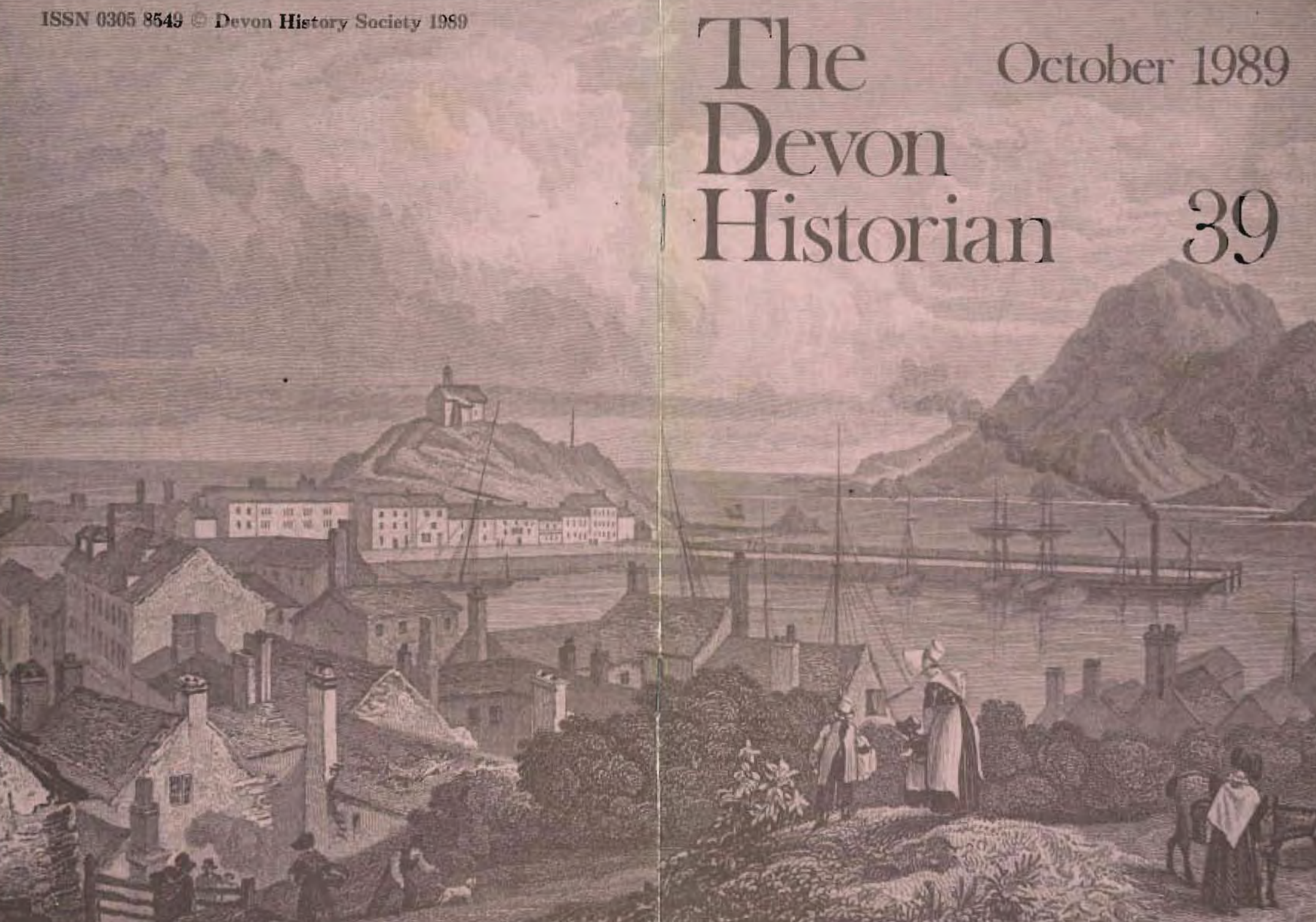


The October 1989
Devon
Historian 39



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Correspondence relating to *The Devon Historian* and contributions for publication should be sent to Mrs Helen Harris, Hon. Editor, *The Devon Historian*, Hironnelles, 22 Churchhill Road, Whitchurch, Tavistock PL19 9BU. The deadline for the next issue is 30 November 1989. Books for review should be sent to Mrs S. Stirling, c/o Devon & Exeter Institution, 7 The Close, Exeter. EX1 1EZ.

DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY AGM

The AGM of the Society will take place in the Seminar Room of the Library, University of Exeter, on Saturday 14 October 1989 from 10.30am to 4.00pm.

The print on the cover is *Ilfracombe, Devonshire*, steel engraving by W. Deeble after T.M. Baynes, published by R. Jennings, London, 1829. (Somers Cocks no. 1283).

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DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Current and back issues of *The Devon Historian* (except for numbers 7, 11, 15, 16 and 23) can be obtained from Mrs. S. Stirling, Devon & Exeter Institution, 7 The Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ. (Number 22, which is available, was not a 'normal' issue, but was totally devoted to being our first Bibliography). Copies up to and including No 36 are priced at £1.50, post free, and from No 37 onwards £2.00. Also available post free are *Devon Newspapers* (£1.00), *Index to The Devon Historian* (for issues 1-15 50p and 16-30 £1), and *Devon Bibliography* (1980 50p, 1981 and 1982 60p each, 1983 and 1984 75p each).

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NOTE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Articles are welcomed by the Hon. Editor to be considered for publication in *The Devon Historian*. Generally the length should not exceed 3,000 words (plus notes and possible illustrations), although much shorter pieces of suitable substance may also be acceptable, as are items of information concerning museums, local societies and particular projects being undertaken.

To assist the work of the Editor and the printers please ensure that contributions are clearly typewritten, on one side of the paper only, with double spacing and adequate margins, and also, as far as possible, that the journal's style is followed on such matters as the restrained use of capital letters, initial single rather than double inverted commas, the writing of the date thus e.g.: 14 October 1989, etc.

THE VANBRUGHS AT PLYMOUTH

A.J. Marsh

Though we have very complete records of the official business of the resident commissioners of Plymouth Dockyard, we know very little of their private lives. Some clear glimpses—tantalisingly few and incomplete—of life in the parlour and dining room of the Commissioner's House and on its terraces and garden walks are given in the letters of Philip Vanbrugh, Commissioner from 1739 to 1753, to his friend, John Russell, Clerk of the Cheque at Deptford Dockyard, which were published in that indispensable source for the social history of the Navy, M.E. Matcham, *A Forgotten John Russell 1905*—surely a book deserving a reprint.

Three members of the Vanbrugh family descended on Plymouth in 1739. They were some of the numerous progeny of Giles van Brugg of Ghent, a protestant refugee who established himself as a grocer in Chester, and of his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Dudley Carleton. The eldest son, who became Sir John Vanbrugh, was a man of many talents—soldier, architect, playwright, impressario, herald. He was a staunch supporter of the House of Hanover, trusted adviser of the Duke of Newcastle and the Earl of Carlisle for whom he designed buildings and gardens and who were fellow members of the Kit Cat Club. It was he who designed the room in Jacob Tauson's house at Barn Elms (Ranelagh) where Kneller's portraits of its members were displayed. He died in 1726 and his only connection with Plymouth is that the Morice Ordnance Yard was designed in 1718 when he was Comptroller of the King's Works, and the officers' houses and storehouses show some of the characteristics of his style. The Vanbrughs who came to Plymouth were his sister, Victoria and the two youngest of his brothers, Charles and Philip.

Charles was born in 1680, went to sea at the age of fifteen as a King's letter boy, passed lieutenant in 1702, took part in the capture of Gibraltar in 1704 and in the battle of Cape Passaro in 1718. In 1719 his ship was cast away and he made his way home across France. In Paris he speculated successfully in the Mississippi loan and was able to retire, marry and settle in Sackville Street, Westminster. In 1739 he came to Plymouth to contest one of its parliamentary seats. He was defeated by a local man, Sir John Rogers, but was returned on a Commons resolution in his favour. He held the seat from January 1740 till his death in November.

Philip Vanbrugh, born in 1682, was the youngest of the nineteen children and after schooling at Chester Grammar School followed Charles into the Navy. He was a lieutenant in the *Stirling Castle* when Rooke attacked Cadiz in 1702, rode out the great storm of 1703 in the Downs and avoided shipwreck in the Scillies when Sir Clowdesley Shovell was lost. In 1710 he was promoted captain of a 5th Rate and was employed continuously in the long period of peace after the Treaty of Utrecht: with Norris in the Baltic, with Byng at Cape Passaro, in guardships at Chatham 1722-25 and 1732-35. In his later commissions overseas he was given duties requiring tact and firmness. In 1730 he was sent by Sir Charles Wager to present to the Basha of Tripoli a gift of a hundred barrels of powder from George II. In May 1731 he gave passage from England to the ambassador of Tripoli and carried out more gifts for the Basha—a gold watch, a walnut scrutoire, a fusee, and looking-glass sconces. In 1735 he sailed with Sir John Norris to Lisbon to discourage a Spanish attack on Portugal, and in March 1737 he was ordered to wear the broad pendant of a

commodore when Sir Tancred Robinson left the station. His last sea-going appointment was as captain of the *Chatham* and Governor of Newfoundland where he spent the summer policing the fishery and in November convoyed the fishing fleet to its market at Leghorn.

In 1739, after more than forty years' sea service, Philip Vanbrugh was appointed Commissioner of Plymouth Dockyard. We can only guess at the motives which led him to seek employment ashore and the influences which secured his appointment. He was fifty-seven and since 1735 had been 'hapt up' in his chair in his cabin for months on end with gout in feet and knees. It was only prudent to come ashore. As the youngest of nineteen children, he would appreciate the superiority and perquisites of a commission of the Navy to the half-pay of a sea officer. His wife had died, his son was at sea, his daughter abroad, so it is probable that he wanted employment. He had good reason to expect that his application would be received favourably: his service at sea had been creditable, he had friends in high places, and he had taken pains to keep his friendships in constant repair. Like many sea officers, he sent home gifts from ports he visited—rum or port or arrack, exotic trees and animals, sea shells to decorate grottos. His first surviving letter to Russell, in 1727, mentioned such gifts: 'I hope you are better than I, for I still keep cabin I'm queer and low . . . If you should go home during our absence, do you intend conveying these creatures (antelopes)? One male is for Lord Torrington, a female is for Lady Charlotte Byng, one is for Sir John Jennings and the other female I intend for Miss Kempthorne. Shall I send the catlion? 'Tis for his Grave of Richmond.' One of the intended recipients of these gifts served as First Lord of the Admiralty, Torrington, from 1727 to his death in 1733. Philip may have had this in mind, but it is likely that he was remembering with gratitude those he had served with. Torrington, as Sir George Byng, had been his commander in the Mediterranean in 1718. Miss Kempthorne he had perhaps met when he was in command of a guardship at Chatham, for the Commissioner there from 1722 to 1736 was Thomas Kempthorne. Admiral Sir John Jennings had resigned from the Board of Admiralty in 1725. Philip seems to have had a long standing friendship with the Duke of Richmond. He allowed him the use of Vanbrugh Castle in Greenwich after Sir John Vanbrugh in his will had granted him the use of it during his lifetime. When his daughter came home from Leghorn, she stayed with the Duchess of Richmond before joining her father in Plymouth. Philip's most effective patron was Admiral Sir Charles Wager who succeeded Torrington as First Lord from 1733 to 1742. Philip admired him as a seaman and was connected to him in that his daughter had married Burrington Goldsworthy, the consul at Leghorn, who was Lady Wager's nephew.

Philip Vanbrugh was appointed Commissioner at Plymouth on 1 February 1739. His son-in-law in Leghorn commented: 'I could rather have wished Captain Phil: had been placed at Chatham, however as he seems pleased with what he has, I am so likewise, still hoping for better times'. Philip's nature was to be pleased with what he had, he became very attached to Plymouth and never showed any yearning for 'better times'—a move to Chatham or the Navy Board in London. He took with him to Plymouth his much older sister Victoria, who was to keep house for him, and 'Cousin Pearse'. They stayed with the Russell family in Deptford before they made the journey by stage coach to Plymouth: 'A special journey we had, good weather, good roads, and a most civil, knowing, careful coachman . . . He talked me out of the turnpikes and ferries, would you believe it.' So Philip described the journey, and

Victoria agreed: 'As to our seven days' journey, a better could not be, nor was I any more tired when I came into this Yard than when I got into the coach the first day . . . Our goods arrived the same day that we did, and the house is in such good order that most of them are dispersed, though we continue at Mr Cleveland's till next week.' John Cleveland, Clerk of the Cheque in the Yard, had his official lodging next to the Commissioner's House. The Officers' Terrace at Plymouth was the finest of any dockyard, planned by Edmund Dummer in the 1690s to be 'in one entire pile . . . eminent in situation, overlooking all the Yard . . . attended with suitable qualities of utility, proportion and strength and ornament, in some harmony to the degrees of the several dwellers'. The Commissioner's House was in the centre, crowned by a viewing platform and distinguished by the royal arms in a segmental pediment, flanked by those of four next senior chief officers, to his right the Master Shipwright and the Master Attendant, to his left the Clerk of the Cheque and the Clerk of the Stores, 'mixed in neighbourhood as they suite in business', then by lesser officers'. The terrace was of three storeys, and was flanked by projecting single-storey offices. In front of it ran a paved walk 'where the said officers may meet and confer together for the due understanding of one another in the general dispatch of the service'. This was the setting and the society in which Philip Vanbrugh and his 'spinsters' passed their later years.

'They proceeded at once to make themselves at home. Philip was laid low by gout and could not get upstairs: he made the best of a downstairs room with a timber and slate wall. We can understand the severity of the attack when we read his account of the treatment: 'In bed and far from well. A fever attended which Dr Seymour sent packing by a dram of I know not what and near three bottles of neat good port, all which I swallowed warm, by draughts in half-pint basons. My drinking days you see are not over yet, for my head never ached after it, nor was I at all bosky'. Cleveland's two fine girls came to visit him in his gout during the bitter winter of 1739-40. He thus avoided the hazards of dark nights and a shortage of lamp oil falling over logs and breaking shins and devoted his time to furnishing his house to his taste and improving his garden. Russell had sent in the *Lion* some of the Vanbrugh furniture from Greenwich: horns which adorned the hall most nobly, five prints of dockyards which decorated his parlour—and he asked Russell to send him one of Woolwich to make 'an even half-dozen'. Two years later, Victoria referred to one of them in a letter to the Russells: 'I frequently walk about your house when I look upon Deptford Yard and fancy I see a pretty young thing dressing a curious salad, but to eat of it is not in the power of your obliged Victoria'.

In the garden behind his house, Philip laid grass walks and his Grand Walk of local red sand which he wished to call gravel. By June 1741 he was recovering from a sharp fit of gout and was able to put on his breeches and two shoes. He could gravely take his pipe on the gravel walk and appear abroad. He therefore asked Russell to send him plain powder to enliven his peruke, and gravel for his walk. No doubt this was to come in Navy Board transports—one of the perquisites of service under the Navy Board was transport of personal goods. Russell also sent him hogsheads of porter and received Devon cyder in return, trees from Gravesend, broccoli seeds, French beans, and garden ornaments. In December 1739 Philip had written: 'I left at my Palace on the Hill (Maze Hill, Greenwich) a sun-dial, graved on brass, also an odd strange capital of a pillar, hollowed as a punch-bowl. It stands on a wall in the garden. We wish to have these things by your means'. By April 1741 he

was hoping to complete his garden with the help of a friend whose ship was ordered to Plymouth: 'The odd antique stone is now in its proper niche and wants to be guarded by the two or three very strange old heads of stone which stand on the battlements in the south garden, under my delightful Spanish room. These decrepit heads, if by your help Bristow brings, they will astonish these Western virtuoso mainly, and much oblige my spinsters, as well as myself'.

From his first coming to Plymouth, and long before these amenities had been provided, Philip Vanbrough presided over a cheerful and hospitable household. Cousin Pearse had the 'mulley-grubs' at first, but was soon interesting herself in her role of gardener-in-chief. Victoria supervised the kitchen and kept a generous table for guests, and there were many of these—fellow officers of the Yard and their families, former shipmates of Philip whose ships were moored in the Hamoaze, their sons starting their careers as hungry midshipmen or warrant officers. Russell's son, Jack, was appointed in 1743 purser to a ship at Plymouth. Philip wrote to his father: 'Mayhap he'll dine with us on Sunday. I'll observe whether he plays a clean knife on roasted beef: also what regard he pays to Plumb Pudden'. In the same letter, Philip mentioned that Lord Torrington, with Mr Frankland, Mr Talbot and Sir Conyers Darcy, was staying at Mount Edgcumbe and was intending to visit him. Commissioner Hills from the Navy Office was a regular guest on his visits to pay the ships at anchor, a duty Philip could not discharge himself when he was crippled by gout. Philip and Victoria both pressed the Russells to visit them promising a meal of French beans 'and a jaunt in my Welsh chaise, which runs smooth without wheels . . . By the help of a fathom of small cordage, 3s 6d, I am provided with reins: so now I drive my Welsh Chair all about Mount Edgcumbe, the most delightful place in the world! Which fine part of the West I showed to honest old Perez; who admired that a man who called that his own would ever go to London. I thought as he did. A model of my vehicle Mr Hills carries to show to Sir Charles Wager; but I don't build in the Yard though I have heard of a precedent for coaches'. The precedent referred to was the dismissal of Commissioner William Wright in 1711 for building furniture, coaches and barges for private use, employing labour and materials of the Dockyard. Philip's Welsh chaise, pulled by his little barb horse, took him regularly to divine service at Stoke Damerel Church, where he built a stable to accommodate it.

There were indoor amusements. Victoria promised that if Miss Russell visited them, 'she shall have a partner once a fortnight, for so often the assembly is'. This was held in Plymouth town but was frequented by naval officers, and it was customary for one of them to be chosen master of ceremonies for the evening. Even when Philip was confined at home by gout, he was happy to encourage merry doings at a dancing in the commissioner's office. Philip is known to have sat to the young Joshua Reynolds, though the portrait is lost. Reynolds came from Plympton, and worked in Plymouth from 1746, when he terminated his apprenticeship to Thomas Hudson, to 1749 when he met Keppel at Lord Mount Edgcumbe's and was offered a passage to Italy. Music played a part in the Vanbrough household. When Philip's old servant at Maze Hill died, he tried to relieve the widow by taking the eldest son under his wing and requested that he bring his violin 'which he touches very merrily'. However, that 'precious bird' ran away after only one night and, after a thirty-mile chase, he was sent to sea in the *Nonsuch*.

In 1742 the Commissioner's fireside was enlivened by the arrival of his daughter

who had come home from Leghorn to avoid the malicious gossip of Sir Horace Mann and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. She brought with her a son and daughter, and their grandfather was soon asking Russell to send 'this naughty good boy' a fiddle. The father, Goldsworthy, was cheered in Leghorn to hear that they were in good health in Plymouth: 'Pipi is I find in very near favour and by Lady Wager's letter is almost master, however they keep him to his book so that a little humouring of him now and then may be allowed. My little girl is a Nonsuch by her mother's account'. It seems likely that Lady Wager had gone to stay with the Vanbrughs after Sir Charles Wager died in 1743. Philip was much affected by the death of his patron, and wrote: 'Such a man was he, that as Hamlet says, "Take him for All in All, he has not left his fellow"'. In 1747 Philip suffered a more grievous bereavement: his son Giles was drowned in a boat accident at the mouth of the Rhone.

Philip had served as Commissioner at Plymouth throughout the War of Jenkins' Ear and for part of it as Commander-in-Chief of H.M. Ships and Vessels there, until he asked to be relieved of this added burden. He had seen the tremendous growth of work there in maintaining a large western squadron and he had survived the visitation by three Lords of the Admiralty in 1749. Even the years of peace which followed were busy as great extensions of the dockyard facilities were undertaken. He died on 23 July 1753 and his sister died in the same year. Rear Admiral Watson marked his death by a salute of twenty minute guns from the *Augusta* and five other ships fired ten each. His will requested a quiet and private funeral: no memorial other than a simple gravestone marks his grave in Stoke Damerel Church: he left £3 to each of his boat's crew 'instead of useless mourning'; he made some provision for poor dependents of workmen in the Yard; he left his port to the Chaplain of the Yard, his little barb horse to Dr Martin, and his other property to his nephew Edmund, the son of his brother Charles.

The letters here quoted suggest that life on the Officers' Terrace under Philip Vanbrough was civilised and happy, and he is revealed as an estimable man, making light of pain, determined to enjoy his good fortune and to make those around him easy, affectionate to his family, considerate to his servants. His first impression of the Plymouth workforce was favourable: 'We have as yet quieter spirits than you Eastern people. Ours petition civilly for more money, bow, and say "Your Honour"'. There was unrest in the Yard in his time, but there is little doubt that his tact and understanding moderated it. He showed some of the qualities of his more famous brother—gusto, resilience, wit, love of gardens, landscape and the arts, vivid epistolary style.

Notes

1. John Cleveland. He had been clerk at the Navy Office to his father who was Comptroller of Storekeepers' Accounts, and left Plymouth in 1743 to become Clerk of the Acts and eventually Secretary to the Admiralty and Anson's confidant. He prospered so well at Plymouth that he bought a mansion at Tapley near Bideford, and contested the 1741 election at Saltash.

* William Cleveland of Lanarkshire. Captain Stephen Martin said of him: 'He is an ill-bred, mere Scotch seaman and nothing but a seaman, covetous, mean-spirited and fawning to his superiors, but a tyrant where he has the power.'

'I guess that John also had something of the shrewd and pushful Scot in him. I seem to remember Boscawen had some hard things to say about him in his letters to his wife, but a man who had the ear of Anson was almost bound to arouse suspicion in admirals.'

Sources

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NEW CONTRIBUTORS

A.J. Marsh was educated at Merchant Taylors' School and read history at Worcester College, Oxford. From 1948-82 he taught at Portsmouth Grammar School. During a sabbatical term at Liverpool University he specialised in naval history and he has served on the Councils of the Navy Records Society and the Society for Nautical Research. He has contributed to the Mariner's Mirror, and has served as editor of the Yearbook of the Friends of the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth. His publications include: *History of Presbyterianism in Portsmouth*, 1956, *The Story of a Frigate*, 1973, and with E.S. Washington, *Portsmouth Grammar School, 1732-1976*, 1976.

Susan Cabell Djabri, née Hyde, graduated from Edinburgh University with M.A. (Hons) in English Language and Literature in 1959. She worked as an interviewer for BBC Scotland and as a research assistant at the Foreign Office until her marriage in 1972. She spent most of the next ten years in the Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, but she is now living in Wimbledon, where she has more opportunity to pursue her long standing interest in family and local history.

Alan P. Voce is Honorary Curator of Tiverton Museum.

THE CABELL TOMB IN BUCKFASTLEIGH CHURCHYARD

Susan C. Djabri

Many people have been intrigued by the Cabell tomb at Buckfastleigh, just outside the parish church, and known locally as 'the sepulchre'. A small building, like a little house, covers a raised tomb topped by a heavy slab, with the remnants of an inscription around its edge. On one side of the building is an iron grille through which the tomb can be seen inside. It is one of the few remaining 'penthouse' tombs.

For many years the tomb has been wrapped in superstition, so that its very real historical significance has been obscured. The demonic 'Squire Cabell' was supposed to gnaw off the fingers of anyone who poked them through the grille after performing a ritual walk around the sepulchre.¹ Even now the story is retold in books written for the tourist market,² while the real story of the Cabell family in Buckfastleigh, which is infinitely more fascinating, seems to have been forgotten.

What are the legends attached to the tomb, and what is the true story of the man who lies buried there? In fact, there are two quite different legends. One of them was first published by that avid collector of westcountry folklore, the Rev. Sabine Baring Gould, in his *Little Guide to Devon*.³ He said that Richard Cabell, lord of the manor of Brook and Buckfastleigh, had such an evil reputation that he was hunted to his death across Dartmoor by black dogs. A variant of this version is that, as he lay dying in Brook Manor, supposedly on 5 July 1677, black dogs were heard howling around the house. Richard Cabell was buried under a heavy stone, and the little penthouse built over his tomb, to prevent his rising from the grave. However, on the anniversary of his death he apparently does escape, as he is supposed to have been seen riding down the long drive to Brook Manor, headless, on his great black horse!⁴ It is interesting to note that 5 July was the old Midsummer Night, before the calendar was changed in 1752;⁵ traditionally, a night on which demons would appear.

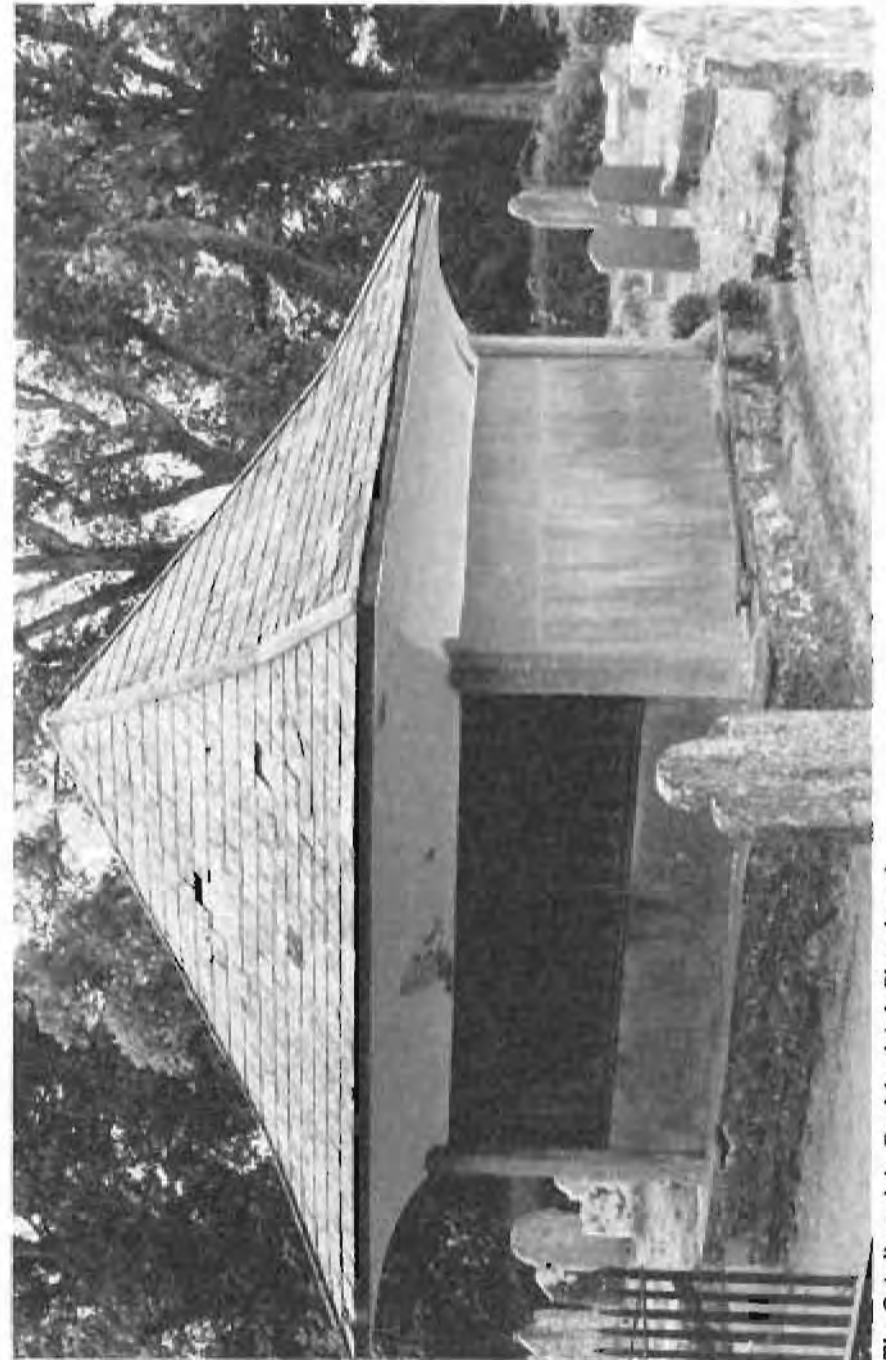
A quite different version of the legend was told to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by his friend, Fletcher Robinson, who lived at Ipplepen, only a few miles from Buckfastleigh, which Sir Arthur acknowledged as the inspiration of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.⁶ According to Robinson, Richard Cabell of Brook Manor, believing his wife to have been unfaithful to him, drove her out of the house and across the moor. When he caught up with her he stabbed her to death with his hunting knife, but her faithful hound turned on him and tore his throat out before he, too, died of stab wounds. The hound was said to prowl Dartmoor still, reappearing to each generation.⁷

It is easy to see that Conan Doyle combined elements from both versions of the legend in creating the wicked Hugo de Baskerville, who pursued an innocent girl to her death across the moor, and himself became the victim of a huge hell-hound, who returned to haunt each subsequent lord of the manor as a presage of his death.⁸ It may well be that the book inspired the proliferation of ghost stories about the tomb, because nothing seems to have been published about them before 1902, when *The Hound of the Baskervilles* appeared. So what is the real history of the tomb, as opposed to the legend? What is actually known about Richard Cabell? Far more documentary evidence exists about the Cabell family than appears to have been suspected hitherto. The man who emerges from the archives is a far more complex

and interesting character than his legendary persona. But the first question is—which Richard Cabell? Three—or maybe four—Richard Cabells lived in Buckfastleigh during the seventeenth century, and were probably all buried in the Cabell tomb. It is necessary to consider what is known about each one, before deciding which is the subject of legends.

The first Richard Cabell came from Frome in Somerset and owned a considerable amount of property in that area.⁹ He—or maybe his father—was associated with Sir John Thynne of Longleat, and it was probably under his auspices that Richard—father or son—became MP for Heytesbury, a small town in Wiltshire, near Frome, from 1563 to 1569, and again in 1571.¹⁰ About 1580 he married Susannah Peter, the daughter of John Peter of Buckfastleigh, and settled there.¹¹ It seems likely that this Susannah Peter is the same as the one mentioned with her mother, Thomasine, in an undated Elizabethan survey of Buckfastleigh in the Public Record Office. They were tenants of the manor, which was still Crown property.¹² Richard and Susannah Cabell had two sons and three daughters.¹³ In his will, Richard Cabell 'the elder of Buckfastleigh' listed all his property in Somerset, but it is not clear if his holdings in Buckfastleigh included Brook Manor, or Mainbow, as it was then called.¹⁴ But there is no doubt that Richard and Susannah were the first occupants of the Cabell tomb. In 1760 Dean Miles recorded the Latin inscription, now all but obliterated, which read (translated), 'Richard Cabell gentleman died 17 February 1612. Susannah his wife died on the last day of August 1597. Richard Cabell esquire, son of the said Richard Cabell, died on 24 August 1655'.¹⁵ The will reveals that the first Richard was a Puritan—he said he wanted to be buried 'without ringing of any bell' or 'funeral pomp or Popish sermons'. He added a long and pious exposition of his faith, and it seems unlikely that he was the 'wicked' Richard.

The second Richard Cabell, whose title of 'esquire' implies that he enjoyed a higher social status than his father, studied at Exeter College, Oxford,¹⁶ and the Middle Temple,¹⁷ like many other Devon gentry. In 1617 it is recorded that Thomas Luscombe paid homage to Richard Cabell as lord of the manor of Mainbow (Brook).¹⁸ In 1618 he bought land from John Caseleigh in Bowden, Colleton, Ashburton, and Buckfastleigh, thus considerably increasing his estates in Devon.¹⁹ In the same year he married Mary Prestwood,²⁰ the daughter of George Prestwood, of Whetcombe, near Ugborough, whose sister, Julian, married Richard Fownes, the son of the then Mayor of Plymouth.²¹ During the next twenty years Richard Cabell prospered—he had four sons and two daughters—and in 1639 was in a position to lend Sir Henry Rosewell over £2,000; a huge sum at that time.²² But by now the country was on the brink of civil war between King and Parliament, and the difficult decision had to be made which side to support. Though his wife's family had connections with Parliament,²³ Richard Cabell gave evidence of his Royalist sympathies when, as churchwarden of the parish church of Buckfastleigh, he certified that the 39 Articles had been read in the church on 29 January, 1642.²⁴ But by 1646 the Royalist cause was lost in the westcountry, following the capitulation of Exeter, and the estates of the Royalist gentry were sequestrated by a Commission set up for that purpose. Richard Cabell surrendered to the forces of Parliament before 1 December 1645 and, by advancing £400, he managed to avoid the seizure of Brook Manor. On 9 October 1646 he appeared with his eldest son, the third Richard Cabell, before the Commission. They were fined £1,430 and agreed to settle £30 a year on the minister of Buckfastleigh.²⁵ In 1649 Richard Cabell was involved in



The Cabell tomb in Buckfastleigh Churchyard.

litigation to recover the money he had lent Sir Henry Rosewell,²⁶ but this matter was presumably resolved in 1650 when land jointly owned by them in Thornecombe was sold for £1,894.7s.6d.²⁷ Five years later, Richard Cabell died; but though he may have been a disappointed and impoverished man, he does not seem to have had the character of the 'wicked' Richard.

It is the third Richard Cabell who is the most likely candidate for the Richard Cabell of the legends. He too studied at Oxford²⁸ and the Middle Temple²⁹ and was in London at the time of the execution of King Charles I in January 1649.³⁰ It seems he decided to make his peace with the new rulers because, in January 1656, he married Elizabeth Fowell, the daughter of Sir Edward Fowell of Fowelscombe, then MP for Devon and Chairman of the Committee for sequestration in that area.³¹ It may well be that there was some family dissension about the marriage, which did not take place until after his father's death. While Richard remained close to his brothers Samuel and John, his brother William disappeared from Buckfastleigh. It seems he went back to Wiltshire, and settled in Warminster.³²

The third Richard seems to have intended to make his mark in public life. In 1656 he built a splendid manor house at Brook—or greatly extended an earlier building. He also built the Cabell tomb for his father and grand-parents; there used to be a weathervane bearing the date 1656 on its roof.³³ After the Restoration in 1660, Richard was given public office. He was appointed one of the Commissioners for Exeter in 1662,³⁴ Sheriff of Devon in 1664,³⁵ and a member of the Commission of Enquiry into Newfoundland in 1667.³⁶ But in 1668 it is possible that all Richard's hopes and plans for the future were shattered. There is an inscription in the nave of Buckfastleigh parish church which, though half obliterated by the passage of time, reads '... D CABELL . . . O DYED THE . . . AY 1668'.

It seems more than likely that this commemorates a fourth Richard Cabell, who must have died in childhood. The only recorded child of Richard and Elizabeth Cabell was their daughter Elizabeth, who was baptised in December 1656, but from this point onwards there is a gap in the parish records, and it is perfectly possible that a son was born in 1657 or 1658, and died when he was about ten years old. Elizabeth was 33 years old when she married in 1656,³⁷ so it is unlikely that she would have borne any more children after 1668. Yet in his will,³⁸ drawn up in 1671, Richard makes elaborate provision for the possibility of a further pregnancy, with the reversion of properties given to his brothers Samuel and John, if a son were to be born and live to manhood. The emphasis in the will on this point is so strong that it was clearly his dearest wish, however improbable, and this could show how very deeply he had been affected by his son's death. Indeed, he did not long survive him. There is no record of his death and burial, but his will was proved in July 1672, which suggests that he died earlier that year, aged only fifty-two.

So what is the impression we get of Richard Cabell, from the available evidence? From his will, he seems to have been a careful Christian gentleman, concerned to make proper provision for his wife and daughter, and the two brothers to whom he seems to have been closest—he speaks of 'the love that I bear them'. This, and the appointment of four close friends, Sir John Fowell and Ambrose Roope, (both brothers-in-law), and George Prestwood and Richard Fownes (first cousins), as trustees for his fifteen-year old daughter, Elizabeth, suggest a man who was more at home in male than female company. But an oral tradition does exist that he had mistresses whom he kept at Hawson Court, a house very near Brook Manor.³⁹ It



Half obliterated inscription in the nave of Buckfastleigh Church: '... D CABELL ... O DYED ... AY 1668'

could be that, in his grief and despair at the death of his son, he turned to other women, though his will makes it clear that he hoped to the very last for a legitimate heir.

But while the will and the inscription in the church may reveal the tragedy of Richard's life, there seems no doubt that he was feared, and even hated, in Buckfastleigh. Something must have inspired the creation of the original legend about him, however much it was elaborated or distorted by its connection with *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. There are several things that may explain Richard's unpopularity in Buckfastleigh. Firstly, the townspeople may have been more Royalist than Roundhead in their sympathies, and not approved of his marriage to the daughter of a prominent Parliamentarian. He may have caused further discontent—or envy—by building a new, more ostentatious manor house at Brook. Secondly, he was said to have been a great persecutor of Nonconformists. In view of this, it was considered surprising when his brother Samuel licensed a house in Buckfastleigh for Presbyterian worship in 1672, and installed a notorious Nonconformist preacher, Richard Bickle, who had been ejected from another living.⁴⁰ Thirdly, he may have shocked and angered the townspeople by taking mistresses, especially if he seduced their daughters. Fourthly, the fact that he owned the town mills may have made him unpopular. A record exists of a dispute in 1656, between Richard Cabell and some of the townspeople, about the use of these mills, which sounds trivial, but could have led to bad feeling in the town.⁴¹ Apparently, millers were often very unpopular, and the subject of ghost stories, in the seventeenth century.⁴² In a world where ordinary people have very little recourse against the power exercised over their lives by people in authority, such as the lord of the manor or the local miller, their only revenge was to blacken their characters after their death. Richard Cabell could have been a victim of this phenomenon.

It is also possible that, in the course of time, Richard Cabell may have become confused with later owners of Brook Manor, and a composite character built up. Richard's first son-in-law, Cholmeley D'Oyly, is known to have been a libertine and even a bigamist.⁴³ While it is not possible here to tell the whole story of Elizabeth Cabell's unhappy first marriage, the fact that Cholmeley died at Brook Manor in March, 1700, and was buried at Buckfastleigh, prompts the speculation that there may have been some confusion of identity. As Elizabeth Cabell's husband, it seems likely that he would have been buried in the Cabell family tomb. Richard's grandson, Thomas Fownes, born of Elizabeth's second marriage to Richard Fownes of Stepleton, Dorset, inherited Brook Manor in 1730,⁴⁴ and lived there after he sold Stepleton in 1745 to pay his and his father's debts. He was well known as a hunting man, and is in fact credited with having had the first pack of hounds in Dorset, and introducing the sport of fox-hunting to that county.⁴⁵ He may well have kept hounds at Brook Manor too—there is an outhouse where 'Squire Cabell' is said to have kept his hounds. This sounds far more characteristic of the eighteenth century, rather than the mid-seventeenth century when Richard Cabell lived.

When Thomas Fownes sold Brook Manor in 1758,⁴⁶ the last link between the Cabell family and Buckfastleigh was broken. Only the name of Richard Cabell, and his connection in some way with a woman and a dog remained in people's memories to become the stuff of folklore. But the men who lie in 'the sepulchre' played an important part in the history of Buckfastleigh during a turbulent century, and

deserve to be remembered as individuals whose joys, sorrows and human weaknesses are so much like ours today.

Notes

Abbreviations

BL	British Library
DCRO	Devon County Record Office
DNQ	<i>Devon Notes and Queries</i>
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
PRO	Public Record Office
TDA	<i>Transactions of the Devonshire Association</i>
VCH	<i>Victoria County History</i>

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3. Rev. Sabine Baring Gould, *Devon*, Little Guide Series. Methuen, 1907. (See Buckfastleigh).
4. Theo Brown, *Devon Ghosts*. Jarrold Publications, Norwich, 1982, Page 29.
5. Theo Brown, *The Fate of the Dead*. Folklore Society, 1979, Page 36.
6. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. First published 1902 in *The Strand Magazine*. See Dedication.
7. Charles Higham, *The Adventures of Conan Doyle*. Hamish Hamilton, 1976, Page 168.
8. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *op cit*.
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10. P.W. Hasler, *The Members of the House of Commons, 1558-1603 Vol 1 A-C*. HMSO, 1981, Page 525.
11. *The Visitation of Devon 1620*. Harleian Society Publications, 1872, Vol VI, Page 43. Signed by Richard Cabell.
12. Survey (Elizabeth I) PRO LR2/191/PFF 3867.
13. *The Visitation of Devon 1620*, *op cit*.
14. Will of Richard Cabell of Buckfastleigh, 1612. PRO PROB/11/121/309.
15. Dean Milles MSS. Bodleian Library (Devon Topography).
16. Alumni Oxoniensis, Series 1, 1500-1714, Page 228.
17. Register of Admissions to the Middle Temple, Vol 1, 1501-1714. Butterworth, 1949.
18. TDA XXXI. Ninth Report of the Committee on Devonshire Records. II. Halliwell-Phillipps Collection. 10, Page 128.
19. Alexander Brown, *The Cabells and Their Kin*. Houghton Mifflin, 1895, Page 14.
20. J.L. Vivian, *The Visitations of the County of Devon . . . with additions*. Exeter, 1895.
21. *The Visitation of Dorset 1677*. Harleian Society Publications, 1977, Page 24. Also J.L. Vivian *op cit*.

22. Alexander Brown, *op cit.* Page 14.
23. Alexander Brown, *op cit.* Page 15.
24. Buckfastleigh Parish Register. DCRO.
25. Calendar of the Committee of Compounding. Page 1352. PRO RR1/127.
26. *Idem.*
27. TDA XXX1 *op cit.* 11. Page 129.
28. Alumni Oxoniensis, *op cit.*
29. Register of Admissions to the Middle Temple, *op cit.*
30. Alexander Brown, *op cit.* Page 15.
31. Burke's *Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies.* London. 1844. Page 208.
32. Alexander Brown, *op cit.* Page 19.
33. DNQ XVII, *op cit.*
34. TDA Vol LXIV. Page 15.
35. Alexander Brown, *op cit.* Page 15.
36. William Burnet Morris Index. DCRO.
37. Burke's *Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies, op cit.*
38. Will of Richard Cabell of Brook. 1671. PRO PROB 11/339/121.
39. Theo Brown, *Devon Ghosts, op cit.* Page 31.
40. TDA XVI. Page 494.
41. TDA XXX4, *op cit.* 32. Page 138.
42. Theo Brown, *The Fate of the Dead, op cit.* Page 88.
43. William O'Oyly Bailey, *Biographical, Historical, Genealogical and Heraldic Account of the House of D'Oyly.* London. 1845. BL 1327 E3. Page 33.
44. Will of Richard Fownes of Stepleton. 1730. PRO PROB 11/642/249.
45. VCH Dorset. Vol II. Page 300.
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TIVERTON MUSEUM

Alan P. Voce

EARLY DAYS

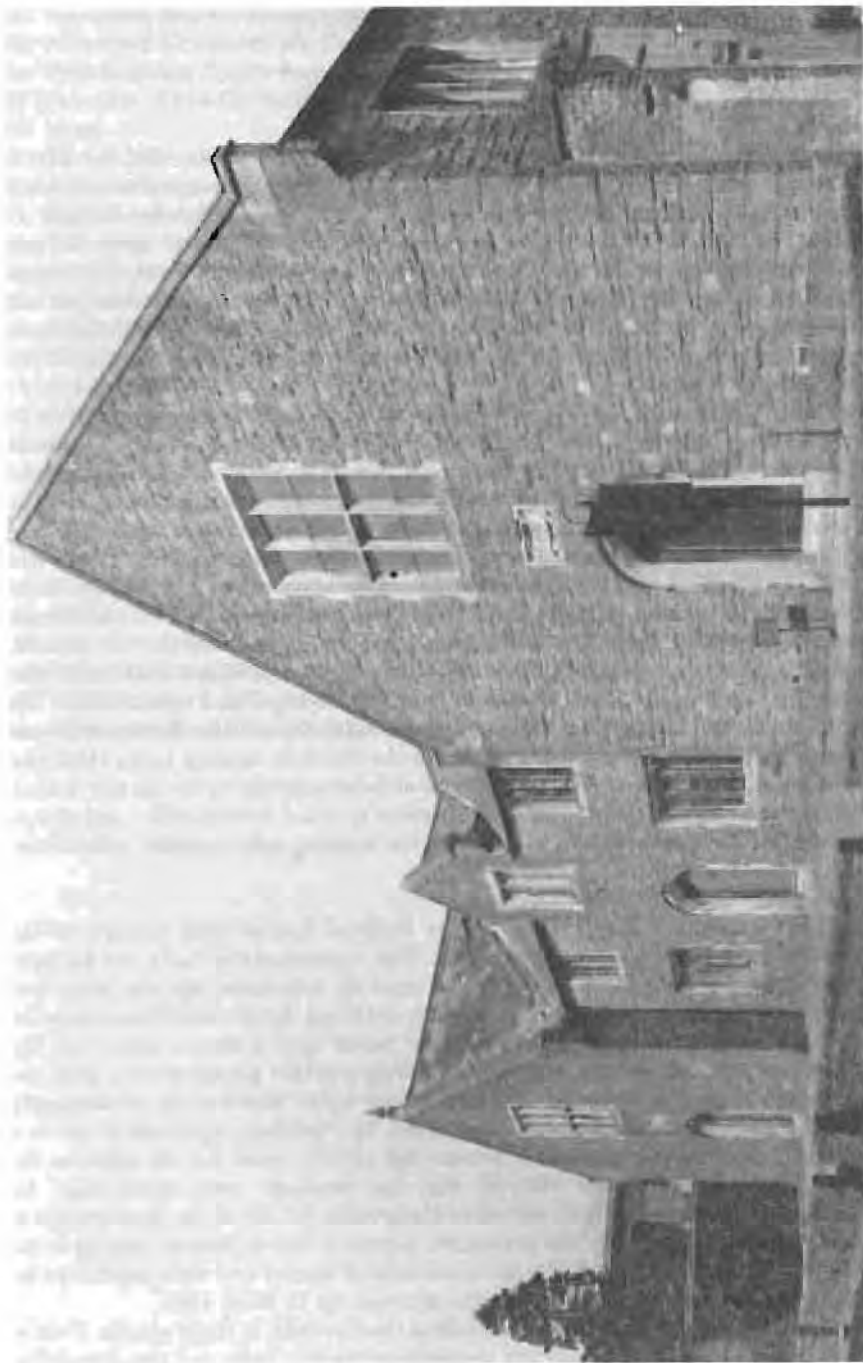
1989 sees the celebration of the 30th year of the Tiverton Museum Society, a registered charity, which owns and runs Tiverton Museum. It originated following what our first chairman and joint founder, the late hon. Alderman William P. Authers, MBE, described as 'the impetuosity, in 1957', with which he put forward the suggestion for a museum, in a Town Council debate. Tiverton Borough Council, not being a library authority, was unable to establish a museum. This led, the following year, to the setting up of Tiverton Museum Society by its co-founders, Borough Councillors William Authers and Victor Broomfield, the seconder to the original council motion.

Through the generosity of Victor Broomfield, who loaned the society the use of two rooms in a property he owned on Angel Hill, Tiverton, the museum was opened to the public on 25 June, 1960. Two important factors have remained in being since that day 29 years ago. Firstly, there has always been free admission to the Museum, and secondly, it has been run and staffed entirely by volunteers working in their own free time. Whilst over the years the museum has grown considerably in both the size of buildings occupied, and in the scope and number of items in its collection, these factors have remained constant. In 1961 the museum transferred to the former Chilcott School in St. Peter Street. This was erected in 1611 under the will of Robt. Comyn alias Chilcott, a nephew of Peter Blundell, founder of Blundell's School, who directed his executors to build a 'school house for 100 boys' at a cost of £400. The need for increased accommodation, and the availability of the former National School in St. Andrew Street, led, in 1969, to the museum moving to its third and present home. Here it has, since then, acquired land adjacent to the former school, enabling it to build additions housing the present museum library, office and stores, and the Alford & Authers galleries housing the waggon and transport collections.

THE PRESENT BUILDING

The main museum building is the former National School, built in 1841, to the design of Mr Hayward the Exeter architect. This comprised two halls, one for boys and the other for girls, each having their separate entrances, up two steps and across a small cobbled forecourt from St. Andrew Street. In between these two halls, again with its own steps from St. Andrew Street and entrance door, was the schoolmaster's house. At the rear was a linking corridor giving access, past the schoolmaster's garden, between both the school halls. This access subsequently provided the area for a further two classrooms. The building continued in use as a school until the mid 1920s, when it became the church rooms for the adjacent St. George's Church. After the 1939-45 war, the premises were again used for educational purposes when they served as classrooms for one of the local schools in the town. With the opening of the present St. George's Church Rooms building in the grounds of the church in 1968, the premises became vacant and were purchased by the Museum Society, being opened as the museum on 10 May, 1969.

The school building was brought into use as the museum, in three phases. First of all, the ground floor accommodation comprising the two halls and the connecting



Tiverton's main Museum building, originally the National School, built in 1841.

classrooms at the rear, were used to house the collection transferred from the Chilcott School. The second phase, opened in 1971, converted the schoolmaster's quarters (two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs) into sizeable galleries for exhibitions and costumes respectively. The third phase, completed in 1976, added substantial extensions comprising a two storey extension plus the present Alford gallery housing the horse drawn waggon collection. At that time, the two storey extension housed the industrial gallery upstairs, and the laundry, natural history and war rooms downstairs. Last year, this area was reallocated to give the museum a library and office upstairs, and improved storage accommodation for the reserve collections downstairs. 1979 saw the building of the Authers gallery to house the GWR tank locomotive, presented to the town by Viscount Amory and formerly on display in the open on Blundells Road, and other items of transport interest.

Additions have been made within the former school building with the erection of an upper floor in the Britton gallery approached by a wooden staircase dating from 1749; the building, above part of the agricultural hall, of the Heathcote lace machine gallery to house one of the last of John Heathcoat's designed and Tiverton built lace making machines, together with a display illustrating the history of the company and its products; and, as a result of a grant from the Imperial Tobacco Co. Ltd., consequent upon the museum winning a 'Museum of the Year' award in 1977, the transfer and the re-erection of the Silvertown Smithy in the former headmaster's garden area.

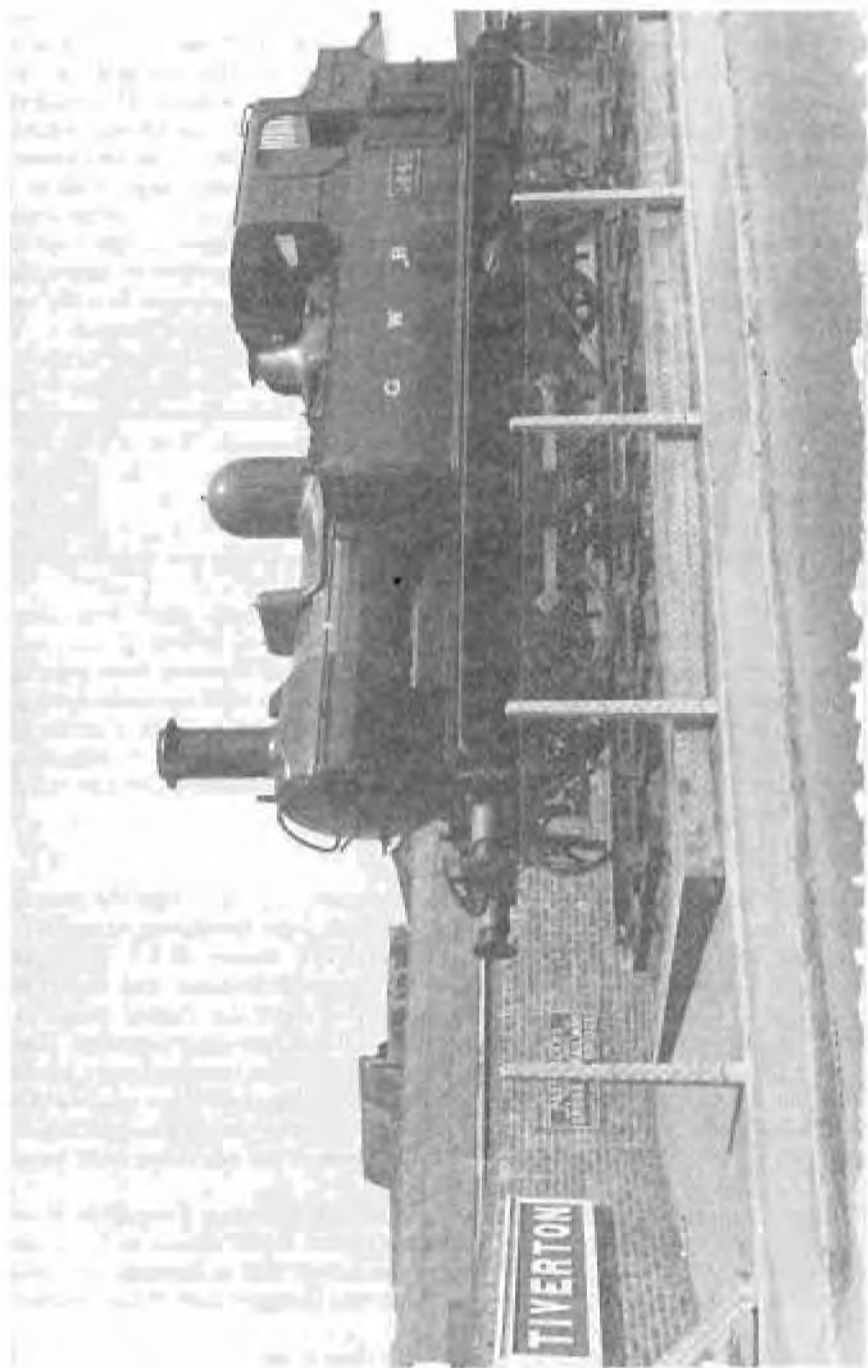
The museum currently entertains some 22,000 visitors each year, comprising individuals, families and parties from schools both within and outside Devon, and other parties ranging from local organisations to members of National Trust centres from other parts of the country. It enjoys a good reputation with the media having featured on television and local radio over the years, the latest being a series of programmes on BBC Radio Devon featuring the museum's collections. Articles also appear at regular intervals in the local, regional and specialised press and other publications.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Visitors enter the museum by the door of the former boys' hall, now the Amory gallery, named in honour of two early benefactors, Sir John Heathcoat Amory Bt., and his brother Lord Amory, (formerly Mr Derrick Amory M.P.), a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, Chancellor of Exeter University and the first President of the Museum Society. This connection with the Amory family is maintained by Sir Ian Heathcoat Amory, Bt., DL, our present president. The Amory gallery illustrates the history of Tiverton and district ranging from a model of the Roman fort at Bolham to the last century barrel piano, whose music often welcomes or says farewell to our visitors. This was used by the Salvation Army in the early 1900s to play hymns rather than, as at present, the pop music of 90 years ago!

There are also displays about famous Tivertonians including Bampfylde Moor Carew, the king of the gypsies, and a member of the Carew family of Bickleigh Castle; and Basil Cameron, the conductor of the Albert Hall promenade concerts, who went to school in the Amory gallery when it was the boys' hall of the National School.

The Britton and Dicken galleries connect the Amory gallery to the agricultural



The former 'Tivvy bumper' locomotive now housed at Tiverton Museum.

hall. The Britton gallery contains a collection of cups, saucers, plates and souvenirs bearing reference to Tiverton and neighbouring villages, as well as to national events over the years. Our collection of clocks ranges from the original mechanisms of the three major public clocks in the town (the Market House, St. George's Church and Heathcoat's Factory) to the wall clock from the net folding department of John Heathcoat & Co, which has a papier mache case embellished with mother-of-pearl. Here also is the 'Dunsford' collection of model aircraft, illustrating machines used for flight from the Wright brothers to the space craft that landed on the moon. The upper floor of this gallery displays early fossils located in Mid Devon, baths and cameras of previous years, items from a local dentist who practised between 1900-1950, and the stocking knitting machine of Miss Peters who was to be seen working it each week in Tiverton Market.

Passing into the Dicken gallery, one goes by the entrance to the former headmaster's garden, where the Silvertown smithy display can be seen. In the Dicken gallery is a range of domestic items used in the day to day life of homes of previous years. These include ovens, stoves, kettles and pans as well as smaller items such as butterpats, sugar lump cutters and nutmeg graters. Here also is a display on the little known local industry of whetstones. These were quarried at Blackborough, and used for the sharpening of scythes and sickles.

The agricultural hall is almost a mini-museum in itself; this substantial collection of implements and tools contains several rarities, such as the oxen-yokes, the 17th century cider-screw and the so called 'Norwegian harrow' which is possibly the only one in existence.

The Heathcoat lace machine gallery, reached from this hall, is devoted entirely to John Heathcoat, the inventor of the first lace making machine and the factory he established in Tiverton in 1816. On display is a Heathcoat designed, and Tiverton made, bobbinet lace machine, built in 1853 and used until the mid 1960s. Also featured is the use of Heathcoat silk tulle in the bridal veils of members of the Royal family from Queen Adelaide to H.R.H. The Princess of Wales.

The round of the former National School premises is completed by passing through the former headmaster's house. This now provides downstairs, the exhibition gallery, where loan and locally arranged exhibitions are held, and upstairs, the costume gallery, currently closed for repairs and changing of displays.

From the lower Britton gallery, a passage leads to the yard and the outside galleries. In this are displayed laundry items used in the former Knightshayes House laundry at Bolham (the waterwheel, from whence, is to be seen on the museum forecourt), and in ordinary homes over the years. The yard houses a display of locally made ploughs and other agricultural implements, a 16ft overshot waterwheel made in Tiverton at the end of the last century, and, a more modern exhibit, a G.P.O. telephone box in use in the town until 18 months ago.

Across the yard, in the Alford gallery, is the collection of Devon farm waggons collected by the Alford brothers of Netherex, including four rare Devon ship waggons and other locally made horse drawn items. The Authers gallery houses the 'Tivvy Bumper', the G.W.R. 0-4-2T tank locomotive No. 1442, given to the town by Lord Amory, along with other items of railwayana illustrating the history of the Exe and Culm Valley lines. Here also are displays on the Grand Western Canal and Patchquick Ltd., a local firm who pioneered adhesive rubber patches for mending inner tubes.

SOURCES FOR RESEARCHERS

Whilst the exhibits themselves form an important resource for the researcher, another facility which is of interest to historians is the museum library. This holds the bound copies of the *Tiverton Gazette* and other papers in that series from 1866-1939, as well as those of the *Devon & Somerset News* from 1895 to 1983, when it ceased publication. Records and ephemera relating to John Heathcoat & Co., Starkey, Knight & Ford Ltd., and many of the former local shops and tradespeople are held as are those relating to local government, hospitals, railways and the Grand Western Canal. There is also a large photographic collection showing the people, activities and buildings of Tiverton and district from 1875 onwards. Over the past twenty years, these archives have provided material for a range of publications on the history of Tiverton and the surrounding area.

The latest facility to be offered, as from 11 July, is that of providing an archive service point at the museum for Devon Record Office. Microfiche/microfilms of the parish registers and tithe maps of local parishes held in the Devon Record Office, Exeter, will be available for use. On the second Tuesday afternoon of each month an assistant archivist from the Record Office will be in attendance at the museum to give advice, and, by prior request, will bring material from Exeter to meet special needs.

The museum is open from 1 February to 21 December, Monday to Saturday (bank holidays included) from 10.30am to 4.30pm. The library and archive service point is open most Wednesdays from 10.30am-12.45pm and 2.30pm-4.30pm, and the second Tuesday afternoon in each month from 1.30pm-4.30pm, otherwise by prior appointment with the hon. curator. Visits by schools, local history societies, and other organisations/groups are welcome, and can, subject to prior arrangement, be made outside the museum's normal opening hours. Enquiries re party visits and for access to the museum library/archive service point should be made to the Hon. Curator, Tiverton Museum, St. Andrew Street, Tiverton, Devon. EX16 6PH. Tel. No. Tiverton (0884) 256295.

THE EXETER ASSIZE BALL OF 1789

Adrian Reed

Assizes were held in March and July each year, the former lasting longer because of the greater number of robberies committed in the dark nights. Both were the major occasions of the Exeter social year. The main Devon families descended on the city, hotels and inns were booked out and many took rooms in private houses. The men talked county business with each other and their womenfolk visited the shops but they all went to the March Assize Ball. This was held in the Assembly Rooms of 'The Hotel', now the Royal Clarence. The proprietor, T. Thompson, announced in the *Flying Post* that there would be two Public Balls, on 17 and 18 March 'on the usual terms' which leaves some doubt as to whether the main ball, that given by the Sheriff, was at his own expense or by subscription, or, indeed, if two balls were not necessary to satisfy the numbers involved. Perhaps the Sheriff presided over both. If Thompson's 'usual terms' were the same as those he advertised for a Supper and Ball in 1793² the cost would have been five shillings for a Lady's ticket and half a guinea for a Gentleman's but with 'Tea and supper, wine etc included'. Dancing at less fashionable hosteleries was cheaper.

Jane Austen and other contemporary writers have described what happened on these occasions but the practice of newspapers telling their readers who was there and what they wore came later. All we have for Exeter in 1789 is a poem published in Bath that year called 'The Winter Assembly or Provincial Ball. A Poem inscribed to the Ladies of the West.'³ The writer wisely chose anonymity. It is not a very good poem, anticipating McGonigal rather than following Gray and Pope who seem to have been his models. The theme is the hackneyed one of the inferiority of provincial to metropolitan manners. It is slightly redeemed by such couplets as:

'... The ready waiter takes his stand
to usher in the regimental band.'

The poet does not think much of the ladies of the west, 'full blown nymph and faded dowager' sitting in their 'father'd rows' although he does allow they are 'if fat not clumsy, if thin genteel' but then, they 'get to town but every other year'. He is even harder on the accompanying squire who:

'unknowing of pas graves, he tastes his legs
And cuts at corners as he trod on eggs.'

Yet:

'All men of education dance
E'en those who never saw the coast of France.'

For these skills, he explains, they had to thank Louis, the Exeter dancing master. The Directories show John Louis as living in Magdalen Street where a Miss Louis kept a Ladies' Academy. Surprisingly, the only other dancing master recorded at that time is a M. Boutmont of Castle Street. Perhaps the squirearchy were generally resistant to these ballroom activities since fairly quickly:

'some tired of empty forms and etiquette
Retire to solid supper, or a bet.'

This is understandable when their more active colleagues go on 'to beat the ground to atoms with their feet.'

In so far as the poem has a central character it is Matilda, an avowed fortune hunter:

'The army and the navy are my dread,
I like not loyal vagabonds in red
Give me an heir to title and to pelf
Who by his wealth can raise me 'bove myself.'

Quite properly, her machinations fail and the poem closes with her repining:

'Can Devon's bogs and Exon's poisoned air
With sweet level Middlesex compare?'

She would have found a sympathetic hearer in the young wartime evacuee who described the county as: 'all 'ellish 'ills and 'orrid 'ush.'

One assumes that the poem was printed at its author's expense.

1. Flying Post. 12 March 1789.
2. Flying Post. 18 January 1793.
3. Published at Bath by Cruttwell.

THE DEVON SITES AND MONUMENTS REGISTER

Frances Griffith

The Devon Sites and Monuments Register (hereafter SMR) is a map-based record system covering archaeological and historical sites and buildings throughout the county with the exception of central Exeter. It was established in 1975 by the Devon Committee for Rescue Archaeology (DCRA), a sub-committee of Devon Archaeological Society, and in 1979 Devon County Council assumed responsibility for its maintenance. It is currently housed in the Property Department in County Hall, where it may be consulted by appointment (Exeter 272266).

The SMR, since its inception, has aimed both to abstract relevant material from published sources and to act as a primary repository for otherwise unpublished material. The original format of the SMR was very much the work of its first curator, Tom Greeves (now with Common Ground in London) and the two hon. secretaries of DCRA—Mrs Henrietta Miles (now Quinell) and Dr Susan Pearce, and in its early years' work was funded by grants from DoE and the Manpower Services Commission, with much voluntary input from DAS members. Since 1979 the primary running costs have been met by DCC with intermittent grant-aid from DoE and MSC.

The object of the SMR is not so much to contain all the archaeological information on everything in the county as to act as an index to all known sources of information. Its chronological scope is wide, ranging from pleistocene deposits to sites constructed in World War II. In subject matter it ranges from classic and easily identified archaeological sites like hillforts to the findspots of artefactual material (often an indicator of *in situ* archaeological deposits) and fieldnames. A programme of accession of the DoE's lists of 'listed' historic buildings is in train, but will necessarily not be complete for several years in view of the number of buildings involved.

The primary published sources accessioned to the SMR comprise the local archaeological publications—*Proc DAS*, *Trans D.A.*, *DCNQ* and others, plus all the principal national learned journals. The abstraction of the latter is probably a particularly valuable service to local users: to a researcher examining a single small Devon chapel site the sole published reference in a learned journal of 1860 is likely to be fairly inaccessible. In the early years of SMR creation the record cards of the Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey—in many ways the oldest 'SMR' of them all—were a very important source. More recently the evidence of archaeological aerial reconnaissance has been an important source: material photographed by Cambridge University, by RCHME and more recently by the writer, has been recorded and a joint project with RCHME resulted in basic scale 6" sketch plotting of existing Dartmoor photography. A set of the RAF 1946-7 vertical 6" air survey forms part of the SMR collection, together with numerous oblique photographs from other sources.

It is not possible here to list all the other published sources from which information has been taken for the SMR—the Industrial Archaeology series of David & Charles would be just one example. The contributions of numerous local fieldworkers and documentary researchers must however be mentioned here. A volunteer programme involving members of Devon Archaeology Society has been

running since the start of the SMR and many Tithe Maps and other documents have been transcribed for the SMR. The SMR forms an essential element in the DAS parish checklist programme. Checklists for twelve parishes have been published to date: their detailed records are housed in the SMR and form a major element in the total information recorded for each of the parishes covered. More scattered, but equally important, are the many 'one off' records of sites newly discovered and sent in by DAS members and other local fieldworkers every year. The contribution of the record of newly identified sites not only provides a form of publication of the information itself but also permits an element of protection to be offered to the site, since the SMR is also the primary tool in the consideration of planning applications, road lines, pipeline routes etc. by the County Council's archaeological staff. 'Putting the site on the map' is thus the first step in a process that can lead to full-scale rescue excavation of a threatened site.

Since its earliest days, information from the SMR has been stored on the computer of Exeter University through the good offices of Professor W Ravenhill the Chairman of DCRA and Professor Joyce Youings, and both Mr Ivan Dixon and later Mr Brad Bagilhole of the University Computer Unit have played a key role in the development of the system. As the SMR has grown—it now contains some 35,000 records—the importance of computer retrieval has increased. Most SMR enquiries concern a fairly limited geographical area and can thus best be addressed by direct use of the maps and records, but any potential user who feels that a more complex inquiry can be helped by computer retrieval techniques is invited to discuss it with the writer.

The SMR is, however, far more than just its computer 'file'. The SMR office at County Hall contains files of unpublished records (which can of course only be used with their owners' consent), aerial photographs from various sources and transcriptions of the Dartmoor material, Ordnance Survey record cards, an almost complete set of the 6" County series maps, survey plans etc. Members of the public are welcome to visit and use the SMR and they are asked to telephone (Exeter 272266) in advance of a visit both so that space will be available for them and so that any particular requirements can be discussed in advance.

Postal enquiries should be addressed to County Sites and Monuments Register, Amenities & Countryside Division, Property Department, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QQ.

DHS CONFERENCE AT COMBE MARTIN

To call a one-day conference 'memorable' may seem somewhat excessive but it is unlikely that any members or visitors present on that glorious June Saturday would disagree. The mixture was just right—a real feeling of welcome (even the aspiring corps de ballet seemed impressed!), an appetising pre-view display by the Combe Martin Local History Group, a real gem of a talk in the morning on the area's silver mines, the guided walk-about, a character-filled pub for lunch and then an insight into the thinking behind Adult Education programmes. Top that with a Combe Martin strawberries 'n' cream tea and thank you, Robin Stanes and your Combe Martin friends for the organisation—it will be a hard act to follow.

And even for all those who were unable to join us, there is still a chance to share our enjoyment, as a *History of Combe Martin* is to be published towards the end of the year and, whilst the pre-publication offer for subscribers will have closed before this journal goes to print, members of the Devon History Society are invited to order a copy in advance at a post-free price of £5. Of about 120 pages, well illustrated with photographs and maps, this looks like being a popular addition to any local historian's bookshelf. Copies may be ordered, with payment, for delivery upon publication (in time for Christmas!) from The Combe Martin Local History Group, Mr Michael Beaumont, 4 Kingsley Terrace, High Street, Combe Martin, EX34 0EW.

D.E.

GETTING INTO PRINT . . .

One of the areas of concern raised at the last DHS Conference centred on the problems of getting relatively small booklets published. A group of members present at Combe Martin felt that it should be possible to put together enough practical guidance in both the financial and technical aspects of 'Getting into Print' to make possible either a one day seminar or article/booklet of helpful hints—or both.

As an initial exploratory move, it is suggested that anyone who could be interested in the outcome of such a venture or would like to suggest some lines of approach or offer the benefit of personal experience in achieving publication (no matter how small scale) is invited to make contact with the Society's Hon. Publicity Officer, David Edmund, 5 Lark Close, Exeter EX4 4SI, so that the degree of likely interest can be assessed and offers of possible assistance recorded.

DEVON RECORD OFFICE SERVICE POINTS

Just over a year ago, the North Devon Record Office was opened in Barnstaple which gave people wishing to consult old documents a third point of access in the county, the other two being in Exeter and Plymouth. However, these arrangements still meant that many people in the county had to travel well over 20 miles to their nearest branch and in June 1988 the Record Office, by kind permission of Devon Library Services, set up a service point in Torquay Local History Library for the

consultation of microfiche of the parish registers, tithe maps and tithe apportionments of parishes in the Torquay area. An archivist was also in attendance on one afternoon a month and on those occasions the microfiche of other records could be ordered for consultation.

This summer the Record Office will be setting up three more service points—at Colyton in the Sunday School Room (by kind permission of Colyton Local History Society and Colyton PCC), at Tiverton Museum and at the Museum of Dartmoor Life in Okehampton (by kind permission of the respective Curators). Leaflets will be available in these places and from the Devon Record Office in Castle Street, Exeter (tel. Exeter 273509) which give details of the coverage of the microfiche and the dates when the archivist will be visiting the three centres.

*Margery Rowe,
County Archivist,
Devon Record Office.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From Professor Walter Minchinton

Reading the North Devon mill book, which I review in this issue of the Devon Historian, I was surprised to see amongst the preliminary matter the following statement:

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the North Devon Archaeological Society.

I wonder whether those who prepared this volume for the press noticed that this statement was going to be included for is it not contrary to their intention in publishing it? After all this time wouldn't they want the information contained in their pamphlet to be as widely disseminated as possible? Although without a secret police I suspect that the statement is unenforceable, this clause now seems to be included without thought in many books for which it is inappropriate. Could I urge publishers, compilers, authors and any one else involved in publishing to resist the inclusion of this clause unless there is good cause. It seems to me to be against the free trade in information and therefore undesirable.

Although many publishers also still carry this rather cumbersome statement, agreement with Professor Minchinton comes from other literary authorities. Printing of the statement appears to date from the 1960s when it was intended to prevent total copying of books by certain foreign countries at a time when pirating was common, although it was probably not totally successful. It appears that copyright law, as it stands, allows extracts for reviews and 'quotes' (up to a page or so) in other publications (presumably when they are acknowledged formally) and photocopies on that scale. Therefore this elaborate declaration would not help in such instances as a court case could not succeed within those parameters. *Ed.*

The Book of Bideford by Alison Grant and Peter Christie. Buckingham, Barracuda Books, 1987, 116pp. £15.95. ISBN 0 86023 284 0.

Sixty-five pages of photographs make this a most lavishly illustrated volume. Furthermore, the plates are of exemplary quality and not the greyish grainy blurs of some other series. Barracuda books are very much produced to a standard format and so we have a collection of studies of location and economy, institutions and people. The history of the borough is traced from the thirteenth century and with it the famous bridge with its 24 arches and 677 feet. Elizabethan Bideford gloried in Sir Richard Grenville and the profits from privateering, cloth exports and the Newfoundland fish trade. The evidence remains in the merchants' houses; but in common with many other Devonshire towns Bideford was in decline by the end of the eighteenth century, by the end of the next shipbuilding had disappeared. The sea and the Torridge dominated the life and history of the town's communications till the railway arrived in 1855. That event might have sent the town into a terminal decline into sleepy redundancy but for the nation-wide interest in Bideford created by Charles Kingsley so that tourists and the facilities created for them created a boom in the second half of the nineteenth century. Not only did tourists have the diversions outlined by Grant and Christie, so did the local population with assemblies, concerts and amateur theatricals; and less respectably, drink. The last illustrates authority's age old concern with drink and the demoralisation of the lower orders so conspicuous today. In the 1620s there was concern over the number of ale houses while in 1842 Bideford's sole policeman faced a riot when he arrested a drunk on the Quay. The two final sections of the book illustrate religion and education and their considerable diversities where occurs another of Bideford's famous names, Benjamin Donn.

Here we have a book which should please the people of Bideford and draw those of more distant parts to its history. What a pity Dr Beeching did not leave the railway line alone.

J.H. Porter

Shipbuilding on the River Exe. The Memoranda Book of Daniel Bishop Davy (1799-1874) of Topsham, Devon. Edited by Clive N. Ponsford. Devon and Cornwall Record Society. New Series, Vol. 31. 134pp. Illustrated, from the Assistant Secretary, 7 The Close, Exeter. £9.00. ISBN 0 901853 31 3.

Daniel Bishop Davy was the son of his more famous father Robert who became the dominant and most successful shipbuilder on the Exe during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars and in the years immediately following them. He completed 16 vessels for the Royal Navy, winning substantial premiums for finishing several in less than the contract time. He also built many merchantmen including a 600 ton East Indiaman at his (Countess) Wear yard. She, like some of the ships launched

from his Topsham slips, had to be floated into deep water with the aid of 'camels'. In the life of his father, printed here as an appendix, his son Francis claims that he was the biggest shipbuilder, lime burner and coal merchant in the West of England for a generation from 1790. It was the family kilns, fed by a thousand barge loads a year, that led from the repair of those barges to the construction of sea going ships. Robert Davy died just short of his century in 1862.

By 1820 the shipbuilding business had left the Countess Wear area and was concentrated in the Passage yard at Topsham which Daniel took over in 1826, and ran until the family gave up making ships in 1846. His memoranda book is a fascinating miscellany. In 1818 and 1819 he went up the east coast as far as Newcastle and across to Greenock promoting another family interest, the sale of timber for shipbuilding. He called at a number of yards and examined critically their products . . . 'builds nothing but slops' (Hythe) . . . 'very small bad sappy frames such as no one of judgement would allow' (Weymouth) . . . but also 'very fine ships' (Greenock). He also commented on the builders themselves. One who, not surprisingly, had just failed 'used to drink a great deal and build at low prices' while it would be wise to place 'no dependence on the Hull people'. This may have been partly sour grapes as he admits to little interest in his samples. Back in Topsham he notes the costings, material and labour for some Davy ships and gives detailed dimensions of all the components of others. He lists a score or more built between 1817-1827 and examines their performances. He draws up schedules of the family property afloat and ashore and analyses the costs of lime production from the family kilns for 1822. To these notes the editor has added contract documents for the building of two vessels, newspaper reports and a useful glossary.

Mr Ponsford has done a great service in making these papers available to a wide range of interests: to the social and economic historian as well as to the maritime. The quality of the production is high and the illustrations clear and well chosen. The last nautical theme chosen by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society was their excellent *Early Chancery Proceedings* and *West Country Shipping* in 1976. I hope that we do not have to wait a further twelve years for the next!

Adrian Reed

Letters to a Vicarage 1796-1815. The Letters of Lt. Col. J.H.E. Hill. Selected by Enid Case. Exeter: Oriol Press. 48pp. Illustrated. £2.95. ISBN 0 951161121.

From the Reformation down to the Second World War the English parsonage was a great nursery of officers for the fighting services. Hennock Vicarage was no exception. The Rev. John Hill, incumbent for 52 years, sent two of his four sons into the Navy and the eldest, John, the author of these letters into the Army. Commissioned in 1796 in the 23rd, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, he served continuously with that regiment except for two or three years in the Peninsular when he commanded a Portuguese batallion. His career took him on campaigns in the Low Countries, Egypt and the West Indies besides Spain and Portugal and on garrison duties in Canada, Malta and England. Frequently in action he survived such bloody battles as Albuera only to be so severely wounded in the last and greatest, Waterloo, that he was forced to retire from the Army. Unfortunately,

although he wrote home as frequently as he could, comparatively few of his letters have survived. Those that have, and from which a selection is now published by his great-granddaughter, make us regret the loss of so many more.

In writing these letters John Hill was doing the next best thing to sitting at his parents' fireside and telling them both of his adventures and of the little incidents of his daily life. His narrative and descriptive powers are impressive. His account of the wreck of the Dutch frigate *Valk* in which he and part of his regiment were returning to England in 1799 is a masterpiece of dramatic writing. His short paragraphs on Albuera convey completely the horrors and uncertainties of that terrible engagement.

His accounts of more commonplace things are equally worth reading. Fishing and hunting in Canada, health measures on board a transport, a coach trip in England, a thieving servant, his concern about promotion and even a recipe for boot polish all convey the impression of a man interested in his fellows and in the world about him. He had a great affection for his parents and we can quite understand, as Mrs Case tells us, that in their turn his children were devoted to him. Characteristically, his last letter written to his elder brother after Waterloo dwelt less on his own wounds than on the fate of his favourite charger killed shortly before he himself was hit.

Adrian Reed

Devon's Coastline and Coastal Waters. Aspects of Man's Relationship with the Sea. Edited by David J. Starkey (Exeter Maritime Studies No. 3.) Exeter University Publications 1988. 85pp. £4.50. ISBN 0 85989 314 6.

The six essays in this volume were presented at a Maritime History of Devon project symposium in 1987. Of most interest to Devon historians is the study of the effects of climatic change on the herring and pilchard fisheries of Devon and Cornwall by three members of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. After careful examination of available evidence the writers conclude that the pilchard tends to flourish in relatively warm periods and the herring in cooler times, with considerable implications for individual fishing ports. Professor Ravenhill, while commenting on the historic difficulties experienced by cartographers in fixing the Lizard, a vital landfall for those sailing up Channel, also refers to the errors in Benjamin Donn's map of Devon. The other contributions are concerned more with the volume's subtitle than with Devon: the general implications of tidal range on ship and harbour design, how to handle a square rigged ship and the fictional account of a sail trading voyage in the Bristol Channel by a former Somerset coastal seaman.

Symposium papers naturally depend on the interests of contributors available at the time which no doubt explains the absence of any consideration of alterations in Devon's coastline, of the general effects of changes in climate and sea levels, of the consequences of such factors as husbandry and deforestation on river flows and with the gradual disappearance of so many south coast harbours. The authors deserved better of their publisher. The volume costs the same as No. 2. in the series which was a third longer, printed on better paper and well illustrated.

Adrian Reed

Port of Plymouth Series. Martin Langley and Edwina Small. Devon Books. 'Millbay Docks' 42pp. ISBN 0 86114-806-1. 'Merchant Shipping' 44pp. ISBN 0 86114 895 3. Illustrated. Both £2.95.

These booklets are the first of a projected series of 22 devoted to all aspects of the Port of Plymouth. This sectional approach makes any comprehensive historical assessment difficult and must lead to some overlapping. It also involves the reader in considerable expense if he intends to buy the whole story! The illustrations are good and extensive and some of the subjects would seem scarcely to justify separate volumes without them. 'Millbay Docks' is an example. Its history began effectively in 1844 with I.K. Brunel over the next few years developing the harbour system. The connection with the railway made Millbay a mail packet station, and at the same time a modest coastal and ocean freight trade was built up. From the 1870s Plymouth became the first port of call for liners from America. GWR tenders from Millbay collected passengers and freight from the great ships lying off in the Sound. All these activities have now ceased and the harbour today exists mainly for the cross Channel ferries and Ro-Ro ships.

In 'Merchant Shipping' the authors begin with the sailing vessels using Plymouth from the 1850s onwards. These were mostly coastal schooners and ketches. They list those owned in the city. They move on to describe the different types of steam ships using the port and then the great liners that lay off to collect and deliver passengers and mails by tender. They trace the decline in freight and passenger traffic and conclude that it is not easy to foresee a revival of merchant shipping activity at Plymouth.

Adrian Reed

Devon and the Armada by John Roberts. Gooday Publishers, Chichester, Sussex, 1988. £5.95. ISBN 1 870568 12 5. 281pp.

The author's work on the county's members of Parliament has given him a considerable knowledge of the middle and upper reaches of the society of Elizabethan Devon. It is to be regretted that he has chosen to use that information merely to fill out the now very familiar story of the defeat of the Spanish Armada. No opportunity is lost of displaying that knowledge, irrespective of its relevance to the context. It is assumed without serious questioning that the county played a major role in the events of 1588: indeed that assumption seems to be the reason for the book. But although the author seems to be drawing extensively on contemporary documents he nowhere attempts any discussion or evaluation. For instance in his chapter on the Militia, a subject for which there survives an almost embarrassing amount of source material, he merely concludes (p. 14) that as there was so much 'conscientious activity' in the northern counties (which is arguable), 'one can conclude that Devon, like Cornwall and other maritime counties, felt the obligation more keenly still.' There is, however, a wealth of interesting detail which readers will wish to follow up in the source references at the end of each chapter, only to find too often merely a remark such as 'A standard complaint'. It is particularly frustrating to be fobbed off with a reference to the author's London MA

thesis, without any indication of the relevant page. Indeed the references in general are most casually presented, with a minimum of punctuation. In fact, although the author does not see fit to say so, there is a copy of his thesis in the West Country Studies Library at Exeter.

Joyce Youings

A History of Devon County Council 1889-1989 by Jeffrey Stanyer. Exeter: Devon Books. 1989. 111pp. £4.95 (hardback) £3.95 (paperback). ISBN 0 86114 851 7.

This, the second volume to commemorate the centenary of Devon County Council, provides a contrast to the first volume, *Devon roads*, which was a splendidly illustrated substantial account compiled within County Hall. This *History* is an intentionally slim volume by a political scientist of whom we are told nothing. Surprisingly, to the cost of its publication Barclays Bank contributed. Has County Hall been privatised already? The book begins unpropitiously with an opaque statement that 'underlying the account and analysis presented here are a number of academic concepts and theories' whose nature is unexplained. The author continues that 'no individual references are given to the sources of information . . . Lack of space forbade this as a policy'. He then adds 'but in most cases the sources should be obvious to the reader'. To others perhaps but not to this reviewer. To explain his approach, he writes in his Preface that he has tried not to concentrate on the very early years of the County Council or on its present situation since 'in the eyes of the historian all years are equal and "entitled" to their fair share of space'. Not so: that is the way of annalists, not historians. Further apologising for the brevity of this essay, he says that in his interpretation of the history of Devon County Council he has decided to leave people out, both elected members and officers. The result is a faceless discussion of how the organisation of the County Council has changed over the past hundred years. My experience of the affairs of the County Council only covers the past twenty-five years but I think, in a decade when the Thatcher effect is supposed to be of some consequence nationally, that I can discern a Pinney effect and a Creber effect amongst elected members and that among officers, Joselyn Owen in education and Andrew Smy in property have not been without influence. And what about the work of successive county architects, has nothing worthy of comment been produced by them? Nor are we told what have been the major issues faced by the County Council. Anyone familiar with the Devon scene would like to know about the north-south divide in the county, the rationale of structure plans, the problems of road construction, the impact of Dartmoor National Park on the administration of the county, the reason why Devon comes so low in the list of counties as far as expenditure on education is concerned. Then could not credit have been given to some examples of enterprise by the County Council like the Devon Historic Buildings Trust and Devon Books where Devon has been amongst the earliest of councils to take such steps. Not that Devon Books couldn't do better. To produce a book without a list of illustrations and without an index makes it more difficult to use. Conventionally, too, centenary books such as this have an Appendix which contains summary statistics and a list of leading elected members and officers but these are also missing. In the absence of the customary preface by the

chairman of the County Council, it is difficult to understand how this volume came to be written. It is perhaps worth noting that the chairman of the County Council at the date of publication, Arnold Sayers, said that if members wanted copies they should buy them themselves, no free copies would be available. The celebration of the centenary of Devon County Council deserved better than this.

Walter Minchinton

North Devon Watermills edited by Josephine Thorpe. Barnstaple: North Devon Archaeological Society, 1989, 72pp. £5. ISBN 0 9514681 0 3.

At last! All those who have waited patiently for the results of the survey of watermills in North Devon originally carried out by members of the North Devon Archaeological Society directed by Thomas E. Spencer between 1971 and 1975 can now consult the information about 78 mills which were investigated. These accounts have been checked recently and as well as amendments to the original survey, information about a further 35 mills has been added. Thus we now have brief biographies of 113 mills in North Devon east of the Taw. The lists are prefaced by a brief history of North Devon watermills by Alison Grant. But welcome though this publication is, it is to be regretted that the entries are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the mill rather than its location and that there is no map showing where the mills are. Now that a listing of mills for part of North Devon has appeared in print and historical details about watermills in east Devon collected by Minda Phillips and Richard Wilson have been published in eleven parts in *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries*, volumes XXIII and XXIV (1974-1979), it would be nice to have coverage of the rest of Devon completed. Would that this pamphlet would inspire others to bring it about.

Walter Minchinton

Dartmoor Stone, by Stephen H. Woods. Devon Books 1988. 311pp. £20.00 hardback, £9.95 softback. ISBN 0 86114 843 6.

A collection of over 400 photographs illustrating various aspects of the Dartmoor scene from pre-history and historical times to the present day provide the substance of this handsome work. It is, in fact, one of great dedication, the pictures having been gathered by the author over a period of forty years, reflecting his close association with the moor, and is worthy of much congratulation.

Following a prologue contributed by John Weir (of whom we are told no more than the name) the book is divided into twelve chapters, which deal with geology; prehistoric memorials, habitations and pastoral life; post-Roman inscribed stones; boundaries, forest and pasture; the dwelling, the farmyard, the village; trackways and roads; the tin industry; and industrial workings. Unlike many current pictorial presentations in which colour predominates, all the photographs are in black and white. But this is of no detriment whatever. This particular medium is potentially ideal for depicting Dartmoor granite in fine detail, and in Mr Woods' skilful hands the high quality results are thoroughly effective. In just a few instances, however,

with no dimensions being given in the captions, the inclusion of a human figure, or hand, or a sheep or some other familiar object, would have been helpful in giving perspective, such as in the photos of the Beardown Man standing stone and the Powder Mills proving mortar, where the low-level shots give rather erroneous impressions of massive size.

Commendably, grid references are given throughout. Nevertheless, actual locations are not always easily clear from the captions for someone without a map readily at hand—for example in identifying the inscribed stones in Tavistock vicarage garden—unless one searches through the related text. A brief text is provided for each chapter and in reference to the pictures; many varied aspects are touched upon and, for some of these, more precise identification of written sources in addition to the general Bibliography would have been appreciated to enable further investigation by interested readers.

Undoubtedly the strength of this work lies in the superb photography and the book is one which will assuredly provide not only a valuable record of the Dartmoor scene but also constant pleasure in its perusal.

Helen Harris

The Dartmoor Reaves: Investigating prehistoric land divisions, by Andrew Fleming. Batsford, 1988. 135pp. £14.99. ISBN 0 7134 5665 5.

For those who have studied some of Andrew Fleming's previously published papers the awaited arrival of his book, plentifully illustrated with maps and black and white photographs, comes as a particular delight. Its text, while both thoroughly academic in progression and content, is eminently readable and full of interest. The account of his work on Dartmoor, in company with John Collis and other archaeologists, is told in a most pleasant way, so that the reader is drawn along almost compulsively, eager to start the next chapter.

Graduate of Cambridge University, and Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sheffield from 1967, Andrew Fleming has carried out archaeological work in various countries of the world, but one senses that none of his investigations have been closer to his heart than those he conducted on Dartmoor. These began in 1972 when, while directing a students' field course on Lee Moor, he became aware of a tumbled length of wall, joined to one side of a large walled prehistoric enclosure and 'disappearing into the distance along the side of the hill'. On looking further, he and his colleague noticed that on the other side of the enclosure there was another wall which appeared to continue the line. The discovery led to further searching which showed a proliferation of such ruined walls—known as reaves—across wide areas of the moor. Although the existence of reaves had been recorded in the 1820s, apart from the notable study by Elizabeth Gawne and John Somer Cocks (1968), the subject had received little attention. Searching for what scant information could be found in library sources, and further field exploration as opportunities allowed, revealed something of the possible significance and extent of these lines, some of which had previously been designated as 'trackways'. Evidently their purpose had been to delineate land boundaries, often, it was noted, in close association with the remains of Bronze Age dwellings. By 1974 Fleming had established a card index of all references to reaves, drawn from books, maps and aerial photographs (which

proved a particularly valuable aid to detection). By this time the considerable amount of field work that he had done in the matter had created sufficient favourable impressions for the Dartmoor Reave Project to be conceived, bringing support and help from many individuals and institutions, which enabled investigations to proceed in depth. The work was conducted in suitable seasons of succeeding years, up to 1986 and included excavation of selected sites with early dwellings. As a result, the existence of an extensive system of reaves, classified by Fleming in such terms as 'terminal', 'contour', 'watershed' and 'parallel', has been revealed and plotted, and dated by him as probably from around 1700-1600 B.C.

In his work on ancient land boundaries Andrew Fleming has considerably advanced our frontiers of Dartmoor knowledge, and his book will undoubtedly rate as a classic of the moor's literature. And one thing can be virtually guaranteed: for those accustomed to walking on the moor, reading this book will provide an entirely new dimension for future occasions.

Helen Harris

Around Kingsbridge in Old Photographs. Compiled by Kathy Tanner. Alan Sutton Publishing, 1988. £6.50. 116pp.

In this book a selection of old photographs belonging to the Cookworthy Museum in Kingsbridge illustrates about a hundred years of life in Kingsbridge and the part of the South Hams surrounding the town. The fine quality of many of the photographs and their interesting subjects are a tribute to the professional and amateur photographers of the period. It is inevitably a random collection, largely consisting of postcards which have been preserved by chance and given to the Museum by local residents; as a result there is little apparent theme and although the photographs are arranged by subject many of the subjects overlap. Informative underlines give dates and historical details as well as the names of places and often those of people. The book vividly illustrates the life and occupations in town and country and brings out the way people lived and worked together: for instance in the rhythm of a line of men scything corn, fishermen and their wives hauling up their boats, and the Jubilee celebrations in the street.

The collection of photographs is an important extension to the exhibits in the Cookworthy Museum and this book adds to the value of the Museum displays as well as being of great interest in itself. No book is published without mistakes: the 'flax' illustrated on p. 27 is New Zealand flax, an unusual crop for the South Hams, from which a fibre is produced for making string, not the flax more usually grown in this country for linen and linseed.

As the illustrations are arranged by subject an index of places would have been helpful.

H.M. Petter

A Survey of the Cider Barn and Press at Blagdon House Farm, near Paignton. Report by the Buildings Section of the Devonshire Association (October 1988).

Over the years the Devonshire Association has played a prominent role in

promoting the study of historic buildings. Its newly formed Buildings Section reflects the growing public interest in (and concern for) such structures and this first survey shows that the Section intends to be more than a 'talking shop'.

The Cider Barn at Blagdon lies less than two miles from Paignton town centre and has suffered the almost inevitable fate of being subject to planning permission for residential conversion. Thus this survey by P.H. Newton and other committee members of the Buildings Section will serve as a valuable historical record. The report consists of four pages of text, two sets of plans and a dozen photos. It is clearly written and attractively presented (on recycled paper). The architectural description which covers many details is supplemented by an interesting summary of the cider making process based on local recollections.

Overall the report should serve as an example for others to follow. Throughout the Devon countryside there are barns 'just down the lane' which are being converted without any historical record being made. This report shows how such a record can be prepared, and, for anyone who has the interest but lacks the confidence it shows that there is now an active Buildings Section of the DA which they would be most welcome to join.

Simon Timms

Chulmleigh Girls' School, later the Primary School. R.C.M. Bass, 1989. 54pp. Illustrated—available from the author, Glebe Cottage, Chulmleigh EX18 7BY. £1.50 plus 35p post.

'The school is fortunate in its staff: the Head Mistress and her two assistants, who have served here for many years, are devoted to their calling and unsparing in their efforts on behalf of the children. The results of their work are distinctly encouraging: the children apply themselves to their lessons, they are friendly to the visitor and conduct themselves in an exemplary manner.' In what Richard Bass aptly calls a glowing report, the Ministry of Education's inspectors so viewed Chulmleigh Primary School in 1945—and in some contrast to many earlier official comments with, perhaps, the one exception: longevity of service. How many schools can claim headships of 25, 24, 20 and 18 years; clerk/correspondents for 34 and 29 years and a manager who served from 1889 to 1925? Whenever possible drawing on personal reminiscences to amplify the range of gleanings from log books and minutes of managers' meetings, this book succeeds in creating for the reader an empathy with the life of these schools rather than some mere educational chronology.

Constantly through these fact-packed and yet very readable pages one is struck by the amazing odds against which the staff had to battle as instanced by the inspector's 1899 recommendation that 'the staff be at once strengthened'—in fact, the 'staff' of the Infants School was just Miss Alice Wade faced with over 70 on the register between the ages of three and seven (although, as the author observes, there must have been some mistress help from the Girls' School). A forward looking idea of 1922 is noted with the introduction of practical housewifery and cookery classes for twelve girls from Chulmleigh and Chawleigh at the White Hart restaurant. Present day school managers and staff will have a wry smile at the constant requests by their 1920s counterparts in Chulmleigh for the installation of electric

light—all of no avail until the W.E.A. secretary wrote direct to the County Education Committee and gained a prompt response to their request!

Numbers reached an all-time peak in 1940 when 170 evacuees boosted the school role to 260, a far cry from the late 19th century when income was largely at the mercy of Her Majesty's Inspectors whose code of annual tests supplemented the payment per pupil on register by 4/- for a pass in mainly the 3Rs and a further 3/- for a pass in certain other subjects.

One final particularly satisfying point in this modestly priced little book is the inclusion of a centre four-page spread of gloss art paper which has enabled the reproduction of six photograph groups of staff and students with a fine clarity and sharpness. So often the available and recognisable detail in this kind of illustration is lost in the cheaper forms of modern reproduction. Ten out of ten, Mr Bass.

David Edmund

Farringdon, A Devon Church and Parish. Howard Senar 1988. 160pp. Illustrated. ISBN 0 9511950 1 8.

It is often claimed that local history authors are too parochial, with a blinkered view of events beyond their own horizons. Here is the very antithesis of any such limitation! Developing the style and format of his previous volume *Aylesbeare*, Canon Senar has the happy knack of being able to show how his small-scale subject has been involved in events far beyond its borders. A true blend of local, national and international history as, when recounting events leading up to the execution of Charles I, he is able to add, almost as an aside, 'The son of John Travers, Rector of Farringdon had been one of his Chaplains. John Gauden was another, and he was to become Bishop of Exeter in 1660.'

Running parallel to these essentially retrospective links—and however tenuous they may seem, links they nevertheless are—is a vision of a parish 'on the fringe', Bishop's Court, for long just within Farringdon but, after the 1931 alteration of ecclesiastical boundaries, now in adjacent Sowton, brought many Bishops of Exeter to the parish and the custom grew that each would spend the night before his Enthronement in the Cathedral in the chapel at Bishop's Court. Always, of course, on the geographical fringe of Exeter and thereby caught up in its events, twentieth century Farringdon had new neighbours in Exeter Airport and, very soon, the Devon County Showground.

Whether by the chance happening of involvement or through just being nearby, Canon Senar's concept of this 'Devon Church and its Parish' offers a bonus refresher course in appreciating contemporary events of a much broader compass which always manage to complement and not overshadow the church, community and acres of Farringdon.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Kingsbridge History Society Recorder I SSN 0955 9272. Issue No. 1 of what is intended to be a twice-yearly production is a neat, handy 15-page pamphlet, with

articles on matters relating to Kingsbridge and useful information for local historians. The object of the publication is so that Kingsbridge History Society can keep a record of its findings, for members, relevant institutions and the general public. Edited by Anne Born, and obtainable either from her or Ann Lidstone, copies are also available at the Cookworthy Museum and at certain libraries and record offices, price 75p.

The Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, Torquay—a guide to its history and treasures by R.H. Rooke. Of 18 pages, this attractive booklet, published in 1988, which includes numerous illustrations and maps, traces the history of the Roman Catholics in the area now called Torquay, but formerly the Manor of Tormoham. The present church building, in Abbey Road, is described in detail. Copies obtainable by post, price £1, from The Presbytery, Abbey Road, Torquay.

The contribution of the Holdsworths and Newman families to Dartmouth by Ray Freeman. This is a reprint of Mrs Freeman's article first published in the *Devon Historian* in October 1985. After seeking the permission of the Devon History Society the Dartmouth Museum Society has had copies printed and these are on sale at Dartmouth Museum, from where they are also available by post for 75p. Members of the Dartmouth Society hope in the future to publish further similar pamphlets dealing with aspects of history in the town.

A guide to St. Peter's Church, Brampford Speke by Nicholas Orme. 9 pages, illustrations, maps, plans. This scholarly, readable, well-produced booklet costs £1.50 and is obtainable post-free from the author at: Cob Corner, Brampford Speke, Exeter EX5 5DP.

NOTICES

Due to failures in some postal deliveries in the Whitchurch area of Tavistock during the early summer, which resulted in a quantity of mail being lost, it is possible that the Editor may not have received some items intended for her. If any member posted material at that time and has not received an acknowledgment, please get in touch.

Correction. In 'Devon Centenaries' published in the April issue of the *Devon Historian* (No. 38) the name 'Lord Blackford' was given as having died in 1889. This was incorrect, and should have been Lord Blachford. A member of the Rogers family of Plymouth and Cornwood, he was noted locally for his connection with Dame Hannah Rogers School, giving the land at Ivybridge for the school's new building when it moved there from Plymouth in 1888. In 1959 the school, for severely disabled children, moved to its present premises facing the A38. We apologise for the error and thank Mrs Tamsyn Blaikie for pointing it out.

Members' projects. The Devon History Society would be glad to hear from any members currently involved in history projects in the county.

University of Exeter
CENTRE FOR SOUTH-WESTERN HISTORICAL STUDIES:
FOURTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
UNITY AND VARIETY:
THE CHURCH IN THE SOUTH-WEST OF ENGLAND FROM 1050
TO THE PRESENT DAY
A Study Day, 3-4 November, 1989

This is a unique chance to study the history of the Church in the South West during the last 900 years. Six lecturers will cover all the main topics: monasticism, parish churches, the Reformation, non-conformity, the Victorian era, and the twentieth-century Church.

As well as giving a general outline of local Church history, the day will focus on Unity and Variety. Churches unite people, and encourage them to believe and behave in the same way. Religion also inspires some people to reject established systems and to go their own way. The lecturers will show how these tendencies have interacted, sometimes peacefully, sometimes violently.

Church history has shaped the churches of today. The conference will therefore be of interest and value not only to historians, but to anyone involved in a modern church or wishing to understand modern religion.

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER 5.15pm at The Moot Room, Amory Building, Exeter University. Admission free.

THE 19th CENTURY, with special reference to the Church of England (Canon J.A. Thurmer, Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral)
(This is the University's twentieth HARTE LECTURE on local history).

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER at the Moot Room, Amory Building, Exeter University (admission by prior application or (subject to space) on the day. Registration fee: £3.50 per person (Centre members £2.50) to include morning coffee and afternoon tea).

10.00-10.30 ARRIVAL, COFFEE, REGISTRATION, at Streatham Court, opposite the Moot Room. There is a big free car park nearby.

10.30-11.15 THE CHURCH FROM 1050 TO 1300 (Prof C.J. Holdsworth).

11.20-12.05 THE LATER MIDDLE AGES AND THE REFORMATION (Prof N.I. Orme).

12.10-12.55 THE 17th AND 18th CENTURIES (Dr J. Barry)

1.00- 2.15 LUNCH HOUR and BOOK EXHIBITION (Lunch and drinks can be bought at the Northcott Theatre, or you can bring sandwiches. The AGM of the Centre for South-Western Historical Studies will be held for *members only* during the lunch hour. Please refer to the Newsletter).

2.15- 3.00 THE 19th CENTURY, with special reference to the non-Anglican churches (Dr B.I. Coleman).

3.05- 3.50 THE 20th CENTURY (The Rt Revd P. Coleman, Bishop of Crediton).

3.50- 4.15 TEA

4.15- 5.00 DISCUSSION by audience and panel of lecturers.

Please apply to Mrs S. Stirling, Centre for South-Western Historical Studies, Devon & Exeter Institution, 7 The Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ.

Exeter University Publications

NEW TITLES

Innovation in Shipping and Trade edited by Stephen Fisher, Exeter Maritime Studies No. 6.

The papers in this collection revolve around the issue of innovation in shipping and trade, in widely ranging periods and settings. Thus, there are discussions of the famed Greek warship, the trireme, of c. 400BC; of the introduction of steam screw propulsion into the British mercantile marine and the Royal Navy in the 1840s; and of tardy innovation in P & O between 1914 and 1932. Innovation in trade is represented by studies of a North Devon merchant active in English commercial expansion in the early seventeenth century; and of the British opening up of trade and ports on the South African coast in the early nineteenth century. The collection, which includes a fascinating essay on the utility of the picture postcard for maritime historical research, is introduced by the editor.

Paperback, c. 192 pages, illustrated. Provisional price £7.50.
0 85989 327 8 October 1989.

J.H. Trounson The Cornish Mineral Industry: Past Performance and Future Prospect edited by Roger Burt and Peter Waite. Published by the University of Exeter in association with the National Association of Mining History Organisations.

This book commemorates the work of Jack Trounson, who was one of the leading twentieth-century authorities on Cornish mining and the greatest exponent of its future potential. He had an unparalleled ability to marshal a wealth of detail on the past working of mines and use it to point to places where minerals might still be worked at a profit. The articles collected here were first published during the Second World War but remain an up-to-date guide for historians, prospectors and planners alike. A leading member of the Cornish Institute of Engineers, the Cornish Mining Development Association, the Cornish Chamber of Mines and the Trevithick Society, few have done more to preserve that county's industrial past and promote its future prosperity.

Paperback, c. xxii + 198 pages, 16 plates. £9.30 net.
0 85989 334 0 August 1989.

University of Exeter Press, Reed Hall, Streatham Drive, Exeter EX4 4QR.
(0392 263066).
