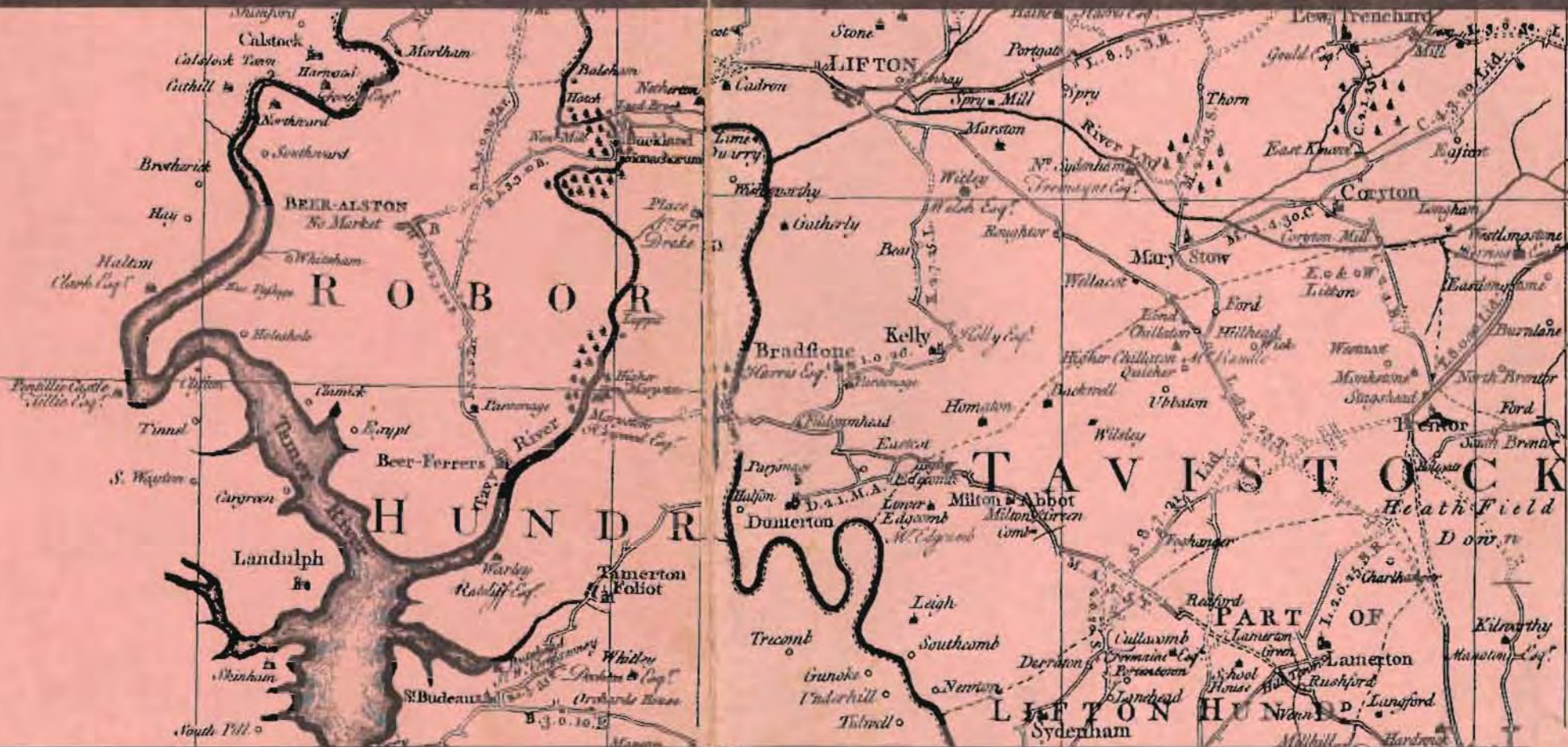


The magazine is available free to all members of the Standing Conference for Devon History. Membership may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Central Library, Lymington Road, Torquay and costs £1 per annum for individuals. Members may obtain further single copies of the magazine for 40p and copies are available to non-members for 50p.

The Devon Historian

April 1975

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STANDING CONFERENCE FOR DEVON HISTORY.

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All correspondence relating to subscriptions, membership, personal local history interests and offers of work or assistance should be sent to The Secretary, Central Library, Lymington Road, Torquay. Correspondence relating to the Devon Historian or for possible publication therein or contributions for publication should be sent to The Editor, The Devon Historian, Culver House, Payhembury, Honiton. Contributions for the next issue should be sent to the Editor by 1st August, 1975.

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 £4.00 post free and from book shops.

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Book Reviews.

Folk Songs of the West Country.
Collected by Sabine Baring Gould,
edited by Gordon Hitchcock.

Nets and Coracles
by J. Geraint Jenkins.

Instead of the Butlers Apron
by Norman Piller.

Mines of Devon
by A.K. Hamilton Jenkin.

CONFERENCES

A conference took place at Honiton on November 2nd. In the morning Robin Stanes spoke on Borough Politics in Honiton between 1640 and 1866. A number of contemporary political broadsheets and handbills were on display. In the afternoon Dr. F.C. Mather of Southampton University spoke on the 'Eighteenth Century Church'.

Visits were arranged to Honiton Museum once part of the old Grammar School and to the Honiton pottery. About 35 people attended.

A conference took place on February 22nd at Tavistock. George Goodridge spoke in the morning on the 'Devon Great Consols Mine' and in the afternoon Brian Harley spoke on 'Maps'.

Visits were made to the Tavistock Canal Basin and to Tavistock Parish Church. About ninety people were present, the largest attendance so far.

The next Conference will be on May 10th in Exeter at the University. Our new President, C.A. Raleigh Radford, will give the Presidential address on 'Old Minster Churches in Devon'.

The Autumn conference will be at Ilfracombe and the Spring Conference for 1976 at Ashburton.

Lady Aileen Fox is still working in New Zealand and has therefore resigned her Presidency of the Standing Conference. C.A. Raleigh Radford has kindly agreed to take her place and will give the Presidential address at Exeter on May 10th.

Roger Sellman has resigned as Secretary of the Standing Conference and the new Secretary will be J.R. Pike. His address will be 'The Central Library, Lymington Road, Torquay'. All correspondence should be addressed to him and not to Mr. Sellman.

NEW CONTRIBUTORS

K.V. Burns is local History and Naval Librarian at Plymouth Library.

Ray Freeman is Head of History at Torquay Girls Grammar School.

Amber Patrick is Research Assistant in the Department of Environmental Sciences at Plymouth Polytechnic.

Norman Pounds is Professor of Geography and History at the University of Indiana.

Tony Wood is Head of Lower School, Exmouth School.

THE COMPTON CENSUS FOR THE DIOCESE OF EXETER. 1676 PART 2

This part of the Compton Census relates to the peculiars of the Dean and Chapter and of the Bishop in Devon and Cornwall and to the Archdeaconries of Cornwall and Barnstaple. Part 1 appeared in the Devon Historian No. 9. For information relating to the origin, purpose and use of the Census the introduction in the Devon Historian No. 9 may be referred to. The most detailed discussion of the Census is that by Thomas Richards in the Royal Society of Cymmrodorion 1927. It is also discussed by C.W. Chalklin in Kent Records Vol 17 1960. The Cornish parishes have been identified with the assistance of Mr. P. Hull the county Archivist for Cornwall. Spellings have all been modernised. Columns A B and C record the numbers of Conformists (Anglicans) Papists and Non Conformists respectively. These are part of the original Census MS. Total A is those three columns added. Total B is total A multiplied by 1.66. This calculation is based on the assumption that children under 16 were not recorded in the Census and assumes that there were four extra children for every 6 adults recorded. Total C is the official Census figure for each parish as recorded in 1801. The Compton Census is printed here with the permission of the Salt Library, Stafford.

KEY	
A	= Conformists
B	= Papists
C	= Nonconformists

Within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter

Devon

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Topsham	986	-	80	1066	1780	2748
Heavitree	280	-	-	280	467	833
Clyst Honiton	200	-	5	205	342	348
Littleham						
(By Exmouth)	414	9	-	423	706	1909
Ide	360	-	2	362	603	507
Dawlish	450	-	-	450	750	1424
E. Teignmouth	65	-	-	65	108	2012*

* Combined figure for East and West Teignmouth.

Dean and Chapters peculiars (continued)

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Colebrooke	364	-	-	364	607	762
Stokecanon	200	-	5	205	342	254
Ashburton	2000	-	3	2003	3339	3080
Bickington	140	-	-	140	233	237
Buckland in the Moor	70	-	6	76	127	106
Staverton	768	9	-	777	1295	1053
St. Marychurch	543	-	4	547	912	801
Coffinswell	177	2	5	184	307	261
Kingskerswell	340	-	2	342	570	532
Colyton	1000	-	19	1019	1699	1641
Monkton	52	-	-	52	87	121
Shute	360	-	13	373	622	558
Sidbury	800	-	1	801	1335	1233
Salcombe Regis	198	-	-	198	330	300
Branscombe	360	-	2	362	603	603
Culmstock	630	-	40	670	1116	1496

Cornwall

St. Winnow	340	-	2	342	570	671
Braddock	120	-	-	120	200	173
Bocconoc	130	-	-	130	217	212
Perranzabuloe	800	-	-	800	1333	1389
St. Agnes	400	-	3	403	672	4161

All in said peculiar
 Conformists 13037
 Papists 20
 Nonconformists 192

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Peculiars of the Bishop of Exon in Exon diocese.

Devon

<u>Parish</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total A</u>	<u>Total B</u>	<u>Total C</u>
Chudleigh	635	-	11	646	1 076	1 786
Bishops Teignton	315	-	-	315	525	673
W. Teignmouth	255	-	-	255	425	2012*
Paignton	751	12	4	767	1 278	1 575
Stoke Gabriel	385	-	2	387	645	531
Marldon	206	-	-	206	343	364
Crediton	4000	1	7	4008	6681	4929
Sandford	1500	-	2	1502	2 504	1 742
Kennerleigh	40	-	-	40	66	94
Swimbridge	448	-	1	449	747	1082
Landkey	260	-	-	260	433	607
Bishop's Tawton	300	-	7	307	511	747
Bishop's Nympton	517	-	6	523	872	902

Cornwall

Lezant	375	-	1	376	627	610
Lawhitton	215	-	3	218	363	289
South Petherwin	372	-	-	372	620	699
Trewen	67	-	-	67	111	193
St. Germans	900	-	50	950	1583	2030
Landrake	-	-	-	-	-	613
Erney						
Egloshayle	340	-	-	340	567	781
St. Breock	470	1	-	471	785	962
Padstow in Rure	500	-	10	510	850	1 332
St. Issey	320	-	13	333	555	522
St. Eval	172	-	-	172	287	288
Little Petherick	60	3	-	63	105	126
St. Merryn	245	-	-	245	408	425
St. Ervan	220	10	4	234	390	358
Gerrans	440	-	1	441	735	771
Mylor	275	-	2	277	462	1 665
Mabe	-	-	-	-	-	387
St. Anthony in Roseland	100	-	1	101	168	163

* Combined figure for East and West Teignmouth.

Peculiars of the Bishop of Exon in Exon diocese (continued)

Cornwall

<u>Parish</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total A</u>	<u>Total B</u>	<u>Total C</u>
St. Gluvias and the Town of Penryn	1000	-	20	1020	1700	2918
Budock	100	-	12	112	187	779
Falmouth	-	-	-	-	-	1165
Archdeaconry of Cornwall						
<u>Deanery of East</u>						
Quethiock	315	-	19	334	557	587
Sheviock	629	-	-	629	1048	409
Landulph	200	-	-	200	333	529
Linkinhorne	517	-	-	517	862	924
Calstock	483	-	3	486	810	1 105
Stoke Climstand	617	-	17	634	1057	1153
Northill	250	-	-	250	417	782
Pillaton	106	-	-	106	177	336
St. Mellion	209	-	-	209	348	284
St. Dominick	265	-	-	265	442	538
Anthony	500	-	5	505	842	1795
St. Johns	114	-	-	114	190	110
Lewannick	270	-	-	270	450	518
Menheniot	575	-	13	588	980	918
Southill and Callington	403	-	5	408	680	1266
Botus Fleming	150	-	-	150	250	201
Rame	304	-	-	304	507	904
Maker	700	-	4	704	1173	3305
St. Stephens by Saltash	632	-	35	657	1095	2154
St. Ive	100	-	-	100	166	486
<u>Deanery of West</u>						
Duloe	357	-	10	367	612	709
St. Keyne	114	-	6	120	200	139
St. Veep	300	-	2	302	503	506

Deanery of West (continued)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total A</u>	<u>Total B</u>	<u>Total C</u>
Lanteglos by						
Fowey	541	-	2	543	901	678
Lansallos	280	-	1	281	468	847
Lanreath	400	-	1	401	668	478
Morval	250	-	19	269	448	533
St. Neot	1000	-	-	1000	1666	906
Pelint	330	-	6	336	560	630
St. Martin by						
Looe	720	-	33	753	1255	811
Liskeard	1418	1	79	1498	2497	2708
Talland	400	-	11	411	685	1136
St. Cleer	430	-	2	432	720	774
St. Pinnock	160	-	2	162	270	302
Warleggan	90	-	4	94	156	166
Cardinham	460	7	4	471	785	552

Deanery of Trigg Major

Altarnun	412	-	-	412	687	679
Werrington	255	-	-	255	425	489
Week St. Mary	250	-	-	250	416	566
Boyton	150	-	-	150	250	319
Egloskerry	100	-	-	100	166	307
Stratton	800	-	7	807	1345	960
St. Stephens						
Launceston	437	-	6	443	738	738
Tresmeer	60	-	-	60	100	129
Laneast	80	-	-	80	133	179
Davidstow	145	-	-	145	242	217
St. Giles in the						
Heath	110	-	-	110	183	187
Jacobstow	200	-	-	200	333	432
Marhamchurch	169	-	-	169	281	414
Otterham	630	-	-	630	1050	141
Launcells	350	-	-	350	583	647
St. Clether	73	6	-	79	131	134
Launceston	2000	-	13	2013	3355	1483
						(Borough)
Tremaine	63	-	-	63	105	91
Poughill	300	-	-	300	500	297
Kilkhampton	500	-	-	500	833	808

Deanery of Trigg Major (continued)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total A</u>	<u>Total B</u>	<u>Total C</u>
St. Thomas						
Launceston	300	-	1	301	501	355
St. Juliot	123	-	-	123	205	199
Morwenstowe	400	-	-	400	666	874
Whitstone	250	-	3	253	421	345
Trenglos	106	-	4	110	183	196
North Petherwin	300	-	-	300	500	672
Poundstock	250	-	-	250	417	617
North Tamerton	360	-	-	360	600	403

Deanery of Trigg Minor

Lanteglos by						
Camelford	334	-	5	339	565	912
Advent	112	-	-	112	187	170
Bodmin	1200	-	-	1200	2000	2299
St. Tudy	200	-	7	207	345	502
St. Teath	400	-	3	403	672	911
Lesnewth	77	-	-	77	128	104
Tintagel	354	-	2	356	563	649
Michaelstow	129	-	4	133	222	158
St. Breward	320	-	2	322	537	513
St. Minver	550	-	16	566	944	788
Forrabury	63	-	-	63	105	140
Minster	144	-	6	150	250	311
Trevalga	78	-	1	79	132	100
St. Endellion	530	-	12	542	904	727
Blisland	300	-	5	305	508	437
St. Mabyn	150	-	11	161	268	475
St. Kew	500	-	11	511	852	1095
Helland	126	-	5	131	218	221

Deanery of Powder

Roche	240	-	4	244	407	954
Fowey	587	1	35	623	1039	1155
Tywardreath	487	-	-	487	812	727
St. Sampsons or						
Golant	176	-	-	176	293	169

Deanery of Powder (continued)

<u>Parish</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total A</u>	<u>Total B</u>	<u>Total C</u>
Lostwithiel	60	-	-	60	100	743
Luxulyan	300	-	6	306	510	875
Lanlivery	340	2	1	343	572	778
Truro	700	-	10	710	1183	2358
St. Ewe	1000	-	-	1000	1666	1176
Cornelly	67	-	3	70	117	137
St. Austell	1000	-	21	1021	1702	3788
St. Blazey	230	-	4	234	390	467
Philleigh	190	-	2	192	320	315
St. Dennis	80	-	6	86	143	318
St. Gorran	450	-	-	450	750	1009
St. Just in Roseland	500	-	1	501	835	1416
St. Michael Caerhays	40	-	-	40	67	86
Veryan	600	-	-	600	1000	1007
Merther	110	-	-	110	183	305
St. Mewan	120	-	-	120	200	780
St. Stephens in Bramel	560	-	-	560	934	1738
Ruanianthorne	100	-	-	100	166	2204
Cuby with Tregony	300	-	-	300	500	1076
St. Allen	150	2	1	153	255	360
Mevagissey	300	-	4	304	507	2052
Ladock	300	-	6	306	510	542
St. Michael Penkevil	172	-	1	173	288	154
Probus	500	-	8	508	847	1013
Kenwyn	140	-	6	146	243	6221 (1821)
Kea	150	-	2	152	253	2440
Feock	250	-	2	252	420	696
Creed	340	-	12	352	587	742
St. Clement	200	-	10	210	350	1342
St. Erme	140	-	5	145	242	358
Lamorran	90	-	-	90	150	78

Deanery of Pydar

<u>Parish</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Total A</u>	<u>Total B</u>	<u>Total C</u>
Withiel	182	-	6	188	313	283
Padstow	500	2	10	512	853	1332
Lanivet	300	-	-	300	500	513
St. Columb Major	900	1	1	902	1504	1816
Mawgan In Pydar	310	17	-	327	545	543
Colan	140	-	-	140	232	191
St. Columb Minor	700	-	-	700	1167	999
St. Wenn	239	-	-	239	398	358
Newlyn	400	9	5	414	690	735
Cubert	240	-	-	240	398	269
St. Enoder	400	-	11	411	685	869

Deanery of Penwith

Phillack	140	-	2	142	237	1475
Gwithian	130	-	11	141	235	329
St. Just in Penwith	733	-	18	751	1252	2779
St. Hillary	488	-	18	506	843	1999
Camborne	540	-	2	542	903	4811
Zennor	203	-	-	203	338	544
St. Erth	300	-	-	300	500	1122
Perranuthnoe	83	-	3	86	143	506
Ludgvan	430	-	-	430	717	1324
Gwinear	300	-	2	302	503	1654
Redruth	700	-	2	702	1170	3924
Unilelant	250	-	-	250	417	1083
St. Ives	600	-	-	600	1000	2714
Sancreed	165	-	-	165	275	782
Tywardreath	110	-	-	110	183	727
Illogan	550	-	-	550	917	2895
Paul	700	-	3	703	1172	2937
Madron	100	-	1	101	168	1564
Crowan	400	-	9	409	682	2587

Deanery of Kerrier

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Gwennap	800	-	7	807	1345	4594
Ruan Minor	100	-	1	101	168	317
Sithney	350	-	6	356	593	1420
St. Keeverne	150	-	6	156	260	2104
Manaccan	220	-	-	220	367	489
Germoe	130	-	4	134	223	629
St. Anthony in Meneage	140	-	1	141	235	261
Mawnan	216	-	-	216	360	427
Cury	210	-	-	210	350	304
St. Martin in Meneage	190	-	2	192	320	363
Gunwalloe	105	-	2	107	178	216
Constantine	640	-	8	648	1080	1229
Breage	700	-	5	705	1175	2534
Grade	100	-	-	100	166	320
Landewednack	146	-	2	148	247	244
Ruan Major	85	-	-	85	142	142
Mullion	257	-	-	257	428	529
Perranar worthal	212	-	4	216	360	884
Wendron	500	-	5	505	842	3006
Stithians	338	-	1	339	565	1269
Helston	500	1	6	507	845	2248
Mawgan in Meneage	340	-	3	343	572	785

Eight Cornish Parishes do not appear in the Census. These are, St. Buryan, Sennen and St. Levan, which together formed a Royal Peculiar, and Temple, St. Gennys, Warbstow, Lankydrock and Crantock.

ARCHDEACONRY OF BARNSTAPLE

Deanery of South Molton

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
South Molton	1317	-	(83)	1400	2333	2753 ¹ / ₇₅
Witheridge	455	-	-	455	758	875
Cruwys Morchard	600	-	(14)	614	1025	556
Thelbridge	130	-	-	130	217	155
Puddington	99	-	-	99	165	135
East Worlington	83	-	-	83	138	196
West Worlington	86	-	-	86	143	158
Meshaw	46	-	-	46	77	135
Romansleigh	112	-	-	112	187	156
Kings Nympton	309	-	-	309	515	510
North Molton	740	-	(18)	758	1263	1541 ¹ / ₂₅
Twitcheh	102	-	-	102	170	145
Molland	280	-	-	280	466	473
Knowstone	181	-	-	181	301	427
Ashrafe (Rose Ash)	210	-	(3)	213	355	397
Rackenfurd	211	-	(3)	214	356	340
East Austey	80	-	-	80	133	165
West Austey	140	-	-	140	233	215
Washford Pyne	50	-	-	50	83	109
Oakford	226	-	-	226	376	480
Mariansleigh	116	-	-	116	193	199
Stoodleigh	180	-	-	180	300	355
George Nympton	120	-	-	120	200	237
Warkleigh	139	-	-	139	231	291
Satterleigh	46	-	-	46	76	64
Woolfardisworthy	83	-	-	83	138	131
Creacombe	24	-	-	24	40	29

Deanery of Chulmleigh

Chulmleigh	812	-	(26)	838	1396	1333 ¹ / ₃₂
Bondleigh	100	-	-	100	166	286
Nymet Tracy	200	-	-	200	333	677 (with Bow)
Lapford	255	-	-	255	425	587
Coldridge	286	-	-	286	477	697
Zeal Monachorum	200	-	(5)	205	342	622
Brushford	66	-	-	66	110	146

Deanery of Chulmleigh (continued)

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Burrington	320	-	-	320	533	755
Wembworthy	146	-	-	146	243	323
Clannaborough	16	-	-	16	27	59
Chawleigh	300	-	1	301	502	755
Nymet Rowland	40	-	-	40	66	76

Deanery of Barnstaple

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Barnstaple	3000	2	100	3102	5171	3748
Pilton	400	-	-	400	667	831
Filleigh	104	-	-	104	173	220
High Bickington	240	-	5	245	408	693
Atherington	286	-	1	287	478	484
Chittlehampton	856	-	5	861	1435	1406
Newton Tracey	36	-	-	36	60	86
Yarnscombe	225	-	-	225	375	358
Huntshaw	165	-	-	165	275	212
Instow	175	-	8	183	305	341
Tawstock	960	-	-	960	1600	1131
Westleigh	94	-	-	94	157	408
Fremington	420	-	-	420	700	875

Deanery of Shirwell

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Shirwell	262	5	-	267	445	513
Heanton						
Punchardon	270	-	-	270	450	418
Georgeham	350	-	-	350	583	627
Morteheo	160	4	-	164	273	254
Bittadon	37	-	-	37	61	24
East Down	191	5	-	196	326	311
West Down	240	-	2	242	403	257
Ilfracombe	784	1	3	788	1313	1838
Challacombe	114	4	-	114	190	158
Arlington	158	34	-	192	320	207
Loxhore	105	-	-	105	175	209
Kentisbury	200	-	-	200	333	241
Trentishoe	(70)	1	3	74	123	128

Deanery of Shirwell (continued)

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Lyton	200	-	-	200	333	481
Countisbury	160	(34)	-	194	323	120
Brendon	195	-	-	195	325	260
Parracombe	200	-	-	200	333	322
Combe Martin	370	-	-	370	617	819
Martinhoe	100	-	-	100	166	165
Charles	127	-	-	127	211	217
East Buckland	73	-	-	73	122	138
West Buckland	109	-	-	109	182	257
High Bray	150	-	-	150	250	264
Stoke Rivers	129	-	-	129	215	225
Bratton Fleming	233	-	-	233	388	406
Marwood	387	-	-	387	645	632
Berrynarbor	316	16	-	332	553	532
Ashford	89	-	-	89	148	73

Deanery of Torrington

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Great Torrington	2213	-	8	2221	3702	2044
Little Torrington	240	-	-	240	400	449
Shebbear	320	-	-	320	533	744
Sheepwash	100	-	-	100	166	348
Petrockstow	210	-	1	211	352	467
Menth	90	-	-	90	150	257
Winkleigh	567	-	-	567	945	1214
Huish	88	-	10	98	163	97
Dolton	200	-	-	200	333	582
Merton	400	-	-	400	667	689
Beaford	140	-	-	140	233	516
Buckland Filleigh	120	-	1	121	202	252
Newton St. Petrock	82	-	-	82	137	215
Langtree	300	-	-	300	500	583
Peter's Mariand	127	-	-	127	212	289
Dowland	1091	-	1	1092	1820	184
Iddesteigh	220	-	1	221	368	441
Ashreigny	333	-	-	333	555	756
Roborough	234	-	-	234	390	461
St. Giles in the Wood	274	-	-	274	457	547

Deanery of Hartland

Parish	A	B	C	Total A	Total B	Total C
Hartland	988	6	-	994	1657	1 546
Abbotsham	260	-	-	260	433	313
Alwington	150	1	-	151	252	310
Littleham	163	-	-	153	255	292
Bideford	2500	-	96	2596	4327	2987
Northam	1200	-	100	1300	2167	2054
Wear Gifford	150	-	-	150	250	419
Frithelstock	265	-	3	268	447	479
Monkleigh	217	-	5	222	370	379
Buckland Brewer	423	-	-	423	705	872
Clovelly	493	-	-	493	822	714
Alverdiscott	148	-	-	148	247	278
Parkham	341	21	-	362	603	584
Woolfardisworthy	360	-	-	360	600	591
Landeross	60	11	-	71	118	50
Welcombe	112	-	-	112	187	220
East Putford	63	-	-	63	105	139
Bulkworthy	50	-	-	50	83	110

JOHN HUXHAM'S MEDICAL DIARY: 1728-1752

Norman Pounds.

Dr. John Huxham was a Devonian who spent the whole of his professional life as a medical practitioner in Plymouth. He had been trained at Leyden, under Boerhaave, from whom he seems to have derived his conviction that the seasons and the weather were of the greatest importance "as an exciting and, yet more, as a modifying cause of disease."¹ He had been born at Tolnes in 1692, and died at Plymouth, in August, 1768. He was a flamboyant personality, and might have seemed little more than a quack were it not for his considerable corpus of published works.

His medical reputation is based mainly on "An Essay on Fevers" (1755). This work went through several editions, and was translated, according to Munk, into most European languages. The writer has, however, found evidence of only Latin, French and Portuguese editions. From 1728 until some date in the 1750's Huxham kept a diary in which he recorded both the weather and the incidence and severity of disease as he experienced them in Plymouth. The first ten years, digested into monthly summaries, was published in Latin in 1739,² and this was followed by a similar diary for the next ten years, which appeared in 1752. An unauthorised translation of the first was published in 1759,³ and his son, John Corham Huxham, translated and published the second volume in 1767.⁴

Huxham continued his meteorological and medical observations at least until 1752. I have not been able to find a copy of the original edition of this last section of the diary,⁵ but the text is available, in Latin, in the two German editions of Huxham's collected works,⁶ and a summary of it appears (in English) in his treatise on diphtheria.⁷

This note is concerned only with the medical sections of the diary. Huxham's medical record is concise and in general states clearly the nature of the prevailing complaints and the degree to which they were fatal. Occasionally he uses expressions which are somewhat less than clinical, such as the "great Lowness of Spirits" which marked the beginning of 1728. The principle difficulty is the uncertainty regarding his medical terms. "Peripneumonies" is to be interpreted as bronchitis; "angina" as quinsy; "the ulcerous sore-throat," as diphtheria, and "morbilla" as measles. Fevers of one kind or another were rarely absent, though it is not in every case easy to identify the names given them by Huxham. Cholera appeared not infrequently, and was generally

associated by Huxham with the arrival in Plymouth of a ship from the tropics. But the commonest of the more serious complaints was unquestionably "variolae," or smallpox. A not infrequent complaint was the "Devonshire colic". Huxham published a short treatise on the illness, which he linked with an overconsumption of cider. He failed, however, to discover its cause, which was lead-poisoning, brought about by fermenting cider in leaden vats.

Many of these diseases grew in virulence until they became epidemic, and then subsided. As a general rule, Huxham traces these movements with considerable care, so that one can trace their course. This is especially so with smallpox. It is, of course, difficult to translate his qualitative statements into comparative expressions of the severity of an epidemic. It is, however, evident that terms like "here and there" (*passim*) or "some", as applied to the manifestation of a disease, implies a lesser degree of severity than "everywhere" and "severe", and the latter terms probably indicate something a good deal short of "epidemic".

It is tempting to compare Huxham's record with the burial registers of the Plymouth parishes.⁸ There were three: St. Andrews, Charles and Stoke Damerel, in the last of which the naval dockyard of Devonport was at this time being developed. The burial register of St. Andrews indicates "child" burials throughout the period under consideration; this is particularly important because Huxham refers more than once to the severity of measles and other illnesses amongst children.

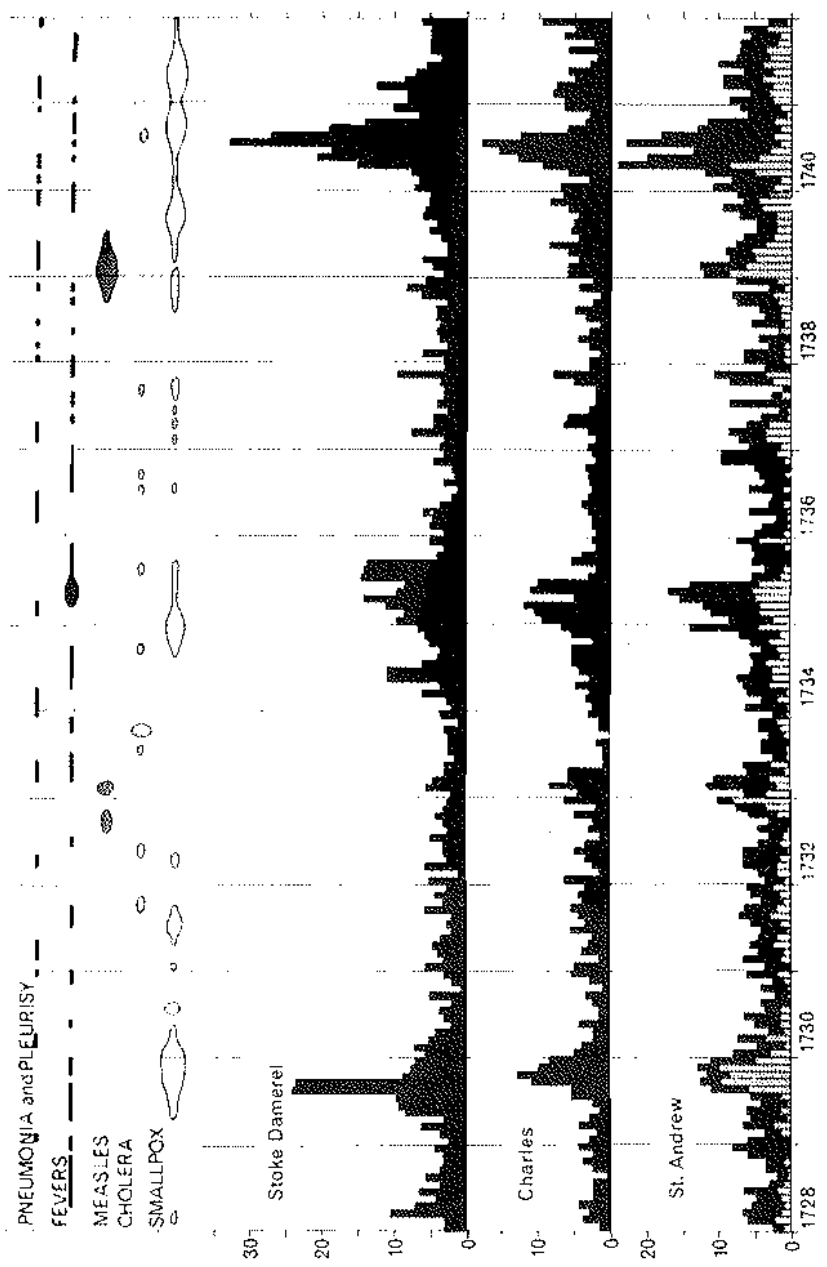
The registers allow one to distinguish a series of mortality crises, of which the most severe occurred in 1729, 1734-5, 1739-41, 1746-7, 1749 and 1752. Those of 1729 and 1740 were, by and large, summer crises; the others occurred in winter and spring. The period of abnormally high mortality in 1729 (August-December) coincides precisely with that when smallpox "rages" or was "epidemic". In 1734, mortality increased steadily during the autumn months. In September, Huxham noted that smallpox was "slight", but in the following months it became "epidemic" and indeed remained so until March before it was downgraded to "pretty common", and in late summer ceased to appear in the diary. Again, the rise and decline of the epidemic coincides exactly with the duration of the period of high mortality, though this latter must have owed something to fevers. Huxham wrote that "epidemic fever" had caused a heavy mortality in the summer of 1734, while a year later "many die of fever".

The crisis which lasted from the beginning of 1739 until the early months of 1741 was more complex. It began with epidemic measles, "fatal to many children." The St. Andrews register shows a high child mortality for this period; 51 out of 84 burials in the first four months of the year were of "children". Thereafter smallpox prevailed. By October, 1739, "the small-pox now reigned every-where". Until 1742 there was not a month in which Huxham did not record smallpox more or less serious. The most severe mortality in the period studied was recorded in the spring and summer of 1740. That this was not entirely due to smallpox is clear from the diary. In March there was "a very terrible Asthma", in April, "a most terrible kind of Pleurisy". In July, "pestilential fever destroyed many", and "the common Burials were increased to at least six Times", but by September, fevers were "less violent", and the most severe mortality crises of the period covered by the diary was at last passing, though the following winter was marked by "terrible Asthma", and the smallpox still lingered on. Indeed, Huxham wrote in May, 1741: "I scarce ever remember the Small-pox to have been every-where more rife".

The mortality crisis of 1746-7 was less intense than that of 1739-41, but, like the latter, was marked throughout by epidemic smallpox. Measles were common, and pneumonia, pleurisy and bronchitis, acute. In July, 1746, Huxham wrote: "not only Small-pox, but almost every other Disorder, was now of a worse kind than during the Spring". This situation continued until the summer of 1747, when mortality fell to a low level, and in July and August Huxham was able to record "very few disorders".

Mortality was high in late 1749, bordering the crisis level, but the only other severe crisis during the period was in the last three months of 1752. Both these periods were marked by epidemic smallpox. Other illnesses do not seem to have been unduly serious, though chest complaints were common. In December, 1752, he wrote "plures phthisici moriuntur!" With this the portions of the diary now extant come to an end.

One dwells on the periods of crisis mortality. They were, however, interspersed with periods when serious illnesses were relatively few. 1731-3 was such a period. Huxham several times comments on the "exceeding healthy" conditions, with "very few diseases". Much of 1737 and 1738 were "not unhealthy" or "far from sickly", and the later 1740's were relatively healthy, with "very few disorders."



Burials in the three urban parishes of Plymouth and Devonport, 1728—41, with the incidence of major ailments. The year is shown as beginning in January.

For a period of 25 years we thus have a record of what, in the opinion of a highly intelligent and perceptive practitioner, were the most important causes of illness and death. It does not allow us to say what fraction of all deaths was due to smallpox, pneumonia or measles; it does permit us to say what, in each of the mortality crises, was the predominant cause of death. Throughout the record this appears to have been smallpox, with measles an important cause of death amongst children.

Notes

1. William Munk, "Biographia Medica Devoniensis", Part 3, The Western Antiquary, VI (1886-7), 258-62.
2. "Observationes de Aere et Morbis epidemicis, ab anno 1728 ad finem anni 1737 Plymuthi factae. His accedit opusculum de Morbo colico Damnoniensis!" London, 1739.
3. Observations on the Air and Epidemic Diseases, Vol. 1, London, 1759.
4. John Huxham, "Observations on the Air, and Epidemic Diseases from the Beginning of the year 1738, to the End of the Year 1748," trans John C. Huxham, 2 vols., London, 1767.
5. See Edward E. Meeres, "Plymouth in the Eighteenth Century, from a Medical Point of View", The Western Antiquary, VI (1886-7), 89-92, who claims to have searched in vain for this volume. The British Museum does not have a copy.
6. "Ioannis Huxhami Opera," in "Scriptorum Classicorum de Praxi Medica," Vol. XIII, Leipzig, 1829.
7. "A Dissertation on the Malignant, Ulcerous Sore-throat." London, 1757.
8. The registers are held in the Plymouth Record Office, and the writer acknowledges the help of Mrs. B. Cluers, archivist of Plymouth, in making them available.

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THE PAUPERS OF POMEROY.

Ray Freeman.

The Lower Sixth form of Torquay Girls' Grammar School recently put on an historically based play, the Paupers of Pomeroy, which arose out of some local research done by the 'A' level History students. The school Drama producer, who had a Theatre Workshop group, had asked us to look out for any original local material on which a play might be based. We found this material in two volumes of the Overseers of the Poor Accounts for the Village of Berry Pomeroy, Devon, for the years 1801 - 1827, combined with the Births, Marriages and Deaths registers, which were complete from 1601.

The History Lower Sixth always spend about 3 - 4 weeks at the end of the Summer term doing a local history project, to give them a taste of field work, and show them how to use original documents. They can also do sketches, brass and stone rubbings, maps, family trees, graphs, etc., the whole being presented as an exhibition. In this case the material which they investigated was passed on to the whole of the following lower Sixth year, who in their Theatre Workshop activity wrote, acted and produced the play.

The Poor Law documents are not in themselves unusual - all parishes kept them, and many thousands survive. Our special good fortune was that these were still kept in the church, and the Vicar was prepared to lend them to the school for a few weeks for the necessary research to be done.

Most people will be familiar with the old Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601, with its many later amendments, which laid a duty on the Overseers of the Poor to collect a poor rate from the householders of each parish to distribute to the poor who qualified by their birth there. Money could be given to widows, orphans, the aged or sick, unmarried mothers, etc. either in the form of money or in their support in a Workhouse or Poorhouse. Girls could be pressed to reveal the fathers of illegitimate babies so that they could be forced to pay for their keep to save the rate-payers' pockets. Overseers had to find jobs for unemployed adults, and places to which to apprentice pauper children. They also provided basic medical care for the poor, and foster parents for children in need of them. When the war with France after 1793 cut off grain imports - necessary only recently because of the rise in population in the 18th century - and the price of wheat rocketed, the Speenhamland system was introduced by which labourers, who were in danger of starving even when working fulltime, were given a supplement to their wages out of the Poor Rate. The scale of payments was worked

out according to the current price of wheat and the number of dependent children.

For the purposes of the play, the task was to provide outline life stories from the real people in the Berry records, to bring to life the rather bare facts known to most 'O' level candidates. There proved to be enough material for any number of plays, and as many characters could be produced as the cast required.

The two volumes of Accounts covering the years 1801 - 1827 (all that have survived) consist of page after page of names and payments to the poor by the rate payers' representatives, recorded in neat flowing writing, the ink looking somewhat faded in places, but black and bold elsewhere. The character of both the writers and of the recipients began to form in our minds as we followed the pages through. Here were simple people, never to be famous, but grappling with everyday problems like birth, death, poverty and sickness. The records included the richer people - the rate payers - and also the craftsmen, tradesmen and labourers, the old people, babies and children. A complete community, closely related by blood and social bonds were being revealed.

The accounts were kept by the Overseers of the Poor. One of them would write up the entries, sometimes for one year, sometimes for longer, but all of them would sign them as correct at the end of each financial year, which was at the end of March. Their diligence - year in, year out - is most striking. They provided, for their parish, services which today would occupy several full time civil servants or local government officials. On the end paper of the first volume of the Berry accounts is written: "15th April, 1811. Agreed at meeting that the Overseer is to be allowed 7 shillings a month for his trouble". One feels they earned every penny of it.

Not only did they have to keep accurate accounts, but they had to collect the money owed to the rates from their neighbours. At intervals through the books there is a list of the rate payers - headed by the Duke of Somerset, who still owns the entire village - with the name of each property and its rateable value. Most of these properties can still be identified and this was part of the field work done. At a rough estimate, the population of the parish in 1810 was 1200 (1124 in 1801), of whom about 200 were receiving poor relief. Of the remainder, the majority would be dependent children, or servants not liable to pay rates. The burden of the rates therefore fell on less than

100 ratepayers, some of whom owned several small cottages, but who would have their own families to support. In 1810, the poor rate totalled £1,012, so each would have been liable to pay an average of £10.

It can be seen in the Berry figures of payments that in years when wheat was dear the Overseers did not in fact raise the amount paid per head, but the number of people in poverty vastly increased, so that total expenditure was high. For instance, in the year 1801-2, total expenditure was £1,495, with wheat at 119/- a quarter, but payments still were the standard 3/- a week for a man, and 1/6 a week for a wife or child. Two years later, when wheat fell to 58/- a quarter, during the truce with the French, total expenditure fell to £635 a year, but the same amount per person was being paid. Since these payments can hardly have been lavish even in a good year, the hardship in dear years must have been intense.

The accounts were written in a leather bound book - long, narrow and thick - for which a charge of 15/- is entered at the beginning of each volume. In the top left hand margin on each page is the date, e.g. "May, 1st week". A list of names occupies the middle column, with payments in the right hand column. A shortened example follows :-

May, 1st Week. Paid to:-

Charity Peel and children	£1. 0. 0.
Richard Churchward	4. 0.
Sarah Coombe's child	12. 0.
Sue Partridge	10. 0.
John Satchwill	12. 0.
Blagdon and wife	£1. 0. 0.
Sue Maddicks	7. 6.

The names were not arranged in alphabetical order, but with the oldest clients towards the top, and new arrivals added to the bottom. The same names would be repeated in the same order each successive month. If one disappeared, the most likely cause was death, which could be checked with the deaths register. The above sums were intended to last a month. However, following them is a weekly list of payments headed "In Need" or sometimes "Extraordinary". These are much more varied, following no set order of names and with a much wider range of payments, including some in kind. The recipients are sometimes the regulars, but there are many more who clearly float

around on the fringe of pauperism, with a little support in emergencies. It is from these "extra" payments that the most interesting details about the paupers' lives can be reconstructed, e.g. :-

Paid: Doll Ellms for attendance, watching for Elizabeth Frogwill	10. 0.
- Candles for Elizabeth Frogwill	1. 0.
- Washing and ordering for Elizabeth Frogwill	5. 0.

(The Deaths Register records her burial soon after this.)

Paid: Tamsin Mills for delivery Mary Pridham	5. 0.
Jane Archer for attending Mary Pridham	3. 0.
For watching Mary Pridham 3 nights	3. 0.
Doll Ellms for watching by and ordering Mary Pridham's child.	2.10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Johnothan Quant for making Mary Pridham's child's grave	1. 0.
Doll Ellms for wine and candles for Mary Pridham and watching by her	5. 0.
Isaac Guswill's pair of breeches	9. 9.
William Loger's Jackett, new sleeve, serge	2. 2.

Apart from payments to individuals, there are many references to items of equipment bought for the Poor House, or for repairs to it, or services rendered to it :-

1804	Paid to Mr. Luscombe for ironing box	6. 0.
1810	Paid for waterpitcher and chamber pot for Poor House, and candles for sick people	2. 3.
1811	Paid Sarah Fogwill for washing 18 blankets and 18 rugs from the Poor House.	13. 6.
1812	Paid Tinker Warren for sweeping 4 chimneys in Poor House	4. 0.
1812	Paid for new washing tub in Poor House	7. 0.
1813	Paid for 2 bed covers for the Poor House	7. 0.
1816	Paid Randle for thatching Poor House	£1.15. 0.
1816	Paid J. Wendeatt for 160 nitches of read for the Poor House	£2.10. 4.
1819	1 dozen broomes for Poor House	3. 6.
	Mopes for Poor House	4. 8.
1820	Paid James Mitchell's bill for a tin saucepan, 3 spoons and a tea kettle for the House.	3. 1.

We later established through an older resident in Berry that the Poor House was in a row of cottages called Broadmoor, which have recently been modernised. The roof is no longer thatched, but it does still have four chimneys and is now divided into four cottages. The number of inmates seems to have been around 16 to 18, as there are frequent references to washing this number of blankets and rugs or 'bedmats'. The number is confirmed by a reference in 1824 that there were '16 people in the poor house.' John Binding regularly shaves all the men in the poor house, the number being variously listed as 7 to 10. Some children are listed as being 'in the poor house', though not very often. It seems therefore that the majority of paupers lived in their own homes, and drew outdoor relief only. The poor house catered for the very old, occasionally the insane and the children perhaps during family crises for short periods.

At the beginning of each financial year, in April, a number of annual bills are paid, revealing further goods and services provided for the poor. The following are from April, 1802 :

Paid Thomas Satchwill for 2 balls of wool	4. 0.
Tancy Dolbro's bill for making poor's clothing	8. 0.
Mr. Mitchell's bill for shoes	11. 6.
John Fellow's bill for bucketts for Poor House	8. 0.
John Binding for shaving poor in Poor House	£1. 4. 6.
Mr. Holman's bill for hats	5. 6.
Mr. Hartwell's bill for clothing	£3. 1. 4.
Mrs. Bidlake for a shrouding	3. 6.
Attendance to delivery of barley, potatoes and peas to poor at Berry	£2. 2. 0.
Mr. Wilkie as agreement for attending the sick poor	£12. 12. 0.
Mr. Wilkie for surgery to Thos. Veasey's child and inoculating 3 children	£1. 16. 0.

This last is a reference to smallpox inoculation for which the Doctor was paid 5/- for each child, in addition to his annual fee. The previous reference to 'barley, potatoes and peas' is unique in these records. The assumption is that the parish usually gave the paupers money, not food. However, since the winter of 1801-2 saw the price of wheat rise to 119/- a quarter, the overseers must have seen that no pauper could afford to buy it. It was cheaper to buy bulk supplies of substitutes like barley or potatoes, and sell these to them. An (invented) Ratepayers' Meeting where the decision to do this was taken,

became the starting point for the play. It gave the opportunity for arguments with a familiar ring about whether to 'save the rates' and 'let the paupers stand on their own feet', or help their fellow villagers in hard times.

In April, also, there are commonly payments made to the poor rate by those responsible for a Berry pauper but living in another parish. An example in 1802 was :

"Of Mr. Cranch of Totnes, for maintenance of Mary Narramore's child, sworn on Richard Cranch of London" £26. 5. 0."

This was an uncommonly large amount - such payments were normally about £3 a year, and the circumstances made us choose Mary Narramore to follow through as a central character for the play. Mr. Cranch of Totnes appeared later to have supplied the Poor House with coal. His son's child, for whom he paid this large sum, only lived four years.

A number of women helped to look after the people in the poor house, many of them drawing poor relief themselves. The women who 'watched' or 'attended' on the sick and dying were themselves paupers, as for example was Doll Elms. Others were paid for 'nitting things for the poor'. Sarah Fogwill was paid for 'making the Poor's things' for years, and finally was paid 17/- a month for 'looking after the poor in the House'. In one entry in 1816 she is paid extra for 'schooling for three children' as well as 12/- a month each for looking after them. She was still doing this in 1827 when the accounts ended, and no trace of her death can be found in the subsequent Berry Registers. Tamsin Mills, herself the mother of eight children and midwife to countless pauper mothers, was paid 5/- for every baby she delivered, and by 1810 began to receive poor relief herself, 8/- a month at the age of 73 years. She still occasionally delivered babies, however, the last time when she was 82 years old, before she finally died at the age of 85. Her rate had remained unchanged throughout, while in the same time the Doctor had doubled his fees!

Besides the activities referred to already, the Overseers were responsible for apprenticing pauper children to an employer, usually at the age of 10. This last developed particularly after 1815, when apprentices were 'bound' outside the parish to farmers, shopkeepers or craftsmen. Quite often the Overseers themselves took them on. In any case an indenture had to be drawn up, costing 7/- each, the employer was usually paid £1. 0. 0. to have them, and sometimes

the children were provided with a suit of clothes by the Parish, e.g. :-

1822, May, Two pairs of indentures for Salter and Colman's boys	14. 0.
Thos. Salters' boy for clothes bound to Mr. Jacobs, Newton, Papermaker	£3. 10. 0.
John Colman's boy for clothes bound to Mr. Paik, of Ipplepen, Farmer.	£2. 0. 0.

The Overseers also had to deal with the blind or otherwise handicapped and the insane. One of the latter, John Andrews, was used as a character in the play. He cost the parish a great deal as 3 men had to be paid for watching him in the poor house. Later £5. 5. 0. was paid to the 'Madhouse' in Exeter for taking him in, but a few weeks later he was brought back to Berry at the enormous expense of £8. 0. 0. He remained in the poor house after that, although he had another expensive trip to Exeter asylum in 1821.

It can be seen therefore that as one read the Accounts several potential leading characters had been spotlighted. We chose a few more to give variety. One could hardly go wrong with Isaac Guswill, a merry widower of 70 when he married Mary Slee, who produced a daughter two months later. Two Berry girls - both on poor relief - married American sailors who visited the Dart. Johnathan and Clement Quant, the grave-diggers, were frequently mentioned, and some shady characters were provided by the Furneaux and the Tozers. A number of men were listed as 'Militia men' called up to fight in the Napoleonic wars and their wives and families supported by the parish.

The next step was to allot two students to each character and their close family - one to read the account, the other to write down every entry about them. They would check with the Births, Marriages and Deaths for anything relevant. Eventually, an outline of all the known facts emerged, and this was reduced to a summary of about one foolscap page. These sheets were passed on to those who were to act the play, so that they could work out a convincing character from the facts.

In addition to the paupers themselves, there were also the Overseers, the Vicar and the ratepayers, as well as the many tradesmen and general workers who went to make up the whole community. It proved possible in this way to re-create very convincingly the lives of a complete cross-section of villagers in Devon in the early nineteenth century, and to show how their lives were affected by national events, like the war, as well as by everyday happenings.

THE LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY IN PLYMOUTH

K.V. Burns.

The principle has long been accepted that public libraries should collect books and related materials which document their area, and libraries have done this to varying degrees.

Here in Plymouth, in 1892, the library held about 5,000 such volumes. Unfortunately, its build-up was shattered during the Second World War when the Central Library was almost completely destroyed, only the shell of the building remained standing. However, like so much of the City, the library was re-built and with the help of many kind donations, the 'new' department now has about 20,000 books on local history.

Often with a local collection it is difficult to define the area to be covered. How 'local' is local? Plymouth is ideally situated in relation to two obvious areas, Devon and Cornwall, so our sphere of interest covers both those counties. In addition to the material published about them, we also collect material, on whatever subject, written by Devon and Cornwall authors.

Many local history publications present the problem of subject v place. For instance, "The Industrial Archaeology of the Tamar Valley" - should it be shelved with material on 'Industrial Archaeology'? Or should it be 'Tamar Valley'?

The arrangement of the collection is based on a classification scheme devised by ~~modified~~ the normal Dewey system. Most of the standard subject ~~placings are~~ ~~is~~ prefixed with the letter P. Therefore, one would find material about the Roads of Devon and/or Cornwall at 388.1, but Roads of Plymouth in a separate sequence at P388.1. Topographical material has its own sub-division and an additional index of towns and villages has been devised whereby letters are used as suffixes to indicate those places. However, I would not wish to confuse my readers or intending visitors. Suffice it to say, that the system, used not only for books but also for all other material, has stood the test of use and works well.

It is the 'other material' which is not so obvious when one walks into a library. In Plymouth, we have a wide range of local newspapers,

the main runs of which being, The Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehouse Herald (1831-1860); Western Daily Mercury (1861-1920); Western Evening Herald (1925 to date) and Western Morning News (1860 to date). Local newspapers are an indispensable source of local history, but as with all other libraries, the storage of them is a major problem. Many have to be stored in a building remote from the Central Library, so a few days notice is required if those particular newspapers are required. A programme of microfilming is in hand, and many have already been so copied. Unfortunately, only limited microfilm reading facilities are available, so prospective users are encouraged to make an advance booking for use of the microfilm reader in order to avoid a wasted journey by arriving to find it already in use.

The current local newspapers are indexed daily and, in addition, progress although slow, is being made retrospectively. Most of the 1860-90 editions of the Western Daily Mercury have already been indexed, but none between 1890 and 1956. Many articles are cut out, placed in large envelopes and filed in cabinets - each envelope being classified just as a book. Subjects which get a good deal of coverage in the press, such as the Millbrook Power Station controversy, Water Supply, etc. are cut out and pasted into cuttings books. When full, these books are classified and placed on the open shelves alongside other printed material on similar subjects. Contents of major periodicals are similarly indexed before those periodicals are bound together.

To assist readers, a Place and Subject Index is maintained - a separate entity to the normal author and subject catalogue.

Much visual material is maintained in the Local History section. Illustrations are mounted on two standard sizes of cards, and filed in drawers under the same classification scheme as the printed sources. The collection now contains about 15,000 illustrations, many of which are available on loan for display purposes.

Several thousand picture postcards have been amassed and are housed in trays. Transparencies on a variety of subjects are available to members of the public intending to give illustrated talks.

Many historical maps and charts, and geological and land utilisation maps of Devon and Cornwall are stored here. Most of the various editions of the O.S. for our area are available, as are the following current editions :-

1:25,000 (2½")	Devon and Cornwall
1:10,560 (6")	Devon and Cornwall
1: 2,500 (25")	Plymouth
1: 1,250 (50")	Plymouth

As the new metric editions of the large scale maps are produced, it is intended to maintain those for the whole area covered by the West Devon Library Service.

Other items include records and tapes, theatre programmes and playbills. The records include local folk songs and music by the old Plymouth Division of the R.M. Bank; and the tapes are of interviews with, memoirs related by, local personalities. The theatre playbills in bound volumes, highlight the stars who appeared at the Theatre Royal (1802 - 1935), the Grand Theatre (1889 - 1899), and Palace Theatre (1948 - 1956).

Some most interesting notes describing old Devon Houses, compiled by the noted antiquarian, the late G.W. Copeland, were kindly donated to us some years ago, and provide a fine source for students of architecture.

The number of actual local historians at present is very small, but local studies are carried out by quite a large section of the public from children at school doing projects, students at college doing theses and older persons just being interested in local affairs. Children are assisted by the provision of project kits available to schools on such topics as 'Drake and the Plymouth Water Supply', and 'Plymouth and the Civil War'. Smaller typescripts are available for personal distribution on a variety of other subjects such as, The Tamar Bridge, Sir Francis Drake, the Mayflower, The Fishing Industry etc.

It is essential that any local collection be comprehensive and actively exploited. Although the lending of books from our Local History Library is the exception, rather than the rule, most of the stock is on the open shelves, and with the library open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each weekday, it is considered that the student of local history in Plymouth is well catered for.

A SURNAME AND A SOURCE?

R. F. J. H. Pinsent

The quest for the origin of a family name can be carried on in different ways, though undoubtedly discovery of the name in documents and manuscripts is the most rewarding. Allowance has to be made for differences in spelling particularly in, and before the sixteenth century. Before literacy became universal an individual's identity was expressed in the way his name was spoken and in early Parish Registers names may be entered by Parish clerks according to their interpretation of the sounds of words. A range of phonetic renderings of family names leads to a range of spelling variations the nature of which may be further influenced by the dialect of the locality.

In attempting to trace the origin of the PINSENT family it was found that as late as the seventeenth century a child's birth could be registered in one spelling and its death recorded a short while later in another spelling. Such sequences might be PINSON - PINSENT or PINSON - PENZUN. The two syllables were seldom so altered as to raise suspicion of false association. Further back in time available records are fewer and it is no longer possible to relate two spellings to one person with such confidence. Discovery of a balanced bi-syllabic name which 'sounds right' may have to suffice for want of greater specificity.

Preliminary study of some of the more accessible transcribed records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries shows that the name occurs in two main areas in England. The counties of the eastern seaboard from the Humber to the Thames and in the westcountry peninsula of Devon and Cornwall. There is evidence too, that it occurs in other countries and speculation can arise as to whether name-bearers in these different places can have originated from a single source. This possibility will be examined in fuller detail. There are two lines of approach, the historical-geographical and the linguistic.

Of thirty four mentions of the name between 1100 and 1490, twenty one can be ascribed to the eastern counties, five to the Devon/Cornwall peninsula, and eight cannot be given a location. The mentions are often in Close Rolls or Feet of Fines and are indexed by the site of

the Royal Court at the time rather than by the location of the person referred to. Examples are "Hugo Filius Pinchonis Filius Pincun" (Suffolk Subsidy Rolls 1121) and "William Pinson (or Pinchon) of Pynchonthorpe" in Yorkshire (Guiseborough Abbey Chartulary Circa 1150) whose family included John and Agnes. Here, too, there is a precise locative place-name "Pinsuncroft", land belonging to "Roger Pinceun".

Later references in an acceptable spelling of the name are found relating to Lincoln, Ipswich, Norwich, Bury St. Edmunds, Boston, Great Yarmouth and London, together with the counties of Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Essex generally. No doubt further study of documents would reveal many more. Some entries in the unspecifically located group were in rolls prepared with the court at Winchester or Shrewsbury, and others were of local places yet to be identified.

The first 'mention' in the Westcountry is of Philip Pincun, in Cornwall in 1194, but later ones cluster in East Devon, between Totnes and Exeter, a general area which was later to become a family centre. Spelling variants in this area included Pynzun, Peynsond and Pynsant - all reasonably accurate renderings of Devonshire dialect. It was in Devonshire, by about 1500, that two spellings acquired some degree of specificity and it began to be possible to conjecture genealogies of Pinsons and Pinsents with the reasonable supposition that 'Pinson' is the older spelling. Wherever the name occurred in England it was almost invariably preceded by a Christian name suggesting Norse or Norman origin. Names like William, Robert, Thomas, Roger, Gervase, Hugo and Gilbert are found with some latinized forms such as Ricardus, Galfridus and Henricus.

The occurrence of the name overseas has not, so far, been explored in such detail but the family is known to exist in Normandy at the present day. There is historical evidence that, in 1490, Richard Pynson came from Normandy to London and was appointed court printer. Geographical evidence lies in the place-name Mont Pinçon, the highest point in Normandy. The date on which the name first occurs in Norman documents remains to be found. There is, furthermore, good evidence for the occurrence of the name in Spain where, in 1492, Martin Alonzo and Vicente Yânes Pinzon sailed with Columbus to share with him some responsibility for the discovery of the New World.

It remains to be shown whether there is historical evidence which could link these occurrences of similar names in different places and whether there might be a common source of origin. The geographical distribution of the name in England may provide a clue for the large majority of records are from the area of Danish settlement, the Danelaw. It is unlikely that the Pinzuns of Pynchunthorpe were of other than Scandinavian origin. Normandy was settled by the Danes, under Rollo, by 911, and Viking excursions are known to have extended to the coast of Spain. Sons of one Danish family could well have been members of different raiding parties, and have settled as colonists. Confirmation of this suggestion can, therefore, only come from Scandinavian evidence.

Viking raids on the Devonshire coast are well authenticated and it is possible that the name may have been introduced as in East Anglia, by primary colonization. Secondary colonization from Normandy is another possibility. Philip Pincun turns up in Cornwall in the century following the Conquest (1194) though he is in fact preceded by Hugo Fits Pinchon who appears in Lincolnshire in records dated 1126. There must have been much undocumented intercourse between England and Normandy both before and after the conquest, with land settlements after it, in the west and elsewhere in England. There is as yet no evidence to date the arrival of the Pinsons in the west of England.

What can be deduced from the name itself? In English usage the word has no special meaning but in France it is a bird-name "Pincon" is a Finch, particularly a Chaffinch, and has entered conversational usage as "gai comme un pinson" - "happy as a bird". Of similar origin is the name "pinsonniere" applied to the great tit or ox-eye. Both finches and tits are common inhabitants of wooded countryside throughout northern Europe, and would have been as familiar to the Danish countryman of ten centuries ago as they are to their descendants today. The chaffinch could have been adopted as a family badge or totem and it would be surprising if the family of "Finch" has no Scandinavian equivalent.

If to the Danish "Finke" is added the suffix "Sen" or "Son" we have a base from which spelling variants may arise. An obvious contraction of "Finke-sen" is "Finsen", and a Danish scientist of this name, of Islandic parentage, developed light therapy for skin disease, receiving a Nobel Prize and founding an institute in Copenhagen. A second possible phonetic distortion is "Vincent". This name, because it occurs commonly, presents more difficulty for there are other likely

sources of the prefix "Vin" but the letters "F", "V" and "P" are to some extent interchangeable in spoken speech and it is no far cry from "Fink-sen" to "Pinson".

The case would be strengthened if the primary name "Flnch" was found to occur in areas of Viking colonisation, relating either to places or people. The Pipe Roll of 1186 refers to "Willelmus Fillas Ricardi Pinc, frater ejus . . . etc." though this may be a shorthand abbreviation by the clerk of the court. Hoskins¹ has, however, studied the distribution of the family name "Fincham" in East Anglia-within the Danelaw - finding the name in eight places in Suffolk and fourteen in Norfolk on the evidence of contemporary telephone directories. "Fincham" is also a place-name in Norfolk and there are places with the "Finch" prefix in Durham, Berkshire, Essex and Middlesex. The word is uncommon as either a personal or place-name prefix in the westcountry.

What further investigations can be made? Obviously it is impossible to back-trace family lineages over such distance of time and space by direct genealogical methods. Progress can be made only by inference. The distribution of the surnames "Finke" and "Finsen" in Denmark and the rest of Scandinavia can be examined. Folklore and historical evidence may be obtained from Danish sources. These might well confirm the Norse origin of the Norman "Pinsons" and perhaps suggest some date for their appearance both in East Anglia and in Normandy. Danish sources may also have useful information on the distribution of the surname in other lands where Vikings are known to have settled. The spelling variant "Pinsent" has been recorded from Dublin, though from seventeenth century sources.

Records preserved in Normandy might give some indication of where the Pinsons settled and how many generations might have passed before some crossed the Channel. The proximity of Normandy to the westcountry suggests the possibility of settlement before the conquest, and evidence to confirm or refute this may still come from sources on one side of the Channel or the other. There are many gaps to be filled. What could have happened and what actually happened may in fact have been very different but here there seems to be a plausible theory which is capable of support, if not substantiation.

1. Hoskins W.G., Local History in England, Ed II, Longmans 1972.

SOME DOCUMENTARY SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF MORWELLHAM IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Amber Patrick.

Morwellham lies on the Devonshire side of the River Tamar, about 18 miles upstream from Plymouth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below Gunnislake and 4 miles south west of Tavistock.

Morwellham is now part of the port of Plymouth, but its history goes back beyond a definition of the port's limits in the 16th century. The first documentary mention is in a grant of the quay by Matildis de Lega, Lady of Morwell, to William de Welradden. The document has been dated by Finberg (1969) to 1240-45¹ and the wording of the grant indicates that the quay was well-established by that date. Until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 the quay was in the hands of Tavistock Abbey. In July 1539 Henry VIII granted the Abbey's lands, including Morwellham, to the Russell family, later Earls and Dukes of Bedford. Throughout this period the quay's growth was slow but steady. However, towards the end of the 18th century copper mining became increasingly important in the area, and the majority of it was exported through Morwellham. As a result the quay's expansion became more rapid, and continued until after the middle of the next century, being particularly vigorous following the opening of the Devon Great Consols mine in 1844. Such prosperity did not last long, because the railway reached Tavistock in 1859 and virtually superseded the Tavistock-Morwellham canal (built between 1803 and 1817). Then in the mid 1860's the price of copper began to decline as it became cheaper to import foreign ore. From then on Morwellham's decline was rapid and by 1900 the quay had ceased to be a commercial enterprise.

For such a long period of history the sources are naturally quite extensive, and although the majority are documentary, printed sources, such as books and newspapers, are important especially in the 19th century. However, the aim of this paper is to concentrate on the 18th century and to consider some of the documentary sources which provide the history of Morwellham.

From a documentary point of view the 18th is an 'in between' century. There is neither the paucity of documents as in the preceding centuries nor the almost unwieldy mass of the 19th century. Basically there are two categories of document: the official and the

private. The former were made for government uses such as the assessment of tax or duty. The private ones are those made (i) for the landowner, the Duke of Bedford and (ii) by companies involved in trading at Morwellham. Not surprisingly the majority of the information on the quay comes from the Duke of Bedford's estate papers, whilst the other documents provide only a little additional information. As a result most space will be devoted to the Bedford papers.

These papers fall broadly into three groups: those made as the need arose, such as leases, plans and to a certain extent letters; those made at fairly regular intervals, for example surveys, ledgers, lease books, and to a certain extent rentals; and finally those which were an almost continuous series: accounts and their accompanying vouchers, although in the 18th century only a small number have survived, and the rentals, which are continuous from 1785.

Perhaps the most obvious starting point for the history of Morwellham in the 18th century is a consideration of the tenants. Morwellham Quay was leased out soon after the Russell family acquired it, and the most obvious source of information on the lessees are the leases, but unfortunately not all have survived, and a useful supplement for providing the names of tenants is the survey. The first one for the 18th century was made in 1709 and it shows that Morwellham was leased to a Stephen Russell (he was presumably no relation to the Duke of Bedford).² The lease was for 99 years, determinable upon the deaths of Stephen's sons John aged 30 and Francis aged 28. The rent was £4. 6s. 8d. No indication of the buildings existing on the quay are given. Fortunately the actual leases give a little more detail. The first one for the century was made in 1714, on the death of Stephen's son John.³ The new lessee was a Joan Gill, and again the lease was for 99 years, determinable upon the deaths of her sons William aged 22, John aged 37 and Roger aged 35. The rent was £3. 13s. 4d. and an extra 13s. 4d. for the landage and the land-leave. The premises leased included cellars, houses, other buildings, kilns, gardens and orchards, but most of the lease was taken up with clauses on payment and the duties to be performed. The only other extant lease for the 18th century was drawn up in 1732, on Joan Gill's death.⁴ The new lease was made out in the name of William Gill, and the only differences between this lease and the previous one are the lives upon which it was determinable. These were Phillippa, the widow of John Gill and John, the son of Thomas Gill.

Since no more leases have survived, one has to turn again to the surveys and rentals for an indication of the tenants of Morwellham. In fact, the next change did not occur until 1780 and it is recorded in the rental for 1781.⁵ It shows that another William Gill leased Morwellham for 21 years from the 16th June, 1780 (the date upon which Phillippa Gill, the last remaining life of the previous lease died). The rent was £100 per annum. From 1785 the rentals became a yearly series, and so it becomes apparent that William Gill was unable to pay the rent. As a result the company of Gill and Rundle took over the premises from Midsummer 1787 'at will' - that is the tenants had no security of tenure. This uncertain state of affairs was soon changed, because in 1791 the company was granted a lease of the quay for 63 years.⁶

In general the information supplied by the rentals, surveys and ledgers is very similar. The rentals give the name of the tenant, and the lives upon which the lease was determinable, the name of the land held, the rent payable and the arrears of rent, if any, and often the herriot (the fine payable on the death of the tenant). The surveys supply much the same information but include the date the lease was made. They also give the amount of land, in acres, roads and poles, granted by the lease, and the fine which was payable on the addition of a life or lives to a lease. (An example, in fact, is the 1732 lease, because two more lives were added after William Gill's, and he was one of the lives mentioned in the previous lease to Joan Gill in 1714). The only information contained in the rentals, but usually omitted from the surveys is the arrears of rent. The ledgers also supply the same type of information as the rentals and surveys, but not surprisingly these concentrate more on the rent owed and the arrears outstanding. They do not usually mention the herriot.

Although on the whole the above three types of document provide the same information, occasionally their authors added notes about the tenants or the lands. These give some idea of the lessee's personality and sometimes the extent of business done at Morwellham. For example, a note in a survey made soon after William Gill took over the quay in 1732: "(he) occupies these wharves and although an unactive man, has very good business and the wharves with the limekilns cannot be worth less than £50 per annum and if it was in a proper person's hands would be worth much more."⁷ Also, individual documents may give more detail than others, for example a survey taken between 1765 and 1769 gives more detail than usual on the facilities at Morwellham and states that they included a large dwelling house, warehouses, barn, stable, shippen, two limekilns, wharf, dock or launch, three orchards, two gardens and a large

wharf. This survey was accompanied by a plan,⁸ but unfortunately there have been so many later additions, that it is almost impossible to decide which buildings were in existence in 1769 and which were constructed after that date.

The last main type of Bedford document to be considered is the continuous series: the accounts and their vouchers and the rentals after 1785. These last mentioned documents contain not only a rental of the Duke's property but also the profits, such as dues paid on tin and copper and the expenses, such as bills for repairs. Similar material is also contained in the accounts which fortunately have survived in an almost continuous series from 1710. They are most important for the indication they give of the goods imported through Morwellham. Thus in the 18th century the imports included lime for building, laths, deals, spars, other timber, coals, bricks and sand. Of course, these are only the goods recorded in the Duke's accounts, and it is quite possible that other materials for individuals were also imported. Almost certainly other people than the Duke of Bedford would have imported lime, timber, etc. but because none of Gill's records have survived, there is no indication of the quantity in which any of the goods were imported. Occasionally the accounts include records of the goods sent out through Morwellham and these included bark and poles, and towards the end of the century copper ore. The accounts not only include those in the Account Books but also, occasionally, separate documents, drawn up for special purposes. Thus in 1790 Gill, Rundle and Company drew up an account of their repairs at Morwellham for the Duke of Bedford.⁹ Considerable detail is given on the works already carried out and these included the building of a new dock. The account also lists the buildings the company proposed to construct but such detailed accounts are rare.

There is one other source which has not yet been considered - the letters. These provide some additional information on a variety of subjects connected with Morwellham, but in the 18th century they are particularly useful for the information they provide on trade. For example in 1757 they show that there was a very unusual import through Morwellham - nearly 2000 bushels of wheat. It was for the poor of Okehampton and Tavistock. The correspondence generated as a result of the shipment even included the name of the vessel, the "Southampton". Another unusual but not quite such an infrequent occurrence was the export of oats from the Tavistock vicinity, via Morwellham, to Southampton, and in one instance the vessel is named, the "William and Rebecca". The letters also supply the name of the only other vessel known to have called at the quay during this century, the "Morwellham Trader". William Gill was anxious to obtain protection from the Duke

of Bedford for this vessel as she was engaged in the coal trade and coal was in great demand for lime-burning. This letter, although short, also gives the vessel's master, her burthen and the port from which she came.¹⁰ One short letter may thus provide a lot of useful information.

Unfortunately, the official documents give very little information in comparison with the Duke of Bedford's estate papers. The Port Books, for example, are of little use as they were compiled for the port of Plymouth only, and the individual quays at which a particular cargo was delivered are not mentioned. The only interesting information provided by them is that the "Morwellham Trader" came regularly from South Wales to Plymouth. It is almost certain that she went up to Morwellham but there is no actual proof. Tax documents, such as the Land Tax assessment, add no new information as they only provide the name of the tenant, which is already known from other sources, and of course the amount of tax paid.

The only other source of documentary information which remains to be considered are the records kept by the companies who traded at Morwellham. Few of these records have survived and in any case they are difficult to locate. The most likely companies to have kept records which might include references to Morwellham are the Copper Smelting Companies of South Wales. So far only one such reference has come to light when, in 1797, C. Nevill sent a man to Morwellham to receive a cargo of copper ore from John Taylor. Although such a mention adds little to our knowledge of Morwellham it does confirm that that particular company, C. Nevill, was purchasing copper ore which was shipped out through the quay.

Thus in summary it is possible to say that the documentary sources provide the names of the tenants of Morwellham Quay for the period in question, and to say that throughout most of the 18th century the quay's trade was steady but unexceptional. It was not until Gill, Rundle and Company took over the premises that expansion became more rapid. The goods traded were relatively few in number and were mainly of a heavy and bulky nature - more easily and suitably transported by water than over land.

The above are only some of the documentary sources which provide information on Morwellham in the 18th century. Not surprisingly most of the information comes from the Duke of Bedford's estate papers. These were not, of course, written with the specific intention of providing information on the quay, but were made simply

to facilitate estate management. Thus only those documents which have provided most information on Morwellham have been entertained and discussed. Also their usefulness has only been considered in relation to the information they provide about the quay. But perhaps this paper has given at least some idea of the information to be gained from such records, and also the problems involved in compiling a history of a small quay in the 18th century.

Sources.

All the Duke of Bedford's estate papers mentioned above are to be found in the Devon County Record Office at Exeter, as are the Land Tax Assessments. The Plymouth Port Books (E.190) are in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. The Neville Papers are in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

The notes below (with the exception of No. 1) refer to specific documents in the Bedford estate papers.

1. Finberg, H.P.R., 1969, West-Country Historical Studies, p.156.
2. L.1258 Surveys A.1
3. L.1258 16-18th Century Leases 3/2.
4. L.1258 16-18th Century Leases 3/2.
5. L.1258 Rentals Main Series No. 10.
6. T.1258 /ER Rental for 1791-2.
7. L.1258 Surveys: Tavistock No.4.
8. Survey: L.1258 Surveys: Tavistock No. 22 and plan: T.1258/E7.
9. L.1258 Letters F. Bundle 118.
10. Letters: those on the "Southampton": W1258 LP9/3 and L.1258. Letters A Devon Letters Bundles 17 and 18. Those on the "William and Rebecca" and the "Morwellham Trader": W.1258 LP1/3.

SOME RESOURCES FOR HISTORY TEACHERS IN DEVON.

Tony Wood.

The Regional Resources Centre based in Gandy Street, Exeter offers an impressive range of aids for teachers of History in Devon. Although the bulk of the aids are of most use to schools in Exeter and Plymouth, both these cities offer enormous attractions for at least a day visit from remoter areas. With a certain amount of preparation and with some preliminary study of the packs a teacher could, with a day visit, set up a programme for a term's work with a class in the top Primary or lower Secondary age range.

The single most impressive pack is that on Exeter Cathedral. This includes slides, tapes, information and question cards, facsimile documents and their translations, and a pad of floor plans of the cathedral, an architectural plan of the building, booklets on the bombing of Exeter, newspaper cuttings on the bombing and a brass rubbing of the Langton Brass. This really is a tremendously exciting and impressive work pack.

A measure of its scope is that it could, in fact, be used without visiting the Cathedral, but to do so would be both irresponsible and almost sacrilegious. To describe the slides and documents at length would be pointless, but the slides in fact reveal a great deal of detail which might be missed or subsequently forgotten and the documents cover several centuries. The tapes include children questioning the Dean and Head Verger as well as choral singing, services and part of the 'Son et Lumiere' script. It is the 34 information cards which are so particularly well done. Colour coded for each aspect of the cathedral, they cover the history of the building, its fabric, its builders and restorers, i.e. the craftsmen who worked on it, cards on the organ and bells, on the people of the cathedral, on its services and the worship there. To the purist perhaps the emphasis is too much on the material side and too little on the spiritual, but with such a wealth of historical information to hand who can blame the compiler?

Taken as it stands, this pack is in itself a term's work for any class, but its ramifications are almost endless, costume or coinage through the ages, world empire or ancient tapestry, European Cathedral cities or Kings and Queens of England could all start from this. Of this, one could truthfully say that no teacher of History near or in Exeter should be without one. The booklets on the bombing of Exeter are excellent

primary source material for any work on World War II and could well be used quite separately from the main pack. I would particularly recommend them for work at CSE or GCE level.

Beside this cornucopia the other packs and booklets pale, but not into insignificance. The pack on Historic Housing in Exeter has a first rate collection of slides and black and white prints, unfortunately the work cards, although presented in an attractive cover, are rather dull and are too directly tied to Hoskin's '2000 Years in Exeter'. However, the slides and prints are so good that many classroom teachers could rapidly lead children on to furnishings or costumes or food associated with each period.

Moving south-west there is a first rate envelope folder on the Atmospheric Railway. This is really for older pupils and some of the extracts from 19th Century reports are unavoidably a bit heavy, but the diagrams and information are clear and easily understood.

There is a set of slides and notes on Clay Mining in the Teign Valley and a similar set on Plymouth's Water Supply. Both of these would make a valuable follow up to a well planned visit to the Teign Valley or Drake's Leat. Alternatively, they could be used as they stand, especially the latter in a Plymouth School.

A set of 24 slides and a well-illustrated and pleasantly written booklet form a pack on the history of Plymouth entitled Project Plymouth. It is highly suitable for Primary and Middle School use. Obviously geared to Plymouth Schools it could be used by schools in South Devon and again could be the starting point for much stimulating work moving out from it.

Finally, the Regional Resources Centre now produce R.R. Sellman's well known and established book 'Illustrations of Devon History' which is full of useful maps and contains an outline history of the County.

N.B. Editors Note. The Regional Resources Centre, financed in the past partly by Phillips Limited, is due to close in the Summer of 1976 unless local support is made available.

FOLK SONGS OF THE WEST COUNTRY collected by Sabine Baring-Gould and edited by Gordon Hitchcock. Newton Abbot: David and Charles, 1974, 112 pp. £3.25 ISBN 0 7153 6419 7.

The renewed interest in folk songs has prompted this new edition of songs selected from the collection published in four parts in 1889 by Sabine Baring-Gould, squire and parson of Lewtrenchard, whose wide-ranging interests are described in a memoir contributed to this volume, by his grandson, Bickford H.C. Dickinson. Of the fifty songs printed in this volume, about half are clearly indentified as Devon songs taken down from workers such as James Parsons, an illiterate hedger and Thatcher, Robert Hard, an old stone-breaker, James Olver, a tanner, Jonas Coaker the blind 'poet of the moor' and many others, amongst whom are a few women.

Over half the songs have a romantic theme; of the remainder, several are concerned with sea-faring including the 'Greenland whale fishery', less law-abiding pursuits such as piracy and ship-wreck; farming and trades including the besom maker, the waggoner and the blacksmith are also featured; there are three religious songs and two Christmas carols; and there are three concerned with emigration besides a number of more general items. Gathered from Cornwall as well as Devon, the present editor also notes where these songs or similar ones are known in other parts of the country and where other printed versions are to be found.

When Baring-Gould originally published these songs he altered the words of some of them, such as 'A-hunting we will go' and 'In Bibberly town' to make them more suitable for the Victorian drawing room and in some cases, as with 'Rosemary Lane', he substituted completely new words to accompany a traditional tune. But this edition, compiled by Gordon Hitchcock from the manuscript copy in Plymouth Library, returns to the original versions although as the manuscript contains many inaccuracies the editor has, where necessary, revised these songs for publication, completing missing lines and fitting words to melodies. To make these songs accessible to a wider public, guitar chords have been supplied by Pat Shaw.

Celia King.

NETS AND CORACLES by J. Geraint Jenkins. 1974. (David and Charles, Newton Abbot, S. Devon) 335pp. 30 plates, 37 figs. £6.25 ISBN 0 7153 6546 0.

This book is likely to remain the definitive work on its subject, an industry which must be unknown to most people: the professional fishing by net and trap for salmon, sea-trout and eels in the estuaries and inland waters of Britain. The author is a Welshman and his bias is towards his native country. Fair enough, only Wales has coracles and the Severn and the Wye are our greatest rivers for salmon. But East Anglia, Lancashire and the North are served too and we can learn something of West Country rivers. But the book's title is inadequate to the subject matter because the first three chapters - rather more than 30 pages - deal with the trapping of fish. Anyone living near or on the banks of the Severn must be familiar with the welrs of putts and putchers - rows of huge funnel-shaped willow baskets - which catch salmon.

Much of the industry's equipment is handmade still though the many varieties and sizes of net used in Push, Drift and Seine netting, Stop-net and Coracle fishing are machine made today from synthetic fibres. A few of the basket traps are factory-made of wire but most that survive have not changed since the Middle Ages, in fact one East Anglian eel-trap of the non-return valve type appears to be of the same construction as one found at Holbaek, Jutland and now in the National Museum, Copenhagen, dated circa 7,500 B.C.

The numbers of fish caught have gone down greatly in the last half century for several reasons: pollution, the physical discomforts of the work and refrigeration techniques. We are no longer a nation of fish eaters as we were in medieval times when eels and salt fish furnished much of inland peoples' winter protein.

Perhaps the most original contribution the book makes to knowledge is the section on coracles. Mr. Jenkins goes into their making in detail and into the differences of shape and construction of those used on different Welsh rivers. There are variations in paddles too and the shape and making of particular nets. Some fishermen making coracles and fishing from them do not speak the language but all the terms are Welsh and so they use them. Incidentally it is a great pleasure to see some of Miss Wight of Hereford's lovely photographs of this section of the industry.

The chapter on eel capture will be of interest to those who have seen the many strange weapons in country museum collections. Elvering still goes on in the willow country of Somerset where one suspects the nylon net used was once the wife's parlour window curtains.

Lastly to poaching. The Welsh Folk Museum has over 100 salmon spears most of which were made in the 1950's and 60's, and all confiscated by the river authorities. Present day methods are more sophisticated. Harpoon guns, explosives and poison are the modern poacher's armoury; the last two kill not only the salmon but every fish in the area where they are operated. No skill or daring is needed and it is worse than a pity that local magistrates do not send offenders on to Crown Courts where the severe penalties these abominations deserve may be imposed.

I would like to commiserate with Mr. Jenkins over the Index. It is not only inadequate but infuriating and I am sure he did not compile it. It ignores eelskin garters (see Notes p. 323) while the text calls them gaiters. This seems a charming variant.

Dorothy Wright.

INSTEAD OF THE BUTLER'S APRON by Norman Piller. Luton: Cortney Publications, 1974, 433 pp. £3.25 ISBN 0 904378 00 4.

This is the autobiography of a Birmingham ironmonger and builders' merchant of Devon stock, the yearly turnover of whose firm grew from £28,000 in 1919 to over £1 million in 1968 when the family business became a public company. As a traveller in his early days he visited Plymouth, Devonport, Torquay, Paignton and Exeter in search of orders. His firm prospered and his later travels took him, as he sets out in a plain unvarnished matter-of-fact way, to many parts of the world between 1932 and 1972.

W.E.M.

MINES OF DEVON, VOLUME 1. THE SOUTHERN AREA by A.K. Hamilton Jenkin, Newton Abbot: David and Charles, 1974, 154 pp. £4.50. ISBN 0 7153 6784 6.

Over the years Mr. A.K. Hamilton Jenkin has produced a series of accounts of the mines of Cornwall which, together with his other writings, has been very appropriately recognised by the award of the Trevithick Medal. Now he has turned his attention to the mines of Devon and is in the process of what is, surprisingly at this date, the first survey of Devon mines. In the first of two volumes which he has planned, Mr. Hamilton Jenkin deals with the mines of the southern area: in Part I he describes the mines of the Tamar and the Tavy; in Part II those around Tavistock and those of central Dartmoor; and in Part III the mines between Yelverton and Plymouth, in the Bickleigh and Plympton neighbourhood, the lead, silver and iron mines around Plymouth and those in the Yealm and Erme valleys and in the South Hams. The author does not deal with the general history of mining in Devon but summarises the history of individual mines and describes how they can be located. In an appendix he gives a list of grid references of the mines mentioned in the text though he has provided a rather poor set of maps. The book, however, is well-illustrated with photographs. As Mr. Hamilton Jenkin would no doubt be the first to recognise, much more work still needs to be done both on the history of mining in Devon and on the present condition of the sites, particularly as changes take place so quickly today. This, then, is a welcome addition to the literature of Devon mining.

Walter Minchinton

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