation of its management takes us into the very heart and energy of a system. A basic question relates to the fundamental type of management which was practised: either management of farms in severalty, with decisions about farm operations being taken separately by each tenant, or communal management in which the functioning of the system was regulated, with more or less formality, by the tenants acting as a group. The subjects of crop combination - proportions in which different grains were cultivated - and rotation - the sequence of cropping - are central to the study of a field system's management; so too is the use made of the land for livestock husbandry. And, in a county like Devon where many farms have long been enclosed, the functions and management of hedgerows deserve especial attention.

Inputs into the system

Most studies of field systems fall into one of two categories: those dealing with differences between one system and another, and those which have as their main theme changes taking place in a single system, perhaps from its distant origins, perhaps in a later period. The first type of study usually begins by describing the form and management of systems in two villages (or, more usually, in two regions) at a particular point in time; the second by describing one village at two different dates and examining changes which took place in the intervening period.

In either case - whether we are investigating regional differences or the processes of change over time - we will wish to follow description and comparison by explanation. Why did field systems differ so much from district to district? What caused one system to change and evolve into another? At this stage of the enquiry, its scope widens considerably, for explanation requires an examination of the inputs which drive the system from outside. To return to the analogy with a heating system: a Victorian coal-fired system differs in both form and function

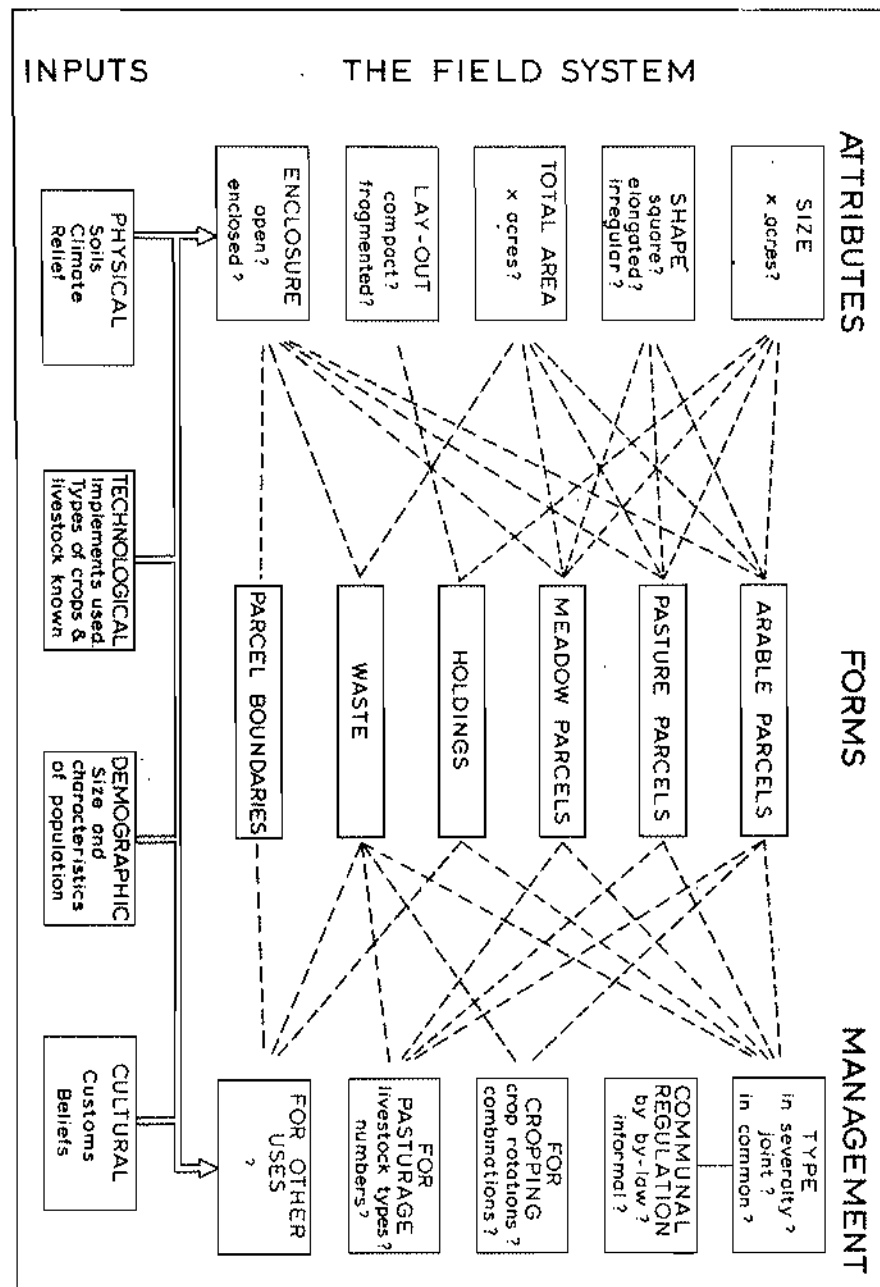


Fig. 1. The field system: forms, management and inputs.

from a modern electric plant because it was designed to utilize a very different type of fuel input; in the same way, field systems vary from place to place and are subject to change over time because of varying types and combinations of inputs. The inputs into, or external influences on a field system are numerous, varied, and usually related one with another. Some of the principal physical, technological, demographic and cultural inputs which need to be considered are listed at the base of Fig. 1.

An example from Devon will serve to illustrate the role of some of these input factors in bringing about regional variation in the chronology and type of change occurring within a system. In the early Middle Ages, there were many similarities between the field systems associated with large nucleated villages in the South Hams and in East Devon; in both regions many such villages were surrounded by extensive acreages of so-called 'open fields' in which tenants held scattered strips of arable land; in both, as far as is known, the management of this arable was essentially similar. Later, however, the histories of the two regions diverged. In East Devon enclosure of open field arable took place relatively early - as early as the thirteenth century in some villages - and was usually accomplished by hedging around of small bundles of strips or even of individual strips to produce landscapes composed of numerous elongated one- or two-acre closes. In the South Hams, by contrast, not only did enclosure take place later, at many places in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, but the process was considerably different; as many as ten or twenty acres of strips might be thrown together to produce one of the large, generally square closes which still characterize the region today. Detailed study of manuscript evidence relating to a number of manors in each region has suggested several reasons for these contrasts. In East Devon, early specialization in pastoral farming, associated with (perhaps even the result of) exceptionally rapid growth of population, precipitated enclosure of open field arable: because enclosure was for livestock, and because it took place during a period of active demand for land, the resulting closes were small in size. The South Hams region, on the other hand, remained principally a producer of grain, a role for which it was eminently suited on account of soils and position. The region was not therefore affected like East Devon by early enclosure for livestock farming; and when enclosure did take place, it was often during a period of declining population and slack demand for land in the later Middle Ages when tenants had opportunities of consolidating large acreages of strips. In this case study, a number of related physical, demographic and technological inputs can be seen to have been important in bringing about marked differences in the development of field systems in the two regions.

Some problems for the Devon historian

H. L. Gray devoted to Devon only eight pages of his 'English Field Systems', for he regarded the county as similar in many respects to Scotland, Wales and Ireland, turning to those countries for material to illustrate what he considered to be a 'Celtic' system common to all parts of western Britain. Subsequent work on Devon has been concentrated to a large extent on so-called 'open fields'. But even if we knew all we would like to know about these open fields, no more than a

chapter of the county's field systems history would have been written. For at all times (and especially after the enclosure movements of the Middle Ages) open fields were to be found at only a small proportion of the total number of settlements within the county. About the enclosed field systems associated with the majority of settlements, we are still very much in the dark.

Professor Hoskins (see bibliographical note) has done much to illuminate the origins of single farms surrounded by small closes reclaimed from the waste; yet we still know next to nothing about their later history. The same could be said for other counties in which 'open fields' disappeared at an early date. We therefore have few guides into the labyrinth of questions which could be posed about the form and management of enclosed field systems. Nevertheless, several problems immediately spring to mind. One concerns the obviously dissimilar processes which led to the creation of enclosed farms of differing size and lay-out. Another concerns contrasts in management between the enclosed farms of Devon, operated in severalty, and the communal 'open field' regimes of the Midlands. The question of receptiveness of farmers in enclosed counties to agricultural innovations is an extremely important one. The management of hedges is another fascinating subject for study. Hedges did not serve only to prevent stock from wandering; a surveyor at Uphay in about 1560 reported that, although there was no woodland on the manor, hedges gave the tenants 'suffytient fewell and tymbre . . . for their necessarye expence'; and a manor court at Kenton in 1599 decided that removal of hedges was 'contrary to our custom' because it might result in future disputes over ownership of land. These remarks illustrate two more of the many roles occupied by the hedgerow. Finally, the size of closes poses several questions basic to an understanding of enclosed field systems. For too often Devon is described as a county of ubiquitously small closes. Yet William Marshall, at the end of the eighteenth century, was perceptive enough to notice that, although some parts of the county were remarkable for 'the smallness of the fields', closes in other regions were 'large', 'well sized' or 'generally large'. His subjective impressions are confirmed by precise details contained in manuscript sources.

Region	Acreage sampled	Average acreage of closes
South Hams	3745	4.9
Dartmoor Borders	1530	3.3
Red Devon	2914	2.9
Culm Measures	3079	3.5
East Devon	1734	2.9

for a sample of sixteenth and seventeenth century surveys covering some thirteen thousand acres reveals significant regional differences in the size of closes (see table). Explanation of these differences will be possible only after careful studies of the management of enclosed field systems on many manors (and even individual farms) within each region.

Sources

Research into field systems requires, above all, a good grasp of the techniques used in evaluating a variety of manuscript sources. Many of these sources are mentioned in Mrs. Erskine's article on Devon farms ('Devon Historian', vol. 2), for documents which are useful in tracing the ownership of a farmhouse often contain details of its fields. The forms of fields are most clearly and unambiguously represented on maps. For almost every Devon parish there is a tithe map, dating from about 1840, together with an apportionment which gives information on the ownership, occupation, acreage and land use of each field; for some manors there are earlier estate maps which are almost as detailed. Devon has very few estate maps dating from before 1700, so for the preceding two hundred years one must turn to manorial surveys. The most detailed of these contain full lists of a manor's holdings and of the names, acreages and locations of the parcels into which each was divided. For the medieval period, the forms of fields can be partially reconstructed from manorial extents (equivalent to surveys, though not usually so detailed) and from deeds and leases if these contain data on the lay-out of a holding's land.

Documentary sources relating to the management of field systems are fewer and less easy to interpret. Much can be learnt in general from the writings of agriculturalists, especially from William Marshall's 'Rural Economy of the West of England' (2 vols., 1796; reprinted 1970) and from Vancouver's 'General View of the Agriculture of the County of Devon' (1808; reprinted 1969). Passages on agricultural practice in the works of earlier topographers, discussed by Dr. Youngs in 'Devon Historian' vol. 1, are also useful. For individual farms, data on management can be found in account books and probate inventories, but both are scarce, the former because few farmers maintained accounts, the latter because most Devon inventories were destroyed during the war. Details of medieval demesne management occur in account rolls which, again, survive for only a very few manors. Finally, no student of field systems should avoid searching for court rolls of the manors in which he is interested. The most numerous of early documents other than deeds, the most neglected and often the most difficult to use, medieval court rolls contain a wealth of incidental detail on field systems and related subjects. Later series are just as useful and their interpretation is usually far easier.

Taking second-place to documentary material is the visual evidence. Much can be learnt from the landscape itself, but, like any other record, it needs careful and thoughtful interpretation. In particular - and this is a point on which it is easy to go astray - the form of fields today can tell us something about

their form in the past, but nothing about their management. Thus a pattern of wide ridge and furrow seen running across a stretch of moorland indicates that when the moor was last cultivated it was ploughed up into strips; but the pattern gives no clue about how often the moor was sown, how strictly its cultivation was regulated, or about any other aspect of its management. Similarly, it is dangerous, without supporting documentary evidence, to use an existing field pattern as evidence for the processes which brought it into being. It is often assumed, for example, that the minute strip-shaped closes which are so noticeable in parts of Devon are everywhere the products of enclosure of former 'open field' strips, as shown on Fig. 2.c. Yet other modes of origin for precisely similar forms can easily be postulated (Fig. 2.a and b). What the documentary evidence indicates is that although strip-shaped closes resulted from enclosure of 'open field' strips on some manors (in East Devon for example), on others they could be created through altogether different processes. The belief that like forms necessarily had like origins is one of the principal pitfalls of field systems research.

Terminology

Terminology presents another pitfall. One problem and source of confusion has arisen because historians writing about field systems have not always defined the terms which they use. The term 'open field', for example, seems to mean one thing to one historian and something quite different to another. This is partly because it has been so loosely used and partly because it is, in any case, an imprecise term. Most so-called 'open' fields were, in fact, enclosed by permanent hedges. Their principal distinguishing feature was not the form of their external boundaries but their internal subdivision into unenclosed parcels. 'Subdivided field' has recently been proposed as a more accurate term than 'open field'. Its use, and the standardization and definition of other terms connected with field systems, would certainly make for improved communication between historians.

Another aspect of the terminological problem is that documents themselves may contain unusual and sometimes bewildering local terms, or more commonplace terms with special local meanings. We need local glossaries as well as a dictionary of standard terms. The South West in particular had a very distinctive farming vocabulary. The term 'landscore', for example, perplexed a whole generation of local historians until it was established that this was the provincial word for an unenclosed parcel in a subdivided 'open' field. There was also a local term for an undivided close: 'parke', derived from the Old English diminutive *pearroc* which also gave us the word paddock. The term was not restricted, as in modern usage, to description of the enclosed land surrounding a large house. Evidence from manorial surveys indicates quite clearly that it was the most widely used local term for a close, especially a small close; and we have the unequivocal statement of a seventeenth century farmer at Ashburton that 'in the vulgar speache of the Devonshire people', a close 'is called a parke, land that which is nott inclosed is not usually called by the name of a parke'.

Bibliographical note

H.L. Gray's 'English Field Systems' (Cambridge, Mass., 1915; reprinted London, 1959) is still indispensable as a factual and methodological guide to the study of field systems in the country at large. It has been discussed in the context of more recent work by A.R.H. Baker, 'Howard Levi Gray and English Field Systems: an evaluation', 'Agricultural History', 39 (1965). Much of this later work may be found in the 'Transactions' of local societies; the best survey of it will be the bibliographies in A.R.H. Baker and R.A. Butlin (eds.), 'Studies of British Field Systems' (Cambridge, forthcoming). Current publications have been listed in 'The Agricultural History Review' since 1953. For Devon, substantial additions to Gray's findings are H.P.R. Finberg, 'The open field in Devon' in W.G. Hoskins & H.P.R. Finberg, 'Devonshire Studies' (London, 1952), reprinted in H.P.R. Finberg, 'West-Country Historical Studies' (Newton Abbot, 1969) and two papers by W.G. Hoskins which throw much light on the fields associated with isolated farms: 'The making of the agrarian landscape' in 'Devonshire Studies' and 'The highland zone in Domesday Book' in W.G. Hoskins, 'Provincial England' (London, 1963). I have attempted to take some of their suggestions a little further in 'A geographical study of the field systems of Devon and Cornwall' (unpublished Ph.D. thesis, 1971, available in the Cambridge University Library). Excellent guides to the county's farming practices are H.P.R. Finberg, 'Tavistock Abbey' (Cambridge, 1951; reprinted Newton Abbot, 1969) and R.G.F. Stanes, 'A georgicall account of Devonshire and Cornwall', 'T.D.A.', 96 (1964). Examples of studies of individual settlements and their fields are A.H. Shorter, 'Field patterns in Brixham parish, Devon', 'T.D.A.' 82(1950), A.H. Slee, 'The open fields of Braunton. Braunton Great Field and Braunton Downs', 'T.D.A.', 84 (1952), and E. Gawne, 'Field patterns in Widecombe parish and the Forest of Dartmoor', 'T.D.A.', 102 (1970). R.A. Butlin, 'Some terms used in agrarian history: a glossary', 'Agricultural History Review', 9 (1961) is useful as an introduction to basic terminology; A.H. Shorter discussed some local terms in 'Landscape stitch and quillett fields in Devon', 'D.C.N.Q.', 23(1949); but there is still no comprehensive guide to the county's farming vocabulary.

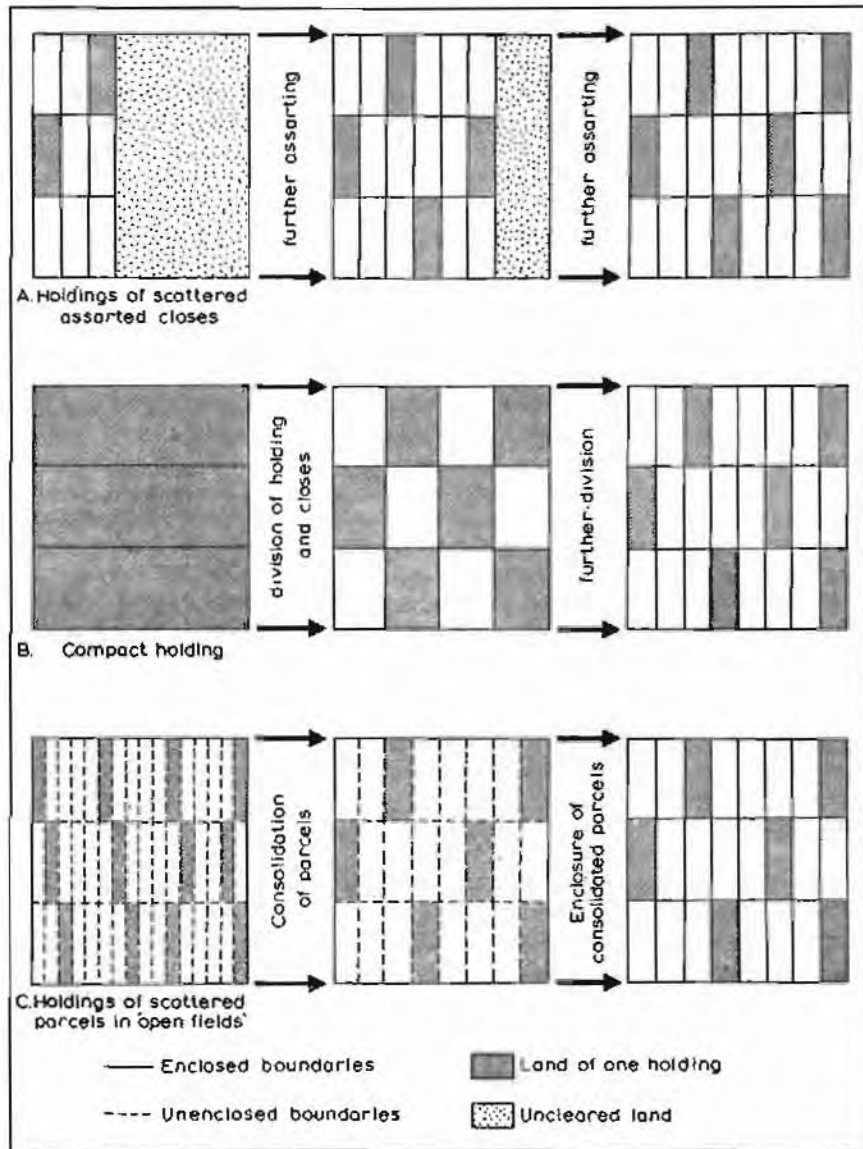


Fig. 2. Possible origins of narrow strip-shaped closes.

A SURVEY OF LODDISWELL PARISH BASED ON MILLES' ENQUIRIES
Christian Michell

Over a period of many years Loddiswell County Primary School has been involved in the study of local history, which is complementary to national history. One cannot really divorce one from another. This has culminated in this village school, with less than 100 pupils on roll, making a survey of their parish, based on Dean Milles' Queries, circa 1750. It was done in three years by a succession of pupils between the ages of 7 and 11 years, and finished before the retirement of the Head Teacher, Miss Margaret Common, in the Summer of 1970.

The project caused great interest in school, and in the parish. There was close co-operation between school and parents. Grandparents had much to give; they were constantly and relentlessly interrogated and the generation gap narrowed. Armed with a copy of Milles' replies for Loddiswell, copied from the original at the Bodleian, the pupils with two teachers and a great deal of enthusiasm, set out on a period of research which proved to be exhilarating and rewarding.

As the school is over 20 miles from the nearest good reference library, this presented some difficulty. Fortunately preparation had already been made by the teachers involved in this mammoth task. A copy of the 1840 tithe map had been traced, the 1851 census had been copied, numerous photostats collected, Feoffees' documents stored in the church had been sorted and read, and the Parish Registers transcribed. Great was the excitement when it was discovered that the fifth entry in the baptisms in 1556 was that of Bridget Carswell, the mother of Sir John Elyot. Here was living history!

The children took over from here, they carried home questions and brought back replies on scraps of paper, giving the most valuable information for posterity. Farmers sent replies concerning agriculture; octogenarians and one centenarian all had vital information. This was sifted, verified and collated. Every day brought its new task dealing with further information. Letters were written by the pupils to archivists, and Plymouth Library contacted by phone. The first question given by Milles is, "What is the true modern name of your parish? How do you find it spelt in ancient records?" This was unanswered by the incumbent in 1750. The class, (7 - 11 years), which answered this question was already conversant with the section on Lodeswilla in Domesday Book, (indeed had built the Loddiswell extract into a cumulative ditty to the tune of "Twelve Days of Christmas"). They knew the spelling in 1086. Here was a start; we took heart and proceeded with confidence. Photostats of documents were passed round the class, from which they picked out the different spellings down the centuries. Census figures were taken from Domesday Book (families), Compton Census, The Protestant Oath, Bishop's Queries, and Hoskins' Devon. Each class worked, sometimes as a whole, but more often small groups worked on some particular aspect. Those who attend the Parish Church studied and recorded their findings, the Congregational Church patrons studied nonconformity. A few young nursing cadets were given the task of "health", and wrote interesting information from the time of

the "plague" as recorded in the Parish Register in 1590, the first smallpox inoculation 1813, dates on a tomb stone relating to a whole family of children, and 19th and 20th century epidemics, together with details of modern facilities for health. A group made a comparison of a census of workers in 1851 with one of 1969. They discovered that in 1851 there were "11 smiths, a farrier, 4 cordwainers - also 3 boot and shoe makers, 3 woolcombers, 7 tailors," in 1969 none. The 23 farmers of 1969 compare with 26 of 1851. Similarly a group worked on the number of inhabitants of some of the farms and houses from 1841, 1851, 1861, and 1970. A boy living at Tunley farm-house in a family of five, discovered 15 people lived in his house in 1851, including a governess.

Local trade was studied and recorded by those most nearly related. The great-grandson of W.J. Guest, the founder of the South Hams Packing Station, was able to record that W.J. Guest was the first man to start bulk milk collection in the South West. The Home Bakery was studied - the nonagenarian grandfather kindly gave prices and numbers of loaves produced in his bakery in 1886 and in 1970. He described how business has flourished from the days when a "kit", or hand barrow, was used to distribute the loaves, to the proud day when a horse and trap was bought, and finally motor vans.

Boys living on the fringe of the parish helped make a survey of the bridges over the Avon, with a map. Whereas three were listed in the 1750 Queries, there are now twelve. Under the question concerning climate, a boy wrote a description of the 1891 blizzard.

The queries impinged on many subjects - maps had to be drawn, calculations to be made, coats of arms copied. Some field work was done, visits were made to Blackdown Rings, and to Exeter, to see the Cathedral - with special interest in Bishop Stapledon, believed to have held land in Loddiswell, and to see the Devon Domesday Book. Loddiswell Church had a number of visits. Margaret Common took a maths group who measured the church and with the aid of a clinometer, measured the height of the tower, and on returning to the classroom they were delighted to discover the figures coincided with figures given in Milles' replies. Visitors were somewhat surprised to see pupils in this country church quietly carrying out their various tasks, copying the list of incumbents, studying memorials, drawing coats of arms, listing bells and noting their vital statistics.

Both National and British Schools were studied. News of the old National (church) school came from Alice Yalland, the centenarian former teacher, and the octogenarian daughter of John Tapp, Head Master 1876-1910. Reports on local charities produced the information that Sir Matthew Arundell had given the parish a useful charity in 1591, and that his mother was Margaret, sister of Catherine Howard.

The 1750 replies name only two "gentlemen's seats"; the 1968-70 version gives a short history of four houses. Hatch Arundell in some detail from 1243, and includes the division of Hatch in 1637, from the Port Elliot archives, with

notes on cost of labour in 1746, from the Benthall Papers, now in the County Archives. Also used was an indenture (1816) discovered locally. A terrier of the Vicarage - in 1683 (County Archives) - was copied. Mention was made of Alleron, with its unique round-walled garden, and of Woolston House, both formerly owned by the Furlong Wise family.

"Are there any remarkable facts of History relating to the parish?" was answered in 1750 with the solitary word "NONE", but great interest was roused over writing accounts of people connected with the parish. Sir John Eliot, through his mother, held land here and was lord of the manor. The Furlong Wise family, and Richard Peek who gave the village its "British" school, all received mention. Richard Peek, who walked to London, and with his brother built up a great tea importing business, rose to be sheriff of London. This captured the imagination of the children. The Guildhall Record Office kindly sent the class useful information, and a photostat of a Declaration signed by Peek when he became sheriff in 1832. He gave Loddiswell its school in 1856.

"Additional Information" was given when the questions given by Milles had been answered. This included wild flowers collected, illustrated and documented. There was an identity kit picture of one Mary Lovcroft, who allocated her clothes in her 1693 will. One girl discovered that Mary Lovcroft was about 100 years behind prevailing fashion.

The original copy of the survey is illustrated with maps, early and contemporary view cards, and drawings. A copy was sent back to the Bodleian, with the request that it might be redone in 200 years time'. So it was finished. This was living history, written by children, concerning those who had fished in their river and laboured in their fields. It is obvious that this thing could never be really finished, there are always more facts coming to light. Jeremiah Milles has made a great impact on our lives'.

THE JOYS AND SORROWS OF WRITING A PARISH HISTORY- some object lessons .

Hugh Peskett

The major problem of the local historian is finding material. A parish I have been working on had, when I started, nothing covering the 17th and 18th centuries except parish registers and parish officers accounts; the local record offices had very little. I looked up the last known, Elizabethan lord of the manor in the 'Dictionary of National Biography', and traced the modern descendants of his nephews and heirs named, in 'Burke' and 'Debrett'. Letters to these gentlemen (S.A.E. enclosed is an important rule) produced the major find we all dream of: over 150 leases for lives, court rolls and books, five surveys, bundles of letters from stewards and lawyers, account books, computus rolls; previously unknown and scattered in three places between Somerset and Sussex, (but xerox copies save a lot of time and petrol) the joy of such a find has only been tempered by having to devise an indexing system to digest it all. But the lesson is to try the simple enquiries under our noses.

Local knowledge, too, is not always what it seems. There were several local families with the same surname, clearly for various reasons connected, who protested strongly they were not related. I finally worked out they were so; I went to the doyen of the family, in the farm his forbears had owned as freeholders, copyholders before that, and had been in 1580 "sub-tenants contrary to the order of the lord's court". He showed me, carefully written out by successive generations, what I had traced in registers of four parishes and leases for lives in three other counties; more, he had copies of the various wills. He explained "I didn't tell 'ee before, as I didn't want they lot" - meaning his kinsmen through a common ancestor who died in 1691 - "knowing they was related and getting over-familiar." The other type of local knowledge is the "pet theory" upset by facts, like the lady who thought her barn was mediaeval, and quite angry to be shown the account for building it in 1592, or, more commercially, the publican whose brochures were two centuries in error on the age of the inn; his worry, however, was the Trade Descriptions Act! Tact and diplomacy on these occasions, even "suppressio veri" - for a while anyway - will often induce them to dig out those old papers from under the stairs which brutal truth would not produce.

But the greatest danger is from past historians. When Risdon came to the parish, a gentleman was living in one house whose step-mother was heiress of an ancient line very similar in name to the house. This, he declaimed, was their ancient inheritance. Later historians, even one who wrote in 1962, took this at its face value, and elaborated on it, regardless that it threw a spanner into the known mediaeval history. A respected Devon historian and barrister, 60 years ago, even gave the church some heraldic stained glass of that family's arms. (But his accuracy was such that he was proud of his own name being that of a local juror in 1337, conveniently forgetting his own grandfather had changed their surname when moving from Devon ironmonger to London lawyer.) Disproving a red herring which has once appeared in print can be so time-consuming; this one

required, inter alia, searching negatively five inquisitions post mortem, unprinted, at the Public Record Office. The simple answer is that Risdon made a wild guess from a coincidence of name; the family in question were only lessees, not owners by inheritance. Now someone has got to re-write the guide to the parish church to explain that stained glass. The moral of this is to accept nothing without a contemporary source being quoted, and that nothing acquires reliability by being printed.

A besetting fault of Victorian and earlier historians, too, is their obsession, in the mediaeval period, with genealogy and the inheritance of manors; too much mediaeval local history is a tedious succession of I.P.M.'s. But if one looks into the wider context of their family connections and the other manors they held, they emerge as people, with human problems; I have found a knight with a tiresome mother-in-law in 1318, and the fascinating reactions of another gentleman bearing a Domesday name, of the purest Norman breeding, when his sister and heiress married a butcher in Exeter. There is a lot of interest in the period, well worth the often plodding search it takes, and treasure in those endless shelves of the Chancery Rolls.

History, however, ends tomorrow; it is all too easy to slow up and neglect parish history after the Tithe Map. But far more economic and social changes have happened in the last century than in the previous thousand years. For the parish I am writing about, the opening of the railway in 1870 was probably the greatest single event since the Saxon Conquest, in terms of consequences for a small largely pastoral agricultural community; and only the Milk Marketing Board prevented, in the years between the wars, a far worse agricultural depression than followed the Black Death. Knowing how the railways changed the face of one village, will our children be recording the consequences of the M 5?

THE SOCIETY OF ELIZABETHAN DEVON; THE VALUE OF THE EVIDENCE John Roberts

For many years the history of their county has been of much interest to Devonians. Only recently, however, has their attention been devoted to analysing the structure of society in former days, and there are gaps in the available evidence that makes this often difficult. The interests of a contemporary writer, or the inadequacy of a series of records, leave us often without details where we should like to have them. Nevertheless, the cumulative effect of the coherent clues to the Elizabethan county is impressive. John Hooker in his *Synopsis Chorographica*, the first, and still largely unprinted account, gives the view of an experienced, trained, legal mind, which clearly picks out only those things which he wished to see or to emphasize. Squalor, heretical ideas, mechanical arts, luxurious living, domestic details and the games of children did not interest him, nor most of his contemporaries. But the very bias of a writer may be a benefit to the historian, for it can indicate vividly what he needs to beware of and can partly discount. It also throws upon him the need to investigate sources.

Further, the sources for the period are often at their best when telling things which the documents were not primarily designed for. Thus a pardon in the Patent rolls will probably enshrine the story of a crime or an accident believed or officially accepted as true and as such it reveals something which was certainly plausible and within the accepted experience of the judges and jurors. It was framed in a form to ensure the legal safety of the man pardoned and it therefore needed to be the truth, as this was generally believed.

A date of appointment of a sheriff was fairly conventional. If it varied within a day or two, no matter. Usually one may accept it as substantially accurate and only rarely does some mention of action by a sheriff at the end of a year raise doubt in one's mind as to who is concerned, the incoming or the outgoing incumbent. The appearance of a date of appointment in the spring or summer is a different matter. It always betokens a death or other reason for replacement of the sheriff. Thus we can have fairly complete faith in the validity of the list of sheriffs and thence work out a chronology of the political and social shifts in the county.

Subsidy rolls are different. Dr. Hoskins has indicated how, after the 1524 subsidy, the figures became largely conventional. Thus one cannot hope to get from the later lists of names on the roll either a complete list of those who could afford to pay subsidy, nor any estimate of their relative wealth. What use, then, can they be?

First, if someone appears on a roll, it is clear that he had a dwelling, probably his chief residence, in the parish and Hundred where his name appears. Further, he is almost certainly of local importance and may very well be of county status. It is not unlikely that the names of those paying subsidy, and the order of wealth assessed, were either a rough indication of position and local prestige or of

the price that each was prepared to pay to claim such prestige. It also means - fairly obviously - that he (or she) was alive at or just before the date of assessment.

Occasionally some event like the signing of the 1572 county court indentures for the election of the Knights of the shire by a series of freeholders gives a long list of attendances on a particular date. It clearly does not indicate all those entitled to attend, nor does it show any clear order of dignity in the signing, nor does it suggest why any or all of those attending were at Exeter on that day, even though probably all of them were legally under an obligation to be there. It appears as an almost random selection of minor gentry but it does reveal how the enduring and ancient administrative arrangements of the Anglo-Saxons could still rely on the continuing response of the freeholders, who were legally the voters. More interesting, perhaps, is the likelihood that many others of the gentry were present but that, since there was no dispute about the election, there was no necessity for them to sign the indentures.

Stories told in law-courts are probably never completely true. The winning of a case is no proof that even the court has accepted the tale told. Sometimes, however, the truth seems to emerge in the dialectic of the prosecution and the defence and it must have impressed the court in this way. Often again the value of evidence lies more in the plausibility of what is said. An Elizabethan said these things because, true or false, he thought they would seem likely and might be accepted. That can reveal the man or the time to us more quickly than the correct details of, say, a death by drowning that could equally well have occurred in 1571, 1671 or 1971.

Nor are other legal documents necessarily more direct. The legal fictions of 'fine' and 'recovery' to transfer land, 'commissions of enquiry' to confirm privilege, 'mortgages' to disguise loans, 'grants' to cover trusts, all can be confusing and obscure. Nevertheless, each may offer information for our purposes quite remote from the ostensible cause of the transactions.

Almost every series of documents can offer more information than one can gauge at first sight. Thus, for example, the series of land transactions enrolled on the county clerk's parchments from 1538, which have been calendared in Devon, and which were almost entirely concerned with the sale and grants of land, yet may be a mine of useful information. As an example of what one could hope to get out of a close study I would include:- much material upon different classes, the yeomen, lesser gentry, merchants and their relationships; the names and professional work of some practising attorneys, the break-up or building-up of estates in various places, and some indication of the diligence or lack of it shown by the officials compiling the rolls. Most of this will come from correlating the information with that from other sources, as always, but the whole success of research in history, as elsewhere, comes in working from the known to the unknown. We work to a pattern and discover it repeated or modified as we progress over the edge of our certainties.

The benefits and disadvantages of working backwards or forwards in time stem from this fact. It is too easy to assume an identical pattern in say, the work of the sheriff in 1600 as in 1500 or in 1700 because the office is nominally the same and the families supplying the office are often identical. Just as easy to assume a transformation of the office as a result of the rise of the justices of the peace, the burden of new statutes and radical changes in society. One must steer a careful course in charting the true changes of the pattern and use a multitude of inadequate sources to come to conclusions.

If these conclusions are approximate and broadly accurate, we may have done our job. Until a few years ago, I had a far better idea of the work of justices of the peace in the 16th century than in the 20th. This hardly mattered; my modern impression sufficed for purposes of understanding my society. Then, by chance, I was brought into much closer contact by becoming a justice myself and I necessarily learnt a great deal about JPs in the 20th century. It is true that my understanding of my own society was sharpened thereby and perhaps if I were to study the present-day magistracy for a number of years my appreciation of it would be even better. But for most purposes this would be irrelevant, an unneeded refinement.

So, too, we may assume that in history, approximation to truth is required according to the scale on which we are working. To study the impact of Francis Drake's circumnavigation on public opinion in Devon, one might need to know the exact date of his return. However, I suspect that the materials for such a labour are almost totally lacking; therefore, in this connection the problem of whether or not the letters first mentioning his arrival in Plymouth are dated correctly is insignificant. Similarly, Walter Raleigh's year of birth has been widely mistaken as 1552. Correcting this to 1554 makes necessary almost no modification to his position in Devon and national history but it enables a good deal more sense to be made of the lesser, if still interesting, details of his early career.

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A DEVON ANTHOLOGY by Jack Simmons. Macmillan, 285 pp. £2.75.

A vast number of people have written about Devon, from various aspects, both national figures like Kingsley, Keats and Fanny Burney and local worthies like Cecil Torr, John Prince, and Baring-Gould. Jack Simmons, Senior Professor of History at the University of Leicester and a Devonian on his mother's side, has made a splendid anthology of such writing out of his own voluminous reading.

His interests are far from being purely historical as a glance at the Contents pages shows - Natural History and Landscape, Places, Characters, Food and Drink, and a host of other 'subjects'. The book is very well done indeed. What comes through is not just a selection of set-pieces but a final impression of Devon as a whole, even though Professor Simmons disclaims in his preface any intention to offer such a complete portrait.

The trouble with reviewing an anthology is the constant temptation to start quoting, and this would be endless in such a well-chosen collection. Perhaps one can give the best idea of the range of writing chosen here by citing some of the names of those who appear in the section on Natural History and Landscape - Henry Williamson, Eden Philpotts, William Gilpin, Charles Kingsley, Cecil Torr (the author of that masterpiece 'Small Talk at Wreyland'), W.H. Hudson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Edmund Gosse, and still others.

Jack Simmons has always been a wide-ranging man in his reading and his interests - no narrow specialist he, as the Americans would say - and the result of his lifetime of reading is this superlative anthology with well over two hundred pieces, some long, some short, but all to some point. This book would make a marvellous Christmas present for Devonians who have gone into exile, or for devoted friends of Devon at home. But Christmas or not, here is the perfect present. It is not a sentimental collection, such as Devon (and Cornwall) so easily attracts. We all know that Herrick, quoted here, spoke of "dull Devonshire" but Keats on the Devonshire character is devastating. I break my own rule to quote this piece:

You may say what you will of Devonshire; the truth is, it is a splashy, rainy, misty, snowy, foggy, haily, floody, muddy, slipshod County - the hills are very beautiful, when you get a sight of 'em - the Primroses are out, but then you are in - the Cliffs are of a fine deep colour, but then the Clouds are continually vying with them. The Women like your London People in a sort of negative way - because the native men are the poorest creatures in England - because Government have never thought it worth while to send a recruiting party among them . . . Were I a Corsair I'd make a descent on the South Coast of Devon, if I did not run the chance of having Cowardice imputed to me; as for the Men they'd run away into Methodist meeting-houses, and the Women would be glad of it. Had England been a large Devonshire we should not have won the battle of Waterloo. . .

Nice to know that somebody thought that we were slipshod, cowards, and degenerate. It must have been raining a long time when Keats let fly like this. This is a useful corrective to Newbolt's 'Drake's Drum' with which Jack Simmons brings his collection to a fitting close.

W.G. Hoskins

DEVON AND EXETER IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Eugene A. Andriette. Newton Abbot; David & Charles, 1971, 237 pp. £3.50.

It has been said that by asking any politically educated Englishman three historical questions it is possible to discover what his present politics are. One of these is 'For which side would you have fought in the Civil War?'. Possibly a radical then, would be a radical to-day and it would seem that old passions are not entirely spent, if the Company of the Sealed Knot, the Cromwellian Society, and the followers of King Charles the Martyr, are any evidence. Further to the Local Historian, the Civil War is still very real; battles were fought in 'our' streets, 'our' houses were burnt down, 'our' families were involved on either side, our loyalties are perhaps still involved.

All of which makes it perhaps unfortunate that this book should have an American author. The Civil War was a tragic and emotional experience for those involved, emotion lingers on and history is said to be 'past politics'. An adequate history must take this into account and Professor Andriette makes no attempt to do this. However for want of this kind of involvement this is a dull book about a fascinating subject. Nevertheless it fills a long felt gap. There is no consecutive account of the Civil War in Devon other than that which appears in Miss Coate's book on the Civil War in Cornwall, with rather different emphasis inevitably. The military activities of the Civil War in Devon up to 1646 when the first Civil War ended are clearly described. Use is made of some hitherto untapped sources, principally the Seymour papers, to describe activities in the South Hams and the sufferings caused there, notably in Harberton. No attempt is made to carry the story any further, in contrast to Miss Coate's book, where the conflict is carried to its partial resolution with the Restoration. The tale is in fact only half told. There are deficiencies too in the telling. The maps of Dartmouth and Barnstaple to show the defences are ludicrously inaccurate. St. Petrock's Church and Beacon Parks are misplaced in the first, and in the second the Torridge is shown as flowing under Barnstaple Bridge while the Yeo is mistaken for the Taw. No attribution is given for the location of the defences, many places mentioned in the text are not shown on the maps, and for the complicated events around Exeter, no map is shown at all. Distances are often inaccurate.

When it comes to social, economic and political matters Professor Andriette admits to a lack of material. This may be so, though one suspects a lot could be learnt from parish papers and from the Calendars of compounding among other things. (Nor have the Trevelyan papers at Taunton been fully searched apparently.) Worse is the fact that we are denied the details that make History live. We hear

very few of the words actually written or spoken by contemporaries, in contrast to Miss Coate's book, which is full of them. We are told that 26 gentlemen received the Commission of Array but we are not told, who they are, though this would be of interest to Devonians for whom in part this book must be written.

Further; Civil War Historians have spent much time and effort trying to determine just what was the nature of the dispute. To this end the background and wealth and family connections of the leaders on both sides have been examined. Perhaps we now know more clearly who was on which side in Devon though we could have known more yet, but nothing is done to analyse backgrounds and little is said about family connections. Is it relevant that Bampfylde and Rolle and Northcott the early Parliamentary leaders in Devon were 'nouveau riches'? Will it ever be possible to explain the divided loyalty of the Fortescues or the shifting allegiance of the Chudleighs? What moved these people to act as they did is the heart of the matter. Military activity sometimes, as with Lord Goring and Sir Bevil Grenville reveals motives all too clearly but this is the exception. For the most part in this book the actors in this tragedy are silent.

Two other points. Surely there was nothing revolutionary about the Commission of Array. It was a well established Tudor measure for raising troops and it was the Militia Ordinance, attempting, as it did, to remove from the King the last sanction, military command, that was revolutionary. Secondly is there any point in distinguishing in the title and elsewhere between Devon and Exeter? Legally they may have been separate but to all intents and purposes they were "part and parcel".

Finally Local Historians are avid devourers of local Historical gossip. There is none of this here, though much is available. Perhaps to serious historians these are frivolities but it is lack of this and lack of detail and lack of telling words that make this book dull history. (Could we not have had some local portraits, those shown are almost too familiar?) Perhaps space and time forbade a fuller treatment but it must be said that this book misses opportunities and much yet remains to be said and done about the Civil War in this County.

R.G.F. Stanes

HONITON LACE, by P.M. Inder. Exeter Museum Publication no. 55, 1971, 36 pp. 19 pl. 30p.

The Devon cottage industry of lace-making employed many women from the seventeenth to the early eighteenth centuries, but royal patronage was not enough to save it from the competition of machine-made lace. Amateurs have however kept alive this satisfying, exacting, craft, helped by the classes run by Devon County Education Authority. Their Senior Lace Making Instructress, Miss Molly Rendell, is reviving the many "fillings" found in the best old work, but now nearly forgotten.

The craft can hardly be learned from books, even if available. 'Devon Pillow Lace' (A. Penderel Moody, 1907) is readable rather than helpful; more useful is the very scarce 'Honiton Lace Book' (2nd edition, 1875) by "Devonia" (Miss M.E. Whitmore Jones). Honiton lace is included in M. Maidment's 'Manual of Hand-made Bobbin Lace Work'. Facsimiles of the last two have very recently been published.

There are brief accounts of its history in numerous books, mostly out of print and largely based on the encyclopaedic 'The History of Lace' (3rd edition, 1875) by Fanny Bury Palliser, sister of Captain Marryat. Now Pamela Inder has produced a useful compilation with new matter derived from the Exeter Museum's collection. The best of their lace has now been removed from the dark basement and is well displayed near the Costume Gallery, where readers will see that only close-up photographs can do justice to the workmanship of pieces such as the fan shewn in Pl. 5; the booklet also deserves rather better printing, but doubtless this would have made it expensive.

The account of the celebrations at Honiton of Queen Anne's coronation should be attributed to the Plymouth surgeon Dr James Yonge FRS, not 'Young'.

Alison Wilson

PAPER MAKING IN THE BRITISH ISLES; AN HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY, by Alfred H. Shorter. Newton Abbot; David & Charles, 1971, 272 pp. £3.75.

Paper making became established in England in the course of the sixteenth century with the help of foreign skilled workers and developed rapidly in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Since 1945 the spread of affluence has brought about a greatly increased use of paper and expanding home production has in consequence been supplemented by a growing volume of imports. The study of the history of this industry was a life-time preoccupation of the late Dr Shorter. As a historical geographer his concern is largely with the location of works and their period of production. One of the valuable aspects of this volume is that it brings together the series of national and local maps which show where paper making was at one time or another carried on. Special chapters are devoted to paper making in Wales, in Scotland and in Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands but the major part of the book is devoted to a portrayal of the English scene. From these maps it can be seen that paper making in Devon grew from one work at Countess Wear founded in 1638 to four works (out of a total of 45) at the end of the seventeenth century. A century later 30 (out of the 425 mills in England and Wales) were in Devon with a particular cluster in the Culm Valley. From a peak in the 1830's of 47 the number then declined sharply in the later nineteenth century to 10 in 1910. Sixty years later there were eight mills, producing a wide range of papers, in Devon so the county continues to make a contribution, albeit declining, to the English paper industry. To the appendix on water marks which draws on Dr Shorter's Hilversum volume might well have been added as a statistical appendix a series of tables dealing with annual production, employment etc., since the

graphical method of representation currently favoured by geographers does not easily provide a continuous or precise record of the course of events. Readers interested in paper making in Devon (and in other counties too) should perhaps note that the index is not as helpful as it might be and in particular should be warned that the two useful lists of paper mills in existence between 1601-50 (p.21) and in the 1690's (pp. 29-31) have not been indexed. But these are small matters which should not detract from the fact that this volume provides a fitting epitaph to Dr Shorter's devoted life of scholarship.

Walter Minchinton

The North Devon History Teachers' Group has prepared a 'Poor Law Kit' of photostat documents ranging from 1742 to 1833, on the 'jackdaw' model, to illustrate the working of the pre-1834 Poor Law in the borough and parish of Barnstaple. The accompanying notes are most useful, and can be faulted only on minor points (e.g. Bridewell was not the concern of a single 'London parish', and it may be doubted if the 'publick newspapers circulated in this country' meant in 1775 the national Press: militia were selected by lot rather than 'named', and substitutes were paid rather than 'persuaded'). A considerable, but perhaps unavoidable, omission is a removal warrant under the Settlement Laws; but particularly relevant are a page of weekly accounts for the diet of poorhouse inmates in 1824, rating and out-relief records, and parish apprenticeship indentures, together with a map of Barnstaple as it was about 1830. The notes contain much interesting local historical detail.

The kit is suitable for use by adults as well as in schools, and sets may be borrowed from The Warden, North Devon Teachers' Centre, c/o Caen County Primary School, Braunton.

R.R. Sellman

OLD COCKINGTON, by Joan F. Lang, vol. 1, 1971, Torquay, 60p.

The author of this booklet has collected a vast amount of material relating to the parish, material which she presents, for the most part, in the form of a notebook rather than that of a continuous history. There are substantial extracts from documentary sources, together with a wealth of photographic illustration. The latter, and also the maps, are however reproduced on too small a scale. The lordship of Cockington is traced from Alric the Saxon to the Prudential Assurance Company and the villagers are not forgotten. But the most useful sections are those relating to the buildings in and around the village, so much so that many readers will feel moved to go and take a closer look at Cockington, preferably out of the tourist season.

Joyce Youngs.

ASSIZES AND QUARTER SESSIONS IN EXETER by M.M. Rowe and A.M. Jackson. Exeter, Exeter City Council, 1971, 16pp, 15p.

This delightful booklet has been produced to mark the ending of the Assizes and Quarter Sessions in Exeter after, in the case of the Assizes, eight hundred years. The histories of The Assizes and Quarter Sessions as institutions, and of the offices of Clerk of the Peace and Recorder are explained; definitive lists of the Recorders and Clerks of the Peace and of the Sheriffs are given and sources indicated. There are photographs of, among other things, the Assize Court, an old print of an execution, a facsimile letter from Queen Elizabeth I, all contained within a cover of the most royal purple superimposed upon which, are the opening lines of a charter granted to Exeter by King Henry VIII. The layman may wonder at and perhaps regret the passing of such venerable institutions and offices but at least their end is suitably and fittingly commemorated in print.

R.G.F. Stanes.

A HISTORY OF MODBURY, compiled and published by the Modbury Local History Committee, 1971, 25p.

In an excellently-produced booklet the compilers have put together what they could find out and, in some cases, surmise from intelligent observation, about the historical development of this still charming small town in the South Hams. One is pleased to see a proportionate amount of space devoted to the last two hundred years, proportionate, that is, to the information readily available. For example, population statistics from 1801 to the present day are effectively presented and the notes about buildings are brought right up to date. The maps, too, are informative, and the drawings add considerably to the reader's pleasure. The booklet is to be recommended to anyone contemplating the writing of a parish history. It is also a good point of departure for further research on Modbury itself. When a new edition is being prepared it would be helpful if fuller references could be given to documentary sources.

Joyce Youngs.

CROSS ROADS AND MILE STONES

As roads are widened and altered some old wooden cross road signs have disappeared, some for ever, and some to be replaced by circular metal posts sometimes without the name of the cross roads. Historical evidence of some value can be lost in this way. Without the cross road evidence it might not be known for instance that, probably, the Manor Court of Cheriton Manor near Feniton or possibly even that of Feniton itself met at a cross roads now named Court Baron Cross. Similarly Wallaton Cross near East Allington retains the old name of a farm now a barn, once Walladon, and before that probably Welredon or Walreddon, which is 'Wealas Raeden', the 'community of Welsh or Britons'. Without this evidence we should not know that here, in Saxon times there was a surviving group of British or Celts.

Nor might we know of the two public houses on the old road from Honiton to Chard, once a main road out of Devon, named the 'Three Mariners' and the 'Royal Oak'. Perhaps also we should not know that there were drifts or drives of cattle and sheep grazing the commons, as they then were, on the top of the Blackdowns near Broadhembury and Sheldon, if it were not for the name Drift Way Cross.

Many cross roads must be now the only clue to the existence of farms or cottages now disappeared. Others indicate odder things. Bittery Cross in Talaton is said to commemorate the hanging of some of Monmouth's supporters as a warning to the Yonges of Escot, erstwhile friends of that unfortunate man. Others are obscure. What is Sandowl or the Sign of the Owl Cross, what is Spanish Lane End, are all the Forches or Forces Crosses in Devon the site of the Parish Gallows or are they merely tautological? There must be many other examples.

At all events it would seem a pity if they were to disappear. To try to avoid this fate it was agreed at the last meeting of the Council of the Standing Conference to write to the County Surveyor on this matter. His reply runs as follows:

"I agree that there is a need to retain the junction/name location and you will be pleased to learn that it is in fact policy to incorporate such details on the new signs which are being erected on County roads. Normally the information will be displayed so that it can be read by drivers approaching the junction from the side road(s) although in appropriate cases it will also be incorporated on advance direction signs on the main road."

A similar enquiry about milestones elicited this:
Department of the Environment Circular No. 59/71 (24th Nov. 1971)

"The milestones found on many roads are items of historical interest and value and wherever possible Highway Authorities should ensure that the stones remain in situ. Large stones of this type can be dangerous obstacles and regard should be paid to the 1969 case of Levine v Morris in reaching a decision on whether or not to remove a stone. Where a stone is removed

because of road alterations or danger consideration should be given to the safe resiting of the stone as near as possible to the original location."

Members of the Standing Conference may know that Mr. Masson Phillips, Chestnut Cottage, Maudlin Road, Totnes, is conducting a survey of milestones in Devon and would like information about milestones in East and North Devon. A recent comment of his was that it is still a good idea to keep an eye on milestones where roads are being widened, particularly where private contractors are involved, although replacement and repositioning are now written in to their contracts. The same might be said of Cross Roads and their names.

The Standing Conference on Devon History has held two Conferences since the last issue. The first was held in October at Tiverton at the Grammar School. This was attended by about forty people. Mr. W.P. Authers has been investigating the histories of Tiverton 'Worthies' and gave a talk on some of these remarkable characters in the morning. This was followed by a visit to the Tiverton Museum which houses among many other things a fine collection of farm tools and implements and the complete hand laundry from Knightshayes House.

In the afternoon Dr. Roger Schofield from Cambridge University explained some of the problems and opportunities available to Local Historians who make detailed use of the Parish Registers.

The February Conference took place in Barnstaple. Between forty and fifty people attended. Dr. Joyce Youngs talked about the history of her native town in the morning, paying particular attention to relations between the town and its feudal lord and the light that is shed on this by the early Barnstaple Charters, now discovered to be forged. This was followed by a visit to St Anne's Chapel Museum and the Parish Church with its interesting collection of 17th Century monuments, and to the Athenaeum, where one of the forged charters and a collection of other documents were laid out for inspection.

In the afternoon Dr. Michael Rose of Manchester University spoke on the Poor Law. Any parish historian must surely concern himself with the fate of the poor in his village. Poor law documents figure prominently among the Parish Records and often need interpretation. The Poor Law itself has been much misunderstood and the study of local records has done something to clear up difficulties.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

The Broadclyst History Society. Secretary: S. Fouracre, Broadclyst County Secondary School, Broadclyst.

The Burnard Association. Established 1968. President: Lady Sayer. Subscription: £1.05 and 53p (young or retired). Researches genealogies and biographies of name group. Publishes News Letter. Hon. Secretary: P. Burnard, Upper Barford House, Bramshaw, Hants.

The Holsworthy Local History Society. Secretary: Brian Hughes, Folly Meadow, Derriton Road, Pyworthy, Holsworthy.

The Ilfracombe Society. Secretary: Miss Andrews, 2 Bath Place, Ilfracombe.

The Teignmouth Local History Society. Secretary: I.A. Stephenson, 23 Higher Woodway Road, Teignmouth.

New Address:

Railway and Canal Historical Society (Devon and Cornwall Branch). Secretary: M.J. Messenger, Bank House, 150 High Street, Ilfracombe.

MUSEUMS

The following Museums have been opened since the list in this magazine was compiled:

Farm and Agricultural Museum, Buckfastleigh.

Farm Museum, Chilsworthy, Holsworthy.

It is hoped to obtain further details of these and publish them later.

EXETER UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

Exeter and its Region edited by Frank Barlow, 1969, £2.30.

The Maritime History of Devon by M. Oppenheim, 1968, £2.10.

Tuckers Hall Exeter by Joyce Youngs, 1968, £1.75.

The Ports of the Exe Estuary, 1660-1860 by E.A.G. Clark, 1968, £2.10.

Industry, Trade and People in Exeter, 1688-1800 by W.G. Hoskins, 1968, £1.75.

Exeter Houses, 1400-1700 by D. Portman, 1966, £2.50.

Benjamin Donn's Map of Devon: 1765, 1965, £3.00.

Seventeenth Century Exeter by W.B. Stephens, 1958, £2.25.

The Franciscans and Dominicans of Exeter by A.G. Little and R.C. Easterling, 1927, 50p.

The South West and the Sea edited by H.E.S. Fisher, 50p.

The South West and the Land edited by M.A. Havinden and Celia M. King, 50p.

Industry and Society in the South West edited by Roger Burt, 75p.

Ports and Shipping in the South West edited by H.E.S. Fisher, £1.25.

Henry de Bracton 1268-1968 by Samuel E. Thorne, 1970, 25p.

Itinerant Justices in English History by R.B. Pugh, 1965, 25p.

The Expansion of Exeter at the Close of the Middle Ages by E.M. Carus-Wilson, 1963, 25p.

Exeter in Roman Times by Aileen Fox, 30p.

Leofric of Exeter: Four Essays to commemorate the foundation of Exeter Cathedral Library in AD 1072, 1972, 75p.

To be published shortly:

Farming and Transport in the South West edited by W.E. Minchinton

Available from:

The Registry, University of Exeter, The Queen's Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ