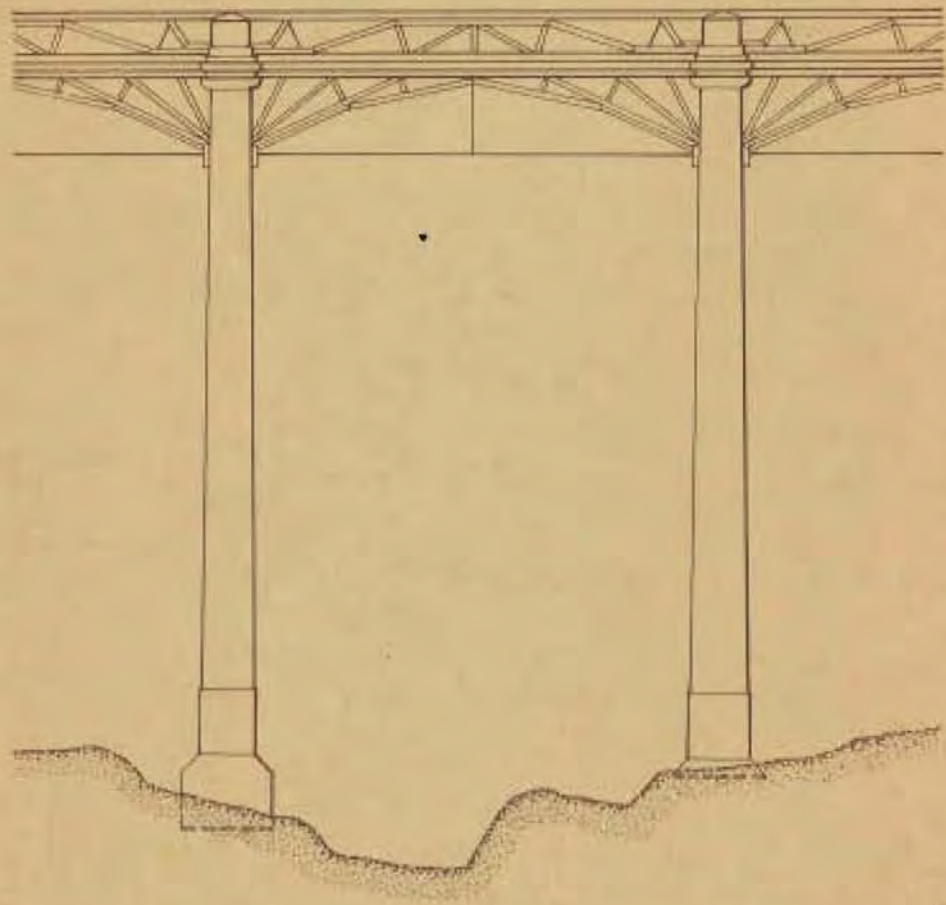


The Devon Historian

October 1982

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The *Devon Historian* is available free to all members of the Devon History Society. Membership subscriptions for the current year are as follows: Individual: £5.00; Family: £6.00; Libraries, Museums, Schools and Record Offices: £5.00. Please send subscriptions to the Treasurer, David Edmund, 16 King Street, Silverton.

THE DEVON HISTORIAN

Correspondence relating to the *Devon Historian* and contributions for publication should be sent to the Editor, The Devon Historian, c/o Devon and Exeter Institution, 7 The Close, Exeter. The deadline for the next issue is 1 January 1983.

DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY: CONFERENCES

A one-day conference will be held at the White Horse Hotel, Bampton, on 26 February 1983.

The print on the front cover is *Ivybridge Viaduct, South Devon Railway*, steel line engraved vignette, after G. Townsend, Publ. H. Besley, Exeter, 1853. (Somers-Cocks, No. 1380). The detail of construction of the Ivybridge Viaduct on the back cover is from Derrick Beckett: *Brunel's Britain*. David & Charles, 1980.

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PETER ORLANDO HUTCHINSON
ANTIQUARIAN ARTIST, DIARIST & HISTORIAN
OF SIDMOUTH, DEVON 1810-1897

Catherine Linehan

Peter Orlando Hutchinson came to Sidmouth at the age of fifteen and lived there until his death in 1897. He was born on 17th November 1810 at Winchester, where his father was a physician at the Hospital. After some years in Tiverton, the family moved to Sidmouth in January 1825; Doctor Andrew Hutchinson, his wife Anne, their elder son Young Bingham, Peter Orlando, Frances Harriet, the cat and the canary. They made their home at 4 Coburg Terrace, a row of charming Georgian houses. Number 4 was leased and later bought from Sir John Kennaway of Escot who then owned property in the town.

Sidmouth had become a favoured watering place at the end of the 18th century, when wars on the continent discouraged travel abroad. Doubtless there was work available for a good doctor amongst the residents of professional, clerical and retired service families who formed the community of incomers in a prosperous and expanding town.

Peter was a delicate child; he had a left hip infection (probably tuberculous) which gave him bouts of severe illness and pain leaving him lame for life. "A poor little sick boy," he wrote later, remembering himself at about seven years old. The Hutchinsons had lost two daughters in infancy and a younger son aged nine; it is possible they came to Sidmouth for the health of their surviving children, for the sea air was considered a panacea for consumptives. The many memorials in local churches, to loved ones who died young, do not support the premise, alas!

Because of his health, Peter was educated by tutors and at local schools; he mentions working briefly in an architects' office, but he did not go to University or study for a career, though he certainly had the ability to do so. In a long autobiographical entry in his diary on his birthday in 1881 he excuses rather than explains these circumstances.

In early manhood he began a series of tours and travels. He was twenty-three and perhaps craved to escape from the limits of a semi-invalid life at home; he hoped the change of air would improve his health, and that he could 'walk off' the rheumatism and neuritis which he believed to be the cause of his leg trouble. He walked through Wales, the Midlands and Scotland before sailing for America and Canada in 1837. These journeys can only be traced from his dated sketches as he had destroyed fifteen years of earlier diary before 1848. From these he retained his account of the voyage home from America in February 1838, and a few pages concerning his father's death in 1846. Also extant are extracts from his journal of a 1,237 mile walking tour in 1833; the extracts concern visits to a Staffordshire pottery and coal mine in October of that year. The latter was clearly a horrifying experience lit only by candles, the miners, half-naked, sweating and coal-grimed, the noise, darkness, dirt and fear caused the poor young man to collapse on a heap of coal in the depths of the pit.

From his Scottish tour, Peter returned through Gretna Green and became fascinated by tales of runaway marriages. The result was *The Chronicles of Gretna Green* in two volumes. It gives the history and topography of the district; the effect

of the 1754 Marriage Act, and an account of some of the spectacular matches. The final chapter advises young women against elopement.

He had an obsessive urge to write all his life, from which Sidmouth is the fortunate beneficiary. He destroyed a number of early books, plays and poems, declaring them to be childish and useless. His five volume History of the manor and district has always been known in Sidmouth but the Diary and Sketches, although referred to in the History, were only located in 1980. They have proved a fascinating addition to the local history of the 19th century. The six volumes of Sketches illustrate the life and times of the artist with vivid charm; the five volumes of the Diary cover forty-five years of the author at work and play, closely written and complicated with numerous printed cuttings, letters and memorabilia. Peter had a morbid streak and reported often of abnormalities, death and disaster. He wrote of political and local events, of his own doings and writings, illustrated with drawings, plans and maps. They give a glimpse too, of the real Sidmouthians, some of whose names can be traced back to the 13th century documents. These were the fisherfolk, farmers, tradesmen and the many domestic servants who enabled the well-to-do gentry - the incomers - to lead easy comfortable lives.

Peter's interests included heraldry and genealogy; many hours were spent making pedigrees, as he traced his forebears back nine generations to Edward and Susanna Hutchinson of Alford, Lincolnshire; they had eight children and emigrated to America in the 17th century. Their descendants formed branches also in England, Ireland and later in Australia. When in America, Peter spent several months in and around Boston, Massachusetts where his Great Grandfather, Thomas Hutchinson was state Governor at the time of the Revolution; his son, and Peter's Grandfather, was a Probate Judge in the same state; both fled to England with other loyalists losing most of their possessions by confiscation. The Governor, on his arrival in England, was three times offered a baronetcy by George III, but refused because of his impoverishment. Peter considered this to have been a mistake, bemoaning his own lowly state. When he met titled Irish cousins, the Donoughmores, he wrote:- "They are Earls and I am nothing."

He was proud of his mother's family too; she was the fifth daughter of Admiral Sir William Parker whose exploits at the battle of St. Vincent in 1797 brought him honours and prize money. Peter's elder brother was in the Royal Navy until he left to emigrate to South Australia with the early colonists. He left four children to form the Australian branch of Hutchinsons.

Peter was a man of his time in a man's world. The 19th century began with candles and carriages, and ended with electricity and the telegraph. He took advantage of the scientific advances of the age and experimented in many directions. He recorded his observations on the weather, on comets, eclipses and the stars. Music played a large part in his social life; he played flute, piano and french horn. He also delighted in numerous handicrafts, sketching, painting, needlework, (doubtless learnt in his housebound youth); woodwork, gardening and odd jobs at home are often mentioned, and always details of his literary output. He declared himself to be a 'Jack of all trades'.

Data for the Sidmouth History were collected from about 1841 and the Diary reports slow progress in compiling it until 1882 when he writes that the third and final copy is at last finished. Peter's other major work was the editing of his Great Grandfather's Diary and Letters. He began this major task at the age of seventy-two and published two volumes at his own expense in 1884 and 1886, money recovered

by sales in England and America. He had taken over a mass of papers on the death of his cousin, Canon John Hutchinson in Lichfield; they came from their common relative, Governor Thomas Hutchinson. They included letters written from Boston at the time of the Revolution to members of the Government in England, with diaries and family papers going back to the Lincolnshire Hutchinsons. Peter studied, sorted and ironed out the crumpled documents, untouched for over a hundred years, and realised their historical value. "I wonder if I am drifting into the compilation of a book?" he writes in December 1882.

In Sidmouth, Peter had many acquaintances and was a frequent guest at most of the local houses; he also spent weeks away visiting relatives in Chudleigh, Uffculme, Dawlish and in Staffordshire. His return of hospitality was meagre; afternoon tea, he wrote, was a useful innovation, needing little preparation or expense.

His health improved in the middle years and he was fit and active until his later seventies. One of his closest friends was Mr. N. S. Heineken, a retired Unitarian Minister, a fine musician and inventor with antiquarian interests. For many years the two men went on long expeditions on foot or by carriage, exploring the countryside within a twenty mile radius of Sidmouth. Churches and ancient buildings were studied and sketched. Hillforts, earthworks and barrows were measured and mapped. The countryside was enjoyed and picnics taken from the hamper carried in the carriage.

Doctor W. T. Radford of Sidmouth was another close friend. He and Peter were the same age and found pleasure in a frequent exchange of calls, shared interests and long discussions. Doctor Radford was a generous subscriber to all local charities; he is especially remembered for his concern for the eyesight of the lace makers who, he believed, were exploited by itinerant vendors. He is reported to have distributed about 30,000 pairs of spectacles to the needy.

The Reverend Lord Sidney Godolphin Osborne, his wife and daughters lived at Cottington in Sidmouth for several years. Peter was a constant visitor who enjoyed their company. One of the girls helped him carve the stone bosses of the new pinnacles for the church tower. Drawings in the Diary show the work proceeding, with his lordship watching. He too had scientific interests and Peter writes of collecting mud and ditch water for microscopic examination. They were another musical family and at one party the girls played a two harmonium duet.

They moved to Dorset after Lady Osborne's death. Peter stayed with them on Poole Harbour in 1876 and 1877 where he explored on land and by sailing boat, visiting Brownsea to explore and attend church service there. He was a regular church-goer wherever he was; sometimes when at home he would be at morning service at St. Giles, walk over the hill to Salcombe for afternoon service and then back to All Saints for evening prayer.

Peter Hutchinson did not marry, though he wrote that he had always intended to do so. He admired a pretty face, hinted at the dangers of flirtation and believed he could please the ladies with kisses and sugar plums. Marriage, he wrote, was a risky and expensive venture. The alternative, to remain a bachelor was also a hazard. Servants he believed to be dishonest and extravagant. "A necessary evil," he wrote.

The exception was Ann Carslake Newton, his delicate faithful housekeeper, for whom he felt gratitude and responsibility. He left her an annuity of £28 per annum in his Will, and counted the years of her service in his Diary. They lived at Old Chancel, the strange stone mansion which Peter built in the corner of his field near Coburg Terrace. Sidmouth parish church was one of many restored with

Victorian enthusiasm but with total disregard for its ancient features and traditions. St. Giles' restoration plans began in 1858; so much money was contributed that the restoration developed into a total re-building, except for the tower and a few arches in the nave. Realising all the stone work was to be thrown away, Peter contracted a builder to re-construct the old chancel with the east window, at a cost of £45. He also saved some medieval glass - now in the vestry. So a smaller version of the old chancel was preserved and Old Chancel building began. It was a life-long creative interest, work going on for the next thirty-five years as finances and time allowed.

In the town, however, battle was joined over the re-building. There were quarrels and outraged feelings, mostly amongst the gentry, as the several groups fought to have their way over the new church. The culmination was a grim fight over the placement of a window to be given by Queen Victoria, in memory of her father, the Duke of Kent, who died in Sidmouth in 1820. This was Peter Hutchinson's bravest hour; without telling the Church Restoration Committee, and backed only by the Earl of Buckinghamshire of Richmond Lodge, Elysian Fields, he set out. In his dress uniform of The Volunteer Artillery, and carrying his sword, he went by coach and rail to Osborne in the Isle of Wight to deliver a petition; he was spurred on by strong patriotism and righteous indignation; full accounts are given in the History and Diary. He must have expected a storm of rage at so independent an action, and it came in further unseemly verbal and written attacks. In spite of the furor, Peter remained a staunch supporter of the new church, examining the work done, carving some of the stone capitals and adding decorative stencil wall patterns.

Life in Sidmouth returned to calm; the years rolled by for Peter, filled with his social life, his antiquarian interests, his committee meetings and always his writing. Articles for journals and magazines, letters to the newspapers poured out unabated as well as his major literary work. Gradually he became "A Character" in the town, remembered as "Our Antiquary" for his wisdom and his eccentric ways. Mr. Heineken died in 1883 and the days of exploration and pleasure tailed off; other friends and relatives also died or moved away; bronchitis began to trouble him and he became increasingly isolated. "Old Bachelors are solitary sometimes," he wrote after visiting the Old Maid Rock at Dawlish.

Each evening he sat in his library at Old Chancel usually by a fire, reading and writing until 12 midnight or 1 o'clock; he worried about his finances and how best to arrange his affairs, frequently making a new Will; he worried too about inflation, the troubles in Ireland and other political upheavals which have a familiar ring today.

The Diary entries diminish in length and frequency until the final one, dated 8th September 1894; it reports a disaster for his butcher, Mr. Holmes, '15 pigs were crushed to death when a wall fell on their shed' the comment: - "MEM. Don't order any pig for a month."

Peter Orlando Hutchinson died on 1st October 1897, and is buried in the Sidmouth cemetery.

Mr. H. G. I. Clements, the Vicar, read a paper on Peter to a meeting of The Devonshire Association in July 1903. He had joined the Society in 1868 and was a keen member and a contributor to the Transactions. Mr. Clements told of his life in the town, his achievements, his spartan home life and narrow bed; also of his

cheerful patience in increasing infirmity. He also mentioned how rapidly and completely he seems to have passed out of recollection.

This Sidmouth notable deserves to be remembered with gratitude and acclaim. Few small towns can have so scholarly an account of their past; he was a pioneer of local historical research; his ability and industry were boundless. The History, Sketches and Diary are a valuable record of Sidmouth's past for its future generations.

Select bibliography of P. O. Hutchinson's books and articles

History of Sidmouth in 5 volumes in West Country Studies Library, Exeter. MS. (Photocopy in Sidmouth Museum).

Sketches in 6 volumes in Devon Record Office. MS.

Diary in 5 volumes in Devon Record Office. MS. (Photocopy in Sidmouth Museum).

Geology of Sidmouth (1843).

The Chronicles of Greta Green (1844. Copies in British Museum and Cambridge University Library).

Guide to Sidmouth (7th ed., 1857).

History of the restoration of Sidmouth parish church (1860).

Rifle shot in smooth bore guns (1860).

Ferns of Sidmouth (1862).

Diary and Letters of Thomas Hutchinson, Governor of Massachusetts Bay; edited by his great grandson, P. O. Hutchinson. 2 volumes. (1884 and 1886).

Articles in Transactions of the Devonshire Association

Hill Fortresses, Sling Stones and other Antiquities in S.E. Devon (1868).

Fossil Elephant's Tooth (1869).

A Second Fossil Tooth found in Sidmouth (1871).

Bronze Celt found near Sidmouth (1872).

Iron Pits (1872).

Fossil Teeth at Sidmouth (1872).

Submerged Forest and Mammoth Teeth at Sidmouth (1873).

The Population of Sidmouth from 1260 to the present time (1875).

Jar found at Musbury (1876).

A scheme for a History of Devon (1877).

Fossil Plant discovered near Sidmouth (1879).

The Site of Moridunum (1882).

Honeyditches (1885).

THE ELUSIVE LADY GLANVILLE AND THE SPURIOUS EXETER CONNECTION

Anthony G. Collings

The Dictionary of National Biography is widely regarded as being a work of considerable scholarship and accuracy. Its first editor, Sir Leslie Stephen "refused mercy to contributors who offered him vague conjecture or sentimental eulogy instead of unembroidered fact". Any departure from this high standard is therefore of more than passing interest.

One such is to be found in the entry of John Ray (1627-1705), the founding father of British Natural History, which contains the sentence "When Lady Glanville at Exeter was judged insane because she collected insects, Ray was called as a witness to her sanity".

The source of the error was one of the first books on British butterflies, Moses Harris' *The Aurelian*, first published in 1766. Referring to the Glanville Fritillary, "This Fly took its Name from the ingenious Lady Glanville, whose Memory was like to have suffered for her Curiosity. Some Relations that were disappointed by her Will attempted to set it aside by Acts of Lunacy, for they suggested that none but those who were deprived of their Senses would go in Pursuit of Butterflies. Her Relations and Legatees subpoenaed Dr. Sloane and Mr. Ray to support her Character. The last Gentleman went to Exeter, and on the Tryal satisfied the Judge and Jury of the Lady's laudable Inquiry into the Wonderful Works of the Creation and established her Will".

Since then those who combined the interests of entomology and genealogy have puzzled over her identity, but the excessive use of capital letters caused them to confine their search to the nobility. When the question was posed in *Notes and Queries* in 1937, the only candidate suggested was Lady Winifred Glanville, wife of Sir John Glanville, of Broad Hinton, Wiltshire, former speaker of the House of Commons. This provided a Devon connection as Sir John had been the Member for Plymouth from 1614 until 1628. However this had to be rejected as Lady Winifred died in 1676, when Dr. Sloane was only 16.

The field was narrowed by the discovery in the Sloane Manuscripts in the British Museum of two letters to James Petiver, another pioneer naturalist, written from Bristol in 1702 and signed 'E. Glanville', and in 1967 the problem was finally solved by W. S. Bristowe, in a paper published in the *Entomologist's Gazette*.

The lady in question was born Eleanor Goodricke, at Tickenham Court, west of Bristol, about 1654. By the age of around twelve both her parents were dead and she inherited substantial estates in Somerset. Her first husband died less than two years after the marriage, leaving her with two children. She had two more children by her second marriage, to Richard Glanville, of Elmsett in Suffolk, from whom she separated after about twelve years. He seems then to have schemed to inherit her estates, and the stress of this could well have resulted in her mental breakdown. It is probable that she turned to the natural world to find the solace that her domestic life could not provide. Following her death in 1709 (four years after Ray's death) the estates were left to a cousin. Her son by the first marriage applied to have the will set aside, and some hundred witnesses were involved in the case, heard at Wells Assizes in 1712. The application was upheld on the grounds of insanity, so that Moses Harris' talents can now be seen to be confined to entomology rather than historiography.

THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY
Minutes of the Twelfth Annual General Meeting
held at Exeter on Saturday, 8th May 1982

1. The Vice-Chairman referred to the death of the President, Mr Frank Booker and paid a tribute to the part he had played in the development of the Society since its formation and also to his contribution, as a writer, to the history of Devon.
2. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th May 1981 were read and approved.
3. Arising therefrom it was explained that the proposed meeting of Devon local history groups had been deferred pending the return of the Chairman from abroad.
4. The Hon. Secretary submitted his Report and explained that Issue 24 of the *Devon Historian* had been sent to paid-up members only in accordance with the Resolution passed at the last Annual General Meeting. He also reported correspondence he had had with the Chairman. The Report was approved.
5. The Hon. Treasurer submitted his interim Account which was still subject to audit. He explained his policy concerning the finances and the action he had taken to stabilise matters. The interim Account which showed a credit balance of £900.59 was approved.
 Following the presentation of the above, the Meeting passed a formal vote of thanks to the Hon. Treasurer for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the Society.
6. The Hon. Editor submitted her Report. She explained that the *Devon Bibliography for 1981* will be issued with the October 1982 *Devon Historian*. Amendments to the 1980 Issue (*DH 22*) are being incorporated. After discussion it was agreed that the 1981 volume be made available separately to non-members and that it be publicised accordingly. Referring to the *DH No. 24* she asked members to note the change in lay-out; this was because the magazine was now set and printed in Exeter. Members found this format generally acceptable but efforts will be made to have it set in a slightly larger typeface. She also thanked the local history societies of Devon for their help in up-dating information. Retrospective reports of their activities would be welcomed for inclusion in future issues of the *DH*. She also suggested that a small "notes and queries" feature might be welcomed by members.
7. **Election of Council**
 Under the new rules one third of the Council retired in 1982. As there were no additional nominations it was proposed that Messrs Owen Baker, John Bosanko and Michael Dickinson (the first three names on the Council list) be re-elected for the three-yearly period commencing 1st May 1982.
8. **One-day conferences**
 It was reported that these had been arranged at:
 Ivybridge 6th November 1982
 Bampton February/March 1983
 It was resolved that consideration be given to the pre-payment of conference

fees and meal charges to reduce losses made on these occasions when members and others failed to take up the bookings they had made.

9. **Publicity**
 A member present raised the question of advertising the Society in an effort to increase membership. It was agreed that this be passed to the Council for their consideration and action.
10. **Office of President**
 The Vice-Chairman referred again to the death of the President and asked members to pass to him the names of any persons who might be considered suitable for this Office.
11. **Other local history organisations**
 - (a) The Vice-Chairman reported to the Meeting the formation of the *British Association for Local History* and outlined briefly its aims and objects.
 - (b) Mr Ian Maxted, a member of the Council, reported on his membership of the *Local History Group of the Library Association* and stressed the value of nationwide contacts of this nature.
12. **The future**
 The Vice-Chairman expressed his feelings and concern for the future of the Society. He asked for possible themes for one-day conferences and the Hon. Secretary referred to a letter from Mr F R Beards on this subject which had been received on this matter. A general discussion followed. Mr Beards also proposed that the Council be asked to consider the alteration of dates of meetings so that one-day conferences be held in early summer and early autumn and that the Annual General Meeting be held in February. This was approved by a large majority.

SERVICE AND THE SINGLE GIRL IN VICTORIAN EXETER

Jane Emerson

Exeter was an important centre for domestic service, both attracting fresh recruits from the surrounding hinterland as far away as Cornwall and parts of Somerset and Dorset, and also acting as a temporary stopping point for those who would move on to better positions and more opportunities in London and the South East. Devonshire girls had an excellent reputation as trustworthy and hard-working servants throughout the country. These girls whether of rural origins or Exeter-born, frequently took their first situation between the ages of 12 and 14. More than two-thirds left service generally to get married between the ages of 25 and 30. For those that stayed a few remained in employment to the age of 60 or 70, but most dropped out as they lost one situation and found it increasingly difficult to get a new situation after the age of 40. Having left or been forced out of domestic service by employers' preference for young employees, they had little chance of avoiding the downward economic and social spiral caused by the lack of job opportunities for women, and the absence of any form of social welfare. They would be forced to take what work they could get as laundresses or further down the occupational scale as chars. While the average age of servants in the four censuses 1851 to 1881 fluctuated between 23 and 27, the average age of chars was over 40. Many married women, who were both unacceptable for live-in domestic service and also did not want the long hours and commitment service entailed, also did charring. But the largest group of chars were in fact widows and over 90% of all live-in domestics (and all the "better-class" homes had live-in domestics) were unmarried. Hence the married servant was rare. The six hundred epitaphs on servants' gravestones collected by the eccentric nineteenth century lawyer A. J. Munby and his friends which tell of the long-serving, much revered section of domestic service were no doubt the exceptions and were more likely to be found in either the larger, more well-to-do households and in rural areas.¹ In fact only one of Munby's epitaphs was found in Devon although many of the servants may have originated from Devon. In Exeter the domestic service market was for most servants in a constant state of flux. Only ten per cent of servant-keeping households kept the same servants for ten years or longer and it appears that the average length of stay with one household was months rather than years.

Servants' expectations were for betterment and marriage, and, failing either of these, they frequently moved to get away from intolerant even sometimes brutal employers and/or appalling living conditions and very low wages. Even in the most favourable situations the life was almost invariably very restrictive in terms of any free time and opportunities for contacts with the opposite sex. Employers wanted moral and physical reliability; someone capable of working a very long day -- so considerable physical strength. Illhealth and suspected stealing or moral misconduct were quite sufficient reason for instant dismissal at any hour of the day or night. It is not surprising, given the nature of the contemporary court cases brought against servants and in view of the irreconcilability of employer and employee interests in so many cases, that Exeter's service sector was in a constant state of change.

This understandably posed a wide variety of problems for the employers, for the servant and for society at large. There were two or three servant employment agencies but neither these nor adverts in the local press were free. The *Western*



The Victorian servant girl. From a *Punch* cartoon, 1878.

Times and the *Devon Weekly Times* were popular places for adverts both for situations vacant and some situations wanted, but largely for rural positions. *The Flying Post* and *The Western Luminary*, two Exeter papers, had fewer servant adverts, perhaps reflecting that Exeter situations tended to be filled either through the fee-paying agencies, (there were two in South Street and one in St. Sidwells), or more commonly through word of mouth and personal recommendation. However there was always the problem for the servant girl of accommodation and subsistence between appointments. This may have been only for a few nights if she was lucky, but longer if she failed to get a good reference from her previous employer, frequently through no fault of her own but merely as a way of stopping her leaving or for some imagined peccadillo. The other problem was the inevitable unemployment in a centre which acted as a staging and recruiting area for servants moving on to posts outside the South West. What could an unemployed servant do as temporary employment in either of these cases? Unlike seamstresses, who were the other largest occupational group for women in Exeter, they had no way of using their service skills on a temporary part-time basis except by accepting the obviously downward move to charring. Doubtless there were not the hard and fast divisions between occupations as there tend to be today and many women regularly turned their hands to a whole variety of jobs possibly on an annual basis as seasonal work came available. But in Exeter there was not a wide variety either of seasonal work or of factory work.

In these circumstances it is not surprising that during the second half of the nineteenth century a number of homes, schools, reformatories, and refuges were

opened. There was a school for domestic servants in Bartholomew Street opened in 1862 with a matron, two teachers and between 16 and 20 pupils over the next twenty years. Two doors away there was a home for "fallen" women, many of whom were under 30 and had been servants at some time. Among the other institutions there was a Girls' Friendly Society in South Street who were fairly selective about whom they took and at the other end of the scale, a reformatory in Polsloe Road which was little better in terms of getting back into employment and society than the workhouse. When the "Exeter Association" opened a shelter and employment registry in Holloway Street in 1879, it aimed to fill a much needed role.

It set out to provide a variety of functions. First it offered shelter at any hour of the day or night for an unspecified length of time, but temporary, rather than as a permanent home. Secondly it was an employment agency for domestic service jobs and occasionally for other work. Thirdly it acted as a clearing house or liaison for more permanent institutions as far afield as Oxford and Kent as well as those in Devon and Cornwall. This third function was for those not suited to further employment and without a home or relatives to go to. In other words for those either physically or morally unable to work. A large number of these were designated "fallen", and judging by the places they were sent on to were likely to be institutionalised for the rest of their lives. Fourthly it operated in conjunction with the main public institutions in Exeter: the prison, the house of correction, the main hospitals and the workhouse. Finally it also provided a focal point for middle and upper-class women who were concerned and interested in the fate of young women in need. In this role, it was part of a growing nationwide campaign² to improve the facilities for young women in need either in terms of work or home and particularly those who found themselves in an alien urban environment. The women who ran the association were tireless in their efforts. Mrs. Rouncewell, who was in charge for the early years frequently walked the streets at night "rescuing" young women sometimes from the very arms of potential seducers or clients -- one of the most notorious areas was around the Exe bridge -- doubtless catching travellers on their way in and out of the city. Another haunt for casual "trade" was along the Topsham Road towards the Barracks.³ Men were rarely cited in the notes on the girls, but in the cases where they were, soldiers featured prominently. Naturally enough alongside these explicit functions of the association was the implicit advisory role of the association both to the "girls" and on occasion to potential employers. Advice obviously varied in extent and content according to the particular Ladies dealing with a specific case. All the workers were voluntary, except the matron, who received a small income and accommodation, and each brought her own particular moral code. Three of the ladies were staunch teetotallers and aimed to persuade any women they brought to the home or took "an interest in" to take the pledge -- others attempted a similar type of promise in relation to abstinence from sex. Many followed up their particular cases for several months or sometimes years. There were touching accounts of some of the ladies being invited to ex-"inmates" weddings and reporting of their growing families. But these were the rare cases, more frequently failure to hold down a job or remain in an institution often coupled with a return to the Association for more help and advice were reported. It tells something of the lack of any other similar institutions offering the same type of facilities and also points to the regard with which women in need viewed the association.

In examining the background, age and circumstances of the first two hundred

and thirty women who entered the association over the first two years and three months, it is clear that a high proportion of the girls were initially from outside the city (approximately two-thirds to three-quarters) although only about one-third were directly from the country without having been in the city for some months before making their way or being brought to the association. But few, judging from the case notes (about one-quarter) were of Exeter origin -- with homes (at least of a kind) in the city. The reasons for the girls' applications to the Association were various. About 40% came for employment, about 25% for shelter and about 30% were described as "fallen", though sometimes they were looking for employment and temporary shelter too. (It is in fact difficult to see these three categories as completely separate as they are used in the Association notes). Their family circumstances varied too. More than one-third had no parents and a further third had only one parent. Their reasons for applying to the association were not directly connected with their family circumstances, although among the group with no parents there were more applying to the association for employment while those with only a mother had the highest proportion of "fallen" girls. Their ages varied from 10 to 40 with two-thirds under 23. Of those described as "fallen" three-quarters were between 16 and 23 years, while the ages of those seeking shelter and employment were more evenly spread throughout the whole age range, though still with the majority in their late teens. There was little correlation between age and their destination when they left the association. The all important factor in determining a girl's future was whether or not she was "fallen".

The Association, catering for at least two new applicants each week from the time it opened in December 1879 throughout the early 1880s, certainly fulfilled a variety of much needed functions, but it appears from the rate of re-application and the records of instability for those who were found employment (50% did not hold a job down for more than a few weeks) that there were limitations to the amount any association of this nature could achieve. The problems were endemic. Both the "fallen" and those from prison or the workhouse were unlikely to get a job and many of these were institutionalised on a long-term basis. Satisfactory employment seems to have been rare and girls appear to have been ill-equipped to cope with an independent life in Exeter. Society did not cater for the respectable single girl without private financial means, in terms of employment, accommodation or subsistence; nor was there provision for domestic servants when they were forced to change jobs which was a frequent occurrence.

Evidence from the case notes of the "fallen" girls shows that very few were professional prostitutes. Those that were had generally been referred by a police constable or the workhouse or been picked up from the streets. The vast majority had had, at most, intermittent sexual relations with only one or two men. Only about 10% were pregnant or had a child outside marriage. A very few were victims of employer seduction -- this figure may have been larger but for the reticence of girls to give evidence in case it jeopardised their future job prospects. Yet, however minimal their sexual experience, or in contemporary terms the "depth of their fall", few were in the end able to get further employment and 70% were referred to permanent "homes". Most commonly used among these were the *House of Mercy* at Bovey Tracey, run by an Anglican order of nuns; a Home in Plymouth, another in Wantage and two in East Cornwall. Judging by the number of times girls absconded from the train on the way to the Home from the Association or escaped and returned to Exeter at a later date, they did not want the security and restric-

tions of an institutional life. From the girls' comments they wanted employment within society -- but the Association was unable to place them. The stigma attached to sexual experience for such women outside marriage was indelible.

Some of the most pathetic examples of these unfortunate girls were those that ended up in court cases reported in the local press. One girl was turned out of her place of employment early one morning in Heavitree having had a seven months miscarriage within hours of finding herself forced on the streets. She eventually reached an acquaintance's house in Sidwell Street and collapsed. In this case the court at least reprimanded the hard-hearted employer, although generally the employers were exempt from anything harsher than this. Strangely, this employer, even though the mother of four children already grown up, maintained that she was unaware that her servant was either pregnant or had had a miscarriage. The large number of concealments of birth and infanticide which appeared in the contemporary press frequently indicated the dramatically difficult position of the young servant girl caught in the intractable predicament of finding herself pregnant while in service.

The Ladies of the Association did not attempt to follow in Josephine Butler's footsteps by trying to change public opinion on the subject of women's employment and in particular prostitution.⁴ But they did realize the need for facilities to enable girls coming to Exeter and those already in the city who were changing jobs to have temporary accommodation, help with future employment, and practical and moral advice. They provided these facilities for a hundred or more girls each year in the 1880s. But one wonders how many more girls there were over this decade in Exeter suffering similar problems but with no help outside the final resort of the workhouse, prison or the lock hospital.⁵

Notes:

1. Munby, A. J. *Faithful servants: being epitaphs and obituaries recording their names and services*, 1891.
2. There were at least 116 of such associations in 1890 and a national quarterly journal called *Seeking and saving*. E. D. Irvine, M.D., 'A century of voluntary service: the Exeter Diocesan Association for the Care of Girls (St. Olave's Trust)'. *Trans. Devon. Assoc.*, v.113, 1967, p.133
3. In the 1850s Exeter High Street was described by the police as swarming with prostitutes. R. Newton, *Victorian Exeter*, 1968, p.165
4. E. Moberley Bell, *Josephine Butler*, 1962.
5. F. Finnegan, *Poverty and prostitution: a study of Victorian prostitutes in York*, 1979.

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS IN DEVON

D. Wyn Evans

During the past few years I have accumulated a fair amount of information about local history library resources in Devon, largely as a result of travels through the county in connection with a national survey, jointly sponsored by the British Library and the Library Association, dedicated to producing a Directory of rare-book collections. The Directory is devoted to rare-book collections generally, and not just to those specialising in local history, but information about the latter has been obtained incidentally. It may therefore be useful to give here a short list of Devon local history collections, in the hope that it may assist researchers in tracking down materials in their fields of study. The list is limited to libraries which are open to visitors, albeit in some cases by special arrangement.

Only brief details of each institution are given, and it is advisable to contact the local librarian or curator for fuller information. Opening hours vary considerably, as do conditions of access. Finally, it must be emphasised that the list makes no claim to be exhaustive -- it just attempts to mention the more significant collections in the county. There are certainly a number of other libraries in Devon which have small amounts of local material but it seemed wiser to cover only the more important ones.

BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL, Tiverton, Devon

Tel: Tiverton 2543

The Blundell's Monument Room contains a small number of books of local interest, a file of the Tiverton Gazette, 1889-1930, and a complete run of the school magazine, the *Blundellian*. There is also a good archive of the school from its foundation in 1604, and a large collection of photographs from 1904 onwards.

Apply to: The Head Master

BUCKFAST ABBEY, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0EE

Tel: Buckfastleigh 3301

There is a library of about 20,000 volumes at Buckfast Abbey, and quite a good card catalogue. There are some 400 volumes of Devon and Cornwall material.

Apply to: The Librarian

THE COOKWORTHY MUSEUM, 108 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon

Tel: Kingsbridge 3235

The Museum contains what are probably the most complete files available of the following local newspapers:

Kingsbridge Gazette & South Hams Advertiser, 1857-1899

South Devon Advertiser & Agricultural Times, 1887-1890

South Devon Gazette, 1883-1902

Apply to: The Curator

DARTINGTON COLLEGE OF ARTS, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EJ

Tel: Totnes 862224

The Dartington College Library contains some 30,000 volumes, and there is a good

collection of about 600 volumes of Devon interest, some of them of considerable rarity.

Apply to: The Librarian

DARTINGTON HALL, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EJ

Tel: Totnes 862224

The Dartington Hall Records are housed in over 900 boxes and there are many thousands of records. They are mainly the personal archives of Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst, and the records of the Dartington Trust, which they founded. There are also 170 printed books which relate to Dartington in one capacity or another. There is a typed catalogue.

Apply to: The Records Officer

THE DEVON AND EXETER INSTITUTION LIBRARY, 7 Cathedral Close, Exeter

Tel: Exeter 51017

This is such a well-known library that it is mentioned here more for completeness sake than as an attempt to give a full description. There are about 33,000 volumes in all, and a very good collection of several thousand books, pamphlets, prints, maps, and newspapers. There is a good card catalogue available.

Apply to: The Librarian

DEVON LIBRARY SERVICES, Bideford Divisional Library, New Road, Bideford

Tel: Bideford 6075

The Pearse-Chope collection of local history was presented to the Bideford Free Library in the 1940s. The collection had formed Mr Pearse-Chope's private library and is especially good on North Devon history. There are about 1,500 volumes, many of them rare.

Apply to: The Librarian

DEVON LIBRARY SERVICES, West Country Studies Library, Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PQ

Tel: Exeter 53422

The West Country Studies Library was opened in 1975 and was the result of the amalgamation of the local studies collections of Devon County Library and Exeter City Libraries. It is by far the largest collection of its kind in Devon, consisting of 25,000 books and pamphlets, 400 newspaper and periodical titles, 500 reels of microfilm, 3,000 prints, 10,000 photographs, 1,000 drawings, 10,000 glass negatives, and a large collection of cuttings and ephemera. The main emphasis is on Devon but there are also many items on Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset.

A card catalogue of the books is being made, and there are various other indexes available.

Apply to: The Librarian

DEVON LIBRARY SERVICES, Devon and Cornwall Record Society, c/o West-country Studies Library, Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PQ

Tel: Exeter 53422

The Devon and Cornwall Record Society Collection began with the foundation of the Society in 1904, and it has gradually been augmented, mainly as a result of its members transcribing original documents. The collection is mainly of manuscript and typescript transcriptions of the parish registers of about 500 parishes in Devon and Cornwall. There are also other supporting materials. A handlist is available to

the 1,000 volumes, 30 boxes of cuttings, 20 reels of microfilm and 100 microfilm cassettes. Available only to members of the Society.

Apply to: Librarian, West Country Studies Library

DEVON LIBRARY SERVICES, Plymouth Central Library, Local Studies Library, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AL

Tel: Plymouth 25616

The Local Studies Library covers Devon and Cornwall but the main emphasis is on Plymouth. Over 20,000 items in all, including books, prints, maps and playbills.

Most of the material is listed in a card catalogue.

Apply to: The Librarian

DEVON LIBRARY SERVICES, Torquay Central Library, Lymington Road, Torquay

Tel: Torquay 211251

The Devon & Cornwall Collection of local history numbers more than 9,000 books and pamphlets, 300 prints, 2,500 photographs, negatives, slides and glass plates. Newspapers include the Torquay Directory (complete) and the Torquay Times from 1912. There is a dictionary card catalogue to the collection and a card index to newspaper articles, etc.

Apply to: The Librarian

EXETER CATHEDRAL LIBRARY, Bishop's Palace, Exeter

Tel: Exeter 72894

The Library contains over 25,000 printed books and a large collection of manuscripts and documents. There is a section of several hundred printed books devoted to local history. There is a card catalogue of the whole library.

Apply to: The Librarian for information about the printed books, and to the Archivist for details of the archives.

EXETER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, Prince of Wales Road, Exeter EX4 4PT

Tel: Exeter 77911

The University possesses a large collection of works on Devon but they are not all kept together. Most of the historical material is in one section but the remainder is to be found with the various subjects (e.g. local geography with the geography books, etc). Books can be traced through the catalogues, which are on microfiche.

Apply to: The Librarian

THE ILFRACOMBE MUSEUM, Wilder Road, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 8AF

Tel: Ilfracombe 63541

There is a small but interesting collection of Devon material: 250 books, 150 vols. of newspapers (the Ilfracombe Chronicle, from 1880-1953), 200 prints, 2,000 photographs and several hundred glass negatives and slides.

The main interest of the collection is the amount of rare material on Ilfracombe and North Devon generally.

Apply to: The Curator

THE NORTH DEVON ATHENAEUM LIBRARY, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 8LN

Tel: Barnstaple 2174

The Library contains 40,000 volumes and several thousand archival and manuscript items. The Devon (particularly North Devon) material is especially good (about

2,000 volumes). Worth particular mention are the John Gay Collection (some 200 items, and also newscuttings, copies of letters, etc), The Barnstaple borough records, the Harding Collection (19th-century manuscripts of Col. Harding relating to Devon parish history), and the papers of the architect W. R. Lethaby (who was born in Barnstaple and became consultant architect to Westminster Abbey).

There is a good card catalogue available.

Apply to: The Librarian

THE PLYMOUTH ATHENAEUM, Derry's Cross, Plymouth, PL1 2SW
Tel: Plymouth 266079

The original library was destroyed by fire in 1941. A small collection of mainly Devon and Cornwall material. About 150 printed books, 3 manuscripts and several boxes of photographic plates.

There is a card catalogue.

Apply to: The Librarian

THE SIDMOUTH MUSEUM, Church Street, Sidmouth, Devon
Tel: Sidmouth 6139

The Museum possesses an interesting little collection of mainly East Devon material, consisting of about 250 books, 100 volumes of newspapers (Lethaby's Sidmouth Journal, Harvey's Sidmouth Directory and General Advertiser, the Sidmouth Observer, the Sidmouth Herald, the Sidmouth News), 250 prints, 25 scrapbooks, 30 manuscripts, and several thousand photographs.

There is a card catalogue of the books and a typed list of prints.

Apply to: The Curator

THE TORQUAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY LIBRARY, The Museum, Babbacombe Road, Torquay Tel: Torquay 23975

The library contains about 25,000 volumes. There is a large collection of material on Devon, and the holdings on Torquay and area are particularly good. The library holds files of local newspapers and also has the manuscripts of William Pengelly and Father John MacEnery, the explorers of Kent's Cavern. An old card catalogue is available, and this is currently being revised.

Apply to: The Librarian

THE TOTNES MUSEUM, The Elizabethan House, 70 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon
Tel: Totnes 863821

The Rutter Library was bequeathed to Totnes in 1928 by J. A. Rutter, Esq. It contains about 1,000 volumes. Most of the collection relates to Devon and there is a good deal on Totnes. The Museum also possesses the library of the Totnes Mechanics Institute (c.300 vols).

There is a card catalogue and typed catalogue of the Rutter Library.

Apply to: The Curator

A YOUNG SCOTSMAN IN PLYMOUTH, 1824:

pages from the Diary of Patrick Grant Beaton
selected and edited by Sir Edgar Vaughan

The following extracts are from a Diary kept by Patrick Grant Beaton in 1824/5 when he was on his way from the Highlands of Scotland to open a store in Le Guaira, Venezuela 'for the sale of British manufactures on commission'. His principals were a Glasgow merchant called Lachlan Mackinnon, heir to the chiefdom of the Mackinnons of the Isle of Skye, and a Mr Marshall. His enforced stay in Plymouth allows us to see the civic and naval development of the town through the clear and often critical eyes of a lively young man in his early twenties.

Plymouth. Having now had three days' rest here, I am able to resume my Journal. On Sunday the 21st Nov. [1824] I sailed from Liverpool in the Brig "Idris", Captain Lancaster, for La Guayra. There were besides me, four passengers, Mr Menzies, Mr Robinson, Mr Scaife and Mr Clark. Nothing particularly occurred until the morning of Tuesday the 23rd when we encountered from West and South West the most severe gale felt for many years on the West Coast of England.

The Idris narrowly escaped sinking. The Captain decided to steer for Plymouth and anchored in the Catwater.

November 30th. The picture which now presented itself to our view, painted, in my eyes, the danger from which we had escaped in far more awful colours than it was possible for me to imagine while at sea. The whole shore round about us presented nothing but wrecks!! On the Tuesday we experienced the gale, no less than 32 vessels were wrecked in the harbour of Plymouth and 37 lives lost -- the shore was literally covered with wrecks in every creek and corner; and each succeeding day brought fatal proofs of damage done at sea, and, horrible to say, among the pieces of wreck driven on shore, were sometimes to be seen, a shockingly mangled human carcass, or a leg, or an arm of a sufferer in storm!!!¹

All the Newspapers were filled with accounts of the losses along the West Coast of England, both at sea and on land, which they reported were more generally and severely felt than those occasioned by the storm of 1777. The Breakwater at Plymouth, which cost so much money in building, suffered considerably, and it is calculated that five years will be required to repair the damage.² But it is vain to instance any particular loss, suffice it to say that (if we believe Newspaper Reports) all the Coast from Portsmouth to Falmouth was covered with wrecks and the towns also suffered from the violence of the wind and the size of the sea. At last, however, as if bewailing the desolation its fury had wrought, the wind died away in a gentle moaning and gradually subsided.

On coming ashore (on the 30th) we proceeded to the Royal

Hotel, under the guidance of a Mr Wilkinson (one of the many who came to solicit the Agency from our Captain). This man was asked to dine with us, but he declined our invitation saying he would call in the evening and drink a glass of wine with us, which he accordingly did. On paying our Bill we were astonished to see a charge of 5/- [five shillings] for Eating and Drinking for Mr Wilkinson. The Landlord explained that Mr W. had dined in another room at our expense, tho' he declined our invitation. We did ample justice to an excellent dinner, after which we forgot our late cares, drowning the remembrance in a few bottles of Madeira. We went early to bed and enjoyed the luxury of clean and dry beds, and after a night of sound repose, we rose much refreshed.

Mr John Collier agent for Lloyd's at Plymouth was chosen by the Captain as Agent, and on the 1st December he sent surveyors to report on the state of the vessel.³ This report stated that she must be taken to the Quay and discharged, and that all her upper works must be caulked, and their belief was that this operation would occupy a space of time not less than five weeks. Finding that our stay was to be so long, we took lodgings and were so lucky as to find room enough in one House to accommodate us all.

An old lady of the name of Quarme, whose husband was a true Devotee of Bacchus, had the honor to be our landlady.⁴ Our

accommodations were comfortable; and in order to keep order among ourselves, a President was appointed daily, whose duty it was to preside at table and a Commissary or Purveyor was appointed for a week. His duty was to order the Eatables and pay the weekly Bills. Mr Collier behaved to us in the most handsome and gentlemanly manner. He introduced us to two News Rooms and a Public Library, where we spent many an idle hour.⁵

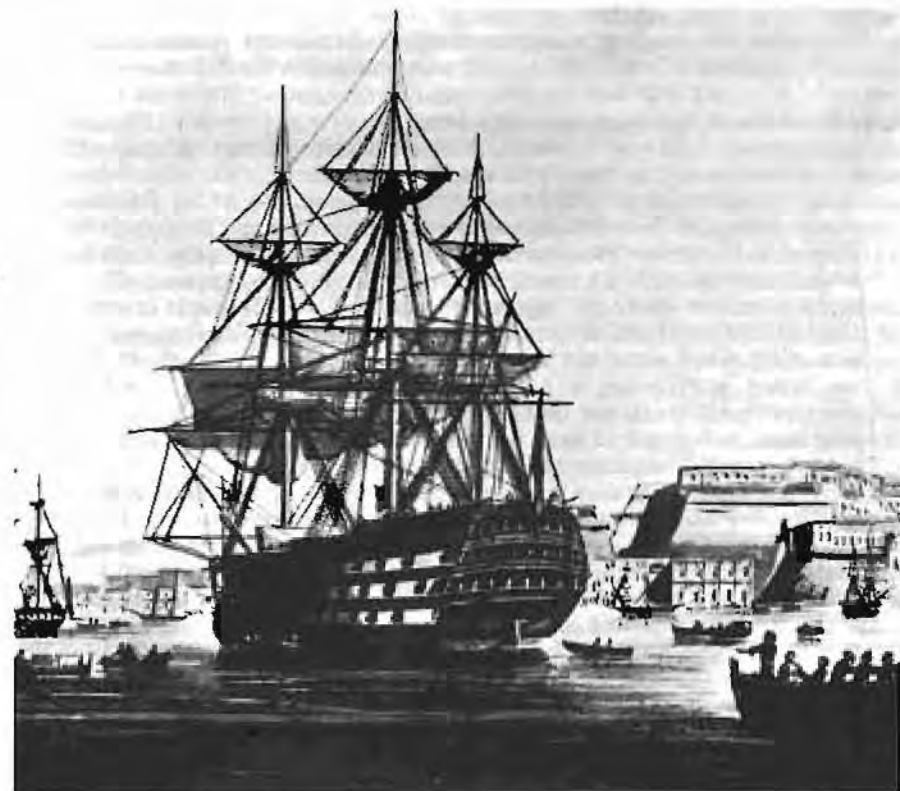
December 10th. This evening went to a Ball with Scaife and Robinson.⁶ We had no introduction to any of the Directors. We boldly went to one of them, introduced ourselves as some of the unfortunates whom the storm had driven for shelter to Plymouth, and said that we came here for the purpose of forgetting our late sufferings in the smiles of the Ladies and begged he would put this in our power. He politely introduced us to Partners, and we spent a very agreeable Evening. The Plymouth ladies are remarkable for pretty eyes, few there are among them with pretty faces, and but few with handsome persons. In the ball-room they ought to appear to advantage, but in this we were disappointed, and could only call three of the whole Assembly really handsome. They don't or they can't dress well. I don't mean the articles of dress, for those were costly and neat enough, but what I mean is the mode of putting those articles on. There might be some handsome persons concealed under the clumsy and seemingly careless manner in which their dresses were thrown on, on others there were whose ugly visages shewed well under a tasteful and neat display of curls and flowers in the hair. Lord Elliot⁷ was one of the Stewards for this night. A concert was announced for next week, and another Assembly for the following week, and we went home wishing that our stay would allow us to attend both.

December 11th. Robinson and I, accompanied by Mr Aitkins of Liverpool, went to Mount Edgecombe [Edgcumbe], the seat of the nobleman of that name, about two miles to the N.E. of Plymouth.⁸ We passed through a village (now swollen into a town) called Stonehouse, remarkable for the neatness and regularity of some of its streets. This leads into the town of Plymouth Dock (now by Royal Order called Devonport) where the King's Docks are situated, and where a very large proportion of the Navy are laid up. Crossing a small ferry, to avoid a walk of about six miles round Hermoaze (Hamoaze) Harbour, we landed on Lord Edgecombe's property, where we had to pay 2d. each for ferrying, altho' we had previously paid the boatman. We proceeded on to the Porter's Lodge, where we were furnished with a small Book as a guide through the walks of the place. The House is built in the old-fashioned way, and as his Lordship seldom passes any of his time at this beautiful spot, many improvements which would materially add to the beauty of the place, are neglected. On gaining the summit of the Mount, we had a most extensive view of the surrounding Country. On our left, Plymouth, Stonehouse and



Plymouth Public Library. From T. Allom: *Devonshire Illustrated*. Fisher, 1832.

Devonport, with the King's vessels in Hermoaze Harbour, and the Merchant Vessels in the Catwater of Plymouth were to be seen and a large extent of beautiful Country; on the right, several small villages along the shore, and in the distance the hills of the Cornish Coast. We could also plainly see that wonderful piece of art, the light-house on the Eddystone Rock,⁹ rising out of the sea, like a tall lonely tree in an extensive plain, or like the steeple in Baron Munchausen's snowy City. If I were a sketcher I could not have a better subject than the picture presented from Mount Edgecombe. It would form a beautiful diversity. One of our small party attempted a sketch, but on my remarking on some part of it being incorrect, he destroyed it. The walks around the Mount are arranged in the serpentine style, and the grounds beautifully and tastefully laid out with shrubs and flowers; but the season prevented our enjoying the sight in perfection. Having still some hours to spare, we resolved to go on board the "Britannia", the Flag Ship at present on the Plymouth station.¹⁰ We pulled alongside, and were politely allowed to enter, which we did by ascending a stair, on the outside of the vessel, which admitted us into the third or lower Deck. Here a midshipman was appointed to conduct us thro' the vessel, with orders to shew us every place we wished to visit. We made the round of the lower deck, where the magazine, bread room, Provision Stores, Cockpit etc etc are situated, a tier of guns ranged on both sides. The second deck presented the same warlike appearance with Gunrooms, Gunners' store, boatswain's store etc. etc., the third deck, defended as the others, and in their proper stations, the officers' eating and sleeping rooms, the Hospital, Schoolroom, Cooking place and workshops of all descriptions, each tradesman busy at work. Here the Cables are ranged, and the capstans for working them; a chain cable and a hempen one were to be seen here, every link of the former as thick as my arms, and the latter equal in thickness to a Brig's main yard. We next went on the upper deck, and from thence to the Admiral's and Captain's cabins by a private stair, unconnected with the decks. The great size of the spars was the only remarkable thing on Deck to attract our attention. The mainyard was fully as thick as a large brig's mainmast; and every other stick in proportion. In the Admiral's Cabin there were six guns. The total number of guns on board was one hundred and thirty-six. This vessel is the largest in the British Navy. She is quite new, and has never been out of harbour. Indeed, her sails were never bent. The size of this vessel, the order observed on board, the strict discipline and the ample accommodation possessed by the officers were all things which I was not prepared to see, and my admiration was so frequently called forth, that I at last ceased to wonder, having lost myself in a reverie from which I was awakened by my companions telling me to come along. We got ashore, and throwing ourselves into a hackney coach got home in time for dinner.



H.M.S. Britannia at Plymouth. Reproduced from J. J. Colledge: *British Sailing Warships*. Ian Allan, 1964.

The theatre being open this evening we resolved to go.¹¹ The Play was "Romeo and Juliet" and for the benefit of Juliet, who acted her part tolerably well, but her Romeo was not so good in his part. A farce followed which was very well supported by the company, particularly the character of a drunken Quaker by Mr Bennet. The House is very tastefully decorated and the Orchestra very good. Got home about 11, and after swallowing a due portion of Rum and Water retired to bed, but not to sleep. For some time I lay tossing about, until at last I began to recollect all the fine verses I ever heard to Sleep. This had good effect, and would have sealed my eyes, had not a rascally watchman cried out "half p-ast one o'clock", just as my eyes were a-closing. I must have slept . . . for I did not hear ought, until next morning.

Further extracts will appear in the next issue of the Devon Historian.

Footnotes

1. This was a famous storm damaging many southern ports. Beaton's account of the devastation is not exaggerated. It was reported in the *Times* on November 24th, 25th and 27th and the report of Lloyds' agent at Plymouth was reproduced in many newspapers, e.g. *Edinburgh Observer* of November 30th, Lloyd's agent spoke of "a most tremendous hurricane exceeding in violence anything ever remembered" and he gave a list of dismantled and water-logged ships and ships cast ashore (*Lloyd's List*, No. 5963, November 26th, 1824). Full accounts of the damage at Plymouth appeared in the *Plymouth and Devonport Weekly Journal* on November 25th (see next paragraph) and the Religious Tract Society subsequently published a tract No. 585 describing what happened: *The storm at Plymouth or Some particulars of the Dreadful Shipwrecks at that Port*, London, (1830?), with the moral that "the most tremendous storms ---- are as nothing when compared with the righteous anger of ---- God". A fund was raised in Plymouth and Devonport by public subscription and £:1382 was distributed to relieve the distress of masters, officers and crews (and to send them home) and of local boatmen and others (*Plymouth and Devonport Weekly Journal*, December 2nd and 30th, 1824).

The local newspaper reporter wrote: "The whole extent of that part of the [Deadman's] Bay where the vessels were stranded is not above 300 yards in length, and within this small compass we beheld the remains of no less than sixteen fine merchantmen all crowded together in one vast ruin ---- the remorseless waves still beating over them in fury ----. We understand that 17 bodies have been picked up in the harbour. Altogether from that part of the Hoe under the Citadel to the Catdown we counted 25 vessels on shore; the greatest portion already gone to pieces, and the whole Bay was covered with floating masses. The damage done to the quays, the houses, yards and manufactories in the neighbourhood of the sea it is impossible clearly to ascertain ----. At four o'clock on this eventful morning the sea was three feet deep in South-side Street and some parts of the Parade; every house was inundated to the great terror and loss of the inhabitants. All places on a level with the Parade and South-side Street were equally under water, and the tide was never known to reach so high. There is consequently a great destruction among the boats and smaller craft, some of which were lifted upon the quays and others foundered at their moorings".

2. The construction of The Breakwater commenced in 1812, it had still not been completed in 1824.
3. John Collier was a merchant and Lloyd's Agent. At one time he had been a member of the Society of Friends. He was M.P. for Plymouth from 1832-1842. His eldest son Robert, born 1817, became a judge and a peer (see biography of Lord Monkswell in the *Dictionary of National Biography*).
4. The Royal Hotel was in George Street and Mrs Quarne's lodging house was nearby on the opposite side (see the Directory in *The Tourists' Companion being a Guide to the Towns of Plymouth, Plymouth Dock, Stonehouse, Morice Town, Stoke and their Vicinities with a Directory*, London, 1823).
5. Plymouth underwent considerable development after 1811 with the erection of a Public Library in that year, of the Royal Hotel with its adjacent Assembly Rooms and Theatre, 1811-1816, and of the Athenaeum 1818-1819. The Corporation of Plymouth financed the Royal Hotel complex, and local gentlemen,

interested in promoting literature, science and the fine arts, the Library and the Athenaeum, this last being a continuation of the Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society. They were all imposing buildings in the classical style representing an expansion of cultural and social amenities, similar to that in other prosperous English towns at that period e.g. Bury St Edmunds. The Hotel, apart from the Theatre and the Assembly Rooms, comprised coffee, dining, sitting, smoking and billiard rooms, with 50 bedrooms and other sitting rooms on the Upper Floors. The Theatre Royal which seated 1,192 persons was pulled down in 1939, and the "blitz" destroyed the others, but their splendid appearance has been preserved in a series of water colours in the Plymouth Room of the Plymouth Museum, "Designs for Buildings in Plymouth 1810-1830, Water Colour Drawings" by John Foulston Architect. (Llewellyn Jewitt, *A History of Plymouth*, Plymouth, 1873, pp.386 and 593-597. Crispin Gill, *Plymouth, A New History 1603 to the Present Day*, London, 1979.)

The two Reading Rooms were presumably the one at the Athenaeum and the other in the port and commercial area in the Exchange Buildings, although there was also a reading room at the Public Library. Mr Collier was one of the gentlemen who had subscribed to the fund for erecting the Library and was thus one of the proprietors. It was maintained by public subscription and was open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., except on Saturday when it was open to 11 p.m. (*Catalogue of Books in the Plymouth Public Library*, Plymouth, 1835, and the *Tourists' Companion -- a Guide to Plymouth etc. op. cit.*)

6. This Ball would have taken place in the Assembly Rooms at the Royal Hotel. Advertisements in the *Plymouth and Devonport Weekly Journal* show that local dancing masters would organize balls in turn at which their pupils would perform.
7. Lord Eliot b.Plymouth 1798 d.1870. Styled Lord Eliot 1823-45, diplomat and politician only son and heir of the Earl of St Germans, (*Complete Peerage*, London, 1942).
8. Richard, second Earl of Edgcumbe (1764-1839), a man of artistic tastes, composer, amateur actor (biography in *Dictionary of National Biography*).
9. This was the third lighthouse on the rock, 14 miles S.S.W. of Plymouth. The great engineer John Smeaton built it after 1755. It now stands on Plymouth Hoe to which it was removed when the existing light house was built (completed in 1882).
10. H.M.S. "Britannia", was a Plymouth built ship laid down in December 1813, but not launched until October 20th, 1820. Even then she was not commissioned until April 1824 and had still not made a voyage. She went to the Mediterranean in 1830. From 1836 until 1851 she was at Portsmouth, then was flagship in the Mediterranean, being present at the bombardment of Sebastopol in the Crimean War. After the end of the war she returned to Portsmouth and on January 1st, 1859, was commissioned as a cadets' training ship, firstly at Portsmouth, secondly at Portland in 1862 and finally at Dartmouth in 1863, where she remained until relieved by the "Prince of Wales", renamed "Britannia" on March 3rd, 1869. She returned to Plymouth and her break-up was completed where she began, at Plymouth Dock (Devonport) in 1869. Her tonnage was 2,616, dimensions 205 x 55 feet, and armament 64-32 pounders 32-24 pounders, 4-18 pounders with 18 carronades (2-68

pounders and 16 32 pounders. (J. J. Colledge, *British Sailing Warships*, London, 1964, p.12.)

11. The Theatre Royal was open in the winter, alternating performances during the week with the Devonport Theatre. Usually provincial actors presented the shows, but occasionally there were London performers. Prices for admittance to boxes were three shillings, to the pit two shillings and to the gallery one shilling. (*The Tourists' Companion* p.34). During the period that Beaton was in Plymouth, "Romeo and Juliet" was performed two or three times (Miss Kemble as Juliet), the "Rivals" on another occasion as well as "Der Freischütz". (Advertisements in the *Plymouth and Devonport Weekly Journal*). This last was a very new opera, having first been produced in Berlin in 1821 and in London at the English Opera House in 1824, (*Kobbe's Complete Opera Book*, London, 1956, p.132).

Sir Edgar Vaughan has transcribed and edited the Diary from the original in the Library of the University of Western Ontario, London 72, Ontario, Canada. A complete typescript with introduction and notes has been presented by Sir Edgar to the local history collection in the West Devon Area Central Library, Drake Circus, Plymouth. Permission to reproduce the Diary in whole or in part should be obtained from the Librarian of the University of Western Ontario.

RECORD OFFICE NEWS

West Devon Area Record Office is now in new premises at Unit Three, Clare Place, Cosside, Plymouth PL4 0JW. The telephone number is Plymouth 264685. Though less central than the former accommodation at Tavistock Place, visitors will find the new search room much lighter and more roomy.

Devon Record Office at Castle Street, Exeter is also making changes to interest the reader of *Devon Historian*. As a result of the large numbers of original Parish Registers brought to the Record Office since the Parochial Registers and Records Measure of 1979, the problem of wear and tear imposed on them has caused the staff considerable heart-searching. The problem is all the more serious when it is clear that the wear and tear results not from irresponsible usage, but from the fact that the registers are being shown at all. The remedy is being sought in a 'crash' programme of microfilming. This has now reached all pre-1837 registers held by the Office, as far through the alphabetical order of Devon parishes as Halwill, and including all Exeter City parishes. The resulting film has been jacketed in the form known in the trade as 'microfiche' and four special 'readers' or projector units are now available for its inspection. It is hoped to extend the amount of film and number of 'readers' from time to time as funds become available.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY

The British Association for Local History, successor to the Standing Conference for Local History, had its inaugural meeting in London on 13th March, 1982. Voting membership is open to all individuals over 18 years and to institutions and organisations. The subscription rate for 1982/3 is £4. The Devon History Society will be taking out corporate membership so that we can be kept informed of the Association's activities, but our members are urged to subscribe individually, since without financial support the organisation will not be able to operate. The BALH expects 'a greater demand for advice on the location of source materials, bibliographical aids and work in progress. This expansion in two-way sharing of information and ideas can be expected to provide interesting fare for the twice-yearly Newsletter-cum-Magazine which all members will receive. The Association will produce the journal *The Local Historian*, which it is hoped will be available to members at a concessionary rate. A range of pamphlets offering guidance to the beginner and also to a more knowledgeable readership will be issued.' The BALH also hopes to organise awards and competitions, to appoint a Field Officer to travel the country advising and promoting projects, to explore the possibilities of a national diploma in local history, to keep a watching brief on legislation affecting the work of local historians and to make known the views of members. Initially, the organisation will work from an office at 43 Bedford Sq., London WC1B 3HU (Tel. 01-636 4066).

QUERIES

From: Mr B. D. Cherrett, Public Relations Officer, Exeter & District Battalion, The Boys' Brigade, Pippins, Town End, Broadclyst. EX5 3HT.

1983 is the Centenary of the founding of the Boys' Brigade. We know that the 1st Exeter was founded in 1893 and are well informed on the company at that time and over the past fifty years. We need to find out more about other parts of Devon (e.g. Okehampton, Ilfracombe) and about the history of the movement from 1900-1930. Can any of your members help?

NOTES ON NEW CONTRIBUTORS

Anthony Collings' particular interest is in action to preserve the countryside. He has published an historical guide to the South West Way and is now preparing a book on the south-west coastline.

Jane Emerson is a postgraduate student in the Department of History, University of Exeter. She is making a social and economic study of Exeter, 1841-1881.

Catherine Linehan is a retired nurse and for many years ran a guest house in Sidmouth. A keen amateur archaeologist, she worked with Mrs Minter on Dartmoor.

Sir Edgar Vaughan KBE had a distinguished career in the diplomatic service, retiring as Ambassador to Colombia in 1966. He then returned to academic life and retired as Dean of Arts & Science, University of Saskatchewan in 1974.

REVIEWS

Diary of a Devonshire Squire – 1844. The Journal of John Were Clarke, Esquire, of Bridwell, Uffculme; edited by W. P. Authers. Published by the author, Tiverton, 1982. 48pp. £1.20. ISBN 95 06087 5 0.

Around the diary jottings of the squire of Halberton Mr. Authers has fashioned a delightful piece of work with seventeen pages of high quality plates. The diarist, John Were Clarke was born in 1784 and so was sixty years old when he made this record. He had been 'finished', but in all probability little educated, at Cambridge, had married Frances, the daughter of Sir Thomas Carew of Hacombe and had in 1826 an unhappy financial experience in banking.

His diary reveals him to be a typical member of the gentry class. As a justice he regularly attended the Cullompton sessions and the Quarter Sessions and Assize. He dealt with dog stealers, sheep stealers, arsonists and bastardy cases. Arson in fact concerned him greatly – naturally enough as it was a crime which struck at the heart of property – and he records fires at Halberton, Cadleigh, Uffculme and Cullompton.

More pleasurably he dines with friends at Bridwell and visits others at Huntsham and Tidcombe, attends the theatre, and a ploughing match and visits Southampton and London. On one occasion he goes to watch the foxhounds but does not appear to have shared the passion for hunting and shooting which dominated so many of his class; for him the recently arrived railway and its trains proved a greater fascination. As a gentleman, leisure was his prerogative but he was also an active farmer, worrying about the weather and the future of the Corn Laws, he intervened in local politics, was a governor of Blundells and involved with Uffculme Grammar School.

Thus the diary presents a picture of an active and happy life, a life of comfort and security of status spent amid splendid countryside and a family of twelve children.

J. H. Porter

North Devon Clay, by M. J. Messenger. Twelveheads Press, 1982. 104p. £3.75 (Paperback). ISBN 0 906294 07 X.

Reviewing for any other publication than the *Devon Historian* it would be a pleasure to praise this excellently produced book by an experienced and highly competent specialist historian (expressing perhaps a regret that even its sub-title 'The History of an Industry and its Transport' does not fully correct the imbalance between industrial and railway history) in the very highest terms. Mr. Messenger's book contains a wealth of photographs, which perhaps conceal the lack of source material for the history of the North Devon Clay industry as a whole and over the full span of its existence from the seventeenth century onwards. He has also been working within constraints imposed by the time limit set by his publishers.

For readers of the *Devon Historian* however, I suggest that an instructive comparison (which it would be unfair to draw in another context) may be made between *North Devon Clay* and the late L. T. C. Rolt's *The Potter's Field*. Both Mr. Messenger and Mr. Rolt have had company records made available to them, both define their areas of study, Mr. Rolt expressly omitting the china clay industry, Mr. Messenger

expressly omitting the Fremington beds from their books; both have examined a wide range of printed and original sources, indeed Mr. Messenger has been the more meticulous of the two in his footnotes to those sources. All these are object lessons for other, would-be Devon Historians. Why then does Mr. Rolt's book remain the better one?

Mr. Messenger may very reasonably answer that Mr. Rolt's book, written first, to a large extent pre-empted the subject. This is true, but the answer lies deeper than this. In part, it lies in pure talent, the talent to combine accuracy with readability. To this, it may be replied quite justly that the number of local and specialist studies that will rank with *Red for Danger* and Fred Majdalany's *Red Rocks of Eddystone* must be small indeed, if only for their choice of subject.

But also it lies in the ability to see even a necessarily limited aspect of local history as part of a larger whole and to impose some discipline, some selection, both in the shaping and the writing of the local historian's chosen work. Mr. Messenger's very enthusiasm and competence in the field of railway history has lessened the value of his work as a study of his chosen subject. Mr. Rolt very carefully balances, even while concealing inequalities in his source material, the story of the production, distribution and utilisation of the clay – it is instructive simply to study his list of chapters. In contrast with this planning, Mr. Messenger gives us an itemised examination of the rolling stock and locomotives of the Marland Light Railway and of the standard-gauge North Devon and Cornwall Junction Light Railway, its successor, while failing to examine the importance of the North Devon ports or even of the English railway system as a whole in the distribution of North Devon Clay, or of analysing the markets for which North Devon clay and bricks were destined.

It is for this reason that Mr. Messenger's excellent chapters on the clay industry in the Petrockstowe basin and of J. B. Fell's remarkable feats of engineering in the Torridge valley, definitive studies in their own right, stand out in a book which conveys lessons both of what and what not to do, if you are a 'Devon Historian.' The issue is not one of glibness contrasted with veracity: in marshalling an army of facts, strategy does count.

M. Dickinson

Oakford: the history of a Devon Parish; by E. W. Bentley. Published by the author, 1982. 256p. £4.95. ISBN 9507942 0 1.

Introducing his comprehensive parish history, Mr Bentley writes that his work is "primarily for those who know Oakford and want to find out more about aspects of its past" and also, with a note of pardonable pride, not to say defiance, he speaks of "a reluctance to see hard-won information re-buried without trace" which has caused the inclusion of "more detail... than makes for an 'easy read'." Indeed this is not a glib, superficial, help-the-organ-fund string of unrelated anecdotes about Lesser Nerkworthy. It is an example, and a good example of the "new generation" of parish history, written with immense dedication and considerable skill.

Mr. Bentley's history of an Exmoor border parish, predominantly agricultural and undistinguished by a notable place in political, religious or economic history runs from 1086 to the present century and is planned with some care. For the

student of fashions and methods in local history, it is interesting to see that he actually expands the Manorial history (once discredited) to include histories of individual tenements, and of yeoman as well as gentle families. At the same time he uses the newer fashion of demographic analysis with considerable confidence and with results which justify its employment.

Reviews also follow fashions, paragraphs of reservation following those of praise. The reservation in this case is particularly worth drawing attention to in *Devon Historian*: there are a few instances of difficulty with specialised original records which could have been resolved by bringing the problem to the notice of fellow workers in the field or of qualified staff in library or record office. An instance is (p.65) where it is said that the living of Oakford was sequestered "for no obvious reason" in 1260. The sequestration was doubtless because the living was vacant -- a reason for sequestration as valid in 1260 as in 1982.

M. Dickinson

Ielfstan's place: a part of history, 15000BC-1919AD; by Richard Girling. Heine-
mann, 1981. 224p. £7.50. ISBN 434 98019 6.

This is about the past of Ilesington near Newton Abbot and few villages can have had such a book written about them. It takes the form of a series of incidents from the history of Ilesington told through the lives and words of past inhabitants, some real, some imaginary, of the parish. The tales themselves are also partly true and partly imaginary. None of them are totally true in the historical sense, but all have the ring of truth; they make sense, they could have happened. From them a picture of Ilesington's past emerges, from the earliest builders of stone circles on the moor to the building of the church in mediaeval times, the discovery of tin and the opening of the granite quarries at Haytor. Other tales are of passing disasters, of Danish raids, the coming of the Black Death, the bitter depravity of the Civil War and the religious fanaticism that accompanied it. Nineteenth century poaching and wrestling, 'class', village feuds, bring the story into the present century. The tales are told with great imaginative insight into minds and attitudes, even when these are remote from the present day. The language is lyrical and evocative: so much so that it occasionally obscures the sense. Ultimately, the book helps to answer the question that so many must have asked, 'What was it like to be alive, then, in this place?' Despite its virtues the book has not gone down very well apparently in Ilesington. The reason is simple enough. There is not one pleasant tale among the fifteen. Human nature is revealed as predatory, red in tooth and claw, almost without exception. It would be absurd to think that life in the past for most village people was anything else but 'nasty, brutish and short', but there was, surely, room for loving kindness and humour and affection. There is none of that here.

Robin Stanes

The University of Exeter: a history; by B. W. Clapp. xiv, 208p, with 31 plates. The University of Exeter, 1982. £6.50. ISBN 0 85989 133 X.

The present careful and scholarly study fittingly commemorates the Jubilee of the grant of the Charter to the University of Exeter on 21 December 1955. It also supplies a need, since no general history has hitherto been available to cover

the rise of the University and of those bodies which preceded it.

The author opens with a note on Bishop Leofric and his gift of books to the Cathedral for the use of his successors. He might have gone even further back and recalled the early education at a monastery in Exeter of Winfrith, who became St. Boniface, the Apostle of Germany and one of the greatest missionaries of his age. But the Middle Ages have little to do with the author's theme, even though they illustrate an abiding interest in learning in the city of Exeter.

The transition from the classes in art and technology so characteristic of the Victorian era, through the Training College of the years following 1900 to the University College of 1922-55 did not always follow a smooth course. The advances and set-backs are here recorded judiciously and in some detail. The author, though appreciative, is not uncritical. His judgment of Principal Murray, who guided the University College over a period of twenty-five years, may be quoted as an example of his approach. 'With all his faults, he had provided firm and inspiring leadership, raised large sums of money and made a start on the transfer of the College to the Streatham Estate. His ideal of a fully residential college was close to achievement in 1939 and even in the rapid growth of numbers after 1945 more than 60 per cent of the students continued to live in halls of residence. He had done more than any other man to advance Exeter towards university status.' Those who followed events from outside, but with interest, will have little reason to dissent from this appreciation.

The University of Exeter today lies to the north of the city, separated and protected from urban encroachment by the steep Hoopern Valley, which defied the efforts of nineteenth and early twentieth century developers. The undulating site rising to hills provides a fine natural setting, enriched at the centre by the house and grounds of Streatham Hall, the creation of a Victorian millionaire. Its acquisition as the site for the University was not without difficulties, fully recorded in the present work. The achievement remains a monument to the foresight of the first principal of the University College, Sir Hector Hetherington, and to the generosity of Alderman Reed, whose name the Hall now bears. Not only the University, but the whole of Exeter, owes a great debt to these two men.

The Italianate elegance of Streatham Hall forms a fitting prelude to the many fine buildings erected by the University and its predecessor. The first consultant architects -- Sidney Greenslade of Exeter and Vincent Harris of Plymouth -- made an outstanding contribution. The development plan of c.1930 was an attempt to impose a symmetrical layout on an irregular landscape of great natural beauty. It had, inevitably, to suffer modifications. But its principal legacy, the monumental block of the Washington Singer Laboratories, still dominates the main approach to the University. From 1953 development of the estate came under the guidance of Lord Holford, who 'preferred to accommodate his plans to the lie of the land and the trees that were scattered about the site.' The result is a less integrated plan, but one which allows a greater variety of design for buildings serving many different purposes. The author's criticism is reserved for the single 'example of industrialised or prefabricated building, Streatham Court, of which he tersely comments, 'the savings made in the course of erection were offset by expensive pile-driving to stabilise the site.' The whole chapter devoted to the buildings and their finance provides fascinating reading and well illustrates the physical infrastructure essential to the functioning of a modern university. The section on the Library is of absorbing interest to all those who rely on such services for their work.

This final section of the book also covers the students and the departments of the University and a review of its relations with the community, in which it is set, an aspect not without importance for its future growth and continuing prosperity. The well chosen series of plates cover every aspect of the story.

C. A. Raleigh Radford

The Parliamentary Survey of the Duchy of Cornwall: Part I (Austell Prior to Saltash); edited by Norman J. G. Pounds. Devon and Cornwall Record Society, New Series, v.25, 1982. xxiv, 130p. Available from the Assistant Secretary, D & CRS, 7 The Close, Exeter. £8, including postage.

In July 1649, six months after the execution of Charles I, Parliament passed an Act for the surveying and sale of the royal manors and parks. The Commonwealth government was in urgent need of funds and the grounds given for this measure was that as Charles, his Queen and his eldest son were responsible for the war, their estates should be sold to help to pay for the heavy cost involved. Trustees and surveyors were appointed to see to the necessary arrangements; the surveyors were to collect information by the ancient method of empanelling a Jury in each manor to give evidence on oath.

The latest volume from the Devon and Cornwall Record Society is Part I of an edited transcript of the Survey of the Duchy of Cornwall possessions in Cornwall and Devon made between November 1649 and November 1650. This volume begins with the manor of Austell Prior and ends with the borough of Saltash, but includes estates as far south west as Porthia (St Ives) and Helston in Kerrier. Altogether, thirty six Duchy manors and boroughs are here. Volume II will cover the remaining Cornish properties and those in Devon included in the Survey. Both volumes will include annexed lands as well as the *Maneria Antiqua*; among the former are the estates of Henry Courtney, Marquis of Exeter, who was attainted in 1538.

It would not be an exaggeration to describe these surveys as a treasure chest of information for historians with widely varying interests. They contain a mass of information regarding tenures, acreages, rents and other profits; tenants' names are given and sometimes details of lives on leases; there are details of mills, woods and tin dues payable and often field names and even type of cultivation are included. Manor bounds are given if "clearly and notoriously known": if not, the surveyors were instructed "it were better be silent". Some surveys include a description of the manor or demesne house, room by room. The accounts of the boroughs of Lostwithiel and Saltash give a list of burgesses and the number of plots they held. The difficult task of sorting and arranging this very varied material has been tackled by Professor Pounds with his usual thoroughness. The present-day cost of publishing edited texts has enforced rigorous summarising but the surveys are not difficult to grasp once the abbreviations have been mastered (it is a pity, perhaps, that "D" stands for both daughter and death!) However, a glossary would have been helpful. The fact that not all placenames have been identified also makes the surveys more difficult to use from the local historian's viewpoint, but gives him the motivation for further investigation and deduction.

Historians are only now beginning to tap the riches of the Duchy of Cornwall archives. Dr. John Hatcher showed us the wealth of material contained in some of the mediaeval mss: Professor Pounds, himself an indefatigable explorer of sources,

has now introduced us to a 17th century text of great value to historians in a variety of fields — general economic history, (particularly in the landed and agrarian contexts) Civil War history, regional and local history and even family history. The Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, has written a foreword in which he speaks of the publication of the surveys as "an important contribution to national and local history". It would be fair to say that the ultimate value of this important publication will be in the use historians make of it.

V. M. Chesher

Woodbury. a view from the Beacon; by Ursula W. Brighouse. Woodbury News, 1981. 272p. £3.75. ISBN 9507745 0 2.

Village historians have to decide for whom they are writing. Professionals tend to lament a book that begins, as does this, with Prehistory and ends at the present day, but anything else is not much use to villagers who want the whole story, not part. Similarly it has to be decided how much tie up there is to be with national history. If there is none, and no comment or explanation, it is antiquarianism. Mrs Brighouse has avoided that pitfall and decided that she is writing for Woodbury people. This book will in fact be best appreciated by them since it is full of local detail, place-names, houses, families familiar to them. It is fully and interestingly illustrated with old photographs, drawings and portraits and Mrs Brighouse is fortunate in her sources. Not only has she a Saxon Guild Statute, one of only five in the country, mediaeval charters, Churchwardens' accounts from 1537 and Vestry papers from 1536, but also available are the records of the Vicars Choral, who owned Woodbury Church and its land from the thirteenth century, diaries and papers from the eighteenth, good parish documents and the papers and memories of Woodbury families resident for generations. Not all have perhaps been as fully used as they might have been. The result is a satisfying and mainly complete history of the parish, its people, houses and institutions. So we read of Woodbury's Great Field, much like Braunton's, of the building of the Church Tower, of the unwelcome effects of the Reformation, of the beginnings of education and industry, of the religious feud that split the village in the nineteenth century, of the rebuilding of the village and 'improvements' at that time, of the site of the vanished manor house, of poverty and emigration and the depression in farming, and finally of Woodbury in this century, in two wars, a changed but strongly based community. All this and much more is done in fresh and interesting detail from both documents and village memory. The treatment is largely chronological with divergences made necessary by existence of Woodbury's many parts, Salterton, Ebford, Exton and Nutwell, all of which need and get separate treatment. The story hangs together well and is set in the national framework both political and economic.

In a book so detailed it is surprising that Mrs Brighouse appears to have missed the two skirmishes of the 'Roses' conflict that took place in Lymptone and at Clyst in November and December 1455. These were part of the great Bonville Courtenay feud and the Bonvilles were then Lords of Woodbury. Another point: the existence of a priest and Church in Woodbury in 1086 may suggest a 'minister' church, an early Saxon religious centre (ante-dating parishes), of which there may have been thirty or so in the County.

Woodbury has undoubtedly found its historian and this is a noteworthy addi-

tion to Devon's parish histories. If there is one criticism it is that perhaps the poor get rather short shrift, though they do get some treatment. This book is mostly about the employing classes, the easiest to write about, but most Woodbury people were labourers for most of its history probably. It would be useful to know how many were labourers, how many received poor relief and how many were farmers and landowners. Poor books and registers generally provide the means to describe, simply, the social structure of the village. Labourers may in fact have been 'better off' in Woodbury than in, say, Kenton, Otterton and East Budleigh. Woodbury seems to have been an 'open' village with no resident landlord and a mixed economy and some independence. Villages differed and villagers understood the differences. Comparing village with village can be illuminating.

Robin Stanes

Books received:

Archaeology in Devon. Annual report, no.5, 1981-82. Devon County Council, 1982. 50p. illus. Available from County Hall, Exeter at 40p (+19p post).

The Records of the Bishop of Exeter's Consistory Court to 1660; a list with introduction by J. A. Vage. Devon Record Office, Handlist, no.1. Devon County Council, 1981. 17p. Available from Devon Record Office, Castle Street, Exeter at £1.00, postage included.

Industrial Devon...

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