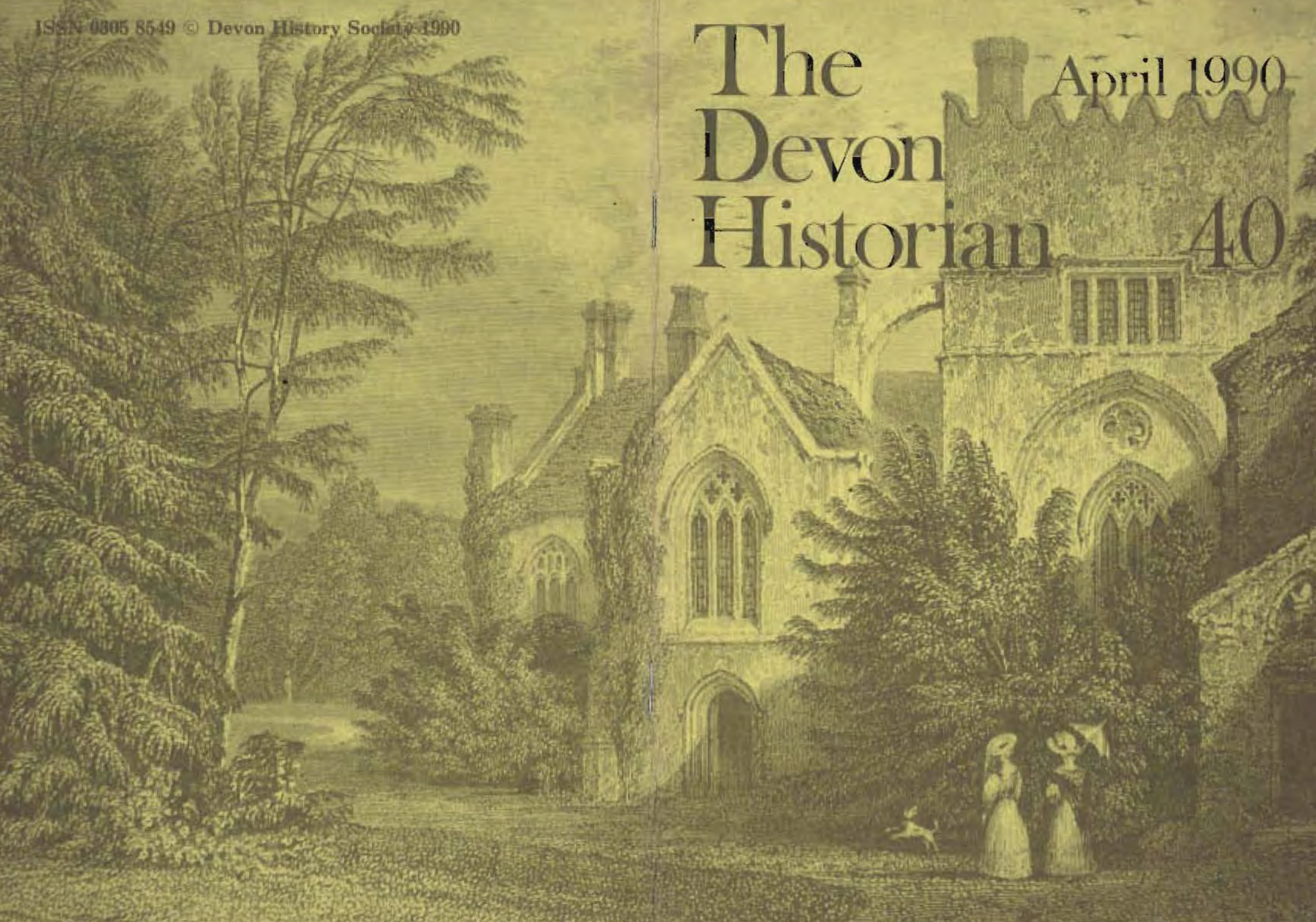


# The Devon Historian

April 1990  
40



# DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

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All correspondence relating to membership, personal local history interests and offers of work or assistance should be sent to the Vice Chairman, John Pike, 82 Hawkins Avenue, Chelston, Torquay TQ2 6ES.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

*The Devon Historian* is available free to all members of the Devon History Society. Membership subscriptions for the current year are as follows: Individual: £5.00; Family: £6.00; Libraries, Museums, Schools and Record Offices: £5.00; Institutions and Societies: £7.00. Please send subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, David Edmund, 5 Lark Close, Pennsylvania, Exeter EX4 4SL.

## THE DEVON HISTORIAN

Correspondence relating to *The Devon Historian* and contributions for publication should be sent to Mrs Helen Harris, Hon. Editor, *The Devon Historian*, Hironelles, 22 Churchill Road, Whitechurch, Tavistock PL19 9BU. The deadline for the next issue is 1 July 1990. Books for review should be sent to Mrs S. Stirling, c/o Devon & Exeter Institution, 7 The Close, Exeter, EX1 1EZ, who will invite the services of a reviewer. It is not the policy of the Society to receive unsolicited reviews.

## DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY CONFERENCES

There is not to be a conference in March this year, but a special Twentieth Anniversary occasion is being planned, which it is hoped will be held at Buckland Abbey, near Tavistock, on 19 May. Provisional arrangements are for a Summer conference at Hartland, on 30 June, and the Annual General Meeting at Exeter on 13 October.

The print on the cover is *Buckland Abbey, Devonshire, the seat of Sir Trayton Fuller Elliott Drake, Bart.*, steel engraving by E. Challis after T. Allom, published Fisher, London, 1832. (Somers Cocks 300)

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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). Bibliographies for more recent years are available from Devon Library Services.

The Vice-Chairman, Mr John Pike, 82 Hawkins Avenue, Chelston, Torquay TQ2 6ES, would be glad to acquire copies of the out-of-stock numbers of *The Devon Historian* listed above.

### 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.: 25 March 1990, etc.

## TWENTY YEARS OF DEVON HISTORY

Robin Stanes

Twenty years ago I was a regular attender at the meetings of the Parochial History Section of the Devonshire Association at No 7 the Close Exeter. The Parochial History Section delegated me to attend the annual meetings of the Standing Conference for Local History in London. Here delegates from a great many county local history societies met, exchanged views, compared notes and listened to speakers. Most other delegates that I met represented county local history societies. These catered for the interests and needs of local historians all over their respective counties and had meetings and conferences at weekends or in the evenings not merely in the county town, but elsewhere in the county as well. It became apparent to me that the Parochial History Section did not fulfil this function at all, since it met on Monday afternoons in Exeter only and was therefore restricted to those living within easy reach of Exeter who had the leisure to attend its often fascinating meetings. It seemed to me that local history needed to be better served in Devon and that some new organisation was desirable that would attract a wider membership. An approach was made to the Council of the Devonshire Association to create such an organisation, but this was turned down.

Taking advice and enlisting support from the Standing Conference for Local History in London I and they approached the Community Council of Devon for their advice and assistance. John Usmar, the then Director of the Community Council, felt that this was an idea well worth pursuing and called a meeting at County Hall in December 1969 attended by about sixty people. This appointed a working party chaired by Professor Joyce Youings, which reported back to another meeting attended by approximately one hundred and twenty people at the University in May 1970. As a result of that meeting, the Standing Conference for Devon History came into existence. Its first President was Professor Hoskins, its first Chairman Professor Walter Minchinton, the Vice-chairman was Professor Youings, the Secretary was Roger Sellman, the Treasurer was Lyndon Taverner and the writer was the first Editor of the *Devon Historian*. This was to be the Journal of the Standing Conference for Devon History. The Committee members of the Standing Conference were Owen Baker, Theo Brown, Audrey Erskine, Ian Ferly, Alison Grant, Brian Jenkins, Trevor Miles, John Perkins and Margery Rowe. The idea behind the new organisation was to have regular meetings around the county on Saturdays, to attract members of other local history societies within the county to those meetings, and to foster and encourage local history generally. Such are the origins of the Devon History Society, which was the name adopted by the Standing Conference for Devon History in 1980. It is twenty years old this year.

## THE DEVON & EXETER INSTITUTION LIBRARY REVISITED

Sheila Stirling

An account of the Library appeared in *The Devon Historian*, no. 7, 1973, an issue now out of print. For that reason and because the Institution recently entered a new period in its development, a brief recapitulation and updating follows.

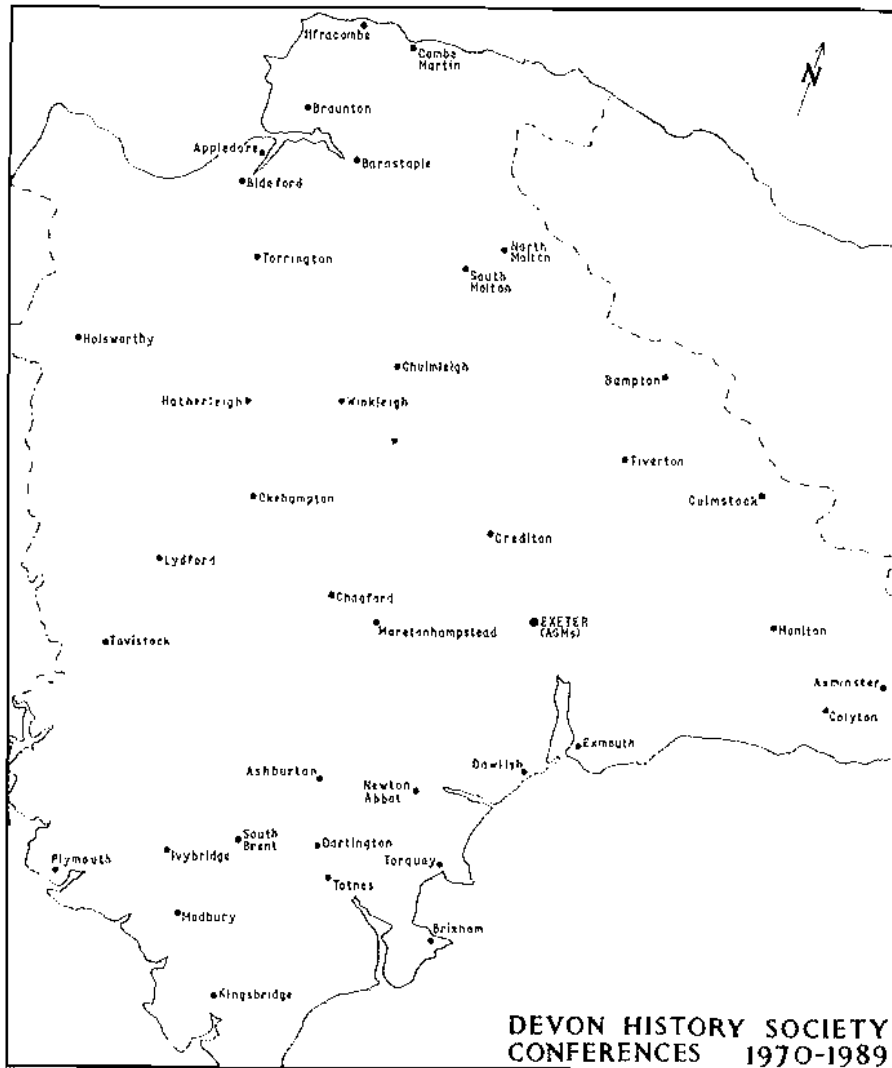
The Devon & Exeter Institution, founded in 1813, is unique among private libraries in the South West in retaining both its original building and the greater part of its foundation collections. After 176 years as a proprietary body, the Institution in September 1989 acquired charitable status, the remaining shareholders having agreed to relinquish their shares. The new Trust Deed reaffirms two aims:

the advancement of public education particularly in the history, literature and arts of the County of Devon, the City of Exeter and of the South West of England generally and particularly by the provision and maintenance of a library . . . and the preservation of Number 7 The Close for the public benefit as a building of historical and architectural interest and value.

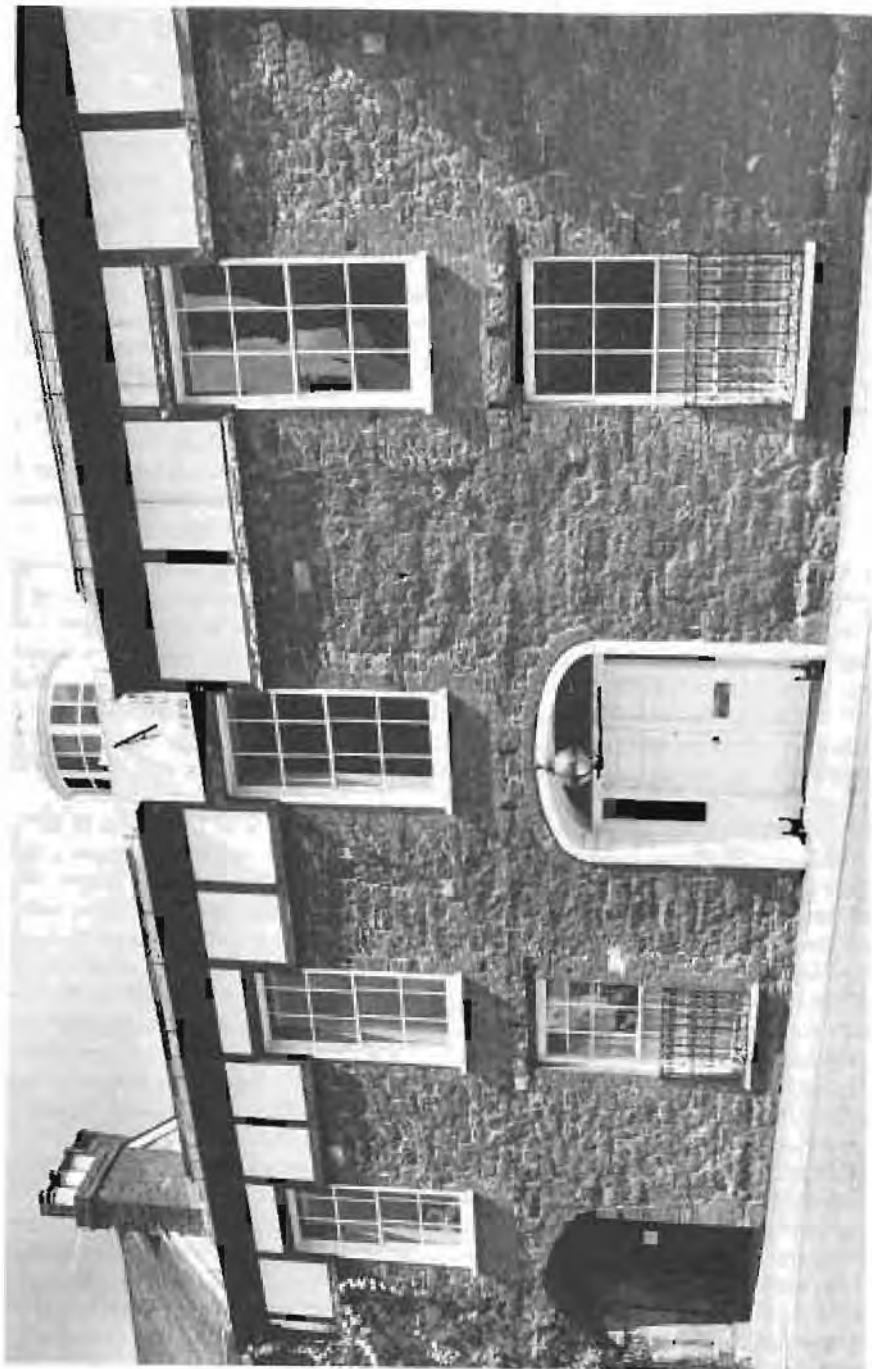
The first objective echoes faithfully the intentions of the founding fathers, those two hundred gentlemen of the County and the City who in 1813 set out to establish a library of universal scope but with a strong bias to the study of the South West. For today's local historians, amateur and professional (and both varieties find a happy home in the Institution), that early concern to build in a solid foundation of Devon and Exeter material has given the library an excellent collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century source texts. They include the unparalleled runs of local newspapers, all available in hard copy not the dreaded microfilm, and the equally indispensable sets of directories, especially for Devon, Cornwall and Exeter.

Since the University of Exeter took over the administration of the library in 1972, gap-filling in the local collections (extended to include Dorset and Somerset) has been as complete as book-funds or the generosity of donors would allow. The Institution's Library Committee, meeting quarterly, selects new books of quality from the mass of current publications, leaving comprehensive coverage of the local scene to the fatter purse of the West Country Studies Library. There is an author and subject card-catalogue for all South West printed material, including the 150 'Tract' volumes of eighteenth and nineteenth century pamphlets, many of which have local interest. As the library's stock of standard local books and periodicals may (within limits) be assumed, it will be more useful to describe material which cannot be found elsewhere or which complements other library collections. (There is no space to list the library's wider reference resources, but the local historian will find ample general historical, topographical and biographical material to back up his particular studies.)

Apart from the Institution's Minute Books there is very little archive material in the library. However the Institution in its early days was a recognised weather-station and until Exeter Airport began records in 1942 provided the only consistent figures for the area. The data contained in the ten volumes of *Meteorological Register* (1817-1974) has been written up by R.F.M. Hay, 'Exeter temperatures, etc.' in *Meteor Mag.*, 114, 1985.



(Kindly drawn by Dr. R.R. Seliman)



Number 7, The Close, Exeter.

Photo by courtesy of the Express & Echo, Exeter.

Henry Stone, Honorary Secretary of the Institution from 1920-1953 and a great collector of printed ephemera, gave to the library a large number of topographical prints of Devon and Cornwall, now all mounted and indexed. He also presented twenty scrapbooks of cuttings, illustrations, etc., relating to Devon and Exeter from the nineteenth century to the 1940s. Mr Stone is responsible, too, for the small but useful collection of early maps of the county and city. Both scrapbooks and maps have been indexed. There is also an index to the five scrapbooks compiled by Ferris Tozer (1857-1943), organist and composer, covering the musical life of the Exeter area in his day.

The Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society, one of the many learned societies to make a home in the Institution over the years, deposited in the library their Minute Books (1841-1928) and their scrapbooks including two enormous volumes containing drawings, plans and tracings of medieval churches in Devon, done mostly in the 1840s, of special interest for the Gothic Revival movement in the region. From the same Society came the Stockdale Collection, a miscellany of printed and ms materials 'towards a history of Devon', assembled by F.W.L. Stockdale (d.1858). It is best approached via the Burnet-Morris index in the West Country Studies Library.

Dr R. Fortescue Foulkes, a past president of the Institution, compiled a useful card-index of obituaries in local newspapers from 1813-1837 (when records begin in Somerset House).

In 1978 the library was given a valuable collection of cuttings-files assembled by Miss Selina Lamb of Sidmouth mostly in the 1940s and '50s. Files for Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset (126) are arranged alphabetically by place. Another 340 files cover the rest of the country.

The Guild of Devonshire Ringers in 1982 deposited in the Institution a special collection with card-index on bell-ringing. Two years later, the Devon Archaeological Society's library was transferred from Rougemont House. Both collections may be consulted by members of their respective societies and by members of the Institution.

Coming up to date, the library has a complete set of the most recent listings of historic buildings in Devon by the Department of the Environment. There is an index of place-names.

The second stated aim of the 'new' Institution is the preservation of its own Grade II\* listed building. The library is well worth a visit on that score alone, for the delightful impression on entering the Regency library rooms with their galleries, lantern domes and glass cases, so little altered from the early nineteenth century. There is a further journey back in time down the corridor to the Courtenay Room with its fine plaster ceiling and oak beams, the Tudor remnant of the townhouse of the Earls of Devon which once stood on the site.

It may reassure those who knew the Institution only in chillier days that a much improved heating-system installed in 1989 provides all-the-year-round comfort for readers. Refreshments, including Mrs Andrews' famous restorative soup, are provided daily in the Courtenay Room.

Regular lunch-hour public lectures are given on Devon or Exeter themes; afternoon and evening events are provided for members or by local societies. As the postal or secretarial headquarters of the Centre for South Western Historical Studies, the Devon & Cornwall Record Society, the Devon History Society, the

Devonshire Association and the Exeter Literary Society and with strong links with the Devon Archaeological Society, the Exeter Civic Society, Exeter City Guides and many other regional organisations, the Institution can fairly claim to be a focal point for cultural activity in the South West and in particular has much to offer those interested in local history. The Library is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday to Friday (including lunch-hours). Membership details are available from the Assistant Secretary, 7 The Close, Exeter EX1 1EZ (tel. 74727).

## NOTICES

### MR A.J. MARSH

It is with regret that we report the death of Mr A.J. Marsh, author of the article 'The Vanbrughs at Plymouth' in our October 1989 issue. Sadly, Mr Marsh did not live to see his article in print.

### DR. R.R. SELLMAN

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Devon History Society a proposal was made and passed unanimously that Honorary Life Membership of the Society should be offered to Dr R.R. Sellman, in recognition and gratitude for all his work and support given to the DHS since its inception. We are delighted to report that Dr Sellman's acceptance has been received.

## DEVON BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Devon Bibliography has now become too big to be printed economically by the Devon History Society. We are greatly indebted, therefore, to Mr Ian Maxted who, under the auspices of Devon Library Services, has compiled issues for 1985 and further years, for the Society. (Enquiries to Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter). The cost is £2 per copy.

## REPORTS OF LOCAL HISTORY STUDIES

In response to our request for news of local studies being undertaken, Mr A.I. Sayers, C.B.E., of Carswell, Holbeton, Plymouth, has written to say that he is in the early stages of a history study of the village of HOLBETON, including the area formerly covered by the Ecclesiastical Parish.

The Devon History Society would also be glad to know of the whereabouts of any local archives, including possible primary source material, which could be handed in to a suitable point of reference for safe keeping and availability.

## THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY IN DEVON A STORY OF HOPES SO FAR UNFULFILLED

Robert W. Dunning

(The text of a lecture given by Dr. Dunning to the Exeter branch of the Historical Association in November 1989)

The year 1989 saw the publication of the 200th volume of the *Victoria History of the Counties of England*, commonly known as the *V.C.H.*, that confident undertaking, begun in celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, to write a history of every county in the land.<sup>1</sup> In the event Northumberland went its own way, but work very soon began on nearly every other county under the joint auspices of a national advisory council and local committees, the whole undertaking orchestrated by H. Arthur Doubleday, effectively its founder and first editor. Plans were laid for each county 'set' of general and topographical volumes, and local and national scholars were recruited for the work.

In those far-off days when there was no West Country Studies Library and no County Record Office, it was essential that workers on the *History* in Devon, as in any other county, should have access to the county's records, then in private custody. A county committee was the first priority, and Doubleday in London must have been heartened to hear from James Dallas, Secretary of the Albert Memorial Museum, Technical and University Extension College and Free Library, that he would be prepared to act as secretary. That letter, dated 1 May 1899, marked the beginning of work in the county, though that was the last to be heard of Mr Dallas.

At this stage the driving force for the *History* in the county was Sir Roper Lethbridge of Exbourne Manor, who saw immediately that the support of the Lord Lieutenant had to be secured. Lethbridge personally undertook to secure his backing, and broke his own holiday to go over to the Hotel Metropole at Cannes to see Lord Clinton. His success was signalled in a telegram back to London.

Then began the formation of the committee of Devon's great and good, beginning with a bevy of peers: Lords Auckland, Coleridge, Fortescue, Morley, Poltimore, and Sidmouth agreed at once: so did Lord Mount Edgcombe, replying from his yacht at Cowes. Lord Clifford regretted he simply had no time for the task; and Lord Devon replied that due to his advanced age (he was 89), he could take no active part.

The Lord Lieutenant cast his net very wide. Archbishop Temple, formerly of Exeter, declared himself quite willing to join the committee, and so did the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton, Dr Brownlow. Two Devon MPs, H.F. Luttrell and Sir G.W. Kekewich, were fair game for such an undertaking, although the former was careful to say that he joined on condition that no money was required. Money, or rather the lack of it, was later to be a serious, and eventually a fatal, weakness in the whole undertaking. Perhaps as some kind of insurance, the banker Sir Henry Hoare of Stourhead, the Bristol industrialist C.E. Robinson of Blagdon, and W.F.D. Smith of Mayfair were included. Another apparent outsider was T. Cann Hughes, Town Clerk of Lancaster, but he was by origin a local man and contributed several articles on parochial incumbents to the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*.

Then came the Devon intellectuals. Lethbridge recommended Doubleday to approach the Devonshire Association for men who could offer practical help. J. Brooking Rowe of Plymouth, then the Association's secretary, and 'the Amerys' were his immediate suggestions, but the former, although Lethbridge's 'dear friend' was 'very crotchety over this business—willing and anxious to help generally, but he has the absurd idea that we are going on too popular lines for him to take any decided responsibility'. This must be the only time the *V.C.H.* has ever been considered too popular.

Lethbridge continued to be anxious, but realised that the cause would be greatly strengthened by his recent election as the Association's next President. He immediately suggested that Doubleday might attend one of its meetings and even become a member. And if Brooking Rowe would still not cooperate, the new Joint Secretary, Maxwell Adams, would be a great ally. Indeed, Lethbridge went even further in his enthusiasm, suggesting that Doubleday might talk to the Association at Bideford about the *History*, and went so far as to suggest that his guest might end his lecture with the words '... in which, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to say I shall have the advantage of the collaboration of Your President (Loud Cheers)'. Such a scheme would surely attract the support of Brooking Rowe and also of the Revd. O.J. Reichel ('*facile princeps* as a Domesday man, I think he hardly touches anything else').

It seems unlikely that Doubleday ever accepted the invitation, but Reichel was very soon included on the committee. So, too, were other learned clergy such as C.H. Taylor of Milton Abbot, J. Erskine-Risk of Stockleigh English, and Canon Edmonds, Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral. Several people said how essential Colonel Sir Robert White-Thomson would be, and he agreed to help. Admiral Sir Alexander Bulier refused absolutely to do so, and W.H.H. Rogers said he could give no practical support. R. Hansford Worth hoped the committee would be 'useful rather than ornamental'; R. Pearse Chope declared himself flattered by the invitation; H.B.S. Woodhouse of Plymouth wrote: 'I cannot see exactly why you ask me... nor that my name can be of any service to your project'. Doubleday persisted, and was finally rewarded, for Woodhouse, it was agreed, was an authority on 'verbal' provincialisms and local pronunciation'. In the event his advice was probably never sought. One further suggestion came from Miss Florence Wrey of Tawstock Court. Her brother Sir Bouchier was, she wrote, 'much interested in that kind of work', but she had to admit that his usefulness might be limited since his address then was 'H.M.S. Brisk, China Station' and his presence in England even by the following Spring was no better than 'hopeful'.

So, the committee was finally formed, a task which evidently took well over a year, and the full list of names appears at the beginning of the first (and only) volume of the Devon set to be published.<sup>2</sup> The actual work of research and writing is much less well documented. A decision was evidently taken at an early stage that there should not be a local editor for Devon, although there was one for neighbouring Somerset. Perhaps there was no obvious candidate. But there was evidently no shortage of local writers perfectly well qualified to compile the wide variety of articles needed; indeed, Mr G.C. Bignell's original list of insects would have run to 127 printed pages had not editorial control been exercised.

But it is evident that progress was slow. Lethbridge enquired of Doubleday how things were going in January 1902 but received no direct reply, though he himself

had evidently been preparing for the visit of a *V.C.H.* researcher by attempting to sort out his own family papers—1½ cartloads which he had been tackling, having equipped himself for the task with the purchase of a blouse and a pair of gloves. In November 1902 Doubleday admitted that work had 'only quite recently been seriously begun owing to various difficulties which had to be overcome'. Articles on Birds, Fish and Geology were commissioned, but a letter from W.A.E. Ussher, the author of the last, revealed the problem: 'it was, to use a modern term, cash flow. Authors of articles in all the counties under way were clamouring for their fees and the volumes were not coming off the presses fast enough. Mr Ussher certainly received his cheque for £25 4s plus 5 guineas for his map (which, he complained mildly, had been returned to him not only slightly creased but also surcharged 2d because it had been sent by letter post in error).

Finance was a national problem for the *History*, but there was another closer to home, involving the production of reliable texts and translations of Domesday, including the Exon, Domesday, and the Devon Geld Inquest. The problem was that there were two experts in Devon and, quite unknown to the Editor far away in London (though no doubt anyone in Devon could have told him), the Revd T.W. Whale of Bath and the Revd Oswald J. Reichel of Lympstone found agreement impossible and compromise unacceptable, notably on the identification of Domesday place-names. The *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* included over twenty articles by Reichel, and rather fewer by Whale, in which each demonstrated the other's fallibility and his own rectitude. Whale saw that progress could be made only if Brooking Rowe would act as some kind of arbitrator between them, and letters went back and forth between Whale and Doubleday. The latter asked innocently in December 1902 if Whale might meet Reichel and agree a text of Domesday which could be submitted to the man charged with the oversight of the whole of the Domesday scholarship produced by the *V.C.H.*, no less a scholar than John Horace Round.

Whale wanted to see the text already agreed for the Somerset Domesday and asked if a small sum might be made available to pay the Deputy Cathedral Librarian at Exeter to check various readings of the Exon. text. In March Whale and Reichel actually met Round in London, and both were forced to give way to the great man, who next day wrote a typically forthright letter to Reichel:

'The pressure on my time is now so great that Mr Doubleday is very averse to my arguing points with contributors... In Devon matters are complicated by the many differences between you and Mr Whale, and I see I shall have to hold the balance with a firm hand, and speak positively. If you don't like my system, it is no use arguing against it, you had best stand aloof. On several points in your letter your views are absolutely my own. Surely you must have seen that I could only laugh good humouredly at the equation 1 hide = 6 shillings... If you can't see how wrong it is to render *villani* as villagers when *borderii* and *cotarii* were equally villagers I can't help you. *Monsio* = *manerium* - there can be no compromise. To say that Mr Whale is 'mutilating history' by rendering it *unior* is, I must say frankly, nonsense.'

Reichel seems to have accepted all this gracefully, but then Round's illness and his removal to Brighton both slowed progress and left the ring without a necessary referee. In October 1903 Whale rather petulantly asked for the return of his Domesday map, but all (so far as the correspondence allows) seemed well. Round, however, was unable to write the planned Introduction to the Domesday section, and in his place Reichel was asked to produce it. Perhaps Whale found this decision too much, although there is nothing in the surviving correspondence to indicate his

opinion. Indeed, no more is heard of the matter until May 1906 when a young staff editor, L.F. Salzmann (later himself General Editor), announced to Reichel that his extensive notes on the Domesday text could simply not be included.<sup>2</sup> Salzmann's superior, William Page, Doubleday's former partner and now sole General Editor, then sent the proofs of the text of the Geld Inquest to Whale, enquiring, rather ingenuously, about the financial terms under which he had been commissioned to do the work. Whale answered rather forcibly, suggesting that Page should look more closely into his own records. The text of the Geld Inquest as prepared by himself and Brooking Rowe had, he pointed out, been on Page's desk 'for months'. Whale suspected a conspiracy when there was probably only inefficiency, but it is uncertain what Page had had set up in proof; presumably a text heavily altered by Reichel. At any rate, when Page declared that he could not afford to print another text, Whale wrote his final broadside, declaring the matter a deliberate affront and Page's explanation wholly unsatisfactory. He demanded the return of his text and declined to have it published. Volume I of the *Victoria History of Devon* appeared later in that year (1906) with Reichel's Domesday text but without a version of the Geld Inquest which ought to have appeared beside it.

But what of Volume II and the rest of the planned set? William Page offered some work as a general researcher in the Public Record Office to Miss L. Edgecumbe Edwardes, lately of Girton College, Cambridge, but reluctantly she had to tell him that her family declined to allow her to work in London. Instead Page asked her to compile an article on Devon Industries (except tin and copper which were being covered by George Lewis). The work was to be completed by June 1906. Miss Constance Ballard applied to undertake Devon's Political History, but whether she was accepted is not known. Two others were also commissioned, Miss Ruth Butler to write the county's Ecclesiastical History, and Mr H.G. Porter, who had undertaken in 1908 to write the topography of Hartland hundred. In 1910 Miss Edwardes asked for a small advance, and Miss Butler and Mr Porter both received a small cheque for work already done. But payment was obviously very small, for there was another financial crisis. Later in that year, however, Page began to see the end of his troubles: W.F.D. Smith, of W.H. Smith and Son, and later Viscount Hambleden, had come to the rescue with a generous guarantee. He would ensure that ten county sets would be completed. But Devon was not one of them, despite his membership of the Devon County Committee. Page was still hopeful—or at least he wrote in a hopeful vein—saying that Miss Butler's article would be out 'in one or two years'. In 1912 Page declared that he 'fully expected the topography of Devon would be taken up and completed before very long'. At least one article was finished and remained for some sixty years in proof. It was written by Michael Oppenheim on the subject of Devon's Maritime History, and was finally published by Exeter University in 1968.<sup>3</sup>

The First World War proved fatal to the Devon *History* but not quite fatal to the whole concern. In 1933 the *V.C.H.* was purchased by London University, and since 1947 the partnership between the University and various Local Authorities has ensured that work was begun first in Wiltshire and later revived in other counties, including Somerset. The enthusiasm of Sir Roper Lethbridge was not, at the beginning of this century, matched by many influential members of the Devonshire Association, although that was not the cause of failure. These days there is no doubt about the popular enthusiasm for local history, in Devon as elsewhere; but revival of

the *V.C.H.* needs as much influential support in the county as it received at the beginning. That support must now come not from country house but from County Hall.<sup>4</sup>

1. For a comprehensive history of the *V.C.H.* see *Victoria History of the Counties of England, General Introduction*, ed. R.B. Pugh (Oxford University Press, 1970), pp. 1-27.
2. Membership of the county committee had changed considerably by 1906.
3. M.M. Oppenheim, *The Maritime History of Devon*, ed. with an introduction by W.E. Minchinton (Exeter University, 1968).
4. The correspondence upon which this paper is based is housed at the Institute of Historical Research, London University, and is quoted by permission of the General Editor, Mr C.R. Elrington.

#### Biographical Note.

Robert W. Dunning, Ph.D., F.S.A., is Editor of the Victoria County History of Somerset, and the author of numerous published works on the history of that county.

## NOTICES

### DEVON HISTORIAN 39

It is regretted that in the final printing the illustration on page 13, of the inscription in Buckfastleigh Church, in Susan Djabri's article, was unfortunately inadvertently presented back to front and upside down. Readers are advised to employ a mirror when viewing!



## A WESTCOUNTRY ENGINEER: CHARLES GREAVES 1816-1883

Keith S. Perkins

'With the death of Mr Charles Greaves, civil engineer, there passes away the second of a band of eminent civil engineers who, if they had not become cosmopolitan, might be said to belong to the West Country school . . .'

*Times* correspondent, London  
November 1883.

The correspondent was referring to three schoolfriends and colleagues: Nathaniel Beardmore, John Coode and Charles Greaves who had attended the Devonport Classical and Mathematical School together before, individually, taking up articles during the 1830s with Devon's eminent civil engineer, James Meadows Rendel.<sup>1</sup>

Charles Greaves was born at Great Amwell in Hertfordshire on 19 November 1816. He was descended from generations of Greaves who lived at Rowlee Farm<sup>2</sup> in the Woodlands of Hope, Derbyshire where, as landowners, leading farmers and principal flock-masters of the white-faced Derby sheep, they acted as sheep breeders and agents for the Dukes of Devonshire. His mother, Charlotte, was daughter of the late Robert Mylne, architect and engineer of the old Blackfriars Bridge and surveyor of St Pauls Cathedral.<sup>3</sup> His father, Charles, was a son of the late Charles Greaves, calico printer and linen draper of St Pauls Churchyard, and Anne Pierrepont. It is perhaps, of interest that Anne had, in 1801, sold the family home—Merton Place<sup>4</sup>—near Wimbledon in Surrey, to Horatio Lord Nelson and the Lady Emma Hamilton, just a few months after Nelson had been made a Freeman of the ancient borough of Plymouth!<sup>5</sup>

The Greaves from Great Amwell, in 1820, moved to Rendleston<sup>6</sup> on Dartmoor where five children were to grow up, and in 1824, young Charles—then eight years old—was sent off to attend the school of the Reverend Dr Charles Mayo at Cheam.<sup>7</sup>

Charles senior, the boy's father, an associate of William Wilberforce, was an active member of the British and Foreign Bible Society for which cause, in 1814, he toured Europe with his sister during the latter stages of the Napoleonic Wars. On 29 September they had visited the academy of Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi,<sup>8</sup> the Swiss-German reformer and educator, at Yverdon where they spent the day watching for themselves and recording the methods of teaching that had been adopted there. Later, in Naples and elsewhere, they investigated institutes for public education. It is not surprising that, in 1825, Charles senior became one of four vice-presidents of the newly established Plymouth Mechanics Institute, he having earlier donated £100 and numerous books from his private collection.<sup>9</sup> After a period of residence at Plympton in 1826—where the last child, a girl, was born—the family settled in Chapel Street, Devonport where Charles died on 20 October 1829. He was 49 years of age.

By then Charles junior had returned from Cheam and was attending the Devonport Classical and Mathematical School where his father's cousin, the Reverend Henry Addington Greaves, was headmaster. There were early signs that the boy was interested in the fundamentals of civil engineering. He could often be



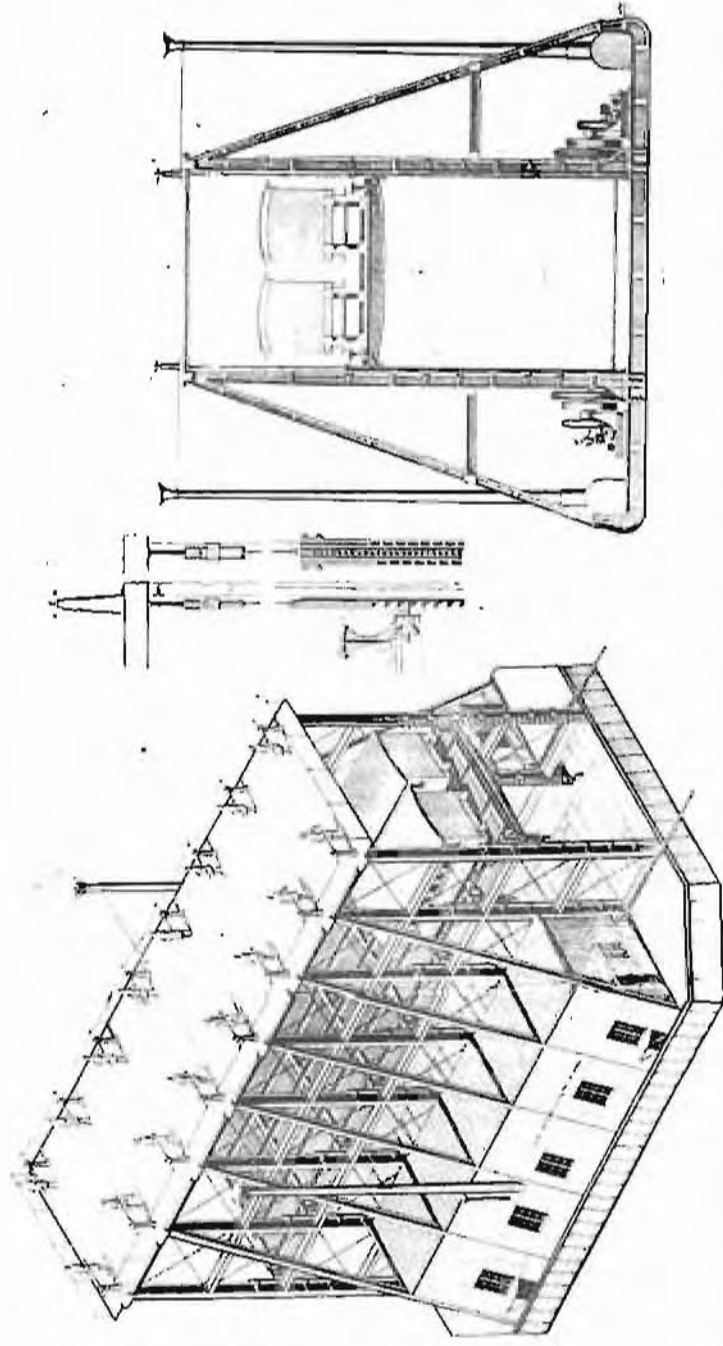
*A presidential portrait of Charles Greaves, showing the years in which he served as president of the Royal Meteorological Society. The original hangs in the Society's gallery at Blackwell and is reproduced by kind permission.*

*Bracknell*



*Rendel's first IRON Floating Bridge — was towed into Portsmouth Harbour (from Bristol) by the Plymouth paddle steamer, "Sir Francis Drake" on 7 December 1839, under the command of Captain G. Nichol*

Portsmouth Archive



*Robert Stephenson's, steam ferry across the River Nile at Kaffre Azzayat, 1857 — 'Stephenson ordered that those Floating Bridges of James Meadows Rendel F.R.S (C.E.) at Portsmouth and Plymouth be carefully studied, and the parts most suited for the conditions of the Nile Ferry were copied.'*

Archives Institution of Civil Engineers, Min of Proc, vol xvii pp53-67

found at home in Chapel Street where he had fitted up a room as a carpenter's workshop with lathe and other engineering tools and where he, together with Nathaniel Beardmore and John (later Sir John) Coode, passed away many hours making models of railways and bridges and also studying astronomy. On 2 September 1831, just before his 15th birthday, he took up articles with James Meadows Rendel, in whose employ he gained considerable experience in various parts of the country, particularly in the design, construction and establishment of the floating bridge.<sup>10</sup>

Upon the termination of his apprenticeship with Rendel in 1837, he was for a short time employed in the offices of his uncle William Chadwell Mylne, civil engineer, in London, but within a year he had returned to Rendel who asked him to make surveys of the River Severn at Newnham in preparation for the establishment of a floating bridge. George Louis—Post Office surveyor and superintendent of mail coaches for the west of England, with particular reference to Rendel—had reported earlier to a Select Committee of the House of Commons on the suitability of such bridges for the transportation of mail coaches across tidal estuaries. This seems to have formed the basis for a scheme at Newnham, but it never reached fruition.<sup>11</sup>

A founder member, proprietor and chairman of the Port of Portsmouth Floating Bridge Company—with whom Rendel was associated—was Admiral Sir Francis William Austen, brother of Jane Austen, the celebrated authoress, and it was at Portsmouth in 1838 that Charles Greaves, as Rendel's assistant, prepared the ground for receiving two floating bridges. He was subsequently commended for—'getting on like a house on fire' by the proprietors. On 9 May when the Floating Bridge Bill received the Royal Assent, he was ordered to the ironworks of Messrs Acraman and Morgan of Bristol to supervise the work of construction. The first vessel arrived at Portsmouth on 7 December 1839, towed into the harbour by the Plymouth paddle-steamer *Sir Francis Drake*.<sup>12</sup>

At Bristol in 1841 Rendel promoted Greaves to resident engineer, with two assistants of his own. There he supervised the construction of the second Portsmouth vessel and two slightly larger floating bridges, which had been ordered by the Steam Ferry-Bridge Association of Calcutta, for use on the River Hooghly. In January 1842, he left England to superintend their transportation and erection, but sadly, 'Commercial affairs in 1842 were so bad that the idea of raising money to establish the work was abandoned and the materials which were made and delivered to Calcutta were sold by auction'.

Years later, Greaves recounted that he had studied the River Hooghly at all seasons and was able to state that there was no exaggeration in the description of the violence of the current of that river and that, had the floating bridges been assembled and put into service, they would have been subjected to great danger. Nevertheless, he urged upon the authorities of the East India Company that such bridges were eminently suited to the wants of the country for the passage of many of its rivers, as fixed bridges were not in all places applicable; and by this system a passage in many cases could be effected for a tenth of what a permanent structure would cost. He trusted when tranquillity was restored, that these and similarly useful works would be authorised.

Greaves remained in Calcutta and built a factory for the Steam-Tug Company of Calcutta at Garden Reach. He was then engaged in observing, surveying and preparing schemes for the Great Western Railway of Bengal which was successfully

concluded, and subsequently adopted by—what was later—the East India Line. Sir MacDonal Stephens and James Meadows Rendel later made use of Greaves' valuable work. In 1847, he returned to England.<sup>13</sup>

Four years later he married Frances, sister of his friend Nathaniel Beardmore. That same year he took over as Engineer of East London Waterworks where he—'governed, engineered and directed'—the company for the remaining twenty-seven, active years of his life; devoting his time and energy to the massive task of increasing water supplies to the benefit of the 'enormous growth of population in the East London district'. In 1852 he gave time to supervising the repair of Rendel's floating bridge at Southampton, and in 1857 he discussed with Robert Stephenson the latter's steam ferry across the River Nile at Kaffre Azzayat, in which suitable parts of Rendel's floating bridges at Torpoint and Portsmouth were copied and incorporated. Then in 1875 he retired to the position of Consultant Engineer to his old company, at Westminster Chambers in Victoria Street. He died on 4 November 1883 after some months of ill health, and was buried at Portishead.<sup>14</sup>

Greaves did have other interests in his life, apart from engineering. No doubt through the strong religious influence of his family, at every opportunity he studied biblical matters—particularly prophecy. Perhaps connected with this study was his keen interest in meteorology. A Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society from 1851, he was elected President in 1878. His portrait can be seen today, in the Society's Presidential gallery, in Bracknell, Berkshire—which, when you come to think of it—is the last place you would expect to find a respected portrait of an eminent West Country civil engineer!

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I would like to convey my special thanks to Elizabeth Cooper of Dartmouth and Elizabeth Rathbone of Liverpool for a glimpse of their ongoing research into the extraordinary history of the Greaves family. My own research and contribution is but a tiny addition to that work.

K.S.P.

## THE TAVISTOCK SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY

Joy Beer

The Tavistock Subscription Library is both old and small. It was started in 1799 by a small committee which included John Taylor, the engineer who built the Tavistock Canal, which took ore from the mines in the Tavistock area down to the interesting inland port of Morwellham.

The Library has had many ups and downs and several moves, and is now virtually a reading room with several cases of books on Tavistock, the Bedford family and local history generally. Although now in this reduced state, it can and does boast that in spite of the ups and downs, and sometimes perilous state of its finances, it has never closed.

The records are sadly incomplete. The early minute book and the first visitors book exist, but there is a gap from the late 19th century to 1925. It is always hoped that these missing books will some day turn up.

The Library was first housed in a bookseller's shop in the town, with the bookseller having the right to supply any new books from his stock. In 1821 a purpose built library was built in a corner of Bedford Square at the cost of £1,000. There is a painting of it in the Library, believed to be the only one in existence. However, the then Duke of Bedford, who disliked the new building as out of keeping with the rest of Bedford Square, proposed the Library be moved to the Abbey Buildings. The committee passed this, and the first Library building was 'swept away' after standing for only eleven years.

The first catalogue which included the rules, was printed in 1799. On the first page the following four names were listed

John Taylor  
 The Rev William Evans  
 Edward Atkyns Bray  
 John Commins

followed by

'By these four the Institution was first projected and begun in the month of June in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety nine'. The list of the first nine members include John, Duke of Bedford.

The rules, which were revised at intervals, make interesting reading. The Committee were obviously very considerate to their lady members. In 1799 rule 7 states 'all questions are determinable by ballot. N.B. Ladies (on giving notice in writing to the chairman of the meeting) may vote on all occasions by proxy'. Did they, one wonders, think a committee meeting an unsuitable place for ladies? Several years later rule 5 reads 'Unmarried ladies who were subscribers before July 1822, shall not be expected to pay more than 21/- as an annual subscription'. No such similar concession for the ladies these days. The rules always seem to end with a stern warning to both members and the Librarian. 'The Librarian is ordered to be strict in enforcing the above rules, admitting no excuse for the violation of any of them'. There is no paid librarian now to enforce rules, though the Committee do their best to see that the rules are kept. The Library is run now by the Committee,

who, aided by other volunteers, even hoover the floor! Every member has a key and can come and go as they please, so vigilance and co-operation is needed and is forthcoming.

So the Tavistock Subscription Library lives on. Membership has increased quite considerably during the last two or three years, and 1999 will be quite an occasion.

## 'DUCKS' IN DEVON: THE U S ARMY IN WARTIME PAIGNTON

John Pike

The 'ducks' in the title were not of course the airborne creatures but rather the work-horses, designed in the United States, called DUKWs which were used by the Allies for landing military cargoes at sea and for crossing rivers in land campaigns. DUKWs were an American invention; they were six-wheeled vehicles capable of carrying heavy loads on land but had a boat-shaped 'hull' and were equipped with a 16-inch propeller and rudder for use 'at sea'. However, even some of the official records describe them as 'Ducks'!

In the months before D-day hundreds of thousands of American GIs moved into the Westcountry following the decision to open a 'second front' in the West. Much has been said and written of the events which took place in the Slapton battle area<sup>1</sup> but little or nothing has been recorded about the activities of the majority of this 'army in waiting'. The naval build-up in South Devon<sup>2</sup> and in the South Hams has been told briefly elsewhere.<sup>3</sup> How they occupied their leisure time has become mythology—the Yanks were 'over-sexed, over-paid and over-here'! However, the story of the 460th Amphibian Truck Company has been partly researched by Selby Hardenbergh<sup>4</sup> and this shows that Torbay played a considerable part in the 'build-up' of this unit during the Spring of 1944. The Company was in Paignton for nearly five months, much longer than most of the other invasion troops from the USA.

USA.  
The Atlantic crossing was made on the *Queen Mary*. It was mid-winter and both Christmas Day and Boxing Day were celebrated on board—in very rough weather! One of the officers, Rod Johnson, kept a diary which tells with feeling his journey across Britain to Exeter:

(Of Scotland) 'Everything looks so neat, clean and well-kept. All the small towns along the way were picturesque—quaint brick houses—hardly any wooden houses or buildings. (In England where it was dark) Had several stops and at each, Red Cross Scotch and English ladies up at all hours of the night, had coffee, doughnuts and sandwiches for us. They have certainly shown us wonderful hospitality on our first day on foreign soil. But it doesn't seem like foreign soil, just 'different soil'. The people are like us in so many ways. They speak the same language and have the same ideas of living as we do. I know it is not going to be hard to get along with the English or Scotch while we are their guests and, you might say, Ambassadors of Good Will from America.

The writer of this, and his men, arrived in Devon on Friday 29 December 1944 to be billeted at 'Camp Bypass', just a mile or so from Exton. For the first and last time

the men slept on straw mattresses. This was standard issue for the British serviceman but a unique experience for the GIs! The menu on New Years Day was very American also—'creamed turkey' at supper time.

While at Camp Bypass the unit acquired its vehicles and equipment. In mid-January the record shows that 'indoctrination to the United Kingdom' was complete. Transport was laid on each evening into Exeter where there were 'two movies (cinemas), a Red Cross canteen (NAAFI), pubs and a legitimate theater'. The blackout was complete; a novelty for those used to the 'bright lights of home'. It was the climate which posed the greatest problem, being 'England's worst feature; a great many of the men have colds and these are expected to continue until all the men are acclimatized'. Those who fancied a short walk quickly found the 'only pub in the village—the White Horse. A pub on that site for over 300 years'. One visit ended with an Anglo-American rendering of 'Down by the Old Mill Stream'.

At the end of January 1944 the Company moved 'by motor convoy to Paignton, Devon'; it was a typical winter day, there was a steady downpour of rain and very poor visibility—and of course the hated straw mattresses were left behind. In Paignton most of the men were fortunate to go into civilian billets; some went into private houses but the majority (130) went into the Park Hotel on the Esplanade (This hotel is now owned by the Methodist Church and is little changed externally). The motor pool was at Tanner's Crossing, Goodrington, two miles away (This is now a Torbay Council car-park).

It is a surprise to read in a US Army log-book that:

the Beach at Goodrington Sands . . . has been assigned to use for training purposes—water operations. The beach is small but provides enough space to train new drivers in entering and leaving the water. The Company spent the day in building a ramp from the low sea wall to the beach and clearing tank obstacles from the beach. All agree that the 'Boche' would have had a tough time invading England. It has been extremely difficult work tearing a hole in the beach defences. We're glad it's over.

The log continues:

The beach sand is red and very soft . . . the water is mason-jar blue and the temperature about 48°. Operations are limited to 200 yards off shore, due to the possibility of mine fields. To go beyond this limit, we must obtain permission from the Royal Navy.

Leisure activities included a visit to a rugby game at Queen's Park (Paignton RFC still play there), 'interesting game, somewhat different from our own football, however'. Other GIs went to the cinema, the main feature being 'By Hook or by Crook' starring Red Skelton, Eleanor Powell and Lena Horne. One 'dropped into the Redcliffe' (then and now, an hotel) where he met a blonde called Beryl and 'two sweet sisters, Nellie and Louise also good dancers'.

South Devon was suffering from 'tip-and-run raids' at this time. It is noted that 'air raids (sirens) sounded all the time. At first the men ran for cover, later they walked—after one such alert a GI in the Company, seen limping out of the shelter, was found to have his false teeth in his shoe—where he had placed them for safety!

Sunday, 20 February produced some unexpected excitement. Some US Navy LCIs (Landing Craft Infantry) grounded on Paignton Sands in a north-easterly gale and were likely to be pounded to pieces. Six DUKWs were launched and the

beached craft were winched off with the aid of a Navy tug. Practice for the Normandy landings took place between Paignton and Goodrington Sands—one or the other being chosen alternatively as embarkation or landing places. The waters off Roundham Head provided the only experience the men had of the 'open sea'.

The 460th were ordered to take part in *Exercise Fox*, which took place at Slapton from 10th to 12th March 1944.<sup>5</sup> This involved 38 DUKWs travelling in three convoys to Weymouth. The congestion of the roads must have been horrendous as the route was through Exeter, Crewkerne to Dorchester, then along the coast to Bradford Downs. One vehicle was in collision with a motorcar; another hit, and punctured, a 'static water-tank' (these were put up in many towns to provide water for fire-fighters). On arrival 2,000 men had to eat in a small, poorly arranged mess-hall; the billets were unheated, the tents unfloored, with no fires allowed! At Weymouth the Company, together with the other participants, were embarked on to LSTs and the armada set sail west to South Devon. Up to the time of this departure, the Redcliffe Hotel was still the most popular rendez-vous in town.

The story ends here because Selby Hardenbergh died before he could complete his research, but not before he had returned to Europe for the first time since 1944 and to tell verbally what had happened to the 460th subsequently. All those who took part in the Normandy invasion had to practise 'wet landings from the sea' (it was a later exercise than *Fox*, *Operation Tiger* which went so badly wrong) and all the Paignton vehicles were sent to North Devon in either April or May 1944. The sight of the huge 31 feet long and 8 feet wide vehicles (or vessels!) 'in line astern' negotiating the narrow roads across the county excited much attention—and ribaldry. Whilst in North Devon they occupied part of 'Tent City' in Lobb Field at Braunton. Woolacombe Beach and Croyde Bay were both used for practice landings.

After staying in Paignton until the end of May, the 460th left in convoy by road for Falmouth where, with the other invasion forces, it was embarked on to large ships. Within a day of June 6th, the DUKWs had been unloaded off Omaha Beach and had started ferrying ammunition and other supplies to those troops already landed. It appears that the Company suffered few casualties in Normandy or later in the crossing of the Rhine; enough of them have survived to hold regular reunions in various US cities.

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Selby Hardenbergh hoped *The Way it was* would be a record of the 460th's War and be read by his surviving companions. From a Devon local historian's viewpoint, it is a 'War story' which would not otherwise be known. Part of it is worth telling 'over here'. John Pike.

## DEVON ANNIVERSARIES

Compiled by Adrian Reed

### BIRTHS

JOHN STOWFORD (1290-1372). Lawyer. Born at West Stowford Barton in West Down he was named as one of the keepers of the coast for Devon in 1340. Sat in the Court of Common Pleas from 1342 until his death in 1372. He is said to have paid for a bridge to be built between Pilton and Barnstaple and to have contributed to the upkeep of Barnstaple's long bridge.

ANDREW BRICE (1690-1758). Journalist, author, theatre lover and Freemason. Born in Exeter, son of a shoemaker, and intended for the nonconformist ministry, funds ran out and he was apprenticed to a printer. Started his own newspaper in 1718, *The Postmaster or Loyal Mercury*, replaced by Brice's *Weekly Journal* in 1725 which he edited until his retirement in 1765. In it he exposed in 1727 the ill-treatment of inmates by the keeper of St. Thomas gaol. He lost the subsequent lawsuit. Staying at home to avoid arrest for non-payment of costs he published a poem 'Freedom' in 1731 'written in time of Recess from the Claws of Bailiffs, and the devouring bloody Fangs of Gaolers' which helped clear his debts. His main literary work was the 'Grand Gazetteer or Topographic Dictionary' which came out in parts down to 1757. Devoted to the stage, when the Methodists prosecuted the local players and took over their theatre in Waterbeer Street in 1745 he published 'The Playhouse Church or New Actors of Devotion' which occasioned a riot in which the Methodists were so badly handled that they gave up the theatre. Brice took the players under his protection and circumvented the Theatre Act by making the performances free to all who bought appropriately priced small quantities of tooth powder at his shop. His 'Exmoor Scolding' and the subsequent 'Exmoor Courtship' give him a claim to being the father of Devon dialect stories while his practise of inventing words, 'Bricisms', has a modern ring. He was also a pioneer of the newspaper serial. Peppery but generous, when he died at the age of 83 he was the oldest master printer and Master Mason in England. His body lay in the New Inn and his burial costs were met by those viewing it at a shilling each.

BAMFYLDE MOORE CAREW (1690-1758). King of the Gypsies and confidence trickster. Son of the rector of Bickleigh. Ran away from Blundell's School and joined the gypsies. According to his 'Life and Adventures' he became a master of disguises which he used to extract money from the credulous and not so credulous alike. Elected King of the Gypsies on the death of Clause Patch he was later transported to Maryland whence he escaped and returned to England. After a life full of

adventure he is said to have won a lottery, returned to Devon with his wife and daughter and to have been buried at Bickleigh.

RICHARD CARLILE (1790-1843). Radical publicist. Born at Ashburton where his father was a shoemaker with a taste for mathematics. Moved to London as a tinner journeyman and began to distribute radical literature, selling 25,000 copies of Southey's 'Wat Tyler' in spite of the author's objections. In 1819 sentenced to three years imprisonment at Dorchester Assizes and served a further three for non-payment of the accompanying fine. Published the 'Republican' from Dorchester gaol. A constitutional association was formed, with the Duke of Wellington at the head of the subscription list, to prosecute his assistants. This intention seems to have been partially frustrated by the use of a primitive vending machine in his shop. The customer turned a clock hand to the name of the publication he wanted and put in the money. In all Carlile served over nine years in prison without abating his flow of print. His biographer claimed that he had done more than any other Englishman of his day for the freedom of the Press.

Sir JOHN TAYLOR COLERIDGE (1790-1876). Lawyer. Born at Tiverton and educated at Eton and Corpus Christi, Oxford, where he was a friend of Keble whose life he wrote in 1869. Won many University prizes, was called to the Bar in 1819 but his tastes were literary and Tractarian. He contributed to and for a few months edited the Quarterly Review and was friendly with Wordsworth, Arnold, Pusey and Newman. He became Recorder of Exeter in 1832, was promoted to the King's Bench in 1835, retiring in 1858. Considered a sound but not great lawyer. Died at Ottery St. Mary.

## DEATHS

BALDWIN (?-1190). Priest. Born in Exeter of poor parents, was advanced in the Church by Bishop Bartholomew, becoming head of the Cistercian foundation at Ford where he produced most of his literary work. Bishop of Worcester in 1180 he was translated to Canterbury in 1184. Here he was in constant strife with the wealthy monks of Christ Church. In spite of the support of his patron Henry II who said that he would rather lay down his crown than let the monks get the better of the Archbishop he did not win what had become an international quarrel. In 1188 he took the cross and preached the crusade in Wales. Accompanying Richard I to the Holy Land he died of plague at Acre in 1190. Contemporaries criticised him as being rash and intemperate and his enemy the Pope called him an excellent monk but a poor bishop.

WILLIAM BALL (?-1690). Astronomer. Eldest of 17 children of Sir Peter Ball, Recorder of Exeter and attorney general to the Queens of Charles I and II. Helped to found the Royal Society and was its first treasurer. Withdrew to his father's house at Mamhead where in 1665 he and his brother claimed to have discovered the division in Saturn's ring. This was later said to have been an optical illusion. Nevertheless his work on that planet was held in high esteem by Huyghens and other savants.

JOHN BIDGOOD (1624-1690). Physician. Son of an Exeter apothecary. Ejected from fellowship at Exeter College in 1648. Studied at Padua. Restored to fellowship in 1660. After a short stay at Chard settled in Exeter where he made a large fortune. His good qualities were said to have been marred by a morose disposition and a satirical sense of humour.

EZEKIEL HOPKINS (1634-1690). Priest. Son of rector of Pinhoe. After leaving Magdalen College, Oxford, he first preached in London then came to Exeter as minister at St. Mary Arches. Lord Robartes, later Lord Radnor, hearing by chance one of his sermons offered him his private chaplaincy in which capacity he went to Ireland on his patron's appointment as Lord Lieutenant in 1669. In 1671 he became Bishop of Raphoe and in 1681 of Derry. He fled to London during the Catholic rising in support of James II and died there two years later. A renowned preacher his writings, mainly theological, according to his eulogist Prince, all smelt of the lamp.

Sir JOHN MAYNARD (1602-1690). Lawyer. Born at Tavistock, son of a barrister, educated at Exeter College, Oxford, and the Middle Temple. Sat first as member for Totnes in the Short and Long Parliaments and thereafter served as MP for various places ending with Plymouth under William III. A framer of the articles of impeachment against Strafford he opposed the first steps against the King in 1648 and left the Commons. However he worked under the Commonwealth, secured Lilburne's acquittal on a defective indictment and was solicitor general for Richard Cromwell. Knighted at the Restoration, when Pepys thought him a turncoat, he took part in the Popish Plot prosecutions and finally was one of the Commissioners of the Great Seal for William III. Amongst the highest esteemed lawyers of his day, he made £700 on the summer circuit in 1647, he seems to have held the respect of all sides, professing equal solicitude for the royal prerogative as for the powers and privileges of Parliament.

## THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION: AN APPRECIATION OF ITS ACHIEVEMENTS FOR LOCAL STUDIES IN DEVON

Ian Maxted, County Local Studies Librarian

In issue 33 of the *Devon Historian* over thirty Community Programme projects were listed which had some connection with local studies in the county. At that time the Community Programme was at its height. It ended in 1988 to be replaced by the Employment Training Scheme which does not so readily lend itself to large-scale projects of this type. In 1986 there were ten agencies in Devon and it was difficult to ascertain the full range of what was being undertaken, and the same applied to the Job Creation Programme which preceded the Community Programme. Nevertheless almost sixty programmes relevant to local studies in Devon have been traced over the decade up to 1988 and it seems appropriate to outline their considerable contribution to local studies work in the county. Unfortunately there has not been time to follow up all the points given—hence the question marks. Any amplification will be most welcome.

To start with the history beneath our feet, Community Programme workers took part in excavations in Barnstaple, Exeter, on the Roadford site and elsewhere. There was also an archaeological survey of National Trust properties. Appropriately the county's Sites and Monuments Register, details of which appeared in issue 39, was also greatly assisted in its early years by Job Creation schemes.

Special registers and surveys include the Devon Folk Life Register, now housed in the Westcountry Studies Library, and the Green Lanes Project to survey unmetalled lanes in the south of the county. In Plymouth and elsewhere MSC projects helped in the surveying of rights of way in the county.

Historic buildings were surveyed in Barnstaple, Bideford, Tavistock and elsewhere. In Exeter the surveys included modern as well as historic buildings and produced a total of over 16,000 photographs. The National Trust surveyed the vernacular buildings on its estates.

Beaford used MSC programmes to increase the scope of its photographic collection and another massive photographic survey in Exeter is the Exeter Visual Survey, capturing a year in the life of the City (1986-87) on more than 15,000 photographs.

More general historical documentation was attempted in many parts of the county through 'community archives' a disputed term, as original archives should not be collected other than by record offices. A meeting of agencies agreed to look for different titles for future projects but local 'archives' under a variety of titles were set up in Bideford, Chulmleigh, Holsworthy, Okehampton, the Taw Valley, Torrington, Totnes and elsewhere. A more strictly archival operation was the Victorian Records project, involving the indexing of original correspondence in the possession of Clinton Devon estates.

A type of record of great interest to family and social historians was tackled through the Agency run by the Council for Christian Care. They directed the surveying of churchyards and indexing of burial records in the deaneries of Cadbury, Hartland, Honiton and South Molton.

Much valuable historical detail is hidden in newspapers and one of the earliest Job Creation Projects was the index of the *Exeter Flying Post* from 1763-1885 at the Westcountry Studies Library. The experiences of this project were used to draw up guidelines for a number of others and there are now indexed newspapers in Barnstaple, Bideford, Holsworthy, Ilfracombe and Totnes.

Education and interpretation formed the motive for many projects. Buckfast Abbey compiled much information on the Abbey's work past and present for educational purposes, Cookworthy Museum compiled resource materials for schools and visitors, and the Exeter Heritage project added guided tours to the compilation of educational resources. The Newton Abbot Humanities Resources Project and the North Devon Heritage Project also produced resource packs on social history for schools but the largest educational project was Local Studies and the Community, sponsored by Devon Library Services, which compiled sets of over 400 parish packs for schools and libraries throughout the county and, in a second phase, produced twenty thematic packs for schools. The local environment was also the subject of interpretation in projects such as those based on Braunton, the Exeter Valley Parks and the South Devon Heritage Coast. All these produced leaflets for guided walks.

Many of these interpretive projects were based on museums. Buckland Abbey used the Community Programme to set in hand a new presentation of the Abbey site. Parks Pharmacy was catalogued and set up as a pharmaceutical display in the Merchant's House Museum in Plymouth and Plymouth Museum catalogued and researched its resources on social history. In Exeter the Royal Albert Museum and Topsham Museum set up exhibitions of local and natural history and a splendid temporary exhibition on the golden age of Exeter was mounted for the 1688 commemorations. The Exeter Maritime Museum undertook restoration work on boats and computerised its library.

Oral history is an aspect of local studies which requires considerable time for background research, interviewing, editing and transcribing, and so is ideal for a Community Programme. Many projects included an oral history element, for example those based in Bideford, Holsworthy, Ilfracombe, Newton Abbot, Okehampton, the Taw Valley and Totnes. Special topics covered included an oral history of three Exeter hospitals about to close, and memories of the Cooperative movement in Plymouth and South Devon.

What has been outlined represents a formidable contribution to local studies work, and much has had to be omitted from the above account. A major worry is that some material may be at risk and could disappear. I have noted the final location of material where known on a database which is held in Devon Library Services. A copy of this can be obtained on receipt of £0.50 to cover photocopying and postage. If anyone becomes aware of material at risk, please contact me at the Library headquarters at Barley House, Isleworth Road, Exeter. Every effort will be found to safeguard such material, if necessary it could be offered a safe home within the Library Service.



DRAFT LISTING OF COMMUNITY PROJECTS (WITH SOME JCP AND TRAINING COMMISSION PROJECTS) GIVING THE FINAL LOCATION OF RESOURCES

BARNSTAPLE ARCHAEOLOGY, 1986 Agency: DEVON CC  
Scope: Excavation of sites in Barnstaple prior to redevelopment  
Final location: Finds and documentation with North Devon District Council? Publications in libraries

BARNSTAPLE HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY, 1986-88? Agency: BRIDGE (N)  
Scope: Survey of all historic buildings in conservation area. Photographic and drawn records  
Final location: North Devon District Council?

BEAFORD PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE, 1986-88 Agency: TORRIDGE  
Scope: Collection of photographs of the North Devon area  
Final location: Beaford Centre

BIDEFORD COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, 1980? Agency: (JCP?)  
Scope: Index to Bideford Gazette 1857-1906. Buildings survey. Interviews. Copies of records. Photographs  
Final location: Bideford Community College, continued on voluntary basis

BIDEFORD HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY, 1987-88 Agency: TORRIDGE  
Scope: Survey of all historic buildings in the conservation area. Photographic and drawn records  
Final location: North Devon District Council?

BRAUNTON CONSERVATION, 1986 Agency: ILFRACOMBE  
Scope: Publication of leaflets of walks  
Final location:

BUCKFAST ABBEY EDUCATION, 1985-86 Agency: ?  
Scope: Information on the Abbey, past and present, for educational purposes  
Final location: Buckfast Abbey

BUCKLAND ABBEY ARMADA 1988 RESOURCES, 1986 Agency: PLYM. CC  
Scope: New presentation of Buckland Abbey site. Historical data, inventories, site plans, educational items  
Final location: Buckland Abbey?

CADBURY DEANERY BURIAL RECORDS PROJECT, 1986-88? Agency: C.CHR.CARE  
Scope: Survey of monuments in graveyards and churches  
Final location: Devon Record Office and churches in Deanery

CHULMLEIGH COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, 1987? Agency: ILFRACOMBE  
Scope: Collection of historical documentation of Chulmleigh and district  
Final location: (?)

COOKWORTHY MUSEUM, 1986 Agency: DEVON CC  
Scope: To improve resource materials for schools and visitors  
Final location: Cookworthy Museum, Kingsbridge

DEVON FOLK LIFE REGISTER, 1978-79? Agency: (JCP)  
Scope: Register on sheets by place and subject of references to folk life and details of museum artefacts  
Final location: Westcountry Studies Library

DEVON SITES AND MONUMENTS REGISTER, 1977-78? Agency: (JCP)  
Scope: Production of register of sites of archaeological interest with accompanying maps and documentation  
Final location: Maintained by Property Department, County Hall, Exeter. Tel: 272266

EXETER ARCHAEOLOGY RESCUE DIGS, 1985-86 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Excavation work at various sites in Exeter prior to redevelopment. Relevant research work  
Final location: Finds and documentation with Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit

EXETER AT HOME, 1986-87 Agency: DEVON CC  
Scope: Consumer survey of needs and services for people over 65 living at home  
Final location: Exeter Health Authority?

EXETER BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1986-87 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Produce complete directory of retail trade in Exeter  
Final location: Exeter Chamber of Commerce?

EXETER CEMETERIES AND GRAVEYARDS, 1985-86? Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Register of names on gravestones in non-local authority burial grounds  
Final location: Register in Civic Centre?

EXETER FLYING POST INDEX, 1977-78 Agency: (JCP)  
Scope: Subject and name index to Westcountry articles and advertisements 1763-1885  
Final location: Westcountry Studies Library, Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PQ

EXETER HERITAGE, 1985-86 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Guides tours. Resource material for schools (e.g. Roman period, cholera, childhood, World War 2)  
Final location: Copies of project packs in libraries. Main resources in Schools Resources Centre

EXETER HOSPITALS, 1987-88? Agency: DEVON CC  
Scope: Oral history of three Exeter hospitals about to close. Photographic and documentary research  
Final location: Exeter Health Authority?

EXETER MARITIME MUSEUM, 1986-87 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Restoration work on boats. Computerisation of library. Research and production of booklets  
Final location: Exeter Maritime Museum

EXETER PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF LISTED BUILDINGS, 1983-84 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Photographic record of 1,600 listed buildings and ancient monuments  
Final location: 8,000 photographs in Exeter Civic Centre

EXETER PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE, 1985-86 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Photographs of examples of Exeter buildings since 1945  
Final location: 8,000 photographs in Exeter Civic Centre

EXETER VALLEY PARKS EDUCATION, 1985-86? Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Study of flora and fauna of valley parks. Production of leaflets and photographs  
Final location: Exeter Civic Centre?

EXETER VISUAL SURVEY, 1986-87 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: Colour and black and white photographs of a year in the life of the community  
Final location: Colour negatives in Civic Centre. Black and white negatives in West-country Studies Library

EXMOUTH LOCAL SOCIETIES, 1987? Agency: DEVON CC  
Scope: Register of local societies in Exmouth  
Final location: (?)

GOLDEN AGE OF EXETER, 1987-88 Agency: EXETER CC  
Scope: To produce exhibition on Exeter 1620-1720 for Royal Albert Memorial Museum 1988  
Final location: Royal Albert Memorial Museum

GREEN LANES PROJECT, 1985-88? Agency: POSTERN TA  
Scope: To survey green lanes in the South of Devon, PRODUCE MAPS AND REPORT  
Final location: Devon County Council, Engineer's Dept. Luccombe House, County Hall, Exeter. Tel: 272106 (Mr. Shapley)

HARTLAND DEANERY BURIAL RECORDS, 1986-88 Agency: C.CHR.CARE  
Scope: Survey of monuments in graveyards and churches within Deanery  
Final location: Devon Record Office and churches in Deanery

HISTORIC SURVEY PROJECT, 1988- Agency: TORRIDGE  
Scope: Basic survey work, drawing and photography for sites within 20 mile radius of Bideford  
Final location:

HOLSWORTHY LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP, 1987-88 Agency: DEVON CC  
Scope: Index of Holsworthy Post. Oral history. Photography. Survey of buildings  
Final location: Possible transfer to Devon Library Services

HONITON DEANERY BURIAL RECORDS, 1987- Agency: C.CHR.CARE  
Scope: Survey of monuments in graveyards and churches within the Deanery  
Final location: Devon Record Office, churches in Deanery

ILFRACOMBE LOCAL AND NATURAL HISTORY, 1985-86 Agency: ILFRACOMBE  
Scope: Photographic survey, buildings survey, interviews, newspaper index, publication of booklets  
Final location: Ilfracombe Museum

LOCAL STUDIES AND THE COMMUNITY, 1986-88 Agency: DEVON CC  
Scope: Production of parish and thematic packs of historical information for schools and branch libraries  
Final location: Parish packs in schools and branches. Masters in School Library Centres and Westcountry Studies Lib

MINESHAFT SURVEY, 1988-89 Agency: WEST DEVON?  
Scope: Survey of disused mineshafts in West Devon. Survey published in 9 sections

NATIONAL TRUST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS, 1984-88 Agency: NAT. TRUST  
Scope: Archaeological surveys of National Trust properties in Devon  
Final location: Sites and Monuments Register, Exeter and National Trust Central Archaeological Office, Cirencester

NATIONAL TRUST VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

SURVEY, 1984-88

Agency: NAT. TRUST

Scope: Survey and documentation of all small properties owned by Trust, cottages, farm buildings etc.

Final location: Sites and Monuments Register, County Hall

NEWTON ABBOT HUMANITIES RESOURCES,

1987-88

Agency: MARJON

Scope: Resource packs for schools. Oral history. Photographic archive

Final location: Resources and tapes at Knowles Hill School, Newton Abbot. Negatives with Devon Library Services

NORTH DEVON HERITAGE INFORMATION

PACK, 1968-87?

Agency: ILFRACOMBE

Scope: Production of historical information packs

Final location: Packs on housing, pottery, entertainment &c published

OKEHAMPTON AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY

RESEARCH, 1987-88

Agency: DEVON CC

Scope: Photocopies and indexes of documents. Oral history. Photographic archive.

Team also at Hatherleigh

Final location: Hatherleigh items: Hatherleigh Rectory. Tapes and negs: Okehampton Museum. Documents: Okehampton Library

OUT AND ABOUT IN PLYMOUTH, 1984-85

Agency: PLYM. CC?

Scope: Produce guide and directory for disabled persons

Final location: (?)

PARKS PHARMACY, 1986-87?

Agency: PLYM. CC

Scope: To catalogue and set up pharmaceutical museum in the Merchant's House

Final location: Merchant's House Museum, Plymouth

PLYMOUTH AND SOUTH DEVON COOPERATIVE

HISTORY, 1985-86

Agency: MARJON

Scope: Catalogue papers of the Society from 1840. Education resources. Interviews. Photography. Exhibitions

Final location: The Society, Member Relations, 11, Western College Road, Plymouth PL4 7AG

PLYMOUTH CITY MUSEUM SOCIAL HISTORY

RESOURCES, 1986-87?

Agency: PLYM. CC

Scope: To assist in the cataloguing and research into resources in the Museum

Final location: Plymouth City Museum

PLYMOUTH FOOTPATHS SURVEY, 1986-87?

Agency: PLYM. CC

Scope: Survey and preparation of footpath maps for Plymouth

Final location: Plymouth City Council

ROADFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 1987-

Agency: C.CHR.CARE

Scope: Detailed landscape survey and excavation of farms and mill to be flooded by Roadford Reservoir

Final location: Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit

ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM LOCAL

HISTORY, 1986-87

Agency: EXETER CC

Scope: Provide a permanent exhibition on Devon from Neolithic to Tudor times

Final location: Display material in Royal Albert Memorial Museum

SCHOOL CURRICULUM RESOURCES, 1986-87

Agency: EXETER CC

Scope: Production with University Department of Education of comprehensive package on mathematics and history

Final location: University of Exeter Department of Education?

SOUTH DEVON INTERPRETATION, 1986-87?

Agency: NAT. TRUST

Scope: Series of booklets on South Devon Heritage Coast

Final location: Materials with South Devon Heritage Coast Service?

SOUTH MOLTON DEANERY BURIAL RECORDS,

1984-88

Agency: C.CHR.CARE

Scope: Survey of monuments in graveyards and churches. Plans of churchyards. Indexes of names and registers

Final location: Devon Record Office and churches in Deanery

TAVISTOCK ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY, 1986-87

Agency: MARJON

Scope: Architectural and photographic survey. Examination of documents. Displays

Final location: Display boards to Tavistock Library

TAW VALLEY RURAL HISTORY ARCHIVE,  
1986-88

Agency: ILFRACOMBE

Scope: Production of local history packs  
Final location: Packs at Chulmleigh School and Wembworthy Centre. Tapes and transcripts at Chulmleigh Library

TEIGNBRIDGE ARTS ACTION, 1986

Agency: TEIGNBR.

Scope: Production of historical resource of arts information and material for use in displays  
Final location: Teignbridge District Council?

TERMINUS, 1987-88

Agency: DEVON CC

Scope: Database of community information for Okehampton area 9 (about 100 records) on Amstrad PCW  
Final location: Printout at Okehampton Library. Possibly to be incorporated with Devon Library Service's database

TOPSHAM MUSEUM, 1985-87

Agency: EXETER CC

Scope: Creation of displays on natural history of the Exe Estuary and history of Topsham  
Final location: Topsham Museum

TORQUAY COOPERATIVE HISTORY, 1986-88

Agency: MARJON

Scope: Research history of Cooperative movement in South Devon. Education material. Displays. Photography  
Final location: Plymouth Cooperative Society, Member Relations, 11, Western College Road, Plymouth PL4 7AG

TORRINGTON COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, 1987-88

Agency: ILFRACOMBE

Scope: To collect historical information on Torrington and district  
Final location: Torrington Museum

TOTNES COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, 1985-87?

Agency: DEVON CC

Scope: Index of Totnes Times. Oral history. Photographic survey. Publication of booklets. Buildings survey  
Final location: Totnes Museum

VICTORIAN RECORDS, 1987?

Agency: DEVON CC

Scope: Indexing of correspondence 1856-96 in possession of Clinton Devon Estates  
Final location: Clinton Devon Estates, Rolle Estate Office, East Budleigh EX9 7DP

## REVIEWS

(Readers are advised that opinions expressed by reviewers are their own, and not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Devon History Society as a whole).

*The Torbay Towns* by Anne Born. Phillimore, 1989. 159pp. £9.95. ISBN 0 85033 694 5

Mrs Born, who is a member of the Society, is well-known in the South Hams as a poet, translator and author (her book on Kingsbridge and Salcombe was reviewed in *Devon Historian* No 34). More recently she has been 'writer-in-residence' at Barnstaple and Kingsbridge Libraries; currently she is teaching 'creative writing' at local community colleges. Her latest work, *The Torbay Towns* is the first full-length history of the district to be written for nearly 30 years and the first to cover the three towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham since they were united in 1969. This has been a task of some magnitude as each has had its own story covering several centuries. It is therefore no surprise to find that she writes direct, unembellished prose and has been able to cram many facts on to each page. However, this has been achieved in a most entertaining way.

The book opens with a description of the geology of the area but it is those which follow immediately after which are of particular value. Mrs Born's account of Pengelly, Kent's Cavern and its place (with excavations of other caves in South Devon) in establishing the antiquity of man is important because it includes an enterprise currently in hand—the carbon-dating of 'finds' is just one exciting development described. Another aspect of Torbay's history neglected by earlier local historians is dealt with in the chapter entitled *The Christian life*. The building of churches was important to the Victorians; Torquay particularly boasted some fine edifices, including All Saints, Babbacombe, designed by Butterfield, 'the most wilful of High Church architects'. This includes recent changes which have linked the Methodists with the United Reformed Church and who together erected the modern Central Church, a landmark from land and sea!

The middle section of the book deals with 'industrial' aspects also neglected by earlier writers: quarrying, mining, pottery-making and marble working. Devonshire marbles decorate churches throughout the country.

The final chapter chronicles the recent developments of the '70s and '80s, including the building of Fleet Walk, which was opened by the Princess Royal last autumn. It shows how modern publishing techniques enable recent history to be recorded! Throughout the book Mrs Born has added more background detail (Torbay's place in relation to national events) than the others have done.

Each chapter has full source references and there is a good bibliography. The book is copiously illustrated, the standard of reproduction being adequate rather than outstanding. The publisher has made some style changes since the earlier *History of Devon*, by Robin Stanes was published—the new format has enabled him to include more 'words and pictures' than before. This has been beneficial as *The Torbay Towns* is only the fifth work of its type since Octavian Blewitt wrote *The Panorama of Torquay* in 1832; it is likely, therefore, that it will remain the standard history into the 21st century.

John Pike

**Finding Cullompton's History: Cullompton & District Weekly News Special Edition, October 1989.** Ed. David Pugsley. 50p.

A number of items contributed during 1987 and 1988 to the *Cullompton & District Weekly News* by David Pugsley, on various aspects of local history in Cullompton, have been collected together and rearranged in this special edition. The publication covers fourteen sides of good quality paper 12in x 9in, well printed and closely packed with historical interest. The opening feature provides a useful guide to written sources on Cullompton history (an amazingly extensive list) and articles cover such subjects as the town's old water supply—called the Town Lake, two notable fires, the stocks, and memories written in 1935 by a local worthy, Lewis Upcott, who lived to the age of 96. A major, fully documented article by David Pugsley on Vicars and Patrons gives an interesting and authoritative account of 19th century Cullompton incumbents.

*Helen Harris*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Mr John Roberts, 19 White Horses Way, Littlehampton, W. Sussex.

### Devon and the Armada

On Dr Joyce Youngs' review of my book there is one point to make. As I was not responsible for placing the copy of my thesis in the West Country Studies Library at Exeter regrettably I did not remember that it was to be found there. However, as the several hundred pages of biographies are placed in alphabetical order it does not appear to be a difficult task for anyone who wants to refer to the information related in them, even without page numbers being indicated.

From Mr Michael Dickinson, 9 Hillside Avenue, Exeter.

I feel that the *Devon Historian* scores over its sister journals in the same field by its less formal and more friendly style. The treatment meted out to Jeffery Stanyer by your reviewer in the October 1989 Number of the *Historian* is, I respectfully submit, out of place in its pages.

## THE DEVON HISTORY SOCIETY

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting held at Exeter  
on Saturday 14 October 1989

In the Chair, the President, Crispin Gill, Esq., OBE.

Apologies were received from Messrs J. Havill, A. Collings and W. Minchinton

### 1 Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (printed in *The Devon Historian*, April 1989) were read and approved.

Matters Arising—none.

### 2 Hon. Secretary's Report

Mrs S Stirling thanked Mr D. Edmund and Mr R. Stanes for organising the successful conferences at Exmouth and Combe Martin. She reported that the Council had met in January and September, and thanked Mr J. Pike and Dr A. Grant who had served as membership secretary and minutes secretary respectively. She also thanked the secretaries of the local history societies who had sent her details of meetings, the Devon and Exeter Institution which provides storage for the stock of back numbers of the *Devon Historian*, and Mr D. Edmund for help with mailing. Some of the cost of mailing had been met by including publicity 'shots' for booksellers and others. Mr J. Pike reported that the list of corporate members recently circulated completes the computer file of membership lists, which can now be easily kept up to date. The reports were adopted.

### 3 Hon. Treasurer's Report

Mr D. Edmund presented the income and expenditure account, and pointed out that, due to some late accounts, income had gone down, but he expected it to build up again. The Society has 300 individual members, and 48 corporate, so, when sales of the *Devon Historian* to Libraries are added, an income in excess of £2000 can be expected. Expenditure has slightly exceeded this total, which has necessitated taking up some capital, so subscriptions may have to be raised next year. There are stocks of the *Devon Historian* in reserve as 550 copies are printed each time. Mr Edmund would still appreciate more standing orders. The accounts were adopted.

### 4 Hon Editor's Report

Mrs H. Harris reported that the last two issues of the *Devon Historian* had been published on time, and thanked all contributors. A wide variety of interests had again been covered. She appealed for articles of up to 3000 words, and short 'fillers', and said there was no bar on contributions from non-members. She also drew attention to the guidelines for contributors, on page 2 of the current issue. She hopes to celebrate the Society's twentieth birthday with appropriate items in *Devon*

*Historian* 40. The president thanked Mrs Harris, and pointed out that the *Devon Historian* is very important in attracting members to the Society.

#### 5 Election of Officers and Council

The President, having completed his three-year term, announced his retirement from the post. The Council, through its Chairman, proposed Professor Ivan Roots, who was elected *nem. con.* A vote of thanks was given to the retiring president, who then stood down. Professor Roots took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting. Messrs Maxted, Stoneman, and Reed, who stood down under the three-year rule, were re-elected to the Council, and the co-opted members, Mr J. Bosanko and Mr R. Stanes, were elected, subject to their consent. The Officers were also re-elected (see list inside cover of current *Devon Historian*).

#### 6 Conference Programme 1990

Teignmouth was suggested for March.

Buckland Abbey was suggested for a 20th anniversary celebration in the summer. From the discussion, it appeared that a celebratory meal and a special talk would be popular, with Dartington suggested as an alternative if Buckland were not available. Local organisers will be needed for both these meetings.

#### 7 Any Other Business

Several members pointed out that the Society's meetings had clashed with those of similar organisations. Mrs Stirling said she would try to co-ordinate future dates, but it was difficult to avoid all clashes. Mr Hulland requested that the spring meeting should avoid the weekend of March 11-12.

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## 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).

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