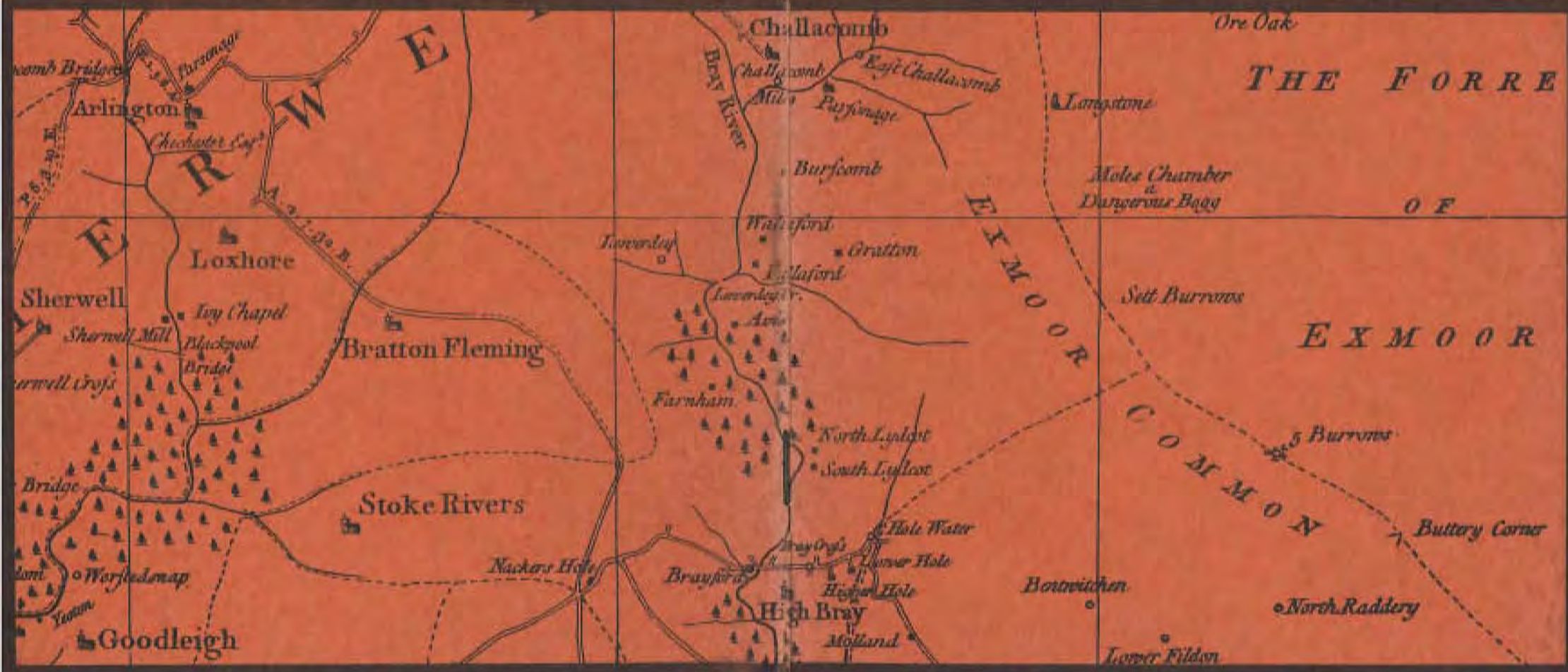


The Devon Historian

The magazine is available free to all members of the Standing Conference for Devon History. Membership may be obtained on application to the Secretary, c/o The Community Council of Devon, County Hall, Exeter, EX2 4QB and costs 50p per annum for individuals, £1 for schools, libraries and museums, and £2 for Societies. Members may obtain further single copies of the magazine for 20p, and copies are available to non-members for 30p.



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 Correspondence relating to the Devon Historian or for possible publication therein or contributions for publication should be sent to The Editor, The Devon Historian, Culver House, Payhembury, Honiton.
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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.

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NEW CONTRIBUTORS

Elsa Godfrey is Secretary of the Dawlish Museum Society and began the collection of material now in the Museum. She has contributed to the transactions of the Devonshire Association

Grahame Farr has written extensively on Bristol Channel shipping and lives near Bristol

Victor Bonham-Carter is an author of many books on West Country matters and lives at East Anstey

CONFERENCES

A Conference took place at Bideford on November 3rd, 1973. Alison Grant spoke about Bideford's maritime and mercantile history in the morning. In the afternoon Andrew Jewell the Keeper of the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading spoke on Devonshire farming in the past with particular attention to the old Devon zull or plough. In the morning visits were made around Bideford in particular to Orleigh Mill, a working mill still largely powered by water. About sixty people were present.

On February 23rd a Conference took place at Totnes. Michael Laithwaite spoke on Totnes houses in the morning on which he has done four years work. Visits were then made to the Museum, the Church, the Guildhall and some of the houses mentioned in the lecture. In the afternoon, Stephen Fisher, Theo Brown and, in the absence of E. W. Martin, Joe Pengelly of the B. B. C. discussed 'oral history' the recording of the memories and experiences of living people and the aims and techniques of this. Mr. Pengelly played some of his remarkable tapes. About eighty people were present.

The Annual General Meeting of the Conference will take place at Exeter University on May 4th. The Speaker will be Professor Jack Simmons of Leicester University.

A further Conference will take place at Houton on November 2nd, 1974.

THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER AND DEVON HISTORY

Walter Minchinton

With a history going back to the great wave of popular enthusiasm for art and science which followed the Great Exhibition of 1851, the Royal Albert Memorial College eventually became a recognised university establishment financed by the UGC in 1922. Beginning with about 300 full-time students, its growth until 1945 was very slow and it still had only 420 full-time students in the late 1930's. After 1945 the University College of the South West, like other university institutions, expanded, reaching 1400 students in 1960 and 3400 in 1970. In 1955 the University College was the last of the satellites of the University of London to become an independent university, changing its name in the process to the University of Exeter.

Between the wars members of staff of the University College of the South West were actively at work on aspects of Devon's history. The need for a study of the history of Exeter had been urged at the very first meeting of the Exeter branch of the Historical Association on 3 November 1906. Even before the University College had been officially recognised as an institution of higher education by the University Grants Committee, Walter J. Harte, who came to Exeter in 1901 in charge of the Department of History and Literature and later in 1903 became the first professor of history, and others, including the Town Clerk, Lloyd Parry, had formed a History of Exeter Research Group. The intention of the Group, which held its first meeting in April 1920, was to gather material for a full-scale history of the city. But, in the course of subsequent discussions, as Harte set out in an article on 'Local history: an Exeter experiment' (History, VIII (1923) 19 - 28), it was decided to abandon the original plan and instead to sponsor a series of publications on the history of Exeter contributory to the main aim (see Appendix A). While the first volumes were written by members of the staff such as Miss Esterling and Dr. Wilkinson or already established research workers, two later volumes by Muriel E. Curtis and William G. Hoskins, were revised versions of theses written by students at the College, the one in history, the other in economics. Other research relating to Devon history was carried on in the College between the wars by geographers as well as historians, some of which led to publication. Of the geographers, William S. Lewis published a history of The west of England tin-mining (Wheaton, 1925) while Frederick W. Morgan investigated the Domesday geography of Devon but by far the most prolific was Alfred H. Shorter who made detailed local studies of paper-making but who also looked at other aspects of the historical geography of Devon. And, of the historians, Harte wrote a number of articles on aspects of Exeter's history and pamphlets on Pinhoe and Alphington while Charles Henderson's work on Old Devon Bridges (Wheaton, 1938) was brought posthumously to the press by Edwyn Jervoise. But none of his successors as professor of history - Norman Sykes, David Douglas, Norman Darlington, William Medlicott or Frank Barlow - showed the interest in local history demonstrated by the first professor of history at the University College. Besides published work, members of the College, including George Greenaway and William Handcock made their contribution to the writing of Devon history in other ways. According to the Reports of the University of College of the South West, Professor Harte and other members of the History Department were active in three other directions: in work in connection with the City Muniment Room, in extra-mural teaching and in the local branch of the Historical Association.

After the war archaeologists, geographers and historians at the University College continued to write on Devon history. Aileen Fox explored Roman Exeter and other aspects of the archaeology of Devon; Alfred Shorter continued his work on the paper industry which led to his published volumes on the history of this industry, William Ravenhill looked at the settlement of Devon in the dark ages, George Greenaway completed a study of St. Boniface (Black, 1955) and Joyce Youngs published parts of her thesis which dealt with the disposal of Devon monastic lands after 1536, while there were also a number of other contributions. Under its own imprint the University of Exeter, which received its charter in 1955, has published a number of books, both by its own teachers and by research students, dealing with aspects of the archaeology, history and historical geography and cartography of Devon (See Appendix B). To commemorate the services of its first professor of history, a series of Harte lectures in local history was established in 1951. Not all of them have dealt with specifically Devon subjects and only one dealing with Devon, that by Professor Eleanora Carus-Wilson, has been published. Through its classes and weekend conferences, another branch of the University, the Department of Extra-Mural Studies operating both from its base in the premises of the old University College at Gandy Street and through its resident tutors in various parts of the county, has done much to stimulate an interest in local history. These activities do not often lead to publication but the record of one group studying vernacular architecture has been published as a pamphlet, Dartington houses, by the Exeter Industrial Archaeology Group.

Like a number of other British universities, the University of Exeter decided to establish a Department of Economic History in the early 1960's. When it was set up in 1964 and I was appointed to the first chair in economic history in the University I decided that one role such a Department should play was to demonstrate an interest in the history of its parish broadly considered. As a result of a conversation with Tom Griffiths, the warden of the Devon Centre for Further Education at Dartington, I suggested that a residential research seminar on maritime history should be organised at Dartington. Held there in October 1967, this became the first of a lengthening series of weekend seminars which now take place at Dartington three times a year, usually in October, February and May. To them come interested persons who are active in particular branches of local history either as a part-time concern or professionally as teachers, graduate students or university staff, or archivists and librarians. These seminars have provided not only a platform for the presentation of formal papers but also a comfortable and relaxed forum for an informal exchange of views and information. I well remember how the first seminar provided an opportunity for a number of people who had corresponded over the years but had never had a chance to meet, actually to talk to each other. So far there have been seven seminars in maritime history, three in agricultural history, two in transport history and individual seminars in industrial history, population history, social history, labour history, urban history, vernacular architecture and mining history. As can be seen, the list of subjects discussed is growing and I am always ready to organise a seminar in a field not previously considered. The population seminar, for example, resulted from a suggestion by Professor Norman Pounds. And anyone who is active in a particular aspect of the economic history of the south-west who would like to

attend should get in touch with me. For one reason or another not all the papers given at these seminars have been available for publication but eight Exeter Papers in Economic History have been published by the University (see Appendix C).

All of the work so far discussed is easy of access to the general public but less is known of the considerable amount of unpublished material which is produced by university students and staff. Yet it is of some importance that this should be known, if only to prevent wasteful duplication. Of greatest importance are the theses written by postgraduate students. Until 1955 Exeter students were awarded research degrees (MA, PhD) of the University of London but copies of some of these theses are to be found in the University Library (see Appendix D). Among these are Edwin A.G. Clark's 'The estuarine ports of the Exe and Teign' which contains much more detailed information than is printed in the published volume. Others are to be found in the University of London Library, Senate House, Malet Street, London W.C.1 (see Appendix Dii). Since 1955 a number of theses of the University of Exeter concerned with Devon history have been completed. Some of them, like Derek Portman, 'Exeter houses, 1400-1700' and Robert Newton, 'Victorian Exeter' have, in a revised form, been published, but others still only exist in thesis form. Amongst them are a number dealing with religious history, landholding in Devon and maritime trade and fishing (see Appendix Diii).

On a much smaller scale are the local history essays which are part of the undergraduate degree requirement in the Department of Economic History. While some have been concerned with topics outside Devon, the practice at the present time is for students to be required to work on Devon subjects. As can be seen from the list of topics (Appendix E), the essays so far completed cover a wide range. Inevitably they vary considerably in quality depending on the nature of the topic, the sources available and the ability of the individual students. While many students have regarded the local history essay, which is often a common requirement in colleges of education, daunting in prospect, in retrospect a number have found it the most rewarding part of their undergraduate studies since it provided them with an opportunity to do their own thing. Most of the local history essays have been individual pieces of work but recently the combined honours students in economic history and geography have been engaged on joint projects: for two years students were working on a survey of watermills in Devon while this year's group are making a study of industrial housing. Although these essays are not available for loan, they can be consulted by any reader in the Department. A few of these essays have been published in a revised form in Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries. See David M. Trethowan, 'The leather trade of Tavistock', DCNQ, XXX(1966) 220-1; W. E. Minchinton and Stuart Parsons, 'Further windmills in Devon', DCNQ, XXXII (1972) 105-9 and W. E. Minchinton and Mark Overton, 'The 1801 crop returns for Devon', DCNQ, XXXII (1973) 197-203.

When interest in industrial archaeology developed in the late 1960's the Department of Economic History played its part in the establishment of the Exeter Industrial Archaeology Group which now holds a regular series of winter meetings under the auspices of the University of Exeter Department of Extra-Mural Studies. It too has embarked on a programme of publication of Exeter Papers in Industrial Archaeology (see Appendix F).

Finally the University Library has a growing volume of material related to local history. As there is an excellent local history collection in the Exeter City Library, it has never been the policy of the University Library to compete. Nevertheless although its collection of books and journals of local societies is comparatively small, it does include the major works on the county. The Library also has the Stockdale Mss which are mainly letters, notes and press cuttings from the 1840's for an uncompleted history of Devon by F. C. Stockdale and a list of these is kept with the papers. Then, among the special collections is the Crediton Parish Library which includes a large number of pamphlets for the period 1680-1720, many dealing with local religious affairs of that era. The University Library is open to all bona fide enquiries for study and reference.

* * * * *

Appendix A

Publications of the History of Exeter Research Group

- *1 Frances Rose-Troup, Lost chapels of Exeter, Commin, 1923
- *2 Jacob W. Schopp and Ruth C. Easterling, The Anglo-Norman Customal of Exeter, Oxford UP, 1925
- 3 Andrew G. Little and Ruth C. Easterling, The Franciscans and Dominicans of Exeter, Wheaton, 1927
- *4 Bertram Wilkinson, The medieval council of Exeter, Manchester UP, 1931
- 5 Muriel E. Curtis, Some disputes between the city and the cathedral authorities of Exeter, Manchester UP, 1932
- 6 William G. Hoskins, Industry, trade and people in Exeter, 1688-1800, Manchester UP, 1935; reprinted University of Exeter, 1968
- *7 Frances Rose-Troup, Exeter vignettes, Manchester UP, 1942
- 8 Aileen Fox, Roman Exeter, Manchester UP, 1952
- 9 William B. Stephens, Seventeenth-century Exeter, University of Exeter, 1958
- 10 Allan Brockett, Nonconformity in Exeter 1650-1875, Manchester UP, 1962
- * out of print

Appendix B

Other publications of the University of Exeter on Devon History

- Eleanora M. Carus-Wilson, The expansion of Exeter at the close of the middle ages, a Harte lecture in local history, 1963
- Benjamin Donn's map of Devon, 1765, 1965
- Derek Portman, Exeter houses, 1400-1700, 1966
- Edwin A. G. Clark, The ports of the Exe estuary 1600-1860: a study in historical geography, 1968.
- Michael Oppenheim, The maritime history of Devon, 1968
- Joyce Youings, Tuckers Hall, Exeter, 1968
- Frank Barlow, ed. Exeter and its region, 1969
- Aileen Fox, Exeter in Roman times, 1971, revised edition 1973
- Kenneth J. Gregory and William L. D. Ravenhill, eds. Exeter essays in geography, 1971
- John Collis, Exeter excavations: the Guildhall site, 1972
- Leofric of Exeter: essays in commemoration of the foundation of Exeter cathedral library in AD 1072, 1972

Appendix C

Exeter Papers in Economic History

- 1 Harold E. S. Fisher, ed. The south-west and the sea, 1968
- 2 Michael A. Havinden and Celia M. King, eds. The south-west and the land, 1969
- 3 Roger Burt, ed. Industry and society in the south-west, 1970
- 4 Harold E. S. Fisher, ed. Ports and shipping in the south-west, 1971
- 5 Walter E. Minchinton, ed. Farming and transport in the south-west, 1972
- 6 Jeffrey H. Porter, ed. Provincial labour history, 1972
- 7 Harold E. S. Fisher and Walter E. Minchinton, eds. Transport and shipowning in the westcountry, 1973

- 8 Michael A. Havinden, ed. Husbandry and marketing in the south-west 1500-1800. 1973

Appendix D

Theses

- i University College of the South-West theses available in Exeter
- Michael G. Wade, The maritime importance of Bideford. Advanced Geography UCSWE, 1924
- Donald J. Cawthron, The episcopal administration of the diocese of Exeter in the fourteenth century with special reference to the registers of Bishops Stapleton, Grandisson and Brunningham. MA, London External, 1951
- William B. Stephens, The economic and commercial development of the city and port of Exeter 1625-1688. PhD, London External, 1954
- Edwin A. G. Clark, The estuarine ports of the Exe and Teign, with special reference to the period 1660-1880. PhD, London External 1957
- ii University College of the South-West theses available in London
- William G. Hoskins, The ownership and occupation of the land in Devonshire, 1650-1800. PhD, London External, 1938
- David J. B. Hindley, The economy and administration of the estates of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral in the fifteenth century. MA, London External, 1958
- iii University of Exeter theses
- (a) Economic history
- Anthony M. Northway, The Devon fishing industry, 1760-1860. MA, 1969
- (b) Geography
- Margaret I. Lattimore, A study of Plymouth. MA, 1958
- Neil M. Simmonds, The functions and growth of the City of Exeter, 1800-1841. MA, 1959
- Mary Griffiths, Mortality in Exeter: a geographical study. PhD, 1969

(c) History

- Margaret R. Westcott, The estates of the earls of Devon 1485-1538 MA, 1958
- Allan A. Brockett, Non-conformity in Exeter, 1650-1875. MA 1960
- Laura M. Nicholls, The trading communities of Totnes and Dartmouth in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. MA, 1960
- Derek Portman, Exeter houses, 1400-1700. PhD, 1962
- David H. Pill, The diocese of Exeter under Bishop Veysey. MA, 1963
- Robert Newton, Victorian Exeter, 1837-1914. PhD, 1966
- John E. Kew, The land market in Devon, 1536-1558. PhD, 1967
- David W. Blake, The church of Exeter in the Norman period. MA, 1970
- Ian W. Gowers, Puritanism in the county of Devon between 1570 and 1641. MA, 1970

Appendix E

Local History Essays, Department of Economic History

- i Various topics
- Adrian E. Bailey, The history of the westcountry brewery holdings 1760-. 1966
- John P. Marie, Some aspects of the Exeter Turnpike Trust. 1966
- Richard C. Oates, Electric trams in Exeter. 1966
- Alan W. Parkin, Roads railways and canals. 1966
- David M. Trethowan, Industry in mid-eighteenth century Tavistock. 1966
- Roger J. Steer, A brief history of Staverton with particular reference to the agriculture and tenure of Staverton Manor, 1750-1851. 1968
- John C. Veal, Analysis of port registry records of Topsham, Devon, of the port of Exeter, 1836-1853. 1968
- David J. Hannis, The condition of Exeter's poor, 1780-1920. 1969
- Derek E. Holman, An essay on the social and economic condition of Exeter in mid-nineteenth century. 1969
- James R. Layton, Crime and disorder in Exeter in the 1840's. 1969
- Gordon H. Lowe, The Bodley ironfoundry, 1860-1940. 1969

Hugh A. Parkes, Canon Girdlestone of Halberton and the improvement of agricultural labouring conditions in Devon, 1862-1872. 1969

Richard Parr, The initial choice of the broad gauge by the Great Western Railway. 1969

Michael Smith, Poor relief in Blackawton parish c 1780-1830. 1969

Michael P. Stone, The condition of agriculture in 1800. 1969

Kathryn Becker, Blundell's school Tiverton. 1971

Anthony H. Parkes, Mortality in Exeter. 1971

Bernard Shorland, The Exeter electric light question, 1833-1900. 1971

Fredrik G. N. Sjorgen, The Exeter Gaslight and Coke Company, 1815-50. 1971

Graham J. Talmadge, History of the Winkleigh School Board, 1874-1888 1971

Paul Durham, Exeter tramways. 1972

Norman H. Fletcher, Windmills in the county of Devon. 1972

Jacqueline Hodgson, The Exwick grist mills: late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. 1972

Paul Hudson, A history of the Cullompton Turnpike Trust. 1972

Yvonne Langley, Market retailing in Tavistock and Tiverton in the nineteenth century. 1972

Christopher J. Schmitz, The Teign Valley lead mines, 1800-80. 1972

Jane E. Spencer, Slum clearance, the housing and rehousing of the artisans in Exeter, 1870-1939. 1972

Elizabeth F. Thurston-Hoskins, Shipping voyages by Devon registered ships to South America, 1866-1874. 1972

Paula A. Ahluwalia, Heavy commercial road vehicles in Devon 1903-1920 1973

Janet Beckhelling, Agricultural improvements on the forest of Dartmoor 1780-1840. 1973

Linda M. Crosby, The elementary education act of 1870 - its effects in Exeter. 1973

Leslie Dangerfield, 'By force of alms' - a financial history of the Methodist chapel in Mint Lane, Exeter 1812-1912. 1973

Sheoghan P. Dickinson, Some aspects of the growth of shop retailing in early nineteenth century Exeter. 1973

Carol E. Fearon, A history of cider production in Devon. 1973

Ian S Finney, Extracts from the life and business of Thomas Jeffery, fuller of Exeter 1667-1742. 1973

Jane L. Holland, The coastal trade of the south-west peninsula. 1973

Jonathan M. Latimer, The Tavistock canal. 1973

Brenda J. Lovering, A study of the Poor Law Reform of 1834 with special reference to changes in expenditure on poor relief in the Devonshire parishes of Chudleigh and Dunsford. 1973

David Milner, Mining and the people of Christow in the nineteenth century. 1973

Victoria Norman, The establishment and origin of the Exeter police, 1830-1870. 1973

Stephen J. Perkins, A study of crime in Exeter with special reference to the years 1822-32; 1853-63. 1973

Helen J. Pritchard, An analysis of endowments made to the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital over four ten year periods, 1847-1939. 1973

Laura M. B. Pumphrey, Urban growth in Devon, 1830-1850: Tavistock. 1973.

Philip W. Robinson, A historical survey of the population of the townships of Devonport and Stonehouse in 1851. 1973

Kathryn Sykes, A study of crime in Exeter, 1801-1839. 1973

Peter S. Troucer, The development of St. Thomas until 1914. 1973

Rosalind D. H. Wild, The problems of slum clearance in Exeter, 1919-1937. 1973

Peter R. D. Wilson, A demographic survey of a Devon parish, 1840-1870: the case of Cheriton Fitzpaine. 1973

Ian Wright, A history of water supply in the Exeter district, 1830-1900. 1973

ii Watermill surveys

Susan J. Chorlton, Watermills in south-central Devon. 1972

- Peter King, A history of Thorverton water mills. 1972
- Sidney Land, Watermills in the Otter valley. 1972
- Charles H. Southgate and Patrick Q. R. Crowell, Watermills. 1972
- Michael J. Smith and Christopher P. A. Willey, A survey of watermills in the Okehampton-Holsworthy area. 1972
- Susan Turner, The watermills of the upper Exe and its tributaries: a preliminary survey. 1972
- Robert G. Needham, Watermills in the Exeter, Crediton and Tiverton areas of South Devon, 1973
- Mary Winterburn, Watermills in south-central Devon. 1973

Appendix F

Exeter Papers in Industrial Archaeology

- 1 Michael Chitty, A guide to the Industrial archaeology of Exeter. 1971, revised edition 1974
- 2 Walter E. Minchinton and John Perkins, Tidemills of Devon & Cornwall. 1972
- 3 Nathaniel W. Alcock, ed. Dartington houses: a survey. 1972
- 4 Michael Bone, Barnstaple's industrial archaeology: a guide. 1974

THE EXMOOR PRESS

Victor Bonham - Carter

How does any venture start? So often those actually concerned with the beginnings, and who have moreover remained to continue and expand the work, find it hard to recollect what did actually happen at the very first. This would quite likely have applied to the Exmoor Press had not I and my colleagues had to produce memoranda and minutes for the Committee of the Exmoor Society, from which the Press sprang.

It was all quite simple really, and looking back seems to bear the mark of inevitability, though it did not look so straightforward at the time. The idea of publishing books about Exmoor derived directly from experience gained in editing and publishing The Exmoor Review, the annual journal of the Exmoor Society. This takes us back to 1958-9 when, thanks to the initiative of John Coleman-Cooke, the Society was formed (as the local branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England) to oppose the proposal by the Forestry Commission to plant The Chains, the gathering grounds of most of the rivers of Exmoor, whether flowing north or south. The Society won the day and, ever since, has played a very prominent and constructive part in defending and promoting the best interests of the National Park, generally though not always in collaboration with the National Park Authorities. The first editor, and founder, of the Review was John Goodland, who was responsible for the first five issues, since when he has had several successors, including myself. I acted as editor (often jointly with a colleague) from 1968-73, and handed over recently to Malcolm MacEwan and Hilary Binding who have together produced the present 1974 edition. There is no immodesty - since so many have contributed - in saying that the Review has gained a unique place among regional journals for the quality of its articles, illustrations and make-up and it improves year by year, 1974 being the best yet. It sells about 5000 copies, including 1500 to members of the Society (who receive it as part of their subscription), but its influence is felt very far afield, to judge by the reviews and correspondence received and the fierce controversies it often arouses - no bad thing for the cause of National Parks anywhere in the country. Apart from this, the Review reflects local life in so many ways - wild life, history, geography, farming, forestry, tourism, etc, as well as the discussion of burning issues connected with traffic, the conservation of moorland, access and rights-of-way, and much more. For all such subjects the Society must have a medium of communication in order to reach the public at large, as distinct from newsletters, annual reports and AGM's, which are simply confined to the membership.

I have enlarged on the part played by the Review, because it explains all that followed. During my time as editor, the Society was chaired most ably by S. H. (Tim) Burton, and we worked very closely together. It was a critical time, for there seemed no limit to the quantity of open moorland being taken into farming and forestry every year, involving not only important losses in wild fauna and flora but denying access to the public of many square miles of territory which had been enjoyed without hindrance for years past, and which now was being needed more than ever to satisfy the demand for leisure in the countryside and specifically to fulfil the

statutory aims of the National Parks Act, 1949. Conflict was growing and tempers rising, as between landowners and farmers on the one side, and amenity interests on the other; so the very first requirement, it seemed to us, was to establish criteria for the definition of moorland which would stand up to criticism and override the largely emotional attitudes then being held as to what and where Exmoor was. Fortunately we secured the help of the Second Land Utilisation Survey of Great Britain - a Government assisted body administered by the Geography Department of King's College, London - who undertook to complete a scientific record of land use over the whole of the National Park. The work was done by the Department's principal field officer, Geoffrey Sinclair, who conducted a ground survey in 1965-6 and recorded the results on an O.S. 2½-inch map, displaying the extent of agriculture, forestry, and natural vegetation (moorland) by a system of colours and symbols. This Land Use Map has been kept up to date ever since and hangs today in the Society's offices at Dulverton. At the same time a pamphlet mostly written by Sinclair was published in 1966 entitled Can Exmoor Survive? A Technical Assessment, and gained a wide circulation. To cut a long story short, this initiative on the part of the Society bore much fruit, for the majority of its arguments and suggestions were adopted by the National Park Authorities for Exmoor and continue to influence policy today. The only point I wish to emphasise here is that the pamphlet and the map, plus the Review, underlined the vital need to communicate ideas and information by means of publication; and this fact burned its way into the minds of Burton and myself.

We then had a look at the current literature available about Exmoor. Much had been written on the subject in the past, but very few titles were in print in the 1960's, and most of what you could buy consisted of dull guides or Lorna Doonery trash. The market was wide open for good new readable work, not too expensive - but how to set about it? We felt we could not ask the members of the Exmoor Society to allow us to use their very limited resources for what, in plain business terms, amounted to a commercial speculation. So in the end we decided, as a partnership, to set up a publishing house of our own and, by permission, call it The Exmoor Press (a title first used by the Society simply to denote its publication department), and began business at 11 High Street, Dulverton, in April 1969. I must make clear that our business activities interfered in no way with our voluntary work for the Exmoor Society, which continues in various forms to this day and will, I hope, go on doing so. But, so far as the Press was concerned, the first twelve months were spent in preparing the first six titles of a series, called 'Microstudies', and in publishing the 1970 issue of the Review. As things turned out we lost money on the latter venture, and so asked the Society to re-assume full responsibility for the Review as from 1971. Although it carries a high proportion of advertisements, the main source of revenue, an amenity organisation journal (especially if confined to a region) is very difficult to make pay, and in fact the Exmoor Society has ever since had to subsidise the Review out of general funds.

The Press published its first six Microstudies during the summer of 1970, and by the end of 1974 the total will have reached fifteen. Our aim from the start was to cover all the subjects pertaining to Exmoor by means of categories, as follows: A=Fauna, B=Flora, C=History, D=Occupations/Communications, E=Geology/Geography/Climate, F=Buildings/Settlements,

G=Society, H=Miscellaneous. The titles are The Wild Red Deer of Exmoor by E. R. Lloyd, The Pure Bred Exmoor Pony by Anthony A. Dent, The Fish of Exmoor by H. B. Maund, The Birds of Exmoor by N. V. Allen, The Vegetation of Exmoor by Geoffrey Sinclair, The Trees and Woods of Exmoor, by Roger Miles, Antiquary's Exmoor by Charles Whybrow, Ships and Harbours of Exmoor by Grahame Farr, Railways round Exmoor by Robin Madge, Snow and Storm on Exmoor by Jack Hurley, The Churches and Chapels of Exmoor by N. V. Allen, Murder and Mystery on Exmoor by Jack Hurley, Exmoor Custom and Song by R. W. Patten, Legends of Exmoor by Jack Hurley, and The Exmoor Handbook and Gazetteer by N. V. Allen. As is evident, there is room for many new titles yet within all the categories, but economically we have to match the production of new works with the revision and re-issue of existing ones which have sold out, and this is already proving an important factor. Besides this, the cost of paper and printing continues to rise, latterly very fast; and so we have to contain this (greatly helped by our printers, Cox's of Williton) by longer print runs (possible as the market expands, the better we become known) and alas higher retail prices. Even so our prices are pretty modest, ranging from 40p for a 48-page book to 75p to a 96-page one, including illustrations (photos and drawings). All the Microstudies are paperbacks, standard A5 size in format; but now and again we have ventured into Demy 8vo, with two reprints: one being my own book, Dartington Hall, 1925-57 (written in association with W. B. Curry), the other being A. L. Wedlake's A History of Watchet. Later this year we shall publish Rattle his Bones, by Jack Hurley, a study of the Poor Law based on the records of the Dulverton and Williton workhouses.

Apart from the Dartington book, re-published by us with strong encouragement from members of the Dartington Hall estate, where I acted as historian and archivist for fifteen years, our original policy holds good: namely to publish expert, highly readable and attractive books about Exmoor. We have no intention of becoming a large firm - probably not possible anyway - for the business is an intimate 'family' concern, in the hands of very few people. Regrettably Tim Burton had to drop out in 1970, owing to his commitments teaching English at St. Luke's Training College in Exeter, and a very heavy programme of books for a number of leading publishers, including his Exmoor, which remains the best standard full-length work on the subject. First published by Hodder and Stoughton in 1969, it is being re-issued in revised form by Robert Hale in the summer of 1974. Tim's place was taken by Paul Hodder-Williams, my own publisher and neighbour at Exford, whose acumen and lifelong experience of the trade is of course of inestimable value. His daughter, Anna, ran the office and travelled the shops 1970-1, since when all the day-to-day business has been in the equally capable hands of Mrs. Jane Hill, who also lives at Exford. She receives much help on the sales side from Felicity Hodder-Williams, Paul's wife. I am generally in charge of editorial work, find the authors, and see the MSS through the press. My wife, Audrey, has done most of the drawings; but we also draw on a number of photographers and cartographers. An important aspect of selling is by direct mail, deriving from advertisements in the press and from lists sent out with the kind help of a number of amenity societies in the south-west.

What of the future? Can a tiny, rather amateur, rather idealistic, firm like ours survive in this hard world governed by big battalions? We believe

so, and have every intention of 'staying in the black' where we have been since the start. So long as we can do that and make a modest profit, we shall prosecute our aims: namely through our publications to help strengthen that sense of identity essential to any region, especially a National Park such as Exmoor; and thereby to engender respect and affection for what is a wonderful heritage of rural England.

EXETER CATHEDRAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Audrey H. Erskine.

The Library of Exeter Cathedral is housed in the Bishop's Palace, and belongs to the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral church of St. Peter in Exeter; but it is administered on their behalf by the University of Exeter, and is open for public use on weekday afternoons (Monday to Friday, 2 - 5 p.m., except for Bank Holidays and the whole weeks of Christmas and Easter). It is generally available as a reference and research library (though some select classes of people, such as the clergy of the diocese, may borrow modern books), and can offer facilities in Xerox copying and photographic reproduction. The archives of the Cathedral have for long been associated with the library, and are similarly administered by the University for the Dean and Chapter, with the same times of opening.

THE LIBRARY

Although the present library building is of quite recent date, having been built into the first floor of the Palace when the whole building was reconstructed after the last war, the library itself is of very ancient origin, (1) dating back to the donation to the church of Exeter of sixty-six books, a most lavish gift for its time, by Leofric, first bishop of the diocese (1050-1072). Of these ancient volumes, only one can with complete certainty be said to remain in the library now; but that is the most important of them, the renowned Exeter Book of Poetry, of mid-tenth century date, one of the only four surviving codices of Anglo-Saxon verse. It is regularly on display, a splendid survival from the very earliest days of the library's existence. The collection of books grew steadily through the Middle Ages, and an inventory of c.1500 indicates that there were by that date more than four hundred books in the collection. However, few of these manuscripts survive *in situ* in their original home - the sad history of the destruction and dispersal of medieval book collections due to the combined effects of the introduction of printing and of the Reformation is well known, and Exeter's library did not escape the common fate. The books have by no means all perished, but have in some cases been scattered to other libraries, notably to the Bodleian in Oxford, due to a gift by the Chapter to Sir Thomas Bodley in 1602. The manuscripts still in the library today surviving from its medieval past do not number more than two dozen, but they are, however, of considerable interest: one handsome tenth century book containing some of the works of Isidore of Seville may possibly, though not certainly, have formed part of Leofric's gift, and there are service books, including a lectionary written at the order and containing the signature of Bishop John Grandisson, and a number of more widely ranging content, such as chronicles, medical and mathematical works.

The printed books as they now survive are predominantly a seventeenth century collection, though there are more than twenty 'incunabula' of the earliest period of printing, dating before 1500, and a fairly large selection of sixteenth century works. However, at no time was the library a completely static collection, for gifts and bequests have been received throughout its

(1) A short history of the Library is to be found in L. J. Lloyd and A. M. Erskine, The Library of Exeter Cathedral, Exeter University, 1967.

history. For instance it was greatly augmented by a large bequest from Robert Burscough, archdeacon of Totnes, at the end of the seventeenth century; and the size of the library bequeathed by Chancellor Harrington in the late nineteenth century was such that it was the main reason for the building of a new library at that time to house the books. For there had been a period, after the destruction of the medieval library building during the Commonwealth, when there was no special library room available, and from 1660 to 1820 the books were kept in the Lady Chapel of the cathedral duly shelved up for the purpose.

Since through its history the library has largely relied on gifts for its growths, its development was not at all systematic, and the surviving volumes today bear witness to the wide range of interests of past benefactors. There is of course a large group of Bible editions, and considerable sections of theology, sermons and ecclesiastical and other history of all dates; the section on liturgy is a very widely ranging one, and efforts are now made to keep it up to date with modern works. More surprisingly, there are interesting smaller groups of early geography, travel, and heraldry; a very interesting collection of tracts of the Commonwealth period and other seventeenth and eighteenth century pamphlets. There are of course also a number of rare and interesting books of a more miscellaneous nature, ranging from a second folio Shakespeare over a wide field including such curiosities as a copy of the Bible translated into the Red Indian language by the missionary John Eliot, printed at Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1663, and other such items whose provenance is not known - we shall never know who gave them to the library.

The most notable single section, however, is a large group of early medical and scientific works. Some of these were among Burscough's gift, more were presented to the Chapter by the Exeter physician Dr. Thomas Glass (1709-57); and in 1965 they were augmented by a most valuable accession of about 1300 volumes deposited on permanent loan by the authorities of the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital, a collection which had its origin in the Exeter Medical Library founded in 1814. The resulting combination is an outstanding small library of the history of medicine, surgery and anatomy, from Hippocrates and Galen to Hunter and Jenner, of books ranging in date from the fifteenth to the mid-nineteenth century.

The library continues to grow, and the policy of acquisition now is to attempt to augment with necessary modern works those sections in which the older collection is strongest, particularly history, and also to maintain a good working collection in local studies to meet the needs of readers, and to provide reference for those working on the manuscripts and archives. The emphasis is of course on the history of the cathedral itself and of the diocese and its parishes, though the range is to some extent spread over all the West Country. Local historians are also fortunate in being able to have access to the researches on the Cathedral fabric of the Revd. V. Hope, who has generously made his extensive work available to students. The cathedral library is still a living collection, and many enquirers find material in it to carry forward their researches.

DOMESDAY BOOK

As the Exon. Domesday volume can be classed neither as a library manuscript or properly speaking as an archive of the Dean and Chapter, because it is a public record which seems to have been preserved ever since its compilation in Exeter Cathedral, and indeed is on display in the library for visitors to see, it is perhaps best to mention it separately. It is certainly in a class by itself, a unique survival. It is the most important of the surveys connected with the compilation of Domesday Book after the great enquiry made by William I's commissioners throughout England in 1086, being a summary of their returns for the counties of Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, part of Dorset and part of Wiltshire, probably compiled in 1086-7, and providing a mass of detailed information for these counties not included in the final Domesday Book, (which is now preserved in the Public Record Office, and known as the Exchequer Domesday). So the Exon Domesday is of great importance as an intermediate stage in the compilation of the Domesday, besides providing a wealth of unique information about the south-west of England in the eleventh century.

THE ARCHIVES OF THE CATHEDRAL

The archives of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter are of considerable extent both in topographical and date range, for besides providing a collection of records which reflect all aspects of the administration and organisation of the Chapter of a secular cathedral of the Old Foundation, there is a large collection relating to its estates and their administration ranging in date from the eleventh century until modern times. Subsidiary to the main archive there is also the collection of the archives of the Vicars Choral of the cathedral, a minor corporation, within the parent body, of the singing deputies of the canons, which also had its own administration and estates, primarily the manor of Woodbury.

The cathedral foundation goes back to 1050, and most notable among its earliest muniments is the charter of that date recording the transfer of the See of the newly formed diocese of Exeter, created by combining Devon and Cornwall together, to Exeter. But administrative records do not go so far back in time: the series of Chapter Act books, the minutes of decisions at Chapter meetings, goes back to 1382, and survive from then with some breaks until the present day. There are other subsidiary post-medieval minute books, and with these may be grouped Chapter registers, containing copies of deeds and letters; sealing books, of documents passing the Chapter seal; and several volumes of collected Cathedral statutes, essential references for the custom and regulation of the cathedral, and in date compilations from the fourteenth to the twentieth centuries.

The financial records of the Dean and Chapter also survive in considerable bulk from early medieval times. Besides the main central series of stewards' accounts, which begin in the late thirteenth century, there are numerous series surviving from that time on, of other funds, such as accounts for obits and masses, reflections recording costs of food and drink supplied, and, in the post-medieval period, salaries books and more general expenditure. The most interesting series of accounts, however, is

undoubtedly that devoted to the building and maintenance of the fabric of the cathedral church itself: there are over a hundred medieval rolls, from 1279 onwards up to the end of the fifteenth century, providing a vast store of detailed information about the craftsmen and their weekly wages, and the materials, cost of building and repair of the fabric, often providing exact dates for various portions of the work, an invaluable source for students of the building itself. The series continues in rather less regularly preserved post-medieval books, but is still plentiful, and provides information about such widely various topics as the putting of the cathedral to rights in 1660 after the Commonwealth disruption, and Gilbert Scott's thorough restoration in the 1870's.

Among the most widely interesting, as well as the most widely various, of the Chapter muniments, are the assortment of documents which have accumulated in the course of regular business over a period of nearly a thousand years, the principle of whose preservation has chiefly been their value as evidence in later times. They are difficult to summarise because of their diversity, but include royal charters, a group which begin with a number of pre-Conquest diplomas, papal grants and confirmations, bishops' acta, settlements of disputes, agreements of all kinds and much varied correspondence. And of course there are numbers of individual special items - more than one inventory of the treasures and the library, a twelfth century relics list, even the elaborate official notarial copy of Edward I's adjudication concerning the crown of Scotland. There are whole groups relating to the enthronement of bishops and the installations of canons, another group of court books of the Chapter's special peculiar jurisdiction, equivalent to that of an archdeacon, over select parishes in Devon and Cornwall. The only register of baptisms, marriages and burials among the archives is, of course, that of the cathedral church itself, whose 'parish' is the Close only.

The church and Chapter of Exeter was in the early medieval period endowed with numerous churches and estates for its support, and later acquired other property for chantry and obit foundations and charitable purposes. The records of these estates and their administration are the categories of document most likely to be of interest to local historians, but it must be pointed out that though they survive in ample quantity, sometimes providing the continuous history of a property from the twelfth to the twentieth century, they do not provide any systematic coverage for the county of Devon. Geographically the interest is certainly centred in Exeter and Devon, and to a lesser extent Cornwall, but also ranges outside the West Country altogether, such as the large estate once held by the Chapter in Hampton, co. Oxon. A fourteenth century cartulary recording title deeds and related documents for most of the Chapter possessions includes Exeter properties and the following places: lands and or churches in Branscombe, Broadhembury, Buckereil, Colebrooke, Colyton, Culmstock, Dawlish, Ide, Newton St. Cyres, Plympton, Salcombe, Sidbury, Staverton, Stoke Canon, Thorverton, Up Ottery, Westleigh, Widecombe and Winkleigh, in Devon; Constantine, Egloshayle, St. Ercy, St. Eval, St. Melan, St. Piran, St. Winnow and Sancreed in Cornwall; Bampton in Oxfordshire. This is however by no means a fully comprehensive list of their properties, merely the principal ones where there were estates, for more than a hundred places are concerned at one period or another. For the main properties, several of which were

complete manors, quantities of medieval deeds, post-medieval leases, rentals, surveys, manorial court rolls and accounts do survive, with some manorial maps of late eighteenth century date. In the mid-nineteenth century ecclesiastical estates were taken over by the Ecclesiastical (now the Church) Commissioners, and administered thereafter centrally in a quite different way, and so local records of this kind do in most cases cease around 1860, though a number of records of somewhat later date than these have been returned to the Chapter archives by the Church Commissioners in the past few years.

In all, the archives of Exeter Cathedral provide a rich though selective quarry for local historians. However, the date range is so wide and their contents are so diverse that the most apparently unlikely enquiry very often results in the emergence of a piece of relevant information. Moreover, the combination of the library's resources of local history material taken in conjunction with the archives, often proves a profitable juxtaposition.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CHECK-LISTING IN THE DEVON PARISHES

Susan M. Pearce.

Medieval, post-medieval, and industrial archaeology are now firmly established disciplines, and the days are over when an archaeologist was expected (and content) to confine himself to the prehistoric, Roman, and Saxon past. This change of emphasis over the last two decades has opened up a whole new landscape for a fruitful co-operation between the archaeologist and the historian. Until recently, archaeology tended to confine itself either to the excavation of sites, or to studies of individual types of artefact, development sequences of pottery types, bronze age metalwork, and the like. No one doubts that these studies will always be necessary, and will retain their validity. However, rather more recently, field survey is coming to take a prominent place beside the other methods of gathering knowledge.

Field survey is, of course, in no sense a new idea. Nevertheless, the great rise in building, road construction, and development of all kinds, has made the recording of archaeological finds and features a matter of the first importance. In Devon, so far, development is, relatively speaking, below a frightening level. In other parts of the country it is quite literally true that if an archaeological site is not recorded this week, next week it may be lost for ever. In such a situation, excavation of all but a handful of sites is out of the question. The best that can be done is to make a permanent record of whatever could be ascertained before the development began. Much of the recording work is being done by people who are amateurs in the best sense, and who work in their free time to a professional standard.

It is obvious, however, that recording done as the bulldozers appear over the horizon is not a satisfactory way of prosecuting so important a task. In order that the fullest information, and so value, of field study may be realised, it has become clear that it is necessary to proceed on a more logical basis. England is divided up into parishes, and it is the parishes which have emerged as the most satisfactory units upon which a field survey can be based. The method, in essence, is quite simple. A team, or an individual, becomes responsible for the creation of an archaeological record of an individual parish. This involves two quite distinct procedures, in order that the completest possible record can be made, and all relevant information brought together in a usable form.

On the one hand, the actual land of the parish must be walked over. Every field should be physically walked. Since at different times of day different shadows may expose features of interest, and since also the clear view of arable fields will differ according to the time of year, it may be necessary to walk the same plot of ground more than once. Equally, special climatic conditions, like the aftermath of a heavy rain storm, may bring finds to the surface. All features, such as banks and ditches, curiously broken ground which may indicate settlement, and foundations of stone or brick buildings must be recorded. Worked stone, pottery, and any other small artefacts must be collected and recorded. A study of air photographs is an essential help in this work.

On the other hand, scraps of information from documentary sources must

be recorded. The documents tend to divide themselves into two separate groups. Firstly, there are those, chiefly printed sources, which are concerned with the county in whole or in part. These include the volumes produced by the Devonshire Association, the Victoria County History, and the works of early antiquaries like Alexander Jenkins and W. T. P. Shortt. Some of this material appears on the record cards issued by the Ordnance Survey. Secondly, there are the more specifically local sources, and these may well be in manuscript form. Chief among them is the parish tithe map, drawn up by Tithe commissioners in the 1840's. The tithe map generally records the fields and their names as they were in the mid-nineteenth century, and this may well mean that it is a record of the field pattern which had grown up in the parish since the fields were first enclosed. If a tithe map is compared with a modern Ordnance Survey map, it can be seen clearly how many fields, and therefore field names, have disappeared as hedges are uprooted to form larger land units.

Names can be a clue to the use to which the land was previously put. Many parishes have a 'Blacklands' or a 'Blackacre', and the name may record when applied to a field the black rubbish-bearing soil left after a settlement had come to an end. The settlement itself may prove to have been in existence as long ago as the Roman period. 'Crockenfield' is another common name, showing the existence of kiln workings. The process is still continuing. Among its modern place-names, the parish of Colyton has 'Broiler Field', which may be of interest to the archaeologists and social historians of the future. The parish may have a written history, and it may have an inhabitant who has made it his business to collect information and finds. Local knowledge is vital to a parish survey project. All this documentary material must be worked through, and relevant information abstracted. Only information about the sites of buildings, the use and names of fields, and the finding of objects is collected.

The tools needed for this work are quite simple. Essential, of course, are the people to carry out the work, and it is very necessary that the organiser has strong local contacts in the parish being surveyed. For field-walking Ordnance Survey maps are essential, and the most useful are the two-and-one-half inches to the mile, and the six inches to the mile series. Grid references must be given for find spots, and marked up maps can be one method of making a permanent record. Books may be requested from the County Library Service, and the Tithe Map consulted in the County Record Office, if the parish lacks a copy. Experience has shown that record sheets are essential. They can be designed so that documentary information and material observed in field walking can be recorded on them, with all necessary references and descriptions, and they can be duplicated in quantity. If material is collected, it is bagged up with a reference number equating with that on its sheet. If a team is doing the project it can work well if the necessary reading is divided up, and also each person is given one or more kilometre squares on the map to walk. This avoids duplication, and at the end everything (hopefully) is covered. Then the record sheets can be collated, and what one person saw can be matched with what another person read.

The eventual intention is, of course, to get the survey material into publishable form. Parish surveys for parts of Cornwall have already appeared

in print, and work is proceeding in parts of Somerset, as well as in other areas of England. Devon is a large county with nearly 450 parishes, and by its nature a parish survey is a lengthy business, seldom taking less than several years to complete. No Devon parish has yet been finished. Work is well advanced in the parish of Colyton. The Exeter University Archaeological Society are beginning work in the parishes of the Exe estuary. Tedburn St. Mary, Whitestone, and Alphington parish surveys have been commenced, and projects are soon to be organised in the parishes west of Tedburn. Members of the Devon Archaeological Society are much concerned in this organisation. Ideally, of course, the whole of Devon should eventually be covered, but this is a formidable task.

The published outcome is emphatically not a parish history. It is a check-list of all archaeological material, of whatever period, found or recorded in the parish. It is probably useful if distribution maps are produced for each succeeding chronological phase. The value of lists and maps like these to the archaeologist and the historian can be very considerable. They should make it possible for firmer statements to be made about the density of small settlements at different times, and so about population figures. The pattern of settlement, at the level of small hamlets or single farmsteads, should be revealed in greater detail as parish checklists proceed. Since no one period is concentrated upon, it should be possible to demonstrate the shift of settlement in succeeding periods against the changing patterns of agricultural methods, industrial exploitation, roads, railways, and other economic factors.

It has become apparent that one of the problems of this kind of parish work is duplication of effort, where various people may be reading the same volumes but extracting different information. At the moment, as far as it is possible to discover, indexes of archaeological sites and finds in documentary sources at this detailed level do not exist for Devon. To help fill this need it is proposed to set up such an index at the City Museum, Exeter. Each reference will be put on to a reference sheet, and two copies of each will be filed, one under parishes in alphabetical order, the other under chronological period. This index will not, of course, replace the field-walking side of parish check-listing work, but it should greatly facilitate the documentary side of the work. The project is very much in its infancy, but as a beginning it is hoped in this year to work through some of the relevant periodicals. Perhaps anybody who feels that they have a little time to devote to this work will get in touch with the City Museum. It may be that projects of this kind are under way in different parts of the county. If so, the intention is certainly not to replace them or repeat completed work, but rather to try and bring results together, and build upon them.

In the nature of things, both the creation of an index of archaeological records, and the completion of parish check-lists, are a long term business, and slow to show results. No more than a start has been made, but the potential rewards are well worth the effort that is involved.

DAWLISH MUSEUM

Elsa Godfrey.

Dawlish Museum was founded as an attempt to portray the history of a community which, while having no startling events in its past, has played its part in county and national affairs, as its records will show. From an agricultural and fishing settlement in a favoured, well watered spot, with farms named in extant Saxon and Norman Charters, still being worked, a gradual growth to urban status, and recognition as a popular holiday resort, is all that can be claimed.

While these basic industries yield few relics of their remote past, others of the last century are still to be found although much disappeared during early tourist raids when vast quantities of articles, precious and humble, were taken or even shipped in loads to dealers and collectors abroad. A desire to save for the place in which they had been used by the people of that place, some of the tools, household impedimenta, photographs and prints, led in 1967 to the start of a collection, its object, the formation of a Local Museum.

Interest was evident from the replies to a letter to the local press, while approval "in principle" came from the Urban District Council, and one or two first small gifts arrived. Very shortly, a more important acquisition came in the form of a collection of local shells, and a large number of West Country fossils and geological specimens.

In November 1967 a group of friends formed a Committee, and at a suggestion of one of its members, his bookshop window became in January 1968 the venue of a first exhibition of the collection of the past months. Arranged by two Committee members, Victorian childrens books, clothes and games, local brewery bottles and unearthed stone jars, trinkets, fans, letter scales and other small items, formed an attractive display and caused much interest in the town, resulting in about fifty additions to the collection.

After announcing the formation of "The Dawlish Museum Society", residents were invited to become members. Paying a small annual subscription, it was hoped to involve more people in the project, while their fees would help with running costs, and build up a fund for the future. At this time, too, storage for the growing collection was sought, and the wine cellars at the Manor House were kindly lent by the Council. Search now began for premises, very difficult in a seaside holiday town, but again the Council helped by granting on short lease, and at a nominal rent, a first floor flat in the Knowle, a house of Georgian period, earlier a private residence, later the town's property and Council Offices. The Ground floor at this time being occupied by the Clinic, the upper floor had been vacant for many years, and was in a sad condition. Also, at this time, the house was doomed to demolition to provide some extra car parking space.

Enthusiastic workers spent lively evenings and weekends scraping, filling cracks, painting walls and ceilings, cleaning and varnishing floors, removing doors, converting cupboards into display units, and in less than three months there emerged from the chaos a white painted interior, with pleasant natural

lighting, with windows affording sea, town and country views, with rooms which could so easily be adapted to various themes. The Council wine cellars were denuded of their contents, and arranged in the places decided upon. It was a very modest beginning, appearing even smaller than expected in the large flat. By June 1969 however, when after 81 years since its last visit, the Devonshire Association held its Annual Meeting in Dawlish, the infant Museum was open to its members. The official opening came later in the same month, when the Dawlish Centenarian, Mrs. Bessie Baker, on her 100th birthday, opened the door in the presence of the Chairman of the Council, Mrs. C. M. Langley, others of her officials, and many friends.

Since that first short season, a steady flow of gifts and loans has been maintained from Dawlish people and from nearby villages. A primary policy was that local material only should be accepted, with Dawlish only envisaged, but it was early realised that Ashcombe, Holcombe, Starcross, Powderham and Kenton, all having close connection with the past of Dawlish should be included and welcomed. Some of the best of the agricultural items have come from Powderham and Holcombe, from the estate of the Earl of Devon, and from Mauor Farm, Holcombe.

Showcases became a necessity and the Museum was fortunate in securing from a sale at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum at Exeter, two table cases, a third being presented by Miss J. M. L. Godfrey, a member of the Society. Others were bought from local businesses at very nominal sums, but proved good assets. Great numbers of visitors pore over the two cases of shells and fossils, well named and arranged by their donor Mr. G. Owen assisted by the Chairman of Committee, Mr. H. G. Morgan. Other attractions are the Victorian jewellery and needlework items, while a major draw is the small Victorian sitting room contrived in the porch overlooking the front entrance. This is now complemented by a period kitchen where there is a kitchen range from a house in Barton Crescent, laden with heavy iron kettle and saucepans, and nearby are griddle, bellows, chimney hooks, flat irons, kitchen bygones too numerous to name, beetle, wasp and mouse traps, old stone jars and pots, an inviting tea-table, and a mantelpiece complete with American clock, Staffordshire dogs and other clutter. Individually, most of these articles are unimportant, but grouped with their fellow items, take on a pleasing interest.

A further year's lease of the Knowle flat having expired, an intensely anxious period ensued, when it seemed as if, like two previous efforts to found a Museum in Dawlish, this also would have to be dispersed. Great encouragement was given, however, by a visit from Mr. A. A. Cumming of Plymouth Museum, who, having seen the work so far done, asked to address the Dawlish Council. His remarks on the good achievements of the Society, and of the adaptation of the house to such good purpose, determined the Council to reconsider demolition of the Knowle. In February 1972 the ground floor became vacant, and use of two large rooms here for the most important Exhibition so far mounted by the Museum was allowed. A Trades Fair was being organised by the Chamber of Trade, and the Museum Committee offered to co-operate by holding an Exhibition of Old Dawlish Trades. The Town Fair failed, but having assembled a large quantity of very interesting material, it was decided that the Museum effort should continue. The result was extremely

successful in bringing to their Museum large numbers of people, keen to see photographs of bygone trades and many of their own ancestors who had worked at them, together with relics of businesses now merely names in their town's history.

All this material was allowed to remain, indeed some of it was by far too heavy for the first floor. Eventually the tenancy of the whole house became the object of a negotiation with the Council, who agreed to repair and re-decorate the exterior of the building. This has been completed, and the fine old house now presents a most pleasing appearance of which we are all proud.

It has been an enormous help to receive grants from the County Council, not only for the improvements in display which have been possible, but for the knowledge that all our voluntary work is recognised as worth encouragement.

Exhibitions in 1973 began with modern paintings by a Dawlish resident, followed by a most comprehensive display of Records of Teignbridge mounted by the County Record Office. In June, Dartmoor photographs by Robert Burnard were followed by a collection showing the History of the Postcard. All were in addition to the permanent displays, and gave a successful season.

Throughout the five seasons of the Museum's existence, original aims of the Society and its Committee have been consistently pursued and, as some of the visual history of our town is safely housed for us and all who wish to study, we now embark on examination of the documentary history of this ancient parish, with a view to building up through individual research, through Extra-Mural studies and other activities, archives which may be of interest and value to future historians, amateur or professional. Enlargement of the scope of work through contacts with schools and other groups brings new ideas, new people, and must be a policy if the Society is to grow and fulfil its role as keeper of treasures and records of the past, and prove a lively amenity for the town and district it was meant to serve.

THE BURNET MORRIS INDEX

R. G. F. Stanes

This remarkable index is a must for every local Historian in Devon. Its 1,000,000 slips contain references to sources relating to people and places in Devon which, in many cases, would remain totally unknown if it were not for the fact that Mr. Burnet Morris had himself read or consulted them during the twenty five years (1915-1940) that he was at work.

It is in fact difficult to do justice to the extent and complexity of his achievement. The original intention of the Devonshire Association who sponsored this work was in fact to compile a Bibliography of the County of Devon that was to include all works by Devonians, all works printed in Devon, all works written in Devon and works relating to Devon in whole or in part. This was a commendable and worthwhile aim. It has in fact yet to be achieved. Mr. Burnet Morris however had, it would seem, his own ideas about what should be included since he did not consider himself confined to the original plan. He included every sort of printed material ranging from parish magazines to Statutes of the Realm, from maps to music provided they referred to Devon in some way. Not only were local publications looked at, but such country wide journals as the Gentlemans Magazine, and Louduns Magazine of Natural History, both of which date from the early part of the last century and possibly earlier, were also consulted and references to all things and places Devonian were noted and the source and reference written on a slip. Further, all the printed indexes to the Calendars of manuscripts held by the Public Record Offices were gone through also and this was followed by references to the indexes of printed material produced by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, to the indexes of additional MSS at the British Museum and to those of the Pipe Roll Society. Without a detailed study of the Index it is impossible to do more than say that there was little available before 1940 that Mr. Morris did not consult and index and the Transactions of the Devonshire Association and the Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries and some at least of the unprinted MSS notes of Devon historians of the past are included. So it is possible to go to the Burnet Morris Index and open one of the drawers containing the slips referring to a chosen parish and find a great mass of slips all with references to that parish. Clearly this is a hoard that no local historian can leave undiscovered.

However there are snags and it is worth while noting some, so that newcomers to the collection do not go away disappointed. Mr. Morris normally on his slip only gave a reference under a very general heading, so that the mass of slips will contain not the detailed information itself but merely where it can be found. Thus there will be references to the Close Rolls with year and page given. That is simple enough. Less simple is when the reference is just a name. This means however, that the name should be looked for in the name section of the index when it may refer to a will or to a book or to an article in some obscure magazine which then has to be located and found. Occasionally the search leads to a dead end, when, for instance, a name is given and there are no further leads when that name is located. Expert knowledge may reveal to what this refers, but not always.

Perhaps it would be worth while citing two instances in the writers experience that reveal the rewards and frustrations. Searching the slips on Slapton I came across a reference to Slapton Cellars, the old cluster of buildings that stood on Slapton Sands. The existence of this was well known to me but no description existed. The reference given was a volume of the Gentlemans Magazine. This can be consulted in the City Library and the reference was found. It was a travel article and it said with blinding clarity, "And then we passed by Slapton Cellars". Clearly Mr. Morris included everything. Irritating but probably right. It may in fact be fatal to neglect any lead. The Slapton slips contained one with a name H. V. Deere. This, when followed up, referred me to Louduns Magazine of Natural History 1831. The University Library located this for me at the Radcliffe at Oxford and the article found, apart from much else, contained a map of Slapton Ley of 1831 on a fair scale showing features now entirely disappeared and otherwise not recorded. A treasure indeed. It is worth persevering.

The Index is the property of the Devonshire Association but is available to the public on consultation at the reference library and is housed in the Reference Section of the City Library at the moment. It is contained in boxes of slips and is divided into a Place Section, a Name Section and a Subject Section. The place section for Slapton contains roughly 350 slips. Slapton also appears under the name section and here there are 50 or so relevant slips. Mr. Paley the newly appointed Devon Local History Librarian, probably knows more about the use of the Index than anyone else and he can often sort out difficulties and knows many of the obscure references. It is vitally important that the very careful lexicographical order should be kept since otherwise, possibly useful slips get 'lost'. Much of the information in this note comes from a talk given by Mr. Pugsley, until recently City Librarian, to the Parochial History section of the Devonshire Association.

DEVON LIFE-BOAT HISTORY

Grahame Farr

In 'The Year of the Life-boat' which celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, it might be opportune to make a few observations on the history of the life-boat service on the coasts of Devon.

Members will know that an International Life-boat Exhibition is being arranged at Plymouth from July 19th to August 17th, with a static exhibition at the West Hoe, and visiting life-boats, both of the R. N. L. I. and overseas societies, at Millbay Docks.

Life-boat stations are operational in Devon at the following places - Clovelly, Appledore, Ilfracombe, Plymouth, Salcombe, Brixham (officially known as Torbay), and Exmouth. Of these Appledore, Plymouth, Brixham and Exmouth have small inshore life-boats as well as conventional ones. The large boats lie afloat at all these stations except Ilfracombe, where the boat is launched by carriage and is open for inspection in its house on the Pier during the summer months. At Appledore and Exmouth the inshore life-boats are kept in houses which also have interesting exhibitions of models and photographs.

Formerly, in the era of pulling and sailing life-boats, there were stations at Northam Burrows, Braunton Burrows, Mort Bay (Woolacombe), Lynmouth, Yealm River, Hope Cove, Dartmouth, Torquay, Teignmouth, and Sidmouth. In most cases the old houses still stand in alternative use for the interest of industrial archaeologists. At Northam Burrows, however, all that is left is a cement plinth; at Braunton Burrows nothing is visible above the drifting sands, and at Lynmouth the house fell victim of the 1952 spate.

I dealt with the history of the various Devon Life-boat Stations in two books - 'Wreck and Rescue in the Bristol Channel, Part 1 - the English Life-boats' (1966) and 'Wreck and Rescue on the Coast of Devon, the Story of the South Devon Life-boats' (1968), published by Barton of Truro.

However, there is plenty of scope for more research. Station history when under R. N. L. I. control is quite well documented, but life-boats which may, or may not, have been in the hands of local committees in earlier years at Appledore and Teignmouth have defied identification. The origins of the two private life-boats at Ilfracombe in 1828 and 1850, and their management, are also shadowy. The fate of the two earliest Devon life-boats, sent to Plymouth and Exmouth in 1803, is also uncertain. They were of the North-country type and so disliked by West Country seamen that they were never used for their intended purpose.

At Appledore there is an additional mystery about the housing of the earliest life-boats. The late Vernon Boyle once told me there had been a life-boat house in the area of the old Gas Works, by Hinks' present building yard, at East Appledore. Can anybody confirm its position?

SOME RECENT LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

R. R. Sellman

Professor Finberg has given us cogent, if tart, advice on 'how not to write local history' (Local History, pp. 71-86, Newton Abbot, 1967) which may be summarised as follows -

- (a) be ignorant of the general background, and assume that local manifestations of the commonplace are unique;
- (b) make the most of personal crochets, sentimental anecdotes, and 'underground passages';
- (c) neglect topographical evidence such as field and farm names and parish boundaries, and provide no map to help those who do not know the parish;
- (d) write direct from jottings in disconnected paragraphs;
- (e) assume that the landed gentry and the descent of the manor are the only significant local topics;
- (f) ignore available parish records; and finally -
- (g) 'exclude all that matters'.

No-one need complain that local histories are often written and published by non-academics; much of great value would be lost if they weren't. But the vast difference in content and quality between such productions calls for some comment. We may at once acquit Miss Welsford (A Church and its People, Tiverton, 1973) whose account of Tiverton is soundly based on sources and background reading, provided with clear maps, and concerned with the development of a community as well as with the church. To compress so large a subject into 76 small pages of text while maintaining a balanced and well-written narrative is something of an achievement.

The Yarcombe Story (F. T. Orchard, 1973), on the other hand meets virtually every one of Finberg's qualifications. The enthusiasm with which it is written is no substitute for a lack of basic knowledge (demonstrated for example by the statement that Domesday serfs, as distinct from villeins and bordars, were 'free men': by the assumption that peas and beans were the 'staple food of the populace' because the distinction between great and lesser tithes is unknown: by taking a commonplace Removal Order as a 'strange document'; and by giving wrong dates for the dissolution of the 'greater monasteries and the Bloody Assize). There is no map, no topographical background, and virtually nothing to indicate that this parish has registers from 1539 and a good spread of parish (as distinct from church) records. Most of what appears is confined to the church, the tithe and glebe, and a few gentry wills, eked out with 'sentimental anecdotes', musings, and verse. The title, in fact, is a misnomer.

Backalong (C. Armstrong, Regency Press, 1972) is described as 'the story of Lee Bay and Chapel Cottage'; but the opportunity to give an account of

a nineteenth century North Devon community, which would have been of general interest, is for the most part submerged in a family history. The book is well produced, anecdotal, written with some verve, and entirely readable; but it is hardly 'local history'.

Slapton (P. Charig, 1973) has been largely compiled from the notes of others, and shows this in a tendency to spasmodic paragraphing and arrangement. It is factual (apart from exaggerating the administrative functions of the Vestry and parish officers in the period immediately before 1894), free from sentimentalism, and provided with a reasonable map and illustrations. It aims only to be 'a guide for those who visit Slapton and its old church', and is published in aid of church and village hall funds. As such it should interest the casual reader; but it is not, and does not claim to be, a history of the parish.

A Story of Sidmouth (A. Sutton, 1953, reprinted Phillimore 1973) is indeed, as its preface says, 'a labour of love' based on 'the researches of others and the writer's own happy memories'. As an account of local buildings and happenings in the 19th and 20th centuries it contains a great deal which will interest Sidmouthians; but the attempt to fill in a historical background is unfortunate, since the writer has ventured beyond her scope. Consequently the outsider is repelled by such statements as 'in 925 the Saxons turned Christians', by the quoting of various early documents without explanation or analysis, and by a disconnected and discursive presentation of material which stems too obviously from disjointed notes. The text is exceptionally full, running to over 200 pages, and contains many pleasing sketches by the author; but anyone looking for serious local history will be disappointed.

The above are only a few recent publications out of very many which are already to be found in the County Library and which demonstrate the same range of standard and objective. General comment on the writing of local history cannot ignore the practical problems of publication: who is it written for, and, in most cases, will it sell enough copies to cover the cost of printing? The academic writing mainly for other specialists may be immune from such considerations, but for others a counsel of perfection must be modified. A village, if well provided with records, is a much more practicable unit for the purpose than a considerable town with a complex society - but however well researched and well written the result may be, the market is inevitably less extensive and a serious village history may need to be financed by the writer. Cost limitations must therefore be kept in mind by most aspirants; but, accepting this, the moral is surely to concentrate on quality. There is no reason why soundly-based local history should not be so written as to be appreciated by the non-specialist, as some eminent academics have abundantly shown; and there is no bar to the non-academic writing good local history, if he will first take to heart (or independently reach) Finberg's pointers on how to avoid the pitfalls.

A good local history is within the capacity of anyone who can write with effect, who will do the basic work on general developments as well as on local topography and records, and who appreciates that his concern is the human story of the development of a community. Enthusiasm, like patriotism, is not in itself enough; it eases, but is no substitute for, well directed labour.

DEVON & CORNWALL: A POSTAL SURVEY 1500-1791 by David B. Cornelius. Reigate: The Postal History Society, 1973, x + 65 pp. £1.75

This is the latest of the special series publications of the Postal History Society produced in A4 size from typewritten copy. The by-product of work on the postal history of Plymouth, it is the first overall attempt to discuss early postal services in Devon and Cornwall though Cyril Noall (A history of the Cornish mail) and C. G. Harper (The Exeter Road) deal with aspects of this subject. This account is divided into three parts. First there is a general survey of postal services in the West Country before 1635, when the posts were reorganised by Thomas Witheridge, which shows how, after spasmodic attempts in the early sixteenth century, the Plymouth road via Salisbury and Exeter became a standing road between 1590 and 1598. The two later sections are concerned respectively with Cornwall and Devon between 1635 and 1791. Each of the county sections is divided into two parts which deal with the routes and the post towns and sub-offices. How early postal services in the West Country began is not known but Mr. Cornelius begins his story with the record of entries in the Plymouth accounts of payments for the carriage of letters from Plymouth to Sherborne and Exeter in 1501 and ends at the point when the postal historian can cease to rely on widely scattered records and draw on the central archives of the General Post Office Records Room. By the end of the eighteenth century, to meet the growing commercial and industrial needs of the West Country, there was a network of mailcoach, horse and footpost routes. As Mr. Cornelius suggests, many aspects of this story need to be told in more detail. Meantime this preliminary survey is to be welcomed.

Walter Minchinton

THE GRAND WESTERN CANAL, by Helen Harris, Newton Abbot: David & Charles, 1973, 206pp. £3.50 ISBN 0 7153 6254 2

Originally intended to link the Bristol and English Channels between Taunton and Topsham, the Grand Western Canal was never completed and so the section which still survives belies its name. The first survey in 1769 came to nothing but the idea was revived in the 1790's and an Act obtained, despite opposition from Exeter, in 1796 for a canal to carry coal, lime and paving stones eventually led to the commencement of construction in 1810. The start was made not with the main line of the canal but with a branch from Tiverton to Lowdells on the Somerset border, in order to obtain income from the carriage of lime, and traffic started in 1814. The Tiverton branch was a contour canal but the continuation to Taunton involved a change in levels which James Green proposed, in his report of the late 1820's, should be made not by locks but by seven vertical lifts and an inclined plane at Wellisford. After problems involved in the working of the lifts were solved, the prosperity of the canal enjoyed from 1838 was brought to an end by the coming of the railway in 1844. Traffic declined and the canal was bought by the GWR in 1864 and the lifts were dismantled. The southern end of the canal was never built but the Tiverton section remained in operation until 1925.

Conforming to the pattern of the inland waterways series, this account is written as a contribution to transport rather than economic history and neither the capital costs nor the operational accounts are fully discussed.

Well illustrated with a good sequence of photographs, this history and particularly the itinerary of the route (which is perhaps better described by Sean Hall and Joy Yeates in two pamphlets published by the Devon County Council) could have done with better maps, and a bibliography would have been welcome. Nevertheless, Mrs. Harris has written a pleasant readable account which may justifiably encourage many to walk along the eleven miles of the Tiverton section which has now, after considerable local activity, been reopened for recreational purposes.

Walter Minchinton

A HISTORY OF THE FOREST OF EXMOOR, by Edward MacDermot, 1911. David & Charles reprint 1973. 480pp. £6.50 ISBN 0 7153 5752 2

This is a most excellent book. It must be the standard work on the Forest up to the sale of the Forest to the Knights in 1820. Every relevant source has been looked at apparently and the research done has been painstaking and exhaustive and scholarly. The result is still an immensely readable and fascinating book. It is in fact the best type of Local History, the work of an amateur historian, - MacDermot was a barrister by training, - but written to professional standards with the addition of an all pervading love of his subject. It is this that informs the book and makes it so attractive.

Exmoor was an ancient Forest, a part of England separate and distinct from the settled country, wild, remote, subject to its own laws, the laws of the Forest, with its own Court the Court of Swainmote and its own Warden, Royally appointed. This great piece of wild upland provided agisted summer grazing for all the surrounding parishes and formed an essential part of the farming economy of the region. It had few inhabitants, was extra parochial, and was therefore different.' This book examines all these aspects, starting with the origins of Forests and forest Law, and considering the Swainmote Court and the administration of the Forest. The influence and the activity of the various Wardens is then examined. Much attention is given to one in particular, James Boevey a London Merchant, who ran Exmoor with energy and determination in the late seventeenth century engaging in no less than sixteen law suits against the commoners and others. This was the period into which Blackmore set the story of the Doones. No Doone, however fierce, would have been a match for James Boevey and no mention of them occurs in the records. That they are imaginary must be proved by this book, unpopular as this may be. Boevey was decidedly unpopular himself, but his law suits have left a legacy of personal depositions that are immensely revealing about the old country life on and around Exmoor. The methods of ensuring that the memory of the all important 'bounds' of the Forest should survive are particularly human and amusing. The Hoarok Tree perhaps the fourth of the succession of oaks that has marked one spot on the boundary of the Forest since the Conquest may be, is a sight worth seeing.

MacDermot brings the history of Exmoor up to 1819 when the Forest was enclosed and deforested. The story of the Knights who attempted to reclaim Exmoor has been told by C. S. Orwin. These two books between them must surely be definitive. A similarly well researched and exhaustive history of Dartmoor still remains to be written, a challenge that someone should take up, though possibly the documents do not exist in the same

fullness.

At £6.50 this is an expensive book but for once it can be said it is worth every penny.

Robin Stanes.

THE EXMOOR HANDBOOK AND GAZETTEER by N. V. Allen. Dulverton. The Exmoor Press 1973. Price 50 pence.

This microstudy is both interesting and useful. The writer has selected and condensed his information well, and set it out for easy reference under headings. For the reader interested in history, the chapter, 'Man and the Moor' serves as a brief introduction or handy reminder to the story told in greater detail in books listed in the 'Further Reading' section. Literary associations are not forgotten, and I am glad to see Blackmore's 'bther' books remembered, as The Maid of Sker for instance, should interest Devon readers as much as the more celebrated Lorna Doone.

Other chapters deal with facts and figures, wild life and landscape. I particularly liked the description of Exmoor rivers and the footpaths by which they can be explored. There are eight pages of excellent photographs and many attractive drawings. The map needs bolder printing, as the road numbers and smaller names are very difficult to see. The cover, with its well-chosen photograph, is not very well stuck on, and will not last if the book is much used. However, one cannot have everything for 50 pence, and this handbook is well worth a place in the glove compartment or rucksack pocket of the historian out to see something of Exmoor for himself.

Alison Grant

A HISTORY OF WATCHET by A. L. Wedlake. Dulverton. The Exmoor Press. Re-issued 1973. £2.00.

This local history, first written about 20 years ago, has now been revised by the author, and re-published with additional illustrations. The writer knows and loves his town well, but does not let enthusiasm cloud his judgment. He has drawn on a variety of sources - archaeological finds, documents, newspapers, photographs and people's memories, to mention a few. The material is presented in a 'reasonably continuous narrative' (to quote the author), with an interesting chapter on 'Commerce and People' to highlight social and economic developments. There are some interesting photographs, but the two maps provided do not show all the places mentioned in the text - aggravating for the reader with little or no knowledge of the district.

This study of a Somerset port should provide some useful leads for the 'Devon historian' and provide him with interesting points of comparison with the history of his own locality. He will also discover and enjoy the story of the town and people of Watchet.

Alison Grant

LEGENDS OF EXMOOR, by Jack Hurley. Microstudy G2, The Exmoor Press. 50p.

The Exmoor stories are not easy to tell. Their flavour is elusive, like a pixie, and may vanish at a stranger's touch. "There's some you can tell a tale to, and some you can't." But Jack Hurley, editor of "The West Somerset Free Press", is no stranger. Since boyhood he has listened appreciatively to the tales: he knows the moor and its people, and has assessed the written evidence. Now he selects and re-tells, with "relish and respect for legend", and a friendly scepticism kept tactfully in check.

His legends are in four groups. First, hovering near "real" history, are the stories of Barton and Combe Sydenham, accretions of romance and the supernatural around those legend-begetting figures, Mary Stuart and Francis Drake. Next come tales of witches and pixies and the devil; then some lively Christian legends, and finally the rag-bag - treasure-hunting, Tom Faggas the highwayman, and the tradition that a standing stone on the Brendons walks to a spring every midnight.

This last sounds old enough to belong to the fascinating second group. Mr. Hurley writes affectionately of the pixies, and quotes an interesting theory of their origin, as the little people of the Bronze Age who went underground, figuratively and sometimes even literally, when the big iron-armed Celts conquered the land. The witch and devil tales, too, are well chosen and nicely told - but what a pity to destroy pace and suspense with give-away sub-titles every few inches!

These also make the lay-out choppy: otherwise, the booklet is attractively, and - bar a few obvious slips - accurately produced. Sturdy photographs of the tangible are complemented by whimsical sketches of the unprovable, from Audrey Bonham-Carter and the Cruikshank drawing of Mother Leakey, on the cover, is a perfect keynote for this good-humoured and entertaining addition to an admirable series of local studies.

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H. Cardley-Wilmot

ENGLISH TIN PRODUCTION AND TRADE BEFORE 1550 by John Hatcher. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973. xi + 219 pp. £6 ISBN 0 19 828263 X

Even if trade with the Phoenicians remains mere conjecture, tin, one of the first metals to be used by man, was perhaps the oldest of English exports. Despite much effort by archaeologists and historians, the early history of English tin production and trade remains indistinct and so Dr. Hatcher concentrates his attention on the two and a half centuries after 1300 for which a reasonable range of documentary material is available. Previous studies of the English tin industry have concentrated on mining and have had little to say about the trade in tin and the uses to which the metal was put. By contrast, not wishing to repeat what is already well-known, Dr. Hatcher has only one chapter on capital and labour and devotes the bulk of his attention to trade and use. In the later middle ages tin production was much higher in Cornwall than in Devon which had been the leading producer in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. In consequence, the scale of the producing units in Devon was smaller and the activities of her tin merchants more restricted than in Cornwall. But Devon ports (Exeter, Dartmouth and Plymouth) continued to be involved in both the export and the coastwise trade in tin. In particular, as trade grew from the later fifteenth century, exports of tin from the west county ports expanded at the expense of Southampton and with the waning of Italian shipping using that port. In setting out this story, Dr. Hatcher has had to grapple with the problems posed by customs statistics which prevent the attribution of exports to precise harbours rather than to customs ports, though his explanation of this situation is not entirely satisfactory. A welcome aspect of this account is, however, the discussion of the uses to which tin was put. Dr. Hatcher shows that it was used for a wide and growing range of purposes. Of these, pewter appears to have been the most important, the growing market for which was perhaps indicative of rising living standards. Tin was also used with other metals for church bells and organ pipes, for building purposes as solder and to alloy with copper in the manufacture of bronze cannon. It also had a wide range of sartorial, artistic and cultural uses. Strangely, however, Dr. Hatcher omits any mention of what is now the largest market for tin, tinsplate, whose manufacture expanded in the later middle ages as it came to challenge pewter as a cheaper substitute in a number of uses. This well-documented account, a welcome addition to the literature of the subject, is rounded off by Appendices which contain more detailed statistics than have previously been available of the production and export of tin. It only remains to add that 1973, which saw a record rise in the price of tin by 90 per cent from £1500 per ton to £2700 per ton, also saw the rising price of books continue. With 230 pages costing £6, the Devon Historian, by comparison, now looks remarkably cheap!

Walter Minchinton

THE LAND CHANGED ITS FACE The Evacuation of Devon's S. Hams 1943-4 by Grace Bradbear - 1973. David & Charles £2.75.

A great deal of inquiry and work has gone into the production of this book, and its four central chapters are of absorbing interest to those who know well the small area affected. Those who live there now - at least the immigrants since 1944 - and the visitors who are regular, must find the detail, and especially the illustrations, fascinating.

The work however is largely a compendium of hearsay, and the authority for the information is at best inconsistent. A vast number of anecdotes pepper the book and the relevance of many - especially in the first 35 pages is not clear. This gives a distinct impression that the idea was good, but the actual material available hardly justified a book, and much padding was necessary.

From the historian's point of view the checkable inaccuracies in the last chapter must cast doubts on the remainder. The repeated wandering from the theme into offered explanations of local phenomena must irritate the serious reader. A date on the aerial photograph of Slapton Ley - which is clearly pre-1939 to the local - would have increased its value tremendously.

The pictorial record is valuable, it has to be annotated carefully by the reader's own editorial ability.

Ian Mercer.

THE COUNTRYMEN BOOK OF THE PAST, edited by Ann Cripps, published by David & Charles at £2.95p.

During the past twenty years, the Countryman and the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading University have, between them, collected and recorded many of the old tools and pieces of equipment sent in by readers of the magazine. This valuable work has gathered a wealth of information that would otherwise have been lost.

While in the first place this book gives a selection of these tools as used in the farmyard, the smithy, the kitchen and elsewhere, the descriptions are often contributed by those who have seen the tools in use, and it is this which emphasises the link with the past and brings the subject to life.

The photographs and line drawings, all in black and white, are particularly clear, but in many cases it is difficult to gauge the size of the objects. The lack of a name beside the illustration is an irritating omission in a book which will be used for reference. A selection of this sort calls for a list of books dealing in detail with each section, and some indication of the more extensive collections open to the public. A fuller index would have been helpful.

These criticisms apart, the local historian will find the snippets of social history fascinating, whether it is Fitzherbert in the 16th C. explaining how to sow broadcast from a hopper, or a retired sailor recalling how he pressed R. N. tropical kit on the lower deck in the 20th C. Otherwise obscure technical information is given: how brambles were used in thatching and bee-skep making; why sheepshanks might be preferred to wooden pegs for hanging slates; the shift work and pay of the brick-makers; or the varying rhythms and pressures of the flailers.

Books can stimulate interest but can never recapture the skill required in the use of these tools, which is the essence of the matter. The Open Air Museums can now demonstrate the old skills to some extent, but surely the time has come to record them on film. Is this an area where local historians

and museums might get together with skilled amateurs of the 16mm. cine camera? In Devon we have many farmers and craftsmen who are proud of their traditions, as the displays at the County Show and elsewhere testify. Ronald Glythe, for example, reporting the filming of "Akenfield", says that the old horse economy of Suffolk has been recreated for the camera. The opening of an archive of Oral History should also be invaluable.

Part of the fascination of old tools lies in handling them. An ancient flail, let us say, in the hand being worth two in the museum, as it were, and one would like to see a system of "museum boxes" akin to the County Library boxes, possibly using replicas or the material which can never be displayed for lack of room.

However, while we await these developments, readers of the Devon Historian will no doubt be happy to receive "Rescuing the Past", and to compare the methods and tools described with those they have seen in use.

Kay Coutin.

ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE, by Hugh Braun. David & Charles, 1973; 194 pp. 104 figs. 8 photographs. £3.95.

This book falls into two sections. The last quarter deals with current architectural design, particularly for additions, alterations and new buildings which are in a close relationship to existing houses, and lays emphasis on 'architectural good manners'. The advice by which these good manners are to be achieved is perhaps presented rather dogmatically, but always interestingly and entertainingly. If it were followed, we would certainly see a vast improvement in the human qualities of new buildings.

The main body of the book attempts a description of the construction, plans and features of English domestic buildings - cottages, farmhouses and manor houses rather more than castles and mansions. Again, the style is admirable, but as far as its facts are concerned, this section can only be called disastrous. It takes essentially no account of the considerable recent research (cf. A Bibliography of Vernacular Architecture, David & Charles), and perhaps for this reason, the terminology is often bizarre. Who, for example, recognises the 'King John's houses' (p. 74) as the first floor stone halls, such as Boothby Pagnell manor house? Of the factual errors, only a few can be noted. Fig. 44 shows a plan for which it would be difficult to find a handful of examples, and it is certainly not the Tudor farmhouse. The truss on p. 54 is unrecognisable as any known form; its fragments are 14th century if anything rather than Tudor. This drawing and others, by omitting peg-holes (and in some cases failing to distinguish separate timbers) completely conceal the articulation of the structures. The statement (p. 43) that the sash window first appears in the south-west, perhaps diffusing from Plymouth, gives a most implausible reversal of the usual spread of ideas from the capital to the provinces. The photographs, which seem to be thrown in as make-weights and are nowhere referred to in the text, have in their eight captions, five major dating errors or mis-attributions.

In all, this book can be recommended for its practical pointers, but not

at all for its historical descriptions.

N. W. Alcock

THE DEVON UNION LIST

Some time ago the five main libraries in Exeter (City, County, Cathedral, Devon & Exeter Institution and the University) decided that it would be useful to have a combined catalogue of all books on the county of Devon available in the City. Catalogue entries were sent to Mr. Allan Brockett at the University Library and he has now completed a file of the information, with indications of which library has each item, and has made a card index of subjects dealt with. It is now possible, therefore, to find out from this file whether any particular work is available in the city of Exeter and where it is. Reprints from local journals, such as the Transactions of the Devonshire Association and the Proceedings of the Devonshire Archaeological Exploration Society, were excluded as most libraries have complete sets of these journals which may be referred to. It is proposed to publish the Devon Union List but exactly when this may be and in what form is now under discussion. It is hoped also to extend it to include the local collections at Torquay and Plymouth.

NEW ADDRESSES

Devonshire Association Axe Valley Branch.

Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Fewins, Tollards, 33 Durley Road, Seaton, Devon.

Tiverton Branch.

R. H. Webster, Esq., 20 Park Road, Tiverton.

Wesley Historical Society.

Mrs. Christine Channon, 79 East Wonford Hill, Exeter.

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, 1968, £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 F.A.G. Clark, 1968, £2.10.
- Industry, Trade and People in Exeter, 1660-1800* by W.G. Hoskins, 1968, £1.75.
- Exeter Houses, 1400-1700* by D. Portman, 1966, £2.50.
- Benjamin Donn's Map of Devon: 1763, 1965, £3.00.*
- Seventeenth Century Exeter* by W.H. 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. Havinden and Celia M. King, 1969, 50p.
- Industry and Society in the South West* edited by Roger Dent, 1970, 75p.
- Ports and Shipping in the South West* edited by H.E.S. Fisher, 1971, £1.75.
- 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. Carus-Wilham, 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

LOCAL HISTORY COURSES. LECTURES & MEETINGS. Summer 1974.

Except where stated the following meetings are confined to members of the societies concerned but guests are normally welcome on application.

EXETER UNIVERSITY EXTRA MURAL DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Summer Schools: 26th June-6th July - 'Archaeology of Devon'.
26th July-3rd August - 'Devon Studies'.
21st September-28th September - 'Industrial Archaeology'.

All centred at Exeter.

Details from the Extra Mural Department, Gandy Street, Exeter.

DEVONSHIRE ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting at Tiverton. 7th-12th June.

Friday, June 7th. 4 p.m. Tour of Tiverton, its Churches and notable buildings.

Saturday, June 8th. 'Industrial Archaeology - the Grand Western Canal'.

Mrs. Helen Harris. (Public Lecture) 8 p.m. Tiverton Grammar School.

Sunday, June 9th. Excursions either to Knightshayes or to parts of the Grand Western Canal, 2.30 p.m.

Monday, June 10th. Day excursion to Cadeleigh and Bickleigh churches and Bickleigh Castle.

Tuesday, June 11th. Day excursion to Selworthy Hill Head House at Washford, the Brezdon Hills, and Gauden Manor, Wiveliscombe.

Wednesday, June 12th. Day excursion to Whitbread's Kegging Plant and Heathcote's Factory.

THE HISTORY SECTION

May 15th. 'The Walls of Exeter' - John Rosanko, 7 The Close, Exeter.

THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

Saturday, June 15th. A visit to one of Watts Blake and Beames' clay works.

Saturday, September 21st. Eylesbarrow Tin Mine.

October. 'Metalliferous Mining in South West Devon' - O.A. Baker.

AXE VALLEY BRANCH

May 6th. Dunster Castle.

May 21st. Clevedon Court.

June 5th. The Garden House Buckland Monachorum, and Buckland Abbey.

June 17th. Dodington House.

July 3rd. Barrington Court.

July 25th. Meldon Reservoir.

September. Wells Cathedral and Pilton Vineyard.

EAST DEVON BRANCH

May 16th. Chevithorne Barton.

June 27th. Catchpole House.

July 21st. Bingham's Melcombe.

EXETER BRANCH

May 11th. Muchelney Abbey and priests House, Lytes Cary.
June 2nd. Lundy Island.
June 23rd. Gauden Manor, Tolland, Somerset.
July. Visit to Exeter Archaeological site.
September 5th. Cotehele House and Morden Mill.
September 28th. Ebbingford Manor, Bude.

NORTH DEVON BRANCH

May 15th. Dartmoor Walk.
July 27th. Harestone Manor.
August 17th. Morwenstow and Kilkhampton, and Spekes Mill, Hartland.
September 21st. Glastonbury and Wells.
October 12th. Exmoor Walk.

PLYMOUTH BRANCH

June 8th and July 11th. Field Excursions.
September 7th. Ringmoor.
October 2nd. Parish Records - Canon J.P. Hoskins.
May 21st. Joint meeting with Historical Association. 'The Story of the Eddystone Lighthouse' - H.E. Gamblen (at the Athenaeum).

TIVERTON BRANCH

June 29th. South Molten Museum and Tawstock Church.
September 14th. Trehili, Kenn.

NORTH DEVON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 7th. 11.30 a.m. Whiddon Down. Visit to Spinsters Rock, Drewsteignton and Prestonbury, Fingle Bridge, Round Pound and Kestor.
Probable visits in June to Bodmin Moor and to Hillisborough, Ilfracombe in October.
Fieldwork at Chailacombe Common stone rows and on the survey of Landkey parish' antiquities.

FAIRLYNCH MUSEUM, RUDLEIGH SALTERTON (open to the public)
Easter to October 1st: Summer Exhibition. Salterton High Street.
Edwardian costumes.