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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 £6.00 post free and from book-shops.

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THE LOCAL HISTORIAN AND THE TOWN PLANNER

Robert Sherlock

The town planner looks to the future; the local historian looks to the past. The two have little in common; they can afford to go their separate ways. So, at first sight, it might appear. The salary-earning planner, responding to commercial and political forces to influence the course of history, sets slight value on an academic pursuit. The historian, deriving no financial gain from a pastime occupation, recognises in the planner a profession dedicated to destruction of the buildings that are part of his raw material. It is not surprising that whatever relationship there is between the town planner and the local historian tends to be one of hostility, misunderstanding and distrust.

Yet, just because their outlooks are diametrically opposed, it should be obvious that the contributions of the town planner and the local historian are potentially complementary. The legislation of England provides plenty of opportunity for practical forms of mutual help. It behoves every society and every individual concerned with the local history of Devon to be aware of the legislation and to seek its effectiveness. The Acts, the Orders and the Circulars may not make the most exciting reading; the planning office and the council chamber may evoke an atmosphere less congenial than the record office and the university library. The hardships are, however, superficial compared with the fundamental worthiness of the cause.

Central to the relationship between the local historian and the town planner is preservation. The relevant legislation observes a somewhat arbitrary and ill-defined distinction between functional buildings on the one hand and earthworks and ruins on the other. The latter may be scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts 1913-53, in which case three months' notice of any works of destruction has to be given to the Secretary of State for the Environment. Since scheduling and the associated processes are the responsibility of central government, the local planning authority find themselves little involved. In any case, many of the works threatening ancient monuments often do not constitute development within the meaning of the Town and Country Planning Act. That is an important point to remember: it means that unless a site is scheduled it enjoys no protection whatever from such activities as ploughing or demolition. It is no use supposing that all is well so long as the local planning authority know of the earthwork revealed by air-photography. The only safeguard is scheduling, and local historians cannot be satisfied with less than the scheduling of every earthwork and ruin that is worthy of protection.

Functional buildings, whether they be dwellings, hotels, public offices or railway stations, are listed by the Secretary of State as of special architectural or historic interest under Section 54 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971. Anglican churches and places of worship of other denominations may also be listed, but so long as they remain in ecclesiastical use the listing is of no legal consequence. If a secular building is listed, consent obtainable from the District Council as local planning authority is required for any works of demolition, extension or material alteration.

It is the listing of buildings and the exercise of the controls affecting them that gives the local historian the most obvious opportunities to participate in the planning process. What can the historian do? First he must realise that demolition and small alterations do not normally need planning permission and that statutory listing, as with scheduling, is the only means of securing effective control. He must know what buildings in his local authority are already statutorily listed — any other kind of listing is legally worthless — and then try to get the defects remedied. It is likely that some buildings, worthy of protection, are omitted and that the importance of others — measured by a series of grades — has been wrongly assessed. He can put his suggestions either to the local planning authority who may, as a temporary expedient, serve a Building Preservation Notice or direct to the Department of the Environment at 25 Savile Row, London, W1X 2BT. Secondly the historian must make his views known to the local planning authority — either as an individual or perhaps more potently through a society — whenever a building is the subject of an application for Listed Building Consent. It may be that an authority will agree to notify particular societies of applications, in which case the aim should be always to reply. Silence can be misinterpreted, and the occasional support for a proposal enhances credibility. Where there is no provision for notification, reliance must be placed on the notices that are required to be published both in a local newspaper and on the site. The historian should set out the facts — details such as the date and peculiarities of construction may be ones known only to himself — and then draw a conclusion, without romanticising and without necessarily relating the historical interest to other considerations. He is usually entitled to attend the meeting of the committee that determines the application.

If the application is approved, that is the end of the matter unless it is one of the few where approval is subject to confirmation by the Secretary of State. If the application is refused, an appeal to the Secretary of State may follow. In that event, the historian who has previously pleaded for refusal has a duty to promote the efforts to get the appeal dismissed. The support that he gives to the local planning authority takes the form of either written representations or an appearance at a Public Inquiry. At too many Inquiries where the future of historic buildings is at stake no historian appears, encouraging the Secretary of State or the Inspector to assume the indifference of those who might be most expected to be opposed.

However time-consuming the protection of individual buildings may be, the concern of a local planning authority — sometimes the local authority in another of its roles — with historic buildings extends considerably further. The participation of the local historian should be equally extensive. At the strategic level, the formulation of planning policies, currently represented by the preparation of a Structure Plan for Devon, presupposes an assessment of resources. At the local level, historical investigation can be relevant to the naming of new roads and the making of Tree Preservation Orders. It is certainly relevant to the consideration of applications for grant-aid under the Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act and to the designation of conservation areas. Since 1974 both the County Council and the District Council have been

empowered to designate conservation areas, and, having designated them, they are required to indicate their proposals for preservation and enhancement. The local historian with his intimate knowledge of how a town or village has developed and of the identity it has thus acquired can suggest areas for designation, can comment on the choice of boundary and can help to ensure that respect for continuity and the health that comes from change are happily reconciled.

The local historian will rapidly be coming to the conclusion that if he fully exploits the opportunities that are available to participate in the planning process he will have no time left for the acquisition of the knowledge that gives him his special status. Shortage of time, lack of understanding of town planning and contentment with the recording and study of the past are perhaps the reasons why the local historian in Devon has not sought more often to promote the aims of preservation and conservation. The trouble is that it is not the town planner but society as a whole which suffers if decisions are taken and if policies are formulated without due regard for local historical interests.

VERNACULAR BUILDINGS IN DEVON

At the Planning and Conservation meeting at Exeter on 5th February it was agreed to attempt to integrate and rationalise the efforts of individuals and groups working on surveys of vernacular buildings in Devon. The aim would be to supplement already published work, to augment information already held in District Planning Offices and to arrange for the deposit of finished work at a recognised central course. This would be in line with the aims of the "Conservation of the Historic Environment" section of the Devon County Structure Plan.

Within a month of this issue, Conference members and others are asked to contact CHARLES HULLAND, EXE VIEW, HIGH STREET, BAMPTON, TIVERTON (Tel. No. BAMPTON 292) stating the degree of their skills, the precise part of the county on which they have worked or intend to work and whether on individual houses, houses of a parish or on a wider area. He would also like to hear from those who would be interested to participate but do not at the moment have any training in the skills required.

Publication in "The Devon Historian" of the names and addresses of workers in the field is intended.

Thereafter, given the response, meetings of field workers, weekend schools for interested members of the public and publicity for the work in hand are among the possibilities.

Charles Hulland

THE DARTMOOR HUSBANDMAN

Freda Wilkinson

Some Dartmoor families' roots go very deep. The Hamlyns, for example, came over with the Conqueror, were lords of Widecombe in the twelfth century, farmed Hill in Holne parish for about 700 years and Dunstone in Widecombe for 500 years. In the generation still living there were landowners, tenant farmers and farm workers of that name in the district. The Mudges, Worths, Hexts and many other present-day Dartmoor farming families bear names which also appear in the Dartmoor records over many centuries. The French family of Widecombe are believed to have come over at the Norman conquest and, perhaps left as stewards of the manor, became known to the Saxon ancestors of the Nosworthys, Hannafords and Widdicombes as 'they old Frenchies'.

The Saxon peasants had probably pioneered up into the river valleys which penetrate the Moor two or three centuries before the Conquest, some of them may have inter-married with the remnants of the earlier Dartmoor people who still lingered along the Wallabrook valleys. The younger son of the Saxon villager, pushing out to make a holding for himself in the wastes, would no doubt have done well to marry a Celtic girl from the high moor. She wouldn't miss the snug intimacy of the village and she could help him learn the ways that her people had used for centuries to win a living from Dartmoor. Some old traditions were kept alive: the Celtic names for the rivers — Dart, Teign and Glaze, for example; the use of the Celtic shovel instead of the spade; building with stone; storing corn crops in barns and drying them in kilns; and tin-streaming perhaps.

From the twelfth century and possibly before, the tin industry provided alternative employment to husbandry. The medieval Dartmoor peasant could at any time throw off the yoke of his feudal lord and take his pick and shovel 'to moor', a free man, to hunt for tin and by the Stannary law his feudal lord could do nothing about it. The independent nature of the Dartmoor tinner became a byword — the tinner who was, more often than not, under his other hat, the Dartmoor husbandman. In 1303 for example, amongst those bringing tin to the Ashburton coinage were William of Sherwell, Hugo of Corndon, Sarah of Holne, Mugg (Mudge) of Chittleford, Adam de Blackaton, Robert Schire of Widecombe and others from Torre, Leusdon and Uphille, all farms in Widecombe parish.

Tinning was a gamble in which a man might well starve in slack times when the price was poor or his 'sett' or claim unproductive, unless he had a holding or farm work to fall back on, and it was when cultivating his land or herding his livestock on the moor that he kept an eye open for tin stones. The small husbandman-cum-tinner sometimes spent his winters working on his tin sett, when there was plenty of water to wash the tin from the sand and dirt, and spent his summers working on his farm.

Challacombe, on the head waters of the West Webburn, was a typical settlement of the mining-cum-farming community. It originally comprised five small

farms, set in a terrain scarred with ancient stream workings and gouged with the great open-cast gullies of Vitifer mine. Probably because there was ample work for its menfolk at Vitifer, Birch Tor and Golden Dagger mines in the nineteenth century, the farming settlement was neglected and fossilised at the transition stage between the early type of Dartmoor agriculture, when ox-teams ploughed the lyncheted furlongs on the communal outfield, and the more modern ring-fenced holdings whose nineteenth century occupiers ploughed out the old strip lynchets, the shadows of which can, however, still be seen by the slanting evening light on many Devon hillsides.

The medieval settlers on the moor knew the value of co-operation; there are several records of land being assarted from the waste by several men, each having equal shares in a grant of land; or a chief tenant and 'his men' taking in land together. No doubt the pooling of their plough oxen and their labour resources was essential to form the ploughlands and meadows which were then shared out in individual strips or doles. Most of the older holdings were in groups of 2 and 5 for mutual support and, indeed, to this day where such groups still exist neighbours usually help each other at haymaking, shearing or gathering the stock off the commons.

It would appear that the usual acreage for a full-time peasant holding in the area was originally the 32 acre furling of ploughable land, with an acre or two of meadow, some rough pasture and rights of common on the waste. But several holdings were created or evolved of half this acreage or less. Sometimes known as half tenements, they were presumably occupied by those working at least part of the time in other trades or for other men. In a charter dated as probably pre-1290 by the Exeter City Library, William, Lord of Spichwyk (a manor on Dartmoor) granted to Hamelin Carpenter 13 acres of land at Haneworthy (or Hannaford) in the manor of Spichewyk, with common of pasture for all animals especially pigs and goats. The rooting pig and the browsing goat were the pioneer small cultivators' allies in subduing virgin scrubland and preparing it for cultivation.

A nice example of a classical cottar's holding in this manor was Higher Hannaford (above Newbridge) as it was in 1842. It comprised cottage and garden, $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres of arable land, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of meadow and an acre of orchard. In 1740 it was let to a charcoal burner. Half furling tenements in this manor still in existence in 1842 were Higher Cator, total acreage 21 acres with 13 classed as ploughable; Higher Aish, total 17 acres, arable 12; Middle Hannaford (which may well have been the one assarted by Hamelin the carpenter), total 17 acres, arable 15; and 2 holdings at Sherwell, each with 24 acres and each having 15 acres of arable and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow, $5\frac{1}{4}$ acres of rough pasture and a small plot and garden round each house. This last was obviously no haphazard growth of closes taken in from the moor over the centuries, especially as the arable fields are half a mile away from the homesteads and the meadows arranged together around the stream.

Although many of the holdings on the central Forest of Dartmoor are as ancient as those already quoted, a few were taken in from the waste within the last couple of centuries and we have some record of their formation. Crossing

writes of how the Hoopers made Nuns Cross Farm and another such homesteader was old Cator (an indigenous Dartmoor name) who in 1797 entertained the Reverend Swete in the cottage he had built in his little farm — a bare 'newtake' of unimproved moorland when he got it — near the head of the Blackabrook, not far from Princetown. Cator had worked as a turf-cutter and a road-maker to get his living whilst he built his farm, he and his wife had raised nine children and he had eventually managed to set up two of his sons in similar little farms built by his own and his family's labour.

The story of Jolly Lane Cot which was built in a day on common land near Hexworthy is well known. Sally Satterly, who lived there till her death in 1901, was one of those dauntless women of Dartmoor who so often caused raised eyebrows amongst the visiting gentry. She worked at Eylesbarrow tin mine at one time, she drove packhorses, cut peat, mowed with a scythe and could nail a shoe on a horse 'as well as any blacksmith'. Others helped to build the newtake walls and one has known many women who farmed their own farms, almost entirely with their own labour, shearing sheep, wrestling with unbroken ponies and dealing in the markets as well as any man.

One such was a maiden lady known as Dinah, the last of the Duchy pound-keepers. She had Dunnabridge Pound farm and regularly took her cream and other produce to Ashburton in her pony-trap. She was very stout and rather fierce. At Newbridge on the Dart there was at that time a moor-gate across the road. Local children manned this on market days and opened and shut it for travellers who tossed them a halfpenny for their pains. Apparently Dinah was not in favour of this practice with the result that she not only had to get out of the trap herself but the bit of timber used to hold the gate open whilst the pony and trap were led through, mysteriously disappeared. Dinah soon settled that, she unhung the heavy five-barred gate, hitched it up behind the trap, drove onto the middle of the bridge and threw the gate into the Dart. She entered her pony for the races round Huccaby Tor in 1909, when the Prince and Princess of Wales came there to watch (in a little flower-decked glass pavilion set amidst the rocks and heather). She had a great-nephew jockeying, but not to her satisfaction, and as the ponies came round the second time, with poor Darkie scampering gamely but vainly after the imported blood ponies, Dinah thundered down onto the course and dealt a flying 'thwack' at her pony's rump with her walking stick. 'Put to 'em!' she hollered, 'the beggar can travel when he's a mind to!'

There has always been a special relationship between the Duchy of Cornwall and their tenants of central Dartmoor; some of their farms have been rented by the same family for generations — like the ancient tenements of Runnage, Dunaabridge and Sherberton, by the Coakers, the Caunters and the other Coakers respectively.

At least one other manor on Dartmoor still shows interesting vestiges of old feudal customs. Spitchwick Manor still holds, at irregular intervals, its Court Leet, the meeting of the 'homagers' (those having rights of common on the wastes of the manor) before the Steward to decide on the management of the common and to deal with infringements of the customs of the manor. Until the 1920s heriots and 'chief rents' of a few shillings were paid by the freeholders or

'free tenants'. The homagers still elect a foreman, who is supposed to be the one amongst them with the greatest knowledge of the customs of the manor and who can be trusted to advise 'without fear or favour'. They also elect the reeve, the executive officer who carries out the decisions of the Court. The pound-keeper looks after the strays impounded after the drifts until they are claimed or sold. The tything man, whose office on this manor was combined with that of ale taster, is no longer mentioned in the more recent courts. He appears to have been left over from the pre-Norman 'tythings' — the groups of ten families of free-man, their tything-man standing surety for their good behaviour, hence in practice a kind of constable. It appears to have been an unpopular office as in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries each homager seems to have been appointed in rotation. Perhaps the ale-tasting was added to it as a compensation.

Here is the transcript of the proceedings of the court held in 1896, which is far enough in the past for discretion, though every name has a familiar ring; indeed the first presentment deals with three homagers or commoners who have exactly the same names as three homagers in the manor today.

Manor of Spitchwick

The Court Leet of the our Sovereign Lady the Queen with the Court Baron of Thomas Blackall Esquire within and for the said Manor this tenth day of March One thousand, eight hundred and ninety-six.

Jury and Homage

F.H. Firth — Great Cator — Foreman
 Albert Caunter — West Shallaford
 Wm. Tuckett — Sherwell
 John Chaffe — Corndon
 Thos. Henry Cleave — Christianhayes
 Walter Irish — Lower Cator
 Richard Norrish — Middle Cator
 James Hamlyn — Lake
 Wm. Thos. French — Leigh Tor
 Nicholas Turner — Lower Uppacott
 Frank Hamlyn — Middle Sherwill
 John Irish — Grendon
 Abraham Townsend — Tridyscott
 Edwin Hext — Uphill
 Wm. Hamlyn White — Sherwill
 Albert Caunter — Sweatton

We present that Mr. Walter Irish, Mr. Richard Norrish and Mr. John Irish who were at the last Court fined 2/6d. each have this day paid the same.

We present Mr. John Chaffe to be taken Tenant of Corndon in the place of his Father now dead and that there is a relief due to the Lord of the Manor of 7/6d.

The Steward read the cash account which showed a balance in hand of £2. 0s. 9d.

It was reported to this Court that the gravel pit at Sharberton was in a dangerous state. We present that the edges of the same be sloped.

We present Mr. William Hamlyn White of Sherwill to the Lord of the Manor for appointment to the Office of Reeve within this Manor until the next Court.

We present Mr. Nicholas Turner of Lower Uppacott to the Lord of the Manor for reappointment as Tithingman and Ale taster within this Manor until the next Court.

We present Mr. Abraham Townsend of Tridyscott to the Lord of the Manor for reappointment as Pound Keeper within this Manor until the next Court.

Owing to the death of the late Reeve no drift has been driven according to the presentment of the last Court and we present that the newly appointed Reeve fix a time with the Steward when a drift shall be made in the course of the present year and we present that the privilege of the Cottagers is limited to one pony and that the minute of the Court held in 1882 as to the Fines be continued.

We present that the bounds of the Manor be beaten on Thursday the 8th of October 1896 and that the Steward give all the necessary notice as heretofore.

Signed by all the Jury and Homage.

The Dartmoor husbandmen were a very special people. thrifty, very independent, resourceful, often great craftsmen, jealous of their skills and strength but helpful and tolerant to strangers and, what is often more difficult, to their neighbours. It is hardly possible to stand anywhere on Dartmoor, no matter how remote, and not see the work of their hands. Every place seems to have a tradition or an 'old tale' attached to it and anecdotes, slight in themselves, that bring history and the lives of our forbears home to us.

We have a friend and neighbour, 85 years old, who has farmed on Dartmoor all his life and has with his own hands also thatched his own and all his neighbours' houses, built his farm buildings, been pig-killer for the district and also a licensed 'non-qualified veterinary practitioner' and foreman of the manor court for about 40 years. He recalls how his father, who was a farm worker as a young man, ploughed with oxen on several farms in Widecombe parish. He could, moreover, make not only the yokes for the team but the 'timberen zuell' or wooden plough itself. He remembered the commands to the oxen — 'Hake' meaning bear right and 'Ree' — bear left, different from the 'Walk off' and 'Come yurr' used for horse teams.

His tale of an incident concerning ox-ploughing which must have taken place at least a hundred years ago may be of interest partly because the very conversation has been passed down over the generations.

There was a chap called Jack Hatherleigh ploughing 'Dag's Hills' (a field near Leusdon Church) where they used to have the races vur years ago. Little Rich Turner was driving the bullock team for him. He'd be granfer to Alan Turner thats over to Quarnonvorr [Corndonford] now. They was using a big old timberen zuell [a wooden plough]. During

the afternoon little Rich says, 'I don't reckon they'm going half so well as they was in the forenoon, Jack.' 'How's that then boy?' says Jack. 'Reckon they could do with a change — some of the other chaps lets me hold the zuell for a bit whilst they drives the bullocks.' 'Git on then boy — hang hold', says Jack. Now he'd just seen a rock ahead so no sooner had little Rich caught hold to the handles than Jack touched up the bullocks with the goad and 'Bang! Wallop!' up and over went timberen zuell and boy and all, 'Oh dear, oh dear!' says little Rich Turner, zot on the ground acounting his ribs, 'Thats wan rib broken — two vur sure — dree I think'.

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM A SHORT HISTORY OF ITS GROWTH

J. Allan Young

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries interest in science, referred to at that time as 'Natural Philosophy', was steadily growing, stimulated by an increasing number of inventions and discoveries. In certain of our larger towns men of culture and intellect would meet together to share their knowledge and discuss these new discoveries.

London, of course, had its Royal Society, founded in 1660, but there was nothing comparable elsewhere in the country until a literary and Philosophical Society was formed in Manchester in 1781. This was followed by similarly named societies founded in Derby in 1784, in Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1793 and in Liverpool in March, 1812. Later in the same year a society was formed in Plymouth and the history of this society, which has remained unbroken until the present time, forms the subject of this short article.

On 4th October, 1812 several gentlemen met at the home of a Plymouth lawyer, Mr. Henry Woolcombe, who proposed the formation of a society at which lectures on Natural Philosophy and other subjects would be given. On 17th October it was actually formed under the name of the Plymouth Institute, changed not long afterwards to 'The Plymouth Institution', a name which was retained for 149 years.

The first lectures were given at Mr. Woolcombe's house, but after the fourth lecture, meetings were held at the Plymouth Dispensary which is still to be seen in Catherine Street. In 1817 the success of the Institution seemed assured and with financial support from members it was decided to construct a permanent home.

In 1810 John Foulston had been appointed architect to the Corporation, and, being a founder member of the Institution, he gave his services in the preparation of the plans and in superintending every detail of the building. On the landward slope of the Hoe, then cherry gardens, Foulston carried out a plan in the classic manner for the Corporation, and on the west side of The Theatre Royal, remote from the bustle of the town, the Society's hall was built. The foundation stone was laid on 1st May, 1818 by Henry Woolcombe and to this day the event has been remembered annually at the Anniversary Meeting, usually held on the first Thursday in May.

The Building

The facade, of the building was modelled in the Doric style on the portico of the Temple of Theseus at Athens and thus it was known as the Athenaeum. The accommodation in the building was somewhat restricted and consisted of two small rooms and a large lecture hall, lighted from above, with tiers of benches arranged in parliamentary fashion. The officers sat on a rostrum under a bust of Minerva and the speaker faced them from the other end. The rooms were adorned with casts and replicas of Greek statuary including the Elgin marbles,

the Apollo Belvedere and the Medici Venus. It was a meeting place which the members, both of the Institution and the town, regarded with pride.

In that lecture hall were delivered many notable lectures after which the speaker had to endure up to two hours of questioning and argument. Lt. Col. Hamilton-Smith, a talented scholar, historian and artist, lectured on many occasions as did Johnathan Nash Hearder, who, but for an unfortunate accident as a young man might have been another Faraday. Sir William Snow Harris was another distinguished member who invented the lightning conductor for ships. At the present time there hangs in the Members' Lounge a large oil painting depicting Sir William demonstrating his lightning conductor to the Duke of Clarence, later William IV, on the occasion of his visit to the Athenaeum in 1827. In 1839, one Charles Brown, an active lecturing member, spoke on the life and works of Keats, whose close friend he had been for many years. This was the introduction to the world of a great poet whose works had only been read by one member of the audience, Coleridge's son Derwent.

Additions to the Building

Not many years after the opening of the Athenaeum, it was found necessary to extend the building to meet the growing educational needs and in 1828 a Museum was built at the rear of the Lecture Hall. This was the third provincial museum to be established and for almost half a century was the only museum in Plymouth. It was well patronised by the Public as it contained a very full and varied collection of exhibits. A Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society had been formed in Plymouth in 1838, and in 1857 this Society was amalgamated with the Plymouth Institution which was thus strengthened as well as having the contents of its Museum increased.

In 1883 an Art Gallery was added but fifteen years later the Scientific Library was transferred there. This Library, housing more than ten thousand volumes, was the Institution's chief asset and contained such items as the official reports of the 'Challenger' Expedition and the Gatcombe-Pickthall Collection of valuable standard works, mainly on Natural History.

In 1900 were added a Reading Room and a Lending Library which was much used by members for over thirty years, as many as twenty thousand issues being made annually. However, the increasing expense of maintenance and the competition from the Public and commercial libraries caused it to be discontinued.

The Institution thus reached its centenary year (1912) with greatly extended premises which afforded scope for a much wider range of cultural activities.

For nearly the whole of the first century of its existence membership of the Institution was confined to men and the number of Lady Associates was very small. In 1835 there were 50 members but no Lady Associates; in 1866 there were 130 members, all men, and even in 1891 there were only 9 Lady Associates. With the opening of the Lending Library and Reading Room there was a great increase in the number of Lady Associates. A new element of social life was introduced with important results, but it was not until 1917 that a lady, Miss Emma Scott, was elected to the Presidential chair. There have been five lady

Presidents since then and at the present time ladies form a large proportion of the membership.

The work of the Institution was greatly stimulated in 1916 by the formation of Sections through the initiative of the President in that year, Dr E.J. Allen, F.R.S. The first to be formed were the Chemistry and Physics, Music, and History and Economics Sections; the Literary and Dramatic Section was formed in 1922, followed by the Chess Section and the Cinematograph Section. However, the most successful Section, founded in 1919, has been the Photographic which has steadily grown in strength year by year until today it holds a position of esteem among photographic societies and periodically provides for the members exhibitions of very high quality. The Ladies' Committee has been in existence for a number of years and does valuable work in providing refreshments at all social functions.

The War

When war broke out in September 1939, certain precautions were taken and some of the most valuable books were packed in a large steel box and handed over to the bank for safe storage. Unfortunately all the other volumes and the Museum exhibits were left in situ for various reasons, chief of which was the lack of transport.

The first air raid damage took place in March, 1941 when the glass roof of the Scientific Library was destroyed. On the following evening Mr. Beckerlegge, the Librarian, and two other members met there and collected about one hundred of the most important books which were taken to the home of Mr. H.G. Hurrell at Moorgate, Wrangaton, where they remained in safety until the war was over. The protection of the rest of the books was too big a task for voluntary labour.

The end came during the night of 21st April, 1941. A few incendiaries fell in the Lecture Room and were dealt with by the resident caretaker; but when a whole cannister was emptied on the building it was soon a mass of flames, fanned by a keen east wind. The water mains having been severed at the beginning of the raid, there was no water available and there was nothing to be done but to stand and watch the fire steadily consume the whole building and its contents.

Nothing was salvaged except a few badly scorched pieces from the Gatcombe—Pickthall collection of china, but curiously, there was recovered from the safe the Presidential Badge, undamaged, and, when cleaned, as good as new except for the gilding.

Establishing the war damage claim for the building and contents was extremely difficult. There was never any inventory of the contents and the catalogue of the Scientific Library had been destroyed. In the end the final sum awarded under the War Damage Act was £14,368. Concerning the fabric, the valuation arrived at was £62,000, but after plans based on that figure had been prepared and approved both by the Institution's Council and the City Council the Commission announced that it had made a mistake and the new valuation was only £44,700. This heavy reduction was a severe blow and necessitated scaling down considerably the accommodation in the new building together with

the fittings and furnishings.

The New Building

From 1941 until the new building was opened in 1961 the Society met in temporary premises, holding its lectures for part of the time in one of the rooms of the City Art Gallery. However, even before the war was over a request was sent to the Town Clerk for the allocation of a site for the new Athenaeum, but it was not until January, 1959, that permission for rebuilding on the original site was finally obtained. The freehold site was purchased from the Institution by the City and rented to it at £700 per annum on a ninety nine years lease. The Institution had been exempted from rates on its original building and although the Town Clerk gave as his opinion in 1955 that the new Athenaeum would also be exempted, since the opening of the building rates have been levied only modified by the statutory deductions.

There is not space in this article to set out all the facilities in the new Athenaeum but one important innovation was decided upon; this was the incorporation of a properly equipped theatre to seat 352. It has always been the policy of the Institution to provide cultural facilities for the public and this small theatre was built to accommodate the local amateur societies as well as professional companies. The acoustics are extremely good and it can also be used for concerts, recitals and important lectures for which the smaller lecture hall would be unsuitable.

Work actually commenced on the building, for which the tender accepted was £47,333, in December, 1959. Due to modifications by the Local Authority, the Institution and Westward Television, this figure was much exceeded, but eventually the opening ceremonies took place with much rejoicing on 1st June, 1961. Just before this event the Society's name was changed from the rather cumbersome 'Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society' to 'The Plymouth Athenaeum'.

Since then the Athenaeum has continued to expand, the membership now being 614. Unfortunately the theatre has not always received the support that would have been expected, and it has only been through a tremendous amount of voluntary and dedicated work that the Society has been able to maintain its past traditions. In this welfare age there are certain facilities which the State cannot provide and which are left to the initiative of private organisations. The Plymouth Athenaeum was formed for the purpose of the dissemination of the sciences and the arts and this purpose it will endeavour to uphold.

BULKAMORE IRON MINE AND ITS TRAMWAY

M.J. Messenger

I first became interested in Bulkamore mine on learning that it was at one time connected by a narrow gauge tramway with what is now the Dart Valley Railway. Such tramways have been a particular study of mine for some years but published information on this mine proved rather scant and primary sources non-existent. A basic story has been built up from other sources, however, and a purpose of this article is to illustrate these sources.

Dines (see sources listed at the end), my first point of reference, quoting **Mineral Statistics** states the recorded production of the mine to be 4,400 tons of iron-ore during 1874 and 1875 and these dates tie in with the Prospectus published in the **Mining Journal**, following registration of the Bulkamore Magnetic Iron Ore Co. Ltd. in October 1873. However, the **Totnes Times** implies that the mine was working before this and the prospectus's statement that "there are unusual facilities for getting the ore cheaply, no steam engine or machinery of any kind being required" suggests that the ore-body was already opened up and accessible. The ore was said to be nearly 50% metallic iron with few impurities and was considered good for steel making; the Bessemer process then needed low-phosphorous iron.

The mine is 500 feet above sea-level some distance from major roads and ports and transport of the ore was a problem. In early days it had gone by cart to Totnes Quay for shipment but later to Plymouth, via South Brent and the South Devon Railway, or on one occasion at least to Teignmouth. The opening of the Totnes Quay tramway of the Buckfastleigh, Totnes & South Devon Railway (who also owned the Ashburton branch line) on 10th November 1873 should have been of considerable advantage but the excessive rates charged by the South Devon Railway, who operated the smaller company's railways, counteracted this. A tramway connecting with the Ashburton branch was considered on the formation of the mine company but construction did not commence until after the Railway Commissioners had ruled in favour of the BT & SDR and rates dropped drastically.

In the Directors' Minute Books of the BT & SDR it is recorded that Edward Casper of the BMIO Co requested a siding to connect with the mine tramway in January 1874 but due to the impecunious state of the branch railway company agreement had to be reached with the SDR to build it. In November the Board of Trade was asked to inspect the siding urgently as they were "desirous of commencing traffic" and later that month Colonel Yelland duly approved it, subject to minor modifications. The agreement had specified a minimum of 500 tons of ore to be despatched per week while the BT & SDR expected to gain an additional 15,000 tons of traffic a year from the mine, although in May 1874 only 150 tons per week were being produced.

The tramway from the mine would appear to have been complete by November and on 26th November Thomas Dugard, described as manager and proprietor of the mine, was injured when an uncoiling rope caught him as new

machinery was being started. This is quite likely to have been the winding machinery for the tramway in line. The **Ordnance Survey 6 Inch Map** shows the tramway climbing from the lane close to Cuming Farm at 1 in 10 and gradually steepening over the next one-third of a mile until at the mine the gradient was about 1 in 2¼. Such a steep line could only have been cable worked although we have no other clues.

The boom in British iron ore production in the 1870's was short lived and Bulkamore is typical of many mines of that period. The 500 tons per week specified in the agreement with the SDR had not been achieved and in October 1875 Edward Casper was refused a rebate on traffic to the Town Quays, Totnes. Two months later a winding-up petition was presented and mining ceased, if it had not done so already. In May 1876 the Bulkamore Iron Ore Co. Ltd. was registered but it did little and was struck off early in 1884. A small optimistic reworking was started in 1938 but again it achieved little.

The mine site (grid ref: SX 749631) is now very overgrown but the open-work from which the ore-body was removed is clearly visible. A small shaft can be seen and two partly blocked adits. Very little trace of buildings remain but parts of the tramway are traceable as far as the River Dart. No sign can be found of the bridge across the Dart (SX 755638) — possibly it was a casualty of the heavy rain of July 1875 which caused the Dart to flood, and thus perhaps contributing to the downfall of the mine. On the Dart Valley Railway a widening of the boundary fence marks the site of Bulkamore Siding (SX 756639) and the transhipment point with the mine boundary. The river bridge was probably a timber trestle and this was most likely extended to the siding so that the mine wagons would be above the broad-gauge SDR wagons and the ore could be simply tipped in.

The BMIO Co's authorised capital was £50,000, in £10 shares, and they claimed to have paid £20,000 for the mine property. The ore was reckoned to be worth 25s. (£1.25) per ton so with a production of 4,400 tons by any calculation the enterprise was a disaster. The BT & SDR did not get the traffic they hoped for and so badly needed while the SDR did not even recoup the cost of the siding. At best it provided a few months work for some local miners and some profit (or perhaps bad debts) for the merchants who supplied its needs but the shareholders must have been bitterly disappointed.

The sources used are listed below and I am also indebted to Justin Brooke, Marazion, for the use of his mining notes and to Lt. Cdr. Peter Richardson, RN, Totnes, for his interest and for the use of his field work to supplement my own.

H.G. Dines **The Metalliferous Mining Region of South-West England** HMSO 1956; **Mining Journal** (1873) at Redruth Local History Library; **Totnes Times** (1873-1875) by courtesy of Mid Devon Newspapers Ltd., Newton Abbot; Buckfastleigh, Totnes & South Devon Railway, Directors' Minute Books at Public Record Office, British Transport Historical Records ref: RAIL 84/1; Board of Trade, Railway Department Papers at Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London ref: MT6/125/7; **Ordnance Survey 6" & 25"** maps, First Edition 1885 at West Country Studies Library, Exeter and at Devon Record Office, Exeter.

MEMORANDA FROM THE PARISH OFFICERS' ACCOUNTS WIDECOME-IN-THE-MOOR 1711-1840

Iris Woods

The Parish of Widecombe is fortunate to possess the account books of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for almost the whole of the 18th and first half of the 19th centuries. The accounts were "given up" for examination to a meeting of parishioners held annually as near to Easter as was convenient. A good deal can be deduced about the work of the Parish Officers from the figures, but there are no Minutes of decisions taken. However, when a matter arose on which those present expressed strong feelings, a memorandum was written in the account book. The points raised do not always seem to merit so much attention. For example, the first memorandum in the Churchwardens' Accounts occurred in 1727:

This is to certify that at a Parish meeting it is agreed on that there is nothing to be allowed by the parishioners to the Churchwardens for bringing home any bell rope or ropes nor to give anything to any Travellers which ask alms.

The number of occasions and the sums involved appear ridiculously small — fourpence was paid for bringing home a bell rope and the average number brought home each year was one. Between the years 1711 and 1727 on only eight occasions was any payment given to licensed beggars who came with a pass, signed by one or more Justices. They were men or women who had suffered some disaster and were unable to find any other way to maintain themselves. Fire, flood and shipwreck were the most common causes of their destitution.

1713. Gave to a poor woman that had a Certificate under several justices hands who allowed her to ask Alms by reason her husband was burnt to death and almost all her goods. 6d.

Possibly the parishioners used these seemingly trivial matters to remind the Officers that a watch was being kept on their expenditure. Lest anyone should suppose that this ungenerous attitude to strangers persisted, the embargo was lifted by the Overseers in 1749 and by the Churchwardens in 1753.

1749. Twelve Travellers that was taken prisoners by the Turks and Redeemed again and came ashore at the east part of England and had a certificate under several Justices hands to Travel Towards their own homes and to be reliev'd by every p'sh as they passed through the same.
2/6

Formal agreements for letting parish property were written into the Accounts from the early 19th century. The parish owned the Church House, four cottages erected on the site of the Lady House, and the Lady Meadow. The rents helped to reduce the Church Rate, and in some years replaced it altogether. Three separate agreements were drawn up in May 1806 which give us an idea of the accommodation at the Church House.

John Tremills was to have "the kitching chamber, Little Fore Chamber

the School Chamber and the Linhay in the Back Court".

John Potter had "the kitching of the Church House, the Little Back Chamber, the Little Fore Room and part of the Wood house".

Ann Smerdon got "the Parlour of the Church House and a Little Room Adjoining, and part of the Wood house".

Each tenant paid £2 per annum. John Tremills and Ann Smerdon undertook to keep school, and "if they refuse the bargain becomes void". Today the Church House is divided into a lower and an upper hall and kitchen.

In November 1828 a long agreement was entered into by the Churchwardens and John Barrett of Magdalen Street, Exeter, bell hanger, for newly framing and hanging the peal of bells in the Church tower. Careful instructions on the type and quality of the materials to be supplied were laid down. Inspectors were appointed to watch the progress of the repairs, the work to be completed by 1st May 1829 at a cost of £57. 2s. 9d. — though the Churchwardens were to retain £10 till six months after the completion as security that the work had been faithfully performed. The receipt in the accounts for the full amount is dated 27th January 1830.

During the 17th and 18th centuries the Widecombe parishioners were in the unusual — one might say happy — position of having Lords of the Manor who were absentees, not greatly concerned with local affairs. The Squire-and-Parson hierarchy was unknown and a remarkable independence developed among the farmers and yeomen. In 1732 Nicholas Keenor re-drew and painted nine of the texts on the Church walls at the order of the Rural Dean for £3. 7s. 6d. He also re-wrote the verse from Lamentations and touched up some lines on the "Table of Verses concerning the fall of our Church" for 2/6d. the result was a memorandum that

"it was agreed that the said Nicholas Keenor is not hereafter to be employed in any parish work for the future and especially in drawing and painting of sentences....because that the said Kennor did very much exact in his work"

Still greater indignation is expressed in a memorandum that stands at the head of the accounts for the same year. On several occasions the Churchwardens were put to some expense to ride to Exeter and appear at the Bishop's Court to answer the Rural Dean's presentments — usually about the uneven state of the Church floor.

"This is to certifie to all persons to whom it may concern that If at any time or times hereafter there shall be any such Occasion in Time to come that the Dean Ruler or any of his successors in their Office shall at any time hereafter put in or Exhibitt any p'sentment in any Court whatsoever and shall give the Wardens No Manner of Notice thereof that the sd. Churchwardens shall try the case to know whether the sd. Dean Ruler shall have the power to present without such notice given or not and the p'shoners shall pay the sd. Churchwardens Reasonable Hire and Charges for their Labour and Cost."

There was some excuse for this outburst. The Vicar, the Rev. John Harris lived at his other incumbency at Landulph in Cornwall, and did not supply a resident

curate for Widecombe. In 1733 John Nosworthy "of Widecombe Town" was despatched to Landulph to ask that this might be remedied, and a memorandum, giving the purpose of his journey, laid down that 5/- was to be retained from the Church Rate in case "Mr. Harris did not fully pay John Nosworthy for his pains". In fact the 5/- was repaid to the Churchwardens the next year.

It may have been the same John Nosworthy on whose account the following memorandum was written a few years later. He was said to have undertaken to buy an old bell-clapper at 1½d. per lb., but now refused to keep his part of the bargain :

"We whose names are hereunder written, p'shoners of Widecombe doe unanimously agree at a parochial meeting held 12 May 1740 that If aforesd. J. Nosworthy doe refuse to pay for ye sd. clapper according to his sd. bargain that the persons who sold it to him shall prosecute him or take such methods to recover ye sd. money as ye Law directs and we doe hereby promise to joyn with them in ye same.
Witness our hands"

In fact there are no signatures! There are statements in other years requiring endorsement which are not signed, so presumably they were written by the clerk before the meeting, and then by oversight or even by agreement were not witnessed.

Certain items may appear either in the Churchwardens' or the Overseers' accounts. One of these is the payment made for killing foxes. In 1736 there is one of the rare memoranda from the Overseers' accounts.

"It was agreed that whatsoever foxes are hereafter Taken or killed within this parish are to be brought to the Church Town and Hung up at the Parish Tree....there shall be paid 5/- for every fox and vixen that are able to prey for themselves and 2/6 for evry young cubb that cannot take prey for themselves and to take the money out of the Poor Rates"

Greys (badgers) were valued at 1/- each.

There was a world's difference between killing a hare and killing a fox — the one being game and the other vermin. In April 1748 :

"As John Nosworthy convicted himself to the Ten Shilling Act for killing one hare and the 5/- which was to be distributd to the poor being not paid, we were order'd by the Justices to pay the sd. 5/- to the poor and the next overseers to Demand it again from the sd. John Nosworthy."

A memorandum which concerns this subject deserves to be quoted in full :

"February ye 13th 1761

Whereas on ye 28th Day of January last several Farmers of this Parish went out with an Intention of destroying Foxes, and accidentally happened to kill an Hair: And whereas Stephen Townend went to a Justice of Peace, and informed against them for killing ye sd. Hair, and caused ye Penalty of five Pounds to be levied on ye Account: And whereas ye sd. Stephen Townend hath heretofore received considerable

Sums of Mony from ye Parish for killing of foxes: it is unanimously agreed at a Parish meeting called for yt. purpose, yt. ye said Stephen Townsend shall not be entitled to any Reward from ye Parish for killing of foxes till he hath brough in such a Number as weil make up for ye said five pounds wch. he hath thus caused to be levied by his vexatious Proceedings, As Witness our Hands"

The handwriting is that of the Vicar, Thomas Grange, and his is the first of the twenty-nine signatures that follow.

There are Vestry Minute books which cover the years 1821-27 and 1853-95, but the handful of Memoranda are all that remain to give us a glimpse of what roused the parishioners of Widecombe to place their opinions on record in the 18th century.

SHIPBUILDING IN NORTH DEVON by Grahame Farr. National Maritime Museum, 1976. 72 pp. £1.25.

For more than forty years Grahame Farr has been collecting material about shipping and shipbuilding in the Bristol Channel. Some of his work has been made available in the publications of the Bristol Record Society, the Chepstow Society and elsewhere. Now he has added this further volume, the heart of which is a chronological list of ships built on the north Devon coast between 1725 and 1975, a more limited period than the title suggests. While the continuous records from which Mr. Farr has benefitted for most of his period are lacking, he exaggerates the difficulties in the way of compiling a similar list for the period before 1725, a project which would obviously be worthwhile as a complement to the present compilation. In the 250 years between 1725 and 1975 about 2,000 vessels were built in north Devon with a total tonnage of the order of 300,000 tons. Since this output is roughly equivalent to one modern super-tanker, north Devon clearly made only a modest contribution to the British shipbuilding industry in the past two and a half centuries. On average about eight vessels a year were constructed in north Devon but, of course, there were marked year-to-year fluctuations. In some years such 1726, 1734, 1751, 1758, 1889 and 1898-1901 there were no launchings while in others a substantial number of vessels were built. The largest number was reached in 1803 when 30 vessels are listed, run close by 1840 in which year a total of 28 vessels are noted by Mr. Farr. The average annual tonnage produced amounted to something like 1,000 tons, a figure which puts in perspective Mr. Farr's pardonable but certainly unhistorical claim that the product of the north Devon yards in the days of sail covered the whole spectrum of vessels. Before 1900 the great majority of the vessels built in north Devon were under 150 tons, and as to the wide range of vessels produced since 1945, the largest listed by Mr. Farr is a bulk-carrier of 3,645 tons. So much for the ships, what of the shipbuilders? For the first century, evidence about those who actually built the ships is scanty but from about 1825 most of the shipbuilders are given. Thus this volume provides a great deal of information about shipbuilding in north Devon on which others will be able to build. Unfortunately, in the production of this volume Mr. Farr has not been well-served by his publishers. The maps are abysmal, particularly that which decorates the cover which by a miracle of cartographic fiction places Clovelly, Northam, Bideford and Porlock inland away from navigable water. Some illustrations of the range of vessels built, which Mr. Farr certainly possesses or are available in the National Maritime Museum, would have helped to bring the chronological list to life. And, most important, like its predecessor in the same series on the port of Hayle, this volume should certainly have had indexes of ships and shipbuilders. Unless the approximate date of build of a vessel is known, the list has to be searched through for the information. Despite these defects, Mr. Farr has put maritime historians deeply in his debt by providing a most useful working list of vessels built in north Devon since 1725. A similar list for south Devon would be most welcome.

THE CHANGING ENGLISH VILLAGE, A HISTORY OF BLEDINGTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, IN ITS SETTING, 1066-1914 by M.K. Ashby. Roundwood Press, 1974. xxiii + 425 pp., 8 plates, 2 maps, £5.50.

CONTRASTING COMMUNITIES, ENGLISH VILLAGERS IN THE SIXTEENTH AND SEVENTEENTH CENTURIES by Margaret Spufford. C.U.P., 1974. xxiii + 374 pp., 13 maps, £7.70.

The appearance of these two excellent books on English rural life in the same year indicates how far the study of local history has progressed in recent times. Studies of this depth, intensity, and relevance to general historical problems are a relatively new occurrence: and these have the further merit that they deal comprehensively not only with agricultural matters, but also with a wide field of social history. In particular, religion and education can seldom before have been analysed so thoroughly at the village level. These books add new dimensions to the trail which Professor Hoskins pioneered so ably with the *Midland Peasant* in 1957.

Miss Ashby takes one village, Bledington in the Cotswold country between Stow-on-the-Wold and Chipping Norton, where she lived for many years, and traces its development from early times to 1914. By contrast Dr. Spufford examines three Cambridgeshire villages from different natural regions to see how far environment affected their economic, social — and even to some extent political — development during the critical years of change from a medieval to a modern world. The selected villages are Orwell in the clay plain south-west of Cambridge, Chippenham in the chalk country near Newmarket, and Willingham just into the Fens north-west of Cambridge. The book has three sections (1) People, Families and Land; (2) The Schooling of the Peasantry; and (3) Parishioners and their Religion. The first part is the longest. It comprises an opening chapter on population change in Cambridgeshire from the relative over-population of the pre-Black Death years to the late seventeenth century. This is followed by a chapter on the problem of the disappearance of the small landowner, which is the central theme of the first part of the book. The final three chapters of this section are case studies of changing landownership in the three sample villages of Chippenham, Orwell, and Willingham.

The second section on the schooling of the peasantry begins with a survey of Cambridgeshire schools and schoolmasters, and ends with an analysis of the extent of literacy, based mainly on the ability to sign wills and other legal documents. Of 316 wills made before 1700 in the three villages of Willingham, Orwell, and Milton only 16 per cent bore the testator's signature. As one would expect, literacy (judged by this admittedly rather crude test) was related to wealth and social status. One-third of yeomen making wills could sign their names; only 10 per cent of labourers, craftsmen, and women were able to do so. However, the sample does not distinguish between wills chronologically, but where this distinction was made (for Willingham wills) there was, surprisingly, very little improvement in literacy during the seventeenth century. Only eight out of thirty-nine testators could sign their wills between 1676 and 1700 compared with five out of forty-four in the years 1601-25. Miss Ashby does not analyse the

Bledington wills in quite the same way but she notes that in all the wills and inventories prior to 1700 only one book is mentioned: but adds that "a husbandman's sons, if not himself, must be able to read freely if not to write."

Literacy bore an obvious relationship to the spread of dissent, relying so strongly as it did on individual interpretation of the Bible. However, the relationship was not deterministic judging by the widespread hold of dissent on the Cambridgeshire countryside — far more prevalent than literacy. Dr. Spufford analyses its spread and the possible causes thereof in great detail and concludes that no single explanation will suffice. Dissent was widespread among all groups in the villages, except the gentry, but in few was it dominant. However, she quotes a story about a husbandman of Willingham, in 1555, one Henry Orinel, which is very surprising, and should serve as a salutary warning against too easy an acceptance of the idea that villagers were bounded by the confines of a narrow locality, and were unaware of the events in the wider world. It seems that Orinel, worried by the return of Catholicism under Queen Mary, travelled to Colchester, which he describes as a city which "gave great light to all those who for the comfort of their conscience came to confer there from many diverse places of the Realme, and repairing to common Innes had by night their Christian exercises, which in other places could not be gotten." At the Inn Orinel witnessed a debate between Dutch Protestant and "a servant to Mr. Lawrence of Barnehall in Essex", on the divinity of Christ. When the servant failed to interpret a Pauline text to his liking, Orinel became so disturbed, that he said "I was fully minded to go to Oxford to aske counsaile of Bishop Ridley and M. Latimer concerning that matter, had I not met with some man, to satisfie my conscience in the meane season." As Dr. Spufford aptly comments it is astonishing that a husbandman of small means (he was farming half a yardland — about 15 to 20 acres — in the open fields of Willingham in 1575) should have travelled some fifty miles to Colchester to attend a religious debate, and should have seriously considered going on to Oxford to discuss a disputed point with a bishop. Few such shafts of light on the rural scene have been recorded in contemporary documents, but the existence of even one such example must make us reconsider the significance of abstract ideas and of physical mobility amongst a group often believed to be devoid of both.

In relation to matters more strictly agricultural, case studies of this kind cannot of course resolve leading issues of agricultural history, such as the chronology of the "agricultural revolution," or the decline of the peasantry; but they can offer useful insights. On the question of agricultural improvements the evidence is rather negative. At Bledington enclosure came by private Act in 1769, but it seems that very little change occurred in a fairly simple system of farming, either before or after it. References to the new fodder grasses and roots are few, which is surprising since sainfoin, the most celebrated of them, is said to have been introduced into England at the neighbouring village of Daylesford in 1650. Cropping innovations remained limited, though livestock numbers probably increased judging by land-use figures. In 1798, during the period of wartime corn shortage, the largest farm in Bledington (with about 800 acres) was still mainly in meadow and pasture: only three-eighths of its acreage was growing corn. In

1801 the crop distribution was as follows: 287 acres of wheat, barley, and oats; 80 acres of beans; 25 acres of turnips; half an acre of potatoes; and half an acre of peas. Turnips had certainly arrived, but not apparently in sufficient numbers to affect the rotation very noticeably. Nor is the evidence from the Cambridge villages very striking. At Chippenham, clover and fodder crops were not mentioned in inventories (but then as Miss Ashby stated in another context inventories and wills tend to *minimize* change) though a map of 1712 showed sainfoin growing in closes. At Orwell also specific evidence of improvement was lacking, but a major effort to reduce fallow was made because by the early eighteenth century, the old two-course rotation had been replaced by a three-course shift. At Willingham the situation was quite different. There about three-quarters of the land was fen commons, which the Lord, Sir Miles Sandys, accused the tenants of over-stocking. His attempts to enclose and deprive the tenants of their commons were not however an "improvement" they appreciated. Resistance was strong and successful. Sir Miles was over-heavily involved in the Earl of Bedford's fen-drainage schemes, and by 1649 was bankrupt. The general impression is that none of these villages was forward in agricultural improvement, but the evidence is nowhere very full and hints like the sainfoin at Chippenham suggest that much may have escaped notice in the records.

On the questions of landownership, tenure, and farm size the evidence is much clearer. Wherever arable farming was important, as at Bledington, Chippenham, and Orwell, there was a clear tendency between 1500 and 1700 towards fewer owners, fewer tenants, and larger farms. But in the fen village of Willingham exactly the reverse was true. As manorial discipline slackened in the seventeenth century, holdings were subdivided so that between 1575 and the 1720's the number of tenants rose from about 100 to 153, and *only five* of these had more than half a yardland (15-20 acres). Dr. Spufford believes that paradoxically it was the sixteenth-century price rise which rendered the old 15 to 30 acre *arable* holding an uneconomic unit. In years of bad harvests (and climatic deterioration seems to have increased these in the late sixteenth century) the small farmer was forced to consume his own scanty produce, and had nothing to sell to meet his sharply rising costs. Sometimes he might even have to buy highly expensive food from larger farms. In these conditions many were obliged to sell their holdings or surrender their leases. Only the man with broad acres could afford to profit from the high grain prices in years of dearth.

No review of books which are as rich and nourishing as these can do more than offer a superficial overview. Miss Ashby has much of interest to say on the development of poverty in the nineteenth century as a steadily rising rural population pressed against a steadily declining number of farms. As one would expect from the author of *Joseph Ashby of Tysoe*, she is excellent on Arch's movement in the 1870's and the reasons for its rise and fall. Her accounts of the village school and the fascinating survival of the Morris-dancing traditions amongst the farm labourers are also full of interest.

In conclusion both authors are to be congratulated on studies which combine significant increases in our knowledge of the structure of rural society with a

deep understanding of the virtues and foibles of the human personalities who lie behind the statistical aggregates.

Michael Havinden

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CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
Standing Conference for Devon History,
Central Library,
TORQUAY.

Planning and Historic Conservation

Dear Sir,

At South Molton, it was suggested that plaques should be put up at certain places commemorating famous people.

I would like to raise this point. There are numerous tomb stones already paid for by relatives, which have been dug up to facilitate the mowing of grass, and this is understandable — but when the tomb stones are placed all round the walls of the cemetery (as at South Molton) and the name of the last person on the stone becomes hidden in the ground it is very frustrating to those wishing to trace back. In many cases they are confronted by — not someone who died say in 1945, but 1919 or earlier. And, as time progresses, researchers will find it more and more difficult to trace their ancestors by this method.

Yours sincerely,

MARGARET HOBBS
Cathay, 3 Stepstone Lane,
Knowle, Braunton, Devon.

(Editor's Note. This is the first correspondence published in the *Devon Historian*. The Editor would welcome more.)

POPULATION AND MARKETING : Two Studies in the History of the South West, Editor W.E. Minchinton, Exeter University. £1.75.

This is No. 11 in the series of **Exeter Papers in Economic History**, and contains five articles under the general heading of Population and three under that of Marketing.

Prof. N.J.G. Pounds examines and evaluates the various pre-census sources, from Domesday onwards, for assessing the size and distribution of population in Cornwall. Each source — including tax and muster rolls, Protestation and Visitation returns, and parish registers — is critically examined for its evidential value and defects; and the results (at first admittedly tenuous but later of increasing reliability) are related to economic change and particularly to the development of mining which enhanced a general tendency to westward migration. Register evidence gives close parallels in the periodicity of births and deaths with that apparent in Devon — though if plague disappeared from Cornwall by the end of the sixteenth century, it certainly continued longer on this side of the Tamar.

M. Griffiths has researched the association between poverty and mortality in Exeter. Commencing by distinguishing poorer and richer parishes as indicated in the 1671 Hearth Tax roll, she relates the results, modified by later sources, to the evidence of parish registers for births/deaths ratio. In 1690-1770 the poorest parishes showed a death-rate nearly half as large again as the richer, and all but the richest had an apparent excess of deaths. After 1801, as population grew despite the decline of the woollen industry, slum overcrowding in the West Quarter and the suburbs became worse; and the resulting cholera outbreak spurred activity over water supply and sewerage — but this, and gradually improving medical treatment, had far more effect in the wealthier districts and actually increased the differential between mortality of rich and poor. Other epidemics, and tuberculosis, continued to affect mainly the poorer quarters into the present century, and at the time of the First World War the death rate in the West Quarter was twice (and of infants more than twice) the city average. Slum clearance in 1928-22 transferred the West Quarter inhabitants to the spacious Burnthouse Lane estate, and post-war social-economic changes have extinguished most real poverty; yet the death-rate remains significantly higher in areas of the lowest socio-economic status, apparently connected with other aspects of life-style.

N.F.R. Crafts examines statistically the various attempts to reconstruct 18th century population figures for England and Wales, and the hypotheses advanced to explain them, demonstrating the difficulty of arriving at reliable figures and so of relating these to economic developments. He sees no safe ground for a clear 'turning point', in mid-century, for crediting either increased fertility or decreased mortality with the eventual increase, or for assuming pre-industrial society to have been 'high birth-rate — high death-rate'. This paper is necessarily somewhat negative, but a warning against over-readiness to theorise on inadequate evidence.

B. Clapp offers a demographic study of Wembworthy, a typical mid-Devon

farming parish but distinguished by having an exceptional local census of 1778. This showed nearly half the population to be under 20, and the average household to be 5.0 persons. The census equates closely with parish register evidence, and on the latter he credits the post-1750 growth of population squarely to increased birth-rate. Numbers doubled between 1778 and 1861, despite emigration, though this was a period of economic stagnation; hence increasing pauperism, though 'if population had been quickly responsive to economic pressures it would have fallen'. Between 1861 and 1931 it halved, and has since fallen to considerably less than in 1778 — showing the delayed-action effect of 'economic pressures'.

The final population paper is by Richard Wall, and of great interest to all working with parish registers. He examines the reliability of Anglican baptism registration in the light of family reconstitution in Colyton and the 1851 census enumerator's book. At first sight, 20% of those claiming in 1851 to have been born in Colyton do not appear in the baptism register: but closer research reduces the proportion to some 7%. Faulty information by the householder or by a migrant, or faulty copying by the enumerator, may account for some: but family reconstitution reveals many cases of name changes, of forename or of surname by marriage, by confusion with a family 'surname' used as a second forename, or simple confusion with one similar. Outlying inhabitants in a large parish often had their children baptised in neighbouring churches, so that 'the register as a record of place of baptism is essentially different from the census which deals only with place of birth'. Nonconformity for a time had its own baptism register, but accounts here for surprisingly few omissions. The inadequacy of Anglican registration in industrial towns is notorious; but elsewhere, on this evidence, it may be more complete for the early nineteenth century than is often assumed.

M.E. Holmes, Dorset County Archivist, gives the first of three papers on marketing and distribution in the form of advice on sources to be found in Record Offices and elsewhere.

Prof. Pounds, in a second paper, writes at length on the production and distribution of food in pre-industrial Cornwall, making a clear distinction between the home-farms of the gentry, which produced a marketable surplus, and the smaller tenant holdings — averaging 25 acres — held on three-life leases with large entry fines which swallowed the tenant's capital while preventing the landlord from making improvements. The latter rarely managed more than to meet the needs of their own households, while the bartons produced wool-clips for Devon clothiers, store-cattle sold across the Tamar, and corn marketed within a ten-mile radius — sufficient to feed the East of the county but, by the eighteenth century, leaving the mining West in need of imports. A clear distinction also appears between the diet of gentry households, relying largely on meat and including expensive imported luxuries, and that of humbler families which substituted milk-products and fish. The pig was less the poor man's standby than in Devon because of shortage of forests and skim-milk; but transhumance of stock to the moors in summer, as with areas near Dartmoor and Exmoor, helped to preserve a hay crop for winter fodder. Three or four

years of cereal cropping was followed by perhaps twice as long under grass, helping to explain the surprising proportion of 'arable' found in tithe schedules.

Finally, John Rule traces the Devon and Cornwall fisheries in pre- and post-railway times, in relation to North Sea and other ports, the development of trawling and drifting and the introduction of steam and ice, and including the distinction between small boats operating always from a home port and large ones going further afield on a seasonal plan. Distribution and marketing, vastly changed when railways for the first time made fresh fish nationally available, is noted, as is the influence of the fried-fish trade on the marketability of varieties otherwise less favoured, and the ultimate decline of both North Sea and South-West fisheries with the change to long-distance deep sea fishing. Already before 1900 the Cornish were complaining of 'up country' vessels clearing out their own local grounds.

These papers maintain the well-researched high academic standard, and the qualities of readability and interest, which one has come to expect of the series.

R.R. Sellman

WESTCOUNTRY HARBOUR : THE PORT OF TEIGNMOUTH 1690-1975

by H.J. Trump. Teignmouth: Brunswick Press, 1976, 204 pp. £4.50.
ISBN 0 904268 10 2.

Hiding behind an unnecessarily anonymous title is a history of the port of Teignmouth. Beginning with a brief discussion of the nature of the Teign estuary as a harbour and an outline account, based largely on secondary sources, of the history of Teignmouth to 1690, the bulk of this volume is devoted to the subsequent experience of the port in nine chronological chapters. Mr. Trump writes easily and enlivens his account, which is packed full of information, with a succession of vivid contemporary quotations. Apart from an active carriage of goods coastwise, the pattern of trade between 1690 and 1793 was dominated by the Newfoundland trade. During the war between 1793 and 1815 the main innovation was the development of the clay trade, the expansion of which in 1815-52 led to a successful agitation for the improvement of the harbour. Until 1853 Teignmouth came within the limits of the custom port of Exeter, then it gained its independence. Trade continued to flourish until the late 1870s when Teignmouth was affected by the general depression in trade. Amongst the attempts to stimulate recovery which eventually bore fruit in the 1900s was further improvement of the port. But hopes of growth were thwarted between 1904 and 1918 and Teignmouth struggled to survive as a port between the wars. Although the Newfoundland trade has long since gone, with the renewed growth of the clay trade since 1945 Teignmouth has become the most active port in Devon in terms of ship movements. Such in outline is Mr. Trump's story. While

there is something to be said for a straight chronological sequence, this method also has its drawbacks. No single theme is pursued consistently and it is sometimes difficult to link together the separate pieces, so for example the Newfoundland trade is discussed on pages 26-9, 34-44, 65-6, 77, 93, 98-9, 106 and 141-2, while the clay trade is dispersed between pages 32, 101-2, 106-7, 139, 164-5, 174-5 and 179. By contrast, other topics are mentioned only once though they were of continuing importance: the lime trade, for example, is mentioned only on pages 68-9, while the cider industry also finds only spasmodic and tantalising mention. It would be of interest to know the location of the 'small cider factories round the Teign estuary' for which Mr. Trump says staves and bottles were imported in the late eighteenth century. Then, although the latest mention of Watts Blake Bearne is on page 136 in the chapter covering the period 1856-1904, are they not only the firm which currently provides the bulk of Teignmouth's trade but also the concern which is most eager for the improvement of the harbour? This narrative descriptive history would therefore have gained from a less discursive approach and would have been improved by the inclusion of tables of imports and exports and ship movements to provide a continuous picture of the changing fortunes of the port. Well-illustrated and not unreasonably priced, this is a useful addition to the literature of the maritime history of the south-west but for a systematic history of Teignmouth as a port we must still wait.

Walter Minchinton

THE COUNTRY RAILWAY by David St. John Thomas. David & Charles, 1976. 160 pp. £3.95. ISBN 0 7153 7285 8.

That David St. John Thomas is a railway enthusiast there can be no doubt. Drawing to a considerable extent on his personal experiences, he paints a vivid picture of the branch lines, some of which were scarcely constructed before they were rendered obsolete by the growth of road transport. But this is not a narrow book concentrating on the details of locomotives, signalling and the rest which bore most of us as much as they delight the railway buffs; it ranges widely across practically the whole range of railway history. And Devon looms large in the story. Mr. Thomas illustrates the significance of the branch railway by a chapter on South Molton and a second which delves deeper into the countryside in search of the Culm Valley Railway, the Lynton & Barnstaple and the North Devon & Cornwall Junction Light Railway amongst others. The country railway was a vital part of the life of the area through which it passed, bringing goods from afar at much cheaper freight rates than had previously been possible, taking out the produce of the area, particularly agricultural goods, and providing an easy and cheap means of transport for the longer journeys which

most of us have to make at one time or another — and, in more recent times, an essential service for commuters. The station and its nearby pub were often the centre of the village and the source of news. But the railway could also do a disservice to local industries, exposing them to the competition of larger concerns which they were seldom able to withstand. Here is a picture of the building of these country lines and the problems and controversies which accompanied them as much as it did the main routes. Mr. Thomas also deals with the operation of these lines and the men who worked them, the kind of traffic they carried, their stations and their impact on the landscape. Illustrated by many, often fascinating, photographs and some cartoons, this is a book both to inform the transport and local historian and to entertain the general reader.

Celia M. King

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM, Vol. III 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73. 1975, 48 pp.

This latest volume contains lists of officers, lectures and meetings held by the Plymouth Athenaeum between 1969 and 1973 but the bulk of the volume is made up of summaries of lectures (which vary considerably in length) on 'The bed' by D.C.I. Powell, 'The early cartography of south-west England' by W. Ravenhill, 'Stained glass' by D.C.I. Powell, 'The history of Devonport Dockyard' by N.E. Chaff, 'Amateur photography: yesterday and today' by D. Tope, 'History of the Navy's victualling arrangements in Plymouth and of the Royal William Yard' by L.W.M. Stephens, 'The Archaeology of the Boat' by Basil Greenhill, 'Cine photography and the Athenaeum' by D. Tope, and 'The Athenaeum Film Theatre' by J.S. Allanach. There are also obituaries of Mrs. E.L. Cornish and Miss S.F. Diggory.

W.E. Minchinton

DEVON TOLLHOUSES by John Kanefsky. Published by Exeter Industrial Archaeology Group, Department of Economic History, 1976. 36 pp. 30 pence. ISBN 0 9501778.

At Blists' Hill, part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, is a tollhouse designed by Thomas Telford. It was removed to its present position when the A5 had to be widened. For many people in the Midlands this is their only opportunity of seeing a tollhouse. In Devon we are more fortunate, and the tedium of travelling by car can be relieved by identifying and admiring these very attractive buildings standing by the roads they once served.

From the exciting cover design and throughout, Mr. Kanefsky's pamphlet is packed with information about tollhouses, turnpike roads and the traffic that used them. He manages to convey the feeling that the painstaking research involving great quantities of documents has given him enormous pleasure. There are six illustrations of tollhouses we have lost and six of those still in existence, showing that these buildings although simple were extremely comely, built by local craftsmen in a variety of styles. A gazetteer lists those houses which have been identified with an encouragement to continue the search for more.

Unfortunately, the maps are not as easy to use as is the rest of the pamphlet. The map which clearly shows the date of the Devon roads is too small to allow the names of towns to be added. The larger map, showing the position of the tollhouses has a mistake in the numbering so that from 67 onwards the locations are wrong.

In his preface, Professor Minchinton warns of the danger of losing more of these reminders of the country's industrial past. Perhaps we could follow Shropshire's example and regard them as worthy of care and preservation. A good beginning would be to have this pamphlet to hand when travelling about the county.

I.C.W. Ison

ILFRACOMBE'S YESTERDAYS by Lilian Wilson, pub. A & P Oldale, Barnstaple; 96 pp., £1.25.

The writer was born in 1896, and her vivid personal reminiscences, and family memories reaching further back, provide the greatest and certainly the most valuable part of this book. Well written, with simple directness, it provides a detailed and most interesting view of Ilfracombe at the turn of the century, finely illustrated by a large number of excellent photographs. While primarily addressed to those who know Ilfracombe, it has much more than local relevance; and its portrayal of pre-1914 social history deserves a wider audience.

The author is on less certain ground when dealing with matters outside her personal ken, and an otherwise good text is marred by needless errors. Amongst many such, British Schools were not 'so-called because entirely supported by the Government' — they were undenominational or nonconformist schools receiving State aid (when offered) on precisely the same basis as Church Schools. A turnpike was hardly a 'gate of pikes stuck in the ground': Juhel did not build Barnstaple Castle 'c.938 to check invading Celts from Cornwall': Clovelly Dykes was not a 'Roman Camp': a 'road made by Phoenicians' in North Devon is mythical: and Hartland Point is decidedly not the nearest part of the British Isles to America!

But despite unfortunate statements of this nature, the core of this work on 'Ilfracombe's Yesterdays' is sound and vital, and much to be recommended.

R.R.S.

"IN THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY THATCHER" memoir by John Rogers, published by the Modbury Local History Society.

"Years ago...." — if this phrase warms the heart, Mr. Rogers' account of his life as a thatcher will make good reading. His tolerant and humorous comments on the changing scene and changing values tell much in a few words.

In our mechanised age, it is easy to forget the need for physical strength and the ability to endure hard work, so essential when Mr. Rogers started work at the age of 12 in 1903, when men sweating at their work needed cider and salt meat to retain their vigour.

We hear of the shops, trades, and farming practice in the early years of the century, and memorable events in the history of the Rogers family. The effect of a drop of "O be joyful," sometimes suspected, but rarely proved by local historians, is recorded here in the tale of the christening of "Nutcombe Rogers".

As well as details of a thatcher's work, Mr. Rogers describes incidents from his other occupations: he was a lay preacher for 47 years, a special constable, and a fireman. "The pumps were worked by hand, but it would make out a fire if you had a good water supply." Between times he could turn to shearing sheep by hand (54 in one day), felling timber, or in war time, roadwork, because, as he says, "the Rogers family could do anything". Indeed we realise just how valuable such men were in their day to the villages where they lived and worked.

Perhaps other tradesmen and craftsmen, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, millwrights or saddlers, can be persuaded to give us a similar picture of their lives, adding to our knowledge of a past age, as Mr. Rogers does so well in this booklet.

The Modbury Local History Society are to be congratulated on their enterprise. Other Societies please copy.

K.S.C.

THE SITES AND MONUMENTS REGISTER AND PARISH CHECK-LISTS, edited by Henrietta Miles and published by the Devon Committee for Rescue Archaeology Sub-Committee of the Devon Archaeological Society, 1977. 40 pp. 70p

This is a remarkably informative publication and should be in the hands of everyone attempting any form of local survey work in the South-West. In itself it is evidence of an eminently sensible spirit of co-operation between field-workers in Devon and Cornwall. The establishment of Sites and Monuments Registers in both counties is the result of joint efforts on the part of individuals, local societies and local authorities on both sides of the Tamar, aided by central government, in the form of financial support from the Department of the Environment, and by the University of Exeter.

The booklet opens with a statement of the purpose of a Sites and Monuments Register, namely 'to make provision for a fully comprehensive record of archaeological sites and finds, historic and vernacular buildings and industrial archaeology at a single accessible centre'. The procedures appropriate to the achievement of this goal are outlined; after dealing with conventional archaeological sites, sections on recording buildings and on industrial archaeology, contributed by Peter Child and Cynthia Gaskell-Brown respectively, follow.

The pioneer work on check-listing done in Cornwall is acknowledged, and encouragement is offered to anyone willing to undertake such work, in either county, to make contact with the appropriate co-ordinator.

Finally there is a section on the conventions whereby the information collected may be computerised. Obviously it is necessary that workers in the field should understand how the material is to be processed so that they, in turn, can provide the information in the required form.

Mrs. Henrietta Miles and the Sites and Monuments Register Working Party in Devon are to be congratulated on getting so much information — including a number of useful brief bibliographies — into so little space.

Copies may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, D.C.R.A., Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Exeter, Gandy Street, Exeter — price 70p post free (cheques payable to the Devon Archeological Society).

John Bosanko

GENERAL MONCK by Maurice Ashley, pp. 316. London: Cape 1977. £6.95. ISBN 0 224 01287 8

General George Monck (1604-1669) was the man who brought back Charles II. With the military collapse of rival generals and the inability of civilian anti-monarchists to come together to find and pursue 'a ready and easy way' to a Commonwealth, Monck, with his brain-washed army from Scotland, might in the spring of 1660 have set up his own. Certainly some observers, a few very acute and close to him, thought he would. But somehow his assessment of a rapidly changing situation, reinforced by his principle, often-mouthed, that in politics soldiers should take orders and give none, led him to conclude that monarchy and especially monarchy in the old line was now the best policy. That came as a pleasant surprise to the anxious king over the water, and Monck continued to please him when, after accepting a dukedom and suitable appurtenances, he was content to play a minor political role while doing the state some service as 'General-at-sea'. At just what point Monck made his momentous decision remains a puzzle. Dr. Maurice Ashley in this first substantial biography for forty years thinks it must have been as early as August 1654 and sees his opaque dissimulation from then on as an exercise in "the art of restoring" masterly but also, of course, dangerously perplexing to friends as well as to enemies. The controversy about 'the Black Monk' will go on.

Monck was a Devon man, born at Great Potheridge, near Torrington. The family was old but its estate was somewhat decayed, and in the 1650s (when the lands came to him, through the death of an elder brother) George was still worrying out its 'unsettledness'. Kinsmen included Giffords and Grenvilles. Monck's maternal grandfather, Sir George Smyth of Old Matford, was a merchant and mayor of Exeter. His younger brother, Nicholas, had the (rather thin) living of Plymtree in the 1640s, but finished after the Restoration as Provost of Eton and Bishop of Hereford. George Monck was certainly a good family man. He was also (as Dr. Ashley frequently reminds us) a local patriot who maintained Devon contacts throughout his career. His estate manager, William Morice, who was unquestionably working for a restoration by 1659 —

and became Secretary of State after its achievement — was also something of a political agent in the shire. Monck listened to him, but was it 'with his tongue in his cheek' (as Dr. Ashley believes) that the General wrote in February 1660, in response to a petition of Devon gentlemen, that 'monarchy cannot possibly be admitted for the future in these nations because its support is taken away' and that he complained of their 'phanatic humour' for the Stuart cause? Informed as he might be of Devon opinion he was not bound by it. It was easier to be responsive once the die was cast openly. Elected to the Convention for both Devon and Cambridge University, Monck chose to be knight of the shire. His dukedom of Albemarle (why Albemarle? Dr. Ashley never explains) was supported by the barony of Potheridge. His son Christopher took the title Lord Torrington. Father and son served as Lord Lieutenant of Devon. In the critical year 1667, it was not too much bother for a great man with estates and concerns all over the country to press the Navy Commissioners to find funds for relief of dependents of Devon seamen killed fighting the Dutch. The General's 'deep prudence' and 'impregnable taciturnity' do not seem to be common characteristics in these parts, but for all his long absences, exile even, he never forgot his origins. George Monck was a Devon worthy, to whose remarkable career, closely examined by Dr. Ashley, in a shrewd, readable and meticulously documented study, Devon historians can never be indifferent.

Ivan Roots

DEVON NEWSPAPERS : A FINDING LIST

The following amendments and additions are for the 2nd edition of Devon Newspapers. Newer members of the Standing Conference may not know about the booklet, listing all known Devon newspapers and places where back files can be consulted. It is a useful tool for anyone studying social history from approximately the beginning of the 19th century to the present day. Many newspapers are now being microfilmed in order to prevent further wear and tear on already delicate copies or to fill in gaps. Devon Library Services are doing this whenever possible for back files of their newspapers; this is a continuing process as regards the old Plymouth City Library; and at the time of writing (November 1976) the **Torbay Herald Express** is being photographed starting in the 1920s which covers a period not held by the library in Torquay and this work should be completed by Christmas 1976. While speaking about local newspaper provision in the Devon Library Services members may be interested to know that as from 1st January, 1975 the daily morning papers, that is the **Western Mercury**, **Western Morning News**, and **Western Times**, in all editions are held in the four area libraries, and the three evening papers, **Express and Echo**, **Herald Express** and **Western Evening Herald** in all editions in the library for the area in which it is published. The library service now has a reader printer which can give a photocopy of a newspaper page from a microfilm.

As well as the amendments and additions listed here the 2nd edition contained many others and I would suggest that anyone who has not replaced their first edition would find the modest outlay a great saving in time and money. Copies of the Finding List may be had from the Secretary, price 30 pence.

ADDITIONS

CORNISH and DEVON POST ?-1945

British Museum: 11th August 1906 --- 7th July 1945

continued as

CORNISH AND DEVON POST AND LAUNCESTON WEEKLY NEWS CORNISH AND DEVON POST AND LAUNCESTON WEEKLY GAZETTE 1877-79

British Museum: 29th December 1877 --- 15th March 1879

continued as

CORNISH AND DEVON POST, EAST CORNWALL TIMES AND WESTERN COUNTIES ADVERTISER 1879-

British Museum: 22nd March 1879 --- 24th December 1896
Wanting 1895

CORNISH AND DEVON POST AND LAUNCESTON WEEKLY NEWS 1945-

British Museum: 14th July 1945 ---

HOLSWORTHY POST 1924

Cornish and Devon Post Offices: 1946 ---

LAUNCESTON CORNISH AND DEVON POST 1900-1906

British Museum: 6th January 1900 --- 4th August 1906

OLD EXETER JOURNAL

Manchester P.L. 13th September 1781

PAIGNTON NEWS, BRIXHAM AND PRESTON CHRONICLE 1932-1976

Torbay- 1936 --- 14th May 1976

British Museum: 8th October 1932 --- 14th May 1976

continued as

TORBAY NEWS

THUNDERBOLT

Nos. 1-104 now at Plymouth Central Library

TORBAY NEWS 1976 ---

Torbay: 21st May 1976 ---

TORQUAY TIMES AND SOUTH DEVON ADVERTISER 1865-1976

Torbay: 1912 --- 14th May 1976

British Museum: 17th July 1869 --- 13th July 1872; 1st March 1873 ---
December 1895; January 1897 --- 14th May 1976

continued as

TORBAY NEWS

WESTERN CRITIC 1871

Plymouth: First issue only --- 7 in all

Devon Historian and the Finding List of Devon Newspapers

The officers of the Standing Conference have found it necessary to increase the charge for back numbers of the **Devon Historian** to 50p per issue (non-members 60p). The **Finding List** will also in future cost 30p plus postage etc. At present this amounts to 10p. The latter is, of course, the revised edition corrected to 1975. Subsequent additions and amendments appear in this issue of the **Devon Historian**.

These increases in charges are regretted but it will soon be necessary to reprint some issues of our journal as we believe researchers will continue to expect a complete "run" of the D.H. to be available.

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL HISTORY

This, our parent body, held its Annual General Meeting in London on 19th November, 1976. The Editor attended as representative of the SCDH. The theme of the Conference in the Bicentennial year was 'The British in America'. There were two speakers. R.A. Burchall spoke on the British Community in San Francisco in 1852 and Professor Gwyn Williams of Cardiff University spoke on 'The Epic of Welsh America'.

The business meeting of the SCLH was held in the morning. Professor Asa Briggs relinquished the office of Chairman and Mr. John Higgs is his successor. The work of the SCLH is manifold and various and can best be reported in the following commentary produced for all those who attended the AGM. The Editor would like to draw the attention of members in particular to items 7, 14 and 15-18. These refer to the paying of fees for searching parish registers, to awards for local history studies, and to the past achievements and slightly uncertain future of the Standing Conference for Local History. The Editor would also be glad to receive comment and suggestions as indicated in items 16 and 17. A list of SCLH publications is included in this number of the Devon Historian.

Commentary

1. It is customary to offer representatives at the annual meeting a resumé of the preceding twelve months' activity of the body of which their organisations are members, the Standing Conference for Local History. The summation this year offers a little more; references to the past and allusions to the future.

2. Organisations are people and the sum total of their influence and efforts. So perhaps the most important task undertaken by a body is the sound selection of those in whom is vested the stewardship of the organisation: in the case of the Standing Conference, its chairmen of Conference and of Committees. The present Chairman of SCLH, Lord Briggs of Lewes, will relinquish that office at the Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting. The Conference is grateful to him for serving in that capacity over a period of eight years. The Executive Committee has exercised considerable thought and care in making a selection from a number of possible nominees of a person whom they will recommend to the Annual Meeting for election as the Chairman, Mr. John Higgs. Mr. Higgs has been Keeper of the Museum of English Rural Life; Lecturer in Agricultural Development in the University of Oxford; Fellow and Finance and Estates Bursar of Exeter College, Oxford University; Chief of Agricultural Education and Training, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations; member and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Standing Conference. He is currently a farmer; consultant to the FAO; President of the British Agricultural History Society; and joint editor of Vol. VI of the *Agrarian History of England and Wales*.

3. Publication is something in which the Conference has always taken an active interest. A new booklet has been published in 1976, the *Building Stones of England and Wales*. As this outline of activity is typed, there rests on an office

desk 'copy' for the following titles: *Writing a Church Guide, Churchyard Memorials, Sources for the Local History of the Civil War and Interregnum*, and the *Tithe Commutation Act, 1836*. The latter is the first in a series on 'National Statutes and the Local Community'. Arrangements have been made for the revision of an earlier pamphlet, *Armorial Bearings of the Sovereigns of England*, and for it to be reprinted in 1977, the year of the Queen's Jubilee. The production is also under way of pamphlets dealing with medieval building terms, medieval ecclesiastical terms, the use of photographs, and history in the hedge-row. Booklets are under consideration on oral history, approaches to local history, how to read documents, and title deeds.

4. A way is being investigated of exploiting one or other of the photocopying processes to enable small re-prints to be obtained of those Conference titles for which demand continues at a steady but not large rate. One such title is *A Medieval Farming Glossary*.

5. Three issues of the journal *The Local Historian* have been published with David Dymond in his first year as the magazine's new editor. Only three issues as distinct from the usual four following a decision to defer for a twelve month period raising the annual subscription to meet growing production charges. An effort is being made to redress in some measure the loss of reader-pages. An additional eight pages will be included in Vol. 12 Nos. 3 and 4. There will be four issues in 1977, albeit at an increased annual subscription of £2.50. Figures show there to be no alternative to this increase if the magazine is to remain a quarterly publication. It is hoped that no further rise in price will be necessary for at least two years. Plans are being made for the cover of each issue to bear a different illustration. The introduction of the new cover image is no cause of the rise in the subscription rate, any additional expense in this connection being minimal and off-set, together with other certain costs, by a change to a printer with lower charges but with an equal commitment to decent standards of production. Concomitant with the new cover image there will be a new drive to promote sales of *The Local Historian*. Volunteer 'agents' will be sought from amongst the membership of SCLH. Each will be given four consecutive sample copies, and a supply of order forms, which he or she can use to foster sales whenever opportunities occur.

6. Decision has been taken, and money assured, to have Vol. 1 of *The Amateur Historian* reprinted. Provided sales bring in a suitable return on the outlay of capital involved, subsequent volumes will be reprinted to meet the wishes of those who want to acquire a complete run of the journal.

7. SCLH has exercised both a co-ordinating role and a representative one in continuing to accept responsibility for convening meetings of the informal Record Users Group, and in taking part in them. The Group includes representatives of a number of member organisations of the Conference, and also of the SSRC Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, the Social History Society and the local history tutors conference. Members of the Group have been involved, separately and collectively in bringing influence to bear on behalf of those who research in parochial records, and who will be affected by current proposals concerning the availability of

those records and the charging of fees for searches in parish registers. This area of activity involves a network of agencies and people — the General Synod of the Church of England, the Church Commissioners, Members of Parliament — and appeals for provision appropriate to the needs of (local) historians have been made throughout that network. A letter to **The Times** induced a response of eighty-three column inches, and a leading article.

8. The same Records Users Group submitted a memorandum to the Advisory Council on Public Records whose task it is to 'advise the Lord Chancellor on matters concerning Public Records in general and, in particular, on those aspects of the work of the Public Record Office which affect members of the public who make use of the facilities provided by the' PRO. The memorandum, to which SCLH was a signatory, offered suggestions designed to lead to improvements in the preservation and accessibility of official records and involving some measure of amendment of the Public Records Act of 1958. The Advisory Council has agreed to discuss the suggestions with representatives of the Records Users Group.

10. A concern for source materials was demonstrated in the letter sent to the Secretary of State for Education and Science which informed him about the conference held on "Local History Ephemera" in October, 1975 by the Local Studies Group of the Reference, Special and Information Section of the Library Association and SCLH, and attended by librarians and local historians. The letter gave wholehearted support to the views on the importance of local history collections contained in sections 32 to 37 in the Library Information Series No. 2 document **The Public Library Service: Reorganisation and After**. The hope was expressed to the Secretary of State that local history collections in libraries would continue to be maintained, and made available to the public, notwithstanding the present difficult financial times. The Department indicated in reply that it considers that "Special attention needs to be paid to the maintenance of this material" and expressed the hope that the public would continue to be able to benefit from its availability.

10. Following the conference on "Local History Ephemera" and subsequent talks with the Local Studies Section of the Library Association, and with officers of the Research and Development Department of the British Library who are interested in investigating the possibilities for an extension of information services in the humanities, a working party is being set up "To explore and to make recommendations concerning, the whole problem of the collection, recording, conservation, storage and use of source materials for local history (in libraries) in England and Wales".

11. A one-day conference is to be held in the first quarter of next year to which will be invited people who are involved in pilot projects which have implications for the operation of source materials services in libraries.

12. Basic information services have been maintained. A reference to SCLH in the **Sunday Times Magazine** resulted in a spate of additional requests for advice about publishing possibilities.

13. Action has been taken to obtain the data required to enable an up-to-

date directory to be produced of the addresses of county and local history societies in England and Wales.

14. Another fact-finding effort has resulted in a document giving information about various awards — certificates, diplomas, etc. — made in local history be it as a consequence of study in school, college, institution of further education or university. Comment is offered on the nature of the awards and syllabuses, and suggestions made about what are believed to be the basic ingredients essential in all courses leading to awards.

15. Decision has been taken to set up a working party "To conduct enquiries to enable an assessment to be made of the pattern of interest, activity, and of study, in local history in England and Wales — and to make recommendations for meeting any needs revealed by amateur and professional local historians for support and services". The establishment of this working party stems from a growing debate on the role and future of the Conference, and from the fact that the National Council of Social Service — the parent organisation of the Standing Conference under whose roof it has lived, worked and had its being since its inception in 1948 — has suggested that SCLH should explore the possibility of becoming independent of NCSS. As such a possibility is to be explored, the opportunity is being taken to institute a wide ranging enquiry whose findings will provide a basis on which to build plans for the future.

16. It is anticipated that as well as taking evidence from the membership of the Conference, the working party will seek to do so also from as many as possible of the non-member groups and individuals who are engaged in local history activity throughout the two countries.

17. A particular effort is to be made by SCLH to ensure that the views of County Committees are presented to the working party. Arrangements are already being made for a one-day seminar in 1977 at which representatives from member County Local History Committees will be invited to voice their wishes and wants. Co-operation will be sought also from the other main membership category of SCLH, national organisations, to enable knowledge of their experiences, and their observations, to be available to the working party.

18. There has been considerable growth in the number of individuals, societies, teachers, and research groups involved in one way or another in local history in the past twenty to thirty years. Throughout that period SCLH has been, and remains, the only national organisation concerned with local history per se. At present the Standing Conference acts as a clearing house for information on local history activities, organises an annual meeting and other occasional conferences at which exchanges of ideas and experiences are made possible, issues various publications, encourages an interest in research work and proclaims the necessity of facilities for such work; serves as a symbol of, and focus for, the importance which many thousands of people attach to local history, both as a subject for study and as a means of promoting a sense of community in rural and urban areas. Perhaps something more, or different, is required in the future. Perhaps that something more, or different, should be attempted through some other agency. SCLH gave thought three or so years ago to the idea of a national centre for local history, a national centre adequately

financed and staffed which could offer a comprehensive service to local historians including such facilities as an index of research work in progress, another of articles in local journals and transactions, and a library. The idea is still there. It will be offered to the working party for consideration. But it is hoped that many another idea will be offered to it, so that its members profit from the harvest of more than factual information, that of perception and vision. On completion of its deliberations it is hoped that the working party will make a clear statement about the organisational pattern which, it thinks, should be established and the support services which it believes should be provided to serve the foreseeable future needs of amateur and professional local historians.

HISTORICAL PLAQUES FOR DEVONSHIRE

A suggestion was made to the Council of the Standing Conference for Devon History that the possibility of erecting commemorative historical plaques in the County should be investigated. These might refer to events of both local and national importance in the county and also record the homes or places of residence of well known Devonians and others. These could contribute a historical dimension to both town and country landscapes without recourse to a guide book and they would have the added advantage, denied to a guide book, of immediacy. They enable an observer to appreciate that historical events occurred or famous people trod just exactly where he himself is standing. To be able to say 'This happened here' or 'X lived here' is compelling.

Devon does not lack for possibilities. Three places, Sampford Courtenay Church House, the old bridge over the Clyst at Clyst St. Mary, and the crossings over the Otter at Fenny Bridges, recall the startling events of the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549.

The Civil War should perhaps be recorded by the house in Bow and Marwood House in Honiton, in both of which Charles I is known to have lodged. Similarly Oliver Cromwell received some kind of formal commission in the Chanters House in Ottery St. Mary. A plaque recently erected in Ashburton records an event of the Civil War there and there were few Devonshire towns that did not see some sort of action. Notably Torrington, Bovey Tracey, Dartmouth, Modbury and Plymouth figured dramatically.

The siege of Exeter in 1549 is recorded on a plaque near St. Mary Steps as is the birth of Princess Henrietta on one near the Post Office. But there is no record of Perkin Warbeck's incursion into the City as far as Castle Street in 1497, or of the Conqueror's siege, or of the two or three other occasions on which the city has been beset.

Other political events might provoke interest. The landing of William of Orange at Brixham is commemorated but his so called first 'Parliament' at Parliament Cottages near the road to Totnes is not, nor is his stay at either Ford House, Newton Abbot or at the Deanery in Exeter. Perhaps the unfortunate Monmouth needs a sign somewhere to show that he is not entirely forgotten. Axminster would be the place.

To turn to more tranquil matters. The site of Thomas Newcomen's house in Dartmouth is well known though the house itself is gone. Robert Herrick lived

rather discontentedly at the Rectory at Dean Prior. General Monk's birthplace at Great Potheridge is already marked but Sir Richard Hawkins' home, where Pool Farm now stands, in Slapton, is not. Are the Grenvilles adequately remembered in Bideford? Is Sir Joshua Reynolds' association with Plympton apparent to the passer-by? Or John Gay's with Barnstaple? Then there are some non-Devonians who lived in Devon. Flora Thompson of "Lark Rise to Candleford" fame lived in both Dartmouth and Brixham. Stephen Reynolds the author of "A poor man's house", that classic of a fisherman's life in Sidmouth lived there for some time and should surely be recorded. Blackmore and Eden Philpots and Kingsley and Baring Gould are other names that come to mind. Perhaps Wesley's and Whitefield's travels in the West should in some way be recorded too.

The list, it seems, could be endless and there would have to be careful discrimination as to site and wording.

There must be many other names that would occur to members. The Editor would be glad to receive suggestions and correspondence about this.

DEVON FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Devon Family History Society was founded by eleven people in November, 1976 and on its official starting date of 1st January, 1977 it had 110 members. The Society is affiliated to the Federation of Family History Societies, and membership is still growing rapidly.

Aims of the Society are to provide a link between people interested in family and local history in Devon, to assist those already engaged in such research, and to provide help for beginners in these fields.

Members are kept in touch with each other by the Society's magazine which is issued quarterly. The magazine contains reports about the Society's activities, details of members' lines of research, articles about genealogy and allied subjects, help for beginners, members' requests for information and offers of assistance, and transcripts of local records.

Many of the Devon FHS members live far away or abroad; only about half actually live in the County. Meetings during the year are planned for all parts of Devon, and it is anticipated that members may also form local groups for mutual aid on an informal basis.

Members are encouraged to do their own research where possible, as this is the way to gain most satisfaction. Support and advice is given to all through the medium of the magazine. An experienced member is normally available at the Local History Library in Plymouth every Wednesday between 10 a.m. — 11 a.m. to help beginners; it is hoped to extend this service to more areas as volunteers come forward.

Membership of the Devon Family History Society is open to all who are interested in Devon and its people. The Annual Subscription is: Ordinary £2, Family Member £1, Other Society £3, Overseas Sea Mail £3, Overseas Air Mail £4.50. Extra copies of the magazine are available at 30p, including postage.

For further details please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Ann Chiswell, 96 Beaumont Street, Milehouse, Plymouth, PL2 3AQ.

KINGSTON HISTORY SOCIETY

At a public meeting on 11th January, it was decided to form a Society to study and record the history of Kingston. The aim would be to publish a book about Kingston and to contribute to the record of all the villages in Devon being made by the Devon Archaeological Society.

Until the end of the Second World War, Kingston remained an independent, isolated village based mainly on farming and fishing. Things have now changed. Many of the members of the old Kingston families have had to abandon farming and fishing and have either left the village altogether or now work outside Kingston, and many newcomers have come to live in and appreciate this unique village. Of the 136 dwellings in Kingston, 56 have been built since the War and only 80 older houses now remain.

Fortunately, there is a complete set of Kingston Poor Law Accounts from 1648 to 1836 which give a fascinating picture of life in the village during the 17th and 18th centuries. A few earlier documents exist, and we should like to record the history of the village from its beginnings to the present day by studying the documents, the photographs, the buildings, fields and sites still existing, and by recording living memories.

We propose to start by making a survey of all the houses with the purpose of finding out as much as we can about the buildings and the people who have lived in them. We also hope to study many aspects of life in Kingston, such as the history of the Church and Chapel, the Reading Room, and School, fields and field names, communications, wells, limekilns, and mills — and, possibly smuggling.

We hope that many people will be willing to help in this interesting but difficult task in some of the following ways :-

- (a) by assisting in the research work;
- (b) by co-operating with the members of the Society who are seeking interesting information about your house and family and events of bygone days;
- (c) by allowing us to make copies of any old interesting photograph you may have;
- (d) by offering to record on tape things you know about Kingston;
- (e) by becoming a member of the Society; the annual subscription is £1;
- (f) by letting us know the names and addresses of anyone who has left Kingston and who may be interested in the Society.

If you can help in any way will you please contact one of the following :-

Mr. Cattley, Chairman, Robins Cottage, Bigbury-on-Sea 404.
Commander Fryer, Hon. Treasurer, 1 Wheel Row, Bigbury-on-Sea 451.
Miss Petter, Hon. Secretary, 2 Wheel Row, Bigbury-on-Sea 472.

LOCAL HISTORY IN EAST DEVON

The Culm Valley

The Hemyock Local History Group has been meeting for the past five years under the auspices of Exeter University Extra Mural Department. It is hoped to produce a small book within the next year or so containing the work of the group. Hemyock possesses papers in its parish chest relating to the plans for the evacuation of the village in the event of a landing by the French during the Napoleonic wars. Some work on this has already been printed but it is hoped to extend and add to this. Other chapters will relate to the little known Hemyock Castle, a fourteenth century private castle, a good deal of which still remains; to a detailed examination of the enclosure of the Hemyock commons in 1836; to the history of the milk factory in Hemyock probably the first of its kind in England set up by local farmers to market dairy produce; to the associated 'Calf Club' also the first of its kind in the country, the forerunner of the Young Farmers Clubs. Other chapters will be devoted to the population of Hemyock over the past three hundred years, to the families of the village, many of very long standing, and to a survey of the manifold activities of the village today. What is probably a seventeenth century iron smelting site, using Blackdown Hills iron ore, has been discovered in the parish, the first of such sites ever recorded in Devon probably. This will form a chapter, as will the history of the school which celebrated its centenary this year amidst considerable publicity. Finally a description of Hemyock as it was before the First World War remembered by some members of the group will be included.

At Culmstock a local history group has been formed and has met for two years. This year visits have been made to look at the records relating to Culmstock in both the Devon and Somerset Record Offices. The Sanford Collection at Taunton contains a mass of material relating to Culmstock in the seventeenth and eighteenth century principally. Other activities have been to walk the bounds of the parish, to interview and record old inhabitants and to examine the land ownership and occupation of the parish as it was in the last century. Clearly the most remarkable feature of Culmstock history has been its woollen industry flourishing since the fourteenth century probably until the nineteenth. Records of this are scarce. Associated with it is a considerable growth of the population in the seventeenth century necessitating a physical expansion of the village in the form of squatters cottages on the Culmstock commons, of which there are many records. Other subjects being examined are Culmstock houses, the local (non-Parliamentary) enclosures of the commons, and the famous Culmstock 'cope'.

Honiton

It is hoped to form a Local History Group in Honiton this winter to study the history of Honiton. This will probably meet in the Museum. Among other plans is to index Farquharson's manuscript of his history of Honiton which is kindly being lent by the County Library. Much of this did not appear in his printed history of the town. It is also hoped to examine the political history of this notorious 'rotten' borough in some detail and to look into the origins of the town — it was probably a Mediaeval 'New' town.

DEVON RECORD OFFICE

Local historians and others will no doubt learn with regret that the Devon Record Office is to be moved yet again. It has moved from the Castle in 1963 to County Hall, then to its present location in Concord House in 1971, where it seemed to have found a permanent and spacious home. The new move will necessitate a division of the Records between the old Exeter Record Office in Castle Street and a warehouse in Marsh Barton. The most commonly used records — but it is thought at present only 30% of the whole — are to be kept in the old Exeter Record Office while the rest will be available on request at 24 hours notice. It would seem likely that this arrangement is bound to cause some considerable inconvenience. It is also doubtful whether the new Record Office will have sufficient search space available, for the many users that use it and the present DRO at the moment though a further search room is to be opened. There will be one considerable advantage and that is the presence of the West Country Studies Library next door. Regrettably there will be of course no private car park as there is at the present DRO. It would seem likely that the service provided by the Archives to the public will suffer, though Mrs. Rowe and her assistants will without doubt see that this happens as little as possible. It might be asked whether this is not the moment to consider the hiving off of some of the appropriate records to North Devon which in this respect is very much 'out on a limb'. It should also be emphasised that this move is due entirely to the financial stringency of the times and that the kind of alternative offered, for instance that the Records should only be open for two days a week, was quite clearly much worse. There is a certain logic at least in having one Record Office in Exeter rather than two. Finally it is satisfactory to know that there are to be no sackings of staff. Moving the documents has already started and it seems that by the end of May Concord House will be shut and that much of the move will be complete. All enquiries and searches will then be made at Castle Street.

NOTES ON NEW CONTRIBUTORS

Robert Sherlock is Deputy Planning Officer for North Devon.

Freda Wilkinson is a Dartmoor farmer's wife. Contributed to 'Dartmoor, a New Survey' and to W.G. Hoskins compilation of farm histories.

M.J. Messenger, now living in Wales, has made a study of tramways.

J. Allan Young is Secretary to the Plymouth Athenaeum.

CONFERENCES

The November Conference of the SCDH was held at the George Hotel, South Molton. Approximately sixty people attended. In the morning Robert Sherlock, Deputy Planning Officer for North Devon, spoke on 'Planning and the Local Historian'. An article by him on this subject appears in this issue. In the afternoon Jeffrey Porter spoke — fifty years after the event — on the General Strike in Devon. Members were able to visit the South Molton Museum, housed charmingly in the Town Hall, and to see the first results of the setting up of the Devon Historic Buildings Trust the renovation of cottages adjoining South Molton churchyard. Once again a bus was run from Torquay to the conference.

Following on the talk by Robert Sherlock a joint conference of the SCDH and the Devon Conservation Forum was held at the University on 5th February. The main theme of the conference was 'Planning and Conservation'. One result of this meeting may be seen in the note from Charles Hulland included in this issue.

The Spring Conference of the SCDH was held at Kingsbridge at the King's Arms Hotel on 5th March. Attendance was approximately one hundred and twenty. This is the largest attendance that has been recorded and must be due in some part to the enthusiastic pursuit of Local History in the area by Robert Pim, the University Extra Mural Tutor, Kay Coutin and Kathy Turner the Curator of the Cookworthy Museum. In the morning Kay Coutin gave an interesting illustrated talk on Kingsbridge and neighbourhood. The afternoon was devoted to a panel discussion on 'Devon Farming'. Michael Havinden, Freda Wilkinson, Dick Wills, and the Hon. Editor spoke about aspects of Devon farming that interested them and there followed a useful and interesting discussion. The Chairman remarked in closing the afternoon session that it was rewarding to see so many of those who actually practised farming as well as those who wrote or talked about it, in the audience. Members were able to visit the Cookworthy Museum, specially opened for us, and to follow the Kingsbridge Town Trail.

The AGM of the SCDH will take place at the University on 14th May. The speaker will be Dr. Alan Rogers, Lecturer in Mediaeval and Local History at the University of Nottingham.

The Autumn Conference will be at Crediton on 5th November.

The Spring Conference for 1978 will be at Newton Abbot on 25th February.

SCLH PUBLICATIONS

BUILDING STONES OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Types, sources, and uses. 48 pages. Illustrated. £1.00

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EXETER UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS

Arthonian Sites in the West by C.A. Ralrigh Radford and M.J. Swanton, 1975, £1.00.
Leslie of Exeter: four essays to commemorate the foundation of Exeter Cathedral Library in AD 1072, £1.00

Exeter Essays in Geography edited by K.J. Gregory and W.L.D. Ravenhill, £4.00

Exeter and its Region edited by Frank Barlow, 1969, £5.00

The Maritime History of Devon by M. Oppenheim, 1962, £1.50

Tuckers Hall Exeter by Joyce Youngs, 1968, £3.00

The Ports of the Exe Estuary, 1668—1868 by E.S.G. Clark, 1968, £2.50

Industry, Trade and People in Exeter, 1688—1808 by W.G. Hoskins, 1968, £2.50

Exeter Houses, 1486—1700 by D. Parsons, 1966, £3.00

Nonconformity in Exeter, 1856—1875 by Allan Brockett, 1962, £2.50

Benjamin Donn's Map of Devon: 1745, 1965, £5.00

The Franciscans and Dominicans of Exeter by A.G. Little and R.C. Easterling, 1972, 50p

The South West and the Land edited by M.A. Havinden and Cella M. King, 1969, 75p

Industry and Society in the South West edited by Roger Burt, 1970, £1.00

Ports and Shipping in the South West edited by H.E.S. Fisher, 1971, £1.50

Learning and Transport in the South West edited by W.L. Murchinson, 1972, £1.00

Provincial Labour History edited by J.H. Porter, 1972, £1.00

Henry de Bracton 1248—1968 by Samuel E. Thorne, 1970, 50p

The Expansion of Exeter at the close of the Middle Ages by E.M. Carns Wilson, 1963, 30p

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. Individual maps £1.50 each

Henry Francis Lyte: Brisham's Poet and Priest by B.G. Skinner, 1974, £3.00

Emigration and Shipwreck in the West Country edited by H.E.S. Fisher and W.L. Murchinson, 1973, £1.50

Husbandry and Marketing in the South West 1500—1800 edited by M.A. Havinden, 1973, £1.00

Roman Exeter — Excavations in the War-Damaged Area, by Aileen Fox, 1952, £2.00

Some Disputes Between the City and the Cathedral Authorities of Exeter by Morin E. Curtis, 1972, £1.10

Exeter Papers in Economic History — No. 9 Population and Marketing. Two Studies in the History of the South West edited by W.L. Murchinson (forthcoming)

Exeter Papers in Economic History — No. 10 Education and Labour in the South West edited by J.H. Porter, 1976, £1.20

Education in the West of England, 1066—1548 by N.J. Orme, 1976, £2.50

Early Tudor Exeter: The Founders of the County of the City, by Joyce Youngs, 1974, 30p

available from:
The Registry, University of Exeter, The Queen's Drive, Exeter, EX4 4QJ.

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