

STANDING CONFERENCE FOR DEVON HISTORY

PRESIDENT	Professor W. G. Hoskins	
CHAIRMAN	Professor W. E. Minchinton	
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Mrs. J. G. Barber	
HON SECRETARY	R. R. Sellman	
HON TREASURER	Dr. R. L. Taverner	
HON EDITOR	R. G. F. Stanes	
COUNCIL	O. A. Baker	Miss A. Grant
	F. L. Booker	T. J. Miles
	Miss T. Brown	J. R. Pike
	M. Dickinson	J. W. V. Roberts
	Mrs. A. M. Erskine	Mrs. M. M. Rowe
		A. D. Wood
		Dr. Joyce Youngs

All correspondence relating to subscriptions, membership, personal local history interests and offers of work or assistance should be sent to The Secretary, Standing Conference for Devon History, c/o The Community Council of Devon, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD.

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 March, 1974.

The map on the cover is Dartmouth Haven from a chart drawn in the reign of King Henry VIII, preserved in The British Museum. Reproduced in Lysons' 'Devonshire' part II, (1822), 154-155.

CONTENTS No. 7		Page
Images of Urban Life in the Nineteenth Century	H. J. DYOS	3
The Devon and Exeter Institution Library	SHEILA STERLING	4
The Devon Historic Buildings Trust	WALTER MINCHINTON	7
'A Letter from my Aunt' or a Study in Genealogy	H. STEVENSON BALFOUR	9
The Old Grammar School, Kingsbridge and the Cookworthy Museum	I. G. LEECH	12
Talaton Taphouse Tophouse or Fairmile Mill	R. E. WILSON	14
Local History Research Activities in the South Hams 1972-1973	KAY COUTIN	18
A Village Church Band and its Music	ROLLO G. WOODS	20
Book Reviews		
Stannary Law. A History of the Mining Law of Devon & Cornwall by Robert R. Pennington		24
Transport and Shipowning in the West Country ed H. E. S. Fisher & W. E. Minchinton		25
A Guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Plymouth and Millbrook ed Cynthia Gaskell-Brown		26
The Archaeology of the Industrial Revolution by Brian Bracegirdle		27
Industrial Archaeology in Devon ed Walter Minchinton		26
Sailing Ships and Emigrants in Victorian Times by Alison Grant		25
The Witchcraft and Folklore of Dartmoor by Ruth E. St. Leger Gordon		28
Interim Bulletin		22
Local Population Studies		21
The North Devon Museum Project		22
New Addresses		6
New Society		11

IMAGES OF URBAN LIFE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

H. J. Dyos

The great divide in English local history is the nineteenth century. On the far side of it stretches a seemingly interminable period in which it might be said that history was nothing without its locality. The discovery and pursuit of local history in that period has immensely enriched and clarified not only the meaning of countless individual communities but caused whole chapters of the history of great events to be rewritten.

For most of the places that once stood sufficiently far apart for their history to be told as tales in themselves the nineteenth century brought confusion. It was then that the traditional congruency between locality and community began to break down, social networks to spread, and the older meaning of community to be supplemented by a dozen others. To the local historian hoping to begin his quest on his own doorstep and to cope with the changes brought to the locality and the community in the course of the last 150 years the challenge is therefore a formidable one. So much that was once formed by local factors is now subject to less immediately discernible ones. If the heroic period of English local history ended with the coming of the railway, the question for local historians now is how to deal with the burgeoning cities they helped to create.

The census books are some help in enabling the local historian to see faces in these urban crowds, but what these largely anonymous masses thought about what was going on or how it felt to be undergoing these upheavals cannot ever be conjured from such statistics. For that we must look elsewhere.

Chesterton spoke of every brick in a city having "as human a hieroglyph as if it were a graven brick of Babylon" and we can now see how enormously variegated the visual archive belonging to the Victorian city is.

It supplements the more familiar literary images of the period, which for contemporaries had the special task of enabling people to face the inescapable realities of urban growth. That growth was not only bewildering but fascinating and even horrifying, and those writing directly about it offered images of civilising and unregenerative possibilities -- of caritas and cupiditas -- that were constantly dissolving into each other. Most of the visual as well as literary images of urban experience in the nineteenth century were fugitive as well as complex and they had a technology of their own, for the camera imposed subtle shifts of focal distance; and mass journalism, an urban invention of more insidious power, multiplied and divided them more inscrutably still. Nor must we forget that the urban artifact itself in this period was a composition of complex images, something that had emerged not only through the accretions of earlier generations but in the teeth of obscure architectural dialogues amounting in the end to a veritable babel.

The interpretation of such a body of evidence is full of pitfalls, even to specialists expert in each of these visual vocabularies, let alone to generalists like local historians who want to read as many of the human hieroglyphs as they can. Sometimes the writing actually remains on the wall in more or less truthful monumental inscriptions or in less overt archaeological forms, and the physical superstructure of a place often remains even now the most complete and least ambiguous document we have to the human happenings of the past.

CONTRIBUTORS

H. Stevenson Ballfour is a retired school master living at Georgeham.

Kay Coulin lives near Kingsbridge and lectures on Local History for the W.E.A. and the University Extra Mural Dept.

H. J. Dyos is Professor of Urban History at the University of Leicester.

I. G. Leech is Warden of the Cookworthy Museum at Kingsbridge.

Sheila Stirling is Librarian at the Devon and Exeter Institution.

R. E. Wilson is a retired business man living at Sidmouth past Chairman of the Council for the preservation of Sheffield antiquities.

Rollo Woods is Deputy Librarian at the University of Southampton.

The Annual General Meeting of the Standing Conference for Devon History took place at Exeter University on Saturday, 12th May 1973. Basil Greenhill spoke entertainingly on 'Some aspects of Maritime History in Devon' and illustrated his lecture with slides. In the afternoon the business meeting took place. The list of officers and members of the Council appears within the front cover. Mrs. J. Barber is now Vice-Chairman. Around eighty people were present.

Many thanks are due to Professor Minchinton who made the arrangements for the meeting and invited the speakers for this and other conferences.

The next Conference will take place at Bideford on Saturday, 3rd November. General arrangements are as for other conferences and the speaker will be Andrew Jewell Keeper of the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading.

A further conference has been arranged to take place at Totnes on February 23rd 1974.

The next A.G.M. of the Standing Conference will take place at Exeter on 4th May, 1974.

The testimony of artists, magazine illustrators and photographers is more tendentious because it is invariably filtered for us by editors (and lecturers) who show us only what they want us to see, but its interest more certainly arises from the fact that such things once represented what their originators believed their contemporaries should see. In this respect they embody evidence as to contemporary values and social attitudes which are as vital to the local history of social change in the nineteenth century as they are to its more general manifestations.

In this lecture almost all the slides -- about 80 of them all told -- portray images belonging to Victorian urban life itself, either in the form of actual lantern slides or stereocards, or of contemporary photographs, woodcuts and steel engravings from popular magazines, posters, advertisements, street ballads, drawings, and paintings, chosen as much to illustrate the astonishing richness and significance of such an archive as to provide a pictorial commentary on its principal theme of the Victorian city as the emblem of modernity, the arena in which the way we live now was first embarked upon (a theme which has since been embodied in the book *The Victorian City: Images and Realities*, ed. H. J. Dyos and Michael Wolff, 2 volumes, 1973). The starting point for this must nevertheless be a progress through a few of the principal towns of Devon and Cornwall, looking for the meaning of some of the writing that is to be read on the walls of their buildings, the symbolic embellishments and stylistic assertions of public and commercial buildings, the monuments and paraphernalia of the streets.

Clearly, it is seldom possible to gather or convey such perceptive impressions as easily or confidently as one can the well-found evidence of reliable documents. But if local historians are to get to really close grips with their subject in the great centres of population after the railways came they must be prepared to handle more fragile evidence than they commonly have to do for earlier times.

Yet W. G. Hoskins has taught us how to grapple with the hidden history of the hedgerow; H. P. R. Finberg with the nuances of placenames. There are some social realities in contemporary and near-contemporary urban history which seem barely intelligible except by even less tangible means than these. The literary, artistic, architectural, above all the popular images of latterday urban life hold, one feels, a whole series of messages about the general acceptability of urban life and its local idiosyncracies -- but they are mostly still in code.

H. J. DYOS

THE DEVON AND EXETER INSTITUTION LIBRARY

Sheila Stirling

The Devon and Exeter Institution possesses what is probably the most comprehensive private library in Devon, if not in the West Country. The first printed catalogue of the Institution Library appeared in 1816, three years after it had been founded by the "zealous endeavours" of certain local Gentlemen concerned "to prevent the character of a County so favoured by nature from sinking below the level of other districts". Their first aim was to establish a library and museum for "promoting the general diffusion of Science, Literature and the Arts, and illustrating the Natural and Civil History of the County of Devon and the History of the City of Exeter." The Museum happily soon faded out but the library went from strength to strength. A century and a half later, the Library's catalogue, that first slim volume having long since grown to a dozen unwieldy guard-books, was transformed into a modern card-index by dedicated part-time workers.

The library itself however had become fossilized: lack of money meant that fine bindings deteriorated on the shelves, shortage of space prevented new growth or re-arrangement. It was at this point that the Institution, anxious that the Library should continue to fulfil the major purpose of its founders, gained the co-operation of the University of Exeter in administering the collections. A new policy was also decided: the Library should be developed as a Centre for South-Western Studies. (South Western is here defined as the Counties of Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset, and "Studies" include not merely the local history of the four Counties, but geography, geology, botany, folk-lore and any other interests relevant to the South West).

In the first 10 years of its life, the Institution laid out some £4,000 on the purchase of books. When Richard Ford, the author of the *Handbook for Travellers in Spain*, the best travel book in the English language, was looking for a house, he settled on Exeter as the most pleasant of all English towns in which to live. Not the least of its attractions was the Institution Library. He wrote to a friend in London that "this Exeter is quite a capital, abounding in all that London has, except its fog and smoke. There is an excellent institution here with a well-chosen large Library in which I take great pastime and am beginning my education." He had already become a member, and in 1855 became President of the Institution, an office which continues to this day. Many years later, in the early 1890s poor George Gissing, who had come to live in Exeter, also found the Library a life-saver.

By the beginning of this century, when funds were apparently running dry, the Library had grown to 40,000 volumes. It was always intended to be a working reference library, not a bibliophile collection, and thanks to its early prosperity, it possesses substantial holdings of natural history, biography, genealogy, heraldry and, of course, many of the major county histories. The local topographical material includes several scarce items, though quantitatively it does not compare with collections in the City and County Libraries.

Gaps are now being filled wherever possible by buying widely in the various branches of local studies. A recent large deposit of books has added to the Library's already good nucleus of source material for genealogical studies, especially family histories and parish registers.

Bound volumes of eighteenth and nineteenth century local newspapers are one of the library's strongest assets. Now shelved downstairs to be easily accessible, they include several long runs not obtainable elsewhere in the South West. Devonshire Chronicle, 1831-1852; Devon Weekly Times, 1863-1901; Western Luminary, 1813-1857; Western Times, 1831-1850; Woolmer's Exeter Gazette, 1813-1901; and at least two early items not in the British Museum, Exeter Mercury, 1714-1715; Protestant Mercury, 1715-1717. (See L. Smith: Devon newspapers: a finding-list) The Library also possesses a long run of Trewman's Exeter Flying Post from 1813-1897. It has a manuscript index to this Newspaper covering the period from 1763 onwards, compiled by the last editor. Manifestly, there can be no complete index to any long run of newspapers, nor possibly any selective index that would not rouse someone's fury for its omissions. Nevertheless, it is a most valuable guide to a wide range of subjects covered by the newspaper over the space of 154 years and is the first necessary stop in any search.

Maps, like newspapers, are indispensable to local studies and the Institution has a useful collection all card-indexed. The most important single item is a complete set of the 1st edition of 1:500 Survey of Exeter (1876). Recent purchases include a complete set of the 2½" O.S. maps for the four counties and a number of 1" geological maps.

Local history cannot be studied in isolation from national history. The Institution is fortunate in possessing a good collection of State Papers and of such fundamental series as the Statutes of the Realm and the volumes published by the Record Commission and the Historic Manuscripts Commission. Many of these 'background' volumes (e.g. Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs) are not to be found even in the University Library. The Library continues to acquire general background material essential for more detailed work on the South West.

Not surprisingly in view of its nature and origins, the Institution also possesses extensive sets of 19th century periodicals e.g. Gentleman's Magazine, 1731-1870; calendars e.g. Annual Register, 1758-1898, and professional lists e.g. Army List, 1848-1898; Navy List, 1850-1902; Clergy List, 1850-1899; Law List, 1849-1897, which provide a remarkable richness of biographical source material for the Victorian period. It also possesses long runs of the Oxford University and Cambridge University Calendars, from 1849-1892.

What is increasingly rare today, the Library is still privately owned and largely maintained by the subscriptions of members. In recent years the Devon County Council and Exeter City Council have made generous grants towards the repair and binding of both books and newspaper files, and the large back-log of neglect (due to a period of poverty) is now being rapidly overcome.

Membership of the Institution costs £4.00 per member, and £2.00 for any additional member of the same family. Special arrangements exist for University Staff and Postgraduates, and for senior members of the County and City Library Staff. Visitors are welcome to inspect the library, but for continued research facilities, temporary membership, at a cost of £1 per month is required. The library is open on every weekday except Saturdays from 9.15 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

The Institution building in the Close is itself one of the major historic monuments of Exeter. It was formerly the grand town house of the earls of Devon (the Courtenays) and the shell is substantially the late mediaeval house they knew. In 1813, when the Devon and Exeter Institution took over the premises, the house naturally had to be extensively remodelled for library purposes. For example, the present Outer Library was formerly the large front garden of the Courtenays' house, and the Inner Library was their Great Hall. The mediaeval lay-out has disappeared except to those who study the old plan made in 1764 which hangs in the Library, and the atmosphere is now pure early nineteenth century. Most old libraries have such an atmosphere, redolent of generations if not centuries of scholarship. The Devon and Exeter Institution possesses it to a high degree whether one wishes to engage in serious reading, or one wishes merely to escape from the teeming streets of Exeter - even in the Close during the summer - into the peace and quiet of a civilised past.

New Addresses

Devonshire Association. History Section. Secretary: Mrs. W. Woodham, Flat 3, Moon Valley, Vicarage Road, Sidmouth.

Devonshire Association. Tiverton Branch. Secretary: R.H. Webster, 20 Park Road, Tiverton.

THE DEVON HISTORIC BUILDINGS TRUST

Walter Minchinton

In the past decade realisation has grown that if our heritage of buildings is to be preserved, some public action is necessary. For the most important buildings grants are fairly readily available. The maintenance of castles, country houses and cathedrals is now recognised as a matter for national concern. But the full quality of landscape and townscape can only be maintained if lesser buildings, some of which may not in themselves be of great architectural importance but are vital for the part they play in a greater whole, are kept in good heart. And the matter has acquired greater urgency as the activities of the bulldozer and the earth mover range more widely over our land. Moreover older buildings are disappearing at an alarming rate because it is often cheaper to build anew than to repair and restore. Lincoln, Exeter and Worcester are historic cities where the ravages of planners and commercial developers have equalled or outrun the ravages of war. To meet this challenge historic building trusts have been established in various counties in England while the National Trust in Scotland performs this function.

The recent establishment of a trust in Devon is largely due to the initiative of the Devon Conservation Forum. The suggestion that a Devon Historic Buildings Trust should be set up was then welcomed by the Devon County Council which has made its formation financially possible. After some complicated and delicate negotiations the Devon Historic Buildings Trust was formally established at a meeting held in the Great Hall of the University of Exeter on 9 July 1973. As the first historic building trust to be set up in England in support of European Conservation Year 1975 this event was warmly welcomed by Lady Dartmouth on behalf of the UK Executive Committee for European Architectural Heritage Year.

The council of management of the Trust is headed by the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Roborough, and consists of elected representatives and specialist members. The elected representatives are Colonel J.E. Palmer, the present chairman of Devon County Council, Charles Ansell, the chairman of the new Devon County Council, W.H.S. Ayre (who is chairman of the Trust) and E.R. Day. Dr. A. Robinson Thomas represents the Devon Conservation Forum and the three specialist members are A. Hollow, Professor W.G. Hoskins and Professor W.E. Minchinton. The Standing Conference for Devon History is thus strongly represented on this new body. The clerk to the Devon County Council, C.V. Lucas, acts as legal adviser to the Trust while the County Treasurer, O.A. Saunders, is the Trust's honorary treasurer. For economical operation and administrative convenience, John Mejer, the secretary of the Devon Conservation Forum, acts as Secretary of the Trust and is supported by clerical assistance now financed jointly by the Forum and the Trust.

The Devon Historic Buildings Trust will operate on the revolving fund principle. The intention is for it to buy properties which are in danger, either through threat of demolition or neglect, to use its funds to restore them and then to resell such properties with appropriate safeguards. The proceeds from such sales will then be used to purchase further properties. The Trust will thus require money for two purposes; to pay its administrative staff and to finance the purchase and restoration of properties. To start the Trust off the Devon County Council has made an initial grant of £25,000 and has promised an annual grant of £5,000 for the continuance of the Trust's activities. It is hoped that the three county boroughs - Exeter, Plymouth and Torbay - will also make grants as well as the smaller local government authorities such as urban and rural districts and parish councils. But it is not intended that the Trust should be entirely financed from public funds. Rather it is hoped that industry, charitable foundations, commercial concerns and individuals will contribute generously to the Trust. With a county the size of Devon the problem is clearly enormous. Welcome though it is, the initial grant from the County Council to establish the Trust will clearly do no more than enable one property to be purchased. If any effective work is to be done in Devon, much more money is necessary. If the Trust could command £250,000 or £500,000 then some real and immediate impact could be made on the problem.

The technical panel of the Trust, which consists of the three specialist members advised by officers of the County Council, has already had several meetings and has considered over 40 properties but so far has not been able to find a suitable property for purchase. Before the Trust was set up, Devon County Council had acquired Ireland House, Ashburton, to restore and resell it on the same basis as the Trust will operate and this project is now going ahead. But even in its short life the Trust has not been entirely without effect. One property owned by a local authority in the county is now being restored by that authority as a result of the interest expressed by the Trust which indicated it wished to purchase and restore the property.

To establish appropriate criteria is not easy but the Trust has decided that amongst its initial guidelines to decide what properties should be considered for purchase are the following:

- (1) That preference should be given to listed buildings since their listing indicates that they have already been graded as buildings of some importance. Nevertheless it is clear that not all buildings in the county which merit listed status do in fact appear on the lists so it may well happen that properties which are not listed will be considered.
- (2) That the property or properties should be visually important. At an early stage it is certainly important that the Trust should not only take action but be seen to be taking action.
- (3) That the property should be vacant. If it is not delays and complications will inevitably arise. In fact occupancy has already posed problems in some cases which the Trust has considered.
- (4) That the property should be saleable after restoration. If the revolving fund principle is to operate it is obviously important that any properties the Trust restores can be sold in order that the Trust can continue its activities.

- (5) That the property is incapable of restoration under other grant procedures. Grants are available from other sources, both national and local, for the restoration of certain buildings. The intention, quite properly, of the Trust is to supplement what is being done in other ways in order to make the available resources go as far as possible.

But the Trust hopes that the effect of its activities will not be confined to the purchase and sale of properties. It hopes that its efforts will also encourage by competitive emulation private owners, industrial and commercial firms and others to play their part in preserving the historic architectural heritage of Devon.

Although the Trust has its own small staff and can call on the County for a limited amount of specialist help, the interest and concern of the public at large is also necessary if the Trust is to operate effectively. Because Devon is such a large county, it is that much more difficult to keep a watch on development. Early warning by members of the public of demolition or of neglect will be therefore most welcome. Indeed suggestions of properties for consideration by the technical panel will be actively considered. The Devon Historic Buildings Trust exists to serve the people of Devon. It will be the more effective, the more Devon men and women both subscribe to its funds and act as its ears and eyes. Will any member of the Standing Conference for Devon History who comes across suitable properties for purchase by the Trust kindly let the Secretary, John Mejer, (Devon Historic Buildings Trust, Bradninch Hall, Castle Street, Exeter) or me know?

"A LETTER FROM MY AUNT" OR A STUDY IN GENEALOGY

by H. Stevenson Balfour

Pirandello wrote "Six characters in search of an author" but this is the tale of one character in search of an ancestor.

It all started with the turning up of a letter from my aunt, written about 1925, among some family papers, to her sister, my mother, and which contained some interesting information about her mother, my grandmother, which I considered wanted looking into and checking.

The letter mentioned among other facts that the grandmother's father was a Dr. Henry Burney and her great aunt was Fanny Burney: together with the statement that the said Dr. Henry had married Admiral Searle's daughter in the "Victory". This last statement sounded fishy and started the downward path of checking, the result of which was many years of research and much trouble but with the main fact unsolved.

Luckily the marriage of Dr. Henry came within the dealings of Somerset House so a letter produced the marriage certificate from which it was discovered that he had married a Captain Searle's daughter at Portsea Church in the county of Southampton and that his father was William Burney: the service being taken by his brother, the Rev. Edward Burney. It also gave the fact that he was a widower. Other sources gave that Captain Searle was the captain of H. M. S. Victory so that it is more than likely that the reception took place there, also he did become an admiral. Thus two facts were established.

A search of the lists of the graduates of Oxford and Cambridge at the Exeter City Library gave some information. Henry Burney was at Sidney Sussex, Cambridge and was the 4th son of William Burney, LL.D. of Gosport, Hants, and that the Rev. Edward was the 5th son and later headmaster of the Royal Military and Naval Academy at Gosport. Unfortunately William Burney was at neither of the two universities otherwise his father's name would have been given and the problem solved.

The next step was a search through the volumes of the Gentleman's Magazine at the North Devon Athenaeum which gave, among other entries on the Burneys, that Dr. Charles Burney, Mus. Doc. and the father of Fanny had eight children and seven of these could be accounted for so giving rise to the hope that William was the eighth.

Volume 102 gave the date of William's death, February 20th, 1832 and that he was a LL.D. From another source this was found to be an Honorary degree given to him by Aberdeen. A letter to the incumbent of Portsea Church which was sent on to the archivist at Southampton gave a reply which quoted "The Story of Gosport" in which William was described as an A.M. Maths. This was a useful piece of information which resulted in letters, with stamped envelopes for reply, being sent to the Universities which were in existence at that time, middle or late 18th century. Unfortunately this was completely negative, he had not been to any of them or at least no record existed. So where did he get his degree?

A visit to the Society of Genealogists to search their records produced the information that a William Burney had been teaching at King Edward's School at Southampton for five years and that he left in 1789. The Gentleman's Magazine had already given that a William Burney had married a Miss Closson in Southampton in that year. Same man? So a letter to the Hampshire Record Office at Winchester was sent to ask them to check the Bishop's transcripts of the Churches of Southampton which were in existence at that time, (Crockford had given their names) in the hope that the bridegroom's father's name was given but with no luck.

The Gentleman's Magazine gave the name of the bride, Miss Priscilla Clofton (Closson), but the transcripts gave the Christian names as Selina Louisa. Miss Cash of the Hampshire Record Office was kind enough to telephone the Southampton office to check the original entries in the registers and they were the same.

The Hampshire Record Office gave me the address of the Hampshire Chronicle offices and a letter to them produced a copy of the obituary of William Burney but alas did not name his father.

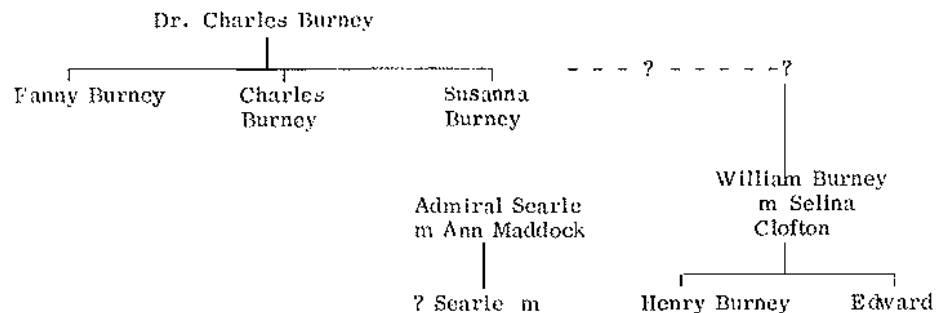
A request to Somerset House for the will of Dr. Charles Burney, Mus. Doc. proved negative but they sent the letter on to the Record Office, but with no result except that they recommended a letter to the Hampshire Office with the above result.

A letter to the Record Office in Chancery Lane resulted in photostat copies of the census returns for 1841 and 51 which gave useful information but, of course, no information on William who had died in 1832, but it did say that Edward's wife was born in Wales and a sister in Africa.

As Dr. Charles had been an organist at King's Lynn a letter to the incumbent plus a small fee resulted in the information that the only entries in the registers were those of Charles and Susanna Elizabeth Burney, Fanny's brother and sister. "Fanny Burney" by Austin Dobson states that she was born at King's Lynn, an error for Lyme Regis.

So there the enquiry rests with no positive result, but with a fair amount of new information about the Burney family and how to search.

Now it could be rightly said "What has this to do with Devon and the Devon Historian?" But Rear Admiral Searle was the son of James Searle of Staddlescombe, Devonshire and he married in November 1796 Ann, daughter of Joseph Maddock of Plymouth Dockyard and Tamerton Foilott. In the north aisle of the church there is a stone to a Mr. Samuel Maddock which reads, "Here lyeth the body of Mr. Samuel Maddock of Plymouth, merchant, by his lady ye Honble Isabella, daughter of ye Right Honble, Warwick Lord Mohun, who died ye 2 December 1713, also Mrs. Catherine Maddock his daughter who died ye 25 Aug. 1712 in ye 15th year of her age." So there is a connection with Devon.



THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KINGSBRIDGE AND THE COOKWORTHY MUSEUM

I.G. LEECH

The residents of the South Hams today owe a debt of gratitude to two Kingsbridge boys, who left their homes to seek their fortunes elsewhere. In 1719, William Cookworthy, then aged 15 and one of the six children of a poor Quaker widow, walked to London to become an apprentice at the Plough Court Pharmacy of another Quaker, Sylvanus Bevan. He later returned to Devon, and with the assistance of his late masters set up in business in Plymouth as a wholesale chemist and druggist.

A little less than 100 years earlier, Thomas Crispin journeyed to Exeter to be apprenticed to George Shapcott, fuller. He became a successful merchant and a prominent citizen, being described as "One of those public benefactors, founders of schools and alms houses, who did for Exeter what Gresham accomplished in London and Colston in Bristol". In 1632 he became a Freeman, and in 1670 built and endowed a Grammar School in the main street of Kingsbridge to provide a good education for the poor boys of the town.

This inscription still remains over the arched entrance

This Grammar School was
Built and endowed 1670

By

Thomas Crispin of ye City of
Exon, Fuller, who was born
in this Town, ye 6th of Jan 1607-8.

Lord what I have thou gavest me
And of thine owne this I return to thee.

In 1931, when the Local Education Authority opened the new Grammar School at Westville, the original foundation ceased. There is good reason to believe that Cookworthy was a pupil at Crispin's School, but the link between the two men was forged anew in 1970 when after a period of considerable success with upwards of 150 pupils on the register at one time, the school presented a sad and grimy face to Fore Street. Pigeons nested on the stairs, in dormitories and in the gutters, and damp and decay were taking their toll.

The large main schoolroom on the first floor, a duplicate of one at Eton, still retained an air of grandeur with its panels carved with the initials of generations of Kingsbridge boys. The carved canopy, with the Royal Coat of Arms of 1670 still discernible above the Headmaster's seat, remained as a memorial to the many men who had spent their days in educating and training boys for a fuller life. But as various proposals for the use of the building were examined and rejected, it seemed as though the building was destined for eventual demolition to make way for a car park, office block or super-market.

But a local resident, Mrs. Evelyn Northcott, had long known the history of William Cookworthy and of his discovery in Cornwall of kaolin and china-stone. This culminated in his patent taken out in 1768, "to make, use, exercise and vend a kind of Porcelain newly invented by me, composed of Moor-stone and Growan-clay". This was the "true" or hard paste porcelain, the porcelain of the East, and a collection of items from his manufactory at Coxside is to be seen in the Plymouth Museum.

Knowing the need in Kingsbridge for a centre of cultural activity incorporating a local Museum, Mrs. Northcott wrote to the English China Clay Company at St. Austell, asking if they could not help to create a valid use for the building, and in so doing, honour the man, who through the discovery of this zealously guarded secret, was a founder of their industry. Their response was to purchase the Old School, and to lease it at a nominal rent to the William Cookworthy Museum Society, to make funds available for its restoration, and to promise an annual donation.

A packed public meeting in the Town Hall applauded this gesture, a management committee was elected, and with the determined help of a number of people the building was available in October 1971, and the Museum was opened by Lord Aberconway, Chairman of the English China Clay Company in May, 1972. In this way, the Old Grammar School, having once before played a vital part in the Community, took on a new lease of life.

One enters the Museum into the splendid Big School Room. Here the English China Clay Company have mounted an exhibition relating to William Cookworthy, and the work of the clay industry from the mid 19th century until today - photographs, tools and documents are effectively displayed under the watchful eye of Thomas Crispin whose full length portrait hangs on the wall.

Close by is a room once used by the 6th Form, in which the Old Boys have gathered together relics of the school remembered by many of them, school uniform, reminders of speech days and school plays, inspectors reports and lean photographs. The Local History room is not large, but space has been found to recall something of the work-a-day life of Kingsbridge in the late 19th Century, shipbuilding tools and paintings of the fruit schooners, foundry and basket makers tools, a magnet for the children, a working model of a water driven corn mill, typical of the 40 mills which once worked in the steep sided South Hams valleys. The wall hung panels of photographs are a great attraction; a nostalgic glimpse of life before the motor car, when the quays were busy with the bustle of trade and not car parks, as now, and when sheep were sold in the streets.

Kitchens are very much an attraction in Museums today, and that at the Old Grammar School with its slate flagged floor, dressers, scrubbed table and vast range cast at the Kingsbridge foundry, is the scene of much reminiscing. Beyond in the scullery the copper, dolly tub and mangle recall steamy washdays, and the dairy section is well set out with butter churn and tub, separator and cream skimmers. The white washed walls of the cobbled passageway show the collection of small farm tools and implements to advantage. Such is the rapid change in the methods of husbandry that many were in use until quite recently.

Last year 6,000 visitors came to the Museum, a figure which will be easily exceeded this year, and an added attraction will be the newly opened Costume and Print Room. The Old Grammar School has a dual purpose, and during the winter when the Museum is closed life still continues in the building with some 600 people a week coming for day and evening classes arranged by the Community College, and for lectures and meetings sponsored by local organisations. Over 500 people have subscribed to the Society, and with the support of English China Clays Ltd., Local Authorities, and the Area Museum Council, the Old Grammar School is destined to play a major role in the community; a role surely in keeping with the idealism and example of Thomas Crispin and William Cookworthy.

TALATON, TAPHOUSE, TOPHOUSE OR FAIRMILE MILL

R.E. WILSON

Just to the North of the crossing of the roads from Houton to Exeter and Ottery St. Mary to Cullompton, in the valley of the Tale, tributary of the River Otter, there was a water mill until some date between the wars. (Map reference SY 086974). It lay within the Manor of Talaton not far from its southern boundary.

Documentary particulars are to be found in the Kennaway papers in the Devon County Record Office. William Kennaway, Esq. of Exeter, at an Auction at Escot in 1795, obtained a twenty-one years lease of the tithes, mills, premises⁽¹⁾ and appurtenances of Taphouse Grain Mills for £780. The lessors were the Rt. Hon. Sir George Yonge, Bart, K. C. B., P. C. of Escot and his wife Dame Ann, Walter Palk and Robert Abraham.

An Escot Estate account book of 1803-4 has many entries for work on a new mill, for the remuneration of millwright, carpenters, blacksmith, sawyer, labourers, apprentices and a thatcher. There were charges for reed for thatching⁽²⁾ and for timber and for cartage. It cost 11/- to carry thirty-two burr stones (32 cwt.) and hoop iron from Otterton. If these entries refer to the recently dismantled mill they confirm the estimate of the age of the machinery. On the other hand they may refer to a small mill at Escot Home Farm.

At the Tithe Commutation of 1839 Sir John Kennaway was owner of the property the tenant being William Vigors. He rented the mill, house, garden, orchard and closes amounting to about ten acres. He seems to have been succeeded by George Vigers (sic.) who was in possession in 1843 when Stephen Yolland of Ashburton, miller, became tenant. His tenancy agreement sets out fully what was expected. It was on a yearly basis with a year's notice on either side, the rent being £70. Among other things Sir John reserved the right to all game and the fish box on the premises with liberty to enter and draw the hatch whenever he thought proper provided the mill was not actually at work, for the purpose of catching the fish.

(1) The name Taphouse might be due to the mill's proximity to the Inn at Fairmile.

(2) Imports from France.

It was his obligation to have the mill in tenantable repair at the commencement of the term, to the satisfaction of the Talaton builder Joseph Carter. The tenant had to keep the mill and the mill leat with its banks and hatches, as far as a lately erected weir, in good order and also the ditches and watercourses next to the road from Fairmile to Talaton and the drains from the house and mill. But if the weir were washed out by floods thus preventing the use of the mill there would be a reduction in the rent.

A postscript to the deed provided for a new wheel when required to be provided by the landlord.

The water wheel was removed in 1967 and the mill building was stripped of machinery and converted to a private house in 1971. From photographs taken by Mr. P. G. Stansell, the builder, this was a traditional type grist mill with two pairs of stones in position and provision for a third pair. The axle connecting the pit wheel to the water wheel was iron, estimated as eight inches square, suggesting construction in the early part of the 19th century.

Edward Eveleigh was the Miller by 1845. An account book from that date to 1861 has fortunately survived in the possession of his grandson, Mr. S. F. Eveleigh of Foxenhole or West Hill Mill. The book records sales of all the output of a grist mill, some farm produce and charges for milling. It is thus a record of income only, there being no indication of the sources of the grain ground nor of any running expenses for maintenance of the mill or for carting. A sole reference to wages is shown on loose papers as deductions from goods purchased by a Mrs. Gilpin - flour, meal, sharps and lard. Her rate of pay was three shillings a week.

There are 288 foolscap pages in the book of which 220 are fully covered with records. It is bound in a rather flimsy board with marbled paper cover which has been repaired by linen strips covering the spine and edges. Pasted on the cover both front and back with their written sides hidden are sheets of fine specimen penmanship written by H. Eveleigh, one dated May 1837. The pages were unnumbered and there is no index.

Only nine customers are recorded in 1845 - four of whom were bad debts, so presumably an older account book was in use concurrently. By the following year there were nineteen names and this number grew year by year up to fifty-seven in 1861 when milling entries ceased. Of the early customers only three were still on the books at the end.

Complete identification of the customers is not possible. The 1850 and 1857 directories show the locations of some. Among them were several from Ottery-St. Mary, members of the Coleridge family, J. Burrough a baker, J. Eveleigh and possibly Mr. Davy, surgeon, and others.

This town had its own corn mill, alongside the silk mill, managed in 1850 by William Smith. Other neighbouring mills were at Feniton roughly two miles to the East, Talewater, two-and-a-half to the North, with Ottery two miles to the South. Thus Edward Eveleigh had competitors on three sides. To the West were no streams sufficient to run a mill and many of the more distant customers came from that direction.

Growth of the business and the patronage of clergy and gentry indicate that Eveleigh was a respected and trustworthy miller. Probably he leased or rented the mill from Sir John Kennaway of Escot and Lord of the Manor whose account opened in 1848 and continued through the book. Sir H. Farrington, Bart. of Gosford House, Col. E. J. Honeywood of Whimble, Mrs. Buller of Street Raleigh, John Collin of Cadhay, F. J. Coleridge, solicitor, of Ottery and W. H. Dunsford of Rockbeare Court. Among the laity, and among the clergy the Revs. J. Elliott and H. Nicholls, rectors of Payhembury and Rockbeare, L. P. Welland and C. A. Hoggan, rectors of Talaton, Henry Sanders, Rural Dean of Aylesbeare, F. Hill and J. Furnival, perpetual Curates of Escot and other members of the cloth, favoured Eveleigh with their grinding requirements. Farmers, bakers, medical men, tradesmen and others were other regular purchasers. Of the one hundred and ten customers named in the account book the locations of sixty five have been traced. Seventeen came from Whimble parish, twelve from Rockbeare, eleven from Talaton and four from Aylesbeare all to the west of the mill. Of the others ten were in Ottery St. Mary parish to the south and the remainder nearby in Escot, Gosford and Taleford.

Almost all the transactions were small and in a few cases very frequent. For instance, in the years 1856 to 1860 Sir H. Farrington made an average of sixty-five purchases in a year mostly of two pecks of meal, half a peck of flour or half a sack of bran at a time. He lived but a mile from the mill. Sir John Kennaway also bought barleymeal at two pecks a time or a bushel of bran for the house. In 1861 he was charged for American Flour at 10s. 0d. a bushel, indicating the importation of grain.

By far the largest transactions were in grinding and dressing wheat, probably grown on Sir John's estates, the charge for eight bushels (a quarter) being 6s. 0d. or 9d. a bushel. For barley it was only 4d.

A separate account was kept for supplies to his stables of half to one sack of bran or one or two pecks of barley meal at a time. Up to 1850 these accounts were noted as 'Settled at Court', no doubt at the Manor Court when Eveleigh went to pay his rent.

Figures extracted for 1852 and 1857 show the income from sales and grinding to have been £172 in the former and £263 in the latter year. Quantities of the products milled expressed in bushels are given in Table 1.

Such income would hardly seem enough to cover the cost of his purchases of grain and rent and other charges. There is a note in the Sales Book dated June 20th, 1848:

"Amount of rates for Talton Mills

	£	s.	d.
Rent	52.	10.	0.
Annual Value	6.	4.	0.
Amount rated to poor	24.	0.	2½
Ottery do.	3.	16.	0.
Tithe		10.	5.
Land Tax	1.	8.	"

In Table 2 the prices charged are set out. They tended to decrease when grain was plentiful after harvest. The Corn Laws fixed the price of wheat at eighty shillings the quarter. After their repeal in 1846 landowners feared for their large profits but prices kept high for twenty years thereafter until the era of the cheap loaf came in with the flooding of the market with American grain.

Here then was a mill of modest proportions with few substantial customers as Table 3 shows.

ANNUAL QUANTITIES THROUGH THE MILL IN BUSHELS TABLE 1

	Barley Meal and Barley	Sharps	Bran	Flour	Pollard	Wheat	Meal	Oats
1852	419	60	184½	94½	123½	1	66	4
1857	163½	294	78	421	72	10	41½	108
	TABLE 2 PRICES PER BUSHEL							
1846	4s. 0d.-4s. 8d.	2s. 6d.	4s. 6d.-6s. 0d.	10s. 0d.	-	-	8s. 4d.-8s. 0d.	-
1852	3s. 6d.-4s. 0d.	2s. 0d.	5s. 0d. Sack	10s. 0d.	1s. 4d.	5s. 4d.	8s. 0d.-7s. 4d.	3s. 0d.-2s. 9d.
1857	5s. 4d.	2s. 4d.	5s. 6d. "	10s. 0d.-8s. 8d.	1s. 5d.	8s. 4d.-7s. 4d.	8s. 0d.-7s. 8d.	3s. 2d.-3s. 6d.
1861	5s. 0d.-4s. 0d.	2s. 4d.	6s. 0d.	9s. 4d.-8s. 8d.	1s. 4d.	-	8s. 4d.-8s. 0d.	3s. 6d.

VALUE OF SALES AND NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS IN A YEAR TABLE 3

	<u>Over £10</u>	<u>£10 - £1</u>	<u>Under £1</u>	<u>Total</u>
1846	2	10	6	18
1852	4	23	12	39
1857	6	25	4	35
1861	7	22	28	57

Now and then there is an entry for cutting chaff and grinding beans and flex (sic) seed and, no doubt, the wheel drove a cider mill for pulping apples from the orchard. Sales were made to a Mr. Knight of an eighteen gallon cask for 8s. 0d. and 1s. 5d. for carriage and another cask at £1. 6s. 6d. Messrs. Hake of Ottery bought four hogsheds at £1. 4s. 0d. in August 1861 and one at £1. 10s. 0d. at the sale later in the summer of 1861, which took place when Edward Eveleigh gave up his tenancy and moved to West Hill or Foxenhole Mills.

Thereafter the ledger was used to record farm produce from 1872 to 1885 - butter, cheese, apples and meal. The price of pigs varied between 9s. and 12s. with an old sow at 10s. and bullocks about 14s. the score. The price of calves was from 7½d. and 9½d. and lambs 9d. a pound.

Millers following Eveleigh were John Wright, Jesse Baker and H.H. Baker who is shown in the 1926 directory. Milling is thought to have ceased by then.

LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH HAMS 1972-1973

Kay Contin

1. Miss C. Mitchell, Loddiswell.
Continuing search of documentary sources for history of the Parish and local families.
2. Mr. Wilkins, Stokeaham, and Torcross.
Has written a short history of Stokenham Church and is now going through various Parish documents. He has a collection of slides and photographs of unusual features of Devon churches.
3. Canon J. P. Hoskins, Malborough.
Studying the history of Malborough and its church for a comprehensive account. At present compiling a list of curates.
4. Mr. Tobey, Chillington.
Assisted Professor Minchinton in the search for water-mill sites, locating 53, and photographing many, in the S. Hams, East of Medbury. He is now attempting to find a permanent home for a set of mill machinery, if possible in the Kingsbridge locality.
5. Mr. A. Chitty, Collapit.
Has given occasional lectures on lime-kilns, their history, design and use, illustrated by slides diagrams and drawings.

6. David Murch, Salcombe.
Further work on the location and identification of wrecks. Supervised a study of 19th century Ships' Logs during the winter.
7. Mr. & Mrs. Curry, Salcombe.
The history of Salcombe Castle from all available sources, and illustrated with photographs, old prints, old postcards and maps.
8. Mrs. Arnold, Wembury.
Collecting material related to the History of Wembury, include some tape-recordings of local recollections.
9. Malborough and Salcombe Local History Group.
During the winter we have had about 25 people at work, under the auspices of the W. E. A. We are fortunate in having resident experts Canon Hoskins (documents) and David Murch (Maritime) to assist us.
 - a. Dr. Shapland has supervised the recording of the Tombstones in the deserted churchyard at South Huish, and at Malborough, of which 3 copies have been made, suitably embellished with illustrations. Some analysis has been done and notes made of the most popular epitaphs. Cross references have been made with the sections studying the registers and maritime history.
 - b. A number of local deeds were examined by Mrs. Morris, Batson. These were 17th and 18th century. A resumé of these was made, with notes of associations with local families.
 - c. A demographic survey has been started, using the Parish Registers, and following the suggestions made by the Cambridge Group, who have supplied the forms. When the work has progressed (it proved much slower than anticipated) we intend to draw graphs to illustrate the population trend. A question arises whether the number of men lost at sea had a significant effect on population in this area.
 - d. A literacy survey was made, using the 19th century Marriage Register. Between 1837 and 1844 53% were literate to the extent of signing the register. From the same source a list of occupations was made, which provided more information for the Maritime section.
 - e. Mr. Fairweather, whose family owned the Salcombe Gazette, brought a number of early bound volumes of the paper. An index of these has been started. Mr. Fairweather has a large collection of early photographs and postcards, many of which he has put on slides.
 - f. Draper's accounts of 1832, belonging to Mrs. Gelder of Adams, Fore Street, Kingsbridge, were examined and some analysis is to be attempted.
 - g. The route of a ship trading from Salcombe to the Caribbean was traced and the results with notes and embellishments shown on a map of the Atlantic.
 - h. The study of Farmhouses and Cottages in the area continues. We have a number of plans, notes, photographs and sketches, which we hope will be a contribution to the knowledge of vernacular architecture in the region. We are now receiving invitations to study houses in other parts of the South Hams. In particular we would like to see more examples of smoking chambers.

1. The complete history of Salcombe Castle (Fort Charles) is being collected by Mr. & Mrs. Curry, who now own it. From the registers it was established that the Fort was in use as a dwelling for some years after the surrender in 1646.

Work on these lines is continuing this winter, under the auspices of the Department of Extra Mural Studies, Exeter University whose resident Tutor is Robert Pym Heronbyke, West Charlton, Kingsbridge.

A VILLAGE CHURCH BAND AND ITS MUSIC

ROLLO G. WOODS

The church organ is now so universally accepted as the only fitting instrument to accompany the hymns, anthems and other music of a church service that we forget that organs were banned from all churches by Parliament in 1644, and that, although they were replaced in the cathedrals and large urban churches during the eighteenth century, many village churches were without one even as recently as a hundred years ago. For roughly two centuries, therefore, what singing there was was either led by the parish clerk, or by a volunteer choir, often accompanied by a small band of three to six musicians.

Probably the only generally known accounts of these bands and choirs are those given by Hardy in 'Under the Greenwood Tree' and elsewhere, and these are the work of a novelist (a former member of a village band himself, of course) rather than a critic or historian. In fact, the bands have not attracted many historians, though K.H. MacDermott, a Sussex rector and a trained musician, wrote an excellent account of the bands in Sussex. Of critics there are plenty, and there are many accounts of struggles to improve the musical life of various churches, which begin with the abolition of the band, always accused of playing out of tune, of having an unsuitable repertoire, and of discouraging congregational singing. There must be some truth in these statements, and a general rise in the standards of church music was one result of the Tractarian movement, but there is some evidence on the other side also. Canon F.W. Galpin, now best known for his work on old musical instruments, heard a band in Dorset in 1890, and noted that "nowhere is the singing more hearty and congregational". Others tell of the hours devoted to rehearsal and the pride which the band and the village as a whole took in its music.

While information about the bands and choirs is scanty enough, studies of the music and of how they played and sang, is even more scattered. Two small collections of Dorset Carols have been published, though in modern settings, and a few villages preserve old hymns amongst their carol repertoire. (Most of the choirs went carol-singing: it was their only source of income, apart from what the church paid for strings, reeds, etc.) This may be because most of the studies have been of Anglican churches, whose hymn repertoire was in many places limited to the metrical psalter up to 1861, when 'Hymns Ancient and Modern' appeared. The Non-conformist churches also had their bands and choirs, and their hymn repertoire, of course, included the works of Isaac Watts, Philip Doddridge and Charles Wesley. However, it has been generally held that the music was of equally limited quality and quantity, and that there was little worth preserving in this tradition.

In Widecombe parish there were bands in the parish church, in two Methodist chapels and a Congregational chapel, and I have recently had the opportunity to examine some of their music books, generously lent to me by Mr. Hermon French, whose father and grandfather had played the violin at local services. The range of music is much greater than I expected. There are over 200 hymn tunes, ranging from famous old tunes like the 'Old Hundredth' to 'Old Methodist' or 'fuguing' tunes like 'Cranbrook' (now banished from church use, as it is the tune for 'On Ilkla Moor'). There are settings of the Te Deum, and several anthems, and there is a large number of choir hymns, a form of mini-oratorio popular in non-conformist churches. There are also a few items from the bands' secular repertoire, matches, dances, and so on.

All the music has been carefully copied, often in a very fair hand indeed, and it clearly includes a number of tunes written locally. The music does not require any extraordinary technical skills - the violins seldom go beyond first position - but the choir hymns in particular demand a fair amount of rehearsal, and make stories of starting weekly rehearsals for the Christmas service in October seem quite probable.

If Widecombe can produce such an extensive collection, there must surely be a wealth of other music in other Devonshire villages. I would be very glad to know of the locations of other music books, and if possible I would like to examine them, to compare them with those I already know, so that a fuller picture can be built up of this forgotten tradition, and, perhaps, a group found who would try to bring this music to life again.

LOCAL POPULATION STUDIES

A periodical published in association with the Adult Education Department of the University of Nottingham.

One of the most prominent features of the modern historical scene is the growing attention which is being paid to the detailed study of social, economic and demographic matters at the local rather than the national level. Scholarly local studies, both by professionals and amateurs, are making important contributions to historical knowledge.

LOCAL POPULATION STUDIES was founded in 1968 to provide a link between individuals and groups engaged in this work. It contains articles, some of which are listed overleaf, on many aspects of demographic and social questions as they apply to local communities and small regions. In addition, each issue lists local research in progress, devotes space to enquiries and problems and contains a report on the work of the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, pioneers in this country of the powerful historical demographic methods originated in France by Louis Henry and his colleagues.

Now that Colleges of Education and, to a lesser extent, schools are finding population studies a valuable interdisciplinary activity, there will be, from time to time articles describing such work actually in progress.

The following are amongst the articles which have appeared in

LOCAL POPULATION STUDIES

An approach to Census Returns	P. M. Tillott
An Enquiry into Seasonality in Baptisms, Marriages and Burials	Leslie Bradley
The Hearth Taxes 1662-1689	John Patten
Population Movement in Seventeenth Century England	Peter Spufford
A Note on the Incidence of Tudor Suicide	P. E. H. Hair
Parish Registers and the Problem of Mobility	Bessie Maltby

NORTH DEVON MUSEUM PROJECT

President: Sir Dennis Stacey, Bart., J.P., D.L.

Chairman: Hugh Brooks, M.A.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Alison Grant, B.A., Park School, Barnstaple

Hon. Treasurer: A.G.R. Hollis, Barclay's Bank Ltd., Bideford.

Area Representatives

Barnstaple:	R. Ley, 63 The Rock, Pilton, Barnstaple. Tel: Barnstaple 2629 after 6 p.m.
Bideford:	B. Hughes, Grenville College, Bideford. Tel: Bideford 6211
Torrington:	H. Pointon, "Netherne", Yarncombe. Tel: Newton Tracey 297

INTERIM BULLETIN

North Devon Museum Project, like societies that exist for the protection of the area's natural beauty and its historic buildings, seeks to preserve North Devon's heritage and character. Its aim is not to acquire a mere miscellany, but to preserve objects and recreate techniques and scenes in terms of the area's past development and way of life. North Devon Museum Project seeks therefore to interest, and enlist support from people both inside and outside the area for the provision of a good modern museum service in North Devon. It is hoped to include:

- (1) In Barnstaple - a central museum with responsibility for area museum administration, and housing archaeological finds. This museum should, if possible, be in close proximity to the new County Library and projected Record Office.
- (2) Somewhere on Torringtonside - a maritime museum to preserve relics of the area's important connection with seafaring and to foster the link with North America which has existed for centuries.
- (3) Possibly in the Torrington area - a museum of agricultural and industrial interest to preserve the remains of rural life and crafts which might otherwise soon be lost.

- N.B. (a) It is intended to discuss all plans fully with the Board of the North Devon Athenaeum with a view to combining or at least complementing services.
- (b) Ilfracombe, Lynton and South Molton have small museums which are "going concerns". The North Devon Museum Project in no way intends to displace these, and will welcome suggestions and/or support from those concerned with them.
- (c) Considerable archaeological excavation is envisaged in Barnstaple over the next few years. Storage and display facilities for finds will be imperative.

If the area's heritage is dispersed, sold or destroyed, left to perish through lack of proper preservation or storage, or abandoned through ignorance or complacency, the people of North Devon both now and in the future will suffer irreparable loss. To combat this danger, the North Devon Museum Project seeks a museum service with professional staff, and good display and storage facilities. Existing museum facilities in the area are totally inadequate in these respects, and cannot properly foster increasing public interest in local history, archaeology, industrial archaeology, maritime history, rural life, natural history, local geography, geology and the environment, to mention some of the subjects which museums provide. Good museum facilities are needed also by students of all ages; the North Devon Museum Project seeks to give the Schools' Museum Service, which adds so much to the education of children in more fortunate areas, a base from which to operate. With no main museum nearer than Exeter, forty miles away, North Devon is sadly lacking in provision compared with other parts of the county; the area has an increasing population to make use of museum amenities, and an important tourist industry, for which they would provide a considerable attraction.

For the above reasons, to which many others could be added, the North Devon Museum Project intends to press the County Council to consider its proposals and act on them. Additionally it hopes to attract grants from outside trusts and government departments and boards where appropriate (e.g. Department of the Environment, Department of Education and Science; Area Tourist Board etc.) A vigorous publicity campaign will be mounted to arouse interest. By these and other methods, it is hoped to make this exciting project a reality.

The Scribes of Villagers' Wills in the 16th and 17th Centuries	Margaret Spufford
Gloucestershire Village Populations	Alicia Percival
An Approach to Parish Register and Census Work (A description of a project with a school group)	K. S. Duffy
Group Research Methods in Local History	J. A. Johnston
Popular Education and Literacy	Victor Neuburg

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (two issues per annum). 75p.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Subscription Secretary:

Mrs. M. H. Charlton,
9 Lisburne Square,
Torquay,
Devon.

Cheques should be made payable to Local Population Studies.

STANNARY LAW: A HISTORY OF THE MINING LAW OF CORNWALL AND DEVON

by Robert R. Pennington. Newton Abbot: David & Charles. 1973. 229 pp. £3.50.

ISBN 0 7153 5783 2

By the nature of their jobs, miners tend to be men apart. This separation was taken a step further in Devon and Cornwall where a completely different system of law emerged to govern not only the mining and smelting of the metal but other aspects of the life of those engaged in the tin industry. The origins of this system of stannary laws is hidden in the mists of history but Professor Pennington suggests they derived from three sources: the Cornish element contributed the vague rules about the bounding of streamworks, Anglo-Saxon customs probably added the requirements as to the free status of the miner and these two elements were absorbed by the Normans who also established a coinage system. To administer the law special courts were set up and there were also Stannary Convocations or Parliaments of the Tanners in both Devon and Cornwall which met intermittently to amend and improve the stannary laws. While the last meeting of a stannary parliament was held as long ago as 1752, stannary courts continued to function until the late 19th century. The last case, brought by a Helston solicitor, was heard in 1896. After discussing these two institutions of the stannaries, Professor Pennington then deals in turn with the problems of tin bounds, with mining setts and leases, with the refining and coinage of tin and with the origins and workings of the cost book mining companies. Like the other institutions of the tin industry, these companies which evolved from the old Cornish mine partnership, were a response to a particular situation. Recognising the nature of the mining industry, they provided that the adventurer's interest should lie not in the capital he advanced but in the mine itself. And like the other institutions, they were affected by changes in society at large. In this particular case, the privilege of limited liability available after the acts of 1856 and 1862 proved attractive so that during the 1880s and 1890s most of the cost book companies were converted into limited liability companies.

Drawing on the records in Truro, in the Duchy of Cornwall Record Office and in the Public Record Office as well as on law reports, Professor Pennington has told his story systematically if a little dully within the limited legal context with which he is obviously well acquainted. But he seems to have adopted a self-denying ordinance and refrained from consulting either the voluminous literature of 19th century texts on mining law or more recent accounts of the history of the industry such as George R. Lewis, *The Stannaries*. Not infrequently the legal world could gain from a wider contact with the world at large - learned judge, 'And who pray are the Beatles?' - and this is perhaps one of those occasions. Professor Pennington has worked his own lode economically and effectively but it does not comprise the whole of the field.

Walter Minchinton.

TRANSPORT AND SHIPOWNING IN THE WEST COUNTRY, ed H. E. S. Fisher and W. E. Minchinton. Exeter Papers in Economic History No. 7. University of Exeter. 1973. 71 pp. Price 75p.

This is the seventh collection of papers resulting from seminars on West Country economic history held at Dartington Hall in 1971 and 1972. Six papers are included in this number. Michael Handford writes on the construction of the Stroud Canal eventually completed in 1779 and outlines the difficulties technical, financial, legal, and locally political that the clothier backers had to face over fifty years before success. Anthony Northway examines the Devon fishing fleet between 1760 and 1820 and shows that changes in the type of boat and methods of fishing were not matched by any change in the ownership of the fishing fleet to any great degree. Larger vessels, those that could be called ships engaged in trade, are the concern of Robin Craig who shows the effects of industrial expansion elsewhere in Britain and of the building of larger iron ships on the shipowning industry of the South West. To come ashore to the motor car, Peter Kennedy uses one of the untapped treasures of the Devon Record Office to show where the first cars were registered in Devon. The results are unexpected and surprising. Less surprising, though still slightly anomalous, is who owned them. The only non South Western paper relates to buses. John Hibbs examines the effects of legislation on the development of bus services in this country. Although examined in its national context, buses and their lack are obviously of concern to Devonians. Finally John Gillman shows, with a bonus of six delightful photographs of the port of Porlock Weir, how useful old photographs can be to build up a picture of the activities of a port in the past. This is a stimulating collection in that the authors indicate in most cases that there is much more to be done in these fields. In the national context some of the subjects studied here are very small scale but, as the editors point out, locally they were of immense and often unmeasurable importance and most people, after all, were and still are, locals somewhere.

SAILING SHIPS AND EMIGRANTS IN VICTORIAN TIMES

by Alison Grant. Then and There series. Longman 1972. 112 pp.

This book though written for schools should be of great interest to all Devon readers. Alison Grant, whose name appears elsewhere in this magazine, has combined in one attractively produced book the history of one Barnstaple ship the "Lady Ebrington", the plight of the poor labouring class in N. Devon in the mid-nineteenth century, the conditions emigrants had to put up with on board ship and when they arrived in Australia and New Zealand and the growth and decline of a local enterprise, the North Devon Shipping Company. Barnstaple is the focus for all this and it is particularly happy that it is possible to combine the log of the ship with letters from emigrants who sailed in her and did or did not make good in Australia and detailed knowledge of the people who backed and financed her building. The tale is in fact as complete as it can be and told in very human terms. There are numerous illustrations often, happily of Devon and Australia juxtaposed - what they left and what they found - and local billheads advertisements and portrait photographs. This is surely Local History at its best with the sources carefully examined and the result attractively presented.

R.S.

A GUIDE TO THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF PLYMOUTH AND MILLBROOK, CORNWALL, edited by Cynthia Gaskell Brown, Plymouth: WEA SW District, 1973, 52 pp. 4 maps, 20p.

Written by eight contributors including the editor, this valuable little booklet is mainly the product of a WEA class in industrial archaeology which met in 1971-72. Topics covered include the Eddystone Lighthouse, the Breakwater, the Royal Albert Bridge, Sutton Harbour, Millbay Docks and the Royal Naval Dockyard, while some articles describe districts - Plymstock, Oreston and Hooe, Stonehouse, Millbrook - and others, particular branches of the subject - iron foundries and railways. Some articles are followed by useful descriptive tours of the remains. B. Nichols' article on Sutton Harbour is particularly noteworthy.

Treatment is inevitably variable at this stage, as the editor admits. For example, the elusive Wheal Whittleigh might have received a mention along with Wheal Morleigh. Although its site cannot be traced, there are others treated here which are no longer visible, e.g. most of the foundries. Some very thorough fieldwork has been done but the list of Plymouth Imekilus is incomplete and, possibly for reasons of space, some relevant archive material is not mentioned. For example, the sale notice of Mare's foundry (page 41) gives considerable detail about its equipment at the time.

Clearly work is continuing. The WEA must therefore keep this group in session and produce further editions. The editor is to be congratulated on the range covered by this pamphlet. Clearly printed and illustrated, the booklet is a most welcome addition to industrial archaeology studies in the south west.

J. W. Perkins

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY IN DEVON, by Walter Minchinton.
Dartington Amenty Research Trust Publication No. 1. 2nd Edition. 1973. 32pp.

The fact that there has had to be a reprint and a second edition of this publication shows its popularity. This second edition has the same illustrations and lists of sites as the first but the text has been expanded and corrected where necessary, in some cases sadly enough to include demolitions. It constitutes an admirable outline guide to the Industrial Archaeology of Devon but it is not and does not claim to be exhaustive. There are now guides to Industrial Archaeology of Exeter and of Plymouth. The next stage perhaps is to produce complete guides to districts of the County. One gap on the map that stands out is the area between Tiverton, Barnstaple, Holsworthy and Okehampton. This is somewhat unknown country historically anyway. Its lack of industrial sites is interesting.

R.S.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, by Brian Bracegirdle, Heinemann, 1973, 208 pp. + 48 pp. plates, £6.50

With 48 pages of colour plates and a further 150 black and white photographs, this is the most lavish and attractive book on industrial archaeology so far published in Britain. Ranging further than the chronological confines of the classical period of the industrial revolution (1760-1830) which its title suggests, this book contains essays by well-known writers in the field of industrial archaeology, such as Rex Wallis, L.T.C. Rolt, Neil Cossons, Jennifer Tann and others, on iron and steel, inland waterways, railways and other means of communication, natural sources of power, steam power, electrical power, coal and other fuels and industrial buildings. But oddly enough the textile industry does not really find a place here. According to its editor, the purpose of this volume is two-fold: to provide a useful reference source for key sites, some of which readers may have been unable to visit and some of which may have been destroyed since the pictures were made. Inevitably because the volume covers the whole of Great Britain, any particular area is represented by only a limited number of sites about which there could well be argument. Thus the Exeter, Grand Western and Tavistock canals, the Postbridge clapper bridge and the Royal Albert Bridge, Saltash, the Plymouth Breakwater and the Wheal Betsy engine house (called oddly here Cornish engine house, Mary Tavy), which comprise the Devon representation, provide no more than a somewhat random selection of industrial archaeology sites of some importance in the county. Although the map is supposed to contain main waterways, canals, towans and the principal sites mentioned in the text, it unfortunately does not mark all the west country sites. It does however show, much to many westcountrymen's surprise, the Grand Western Canal as a continuous waterway linking Bridgwater and Exeter! The second editorial purpose is to communicate the visual appeal and intellectual fascination of industrial archaeology to readers who are relative newcomers to its study. And this it does magnificently. Many of the photographs, both black and white and colour, are splendidly effective. At its publication price this is scarcely a book within the means of every reader but it certainly provides a fine visual and verbal introduction to industrial archaeology. If you cannot afford to buy it, at least borrow it from your local library and enjoy it vicariously that way.

Walter Minchinton

DEVON NEWSPAPERS - A FINDING LIST

This lists all Devon Newspapers alphabetically, includes their later titles with cross references where appropriate and indicates where they can be seen and what issues survive. The compilation has been done by Lorna Smith of Torbay Public Library and the publication and compilation made possible by John Pike, Torbay Borough Librarian.

Copies may be obtained by members for 10p on application to the Secretary, c/o The Community Council of Devon, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QD. To non-members the price is 20p.

THE WITCHCRAFT AND FOLKLORE OF DARTMOOR, by Ruth E. St. Leger-Gordon.
2nd edition, Wakefield: E.P. Publishing Ltd., 1973, 196 pp. £2.50.
ISBN O 85409 868 2.

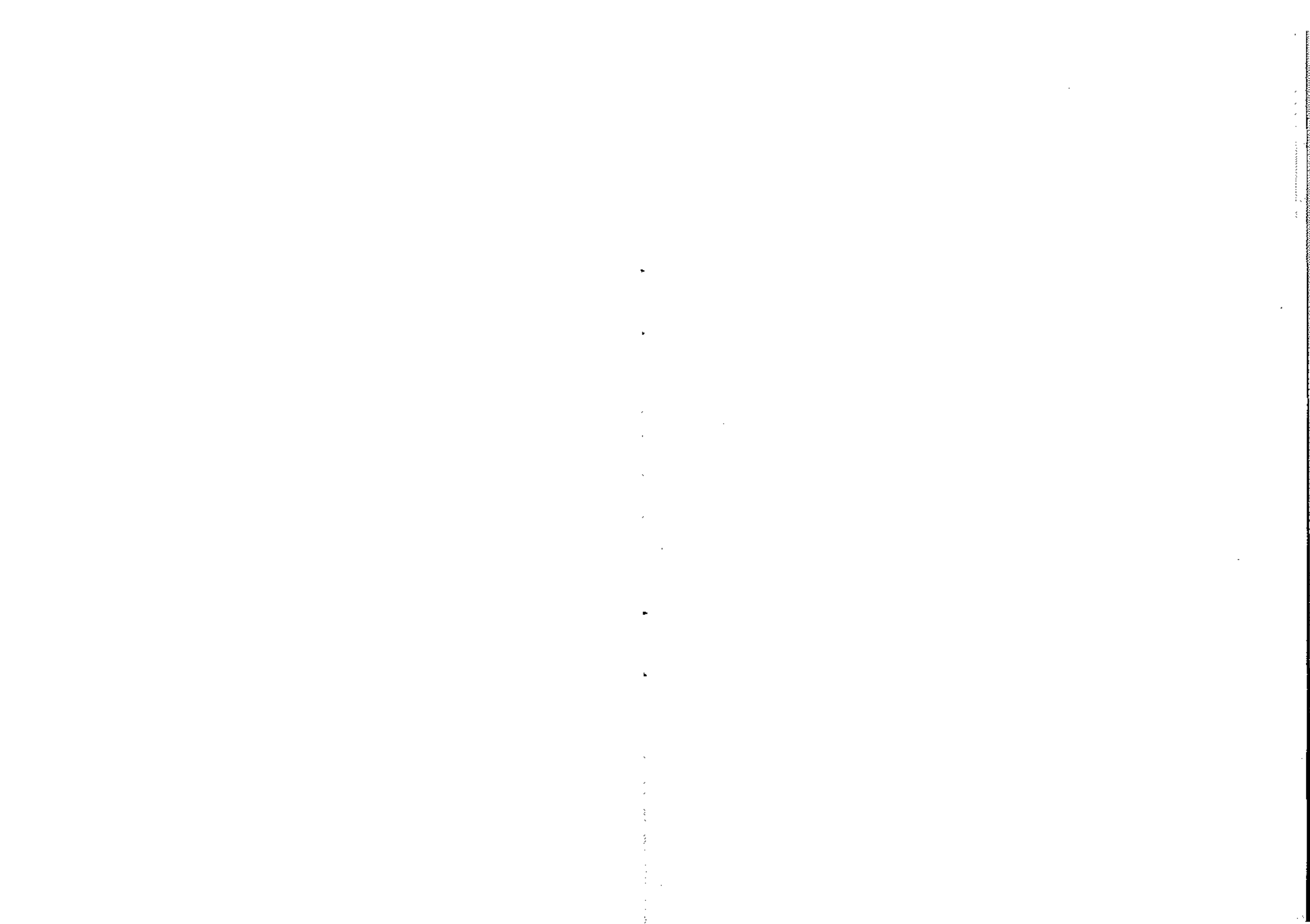
This book is a collection of the legends associated with Dartmoor, the ghosts which are said to haunt it and the witchcraft, both black and white, which has been and is still practised in the area. The author points out that almost without exception these tales are of a gloomy or fearsome nature, reflecting, she suggests, the grim and forbidding country with which they are associated and also the tendency for pleasant things to be forgotten while the fearsome and horrific stick in the mind. In considering the legends and folklore, Mrs. St. Leger-Gordon divides the stories associated with Dartmoor into three groups: those which are variations of tales found in other parts of the country; those of a stereotyped nature which have been provided with a local setting and a well-known local person as 'star'; and those which have originated on Dartmoor. She recounts the legends associated with the various stone circles and other stone landmarks of the moor and the superstitions which surround both pools and rivers. Perhaps the few accumulations of still water, many of them flooded mine workings, has led to their being regarded with suspicion and fear while it used to be widely believed that the River Dart annually demanded a human life. Over the centuries the houses on and around Dartmoor have accumulated more than their fair share of ghosts, both human and animal, but perhaps a feature unique to the area is a ghost cottage which has appeared to several people in recent years in a wood near Haylor. The raven was generally regarded as an ill-omen on the moor while members of the Oxenham family were warned of impending death by the appearance of a white bird. Even today certain parts of the moor appear to emanate some evil influence which is felt by those most sensitive to such things and riders know that there are certain places where their horses will not pass. Black witchcraft seems to have disappeared from the moor although there is still a lingering belief in its power. But in some places white witchcraft is still very much alive in the form of charming warts and curing ring-worm and shingles by the same inexplicable methods. publicity in the last decade has led to a decline in the power of some of these 'charmners' who are also decreasing as the younger generation become more sophisticated. A number of ancient charms for such cures are quoted and in many cases the magic circle plays a part.

In all cases the author has tried to trace the most recent references to these stories and sightings, some of which are still quite lively. Some of the stories are based on the grim facts of life on the moor: for example, the traveller staying in Warren House Inn, who, on finding a corpse in the chest in his room, was told " 'tis only feyther. Uz zalted un down against when uz can get un up along to Lydiford", a reminder of the days when all moor-dwellers had to be buried in their home parish cemetery at Lydiford, always a grim and sometimes an impossible journey in the winter. Or, a warning of the danger of Dartmoor bogs, the moorman who finding a hat floating in the marsh and discovering a head beneath it, asked "what be you doin' there?" and received the reply, "Sitting on me 'oss".

In some cases Mrs. St. Leger-Gordon suggest logical explanations for these superstitions and tales and sometimes sounds sceptical of them but she admits there is an undeniable aura of evil which haunts certain areas of the moor and affects certain people, some of whom are new to the area and know nothing of the many legends and local fears. Maybe such places, frequently the sites of prehistoric or mining settlements, retain the stored-up emotions of their earlier violent inhabitants which can affect the most sensitive of us today. Or maybe it is the isolation and unrelenting natural forces of the moor, so different from today's busy urbanised life, which has this effect on some people.

Originally published in 1965, this book has now been revised by making alterations in the text where possible and adding a number of postscripts where, given the photolithographic form of reproduction, there was not room to add new material in its correct place.

Celia M. King



EXETER UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

Leofric of Exeter: four essays to commemorate the foundation of Exeter Cathedral Library in AD 1072, 75p.

Exeter Essays in Geography edited by K.J. Gregory and W.L.D. Ravenhill, £3.75.

Exeter in Roman Times by Aileen Fox, 30p.

Exeter and its Region edited by Frank Barlow, 1969, £2.50.

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

Tuckers Hall Exeter by Joyce Youings, 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, 1968, 50p.

The South West and the Land edited by M.A. Haviden and Celia M. King, 1969, 50p.

Industry and Society in the South West edited by Roger Burt, 1970, 75p.

Ports and Shipping in the South West edited by H.E.S. Fisher, 1971, £1.25.

Farming and Transport in the South West edited by W.E. Minchinton, 1972, 75p.

Provincial Labour History edited by J.H. Porter, 1972, 75p.

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

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

John Norden's Manuscript Maps of Cornwall and its Nine Hundreds with an introduction by William Ravenhill, mounted in book form, £10, in a wallet, £8.

Available from:

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

Published by The Standing Conference for Devon History

Printed by Torbay County Borough